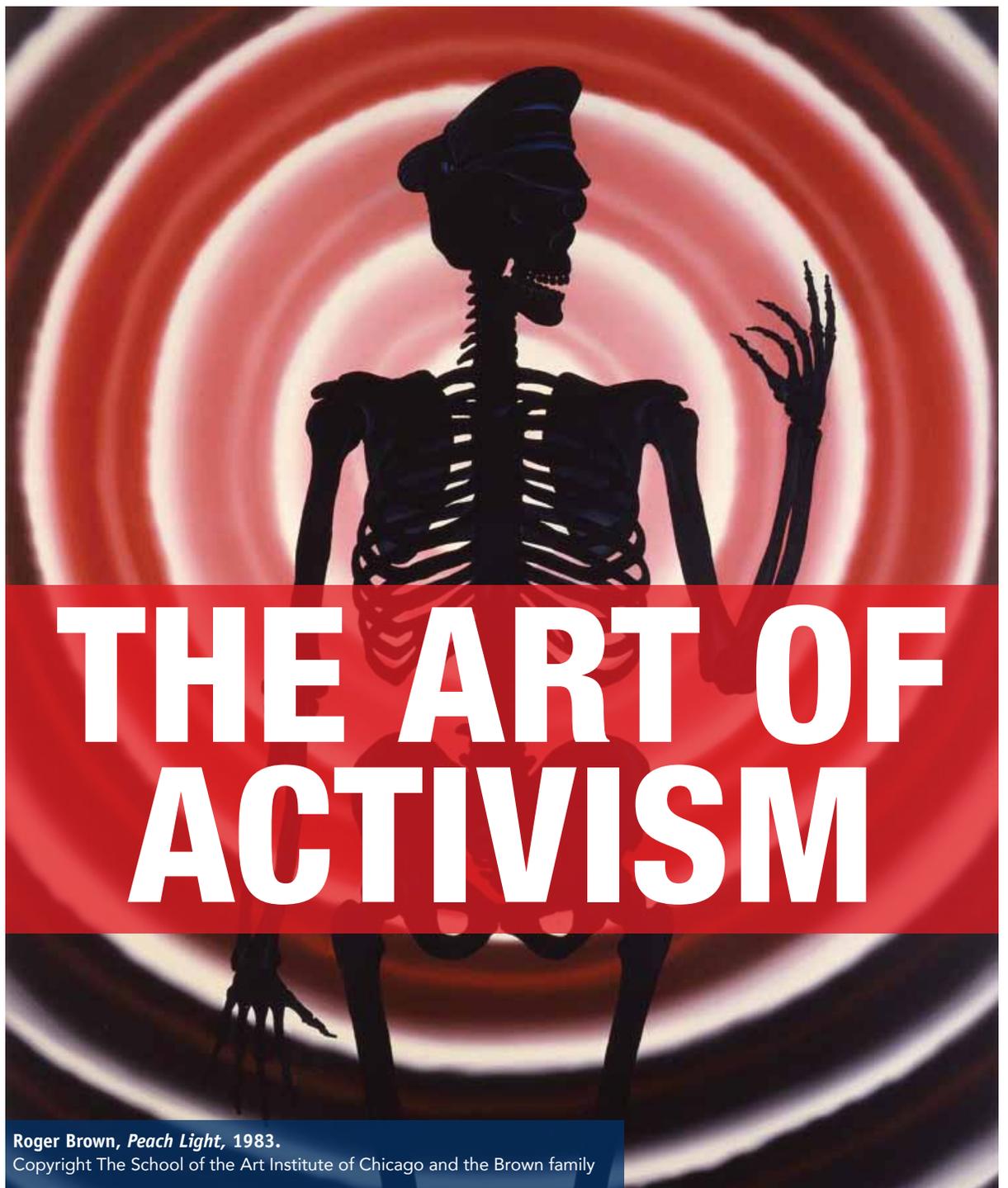




CITIZEN JANE
 Jane Lynch on Glee, new holiday CD.
 Photo by Jake Bailey
 34



Roger Brown, *Peach Light*, 1983.
 Copyright The School of the Art Institute of Chicago and the Brown family

THE ART OF ACTIVISM

Art AIDS America co-curator talks activism, exhibition

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

On World AIDS Day Dec. 1, The Alphawood Gallery in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood will officially open the extraordinary and historic new exhibit for which the building was conceived and designed.

Since its Oct. 3, 2015 premiere at the Tacoma Art Museum (TAM), Art AIDS America has been touring the country with pieces depicting the history of AIDS in the United States as seen through the uncompromising eyes and limitless creativity of the visual artist.

The Alphawood Gallery and the city of Chicago will be the exhibit's final home—a host to work that, for the most part, was never before seen until co-curators Chicagoan gay-rights activist/Leslie-Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art President Jonathan David Katz (who is also director of the visual studies doctoral program at State University of New York-Buffalo), alongside Tacoma Art Museum Chief Curator Rock Hushka, began years of painstaking work.

Katz spoke with Windy City Times about that work and the life which gave rise to it.

Turn to page 23



UBER RELATIONSHIP
 Couple unites, thanks to ridesharing.
 Photo of Tanya Serrano-Bargas and Marisela Bargas by Gretchen Rachel Hammond
 20



HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE PART ONE
 37-41



FIDEL CASTRO
 Controversial world leader dies; LGBTs react.
 Instagram photo
 4

mbusa.com/s-cab



Love at first sight.

Dream convertibles do come true: the 2017 S-Class Cabriolet is unmatched in style, innovation and luxury. And with the top down, its inner beauty captures the heart of any admirer.

#TogetherWeDream

Mercedes-Benz
The best or nothing.



WINDY CITY TIMES

INDEX

NEWS

- Cuban leader Fidel Castro dies 4
- OBITS: George Saint-George, Ian Schroeder 6
- SCOTUS bios 7
- Sock campaign helps youths; Tel Aviv facility 8
- Woman alleges CPD attacked her 10
- Serving the rainbow youth 12
- Airbnb aims to fight discrimination 13
- Website gathers names of Irish LGBT emigrants 17
- Transgender activist Judy Bowen 18
- An Uber-driven relationship 20
- Jim Petrakis: Consultant, AIDS survivor 22
- Art AIDS America 23
- Views: Randolph; letters 28

ENTERTAINMENT/EVENTS

- Scottish Play Scott 29
- Theater reviews 30, 32

DOWNLOAD THIS ISSUE

AND BROWSE THE ARCHIVES AT www.WindyCityTimes.com



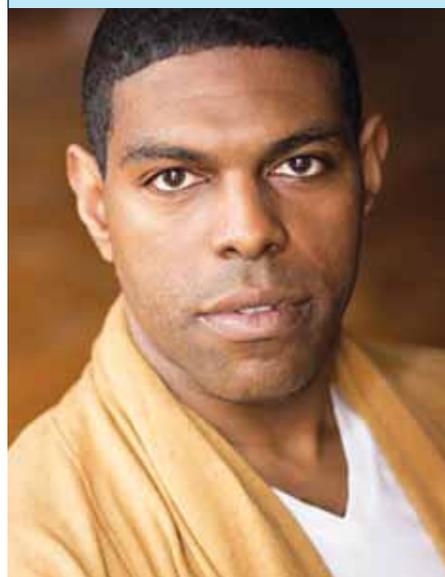
WCT reviews The Fundamentals 30

- Theater actor Tom Hewitt 33
- Jane Lynch talks with WCT 34
- A women's tuxedo's journey 35
- Holiday gift guide, part one 37-41
- NIGHTSPOTS 42
- CMSA Hall of Fame; Barry's Bootcamp opens 44

OUTLINES

- Classifieds 46
- Calendar Q 46

online exclusives at www.WindyCityTimes.com



BREON LIGHTS
Breon Arzell (left) shines in the local theatrical production Rutherford's Travels.
PR photo

ARMADA TRAVELS



The 2017 Nissan Armada is cozy and G.A.Y. (Girl, it's All about You).
Photo from Gaywheels.com

MOORE OR LESS



Donnie Moore is among those in Bent Nights' holiday column.
Photo by Vern Hester

STRUT, SERIOUSLY
The Strut fashion show (which marks World AIDS Day) benefited the South Side Help Center.

VIEW EVERYTHING
The International Museum of Surgical Science is presenting two exhibits that document very different aspects of the AIDS epidemic.

THAT'S SHOW BIZ
Find out the latest about Ruby Rose, Martha Stewart and the show Dante's Cove.

plus **DAILY BREAKING NEWS**

andersonville Holiday EVENTS

LATE NIGHT & LATE-ER NIGHT ANDERSONVILLE
FRIDAY, DEC. 2 AND 16, 6-10PM
Two nights of special events, shopping, entertainment, holiday treats, and pictures with Santa!

JULMARKNAD "HOLIDAY MARKET" SATURDAY
DEC. 3, 10AM-5PM | SUNDAY, DEC. 4, 10AM-4PM
Traditional Swedish entertainment, food, and crafts at the Swedish American Museum, 5211 N. Clark, plus a host of holiday festivities throughout the neighborhood. Museum admission \$2.

ST. LUCIA FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS
TUESDAY, DEC. 13, 4-4:55PM
A candlelit, carol-filled procession followed by singing and treats at the Swedish American Museum, 5211 N. Clark. Admission is either \$1, an unwrapped toy, or fresh produce donation for Care for Real, Edgewater's food pantry.

andersonville.org

Tucker, Inc.
ENGAGEMENT RINGS WEDDING BANDS

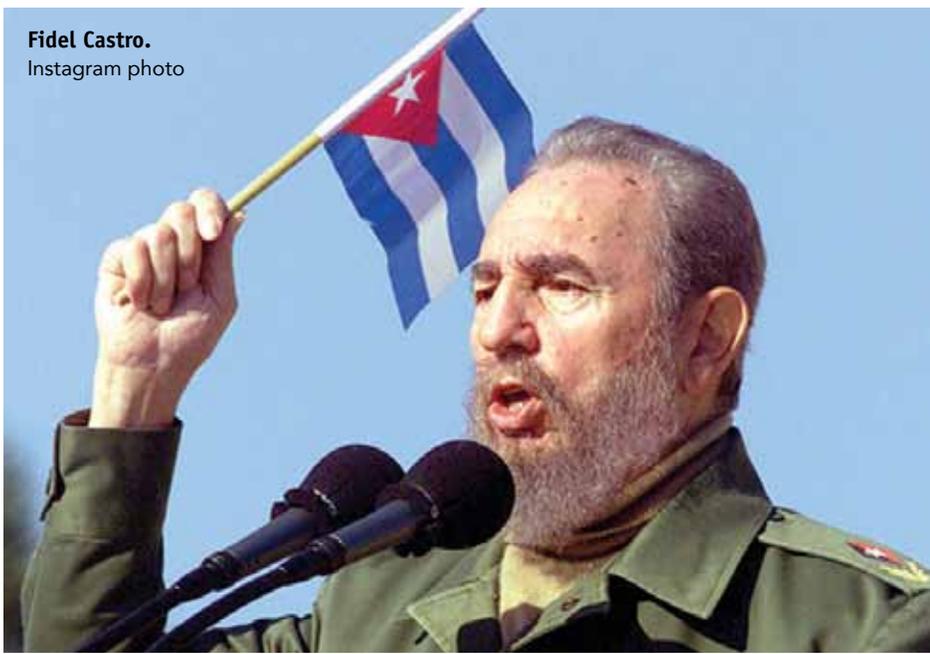
IS

Donald Strzpek
Proprietor, community member

JEWELRY FOR ALL OCCASIONS

5 S. Wabash, ste 507 Chicago, IL 60603 312.263.3315
tuckercompany@aol.com

Fidel Castro.
Instagram photo



Cuban leader Fidel Castro dies

BY ANDREW DAVIS AND MATT SIMONETTE

Longtime Cuban ruler Fidel Castro has died at age 90.

The country declared nine days of national mourning to mark his death.

President Barack Obama—who, two years ago, brokered a deal to restore diplomatic ties between the United States and Cuba for the first time since they were cut 55 years ago—offered his condolences. He urged Cubans to remember that they had “a friend and partner in the United States of America.”

U.S. President-elect Donald Trump called Castro a “brutal dictator,” and said he hoped Cubans could move toward a more free future.

Castro took power in Cuba on New Year’s Day 1959, promising to share his nation’s wealth with its poorest citizens. However, he became one of the world’s most controversial leaders, in part due to such developments as the Cuban Missile Crisis and even his abolishment of Christmas as an official holiday for three decades. (Castro was also seen as a thorn in the side of almost a dozen U.S. presidents.) He transferred his power to younger brother Raul in 2006, and formally resigned in 2008.

When it came to LGBT rights, Fidel was not known for his liberalism, and he sent thousands of gay men to labor camps, known as UMAP (or Military Units to Aid Production) camps. (He apologized for the camps in 2010.)

In a September 2015 talk he gave in Chicago, Cuban activist/physician Alberto Roque Guerra described how the island nation’s historical homophobia only got worse in the days immediately following Castro’s rise, since homosexuality was regarded as a hedonistic symptom of capitalism. Guerra said that the communist party, machismo, poor sex education and the medical profession all contributed to homophobia throughout the 1960s. Gay Cubans were not allowed to take part in the arts nor in educational capacities at the time.

“Officials were trying to erase our past,” Guerra said.

A Dec. 10, 1987, issue of the Chicago paper *Outlines* reported that “up to 50 percent or more of the Cuban prisoners who had been rioting at the Atlanta Federal Penitentiary and the Federal Alien Detention Center in Louisiana” were gay; they were apparently jailed for up to eight years solely because of their sexual

orientation.

In 1980, “Castro opened the doors for the Mariel flotillas, which started when 5,000 Cubans, including a large number of gays, occupied the Peruvian Embassy grounds and demanded freedom.” About 125,000 individuals journeyed to the United States—many of them gay people who Cuban authorities forced out of prisons and detainment facilities. However, once the gay refugees arrived in the United States, they were separated and imprisoned yet again.

Cuba decriminalized same-sex activities in 1979—but his government quarantined HIV/AIDS-positive people until 1993. Raul’s daughter, Mariela Castro, is a prominent LGBT-rights activist; the documentary *Mariela Castro’s March: Cuba’s LGBT Revolution* debuted on HBO Nov. 28.

According to writer-activist Achy Obejas, “Fidel Castro’s death, honestly, is anti-climactic. The succession of his brother Raul is assured and solid and has been for years. And it makes zero difference to LGBTQ prospects in Cuba: Fidel allowed the UMAP camps that imprisoned gay men and lesbians in the 1960s and only took a tepid responsibility for them a few years ago in a Mexican newspaper. That apology was never heard by the thousands of queer lives he ruined in Cuba and the policies of paranoia he set in place. An entire queer generation still suffers PTSD from that time.”

Obejas added that although Cuba “is progressive on many issues, it remains markedly anti-queer: There are zero rights for same-sex couples on the island. Never mind no right to marry—there are no rights to co-habitation, no rights to adopt, no rights protecting employment, no rights protecting even peaceful assembly. Yes, you can get free gender-reassignment surgery if you’re Cuban, but that’s because the state views that as a medical right, not a civil right, and the difference is critical. For gays to move forward in Cuba, a lot more is going to have to happen than just Fidel dying.”

Cuba-born performer Gloria Estefan wrote on Instagram, “Although the death of a human being is rarely cause for celebration, it is the symbolic death of the destructive ideologies that he espoused that, I believe, is filling the Cuban exile community with renewed hope and a relief that has been long in coming.”

Relationships & the Law Today

BY ANGELO D. DIBARTOLOMEO



Supreme Court to take on issue of transgender bathroom policies in schools

A transgender boy banned from using the boys’ restroom at his high school sued his county school board alleging that it impermissibly discriminated him in violation of Title IX of the U.S. Constitution. The student’s birth-assigned sex is female, but his gender identity is male.

Since he was a freshman, he began hormone therapy, legally changed his name to a traditionally male name, and has lived all aspects of his life as a boy. However, he has not undergone sex reassignment surgery (an action that is not permitted for minors). [This is an important distinction as the case that is the subject of this article is engrossed in the debate of sex versus gender as it applies to federal regulations regarding bathrooms in schools.]

At the student’s request, his high school allowed him to use the boys’ restroom in accordance with his gender identity as male. He was able to do so briefly without incident, however, as word spread through the community of the school’s decision to accommodate the transgender student’s identity, many demanded that he be prevented from using the boys’ restroom.

It was argued by concerned community members that allowing him to use the boys’ restroom violated the privacy of other students and would lead to sexual assault in school restrooms. An argument that is heard often by those opposing transgender individuals from using the restroom in accordance with their identity is that non-transgender boys would attend school wearing dresses so that they could freely access the girls’ restroom.

Ultimately, the school board adopted a policy limiting restroom access to students based upon their biological sex and providing so-called “gender identity issues” an “alternative appropriate private facility.” The student is unable to use the girls’ restroom in accordance with his birth-assigned sex because—as he is a boy in all aspects of his life—it makes the female students uncomfortable. He has further stated that requiring him to use a separate, unisex bathroom “make[s] him feel even more stigmatized. ... Being required to use the separate restrooms sets him apart from his peers, and serves as a daily reminder that the school views him as different.”

In June 2015, the student sued the school board, captioned *G.G. v. Gloucester County School Board*, Case No. 4:15-cv-00054-RGD-DEM, in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. The District Court dismissed his Title IX claim reasoning that although Title IX prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex, it does not on the basis of other concepts such as gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Because regulations specifically allow schools to separate restrooms on

the basis of sex, requiring him to use the girls’ restroom in accordance with his birth-assigned sex of female is not a violation of Title IX.

The student subsequently appealed the dismissal of his Title IX claim to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. On appeal, the main issue was the interpretation of the Department of Education’s regulations implementing Title IX that permit schools to separate bathrooms on the basis of sex. The crux of the issue was that the Department’s Office of Civil Rights specifically stated that the regulation is to be interpreted, in relation to transgender students, that “a school generally must treat transgender students consistent with their gender identity.” The District Court, however, ruled that the regulation permitting separation on the basis of sex was unambiguous and did not afford deference to the Department’s stated interpretation that transgender students are to be treated in a way consistent with their identity.

On appeal, the Fourth Circuit reversed the District Court’s ruling holding that the Department of Education’s regulation is in fact ambiguous, and thus, the courts are to grant deference to the Department’s interpretation of its own regulations. Ultimately, the school board would have to prove that the Department’s interpretation that transgender students are to be treated in conformance with their gender identity is inconsistent with the regulation. The case was thereby remanded back to the District Court, and on remand, the court granted the student’s request for a preliminary injunction requiring the school board to allow him to use the boys’ bathroom in accordance with the student’s gender identity as male.

The school board has since appealed the Fourth Circuit’s ruling that the Department’s interpretation of its own regulations regarding the separation of bathrooms is to be given deference as it applies to transgender students and that schools are to treat them in accordance with their identity as opposed to their birth-assigned sex.

The U.S. Supreme Court in deciding to hear the case has affirmatively decided to engross itself in the national controversy over bathroom laws and policies being implemented across the country pertaining to transgender students. The continued need to protect the rights of transgender individuals in this country is at the heart of this case. The Supreme Court has now entered the field and is poised to render a decision that will provide great precedent and guidance on how transgender rights are to be protected in the future.

Thus, this is a monumental case to keep a close eye on, as it will inevitably set the stage for the progression of transgender rights and advocacy in the future.

Angelo D. DiBartolomeo is an Associate with the Litigation Practice Group in Clark Hill’s Chicago office. His focus is on various areas of litigation, including commercial litigation, business litigation, employment litigation, and trust and estate litigation.



@windycitytimes1



/windycitymediagroup



@windycitytimes

www.windycitymediagroup.com



WE FOCUS ON HIV
TO HELP YOU FOCUS ON
TODAY

Ask your doctor if a medicine made by Gilead is right for you.

onepillchoices.com

PASSAGES

Former Chicago nightlife photographer George Saint-George dies

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

George Zelichowski, aka George Saint-George, died Oct. 29 after falling from the balcony of his rented house in India onto the pavement in the middle of the night. He was 46.

According to Indian news reports, SSG Hospital (in Vadodara, Gujarat, where Zelichowski was taken) sources told them he died of multiple injuries to his lungs, ribs and head.

Feast of Fun podcast co-host and producer Marc Felion relayed his death to Windy City Times.

At the time of his death, Zelichowski was living in Vadodara, Gujarat state, with mother Zofia and a stray dog he adopted last year. He had been living in India for two years at the time of his death. Zelichowski adopted his professional pseudonym, Saint-George, due to his birthday falling on All Saints Day.

While living in India, Zelichowski befriended India's openly gay Prince Manvendra Singh Gohil, who spearheaded the #FreeGayIndia campaign and many other LGBTQ activists in the country.

Zelichowski spent many years as a freelance photographer for a variety of Chicago publications, including Gab Magazine, Babble Magazine and Chicago Social. He was also an estate sales independent auctioneer and online retailer. During the early part of his career, he worked for Stuart-Rogers Photography.

He was born Nov. 1, 1969, and grew up in

Grosse Pointe Woods, Michigan. He graduated from Grosse Pointe North High School in 1987.

Zelichowski is also survived by his brother and friends in Chicago.

In addition to setting up a residence in India, he also traveled the world documenting his experiences in photos; including Thailand, Peru and the Netherlands. Zelichowski's other interest was cooking and he took inspiration from the cuisines of the various countries he visited throughout his life.

"George was probably most well known to people as nightlife photographer for over a decade in Chicago before he left to travel the world and live in India," said Felion and husband/Feast of Fun co-host Fausto Fernós. "We truly admired him for his sense of adventure and closely followed his travels around the world. George ended up having a complicated relationship with India. He loved living there but was concerned with the nation's anti-LGBT sentiment. His home became a social center and refuge for gay men who didn't have a place to gather as homosexuality was recently re-criminalized in India. We will miss him very much."

"From about 1992 to 2002, George and I were the 'power couple' of Chicago's nightlife scene," said longtime friend Jayne Friedman. "Although never legally married, he and I shared many great memories together and often referred to ourselves, both in the past and the present, as husband and wife. George



George Zelichowski, aka George Saint-George. Photo courtesy of Zelichowski

was a smart, fiery and passionate consort and I was saddened to hear of his recent passing in India. My heart goes out to his mother in her time of grief."

"George was such a dear friend," said stylist and DJ Eric Sean Daly. "Witty, intelligent and creative. We will all miss his travel stories and stunning photographs. This world lost a beautiful soul."

"George and I were close for over 20 years," said Greg Haus, DJ and multimedia artist/music department manager at Berlin Nightclub. "He was caring, loyal, and always supportive of me emotionally and creatively. I admired him for living life on his own terms. George was a true friend I could count on in times of crisis and joy. I will miss him terribly."

"George offered to travel with me through India in January 2015 to show me his favorite cities and sites," said producer/DJ Nevin Hersch. "He was so generous to spend a month showing me the world of India that he loved, planning all the bus, train and air travel and also making sure we had comfortable lodgings."

"We visited 11 cities, and had some incredible adventures along the way. He was a great photographer, and took me to a place across the river from Taj Majal that's not well-known. We got some amazing photos before getting kicked out by the police. He was also a great collector and trader of Indian tapestries, art and artifacts. He will be greatly missed."

To listen to Saint-George's appearance on Feast of Fun, visit <http://feastoffun.com/podcast/2016/11/11/fof-2348a-eat-pray-gay-11-11-16/>.

A memorial service will take place in Chicago in the coming weeks. Details will be announced at a later date.

brightest individuals in Chicago's LGBTQIA community. "Over the past five years, Ian has published phenomenological research on gender identity development, developed and facilitated gardening projects with adolescents experiencing incarceration, and supported families with refugee status from Somalia and Ethiopia to engage in theater and sports to process trauma. They hope to move forward in their life to use arts to collaboratively create a better world."

Schroeder was engaged to marry Patrice Foster.

According to an interview given by Schroeder's sister Dani to Windy City Times reporter Carrie Maxwell in April of this year, Schroeder was "looking forward to getting out in nature like they did as a kid when we visited the Black River near St. Louis, moving in with Patrice and celebrating their engagement with all of their loved ones."

A statement from YEPP read "for almost three years Ian Schroeder has been a warrior, caregiver and inspiration to create safe spaces to support LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness through YEPP's mission."

"We don't have words to explain our gratitude for your existence, your lessons, your contributions, your presence, your support, your LOVE," the organization added. "We don't have any doubt that you will continue fighting for a JUST WORLD from wherever your next life will be."

A celebration of Schroeder's life was held Nov. 11 in St. Louis, Missouri, with friends and family.

HRC Foundation, TPOCC release report on anti-trans violence

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation and the Trans People of Color Coalition (TPOCC) released "A Matter of Life and Death: Fatal Violence Against Transgender People in America 2016," a new report documenting the often deadly violence faced by the transgender community and exploring the factors that fuel these attacks.

The report recounts the stories of the at least 21 transgender people who have been murdered, and several more who died under suspicious circumstances, since the beginning of 2016. In many instances, the report notes, this violence is fueled by a deadly combination of anti-LGBTQ prejudice, racism, easy access to guns, and increasingly hateful social and political rhetoric.

Of the lives lost this past year, 96 percent were people of color and 85 percent were transgender women.

TPOCC Executive Director Kylar Broadus, in a letter at the beginning of the report with HRC President Chad Griffin, said, "Despite the enormous progress we've made, the undercurrents of transphobia, homophobia, sexism and racism are impeding this important progress. As a result, hate violence against transgender people, particularly against transgender women of color, remains disturbingly common."

The report is at <http://hrc-assets.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/files/assets/resources/A-Matter-of-Life-and-Death-2016.pdf>.

Wally Brewster resigns from ambassadorship

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Openly gay U.S. Ambassador to the Dominican Republic James "Wally" Brewster, on Nov. 23, announced that he would be resigning from his post, effective Jan. 20, 2017.

The news came via the Dominican Republic's U.S. Embassy's Twitter account, where Brewster added that he and his husband, Bob Satawake, would move on to "new adventures."

Brewster and Satawake, who both had resided in Chicago, faced heated opposition from religious elements throughout the duration of Brewster's diplomatic post, regularly fielding crude insults from local church officials. Last spring, opponents posted an online position to the White House's website calling for Brewster's removal, but the Obama administration never backed down from its support.

But Brewster told Windy City Times that those voices did not represent most residents of the Dominican Republic, adding that the protestors are "trying to hold on to history and the past, and they're doing everything they can to push people away who are willing to stand up and say, 'This is who we are as a people and we don't want to be represented this way.' ... I have great hope for the Dominican Republic, that this is just part of that struggle that we all go through at times."

PASSAGES

Ian Harris Schroeder

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

Former Windy City Times 30 Under 30 honoree and beloved Chicago trans activist, artist and social worker Ian Harris Schroeder passed away Nov. 9, friends and family announced.

Schroeder had been battling brain cancer which was diagnosed in March of this year. They (preferred pronouns) were a family-ties case manager at Chicago House, an artistic coordinator with the Youth Empowerment Performance Project (YEPP) and a prior volunteer for LGBT and battered women's advocacy organizations.

"Ian has spent their life crafting theater with street-based and LGBTQ young people as a method of storytelling and healing," Windy City Times wrote on the occasion of Schroeder's 2015 30 Under 30 honor of the best and



Ian Harris Schroeder. Photo courtesy of Schroeder



@windycitytimes1



/windycitymediagroup



@windycitytimes

www.windycitymediagroup.com

'San Antonio Four' exonerated

The highest court in Texas has exonerated the so-called "San Antonio Four."

Elizabeth Ramirez, Kristie Mayhugh, Cassandra Rivera and Anna Vasquez were convicted in the late 1990s of gang-raping two little girls who were Ramirez's nieces. The women had recently come out as lesbians, and prosecutors used their sexuality as a motive for the crimes.

They were wrongfully convicted close to 20 years ago for a crime they did not commit. The ruling overturns their convictions and paves the way for the women to potentially seek millions of dollars in compensation from the state. The women were the subject of the documentary *Southwest of Salem: The Story of the San Antonio Four*. The film, by Deborah S. Esquenazi, was recently honored by the Broadcast Film Critics Association with the Critic's Choice Award for Best First Feature.



Anna Vasquez in *Southwest of Salem*.
Image from *Southwest of Salem*

AMA adopts new policies

The American Medical Association (AMA) recently gathered physician and medical student leaders from all corners of medicine during its Interim Meeting and voted to adopt new policies aimed at improving the health of the nation.

Among a few of the policies are the following:

—**Parity in reproductive health insurance coverage for same-sex couples:** In recognition that same-sex couples have sometimes been denied access to insurance benefits that cover fertility service, the AMA adopted policy aimed at promoting parity in reproductive health insurance coverage for same-sex couples.

The new policy adds to established AMA policy supporting measures providing same-sex households with the same rights and privileges to health care, health insurance, and survivor benefits, as afforded opposite-sex households.

—**Support for voluntary inclusion of gender identity, sex, sexual orientation options in electronic health records:** To improve patient health, the AMA approved policy supporting the voluntary inclusion of a patient's biological sex, current gender identity, sexual orientation and preferred pronoun(s) in medical documentation and related forms, including EHRs (electronic health records). The AMA also will advocate for collection of patient data that is inclusive of sexual orientation/gender identity for the purposes of research into patient health.

—**Improved access to mental health services at colleges, universities:** The AMA adopted new policies to improve mental health services at colleges and universities. The new policies support strategies to improve accessibility to care and reduce the stigma of mental health issues. The AMA also urged colleges and universities to emphasize to students and parents the importance, availability, and efficacy of mental health resources, and to develop mechanisms of care that support timely and affordable access.

See AMA-assn.org.

Alliance for Justice has SCOTUS nominees' bios

As President-elect Donald Trump makes plans to nominate a new candidate for the Supreme Court vacancy left by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia, Alliance for Justice has records and biographies of the potential justices Trump named during the campaign.

Some of the nominees are:

—Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah): Lee has reportedly taken himself out of the running. In Lee's view, Social Security, Medicare/Medicaid, the Violence Against Women Act and child-labor laws are among those he deems unconstitutional.

Before his Senate run, his legal career included a clerkship for Judge Dee Benson for the District of Utah and two clerkships for Judge (and then Justice) Alito on the Third Circuit and the Supreme Court. He also spent time as an assistant U.S. attorney and in private practice.

—Margaret A. Ryan, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces: Ryan was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed

Forces by President George W. Bush in 2006. Born in Chicago, Ryan graduated from Knox College in 1985.

—Federico Moreno, U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida: Moreno was nominated to the United States District Court for the District of Southern Florida by President George H.W. Bush in 1990. Born in Caracas, Venezuela, Moreno moved to the United States at the age of 12.

—Robert Young, Supreme Court of Michigan: Young was appointed to the Michigan Supreme Court by former Republican Gov. John Engler in 1999. In 2007, Young authored an opinion upholding the state's voter photo identification law, holding that requiring voters to present photo identification before casting a ballot "is a reasonable, nondiscriminatory restriction designed to preserve the purity of elections and to prevent abuses of the electoral franchise."

See all the information at <http://afjaction-campaign.org/the-trump-reports/>.



U.S. Sen. Mike Lee.
Official head shot

Together, we can achieve your possible.



The difference between impossible and possible often starts with a person saying, "I think I can." At U.S. Bank, we think you can too. And with our online tools and resources, we're here to help in every way we can.

Find your possible at a U.S. Bank branch, call 800.825.BANK (2265), or visit financialgenius.usbank.com

2016 WORLD'S MOST
ETHICAL
COMPANIES™
WWW.ETHISPHERE.COM

usbank

the POWER of POSSIBLE™



EQUAL HOUSING
LENDER

Member FDIC. ©2016 U.S. Bank 160547 11/16

"World's Most Ethical Companies" and "Ethisphere" names and marks are registered trademarks of Ethisphere LLC.

Sock drive adds to holiday spirit for youth at The Crib

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

For the youth experiencing homelessness who enjoyed the Nov. 24 Thanksgiving dinner at The Night Ministry's Lake View shelter The Crib, there was an extra serving and it was one that had some of them literally screaming with happiness.

Chicago activist, volunteer and organizer Abby Minton alongside her wife Dahlia Odishoo delivered dozens of brand new packets of socks to the shelter having raised close to \$1,000 with which to buy them while over 300 pairs were donated in their third annual sock drive.

It was an idea that began for Minton while she was riding on the CTA.

all through the city throughout the winter," Odishoo said.

"When you walk around all day long, socks are the things you need the most," Crib Program Coordinator Devin Redmond noted. "Having a fresh pair of socks is super valuable for comfort and health."

Redmond was expecting a full house of 21 youth at the shelter by the end of the evening. Admission is determined by lottery and it is horrendously difficult for The Crib's staff to have to turn people away.

"They're here because they want to be here and they feel safe," Redmond said. "We don't ask any questions. We don't tell other people who are in here."



Devin Redmond and Abby Minton.
Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

"I was on the Blue Line three years ago, around this time and this guy I was talking with showed me his hands and feet which were black and purple from frost bite," she said. "So I started reading about what the homeless needed and socks were the number one item."

According to Minton, once she launched her sock drive, businesses from all over the city were happy to get involved.

Odishoo's co-workers were able to come up with 205 pairs in a single week.

"We keep socks in the car which we hand out

"They'll start crying sometimes," Night Ministry Youth Worker Ashley Bosco added. "They wish they could always come here and we wish we had the space and the resources to let them."

"The two reasons I see the most youth here are family disputes," she said. "Communication barriers between youth and their parents or roommates or because they were living with a partner who turned abusive. It's always a painful thing for them when they come and ask for a place to sleep for the night."

In a country divided in bitterness and with undocumented youth now fearing deportation, it is possible The Crib will see even greater numbers at their doors hoping for at least one night's comfort even from a surrounding neighborhood that would prefer they were removed from sight.

Bosco asserted that a lot of the youth watched the results of the Nov. 8 election with great concern. Redmond said that 75 percent of them voted.

"They've been afraid, they've been disappointed," Bosco said. "On the night of the election, they were begging us to update the screen."

"On the flipside of that, they're also super resilient," Redmond added. "They are used to having to deal with external circumstances that are bad for them. They are always smiling

and laughing here.

The smiles and laughter resounded through The Crib at the sight of the socks Minton and Odishoo delivered.

It was a Thanksgiving which truly lived up to its name.

Redmond had some advice for those thinking of following the couple's lead and donating items to The Crib.

"Underwear, deodorant, razors, shaving cream, pajama pants, wash cloths, bus cards, gift cards, back packs, towels; these are things we can never really get enough of," he said.

For more information on the sock drive, go to YouCaring.com/homelessinchicago-684944. For more information on The Night Ministry and The Crib, go to TheNightMinistry.org/001_programs/040_youth_services/030_youth_housing/040_the_crib.

Tel Aviv shelter specializes in helping LGBT youth

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Beit Dror, which means "House of Freedom" in English, is the only facility for LGBT youths experiencing homelessness in the Middle East.

The shelter, located in Tel Aviv, Israel, has 14 beds. Lesbian, gay and bisexual clients usually can stay for up to three months, and six months in extreme cases. Transgender residents, whom authorities often have more difficulty placing permanently, can stay until they turn 18. The facility opened in 2002.

Yael Doron, a social worker who manages Beit Dror, said that youths experiencing homelessness will sometimes arrive just wanting a hot meal or to get cleaned up. Doron often tries to convince them to stay longer, sometimes to little avail. But at least they know the house is there.

"Maybe the next time they will be ready to get our help," Doron said.

The house is operated as part of the Has-sut Hanoar authority, which is part of the Israeli government, in cooperation with the city. The staff assumes that the clients are openly gay.

"Don't come here if you want to stay in the closet," Doron said, adding that clients who are not ready to disclose their sexuality or gender identity to their families are directed to another facility.

Once clients arrive, they are offered crisis intervention and counseling services.

In one case, a girl arrived after she noticed her father had read her Facebook page, which contained numerous references to her being gay.

Doron recalled, "She said she thought her father was going to kill her because of it. When we called him to let him know where she was, and that she was there because of

what he'd just found, he said, 'I figured that out two years ago.'"

The client spent the night and was reunited with her family the next day. Doron acknowledged that quite often her clients and their families do not overcome their issues so quickly.

"When a child comes out of the closet, the parents then go into it," she said. "We try to make the parents understand that it is not such a big deal."

But such understanding is not often possible, and Beit Dror staff immediately begins looking for permanent placement for its clients whose home life has become untenable. Most clients are Ultra-orthodox or Arab, according to Doron. Forty percent are trans; and the house has had an increasing number of clients who are trans men, while the number of trans women is going down.

Beit Dror's kitchen is kept to the strictest kosher dietary standards, she added. "If we don't, the Ultra-orthodox kids won't come here."

The staff is respectful of personal boundaries of clients, never hugging them, for example. About 19 percent of the youths who come to Beit Dror have been sexually abused, according to Doron.

"Not hugging them demonstrates that we want nothing 'physical' from them," she said. "Sometimes I feel like I want to hug someone, but it's not about what I need, it's about what they need."

Doron lamented that she has no budget to publicize the house, but word of mouth circulates via social media or organizations such as Israeli Gay Youth. She said that she and the staff try to keep up with and be respectful of the names with which the clients identify.

"They are teaching us new words every day," she said.

Note: Reporter Matt Simonette traveled in Israel with the organization A Wider Bridge. The opinions and viewpoints reflected here are his own.

iolo



Happy Holidays!
25% off all custom framing

CUSTOM FRAMING
1478 W. Berwyn - 773.784.3962

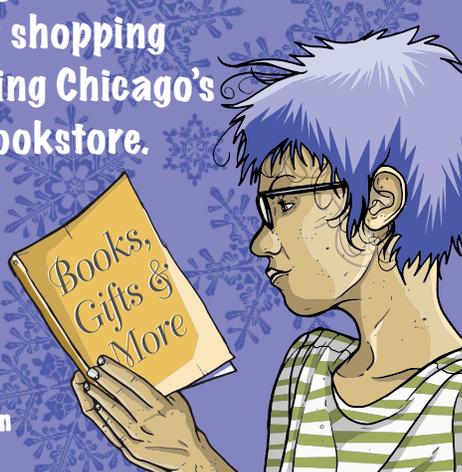
Framing Chicago's art since 1991 / All work done on premise.

Personal book recommendations
and unique gifts!

Get your holiday shopping
done while supporting Chicago's
only feminist bookstore.

WOMEN &
CHILDREN FIRST

5233 N. CLARK
CHICAGO, IL 60640
(773) 769-9299
www.womenandchildrenfirst.com





Ask for LGBT, get the best of LGBT.



With the XFINITY X1 Voice Remote, you only have to say "LGBT" to access a vast and inspiring collection of LGBT movies and shows. You can even enjoy a Free Movie every week from Here TV. It's that easy. Go ahead, give it a try.

Switch today. Call **1-800-XFINITY** or visit **xfinity.com/lgbt**

Chicago woman alleges CPD attack during protest

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

On the second anniversary of the brutal shooting of Black teenager Laquan McDonald by an officer of the Chicago Police Department (CPD), a small group of people gathered near the scene of the crime at 4100 S. Pulaski Rd., where McDonald was gunned down by Jason Van Dyke, who now faces charges of first degree murder.

There were no incidents of violence reported at the event or even threats toward police officers.

Between 20 and 25 people eventually left CPD headquarters to travel to Pulaski. They marched on the sidewalk, chanting and occasionally spilled out into the street.

Among them was local queer activist Jes Scheinpflug.

a barrier with their bikes. She was standing a few feet away from them.

"There was a 10-minute period when I was standing on the curb just observing," Scheinpflug said. "Behind me, a cop rammed his bike into me multiple times."

"I fell sideways so I couldn't see which [officer] it was," she added. "None of the cops said anything to me. After I realized I was okay, I went up to two officers, who I guess were in command, and I said, 'Did you see what just happened? I know you did. This man hurt me with his bike, he used it as a weapon and you allow him to have a gun.'"

According to Scheinpflug, the two officers "pretended like I wasn't talking."

"I turned around to point towards the bikes, but the officers had all left," she said.

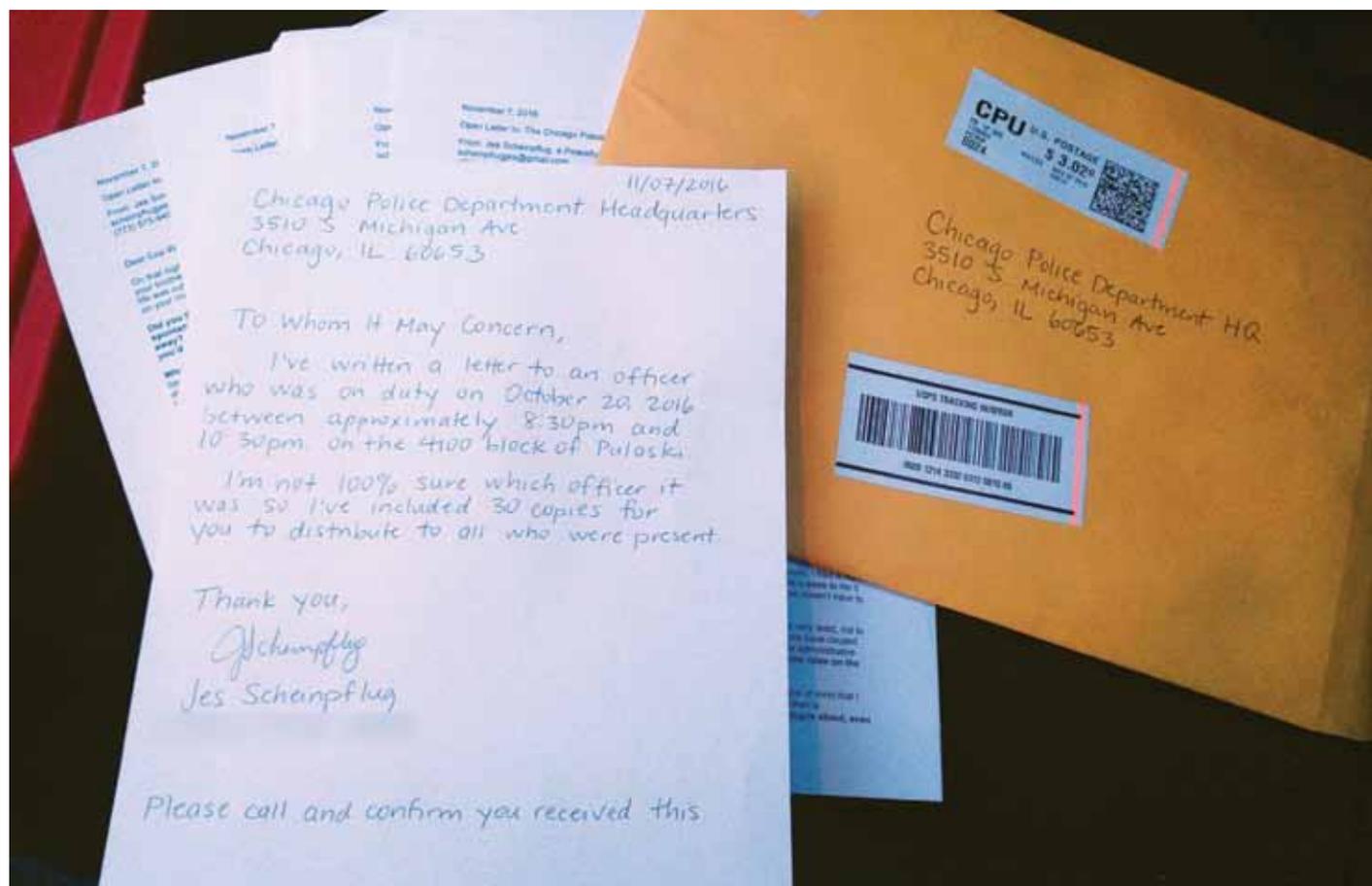
Scheinpflug went to the hospital believing her back had been fractured. She was treated

officer named Hall who finally acknowledged that her letter had been received. They spoke for 10 minutes.

"My interpretation is that the letter will be thrown out because I filed with IPRA," Scheinpflug told Windy City Times. "I told her all I want is an officer who was there to explain to



Jes Scheinpflug.
Photo courtesy of Scheinpflug



Letter to the Chicago Police Department.

Photo from Jes Scheinpflug

The Oct. 20 meeting followed a larger gathering earlier in the evening at CPD headquarters during which prayers were read, balloons released and, during a press conference, a call was made for the Illinois legislature to pass The Laquan McDonald Act—essentially giving voters the option to recall the mayor and other elected officials thus ensuring greater accountability than exists at present.

She was carrying a sign reading "Stop Killing Black People."

"There were like 35 police officers," she said. "They were pretty pushy and threatening. I think that the police like to antagonize people to rile up the situation. All you have to do is make one little move and it sets up a situation where they can exercise their power."

Scheinpflug stated that the CPD had created

for multiple bruises and contusions.

"It affected me a lot more than I thought," she said. "I spent two days crying."

She filed a complaint with the Independent Police Review Authority (IPRA) Oct. 27 but she has not been contacted for an interview about the incident despite confirmation of the filing.

On Nov. 7, Scheinpflug sent 30 copies of an open letter to CPD headquarters along with a handwritten request that it be distributed to the officers who were present on the night of the gathering.

The letter was addressed to "The Cop Who Attacked Me."

"Did you think about using physical force before you even arrived to our vigil?" Scheinpflug wrote. "Was it just a spontaneous decision? Did you run through other options in your head before you hit me and ran away? Or did you just strike me recklessly with no malice aforethought and then, seeing what you'd done and knowing you might get in trouble, did you hide?"

"I want to work together so we can both move beyond this violent and unnecessary incident," she added. "I am willing to work towards forgiveness, but I can't do this alone. I have so much empathy for you. Your job is not easy and you're forced to make difficult decisions every day. Unfortunately, one of your decisions caused me some serious harm. As a taxpayer, a social worker and a fellow human, I'd love an opportunity to speak with you."

On Nov. 15, she received a call from a CPD

me the rationale for why what happened to me happened and why, when I tried to speak to the commander, he refused to talk to me and physically turned away."

Hall said she could not comment.

"I said I understood and 'I'm sorry for you,'" Scheinpflug added. "I said, 'I almost feel worse for you for having colleagues like this than I do for myself being attacked.'"

Scheinpflug has asked to be compensated by the city for the doctor's bills "not to mention the time I have lost pursuing this redress and the pain and suffering your actions have caused me."

More than for herself though, she wants to see a complete institutional overhaul.

"There's things that our aldermen are voting in and the way that our policing is done," she said. "Unless you have had a negative encounter with the police based on an identity, whether it's based on race or sexual orientation or gender identity, people don't want to admit it exists. If I could only have one thing, it would be for the police to sit down and answer all the questions in my letter."

Windy City Times received no response from the CPD at the time of publication.

Howard Brown Health to inaugurate Rogers Park clinic

On Monday, Dec. 5, Howard Brown Health will inaugurate its Rogers Park clinic, at 6500 N. Clark St., 9:30-11 a.m., with elected officials and invited guests.

The event commemorates the completion of the construction and expansion project that began December 2015. The event will feature refreshments, food and a short program featuring Howard Brown President/CEO David Ernesto Munar, Board Chair Duke Alden, Chief Clinical Officer Dr. Magda Houlberg and special guests.

The clinic, co-located with Gerber/Hart Library and Archives (Gerber/Hart), opened in December 2015. The newly expanded 15,000-square-foot facility includes 12 exam rooms, counseling rooms and space for other services.

Visit <http://howardbrown.org/wp/>.



Linda Kuczka, Agent
954 W Webster
Chicago, IL 60614
Bus: 773-975-9111
linda@lindakuczka.com

Family. Friends. Community.

We're all in this together.
State Farm® has a long tradition of being there. That's one reason why I'm proud to support the LGBT community.
Get to a better State®.

State Farm®

1211007

State Farm, Bloomington, IL



@windycitytimes1



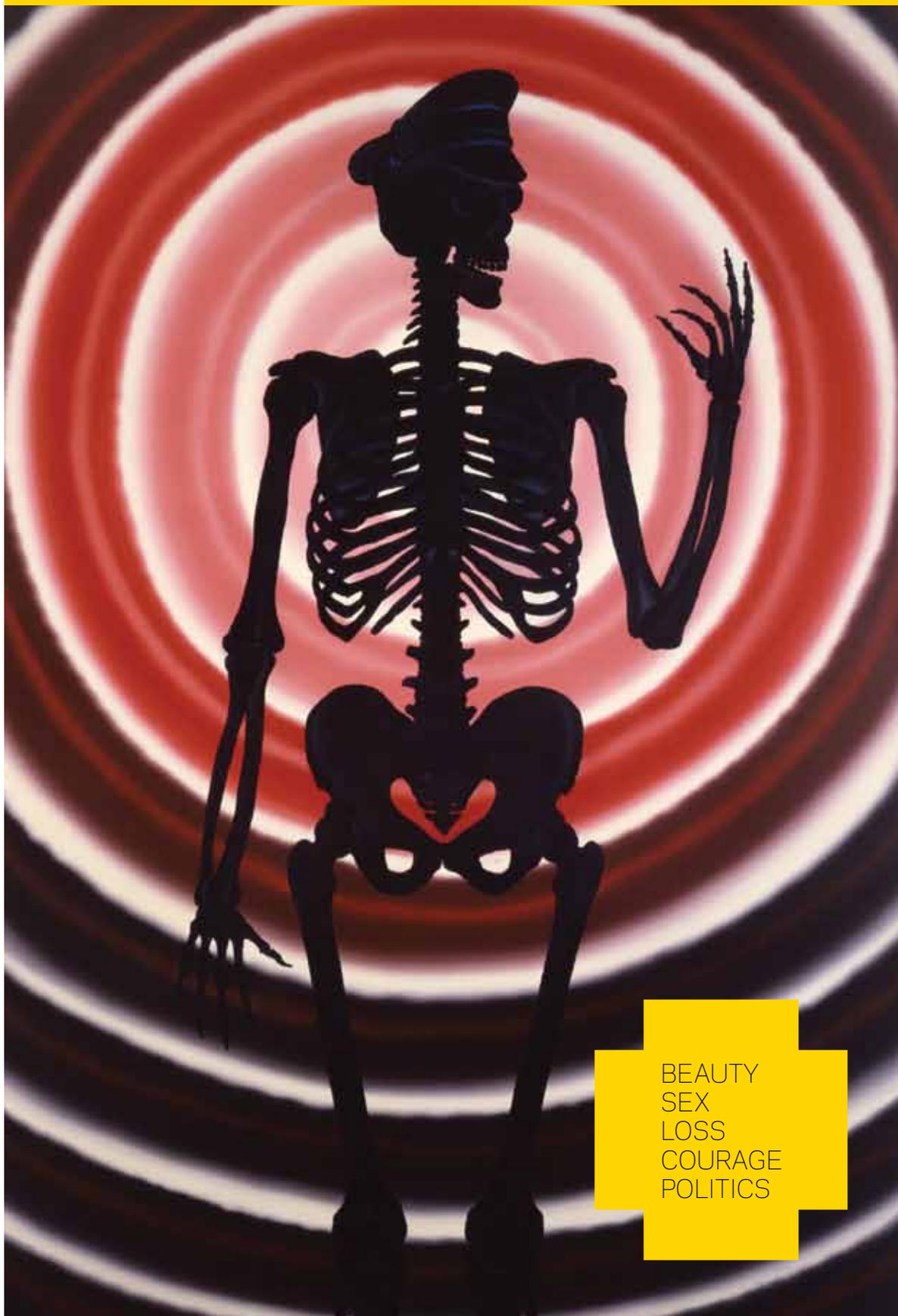
/windycitymediagroup



@windycitytimes

www.windycitymediagroup.com

ART AIDS AMERICA Chicago



BEAUTY
SEX
LOSS
COURAGE
POLITICS

OPENS December 1

Alphawood Gallery
Free and open to public

“Uncomfortable,
wistfully beautiful
& vitally important...”

— Advocate.com

JOIN THE
DISCUSSION.

f t t
#ArtAIDSChi

Roger Brown, *Peach Light*, 1983, oil on canvas, 72 x 48 1/2 in., Photo: James Connolly.
Kavi Gupta and the Roger Brown Estate, the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Timed admission passes may be reserved online.

ArtAIDSAmericaChicago.org

2401 North Halsted Street | Chicago, Illinois 60614

Art AIDS America was organized by Tacoma Art Museum in partnership with The Bronx Museum of the Arts.

In Chicago, this exhibition is made possible by the Alphawood Foundation, a Chicago-based, grant-making private foundation working for an equitable, just and humane society.



Serving the rainbow youth

Several Illinois agencies are taking action to reduce the problems that are specific to LGBTQ youth in the child-welfare system

BY DAVID THILL

Renee Lehocky, LCSW, began her career in social services in 1989, a time when same-sex couples looking to adopt children faced obstacles in doing so, and the needs of LGBTQ youth in the child welfare system were much less accounted for. Since then, said Lehocky—now director of strategic initiatives for the Lawrence Hall youth service organization in Chicago—“Foster care has come a long way.”

Still, LGBTQ youth make up as much as 40 percent of the homeless youth population in the United States, and a disproportionate segment of the country's child welfare population. While Lehocky's observation may be true, these and other recent findings suggest there is still progress to be made.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation review of literature

LGBTQ youth in the child-welfare system “are at a greater risk for many negative experiences, including being less likely to be placed with a permanent family,” according to a new report published by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, a national philanthropic organization that serves youth affected by poverty and limited opportunity. “These young people face discrimination and conflict with their families of origin as well as harassment and violence in group placement settings,” it continued. “To remove obstacles, service providers and families must acknowledge the barriers and seek effective strategies to address them.”

The report, published in September 2016, serves as the first comprehensive review of research literature focusing on LGBTQ youth in the welfare system.

With help from the metrics firm Public Research and Evaluation Services, other child welfare specialists and professionals serving LGBTQ youth, and young LGBTQ people themselves, the Casey Foundation compiled its report to answer the question, “What strategies—evidence-based, evidence-informed or promising practices that contribute to improved permanence and decreased marginalization—do youth who are LGBTQ and have experienced the child welfare system receive from frontline staff and resource families?”

Five broad topics emerged from its review of 116 documents published between 1992 and 2016:

- Best and promising practices for serving LGBTQ youth in welfare;
- Legal and policy protections;
- The importance of parental and family acceptance;
- Harassment, abuse and negative treatment; and
- Resulting risks and vulnerabilities.

Also included is a special focus on gender nonconforming and transgender youth as well as LGBTQ youth of color—two subpopulations that the report acknowledges are particularly affected by disparities.

Revising Illinois state policy

Only 13 U.S. states and the District of Columbia have explicit laws or policies in place to protect foster youth from discrimination based on both sexual orientation and gender identity, according to a 2015 Human Rights Campaign report, “LGBTQ Youth in the Foster Care System,” which is included in the Casey Foundation review. Seven other states have policies

protecting foster youth from discrimination based on sexual orientation, but not gender identity.

While Illinois was included in neither category, at press time the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) was reviewing a new policy on LGBTQ youth that applies to DCFS wards of the state. “I’m very proud of it,” said Claudia Mosier, PsyD., a consulting psychologist with Illinois DCFS who has worked in issues involving LGBTQ youth since the 1970s. Mosier confirms that the policy, which affects both the department and all agencies to whom

are not required to comply with recommendations by the agency. “But if I can say, ‘This is our policy; you have to treat our LGBTQ kids with respect,’” they have to comply.

Promoting safety

More than half of the documents compiled in the Casey Foundation review noted that LGBTQ teens face negative treatment from at least one source, including peers and agency staff. The 2015 Human Rights Campaign report shows the results of a New York City survey of LGBTQ youth in out-of-home care. One hundred percent of the youth surveyed reported verbal harassment in group homes, and 70 percent reported physical violence in group homes.

Illinois DCFS—where to avoid common clinical names and acronyms, the LGBTQ wards form a group of “Rainbow Youth”—addresses these issues by providing LGBTQ-specific training to youth workers and residential staff.

At Lawrence Hall, every new staff member’s

of a national study examining the willingness of foster mothers to parent sexual minority youth. It found that 40 percent of the respondents would not be willing to provide foster care to LGBTQ youth under any circumstances.

Lawrence Hall, along with nine other Illinois-based organizations, is currently taking part in a yearlong initiative to recruit foster parents for the state’s homeless youth, which, according to a 2005 state-run study, number around 25,000. While the initiative—“Call to Action—Foster and Adopt Our Children!”—focuses on recruiting parents for all homeless youth, there is a growing effort to find housing for LGBTQ youth specifically.

Pride Action Tank and Windy City Times are partnering with the agencies on this initiative, along with AdoptUSKids.

The initiative held its first recruitment event in July at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where more than 170 prospective foster parents learned about their adoption options. Seeing

Table View at the July 9 Foster Parent Recruitment Event.



Renee Lehocky.

Photo from Lehocky

it provides funding, will be approved shortly.

DCFS has had a policy in place addressing LGBTQ youth since 2001, but the one awaiting approval is more detailed, she said. It specifically addresses transgender and gender nonconforming youth, touching on issues such as clothing, pronouns, documentation and living situations.

Both Lehocky and Mosier agree that policies such as this are strong starting points for reducing the levels of LGBTQ youth in the welfare system. Without these measures, said Mosier, agencies and foster parents working with DCFS

three-and-a-half-hour introductory training includes a special focus on LGBTQ youth, said Lehocky. During this part of the training, an LGBTQ individual who received services at Lawrence Hall addresses incoming staff, recounting both the positive and negative aspects of their time with the organization.

To address peer-to-peer harassment, Lawrence Hall has a youth advisory board of current youth in the organization, several of whom are part of the larger Illinois Youth Advisory Board. This board serves as a group of leaders dedicated to addressing issues that the individuals in the organization face, including issues that might arise in group homes.

Further challenges arise when it comes to working with families, where young LGBTQ people—particularly those in the welfare system—often face rejection. This includes foster families, too.

Family connection

“We desperately need more adults in the LGBTQ community and allies to help foster our LGBTQ youth in care,” said Jane Kelly, LGBT coordinator for Illinois DCFS, in a July Associated Press article. “Many of our youth come into care when they are told to leave their homes by their own families because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.”

The Casey Foundation report notes that LGBTQ youth in the welfare system experience a decreased likelihood of achieving a permanent home placement. A 2012 article, entitled “Characteristics of Foster Parents Willing to Care for Sexual Minority Youth,” presented the findings

so many agencies working together to help link foster parents with children was “awesome,” said Mosier, who was present at the event.

Furthermore, she said she believes the event was successful in attracting prospective LGBTQ foster parents from the community. “It was amazing ... to have so many people come and say, ‘Yeah, these are our kids.’” While all wards of the state face their own obstacles when navigating the child welfare system, adding factors such as sexual orientation and gender identity can create a complicated situation for an individual.

One of the things Mosier finds special about LGBTQ parents who foster LGBTQ children is that they provide an environment in which the child can relate to others close to them. For most other forms of minority status, when a child faces harassment or discrimination outside the home, another family member will typically have had a similar experience. This is rare for LGBTQ people, most of whom grow up in families where they are the only person with that particular trait.

But having a parent with whom to identify offers the child a touchstone, according to Mosier. “They’re going to have some place [to go]. They’ll feel accepted,” she said.

Casey report link: AECF.org/resources/lgbtq-in-child-welfare

Lawrence Hall: LawrenceHall.org, or email RLehocky@lawrencehall.org

Pride Action Tank: <http://prideactiontank.org/>. To get involved with PAT’s work on foster care and LGBTQ youth, email Jackie Thaney at JThaney@aidschicago.org.

Airbnb to tackle LGBT, race discrimination on its platform

BY ANGELIQUE SMITH

Fewer than 20 states in the country prohibit housing discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. And although the Fair Housing Act of 1968 prohibited discrimination based on race, religion, sex and national origin—with an expansion to the law in 1988 to include discrimination based on disability or family status—housing discrimination continues to this day, though sometimes in less obvious forms.

Airbnb, founded in 2008 as “a trusted community marketplace for people to list, discover, and book unique accommodations around the world,” has changed the way people travel. But it is not without its share of controversy, ranging from charges of questionable apartment listings to race and sexual orientation discrimination. But how does a company address what is essentially a societal problem that is manifesting itself on the company’s platform? For Airbnb, it begins with starting from within.

Airbnb’s worldwide commitment to equality in the workplace includes domestic-partner benefits, transgender-inclusive healthcare benefits, an LGBT employee resource group and gender-neutral bathrooms at their full offices in the U.S. The company also supported the repeal of North Carolina’s anti-LGBT HB2, scored 100 percent on the Human Rights Campaign’s Corporate Equality Index this year and is a member of HRC’s Business Coalition for the Equality Act.

Windy City Times interviewed spokesperson Nick Papas to learn what Airbnb is doing externally in an ongoing and multi-faceted effort to fight discrimination by race, sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

Windy City Times: What else does Airbnb do to support the LGBT community?

Nick Papas: Airbnb provides an economic empowerment tool for everyone, including many members of the LGBT community, that makes it possible for people to turn what is often their greatest expense—their housing—into an asset. We have heard countless stories of people in Chicago and around the world who use Airbnb to help pay the bills, meet new people and to show people the city, community and neighborhood that they love. We’ve found that this is really an economic lifeline and an opportunity for people from different countries and cultures to connect with one another. That is incredibly important in terms of breaking down barriers and promoting understanding.

WCT: What is Airbnb doing to help prevent discrimination?

NP: We looked at every facet of our platform with an eye towards how we can prevent discrimination. That resulted in a series of recommendations, including the new community commitments. Beginning Nov. 1, everyone who wants to use Airbnb will have to affirmatively signal that they agree with a very basic statement of principles that makes clear that they will not discriminate against anyone because of who they are, where they are from or who they love.

We also have a new policy called the Open Doors policy: if anyone believes that they have been discriminated against, they can call us and we guarantee that we will find them a

place to stay. We are also implementing a range of other tools to help fight discrimination: we have a new permanent team of engineers, data scientists and product experts whose sole focus is fighting discrimination and promoting diversity. We’re working very hard to diversify our team and ensure that our employees reflect the diversity around the world.

Discrimination has no place on Airbnb and we are absolutely committed to continuing to learn from our community and listening to experts in this field. We spoke to leaders from the civil-rights and LGBT communities—a range of different individuals and organizations that helped inform the steps that we announced—and we’re going to continue to do that.

WCT: I read that Airbnb is fighting bias with technology—tell us more about that.

NP: One of the things that experts have learned is that we all have biases, some unconscious and some conscious. We want to work with folks to fight that unconscious bias. So we’re working with Dr. Robert Livingston, who is a nationally known expert in this field, to develop an unconscious bias training that will be available to all of our hosts. It is a succinct but comprehensive training that helps people fight the biases that they might not know that they have.

That is one important step that we can take to help break down barriers and ensure that our community is fair. We offered this training to folks at the Airbnb Open in Paris last year, an event that brings hosts and guests together at one location. This year, we’re dramatically expanding that training to make it available to more people by putting it online.

WCT: How open were people to taking the training? I know I’ve taken an unconscious bias test before and it gives you a warning because a lot of people don’t necessarily like hearing their results. Or worse, don’t think they need it.

NP: I think we’ve found the vast majority of the people in our community are eager to welcome people from different cultures and folks who don’t look like them. A big part of why people become Airbnb hosts is that they want the opportunity to meet people that they wouldn’t normally interact with on a regular basis. When we talked to our people about the training and outlined the principles behind it and why we’re doing it, folks were quite receptive and eager to participate.

We’re in the process of deploying that training for everyone and will learn more as we go forward. Airbnb has long prohibited discrimination ... there is an example in Texas where a gay couple checked into a listing and was told by their host that she objected to them because they were gay and we promptly removed the host from our website. This has long been something that we have believed in, but we recognize that we need to do more. This is just the beginning of our efforts, not the end, and we are committed to continue to work on this.

A more detailed report on Airbnb’s updated policy on fighting discrimination and building inclusion can be found at <http://blog.airbnb.com/fighting-discrimination-and-creating-a-world-where-anyone-can-belong-anywhere/>.



Top: Local couple Mat Olson and Randy Heite, who have been Airbnb hosts. Bottom: The couple’s space

Photos courtesy of the couple



THE BRAD LIPPITZ GROUP presents November Featured Properties



2212 N BURLING

Classic 6 bedroom, 5 full, 3 half bath house on a double lot with a rare protected private side yard, rare coach house, and 4 car garage. Recently gut-renovated to the highest standards. **\$4,995,000**



530 W HAWTHORNE

Majestic 6 bedroom Vintage estate on a 65' x 254' lot on prized block in East Lakeview, steps from the Lake Shore Drive. Enormous suburban-sized yard, 3 car garage, exquisite details. **\$4,795,000**



750 W HUTCHINSON

Architecturally magnificent George W. Maher city estate set on nearly six lots, a half block from the lake. Grand, perfectly preserved interiors and extensively landscaped grounds. Breathtaking. **\$4,595,000**



3300 N LAKE SHORE 8A

A rare pre-war 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath treasure with stunning lake and harbor views has been totally gutted and redesigned with impeccable style, quality and ingenuity. **\$899,000**



3150 N LAKE SHORE 23A

Jaw-dropping panoramic lake views from every angle combined with ideal layout and upscale finishes. Three bedroom, 2.5 bath in full-amenity building. **\$859,000**



3150 N LAKE SHORE 24F

Truly spectacular total renovation of expansive 3 bedroom/2.5 bath residence with the most amazing views in all directions, day and night, of the lake and the city. Be the first to live in this showplace! **\$789,000**

**RANKED ONE OF THE TOP 20 BROKERS IN CHICAGO*
NEARLY \$60 MILLION SOLD IN 2015**



BRAD LIPPITZ

3323 N. Broadway | Chicago, IL 60657
980 N. Michigan Ave #900 | Chicago, IL 60611
773.404.1144
BLippitz@KoenigRubloff.com
BradLippitz.com



Boutique Real Estate, Worldwide

© 2016 All Rights Reserved. A subsidiary of HomeServices of America, Inc., a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate, and a franchise of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices logo are registered service marks of HomeServices of America, Inc. Equal Housing Opportunity. *MRED MLS, 1/1/15-12/31/15, Chicago, all property types, ranked by total closed volume.



@windycitytimes1



/windycitymediagroup



@windycitytimes

www.windycitymediagroup.com

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



“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



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

COMBIVIR, EPIVIR, EPZICOM, TIVICAY, TRIUMEQ, TRIZIVIR, and ZIAGEN are registered trademarks of the ViiV Healthcare group of companies.

EPIVIR-HBV is a registered trademark of the GSK group of companies.

The other brands listed are trademarks of their respective owners and are not trademarks of the ViiV Healthcare group of companies. The makers of these brands are not affiliated with and do not endorse the ViiV Healthcare group of companies or its products.

©2016, the ViiV Healthcare group of companies. All rights reserved.

April 2016 TRM:4MG

Website gathers stories of Irish LGBT emigrants for sake of policy

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

Paul Dowling believes in the power of storytelling and how it can create change and connection. He shows this belief in his story/policy initiative about LGBT Irish emigrants, At Home Abroad.

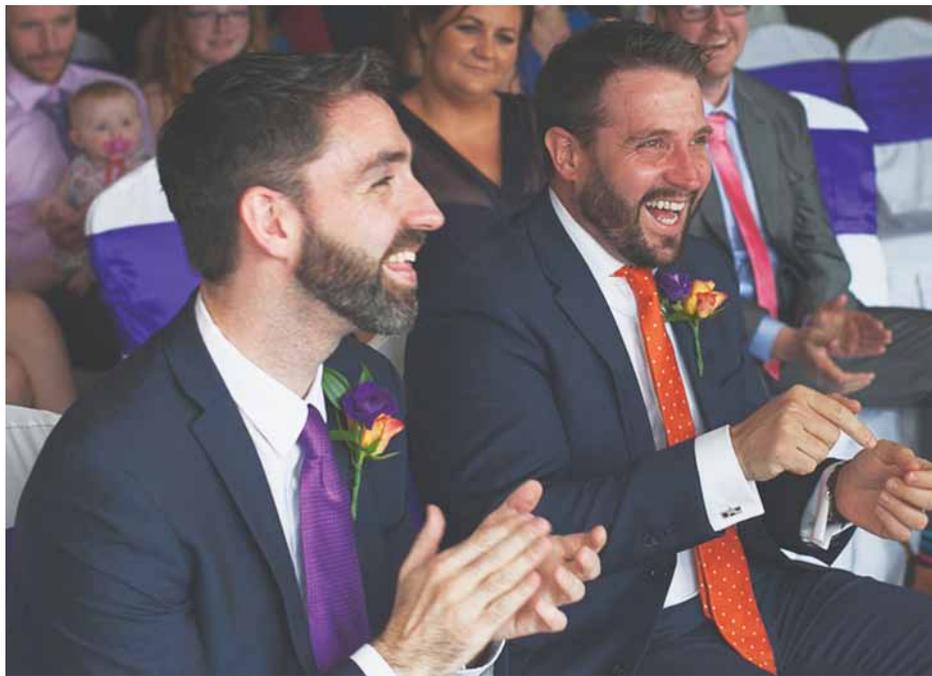
Dowling hails from Ireland and now lives in Chicago's Andersonville neighborhood with his husband. He works as a social worker with Chicago Irish Immigrant Support, a not-for-profit immigration and social services provider, serving the Irish community of Chicago. There he focuses on the Irish diaspora in Chicago and mostly works with seniors. Dowling said he likes social justice and protecting the vulnerable. Along with his job, he has been volunteering at Center on Halsted with their senior

"I wanted to collect these stories, to find out more, better understand the experience of LGBT people leaving Ireland, why they were leaving, where they were going, their feelings about Ireland now and their continued connection to it," said Dowling.

At Home Abroad looks at the intersection between sexual identity and emigration from Ireland. While studying the intersection, the project calls for help in creating change by asking the Irish Government to recognize and include the LGBT Irish people overseas in its official diaspora policy.

Ireland's government published Global Irish: Ireland's Diaspora Policy in March 2015. This policy contributed to Dowling creating this project.

"It occurred to me all of a sudden one day



Paul Dowling (left) and husband Hernán Prieto's wedding in Ireland. Photo by Marta Nash

program for about four years.

"Every generation kind of builds on the struggles of the previous one, but they are just the first generation of out LGBT people," said Dowling about the senior community. "So, I think it's important to get to know them and get to give back to them."

Dowling began building his newest project, At Home Abroad, in Summer 2016.

"I really believe in stories as a way that we can connect and understand one another better," said Dowling. "I think it can also be a great agent for change through that kind of connection and understanding that they create."

Many components contributed to Dowling moving forward with this initiative, including marriage equality passing in Ireland last year and the marriage referendum. Dowling explained that he read an article in an Irish newspaper about a young lesbian woman in London who spoke about how London offers a safe haven for those do not feel like they can be themselves in Ireland, which he found interesting.

Dowling thought about Ireland's politics and the huge LGBT victory, but said there is still an element of the LGBT community that does not feel comfortable in Ireland. That, he said, got him thinking about his own experience and made him want to know about how other people feel now.

that there was nothing in this [government] document, this official policy, that talked about the LGBT diaspora or the LGBT that left, some of the unique experiences that they had that would've probably informed their decision to leave, where they went to, and then their experience as emigrants in whatever country they ended up in, which seemed crazy to me," Dowling said, adding it seemed doubly crazy thinking that this policy document was published close to the marriage equality referendum. "So, all people could talk about was LGBT people and what they should do and what rights they should have and shouldn't have in one element of policy and at the same time, be completely excluded from another element of policy. It just seemed like a really stark contrast to me."

Dowling then had the idea that maybe he could marry the two things together; having a story project and roll it into policy initiatives. At Home Abroad also contains a section where people can sign the petition to send a message to the government of Ireland that the LGBT members of the Irish diaspora should officially be recognized.

Ultimately, Dowling said he wants the stories to be useful to people and also for the stories to influence some kind of language put into the revised diaspora policy of the government of Ireland.

"I would love them to put in something and it doesn't have to be a big apology, but just

some kind of verbiage that shows that they recognize this happened, people left for this reason and that they acknowledge that. It would be incredible."

Dowling posted his own story on the website and continues outreach among to find more contributors who can share and help with understanding of the experience of the LGBT Irish diaspora. People can even share their stories anonymously if they feel more comfortable. All submission guidelines are featured on the At Home Abroad site.

"I think first and foremost it's a story project that I'm hoping to turn into a policy initia-

tive," said Dowling. "As a story project, I hope it does what I think stories are capable of doing and that's create understanding and connection. I hope it can bring people closer, maybe to understand a little bit better, the types of struggles LGBT people have. I think it's an important element of our history that needs to be documented that we have left places and why we've left places. I think it's important when we think of emigrants, I don't know necessarily that we think of LGBT emigrants, and how that can be two fold of struggle there; being an emigrant and being LGBT."

To learn more, visit AtHomeAbroad.ie.



Broadway Youth Center Director Latonya Maley.

Photo courtesy of Maley

BYC prepares for move into new building

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Broadway Youth Center (BYC) is entering the final weeks of preparation for its move to a new Uptown location in January 2017.

The drop-in center, operated by Howard Brown Health, has for some time been located at Wellington United Church of Christ, 615 Wellington Ave., but will now have its own building "entirely dedicated to youth services, and all the other things that attract young people," said BYC Director Latonya Maley.

BYC's new home will be at 4009 N. Broadway. The move was announced last March and is one of many recent expansions undertaken by Howard Brown Health, which earlier in 2016 opened a clinic on the South Side and is preparing for a December grand opening for yet another facility in Rogers Park.

Maley, who has worked for BYC for about four years, looks forward to the consistency that the new location will bring. The facility, according to its website, is intended as a haven for LGBT youth "seek refuge, medical care, social services, clothes and other much-needed care."

"The entire time I've been working for Broadway Youth Center, we've been unstably housed," Maley said. "This is my first time here when we've been living in a 'home.' We've been doing a lot of work to keep ourselves afloat for a long time, but now we get to live the dream—a safe and reliable space for young folks coming in for services, but

also offering those services in the way that they were designed, where everything is running at the same time."

Space limitations meant BYC previously could run certain services on certain days. Running services concurrently, Maley noted, means more clients are able to have all or most of their needs met in one afternoon. The new location will have two nurses and medical assistants, for example.

"Young people will be able to get the services that they're already travelling pretty far out for," she added, noting that BYC is anticipating a 15-20-percent increase in the number of clients in the new space. "In 2017, the drop-in program is expecting to serve about 1,100 unique people. Our resource advocacy program is expected to go up, and try to serve [about] 390 people in ongoing case management services."

Maley also said that BYC would offer additional programs "to talk through the hardships they're experiencing and learn new skills as well."

Howard Brown Health President and CEO David Munar said, "BYC is at the core of who we are [as an organization], because young people who are facing challenges because of unstable housing or homelessness, are among the most vulnerable in our community and are whom our system of care must support the most. Their future is in jeopardy if they cannot receive the help and guidance that they need."

Pharoh, a BYC client who did not give his last name, said that he has grateful for many of the services that he's been able to access over the past years, and that he was glad to see the facility coming to a permanent home in Uptown.

"Every change that BYC has made has ultimately been a positive development for them," he said. "I have no qualms in believing that this move will be a better and positive change."

HoF panel on arts/culture Dec. 7

On Wed., Dec. 7, at 6 p.m., the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame will hold a panel for the organization's second annual exhibit. The event will take place at the video theater at the Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State St.

The panel will examine how art and culture in Chicago have impacted LGBTQ history. Panelists will include Christopher Audain, program officer, Alphawood Foundation and Art AIDS America Chicago; Jennifer Brier, director and associate professor of gender and women's studies, and associate professor of history, The University of Illinois; and David Zak, executive director, Pride and Films Plays. Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame board member Owen Keehnen will be the moderator.

The 2016 Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame Inductee Exhibit will be in the center's Congress Corridor through March 15, 2017.

Direct any questions about the panel to inquiry@ChicagoLGBTHallOfFame.org.



@windycitytimes1



/windycitymediagroup



@windycitytimes

www.windycitymediagroup.com

Trans pioneer Judy Bowen looks back at community changes

BY OWEN KEEHNEN

Trans activist Judy Bowen, 72, has seen a lot. She moved to New York from the South in the mid 1960s and quickly immersed herself in the Greenwich Village scene. She started organizations, became an entrepreneur, and was a community leader. She eventually moved to Las Vegas in 1999 and is still there today with her partner of 33 years.

Recently Judy was in Chicago to assist with the Legacy Project dedication of the Sylvia Rivera plaque on North Halsted Street. After hearing a little about her life experiences, I wanted to hear more.

Windy City Times: Tell me about growing up.

Judy Bowen: I lived in the country in Virginia and came from a religious background. I went to church three times a week and I was a reporter for the local evangelical newspaper, The Daily Beacon.

WCT: Was it rough growing up?

JB: My mother saved me. She truly understood me. One time I tried to commit suicide and the doctor said to her, "Let him do whatever he wants to do." My father did not like that, but my mother let me do anything I wanted in high school.

WCT: So what was the experience like when you started to realize you were different?

JB: I never tried to hide. I was always just myself—it was in my clothing and the way I walked. I could never be what society was telling me I was supposed to be. At the time, being myself meant pretending I was Jean Harlow or Marlene Dietrich.

I was confused. I felt so much like a female that when I was an adolescent I even thought I could get pregnant. After high school I went to the university on a journalism scholarship and was going to have to live in a boy's dorm. I was there one night. That was not going to work. At University of Tennessee I got involved with the civil-rights movement and found that Black people accepted me more.

WCT: What brought you to New York?

JB: In Knoxville, I was at a racially mixed party and there were a few transsexuals there, and three white guys came in and started stabbing people. Blood [was] everywhere. I jumped out of a window. We couldn't call the police because Blacks and whites weren't even supposed to associate. We were as afraid of the police as anything. We even had to take the people that got stabbed to the hospital in separate cars.

A friend was graduating from school and moving to New York and he said, "You know they hate you here, and if you stay they'll eventually kill you." By moving to New York, I think I did save my life. I moved with him and we lived in Long Island. I started going to transgender clubs. One night I was crowned Queen of Hearts at one of them and we all got arrested. My friend was a teacher and couldn't be around me anymore out of fear of losing his job.

WCT: And then came the Village?

JB: Yes; that's when I moved to Gay Street to a third-floor studio. There ended up being four of us there. Greenwich Village was so beautiful in the 1960s and 1970s. There were so many transsexuals and transvestites there. Tour buses used to come to the area and we would treat the sidewalks as our personal runaways. Giving the tourists a show while they took pictures from the bus was always fun.

In 1967, I started seeing Dr. Harry Benjamin and he was a huge influence on how I saw myself. Gender dysphoria was his focus. He wrote the book *Transsexualism*. He helped me

so much.

WCT: What did he advise?

JB: Dr. Benjamin believed that a trans should live and work as a female for two years before a psychiatric evaluation leading to sexual orientation.

WCT: So tell me about working at the time?

JB: Something that was different about me was that for a long time I was working as a male. I had long hair and breasts, so I had to keep my jacket on. I could always get temp jobs. I always needed money.

Soon, I found a much better way. The dance halls in Times Square were dominated by the transsexuals at the time. Men would buy tickets and we'd sit and talk with them, or dance with them. I think they felt comfortable because they could tell us anything. Those clubs were run by the mob but they had front people, so if anyone was going to be arrested it was the front man. They really loved you if you made a lot of money for them, and I did. There was tipping, too.

We always dressed nice. I had all the clothes I needed. I had a wealthy benefactor who liked me in five-inch high heels, so I always had top-of-the-line shoes. Transsexuals worked there because it was easy money. There were three or four doctors that were popular at the time and every Saturday their offices would be full of transsexuals who worked in the clubs because everyone wanted to be better, everyone wanted an upgrade because that's where the money was. Silicone, shots, nose job—lots of us have the same nose. Or any other procedure. It was expensive so we always needed the money.

WCT: Was survival tough?

JB: Sometimes. I've been beaten up and slapped around, but I just walked away and put it behind me. Sylvia Rivera worked the streets which was very scary back then. She was much braver than I was. Many of us were involved in prostitution or finding benefactors or the dance clubs back then. That was just the reality of it.

WCT: Were you at the Stonewall during the riots?

JB: No, I was working. I only went to clubs for dancing. I do not drink. The Stonewall was not trans friendly. The riots that night started because the people were just tired of the raids and the physical abuse. Those people decided to fight back. That lasted 4-5 days. The Black Panthers even came out to support the cause. They were under siege too.

WCT: You were also an organizer.

JB: Always working for community.

WCT: You helped start the group Transvestites and Transsexuals in 1970 and then that broke into Transsexuals Anonymous and STAR (Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries).

JB: I started Transsexuals Anonymous because we needed to talk and we had to be anonymous or we might be murdered if someone found out. As transsexuals we were motivated to become as close to genetic females as possible. Transsexuals were living, working, and transitioning into female roles. That's what made us different from transvestites. Some transsexuals go through with the surgery, and some don't. In that group [TA] we basically gave each other confidence. We helped each other with jobs and school. That sort of thing. Sylvia Rivera and Marsha P. Johnson had STAR. They had no desire to become female.

WCT: Tell me something about them.

JB: Sylvia Rivera was not always happy. Marsha was much more upbeat, and that's why I think Marsha was murdered and did not commit suicide. [Johnson's body was found floating in



Judy Bowen.

Photo courtesy of Bowen

the Hudson River shortly after the 1992 Pride March. Police labeled her death a suicide.] Marsha was a happy person. She just loved everybody. Sylvia was not that way. Sometimes she was mad at the world. Running into them, it was always Marsha who would be smiling. Sylvia was mad at the Gay Activist's Alliance, she was mad at the police, she was mad about a lot of things.

WCT: Tell me about the the first gay pride march, The Christopher Street Liberation Day Parade in 1970.

JB: We had to meet at 6 a.m.—I remember that.

After Stonewall, there was some division. Philip Raia, at the Gay Activist's Alliance, wanted our community to be all-inclusive and wanted to include transgender people, but some of the gay men and lesbians did not want that. They did not want us. They wanted to negotiate for themselves and not for transgender people even though we were the ones getting killed. That's was one of the reasons Sylvia was so angry.

I was at the march representing the transgender group. The police came and they had billy sticks so we didn't know what to expect, but they were afraid to do anything in public. They'd beaten us up in club raids, but in the streets they were more careful especially with media and cameras around. Afterwards at the "gay-in" in Central Park we had a kissing marathon.

WCT: What did you wear for the event?

JB: Three hairpieces and a leopard top.

WCT: What do you think was reason for all the emerging trans power around the time?

JB: We were finally coming together and because of that we were making strides. We were able to see doctors. We were starting to be able to afford to be what we wanted to be.

WCT: So what happened as the 1970s went on?

JB: By the time I was 26 or 27, the FBI was closing in on all those [dance hall] places because they were mob controlled. Eventually, a lawyer said to me that I had to get out of there. He didn't want to see me arrested. Girls were being found dead. Every month they made us take lie detector tests to be sure we weren't talking to the FBI. My attorney friend asked me what I'd go into if I could start my own

business. I said restaurant/catering. I ended up owning an Italian restaurant in Queens for 35 years. I added an art gallery. Eventually I had four buildings on the block and started publishing the Western Queens Gazette, a community-based paper which is still going today, and the Long Island City News. I raised money for youth and senior programs and I got appointed to the community board. I worked to get a gymnasium converted into a youth center to keep the kids off the street. I was and am very community minded.

WCT: What advice would you give someone like yourself at 15 or 16?

JB: I'd advise them to be honest with their parents. Thank God I had a good mother. She was my rock. I would suggest they get involved with their community. Get involved with community groups. Giving back to society is so important. Make a difference.

As transgender people we have so much to contribute to society. We are sensitive and gifted human beings. I'd tell them to get involved with their church. I've always been a Christian. I believe that God put us here and we are supposed to be whatever we want to be and to be happy. Don't let anyone stop you from being yourself. Lastly, I'd say, don't be ashamed of yourself. Shame will kill you.

Post-election talk Dec. 5 at the Center

Another post-election discussion, "Where Do We Go From Here? The Trump Presidency and Our Civil Liberties," will take place Monday, Dec. 5, 6-7:30 p.m. at the John Baran Hall at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

ACLU of Illinois Associate Legislative Director Khadine Bennett and state Reps. Ann Williams, Kelly Cassidy and Sara Feigenholtz will lead the talk.

Also, there will be presentations from Equality Illinois, Planned Parenthood of Illinois, the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, and the Center on Halsted. To RSVP, email colleen@repannwiliams.com or call 773-880-9082.

WANT TO LOOK GREAT FOR THE HOLIDAYS?



Botox \$16 per unit

Dermal Fillers \$800 syringe

now through December 31, 2016

All injections performed by a board-certified surgeon

DR. SHEILA SHIFRIN, DO

Board-Certified Oculoplastic Surgeon

Specialist in Eyelid, Midface and Brow Rejuvenation with Surgery, Botox and Fillers

CHICAGO • 312.590.3572 • 680 N. Lake Shore Dr., #1425
www.chicagoeyelid.com



Mention
**WINDY
CITY TIMES**
and get
**\$500 off
SURGERY**

through December 2016

Discover what others know ...



DAVID SHIFRIN MD
PLASTIC SURGERY

Award-Winning Plastic Surgery

DR. DAVID SHIFRIN

Board-Certified Plastic Surgeon

CHICAGO • 312.590.3572
680 N. Lake Shore Dr., #1425
www.davidshifrinmd.com



Member



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF
PLASTIC SURGEONS



Tanya Serrano-Bargas (left) and Marisela Bargas.
Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

An Uber-driven love story

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

If you are one of the many thousands who will take an Uber in Chicago this season whether to holiday parties, shows or to load up on shopping, you might just meet Tanya Serrano-Bargas and Marisela Bargas.

They are a newly married couple who not only found a common love but a line of work that they say is equally fulfilling.

"We met through a dating website last year," Serrano-Bargas said. "I had seen [Marisela's] picture a couple of times but I didn't think she would actually talk to me. I finally sent her a message and told her she had a beautiful smile. She worked nights at the time at [a flooring company] and I was a preschool teacher during the day."

But Serrano-Bargas wasn't about to let opposing schedules get in the way of such instant attraction and the possibility of true love.

"I set my alarm for 1:25 am so I would be

awake when she would message me," she said. "So then we went out on a first date."

"For movies and dinner," the usually shy Bargas added with a smile. "I was nervous and giggling all the time."

"You weren't giggling, you were hard to read!" Serrano-Bargas countered. "You made it difficult for me. At the end of the date, I asked for a kiss because I'm a cheesy, hopeless romantic like that. So we had that kiss and we just knew. A couple of weeks after, I took her to my Uncle's Christmas party. I'd never taken anyone with me to that. It was the first day I met her son. A couple of days before that, she met my daughter."

The couple were married Sept. 25 in Forest Park.

But, saving for the ceremony and a new life together as a family of four meant more income was needed.

"I started driving for Uber in May of this year," Serrano-Bargas said. "A couple of people

I know were already driving for Uber and they were like, 'Come on, you should do it.' But I was nervous because I was worried about protection for myself. But the more I learned about it, like the way they track us, the more I knew I was never alone. So I felt safe."

Serrano-Bargas began working for the company three hours per day and on weekends learning the peak hours to drive and the best places to park.

The result was so lucrative that she went full time with Uber and even managed to get a car out the deal. The lease payment for the couple's 2016 model Honda with all the extras comes out of their earnings. After three years, they will have the option to buy it.

Meanwhile, the wedding bills were still mounting up. So Serrano-Bargas recruited her then fiancé.

"I was really nervous at first," Bargas said. "I didn't know what to say to people. After the first week, I got the hang of it. I started talking to people and all the nervousness went away. You just go with the flow."

"That's when you realize that it doesn't feel like a job," Serrano-Bargas added. "When we get to the stop, I've had customers who are like 'we're already here?' They tell me stories and we'll have conversations across the board."

The couple added that they have never felt unsafe as out lesbians. They haven't even experienced negative conversations despite a contentious election season.

"Everyone's been pretty cool with me and I haven't had any incidents," Serrano-Bargas said.

Howard Brown Health holds community input meetings

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Howard Brown Health held two community input meetings—Nov. 15 at Brown Elephant Andersonville and Nov. 17 at Howard Brown Health 63rd Street—ahead of developing its three-year strategic plan.

Howard Brown Health Individual Giving Officer Myles Brady-Davis kicked off the Nov. 15 meeting by noting that there is a lot going on in the world so it is important to get the community's voices heard on where they should focus their efforts in the coming years.

Erik Roldan, Howard Brown's communications director, noted that the election results have changed the focus of the organization's three-year plan; however, he added it is not known how much yet because things are in flux. Roldan added that the primary focus still will be addressing the community's concerns through these meetings and the online community engagement survey that will be available through Dec. 1. He explained that this past year Howard Brown has grown with new clinic locations.

As for new location ideas, attendees mentioned Evanston, the West Side and Little Village.

When asked about the best ways to alert people about what's happening at Howard Brown, speakers said social media, email and/or text messages but it depends on the population they are trying to reach.

In the area of unmet needs, they said the biggest issues are barriers to getting a speedy appointment because of website issues and the phone system not working properly as well as improved customer service at the clinics.

Other concerns revolved around issues such as a lack of response from the CEO and medical professionals, inaccessibility, insurance and the agency's website.

One attendee spoke about how the behav-

Uber spokesperson Molly Spaeth said that the safety of their drivers is something Uber takes very seriously.

"We want everyone to feel safe and comfortable," she noted. "We have a lot of features that are built into the technology that are designed to provide a feedback system. If anybody does have a [negative] experience, they can let us know right away."

"Both riders and drivers rate each other after each trip," Spaeth added. "So that helps reinforce the system of accountability and transparency. Drivers can feel free not to accept requests if, for any reason, they feel unsafe and we ask them to immediately pull over and call 911 in the case of a threat."

For Serrano-Bargas, Uber's full support of both her orientation and the way she chooses to express herself has made a word of difference.

"I don't appear very feminine," she said. "With other jobs I've had other people look at and treat me differently but I've never had that experience with Uber. They make me feel good about myself. I don't feel like I have to dress or act a certain way when I represent them."

"The reasons we here from drivers as to why they work with us are as diverse as they are," Spaeth said. "Some people are trying to save for a wedding, some people are saving to buy Christmas presents. It's always up to you. You can turn the app on and off depending on your schedule."

For more information on working with Uber, visit: www.uber.com/careers.

Forum plots LGBT action in Trump presidency

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Equality Illinois co-sponsored a forum Nov. 28 on LGBT protections that are at risk, and community action that is needed, in the wake of the 2016 elections. More than 200 people attended the event, at Lake View Presbyterian Church, 716 W. Addison.

Equality Illinois CEO Brian Johnson was joined by Affinity Community Services Executive Director Imani Rupert-Gordon; immigration attorney Michael Jarecki; Howard Brown Health President and CEO David Munar; and

Chicago House TransLife Center Care Coordinator Channyn Lynne Parker.

All the panelists reported that their organization's stakeholders expressed grave concerns over the pending Trump presidency. Both Rupert-Gordon and Jarecki, for example, said clients had internalized and were fearful from the fiery anti-immigrant rhetoric that was a mainstay of Trump's campaign. Munar acknowledged that for many in the community, the Nov. 8 election was a "traumatic event."

Among the issues discussed were immigration and the threatened dismantling and replacement of the Affordable Care Act. Parker discussed Vice President-Elect Mike Pence's ominous comments about auditing the Ryan White CARE Act.

Pride Action Tank Executive Director Kim Hunt ended the program with a call to action. Opening remarks came from Equality Illinois Director of Education and Outreach Anthony Galloway and Rev. Joy Douglas Strome of Lake View Presbyterian Church.



Imani Rupert-Gordon (from left), Michael Jarecki, David Munar, Channyn Lynne Parker and Brian Johnson.

Photo by Tracy Baim. See moer photos online.



Myles Brady-Davis (left) and Erik Roldan.
Photo by Carrie Maxwell

ioral health model is not conducive to the patients because those who are receiving mental health services only get nine months of service with a specific doctor and after that they have to switch to another doctor.

Another person said that the communication between medical professionals needs to happen so if a patient has to see different people each time they go to one of the clinics, the continuity of care is maintained.

As for positive suggestions, attendees agreed that a Howard Brown Hospital and staff development across the board to make them valuable stakeholders would be ideal in the long run.

According to Roldan's account of the Nov. 17 meeting, specific issues included integrating into the neighborhood and dealing with healthful eating challenges.

Brady-Davis said the principal challenges to making these suggested changes are staffing ratios, the possibility of new locations and the financial investments they receive from various entities.

Roldan explained that the best ways one can help Howard Brown thrive is to donate directly to and/or shop at the Brown Elephant.

To fill out the community survey, visit SurveyMonkey.com/r/howardbrowncommunity16 and patient survey visit SurveyMonkey.com/r/howardbrownpatient16.

THINK
YEAR-END
GIVING

TEN DIN G

AND
XTEND
LOVE

DESIGN: RICHARD CASSIS • SPARCINC.COM

CENTER
ON 3656 N.
HALSTED



CENTERONHALSTED.ORG/DONATENOW #RISEWITHUS

WORLD AIDS DAY PROFILE

Jim Petrakis: Consultant becomes face of HIV/AIDS

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Most people may not know Jim Petrakis—but just about everyone is familiar, either directly or indirectly, with what he has gone through the past few years.

Petrakis is an AIDS survivor. However, more than surviving, he is thriving.

He made his journey known recently at the SOFA Chicago event by residing in a “living room” that designer/DIFFA (Design Industries Foundation Fighting AIDS) Chicago Executive Board member Richard Cassis and designer/dedicated volunteer Jake Theisen created; the

everyone else was rich and I wasn’t. But I worked while I was doing that—and two years after I graduated, those [other students] were coming to audition for my shows.”

Throughout the world of fashion, Petrakis has produced collection presentations for designers such as Michael Kors, Gianni Versace (who Petrakis said took him all over the world and introduced him to other designers), Sonia Rykiel, Donna Karan and Calvin Klein.

He was also founder and president of James P. Productions for 22 years, providing the special-events community with original, live-marketing concepts and promotions. He then



Jim Petrakis at this year’s SOFA Chicago exhibit.
Photo by Andrew Davis



Petrakis in an undated photo at an Ultimo event.
Photo courtesy of Richard Cassis

installation was titled “LIFE : FIGHT : LOVE.” (Cassis, a longtime friend of Petrakis, told Windy City Times the exhibit “was the ultimate user experience, or the ultimate virtual reality. There are so many exhibits where you just see photographs and you see information presented—but we had the real deal there.”)

Petrakis, 54—who lists himself as everything from a producer/director to a fundraising consultant—has certainly lived an intriguing life. He started off as a choreographer in the corporate world, having created movement for Universal Pictures, MGM, Paramount, Viacom and Disney Studios as well as celebrity clients.

“By the time I was 15, I had my own dance company,” Petrakis told Windy City Times. “By the time I was 16—and, coincidentally, it was the year of Flashdance—everyone wanted dancers.” Along the way, he met figures such as Arnie Morton and Jimmy Rittenberg. Eventually, he was hired to do a world tour. “I didn’t even know corporate theater existed,” Petrakis admitted.

Oh, yeah—and, somehow, Petrakis made time to go to college. “I went to Northwestern [University], and majored in theater/voice and journalism,” he said, “but it was rough. I was three years younger than everybody, and ev-

served as chief creative officer/executive vice president of Paulette Wolf Events & Entertainment until a few years ago. Petrakis is currently founder and chief creative officer of the humanGrace foundation while also developing several independent fundraising projects in association with various philanthropic partners through his new corporate entity, Collaboration Laboratory, Inc. (He credits his success, in part, to what he called “creative collisions.”)

One of the organizations Petrakis has been intimately involved with over the years has been DIFFA. (In fact, Petrakis has received DIFFA’s Unsung Hero Award.) He was involved with the organization for 17 years, where he did the annual ball for free, inviting corporate clients so they could see what he did.

The day he found out

Petrakis found out he had AIDS in 2008. “I was in Denmark doing an environmental conference, and I was working on a military base for six weeks. It was pretty dismal weather, and I got a sore throat. I went to the medic and said I had strep throat and they gave me a Z-Pak.

After being there for five weeks, I come back and I can barely speak or swallow. Then,

[doctors] said it was my gall bladder or it was something else. So, for three weeks, I go through this horrible [process]. I can’t eat and I lose all this weight. They do X-rays and see spots on my lungs. Finally, they sent me to a gastroenterologist and they scoped me; I had a four-and-a-half-inch esophageal ulcer. If I had scrambled eggs, I would have to stand at the sink and I’d be crying. I stopped eating; in three months, I lost 98 pounds.

“So, they treated the ulcer with prednisone, a steroid—and when you’re treated with that, you get 20 milliliters; I was drinking 40 milligrams a day. They weaned me off of it. Three days after I was off of it, I was sitting on the edge of my bed—and that’s all I remember. In fact, I couldn’t remember a lot of things.

“Then, I was checked again. I was breathing at 18-percent capacity and had pneumonia. They said, ‘You’re dying of AIDS, but you were never HIV-positive.’ Of course, [clients] still wanted me to work—but [the doctors] said I wasn’t going anywhere.”

Petrakis added that almost 10 specialists were examining him. “After being prodded for three weeks, they said they couldn’t find a trace of my immune system,” he said. “I was having these organ meltdowns. They gave me about three weeks.”

Howard Brown Health’s Catherine Creticos turned out to be a beacon of light for Petrakis, as he said she’s the one who made the AIDS diagnosis. He then suggested to her that he try AIDS medications. Petrakis said he told her, “If I only have three weeks, let’s see if they work. If I’m going to die, I might as well die with a purpose.” They tested his blood; he had 31 T cells—a count that’s much lower than recommended.

However, finding out this number did not discourage Petrakis; on the contrary, it made him hopeful. “My lucky number has been 13, which is terrifying to most people,” said Petrakis. “I was literally lying in an oxygen tank. When I heard that number, I said, ‘I’m not going to die. Thirty-one is 13 backward. I’m not going anywhere.’ So they give me the drug and test me three weeks later—and it was 148. And if you add the [numerals] in 148, they become 13.” It would take two-and-a-half years before he could walk again, but he was on the road to recovery.

Petrakis said the whole journey (including dealing with that feeling of helplessness) made him “profoundly aware of how unprepared for someone to leave us. I lost my partner, Robert, 12 years ago. We told he had six weeks; he lived for 14. We had the most amazing, terrifying, wonderful, humorous time.

“Death never bothered me. My mom was sick for nine years. When someone is sick for that long, your relationship is with the illness, not the person. ... But when someone leaves, you don’t know what to do to mend the bridge.”

He said he made another discovery while in the hospital: that people needed to be consoled about a loved one’s possible departure. So he compiled notes and gave his therapist stacks of items about himself. Eventually, the therapist and Cassis compiled the notes into the book *Eclipsed*.

SOFA exhibit and World AIDS Day

The SOFA Chicago exhibition, which took place in early November, was a labor of love—and “labor” might have been the right word, according to Petrakis, who said the experience tired him, although it was worth it.

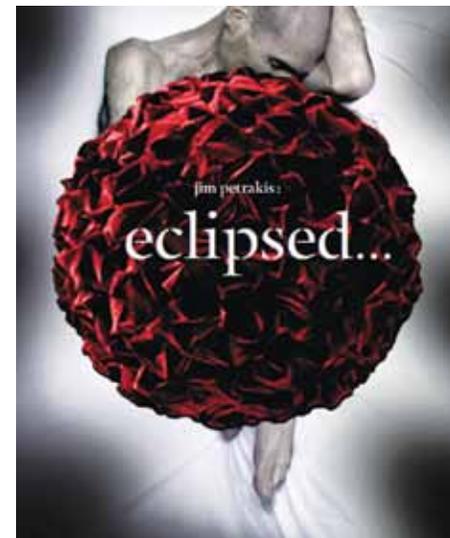
“The SOFA experience was bizarre—all those pictures of me,” he said. “But over the course of four days, people were there to see an art show and they asked of [LIFE : FIGHT : LOVE], ‘What was that?’ But something ran true to them.

“The exhausting part was listening to these people, because they don’t have a platform. So we’re going to create a social network to have people find each other. By the end of the second day, I was crawling home because it was so emotionally depleting.

“The last day, there were these three young girls.” Tears started to fill Petrakis’ eyes as he continued. “One of them took my hand. She was 15 and said, ‘For the last two years, I’ve been fighting liver cancer. On Monday, I go for my last chemo treatment and they’re going to take my port out. I have my friends and family, but it’s been so lonely. I see myself in those pictures [in Petrakis’ exhibition].’ She’s 15. If I died when I was 46, I lived.”

Lastly, with World AIDS Day taking place this week, Petrakis was asked what he thought about the occasion. Without hesitation, he brightened and said, “I think it should be victorious.”

After his journey, one can certainly see why he would go with that word.



KATZ from cover

Windy City Times: When we talk about the birth of an activist, how did that happen for you?

Jonathan Katz: Coming of age in the early 1980s, it was very hard not to be pissed off—and I was very pissed off. The University of Chicago was relatively quiescent in terms of queer issues in those days. There was a gay group but it wasn't very active. I got involved and, as it became more active, an organization called The Great Whiter Brotherhood of the Iron Fist raised its very ugly head at the university and started counter programming queer stuff.

They took magazines that they thought queer people would read like *Ballet Today* (Why? I couldn't begin to tell you) and they would very carefully splice out the centerfold page and put in something like "Disco Dirge for AIDS Victims: come celebrate the death of homos." They sent everybody in my apartment building a hand addressed envelope that said I was a convicted child molester with AIDS, they outed people who were closeted.

The University of Chicago didn't do a thing, probably because [then University President] Hanna [Holborn] Gray was a closet case. I

told me that he felt like his feet were on fire. All he wanted was someone to massage his feet but the doctors and nurses wouldn't touch him.

All of the homophobic metaphors that had been on their way out got tragically revived because of AIDS.

WCT: You tried to fight that narrative?

JK: I founded an organization called The Gay and Lesbian Town Meeting, which attempted to rewrite the city of Chicago civic code to guarantee rights for sexual difference. I remember the debates going on in City Hall. An alderman interrupted me when I was talking about the lack of access for queer people like renting an apartment. He actually said in public, "but everybody knows that queer sexuality involves copious amounts of excrement which befouls the carpets and the drapes so landlords have a right to discriminate." The activists among us were horrified but the audience was like "that makes sense."

My defining moment as an activist was when I was working with Harold Washington. The day he died, a group of us gathered in front of City Hall and I picked up a brick. I said, "We've got to riot because they're going to use his death as a way of consolidating the machine again." We knew that Eugene Sawyer was being considered as the new candidate put forward by the



Jonathan Katz.

Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

some of the earliest work in this exhibition until I began research on it.

WCT: How was the seed of Art AIDS America planted? Where did it come from?

JK: I think from a dawning recognition that we'd gotten the entire story of American art wrong by understanding AIDS as a tragic tangent to the development of American art rather than as its motor. The more I looked into it, the more I realized that American art had been profoundly influenced by AIDS but, like everything else in regard to AIDS, we had marginalized and dismissed its import. I also understood that the bulk of work about AIDS never looked like it was about AIDS because it couldn't look like it was about AIDS.

So what I wanted to do was make an exhibition that looked at all the different responses to AIDS especially those that didn't feature the body, sexuality, that didn't look like art about AIDS at all. One of the artists in the exhibition Felix Gonzalez-Torres said it best when he paralleled his creative career to a virus. For an artist who is dying of AIDS to take the very disease that is killing him as a model of what he could do tells us something very significant. He said, "Don't be the opposition. Be a virus. Enter the immune system, replicate like crazy and take over." He made works of art that were the fundamental equivalent of HIV; that passed underneath the notice of the art world's immune system at the museum and replicated within its environment. He took a leaf from the AIDS playbook in order to fight it.

I'd been thinking along these lines since the late '90s and then my co-curator Rock proposed the exhibition and it took ten years to pull it off.

WCT: Give me the sense of the level of work that it took to get it done when so many pieces were created under the radar.

JK: It was really one of the hardest things to not only find the artists but to find those works by the artists that were sufficiently under the radar that they didn't look like works about AIDS but the viewer could see the theme in the work.

It was always a balancing act. We scoured images all over the country by hundreds of artists who hadn't made a name. We wanted to talk about the full span of work about AIDS, not just work by famous artists. Sure, Mapplethorpe's in the show but there's just one. It literally entailed looking at thousands of works. We had a wonderful research assistant Alison Aurer who spent four years working with us. We pulled together a group of leading AIDS scholars and we held a meeting asking for their opinions. There were multiple steps in thinking through what the exhibition would be.

WCT: So you were climbing the same kind of mountains as you did in the '80s but now with finding the art and securing permission to use it. Was there ever a moment when you thought the exhibition wouldn't happen?

JK: Plenty. Perhaps the most complex was

that we sent out proposals to 200 museums to travel the show and there was just one rejection after another. Nobody wanted this exhibition. They didn't want it, in part, because it was not a proud moment in museum history which had been very complicit in the erasure of AIDS and queerness and I think there is a generalized cowardice on the part of art museums to engage anything of political relevance.

Museums tend to be run by boards of directors composed of rich people. They tend to be conservative and all these things conspired to make this show dead on arrival. The show did not go to San Francisco, which is pathetic, and it would not have come to Chicago had The Alhambra Gallery not taken it.

WCT: Did you ever push these larger museums on the reason for their rejections?

JK: Sure. But what I got was, "You have to understand it's not for us." Nobody would ever admit to what was actually happening. It's 2016 and this is the first nationally travelling exhibition on AIDS? This should've happened 20 years ago! Attitudes [towards AIDS] may have changed in other parts of the world but the art world is insulated. It's wealthy, privileged and deeply conservative. We think that the art world is sophisticated and advanced because the forms of art are that way, but the politics of art are absolutely backwards looking.

So Alhambra did something extraordinary. They made a purpose-built museum. I know of no other foundation in the country that would do anything akin to this.

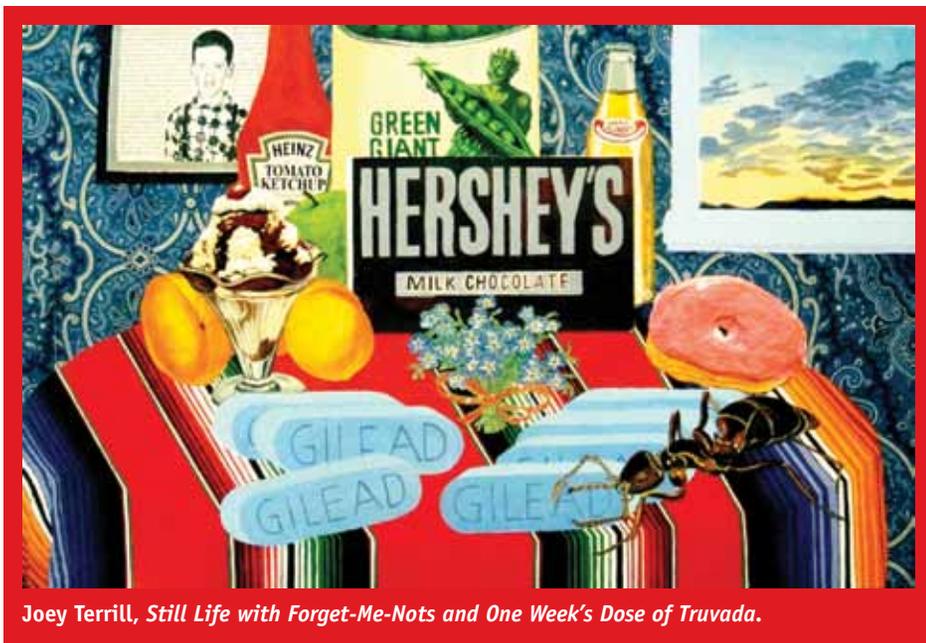
WCT: How have you addressed the need for more artists of color, a perceived lack in the exhibition which was protested when Art AIDS America opened in Tacoma?

JK: My first response [to the protests] was "not true." I felt that the demand on the part of the initial protest that the level of Black representation equal the level of HIV in the Black community was an artificial standard. My exhibition was vastly more representative than mainstream exhibitions and I found it problematic, and still do, that there was a lot of attention about race in this exhibition when whole swathes of exhibitions at the Art Institute or the Whitney [Museum of American Art] can appear without any Black artists and nobody says a word.

The other response I had was, "Show me what we could have done." In time, through crowdsourcing, we found works [from artists of color] that I did not know about and they are now included in the Chicago exhibition.

This is the definitive presentation in terms of scale, interpretative context and representation. It is the way the show should look and I am very grateful that, finally in Chicago, we were able to do the show the way it should be. It is exactly the way I envisioned it.

For more information on Art AIDS America and for tickets, visit ArtAIDSAmericaChicago.org.



Joey Terrill, *Still Life with Forget-Me-Nots and One Week's Dose of Truvada*.

complained and I remember her saying "The University is about free exchange of ideas, so sit across the dinner table and discuss your differences."

They were covering my car with bumper stickers that said, "Clean up Hyde Park, stop AIDS, kill a faggot" and I'm supposed to have a conversation with them? It was horrific. It went on for well over a year. The postal inspectors got involved and determined it was against the law to harass people using the U.S. mail and [The Great White Brotherhood] were busted on federal mail charges. Then the University had no choice but to suspend them for a year.

The other part of what made me an activist was AIDS. I started the first clinic in the city of Chicago with my then partner out of our flat in Hyde Park. There were no drugs. They would send us DNCB [dinitrochlorobenzene], which was supposed to boost the immune system and we would send this stuff out to people for free. I was really stupid. I tried to bring publicity to the clinic only to have the police close it down in six or eight months.

WCT: People who lived through AIDS in the '80s and '90s talk about the complete devastation of so many friends. Were you experiencing the same thing?

JK: Yes. Dear Abby doesn't have an answer for "What do you do with an address book that's filled with the names of dead people?"

In the early days, what preoccupied me was the fact that Chicago hospitals were not allowing people who were openly gay to be doctors. Friends of mine who were in the hospital for neuropathy were in wards where everyone had to be in a Hazmat suit in order to enter the room. A friend of mine had neuropathy and he

white machine as the token Black mayor. I was going to throw the brick through the window of city hall but I was dissuaded by a number of other activists who said, "This is not what Harold would have wanted."

Later that night, Sawyer went on television and accepted the mayoral nomination. They asked him, "Why?" and he said, "Because I looked out of the window and saw a group of activists. There was a guy with a brick in his hand and, when he put it down, I realized it was safe to take the nomination."

That's when I thought, "I am never not going to riot again."

WCT: Do you recall your experiences with AIDS related art in the '80s?

JK: There was a brilliant play called *The AIDS Play*, written by Doug Holsclaw. These artworks travelled underground because the dominant culture refused to utter the word AIDS. There was such prejudice and hatred. At that moment, there was the profound sense that we were living in two Americas. One was in the heat of a war in which there was an astounding causality rate. The other America hadn't even the slightest recognition of what was happening. It was surreal to move through these two Americas. I had a front row seat to all of this because in '82 I was incorrectly diagnosed with AIDS. I was one of the few people who walked to the edge of the pit and walked back. Almost everybody else fell in.

What art did was create a mirror in which the private torment that I was experiencing finally had recognition and representation in the world outside my own head but I didn't know about some of the earliest representations and

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

 **Truvada**[®] 
200 mg emtricitabine · tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300 mg



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.



TRUVADA, the TRUVADA Logo, TRUVADA FOR PrEP, GILEAD, the GILEAD Logo, and HEPSERA are trademarks of Gilead Sciences, Inc., or its related companies. All other marks referenced herein are the property of their respective owners. Version date: April 2016
© 2016 Gilead Sciences, Inc. All rights reserved. TVDC0070 10/16



in the LIFE

Betsy Ade

TEXT BY ROSS FORMAN
PHOTOS BY TAMMY VEGA

- **Age**
"Seasoned" [question]."
- **Job title**
Singer/songwriter (Well-Known Strangers); and substitute teacher (Kenosha Unified School District)
- **Residence**
Kenosha, Wisconsin
- **Orientation**
Bisexual; in a relationship with Chantel, a nurse, for six years.
- **Favorite musician**
"Ani DiFranco ... and 10 others; this is a tough
- **Favorite TV shows**
The Get Down and American Horror Story
- **Dream vacation**
Italy
- **Favorite movies**
The Usual Suspects, American Hustle and The Princess Bride
- **Hobbies**
"Playing catch with my son"
- **Little-known fact**
"I was awarded a college scholarship for softball."

Well-Known Strangers was formed about 18 months ago, and the group just recently celebrated its first show.

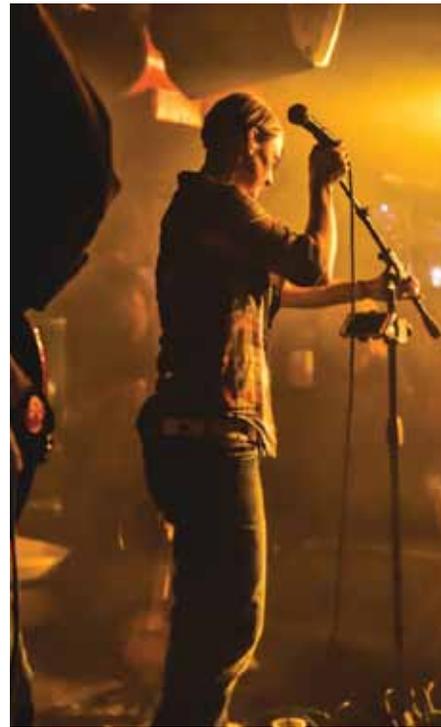
There's nothing but smiles going forward from Betsy Ade and her musical mates, who have been entertaining Midwest audiences with their cello-infused, alternative pop/rock style that carries a splash of country and more.

"Our style is pretty unique as we have a traditional rock set up, but [also] an accomplished cello player who has flat-lining talent," said Ade, who performed Nov. 11 at Martyrs', 3855 N. Lincoln Ave., in Chicago, then the next night at Fusion in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Ade (vocals, guitar, mandolin) is joined on stage by Joe Adamek (acoustic guitar), Sacia Jerome (cello, background vocals), Theodore Koth (lead guitar, background vocals), Roger Gower (drums/percussion) and John Kulas (bass guitar). Well-Known Strangers launched their new single and music video have been busy performing and preparing for the August 2016 launch of their new single, Splinter, and its music video earlier this year, and their debut album, Aligned.

"Joe and I were interested in building an organization that offers freedom of creativity along with strategies that would bring success," Ade said. "We wanted to make a solid foundation of people who were kind-hearted, open-minded, and had the ability to adjust and accept thoughts and opinions that were different than their own.

"Joe and I were asked to perform in a wedding of a mutual friend two years ago. During that time he asked to work with me on some of his song ideas. I met a few times with him and noticed we were a great match. Joe introduced me to Roger, John, and Theodore. Joe and I have always been huge fans of the cello, so I reached out to Sacia. I asked her to come to a practice just to see how it feels. She is obviously classically-trained, so I was worried she wouldn't like the unpredictability that is



song writing. But she fit right in, rocked our socks off, and the rest is history.

"She has made this project and our sound stick out in crowds."

Ade said the release of Splinter has been one of her favorite moments with this band, so far. "The shooting of [the Splinter] video was surreal. I used to make this stuff up during playtime when I was a kid ... now it's happening. [That was a] totally crazy, awesome experience for me."

Well-Known Strangers will be touring next year and its album is being released Jan. 20, 2017.

Ade said her long-term goal for Well-Known Strangers is simple: "We [want] to be able to support ourselves and our families while working as musicians ... and a European tour."

She added: "We are absolutely thrilled to be able to do what we do at this point in our lives. I speak on behalf of all the members in Well-Known Strangers when I say, we could never do it without our friends and family. We are forever indebted to you and hope to keep making you proud. Thank you for unwavering love and support."

Victory, Center, Art AIDS hosting talk, tour Nov. 30-Dec. 1

Victory Gardens Theater, Art AIDS America Chicago and Center on Halsted have announced the two-day World AIDS Day event. "We're Still Here: HIV/AIDS Then & Now."

"We're Still Here: HIV/AIDS Then & Now"—an HIV/AIDS arts and cultural impact panel and performance—is scheduled to take place on Wed., Nov. 30, at 7:30 p.m. at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St. It is free and open to the public.

The panel will include exhibit co-curator Jonathan Katz, Director of Exhibitions Tony Hirschel, Victory Gardens Theater's Director of New Play Development Isaac Gomez, with Hutch Pimentel as moderator. The panel will be followed by *Queer, Ill + Okay* performances by Phillip X Blackbrilliant and Joan Giroux, as well as a short film by Xena Ellison and Elizabeth Mputu.

On Thursday, Dec. 1, a curated tour of the Art AIDS America Chicago exhibit at the Alphawood Gallery, 2401 N. Halsted St., will start at 6 p.m., followed by a pre-show reception and storytelling performances at 7 p.m. at Victory Gardens Theater, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave. The evening will conclude with a performance of Karen Hartman's *Roz* and Ray at 7:30 p.m. at Victory Gardens Theater.

This temporary space has been created in a former bank by the Chicago-based Alphawood Foundation to bring the exhibition to its only Midwest venue.

Art AIDS America is the first exhibition to explore how the AIDS crisis forever changed U.S. art. Since the first reports of mysterious illnesses in the early 1980s, HIV and AIDS have touched nearly every resident in some way. The Chicago presentation of Art AIDS America will feature more than 100 significant contempo-

rary works in a wide range of media—from oil on canvas and photography to three-dimensional installations and video.

There are additional events as well. On Saturday, Dec. 3, at 10 a.m., "How AIDS Changed American Art—An Illustrated Lecture" will take place at Alphawood Gallery. The free lecture will be delivered by Jonathan Katz, co-curator of Art AIDS America and director of the visual studies doctoral program at SUNY; the opening will be a spoken-word performance from Avery R. Young.

On that same day, at 12 p.m. at Alphawood, a "Disruption/Repression: How AIDS Changed American Art" panel will take place. The panel will feature University of Chicago Professor of Medicine Dr. Renslow Sherer; Robert Vazquez-Pacheco, artist and member of Gran Fury; Peter Carpenter, independent choreographer and associate professor at the Dance Center of Columbia College Chicago; Mary Patten, professor of visual and critical studies, School of the Art Institute of Chicago; Jeanne Kracher, executive director of Crossroads Fund; and Stephanie Stebich, executive director of the Tacoma Art Museum. The moderator will be public-health advocate Lora Branch. In addition, Chicago-based Defibrillator Gallery Director Joseph Ravens will present "Condom Cloud" at this free event.

'World of Chocolate' Dec. 1 at Revel

The AIDS Foundation of Chicago's 15th annual World of Chocolate winter gala will take place Thursday, Dec. 1—World AIDS Day—at Revel Fulton Market, 1215 W. Fulton Market, 6-9 p.m.

There will be elaborate decor and sweet treats from 22 of Chicago chocolatiers, restaurants and caterers.

Admission is \$135-\$2,000; call 312-334-0935 or visit AIDSChicago.org/chocolate.



AIDS Quilt panels at Navy Pier.

Photo by Matt Simonette

Quilt, speaker at ISU's World AIDS Day week

An exhibit of panels from the National AIDS Quilt and a keynote address by a local HIV/AIDS expert will be part of the events leading up to World AIDS Day at Illinois State University (ISU).

Selected panels from the quilt will be displayed Nov. 28-Dec. 1 in the Brown Ballroom of the Bone Student Center at ISU. The 12-foot-by-12-foot panels contain handmade quilts that memorialize people lost in the fight against AIDS. The panels will include quilts of local people lost to AIDS as well as quilts created by local HIV/AIDS organizations.

The week of commemoration continues on World AIDS Day with a keynote address by Chris Wade at 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 1, in the Brown Ballroom. Wade is the HIV project coordinator at the Illinois Public Health Association; director of prevention services for Central Illinois Friends of People With AIDS; and co-chair of

the Illinois Alliance for Sound AIDS Policy.

The full article is at <https://news.illinois-state.edu/2016/11/national-aids-quilt-keynote-speaker-to-highlight-week-of-world-aids-day/>.

Leather collection focus of Dec. 11 talk

Leather Archives & Museum (LA&M) visiting scholar Scott Herring will give a presentation on the special collections of Samuel M. Steward at the museum, 6418 N. Greenview Ave., on Sunday, Dec. 11, 1-3 p.m.

Gay artist Steward (1909-1993) was a once-forgotten modernist and pornographer who has experienced a renaissance thanks to art historian Justin Spring's 2010 biography *Secret Historian*.

Admission is free and open to the public. Attendees must be at least 18 years old. See "The Special Collections of Samuel M. Steward" on Facebook.

viewpoints



**Dana
RUDOLPH**

MOMBIAN Picking up the shards

I made a cake on Nov. 8 to celebrate what I thought would be Hillary Clinton's election.

For decoration, I melted sugar into sheets and broke it into shards to represent the glass ceiling that I hoped she would shatter. On Nov. 9, however, I found myself looking at the remains of the cake and wondering if it better represented an earlier event on that date: Kristallnacht, when Nazi-led mobs vandalized hundreds of synagogues, Jewish homes, schools, businesses, hospitals and cemeteries, leaving the streets littered in broken glass.

We are not at that point yet in the United States, but it feels like we have taken a step in that direction. Donald Trump's racist rhetoric, constant name-calling, and general demagoguery have set a tone that some have compared to that of Hitler. I would like to believe that the checks and balances we have in this country—and the fact that more than half of the country did not vote for Trump—will keep us away from a racist dictatorship, but the echoes are nonetheless disturbing. Whether we can heal our nation and create a more hopeful future depends on all of us, not just President-Elect Trump.

None of us can predict, of course, exactly what Trump's presidency will mean for ourselves or our country, but here are some fragments of what I do know:

My family is still a family. No matter what the

law or anyone else says, nothing can change that.

We must tell our kids that when bullies win, the good people try harder.

We must tell them that change takes time, but we will always love and protect them.

Good people have been standing up against what Trump stands for—bullying, name calling, racism, and misogyny—and will keep doing so.

Hillary Clinton may not become president, but we can still help deliver on her vision of "Stronger Together"—a vision with roots in the "one out of many" that our country's founders promised. We must work to bring together a nation that has become deeply divided—not only by the election, but by a history that separates people and has allowed racism, sexism and all of the other "-isms" to flourish.

Others in this country have more to fear from a Trump presidency than I, and I must keep fighting for them, too. I feel extra pain this week thinking of my friends of color and those who are Muslim or immigrants. I know they wouldn't want my pity, however, but my allyship. I am privileged in being White and middle class and not currently disabled, despite being a lesbian and a Jew. I must use the privilege I have to support those who have less. I must listen to their perspectives and learn from them how best to help advance their rights and opportunities.

Many who voted for Trump did so because of a discontent with our current system and their place in it. We must listen to their fears and concerns, too, for only by understanding other perspectives can we work to create a more equitable society for all. This does not mean we need to tolerate racist or sexist comments or actions, or forgive Trump supporters for voting in someone who will likely set back social justice in many ways. We do, however, have to try to understand why they did so. Only then will we have a chance to help find different solutions.

We parents have a key role to play here. All of

us want to protect our children, to help them learn, to give them opportunities. That is an immediate commonality across every political persuasion. That means we have a starting point for conversation.

We have to keep telling our own stories. We cannot expect others to understand us if we do not share our experiences as well. Stories can lead to understanding, and that can drive action.

Communication is best when we check the facts. Misinformation about both sides was flying around during the election. On a very basic level, we should read through articles and watch videos before forwarding, reposting, or retweeting them. We should try to confirm from multiple sources. We shouldn't assume that just because something supports our worldview, it's true.

I have confidence that we will make progress towards a more just and equitable society—perhaps not in the short term, but in alignment with the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., when he said, "We shall overcome because the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

The obstacles are daunting, but I am also thinking of Dr. King's observation, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that." Pair that with the words of Harry Potter's Albus Dumbledore: "Happiness can be found even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light."

If many of us are feeling a little broken right now, therefore, we should remember: Shards of glass may appear to be broken, but they are sharp, there are many of them, and they reflect the light.

Light and love to all of us.

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

letters

Making it better

Dear Editor:

I spoke at a small high schooler-led LGBTQ acceptance conference in rural northwest Indiana (Vice President-elect Pence's stomping ground) recently.

Maybe 15 or 20 people showed up at the local YMCA, half of them kids. These kids were amazing—bright, out, open and allied—and wonderfully hopeful in their beliefs about the future of LGBTQ rights. Although there was hope and laughter, I find myself anxiously worried about the shy 14-year-old trans boy who told me about the issues he's facing at school when trying to use the bathroom. When he tries to talk to the counselors at his high school, they simply say they don't really know how to help. So they asked him to use the nurses' bathroom.

Dominic told me he prefers to stick to himself mostly and draw; a future animator, he said. I told him he needed to meet my friend Damon one day and read his comic strip about a gay duck. He broke a smile and said he'd like that. He told me that his classmates' hijab was pulled off her head earlier this week. Someone scrawled "Trump" on the door of the "diversity room" this week, too. His other trans friends' parents wouldn't let them come to the event, so he came alone. At one point, I encouraged

him to go introduce himself to the trans woman who would be speaking later in the afternoon. Turns out he told her he had never met an "older" trans person.

About halfway through the event, he was abruptly taken out of the four-hour session by a guardian without a goodbye. "Let's go," the man said, and Dominic gathered his things and left. I'm not sure the handful of other kids noticed, but I vividly remember the lonely fear his face showed me when he got up to leave the chair next to me. It's a look that many LGBTQ adults may also remember. I don't know why Dominic had to leave, but I so hope he keeps my card and emails me or finds me on Facebook if he needs anything.

To my dear LGBTQ friends and allies living their full "YASSS" lives in big cities or small communities: This kid needs us. These kids need us. They need us volunteering. They need us taking suicide prevention hotline calls. They need us voting and advocating for their chance to make it to adulthood. They need us out and visible in rural and rust-belt small towns - even if it's just for a weekend visit. Social media and online connectedness can do a lot to show that acceptance and community exist, but a Tweet or post on Facebook is so different than saying in person, "I once had to bury how scared I was too, but it's worth it to survive."

I can't stop thinking about Dominic and

knowing how not alone he actually is. I hope he knows that. Self-love can trump self-hate. Visibility forces recognition. We can do better.

Adam D. Swanson

All together now

Dear Editor:

It goes without saying that our post-election world is quite divided. That is why the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus is committed, now more than ever, to promoting its message of inclusiveness and togetherness.

When we stand together, we are stronger. When we support one another, we create safe and welcoming communities. When we sing, we create harmony. When we love one another, we continue working to create a world that is hopeful and promising.

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus is committed to raising our voices to stand against hate and discrimination. We will never be silent! We will continue raising our voices to make a joyful noise!

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus

WINDY CITY TIMES

VOL. 32, No. 11, Nov. 30, 2016

The combined forces of *Windy City Times*,
founded Sept. 1985, and *Outlines* newspaper,
founded May 1987.

PUBLISHER & EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Tracy Baim

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER Terri Klinsky
MANAGING EDITOR Andrew Davis
ASSOCIATE EDITOR Matt Simonette
BUSINESS MANAGER Ripley Caine
DIRECTOR OF NEW MEDIA Jean Albright
ART DIRECTOR/NIGHTSPOTS EDITOR Kirk Williamson
SENIOR REPORTER Gretchen Rachel Hammond
SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES Terri Klinsky, Kirk Williamson, Amy Matheny, Gretchen Rachel Hammond, Scott Duff, Monika Pickett, David Strzepek
NATIONAL SALES Rivendell Media, 212-242-6863
SENIOR WRITERS Bob Roehr, Tony Peregrin, Lisa Keen, Yasmin Nair
THEATER EDITOR Scott C. Morgan
CINEMA WRITER Richard Knight Jr.
SPORTS WRITER Ross Forman
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT WRITERS Mary Shen Barnidge, Lawrence Ferber, Mel Ferrand, Jerry Nunn, Jonathan Abarbanel
COLUMNISTS/WRITERS: Yvonne Zipter, Jorjet Harper, Charles Dewey, Carrie Maxwell, Billy Masters, Sarah Toce, Dana Rudolph, Melissa Wasserman, Joe Franco, Nick Patricca, Liz Baudler, Rex Wockner, Angelique Smith, Meghan Streit
SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHERS Kat Fitzgerald, Hal Baim, Tim Carroll, Ed Negron
WEBSITE LISTINGS VOLUNTEER Gene Naden

CIRCULATION

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR Jean Albright
DISTRIBUTION: Ashina, Allan, Dan, John, Sue and Victor
WEB HOSTING: LoveYourWebsite.com (lead programmer: Martie Marro)

Copyright 2016 Lambda Publications Inc./Windy City Media Group; All rights reserved. Reprint by permission only. Back issues (if available) for \$5 per issue (postage included). Return postage must accompany all manuscripts, drawings, and photographs submitted if they are to be returned, and no responsibility may be assumed for unsolicited materials. All rights to letters, art and photographs sent to *Windy City Times* will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication purposes and as such, subject to editing and comment. The opinions expressed by the columnists, cartoonists, letter writers, and commentators are their own and do not necessarily reflect the position of *Windy City Times*. Publication of the name, photograph, or likeness of a person or organization in articles or advertising in *Windy City Times* is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization. While we encourage readers to support the advertisers who make this newspaper possible, *Windy City Times* cannot accept responsibility for advertising claims.

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

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com
podcast: WindyCityQueercast.com

WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP,
5315 N. Clark St. #192, Chicago, IL, 60640 U.S.A.
(MAILING ADDRESS ONLY)

Windy City Times Deadline every Wednesday.
OUT! Chicago's LGBTQ Visitor's Guide Online
www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

"Windy City Media Group generated enormous interest among their readers in this year's LGBT Consumer Index Survey. Out of approximately 100 print and online media partners who participated in the survey, *Windy City* was the best performing regional media in the U.S. Only survey partners with a nationwide footprint were able to generate a greater number of responses." —David Marshall, Research Director, Community Marketing, Inc.

FOUNDING MEMBER

National
Gay Media
Association
The LGBT Market. Delivered.

WINDY CITY TIMES

DIVERSIONS

THEATER • FILM • ENTERTAINMENT • SPORTS



42

Yoshi's Cafe marks 34 years.



42

Mask4Masq at Charlie's.



'Electra' company

30

WCT reviews the production *Electra*.

Photo of Kate Fry (left) and Sandra Marquez by Michael Brosilow

SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

Homo for the holidays? A December theater preview

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Whether you're in the mood for a heartwarming Christmas tale or an irreverent camp comedy, there are all kinds of stage plays and musicals to get you in the mood for the holiday season. Here's a select sampling of shows; those marked with an asterisk (*) indicate significant LGBTQ content. All productions in Chicago unless otherwise noted.

Holiday theater:

***The Rip Nelson Holiday Spectacular**—Hell in a Handbag Productions at Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St. Ed Jones returns to the embittered title role of a campy, embittered Hollywood has-been hosting a 1982 holiday TV show with guests like Liza Minnelli, magician Doug Henning and even Bruce Jenner. (now to Dec. 30; HandbagProductions.org)

***This Way Outta Santaland**—Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave. Since the rights were restricted this year for David Sedaris' *The Santaland Diaries*, the veteran star Mitchell Fain of that beloved Theater Wit production has created his own holiday play with songs to share with audiences this season. (now to Dec. 23; TheaterWit.org)

***Barney the Elf**—The Other Theatre Company at Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave. Leave the kids at home for the return of this very queer 2015 spoof on the 2003 film *Elf*. The production is full of scantily clad chorus boys and drag queens led by Chicago sensation Dixie Lynn Cartwright. (now to Jan. 1; TheOtherTheatreCompany.com)

A Christmas Carol—Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St. Larry Yando returns once again to star as Ebenezer Scrooge in this special effects-filled staging which is an annual family favorite. (now to Dec. 31; GoodmanTheatre.org)

Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley—Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon create a pleasant fan fiction stage sequel to Jane Austen's novel *Pride and Prejudice* for the holidays. (now to Dec. 24; Northlight.org)

The Christmas Schooner—Mercury Theater Chicago, 3745 N. Southport Ave. John Reeger and Julie Shannon's beloved home-grown historical musical about a sailing family who braves the treacherous waters of Lake Michigan to deliver Christmas trees to the Windy City is

back for another run. (now to Dec. 31; MercuryTheaterChicago.com)

A Christmas Carol—Drury Lane Theatre, 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace. When *Crazy for You* isn't on the stage, a family-friendly version of Charles Dickens' popular Christmas novella takes up residence. (now to Dec. 23; DruryLaneTheatre.com)

The Nutcracker—Marriott Theatre, 10 Marriott Drive, Lincolnshire. Choreographer/director Marc Robin is the mind behind this family-friendly musical comedy take on the classic E.T.A. Hoffmann Christmas tale. (now to Dec. 30; MarriottTheatre.com)

The Other Cinderella—Black Ensemble Theater, 4450 N. Clark St. Jackie Taylor's popular Afro-centric holiday take on the classic fairytale returns with new twists and material to close out the theater's 40th anniversary season. (now to Jan. 8; BlackEnsemble.org)

It's a Wonderful Life: Live in Chicago!—American Blues Theater at Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave. The audience gets to sit in on a 1940s radio broadcast adaptation of this much-loved American Christmas tale. (now to Dec. 31; AmericanBluesTheater.com)

The Nutcracker—The House Theatre of Chicago at Chopin Theater, 1543 W. Division St. If ballet isn't your thing, be sure to see the return of this puppet-filled and mournfully modernized take on the classic E.T.A. Hoffmann Christmas tale. (now to Dec. 31; TheHouseTheatre.com)

A Christmas Survival Guide—Williams Street Repertory at Raue Center for the Arts, 26 N. Williams St., Crystal Lake. A musical comedy revue offering tips on how to get through the holidays makes its Chicago-area debut. (now to Dec. 4; WSRep.org)

A Christmas Story: The Musical—Citadel Theatre, 300 S. Waukegan Road, Lake Forest. This is the Broadway adaptation of the 1983 holiday film about a young boy in the 1940s who wants a toy rifle for Christmas. (now to Dec. 18; CitadelTheatre.org)

Christmas Bingo: It's a Ho-Ho-Holy Night—Fans of the long-running interactive Catholic comedy *Late Nite Catechism* won't want to miss the return of this holiday sequel that gets audiences playing bingo for prizes. (Nov. 25 to Jan. 1; Nuns4Fun.com)

The Christians—Steppenwolf Theatre, 1750 N. Halsted St. Rather than warm Christmas feelings, consider modern theological debates



Dixie Lynn Cartwright and Yando Lopez are front and center in *Barney the Elf*.

Photo by Carin Silkaitis

in the Chicago premiere of Lucas Hnath's drama about a mega-church pastor whose new views on salvation rattle his closest confidants and his congregation. (Dec. 1 to Jan. 29; Steppenwolf.org)

Christmas at Christine's—Silk Road Rising at Chicago Temple, 77 W. Washington St. Christine Bunuan invites audiences to share songs and stories from her Catholic-Jewish background that also encompasses a journey from Chicago to the Philippines. (Dec. 1-23; SilkRoadRising.org)

Twist Your Dickens—The Second City and Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St. Rather than seeing a straightforward take on Charles Dickens' ever-popular Christmas tale, laugh along at the third return of this comedy collaboration involving The Second City and the Goodman Theatre. (Dec. 2-30; GoodmanTheatre.org)

Choral concerts:

***Don We Now: 2016**—Windy City Performing Arts at First United Methodist Church at the Chicago Temple, 77 W. Washington St. (5 and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3). The Windy City Gay Chorus and the Windy City Treble Quire ensembles welcome their new artistic director, Dr. Eric Esparza in his first holiday concert for the organization which encompasses Chicago's oldest gay chorus. (WindyCitySings.org)

***Home for the Holidays**—Chicago Gay Men's Chorus at Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph St. (8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2), then at North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie (8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 3), then at Beverly Arts Center, 2407 W. 111th St. (7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 13). Opera singer Cynthia Clarey (*Porgy and Bess* at *Gydebourne*) is the special guest star for this holiday concert featuring songs popularized by pop and classical divas like Mariah Carey, Jessye Norman and Barbra Streisand.

(CGMC.org)

One-night-only events:

***His and His**—Pride Films and Plays at Pride Arts Center, 4139 N. Broadway In honor of World AIDS Day, this concert revue features theater songs sung by gay characters and music by gay composer William Finn, famous for the Broadway musical *Falsettos*. (7:30 p.m. Dec. 1; PrideFilmsAndPlays.com)

***The Butcracker: A Nutcracker Burlesque**—Tom Boi Theatricals and Cuckoo's Theater Project at Uptown Underground, 4707 N. Broadway. Burlesque and "Boylesque" are featured in this eclectic spoof of the classic Tchaikovsky Christmas ballet. (8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 2; UptownUnderground.net)

***SheFest**—Pride Films and Plays at Pride Arts Center, 4139 N. Broadway Expect some holiday themes in this variety show (formerly known as *LezFest*) which features lesbian and genderqueer performers who excel in music, movement, storytelling, standup comedy and more. (7:30 p.m. Dec. 1; PrideFilmsAndPlays.com)

***UNWRAPPED: The XXXmas Cabaret**—Pride Films and Plays at Pride Arts Center, 4139 N. Broadway Honey West is the host for this holiday revue featuring the Sinzation Dancers, GayCo, Boylesque and more. (7:30 p.m. Dec. 1; PrideFilmsAndPlays.com)

***Songs From My Holiday Closet**—Uptown Underground, 4707 N. Broadway. Gay singer-songwriter L.T. Cousineau returns with a holiday revue featuring music by Patrick Sinozich, Jake Anthony, James Morehead and more. (8 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21; UptownUnderground.net)

Theater editor's note: The author of this piece previously performed with Windy City Gay Chorus and is currently on a leave of absence from the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus.

THEATER REVIEW

Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley

Playwright: Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon

At: Northlight Theatre at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie
 Tickets: \$30-\$81
 Runs through: Dec. 18

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

If the thought that crosses your mind upon initially viewing the parlor of Pemberley is “Did British families have Christmas trees in 1815?” or if the news that the Darcys’ Yuletide guests will include an Oxford-educated nerd fascinated by the study of snails makes you think of P.G. Wodehouse’s Gussie Fink-Nottle, you may imagine that you’ve second-guessed the play’s authors, but you will only be half right.

For those unfamiliar with the previous adventures of the humble and eminently marriageable Bennet sisters, as recounted by Jane Austen in 1813, Elizabeth, our hostess, is now wife to the aristocratic Fitzwilliam Darcy, and her sister Jane to the less nobly-born, but just as rich, Charles Bingley. Giddy Lydia’s shotgun-wedded husband flees domesticity at every opportunity, while bookish Mary suffers the scorn and pity meted out to spinsters. Little do they suspect that changing social attitudes loom on the horizon, much as Elizabeth’s Christmas



From left: Jennifer Latimore, Aila Peck, Tosin Morohunfola and Emily Berman in *Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley*. Photo by Charles Osgood Photography

tree—a German holiday decoration never before gracing English homes—heralds a new age of feminine emancipation.

The first act in this two-hour romp is devoted to bibliophile Arthur de Bourgh and bluestocking Mary finding accord in their scholarly pursuits via such reliable Regency romance devices as misdirected letters and meddling siblings. What separates Lauren Gunderson and Margot Melcon’s sequel to *Pride and Prejudice* from commonplace “Mary-Sue” fan fiction, however, is the introduction in the second act of an obstacle arising from Austen’s other preoc-

cupation, money: the recently-deceased Aunt Catherine de Bourgh has provided a substantial inheritance for her much-bullied daughter Anne, but the laws of property ownership mandates the house and grounds reverting to distant cousin Arthur, who is now being pressured to ensure Anne’s residency in her family home by marrying her.

Lending this reboot its accessibility to audiences in 2016 (who are advised to consult their Sparks notes before entering the theater for maximum enjoyment of the literary references) is Gunderson and Melcon’s decision to base the

dramatic question, not in whether a solution can be found for the befuddled savants, but whether they can summon up the courage to execute the options open to them. An ensemble of verbally agile actors led by Emily Berman and Erik Hellman as the bibliophilic sweethearts, under the direction of Jessica Thebus, swap repartee with an engaging warmth ascertaining our emotional investment right up to the moment when all discontent—even that afflicting the undeserving—is brought to a happy conclusion.

THEATER REVIEW

The Fundamentals

Playwright: Erika Sheffer

At: Steppenwolf Theatre, 1650 N. Halsted St.

Tickets: \$20-\$89

Runs through: Dec. 23

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The speechwriters for the recent election got it wrong. The people of whom we should beware are not those with nothing to lose, but those with just a little to lose—and that little is *all* they have.

The employees of this high-end Manhattan hotel are hardly destitute. They draw steady, if minimal, wages, for fixed hours in a location

near their homes—Abe for 30 years, Millie for nine. The forced affability associated with service jobs inevitably grows stressful, however, leading the afflicted to engage in petty rebellions—falsifying time-sheets, scavenging bulk supplies, sometimes outright thievery. This misbehavior is usually tolerated by management until such time as reductions in staff personnel precipitate a crisis where survival often requires sacrificing your comrades.

This dynamic is not restricted to the hospitality industry, of course. Swap Millie and her co-workers’ polyester uniforms for aprons and you have *My Mañana Comes* (produced last year by Teatro Vista). Dress them in suits and you have *The Belmont Avenue Social Club* or virtually any play by David Mamet. Place crowns on their heads and you have Shakespeare’s trag-

edies. Erika Sheffer’s universe is that of grit-scraping livelihoods engendered by the widely disparate distribution of wealth in this or any country, where the prospect of pushing others out of the lifeboat in order to avoid perishing, yourself, becomes increasingly acceptable. You may deplore the actions of the woman forced to abandon her education for the responsibilities of motherhood—contraception being nonexistent in North American drama, even in 2016—but what would YOU do, in her place? Do you know? Have you ever thought about it?

Yasen Peyankov, no stranger to the politics of immigrant communities, directs a cast wholly committed to the dignity of their personae, never for an instant engaging in gratuitous drollery at the expense of characters walking an economic tightrope with no safety net for

themselves or their dependent kin. (An exception is Stellan, whose Nordic complexion and lucrative family connections enable her to wriggle out of tight spots.) Navigating this inhumane labyrinth is Alana Arenas, who ensures our awareness of every small step in Millie’s capitulation to a system rooted in exploitative expedience.

Theater audiences accustomed to deriving their entertainment through fantasies of the rich and powerful may find themselves confronted in the future by an expanding number of plays ennobling the humble laborers too long shunned by a society boasting of its egalitarian principles. Even if you don’t subscribe to the WPA-mural view of our nation’s populace, you ignore them at your own peril.

THEATER REVIEW

Electra

Playwright: Sophocles, translated by Nicholas Rudall

At: Court Theatre, 5535 S. Ellis Ave.

Tickets: 773-753-4472;

CourtTheatre.org; \$48-\$68

Runs through: Dec. 11

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Two citizens meet in ancient Athens. “So who will win the playwriting prize at the City Dionysia?” asks the first. “My heart’s with Euripides,” his friend replies, “but smart money is on Sophocles.” “Oh, no!” exclaims the first, “Not Sophocles again!”

In a long life (496-406 BCE) and brilliant career (general, statesman and composer/poet), Sophocles won more prizes than anyone, and he competed against both the older Aeschylus and the younger Euripides. Some say Sophocles is not as philosophical as Aeschylus nor as psychologically complex as Euripides, but his work has theatrical directness and forward motion that rival plays don’t possess. Call it the popular touch, but it’s why Sophocles’ seven surviving plays (out of 120 he may have written) are performed more often than all other surviving Greek tragedies.

It’s apparent in *Electra*, a late-career Sopho-



Enjoy Gavino and Kate Fry in *Electra*.

Photo by Michael Brosilow

cles work offered in a wonderful new translation by masterful Nicholas Rudall, who makes the English text rich in image but vigorous in language. He’s made *Electra* neither too long (90 minutes) nor too modern, retaining the chorus (albeit reduced in size) and its traditional role as observer and commentator. Even more agreeably, he and director Seret Scott preserve the musical element of Greek tragedy, so often completely missing in modern versions. At Court Theatre, the Chorus and *Electra* chant portions of the text and perform choreography (by Tracy Walsh) as they would have in 5th Century BCE Athens. Andre Pluess presumably is the composer, although only

credited with Sound Design.

The story is drawn from mythology and already would have been known to the play’s first audiences. It focuses on the messy aftermath of the Trojan War during which Agamemnon, the top Greek general, sacrificed his own daughter to insure victory. Returning home, he was murdered by his wife, Clytemnestra, in vengeance for the daughter (and so she could marry her lover, Aegisthus). Now, years later, Agamemnon’s surviving daughter and son, *Electra* and Orestes, claim justice by murdering Clytemnestra (beautiful, icy Sandra Marquez in a striking blue gown by Jacqueline Firkins) and Aegisthus (Michael Pogue). The gods approve eventually, but that’s another play.

The heart and soul of *Electra* is the recognition scene, in which Orestes (Thomas J. Cox) returns after years in exile, and reveals himself to *Electra* (Kate Fry), who has endured a wretched life as her mother’s near-prisoner. She overflows with joy and becomes a girl again in a remarkable and passionate moment which Fry and Cox make profoundly moving.

The scenic design (Scott Davis) is a plantation mansion with numerous louvered doors and kudzu. It’s rather Tennessee Williams at first, but quickly becomes the traditional Greek palace hiding secrets behind closed doors, a vital part of this vivid production.

CRITICS' PICKS



Crazy for You, Drury Lane Theatre, Oakbrook Terrace, through Jan. 8. The Gershwin brothers’ showtunes once lifted spirits during the Great Depression. These songs are once again put to expert and escapist use for anyone still suffering post-election blues in this solid revival. SCM

King Charles III, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, through Jan. 15. Michael Bartlett speculates on the future of the U.K.—occasionally sampling from Shakespeare—with compassion, eloquence and impeccable iambic pentameter. MSB

La Gringa, Urban Theater at Batey Urbano, through Dec. 11. A New York City-raised Latina visits relatives in Puerto Rico and finds her place in the universe in this warm-hearted family comedy celebrating the 20th anniversary of its off-Broadway run. MSB

The Last Wife, TimeLine Theatre, through Dec. 18. Big, meaty-but-intelligent performances drive playwright Kate Henning’s tale of a woman’s survival and power in a man’s world, ostensibly about King Henry VIII and Catherine Parr, the only one of Henry’s wives to survive, but very much a modern work. JA

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan



UBER

Ride together

Get a reliable ride in minutes with
the Uber app

Sign up with the code **WINDYCITYTIMES** at [Uber.com/app](https://uber.com/app) for a FREE ride.

First-time riders only. Up to \$20. Expires 12/31/16.

Deeply Rooted concerts Dec. 3-4

Deeply Rooted Dance Theater will stage its 20th-anniversary kickoff concerts Saturday, Dec. 3 (7:30 p.m.) and Sunday, Dec. 4 (2 p.m.) at the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts, 915 E. 60th St.

Deeply Rooted will feature two world premieres: *When Men*, which explores the idea of abandoning stigmas to strengthen from within, choreographed by Joshua L. Ishmon, with music by Ananda Giri and Paolo Nutini and text by Charlie Chaplin; and *Femme*, which celebrates the allure, courage, strength and beauty of women, choreographed by Nicole Clarke-Springer, with music by Nina Simone.

Tickets are \$45-\$55; visit DRDT20years.bpt.me or DeeplyRootedProductions.org.

'SheFest' Dec. 12

Pride Films and Plays will host SheFest at The Broadway, 4139 N. Broadway, on Monday, Dec. 12, at 7:30 p.m.

SheFest is a one-night variety show which celebrates queer, female-identified artists through music, movement, spoken word, storytelling, and stand-up comedy. It is co-produced by PFP company members Carolyn Reynolds and Kenzie Seibert, with Tess Guilfoile directing.

Tickets are \$10-\$15; call 800-737-0984 or visit PrideFilmsAndPlays.com.



Laura Michelle Kelly in *Finding Neverland*. Photo by Carol Rosegg

CULTURE CLUB



EAST TEXAS
HOT LINKS

WRITTEN BY EUGENE LEE
DIRECTED BY RON OJ PARSON

NOW PLAYING

847-242-6000 | WRITERSTHEATRE.ORG

20 YEARS
WT
WRITERS
THEATRE

Hell in a Handbag Productions presents the world premiere of

THE RIP NELSON HOLIDAY Spectacular

by David Cerda

Mary's **Autistic**

Nov. 20 - Dec. 30.
6:30pm & 7:30pm
Tickets: \$16 - \$30
VIP Reserved seats available
5400 N. Clark St.

Directed by **Steve Love**
Tickets available at brownpapertickets.com

BROWN PAPER TICKETS
or call 1-800-838-3006

www.handbagproductions.org

Fabulous Play. Breathtaking Stay.

Come see *La Cage Aux Folles*, the musical that inspired the film *The Birdcage*, at Skylight Music Theatre in Milwaukee's Third Ward, and stay at the beautiful new Kimpton Journeyman Hotel, just one block away.



A wonderful getaway for two for just \$289! (plus tax)

Call the Skylight Music Theatre Box Office at 414-291-7800 and mention the La Cage/Kimpton getaway package.

La Cage Aux Folles
(The Birdcage)



Costumes by
Project Runway's
Chris March
My Fair Lady (2015)

This special offer applies only to Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday performances/overnight stays now through December 23, 2016*.

After you choose your performance and arrange your tickets, you will receive an email confirmation for your room reservation from the Kimpton Journeyman.

*Tickets and rooms subject to availability. Not valid on previously purchased tickets. Some restrictions apply. Hotel occupancy and state taxes not included.

THEATER REVIEW

Finding Neverland

Music and lyrics by:
Gary Barlow & Eliot Kennedy
Book by James Graham
At: Cadillac Palace Theater,
151 W. Randolph St.
Tickets: 800-775-2000;
BroadwayinChicago.com; \$27-123
Runs through: Dec 4

BY ERIC KARAS

Finding Neverland, the Broadway musical tour, has landed in Chicago. It's based on the movie and play about author J.M. Barrie and the family that inspired the classic *Peter Pan*.

J.M. Barrie is tasked by theater owner Charles Frohman (Tom Hewitt) to write a new hit play. Barrie meets Sylvia Llewelyn Davies (Christine Dwyer) and her children in the park. One of her children, Peter (Ben Krieger), is saddened by his father's death and not participating in his brother's playtime. Barrie shows Peter through his stories that he should embrace imagination. Once Barrie writes *Peter Pan*, the actors in the theater company struggle to find their own imaginations. However, everyone does, more tragedy happens and *Peter Pan* is created for the world.

It starts out in a London park where the residents sing "Welcome to London." Musicals opening with a production number are nothing new, but this one has the residents all hopping up and down in a weird affected manner. The song does nothing for the story except set up the fact that this is going to be a night of very broad performances. It goes from Londoners hopping around to servants marching around. These people almost always leave the stage with their head popping back with their

body moving forward like a cartoon. From the way the servants, dinner guests, actors and residents act, it's clear that the creators think that every man in London is foppish and gay—which is amusing, yet mildly offensive.

When the commotion stops and Kevin Kern, who plays J.M. Barrie, steps up to sing "My Imagination," the show finds its soul. He has a very nice singing voice and was at his best in solos or duets, but he sort of got lost in some of the bigger numbers; also, his English accent could be more consistent. Christine Dwyer, as Sylvia, also has a really good singing voice, as highlighted in her solos. When they have their big romantic song together, however, the song "What You Mean To Me" isn't as magical as it should be and falls flat.

The score and book of this musical are all over the place, with musical numbers and moments that just come out of nowhere, from the weird dinner-party scene where the kids and servants misbehave to the even stranger dark "Circus of Your Mind," which combines a dark imagery with bad song lyrics. Then the show hits its climax as Barrie creates/discovers Captain Hook (a transformed Hewitt). Unfortunately, Hewitt isn't very strong as Captain Hook and that falls flat as well. The sets are mostly highlighted projections that may amuse kids but made me long for real sets.

As for the other performances, the top fop, as it were, was Dwelwyn David (Mr. Henshaw), a flamboyant actor upset at his role in *Peter Pan*. He is very funny and a crowd-pleaser. If I cast this show, he would be Charles Frohman/Captain Hook because he has the stage presence for it. The kids are all wonderful in the show, especially Ben Krieger as Peter.

Overall, this isn't a great Broadway musical and, although kids might be amused at the projections, its serious themes will be lost on them. All this show does is make you long for a good production of *Peter Pan*. I'm ready for Finding Neverland to walk the plank.



SPOTLIGHT

Take a comically macabre journey through the more than 70 onstage and often gruesome deaths in William Shakespeare's complete works with **The Complete Deaths**. Created by the comic troupe Spymonkey based out of Brighton in the United Kingdom, *The Complete Deaths* finds humor in poisonings, stabbings and even cannibalism. The *Complete Deaths* continues through Sunday, Dec. 11, upstairs at Chicago Shakespeare Theater, 800 E. Grand Ave. Tickets are \$48 to \$58; call 312-595-5600 or visit ChicagoShakes.com.

Spymonkey's tour of *The Complete Deaths* plays Chicago Shakespeare Theater at Navy Pier. Photo by Ludovic des Cognets



NUNN ON ONE: THEATER

Tom Hewitt hooks into 'Finding Neverland'

BY JERRY NUNN

Inspired by the 2004 movie, *Finding Neverland* has now been made into a musical Broadway show. After closing this past August in New York, the production is now traveling and making its way to the Windy City.

The story centers around Scottish writer J.M. Barrie, his relationship with Sylvia Llewelyn Davies, and her four sons. This serves as the inspiration behind the play *Peter Pan*, or *The Boy Who Never Grew Up*.

Tom Hewitt plays Charles Frohman/Captain Hook in *Finding Neverland*. This talented performer has been in many musicals, including *The Lion King*, *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Amazing Grace*.

Windy City Times: It's The Tom and Jerry Show today!

Tom Hewitt: That's fantastic. I have a giant sledgehammer in my hand right now!

WCT: The cat was the mean one, so I will have to watch out for you. So you were originally from Montana?

TH: Western Montana—a little town called Victor that's just south of Missoula, near the Idaho border.

WCT: How was growing up there?

TH: Kind of miserable was my memory. Of course, as an adult, I just wanted to make two movies, buy a log home and move back there.

It was fantastic working there because I was big fish in a sparsely populated state! I got good experience when in high school. I worked with the Virginia City Players in Montana. We would do turn of the century theater followed by vivacious variety acts.

I also worked with Montana Shakespeare in the Park, which would travel around to small cities in Montana. That was freaking awesome. My parents were astonishingly supportive of me and my career.

WCT: You graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee?

TH: Yes. I was the first group in an actor training program with a classical emphasis. We got a lot of attention with a lot of guest directors. Regional theater was in demand and they performed one or two Shakespeare shows a year. They needed someone to do that so I got in at the end of that whole phenomenon.

WCT: Have you spent much time in Chicago?

TH: It was about two years ago that we opened the musical *Amazing Grace* there. I have also been through Chicago many times on tours.

WCT: I liked *Amazing Grace*.

TH: There was a lot of great things in it. Chicago audiences really liked it, too.

WCT: How flamboyant do you go with the character of Hook in *Finding Neverland*?

TH: I played Captain Hook with Cathy Rigby, but this Hook is a little different. This one has a facet of J.M. Barrie's personality that manifests itself to encourage Barrie to explore his darker side. He has to pirate up and have the courage of his own convictions to write his own story.

This Captain Hook is probably more Keith Richards and the other one was more Jo Anne Worley!

WCT: So any LGBT content in the show?

TH: There is a joke about fairies in the theater. It's a show stopper. It is a show about a show so there are lots of theatrical types in the show. It is about an acting company so you can imagine.

WCT: Who is Charles Frohman?

TH: He is a very interesting character. It is all sort of fact-based. Charles Frohman was a producer and historically a very big deal. He had a monopoly on venues and contracts all across America and Europe. At the time he was leasing the Prince of Wales Theatre in England. He produced *Finding Neverland* and several of J.M. Barrie's plays. He brought *Peter Pan* and *Oscar Wilde* over to the United States.

Interestingly enough, he died on the Lusitania while traveling back to help Barrie produce a show.

WCT: The songs in *Finding Neverland* are really good. They made a soundtrack with big-name artists like Ellie Goulding singing on it.

TH: Yeah, and it is unapologetic British pop. It is amazing how well it serves the feeling and the context of the piece. It is infectious. I play it around the house.

WCT: Did you see the Broadway version of *Finding Neverland*?

TH: I did. I didn't see Kelsey Grammer play my part. I am glad though because he is such a distinct personality. When listening to the soundtrack you really associate him with that role. It was nice to see another actor in the role and realize it is not Kelsey dependent!

WCT: Did you see the new version of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*?

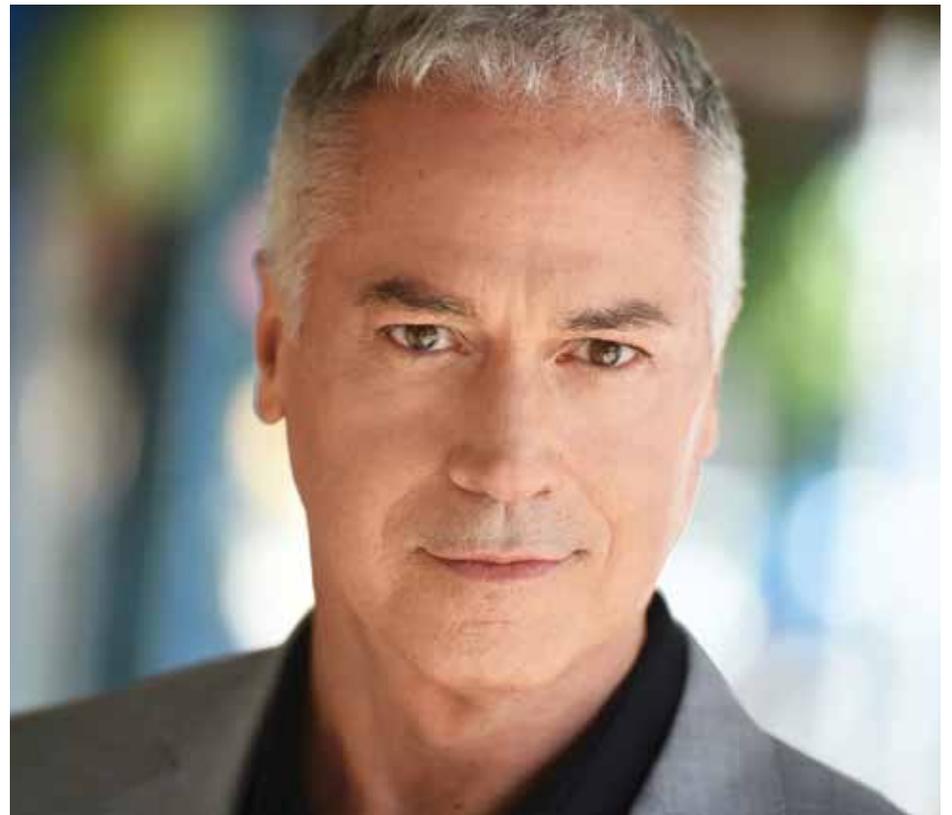
TH: I was on the road and was not able to watch it. I was bummed out about it.

WCT: The YouTube video of your Tony nominated role of Frank-N-Furter is still out there.

TH: I watched it not long ago. It has been 16 years now. It has been long enough that I can divorce myself of any judgment. I look at it and go, "The audacity of me!" That was such a crazy and fun time!

WCT: Talk about when you were on *All My Children*.

TH: Well, I was a district attorney—and there are many in that world. I was one for about two years off and on. That meant I would have



Tom Hewitt.
PR photo

to show up every two months and do a really stressful courtroom scene. It was a courtroom filled with extras and Susan Lucci. I would have to spout legal jargon. I had to refer to names and events where I had no idea what I was talking about. I had only one take to get it right.

WCT: Sounds like a nightmare.

TH: It was.

WCT: Well, at least you got to be with Susan Lucci.

TH: Yes, and Tonya Pinkins was on the show also at the same time. There was a hint that

we might have a romance but that never came to fruition.

WCT: Any plans after the tour?

TH: Home accordion repair maybe? [Laughs] My partner and I just renovated our house in Putnam Lake, New York, about 60 miles north of Manhattan. I look forward to hanging out with him in our beautiful little house that this tour is now paying for!

Finding Neverland flies high in Chicago now through Dec. 4 at the Cadillac Palace Theatre, 151 W. Randolph St. For ticket information, visit BroadwayInChicago.com.

“★★★★★
UNSTOPPABLY ENTERTAINING”
—THE TIMES (UK)

“GALVANIZING AND ASTONISHING”
—TIME OUT NEW YORK

KING CHARLES III

WRITTEN BY MIKE BARTLETT
DIRECTED BY GARY GRIFFIN

CHARLES. CAMILLA. WILLIAM. KATE. HARRY.
ONE FAMILY HOLDS THE FUTURE OF GREAT BRITAIN IN ITS HANDS. BUT WHAT WILL IT BE?

2015 OLIVIER AWARD: BEST NEW PLAY
NOW PLAYING

30th Chicago Shakespeare Theater
on navy pier theater

312.595.5600
chicagoshakes.com

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus Presents

HOME FOR THE

Solidivas

Friday, December 2nd
8:00pm - Harris Theater

Saturday, December 3rd
8:00pm - North Shore Center

Tuesday, December 13th
7:30pm - Beverly Arts Center

tickets: www.cgmc.org/wct

GMC WINDY CITY TIMES

NUNN ON ONE

Swingin' with Jane Lynch

Jane Lynch.
PR image

BY JERRY NUNN

Actress Jane Lynch returned to her roots in Illinois to accept a Lifetime Achievement Award for outstanding contribution to comedy. She appeared at Second City to discuss her accomplishments at the opening reception for the Chicago Comedy Film Festival.

What a career the Evergreen Park native has had. After graduating from Illinois State University, she spent 15 years at the Steppenwolf Theatre Company. She joined Second City and landed a part playing Carol Brady in Annoyance Theater's The Real Live Brady Bunch.

The out actress became a regular on Christopher Guest's movies, including Best in Show, A Mighty Wind, For Your Consideration and, most recently, in Mascots.

Glee made her a household name, as she played Sue Sylvester on the hit television show. Lynch then took on Broadway with Annie and now hosts NBC's Hollywood Game Night, currently in its fifth season this fall. Her most recent project is the CD A Swingin' Little Christmas!, which has her collaborating with Kate Flannery and Tim Davis.

Windy City Times: What brings you into town?

Jane Lynch: I did a short film with writer Carol Leifer called *Writer's Block*. It was selected for the Chicago Comedy Festival. It turns out I am getting a Lifetime Achievement Award. I just had a Q&A with the Second City kids.

WCT: What is the plot of *Writer's Block*?

JL: It is the story of a pop song writer, kind of like Diane Warren. She is very popular and very successful. She suddenly loses her mojo and has writer's block. It is a short so it gets kind of weird. She becomes inspired by a bird that is whistling a tune. The bird keeps coming up with beautiful melodies. She builds a house for the bird where it stays.

Everyone is loving her music and she is selling records. Then the bird flies away...

WCT: Oh, no!

JL: Yes, and she gets writer's block again. Barbra Streisand wants a song and it's not good. I couldn't find the bird! I was agonizing over it, sitting on my beautiful wrap around porch, and I hear, "Ribbit." A person calls and says, "You know what? A young Barry White needs a song!"

WCT: Talk about your new holiday album.

JL: It's called *A Swingin' Little Christmas!* It is 15 songs with 10 that you will recognize; five were written by Tony Guerrero, he is the band leader of The Tony Guerrero Quintet. Kate Flannery, she played Meredith the drunk on *The Office*, sings with me, and also this guy named Tim Davis, he was the vocal arranger on *Glee*. We had been performing in this great cabaret show that we loved doing with tight three part harmonies. We decided in April to do a Christ-

mas album. We created the label, hired the studio, the mixers, and a promotional person. We did it all ourselves.

WCT: Is it campy?

JL: No. It is straight on. There are a couple of funny songs, but musically it is gorgeous. It is like studio singers from the '50s.

WCT: That's why you are wearing that dress on the cover.

JL: Exactly. Here let me play you a little... [sings] "Let's have a party."

WCT: That is fun. What are you doing for the holidays?

JL: I will come back here. I will be here for about four days. I will be hanging out with my sister and friends in La Grange.



WCT: Is Christmas your favorite holiday?

JL: It was. In my adult years I almost didn't like it. I like Christmas music but I get overwhelmed at that time of year. It is too commercial. I usually don't listen to music until I am home for the holidays.

Now I have my own album and I am listening to it all the time! [Laughs] I am in love with Christmas all over again.

WCT: I saw the tour schedule that has you performing in California.

JL: Yes; we are doing *The Nikko*—that is Michael Feinstein's place—then we will be at Largo at the Coronet in LA.

WCT: Why not perform in Chicago?

JL: We were offered the Lyric Opera. It turns around for a smaller stage. We just couldn't get it together where everyone would be here. We just did our cabaret show there in June. It was wonderful. We will do it next year.

WCT: How was reuniting with the gang for *Mascots*?

JL: It was great and a homecoming. It is like creatively jumping off a cliff and knowing everyone is there to catch you. I liken it to keeping a balloon up in the air.

I worked mostly with Ed Begley Jr. I have never worked with him before and we had a blast.

WCT: Did you have a favorite moment from *Glee*?

JL: Working with Carol Burnett. She had called Ryan Murphy and said she wanted to play in his sandbox. I had met her earlier where

she played my mother in a movie called *Post Grad*. This was another chance for her to play my mother again—this time, as a Nazi!

WCT: Was there a time in *Glee* that your character was too mean?

JL: Yes. Ian Brennan wrote all of my lines. He has a dark sense of humor. He would always put something in to see if it would get past Fox. He planted a line where I said, "I am going to the pound to get you a kitty cat. I am going to let you fall in love with it, then one night I am going to steal into your house, and skin that kitty cat alive."

I told him I wouldn't say it. Somehow it got past the censors so he said to add in after "skin that kitty cat alive, then I'm going to punch you in the face!" It made no sense but became one of the most iconic lines ever. People always repeat it back to me.

WCT: Do you own a cat?

JL: Oh, my God—yes. I have had cats and dogs.

WCT: Can you talk about current LGBT rights?

JL: I think we are moving along really nicely. Everything seems to happen on its own accord. Before we had a life that we had to have people fighting for it. People were trying to change hearts and minds. We had marches, go-

'The Trans List' to air Dec. 5

HBO Documentary Films will debut *The Trans List* Monday, Dec. 5, 7-8 p.m. CT, on HBO.

Directed by portrait photographer/filmmaker Timothy Greenfield-Sanders (HBO's *The Black List*, *The Out List* and *The Latino List*, among others) and featuring interviews by Janet Mock, *The Trans List* shines a light on prominent members of the transgender community.

Individuals such as Amos Mac, Kylar Broadus, Buck Angel, Laverne Dox, Caitlyn Jenner and Miss Major Griffin-Gracy share their insights on the fight for equality and their own struggles and accomplishments.

See the trailer at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GJegiwYeX-A&feature=youtu.be>.

Stevie Nicks in Chicago Dec. 3

Grammy-winning icon Stevie Nicks has announced *The 24-Karat Gold Tour*, which began Oct. 25.

The tour will bring Nicks to Chicago's United Center on Saturday, Dec. 3. The Pretenders will be the special guests.

ing all the way back to Stonewall.

Now it has a trajectory of its own, which is melding into the fabric of society in a beautiful way. It is just another flavor. It is a scary time because of the uncertainty. There is no way to predict what a President Trump might do. He is unpredictable because he doesn't function from principle. He is pure gut reaction and emotion. It is usually from a place of ego. So we will see.

I didn't watch his speech, but I heard it was conciliatory. I saw some of the optics. He had his little boy standing next to him falling asleep on his feet. He should have been in bed. Seeing his boy next to him softened him in my heart.

WCT: How is *Hollywood Game Night* going?

JL: Great! We just did 10. We never know if we are going to do more. We are on the bench. They will say all of a sudden, "We are going into production." We do them on weekends—two on a Saturday, two on Sunday—then one on Wednesday. It is a blast. It is even more fun now. I have settled into it in a way that is comfortable and a joy. I'm 60 so I better get it by now!

WCT: Did you think of people like Vicki Lawrence, who did *Win, Lose or Draw*?

JL: Absolutely. I was a fan of those game shows. I loved *Match Game* and *Hollywood Squares*. Remember Brett Somers? Her career was just doing game shows with Charles Nelson Reilly. They would shoot four or five a day and all had booze. They had tumblers where they would drink on their commercial break. They were drunk.

WCT: What are your plans for next year?

JL: I have no plans. To have plans is less of my mission. I'm very happy and content.

WCT: I remember you said to me years ago that you just wanted a seat at the table of actors.

JL: I loved being in ensembles. There was a time when I did *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*, and *Talladega Nights* where I was in terrific comedy ensembles. I then went into *Role Models* and *Party Down*. I would do that over again in a second!

I heard that Starz might be doing *Party Down* marathons. That would be fantastic.

WCT: There could be a little reunion, possibly?

JL: They have been trying to do a movie but everyone's careers have blown up—but maybe one day.

Swing over to JaneLynchOfficial.com for more on Lynch's new holiday project.

Nicks, a multi-platinum selling artist who has been dubbed "the reigning queen of rock and roll" by *Rolling Stone Magazine*, has had six Top 10 albums and eight Grammy nominations. As a member of *Fleetwood Mac*, Nicks recently performed 122 sold-out shows around the world during 2014-2015.

See LiveNation.com.

Leslie Jordan at NEIU on Dec. 8

Emmy-winning actor and comedian Leslie Jordan will perform his stand-up at Northwestern Illinois University on Thursday, Dec. 8, to conclude NEIU Gives Back Week.

The performance, titled "An Afternoon With Leslie Jordan," is scheduled for 3 p.m. in the auditorium on the main campus, 3701 W. Bryn Mawr Ave.

While tickets are free to students, a donation of a nonperishable food item for the Student Pantry is encouraged. Tickets are \$20 for faculty, staff, alumni and the general public. Proceeds will benefit a new scholarship for students who belong to the LGBTQ community.

Jordan's performance will be the conclusion of a giving and philanthropy effort that began on Giving Tuesday, Nov. 29.

See NEIU.edu/about/news/comedian-leslie-jordan-headline-neiu-gives-back-week.

BUSINESS

The story of a suit: A woman's custom tuxedo at Dapper Club

BY LIZ BAUDLER

Amy Silverman wanted a tuxedo. She had a few weddings and charity evenings coming up, and she wanted to look like James Bond. But her dream tuxedo proved elusive.

"I kind of makeshift things from what I can find that will fit me," Silverman said. "Being 5'2," it's nice to be able to go and get something made that fits the way it should. Even when I go and buy stuff from the men's section, I still have to get it tailored because it's too big or it doesn't fit exactly right."

Silverman was willing to go custom-made. She wanted her tux cut like a man's, but met resistance when she'd go to custom fitters. "I've had situations with other businesses in the past where I've went in with a friend of mine who is a guy, we're similar size, and they'll fit him but they won't fit me," she explained.

Enter Ricardo Perez, owner of bespoke clothing store Dapper Club. Perez was inspired to start his business by his own shopping disappointments. "When I used to buy suits off the rack, they didn't fit me properly. I would spend like an extra \$150 on tailoring," said Perez. "At that point, you're spending about \$700 on a suit that wasn't really designed for you, doesn't have any of the personal details that you would want. I wanted to create something that would be a little more affordable for people, where they can personally design their own suits, pick out the details of it, and it's made for their body."

Perez got his passion for dressing well from his mom, who always kept the family dapper. Years of playing trumpet in classical and jazz bands and a hitch in the Marine Corps only made him more style-conscious.

"I've always just taken pride in the way that I look," Perez said. "And more than anything I just wanted to provide a place for people to have a one on one consultation, the luxury experience, the personal touch."

Silverman got Perez's name from one of her friends and stopped in. "She was telling me about an experience she'd had at a different place, and I'm all about ... everyone deserves the same treatment. No one should face discrimination like that," said Perez. "So then I told her, you know what, I'm sorry you experienced that. I'm going to do my best to make sure we're creating the suit that you wanted."

The price impressed Silverman. "Typically, if you go get a custom suit made it's going to cost you between \$1,500 to \$2,500, or even more sometimes. His prices are well below that," she said.

But Perez's attention to detail stood out even more. "He asked specifically how I wanted it to look and if I wanted it to be more of a women's cut, or a men's cut," Silverman said. "He asked me to show him some photos of other tuxes that I liked. We talked through how we could get that look, and how I wanted it to be that look." Silverman said Perez even called his tailors to make sure that it was absolutely clear that a woman named Amy was getting a tuxedo reminiscent of James Bond, and she wanted it to stay that way.

Since he primarily works with men's clothing, Perez recalls being nervous about Amy's tux, but he figured he had the skills. "She wanted a men's suit, so that's why I was definitely willing to try it out," he explained. "I did my best to make sure that she walked out of here looking 100 percent."

There was a little bit of trial and error. "When the tuxedo was done, the pants actually didn't fit her that well," said Perez. "Amy was a little worried about it, and I was like, 'you know, I'm sorry about that, we can definitely make sure it

fits perfectly.' We had the pants redone, and the rest was history. She was pretty happy with it."

Perez didn't see his effort as unusual. Then again, this is a man who takes 20 different measurements of each client and who gets up in the middle of the night to make phone calls to fabric suppliers in Asia. "That's the same kind of interest I put into everyone's suit," he said. "For me, it's like a passion creating the suit, making sure it fits the right way and looks the right way, and I would apply it to everyone. If she walks out of the shop with my tuxedo, it's a representation of our brand. So I wouldn't want her to say, 'eh, it's OK, I'm not really happy about it.'" I take a lot of pride in making sure that everyone who steps out of the shop, they look their best."

But Silverman can't stop raving about her Dapper Club experience. "I've been telling all



Dapper Club owner Ricardo Perez.

Photo courtesy of Perez

of my friends, male, female, whatever, if they're in the market, to go check it out because he definitely goes the extra mile to really do a good job for whatever kind of fashion statement you're trying to make," Silverman said about Perez. "It was really nice to have someone who was open to what I was envisioning. He was so open to it, had never done it before, but was like, hey, if this works, I'd love to do this more often."

Although he himself is straight, Perez wants his relatively young company to cater to everyone. He recently hired a designer to focus on female suits, and already feels that he's open to a variety of bodies and gender expressions. For him, it's not just about the product, it's about educating his clients, no matter who they are, to go forth and pick out suits with or without him.

"We're like the luxury brand that every person deserves," Perez said. "That's our motto right now, and I want to keep it that way. My real passion is making sure that everyone knows how to suit up, how to be dapper, and know all the rules. That goes for men, that goes for women, that goes for everybody."

Dapper Club is at 1252 N. Milwaukee Ave. and DapperClubInc.com.

World of CHOCOLATE

CHICAGO'S PREMIERE WORLD AIDS DAY EVENT



DECADENCE

BENEFITING AIDS FOUNDATION OF CHICAGO

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 6-9PM
REVEL FULTON MARKET

FOR A LIST OF CHOCOLATIERS, TICKETS AND MORE EVENT INFORMATION
AIDSCHICAGO.ORG/CHOCOLATE



AFR Event Furnishings | Bell Litho | Food for Thought Catering | Gilead | Humana | Lady Gregory's Irish Bar & Restaurant
Limelight Catering | MillerCoors | Orbitz | Public Communications Inc. | Wilde Bar & Restaurant | Winebow

MEDIA PARTNERS

A&U Magazine | BestGayChicago.com | ChicagoPride.com | GRAB Magazine | Windy City Media Group

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



Bea Cordelia



David Ferrell



Ashlee Robison



Imani Rupert-Gordon



Jace Smith



Kirk Williamson

The December edition of OUTspoken! LGBTQ storyteller series takes place Tuesday, December 6, at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St. Doors open at 6 pm, stories begin at 7.

See www.outspokenchicago.com for more info.

Bea Cordelia

Bea Cordelia is an award-winning, Chicago-bred writer, solo performer and teaching artist, specializing in issues of gender, sex and sexuality, queerness and the body. Six of her plays have been produced to date and many of her poems and essays published, including the self-published chapbook of poetry, 28.06 // Dear Sylvia. Her autobiographical solo show, Chasing Blue, recently featured in The Brick's inaugural Trans Theatre Festival in Brooklyn. She has been featured at the Goodman Theatre, Victory Gardens Theater, the Green Mill Cocktail Lounge, Links Hall, Salonathon, The Fly Honeys Show, the Chicago Home Theater Festival and many more events and venues throughout Chicagoland.

After winning the Agnes Nixon Playwriting Award for the second consecutive year at Northwestern in 2014, she had the pleasure of meeting Agnes Nixon herself and working as a guest writer on All My Children. Last year, she also wrote an award-winning academic thesis on the intersection of body image and law in the German transgender community, based on original research she conducted in Berlin.

She just finished developing her first-ever multimedia installation in a Chicago Performance Lab residency at The University of Chicago, and was recently made a 2016 Creative Writing Fellow with Luminarts Cultural Foundation.

David Ferrell

David Ferrell is a native of southwest Michigan. Since coming out to his family and friends in the summer of 2012, David has been approached by others asking for advice on the subject. Over the course of this past year, David has been doing just that.

As an LGBTQ author, blogger and advocate, David has been lending his voice across the Midwest at the Kalamazoo Pride Fest; the Southwestern Michigan College LGBTQ and Allies Club; and has volunteered in community service projects with Howard

Brown Health and The Center on Halsted. Recently, David has added first-time author to his list of accomplishments with his newly published book, The Open Closet, based on his popular WordPress blog. He currently lives in Chicago with his partner of four years.

Ashlee Robison

Ashlee Robison is a PhD student in Chemistry at Northwestern University, investigating the ways one can use DNA to control the assembly of nanoscale biomaterials, and in the evenings she moonlights as a queer feminist writer. She has received undergraduate degrees in creative writing, environmental policy and chemistry.

Raised in Montana, she has also lived in Alaska, Idaho, Wyoming, North Carolina and Colorado, before settling in Chicago in 2015. She enjoys reading Stuart Dybek and Cormac McCarthy, listening to Lady Gaga, and drinking mezcal when she's not in the lab.

Imani Rupert-Gordon

For 15 years Imani has worked to advance social justice efforts in higher education in local communities.

Currently, Imani serves as the Executive Director of Affinity Community Services. She also serves on the governing board of United Way of Metropolitan Chicago's United Pride Executive committee and the Illinois State Treasurer's LGBTQ Advisory Council.

Jace Smith

Jace Smith wears many hats. He is a fundraiser by day and manages a college access program for at-risk youth. By night, he is an entrepreneur; he has owned Embrace your fit™ personal training company for 15 years. Jace is also a nutrition coach who loves seeing the internal transformation that comes from people taking their health and

well-being to the next level. Jace co-hosts The Life Lab, Mega Minds Building Mega Bodies radio show. His show airs bi-weekly and focuses on empowering listeners to experiment with their own power and find their individual path to achieving greatness.

In his free time he is a complete gym rat and is a guitarist/vocalist that composes music that can fit into many genres. Jace loves to cook, bust a move on the dance floor and he prides himself as a connector and resource for many communities. He has served in various capacities for some of Chicago's largest LGBTQ organizations. Jace believes that by being of service to others, he can increase his reach and impact the lives of members of the most vulnerable communities.

Kirk Williamson

Kirk Williamson is the art director for Windy City Times and served as editor of Nightspots Magazine, starting in 2004. During his editorship, he strived hard to achieve the most comprehensive coverage in town of Chicago's LGBTQ nightlife scene, always with twisted humor and a real focus on the individuals who make this community so great. He is well-known in the bar scene for his photography and his column, "That Guy," which was a shortened version of "Hey, You're That Guy From the Magazine," a phrase he heard all too often.

While you won't find Kirk out at the bars that often anymore, you may see him hosting local trivia nights as KWizmaster Kirk Williamson, pursuing his passion for vintage resale as owner of his brand-new venture, When Vintage, hiking the many trails of Illinois' state parks or doggedly conducting genealogical research and forming bonds with distant family all over the globe.

Kirk graduated from Beloit College with a Bachelor's in Russian language, which, at this point, amounts to fun anecdote at parties for which he will be repaying student loans well into his 50s.

HARRIS THEATER
PRESENTS

"...one of the most
acclaimed opera
singers of her
generation..." – NPR

Joyce DiDonato
In War & Peace:
Harmony Through Music

December 9 / 7:30PM

Use code Gen40 for 40% off tickets!

HARRIS THEATER
MILLENNIUM PARK

312.334.7777 | HarrisTheaterChicago.org
205 East Randolph Drive



IRVING HARRIS
FOUNDATION

Irving Harris Foundation, Joan W. Harris
Lead Sponsor



NORTHERN TRUST

Season Sponsor

UNITED



Official Airline
of the Harris Theater



WINDY CITY TIMES
**2016 HOLIDAY
 GIFT GUIDE**

week one of two

Book it

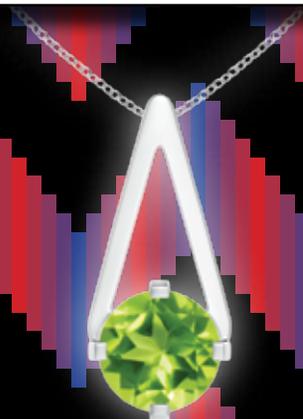
Jared Milrad and Nathan Johnson—the history-making same-sex couple featured in Hillary Clinton’s viral presidential campaign commercials (“Getting Started,” “Equal”)—have co-written *So, You Want to Get (Gay) Married*. For those thinking of getting hitched, this funny book may be the key in retaining your sanity.



By Jared Milrad & Nathan Johnson

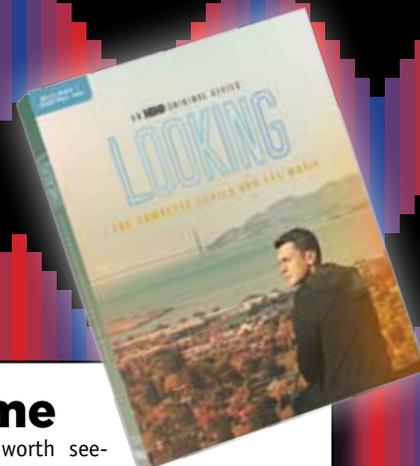
De-pendant

Angara (Angara.com) considers itself the gemstone destination. (In fact, it has the phrase on its website.) But it’s hard to argue with the designation—especially when you see the range of sparkling rings, necklaces, etc., that works for almost every budget. And I love the fact that Angara handles a lot more than just diamonds, including black onyx and citrine items.



Show time

Here’s something worth seeing—actually, here are two things worth seeing. Courtesy of **HBO** (HBO.com), there’s the complete series *Looking* as well as the movie bundled into one package. (For those who don’t know, *Looking* was about three gay men in San Francisco and their adventures, romantic and otherwise). Or, people can check out *Game of Thrones: The Complete Sixth Season*—and see Jon Snow in his glory. (I didn’t reveal anything, did I?)



‘Picture it—Sicily...’

Practically everyone loved the show *Golden Girls*—so who wouldn’t want the **Funko Golden Girls POP TV Action Figure Collectors Set** (Amazon.com)? The Sophia, Blanche, Dorothy and Rose figures are about four inches tall each, and each one is individually packaged. It’s the perfect way to thank someone for being your friend.



Seeing the light

The 125 Collection (The125Collection.com) has created adorable minis of its full-sized natural soy candles. The travel-sized candles are made from the highest quality oils, and their scents are designed to engulf your surrounding with endless hours of amazing smelling fragrance. In addition, they come with fun messages such as "Namastay in Bed."



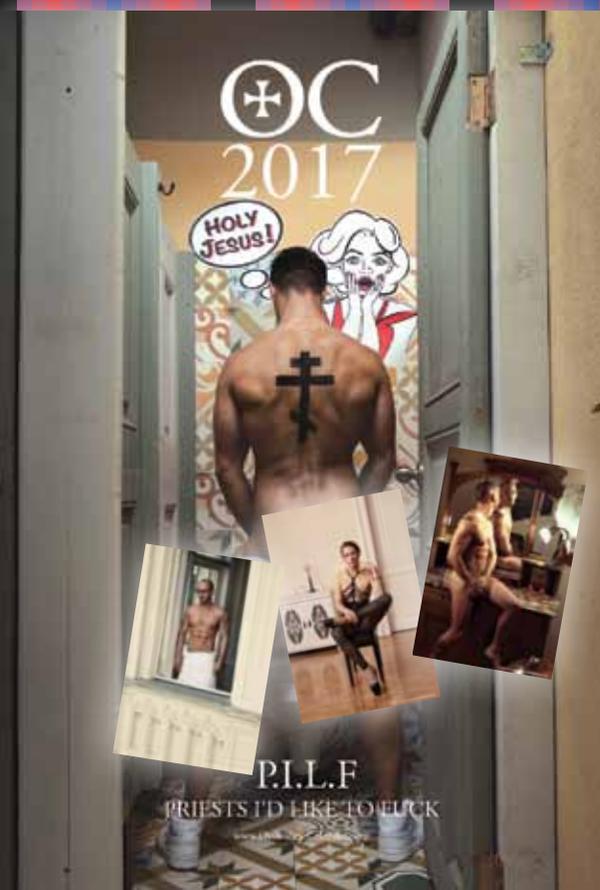
(Love)pop life

Lovepop Cards (LovepopCards.com) capitalizes on something many people (including myself) loved as children: pop-up books. There are cards for all sorts of occasions and that feature many themes (including LGBT, holidays and even boats).



Shady behavior

I didn't realize the wide variety of items Jonathan Adler (JonathanAdler.com) sells until I discovered the website. He offers everything from pottery to lighting (those sconces!) to the very cool, aviator-like Mustique sunglasses. Moreover, you can even customize the goodies here.



It's a date

You have to admit: It's an eye-popping way to fight homophobia. The 2017 Orthodox Calendar (Orthodox-Calendar.com) has featured nude and semi-nude photographs of members of the Orthodox Church to protest church hypocrisy. And trust me: You might not even make it past July.

Oh, Henry

York Athletics (YorkAthleticsMfg.com) has some really cool wear for athletes and even the weekend warriors. I'm a fan of the Henry sneakers, but there are also T-shirts, socks and duffel bags. (Also: The sites offers free shipping.)



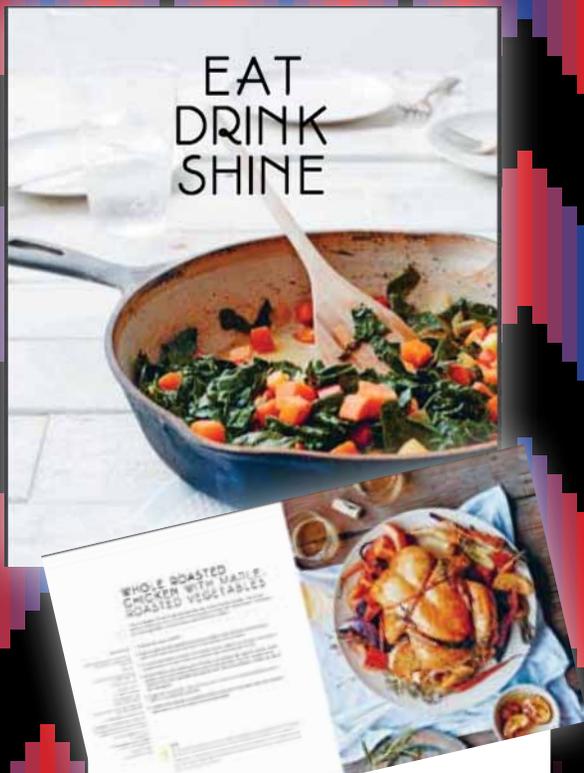


Best foot forward

Foot Cardigan (FootCardigan.com) lets you put your favorite city on your tootsies. The Mytropolis collection is perfect whether you hail from Sydney, New Orleans or, of course, Chicago (adorned with that culinary staple, the hot dog).

It's a wrap

Glass sculptor Dale Chihuly's works are known all over the world. Now, he's responsible for **Chihuly decorative paper** (ChihulyWorkshop.com/chihuly-pure-imagination-decorative-paper-book.html). Photos of 12 glass details reveal the artist's attention to colors and patterns. They really are stunning.



To your health

Triplets Jessica, Jill and Jennifer Emich have put forth **Eat, Drink, Shine** (ShineBoulder.com/our-bookbook-eat-drink-shine/)—a guide for conscientious eaters. The book offers more than 80 recipes covering breakfast, starters, mains and sweets. Recipes include poached eggs with avocado hollandaise, seared pork chops with braised cabbage and fennel, radish chips with arugula sunflower pesto, and banana chocolate mousse. Yum!



Eli, Eli—oh!

Eli's Cheesecake (EliCheesecake.com) has been pleasing people for decades. But now it's offering two new desserts for the holiday season: Salted Caramel Halvah Cheesecake and a Limited Edition Chocolate Banana Cheesecake, a collaboration with Chicago-based Wild Ophelia. Now you have two additional (and delicious) reasons to hit the treadmill.

Right collar

The **Nuzzle smart collar** (HelloNuzzle.com) is perfect for that dog or cat owner. Nuzzle is a GPS-enabled tracker and activity monitor that ensures pet owners will never have to post another missing pet flyer again by sending location updates directly to the companion Nuzzle app (compatible on iOS and Android). It even has temperature monitoring and geofencing capabilities—and that's probably the first time I've used the word "geofencing."





Simply the VEST

In this age of technology, it's a very good thing that there's such a company as **SCOTTeVEST** (Scottevest.com), which manufactures clothing with specially engineered pockets that keep your gear close to you. Among the items available to everyone are performance polos, sport coats, TEC shirts and, yes, travel boxers.



The swing of things

You may not like/appreciate golf, but odds are you know someone who does, and that person will adore this gift. **Varick golf balls** (StartingTimeGolf.com) are high-performance, metallic and neon-patterned—and will certainly turn heads on the golf course. Talk about your rainbow conneciton (or collection, for that matter).

Hello, Starling

The Starling Project (StarlingProject.org) provides a twofold benefit. First, the candles that are sold are very pleasant-smelling blends of soy-based wax and oil-based fragrances—and it lasts 60 hours. In addition, the sale of each candle provides solar energy (which offers access to electricity, clean water, safety, health, education and more) to under-resourced countries globally via the support of key philanthropic organizations such as UNICEF.



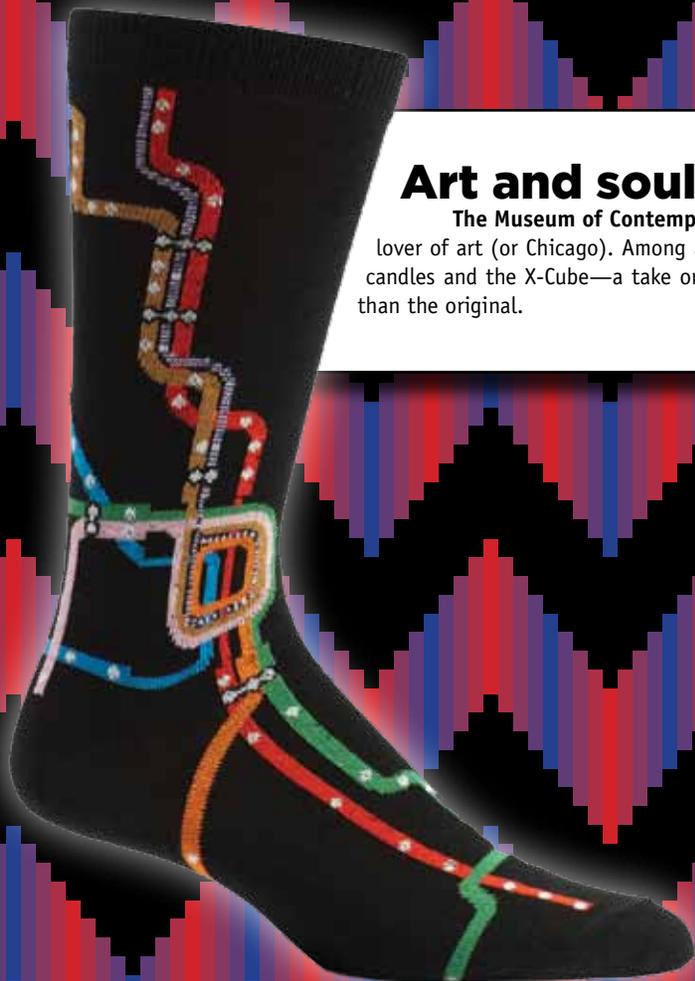
Southern comfort

Nashville-based **High Note Gifts** (HighNote-Gifts.com) offers modern-themed gift items for the foodie on your list. For example, the Chocolate Gift Box includes milk chocolate-covered marshmallow, an Olive and Sinclair chocolate bar and GooGoo Clusters, which have to be tasted to be believed. However, the company has a ton of other items, including Biscuits and Jam, Taste of Nashville and Bourbon gift baskets.



Sud finder

Out gay singer Tyler Robinson (who competed on The Voice) and co-owner Preston Tillotson have started **Sudz by Studz** (SudzByStudz.com). The store provides artisan bath and skin-care products that smell really nice—although if you use it while showering, you probably still won't sound as cool as Robinson.



Art and soul

The Museum of Contemporary Art (MCACChicago.org) has some of the coolest gifts you could get your favorite lover of art (or Chicago). Among a few of the offerings are a Chicago skyline pillow, El Train socks, rock 'n' roll votive candles and the X-Cube—a take on the iconic Rubik's Cube that has more than 2 quadrillion times more permutations than the original.

Spa-ha moment

The luxury-destination spa Golden Door (GoldenDoor.com) is nestled within 600 acres of untrammled natural woods, mountains and open space. However, it also offers a wide array of gift items, ranging from travel essentials (like cashmere scarves) to artisan food (including some tasty ginger cookies) to skin-care products.



Bar none

Home Wet Bar (HomeWet-Bar.com) sells beer, drink and wine accessories such as glasses and martini cocktail sets that can be personalized. They also provide information on how to build home beer and liquor bars. A personalized hip flask? I can get behind that gift.

Toffee break

I've always liked (OK, loved) toffee—and Hampshire Toffee (HampshireToffee.com) offers some of the best I've ever had, to be honest. It could be because of this incredible list of ingredients: sweet cream butter, premium Ghirardelli chocolate, California roasted almonds and sea salt. It's an intoxicating combination.



Mission, possible

Mission (Mission.com) is offering something that should be of particular interest in areas with colder climates (ahem, Chicago): The company has a new heating line of accessories and gear—powered by 37.5 Technology—to keep athletes warm and dry. Among the items are high-performance gloves, scarves, headbands, beanies and balaclavas.



MEEM of the crop

MEEM (Amazon.com) offers something that's become practically essential: automatic backup of data every time you charge your Android/iPhone/iPad with no third-party access. What's really intriguing is that you don't need a computer, you never need the Cloud—and you don't pay any fees.



the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

Mama's Boy event; Yoshi's Cafe gala

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Windy City Times recently had the honor of attending two different special events. Thankfully, the one thing in common was that they both featured excellent food.

Mama's Boy Peasant Italian (445 N. Dearborn St.; RosebudRestaurants.com/restaurant/mamas-boy-peasant-italian/) held an event that was big on the goal of achieving exposure via social media (although I don't think the organizers will be upset with publicity being achieved through a publication, either). Guests were invited to use Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to send photos and good words out to the masses—and there was even a Facebook live segment that let guests convey what was happening.

Fortunately, the cuisine at this new Rosebud venture was worth touting. The telegenic Chef Fabio Capparelli explained that the food reflects what he had growing up—and although I adore my



Left: Dessert tray with panettone (with gelato), panna cotta and cannolis at Mama's Boy Peasant Italian. Right: Japanese black cod at Yoshi's Cafe.

Photos by Andrew Davis

own mother's Southern dishes, it would've been cool to stop by the Capparelli household every once in a while.

Dishes included fried calamari, which was merely okay for me. However, the quality definitely improved with the sizeable traditional meatballs (with creamy polenta, marinara, parmesan and basil) as well as Nonna's meatballs (complete with pine nuts, raisings, escarole and beans). We next sampled white and margherita pizza.

What followed were three spectacular pasta dishes—orecchiette alla barese (my favorite), carbonara and gnocchi al pomodoro—and concluded the night with a dessert tray consisting of panna cotta, cannoli and coconut cake (the latter filled with gelato). Get to this restaurant to sample



some top-notch Italian cuisine.

On the other hand, the 34th-anniversary gala of French-Japanese spot **Yoshi's Cafe** (3257 N. Halsted St.; YoshisCafe.com) had culture and warm welcomes as well, although there was certainly a different vibe. Nobuko Katsumura (widow of chef-owner Yoshi Katsumura) welcomed dozens of attendees who were treated to a very special menu that included various appetizers; tuna poke salad; lobster bisque; entrees such as Japanese black cod, roasted quail and wagyu beef shortribs; and pear tart.

However, there was much more at this swanky, yet fun, event. Journalist Laura Washington emceed the festivities, which included words from Ald. Tom Tunney as well as singing and calligraphy.

nightspots the big TO-DO

OUR WEEKLY PICKS TO PLAN
YOUR NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR

ChiGayGo:
A Holiday Kiki

chiGAYgo

Thu., Dec. 1, 10 pm
Laugh Factory Chicago,
3175 N. Broadway

A fabulously funny group of queer comics make the yuletide gay. Featuring Peter Kim, Rachel McCartney, Whitney Chitwood, Eric Lewis-Baker, Erin Diamond and your hostess with the most-est, Scott Duff.

**Master/Slave Class/
Myth Busting**



Fri., Dec. 2, 7-8:30 pm
Leather64TEN, 6410 N. Clark St.

Master Michael has been in a Master/slave relationship for over 13 years and will be hosting a Q/A discussion on what M/s is and isn't, what changes he's seen in the M/s and kink world, and possibly do a bit of myth-busting. Class size limited to 30. \$5 fee. Food and non-alcoholic beverages served.

**Barlesque 9:
Closing Party**



Sat., Dec. 3, 9 pm

Charlie's, 3726 N. Broadway
The official closing party for Barlesque 9. This will be the very last time to donate to your favorite contestant. Raffle prizes from Barlesque sponsors: Leather64Ten, Taboo Tabou, Fireball Whisky, Dr. McGillicuddy's, Victory Garden's Theater and many more.

**Tea in A-ville:
Holiday Tea 3**



Sun., Dec. 4, 4-8 pm

Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St.
Come dance to all your favorite disco, '80s & '90s anthems and diva holiday music by Kylie, Mariah and more. Hosted by Vince Rango, music by Moose and co-hosted by Santa's favorite hardworking elves Chuck Keys and David Reiss.

BARLESQUE 9 EVENTS

TPAN's annual fundraising strip-athon is turning out a revealing series of events.



TOUCHE

Todd hosts a touching
Spanksgiving, Wed., Nov. 23.
Photos by Gerald Cernak



NAUGHTY LITTLE CABARET

Furry burlesque, Sun., Nov. 27.
Photos by Gerald Cernak



CHARLIE'S

No hiding at Alex's Mask4Masq
party, Wed., Nov. 23.
Photos by Jerry Nunn



JACKHAMMER

Fundraising insanity with
Otter Chaos, Sat., Nov. 26.
Photos by Kirk Williamson



"I'm almost positive a certain beloved daytime talk-show host once had me kicked out of a backstage dressing room at the Emmy Awards. I can't prove it, but this person, who has short blonde hair, has a mean streak that all of Hollywood knows about."—Kathy Griffin's clearly afraid to name **Ellen DeGeneres**. But we're not—because we have positive stories about both funny ladies in this week's column.

It was a sad Thanksgiving in the Masters household when we got word that **Florence Henderson** had died only days earlier she appeared on the season finale of *Dancing with the Stars*. Flo was a helluva gal. Actually, she liked to be called a "dame," apropos of her starring role in the 1967 revival of *South Pacific*. In fact, Henderson performed "There Is Nothing Like a Dame" at last year's *Broadway Backwards*, which raised money for *Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS* and the NYC Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center.

Yes, Mrs. Brady was always there for us. I have a plethora of stories that I could share, but my most treasured anecdote is from two years ago after her show at the Catalina Bar & Grill. I told her about a friend who had been a child actor and had fond memories of appearing opposite her in the 1970 musical, "The Song of Norway"—her first film. A week or so later, I ran into Flo at a party. She told me she couldn't stop thinking about my friend and how sweet it was that he still thought about her. She then pointed to my phone and said, "Can you record a video on that thing?" I said, "Yes." She asked me to film her sending a message to my friend. That was Flo. RIP.

Social media was all a-twitter with rumors that **Mike Pence** may have done gay porn in the past. The allegation was accompanied by a photo of a very hot man, indeed. But it's not Pence. The porn pup in question is **Brad Patton**, aka Joel Mangs. First off, Mangs/Patton was born in 1972—Pence hails from the late '50s. Patton ended his porn career with a bang (or a mang) in 2007, and then continued working as a professional ice skater. He's won two gold medals at the Gay Games and two silver medals at the World OutGames. He's also been a member of "Disney on Ice" and appeared on "Dancing on Ice" in the Netherlands.

Time to set the record straight—**Elton John** will not be singing at **Donald Trump's** inauguration. I repeat, Elton John will NOT be singing at Donald Trump's inauguration, despite a claim made by Anthony Scaramucci, a member of Trump's transition team: "This will be the first American president in U.S. history that enters the White House with a pro-gay-rights stance. Elton John is going to be doing our concert on the mall for the inauguration." Really? A mouthpiece for the singer stated, "Elton will not be performing at Trump's inauguration."

A couple months ago, I reported about a married Republican politician in Louisiana who allegedly picked up a kid at a high school luncheon, started sexting with him, met him at his job at the mall food court, brought him a gift of some undies, and then made out with him in the men's room. Does any of that ring a bell? Well, it doesn't with the politician in question. In an interview, **Mike Yenni** claims that much of the story was made up. While he doesn't want to go through it "line by line," he says he never



Tom Ellis plays the devilish Lucifer on the Fox show of the same name.

saw the lad at any high school function. In fact, they first met when they were both a part of a "group text." When asked why he was sending explicit texts to a 17-year-old, he says it was "a stupid decision to send a text to, in my opinion, another consenting adult that we had, we had, we had some off-color texts." When asked if he meant the things he said in the texts, Yenni says, "Probably not, 'cause nothing was acted upon. There was no sex." When asked if he bought the boy underwear, Mike said, "There are fictional elements to this story." When asked if they kissed, Yenni said, "There was no sex. There was no sexual contact." Well, I guess it depends on how you define "sexual contact."

Believe it or not, it's time for Billy's Holiday Gift Giving Suggestions. Let me start by telling all potential vendors that my endorsement can be bought. But until the payola starts rolling in, let's start off with something that should make everyone happy. If you've gotten this far, I'm gonna assume you enjoy reading. Not heavy reading—my fans like reading trash. Something you can breeze through and get a bit of a chuckle out of. If you know someone like-minded, then buy them Kathy Griffin's new best-seller, *Celebrity Run-Ins: My A-Z Index*. It's exactly what you want from Kathy—dish about celebrities. And it's alphabetized! Here's a little tip—if don't like reading, get the audio book! It's available through Audible, or you can go really old-school and buy the CDs—read by the author, naturally!

We can squeeze in a very short "Ask Billy" question. Thomas in Baltimore asks, "What do you know about **Tom Ellis** from 'Lucifer'? He looks so familiar. Or maybe it's just because he's SO hot."

You may remember the handsome Welsh actor from when he played Robin Hood on *Once Upon a Time*. Nope, not the Robin of Sean Maguire. Ellis played the role first, but had to bow out when the character became a regular the following season because he'd been cast in the USA series *Rush*—which was swiftly cancelled. But you're in luck. During our research, we learned that Ellis appeared nude in the British series *The Fades*. And in the spirit of giving, you can check him out on *BillyMasters.com*.

When we can go from Netherlands to nether regions, it's time to end yet another column. With the holiday season upon us, you can get lots of ho, ho, hos at *BillyMasters.com*, the site that would make one helluva stocking stuffer. If you'd like some stuffing personally, send me a note (and a photo) to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Elton and Hillary sing "Don't Go Breaking My Heart" at the inauguration! So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

JOIN THE PARTY! SATURDAY DECEMBER 3

SANTA SPEEDO RUN
BOYSTOWN
at SIDETRACK

STARTING AT NOON
1 MILE RACE AROUND BOYSTOWN 2PM
POST-RUN PARTY WITH AWARDS,
ENTERTAINMENT AND DOOR PRIZES!
HOSTED BY DEBBIE FOX
BENEFITING CENTER ON HALSTED
EVERYONE WELCOME!
#SANTASPEEDO16

Tito's Handmade VODKA

SIDETRACKCHICAGO.COM/SANTASPEEDO FOR REGISTRATION & DONATION INFO.
@SIDETRACKBAR OPEN NOON-3AM

FK
Full Kit Gear

Your favorite gear.
Everyday low prices.

HOLIDAY
OPEN HOUSE.

✓ FOOD ✓ DRINKS ✓ EXCITEMENT

NAUGHTY OR NICE. GET TO OUR CLARK ST. LOCATION
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8TH FROM 6:00 TO 9:00PM.

LEATHER | RUBBER | SPORT | UNDERWEAR | TOYS

FULLKIT.COM 5021 N. CLARK ST. CHICAGO, IL 60640 OPEN 12-9 DAILY

Have you been
Naughty or Nice?

Find all of your naughty gifts
at LEATHER64TEN! Shop in-store or on-line!

LEATHER64TEN CHICAGO 6410 N. CLARK, CHICAGO, IL
773.508.0900 | LEATHER64TEN.COM | @LEATHER64TEN

CMSA Hall of Fame welcomes six in the class of 2016

BY ROSS FORMAN

Leslie Wallin started playing 16-inch softball before some in today's Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA) leagues were even born.

She started in 1987.

And in the early 1990s, she joined the Outlines flag football team.

In 2000, she joined the Diesel Daises, which she tagged as, "a raucous team known for its love of fierce competition mixed with fun."

Wallin has been a coach/player/manager of the Daises for 16 years.

"I am proud of our hearty cheering and costumes worn on such holidays as Halloween, prom day and sundress day," she said.

The Daises were invited to be the only women's team in the Chicago Pride Bowl a few years ago, and won the Spirit Award at that flag football tournament.

The Pride Bowl added a Women's Division this year, and the Daises were participants.

"The Daises have three teams in the CMSA women's softball league, two teams in women's flag football, two teams in women's volleyball, a basketball team, a badminton team, and have had a dodgeball team," Wallin said. "I play on two of our softball teams, flag football, volleyball, and have played basketball in the past."

She also is an umpire for women's softball and a referee for flag football, and was on the softball board for a couple of years.

Wallin also is now a CMSA Hall of Famer, it was announced in October.

Induction into the CMSA Hall of Fame is more than just wins and losses on the fields of play, or championships won. The honor also salutes dedication, preserving history, pride in sports, and building bridges.

"All of the 2016 Hall of Fame inductees have a proven track record of dedication to CMSA," said CMSA president Michael Erwin. "It is not just about playing sports to (the new inductees), but instead, strengthening the organization and preserving its rich history."

"When you talk to this class of inductees, it is clear they love sports and have pride in all they do which includes building bridges to the community through mentoring and volunteer work."

CMSA, in October, announced its newest class: Frank Kisner, Brian Kupersmit, Mark Liberson (sponsor inductee), Mark Sakalares, Brian Sommer and Wallin.

"I am very excited about the 2016 CMSA Hall of Fame class. They all are dedicated to the continuing success of the organization and are true role models for all members," Erwin said. "I encourage all members to seek them out and get to know them. No two of them are the same and they bring a different view of CMSA that should be shared with the membership."

Kupersmit, for instance, is a former CMSA president, who also has years of experience in flag football and Open Sunday Softball, and more.

Kisner has extensive softball experience, and has been the umpire-in-chief for the Open Sunday Softball League for eight years, has pitched in the B-Division and represented CMSA for years in the annual Gay Softball World Series.

Sakalares is a former CMSA board member and he too has years of play on the softball fields, on the golf course, and more.

Sommer has been a CMSA member for 15 years in softball, volleyball, kickball, dodgeball and more.

"I am very excited [with] this award," Sommer said. "I am very happy to be inducted with Mark Sakalares who I played softball with,

Frank who I have served as an umpire under, [and] Brian Kupersmit who I have known [through CMSA] for years.

"I was taught at an early age from my mom to always try to give back and volunteer. She would volunteer as a scorekeeper when I played [Little League] baseball; I think she instilled in me that you can't just be a player; you always have to work behind the scenes [too] in everything you do."

The induction ceremony will be Feb. 11, 2017, from 7-9 p.m., at Hamburger Mary's in Andersonville.

"Being inducted into the CMSA Hall of Fame is a big deal and all inductees should be celebrated," said Erwin, who noted that this year marks a change in the Hall's induction procedure. "I felt that the process had become stale and we needed to come up with a new process that was fair to everyone and allowed multiple people to have input into candidates that were nominated."

The CMSA Hall committee now includes Kupersmit, Julie Colwell (Class of 2015), Gary Vien (2013), Joshua Dehnke, Christina Wiesmore and Jonathon R. Shaw. The current CMSA president also is on the committee, but only



Brian Sommer (in center).

Photo from Sommer

votes if there is a tie.

"I want the CMSA Hall of Fame to be more than just a group of people who are being recognized for years of experience," Erwin said. "I



Joey Gonzalez (right) leading a class.

Photo from Barry's Bootcamp

Barry's Bootcamp brings workouts to Chicago

BY ROSS FORMAN

Joey Gonzalez came home in mid-November for "one of the most climactic and meaningful moments" of his career: the opening of Barry's Chicago, 11 W. Erie St., in River North.

Gonzalez is, after all, a Chicago-area native who is the CEO of Barry's Bootcamp—the group workout regimen that combines equal length intervals of cardio (treadmill runs) and floor work (weight training, resistance exercises) in a one-hour workout.

Gonzalez, 38, now lives in Los Angeles, though he grew up in Chicago's northwest suburbs and is a 1995 graduate of St. Viator High School in Arlington Heights. He is married to Jonathan Rollo, 38, the founder/CEO of Greenleaf Chopshop, and they have a daughter, Francesca, who is 1. Gonzalez remains a diehard Cubs fan who tagged the team's 2016 World Series title as "pure bliss." In fact, they watched the deciding game seven over Cleveland at home in Los Angeles with a defrosted deep-dish Lou Malnati's pizza and beer, he said, "wishing we had been" in Chicago or at the championship scene in Cleveland.

They spent part of their recent time in Chi-

cago touring, hitting the Children's Museum at Navy Pier, shopping on Rush Street, at Soho House in the West Loop, and time at Bar Siena, among other things.

Gonzalez, though, was truly focused on opening Barry's in Chicago—a development he said was "difficult to articulate in words. [It's a] dream come true."

There are other Barry's locations throughout California and multiple sites in New York City, plus outlets in Nashville, Boston, Miami, and internationally.

"There has been a captive and very vocal audience for Barry's [to open in Chicago] for many years. It's been our number-one requested new market," Gonzalez said. "My objective is to continue innovating and evolving: to invent new ways to bring health and fitness to our clients in the most premium way. Chicago is our first time experimenting with some of these innovations, such as our stretch lounge and larger elevated locker rooms and showers."

All four classes were sold out on opening day in Chicago, "and the reaction from customers was amazing," he said. "There was a magical buzz exuding from everyone and people were beyond excited that the wait was finally over."

Gonzalez admitted that many customers are, or can be, intimidated by the Barry's workout, given the reputation that it isn't easy. "We

hope to develop a program this year that will give CMSA HOF members more visibility within the organization and allow them to share their experiences with the general membership."

Kupersmit "will go down as one of the most effective presidents in the history of CMSA," Erwin said. "He took an organization that was struggling and turned it around."

Erwin succeeded Kupersmit.

"I was happy to serve under him and still call on him for counsel on issues that come before me," Erwin said. "CMSA owes Brian lots of thanks. He deals with the [Chicago] Park District for us and helps to keep our costs down."

Liberson runs LKH Management, which operates bars in Lakeview and Andersonville, including Hydrate, Elixir, Seven and Replay, among others. Liberson's bars are, and have been, prominent sponsoring CMSA's flag football teams for years.

Erwin said Liberson is a "huge supporter of the organization and the sports community in Chicago." He added that Liberson is often at the fields "cheering on teams or helping to figure out how we can partner on social events and tournaments."

Erwin and Sakalares played softball on the same team for years. Erwin also recalls Sakalares' prominent role in CMSA's presence in the Chicago Pride Parade. "He will do whatever needs to be done to promote the organization and make sure people have a good time. He always has big plans and ideas, and they always result in making CMSA bigger and better," Erwin said.

encourage first-timers to go at their own pace and 'not be a hero.' The truth is, nothing is easy in life, and if you're looking for results, this is the place to get them," he said.

So consider Barry's as part of a perfect New Year's Resolution to shape up.

"Most New Year' commitments are results-oriented and there isn't a more efficient workout," he said.

Are the workouts as intense as they look?

Yes, but, "any given class at Barry's will have all walks of life: old, young, fit, overweight, etc.," he said. "At the end of the day, it's an inspiring and fun activity that will undoubtedly take your fitness to the next level. But, you can certainly customize the pace at which you move, and you will always have the support of our community to help."

"The workout is exceptionally fun and efficient. If you're able to get past the idea that this thing is too hard for you and give it a shot, you won't be disappointed. Believe it or not, back in 2003, I was too afraid to try Barry's until my friend convinced me, and only a few months later my body and mind had totally transformed. Fear can paralyze people and keep them from their full potential."

So who is the high-intensity Barry's workout geared for?

Everyone, he said without hesitation. "Just take a moment before class to share your fitness level or history of injuries with your instructor before class. Our trainers will adjust and set you up to succeed," he added.

Barry's Chicago is a two-level space with more than 7,000 square feet. The aesthetics are modern industrial, with elevated locker room and shower experience and premium finishes, including Carrera marble, Sachajuan beauty products, and more.

"In the New Year, we are launching our first ever stretch lounge, which will provide a community space to warm up and recover before and after class," Gonzalez said. "There is a BOSCO GIF booth and several other fun social media posting moments throughout the space."

"For Chicago's first Fuel Bar, we introduced some incredible ingredients and new recipes into our protein shakes."

CONNEXIONS MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS



Betancourt Realty, founded by Joe Betancourt, has grown to reflect the qualities and attributes of the surrounding Wicker Park and Bucktown Neighborhood. Betancourt Realty consists of a multi-cultural work force and prides itself on embracing diversity.



PROUD TO BE PART OF THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY

Celebrating 20 Years — Founded 1996
(773) 342-7211 • 2041 W Division St.
BETANCOURTREALTY.COM

Mulryan & York

Attorneys At Law

4001 N. Wolcott
Chicago, IL 60613
(773) 248-8887



**BUYING?
SELLING?
RELOCATING?**

Chicago and the Nation's Top Gay Realtors Represent You!



Find Your Perfect Agent Online:
www.GayRealEstate.com



ANDERSON & BOBACK

Attorneys and Counselors at Law

- Divorce
- Child Custody
- Adoption
- Cohabitation Agreements
- Domestic Violence
- Spousal and Child Support



Proudly serving same-sex couples!

115 S. LaSalle St., 26th Floor
312-715-0870
www.illinoislawforyou.com



"If it's not a Mr. Porch, it's just another porch."

Call today for a **FREE on-site inspection!**

Call Mr. Porch at 877-677-6724 or email us at info@mrporch.com

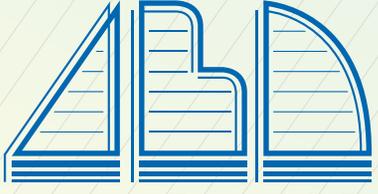
Like us on Facebook at [mrporchbuilder](https://www.facebook.com/mrporchbuilder)




Scan QR Code with smart phone to view more samples of our previous work!

For more information please visit: www.MrPorch.com

Building Porches and Decks in the Chicago Area for Over 15 Years



ACHILLE BENKO & DUVALL

BUSINESS SERVICES and CPAs

SERVING: ARTISTS
PROFESSIONALS
BUSINESS OWNERS

www.abd-cpas.com • (847) 257-7330

The Law Office of
Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss, P.C.



When experience counts...
In service to the community for over 35 years.

- Business Organization
- Wills, Trusts & Probate
- Real Estate Closings
- Premarital Agreements

33 N. Dearborn St., Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60602
312-263-8800 RVMLAWYER@AOL.COM

Family Law

Donald B. Boyd, Jr.

- Pre-Marital Agreements

LGBT Issues • Divorce/Wills/Trusts • Real Estate Closings
Custody Violation • Child Support

Free Initial Consultation
708-848-1005

113 South Marion St., Ste. 100, Oak Park, Ill., 60302

Evening & Weekend Appointments Available
Major Credit Cards Accepted



www.BoydDivorce.com

Ray J. Koenig III and **Clark Hill PLC**



- Probate
- Trusts
- Guardianship
- Estate Planning
- Elder Law

Clark Hill is an entrepreneurial, full service law firm that provides business legal services, government & public affairs, and personal legal services to our clients throughout the country. With offices in Arizona, Delaware, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C. and West Virginia, Clark Hill has more than 300 attorneys and professionals.

312.985.5938 | rkoenig@clarkhill.com
clarkhill.com **CLARK HILL**

THE LYSTER FIRM

ATTORNEYS
CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEYS
Serving the LGBTQ Community for Over 30 Years

TOUGH, EXPERIENCED AND DEDICATED
312-855-0875 | 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL
LysterFirm@aol.com
24/7 Emergency Phone: 847-309-7777

- State & Federal Courts
- Felonies & Misdemeanors
- Internet & White-Collar Crime
- All Drug Charges
- Sex Offenses
- Weapon & Gun Charges
- All Serious Traffic Offenses
- Drunk Driving
- Orders of Protection
- Expungements

Speak to an experienced attorney within minutes who will fight for you




Susan O'Dell, PhD

Down to earth, change oriented therapy

I see individuals, couples, children & families for crisis and ongoing work.

I also offer wellness support for persons living with chronic illness, including cancer and HIV-AIDS, their partners and families.

773.262.7010
1435 W. Rosemont Ave, #1W, Chicago, IL, 60660



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Robert T. Badesch
Tina Abramovitch
Cory Blalock • Nicole McKinnon
William McSturley • Karen VanderMeer

LGBTQ Family Law • Divorce • Mediation
Adoption • Paternity • Division of Property
• Custody • Children's rights
Child support and enforcement
• Maintenance • Domestic violence
Post divorce enforcement and modification
Grandparents and extended family rights
Pre-nuptial and post nuptial agreements

Phone: 312-372-1639 www.bafamilylaw.com
120 North LaSalle Street • Suite 1030 • Chicago • Illinois 60602

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wed., Nov. 30

Art AIDS America pre-opening event: We're Still Here: HIV/AIDS Then & Now HIV/AIDS Arts and Cultural Impact Panel discussion with Art AIDS America Chicago co-curator Jonathan Katz, Director of Exhibitions Tony Hirschel, Victory Gardens Theater Artistic Director Chay Yew, and playwright Karen Hartman, followed by QUEER, ILL, + OKAY performances by Phillip Blackbrilliant, Joan Giroux, and a short film by Xena Elison + Elizabeth Mputu. Free and open to the public. 7:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.artaidsamericachicago.org/event/still-hivaids-now/>

Windy City Gay Chorus and Windy City Treble Quire: A Christmas Carol For tickets, use code WCGC. Dates through Dec. 31 7:30pm Goodman Theatre 170 N Dearborn St Chicago Tickets: <http://GoodmanTheatre.org>

Thursday, Dec. 1

Art AIDS America Groundbreaking exhibition underscores the deep and unforgettable presence of HIV in American art with more than 100 significant contemporary works in a wide range of media. Brought to Chicago by the Alphawood Foundation, culminating a U.S. tour which included Tacoma Art Museum in Washington State, the Zuckerman Museum in suburban Atlanta, and the Bronx Museum of the Arts in New York City. Free admission with timed tickets. Runs from World AIDS Day through Sunday, April 2, 2017. 11:00am - 8:00pm Alphawood Gallery, 2401 N. Halsted St. <http://ArtAIDSAmericaChicago.org>

2016 World Aids Day Celebration



THE SWEET LIFE Thursday, Dec. 1

World of Chocolate will take place at Revel Fulton Market.
Photo by Anthony Meade

and Health Fair Access Community Health Network (ACCESS) hosting. Affinity among the community vendors. 2:00pm - 5:00pm ACCESS Center for Discovery & Learning: 5139 S. Ashland, Chicago

Roz & Ray show and Benefit for Affinity Gripping untold story of one doctor's ethical struggle at the onset of the AIDS crisis in the 1980s. \$30 ticket includes viewing of the exhibit of Art Aids America, wine and appetizer reception, admission to the performance. A third of your ticket price goes back to Affinity. 6:00pm Victory Gardens Theater 2433 N Lincoln Ave Chicago <http://www.affinity95.org>

World of Chocolate A decadent experi-

ence held annually. Dress to impress. All event proceeds benefit the AIDS Foundation of Chicago. 6:12pm - 9:12pm Revel Fulton Market, 1215 W Fulton Market, Chicago <https://Tickets:https://secure2.convio.net/afoc/site/Ticketing;jsessionid=89C20FAC819F7ED5EAE8BD1331E88A34.app263a?view=Tickets&id=102361>

AVER Monthly Meeting Chicago Chapter of American Veterans for Equal Rights, the national organization of LGBT veterans formerly known as Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Veterans of America (GLBVA). 7:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.averchicago.org/>

Poetry Reading, KOKUMO: Reacquainted with Life KOKUMO is a Chicago-based musician, performance artist, poet, trans activist, and organizer. Reacquainted with Life is her first book of poems. 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/event/poetry-reading-reacquainted-life-kokumo>

Friday, Dec. 2

Reading, Q&A and Book Signing, Laura Jane Grace. Tranny: Confessions of Punk Rock's Most Infamous Anarchist Sellout Ticketed, off-site event, which will be held at Wilson Abbey (935 W. Wilson). Purchase of a ticket to this event includes one copy of Laura Jane Grace's book. Doors open 6:15 pm. 7:00pm Wilson Abbey, 935 W. Wilson, Chicago, IL <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/event/author-reading-laura-jane-grace-tranny-confessions-punk-rocks-most-infamous-anarchist-sellout> Tickets: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2704760>

Chicago Gay Men's Chorus Home for the Holidays Opera singer extraordinaire Cynthia Clarey will grace the stage. 8:00pm Harris Theater for Music and

Dance 205 E Randolph St. Chicago <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jZS6f0eGvX0&feature=youtu.be> Tickets: <http://www.cgmc.org/2016-events/home-for-the-holidays/>

Chicago's Cathy Richardson with Anne Harris Rock goddesses acoustic duo. \$25 9:00pm The Acorn Theater 107 Generations Dr. Three Oaks, MI 49107 <http://www.acorntheater.com>

Saturday, Dec. 3

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

Art AIDS America: How AIDS Changed American Art--An Illustrated Lecture Jonathan Katz, co-curator of Art AIDS America, illustrates how AIDS has fundamentally shifted the American cultural landscape, the losses, the prejudice, the plague that has rewritten both the form and content of American art. Opening will be a spoken word performance by avery r. young. Free and open to the public. 10:00am Alphawood Gallery, 2401 N. Halsted St. <http://www.artaidsamericachicago.org>

Art AIDS America: Disruption/Repression: How AIDS Changed America Panel includes an ACT-UP Chicago founder, artists, activists, scholars, and medical and museum professionals discussing the response to HIV/AIDS at the height of the crisis, how it relates to today, and how it informs their work. 11:30am - 1:30pm Alphawood Gallery, 2401 N. Halsted St. <http://www.artaidsamericachicago.org>

Santa Speedo Run - Boystown 12 pm Sign-in and Registration at Sidetrack. 1:50pm We sing our very own Christmas Carol, "Jingle Balls!". 2pm 1-mile

run through Boystown. 2:30pm Awards, entertainment and door prizes. Registration available online. 12:00pm Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St Chicago Tickets: http://events.centeronhalsted.org/site/TR?fr_id=1040&pg=enry

Stevie Nicks: 24 Karat Gold Tour Multi-platinum, Grammy Award winning music icon with special guests Pretenders. Tickets on sale Monday, Sept. 12 at 10am. 7:00pm United Center 1901 W Madison Ave Chicago Tickets: <http://www.livenation.com>

Windy City Gay Chorus & Windy City Treble Quire present Don We Now There will be a sing-along and guest musicians. First show 5pm. 8:00pm First United Methodist Church, Chicago Temple, 77 W. Washington St., Chicago <https://www.facebook.com/events/1666873583605053/>

Sunday, Dec. 4

Heartland Health Outreach Annual Holiday Brunch To raise funds for HIV/AIDS services. HHO, formerly known as Vital Bridges, provided over 400,000 meals to over 1,400 people in need last year and provided vital health services. 11:30am - 3:00pm Four Seasons Hotel Grand Ballroom 120 E. Delaware Place, Chicago Tickets: <http://www.theholidaybrunch.com>

Monday, Dec. 5

Play-reading: LET'S EAT MARY by Brooke Allen Pride and Prejudice meets Lord of the Flies in this reading of Brooke Allen's new comedy. 7:00pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/event/lets-eat-mary-brooke-allen-play-reading>

CLASSIFIEDS

ADVERTISE HERE

ADVERTISE HERE: Want to advertise your product, service, etc. to thousands of readers? Place an ad in the Windy City Times! We offer affordable rates, convenient service, and as a bonus, your ad runs in our online section for free. **To place an ad, contact Terri at 773-871-7610 ex 101, terri@windycitymediagroup.com, or go to our website <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/placeclassified.php>.**

BOOKKEEPER AVAILABLE

QUICKBOOK BOOKKEEPER AVAILABLE. Accounts Payable/Accounts Receivable, Invoicing, Collections, Time Tracking, Bank & Credit card reconciliations, Financial Statements, Journal Entry, Reports for accountants for year-end and Much More! www.rockstarbooks.webs.com

CLEANING SERVICES

CHESTNUT CLEANING SERVICES: We're a house cleaning service for homes, small businesses and small buildings. We also have fabulous organizational skills (a separate function at a separate cost that utilizes your assistance) for what hasn't been cleaned in many months or years due to long-term illness, depression, physical/mental challenges, for the elderly, if you have downsized and more. Depressed about going home to chaos? We can organize your chaos, straighten out your chaos, help you make sense of your chaos and finally clean what is no longer chaos. Can we help you? Bonded and insured. **Chestnut Cleaning Service: 312-332-5575. www.ChestnutCleaning.com** (11/23/17-52)

COUNSELING & PSYCHOTHERAPY

ARE YOU GOING THROUGH A DIFFICULT TIME? Feeling overwhelmed, anxious or depressed? Is your relationship struggling? I can help you better understand these situations and create solutions for them. My practical approach entails a therapeutic alliance that is affirming, empathic, and interactive. **Michael J. Bland, Psy.D., LCPC. Northside location. 773-404-8161. Michael@BlandTherapy.com / www.BlandTherapy.com** (9/28/17-52)

FIREWOOD

GOOD WOOD FIREWOOD, 30 Years Experience. Premium seasoned firewood. Oak, Apple, Cherry, Birch. Kiln-dried firwood available. No Criss Cross. No Tree Service Wood. 773-975-025. www.goodwoodfirewood.com (1/11/17-13)

HELP WANTED

ENTREPRENEURIAL SPIRITS WANTED. Achieve Personal & Financial FREEDOM. Help us help you help others. It's what we do. Earn while you learn to invest VERY PROFITABLY in Real Estate. For a brief online overview, call or text your name to 708-292-8778. (11/30/16-4)

HOME IMPROVEMENT & PAINTING

MAKE YOUR HOME LOOK FABULOUS! We do Bathroom Remodeling, Carpentry, Drywall Repairs, Painting and more. "A+" with BBB. Licensed-Bonded-Insured, One year Warranty. Free Estimates! **Andy OnCall 847-328-3100 www.andyonthecallchicago.com** (12/16/16-56)

MASSAGE

MASSAGE FIRST-CLASS ASIAN MALE MASSEUR. London-trained and qualified. Over 25 years of worldwide experience and 100% attuned to your needs. Satisfaction assured. **Please call Dennis at 773-248-9407** (12/21/16-13)

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

HELLENISMOS
THE ANCIENT GREEK RELIGION

ORPHISMOS
STUDY AND WORSHIP

inquire.hellenicgods@gmail.com
www.hellenicgods.org

**You Are Loved,
You Are Welcome,
You Are Celebrated!**

**Chicago Coalition of
Welcoming Churches**

**80+ ministries celebrating
LGBTQ lives**

www.chicagowelcomingchurches.org

REAL ESTATE

REALTORS

CHICAGO'S TOP GAY REALTORS INSTANT FREE ACCESS TO CHICAGO'S TOP GAY REALTORS. FREE Buyers Representation - FREE Sellers Market Analysis - FREE Relocation Kit any City, USA! **On-line: WWW.GAYREALTATE.COM or Toll Free 1-888-420-MOVE (6683). No Cost or Obligation** (2/28/17-52)

YOUR AD HERE

Email advertising@
windycitymediagroup.com
for more info



@windycitytimes1



/windycitymediagroup



@windycitytimes

www.windycitymediagroup.com

We've Got Your Back HIVcare.org

AHF HEALTHCARE CENTER

KALEO STASZKOW, M.D.

2600 S. MICHIGAN AVE

CHICAGO, 60616

(312) 881-3050



Shop with pride.



Show your pride everywhere you shop with the Discover it® Pride Card.

APPLY TODAY: DISCOVER.COM/PRIDE

