



Ashton Sanders in *Moonlight*.
Photo by David Bornfriend, courtesy of A24

MOMENTOUS MOVIES

This weekend sees the release of *Moonlight* (above) and *The Handmaiden* (below)



A REIMAGINED 'WIFE'

I Am My Own Wife gets reboot from Delia Kropp (pictured) and About Face Theatre.
Publicity image by Margo Joy Hawk

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Ha Jung-woo, Kim Tae-ri, Kim Min-hee and Cho Jin-woong from *The Handmaiden*.
Photo courtesy of Amazon Studios-Magnolia Pictures

PIDGEON PAGONIS
Intersex activist discusses their film, *'Transparent.'*
Photo courtesy of Pagonis

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'FUN HOME'
Actress Karen Eilbacher talks about her role in the musical.
PR photo

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'FREE CECE'
Trans documentary spotlights CeCe McDonald.
Photo courtesy of Women in Hollywood

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DISARM GUN VIOLENCE
Town hall features Cleopatra Pendleton.
Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

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WINDY CITY TIMES

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WE ARE FAMILY
 The Families of Choice series continues with a profile of Van Binfa.
 Photo courtesy of Binfa

BIG PENN



WCT visits Philadelphia, and explores its LGBT side.
 Photo by Liz Baudler

SENTRA OF ATTENTION

The 2017 Nissan Sentra packs plenty of swagger.

TAKING A 'STAND'

The book Stand By Me: The Forgotten History of Gay Liberation is reviewed.

THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Titus Burgess, Christian Slater and Gladys Knight.

IN THE 'MIX'



WCT reviews the production All Mixed Up.
 Photo by Rod McGee

plus
DAILY BREAKING NEWS

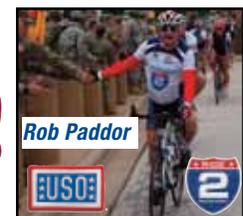
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Bishop James Dukes (right) in the meeting about the LGBT-focused school.
Photos by Tracy Baim

Community members discuss school for LGBT students

BY MATT SIMONETTE

About 20 community advocates gathered Oct. 18 at McCormick Theological Seminary in Hyde Park for a brainstorming session about a possible LGBT-focused high school.

The effort, which is the third attempt at such a school in the last several years, is initially being led by Bishop James Dukes of Pentecostal Christian Liberation Center.

Dukes' idea is for an alternative model public school that would have a focus on serving mainly but not exclusively LGBT students. In 2014, Dukes unsuccessfully spearheaded an effort to open a similar program but the idea gained little traction. His idea came about after he became aware of numerous displaced LGBT youths in his neighborhood.

Dukes said that he has initially gotten buy-in from state and city officials, and that Chicago Public Schools had encouraged him to submit an application by the beginning of the year for a projected fall 2017 opening. But attendees at the Oct. 18 gathering largely recommended aiming for a fall 2018 opening at the earliest, so as to allow adequate time for fundraising, awareness-building and needs assessment efforts.

Many at the meeting stressed the importance of asking LGBT youths what they would be looking for in such a school, not just relying on the judgment of advocates and service providers. Initially, attendees hoped to utilize community organizations such as Broadway Youth Center to poll youths, as well as consider a large-scale

convening in the spring.

"The conversation needs to be mobile," Dukes said. "We need to go to where [youth are] at."

Illinois Safe Schools Alliance Executive Director Owen Daniel-McCarter expressed concern that such an endeavor would be to the detriment of efforts to reduce bullying and otherwise make all schools safer and welcoming for all LGBT students. But he agreed that there may be a need for such a school.

Myles Brady-Davis, of Howard Brown Health, further cautioned that the role of trans students in an LGBT school had to be thoughtfully determined, since their needs have quite often fallen by the wayside. "I know that my community would suffer the most if this is not done right," Brady-Davis said.

Equality Illinois' Brian Johnson added that a dedicated professional would be needed to spearhead the planning and development efforts.

Dukes was asked how he envisioned himself fitting into the long-term plans. He answered that he saw himself as a liaison between planners and the faith community, who would likely be integral for widespread acceptance of the school.

"My vision was to create a group of like-minded individuals," he said. "To do this walk, there's going to be people who need gentle conversation and friendly persuasion, and some of those folks may be in the faith-based side."

The next planning meeting will be in early December.

ously assisted NBA with organizational development.

Formed in 1980, NBA represents more than 100 businesses along the Halsted Street corridor. The organization hosts major events throughout the year, including Chicago Pride Fest, Pride Prom, Northalsted Market Days, the Halloween Parade, Frost Fest and the Legacy Live Series.

For information about NBA, visit Northalsted.com.

Northalsted alliance juggles leadership

The Northalsted Business Alliance (NBA) has announced the departure of Executive Director Christopher Barrett Politan.

Current Director of External Affairs Chad Honeycutt is assuming the role of acting executive director. To help with the transition, NBA is bringing aboard Kimberly Bares as an interim consultant to conduct a search for the next executive director; Bares has previ-

GUEST COLUMN

BY KATHLEEN FALK



2017 brings continued progress on LGBTQ health

More than one year after marriage equality became the law of the land nationwide, President Obama, Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell, and my colleagues and I at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services continue to seize opportunities to improve the health and well-being of LGBTQ Americans.

We do so because the sad reality is that LGBTQ people still face discrimination in many areas of life, including healthcare. This discrimination worsens the very real health disparities that LGBTQ people face, such as higher rates of depression, smoking, HIV, and experiences of violence.

The Obama Administration has made

gible to get covered right now – go to www.GetCoveredIllinois.gov to find out and to get free, expert help.

But that's not the only thing that the law offers for LGBTQ communities. In May, my colleagues at the HHS Office for Civil Rights spelled out significant new nondiscrimination protections for LGBTQ people under the Affordable Care Act.

The new rules mean that all LGBTQ people—whether lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, non-binary, gender non-conforming, or intersex—are protected from discrimination just for being who they are. These protections apply in every state and mean that:

— Health insurance plans sold through GetCoveredIllinois.gov

can no longer have categorical exclusions for services related to gender transition.

— A hospital or clinic that receives federal funds cannot turn you away because you are transgender or in a same-sex relationship.

— You have the right to be placed in a hospital room

"But when I'm asked about the most important thing we've done for LGBTQ health, the answer is always the same: the Affordable Care Act."

or ward based on your gender identity.

— You should not face harassment from a healthcare provider, such as a doctor or nurse intentionally refusing to use your correct name and pronoun.

This means that even more LGBTQ people have the opportunity for more meaningful health insurance coverage starting Jan. 1.

If you face this or any other type of discrimination, we urge you to file a complaint with the regional Office for Civil Rights at www.hhs.gov/ocr.

We know more can be done to improve LGBTQ health and we will continue to build upon the strides we have already made together. But now we need your help to make these protections a reality for millions of LGBTQ people across the country.

Visit GetCoveredIllinois.gov to enroll and talk to your loved ones about doing the same. You may be eligible to enroll today. Financial help is available to make insurance more affordable: in 2016, nearly 7 in 10 people could have selected a plan for less than \$75 per month. And you can sit down or call to make a free appointment with an LGBTQ-friendly expert who can help you understand your options.

With financial help, new nondiscrimination protections, and better quality coverage, there's never been a better time to be out, be healthy, and get covered.

historic advancements for the LGBTQ community, and as we celebrate that progress, we know there is still more to do. We've proudly required all hospitals receiving Medicare or Medicaid funds (nearly every hospital in America) to allow visitation rights for LGBT patients, funded the first national resource center for older LGBT individuals, and released the nation's first comprehensive National HIV/AIDS Strategy, among many other initiatives.

But when I'm asked about the most important thing we've done for LGBTQ health, the answer is always the same: the Affordable Care Act.

You may know some of the law's benefits—like financial help to help eligible consumers afford health insurance, certain recommended preventive care like cancer and HIV/STI screenings without cost sharing, and coverage for preexisting medical conditions.

But many do not realize just how much the law offers for LGBTQ Illinoisans. Why? Because LGBTQ people are more likely than their straight, cisgender peers to be uninsured. In fact, because of the Affordable Care Act, the uninsured rate for low- and middle-income LGBT people dropped from 34 percent in 2013 to 26 percent in 2014. For LGB people, the uninsured rate was nearly cut in half from 2013 to 2015.

Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, more LGBTQ people have health insurance than ever before. You may be eli-

Kathleen Falk is the regional director of the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. She oversees activities in Illinois as well as Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin.



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HIV conference features Anthony Fauci

BY BOB ROEHR

Monkeys infected with SIV, the primate equivalent of HIV, were given a nine-month course of a monoclonal antibody while on antiretroviral therapy (ART)—then all treatment was stopped. Two of the treated monkeys showed no rebound of the virus while the remaining ten animals showed a “viral blip” before they naturally suppressed their virus to a very low level. Certain subsets of immune cells also were replenished.

A study using a human version of the antibody is already underway and results from those first patients should be known by late 2017 or early the following year.



Anthony Fauci.
Photos by Bob Roehr

Anthony Fauci ripped up his scheduled remarks to present a detailed look at the data in an opening plenary address Oct. 17 at the HIVR4P (research for prevention) conference in Chicago. It was based on a paper published Oct. 14 in the journal *Science*.

Fauci is perhaps the world's best-known face of HIV research. He has headed up the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) since the start of the epidemic, making major contributions in his own lab and distributing more than \$29 billion in HIV research funding, approximately half of all NIH funding on the disease since 1984.

The alpha-4, beta-7 monkey antibody the researchers created blocks a similarly named receptor that appears on the surface of CD4 and other immune cells. Normally, the receptor is used to help guide immune cells to the gut, a central site of HIV infection. There were clues from other studies that alpha-4, beta-7 might be important, so Fauci thought it would be interesting to block the receptor.

“What was exciting about it was how profound the difference was between the two” groups of monkeys, Fauci later explained to reporters. All of the animals that received the antibody were able to control the virus once they stopped ART, while the animals that did not receive the antibody all got sick. The initial group of animals remains healthy about two years after stopping ART while a second group remains healthy after about a year.

Even before the paper was published, the NIH launched a proof of principle study in humans, enrolling the first of an estimated 15 to 25 patients

It is using vedolizumab (trade name Entyvio), a human anti-alpha-4, beta-7 monoclonal antibody that was approved by the FDA in 2014 to treat the irritable bowel diseases (IBD) ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease. Fauci said the Japanese firm Takeda Pharmaceuticals has been “incredibly easy to work with” in terms of sharing data and preparing for the study of vedolizumab.

“I have to emphasize over and over again that we don't know what the mechanisms” of action are—how or why it works—“but it is loud and clear what the effect is.” Fauci said, “I would not be surprised if we found out it was a different mechanism” from that seen with IBD.

Chicago HIV prevention activist Jim Pickett expressed the ambivalence of many who heard the presentation. While a “functional cure” for HIV would be warmly embraced, they don't want to raise false hopes within the community for something that may not pan out, and if it does, is likely to require many more years of research.

“If monkeys were perfect predictors, then we would have an HIV vaccine by now,” cautioned Kenneth Mayer, director of research at Fenway Health in Boston.

Housing available for HIV+ young adults

El Rescate, an initiative of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center (PRCC), provides transitional housing to youth ages 18-24 who are struggling with housing stability and identify as LGBTQ or are HIV+.

They are providing immediate enrollment for eligible individuals who are living with HIV regardless of sexual orientation or gender. Residents can live at El Rescate for up to two years or until they turn 25. In addition to housing, in-house case management support aims to work together with the resident to secure needed supportive services including, but are not limited to:

- Linkage to HIV Medical Care and Treatment
- HIV Non-medical Case Management
- Linkage to Mental Health Care and Treatment
- Psychosocial Counseling and Substance Abuse Treatment
- AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)
- Public Assistance (i.e., cash assistance and/or food stamps)
- Job Search and Placement
- Enrolling in educational programs as well as tutoring and mentoring
- Life-skills training; and more

Contact M Echeverria, program coordinator at El Rescate, at 872-829-2662 or mecheverria@prcc-chgo.org.

MBGLTACC in Chicago in Feb.

The Midwest Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, and Ally College Conference (MBGLTACC) will take place Feb. 17-19, 2017, at Chicago's Navy Pier, and will kick off with #BlackLivesMatter co-founder Patrisse Cullors.

Cullors, an openly queer performance artist from Los Angeles, started the Twitter hashtag #BlackLivesMatter (with Alicia Garza and Opal Tometi) in response to George Zimmerman's 2013 acquittal in the fatal shooting of Florida teenager Trayvon Martin.

The 2017 MBLGTACC will mark the 25th anniversary of the first conference and will center on the theme of “United in Solidarity.” Approximately 2,500 people are expected to attend.

For more information or to register for the conference, visit <https://mblgtacc.org>.

PASSAGES

Joe M. Nguyen

BY ROSS FORMAN

Joe M. Nguyen—who was born and raised in Vietnam and has lived in Chicago since 1988, working as a graphic designer—passed away Oct. 16 in his sleep. He was 48.

Nguyen worked for Independent Signs & Graphics and lived in Chicago's Andersonville neighborhood with his husband, Mark Harrer, and their daughter, Lynn.

Nguyen and Harrer, friends for 26 years, dated for 21 years and were married June 26, 2014. They adopted Lynn at age 2; she is now 16, a junior in high school.

“He was a very caring person with a strong personality. He was very confident, very generous. It's really hard to even process,” said Chung Luu, of Chicago, friends with Nguyen since the mid-1990s. “Back in the day, we were inseparable. We were like pots and pans.”

When going out together in the city years ago, Luu always asked Nguyen how he looked, and Nguyen once replied, “You look fear,” instead of fierce. “That was always our inside joke.”

Nguyen and Harrer, 55, met through friends. Nguyen said it was “Joe's personality,” which stood out most. “He was just a nice person to be around, a giving person who would do anything for anybody,” Harrer said. “He was my rock. If anything was going on, I could go to him and he'd tell me that everything would be OK, don't worry.”

Nguyen enjoyed working out, music, dancing and cooking.

“Joe always knew what he wanted,” Harrer said. “He was the type of person who could do anything that he wanted. Anything he set his mind to, he would do and become good at it.”



Joe M. Nguyen.
Photo courtesy of Mark Harrer

Case in point: As a kid he became a self-taught beautician, learning how to cut hair just by watching others at work. He also was a self-taught chef, Harrer said.

Nguyen helped introduce his daughter to ice skating and figure skating, Harrer said. “Joe was an amazing, perfect dad, and Lynn was the love of his life,” Harrer added.

Nguyen is survived by his mother, three sisters and one brother—all of whom live in Chicago. Joe was the second-youngest of five siblings.

A wake/visitation was held Oct. 21 at Cooney Funeral Home, 3918 W. Irving Park Rd. The funeral was Oct. 22 at the same site.

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Uptown residents stage counterprotest to Westboro rally

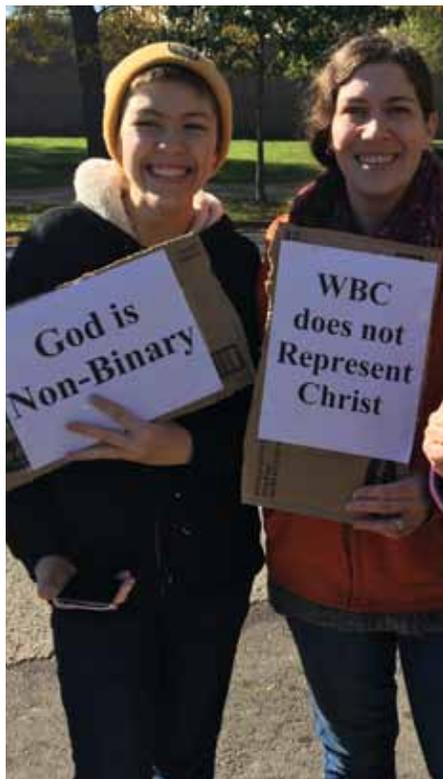
BY MATT SIMONETTE

About 50 Uptown residents and other community members staged a counter-protest the morning of Oct. 21 when members of Topeka, Kansas-based Westboro Baptist Church staged an anti-LGBT protest at Weiss Memorial Hospital.

About seven Westboro members brandished anti-LGBT signs and sang along with music with anti-gay parody lyrics. The Weiss protest, according to the group's website, was ostensibly to protest the Transmale Genital Surgery Cadaver Course, which was taking place at the hospital's Center for Gender Confirmation Surgery. Another protest was planned at the University of Chicago later in the day.

Numerous counterprotestors engaged the Westboro demonstrators, arguing theology and trading barbs. Activist Ryne Poelker, who advocates on behalf of Uptown residents experiencing homelessness, castigated the demonstrators as he pointed to the underpass up the street where numerous persons have been living.

"Are you all doing anything for the homeless? What have you done to help them?" Poelker asked.



Uptown residents stage a counterdemonstration to the Westboro protest. Photos by Matt Simonette and Peter Serocki

Another man repeatedly drove around the block, extending his middle finger each time he passed the Westboro demonstrators. Numerous individuals held signs supporting transgender people.

Ald. James Cappleman (46th Ward) said his office had been made aware of the protest a few days earlier, adding, "Uptown is a community that is incredibly diverse and we welcome diversity in all its forms. We especially welcome members of the transgender community who've faced incredible obstacles. ...We're going to

stand with them, and we stand with Dr. Martin Luther King and his message of love."

Counterprotestor Cindy Clayton, an Uptown resident, came as part of the group Jesus People USA.

"This is a misrepresentation of Christ," Clayton said of Westboro. "This is not what Christians are. We have to stand up against hate as Christians; it's so important. People think this is what Christians are. Jesus loves, and this is hate."



Deborah Birx, Mike Quigley and David Munar (from left). Photo by Matt Simonette

AIDS ambassador speaks on value of neighborhood clinics

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Speaking at Howard Brown Health's 63rd Street Clinic on Oct. 20, Deborah Birx, ambassador-at-large for Global AIDS Efforts, said that President Obama's call for an AIDS-free generation served as a wake up call for many service providers and HIV/AIDS activists.

Birx and her colleagues knew that immeasurable hurdles would lie ahead for those looking to treat and prevent new HIV transmissions.

"In most places around the world, the governmental leadership is denying the facts," Birx said, noting that persons with HIV/AIDS—particularly sex workers, men who have sex with men and I.V. drug users—still face unrelenting stigma and discrimination. She recalled that PEPFAR sites in Tanzania were raided because they were storing and distributing lubricants, for example.

Birx called for an integration of strategies from political leaders, community activists and scientific researchers to combat the stigma. New models of care, she added, needed to be implemented at the neighborhood level, an idea that spoke to the value of the 63rd Street clinic, which opened this past summer.

Clinic medical director Maya Green, M.D., said that residents expressed gratitude for having primary care services on top of HIV/AIDS services and added that in the long run that would help reduce HIV/AIDS stigma. Howard Brown Health CEO and President David Munar noted that Green was insistent that Howard Brown be positioned as a primary care facility, not just a specialized HIV/AIDS clinic.

"Populations that are marginalized feel like they can't go to their providers," Green said. "They can't go to their families. They can't go to their spiritual advisors. ... Sometimes it's like they walk in with a mask; that mask lets stigma thrive."

U.S. Reps. Mike Quigley and Robin Kelly also spoke at the presentation, highlighting government's role in ensuring accessible services for all members of the community.

"Our jobs right now are to get the funds into the right spot," Quigley said.

Judge recommends against locker-room injunction

BY MATT SIMONETTE

U.S. District Magistrate Judge Jeffrey Gilbert, on Oct. 18, recommended the denial of a preliminary injunction that would have banned a transgender student at Township High School District 211 from using the locker room and restroom facilities of the gender with which she identifies.

District 211, in 2015, ran afoul of Title IX rules and nearly lost federal funding when it disputed the student's facilities accommodations. It cut a deal with the government, but a group of families, in May 2016, filed a lawsuit to bar the student from using the girls' locker room and restrooms. Assuming that U.S. District Judge Jorge Alonso agrees with Gilbert's denial, she'll be able to go on using them while the matter is settled.

In a statement, John Knight of ACLU Illinois, which is representing the student, said, "Judge Gilbert's decision is welcome news, reducing some of the uncertainty experienced by our clients in this case. The Judge plainly recognized that the organizations who filed this case are unable to demonstrate any harm to their clients from sharing restrooms and locker rooms with students they perceive as different, while Student A and other transgender students would have been isolated and stigmatized if they were forced out of the appropriate restrooms and locker rooms after using the facilities without incident for several years.

"As the decision makes clear, '[h]igh school students do not have a constitutional right not to share restrooms or locker rooms with transgender students' and 'sharing a restroom or locker room with a transgender student does not create ... a hostile environment under Title IX.'

"Barring Student A and other transgender students from the restrooms and locker rooms that match their gender challenges their basic identity and humanity, suggests that they should be ashamed of who they are, and puts them at serious of long-term emotional and psychological injury. We are pleased that Judge Gilbert rejected specious arguments about privacy and protected the interests of all the students."



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TRIUMEQ is a once-a-day pill used to treat HIV-1. In some people, TRIUMEQ should not be used by itself. Take TRIUMEQ exactly as your healthcare provider tells you.

APPROVED USES

TRIUMEQ is a prescription HIV-1 (Human Immunodeficiency Virus-type 1) medicine used alone or with other antiretroviral medicines to treat HIV-1 infection in adults. HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS. TRIUMEQ is not for use by itself in people who have or have had resistance to abacavir, dolutegravir, or lamivudine. TRIUMEQ should not be used in children under the age of 18.

TRIUMEQ does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS. You must keep taking HIV-1 medicines to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

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

TRIUMEQ can cause serious side effects, including:

- **Serious allergic reactions (hypersensitivity reaction)** that can cause death have happened with TRIUMEQ and other abacavir-containing products. Your risk of this allergic reaction to abacavir is much higher if you have a gene variation called HLA-B*5701. Your healthcare provider can determine with a blood test if you have this gene variation. **If you get symptoms from 2 or more of the following groups while taking TRIUMEQ, call your healthcare provider right away: 1. fever; 2. rash; 3. nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or stomach pain; 4. generally ill feeling, extreme tiredness, or achiness; 5. shortness of breath, cough, or sore throat.** Your pharmacist will give you a Warning Card with a list of these symptoms. **Carry this Warning Card with you at all times.**

If you stop taking TRIUMEQ because of an allergic reaction, never take TRIUMEQ or any other abacavir- or dolutegravir-containing medicines again. If you take TRIUMEQ or any other abacavir-containing medicine again after you have had an allergic reaction, **within hours** you may get **life-threatening symptoms** that may include **very low blood pressure** or **death**. If you stop TRIUMEQ for any other reason, even for a few days, and you are not allergic to TRIUMEQ, talk with your healthcare provider before taking it again. Taking TRIUMEQ again can cause a serious allergic or life-threatening reaction, even if you never had an allergic reaction to it before. **If your healthcare provider tells you that you can take TRIUMEQ again, start taking it when you are around medical help or people who can call a healthcare provider if you need one.**

- **A buildup of acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take TRIUMEQ. This serious medical emergency can cause death. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you** feel very weak or tired; have unusual muscle pain; have trouble breathing; have stomach pain with nausea and vomiting; feel cold, especially in your arms and legs; feel dizzy/light-headed; or have a fast/irregular heartbeat.

- **Serious liver problems** can happen in people who take TRIUMEQ. In some cases, these serious liver problems can lead to death. **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking nucleoside analogue medicines for a long time. Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following signs or symptoms:**

- yellow skin, or the white part of the eyes turns yellow (jaundice); dark urine; light-colored stools; loss of appetite for several days or longer; nausea; pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area

- **Worsening of hepatitis B virus in people who have HIV-1 infection.** If you have HIV-1 and hepatitis B virus (HBV), your HBV may get worse (flare-up) if you stop taking TRIUMEQ. A “flare-up” is when your HBV suddenly returns in a worse way than before. Worsening liver disease can be serious and may lead to death. Do not stop taking TRIUMEQ without first talking to your healthcare provider, so he or she can monitor your health.

- **Resistant hepatitis B virus.** If you have HIV-1 and hepatitis B, the hepatitis B virus can change (mutate) during your treatment with TRIUMEQ and become harder to treat (resistant).

- **Use with interferon and ribavirin-based regimens.** If you're taking TRIUMEQ and interferon, with or without ribavirin, tell your healthcare provider about any new symptoms. Worsening of liver disease that has caused death has happened in people infected with both HIV-1 and hepatitis C who were taking antiretroviral medicines and interferon.

Who should not take TRIUMEQ?

- **Do not take TRIUMEQ if you:**

- have the HLA-B*5701 gene variation
- are allergic to abacavir, dolutegravir, or any of the ingredients in TRIUMEQ
- take dofetilide (Tikosyn®)
- have liver or kidney problems

What are other possible side effects of TRIUMEQ?

- People with a history of hepatitis B or C virus may have an increased risk of developing new or worsening changes in certain liver tests during treatment with TRIUMEQ. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your liver function before and during treatment with TRIUMEQ.
- When you start taking HIV-1 medicines, your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you start having new symptoms after you start taking TRIUMEQ.
- Changes in body fat can happen in people who take HIV-1 medicines.
- Some HIV-1 medicines, including TRIUMEQ, may increase your risk of heart attack.

The most common side effects of TRIUMEQ include: trouble sleeping, headache, tiredness

These are not all the possible side effects of TRIUMEQ. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRIUMEQ?

- **Before you take TRIUMEQ, tell your healthcare provider if you:**

- have been tested and know whether or not you have a gene variation called HLA-B*5701
- have or have had liver problems, including hepatitis B or C infection; have kidney problems; have heart problems, smoke, or have diseases that increase your risk of heart disease such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or diabetes; drink alcohol or take medicines that contain alcohol
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if TRIUMEQ will harm your unborn baby
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. **Do not breastfeed if you take TRIUMEQ**

- **You should not take TRIUMEQ if you also take:**

- abacavir (EPZICOM®, TRIZIVIR®, or ZIAGEN®)
- lamivudine (COMBIVIR®, Dutrebis™, EPIVIR®, EPIVIR-HBV®, EPZICOM, or TRIZIVIR)
- emtricitabine (Emtriva®, Atripla®, Complera®, Stribild®, or Truvada®)

Important Safety Information continued on next page

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If you don't have prescription coverage and can't afford your medicines, visit ViiVHealthcareForYou.com or call the ViiV Healthcare Response Center 1-877-844-8872



“We’re
MOVING FORWARD
 with **TRIUMEQ.**”

Peter
 Diagnosed with
 HIV in 2015



Garland
 Diagnosed
 with HIV
 in 2016



Leopold
 Diagnosed with
 HIV in 2003

Jeannette
 Diagnosed with
 HIV in 2011



Jack
 Diagnosed with
 HIV in 2010



Real patients with HIV-1 taking TRIUMEQ as of 2014 or later. Individual results may vary. Individuals compensated for their time by ViiV Healthcare.

• **Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements (for example, antacids or laxatives; vitamins such as iron or calcium supplements; anti-seizure medicines; other medicines to treat HIV-1, hepatitis, or tuberculosis; metformin; methadone; or St. John’s wort). Some medicines interact with TRIUMEQ. **Keep a list of your medicines to show your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.**

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Important Facts about TRIUMEQ on the following pages.

Ask your doctor about

 **Triumeq**[®]
 abacavir 600 mg/dolutegravir 50 mg/
 lamivudine 300 mg tablets

learn more at trumeq.com

 **Triumeq**
 abacavir 600 mg/dolutegravir 50 mg/
 lamivudine 300 mg tablets
 (TRI-u-meck)

IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about TRIUMEQ and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRIUMEQ

TRIUMEQ® may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Serious allergic reactions (hypersensitivity reaction)** that can cause death have happened with TRIUMEQ and other abacavir-containing products. Your risk of this allergic reaction to abacavir is much higher if you have a gene variation called HLA-B*5701. Your healthcare provider can determine with a blood test if you have this gene variation. **If you get symptoms from 2 or more of the following groups while taking TRIUMEQ, call your healthcare provider right away: 1. fever; 2. rash; 3. nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or stomach pain; 4. generally ill feeling, extreme tiredness, or achiness; 5. shortness of breath, cough, or sore throat.** A list of these symptoms is on the Warning Card your pharmacist gives you. **Carry this Warning Card with you at all times.**
- **If you stop taking TRIUMEQ because of an allergic reaction, never take TRIUMEQ or any other abacavir- or dolutegravir-containing medicines again.** If you take TRIUMEQ or any other abacavir-containing medicine again after you have had an allergic reaction, **within hours** you may get **life-threatening symptoms** that may include **very low blood pressure** or **death**. If you stop TRIUMEQ for any other reason, even for a few days, and you are not allergic to TRIUMEQ, talk with your healthcare provider before taking it again. Taking TRIUMEQ again can cause a serious allergic or life-threatening reaction, even if you never had an allergic reaction to it before. **If your healthcare provider tells you that you can take TRIUMEQ again, start taking it when you are around medical help or people who can call a healthcare provider if you need one.**
- **Build-up of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis)**, which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms:** feeling very weak or tired, unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold (especially in your arms and legs), feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems**, which in some cases can lead to death. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms:** your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice), dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools (bowel movements), loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach pain on the right side.

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking nucleoside analogues for a long time.

- **Worsening of Hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking TRIUMEQ. Do not stop taking TRIUMEQ without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.
- **Resistant HBV.** If you have HIV-1 and HBV, the HBV can change (mutate) while you're on TRIUMEQ and become harder to treat (resistant).
- **Use with interferon and ribavirin-based regimens.** Worsening of liver disease that has caused death has happened in people infected with both HIV-1 and hepatitis C virus who are taking antiretroviral medicines and are also being treated for hepatitis C with interferon with or without ribavirin. If you are taking TRIUMEQ and interferon with or without ribavirin, tell your HCP if you have any new symptoms.

ABOUT TRIUMEQ

- TRIUMEQ is a prescription HIV-1 medicine used alone or with other antiretroviral medicines to treat HIV-1 infection in adults. TRIUMEQ is not for use by itself in people who have or have had resistance to abacavir, dolutegravir, or lamivudine. TRIUMEQ should not be used in children under the age of 18.
- **TRIUMEQ does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS.** You must keep taking HIV-1 medicines to control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses.

DO NOT TAKE TRIUMEQ IF YOU

- have a certain type of gene variation called the HLA-B*5701 allele. Your HCP will test you for this before prescribing treatment with TRIUMEQ.
- are allergic to abacavir, dolutegravir, or any of the ingredients in TRIUMEQ. See the full Medication Guide for a complete list of ingredients in TRIUMEQ.
- take dofetilide (Tikosyn®). Taking TRIUMEQ and dofetilide (Tikosyn) can cause side effects that may be life-threatening.
- have liver or kidney problems.
- If you also take: abacavir (EPZICOM, TRIZIVIR, or ZIAGEN); lamivudine (COMBIVIR®, Dutrebis™, EPIVIR®, EPIVIR-HBV®, EPZICOM, or TRIZIVIR); emtricitabine (Atripla®, Complera®, Emtriva®, Stribild®, or Truvada®) abacavir (EPZICOM, TRIZIVIR, or ZIAGEN)

BEFORE TAKING TRIUMEQ

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- have been tested and know if you have a particular gene variation called HLA-B*5701.
- have or had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis B or C virus infection.
- have heart problems, smoke, or have diseases that increase your risk of heart disease such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or diabetes.
- drink alcohol or take medicines that contain alcohol.
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if TRIUMEQ will harm your unborn baby.
- are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. **Do not breastfeed if you have HIV-1** because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRIUMEQ. **Do not start taking a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider**

MEDICINES THAT MIGHT INTERACT WITH TRIUMEQ

- antacids, laxatives, or other medicines that contain aluminum, magnesium, sucralfate (Carafate®), or buffered medicines. TRIUMEQ should be taken at least 2 hours before or 6 hours after you take these medicines.
- iron or calcium supplements taken by mouth may be taken at the same time with TRIUMEQ if taken with food. Otherwise, TRIUMEQ should be taken at least 2 hours before or 6 hours after you take these medicines
- anti-seizure medicines: oxcarbazepine (Trileptal®), phenytoin (Dilantin®, Dilantin®-125, Phenytek®), phenobarbital, carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®, Tegretol®-XR, Teril®, Eptol®)
- any other medicine to treat HIV-1, medicines used to treat hepatitis virus infections (such as interferon or ribavirin), a medicine that contains metformin, methadone, rifampin (Rifater®, Rifamate®, Rimactane®, Rifadin®), St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRIUMEQ

TRIUMEQ can cause serious side effects including:

- See "What is the most important information about TRIUMEQ?" section
- Changes in liver tests.
- Changes in your immune system
- Changes in body fat
- Some HIV-1 medicines including TRIUMEQ may increase your risk of heart attack.

The most common side effects of TRIUMEQ are: trouble sleeping, headache, and tiredness

These are not all the possible side effects of TRIUMEQ. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking TRIUMEQ.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with TRIUMEQ.

You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist
- Go to TRIUMEQ.com or call 1-877-844-8872, where you can also get FDA-approved product labeling

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April 2016 TRM:4MG

Catholic priests, lay persons call for LGBT, women's rights

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

It was the unlikeliest of press conferences and a sign of times that are changing with unprecedented momentum even from within one of the world's oldest religious institutions.

On Oct. 20, in Arlington Heights, representatives from Catholic priest movements and lay reform organizations based across the world gathered to lay out a series of direct challenges to the Catholic Church on everything from women's equality to LGBT rights.

The announcement, also carried via a live global webcast, came at the conclusion of the third international conference of its kind during which 40 priests and lay persons from 10 countries—Argentina, Australia, Austria, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Slovenia, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the United States—met for three days “to develop strategies for reform in the Catholic Church including the full participation of women in the Church, confronting clericalism and supporting LGBT Catholics.”

Sam Bowns, an activist working on the restoration of women priests; William McGinnity, from the National Council of Priests of Australia; Margaret Roylance, of the Voice of the Faithful; Kate McElwee, co-executive director of The Women's Ordination Conference; and organizer Markus Heil served as the gathering's representatives.

“In this space we wrestled with the damaging effects of oppressive structures knowing that patriarchy and hierarchy hurt us all,” McElwee said. “We discovered, time and again, that by sharing as equals and asking hard questions we can transform, ourselves, our church and our world.”

“One of the guiding principles of our assembly was unity in diversity,” Roylance said. “Envisioning an active change in the church means appreciating our differences.”

Roylance singled out clericalism (the elite Catholic hierarchy which seeks to control and maintain power) as a quintessential issue in the church.

“It reflects a deeper problem,” she said. “The failure to recognize the rights and responsibilities of each baptized person. In the absence of a right to be treated with respect or to follow one's own conscience, real pain and injustice result: sexual abuse, the closing of active parish communities, the mistreatment of divorced and remarried Catholics [all] perpetrated in the name of our church.”

“We believe that there can be no meaningful change in the church without fundamental rights for all of our members,” Bowns asserted. “People live in two different worlds. In church,

freedoms are very few and the power lies with the few and not the many. We have to come back to a better sense of community by connecting with others and lifting up individual stories. We want to call, not only our clergy and hierarchy to accountability [to community] but each individual baptized Christian.”

However, McGinnity affirmed the group's support for Pope Francis's reform initiatives particularly in church governance and structure.

“We believe it's critical that our church has to reach out to those who feel marginalized or sanctioned by the institutional church,” he said.

However, in terms of the Pope's August 2016 comments about transgender individuals during which he called them “The annihilation of man as the image of God,” Heil said that the conference focused on LGBT issues as a whole rather than singling out transgender issues.

“There are a lot of strange ideas in the Catholic theology these days,” he added. “There is some education needed and the church is trying to catch up.”

This was the first time that the conference was held in the United States and it arrived at a time of substantial political and social rifts, particularly concerning the issue of undocumented immigrants with the possible threat of mass deportations and a resulting need for church sanctuary.

“My gut feeling is that there are a number of Roman Catholics in this country that will do everything in their power to ease the misery and help our fellow human beings,” Bowns said.

McElwee announced “Two statements that both unify us and call us to action for the work ahead.”

The first was to send a Spirit Day message of solidarity with and acceptance of LGBTQ youth.

“We commit ourselves to stand against violence in all forms, physical, emotional and spiritual towards LGBTQ people,” McElwee said. “We encourage church leaders and individual members to make the same commitment.”

McElwee went on to read a proclamation from members working on full equality for women in the Catholic Church “who are too often ignored, rejected, silenced and dismissed.”

“To our brothers in the wider church, we are asking you to deeply listen to the women in your circle [and] in your communities,” McElwee stated. “In the spirit that invites transformation, we ask you to carefully reflect on male and clerical privilege and risk stepping out and acting courageously for full equality in our church. [It] has become an ever more broken body. We need to walk this journey together.”



From left: Markus Heil, Kate McElwee, Margaret Roylance, William McGinnity and Sam Bowns. Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

Event focuses on potential foster parents of teens

BY MATT SIMONETTE

An Oct. 22 gathering at Kennedy-King College encouraged families to open their homes for teenage foster children. Approximately 40 people attended.

In a program that Jeremy Harvey—associate deputy director of in the Division of Strategic Planning and Innovations at the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services—moderated, three teens in foster care and three foster parents weighed the challenges facing those who are engaging the foster-care system.

“The best people to tell us who makes the best Forster parents are people within the system,” said Harvey.

Tammy (only panelists' first names were used), who has been a foster parent for many years, said that she particularly enjoys welcoming teens with special needs, adding that it was especially vital that foster families build a bridge of trust between themselves and their charges early on. One way she does that is by providing her kids with a key to her house—many foster parents force their kids to wait outside if nobody else is at home. Her kids can also eat or drink whatever is in the refrigerator as well.

“I want a child in my home to feel like they are at home,” Tammy said.

She added that it is important to remem-

ber that kids are coming from circumstances beyond their control and have in most cases been profoundly disappointed by the adults in their lives. But she found that the rewards for welcoming teenagers were plentiful.

Tia, who was in foster care for eight years, reminded the audience that teenagers don't need nighttime feedings, and can help around the house.

“Don't call me your foster child, call me your child,” she said. “Don't just kick me out when I mess up.”

Josh, who along with his wife, Erin, became a foster parent to 15-year-old Simone, said, “Once the barriers come down, it's incredible.”

Seventeen-year-old Jesse, vice president of the Cook County Youth Advisory Board, is in his second round of foster care after a failed adoption. However, he said he has been happy in his new home.

“What I thought was just going to be a bed for me has transitioned into a family,” he said. “With this new connection, I'm able to develop and thrive.”

Ashley Lepse, recruitment and program support coordinator for Hephzibah Children's Association, also spoke at the event, which included sponsors such as AdoptUSKIDS, Windy City Times, Pride Action Tank, Aunt Martha's, ChildServ, Hephzibah, Illinois Center for Adoption and Permanency, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Kaleidoscope, Lakeside Community Committee, Lawrence Hall, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, Little City, National Youth Advocate Program and SOS Children's Villages.



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VOTE NOV. 8

Town hall takes steps toward ending gun-related violence

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

It was a haunting rendition of Andra Day's "Rise Up," which Victor Valencia performed, that set the tone for "Disarm Gun Violence: An LGBTQ Town Hall For Action" Oct. 20 at the Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Chicago's Andersonville neighborhood.

More than 120 people attended the event, which took place on the second anniversary of the death of Laquan McDonald, whom Chicago Police Department (CPD) officer Jason Van Dyke killed, and four months after the murder of 49 people on Latinx night at the Pulse LGBTQ bar in Orlando, Florida.

Even though the issue of gun violence has affected the LGBTQ community for decades, the massacre at Pulse June 12 galvanized the movement in Chicago. Two months ago, the first steps were made in building a coalition needed to take the kind of decisive action that led to historic LGBTQ civil-rights victories after 1969.

In order to stand up to the lobbying power and often intimidating tactics utilized by the

Legal, Lighthouse Church of Chicago, National Center for Lesbian Rights, National LGBTQ Task Force, Northbrook United Methodist Church, Northalsted Business Alliance, Or Chadash, Pillars Fund, Pride Action Tank, Puerto Rican Arts Alliance, Puerto Rican Cultural Center, Temple Shalom's Social Justice, Thresholds, TransTech and United Latino Pride.

For the first public step, Disarm Gun Violence brought together a packed audience of people representing the entire LGBTQ spectrum of all races and economic backgrounds who were unified in the purpose of clearly defining the problem of gun violence and pledging to take immediate action to end it.

"Today, let us be educated, motivated and activated as we hear about the ways in which the LGBT and gun violence prevention communities not only intersect but share a common goal," Chicago Survivors founder Joy McCormack said. "Let us impact this human-rights epidemic by understanding two realities; that the hate and discrimination against LGBTQ people is lethal and [that] we live in a country where guns are too easily accessed without sufficient account-



Photo by Tracy Baim

rector Kim Hunt moderated a panel that included Latinx advocate and Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame alumnus Emmanuel Garcia; attorney and Muslim LGBTQ advocate Dr. Nabeela Rasheed, Ph.D.; Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence Campaign Manager John Gruber; and G-PAC Executive Director Kathleen Sances.

Gruber noted that the 1993 Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act which requires background checks for those purchasing weapons at federally licensed dealers does not apply to internet transactions, or private transfers at a gun show.

ping the flow of guns into Illinois."

He suggested that regulation occur at a state level.

To that end, Sances emphasized the importance of voting in the Nov. 8 election.

"At the top of the ticket, we have someone [Donald Trump] proud to be endorsed by the NRA," she said. "[They] have pumped unprecedented millions of dollars into his campaign. He promises that, if he becomes president, he will get rid of all gun-free zones and put us all in danger all of the time. [Hillary Clinton] has made gun violence prevention one of her main issues. It's something we've been waiting for because the loss of life has been devastating in every state."

Sances added that voters needed to address gun violence both up and down the ballot.

"[G-PAC] has a voter guide," she said. "If you don't see your state representative or state senator on that list, it's because they chose not to participate and get on record that they support safety measures. So don't vote for them. This is our go time. We have to protect the people that we already know are going to support life-saving policies and we have five opportunities to get votes in both houses to get us to a gun-sense majority."

Garcia noted the 56 transgender and gender nonconforming people murdered in the last three years in this country. In 2016 alone, the number of individuals slain stands at 23.

"Our community has carried that pain while also fighting against the transphobia that exists," Garcia added. "Some people have been murdered through guns and we haven't seemed to mobilize around that issue. When you talk to different people of color, our communities are experiencing interpersonal and systemic violence through poverty and [lack of] education."

Despite attempts, following Orlando, to drive a wedge between the Islamic and LGBTQ communities Rasheed recalled meetings designed to bring organizations and people into a defendant unity called The TRUST Collective with a mission to consistently support each other particularly following a tragedy.

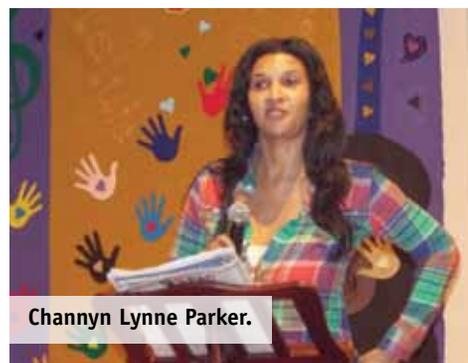
Director of Urban Education and Community Partnerships at DePaul University's Steans Center for Community-Based Service Learning John Zeigler received such support in passionate applause after he recalled the life of his friend Mbiganyi Lashani who was murdered on Chicago's South Side July 29, 2016.

"[M.B.] became such a vital part of working with young people," Zeigler said. "The kids loved him. My family loved him. I look at him as an ancestor. There's a small community that has begun to put up leaflets around [South Peoria Street] searching for his murderer."

Suicide is a tragedy that dramatically impacts the LGBTQ community, particularly its youth where it is the leading cause of death.

Gruber addressed the more than 20,000 gun suicides in the United States each year (50 every day) and the fact that those who attempt suicide with a gun have a higher than 50-percent mortality rate.

According to Gruber, prevention begins with



Channyn Lynne Parker.



Cleopatra Pendleton.



John Zeigler.



Kim Hunt, Joy McCormack and Tracy Baim.



Mona Noriega.

National Rifle Association (NRA), organizers said it is essential that the coalition be just as formidable and equally aggressive.

The coalition partners for the Oct. 20 event—which Chicago Survivors, Pride Action Tank and Windy City Times organized—included Illinois gun violence-prevention organizations like The Brady Campaign, G-PAC, Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence, Organizing for Action and People for Safer Society, plus a large list of LGBTQ advocacy and activist groups, plus allied community organizations: Affinity Community Services, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, ALMA: Association of Latino/as Motivating Action, Broadway Youth Center of HBH, BUILD (Broader Urban Involvement & Leadership Development), Center on Halsted, Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus, Chicago Coalition of Welcoming Churches, Chicago House, Commission on Human Relations, Dignity Chicago, Equality Illinois, Erie Neighborhood House, Gays Against Guns Chicago, Heartland Alliance, Howard Brown Health, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, La Casa Norte, Lambda

ability and safety measures."

McCormack recalled her 21-year-old son, Frankie, "at the prime of his life, looking forward to all of the wonders. He was very active in social services around Chicago and he was nominated to intern at the White House," she said. "On Oct. 31, 2009, Frankie went to a Halloween party. Twenty minutes after arriving, he was standing in front of the house and gangbangers came by with a TEC-9 semi-automatic weapon. They opened fire. This was a gun bought illegally for \$300. That's all it took and our son was gone."

"Where was Frankie's right to life?" She asked. "Where was his right to choose to be here? We have to remind ourselves that this is a human-rights issue. This is a civil-rights issue."

"What we want to do is make sure that any work that happens is not redundant but amplifies the work that's already begun in Chicago and Illinois," Windy City Times Publisher and Executive Editor Tracy Baim asserted.

In order for people to understand the scope of the problem, Pride Action Tank Executive Di-

"In some states like [neighboring] Indiana, I can go to a gun show or I can meet up with someone online who can sell me a gun no questions asked," he said. "Some states [like Illinois] have closed the [gun show] loophole but the approximate average is that 40 percent of all gun sales in America go without a background check. If you look at the gun violence all over the city [of Chicago], you're seeing a lot of guns come from out of state."

Gruber also pinpointed Illinois gun dealers who are not effectively regulated. One of the most prolific is Chuck's Gun Shop & Pistol Range in Riverdale, Illinois—a community that is 94 percent Black.

"Chuck's is owned by a very affluent white guy who lives in the south suburbs," Gruber said. "Over the course of four years, Chuck's Guns supplied one in 12 of the guns used on the streets of Chicago. It is one of the leading sellers of NRA memberships in the United States."

"We need action at the federal level," he said. "But, until we have some commitment either by a Republican Congress or at a federal level, we're not going to get a lot done stop-



Far left: Kim Hunt (left to right), Dr. Nabeela Rasheed, John Gruber, Emmanuel Garcia and Kathleen Sances.

Left: Joy McCormack (left to right), Channyn Lynne Parker, Lisa Gilmore, Maria Pike and Mark Walsh.

Photos by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

safe storage in the home.

"We are not demonizing gun owners," he said. "What we are saying is that, if you're a parent and you really care about your kid and you happen to be a gun owner, make sure that gun is locked up."

Suicide has had a devastating effect on the transgender community.

Chicago House TransLife Center project manager and advocate Channyn Lynne Parker asserted that, as a transgender woman of color, "My right to self-identify and to self-determine is undermined as I navigate what is a cis-hetero, oppressive, patriarchal society that violently polices my body."

"Working with trans women of color on a daily basis, I see the violence that is inflicted upon [them]," she added before telling the story of Eisha Love who was held for nearly four years without trial in the maximum security Division IX of the Cook County Jail for an act of self-defense.

Parker was also part of the final panel of the evening tasked with setting out an agenda where, as McCormack stated, "We're not just talking about the problem but we're actually focused on actions and solutions."

Moderated by McCormack, the panel included Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence (ICHV) Campaign Director Mark Walsh and anti-violence advocate Lisa Gilmore.

They were joined by Maria Pike, the mother of

24-year-old Ricky Pike who was gunned down in Chicago's Logan Square neighborhood in August 2012. Maria is a member of the Moms Demand Action Survivor Network—an organization created following the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre in Newtown, Connecticut and now has over three million members nationwide and growing.

Gilmore's suggestions included to "Challenge culture to decrease the vulnerability we experience as LGBTQ people."

"We need to address homelessness," Gilmore added. "Internal to our own LGBTQ communities and groups, we need to stop [rejecting] people, especially LGBTQ youth for being homeless and present in front of us. Choose to be together and to really see each other."

"One of the things I deal with in Springfield all the time is legislators who are scared beyond belief because they know that, every time a vote comes up that make sense, one that 90 percent of Americans support, they get 150 phone calls that say 'I will take you out of office,'" Walsh asserted. "So it's important that [state and federal] legislators hear from us."

"When my son was killed, I found out that the [killers] were involved with guns coming from out of state or places like Chuck's gun shop," Pike said. "I also found out that guns exacerbate the systemic issues that we have in our society. We have issues of poverty, education, lack of opportunities. Do acts of kind-

ness every single day of your life because that makes us better as a society. Take a risk and go to places you have never been because you will be pleasantly surprised."

"Nothing stops a bullet like a job," Walsh said. "This is all of our problem and we all need to work together."

Parker similarly challenged the audience by suggesting that they "Stop relying on the media to define trans people."

"It's our responsibility to interrupt transphobia, violent language and behavior at all costs," she said. "Invest in trans people in real, tangible ways. Provide us actual spaces to thrive in life. I strongly urge that our trans women and men get out and vote. Through history I've noticed that movements begin in basements, in church or in living rooms. It's so imperative that young people create spaces of their own because [their] voices are powerful."

"Oftentimes, we think about an us-versus-them conversation," McCormack said. "We forget that the statistics we're seeing on Monday morning are us. This is our community, these are our families, this is our Chicago."

There could be no more devastating illustration of that sentiment than the testament provided by Cleopatra Pendleton, mother of 15-year-old Hadiya Pendleton who was gunned down while talking with friends in a Kenwood park in January 2013.

"My heart aches, her father's heart aches,

her grandma's heart aches, her brother's heart aches," Cleopatra said. "It doesn't end. We, the victims or survivors of violence, serve life sentences. There are so many lives that are taken and nobody knows who did it. We have a lot of things to consider when we elect officials. Gun violence might be at the top of that list. I've become a single-issue voter because I know what it feels like to be on this side of gun violence. I wouldn't wish it on my worst enemy."

Chicago Commission on Human Relations Commissioner Mona Noriega urged the audience to file complaints against any kind of discrimination, which she described as "Violence against all our communities."

"The TRUST Collective is so important because it centers the voices of communities we all recognize," she said. "All our lives, we've been getting our asses kicked. Now we are finally coming together to recognize the power of the community. We have to own it. It is upon us."

So it was that the community stood as one and, led by Chicago Survivors' crisis responder Dawn Valenti, the audience repeated a promise to reverberate in a politically cynical and indifferent world.

"Today was the first of many steps that we shall take together," Valenti said. "Today we promise to honor with more than prayers and sympathy [but] to honor united in action. We stand together united as one Chicago [that] calls for the freedom to walk in a park, raise our children, drive down the street, move our kids into dorm rooms and celebrate our identities with love and without fear."

Organizers plan to do additional educational and action events in other areas of the city.

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	WCT	IVI	PPAC	EI	RC	CNOW	GPAC	PP		WCT	IVI	PPAC	EI	RC	CNOW	GPAC	PP		WCT	IVI	PPAC	EI	RC	CNOW	GPAC	PP		
58TH SENATE DISTRICT Sheila Simon (D) Paul Schimpf (R)			Y	Y				Y		27TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Monique D. Davis (D)			Y			Y	Y		66TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Nancy A. Zettler (D) Allen Skillicorn (R)			Y	Y				Y	
1ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Daniel J. Burke (D)			Y					Y		28TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Robert "Bob" Rita (D)			Y				Y		67TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Litesa E. Wallace (D)			Y	Y				Y	
2ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Theresa Mah (D)			Y		Y		Y	Y		29TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Thaddeus Jones (D)			Y			Y	Y		68TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Tricia Sweeney (D) John M. Cabello (R)			Y					Y	
3RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Luis Arroyo (D)			Y					Y		30TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT William "Will" Davis (D)			Y				Y		69TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Angelique A. Bodine (D) Joe Sosnowski (R)			Y				Y	Y	
4TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Cynthia Soto (D)	19/23		Y				Y	Y		33RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Marcus C. Evans, Jr. (D)			Y				Y		71ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Mike Smiddy (D) Tony M. McCombie (R)			Y	Y				Y	
5TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Juliana Stratton (D)	22/23		Y		Y		Y	Y		34TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Elgie R. Sims, Jr. (D)			Y			Y	Y		72ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Michael W. Halpin (D) Brandi McGuire (R)			Y	Y				Y	
6TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Sonya Marie Harper (D)			Y				Y	Y		35TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Frances Ann Hurley (D) Victor Horne (R)			Y				Y		75TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Martha J. Shugart (D) David Allen Welter (R)			Y					Y	
7TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Emanuel "Chris" Welch (D)	21/23		Y				Y	Y		38TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Al Riley (D)	20/23		Y	Y			Y		77TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Kathleen Willis (D) Anthony Airdo (R)			Y				Y	Y	
9TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Arthur Turner (D)			Y				Y	Y		39TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Will Guzzardi (D)			Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	78TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Camille Lilly (D)			Y					Y	
10TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Melissa Conyears (D) Mark Spognardi (R)			Y							40TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Jaime M. Andrade, Jr. (D)	22/23		Y				Y	Y	80TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Anthony DeLuca (D)			Y						
11TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Ann M. Williams (D) Gary Mandell (R)	23/23		Y	Y			Y	Y		42ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Kathleen V. Carrier (D) Jeanne M. Ives (R)			Y	Y			Y		81ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Greg Hose (D) David S. Olsen (R)			Y	Y			Y	Y	
12TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Sara Feigenholtz (D) Gene Witt (R)	23/23	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y		43RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Anna Moeller (D)			Y	Y			Y	Y	83RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Linda Chapa LaVia (D)			Y					Y	
13TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Gregory Harris (D)	22/23		Y	Y				Y		44TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Fred Crespo (D) Kathy Dolan Baumer (R)			Y				Y		84TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Stephanie A. Kifowit (D) Mike Strick (R)			Y	Y			Y	Y	
14TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Kelly M. Cassidy (D) Arthur Noah Siegel (I)	23/23	Y	Y	Y			Y	Y		45TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Cynthia Borbas (D) Christine Jennifer Winger (R)			Y	Y			Y	Y	85TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Emily McAsey (D)			Y					Y	
15TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT John C. D'Amico (D) Jonathan Edelman (D)			Y	Y			Y	Y		46TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Deb Conroy (D) Heidi Holan (R)			Y	Y			Y	Y	86TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Lawrence "Larry" Walsh, Jr. (D)			Y						
16TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Lou Lang (D)	23/23		Y	Y			Y	Y		48TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Steve Swanson (D) Peter Breen (R)				Y			Y	Y	88TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT John Curtis (D) Norine K. Hammond (R)	17/23								
17TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Laura Fine (D)			Y	Y			Y	Y		50TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Valerie L. Burd (D) Keith R. Wheeler (R)				Y			Y		92ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Jehan Gordon-Booth (D)			Y					Y	
18TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Robyn Gabel (D) Jessica Tucker (D)		Y	Y	Y			Y	Y		55TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Martin J. Moylan (D) Dan Gott (R)			Y	Y			Y	Y	93RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Bobby Pritchett (D) Randy E. Frese (R)						Y		Y	
19TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Robert Martwick (D)			Y					Y		56TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Michelle Mussman (D) Jillian Rose Bernas (R)			Y	Y			Y	Y	94TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Natalie A. Manley (D)			Y					Y	
20TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Merry Marwig (D) Michael P. McAuliffe (R)	18/23		Y	Y		Y	Y	Y		57TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Elaine Nekritz (D)			Y				Y	Y	98TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Carol Ammons (D)			Y	Y			Y	Y	
21ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Silvana Tabares (D)			Y					Y		58TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Scott Drury (D) Martin (Marty) Blumenthal (R)			Y	Y			Y	Y	103RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Dennis F. Malak (D) Reginald "Reggie" Phillips (R)8/23			Y	Y				Y	
22ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Michael J. Madigan (D)			Y	Y			Y			59TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Carol Sente (D) Dawn Abernathy (R)			Y	Y			Y		110TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Katie Stuart (D) Dwight Kay (R)			Y	Y				Y	
23RD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Michael J. Zalewski (D)			Y					Y		61ST REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Nick Ciko (D) Sheri Jesiel (R)			Y				Y		112TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Jay Hoffman (D) Katherine L. Ruocco (R)						Y			
24TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez (D) Andy Kirchoff (R)			Y					Y		62ND REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Sam Yingling (D) Rod Drobinski (R)			Y	Y			Y											
25TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Barbara Flynn Currie (D)			Y				Y	Y																				
26TH REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT Christian L. Mitchell (D)			Y	Y	Y		Y	Y																				

Particular races for which there were no data have been deleted for space. For a full list of candidates, see our downloadable charts at WindyCityTimes.com.

FOR ADDITIONAL ELECTION COVERAGE, INCLUDING INTERVIEWS, GO TO
www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

Windy City Times General Election Guide

Welcome to the 2016 Windy City Times General Election Guide.

Many of the races have already been decided locally—although there are a few tight ones still up for grabs (such as the Senate race between Mark Kirk and Tammy Duckworth; and the Congressional battle involving Robert Dold and Brad Schneider).

This Windy City Times Election issues features a Guide to the Gays, which lists LGBT candidates. There are several still in the running for everything from Illinois state representa-

tive to Berwyn aldermanic posts.

As always, there are political charts that show recommendations and endorsements from various organizations and associations as well as candidates' scores on our questionnaire. (Windy City Times does not usually endorse any candidates, although this year the publication has endorsed Hillary Clinton for president.)

And be sure to vote. Regardless of your choice of candidate, it is important to have your voice heard.

Election Eve bash to benefit Project Vote

Clandestina Chicago, Alma Izquierdo, Brooke Webster, Monica Raymund and Sophia Bush present an Election Eve Bash Dance for Democracy, Monday, Nov. 7, 7 p.m. to midnight at Thalia Hall, 1807 S. Allport Ave.

Featuring DJ Samantha Ronson, Sophia Bush, Monica Raymund, The Fly Honeys, DJ Sandra Suave and \$3 drink specials 7-8 p.m. General admission \$25/\$20 with voter registration card, VIP balcony \$35 or \$30 with voter registration card, Opera Box: \$310 includes a bottle of bubbly.

The event is a benefit for Project Vote, and

has Henkell Brut, Beam Suntory and the Human Rights Campaign as sponsors.

Send them a photo of you and your crew with your voter registration card and get a coupon code for \$5 off your ticket price. See clandestinachicago@gmail.com; [@clandestina_chi](https://twitter.com/clandestina_chi).

NGMA member papers endorse Clinton for president

In an unprecedented move, all 12 of the country's longest-serving and most award-winning LGBT newspapers are each separately endorsing Democrat Hillary Clinton for president of the United States.

The 12 are members of the National Gay Media Association (NGMA), a trade association of the nation's major-market legacy LGBT newspapers. NGMA members have a combined circulation in print and online of more than 1 million readers per week.

This is an unprecedented joint announcement from the newspapers because several do not engage in political endorsements: Thirty-one-year-old Windy City Times has endorsed just once in 16 years, and the Dallas Voice has never endorsed for any race in 32 years.

"This race for president is showing this country a clear choice of moving backward or moving forward on LGBTQ and other human rights," said NGMA spokesperson Tracy Baim, publisher of Windy City Times. "We know that the LGBTQ community is made up of diverse political voices. But the homophobia, transphobia, racism, anti-immigrant and sexist nature of Republican candidate Donald Trump means that we can't sit on the sidelines this election season."

"Hillary Clinton has spent her career fighting for social justice," Baim said. "While she came late to some LGBTQ issues, so did most mainstream politicians. In this presidential race, there is a clear choice to keep this country moving forward in the footsteps of President Barack Obama, the most pro-LGBTQ president in U.S. history. That choice is Hillary Clinton."

In an op-ed for NGMA member paper the Philadelphia Gay News, Hillary Clinton talks about how, as president, she would advance the historic pro-LGBTQ equality agenda she and her runningmate Tim Kaine have embraced. She is the first major-party candidate for president to write an op-ed for an LGBTQ publication. "If I'm fortunate enough to be elected president, I'll protect the progress we've fought so hard to achieve—and I'll keep fighting until every American can live free from discrimination and

prejudice," she writes.

The members of NGMA who are each endorsing Clinton in their own pages are: Bay Area Reporter (San Francisco), Washington Blade, Philadelphia Gay News, Dallas Voice, Windy City Times (Chicago), Between the Lines (Detroit), Bay Windows (Boston), Georgia Voice, SFGN (Ft. Lauderdale), Watermark (Orlando), Gay City News (New York) and The Pride LA.

See NationalGayMediaAssociation.com/.

Log Cabins withhold endorsing Trump

On Oct. 22, the LGBT group Log Cabin Republicans (LCR) announced it would withhold endorsing GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump.

It is the first time in 12 years, the organization has not backed the Republican nominee.

On its website, LCR stated that "Mr. Trump is perhaps the most pro-LGBT presidential nominee in the history of the Republican Party." However, the organization added, "But Log Cabin Republicans have long emphasized that we are not a single-issue organization, nor are our members single-issue voters. ... As Mr. Trump spoke positively about the LGBT community in the United States, he concurrently surrounded himself with senior advisors with a record of opposing LGBT equality, and committed himself to supporting legislation such as the so-called 'First Amendment Defense Act' that Log Cabin Republicans opposes.

"Log Cabin Republicans will spend the remainder of the 2016 election cycle committed to preserving and growing GOP majorities in the United States Senate and House of Representatives."

See LogCabin.org.

Grace-period voting, registration

Grace-period (in-person) voter registration is taking place through Nov. 7.

This is for those who missed the Oct. 11 deadline to register by mail or the Oct. 23 deadline to register online. Voters must come in person and need at least two forms of identification, at least one of which shows the address of their new/updated registration. It is open to those who need to change address or name.

Those who need to register for the first time, or file an address update, or file a name change, visit an early voting/registration site:

—Now through Nov. 7 at the Loop Super Site at 15 W. Washington St.; or

—Now through Nov. 7 at the 50 ward sites for early voting & registration

Those who need to register or update their registration on Election Day must register at their home precinct for ballots to count. A voter who needs to register, or file a change of address, or file a change of name during early voting/registration needs to show two

forms of ID, one of which shows the voter's current address.

See ChicagoElections.com/en/grace-period-registration-and-voting.html to determine the precinct.

Early voting info

Early voting for the Nov. 8 general election has started.

Through Oct. 23, early voting took place in Chicago only at 15 W. Washington St. at the new Loop Super Site. Now, through Nov. 7, 51 sites will be open Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Voters do not need a reason or excuse to use early voting; however, voters do need to present government-issued photo identification.

Ballots cast in early voting are final. After casting ballots in early voting, voters may not return to amend, change or undo a ballot for any reason. It is a felony to vote more than once—or to attempt to vote more than once—in the same election.

To view a list of sites, visit ChicagoElections.com/en/early-voting.html.




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What is TRUVADA for PrEP (Pre-exposure Prophylaxis)?

TRUVADA is a prescription medicine that can be used for PrEP to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection when used together with safer sex practices. This use is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This includes HIV-negative men who have sex with men and who are at high risk of getting infected with HIV-1 through sex, and male-female sex partners when one partner has HIV-1 infection and the other does not.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV-1. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA for PrEP?

Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- ◆ **You must be HIV-negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1 infection. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-negative.
- ◆ **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP or at any time while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- ◆ **You must continue using safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- ◆ **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- ◆ **To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:**
 - Know your HIV-1 status and the HIV-1 status of your partners.
 - Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months or when your healthcare provider tells you.
 - Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV-1 to infect you.
 - Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior.
 - Have fewer sex partners.
 - Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
 - If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- ◆ **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

- ◆ **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, nausea, vomiting, stomach-area pain, cold or blue hands and feet, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or fast or abnormal heartbeats.
- ◆ **Serious liver problems.** Your liver may become large and tender, and you may develop fat in your liver. Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach-area pain.

- ◆ **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking TRUVADA for a long time. In some cases, these serious conditions have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- ◆ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you also have HBV and take TRUVADA, your hepatitis may become worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider. If your healthcare provider tells you to stop taking TRUVADA, they will need to watch you closely for several months to monitor your health. TRUVADA is not approved for the treatment of HBV.

Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status. If you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you also take lamivudine (EpiVir-HBV) or adefovir (HEPSERA).

What are the other possible side effects of TRUVADA for PrEP?

Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- ◆ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
- ◆ **Bone problems,** including bone pain or bones getting soft or thin, may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.
- ◆ **Changes in body fat,** which can happen in people taking TRUVADA or medicines like TRUVADA.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

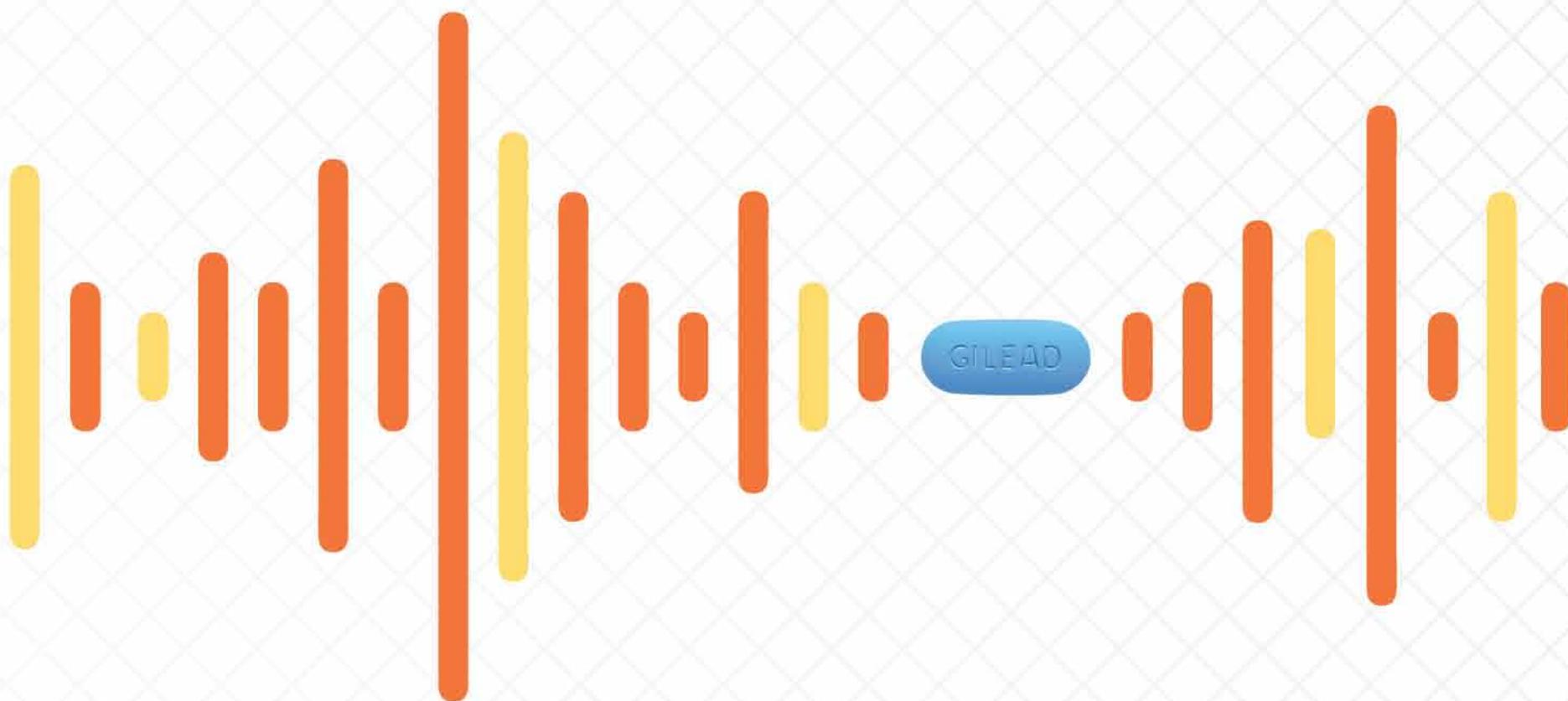
What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA for PrEP?

- ◆ **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- ◆ **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP. **Pregnancy Registry:** A pregnancy registry collects information about your health and the health of your baby. There is a pregnancy registry for women who take medicines to prevent HIV-1 during pregnancy. For more information about the registry and how it works, talk to your healthcare provider.
- ◆ **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. The medicines in TRUVADA can pass to your baby in breast milk. If you become HIV-1 positive, HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- ◆ **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- ◆ **If you take certain other medicines** with TRUVADA for PrEP, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include ledipasvir with sofosbuvir (HARVONI).

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.FDA.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.



Please see Important Facts about TRUVADA for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.



Have you heard about

TRUVADA for PrEP™?

The **once-daily prescription medicine** that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when used **with safer sex practices**.

- TRUVADA for PrEP is only for **adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex**.
- You **must be HIV-negative** before you start taking TRUVADA.

Ask your doctor about your risk of getting HIV-1 infection and if TRUVADA for PrEP may be right for you.

visit start.truvada.com

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IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about taking TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. This does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your medicine.

MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP to help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- **You must be HIV-1 negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1 infection. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-1 negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include flu-like symptoms, tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP.

While taking TRUVADA for PrEP to help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1 infection:

- **You must continue using safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- **You must stay HIV-1 negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- **Tell your healthcare provider if you have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.**
- If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- **See the "How to Further Reduce Your Risk" section for more information.**

TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Buildup of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, nausea, vomiting, stomach-area pain, cold or blue hands and feet, feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or fast or abnormal heartbeats.
- **Severe liver problems,** which in some cases can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, and/or stomach-area pain.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have HBV and take TRUVADA, your hepatitis may become worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

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

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP (PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS)

TRUVADA is a prescription medicine used with safer sex practices for PrEP to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection in adults at high risk:

- HIV-1 negative men who have sex with men and who are at high risk of getting infected with HIV-1 through sex.
- Male-female sex partners when one partner has HIV-1 infection and the other does not.

To help determine your risk, talk openly with your doctor about your sexual health.

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.**
- Take lamivudine (Epivir-HBV) or adefovir (HEPSERA).

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the "Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP" section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Bone problems.
- Changes in body fat.

Common side effects in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP include stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight.

These are not all the possible side effects of TRUVADA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any new symptoms while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with TRUVADA for PrEP.

BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you become HIV-1 positive because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with TRUVADA for PrEP.

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

- **Take 1 tablet once a day, every day,** not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- You **must** practice safer sex by using condoms and you **must** stay HIV-1 negative.

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV-1 status and the HIV-1 status of your partners.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months or when your healthcare provider tells you.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV-1 to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior.
- Have fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV-1 infection.
- Go to start.truvada.com or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit start.truvada.com for program information.



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ELECTIONS 2016:
STATE REP

Kelly Cassidy on budget impasse and dangers of complacency

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

As an openly gay legislator and representative for the 14th District, Kelly Cassidy (D) has fought innumerable battles since taking on the role vacated by Harry Osterman in 2011 including marriage equality, the prohibition of conversion therapy, school bullying policy reform and mandatory paid sick leave.

On Nov. 8, Cassidy faces a new challenge in the form of independent candidate Arthur Noah Siegel—an everyman who says he was inspired by the Bernie Sanders campaign in his decision to make a bid to unseat the incumbent.

Cassidy spoke with Windy City Times about the election and her continuing work in Springfield should she prevail in the election.

Windy City Times: Some of the bills you sponsored in 2016 have a focus on restorative justice and criminal-justice reform. How confident are you about them passing?

Kelly Cassidy: My district is incredibly diverse and these issues are deeply personal to me. My family has been impacted by the criminal-justice system and, in addition, I see every day in my neighborhood the disparate impact of the way we administer justice in this state and in this country on the people that I represent. So it's incumbent upon me to find ways to make things better. We are at a really special time in our history where a lot of conservatives are realizing that we've been foolishly spending money on policies that aren't working. So there's this wonderful confluence that we have now that I feel really compelled to take advantage of and get as much success as we possibly can.

We've done some great work this year on repairing some of the reentry policies of the state. I believe they will make a huge difference in people's lives. But we're not done yet. There's more to do and we can always do better.

WCT: Siegel seems to agree on a number of your positions but his problem is the stalemate over the state budget. He isn't alone in that sentiment even with the stopgap measure passed in the summer. How would you describe the state of impasse and what progress do you think you can make in 2017?

KC: To be honest with you, I think it's a failure of leadership. I've spent a lot of time working with rank and file members on both sides of the aisle who are ready to be the grownups in the room and that's really what needs to happen. The action of a handful of us who refused to pass the speaker's out-of-balance budget that would have just been more of the same, is what pushed us to at least get to the place of a Stopgap.

As we return, we will see a lot more folks from the rank and file who are pushed to the point of forcing real solutions. Every single person in that building, save a couple, knows that we need to add revenues to the budget. We cannot possibly cut our way out of this and we can't continue to do this dance over non-budgetary items holding up the budget. It's become a very personal and pitched battle between the governor and the speaker and that needs to stop. The way that stops is by rank and file members standing up and saying "enough."

WCT: Are there enough rank-and-file mem-

bers to successfully do that?

KC: I think that we're getting very close to that point. People who have never voted against the speaker, voted against the speaker on the [Stopgap]. I do think there is a great deal of frustration on the part of rank and file members and I think the more time people are spending in their district campaigning and talking to people, the more clear it's going to be to put these non-budgetary issues aside and get the work done that you're there to do. Throughout all of this process, social services have been thrown to the wayside. It's very clear to me that, on the part of the governor, it's very calculated and it can't continue. My district is an area that has a huge need and an incredible reliance on social services and it is reprehensible that the most vulnerable people in our state are the ones paying the highest price for this impasse.

WCT: We've been seeing a lot of ads demonstrating Gov. Rauner's support for the top of the Republican ticket. These have been effective attacks for Democrat down ballot candidates in Illinois but, in a post-Brexit world, isn't there a concern that Trump's base is being underestimated?

KC: Absolutely. People rely on the polls. We've seen that in the last several elections here whether it's that polling hasn't really caught up with new technology. There's also an inaccuracy in the way they are reported. I don't think a lot of people are willing to admit support for Trump. But it is scary, very real and very possible that [a Trump victory] could happen.

WCT: If it does, there are policies such as penalizing Chicago as a safe city for undocumented immigrants that may come into play. How do you push back against Trump's ideas and a Republican governor who supports him?

KC: The first priority is not letting [Trump] win and holding Republicans who are afraid to speak out against him accountable. It is unimaginable that any person of conscience would stand up for this guy. My commitment between now and election day is to do everything I can to make sure that, not only do we defeat this man in the election for president, but that we prevail in those down ticket races.

WCT: What are the attitudes in Springfield, post-marriage equality? Are LGBT issues re-igniting?

KC: I think the issue around trans use of bathrooms have given people pause on the victory lap because our work isn't ever really done. I'm meeting in [Washington] D.C. with The Maryland Department of Children and Family Services, who are doing some really innovative work around the placement of LGBT youth in foster care in order to explore options for us here. It took two years to pass the conversion-therapy [ban]. It took two years to pass bullying, and it's still watered down and doesn't have the enforcement I would like to see in there. Our community must be mindful of protecting those who do not have equality yet. Some people think that they get to take their wedding cake and go home but they don't.

Visit <http://citizensforcassidy.com/kelly-cassidy>.



Kelly Cassidy with her children.
Photo courtesy of Cassidy

ELECTIONS 2016:
STATE REP

Independent Siegel aims to unseat Kelly Cassidy

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

Arthur Noah Siegel, an Independent candidate for the 14th District, claims a long list of professions on his resume, including work as a touring musician, auto mechanic, truck driver and carpenter. In 2010, Siegel moved from San Francisco to his birthplace of Chicago where he set up a handyman and construction business.

Claiming to be inspired by Vermont Sen. Bernie Sander's run during the Democrat primaries and an allegiance neither to Democrats nor Republicans but "the people of the 14th District," Siegel aims to unseat popular state Rep. Kelly Cassidy (D) at a point in history that he calls "a crisis" for the people of



Arthur Noah Siegel.
Photo courtesy of Siegel

the 14th and the state of Illinois.

Siegel talked with Windy City Times about his plans should he prevail Nov. 8.

Windy City Times: What, in particular, was it about Sanders' campaign that spurred your decision to make a run for the 14th?

Arthur Noah Siegel: I went to some of his rallies and then I started volunteering for his campaign. What he represents for the country is the people and the anti-corporation movement. He really put his heart and soul into his campaign and his political career. That's why I'm going into this race as a middle class worker and a non-politician.

WCT: The media and pundits claim that

there is a lot at stake at the top of the ticket. What do you think that is in terms of both presidential and down ballot races?

ANS: If we get someone like Trump who has a short temper and who doesn't know what they're doing, that cannot be good for growing our country. Other countries will ask themselves why the American people elected a president who is mentally unstable.

The state is in crisis right now in terms of the budget. We've got tent cities emerging under Lake Shore Drive, CPS [Chicago Public Schools] don't have enough books for their students and we're opening up Charter schools to replace public schools. A lot of people from Illinois are leaving the state because of bad contracts, a lack of communication and a lack of compromise. Not being affiliated with any party, I can really make the hard choices for the people of Illinois because we've got to get on track with the state budget and rebuild our foundation financially.

WCT: Where do you lay the blame for the budget impasse?

ANS: When you're in office, you've really got to consider the people of Illinois and I feel that the politicians are not compromising or working together. Republicans and Democrats have been struggling for a long time against each other and they're playing politics right now. State representatives and senators who have been in office for a long time are out of touch and have interests to make money off of the state. Bringing new people in with fresh ideas would be really good for the state.

WCT: Do you think people in Illinois are motivated to replace the status quo?

ANS: There are some Republicans running who are little more on the independent side. But a lot of the people who have been in office for a long time are unopposed. Electing an independent would be a big step because there hasn't been an independent for over 80 years. So, just having independents means free thinkers who have fresh ideas to really get out of this hole. One step at a time.

WCT: You're running against a popular candidate who has taken the lead on many issues facing the LGBTQ community. What is your position on them?

ANS: I have a lot of the same ideas as Kelly Cassidy. I agree with her on a lot of issues but we have to get the budget straightened out before we move on to any other issues. She's done a lot of great things but I'm willing to go the extra mile for the citizens of Illinois because I was born in the district at Edgewater Hospital and I love the city of Chicago and the state of Illinois. I'm willing to work really, really hard to get the state back on track.

WCT: So, as far as continuing the fight for LGBT equality—particularly transgender civil rights—do you believe none of that can be accomplished until the bud-

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ELECTIONS 2016: STATE REP

Gay Republican makes bid for change in 24th District

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

Andy Kirchoff believes that "it's time for something better."

In his bid to unseat incumbent Elizabeth Hernandez (D) as state representative for the 24th District, the Berwyn-born, openly gay Republican accuses legislators in Springfield of "lackluster representation" that "hurts our local communities" and "the rest of the State of Illinois as well."

In terms of the budget impasse, Kirchoff has gone as far as to accuse elected officials of engaging in a "form of political malpractice."

But how does a gay Republican who is aligned with the party on issues such as abortion, support of the Second Amendment and religious freedom marry that with his belief in LGBT rights, immigration reform and the existence of a "social safety net" when the top of his ticket has been taken over by an alt-right movement that wants the exact opposite?

Windy City Times: Give me some more details on why you decided to run.

Andy Kirchoff: There's a lot of different reasons that culminate into one big event. Running as Republican, needless to say, I've got plenty of disagreements with Representative Hernandez on many issues. I had certainly grown tired of seeing her going unchallenged year-after-year.

For me, the final straw was when I called Rep. Hernandez's office about a particular bill and it went straight to voicemail. The voicemail itself was describing an event that occurred in a Berwyn hospital that had happened three months ago. So it was clear that, for whatever reason, her office manager or whoever was not even checking voicemails. In addition to the fact that I disagree with her on issues, she wasn't even able to provide basic constituent services.

WCT: The budget impasse tops your list of issues. Where do you stand on fault?

AK: I want to get past this whole battle of egos. There's plenty of blame to go around for the current budget fiasco in terms of Rauner and Madigan. You can go over the fact that Rauner should have used line-item veto power for the initial budget that was way out of balance. You can mention the fact that, later on, Speaker Madigan and [state Sen. John] Cullerton couldn't agree on a budget to send to the governor after he said he was going to sign something.

But, ultimately, what got us to this situation is decades and decades of really bad budget priorities in the state of Illinois. It's been going on longer than I've been alive. The pension situation with the \$115 Billion and counting in pension liabilities is the reason we have the budget crisis in the first place. Politicians will come and go. I'd much rather focus on the root of the problem and finding solutions that get our budget priorities where they need to be.

WCT: Our current comptroller, Leslie Munger, has proposed no pay until a settlement is reached. Are you for that?

AK: Absolutely. I support the No Budget, No Pay Act. I would gladly sign on as a co-sponsor. I wish my opponent would do the same thing.

WCT: Should you prevail, how will you be able to create an effective coalition around you to gain some momentum on the budget measures you've proposed?

AK: You have to be willing to buck your party leadership and I am willing to do that and identify the people on the other side of the aisle who also want a way out of this mess, who are willing to go the extra mile and demonstrate



Andy Kirchoff.

Photo courtesy of Kirchoff

political courage. I'll be a political "one-term wonder," if that's what it takes. I would love to serve the people of this state as long as I can but, ultimately, it comes down to doing the right thing regardless of what happens to me on a personal and political level.

WCT: You support concealed carry. Do you believe that it is wise in a state where we have so many guns on the streets that have contributed to [more than] 500 homicides in Chicago this year?

AK: I understand the concerns about gun violence and there's no doubt in my mind that guns are not always the answer to a problem and they can escalate it and make it worse. But having a concealed gun helps to save a life. Ultimately, guns are tools and tools can be used in good ways. As far as I'm concerned, providing an avenue for people to defend themselves can only be seen as a good thing. I do support various measures to make sure guns do not fall into the wrong hands. Obviously, I'm not the NRA's poster child but I do believe in the human right to self-defense and know that guns can serve that purpose. There are plenty of people in the LGBT community who own guns.

WCT: You've also expressed support for religious-freedom laws. Where do you stand on those [laws] that have been proposed or enacted in other states that restrict LGBTQ rights?

AK: I'm a very strong supporter of freedom of speech and freedom of religion. I think they are human rights. LGBTQ rights are human rights, too, and I want to find a way to protect both. I know the people who most vocally express their support of religious freedom laws tend to be odds with the LGBT community and that makes it hard to find common ground but I really do think there are legitimate concerns on both sides and I want to make sure that both are respected. Someone at least has to try.

I know it doesn't score me many points with the LGBTQ community. There are some who are downright furious with me for even defending [religious freedom restoration acts]. But, as a public servant, you've got to do the right thing, regardless of what it costs you politically.

WCT: Donald Trump has flip-flopped on LGBT issues.....

AK: On everything, Gretchen.

WCT: True enough. So where are you on the leader of your ticket?

AK: I've been a vocal never-Trump proponent from the very beginning. I'm in a district that's majority Latino and, as you can imagine, Trump is politically toxic over here in spite of everything else. For me, the real issue with Donald

Trump is that he is the antithesis of public service. We're dealing with a man who brags about the fact that he is in this for himself. He says things that, most of the time, can't even be done. The kind of rhetoric that comes from him is stuff that I expect from third world dictators.

Visit AndyFor24.com.

ELECTIONS 2016: STATE REP

24th District incumbent faces a challenge

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

Elizabeth Hernandez has served as the Illinois House Representative for the people of the 24th District for well over a decade.

Currently vice-chair of Illinois Legislative Latino Caucus, during her tenure, Hernandez has been a staunch proponent of immigrant rights and has tackled and won on issues including domestic violence, low-income child care assistance and anti-crime programs.

However, both nationally and on a state level, incumbent challengers have asserted that 2016 needs to be a change year, particularly in Illinois where the continuing budget impasse in Springfield has angered and frustrated voters who are seeing vital social services impacted by what many believe is inaction on the part of legislators.

Hernandez now faces a serious threat to her seat in the form of Republican Andy Kirchoff, whose campaign is gathering both momentum and endorsements.

Hernandez spoke with Windy City Times and laid out her case for another term.

Windy City Times: Kirchoff said that he once called your office and got a three-month old voicemail, that you are not there for your constituents and that, politically, you play it safe. How do you answer those accusations?

Elizabeth Hernandez: Three months? Come on. It's complete exaggeration and lies. It's just a way to discredit me in one way or another. My strongest area is my constituency, in terms of responding to and working with my constituents. Does the phone answer every time someone calls? No. I can't be sure that it's 100 percent. I have three full time staff [members] so it would be practically impossible unless they call when the office is closed. My [house] attendance record is that I've been there every single day. As a matter of fact, [Kirchoff] took some folks to Springfield and it was almost like he was poking around to see how I would react. I was responsive and addressed the folks who came in even though it had to do with an issue we are not on the same page about.

WCT: The budget crisis is on the mind of a lot of people and they are looking at legislators with the feeling that maybe some house cleaning is needed to get it sorted. As an incumbent, why is such change unnecessary and how will this impasse then be resolved?

EH: I'm in my fifth term and there is a reason people have put me there. There has to be some sense of trust or confidence in me to hoist their concerns in Springfield. Since the time that I have been in office, I've been very careful on what committees I selected because how I selected them was a reflection on my district. Two particular committees that I sit on that have to do with funding are Appropriations for Elementary and Secondary Education, and Appropriations for Human Services. That is what is extremely important: having a voice at the table to make a difference when you're in discussion. In terms of the budget, in order for us to have reached some agreement there had to be agenda items that the governor wanted. That agenda called for doing away with what



Elizabeth Hernandez.

Photo courtesy of Amigos for Lisa

sustains middle class and low income people. I was one of the ones who fought hard to ensure that, in the Stopgap budget, we put funding back into services that was taken away.

In the stopgap budget were able to, at least temporarily, meet the needs that the people in my district were depending on. I have a district that has two schools that are on the verge of closing. I can't go back, I will not go back to constituency empty-handed. Through some of the work, some of the negotiations, we were at least able to work out year-round school finding but, I'm going to be very honest with you, we are not out of the woods. Our community needs someone who is experienced and who has a real understanding of how we have to move ahead. I admire Andy for throwing in his hat, but he has a lot to learn. He's not there.

WCT: Would you be prepared to go against Speaker Madigan to fight for your district?

EH: I would and I have. Andy has to make me look like I'm not my own person. I did not get into office very easily and it wasn't through the help of Madigan. The first time I threw in my hat was in 2002 and there was no incumbent. I saw an opportunity for change, however I didn't win even on the second time because I was working against a very hard machine. I am not a Madigan follower. I'm in agreement with a lot that he has done because I think it's going to benefit my community. Am I always? No, I'm not. The speaker has heard the voice of my district and he respects that.

WCT: Something you've fought really hard for is immigration. Among Trump's many positions is the penalizing of safe cities and the introduction of a deportation squad. This is going to affect the people in your district should he prevail. How do you fight any anti-immigrant initiatives that may come out of a Trump presidency?

ELECTIONS 2016: STATE REP

Greg Harris looks forward to next term

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

Although 13th District Rep. Greg Harris (D) is unopposed on Nov. 8, he is not breathing any easier.

Harris knows there is too much to do as the state of Illinois reels from the effects of a seemingly endless budget stalemate and the LGBTQ community faces more civil rights hurdles. Violence towards the transgender community and on the streets of Chicago has become an epidemic with little attempt to address the cause of the issue or to move towards a cure.

Even with the polls looking positive for Democrats on the top and down the ballot, the possibility remains that 2017 will see the inauguration of a Trump presidency in a country that has already been severely damaged by the politics of fear, racism, hatred and division.

Harris spoke with Windy City Times about how he intends to move forward in Springfield through his next term, no matter who occupies The White House.

Windy City Times: The Illinois credit rating has been reduced again due to the budget impasse. Do you see a resolution anytime soon and what are lawmakers doing in order to make that happen?

Greg Harris: The biggest problem facing the state is getting our financial house in order. That means putting aside all these outside issues that the governor keeps trying to drag into the conversation as a precondition to discussing the budget. Taking care of our human service organizations, our education system, higher education, public safety, our infrastruc-



Greg Harris.
Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

ture is our most important job to provide an adequate budget to pay for the things that families need.

WCT: A lot of social service organizations and nonprofits are shutting down or cutting back on staff. When we talk about HIV/ AIDS organizations, services for homeless youth and seniors, there must be concern on the part of your colleagues.

GH: As chairman of the Human Services Ap-

ropriations Committee, I listen all day long to agencies who are facing ruin because the governor will not sign a budget and is trying to hold things hostage to his turn around agenda. If causing people to close businesses and lay off workers is a way to grow the economy, then his definition of success is way different than mine.

WCT: People feel like everything is siloed. The governor is coming from one and the house and senate from another.

GH: Well, he is because he just keeps focusing on getting rid of unions, to stop paying for injured workers, cutting down on voting rights and access to the polls; those are the things he cares about. Everyone else is saying "what are we going to do about our schools? What are we going to do about our seniors?"

WCT: So, no way to meet in the middle?

GH: We have sent numerous budgets to the governor and they have all been vetoed. There were a couple of Stoppag budgets that allowed people to just limp along but they're not solving the problem, they're just kicking the can down the road. If you look at the history of Illinois, Republicans and Democrats have always been able to get together and figure out our number one job which is paying for things that are important for our state. That is until this term when suddenly the governor just can't get that done.

He's a self-funding billionaire. I'm not even sure his base is happy. If you go out to suburban areas, DuPage county, folks out there are worried about Autism, their schools staying open, their kids being able to go to a state college or university, but when you are a self-funded guy writing your own checks, you have a different perspective than a lot of average families.

WCT: So is budget inaction a fair description? How would you define it?

GH: I think that it's hostage holding.

WCT: The fight for equal marriage was hard-won but LGBT issues continue. What

are the next barriers to equal rights that the state needs to overcome?

GH: We need to pay close attention to changing laws that have historically not taken into account needs of transgender people of which there are a lot because when these laws were passed in the '40s, '50s and '60s, there was just not the awareness of the needs of transgender people that there is today. So we need to go back and be sure that the laws of the state of Illinois welcome and take care of trans people.

As you look at all the different services that families need, whether it's a family that is cisgender, transgender, gay, straight or bisexual, services must be delivered in a fair way, with no bias and there must be cultural competency. In healthcare and human services, cultural competency is very important and it's going to take a lot of training to bring agencies up to speed. You see that at all levels from senior services to making sure LGBT youth are treated appropriately in schools and that the problems of homeless youth are addressed because so many are LGBT kids and we have to sensitive to their needs.

WCT: Is there going to be movement on these issues in Springfield or is there still a sense that, with equal marriage done, nothing else needs sorting out?

GH: We pay attention to things that our constituents bring to us. Everyone has families in their district who are affected, for instance by issues surrounding trans people because there's somebody who's in their family or who goes to their church or temple or at work who is trans. We need to raise those issues up with elected officials. I think a lot of colleagues of mine paid attention to marriage because, all of a sudden, in the media and from families in their district, they were hearing a lot about it. So it's our job to go in and say that there are other issues that are yet to be addressed and they're also important.

For more information about Harris, visit

GregHarris.org.



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'Before Stonewall' delves into lives of LGBT seniors

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

The second of the two-part series "Before Stonewall: The LGBTQ Experience in the '50s and '60s" (with Lincoln Park Village, Gerber/Hart Library, Lake View Presbyterian Church and Howard Brown Health presenting) introduced four senior representatives of the L, G, B and T segments of the rainbow Oct. 18 at the church.

Moderated by Peggy Walker—an ally and mother of a trans son—the panel included Lincoln Park Village member and retired American Library Association Executive Director Bill Gordon who spoke as a gay man; David Matteson, professor emeritus from Governors State University, who represented bisexual individuals; former Allied Medical professional and open lesbian woman Martha Smith; and longtime transgender activist and Center on Halsted Charm School founder Gloria Allen.

"I'm representing gay males but it needs to be said that none of us is distinctly one thing or another, there's a continuum" Gordon said. "I'm 80-years-old and, when I look back on those early years, I sometimes can feel my heart begin to pound."

Gordon remembered being as young as 4 when he began to feel the earliest hints of his sexuality. In the eighth grade, he noticed a Readers Digest article headlined "Homosexuality: The Scourge of America."

"I was momentarily frightened," he said. "[It] was written by two M.D.s and two Ph.D.s in psychology. One of them promoted that we should all be castrated, another said that we should all have lobotomies performed on us. Another said, 'If you are a parent of a child who may be gay, be sure to have them institutionalized.' Can you imagine how that felt to a 12-year-old?"

At Gordon's small-town Kansas public library, the card catalog listing for homosexuality read, "See mental illness and criminal activity."

"In 1953, I was in high school and looked at the [news]paper and there was the headline 'President Eisenhower signs executive order to fire homosexuals,'" Gordon recalled. "I thought, 'There's that word again. That's what I am.' Seventeen thousand people were fired [from the federal government] in the first 90 days. How could I possibly run the risk of getting a job with the government? How could I ever get a job with a public institution?"

Gordon admitted that the Oct. 18 event was the first time he had "said it out loud to a group of people. I'm a man who is predominantly gay. I'd been in a wonderful marriage for 10 years. I had a female lover for 30 years and I've had a wonderful life and wonderful friends

in spite of the fact I had to protect myself and never say exactly who I was."

Matteson said that he dated and had intercourse with a number of women before he had "any inkling that I was interested in men."

"Like many adolescent boys in that period of history, I was taught that to have sex with a woman before you were married was a sin," he recalled. "But nobody said a word about homosexuality. My parents were Protestants and never said anything about homosexuality but my small town Methodist church did."

In his senior year of college, Matteson met and fell in love with his wife Melissa. The couple have been married for 56 years.

His book *I Took Both Roads: My Journey as a Bisexual Husband* is dedicated to her "because of her incredible generosity and ability to continue to love me even when the marriage was very different than what she expected it to be."

"We have been honest about everything in our relationship from the very beginning," Matteson added. "When I finally realized that I was bi, then we needed that communication."

Smith, 71, described herself as an "Illinois farm-bred gal, card-carrying lesbian and feminist."

"Feminist has become almost a dirty word. We seldom hear it used anymore," she asserted.

It was in Houston, Texas at the age of 20 that Smith met her first lover.

"We started living together," she recalled. "She was certifiably crazy, we had a very strange and scary relationship. It was physically abusive and eventually I escaped it and hightailed it back to the farm with mom and dad."

Although Stonewall was included in her list of pivotal events in the '60s, Smith stated that she was, at the time, unaware of its significance.

"A couple of nights of bottle-throwing and rioting on the part of, as the [news]paper called them, 'butch lesbians and drag queens in New York' really didn't make the news," she said. "Back in the day, the bars [were] our social touchstone. I did my share of partying and drinking."

Smith successfully battled throat cancer but was left with massive medical bills.

"I bring this up because it is not unique," Smith said before acknowledging her neighbors in the 80 units of independent living provided by Heartland Alliance Housing's Town Hall Apartments in Lake View which she described as a "lifeline."

"There are people there who have survived accidents, illness, at least half a dozen 30-year survivors of AIDS," Smith said. "Lots of us who



From left: Bill Gordon, David Matteson, Peggy Walker, Martha Smith and Gloria Allen. Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

have fallen through the cracks in the system. We are very fortunate to live in a place like Town Hall."

Allen, who was celebrating the two Jeff Awards recently won by Northlight Theatre's presentation of the Philip Dawkins play *Charm* based on Allen's life and work, recalled 40 years as an out transgender woman.

"I'm here to say that transgender women have been thrown under the bus for years," she said. "My family accepted me. In high school, I was chased home. There were bottles and bricks. I was sacred but I am a survivor and a fighter. You might dislike me but I don't dislike you but don't put your hands on me."

She recalled being violated at an early age by the son of her babysitter. The abuse went on for a year.

"I didn't know what was going on or how to explain this to my parents," Allen said. "I hated boys for that. It stayed with me for years. Parents didn't teach us about sex. Everything that I learned was from the streets, which was wrong."

"Parents who have children who are different, gay, trans[gender] should sit down and talk to them about the world," Allen said. "I just can't understand why we, as transgender women, are so hated for no reason at all. We should stand, speak up and talk about it. I'm not afraid to tell people who I am. I came out early in life and I'm going to continue to come out and raise a ruckus for my sisters and gay family."

Following a brief discussion between the audience and panelists Matteson and Windy City Times Publisher/Executive Editor Tracy Baim (who had the lecture during part one of the series at the Gerber/Gart library), they were on hand to each sign copies of their books, *I Took Both Roads* and *Out and Proud* in Chicago, respectively.

Point Foundation event Oct. 27

Point Foundation (Point)—which provides higher education scholarship, mentoring and leadership training to LGBTQ students—will hold an event Thursday, Oct. 27, 6-8 p.m., at Venue Six10, 610 S. Michigan Ave.

The event will be an opportunity to meet Point Scholars and Alumni, enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, and for individuals and companies to learn how they can help support the foundation's programs and initiatives.

Tickets are \$100, and guests must be 21 years of age; visit PointFoundation.org/ChicagoCS16.

'Older, Wiser, and Stronger' Oct. 28

"Older, Wiser, and Stronger: Living Well As You Age with HIV" will take place Friday, Oct. 28, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at 111 E. Pearson St., at Loyola University's Lewis Towers.

The keynote speaker will be Nelson Vergel, how has been HIV-positive for more than three decades; he is now an advocate and expert on nutrition, salvage therapies and successful aging. He is the author of *Testosterone: A Man's Guide*, and co-author of *Built to Survive*. Vergel writes and fitness and nutrition for TheBody.com.

It's a free program about aging and HIV; breakfast and lunch will be provided. Registration is required by Tuesday, Oct. 18. Contact Jessie Mott at 773-989-9400, ext. 232 or J.Mott@tpan.com.

HERNANDEZ from page 22

EH: What most people don't know is that there are different ways that immigration has presented itself. In Springfield, there's been a series of anti-immigrant bills that have been introduced but, though my efforts and others, we've been very fortunate to keep those from even moving. That is what is needed in Springfield: to be a watchdog so that we don't have any laws that would take us backward.

Locally, I have people who come into my office with issues of a family member facing deportation. Even in my own town of Cicero, there have been issues and I've had to confront the administration with what is happening. I was part of pushing Cicero to pass a resolution for them to be a sanctuary. If there is interrup-

tion to that, it absolutely has to be brought to their attention.

WCT: Since the Orlando massacre, a lot of people in the LGBTQ community want to see the NRA fought in order to get guns off the streets of Chicago. There's a sense that legislators run and hide from the NRA. How would you approach fighting such a well-organized lobbying body?

EH: I think there needs to be more restrictions and safety. My husband is retired law enforcement so we have our differences but there are no guns in my house. I won that fight. I'm not a friend of the NRA and, believe me, they've reached out to me in many ways. I just never give in to it. I'm a strong supporter of anti-gun measures.

Visit AmigosforLisa.com and StateRepHernandez.com.

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get is settled?

ANS: No. People are involved in that and I'm all for it. I go to Gay Pride and I think people have the right to do what they want to do and leave government out of it. I think we should still move forward but my main focus is the state budget because that [affects] everyone in Illinois and not just [one] community.

WCT: In terms of that budget, it is a conflict between the ideologies of House Speaker Madigan and Gov. Bruce Rauner. How do you begin to resolve that conflict?

ANS: People are blaming it on Rauner because he's a Republican but that's part of the politicking that's going on right now. But we've got to dig deep and look at all the bad contracts we have in Illinois. We're spending a lot of extra money on them and people aren't compromising. We've got to work together. People

are just pointing fingers and they're not taking responsibility for why they got elected into office. The pension issue is part of the problem but it's a combination of multiple angles on why we're in the hole and why we're going into debt every year. I think voters don't know what's going on because there's a lot of inside information that isn't released to the press.

WCT: As an independent, do you intend to let voters in on that information?

ANS: I've been a grass roots opponent and I want to keep that going if I get elected. I will have open communication. I will hit the streets and still keep in touch with the general public because ideas are worth a million dollars. If you have town hall meetings and talk to people, they may have ideas you didn't think about.

For more information about the Arthur Noah Siegel campaign, visit: <http://arthursiegel.com>.

LGBTs in the mix

The next general elections, to be held Nov. 8, feature a number of openly gay and lesbian candidates. The following individuals have publicly stated that they are members of the LGBT community and were on the ballot as of late February.

—Catherine Schneider

Race: 11th Subcircuit, Cook County (Kelly Vacancy)

Website: SchneiderForJudge.com

The skinny: Judicial candidate Schneider has more than two decades' experience as an attorney and is a recognized expert in civil litigation. In addition, she is co-chair of the Women's Bar Association of Illinois' Access to Justice Committee. She is unchallenged in her race.



Catherine Schneider.
Facebook photo

—Kelly Cassidy

Race: Illinois state Representative (14th District)

Website: RepCassidy.com

The skinny: Cassidy, who defeated another lesbian candidate, Paula Basta, in March 2014, is this time running unopposed in the Democratic primary—and she has no Republican challenger, either.

—Sam Yingling

Race: Illinois state Representative (62nd District)

Website: SamYingling.com

The skinny: What's old is new again. Yingling is running unopposed in the primary for his third term. He is the first openly gay House member from outside metropolitan Chicago. And Republican Rod Drobinski of Wauconda is, again, Yingling's opponent for the general election; Yingling prevailed in 2014.

—Greg Harris

Race: Illinois state Representative (13th District)

Website: GregHarris.org

The skinny: Harris—who was chief co-sponsor of SB10, the legislation that brought about marriage equality in Illinois—has a district that includes several North Side neighborhoods. He was first elected in 2006 and, like Cassidy, is currently running unopposed, ensuring his re-election.

(Note: The elections in Berwyn are not until February 2017.)

—Andy Kirchoff

Race: Illinois state Representative (24th District)

Website: AndyFor24.com

Kirchoff is that rare individual: an openly gay Republican, and he's seeking to represent the 24th District, which includes Berwyn, Cicero, Riverside, Brookfield, Stickney and Chicago's Little Village neighborhood. Kirchoff, a healthcare professional, spent several years discerning the priesthood with the archdiocese

of Chicago before earning a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Loyola University Chicago.

—Jeanine Reardon

Race: Berwyn alderman (3rd Ward)

Website: BerwynUnited.com/alderman-3rd-ward

Reardon is a hospital chaplain who is running to replace Marge Paul in the 3rd Ward. She is ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and is a rostered leader in the Chicago Metropolitan Synod. (See a profile at WindyCityMediaGroup.com/lgbt/Building-Berwyn-LGBT-candidates-on-Feb-election-slate/56739.html.)

—Joe Johnston

Race: Berwyn trustee

Website: BerwynUnited.com/copy-of-township-trustee

Johnston, who works for a renewable energy company, is running for a township trustee post. (See a profile at WindyCityMediaGroup.com/lgbt/Building-Berwyn-LGBT-candidates-

on-Feb-election-slate/56739.html.)

—Scott Lennon

Race: Berwyn alderman (1st Ward)

Lennon has said that he is running for several reasons, including an infrastructure that needs improvement. (An interview is at WindyCityMediaGroup.com/lgbt/Scott-Lennon-runs-for-Berwyn-aldermanic-post/56816.html.)

—Marge Paul



Scott Lennon.

Photo from Lennon

Race: Berwyn city clerk

Websites: "Marge Paul for Berwyn City Clerk"

(Facebook) and BerwynUnited/Clerk

Paul is relinquishing her aldermanic seat to run for city clerk. She has called her city clerk candidacy "an important first step in terms of visibility for LGBT residents. I've represented the 3rd Ward for two terms. I handily won the election the first time, and was able to increase that in the second election." (See a profile at WindyCityMediaGroup.com/lgbt/Building-Berwyn-LGBT-candidates-on-Feb-election-slate/56739.html.)

—Jose Ramirez

Race: Berwyn alderman (2nd Ward)

Website: BerwynUnited.com/alderman-2nd-ward

Ramirez is advocate for various changes, including putting recordings of city council meetings online. "That way everyone [in the community] can participate," he added. "Let's face it, everyone in the community has a different life and different hours." He and his partner, Thomas Stebbins, have been together more than 25 years and were married in November 2015. (See a profile at WindyCityMediaGroup.com/lgbt/Building-Berwyn-LGBT-candidates-on-Feb-election-slate/56739.html.)

5 EASY WAYS PARENTS CAN BE MORE LGBTQ-FRIENDLY

By Katie Slivovsky

"The experience of being welcome or unwelcome, visible, or invisible begins in early childhood."

—from *Do No Harm* (article) in *Young Children*, January 2010, NAEYC

We parents and caregivers have the privilege and opportunity to model inclusion and acceptance every day. Here are a few tips to help ensure our LGBTQ* family and friends are welcomed and included in our homes and communities.

* LGBTQ = Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning

1 Include LGBTQ people in your conversation and daily life

- Mention LGBTQ people in everyday conversation: "Remember my work-friend Cynthia? She and her wife just got a puppy!"
- Going to a wedding? Mention all the marital possibilities: man/woman, man/man, woman/woman, transgender.
- By reading LGBTQ family-friendly children's books on a regular basis (link to book list below), children can be more supportive and welcoming when they encounter a transgender child or a family led by a same-sex couple.

2 Think beyond the gender binary

- It takes a little thought and practice, but avoid reinforcing the gender binary by always thinking in terms of girl/boy, woman/man, female/male.
- Rather than saying, "Hi boys and girls" try, "Hi friends" or address a group based on what children are doing: "Hi artists/climbers/explorers," etc.
- Doing this makes room for children who feel they don't fit into either category and deemphasizes perceived differences and focuses instead on what children have in common.

3 Challenge your gender assumptions

- When hosting playdates, don't let gender determine the activity. Offer art, active play, dress up, superhero play, dance, etc. to all children, no matter their gender.
- When purchasing gifts, don't limit yourself to toys labeled "boys" or "girls." All children deserve the opportunity to explore a variety of interests.

4 Broaden your definition of love and family

- The people who love you and take care of you are your family. When meeting your child's new friends, ask "So, who's in your family?" or "Tell me about your family" rather than assuming children live with a mom and dad.
- If a boy and girl are playing together, avoid comments that assume they're boyfriend/girlfriend.
- As children get older, don't assume the gender of their love interests. Keep language gender-neutral: "So, who do you have a crush on these days?"

5 Share resources with friends and teachers

- Visit www.ChicagoChildrensMuseum.org/index.php/about/lgbtq-pride-events#lgbtq-resources to access the following resources:
- An assessment tool for teachers, "How LGBTQ-friendly is my classroom?"

- A list of LGBTQ family-friendly children's books
- A LGBTQ glossary vetted by www.WelcomingSchools.org



Katie Slivovsky, mother of two, is the Exhibit Development Director and LGBTQ Inclusion Chair at Chicago Children's Museum.

viewpoints



**Rev. Irene
MONROE**

Love and violence in Black LGBTQ communities

[Note: The names are fictional and the couple described is a composite of numerous couples I counseled on interpersonal violence (IPV).]

The Jills were the envy among us lesbian couples of African descent. Their public display of love for each other and their exchanges of their special terms of endearment was the stuff you read in romance novels. They were inseparable, and we distinguished them by calling them Jill and Jillie.

When I received the call that one was being seen in the ER and other one was being detained by the police for battering, I knew it had to be a mistake. But looking back there were visible signs of interpersonal violence (IPV) that we sistah-friends came to understand and wished we could have intervened on their behalf. But we were so enamored, envious and awestruck by their oversized demonstrative displays of love and seeming respect for each other, we didn't see their troubled marriage.

October is Domestic Awareness Month, and within LGBTQ communities of color, not enough attention, education, intervention and advocacy are given to this issue.

The 2014 Advocate article "2 Studies That Prove Domestic Violence is an LGBT issue" reports that "21.5 percent of men and 35.4 percent of women living with a same-sex partner experienced intimate-partner physical violence in their lifetimes. ... Transgender respondents had an incidence of 34.6 percent over a lifetime according to a Massachusetts survey." An Interpersonal Violence (IPV) study conducted

in 2011 stated that LGBTQ communities of color are one of the demographic groups experiencing high incidents of domestic violence.

However, obtaining accurate statistics of how high IPV is in these communities is obscured by social stigmas and cultural taboos, and there are also racism as well as other forms of oppressions and discriminations.

What also interferes in obtaining accurate statistics on how high IPV is in these communities of color is that same-gender interpersonal violence is clouded with myths. And within these communities there are several cultural barriers preventing reporting domestic violence and receiving interventive services.

The Black Church is one of them.

Jill grew up in the church and whenever troubled and heavy burdened she took her woes and concerns there. The network of support through prayer and counselling wasn't available to Jill and her spouse once she came out.

Even in 2016, many Black churches are woefully far behind the country's acceptance of LGBTQ Americans. These places of worship are still spewing homophobic rhetoric from their bully pulpits. And, unfortunately, some LGBTQ victims of IPV have internalized the church's message that they are abominations to God and, therefore, deserved to be abused, flogged and beaten.

"I thought I showed strength by staying in the relationship. I thought if we acted happy we would become happy," Jill stated.

With too many churches espousing a theology emphasizing the place and value of suffering in one's life as a test from God like that of the biblical Job coupled with the marriage vow "for richer or poorer until death do us part" the act forgiveness is seductively elevated as both redemptive and virtuous that too many LGBTQ victims remain in abusive relationships.

The politic of silence is another cultural barrier preventing reporting domestic violence and receiving interventive services.

While silence diminishes a deleterious white gaze on the Black community—past and present—we need to address problems plaguing our communities, like HIV/AIDS, mental illness, suicide and IPV, to name a few. Rather

than addressing these problems, they are spun into a damaging discourse of blame, shame, stigma and misinformation. And with many of us having to confront the daily microaggressions of racism and homophobia in the workplace and out in the world, the last thing many LGBTQ victims want to tackle is IPV at home, often considered a "safe space."

Jill's spouse suffered from bipolar disorder and always attributed her spouse's violence to her mood changes. Looking back, we sister-friends only saw the couple during what they depicted as being "jubilantly high on love."

The dominant view by both healthcare professions and law-enforcement officers is that communities of color, especially of African descent, have a predisposition toward violence that gravely interferes with victims taking action and a community raising awareness.

With a cultural distrust of law-enforcement officers due to the rash of shootings and killings of unarmed Black men and women in streets, most in my community—straight or LGBTQ—call for them only in extreme dire situations, with prayers and hopes of no fatalities. Consequently, victims of IPV, especially LGBTQs, are not taken seriously.

For example, the myth that since both the victim and the abuser are of the same gender and are also in a consensual sexual relationship may lead many officers to confuse same-gender sexual violence as part and parcel of being homosexual.

Healthcare disparities in communities of color and LGBTQs are only exacerbated for LGBTQ people of color. Sadly, this creates distrust as well as a lack and underutilization of resources toward healing, moving on and prevention.

The Jills have finally separated—but not because of police intervention or healthcare prevention. We sister-friends stepped in. Not everyone has a support system.

Resources and services have to be made available to LGBTQ communities of color. And this is the time to reach out to us. Everyone deserves a safe, loving, healthy and violent-free relationship.



**St. Sukie
DE LA CROIX**

SENIOR MOMENTS

Nobody loves you when you're old and g(r)ay

I've read several articles recently about the "sad plight" of gay seniors.

Oh, what a pathetic, lonely, forgotten bunch of losers we are. Apparently, young gays don't want us in the bars because we're past our sell-by date and we ugly the place up. I laughed a lot when I read that article, as I have no desire to hang out in bars with young people, talking young-people things and listening to young people's music. In fact, I would rather have my eyeballs pierced than spend an evening in a gay bar with young people. Everything they say I've heard before, everything they do I've seen before, I've taken all the drugs they're taking, had all the sex they're having—been there, done that. BORING!!!

Do I really want to be in Hydrate listening to remixes of Adele, Rihanna and Pitbull, or Diplo, Calvin Harris and David Guetta? No, I don't. I don't even know who those people are. I had

to ask my friend DJ Harry T for those names. Thank you, DJ Harry T. I have no interest in socializing with young people at all.

I've just hit 65 and my well-being just disappeared into a black hole in space called Medicare. Medicare is like a maze with no exit and no entry. It's more complex than a Rubik's cube. Don't get me wrong: I'm grateful to have Medicare. However, it took every ounce of my patience to unravel the rules and regulations. I would love to meet the person who wrote the Medicare manuals, instructions, etc. because I want to kill that individual. I want to kill that person slowly and painfully, starting with light slapping around the face and ending with me holding his or her head underwater until the bubbles stop.

There are only two cures for old age in gay men: 1) death or 2) a move to Palm Springs. I chose the latter. Of course, some older gay men move to Fort Lauderdale, in that inflated pustulant running sore called Florida, where leaving your child to fry in a locked car is *de rigueur* and you can hire a hit man in any Walmart parking lot.

In Palm Springs, nearly everyone is of a certain age. I don't have to explain who Judy Garland is, who Anita Bryant was, and everyone knows of Sylvester, the Cockettes, and a time when condoms were only used to stop pregnancy.

I surround myself with people who have lived a long life and have stories to tell. Last night I spent the evening with a famous author and friend of Michael Jackson and Zsa Zsa Gabor;

the man who bought Liberace's house; a local radio personality who used to sing with Bob Hope and is directing a production of *Sordid Lives*; a cosmetics manufacturer who just bought a house and the top of a mountain it stands on; and an 84-year-old drag queen.

Over the weekend, I'll be seeing Liberace's wigmaker, who also made Elizabeth Taylor's wigs in *Cleopatra* and other Hollywood movies, and I'm going to the art gallery of a Broadway dancer who once toured with Lena Horne and whose husband was in the Stonewall Riots. Hopefully, I may also have coffee with a man who marched with Martin Luther King and another who dated one of Frank Zappa's Mothers of Invention. I've also just found out a neighbor who I say hi to every morning is a musician who works with Quincy Jones, and a friend of a friend was Grace Jones' personal assistant for 15 years. I love people with stories to tell.

So don't panic, young people. You can all breathe a sigh of relief—I won't be dragging my revolting wrinkled-up old carcass into your line of tweaked-up vision anytime soon. I'll be here in Palm Springs, in a house built as an homage to the movie *Casablanca* and whose previous owner danced with Ginger Rogers, and I'll be sitting in the sunshine by the pool, drinking orange juice and spending my twilight years being lonely, miserable and waiting to die—not!!

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WINDY CITY TIMES

DIVERSIONS

THEATER • FILM • ENTERTAINMENT • SPORTS



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Howard Brown Health's Big Orange Ball.



It's a history to me

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Hamilton is here—and WCT reviews the record-breaking production.

Photo by Joan Marcus

NUNN ON ONE: THEATER

Karen Eilbacher returns 'Home'

BY JERRY NUNN

Actress Karen Eilbacher is coming to town with the show *Fun Home*. This is her first national tour with a show that is full of diversity.

Fun Home took home five Tony Awards with a tale of three Alison's based on Alison Bechdel's best selling novel. The story of a dysfunctional family follows the life of a lesbian protagonist and her journey through life. Eilbacher plays her girlfriend Joan.

Windy City Times caught up with her on the road to discuss the Obie Award-winning show.

Windy City Times: Hi, Karen. Where in the world are you calling from?

Karen Eilbacher: Cleveland, Ohio.

WCT: Where are you from originally?

KE: White Plains, New York, Westchester County.

WCT: Did you study acting in school?

KE: Yes, I went to NYU Tisch.

WCT: Did you ever think you would be in a show like *Fun Home*?

KE: I did. My friend Roberta Colindrez was playing Joan on Broadway. I watched her work. It is definitely a role I have sniffed around before. I am forever grateful that the experience has become real.

WCT: How is your take on the character different than Roberta's?

KE: We are two different individuals. There is always something to discover every single night because I am living and breathing on-stage. It depends on who I am working with and being receptive to a fly moving on the wall or a bed moving for example. I am open and ready for anything that adjusts my perception or instinctual choices with Joan.

I try to expand my repertoire to who is this person and how does she love? What does she want? Every single night it is always something beautiful to discover.

WCT: For the people who haven't seen it, please discuss the plot.

KE: It is based off a true story. It is written by Alison Bechdel. There are three ages that are explored—small, medium and older Alison. She looks back on her life and her relationship with her father—what that does to her as being out and a lesbian cartoonist is the show. Her father is gay and kills himself. She tells the tale of being the same age as him when he killed himself by stepping in front of a truck. It is about how that affects her life, love and disfunction.

It is about family and how we relate to one

another, how what we go through affects our every waking moment.

I went to visit the Hungarian Heritage Museum here in Cleveland. I am German-Jamaican and my grandmother was Hungarian. I was telling the people that run it about the subject matter and the inclusiveness of it. The next thing I know they are telling people visiting the museum that everyone knows someone who is queer, bisexual, gay, lesbian, or questioning. They talked about the show to them.

There are all kinds of portals for people to place themselves in this story. That is profoundly incredible and beautiful. That speaks for Alison's story making. It is Broadway show that we are touring and sharing with people.

WCT: It must be rewarding to bring this show to small towns. You might change someone's life in Ohio after [that person sees] *Fun Home*.

KE: We have been getting some great feedback. I feel the audience being entirely engrossed and empathetic. Everyone can see themselves somewhere in this story, whether they are LGBTQ or straight. People are open to it and love hearing someone else's story. It is very human from actor to audience. I am humbled every night.

WCT: Are there several LGBT cast members?

KE: I am definitely one of them. I am among a fantastic cast and crew who is full of all colors, shapes and forms. I like to take things at face value and people being open with their sexuality, whatever that journey might be. It has been fantastic to get to know people in the way that they share themselves.

We have some queer members and non queer members, but everyone is onboard with everything that is LGBTQ. *Fun Home* is a fun home! [Laughs] It is a fun place to work. There is a lot of understanding and generosity.

WCT: Tell me about your past performance on *She Like Girls*.

KE: It was from Chisa Hutchinson and we won a GLAAD Award for the off-off-Broadway show in 2010. I did the show for three years. It was based off the real happening of Sakia Gunn. She was 15 years old when she was stabbed

to death coming home. Some guy was trying to pick her up off the street. She was with a woman in the evening time. She explained she was gay, but was openly killed for that.

I played that part. It was about the coming of terms in her sexuality. She came to love another young woman named Marisol. She came out to her mother in New Jersey. There was a lot to the story.

It was a fantastic experience. At the time I was coming to terms with my own sexuality. It was quite a journey for myself.

We were floored the night of the GLAAD Awards. I had been with that show from a bare bones production of it to that moment.

Thank you for asking about that.

WCT: They need to revive it.

KE: Yes, they do. It was fabulously directed by Jared Culverhouse. I told Chisa to write a screenplay. I don't stay young forever and would love to play that role again!

Catch the Chicago two-week run of *Fun Home* Nov. 2-13 at the Oriental Theatre, 24 W. Randolph St. Visit BroadwayInChicago.com or call 800-775-2000 for ticket information.



Karen Eilbacher.
PR photo

MUSICAL REVIEW

Hamilton

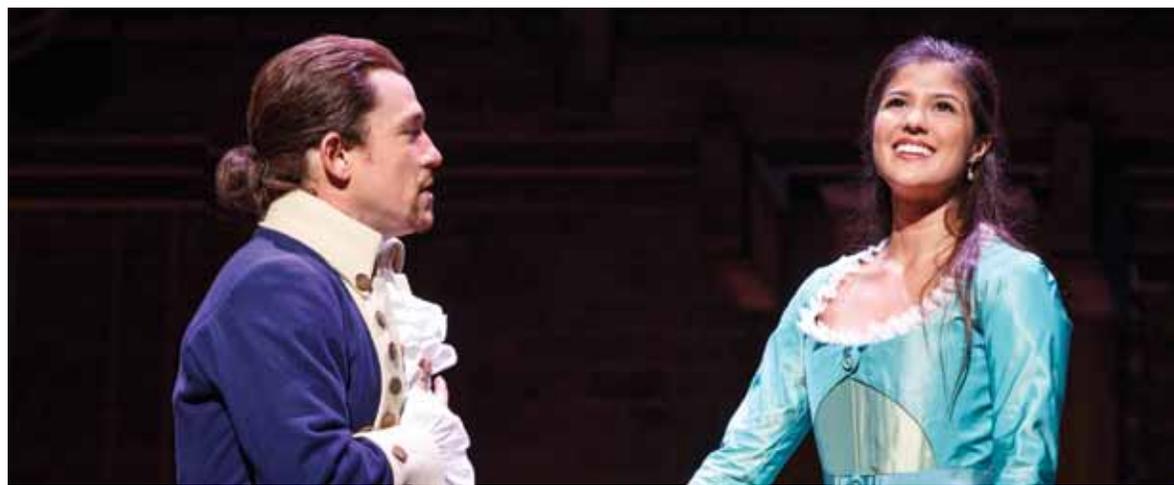
Book, music and lyrics:
Lin-Manuel Miranda
At: The PrivateBank Theatre,
18 W. Monroe St.
Tickets: 800-775-2000;
BroadwayInChicago.com;
\$62-\$600 and up
In an open run

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

It's a shame that the hype and ticket prices for the musical Hamilton have become so inflated. Anyone who spent hours battling online ticket bots or who forked over hundreds of dollars for premium (or scalped) seats could potentially be let down by the actual show.

But Hamilton rightly deserves all the critical praise and prizes that have been lavished upon it since its 2015 New York debut. And more to the point, the Chicago-dedicated run of Hamilton at The PrivateBank Theatre deserves to run for years on end.

The brainchild of songwriter/author/actor Lin-Manuel Miranda (*In the Heights*), Hamilton is a brilliant synthesis of U.S. history with smart musical theater storytelling that taps into diverse music styles like hip-hop, R&B, gospel and pop with virtuosic verve. Focusing on the rise and fall of the first U.S. treasury secretary, Hamilton is jam-packed with savvy historical details that not only educate, but



Miguel Cervantes and Ari Asfar in Hamilton.
Photo by Joan Marcus

also paints the country's founding fathers to be endearingly complex and flawed people, too.

The creative team's decision to cast Hamilton non-traditionally also emphasizes how this essential chapter of America's origins belongs to everyone. And all the production elements ranging from Thomas Kail's astute direction to Andy Blankenbuehler's popping choreography feel as if they were cut from the same rich cloth of inspiration.

I didn't see Hamilton in New York and steered clear of the Broadway cast album (I wanted to experience Hamilton fresh in the theater), so I can't equivocate on how the Chicago production compares to the original. But I can say that I wish a Chicago Hamilton cast album could be pressed to preserve many of this pro-

duction's amazing performances.

For instance, Tony Award winner Karen Olivo, as Alexander Hamilton's sister-in-law Angelica Schuyler, was an entrancing revelation of strength and painful regret. And in the dual roles of the Marquis de Lafayette and Thomas Jefferson, Chris De'Sean Lee is a joyously showboating dynamo who wows with dexterity at spinning out lyrics.

Joshua Henry gets some of the best songs as Aaron Burr, but also his dramatic journey from wary Hamilton colleague to bitterly jealous rival is chilling. There's also great dignity and power to the performances of Jonathan Kirkland as George Washington and Ari Afsar, who portrays Hamilton's smitten and heartbreakingly betrayed wife, Eliza.

And though his part is small as King George III, Alexander Gemignani is hilarious with his over-the-top foppish British accent singing the Beatles-styled break-up song "You'll Be Back."

The one qualm I had with Hamilton in Chicago is Miguel Cervantes' take on the title role. I expected more of a hungry swagger and confident energy. What Cervantes offered was more measured and dignified, especially when compared to his flashier co-stars.

So although obtaining Hamilton tickets might be an expensive hassle, the brilliance and emotional power of the work speaks for itself. And more importantly, the historical significance of both the musical and its subject matter make Hamilton feel especially timely for this generation.

THEATER REVIEW

Multitudes

Playwright: John Hollingworth
At: Rasaka and Vitalist Theatre
Companies in conjunction with the
International Voices Project at the
Biograph, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave.
Tickets: \$30
Runs through: Nov. 13

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Proclaiming the obvious is a common flaw of plays by actors-turned-playwrights, who tend to focus more on technique than content.

John Hollingworth thinks his fellow Brits are not sufficiently aware that anti-immigrant bigotry exists in England, that impressionable

teenagers may be seduced by terrorist recruiters into committing reckless deeds, or that do-gooders who align themselves with high-visibility radical factions may encounter suspicion, censure and notoriety from their neighbors. In order to rectify this perceived ignorance, he proposes to illustrate the negative effects of xenophobia. (Nobody yet has found any positive ones.)

His parable is set in the city of Bradford, a Midlands community in the United Kingdom, whose population is 20-percent South Asian. Councillor Kash, the son of Muslim immigrants, plans to run for Parliament and has tailored his upcoming speech before members of his Conservative Party to reflect multicultural tolerance. Meanwhile, a crowd of protesters against military intervention in the Middle East hold quiet vigil from their encampment on the con-

ference grounds. What could go wrong?

It turns out that plenty can go wrong. On the eve of Kash's presentation, his Anglo-Saxon girlfriend, Natalie, announces that she has converted to Islam, and his daughter, Qadira, seeks the company of the tent-city occupants. When a Muslim woman is severely injured in a fall, rumors immediately circulate that she was pushed, leading to violence in the streets. Natalie is aghast, Qadira is angry and reporters from the London news bureau are ecstatic.

Perhaps because we Yankees are familiar with civil unrest—or, at least, with artistic expressions thereof—our response to Hollingworth's emotion-fueled tales of homefront atrocity is less likely to be shock and horror, and more in keeping with Kash's dismay at the naivete of his kin, who clearly have given no thought to the consequences of their actions. "What did

you expect?" he rebukes Natalie, whose accounts of brutal beatings inflicted by hostile skinheads echo those emerging from Belfast in the 1970s or our own Southern states in the 1960s.

The combined expertise of the Rasaka and Vitalist companies—notably, director Liz Carlin Metz, no stranger to sprawling didactic narratives—strives mightily to inject human elements into a talking-heads text further cluttered by Brock Alter's video footage of World Events and actors double- and triple-cast, editorializing in Catherine Gillespie's pinpoint-accurate Yorkshire dialect. While the sad truth is that all social conflict, whatever its purported goals, has a way of exacting collateral damage among its citizenry, Hollingworth's efforts to "represent multitudes" in his sermon ultimately undermines his good intentions.

THEATER REVIEW

Saturn Returns

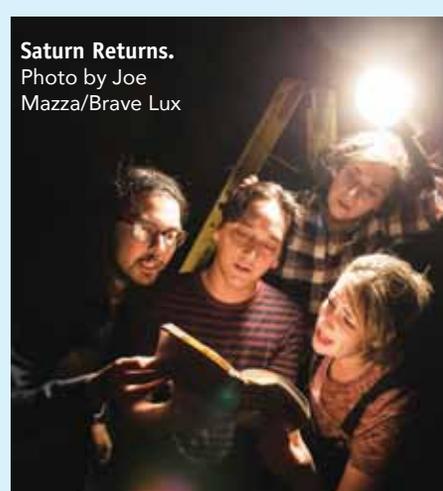
Playwright: Tif Harrison and cast
At: Neo-Futurists, 5153 N. Ashland Ave.
Tickets: 773-275-5255;
Neofuturists.org; \$10-\$25
(pay-what-you-can Thurs.)
Runs through: Nov. 19

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Sometimes the Neo-Futurists present plays and sometimes performance pieces, with 2016 devoted to the latter.

Saturn Returns is the third Neo-Futurist work I've seen since February in which loosely assembled theatrical devices serve as psychodrama through which an artist exorcises his/her demons. The first piece, *Pop Waits*, was the best, possibly because it had principal characters with emotional through-lines as plays do, even though it wasn't a play. *Saturn Returns* has neither, presenting five writer/performers of equal weight within the show, although none has anything approaching a sustained arc of action or emotion. The scattershot result provides amusing bits here and thoughtful bits there, but ultimately lacks force.

Tif Harrison is billed as Creator (capital "c"), not just another writer/performer. Her framing concept concerns the orbit of Saturn,



Saturn Returns.
Photo by Joe Mazza/Brave Lux

which takes 29.5 years. Astrology says that you will have a climactic year whenever Saturn returns to the orbit point it held when you were born, approximately ages 29-30 and 58-60. One can expect to experience an eventful death, a meaningful relationship or its end, financial or professional success/failure, personal elation or trauma and—if this show is to be believed—quite possibly an insect infestation.

So, yeah, *Saturn Returns* is really quirky, filled with oddball bits seeming to support the concept: World War I ended when Hitler was 29, one actor's first car was a Saturn, Gwyneth Paltrow's father died when she was

29 (and he was 58), etc. Harrison extends the so-called Saturn Year to ages 27-31 to cover the actual ages of herself and her co-performers, each of whom offers personal details which mostly fit the pattern, although some are intentionally amusing stretches.

But what actually is offered is something much more personal to each performer. One, a musician, observes that "The intention of sound is as good as sound itself," while another cautions us to "Learn the difference between intention and compulsion," while Harrison herself declares, late in the 100-minute show, "I'm here to teach you about being alone." That's a tip-off, for the show's precipitating incident is the death of Harrison's father, and each performer explores loss or loneliness—actual or only feared—in some form.

The performers do not act—that is, they don't create characters. They play themselves, project their own personalities and improvise a little. This doesn't mean they haven't rehearsed the set material and the extensive physical business, most of which defies brief description—everyone frequently rings a desk bell, there are projections, people play with water—yet Jen Ellison's direction seems minimal and loose. The wide stage is inhabited by *Saturn Returns* and its few props, not designed for it. Jason Richard's music is good. Hey, Neo-Futurists: I'm ready for a play again!

CRITICS' PICKS



Life Sucks, Lookingglass Theatre, through Nov. 6. The spirit is warm, autumnal and hilariously sad in this Americanized, modernized take on Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya*. It's Chekhov lite, but lovingly written and brilliantly played in rich comic style. JA

Merge, The New Colony at Den Theatre, through Nov. 13. Spenser Davis' theatrical take on the rise and fall of Atari is a frenetic nostalgia trip for audiences in their 40s. It's backstabbing creative and corporate tale filled with lots of sound and fury. SCM

Naperville, Theater Wit, through Nov. 6. Roman comedy divided its populace between City and Country, but Mat Smart gives the suburbs their say in this stereotype-free glimpse of pioneers gathering themselves for their next journey. MSB

You on the Moors Now, The Hypocrites at Den Theatre, through Oct. 30. The great Victorian heroines of literature fight for personal fulfillment over lucrative marriage in a literal *Battle of the Sexes* that leaves its surviving veterans scarred, but wiser. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan



Jerico Bleu and Maria Montero
in *Starting Over*.
Photo by Shepsu Aakhu

THEATER REVIEW

Starting Over

Playwright: Shepsu Aakhu
At: MPAACT at the Greenhouse,
2257 N. Lincoln Ave.
Tickets: \$16-\$32
Runs through: Nov. 20

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The course of true love ne'er ran smooth back when Shakespeare made his observation. Enlightened citizens in 2016 may congratulate themselves on their progress in striking down barriers once impeding marriages of like minds, but with that progress come new obstacles no less perilous.

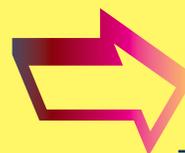
The cards are stacked against classmates Jarrod Wintercastle and Rayna Hall from their first meeting at a high school dance in their rural Midwestern town. Jarrod lives with his single mother on the shabbier side of the railroad track dividing the town geographically and socially, and Rayna with her affluent family on the other. Jarrod is African-American and Rayna is Anglo-Saxon White. Their parents initially disapprove of the friendship, but grudgingly tolerate it.

Following graduation, Jarrod seeks his fortune in New York City, while Rayna departs for California's Stanford University. Jarrod's mother consoles her heartbroken son, reminding him that young love may flower again in maturity. Fifteen years later, the comrades encounter each other again, this time in big-city corpo-

rate surroundings. Oh, and by the way, Rayna Hall is now Ryan Gilroy.

It is at this point that Shepsu Aakhu's play diverges from others of its genre in making its story *not* that of how Rayna became Ryan. (In this MPAACT production, Rayna is played by a cisgender female actor, and Ryan—comfortably settled in his new gender identity—by a cisgender male.) Jarrod is the one who struggles to reconcile his memories of the past with the evidence confronting him in the present—to ignore physical appearances ("I'm not gay!" he warns Ryan) and rediscover his connection with the person he once loved. (Jarrod's conflict is not solely psychological—his workplace frowns upon fraternization between the ranks.) As the men look back on their youth, their very language echoes the confusion and uncertainty presenting the last obstruction to fulfillment.

Much of the action in this 90-minute narrative occurs in parallel time, with Sierra Bufum and Kejuan Darby's Rayna and Young Jarrod simultaneously occupying the same stage space as Jerico Bleu and Keith Surney's Ryan and Older Jarrod, in addition to assorted caricature-free antagonists, all underscored by Red Clay and Desta Sound's guitar-and-percussion musical subtext. Lauren Lundy's deft direction keeps audience members aware of the issues under discussion in Aakhu's fluid environment—notably, the necessity of fleeing toxic environments and finding your own path before embarking on a journey along another's road—and for playgoers who *still* don't get it, the O'Jays "Now That We Found Love (What Are We Gonna Do With It)" sends us home to contemplate the prejudices that continue to delay deserving pilgrims their just rewards.

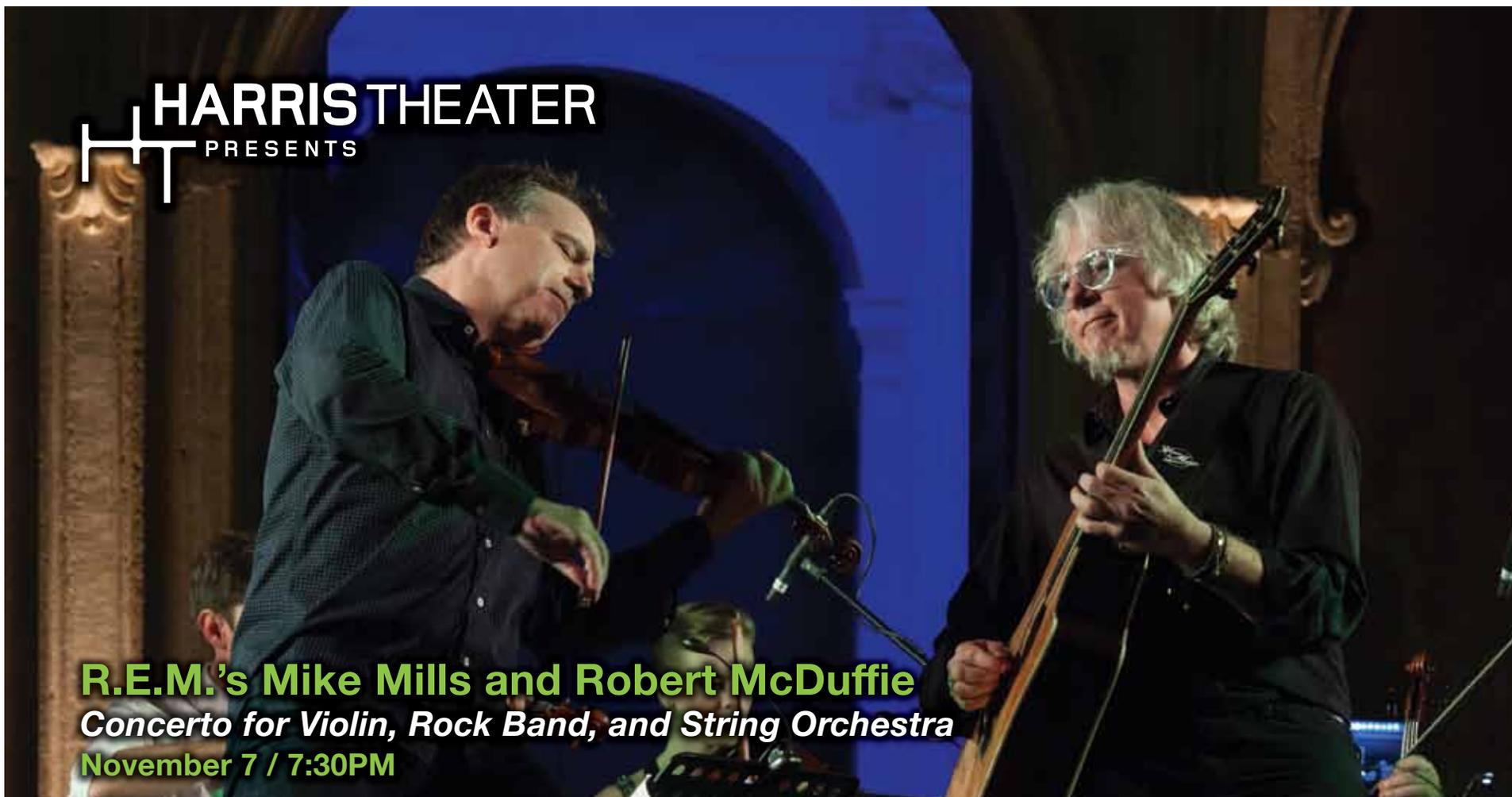


SPOTLIGHT

The Lyric Opera of Chicago teams again with The Second City for the new comedy show **Longer! Louder! Wagner! The Second City Wagner Companion**. See how collaborators Jesse Case and Tim Sniffen work with a cast of Second City comedians and two opera singers to find humor from the controversial life of Richard Wagner, the megalomaniac mastermind behind the epic Ring Cycle and other lengthy 19th-century operas. **Longer! Louder! Wagner! The Second City Wagner Companion** plays from Thursday, Oct. 27, through Sunday, Oct. 30, at the Civic Opera House's William Mason Rehearsal Hall, 20 N. Wacker Dr. Tickets are \$35-\$45; call 312-827-5600 or visit LyricOpera.org.



Caption: Travis Turner in rehearsal for *Longer! Louder! Wagner! The Second City Wagner Companion* for the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Photo by Andrew Cioffi/Lyric Opera of Chicago



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SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

A reimagined 'Wife'

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Actors typically make bold choices in rehearsal and performance. But few would be so bold as to contact the artistic director of a theater company and suggest that an entire production be mounted just so they could star in it.

But that's essentially what happened with About Face Theatre's revised revival of gay playwright Doug Wright's one-man play *I Am My Own Wife*. Transgender actress Delia Kropp thoroughly researched Wright's Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize-winning drama before making her case to About Face artistic director Andrew Volkoff.

"I send an email to Andrew and it basically outlined the proposal for a multi-actor version of the show and for me to be essentially the first transgender Charlotte von Mahlsdorf," Kropp said. "The whole idea of having me involved, for me bringing this forward, is to actually do this with the sensitivities and sensibilities of a transgender person."

I Am My Own Wife explores Wright's fascinating and complex friendship with the aging Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, a pioneering 20th-century transgender woman who survived the Nazis before and during World War II and later under the repressive Communist regime in East Germany. Wright wrote the play as a solo show, which requires a charismatic actor to switch back and forth between von Mahlsdorf and a multitude of other roles.

About Face Theatre presented the world premiere of *I Am My Own Wife* in 2003 at Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art before the production transferred to New York for an off-Broadway run. The critical response was so phenomenal that commercial producers later transferred *I Am My Own Wife* to Broadway.

Original star Jefferson Mays not only won a 2004 Tony Award for Best Performance by Leading Actor in a Play, he also got the Jeff Award for the same category when *I Am My Own Wife* played a 2005 Chicago return engagement at the Goodman Theatre.

Kropp laughs now when she considers how she contacted About Face's Volkoff out of the blue with her suggestions, even though the two had never worked together. The fact that Volkoff had already directed a 2008 production of *I Am My Own Wife* for Barrington Stage Company in Massachusetts also worried Kropp whether he would want to repeat himself.

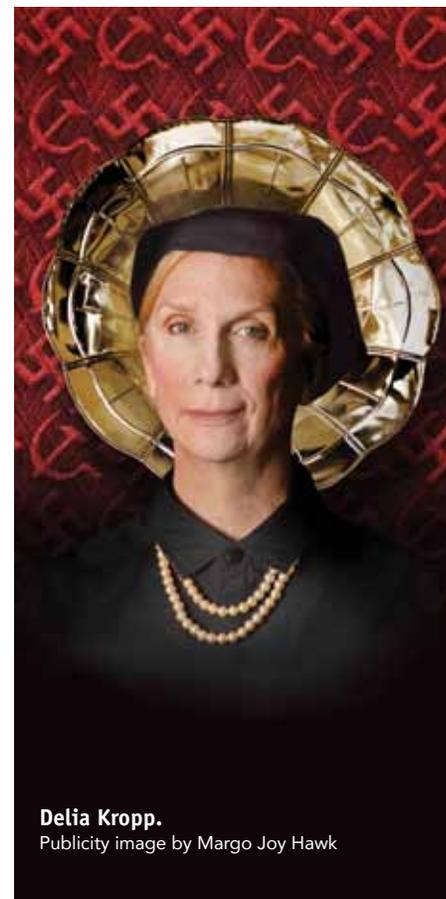
"I was so impressed with Delia's courage and the letter of her proposal was so incredibly well-thought-out," said Volkoff, who was open to Kropp's artistic suggestions. "As the artistic director of About Face, I think it's important to court the queer artists in our community and to have one reach out this passionately about a project that originally started with us, it just seemed like a perfect fit."

Kropp had multiple reasons for not wanting to do the play as originally written for a solo performer. One idea was to give von Mahlsdorf more of a constant presence in the play. Other implications were more complex.

"As a trans woman, I am very much aware of what the general population's perception of us is and for many people, they think this is an act and it's just external—it's about the clothes, the makeup—things of that nature," said Kropp, who legally transitioned with the state of Illinois in 2011 and returned to acting professionally in 2015.

"I didn't want to have a performance going back and forth over the gender lines. About 95 percent of the other characters in the play are male," Kropp said. "I feel very uncomfortable being expected to be my dead or former self."

As a sort of test run, About Face teamed up with the Chicago Inclusion Project to stage an April 2016 reading of *I Am My Own Wife* starring Kropp at the DANK Haus German American Cultural Center in Chicago's Lincoln Square



Delia Kropp.

Publicity image by Margo Joy Hawk

neighborhood. Since they had never worked together, Volkoff wanted to see how Kropp handled the material.

"To Delia's credit, she started working with a German dialect coach then for that reading," Volkoff said. "We did have one woman at the end who said, 'I had no idea [Delia] was not German.'"

Equally important was to see how the play worked beyond its usual one-man structure with the addition of three actors. Getting Wright's permission for any changes to his script was also a concern.

But to Volkoff's delight, very little had to be changed in the script. Volkoff said Wright has also been enthusiastic about the implications of About Face's *I Am My Own Wife* revival starring Kropp.

"[Wright] is very excited to see what having a trans actor will do for the integrity of the piece and the integrity of Charlotte's story," Volkoff said. "In the 13 years that AFT did the first presentation of this, so much has changed in the world around the conversation of gender and transgender visibility. To approach this piece today and in this climate, it really requires a thoughtfulness and an intentionality about wanting to be truthful about how we are presenting the story of a transgender woman who lived through the 1940s and beyond."

For Kropp, it's a huge honor to play one of the more famous, but also divisive, transgender figures from 20th-century history.

"[Charlotte was an] incredibly rich, incredibly complex, and incredibly ambiguous kind of person morally in some respects, which as a transgender actress, that's what you want," Kropp said. "I love playing heroes, but you really want to show a fully fleshed-out, 360-degree complex human being and with this role, you sure have it."

About Face Theatre's *I Am My Own Wife* plays from Friday, Nov. 4, through Saturday, Dec. 10, at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave. Previews run through Nov. 6, with an official press opening 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 10. Previews are \$20 and \$10 for students, and regular-run shows are \$40 and \$20 for students; call 773-975-8150 or visit AboutFaceTheatre.org.

Note: *I Am My Own Wife* cast member and About Face Theatre Artistic Associate Scott Duff is an employee of Windy City Media Group, which publishes the Windy City Times.

Gay activist/scholar headlines 'Home Is Where the Art Is'

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Openly gay Puerto Rican writer, activist and scholar Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes was the featured speaker at the "Home Is Where the Art Is: Queer Ricans Insights on the Latinx Experience" event Oct. 22 at the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture in Humboldt Park.

La Fountain-Stokes was born and raised in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He moved to the states to attend college (B.A. in Hispanic studies from Harvard and a master's degree and Ph.D. in Spanish and Portuguese literature from Columbia University) and teaches at the University of Michigan, where he specializes in LGBT, Latina/o, Puerto Rican and Hispanic-Caribbean studies. La Fountain-Stokes also appears as his drag persona, Lola von Miramar, at venues in Latin America and the United States as well as on the online show *Cooking with Drag Queens*.

National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture CEO Billy Ocasio welcomed the approximately 50 people in attendance. Then, La Fountain-Stokes read an excerpt from his fiction story "SJU-ATL-DTW (San Juan-Atlanta-Detroit)"—featured in the Great Books Foundation's anthology, *Immigrant Voices: 21 Century Stories* (every attendee received a copy of the book)—ahead of his conversation and Q&A session with Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame inductee, *Vives Q* creator and activist Emmanuel Garcia.

Garcia asked La Fountain-Stokes about Puerto Rico, both generally and his relationship with the island. He noted the specific and complex nature of being a Puerto Rican because the island is a colony of the United States which means they have U.S. passports but not the most basic rights of citizenship. La Fountain-Stokes explained that he goes back and forth frequently but said the reason why he left initially was because he's gay and felt like he couldn't stay because of his sexual orientation. He said things have gotten better and now there's a thriving LGBTQ community that includes activists.

"I'm a part of that social change in Puerto Rico," said La Fountain-Stokes.

In terms of the cultural loss in the early years of the AIDS pandemic, La Fountain-Stokes said it was devastating. He also mentioned writing about Manuel Ramos Otero, one of the first Puerto Ricans to write about being gay, and

who died due to complications from AIDS in 1990.

Garcia noted the role of language in the LG-BTQ community and the fact that queer has been taken back by the community, especially among young folks, and asked La Fountain-Stokes to comment on this phenomenon. He noted that he's obsessed with language.

La Fountain-Stokes explained that he was raised bilingual and, to this day, alternates between Spanish and English. He calls English his imposed language and said he still doesn't speak it very well.

"I often see myself as a cultural and linguistic translator and mediator," said La Fountain-Stokes.

La Fountain-Stokes noted the book he wrote for kids ages 10 and above, *A Brief and Transformative Account of Queer History*, that's in both English and Spanish. There's a companion paper dolls book featuring 27 characters in both languages that comes with the book.

Garcia brought up the word "Latinx" and the idea of taking away gender in language; La Fountain-Stokes responded that he likes the concept but that the term is hard to translate into Spanish because that's a language that relies on gender.

Garcia explained that La Fountain-Stokes has written about the Orlando Pulse nightclub massacre, and asked him to elaborate on that day. La Fountain-Stokes said it happened the same day as the National Puerto Rican Day parade in New York City, of which he was a participant. He said it was a very confusing and strange time for him. La Fountain-Stokes noted how happy he was to see the memorials for Pulse along the Paseo Boricua section of Division Street, reminding everyone of the work that still needs to be done to achieve acceptance and equality.

A panel discussion on Latinx life with three queer Roberto Clemente High School students (Destiny, Kayla and Yvette) and Clemente School Community Representative Jessie Fuentes followed La Fountain-Stokes' conversation with Garcia. Fuentes and Garcia served as moderators.

Destiny noted that schools, including Clemente, lack any kind of LGBTQ history in their classes. She said she came out at school when she was 16 because of how accepting everyone was there, despite the school's lack of resources for LGBTQ youth.



Lawrence La Fountain-Stokes (left) and Emmanuel Garcia.
Photo by Carrie Maxwell

Kayla said she lacks support at home because there's a divide between her parent—her mom and sisters/brothers are supportive while her dad is not. She also noted that there are not a lot of safe spaces to get information about the LGBTQ community in the area, adding that, while she liked La Fountain-Stokes' kids book, it wouldn't have helped her situation. Kayla (who mentioned that her uncle is gay) explained that she came out to close friends when she was a freshman and that, for the most part, their teachers and fellow students accept her.

Yvette said that queer students at her school can express who they are and everyone there knows she is dating Kayla. Yvette also noted

that she came out in eighth grade, and when her parents found out they beat her physically and took her phone away. Kayla pointed out that her mom lets Yvette come over to their house due to her family situation.

Public Narrative President Susy Schultz led an interactive storytelling workshop and presentation to close out the day's events.

The event was partially supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, and was a collaboration of the National Museum of Puerto Rican Arts and Culture, the Great Books Foundation, the Chicago Cultural Alliance and Public Narrative.

See LarryLaFountain.com for more information.

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CeCe McDonald in**Free CeCe.**

Photo courtesy
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Powerful documentary to premiere at 'TransReelization'

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

In one of the most powerful moments of the award-winning documentary film *Free CeCe*, transgender activist and civil rights icon CeCe McDonald talks with award-winning actress, activist and executive producer of the film Laverne Cox about her dreams while McDonald spent 19 months at the Minnesota Correctional Facility (a level IV men's prison) for defending herself against a brutal attack by a drunken group of white individuals outside the South Minneapolis Schooner Tavern on June 2, 2011.

"All I dreamed of being in there was to be this more glamorous person and appreciate my femininity and my womanhood," she said. "I guess it's the policy with the entire Department of Corrections where things are very misogynistic. Unfortunately, as a trans woman, they still view us as men and we aren't entitled to those things that women have; I couldn't wear my clothes a certain way or shorts or things that accentuate my body."

"They hypersexualized me in their own manner because I was a woman in a men's prison, McDonald added. "By creating these policies around just me. They would say, 'It's for your safety. We're doing it to protect you.' It's like, 'Honey, I'm in prison. If somebody wants to jump off, they could. I feel like a lot of things they did were created to take away my transness and turn me into a man.'"

The film shows McDonald attending a party celebrating her 2014 release, her dreams suddenly and gloriously real.

Wearing a glamorous dress and showing off all her curves, McDonald joins performers on a stage, dancing with unrestrained and ecstatic freedom from often months at a time of solitary confinement which she described as "no contact with anybody at all. It was really depressing especially knowing what their reasoning was. I feel like they made you try to hate yourself as someone who's nonconforming."

Free CeCe is a film that takes audiences on a visceral journey through the mental and physical suffering that occurs throughout the course of a grave injustice and the once-impossible dreams of a trans woman of color locked up for trying to live an authentic life.

It warns of the absolute worst that society can do to the civil and human rights of an individual.

The residents of the TransLife Center at Chicago House have at least some defense against society's ceaseless attacks upon their personhood.

So, it is only fitting that the third annual TransReelization fundraiser benefitting the TransLife Center to be held Nov. 5 at the Music

Box Theatre will serve as the Chicago premiere for *Free CeCe*.

School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) professor and TransLife Center advisory board member Mickey R. Mahoney has served as the co-curator of the event with fellow board member Karin Winslow for each of TransReelization's three years.

"Because I teach a trans film class at the Art Institute, I know about the films coming in," Mahoney said. "I'd been wanting to get my hands on [*Free CeCe*] for a long time. It is such a powerful piece and relates to everything the TransLife Center is about. It brings to light all of the things that happen to trans women of color and I am thrilled we have it."

The screening of the feature-length documentary is a departure from the fundraiser's traditional menu of short films dealing with trans issues.

The format of the event has also changed.

Following an afternoon matinee of *Free CeCe*, a VIP after-party will be held at the Kinowerks studios, offering a once-in-a-lifetime, intimate look at the breathtaking work of award-winning filmmakers Lana and Lilly Wachowski, an opportunity to meet McDonald alongside *Free CeCe* director and producer Jac Gares, a silent and online auction that includes an original painting by Lilly entitled *Duck Call of Cthulhu* (a reference to an H.P. Lovecraft story) and a sneak preview of the second season of the hit Netflix series *Sense8*.

"We decided to expand TransReelization to make it an option for people who couldn't swing a \$500 ticket," Mahoney said. "So this is going to be something completely different for us."

For Gares, *Free CeCe* is the culmination of over three years of work that began when she was a showrunner for the LGBT-themed PBS show *In the Life* which ran for an extraordinary two decades.

"We were kind of like a rebel crew," she said. "We didn't have a lot of money to make the show but what we put out there, we wanted to be ethical, factual and something that amplified the voices of those who are marginalized in society and certainly within the LGBT community."

Following the segment *A Conversation With Janet Mock and Isis King*, which dealt with moving past *Trans 101* narratives and representations, Gares began working with Cox on ideas for *In the Life*.

Cox immediately brought up McDonald.

"We both knew of the story when it broke in 2011," Gares said. "I was outraged that a Black trans woman who was defending herself and trying to get away from one of her attack-



Free CeCe producer Jac Gares.

Photo courtesy of Gares

ers would have to spend time in jail. We saw the misgendering [of CeCe] in the mainstream media and I was frustrated by that coverage. It was why I wanted to do this story so badly and do it right. Laverne is not only a gracious, incredible collaborator and human being, she's also a fierce advocate. So it was a pleasure to make this film with her and really be able to lift up CeCe's story."

The first shoot in that task involved Gares travelling with Cox to the prison in St. Cloud, Minnesota, where McDonald was being held at the time—access for which Gares credits both the reputation of *In the Life* and the rise of Cox's career through the phenomenally successful Netflix series *Orange Is the New Black*.

"Neither one of us had ever set foot in a prison before," Gares said, "So it was uneasy for us to go through everything to get in. We had to be very low impact. I could only use DSLR [Digital Single-Lens Reflex] cameras and that determined how the rest of the film would be shot. When they brought CeCe to us, which you see in the film, it was incredible to meet her. I thought 'Why is this woman in a men's prison?' She had a beautiful energy and was so kind and with a generous spirit."

"I knew it was going to be powerful to put Laverne and CeCe together," Gares added. "I didn't realize how powerful. There was just a

beautiful exchange between the two and an outpouring of love."

But immediately following the meeting, the reality of McDonald's situation was brought home with cold indifference.

"When CeCe had to leave us, we were hugging her and [correctional officers] came in and started saying things like, 'He needs to be strip-searched now before he goes back,'" Gares said. "Immediately the misgendering happened and we were crushed. But CeCe just smiled and waved goodbye to us. She is an incredible human being with an indomitable spirit."

Despite her involvement with each of the issues covered by *In the Life*, the production of *Free CeCe* provided Gares with an unexpected and harsh education.

"I really learned how much of a problem people have with human rights," she said. "It really just struck me how people were not seeing CeCe as a human being. Because she had been put into the criminal injustice system, she was seen as less than human in many people's eyes. What surprised me is how much that propelled me to listen to CeCe's story."

"There were times when Laverne and I would be talking to people at the The Sylvia Rivera Law Project or the AVP [New York Anti-Violence Project] and asking questions like, 'What does safety mean?' and 'What does violence mean to people in the trans community?'" Gares added. "There were things that we had ideas about and things we had no idea about. So the ability to go deep on a lot these issues really carried over to me in making the portrait of a Black woman as a human being especially in a society that really does not value trans women."

For Mahoney (a longtime friend of Gares), *Free CeCe* is a major accomplishment.

"I knew about the film, as Jac was making it," Mahoney said. "So I was keeping up on its progress. I kept thinking, 'How did you get footage like the [police] interrogation of CeCe?' It's amazing that Jac was able to pull that off but, at the same time, it makes my stomach turn when I watch it because it's so horrific the way she was treated. I'm glad that it was all brought out in the way the film is structured."

"The only thing I felt that I could do was report the facts," Gares said. "I wanted to represent the violence and the remembrance of trans women who are victims of brutality but I didn't want to do it in a way that would distance the audience. I wanted people to connect with CeCe in her moment of remembering and memorializing."

Because the film is to be screened at the Music Box, rather than in the smaller audience capacity of Kinowerks, Mahoney hopes that particularly students will take that opportunity to connect with McDonald's story.

"There's student discounts," he said. "If they enter the word 'college' on the Transreelization website, they can get tickets for \$15. The screening is a community event and a celebration of sorts that is also educational and impactful. That and the VIP party are different events but still super-important and a really fun time."

People will need to move fast if they want to experience it. According to Chicago House Corporate Relations Associate Anthony DiFiore, tickets to TransReelization are going to sell out soon.

"We've already had a huge amount of RSVPs," he said. "So we're really excited."

He hopes that TransReelization will raise \$100,000 for the TransLife Center.

"I think for anyone who is a person of color or a trans person of color, *Free CeCe* is really about the commonalities of CeCe's life whether you are young or old," Gares said. "I hope these commonalities will further the discussion and shine a light on local policies that will make change and a difference in this community. I want people to see how a human being was treated by the justice system for defending her life. My hope is that they will become agents for change on a large scale."

For more information, visit ChicagoHouse.org/home/transreelization.

Pidgeon Pagonis.
Photo courtesy of Pagonis



Pidgeon Pagonis: On their film, White House visit, being on 'Transparent'

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Self-described gender non-conforming intersex activist and filmmaker and Chicago native, Pidgeon Pagonis (born in 1986 on the Northwest Side of Chicago) has been making waves in the LGBTQIA community for about a decade including their documentary, "The Son I Never Had: Growing Up Intersex."

Northwestern University's Rainbow Alliance recently hosted a screening and discussion of Pagonis' film at Harris Hall.

"It felt like a homecoming of sorts," said Pagonis. "Growing up and going to Children's Memorial Hospital [now Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago] my resident doctors were students at Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern. Also, it's rare that I get booked at a Chicago venue, so it was nice to have my closest friends in the audience. It was a beautiful, amazing experience and the students asked some of the best questions I've ever been asked."

This wasn't the first time Pagonis has screened their film, having traveled to 20 different venues, mostly outside of Chicago, since 2014. Pagonis recently got a grant from the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice's Intersex Fund to put the finishing touches on the film. They also plan on submitting it to film festivals in the coming months and will release it for free with a companion website for people to go for resources and call to action information on

Intersex Awareness Day next year.

As for the most meaningful place Pagonis has shown their film, they said the 2014 Intersex Conference in Cincinnati to a room full of only intersex people and some of their family members and friends.

"That was the most emotional moment for me regarding my film and its impact," said Pagonis. "It felt like all of us were healing ourselves and each other while watching my film."

Pagonis explained that their documentary is an auto ethnographic storytelling piece.

"I was inspired by Audre Lord's autobiography which she called a 'biomythography,'" said Pagonis. "I string together two different voices—one is myself and my family's subjective voice and the other is the objective voice of science and reason which is me reading my medical records."

They noted that intersex babies occur in one out of every 2,000 births which is the same amount of red heads in the world.

"I went to an all-girls Catholic high school in the suburbs," said Pagonis. "It's interesting because I'm intersex, but I didn't know it back then. What I don't talk about much is I was into traveling softball which I did almost every day of my life for a long time. This saved me from going to church regularly because we had tournaments on the weekends."

Digital cinema was Pagonis' first choice for their college major but they switched to women and gender studies shortly after enter-

ing DePaul University. They also received their master of arts in women and gender studies from DePaul University.

"In my thesis class, I came up with the idea of doing a written ethnography and then I turned it into my film," said Pagonis.

Pagonis joined interACT youth (the world's first intersex youth project) while still in college and later served as an intern. They parlayed that into a combined full-time job consisting of the communications and operations manager and youth leadership coordinator. As communications and operations manager, Pagonis was, among other tasks, in charge of all the social media.

"My work as the youth leadership coordinator is what meant the most to me," said Pagonis. "Youth project members at interACT worked with the cast and crew of Faking It to help write the intersex character Lauren played by the fabulous Bailey De Young. We would get the scripts in advance and provide the producers and Bailey with feedback about her character. We did a Q&A with Bailey and she also came to our intersex conference last year. Every young person at the conference was adoring her."

Their many accolades includes being published in the Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics academic journal, being awarded by the White House as an LGBT Champion of Change in November 2015, being featured in the documentary Intersexion and becoming one of Windy City Times' 30 Under 30 awardees in 2013.

"The cool part about it was that edition's editor was intersex and a friend of mine from here in Chicago," said Pagonis. "What's interesting is they wanted stories from intersex people and 'experts' to have balance for that edition of the journal."

Pagonis explained that, about eight years ago, they were contacted by New Zealand intersex activist Mani Bruce Mitchell about their

Intersexion documentary. Mitchell would later become a mentor to Pagonis.

"Mani came to Chicago and interviewed me," said Pagonis. "We had this connection right off the bat and commiserated about our horrible airport experiences because of being intersex."

The White House Champion of Change event is what led Pagonis to the set of Transparent. Pagonis' old boss at interACT nominated them and after passing a background check they were told they would be honored.

"My dad, who was a key person in my documentary, was my plus one and I was so happy he got to see me get an award for my work," said Pagonis. "It was a beautiful moment to be able to speak my truth about being intersex in front of everyone there, but most importantly my dad who told me how proud he was of me. I was really excited and nervous, but it was a great memory that will stay with me for the rest of my life."

Among the other awardees that day was the cast and creators of Transparent and Pagonis ended up meeting them ahead of the day's events.

"At the time I'd never even heard of the show and then, a few months later, I was in Transparent," said Pagonis. "We started reminiscing about Chicago because so many of the people from the show are from here. Amy Landecker and my dad talked about her dad, John Records Landecker, because my dad liked him as a radio DJ. Jill Soloway and I talked about all the things we love about Chicago. I spent the most time with Alexandra Billings because she was the moderator of the panel I was on. She did an excellent job. I loved it when Jeffrey Tambour told the audience that because he has white, straight, male, cisgender privilege he gives free acting classes to transgender actors to help them achieve their goals. The entire cast and creative team were wonderful."

Pagonis noted that the show rolled out the



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the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

Papa Ray's Pizza & Wings

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Nestled in Uptown (among other locations), **Papa Ray's Pizza & Wings** (4757 N. Sheridan Rd.; PapaRaysPizza.com) looks like one of the places you might hit after a long night at the club.

On the corner of Lawrence Avenue and Sheridan Road, a neon sign beckons hungry patrons toward the late-night spot, which is self-described as "home of the monster slice." The place only seats 20, the lights are slightly dim, a rainbow flag hangs in the front window and there's even one of those claw machines for large, knobby rubber balls.

However, don't be fooled: Papa Ray's (which the founders, brothers George and John Rayyan, named after their father) has some pretty tasty food.



Papa Ray's Pizza & Wings.
PR photos

Starting with appetizers, Papa Ray's has all the fixings: Yes, there's salad (but most people aren't there for that), but there are also Bosco breadsticks (stuffed with mozzarella cheese, and topped with garlic butter and parmesan), bacon-cheese fries, chicken fingers and other items.

And that's just the tip of the iceberg. The pizza slice is, indeed, monstrous in size—and can be customized from a boatload of ingredients. (I ordered mine topped with asiago cheese, Italian sausage, pepperoni and spinach—and it was delicious.) There are also whole pizzas (including specialty types like buffalo chicken and tropical Hawaiian) as well as award-winning jumbo wings, calzone wraps and mac 'n' cheese—and those last



two items can be customized as well.

And if, somehow, you have room for more, desserts are available as well. They include the monster chocolate brownie cheesecake and Eli's tiramisu. (Let's just say I was glad I worked out before going here—and you can always take food home if you dine here.)

But never fear: Thanks to various locations, Papa Ray's can cover most of the North Side of Chicago, as well as the cities of Carol Stream and Palatine—and it does incredible delivery/carryout business. Here's to taking over the rest of the city; after all, there are clubgoers (and TV watchers) everywhere.



Bob the Drag Queen.
Photos by Ed Negrón

Howard Brown Health hosts hauntingly fun affair

BY ED NEGRON

While most Chicagoans focused on the Cubs vs. Dodgers fifth (and World Series-clinching) game, Howard Brown Health held its second annual Halloween spooktravagant event, The Big Orange Ball, at West Loop restaurant and event space Carnivale on Oct. 22.

Guests arrived in their most eye-catching attire ready to celebrate Halloween, a favorite LGBTQ holiday. Carnivale's main event space was transformed into a ghoulish ballroom, with smaller spaces for tricks and treats. One such room was the Kink Room, complete with a St. Andrew's cross. Board Member and Mr. Chicago Leather 2014 Miguel Torres offered demonstrations, and provided floggings for a small donation. Torres was joined by the reigning Mr. Chicago Leather, Todd Harris.

The evening was kicked off with a special performance courtesy of Rebirth Garments. Designed and made by hand by Sky Cubacub, Rebirth Garments are gender non-conforming wearables and accessories for people on the full spectrum of gender, size and ability. This was followed by plenty of dancing to the spooktacular sounds of DJ Larissa and DJ Megan Taylor.

Before the main event, an announcement was made that caused the entire ballroom to cheer and roar at the top of its lungs—"CUBS WIN, CUBS WIN!!! The Chicago Cubs are going to the World Series!"

The main event of the evening was a performance by Bob The Drag Queen, the winner of RuPaul's Drag Race's eighth season. The day before the ball, Bob stopped by the Broadway Youth Center to take a tour of the facilities and for a private meeting with the youth and peer advocates. The energy of the meeting was said to be phenomenal and truly inspiring.

Funds raised during the gala will support Howard Brown's medical care and community initiatives for adults and youth.

Founded in 1974, Howard Brown serves more than 20,000 adults and youth each year in its health and social service delivery system focused around four major programmatic divisions: clinical care, research, education and advocacy.

To learn more, visit HowardBrown.org.



nightspots the big TO-DO

OUR WEEKLY PICKS TO PLAN
YOUR NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

The Nightmare Before GeekHaus



Fri., Oct. 28, 9 pm
Berlin,

954 W. Bemont Ave.

SPOOKtacular performances inspired by the creative works of Tim Burton. Performances by Fox E. Kim, Joe McQueen, Dizzy Lizzy Delicious, Aurora Gozmic, Kat Sass, Alex Kay, King Reza and Jer-Fay. Stay for the creepy cosplay contest.

Sex, Gender, & Martin Heidegger

LEATHER STUDIES

DAS JANSSEN, PhD

"Sex, Gender, and Martin Heidegger"
philosophy



Sat., Oct. 29, 3-5 pm

Leather Archives & Museum,
6418 N. Greenview Ave.

What is gender? Why leather? Guest lecturer Das Janssen, Ph.D. tackles these questions. Free and open to the public. 18+. Admission to the museum galleries is \$10.

Stranger Thang Halloween Party



Sat., Oct. 29, 9:30 pm

Mary's Attic,
5400 N. Clark St.

Bring your best Nancy, Monster, Papa, Barb, Joyce, Eleven, Dustin, Lucas or sexy Chief Hopper. Get your pics taken under Mary's/Joyce's wall of lights, and win prizes for best costumes at 1 am. DJ Moose spins all the best of the soundtrack, '80s synth, and Halloween favorites.

Sidetrack Halloween Costume Contest



Mon., Oct. 31, 10 pm

Sidetrack,
3349 N. Halsted St.

Watch the Northalsted Scream Queen parade on their screens. Costume contest at 10 pm, with a \$500 cash prize and hosted by Dixie Lynn Cartwright. No cover.



"If you vote for Hillary Clinton, I will give you a blow job. And I'm good. I'm not a douche, and I'm not a tool. I take my time. I have a lot of eye contact. And I do swallow."—Madonna. In a related story, Madonna also pledged to blow people who voted for Trump.

I find it staggering that technology can make enormous strides forward while, at the same time, art can take just as many steps backward. In the golden age of movie musicals (the '40s, '50s and '60s), songs were lip-synched—in many cases, to a different person's voice! And yet, the end result was often not only convincing but award-winning. This ability seems to be lost—much like the mystery of the pyramids or Pia Zadora's career. Fox, the network that revolutionized live musicals on TV with *Grease: Live!*, all but killed the genre with a misguided and pointless remake of *The Rocky Horror Show*. While there is enough blame to go around, the sound designers and producers should be charged with crimes against humanity at The Hague. Nobody seems to care about matching the ambient sound in a recording studio to that on a soundstage. Likewise, the performers don't realize that a great studio recording is far different than one that is realistic for acting and movement.

But the biggest mistake was the casting of **Laverne Cox**. Strike that—the biggest mistake was Laverne Cox accepting the role. With this one decision, she undid whatever good she's done for the transgender movement. She's playing a role confusingly referred to in the revised script as both "she" and "he." (Usually, "he" is used.) And, when the character sings "I'm not much of a man," we're seeing these ginormous titties bursting out. After Rocky has sex with Frank-N-Furter, why is he so intrigued by Janet? In the original, it's because he's never touched breasts. Maybe in this case, it's because her breasts were so small ... and less tanned! Cox never seemed to have a clear grasp on who this character was. And, what was that accent? It was like a cross between **Tim Curry** and **Dame Joan Collins**. In fact, it was as if Dame Joan were doing a Curry impersonation! For someone who has fought hard to be accepted as a woman, Cox gave a performance that seemed like an audition for RuPaul's *Drag Race*. So much for progress. BTW, I am not alone in my opinion—the bulk of the reviews were middle-of-the-road to abysmal. As to ratings, half the number of people who tuned in for *Grease: Live* even bothered to check this out.

While Fox was setting the trans community back decades, Fox News moved forward by revealing the biggest non-secret since Anderson Cooper came out. Yes, **Shepard Smith** finally acknowledged he is gay. Shocking! Next thing you know, Mrs. Muir will make a stunning revelation! In an interview with The Huffington Post, Shep talked about his sex life solely to defend his former boss, **Roger Ailes**. He wanted to counter reports that Ailes made him stay in the closet. As for any other personal details, Smith's keeping his mouth shut.

It would be interesting to hear Shep's take on **Jim Walker**, another Fox News anchor. Well, I should say former anchor. He's now making news because of his new occupation—gay-porn actor! His porn name is **Dallas Steele**, but he doesn't seem to mind blurring the lines between the two. In a recent interview, he reveals this transition happened during a difficult time in his life. His partner died and this left him with huge financial



The Rocky Horror Picture Show and Laverne Cox did not live up to expectations, Billy says.

issues. At the same time, he was let go by Fox News after they told him he was "unlikeable." Since then, he's bent over backward—and forward—to prove them wrong! How did he prepare for his new profession? First thing he did was get butt implants. As I always say, play to your strengths! In the past year and a half, he's taken the industry by storm. You can see some of his work on BillyMasters.com.

With all these new TV shows about time travel, I'm beginning to feel like I'm catapulting through time. In 1995, **Glenn Close** was starring in *Sunset Blvd* on Broadway. At the same time, jettisoned star **Patti LuPone** was down the street starring in *Patti LuPone on Broadway*. These worlds will be colliding once again. Earlier this year, Close returned to the role of Norma Desmond in a semi-staged production with the English National Opera in London. She had so much fun revisiting the role, she will return to Broadway for a limited 20-week run at the Belasco Theatre starting in January.

Meanwhile, **Patti LuPone** and **Christine Ebersole** were the toast of Chicago this summer trying out the new musical *War Paint*—about the lives of Helena Rubinstein and Elizabeth Arden. The show was clever, provocative, had good music for the two ladies, and needed just a few tweaks. Hopefully, those tweaks have been made because the show will be docking at Broadway's Nederlander Theatre on March 7. Sounds like 2017 could be a rematch of Patti vs. Glenn at the Tonys. Perhaps Patti will come out on top this time. You can judge for yourself, since we have a video of the finale of *War Paint* exclusively on BillyMasters.com.

Dorothy Gale made much of the phrase "There's no place like home" in *The Wizard of Oz*. Alas, **Dorothy's iconic ruby slippers** need our help. The sparkly shoes are housed in the Smithsonian and are, apparently, falling apart. They are turning to Kickstarter to try and raise \$300K to preserve the pumps.

There's been lots of talk about **Garrett Clayton** playing gay porn pup **Brent Corrigan**. But another former Disney star is making a buzz with his new project. **Ross Lynch**, who starred in *Austin & Ally* and *Teen Beach Movie*, has been cast as the gay cannibal serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer. That's quite a role for a Disney star to chew on!

When Disney stars can make money where their mouth is, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Before ending, several of you have asked me to post Clayton's King Cobra sex scenes (and his ass shot). Like Garrett, I'm happy to oblige, and you will find them on www.BillyMasters.com, the site where everyone ends up. If you have a question, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Madonna ends up in a Disney film! Until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

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9PM-2AM / NO COVER
FREE GLOWSTICKS (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)

FRIGHT FEST SATURDAY OCTOBER 29
COSTUME CONTEST AT 11:30!
\$500 CASH FIRST PRIZE
HOSTED BY DIXIE LYNN CARTWRIGHT
OPEN 1PM TIL 1AM NO COVER

SUNDAY OCTOBER 30 SUNDAY FUNDAY
OPEN AT 1PM
ShowTunes 4-9PM
Sideltrack Favorites 9PM-2AM NO COVER
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MONDAY OCTOBER 31 HALLOWEEN
WATCH THE NORTHALSTED SCREAM QUEEN PARADE ON OUR SCREENS! MUSICAL MONDAY TIL 2AM NO COVER
COSTUME CONTEST AT 10PM
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Northalsted Halloween Parade in 2014.
Photo by Jerry Nunn

Halloween Parade Oct. 31 in Boystown

The 20th-annual Northalsted Halloween Parade, which the Northalsted Business Alliance is presenting, will take place Monday, Oct. 31.

First, however, there will be a Saturday, Oct. 29, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., celebration for kids at Space Park, 815 W. Roscoe Ave. In partnership with Triangle Neighbors and Children's Learning Place, the event will feature tons of family fun including crafts, some tricks and

lots of treats.

There will also be a "Zombie Bar Crawl" on Saturday, Oct. 29, 4-8 p.m. The participation fee is \$20.

The parade—which, this year, has a "Scream Queen" theme—happens Halloween night at 7:30 p.m., kicking off from the corner of Halsted Street and Belmont Avenue, and traveling north to Cornelia Avenue. The competitive costume contest will award winners in four categories: Drag, Group, Scariest and Theme. Registration is 5-7 p.m.; participation is free.

See Northalsted.com.

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KNIGHT at the movies



BY RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

Moonlight; The Handmaiden

In my 12-and-a-half years as film critic for Windy City Times, I cannot recall another instance of what is happening this weekend at your local cinema: not one, but two, examples of superlative LGBT films are opening in Chicago.

Okay: I know a certain team is in the World Series (yes!) but, pre- or post-game, please do make time for these movies. **Moonlight**, from director Barry Jenkins, is an unexpected breakthrough that is no less than a game-changer while Park Chan-Wook's **The Handmaiden** is a breathtaking ratification of the South Korean's protean talents. It's a very heady combination; a one-two punch that raises the bar for queer cinema in fundamental ways.

Moonlight is based on "In Moonlight Black Boys Look Blue," a never-produced story by the Black gay playwright/actor Tarrell Alvin McCraney (a Steppenwolf company member). Jenkins has directed and adapted McCraney's story for the screen which focuses on a young Black boy, Chiron. Chiron's life is seen in three defining stages—as the quiet, watchful boy we first encounter, as the cautious teen eager to fit in and as a life-scarred man in his 20s. The film is split into these three sections with a trio of actors—Alex Hibbert, Ashton Sanders and Trevante Rhodes—playing Chiron.

When we first encounter Chiron in sunny Miami in the 1980s, he's in flight, running away from bullies who have sniffed out what they discern is his innate gayness. Chiron's tough single mother, Paula (the luminous Naomie Harris), has sniffed it out, too, and when push comes to shove, lets him have it. Trapped on all sides, Chiron finds an unexpected ally in Juan (Mahershala Ali), a local drug lord who shares a home with his girlfriend Teresa (a warm and sympathetic Janelle Monae). The unusually tolerant and respectful Juan suspects but never pushes the truth and, under his guidance, the boy begins to blossom—until, in the most terrible of ironies, Chiron discovers that his

mother is one of Juan's customers.

The nearly mute boy morphs into the sullen, skinny teen who has become an expert at fitting in and deflecting the psychological blows from his now drug-addled mother. An unexpected physical encounter one moonlit night on the beach with his best friend, Kevin, opens up a world of possibilities—that is quickly quashed by circumstances.

When we last meet Chiron as a twentysomething adult, the hulking, muscular man we encounter is barely recognizable to us. Jenkins leaves it to us to intuit much of what has taken place in the ensuing years as Chiron decides on a whim to track down Kevin (played as an adult by Andre Holland), who is now working in a diner in Georgia. Their encounter—and a visit with his mother—brings to light the tremendous cost Chiron has paid as he has struggled to come to terms with his sexuality and what it means to be a man in our fragmented society. Don't be surprised, my gay brethren and sisters of every stripe, if this final scene between Chiron and Kevin doesn't find you weeping tears of bittersweet recognition—as it did me.

For Chiron (or for the audience), there are to be no easy answers and no easy summation to neatly define his coming out and this open-endedness is part of the magic of this expressive masterpiece. Jenkins' method is calm and exacting, and might seem to verge on the stereotypical (we've seen these

circumstances before) if it weren't for Jenkins' laser-sharp focus.

Moonlight is a deeply lyrical work but unfussy in its approach and the director is helped immeasurably by the stellar performances. In Dee Rees' lovely *Pariah*, mainstream filmgoers were given glimpses of the interior life of a young Black lesbian and now we have, at long last, its male twin, although *Moonlight* digs down much deeper. How long have audiences been subconsciously (and consciously) been waiting for this kind of sensational film? I can't recall a film since Marlon Riggs' 1989 polemic *Tongues Untied* that has examined so closely and with such insight the life of a gay Black male. I'm glad, as a queer film fan and critic, that I lived long enough to see this extraordinary movie and what I sincerely hope will be a game-changer for cinema.

Impressive from an altogether different perspective is Park Chan-Wook's sensual thriller *The Handmaiden*. A period piece that is part potboiler, part thriller and full-on sensual art, Park's movie contains the Hitchcock-influenced set pieces that have become this visually dazzling director's signature. (The unfairly overlooked 2013 movie *Stoker*, scripted by out writer/actor Wentworth Miller, is my favorite previous example.)

Based on the Victorian set novel *Fingersmith* by Welsh writer Sarah Waters but reimagined in the Japanese-occupied Korea of the 1930s, the plot concerns a con man who poses as a

playboy, Count Fujiwara (Ha Jung-woo), who is in the process of wooing a wealthy heiress. The con man hires Sook-hee (Kim Tae-ri), a pickpocket from the provinces who he trains to pose as a handmaiden for the object of his con: the lovely and fragile Lady Hideko (Kim Min-hee). Sook-hee is tasked with convincing Lady Hideko to fall in love with the count and marry him instead of her overbearing uncle, handing her vast fortune over to the con man in the process.

The fly in the ointment turns out to be Sook-hee, whose ardor for Lady Hideko—and vice versa—is palpable from the moment the two women first encounter one another when the handmaiden arrives to take on her duties. The intrigue and tremendously erotic subterfuge that follows is quintessential Park. Madness, violence, plenty of plot twists (don't tell!) and a battery of silken close-ups follow (and there's a plenty hot romance between the two women to boot). *The Handmaiden* is ravishing cinema that calls attention—gorgeously—to itself every step of the way.

'Haunting History' Oct. 28-31 in Evanston

"Haunting History with David Parr: A Magical Halloween Treat for Grown-ups" will take place Oct. 28-31 at Evanston History Center, 225 Greenwood St.

The shows will be at 7, 8 and 9 p.m., and people will explore the corridors of the historic Dawes House, completed in 1895. An introductory video is at <https://youtu.be/590ZHZEgww>.

Tickets are \$25; no one under 13 will be admitted.

See DavidParr.com.

Pet Shop Boys at Civic Opera Nov. 5

Longtime duo Pet Shop Boys announced the first leg of the act's "Super" world tour, which started Oct. 21 in Las Vegas. The 27-day run includes shows in the United States, Canada, Germany, Holland, Denmark and Russia.

The stops include a show at Chicago's Civic Opera House, 20 N. Upper Wacker Dr., on Saturday, Nov. 5.

Among the act's many hits are "West End Girls," "Go West," "Being Boring" and "What Have I Done To Deserve This?"

See LiveNation.com for tickets.



Alex Hibbert and Mahershala Ali in *Moonlight*.
Photo by David Bornfriend, courtesy of A24



Kim Tae-ri and Kim Min-hee in *The Handmaiden*.
Photo courtesy of Amazon Studios-Magnolia Pictures

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Chicago Cubs manager Joe Maddon (left) and MLB Ambassador of Inclusion Billy Bean. Twitter photo

Cubs mark Spirit Day, are in World Series

On Spirit Day (Oct. 20), Chicago Cubs manager Joe Maddon posed with openly gay Major League Baseball (MLB) Ambassador of Inclusion Joe Maddon in a Twitter photo. Now, the Cubs—who have lesbian entrepreneur Laura Ricketts as a co-owner—are in their first World Series. They started the series against the Cleveland Indians Oct. 25.

PAGONIS from page 33

red carpet in every way imaginable, including transportation, airfare, lodging and access to a golf cart while on set.

"I met Pidgeon on the grand steps of the White House," said Soloway. "I'd been Twitter crushing on them for awhile and we hit it off right away. Pidgeon is a brilliant activist and artist, and they inspired the Transparent writers to write the role of Baxter for them as an intersex person working the volunteer crisis hotline at the Los Angeles LGBT Center. When they visited Los Angeles for the shoot we spent tons of time together. My sister Faith and I loved sharing hometown vibes with Pidgeon and entertaining one another with the most extreme version of our Chicago accents as possible. Pidgeon instantly became part of my family and the Topples and Transparent family."

Pagonis appeared in the first episode of season three in the scenes where Maura was volunteering at the crisis hotline.

"One of the other characters said, 'It's so great to be under the transbella with all of you' and that's when the other character points out that I'm intersex so I had to explain what being intersex means," Pagonis said. "It was a way for Jill to get intersex visibility on the show. When I got to the set Jill told me that I could throw my lines away that I'd been nervously trying to memorize and be natural because the role was written for me."

"Jeffrey seemed really interested in my story, what being intersex means and the issues

around it. It was a bonding moment when I was telling everyone my story in the scene. It was really beautiful and the first time I felt like anyone with status in Hollywood really wanted to hear, not just the glossy parts of being intersex, but also issues we face. Jill kept on saying go into all the issues. She wanted to learn everything about my community."

In terms of this year's Intersex Awareness Day (Oct. 26), Pagonis is formulating some ideas and will relay them via social media. Last year, Pagonis did a Twitter power hour using the hashtag #intersexstories.

In the week leading up to Intersex Awareness Day, Pagonis screened their documentary in Boston and New York City.

In their spare time, Pagonis likes to run, ride their bike, paint watercolors, do photography and go to live music in Chicago especially the new Chicago renaissance hip-hop, soul and R&B scene.

They also make intersex and gender affirming T-shirts that can be purchased via their website.

"My message to the world is what happens to intersex people are violations of our human rights," said Pagonis. "Everyone deserves bodily autonomy no matter who we are and intersex people should be the only ones deciding whether we get surgery. Currently, we're working with the United Nations to amplify these ideals."

See PidgeonIsMy.name for more information and to access Pagonis' social-media accounts.

Wed., Oct. 26

52nd Chicago International Film Fest continues Longest running international competitive film festival in North America, the Chicago International Film Festival is proud to enter its 52nd year. Through Oct. 27. Time:TBA Various locations <http://www.chicagofilmfestival.com>

Annual Carl Sandburg Literary Awards The Chicago Public Library Foundation and Chicago Public Library present awards to best-selling authors Erik Larson (Devil in the White City, Dead Wake) for non-fiction and Scott Turow (Presumed Innocent, The Burden of Proof). The 21st Century Award, presented to a Chicago-based emerging author, will be presented to short story writer Amina Gautier (At Risk, Now We Will Be Happy, The Loss of All Lost Things). Bill Kurtis and Scott Simon emcee and moderate. Seventy notable authors head each dinner table. fundraising event for the Chicago Public Library 6:00pm The Forum, 725 W. Roosevelt Rd., <http://chipublib.org>

Night of 100: Dragapalooza Two nights, two stages, dozens of queens, hunky male dancers, and burlesque entertainers will be taking over Sidetrack for a production like no other to benefit Equality Illinois. 8:00pm - 2:00am Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St Chicago <http://www.sidetrackchicago.com/>

Thursday, Oct. 27

Point Foundation Scholarship event, supporting LGBTQ Students Help support the next generation of LGBTQ leaders, meet Point scholars and alumni, enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. \$100

**IN REMEMBRANCE Saturday, Oct. 29**

A memorial for activist/writer/historian Marie Kuda will take place at Touche, 6412 N. Clark St.
Photo from 2015

6:00pm - 8:00pm Venue Six10 Spertis Institute 610 S. Michigan Ave. Chicago Tickets: <http://www.pointfoundation.org/ChicagoCS16>

Resolution - A Queer Vintage Thriller! World premiere from Pride Films and Plays. New Year's Eve, New York City, 1892. High-society husband and wife Jack and Hannah make their resolutions for the coming year -- but a discovery may change everything. Through Nov. 20 7:30pm Rivendell Theater, 5779 N. Ridge Ave., Chicago <http://pridefilm-sandplays.com> Tickets: <http://bit.ly/resolutiontix>

Night of 100: Dragapalooza Two nights, two stages, dozens of queens, hunky male dancers, and burlesque enter-

tainers will be taking over Sidetrack for a production like no other to benefit Equality Illinois. 8:00pm - 2:00am Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St Chicago <http://www.sidetrackchicago.com/>

Friday, Oct. 28

Living Well as You Age with HIV Key-note speaker Nelson Vergel, HIV positive since 1983 and a leading treatment advocate on HIV disease in the U.S. Panel discussion 1:30pm. Breakfast and lunch served. Free program. Registration required by Oct 18 at j.mott@tpan.com 9:00am - 3:00pm Lewis Towers, Loyola U, Beane Hall, 111 E. Pearson St., Chicago 773-989-9400 ext 232 <http://www.tpan.com>

Abbi Jacobson in conversation with Samantha Irby: Carry This Book A wonderfully weird and weirdly wonderful illustrated look at the world around us through the framework of what we carry. Ticketed event. 7:00pm Senn Hall 5900 N Glenwood Avenue Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/event/abbi-jacobson-conversation-samantha-irby> Tickets: <http://abbi-jacobson.brownpapertickets.com>

I Am Who I Am (The Story of Teddy Pendergrass) musical closing weekend Pendergrass was known for songs like "Turn Off the Lights," "If You Don't Know Me By Now" and "Wake Up Everybody." \$55-\$65 BlackEnsemble. 8:00pm Black Ensemble Theater Cultural Center 4450 N. Clark St. Chicago 773-769-4451 <http://BlackEnsemble.org>

Trikone Chicago Presents: Jai Ho (rorr)! A Queer Bollywood Halloween Party Halloween edition of Chicago's premier queer desi dance party featuring South Asian music and performances. Every other month. RSVP online. 10:00pm - 2:00am Big Chicks 5024 N Sheridan Rd Chicago <https://www.facebook.com/events/194220664322676/>

Saturday, Oct. 29

Marie J. Kuda memorial service Early activist, writer, historian. Email editor@windycitymediagroup.com for more information. 2:00pm Touche 6412 N Clark St.

13th Floor Haunted House One of the Chicago area's largest haunted houses, over 30,000 square feet of indoor space with 35 ft. ceilings. Authentic, movie-quality sets full of animatronic monsters, special effects, and hundreds of actors. Two newly themed attractions in one location: Bloodlines: Legacy of Darkness and Dead End District: The Judge. Through Oct. 31. 7:30pm - 10:30pm 1940 George St., Melrose Park <http://www.13thfloorchicago.com/>

Queer comic Rebecca O'Neal & an all-female lineup Laugh Factory presents. Hosted by Nate Burrows 8:00pm The World Famous Laugh Factory, 3175 N. Broadway St., Chicago <http://www.meetup.com/lbtqfriends/events/234624529?rv=ea1>

Affinity: Mystery Scavenger Hunt and Halloween Party Dress to scare, if you dare. Teams follow maps collecting scary Halloween items, snapping photos of larger items. Several drink and hotel packages available. Proceeds benefit Affinity Community Services 9:00pm - 1:00am Hilton Garden Inn O'Hare, 2930 S. River Rd., Des Plaines Tickets: <http://classcechicago.angelfire.com/halloween2016/index.html>

Sunday, Oct. 30

Andersonville Dessert Crawl Features mouthwatering desserts from restaurants in Chicago's historic Andersonville neighborhood. Supports the non-profit Andersonville Chamber of Commerce. Choose between two routes, each filled with delectable treats. Tickets \$25 advance, \$30 on the weekend. Pick-up tickets and walk to host restaurants and shops. 2:00pm - 5:00pm Begin at

Great Lakes Clinical Trials, 5149 N. Ashland, Chicago <http://andersonville.org>
Screening: Love is All You Need In a small Middle American town, the university's star quarterback is outed for being a heterosexual. Her forbidden love affair with a male journalist rocks the town where heterosexuality is taboo. Writer-director K. Rocco Shields will hold Q&A after. \$7. 2:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SPW4oFL7GBo> Tickets: <https://community.centeron-halsted.org/Love>

Monday, Oct. 31

Annual Northalsted Halloween Parade: with a 'Scream Queen' theme Celebrating 20 years of Halloween hoopla. Competitive costume contest will award winners in four categories: Drag, Group, Scariest and Theme. 7:30pm Corner of North Halsted and Belmont, traveling north to Cornelia <http://www.northalsted.com/events/northalsted-halloween-parade/>

LGBT Gay Halloween Costume Party All invited. \$100s In Costume Prizes. Cover \$20. Food and cash bar available. Dj Broadway Bill. 8:00pm Galaxy Banquets O'hare, 4663 N Ruby Schiller Park, IL <http://halloweenchicago.net/index2.php>

Wed., Nov. 2

Fun Home opening night Based on Alison Bechdel's best-selling graphic memoir. Nov. 2-13. 7:30pm Ford Center Oriental Theatre, 24 W. Randolph St., Chicago <http://www.broadwayinchicago.com/show/fun-home/>

Ruby Western's Quite Right Tonight closing night Hour-long female queer variety show each Wednesday through Nov. 16. \$8. 8:00pm Annoyance Theatre 851 W Belmont Chicago 773-697-9693 <http://TheAnnoyance.com>

Sidetrack's OUTspoken! Series: November's featured storytellers

**Linda Beckstrom**

Linda Beckstrom is a freelance Writer/Creative Director and has been writing short stories for many years. She is a Moth StorySlam winner and GrandSlam teller, she's appeared at many

other storytelling events around Chicago over the past few years, including, Is This A Thing? and Louder Than A Mom. She's thrilled to be part of the OUTspoken friends and allies lineup.

**John and Char Cepek**

John and Char have been committed allies to the LGBT community in a variety of settings ever since their son, John, came out to them in 1991. John served as national president of Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), where he originated the

Straight for Equality program, from 2006 to 2010. This program has presented LGBT diversity trainings throughout corporate America over the last ten years. In the area of faith communities, John and Char chaired the Open and Affirming Taskforce at the First Congregational Church of La Grange.

**Johnny Hickman**

Johnny Hickman is guitarist, co-founder and co-songwriter of the band Cracker who have

been recording and touring the U.S. and the world for 25 years. Johnny grew up with a gay brother and a transgender sister and is here to share his story of their journey together.

**Laura S. Washington**

Laura S. Washington is a Chicago Sun-Times columnist and political analyst for ABC 7, Chicago's ABC-owned station. She is also a contributing editor to In These Times magazine. She served as a 2015 Fellow at the University of Chicago's Institute of Politics.

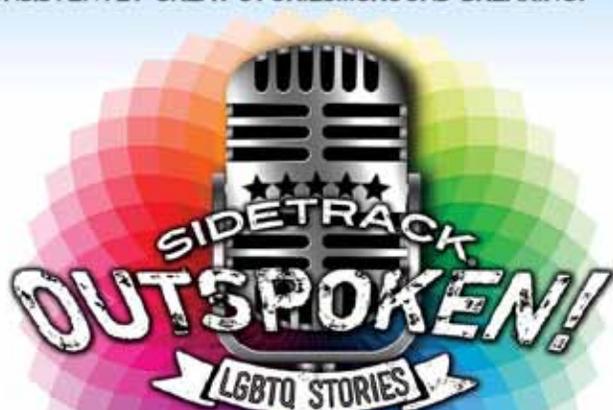
Washington brings more than two decades of experience as a multi-media journalist and non-profit professional specializing in African-American affairs, local and national politics, race, and social justice. From 2003 to 2009 she served as the Ida B. Wells-Barnett University Professor at DePaul University.

**Scott Whitehair**

Scott Whitehair is a storyteller, teacher, and instructor living in Chicago who is as passionate about hearing your stories as he is about telling his own. Scott is the host of This Much Is True, one of the longest running storytelling series in the city, creator of Story

Lab Chicago, which has put 400+ new tellers on stage since 2011, and director of Do Not Submit, a citywide network of ten open mics focused on connecting neighbors through story. He performs anywhere someone will listen, teaches a monthly class and coaches people and organizations in developing their voices.

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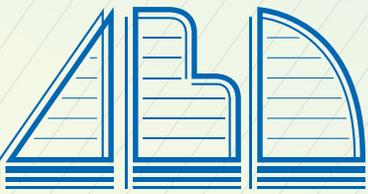
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