

WINDY CITY TIMES

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

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Windy City Times' 17th annual

30 UNDER 30

HONORING THE BEST AND BRIGHTEST INDIVIDUALS IN CHICAGO'S LGBTQIA+ YOUTH COMMUNITY

page 52



PRIDE FEST CHICAGO

Simply the fest! Coverage begins on page 68.

Photo by Ed Negron

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HAPPY PRIDE, CHICAGO!

LOOK INSIDE FOR INFORMATION ON:

- THE PRIDE PARADE - THE DYKE MARCH
- PRIDE NORTH - MONTROSE ROCKS
- PROUD TO RUN - BACK LOT BASH AND MUCH MORE!

ORLANDO VICTIMS

See a photo tribute and much more on the Orlando shooting victims inside.

Facebook photo of Edward Sotomayor

22-23

DYKE MARCH

The event marks 20 years.

The 1996 Dyke March, with Debbie Gould, Jeanne Kracher and Renee Hanover.

Photo by Tracy Baim

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MONICA RAYMUND

Actress talks theater, Pride Parade, queer identity.

PR photo

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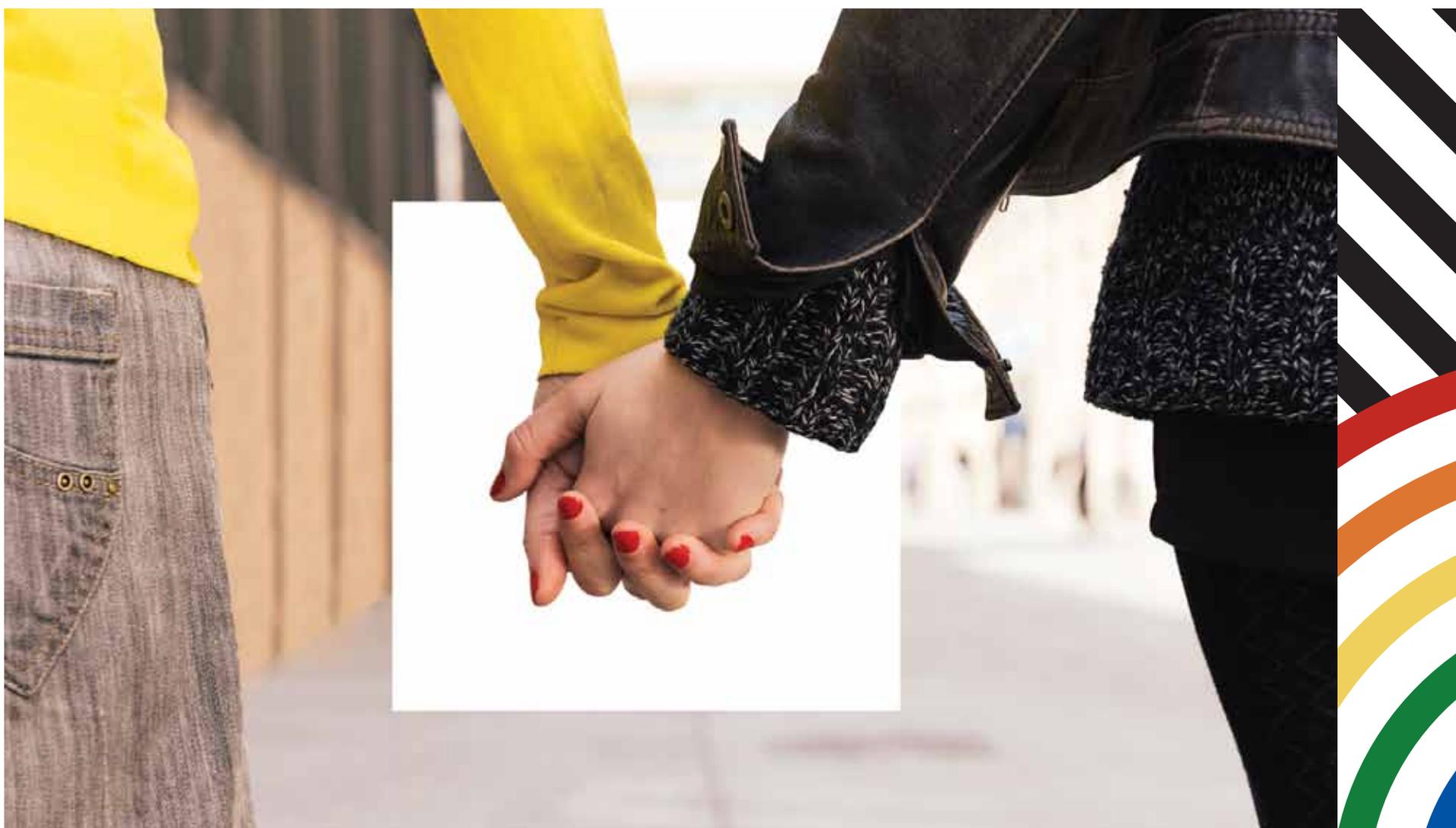
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SEX-AMINATION
 The American Psychoanalytic Association hosted a panel for the event "What Is Gender, Anyway?"
 Photo of Susan McNamara (left) by Liz Baudler

ORLANDO OPINIONS



WCT writer Joe Franco has penned an emotional op-ed regarding the Orlando mass-shooting victims.
 Photo of Franco courtesy of Franco

BEYOND BORDERS
 Gender JUST and fellow transformative organizations Semillas Autónomas (Seeds of Autonomy) and The Center for Jewish Nonviolence (CJNV) held a forum on the subject of Diasporas.

HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD
 While visiting L.A., WCT stopped by the Hollywood Museum.

THAT'S SHOW BIZ
 Find out the latest about Whitney Houston, Lea DeLaria and Justin Bieber.

plus **DAILY BREAKING NEWS**

INCH BY INCH



With the 2016 Infiniti QX50, a few inches can make a big difference.
 Photo courtesy of Gaywheels.com

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'14 Mercedes C250 Coupe/Navi ... Sunroof, Sport Package, Grey, 14824A\$22,995	'14 Forester 2.5iAutomatic, Full Power, 26K, Grey, 14725A\$18,995
'13 Honda CRV EX AWD..... Automatic, Sunroof, White, 13930A\$18,995	'13 Forester Prem.Auto., Sunroof, Heated Seats, Black, 15166A\$17,995
'15 Toyota Corolla LE Automatic, Full Power, Slate, P5215\$14,995	'10 Forester Ltd.Auto., Sunroof, Leather, 17K, Red, P5242\$16,995
'15 Jeep Patriot Sport 4x4 Automatic, Full Power, Granite, P5166\$14,995	'09 Forester 2.5iAutomatic, Full Power, Silver, 14713A\$12,995
'09 Honda Accord EX-L Auto., Sunroof, Leather, 50K, Silver, 14728A\$12,995	
'09 Acura TSX.....Heated Seats, Leather, Moonroof, White, 15209A\$11,995	SUBARU LEGACYS / OUTBACKS
'15 Hyundai Elantra SE..... Automatic, Full Power, Grey, P5174\$11,995	'15 Outback Prem.Auto., Bluetooth, All Weather, White, P5100\$24,995
'07 Honda Civic EX/Navi. 5-Speed, Sunroof, Red, 15245A\$8,995	'14 Outback Prem.Auto., Bluetooth, All Weather, 17K, Silver, P5205\$23,995
'07 Toyota Camry Solara SE..... Sunroof, V6, Only 51K, Grey, 14903A\$8,995	'14 Legacy Sport/Navi.Automatic, Heated Seats, Grey, 15028A\$15,995
'06 Honda Civic LX Automatic, Full Power, Grey, 15210A\$7,995	'10 Legacy 3.6R Ltd.Automatic, Moonroof, Leather, Black, 14422A\$10,995
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'04 Honda CRV LX AWD..... Automatic, Full Power, Silver, 14672A\$6,795	'14 Impreza Prem.Auto., All Weather, Full Power, White, P5140\$16,995
'04 Acura TSX/Navi.....5-Speed Automatic, Loaded, Grey, 15198A\$5,995	'11 Impreza 2.5iAutomatic, Full Power, Grey, 14815A\$12,995
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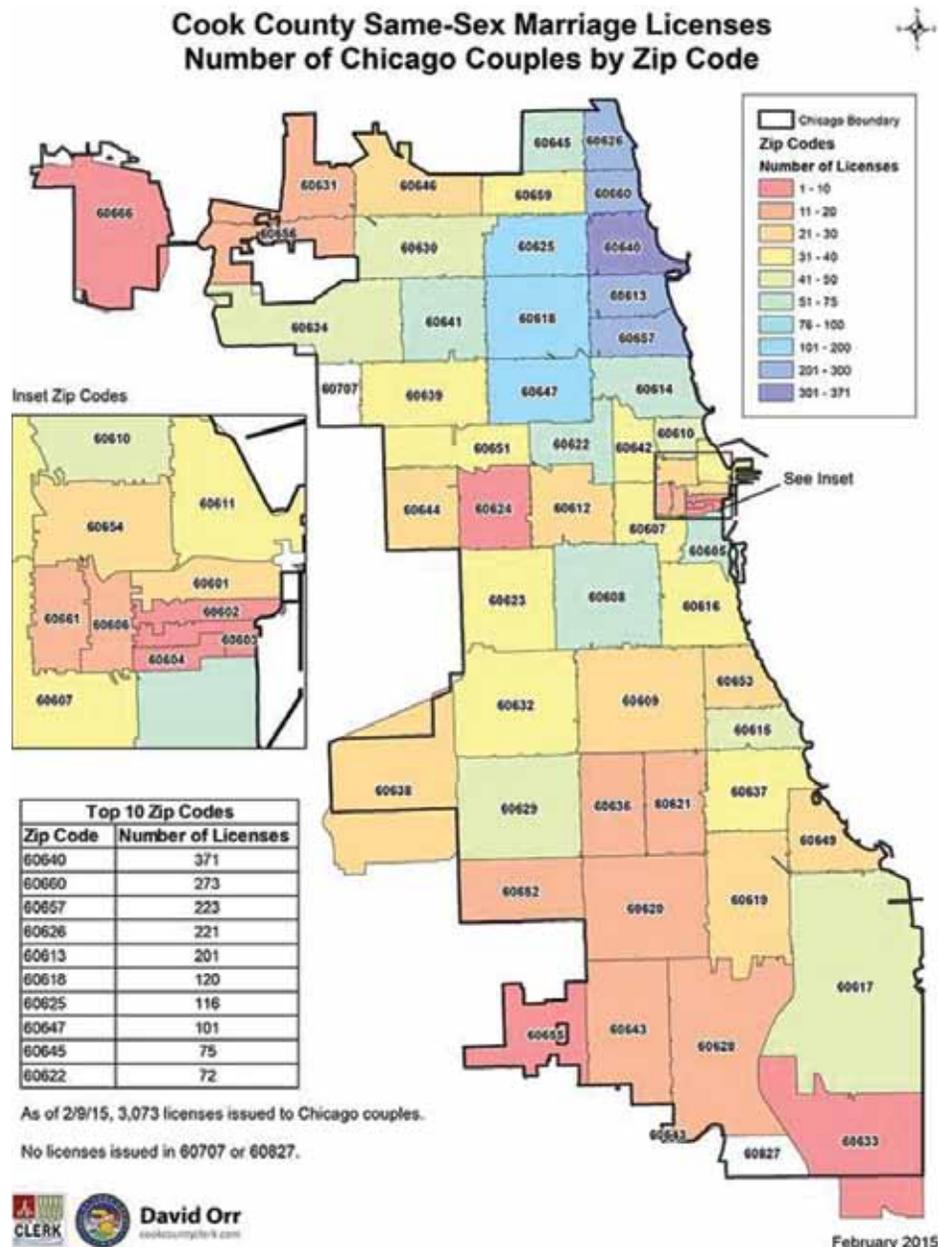
One year since marriage equality

The date of the Pride Parade—Sunday, June 26—will also mark precisely one year since marriage equality became the law of the land in the United States.

A February 2015 press release from the Cook County clerk's office showed that more than 6,500 same-sex couples were married in the county in the first year of marriage equality. On Feb. 21, 2014, a federal judge cleared the way for Clerk Orr to begin issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples who planned to marry in Cook County—more than three months before marriage equality took effect throughout Illinois, and more than a year before the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Obergefell v. Hodges* that state bans on same-sex marriage were unconstitutional.

By 2015, at least one license was issued to a couple residing in every Chicago zip code, except for two zip codes (60707 and 60827).

Currently, Cook County has issued approximately 9,600 marriage licenses to same-sex couples, according to James Scalzitti of the clerk's office. The proportion of male to female marriages have been 52 percent to 48 percent. The top zip code is 60640 (in Lake View), with 554 couples.



Cook County marriage-equality map from 2015.
Graphic from Cook County clerk's office

South Side has new LGBTQ+ drop-in

There is a new drop-in on Chicago's South Side.

POP, or People Organizing Progress, is now offering a weekly LGBTQ+ affirming drop-in program, open Thursdays 4-7 p.m. It is located in Hyde Park, on the corner of 55th Street and Lake Park Avenue, in suite 205 of

the Deco Arts building.

In addition to serving hot meals at 5 p.m., there are HIV and STI testing, PrEP and linkage to care, resource counseling for housing, medical care, GED program, access to IDs, legal support, mental-health services, access to bus cards and personal items, and more.

For more information, visit <http://hive-elimination.uchicago.edu/> or email rhill3@medicine.bsd.uchicago.edu.

GUEST COLUMN

BY PAIGE M. STEFFEN, ESQ., CLARK HILL PLC



Know Your Rights: Combating Health Care Discrimination

Discrimination in the access to and the provision of healthcare has been, and continues to be, an unfortunate reality for the LGBTQ community that not only affects LGBTQ individuals themselves on a day-to-day basis, but also has a negative impact on their relationships and their families.

Historically, the LGBTQ community has been disproportionately affected by discriminatory insurance practices and provider-level bias. Fortunately, within the past several years, notable progress has been made. Federal, state, and private regulations now serve to protect the LGBTQ community and mitigate discriminatory obstacles. However, even with these policy protections and legal changes, the LGBTQ community continues to face interferences, difficulties, and limitations in access to quality healthcare and health insurance, which is particularly important for a community that faces a number of specific health concerns and has unique health needs, some of which can be attributed to bias, social, and structural inequities, such as discrimination.

Federal Law

Over the past several years, sex and gender identity discrimination has gained national attention, and such discrimination has been an important part of the discussions surrounding the Affordable Care Act ("ACA").

In 2010, the ACA made historic changes in healthcare by expanding access to healthcare and health insurance to millions of people. More specifically, the ACA explicitly addressed discriminatory healthcare practices that had long kept the LGBTQ community from receiving access to quality healthcare. Section 1557 of the ACA prohibits discrimination based on sex by any health program receiving federal funds, such as Medicare and Medicaid.

Further clarifying this regulation, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ("HHS") recently issued a rule clarifying that people cannot be denied healthcare or health insurance based upon their gender identity or nonconformity with sex stereotypes. This confirmation from the HHS is expected to dramatically improve access to quality healthcare for the LGBTQ community and reduce persistent health disparities due to discrimination. The ACA offers further protections against discrimination, providing that people cannot be denied health insurance due to pre-existing conditions, such as HIV/AIDS, or a transgender medical history.

State Law

In addition to federal protections, nearly half of the states have passed laws that specifically prohibit discrimination in public accommodations based on a person's sexual orientation. Public accommodations generally include facilities used by the public, such as hospitals, and include the provision of

healthcare services by physicians and healthcare providers.

Some states, like Illinois, also prohibit discrimination based on gender identity. These state laws help protect the LGBTQ community from discrimination in the provision of healthcare and make it illegal for healthcare providers to refuse treatment based upon sexual orientation or gender identity.

Private Policies

On top of federal and state regulations, private organizations, such as the American Medical Association ("AMA") have also established anti-discrimination policies. Although these policies and opinions published by private organizations may not be legally enforceable, the AMA's policies and opinions positively influence the practice of healthcare, provide physicians with guidelines, and contribute to the anti-discrimination dialogue.

Private organizations also serve as excellent resources and education for LGBTQ patients that face barriers to access to quality healthcare. For example, the AMA's "Policy on LGBTQ Issues" provides that physicians may not decline to accept or treat a patient because of the patient's sexual orientation or gender identity. The AMA further clarifies that a physician's right to religious refusal only applies to the refusal to provide particular treatment or procedures and does not apply to the refusal to treat a particular group of people, such as the LGBTQ community.

Combating Discrimination

Although federal and state regulations have been successful in increasing access to healthcare and health insurance, discrimination continues to thwart the LGBTQ community from receiving quality care and equal treatment. All people, regardless of sexual identity, deserve accessible, quality healthcare. If you believe you or someone you know has been denied healthcare treatment or health insurance based upon sexual identity, please consider the following options:

- Express your concerns to the physician or healthcare provider at issue.
 - Provide the physician with a copy of the AMA ethical rules and/or your state's anti-discrimination laws.
 - Report the discriminatory behavior to another physician, file a complaint with the hospital or medical center, and/or file a complaint with your state's medical licensing board or applicable professional association and licensing board for that provider.
 - Contact your insurance company to report the healthcare provider's discriminatory actions.
- Understanding and navigating healthcare and health insurance regulations can be challenging and overwhelming. In the event that you have any questions, you may also want to contact an attorney to discuss your situation.

Paige M. Steffen is an Associate Attorney in Clark Hill PLC's Chicago office. She concentrates her practice on insurance and health care law. Contact her at 312-517-7501 or psteffen@clarkhill.com.



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A press conference was held to announce increases in Pride security.

Photo by Tracy Baim

City announces increased Pride security

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Increased uniformed and plainclothes officers, cooperation from state and federal partners and additional private security staff are among the measures the city is taking to ensure safety at upcoming LGBTQ Pride celebrations, according to officials.

City, police and event officials announced the measures at a June 16 press conference at Town Hall 19th Police District headquarters at Addison and Halsted streets. Chicago was preparing for two large-scale celebrations: Pride Fest this past weekend and the Pride Parade June 26, just as the nation reels from the horrific shootings in the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida.

Both Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communication (OEMC) Managing Deputy Director of Operations Rich Guidice and Chicago Police Department (CPD) Superintendent Eddie Johnson emphasized that there had been, to date, no credible threats against either celebration.

"We all know that there is a lot of focus on these events, given the horrific events that occurred in Orlando earlier this week," Johnson said. "I want to take this opportunity to repeat what we know and what we've been saying: That there is no intelligence of a threat against the LGBTQ community or any event in the city of Chicago. Nevertheless, visitors can expect to see an increased presence of uniformed Chicago police officers at these events, patrolling the 19th District and surrounding neighborhoods and at CTA transportation hubs."

CPD will also have officers on bike patrols and canine units at the events, Johnson added. Media reports on June 15 stated that the number of sworn officers in the Town Hall police district had increased to 378.

Northalsted Business Alliance Executive Director Christopher Barrett Politan said, "Operating a large-scale festival takes an overarching commitment to public safety. Our extensive planning with the 19th District, OEMC and full complement of security underscores our efforts of making safety a priority for all our festivalgoers and the neighborhood at large."

Politan added that express entry would be available for festivalgoers without bags, so, "Whenever possible, we encourage people to leave your bags at home."

Among the additional security measures officials mentioned for the parade—some of which

had been previously announced—were reducing the number of entries from 215 to 160; increasing the number of barricades along the parade route; additional CTA rail and bus service; and establishing clearer routes for emergency responders. Police officials would not state a specific number of officers assigned to the parade, but the number of private security personnel will be increased from 90 in 2015 to 160 this year. The Pride Parade kicks off at noon June 26 from Montrose and Broadway.

Ald. Tom Tunney noted that rules implemented in 2015 about drinking in the public way had largely netted positive results, and urged residents and visitors to behave with extra respect for the occasion this year.

"Some people have said 'a moment of silence' for the Orlando tragedy," he said. "I'm asking for a week, [and] a day, of respect for each other as individuals, gay and straight; respect for law enforcement; and respect for the neighborhood that has been so tolerant for the 40-some years of hosting this parade. Many of you know that this parade was potentially moving out as a neighborhood parade. That decision has been made—it will continue—but, trust me, it is not a permanent decision on behalf of CPD, Homeland Security, Mayor's Office and such. ... My message is sobriety, less alcohol, less displays of immaturity [and] get home safely and at a reasonable hour."

Guidice urged that anyone seeing suspicious behavior or incidents during the celebration to call 911. "Some unusual behavior or observations may be innocent," he said. "However, it's up to law enforcement to determine whether a situation warrants investigation."

Chicago Commission on Human Relations Chairman Mona Noriega said that the parade would this year would have extra meaning as it will be in tribute to the Orlando shooting victims.

"We will tell the world that we will not be intimidated by an attack on our values of freedom and inclusion and that, in the face of hate, we stand united," she added. "As we heal in the wake of the tragedy in Orlando, we will come together again, this time stronger."

Parade organizer Richard Pfeiffer said, "In our communities, we were so devastated by the loss of 49 of our brothers and sisters. ... [But] We're not going to go back in the closet. We're going to be out there in love and peace."



Ald. Tom Tunney (top) and Chicago Police Department Chief Eddie Johnson (above) spoke at the press conference.

Photos by Tracy Baim

Obama reflects on Orlando visit

In his weekly address on June 18, President Obama reflected on his visit with the families of the victims of the Orlando terrorist attack.

The address is as follows:
 "It's been less than a week since the deadliest mass shooting in American history. And foremost in all of our minds has been the loss and the grief felt by the people of Orlando, especially our friends who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender. I visited with the families of many of the victims on Thursday. And one thing I told them is that they're not alone. The American people, and people all over the world, are standing with them—and we always will.

"The investigation is ongoing, but we know that the killer was an angry and disturbed individual who took in extremist information and propaganda over the internet, and became radicalized. During his killing spree, he pledged allegiance to ISIL, a group that's called on people around the world to attack innocent civilians.

"We are and we will keep doing everything in our power to stop these kinds of attacks, and to ultimately destroy ISIL. The extraordinary people in our intelligence, military, homeland security, and law enforcement communities have already prevented many attacks, saved many lives, and we won't let up.

"Alongside the stories of bravery and healing and coming together over the past week, we've also seen a renewed focus on reducing gun violence. As I said a few days ago, being tough on terrorism requires more than talk. Being tough on terrorism, particularly the sorts of homegrown terrorism that we've seen now in Orlando and San Bernardino, means making it harder for people who want to kill Americans to



President Obama.
 Photo by Kat Fitzgerald

get their hands on assault weapons that are capable of killing dozens of innocents as quickly as possible. That's something I'll continue to talk about in the weeks ahead.

"It's also part of something that I've been thinking a lot about this week—and that's the

responsibilities we have to each other. That's certainly true with Father's Day upon us.

"I grew up without my father around. While I wonder what my life would have been like if he had been a greater presence, I've also tried extra hard to be a good dad for my own daughters. Like all dads, I worry about my girls' safety all the time. Especially when we see preventable violence in places our sons and daughters go every day—their schools and houses of worship, movie theaters, nightclubs, as they get older. It's unconscionable that we allow easy access to weapons of war in these places—and then, even after we see parents grieve for their children, the fact that we as a country do nothing to prevent the next heart-break makes no sense.

"So this past week, I've also thought a lot about dads and moms around the country who've had to explain to their children what happened in Orlando. Time and again, we've observed moments of silence for victims of terror and gun violence. Too often, those moments have been followed by months of silence. By inaction that is simply inexcusable. If we're going to raise our kids in a safer, more loving world, we need to speak up for it. We need our kids to hear us speak up about the risks guns pose to our communities, and against a status quo that doesn't make sense. They need to hear us say these things even when those who disagree are loud and are powerful. We need our kids to hear from us why tolerance and equality matter—about the times their absence has scarred our history and how greater understanding will better the future they will inherit. We need our kids to hear our words—and also see us live our own lives with love.

"And we can't forget our responsibility to remind our kids of the role models whose light shines through in times of darkness. The police and first responders, the lifesaving bystanders and blood donors. Those who comfort mourners and visit the wounded. The victims whose last acts on this earth helped others to safety.

They're not just role models for our kids—their actions are examples for all of us.

"To be a parent is to come to realize not everything is in our control. But as parents, we should remember there's one responsibility that's always in our power to fulfill: our obligation to give our children unconditional love and support; to show them the difference between right and wrong; to teach them to love, not to hate; and to appreciate our differences not as something to fear, but as a great gift to cherish.

"To me, fatherhood means being there. So in the days ahead, let's be there for each other. Let's be there for our families, and for those that are hurting. Let's come together in our communities and as a country. And let's never forget how much good we can achieve simply by loving one another.

"Happy Father's Day to all the dads out there, and have a great weekend."

LGBT gun-rights group sees membership spike

The Pink Pistols, a national gun club for gays and lesbians, wants their community to take up arms in self-defense in the wake of the recent mass shooting in Orlando, Florida, according to NBC News. Spokesperson Gwendolyn Patton, who argues that the LGBT community needs to exercise their Second Amendment rights in order to defend themselves, says the group saw membership soar from about 1,500 members before the Orlando shooting on June 12 (the day of the tragedy) to 3,500 on June 13.

The group claims 45 active chapters across 33 states in the United States and three more in other countries.



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Affinity hosts event to respond to Orlando shootings

Affinity Community Services—in partnership with The Care Plan as well as the University of Chicago's Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality and the Chicago Center for HIV Elimination—hosted a community open house to create a space for individuals heal and process the June 12 shootings in Orlando, Florida.

The event was held June 17 at the Center for Gender and Sexuality at the University of Chicago.

At the event, Affinity Executive Director Imani Rupert-Gordon stated, "As LGBTQ people of color, we are living in a devastating time

where our lives and the lives of those we love are sometimes at risk simply because of who we are. From Charleston to Orlando, we are seeing a spate of tragedies where our sanctuaries are invaded and our community members are taken from us. In moments where someone tries to tear us apart in hate, coming together in love becomes a beautiful act of radicalism."

The event had English and Spanish-speaking therapists, reiki massage, a performance by Jace Williams and a community healing project.



Affinity CEO Imani Rupert-Gordon and The Care Plan's Jackie Boyd.
Photo from Rupert-Gordon



Center on Halsted CEO Modesto "Tico" Valle and actor John Cleese.
Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

John Cleese stops by Center on Halsted to honor victims

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

Nobody expected actor and writer John Cleese to suddenly show up at the Center on Halsted June 16.

His chief weapons were surprise ... and a box of flowers courtesy of Random Acts of Flowers Chicago (RAF)—an Evanston-based nonprofit which "recycles and repurposes flowers by engaging dedicated volunteer teams to deliver beautiful bouquets and moments of kindness to individuals in healthcare facilities across the country."

Cleese served as the delivery boy in honor of the victims of the June 12 massacre at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, which took the lives of 49 people.

He was in town for a family commitment when he was approached by long-time friend and RAF Executive Director Joanie Bayhack to fill the role.

"I think [RAF] is an absolutely wonderful idea

because it leads to those tiny little moments of kindness that make everybody feel that life's worthwhile," he said. "I heard today that a member of Parliament [Jo Cox] in England was shot and killed in the streets. It's never happened before in my lifetime so, in this time of crisis, when there's so much mindless violence, aggression and hatred, these little acts of kindness begin to reverse the momentum."

After joking with the Chicago LGBT community by asking for "any spare cash that you can bring to me" to be "dropped off at the Peninsula Hotel in a small brown envelope," Cleese said that "what's going on is so terrible and so contrary to any kind of religious teaching."

"It just shows that it's not the teaching that's at fault," he added. "Unfortunately, the way human beings are, we can take any message and do almost the complete opposite in the name of the founder of the religion. The Christian church used to torture people. How can anyone get that out of Christ's teaching? We just have to fight against it and not let the craziness of these people make us retaliate in a similar way otherwise all is lost."

For more information about Random Acts of Flowers Chicago, visit: <http://chicago.randomactsofflowers.org>.

Letters to the editor: A call for unity

Dear Editor:

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The National LGBTQ Task Force, along with 52 other groups, called for unity in the wake of the mass shooting that took place in Orlando last weekend.

The attack that has caused outrage across the nation and the world happened at Pulse during the LGBTQ nightclub's Latino-themed night. Forty-nine people were murdered, the majority of which were Latino and Black LGBTQ people. The groups released the following statement in four languages, including Arabic, French and Spanish. The English version of the statement follows:

"We the undersigned organizations working on the front lines of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) movement share in the profound grief for those who were killed and many more who were wounded during Latin Night at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida. Their lives were lost or forever altered in this devastating act of violence targeting LGBTQ people. Our hearts go out to all the family and friends touched by this horrific act. We know their lives will never be the same again.

"This national tragedy happened against the backdrop of anti-LGBTQ legislation sweeping this country and we must not forget that in this time of grief. Unity and an organized response in the face of hatred is what we owe the fallen and the grieving. Collective resolve across national, racial and political lines will be required to turn the tide against anti-LGBTQ violence. Our response to this horrific act, committed by one individual, will have a deep impact on Muslim communities in this country and around the world. We as an intersectional movement cannot allow anti-Muslim sentiment to be the focal point as it distracts from the larger issue, which is the epidemic of violence that LGBTQ people, including those in the Muslim community, are facing in this country.

"The animus and violence toward LGBTQ people is not news to our community. It is our history, and it is our reality. In 1973, 32 LGBTQ people died in an arson fire at an LGBTQ Upstairs Lounge in New Orleans. More than forty years later, similar acts of anti-LGBTQ violence are commonplace. Crimes motivated by bias due to sexual orientation and gender identity were the second largest set of hate crimes doc-



Sharon Lettman-Hicks of the National Black Justice Coalition, one of the letter's signees.
Photo courtesy of the coalition

umented by the FBI in 2015 (over 20 percent). Murders and violence against transgender people globally have taken more than 2000 lives over the last nine years. Bias crimes against U.S. immigrant populations, which include significant numbers of LGBTQ people, have increased over the past decade as anti-immigrant rhetoric has escalated.

"For those of us who carry multiple marginalized identities, the impact of this violence and discrimination has even more severe consequences. These intersectional identities and their ramifications are apparent at every level in the Orlando tragedy, which disproportionately affected Latino/a members of our communities, and has xenophobic consequences that threaten LGBTQ Muslims. According to the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP), there were 24 reports of hate

violence related homicides in 2015, and 62 percent of those victims were LGBTQ people of color. Transgender and gender nonconforming people made up 67 percent of the homicides, the majority of whom were transgender women of color. The violence against transgender and gender nonconforming people has continued into 2016, with 13 reported individual homicides this year alone. NCAVP research on hate violence shows that LGBTQ people experience violence not only by strangers, but also in their everyday environments by employers, co-workers, landlords and neighbors. The Orlando shooting is simply an extreme instance of the kind of violence that LGBTQ people encounter every day.

"As LGBTQ people who lived through the AIDS crisis, we know what it looks like and feels like to be scapegoated and isolated in the midst of a crisis that actually requires solidarity, empathy and collaboration from all quarters. We appeal to all in our movement and all who support us to band together in rejecting hatred and violence in all its shape shifting forms. Let us stand united as a diverse LGBTQ community of many faiths, races, ethnicities, nationalities and backgrounds."

Signed,
Arcus Foundation
Believe Out Loud
BiNet U.S.A
Bisexual Resource Center
Center for Black Equity, Inc.
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
The Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals
The Council for Global Equality
Courage Campaign
Equality Federation
Family Equality Council
Freedom for All Americans
Freedom to Work
GLBTQ Legal
Advocates & Defenders (GLAD)
Gay Men's Health Crisis
The Gill Foundation
GLAAD
GLMA: Health Professionals
Advancing LGBT Equality
GLSEN
Genders & Sexualities Alliance Network
The Harvey Milk Foundation
Human Rights Campaign
interACT: Advocates for Intersex Youth
The Johnson Family Foundation
Lambda Legal
MAP
Marriage Equality U.S.A
Muslim Alliance for Sexual and Gender Diversity

National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs
National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
National Black Justice Coalition
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Council of La Raza
National LGBTQ Task Force
National Minority Aids Council (NMAC)
National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance
The New York City Anti-Violence Project
Out & Equal Workplace Advocates
OutRight Action International
The Palette Fund
PFLAG National
Pride at Work
Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE)
Southerners on New Ground (SONG)
SpeakOUT Boston
The T*Circle Collective
Tarab NYC
Transgender Education Network of Texas
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Transgender Law Center
The Trevor Project
The Williams Institute



Sarah Kate Ellis of GLAAD, one of the letter's signees.
Photo by Melissa Wasserman



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In the aftermath of Orlando: Beyond ISIS

VIEWPOINT BY JESSICA STERN

"Let us show the world that we are not afraid, we will not hide, and we will not stand down."

(New York)—OutRight Action International is shocked and saddened by the deadly massacre at Latin Night at Pulse nightclub on June 12 in Orlando, Florida. We extend our deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of the 49 people whose lives were taken and the more than 50 people injured. These events were not only a tragedy for the LGBTIQ community in Orlando but for all humanity. Our way forward must emphasize community building from a global perspective.

Some commentators have questioned whether the location of the attack—a gay nightclub—is relevant to our understanding of recent events. Omar Mateen's decision to attack a gay nightclub, a safe place for LGBTIQ people to gather, timed during the Pride celebrations of June cannot be extricated from the motivations and consequences of the attack. More LGBTIQ people were killed at Pulse than in any other known LGBTIQ bias-motivated attack in U.S. history. Clearly, this was an act of hate and violence against LGBTIQ persons, our freedom of assembly and our fundamental dignity.

The attack at Pulse nightclub is about more than ISIS, including the on-going violence experienced by LGBTIQ people in the United States, and lack of gun safety. However, ISIS has claimed responsibility for the massacre, so we must examine ISIS' conduct, put it in perspective, and consider it within the context of the threat of U.S. military response.

The line between ISIS fighter and sympathizer is, at best, blurry and possibly irrelevant. Mateen pledged allegiance to ISIS, and ISIS subsequently claimed responsibility. ISIS' semi-official news agency, Amaq, claimed responsibility for the deaths, posting in English and Arabic, "The attack that targeted a nightclub for homosexuals in Orlando, Florida and that left more than 100 dead and wounded was carried out by an Islamic State fighter." Al-bayan Radio, a station owned and operated by ISIS, broadcasted, "One of the Caliphate's soldiers in



Jessica Stern.
Photo courtesy of OutRight

America carried out a security invasion where he was able to enter a crusader gathering at a nightclub for homosexuals in Orlando, Florida ... where he killed and injured more than a hundred of them." Similar announcements were reposted by ISIS affiliates and sympathizers, including the Haq website which regularly posts ISIS reports and photography.

ISIS: An undeniable record of terror against LGBTIQ people

Since December 2014, OutRight has documented more than 41 men accused of sodomy and killed by ISIS, according to ISIS' own accounts. Prior to the deaths in Orlando, the highest number of men killed at one time by ISIS for sodomy, or a related charge, was four in July 2015 in Fallujah Province.

Little is known about the men who were killed, including whether they ever engaged

in homosexual acts or personally identified as gay; ISIS does not provide substantiating information or charge victims in a court of law. OutRight has observed that ISIS typically claims quick public responsibility for these killings, using social media as a central component in its campaign of terror. These acts of violence by ISIS exist on a continuum with its targeting of many vulnerable groups. (To bring this to wider attention, in August 2015, we spoke before an Arria formula meeting of the UN Security Council, calling attention to the situation of LGBTIQ people in ISIS controlled territories.)

The coming days and weeks will bring mourning, information and debate as we try to make sense of the most widespread loss of life in the U.S. since 9/11. During this time, we send our deepest sympathies, strength, and support to the families of those who lost their loved ones and to those injured during the attacks.

We caution against drawing harmful conclusions about Muslims from the recent attack. Conflating the actions of one person with the beliefs of an entire religion, or ISIS with Islam, is dangerous. OutRight stands in solidarity with Muslims everywhere. We refuse to allow the LGBTIQ community's tragedy to be used to pit minorities against each other. LGBTIQ people, Muslims, LGBTIQ Muslims, and our allies—must support one another and stand strong against bigotry and violence.

In the United States, there is much work to be done

We must enact gun control and meaningful gun safety. The killings in Orlando were made possible by inadequate policies on gun control and gun safety. More than 32,000 Americans are shot to death every year—a higher rate than any other developed nation. Omar Mateen bought his weapons legally.

We must recognize that LGBTIQ people are not the only group targeted by ISIS. ISIS has systematically attacked women and girls, Christians, Turkmanis, Kurds, and Yazidis. Anyone who violates ISIS' fundamentalist notions of gender and sexuality or is deemed "inappropriate" is targeted in its apocalyptic worldview.

We cannot compromise the human rights of LGBTIQ people. The tragic loss of life in Orlando must not be used to justify military action. The safety and security of LGBTIQ people in Iraq and Syria, within and beyond ISIS control, must be central in our response. Regional backlash and escalation of violence against those perceived as not conforming to traditional notions of gender and sexuality is a real danger.

The U.S. government should investigate the application of the principles of universal jurisdiction to hold ISIS accountable if command

responsibility is established in the case of Orlando. Due process should in all instances be upheld.

On a continuum of violence

At OutRight, we understand the devastating attack in Orlando in the context of violence targeting LGBTIQ people in the United States. While the scale of this massacre is unprecedented, violent crimes against the LGBTIQ community in the United States are not. In 2015 alone, more than 21 transgender individuals were murdered in the United States, most of whom were trans women of color. The Latino community in Orlando was on the frontlines of the attack at Pulse. Through holistic law, policy and programming, aimed to promote non-discrimination and access to education, health-care, and employment, we can put an end to these unacceptable levels of violence.

The tragedy of Orlando is a call to action: it underscores with heart-breaking clarity the need for a globalized understanding of current events and the place of LGBTIQ people in the global community. For those who thought that ISIS would only impact their lives in Iraq or Syria, we are with you. For those in Brussels and Paris who experienced violence at the hands of ISIS, we are with you. For those in the United States who are newly members of this unwanted club, we are with you. It is time to channel our sorrow and anger into the best response: strong community-building. With LGBTIQ people, Muslims, LGBTIQ Muslims and our allies globally, we must seek a peaceful and holistic strategy focused on community well-being to move us forward.

As we enter into this new era, I urge all—friends and allies—reclaim this Pride month! Show the world that we are not afraid, we will not hide, and we will not stand down. And to our friends who we have lost, may you always rest in power.

OutRight Action International, founded in 1990 as the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, works alongside LGBTIQ people in the Global South, with offices in six countries, to help identify community-focused solutions to promote policy for lasting change. We vigilantly monitor and document human rights abuses to spur action when they occur. We train partners to expose abuses and advocate for themselves. Headquartered in New York City, OutRight is the only global LGBTIQ-specific organization with a permanent presence at the United Nations in New York that advocates for human rights progress for LGBTIQ people.

Jessica Stern is the executive director of OutRight.



Standing Strong With Orlando



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Parade participants remember Orlando

BY MATT SIMONETTE

According to estimates, about 90 percent of the victims in the mass slaying at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando were Latino. Twenty-three of those murdered were Puerto Rican.

Juan Calderon, chief operating officer of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center of Chicago was blunt in saying, "We've never seen such a massacre."

Previous to Orlando, the worst massacre in

a place that's safe. I realized that if anything were to happen that day, we would have more allies than we knew what to do with."

For Rodriguez, the previous week was "a call to action. It's been a roller-coaster ride. The last time I was at vigils and memorials like this was the '80s. It really reminded me of those days."

Sanabria said, that, after the news of the shooting, "At first I just felt hopeless and down and out."



Photo by Carrie Maxwell

Puerto Rican history, following Spanish imperial rule, took place in Ponce in March, 1937, when 19 protestors and two policemen were killed in a rally that left 200 wounded.

"When you look at the deaths in Orlando, it is a larger number," Calderon said.

"This was something we could not ignore," added Roberto Sanabria, who sits on the board of the Cultural Center.

On June 19, members of Chicago's LGBT Puerto Rican community and their allies marched alongside the Cultural Center's float celebrating Paseo Boricua Cacica Queen, Cynthia Lee Fontaine, in the 2016 Puerto Rican People's Parade. The unit was organized by Sanabria. He called the parade float a "point of pride" for local LGBT Puerto Ricans because of the welcome reception the queen gets from the crowd each year. But this year there was extra meaning for participants, many of whom were devastated by the news from Orlando the week before.

Activist Evette Cardona marched in the parade with her wife, Commission on Human Relations Commissioner Mona Noriega. News of the Orlando incident struck Cardona "three times over," she said. "When I heard it was a gay nightclub, and Latin night, and then that many of the victims were Puerto Rican, I was devastated."

Cardona found the parade to be a "cathartic" moment, especially when the crowd began chanting, "Orlando! Orlando! Orlando!"

She added that, "It felt it was my total self marching in front of all those people. It felt good to be there. The reception we got was good. There was a lot of love and you could see a lot of tears. It seemed to hit a lot of people."

Julio Rodriguez, president of the Association for Latinos/as Motivating Action (ALMA) added, "Being Puerto Rican, I kind of grew up on that parade. It was something I did automatically as a kid. I hadn't marched in it for some time. In fact, the last time I marched was when ALMA first marched as a gay group."

Rodriguez admitted to some trepidation about marching at first, and his partner asked if he was really sure he wanted to do it.

"But I told him, 'It's more important than ever that we march and not be afraid to be out in our own community,'" Rodriguez said, adding that the nervousness lifted once he arrived at the parade and he was overwhelmed by a sense of security and homecoming. "I realized that I felt like I was home, and for me, 'home' is

But after the idea of the expanded parade entry came up, "It helped me to heal, knowing that we were able to feel a sense of community so quickly," he added.

Activist Robert Castillo regretted he was unable to go to the parade. He said that, upon hearing the news of the shooting, he was emotionally torn: "I didn't know whether I wanted to curl up in a fetal position or march down the street with the biggest-effin' rainbow flag I can find."

Castillo hopes that, in the future, there will be some sort of forum or gathering wherein members of the LGBT Latino community can gather to discuss Orlando's impact and perhaps strategize about how to move forward. "It's about finding visibility, equality and being able to live in our community," he said, adding that it is also important to thoughtfully consider the best way to honor the Orlando victims.

Puerto Rican Cultural Center is starting the Orlando LGBTQ Solidarity Fund, to assist survivors and family members, according to Calde-



Above, left: Ald. Carlos Ramirez-Rosa. Above, right: Evette Cardona and Mona Noriega took part in the parade as well. Photos by Carrie Maxwell



Orlando victims honored at Puerto Rican People's Parade

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Puerto Rican Cultural Center-Vida/SIDA (PRCC-Vida/SIDA) honored the victims of the massacre at the LGBTQ Pulse Orlando Night Club & Ultra Lounge at the Puerto Rican People's Parade on June 18 in Humboldt Park.

Vida/SIDA marched behind a float carrying this year's Paseo Boricua Cacica Queen, Cynthia Lee Fontaine. Fontaine, a former RuPaul's Drag Race contestant, was crowned by PRCC-Vida/SIDA at the organization's ninth annual coronation ceremony the previous evening.

Openly gay 35th Ward Ald. Carlos Ramirez-Rosa, Democratic state Senate candidate Omar Aquino and Chicago Commission on Human Relations Commissioner Mona Noriega were among the 100 people marching with Vida/SIDA's contingent. They carried pictures of a number of the Puerto Rican victims of the Orlando massacre and chanted "Orlando" as they marched down Division Street.

ron. He said that it's important to remember that many of individuals left Puerto Rico because of dire financial circumstances there. "Those people are really going to need our help," he said.

He added that LGBT Latinos need advocates dedicated to speaking out about the community's perspectives and political goals.

"It's important for all persons of color to have representation within the LGBT community. We

have five LGBT members of the city council, two of whom are Latino, which is good. But we need advocacy across the board. We need to identify and unify at all of our potential points of collaboration," said Calderon.

Rodriguez also looked forward to future possibilities for collaboration both within and outside of the community. "It's been a hard week, but a week filled with promise," he said.

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Chicago's Latino community stands with the LGBTQ Latino community

CHICAGO (June 18)—This past weekend, the LGBTQ community was attacked in Orlando, Florida in what is considered to be the worst mass shooting in U.S. history. The shooting occurred at Pulse, a nightclub for the LGBTQ community, during its weekly "Latin" night. Forty-nine individuals died, and an additional 53 were injured. The majority of those victims are LGBTQ Latinos – they were our children, our brothers and sisters, our family. We send our condolences to the families and loved ones of those whose life was cut short during this senseless act.

Even though this weekend's violent shooting was perhaps the most devastating, it was not an isolated event—violence towards the LGBTQ community is rampant. LGBTQ people are twice as likely to be victims of hate crimes, compared to other marginalized communities. For LGBTQ Latinos who experience racism, homophobia, and transphobia, the violence is far too common. A national report conducted by the Human Rights Campaign and League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) found that LGBTQ Latino youth are three times more likely to face harassment and violence than are their non-LGBTQ Latino peers—in their communities, in our communities. The violence directed at members of our community is something we can no longer ignore.

In light of the shooting in Orlando, we must come together, not only to help the LGBTQ Latino community heal, but also to act. Now more than ever, we must commit ourselves to

eradicating homophobia and transphobia in our Latino communities. While there has been much progress for the LGBTQ community, such as marriage equality, we must continue to work to ensure that all LGBTQ people are able to live without fear of losing their lives due to intolerance and hate. We need to challenge the anti-LGBTQ sentiments from within our own families and communities. We must remember that LGBTQ Latinos are part of our entire community, and that their love is just as important.

It is also imperative that our laws reflect our values to ensure we build safe communities for everyone. We must hold our elected officials and leaders accountable, rejecting hateful rhetoric that seeks to divide and cause harm. We must pressure them to work on policy that will ensure complete equality and fair treatment for the LGBTQ community as well as legislation that will put an end to this senseless gun violence. We must also be willing to stand in solidarity with other marginalized communities, we cannot allow this tragedy to perpetuate Islamophobia. Now more than ever we need to work and move forward in unison.

The Latino communities in Chicago, and our allies, stand with the Latino and LGBTQ communities in Orlando. We send our sympathy to the LGBTQ Latino community across the country that continues to mourn and begins to heal. We will stand with the LGBTQ community to end homophobia and transphobia once and for all.



Alma Izquierdo (in left in pic on left with Mishelle Figuero) and Omar Aquino are among those who signed the letter.

Photo of Izquierdo by Tracy Baim; pic of Aquino by Carrie Maxwell

—Eduardo Aguayo
United Latin@ Pride
—Oswaldo Alvarez
Program Developer
Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership
—Erick Amaya
Chair, Queer Prom
HIV Counselor, CALOR
—Honorable Jaime Andrade
State Representative, 40th District
Illinois House of Representatives
—Sandra Aponte
Program Officer
The Chicago Community Trust
—Omar Aquino
Nominee for State Senate, 2nd District
Illinois State Senate
—Dr. Jorge Argueta
Director, Avance, Inc.
Treasurer, Northwest Suburban Alliance Against
Domestic Violence
Cook County State Attorney's Office
LGBTQ Advisory Council

—Evette Cardona
Vice President of Programs
Polk Bros. Foundation
—Tonantzin L. Carmona
Director, Office of New Americans
Mayor's Office
City of Chicago
—Kara Carrell
United Latin@ Pride
—Jessica Carrillo
Executive Director
Youth Service Project
United Latin@ Pride
—Rodrigo Carrillo
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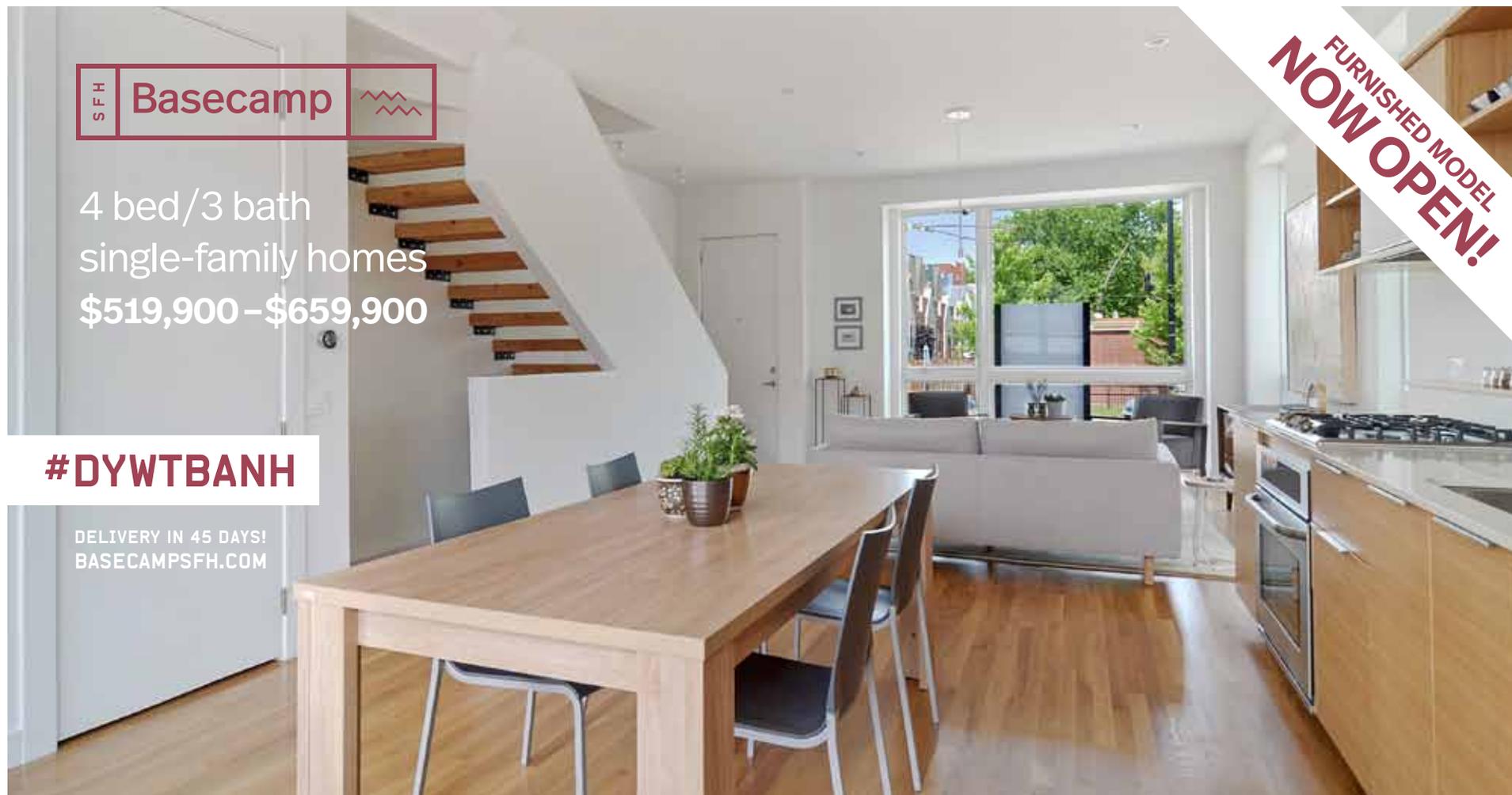
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 Youth Activist
 Co-Founder, Vives Q
 —Ricardo Estrada
 President and CEO
 Metropolitan Family Services
 —Alfredo Flores
 Mpowerment Facilitator
 CALOR
 —Sol Flores
 Executive Director
 La Casa Norte
 —Emmanuel García
 Founder, Vives Q
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 Familia: Trans Queer Liberation Movement
 —Rick Garcia
 LGBTQ Community Leader
 —David Gauna
 Youth Activist
 —Erik Elias Glenn
 Executive Director
 Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus
 —Liliana Gomez
 Family Support Worker
 Howard Area Community Center
 —Alicia Gonzalez
 Executive Director
 Chicago Run
 —Allen Govea
 Teacher
 Chicago Public Schools
 —Adolfo Hernandez
 Deputy Director, Public Engagement
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 —Juanita Irizarry
 Community Leader
 —Alma Izquierdo
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 —Marco Jacome
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 Healthcare Alternative Systems, Inc. (H.A.S.)
 —Daniel Loftus
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 —Daniel Lopez
 Psychotherapist/Clinical Supervisor
 —Honorable Raymond Lopez
 Alderman, 15th Ward
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 —Agustin R. Maldonado
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 —Constantina Mizis
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 The Latino Alzheimer's & Memory Disorders Alliance
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 Communications Secretary
 Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois
 —Honorable Joe Moreno
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 Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement
 —David Ernesto Munar
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 —Jose M. Muñoz
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 —Cristina Pacione-Zayas
 Co-Chair
 The Puerto Rican Agenda
 —Andre Perez
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 —David Tlateollin Pesqueira
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 —Maria Pesqueira
 President & CEO
 Mujeres Latinas en Accion
 —Sylvia Puente
 Executive Director
 Latino Policy Forum
 —Dulce M. Quintero
 Orgullo en Acción
 —Edgar Ramirez
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 Youth Ministry
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Local responses to Orlando continue

BY MATT SIMONETTE

As the nation's LGBT community reels from the June 12 shooting at the Pulse nightclub, Chicago-area individuals, organizations and businesses continued to respond to the Florida tragedy, especially those in the Latinx community.

Gay Liberation Network announced that it would be changing the theme of its Pride parade entry June 26 and asked supporters to join its Chicago 4 Orlando Against ALL Hate group in this year's Pride Parade "to help us say: NO to anti-LGBTQ hate! NO to anti-Muslim hate! NO to anti-immigrant hate! NO to the wars, drone bombs & support of dictators that breed terrorism!"

"As a community which has recently suffered a hate crime, we have an obligation to make sure that the tragedy of the attack on the Pulse nightclub in Orlando is not compounded by even more hate and violence."

Those interested should meet GLN's representatives at 11 a.m. June 26 in front of the Uptown Target Store, 4466 N. Broadway. Email LGBTliberation@aol.com.

Windy City Times and ChicagoPride.com are producing signs of each of those killed in Orlando, and they are looking for volunteers, especially Latinx LGBTs, to pick up signs at the media checkin located at the southwest corner of Montrose and Broadway by 11 a.m. Pride Sunday. The continent will be right behind the front banner of the parade.

There were more than a dozen area vigils and commemorations held after the Orlando shootings, two the first day, and several other the first week. Two South Side events were held,

one by Southsiders and the Unitarian Church, another by Affinity, Care Plan and University of Chicago. The suburbs of Berwyn, Oak Park, Waukegan and Elgin also hosted vigils, as did many religious groups, including St. James Cathedral, Unity Church, AChurchForMe MCC, Dignity Chicago and AGLO.

Latinx LGBTQs also planned events including June 17 at Union Park, an LGBTQ Contingent in Puerto Rican People's Parade, and an LGBTQ Latinx Spaces for Healing, Celebration, & Remembrance Vigil in Humboldt Park, California at Division, Wed., June 22, 6:30 p.m. On June 16 a Pilsen/Little Village vigil for Orlando was held at Lincoln United Methodist Church.

The Chicago Gay Men's Chorus, Artemis Singers and Windy City Performing Arts all used their pride concerts to call attention and memorialize those lost in Orlando.

Area schools also hosted vigils, including John Marshall Law School June 15.

Local fundraisers

The Closet, 3325 N. Broadway, will hold a benefit raffle for victims and their families on Thursday, June 23, at 7 p.m. They have lots of special prizes.

Links Taproom is hosting a fundraiser honoring the victims and all those affected by the Pulse nightclub massacre Sunday, June 26, 11:30 p.m.-2 a.m., 1559 N Milwaukee Ave. It will benefit Chicago House and Social Service Agency and the GLBT Community Center of Central Florida. Links owner/beer director Mike Quinlan, a proud member of LGBTQ+ community, will match 100 percent of all craft beer, liquor, wine and food sales.

Big Chick's raised \$31,400 at a June 17 ben-



South Siders for Peace rally.

Photo courtesy of Andy Thayer

efit to assist the Pulse Orlando Fund. "We came together. We talked, we hugged, we laughed, we ate, we drank, we danced. We are a family," wrote owner Michelle Fire on Facebook. "You make me so PROUD!"

Sidetrack also raised funds during their anniversary celebration last week.

Organizational responses

AIDS Foundation of Chicago said that gun violence continues to be a key public health issue in a June 17 statement.

"We are in the midst of a public health epidemic of gun violence, not just in Orlando and Chicago. Gun violence across this country, from the mass shootings that garner press attention to the violence that occurs every day in cities across the country, finds its roots in larger

systemic issues including policies that disproportionately effect Black and brown communities," said the statement. "We pledge to lend our support and voices to the growing chorus demanding that we enact smarter and better laws to combat gun violence in our community—and to enforce those laws already on the books. The status quo is untenable; our elected leaders need to lead.

"AFC believes we as Americans have the capacity and the will to enact positive change, especially in moments such as this where the alternative is to stand by as more Americans become victims of gun violence. Doing nothing is no longer a viable solution, and we look forward to being a part of the movement for smart, common-sense gun laws that will improve community health in Illinois and



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throughout the country.”

Chicago House and Social Services Agency, on June 14, said it “stands with the victims of the Orlando massacre and opens its heart and lifts its arms to all those who have been impacted by this atrocity. We will continue to stand strongly behind our entire community, especially those who have been and continue to be marginalized by hatred, bigotry, discrimination and violence. Chicago House is and always will be part of the love and hope and goodness that makes our community great. ... As an organization, we are prepared to do what it takes to ensure that love will continue to triumph over hate.”

On June 13, Congregation Or Chadash said, “On [June 12], we gathered together with the other Kehilla partner congregations and the larger Jewish community for Shavuot. On Shavuot, we celebrate revelation and God’s giving of the Ten Commandments. Many of us stayed up studying late into the night or even all night.

“Last night was Shavuot—our celebration of covenantal love. Horrifically, it also turned into a night of terrible shattering—a terrorist gunned down 50 lives at the Pulse nightclub, a gay bar in Orlando, Florida. At least fifty more people were wounded, many of them critically.

“The Talmud teaches that whoever saves a single life is as if s/he has saved an entire world. Whoever destroys a single life is as if s/he has destroyed an entire world. Many lives and many worlds were destroyed last night through hateful gun violence. We mourn with our LGBTQ brothers and sisters in Orlando. We mourn with all people who cherish freedom and safety throughout the world. We mourn—and we renew our commitment not to stand by idly while the blood of innocent lives flows from shootings.”

Buildings lit in solidarity

City Hall, Wrigley, O’Hare, Navy Pier and Willis Tower were among the buildings lit in rainbow colors or displaying their flags at half-staff in solidarity with the Orlando victims.

See photos on Mayor Rahm Emanuel’s twitter account (@ChicagosMayor), which stated, “The City of Chicago Stands with Orlando and the LGBT Community.”



The top of the Wrigley was lit in rainbow colors to honor the victims of the Orlando tragedy.

Twitter photo

Claps to leave Department of Human Rights

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Rocco Clapps, the openly gay director of the Illinois Department of Human Rights (IDHR), will leave his post June 30 in order to go to work for the Hillary Clinton presidential campaign, according to Capitol Fax.

Claps had been in the position for 13 years. “Working together we have had many, many achievements in those thirteen years,” wrote Claps in a letter to IDHR officials that Capitol Fax obtained. “I have been most heartened by the depth of kindness and support you have all shown me as director—and I hope that you have felt the same in return. I have said it dozens of times in the past—I am deeply proud of your collective work, professionalism and ability to help people—people who come to our Agency for assistance when they need it the most.

“I hope that you will continue to support the next Director, who will be announced



Rocco Clapps.

later this afternoon, as the new Director undertakes this important role. I can think of no one better suited for this job and to lead the agency that I, honestly, very much love.”

In a June 17 statement, Rauner administration officials announced that Claps would be replaced by Janice Glenn. Currently, Glenn is the director of diversity and recruitment in

the office of the governor, where her primary responsibility has been recruiting and retaining talent for state agencies, boards, and commissions. She also serves as the agency’s equal employment opportunity and affirmative action officer. Glenn previously served as director of Leadership Greater Chicago, a non-profit civic leadership organization.

Claps, the first openly gay cabinet member in Illinois history, was first appointed to the post by Gov. Rod Blagojevich in 2003 and is the longest-serving director of that agency. Prior to his tenure at IDHR, Claps was deputy assessor at the Office of the Cook County Assessor and worked in a number of posts for Democratic officials. He was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame in 2013.

Among IDHR’s responsibilities are enforcing anti-discrimination laws that protect the rights of LGBT Illinoisans. Claps oversaw the implementation of those protections on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity after they were included in the Illinois Human Rights Act.

Capitol Fax’s post is at <http://capitolfax.com/2016/06/17/claps-stepping-down/#comments>.

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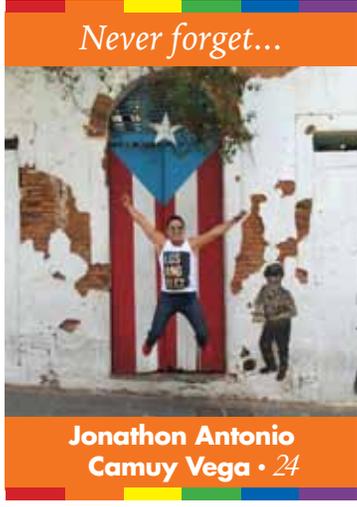
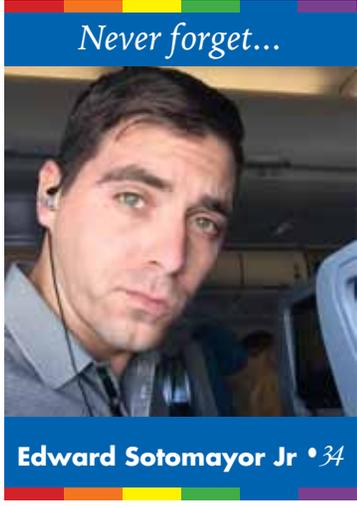
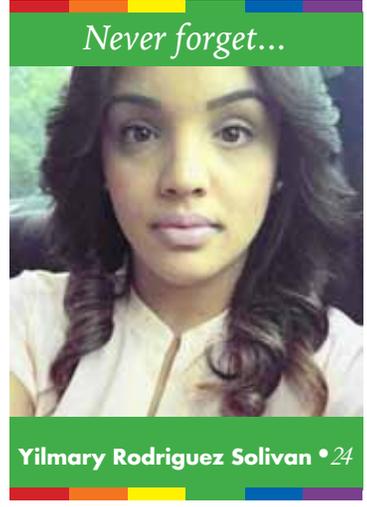
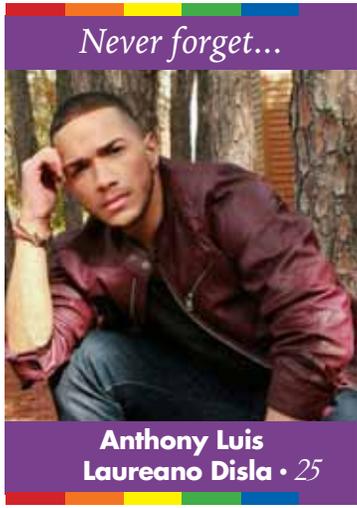
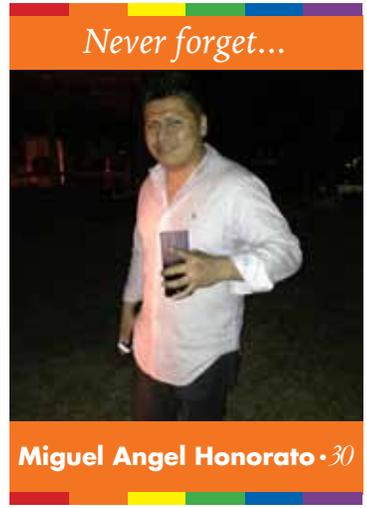
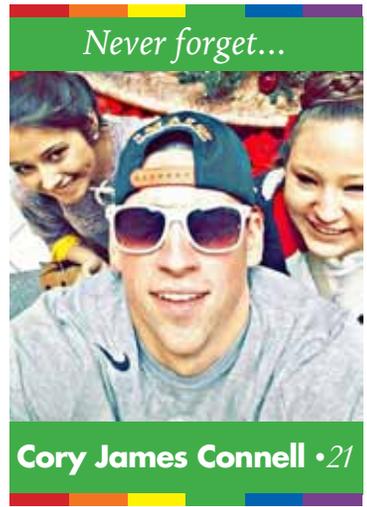
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This design of the photos of the 49 murder victims of the Orlando shooting at Pulse nightclub June 12, 2016 was created by Brad Delaney from One Million Kids for Equality, Theresa Volpe and Mercedes Santos. Top-web printer will be producing large printed images of these for inclusion in the Chicago Pride Parade Sunday, June 26, 2016, to be carried by people right after the lead banner. People willing to help carry the signs, especially Latinx LGBTs, are encouraged to arrive at 11 a.m. at the press check-in at the SW corner of Montrose and Broadway. The signs are sponsored by Windy City Times and ChicagoPride.com with assistance from individual donors.



Never forget...



Antonia Davon Brown • 29

Never forget...



Darryl Roman Burt II • 29

Never forget...



Angel L. Candelario-Padro • 28

Never forget...



Juan Chavez Martinez • 25

Never forget...



Luis Daniel Conde • 39

Never forget...



Mercedes Marisol Flores • 26

Never forget...



Peter O. Gonzalez-Cruz • 22

Never forget...



Juan Ramon Guerrero • 22

Never forget...



Paul Terrell Henry • 41

Never forget...



Frank Hernandez Escalante • 27

Never forget...



Christopher Andrew Leinonen • 32

Never forget...



Alejandro Barrios Martinez • 21

Never forget...



Brenda Lee
Marquez McCool • 49

Never forget...



Gilberto Ramon
Silva Menendez • 25

Never forget...



Kimberly Morris • 37

Never forget...



Jean Carlos
Mendez Perez • 35

Never forget...



Enrique L. Rios, Jr. • 25

Never forget...



Jean C. Nieves Rodriguez • 27

Never forget...



Xavier Emmanuel
Serrano Rosado • 35

Never forget...



Christopher Joseph Sanfeliz • 24

Never forget...



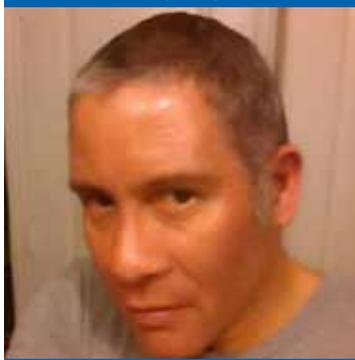
Juan P. Rivera Velazquez • 37

Never forget...



Luis S. Vielma • 22

Never forget...



Franky Jimmy
Dejesus Velazquez • 50

Never forget...



Louis Daniel
Wilson-Leon • 37

Never forget...



Jerald Arthur Wright • 31

Emotional Pride celebration honors local activists

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

There were several bittersweet moments for Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez as, alongside the LGBT Advisory Council, she hosted the 7th Annual Pride Celebration and Awards Ceremony at the Center on Halsted June 14.

The awards, which Alvarez initiated, would be the last in her role as Cook County state's attorney following her defeat to Kim Foxx in the March 15 Illinois Democratic primary elections.

The ceremony also came on the heels of the devastating June 12 attack on the Pulse nightclub at the Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Florida, that left 49 people dead.

"I think President Obama said it best when he described it as 'a crime of terror and a crime of hate,' and I truly share that sentiment," Alvarez said in her opening remarks. "Several times, over the past few days, I have shuddered to think that this type of violence, which has become all too common in our world, can so easily happen here in our own community."

"Unless we find the courage to change, one day it could be that I or someone I know or love is among the names of the dead in a future rampage," Alvarez added. "I refuse to believe that the 2nd Amendment of the United States Constitution was ever intended to allow free access to weapons that only have a place on a battlefield."

Despite the somber reflection of the evening,

there was hope to be found as Alvarez and the event's master of ceremonies—award-winning CBS Chicago reporter Brad A. Edwards—honored three members of the community who, according to Alvarez, "have made significant contributions to the cause of fairness, equality and justice for all."

The two recipients of the Pride Community Service Awards were ESPN Editor and transgender activist Christina Kahrl and Sittercity Incorporated Vice President of Corporate Strategy and General Counsel Jeremy H. Gottschalk.

Kahrl—a 2014 inductee into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame—was honored for a litany of selfless achievements including her voluntary work with the Department of Justice and the State of Illinois educating and training law enforcement personnel on transgender issues and her efforts which led to a Chicago Police Department (CPD) General Order establishing policies for "interactions with transgender, intersex and gender nonconforming individuals."

In accepting the award, Kahrl described herself as an "accidental activist."

Kahrl noted that she became involved in police issues and social justice "in part because I had two friends murdered when I was living in Washington D.C. who I think about every single day."

"They were murdered for no other reason than they are transgender," Kahrl said. "From my perspective, anything I can do to help my brothers and sisters in community who don't



Christina Kahrl.

Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

have the benefits that I have, I see that as paying it forward to make sure they don't have to deal with negative situations."

Gottschalk was awarded for his work with the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago (LAGBAC) as well as his founding of the annual fundraiser Lawyers for Diversity which "has contributed over \$500,000 for several local organizations including the AIDS Legal Council of Chicago, Center on Halsted and PFLAG."

"For many of us, we view service as simply our responsibility to our community," Gottschalk said. "For me, it's where I derive such a big part of my identity and my value. If any one of us is sitting here today not thinking about what we can do to change the current narrative, then Orlando was in vain. Each and every one of us has a voice, a skill and each of every one of us can make a difference and we must. To sit on the sidelines with what we are facing at this time in our history threatens our community to its core."

One significant individual who made a differ-

ence was the late cherished community activist Vernita Gray.

Receiving the Vernita Gray Lifetime Achievement Award was speaker, published author and Clark Hill attorney Ray J. Koenig III.

In honoring Koenig, Alvarez described him as "a legal and community activist who has been called 'a fierce advocate for the LGBT community.' As an advocate, his dedication and unwavering commitment to the LGBT community is well established."

"I was honored to know Vernita," he said. "She was somebody who just experienced more adversity than I could ever imagine. She fought for the rest of us, until she died, for marriage. With everything that happened in Orlando and the slaughter of our brothers and sisters I can imagine her saying 'we'll fight, we'll win.'"

Alongside Sidetrack co-owner and famed activist Art Johnston, Koenig then turned around and surprised Alvarez with her own award.

"I have had the honor and the duty of working with every state's attorney since Richard Daley before he was mayor," Johnston said. "The LGBT community has been under attack for as long as I can remember in one form or another."

He described Alvarez as "one of the reasons that we have this safe place in the city of Chicago. On a day-to-day basis, LGBTQ people were treated fairly in the office of the state's attorney. Let's all try to hold the State's Attorney's office in the future to the high standards that Anita has set."

In accepting the award, an emotional Alvarez said that, "It has been a true honor to serve in this office for all the years that I have and a really true honor to be a part of this community and to get to know so many of the fighters who have opened so many doors for young LGBTQ members. I'm very proud of the work that we've done."

John Marshall Law School student Nicholas A. Ventola received the LGBT Pride Celebration Scholarship.

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~ Gail Morse and Lauren Verdich



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From left: Torlene "Toi" Williams, U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley, SAGE's Serena Worthington and Phyllis Johnson.

Photo by Ronit Bezalel Photography

SAGE honors Quigley, Affinity members

The Chicago-based National Board Members of SAGE hosted its annual SAGE & Friends reception at Wyndham Grant Hotel June 10.

SAGE honored U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley, co-chair of the Congressional LGBT Caucus, for his advocacy on behalf of LGBT rights and his support of issues impacting older individuals.

Also, SAGE recognized Phyllis Johnson and Torlene "Toi" Williams for their pioneering Af-

finity Community Services' Trailblazers, and for their grassroots advocacy on behalf of LGBT older adults in Chicago.

Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE) is the country's largest and oldest organization dedicated to improving the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) older adults.

Visit sageusa.org/chicago.

Reports of fights in Lake View

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A 22-year-old man was stabbed after a fight at approximately 3:15 a.m. on June 19 on the 800 block of West Belmont Avenue, according to police.

According to CPD News Affairs spokesman Jose Estrada, the man got into a fight with three acquaintances and was both stabbed and pepper-sprayed. He was taken to Illinois Masonic Hospital, where he is reported to be in good condition. The incident is under investigation, he said. Initial reports suggested that the stabbing victim was female.

Meanwhile, several fights and overcrowding incidents broke out on Halsted Street in the early morning of June 19, according to reports. The incidents were first reported by the Crime in Wrigleyville + Boystown blog (CWB) June 19, and reportedly were centered around the 7-11 at 3407 N. Halsted St., where a crowd of about 400 had gathered by around 3 a.m.

Halsted Street was closed to vehicle traffic for an hour as a result of overcrowding in the street. Other fights reportedly occurred in the early morning hours at Belmont and Halsted, Belmont and Clark and Halsted and Aldine. Estrada could not confirm details of those incidents.

The incidents, occurring hours after the first day of Pride Fest activities had ended, came after police and city officials said that there would be an increased police presence in Lake View in the weeks ahead.

CWB's report is at <http://www.cwbchicago.com/2016/06/boystown-one-stabbed-huge-fights-in.html?m=1>.

Foster-care seminar on July 9 has special LGBTQ focus

In conjunction with the State of Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, the Illinois Center for Adoption and Permanency, Pride Action Tank and Windy City Times, Let It Be Us is hosting a free event entitled "Call to Action—Foster and Adopt Our Children" with the specific goal of finding foster and adoptive families within Chicago's LGBTQ community on Saturday, July 9.

Open to any individual interested in becoming an adoptive or foster parent, the event will be held at the University of Illinois at Chicago Student Center, at 750 S. Halsted St., 10 a.m.-1 p.m. The town hall-style event includes an overview of the foster care license process, the adoption from foster care process and a speaker's bureau featuring teens and parents.

Agency representatives and foster families will be on hand to answer questions from attendees. Tickets are limited and reservations are suggested. For more information and to reserve a seat, visit www.letitbeus.org/events.

Participating social service agencies include Aunt Martha's, ChildServ, Hephzibah, Kaleidoscope, Lakeside Community Committee, Lawrence Hall Youth Services, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, Little City, National Youth Advocate Program and SOS Children's Villages.

Let It Be Us is an Illinois 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to building awareness and inspiring the adoption and care of children in the foster care system. Funds raised go to programs and projects that maximize the prospects of successful adoptions for these children and achieving educational goals for the older children in foster care. Let It Be Us is the strong and innovative bridge between children available for adoption and adoptive parents. For more information, visit LetItBeUs.org.

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Upcoming Events

- *Proud to Run* – June 25
Run/Walk with AVER team
@Montrose/Simonds, 7:30am
- *Chicago Pride Parade* – June 26
@Broadway/Montrose, 10am
Carry 50' US Flag 'GUS'
- *Salute to LGBT Veterans* – June 27
Daley Plaza @noon
- *AVER Fundraiser* – August 7, 3-7pm
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Durbin visits Lake View LGBTQ housing

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Illinois) paid a visit to the Center on Halsted and Heartland Housing's Town Hall Apartments in Chicago's Lake View neighborhood June 17.

There, he took the opportunity to tour the LGBTQ-inclusive senior housing facility constructed on the site of the decommissioned Town Hall police station and opened in August 2014.

Durbin also sat down for a candid discussion with four of the facility's residents—George Garcia, Ted Swanson, Gary Sargeng and Carmen Garcia—asking each of them about his or her lives and experiences as part of the Heartland Housing community.



U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin tours Town Hall. Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

While they responded positively, the residents raised concerns about the need for additional security at the facility particularly in terms of increased lighting outside the building.

In turn, Garcia then questioned Durbin about the current fight in Congress over gun control in the wake of the June 12 Pulse Nightclub attack in Orlando, Florida, that killed 49 people.

Durbin described the 15-hour filibuster launched by U.S. Senate Democrats earlier in the week.

"There were six of us and I stayed on the floor for 13 hours," he said. "The whole purpose was to force a vote on gun control. Republicans are in control and they had not scheduled anything

for this week, even after Orlando, and we said, 'That's wrong. We've got to at least debate this, we should vote on this, we should try to make things better.'"

"If somebody is a suspected terrorist, we keep them off airplanes but they can still go buy guns," Durbin added. "So why wouldn't we keep these firearms, particularly assault weapons, out of the hands of a suspected terrorist?"

Durbin added that he and his colleagues also wanted to examine the lax policies around the sale of such weapons at gun shows.

"Forty percent of the crime guns confiscated in Chicago come from gun shows in Northern Indiana," he said. "Why? No background check. You walk in there and show them a driver's license, fill up the trunk of your car and take the guns into Inglewood, Lawndale and the West Side. That's crazy. Why do we let that happen?"

Although Senate Democrats were successful in forcing a vote (expected early in the week of June 20), Durbin was not optimistic about the outcome.



U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin tours Town Hall apartment facility with Nadia Underhill (left). Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond



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From a March to a Parade: Chicago's Pride History

BY RICH PFEIFFER

The annual Chicago Pride Parade started in 1970 as a march with 100 to 150 people from the Near North Side to downtown.

In its second year, it became a parade with several hundred people and decorated vehicles as well as marchers and moved to the gay-friendly East Lake View neighborhood (then called New Town, now Boys Town). Over the years, the number of registered entries, participants and spectators has steadily increased, as more people become out and proud.

A noticeable boost in both viewership and participation in the parade occurred in 1977, shortly after anti-gay singer Anita Bryant was picketed by more than 5,000 people at Medinah Temple.

One of the largest increases in numbers of participants and spectators took place during the 1982 parade. That year, a group of anti-gay neo-Nazis decided that they were going to protest by holding a rally beforehand and then marching down the street to confront the parade procession head-on. Although their rally took place, the direct confrontational march by the neo-Nazis did not.

However, the parade that year brought out thousands more gays and allies who either registered for the parade, lined the parade route or attended a counter-rally near the neo-Nazi rally. In fact, some city statistics at the time

indicated that spectators may have doubled from the previous year. The number of parade participants increased dramatically as well.

Another increase was noted in 1984. Up until that time a local state representative and an alderman had been the only elected officials in the parade. After Mayor Jane Byrne lost her bid for reelection, she decided to thank the gay communities for supporting her. When word got out that she was going to be in the parade

Turn to page 32

BY THE NUMBERS

The following parade statistics are for spectators (not participants), as estimated by several sources including police, city officials, PRIDEChicago (the parade organizers), and mainstream and gay media.

- 1970: "several hundred"
- 1971 to 1977: "several thousand"
- 1978: 10,000
- 1980: 10,000
- 1982: 30,000
- 1986: 60,000
- 1987: 75,000
- 1989: 90,000
- 1990: 100,000
- 1991: 110,000
- 1992: 120,000
- 1994: 160,000
- 1995: 175,000
- 2000: 350,000
- 2003: 400,000
- 2007: 450,000
- 2015: 1 million



1971 Pride Parade. Photo from the Rich Pfeiffer Archives



1975 Pride Parade. Photo from the Rich Pfeiffer Archives

TOP ILLUSTRATION:

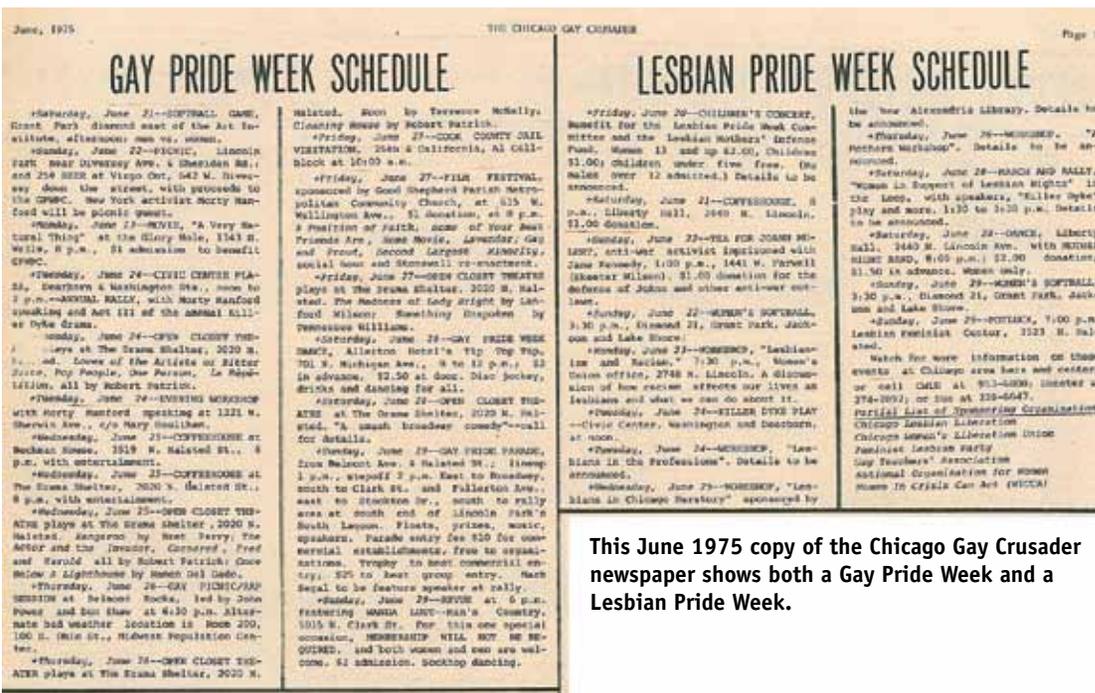
Left: 1971 Pride Parade. Photo from the Rich Pfeiffer Archives
 Right: 2015 Pride Parade. Photo by Tracy Baim



In 1983, this was the front banner. Photo from the Rich Pfeiffer Archives



In 1974, Rich Pfeiffer in the Parade. Photo from the Rich Pfeiffer Archives



This June 1975 copy of the Chicago Gay Crusader newspaper shows both a Gay Pride Week and a Lesbian Pride Week.



1975 Pride Parade. Photo from the Rich Pfeiffer Archives



A 1973 Gay Power jacket at Pride. Photo from the Rich Pfeiffer Archives

Author Valerie Taylor and Chicago activist William B. Kelley at 1973 rally at the Civic Center downtown Chicago during pride week.

Photo from the Rich Pfeiffer Archives



1984 post-Parade rally in Lincoln Park. Photo from the Rich Pfeiffer Archives



Activists at 1975 rally at the Civic Center downtown Chicago during pride week. Photo from the Rich Pfeiffer Archives

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Dyke March marks 20 years of community

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

On Saturday, June 25, people of every age, race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, expression and non-binary identification will flow along an approximately half-mile route through a Chicago neighborhood in a demonstrative river of celebration, defiance, passion and, above all, community.

But there will be none of the extravagant floats replete with corporate branding and bikini-clad men gyrating together to thundering repetitions of the complete works of Lady Gaga or displays of political support to the hordes of drunken revelers awkwardly crammed together behind barricades.

For 20 years, the Dyke March has been a visceral and profound display of self-worth and visibility but it has never been and never will be a Pride Parade.

In an event where the rules established by convention or society are dispensed with in favor of absolute freedom, it is the only statute that has been followed since the winter of 1996, when a Chicago chapter of the direct-action activist group The Lesbian Avengers (formed four years after the first Dyke March in New York City took place) began planning a march in Chicago.

The first Chicago Dyke March took place at 7:30 p.m. on June 29, 1996. It was the day before the Chicago Pride Parade—a shrewdly timed “up yours” to that event and a tradition that continues even today.

There was a pre-march rally in the playground of a school at Melrose and Broadway in East Lakeview. Drumming by the Women’s Action Coalition Drum Core prepared the approximately 1,000 attendees for their journey south down Broadway to Diversey Parkway and then east to conclude with a rally at Lincoln Park.

There, famed LGBT activist Candace Gingrich spoke alongside representatives from grassroots organizations, including the Illinois Pro-Choice Alliance, STOP AIDS and the Lesbian Community Cancer Project (now a part of Howard Brown Health).

Today a researcher on bisexual women’s health Wendy Bostwick, was one of the organizers of the first Chicago Dyke March—a group that eventually would become known as the Dyke March Collective.

“The Dyke Marches rose out of a very political and explicit statement against ‘Pride Parades’ that were seen as overwhelmingly male and, at times, overtly sexist,” she said. “They were an intentional statement of visibility.”

She added that such a statement was also the reason that the first march took place along a portion of the route that would be used in the Chicago Pride Parade the following day.

Bostwick’s involvement began when she

moved to Chicago in late 1995 having been an activist in college.

“I was sleeping on a friend’s couch,” she said. “Her roommate was Syd Mutschler who was involved with The Lesbian Avengers in New Orleans and she started up a chapter in Chicago.”

When Bostwick joined the core group, she recalled there were between eight to 12 women.

“There was a national Avengers mailing list,” she said, “and they had created a guide that was basically ‘So you want to have a Dyke March!’ The cover read ‘The Lesbian Avengers—A Handy Guide to Homemade Revolution.’ It talked about the history of The Lesbian Avengers [beginning] in June of 1993 and then it laid things out in terms of meetings, the importance of graphics and visuals, how to fundraise, mailing lists, phone trees and dealing with police and permits.”

However, in keeping with The Lesbian Avengers philosophy of “we do not ask for permission,” the Chicago Dyke March organizers refused to get a permit.

“The Lesbian Avengers did not want to work within the structural systems of power,” Bostwick said. “We were, in fact, railing against those things which by their very nature are sexist and racist. So to move forward in getting state-sanctioned permission to congregate was antithetical to what The Lesbian Avengers believed in.”

As for following the rest of the guidelines, “Oh I’m quite sure we didn’t,” Bostwick remembered with a laugh. “What activist follows anything to the letter? Many of us had previously been involved in direct-action politics so we knew some of the ropes already. I don’t know if we were sort of blessed but, if there were any challenges at all, they were related to issues of safety.”

When word began to spread that a Chicago Dyke March was being planned, Chicago Police Department (CPD) Officer Lori Cooper—who would go on to become Chicago’s LGBT police liaison in 1998—reached out to the organizers.

“She came to one of our meetings,” Bostwick said. “We explained our philosophy to her and why we were not going to get a permit. She had concerns predominantly about our safety and she really did a lot behind-the-scenes to make sure that traffic was stopped and we were able to march without any problems.”

According to Bostwick, the only problems that occurred in 1996 were technical.

“We had the shittiest sound system,” she said. “Somebody brought a portable megaphone with a mini-amp. It was entirely make-shift and we made do.”

They also had to make do without the cumulative power of social media. Despite heavy



Front banner for the 1996 Dyke March. National activist Candace Gingrich is pictured front row, second from right.

Photo by Tracy Baim



Poster for the first Dyke March in 1996. Courtesy of Wendy Bostwick

publicity provided by Windy City Times and Outlines (now Windy City Times), the Chicago New Times and the Chicago Reader among others, organizers had no idea if anyone would show up.

The eventual turnout floored them.

“It was indescribable,” Bostwick said. To look and see what had to be almost a thousand women was just breathtaking. There were women who came from surrounding states. People came from all over. It was unbelievable that a scrappy group of dykes with zero resources had accomplished this.”

The other surprise was the welcome the marchers received from the neighborhood as they headed through Lakeview carrying banners made out of sheets.

“I do not recall any counterprotests,” Bostwick said. “As there have been every year, there were pockets of queer boys who stood on the

sidelines and cheered us on. It was a very joyous and powerful experience. It was exhilarating and like nothing I’ve ever done since.”

“It was a message of visibility and safety; that queer women exist, that queer women are not secondary to gay men,” she added. “I mean this literally and figuratively, that women should be allowed to take up just as much space as men and that we should not feel unsafe in our own community.”

It was Bostwick’s only tenure as a member of the Collective.

Just as the Dyke March steadily migrated into new neighborhoods across Chicago (Andersonville from 1997 to 2007, Pilsen in 2008 and 2009, South Shore in 2010 and 2011, the Argyle/Uptown neighborhood in 2012 and 2013, and Humboldt Park from 2014 to this year) the faces of its principal organizers have been as dynamic—a constant progression of inclusion and a disruption of the status quo.

“What is now the Dyke March Collective clearly is a living breathing thing that each successive year and each successive generation of queer women is meant to take on and make their own,” Bostwick said.

According to the history of the Dyke March on the Collective’s website, the move from Andersonville to Pilsen was born out of a desire “for inclusiveness and accessibility particularly towards communities of color.”

Pilsen organizers founded the statement: “WE MOVE to create visibility, to honor our histories and identities, to disrupt oppression and dominance, to challenge silence and fear. Because we are everywhere. Because we must survive.”

Liz Thomson was a member of the Dyke March Collective during the Argyle/Uptown years.

At the time she was working (and still works) with Invisible to Invincible: Asian Pacific Islander Pride of Chicago (i2i), a community-based organization that “celebrates and affirms Asians & Pacific Islanders who identify as les-

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bian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning and queer in the Chicago area."

Thomson began participating in the Andersonville Dyke Marches as a representative of i2i.

"I had always appreciated the Dyke March even before I was a Collective member," she told Windy Times. "Because of it not being corporate, not having politicians. There were more queer people of color. There were no entry fees. It literally was community."

According to Thomson, the move to the Argyle/Uptown neighborhood was heavily influenced by i2i.

"We wanted to be in an Asian neighborhood and build community there," she said. "So we submitted a proposal to move it to Argyle and it was accepted. Looking back, i2i sees that as a significant part of our own history."

Any concerns that the neighborhood would not be as welcoming to the march as its predecessors were proven needless.

"The first year it was totally fine," Thomson said. "The second year, even more businesses owners were affirming and supportive."

Just as in year one, integral to putting together the Dyke March were the Collective meetings. For Thomson, they were an education in themselves.

"When I was part of the Collective, we would have three- or four-hour meetings really talking about some hard stuff," she recalled. "There was a lot of consensus building that protected the minority vote. If someone disagreed or had issues with something, you'd talk it out until everyone was at some kind of agreement level. It was not majority rules. There was never a leader. The Collective models what they want to be in thinking about community."

Absolute transparency is just as essential. "The Dyke March does not get grants or foundational support," Thomson said. "So if someone donates \$5, we want to make sure that person knows where their money is going."

While a CPD presence at this year's Pride Pa-

rade will in all likelihood be overwhelming and militaristic in nature given the horrific June 12 shooting in Orlando, Florida, the Dyke March has always tried to keep the numbers of CPD officers to a minimum and instead utilizes its own safety marshals who also fulfill both a political and philosophical need.

"Every year there are a few police officers to help with traffic," Thomson said. "But this is more about restorative justice. Our community can do what our community needs."

Even in the four years since she was a Collective member, Thomson has seen the Dyke March flourish in numbers and the level of inclusion.

"One of the first meetings that I went to during the Argyle march was centered around a tagline of queer and trans resilience," Thomson remembered. "But they didn't have the Bi community overtly stated. So I brought that up, we talked about it and they added it. Both in the Collective and the marches, no matter what neighborhood we've been in, there has been an increase in people of color, the transgender community and youth."

Bostwick remembered a number of early and contentious discussions about trans inclusion during the first Dyke March.

"Something that The Lesbian Avengers were trying to work through was where trans women fit," she recalled. "I don't remember explicitly excluding trans-identified women but I don't think we were super-open either."

Alexis Martinez is one of Chicago's most celebrated transgender activists. She has been a member of the Dyke March Collective for seven years. Her conversation with a Dyke March member in 2009 about the lack of transgender involvement from 1996 onwards and her determination to leverage her long history of organizing as a part of the Collective proved to be the catalyst for a resounding change.

"At that time there were no trans people involved with the Collective and most Dyke Marches across the country still exclude non-binary people," she told Windy City Times. "The

Dyke March began to move away from that paradigm right about the time I became a member of the Collective. Chicago was one of the first to include trans women and trans men."

When she became a part of the Collective, Martinez was "warmly welcomed."

"That was very important to me," she said. "Being accepted in a radical collective of wom-

consistently around."

However, it is the skills and abilities of the Dyke March volunteers which the Collective cherishes above all.

Just as i2i had been instrumental during the Argyle years, the Chicago chapter of The Trans Latin@ Coalition have been the guiding force for the Humboldt Park Dyke March.



Dyke March at the Lawrence Avenue overpass at Lake Shore Drive in 2005. Photo by Tracy Baim

en as a woman was transformative. There were a lot of trans people at last year's Dyke March. They were openly welcomed as performers. The Collective has about 10 people and four of them are trans. To me, that is living, breathing evidence of how far Dyke March has come."

Like the march itself, nothing is static in the way the Collective works.

"There is no committee chair," Martinez said. "Even when it comes to taking notes, we revolve responsibilities as our skills and abilities dictate. The Collective is my family. It is the most loving environment that I have ever been

Thomson remains heavily involved as a volunteer. She has organized the smaller 'dinner and dessert' events that have taken place around the 20th Anniversary of the Dyke March using restaurants in the neighborhoods that are a part of the event's history.

"We started doing them during the Argyle years," she said. "We were trying to get people excited, get information out and recruit volunteers but also to support local businesses and restaurants in the neighborhood."

The restaurants are vetted by Collective

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Pride Parade June 26

Chicago's 47th annual Pride Parade will take place Sunday, June 26, starting at noon at Broadway and Montrose Avenue.

The parade will proceed south on Broadway, then south on Halsted Street, then east on Belmont Avenue, then south on Broadway and, lastly, east on Diversey Parkway to Cannon Drive.

The event's grand marshal is television and stage actor Monica Raymund. Raymund stars as Gabriela Dawson in NBC's show Chicago Fire, which is filmed here in Chicago. A graduate of the Juilliard School, she starred for three seasons on the Fox drama Lie To Me.

The parade will feature 160 registered entries (down from 215 last year), and will include floats, decorated vehicles, performance groups, a marching band and walking contingents.

Regarding security, it will be tighter than ever in the wake of the June 12 mass shooting in Orlando, Florida. In addition to the large number of police officers who staff the event, PRIDEChicago (parade coordinators) will provide a security team of 160 off-duty police officers (up from 90 last year) to supplement the police presence. Penalties include, but are not limited to, tickets of \$1,000 (and higher) being issued and/or the immediate disposal of open containers of alcohol into trash receptacles.

Attendees are advised to bring plenty of bottled water, sunscreen and a hat or other head covering. People should also dress lightly because parade day is usually hot and sunny.

For more information, see ChicagoPrideCalendar.org/Parade.html.

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that year, elected officials began contacting PRIDEChicago in large numbers to register for the parade, continuing a tradition that lasts through today.

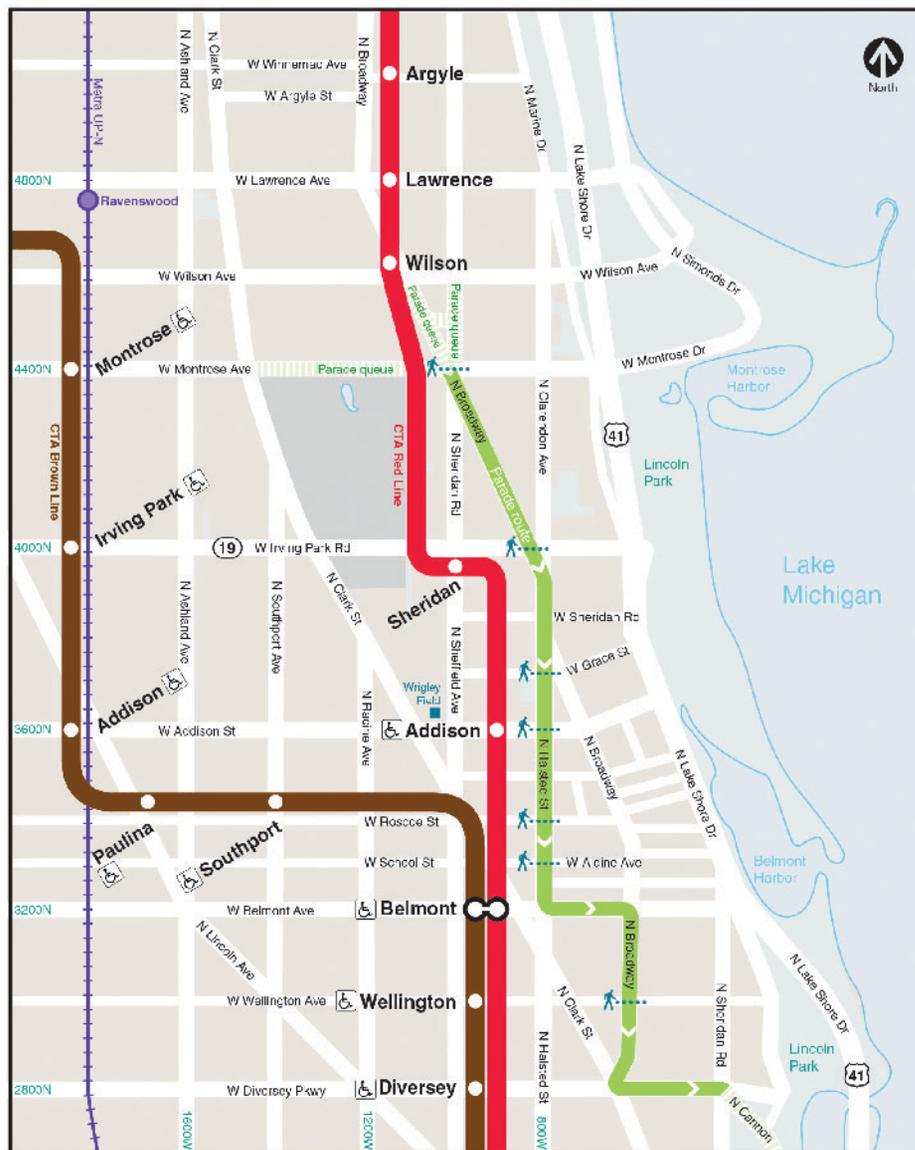
Some spectators said that they came to see the first "major" Chicago politician to appear in the annual Pride Parade. Later, Mayor Harold Washington spoke at a Pride rally, and political marchers have included Richard M. Daley, Barack Obama, Jan Schakowsky, and dozens more.

For a number of years, the Pride Committee also sponsored downtown rallies at the Civic Center Plaza (now the Daley Center Plaza) during Pride Week. The Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force took over managing those rallies in the 1980s, and the rallies were gone by the 1990s, as were the bureaucratic barriers to use of the plaza that the original rallies had meant to challenge. Those rallies were more political

in nature than the Pride Parades, with speakers and protest signs. Also for many years, after each Pride Parade had ended, rallies coordinated by PRIDEChicago were held in the parks. In later years, they were discontinued, in part because of neighborhood noise complaints and many competing events, including dances, Black gay pride celebrations, and bar parties.

By the mid 2000s, estimated of crowds grew to 400,000 and 450,000, and last year, in 2015, the month the U.S. Supreme Court declared marriage equality throughout the country, and estimated 1 million people watched the Chicago Pride Parade.

This piece was adapted from an article by PRIDEChicago coordinator Rich Pfeiffer from the 2008 book *Out and Proud in Chicago: An Overview of the City's Gay Community*, edited by Tracy Baim, available at Women & Children First Books or on Amazon, <https://www.amazon.com/Out-Proud-Chicago-Overview-Community/dp/1572841001>.



Map showing route of Chicago Pride Parade. Legend includes: CTA L station, Transit point, Accessible station, Parade route & direction, Designated parade crossing, and CTA logo.

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members who determine factors such as politics and accessibility.

"Sometimes we'll have people come to these restaurants who have just moved to Chicago, they've heard about the Dyke March and this is their first time," Thomson said. "Then there are people there where it's like their tenth Dyke March."

In the 20 years since it first set off in Lakeview, attendance at the Dyke March has over doubled in size. The conclusion of the Dyke March now includes donated food, tables manned by grassroots organizations and an array of different speakers and acts.

"Last year we had about 2,300 people," Martinez said. "I suspect that every year is going to get better because every year has. A lot of people come from outside the community. I met people last year from Atlanta, even Poland. They had come for Pride but then heard about the Dyke March and realized that, as lesbians, Pride didn't exactly fit them."

With The Dyke March's growth in size has come an exponentially increased amount of labor and money required to ensure its success.

Nevertheless, even when it comes to the people and money a corporation could supply, such help is neither required nor desired.

"It's a lot of tedious work," Martinez said. "Table participation, Porta Potties, the stage, the food. It gets done though."

Meanwhile fundraising is a combination of table and T-shirt sales, house parties and individual donations.

"The costs are going up but we do not want to adjust our principles," Martinez said. "We will make the \$10,000 we need this year by hook or by crook. There is an integrity to the Dyke March and we want to maintain that."

Bostwick last attended The Dyke March five years ago.

"While it is much better organized now, it's not like politicians or Bud Light shows up," she said. "It still manages to exist outside of this structural societal stamp of approval where there are politicians and corporate sponsors."

"We pay all our performers," Martinez noted. "But it's not like anybody is going to get rich off it."

But anyone who has performed at The Dyke March will tell you that isn't the point.

Nikki Patin participated in the 2006 rally at Foster Beach in Andersonville.

"They asked me to do a spoken-word performance," she said. "At the time I was working with the Center on Halsted with their youth program. I had never been to a Dyke March before but I had a lot of friends in the community who had gone and loved it so, when they asked me to perform, it was really a no-brainer. A lot of the young people I worked with were going to be there and it felt really good to offer up something for them and to be in solidarity with them."

"The beautiful thing about Chicago is that there have historically been a lot of women-centered and women-identified-centered events," Patin added. "One of the things those events have in common, including Dyke March, is just this feeling of safety and affirmation and that you can say things in front of that audience that you might not be able to say in front of a more mainstream LGBT celebration. I loved performing at Dyke March because I felt I was with my people who could understand where I was coming from and what I was talking about."

Despite Thomson's efforts, Bostwick believes there is still a community which the Dyke March has yet to comprehensively include.

"It makes me feel good to know that the Dyke March is still there," Bostwick said. "It obviously is very necessary and there are obviously still areas in which transformation needs to happen. As a bi-identified woman and from an academic perspective, we still need to make space and welcome bi-plus populations."

On the other hand, Bostwick believes such a diverse crowd marching together has far exceeded the declaration on one of the first pho-

topcopied eight-by-10 Dyke March posters: "Be heard with thousands of other women! Make Herstory!"

"It's very encouraging," she said. "It deliberately makes space to address issues like police brutality, immigration, poverty—all queer issues brought forward in a way that Pride never touches upon. To me, The Dyke March is always a happy place to be. In general, it speaks to the better parts of this thing called the queer community."

The 20th Anniversary Dyke March is Saturday, June 25, starting at 2 p.m. at Western Avenue and Division Street and ending in Humboldt Park near California Avenue and Division Street. See <https://www.facebook.com/events/811890772248673/> or <https://chicagoodykemarch.wordpress.com/>.

Letter in response

Windy City times posted this article early online, and received this letter of response:

I am writing in response to the article "Dyke March celebrates 20 tears [sic] of community". It is not the case that there was a "lack of transgender involvement from 1996" to the time that Alexis Martinez joined the Chicago Dyke March Collective (CDMC). By the spring of

2009 I was already a core member of the collective (and though I was the lone trans woman, there were already core members who lacked a gender that aligned with their assigned-at-birth sex).

The other members of the collective responded with hostility or a deafening silence after I objected to the use of a transmisogynistic slur in a Dyke March performance. Because I had been told that all core members had to be safety marshals at the 2009 Dyke March, and I had no desire to be the token trans woman to give the appearance of safety at a march organized by a collective that made me feel unsafe, I decided to leave CDMC. Apparently I was not the only member who felt that I had been treated with hostility. At the 2011 Chicago Dyke March the collective read a statement in which it apologized to me for the way it had treated me and promised to take "specific steps" to respond to the situation.

But among the promises CDMC made in 2011, including a promise to help me organize a training on the issues that affect trans women, the collective has kept only one—publicly expressing a desire to change. We might not have even heard this acknowledgment, had it not been for the trans people and allies who formed Stellar and resisted CDMC's narrative at the 2010 Chicago Dyke March. All too often

the victors who write the history books present change as the majority's eager response to a request from the minority. It does not help that conversations about inclusion are often centered around whether members of the minority are "welcomed" into spaces that have historically belonged to the majority and not what happens to us once we are in those spaces.

In the case of the Chicago Dyke March the public response came only after a member of the minority got hurt, and activists protested to make our grievances known. As a woman and a lesbian, I find it shameful that on the cusp of the Chicago Dyke March's twentieth anniversary, CDMC still has not properly responded to a situation in which a woman has been hurt.

If CDMC were to keep the promises it had made, trans women would benefit from other Dyke March participants' increased awareness of our history and struggles, and CDMC would be able to regain its reputation as a sincere organization. This would be a win-win situation, so why has the collective stalled for so long? It is important to remember that the first trans woman who joined CDMC left after encountering hostility. It is only when every injustice becomes a part of our collective memory that we can make a collective effort for just change.

— Veronika Boundless

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— Rachel B. Tiven, CEO, Lambda Legal —



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Former Bears player Robinson found dead in Milwaukee

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

On the evening of June 11, former Chicago Bears defensive lineman Bryant (Bryan) Robinson was found dead in a room at the Midpoint Motel in Milwaukee. He was 41.

The Milwaukee County medical examiner's office report said Robinson checked into the motel for a six-hour stay at 9 a.m. that morning with another man, and wasn't seen by motel staff since that time.

Milwaukee Police Officer Angela Lowery told the medical examiner's office that "the manager of the motel reported the deceased was known as a 'regular' there. The other male was a Black male with a thin build and dreadlocks."

The medical examiner's report also said Robinson normally checked out at 6 p.m. when he visited the motel on previous occasions. Motel staff relayed to the medical examiner that they entered Robinson's room a little after 8:30 p.m. when he didn't respond to them knocking on the door. They found him in a tee shirt and no other clothing lying face down on the bed and unresponsive. It was then that motel staff called 911 to report a "sick and injured" person. The report indicated that Robinson's eyes were injected and petechial hemorrhages (tiny pinpoint red marks) were found on his skin.

Robinson was pronounced dead at 10:17 p.m. by Medical Examiner Anne-Marie Eschle. Although Robinson death is recorded as 10:17 p.m., Milwaukee Police indicated that he died between 6 p.m. and 8:40 p.m. that evening.

The unidentified male who came to the motel with Robinson that morning left between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m., according to the police report.

In addition to Robinson's clothes, a duffel bag containing his toiletries, a black watch and car keys for a Land Rover that was found in the motel parking lot, Eschle also found lubrication on the floor next to the bed, a wet, crushed toilet-paper roll in the crook of Robinson's left arm, marijuana, an almost full bottle of Crown Royal whiskey, and one empty, one unopened bottle of Jungle Juice Plus—otherwise known as poppers.

Robinson's wife, Angela, was notified by Crystal Green of the medical examiner's office of her husband's death. Angela told them she last saw her husband at 7:30 a.m. at their home in Gurnee, Illinois. She said her husband showed no signs of illness or any major medical problems when he left the house, nor was he on any medications at the time of his death.

"There were no obvious signs of trauma and nothing suspicious was found at this time," said Sgt. Timothy Gauerke, the public information officer for the Milwaukee Police Department. "The investigation is ongoing and the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner is working to determine the cause of death. Milwaukee Police are still seeking witnesses with information about what led up to this incident and the investigation is ongoing."

An autopsy was conducted June 13 by the medical examiner's office; however, the toxicology report hasn't been released. Investigators also have the full bottle of Jungle Juice in their possession to test if deemed necessary.



Former Chicago Bear Bryant (Bryan) Robinson. Photo courtesy of the Chicago Bears

Robinson also played for the St. Louis Rams, Miami Dolphins, Cincinnati Bengals and Arizona Cardinals. Robinson played for the Chicago Bears during 1998-2003 and was in Super Bowl XLIII in 2009 with the Arizona Cardinals.

Robinson was best known for blocking a 28-yard field goal attempt by Ryan Longwell of the Green Bay Packers and securing a win for the Bears in the "Walter Payton game" on Nov. 7, 1999 at Lambeau Field in Green Bay, Wisconsin—the first game played by the Bears follow-

ing Payton's death six days prior. He last played professional football in 2010.

The Chicago Bears, in a statement released to the press, said, "We are saddened to hear of the loss of Bryan Robinson. He will be remembered for the determination and work ethic he displayed on the field over his six years in Chicago. The Bears and our fans will always be indebted to him for his game-saving blocked field goal in Green Bay six days after Walter Payton's passing. Our prayers are with Bryan and his family."

Note: When contacted by this publication, the owner/manager of Midpoint Motel had no comment.

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For more information: <http://www.archives.gov/amending-america/join/chicago.html>

Welcoming churches host Pride worship

The Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches sponsored "Sharing Light, Sharing Faith in Divided Times" at Resurrection Lutheran Church, 3309 N. Seminary Ave., on June 11. Its Annual Ecumenical Pride Worship Service featured Rev. Dr. Dawnn Pirani Brumfield as preacher.

Other people on the program included Jesse

Gudboi Stanford and Jamie Frazier of Lighthouse Church, Kelly Faulstich of Resurrection Lutheran Church, Jacki Belile of the Welcoming Churches group, Candie O'Dell-Scherer of Holy Covenant MCC, Chaplain John Adewoye of Centre for Integration and Courageous Living, River Needham of achurch4me MCC, Katherine

Paisley of Irving Park UMC, Megan Hoxhalli of The Night Ministry, Anthony Didato of Holy Covenant and Wayne McPherson of First Congregation Church UCC in Evanston.

Brumfield is a member of the Lighthouse Church of Chicago, where she serves on its leadership team and oversees the areas of spiritual formation and congregational care.

The Coalition is a growing organization of nearly 80 churches and organizations committed to LGBTQ-positive programming.

See ChicagoWelcomingChurches.org.



Back row: John Adewoye, Padraig McGuire, Wayne MacPherson, Jamie Frazier, River Needham Front row: Stephanie Youngman, Jacki Belile, Anthony Didato, Katherine Paisley, Jene Ashley Colvin, Kelly Faulstich, Dawnn Brumfield. Not pictured: Gary Jenssen, Tremaine Love, Jesse Gudboi Stanford.

Photo by Hal Baim

Navy Pier partnering with nonprofits

Following its grand-opening celebration over Memorial Day weekend, Navy Pier has unveiled a new community initiative for the Centennial Wheel.

In honor of its 100th anniversary, Navy Pier will partner with 100 Chicagoland nonprofits, awarding each a special package to experience the reimagined Pier, including up to 100 free rides on the wheel to share with the communities they serve.

Applications are currently being accepted, and eligible nonprofits are invited to complete Navy Pier's online application by June 24. Eligible organizations include Chicagoland 501(c)(3) nonprofits in good standing, with primary constituency located in Cook, Dekalb, DuPage, Kane, Kendall, Kenosha (Wisconsin), Lake, Lake (Indiana), McHenry, Porter (Indiana) and/or Will counties.

Winning nonprofits will be announced Friday, July 15, as part of the ongoing Fifth Third Bank Centennial Celebration. See NavyPier.com.

'Sober and Proud' on June 25

Alexian Brothers Housing and Health Alliance will host "Sober and Proud 2016" on Saturday, June 25, 5-10 p.m.

The event will take place at Bonaventure House, 825 W. Wellington Ave. There will be music and free food as well as free optional HIV testing.

There is a \$10 suggested donation at the door. Email Terrhonda.Hudson@amitahealth.org for more information.

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AIDS @ 35

Sanford Gaylord discusses life of 'creative' activism

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Sanford E. Gaylord has long referred to himself as a "creative activist."

"The arts are what makes my blood beat," Gaylord said. "The job is what pays the mortgage and feeds me. Any opportunity that I have to bring the arts within the work that I do, I take."

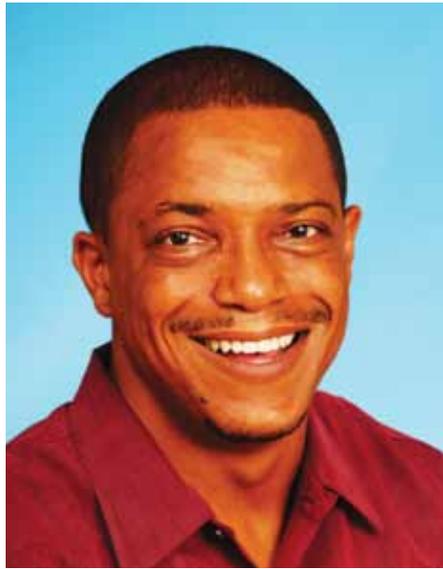
Gaylord works as a consultant for the Regional Resource Network Program for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). "There are 10 of us that are stationed in each of the 10 HHS regional offices, which cover the United States and its territories in the Atlantic and the Pacific," he noted. "In the Office of Women's Health and Minority Health, I'm the contracted position that promotes HIV education. I provide support to the regional health administrator-slash-assistant surgeon general" [Note: Gaylord's views expressed here are his own and are not intended to reflect HHS policy].

But since before Gaylord went to work at HHS, he has worked as a writer and actor. Inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame (now the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame) in 2012, Gaylord is co-founder of the African American LGBT performance ensemble A Real Read. His film and television credits include *Leaving the Shadows Behind*, *Living with Pride: Ruth Ellis@100* and the three-part film series *Kevin's Room*. He has written in a number of publications about being an HIV-positive Black gay man, including for *BLACKlines*, which had been published by *Windy City Times/Outlines* in the 1990s and early 2000s.

"You can just 'teach' someone, but if I can entertain you, I can layer that, and you can find the tools that work best for you," Gaylord said. "If you look back within the history of HIV, artists have been at the forefront of making things happen for a while. Activists were once artists, so I call myself a creative activist, so I don't frighten people. Since my day job is at HHS, I can't necessarily put my thoughts out there."

He was diagnosed with HIV on Aug. 16, 1989. "I didn't sleep with anyone but Black men. At the time, I didn't think that I was at risk," he said.

Gaylord was 24 at the time, and began hav-



Sanford Gaylord.
Photo by Hal Baim

ing trouble on the job soon after.

"I was told to get my affairs in order," he recalled. "My behavior sank. Within one year of diagnosis, I was written up three times and then, suspended and fired. I engaged the AIDS Legal Council, James Monroe Smith, who started it, represented me. Because, back then [it was], 'You've got your diagnosis, so you pack your shit up.'"

African Americans have contended with stigma in their own community since the early days of the epidemic, Gaylord added. "Just like with Stonewall, we were always there. People would say, 'He died of cancer,' or, 'that was high-blood pressure.' Anything but HIV. Because who wants to be HIV-positive? Who would ever want to be gay?"

Since then, Gaylord has seen both what he called "dark days" and "days filled with hope." Advances in HIV/AIDS medicines allowed friends who'd been consigned to hospice care re-emerge and carry out productive lives. But, at the same time, many in the community grew weary of the details of the epidemic.

"I've seen people just get burned out about it," Gaylord said. "They ask, 'Ain't that been cured yet? I thought they had a cure.'"

He spoke of a generational divide he sees in the perception of HIV/AIDS as well.

"I don't want to cut younger generations, but a lot of them that are younger than 50—I'm 51—may not have seen what I saw—'X amount' of funerals," he said. "That's not normal to go to more than one funeral a week."

Gaylord added that numerous men from that era live with trauma and post-traumatic stress syndrome, which is very often not understood or even acknowledged by others in the community or service providers. Stigma continues to pose challenges as well, even within the gay community.

"The stigma is not as entrenched but it has not got away," he said. "That's sad, because, at this point, HIV has become medicalized. Justifiably so, at this point, it's, 'Take your meds, keep your viral load down, keep your T-cells high, use PrEP if you're going to fuck around without a condom.'"

That propensity toward stigmatizing can even extend to health providers. Gaylord noted that many physicians and other medical professionals can forget that they are being paid to deliver services to their patients.

"Racism and phobias and all that stuff is taught. Just because you're a professional doesn't mean you're not going to have it. You've got to have enough class and decency for me to not feel it. I don't have to have a doctorate to know when you're calling me a bitch, or a fag, and are looking down at me. ...

When it really comes down to it, the money is green, even if it's coming from Medicare. And your rent is due just like mine is," he said.

The LGBT community, he added, badly needs to confront racism. "I'm Black before anything else. I've got a pretty name, Sanford Emanuel Gaylord. My resume is impeccable. But when you see me in person, I have to work hard, because I'm now being judged. So, why wouldn't there be prejudice and racism in the gay community? There's Pride, and Black Pride, and Puerto Rican Pride. There wouldn't be these offshoots, like Dyke March, if we truly had an inclusive community of people who are under this umbrella, who are really making a difference working together for the generations that follow us all."

But Gaylord said that he was hopeful for the future and said that many parts of the community shine the way for each other. At a recent meeting, he recalled, he had told a colleague, "Look how far we've come," after the participants had exchanged their preferred pronouns.

"There always has to be something to keep us moving, because there's always someone being raised to hate you and your very existence," he added. "That's why I'm continuing to do what I do, and I'm blending arts with it because there are people who need the messages, there are those who might not have it within them to speak up. I don't have kids so I'm doing what I need to do out of consideration for the generations that follow me."



Above: Members and friends of the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame. Below: Jamie Thomas and Timothy Stewart-Winter
Photos by Vern Hester

Hall of Fame hosts Pride & Joy reception

Approximately 60 people came out to the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame Pride and Joy Reception on June 18 at the Center on Halsted.

Pat McComb, a 2000 Hall of Fame inductee, emceed the program, which included Timothy Stewart-Winter, who discussed his new book *Queer Clout*. There was also a special performance courtesy of the Joel Hall Dancers, titled "Compassion."

Hall of Fame co-chair Mary Morten introduced the new board members: Jack Hazaan, Tiffani St. Cloud, Darrick Johnson and Owen Keenhen. The new members will join board co-chair Gary Chichester, Executive Director Israel Wright and Phil Hannema.

Nominations for the 2016 class of inductees for the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame are due Friday, July 15.

For more information, visit GLHallOfFame.org.



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in the LIFE

Sandi Robinson

TEXT BY TARINA HARGRAYS
PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROBINSON

- **Age**
34
- **Orientation**
Lesbian
- **Job title**
Director of sales at The Godfrey Hotel
- **Biggest pet peeve**
Indecisive people
- **Favorite childhood memory**
Thanksgivings that were filled with "family, laughter and cognac."
- **Hobbies**
Traveling, going to the spa and trying new restaurants
- **One word to describe Sandi:**
"Everything"
- **Something most people don't know**
"As much as I enjoy people, I like to do absolutely nothing with a close group of people."
- **Personal motto**
"Treat others the way you'd like to be treated."

"Every day is different." This is how Chicago native Sandi Robinson describes her day-to-day life. Sandi is the director of sales at Chicago's Godfrey Hotel and her job is nothing short of eventful.

"I am obsessed with my phone. We have this ongoing love affair," she said to Windy City Times, laughing.

Robinson is an all-around hard worker, overseeing an entire sales and catering department. "Some days are eight hour days. I call those half-days," she said. "A full day for me is anywhere between 10 to 13 hours a day." This may seem overwhelming for many people, but Robinson explained, "I absolutely love my clients."

Even with her hectic schedule, Robinson still finds time to contribute to what she calls an "evolving" LGBT community. Robinson is a member



of the LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois, where she sat on the board for six years. Serving as an economic resource for the LGBT community, Robinson said she believes that everyone should be a part of the Chamber.

Robinson added that she's no stranger when it comes to being inspired by amazing women. "If anyone knows Oprah and can get me a one-on-one, I would forever be in debt to you," Robinson said, laughing. Becoming a bit emotional, she went on to say that being raised by a single mother has inspired her, calling her mother a "strong lady."



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AUTOMATIC '11 MITSUBISHI GALANT FE ALLOYS, 2.4 4 CYL, BUDGET! #4715A \$5,995	21 MPG! '07 HYUNDAI SONATA V6, ALLOYS! #5837A \$6,488	ROAD TRIP! 2008 NISSAN QUEST S #5693A \$6,777
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viewpoints



**Nabeela
RASHEED**

Post-Orlando: Living and navigating two identities

It was my birthday—June 14—and it was two days after one of the most horrific tragedies to occur any community. But this tragedy was perpetrated by a member of one of my communities against another of my communities. You see, I live at a cross-section of two seemingly irreconcilable identities: I am a lesbian and I am Muslim. The Orlando shootings shook both of my identities to the core. I had to do something, we had to do something.

And so, with my heart bouncing between my throat, my hands and my sleeve, I agreed with my girlfriend Fawzia Mirza, to host an open and honest dialogue between members of the LGBTQ Muslim community and key leaders from the mainstream Muslim community. At the beginning of the evening I opened up to the crowd and told them that I was a “new lesbian and an old Muslim.” After Sunday I felt that my feet were in two separate camps and that the ground underneath each was rapidly disappearing quicksand. How do I coexist in both of these spheres, how do I be authentically Muslim and authentically LGBTQ?

What followed was an evening filled with voices from the fringes of these two commu-

nities that were resoundingly heard by those living in the center of the mainstream Muslim community of Chicago. Remarkably, and apparently for the first time, prominent leaders of mainstream Muslim places of worship listened in an uneasy but respectful silence as LGBTQ members in the room delivered one harrowing account after another of wanting to reconcile these two identities with each other. The bravery and sheer mettle of the LGBTQ members in the room took my breath away.

There were many firsthand accounts of our need and desire to be in communion at mosques and our real fears and experiences of not being welcomed or even actively ostracized. And so, it was gratifying to have it acknowledged by a member of a mainstream Muslim organization that yes, indeed, the majority of mosques in the Chicago-land area did not welcome LGBTQ members. There was some modicum of dissent to this viewpoint but it was drowned out by the chorus of LGBTQ voices that agreed that this was their own specific and personal experiences.

It was an extraordinary display of solidarity and an astonishing number of people came forward to share opinions, personal stories, ask questions, and relate to each other. And then all of a sudden, there was a call to prayer and it came to an end.

The immediate aftermath of the gathering for me is both a sense of elation and a sense of foreboding. I am elated and truly excited at the idea that we may have started something new. Could we become part of a movement for change, tolerance and acceptance? Wouldn't that be an amazing accomplishment? One thing is clear—a single meeting is not enough and there needs to be a commitment from all concerned to continue the conversation. This

was the first of what I hope will be many such gatherings. Fawzia Mirza and I are more than happy to serve as conduits for these discussions and to honor the stories of those willing to bring them to us.

My sense of trepidation comes from the fact that I very publicly and in no uncertain terms planted my feet more firmly in both camps. I do not have any fears of reprisals for my stance from the LGBTQ community—my connections there are solid and supportive, I remain unclear as to the reception I will receive from my mosque. Just last night after the late-night prayers, a friend I pray with and who has been aware of my LGBTQ identity quipped that if the mosque leaders didn't know about me before they certainly do now! And then there is the issue of my family who all live overseas. I have an upcoming visit with them that could prove uncomfortable if they bring up my recent outing of myself to all concerned. We will wait and see.

I started the evening afraid of what might transpire, in the end, was filled with a sense of relief, hope, and purpose. There was none of the expected hate or hard feelings, only past hurts and a genuine desire to progress towards a time when we have harmony and validation of all of our identities.

Nabeela Rasheed, Ph.D., J.D., is a British-born Pakistan-American. She spent her formative years and early career in the United Kingdom, where she grew up in a traditional Muslim household. After completing a PhD in Biochemistry at Liverpool and a post-doctoral fellowship in Bristol she moved to the United States more than 20 years ago. She now is a partner in the patent-law firm McAndrews, Held & Malloy in Chicago.



**Tracy
BAIM**

Ride sharing: Fighting change rarely results in progress

As a lifelong Chicagoan, I can tell you that taxis have always been a mixed bag, and a very, very mixed bag if you live on the South or West sides.

Where I live is barely considered the South Side, especially by my friends in Hyde Park, South Shore, Beverly or beyond. But even the South Loop was once a never-land for certain Chicago taxi cabs—even though there once was a Yellow Cab headquarters two blocks from my home.

I could call for a taxi, but one would rarely ever come. I could hail a taxi downtown, and when I said where I was going, they said they didn't go there.

So now that companies such as Uber have come to town with a huge industry disruption, I don't have a lot of sympathy.

This is not against individual taxi drivers, because I have friends who are taxi drivers. Many have worked very hard for years and have paid into a rigged medallion system controlled by a few, and constantly strangling the little guys. That medallion system was doomed to collapse one day, and the Ubers of the world just hastened the decline of an unfair way to do business.

There are also bad taxi drivers, rude ones, homophobic ones and transphobic ones. For three decades I have covered complaints against taxi drivers who threw out a same-sex couple for kissing, or refused rides to African-American

friends, kicked out trans customers—the list is endless. And this exists among rideshare drivers as well. No amount of background checks makes a person civil and fair-minded.

But I do know that Uber, for example, is doing a lot of outreach on LGBTQ issues, and we have partnered with the company in 2016 to do LGBTQ events and outreach for drivers and riders. They are very open in supporting the LGBTQ community, while the amorphous taxi industry has never taken moves to do massive training on diversity for their drivers or outreach to the community. Who exactly is in charge? That's really hard to nail down.

So now the City Council wants to further regulate the ridesharing companies, including with fingerprints (there already is a background check). Some regulation is good, but it can't go so far as to push business out of the city. We need ride sharing options in Chicago, and we also need a more fair taxi system as well.

In testimony to the City Council, Uber Chicago General Manager Marco McCottry noted: “The best way to help taxi is to look for ways to alleviate the burdens on taxi drivers and modernize their rules.”

Would fingerprints for rideshare make us safer? When we know that the criminal legal system in this country disproportionately targets people of color, do we really want to rely on a racist system to make us feel safe? Do we want to further stigmatize ex-cons, who already have a difficult time finding employment? This would provide a false sense of security, and be based on an unjust system. I want people to work and be in the economy, and I don't have any trust that finger printing drivers would make me safer.

Our economy itself is based on severe racism. I watch TV's Shark Tank, and I see how so many entrepreneurs, the backbone of our economy, hire people that mostly look just like them when they are growing their business. Just watch the show and you can see many examples of just how unjust this society is. Racism is subtle and pernicious. Most people don't

realize they play into society's unfairness when they give a leg up to a friend, or a cousin's kid, or their father-in-law. Or when they look at resumes of a bunch of people and pick the names that sound like their tribe. But it exists, and Chicago has some of the worst numbers of unemployment for African-Americans, especially young men, in the nation.

Uber and other new economy companies can be a great starting job, or supplemental point, for a whole range of people who for many reasons select these jobs to fit into their life. I know one lesbian who is a driver because she has kids to drive to and from school, and this job fits perfect for her. I know a party promoter who loves the flexibility because he is busy at odd hours.

What is sad to see is that the taxicab industry itself was so slow to react to the internet and new ways to do business. They are being punished for being behind the times, and could have created these apps just as mainstream newspapers could have created a Craigslist for classifieds. Instead, sometimes big old industries are disrupted because of new technologies.

And they are also disrupted because when they are a huge entity, sometimes they don't care to respond to the needs of all the people they should be serving. According to city data, over the last six months, ridesharing provided 92 percent of rides to and from underserved communities while taxis only provided 8 percent. And Uber says that competition also motivated taxi drivers to do a better job: taxi complaints about air conditioning, “broken” credit card machines and rude drivers dropped with the rise of ride share, according to a study by the Technology Policy Institute.

We should not try and punish innovators, instead we should try and help the taxi industry by loosening their rules to allow more inclusion as well.

Yes, we need regulations. But we also need options for all Chicagoans for both jobs and rides.

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About Face Theater marked 20 years with a special celebration.

Photo of (left) Amy Matheny and Elizabeth Laidlaw (reviving Xena: Live!) by Vern Hester

SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

Cosmetics conversations

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

On the day of About Face Theatre's 20th-anniversary party at Chicago's Center on Halsted, gay playwright Doug Wright (*Quills*, *Ubu*) was regretful because he wasn't going to be able to attend. As the book writer for the world-premiere musical *War Paint* at the Goodman Theatre, Wright said he had to be at technical rehearsals rather than attending the June 17 party.

Of course, Wright is very appreciative to About Face, since the LGBTQ-theater company presented the 2003 world premiere of his drama *I Am My Own Wife* before it went on to triumph in New York. Wright's one-man play drawn from interviews with the East German transgender pioneer Charlotte von Mahlsdorf would go on to garner both the Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the Tony Award for Best Play. (About Face plans to stage a reinvented *I Am My Own Wife* with transgender actress Delia Kropp this fall.)

"*I Am My Own Wife* would never have achieved its success it did if it had not been for its very valuable time in Chicago," said Wright, very happy to be back in the Windy City. But this time Wright is reteaming with composer Scott Frankel, lyricist Michael Korie, director Michael Greif and star Christine Ebersole—all collaborators on the acclaimed 2006 Broadway musical *Grey Gardens*.

War Paint focuses on the rivalry between cosmetics titans Elizabeth Arden (1878-1966) and Helena Rubinstein (1872-1966). Wright said he and his collaborators felt they found a worthy follow-up to *Grey Gardens* via Lindy Woodhead's biographical book *War Paint: Miss Elizabeth Arden and Madame Helena Rubinstein—Their Lives, Their Times, Their Rivalry* and the subsequent PBS documentary *The Powder & the Glory*.

Two-time Tony Award-winner Christine Ebersole (42nd Street, *Grey Gardens*) plays Arden, whom Wright said epitomized the "American beauty rose" who flourished at a time when anti-Semitism was openly displayed among upper-class New York WASP society. Two-time Tony Award-winner Patti LuPone (*Evita*, *Gypsy*) plays Rubinstein, who saw a market for the

Jewish women who were turned away as customers and employees at Arden's salons.

"We were joking the other day when someone asked us why Christine and Patti were doing the show. We said it was because Mary Martin

and Ethel Merman weren't available," Wright said. "[LuPone and Ebersole] are that rare breed of classically trained actor and musical theater performer, so they bring an insight and conviction to the roles that I think is really unrivaled. So to get to work with them one on one to help craft these performances has been a real career highlight for each of us."

But one major historical challenge Wright and his collaborators had to face was the fact

that Rubinstein and Arden never actually met in real life, even though they worked and built their cosmetics empires just steps away from each other in New York. Theirs was a heated rivalry where the two women were driven to outsell and out-innovate each other.

"Obviously, when an audience comes to see leading ladies like Christine and Patti, they will want to see them together and so we have found all kinds of inventive, dramatic ways to allow the two women to share the stage while at the same time honoring their factual history as two women who refused to meet," Wright said. "Our challenge has been to present these women in all of their complexity and I think that's what interests us as writers. We've truly endeavored to give the women scope and psychological complexity and to honor the incredibly remarkable careers that they both enjoyed."

Wright also stresses that *War Paint* isn't just about its leading ladies. There are strong supporting roles for Tony Award nominees John Dossett (*Gypsy*, *Newsies*) and Douglas Sills (*The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *Living on Love*). Dossett plays Arden's husband, Tommy Lewis, while Sills plays "Harry Fleming," a conflated character drawn from two of Rubinstein's close confidants whom Wright says were most likely gay.

"It's interesting to examine in light of all the gains that have been made [for the LGBTQ community] that even the cosmetics industry back then was a very inhospitable world for gay and lesbian people," Wright said. "Even an industry as arts-driven and unconventional as cosmetics, it wasn't entirely a safe harbor and we explore that in Harry's story in the play."

Far from just being a vehicle for two stage divas to do battle, Wright says that he and his collaborators are aiming to make *War Paint* into so much more.

"[*War Paint*] touches upon some true universals about the pain of aging and growing old," Wright said. "And the ways in which we reinvent ourselves every day to face the world."

The world premiere of *War Paint*, starring Patti LuPone and Christine Ebersole, plays from Tuesday, June 28, through Sunday, Aug. 14, at the Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St. Due to dynamic pricing, ticket prices may increase due to demand. Many performances are already sold out. Call 312-443-3800 or visit GoodmanTheatre.org for more information.



Playwright Doug Wright.

Photo courtesy of the Goodman Theatre

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THEATER REVIEW

The House That Will Not Stand

Playwright: Marcus Gardley
 At: Victory Gardens Theater,
 2433 N. Lincoln Ave.
 Tickets: 773-871-3000 or
 VictoryGardens.org; \$15-\$60
 Runs through: July 10

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Prince's "When Doves Cry" blares at the start of *The House That Will Not Stand*, Marcus Gardley's latest world-premiere play for Victory Gardens Theatre. Later, a trio of teenage sisters gyrate to the beats of Beyoncé while singing about the latest dance craze—the Viennese waltz.

By this point, audiences should be clued in that Gardley and director Chay Yew are playing fast and loose with "historical accuracy" for *The House That Will Not Stand*. The setting may be 1813 New Orleans, but Gardley and Yew are instead creating a theatrical dialogue between the lives of African-American women back then and those of today in light of the hurtful legacies of slavery, racism and sexism.

Taken on those terms, *The House That Will Not Stand* offers a rich history lesson on French Creole society that is easily digestible for contemporary audiences. Also tremendously enjoyable is how Gardley fills his play with hilarious shade, and that Yew has found a top-notch ensemble who masterfully finesses all the dialogue.

Yet the play warns of the racial horrors just around the corner. In the decade following the

From left: Aneisa Hicks, Diana Coates and Angela Alise Johnson in *The House That Will Not Stand*.
 Photo by Michael Courier



United States' Louisiana Purchase from France, the complex mixed-race stratifications of creole society are crumbling due to the oncoming blunt force of U.S. racism where "one drop of African blood makes you Black."

Caught in the middle of all this is the Albans family, led by the tyrannical and hypocritical matriarch Beatrice (Lizan Mitchell). Although Beatrice greatly benefitted from being a placeé (Creole women with African heritage who elevated their societal standing by entering into common-law marriages with white men), she is hell-bent that her daughters won't follow her path.

Beatrice's daughters have other ideas as they

spar amongst themselves in light of their father's death. The strict Catholic religiosity of Maude Lynn (Angela Alise) gets on everyone's nerves. Meanwhile the self-proclaimed prettiest one, Agnès (Diana Coates), reveals the intra-racist views that her other sister, Odette (Aneisa Hicks), is too dark to ensnare a wealthy white man.

Also suffering from racism of the time is Beatrice's "mad" sister, Marie-Josephine (Penelope Walker), whose love for a drummer was cruelly thwarted. And the Albans family's long-time slave Makeda (Jacqueline Williams) has her loyalties immediately tested by Beatrice's embittered long-time rival, La Veuve (Linda Bright

Clay).

Now there are a few quibbles with Gardley's play, which has its share of stereotypical New Orleans hallmarks (specifically a voodoo possession). The ending also feels far too rushed as some departures don't get the full dramatic weight they deserve.

But I'm willing to give *The House That Will Not Stand* a pass. While offering up so many juicy roles for African-American actresses, Gardley creates a vastly entertaining drama that opens a fascinating window to the past while addressing audiences of today.

THEATER REVIEW

Thaddeus and Slocum: A Vaudeville Adventure

Playwright: Kevin Douglas
 At: Lookingglass Theatre Company,
 821 N. Michigan Ave.
 Tickets: 312-337-0665;
 LookingglassTheatre.org; \$40-\$75
 Runs through: Aug. 14

BY ERIC KARAS

Lookingglass Theater Company's new world premiere, *Thaddeus and Slocum: A Vaudeville Adventure*, explores the relationship between a pair of vaudeville performers, one white (Slocum) and one African-American (Thaddeus).

The pair are Chicago street performers in the early 1900s who dream of being legitimate vaudeville performers on the stage. The Majestic is the white-owned theater they want to

perform in but the theater only takes one act with a Black performer and they already have one. Slocum comes up with the idea to perform in blackface and hide their identities. Confusion regarding identity, relationships and art are the results of this decision.

To have performers in blackface on a Chicago stage is a brave thing to do. Lookingglass gets away with it primarily due to the winning performance of Travis Turner as Thaddeus. He embodies an innocence as well as being comfortable in his own skin (so to speak) and his subtle discomfort with the whole thing speaks volumes. Samuel Taylor as Slocum is also really good at showing a man desperate for fame while knowing his talents aren't quite up to par with Thaddeus. (Although we never quite see this. They seem pretty equal to me). They are fine acrobats in their routines and that's something we've come to expect from this theater company.

There are some other notable performances here. Monica Raymund makes her Lookingglass debut (through 07/17) as Isabella, a headlin-

ing singer of popular songs at the Majestic with the secret that she's of mixed race. (You may know her from the TV show *Chicago Fire* and she's the grand marshal of this year's Chicago Pride Parade.) She is lovely and has a nice singing voice as well as a talent for playing the piano. You wish she had more to do in this plot than be the romantic lead.

On the other hand, Sharrisse Hamilton—as Nellie, Isabella's cousin's girlfriend—is such a vibrant character that she takes over every scene and moment in which she's present. You can virtually feel the whole audience lean forward when she is on the stage. She is truly the standout here. Lawrence Distasi is always a scene-stealer at Lookingglass and, in his small role as a desperate booking agent, this is no exception. Tosin Morohunfola, as Isabella's egotistical cousin, is good but you almost wish he'd be even more obnoxious (just so Nellie could knock him down).

The real issue with *Thaddeus and Slocum* is that there is really no sense of urgency here or drama. The villain they introduce actually

doesn't become overly villainous until after intermission (which is too late), and he's barely in it. Adam Wesley Brown does his most with it but I loved his bad vaudeville comedian more.

When intermission comes there is no tension to bring you back to the show. The drama all comes in the second act and it's too late. You can argue that racism is the villain here and that's quite a villain but again it's not presented in an urgent way. We hear some dialogue about the threats of racism, what will happen if the act is exposed or what will happen if Isabella's identity is exposed or her relationship is revealed, etc., but nothing seems very threatening here. I think Kevin Douglas (Playwright) is on to something but his play needs a little shuffling around, plot-wise.

CRITICS' PICKS



Caught, Sideshow Theatre at Victory Gardens Theater, through July 3. Christopher Chen's elaborate intellectual joke pokes fun at visual and performance art, journalistic ethics and changing interpretations of truth and art. JA

Death of a Streetcar Named Virginia Woolf, Writers Theatre, Glencoe, extended through Aug. 14. Tim Ryder and Tim Sniffen's comic mashup of great theater dramas by the likes of Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller, Edward Albee and Thornton Wilder is a laugh riot—particularly for seasoned theatergoers. SCM

Deathtrap, Drury Lane Theatre, through Aug. 14. Ira Levin's classic 1978 Broadway thriller is given the luxury treatment in director William Osetek's top-notch revival that can still make audiences gasp out of shock. SCM

Prowess, Jackalope Theatre at Broadway Armory, through June 25. Watch for the unexpected gay twist in Ike Holter's visceral comic tragedy about South Sider Chicagoans who take up self-defense fighting before taking on violent gangs in their neighborhood. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

THEATER REVIEW

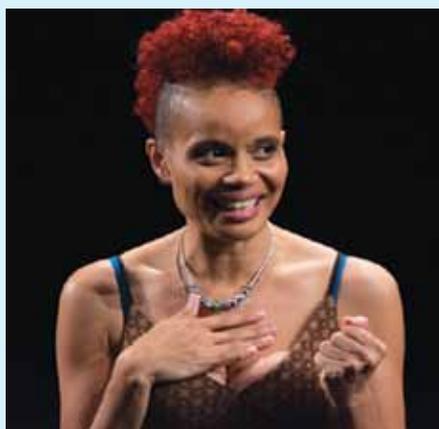
Motherstruck!

Playwright: Staceyann Chin
 At: Greenhouse Theater Center,
 2257 N. Lincoln Ave.
 Tickets: 773-404-7336
 GreenhouseTheater.org; \$32-\$48
 Runs through: July 17

BY M. SHELLY CONNER

It's amazing how soft-spoken and diminutive Staceyann Chin is off stage.

The same woman had just spent a considerable amount of time on her back re-enacting the various stages of her insemination and pregnancy for her one-woman show *Motherstruck!*—so much more than an ode to lesbian motherhood. *Motherstruck!*—embodying what academics call intersectionality—illustrates Chin's experiences as a mixed race, Jamaican-born, Black lesbian. A heartwrenching and humorous interrogation into maternal inheritance and motherhood, *Motherstruck!*



Staceyann Chin in *Motherstruck!*
 PR photo

swiftly moves from Chin's fleeing of her homeland to the birth of her daughter through an engaging and powerful narrative.

My first experience with *Motherstruck!* was at the now discontinued Michigan Women's Music Festival (Michfest). Chin performed a

few of the selections as individual essays. However, as a complete off-book show, the essays that compose *Motherstruck!* seamlessly create an autobiography that drives you to tears that are immediately wiped away by laughter. Her unwavering desire to conceive, troubled pregnancy and painfully long childbirth echo the dreams and fears of those invested in parenthood—and, more specifically, those who simultaneously navigate issues of race, poverty and citizenship.

Perhaps Staceyann Chin isn't quiet at all, but rather seems so by comparison to her on-stage persona, who fearlessly shares/wields her story of trauma and triumph. In any case, on or off stage, Chin's fiery eyes intensely focus on her audience. She delivers the same level of attention while in brief post-show conversation as she does when locking on to individual audience members during a performance. Red, curly Afrohawk and a quick smile are at the ready, punctuated by the periodic scanning of the space for the muse of *Motherstruck!*—her daughter Zuri. With a maternal GPS lock on Zuri, Chin draws you in.



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Batboy the Musical.
Photo by Michael Brosilow

THEATER REVIEW

Batboy the Musical

Playwrights: Keythe Farley & Brian Flemming (book), Laurence O'Keefe (lyrics)
At: Griffin Theatre at The Den, 1329 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Tickets: 866-811-4111;
GriffinTheatre.com; \$39.50
Runs through: July 24

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Batboy the Musical has nothing to do with baseball or Bruce Wayne's childhood. It has everything to do with a guilty pleasure of a show and a sensational lead performance. Hamilton can wait—see Batboy now.

Some 20 years ago, a supermarket tabloid

newspaper reported discovery of a teenager who was half-human and half blood-sucking vampire bat. This musical is a high-energy riff on that actual story, and also pays homage to horror movies and creature features. It centers on a wild adolescent boy with bat ears and fangs living in a cave near small-town Hope Falls, West Virginia. Adopted by the Parkers (Dr. Parker is the town vet) and called Edgar, he's quickly taught his human side, emerging as a British gentleman and a CPA (!). But the townsfolk hate him because (a) he's not like them, (b) they think he's killing their cattle and (c) Edgar and pretty Shelly Parker get a thing going.

This production does just about everything right, beginning with a dazzling cast featuring incredibly lithe Henry McGinniss in the title role. With his expressive face and lilting tenor voice, McGinniss is funny or serious by turns

ensure this at all of our events." They added that "there will be a mandatory bag check to ensure this safety as well as queer-friendly security at both events."

On Thursday, June 23, 8 p.m.-2 a.m., Clandestina Chicago's Punch House Takeover will take place at 1227 W. 18th St.. The event will feature DJs Audio Jack, Sandra Suave, Monica Raymund and Bk Web.

Love is Love Punch, a watermelon white wine sangria, will be the special, with \$3 from each sale going to Pulse Victims Fund. Booth reservations for four to six people can be done by purchasing a food/punch package or tableside champagne punch service. To reserve a table, call 312-526-3851. Additional bar seating and standing room available on a first-come, first-served basis.

On Sunday, June 26, 2-10 p.m., Clandestina is taking it to the streets. Follow members after they march with Monica Raymund, grand marshal of the Pride Parade. Clandestina Chicago will have its own stage at the Pride North Block Party and Festival. The event will feature DJs Sandra Suave, Cqchfruit, Samone, All the Way Kay, and Bk Web.

Interested persons can apply to be on the pop-up list clandestinachi@gmail.com or follow them on social media [@clandestina_chi](https://twitter.com/clandestina_chi).

CRUSH Chicago hosts Pride Weekend for the 'alternative woman'

CRUSH Chicago Inc. will present CRUSH Chicago 2016, taking place at various venues throughout the Chicago area, including Chinatown/South Loop, Wicker Park, West Loop and Andersonville/Wrigleyville/Lakeview on Thursday, June 23 through Sunday, June 26, and featuring performers, special guests, showcases, a yacht party and more.

CRUSH Chicago is presenting a full weekend

and always charming. He also spends time nearly naked in a cage, if that's your thing!

McGinniss alone is worth the price of admission, but he's backed by a strong nine-person ensemble. Anne Sheridan Smith (Mrs. Parker), Tiffany Tatreau (teenage Shelly Parker), Matt W. Miles (Dr. Parker, the show's villain), Ron King (Rev. Hightower) and Jordan Dell Harris (a decidedly ambisexual Pan, the forest god) each takes center stage in a big number served up in tasty fashion. It's a great score, too, ranging from gospel shout to rap to rock to ballad to creepy horror music, every number well-sung under musical director Charlotte Rivard-Hoster and her five-piece band.

The 3/4 round staging utilizes a relatively simple scenic design by Jeff Kmiec and Greg Pinsoneault, with lots of barn-wood beams

suggesting the rural setting. Brandon Wardell is the capable lighting designer and costumes are by Izumi Inaba. Good puppetry by Lolly Extract and Amber Marsh. Lively choreography by Rhett Guter and Amanda Kroiss.

Batboy veers wildly between burlesque of the horror genre and fidelity to its clichés, and the show's authors and director Scott Weinstein strike just the right balance between the shifting tones. There's a surprise twist, too, deep in Act II which I didn't expect. Of course, things rarely end well for the monsters in those classic horror movies, so be prepared. But on the way you'll have a helluva lot of fun.

Griffin Theatre is raising funds for a permanent home in Andersonville. An extended success with Batboy The Musical could help that campaign a lot!



SPOTLIGHT

GayCo, Chicago's oldest LGBTQ improv and sketch comedy troupe, continues its 20th anniversary season with **Star Whores—The Pride Awakens**. Both Pride Month shows feature guest sex workers sharing stories about their trade, and then the GayCo ensemble draws from what was said for a series of improvised sketches. Expect some adult content intermixed with sci-fi naughtiness. Star Whores plays two shows only: at 10:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, June 24 and 25, at The Playground Theater, 3209 N. Halsted St. Tickets are \$15. The Playground Theater is a BYOB establishment. Call 773-871-3793 or visit www.gayco.com.

Caption: Clay Goodpasture of GayCo is featured in Star Whores—The Pride Awakens. Photo illustration by Alexandria Miller Vanover



Clandestina Pride on June 23, 26

Monica Raymund of the Chicago Fire TV show, Brooke Webster and Alma Izquierdo will present the Pride edition of Clandestina Chicago on the North and South sides on June 23 and 26.

In a statement, the organizers said, "It's two parties, each with no cover, that are committed, as always, to creating safe spaces for our queer community. Every step has been taken to



DJ Cqchfruit.
Photo by Sandra Oviedo

of events that especially cater to alternative women and is also LGBT-inclusive.

The event itinerary is as follows:

—Thursday June 23: Karaoke/Dance Party at The 1912 Lounge, 2002 S. Wentworth, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., Cover: \$10, 21 and up

—Friday, June 24: All White Party/"More Than Friends," Movie Premiere After Party at Standard Bar & Grill, 1332 N. Milwaukee Ave., 9 p.m.-2 a.m., \$25, or \$15 w/ movie ticket stub before 12 a.m., 21 and up

—Saturday, June 25: "Afternoon Event"—Private Yacht Party, Summer of George Yacht docked at the River City Marina, 800 S. Wells St, 1-4 p.m., \$100 (includes 3-hour top-shelf open bar, a lunch buffet and live DJ), 21 and up

—Saturday, June 25: "Night Event"—All Black Glow Party at The 15/20 Lounge, 2428 S. Wallace St, 9 p.m.-3 a.m., \$25, 21 and up.

—Sunday, June 26: Pride Night Finale aka "The Climax" (a beach-themed pizza and dance party) at The HVAC Pub, 3530 N. Clark St., 8 p.m.-2 a.m., \$10-\$15 (free til 10:15 p.m. with discount pass), *\$25 special includes pizza, drink and entry, 21 and up.

CRUSH Chicago is the brainchild of a group of Chicago promoters. Their host hotel is The Godfrey, in the heart of Downtown Chicago. For tickets or info please contact CRUSH Chicago at www.crushchicago.com or via email at chicago-crushher@gmail.com.

Toni Shelton at house-music parties in Chicago

Toni Shelton, known as the "Queen of House Music," has announced summer dates. She has confirmed two dates that she will be hosting.

"I'm excited to have both of these events on my schedule," explains Toni Shelton, a career model, author and talk-show hostess. "I'm

looking forward to getting together with some of my favorite people to feel some great music, see some beautiful faces, and just have a great time. These two summer events are just getting me started, there will be more to come."

The two summer upcoming dates announced for Toni Shelton include:

—July 1: Toni will be hosting the "7th annual House Music All White Party," at Jaks Tap, 901 W. Jackson Blvd. This is an annual event that focuses on celebrating house music and bringing together those who are the movers and shakers in the industry.

—Aug. 8: Toni will be hosting a dance celebration event at Daley Plaza, 50 W. Washington St., featuring an all-female DJ lineup that includes DJ Lora Branch and DJ Celeste Alexander.

See <https://www.facebook.com/RealToniShelton/>.

'Girls in Boystown' walking tour July 10

Tour company Chicago for Chicagoans has announced the Boystown Walking Tour—an information-packed two-hour walking tour of the Boystown neighborhood, set to take place Sunday, July 10, 6-8 p.m.

The tour will feature special guest collaborator Andie McKenzie Meadows—a queer femme activist, Boystown historian and photographer who will contribute her femme-focused and queer-inclusive perspective on the history of the country's first officially designated gay neighborhood.

Beginning at the Belmont Red/Brown Line stop, the Boystown tour will cover the history, architecture and landmarks of the neighborhood. The afternoon will end with a meal at Nookie's Tree and an after-party at The Closet.

Visit <http://chicagoforchicagoans.weebly.com>. Information on Meadows' Girls in Boystown project, visit AndieMeadows.com.

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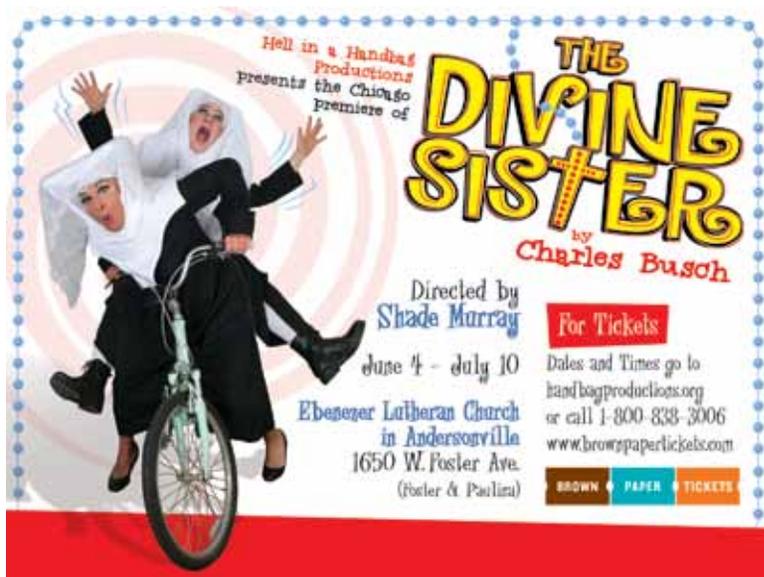
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'Make Music Chicago' June 21

Presented by Rush Hour Concerts, Make Music Chicago, a free musical celebration across Chicago, returns for its sixth annual event on Tuesday, June 21.

Under the helm of Artistic Director and pianist Kuang-Hao Huang, with the support from Executive Director Kitty Rothschild, Make Music Chicago will feature 200 performances and participatory events across 100 locations in more than 40 Chicago neighborhoods and suburbs from sunrise to sunset, including Millennium Park's Wrigley Square, Maggie Daley Park and Pritzker Pavilion plus the Chicago Riverwalk, Chicago Symphony Center, Daley Plaza, Lyric Opera House, Lincoln Park Zoo, the Museum of Contemporary Art, Old Town School of Folk Music and more than 30 Chicago Park District sites and many others.

See MakeMusicChicago.org.

Snubfest running June 22-26

Under the Gun Theater and Zanies Comedy Club are behind Snubfest 2016, featuring performers from across the country who have been rejected by other festivals in the previous calendar year.

The festival will take place June 22-26.

Some notable Snubfest alumni include TJ Miller (Silicon Valley, Comedy Central's Mash Up), Vanessa Bayer (SNL), Nick Vatterott (The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon), Lauren Lapkus (Orange is the New Black), Cameron Esposito (Late Night with Craig Ferguson) and Jacob Williams (America's Got Talent finalist), among others.

Tim Kazurinsky will join Snubfest this year as a judge while Katie Rich will perform rejected SNL Weekend Update jokes.

See Snubfest.com.

Stained-glass competition for tiny home design display

CHICAGO—Solstice Stained Glass in Chicago is announcing a design competition for window displays in the winning entry of the recent Tiny Home Design competition.

Solstice Stained Glass, which Emily Carlson founded 25 years ago, will host a free solstice celebration Thursday, June 23, 2016, 6-8 p.m., in Chicago's West Loop. Competition entries will be showcased at the event, and winners will be announced by Carlson's team of judges.

There are five window positions available for designs of the tiny home. Three are east-facing, and two are west-facing. The dimensions are available by emailing info@solsticestainedglass.com, and appointments are encouraged to see the actual windows. Entrants can either bring the actual stained glass to the solstice event June 23, or they can bring actual-size, colored-in designs. Winning entrants will have to be ready for mounting by June 30.

The winning entry of the tiny home design competition was on display at April's Tiny Home Summit hosted by Pride Action Tank and Polk Bros. Foundation at the University of Illinois-Chicago. The model, built by Price Construction, will be re-built on a lot donated by The Resurrection Project in Back of the Yards on Chicago's Southwest Side. The model, approximately 330 square feet, will be on display and available for tours starting in July.

Carlson and Carmen Noriega, construction manager for The Resurrection Project, came up with the idea for a stained glass competition. "I think it is a great way to continue the focus on tiny homes as a solution to the affordable housing and homeless crises in Chicago," said Noriega, a stained glass artist and tiny home aficionado. "Tiny homes can be beautiful and dignified, and provide a great space to live for many populations. There are many creative professionals in Chicago who want to help lend their talents to solving our city's major problems."

Chicago-based Terry Howell, AIA, LEED GA (associate architect, Antunovich Associates), Marty Sandberg, AIA (partner, Via Chicago Architects), and Lon Stousland (associate architect, Antunovich Associates) were the winners of the tiny home competition. More than 250 submissions were received from teams based in 12 countries. The competition was organized by AIA Chicago, the AIA Chicago Foundation, Landon Bone Baker Architects, Windy City

Times, and Pride Action Tank. Funding for the competition was provided by the Alphawood Foundation.

The Stained Glass Competition will be a quick-turnaround project, aimed to be put in place in the model prior to two national stained glass conferences in Chicago in July. "This collaboration is not only intended to raise awareness of some pretty neat organizations, but to really demonstrate that 'even' a small house can and should be afforded those personal touches that make a house a home," said Carlson. "By offering custom stained glass as window treatments and as interior installations, they touch the human element and what homes are about."

In 2014, Solstice's Carlson launched the annual Chicago Stained Glass Invitational Exhibit. "Two years ago, as the two national organizations were seeking locations to hold their 2016 Annual Summer Conferences, I couldn't resist the helium balloon syndrome: my hand went up," Carlson said. "I'm very happy to say that I'm acting as local co-organizer next month, as the Stained Glass Association of America will hold its conference July 5-7 at the Hotel Orlington in Evanston, and the American Glass Guild holds its conference at the Logan Center in Hyde Park from July 9-11. The day in between, on July 8, Solstice is working with them both as we host two bus tours that will feature local stained glass; Edgar Miller will be the focus of one, and Tiffany and the Gilded Age will be the focus of the other." For tickets see <http://americanglassguild.org/bus-tour/>.

The Pride Action Tank, a project of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, and the Windy City Times, along with lead sponsor Polk Bros. Foundation, joined by UIC's Gender and Sexuality Center and Alphawood Foundation, were hosts of the Tiny Home Summit.

For information on Solstice Stained Glass, see SolsticeStainedGlass.com or call 847-561-4048.

See the tiny home winning designs at <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/pdf/TINYHOMECOMPETITIONWINNER1.pdf>.

Coverage of the Tiny Home Summit, including videos, at WindyCityMediaGroup.com/lgbt/Winner-announced-for-Chicago-Tiny-Homes-Design-Competition-/54635.html.

Stained Glass Association of America is at Stainedglass.org; American Glass Guild is at AmericanGlassGuild.org.

'Rhythm World' dance event July 5-24

Chicago Human Rhythm Project (CHRP) is presenting the 26th annual Rhythm World July 5-24 at CHRP's American Rhythm Center in Chicago's historic Fine Arts Building, the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago and the Jazz Showcase.

Rhythm World is presented in association with the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago.

In the first year of a five-year cycle, CHRP's annual summer festival, directed by CHRP Founder and Director Lane Alexander, shines the spotlight on the talented perform-

ers, choreographers and teachers who have "grown up" with CHRP and the masters who first inspired them. See ChicagoTap.org.

Writers Theatre running 'Company'

Glencoe's Writers Theatre, 325 Tudor Ct., concludes its 2015/16 season with Company, featuring music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by George Furth.

The show runs through July 31 in the Alexandra C. and John D. Nichols Theatre.

Tickets are \$35-\$90; visit WritersTheatre.org or call 847-242-6000.

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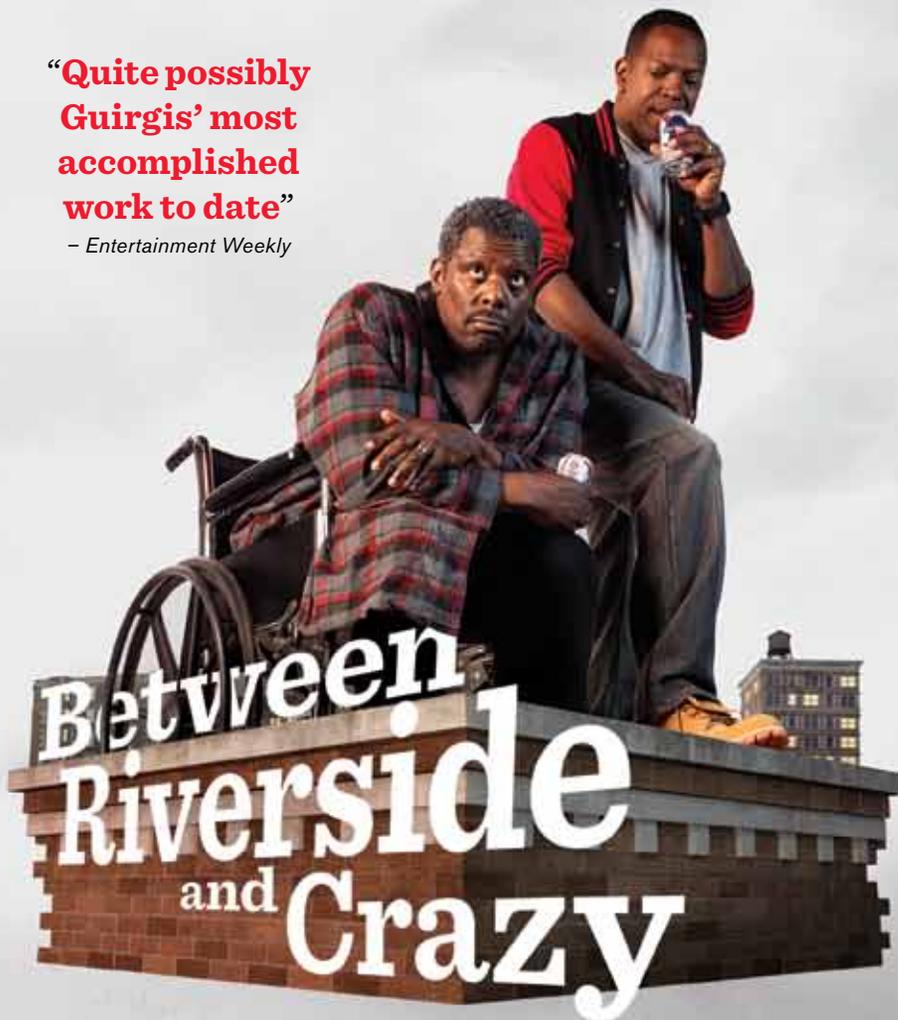
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NUNN ON ONE: THEATER

Tina Landau bringing 'SpongeBob' to town

BY JERRY NUNN

Steppenwolf Theatre Company's Ensemble member Tina Landau is bringing her talents home this summer for a new endeavor.

Although Landau was born in New York City, she has spent a great deal of time in the Windy City, cultivating a career in theater. Not only working with The Goodman Theater in Chicago in the past, she has traveled to San Diego's Old Globe Theater and The Prince Music Theater in Philadelphia for productions there. She has taken shows like Tracy Letts' *Superior Donuts* to big success on Broadway in the past and now hopes for another.

Landau is now co-conceiving and directing the new show *The SpongeBob Musical*, in which *SpongeBob* and all of *Bikini Bottom* could face total annihilation of their undersea world.

The production features songs by Cyndi Lauper, John Legend, and Sara Bareilles among others.

Broadway in Chicago expects big things from the musical and Windy City sat down with Landau to talk about it.

Windy City Times: Hi, Tina. So you are originally a New Yorker who moved to California?

Tina Landau: Yes. You have done your research! I moved to California briefly with my folks then back to school on the East Coast. I have been there ever since except for a short stint where I lived here in Chicago for a very brief time.

WCT: You are in Chicago often?

TL: All the time. It is why I am thrilled to be starting the show here because it feels comfortable here for me. It feels like my second home. I have a sense of Chicago audiences that I feel are really open but at the same time are discerning and sophisticated enough to give you real feedback as the work is happening.

WCT: You have had a long history with the Steppenwolf.

TL: Yes—since 1997, I think.

WCT: You did *Superior Donuts* after that?

TL: It started at Steppenwolf.

WCT: How is it crossing over regions of the country with productions?

TL: It is the best. I am coming off of a show that started at Steppenwolf called *Head of Passes* by Tarell Alvin McCraney that we just did at the Public Theater. That is based on the *Book of Job* so it is a very heavy freight production. That was interesting because it was seemingly the polar opposite of this. It is what keeps me alive, going, and challenged so I love it.

WCT: So who is the other co-conceiver on *The SpongeBob Musical*?

TL: Technically there isn't one. It is Stephen Hillenburg who created the series. When people say created by then it would seem like I created all of these characters. The project was conceived by me based on Nickelodeon's invitation to conceive something. I worked on it a year or two before we brought in a book writer Kyle Jarrow, who is technically the writer of the book and of course we have our composers who are the other writers.

WCT: Did it surprise you that big-name musicians wanted to jump onboard *SpongeBob*?

TL: This was a dream. It was my very first idea on how to approach it. First I thought, "Nickelodeon will never go for it" then I thought, "These artists will never go for it." It has gone more easily and successfully than I could ever have dreamt because unbeknownst to me most of these artists are *SpongeBob* fans, whether is them or their kids or *SpongeBob* on a clothing line or who knows what. Almost everyone jumped onboard because they loved *Sponge-*



Tina Landau.

Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

Bob.

Of course, the more someone said yes then the other ones started saying yes, too.

WCT: Before David Bowie passed, he did also?

TL: David's song is a little different than all the others in that he really wanted to be involved but wasn't able to write a new song for the show. He allowed access to his catalogue where I could see if there was some song that existed that I could adapt for the show. That is what we have done and it is called "No Control."

WCT: Is it a goal to have a soundtrack with all of the big names on it?

TL: I am not sure. That would be my dream but I don't know yet if that is a realistic goal.

WCT: Was it a temptation to put a big name in the cast for *SpongeBob*?

TL: No. In fact, we wanted to stay away from that. We felt that the star of the show should be the show. It released us from developing certain roles to be certain things. We wanted a fresher, unexpected energy.

WCT: Do you feel pressure for *SpongeBob* to be a big success?

TL: I feel pressure, but not from a commercial or corporate standpoint—the pressure is my own. It comes out of the desire to share joy and to communicate and to put out into the world an energy that I think is living in this.

So the only pressure is my own and I would say more desire and intention than it is pressure.

WCT: Is there LGBT content in the show?

TL: That is a really interesting question. First off, in terms of topicality and political sensibility, there are things in there but nothing is overt or manifest. We have really tried to create a world that exists as a fable, which allows people to read in and interpret a lot of different things on a lot of different levels.

I would say what is in the show is any and everything that people choose to interpret in any and every way.

I will add as a little teaser that there is some gender-blind casting.

WCT: How did it feel to be one of *OUT Magazine's* 100?

TL: It feels like a while ago—back in 2009—but it was an honor.

WCT: Have you always been out as a lesbian publicly?

TL: Yes. I came out to my parents when I was in college. I have been one of those people that was fortunate to have never struggled with it. I always knew and it felt organic. I have always been completely open.

WCT: Were you able to put some of that

into your work throughout your career?

TL: Yes, I think so. I did a piece called *Stone-wall* that I wrote and directed for the 25th anniversary of *Stonewall*. I did something in New York on a site specific piece with 60 actors in it. I wrote and directed *Dream True*, which was a gay love story.

I feel like I don't have an agenda to push but I want my work to reflect who I am but exists in the world.

I work a lot with playwrights Chuck Mee and Tarell Alvin McCraney, both of whom give voice to the voiceless. They really create tasks and worlds that are inclusive. I think that is why I have grabbed onto them as primary collaborators.

WCT: What is the plan for *SpongeBob* after the Chicago run?

TL: The plan is to tech the show here and get ready to show people. We will use the preview time to finesse, learn, and do changes. The next step would be a New York production.

We are waiting to find out the specifics on date and location.

WCT: What else do you have in the works?

TL: *Head of Passes* might have another production. I am developing a new piece with and for *Steppenwolf*. It is an ensemble created piece and the company has never done an ensemble devised work. I am spearheading a new piece that will involve about 20 ensemble members. That is something I hope to work on a bunch.

I am involved on a musical called *Dave*, which is based on the movie.

I have a couple of other secret projects that I am very excited about but right now I am focused on *SpongeBob*. It is going to be a wild ride!

The *SpongeBob Musical* is already extended until July 10, and is at Broadway's Oriental Theater, 24 W. Randolph St. Visit BroadwayInChicago.com for ticket information.



Dance for Life in 2015.

Dance for Life marks 25 years on Aug. 20

Chicago Dancers United will present the 25th anniversary of *Dance for Life*, welcoming Chicago dance companies onto the Auditorium Theatre's stage Saturday, Aug. 20.

The celebratory evening, hosted by The Second City's Carisa Barreca and Tim Mason, will also honor longtime supporters of *Dance for Life* Fred Eychaner and Alphawood Foundation, Barbara Kipper and Scott Silberstein and Matt Hoffman with HMS Media.

Dance for Life started in 1991 through the efforts of Keith Elliott, friend Todd Kiech, JHCDT Associate Artistic Director Harriet Ross, HIV/AIDS community activist/fundraiser Danny Kopelson and Hubbard Street Dance Chicago Executive Director Gail Kalver.

The celebratory evening will begin at 5 p.m. with a gala reception at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave., and continue at the Auditorium Theatre, 50 E. Congress Pkwy., at 7:30 p.m. with the anniversary performance. Among the troupes/acts slated to perform are Giordano Dance Chicago, Joffrey Ballet, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago, Visceral Dance Chicago and Chicago Dance Crash.

Also, Harrison McEldowney will choreograph a world-premiere piece specifically for *Dance for Life*. In addition, in a *Dance for Life* tradition, Randy Duncan will choreograph a world-premiere piece to cap off the entire evening, using dancers that are welcome to audition through an open call.

Tickets for both the gala reception and performance (\$250-\$600) or performance only (\$15-\$75) are on sale now and can be purchased by phone at 312-341-2300, online at ChicagoDancersUnited.com or in person at the Auditorium Theatre box office.

'BITE' opens July 11

Pride Films and Plays (PFP) will complete its summer in Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St., with the world premiere of *BITE: A Pucking Queer Cabaret*, PFP Artistic Associate Derek Van Barham's pop-rock ode to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

BITE: A Pucking Queer Cabaret previews Friday-Saturday, July 8-9 at 7 p.m., and Sunday, July 10, at 5 p.m. Thereafter, the performances schedule is Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 5 p.m. The closing date is Sunday, Aug. 14. (There's no performance Sunday, Aug. 7.)

Tickets are \$25 for Monday and Thursday performances and \$30 for Friday, Saturday and Sunday showings. (There are discounts for students and seniors.) See PrideFilmsAndPlays.com or call 800-737-0984.

'I Wanna Be...' event July 13 at Goodman

The League of Chicago Theatres will host a speaking engagement and book signing event with John Breglio for his new book *I Wanna Be A Producer: How to Make a Killing on Broadway ... or Get Killed on Wed.*, July 13, at the Goodman in the Owen Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St.

The event will include a speaking engagement at 7 p.m., followed by a reception and book-signing.

Breglio has spent nearly 40 years working in all sectors of the entertainment industry, including theater, motion pictures, publishing, and music.

The event is free and open to the public. Reservations are required and can be made at www.bit.ly/breglio-chicago.

About Face marks 20 years of LGBTQ theater

BY VERNON HESTER

On June 17, the About Face Theatre threw itself a party celebrating 20 years of LGBTQ theater.

Titled "AFT20: A Celebration," the event took place at the Hoover-Leppen Theater at the Center on Halsted. The event also served as a reunion as founding members, board members, current and former performers, and artistic associates joined for a night of history, music and theater.

A major highlight of the evening came with a presentation that spotlighted the 20-year history of the theater through scenes, songs

and archival video footage. Throughout the presentation, there were scenes and footage presented from such plays as Dream Boy, The Boys in the Band, Xena Live, Pulp, I Am My Own Wife, Le Switch, The Homosexuals and a host of others. The presentation also touched on the work of the About Face Youth Theatre, which is focused on creating works that address adolescent LGBTQ life.

Among the many board members and performers in attendance were current artistic director Andrew Volkoff as well as former directors Kyle Hall, Eric Rosen and Bonnie Metzgar. Among the many performers in the presentation were Ruben Adorno, Dana Tretta, Paul Oakley Stovall, Elizabeth Laidlaw, Keira Fromm, Scott Duff, Amy Matheny, Cin Salach, Elizabeth Ledo and Mitchell Fain.



Above: Brian Goodman (left) and Paul Oakley Stovall. Below: Reading with past and present members of About Face Theatre. Photos by Vern Hester



Scott Duff. Photo by Vern Hester



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Monica Raymund in *Thaddeus and Slocum: A Vaudeville Adventure*.
Photo by Liz Lauren

NUNN ON ONE: THEATER

Life is a parade for Monica Raymund

BY JERRY NUNN

Monica Raymund is setting Chicago on fire these days with her many performances and appearances.

Hailing from St. Petersburg, Florida, the talented actress graduated then headed to Juilliard in New York City. Concentrating on the theater this led her to working on television beginning with *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*. She moved to *Lie to Me* where she starred as Maria Torres for 48 episodes. In 2012, she joined the cast of *Chicago Fire* as series regular Gabriela Dawson. This brought crossovers in the television shows *Chicago Med* and *Chicago P.D.*, where she won an Imagen Award for Best Actress in Television.

Her many theater works include the musical *Like Water for Chocolate* and *Boleros* for the *Disenchanted*.

Raymund plays Isabella in *Lookingglass Theatre's* current production *Thaddeus and Slocum: A Vaudeville Adventure*. Set in Chicago's Majestic Theatre, this show tackles subjects such as racism and inequality. *Windy City Times* talked to Raymund after a recent performance.

Windy City Times: Hi, Monica. Let's start off with your history. Was TV always a goal?

Monica Raymund: No; theater was my thing. I wanted to be on Broadway. I still want to be on Broadway; that is not a dying dream whatsoever.

I started through music actually. I had been playing piano since I was about five. Music transitioned into voice lessons, dance lessons, and I was doing musical theater all through middle school and high school. Once it was college time, I applied to a few conservatories and ended up deciding on Juilliard.

WCT: What is your favorite musical?

MR: I think *Chicago* was hook, line and sinker for me. I was about 13 years old when I first saw it. I have seen it eight times since. That was my introduction to Fosse, Bebe Neuwirth, and Ann Reinking. Say what you will about the show but it was an introduction to strong female characters.

WCT: How did the television parts happen?

MR: I just graduated Juilliard and I was doing a play in Boston. I auditioned for a pilot and it was picked up. I flew out to LA and have been on TV ever since.

WCT: With the Chicago shows, you can cross over and be on all of them.

MR: Which is so fun. It is now *Chicago Fire*, *P.D.* and now *Justice*. I get to crossover and work with all of the different casts. It is a good time and a big family.

WCT: Is this the most time you have spent in Chicago?

MR: Yes, it is. I am here all summer and I absolutely adore the city. People are very kind and supportive here.

WCT: Did you study paramedics for your role on *Chicago Fire*?

MR: I did. Our main consultant is Michele Martinez, who works on *Ambulance 42* downtown. I studied with her and her partner. I did ride alongs for a few weeks and did all kinds of trainings on dummies and how to administer IVs.

WCT: Does it feel more authentic after training?

MR: Yes, and it is nice because I have had four years of it now. The more time that goes by the more natural it feels.

WCT: You are free to work on other projects such as this show when you are off?

MR: The hiatus is about two months or so. when we start filming again they hold me in first position. I can do whatever I want to do for work but have to show up the first day of filming for season five.

WCT: How did you wind up working on *Thaddeus*?

MR: I was doing a reading for a new play by Jason Wells over at iO Theater. Philip Smith, who is the producing artistic director for *Lookingglass*, was in it and I was in it. He asked me to audition for this play. I landed the role.

I liked the content and the race relations of Chicago in the early 1900s. I am a huge fan of *Lookingglass Theatre Company*. I wanted to work in the theater scene in Chicago.

WCT: What does the show *Thaddeus and Slocum* say about racism today?

MR: That racism is very prominent today. It permeates society and our culture to this very day. We all see it in the news unfortunately every morning.

WCT: Your character seems very important in the show.

MR: I play a mixed woman who tries to pass

for white. What she has in common with *Thaddeus* is that he is a Black man who tries to pass for white but he is using blackface on his face. I am using my white face as a means for passing for white.

If you have seen the movie *Imitation of Life* it is a similar storyline. Not being able to be seen with your family in public because your family looks Black.

The fact that Isabella is making those kinds of choices to protect her dream is a moral struggle that I think battles everyday. The challenge of that was very interesting to me.

WCT: You also get to sing a little for this show.

MR: Yes, I have a few numbers. That was fun.

WCT: There is a dance-off in one scene. If you could have a dance-off with someone alive or dead who would it be?

MR: Ginger Rogers.

WCT: You are so old-school!

MR: Look—I'm doing a vaudeville show. What do you think I was watching?

WCT: Are you nervous about throwing the first pitch at an upcoming Cubs game?

MR: No, I'm not. I'm throwing the ball. I would be nervous if I was hitting the first puck at the *Blackhawks*. I have been asked but I don't know how to play hockey.

I played softball in middle school and I was pretty darn good!

WCT: You are also going to be our grand marshal for the Pride Parade.

MR: I'm excited and especially now even

more ready. This is my first time to participate at a Pride parade. I have stood on the sidelines in the past though.

WCT: I noticed you have been active in our community.

MR: I throw women's parties with my company, called *Clandestina*. People find out about the parties through word of mouth. People have to be on our mailing list and RSVP back. They then get a password. We try to make it as safe as we can. It is a pop up ladies party. We have done four events so far. We did a big benefit for Valentine's Day at The Promontory.

People have to follow us on social media and our email is on there. They have to email us to be on the list. They can't get in without a password or an RSVP. We make sure people have to be because I am interested in setting an exclusive environment for the ladies, queer allies, and friends. I want my girls to be as safe as possible. That is why we don't announce where it will be until they before.

WCT: How was coming out as bisexual?

MR: I actually identify as queer. I was out when I was 19. I had been in same-sex relationships, then a hetero one, now I am back into a same-sex relationship. I came out 10 years ago.

WCT: What was the reaction after it being more public?

MR: It has been very supportive. I am an actor first. I talk about my work first but in the wake of what has happened I feel proud to be LGBTQ.

WCT: Life is short...

MR: Life is short and I live very fiercely. There is no shame about who I love and whatever that means. I am very proud to be grand marshalling in Chicago.

That is why I am taking every interview I can. It is a very difficult thing for us to process and to grieve through as a community. I just went to two vigils on Monday. We lit candles and said prayers. Because it is difficult for people to talk about we need to talk about it. We need to discuss how we can solve it. We need to talk about our feelings and our anger.

Unfortunately I have a lot of experience with grief. In my experience I feel we need to acknowledge how we are feeling. It will blow up in our face if we don't acknowledge what is in front of us.

WCT: When do you start filming again for *Chicago Fire*?

MR: I start in mid-July filming for season five. I am doing this show until then.

I will be doing a jazz show at some point but not sure where or when that will happen. I might announce it the day before or even a couple of hours before. I want to do a *Chicago* set so just started a rehearsal with a couple of my friends. I wouldn't call it a band.

WCT: So you are jamming?

MR: Yes, we are experimenting. I know I want to sing jazz while I am here. A buddy of mine knows some instrumentalists. People will have to follow me on Twitter @monicaraymund to find out when it happens.

Thaddeus and Slocum: A Vaudeville Adventure runs now through Aug. 14 with Raymund in the role of Isabella until Sunday, July 17, at Water Tower Works, 821 N. Michigan Ave. Visit LookingglassTheatre.org for ticket information.

Musicians respond to Orlando tragedy with new songs

Several LGBTQA artists have responded to the June 12 mass shooting at Orlando, Florida, LGBT nightclub Pulse.

Melissa Etheridge told *Rolling Stone* that she wrote the song "Pulse" while on tour. "I'm dealing with it the way I deal, which is, I wrote a song," Etheridge said. "I feel called to speak—to do what musicians do. We've been the town criers for hundreds of years. We're mirrors of society. We want to try to make sense. We want to try to heal. We want

to bring some meaning, some purpose. We also want to put it down forever in history. That's how I'm coping."

She added that proceeds from the song will go to an LGBT charity.

According to *On Top Magazine*, out musicians Eli Lieb and Brandon Skeie also produced a song titled "Pulse," and dedicated it to the Orlando victims.

Also, Christina Aguilera—who released the anthem "Beautiful" in 2002—has released the song "Change," which calls for acceptance of all people, regardless of their race, gender or sexuality. Proceeds from sales of the song will go to the National Compassion Fund, which distributes funds directly to victims of crime.

BOOK REVIEW

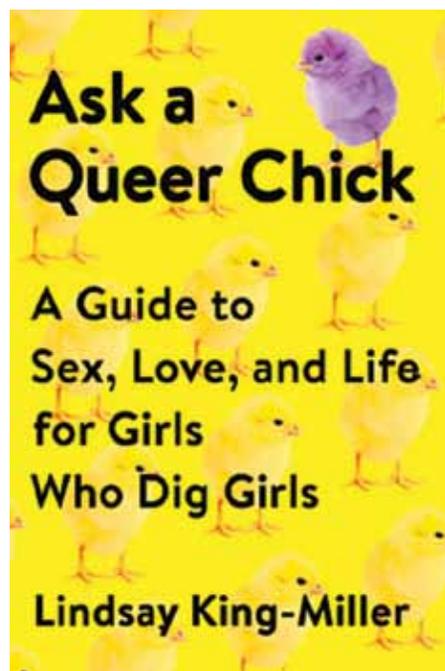
Ask a Queer Chick: A Guide to Sex, Love and Life for Girls Who Dig Girls

by Lindsay King-Miller
\$16; Plume; 237 pages
BY LIZ BAUDLER

Ask a Queer Chick is a product of the Internet age: Lindsay King-Miller started writing the column of the same name on the website The Hairpin. As such, the writing feels down-to-earth and the advice loose enough to be relevant at any point in the future. In fact, the book doesn't read quite like advice, but more as considerations for the newly out queer lady. That's not to say that King-Miller won't tell readers what to do, but she does it so well they'll probably nod and acquiesce without a fight.

King-Miller had me from the introduction, where she gives a simple yet nuanced encouragement to those uncertain of what they are in the queer pantheon. "If there's a word you think that might suit you," she writes, "try it on for a week, a month or a year and see how it feels. Maybe it will be a perfect fit; maybe it will be a little too tight in the shoulders and you'll want to trade it in, or at least make some alterations."

So often, queer media assumes that queer identity is static: There's pressure to identify with some group of people and King-Miller dispenses with that elegantly. In terms of finding said group of people, King-Miller empowers readers to start their own community, an idea that seemingly stems from the assumption of fluid identity and also feels fairly radical: I could see a guide from decades ago giving pointers on how to fit in with the local lesbian softball team.



Ask a Queer Chick hits all the main points, from coming out, to getting the "queer haircut," getting and romancing a date, to breakup and marriage. This is an odd statement, but the guide is surprisingly strong when it's not talking to its intended audience. King includes a whole chapter for straight allies and gives them really solid recommendation for handling coming out and meeting their queer beloved's partner. Particularly helpful is a reminder about allyship and its responsibilities. "Real support is not performance art," King admonishes. Along similar lines, Ask a Queer Girl makes a genuine effort to reach out to queer trans women. King admits that she is not trans and seeks out the input of transwomen when writing about trans topics.

This guide might not appeal to an older person, whose ideas about the LGBTQ community are more set and perhaps come from a place of defensiveness about their identity. (The word

"queer," for instance, might turn off an older crowd.) But as speaking as part of the demographic who grew up on Facebook calls themselves queer and thinks about their privilege, I

can tell you that Ask a Queer Chick rings absolutely right, and I'd challenge an older woman to pick it up and learn a bit about how her queer daughters might be raised.



Actor Tim Daly on CBS Sunday Morning.

Actor Tim Daly on his father's sexuality

On an episode of the CBS show Sunday Morning that aired on Father's Day, actor Tim Daly talked about his father's sexuality, according to CBS News.

Of his father, James (who co-starred in the 1970s series Medical Center), Tim said, "My dad left when I was a very young man, a young boy, and I didn't see him very much. You know, my parents had a long and difficult marriage, mostly because my father was gay. Not many people know this.

"But given the wisdom of that era—the medical, psychological and societal wisdom of that time, which was all false—being homosexual was a disease, right, that could be cured. My father worked very hard to try to 'cure' himself of something that was incurable, and so did my mom. And it was very sad."

Tim said his father told him the truth about himself at age 19. James died two years later—as the two were set to begin rehearsals on a summer-stock play in which they were co-starring.

Tim is the brother of actress Tyne Daly (best known for co-starring on the '80s show Cagney & Lacey).

The article is at <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/tim-dalys-most-important-role-father/>.

Black LGBT films at library branch

Chicago Public Libraries LGBT Pride Month events include an LGBT Film Series at the Kelly Branch library, 6151 S. Normal Blvd.

Films slated to run include:

—**How Do I Look** on Thursday, June 23 (5:30-7:30 p.m.): How Do I Look, by Wolfgang Busch, is a view inside the Harlem Drag Ball competition.

—**Pariah** on Tuesday, June 28 (5:30-7:30 p.m.): Pariah—Dee Ree's debut—looks at Alike, a 17-year-old African-American woman who is quietly but firmly embracing her identity as a lesbian.

See <https://www.chipublib.org/news/celebrate-lgbt-pride-month/>.

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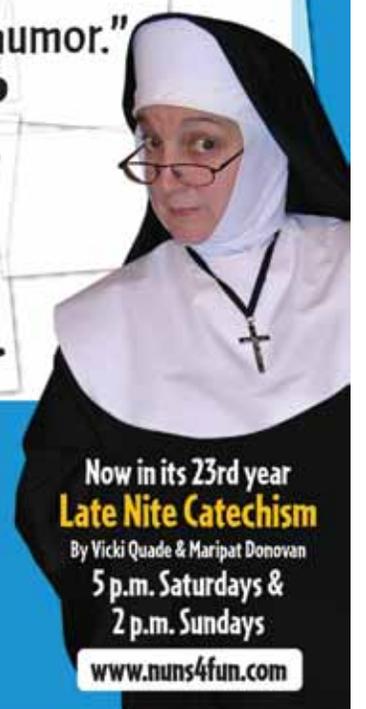
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KNIGHT at the movies



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KNIGHT AT THE MOVIES

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BY RICHARD KNIGHT JR.

We're here, we're queer, we're watching movies

In the 12 years that I've been writing about movies for Windy City Times, I've recommended dozens of film to celebrate Pride.

It's no surprise that a quick poll of friends and colleagues reveals a lot of these same titles. These are movies that many of us cherish, returning to them year after year as June rolls around.

It's no surprise to find *The Adventures of Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, *Torch Song Trilogy*, *My Beautiful Laundrette*, *Bound*, *The Birdcage*, *In & Out* and pretty much every John Waters movie on the list. Adding to the prestige are critically acclaimed films like *Brokeback Mountain*, *Carol*, *The Danish Girl*, *Beginners*, *Milk*, *Dallas Buyers Club*, *The Kids Are All Right*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*, *Transamerica*, *Freeheld*, *Tangerine*, *The Killing of Sister George*, *Boys Don't Cry*, *Longtime Companion*, *Cabaret*, *Dog*

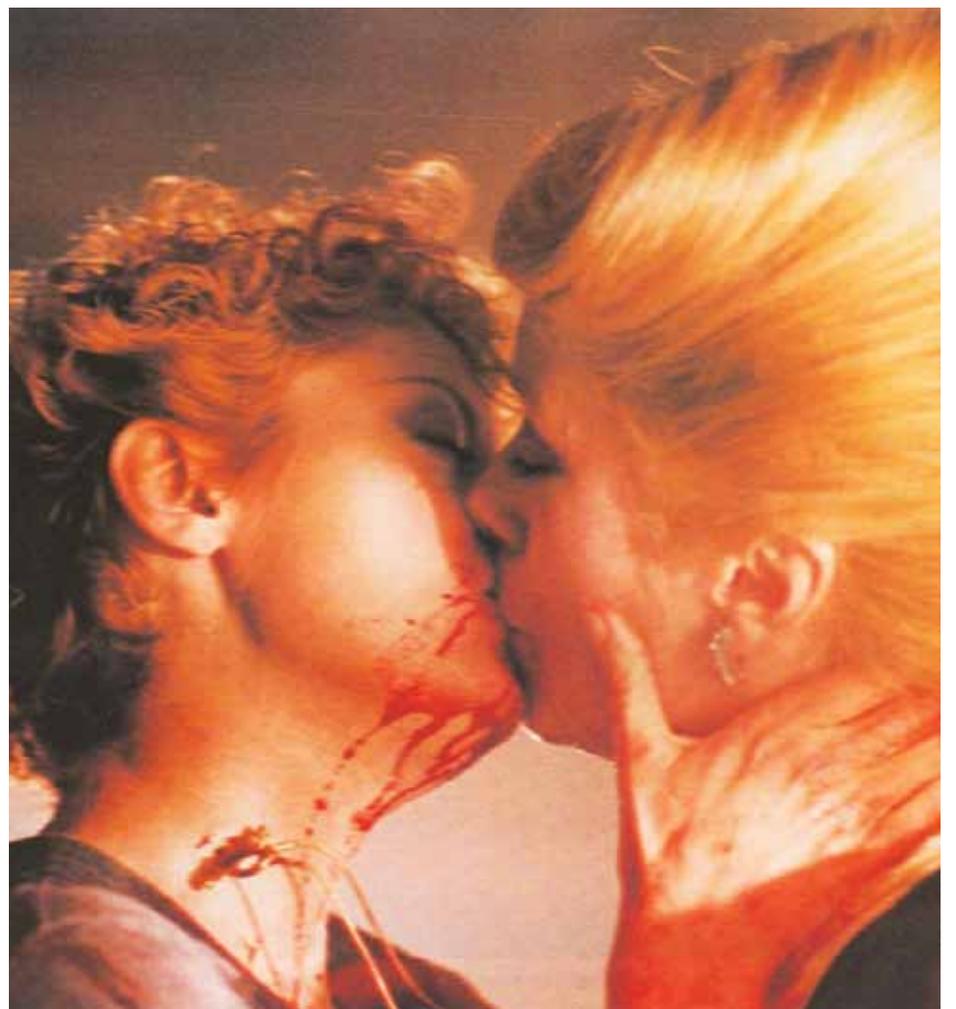
Day Afternoon, *Sunday Bloody Sunday*, *The Color Purple*, *Midnight Cowboy* and *Philadelphia*.

Some love goes the classic Hollywood route (myself included), breaking through the celluloid closet to find the queer content beneath. *Morocco*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Laura*, *All About Eve*, *Queen Christina*, *Rebel Without a Cause*, *Strangers on a Train*, *Rebecca*, *Tea and Sympathy*, *Rope*, and *Some Like It Hot* would all definitely qualify. Then there are the indie queer movies that every fan of LGBT cinema can cite: *Weekend*, *Pariah*, *Parting Glances*, *Desert Hearts*, *But I'm a Cheerleader!*, *Go Fish*, *The Living End*, *Shelter*, *My Own Private Idaho*, *The Boys in the Band*, *Big Eden*, the entire *Eating Out* series, *Poison*, *The Wedding Banquet*, *The Sum of Us*, *Blue Is the Warmest Color*, *Pride*, *Making Love* and *Beautiful Thing* come to mind. I'm not even listing the foreign films—of which there are, like, a zillion (European filmmakers being far ahead of their U.S. counterparts when it comes to gay movies).

When it comes to documentaries there are many more choices, with films devoted to everything from a wide cross-section of queer historical figures (*Harvey Milk*, *Divine*, *Bayard Rustin*, *Ruth Ellis*, *Vito Russo*, *Larry Kramer*, *Christine Jorgensen*, *Billy Strayhorn*, etc.) to examinations of our lives from seemingly every angle: *Word is Out*, *Before Stonewall*, *After Stonewall*, *Paris Is Burning*, *Queerborn & Perversion*, *Out & Proud*, *The Celluloid Closet*, *Tongues Untied*, *For the Bible Tells Me So*, *Chris & Don: A Love Story*, *Gay Sex in the 70s*, *Matthew Shepard is a Friend of Mine* and *Fish Out of Water*. Those are just for starters.

In fact, there are so many queer movies to watch for Pride to get that Glad I'm Gay feeling that one could spend the entire month of June, 24/7 bingeing and not get even close to seeing them all. Here are four additional titles worth adding to your queer movie calendar.

1. **Some of My Best Friends Are** (1971)—The gay community maxim "family is where you find it" is the underlying theme of this of-



Susan Sarandon (left) and Catherine Deneuve in *The Hunger*.

ten melodramatic but nevertheless fascinating glimpse into queer history.

A group of regulars gather at their favorite gay watering hole in Manhattan on Christmas Eve and, throughout the night—as carols are sung and a lot of booze and various stimulants ingested—emotions run the gamut. There are

stereotypical characters galore (the desperate waiter pining for his married lover, the self-loathing hustler, the innocent, a recent arrival from the sticks, the raucous fag hag, etc.) but, thanks to the expertise of many of the actors, the material has a certain emotional truth.

As noted, the real strength of the movie,

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United Methodist Congregations: WE DISSENT!

As United Methodist congregations at the forefront of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer inclusion within the greater Chicago area, we ABHOR and DISSENT from the continuing stance of exclusion as represented in the recent meeting of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church as held in Portland, Oregon.

As a part of the Reconciling Ministries Network, 750 congregations and communities and over 32,000 individual United Methodists across the country who are working to end the discriminatory policies and practices of The United Methodist Church, we continue to believe and affirm that LG-BTQ persons are beloved of God, blessed in the fullness of humankind and remain full members of our United Methodist Church.

As we lament the continued discriminatory policies of our global denomination, we also recommit to a position of active and prophetic resistance. As congregations rooted in the ageless protestant movement, we vow to continue the work of reforming the church. Our ministries and mission will not be defined nor confined by our denominational affiliation.

- Aldersgate UMC - Wheaton, IL
- Berry Memorial UMC - Chicago, IL
- Bethany Methodist Communities
- Bethany of Fox Valley UMC - Aurora, IL
- Broadway UMC - Chicago, IL
- Chicagoland Methodist Senior Services
- Christ UMC - Deerfield, IL
- Church of the Incarnation UMC - Arlington Heights, IL
- Church of the Three Crosses
- Edison Park UMC - Chicago, IL
- Epworth UMC - Chicago, IL
- Euclid Avenue UMC - Oak Park, IL
- Faith UMC - Dolton, IL
- Faith UMC - Genoa, IL
- First UMC - Arlington Heights, IL
- First UMC - Chicago Temple
- First UMC - Downers Grove, IL
- First UMC - Elmhurst, IL
- First UMC - Evanston, IL
- First UMC - La Grange, IL
- First UMC - Park Ridge, IL
- First UMC - Western Springs
- Glenview UMC - Glenview, IL
- Grace UMC - Chicago, IL (Logan Square)
- Grace UMC - Lake Bluff, IL
- Hazel Crest Community UMC - Hazel Crest
- Hemenway UMC - Evanston, IL
- Holy Covenant UMC - Chicago, IL
- Irving Park UMC - Chicago, IL
- Morgan Park UMC - Chicago, IL
- New Hope UMC - Chicago, IL
- Northbrook UMC - Northbrook, IL
- North Shore UMC - Glencoe
- Prince of Peace UMC - Elk Grove Village
- Ravenswood Fellowship - Chicago
- St. Andrew UMC - Carol Stream
- St. Andrew UMC - Homewood, IL
- Trinity UMC - Wilmette, IL
- United Campus Ministries - Dekalb, IL
- United Church of Rogers Park - Chicago, IL
- University Christian Ministry
- Urban Village Church - Chicago, IL
- Wesley UMC - Aurora, IL
- Wesley UMC - Cicero, IL
- Wesley UMC - Naperville, IL
- Winfield UMC - Winfield, IL
- Winthrop Harbor UMC
- GETS Sacred Worth
- UMSO at North Central College
- Community UMC - Naperville

written and directed by Mervyn Nelson, is its time-capsule look back into the early '70s. Rue McClanahan, trans actor Candy Darling, Fannie Flagg and even Gil Gerard (who later became TV's Buck Rogers) are part of the line-up. It's available VOD on Amazon.

2. **The Hunger** (1982)—David Bowie reportedly detested this cult horror flick about a stylish Manhattan couple (Bowie and the breath-taking Catherine Deneuve) who just happen to be vampires who pick up other unsuspecting couples to satisfy their bloodlust.

Their centuries-long partnership is coming to an end and, as Bowie withers, Deneuve isn't wasting any time in choosing a replacement: the luscious Susan Sarandon, a scientist whose specialty is sleep and longevity. The seduction scene between the two women is still one of the hottest screen couplings ever filmed. Although the movie, helmed by the late Tony Scott (Ridley's brother), falters as it approaches the finish line, it remains a visual and aural feast. (The soundtrack includes both "Bela Lugosi's Dead," by Bauhaus, and "Le Gibet," by Ravel.) And Bowie is terrific in it—whether he hated it or not.

3. **Maurice** (1987)—While seeing the breakthrough Merchant-Ivory success *A Room with a View* in 1986, I routinely replaced pouty Helena Bonham Carter with myself as sexy Julian Sands romanced her. Earlier in the movie he'd shared a very homoerotic swimming-hole scene that had full-frontal nudity (gasp!) with Rupert Graves, who plays Carter's brother.

Having Merchant and Ivory—gay lovers for much of their professional life—take on a gay subject (with Hugh Grant, no less) the following year in *Maurice* was cultured homo nirvana, and I saw the movie in the theater multiple times. I loved how Grant and James Wilby cuddled and barely kissed—it was so pristine and nice and cultured. When Wilby finally (finally!) gets it on with Graves (as the "underkeeper" Scudder on the big estate), it was like WASP meets rough trade. T

Although it was immediately apparent to me that the actors were straight—no gay men ever really kissed or touched that awkwardly in real life—this queer *Downton Abbey* (decades before *Downton Abbey* arrived on the scene) picked up the mantle from the queer-tinged miniseries *Brideshead Revisited*.

4. **Edward II** (1992)—English queer activist/filmmaker Derek Jarman updated Christopher Marlowe's play about the tragic life and brief reign of England's gay king during the 14th century into this searing and highly artistic film, filled with Jarman's signature homoerotic touches and visual flourish.

Steven Waddington plays Edward II, torn between his sense of duty and his love for the fetching Piers Gaveston (Andrew Tiernan). Their love is tested by the usual court intrigue, instigated by Edward's icy wife (Tilda Swinton, in her breakthrough role) and her supplicants.

Filled with modern touches that underline

Chicago Filmmakers offering scholarships

Chicago Filmmakers has launched The LGBTQ+ Youth Media Project, a new filmmaking workshop for LGBTQ+ identified, gender non-conforming and allied teens.

Three summer sessions will teach participants to use professional filmmaking equipment and editing software to create identity-focused work.

The LGBTQ+ Youth Media Project will instruct students ages 13-17 in the immersive art of digital filmmaking, as well challenging them to look critically at the media they consume every day.

Session two is July 25-Aug. 5, 3:30-6 p.m.; the deadline is Friday, July 15. Session three is Aug. 6-Sept. 24, 3:30-6:30 p.m.; the deadline is Monday, July 25.

Applications to the program are open and available at ChicagoFilmmakers.org.

Jarman's gay-activist leanings (including Annie Lennox appearing out of the blue, gorgeously crooning "Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye"), this remains Jarman's most accessible film. The movie will have a rare (and free) public screening as part of the Queer Film Society/Chicago Public Library series "Queer Kings & Queens" on Monday, June 27, at 6 p.m. at the Bezaian branch library, 1226 W. Ainslie St. <http://queerfilmsociety.org/pages/events.html>

Gay Palestinians

Director Jake Witzenfeld's documentary **Oriental** follows three Palestinian men living in Tel Aviv—a bit of a rarity made even more so by the fact that they're all gay.

The trio include Khader, the vibrant, irresistible nightclub denizen who lives with his Jewish boyfriend David (the serious one); Fadi, a devout Palestine nationalist who is falling for an Israeli soldier (and feeling extremely guilty about it); and the closeted Naim, who is terrified of coming out to his family. Witzenfeld tracked the group for a little more than a year as they formed what they described as a "non-violent, cultural resistance group called "Qambuta" (cauliflower) to advocate for sexual ethnic and gender equality."

The three struggle to embrace their queer identities while still trying to hang onto their roots. In one memorable scene, Khader and his boyfriend crouch in the hallway of their apartment building, trying to calm their dog, as airstrikes threaten overhead. On the heels of the tragedy in Orlando, it is comforting and eye-opening to see a film that presents a little-seen aspect of Palestinian culture that is much more accepting than the usual stereotype. The film is now available on VOD. <http://www.orientedfilm.com/>

'Candypants' film gets support from doc group

The International Documentary Association has chosen the film *Candypants: A Fairy Tale* as its "Doc of the Week." The film tells the story of longtime Chicago residents and life partners Lee Brady and David Sanderson, who invented edible underwear in 1975 and sold it under the name *Candypants*.

"The IDA decided to spotlight *Candypants* as part of its mission to support documentaries in progress," said director Francis Gasparini. "June is both Pride Month and National Candy Month, so the timing is perfect."

Gasparini first heard about *Candypants* in a radio story. "Right away I knew there was a movie there," he said. "Just mention edible underwear and everyone will say, 'Oh, that's hilarious.' But the heart and soul of the film is Lee and David's 50-year relationship, and the way it's unfolded against massive changes for gay civil rights."

Brady and Sanderson met in 1967, when Chicago gay bars were still subjected to frequent raids by the police. "You could be arrested just for putting your hand on a man's shoulder," recalled Sanderson. Five decades later, Brady and Sanderson were married in an impromptu courthouse wedding, with police officers as witnesses.

The film is also a celebration of the history of gay Chicago. "There have been some wonderful books, like *Queer Clout*, and the sweeping exhibition at the Chicago History Museum," Gasparini said. "But Chicago doesn't get the credit it deserves as a focal point in gay culture and history. I hope this film will help elevate it alongside San Francisco and New York."

A short portion of the film is available on the film's IDA web page: Documentary.org/film/candypants. Anyone interested in supporting completion of the film can make a tax-free donation through the web page as well.

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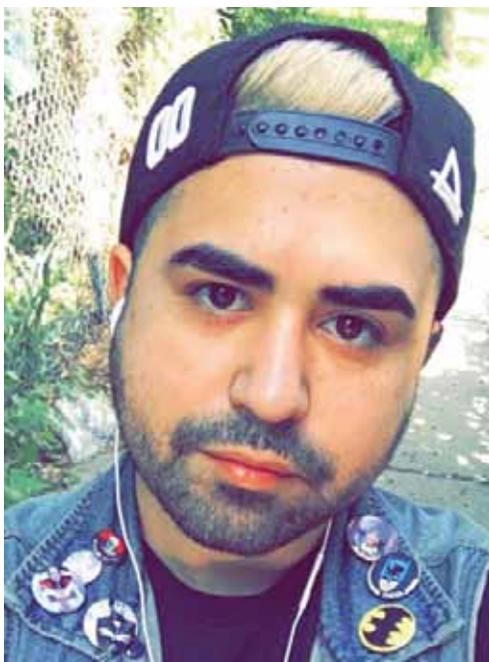
Windy City Times is proud to welcome these co-sponsors:



Eric Amaya

Eric Amaya is 23-year-old Libra who has been involved in community work since his years in high school. He was involved in an organization called GenderJust, in which he and his peers protested Ron Huberman to make schools safer for all LGBTQ students. Eric also got into spreading the message of safe sex and empowering his community. He now works at CALOR, a division of Anixter Center where he provides free HIV testing. Outside of work, he is involved in the Youth Advisory Board for both ALMA and the IMPACT Program under Northwestern.

DID YOU KNOW? Recently, Eric coordinated this year's 11th annual Queer Prom at the National Museum of Mexican Art and is also a cast member of YouTube series called Queer Code.



Kim Chi

Kim Chi is a seven-foot-tall, live-action anime character and high-fashion model. Born in the U.S., raised in South Korea, and currently based in Chicago, Kim is a cultural hybrid with a preternatural understanding of style and conceptual fashion. One cannot bind Kim Chi with any stylistic stereotypes. She deftly absorbs and interprets our contemporary cultural milieu with unflinching focus. An ever-evolving chameleon, Kim never fails to surprise and delight with her larger than life looks and her high standard of work.

Kim's drag career started in November 2012. Joined by a team of creative visionaries, she quickly blossomed into a fixture of the Chicago drag scene. Kim started working with party-production company Neverland in 2012, becoming the Chicago-based party's main host.

Kim's work encapsulates the transcendental nature of drag, as the seemingly simple act of a man putting on a dress is transformed into fine art.

DID YOU KNOW? Kim has been invited to perform in numerous locations across the United States, including NYC, Boston, Providence, Texas, Iowa, Salt Lake City, the Wisconsin cities of Milwaukee and Madison, and Hawaii.



Maxx Boykin

Maxx Boykin, 26, is the community organizer for AIDS Foundation of Chicago, new manager of the HIV Preventive Justice Alliance and organizing co-chair of the Chicago chapter of Black Youth Project 100 and is on the steering committee for the Collaboration on Health Equity for Cook County. His organizing includes direct action, civic engagement, conscience-raising and coalition-building.

Originally from the suburbs of Atlanta, Maxx, along with his two sisters, were raised by his parents who came from Alabama during the Civil Rights Movement. He has been an organizer for a wide range of issue-based political and union organizing. His first 2 years were in political organizing, starting in Savannah, Georgia, on local campaigns, later moving to Virginia to work on four winning campaigns, including gubernatorial and presidential races.

In Illinois, he has worked on the Fight for 15 campaign and the Get Covered America Campaign around health insurance before finding a home at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. He has always worked in primarily Black and marginalized communities and loves working with his people in order to make sure they are uplifted and liberated.

DID YOU KNOW? Maxx loves rugby—so much so that he's played with and against guys on the U.S. national team.

Greg Cox

Greg Cox, 26, is originally from Germantown, Wisconsin, but has been living in Chicago for the past four years. He moved to the city for graduate school at Loyola University Chicago and obtained his masters degree in social work. His training has ultimately led him to become a therapist, with specific focuses on the intersections of LGBTQ populations and addiction.

He currently works for New Hope Recovery Center, located in the Lake View neighborhood, and the Chapman Center, located in Evanston. As part of the New Hope with Pride program, Greg is always busy providing safe spaces for LGBTQ clients to share their stories and find connections. This takes place in facilitating intensive outpatient groups, individual therapy, family seminars, couples sessions and weekly support groups. He can also be found presenting at local conferences advocating for the LGBTQ community, such as the Chicago Round-Up, the Loyola Q-Summit and the Equality Illinois Conference. When he's not hard at work, Greg enjoys family time, playing tennis, watching football and painting.

DID YOU KNOW? Greg's favorite artist, Stevie Nicks, sent him an autograph in the mail.



Aisha N. Davis, Esq.

Aisha N. Davis, Esq. was born in Washington, D.C., and raised in Maryland. After attending Washington & Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, she went on to Columbia Law School and the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies for her JD and LLM, respectively.

As an avid student of intersectionality, Aisha has worked on civil-rights issues throughout her legal career, including work with Amnesty International, the Human Rights Foundation, Columbia Law School's Center for Intersectionality and Social Policy Studies, and the African American Policy Forum. Since her move to Chicago, Aisha has continued this mission through her fellowship with Lambda Legal as well as work with Affinity Community Services and the Pride Action Tank.

DID YOU KNOW? Aisha is proud to count herself in many sci-fi/fantasy/comic fandoms. It's Marvel > DC and Star Trek > Star Wars.

Benjamin Di'Costa

Benjamin Di'Costa, 25, is a new resident of Chicago, relocating here from the epicenter of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Miami, Florida, where, for many years, Benjamin has demonstrated great passion, professionalism, and commitment to many organizations and causes that support the youth movement in HIV/AIDS. Benjamin has organized several campus and community events to educate peers about sexual and reproductive health and rights issues, such as HIV/AIDS, sexual violence sexuality and healthy relationships. In an effort to educate and empower his peers, Benjamin has written published articles and remained a social-media figure on health equity and the impact of health disparities among young people. He has represented Chicago at conference and youth forums hosted by many prestigious national and international organizations.

He recently was awarded the prestigious 2016 Honor41 award, highlighting him as top leader in the LGBT Latin@ community, and was included as one of "15 HIV Advocates to Watch in 2015".

DID YOU KNOW? Benjamin is a self-taught musician playing the piano and guitar by ear from the age of 17.



Parks Dunlap

Parks Dunlap (pronouns: she/her & they/them) is a Southern lesbian and power Libra who is dedicated to the messy process of advocating for queer wellness. After graduating from Smith College, Parks moved to Chicago to be with her best friends and continue her career in public health.

They currently work at the Center on Halsted as the advocacy coordinator. In under a year, she built and implemented the Center's first medical-advocacy program, prioritizing youth and HIV-positive individuals. Parks is contributing to research through DePaul University studying marijuana use in HIV-positive youth who are experiencing homelessness. Describing herself as a "professional sidekick," Parks aims to use her privilege and access to resources to help others.

She has volunteered in queer and women's archives, libraries, and museums for the last six years. In Chicago, she volunteers at the Leather Archives & Museum as an archival assistant and researcher. They headed the updates to the trans history exhibit, and is currently restoring her great grandfather's WWII bomber jacket.

She comes to the field with a strong background in violence prevention and women's health. Some recognizable names on her resume include Planned Parenthood, The Center for Sex and Culture, Sex Workers Outreach Project, Rape Victim Advocates, and Hamilton Family Center.

Parks hopes to begin her Ph.D. in public health in 2017, and to be a stay at home dad/mom someday.

DID YOU KNOW? Parks is a mixed-media artist, and spends her weekends baking bread, caring for plants, and reading on her porch.



Brittany Ellenberg

Brittany Ellenberg grew up in La Porte, Texas. She transformed her experience with small-town prejudice into a passion for social equality for the LGBTQ community. Brittany attended the University of Texas at Dallas, graduating summa cum laude with a degree in political science. She created the university's first Diversity Council, a forum for improving diversity and inclusion on campus. Brittany also served as political liaison for PRIDE. After founding the University's College Democrats chapter, Brittany was appointed vice chair of the LGBT Caucus for the national organization, College Democrats of America.

While completing her B.A., Brittany travelled to developing countries, conducting international human-rights research and providing aid to indigenous, refugee and LGBT populations in Costa Rica, Peru, Jamaica and Thailand. In 2013, Brittany received the Archer Fellowship to work for the U.S. Department of State, where she served on the LGBT task force, confronting situations of LGBT discrimination in the Middle East and North Africa.

Brittany is currently a student at the University of Chicago Law School, where she was the events coordinator for OutLaw and on the Executive Board of the Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago. Jenner & Block named her the 2014 Grant Folland Scholar for her commitment to LGBT civil rights. She is also a Point Scholar as part of the nation's largest LGBTQ scholarship program.

DID YOU KNOW? Brittany can be regularly found scoping out the best coffee shops in Chicago—all on her bright red, vintage Schwinn bicycle that she loves spending time fixing up on the weekends.



Alfredo Flores

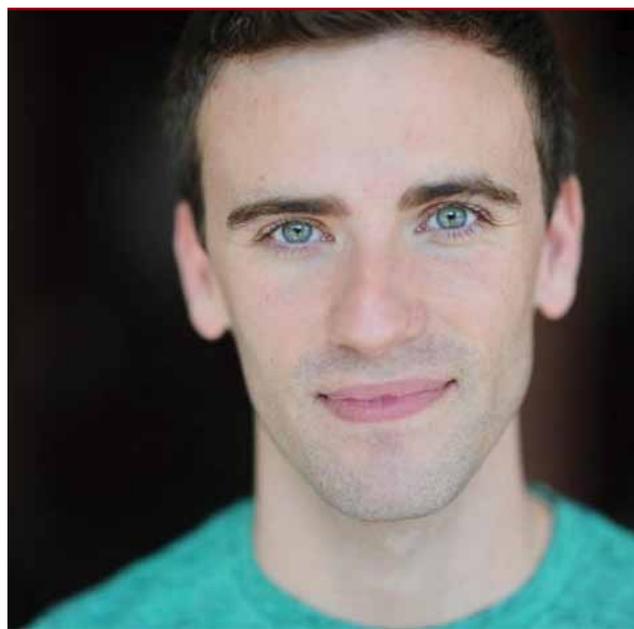
Alfredo Flores is a proud 21-year-old queer Mexican-American who was born and raised in the La Villita neighborhood of Chicago. Alfredo attends Harold Washington College and is pursuing a career in public health.

During his years at Curie Metropolitan High School, Alfredo volunteered at a local community organization called Project VIDA. He became a core group member of the program called Committed Responsible United (CRU). CRU was an empowerment program that guided his passion for HIV prevention. During that time, he also acted in the About Face production of What's the T?, a play that explored queer youth space and trans-identity in Chicago.

In 2014, Alfredo became certified to provide HIV testing and counseling at CALOR. Through the same agency, Alfredo also became the empowerment facilitator the CALOR program called Advocating for Community Empowerment (A.C.E). Early in 2015, Alfredo was selected for The Association of Latinos/as Motivating Action (ALMA) Creating Change Scholarship; that scholarship offered an opportunity to attend the Creating Change Conference in February 2015.

Currently, Alfredo continues to provide HIV testing and hosts monthly safe-sex discussions. Alfredo is also a member of the Chicago Area HIV Integrated Services Council (CAHISC). Not only is Alfredo's work in the Chicago area, but he is also featured in Act Against AIDS' national campaign "Doing It," which encourages youth to get tested. He is featured all around the United States and currently has a billboard in New York's Times Square.

DID YOU KNOW? Alfredo created a YouTube Web series called QueerCode that featured some of Chicago's queer folks addressing topics that affect the LGBT community. Alfredo is currently working on the return of QueerCode this fall.



Andrew Fortman

Andrew Fortman, 30, hails from the Buckeye State and finds himself in Chicago via The Big Apple and beautiful Virginia. He attended The Ohio State University and the University of Virginia, earning bachelor's and master's degrees in theater, and has performed as a professional actor in several productions. He currently resides with his husband in Andersonville, where they can be found on most nights walking around with an iced coffee in hand.

Andrew was first hired at Center on Halsted as the cultural programs manager and has since stepped into the role of director of community and cultural programs. In that role, he supports a successful GED prep and testing program and an array of community-led affinity groups and curates events that address the wide array of identities within the LGBTQ communities. Most recently, he has created two new monthly programs at the Center: The Limelight Series (which highlights LGBTQ performance artists throughout Chicagoland) and Center on Halsted Chats (an evening of conversation with local LGBTQ leaders about pressing topics).

DID YOU KNOW? Andrew is an enormous (ENORMOUS!) sports fan but doesn't care much for the NBA or NFL. (Sorry, Bulls and Bears fans!)

Liz Franco

Liz Franco, 29, went to high school in Madison, Wisconsin, before starting college. As a freshman in college, Liz started volunteering at health centers that performed abortions, which showed them that health care can be a form of activism. Liz continued to work with abortion care after graduating from nursing school in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and, eventually, Chicago. In the fall of 2012, Liz started at Howard Brown Health, realizing their dream of working with trans and gender non-conforming people, something that was nonexistent in their experience in Oklahoma, and that would have made a huge difference in their life as a young queer person. While at Howard Brown, Liz has worked primarily at the Broadway Youth Center (BYC) and focused on providing low barrier medical services like HIV/STI treatment, PrEP, hormones and birth control to LGBTQ youth and youth experiencing housing instability.

Liz strives to provide services that are trauma-informed and based in harm-reduction principals. Liz is going back to school this fall and plans to continue to provide community healthcare with a focus on increasing services to TGNC people as a nurse practitioner.

DID YOU KNOW? Liz was a long-distance swimmer in high school and college.



Yanina Guevara

Born and raised on the North Side of Chicago, Yanina Guevara, 26, is a queer, gender non-conforming, brown social-justice advocate. She graduated from DePaul University as a Posse Scholar and received a bachelor's in anthropology. Through the support of friends and her community, she came out as queer toward the beginning of her senior year, even though she grew up in an evangelical Christian home.

She is a member of Salud sin Papeles, an undocumented-led collective that organizes to improve health and access to healthcare for undocumented immigrants, their families and their communities.

She currently works as the research study coordinator for the Cancer Survivorship Institute at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine where she is working on developing a mobile application that provides comprehensive follow-up care to cancer survivors. She plans to apply to medical school where she wants to work with uninsured, undocumented and LGBTQ communities to help them gain access to health care.

DID YOU KNOW? Yanina taught herself to play 5 different musical instruments and loves to sing. One day she hopes to create an independent album.



Kate Harrington-Rosen

Kate Harrington-Rosen (she/her), 27, moved to Chicago in February 2015. She manages the TransWorks Employment Program at Chicago House, where she is honored to put her allyship into practice every day serving alongside trans and gender non-conforming communities across the city. Kate grew up outside of Boston, and bounced around to Montreal, Quebec, and Portland, Oregon, before landing in Chicago last year. Kate is the co-creator of The Not Sorry Project, a community-driven art project that seeks to dismantle the idea that any of us need to apologize for who or how we are.

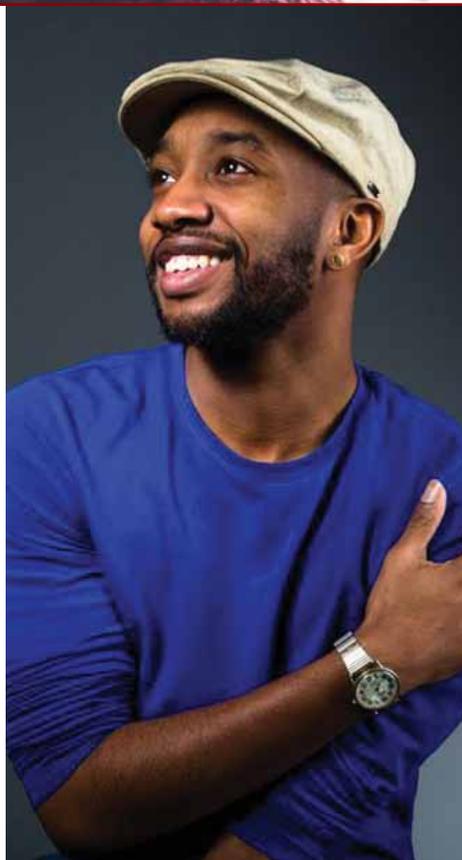
DID YOU KNOW? Kate planted a garden on her back porch this year, and gets a ridiculous amount of joy from eating basil that she grew herself.



Luther Hughes

Luther Hughes, born in Seattle, Washington, received his bachelor of arts in poetry from Columbia College Chicago. While at Columbia, Luther, 25, founded Shade, a literary blog for queer writers of color. Shade's mission to educate members standing in solidarity and against the queer community through various literary forms; through exposure, teaching others that literary works by queer people of color are just as fundamental as the works of white heterosexual men. This past semester, Luther was the first openly queer Black student body president at Columbia, sitting on different campus-wide committees such as Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; the Sexual Assault Awareness Education Committee; and the New Student Registration and Orientation Committee, voicing the serious concerns of students across campus. In addition, he is the associate poetry editor for The Offing Magazine, an online literary journal focused on giving back the power to marginalized voices. Luther will continue his education in the master's writing program at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, this fall, enhancing his craft, drive and education.

DID YOU KNOW? Luther is obsessed with cookies. If you have cookies around him, it is only right that you give him some.



Forrest Marie Peters Linsell

Forrest Marie Peters Linsell, 23, was born in Chicagoland, and grew-up in Morton Grove, Illinois. A year ago, Forrest Marie graduated from Knox College, and recently joined the staff at Center on Halsted, providing reception, administrative and youth staff support as needed to empower her colleagues to fully serve our communities. She was first recognized with the Ivy Lynn Chaplik Humanitarian Award in 2011 for organizing and leading 200 of her high school peers in a peaceful protest to celebrate diversity in the face of Westboro Baptist Church members who picketed her school. Forrest Marie is a lifelong Unitarian Universalist, a faith tradition that actively affirms all LGBTQIA people, and has been a youth worship coordinator at youth retreats for junior high, high school, and young adult interfaith communities in Chicagoland and throughout the nation.

During college, Forrest Marie came out as a transgender woman, and was an integral leader of an intersectional student political coalition that engaged in direct action. She also completed facilitator training in InterGroup Dialogue conflict transformation, a ground-breaking method of collaborative growth and change-making that she uses in her communities on a regular basis. Most recently, she was a member of a coalition that demonstrated against the men's rights activists gathering in Rogers Park, and proudly marched in the 2015 Chicago Gay Pride Parade.

DID YOU KNOW? Forrest Marie's favorite animal is the milipede. She has a spiritual connection with these many-legged friends!



Ali Hoefnagel



Ali Hoefnagel (Pronouns: They/Them/Theirs), 30, is a performer, arts administrator and teaching artist based in Chicago. As an artist and educator, they embrace the complexity of the queer identity to create new and engaging ways to explore LGBTQIA life within Chicago communities. Ali serves as the education and outreach director at About Face Theatre Company, where they directed *Checking Boxes* and *15 Breaths*, and is currently directing the world premiere of *Ad Hoc [Home]* for About Face Youth Theatre.

Ali was a Chicago Artist Month-featured artist in 2014 and has been a teaching artist with Stepwolf For Young Adults program for several years. They are a regular performer at Pride Films & Play's LezFest series and their weird solo work has been seen in several places around Chicago. In addition, Ali is a member of The Pride Youth Theatre Alliance, a cohort of activists representing Queer Youth Theater programs from across the United States and Canada. They have taught theater-activism classes and workshops with numerous organizations and universities in Illinois, including Illinois State University, Columbia College, University of Illinois at Chicago and Lake Forest College, where they hold a B.A in theater and women's & gender studies.

DID YOU KNOW? You should talk to Ali about the band Sleater-Kinney; they sport a Sleater-Kinney tattoo and traveled to five different states to see them play live eight times in the last year.

Kara Ingelhart

Kara Ingelhart was born and raised in Indiana. While attending Indiana University, she was part of a research team at The Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender and Sexuality and worked as a local Community Educator. After graduating with a degree in gender studies and biology, she moved to Chicago in 2012 to attend the University of Chicago Law School.

Despite the law school's conservative reputation, Kara was able to find a supportive network of queer and allied classmates through Outlaw and crafted her class curriculum to prepare her for a career in LGBTQ advocacy. She also used her Outlaw residency as a platform to educate her classmates on a range of LGBTQ issues from the blood ban to trans-rights issues. Through a certificate program, the Graduate Program in Health Administration and Policy, she advocated for open military service for transgender service people with the Center for Interdisciplinary Inquiry and Innovation in Sexual and Reproductive Health at University of Chicago Medicine and traveled to Nepal to research police inflicted violence upon the transgender population in Kathmandu.

During law school, Kara was a legal intern at Lambda Legal and she is grateful to be back there through her Skadden Fellowship, serving some of the most vulnerable members of our community—LGBTQ youth with juvenile and criminal records—by addressing the collateral effects of those records. Kara is proud to be a part of an organization working to make her home state a safer and more accepting place for young LGBTQ Hoosiers.

DID YOU KNOW? Kara's favorite place in the world is New Delhi, India—the chaos is soothing.



Elijah McKinnon

Elijah McKinnon, 24, was born in Oakland, California, and raised all over the San Francisco Bay area. Following their graduation from The Art Institute of San Francisco, Elijah traded in their comfortable life in California for a creative nomadic lifestyle. After living and being inspired by cities including Portland, Brooklyn and Montreal, a freshly 'fed up with consulting on projects in the commercial industry' Elijah, relocated to Chicago in January 2015.

It was Elijah's commitment to working exclusively with nonprofits and grassroots initiatives that led to their acceptance of a position at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) in March 2015. In this role, they helped develop the digital communications coordinator position, a completely new role for the agency. During their employment at AFC, they spearheaded the creation of Chicago's PrEP4Love campaign, which brought Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) riders' attention to same-gender-loving couples "spreading tingle" with each other. As a gender-non-conforming Black queer person, Elijah has deeply enriched the sharing of different perspectives on gay sex, online dating apps and HIV through their "What to say // what not to say" series for AFC's blog.

Elijah also recently directed and produced *Two Queens* in a Kitchen, Open TV -Beta's turn-to-relevance cooking series premiering this summer that examines the Black queer experience through food, lifestyle and personal anecdotes. They are constantly moving and shaking in an attempt to build meaningful relationships and encourage resource sharing. In addition to their professional credits, Elijah currently holds a seat on the board of I Paint My Mind, volunteers at Creative Mornings Chicago, hosts and curates Canvas Primer, is a member of BYP100 Chicago and serves as the head of marketing and design for Open TV-Beta.

DID YOU KNOW? Elijah recently attended the African American LGBTQ Summit on Education at the White House and the Young Black Gay Leadership Initiative.



Meredith Montgomery

Meredith Montgomery, 27, is the co-founder of {she crew}, a feminist arts-empowerment non-profit organization for middle-school girls in Chicago. The program combines cooking, writing and performing to instill higher confidence, independence and a secure sense of self to girls from all over Chicago at perhaps the most awkward, self-critical and formative part of their young lives. The program's journaling-to-performance method was created by Meredith while an undergrad at St. Edward's University, to which her school awarded her a prestigious Brown Scholarship, as well as turned her method into a freshman required course. {she crew} is an equal access program, with free tuition, transit cards and free meals, and is, of course, lesbian-, bi- and trans-inclusive. The program incorporates issues of gender and intersectional oppression along with universal issues of this age group, like body image, shyness, and the creation of positive female relationships.

Meredith Montgomery runs {she crew} with her fiancée, Jessica, and the two have valued the support given to them and their organization by the LGBTQ community.

DID YOU KNOW? In addition to {she crew}, Meredith is a very talented cook and visual artist. Also, she discovered a T. rex fossil when she was 7 while trying to find a place to pee in the desert. #bathroompolitics #letmypeoplepee



Darlene Nava Muñoz, aka Mika Muñoz

Darlene Nava Muñoz, aka Mika Muñoz, is a 29-year-old Xicana from Chicago who's a sex-positive burlesque dancer by night and a union welder by day. Graduating in 2009 from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a major in gender and women's studies and a double minor in Latin American and Latino studies and African-American studies. A retired Chicago Dyke March organizer, co-founder of Ella's Daughter's, co-founder of Brown and Proud Press, co-founder of Brown People for Black Power, and co-founder of Color Queer Kinksters, her activism ranges from writing and creating zines to amplifying and centering the experiences of queer people of color, conducting workshops in Spanish to combat anti-Black racism within non-Black Latinx communities and participating in direct actions to protest police brutality.

In her most recent work, she was the on the national planning committee and was a volunteer coordinator of the successful 20th annual three-day National Women in Building Trades conference, the largest convergence of tradeswomen in North America.

Mika loves nature; traveling; her family (chosen and biological) and her life companion, Zapata the Chihuahua. She also enjoys doing hard femme things like helping other femmes change their oil or tires on their cars, and wants to build a solar power generator very soon.

DID YOU KNOW? Mika lived in Sao Paulo, Brazil for eight months and speaks conversational Portuguese.



Joe Olszewski

Joe Olszewski, 29, was raised in central New York and is proud to call Chicago home. After attending Syracuse University, Joe joined Teach For America, where he taught fifth grade in Baltimore, Maryland. During his time in the classroom, he began to understand the unique perspective and influence an LGBTQ educator brings to the classroom.

Upon completing his masters at Johns Hopkins University, Joe worked in various roles in education and moved to Chicago in 2013. Since then, Joe has worked with LGBTQA teachers in providing spaces that help to build community and address the many challenges that LGBTQ teachers face in the classroom. Additionally, Joe helped to design programming that provides teachers of all backgrounds clear strategies of how to set up safe classrooms in their schools. Joe is continuing to work with both educators and students to expand LGBTQ issues, in the hope that both teachers and students can feel safe and accepted in our public education system.

DID YOU KNOW? Joe's an avid Syracuse basketball fan—"Go Orange!"

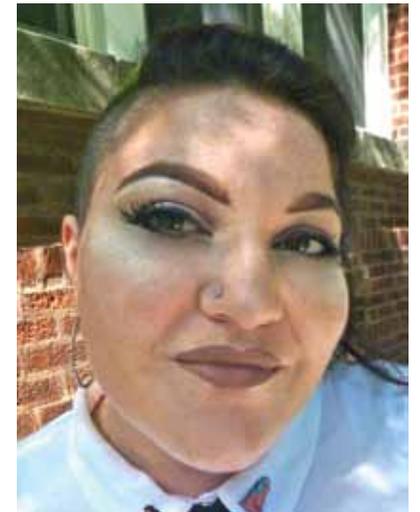
Maria Pahl

Maria Pahl grew up in Midland, Michigan, before attending the University of Michigan for her BA. She came to Chicago in 2010 to attend DePaul College of Law, where she subsequently served as the Vice President of OUTLaws (the LGBT law student organization) and the editor-in-chief of the DePaul Journal of Women, Gender & the Law, the only academic legal journal in Illinois dedicated to issues surrounding gender in the law. As a senior law student, she was a clerk for the public defender's office at the felony trial level. Maria graduated cum laude from DePaul College of Law in 2013 and spent her first year of practice at the Law Offices of Barry Schultz specializing in representing disabled plaintiffs who had been wrongfully denied Social Security benefits. She has also served as a volunteer attorney with the Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois since 2013.

In January 2015, Maria became the legal director and staff attorney of the TransLife Center Chicago House. In her position, Maria aids members of the trans and gender non-conforming community in updating their identity documents (gender and name change), accessing public benefits, becoming involved in misdemeanor criminal defense, sealing criminal records and addressing discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations.

Maria also does policy and advocacy work surrounding transgender legal issues and provides continuing legal education (CLE) trainings for Illinois attorneys and judges on the ways the legal system marginalizes and traumatizes trans and gender non-conforming individuals. Maria hopes to expand the TransLegal program to provide more desperately needed pro bono legal services for trans and gender non-conforming clients.

DID YOU KNOW? Maria is a karaoke diva and was crowned Windy City Gay Idol in 2013.



Christopher Pazdernik

Christopher Pazdernik, 29, an HIV+ director/choreographer, was born and raised in northeastern Wisconsin. During high school and college, he began both his AIDS advocacy volunteering for the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin and his theatrical career directing and choreographing for summer stock theaters. Since moving to Chicago in 2008, he has worked with companies such as Bailiwick Repertory, Bailiwick Chicago, Hell in a Handbag, Davenport's, Stage 773, Chicago Commercial Collective and Porchlight Music Theatre, where he is a proud artistic associate, and more than five years in administration at Chicago Shakespeare. His work has garnered both Jeff Award and Broadway World Award nominations and New City Stage credited him with "a near-encyclopedic knowledge of musicals."

In response to his HIV-positive diagnosis, he founded Chris' Birthday Belt Fest, an annual benefit concert for Howard Brown Health. For multiple years, he has also been a team captain for the AIDS Run/Walk Chicago, and this year serves on the Ambassador Committee through the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. Currently, his artistic work can be seen as director/choreographer of Make Me a Song with Eclectic, performing at the Athanaeum through July 10, and he encourages everyone to sign up for this year's AIDS Run/Walk at www.AIDSrunwalk.org!

DID YOU KNOW? Christopher drinks iced coffee year round—even in the coldest Chicago winters!



Photo by Assaf Evron



Tess Raser

Tess Raser, 26, an abolitionist originally from Chicago, attended Brandeis University, and then spent three years living in New York, where she completed her masters in education, taught kindergarten and organized against anti-blackness alongside families who had lost members to police violence. In 2015, Tess returned home to Chicago to teach fifth-grade reading. She jumped right into organizing with Assata's Daughters, an intergenerational collective of Blk womyn and girls.

Tess heads the curriculum team in Assata's, helping to create a program structure and curriculum that seeks to give young people political education and empowerment needed in movement building. Tess, a leader in the final push of the ByeAnita campaign, also participates and leads direct actions throughout the city. In all of her work, she hopes to inspire and prepare young people to lead and organize because she believes that young Black people are the vanguards of change and revolution.

DID YOU KNOW? Tess speaks almost fluent Italian and has spent a lot of time living and traveling in Sicily. She loves Sicilian food and, if you ask nicely, she'd probably cook some for you.



Keisa Reynolds

Keisa Reynolds, 24, grew up in Richmond, California, and moved to Chicago in 2011 to hang out with their friends from Livejournal and study at Columbia College, where they earned their BA in cultural studies and a minor in education. They are a queer Black feminist, writer and storyteller whose work can be found Hooligan Mag, Richmond Pulse and In These Times. They host Wednesday Whine Club, a monthly reading series for women and gender non-conforming people who love writing, whining, and drinking wine.

Currently, Keisa works in the Women's Leadership and Resource Center at UIC and volunteers with Bay Area Women Against Rape. They are a former organizer with We Charge Genocide and volunteered with Rape Victim Advocates as well as other non-profit organizations in Chicago and San Francisco Bay Area. A certified rape-crisis counselor and prevention educator, Keisa also facilitates conversations and organizes around transformative justice and community accountability for those harmed by interpersonal violence.

DID YOU KNOW? They hosted a Buffy the Vampire Slayer, prom-themed party for their 21st birthday. Of course, they were dressed as Buffy (though they have mad love for Kendra Young).



Nathan Stevens

Nathan Stevens, 29, is a pure Midwestern gentleman who grew up all over Michigan and Ohio and has been calling Chicago his home for nearly a decade. Nathan graduated magna cum laude with his bachelor's degree in media arts from Columbia College Chicago. It was there that Nathan won first place in the 2009 Written Image Awards for his feature script The Lonely Parts.

Since graduation, Nathan truly found his career calling in the non-profit sector. Previously, Nathan has held roles at the Columbia Summer Arts Camp, a unique camp program for ages 6-15 that allows campers to explore the visual, performing and media arts. He also spent 16 months at Center on Halsted, where he provided C-level executive support and was the organization's board liaison. Nathan's proudest accomplishment at the Center was the integrated key role he played in the implementation and launch of the Town Hall Apartments, one of the nation's largest affordable housing facilities dedicated to the LGBTQ senior citizens of Chicago.

Currently, Nathan can be found 40+ hours a week at 10,000 Small Businesses, a program dedicated to growing the small business and non-profit economy in Chicagoland. When he's not at work, Nathan's enjoying his time playing beach volleyball, watching Bob's Burgers, and traveling all over the country with his admirable and inspiring partner, whom he loves very much.

DID YOU KNOW? Nathan used to skip football practice to watch Guiding Light with his mother.

Nelson Rodriguez

Nelson Rodriguez (he/him/his), 30, is a Chicago-based actor and writer of Puerto Rican descent. As an actor, his credits include Steppenwolf Theatre Company, 16th Street Theatre, Chicago Dramatists, Adventure Stage Chicago (where he is an associate artist) and many others. He is an artistic associate of Pride Films and Plays, where he appeared in The Boys Upstairs, Some Men (for which he received a 2015 BroadwayWorld Chicago nomination for Best Actor) and Men on the Verge of a His-Panic Breakdown, for which he received a 2016 Joseph Jefferson Award nomination for Solo Performance. On camera, he has appeared in the Chicago-based LGBTQ+ webseries Easy Abby, Kissing Walls and Dudes, and has a principal role in the upcoming SAG feature film En Algun Lugar.

As a playwright, he is a member of The Alliance of Latino Theatre Artists' playwrights circle: El Semillero. His play Snapshots received a public reading at Victory Gardens in spring 2015 and will be featured this summer at Chicago Cultural Center as part of Spartan Workshop. Nelson holds an MFA in acting from The University of Southern Mississippi and a BA in theater from Brenau University, which is near his hometown in northeast Georgia.

DID YOU KNOW? Nelson has three obsessions—vegan eats, Jake Gyllenhaal and his cat, Ralphie.



Joey Wasserman

In a city known for fabulous restaurants and a passion for social justice, it's no wonder why Joey Wasserman, 29, decided to relocate to Chicago to manage one of the city's largest campaigns, raising awareness and support for those impacted by HIV/AIDS with Dining Out for Life (DOFL). Annually, Dining Out for Life brings out more than 9,000 supporters to over 80 restaurants for good food, fabulous drinks and a good cause.

As a political fundraiser, activist and community organizer, Joey has dedicated his career to engaging and empowering the public. While managing DOFL Chicago during 2013-15, Joey also volunteered in the SAGECenter at the Center on Halsted on Saturday afternoons, serving lunch and spending time with our LGBT older pioneers. Since then, Joey has taken a position with SAGE National, Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders, orchestrating community engagement events in Chicago and across the country in support of LGBT older Americans.

DID YOU KNOW? A native of Philadelphia, Joey's family's restaurant was one of the first to participate in Dining Out for Life.



Arianna Salgado

Arianna Salgado, 24, is an undocumented and queer woman who was born in Morelos, Mexico. She crossed the Mexico/ U.S. border at the age of 6, landed in Chicago and later relocated to the west suburbs. She began organizing in high school with the West Suburban Action Project Nuestra Voz, and the Immigrant Youth Justice League—undocumented-led organizations that sought to create safe spaces for undocumented people and resources for higher education.

Arianna currently works with Organized Communities Against Deportations, a grassroots organization that fights against the detention and deportation of undocumented people. She has helped organized several direct actions including the recent Defund Police, Dismantle ICE action that called for an end to all raids and the defunding of the police. She recently joined People's Response Team and is excited to continue to build on ways in which as community folk can respond to, document, and investigate fatal police shootings.

She currently works as a paralegal at the West Suburban Action Project and is super-excited to be back at the organization that helped politicized her and introduced her to the magic of people power.

DID YOU KNOW? Arianna was part of her high school's robotics team, called the Monty Pythons.



Liz Weck

Liz Weck, 30 was born and raised in the Rogers Park neighborhood on Chicago's North Side. She is a social worker, advocate and educator, who's work focuses on various facets of LGBTQ Health including street-based youth, survivors of violence, HIV care, and Trans* health, specifically in regards to barriers faced in accessing comprehensive, non-judgmental health care.

Recently, Liz was named the director of social services at Howard Brown Health, where she previously held the title of program manager for Ryan White Part C and D. Currently, she oversees case management, linkage-to-care, and retention programming across all four of Howard Brown's locations, including the recently opened clinic on 63rd Street in Englewood. She has trained locally and nationally on issues related to LGBTQ identity including, harm reduction, sex positivity, and trans* competence in medical settings.

Liz also volunteers with The Center on Halsted's Friendly Visitor Program, which provides companionship to isolated LGBTQ adults, and, on occasion, you can find her behind the bar at Big Chicks, the uptown bar she has worked on and off for the past 10 years. Prior to Howard Brown, Liz was the LGBTQ outreach coordinator for the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, where she received her master's in social work.

DID YOU KNOW? In her spare time Liz loves making crafts. In addition, she recently completed a series of baby onesies depicting famous lesbians throughout history.

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MUSIC

Demi Lovato, Nick Jonas are 'Cool for the Summer'

BY JERRY NUNN

Singers Demi Lovato and Nick Jonas are hitting the road together for the Honda Civic Tour: Future Now, with a Chicago stop planned.

Lovato's newest album, *Confident*, has spawned hit singles like "Confident," "Cool for the Summer" and "Stone Cold."

Jonas just released a new record called *Last Year Was Complicated* that he's ready to play on the tour.

The two decided to cancel the tour dates at Raleigh and Charlotte in protest of the HB2 law as part of their mission to create an atmosphere where every attendee feels equal. At the Billboard Music Awards, Lovato stood up for transgender rights by wearing a shirt with a gender-neutral restroom sign on it.

Windy City Times took part in a press conference that featured Lovato and Jonas.

Question: Hi, Demi and Nick. So excited to see you will be performing in Chicago.

Demi Lovato: Cool.

Nick Jonas: Glad to come to Chicago. Can't wait!

Question: I would like to get the LGBT community to come out to the concert. You have both been so supportive of us over the years. Where did that come from?

DL: Well, I think, first of all, for me, my connection with the LGBT community is that I've always kind of been kind of like an outsider.

When I lived in Texas, I never fit in and I didn't agree with a lot of the opinions down in the South. When I got out to California, I just

saw a whole new world and I thought, "I have no idea why this isn't like the rest of the United States and the rest of the world."

So, I'm just standing up for what's right and that's my connection with it.

Question: Since you have toured in the past, why did you decide to do it again this time?

NJ: I think Demi and I both sort of looked up about nine to 10 months ago and said how amazing both of our individual careers have kind of taken shape in a whole new way and with our ability to become business partners as well.

So the opportunity just felt perfect and once the creative conversations started, I think Demi and I were both on the same page in a lot of ways which made the whole conversation a lot easier.

DL: We chose now because our careers have really taken off over the past couple of years. Since we were younger we made that transition into the kind of teen world and to the mainstream world and now that we've both been able to do that.

We also started our own record label together, Safehouse Records, because we became business partners, we thought it would make the most sense as, not only label owners but label-mates. We're best friends as well so we thought it made perfect sense to go on the road together.

Question: Was it hard to break out of the Disney mold?

NJ: It was challenging at the beginning, for



Nick Jonas and Demi Lovato.

me at least, and still is, to a certain degree, I think, far less now than in the initial launch of my solo career. I think that there was an association with people's first introduction to me as opposed to them taking the music and my image for what it is now, in its current representation. So it took some time.

I see every challenge as an opportunity to pivot and find something—a new way of showing people what you're all about and giving them some more depth. There are moments, I think, we both pushed each other as well. Demi [pushed] me to get more vulnerable in my music with this next record and [encouraged] me to really open up about some things that happened in my life that I think will help people get even more connected to me. Those moments among friends and creative relationships are so important because I think they really shape not only your next steps but the way the world sees you as well, which is key in making a transition from a youthful career to what hopefully is a long lasting adult tour.

DL: For me, the transition was a little bit easier because I didn't have to do anything to break out of the Disney mold. I wanted to prove to people that I wasn't just a stereotypical Hollywood starlet that goes to rehab and falls back into the trap of the things that got her there. I wanted to make sure that the music that I made was great and that I was passionate about the music that I put out. I sang my heart out and wanted to continue the message of using my platform for more things than just singing about heartbreak. That's what music is for, is getting you through times, but also using it to inspire people.

Question: Are you doing big productions and separate sets or together?

NJ: The creative for the tour has really kind of locked in the last couple of weeks which has been really exciting for both of us. I think the focus is less on big gags and production elements because, you know, for Demi and I both, now, that has less importance. But it's about building content that is unique and speaks to what we've gone through in our lives and isn't just straight down the middle, also that makes you think and challenges people's thinking. Then, musically, just really elevating ourselves and making sure all the arrangements are dialed in and are exactly the way we see it and imagine it.

Then, the front of the show as well, I think, it's going to make it a really special night so instead of just doing separate sets, we're not doing that, we're going to make it a night of music. However long the first set and then it kind of seamlessly goes into Demi's and then mine, together, moments where feeling really personal and connected to the audience and more broad sort of big scope moments to create a real dynamic in the show.

Question: Demi, your latest album is very personal. Can you talk about your day to day life these days?

DL: My days now consist of doing things that are going to better myself. Right now, I'm actually at the gym and just took a break from my workout to do this interview.

Basically, I have a great environment. My life right now consists of gym, AA meetings and the studio, so that's pretty much my life, and I love it.

Question: Do you have any thoughts on Hillary running for president?

DL: I couldn't be more excited, especially as a woman. I couldn't be more excited but, also as a Hillary supporter, I'm just ecstatic and I've been supporting her since day one.

Question: With you not performing in North Carolina, do you feel artists have a responsibility to make political statements in the face of injustice?

NJ: I think that we can't speak for every artist out there. I think that Demi and I felt it to be really important and it's a tough call to make. We obviously feel disappointment ourselves knowing that our fans that were looking forward to the show were disappointed but there are these moments when something is as important to you as this issue was and is, where you kind of have to make a strong stand and hope that your fans unify with you.

But it is just an overall disappointing situation and hopefully there are artists that are always willing to make bold choices to stand for what they believe in.

Question: Demi, after making a big statement with your T-shirt at the Billboard Music Awards, how does it feel to use celebrity to further the idea of acceptance for all?

DL: I feel like, for me, I want to use my voice to make a difference in the world. There's so much more to my voice than just singing and I learned that at a young age. I had a moment where I just thought, you know I want to do so much more than just sing. I grew up with people that were judged for being gay, and I never understood it.

Obviously, "Cool for the Summer" has an undertone message to it so you can see how I'm passionate about that as well. But I think that anything that you do, I think you need to do it to the max—and if you can make a difference, for instance, with the Billboard Awards, I knew that this was an issue that we had been dealing with, with the cancellation of the shows, I wanted to make an impact and I wanted to make a statement that said, "Hey, listen, I hear you. I'm really sorry to the fans that are going to miss the show but this is an important issue to me and I want to speak out and I want to use my music to do it."

I think it's important for artists to remember that they can use their platform for the better.

Question: Nick, did you see newspaper article with Lin Manuel Miranda of Hamilton where he was objecting to ticket brokers using robotic software to gobble up tickets? What are your thoughts about outlawing this?

NJ: I did see that. First of all, I think Lin's amazing and just a creative mastermind. I've seen Hamilton and was really blown away, as a musical-theater fan and just as a fan of great work but I think that, again, it kind of goes back to the point about North Carolina and the cancellations of the shows there.

I think that any time you are given a platform and whatever you say can effect positive change, then there is a certain responsibility to speak up and I have a lot of respect for him for pushing for legislative change and going ahead with that. It's probably a long road and one that will take a lot of people speaking up, but as an artist, as a creator, you want to give the most people the opportunity to see the work and to be involved in what really is a cultural phenomenon, especially for someone like Len who's leaving the show pretty soon, so good for him, and I hope that there is a change made.

Look for Lovato and Jonas at the Allstate Arena, 6920 Mannheim Rd., on Tuesday, Aug. 2. Visit CivicTourHonda.com for details.

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Children's museum celebrating diversity

Navy Pier's Chicago Children's Museum, for two months, is offering programs honoring the diversity of what constitutes family.

Throughout May and June, events include:
 —LGBTQ Resources, Thursday, June 23, 5-7:30 p.m.: Resource tables for information relevant to gender expansive children and the LGBTQ parenting community, including family-friendly book suggestions and teacher resources;

—Rainbow Staircase, through June 30, during museum hours: Transform the three-story staircase into a giant rainbow by adding colorful ribbons on each visit;

—What Makes a Family? Chalk Wall, through June 30, during museum hours: Share ideas about what makes a family on the 20-foot-long community chalkboard; and

—Collect a Color, Thursday, June 23, 6:30-7:30 p.m.: Answer questions about color and, in the process, collect colored beads to make a rainbow bracelet or keychain.

See <http://www.chicagochildrensmuseum.org/index.php/about/accessibility-inclusion>.



Right: Adding ribbons to three-story staircase that visitors build in May and June.
 Photo by Jon Resh

Navy Pier Pride: Wedding, NAMES Quilt, Milly's, Lakeside Pride

Navy Pier is hosting Navy Pier PRIDE 2016. This family-friendly event features entertainment and events throughout the Pier Saturday, June 25. As part of the celebration, and for the first time in 28 years, Navy Pier will display Chicago-centric sections of the internationally renowned The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt.

All events for Navy Pier PRIDE 2016 are free and open to the public.

The schedule includes:

Noon: There will be About Face Theatre's *It's For Real*, a collection of stories that connects issues around race, class, sexuality, age, gender, self-esteem and family. It's based on the true experiences of the performers in the show.



Angelica Ross will lead a mass wedding at Navy Pier.
 Photo by Matt Simonette

1 p.m.: A kickoff parade, led by the Lakeside Pride Marching Band.

1:30 p.m.: Performances of the legendary Milly's Orchid Show, featuring Brigid Murphy as "Milly" and with an entire cast of such celebrities as Yuri Lane ("The Harmonica Beat-box Man") and introducing rising gay icon, his 8-year old daughter, Delilah Rose, along with Alexa Grae, Robert Cornelius (former member of the group Poi Dog Pondering), House-O-Matic and many others will be featured.

5 p.m.: "Chicago's Biggest Wedding," officiated by Angelica Ross (a leading figure in the movement for transgender and racial equality, and star of the series *Her Story*).

7 p.m.: For outdoor dancing, with the Chicago skyline as a backdrop, join house music superstar and Grammy Award-nominated producer, DJ Ralphi Rosario, in the Miller Lite Beer Garden at Navy Pier.

10:15 p.m.: Special Pride-themed fireworks

Brookfield Zoo's PRIDE Day June 24

On Friday, June 24, the Chicago Zoological Society's Brookfield Zoo will be displaying rainbow flags to celebrate diversity and inclusion of all as well as joining Chicago's PRIDE celebration with its second annual PRIDE Day at the zoo.

Families will be able to connect with wildlife and nature by enjoying the zoo's many exhibits and attractions, such as Hamill Family Wild Encounters, Butterflies!, Great Bear Wilderness and its summer-long Festival of Flight free bird show. Throughout the day guests can have up-close experiences with some of Brookfield Zoo's animal ambassadors, including a variety of birds and reptiles.

This event is hosted by the Society's Arcoiris group.

For further information, visit www.CZS.org/events.

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BOOKS

Psychologist writes about 'gender creative' children

BY LIZ BAUDLER

Psychologist Diane Ehrensaft can point to many inspirations for her work with gender creative children. Born in the 1940s, Ehrensaft was a tomboy who chafed at rigid gender roles and remembered feeling "schizophrenic" about aspects of her identity in high school. As a college psychology major, she discovered the woman's movement. Much of her early research was on gender equity: did preschool teachers treat boys and girls the same? Could dads raise children as well as mothers?

Her interest in gender changed and deepened when she became a parent.

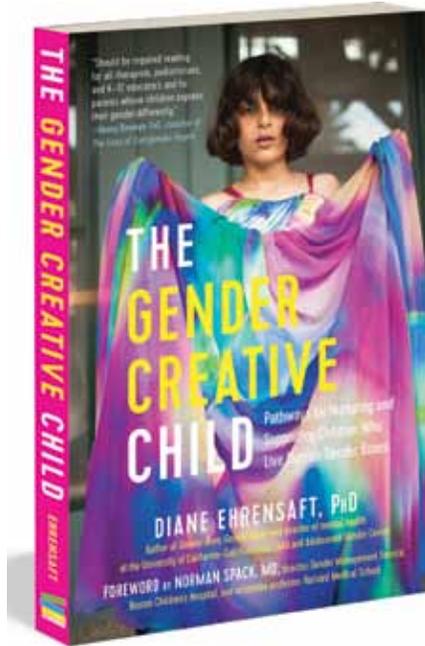
"I had a little boy who loved tutus, so it was like trial by fire," said Ehrensaft, now the author of many books on gender, including 2016's *The Gender Creative Child*. "My experience as parent made me very dedicated to both learning more and being an advocate for kids who go against the gender grain. And I've been do-

ing it ever since."

Ehrensaft sees her field exploding as of late. "I'm turning 70 and it feels like a woman's work is never done," she said. "I'm learning from the little kids, because they're the ones who are going to be the revolutionaries here. They're going to carry that torch. They already are."

From a child Ehrensaft met who wanted to be called "rainbow kid" to the others who describe themselves as "boy-girls" and even "Priuses" and "Teslas," Ehrensaft is astounded at the overall creativity of gender-creative children. "I've never met a group of kids who are just so expansive about life," she said. "When they stop being expansive is when people tell them, 'you can't be who you are', and then they close down. And what I'm very happy to see is when you remove those pressures, then they blossom."

The concept of trans and genderqueer are understandable for even the youngest of kids, even if the language isn't standard yet, but Eh-



rensaft sees that changing. "Because it's in the culture now, kids are picking up the language at a really early age," she noted.

This movement towards accepts delights Ehrensaft. "I think that all children should be exposed at a very young age to every kind

of diversity," she told Windy City Times. "And they're not exposed enough to gender diversity. We are better about having racial diversity, all kinds of people can build families, gay people, straight people, people in between, and I think we have to be thinking about people all come in all kinds of genders."

She said there are lots of different ways to achieve that goal, whether children see books about gender-creative kids or simply see acceptance of gender identities and differences around them. Ehrensaft has recommended that parents, teachers and community members listen to child when they express thoughts about their gender identity.

"It's not for us to tell, but for the children to say who they are around their gender. If we impose our dreams on them rather than listen to theirs, we will collapse gender health," she said.

Ehrensaft also pointed out that mirroring, or how we react to others in social situations, can be both helpful and harmful when it comes to gender. "We need to think about our mirroring in terms of promoting acceptance for all kids, for people of all genders," she said. "If you give back a distorted mirror or a blank, like they can't find themselves at all, that is what I call at least a microaggression. At its worst it can be a trauma. If you flip that, the most positive thing we can do for gender-creative people of all ages is make sure you mirror back who they know themselves to be, rather than who you want them to be."

While there has been a shift around acceptance of gender identity, there has been a notable backlash, with anti-trans laws popping up around the country.

"It's instilled in the culture that you have to be able to locate somebody around their gender, you have to be able to do it early, and anything else makes us anxious. Due to the feminist movement, due to the LGBT movement, due to civil rights before that in the '50s, we've cracked that open," Ehrensaft explained. "Gender is no longer bedrock, it's moving boulders. And when you have moving boulders, people can get really anxious trying to traverse them. So they retreat. And they call on their religion, their belief systems and they get stuck there. But I will say that I have seen so many parents move beyond that, when they discover their own child is one of those people."

Ehrensaft finds the high rate of homeless among LGBTQ youth and attempted suicide among trans individuals often makes parents rethink their lack of acceptance. "Either they're going to let love win out, or they can let their principles smother that and reject the child," she said. "When you try to stop people from being who they are, that's when they become suicidal. And if you teach them pride, and give them acceptance, then they can really avoid many of those risk factors."

Beyond individuals, she sees gender acceptance fomenting good for the world. "Remember, children are taught to hate. It's not innate," Ehrensaft pointed out. "The more you promote gender creativity, you have a whole group of kids and adults who breathe easier, a much healthier, stronger group of people who will eventually feel more confident, empowered and determined to demand rights. And, you'll let other kids and adults go, 'oh, what about me? Let's open it up for me too.'"

"I feel that gender exploration is a positive thing for everyone to do," Ehrensaft concluded. "It makes, I think, for a much more exciting terrain of development. In my own value, flexibility is much better than rigidity, and gender creativity creates flexibility in our thinking, feeling, and our actions, and creates a more socially just world. And I think socially unjust worlds, whatever your politics, come from a collapse of creativity, and a retreat to rigidity."

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VITO

JULY 11

In partnership with the Queer Film Society, we present a screening of the award-winning documentary *Vito* about iconic LGBT activist Vito Russo – co-founder of both Act-UP and GLAAD – whose bronze memorial will be joining the Legacy Walk this fall. There will be a reception at Kit Kat Lounge and Supper Club following the screening.

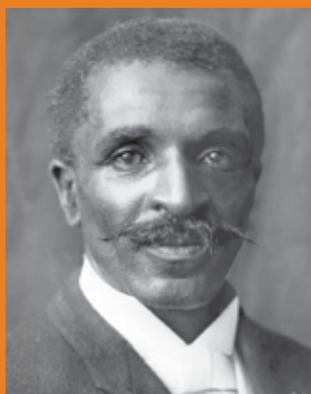


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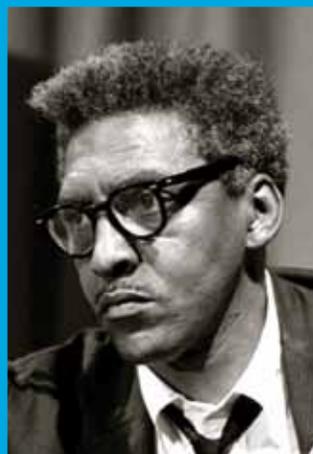


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AUGUST 24

In partnership with Affinity Community Services, this commemoration of the 29th Anniversary of the passing of gay African American Civil Rights icon Bayard Rustin will begin with a brief ceremony at the Rustin Memorial on the Legacy Walk at 3314 N. Halsted. The ceremony will be followed by a screening of the award-winning documentary *Brother Outsider* at the Center on Halsted.



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In partnership with the Queer Film Society, we celebrate the 98th birthday of acclaimed Maestro Leonard Bernstein, whose bronze memorial joined the Legacy Walk last October, with a "Movie in the Park" screening of *West Side Story*



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Plenty of sports events slated for Pride Weekend

BY ROSS FORMAN

Chicago will be the epicenter of LGBT sports over Pride Weekend in late June as literally hundreds of out sporting types—including players, media members, coaches, trainers, officials and executives—will be taking part.

First, the annual Proud To Run continues its legacy, which dates back to 1982. Proud to Run is an annual 10K run & 5K run/walk on June 25 along the lakefront, focused on celebrating pride in and raising funds to support the greater Chicago area LGBT community. Last year, the event had a record turnout of more than 1,700 registrants. Overall, more than 2,200 people participated in last year's event by running, walking, volunteering and sponsoring.

Then there's the flag-football event Pride Bowl IX, run by the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA), which will take place June 24-25 at the renovated Montrose Lakeside Fields. The tournament will have three divisions this year: A, B, and Women's (for the first time). All teams are guaranteed five games and participating teams include the Chicago Freeze (A), Chicago Blaze and Chicago B2s (B), along with the Chicago Renegades and Chicago Diesel Daisies (women).

And the Chicago Force could be playing in a playoff game June 25—and possibly at home at Lane Stadium on the campus of Lane Tech High School.

Runners and (foot)ballers will be joined and/or supported by participants in the inaugural Outsports Reunion, held in Chicago.

Outsports.com co-founder Cyd Zeigler said

he and co-founder Jim Buzinski have seen the power of community amongst LGBT athletes and coaches, the support structure that has built up around the stories that have appeared on the popular gay sports website. "We know that by holding an event like this, where these athletes, coaches and others in sports can get to know each other, that they will in turn inspire even more people to come out in sports and be their true selves," Zeigler said.

About 100 people are expected at the reunion—from high school athletes to pro sports personnel.

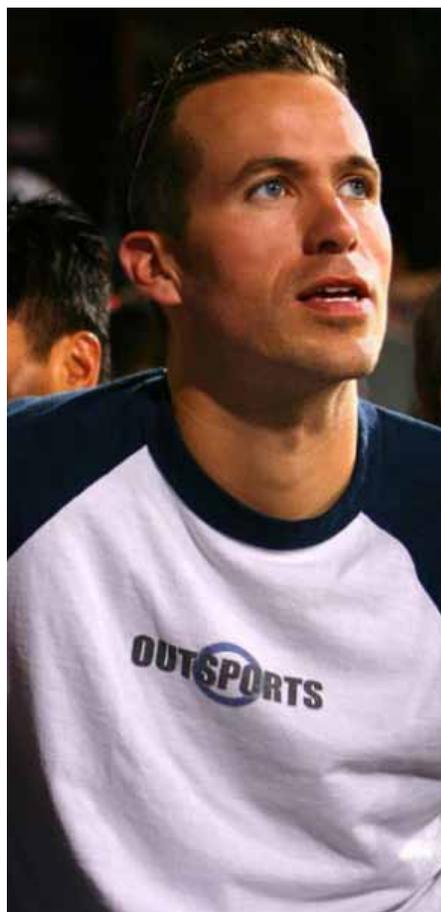
The focus is to bring together people active in organized sports and empower them, Zeigler said.

There will be everything from out high school athletes to front-office executives from pro teams, with participants ranging in age from teenagers to some in their 60s, and "we've got people from every race, gender and gender identity," Zeigler said.

The reunion goals are simple: Have fun, make new friends and spend time with old friends, Zeigler said. So, there won't be lectures, big speeches, or activists pushing their agenda.

"This [reunion] is about the LGBT people in sports and providing them a support structure of empowerment," Zeigler said. "We are really focusing the weekend on story-telling, both in large groups and one-on-one [settings]. We know that people telling their stories is how to connect with other people. So whether it's public-facing events or our private events, story-telling will be a major focus."

Why Chicago?



Cyd Zeigler.

Photo courtesy of Zeigler

"The last few years Nike has hosted a similar event in Portland, Oregon, [and] that isn't being held this year. It's difficult and expensive for a lot of people to get to Portland, so we wanted to have something that was central and cheaper," Zeigler said. "Chicago was the perfect spot for that reason, and also because we have

some great supporters in the city. For a lot of these people, it will be their first Pride event, so that's why we timed it when we did."

Zeigler also will be holding a book-signing Thursday, June 23, at Unabridged Bookstore, starting at 7 p.m., followed by a social gathering at Crew Bar.

On Saturday, June 25, a sports event is being held at the Center on Halsted that will feature various attendees telling parts of their stories to an audience, with a reception afterward. Tickets are free, but are limited. (For tickets, go to <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/new-events-details.cfm?ID=12207>.)

Reunion participants also will be marching in the parade with Nike's BeTrue campaign.

"Our past events like this have focused on bringing together our readers," Zeigler said. "We wanted to focus this event on the flip side—the subjects of our stories—because of the incredible need these people, mostly in their teens, 20s and early 30s, have to build community and meet people like them. They have felt so isolated for so long. This event will help that."

About 25 of the reunion participants are from Illinois.

In addition to Zeigler and Buzinski, local organizers include Bill Gubrud, Eric Lueshen, Andrew Fortman and Eric Wilkerson.

"I just want to have fun and get to know some of these incredibly inspiring people better," Zeigler said. "So many events like this revolve around panel discussions and 'training' people on how to do the work of the movement. But we know that people just getting to know one another and building lasting memories is the most powerful take-away."

Cyd Zeigler will bring his new book, Fair Play: How LGBT Athletes Are Claiming Their Rightful Place in Sports, to Unabridged Bookstore, 3251 N. Broadway, on Thursday, June 23, 7-8 p.m. See UnabridgedBookstore.com.

WNBA player reflects on Orlando

NBA's New York Liberty guard and Orlando native Shavonte Zellous, on The Players Tribune website, reflected on the mass shooting that took place at the LGBT nightclub Pulse in Orlando, Florida, on June 12.

Among other things, Zellous discussed the importance of gay clubs to the LGBTQ community; her sister, who lost several friends that night; and the fateful phone call that kept her away.

Talking about LGBT nightspots, she wrote, "Gay clubs are more than places where people dance and drink. They are sanctuaries. They are communities. Gay clubs are where many go to find themselves or be themselves or commune with others like themselves, away from the judgment of the world outside."

Regarding being part of the LGBT community, Zellous wrote, "When you're gay or trans or queer, you carry the hate of others with you every day. It comes in many forms: insults, discrimination, ignorance, violence. I would imagine this wasn't the first time the victims of Pulse had felt terrorized just for being themselves."

The full posting is at ThePlayersTribune.com/6-14-16-shavonte-zellous-pulse-i-am-orlando/.

Proud to Run marks 35th anniversary

Proud to Run (PTR) is marking its 35th anniversary with its annual run. The run—with 5K and 10K races—will take place Saturday, June 25, at 8:04 a.m. at Montrose Harbor.

During its 35 years, PTR has donated more than \$400,000 to Chicago-area nonprofits that serve the LGBTQ community. Its 2016 beneficiaries are About Face Theatre Company, TransTech Social Enterprises and Center on Halsted.

See ProudToRun.org.

Links Taproom hosting Orlando fundraiser June 26

Links Taproom, a craft beer and sausage-focused neighborhood bar located at 1559 N Milwaukee Ave., will honor the victims and all those affected by the Pulse nightclub tragedy with a fundraiser for LGBTQ+ charities in Chicago and Orlando on Sunday, June 26—which is Pride Day.

For the event, 100 percent of all craft beer, liquor, wine and food sales at Links from open to close (11:30 a.m.-2 a.m.) on Sunday, June 26, will be donated to the Chicago House and Social Service Agency (<http://www.chicagohouse.org>) and the GLBT Community Center of Central Florida (<http://www.thecenterorlando.org>).

Links owner/beer director Mike Quinlan, a member of LGBTQ+ community, will personally match the total amount of money raised at Links that day.

Quinlan's Facebook post in response to the Pulse tragedy on behalf of Links here is at <https://www.facebook.com/linkstaproom/posts/535204593329449>.

Links is also working with craft breweries such as Bell's, Revolution, Goose Island, Transient, Anchor and many others to aid in the fundraising efforts via on-site raffles and silent auctions of rare beer memorabilia on Sunday, June 26. All proceeds from the raffles and auctions will benefit to the same LGBTQ+ charities. Those unable to attend the event and still want to contribute to the cause can donate via PayPal at fuhate@linkstaproom.com.

See Linkstaproom.com.



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Literary magazine lets LGBT teens see themselves in print

BY BILL HEALY

The summer before high school, Amanda Civitello visited her local library, and found a book about two young girls falling in love with each other. Reading *Annie On My Mind* felt like “seeing sunlight after days of gray,” Civitello said. As far as she knew, this was the only book in the world that featured gay characters.

Civitello is 29 years old now, and is a graduate of Northwestern University. She is the marketing/communications manager at the Waukegan Public Library. However, she said, there are still only a handful of LGBT characters in books for young people. “When queer characters do turn up, they tend to be sidekicks, stereotyped, idealized or demonized,” she said.

So Civitello and her fiancée decided to do something about it.

They created *Iris*, a free online literary magazine for LGBT teenagers and their allies. The magazine is named after the Greek goddess

of the rainbow and features fiction, poetry and artwork with queer themes. They’ve dealt with coming out, bullying and gender identity, among other issues. In their first three issues, they’ve published authors and illustrators from New Zealand, India, France, England and Canada as well as the United States.

When Civitello and Bennett started the magazine in 2014, they were looking only for established gay and lesbian authors who could write for teenagers. After the first issue came out, though, they started getting submissions from people as young as 12 years old who wanted to write for *Iris*.

Camilo Bacca, 19, was the first high school student to be published in the magazine. It was a poem he wrote called “8 Honest Thoughts On Loving A Gay Boy.”

“Young people writing for other young people feels personal,” Bacca said. “You can relate.”

Bacca is in college now, but looking back on his work, he said, “With queer love, there



Iris magazine co-founders Amanda Civitello and Rebecca Bennett.
Photo by Bill Healy



Identity by Amber Francis, from the first issue of Iris.

Images courtesy of Bill Healy

are all these things you have to deal with that people don’t see. I wrote that poem to try to heal myself.”

The magazine’s editors forbid submissions that feature explicit depictions of sex, drug use or violence. They want *Iris* to be used in classrooms and libraries, which is why they insist that all the material be PG-13. “If you take a look at what’s available for queer kids in today’s literary market,” Civitello said, “it’s sadly skewed towards the sensational. We aim to counter that.”

In addition to work from young people, *Iris* also features professional writers, like 72-year-old Rob Jacques, a poet who lives on a small island in the Puget Sound, just west of Seattle. “When I grew up decades ago, there was nothing out there to help gay and lesbian youth,” Jacques said. “We were totally isolated. The only thing we ever came across was horror stories in the press. Something like *Iris*, that you can get online, that’s optimistic and positive, sends a message to kids to hang in there.”

Rebecca Bennett, 26, the magazine’s co-founder and Civitello’s fiancée, lives in rural England. She had some negative experiences growing up with people who didn’t understand her sexuality. “I was surrounded by a lot of homophobia,” she said. *Iris* tries to counter negativity by publishing stories that affirm young gay people. “If I’d been able to read that at the time and see that there was someone else in the same situation as me,” Bennett said, “I would have felt less shame and I would have felt less alone.”

Bennett said she sees herself in some of the



Marylou Mao’s illustrations for *The Untold Adventures of Princess Charisma: Goblin Hunting* by Islay Bell-Webb (above) and *The Tattoo Tree* by Tyler Oshiro (below), both from the second issue of *Iris*.



young people who write submissions. So, too, does French Artist Marylou Mao, who creates illustrations for *Iris*.

“I’ve been extremely impressed by how diverse, rich and touching those stories are,” Mao said. Because the magazine features many young authors, Mao wasn’t sure what to expect in terms of the writing. “More than once a text surprised me by its honesty and resonance inside me.”

Bennett and Civitello, the co-founders, said that working on *Iris* has taught them many valuable lessons. “If nothing else,” Civitello said, “*Iris* has brought home how difficult it is for young people to come out now. I think there’s a tendency for older people to say, ‘It’s got to be so much easier for you guys. There are all these celebrities who are out. It’s practically cool.’ And the reality is that it’s not. It’s heartbreakingly difficult for these kids.”

“We weren’t expecting the submissions we get that talk about bullying to the point of suicide,” Civitello adds. “But on a more positive note, we also weren’t expecting how self-aware these kids are. And they are very engaged with political issues.”

Iris’ first three issues can be downloaded at CreatingIris.org.

Excerpt from

8 Honest Thoughts on Loving A Gay Boy

BY CAMILO BACCA

First Published: *Iris*, Issue 2: Histories

6. You told me you loved me when we sat in your room watching the sunset over the horizon. That morning, you rescued a baby robin that fell from its nest after you heard it calling for its parents; together we set blankets on the bottom of an old birdcage and fed it birdseeds from the palms of our hands. We left the door open so it could leave when it was ready to fly. The next morning, it was gone, but come the next spring I found him making a nest outside my window.

7. On those nights he cannot sleep, we lay together on our bed pretending the ceiling is our sky. I clutch his hand in mine, and our hands do not feel like cages. We stay awake watching the constellations move across our heavens. We pretend that the streetlamp is the moon and that every comet streaking across the black is an opportunity. After nights of restless slumber, he finally falls asleep on my chest once the sun comes up.

8. On his seventeenth birthday, he came out to his parents when they found my love letters hidden in a shoebox in his closet. Before he could blow out the candles on his cake, they kicked him out into the dark in front of the masses. Their words broke the illusion and their insults stopped the performance; made you into a freak show. He walked to my house under the pitch black sky that had no stars and no moon that night. I saw him from my window crouched under the streetlamp; body curled into a ball. His head in his hands. He ran into my arms and cried for hours on my chest. Each stuttered breath he exhaled was heavy with rejection. I wiped away each tear; silver comets on his perfect face. I kissed him, hard, on the lips, and told him that we were ugly ducklings that fell from our nests. I said that he had a broken wing from beating against wire bars, but that he would learn to fly someday. That sometimes, it hurts to be different. Sometimes it’s easier to pretend it does not hurt.

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Chicago Gay Men's Chorus' June 18 performance.
Photo courtesy of Steve Maxey

CONCERT REVIEW

CGMC, Allegrezza conduct moving tribute to Orlando

BY JOE FRANCO

"Music has the power to heal. I truly believe that," said Joy Douglas Strome, pastor of Lakeview Presbyterian Church. On June 18, the church hosted two powerful choruses here in Chicago.

Allegrezza and the Chicago Gay Men's Cho-

rus (CGMC) sang as a memorial and in tribute for the victims, their families and all those touched by the tragedy in Orlando. Despite performing in our world post-Orlando, their voices and their music was the healing balm that many of us needed right now.

One couldn't help thinking, "Those are our boys. Those are our girls." And they sang. Al-

legrezza sang a moving selection of Disney film and stage standards that left those listening deeply comforted and moved. Although there were more than a dozen Disney songs in the repertoire, there were several standouts. "God Help the Outcasts" from *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* was eerily relevant. They closed their set with a goosebump-inducing "Circle of

Life." Soloist Bri Nicoletti sang the way I wish I could right now.

The CGMC continued that streak with renditions of '90s and contemporary music that, frankly, even left me amazed. One might not think of "What's Up," by 4 Non-Blondes, as a choral song but they did and it was perfect. Is there a gay man or woman out in 1993 who does not remember this song? CGMC ended its set with "Uptown Funk." I'm not sure James Morehead, the artistic director for the group, could have been any more fun to watch while he directed the chorus.

In the midst of Pride Fest, these two LGBT choruses came together in a space usually relegated to worship. Perhaps that is exactly what the night was all about—praise and worship of authenticity. Stephen Edwards, the artistic director of Allegrezza and Morehead showed, in one place, what can happen when we work together. When voices and work and souls combine, it can be paradise. The groups closed the evening by joining their voices and the voices of everyone present singing "Let There Be Peace on Earth," a song inspired by the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi. It is a song about becoming love in the middle of a weary world.

Music—our music—may not be the solution to the problems of violence, hatred, bigotry and homophobia that we have to confront, but they are the great structure that we cling to in order to rebuild after a fire. Support for groups like Allegrezza and CGMC now more than ever will define our future. Will we rise up with together their music or continue to stumble alone? I'd like to think the former.



Allegrezza singer.
Photo courtesy of Steve Maxey

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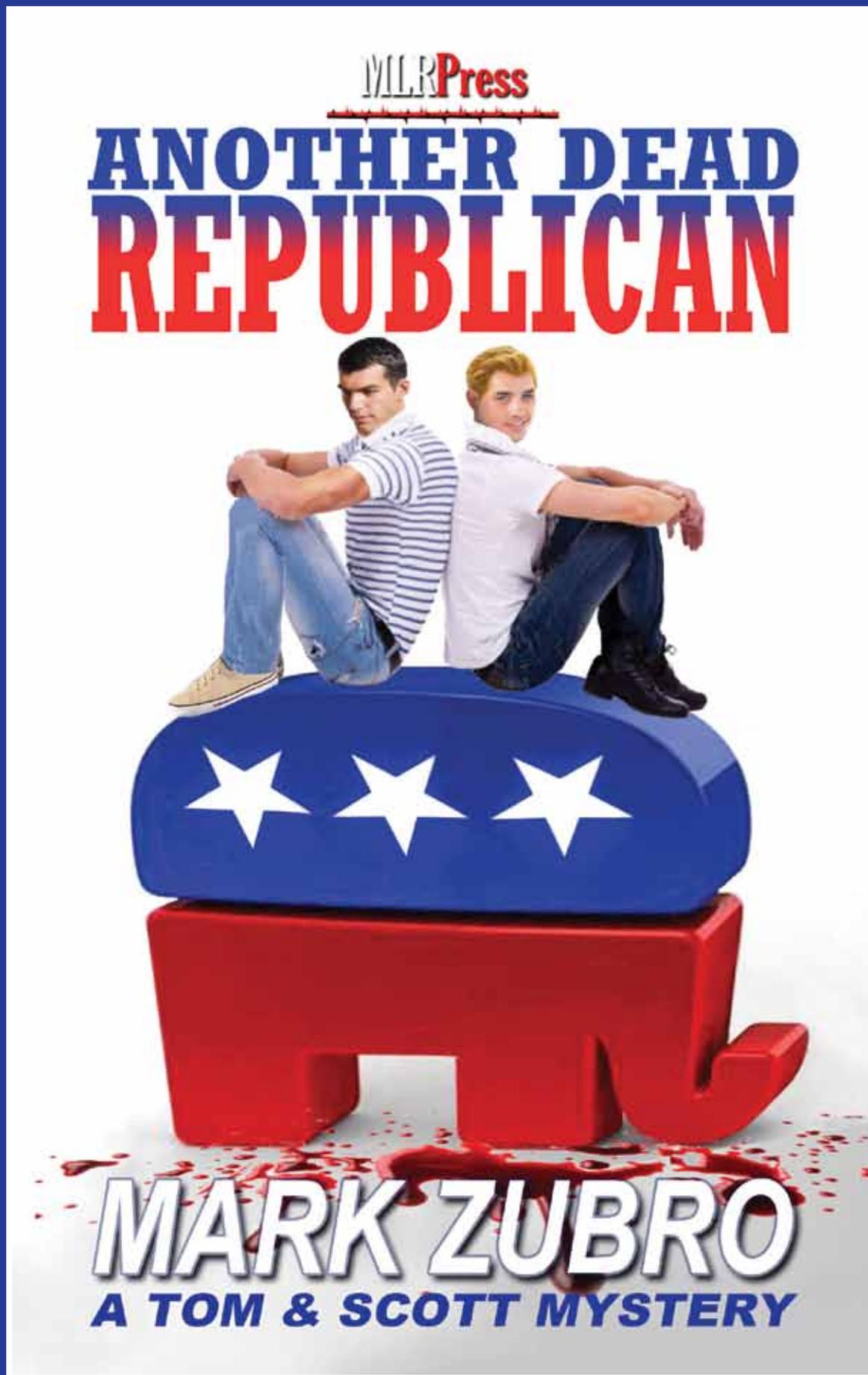
Windy City Performing Arts.
Photo courtesy of Steve Maxey

WCPA performs 'The Best' at Ebenezer

On June 18, Windy City Performing Arts (WCPA)—composed of Windy City Gay Chorus and Windy City Treble Quire—held two performances of the program "Simply the Best" at Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 1650 W. Foster Ave.

The evening was called a way to say "bon voyage" before WCPA goes to Denver to sing at the International GALA Festival.

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Chicago Pride Fest 2016. All photos on this page by Jerry Nunn. See more online and photos from Ed Negron on page 69.



Chicago Pride Fest fills Boystown

BY JERRY NUNN

The Northalsted Business Alliance presented Chicago Pride Fest on June 18-19. The Boystown area was packed with crowds between Addison and Grace streets on Halsted Street. A \$10 donation was suggested this year raising the price a bit to help support the entertainment and district.

American Idol season six winner Jordin Sparks headlined the first evening on the North Stage, and led a prayer dedicated to the victims of the Orlando tragedy. She sang songs like "No Air" and "One Step at a Time" during her set.

June 19's music entertainment included Danity Kane members now known as Dumblonde as well as new hitmaker Daya, who was recently interviewed by Windy City Times.

Miss Fozzie hosted the annual pet parade, and drag was featured throughout the weekend to keep the crowds dancing and singing in between headliners performing.

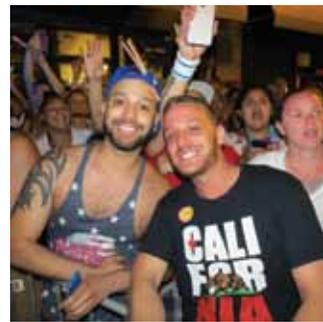
The Red Bull Stage, located in the middle of the festival, hyped up party people with go-go boys, a DJ and dancing queens.

Many booths line both sides of Halsted Street bringing promotions and swag such as Steamworks Baths, Lime-A-Ritas, and the Illinois State Lottery among a variety of others.

Things also took a more serious turn, as a large amount of Pride Fest attendees filled the 7-Eleven parking lot overnight. One person was stabbed and fights continued in the streets for hours.

The June 19 festivities continued without incident and police officers were watchful throughout the day.

The Chicago Pride parade kicks off Sunday, June 26, at noon. Visit Northalsted.com for more Pride events.



More from Chicago Pride Fest.
Photos on this page by Ed Negron



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PRIDE PARADE INFORMATION

as of Sun., June 19

compiled by **PRIDEChicago**

www.ChicagoPrideCalendar.org • PrideChgo@aol.com • 773-348-8243

DATE: Sunday, June 26

TIME: 12 Noon

STARTS AT: Broadway & Montrose.

LINE UP: North Broadway (both the east and the west curb lanes, from Montrose to Wilson); West Montrose (both the north and south curb lanes from Broadway to Clark); Sunnyside Ave. from Broadway to North Sheridan Road and North Sheridan Road, between Montrose and Wilson.

ROUTE: Step off from the Broadway/Montrose corner, proceeding south on Broadway; then south on Halsted; then east on Belmont; then south on Broadway; then east on Diversey to Cannon Drive.

CONTENT & DESCRIPTION

The parade will feature 160 registered entries (down from 215 last year), including floats, decorated vehicles, performance groups, a marching band and walking contingents.

The entries represent community organizations, businesses, governmental officials and individual community members. Crowd estimates each year are in the hundreds of thousands. So the plans are to line the parade route with barricades on both sides of the street from the beginning to the end of the parade route. Spectators will be required to remain behind the barricades. (Only parade registrants traveling down the middle of the street, police officers, other city officials, security staff, parade marshals and credentialed media reps will be allowed in the street). In recent years, the City of Chicago has required that several large city parades, including the Pride Parade, line their parade routes with barricades at our own expense. Police officers and parade marshals will be stationed at various points on the street in front of the barricades along the parade route.

Police officers will also be in the area surrounding the parade. In addition, PRIDEChicago (parade coordinators) are providing a security team of 160 off-duty police officers (up from 90 last year), to supplement the police presence along and surrounding the parade route.

\$1000 Fine FOR PUBLIC ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION:

The parade will have more security and a tighter rein on public alcohol consumption. In addition to the large number of police officers who staff the event, PRIDEChicago (parade coordinators) are providing a security team of 160 off-duty police officers (up from 90 last year) to supplement the police presence. Penalties include, but are not limited to, \$1000+ tickets being issued and/or the immediate disposal of open containers of alcohol into trash receptacles.

PARADE DAY HEALTH/SAFETY: Bring plenty of bottled water, sunscreen and a hat or other head covering, and dress lightly because parade day is usually hot and sunny.

STREET CLOSURES: (on parade day, Sunday, June 26) include:

ASSEMBLY AREA: Tentative time: 10:30 a.m.

PARADE ROUTE: Rolling closing times. Cross streets will close as the parade travels south down the route. The parade starts at 12 Noon at the Broadway/Montrose corner proceeding south on Broadway; then south on Halsted; then east on Belmont; then south on Broadway; then east on Diversey to Cannon Drive.

NO PARKING: Both the Assembly Area and Parade Route (listed above) will be posted with temporary signs indicating "NO PARKING ON SUNDAY JUNE 26, 2016, FROM 5 AM TO 8 PM. - Both sides of the street."

- Montrose Ave. - Greenview Ave. to Hazel St.
- Broadway St. - Leland Ave. to Grace St.
- Sunnyside Ave. - Broadway to North Sheridan Rd.
- Halsted St. - Grace St. to Belmont Ave.
- Belmont Ave. - Sheffield Ave. to Broadway
- Broadway St. - Belmont Ave. to Diversey Pkwy.
- Diversey Pkwy. - Broadway to Cannon Dr. (Sheridan)
- Cannon Dr. - Diversey Pkwy. to Fullerton Pkwy.
- Addison St. - 736 W. Addison St. to Sheffield Ave.
- Waveland Ave. - Halsted St. to Broadway
- Grace St. - Halsted St. to Fremont St.
- Clifton from Montrose Ave. to Sunnyside Ave.
- Wellington Ave. from Sheffield St. to Racine Ave.
- North Sheridan Road from Montrose to Agatite St.

ADDITIONAL PARKING RESTRICTIONS:

There will be additional parking restrictions on Sunnyside Ave. between Broadway and North Sheridan Road also North Sheridan Road from Montrose to Agatite St.

TOWING: Begins at 5 AM. Due to the volume of vehicles involved, the issuing of parking violation citations and towing will start at 5 AM - Promptly.

CROSS STREETS: Rolling closing times. Cross streets will close as the parade travels south down the route. After stepping off at 12 Noon, the parade will take approximately two and one-half hours to finish crossing the Broadway & Montrose corner. After this time, the floats will still be winding their way to the end of the parade route at Diversey & Sheridan. This year there will NOT be a Buffer Zone on Halsted Street after the parade ends. Police will work to re-open the streets to vehicular traffic as soon as cleaning crews are finished and the streets will not remain open to foot traffic.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION: From the Red Line: Wilson, Sheridan, Addison or Belmont all provide access via a short walk to the parade route.

PLEASE NOTE: The Belmont station (and the surrounding area) tends to become the most crowded, so you are encouraged to consider watching the parade from the other parts of the route, including areas toward the start of the route—such as Broadway, south of Montrose—which are served by both the nearby Wilson and Sheridan stations on the Red Line. In

addition, a number of lakefront bus routes including the 146 and 151 provide convenient access from the north, the Gold Coast/North Michigan Avenue and downtown to areas east of the parade route.

Extra service will be provided on the "L" on parade day to accommodate the large numbers of people who attend the parade. Due to the increase of local traffic and a number of bus reroutes, potential parade spectators are advised to make use of the L or the various bus routes.

BUS REROUTES:

8 Halsted, 22 Clark, 36 Broadway, 76 Diversey, 77 Belmont, 78 Montrose, 151 Sheridan, 152 Addison. Also see CTA web site or call them for updated information concerning the train and bus routes. CTA: 1-312-836-7000 www.transitchicago.com Other information on public transportation: 1-312-322-6900 www.metrarail.com

PEDESTRIAN CROSS-OVER STREETS:

There will be seven cross-over streets:

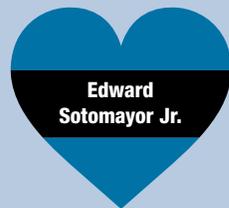
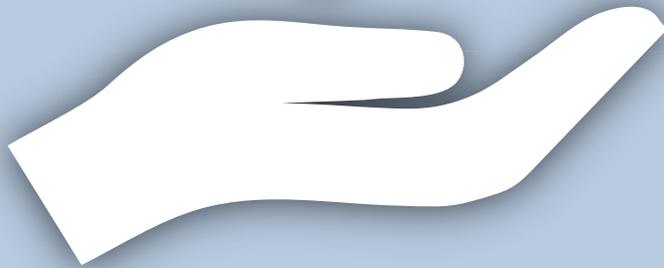
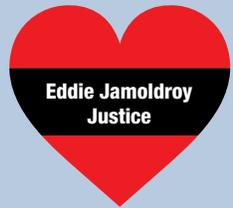
- Montrose Ave. at Broadway
- Irving Park Rd. at Broadway
- Grace St. at Halsted St.
- Addison St. at Halsted St.
- Roscoe St. at Halsted St.
- Wellington Ave. at Broadway
- Aldine Street at Halsted St.

At each corner of the streets listed above there will be police officers assigned to assist pedestrians to cross the parade route.

NEEDS AND SPECIAL NEEDS:

1. Portable Restrooms - are stationed along both the parade line-up street and the parade route. Included at several locations are restrooms for the physically challenged.
2. Physically Challenged Area/Wheel chair Accessible Area/Seniors - for people who need or want more space: the sidewalks of West Diversey Parkway (near 600 W. Diversey). Traditionally this area of the parade route has fewer spectators than other sections of the parade route. Spectators in these areas generally arrive there early on parade morning to secure their viewing spots. Included there are restrooms for the physically challenged.
3. Seniors (outdoor) - The area mentioned above in #2 (600 W. Diversey sidewalks) is a designated OUTDOOR area for seniors. Spectators in this area generally arrive there early on parade morning to secure their viewing spots. Included there are restrooms for the physically challenged.
4. Cooling Busses - Halsted, south of Belmont
Irving Park between Clark and Broadway
Addison, west of Halsted
Belmont, east of Broadway
Wilton, north of Belmont

For changes or updates: www.ChicagoPrideCalendar.org, PrideChgo@aol.com or 773-348-8243. Ride the CTA/PACE/METRA: www.transitchicago.com 1-312-836-7000 or www.metrarail.com 1-312-322-6900.



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DANCING ABOUT ARCHITECTURE

BY MARC 'MOOSE' MODER



Turning to our tribe in troubled times

As this past week has shown us, we're strongest when we're united as one. There's nothing we can't do as the gay community, united and leaning on each other for strength. While this column relies heavily on our straight allies for gay-friendly entertainment year-round, in June we like to look inward as a team and look toward those in our own ranks who are really shining.

You can't talk out-queer artists without **kd lang**, who, along with **Jimmy Somerville**, **The Indigo Girls**, and **Erasure**, pioneered the concept of the truly gay pop star. Lang has been reinventing herself as often as Madonna for years, never once repeating the same sound on any album. While frustrating—she hasn't done follow-ups to the classics *Ingenua*, *Drag* or *Shadowlands*—it's fun to see where she goes next. After her rockabilly turn last time, kd turned to a fellow Canadian (**Neko Case**) and fellow Portlandian (**Laura Veirs**) for a side project to distract from her stalled new album. The result, *case/lang/veirs*, is a lovely, mixed batch of Americana. If you're expecting the Ronstadt/Parton/Harris harmonies of the similar Trio concept, don't hold your breath, but don't miss out. All the tracks are lovely but sound like three solo EPs produced by the same producer. When the distinctive styles of lang

and Case take their leads, the other two sound lost and a bit generic. When Veirs takes a turn at lead voice, while lovely, she doesn't carry the same unique qualities of her friends. That



Tegan and Sara.

said, get it for the lang and Case tracks which are very in line with their solo efforts.

Tegan and Sarah went full blown POP on their last LP, *Heartthrob*, with surprisingly great results. Now, with *Love You To Death*, fans of *Heartthrob* won't be disappointed, as it's more of the same. In fact, LY2D sounds like the lost second disc of *Heartthrob*, just as shiny and pretty, but so similar it seems anticlimactic after waiting three years. It's certainly a good album—featuring the real girl-crush anthem, "Boyfriend," to get you through a summer with no new Demi Lovato—but it's not the next step the sisters should have logically taken.

While we anticipate a full-length album to come, go support Chicago's sexiest cub **Big Dipper**, who's new single "Good At Sex" (featuring Shauna) could be the surprise song of the summer. An always funny but also extremely adept writer and emcee, Big Dipper doesn't hold back and you might be pregnant with his baby by the time the piano/guitar-laden jam cums to an end. And go check out the video online if you want to see a firm, thick bear work it in leather garters. Totally worth your four minutes.

Supporting all artists, but especially our out queer brethren only makes us all stronger. Whether you need to hear someone sing or rap about social change or just need to shake off a terrible week or vicious election cycle, you're squad is here for you. They will never keep us from our safespaces, and we will never keep us quiet.

Follow Marc/Moose's DJ adventures on Facebook under "Moose the DJ."



Big Dipper.



Uptown Underground shows 'No Pride'

Join Jeff-Award winning actor, After Dark Award-Winning cabaret artist, and world class buffoon **Rob Lindley** (pictured, right) with Chuck Larkin on piano as Uptown Underground kicks off Pride weekend with **NO PRIDE: A Super Big Gay Happy Hour**, a celebration of life's ups and downs, Friday, June 24 at 8 p.m. The cover is \$20.

After seeing this show you will know exactly why Rob Lindley is single and yet you'll want to hold and kiss him. Awesome stories and great music show that this middle-aged gay man proudly has "No Pride."

The evening will also feature a special appearance by Miss Chic Filet (pictured, left).

Rob has appeared on stage at Goodman, Court Theatre, Writers' Theatre, Mercury Theatre, and Porchlight Music Theatre. Rob is a member of the After Dark Award-winning cabaret trio Foiled Again, who have been a mainstay on the cabaret scene for 15 years and have recorded two albums, *Foiled Again: Live* and *Blanket of Winter*. Rob also produces and directs cabaret shows for Court Theatre, Porchlight Music Theatre's annual Chicago Sings concert, The Chicago Humanities Festival, Beckie Menzie & Tom Michael, Colleen McHugh, and Miriam Plotkin. This is Rob's solo show debut at the Uptown Underground.

PRESENT

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2nd place gets 25%

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More from Chicago Pride Fest.
Photos on this page by Kat Fitzgerald/www.MysticImagesPhotography.com



THANK

My name is Creagh and I own a business called CREAOKÉ KARAOKE.

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CREAOKÉ KARAOKE has been and will continue to be an ally in the fight for equality for everybody, in and out of the LGBT community.

I thank you for your support and your acceptance.

YOU

Show your PRIDE everyday!

Thank you all,
Creagh



the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR Chop

BY ANDREW DAVIS

I was initially a little hesitant to check out **Chop** (1017 S. Delano Ct.; ChopChicago.com). The primary reason was because it's an offshoot of Porkchop, which has been a mixed bag for me (although brunch at the West Loop restaurant was outstanding). My verdict on Chop is that it has enough appealing aspects to recommend it—with one major caveat.

Located in the South Loop, Chop has a prime location—right next to the ShowPlace ICON movie



Chop.
PR photo

theaters on Roosevelt Road. However, moviegoers who might want to dine at Chop might be in for a little sticker shock (the aforementioned caveat). Entrees—including pasta, chicken, steak and seafood dishes—start at \$22, topped by a \$65 surf-and-turf combo. (Chop may have recently heard about this backlash, which is why it offers a variety of burgers that are more reasonably priced.)

The food and drinks are solidly done, however.

The bread with apple-Brie bake was an absolute winner, while the shrimp cocktail featured some pretty large, tasty crustaceans. Curious about how a \$40 braised shortrib looked, I requested that dish—and was pleasantly surprised by the portion. (It was executed quite well.) The braised lamb shank that one of my dining companions had looked amazing, and my other companion really seemed to like her crab-cake sandwich.

The list of desserts isn't exactly life-altering, with offerings such as bread pudding, Death by Chocolate and a sorbet trio, among other items. The chocolate lava cake we shared was a pleasant end to the evening.

The cocktails (\$10 each) are certainly worth trying. I tried a Summer Harvest—a nice mix of bourbon, seasonal syrup, lemon and ginger beer. Another one that looks exquisite is All Fruits Ripe, which includes two rums, pineapple, lime and cherry-bark vanilla bitters.

Should you check out Chop? I'd say "yes"—but just make sure you don't go from a comedy like Finding Dory to experiencing your version of The Big Short.



SIDETRACK

Happy 34th!
Photos by Verdell Shannon

nightspots the big TO-DO

OUR WEEKLY PICKS TO PLAN YOUR NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

BACK LOT BASH



Fri., June 24 - Sun., June 26
in the parking lot behind
Cheetah Gym,
5248 N. Clark St.
\$40 weekend passes; \$125 VIP

The second weekend of this two-weekend festival features big names and big fun.

BACK LOT BASH SCHEDULE:

Fri., June 24
Sunset Concert featuring:
Lisa Loeb
Cathy Richardson
Antigone Rising
Congress of Starlings

Sat., June 25
All Day Bash featuring:
Catfight

Sun., June 26
Pride Day Bash featuring:
Taryn Manning (exclusive DJ set)
Nina Sky (live performance and DJ set)

PRIDE NORTH FESTIVITIES



Wed., June 22 - Sun., June 26
Glenwood Ave.,
from Morse to Lunt

The north side's largest neighborhood Pride party. Highlights include:

Wed., June 22 @ The Glenwood
Pride Idol 2016 finale: See who will be chosen to perform at Pride North on Sunday!

Thu., June 23 @ The Glenwood
Pride Trivia: Challenging questions "from Sappho to Stonewall to 'Sissy That Walk'". \$10 per team to play. Winning team gets 75% of the pot; 2nd place gets 25%. Hosted by KWizmaster Kirk Williamson

Fri., June 24 & Sat. June 25
@ The Glenwood
DJ Dance Off

Sun., June 26
Pride North: Celebrate Pride Sunday with 12 DJs on two stages, two dance floors and hundreds of your friends.

Enter to win weekend passes for

MAMBY ON THE BEACH

from Windy City Times!

Send an email to kirk@windycitymediagroup.com with "MAMBY" in the subject line.

Winner will be chosen at random from all entries received by 10 am, Mon., June 27. Winner will receive one pair of full-weekend general admission passes. Two winners will be chosen and notified via email only. One entry per person, please.



BILLY Masters

"Dear World, I am leaving because I am bored. I feel I have lived long enough. I am leaving you with your worries in this sweet cesspool. Good luck."—George Sanders' suicide note from 1972. Well, after being married to two of the Gabor sisters, you could say he was ga-bored!

Those of us who came of age in the '80s and '90s became far too familiar with death—certainly more familiar than people in their 20s should be. Living through that somewhat numbed me. During the same time period, I dated an incredibly breathtaking man. Early in our relationship, he admitted that he had attempted suicide. When I asked why, he said, "Because I felt like a failure." I suspect the fact that he was able to share his story didn't help. When he actually did commit suicide years later, my sadness was mitigated by thoughts that he eventually succeeded.

I was thinking about this when I read about the suicide of gay writer, director and producer Fred Caruso. Despite his credits, I'd never heard of him and don't believe I've seen any of his work. But based on his suicide note, I am now a fan. I'd like to share one section here: "I have been incredibly lonely and—at the same time—I hate being around people. I hate meeting new people and I'm always waiting for someone to stab me in the back—lets just say I already have a whole culinary collection. To be clear—I haven't forgiven anyone. All the grudges I've carried for years—I continue to carry. To those people that I hate—I hope I have the ability to haunt you for the rest of your lives." If the goal of an artist's life is to touch people, Fred can rest in peace. He not only moved me, but made me laugh—something I hope I do with this column. Bravo, Fred! The only thing that could make me happier is if you actually CAN haunt those who have hurt you. That would be swell.

While most people applauded Nick Jonas for speaking at a vigil outside of NYC's Stonewall Inn following the Orlando shooting, others felt it was a self-serving publicity appearance and accused him of more "gay-baiting"—a charge based on his choice of acting roles and personal appearances in gay clubs (usually shirtless). A writer for the Huffington Post said, "This is not the time for straight allies to take up space—especially if you're an ally who just dropped an album three days ago." First, are we still calling them "albums?" Second, I'm impressed that someone who is a worldwide star is willing to not only speak out but also show up. How many of those critics were there? And if he sells a few "albums" along the way, I'm fine with that, too.

This controversy about Nick Jonas comes at the time when his show *Kingdom* featured his character in a sexual three-way with a guy and a girl—I suppose he didn't want anyone to feel left out. Perhaps you'll see Jonas in a more positive light after seeing the video on BillyMasters.com.

This summer, the Hollywood Bowl is presenting two semi-staged performances of classic musicals. First we have *West Side Story* on July 14 and 19, featuring Solea Pfeiffer, Jeremy Jordan (the Broadway star, not the pop star or porn star) and Karen Olivo, backed by the LA Philharmonic. Then we have *A Chorus Line* taking place July 29-31, starring Mario Lopez, Krysta Rodriguez and Spencer Liff. That production will be directed and choreographed by original cast member, Baayork Lee. You can get tix at HollywoodBowl.com.

The aforementioned Jeremy Jordan has been in the news lately, as he was trying to get public support to force a "gay conversion center" to release his cousin, Sarah. Apparently, Sarah is gay and wanted to go to the prom with her girlfriend. That led her parents to ship her off to a compound for a year of "ex-gay therapy." According to reports, Sarah tried to escape shortly after being admitted. Jeremy raised more than \$65K via GoFundMe to pay for lawyers needed to get her released. Because of his efforts, Sarah is no longer being forced to pray the gay away.

In a related story, the Miami Beach City Commission unanimously passed an ordinance ban-



Alexander Skarsgard is set to tantalize as Tarzan, Billy says.

ning conversion therapy on minors.

Everyone has said almost everything there was to say about Noah Galvin—the kid from *The Real O'Neals* who gave that brutally honest (and somewhat hateful) interview and then took it all back. We now know he was under enormous pressure to retract his statements. Why? Because when you're the star of a network show, oodles of people's jobs count on you being a good boy and playing by the rules (which is why only a handful of you are reading this). The interview was arranged by Noah's personal publicist in a bid to get him an Emmy nomination. A producer then had to beg and plead the network not to reduce the number of episodes ordered for next season. An anonymous "insider" claims that this was not the network's first issue with Galvin—he had previously been warned about "ego and entitlement." The irony will be if Galvin ends up with an Emmy nod—although I'm not holding my breath.

Speaking of Emmy nominations (which will be announced July 14), the Boston Globe ran a story entitled "If I Were an Emmy Voter," which listed people who SHOULD get nods. I was pleased to note they included my Play Mama, Jenifer Lewis,

in the category of Best Supporting Actress in a Comedy for Black-ish. From their lips...

In a brief but certainly not small "Ask Billy" question, Jack from Providence asks, "Who is the guy playing Tarzan? I just saw the trailer and couldn't believe my eyes. Tell me he drops his loincloth at least once."

Clearly, Jack is someone who doesn't have HBO. If he did, he would be familiar with the pleasures that are Alexander Skarsgard. The latest Tarzan comes to Africa by way of Sweden, but is best known to domestic viewers as the lead on "rue Blood. While you won't see all on the big screen, every inch of him is on BillyMasters.com.

When I'm actually looking forward to a Tarzan movie, it's time to end yet another column. We certainly ran the gamut of stories this week. And you'll find even more variety on www.BillyMasters.com, the site that (hopefully) gives you the will to live. Feel free to send your questions along to Billy@BillyMasters.com, and I promise to get back to you before Nick Jonas plays a straight character! So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

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5-9PM

SATURDAY 6.25
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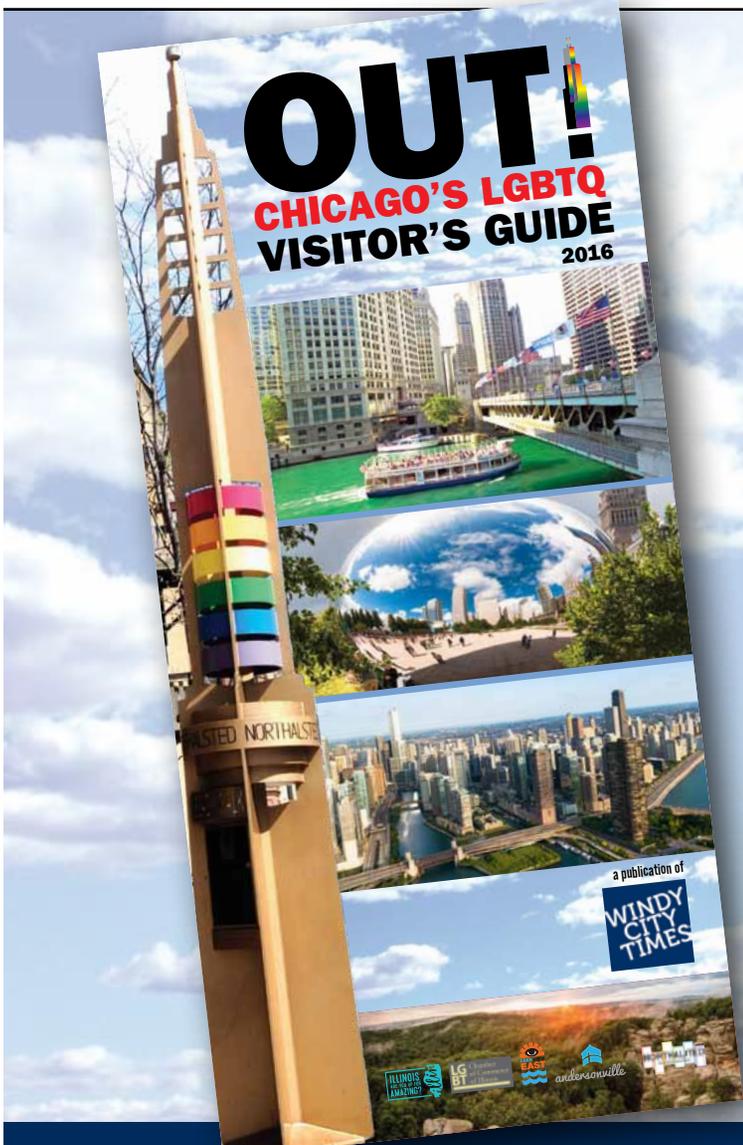
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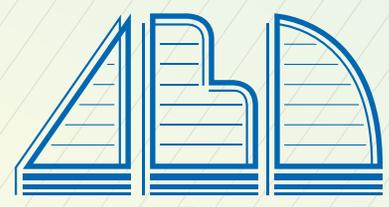
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wed., June 22

Stronger Together- The Intersection of Civil Rights Movements Networking reception and keynote speech by Yoruba Richen. Presented by Baxalta, now part of Shire. Free-but register to reserve a spot. 5:00pm - 8:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.eventbrite.com/stronger-together-the-intersection-of-civil-rights-movements-registration-25411914721>

30 Under 30 Awards Windy City Times recognizes 30 more outstanding LGBT or ally individuals, 30 years or under as of June 30 who have made substantial contributions to the Chicagoland LGBT community. 5:30 pm reception. 6:00pm - 7:00pm Polo Cafe, 3322 S Morgan St, Chicago <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Nominations-sought-for-30-Under-30-Awards/54145.html>

LGBTQ Latinx Space for Healing, Celebration, & Remembrance Remembrance vigil for Orlando victims 6:30pm Humboldt Park, California at Division, Chicago

Buck Angel Chicago Pride Tour continues Widely known trans man performer, film producer, and speaker. No advance registration or reserved seating for free events. First come, first served, early arrival recommended. 8:00pm - 10:00pm The Pleasure Chest 3436 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago

Thursday, June 23

Chicago Public Library LGBT Pride Month South Side film series How Do I Look by Wolfgang Busch is a view inside the Harlem Drag Ball competition, a showcase of talents on and off the runway. We learn about the artists' daily struggles with HIV/AIDS, artistic exploitation and drugs. 5:30pm - 7:30pm Kelly Library Branch, 6151 S. Normal Blvd., Chicago <https://www.chipublib.org/news/celebrate-lgbt-pride-month/>

Happy Hour: Professionals Do Pride Benefit for Chicago House by Accenture Consulting. \$20 includes 2 drink tickets and a \$10 donation to Chicago House. 5:30pm - 8:30pm Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St Chicago <http://www.facebook.com/events/245961429103432/>

Cyd Zeigler, author Fair Play: How LGBT Athletes Are Claiming Their Rightful Place in Sports Expert in LGBTQ athletics and cofounder of the online magazine Outsports. The book takes aim at the fear governing the lives of LGBT athletes for decades. Free. 7:00pm Unabridged Bookstore 3251 N Broadway Chicago <http://www.unabridgedbookstore.com>

We Are Orlando Benefit raffle for Orlando victims and families. Raffle drawings all night 7:00pm The Closet Chicago 3325 N Broadway Chicago

Book Launch Party and Happening Tonight We Fuck the Trailer Park Out of Each Other by C. Russel Price. 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

Pride Week Clandestina Takeover DJ Audio Jack, DJ BK Web, DJ Sandra Suave, Monica Raymond. Tunes, drinks, eats. RSVP and group packages at clandestinachi@gmail.com 8:00pm - 2:00am Punch House, 1227 W. 18th St., Pilsen <http://www.punchhousechicago.com>

Pride Trivia Night Host KWizmaster Kirk Williamson. Challenging questions from Sappho to Stonewall to "Sissy That Walk," plus video and photo rounds. Sponsored by Leinenkugel's Grapefruit Shandy. \$10 per team (limit of 6 players per team). First-place takes 75% of the pot; second-place gets 25%. 8 pm. kirk@windycitymediagroup.com 8:00pm The Glenwood Bar 6962 N

THE DEE LIST
June 28

Dee Rees' movie *Pariah* (with Adepere Odunye, above) will be shown at the Kelly Library branch, 6151 S. Normal Blvd. Photo from Focus Features

Glenwood Ave Chicago

CRUSH Chicago 2016 Karaoke/Dance Party \$10, 21+. CRUSH Chicago's weekend of events caters to alternative women and is LGBT inclusive. 9:00pm - 2:00pm The 1912 Lounge, 2002 S. Wentworth <http://WWW.CRUSHCHICAGO.COM>

Friday, June 24

PRIDE Day at Brookfield Zoo Brookfield Zoo will fly rainbow flags to celebrate diversity and inclusion of all kinds. Families can connect with wildlife and nature at many exhibits and attractions. 12:00pm The Pavilions at Brookfield Zoo, Chicago <https://www.czs.org/Brookfield-ZOO/Events/Upcoming-Events/PRIDE-Day>

Back Lot Bash: Sunset Concert Featuring Lisa Loeb and Cathy Richardson. Minimum age 21. No dogs. Through June 26. Doors open 5:00 pm. 5:00pm Behind Cheetah gym, 5238 N. Clark St., Chicago (773) 368-6225 <http://www.backlotbashchicago.com/> Tickets: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2551132>

Pride Shabbat BBQ, Beach Service OC will provide the burgers (beef and vegetarian) and all beef hot dogs, buns, condiments and drinks. Bring side dishes and desserts with serving plate/bowls and utensils, Kosher-style (no meat & milk mixed, no pork or shellfish), cooked ahead of time. Congregate at the south Thorndale entrance of the synagogue. At 8 pm the group will move to the beach. 6:00pm Congregation Or Chadash at Emanuel Congregation 5959 N Sheridan Rd Chicago

Annual Pride bash at Center on Halsted Lady Bunny performing and officiating. Also featuring DJ competition (DJ Billy Brown vs. DJ Gemini Jones). \$20 includes two drinks, nibbles, cash bar. 6:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago Tickets: <http://community.centeronhalsted.org/TKO>

Author Reading and Lesbian Singles Mixer Girls' Guide to Healthy Dating: Between the Breakup and the Next U-Haul by Kim Baker. 7:00pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com>

CRUSH Chicago 2016 All White Party, More Than Friends, Movie Premiere After Party \$25, or \$15 w/ movie ticket stub before 12 am. 21+. CRUSH Chicago's weekend of events caters to alternative women and is LGBT inclusive. 9:00pm - 2:00am Standard Bar & Grill, 1332 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago <http://WWW.CRUSHCHICAGO.COM>

Star Whores—The Pride Awakens An outrageously gay improv adventure that'll have everyone claiming to be Luke's Daddy (bear). Celebrating those who get paid for "making wookiee,"

each evening will be based on the monologues of special guest LGBT sex workers. Also running 6/25 10:30 pm. 10:30pm Playground Theater 3209 N. Halsted St. Chicago <http://www.gayco.com/> Tickets: <http://starwhorespride.eventbrite.com/>

Saturday, June 25

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 - 12:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted St., <http://dbsa-glbtc-chicago.com>

CGHA Cares! Serve-a-thon Event Thousands of registered volunteers gather at Daley Plaza and bus to project sites across the city to perform hands-on service that may include painting, planting, and cleaning under the direction of trained volunteer leaders. \$10 fee for supplies, a T-shirt, light breakfast, lunch plus a party back at Daley Plaza with food and beer (for those of drinking age) afterward. Volunteers between 12 and 16 must be accompanied by guardian. Register online. 7:30am - 5:30pm Daley Center Plaza 50 W Washington St Chicago <http://goo.gl/forms/WOxqPFZrKoleHgeX1>

Proud To Run As part of Chicago's Gay and Lesbian Pride Week activities since 1982, Proud To Run is an annual 10K run & 5K run/walk along the lakefront, focused on celebrating pride in and raising funds to support the greater Chicago area LGBTQ community. Tech shirt, ace bib, participation medal, Pride themed tote bag, athlete village, entertainment, post-race raffle; team participation welcome. 8:00am Begin Montrose Ave. and Simonds Dr., just north of Montrose Harbor Tickets: <https://www.raceit.com/Register/groups/default.aspx?newgroup=true&event=35844>

TransMale Beach Bash Party Be visible during Pride weekend at Hollywood Beach (south end, gay area). Transmen invited to bring your own food and non-alcoholic beverages , towels, coolers, ice, water, and music. transmalechicago@gmail.com 10:00am - 5:00pm Hollywood Beach, Chicago <http://www.transmalechicago.com/transmale-beach-party-hollywood-beach-june25th>

Navy Pier Pride: About Face Theatre's It's For Real Collection of stories around race, class, sexuality, age, gender, self-esteem, and family. Based on true experiences of the performers in the show. Part of family-friendly day-long event with entertainment and events throughout the Pier. Free and open to the public. 12:00pm Navy Pier 600 E Grand Ave Chicago <https://navypier.com/events/upcoming/#entry-7994>

Out & Proud in Chicago Encore presentation of the critically-acclaimed show featuring historical coverage of LGBTs in Chicago. Narrated by actress and Chicago native Jane Lynch. This is one of several LGBT-related shows on WTTW HD and WTTW Prime during June Pride Month. Time:TBA WTTW HD and 11.2 WTTW Prime <http://www.wttw.com>

CRUSH Chicago 2016 Afternoon Event Private Yacht Party, Summer of George Yacht. CRUSH Chicago's weekend of events caters to alternative women and is LGBT inclusive. 1:00pm - 4:00pm River City Marina, 800 S. Wells St., Chicago <http://WWW.CRUSHCHICAGO.COM>

Navy Pier Pride: Parade and display of NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt Led by the Lakeside Pride Marching Band. Free and open to the public. Navy Pier will also display Chicago-centric sections of the internationally renowned The NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. Free and open to the public. 1:00pm Navy Pier 600 E Grand Ave Chicago <https://navypier.com/events/upcoming/#entry-7994>

20th anniversary Dyke March Chicago Dyke March Collective is a grassroots mobilization and celebration of dyke,

queer, bisexual, and transgender resilience. 2:00pm Division and Western to area north of Luis Munoz Marin Drive near California and Division <https://www.facebook.com/DykeMarchChicago/>

Milly's Family Pride on the Pier Hosted by show creator and producer Brigid Murphy as country singin' wisecrackin' host Milly May Smithy. Part of the inaugural Pride On Navy Pier. Free 2:00pm Navy Pier 600 E Grand Ave Chicago

Sober and Proud 2016 Free food. Free HIV testing. Great music. \$10 suggested donation. 5:00pm - 10:00pm Alexian Brothers Bonaventure House 825 W Wellington Ave Chicago

Pride Liturgy Roman Catholic Mass Sponsored by Dignity/Chicago, dignity-chicago@gmail.com 5:00pm Broadway United Methodist Church 3338 N Broadway Chicago 312-458-9438 <http://www.dignity-chicago.org>

Navy Pier Pride: Chicago's Biggest Wedding Massive marriage ceremony on the Pier officiated by Angelica Ross, leading figure in the movement for transgender and racial equality and star of the hit series, Her Story. Make history with us and your loved one. 5:00pm Navy Pier 600 E Grand Ave Chicago <https://navypier.com/events/upcoming/#entry-7994>

Queer Contra Andrea Craft will be calling and music will be provided by the Cat Wranglers. \$10 at door. Intro for beginners from 6:30 - 7 pm. 7:00pm - 9:30pm Second Unitarian Church 656 W. Barry Chicago

CRUSH Chicago 2016 Night Event All Black Glow Party. \$25, 21+. CRUSH Chicago's weekend of events caters to alternative women and is LGBT inclusive. 9:00pm - 3:00am The 15/20 Lounge, 2428 S. Wallace St., Chicago <http://WWW.CRUSHCHICAGO.COM>

With a Wink and a Nod: Cartoonists of the Gilded Age Seventy four rare original drawings created for Puck magazine, as well as published cartoons and over 20 vintage publications. \$20 adults, \$12.50 65 and over, \$10 students and youth ages 6-12. Five and under free. Through Jan. 8, 2017. 10:30pm - 5:30pm Richard H. Driehaus Museum , 40 E. Erie, Chicago 312-482-8933, ext. 21 <http://DriehausMuseum.org>

Sunday, June 26

Pride at Montrose A party for the LGBTQ community and allies. DJ sets and performances by Derrick Carter, GUCCIROXX, Kaycee Ortiz, CHANCES DANCES!, DJ Gemini Jones, Slo 'Mo, more. Plus, health village, powered by the Chicago Department of Public Health and the Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center. Event powered by #PrEP4Love, Project Elevate, Black Treatment Advocates Network, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Brothers Health Collective, Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus, Affinity Community Services. #PrideAtMontrose #PAM2016 10:00am - 7:00pm Montrose Harbor, 601 W. Montrose, Chicago <https://www.facebook.com/events/558622254311318/>

Limited Partnership The 40-year love story between Filipino-American Richard Adams and his Australian husband Tony Sullivan who, in 1975, were one of the first same-sex couples in the world to be legally married (thanks to a courageous county clerk in Boulder, Colorado). After that, Richard was denied a green card. 3:30pm 11.1 WTTW HD <http://www.wttw.com>

Links Taproom hosting Orlando LGBTQ fundraiser Honoring the victims and all those affected by the Pulse nightclub massacre with a fundraiser for Chicago House and Social Service Agency and the GLBT Community Center of Central Florida. Links owner/beer director Mike Quinlan, a proud member of LGBTQ+ community, will personally match 100 percent of all craft beer, liquor, wine, and food sales. 11:30pm - 2:00am Links Taproom, 1559 N Milwaukee Ave., Wicker Park, Chicago

AChurch4Me Sunday Worship Service A place to find peace, comfort and always needed prayer. 11:00am AChurch4Me MCC, 7366 N Clark St, Chicago <http://www.achurch4me.org>

Chicago 47th Annual Pride Parade Floats, decorated vehicles, performance groups, a marching band and walking contingents representing community organizations, businesses, governmental officials and community leaders and members. 12:00pm Lake View and Uptown, Chicago <http://www.chicagopridecalendar.org/>

Monday, June 27

Legacy Wall Traveling and digitally interactive LGBT history exhibit in "Boystown" for the very first time. Features 125 individual biographical and photographic elements commemorating the contributions LGBT people have made to world history and culture. Through July 3. 9:00am - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://legacy-projectchicago.org/index.html>

Salute to LGBT Veterans with the American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) Remembrance includes remarks and veterans and city officials placing a wreath at the eternal flame in Daley Plaza to the accompaniment of Taps. 12:00pm - 1:00pm Daley Center Plaza 50 W Washington St Chicago 773-752-0058 <http://www.averchicago.org>

Tuesday, June 28

LAGBAC Judges' Pride Reception Lesbian and Gay Bar Association of Chicago and The LAGBAC Foundation host. Food, conversation, great view from the second floor of Renaldi's. Lunch, wine, beer and soft drinks provided. No cost to judges, LAGBAC members \$25, non-members \$30. RSVP by June 18 to Moses Suarez at msuarez@salawus.com. 12:00pm - 3:00pm Renaldi's After Dark, 2831 N. Broadway, Chicago

Chicago Public Library LGBT Pride Month South Side film series *Pariah*. A 17-year-old African-American girl with a flair for poetry, is a good student at her local high school is quietly but firmly embracing her identity as a lesbian. 5:30pm - 7:30pm Kelly Library Branch, 6151 S. Normal Blvd., Chicago <https://www.chipublib.org/news/celebrate-lgbt-pride-month/>

Wed., June 29

At First Sight: Center on Halsted Chats with David Sanchez & Philip Vasquez Monthly series that interviews local LGBTQ and Ally leaders as they discuss their lives and some of today's most pressing topics. 6:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

Judgments in June Exploration of the six most significant LGBTQ Supreme Court Rulings in History. Join Camilla Taylor, from Lambda Legal; renowned LGBT Historian, John D'Emilio; Tracy Baim, from Windy City Media Group; and Victor Salvo, from the Legacy Project in a thoughtful discussion about how these key cases have directly shaped the quality of life for LGBTQ people today. Legacy Wall open for viewing at 6pm. 7:00pm - 8:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted St., Chicago

Tuesday, July 5

Vives Q: First Tuesdays This summer, with a fierce line-up of Special Guests and musical performers, mobilize to take action on critical issues the community is facing. Free RSVP one to ten people. 6:00pm - 9:00pm National Museum of Mexican Art 1852 W. 19th St. Chicago Tickets: <http://www.eventbrite.com/o/vives-q-8110514952>

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