EDIE WINDSOR
Marriage-equality champion dies at 88.
Photo by Tracy Baim

FAWZIA MIRZA
Lesbian actress on her new movie Signature Move.
Photo courtesy of Mirza

‘REEL’ TIME
Reeling 35 LGBTQ film fest in Chicago

Featured films in Reeling 35 include En Algun Lugar (top), The Death and Life of Marsha P. Johnson (below, clockwise from upper left), Happiness Adjacent, Saturday Church, Center Of My World and Woman on Fire.
PR photos

STARTING ON PAGE 20
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**NEWS**

- Marriage-equality giant Edie Windsor dies  
- Former Chicagoan David Wilshire passes away  
- Law’s legitimacy challenged  
- TPAN to celebrate “30 Years of Hope”  
- Center official talks LGBT suicides  
- City clears out Uptown tent residents  
- Women’s Park & Gardens event  
- In the Life: Martin Whalley

**ENTERTAINMENT/EVENTS**

- Scottish Play Scott: Artemesia  
- Theater reviews  
- Reeling Film Festival reviews  
- Lesbian actress Fawzia Mirza  
- Emmys roundup  
- Actor Nelson Rodriguez talks ‘En Algun Lugar’  
- Artist Tennessee Loveless  
- NIGHTSPOTS  
- Classifieds; calendar

**OUT OF AFRICA**

PrideTV—Africa’s first LGBT network—recently marked its first anniversary. 

**TPAN 30 YEARS**

TPAN was founded in 1987 as Chicago’s grassroots response to the AIDS epidemic. **On Thursday, September 28, TPAN’s founding members will be honored** in an evening commemorating the work of the organization they started.

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Edith Windsor, lesbian activist who took down DOMA, dead at 88

BY CHRIS JOHNSON, WASHINGTON BLADE

Edith Windsor, a lesbian activist who was a pioneer for LGBT rights and brought down the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act, died Sept. 12 at age 88.

Widow Judith Kasen-Windsor issued a statement Sept. 12 confirming Windsor's death, but didn't disclose a cause. The two were married in 2016.

"I lost my beloved spouse Edie, and the world lost a tiny but tough as nails fighter for freedom, justice and equality," Kasen-Windsor said. "Edie was the light of my life. She will always be the light for the LGBTQ community which she loved so much and which loved her right back."

The New York lesbian, who obtained a master's degree in mathematics from New York University in 1957, was out as member of the LGBT community at a time when being gay was criminal under state law in many parts of the country. Her longtime partner, Thea Spyer, first proposed marriage in 1967, but the two never wed until 2007. They held a ceremony in Canada, one of the first countries where same-sex marriage was legal.

But Windsor is best known for being the plaintiff in the lawsuit that led to U.S. Supreme Court's landmark decision in 2013 striking down the Defense of Marriage Act, which prohibited federal recognition of same-sex marriage. That ruling was the precursor for the 2015 Obergefell decision extending marriage equality nationwide.

Represented by New York lesbian attorney Roberta Kaplan and the American Civil Liberties Union, Windsor sued the United States for enforcing DOMA after the U.S. government forced her to pay $363,000 in estate taxes upon the death of Thea Spyer, who died in 2009 of a heart condition after the two were together 44 years.

On the day of oral arguments of her case in 2013, Windsor famously appeared before the Supreme Court with an iconic pink scarf that flew in the wind. At the time, Windsor said she was humbled by the role the LGBT movement bestowed upon her in pursuit of marriage equality.

"I am today an out lesbian who just sued the United States of America, which is kind of overwhelming for me," Windsor said.

Kaplan, who took Windsor's case to the Supreme Court and successfully argued the 1996 law was unconstitutional, said in a statement being Windsor's lawyer "was and will always be the greatest honor of my life."

"She will go down in the history books as a true American hero," Kaplan said. "With Edie's passing, I lost not only a treasured client, but a member of my family. I know that Edie's memory will always be a blessing to Rachel, myself and Jacob. I also know that her memory will be a blessing not only to every LGBT person on this planet, but to all who believe in the concept of b'tzelem elohim, or equal dignity for all."

Windsor's story was inspirational far beyond the LGBT community. Last year in an interview with the Washington Blade, Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton identified Windsor as an LGBT person she sees as a role model. Windsor, an enthusiastic supporter of Clinton in her bid for the White House, said she was "so honored" the candidate chose her as a role model.

Anthony Romero, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, said in a statement "we lost one of this country's great civil rights pioneers" as a result of Windsor's passing.

"The wheels of progress turn forward because of people like Edie who are willing to stand up in the face of injustice," Romero said. "One simply cannot write the history of the gay rights movement without reserving immense credit and gratitude for Edie Windsor. We were proud to stand with Edie when she took her fight on behalf of same-sex couples everywhere to the Supreme Court."

A public memorial will be held Sept. 15 at Riverside Memorial Chapel in New York City. In lieu of flowers, Windsor had requested that any donations in her memory be made to the NYC LGBT Center, Callen-Lorde Community Health Center, the Hetrick-Martin Institute, and Services & Advocacy for LGBT Elders, or SAGE.

Aisha Moodie-Mills, CEO of the Gay & Lesbian Victory Institute, said in a statement Windsor was "our fierce heroine" and "will be remembered as a seminal figure in our inevitable march toward equality."

"Edie felt deeply the injustice of being denied the right to marry her partner of more than 40 years, and she committed herself to fighting back with determination and a smile," Moodie-Mills said. "I will never forget Edith standing on the steps of the Supreme Court, describing marriage as more than just rights and benefits but also as 'magic'—a powerful recognition of indescribable love. Edith opened the door for all LGBTQ Americans to experience this magic—and we are forever indebted to her because of it."

This article is from the Washington Blade, as part of the National LGBT Newspaper Association.

Video from the Sept. 15 memorial for Windsor is at https://venue.streamspot.com/video/d204bf7d5b.

Groups, individuals react to Windsor passing

A plethora of national organizations and well-known individuals issued statements reacting to the Sept. 12 passing of lesbian activist/marriage-equality advocate Edie Windsor.

Just a few of the reactions are below:

—SAGE CEO Michael Adams: "Words can't describe how important Edie Windsor is to SAGE and LGBT elders across the country. Long before she was a household name, Edie was an early leader of SAGE, serving multiple terms on our board of Directors. She shed her brilliant light in every corner of SAGE's work. She was a trailblazing pioneer in every sense, appearing in an early New York Times ad for SAGE at a time when few others had the courage to be out."

—Lambda Legal: "Our hearts are with Edie's wife, Judith Kasen-Windsor, their family, friends and all whose lives were changed because Edie so fearlessly stood up for herself and her community. She called for the respect and dignity denied to same-sex spouses, and the Supreme Court heard her plea. Because of Edie, we are a more perfect union."

—President Barack Obama: "In my second inaugural address, I said that if we are truly created equal, then surely the love we commit to one another must be equal as well. And because people like Edie stood up, my administration stopped defending the so-called Defense of Marriage Act in the courts."

—Christine C. Quinn, president/CEO of Win (formerly Women in Need), and the first woman and openly LGBTQ speaker of the New York City Council: "Edie was my close friend, supporter and a mentor. ... She's a civil-rights giant who will impact hundreds of thousands of people for decades to come and will be remembered as a woman whose bravery and insistence on equality and respect changed the course of history."

—American Civil Liberties Union Executive Director Anthony Romero: "Today, we lost one of this country's great civil-rights pioneers, Edie Windsor. The wheels of progress turn forward because of people like Edie, who are willing to stand up in the face of injustice."

—PFLAG National Executive Director Jaime M. Grant: "We've lost a lesbian national treasure, someone who committed to love and never stopped pushing for change and justice. Edie had such joy for life, and gave our community so much. I hope she felt our love for her, and that we gave back to her in the same way she gave to all of us."

—Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin: "Edie Windsor is a hero and civil-rights icon who pushed our country closer to the promise of a more perfect union. Future generations will learn how she faced down discrimination with courage and defiance, and boldly challenged the United States government to treat her marriage to Thea Spyer equally under the law—as our Constitution guarantees."

—Equality California Executive Director Rick Zbur: "Edie Windsor was a quiet hero. She began her fight seeking a refund for inheritance taxes she should not have had to pay on the death of her partner, and then wife, of 42 years. But like many victories that have their roots in everyday struggles, her historic fight for equal justice under the law was nothing less than heroic. Her tenacity contributed in a significant way to our fight for marriage equality and equal rights for LGBTQ people. Her fearless and very human advocacy for the LGBTQ community will be missed but never forgotten. Our hearts are with her family today."

—Compiled by Andrew Davis
David Wilshire passes away

BY MATT SIMONETTE

David Wilshire—who, at one point, owned Chicago’s Cheetah Gym—has passed away in California, where he had been living for the past several years. He died Sept. 5.

Family members posted to Facebook: “David’s immediate family would like to thank everyone for the kind words and thoughts of support at a very difficult time. Many of you know that David struggled for many years with a serious mental illness and depression. His fight with this was lost last week [on] Tuesday, Sept. 5th, 2017, in Santa Rosa, California. Thank you for the outpouring of love and memories of David. He will be missed terribly.”

Wilshire had been working as a realtor in the Bay Area when he passed away.

An active and charismatic member of Chicago's LGBT community for several years, Wilshire dropped out of the public eye around 2007, after difficulties at the Cheetah Gym resulted in his unexpectedly pulling the plug on the health clubs’ operations for several days. The establishments were subsequently reopened under new ownership.

Several of Wilshire’s friends said that, while he struggled with his health, he remained a generous and caring friend to many.

“Talking about David is complicated,” his friend John Regalado said. “Members of Chicago’s gay community are more than able to remember the not-so-pretty parts of David’s life. People remember Cheetah Gym closing and the mistakes he made around that time. There’s no denying David had demons. He suffered from a mental illness that confused him, led him into bad decisions and that ultimately took his life.”

Regalado added, however, that, “All of that seems periphery to me compared to his good parts. I will always remember David the brilliant cook, who I was always trying, and failing, to one-up in the kitchen; David the social butterfly, who walked into the room like a prince entering his court; David the philanthropist, who supported the gay community every chance he got. And more than anything, I’ll remember David, my kind-hearted friend, and in many respects my hero, who left us too soon.”

Rev. Stan Sloan, the former CEO of Chicago House & Social Service Agency, recalled Wilshire’s generosity as well.

“As was true for so many organizations, both LGBTQ and beyond, David gave selflessly to Chicago House, to its staff, and to its residents,” Sloan said. “Free memberships to Cheetah Gym were a phone call away to kids or adults who lived at Chicago House and needed a physical outlet. When mental illness and the calamity that it can bring befell David himself, the kindness he so freely gave to others was hard to find. Ultimately, he escaped to a life in San Francisco to build a fresh start, and he did a great job of forming a life and a network of people who cared about him. At the end of the day, David, with the beautiful intensity that characterized his life, knew the extremes of both riches and plenty, and of poverty and depravity, that the rest of us will never know. Those of us who love him remain proud of who he remained throughout. And we will miss him horribly.”

Wilshire’s friend Peter Houle has carried a check for a million dollars in his wallet that Wilshire wrote out to him in 1988. The check was obviously never any good, but Houle has kept it for daily inspiration ever since, he said.

“A day doesn’t go by when I don’t just chuckle at it,” Houle said. “We were talking one night, and I said something like, ‘I’m never going to be a millionaire!’ David said, ‘Just a minute,’ and he took out his checkbook. He said, ‘Here’s a million-dollar check. Now you can be as rich as you want.’”

Houle said that the gesture was “indicative of the heart and soul of a very complex, kind and thoughtful man. … He was beautiful on the outside, and beautiful on the inside. He had the kindest heart and would give you the shirt off his back.”

In a 2003 interview with Windy City Times, Wilshire said he wasn’t sure where he saw himself in the future, speculating even about a career as an artist.

“Most likely it will be this, but I need a lot of stimulation so I’ll probably venture into other types of businesses,” Wilshire said. “I’m not clairvoyant but I have so many interests.”

“David always looked for new opportunities and new challenges and he took them on,” Houle added. “Unfortunately, after all that he went through in Chicago, it was very challenging for him to get back on his feet. We talked a lot about relationships, and the past. I have the fondest memories. I don’t have any bad memories of David. They all put a smile on my face. He made me a millionaire on paper and he made me a millionaire in my heart.”
Lambda files suit concerning legitimacy of federal law

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Could it be that federal law prohibits firing LGBT people because they do not conform to gender expectations but does not prohibit firing them just because they are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender?

That is the question Lambda Legal posed this month in a petition to the U.S. Supreme Court. Lambda is asking the high court to rule that an existing federal law prohibits employers from discriminating against employees based on sexual orientation.

If the court takes the case, the outcome—no matter what it is—would likely have profound implications for LGBT people in employment, education, housing, and other areas. And if victorious, the Lambda case could also achieve a legislative goal that has been priority for the national LGBT civil rights movement for more than 40 years.

The case, Evans v. Georgia Regional, is one of several cases around the country brought by LGBT people who have been fired because of their sexual orientation. This is the first to reach the Supreme Court.

Before the Supreme Court can hear Lambda’s appeal, at least four of the nine justices will have to agree to review the lower court opinion. If four do not agree to hear the case, the lower court ruling will stand.

That lower court ruling came from the Eleventh Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, which covers Georgia, Florida and Alabama.

Lambda Legal’s Jon Davidson. Photo courtesy of Lambda Legal

A three-judge panel of that circuit ruled that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act does not prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. The full Eleventh Circuit declined to hear Lambda’s appeal to review the panel decision. And, thus, Lambda’s remaining option was to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Jameka Evans was a security guard at the Georgia Regional Hospital in Savannah for about a year and, though she never told her employer she was gay, her physical appearance and dress made it “evident that she identified with the male gender,” said the appeals panel. Lambda’s petition notes she was subjected to a hostile work environment and forced to leave for “failing to carry herself in a ‘traditional womanly’ manner.”

Evans filed a complaint with the court, saying her treatment at work amounted to a violation of Title VII of the federal Civil Rights Act, which prohibits discrimination based on sex. “Sex” has been interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court (Pricewaterhouse v. Hopkins, 1989) to include discrimination based on gender stereotyping.

But a magistrate judge ruled that Evans’ complaint amounted to sexual orientation discrimination and said such discrimination is not covered by Title VII. The judge said that discrimination based on gender non-conformity is “just another way to claim discrimination based on sexual orientation.” He dismissed her case.

The district court appointed Lambda Legal to represent Evans on appeal, and the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) filed a brief on her behalf. EEOC said that discrimination based on sexual orientation “falls squarely within Title VII’s prohibition against discrimination based on sex.”

The district court ultimately ruled that Evans failed to provide sufficient evidence to sustain the claim that “her decision to present herself in a masculine manner led to the alleged adverse employment actions.” But it said Evans had a right to amend her complaint to remedy that weakness.

Walking a thin line

The Eleventh Circuit panel noted that in a 2011 case (Glenn v. Brumby), it held that discrimination against a transgender person for gender non-conformity did constitute sex discrimination. It said the lower court erred in dismissing the gender non-conformity argument as “just another way to claim discrimination based on sexual orientation.” It sent that claim back to the district court for rehearing.

But in doing so, the Eleventh Circuit panel dismissed Evans’ argument that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is covered by Title VII, saying that previous decisions by the circuit made clear that “[d]ischarge for homosexuality is not prohibited by Title VII.”

In other words, Title VII prohibits firing a person for looking or acting lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender; but it does not prohibit firing them if they acknowledge being LGBT.

“Forcing all sexual orientation discrimination claims into a sex stereotyping pigeonhole,” said Lambda’s petition to the high court, “creates an uncomfortable result in which the more visibly and stereotypically gay or lesbian a plaintiff is in mannerisms, appearance, and behavior, and the more the plaintiff exhibits those behaviors and mannerisms at work, the more likely a court is to recognize a claim of gender non-conformity which will be cognizable under Title VII as sex discrimination.”

In its Sept. 7 petition to the Supreme Court, Lambda notes that “almost all” of the other federal circuits and two federal agencies differ on the issue of whether discrimination based on “sexual orientation” constitutes discrimination based on “sex.” And such conflicts often compel the Supreme Court to resolve an issue.

In April, the Seventh Circuit, which covers the states of Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin, ruled that Title VII does cover sexual orientation. That case is Hively v. Ivy Tech. Later this month, the full Second Circuit (covering New York, Connecticut, and Vermont) will consider the issue through another Lambda case, Zarda v. Altitude Express.

In that case, U.S. Attorney Jeff Sessions has submitted a brief arguing (unlike the EEOC) that the Department of Justice does not believe Title VII prohibits sexual orientation discrimination.

“The current geographic checkerboard of Title VII’s coverage is untenable for employees and employers alike,” states Lambda’s petition. “...[A]t present, a lesbian or bisexual employee working in Indianapolis, Indiana, who is offered a promotion that will require her to relocate to Indianola, Mississippi, is forced to choose between Title VII protection and advancing her career. Furthermore, lesbian, gay and bisexual employees who are entitled to insurance and other forms of employment benefits for their spouses might be wary of telling their employers about their marital status, for fear of revealing their sexual orientation and subjecting themselves to termination on that basis.”

Jon Davidson, Lambda’s national legal director, said how the Supreme Court resolves the issue is likely to have an impact on how courts interpret the meaning of discrimination based on “sex” in other federal laws, such as Title IX of the Education Amendments Act.

“I believe that, if the Supreme Court ultimately agrees that the ban on sex discrimination under Title VII includes a ban on sexual orientation discrimination, the decision will control other federal laws barring sex discrimination, including Title IX (which governs discrimination in federally-funded educational programs), the Fair Housing Act, the Equal Pay Act, section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (which bars discrimination in health care and health care insurance), and the Equal Credit Opportunity Act. That is because the arguments we are advancing are not particular to any particular statute,” said Davidson, “but rather are about the logical connection between sexual orientation discrimination and sex discrimination, which applies equally to all of those laws.”

Joining Lambda staff on the petition to the Supreme Court are two national legal luminaries from Stanford University: Jeffrey Fisher, who has been identified as having the third most experience arguing before the Supreme Court (out of 17,000 advocates) and Pamela Karlan, an openly gay litigator who has often been said to be on the “short list” of some Democratic presidents as a potential Supreme Court nominee.

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Trans woman is 20th killed this year

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Derricka Banner, 26, was found shot and killed in a vehicle on Sept. 12, according to QNotes. Banner is believed to be at least the 20th transgender person murdered in the country so far this year. Almost all of the victims have been women of color.

Montavious Sanchez Berry, 18, has been arrested; he is being charged with murder, armed robbery and shooting into an occupied vehicle, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police said.

The other trans people killed this year is as follows (in order of their passing): Mesha Caldwell, Jamie Lee Wounded Arrow, Jojo Strick er, Tiara Lasashtheboss Richmond, Jaguarrius Holland, Chyna Doll Dupree, Ciara McElveen, Alphonza Watson, Chayviss Reed, Kenneth Bo stick, Sherrell Faulkner, Kenne McFadden, Josie Berrios, Ava Le’Ray Barrin, Ebony Morgan, Tee Dangerfield, Gwynereve River Song and Kiwi Herring.


Trans Disaster Relief Fund site launched

The TFA Trans Disaster Relief Fund website has been launched to aid trans, intersex and genderqueer community members affected by hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

The TransAdvocate’s parent organization, the Transgender Foundation of America, has organized a community disaster relief fund. The website provides step-by-step instructions for those needing medical, housing and financial assistance.

The site is at http://TDRFund.us.
Visit us in a neighborhood near you.

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ROGERS PARK  Howard Brown Health Clark | 6500 N. Clark Street
LAKEVIEW  Howard Brown Health Halsted | 3245 N. Halsted Street
UPTOWN  Howard Brown Health Sheridan | 4025 N. Sheridan Road
Broadway Youth Center | 4009 N. Broadway

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TPAN to celebrate ‘30 Years of Hope’

BY MOLLY SPRAYREGEN

On Sept. 28, Test Positive Awareness Network, or TPAN, will celebrate 30 years of supporting those affected by HIV/AIDS. Merrill Kenna, the organization’s director of development, spoke with Windy City Times about the celebration as well as the organization’s past, present and hopes for the future.

TPAN, which began as a grassroots movement, was founded by Chris Clason in 1987 to provide information and support for those with HIV/AIDS. Thirty years ago, there were very few organizations that offered services, and because there was no medication available to help those with HIV/AIDS, Kenna said there was “no real hope.”

Then TPAN came along to support those in Chicago who could not find support anywhere else. What began as a meeting in Clason’s living room is now a full-fledged organization co-located with Howard Brown Health, providing mental-health counseling, case management, housing assistance, medical care and more. All of TPAN’s services are also free.

The fact that TPAN shares a space with Howard Brown is a huge advantage. Clients can come in to receive services from both organizations at once, and beyond that, they rely on each other’s expertise to provide full-fledged support of their clients. “A youth can come in off the street and get all their mental health and stabilizing needs met like housing and transportation and food from us and then can go down the hallway and see their primary physician,” Kenna explained.

Beyond that, they are able to support each other in more dire situations. “We’ve had a lot of crises, where someone gets tested positive at Howard Brown and becomes suicidal,” said Kenna. “So Howard Brown then refers them to TPAN, and we have licensed clinical staff here and can immediately go down and do crisis intervention, so it’s a really great relationship.”

Kenna feels that one of TPAN’s greatest accomplishments has been its ability to remain true to its roots as a grassroots movement. “We don’t talk about ourselves a lot,” he said, “We just do the work.”

Among some of TPAN’s most recent achievements is a grant for $2.5 million that will help the organization focus specifically on helping both African-American youth and African-American men over 30 years old.

Recently, TPAN also opened a youth center (at https://www.tpan.com/client-services/youth), where youth are invited to come and do laundry, use computers, obtain snacks and toiletries, and relax. “Here they can find a safe place, a warm place, and a place that’s welcoming,” Kenna said.

One large facet of TPAN’s mission is empowerment. Kenna explained that the organization never wants to make decisions for its clients, but rather help them feel confident in making decisions for themselves.

“We don’t tell our clients what they need to do,” he said. “We work with them in helping them to determine what needs to be done.” He emphasized that TPAN is a sex-positive, judgment-free place where anyone can come for help, support and services.

The 30th-anniversary celebration, of which Kenna is in charge, will take place at Moonlight Studios in Chicago. Between 300 and 400 people are expected. Throughout the evening, the organization’s founding members will be honored, along with a very special group of women who the organization refers to as ‘angels.’

“In the early days of HIV there were no medications,” Kenna explained, “And [the angels] provided things like massages, and they did yoga, and they hugged somebody. Many people were afraid to even touch someone with HIV.”

Peter Staley, an HIV/AIDS activist who has been involved in the fight from the very beginning, will be the keynote speaker. At the event, TPAN will also be creating its own memorial quilt to hopefully add to the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt in Atlanta. “People who attend the event will have an opportunity to write something on the quilt about someone who was near and dear to them,” said Kenna.

As TPAN looks toward the future, Kenna said a new challenge they will begin to tackle is the fact that many of those living with HIV/AIDS are getting older and dealing with their conditions in addition to the typical ailments associated with aging.

Something Kenna emphasized is still at the forefront of the fight against HIV/AIDS: battling the stigma associated with those who have been diagnosed. When the HIV/AIDS epidemic first began, he explained, there was so much fear around those with a positive diagnosis, even in the gay community. People refused to touch those with HIV/AIDS and, sometimes, they were not even allowed to receive visitors to their hospital rooms.

While some of that fear has been alleviated, Kenna does not want the community to forget that it definitely still exists and still must be resisted. “I do think that end point of stigma and discrimination is really important,” he said, “That we recognize it still exists 30 years later.”

TPAN is working to fight against this stigma with education and raising awareness, and of course through continued support of its clients.

Test Positive Aware Network will commemorate its 30th anniversary with a celebration event on Thursday, Sept. 28. “TPAN 30 Years of Hope” will be held at Moonlight Studios, 1446 W. Kinzie St. The event will begin with a VIP reception at 6-7 p.m., allowing supporters to meet and greet with TPAN’s founding members. The general reception will begin at 7 p.m. and feature a tribute to TPAN’s founders, an open bar, hors d’oeuvres and music from Marc “DJ Moose” Modcr.

Peter Staley—an early member of ACT UP, the New York-based direct action activism group—will address the crowd. Staley was featured prominently in the 2012 Oscar-nominated documentary How to Survive a Plague. Admission is $125-$175 each; visit TPAN.com/tickets.

Lisa Madigan not running in 2019

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan said she will not seek re-election next year, stunning many.

In a statement, she said, in part, “After serving as Illinois Attorney General for over 14 years, today I am announcing that I will not seek re-election.

“I still have much work to do on many important issues, and I will continue to give my best to the people of Illinois and the Office of Attorney General every day through the end of my term in January 2019.

“As I look ahead, I believe that the end of my fourth term as Attorney General will be the right time for me to seek a new challenge. I have dedicated my career to helping people. That will continue to be my focus, and I am looking forward to finding new ways to do that with the passion that I have brought to my work as Attorney General.”

The Chicago Sun-Times noted that Madigan—the daughter of Illinois House Speaker Mike Madigan—has served as the state’s attorney general since 2002, and is the state’s first female attorney general. She also has served as a state senator.

Several people have already been mentioned as possible successors to Lisa Madigan, including state Sen. Kwame Raoul and Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart.

The Sun-Times article is at http://chicago.suntimes.com/chicago-politics/lisa-madigan-says-she-will-not-seek-re-election/.
WE FOCUS ON HIV
TO HELP YOU FOCUS ON TODAY
Ask your doctor if a medicine made by Gilead is right for you.
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Center official addresses risks for LGBT suicides

BY MATT SIMONETTE

The United States recently recognized National Suicide Prevention Week, at which time experts noted that recent and continuing events—including those both directly and indirectly affecting the LGBT community—can be taxing to one’s mental health.

“The stress that the country is going through, and the confusing messages we go through—messages of hate, messages of love—really impact those who are vulnerable and in isolation,” said Hector Torres, director of behavioral health at Center on Halsted.

According to the Mayo Clinic, the rate of suicide increased by 24 percent between 1999-2014 in the United States. About 43,000 Americans took their own lives in 2015. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death among adults in the United States and the second leading cause of death among young people.

A large number of those individuals at risk are members of the LGBT community. Social isolation, Torres noted, is a key risk factor for those who contemplate, attempt or complete suicide, and that adds to a vulnerability many LGBT individuals, especially LGBT young people, might be inclined towards. As such, suicide attempts—there is not a lot of data available on completed suicide attempts—are disproportionately higher among LGBT youth.

“We are born to a world where we figure out that there is a difference with us, and that difference is associated with ‘not good,’” he added. “We are born into a world where there is still a stigma against LGBTQ [persons]. Even though there are efforts to get rid of that stigma, we still have it. It impacts those who are younger more—they have not been able to develop the tools to push back towards a society that is so negative. Therefore, our young people are one of the most vulnerable groups most vulnerable.

The level and nature of a young person’s engagement with their family also is a determinant of their risk.

“One of the assurances that is very comforting about the nuclear family is to think that they will always be there: ‘No matter what I will do, they will love me.’ Sexual orientation and gender-identity can be interpreted by youth as something that can disrupt that link. That can be very scary and feel like the end of the world,” Torres noted, adding that other risk factors such as poverty and racism can complicate an LGBT youth’s life even further.

According to Torres, “Adolescence is one of the times where you start separating as an individual, becoming your own self. It’s a time to figure out who you are. When you realize you belong to a group that a lot of people don’t like, hate or have a lot of strong emotions towards it, it leads to a lot of conflict.”

The risk factors for LGBT suicide are especially high during a person’s youth, but also increase as they get older, Torres noted.

“The core factor is isolation,” he explained. “With the young population, the isolation happens because, ‘I don’t control the social circles where I’m at, such as at school. I’m not surrounded by people I choose.’ The same thing happens in [older] adult life. Unfortunately, our seniors are tending to isolate. It doesn’t happen only among the LGBT individuals, but we do see that trend being more significant with them.”

In older-adult social circles, or social-services delivery, there is often an assumption of being heterosexual and cisgender that can impact an LGBT person more profoundly. “With age, we might not have our nuclear family as close, or they might have been lost, and the isolation becomes very real,” Torres added, adding that the sense of loss can be amplified in persons who have lost loved ones or acquaintances to HIV/AIDS.

Torres also noted that suicide risk factors are especially profound with transgender and bisexual persons. Both communities might sometimes feel additionally isolated and stigmatized by other gay and lesbian persons.

“In the LGBT community, there is still a great stigma towards ‘I’ individuals,” he explained. “There is a greater lack of understanding and empathy from individuals in the greater community, who discriminate and don’t accept the ‘I’ as part. … Success that we’ve had with the ‘LG’ part of the community—such as elimination from the [Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders]—we still have not achieved that with the trans population.”

Members of the bisexual community are likewise sometimes left at a disadvantage because of a marked tendency by society to rely on “definites,” Torres said. “It makes us stressed to be left in a position that is ambiguous or ‘in the middle.’ Bisexual individuals are often perceived by others, and treated by others, as someone in the middle—not black or white, or in or out. They receive the stigma of someone who’s not fully defined.”

The Center has recently received an increase in the volume of calls seeking services, he noted, adding that there is often a marked uptick in calls after events such as the 2016 Pulse shooting in Orlando, or widespread news reports on efforts to marginalize the LGBT community. Torres also said that those already utilizing the Center’s counseling and mental-health services report greater distress during such times.

Torres said, “I am a believer that we should be able to express our emotions at all times,” but added that persons should consider assistance when, after an extended period of time, they cannot “shake off” negative emotional responses.

“As human beings, we should be able to have the range of emotions from sadness to happiness, and we need to feel sad sometimes,” he added. “But when we cannot shake it off, when it persists, and it is with us for most of the day, for many days, that should be a cause of worry. If we don’t have someone we can talk to, who can care for us, we should be reaching out.”

Those who think they might be at risk can consult a number of resources, Torres added, among them the Trevor Project or the It Gets Better campaign. Locally, he said individuals can also contact the Center’s behavioral health department.

“We have a person who will help individuals navigate our resources and their needs,” he said. The Trevor Project is at the trevorproject.org, while the It Gets Better Project is at itgetsbetter.org. Mayo Clinic’s article on suicide awareness is at mayoclinic.org/2tK7JKh.

Center on Halsted’s behavioral health department can be reached at 773-472-6469, ext. 460.

**Next week:** Additional coverage of the issue of suicide in the LGBT community.

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State ACLU retains Guidetti as lawyer

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Illinois announced it has retained Ghirlandi Guidetti as a staff attorney in its Chicago office after Guidetti served a year as a Tom Steel Fellow at the ACLU starting in 2016.

The fellowship was made possible through funding from the Pride Law Fund. As the year-long fellowship comes to a close, the ACLU will continue to fund Guidetti’s work moving forward.

During his time at the ACLU, Guidetti has advocated for LGBTQ children in the care of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).
City clears out Uptown tent residents

BY MATT SIMONETTE

In a chaotic early morning scene Sept. 18, city authorities evicted persons who had been residing beneath Lake Shore Drive viaducts at Wilson and Lawrence avenues on the North Lakefront.

Residents and advocates had expected the eviction; city officials had announced the deadline a month earlier, but, according to residents, they had not been forthcoming with any new housing options. Many LGBT activists have been working on this issue for several months.

Residents had earlier moved their tents out from under the viaducts, taking them to the parkways a block west. City workers erected fences blocking off areas beneath the bridge. At 8:30 a.m., members of the Chicago Department of Family & Support Services arrived and began talking to residents, telling them that they had to take their tents down.

In a statement to reporters, Rev. Fred Kinsey of Unity Lutheran Church said that concerned activists and residents “take this seriously. People are being pushed out of their homes. … We know this struggle is going to continue in the weeks to come.”

“The city’s solution is to put people out of sight and out of mind,” added Ryne Poelker of Tent City Organizers, who called the situation “a true representation of the failures of Mayor [Rahm] Emanuel and Alderman [James] Cappleman.”

Most Tent City residents were unsure of where to go next. Resident Tom Gordon said he had just moved his tent to Lawrence Avenue and Marine Drive. Officials there had refused to let the residents actually erect the tents.

“They told us they’ve got to lay flat—we can’t set them up,” Gordon said. “… They didn’t want it to look like we were moving in, but we are moving in. We’ve got no place else to go. They took the bridge from us, because they need to repair it. This is the only safe place we can go.”

Mark Saulys was one of a handful of residents who had been transferred into a subsidized apartment through a pilot program the city launched last year. He lamented that only a small number of residents had been helped.

“Twenty years ago, I was homeless,” said Saulys. “I was always a poor laborer. But I got a job and I rented a room at an SRO. Nobody helped me at all. But that job is gone and that SRO is gone. It’s a different world today. A lot of people need some help.”

Another resident, Sean, is an openly gay man who has lived under the viaducts for a few months. He was priced out of where he had been living in Lakeview, and was experiencing homelessness even as he was working. He said that he was on his way to look at an apartment that morning.

“There is money for the things that we need that would be more of a comfort,” Sean said. “… Quit harassing us. Quit using tax dollars for your little cronies to drive through the viaduct and honk their horns and clang their loud machines at three or four o’clock in the morning. As a working person, those are my dollars that are going to that.”

Adam Gianforte, who has been living under the Lawrence Avenue viaduct for five months, said, “Sometimes we think of the city as an ‘entity,’ but these are the people who make up the city. These are our neighbors. When you have a friend who is homeless, it’s hard to ignore them, because they are your friend. … These people are the city.”

The press conference was called by homeless residents of the Wilson and Lawrence viaducts, the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless and ONE Northside.

Late in the morning residents were in Courtroom 2508 of the Daley Center regarding their complaint against the city of Chicago, pursuant to the Illinois Bill of Rights for the Homeless Act, trying to stop the city’s evictions.

Left: Protestors at the Tent City eviction. Right: Tents moved to Wilson Ave. and Marine Dr.
Photos by Matt Simonette

Right: Sean, a resident from the Wilson viaducts, is openly gay and trying to find an apartment.
Photo by Tracy Baim

personalPAC Annual Awards Luncheon

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30TH

CHICAGO HILTON & TOWERS - 720 S. Michigan Ave.

Honorees:

KHADINE BENNETT
Advocacy & Intergovernmental Affairs Director, ACLU of Illinois

JACKIE KAPLAN-PERKINS
Director of Human Rights Watch, Chicago

TINA TCHEN
Former Assistant to President Barack Obama, Former Chief of Staff to First Lady Michelle Obama

Co-chairs:

AMY BLUHM
EILEEN DORDEK

Keynote Speaker

JOY-ANN REID
MSNBC host of AM Joy & frequent Meet the Press commentator

11:00 a.m. General Reception
VIP Reception
12:00 p.m. Luncheon
1:30 p.m. VIP Reception with Honorees

For tickets or more information: info@personalpac.org
www.personalpac.org
www.weblink.donorperfect.com/2017_luncheon

Please RSVP by October 20, 2017
A years-long project to celebrate accomplished Chicago women as part of the Chicago Women’s Park & Gardens in the South Loop was finally unveiled for the public Sept. 14.

The Women’s Park & Gardens, with a field house on the corner of 18th and Indiana, and a manicured park out back, was created in the 1990s by the late Chicago Cultural Affairs Commissioner Lois Weisberg, and she is among the 65 women recognized in the exhibit. Not all of the women have large-scale photo displays, but they are all included in a booklet available at the field house and online at ChicagoParkDistrict.com/assets/1/7/CWP_Brochure_FINAL_reader_082917.pdf.

Among the lesbians featured in the display are playwright Lorraine Hansberry, social justice pioneer Jane Addams and attorney Pearl M. Hart—each of those women are in the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame. Florence Kelley, another social reformer, who moved into Jane Addams' Hull House to help in Addams' work, is also among those featured.

Ellen Gates Starr, who co-founded Hull House with Addams, and who was in a relationship with Addams, is also included.

The booklet also points out those women who have been honored through the naming of a public space or building in Chicago. Others in the exhibit include Ida B. Wells-Barnett and Lois Weisberg.

The brochure states: “Chicago Women’s Park & Gardens honors the many local women throughout history who have made important contributions to the city, nation, and the world. This booklet contains brief introductions to 65 great Chicago women—only a fraction of the many female Chicagoans who could be added to this list. In our selection, we strived for diversity in geography, chronology, accomplishments, and ethnicity. Only women with substantial ties to the City of Chicago were considered. Many other remarkable women who are still living or who lived just outside the City are not included here but are still equally noteworthy.”

Images are also on the outside of the building—Bertha Honore Palmer, Jane Addams, Ida B. Wells-Barnett and Lois Weisberg.

Photo by Tracy Baim

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Looking at Martin Whalley’s life, one of the words that certainly comes to mind is “cosmopolitan.”

Educated at Britain’s University of Bristol (where he studied biological sciences), Whalley, a consul, has worked in London, at The Hague in the Netherlands and at the British consulate in Sao Paulo, Brazil. (In addition, he has traveled all over the world.) Now he’s in Chicago, working at the British consulate here.

However, it is also a temporary job (generally four years), which means he and his husband, Rafael, will probably be moving again within a couple years. “You make great friends, but you know that you’re going to have to leave and start again—which is exciting and exhausting,” Whalley said.

Regarding what attracted him to Chicago, Whalley told Windy City Times, “There were two things. I wanted to work in the USA because the relationship between the U.S. and the U.K. is really important. Also, it’s a job where I get to manage a big team that works across a lot of different areas, so it’s a good career move.

Thirdly, it’s just a great city to be in. Also, I was looking to go to an English-speaking country; we’ve been here two years and Rafael (who I met in Sao Paolo) now speaks perfect English.”

As for a “typical workday,” Whalley said, “My job is to represent the U.K. across the 14 states we cover. Therefore, my days are massively varied, which is my favorite part of the job. I would say that it probably breaks down into three or four areas.

“First, there is representing the U.K., politically. So it’s dealing with state and city governments as well as reporting back to London during elections about U.S. politics—and making sure the U.S. and U.K. understand what the other wants. There’s also economic policy, and that involves working on such areas as energy policy and climate change, and trying to influence state and city governments.

“The third patch is about building and maintaining the U.K.’s reputation in the eyes of Americans—although sometimes we want to change perceptions. Sometimes Americans think of Britain as castles and formality—and it is those things; however, it’s also modern and dynamic, like with the work we do on LGBT rights. And I guess the fourth part is working directly with American and British businesses, helping them expand into each other’s territories.”

Overseeing 14 states, there are bound to be conflicts on various subjects—so how does Whalley deal with those? He said, “Obviously, we’d like to use our influence to change minds, but we don’t ever expect everybody to always agree with us. For example, the U.K. opposes the death penalty in all circumstances; in some parts of the U.S., it’s still used, so we like to set out our positions and hope that people will listen to us.”

• Age
35

• Relationship
Married to Rafael, a personal trainer

• Job title
Deputy consul general at the British Consulate Chicago

• Favorite snack
Chocolate

• Neighborhood
Streeterville (“I like a big-city feel.”)

• Dream vacation
California

• Favorite restaurant
“I love 90 Miles Cafe as well as restaurants in Greektown.”

• Personal mantra
“Always say ‘yes.’ Be open to opportunity.”

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Meet AIDS Run & Walk Chicago ambassadors

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

The AIDS Run & Walk Chicago—taking place Sunday, Oct. 1—welcomes people from all walks of life who have been affected by HIV/AIDS.

AIDS Foundation of Chicago assembles a team of ambassadors for the event with the purpose of putting their stories on the forefront to inspire. This year’s ambassadors are: Erica Bertrand MacCallum, Armando Ramirez-Guzman and Joel Guzman-Ramirez, Mara Goldman, Simone Koehliger, Lora Branch and their daughter Kat, Harry Tyner, Vinny Cousineau, Lauryn Scott and Christopher Pazdernik.

Vinny Cousineau

Cousineau is a high school math teacher at North Shore Country Day School. He is HIV-positive and, in 2005, he lost his partner to AIDS. To heal from the loss, Cousineau began on a cross-country road trip to visit every MLB park in the country.

“I was super-regimented in my food and my workouts and I was living a life that was totally dedicated to work and it was kind of weird and unhealthy,” said Cousineau of his behavior after losing his partner.

It was the opportunity to travel to Chicago for Gay Games and to Montreal for Outgames in the summer of 2006, Cousineau said, that allowed him to escape to a different environment and not be reminded of his late partner. He added, it was a chance to break out of his rut, while reconnecting with his own interests.

“This road trip and this baseball immersion would be all about me, reclaiming me and I listened to music I hadn’t listened to in years and I kept in touch with my family and friends about my experience,” said Vinny. “It was me getting away from the memories and me reclaiming stuff that’s important to me.”

When she was in college at Michigan State University, Scott volunteered for the Lansing Area AIDS Network, assisting their food pantry where we would provide food to people in the Lansing area who had HIV and AIDS. That, she said, was her first interaction ever with anybody other than her father that was HIV-positive or had AIDS.

Upon moving to Schaumburg, she knew in the bigger city of Chicago that there would be a foundation and she had her sights set on wanting to do more community service. She signed up to volunteer for the AIDS Run & Walk in 2015. She had been an ambassador for the run for the past two years and last year’s event was the first time she put her story on public display.

“I felt really comfortable around people that had a similar story, like we were sharing ‘I lost my brother, my mother, uncle, father or whatever,’” Scott. “It definitely made me feel comfortable because a lot of the time when I tell people my dad died from AIDS, they don’t really know how to react or empathize. Being in that environment definitely made me feel comfortable, so I started volunteering at more events.”

Advocacy is something that runs in Scott’s family. With her mother being a nurse, she recalled her family would attend a lot of events such health fairs. Her mother, Scott said, was always involved in general health advocacy.

Last year, Scott learned that when her father was in a hospice clinic he was denied care. While it was a common practice during that time, her mother sued to change the hospice’s discriminatory policies and won. While her parent’s were separated at the time it was her father’s way of making sure that another family or another person would never have that negative experience again.

“Everyone deals with things differently, but for me, I feel that by putting a face to a disease or an illness, that it will make someone more comfortable to understand it more or be more sensitive to it,” said Scott.

Christopher Pazdernik

Pazdernik, from Neenah, Wisconsin, made his theater debut at 6, starring in a summer drama class production of Peter Rabbit. It was then he found his passion.

“I love telling stories, I love hearing stories,” said Pazdernik. “Between my love of storytelling and the passion I have for music, I think it was written in the stars that I would be working in musical theater.”

Pazdernik works as the artistic director at Refuge Theatre Project and an artistic associate at Porchlight Music Theatre. For the last year and a half, he has also been doing freelance work at a variety of different companies and organizations. Currently, he is the associate producer on a new musical called “The Civilty of Albert Cashier.” This year he was the recipient of the NON-EQUITY Jeff Award for best direction of a musical. Aside from his theater work, he also serves as the chairperson of the community advisory board at Howard Brown Health.

Feb. 2, 2009 was the day he was diagnosed with HIV.

“I relate that my HIV was sort of like a second coming-out process,” said Pazdernik. “After the hamster wheel of me getting comfortable talking about it in public started speeding up, then I started to really look for ways I could give back to a lot of the organizations that had helped me.”

Pazdernik intersected his musical theater work with his HIV-advocacy work and, as a result, created his annual birthday concert called “Chris’ Birthday Belt Fest” that benefits Howard Brown Health.

“I just couldn’t think of anything I’d rather have for my birthday than a room full of these singers singing some of my favorite musical theater songs, while raising money and giving back to Howard Brown at the same time,” he said.

In addition, four years ago, he began participating in the AIDS Run & Walk with a team and for the past two years has been an ambassador.

“It’s the most beautiful and tangible reminder that I’m not alone and there are other people out there that are living with the same illness and there are even more people than those of us living with it who are willing to support us and fight for us and fight for an AIDS-free generation at some point in the future and it’s just that soul boosting reminder that you are not alone with thousands of people walking miles and miles on a Saturday morning,” said Pazdernik of the event.

To learn more about Lauryn Scott, visit: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tTjdx36q_P4.


To learn more about AIDS Run & Walk Chicago, visit: http://events.aidschicago.org/site/TR?fr_id=1420&pg=entry.
Enough is Enough


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What is Mytesi?
Mytesi is a prescription medicine that helps relieve symptoms of diarrhea not caused by an infection (noninfectious) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on antiretroviral therapy (ART).

Important Safety Information
Mytesi is not approved to treat infectious diarrhea (diarrhea caused by bacteria, a virus, or a parasite). Before starting you on Mytesi, your healthcare provider will first be sure that you do not have infectious diarrhea. Otherwise, there is a risk you would not receive the right medicine and your infection could get worse. In clinical studies, the most common side effects that occurred more often than with placebo were upper respiratory tract (sinus, nose, and throat) infection (5.7%), bronchitis (3.9%), cough (3.5%), flatulence (3.1%), and increased bilirubin (3.1%).

For Copay Savings Card and Patient Assistance, see Mytesi.com

Please see complete Prescribing Information at Mytesi.com.

NP-390-23
viewpoints

TPAN: Our story is your story

A group of 16 met in Clason’s living room in June of 1987 for the first meeting. They shared news clippings, announcements of drug trials, and personal stories of the emotional and physical hardship of living with the new virus. Together, they found their own answers on how to manage HIV—and more importantly, fostered hope for those living with HIV, and honoring those lost to the epidemic.

The group grew thanks to Chris and early members’ attention to inclusion. In a newsletter sent four months after the first meeting, Chris wrote, “If there is one thing I have discovered within the circle of familiar and new faces that gather each week... It is that rather than limiting ourselves to the perimeter of the circle, each meeting at TP [as it was known then] is a further expansion of self, of discovery and of healing. There is ROOM here. Room to learn, room to share, room to grow. TP will grow. I hope that you will be a part of the growing process.”

Participants found the promised room in early meetings and support from one another. But TPAN is, and has always been, bigger than Chris. “TPA exists as it does today, not because of one or two people, but because of all of us working together,” wrote Chris prior to his death in 1991. Many hands provided comfort for early members—in some instances literally.

Mary Pat Brown, a TPAN volunteer, met Chris when he dropped off TPAN resources at her office. She described their meeting as an “immediate connection.” His positive spirit was both engaging and unbelieveable to me.” Mary Pat began attending meetings and was moved by the resilience of early members. “I cried twice a week at those meetings, I was completely, completely overwhelmed with sadness regarding the inevitable fate of all those present. How could this very large group of men facing the most dismal of health diagnoses be cheerful? So happy, resourceful, laughing? Funny, even?”

Brown, Hannah Hedrick and Lisa Congelton were fondly known as the “TPA Angels” for their selfless care provided to meeting participants. Hannah, a director of medical education, research, and information at the American Medical Association, shared her time, leading weekly yoga and T’ai Chi classes, and teaching holistic health workshops.

Writing in 1993, Hannah shared that TPAN continued its grassroots appeal. “People come to classes at TPAN hoping to get help. But what turns out to have the most meaning is giving help.” In addition to alternative therapies, Hannah, Lisa, and Mary Pat would provide massages at each meeting. “It became our trademark,” shared Mary Pat. “I was eager to be a part of something meaningful to support the group. And it stopped my tears—for the most part. But I was still emotional as I felt I was walking on sacred ground, privileged to be among the ever-growing TPAN membership. It was all we three could do to be sure all in attendance received a massage.”

These acts of incredible love and perseverance, and the selflessness of TPAN’s founders and volunteers, is what I think of when I hear that “TPAN saved a life.” TPAN was founded by our members, and continues to be sustained by each client taking part in our groups, our readers’ contributions, and our community’s energy and resiliency. Our story is your story.

Submit your story
Go to TPAN.com/yourstories to post online, post on social media with the hashtag #ourstoryisours, or leave a voice message at 773-598-9435. We will continue to share your stories through the end of the year. These stories, and many more, will be shared in person at TPAN’s 30th-anniversary celebration in September.

All current and former clients, supporters and health advocates are invited to celebrate 30 years of TPAN on Thursday, Sept. 28, 7–10 p.m., at Moonlight Studios. Go to TPAN.com/tickets to learn more and purchase tickets.

Gary Nelson is the events and communications manager at TPAN.

Bi the way

Dear editor:

This is an open letter to the entire LGBTQ community on behalf of all bisexual and bi-curious MEN and our friends regarding the increasingly hostile and unfriendly environment in today’s world for all bisexual and bi-curious men.

In the last decade, many gains have been made for our gay brothers and lesbian sisters, especially in the area of marriage equality. The wise and just representation of “gay marriage” into “marriage equality” did, over time, work wonders for us. Decades ago, who would have thought that today all of us could get legally married in each and every jurisdiction in these United States?

Other remarkable gains with greater acceptance and tolerance have been blessedly achieved for gays and lesbians but, sadly, progress for bisexuals—especially for bisexual and bi-curious men—has lagged behind. Now, our transgender siblings are increasingly under attack, most recently in the armed services and even regarding access to public restrooms in many states across the country today.

Whereas the LGBTQ family should be united and one, it is no where any nearer to that today than it was decades ago. Bisexuals, especially men, are just not yet fully accepted and welcomed into our LGBTQ family as they rightfully should be. One day this will come and it must—so we are asking you to help make that a reality sooner than later. One day at a time.

An important first step for all of us was and is self-acceptance and greater self-understanding. It is all too often so very difficult for bisexual and bi-curious men to do this. The Bi Men Network has been helping in this regard online since the 1990’s as a continuous support and presence for our men at BiMen.org and in recent years with our new online bi male social fraternity Beta Mu Society (BetaMuSociety.org) and our Facebook public groups.

We are reaching out here to you today and now to ask your help in letting bisexual and bi-curious men you may know now or come to know in the future about these opportunities for greater self-acceptance and self-understanding.

Also, bisexual men, bi-curious guys and our friends can visit:
- MAC’S FRONT ROOM: BiMen.org/macssonfrontroom.htm
- MAC’S BACK ROOM: BiMen.org/macssonbackroom.htm
- Bi MEN STORIES: BiMen.org/stories
- Beta Mu Society: BetaMuSociety.org

The LGBTQ family is a BIG tent. We likely are 20 up and growing. We have the most meaning is giving help.” In addition to alternative therapies, Hannah, Lisa, and Mary Pat would provide massages at each meeting. “It became our trademark,” shared Mary Pat. “I was eager to be a part of something meaningful to support the group. And it stopped my tears—for the most part. But I was still emotional as I felt I was walking on sacred ground, privileged to be among the ever-growing TPAN membership. It was all we three could do to be sure all in attendance received a massage.”

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Gary Nelson is the events and communications manager at TPAN.

Best Wishes,
Stewart (Mac) McCloud,
Founder and CEO
BI MEN NETWORK and
Alpha Founding Father
BETA MU SOCIETY
Artemesia festival puts spotlight on women

It’s not every day that audiences can have a direct say in what plays are produced by a theater company. But that’s exactly what the women-focused Artemisia is doing with its Fall Festival 2017.

“We do new work, so I really wanted a situation where the audience participated in experiencing the new work directly—to focus on the text,” said Artemisia founder and executive artistic director Julie Proudfoot. She added that Artemisia, which takes its name from the Italian baroque painter Artemisia Gentileschi, launched in 2011 with a festival of staged readings.

Proudfoot also went with the festival format so audiences could be directly engaged and have conversations about whether or not the works empower women. And then audiences get to vote on which work Artemisia will fully produce in a future season. For instance, the spring 2018 production of Traci Godfrey’s lesbian drama Sweet Texas Reckoning is on Artemisia’s season roster because it received the most audience votes from Artemisia’s Fall Festival.

Now Artemisia takes submissions from playwright agents, while still retaining open submissions from Chicago-based playwrights. For Fall Festival 2017, 65 plays were considered for the six coveted spots.

One of those was The Rug Dealer by queer-identified South Asian playwright Riti Sachdeva. The Rug Dealer had the distinction of being one of 32 works on the esteemed 2016 Kilroy List of unproduced plays written by women. The list is chosen by a self-described “gang” of Los Angeles-based playwrights and producers out to bring gender parity to professional theater.

The Rug Dealer is inspired by Sachdeva’s time 20 years ago working in a fine carpets store run by Iranian immigrants to came to America after the 1979 Islamic Revolution. The play explores what happens when a daughter must take over her late father’s carpet business, and the complications that ensue when she starts to become attracted to another woman.

“One of the things I was really interested in exploring in this play is the idea of two women that should on the outside should have a lot in common—they find each other attractive and interesting and intelligent and sexy,” Sachdeva said. “What I also wanted to challenge was the homonormativity in the U.S. and how we export the idea of what we consider visibility as LGBTQ people. … Same-sex relationships are really expressed differently in different places.”

Sachdeva is excited to have Chicago actors working on The Rug Dealer, even if she is slightly apprehensive about the competition aspect of Artemisia’s Fall Festival.

“I appreciate that it gives the audience a kind of buy-in into a full production,” Sachdeva said. “The audience really has a say in what play this theater produces.”

Proudfoot also feels some regret about the five plays that won’t receive a full Artemisia production. Yet Proudfoot also hopes that the heads of other Chicago theater companies—especially right now and the more ways that we see each other as equals, the better the community, the culture—the better people we all become,” Proudfoot said. “I’m really working hard to think of ways to market and to get that message out there.”

Artemisia Fall Festival 2017 is at The Edge Theater, 5451 N. Broadway St. Riti Sachdeva’s The Rug Dealer is 7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 25; Eileen Campbell’s Jarred is at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 26; Caity-Shea Violette’s Reap the Grove is 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 27; Kirsten Ebsen’s The Malta Play is 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 2; Caity-Shea Violette’s Reap the Grove is 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 3; Janet Burroway’s Parts of Speech is 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 4.

Admission is free to each reading, but reservations and donations are encouraged. There is a $25 VIP pass for all performances of Artemisia Fall Festival 2017 plus the upcoming production of Traci Godfrey’s Sweet Texas Reckoning in March 2018. Call 312-725-3780 or visit ArtemisiaTheatre.org.
Theater Review
The Heavens Are Hung in Black
Playwright: James Still
At: Shattered Globe Theatre at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave.
Tickets: $35
Runs through: Oct. 15

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The year is 1862.

The secessionist rebellion that was to have been resolved in a few months continues to escalate in volume until refugees crowd our nation’s capital, and president Abraham Lincoln, beset by dissenting factions in both parties, is warned not to travel in public unescorted. Our commander-in-chief must also contend with his grief-stricken wife’s response to their son’s recent death from fever contracted in the sweltering heat and sewage-polluted metropolis. The specter of the Grim Reaper likewise haunts the bereaved father as he grapples with news of soldiers wounded and dying, along with the entreaties of families seeking mercy for citizens arrested amid increasing civic paranoia.

Well, nobody ever said running a country was an easy job. Before our hero succumbs to the despair that threatens to reduce his homeland to irreparable disunity, though, his morale is restored by a seemingly trivial incident: taking shelter from a sudden downpour at the Ford Theater one day, he encounters superstar Edwin Booth’s troupe of actors rehearsing a play. Since no one parses responsibilities of leadership more intrinsically than Shakespeare, the ensuing discussion provides our ambivalent POTUS a template pointing the way to solutions he will implement, albeit reluctantly.

Theater Review
The Invisible Scarlet O’Neil
Playwright: Barbara Lhota, based on the comic strip by Russell Stamm
At: Babes With Blades Theatre
Company at the Factory, 1623 W. Howard St.
Tickets: $25
Runs through: Oct. 14

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Sorry, Wonder Woman, but your long-lost older sister is back to resume her place in superhero-land. Russell Stamm’s comic strip focusing on the adventures of a scientist’s daughter turned crime-fighter after a laboratory mishap renders her the power of invisibility made its debut on June 3, 1940, in the Chicago Times—a full year before the arrival of an immigrant princess out of Greek myth.

To be sure, Scarlet O’Neil was slow in acclimating to her extraordinary abilities, having no role models to educate her. Indeed, her father, fearing the government commandeering her skills for war weapons (as it did nuclear fission), warns her against revealing her “special” capabilities. Little do they suspect that one of his assistants has already been recruited by the Soviet Union to perfect a lipstick permeated with psychotropic dye reducing the wearer to robot-like obedience. Five years later, Scarlet is a cub reporter at Chicago’s City Times, where bizarre reports are circulating of women diving into the lake fully clothed. Further complicating matters is a social environment increasingly unsupportive of women in the workplace, forcing Scarlet and her fellow journalists to fight not just for justice, but writing credit as well.

Saving the world from enemy aggression is a stroll through the funny-pages compared to translating print-graphic narrative to live-action performance, making technical effects arguably the real star of this Babes With Blades production. These include the projections of G. Max Maxin IV, whose caption boxes, thought balloons and onomatopoeic inserts compress expository information into mere seconds. Likewise contributing to the wizardry are the smart UV-reactive career-girl suits, tailored by costumer Kimberly G. Morris, that allow us to “see” our discorporeal champion, along with solitary adversaries trading punches and grapples with empty air under the instruction of combat designer Libby Beyreis.

This isn’t to slight the human actors—not in a dramatic universe populated by newsheads lifted straight from The Front Page, buffoonish villains like the scheming Evanna Keil and malapropism-spouting Judy Butafuco, a pair of flinty dowagers (played with scene-stealing aplomb by Lynne Baker), a movie star-turned-physicist (Lisa Herceg doing her best Christine Baranski impression) and a smart little girl with a dog—along with a few inconsiderable males. The results deliver a last taste of frivolous fantasy fun before a weighty fall season.

Theater Review
Alias Grace
Playwright: Jennifer Blackmer, from Margaret Atwood’s novel
At: Rivendell Theatre, 5779 N. Ridge Ave.
Tickets: $33-77-728; RivendellTheatre.org; $38
Runs through: Oct. 15

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

In 1843, near Toronto, a 16-year-old Irish immigrant housemaid was convicted of murdering her employer (male and unmarried) and the housekeeper who had hired her. Spared death because of her youth, Grace Marks had no memories of the events and was declared criminally insane although she wasn’t violent. She languished in prison for decades.

The rather skimpy historic record contains more than enough inconsistencies and blanks for award-winning novelist Margaret Atwood to create a fictional story of Victorian Era psychosocial exploitation, repression and fantasy; a story which grows increasingly Gothic as it goes along, at least in this the world premiere stage adaptation of Atwood’s 1996 novel. Grace is victimized by socially privileged men, as are other women in the tale, but the story is far more than that.

Set chiefly in 1859, when Grace had been imprisoned for 16 years, it focuses on a progressive doctor whose detached scientific interest in Grace turns into much more. Indeed, Dr. Simon Jordan (Steve Haggard)—who perpetually doses himself with laudanum—may be as off-kilter as Jordan (Steve Haggard)—who perpetually doses himself with laudanum—may be as off-kilter as...

Barbecue, Strawdog Theatre at Steppenwolf 1700, through Sept. 30. What people believe always trumps the truth. Satirical playwright Robert O’Hara (Bootycandy) explores this conundrum, and also issues of cultural appropriation that blur Black/white race lines. JA

Bonnie and Clyde, Kokandy Productions at Theater Wit, through Oct. 15. The saga of the Depression-era lovers who chose outlaw thrills over boring social responsibility is recounted romantically. MSB

A Night in Alachuca County, WildClaw Theatre Company at the Den, through Oct. 7. Horror fiction gets little respect nowadays, but Jennifer Rumberger’s smart balance of necromantic horror and domestic atrocities restores the menace posed by those seeking to subvert the limits of mortality. MSB

Trevor: The Musical, Writers Theatre, Glencoe, extended through Oct. 8. Dan Collins and Julianne Wick Davis affectionately adapt and expand upon the Academy Award-winning 1994 film short. It’s all about a showbiz-minded boy and his classmates who come to terms with shifting friendships and budding sexualities. SCM

—By AbARBANEL, Barnidge and Morgan
THEATER REVIEW

Priscilla—Queen of the Desert: The Musical

Playwrights: Stephan Elliott and Allan Scott
At: Morton College Campus (Building A), 3801 S. Central Ave., Cicero
Tickets: 708-656-1800 or JPACTheatre.com; $20
Runs through: Sep. 30

BY SEAN MARGARET WAGNER

Peek under the hood of Priscilla—Queen of the Desert: The Musical, and you’ll find a pared down story with familiar juke-box hits, all designed not to pull focus away from Priscilla’s crown jewel: spectacle. We could care less about the content of those pop songs, or how the traveling troupe gets from point A to point B, but there had better be copious costume changes, elaborate wigs, and top-notch choreography. Jedlicka Performing Arts Center has a lot of ambition, but gets overwhelmed in the tricky business of costumes, wigs and stagecraft.

It’s almost as if, instead of developing an ideal show for their space and performers, Director Michael Nedza, Music Director Justin Amolsch and Choreographer Britta Schlicht were content to mimic the spectacle of slicker versions of Priscilla, ignoring their own chance to create something original with home-spun charm.

For the uninitiated, Priscilla—Queen of the Desert is an Australian drag extravaganza in which struggling Sydney drag queen Mitzi Motti (Joshua Heinlein) leaves to reconnect with his estranged wife and son and perform in their backwater town. He recruits Bernadette (Michael Costanzo), a retired trans performer, and bubbly Felicia Jollygoodfellow (Michael Costanzo) to join him. They pool their resources and buy a run-down bus that they dub Priscilla, and travel through one inhospitable town after another in a journey of acceptance, love and being first to climb Ayers Rock in full drag regalia.

This production is an odd choice for Jedlicka. While the musical proudly advocates for many on the gender and sexuality spectrum, those it honors most are white and male. It does a disservice to actors of color with roles such as Cynthia (Madison Piner) and Jimmy (Larry Trice), who are both painted as insensitive stereotypical caricatures.

For our trio of queens, Joshua Heinlein, Michael A. Kott and Michael Costanzo, performances are spirited, and singing voices are fantastic. This is also true for the trio of divas that act as the vocal power for every frenzied lip-synch, Stephanie Boyd, Rachel Elise and Krista Porchetta. But drag can be an unforgiving art form, and is hard to pull off without careful prep-work and support from your crew behind the curtain. When Jacob Gilchrist (Chicago’s own ‘Mikki Miraj’) enters flawlessly as Miss Understanding, a bar is set, but never exceeded thanks to numerous wardrobe and sound malfunctions.

One of the hidden strengths of drag performing is the ability for performers to ditch a malfunctioning wig, or broken accessory with bravado as if to say “you didn’t come here for the glitter, you’re here for me.” I hope, with time, that this cast can embrace the diva within against this rough theatrical terrain.

FELICIA JOLLYGOODFELLOW / MICHAEL COSTANZO.; JOSHUA HEINLEIN; MICHAEL A. KOTT
Photo by Jesus J. Montero
Reeling offers variety of LGBTQ films
Sept. 21-28

BY STEVE WARREN

Reeling, the second-oldest LGBTQ film festival in the world, celebrates its 35th anniversary with an exciting slate of movies that showcases the amazing diversity of the queer experience.

Chicago’s international festival unreels Sept. 21-28 at Landmark Theatres’ Century Centre Cinema, with the opening-night premiere at Music Box Theatre. Reviews to just a few of the films are below:

HELLO AGAIN (***) (Sept. 21, 7 p.m.)

For better or worse, you’ll never see the like of Hello Again again. Based on a 1994 Off-Broadway musical by Michael John LaChiusa that was suggested by Arthur Schnitzler’s La Ronde, it tells ten short, sexy stories, with one character from each rolling over into the next. The first half is wholly hetero, but the gayer second half pairs Martha Plimpton with Audra McDonald, Tyler Blackburn with T.R. Knight and Blackburn with Cheyenne Jackson. While far from loving Hello Again, I admire director (and Northwestern alum) Tom Gustafson for being true to his vision, even if many viewers won’t share it.

AFTER LOUIE (** 1/2) (Sept. 22, 7:30 p.m.)

After Louie divides the world, especially the gay world, into the young, the middle-aged and the old. Sam Cooper (Alan Cumming), 54, is an AIDS activist who hasn’t moved on. He’s attracted to younger men but doesn’t respect them. An obvious surrogate for director Vincent Gagliostro in this semi-autobiography, Sam also ignores the accomplishments of previous generations. He’s befriended by Braeden (Zachary Booth), “nearly 30,” but it doesn’t improve his attitude. Cumming can’t be totally unlikable, but he comes close enough that After Louie isn’t very likable either.

I’ve found my soulmate! Dr. Serena Wolfe (Anna Lise Phillips) is a bad-tempered blonde with a low tolerance for the imperfections of others. She’s required to undergo sensitivity training to keep her job at a university research lab. Her trainer, Caroline (Jill E. Alexander), is a bubbly red-haired lesbian with a partner and a five-year-old daughter. Can this be a romcom without breaking up a happy home? Writer-director Melissa Finell finds a brilliant way out of the corner she’s painted herself into for a happy ending. Phillips is sensational and Sensitivity Training made me laugh out loud.

I DREAM IN ANOTHER LANGUAGE (** 1/2)

This marvelous film about preserving ancient cultures mixes the natural, the unnatural and the supernatural. A young linguist visits a remote Mexican village to record the last living speakers of a vanished tribe’s language. Unfortunately, one dies and the other two haven’t spoken to each other in half a century. Two heterosexual love stories develop, one in the present and one in the past, while you wait for a gay angle to be revealed. Writer Carlos Contreras and director/brother Ernesto Contreras make their world accessible on their terms, if you’ll leave yourself open to enchanting surprises.

B&B (***) (Sept. 23, 2 p.m.)

Writer-director Tadeo Garcia mixes the timeless with the timely with a film about a relationship involving a same-sex couple (Nelson Rodriguez and Andrew L. Saenz) that has to deal with the controversial U.S. immigration system. The acting is pretty solid, overall, and Chicago is almost another character in the film. Also, there’s a twist in the plot that will probably surprise almost everyone. (Note: This review is by Andrew Davis.)

SENSITIVITY TRAINING (***) (Sept. 23, 7 p.m.)

This documentary takes the viewer into the life of (hold on!) singer, rapper, dancer, actor, director, American Idol alum, RuPaul’s Drag Race judge and YouTube superstar Todrick Hall and the creation of his full-scale musical Straight Outta Oz. Fans of the likeable trailblazer will eat up every moment of this 100-minute film (including his recounting of his numerous achievements); however, fans of the genre will also like this mostly engrossing film, despite the movie occasionally delving too deeply into minutiae. (Note: This review is by Andrew Davis.)

SATEURDAY CHURCH (***) (Sept. 28, 7 p.m.)

Think Moonlight with drags instead of drugs, but this coming-of-age story of a gay African American is really a hybrid of Moonlight and La La Land. When teenaged Ulysses’ (Luka Kain) father dies, stern Aunt Rose (Chicago’s Regina Taylor) helps mind him and his younger brother. Already caught wearing his mother’s clothes, Ulysses visits Greenwich Village, where he’s adopted by four former runaways, three of whom dress as women. Writer-director Damon Cardasis softens the story’s intensity with songs, low-“Rent” but serviceable, and dancing. Kain’s performance ensures your sympathy, and Cardasis’ approach keeps you from being traumatized by things that befall Ulysses.

APRICOT GROVES (** 1/2) (Sept. 28, 7:15 p.m.)

LGBT viewers may guess the surprise ending, but a critic shouldn’t reveal it; so I’ll let you wonder why the festival’s showing a drama about an Armenian-Iranian, raised in America, who’s reunited with his brother in Armenia on a mission to propose marriage to his lady love. Trust me, it belongs. Much is really good, yet Apricot Groves has serious flaws too, including being padded to feature-length with overlong shots, speeches and scenes. An enlightened and enlightening film from a region where you’d least expect it, it would be moreso if its gimmicky structure didn’t make it conceal so much.

For complete festival information including locations, and to buy tickets, visit http://reeling-filmfestival.org.

Also: Read a Reeling-related interview with actor Nelson Rodriguez, of the film En Algun Lugar, on page 24.
About Face names Megan Carney as artistic director

About Face Theatre has named Megan Carney as its new artistic director. As a founding director of About Face Youth Theatre, Carney’s collaborative work with community partners around the city addressed chosen families, identity development, housing instability and more in performances that premiered in Chicago and toured around the country. Recent Chicago directing credits include Julie Jenson’s Winter, George Brant’s Grizzly Mama, Danielle Pinnock’s Body/Courage and Lisa Dillman’s American Wee Pie and The Walls with Rivendell Theatre Ensemble.

For the past six years Megan served as the director of the Gender and Sexuality Center, one of the Centers for Cultural Understanding and Social Change at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Also, she has served on the honorary boards of About Face Theatre, the LBTQ Giving Council of the Chicago Foundation for Women and with the Chicago Restroom Access Project of Pride Action Tank. Carney’s work has been recognized with multiple After Dark Awards, the GLSEN Pathfinder Award, an APA Presidential Citation, induction in Chicago’s Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame, a Rockefeller Foundation MAP Grant and a GLAAD Media Award nomination.

‘Use It or Lose It’ Sept. 23 at Greenhouse

Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave., is hosting “Use It or Lose It: An Evening of Short Plays About Your Rights” on Saturday, Sept. 23, at 7 p.m. The event spotlights original works inspired by contemporary and historic legal battles the ACLU has fought on behalf of U.S. residents’ rights and freedoms. “Use It” features short plays by Thomas Bradshaw, Philip Dawkins, Sandra Delgado, Zayd Dohrn, Rebecca Gilman, Brett Neveu, Julie Marie Myatt, Tanya Palmer and Laura Schellhardt. The cast includes Japhet Balaban, Dana Black, Pat Kane, Jennifer Latimore, Mary Ann Thebus, Dan Waller and Wandachristine, with additional members to be announced.

Tickets are pay-what-you-want; visit Greenhousetheater.org or in person at the box office, or call 773-404-7336. All proceeds will benefit the ACLU.

Chicago Academy of the Arts’ AIDS benefit

The Chicago Academy for the Arts will hold its 21st Annual AIDS Benefit at the school, 1010 W. Chicago Ave. The benefit will take place Friday, Sept. 22, at 4:45 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and Saturday, Sept. 23 at 7 p.m. in the dance wing of the academy.

Started by Academy alum Justin Tranter—an industry songwriter of many hits such as DNCE’s hit “Cake by the Ocean”—the event will be a showcase of each student artist’s individual style.

Students from all six departments at the Academy (music, theater, musical theater, dance, visual arts and media arts) will be performing a variety of song, original dance and theatrical performances as well as putting original artwork up for display and auction.

All proceeds after costs go toward The AIDS Foundation of Chicago. The goal is to raise $10,000.

See https://www.chicago-academyforthearts.org/aids-benefit.

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Pride Arts Center 4139 N Broadway 1-800-737-0984 pridefilmsandplays.com
Fawzia Mirza

Nunn on One: Film

Fawzia Mirza shows viewers ‘Signature Move’

BY JERRY NUNN

Signature Move—a new film directed by Jennifer Reeder and written by Fawzia Mirza and Lisa Donato—is a much-anticipated Chicago-made lesbian feature film that has been garnering praise this year as it tours the festival circuit around the world.

The film tells the story of a thirtysomething lesbian lawyer named Zaynab (played by Mirza) living in Chicago who starts a new relationship with a Mexican-American woman named Alma (played by Sari Sanchez). Zaynab’s mother, Parveen (portrayed by Shabana Azmi), moves in to their apartment, creating drama. Pro wrestling involving Alma’s professional luchadora mother is all part of the mix in this hilarious movie.

Mirza is a Pakistani-Canadian actress who is also a writer, producer and comedian. Her one-woman show Me, My Mom and Sharmila was performed at the International Theatre Festival and Steppenwolf’s 1700 Theatre.

She created a web series that was shown on YouTube surrounding the adventures of Kameron Kardashian, a fictional lesbian sister of the popular family. In the same vein, she created Ayesha Ali’s Speech of a Younger Woman, the fictional daughter of Donald Trump in The Muslim Trump Documentary.

Wind City Times: Where did you grow up?

Fawzia Mirza: I was born in Canada and raised in Nova Scotia on the East Coast.

WCT: I love the issues you take on.

FM: I create characters that I think will not have a lot of space to grow. I love being able to do that.

WCT: You’re a Pakistani-Canadian actress who is now playwriting and directing.

FM: We are starting to see the community change, but we are still not there.

WCT: Would you ever do another one-woman show?

FM: I do come up with projects constantly. That is a good and bad thing. My managers would say I need to calm down, but at the same time not stop being an idea factory. I love collaborating with different people. I hope I can spark creativity with them. Hopefully one day I will get paid lots of money and will have lots of space to have more collaborations.

WCT: Whatever happened to your character Kam Kardashian?

FM: She’s still alive and a part of me. I am not bringing her to any projects anytime soon, although I feel her energy is in every project. I just can’t help it!

Follow thefawz on Twitter and Instagram. The special preview of Signature Move takes place Thursday, Sept. 28, with Shabana Azmi at the Chicago South Asian Film Festival. The special screening is on Friday, Sept. 29, at The Music Box Theatre, 3733 N. Southport Ave. For more information, visit MusicBoxTheatre.com.

Lavender Country in Chicago Sept. 26

Lavender Country—the band led by lifelong gay-rights and social-justice activist Patrick Haggerty—is coming to Chicago to perform at The Hideout, 1354 W. Wabansia Ave., on Tuesday, Sept. 26, at 9 p.m.

The Golden Horse Ranch Band and Slop Sink will also be on the bill.


Tickets are $15 each; visit HideoutChicago.com/event/1540927-lavender-country-chica-go/.

NUNN ON ONE: FILM

Fawzia Mirza

Photo courtesy of Mirza
Politics, diversity dominate Emmys

The 69th Primetime Emmy Awards, held Sept. 17, was historic in several ways—and, with Stephen Colbert hosting, featured a mix of humor and politics.

One of the historic developments that happened was out scribe Lena Waithe becoming the first Black woman to win the Emmy for Best Comedy Writing (winning with Aziz Ansari for the show Master of None). During her acceptance speech, Waithe said, “Thank you for embracing a little Indian boy from South Carolina and a little queer Black girl from the South Side of Chicago. Most of all, my LGBTQIA family—I see each and every one of you.” Deadline reported that Waithe said backstage, “It means a lot to me to be a ‘first’. What it does is it says that it’s possible. I hope it opens people’s eyes to give women of color a seat at the table so they can tell their story.”

Lesbian actress/comedian Kate McKinnon’s win was, indeed, political in nature, as she nabbed her second Emmy statue for her work (for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series) on Saturday Night Live—which included her dead-on impersonation as Hillary Clinton. (Similarly, Alec Baldwin won the male version of the award for his performance as President Trump on the same program.)

Also, Netflix anthology series Black Mirror won Outstanding Television Movie for the episode “San Junipero,” which features Gugu Mbatha-Raw and Mackenzie Davis as women who make a strong connection within a virtual-reality simulator. In winning, Black Mirror edged Sherlock and The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, among other projects.

Hulu made history by becoming the first streaming service to take home an Outstanding Drama Series win, for The Handmaid’s Tale, according to a press release from the network. Adapted from Margaret Atwood’s 1985 thriller, the show won eight awards, including an Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series win for Elisabeth Moss.

In other signs of diversity, This Is Us actor Sterling K. Brown became the first African-American performer in almost two decades to win lead actor in a drama. In addition, Riz Ahmed became the first Asian-American man to win an Emmy for his lead acting performance on the limited series The Night Of, which aired on HBO. Atlanta’s Donald Glover became the first Black person to win an Emmy for directing for a comedy—and he also won the Outstanding Lead Actor in a Comedy Series award.

In a surprise move that was warmly received, Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin and Dolly Parton (the original cast of the movie 9 to 5) jointly appeared to present an award. Fonda and Tomlin currently co-star in the series Grace and Frankie.

Julia Louis-Dreyfus made history with her sixth consecutive Outstanding Lead Actress in a Comedy Series win for the same role: Selina Meyer on the show Veep. With her eighth Emmy overall, Louis-Dreyfus is now tied with Cloris Leachman for the most wins as a performer.

Colbert—who needs Trump constantly on his show—roasted the chief executive at the Emmys as well. At one point, Colbert said that Trump never got over not winning an Emmy for his reality show The Apprentice, stating, “Unlike the presidency, Emmys go to the winner of the popular vote.” In addition, former White House press secretary Sean Spicer made a surprise appearance on a rolling podium.

Lena Waithe at the 2017 Primetime Emmys.
Photo courtesy of Waithe’s Facebook page

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OPENS SATURDAY!

Nelson Rodriguez tackles immigration, love in ‘En Algun Lugar’

BY ANDREW DAVIS

In the movie En Algun Lugar—which will be shown at the Reeling Film Festival on Sept. 22-23—Nelson Rodriguez and Andrew L. Saenz play a Chicago couple (Abel and Diego, respectively) who face a complication when it turns out that one of them is an undocumented immigrant.

Rodriguez—a local actor and recent Windy City Times 30 Under 30 honoree who won’t see the completed film for the first time until Reeling (a promise he made)—talked about the movie’s plot, filming in Chicago and Mexico, and the concept of straight actors who play gay.

Windy City Times: Tell me how the title of the movie relates to the plot.

Nelson Rodriguez: From my understanding from [writer/director] Tadeo Garcia, a loose translation of the title is “A Place to Be,” while the direct translation is “Someplace.” I think the movie holds on to the idea that things are better somewhere, in some other place. Eventually, we’ll get to the place where you can be somebody—that’s how it ties to the movie, specifically Diego’s journey to become an American citizen. Then there’s an issue with his mom [who’s in Mexico], and decisions have to be made.

WCT: Chicago is practically another character in the movie. You filmed in Boystown and a couple other spots. I didn’t recognize the bridge you two crossed, though.

NR: Oh, that’s the 95th Street bridge. We were all over Chicago, from the South Side to the North Side. We were up in Rogers Park in The Armadillo’s Pillow bookstore for one scene, and were in Boystown for the nightclub scene. We were at a concert hall as well. It was really important that Chicago be represented, and that it felt authentic to where these characters would live.

WCT: And you filmed in Mexico as well?

NR: Yes—we were there for eight days. I couldn’t believe it was happening. We were in small-town Mexico, southwest of Mexico City—specifically, Jalpa, Zacatecas. Actually, Tadeo’s family has land there; he has memories of going there as a kid. It’s very important to him that, in the story, [this area] was represented as part of his own journey. He also knew certain things, like the time of the year when the fair [in the film] takes place. The cinematographer, Charlie, did a beautiful job.

WCT: You looked different in the film [in terms of weight] than you do now.

NR: Actually, we didn’t improv that; that was already in the script. Also, the roommate was already a fit guy, and I’ve never been an athletic guy. So even if I had been thinner in the movie, it would’ve made sense for him to tell me to hit the gym.

WCT: I get various answers to this question, but what is it like filming the love scenes?

NR: At first, they’re as awkward and uncomfortable as you’d imagine them to be. The sex scene in Mexico was our first day of filming, so we giggled a lot and tried to get into the moment. Once we felt we got the vibe of what was happening, it was just a matter of doing it. I was very lucky that the crew made things as comfortable as possible—and Andrew’s a total pro.

WCT: Andrew is actually straight in real life. There’s a school of thought that only gay actors (who are underrepresented) should act in gay roles. How do you feel about that?

NR: I go back and forth about that, honestly. It’s important to me that gay actors get the opportunities to tell their stories, so I totally hear that point of view—but also I want to play straight characters, as a gay man. I don’t want to be limited that way, so it would be hypocritical of me to say, “You can’t play the gay role, but I can play the straight role.”

I often prefer, in my own work, to cast queer actors in queer roles, but I never make it an [iron-clad] rule; allies are a part of our community, and there’s artistry behind what they can bring to the roles as well.

Andrew’s such a great guy; it never felt like he was putting on a “queer persona.” He was living truthfully as [a character] who happened to be gay.

WCT: Obviously, this movie is very timely...

NR: It got very timely very fast.

WCT: I don’t want to reveal too much about the movie, but there’s a point in the film where a quote from then-candidate Donald Trump is used.

NR: And he hasn’t stopped saying inflammatory things.

WCT: Indeed. What was the most difficult scene for you to film?

NR: It wasn’t necessarily the most difficult—but I wonder if I made the right choice right after I find out that Diego’s mom is actually in Mexico, and that he’s undocumented. It’s a very important scene, but I wonder if I balanced that correctly in the moment as [Abel]. It’s such a hard situation and I knew what I had to get to, in terms of leaving [Chicago]. I don’t know if I was too harsh or if it made Abel more sympathetic.

WCT: What do you want people to take away from the movie?

NR: Even without seeing it yet, I want people to see this glimpse of what being undocumented is like—to see the pressures and situations undocumented people face. People are in those situations every day, and some people get the wrong idea about the undocumented and have these stereotypes.

WCT: For example, Diego speaks perfect English.

NR: Exactly. So I want people to learn that this is a real community, with people of different backgrounds, different levels of education; it’s a very diverse community and it’s not just what the media pushes at us. Hopefully, people will sympathize with that struggle and take action, like donating a few dollars to the ACLU.

WCT: Let’s wrap up with a general question: Who are a few actors you’d love to work with?

NR: Oh, my gosh. My favorite actor is Jake Gyllenhaal, and he’s always been my favorite actor—back to when I saw October Sky in middle school; I decided then and there that he was my favorite actor.

There are also local actors I work with who have work I really admire. I really like Henry Godinez; I really like his work and his energy is really positive. And there’s Sandra Marquez; she directed me two years ago [in the play Men on the Verge of a His-Panic Breakdown] and I loved working with her. I’d kill to be on stage with her, and I one tight little scene with her in this movie. [Godinez and Marquez] have the credentials and resumes someone like me would love to have in 20 years.

For more information, visit EnAlgunLugarMovie.com and ReelingFilmFestival.org/2017.

Nelson Rodriguez (left) and Andrew L. Saenz in En Algun Lugar.

Photo from film’s website

TRUST, CAIR hosting storytelling event

TRUST Collective-Chicago and CAIR-Chicago will host a storytelling event Thursday, Sept. 21, at 6:30 p.m. at CAIR-chicago, 17 N. State St., 15th floor.

CAIR-Chicago—the nation’s largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy group—protects civil liberties, promotes mutual understanding, and mobilizes Muslim communities to fully contribute to our democracy.

Founded in July 2016 “post-Orlando,” TRUST Collective-Chicago consists of Latinx, LGBTQ and Muslim individuals and organizations who have gathered “post-Orlando” to foster and support relationships across the Chicago area toward building a unified front and reducing targeted violence and discrimination.

‘Story Time’ continues

“Muffy Fishbasket Presents Story Time with Drag Queens” will continue with events throughout September and October.

Muffy Fishbasket and her Good Time Gals read some of their favorite stories to a room full of children. Each child requires a ticket, and all children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

Upcoming events are:
—Sept. 22 during the evening (adult edition) at Women and Children First Bookstore
—Sept. 25 at 8 p.m. at Steppenwolf Theatre
—Oct. 15 at 3 p.m. at Center on Halsted
—Oct. 22 at 10 a.m. at Davis Theater

The suggested donation is $10 per child. However, no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

For more information, see MuffyFishbasket.com/story-time-with-drag-queens/.
WINDY CITY TIMES

Sept. 20, 2017

Tennessee Loveless tells queer stories through art

BY NINA MATTI

Tennessee Loveless is sick of talking about his color blindness. Yes, as a full-time artist, it can be a challenge, but it’s something he’s learned to work with and embrace. He’d rather focus his attention on his art, specifically on his latest project, “Drag Landscapes.”

For this series of paintings, Loveless has interviewed several drag queens from around the country about their lives and identities. He then creates portraits of each queen, overlaying the most important words from their interview over his depictions of them.

“Because I’m so Southern, I want to tell a story and I want you to understand it,” Loveless said. “[Drag queens] are objectified as performers. No one knows where they came from, and no one cares. That’s a problem for me... These people are magical and there’s a whole story about how they got there.”

Drag has always been a big part of his life. When Loveless ran away from his home in small-town Georgia, he found the community he needed in the drag community of San Francisco.

He experimented with performing as a horror queen under the name Demanda Refund. “I was the worst,” he said with a laugh. “I was actually terrible.”

His time in drag helped him learn though, about himself and about humanness on a larger scale.

“Drag is this acceleration of ourselves,” Loveless said. “To be able to cross genders, forget the binary and let go of the rules. When you break those rules, you become more human.”

He found his true calling when his drag mother Puta Nesca asked Loveless to paint her portrait, a work that Loveless credits his career to. With his subsequent paintings, Loveless wanted to take it a step further. He wanted to “take their life story and fuse it into a portrait.” Thus, “Drag Landscapes” was born.

Loveless developed the project as his MFA project at the University of Georgia, and he plans to take it international in the coming months. He is packing his bags to travel the world for the next five years, painting drag queens in every stop.

“I’m really putting all of my eggs in one basket,” Loveless said.

The project is being developed into an eight-part documentary series and hopefully, he said, it will soon become a book. “The whole point is to emphasize queer lives and the struggle to get to where they are and why they are who they are,” Loveless said. “I want to break that barrier and tell the stories of queer lives.”

From the author-

We all saw the video of the Chicago cop shooting the kid sixteen times. All the other cops stood around doing nothing as the guy blazed away.

The books in my Paul Turner series feature a Chicago police detective. I thought, what if my two good-guy detectives showed up ten seconds BEFORE some other such incident?

It’s the aftermath of that incident and then the actual murder they do wind up investigating, that take over the book. As with my fictional characters, the aftermath of the real-life incident continues; other cops in trouble, on trial, or soon to be on trial. My detectives are honest and try to do right, but that is as big a threat to some in the police department as those who lie.

Paul Turner, a gay man, a husband, and a father, has to negotiate the shoals of danger and deceit, with his police department partner, Buck Fenwick, as they try to live through the dangers that envelope them. All for simply doing the right thing - standing up to idiocy, deceit, and an array of villains.

The book Ring of Silence is available as a paperback at Unabridged Bookstore in Chicago, Outwords Books in Milwaukee, and as an ebook or paperback at amazon.com or www.mlrbooks.com.
**LGBTQ JOB FAIR!**

Friday, Sept. 29, 2017

11 am - 4 pm

Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted

**WORKSHOPS:**

10-11 a.m.: *Trans and GNC in the Workplace*, Center on Halsted, Second Floor, Sept. 29: Moderated by Vanessa Sheridan of Center on Halsted, with panelists Lathem Bonem, Trans Works Program Manager at Chicago House; LaSaia Wade, member of Chicago TGNC Collective and the Trans Liberation Collective, and director of Brave Space Alliance; and Denise Bowker, who has worked for Northern Trust for 30 years in the technology area.

Noon-1 p.m.: *Building Confidence for Job Searchers Over 50*, Center on Halsted, Second Floor, Sept. 29: Moderated by Imani Rupert-Gordon of Affinity Community Services, with panelists Ashley Brazil, Senior Career Specialist in the Employment Program at Chicago House and Social Service Agency, and Darryl Grant, who brings nearly 10 years of experience as a professional recruiter, interviewer, job search coach, and resume advisor in the Chicago area.

**EXHIBITORS IN 2017, AMONG OTHERS:**

- ACLU
- AIDS Foundation of Chicago
- ALMA
- Alright Solutions
- Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
- AON
- Astellas Pharma
- AT&T
- Chicago House
- Chicago Sky
- Chicago Women in Trades
- Christy Webber Landscapes
- CME Group
- CNA Insurance
- Comcast/Xfinity
- Conagra Brands
- Edelman
- Education Pioneers
- Exelon Corp.
- Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago
- Fifth Third Bank
- GameStop
- Gap Inc. and Old Navy
- Glenkirk
- Grainger
- Grassroots Campaigns Chicago
- Groupon
- H&M
- Heartland Alliance
- Hilton Worldwide
- Howard Brown Health
- Hyatt Hotel
- i.c.stars
- Indiana Tech
- The Jellyvision Lab, Inc.
- The John Marshall Law School
- The Kellogg Co.
- KPMG
- Lawrence Hall
- LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois
- Mariano's/Kroger Co.
- Marriott Hotels
- MB Financial Bank
- Morningstar
- The Nature Conservancy
- Navy Pier
- Northern Trust
- Northwestern, Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing
- Pace Suburban Bus Company
- Planned Parenthood of Illinois
- Renewal Care Partners
- Riveron Consulting
- Robert Bosch LLC
- Roosevelt University
- Rush University Medical Center
- Schafer Condon Carter
- Skills for Chicagoland's Future
- Smart Resources
- Stomp Exterminator
- Test Positive Aware Network
- The Night Ministry
- Thresholds
- TransUnion
- Trunk Club
- Uber
- United Airlines
- Uptake
- US Bank
- Walgreens
- Windy City Limousine
- Zurich North America
- A Wider Bridge
- BD Medical Supply
- Betancourt Realty
- Blue Cross Blue Shield Illinois, Montana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas
- Blue Plate
- Central States SER
- Charles Schwab
- Chicago Commission on Human Relations
LGBTQ JOB FAIR!
Friday, Sept. 29, 2017
11 am - 4 pm
Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted

Special workshop presentations. Plus business and nonprofits will have booths seeking employees, interns and students. Free and open to all, with a special focus on LGBTQ youth, seniors and transgender adults.

We are seeking businesses, nonprofits and schools to participate in this job fair, bringing with them a range of job offerings, from entry-level to more experienced individuals.

Booth costs: $95 for businesses; $75 for nonprofits
DEADLINE: Sept. 25, 2017

Email to: editor@windycitymediagroup.com for application

Please make checks payable to Windy City Times, send to Windy City Times, 5315 N. Clark St., #192, Chicago, IL 60640. Or you can pay via paypal, terri@windycitymediagroup.com, or credit card, contact editor@windycitymediagroup.com.
From the moment you walk into Imperial Lamian (6 W. Hubbard St.; Imperial-Lamian.com), it’s obvious that it’s a couple steps above the standard Chinese restaurant some of us patronized in our younger days.

The corner of Hubbard and State streets where Imperial Lamian is has been a site of changing restaurants, including Centro and Bar Umbriago. However, it seems that Lamian (which has been around for at least a year) has the chops (pork and otherwise) to stay around for a while—and a recent Sunday brunch proved the point. (By the way, brunch is on weekends at 10 a.m.-4 p.m.)

Just one of the many highlights is watching head chef Wang Hong Jun pull noodles—seriously. In a manner that seemed simultaneously passionate and efficient, Wang constantly pulled on dough and created noodles the entire time (two hours) I was there. Personally, doing that would drive me crazy after 15 minutes—but I’m not the culinary artist Wang is.

And some of the dishes truly showcased artistry, courtesy of some of the other employees we could see in the open kitchen. For example, the pumpkin puffs (with roast duck and butternut squash) actually looked like miniature pumpkins, and were almost too visually appealing to consume.

Imperial Lamian offers an intriguing mix of menu options. Xiao long bao (soup dumplings) include varieties such as duck, crab (the best of those we tried), truffle and even Gruyere. Unfortunately, the aforementioned pumpkin puffs looked more enticing than they tasted—although, actually, it was a lack of taste my friend and I noticed.

However, things immediately picked up with the prawn toast and yang chaofan (fried rice with Char Siu, tiger shrimp, asparagus and egg). Also, trying one of the titular dishes (in this case, pork-belly la mian/hand-pulled noodles) turned out to be rewarding. As for drinks, don’t expect even orange juice here for non-alcoholic items—options are limited to tea selections, sticking to the tradition the restaurant upholds. (However, almost ironically, alcohol-related choices are many, including beer, wine, whiskey and sake.)

One other note: In the past, I (being African-American) have noticed that a true sign of the legitimacy of an ethnic restaurant can be reflected in the patrons—and, throughout most of our stay, my friend and I were the only non-Asian customers there (something the owner discussed with us as well). Try something different and have brunch here. You won’t regret it.

Note: Restaurant profiles/events are based on invitations arranged from restaurants and/or firms.
“He’s not harming anyone wearing a dress. So, if he wants to wear a dress? Awesome. Good on him.” —Brian Austin Green’s refreshing response to people who criticize his 4-year-old son Noah being out in public dressed as female characters such as Elsa in “Frozen” or Snow White. And I agree—it’s all fine until he wants to go to school dressed as Maleficent!

Week two of my European adventure, and I’ve come to a conclusion—most people around the world are nice. In fact, they’re nicer than most Americans. Case in point—I was walking down the main street of a big city with a wheeled shoulder bag. Three strangers stopped me at various points to say that the shoulder strap was dragging and getting dirty. In most U.S. cities, you wouldn’t get so much as a second look if you were dragging a dead body!

The View hosted a deeply religious enclave to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Sister Act. Whoopi Goldberg decided not only to reunite with members of the cast, but also perform with them live—for the first time ever. Kathy Najimy, Beth Fowler and several of the other nuns were on hand (and in habit) for a spirited rendition of “I Will Follow Him,” accompanied by musical genius Marc Shaiman. Check it out on BillyMasters.com.

Did you know that Sister Act was written as a vehicle for Bette Midler? She was the queen of Disney Ricks at the time the film was in development, but was less than enthusiastic when the role was pitched to her. (She reportedly said, “A singing nun? Me?”) It was a rare career misstep for the Divine Miss M, but she took a physical misstep last week in the Broadway production of Hello, Dolly! Toward the end of the first act, Bette was standing on a rotating platform when a set came down from the flies and knocked her over! Naturally, Midler tweeted about it: “You may hear me yelling, ‘I fell. But I’m fine.’” The curtain came down, the set pieces collided, I had to make a run for it, and I was in a little accident on stage tonight; two twins claim to have started out singing in the little things. One of those is the glorious morning talk show/webcast of Marissa Jaret Winokur and best buddy Ryan O’Connor. The Morning Mess Live with Marissa and Ryan started with the two of them just chatting on Facebook Live over morning coffee. It’s taken off like a juggernaut and is now appointment watching at 9AM PST—well, if you want to watch it live and join in the fun. Personally, I am still asleep so I catch it later on their Facebook page. Not only are scads of people tuning in every morning, but the regular viewers are a veritable who’s who of showbiz. Check it out.

It’s time for another season of The X Factor UK. Once again, Simon Cowell, Sharon Osbourne and Louis Walsh make the ultimate trio of judges. And, Nicole Scherzinger is fine. (She’s growing on me.) While I am typically not a fan of the early audition process, let’s talk about the hot twins from Greece. Phillip and Achilles make up Pretty Boy Karma and, well, they’re not particularly talented. But they are kinda hot—picture Justin Bieber with a learning disability (not much of a stretch). These twins claim to have started out singing in the shower—that sink in. They sang terribly, but lifted their shirts and showed off their abs, so they won my vote. Alas, the real judges said no. But they’re still worth checking out on BillyMasters.com.

Speaking of hot guys, the acclaimed UK production of A Clockwork Orange has finally made it to New York. This all-male version is opening off-Broadway at the New World Stages on Sept. 25. I heard about this a few months ago from a fan who saw it at the Edinburgh Festival and was taken with the ridiculously hot leading man, Jonno Davies. Davies has been with the show since its origin in Norway, and happily he has crossed the pond with it. The cast is filled with gorgeous guys and is kinda like a live version of Fight Club, where unspeakable things happen to him in the prison shower. But why tell you when you can see it for yourself on BillyMasters.com.

Could it be that a once and future reality star is happy to have bagged that high-profile gig because he needs the dough? Where did his stash go? The same old story—drugs and hookers. Except these were male hookers—with loose lips! His clowning around came to an abrupt halt when he learned how in debt he was. Sometimes what happens in Vegas doesn’t stay in Vegas.

When reality stars are treating boys like property, it’s definitely time to end yet another column. It’s also time for me to prepare for the next stop on my tour, Athens—a city so old, I am still considered a veritable child! If I run into any naked Olympians, I’ll post photos of them on BillyMasters.com, the site that’s all Greek to me! For all your other needs, drop a note to me at BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before I get my hands on Achilles’ heel … or any other part of him! So, until next time, remember: One man’s filter is another man’s bible.
**FACE TIME**

**Saturday, Sept. 23**

Comedian Margaret Cho will entertain the audience at the Chicago Theatre.  
Photo by Pixie Vision Photography

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**Windy City Times Community Calendar**

**Wed., Sept. 20**

**Transgender and Gender Nonconforming (GNC) Support Group** Group meets weekly. Preregistration at behavioral-health@centeronhalsted.org is required.  
4:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago  http://www.centeronhalsted.org/supportgroups.html

Say It Loud Pop Up Game Night with #PreP4Love and Party Noire Help us #TransmitLove and stretch out the last days of Summer with a good ole fashioned kickback with games + fellowship. RSVP at the link.  
7:00pm - 10:00pm Bing Art Books, East Garfield Boulevard, Chicago  http://www.eventbrite.com

**Thursday, Sept. 21**

**LGBTQ Intergenerational Dinner** Build connections across generations. Seats are limited. RSVP by phone or online.  
5:00pm - 7:00pm Howard Brown Health 6500 N Clark St  312-273-9000 x723

**Reeling: The Chicago LGBT+ International Film Festival** opening 6:00pm at the Music Box Theatre 3733 N Southport Chicago. The rest of the festival will take place at the main venue, Landmark Theatres, 2828 N. Clark St. Through Sept. 27.  
http://reelingfilmfestival.org/2017/

**Friday, Sept. 22**


FOR RENT – THREE BEDROOM GORGEOUS APARTMENT LARGE ROOMS 855 W. Margate Terrace. Gorgeous 8 room, 3 bedroom, 2 bath renovated apartment in attractive 3 unit building. Apartment features two sunrooms, large living room, dining room, new appliances, and A/C. Available 10/1. $2400 includes heat. Chad 312-720-3136. Hallmarkrealtysrentals.com (9/27/17-1)

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