Chicago businesses, theaters and more respond to COVID-19

Primary Fight Night
Biden takes Illinois; trans candidate makes history

Ann Morris Dies
Law librarian was also a member of Artemis Singers. Photo by Picture Day

Marc Loveless
Longtime activist dies at 59.

Middle Ground
Middletown's Sandy Duncan talks with WCT. PR photo

Response
Chicago businesses, theaters and more respond to COVID-19
WINDY CITY TIMES ANNOUNCEMENT

Windy City Times is distributing this edition via our wonderful delivery crew, but only to open locations around the city, and our boxes. It is also available as a PDF download on the top right of our website, www.windy-citymediagroup.com, and past issues are under the archives section.

It is almost certain the city will create stronger social distancing rules that will limit our ability to deliver a physical copy of the paper soon, so upcoming issues may just be online.

If we are forced to shut down print because we need to obey orders and protect our team, our full PDF will be available to replace the print for now.

Windy City Times will be facing a difficult economic situation with the loss of advertising. Help us pay our team by donating to http://windycitymediagroup.com/donate1.php

— WINDY CITY TIMES
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**MODERN ‘FAMILY’**
Out real-estate agent Amrit Kapai is part of the Bravo series Family Karma.

**ENERGY KICK**
Debbie Pacchioni has gone from playing soccer to being involved in the renewable energy industry.

**THAT’S SHOW BIZ**
Find out the latest about Sam Smith, Friday the 13th and COVID-19 cancellations.

**UPCOMING 2020 WINDY CITY TIMES PRINT DATES:**
April 1, 2020 May 7, 2020 July 22, 2020
April 15, 2020 June 10, 2020 Aug. 5, 2020
April 29, 2020 June 24, 2020 Aug. 19, 2020
May 13, 2020 July 8, 2020 Sept. 2, 2020

**LONE STAR SOJOURN**
A trip to San Antonio (left) revealed a big city with a small-town feel—along with plenty of cultural attractions.

Photo courtesy of Visit San Antonio

**NEW 2020 FORESTER**
0.9% 96 FORESTERS TO CHOOSE

**NEW 2020 SUBARU OUTBACK**
0.9%

**NEW 2020 SUBARU FORESTER**

**NEW 2020 SUBARU CROSSTREK**
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ELECTIONS 2020

Biden takes Illinois; trans candidate makes history

BY ANDREW DAVIS AND MATT SIMONETTE

Former Vice President Joe Biden, building on the momentum he’s acquired in the past two weeks, easily defeated U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders (and, technically, Tulsi Gabbard) in the Illinois Democratic primary on March 17.

Biden also easily won Florida (and he was projected to win Arizona as well), as Sanders’ lack of support was attributed to everything from Biden’s overall backing from African Americans to Sanders’ throns of young voters being negatively affected by the COVID-19 situation.

Biden’s victory was called early in Illinois (as he was leading Sanders 59 percent to 35 percent at 9:15 p.m. CT), and followed wins in South Carolina as well as most of the Super Tuesday states. (Incidentally, Ohio was also supposed to hold its primary March 17, but pushed it to June, citing coronavirus-related concerns.) The next big contest is slated for Tuesday, April 28, when New York, Pennsylvania and three other states are slated to hold primaries.

On the local front, there was a historic win for Jill Rose Quinn—who became the state’s first transgender judge.

Federal races

Most of the Congressional races ran true to form, with Democratic incumbents easily defeating challengers. This included, among others, U.S. Rep. Robin Kelly rolling over Marcus Lewis, incumbent Mike Quigley winning over progressive attorney Brian Burns, and longtime U.S. Rep. Danny Davis sailing by three challengers: Kina Collins, Anthony Clark and Dave Schanbacher. Others—such as U.S. Reps. Jan Schakowsky, Brad Schneider, Sean Casten and Lauren Underwood—ran unopposed.

However, the most closely watched federal race was the one involving Democratic U.S. Rep. Tom Lipinski and challenger Marie Newman. Newman claimed victory, stating, “What a journey. I am bursting with pride and gratitude for the amazing coalition who helped bring about much needed change in our district. We are going to work together to lower healthcare costs, to fight climate change, and to continue building a hospitable community for everyone, no matter where you come from.” Lipinski made some moves that many Democrats consider controversial, such as recently aligning with Republicans who ultimately want to overturn the abortion case Roe v. Wade.

By the way, Casten could be headed toward an intriguing November showdown, as it looked he was slated to go up against Republican Jeanne Ives in the general election. Two years ago, Ives (who is far-right) ran an ad mocking, among other groups, transgender Illinoisans.

County-wide posts

In the local election’s most high-profile race, incumbent Cook County State’s Attorney Kim Foxx captured about 48.1 percent of the vote to keep her office. Opponent Bill Conway, who ran an especially aggressive campaign, captured 32.5 percent of the vote, followed by Donna Moore (14.2 percent) and Bob Fioretti (5.1 percent). Foxx competes against Republican Patrick O’Brien in November; he captured 73.2 percent of the vote against opponent Christopher Pfannkuche.

Gay attorney and activist Jacob Meister attempted a second attempt to win the office of the Clerk of the Cook County Circuit Court, but, as of press time, he trailed his opponents with 13.3 percent of the vote. Iris Martinez (34.7 percent) was in the lead for that post, followed by Michael Cabonargi (27.5 percent) and Richard Boykin (24.5 percent).

State and local races

The Illinois Senate races primarily featured Democratic incumbents who either ran unopposed or did not have serious competition. They include state Sens. Heather Steans (D-7th District), Kimberly Lightfoot (D-4th), Antonio Munoz (1st) and Dave Koehler (D-66th).

A number of incumbent LGBT state representatives ran unopposed this election cycle and will presumably return to Springfield next term. All Democrats, they include state Reps. Lamont Robinson (5th District), Kelly Cassidy (12th), Greg Harris (13th) and Sam Yingling (62nd).

Harris has been House Majority Leader since early 2019.

Cassidy was co-chair to the campaign of acting state Rep. Yoni Pizer’s bid to hold on to the 12th District office—vacated by now state Sen. Sara Feigenholtz. As of press time, Pizer, endorsed by Mayor Lori Lightfoot, (40.3) trailed Margaret Croke (47.6 percent).

Pizer was not the only openly LGBT candidate in the 12th District race; his opponents included James Garfield (5.9 percent), Marty Malone (3.1 percent) and Ryan Podges (3.1 percent), all of whom are openly gay.

Among other LGBT candidates, Ty Cratic, who has worked on a number of political campaigns, lost a bid to represent the 9th District, in an extremely crowded race. That contest seemed to be led by Lakes Collins, who had 46.5 percent of the vote. Cratic had 7.6 percent.

Michelle Darbo, a Norwood Park career firefighter and paramedic won the Democratic spot on the general election ballot to represent the 20th District in November. Having won 64.6 percent of the vote, she’ll be up against Republican Brad Stephens.

Denika McMillen, a Naperville social worker lost her bid to represent the 41st District. She received 29.9 percent of the vote while opponent Janet Yang Rohr received 70.1 percent.

Deidre Baumann, vying for the C. Sheehan vacancy, trailed Maura McMahen Zeller in a relatively tight three-person race; James Crawley came in last in a three-person race for the Roti vacancy; and James T. Derico Jr. was third in a four-person race for the Coghlan vacancy. However, Michael Forti (8th Subcircuit-Gubin vacancy) ran unopposed.

Family-law attorney Brad Trowbridge, who was a social worker before he became a lawyer, lost his third bid for a judicial post. He ran for the Fleming vacancy in 8th Cook County Subcircuit, garnering 45.67 percent of the vote against opponent Jonathan Clark Green’s 54.33 percent.

Transgender attorney Jill Rose Quinn, who received a number of key endorsements, among them from Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, scored a big win in her bid for a Cook County Circuit Court judgeship (K. Sheehan vacancy). Quinn won 62.17 percent of the vote. She will be the first transgender judge in Illinois history.

Oak Park resident Levander Smith waged his first campaign for Cook County Circuit Court judge while he sat on the bench. In February 2019, the Illinois Supreme Court appointed Smith as a judge (in the domestic-violence division), with a term set to expire Dec. 7, 2020. Smith won March 17 by capturing 44.99 percent of the vote.

Visit WindyCityMediaGroup.com for updated results.

Jill Rose Quinn.
Photo by Stephanie Marder

Joe Biden.
Tim Carroll Photography
Chicago businesses, groups undertake COVID-19 preparations

BY MATT SIMONETTE

As Windy City Times neared its deadline, organizations and businesses within Chicago’s LGBT community were readying to cope with measures undertaken by state and local authorities to mitigate the impact of the coronavirus.

Gov. JB Pritzker on March 15 ordered all restaurants and bars in the state to close, effective at the close of business on March 16. The order followed Pritzker and other officials expressed their displeasure with Chicagoans who’d ignored recommendations to avoid bars and large gatherings the evenings of March 13-14, when many were celebrating ahead of St. Patrick’s Day. Pritzker’s order is effective through March 30.

On March 15, The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended no gatherings with 50 or more persons for eight weeks.

Pritzker’s order will surely have a significant impact upon local LGBT-owned and operated businesses. Windy City Times will closely follow how the community pulls itself through. LGBT-advocacy organizations related a number of preparations they’d been undertaking as Chicago copes with the virus.

Howard Brown Health announced March 12 that its facilities and walk-in clinics will remain open to patients and keep regular hours, though some meetings will be moved online. Howard Brown officials also said that they are in preparations for outdoor triage stations to assist persons who have flu-like symptoms or who believe they have been exposed to coronavirus.

South Side-based Brave Space Alliance (BSA) announced March 15 that it would be moving its programming online with a “virtual drop-in center” that would incorporate aspects of BSA’s workshops.

“BSA, in partnership with Center on Halsted, will also be undertaking a “rapid-response crisis pantry” that will collect food donations and compile lists of Chicagoans in need.

In a March 13 statement, the Center’s CEO, Modesto Tico Valle, said his organization would be taking measures “to flatten the curve so that illness does not overwhelm our medical infrastructure as vaccines and cures are sought. Social distancing is key to containment. We are focused on downsizing large events and preparing should a closure be necessary.”

Valle said that face-to-face senior social programming will be cancelled for the remainder of the month, but that a limited number of boxed lunches will continue to be available for senior clients on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings. Youth programming will continue but will be drastically scaled back. HIV testing will be available by appointment only.

In a March 12 statement, AIDS Foundation of Chicago President and CEO John Peller said, “At AFC, we care about our community’s health and safety and the impact of COVID-19. We are following the advice from the CDC, Illinois Department of Public Health and Chicago Department of Public Health and will make changes based on their recommendations, while having a strong contingency plan in place for AFC.

“AFC is also standing with our Asian and Asian-American community as they—unjustly—have been the target of racism and bias, which only makes it more difficult to keep everyone healthy.”

COVID-19 guidelines regarding people experiencing homelessness

The Chicago Coalition for the Homeless released recommendations for state and local governmental response to COVID-19 among people experiencing homelessness.

The coalition urges the City of Chicago to immediately identify government resources (city, county, state, federal) to create isolation/prevention housing with supportive services in hotels or federal/military facilities for the following groups:

— Individuals who are staying on the street during the social distancing period, prioritizing those of vulnerable populations (age 60+ or with underlying health conditions);
— Individuals staying in shelter, especially large congregate dormitory type settings, or doubling up and exhibiting symptoms;
— Individuals of vulnerable populations (age 60+ or with underlying health conditions) staying in shelters, even if they are asymptomatic;
— Individuals who contracted COVID-19 and are discharged from the hospital, but still need to rehabilitate and/or isolate.

See ChicagoHomeless.org.

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IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT DESCOVY
(des-KOH-vee)
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MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DESCOVY for PrEP
Before starting and while taking DESCOVY for PrEP:
- You must be HIV-negative. You must get tested for HIV immediately before and at least every 3 months while taking DESCOVY. If you think you were exposed to HIV, tell your healthcare provider right away. They may want to do more tests to confirm that you are still HIV-negative.
- Many HIV tests can miss HIV infection in a person who has recently become infected. Symptoms of new HIV infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting or while taking DESCOVY.
- DESCOVY does not prevent other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom to reduce the risk of getting STIs.
- DESCOVY by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. Do not take DESCOVY for PrEP unless you are confirmed to be HIV negative.

DESCOVY may cause serious side effects, including:
- Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection. Your healthcare provider will test you for HBV. If you have HBV and stop taking DESCOVY, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking DESCOVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check or give you HBV medicine.

ASK A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER IF DESCOVY FOR PrEP IS RIGHT FOR YOU. TO LEARN MORE, VISIT ABOUTDESCOVY.COM.

ABOUT DESCOVY FOR PrEP
DESCOVY for PrEP is a once-daily prescription medicine for adults and adolescents at risk of HIV who weigh at least 77 pounds. It helps lower the chances of getting HIV through sex.

DESCOVY for PrEP is not for everyone:
- It is not for use in people assigned female at birth who are at risk of getting HIV from vaginal sex, because its effectiveness has not been studied.
- You must be HIV-negative before and while taking DESCOVY for PrEP.

To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Do NOT take DESCOVY for PrEP if you:
- Already have HIV infection or if you do not know your HIV status. If you have HIV-1, you need medicine other than DESCOVY alone to treat HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only DESCOVY, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat now and in the future.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF DESCOVY FOR PrEP
DESCOVY can cause serious side effects, including:
- Those in the “Most Important Information About DESCOVY for PrEP” section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure. Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with DESCOVY. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking DESCOVY.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF DESCovy FOR PrEP (cont’d)

Common side effects in people taking DESCovy for PrEP include diarrhea, nausea, headache, fatigue, and stomach pain.

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

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

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

BEFORE TAKING DESCovy FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:
• Have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis.
• Have any other medical conditions.

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

HOW TO TAKE DESCovy FOR PrEP

• Take 1 tablet once a day, every day, not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
• Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
• Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months. You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking DESCovy for PrEP.

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

• Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners. If your partner is living with HIV, your risk of getting HIV is lower if your partner consistently takes HIV treatment every day.
• Get tested for other STIs. Some STIs make it easier for HIV to infect you.
• Practice safer sex by using latex or polyurethane condoms.
• Talk to your healthcare provider about all the ways to help reduce HIV risk.

GET MORE INFORMATION

• This is only a brief summary of important information about DESCovy for PrEP. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more.
• Go to DESCovy.com/prep or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
• If you need help paying for your medicine, visit DESCovy.com/prep for program information.

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Activist Marc Loveless passes away at 59

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Activist Marc Loveless has passed away. His death was reported by multiple individuals on social media March 9. Loveless was 59.

Loveless was found unconscious at Steamworks, 3246 N. Halsted St., late in the evening of March 8. According to a report by CWBChicago, Loveless was later pronounced dead at Advocate Illinois Masonic Hospital in the early morning of March 9.

The causes of death were given as arteriosclerosis and obesity. (Windy City Times independently verified this.) Another individual, 55-year-old Donald Fraser, was found to be unresponsive at Steamworks just two days before, on the evening of March 6. Fraser passed away at Illinois Masonic Hospital in the early morning of March 8. According to a report by CWBChicago, Loveless was later pronounced dead at Advocate Illinois Masonic Hospital.

The circumstances of Loveless’ passing, while undoubtedly in causes and events for LGBT-rights, especially as they pertained to LGBT Chicagoans of color. He recently attempted to mount a run for the state House of Representatives, which proved unsuccessful, as did a 2015 bid to win office as Chicago City Clerk. He was active with the Rainbow PUSH Coalition and frequently worked with U.S. Rep. Danny Davis. Activists, politicians and advocacy officials who worked alongside Loveless said that he and his work would be missed.

In a statement to Windy City Times, Davis said, “Marc Loveless represented the best of what citizenship means in a free and democratic society. He has been a true advocate for all people to experience the basic freedoms and opportunities due humankind. Marc was never far from the people, but he was always a leader, looking ahead, organizing for the next battle. Marc’s personal life, like his public life was profoundly, selflessly humanistic. He was lovingly co-parenting a delightful four-year-old child he had taken in, who loved him in return with equal passion. Like the hundreds of others who knew and worked with Marc, I will miss him deeply.”

AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) CEO and President John Peller said, “Chicago has lost an unstoppable advocate, champion for the voiceless and fierce fighter for justice. Marc was everywhere, seemingly at once. Just last week, Marc was at AFC’s annual meeting cheering us on. Marc will long be remembered for his incredible legacy of activism on a host of intersecting LGBTQ and progressive issues.”

Activist Ben Montgomery called Loveless “a pioneer. He believed in the health and social welfare of the LGBT-plus community. He championed public policy at the city, county, state and federal levels, tackling issues including HIV/AIDS, housing, LGBT-plus youth, needed funding and decriminalization of HIV.

“Marc was my good friend, and he and I often tackled these issues together. The African-American Response Act was reinstated through Marc’s leadership of a group of elected officials and community stakeholders, restoring $3 million to the Act that targets the African-American community. He also championed the Quality of Life legislation in Springfield, along with myself and Michael O’Connor, which resulted in the creation of the “Red Ribbon Cash” lottery ticket that raised over $11 million in HIV/AIDS grants.

Montgomery called Loveless “a true community organizer” and noted that he at various times brought together community members to discuss health issues, violence in the LGBT community and safe sex.

“The African-American LGBT+ community lost a five-star general who led by example,” added Montgomery. “[Loveless] will be missed.”

Loveless had a controversial and tumultuous legal history, and faced a significant number of allegations within the community over the years. When asked about those allegations, Michael O’Connor—himself a longtime activist—said, “All leadership is controversial until they die. That’s my comment.”

O’Connor, like Montgomery, referred to Loveless as a “five-star general in the fight for justice and respect,” and praised him especially for being willing to stand up to racism within the LGBT community.

“Like all families, we had fights,” O’Connor said. “I’d known Marc since we were much younger. Marc was a co-founder of the Rocks Coordinating Committee. We broke the segregation among white gay men along the lakefront. We were told by the alderman at the time that we were not part of the celebration. He wrote a letter telling the park district that. We formed the committee. I still have the letter with the park district’s response.

“Marc fought racism—[especially] blatant racism that took place amongst white gay men, who purported to all Black legislators [whose constituencies were] south of Madison, that, in order for them to not be homophobic, they had to support the LGBT agenda. Our response was: ‘Not south of Madison without diversity.’

“I went to the Democratic National Convention with Marc, way back when,” O’Connor added. “Marc was a brother in the struggle. He knew freedom wasn’t free.”

Activist Keith Green said in a Facebook post, “While Marc’s primary focus was on the lives of LGBTQ people, his ultimate mission was justice and equity for all Black people. Whether you liked what he had to say or not, his voice will undoubtedly be missed.”

Green urged the community not to lose sight of the circumstances of Loveless’ passing. “As we grieve his life and legacy as a community, however, we must also grapple with the mysterious circumstances surrounding his death,” Green said. “Marc was one of the most sex-positive people I’ve ever known, so his legacy is in no way diminished by the fact that he was found unresponsive in a bathhouse. But his legacy would be in vain if we didn’t demand to know how and why he was the second man found unresponsive in the same bathhouse this past weekend.

“Something is wrong. And, if Marc was alive, he would be all over this. So, in his absence and memory, I can assure you that I will be all over this. And I hope the rest of the community that

On View March 6 – May 31, 2020

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Marc saw something in me by which he nominated me to be one of the co-chairs for the March on Springfield for Marriage Equality by which, together, it was wildly successful. Furthermore, when it came to LGBTQ+ rights in general, he was always demanding justice and respect—hence the name of his coalition and foundation he founded and led, by which no one holds a candle to how relentless he was.”

Arnold added, “Marc, you are gone from the body, but closer in spirit, and we will always love and miss you and never stop for as you used to always say, 'Doing nothing is not an option.'”

CWBCicago’s March 9 report on the Steamworks incidents is at cwbcicago.com.

**Family and friends raising money for Loveless funeral**

Family and friends of activist Marc Loveless are attempting to raise funds for funeral services to mark his passing.

Solomon Arnold, founding executive director and board president of In Demand Entertainment, said, “We plan to hold a candle in [Loveless’] honor, mourn his loss, support his family, help continue to plan his services, and forge ahead to address countless injustices our comrade once led [activism against] and, through his legacy, [will continue] to accomplish numerous initiatives. We ask everyone to first and foremost respect his privacy, for those who believe in God or a higher power to send your prayers, for those who can donate to his services to send funds via a GoFundMe link organized by his family.”

Arnold added that an announcement regarding logistics of the funeral will be forthcoming, and for more information the public can follow accounts on Facebook: https://facebook.com/Solomon.Infinity or https://facebook.com/ide411; Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/idemgmt; and Twitter: https://twitter.com/idemgmt.


**PASSAGES**

**Brian Patrick Goodman**

Brian Patrick Goodman passed from this life Nov. 21, 2019.

He had just returned from four days in New York City—where, despite his two-year battle with ALS, he saw two Broadway shows and met the casts, toured The Museum of Modern Art and Central Park, and enjoyed time with his two best friends, Kathy Cecchin of LA and Jim Fischer of Bangkok, who flew in to join him.

Brian was born June 18, 1962, in Portland, Michigan, to a large and loving family. He attended Hope College (where he majored in theater) and performed at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. He moved to Chicago, acting and waiting tables. In 1988, in the lobby of Steppenwolf Theatre where he worked, Brian met Mike Maliszewski, his partner and husband of 31 years. Together they traveled extensively, throughout the United States and the world: Spain, Italy, France, Mexico, Canada, Thailand, Australia, Cambodia and Peru. Brian became an executive assistant for several prestigious non-for profit organizations until he was diagnosed with ALS in November 2017.

Brian loved theater and kids. His most fulfilling days were spent with The About Face Youth Theatre. As a co-founder and important leader of the program, Brian became a gay dad to hundreds of youth, helping them to find their voices through his example. It was his proudest accomplishment and a great legacy. Thanks to the strong foundation that Brian helped to create, About Face Youth Theatre just turned 20 years old—and Brian attended the opening night performance last summer. And, yes, he cried.

Brian’s family requests that donations be made in his honor to About Face Youth Theatre. People may do so at http://aboutfacetheater.com/support-us/donate, and in the box labeled “Anything you’d like to add?” please mention Brian’s name. A Chicago memorial celebration will be held Sunday, April 19; people may register at http://www.eventbrite.com/e/celebration-of-the-life-of-brian-goodman-tickets-96360014397.

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PASSAGES

Ann Morris

Ann Morris passed away March 7. She was 67.

Ann was born in Chicago on April 5, 1952, and grew up in Texas. She returned to Chicago to attend the University of Chicago where she earned her BA in general studies in the humanities in 1975 and received her MA from the Graduate Library School in 1981.

She became involved in the lesbian feminist community while in college. She was a co-founder of Hot Wire Magazine and a member of Artemis Singers. [Editor's note: The group Artemis Singers is Chicago’s lesbian feminist chorus.] She was a founding member of the the Queens Rule Poker Club and helped to design the group’s popular card deck, which contains not a queen, lady and maiden instead of a king, queen and jack.

Ann’s career as a law librarian began while she was still in graduate school. She served as Head of Circulation at the U of C Law School Library from 1976-1979.

Her additional professional timeline included:

1982-1983: Head librarian, Rooks Pitts & Poust
1983-1984: Director of the library, Holleb & Coff, Ltd.
1984-2015: Head librarian, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

Ann retired from Skadden et al in February 2015.

Her professional association memberships included the Chicago Association of Law Libraries (CALL), the Special Libraries Association (SLA), and the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL). She was still a member of the AALL at the time of her death.

Ann and her wife, Vada Woods, met through Artemis Singers and were legally wed Feb. 24, 2012. Throughout their 36-year relationship Ann and Vada enjoyed sports—especially supporting women’s sports—most recently as season ticket holders with the Chicago Sky since the team entered the WNBA as well as theater, music and dance concerts, and travel. In addition to Artemis Singers, Ann sang alongside Vada as members of the Sing To Live Choir. Ann was also a member of the Skokie Concert Choir.

In addition, she served on the boards of the Thousand Waves Foundation and the Skokie Concert Choir.

Ann began her battle with breast cancer in 1993 and, after initial surgery and chemotherapy, enjoyed 15 years of good health. In 2008, an examination revealed metastasis and Ann fought a fierce battle with the disease, undergoing numerous treatments as well as many wonderful times with Vada and a wide circle of friends, before passing peacefully at Evanston Hospital.

Micki Leventhal, a close friend of Ann, told Windy City Times, “My spouse, Con, and I met Ann and Vada in the late ’80s, when we first came out into the Chicago lesbian community—probably at a Mountain Moving Coffeehouse event. We would socialize at parties celebrating the seasons, at Artemis Singers concerts and many other fun occasions. Con is also a member of the Queens Rule poker group. But it has been over the past ten or so years, that our friendship has really grown. We are huge fans of performing arts and enjoyed a wide and eclectic range of theater, music and dance together—even dubbing our foursome the ‘Culture Vulture Crew.’

“Over the years, as Ann’s struggle with cancer continued, I often marveled at her ability to continue to revel in the joys of life rather than dwell on the negative. She, with Vada an absolute rock of love and support at her side, was a model of grace, courage and dignity to her final breath.”

Ruth Clark—a member of Artemis Singers and the Queens Rule Poker Club—added, “I’ve been friends with Ann and Vada for over 35 years. Ann began singing with Artemis within a few years of its founding in 1980 and was a stalwart in the group for many years. With her dry wit and innate practicality, Ann could be depended upon to quell unnecessary drama that threatened to derail us during rehearsal.

Turn to page 11
Sister Sheila Lyne dies at 83
Sister Sheila Lyne—a member of the Religious Sisters of Mercy for 67 years who led Chicago’s Mercy Hospital as president and CEO for decades, and also served as commissioner of public health for Chicago from 1991 to 2000—died March 10 of natural causes, The Chicago Tribune reported. She was 83.

Not long after being appointed health commissioner, Lyne met with representatives from Chicago Catholic Women, Catholic Advocates for Lesbian and Gay Rights, Planned Parenthood, the National Organization for Women and the Howard Brown Health (then Howard Brown Memorial Clinic), and said she would do whatever worked from a public health standpoint.

Among the programs she established were the Office of Violence Prevention, which set up a Violence Prevention Strategic Plan; and the Office of Lesbian and Gay Health—then one of only two in the country.

“We recognize that there is intense fear over the threat of COVID-19 and encourage our community to educate themselves, wash their hands, and quell the rising misinformation and widespread fear.”

The organization also provided links for staying healthy, including CDC.gov.

NQAPIA denounces COVID-19-related racist attacks
The National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA) issued a statement denouncing “racist attacks, discrimination, and blatant xenophobia that has occurred in light of COVID-19 CoronaVirus.”

NQAPIA said, “While the coronavirus poses a very real threat, public reaction has led to subsequent harm. We have seen multiple cases of Asian Americans being attacked, a decline in customers at Asian-owned establishments, and discrimination at work and in public spaces. While the presence of Asians and Asian Americans in public spaces is being increasingly perceived as a threat, we take a moment to recognize and stand with the black, Latinx, indigenous, first nations, and Muslim communities for whom this is a daily reality. We urge our community to work with us to combat xenophobia and misinformation.

Illinois ALICE report released
Majority Leader Kimberly A. Lightford (D-Maywood) joined the United Way in releasing their report on Illinois ALICE (asset-limited, income-constrained and employed) households

The report focuses on families living above the federal poverty level, but below the threshold of a basic survival budget of $57,144 for a family of four and $19,212 for a single adult.

Lawmakers will use the data to help better understand the needs of Illinoisans as they make decisions to help struggling families.

The full report is at UnitedWayIllinois.org/alice.

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viewpoints

THE AMAZON TRAIL

Mick’s potato fertilizer

When I asked for advice about growing potatoes, our friend Mary wrote, “Here is what Mick does: blood meal, green sand, or wood ash, bone meal, a handful of each above item for each potato plant, mix in wheel barrel with dirt and some peat moss, and steer poop. Love M&M.”

Or, said Mick, who grows blue and other exotic potatoes, we can just buy an organic fertilizer. Whew. I found the prospect of mixing manure with soil a bit unappetizing. Which is why, last year, when a neighbor gave me her handmade wooden raised bed, I put off loading it at all and used it only as a support for plastic planters and grow bags. Not exactly best practice.

But it was practice and this year I had plans to search out however many cubic units I needed of organic fertilizer stuff and get serious. I learned the stores we have around here don’t stock anything of the sort practically until spring. We dutifully saved egg cartons to make our own potato starts. I waited a little too long. Just as stores began stocking big bags of soil in their parking lots, going to the store became dangerous. One day I spoke with my sweetheart about taking the precaution of growing some food of our own in case of extended quarantines, or in case the stores and farmers’ markets close, or the farmers, goddess forbid, fall victim to the pandemic. The next day my sweetheart went on her last shopping expedition until it’s once again “safe” out there.

She insisted on going to the stores herself because of my age. As much as I wanted to at least share the risks associated with moving among large numbers of people, my sweetheart wouldn’t hear of it because I’m the elder. She is too good to me.

The CDC has classified me, and almost everyone I know, as older adults with increased vulnerability to COVID-19 and its ilk. Infectious disease experts define “older adults” as anyone age 60 and up. Today’s reports show the mortality rate for infected people in this age group in China is at 15 percent, compared to 3.4 percent in younger sufferers.

This does not make me want to take my temperature every five minutes, but I do yearn for an old-fashioned thermometer—the kind without a battery that goes kaput when it’s most needed. Also, I’ve been a reliable hand washer for a long time and I’m perfectly willing to become temporarily OCD about it.

It’s the old and vulnerable part that gets to me. Nothing wrong with either state—I just don’t feel I’m there yet. So not only is the Evil Virus a physical threat, it’s messing with my self-image. I wasn’t planning on thinking of myself as old until, say, age eighty-five. Maybe ninety. But the experts don’t agree.

Mostly, I do not want the misery of any kind of flu for my sweetheart, my family, myself, friends, or any human on the planet. Last time I had a flu was in December 1977. It hung on into January. There were three of us living in a townhouse with two bathrooms and six cats. For about two weeks, I primarily got out of bed only to take care of the cats. And my throat was so painful I never smoked again, which was the good news.

Today I had to make a decision: go to my balance class at the 60+ Activity Center or play it safe. In the nick of time a local online blog mentioned that the Center was now closed. Tomorrow I’m scheduled to attend a community breakfast. Do I trust that I’m not infected and sickening others by attending? How do any of us know the neighborhood cooks are robustly healthy? As someone said today, we’d have to eat six feet from one another.

The expression “we live in dangerous times” just became more meaningful. The choices I make today may impact a whole lot of other people tomorrow, and on many levels. Their decisions may do the same for me. I’m not prepper, but Mick’s potatoes will come in very handy for him and for Mary if those two big words, “national emergency” haven’t come too late. For me, it’s back to grow bags and planters propped on the raised bed with some houseplant fertilizer and high hopes. Be well.

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Stop comparing coronavirus to early HIV/AIDS.

Just stop.

People ask me if our lives today feel like the early years of HIV/AIDS, and I want to scream. There is no comparison. Just stop.

No one cared about people dying of AIDS in the early years of the pandemic. The stock market didn’t budge. The president didn’t hold news conferences. Billions of dollars were not spent.

In the early 1980s, AIDS was killing all the right people—gay people and drug addicts, and Black men and women. There is no comparison to a new viral outbreak that might kill your grandmother and her friends in the nursing home.

To have any conversation during the early HIV pandemic meant talking about anal sex and sharing needles and condoms and religion and who God was punishing. We had to climb over mountains of social bias in order to educate people on the basic facts of risk and transmission.

Social distancing was easier then, because the bodies of your friends were so consumed by dark purple skin lesions they were barely recognizable as human. There were no congressional bills promising them paid sick leave or help with their medical bills. They were kicked out of their apartments and then died in the guest room of whomever had the space.

Tens of thousands of people died of AIDS-related complications before our government began to address it. Many, many, many of those people spent their last breaths in the center of protests in the streets, begging for justice and relief. Their ashes were dumped on the White House lawn.

That activism has reverberations today, in the work between public health and community health advocates. That’s a difference, not a similarity.

To attempt to draw blithe comparisons—oh! This feels so scary and there are lines at the grocery store and people have to stay away from each other. Hey, does this feel like when HIV happened?—is an insult to the bravery and sacrifice of the living and the dead.

There is no comparison. Fuck that. Just stop.
NOTE: The following information was accurate as of March 14. In a fluid and rapidly changing environment, new information is arriving daily, so check the websites of individual theater companies and venues.

All of Chicago’s larger theaters have suspended performances in keeping with the response of city, county and state officials to the COVID-19 pandemic. The following companies and venues have closed current shows and/or rescheduled upcoming openings: Apollo Theater Center, Black Ensemble Theater, Broadway Playhouse (at Water Tower Place), Cadillac Palace Theatre, Chicago Symphony Orchestra (Symphony Center), CIBC Theatre, Court Theatre, Drury Lane Theatre (Oakbrook Terrace), Goodman Theatre, Joffrey Ballet (upcoming performances at the Auditorium Theatre), Lookingglass Theatre (at the Water Tower Pumping Station), Lyric Opera of Chicago (The Ring cycle being cancelled), Nederlander Theatre (formerly the Oriental), Northlight Theatre (Skokie), Paramount Theatre (Aurora), The Second City, Steppenwolf Theatre, Theater at the Center (Munice, Indiana), Victory Gardens Theater and Writers Theatre (Glencoe).

Chicago Shakespeare Theater still hopes to open its short visit by the Royal Shakespeare Company (April 15-May 2) as planned. Teatro Zinzanni is continuing performances but reducing the audience size for each show. Lyric Opera of Chicago has cancelled its Ring Cycle but still hopes to stage its late spring musical, 42nd Street, as planned.

All theaters listed above are venues of 250-3,600 seats.

Most smaller theaters remain open, at least for the time being. Most seat fewer than 100 people and many even fewer than 50. However, a few smaller Off Loop theaters and venues have suspended performances. Most significant is The Den, which has completely closed, thereby shutting down current and near-term productions by its resident theaters: First Floor Theatre, Haven, Irish Theatre of Chicago, New Colony and WildClaw (sic). One-night and weekend performances of comics and musicians at The Den also are cancelled.

Other small off-Loop closures include A Red Orchid Theatre, Chicago Children’s Theatre, House Theatre of Chicago (at Chopin Theatre), Kokandy Productions (at Chopin Theatre), Lifeline Theatre, Raven Theatre, Shattered Globe Theatre (at Theater Wit), Silent Theatre (at Tapestry Fellowship Church), Silk Road Rising (at the Chicago Temple Building), Timeline (sic) Theatre and Trap Door Theatre.

All subscribers and single-ticket holders are urged to call or email—and please be patient—the box-office services of the various theater companies and venues. From the Chicago Symphony Orcheatra and Broadway In Chicago down to the smaller venues, all are providing exchanges and refunds in some manner.

Dates for re-opening are fluid. The Second City is closed initially only through March 26 but is certain to re-evaluate as needed. The great majority of venues are closed for at least 30 days, through mid-April, at least, or the end of April.

There is one longer-range cancellation: Cirque du Soleil has cancelled the June 5-28 return engagement of Alegria.

The League of Chicago Theatres stressed that member companies that remain open are taking extra precautions: providing hand sanitizers, cleaning seats and public areas after each performance and (in a few cases) reducing the number of tickets available for any one performance.
THEATER REVIEW
Mrs. Warren’s Profession
Playwright: George Bernard Shaw
At: Promethean Theatre Ensemble at Otherworld Theatre, 3914 N. Clark St.
Tickets: $30; PrometheanTheatre.org
Runs through: March 29 [suspended because of COVID-19 outbreak]

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

[NOTE: Performances have been suspended due to COVID-19, but Windy City Times feels this review should run to acknowledge the work of the artists involved.]

Contrary to legend, references to sex weren’t what outraged critics at the 1902 premiere of George Bernard Shaw’s latest “problem” play—earlier audiences had survived Ibsen, after all—but the author’s audacity in presenting the topic alongside the word “money” thus exposing a link earlier audiences had survived. Shaw didn’t mean to prey upon the moral sensibilities of his audience, it seems, so much as to show the economic underpinnings of the mystery that obscured their practical underpinnings in a less enlightened age, making candid discussion unobjectionable nowadays—but start talking about the lucrative dividends generated by real-estate investment in “private hotels” providing harlots for hire, and the juices begin to flow.

The economics of intercourse—both carnal and commercial—are at the center of Melanie Spewock’s brisk two-hour adaptation, which dispenses with Shaw’s more protracted philosophical musings to focus instead on the ethical conflicts between Mrs. Kitty Warren, whose managerial skills in the—um, hospitality industry, have rewarded her lavishly, and her estranged daughter Vivian, whose Cambridge degree and mathematical acumen has helped her for a successful career in the traditional masculine spheres of business and finance, while instilling in her a repugnance for the life of pampered idleness her mother envisions for her.

As the two strong-minded women argue the mother envisions for her, contracts of an erotic nature begin to flow. To be sure, they are contributed by sundry male companions. They are bookish aesthete Praed, who proclaims himself an anarchist, but wils at the slightest sign of contention; boystish chamer Frank, who regards “Vivvums” as his childhood chum and future bankroller; reformed ruckleh Rev. Gardner, whose holy office barely conceals the evidence of his youthful indiscretions; and materialistic Sir George Crofts, unabashed sensualist and supplier of the seed money for the Warren empire. The text is not the only element undergoing changes in size facilitating its configuration to Otherworld’s compact Bradbury stage. Scenery is minimal, with hosts frequently fetching chairs from offstage for newly arrived guests, augmented by split-second timed sound effects and costumes period-perfect to the last chemise and petticoat. To compensate for this spartan stage picture, Michael D. Graham’s direction makes extensive use of the subtly nuanced body language visible to spectators seated at close range: the men’s individual reactions to Vivian’s bone-crushing handshake, for example, or the Edwardian diva affectations adopted by Kitty at her most manipulative—all executed without a hint of exaggeration teetering toward self-conscious camp.

Oh, and playwrights prepared to take offense at the irreverence of entertainment based upon the atrocity of human trafficking may note that post-show donations are solicited in support of the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation—with wicked George Crofts, naturally, serving as collector.

THEATER REVIEW
Her Honor Jane Byrne
Playwright: J. Nicole Brooks
At: Lookingglass Theatre, 821 N. Michigan
Tickets: LookingglassTheatre.org
Price: Tickets no longer available
Runs through: Canceled due to coronavirus

BY KAREN TOPHAM

[NOTE: Performances have been suspended due to COVID-19, but Windy City Times feels this review should run to acknowledge the work of the artists involved.]

Elected in 1979, Mayor Jane Byrne promised that, though she was a protegée of (the original) Mayor Daley, she would work to clean up the parts of the City That Works that didn’t work quite so well. Faced with an outbreak of gang violence, she made the well-meaning but naïve decision to move into the Cabrini-Green public housing complex, hoping that the city services that would follow her there could ultimately curb the violence and change lives for the better. Of course, the issues were far too complicated and ran too deep for any one person to change them.

J. Nicole Brooks’ Her Honor Jane Byrne examination this fascinating moment in Chicago’s history from multiple perspectives: yes, we see it through the eyes of Mayor Byrne (Christine Mary Dunford in a compelling performance), but we also see it from the point of view of the people of Cabrini-Green, and it is their reflections that make this play powerful. Byrne’s publicity stunt may well have been meant sincerely—Brooks and Dunford seem to believe so—but this Hyde Park-raised White woman really had no clue what daily life was about for the people of the inner city.

From the beginning, we can see that the rank and file police were not on her side. (At one point we are told that fully one-quarter of them were calling in sick.) Also not on her side was the weasely alderman Fred Roti, played by Thomas J. Cox, who did not like her usurping control over his district. But perhaps her biggest roadblocks were the people she was trying to help themselves.

The Cabrini-Green residents are mostly represented by four figures here: the grandmotherly Mabel Foley (a highly sympathetic Renee Lockett); the young Tiger (Nicole Michelle Haskins, showing a lot of range), who is at first vitriolic about the whole thing but then allows herself to be persuaded of Byrne’s good intentions; the street entrepreneur Black Che (Robert Conelius), having a great time, especially when toy ing with a reporter played by Tracy Walsh); and the perpetually angry Kid (Willie “Mudlife Roc” Round). Then there is the adamantly militant Marion Stamps, a community activist fighting for the rights of these residents who became one of Byrne’s most vocal opponents in this whole affair.

Brooks, who also directs the play, describes it as a play that “joins history to myth.” It is constructed as a collage-like series of scenes, some realistic and some (like those showing the relationship Byrne had with her dead husband) not so much. These more surreal scenes really don’t work as well as the others, weighing the play down for little real payback. Brooks would have been well-advised to remain in the realistic present. Still, what she shows us is impressive. On a Yu Shibagaki set featuring what seem like dozens of TV screens (with projections by Ras an Davonte Johnson) and a single, highly flexible, revolving wall, she conjures several locations and an entire culture that most, if indeed not all, of her Michigan Avenue audience have never directly experienced, reminding us that we are all just people trying our best to live our lives. It’s too bad that this play did not have a chance to be seen; perhaps Lookingglass will consider bringing it back in a year or two.

THEATER REVIEW
The Two Character Play
Playwright: Tennessee Williams
At: Theatre L’acadie at the Athenaeum, 2936 N. Southport Ave.
Tickets: $25; AthenaeumTheatre.org and 773-935-6875
Runs through: March 29

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

[NOTE: Audiences for performances will be limited due to COVID-19. Contact the venue, as information about venues is constantly changing.]

The setting of The Two Character Play is a postbellum mansion in the Deep South surrounded by sunflowers “as tall as the house.” It is presently occupied by an adult brother and sister living in seclusion following the trauma of their mother and grandmother’s deaths. Ever since that fatal night, Clare has become increasingly unnerved by the existential torpor that threatens to eclipse her creative genius. Clare even invokes the famous first line of Beckett’s Waiting For Godot at one point.

Playgoers likewise apprehensive at the prospect of confronting vacant theaters need not fear growing similarly despondent, however. Theatre L’acadie, while still relatively new to the Chicago Theater scene (this is only its second local production), has forged a reputation for intricate text analysis that leaves no dictional, syntactical or rhetorical nuance unexamined. Under the direction of Kaitlin Eve Romero, Daniel Westheimer and Emily Daigle establish, from the very outset, a brisk and varied pace that never succumbs to the self-indulgent mannerisms their clownish Joey-and-Gamine attire invites, but instead disregard fourth-wall barriers to forge a dynamic intensifying their connection with us during every second of the 135-minute (one intermission) performance time.

Unforeseen real-life emergencies in Chicago might make for extra down-time in the weeks to come, but for now, the Athenaeum is still in operation and theatergoers will assuredly find this long-forgotten classic—a sympathetic refuge from the darkness of an uncertain universe.
Day of Absence
Playwright: Douglas Turner Ward
At: Congo Square Theatre at Victory Gardens, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave.
Tickets: 773-871-3000; CongoSquareTheatre.org; $40 (includes service fee)
Runs through: March 22 [suspended because of COVID-19 outbreak]

BY JONATHAN AABARBANEL

[NOTE: Performances have been suspended due to COVID-19, but Windy City Times feels this review should run to acknowledge the work of the artists involved.]

Douglas Turner Ward’s Day of Absence was quite controversial in 1965 when it was new, and be -

To be sure, Congo Square has substantially updated the script with references to Groupon, bloggers, Ikea, cell phones and building The Wall. This last reference is because Congo Square has expanded the absentees to include Latinx residents along with Blacks, with several Latinx actors joining Congo Square’s Black artists in a versatile seven-person ensemble.

But retaining the southern, small-town setting makes Day of Absence much less immediate than it might be. After all, few of us have maids, cooks or drivers. But imagine a northern, urban version of this premise. Withdraw Blacks and latins from Chicago and we’d have no government, no public transit, no restaurants whether fast food or fine dining, no postal delivery, no public schools, no hospitals, no manufacturing, no professional sports except hockey and no newspapers (not even this one). Surely that’s the play Ward would write, were he writing it now! So Day of Absence today could use a sharper edge, but that’s not the fault of this Congo Square production.

Another aspect is that theatre goers who came of age in the 1990s or later may be unaware of the legacy of blackface. In my theater history courses at the University of Illinois at Chicago, I make a point of discussing blackface and also yellowface, brownface and whiteface. Even when the intent is not comic or insulting, is it ever appropriate for actors to use makeup to play characters of a different race? I challenge students to consider if there can be legitimate social, political, historical or dramatic reasons to use any kind of “face” in theater day. Day of Absence would suggest the answer is “yes.”

Sonya Madrigal, Ann Joseph and Bryant Hayes in Day of Absence.
Photo by Jazmyne Fountain

Both the original story and performance technique have been preserved by Congo Square Theatre—now celebrating its 20th anniversary—in this energetic 75-minute staging, directed by Anthony Irons. Without question Day of Absence remains a funny and prickly bit of theater, but it doesn’t seem very controversial any more.

Ravinia announces lineup for 2020 season

Weltz Kauffman announced his 20th and final season as president and CEO of the country’s oldest and most programmatically diverse music festival.

The 2020 season boasts more than 120 events on May 30-Sept. 15, including the annual summer residency of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, with MacArthur “Genius” Marin Alsop stepping into the role of chief conductor and curator—a position created specifically for her.

This summer will also bring 35 artist debuts, including Wayne Marshall, Teddy Abrams and My Morning Jacket frontman Jim James, Ziggy Marley, six-time Latin Grammy winners Jesse & Joy, and Dispatch. Repertoire features 24 festival premieres, including Ravinia’s co-commission of Paola Prestini’s Hindsight for Piano and Orchestra as part of a summer-long celebration of the talents and achievements of women who have paved the way, as well as the centennial of the 19th Amendment, which guaranteed women the right to vote. Ravinia will also celebrate birthday milestones of Christoph Eschenbach, Itzhak Perlman, Bob Marley, Mischa Dichter, Isaac Stern, Clara Schumann and Beethoven.

See Ravinia.org.

Grab a coffee, take the survey, make a difference.

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LGBTQ research helps non-profits, universities and businesses better understand and serve our community.

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Chicago Symphony events canceled

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association (CSOA) announces that all CSOA-presented concerts at Symphony Center scheduled through at least the next 30 days (starting March 12) are canceled in an effort to limit community transmission of COVID-19.

All associated pre- and post-concert special events at Symphony Center for that time period are also canceled.

Patrons with tickets to canceled concerts have options, including exchanging their tickets into other concerts or requesting a refund. More options and additional information can be found at CSO.org or by calling Symphony Center at 312-294-3000.

Additional information for CSOA patrons is available at cso.org/alert.

Siskel closed until April 10

To support efforts to stem the spread of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and to protect the health and safety of guests and staff, the Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St., will be closed until Friday, April 10.

All events scheduled during this suspension period will be canceled or postponed, and additional changes will be made to the program calendar.

The center’s staff will continue to be available during normal office hours (9 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday-Friday) and can be reached at filmcenter@saic.edu or 312-846-2660. Membership activation dates will be postponed until the center reopens.

For more information, see SiskelFilmCenter.org.

Jeff Awards suspends judging until May 1

In response to state and city government recommendations to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus, the Chicago theater community’s Jeff Awards will suspend judging productions until Friday, May 1.

Jeff Awards Chair John Glover said in a statement, “Our Jeff Awards members are concerned about the health and welfare of all the people who make up the theater community - from the performers, production teams and crews to the ushers, audiences and patrons who support them. Our social responsibility to the community also includes our own volunteer members.”

Equity and non-Equity theaters with questions about current Jeff Awards eligibility or other related concerns can contact the appropriate Wing Chair. Deric Gochenauer, the Equity wing chair, can be reached at equitywing@jeffawards.org; and non-Equity Wing Chair Nick Obis is reachable at nonequitywing@jeffawards.org.

Women & Children First delaying, cancelling events

Because of coronavirus-related concerns, most of the March events at Women & Children First bookstore, 5233 N. Clark St., have been rescheduled for late spring and summer dates.

In addition, events with Eli Clare, Nadina LaSpina, Cathy Park Hong and Megan Fernandes have all been cancelled. The bookstore stated, “We hope to reschedule with these amazing authors soon, so please keep checking WomenAndChildrenFirst.com and following us on social media for updates.”

As of March 13, the store’s ticketed events with N.K. Jemisin (March 31), Samantha Irby and Megan Skleistra (April 14), and Rebecca Solnit and Eula Biss (April 23) have not been cancelled. However, for everyone’s health and safety, book signings and photo lines will likely not be possible in the coming months.

Also, with the loss of most of its March events, the store is asking for contributions to our nonprofit arm, the Women’s Voices Fund (CrossroadsFund.org/content/womens-voices-fund).

See WomenAndChildrenFirst.com.

Sor Juana Awards Luncheon.

Photo courtesy of museum

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In addition, events with Eli Clare, Nadina LaSpina, Cathy Park Hong and Megan Fernandes have all been cancelled. The bookstore stated, “We hope to reschedule with these amazing authors soon, so please keep checking WomenAndChildrenFirst.com and following us on social media for updates.”

As of March 13, the store’s ticketed events with N.K. Jemisin (March 31), Samantha Irby and Megan Skleistra (April 14), and Rebecca Solnit and Eula Biss (April 23) have not been cancelled. However, for everyone’s health and safety, book signings and photo lines will likely not be possible in the coming months.

Also, with the loss of most of its March events, the store is asking for contributions to our nonprofit arm, the Women’s Voices Fund (CrossroadsFund.org/content/womens-voices-fund).

See WomenAndChildrenFirst.com.

Sor Juana Awards Luncheon.

Photo courtesy of museum
Non-binary author Jacob Tobia holds reading in A'ville

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

To celebrate the paperback release of their debut book, Sissy: A Coming-of-Gender Story, non-binary author, actor and producer Jacob Tobia held a reading and book-signing event March 5 at Women & Children First in Andersonville.

Tobia was named one of the Forbes 30 under 30 in 2018, and was an OUT 100 honoree in 2016. They voiced the non-binary character Double Trouble for Netflix’s She-Ra and The Princess of Power, their writing has been featured in numerous publications and they were a Point Foundation scholar. Additionally, Showtime has optioned Tobia’s book.

“Chicago has a special place in my queer heart,” Tobia told the large crowd. “It is the first place that I learned I could shave my own head. It was the first place I got a proper queer lady undercut all the way around [my head]. That has stuck with me. My hair tingles when I come back here and it is not just from the cold.”

Prior to reading from their book, Tobia read from a recent issue of Lesbian Connection—Lesbians and Our Pets’ Part Three Continued—because the title of the section caught their eye earlier that evening.

Tobia said they call book readings story time because they want to get back in touch with their great aptitude for Shakespearean acting; it was nurtured and a “most extraordinary explosion of talent happened.” His time at Cambridge helped him sharpen his craft; it was also there that McKellen lost his virginity to another man.

O’Connor says that McKellen is “a slow-progress stickler” and never minded using “modest roles” as stepping stones; every role he played led to bigger parts on better-known stages in larger venues. In 1964, he landed a small part in a BBC-TV production as his first foray into television, and he continued to eye a career in film—a career that “stilled eluded [him] until the late 1990s.” At that time, he was able to transition from stage to screen, scoring a Tony, a Golden Globe, a SAG award and an Oscar nomination.

And then a “quick perusal of the Marvel comics … caught his fancy.”

For readers who are wild about Shakespeare, Ian McKellen: A Biography will be a delight. Those who are not to be, however, may find this book quite tedious.

O’Connor, who’s known McKellen for decades, explains in his first chapter how this book came about, in opening words that are carefully off-the-cuff. That chumminess feels as if you’re real-time eavesdropping on a semi-scripted conversation between two friends.

Get past the account of McKellen’s early life, though, and much of the rest of this book is uber-deep into theater, with the occasional reminder of McKellen’s gayness in the narrative. Serious followers of British stage performances will find the former to be irresistible and the latter to make one feel like a close backstage insider.

Those who prefer McKellen’s later work might find this all mildly interesting, but far too extra until toward the end.

And so there’s the break-down: Theater fan, yes. You’ll love Ian McKellen: A Biography. If you’re a fan of McKellen’s later movie career only, this book is okay if you can stick with it.

Want more? Then look for Ian McKellen: An Unofficial Biography, by Mark Barratt.
Sandy Duncan shines in ‘Middletown’

BY JERRY NUNN

From the producers of Menopause The Musical and Fiddler on the Roof, Dan Clancy’s Middletown is a play about human connection. For the Chicago run of the show, the two couples are played onstage at The Apollo Theatre by Sandy Duncan, Donny Most, Adrian Zmed and Kate Buddeke.

Many will remember Duncan from the Broadway revival of Peter Pan and on television for The Hogan Family. She is a Tony, Emmy and Golden Globe nominated performer with a wide range of shows. Taylorville, Illinois even named a street, Sandy Duncan Drive, in her honor based on her character from Taylorville in Funny Face and The Sandy Duncan Show.

Duncan reflected on her lengthy career on her birthday in a new interview.

Windy City Times: When was the last time you have been to Chicago?
SD: I haven’t been there since I did The King and I in 2004.

WCT: The other cast members of Middletown told me that you are the new kid on the block for this production.
SD: Yes, the new kid on the block, with two days rehearsal. My brain cells, at 74, make it hard to think. I have been enjoying it because the other three people in these roles are the sweetest people I think I’ve ever worked with. They are supportive and have led me along. They have been encouraging me. It certainly seems genuine! [Laughs]

WCT: Talk about your role in Middletown.
SD: Peg is that woman that does things in all the right ways. She is everyone’s crutch that they lean on. She has so many things happening to her over her lifetime, that she wonders how she stands up. The emotional arc of this character is heartbreaking and it sucks! [laughs] By the end I need a drink and I’m tired. The whole play is very fast paced.

I had no idea what this play was when they asked me to do it. I read it and found it touching. I didn’t know how they would stage it in an unusual form. That in itself was enough to try it.

We have been doing a renovation on our home. We live on the water, and it’s a hurricane area. We had to raise the house 10 feet. I was just happy to get out of that for a while!

WCT: Where do you live?
SD: We live in Connecticut. They get hit very often with hurricanes.

WCT: In Middletown there’s not much blocking. The Lines are read at a podium?
SD: Yes, at a podium. There are cues that I have managed to mess up on at least two times at every show. There is some movement back and forth, but it’s primarily talking to each other and the audience. The audience is essentially a character. They are included in the dialogue. It is a bit like Love Letters, but elevated to some new form where the people do interact with each other. You know about Love Letters, right?

WCT: I read about Love Letters and saw Carol Burnett did the play.
SD: She did it at one point. Everyone you can think of has done it. I’ve done it four times. It’s such a beautiful play. You don’t move and stay at a desk.

Middletown is a little more complicated than that. Emotionally it’s demanding. If you have ever had any relationship in life, you can relate to it.

WCT: How about LGBT relationships?
SD: My son in the play is gay. There’s a really cool scene in the play between Donny Most and Adrian Zmed about accepting that our son is gay. It is solved in a sweet way that I wish everyone could be like if they find out their son is gay. They are completely accepting and loving.

It moves to a more developed relationship as the play goes on. He becomes my go-to guy.

WCT: You must have had many gay friends over the years.
SD: Yes, I have, and my son is gay.

WCT: You have always reminded me of my aunt, with your haircut. It’s her birthday today.
SD: It’s my birthday today, too! Tell her that I don’t have that haircut now. I’m letting my hair grow.

WCT: Did you see the recent FX miniseries Fosse/Verdon?
SD: I thought the production was great. Michelle Williams was terrific. I loved Sam Rockwell as an actor.

One thing is, they didn’t hit on the qualities of Bob that made him so irresistible to people—women in particular. They didn’t show his playful humor in this interpretation of him. He was very serious all the time in this version. That was not who Bob was.

WCT: How was being in Finding Neverland after being in Peter Pan?
SD: Not good. The thing they do with shows now is they rehearse four or five days. If you are a replacement, you come in the room with the stage manager and never leave that room. When you go to rehearsal you are inundated with notes that you haven’t had time to rehearse and you haven’t even rehearsed with performers from the show yet. I left and said, “I can’t do this.” I apologized to the cast, most of whom I hadn’t even met. There was a strong standby that did the role. I have never missed a show my entire life. To do that, was a big deal.

WCT: Is there one musical you would want to do, but haven’t?
SD: No; I don’t think that way. I either do what is presented or not. With musicals, I have been a dancer my entire life. I used to do a split leap in the air and not think a thing about it. I was in the kitchen the other day with my husband and he wanted me to jump in his arms, but I couldn’t get off the ground. Those days are over!

WCT: Favorite musical that you were in?
SD: Carousel. I played Louise Bigelow, the ballet role in it. It was for choreographer Agnes de Mil and one of the first things I did when I got to New York. Agnes was a taskmaster. Having that fulfillment in my work after accomplishing it was a big deal at 22 years old.

I also like doing the musical Chicago.

WCT: If you can be remembered for one thing in your career, what would it be?
SD: Peter Pan. It changed my life!

Take a trip to Middletown for $65 at The Apollo Theatre, 2540 N. Lincoln Ave. (The Apollo is limiting the number of tickets sold to less than 200 per show for all remaining performances through March 22.) Tickets can be found at ApolloChicago.com or 773-935-6100.

Note: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the remainder of the run of the show has been cancelled.
LGBT nightclubs prepare for weeks-long closings

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Chicago-area nightclubs and restaurants, along with all food-and-beverage hospitality businesses in Illinois, received the order from state authorities the afternoon of March 15 to cease operations at the close of business the following day.

The mandate came as Gov. JB Pritzker and state authorities work on a response to the coronavirus crisis. Bars and restaurants will remain closed at least through March 30.

Pritzker and other officials expressed dismay that several bars throughout the city and state were busy the weekend of March 13-15, as numerous patrons seemingly ignored warnings to stay away from crowds. Prior to Pritzker’s announcement, several Chicago bars posted to social media that they were taking extra steps to ensure a safe experience for patrons. Nevertheless, by the end of the weekend, all were faced with the prospect of at least two weeks without revenue.

Management of Sidetrack announced March 16, “Sidetrack has always served a community that was forged from the strength of overcoming adversity. Now, more than ever, we remember those who came before us and worked so hard for our benefit. We are confident that this too will make us stronger on the other side. We are now closed through March 30, but we will continue to communicate via our website and social media platforms.”

Jackhammer posted to Facebook March 16: “Jackhammer will be closed after last call tonight and will remain closed until at least March 30, as directed by the state. We cannot wait to see you when we reopen. Thank you for all of your support.”

Staff at Jackhammer’s neighbor, Touche, posted, “As you may have heard, Governor JB Pritzker has ordered all bars and restaurants to close Monday, March 16 at the end of the business day until March 30.

“So today is Last Call!”

“We look forward to welcoming you back to Roscoe’s in the near future,” said that bar’s owners.

In response to the closing, Hydrate announced a “virtual dance floor” Saturday, March 21, adding, “DJ Joe Gauthreaux spinning live, chatting online, taking requests, and bringing positive energy into our lives. … We invite you to follow in the history of our community coming together in music and supporting those in need.”

According to the announcement, proceeds from the online event will go to Hydrate staff. Scarlet owners similarly said that Monster RAVE! Performances would be streamed live on Instagram, and encouraged patrons to tip performers via PayPal and Venmo.

Management at The Call similarly asked the community to remember its staff: “Support local businesses, Venmo your bartenders and entertainers. In these times, neighborhood and community support is greatly appreciated.”

Billy does not approve of Ronan Farrow’s (above) part in the squelching of Woody Allen’s memoir.

Photo by Dia Dipasupil & Getty Images

“Characterization of the abuse she suffered at the hands of Woody Allen.” This begs the question — was Woody ever contacted to respond to the allegations Mia made in her memoir? Because I don’t think that’s how memoirs work.

A hatchet job was quickly waged on Woody, and Ronan was at the very least the catalyst for a Hachette employee walkout. In short order, Hachette shelved the book and terminated its relationship with Woody. Why? Well, Ronan is a star on the rise and is taking a victory lap due to his OnlyFans website. That flickering light isn’t the great beyond—it’s a candy striper sniffing it—is this what Gwyneth Paltrow’s vagina smells like? Oh, no … it’s slippery! And he’s using it on … his OnlyFans website. That flickering light isn’t the great beyond—it’s a candy striper using his tablet in post-op! And to think, I came back from the brink of death to see Aaron Carter’s naughty bits! And he’s charging $125? You can see him for far less on BillyMasters.com.

Someone else just joined OnlyFans, and he’s certainly getting the blood pumping to my neighbor region. It’s Chad Johnson—the psychopathic ex-stud from The Bachelor. Of course, that’s just my opinion; I’m no doctor. But I’d be happy to play doctor with Chad … although I’d have my finger on the 911 speed dial, just in case. Like Aaron, you can get a gander at Chad’s Johnson on our website.

When my life is depending on Aaron Carter and Chad Johnson, it’s time to end yet another column. The question remains—am I live or am I Memere?. The only way to know for sure is to check out BillyMasters.com—the site that endures no matter what. You could also try sending an e-mail to Billy@BillyMasters.com. Until next time, remember: One man’s filth is another man’s bible.
Note: Profiles/events are based on invitations arranged from restaurants and/or firms.

Chef sets up COVID-19 cooking hotline
James Beard Award-winning chef Sarah Stegner has opened a hotline to help people with cooking tips during the COVID-19 crisis.

“We realize that many people need help and we want to offer our assistance by providing information and answering cooking questions,” Stegner, who is the chef at Northbrook's Prairie Grass Cafe, said in a statement. The telephone number for questions is 847-920-8437.

Stegner will be available daily at 2-4 p.m. CT.

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Labriola’s white deep-dish pizza.
PR photo

My dinner companion and I could only eat one slice each, as they’re thick and very rich. They were also undeniably delicious.

However, Labriola and La Barra offer far more than this soon-to-be classic pizza. Shareable small-plate dishes include grilled asparagus with fried egg, pecorino and extra virgin olive oil (that my friend really enjoyed); Prince Edward Island mussels; and toasted ravioli "nachos." I found the arugula (with truffle honey, goat cheese, pears, black pepper and lemon vinaigrette) absolutely sublime, and it’s just one of several salad options that includes a Sicilian seafood version. Of course, there are loads of housemade pizzas, divided into categories such as artisan, thin-crust, deep-dish and DIY) as well as entrees like filet sliders, Italian pepper steak, chicken Vesuvio and seared salmon. And don’t forget luscious dessert offerings like the cheesecake. (Also, Labriola has weekend brunch with pepper-and-egg sandwiches, Italian skillets, blueberry pancakes and other tempting items.)

By the way, here’s a little backstory on Labriola. Rich Labriola (who also owns a dozen’s Stan’s Donuts stores, including the one next door) started the whole empire in 1993 with The Labriola Baking Company, with it eventually sold to J&J Snack Foods in 2017. Thankfully, he decided to expand into the restaurant business. With the white deep-dish pizza, Labriola continues its tradition of outstanding Italian cuisine.

[Image: PR photo of Labriola's white deep-dish pizza]

Labriola; COVID-19 hotline
BY ANDREW DAVIS

In a city known for its deep-dish pizza, Labriola (535 N. Michigan Ave.; LabriolaCafe.com) may have set a new standard.

The five-year-old casual Italian spot (as well as the suburban La Barra restaurants) marked National Pizza Day (Feb. 9) by adding a unique pie: the white deep-dish pizza. This 14-inch version of this pizza ($35) has bechamel Sauce, chicken, bacon, caramelized onions—and two pounds (!) of cheese. (The best part may be the caramelized cheese on the edge, called "fricka.")

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Chicago Humanities announces theme
The Chicago Humanities Festival (CHF) announced its annual theme—“Vision”—bringing together leaders from politics, arts, sciences and beyond who challenge people to see the world differently.

The festival will kick off Sunday, April 19, with Veronica Roth, the New York Times best-selling author of the Divergent series, and physicist Brian Greene. Events will continue through the spring with former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on Wed., April 29; beat artist Makaya McCraven featured during another full day of programming in Hyde Park on Sunday, May 3; and singer-songwriter Tori Amos on Wed., May 6, at the Vic.

Tickets go on sale to CHF members Wed., March 18, at 10 a.m.; and to the general public on Tuesday, March 24, at 10 a.m. See ChicagoHumanities.org to see if the events are still taking place during the COVID-19 outbreak.

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WINDY CITY TIMES
The Boys in the Band’ writer Crowley dead at 84

Mart Crowley—best known for writing the 1960s seminal play The Boys in the Band, about a group of gay friends at a birthday party—died March 8 at age 84, media reports stated.

Writer Michael Musto broke the news, tweeting, “RIP, Mart Crowley, author of the groundbreaking gay play The Boys in the Band. He was Natalie Wood’s assistant and told me she encouraged him to write the play.”

The Boys in the Band, Crowley’s first play, opened off-Broadway in 1968. He wrote the screenplay and produced the film version, which Academy Award winner William Friedkin (The Exorcist) directed.

According to Broadway World, among Crowley’s other plays were A Breeze from the Gulf (1973) and The Men from the Boys (2002), a sequel to The Boys in the Band. He was also the producer/co-writer of the ABC TV series Hart to Hart for several years.

Locally, The Boys in the Band is currently running at the Windy City Playhouse through April 19. Carl Menninger—associate artistic director of Windy City Playhouse and director of the production—sent a statement to Windy City Times saying, “We are truly saddened by the passing of Mart Crowley. While none of us knew him personally, we feel we have a relationship with this tremen-

dously gifted writer through his work. The Boys in the Band is an honest profile of the lives of many urban gay men in the 1960s. Not only is it a landmark play in the LGBTIQ+ cannon but it is also an important American play. Writing and bringing it to the stage was an act of bravery during an era when even Time Magazine wrote that ‘Homosexuality is a pathetic little second-rate substitute for reality, a pitiful flight from life.’ ”

“Along with other brave people, Crowley helped pave the way for the LGBTIQ+ movement. We are proud to present his work as an historic depiction of gay life in the 1960s. The play still invites people to reflect on the LGBTIQ+ issues that we still struggle with as a society. The Boys in the Band has stood the test of time and that is the true sign of a gifted author. The best way to celebrate any playwrights legacy is to present their work. We consider it a privilege to share his play with our audiences.”

Melissa Villasenor at The Den in July

Saturday Night Live’s Melissa Villasenor will bring her stand-up tour to The Den Theatre for five performances on July 9-11 on The Den’s Heath Mainstage, 1331 N. Milwaukee Ave.

Villasenor broke barriers by becoming the first-ever Latina cast member of Saturday Night Live. A comedic impressions expert, she got her start as a semifinalist on America’s Got Talent. Villasenor has voiced characters for Wreck It Ralph 2, Cartoon Network’s OK K.O., Let’s Be Heroes, and Fox’s American Dad and Family Guy. She tours nationally heading clubs and theaters. She will release her second music EP later this year, as well as a book of her art.

Tickets ($25-$40 each) are currently available at TheDenTheatre.com, in person at The Den box office or by calling 773-697-3830.

Windy City Times is distributing this edition via our wonderful delivery crew, but only to open locations around the city, and our boxes. It is also available as a PDF download on the top right of our website, www.windycitymediagroup.com, and past issues are under the archives section.

It is almost certain the city will create stronger social distancing rules that will limit our ability to deliver a physical copy of the paper soon, so upcoming issues may just be online.

If we are forced to shut down print because we need to obey orders and protect our team, our full PDF will be available to replace the print for now.

Windy City Times will be facing a difficult economic situation with the loss of advertising. Help us pay our team by donating to http://windycitymediagroup.com/donate1.php

— WINDY CITY TIMES
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