Lightfoot, Preckwinkle get ready for runoff election

CHYNA SKY GONZALEZ
Restaurant worker dies at 32.
Photo of Gonzalez with son Julian courtesy of Nikki Kalinowski

MUSIC MAN
Talking with legendary composer Alan Menken.
Photo courtesy of Columbia Artists Management, Inc.

ART-FELT
HIV activist Gregg Bordowitz subject of art exhibit.
Photo courtesy of Art Institute of Chicago

Showing LGBTs’ political feats

A TIMELINE OF FIRSTS

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Lori Lightfoot.
Photo courtesy of campaign

Toni Preckwinkle.
Photo courtesy of campaign

Lightfoot, Preckwinkle get ready for runoff election

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13 Legacy Prem... Automatic, Sunroof, Leather, Grey, P6110 ....$15,995
11 Legacy Prem... Automatic, Sunroof, Leather, Grey, P6110 ....$15,995
10 Legacy Prem... Automatic, Sunroof, Leather, Grey, P6110 ....$15,995
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VOTE-WORTHY?

LGBT politicians in the April 2 runoffs talk with WCT.

Photo of 33rd Ward Ald. Deb Mell (left) courtesy of campaign team

WELZ DONE

Ravinia CEO Welz Kauffman talked with WCT about this year’s line-up.

Photo courtesy of Ravinia

ROCK ‘N ROLL

WCT covers shows by Absolutely Not, The Aces, The Greeting Committee, Quinn XCII and more.

THAT’S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Cardi B, Ryan Phillippe and Lee Daniels.

PLUS

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Barbara Hammer, Birch Bayh pass away
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Chyna Sky Gonzalez died by suicide March 9 after a long struggle with drug addiction. She was 32.

Born in San Leandro, California, on Dec. 4, 1986, Gonzalez spent her childhood in the Bay Area and graduated from Castro Valley High School in 2004. Shortly after graduation, Gonzalez moved to Portland, Oregon where she met her two best friends, Tim and Stephanie Ekeren, who are a married couple.

Gonzalez and the Ekerens moved to Chicago two years later to pursue career opportunities in the service industry. She worked at Kuma's Corner, The Empty Bottle and The Punch House before taking on her last job as Front Room Chicago's general manager.

In 2013, Gonzalez met Nikki Kalinowski through mutual friends, and they officially became a couple on Pride weekend that year. They got married on Sept. 12, 2016. On Feb. 4 of this year their son Julian was born.

Being outdoors was one of Gonzalez’s passions. She spent her time skateboarding as well as riding and building bikes for friends. Gonzalez also liked to cook; her favorite recipe was her grandmother’s enchiladas. She also loved to dance and make people laugh.

Gonzalez is survived by her wife, son, mother Julia, father Daniel, sisters Amber and Maya, brother Danny and many chosen family members.

“Every time we went out, it was guaranteed that we would either run into friends or make new ones,” said Kalinowski. “Chyna just drew people to her. She took joy in shining a mirror on exactly what made people special, and taught me that love is to be shared loudly and with abandon.

“Addiction tells you lies about yourself, and isolates people from the truth of how loved you are. This is why sharing her story is so important to me.”

“I know so many hearts are tender, hurting and restless,” said friend and co-worker Rebecca Hendrix. “Chyna and I worked together for a short period of time, and she made everyone a happier, brighter, funnier version of themselves.”

“Missing you, dude,” said longtime friend Jared Darfle. “The undisputed most savage 106-pound, bandanna-wearing, eyebrow piercing-having, sarcastic, funny as hell, chick in the pit. You were always so honest and nice. You were the type of person I could go five years without seeing and instantly have that warm friendly vibe with again.

Chyna was the type of person that, when you love something or someone, everyone knows it and feels it. I loved your curious spirit and your joyous contagious smile.”

“My Chynita, my cheech, my pit bull,” said friend and co-worker Meg Silvas. “You were the first person to tell me it is okay to not be okay.”

“She would change the entire mood of 20-plus individuals in an instant,” said friend and co-worker Michael Swing. “It was a truly powerful thing to witness.”

“Chyna was the type of person who it was impossible to not fall in love with her,” said friend Tera Murray. “I am honored to carry on her legacy in my memory and in my heart.”

Gonzalez’s memorial service was held March 13 at The Front Room Chicago, with about 200 people in attendance.

Friends are requesting that in lieu of flowers people should make a donation to the support fund for Gonzalez’s widow and child https://www.gofundme.com/support-fund-for-family-of-chyna-sky-gonzalez.

Barbara Hammer died at 79

Pioneering experimental filmmaker Barbara Hammer—whose works involved a distinctive lesbian perspective—has died of ovarian cancer, ARTNews reported. She was 79.

Hammer’s breakthrough film, Dyketactics (1974), features more than 100 shots in just over four minutes, with images superimposed on top of one another. In an unpublished interview with ARTnews in 2018, Hammer said, “I have never separated my sexuality from my art, even if the film has nothing to do with lesbian representation.” Among some of Hammer’s other films are Snow Job: The Media Hysteria of AIDS (1986) and The History of the World According to a Lesbian (1988).

Windy City Times noted that, in 2001, Hammer’s History Lessons was among the queer films screened at Sundance.

In her final years, Hammer was an outspoken advocate for people’s right to die; in October 2018, she performed The Art of Dying or ( Palliative Art Making in the Age of Anxiety) at New York City’s Whitney Museum.

Lesbian actress Heather Matarazzo noted Hammer’s passing, tweeting, “The film community lost an incredible artist today. The lesbian community lost a vital voice today [March 16]. #BarbaraHammer #dyketactics #Filmmaker”

According to Hammer’s Facebook page, she was in a relationship with consultant Florrie Burke.

The full ARTNews article is at http://www. artnews.com/2019/03/16/barbara-hammer-dead-79/.

Former U.S. Sen. Birch Bayh died at 91

Former U.S. Sen. Birch Bayh (D-Indiana)—a champion of women’s rights and author of two amendments to the U.S. Constitution—died March 14 from several illnesses at age 91, CNN. com reported.

Bayh was the father of former Indiana Gov. and former U.S. Sen. Evan Bayh.

Birch was the main force behind the 25th Amendment, which established presidential succession; and the 26th Amendment, which lowered the voting age from 21 to 18.

In addition, the women’s-rights advocate was a leading supporter of the Equal Rights Amendment, which fell just short of ratification. However, he did author Title IX—an amendment to a 1972 education act that, for the first time, prohibited discrimination on the basis of sex in the classroom and on the athletic field.

The full article is at https://www.cnn. com/2019/03/14/politics/birch-bayh-indiana- senator/index.html.

DiProva celebration May 18 at Fox Run

A celebration of the life of advocate Vicky DiProva will be held Saturday, May 18, 12:30-3:30 p.m. at Elk Grove Village’s Fox Run Golf Links, 333 Plum Grove Rd.

DiProva, 54, died Feb. 12 due to multiple health complications. She was born May 18, 1964, in Elgin and lived in Chicago her entire adult life.

In the 12 years prior to her death, DiProva was a non-profit consultant, with clients ranging from Consumers Advancing Patient Safety, Season of Change Fitness, McLean County AIDS Taskforce, the Between Friends women’s shelter and the National Runaway Switchboard.

She also served as executive director for a number of entities over a 20 year period, including Court Appointed Special Advocates of Cook County, National Association of Women Lawyers, Rape Victim Advocates and the Lesbian Community Cancer Project (LCCP) (now the Women’s Health Services at Howard Brown Health).

Chicagoan among Pedro Zamora honorees

Karlo Manzo-Arroyo—a freshman at the University of Illinois in Chicago—is among 10 undergraduate students nationally who have been honored by The National AIDS Memorial, through its Pedro Zamora Young Leaders Scholarship, according to a press release.

Named in honor of Zamora—an AIDS educator, activist and reality-television pioneer who passed away 25 years-ago from an AIDS-related illness—the scholarship has helped support the education of young people who are engaged in a variety of HIV-related work in their schools, communities and chosen academic fields.

Manzo-Arroyo works in the Department of Public Health as a certified rapid HIV tester and counselor. He is pursuing a degree in accounting to work within his agency’s finance department and ensure continued funding for HIV programs.
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 26. 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 Chicago LGBT community, whether in the fields of entertainment, politics, health, activism, academics, sports or other areas.

The deadline to nominate individuals is Friday, April 26.

Windy City Times Managing Editor Matt Simonette 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 matt@windycitytimes.com or faxed to Matt Simonette’s 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.

Change4Youth presents checks to groups

On March 18, teen activist Ava Santos-Volpe presented the first donations from her project, Ava’s Change4Youth.

She presented $1,000 each to the Broadway Youth Center and the Night Ministry.

Ava’s Change4Youth is an art mentorship program that raises awareness of youth homelessness—a problem that disproportionately affects LGBTQ+ teens.

Photo by Raven Feagins

Above: Broadway Youth Center’s $1,000 check with (from left) Broadway Youth Center Drop-in Program Manager Channyn Lynne Parker, Ava Santos-Volpe, artist Sam Kirk, AIDS Foundation of Chicago President/CEO John Peller.
Windy City Times

New Art Institute exhibit spotlights professor/HIV activist

BY ARIEL PARRELLA-AURELI

During his 30 years of documenting the AIDS crisis, Gregg Bordowitz has learned that people can be resilient, fragile and powerful when organizing toward change.

The artist/activist/professor started recording the AIDS epidemic and his personal experience when he was diagnosed with HIV at age 23 as a coping mechanism. He was part of the ACT UP movement in New York, where he cofounded various video collectives, including Testing the Limits, an advocacy group within ACT UP and DIVA (Damn Interfering Video Activists).

Through video, portraiture, poetry and multimedia installations, Bordowitz created a lens of media installations, Bordowitz said. This includes books by Douglas Crimp, Noam Chomsky, Emma Goldman, Stuart Hall and Michel Foucault.

“The library is a kind of portrait of what the queer left was interested in reading historically during the period of my activity,” Bordowitz said.

He said the exhibit is bringing awareness and advocacy around HIV, healthcare and access to medicine, reminding people that the crisis is “still beginning,” as a banner in the exhibit reads. While some may think access to medicine is common and the disease is stable, Bordowitz said there is a split around access to life-saving drugs in the U.S. and more so globally.

More than 1 million people are infected nationwide and one in seven do not know they have HIV. Of the 38,739 new HIV diagnoses in the United States in 2018, 52 percent were in the south, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention’s HIV report. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases has pioneered antiretroviral drugs to treat HIV/AIDS, turning what was once a uniformly fatal disease into a manageable chronic condition, but accessibility is the key, and those in Southern states have less access to these drugs, NIAID noted.

Globally, there are 36.9 million people living with HIV, many who are children and women living in sub-Saharan Africa; they have minimal access to prevention, care and treatment, although mothers had increased access to antiretroviral therapy in 2017 compared to 2010, according to HIV.org, the official government site that U.S. Department of Health and Human Services manages. In 2017, 59 percent of those with HIV were accessing antiretroviral therapy globally, an increase of 2.3 million since 2016 and up from 8 million in 2010.

New York and Chicago and teaches at the School of the Art Institute, called the collection a queer left person’s library. It includes books by Douglas Crimp, Noam Chomsky, Emma Goldman, Stuart Hall and Michel Foucault.

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Bordowitz acknowledged these advances over the years, including pressure from ACT UP to create government-funded legal needle exchange programs in the ‘90s and CDC’s amended HIV definition to include women. But he still considers himself lucky and “undetectable” from the disease, compared to the scores of friends he has seen die in the crisis.

“By virtue of being in New York and being involved in the movement, I have access to resources that others have not historically,” he said.

The exhibit also opens up a critical conversation on what the current administration is doing about HIV/AIDS, he said. In 2018, CNN reported that President Trump moved more than $9 million from HIV/AIDS programs and CDC funding and gave it to immigration officers and child detention centers. But he has also publicly said he wants to end HIV transmission in the next 10 years, which experts say is realistic only if the administration radically changes its healthcare policies, Quartz reported Feb. 5.

“It’s very frightening that the government would take existing HIV funding and funnel it toward repressive agencies—it’s very much significant of our time,” Bordowitz said. “The news is not good in terms of the focus and desire or energy to meet the challenges of the crisis as they continue.”


Note: All of the videos in the show will be closed-captioned and the performances “Some Styles of Masculinity” will have ASL interpreters.

An installation at the exhibit.
Photo courtesy of the Art Institute of Chicago

Gregg Bordowitz shares his performance piece Some Styles of Masculinity. Photo courtesy of the Art Institute of Chicago

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Through video, portraiture, poetry and multimedia installations, Bordowitz created a lens of communication and awareness on AIDS, healthcare and activism that influenced progress for people with HIV and raised awareness about stigma. Now, his work will be on display in a new exhibit at the Art Institute of Chicago (AIC) called “I Wanna Be Well,” inspired by the 1977 Ramones song. It will document Bordowitz’s decades of care and activism that influenced progress for HIV/AIDS and invoking questions of desire, risk and life trajectory.

“It’s not a surprise that the exhibit came together because we were both very interested in having Gregg’s work here in the museum,” Farrell said.

The exhibit—which first opened at Reed College in Portland, Oregon—will run at AIC April 4-July 14 in the Abbott and Stone galleries and a series of performance-lectures by Bordowitz called “Some Styles of Masculinity” on April 5-7 will kick off the exhibit. The curators also organized other exhibit-related programs, including another Bordowitz lecture and screening at AIC on May 16, and a program at Gene Siskel on Bordowitz’s “Fast Trip, Long Drop” and Marlon Riggs’s “Tongues United” on May 17. A poetry reading at AIC and screening of Bordowitz’s The Suicide will take place in July at the Siskel Film Center.

The Chicago show will also include a special collection of Bordowitz’s library that helped shape his work and identity throughout the years. Bordowitz, who splits his time between New York and Chicago and teaches at the School of the Art Institute, called the collection a queer left person’s library. It includes books by Douglas Crimp, Noam Chomsky, Emma Goldman, Stuart Hall and Michel Foucault.

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An installation at the exhibit.
Photo courtesy of the Art Institute of Chicago

Gregg Bordowitz shares his performance piece Some Styles of Masculinity. Photo courtesy of the Art Institute of Chicago
**House passes bill requiring LGBT content in state-funded textbooks**

**Bill also requires textbooks be nondiscriminatory and unbiased**

BY PETER HANCOCK  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD—The Illinois House, on March 13, passed a bill requiring public school textbooks purchased with certain state funds be nondiscriminatory and unbiased in their treatment of racial and ethnic minorities, and that they highlight the contributions that LGBT individuals have made to American history and culture.

"Under current practice in many of our schools, the contribution of LGBT individuals in history has remained hidden and unacknowledged," Rep. Anna Moeller, an Elgin Democrat and sponsor of House Bill 246, said during debate on the floor of the House.

"This exclusion has denied students the opportunity to obtain a greater and more accurate understanding of world history, and it also has denied LGBT people their identity and reflection in our school curriculum," she added.

The bill passed out of the House on a largely party-line vote of 60-42. Only three Democrats voted against the bill, and no Republicans voted for it.

Rep. Tom Morrison, a Palatine Republican, argued schools and teachers already struggle to keep up with the growing list of mandates applied to them, and the state should not be adding another, especially one that some might find inappropriate.

"We all know that we need to have a well-educated, well-informed citizenry. We have to have that if we're going to maintain our form of government," he said. "But we're already failing to teach history to today's and future generations. We're not even covering the basics of our shared history."

The bill is in the Senate, which passed similar legislation during the 2018 session, and it awaits assignment to a substantive committee. Chicago Democrat Heather Steans is the legislation's chief co-sponsor.

But it is unlikely that the bill would have any immediate impact, even if it is signed into law. That's because it only applies to textbooks purchased through the state's textbook block grant program, which has not received any funding for the last five years, and which the State Board of Education has not requested funding for in the upcoming budget.

Peter Hancock can be reached at phancock@capitolnewsillinois.com.

Howard Brown holds latest annual meeting  
BY MATT SIMONETTE

Citywide health system Howard Brown Howard Brown Health held its annual meeting the evening of Feb. 21 to pay tribute to its volunteers, staff, clients and community allies, and discuss service improvements the organization has made in the past year.

President and CEO David Ernesto Munar discussed increased access to mental health services as well as the completion of Howard Brown Health's first complete year providing oral health services. He also noted that the organization has increased the availability of services for transgender and gender nonconforming clients. Howard Brown Health Board Chair Mario Treto said that the organization aimed for "being a catalyst for community transformation."

Munar additionally noted a new Howard Brown Health facility, operating in tandem with La Casa Norte, in Humboldt Park.

"Our pursuit of geographic diversity has influenced Howard Brown as an advocate, employer and community leader," he added. "In the past four years, we have tripled the number of patients of color who seek our care, and half of our workforce is comprised of people of color. South side and West side patients have increased by 15-20 percent year-over-year, and we are so proud that the staff opening our new location in Humboldt Park are 100 percent bilingual and bicultural."

Among the persons and organizations whom Howard Brown officials honored at the meeting were United Way of Metro Chicago, which has provided funding for the organization's Broadway Youth Center, since 2003; Craig Andree, a Broadway Youth Center volunteer; and Lucretia Clay-Ward, Howard Brown Health's Suboxone [a medication used to treat opioid addiction] program coordinator.

Several Howard Brown Health clients provided testimonials about their experiences with the organization, among them David Hubbell, Cheno Pulliam and Eva Skye.

Pulliam—who was recently profiled in Windy City Times—praised the organization for welcoming "me with open arms. ... Howard Brown has opened the door for so many things."
Lori Lightfoot on her runoff campaign

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Attorney Lori Lightfoot, who is openly lesbian, finished ahead of multiple contenders vying for the Chicago’s mayor’s post on Feb. 26.

Since then, Lightfoot has been locked in a fierce opposition with Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, who finished second that night, in the runoff election to determine who ultimately occupies the fifth-floor office of City Hall. Shortly after a Feb. 24 rally in Uptown, Lightfoot discussed the election and some of the accusations that have been leveled against her.

Windy City Times: What has been the biggest difference between running this campaign in the runoff and running it in the general election?

Lori Lightfoot: I think everything in the campaign has been raised to a different level. I think people in the city are really paying attention in a way that they didn’t before Feb. 26.

So, certainly the crowds are larger and the enthusiasm is larger. I think the difference is this: People want a change, but they were skeptical about whether it was possible. The [Chicago] Machine is built to last—it’s had a tremendous grip on literally everything we move through the world [in Chicago] in government and business, and even little things at the neighborhood level are very much controlled by the Machine. People were tired of it and they wanted change, and they didn’t necessarily think that it was possible. The fact that I won, as an anti-Machine candidate, and the way in which I won—better-funded and with better name recognition—really has ignited this incredible energy, and I’m hearing it from everyone, from the elite business community to the more grassroots [coalitions] and everyone in between.

WCT: We’re speaking of change in the larger sense, pushback against the Machine. What are one or two specific types of change your supporters are indicating they want to see?

LL: They want a government when they can actually believe in their leaders, and where there is integrity and transparency. Aldermanic prerogative is a huge, huge issue, and a big line of demarkation between me and President Preckwinkle. I want to drive a stake through it, because I think it inhibits a way to get things done in a way that’s not corruptive or corrosive. She supports it, and wants to maintain that system. Those are the kinds of issues that are resonating with people.

Also, making sure that our government runs more efficiently and that we are more respectful of people’s tax dollars [are both important]. People feel like they are nickel-and-dimed. I can’t tell you how many people come up to me and say, “You’re not going to raise that soda tax, right?” Literally, every day that happens. But it’s more profound than that. People feel like they are willing to pay their fair share, but they want to feel like the government is actually working for them and not against them. I think that’s another theme resonating out there.

WCT: If you had one question for President Preckwinkle—and assurances she’d answer with 100 percent honesty—what would it be?

LL: Why’d you get in bed with Ed Burke?

WCT: What would be the first item on your agenda once set out to do the mayor’s work?

LL: The biggest issue that we have to tackle is the violence in our city. It’s the framing issue for everything else. We’re not going to really uplift the quality of life in neighborhoods if the violence continues to rage. We can’t bring business to neighborhoods that are desperate for investment if it’s raging. It’s going to be hard to rebuild neighborhood schools because people are emptying out because of the violence. The violence is the galvanizing force that we have to wrestle with in order to open up possibilities for everything else that people have to accomplish in neighborhoods.

WCT: How would you characterize your work in police reform, especially on two fronts: Your success at holding CPD accountable for infractions, and your engagement with families impacted by those infractions? It has been the source of considerable pushback for you, and the reason for protests at your events.

LL: The proof is in the pudding—when I took over responsibility for the Chicago Police Board, the Board held officers accountable 35 percent of the time. Over the arc of my tenure, we turned that around completely. By the time I left, that percentage was 73 percent of the time. It would have been higher, but a lot of officers quit instead of coming before the Police Board.

So I know there’s a lot of noise around it—local policing and the way in which the police officers have treated community members is a way of a lot of anger, frustration and emotion. I get that. But it’s important for us to keep focus on the path ahead if we’re going to keep driving for change. I don’t think there’s been anyone in the city, particularly within the last three years, who’s worked harder on police reform and accountability than I have.

It’s not easy work. You fight in the midst of a lot of skepticism and anger, but I have been very diligent and steadfast that [CPD] has been respectful and engaged with the community. I want to get to a place where—down to the beat officers—they understand that respectful and constitutional engagement with the community is their most powerful tool. We’re not there yet. If I’m elected mayor, we’re going to absolutely forge ahead, way beyond what’s required in the Consent Decree, because we’re going to have to build a city in which police are not feared or loathed, but are imbued with legitimacy. That would benefit the police.

I think about these issues when I think about young kids when I think about communities growing up with fear as their constant companion. For them, we must get this right—move beyond the rhetoric and make real, meaningful progress—and I know how to do that.

WCT: How would you characterize your work in corporate litigation, and answer critics who say it was in the service of union-busting or otherwise anti-worker interests?

LL: I’m not going to play into that. There are other voters with the same or similar political beliefs, but I think I’ve demonstrated that I have a different approach. I believe in the power of labor. In my own career, I’ve worked in places where I’ve used my firm’s resources to help those in need through my pro bono work. … I spent 3,000 hours when I was a senior equity partner, over 3,000 hours on the course of 13 years helping people in need, so that’s my record.

WCT: How do you answer President Preckwinkle’s criticism of your accepting $40,000 in so-called “dark money” from Change Chicago?

LL: She’s taken money from 501(c)(4)s. That is totally legal. There’s nothing “dark” about it. What is dark is taking $116,000 from Ed Burke and not giving it back when you’ve lied and said you would—that’s dark.

WCT: What should Chicago expect of a mayor who’s part of the LGBT community, should you win? Does that bring with it any special insight, or expectations?

LL: A mayor who understands that equity and inclusion have to be cornerstones. I want to make our city safe and welcoming for everyone and who you love, the God you worship, the color of your skin cannot control your destiny. We have to be a city that is welcoming and building bridges of hope and opportunity in every community, including the LGBTQ-plus community.

WCT: What have you learned about both the city as a whole, and the city’s LGBT community, as you’ve run the campaign over the last 10 months?

LL: That the city is great, diverse, wonderful and challenging, and I am very blessed to have been on this journey.

Visit https://lightfootforchicago.com/.

ELECTIONS 2019

Early voting info; election judges needed

Early voting for the April 2 municipal runoff elections will take place through April 1. All 50 ward sites as well as the Loop Super Site, 175 W. Washington St., are now open.

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

Government-issued photo IDs are not required but are helpful if there is a question about the registration, address or signature, or if there are two voters with the same or similar names at the same address.
ELECTIONS 2019

Guide to the LGBTs

This year’s mayoral/aldermanic elections featured a record number of openly LGBT candidates throughout Illinois. From those races, several of those individuals are vying for various political offices in the April 2 runoff elections. Listed alphabetically, they are:

—James Cappleman
Race: Alderman (46th Ward)
Website: https://www.citizensforcappleman.com

The skinny: A former teacher, social worker, and health care non-profit leader, Cappleman has represented the ward since 2011. In the runoff, he faces Marianne Lalonde.

—Lori Lightfoot
Race: Mayor
Website: https://lightfootforchicago.com

The skinny: Lightfoot stands to make history if she wins her runoff election against Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, becoming Chicago’s first African-American lesbian mayor. Lightfoot has served as senior equity partner in the Litigation and Conflict Resolution Group at Mayer Brown LLP as well as chair of the Police Accountability Task Force. She has secured several endorsements, including support from the Chicago Sun-Times and the Chicago Tribune.

—Raymond Lopez
Race: Alderman (15th Ward)
Website: http://www.the15thward.org/

The skinny: Lopez is facing Rafael “Rafa” Yanez in the runoff. He was elected as Chicago’s 15th Ward alderman on April 7, 2015.

—Deb Mell
Race: Alderman (33rd Ward)
Website: https://www.debfor33.com/

The skinny: Mell, a former teacher, social worker, and former state representative, is a member of the City Council’s LGBT Caucus along with four others, and a member of the City Council’s LGBT Caucus. She was a former Illinois state representative. She was a member of Equal Marriage Now in the mid-2000s and participated in protest actions that led to her arrest in front of the Cook County headquarters. Mell faces Rossana Rodriguez Sanchez in what many expect to be a close runoff election.

Reports: Prosecutors drop charges against Smollett

Cook County prosecutors dropped the 16 counts of disorderly conduct facing Empire actor Jussie Smollett, according to multiple sources. Smollett maintains that he was the victim of a brutal attack in Streeterville the early morning of Jan 29. Weeks later, authorities charged that Smollett had staged the attack with acquaintances and falsely asserted that it was a hate crime.

Prosecutors called the March 26 reversal “a just disposition and appropriate resolution to this case,” Chicago Tribune reported.

Attorneys for Smollett followed up in a statement saying that the actor “is relieved to have this situation behind him and is very much looking forward to getting back to focusing on his family, friends and career.” Smollett has maintained his innocence all along.

The case has all along been marked by a number of unusual circumstances and turns-of-events, as well as shifts in public support. Chicago Police Department (CPD) said they were investigating the case rigorously, but were vocal and public with their admonition of Smollett when many details around the actor’s account seemingly did not hold up to scrutiny.

Cook County State’s Attorney Kim Foxx recused herself from Smollett’s case early in her office’s investigation into the matter. Prosecutors had said that Smollett’s alleged staging of a hate crime was an attention-seeking gambit in response to the Empire show-producers’ lack of a response to a racist and homophobic letter attacking Smollett. They further alleged Smollett had created that letter as well.

The actor was written out of the final episodes from Empire’s current season. A federal investigation into the letter—which, if forged, would constitute mail fraud—is ongoing.

Chicago Tribune’s article is at https://bit.ly/2UXXQ5o.

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ELECTIONS 2019

Toni Preckwinkle talks misconceptions, Lightfoot and experience

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Things have seemingly gotten more intense for Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle since the Feb. 26 Chicago mayoral election that whittled 14 candidates down to two (including runoff opponent Lori Lightfoot) before the April 2 runoff election.

The February results revealed that Lightfoot rode a wave of momentum to take the top position—and they also showed Preckwinkle trailing. Both conclusions surprised some voters.

Since then, Preckwinkle has been on the attack, accusing her opponent of, among other things, having Republican connections. However, each candidate has garnered her share of endorsers and supporters, with Preckwinkle getting backing from people ranging from Chance the Rapper to some LGBTQ politicians to the Chicago Teachers Union.

Windy City Times: What do you feel is the biggest misconception about you?

Toni Preckwinkle: Well, that’s a challenge. This is a race in which I think experience matters, and we have two African-American women in the race who are in quite different arcs in their lives.

I started off as a teacher, I’ve worked for not-for-profit organizations, was part of the economic team with Mayor Harold Washington’s administration, then I spent 19 years as alderman and the last eight years as president of the Cook County Board of Commissioners. Being a mayor is not an entry-level job; experience matters. With the community-building and addressing public-safety challenges as alderman, and the management experience I’ve had the last eight years, I think I’m uniquely qualified to face what the next mayor of Chicago has to face.

WCT: So the misconception would be...

TP: I think it’s that there isn’t much difference between us. An African-American woman will be elected—and that’s a great thing—but there are different trajectories in our lives.

WCT: I’ve seen blowback to your response to the question Carol Marin asked during a [recent] debate. [Note: During a March 7 debate between mayoral candidates Lori Lightfoot and Toni Preckwinkle, Preckwinkle lauded Lightfoot’s openness about her sexuality when Marin asked each candidate what she admired about the other. Lightfoot later wondered if Preckwinkle’s response was “blowing a dog whistle” to conservative voters—a conclusion Preckwinkle labeled “ridiculous.”]

Do you see why people might interpret your answer the way Lori did?

TP: I have a very good record on LGBTQ issues, and it was a genuine compliment. I respect people who are honest and open about who they are. I think members of the LGBTQ community who are out and proud are to be commended.

I came out early for marriage equality, and I have been a strong proponent for LGBTQ issues and candidates. I have worked with [Metropolitan Water Reclamation Commissioner] Deb Shore and [state Rep.] Lamont Robinson and [Cook County Commissioner] Kevin Morrison, and I have LGBTQ people as campaign staffers and in my office.

WCT: What do you feel is the biggest challenge the LGBT community faces?

TP: I’m an African-American woman, so I know the challenges I face that are grounded in sexism and racism. And the LGBTQ community faces tremendous challenges. The LGBTQ community, concerning city issues, has told me about coordination issues, attacks on members of the community, the police, murders of the trans community—these are some of the issues.

WCT: Before the runoff, your ads seemed to be more light-hearted. Since then, they seem to be more negative.

TP: There are two ads running—one is positive, and the other is compare-and-contrast. In any
campaign, you have a challenge to make sure the voters understand who you are, and to compare and contrast with your opponent. From the very beginning, she's been throwing questions my way and, in the first round, I think we had only positive ads. And she has negative ads, too.

WCT: What would you like to accomplish in your first 100 days as mayor?

TP: I think the first thing to do would be to work with the public superintendent to handle all the challenges we face in terms of public safety. Everyone has the right to feel safe in their home and community.

Early on in my teaching career, I lost a student to gun violence; she was killed in a drive-by shooting. She was basically in the wrong place at the wrong time. I know how devastating these random acts of violence can be.

We've got to get a handle on the violence. We've invested in the cameras and shot-spotters—the technology—but we still have more murders than Los Angeles and New York City combined. That's an indication of the importance of the practicality of community relations; if we don't have good collaboration between police and community, we won't be able to solve crimes because, contrary to what you see on TV, crimes aren't solved in forensics labs—they're solved by talking with people on the street.

Also, we have to hold police accountable and have more training. Nationally, of every 100 murders, a suspect is arrested in 62 or 63 percent of the cases; in Chicago, depending on which re-

WCT: What is your training? In Chicago, depending on which re-

ders, a suspect is arrested in 62 or 63 percent of the cases; in Chicago, depending on which re-

DCT: What is your training? In Chicago, depending on which re-

ders, a suspect is arrested in 62 or 63 percent of the cases; in Chicago, depending on which re-

WCT: What are your thoughts on mayoral and aldermanic term limits?

TP: I'm a history teacher, and I've never been a proponent of term limits. [Laughs] Nationally, I think term limits began as a Republican effort against Franklin D. Roosevelt. I've always said that we determine term limits through elections.

WCT: If you could ask your opponent one question and she had to answer it, what would it be?

TP: I think my opponent portrays herself as a progressive and she has a lot of Republican support. She's taken dark money [a type of campaign contribution] that's been associated with the most conservative and reactionary parts of our political spectrum. She defended the Republican Congressional map during a plaintiff's suit. There are all of these Republican and "dark money" ties.

So my question would be “Why are you taking the dark money and the Republican support? Why are you an advocate for Republican interests?”

See https://toniforchicago.com/.

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Legacy Walk passes first round of landmark voting

BY MATT SIMONETTE

The Chicago Landmarks Commission unanimously voted this month to confer historic landmark status on the Legacy Walk in Lake View. The commission will vote again on the matter in April.

After the April vote, the recommendation goes to the full City Council and, should it approve, the official declaration would be issued.

"I'm glad this part of it is over, because I wasn't sure what to expect," said Victor Salvo, executive director of the Legacy Project, which oversees the Legacy Walk.

City officials announced they would be pursuing the designation last June, shortly before Gay Pride weekend. On June 22, Mayor Rahm Emanuel said in a statement, “The Legacy Walk is not only a historically significant legacy of the LGBT community of Chicago, but a signal that the entire city is a safe and welcoming place for everyone.”

Officials added, “Landmark Status will protect the steel pylons and outdoor museum that define the Boystown streetscape. It is being considered for its unique cultural, historical and social heritage, its celebration of individuals who significantly contributed to the development of Chicago, and its distinctive physical presence as a visual feature of the Boystown neighborhood, among other criteria.”

The final plaques along the Legacy Walk, dedicated to activist Marsha P. Johnson and composer Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, were installed at the Halsted Street site in October 2014, completing Salvo and supporters’ initial goal of an open-air museum celebrating the LGBT community. The first plaques were unveiled in 2012.

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MacArthur names new president

John Palfrey—an educator, author, legal scholar and innovator with expertise in how new media is changing learning, education and other institutions—will serve as the sixth president of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, effective Sept. 1, MacArthur Board Chairman Dan Huttenlocher announced.

Since 2012, Palfrey has served as head of school for Phillips Academy Andover. Since 2014, he has served as board chairman at the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Palfrey holds a J.D. from Harvard Law School, an M.Phil. from the University of Cambridge, and an A.B. from Harvard College.

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THE ROAD TO VICTORY
A timeline of historic moments in LGBTQ elected history in the Chicago area

1980: Tim Drake was the first openly gay Chicagoan to win an election, as convention delegate for John Anderson’s presidential bid. Drake was a Republican activist at the time. Gay businessman and Democratic activist Chuck Renslow ran as an Edward Kennedy delegate.

1993: Marc Loveless, an African-American gay man, won a local school council post.

1994: Tom Chiola became the first openly gay person to win major public office in Illinois, when he won a seat on the bench of the Cook County Circuit Court. Cook County has one of the highest concentrations of openly LGBTQ judges in the country, according to the Alliance of Illinois Judges.

1996: Larry McKeon became the state’s first openly gay (and openly HIV-positive) state legislator, when a north-side district elected him to the House of Representatives.

1997: Joanne Trapani became the first open lesbian elected to office in Illinois, as a member of the Oak Park Village Board, and in 2001 she became Village Board president—the state’s first openly lesbian mayor. Also that year, an openly gay man, Ray Johnson, won a trustee post in Oak Park.

1999: Nancy Katz was the first open lesbian judge in the state, after being appointed as an associate judge of the Cook County Circuit Court.

2003: Tom Tunney was appointed the city’s first openly gay alderman, and he has run successful re-election campaigns ever since.

2004: Sherry Pethers became the first open lesbian elected to a countywide seat as a commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District.

2006: Debra Shore made history by being the first open lesbian elected to a countywide seat as a commission seat for the Alliance of Illinois Judges are: Hon. Eileen Brewer (Ret); Hon. Cheryl D. Cesario (Ret); Hon. Tom Chiola (Ret); Hon. Sophia H. Hall; Hon. Nancy J. Katz (Ret); Hon. Stuart Katz; Hon. Norene Love (Ret); Hon. Mike McHale; Hon. Sandra R. Otaka (deceased); Hon. Sebastian T. Patti; Hon. Sherry Pethers (Ret); Hon. Mary Colleen Roberts; Hon. James Snyder (first openly gay president of the Illinois Judges Association); Hon. Colleen Sheehan; and Hon. Lori M Wolfson (Ret). Also of note: In 2012, Mary M. Rowland was sworn in as Federal Magistrate Judge, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. She is one of very few out LGBT people to be appointed to serve as a federal judge in the country.

JUDICIAL PRIDE

There is a large and historic concentration of openly LGBTQ people who have served or who are currently serving on the bench in Illinois. Charter members of the LGBTQ group Alliance of Illinois Judges are: Hon. Eileen Brewer (Ret); Hon. Cheryl D. Cesario (Ret); Hon. Tom Chiola (Ret); Hon. Sophia H. Hall; Hon. Nancy J. Katz (Ret); Hon. Stuart Katz; Hon. Norene Love (Ret); Hon. Mike McHale; Hon. Sandra R. Otaka (deceased); Hon. Sebastian T. Patti; Hon. Sherry Pethers (Ret); Hon. Mary Colleen Roberts; Hon. James Snyder (first openly gay president of the Illinois Judges Association); Hon. Colleen Sheehan; and Hon. Lori M Wolfson (Ret). Also of note: In 2012, Mary M. Rowland was sworn in as Federal Magistrate Judge, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. She is one of very few out LGBT people to be appointed to serve as a federal judge in the country.

BEHIND THE LAVENDER DOOR

Abraham Lincoln (1809–1865): Rumors abound about the orientation of the 16th president of the U.S. But some historians believe he was either gay or bisexual. (See C.A. Tripp’s 2005 book, The Intimate World of Abraham Lincoln.)

Pearl M. Hart (1890–1975): Studs Terkel managed one of her failed attempts for a City Council seat (she ran in 1947 and 1951), then she twice ran unsuccessfully for judge. She is in the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame.

Judy Rice, who is now a Cook County judge, was the Chicago city treasurer 2000–2006, but came out after she served.

Lilia Delgado: While not fully out of the closet, Delgado was known in the community. Mayor Harold Washington knew she was gay when he appointed her to the city’s Cable Commission. She ran for Cook County Board of Commissioners in 1987, coming within 5,000 votes of one of the ten seats (at the time, Chicago board seats were elected citywide).

Eddie Rosewell (1927–1999): The Cook County treasurer’s career ended in disgrace when he hired a former window washer to a high-level job—a closeted man who paid a public price.

These lists are not meant to be comprehensive, but rather highlight certain significant elections and “firsts” in area history.

Photo credits Main section: Loveless photo by John Gress; Patti photo by Lisa Howe-Ebright; Katz photo courtesy of Katz; Tunney photo by Matt Simonette; Shore photo by Tracy Bain; Mell photo courtesy of campaign; Cassidy photo by Kate Sosin; Capplemen photo by Matt Simonette; Yingling photo courtesy of Illinois House Democrats; Ramirez-Rosa and Robinson photos by Matt Simonette; Morrison photo by AJ Kane; Garcia photo by Robert Kusel Photography; Hadden photo by Ryan Edmund; Lightfoot photo by Matt Simonette. Judicial section: Official court photos. Lavender Door section: Hart image courtesy of Chicago History Museum Archives; PR photo of Rosewell; Rice photo by Tracy Bain. Horseshoes section: Bergeron photo by Romaine; Sable photo by Lisa Howe-Ebright; Nepon photo from the GayLife archives; Ford and Flint photos from the Gay Chicago archives. All other photos from the Windy City Times archives.
More than 100 openly LGBTQ people have run for office to major posts in Illinois, from judicial seats to city councils and county, state and federal offices. While those efforts started decades ago, the onset of the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s really kick-started the regional LGBTQ movement into action on a variety of fronts, not just in health-care advocacy, but in politics and beyond. But who were the first to break down the closet doors and take their seats at the table? Here are the highlights.

2006: Openly gay, HIV-positive activist Greg Harris, who was appointed to complete Larry McKeon’s term in the General Assembly, was later elected and continues to serve, making history in 2019 as the first openly gay majority leader of the state House of Representatives.

2009: Openly gay Deb Mell won a state representative post, serving until 2013, when she was appointed by Mayor Rahm Emanuel to fill the 33rd Ward aldermanic seat vacated by her father, Dick Mell. She won re-election in 2015 and is in a runoff April 2.

2009: Mark Tendam was elected as an open lesbian alderman in suburban Berwyn. In 2017 she was elected city clerk for the same election where four LGBTQ candidates won for city council.

2009: Marge Paul was elected to the Evanston City Council, becoming the suburb’s first openly gay elected official.

2011: Kelly Cassidy was first appointed to a state representative post, and she has won re-election every cycle since.

2011: James Cappleman was elected alderman of the 46th Ward.

2012: Sam Yingling won a suburban seat for state representative in the 62nd district.

2015: Two openly gay men won seats on the Chicago City Council in the same cycle: Raymond Lopez (15th) and Carlos Ramirez-Rosa (35th); they are the first Latino/x out LGBTQs on the City Council.

2018: Kevin Morrison became the first openly LGBTQ person to win a major non-judicial elected post in Illinois when he won for 5th district state representative.

2018: Marcelino Garcia became the first LGBTQ person of color elected to the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District.

2019: Maria Hadden unseated longtime incumbent 49th Ward alderman Joe Moore to be the first openly LGBTQ African-American elected to Chicago’s City Council and first African-American LGBTQ woman elected to a nonjudicial post in Illinois.

2019: The fact that Lori Lightfoot, an openly LGBTQ African-American woman, even made it to a runoff for mayor was historic and hardly predictable decades ago. But now, she may make more history as the first openly LGBTQ person to win election as mayor of Chicago, the nation’s third-largest city.

Your can’t win if you don’t run … and a few bold LGBTQ people paved the way for what would be the first openly LGBTQ person to win in Illinois.

1971: Michael Bergeron, later founder of The Chicago Gay Crusader newspaper, ran for at-large delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

1974: Radical gay Don “Red Devil” Goldman and Nancy Davis ran for alderman in the 44th and 43rd wards, respectively.

1977: Gary Nepon, at age 28, ran for 13th District state representative.

1979: Grant Ford (who passed away this year), publisher of GayLife newspaper, ran for 44th Ward alderman.

1987: Baton Show Lounge owner Jim Flint ran a widely covered race for Cook County Board, when city seats ran citywide.

1987 and 1991: Dr. Ron Sable came within a few dozen votes of unseating incumbent 44th Ward alderman Bernie Hansen in his first race, but lost by a wider margin in 1991; he died in 1993 of AIDS complications.

A joint project by the Chicago Reader and Windy City Times

For more details, see Out and Proud in Chicago: An Overview of the City’s Gay Community, edited by Tracy Baim

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LGBT Chicagoans discuss mayoral candidates

COMPiled BY ANDREW DAVIS

Windy City Times recently asked a cross-section of LGBT voters who they plan on voting for, and why. Here is what some of them had to say:

—Michael Bauer, activist and Lightfoot campaign chair: “Lori is incredibly smart, deeply serious and thoughtful. She has an amazing ability to absorb information, ask the pertinent questions, then and develop her strategy to deal with complex problems. She is dedicated to fairness by giving all the stakeholders an opportunity to make their case. She is determined to maintain a positive environment for the Chicago’s business community while creating much greater economic opportunities and jobs in neighborhoods that have long been neglected. Most of all, she represents the change that I believe Chicagoans sorely want. I hope that everyone reading this joins me in voting for Lori Lightfoot.”

—Stephanie Skora, director of policy and operations at Brave Space Alliance and co-founder of Trans Liberation Collective: “I am voting for Toni Preckwinkle, because of her commitment to prison and police reform, and her commitment to rent control. I cannot vote for Lori Lightfoot because she is endorsed by Republicans, was cruel to the families of police-brutality victims and wants to turn closed schools into mini-cop academies.”

—Jan Christian Bernabe, Equality Illinois’ statewide community advisory group member: “First off, I think it’s a great sign that we have two women of color in Chicago’s mayoral runoff. I hope this fact signals a more diverse selection of municipal and statewide candidates in the future. For this election, I will be voting for Lori Lightfoot. Her temperament coupled with ability to galvanize the support of many communities of color and other marginalized communities in Chicago is a shift in Chicago mayoral politics. More than that, Lori has proven to be an empathetic candidate, with a vision for Chicago that embraces all who live here. Lori has the best interest for Chicagoans, and I believe she can execute her platform with enthusiastic support from municipal and union laborers to businesses and nonprofits, from tech workers and teachers to LGBTQ individuals and immigrants.”

—Justin DeJong, vice president of communications for the American Medical Association: “This is a remarkably exciting time for Chicago’s LGBT community because of the barriers we’re breaking in the mayoral race. We hadn’t even had an openly LGBTQ candidate run citywide prior to Lori Lightfoot, and the thought of someone from our community winning the mayor’s office felt like a distant illusion. In my role on the Victory Fund campaign board, I was proud when we endorsed her campaign and showed she was a credible and viable candidate for office. Lori’s [potential] victory shows that her message of change, inclusion and cleaning up the Chicago machine resonated and built over the course of her campaign.”

—Ebonie Davis, community advisory member: “As a woman of color who identifies as a lesbian, it would seem my mayoral choice is simple—but the reality is that race and sexual orientation are not factors in my decision; I want the best person for the job.

“When I speak with the elderly homeowners on my block who struggle to survive, I think to myself, ‘We need the best!’ When I drive my daughter—who has autism—to a private school in Lincoln Park every day because CPS wasn’t equipped to handle her needs, I think to myself ‘We need the best!’ When I look at the bullet hole in my guest bedroom wall and remember how the bullet narrowly missed my niece’s head, I think to myself, ‘We need the best!’”

—L-R: Isaac King; Michael O’Connor; Ebonie Davis. King photo courtesy of King; other photos from WCT archive

Suburban Healthcare You Can Trust

Open Door offers primary medical care, behavioral health and substance use as well as specialized services to eliminate disparities for patients who:

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Elections 2019

WCT - Windy City Times emailed questionnaires to every registered citywide and aldermanic candidate with whom we were able to make contact by email or phone; for others, we mailed paper copies to their address on file with the board of elections.

The questions were about a wide range of issues, LGBT, HIV/AIDS, minimum wage, crime, youth experiencing homelessness, and more. Some questions did not have a yes/no or “correct” answer, but involved more nuance and detailed narrative answers. Therefore, we rate candidates on an A-F scale, not by numbers. Readers will note not very many are below a “C” because those candidates likely did not even bother to respond to a survey from an LGBT newspaper.

We will be posting all surveys, as turned in by candidates, on our website, or search for the headline “2019 Election Survey Responses.”

Windy City Times does not endorse in any elections, but we hope our survey educates readers who are making tough choices for citywide and aldermanic races Tuesday, Feb. 26. Please regularly check windycitytimes.com for updates, coverage and interviews in the days leading up to the election.

HRC - Human Rights Campaign
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May the best woman win

On April 2, Chicagoans will go to the polls and, for the first time, elect a Black woman to be the 47th person to hold the office of mayor of Chicago.

Whomever wins—Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle or attorney Lori Lightfoot—would be the third Black mayor in the city’s history, and the second woman to occupy the post. If Lightfoot were to win, she’d be the city’s first openly lesbian mayor as well.

When Mayor Jane Byrne was in the throes of her election in 1979, People Magazine referred to her having the looks of a “harried suburban housewife.” When Mayor Harold Washington was in office, 29 City Council members banded together to stall his agenda. Now, decades on, we don’t yet know who will be mayor come May—but we know the next mayor, without question, will be a Black woman.

Lightfoot being part of the LGBT community has most loudly become an issue twice during the run-off—the first time when Preckwinkle seemingly complimented her on how she navigated that part of Chicago’s history. She’s had to make in her long career as a city and county politician, as well as problematic hiring decisions. Several community members have wanted to hold Lightfoot accountable for her work adjudicating police corruption and violence, maintaining that she both was not diligent enough and brusquely engaged with victims and their families.

We hope that Chicagoans won’t sit out the April 2 polls—that they will at least look at the cover-up of these candidates to make their most educated choice.

The first question that voters should consider: Does the candidate seem capable of doing the work of governing? All too many politicians get caught up in the ego-fueling world of campaigning, and are not cut out for the administrative drudgery that comes with executive office—coordinating staff, multitasking complex problems, listening to constituent concerns, working the phones fundraising, proposing budgets, and so on. The second question: Does the candidate understand the wheels of power and how those are greased? We’ve seen two notable exceptions in recent years—President Donald Trump and former Gov. Bruce Rauner—of a candidate coming into office without comprehending the power the legislative branch is capable of wielding, expecting to coast on the force of their personality.

This city election is happening just as the figurative public safety and policing problems; structural racism; school issues; crumbling infrastructure; wide-spread homelessness and housing instability; informationally-siloed city agencies; and unfunded pensions, to name just a few. She can expect only so much support from Springfield, perpetually locked in its own political and fiscal dysfunction, and no solid support whatsoever from the federal government led by Trump, who has taken several opportunities to mock this city.

The LGBT community has every right to have the mayor’s ear from time-to-time as well. The city has excellent protections for our community in place fortunately, but having the teeth to enforce and publicize those protections—through community liaisons and adjudicating bodies, for example—takes money and willpower. Even then, those solutions often address very specific incidents and perpetrators of hiring, housing and public accommodations discrimination.

The next mayor must be able to address structural and systemic anti-LGBT discrimination in institutions such as police and service providers. Members of the community are impacted by the same problems as other residents in any urban environment, but their sexual orientation or gender identity often means they cannot find the proper means of support. An LGBT person experiencing homelessness or housing instability can be made to feel uncomfortable at shelters or agencies. A bullied LGBT public school student might find no recourse if they have the wrong principal. Community members might not know for days that a transgender friend or family member has fallen victim to violence, since the police report will likely indicate the gender they were assigned at birth. Our community will have a big punch-list for this next mayor.

Windy City Times does not endorse candidates. We do focus coverage on LGBT politicians by virtue of our newspaper’s mission, but this is no better year to emphasize our impartiality and wish the best to whichever candidate—one a member of our community, the other a stalwart ally—wins. We’ll likely be a thorn in your side sometimes in the years ahead but, come April 2, may the best woman win.

Matt Simonette is managing editor of Windy City Times.
ALAN MENKEN
ON MUSIC, STORYTELLING, HOWARD ASHMAN
PAGE 24
THEATER REVIEW

Sweat
Playwright: Lynn Nottage
At: Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St.
Tickets: 312-443-3800; Goodmanntheatre.org/Sweat; $20-$80
Runs through: April 14

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Sometimes theater grabs you by the guts, sometimes it sucker-punches you. Sweat does both. The Chicago premiere of this 2017 Pulitzer Prize-winning drama is among the very best productions of the 2018-2019 season. It’s enthusiastically and convincingly acted by a superb all-Chicago cast, who’ve honed their rich ensemble skills among Chicago’s off-Loop theaters—but it’s far more than that.

The play itself is the sucker-punch. Author Lynn Nottage has crafted a well-made play, a theatrical technique perfected in the 19th century in which all character points and plot details mesh like cogs in a great machine, playing out to inevitable ends. Like the characters themselves, the audience unknowingly is swept along in the increasingly tense and rapid mechanics. One might not realize it, however, because Nottage’s language is so exquisitely plain-spoken and real, although it still has power to entrance. Just listen in Act I to Tracey (superbly bellicose Kirsten Fitzgerald) talk about respect for craftsmanship, and how folks used to dress up to shop Downtown. It’s a wonderful ride as paced by master director Ron O’J Parson, who extracts a rich vein of comedy as well. Set chiefly in a neighborhood bar near a steel plant, the banter between the regulars is raucously funny ... until it isn’t.

McLeod’s rolling word-premiere play, with its delicate blend of comedy and crisis, offers juicy roles for a trio of AARP-eligible female actors, but it almost certainly fails due to its writing, Ariel Triunfo’s choreography—orinoriginal even in its somewhat limited capacity—doesn’t help matters. Nor do the productions’ copious microphones and acoustic issues, only a few of which could be attributed to opening-night roughness as opposed to, perhaps, an insufficient tech. Even standout performances, like Molly Kral’s channeling her best Matthew McConaughey reveals his inner tragedies in the 11 o’clock number, the audience is expected to forgive two-plus hours of the character’s casual racism, not to mention gaslighting and outright bullying.

Apart from the aforementioned gospel songs, Anastasio and Green’s soundtrack is largely forgettable, and Doug Wright’s dialogue sounds straight out of a sitcom about Southerners written in Los Angeles. Though Hands mostly falters due to its writing, Ariela Triunfo’s choreography—orinoriginal even in its somewhat limited capacity—doesn’t help matters. Nor do the productions’ copious microphones and acoustic issues, only a few of which could be attributed to opening-night roughness as opposed to, perhaps, an insufficient tech. Even standout performances, like Molly Kral’s sweet and stalwart woman of faith and Roy Samra’s wistful love interest, can’t save Hardbody from itself.

Refuge Theatre Project has found a niche by presenting under-represented musicals with top-notch performers. Despite the latter, the results are often hit or miss: Some shows aren’t produced much, for a reason. For every High Fidelity, Refuge’s Jeff Award-winning runaway hit, there’s a Lysistrata Jones, a clunky Greek myth-turned-pop musical that the company unwisely staged in an actual gym. Since early 2016, Refuge has chased another High Fidelity; however, because of major flaws, Hardbody is nowhere close to being a worthy successor.

Sadlly, Refuge Theatre Project’s Chicago premiere doesn’t live up to the hype, thanks to a boring book, bloated runtime and score that is more cliché than original.

Times are tough in Longview, Texas, but everyone rallies for the annual Hands on a Hardbody event, in which ten people chosen at random compete to see who can, well, touch a Nissan pickup the longest. There are 15-minute breaks every six hours, but other than that, one hand (protected by cotton gardening gloves) must be on the vehicle at all times. From a stoic Marine (Max Cervantes) to an outspoken mother of six (Katherine Condit), everyone’s in it to win it, but that’s before oppressive heat, shaky politics and family secrets come into play.

Curtains have been based on stranger topics: Teeth, based on a movie about a teenage girl with vagina dentata, workshopped on the East Coast last summer. The problem with Hardbody is its lack of specifics. Each character has a thoroughly predictable conflict, from the sleazy dealership manager (Dan Gold) trying to keep his business afloat to the wide-eyed UPS worker (Alli Atkinson) who just wants to travel. Characters of color either make cameo appearances, such as Jared Michael Grant’s boisterous smoothtalker, or exist solely to teach others about prejudice, as in the case with Sebastian Summers’ ambitious veterinarian student. And when past winner Benny Perkins (Derek Fawcett, channeling his best Matthew McConaughey) reveals his
THEATER REVIEW

For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow Is Enuf
Playwright: Ntozake Shange
At: Court Theatre, 5535 S. Ellis Ave.
Tickets: 773-753-4472; CourtTheatre.org; $50-$74
Runs through: April 14

BY KERRY REID

Ntozake Shange's death in October, at age 70, unleashed an outpouring of tributes from Black women playwrights who found inspiration in her work, including Pulitzer winners Suzan-Lori Parks and Lynn Nottage.

The latter noted that Shange's groundbreaking 1976 "choreopoem," For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide/When the Rainbow is Enuf, meant that young Black women previously alienated from mainstream theater "suddenly saw representation of themselves in a very honest way and understood that they could occupy that space for the first time."

In Seret Scott's searing and soaring production of For Colored Girls at Court Theatre, Shange's words weave a tapestry of pain, defiance, joy and renewal, all delivered by a cast of eight women who not only occupy the space but reclaim it for Black women whose voices have been ignored or disparaged. Courtney O'Neill's set—a curved wall with crumbling archways—suggests an ancient ruined amphitheater. But the stories these women bring to life through Shange's 20 poems and their own embodied musicality aren't ancient tales, but urgent and ever-timely dispatches.

One of the enduring ironies of Shange's piece is that although the women are identified only by the color of their dresses (beautifully designed by Samantha C. Jones), they are multidimensional in ways that too many Black women in narratives crafted by non-Black writers are not. Scott's production adds a character known as Lyric (Melody Angel), who fittingly adds to the inflections of Shange's words and Leah Casey's rhythmic choreography through drum and guitar accompaniment. (Casey also plays Lady in Purple.)

The stories range from playful tales of youthful sexual and romantic adventures to raw stories of rape and other violence. AnJi White's Lady in Red gets the climactic darkest tale and holds nothing back. It's simultaneously horrific and hypnotizing.

Shange, like Alice Walker, was criticized for portraying Black men as abusers, but there are plenty of moments here where the spark of attraction between women and men provides a window into escape. Patrese D. McClain's Lady in Brown tells us about meeting a young Black man who provides a real-life substitute for her idol and imaginary spirit guide, Haitian revolutionary leader Toussaint Louverture.

Conversely, Melissa DuPrey's Lady in Blue laments that she "used to live in the world, but now I live in Harlem"—her life now defined by "six blocks of cruelty piled up on itself" that constrain the dreams she carries, while her memories of a primal connection to the ocean are mocked by the dirty puddles on the streets.

In an era in which the phrase "vote like Black women" has become a cri de guerre for the resistance, Shange's piece and Scott's staging remind us that Black women in the United States have been fighting their own battles for centuries. It's not their job to save us—but we damn well better start listening to them.

—By Mary Shen Barnidge
Windy City Times: Where in the world are you?

Stephen Flaherty: I am in Seattle and tonight it will be the world premiere of Marie Murphy Made.

Windy City Times: Did you always want to be a musician?

Stephen Flaherty: No. I was very interested in theater. I was a theater kid. I used to talk to the stage. I loved being on stage.

Windy City Times: What are you working on after Marie?

Stephen Flaherty: I have an opportunity to do a master class with the educational group Broadway Dreams. I was invited to teach in Russia and there will be a series of concerts based on our work. Maybe I will see Anya running around the streets. We will see!

Windy City Times: Are you coming to opening night in Chicago?

Stephen Flaherty: No. I can't because I will be in Russia. Oddly, when I have written my shows I have never been to the place where they are set until after the show opens. I had never been to the Caribbean until Once on This Island opened or Monte Carlo until Lucky Stiff opened.

Windy City Times: Is the dog cut, too?

Stephen Flaherty: There is no dog, but there is a child.

Windy City Times: Is there possibly a new gay character?

Stephen Flaherty: No. I went to Catholic school and my parents were trying to find ways to slow me down. I knew I would study composition, but also hang out with the theater kids.

Windy City Times: Do you have a favorite moment from Ragtime?

Stephen Flaherty: Every day working on that show is elevated. It was the kind of show I had always wanted to write. I wanted to write a sweeping musical drama even as a kid. My favorite shows are West Side Story and Porgy and Bess. I like a large canvas!

Windy City Times: You have written new songs together for Anastasia?

Stephen Flaherty: Yes. We were asked to write the film score for Anastasia in 1997. It was our first movie. We were suddenly in Hollywood and Madonna read our names on the telecast. It was unbelievable!

Windy City Times: The stage version has characters not in the film?

Stephen Flaherty: Yes. We used five songs that were in the film, but in different dramaturgical ways. The audience will get to hear the songs that they know and love, but we still want to surprise them.

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Books

Trans author talks ‘layered identity’ in new memoir

By Lauren Emily Whalen

“I wanted to be two things when I grew up: a writer and a boy.”

Life has never been easy for Nate Cannon. Diagnosed with major depression and bipolar disorder at 12 years old, the trans author lost his “sense of gender identity” at the same time. His mother did her best to raise him as a girl because “she thought society wouldn’t embrace me,” he said.

What followed were life-changing sports injuries, a teenage suicide attempt, substance abuse and a neurological disorder diagnosis—all while Cannon realized his gender-identity disorder wasn’t going to fix itself. Dying to Hang with the Boys, the author’s second memoir, chronicles Cannon’s transition and his journeys in physical and mental health.

“This is a book that explores the consequences of being unable to express one’s gender identity,” Cannon said via phone from his Minnesota home. “If I had been able to transition earlier, would my life have gone differently? I don’t know the answer to that.”

While identifying as a lesbian, Cannon wrote Running on a Mind Rewired, a memoir of his time as the only girl on an all-boys hockey team, his slide into drug dependency and near-death experience at 17 and his subsequent recovery. The book is used as a teaching tool in high schools, colleges, hospitals and treatment centers—and is still published under Cannon’s birth name. The author prefers it this way: “I feel like that was a story that belonged to who I was when I was Jennifer,” he said. “And that portion of my identity and my life needs to be honored.”

Dying to Hang with the Boys takes a deep dive into Cannon’s suicide attempt, something he was initially discouraged from writing about. “When I first pitched this book, I was told, ‘You should leave [suicide] out entirely,’” he said. However, Cannon knew he couldn’t leave out his experience. “The book is not intended to glamorize suicide, [but] this is the gory stuff you don’t want to hear,” he said. “I’m hoping not to put out a story that’s going to lead someone to engage in similar acts … but I hope it will give people the courage and determination to stay with us and keep fighting.”

Fighting is part of Cannon’s daily routine: since he was diagnosed with acquired dystonia, he has to contend with his own body.

“A mix of Parkinson’s and MS is how I describe [dystonia],” Cannon said of the neurological disorder. “It feels like someone is reaching in and twisting my muscles with a dishrag.” Though dystonia can also be genetic, Cannon feels his is a result of “rewiring my brain: chemical dependency, playing hockey and trying to hang with the boys,” not to mention the damaging shoulder injury he sustained when another player gunned for him on the ice.

Running has helped both Cannon’s recovery process and his dystonia: sober for 15 years now, he has also completed 14 marathons in the past decade. “It started early in my sobriety [as] putting on a pair of running shoes and getting on a treadmill, figuring out a natural way to boost those brain chemicals and feel good,” he said.

“I’m glad I had that training when I developed dystonia in 2006. Dystonia pulls you off to one side. The muscles create push and pull, similar to Parkinson’s, causing erratic signals to be sent to the muscles,” Cannon said. “The reciprocal motion [of running] has been very helpful for me.”

Cannon said running helped with gender issues as well. “Running brought to the surface that I had been confusing my sexual orientation with my gender identity,” he said. “As a result of my sports bra, I was chafing. I thought, ‘if I didn’t have [breasts] this wouldn’t be happening.’ And

Turn to page 29

Alan Menken

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Paul Lisnek

50 E Ida B Wells Dr | Chicago, IL
BY JERRY NUNN

The box office is warming up for the big blockbusters expected this summer. Spring offers two months of fine flicks and film festivals where the LGBT community are well represented on the big screen—along with big stars, superheroes and inspiring soundtracks.

April
—Shazam! (April 5): A young 14-year-old Billy Batson quickly grows up by exclaiming the word Shazam! This comic character was originally named Captain Marvel and Djimon Hounsou is surprisingly in both this movie and the Brie Larson film.
—Pet Sematary (April 5): Stephen King’s adaptation of his 1983 horror novel comes back to life with Jason Clarke, Amy Seimetz and John Lithgow.
—Hellboy (April 12): Stranger Things star David Harbour turns red playing the title character in the new Hellboy reboot.
—Teen Spirit (April 12): Elle Fanning personifies the character Violet Valenski who is from a small town with big dreams. She sings cover songs of Robyn, Tegan and Sara, Annie Lennox and Ellie Goulding along the way.

May
—Tell It To the Bees (May 3): This is a lesbian drama with Anna Paquin playing a doctor who meets an unfulfilled housewife in conservative 1950s Scotland.
—Ugly Dolls (May 3): The voices of Kelly Clarkson, Nick Jonas, Wanda Sykes and Janelle Monae are spotlighted in a cartoon set in the town of Uglyville, where weirdness is celebrated.
—Long Shot (May 3): It’s a fish-out-of-water story with Charlize Theron playing a diplomat with Seth Rogen as a journalist.
—Rafiki (May 9): This banned Kenyan drama centers on a romantic connection between two young women in a country where homosexuality is currently illegal.
—Aladdin (May 24): Guy Ritchie seems an unusual choice to direct the live adaptation of the Walt Disney production. Will Smith smoke out the unforgettable performance of Robin Williams, or will moviegoers wish for someone else?
—Rocketman (May 31): This openly gay rocker drama hopes to upstage Bohemian Rhapsody, with Taron Egerton representing the flamboyant Sir Elton John (and actually singing his songs live, John has told media outlets).

In addition, the 35th Latino Film Festival returns to Chicago, with more LGBT content, at the AMC River East 21 Theatre March 28-April 11. A gay bar called Oasis, an out dance instructor in The Gazelle’s dance and Guatemala’s Queer Lion Award winner Jose are all part of the international fun. Cruise over to ChicagoLatinoFilmFestival.org for the complete schedule.

The Tribeca Film Festival in Manhattan turns 18 this year, taking place April 24-May 5 with tons of queer offerings such as the lesbian coming-of-age story Clementine and a multitude of short films with LGBT-related subject matter. Some documentaries at Tribeca include films about the life of fashion designer Halston, a RuPaul Drag Racer in Trixie Mattel: Moving Parts and XY Chelsea, about famed transgender military whistleblower Chelsea Manning. For more information, visit TribecaFilm.com.
LGBT CRUISES & TOUR EVENTS

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Alan Menken on music, storytelling, Howard Ashman

BY JOHN STADELMAN

Legendary score composer Alan Menken—best known for his Oscar-winning work on classic Disney animated films including The Little Mermaid and Aladdin—will be in Chicago playing a retrospective show Saturday, March 30.

Menken talked with Windy City Times about score writing, live-action remakes and the legacy of Howard Ashman, the legendary gay composer with whom he often collaborated.

Windy City Times: Score composing is such a story-based genre. How do you integrate the storytelling element into the music? Does your process vary between projects, or does it stay the same?

Alan Menken: By definition, when I write a score, I’m reflecting the characters and storyline for a project. Sometimes the intention of the music is to establish time and place. In a literal sense, that means choice that reflects the musical vocabulary of a culture at a particular time. Sometimes the choice of style is meant as a comment—a cultural wink that establishes a link between something contemporary and something ancient or mythological. And, of course, sometimes the musical choice is an emotional underpinning that is simply “Menken”-esque.

Since I strive to never repeat myself in my scores. I deliberately start each project in a fresh way. And, when there are new collaborators and new story influences, that task is made easier.

WCT: What was it like working with Howard Ashman on the Disney movies? How was the creative environment and overall process?

AM: Howard was a true genius, in that he understood how to deliver a story through making the smartest musical choice. I revealed in my good fortune in being in a collaboration with such a sure compass. As he grew ill and finally passed away at a tragically young age, the influence of Howard made me grow in ways I had never imagined.

Howard Ashman and I only got to work together for 12 years, over five incredible projects. But in some way, I feel Howard made me grow in ways I had never imagined. But all the hard work inevitably results in a work with greater depth and specificity.

WCT: You worked with Howard on many of those songs and, unfortunately, he isn’t around to help this time. How has that been?

AM: It’s bittersweet to bring our songs back to life in new ways without his input or involvement. To witness new wonderful actors and creative talents rediscovering our gems is amazing. And I hope in some way Howard’s spirit is in touch with that.

WCT: What advice do you have for film and theater score composers who are just starting out, or for people who want to get into this work?

AM: Serve the work, rather than your own ego or emotional needs. Yes, the work we do is emotional. But that emotion is channeled through the characters and story. Never fall in love with your own work to the extent that you are unwilling to push it aside and create something new instead. Our field is very collaborative. And success hinges on your ability to be part of a team; part of a greater whole.

The other basic advice is to always be creating something new. The act of creating keeps your talents alive, just like a workout in the gym keeps your muscles strong.

You may think you know what your best and most important work is. But the audience is your collaborator, too. Listen to them as much as you do your own heart.

WCT: You’ll be in Chicago on March 30 for a retrospective show, performing and covering pieces that span your career. Could you talk a bit about what it will be like?

AM: My concert allows me to bring together work from nearly 50 years. I play and sing and talk through career highlights and personal insights and emotional moments and telling anecdotes. And behind me on the stage are three screens that illuminate things and expand the experience. The first act leads up to the incredible success of our Disney animated musicals combined with huge personal changes due to the AIDS crisis and the passing of Howard Ashman.

The second act starts with my Broadway shows and the continuation of my Disney projects, and it moves through lots of my film and stage work that some people might be unaware of. And I will preview some exciting new work that no audiences have heard before. I’ve been blessed with a long and rich career that I never could have dreamed of having. And A Whole New World of Alan Menken means a great deal to me because it allows all the many aspects and facets of my world to be joined in one concert experience.

“Whole New World of Alan Menken” will show at the Auditorium Theatre on Saturday, March 30, at 7:30 p.m. Find tickets and more information at https://www.auditoriumtheatre.org/shows/alamenken.
Windy City Times

March 27, 2019

BY ANDREW DAVIS

On Monday, April 1, at 7 p.m. CT, DC’s Legends of Tomorrow will resume its fourth season on The CW, entertaining viewers with its colorful characters and unconventional adventures. (The show is a spin-off featuring characters introduced in Arrow and The Flash along with new characters.)

Caity Lotz returns as Sara Lance/White Canary—an assassin who is the team leader. In a recent interview with Windy City Times, Lotz discussed being on the show, dancing with Lady Gaga and being associated with the pro-women’s group Shethority.

Windy City Times: You have a very interesting resume. Many know you as an actress, but you’re also a singer and a dancer—and you’ve been a backup dancer for Lady Gaga. What was that like?

Caity Lotz: She’s awesome! I was really impressed by her. I remember arriving on the set of the “Paparazzi” video at five in the morning—and she was already full Gaga; she was wearing underwear, fishnet, heels and this crazy sweater. Now that she’s been acting for a while, she seems like “Gaga.” But I had a good time dancing with her.

WCT: Moving on to Legends of Tomorrow, congrats on the renewal.

CL: Thank you. We’re excited to tell another season of stories.

WCT: I know you can’t give me details, under penalty of death. [Lotz laughs.] However, are there any general items you can tell me about the second half of the fourth season?

CL: Yes! There are some really cool episodes, such as a Bollywood episode that might be one of my favorites. Then, there’s some cool dancing with me and Jes [Macallan, who plays Time Bureau Director—and Sara’s girlfriend—Ava Sharpe]. Basically, all the craziness you’re hoping for is coming.

WCT: One of the things I like about this show is that it doesn’t take itself too seriously.

CL: Yes, but we do take risks.

WCT: What are some of your favorite Legends episodes from the past?

CL: Hmm… I always love our Western episodes. What else? Sometimes we get great outfits to wear. The death totem one was plenty fun and—oh!—the shogun episode was one of my favorites; the sword-fighting was awesome.

WCT: There was one episode that had three of you in a take on Charlie’s Angels...

CL: … where we’re puppets. Yes.

WCT: Kudos to the writers.

CL: For sure. In TV, it’s all about the writers. They’re the ones doing all the magic.

WCT: Regarding the relationship between your character and Ava, I love that it’s treated like any other relationship. There’s no big deal about it.

CL: Yes—and it’s a healthy relationship. You have two powerful women who are both leaders in what they do, and who are both very career-oriented. They try to balance their work lives and their relationship. I like that the relationship hasn’t been about fighting or cheating; it’s just about them trying to balance everything—but they just want to support and love each other.

WCT: I didn’t know that Constantine [played by Matt Ryan] had been in a same-sex relationship.

CL: Oh, yeah; his character is pretty fluid, because Sara and Constantine hooked up. They both are more pansexual, I think; it’s just about the person, not their gender or sex.

WCT: You’ve had some interesting guest stars on this show. If you had the power, who would like to be on the show for one episode?

CL: There are so many. I think it’d be interesting for Stephen [Amell, who stars on Arrow] to go full Legend; that’d be fun. Also, I’d like to get my friends from the other [CW] shows to come on to Legends.

WCT: You portray a very strong character and, in real life, you’re connected with the group Shethority (https://shethority.com/).

CL: Yes. Candice Patton, from The Flash, and I were meeting fans who were dealing with a lot of stuff—like societal pressures, body-image issues, depression and other things. So we thought about how to better connect with people, and came up with this idea.

We made a website and Instagram page where people can share their stories and feel like they have this sense of community. I think each one of us has a story to tell; by sharing their stories, we’re able to lift each other up as women. So, [Candice and I] got together with all the other women from the superhero shows, and they down with being involved. It’s cool to connect with the fans, and have them connect with each other.

GLAAD to honor Madonna May 4

GLAAD is set to honor the musical icon Madonna with the Advocate for Change Award at the 30th Annual GLAAD Media Awards in New York City on May 4, Deadline noted. “From the HIV crisis to international LGBTQ issues, she fearlessly pushes for a world where LGBTQ people are accepted,” said GLAAD President/CEO Sarah Kate Ellis in a statement. “Her music and art have been life-saving outlets for LGBTQ people over the years and her affirming words and actions have changed countless hearts and minds.”

Madonna is the second person and first woman to be honored with the Advocate for Change Award; the first was President Bill Clinton, who received the award in 2013.

Events for this year’s GLAAD Media Awards will be held in Los Angeles on March 28 and continue in New York City on May 4.

The Deadline article is at https://deadline.com/2019/02/glaad-media-awards-madonna-advocate-for-change-award-lgbtq-inclusion-representation-diversity-1202549596/.

Wrightwood 659

to showcase Stonewall Rebellion

Wrightwood 659, 659 W. Wrightwood Ave., is hailing the Stonewall Rebellion—which spurred the modern-day LGBTQ-rights movement—with a major exhibition marking the 50th anniversary of that historic event.

“About Face: Stonewall, Revolt and New Queer Art” will feature historical and contemporary works by international artists that, viewed together, provide a nuanced picture of the evolving meaning of queerness.

The exhibit will run May 22-July 20. The curator of the exhibition is Jonathan David Katz, Ph.D., who is a visiting professor of gender, sexuality and women’s studies at The University of Pennsylvania and chair of the doctoral program in visual studies at the University at Buffalo.

Tickets are available online only, starting May 13, and may be purchased for $20 throughout the run of the exhibition. A limited number of free tickets are released each Monday for the current week. Walk-ins are not accommodated. Visit https://tickets.wrightwood659.org/events.

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Women & Children First marks 40 years with 20 best-sellers

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN

Turning the page, Women & Children First (W&CF) began its 40th anniversary programming with a panel discussion on March 24.

People gathered into the store to see the panel, which featured W&CF co-founders Ann Christophersen and Linda Bubon and current co-owners Lynn Mooney and Sarah Hollenbeck. The panel discussed how each title came to be on the list. As they went up the list, starting at number 20 and ending at number one, each panelist took turns sharing their own personal stories in relation to each book and its author, thoughts on the featured books and authors, as well as the importance and impact of the book in the general public.

“Ann and I met in graduate school in the late ‘70s,” Bubon recalled into the microphone on the panel. “We were ardent feminists and we wanted to do something with our passion for women’s literature and we decided to open a bookstore. We took all of our savings and we built everything from scratch, including our advertising and the shelves and everything. It was something two young women could do with their savings instead of, say, investing it in a PhD program. We invested it in this instead.”

Bubon continue to describe the store’s growth from a small store that opened in November 1979 on Armitage Avenue to a place on Halsted in the ‘80s to its current location on Clark Street in 1990 with a store expansion in 1997.

The event was originally set to present the store’s top 10 best-sellers of all time, but as the panelists humorously stated, there were just too many titles over the 40 years to keep it to 10 books. It was an evening full of nostalgia and passion for women in literature as the panel presented the store’s top 20 all-time best-sellers.

“Being behind the scene of the process of making the list was a very interesting conversation,” Hollenbeck said to Windy City Times. “It was very hard to narrow down just our top 10. We really wanted to work hard to make a list that was more reflective of the day to day sales.”

“Our store was founded to showcase and uplift marginalized voices,” said Hollenbeck, who plans the events and programs at W&CF and was pleased with the conversations had. “So, the women authors, authors of color, queer authors, trans authors, that’s the focus of this store. The 40th anniversary is a really important milestone because a lot of people think of these issues as new... but Ann and Linda have been doing this work since 1979 and it’s time for them to get some recognition for that.”

The co-founders explained how all those years ago it was almost impossible to find books by women in general bookstores. This is something they wanted to conquer.

“We wanted to sell literature; we didn’t want to sell genre fiction,” said Bubon of the store.

Bubon and Christophersen, both English majors and feminists, were on the same page of what they wanted their store to be—political and literary. W&CF, according to the two founders, has always been called a feminist bookstore that not only carried important feminist works, but has also carried works related to other political and progressive movements. The original mission, they both agree, has carried on through today.

“Our background is literary,” added Christophersen. “That’s what we knew about. We wanted a political store. We wanted to be feminists for sure, but we also wanted to be literary. We wanted to cultivate both those subject areas.”

“Feminism is a dynamic movement,” Bubon explained. “It has changed and evolved over the years and one of the reasons we’re still in business is we went into this to learn things. To complete our education and further our education and we’ve learned so much.”

To learn more, visit WomenAndChildrenfirst.com.

The books on W&CF’s list of 20 All-Time Bestsellers:

1. My Life on the Road, by Gloria Steinem
2. Bad Feminist, by Roxane Gay
3. The House on Mango Street, by Sandra Cisneros
4. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, by J.K. Rowling
5. Fun Home, by Alison Bechdel
6. We Are Never Meeting in Real Life, by Samantha Irby
7. The Handmaid’s Tale, by Margaret Atwood
8. The Time Traveler’s Wife, by Audrey Niffenegger
9. Meditations for Women Who Do Too Much, by Anne Wilson Schaef
10. The Courage to Heal, by Ellen Bass
11. Beloved, by Toni Morrison
12. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, by Maya Angelou
13. Rubyfruit Jungle, by Rita Mae Brown
15. Indemnity Only, by Sara Paretsky
16. The Color Purple, by Alice Walker
17. The House of Spirits, by Isabel Allende
18. Woman and Nature, by Susan Griffin
19. The Time Traveler’s Wife, by Audrey Niffenegger
20. This Bridge Called My Back, edited by Gloria Anzaldua and Cherrie Moraga

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Dining Out For Life is an international event involving the generous participation of restaurants, volunteers, corporate sponsors, and dining patrons in more than 60 cities—raising funds to support local lifesaving HIV/AIDS services.

In Chicago, TPAN is the producer and beneficiary of Dining Out For Life.
Desperate Housewives appears in this week's column, in two very different references—and neither one is connected to Felicity Huffman. Photo courtesy of Bravo

in the same building and stole a bag of meth-amphetamines! However, Nick has claimed he was subletting the apartment—except the super didn’t know him (but, may I say in his defense, been there, done that). Gruber is out on $5K bail and due back in court April 4. By the way, a photographer from the New York Post wanted to take his picture in court. Nick’s only concern was, “How does my hair look?” Priorities.

I just returned from Palm Springs where I attended Remembering Carol: A Tribute to Carol Channing. This was a bittersweet event—but happily far more sweet than bitter. The bitter, of course, is that our beloved Carol is no longer with us. But, my God, the room was filled with such love and warmth that it was truly as if she never left. It was certainly not lost on me that it took a dozen luminaries to create a feeling Channing could do simply by walking into a room. Those gathered shared songs and stories about someone who was truly unique. People like Carole Cook, Lily Tomlin, Tyne Daly, Ruta Lee, Davis Gaines and Kristin Chenoweth. Despite the star power in that theater, there was only one way to end the celebration—with a video of Carol herself singing the 11 o’clock number from Hello, Dolly! To our beloved Carol—so long, dearie.

Fans of the reboot of Dynasty will be sad to know that Nicolette Sheridan has left the building. Last week, Alexis was attacked by the latest person claiming to be long-lost son Adam. How was she attacked? He pushed her head into a fire and held her there. OUCH! As it turns out, Alexis isn’t dead. But since Sheridan wanted out, the producers had to be creative. This immolation will leave her so disfigured, the character will be easier to recast.

Our “Ask Billy” question is a response to last week’s column. Kevin in Baltimore writes, “Thanks for the J0 video of Tyler Posey. But I think his [Now Apocalypse] co-star is even hotter. Didn’t you once have a video of him?”

You’re right—I completely forgot about that! Last July, I told you about Beau Mirchoff—best known from Desperate Housewives and Awkward. Apparently, he indulged in several online masturbation scenes, which some unknown paramour leaked. But, don’t look a gift horse in the mouth—especially since Beau resembles another part of the horse. See for yourself on BillyMasters.com.

When we’re wrapping things up with a Beau, it’s time to end yet another column. Here’s one little tidbit that I got out of Barbra’s interview which I never knew before—Streisand turned down Michael Jackson’s request to record a duet! Those are the little things you’ll discover when you check out BillyMasters.com—the site that also delivers such big things. For your burning questions, write to me at Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Babs records her own version of “Bad.” Until next time, remember: One man’s filth is another man’s bible.
SAVOR

The sweet life of Candyality founder Terese McDonald

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Talking with Candyality owner/founder Terese McDonald is a fascinating journey—not just about the world of sweets, but also about subjects such as politics and fashion.

That’s because McDonald’s life has been involved in those areas, and a talk with her is as likely to result in mentions of former Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich and fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent as well as Laffy Taffy and jelly beans.

McDonald obtained a degree in political science at Eastern Illinois University and eventually found herself in the beauty/fashion industry, working at such places as YSL Beaute, named after Laurent.

“I worked for Jim Thompson when he was governor of Illinois,” McDonald told Windy City Times. “It lasted about a year and a half, and I had to run out of Springfield. It was an eye-opening experience. I thought I was going to change the world.” But would she ever run for office? “I don’t think so. You have to put all of yourself out there, and then there are the critiques,” she replied. “If I did, it certainly wouldn’t be about the money.”

However, the astute McDonald is likely to give you her opinion on a variety of topics and people, including President Trump, the Kardashians and local newspapers (being an advocate of independent publications). “I have an expanse beyond candy,” she said with a laugh.

Then, she added, “I spent almost 25 years in the beauty industry. I got a job and I loved it, and I worked my way up to being vice president of sales development at Yves Saint Laurent. I traveled around the country and to Europe quite a bit—it was kind of Devil Wears Prada, but my Miranda Priestley wasn’t as bad as the [Meryl Streep in the movie].”

“So I wrote training modules, and I would take cues from everyday life—and one day I was inspired by candy,” McDonald continued. “And I wrote one on candy and personality [a cornerstone of Candyality, which conflates ‘candy’ and ‘personality’]. … In 2007, I was asked to move to New York. I didn’t want to, and decided to do something different. I always wanted a store in Chicago. I originally thought about opening an apothecary, but I kept going back to candy.

Chicago is deeply rooted in candy, [starting] with the turn of the [20th] century—and it’s still called the candy capital of the world.”

The original Candyality location was at the corner of Newport and Southport avenues, McDonald said. “We were there for six years [starting in 2007], and then we moved down to the hardware store, and they built a space for us,” she added. Candyality now has three locations: in Andersonville, in Lake View and at Water Tower Place.

When asked if candy is actually connected to personality, McDonald said, “We’re more like [starting in 2007], and then we moved down to the hardware store, and they built a space for us,” she added. Candyality now has three locations: in Andersonville, in Lake View and at Water Tower Place.

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MEMOIR from page 21
that triggered another set of thoughts.” Though he still wears women’s running shoes, Cannon said “I think companies have gotten better about this opportunity visit www.allchicago.org/Careers (3/27/19-4)

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DISH from page 28
Willy Wonka than Albert Einstein. It’s not based on science, but it’s very well thought out—and people tell us what we say is true. It’s a different way to buy candy.”

Switching to another facet, McDonald said, “There are so many aspects to running a store. I had to teach myself—so many different variables, even when ordering.” When the 2008 recession hit, she said it was a scary time, but “things were settling out—and then the New York Times called in February 2009, saying it was doing a story on candy stores and the recession. I talked about how people saw it was a small indulgence. It was only, like, 40 words in the Times, but that was my tipping point, really. It got so many people so interested.”

Candyality has a huge selection of retro candies, but there are many other offerings as well. “We’re known for our licorice bar as well,” McDonald said. “It speaks to my dad, who was a huge licorice fan.” However, there are also all sorts of chocolate treats, cotton candy and even popcorn mixes.

Interestingly, although Candyality has a website, McDonald said she feels “we have to stop people from using the internet. Local people don’t necessarily shop locally; people don’t go out and experience anything anymore. They’re not getting that tactile experience—and candy is very tactile.”

“I love candy, but what I love more is seeing how people interact with it,” McDonald said. “I love the impact candy can have on people’s lives.”

See http://candyality.com/.
Meet & Greet (Hola & Ola)

Chicago Foundation for Women’s 2019 Young Professionals Mixer

LGBT Chamber of Commerce of Illinois hosts. Co-chaired by Roxanne Meyer (CNA) & Kris Sangari (Events With a K). Join them for networking, learning, and Carnival University. Find Young Professionals Mixer on Facebook 5:30pm Carnival 702 W Fulton St., Chicago

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