

WINDY CITY TIMES

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

VOL 33, NO. 28 MARCH 28, 2018

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Gary Chichester with an early gay pride flag. Photo by Hal Baim



A LIFETIME OF ACTIVISM

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Meet the Broadway fixture behind 'Pretty Woman'. Photo by Ginger Tidwell

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Gary Chichester talks about his life



THE VIXEN
Local performer part of 'Drag Race.' Photo by Jerry Nunn

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Groundbreaking document is issued.

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Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Health

A NEW WORLD ORDER

Emma Gonzalez and the Parkland youth march for their lives



Emma Gonzalez, a bisexual youth who survived the shooting at her high school in Parkland, Florida Feb. 14, is pictured here from CNN's coverage of the March For Our Lives March 24 in Washington, D.C. She and her peers have started a revolution in favor of gun control laws across the U.S. See inside for coverage of the Chicago rally, among 800 around the world.

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a new musical

the Over show

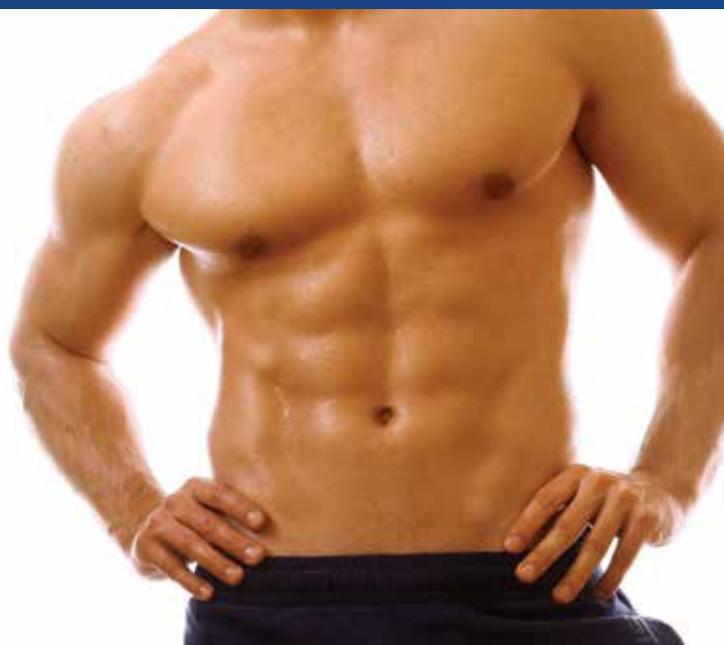
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Above: WCT reviews An Enemy of the People.
Photo by Liz Lauren

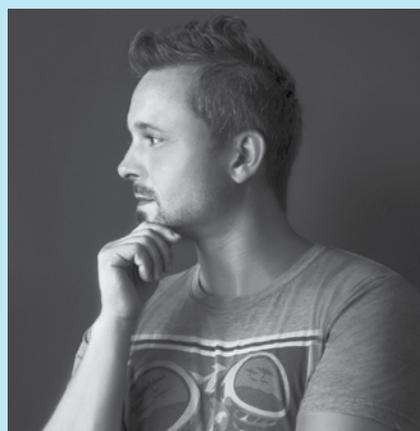
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TO YOUR HEALTH

Crispin Torres (left) talks about the Trump administration's healthcare proposals.
Photo by Tracy Baim

PHOTO FINISH



Out photographer Hrvoje Slovinc talks about his work and his journey.
Photo courtesy of Slovinc

WHEEL LOVE

Find out what's going on in the world of vehicles, courtesy of Gaywheels.

THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Nate Berkus, Cheryl Dunye and Josh Groban.

plus
DAILY BREAKING NEWS

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ELECTIONS 2019: CHICAGO

Gay man running for 11th Ward alderman

Labor and education activist and out gay man David Mihalyfy entered the 11th Ward aldermanic race on March 23. For his debut event, a group of early supporters leafletted voting households in 15 of 38 precincts as his website and Facebook page went live.

Aiming for the seat currently held by first-term alderman Patrick Daley Thompson, Mihalyfy is running on a platform of expanded economic and community development under the slogan "Let Our Light Shine."

Mihalyfy's proposed policies include a home solar energy program to reduce cost of living, create jobs and spur local business; advocacy for a newly built neighborhood CPS high school serving Chinatown and Bridgeport; a large-scale Chicago flag-themed youth mural project; and renovation of the shuttered Ramova Theater as a non-profit move house serving the community with kids movies, recent blockbusters and films in languages like Chinese and Spanish.

In his first quarter of fundraising, his candidate committee "Friends of Mihalyfy" received more than 165 small donations and reported more than \$8,200 cash on hand.

He has also signed the Illinois State Board of Elections' Code of Fair Campaign Practices, becoming the first 11th Ward aldermanic candidate ever to do so.

A current SEIU HCII member working in home healthcare and elder care, Mihalyfy has participated in many unionization drives, including two recent campaigns that brought 2,500+ workers into AFT-IFT and 200+ workers into Teamsters Local 743. As part of an ongoing SEIU Local 73 unionization campaign, he also gave testimony before Chicago City Council's Education Commit-



David Mihalyfy.

Photo courtesy of Mihalyfy

tee and helped obtain a unanimous resolution in favor of the unionization of contingent instructors at Chicagoland's private colleges and universities.

As a freelance writer on higher education's accessibility crisis, Mihalyfy has fought the bureaucratic waste causing student debt. Most notably, his financial investigative reporting about his then-employer the University of Chicago alleges that eight high-level administrators took more than \$7.6 million in raises over five years, even as the school moved toward and received a credit downgrade. Mihalyfy's research informed Crain's Chicago Business coverage probing the school's financial management.

ment initiative On the Table on Tuesday, May 8.

Over the past four years, On the Table has provided an annual forum for tens of thousands of Chicagoans to engage in conversation, develop new relationships and inspire action to make differences in communities.

Anyone can host an On the Table conversation. Those interested in doing so are encouraged to call or call 866-737-6951 or sign up at OnTheTable.com, where hosts will have access to materials and resources to help prepare for and guide conversations.

Corrections

In the March 21 issue, gay Republican Andy Kirchoff's name should have not been mentioned in the election roundup, as he had been removed from the ballot. Also, in a spring-theater roundup, the name of The Cher Show writer should have been spelled "Rick Elice."

Windy City Times sincerely regrets the errors.

GUEST COLUMN

BY LAUREN SUGERMAN, CHICAGO WOMEN IN TRADES



How a #METOO Moment Can Become a Movement for Culture Change: Tradeswomen and Sexual Harassment

From a speech at the Chicago Women's History Center Screening of Anita Hill: Speaking Truth to Power, Jan. 13, 2018.

Like so many of us, here today and around the world, the #metoo movement has resonated deeply with me, on a personal level because of my experiences while working as an elevator constructor. And on a professional level because, even though I left a job I loved due to the isolation and hostile work environment, I've spent my entire career encouraging women to work in male-dominated jobs in construction, manufacturing and transportation—in the same conditions that were so undermining to me.

Tradeswomen have been fighting discrimination and dealing with sexual harassment since the doors to these still male-dominated jobs opened up as a result of affirmative action in the early 1980s. Women working in construction experience the highest rates of sexual harassment second only to female miners. So, fully knowing that, I have still urged women to pursue these careers. And I constantly reckon with that.

However, I also know that these jobs offer women something invaluable—high wages, good benefits and on-the-job training that is the equivalent of a four-year college degree without the debt. These jobs aren't just critical to ending the gender wage gap and providing women economic security—they also bring a unique kind of empowerment that comes with work that allows you to point to a high-rise, a bridge, a road, and say: I built that!

Nevertheless, the high reward often comes at a high cost. When women are still less than

3% of the construction workforce they often work two jobs at once: the first—working long hard days laying brick, stacking elevator rails, building skyscrapers, and the second—simultaneously as pioneers who spend just as much energy on breaking through the glass ceiling (concrete floor). What that means is spending eight to 12 hours a day in the "locker room," often the only woman on a jobsite, facing harassment due to sex, race, sexual orientation, discrimination in hiring and training, gender-related health and safety challenges, and a multitude of micro-inequities that are too small to name. These all still intersect to keep women from succeeding and lasting in nontraditional careers. And often, because we work in physically demanding and dangerous jobs, harassment, lack of training or poorly fitting safety equipment can combine to make discrimination not just work jeopardizing, but sometimes life threatening.

To challenge all of this on an individual basis is risky: to speak up, to complain and to call attention is fraught with all the stigma or stereotypes of being female in a male-identified job. If you cannot take the heat get out of the fire, you are just too sensitive, we should not have to change the way we work just because a woman is here. So, for our sanity, our future and other women's opportunities, we have looked to a tried and true method of survival and fighting back. We organized and gave birth to Chicago Women in Trades (CWIT).

Chicago Women in Trades was first and foremost a place to see ourselves and our

Turn to page 10

Lauren is one of the nation's leading experts on building opportunities for women in jobs in traditionally male-dominated blue-collar industries. For more than 35 years, she has guided policy and programmatic strategies at the local, state and national levels to increase high-wage, high-skill job opportunities for women. A direct beneficiary of affirmative-action policies for federal contractors, Lauren began her career as an elevator constructor in 1980. She helped to found Chicago Women in Trades (CWIT) and served as the agency's first executive director from 1986 to 2009. Lauren joined Wider Opportunities for Women in 2010, where she led the National Center for Women's Employment Equity. Lauren returned to CWIT in 2015 where she continues to lead national policy activities and provides technical assistance to employers, unions, and the workforce development system, public agencies, on how to increase women's equal employment opportunity in construction, manufacturing, and transportation. Lauren has served on numerous committees and advisory boards including the U.S. Department of Labor's Federal Committee on Apprenticeship, Governor's Commission on the Status of Women in Illinois and the Illinois Workforce Investment Board. She is a founding member of the Tradeswomen Committee of the North America's Building Trade Unions, and co-chair of the National Task Force on Tradeswomen's Issues.

Back 2 School offers scholarship

Back 2 School Illinois (B2SI) has announced its 2018 College Scholarship program.

B2SI, a non-profit organization that creates and supports educational opportunities that enrich the lives of Illinois children, will award \$2,500 cash grants to 10 college-bound Illinois high school seniors, for their freshman year of study.

The application for the B2SI scholarship is available via Back 2 School Illinois' website (www.b2si.org) and must be postmarked by Sunday, April 1.

'On the Table' to return May 8

The Chicago Community Trust announced the return of its annual region-wide civic engage-

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Title VII: Where and why 'sex' matters to LGBT employees

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

Lori Franchina worked as a rescue worker for Providence, Rhode Island, and for four years, everything was fine. Then one day, she was paired with a male worker notorious for sexually harassing female colleagues. The male worker immediately began harassing Franchina, constantly offering to have sex with her and openly taunting her as a lesbian in front of other fire personnel, hospital workers and members of the public.

Franchina told a superior officer about the incidents, and the superior officer compelled her to report them, triggering a disciplinary hearing against the male co-worker. But soon after that, other male firefighters began harassing Franchina. One put something in her food on several occasions that made her severely ill; others deliberately sabotaged her rescue equipment and disobeyed orders she gave them in ways that put lives of the public in jeopardy. One firefighter, who was wearing latex gloves soiled by blood and brain matter from a suicide victim, put his hands in front of Franchina's face and snapped them off in a way that caused the victim's body fluids to fly into her eyes and mouth.

After that incident, Franchina was diagnosed with severe post-traumatic stress, but she fought back, filing a complaint and, eventually, a lawsuit, charging the fire department had violated Title VII's prohibitions against sex discrimination and against retaliation for complaining of sex discrimination.

One judge described Franchina's story as a particularly "horrific" one, but there are many more like hers. Some are known because the victims of discrimination filed lawsuits. All of them, including Franchina, tried to seek protection under Title VII by arguing that the discrimination they suffered because of their sexual orientation is prohibited discrimination based on "sex."

Most of the lawsuits have been from lesbians, but some have been from gay men. There was the lesbian school probationary officer in Texas whose male supervisor told her she "looked gay" and was "not as feminine as other women" employees (*Carr v. Humble*). There was the gay man in North Carolina whose employer fired him after he brought his same-sex partner to a company lunch (*Snyder v. Ohio Electronics*). There was the lesbian employee of an assisted living facility whose male supervisor repeatedly made lewd and sexually offensive remarks to her about her being gay (*Stevens v. University Village*). There was the lesbian teacher, Jira Churchill, in a Maryland public high school who found the slur "FAG" written on her chalkboard, had students refer to her as Mister Churchill, and was removed from her teaching job because she was deemed "aggres-



Jenny Pizer, of Lambda Legal.
Photo courtesy of Lambda Legal

sive' (*Churchill v. Prince George's*). And there is the lesbian shift manager at a McDonald's fast food restaurant in Alabama whose supervisor repeatedly told her, even in front of customers, that she walked like a man and needed to look more feminine (*Whitt v. Berckman's*).

Franchina and these others all tried to get relief by filing lawsuits in federal court, arguing that Title VII of the U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits the kind of adverse treatment they suffered because they are gay or perceived to be gay.

Title VII is a section of the Civil Rights Act that prohibits employers from taking adverse action against an employee or potential employee "because of such individual's race, color, religion, sex, or national origin." Since the 1970s, lawsuits for LGBT people have tried to convince the courts that the language "because of...sex" should be read to include "because of ...sexual orientation."

Heterosexuals, too, have filed lawsuits using this argument.

In 1996, in Charlotte, North Carolina, a 16-year-old heterosexual male newly employed by Pizza Hut, filed a Title VII claim that his gay male co-workers sexually harassed him and made repeated sexual advances and vulgar remarks intended to humiliate him. In Alabama, a heterosexual female teacher said she suffered retaliation at Talladega College after she complained about a "Teaching Tolerance" program that she said actively promoted the "gay agenda." And in Georgia, a newly hired motel clerk lost his job because his supervisor perceived him to be gay.

None of these lawsuits succeeded on the grounds that "sexual orientation" discrimination

is a type of "sex" discrimination. Most were dismissed and haven't been appealed.

In Franchina's case, a jury agreed she had suffered discrimination under Title VII, but the city appealed. Providence argued that, for Franchina's sex discrimination complaint to stick under Title VII, the court would have to determine whether a gay male firefighter would have been treated differently than a gay female firefighter. Otherwise, the city argued, the discrimination Franchina faced was not because of "sex" but because of "sexual orientation." And sexual orientation, argued the city, is not covered under Title VII.

Long fight, slow change

"Initially, the courts, which reflected the widespread homophobia in society at the time, rejected [Title VII sexual orientation lawsuits] out of hand without really giving them serious thought or consideration," said Christopher Stoll, senior staff attorney for the National Center for Lesbian Rights. "So for a long time, we were stuck with bad precedents in most places and had no real chance of persuading the courts to reconsider them.

Some courts, recalled Lambda Legal Law and Policy Director Jenny Pizer, "said Congress couldn't possibly have meant to protect homosexuals and transsexuals when they passed the CRA in 1964...."

Both Pizer and Stoll said things really began to change in 1989, when the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision in *Price Waterhouse v. Hopkins*. The case did not involve a lesbian but a female employee at the accounting giant Price Waterhouse. The employee, Ann Hopkins, was rejected for partnership because some of the top officials at the firm considered her too masculine and advised her she needed to "walk more femininely, talk more femininely, dress more femininely, wear make-up, have her hair styled, and wear jewelry." The Supreme Court majority said Price Waterhouse's refusal to promote Hopkins was based on her sex and "motivated by stereotypical notions about women's proper deportment."

"Plaintiffs then began to make the same arguments about sexual orientation," said Stoll. "After all, the idea that men should only be attracted to women and vice versa is about as clear a gender stereotype as there is."

Then, in 1998, the Supreme Court made another important ruling: saying Title VII's prohibition against sex discrimination, including through sexual harassment, could be used to protect an employee from sexual harassment by an employee of the same sex (*Oncale v. Sundowner*).

"The *Oncale* decision in 1998 also seemed like an important analytical tool in a changing landscape that ought to help us," said Pizer.

But it wasn't until April 2017 that any federal appeals court agreed that Price Waterhouse and *Oncale* logically meant that Title VII's language on sex discrimination should include sexual orientation discrimination.

"Price Waterhouse held that the practice of gender stereotyping falls within Title VII's prohibition against sex discrimination, and *Oncale* clarified that it makes no difference if the sex of the harasser is (or is not) the same as the sex of the victim," said the eight-to-three majority decision in *Hively v. Ivy Tech* from the Seventh

Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. Because the lower court had dismissed the case, the appeals decision sent it back for deliberation on the merits of the lesbian employee, Kimberly Hively's discrimination complaint.

That Hively decision came just one month after a three-judge panel of the Eleventh Circuit ruled, in a similar case (*Evans v. Georgia Regional*) ruled that Price Waterhouse and *Oncale* were not "clearly on point" and that it had to abide by an earlier decision in that circuit that said, "Discharge for homosexuality is not prohibited by Title VII."

Thus, there came into being a conflict between two federal appeals courts. LGBT legal activists were hopeful that this difference of opinion might compel the Supreme Court to settle the matter.

"There's just too much confusion in the lower courts," said Gary Buseck, legal director for GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders.

But Ivy Tech Community College did not appeal to the Supreme Court, and the case is still before a district court on the merits of Hively's claims. When Lambda Legal appealed the Eleventh Circuit decision in *Evans* to the U.S. Supreme Court, the high court simply declined to look at it. That postpones any national resolution of the Title VII-sexual orientation issue until a later date.

But change is coming

That later date is almost certainly coming, as more and more Title VII-sexual orientation cases are pressed and reach other federal appeals courts.

In February of this year, in a 10-to-three majority decision in *Zarda v. Altitude Express*, the full appeals bench of the Second Circuit ruled that "sexual orientation discrimination is motivated, at least in part, by sex and is thus a subset of sex discrimination."

"Because one cannot fully define a person's sexual orientation without identifying his or her sex, sexual orientation is a function of sex," wrote the court. "...Logically, because sexual orientation is a function of sex and sex is a protected characteristic under Title VII, it follows that sexual orientation is also protected."

With those rulings from the Second and Seventh circuits, LGBT people in the states covered by those rulings, can seek relief from Title VII. The states are New York, Connecticut, and Vermont (in the Second); Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin (in the Seventh).

Claims in other circuits are advancing.

Just this month, Lambda Legal took another Title VII-sexual orientation case (*Horton v. Midwest Geriatric*) to the Eighth Circuit (covering Arkansas, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, and North and South Dakota).

And though Providence rescue worker Lori Franchina's Title VII-sexual orientation claim did not succeed in the First Circuit courts, she still won her trial and the appeal on her sex discrimination and retaliation claims. In a footnote that caught many LGBT legal activists' attention, the panel suggested the "tide may be turning when it comes to Title VII's" protection against sexual orientation discrimination.

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How Chicago voted: The gubernatorial race by ward

BY MATT SIMONETTE

After a tumultuous primary season, businessman J.B. Pritzker won the Democratic spot in the 2018 gubernatorial election, where he'll take on Re-

publican incumbent Bruce Rauner.

Pritzker and running mate Juliana Stratton won the vote in Chicago, according to the Chicago Board of Election data. Pritzker had 198,569 votes in the the city, about 45 percent. State Sen.

Daniel Biss, D-Evanston, followed, with 119,201 votes, about 27 percent, while businessman Chris Kennedy had about 103,977 votes, about 24 percent.

Biss had a strong show of support on the North Side, including in several wards with large LGBT populations. The senator won about 45 percent of the Democratic vote in the 44th Ward, where much of Boystown is located, as well as 42 percent of the vote in the 46th Ward, which includes much of Uptown. Among wards he also won were the 48th Ward, where he had 45 percent of Democratic votes, and the 49th Ward, with 53 percent.

Statewide, Pritzker had 573,679 votes (45.1 percent); Biss 337,842 (26.2 percent), Kennedy 308,731 (24.3 percent), Tio Hardiman 20,479 (1.6 percent), Bob Daiber 14,814 (1.2 percent), and Robert Marshall 14,193 (1.1 percent). Pritzker won 98 of the counties in Illinois, while Kennedy and Biss each won two.

Rauner won the Republican race against anti-LGBT state Rep. Jeanne Ives, R-Wheaton, in a much narrower race than Republican insiders were expecting, capturing 54 percent of the vote. Statewide, Rauner received 362,721 votes to Ives' 342,906, or 51.40 percent to 48.6 percent.

		J.B. Pritzker/ Juliana Stratton		Chris Kennedy/ Ra Joy		Daniel Biss/ Litesa E. Wallace		Bob Daiber/ Jonathan W. Todd		Tio Hardiman/ Patricia Avery		Robert Marshall/ Dennis Cole	
TOTAL DEMOCRATIC VOTES: 439,575		198,569	45.17%	103,977	23.65%	119,201	27.12%	3,109	0.71%	10,236	2.33%	4,483	1.02%
Ward	Total Votes	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%
Ward 1	9,926	2,885	29.07%	1,872	18.86%	4,882	49.18%	63	0.63%	148	1.49%	76	0.77%
Ward 2	10,208	3,562	34.89%	2,826	27.68%	3,661	35.86%	40	0.39%	74	0.72%	45	0.44%
Ward 3	11,305	6,080	53.78%	2,603	23.03%	2,097	18.55%	60	0.53%	350	3.10%	115	1.02%
Ward 4	12,656	6,703	52.96%	2,787	22.02%	2,616	20.67%	50	0.40%	402	3.18%	98	0.77%
Ward 5	11,753	5,851	49.78%	2,402	20.44%	3,033	25.81%	53	0.45%	330	2.81%	84	0.71%
Ward 6	9,552	6,250	65.43%	1,937	20.28%	793	8.30%	44	0.46%	431	4.51%	97	1.02%
Ward 7	9,718	6,083	62.60%	2,142	22.04%	873	8.98%	53	0.55%	452	4.65%	115	1.18%
Ward 8	12,913	8,493	65.77%	2,597	20.11%	1,075	8.32%	57	0.44%	580	4.49%	111	0.86%
Ward 9	10,747	6,707	62.41%	2,442	22.72%	953	8.87%	48	0.45%	473	4.40%	124	1.15%
Ward 10	5,161	2,627	50.90%	1,290	25.00%	1,032	20.00%	44	0.85%	110	2.13%	58	1.12%
Ward 11	8,004	2,676	33.43%	2,731	34.12%	2,364	29.54%	89	1.11%	81	1.01%	63	0.79%
Ward 12	4,556	2,044	44.86%	1,076	23.62%	1,170	25.68%	59	1.29%	123	2.70%	84	1.84%
Ward 13	9,772	5,316	54.40%	2,143	21.93%	1,873	19.17%	129	1.32%	148	1.51%	163	1.67%
Ward 14	5,784	2,838	49.07%	1,336	23.10%	1,230	21.27%	73	1.26%	180	3.11%	127	2.20%
Ward 15	3,731	2,037	54.60%	824	22.09%	558	14.96%	50	1.34%	158	4.23%	104	2.79%
Ward 16	5,008	3,075	61.40%	1,073	21.43%	469	9.37%	47	0.94%	240	4.79%	104	2.08%
Ward 17	7,459	4,863	65.20%	1,395	18.70%	738	9.89%	55	0.74%	291	3.90%	117	1.57%
Ward 18	10,444	6,200	59.36%	2,382	22.81%	1,242	11.89%	72	0.69%	402	3.85%	146	1.40%
Ward 19	15,478	6,225	40.22%	5,706	36.87%	2,939	18.99%	155	1.00%	265	1.71%	188	1.21%
Ward 20	6,421	3,947	61.47%	1,254	19.53%	819	12.76%	40	0.62%	264	4.11%	97	1.51%
Ward 21	11,906	7,803	65.54%	2,433	20.44%	970	8.15%	53	0.45%	492	4.13%	155	1.30%
Ward 22	4,529	2,013	44.45%	1,474	32.55%	708	15.63%	70	1.55%	164	3.62%	100	2.21%
Ward 23	7,154	3,271	45.72%	1,802	25.19%	1,644	22.98%	101	1.41%	177	2.47%	159	2.22%
Ward 24	5,762	3,555	61.70%	1,265	21.95%	583	10.12%	32	0.56%	249	4.32%	78	1.35%
Ward 25	7,256	2,607	35.93%	1,699	23.42%	2,664	36.71%	59	0.81%	159	2.19%	68	0.94%
Ward 26	6,928	2,478	35.77%	1,311	18.92%	2,846	41.08%	60	0.87%	145	2.09%	88	1.27%
Ward 27	8,425	4,545	53.95%	1,721	20.43%	1,779	21.12%	45	0.53%	251	2.98%	84	1.00%
Ward 28	7,283	4,216	57.89%	1,608	22.08%	1,103	15.14%	50	0.69%	227	3.12%	79	1.08%
Ward 29	9,796	5,483	55.97%	2,527	25.80%	1,313	13.40%	92	0.94%	280	2.86%	101	1.03%
Ward 30	4,993	1,989	39.84%	1,030	20.63%	1,759	35.23%	49	0.98%	106	2.12%	60	1.20%
Ward 31	4,883	2,186	44.77%	1,006	20.60%	1,477	30.25%	57	1.17%	90	1.84%	67	1.37%

Ward	Total Votes	J.B. Pritzker/ Juliana Stratton		Chris Kennedy/ Ra Joy		Daniel Biss/ Litesa E. Wallace		Bob Daiber/ Jonathan W. Todd		Tio Hardiman/ Patricia Avery		Robert Marshall/ Dennis Cole	
		Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%	Votes	%
Ward 32	10,609	2,790	26.30%	2,366	22.30%	5,268	49.66%	43	0.41%	105	0.99%	37	0.35%
Ward 33	8,121	2,365	29.12%	1,748	21.52%	3,775	46.48%	64	0.79%	117	1.44%	52	0.64%
Ward 34	11,173	7,193	64.38%	2,291	20.50%	966	8.65%	82	0.73%	475	4.25%	166	1.49%
Ward 35	6,535	2,030	31.06%	1,237	18.93%	3,033	46.41%	61	0.93%	110	1.68%	64	0.98%
Ward 36	4,442	2,088	47.01%	1,104	24.85%	1,042	23.46%	50	1.13%	93	2.09%	65	1.46%
Ward 37	7,166	4,581	63.93%	1,577	22.01%	593	8.28%	52	0.73%	271	3.78%	92	1.28%
Ward 38	7,444	2,935	39.43%	2,227	29.92%	2,039	27.39%	81	1.09%	88	1.18%	74	0.99%
Ward 39	9,608	3,116	32.43%	2,905	30.24%	3,325	34.61%	78	0.81%	81	0.84%	103	1.07%
Ward 40	10,271	2,840	27.65%	2,153	20.96%	5,064	49.30%	59	0.57%	98	0.95%	57	0.55%
Ward 41	9,646	3,340	34.63%	3,502	36.31%	2,525	26.18%	99	1.03%	69	0.72%	111	1.15%
Ward 42	9,199	3,479	37.82%	2,773	30.14%	2,820	30.66%	28	0.30%	58	0.63%	41	0.45%
Ward 43	9,730	3,382	34.76%	2,824	29.02%	3,399	34.93%	41	0.42%	53	0.54%	31	0.32%
Ward 44	11,020	3,292	29.87%	2,605	23.64%	4,988	45.26%	26	0.24%	72	0.65%	37	0.34%
Ward 45	9,508	3,236	34.03%	2,633	27.69%	3,362	35.36%	70	0.74%	107	1.13%	100	1.05%
Ward 46	10,706	3,837	35.84%	2,118	19.78%	4,497	42.00%	69	0.64%	138	1.29%	47	0.44%
Ward 47	14,907	3,624	24.31%	3,287	22.05%	7,761	52.06%	82	0.55%	111	0.74%	42	0.28%
Ward 48	12,953	4,187	32.32%	2,736	21.12%	5,797	44.75%	55	0.42%	124	0.96%	54	0.42%
Ward 49	9,775	2,812	28.77%	1,534	15.69%	5,197	53.17%	50	0.51%	136	1.39%	46	0.47%
Ward 50	7,251	2,834	39.08%	1,663	22.93%	2,487	34.30%	70	0.97%	88	1.21%	109	1.50%

Howard Brown Health

chiq

FORMERLY GARDEN OF EVE

SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 2018
7 - 11 P.M.

HOWARDBROWN.ORG/CHI Q2018

ENTERTAINMENT: BEZY'S REAL JOINT

Howard Brown Health invites the LGBTQ

DANCING, ENTERTAINMENT,
FULL BAR, LIGHT BITES, COMMUNITY.

TICKETS
GENERAL ADMISSION \$100
VIP TICKETS \$200
AT THE DOOR \$150

		Bruce Rauner/ Evelyn Sanguinetti		Jeanne Ives/ Rich Morthland	
TOTAL REPUBLICAN VOTES: 30,700		16,516	53.8%	14,184	46.2%
Ward	Total Votes	Votes	%	Votes	%
Ward 1	480	318	66.25%	162	33.75%
Ward 2	1,401	942	67.24%	459	32.76%
Ward 3	437	273	62.47%	164	37.53%
Ward 4	336	197	58.63%	139	41.37%
Ward 5	223	118	52.91%	105	47.09%
Ward 6	86	37	43.02%	49	56.98%
Ward 7	91	40	43.96%	51	56.04%
Ward 8	107	47	43.93%	60	56.07%
Ward 9	95	39	41.05%	56	58.95%
Ward 10	562	271	48.22%	291	51.78%
Ward 11	649	315	48.54%	334	51.46%
Ward 12	227	112	49.34%	115	50.66%
Ward 13	644	293	45.50%	351	54.50%
Ward 14	391	193	49.36%	198	50.64%
Ward 15	137	71	51.82%	66	48.18%
Ward 16	87	43	49.43%	44	50.57%
Ward 17	85	39	45.88%	46	54.12%
Ward 18	372	154	41.40%	218	58.60%
Ward 19	2,032	727	35.78%	1,305	64.22%
Ward 20	101	49	48.51%	52	51.49%
Ward 21	92	39	42.39%	53	57.61%
Ward 22	149	78	52.35%	71	47.65%
Ward 23	765	341	44.58%	424	55.42%

		Bruce Rauner/ Evelyn Sanguinetti		Jeanne Ives/ Rich Morthland	
Ward	Total Votes	Votes	%	Votes	%
Ward 24	76	39	51.32%	37	48.68%
Ward 25	371	212	57.14%	159	42.86%
Ward 26	308	153	49.68%	155	50.32%
Ward 27	431	268	62.18%	163	37.82%
Ward 28	169	94	55.62%	75	44.38%
Ward 29	388	185	47.68%	203	52.32%
Ward 30	522	288	55.17%	234	44.83%
Ward 31	374	200	53.48%	174	46.52%
Ward 32	824	569	69.05%	255	30.95%
Ward 33	477	264	55.35%	213	44.65%
Ward 34	59	27	45.76%	32	54.24%
Ward 35	346	174	50.29%	172	49.71%
Ward 36	541	260	48.06%	281	51.94%
Ward 37	102	50	49.02%	52	50.98%
Ward 38	1,612	742	46.03%	870	53.97%
Ward 39	1,295	610	47.10%	685	52.90%
Ward 40	638	362	56.74%	276	43.26%
Ward 41	2,791	1,299	46.54%	1,492	53.46%
Ward 42	1,823	1,286	70.54%	537	29.46%
Ward 43	1,507	1,055	70.01%	452	29.99%
Ward 44	1,006	676	67.20%	330	32.80%
Ward 45	1,576	687	43.59%	889	56.41%
Ward 46	741	475	64.10%	266	35.90%
Ward 47	935	575	61.50%	360	38.50%
Ward 48	888	537	60.47%	351	39.53%
Ward 49	478	242	50.63%	236	49.37%
Ward 50	873	451	51.66%	422	48.34%

GUEST COLUMN from page 4

experiences reflected in each other. To affirm that we weren't crazy, or weak, or incompetent, or too sensitive. To affirm, that we belonged—even if our coworkers or bosses didn't think we belonged on the job—and that we belonged to each other.

Second, we shared and developed strategies on how to cope with the isolation, discrimination and harassment. But we wanted more and so third, we began to strategize on how to fight back—collectively—so we didn't individually have to suffer consequences. Fourth, we learned, that we could do more than complain, we could also identify and offer solutions. Our herstory is going from potlucks, to protests and picket lines, to developing policy and programs. In between there was some litigation, a lot of fundraising and always, sisterhood, support and solidarity.

It hasn't meant that sexual harassment or discrimination—subtle and overt—has gone away, but we have survived, more women are entering

and being accepted in the trades and although we have a long way to go, now we (hope) are seeing a tidal shift. In many cases tradeswomen individually—and the organizations that have sustained and protected us—have earned the respect of our co-workers and union leaders. As a result of our organizing we have federal funding for our work, new federal regulations in the apprenticeship system that explicitly expand provisions for sexual harassment prevention, women's committees like the Sisters in the Brotherhood in the carpenters union, women being elected as union leaders, hired as teachers and as job site crew leaders.

We are especially pumped by the extraordinary step the International Ironworkers Union has taken to build a culture that supports women and families. Last year they implemented a paid pregnancy accommodation and maternity leave policy that rivals those of most high-tech companies and far outshines our public policies. CWIT and our sister organizations across the country

are feeling in demand today: to conduct training for sexual harassment prevention across the country, to set up mentorship programs and to change policy on the jobsite in our unions and in apprenticeship programs.

I think the lessons we've learned along the way are important so this #metoo moment doesn't become just a watershed moment gracing the cover of Time magazine. A moment has to become a movement so this awareness, anger and momentum do not evaporate, but instead fuel the effort to create real culture change.

#Metoo has taken the first step: naming, voicing and sharing our common experiences. It has let the world know that sexual harassment is no trivial matter. Now we need to go out and create the response—and it is not trivial either. The response has to be more than perpetrators being shamed, losing their jobs and public respect—though that is a good start. It is defining solutions that involve training, policy that lays out investigation and discipline practices, and

transformative strategies to create equitable and inclusive workplaces that ensure that all workers and especially the most vulnerable workers have jobs that are safe, harassment free and provide dignity. It is building solidarity with our allies so they can join in, speak up, and intervene.

I am excited to be part of that movement and I hope that tradeswomen's examples of organizing, advocating and supporting one another can help light the way for all women.

For more information on training resources on preventing and responding to sexual harassment and how to create equitable and inclusive workplaces for women in male-dominated fields please see:

CWIT website: <http://womensequitycenter.org/apprenticeship-programs/training-and-retention/>.

Contact: Lauren Sugerman, lsugerman@cwit2.org.

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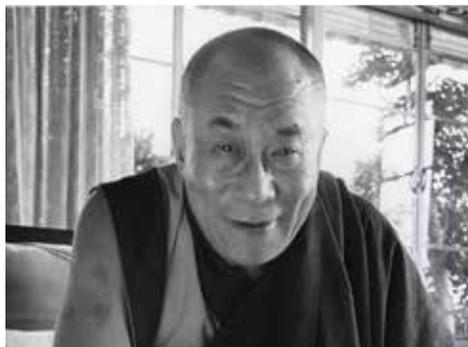
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Open through June 24, 2018

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WHERE THE CHILDREN SLEEP

A photo exhibit about refugee
children in Europe and the Middle
East by Magnus Wennman

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Open through September 23, 2018

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Europe.

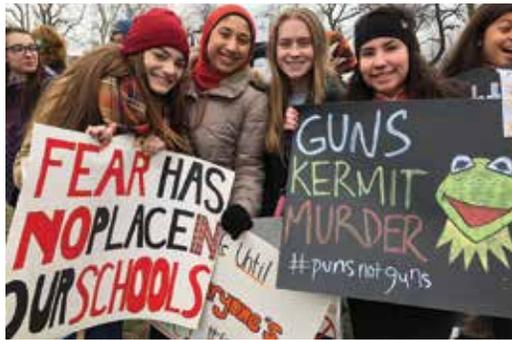
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More than 85,000 attend Chicago's anti-gun March for Our Lives

BY VERNON HESTER AND TRACY BAIM

Organizers estimated that more than 85,000 Chicago-area students and community members participated in the March for Our Lives event March 24 held in Union Park on Chicago's Near West Side. Schools from Highland Park to Crown Point, Indiana, and from the South, North and West sides of Chicago were represented.

The event, organized by survivors of gun violence and high school and college students, was among 800 nationwide protesting gun violence and calling for more gun regulations in the aftermath of the murders of students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

Meanwhile, bisexual activist and Parkland shooting survivor Emma Gonzalez was among the many youth speakers in Washington, D.C., speaking to more than 800,000 in a March for Our Lives main event broadcast around the world. Her speech was followed by moments of silence—the total time she was on stage equaled the length of time it took for the Parkland killer to complete his shooting spree—and was widely touted as being among the most powerful speeches of any March on Washington.

The March for Our Lives movement is calling on lawmakers to make students' lives and safety a priority by passing common-sense gun safety legislation. After the rally, community members

marched through the surrounding neighborhood and back to Union Park "in solidarity with the Parkland students and all those across the nation affected by gun violence."

As tens of thousands of people streamed in for several hours Saturday, youth speakers addressed the inter-connected issues of racism, poverty, subpar education and more that lead to the high rates of gun violence in Chicago and around the country. There were references to the murders in Parkland, at the gay Pulse nightclub in Orlando, and the shooting death by police of Chicago youth Laquan McDonald.

Scheduled speakers included Chyann Global, Majority Youth Rising; Eduardo Medel, Young Urban Professionals; Denzel Russell, Dontrel Dismuke, Malcolm Russell, Devon Lewis from Kids Off the Block; high school student Caitlyn Smith, who spoke on the lack of media attention for female gun violence survivors, Juan Reyes and Chloe Hancock of Chicago Student Union. There were performances by Jalen Kobayashi (poet/singer), the Hinsdale High School Poetry Team and Kuumba Lynx.

"As a student organizer, today is one of the biggest days of my life. We get to use the platform that the Parkland students have started to shine a spotlight on the the need for better gun laws in this country," said Marley Rosario, student organizer in Chicago and co-founder of Gather Activism. "We are telling lawmakers in Illinois and D.C.



that we're not going to take this any longer and this fight is far from over."

Also in D.C., Pulse Nightclub shooting survivors and family members led hundreds of members and supporters of the Human Rights Campaign in the March for Our Lives. Before stepping off, the survivors and family members addressed HRC's annual Spring Equality Convention to talk about the Pulse Nightclub shooting and the importance of mobilizing the LGBTQ community against gun violence.

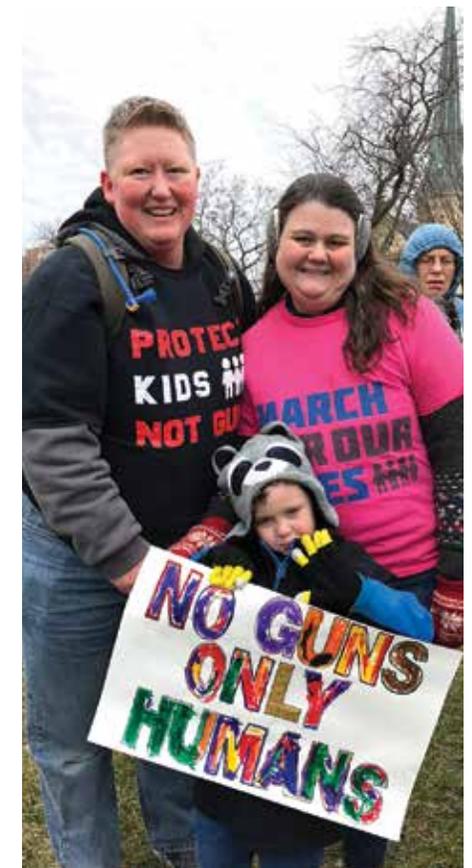
Christine Leinonen, mother of Drew Leinonen; Brandon Wolf, friend of Drew and Drew's boyfriend Juan Guerrero, who were both killed; and José Arrigada—the three of which appeared and spoke on stage at the DNC one month after the shooting in 2016—joined with fellow survivor and Pulse survivor, Ricardo Negron, onePulse Foundation Board Chair Earl Crittenden, and HRC President Chad Griffin to lead hundreds of HRC members and supporters. The marchers were also led by Karamo Brown, one of the hosts of Queer Eye and a graduate of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland. Brown knew Aaron Feis, the football coach who was killed in the Parkland attack. He is the co-founder of 6in10.org, which combats HIV stigma and provides support and education to the Black LGBTQ community. Brown has partnered with the Los Angeles LGBT Center, the Center for Disease Control, and the National Black Justice Coalition through his advocacy.

For more information, visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/418245641921459/>.

Photos by Tracy Baim and Vernon Hester



Southland Inner City Youth.





From top: Jalen Kobayashi in performance; Hinsdale High School Poetry Team in performance; Christo Rey School.

This Week's Featured Properties

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Streeterville



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210 E. Walton St Unit B
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East Lakeview



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440 W. Aldine St #3E
3 Bed 2 Bath
\$779,000

East Lakeview



Experience sophistication and high design, in stunning east-facing renovated showplace

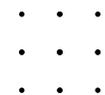
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More from Chicago's March for Our Lives

Photos by Tracy Baim and Vernon Hester



Chicago Jesuit Academy.



CCA Academy.



Howard Brown Health hosts annual meeting

BY MATT SIMONETTE

About 300 well-wishers gathered March 21 at Joffrey Ballet's downtown studios for Howard Brown Health's annual community meeting and update.

Officials at the gathering spoke about recent



Kat Fitzgerald at annual meeting.
Photo by Matt Simonette

developments and upcoming plans, and paid tribute to community members and staff who made a difference in the local health organization's operations in the previous year.

Chicago Community Trust and photographer Kat Fitzgerald, a frequent Windy City Times contributor, were among those honored.

Howard Brown Health Board Executive Vice Chair Bethany Pagels-Minor recalled first meeting Fitzgerald, as well as her first impression: "Whoever this person is, I want to be just like her."

Chief Operating Officer Keglovitz-Baker and R. Todd Hargan, M.D., further honored Practice Manager Shonita Lewis. Keglovitz-Baker said of Lewis, "Through the hard times, through the best times, you always put the patient first."

Board Chair Mario Treto opened the proceedings, and President/CEO David Munar closed them. Munar said that the organization had hosted about 100,000 patient visits for behavioral health, primary care and outpatient services in the previous year.

"In 2017, Howard Brown stretched our mission like we've never done it before," he said.

The upcoming developments for Howard Brown Health include starting providing medical services for clients of La Casa Norte, an organization focused on serving youths experiencing homelessness, as well as opening a new facility in Humboldt Park in November. With an increased focus on behavioral health, Howard Brown Health will have a counseling center at Irving Park and Sheridan roads as well.

Munar also said that the organization would offer a needs assessment for students, artists and service workers.

"Howard Brown belongs to Chicago," Munar said. "It belongs to the LGBTQ community, and it belongs to you."

Nominations sought for 30 Under 30 Awards

Windy City Times is seeking to recognize 30 more outstanding LGBT individuals (and allies) for its annual 30 Under 30 Awards.

The ceremony will take place Wed, June 20. There will be a 5:30 p.m. reception, with the program being 6-7:30 p.m.

Nominees should be 30 years or under as of June 30, and should have made some substantial contributions to the Chicagoland LGBT community, whether in the fields of entertainment, politics, health, activism, academics, sports or other areas.

The deadline to nominate individuals is Friday, April 13.

Windy City Times Managing Editor Andrew Davis coordinates the awards program for the paper. Hundreds of people have been honored by the paper in the more than 10 years since the awards were established. Most honorees have gone on to great success in their careers and educations, including working for the Obama presidential campaign and administration, plus individual successes in music, legal, professional and academic careers and much more.

Individuals, organizations, co-workers, etc. can nominate a person by emailing Andrew@Windy-CityMediaGroup.com or faxed to Andrew Davis' attention to 773-871-7609. Self-nominations are welcome.

The nomination should be 100 words or fewer, and should state what achievements or contributions the nominee has made. Nominators should include their own names and contact information

as well as the contact information and the age of the nominee.

Note: Following the policy instituted in 2005, individuals can only win once. Those have won the award since that year are ineligible for this year's awards.

This year's sponsors include AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Center on Halsted, and Howard Brown Health.

Honorees will be notified in May.

Groups enter pact with Madigan, City of Chicago

In a major development in the fight for federal oversight of the Chicago Police Department (CPD), more than a dozen community groups reached an agreement with the City of Chicago and Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, according to a joint press release from the ACLU of Illinois and the MacArthur Justice Center.

The community coalition comes from two major lawsuits, *Communities United v. City of Chicago*, filed by the ACLU of Illinois and *Equip for Equality*, and *Campbell v. City of Chicago*, filed by a coalition of legal firms. Both lawsuits called for federal court intervention and community driven oversight in response to the Trump Administration's public opposition to such measures.

The agreement allows plaintiffs from each lawsuit to monitor the consent decree that the City of Chicago and the Illinois attorney general are currently negotiating, and specifically gives those groups rights to enforce the forthcoming consent decree to reform the CPD.



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Health dept. issues groundbreaking report on LGBT youth, adults

BY MATT SIMONETTE

City officials released an extensive 89-page report on Chicago's LGBT community's health needs they hope will call attention to the community's priorities and issues.

The report, according to Chicago Department of Public Health Deputy Commissioner Brian Richardson, "is the first time that we have data on LGBT health issues across the spectrum."

Among the data highlights of the report is an estimation of the total LGBT population of the city: about 146,000 persons, or about 7.5 percent of the population. About 80,000 of those persons identify as male, while 66,000 identify as female. Of the total LGBT, 10,500 identify as transgender (.5 percent of Chicago's population).

The report was unveiled to city officials, police representatives, service providers and advocates at a meeting March 23, to whom Richardson said, "We don't want this data to sit on a shelf."

At that meeting, Antonio King of CDPH said that the report "captured behaviors, health and quality of life issues" of LGBT Chicagoans.

But King also discussed the inherent difficulties in capturing information about particular parts of the LGBT community, specifically transgender Chicagoans, and acknowledged that the report would only scrape the surface of details required on the particular needs of certain community segments.

"We want to make sure that they know that we know that this is not enough information," he said.

Epidemiologist Kingsley Weaver, the chief author of the study, said that the report was not intended as a "life-course snapshot" of LGBT Chicagoans as they age, but rather a "broad, holistic picture of LGBT health."

Officials said that the report, an outgrowth of the Healthy Chicago 2.0 initiative, would be updated annually, with Kingsley adding, "The fact that we have a baseline ... is pretty profound."

An inherent hurdle to such a study is framing disparities as being the results of stigma and oppression, among other factors, and not from being a member of the LGBT community.

Richardson said that the authors "make it clear that the disparities we face are because of the stigma ... It's because of how they are treated because of their identity."

Meeting participants were largely supportive and enthusiastic, but said that implementing the data would require thoughtful and deliberate cooperation from CDPH.

"We need to know what specific CDPH resources and strategies are in place on issues such as bullying," said John Peller, CEO and president of AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

Francesca Gaiba, associate director of the Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health at Northwestern University, said, "I just want us to continue to remind each other that this is a partnership ... Let's frame objectives and the strate-



Above: Chicago Department of Public Health's Antonio King. Below: CDPH Deputy Commissioner Brian Richardson, epidemiologist Kingsley Weaver.

Photos by Tracy Baim



Group Discussion

1. How can we work together to disseminate and utilize the data?
2. What topics are of interest for the future?
3. How can we improve transgender and gender non-conforming data collection?



gies we need to do, and go after the funding."

Among other findings highlighted by CDPH in a March 23 summary: Lesbian and bisexual females are more likely to be current smokers than heterosexual females at all life stages; LGBT youth are less likely to have had a wellness visit in the past year; male and female youth who identify as LGBT are more likely to report being physically forced to have sex; and gay men are more likely to meet colorectal cancer screening guidelines and to have had an HIV test.

"We know that the only way to ensure a greater quality of life and access to services for LGBT individuals is to better understand the size of, and opportunities and challenges specific to Chicago's LGBT community," said CDPH Commissioner Julie Morita, M.D., in a statement. "This report is a first step, giving providers, elected officials and community leaders a deeper understanding of Chicago's LGBT population so we can in turn help better strengthen the community."

Data were collected for youth using the U.S. Centers for Disease Control Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) of Chicago Public School students grades 9-12 and for those 18+, the CDPH Healthy Chicago Survey (HCS), a random telephone survey. Charts and tables are provided to glean differences or similarities between (1) males and females who identify as LGBT compared to their heterosexual peers (GB in the case of male stands for Gay/Bisexual), (2) between males and females who identify as LGBT and (3) between LGBT and heterosexual identified individuals overall.

The report also noted these key findings:

— Older LGBT and older heterosexuals report

similar levels of overall well being to each other. This is in contrast to differences that exist among young adults in both groups.

— Similarly, older LGBT adults are far less likely to report psychological distress than younger adults.

— Male gay and bisexual youth report alarmingly high rates of substance use, particularly heroin and prescription drugs.

— Transgender and gender non-conforming adults are less likely to report good overall health and far more likely to report psychological distress than their cisgender peers.

The age breakdown for the CDPH report states there are an estimated 80,000 LGBT people age 18-44, and 56,000 age 45+. Some 97,000 are estimated to be single, never married; 10,000 member of an unmarried couple; 2,000 in a civil union; 24,000 married; 9,000 separated or divorced; and 1,000 widowed.

The racial breakdown is: Latino/Latina 28,000; Non-Hispanic Asian/Pacific Islander 7,000; Non-Hispanic Black/African American 44,000; Non-Hispanic Other 2,000; and Non-Hispanic White 65,000.

Table 1. Population estimate of LGBT adults, Healthy Chicago Survey 2014-2016

TOTAL	146,000
GENDER	
Male-identified	80,000
Female-identified	66,000
AGE	
18-44 years	90,000
45+ years	56,000
RACE/ETHNICITY	
Latino/Latina	28,000
Non-Hispanic Asian/Pacific Islander	7,000
Non-Hispanic Black/African American	44,000
Non-Hispanic Other	2,000
Non-Hispanic White	65,000
MARITAL STATUS	
Single, never married	97,000
Member of an unmarried couple	10,000
Civil Union	2,000
Married	24,000
Separated or Divorced	9,000
Widowed	1,000

CDPH charts on LGBT youth, adults

On this page and the following page are charts from the Healthy Chicago databook on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Health, a report from the Chicago Department of Public Health, March 2018. The full PDF of the CDPH report is with the online version of story at <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/Health-dept-issues-groundbreaking-report-on-LGBT-youth-adults/62353.html>

■ LGB ■ Heterosexual

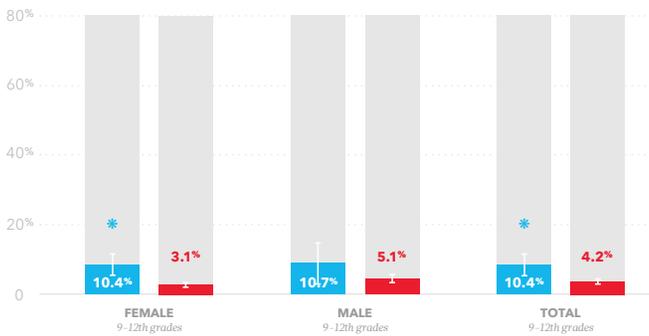
* Statistically significant difference between LGB and heterosexual.

GB in the charts below stands for Gay, Bisexual.

Suicide attempt resulting in injury, 9-12th grades

LGB youth are more likely than heterosexual youth to report a suicide attempt resulting in injury. LB females are more likely than heterosexual females to report such an attempt.

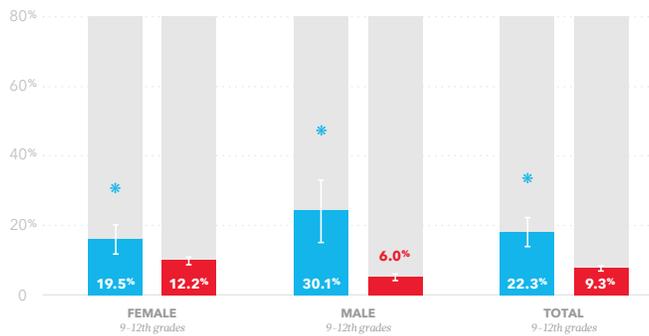
Source: YRBS 2009-2013



Electronic bullying, 9-12th grades

LGB youth are more likely to report electronic bullying than heterosexual youth. More male and female LGB youth report being electronically bullied than their heterosexual peers, although the difference is much greater for males.

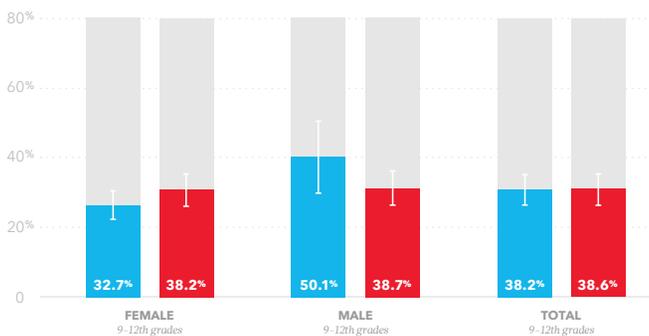
Source: YRBS 2009-2013



Harassed because of perceived sexual orientation, 9-12th grades

There is no difference between LGB and heterosexual youth being harassed because of their perceived sexual orientation.

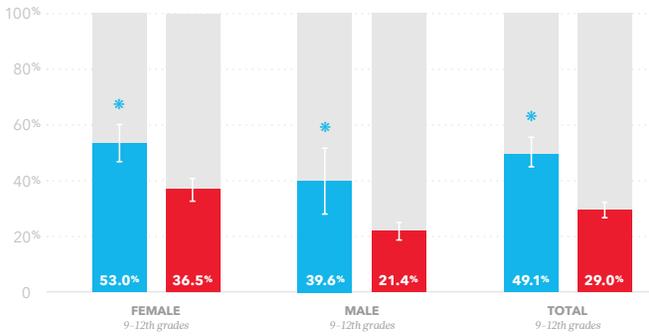
Source: YRBS 2009-2013



Felt sad or hopeless for 2+ weeks, 9-12th grades

LGB youth report feeling sad or hopeless for 2 or more weeks in the past year more often than heterosexual youth. Both LB females and GB males report such feelings more than their heterosexual peers.

Source: YRBS 2009-2013

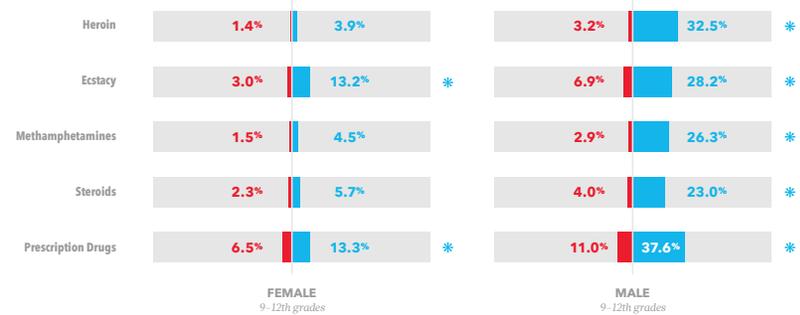


Drug use and prescription drug misuse, 9-12th grades

Considerably more GB male youth report using illicit drugs when compared to heterosexual males and LB and heterosexual females. LB females report more usage of ecstasy and misuse of prescription drugs than heterosexual females.

Have you ever used/misused...?

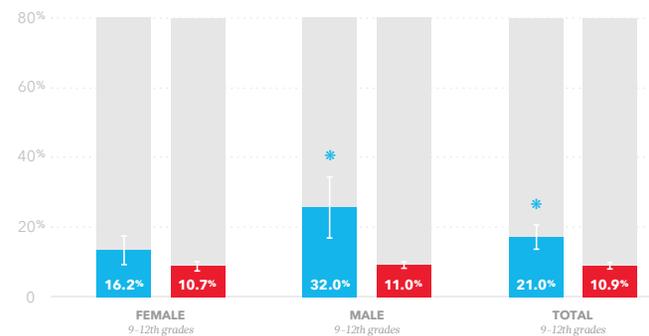
Source: YRBS 2013



Bullied on school property, 9-12th grades

LGB youth are more likely to report being bullied on school property in the past year than heterosexual youth. GB males are the most likely of any group to report being bullied on school property.

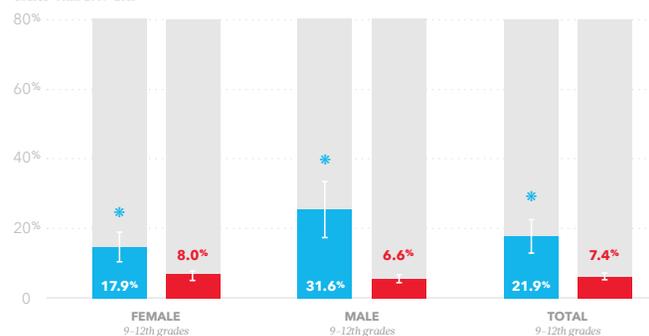
Source: YRBS 2009-2013



Physically forced to have sex, 9-12th grades

LGB youth are more likely to report being physically forced to have sexual intercourse than heterosexual youth. More male and female LGB youth report being physically forced to have sexual intercourse than their heterosexual peers.

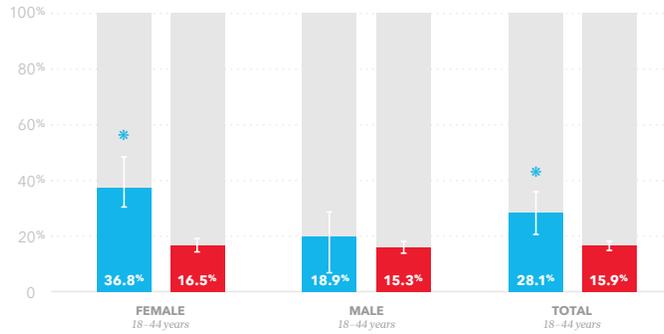
Source: YRBS 2009-2013



Psychological distress, adults 18-44 years

LGB adults aged 18-44 years have significantly higher rates of psychological distress compared to heterosexual adults. This is especially true for LB women.

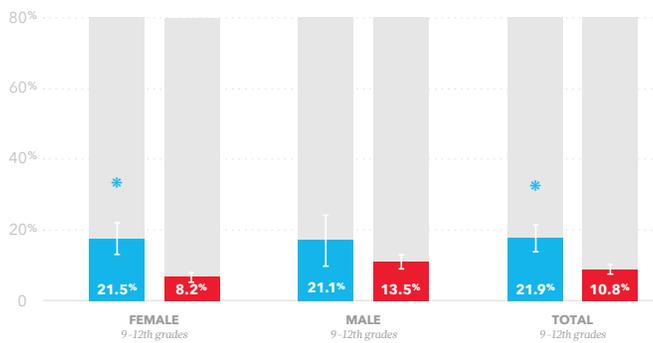
Source: HCS 2014-2016



Youth smoking, 9-12th grades

More LGB youth report smoking in the past 30 days than heterosexual youth. LB females are more likely than heterosexual females to report recent smoking.

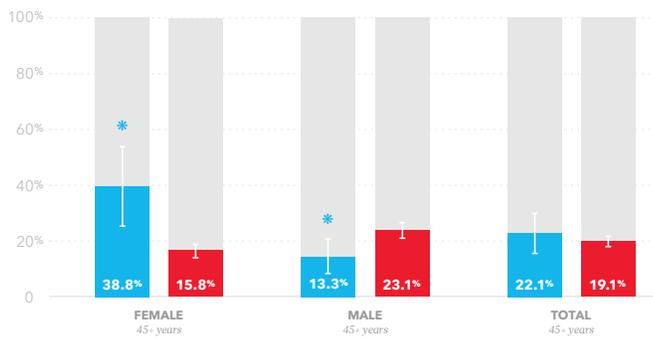
Source: YRBS 2009-2013



Current smoking, adults 45+ years

LB women aged 45 years and older have higher smoking rates than heterosexual women. The smoking rate among GB men is significantly lower than heterosexual men.

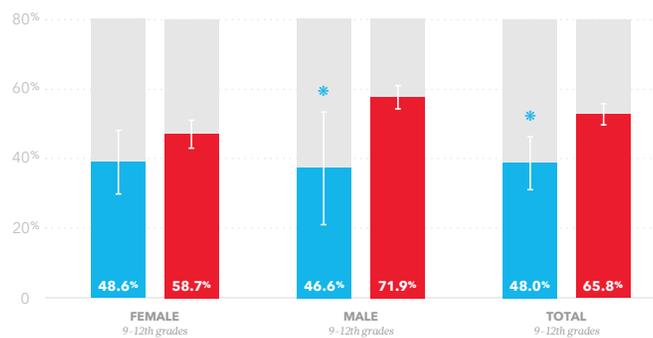
Source: HCS 2014-2016



Condom use, 9-12th grades

LGB youth are less likely to report condom use at last sexual intercourse than heterosexual youth. GB males are less likely than heterosexual males to report condom use.

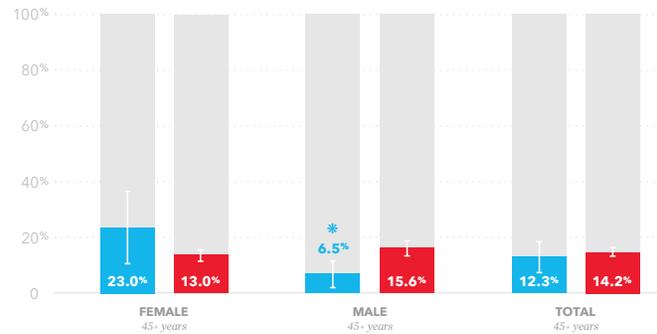
Source: YRBS 2009-2013



Psychological distress, adults 45+ years

Compared to adults aged 18-44, adults aged 45 and older have lower prevalence of psychological distress. GB men aged 45 and older have significantly lower rates of psychological distress compared to heterosexual men.

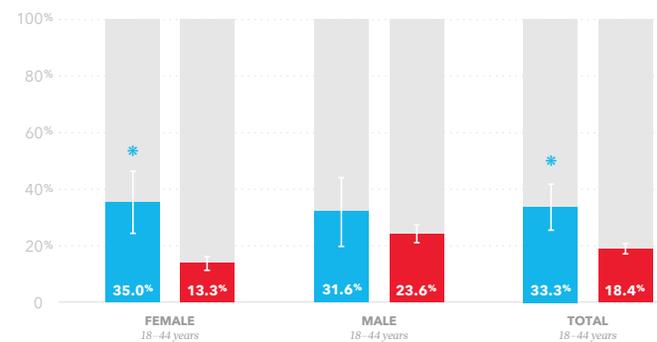
Source: HCS 2014-2016



Current smoking, adults 18-44 years

LB women 18-44 years have higher smoking rates than heterosexual women. The smoking rate among GB men is not significantly different than heterosexual men.

Source: HCS 2014-2016

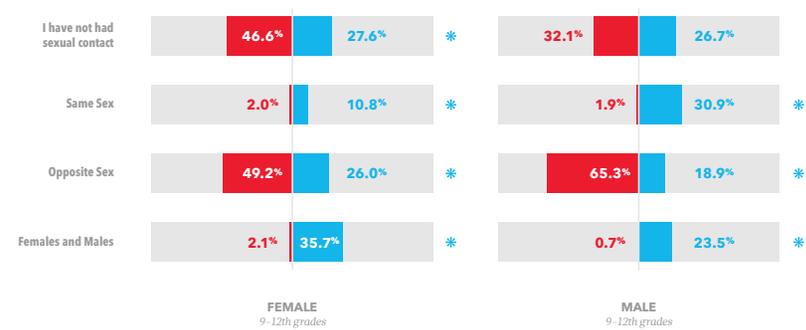


Sex of sex partners, 9-12th grades

LB females report having sexual contact with the opposite sex (i.e. males) more often than GB males report having sexual contact with females.

During your life, with whom have you had sexual contact...?

Source: YRBS 2009-2013

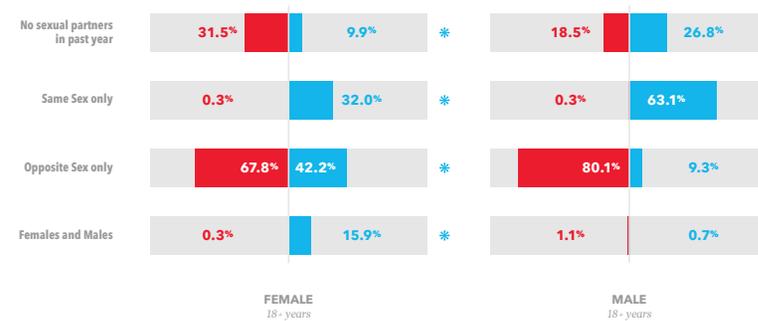


Sex of sex partners, adults 18+ years

LB females report having sexual contact with the opposite sex (i.e. males) in the past year more often than GB males report having sexual contact with females.

During the past year, with whom have you had sexual contact...?

Source: HCS 2015



Morgan Park UMC offers affirming presence for LGBTs

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Morgan Park United Methodist Church (UMC) has been a fixture in Chicago's Far South Side since 1887 and in 2010 the church became a part of the LGBTQ-inclusive Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN) of Methodist churches.

"Morgan Park UMC was founded by Dr. German and a handful of devout Methodists in then unincorporated Morgan Park," said Morgan Park UMC and the Northern Conference of the UMC middle and young adults programming leader and life-long member Lisa Butler. "In 1913, the congregation moved into its current building at 110th & Longwood Drive. The growing congregation expanded the building in 1926. Although the membership has decreased since those years, the church still plays a significant role in the community."

Aside from being a RMN church, Morgan Park UMC houses the Maple/Morgan Park Food Pantry. The pantry is over 30 years old and is the product of the Maple/Morgan Park Ministerial Alliance and the Beverly/Morgan Park community of churches. Church leaders have also begun mentoring seminary students in recent years.

In 2005, the church started a film discussion group focusing on spiritual reflection. Among the other small group ministries are a prayer

group, weekly Bible study, adult and youth Sunday school, adult spiritual and social ministries, prayer shawl ministry and adult basketball.

"We have strong United Methodist Men and United Methodist Women groups which provide spiritual growth, fellowship and engage in mission and service," said Butler. "We are a diverse community of faith. We have members and worshipers of different racial, religious, ethnic, cultural, geographical, occupational, socioeconomic origins and LGBTQ persons. We are also inter-generational. As a diverse congregation we strive to find the delicate balance to honor our traditions, strengthen our passionate spirituality and remain relevant. We continue to look for ways to reinvent ourselves and remain relevant to the times."

Former Pastor Eun-Hye Choi was the catalyst for the church's membership in the RMN.

"One day she came to me and said, 'I want you and your son to come with me to a meeting with the Reconciling Ministries Network,'" said Morgan Park UMC trustee Don Jaburek. "She said this group was advocating for welcoming and fully accepting LGBTQ persons. My son was an out gay high school student and gay activist. He was loved by my family and our church family. Of course, I said yes and my son said yes to the pastor's request. After we visited the RMN Chicago office, our church embarked on a journey of study



Rev. Dennis Langdon.

Photo by Susie Strange

and introspection."

The journey included a church study group, a sermon series led by Choi, church members' personal testimonies during Sunday worship, speakers on both sides of the issue, committee member's church newsletter articles on the importance of welcoming all and screenings of the films "Normal" and "The Bible Tells Me So."

At an all church member meeting a little more than a year later, they passed a unanimous resolution to join the RMN. A year later, Choi moved on and Rev. Dennis Langdon (Pastor Dennis) took over. Langdon has built upon the work Choi and other church leaders did to make the church LGBTQ-inclusive including incorporating the rainbow symbol into the church's outdoor and indoor

signage, welcoming Affinity Community Services' annual Burning Bowl event this year as well as hosting an LGBTQ prayer breakfast, "Same Love" a few years ago.

"At that prayer breakfast, family reconciliation occurred and persons found safe space to come out to a supportive and affirming community," said Langdon. "An outgrowth of that event was members volunteering with Broadway United Methodist Church's 'Youth Lounge,' a ministry with at-risk LGBTQ youth."

Langdon has also appeared on Urban Broadcast Media radio where he spoke about the expansive and inclusive love of God that embodies the church's message.

When asked why the Methodist church on the whole is not accepting of LGBTQ people, Langdon said the primary reason is the church's democratic system of governance which reflects the diversity of opinions and theological world view represented world-wide.

"That the church is earnestly engaged in dialogue is really a testament to its strength, not weakness," said Langdon. "United Methodists are earnestly wrestling for faithful ways to be the big tent, inclusive church that we at Morgan Park UMC believe it is called to be."

An LGBTQ faith and community worship, food and fellowship event, "Love is Love!," will take place at the church, 11030 South Longwood Dr., on Saturday, April 7, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

"People can expect to find Morgan Park UMC to be a very welcoming environment to all of God's

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Longtime local LGBT activist Gary Chichester, friends reflect on his work

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

In recognition of his 50 years of LGBT and HIV/AIDS activism, Gary Chichester will be honored with this year's Jon-Henri Award March 31 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Sidetrack.

The award was created by longtime community HIV/AIDS activist and Open Hand Chicago Founder Lori Cannon and is named after the late gay writer and queer thinker Jon Henri Damski.

"I am honored to be among the previous honorees to receive this award," said Chichester. "Through his writings, Jon-Henri helped open my eyes to the concerns of the community. I respect his presentence with helping to pass LGBT human rights and hate crimes legislation in the city."

"During the early days of the AIDS plague in Chicago, Gary was there to assist us with his level-headed mind for promotion, support and fundraising," said Cannon. "Gary's longtime respect and admiration for the curious and quirky Jon-Henri proved to be a memorable delight for both of them. This, along with his meaningful and long-lasting contributions to the LGBT community, are the reasons why I chose him for this year's award."

"I have known Gary since 1970, when we both participated in organizing for the first-ever Stonewall anniversary march—forerunner to what is now the annual Pride Parade," said previous Jon-Henri Award recipient Albert Williams. "Gary's service and dedication to Chicago's LGBT community is unsurpassed. I know our dear mutual friend, Jon-Henri, is delighted that Gary is receiving an award named in his honor."

"Gary has always been present in the moment," said longtime friend/fellow activist Dean Ogren. "When I met him I was a young, crazy, kid who was drinking and partying maybe too much, and he was the one who got me involved at events and galas as a volunteer because I did not have the money to spend. He loves to tell people that I 'love busy work' but by watching everything he did, and then also becoming present in the moment, I became a better person. I always said I wanted to grow up to be just like Gary and I hope I have."

"When it comes to passion for our rights and community he is in a league of his own and has managed to do it all with a sense of humor," said writer/activist Owen Keenan. "This award is a deserving reminder of everything he has done on behalf of Chicago's LGBT community."

Chichester's journey toward activism began when he met his first long-term boyfriend Richard Barnes through some mutual friends after he moved back to Chicago in his late teens. He previously lived in Chicago's Old Town and Budlong Woods neighborhood before his family moved to the suburbs.

"Richard probably was the biggest influence

on me when it came to thinking about what was going on in the world," said Chichester. "During the summer of 1969, a friend of Richard's called from New York with the news about the Stonewall Riots. Six months later, some friends and I found ourselves taking part in the gay liberation movement that was developing at the University of Chicago. We participated in the first anniversary march which is now known as the Pride Parade and much of the events surrounding it. Public dancing was another area we concentrated on. The movement was spreading across the nation and the world. It was an exciting time."

This was shortly after he realized he was gay on a family trip to Los Angeles during his junior year in high school at Maine East in Niles, Illinois (where he met his fellow classmate Hillary Clinton on the freshman homecoming float committee).

While in high school, he and his friends became weekly regulars on the now-defunct WGN dance show Spin Time; later, he learned he was not the only LGBT person on the show.

Moving back to Chicago and getting involved as an activist was a natural progression for Chichester because he loved the city and wanted to make it better. One person he met early on was the late Chuck Renslow who became a father-figure to him. (His dad died when he was 13.)

"We were always looking for businesses to support our causes and the bar I was most comfortable in was Chuck's bar—Aggie's Gold Coast (GC)," said Chichester. "I got to know him and count on him for that support. I also ended up managing the GC and stayed with Chuck at various businesses for over 13 years. He always encouraged my LGBT activism and was a true mentor to me. I miss him so much."

In addition to working for Renslow, Chichester made his living in the catering and events businesses as a special events planner and manager for a number of companies among other professional endeavors.

"While I was working as an event producer there were many interesting and fun experiences," said Chichester. "The one that really stands out is the Trip of a Lifetime cruise we did for Harpo Studios. A two week cruise across the Mediterranean with Oprah and her crew. We took over a year to plan and organize, and it turned out to be just magical."

Chichester co-founded the Chicago Gay Alliance (CGA) in 1971 and served as its first president until 1973. CGA later opened the first LGBT community center in the city, started a newspaper, created an LGBT library, started a help line and was instrumental in getting the first Pride Parade off the ground.

Over the years, Chichester was involved in organizing the Metropolitan Business Association, Chicago Gay Health Project, Gay Rights National



Gary Chichester at an Obama White House reception.

Photo courtesy of Chichester

Lobby, Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Metropolitan Chicago, 1987's Hands Across America, the 1979 and 1987 National Marches on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, the NAMES Project, Gay and Lesbian Press Association, National Association of People with AIDS, Strike Against AIDS and most recently the Chicago Commission on Human Relations' (CCHR) Advisory Council on LGBT issues until it was disbanded shortly after Mayor Rahm Emanuel was sworn into office.

"When I became a CCHR advisory council member; Linda Rodgers, Thom Dombkowski and myself were trying to figure out how to acquire more visibility for the council," said Chichester. "We took a lead from the Women's Council and with a few tweaks came up with what is now known as the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame. Our first induction took place in 1991 at city hall during Mayor Richard M. Daley's Pride Reception. I was inducted in 1992 and I thought it was great. I served on the board for over 35 years and just stepped down this past Dec."

Of the many fundraising endeavors Chichester has been involved with over the decades, the International Mr. Leather (IML) and Circus Vargas Big Top Benefit are the ones that stand out to him.

"We created a rather unique and fun IML weekend that at one point was considered the fourth largest convention in Chicago," said Chichester. "My experience with IML gave me the skills that led to my career as a producer in the corporate events industry."

"Along with my dear friend, Roger RJ Chaffin, we organized a series of AIDS benefits called Circus Vargas Big Top Benefit that raised over \$500,000 for community AIDS agencies. The final year, in 1992, on a promise of a sizable donation from Jeffrey McCourt; RJ and I performed on the aerial trapeze as the 'Flying Rotundas.' The Chicago She-Devils were our TA-DA girls and Larry McKeon was the official medic."

Chichester learned how to perform on the aerial trapeze when he ran away to join the circus for a time and since then has performed as Buttons T. Clown at various venues.

Additionally, Chichester has lent his planning and fundraising talents to many other causes over the decades including the Howard Brown Memorial Clinic and 1977's Orange Balls I and II to fight Anita Bryant.

Chichester noted that his greatest accomplishment is his work with the Hall of Fame alongside William Kelly, Israel Wright, Mary Morten, Phil Hannama and others to document Chicago's LGBT community.

"As I reflect back over the years I have been a gay man in Chicago, I think of all the people who influenced my life," said Chichester. "Some are still here, others we have lost. That is why I respect the Jon-Henri Award, the LGBT Hall of Fame, the Legacy Project, Gerber/Hart Library and all the folks that document our history and make us stronger."

MORGAN PARK from page 19

children," said Love is Love breakfast planning committee member Pam Harris. "An environment that is non-judgmental and encourages all to feel free to be their authentic selves. Participants will experience a powerful, inspirational and uplifting message. We will enjoy great food, fellowship and praising God."

"Love is Love is a continuation of our congregational commitment to reconciling ministries and the LGBTQ community and their allies," said Butler. "Join us and extend an invitation to the community. A breakfast buffet will be provided at the event and the suggested donation is \$10."

To purchase tickets, visit "Love is Love - A LGBTQ Faith Community Event" on Eventbrite.com, or contact the church office at 773-238-2600 or morganparkumc@wowway.com.

On Saturday, May 5, at 5:30 p.m., the church's film discussion group will screen the 2015 Academy Award nominated movie *The Imitation Game* at the church. The film focuses on gay World War II Enigma code-breaker Alan Turing's story including his time at Bletchley Park during the war.

See MorganParkUMC.org and <https://rnmnet-work.org/> for more information.

Report: GOP aide fired after Grindr hookup

BY MATT SIMONETTE

A top staffer to Republican U.S. Rep. Randy Hultgren (R-Plano) was fired from his post March 19 after Hultgren's office learned that police had discovered the man shirtless in a parked vehicle with a teenage boy he'd met via the Grindr hookup app, The Chicago Tribune reported.

Dominic Provenzano, formerly Hultgren's deputy district director, was discovered in a parked SUV on a McHenry dead-end street with a 17-year-old in October. No charges were filed, as 17 is the legal age of consent in Illinois, but the teen later said to police that he and Provenzano indeed had sex in the car. Provenzano was put on leave then fired after the Congressman's office was made aware of the police report, however.

A relatively prominent figure in McHenry County politics, Provenzano is a Republican committeeman for Nundo Township and has served on McHenry County's board.

Hultgren is one of three members from Illinois' Congressional delegation to earn a "zero" on Human Rights Campaign's Congressional Scorecard, signifying virtually no support for LGBT rights. He consistently opposed marriage-equality while that issue was being debated in the public sphere, for example, and subsequently has come out in favor of so-called "religious freedom" legislation that would protect discriminatory anti-LGBT practices if they were performed under the auspices of the perpetrator's religious beliefs.

The Chicago Tribune's report is at <https://trib.in/2GPJttu>.

Trump issues anti-transgender military order

President Trump issued orders March 23 to bar most transgender troops who need surgery or significant medical treatment from serving in the U.S. military.

The memo followed a pledge he made last year to ban such troops, a change the Pentagon has been reviewing, and that has been fought out in the courts ever since.

Four federal courts have issued rulings and injunctions against Trump, siding with those who argued that banning a group of people from the military on the basis of their gender identity is unconstitutional.

Under the court rulings, the Pentagon was required to begin accepting transgender recruits on Jan. 1—and has reportedly accepted at least one trans recruit so far in 2018.

Multiple pro-LGBT groups issued statements slamming Trump's memo. The National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) and GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) issued a joint release in which NCLR Legal Director Shannon Minter said, "This is exactly the discriminatory, categorical ban that four federal courts have already barred from going forward. This is just the sort of baseless attack on dedicated service members we have come to expect from this administration, and we will continue to fight this shameful ban vigorously in federal court."

This statement also said that Trump's "announcement has no immediate impact, as four federal courts have already prohibited the ban."

GLAD Transgender Rights Project Director Jennifer Levi added, "This Trump-Pence plan categorically bans transgender people from service, with no legitimate basis. It requires the discharge of trained, skilled troops who have served honorably for decades. It's a gross mischaracterization of transgender people, and it's bad for our military."

In a separate press release, Joshua Block, a senior staff attorney at the American Civil Liber-



Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin. Photo from HRC

ties Union LGBT & HIV Project, said, "What the White House has released tonight is transphobia masquerading as policy. This policy is not based on an evaluation of new evidence. It is reverse-engineered for the sole purpose of carrying out President Trump's reckless and unconstitutional ban, undermining the ability of transgender service members to serve openly and military readiness as a whole."

Ashley Broadway-Mack, president of the American Military Partner Association and spouse of an active duty U.S. Army officer, said, "Donald Trump and Mike Pence are literally wreaking havoc on the lives of our military families. Military experts thoroughly studied this issue and found transgender service members should be able to serve openly with dignity and honor and receive the full support they need and deserve."

"There is simply no way to spin it, the Trump-Pence Administration is going all in on its discriminatory, unconstitutional and despicable ban on transgender troops," said Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin. "Donald Trump and Mike Pence are pushing their extreme anti-transgender prejudices onto the military over the overwhelming objections of bipartisan officials, national security leaders and the American public. We will never stop fighting this discriminatory policy until every current and future transgender service member is treated equally and respected fully for their bravery."

ELECTIONS 2018 HRC issues warning to Dan Lipinski

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) released a statement on the primary election results in Illinois' 3rd Congressional District, issuing a warning to Democratic incumbent Dan Lipinski, who narrowly defeated challenger Marie Newman on March 20.

"This should be a wake up call to Dan Lipinski," said HRC Senior Vice President for Policy and Political Affairs JoDee Winterhof. "A politician who has fought against the rights of LGBTQ people, women, and immigrants for more than a decade in Congress went from a 24 point lead to barely

holding on to his job. Now, our task is to continue holding him accountable.

"The people of Illinois want and deserve a representative in Congress who will stand up for their fundamental rights—not undermine them and rubber stamp the Trump-Pence agenda. If Dan Lipinski continues down the wrong path, he will not get a second chance the next time his constituents head into the voting booth."

HRC noted Lipinski's record on LGBTQ equality, adding that he is the worst-scoring Democrat in the U.S. House and Senate on HRC's Congressional Scorecard. In 2007, Lipinski voted against a version of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act on the House floor, and he is one of only two House Democrats who have not expressed support for the Equality Act.

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LGBTQ veterans briefed on scams targeting veterans

BY JEAN ALBRIGHT

Military veterans are among the groups that scammers and criminals target, according to speakers addressing a group of LGBTQ veterans and friends gathered at the Center on Halsted on March 16. The LGBTQ Veteran MeetUp was the first planned by the Chicago Chapter of the American Veterans for Equal Rights in a new quarterly series.

Julie Kenney spoke for the United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS) on the many types of scams which can target veterans. Terri Worman, American Association of Retired People (AARP) Associate State Director for Advocacy and Outreach works to build AARP interaction with the LGBTQ community. She also works with AARP's Fraud Watch Network and spoke to the group on methods criminals use to perpetuate scams.

USPIS and AARP are working together on Operation Protect Veteran, a program to protect veterans from targeted scams.

Kenney presented on scams that have come to the attention of the postal inspection service, including phony sweepstakes, free prizes, free vacations, government lookalike mail, solicitations disguised as invoices, foreign lotteries, chain letters, charity frauds, phony inheritance schemes, home improvement or repair fraud and investment fraud. Some scams include surprise fees for normally free services, advance fees on loans, credit repair offers, credit-card schemes and work-at-home or franchise frauds, phony job opportunities, unsolicited merchandise, reshipping fraud and check scams.

Worman spoke about email and social media contacts from people trying to gather personal information to then sell to scammers, called phishing.

She gave examples of how people who think themselves too smart to getting taken in, can get taken in.

"If an email looks like it came from a friend, you don't have to automatically open it," she said. "Instead, click on the name itself to reveal the actual email address or origin. If you see an actual email address different than the name that appeared first, don't open but delete and let person or business being copied know."

"If you learn from a friend that your own email hacked, change your password. We all have many passwords and changing them all is hard but necessary. Follow up by letting your list of friends know you've been hacked."

She noted that opening doesn't automatically get you in trouble. The traps may lie in the next steps.

Worman herself once received a standard-looking Amazon message reading, "Your order is ready to ship."

"It was December and I am an Amazon cus-

tommer. I immediately thought my back account had been hacked. It was just after Target had been hacked."

She also pointed out that things can come in showing completely authentic logos. "Don't be fooled, a real logo can be copied from Google and affixed to anything," she said. "A common pop-up, with an Amazon logo, says you've won a free gift card worth a minimum of \$50. So you think, 'I might just get more than \$50,' so you click, answer a few questions and they've got your info. That info is then sold to the highest bidder."

Those who send things like the Amazon email, she said, send it to thousands, not knowing whether or not their targets are Amazon customers, veterans or members of any target group.

"I'm not a veteran so I'll delete right away but so many people are Amazon shoppers or veterans or whatever, senders have a good chance of getting it to many members of the target groups," said Worman.

Many scam calls include a strategy to employ fear, insecurity and urgency to get you to make a quick and ill-informed choice. Many involve trying to establish a connection, a reason to trust.

For instance, in scams targeting grandparents or veterans, callers identify themselves as grandkids in trouble to evoke fear or a fellow veteran to evoke trust in the hope that you'll respond to an urgent request.

"Grandmas, this is your grandson and I need help!"

"Johnny? Is that you?"

Then they have the information that you are a grandparent and your grandchild's name and can take it further based on that.

In another example, it has been in the news that Medicare will be sending out cards without social security numbers beginning in April and the criminals are playing on that. Fear of losing medical care can cause a vulnerable moment. Criminals are calling people, identifying themselves as affiliated with the Social Security Administration and asking for your personal information, including insurance provider, be provided immediately in that phone call or benefits will be at risk.

One note, the new cards are coming out in batches so it is not a concern if you see others getting them when you don't.

Worman advised those who check bank accounts online to do it regularly and often.

"Criminals pop in a \$9.99 charge or \$14.99 and you can't remember what you've charged and so you let it go. That's what the criminal is hoping you'll do. When you don't respond, it indicates to scammers that you are not watchful of your account and are open for a larger attack. Criminals are already successful if just a small percent of people don't challenge the charges," she said.



Terri Worman at briefing.
Photo by Hal Baim

For those who don't do online banking and who's statements come in the mail, it is important to check them in the same way. She advised keeping track of when statements are expected and, if they don't come in, calling to find out why. No show statements may indicate that someone has changed your address at the post office, which is all too easy for criminals to do.

"If you suspect something, most of those accounts have a banking fraud division, you can call to report," said Kelley. "They can check."

Worman advised getting a credit report once a year. You can see if someone else has opened an account in your name, is a payer for utilities in Indiana or bought a house.

The presenters recommended IdentifyTheft.gov, which starts at the beginning of the fraud reporting process and guidance through all the steps. Also, they said using Annualreport.com will allow people next year to start comparing each year's report to the previous year's.

Worman closed with "Everyone thinks they will never get scammed. But out there is a bad guy who can figure out what can work on you. Who can protect you from scammers? You. If you become a victim of ID fraud, it is hard."

Kelley added, "It is not if you'll be a victim but when. It then depends on how quickly you discover it and how you respond."

Hines and Jesse Brown Veterans Hospitals were

sponsors of the event. Presenting on their LGBTQ veteran programs were Lorry Luscri, health promotion disease prevention program manager and LGBT veteran care coordinator at Hines Veterans Hospital; and Becky Powers, LCSW, MA, and LGBT veteran care coordinator at Jesse Brown VA Medical Center.

Hines provided on the spot enrollment for veterans benefits, and flu shots and blood pressure checks for VA-enrolled veterans.

The Veteran MeetUp series will continue on July 12 and Oct. 10, 4 to 7 p.m. at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., in the John Baron Center on the second floor. The gatherings are designed to get veterans together for storytelling, support and socializing with other LGBTQ veterans, plus speakers, information on programs and services for veterans and light food and drink. Admission and food will be free and there will be a cash bar.

Terri Worman, associate state director for advocacy and outreach with the American Association of Retired People (AARP) Illinois, has been with the organization for 22 years and has been key in AARP outreach to and support of the LGBTQ community.

Jean Albright is a 20-year U.S. Air Force veteran, secretary of the Chicago chapter of AVER, and director of new media and circulation for Windy City Times.

LGBTQ Advocacy Day on April 11

Equality Illinois' LGBTQ Advocacy Day will take place all day on Wed., April 11, at the State Capitol, 401 S. 2nd St., Springfield.

According to the event's webpage, "One of [Equality Illinois'] priority issues will be the Inclusive Curriculum Bill, SB 3249, an initiative of Equality Illinois and the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance to teach students the historical events and contributions by LGBTQ people. An LGBTQ-inclusive curriculum can also have a positive affect on students' self-image and make their peers more accepting."

The bus will depart from Equality Illinois, 16 N. Wabash Ave., at 6 a.m., and from Affinity Community Services, 2850 S. Wabash Ave., to travel to Springfield. Once in Springfield, there will be lunch/advocacy training, meetings with legislators and public officials, and a closing

event/reception at Springfield's Red Roof State House Inn. The bus will depart Springfield at 5 p.m.

See <https://www.equalityillinois.us/events/2018-advocacy-day/> and email Equality Illinois Director of Civic Engagement Anthony Galloway at agalloway@eqil.org.

ALMA town-hall meeting March 28

The Association of Latino/as Motivating Action (ALMA) will host an LGBTQ town-hall meeting on Wed., March 28, 6-7:30 p.m., at the Puerto Rican Arts Alliance, 3000 N. Elbridge St.

Among those slated to attend are Illinois state Sens. Iris Y. Martinez and Omar Aquino, along with Illinois state Rep. Will Guzzardi.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Anamary Torres at anamarytorres@aol.com.

W.O.M.B. marks first anniversary at Affinity

E. Nina J. and Lucy Shumpert marked the first anniversary of their monthly women of color poetry and spoken-word open mic night at Affinity Community Services March 22.

The monthly series, called The W.O.M.B., attracts women and other supporters, from across the city and suburbs to Affinity's Bronzeville offices. The evening paid special tribute to late Chicago civil-rights advocate Jackie Anderson (pictured on TV screen), who was a strong supporter of the event.



W.O.M.B.
Photo by Tracy Baim



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**Francis
DEBERNARDO**

Cardinal Cupich says Church should learn from families. We hope it will learn from all families.

In a recent address at the University of Cambridge, England, Chicago's Cardinal Blase Cupich spoke about *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis' apostolic exhortation following the 2015 synod on the family.

The National Catholic Reporter's Fr. Thomas Reese, SJ, reported on the event which had been sponsored by the university's Von Hügel Institute for Critical Catholic Inquiry:

"Not only does the church bring the gospel to families, families contribute to the church's understanding and proclamation of the gospel, Cupich argued in England Friday (Feb. 9). He reaches this conclusion by beginning with the church's understanding of the family as a privileged site of God's self-revelation."

This new perspective reverses the traditional way in which the Church does ministry:

"If we accept that, said Cupich, 'then no family should be considered deprived of God's grace.' As a result, 'Our ministerial approach should begin with the understanding that families are not problems to

solve,' he said. 'Rather, they are opportunities for the church to discern with the aid of the Spirit how God is active in our time and what God is calling us to do here and now.'"

Reese provided Cupich's further explanation of this principle:

"In other words, the church must not just teach; it must also learn from families. All must 'remain open to the possibility of learning from one another in seeking to understand the mystery of God together.'"

"Cupich argues that this is what Francis means by a 'synodal' church. It means 'rejecting an authoritarian or paternalistic way of dealing with people that lays down the law, that pretends to have all the answers, or easy answers to complex problems, that suggests that general rules will seamlessly bring immediate clarity or that the teachings of our tradition can preemptively be applied to the particular challenges confronting couples and families.'"

"The core goal of formal teaching on marriage is accompaniment, not the pursuit of an abstract, isolated set of truths,' he asserts. This accompaniment 'involves a process of listening and learning, that guides the faithful to an awareness of their situation before God.'"

"Cupich argued that 'This represents a major shift in our ministerial approach that is nothing short of revolutionary.'"

What does this have to do with LGBT issues?

It does not take much imagination to see that these new principles—of listening, learning, accompanying, focusing on concrete realities—are easily applied to the way that the Catholic Church ministers with LGBT people. It is tragic, however, that the Church generally ignores these families. The tragedy is not just for the families, but for the Church, which

does not get the benefit of learning about the rich, varied, and diverse experiences these families have. The Church is missing out on so much of the bounty of God's blessings.

At the 2015 synod on the family, Cupich had already applied some parts of this type of thinking to families headed by lesbian and gay people when he stated that he thought the synod would have benefited from listening to lesbian and gay couples, which he himself had done in preparation for the synod. Later that same year, he said the Church should respect the consciences of lesbian and gay people.

Late last year, Cupich invited lesbian and gay people to dialogue, and that the Church needed to listen to them.

The cardinal addressed several other important matters addressed in *Amoris Laetitia*, including the primacy of conscience, the centrality of mercy, and responding pastorally to people. You can read the entirety of Fr. Reese's report by visiting <https://www.ncronline.org/news/opinion/signs-times/cupich-speaks-church-must-learn-faithful-about-married-life>.

Francis DeBernardo is the executive director of New Ways Ministry. This piece originally appeared at <https://www.newwaysministry.org/2018/03/12/cardinal-cupich-says-church-learn-families-hope-will-learn-families/>.

This piece was run with permission from DeBernardo.

New Ways Ministry educates and advocates for justice and equality for LGBT Catholics, and reconciliation within the larger church and civil communities.


**St. Sukie
DE LA CROIX**

SENIOR MOMENTS

Letter from Palm Springs

Never in a million years did I ever think that I'd go to a gym.

It's so out of character that I have friends in England who refuse to believe it. They think I'm making it up. One said, "I'm more likely to believe you died from a heroin overdose up a back alley than I am in you going to a gym." I can see their point. Most of my English friends were there for my misspent youth. I can't believe I'm still alive. I think I must share DNA with Keith Richards.

In my writings, I've compared gyms to torture chambers. It's where masochists hang out when Touche and Cell Block are closed. Another factor in my dislike of gyms is that I am not attracted to Muscle Marys because they all look the same. I like a man

with meat on his bones, is scarred, beaten up by life and has stories to tell. I'm not interested in "perfect bodies."

Gym bunnies are so narcissistic.

So why is it that every morning, seven days a week, I'm pumping iron and running on the treadmill in a Palm Springs gym? I'm there for a minimum of seven hours a week. And before anyone mentions showers, sex and steamrooms, my gym has none of those things. It's a simple gym. I work out and I leave.

It was all an accident. I blame my husband.

Like everyone our age, we both struggle to keep our weight down. Two years ago I caught a glimpse of myself in the bathroom mirror. Mama Cass was looking back at me. She was naked. I knew then I had to do something. I started a half-assed exercise regime: walking around the block, swimming in the pool, donuts and coffee. FYI: Donuts are fattening. Not a lot of fat people know that. I didn't. I do now.

My husband's doctor suggested he join a gym and lose weight. Of course, being Palm Springs the doctor was a gay bodybuilder and built like a hay barn. I knew my husband would have problems with this daily commitment, so I offered to accompany him on his trips to the gym. What I meant was, that while he was in the gym working out, I would wait in the

car reading magazines and drinking coffee. I was being supportive.

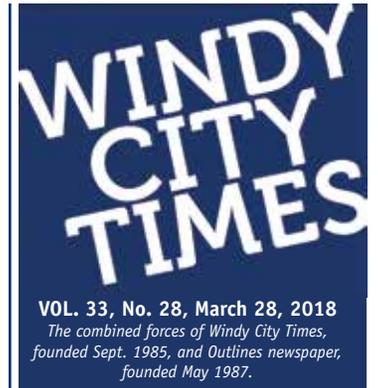
I drove him to the gym to enroll. He went in, I sat in the car and waited. When he came back he said he had enrolled us both as a family. He actually thought I was offering to work out with him. Me?

That's how I joined a gym. I accompanied him to the gym but after six weeks he gave it up and two years later I'm still there. Every morning at 4:30 a.m., I drive from Cathedral City to the gym in Palm Springs. There, I put on my headphones and lift weights to Abba or Blue Oyster Cult. On the treadmill I watch videos on YouTube. A current favorite is the series *Who Do You Think You Are?* After the gym I drive through the desert into the sunrise. At home I swim 20 to 30 laps in the pool while inquisitive hummingbirds hover and jackrabbits twitch their noses at me. Then I start work.

The miracle is that when I lived in Chicago I walked with a cane. I no longer walk with a cane. I now run on a treadmill. The other day I caught myself in the bathroom mirror and screamed out, "Oh my God—I've got man-boobs."

A head peeked around the door and said, "They're not man-boobs; they're pecs."

I had to Google "pecs."



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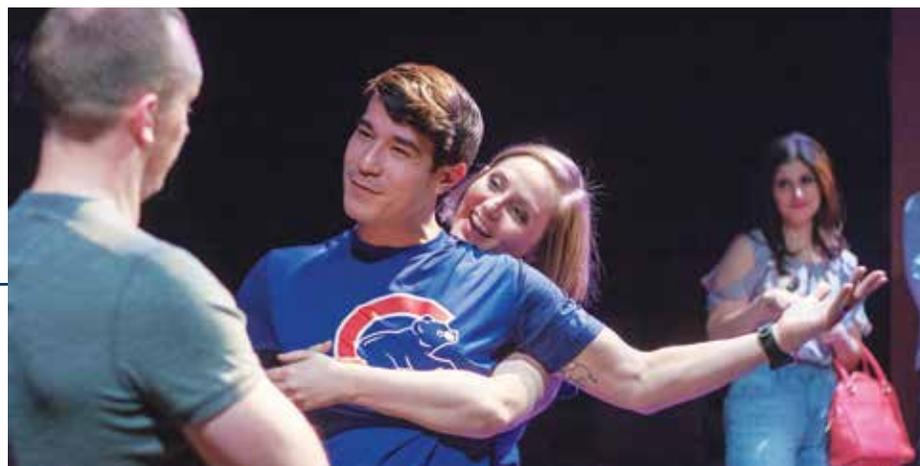
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WCT reviews the production *Through the Elevated Line*.

Photo courtesy of Silk Road Rising

DANCIN' FEATS

Talking with performer Okwui Okpokwasili

BY JOANNA FURNANS

Some people think in definitives. They synthesize the complicated world around them into neatly packaged conclusions and then state those conclusions with authority. The three-time Bessie Award-winning dancer, writer and performance maker Okwui Okpokwasili is not one of those people.

"I'm not looking for answers," said Okpokwasili in a recent interview with the Windy City Times. "I'm looking for a way to keep generating questions."

Next month, Chicagoans have the opportunity to witness a performance of such questioning when Okpokwasili and her collaborator husband, Peter Born, bring their newest work, "Poor People's TV Room," to the Museum of Contemporary Art (Thurs-Sat, April 12-14, 7:30 p.m.; Sun April 15, 2 p.m.; MCACHicago.org/Calendar), 220 E. Chicago Ave.

This piece premiered a year ago at New York Live Arts, where Okpokwasili was the esteemed Randjelovic/Stryker Resident Commissioned Artist during 2015-2017. For those unfamiliar with such a distinction, the Randjelovic/Stryker Residency provides one invited artist a salary, health benefits, two years of rehearsal/residency space and the commission of a new work—an award relatively unparalleled in the United States. In addition, "Poor People's TV Room" was co-commissioned by the American Dance Institute and the Walker Art Center and was granted funding from Creative Capitol, the MAP Fund, the New England Foundation for the Arts National Dance Project and the National Endowment for the Arts.

It doesn't get much better than this, especially

for an experimental dance artist. Okpokwasili has a long history as a performer/collaborator with choreographers Ralph Lemon, Dean Moss and Nora Chipaumire as well as acting credits on both stage and screen. She was even featured in a recent Jay-Z video.

But it is specifically her probing multidisciplinary work that garners such deserved attention from contemporary performance communities. "Bronx Gothic," the 2014 tour de force solo performance—also co-directed and designed by Born—was a gut-wrenching and poetic story of two Black pre-teen girls learning to navigate their young lives amidst desire and violence. The work was also an investigation of memory and an excavation and transmission of self.

Okpokwasili continues to ask questions central to the themes in "Bronx Gothic" in the making of "Poor People's TV Room." She said, "I feel like 'Bronx Gothic' is a solo unwinding of a woman trying to come to terms with a splintered self. 'Poor People's TV Room' still has to do with different sorts of uncovering memory but it involves four Black women and has a generational span that tries to investigate who we are to each other..."

"I'm always interested in memory making and how that might make a self. And what has to be undone and redone in order to have some kind of cohesive self. Or is it okay to learn to have to live with the fracture and splintering, to find a way to have some comfort in the confusion and the unknown?"

So the questioning continues. Like many works of contemporary performance, the initial spark of creative intrigue leads to extensive research that, once explored with performers, morphs in a new

direction. "Poor People's TV Room" began with an investigation of a remarkable history of protest by Nigerian women, specifically the Women's War of 1929 and the more recent "Bring Back Our Girls" movement. Herself the daughter of Nigerian immigrants, Okpokwasili explained that she was "thinking about what it means to be a collective and about embodied protest practices and how some of those practices were very much like performance. I guess most protest practices are a kind of public performance. [They are] an attempt to project a voice, to make a space to make an essential utterance."

With that information in mind, Okpokwasili and Born gathered collaborators—performers Thuli Dumakude, Katrina Reid and Nehemoyia Young—to begin exploring how they might relate to one another and what their collective voice could become. "The piece itself moved into something much more dreamlike as it got into the specifics of how our bodies imprint or mark on each other," she said. "We brought these women together, we had some text and some sound and some things that we were thinking about as we were considering what it meant to have these histories that were lost or that felt unrecoverable in some practical way. So [the question was] how do we make a space of generosity where we are inviting and imploring them to show us who they are?"

If this piece is anything like her previous work, audiences should expect to be steeped in an environment, both mysterious and precise, that transports our psyches through time and space to different dimensions of these women's histories and realities. There will be moments of enlightenment and moments of pain; this is not dance as entertainment. And why should it be?

For tickets to "Poor People's TV Room" and information about a screening of Andrew Rossi's documentary "Bronx Gothic," visit MCACHicago.org/Calendar.

Okwui Okpokwasili in
"Poor People's TV Room."
Photo by Mena Burnette



THEATER REVIEW

Merchant on Venice

Playwright: Shishir Kurup

At: Rasaka & Vitalist Theatre Companies at the Greenhouse, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave.

Tickets: \$25

Runs through: April 15

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

There's this Hindu import-export mogul operating out of Los Angeles, you see—Venice Boulevard, to be exact. His Hollywood homey plans to woo a Monterey-county heiress to finance his next movie, but in order to raise travel money, they must secure a loan from the Muslim moneylender that both have previously vilified for his conservative practices. The Shia broker agrees to provide them the necessary funds, contingent on a contract involving collateral too grotesque to be taken seriously—perhaps.

Wait! Didn't Shakespeare write a play very similar to this in 1596? Of course he did—but



Madrid St. Angelo in *Merchant on Venice*. Photo by Scott Dray

where that prototype described tensions between Christians and Jews, Shishir Kurup's examination focuses on prejudices within the South Asian immigrant community today, its divisive mistrust intensified by North American marginalization of their ethnic demographic as a whole. Even the casual conversation of allegedly sympathetic

characters reveal xenophobic biases, as when our eligible bachelorette rejects a suitor, sight unseen, upon learning of his southern-region home town.

Kurup saves his deepest contemplations for the patriarchal enemies, though. Sharuk's obsessive lust for revenge is exacerbated by his rebellious

daughter's pursuit of a tats-and-twerks recording-artist career with a LatinX musician, while Devender's closeted sorrow over his companion's betrayal plunges him into suicidal depression so acute that he welcomes the prospect of mutilation at the hand of a countryman as inflexible in honor as himself. Long after the question of who is right or wrong has been rendered moot, both continue to reject appeals to empathy, compassion and unity, making for a final image of two lonely men brought to ruin and shunned by their former kin.

Three hours may seem a protracted evening, but more than justifies itself in the sheer weight and complexity of the social issues under scrutiny. Audiences need not fear succumbing to culture shock, however. Vitalist director Liz Carlin Metz retains control of such diverse elements as Mumbai-style musical reels, comedic monologues delivered by servants and sidekicks, sweet nothings crooned by giddy lovers and iambic-pentameter oratory to ensure our full comprehension of the tragic discord arising from the elevation of petty differences over shared values.

THEATER REVIEW

An Enemy of the People

Playwright: Henrik Ibsen, adapted by

Robert Falls from a translation

by Eleanor Marx-Aveling

At: Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St.

Tickets: 312-443-3800;

GoodmanTheatre.org; \$25-\$80.

Runs through: April 15

BY KERRY REID

Henrik Ibsen's 1882 drama about a beleaguered crusading environmentalist at odds with the powers-that-be in his small town (including his own mayor brother) has inspired a raft of other

playwrights, from Arthur Miller to Chicago's Brett Neveu, whose contemporized take, *Traitor*, ran earlier this year at A Red Orchid Theatre.

Director Robert Falls' cunning adaptation at the Goodman exists in a netherworld between the past and present. Set designer Todd Rosenthal's blonde-wood walls evoke 20th-century Scandinavian modernism, and Ana Kuzmanic's costumes also blend contemporary and period details. But the script is as ripped-from-the-headlines as can be, replete with references to "fake facts," "deplorable" and calls to "drain the swamp."

The latter refers not only metaphorically to the culture of corruption in the town, but literally to the contaminants polluting the health spa that drives its economy. Dr. Thomas Stockmann (Philip Earl Johnson) discovers the pollution and expects a hero's reception for saving the day. But once

Mayor Peter Stockmann (Scott Jaeck) enlists the fickle "radical" newspaper editor, Hovstad (Aubrey Deeker Hernandez) to turn the tide against his brother, the good doctor goes off in a rage at a town meeting. "Stupid people put stupid people in charge and the rest of us suffer." It's a sentiment that many of us may have felt since November 2016—but also one that probably doesn't play well politically.

Johnson's Dr. Stockmann shifts from self-satisfaction at his discovery, to anguish, to resignation as he sees how little scientific facts matter when the threat of tax hikes and job losses are held over people's heads like an economic Damoclean sword. It's a febrile and often-hypnotic performance, balanced by Lanise Antoine Shelley as Katherine Stockmann, the doctor's sensible wife, and Rebecca Hurd as his idealistic schoolteacher

daughter, Petra.

David Darlow as Morton Kiil, Dr. Stockmann's rascally father-in-law (and the owner of the tannery that's mostly responsible for the pollution), and Allen Gilmore as Aslaksen, the printer and "small business owner" whose neutrality takes a nosedive once his pocketbook is threatened by Dr. Stockmann's findings, embody the Chamber of Commerce types who prefer the status quo at all costs.

In the second act, there are dozens of "extras" as townspeople who turn on Dr. Stockmann in short and frightening order. It cunningly raises the question of the effectiveness of public rhetoric and public protest. But as Johnson's Dr. Stockmann learns to his sorrow, being the smartest person in the room isn't enough to sway an angry crowd.

THEATER REVIEW

Through the Elevated Line

Playwright: Novid Parsi

At: The Historic Chicago Temple Building, 77 W. Washington St.

Tickets: SilkRoadRising.org; \$35

Runs through: April 15

BY LAUREN EMILY WHALEN

Too often, LGBTQ characters, characters of color and characters who are both are presented as the token stereotypical "best friend," the person who dies first or the inspirational feel-good story.

The tide is starting to turn a bit, but more complex representation needs to exist. Novid Parsi's *Through the Elevated Line*, a modern-day Streetcar Named Desire, has a gay Iranian man as its Blanche DuBois. And through the character of Razi Gol, beautifully crafted by Parsi and acted by Salar Ardebili, the theme of alienation

in a new world is never more present.

In Parsi's take on *Streetcar*, Razi arrives in Chicago just as his sister Soraya (the exquisite and gifted Catherine Dildilian) returns from a Cubs game. Having been in the United States for many years, Soraya is studying to be a dermatologist and expecting a child with her South Side native husband Chuck (Joshua J. Volkers). His brash manner and dominant presence are a lot to handle for Razi, who's been imprisoned in Iran for being gay and often drinks to dilute his troubled memories. It doesn't help that all three are living in an Uptown two-flat that Chuck is flipping: when personal space is at a premium, tensions quickly rise.

If you're thinking that Razi, Soraya and Chuck are Blanche, Stella and Stanley, respectively, you are exactly right. Thanks to Parsi's layered, nuanced writing, the themes of the original *Streetcar* work fantastically well in a diverse contemporary setting. Razi and Soraya's relationship, though loving and loyal, is tough going. Not only have they been apart for a long time and lost both their parents, Soraya has become thoroughly Americanized and is unaware

of the pain Razi has endured as a gay man in Iran. While Razi's heightened interactions with Chuck, and his budding romance with sweet Sean (Philip Winston) add suspense and depth, it is his and Soraya's ever-changing connection that is the cornerstone of *Through the Elevated Line*.

Director Carin Silkaitis' staging is a bit awkward at times, but easy to overlook in light of the play's many strengths. Silkaitis and the strong ensemble of actors bring out every distinction of even the most minor character. Scott Shimizu brings much needed comic relief as Chuck's friend Ben, who at one point clashes with Chuck about his own Japanese heritage, and even Volkers' performance, the picture of toxic masculinity, has some empathetic moments. Lindsey Lyddan's lighting design and Jeffrey Levin's sound mimic the train stop next to Chuck and Soraya's apartment with stunning accuracy, placing *Through the Elevated Line* squarely in the here and now. Tennessee Williams' story of displacement, depression and dealing with it all is timelier than ever.

CRITICS' PICKS

Schiller's Mary Stuart, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, through April 15. Hailed as a clash of queens—Mary of Scots vs. Elizabeth of England—it's far more about the power game behind the throne, and realpolitik hasn't changed much. JA

An Enemy of the People, Goodman Theatre, through April 15. Ibsen's goal in 1882 was to shock his fellow citizens out of their smug complacency and Robert Falls' adaptation continues to agitate with familiar buzzwords from our own recent history. MSB

Piaf! The Show, Directo Productions at the Athenaeum, April 10. This solo show only stops in town one night before resuming its international tour, but Francophiles who weep when they hear "Vie En Rose" will love Anne Carrere's homage to their beloved "little sparrow." MSB

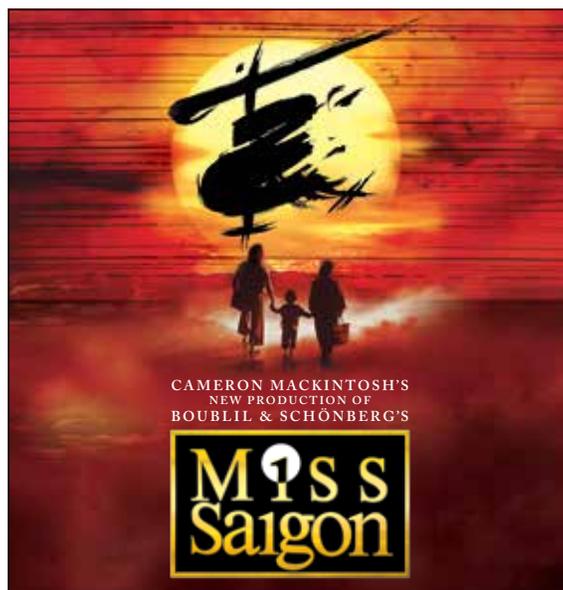
Hot Pink, or Ready to Blow, New American Folk Theatre at the Den Theatre, through April 7. A deadly volcano, a sacrificial virgin and a 1980s setting that follows in the hallowed steps of the "The Breakfast Club" and "Fast Times at Ridgemont High." What's not to love? CES

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Sullivan

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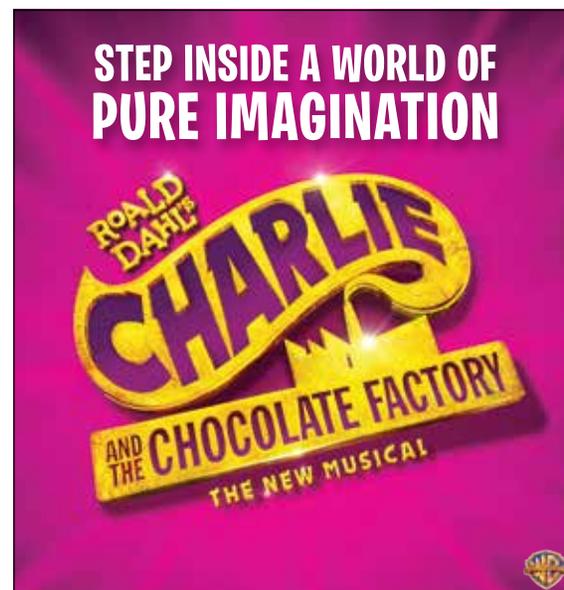
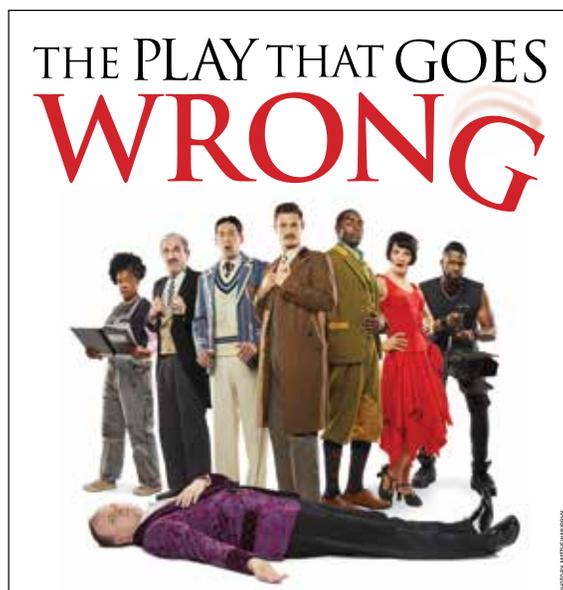
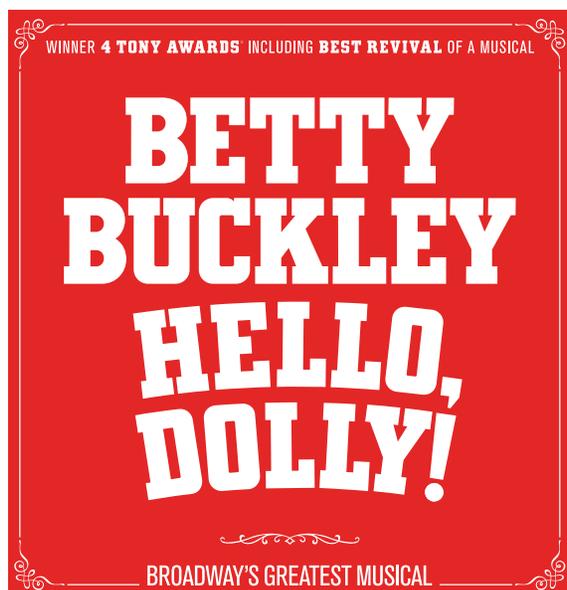


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THEATER REVIEW

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

Playwright: Todd Kreidler (based on the screenplay by William Rose)

At: Court Theatre, 5535 S. Ellis Ave.

Tickets: 773-753-4472 or

CourtTheatre.org.; \$38-\$74

Runs through: April 15

BY SEAN MARGARET WAGNER

Court Theatre's decision to mount *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, a stage adaptation from Todd Kreidler, is an odd tightrope walk. This production isn't prepared to plunge into the murky unknown of choosing artistic or political stances for fear of alienating a very liberal, white audience, so it's a gentle night of theater with all the teeth of a set of plastic Dracula fangs.

In *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, It's 1967 and Joanna Drayton (Bryce Gangel) and her fiancé, a widower, doctor and contender for best human on Earth, Dr. John Prentice (Michael Aaron Pogue) have come to her parents' luxurious manor to inform them/ get them on board. She's wealthy and white, he's the great success from a struggling Black family, it's the '60s and still interracial marriage is still illegal in many states, what could go wrong?

Unsurprisingly, it's a hard sell, not only among the Draytons (Mary Beth Fisher & Tim Hopper), but for John's parents (Jacqueline Williams &



Bryce Gangel, Michael Aaron Pogue in *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*.

Photo by Michael Brosilow

Dexter Zollicoffer)—all of whom have worked to protect their children from the danger and stigma they want to embrace. Tillie the housekeeper (Sydney Charles) is profoundly against it, as is Hilary the family's art gallery assistant (Rachel Sledd), but for latent racist reasons. The only one adding checkmarks in the "pro" column is the Monsignor (Dan Waller), and he's been into the

SPOTLIGHT

If you missed Haven Theatre's rock concert/play hybrid *We're Gonna Die* when it roared onto the stage last year, now's your chance to see/hear playwright Young Jean Lee's percussive exploration of that which eventually comes for us all. Director Josh Sobel's cast is—wait for it—to die for: Seriously: With frontwoman Isa Arciniegas on vocals, Jordan Harris and Elle Walker on keys, Sarah Giovannetti on drums and Max McKenna on guitar, you can count on musically vital and infectiously lively night of theater. Mondays March 26, April 2, 9 and 16;



Haven Theatre at Steppenwolf's 1700 Theatre, 1700 N. Halsted St., \$18; Steppenwolf.org
Photo by Austin D. Oie

bourbon. It's going to be a long night.

Director Marti Lyons and Associate Director Wardell Julius Clark have packed the stage with a bevy of local dynamos and their performances are this show's highlight. Mary Beth Fisher and Tim Hopper play Christina and Matt Drayton, and it's ridiculous fun to watch them squirm and quarrel among themselves. They are the focal point by design, and they are as formidable as their Tracy & Hepburn predecessors. Likewise, Michael Aaron Pogue's Dr. John Prentice is bound to crack under the pressure of required flawlessness, and it's mesmerizing to watch him as his problems compound. The real, undeniable stand out, however is Sydney Charles as Tillie. She is forever uncompromising, not amused, and judging you harshly.

Deal with it.

At face value, there's nothing wrong with Court's choice of this production, and everything on their stage is visual perfection, right down to the bloom on the unnaturally white cacti. (Scenic designer Scott Davis has rendered a stage you won't soon forget.) But that is precisely the problem: This production is so safe and sterile, there's nothing to make Court Theatre's older, white audience members uncomfortable in their seats. There's something very self-congratulatory in choosing this production, which may feature the outstanding work of a collective of artists of color, but hesitates to keep them at the forefront.

THEATER REVIEW

Women Laughing Alone With Salad

Playwright: Sheila Callaghan

At: Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave.

Tickets: \$12-\$70* (related to gender-related wage disparities, so "female-identifying patrons" get discounts)

Runs through: April 29

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Vance Packard first blew the whistle on Madison Avenue in 1957, so it should come as no surprise in 2018 to hear that advertisers are out to manipulate us into spending money on their products. Sheila Callaghan, however, also sees our cultural values reflected in this seemingly benign capitalistic propaganda—specifically, the proliferation of images depicting the solitary bliss of attractive young women smiling open-mouthed as they cheerfully fork fresh green plant fiber past teeth unmarked by chlorophyll stains.

The framing device she chooses for her dissertation thereupon is, ironically, the progress of a clueless privileged white male. After a childhood marred by filial unrest and betrayal, Guy (that's his name) is now an aspiring writer encumbered by his fashionably anorectic mate and his secret lust for plus-sized exotics. He meets his earth goddess at a dance club one night and, after sneering at her romantic fantasy of jazz-age



From left: Echaka Agba, Daniella Pereira and Jennifer Engstrom in *Women Laughing Alone with Salad*.

Photo by Charles Osgood

Paris, invites her to a three-way with his would-be California Girl consort. Meanwhile, Guy's mom struggles with "descending womb"—an arcane gynecological condition rendered literally in Callaghan's dramatic universe—and undergoes manicures involving flesh-eating fish.

What all these women have in common is that they eat salad, even as they dream of the hearty cuisine forbidden them. The thinking behind this

contradiction is explained in a later scene depicting a conference room of executives pitching their new ad campaign to a female boss.

If our play hadn't been written by a woman of unimpeachable feminist persuasion, its 1960s-vintage gender politics might have eclipsed its alleged female-empowerment manifesto. Devon de Mayo's direction, however, forestalls disruptive ambiguity by keeping the stage picture

brightly lit and constantly mobile with provocative Ionesco-absurdist spectacle—the "Dance of the Seven Lettuces," for example, or slapstick-acrobatic sim-sex (courtesy of fight/intimacy designer Rachel Flescher), or Jennifer Engstrom's uncanny drag-turn resemblance to Hawaii Five-0's Jack Lord. You might leave the theater bewildered by what you have just witnessed, but after viewing an opening scene composed entirely of Callaghan's three graces munching on you-know-what, you will have plenty to contemplate while navigating the produce aisle.

Black LGBTQ family focus of 'Kingdom'

Broken Nose Theatre (BNT) will launch its 2018 season with the world premiere of resident playwright Michael Allen Harris' *Kingdom*—a comedy about an African-American LGBTQ family—through March 31 at BNT's new resident home, The Den Theatre (Upstairs Main Stage), 1331 N. Milwaukee Ave.

The plot is as follows: When the state of Florida legalizes same-sex marriage, Arthur and Henry (his partner of 50 years) come to terms with their differing opinions on the necessity of becoming husbands, even as their son Alexander finds himself wading through some rough new waters of his own.

Tickets are pay-what-you-can; see BrokenNoseTheatre.com.

'Laramie Project' cast named

AstonRep Theatre Company has announced the casting for The Laramie Project, a response to the 1998 murder of gay University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard that was written by Moises Kaufman and the members of Tectonic Theater Project and directed by Associate Artistic Director Derek Bertelsen.

The feature and ensemble casts include Dana Anderson*, Alexandra Bennett*, Liz Cloud, Rob Frankel, Matt Harris*, Roberto Jay, Amy Kasper*, Ray Kasper*, Tim Larson*, Erin O'Brien, Sara Pavlak McGuire* and Chelsea Turner. (The "*" denotes an AstonRep company member.)

The production will run June 7-July 8 at The Raven Theatre (West Stage), 6157 N. Clark St. Tickets are currently available at AstonRep.com or 773-828-9129.

'How I Learned to Drive' through May 6

The Artistic Home will continue its 2017-18 season with Paula Vogel's Pulitzer Prize-winning *How I Learned to Drive*, which will run through May 6 at 1376 W. Grand Ave.

How I Learned to Drive, which premiered in 1997, was a Pulitzer Prize-winner and pioneering drama for its examination of pedophilia and sexual abuse of women. It follows L'il Bit from age 11 to age 18, and her friendship and sexual affair with her uncle.

Tickets are available at 866-811-4111 or TheArtisticHome.org.

DiversifiCABtion applications open

Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave., has announced that applications are now open for its DiversifiCABtion Series.

This new series allows Chicago performance groups and artists the opportunity to use the Stage 773 services and facilities to produce their artistic projects for free throughout the 2018 year.

Applications considered for the DiversifiCABtion Series must prominently feature women, POC, LGBTQIA+ and/or differently-abled individuals in cast, crew or content. Performances can include but are not limited to sketch, improv, staged readings, clown, dance, drag, performance art and magic.

Each group accepted into this series will receive free space, marketing, Box Office support, tech support, discounts at the bar and a cut of box-office proceeds after expenses.

Applications are at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdSwv-4LaxppPhxuLLOBMGzfn-ftoelSx56BuxBqEtAdKxFrQ/viewform>. Also, email info@stage773.com.

'Waa-Mu Show' May 4-13 at NU

The 87th annual Waa-Mu Show—Northwestern University's student-written and -orchestrated musical presented in collaboration with the Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts at Northwestern University—will take place May 4-13 at Cahn Auditorium 600 Emerson St., Evanston.

Undergraduate student co-chairs Maxwell Beer, Sarah Ohlson, Andrew Restieri and Kaja Burke-Williams—all Northwestern seniors—lead the 2018 production, under artistic director David H. Bell.

Patrons can reserve the seats for the production *Manhattan Miracle*, a fictionalized account of the origins of the American musical.

Online sales for *Manhattan Miracle* have begun, and phone orders begin Jan. 2, 2018. See <https://wirtz.northwestern.edu/waamu> or call 847-491-7282.

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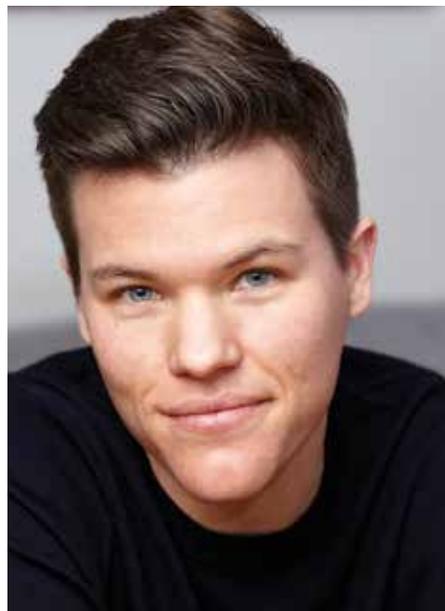
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THEATER

Groundbreaking, gender-defying ATC shuttered

BY CATEY SULLIVAN

The country's only trans* artistic director of a midsize regional theater lost his job Friday. With the board's decision to shutter the American Theater Company (ATC), Will Davis—the theater's charismatic, ground-breaking, binary-defying artistic director of roughly two years—was out. Chicago lost a company known for adventurous, inclusive works that broke with centuries of tradition.



Will Davis.
Publicity photo

"Goodbyes are always hard but this one is especially difficult," board member Art Cunningham said March 16. Having been on ATC's board for 21 years, Cunningham praised both the people and the productions who had created art at 1909 W. Byron Ave., giving a nod to the four artistic directors of his tenure: Brian Russell, Damon Kiely, PJ Paparelli and Davis.

"Will Davis, in particular, has consistently embraced our mission of asking 'What does it mean to be an American?' and taken it to new heights with his bold vision and theatricality," Cunningham said. "The same can be said of our Youth Ensemble and how fearless and committed these students have been since the program's inception. You truly make my heart sing.

"While the lights at ATC have gone dark, the light it has created for the past 33 years can never be extinguished. And for that I'll always be grateful," he said.

In a separate statement released March 16, Cunningham cited financial pressures as a primary factor in the theater's closure. ATC had endured a shaky budget for years. Davis inherited the financial uncertainty when he came onboard roughly two years ago, after Papparelli died overseas in a car crash overseas.

Davis immediately shook things up, intent on making plays that weren't restricted to rigid gender roles. One of his most stellar efforts was his radical reboot of *Picnic*, which starred Molly Brennan in a swoon-worthy turn as a handsome (usually male) drifter and a number of trans-actors in lead and supporting roles. In Davis' production, William Inge's usually-mired-in-tradition drama featured what Brennan deemed "a gay dream ballet."

Davis' final play was *January's We're Gonna Be Ok*, which completely flipped the usual gender script, casting men as wives and mother and women as fathers.

Davis spoke with Windy City Times about casting the production for a piece that ran in *Chicago Magazine*. "It's a way of expanding things, of not putting people into little boxes that say you have to be this or this, male or female. If the universe is infinitely expanding, which it is, it doesn't make sense that there are only two versions of things," he said.

He spoke with the Windy City Times' Karen Topham about the importance of inclusion. "One of the great gifts that I have right now in ATC is



Molly Brennan and Michael Turrentine in ATC's *Picnic*.
Photo by Michael Brosilow

the number of times an actor is cast and they say, 'I've never been cast as ____.' [This company tries] to create that space for joyful representation that doesn't minimize the fullness of their identities. That is alive and well in every actor cast in this show," he said.

Elle Walker, a trans actor, got a shot at playing the ingenue in *Picnic*. She bore witness to Davis' hopes. "Playing Madge, even for three performances truly changed my life," Walker said, "Thank you Will Davis."

When casting, Davis often worked with Stephanie Diaz and Emjoy Gavino—both members of the Chicago Inclusion Project. Gavino summed what Davis brought to the fore:

"I will thank (Davis and ATC) for making space for so many people, for gifting our community

with generosity and the knowledge that we—all of us—belong in the narrative of American theater, for celebrating queerness and weirdness and teaching us that both are beautiful, for challenging the status quo at every turn. For these things and so much more," Gavino said. "Your work was important and life changing."

"Casting for ATC was a privilege and an honor," said Diaz, "[I]n Will's all-too-short tenure, I saw some of the most exciting work I've seen in my 13 years here."

The Alliance of Latinx Theater Artist of Chicago also released a statement: "To Will Davis, we miss you already. You didn't just talk the talk AND walk the walk, you danced and twirled and flew. You invited us to join. You centered our stories, our bodies and our hearts."

Davis decamped at least temporarily for New York (not returning phone messages March 19) for a directing project. Whether he'll be back is unclear. The fate of 1909 W. Byron Ave. is the same. The theater was literally built by members of American Blues Theater (ABT), founded in 1985, who transformed the former greetings card factory into a 134-seat theater. ABT moved in August, 1993. The ensemble parted ways with Paparelli (and lost the space) in an acrimonious rift in 2009.

"Founding (ABT) Ensemble member James Leaming led a community-based 90+ volunteer crew to transform the space," said ABT's Gwendolyn Whiteside, "While Blues currently performs at Stage 773, the Byron venue has been important for Chicago theater for 25 years. We hope it continues to be utilized for theater and could present a wonderful opportunity!"

Whatever happens to the space, Davis' mark on the city is reverberating. On March 16, Chicago Theatre Marathon founders Gaby Labotka and Cassandra Rose announced plans to change up the theme for the July 19-22 event at the Green House Theater Center. The new theme? "I am an American."

Lyric's 'Jesus Christ' talent announced

Artists from the bands Postmodern Jukebox, tUnE-yArDs and Diane Coffee join Broadway and West End talent for Lyric Opera's North American premiere of Timothy Sheader's Olivier Award-winning production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's rock opera *Jesus Christ Superstar*, running April 27-May 20 at the Lyric Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Dr.

The Lyric cast includes: Broadway artist Heath Saunders (Jesus); Grammy-nominated soul singer Ryan Shaw (Judas); tUnE-yArDs tour vocalist Jo Lampert (Mary Magdalene); Broadway and Postmodern Jukebox crooners Michael Cunio (Pilate) and Mykal Kilgore (Simon Zealotes); Diane Coffee frontman Shaun Fleming (Herod); Chicago-based Broadway artist Joseph Anthony Byrd (Annas); West End favorite Cavin Cornwall (Caiaphas); and Chicago-based artist Andrew Mueller (Peter).

Single tickets for *Jesus Christ Superstar* start

at \$44 and are on sale now at jcsuperstar.org, in person at the Lyric Opera House box office, or by calling 312-827-5600.

'L'Imitation of Life' March 31-May 6

Hell in a Handbag Productions will kick off its 2018 season with a revival of its 2013 hit *L'Imitation of Life*—a parody of the 1959 film *Imitation of Life*, about race, mothers and daughters.

The production will run March 31-May 6 at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave.

L'Imitation of Life will feature Handbag ensemble member Ed Jones as Lana Turner, with Robert Williams as Annie Johnson—two very different women raising their daughters in a world made for a man.

Tickets are currently on sale at HandbagProductions.org (through Stage 773) or 773-327-5252.



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Jerry Mitchell.
Photo by Christopher DeVargas

NUNN ON ONE: THEATER

Jerry Mitchell talks 'Pretty Woman,' Jake Shears

BY JERRY NUNN

Pretty Woman: The Musical is working the streets of Chicago for a pre-Broadway run. The Gary Marshall film *Pretty Woman* made Julia Roberts a star playing prostitute Vivian Ward. Audiences fell for the love story between her and Richard Gere, who played wealthy businessman Edward Lewis.

Now the musical version is ready for its debut. It stars Samantha Banks as Vivian with Tony Award winner Steve Kazee as Edward.

Grammy winner Bryan Adams is bringing the tunes along with collaborator Jim Vallance, who helped him with his 13th album.

Director/choreographer Jerry Mitchell provides the backbone to the production. His vast experience in shows such as *Kinky Boots*, *On Your Feet* and *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* has paid off over the years.

Windy City Times: How does it feel to be back in Chicago?

Jerry Mitchell: It feels like home.

WCT: Do you have any free time?

JM: We have Mondays off, but I am pretty much exhausted so I don't do anything, except find a restaurant and have a nice dinner.

WCT: Why do you feel Chicago is a good place to premiere your musicals?

JM: The audiences of Chicago are exposed to a lot of great theater. The audiences are here and they are smart. They know when something is good and something that isn't. For me they are helpful. I listen to the audience. I try to see how they are responding to what is there. It helps me shape it.

I always say that audiences are your final scene partner. The show I start with and leave with five weeks later is a new show. That is why you go out of town, to do that kind of work.

WCT: So a lot of changes are expected?

JM: A lot of changes. With *Kinky Boots* we added a new song and cut a song. We cut two dances, and we added a dance. The show was good when

we started, but we are here to make it better, so we keep working on it.

WCT: Is the musical version of *Pretty Woman* still set in the '90s?

JM: I call it a timeless fairytale. So maybe... it is not set today. It has the feel of the film.

WCT: How does it work to have multiple jobs on the show of directing and choreographing?

JM: It is easier. You are able to follow your idea through and not have to explain your idea to another person. When the collaboration between the director and choreographer is seamless that is when a musical really clicks. It is easy to be seamless when you are doing both jobs!

WCT: It sounds like a lot of work.

JM: It is, but I have a great support system. My associate director DB Bonds and associate choreographer Rusty Mowery were with me on *Kinky Boots*. We have a great relationship. I rely on them for a lot of work.

WCT: Is the choreography influenced by things you have seen in the past?

JM: No. We go to the opera so there is an opera sequence.

There is a song called "Never Give Up on a Dream" that is sung by Eric Anderson and Orfeh that has some stuff in it.

The characters Edward and Vivian go to a dinner dance where they meet Mr. Morse. There is a dance in there.

There is some musical staging with Thompson that is fun.

We will see. I am sure I will add more as we keep going. It always has to be organic to the story for me.

WCT: Do you have a favorite song from *Pretty Woman*?

JM: There's too many. Bryan and Jim have written a spectacular score the first time out, just like Cyndi wrote for *Kinky*. As pop writers they really nailed it, particularly the love songs, which is what you need in *Pretty Woman* the Musical.

WCT: Sometimes in musicals the songs move

the plot forward. Is this the case?

JM: It is an all-original score. I think original songs written by pop composers have a tendency to have those songs you are talking about. They are emotional and let the character tell you what they are feeling or thinking. I kind of love that.

WCT: Is it tempting to make the lead very Julia Roberts?

JM: No, not at all. I think the score defines her in a new way because it's a musical. We are going to deliver things from the film that everyone will expect and want to see, but we have our own stuff that they will be enchanted with.

WCT: Is there a bathtub scene?

JM: There is a bathtub scene, but she is not singing Prince!

WCT: Is there a gay character?

JM: Well, I am involved in creating it! [Laughs] There is no one that is necessarily gay.

WCT: I thought the Barney Thompson character who helps her might be...

JM: Maybe, but there is no statement about it.

WCT: What has been the most satisfying thing with the success of *Kinky Boots*?

JM: That the message has gotten to places that needed it even more than we did in America. Remember, when we started the musical there was no gay marriage in the United States.

The message of *Kinky Boots* to just accept people for who they are, "you can change the world if you change your mind," has gotten to places like Korea, where it is now, and they have no gay voice. It has played Japan where gay culture is very behind the times. It will be going on a national tour all over the UK.

It goes all over America into towns that voted for Trump. They need the message more than anyone.

WCT: What are your thoughts on Jake Shears starring in it now?

Beverly Arts Center seeks LGBTQ submissions

The Beverly Arts Center is seeking LGBTQ submissions for its upcoming "Acceptance in Art" exhibit.

Artists are required to scan and email the completed entry forms as well as separate JPEGs of artwork to shellee@beverlyartcenter.org. Artists should submit two to three pieces.

The deadline for submitting applications is Monday, April 30. The opening reception is Sunday, May 20.

For entry forms, email shellee@beverlyartcenter.org or bac@beverlyartcenter.org.

'Make Out Party' events March 30-31

Emily Esperanza's new queer featurette, *Make Out Party*, will have its world premiere at VAM Studio, 1621 N. Kedzie Ave., on Friday-Saturday, March 30-31.

The parties will start at 7 p.m., with the screenings at 8:30 p.m. and a dance party to follow.

JM: I love Jake. He's the sweetest man in the world. He is fabulous in the show.

WCT: What was it like receiving the George Abbott Award for Lifetime Achievement?

JM: That was from my peers of directors and choreographers in the business. It was overwhelming and a great honor. I was actually directed by George Abbott when I was 23. It was for *On Your Toes* on Broadway and the last musical I did until I did Will Rogers, when I really started focusing on being a choreographer. It was a full circle.

WCT: What is one thing you learned from *On Your Feet*?

JM: Save the drama. We had the bus crash in the first act and the second act in Chicago. I took it out by the time it left Chicago. It only appears in the second act now. It mattered so much we had to save it. Structure is one thing I learned.

WCT: Would you ever make a J. Lo musical?

JM: I met with her. We were going to do *Bye Bye Birdie* together for NBC. It was going to be the next one after *Hairspray*. It didn't work out with her schedule.

WCT: What are you working on next?

JM: *Gotta Dance*, which started here, is being named *Half Time*, so I do that next at the Paper Mill Playhouse.

I am working on a new musical called *Becoming Nancy*, which is based on a British book about a boy who auditions for the school musical of *Oliver!*, but is cast as Nancy. He starts to fall in love with the boy cast as Bill Sikes. The teachers and parents react to what is happening in 1979 East Dulwich. It's a beautiful story.

***Pretty Woman: The Musical* works out the kinks through Sunday, April 15, at the Oriental Theatre, 24 W. Randolph St. Look for tickets at BroadwayInChicago.com.**

Chicago Underground Film Festival, Full Spectrum Features and VAM Studio are presenting this comedy of errors.

The evening will include a screening of the film; live performances from Alex Grelle, Mykele Deville, Sarah Squirm, KO and Eda Yorulmazoglu; *Make Out Party*-themed carnival games; a silent auction; and a kissing booth—all in a room decked out in the same style as the film.

See Eventbrite.com for more on the events.

'Model' winner DiMarco at ISU on March 29

Nyle DiMarco—a winner of *Dancing with the Stars* and *America's Next Top Model*—will give a talk titled "Living Out Loud with Nyle DiMarco" for Illinois State University's (ISU's) Student Access and Accommodation Services.

An ambassador for the deaf community, DiMarco will address the audience at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 29, in the Brown Ballroom of the Bone Student Center at ISU, in Normal, Illinois.

See <https://news.illinoisstate.edu/2018/03/speaker-dimarco/>.

BOOKS

Timely book chronicles UPRISING actions

BY RACHEL PEPPER

Activism and performance art go hand in hand, especially during times of political unrest. This is as true today as it was during 2008-2012, when former Chicagoan Nicole Garneau led a series of monthly participatory events entitled UPRISING. These actions spanned eight U.S. and five international locations that included Berkeley, Brooklyn, New Orleans, Denmark and Russia. More than half of the 60 UPRISING performances took place in Chicago. Indeed, Garneau has said that “Chicago taught me everything I know about being an activist.”

Themes of prior UPRISING events included “Liberate Our Sexual Encounters,” “Revolutionize Gender,” “Recall Moments When You Believed the World Might Actually Change for the Better” “Share Queer History in Queer Spaces” and “Serve Hot Tea to Cold Strangers.” These events often included opportunities to question assumptions, story-tell, sing, create art, interact with strangers, and participate in semi-guided activities. Such activities could include tending the graves of feminist revolutionaries, or commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire. Some UPRISING performances were integrated into larger political and cultural events, such as the Chicago Dyke March and Occupy Chicago.

A newly released book—Performing Revolutionary: Art, Action, Activism—commemorates the overall spirit of these years, as well as chronicling each event in the series, which Garneau personally led, wearing her signature all white outfit. Interspersed throughout the book are photos and recollections from participants, which are highly useful in considering how these events had an impact on their participants.

Windy City Times: What helped shape your activism?

Nicole Garneau: I spent the first half of the ‘90s studying theater and Russian as an undergrad at UIC [the University of Illinois at Chicago], and then living in Russia to work in the Theater of Moscow South-West. When I moved back to Chicago in 1995, I embarked on a process of shedding the identity of “actress” and exploring all the other ways to be an artist: performer, writer, director, and maker of images and installations. While I was still in college at UIC, I attended a performance event organized by and benefiting the Women’s Action Coalition, called “WAC A Go-Go,” and was blown away. Upon my return from Moscow, I made a beeline for a WAC meeting. I was a feminist activist, and I also wanted to meet hot political women and make out with them. That mission was accomplished. The wildly creative, feminist direct action of WAC was hugely influential for me.

Simultaneously, I began working with Insight Arts, a community of artist peers and youth who were writing, performing, and offering workshops

that supported the mission of increasing access to cultural work that supports social justice and human rights. Insight Arts helped me understand that cultural workers are important to revolution, and that I could contribute to social justice through art and culture.

WCT: Your work is described as a series of “participatory exercises,” or “public demonstrations,” which explore the potential for more loving, “just and engaged” ways of being in the world. Why is this necessary?

NG: In launching the five-year UPRISING performance project, I was making a commitment to my community to work diligently on world-envisioning and world-building. UPRISINGS were experiments in practicing the skills we need in order to achieve a global culture of justice and compassion. By choosing to make the performances free, public, participatory, and interactive, I was drawing on a long lineage of activist art practices.

WCT: Given our increasingly alienated world, which seems so dominated by online activity, how do we continue to ensure connectivity between people?

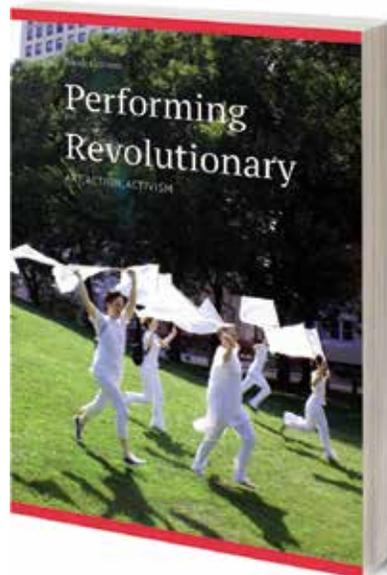
NG: Many people blame the internet and social media for social alienation but I think that is a process that has been underway for more than 100 years. Extreme capitalism and militarism feed on social alienation. In my experience, the technologies of connectivity are and have always been extremely simple: gatherings around food, collective work projects, dance parties, book groups, time spent in nature just to name a few. I am interested in performances that incorporate participation as a template for people to engage more actively and humanely in society. I want to join together with people to imagine the world in which we want to live and then enact that in our bodies.

WCT: How does your own identity influence your activism?

NG: I identify as a queer woman and I am most excited by the revolutionary activism of queer, trans, and non-binary people and organizations, often in opposition to conservative homonormativity. Rather than incorporating queer themes into UPRISING, I created public demonstrations of revolutionary practices within explicitly queer spaces and with queer people, operating from the assumption that radical queer, trans, & non binary people are already on the vanguard of creating the world in which I want to live. UPRISINGS encourage everyone, regardless of how they identify, to celebrate the work of queer/trans revolutionaries and liberate ourselves, and our relationships, after their examples.

WCT: How do you hope the book honors UPRISING and how do you imagine readers “using” your book in these times, and in the future?

NG: We honor our own work and the work of others by paying careful attention to it and learn-



ing from it. Performing Revolutionary feels like an extended thank-you letter to all of the UPRISING participants, volunteer performers, donors, documenters, and strangers we encountered on the way. My collaborator and editor Anne Cushwa helped me understand that artists writing about their own work provide invaluable resources for education, criticism, and general study. This kind of writing is especially rare in book form, and little of what is available is written by female-identified people or about the work of women.

Performing Revolutionary would be a particu-

larly helpful text in situations where folks are studying performance, art, and political movements because this book is a concrete and “real-world” example of the kind of artwork that is often only discussed in theoretical terms. I hope it is also useful to activists and organizers who are looking for alternatives to protest-based demonstrations.

WCT: Any plans to restart UPRISING?

NG: I am so excited to re-engage the live UPRISING performances after taking five years off from creating them while I made a book. I am so grateful to have had the experience of making those 60 public demonstrations of revolutionary practices, because I feel ready and more motivated than ever to collaborate with the activists and world-changers of today. It’s time to dust off our white clothes, warm up our singing voices, and join the people who are already in the streets!

The book launch for Performing Revolutionary will be held at the Museum of Contemporary Art, 220 E. Chicago Ave., on Tuesday April 3, 6-8 p.m. Other upcoming events include a presentation on “Gender and Sexual Liberation as Revolutionary Practices” at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., on Friday, April 6, at 6:30 p.m., and an author talk at Women & Children First Bookstore, 5233 N. Clark St., on Friday, April 20, at 7:30 p.m.

Rachel Pepper is a writer and therapist based in the Bay Area. She can be reached directly at Rachel-Pepper.com.

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The Vixen.
Photo by Jerry Nunn



NUNN ON ONE: TELEVISION

The Vixen competes on 'Drag Race'

BY JERRY NUNN

Thirteen new queens are currently competing for the crown on season 10 of RuPaul's Drag Race. While the community is still reeling from the previous week's All Stars results, VH1 quickly recovered with a brand new group of drag queens battling it out on Thursdays at 7 p.m. CT.

It wouldn't be a challenge without at least one Chicago performer, and this time there's The Vixen.

This fierce competitor is going to take no prisoners in the process of battling it out.

Windy City Times: Where does the name the Vixen come from?

The Vixen: The name comes from Vargas girls and pin-up girls. When I was little I loved drawing sexy and flirty women. I used to dream about being a burlesque performer and having a show called Vixen. When I started performing, I decided that should be my name.

WCT: Were you into Dita Von Teese?

TV: Definitely, but even further back, like Betty Page.

WCT: Are you from Crete, Illinois?

TV: No, that's where I went to high school for my sophomore through senior years. I am from the South Side of Chicago, baby!

WCT: How long have you performed drag?

TV: It will be six years in April. The first place I remember thinking I was performing actual drag was at the Jeffrey Pub on the South Side. A drag queen saw me performing live in my normal fishiness, then asked me to come out and do a show. I did, and she booked me for the rest of the year!

WCT: Talk about your intro outfit in the workshop on episode one.

TV: I wanted to show all of the Chicago pride that I possibly could. It was every logo and landmark that I could think of.

What is hard to see on it is that I even have a necklace that has green lions that look like

the lime stone lions in front of the Art Institute. There's the Bean, there's deep-dish pizza, a Ferris wheel, the Chicago Bulls bullhorns; my skirt is the Chicago skyline, and I am wearing white socks.

WCT: When I watched you in the dance-off after the Sasha Velour interviews, I thought of Berlin nightclub and [its] annual Voguing for Tots. Did that help in the moment?

TV: Yes, I have done that before and did it last year, too.

WCT: How do you feel about the drag scene in Chicago?

TV: The Chicago drag scene is the weirdest and coolest place to learn drag because there is some of everything. It doesn't matter what kind of drag you are doing just do it to your best potential. We have the best club kid, pageant, and fashionista drag. Chicago is a melting pot of artists. It is a renaissance of us all being the best we can be.

I started with many draft queens that had already been on Drag Race like Kim Chi, Shea Coulee, and Trixie Mattel even. Being in the dressing room with them give us all the vibe to be better. One person will put on one mole, then one will put on two. Shea will put on 10 lashes, then Kim Chi puts on 17! We grow from each other.

I am very lucky to have started with some real titans and have picked up a lot of tricks.

WCT: Do you have any favorite music you play in the background when you put on makeup?

TV: Right now, I am in love with Lizzo. You can't help but feel confident when you listen to her.

WCT: How hard was it to be cast on RuPaul's Drag Race?

TV: I auditioned four times. Every year it got harder. I knew this year would be the year because one of our challenges for the audition was to make a dress out of paper. That is something I always do. When I saw that as a requirement for the audition I knew I had it in the bag!

WCT: Do you feel a lot of pressure with the massive amount of people watching?

TV: I am excited because it couldn't happen at a more perfect time. The fans of the show are so vocal and I am such a vocal queen, so I think it will be a conversation...

WCT: Do you have plans to work in the Chicago LGBT community?

TV: Yes. One of the things that I came up with for the season is every episode I am going to support a charity that ties into the episode. As much as I can I will have them be Chicago local charities, especially from the South Side.

WCT: You are going to be at Roscoe's for the premiere?

TV: Yes. I can't wait. Roscoe's was the first place I competed in drag so to be there now and be at the top of competitive drag is very full circle for me.

WCT: You never know who is going to show up there. Mick Jagger showed up the night after they announced your placement on Drag Race to see the show.

TV: I was there for that.

WCT: Was it hard to keep the secret you were cast on RuPaul's Drag Race?

TV: Yes—very hard. For at least the last three years I have been performing about four nights a week. When I was gone, everyone noticed. It was

very hard to not talk about falling off the face of the earth!

WCT: Do you like to travel? With the show, you will be booked everywhere.

TV: I think that is what I am most excited about is seeing the world: [going on] road trips and getting on planes. I have always wanted to be a traveling rockstar tour kind of girl.

WCT: How do you feel about RuPaul's recent transgender statements concerning Drag Race?

TV: When I started drag every other person in the room was either trans, a bio queen or some form of female gender. For me, that has always been at the root of drag. I hope as the show progresses, we learn.

'No Fats, No Fems, No Asians' forum at UIC with Lee Doud

Actor/creator/producer Lee Doud will speak at the forum "No Fats, No Fems, No Asians: Unpacking the Asian American Dating Experience in the Modern World" on Wed., April 4, 3-4 p.m., at the UIC Richard J. Daley Library, 801 S. Morgan St.

Doud will discuss experiences in Hollywood and dating, as well as examine historical influences on being Asian. A Q&A will follow.

Among other accomplishments, Doud graduated from UCLA's School of Theater, Film, and Television with a degree in acting. A West Hollywood resident, Doud's TV credits include ABC's Last Man Standing as well as Showtime's House of Lies and Californication. Also, he can be seen as Jeff Tan in the Dekkoo original series I'm Fine, which was nominated for a Queertie Award in 2018.

On the film side, Doud can be seen in KTown Cowboys, which made its world premiere at SXSW in Austin, Texas, in 2015.

See <http://aarcc.uic.edu/>.

Red Stars part of March 31 doubleheader

The Chicago Red Stars will begin its 12-home game stretch at Toyota Park on Saturday, March 31, combining with Major League Soccer (MLS) team Chicago Fire for a doubleheader.

Both teams will host their Portland counterparts. The Red Stars will take on Portland Thorns FC at 7:15 p.m. CT, following the Chicago Fire and Portland Timbers at 5 p.m. CT. The game will be broadcast live for both U.S. (NWSLsoccer.com, go90 app), and international (NWSL app, NWSLsoccer.com) fans.

Chicago will start off its regular season the week prior in Houston on Sunday, March 25, at 4 p.m. CT to take on the Dash for the third-straight season opener at BBVA Compass Stadium.

See <http://chicagoredstars.com/chidouheader/>.

SPRING MOVIE PREVIEW

Line-up includes blockbusters, LGBT gems, film festival

BY JERRY NUNN

Finally, the weather is changing in Chicago and things are heating up in the spring. This year there's not been much of a lull at the cinema after the Oscars, thanks to heavy hitter Black Panther, which has earned more than 600 million dollars (not including overseas dollars) and counting.

April will shower us with diverse movies and May flowers into big blockbusters heading right into summer. Look out below for some notable new flicks over the next two months.

April

—The 34th **Chicago Latino Film Festival** will take place April 5-19 at the AMC River East with over 100 films from Latin American regions.

Films with LGBT content include *Las malcogidas*, a musical comedy with body-shaming and gender transition as subject matter; *Good Manners*, a werewolf story with women falling for each other; Venezuela's aging drag queen tale *Barbara*; and *Last Days of Havana*, a film set in Cuba that's about a busboy who takes care of his bedridden neighbor, who suffers from AIDS. Local director Tadeo Garcia's *En Algun Lugar* returns for another Chicago screening as part of the festival.

There are also plenty of LGBT short films, including *Before Today*, *Not Yet*, *Elena* and *Frozen Princess*. For a full schedule, visit ChicagoLatino.org.

FilmFestival.org.

—**Miseducation of Cameron Post** has Chloe Grace Moretz undergoing conversion therapy after being caught in with another woman. The film has already won awards in the festival circuit, with more on the way possibly after more screenings on April 7 at the San Francisco International Film Festival and Tribeca Film Festival on April 22.

—**Avengers: Infinity War** is the third installment from the superhero franchise that was 10 years in the making. This one uses about every star from the Marvel cinematic universe with a sequel slated to be released in May 2019. This one will be in theaters April 27.

—**Disobedience**, hopefully, is not squashed by the Avengers. A Fantastic Woman's director Sebastian Lelio has Rachel Weisz romantically involved with Rachel McAdams. Word has it the sex scenes are mind-blowing. It will be released in select cities April 27, with a Chicago release date in May.

—Speaking of **A Fantastic Woman**, the Oscar-winning trans-centered film will screen at the Gene Siskel Film Center April 6-12 as part of the Panorama Latinx outreach and programing initiative.

May

—U.S. Supreme Court justice and LGBT-rights supporter Ruth Bader Ginsburg's legacy is cap-



Rachel Weisz (left) and Rachel McAdams in *Disobedience*.

Photo courtesy of Bleecker Street

tured in a documentary called **RBG** on May 4.

—There will be an **Overboard** remake, with the genders flipped from the original Goldie Hawn vehicle. All aboard the love boat that stars Eugenio Derbez and Anna Faris on May 4.

—**Deadpool 2**, from 20th Century Fox, hopes to not have a superhero sophomore slump on May 18. The sequel adds Josh Brolin as futuristic soldier Cable and the X-Force team to the mix.

—**Book Club** turns the pages with some popu-

lar golden girls reading *Fifty Shades of Grey*. This page-turner has stars such as Diane Keaton, Jane Fonda, Candice Bergen and Mary Steenburgen reading between the lines on May 18.

—**Solo: A Star Wars Story** has a young Han Solo meeting Lando Calrissian for the first time on May 25. The real-life backstory centered around some movie-production problems that may affect the end result—but who doesn't love a Wookiee?

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the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR

FRIO Gelato; Parlay at Joy District

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Is it too cold for gelato? I say no—especially after sampling the fare at **FRIO Gelato** (3721 N. Southport Ave.; <https://www.friogelato.com>).



Argentine flight at FRIO Gelato.
PR photo

There are other places that sell gelato, of course, but FRIO is distinct in that it has genuine Argentine gelato. (Italians settled in Argentina in the late 19th century, leading to the dessert

becoming a staple in the South American country—and beyond.)

People who visit this Southport Corridor spot are reaping the benefits of FRIO. (There's a location in Evanston as well.) Moreover, items are made in an allergen-friendly kitchen with a nut- and gluten-free focus (so, no, there's no Reese's gelato, as one friend asked to see if this place has).

What's even more wonderful is that there are several exciting flavors—and styles. There are gelato shops in Argentina that revolve solely around the dulce de leche (understandable), but FRIO (in which everything is made in-house) has flavors such as frutilla (strawberry), malbec con frutos rojos (malbec wine with berries), queso y miel (cheese and honey), menta granizala (mint chocolate chip), banana and many others.

And there's a lot more than the standard

gelato in a cone (not that I'd complain about that). Patrons can select styles such as ahogado (espresso poured over gelato), barquillo (a homemade waffle bowl with the two scoops of gelato), cucurucho (waffle cone with a swirl of gelato on top—with an option of having it dipped in chocolate), hot chocolate with gelato, an Argentine gelato flight and sundaes.

So visit FRIO—and you'll embrace the cold inside, no matter what it's like outside.

New look/food at Joy District

Joy District Chicago (112 W. Hubbard St.; <https://www.joychicago.com/>), which I have referred to as a “clubstaurant,” has a new look—and eats.

The revamp is the first floor of the multilevel space, which has been “reconceived” as Parlay

Turn to page 38



DRAGAPALOOZA

Sidetrack's annual drag fundraiser for Equality Illinois.

Photos by Jerry Nunn

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



Lisa DeSantiago



Elizabeth Gomez



Randy Kim



Craig Kirsch



Anita Melcher



Emilie Modaff

The April edition of **OUTspoken!** LGBTQ storyteller series takes place Tuesday, April 3, at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St. Doors open at 6 pm, stories begin at 7.

See www.outspokenchicago.com for more info.

—**Lisa DeSantiago** is a Dare2Dream Education Coordinator at Central Romero, which provides opportunities for those community residents with the fewest options. Through education, Centro Romero emphasizes the development of the whole family unit, the creation of community leadership and self-reliance. She studied English and Creative Writing at UIC and graduated from Lake View High School.

—**Elizabeth Gomez** is a Chicago-based comedian, writer and storyteller. She established the city's first all-female roller derby league, The Windy City Rollers, in 2004. She is the founding writer of a writing collective called Drinkers with Writing Problems and spends her days working for an alderman on Chicago's city council.

—**Randy Kim** is a queer Southeast Asian-American, born from a father who is a Cambodian genocide survivor, and a mom, a Vietnam War survivor. These experiences have inspired Randy to explore the effects of intergenerational trauma through storytelling and writing. He has performed at various storytelling showcases that includes PREACH, TenX9 Chicago, Am I Man Enough?, Around the World: Immigrant Stories, TALK Stories and more.

—**Craig Kirsch** recently retired from a 36-year career as an educator. He spent 28 years as a Director of a TRIO Upward Bound program, a college prep program for low-income, first generation students. He is a writer and filmmaker who favors non-fiction and documentary film. His most recent published pieces are personal narratives included in the anthologies *Stories Teachers Tell* and *The Buddha Next Door*.

—**Anita Melcher** is a librarian and archivist by day and a writer right before a deadline. She has told stories at Story Lab, You're Being Ridiculous, Story Corps, The Cat Diaries and Feminist Happy Hour. In her free time, she likes to avoid writing, doing the dishes and laundry by rubbing elbows with colleagues in her field, hanging out with her cat and watching *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries* while in the bath. Her work “You Boys” has been published in *The Vignette Review*.

—**Emilie Modaff** is a queer cat parent and artist in Chicago. They perform music with their band Modaff, produce the fiction podcast *PleasureTown* and watch a lot of *Drag Race*.



BILLY Masters

"You want Pence? You want Pence for the fucking president? Then you zip that fucking lip."—Roseanne Barr tells Jimmy Kimmel why she hopes Donald Trump remains in office. Finally, there's something Roseanne and I agree on.

In recent columns, I've talked about how **Kathy Griffin** was on the road to career recovery. Well, it would appear that she's there ... and I'm taking some of the credit. No, I had nothing to do with her selling out Carnegie Hall in under 24 hours. But I was pleased to hear she will be attending the White House Correspondents Dinner. No, she won't be hosting—although she offered to do it for free. Instead, she will be there under the auspices of the Washington Blade and the Los Angeles Blade—home of the popular Billy Masters column. You're welcome!

I recently told you that Sex and the City star **Cynthia Nixon** was going to run for governor of New York. At the time, many scoffed. Now Cynthia has formally thrown her hat (does anyone still wear a hat?) in the ring. And she's running on the subway platform—literally! She said, "Our leaders are letting us down. Something has to change. We want our government to work again, on health care, ending mass incarceration, fixing our broken subways." News of her candidacy was met with derision. **Gov. Andrew Cuomo** said, "I'm hoping that Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie and Billy Joel don't get into the race because if it's just about name recognition, that would really be a problem."

The biggest insult came from **NYC Council Speaker Christine Quinn**: "It's a flight of fancy on her part. Cynthia Nixon was opposed to having a qualified lesbian become mayor of New York City. Now she wants to be an unqualified lesbian to be the governor of New York." Now, I don't know much about Nixon. But I know she was married to a man for 15 years and to a woman for five—so I say she's qualified to do whatever the hell she wants. I'm assuming Cynthia criticized Quinn (who is a lesbian) when she was running for mayor of NYC. Nixon took the barb in stride: "I just want to say tonight that she was technically right—that I don't have my certificate from the Department of Lesbian Affairs. Though, in my defense, there's a lot of paperwork involved."

Last fall, we reported about the proposed off-Broadway revival of *When Pigs Fly*. The revue, written by Howard Crabtree and Mark Waldrop with music by Dick Gallagher, was a sensation and won oodles of awards when it opened in 1996. The original production ran for over two years and spawned companies around the world. So it seemed a slam dunk when this revival was announced—and even more so when the legendary **Bob Mackie** signed on to do the costumes. Then at the last minute, it was cancelled. Allegedly the producers were "undercapitalized" (which means they ran out of money), and the cast and costumes were shelved—until now. The Actors Fund is mounting a one-night-only concert on April 9 at the Gerald Lynch Theatre at John Jay College



Brent Corrigan has had a change in his personal life, Billy says.

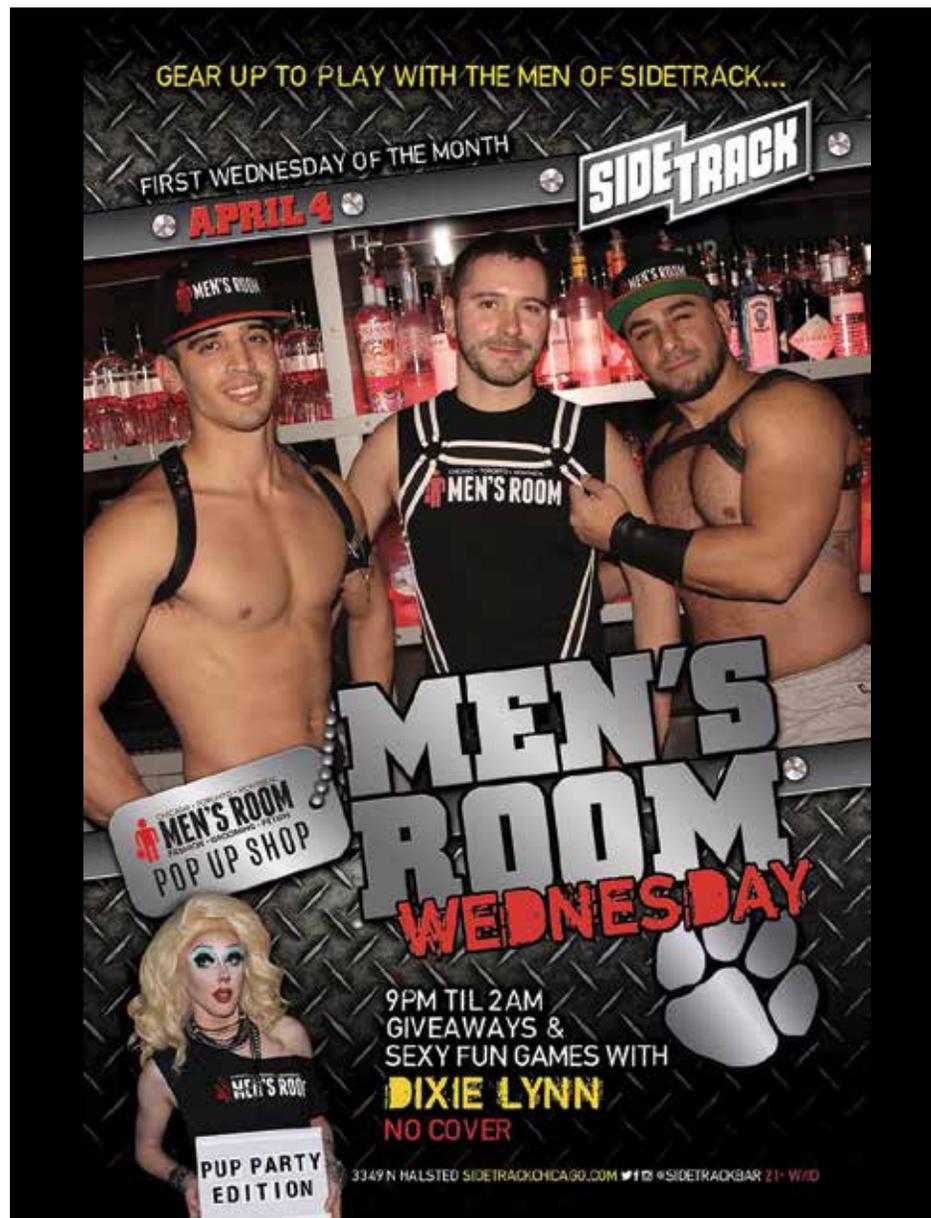
Photo of Corrigan from official website

in NYC. The show will feature the new cast AND the costumes! Grab what few tickets are left at ActorsFund.org.

It is impossible to keep Mackie down as long as there's a sequin left in the world. In an announcement that came as no surprise, he is creating the costumes for **The Cher Show**, the upcoming Broadway musical based on the singing actress' life. He said, "Thirty gazillion outfits later, the lady is about to be immortalized in a musical, for which I am delighted to be designing. Darling, my sketchpad is ready!" The show will play Chicago's Oriental Theatre for a month starting on June 12, and then will hit the Great White Way in the fall.

Someone not walking down the aisle anytime soon is former porn pup **Brent Corrigan**. He just announced his split from fiancée J.J. Knight, saying, "My heart is heavy as I share the news that @JJKnightXXX & I are no longer taking on the world together. All the good in JJ will shine bright now that he has chosen make a new life for himself. Please be considerate of our privacy in the meantime. Thank you." It sounds like this was not a split that Corrigan wanted, although insiders tell me that JJ was just another in a long line of controlling beaus in Brent's life.

Remember the case of **Dame Olivia de Havilland** against **Ryan Murphy** and FX over how she was portrayed in "Feud"? Well, she scored a major victory. She fought the network's attempt to get the case thrown out of court, and won. This was a win that sent shockwaves all over Hollywood—by siding with Dame de Havilland, the court was allowing a real person the right to dictate how they were portrayed. This led to a rare demonstration of solidarity as many of the major studios and Netflix joined FX against the 101-year-old legend. An appeal was quickly filed, claiming that the ruling "threatens to doom entire genres of fact-based motion pictures, including docudramas and biopics." It further stated that "Under



the court's logic, all unauthorized biographies would be unlawful." Wouldn't that also endanger gossip columns? Oh my God: Will I have to go to court? More importantly, what will I wear? Turns out the appeal was successful, although we hear that Livvy is contemplating her options.

When I'm buying a hat for court, it's definitely time to end yet another column. And now, a personal message to a neighbor: I don't exactly know what is happening at the home of that openly gay former teen heartthrob. (It was suggested I not name names lest a suit be forthcoming.) But, to the throngs and multitudes (or the multitudes in thongs) who wander into his abode in the wee small hours—please don't double-park during your brief encounters. Thank you. For all other pressing matters, check out BillyMasters.com—the site that, like our unnamed actor, allows unlimited in-and-out access! If you have a question, send it along to Billy@BillyMasters.com, and I promise to get back to you before I get sued under the de Havilland Act! So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

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WINDY CITY TIMES COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wed., March 28

LGBTQI+ Cancer Support LGBTQI+ Cancer Support is a drop-in group for LGBTQI+ folk who have been impacted by cancer, including those who are living with cancer, family members, and friends. These drop-in nights occur on the fourth Wednesday of the month. 6:00pm - 7:00pm Howard Brown Health Sheridan, 4025 N. Sheridan, Chicago <http://howardbrown.org/event/lgbtqi-cancer-support/2018-03-28/>

ALMA's LGBTQ Town Hall Meeting Hosted by ALMA Chicago and Equality Illinois. Discussion on the current state of the LGBTQ community and pending issues. Sen. Iris Y. Martinez, State Sen. Omar Aquino, State Rep. Will Guzzardi. RSVP to Anamary Torres at anamarytorres@aol.com. 6:00pm - 7:30pm Puerto Rican Arts Alliance, 3000 N Elbridge Ave, Chicago <http://www.facebook.com/events/184870852272110/>

Thursday, March 29

Penthouse Party, celebration of Self-



'DRESS' TO IMPRESS Through April 22

"Dress Codes" is at the Art Institute of Chicago.

Zanele Muholi. Bakhambile Skhosa Natalspruit, from the series Faces and Phases, 2010. The Art Institute of Chicago. Artworker's Retirement Society.
© Zanele Muholi

Love in queer community Journey through third season of RuPaul's Drag Race All-Stars together. Proceeds from a featured cocktail will benefit Howard Brown's Broadway Youth Center. Ev-

ery Thursday through the season. Free. W 7:00pm WayDown, 311 N Morgan St. L 312-764-1919, Tickets: <http://www.acehotel.com/calendar/chicago/rupauls-drag-race-viewing-party>

Slo-Mo Babes Bazaar BabesOnly is a collective of women who want to inspire & help the world become a better place, while having fun! This bazaar will feature 10+ women-owned businesses, plus DJ sets, drinks and more. Follow @babesonlyfun on Instagram 7:00pm Reunion Chicago, 2557 W. North Ave, Chicago

Friday, March 30

Dress Codes: Portrait Photographs from the Collection Black lesbians in South Africa among the images in this exhibit on the cultural significance of everyday dress, subtle codes of clothing, the power of clothing to shape identities before the camera. Through April 22, 2018 10:30pm - 5:00pm The Art Institute of Chicago 111 South Michigan Ave Chicago Tickets: <http://www.artic.edu/exhibition/dress-codes-portrait-photographs-collection>

Saturday, March 31

Frontrunners, Frontwalkers Chicago Frontrunners, Frontwalkers Chicago Chicago's LGBT running and walking club.

Meet at the totem pole 9:00am Addison and Lakeshore Dr. <http://www.frwchicago.org>

Affinity Midstreamers Drive In Style Movie Watch Girl Trip. Feel free to bring snacks and a bean bag. RSVP online 5:00pm - 11:00pm Affinity Community Services 2850 S. Wabash Ave. #108 Chicago <http://www.facebook.com/events/1575189119183912/>

The 9 to 12 Bowling League-Rain Bowlers, Bowling for Their Future Benefits Youth Outlook which is solely dedicated to the support of LGBTQ+ youth. Door prizes, silent auction, games. The league was started in 1977 and is the longest running LGBTQ suburban bowling league in the Chicagoland area. 6:30pm - 10:30pm River Rand bowling alley, Des Plaines IL <http://www.9to12bowling.com>

Rattle the Walls Collective musical concert Trans Day of Visibility event to celebrate transgender lives including trans and LGBTQ composers, performers and ensembles of jazz, rock, classical and avant-garde music. \$15 suggested donation. Questions to vs Sheridan@centeronhalsted.org 7:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted St. <http://community.centeronhalsted.org/pages/rattlethe-center>

OPALGA at #WeAreAllWolves Diversity &

Inclusion Night. Chicago vs Texas. From \$17. 7:00pm Allstate Arena 6920 N Mannheim Rd Rosemont, IL 60018 Tickets: <http://www.fevo.com/edp/OPALGA-at-WeAreAllWolves-Diversity-Inclusion-Night--Chicago-vs-Texas-Sat-March-31-at-7-PM-51J36Se>

Monday, April 2

TransSafe: Weekly Transgender Care Services TransSafe is a once weekly service for transgender and gender non-conforming (GNC) individuals age 18 and older. 2:00pm - 5:30pm Heartland Health Outreach Clinic, 4750 N. Sheridan Rd, 5th floor, Chicago 773-248-5200 x 412 <http://www.chicagohouse.org/transsafe-4/>

Wed., April 4

Songs of the Chicago Freedom Movement: A Concert Remix 50 Years After Dr. King's Assassination, the Addie Wyatt Center Event commemorates an era with live renditions of the music that helped to keep spirits high and fuel the Chicago Freedom Movement. 7:00pm The Promontory, 5311 S. Lake Park Ave. West. Tickets: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/songs-of-the-chicago-freedom-movement-a-concert-remix-the-promontory-tickets-42172306504>

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DISH from page 36

at Joy District, which is described as an "ultramodern sports parlor" with above-average bar fare.

In some ways, Parlay may remind one of many other River North spaces, from the DJ's music (enjoyable '90s fare, in this case) to the sleek (mostly female) servers who suggest dessert options while you wonder if they've actually consumed sugar in the last five years. However, the bites are truly enjoyable, nonetheless.

Offering include apps such as blackened shrimp cocktail, octopus poppers, seasoned chickpea fries and avocado crab toast. However, there are also pizza options (like one with Italian fennel sausage) and sandwiches like Korean pork-belly sliders and the "Mac Daddy" Dinner Burger, which is basically an upscale Big Mac. Also, there are desserts like French doughnuts.

The only letdown was the cocktail known as

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Grapefruit mule at Parlay at Joy District.

Photo by Andrew Davis

a Banana Blitz (Captain Morgan rum, smoked simple syrup, banana liquor and lime juice), which made both my friend and me wince. The Grapefruit Mule is much better, trust me.

Overall, though, there is much joy to be found in this district.

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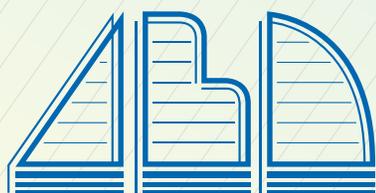
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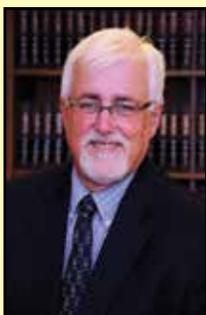
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