

WINDY CITY TIMES

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

VOL 34, NO. 23 APRIL 10, 2019

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Lori Lightfoot.
Photo courtesy of Kelly Baffy

HISTORY LESSON



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IN THE HOUSE

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Laura Aguilar's iconic work is examined

Details from 12 Lauras, 1993.
Courtesy of the Estate of Laura Aguilar and the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center. © Laura Aguilar



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DINING OUT FOR LIFE | CHICAGO

THURSDAY, APRIL 25

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Anna Maria Pasteria	Hamburger Mary's	The Chicago Diner Logan Square
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Big Chicks	Hydrate Nightclub	The Lobby at The Peninsula Hotel
Bistec	Jackhammer	The SoFo Tap
Broadway Cellars Bar and Grill	Koi Fine Asian Cuisine	Tricycle
Burke's Public House	Marchesa	Tweet, Lets Eat
Byron's Hot Dogs	Mas All Del Sol	Uncommon Ground Edgewater
Cherry Circle Room	Meeting House Tavern	Veranda Pizza & Coffee
Chicago Diner Lakeview	Mia Francesca	Yoshi's
Crio	Nookies Edgewater	Z Bar at The Peninsula Hotel
Drew's on Halsted	Pub 626	
Elixir Andersonville	Replay Andersonville	
Elixir Lounge Lakeview	Replay Beer and Bourbon Lakeview	
Ella Elli		

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WINDY CITY TIMES

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REMAINING 2019 WINDY CITY TIMES PRINT DATES:

April 24	July 10	Oct. 16
May 8	July 24	Oct. 30
May 22	Aug. 7	Nov. 13
June 5	Aug. 21	Nov. 27
June 19	Sep. 4	Dec. 11
June 26	Sep. 18	Dec. 25
	Oct. 2	

online exclusives at
www.WindyCityTimes.com

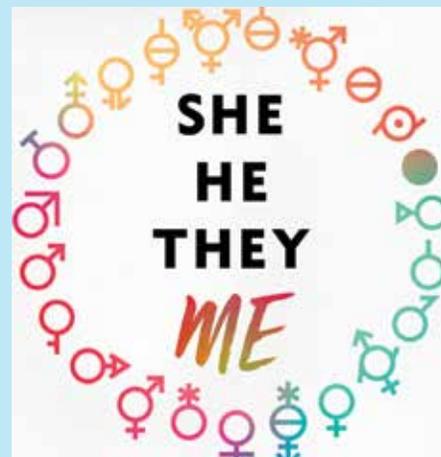


MAGGIE MAY

WCT chats with bisexual singer Maggie Lindemann.

Photo courtesy of No Big Deal PR

'SISTER' EDGE



The book *She He They Me: For the Sisters, Mistresses and Binary Resisters* is reviewed.

FEEL LIKE BACON LOVE

Baconfest and South Loop cafe TeaPotBrew are part of the Savor online menu.

THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Beyonce, Deep Dish and Don Lemon.

plus
DAILY BREAKING NEWS

**OUT
AT CHM**

OUT OF THIS WORLD

April 24 • Chicago History Museum
Program 6:30PM, reception to follow

Journey beyond the binary and heteronormative! Join us as **Kim Hunt**, executive director of Pride Action Tank, moderates a discussion about the vibrant history of LGBTQIA themes in speculative fiction (science fiction, comics, and fantasy). Take a closer look at how the genre gives authors and readers the freedom to imagine societies, releasing them from reality and forcing the reader to reconsider his or her heteronormative cultural assumptions. Panelists include **Coya Paz**, associate professor at DePaul University and artistic director of Free Street Theater, and writer and producer **Derek Lee McPhatter**.

#OUTatCHM | chicagohistory.org/out

PURCHASE TICKETS

General Admission
\$20

Members & Students
\$15

Ticket includes
light appetizers and
refreshments.



Major support for OUT at CHM comes from the Exelon Corporation with additional support from Robert Kohl and Clark Pellett and the Richard L. Ohlhausen Education Fund.

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Political experts weigh in on Lori Lightfoot's road ahead

BY MATT SIMONETTE

As Chicago moves ahead after a tumultuous municipal election season, it now falls on Mayor-elect Lori Lightfoot to prepare for an administration that is responsive to the needs of all the city's residents before she is sworn in next month.

While the position wields enormous political power, it also comes with responsibilities and frustrations that past mayors have failed to solve, among them shattered police-community relations; violence and public-safety concerns; an underfunded and struggling public school system; crumbling infrastructure; and looming, potentially crippling pension responsibilities.

Cathy Cohen, a professor in University of Chicago's department of political science who also founded the Black Youth Project, said she believes that Lightfoot won the election because those who came out to vote for her were "desperate for change—and not just the type of change that comes about for [the novelty of] having a Black lesbian for mayor."

She added, "They want a community reinvested in. They want quality public education. They want a police force that is respectful and responsive to all people in the city. I would remind [Lightfoot] to center those who are most marginal as she evaluates how to try to reshape the city."

Voter turnout on April 2 was low, and the results were enormously lopsided in Lightfoot's favor; the corporate attorney and former federal prosecutor captured three-quarters of all votes cast for mayor, and won in all 50 of the city's wards.

"Even though [opponent Cook County Board President] Toni Preckwinkle may have had an agenda that in all reality was fairly similar to Lori Lightfoot's, I think voters were really looking for symbolic change," Cohen said. "They were looking for someone who at least professed to be outside of the machine. They wanted someone who hadn't had years of dealing with the Daleys. They wanted someone who represented a new possibility for the city of Chicago, and its politics and future."

She further noted, "Even though people think of [the election] as a referendum on Toni Preckwinkle, I think it's more of a referendum on Machine politics in the city. I think some people are excited, but I think at the same time people are holding their breath—will this really be something new? Will this be an opportunity to define the city and center communities on the South and West sides that have long been the sites of disinvestment?"

Former Houston Mayor Annise Parker—the first openly lesbian mayor of a major metropolitan city—spoke enthusiastically about Lightfoot. Parker now heads up Victory Fund, a national organization that provides financial support and political-strategy training for LGBT candidates



Lori Lightfoot (left) and wife Amy Eshleman kissing.

Photo courtesy of Kelly Baffy

across the country; Victory Fund began backing Lightfoot last summer. Parker admitted that Lightfoot nevertheless faces more daunting challenges than she'd ever experienced in her six years as mayor of Houston.

"[Victory Fund] believes her being mayor will have an outsized impact," Parker said. "It did when I was mayor of Houston. But I know that, as much as it might pain me to admit it, Chicago has a much bigger impact on the national political scene than Houston, even though they are cities of comparable size. [Lightfoot] will have a platform, a bully pulpit, to drive conversations and debates."

Brian Johnson, CEO of Equality Illinois noted a number of issues Lightfoot faces.

"The mayor-elect is going to have to wrestle with our structural finances," he noted. "What does I mean to have a police force that is just, and able to keep the city safe? What does it mean to have schools that are equitable and where students, no matter their race, income or class, have the opportunity to reach their full potential in a city with a million fewer residents than we did a few decades ago. These are the big-picture questions that I think Mayor-elect Lightfoot is going to have to grapple with. That's why the mandate that she had, winning all 50 wards, is the best foundation [voters] could have given her."

But Parker added, "It's both a blessing a curse to have such a lopsided vote. A lot of people are going to have expectations for a quick turnaround—that's just not going to happen in a hur-

ry. She is going to have to manage expectations and really prioritize so that she can deliver some of the promises without people becoming discouraged when it doesn't happen immediately."

Lightfoot will face additional challenges in constructively engaging communities who have been critical of her, especially for her work on the Chicago Police Board and other investigative and adjudicative bodies addressing police violence and corruption. Her public appearances during her campaign were sometimes interrupted by protestors who felt her prosecutions lacked teeth, and that Lightfoot had brusquely dealt with victims and their families.

"[Lightfoot] has to engage them," Cohen said of those critics. "She has at times been disrespectful and demeaning to young activists. She has to recognize that, and I believe and hope that she does. They are a political force in this city—they've introduced to us, for example, a language about abolition in such a way that all candidates had to think about it in discussions about the police. They have been against the cop academy. These are young people who are not just mobilizing; they're setting out policies and a future vision about what the city can be, and

how institutions should respond and engage with marginalized communities."

Cohen added, "One of the first things [Lightfoot] has to do is sit down with those groups to take those positions seriously, recognize that they are going to hold her accountable and see that they are major stakeholders in what will hopefully be a reimagining of what Chicago can be in the future."

Johnson said that, even with her many other looming challenges, the LGBT community needs to hold Lightfoot accountable for her promises to the community.

"We should expect her to be as aggressive and courageous on the issues that are as important to us as she would be to the issues facing the city at large," he added. "We should see LGBTQ people in meaningful senior roles in her administration. We should demand that our police force polices us with more respect and equitably, particularly [community members who are] trans women of color. We should expect LGBTQ young people of color should go to school in an accepting and affirming environment, and that they risks that they face for violence and homelessness will go down."

Lightfoot names transition team

Chicago Mayor-Elect Lori Lightfoot has named her transition team, according to The Chicago Tribune.

Senior adviser Sarah Pang, among other things, co-chaired Mayor Rahm Emanuel's 2011 transition team.

New chief of staff Maurice Classen, a former prosecutor, has run strategy for the Chicago Police Department. Manuel Perez is intergovernmental affairs adviser; he, most recently, was Lightfoot's campaign manager; he has held several positions in county government, including special assistant to Lightfoot's runoff opponent, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle.

Lisa Schneider-Fabes is transition manager and Ra Joy is senior adviser.

The Tribune item is at <https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/politics/ct-met-lightfoot-transition-team-20190405-story.html>.

Madison elects city's first queer mayor

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Satya Rhodes-Conway, who is queer, won the Madison, Wisconsin, mayoral race in a landslide victory April 2, capturing some 62 percent of the vote against incumbent opponent Mayor Paul Soglin, who won 38 percent.

In her acceptance speech that night, Rhodes-Conway said that she felt "hope for young people everywhere, but especially here in Madison who have felt left out, or talked down to or bullied because of who they are," according to Wisconsin State Journal.

Rhodes-Conway's victory is significant not just because she is Madison's first mayor who

is an open member of the LGBTQ community—she also unseated Soglin, who'd been dubbed by many Madisonians to be "mayor for life." He'd been active in city politics since the late '60s, and became, at age 27, the city's youngest mayor when he was first elected in 1973. He served several of his terms non-consecutively, but has been in his present stint in office since 2011.

Shortly before the election, Rhodes-Conway, who has served on the Madison City Council and heads up the progressive Mayors Innovation Project, told Windy City Times that she respected Soglin and was running because she differed with him in terms of leadership style, particularly in how the city engages with county government. She also said that her being a lesbian was a non-issue with most voters.

"It's not that we've gotten any negative comments, but some ask, 'Why are you putting this in my face?' She said. "But for the most part, it's been a very positive reaction. Certainly, the queer community is very excited. ... Wisconsin has a long and proud history of openly LGBT officials."

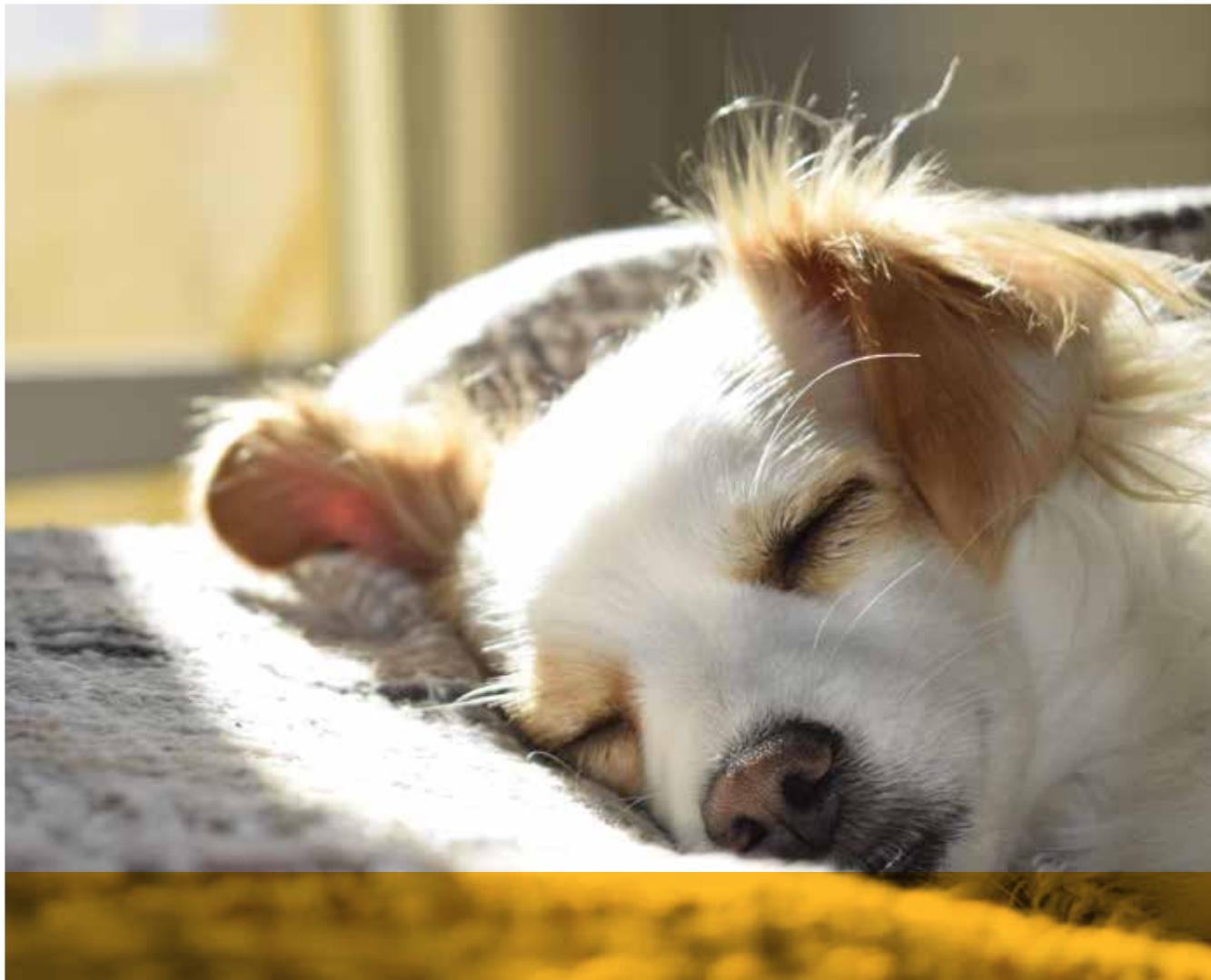
Wisconsin State Journal's article is at <https://bit.ly/2FR6hsT>.

Vallas joins MBC board

Former CEO of Chicago Public Schools and onetime mayoral candidate Paul Vallas has been elected to the board of directors of the Museum of Broadcast Communications (MBC).

In 2020, the MBC will be introducing an educational program for students to inform them on what to look for when analyzing news and news sources.

The MBC recently ended its successful run of "Saturday Night Live: The Experience," and has two new exhibits planned for the remainder of 2019.



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LGBTs discuss Lightfoot victory, future

COMPILED BY ANDREW DAVIS

Lori Lightfoot scored a significant mayoral victory in Chicago on April 2—becoming the first African-American woman and first openly LGBT individual to be elected to the post.

Windy City Times asked various people about this achievement, as well as their hopes for the future.

—**David Johns, National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC) Executive Director:** “As NBJC continues the work of reshaping narratives about Black lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and same-gender-loving people, we are excited to celebrate the mayoral election of Lori Lightfoot. Mayor Lightfoot’s victory comes at a time when ignorance and hate too often trumps hard working public servants trying to ensure we all get free.

“There is still much needed discussion about Lightfoot’s past and what she will accomplish in the future. As an organization, NBJC will continue to watch and stand ready to support efforts and investments that ensure all Black people in Chicago have access to the resources and support they need to be happy, healthy, and whole. This is how we all get free!”

—**John Peller, AIDS Foundation of Chicago president/CEO:** “On April 2, Chicago voters made

history when they elected Lori Lightfoot as the first openly-LGBTQ Black woman to serve as mayor. The AIDS Foundation of Chicago congratulates Mayor-Elect Lightfoot on her landslide win, and we stand ready to help as she puts her ambitious policy agenda into practice.

“We especially thank her for expressing her support for the Getting to Zero Illinois plan to end the HIV epidemic by 2030 while she was a candidate. AFC wishes Mayor-Elect Lightfoot all the best as she and her team work to reduce community violence, improve public education, strengthen neighborhoods and improve the health of Chicagoans. Congratulations, Mayor-Elect Lightfoot!

—**Kelly Cassidy, Illinois state representative:** “Having known and worked with Lori for almost as long as I’ve been in Chicago, I am thrilled by her victory and by the possibilities that lay ahead. I said it when I endorsed her and it remains true: Representation matters. We have a lot of great allies in Illinois, but at the end of the day they only take us so far.

“Having an openly queer woman leading a city like Chicago sends an incredibly powerful message—especially to young people who may not see people like themselves in such public roles. Lori assembled an amazing coalition to propel this victory and keeping everyone together will



Left: David Johns. Right: Mona Noriega (left, with late activist Vernita Gray, who was named by Lightfoot in her acceptance speech April 2.).

Johns photo courtesy of the National Black Justice Coalition; Noriega/Gray photo by Kate Sosin

be challenging. I am hopeful that we can continue to row in the same direction with this mandate to help solve some of the challenges the city is facing.”

—**Sandi Robinson, Godfrey Hotel Chicago director of sales:** “The fact that two African-American women were in the runoff to be Chicago’s next mayor was historic. Taking it a step further, the fact that Lori Lightfoot—an African-American lesbian—won is a game-changer.

“It is a new day for queer women and, definitely, for queer African-American women. This means that we have another seat at the table. This means that certain conversations will no longer be swept under the rug. This means that her sexuality had nothing to do and, in some areas, everything to do with her winning. This means another historic moment for African-American queer women. This means that African-American queer women have one more thing that makes them proud—and her name is Lori Lightfoot.”

—**Modesto Tico Valle, Center on Halsted CEO:** “A Black lesbian is leading the city of Chicago and we are rooting for her success in doing so. Lori Lightfoot’s election is historic and representative of the steps this city has taken to give everybody a seat at the table. Center on Halsted takes great pride in our mission to advance community and secure the health and well-being of the LGBTQ people of Chicagoland. We look forward to continuing our work and our journey with Lori Lightfoot’s leadership.

“Identity politics aside, now is the time to get on the ground and in the community—to create space for the rest of our community to also have a seat at the table. As we continue to grow and evolve, we must take steps in building a Chicago rooted in visibility, equity and inclusion. We are excited for what is ahead.”

—**Ken Mejia-Beal, activist and writer:** “The election of Lori Lightfoot is relevant and important on two levels.

‘1. Representation matters.

‘2. She was the best candidate for the job, based on her own experience and background.”

—**Perri L. Irmer, The DuSable Museum of African American History president/CEO:** “It’s difficult to fully express the joy, pride and thankfulness I felt on election night, watching the results flash across the big screen that Lori Lightfoot had won this election [substantially]. As with Obama in 2008, our hopes and prayers for victory had been strong yet tempered by a fear that if the win were not decisive then a mandate might not be achieved. But then as the votes were quickly tallied. Hallelujah!

“Thank you, Chicago, for ignoring the fear-mongering, for demanding change, equity and accountability, for showing the world who we really are and not the caricature of a city on the take. We voted—loud and clear and happy and proud—for our families, our neighborhoods, and the soul of the city we love.

“As a Black woman, president of the nation’s oldest independent Black history museum, daughter of Chicago’s South Side and proud mother of three strong daughters—the youngest of whom is also gay—Lori’s election holds a special meaning for me. I admire her deeply, and I know exactly who she is: the same brilliant, kind, principled, fearless woman she was in her 20s when we were both law students at the University of Chicago. She was making her mark even then.

“I have absolutely no doubt that Lori will govern this world class city the way it deserves to be governed: with integrity, equity, empathy and high expectations for all of our people, all of our children, and all of our institutions. She will level the playing field for us black and brown folk to finally see green, with access to our fair share of business, economic and educational opportunities. Yes, it may be a tall order for a diminutive

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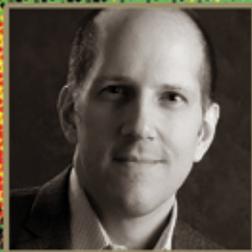
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WINDY CITY TIMES



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STONEWALL AT 50 WorldPride initial line-up announced

NYC Pride, the host of WorldPride 2019 | Stonewall 50, formally unveiled the location and initial talent line-up of the official opening ceremony of WorldPride.

The Wed., June 26, ceremony will be formatted as a benefit concert at Barclays Center in Brooklyn. Proceeds from the ticket sales to this historic concert event will support Ali Forney Center, Immigration Equality and SAGE—three leading organizations in the LGBTQIA+ movement based in New York City.

Whoopi Goldberg will host the ceremony, which is featuring a growing medley of acclaimed speakers and performers. Cyndi Lauper, iconic performer for the LGBTQIA+ community and New Yorkers alike, leads the initial release of the talent line-up.

Ciara and Todrick Hall are among the other performers who have been announced.

WorldPride 2019 | Stonewall 50 will be composed of more than 25 different events for LGBTQIA+ people during June.

Tickets for the WorldPride Opening Ceremony will go on sale Friday, April 12, at 9 a.m. CT; visit <https://2019-worldpride-stonewall50.nycpride.org/events/opening-ceremony>.

Report details lives of LGBTs in rural areas

The Movement Advancement Project (MAP) released a new report, "Where We Call Home: LGBT People in Rural America," which examines the structural differences in rural life and their unique impact on the estimated 2.9 million-3.8 million LGBT people in rural areas, who are both more vulnerable to discrimination and less able to respond to its harmful effects.

Among other challenges, rural LGBT people are less likely to have explicit nondiscrimination protections, are more likely to live in areas with religious exemption laws that may allow service

providers to discriminate and have fewer alternatives when facing discrimination, as detailed in the new report.

The report's executive summary concludes, "Overall, the report illustrates the importance of examining the impact of place of residence on LGBT people's (and indeed many communities') experiences throughout America, and shows the critical need for advancing federal and state nondiscrimination protections and LGBT-inclusive community services in rural America, where so many LGBT people call home."

"Where We Call Home: LGBT People in Rural America" is released in partnership with the Equality Federation, the National Black Justice Coalition and the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

The full report is at <http://www.lgbtmap.org/rural-lgbt>.

Northalsted names new executive director

The Northalsted Business Alliance (NBA) has announced the appointment of Kevin Richards as the organization's newest executive director.

As the executive director of the Streeterville Chamber of Commerce, he spearheaded the "Streeterville: The Complete Package" marketing campaign. Richards was also director of special events at EdgeAlliance, where he elevated the Dining Out for Life event to engage 80 restaurants. He also managed the Howard Street Special Service Area and was a co-owner of Broadside Studio—a marketing, brand identity and web-development company.

See Northalsted.com.

PASSAGES

Ragnar 'Rag' Hammerberg

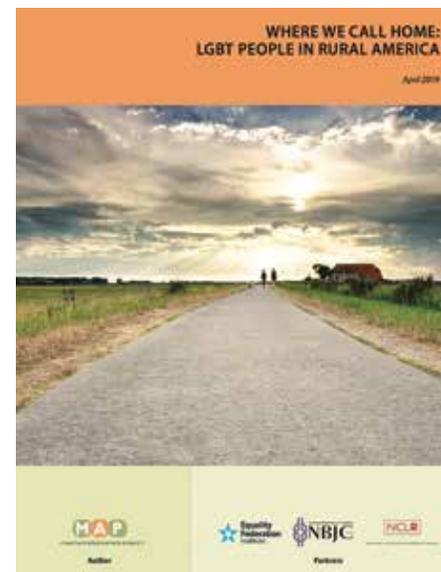
Windy City Times recently was notified that Ragnar "Rag" Hammerberg, a onetime Chicago resident, was killed last October. The Miami Herald reported that his bike collided with a truck in Key West, Florida. Hammerberg was 72.

He was born Dec. 13, 1945 in Escanaba, Michigan, to the late Samuel and Marie (Holmstrom) Hammerberg.

Jim Keck said of Ragnar, "Ray was a gay icon during the 1980s as the premier bartender at the Gentry Bar on Rush Street. Besides being very handsome and charming, he was quite the sun worshiper. He even had his own rock at Belmont Beach on which to sunbathe back in the day."

Ragnar worked in several hotels at a maitre d and waiter. He was survived by sister Elaine (Ken) Gustafson; brother Harlan (Linda) Hammerberg and sister-in-law Joanne Hammerberg. He was preceded in death by brother Robert Hammerberg.

The Miami Herald article is at <https://amp.miamiherald.com/news/local/community/florida-keys/article219801150.html>. Online condolences may be expressed at AndersonDiehm.com.



LIGHTFOOT from page 6

powerhouse.

But Chicago's spirit is strong and now we can see a hope-filled future rather than surrendering to a bad system that can't be changed—because it already has."

—**Mona Noriega, Chicago Commission on Human Relations chair:** "I am brought to tears when I recall the number of people I have known that were smart, charismatic, strategic, but were denied opportunities to make meaningful and life affirming contributions.

"I am old enough to remember when it was legal to fire someone because their LGBT identity was revealed, when it was socially acceptable to deny all things of importance, family, housing, jobs, even your life, because of your color, gender and or LGBTQ identity.

"Yes, we now have laws that prohibit violence and discrimination, but we still live in a world where any of those identities stop real decision makers like police, judges, teachers, parents, social workers, employers, hospital staff, from seeing a person's totality. Thus, I am ecstatic to see that Mayor-Elect Lightfoot was recognized for all of who she is, and I am hopeful that her governance will be infused with her lived experience of the deeply entrenched violence and discrimination that our many communities face. Yes, I have hope."

—**Lamont Robinson, Illinois state representative:** "Growing up in Chicago in the 1980s and 1990s, I was the son of civil servants, my mom, a schoolteacher, and my dad, a building inspec-

tor. One of the touchstones of their lives was the election of Harold Washington as mayor in 1983 and seeing how he inspired so many African-American kids in the city.

"Using their experience, I, too, aimed for public service, and I was elected last November as the first out gay black member of the Illinois General Assembly. But the one guiding star that was missing for me growing up was awareness of historical figures or current leaders who were gay.

"Two things will change that. One is the election of Lori Lightfoot as mayor, whom schoolchildren will be able to look up to. The other is learning in school about LGBTQ historical figures, which is why I am the chief co-sponsor of the LGBTQ curriculum bill."

—**John D'Emilio, historian:** "Without question, Lightfoot's election is a marker of significant historical change. Forty years ago this spring [in 1979], the Chicago police engaged in a series of raids on gay bars, making arrests and physically and verbally abusing patrons. Who could have imagined then that, someday, an African-American lesbian would become mayor?

"Also, one of the most fascinating aspects of the campaign is that Lightfoot did not feel the need to advocate in a major way for LGBTQ issues. When the first candidates from the queer community ran for elective office, LGBTQ issues figured prominently. Yes, there are important issues that still need attention, but the fact that they weren't front and center in Lightfoot's campaign is another form of testimony to how much has been accomplished in the last generation."

ELECTIONS 2019**LGBT aldermanic races mostly tight**

The LGBT members of the Chicago City Council who were in the April 2 runoff were involved in some very tight races, as opposed to Lori Lightfoot's historic win. (Lightfoot actually carried every ward in the city in defeating Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle.)

—**15th Ward:** Ald. Raymond Lopez retained his seat, having secured 59.5 percent of the votes, as opposed to challenger Rafael Yanez's 40.5 per-

cent.

—**33rd Ward:** Lesbian incumbent Deb Mell was locked in a very tight battle with Rossana Rodriguez Sanchez. With all 28 precincts reporting, Rodriguez Sanchez held a razor-thin lead (50.1 percent versus Mell's 49.9 percent). However, the final result still has not been determined, as absentee ballots are also being counted.

—**46th Ward:** Gay incumbent James Cappleman is also in a tight race of his own, with Marianne Lalonde. The result of his race is not known as of the press deadline, either.

Windy City Times will update the Mell and Cappleman race when the final results are known.

New alderperson Maria Hadden weds

Newly elected Chicago Ald. Maria Hadden wed partner Natalia Vera on March 18.

Hadden told Windy City Times that the ceremony took place "on our eighth anniversary in a private ceremony. We are so excited to start this new part of our journey together and to make many new memories as a married couple."

The couple will honeymoon in Cartagena before Hadden takes office in May.

Maria Hadden (left) and new wife Natalia Vera.

Photo by Sarah Jane Rhee



Photo courtesy of Rock Ventures

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(bik-TAR-vee)

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- ▶ **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.
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Nonprofit appoints first Black gay CEO in its long history

BY JAKE WITTICH

Chicago-based nonprofit One Hope United appointed a new president/CEO in January—and it marked the first time in the child and family services organization's 124-year history that an openly gay Black man has led the organization.

Charles Montorio-Archer, a New York nonprofit entrepreneur, child and family advocate, attorney and author, started as president and CEO on Jan. 22. He succeeds Todd Schultz, who remains on One Hope's executive leadership team as the chief transition officer.

Montorio-Archer said the path to his becoming the organization's first gay, Black president and CEO was paved by the diversity of its board members and the LGBTQ+ people serving at various parts of the organization.

"When I look at One Hope and who we connect with in service and employment, I see that I am all of those people at different points of my life," he said. "Coming here and having the opportunity to not feel hidden or lessened is empowering, because I'm now in a position to make sure that young black people, LGBTQ+ people or people from various other backgrounds feel seen."

One Hope United was founded in Chicago in 1895 and has grown to serve more than 9,000 children and families annually across Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri and Florida. Its services include education, foster care, adoption, housing and other forms of support. As CEO and president, Montorio-Archer plans to expand these programs to better serve LGBTQ+ and other marginalized communities, while also boosting the brand's na-

tional profile.

"We should become leaders and influencers in how these services are provided by not just connecting with children and families in a traditional sense," Montorio-Archer said. "We need to also serve people with intellectual or developmental disabilities, LGBT people, seniors, veterans and other groups we haven't traditionally talked to, because life without limits is for everyone."

Montorio-Archer got his start in advocacy in 1996 when he co-founded the THRIVE Network, a nonprofit organization serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in New York. By the time he left THRIVE last year, the organization had grown to serve more than 13,000 people annually, he said.

Montorio-Archer also served as the assistant district attorney in Kings County, Brooklyn, New York, from 2001 to 2004, before serving as the associate executive director for the InterAgency Council of Developmental Disabilities Agencies. In that role, he advocated for program development, business sustainability and policy and regulatory reform at the city, state and federal levels, according to a press release from One Hope United.

"I've spent the last 28 years advocating for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as for civil rights, equal rights and access rights for groups that are voiceless, disenfranchised or marginalized," Montorio-Archer said. "What drew me to One Hope was its rich history, strong foundation and potential to grow and become something different."

One Hope United Board Chair Theresa Dear said



One Hope United President/CEO
Charles Montorio-Archer.
Photo courtesy of Carrie Francis/One Hope United

the national search committee for a new president and CEO unanimously agreed he was the best candidate.

"I think that Charles will transform the organization by opening the doors of One Hope United even wider," Dear said. "The mission of One Hope United will now cover a broader and larger community, and the realization of our mission and brand will be elevated and enhanced significantly under his leadership."

Since starting at One Hope United, Montorio-Archer has spent lots of his time visiting the organization's programs to meet youth, families and employees, he said. He's done "ride-alongs" with various staff members to see the organization in action.

"Those are the types of things that re-energize me and remind me why I do the work that I do," he said.

Montorio-Archer has also started planning the organization's first "Hope After Dark," a dance party aiming to introduce a new demographic and generation of people to One Hope United. The event will take place after the governing board's annual fundraising conference, "Hope In Action,"

on May 3.

The organization will also host its fourth annual "Go Blue 4 OHU Restaurant Collective" fundraiser in April for National Child Abuse Prevention Month. More than 50 participating restaurants will feature specialty menu items and donate a portion of their sales to One Hope United.

Montorio-Archer said he also hopes to secure a spot in the 2019 Chicago Pride Parade for One Hope United, and he is looking forward to seeing the organization engage more with the LGBTQ community.

"I want the LGBT community to think about advocacy beyond just LGBT people and realize that in advocating for children and families as a whole, you are also advocating for LGBT people," he said. "There are gay people who don't have access to things in the same way that there are African Americans and Latinos who don't have access, and there's power in advocating together."

A list of participating restaurants and other information on One Hope's "Go Blue 4 OHU Restaurant Collective" can be found at OneHopeUnited.org/GoBlue.



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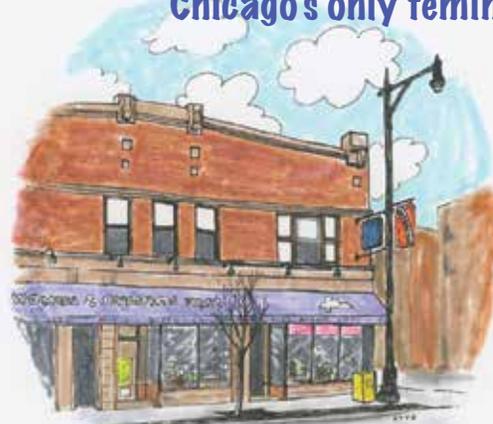
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Artists take to the stage for Trans Day of Visibility event

BY ARIEL PARRELLA-AURELI

Trans artists, allies and activists celebrated Trans Day of Visibility March 31 with an art event at Andersonville's Chicago Magic Lounge.

The art event, organized by the Chicago Therapy Collective (CTC), brought support, higher visibility, and a call to action to the red-curtained stage to honor the trans community and gender-nonconforming (GNC) community and make sure they are mobilizing change, speaking up for their rights and creating an inclusive space to be themselves.

CTC's team opened the show and celebrated the beauty, existence and love and connection that is needed, said Iggy V Ladden, founder of CTC. (In 2014, Ladden was named one of Windy City Times' 30 under 30 for their direct service to the trans community.)

Ladden also shared CTC's five initiatives to increase trans inclusion: #HireTransNOW, a job-recruitment program to increase trans inclusion and provide stable employment from several independent businesses; get trained to be an ally and hire trans or GNC folks; strengthen trans relationships by sharing experiences through a survey; creating space for trans art to be thought-provoking and a creative outlet for better understanding called Trans Art Is; and starting all this work in Andersonville to build a strong community.

"Be visible, show up for your community and help mobilize change" said outreach specialist and core organizer Elise Malary, who was vital in putting the event together and works with community groups to implement the initiatives.

#HireTransNOW CTC representative Alexis Martinez—a prior business owner of 20 years—woodworker, grandmother and 35-year-Andersonville resident, shared personal battles about not getting jobs in her past because she is trans, even though she has years of experience and an education.

"We are always told to work hard, do things the right way and you will get ahead in this country but there are so many barriers for trans people," Martinez said.

She is heading the initiative to build relationships with businesses and help trans and GNC people obtain employment so they can have access to healthcare, housing and freedom. To get it off the ground, CTC is asking for donations to start the program and build an employment database.

"Every job we can get for every person means they are not going to end up on the streets, homeless or in jail," she said.

The show featured 10 performers and four speakers well-known in the trans and GNC scene; each brought a distinctive, personal and proud energy to the stage, expressing their story and why trans visibility matters to them. The acts featured burlesque, comedy, draglesque, dancing, hip-hop, a play reading, a DJ set, spoken word and an acoustic set—as well as comic relief from the two hosts.

Visit <https://chicagotherapycollective.org/tdov2019> for the full line-up of the artists.

To learn more about CTC's initiative and to donate to #HireTransNOW, visit <https://chicago-therapycollective.org>.



Performers at the Trans Day of Visibility event.

Photo by Ariel Parrella-Aureli

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Out at CHM forum focuses on reclaiming history

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Chicago History Museum (CHM) launched its 2019 Out at CHM series March 27 with a forum entitled "How It's Written."

Writer/historian Owen Keehnen moderated the discussion, which focused on the process of compiling LGBT histories.

Keehnen briefly discussed his own work, which primarily addresses the social histories of the LGBT community from the '60s-'80s, which he said are often overshadowed by the political history of the same time.

Those histories "need to be preserved and ... pieced together," Keehnen explained, so as to be "consolidated into something that can be passed along."

Boston-based artist Ria Brodell, who identifies as trans and non-binary, discussed their painting series "Butch Heroes," which depict persons in history who were assigned female gender-identities at birth but had significant relationships with women and masculine gender presentations.

They detailed the extensive research necessary to contextualize the put the paintings into a proper context.

"I'm looking for names," Brodell said. "I wanted to be clear that these are real people as opposed to myths and legends."

Middlesboro, Kentucky-based author Jim Elledge similarly discussed the research that went into the creation of his book "The Boys of Fairy Town: Sodomites, Female Impersonators, Third-Sexers, Pansies, Queers, and Sex Morons in Chicago's First Century."

Elledge explained that many academic historians have yet to take LGBT history seriously within their discipline, and he also spoke about the tenuous nature of compiling histories from news accounts, which could change "from day-to-day."

He also discussed a 1912 marriage that seemed to be the first "gay marriage"; it was between a man and a particularly convincing female impersonator.

"I wonder how many others got through the same way," Elledge said.



From left: Owen Keehnen, Ria Brodell and Jim Elledge.
Photo by Matt Simonette



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viewpoints


**Oliver
KNIGHT**

Catholic bishops stopped my surgery because I'm transgender

After years of working to affirm my identity in a world where transgender people are questioned constantly about their decisions, I felt hopeful as I arrived for the surgery I had waited so long for. I was 27, and I would finally be closer to calling my body home.

Since I was a kid, I've felt like my body didn't match my soul. I felt uncomfortable in clothes. I felt disgusting when I showered. Everything felt wrong, but it took me a while to figure out why.

Once I discovered that I am a man, I went to my doctor to start the process of medically transitioning. I began taking testosterone. I had a double mastectomy. The next step was a hysterectomy.

My surgery was scheduled for Aug. 30, 2017, at St. Joseph Hospital in Eureka, California. It's the only

hospital in the area, and I was so excited that my community offered transgender care. I could get the operation close to home and then recover with my loved ones.

I had a pre-op appointment on Aug. 24 that went smoothly, and I followed all the instructions to prepare for my surgery.

On Aug. 30, I arrived at the hospital and they checked me in and did the surgery prep, which was extremely uncomfortable and triggering. I was given a pink gown. I asked the nurse if I could have a blue gown, but she told me I was having a "female surgery" and should wear the pink. I felt like a child all over again, sitting uncomfortably in a pink dress. But I forced myself to do it, I had been waiting so long for this.

They hooked me up to an IV to get ready to put me to sleep. About an hour after waiting, my surgeon finally came to get me. But when I saw the look on his face, I got a terrible feeling. He told me my surgery was canceled. It was denied by the Catholic Church for ethical reasons. I didn't understand how this could be happening. The Catholic bishops didn't approve of my surgery. It seemed unreal.

I had an anxiety attack and thought about all the pre-op and mental preparedness I had to go through just to get here. I freaked out and started crying. I was given medication to calm me down.

Fifteen minutes after that, the hospital staff asked me to leave. I still had booties on my feet as a nurse led me outside. I felt humiliated and queasy as I sat

on the curb waiting for my roommate to pick me up.

It seems the hospital does not understand how it feels to be treated inhumanely just because your body parts do not match your soul. This surgery was important—it was meant to balance my hormones. The delay disrupted my life. I felt like the hospital's bigotry had set me back years.

Today, with the help of the ACLU, I filed a lawsuit. It's unfair for St. Joseph to deny me care because I'm a transgender man. I should be able to go to the hospital where I live. Life in Humboldt County has been tough enough. Everyone thinks it's a liberal place, but it's not for trans people. I am regularly harassed and called names.

I didn't expect discrimination from a hospital. The sting from the rejection remains, but I hope my story lets others know that this is unacceptable. And we should continue to fight until we are all treated fairly. No one should be denied healthcare because of who they are.

The ACLU Foundation of Northern California, the ACLU Foundation of Southern California and the law firm Rukin Hyland & Riggin LLP have filed a lawsuit against St. Joseph Health Northern California for denying care to a transgender patient.

This piece is also at <https://www.aclu.org/blog/lgbt-rights/transgender-rights/catholic-bishops-stopped-my-surgery-because-im-transgender>.

Knight's photo is courtesy of ACLU of Northern California/Kate Donaldson.

letters

Remembering Roe

To the editor:

This marks the 48th year of Choices and the 46th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*. Interestingly enough, these anniversaries have become even more important to me than close birthdays.

I remember one January (1998), in particular, in New York City's Bryant Park. In the midst of the blinding snow and howling winds of what the papers termed "the worst blizzard of the decade," I was part of a band of dedicated pro-choice activists who were passionately celebrating the anniversary of *Roe*—and just as passionately attacking those who opposed it.

Years before, on another anniversary, I debated Nellie Gray, the organizer of the annual anti-abortion march on Washington. She was small, sinewy and angry.

She told me that we were a modern version of the Lincoln-Douglass debates. I smiled in recognition

until I realized that she was positioning me as Douglass. "We'll stop our attacks when you put down your knives and stop the killing," she told me. "And your vision of women's roles would be to butcher them with illegal abortions or turn them into baby-making slaves," I replied.

This year has also been extremely challenging. We lost the federal lawsuit the former New York attorney general brought against the antis that is now being appealed.

Continuing attacks on clinics across the country and women's right to abortion along with the rise of creative obstacles to birth control and prenatal care have placed the movement on the defensive.

People often ask me whether it is "a burden" to do the work I do, or whether or not I get depressed or despairing that the battles I fought almost half a century ago are still going on.

I tell them it is not a burden but rather a calling and a responsibility. I realized long ago that these battles over women's lives and agency will not be won in my lifetime or even in the immediate generations after mine.

I tell them that I believe it is a privilege to be part of the struggle and usually quote my old dear friend Florynce Kennedy who always told me, "Girl, you've got to love the struggle."

This newsletter is a great reminder of all the things that have moved forward this year at Choices. These accomplishments and more are evidence that in spite of the challenges, there are so many possibilities for improving women's lives.

Any time I read a headline that drains my hope I need only walk through the Choices waiting area and see a room full of people waiting for services sitting adjacent to the mural of female superheroes. Although the women in the mural are fictional, I see their ferocity and valiance mirrored in the patients who are everyday heroes and the work of my incredible staff.

Merle Hoffman

Founder and CEO

Choices Women's Medical Center

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Letters may be edited for brevity or clarity.**



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LET THEM EAT CAKES

THE 'MARIE ANTOINETTE'
DESSERT AT
BARTON G. THE RESTAURANT

PAGE 28

PR photo



THEATER REVIEW

Pinocchio

Playwrights: Joseph Steakley and Ben Loppries

At: House Theatre of Chicago at Chopin Theatre, 1543 W. Division St.

Tickets: 773-769-3832;

TheHouseTheatre.com; \$30-\$50

Runs through: May 19

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

This new Pinocchio definitely isn't Walt Disney's version, nor is it particularly faithful to Carlo Collodi's 1883 Italian original. The Cat and Fox baddies are gone along with the traveling puppet show, Pinocchio's turning into a donkey and—above all—his human transformation after learning kindness and generosity. Instead, this adaptation selectively uses original elements to frame themes of otherness and being different, whether that means being gay, an immigrant, physically different, or out-of-step socially or politically.

In this version, Geppetto (Molly Brennan) carves Pinocchio from wood salvaged from the Enchanted Forest, after it's burned down by a government that fears nature and declares the forest evil. Pinocchio suffers bullying and physi-



Pinocchio (voiced and operated by Sean Garratt) with his friend Romeo (Brandon Rivera, right) and a band of street musicians in Pinocchio. Photo by Michael Brosilow

cal abuse because he's obviously so different from human children. He's a Brainiac, too, which doesn't endear him to others. His only human friend, Romeo (Brandon Rivera), has an apparent same-sex crush on Pinocchio. Puppy love or puppet love? Townsfolk even hint that Geppetto is a pedophile because he's never-married, middle-aged and makes children's toys.

The regime enforces conformity. Phrases such as "Sometimes it's easier to do what everyone

else is doing" or "Sometimes lying is the right thing to do" (to get along) are frequent. It's explained that humans fear people/things they do not understand, but often willfully remain ignorant. The troglodyte attitude about ecology, and making differentness a political wedge issue, are treated comically but are intended to call up real-world willful Presidential ignorance.

The production boasts The House Theatre of Chicago's customary skill, creativity and panache.

THEATER REVIEW

The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey

Playwright: James Lecesne

At: American Blues Theater at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave.

Tickets: AmericanBluesTheater.com or 773-654-3103; \$19-\$39

Runs through: April 27

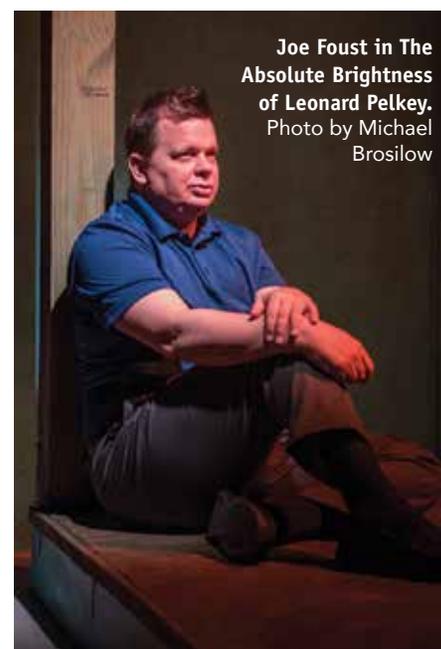
BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

We never meet the title character.

That's because Leonard Pelkey, like Marley, is dead at the beginning of our story—murdered

10 years earlier, at the age of 14. Testimony regarding the victim's final days paint a picture of an adolescent boy whose effeminate mannerisms elicit warnings from his acquaintances to "tone it down"—advice he roundly rejects. In the blue-collar culture of small-town New Jersey, this can only end badly.

Our narrator is local detective Chuck deSantis, who recounts the facts behind the decade-old case with a hard-boiled eloquence reminiscent of noir fiction, tempered by unexpected lyrical flourishes that he attributes to his recent study of Shakespeare. The witnesses offering information leading to the discovery of the criminal (as well as opinions on its underlying source) encompass such colorful regional archetypes as a nonsense hairdresser, her meek teenage daughter, a sullen video-game enthusiast, a prissy British-expat professor, an elderly German-immigrant



Joe Foust in The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey. Photo by Michael Brosilow

watchmaker and two widows (one with mob connections).

Oh, did I mention that all of these roles, and a few more besides, are played by American Blues company member Joe Foust? Don't for an instant mistake James Lecesne's play for a facile stunt-turn, replete with quick-change mugging, though. The offstage bellowing of a fellow officer and the gravel-throated growl of a heavy tobacco smoker may have brought forth chuckles from the opening night audience, but these were quickly eclipsed by the compelling procedural under way.

Is this a whodunit, then? Is it a hagiographical account of another martyr in the chronicles of gay history, an inspirational sermon on the

healing powers arising from tragedy, or a lesson in the evils of intolerance? Whatever label you affix to this 75-minute monologue is up to you, of course, but what is undeniable is the wholesale commitment that Foust bestows on each of his diverse personae, rendering their individual attributes so distinctive that, at the moment of crisis, we need only hear the messenger's voice to identify the bearer of the final clue resolving the mystery.

Seven years ago, the Neo-Futurists presented an elaborate, much more faithful adaptation of Pinocchio, which impressed me with the gruesome and violent nature of Collodi's original tale. Think the real Brothers Grimm and other cautionary fairytales. The House version is milk-and-cookies in comparison. It's enjoyable, imaginative and suitable for children perhaps as young as eight or nine, but it's not a definitive telling (which appears not to have been a goal). However, by making it a platform for issues we recognize as current, the adapters may have limited its staying power. Only time and revivals will tell.

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CRITICS' PICKS

Herland, Redtwist Theatre, through April 14—Empowered by Bruce Springsteen anthems, four women of diverse ages, intents and erotic impulses vow to determine their own destinies, whether destiny mandates pantsuits, jacuzzis or smashing guitars. *MSB*

Sweat, Goodman Theatre, through April 14—Lynn Nottage's Pulitzer-prize drama is so well-written, so well-acted and so often funny that you don't realize how its small change adds up, bit-by-bit, to something big and potent. Don't miss. *JA*

Bright Star, BoHo @ the Greenhouse, through May 5—Although saddled with a predictable story, this tender and sincere musical soars with a wonderful, bluegrass-inspired score which a fine company plays, sings and dances to a "T." *JA*

Southern Gothic, Windy City Playhouse South, open run—The second year and location (South Loop's Motor Row) for Leslie Liataud's audience-immersive, liquor-fueled comedy about changing times in Georgia. There are drinks/nibbles included, so experience it for yourself. *MSB*

—By Mary Shen Barnidge and Jonathan Abarbanel

SPOTLIGHT

We've all said it: "The world would be a better place if there were more people like me!" Oh? Really? How many identical siblings would be enough? Would you clone yourself endlessly if you could? Who would raise those numerous newborn clones? Running just under an hour, Caryl Churchill's 2002 play **A Number** really should be paired with another play but never is, which kinda-sorta is a cheat for a full-price ticket. Still, it remains intellectually and emotionally provocative with the right director and actors, and the trio of Robin Witt (director), William Brown and Nate Burger are excellent choices. Although **A Number** has been seen in Chicago before, it remains a timely and pertinent play. Tickets: WritersTheatre.org; \$50-\$70

Photo by Michael Brosilow



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DANCE

Dance for Life, See Chicago Dance changing leadership

CHICAGO—Dance for Life Chicago (DFL)—which mobilizes Chicago's dance community by raising funds to support dance professionals facing critical health issues—has announced that Executive Director Phil Reynolds is resigning from his position, effective May 31.

In addition, See Chicago Dance (SCD), the Chicago dance industry's nonprofit service organization, has announced that Executive Director Heather Hartley is resigning from her position, effective May 10.

Reynolds and Hartley are married to each other, and are moving to North Carolina to start a nonprofit organization, Trillium Arts.

The DFL board of directors is assembling a search committee and determining its next steps for hiring a new executive director.

The SCD board of directors also is assembling a search committee, consisting of board members and dance community leaders. Further, the board intends to appoint an interim executive director to manage the organization through this transitional phase.

DFL 2019 will take place Saturday, Aug. 17,

at the Auditorium Theatre, featuring the Partner Dance Companies that perform each year—Giordano Dance Chicago, Hubbard Street Dance Chicago and The Joffrey Ballet—joined this year



by Chicago Dance Crash, Chicago Human Rhythm Project and Ensemble Espanol Spanish Dance Theater.

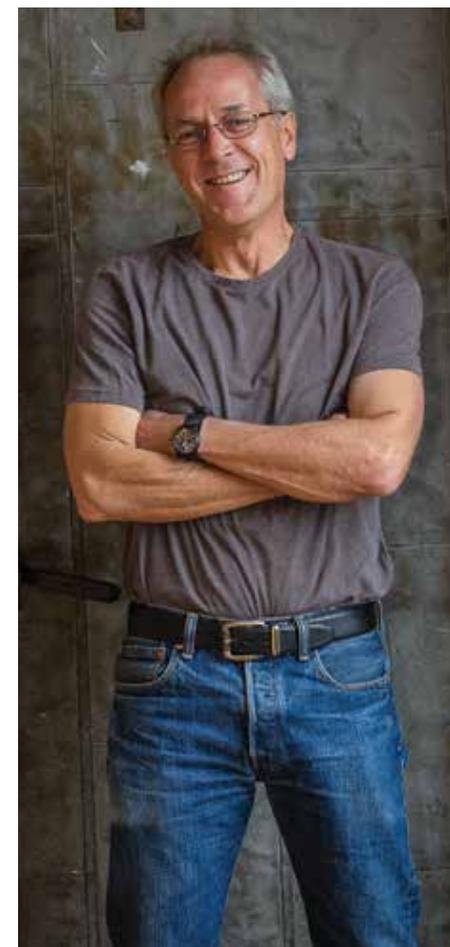
The concert will feature a work in tribute to late dancer, choreographer and instructor Claire Baille, choreographed by Robyn Mineko Williams and will conclude with a finale choreographed by Randy Duncan. Tickets go on sale May 1; visit ChicagoDancersUnited.org.

Below: Heather Hartley.

Photo by Cheryl Mann

Right: **Phil Reynolds.**

Photo by Philamanjaro



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Sean Hayes and Allison Janney.
Photo by Getty Images for GLAAD

Beyonce, Sean Hayes among GLAAD honorees

The media-advocacy organization GLAAD announced recipients for 15 of this year's 27 categories for the 30th Annual GLAAD Media Awards on March 27.

Beyonce and JAY-Z received the Vanguard Award. HIV/AIDS advocate Morris Singletary; writer, producer and director Janet Mock; stylist Ty Hunter; and Emmy and GLAAD Media Award-winning writer, producer and actor Lena Waithe presented them with the honor.

During JAY-Z's speech he praised his mother, who came out as a lesbian on the track "Smile," from his album 4:44, Deadline.com noted. "I get to follow in her footsteps for spreading love and acceptance and her beautiful speech at the end of the song—and for allowing me to tell her story," he said.

Beyonce said, in part, "Change starts with supporting people closest to you."

Also, Sean Hayes received the Stephen F. Kolzak Award from Oscar-winning actress Allison Janney at the star-studded ceremony at the Beverly Hilton in Los Angeles.

Celebrity guests included Gwyneth Paltrow, Jamie Lee Curtis, the cast of Queer Eye, Meghan Trainor, Hayley Kiyoko, Ross Mathews, Adam Lambert, Meghan Trainor, Michelle Kwan, Gina Gershon and Jennifer Tilly (in a Bound reunion), Nico Santos, Imagine Dragon's Dan Reynolds and many more.

Some of the category winners included the movie Love, Simon; the documentaries Believer and TransMilitary; Variety magazine; the reality program Queer Eye; the comedy series Vida; and the video game The Elder Scrolls Online: Summerset.

The GLAAD Awards will continue in New York City on Saturday, May 4. Madonna is slated to be honored.

See GLAAD.org for more about the awards gala.

The Deadline item is at <https://deadline.com/2019/03/beyonce-jay-z-glaad-media-awards-vanguard-award-lgbtq-shangela-representation-1202584894/>.

Ella Jenkins to be honored April 13

The DuSable Museum, in collaboration with Smithsonian Year of Music 2019, will honor Ella Jenkins with family programming on Saturday, April 13, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at the DuSable Museum, 740 E. 56th Pl.

Performers at the event include the Chicago Children's Choir, Carol Weston, Alice Collins, Reggio "the Hooper" McLaughlin and Tammy McCann (who is organizing the event for DuSable Museum.) There will also be a screening of a clip from Tim Ferrin's documentary Ella Jenkins: We'll Sing a Song Together.

At 94, Jenkins has released dozens of albums for Folkways Records since 1957.

See <https://www.facebook.com/events/2222125047856905/> and <https://www.dusablemuseum.org/event-directory/>.



Ella Jenkins (right) in 2013.
Photo by Hal Baim

Big Freedia to lead April festival

LGBT singer Big Freedia is coming to Chicago to celebrate Do312 & Chicago Cannabis Alliance's street festival—the second annual Waldos Forever Fest, at Argyle and Clark streets—on Saturday, April 20,, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.

In addition to the New Orleans-based "Queen of Bounce," the event will feature Chicago music, comedy acts, DJs and drag performers plus a chill lounge and arcade game tent.

The 18-and-older event is free; RSVP at <https://do312.com/waldosforeverfest>.

'Queer Queens of Qomedy' April 28

The Queer Queens of Qomedy (also known as the group Q3) are coming back to The Chicago Laugh Factory, 3175 N. Broadway, on Sunday, April 28, at 4:30 p.m.

Q3 is led by Poppy Champlin; the troupe has been touring for 13 years. The other two comedians are Sonya White and Gwen La Roka.

Tickets are \$25-\$40 each; visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/699513513797124/> or <http://www.laughfactory.com/clubs/chicago>.

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Alessa Rogers and Christian Clark. Photo by Kim Kenney, courtesy of Atlanta Ballet.

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PHOTOGRAPHY

Iconic photographer honored in 'Laura Aguilar: Show and Tell'

BY KERRY REID

Laura Aguilar—who died at 58 in April 2018—explored multiple aspects of her identity in her photographs.

She was queer, Latinx, working-class and what some might deem plus-sized. She also struggled with auditory dyslexia, depression and diabetes—the latter being the cause of her premature death.

In “Laura Aguilar: Show and Tell,” now at the National Museum of Mexican Art (NMMA) through Sunday, Aug. 18, Aguilar’s eye (bold and unflinching, yet wholly empathetic) on her own marginalized status and those of others through her three

decades of work comes into sharp and emotionally resonant view. It’s the first major retrospective on Aguilar, and the first time her work has received a major exhibition in the Midwest.

The show began at the Vincent Price Art Museum at East Los Angeles College in September 2017 and moved on to the Patricia and Philip Frost Art Museum at Florida International University in Miami last spring. Sybil Venegas—who started as an early

Above left: Three Eagles Flying, 1990.

Courtesy of the Estate of Laura Aguilar and the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center. © Laura Aguilar

photography teacher and mentor for Aguilar at East Los Angeles College and became a close friend—curated more than 100 photos and videos that Aguilar created over the years.

“Laura was an interesting person,” said Venegas in a telephone interview with Windy City Times. “She was very funny, she was very shy, but she was also very engaging, too. She knew how to attract mentors into her life. That was a gift she had, because she had a lot of them.”

When they first met, Aguilar was a photographer for the campus newspaper. Aguilar began going over to Venegas’ house to show her new work, and Venegas began taking Aguilar around the Los Angeles art community. The earliest section of Show and Tell contains portraits of older artists and mentors in the Chicano art community who influenced Aguilar.

Venegas noted that the path through “Show and Tell” reflects Aguilar’s own journey. She said, “One thing just led to another and it went from maybe ethnic and sexual identity and portraiture to self-portraiture and then finally toward the end of the career, leading to the self-portraiture of her body—her nude body—and what that meant.”

In the late 1980s, Aguilar came out as lesbian. She also began incorporating text in her work. In the series “How Mexican is Mexican?,” Aguilar took portraits of Latinas she knew (including Venegas) and had them write reflections on their ethnic identity, along with a thermostat on the bottom providing a “pepper” rating—mild, medium and hot—for how “Mexican” they felt.

On a recent tour through the exhibit, Cesareo Moreno—the director of visual arts and chief curator for the NMMA—noted that Aguilar’s portraits of the lesbian community also explored class components. The Latina lesbian series, he pointed out, includes subjects who “are all professionals. We have the lawyer, we have the university professor, we have the archivist. We have women who have gone to college.” Here too, Aguilar asked the women to write information about themselves. Tellingly, Aguilar included herself in this series. Her self-caption reads, “I’m not

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Turn to page 29

BOOK REVIEW

Dugan's Bistro and the Legend of the Bearded Lady

By Owen Keehnen

\$17; Out Tales

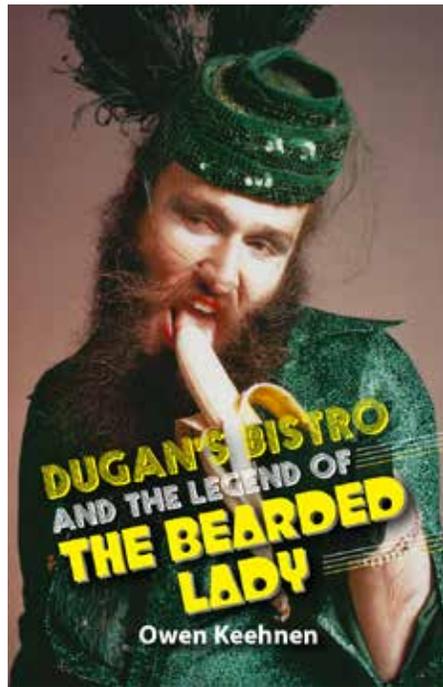
Publishing; 148 pages

REVIEW BY LAUREN EMILY WHALEN

Bob Theiss contained multitudes—most under a completely different name.

Known as the Bearded Lady (or BL) to gay Chicagoans of the 1970s and early '80s, he was part drag queen, part hedonist and all nightlife superstar. Wearing layers of thrifted stockings and oft-handmade headdresses, the BL slayed the small stage of iconic River North disco Dugan's Bistro. Author and historian Owen Keehnen chronicles the BL's rise to fame in his latest book, *Dugan's Bistro and the Legend of the Bearded Lady*. Short but poignant, *Dugan's Bistro* is an impeccably researched wild ride into an era of rainbow days and cocaine-fueled nights.

Theiss wasn't always strutting around clubs in vintage threads. Born during a solar eclipse in 1947, the man who would become a legend graduated from a Niagara Falls boarding school and finished two years of college before joining the Air Force during the Vietnam War. Tired of hiding his true self, Theiss eventually found himself in Chicago and cultivated a personality to end all



Dugan's Bistro and the Legend of the Bearded Lady cover.

Cover art by Charles Shotwell and Kirk Williamson

others. He hoarded clothes and jewelry in his tiny apartment on Briar Place, grew his hair long and when Dugan's Bistro opened downtown, found

his artistic and spiritual home.

To gay people who felt free for the first time in their lives, the Bearded Lady was a savior, as was Dugan's. Thanks to visionary Eddie Dugan, the French restaurant turned nightclub was about more than the dancing and drugs that made the '70s so notorious. Dugan loved seasonal decorations, lines out the door and on the bar and the smell of sex in the air. The Bearded Lady helped cement the Bistro's reputation as Chicago's own Studio 54. But behind the headdresses and makeup was Bob, who eventually followed love to Tokyo, earned his college degree and taught English as a second language. No matter his environment, however, the BL lived to be seen.

Keehnen culled the book's research from the internet, digital and paper archives, newspaper coverage of the BL (from alt-weeklies to the Chicago Tribune) and even police reports (because Dugan's Bistro was often raided for drugs and "public indecency," the latter of which could mean whatever the cops wanted it to mean). His passion for the titular individual is fully on display in every word.

Many young queer Chicagoans may not know that just a few decades ago, the most happening gay spaces were downtown, and that the River North area was once considered dangerous—and that a mythical figure with prominent facial hair and garish jewelry ruled the scene. *Dugan's Bistro and the Legend of the Bearded Lady* is an enlightening peek into the pre-AIDS past, when everything was beautiful and nothing hurt—yet.

[Note: Keehnen is an occasional contributor to Windy City Times.]

'FACES: Out and Proud' at Center on Halsted

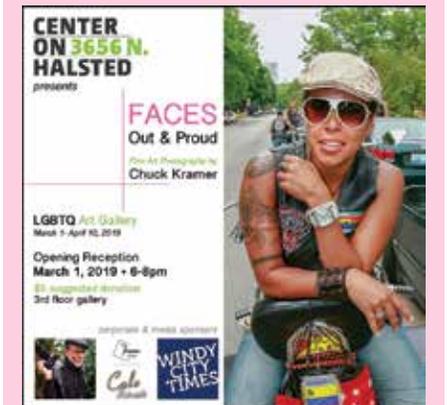
The Center on Halsted is presenting "FACES: Out & Proud," an exhibition of the fine art photographs by Chicagoan Chuck Kramer.

The show will run through Wed., April 10, in the third-floor gallery at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

"FACES: Out & Proud" is a collection composed of 22 portraits—shot on the go—that capture Chicago's LGBTQ community in day-to-day life.

Artists Frame Services, Calo Restaurant, True Muse Inc and Windy City Times, in part, are sponsoring the exhibition.

Kramer's work is available online at ChuckKramerPhotography.smugmug.com.



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BOOKS

Queer scholar profiles Chicago house music

BY LAUREN EMILY WHALEN

When Micah E. Salkind was a teenager in Kansas, he found the music that would change his life.

"I went to raves and would hear Chicago house music," said the queer scholar, whose first book *Do You Remember House? Chicago's Queer of Color Undergrounds* is available from Oxford University Press. "I came through [the house music movement of the late 1990s and early 2000s] with a Chicago taste in my mouth, so I wanted to understand the relationship between Chicago and the way the music moves."

Do You Remember House? originated as Salkind's dissertation for his Ph.D. in American studies from Brown University, where he also earned undergraduate and master's degrees. The book, which Salkind described as an "academic monograph," chronicles the history of Chicago house music from its origin in the 1970s to the present, and examines the genre as a means of community for queer people of color and others who gravitate toward its sound.

"The book is ... a deep dive into a musical culture's development and a close look at how people today look at the culture in incredibly different ways," Salkind said via phone from Providence, Rhode Island, where he works as an arts administrator.

Although Salkind is queer, he is also white—a fact he remained cognizant of while researching and writing.

"My approach has been [that] it's not my culture to claim or story to tell, but [I can] amplify people at the center of this culture," Salkind said.



Micah Salkind.
Photo by Paul Mpagi Sepuya

"Through the process, I asked myself, 'Should I be doing this? Is it coming from a place to honor and uplift, or to colonize and take?'" he said. "From me, it was a process of uplifting. I still wrestle with it, but I often thought, if I don't take my privilege to write this book the way I can write it, it leaves room for someone to write about it in a way that's less ethical."

Salkind did the bulk of his research in Chicago from October 2013 to May 2014. "All I was doing was interviewing people and going out dancing," he said. Salkind conducted over 60 interviews with individuals who were pivotal to Chicago house music. "Some people can just paint a world for you. They know how to recall events in their lives and describe them in amazing detail," he

said. "Other people are incredible legendary figures and to have the opportunity to interview them at all was such an honor."

He also "read about any journal article or book about dance music I could get my hands on," and utilized archival research. "Center for Black Research had about five magazines that were eventually published online, that became extremely helpful," Salkind said. "And Jacob Arnold has a blog called Gridspace. He's not a trained scholar, but Jacob is an incredible [house music] archivist and historian, and I used his resources a ton."

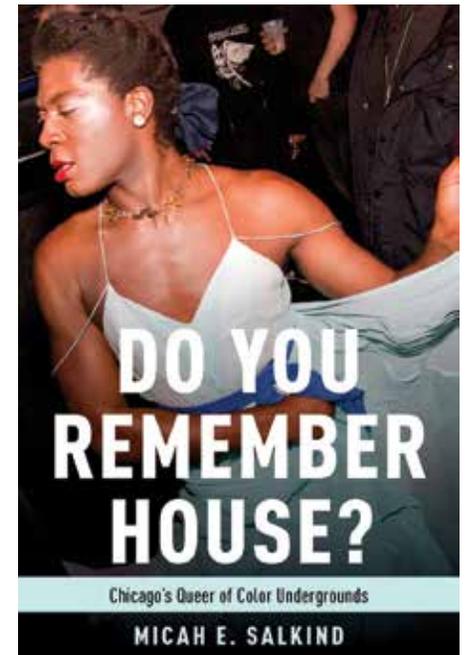
While living in Chicago, Salkind immersed himself in current house music culture. "I tried to go to as many places as I could, and people recommended to me," he said. "I ended up spending the most time at Queen! at Smartbar on Sunday nights, and at the Chances Dances roving parties at The Hideout, Danny's and Subterranean. I also went to Excursion and The Shrine when it was still open."

Throughout the process, Salkind gained a deeper reverence for Frankie Knuckles and Ron Hardy—contrasting pioneers of the genre.

"Frankie and Ron set a blueprint for the didactic nature of Chicago house music," Salkind said. "The experimental energetic thing Ron would do was a counterpart to the soulful fluidity of Frankie. You have the incredible importance of the parties Ron Hardy DJ'd, when straight people became a part of the culture and learned to live among the queer communities. Chicago has an incredibly forward-thinking sensibility as to how people party together, because [Hardy and later Knuckles] accepted everybody. Great music was the common denominator."

"Ron's life was cut so drastically short, and they both had to leave before their time," Salkind continued. (Hardy struggled with heroin addiction and died in 1992 at age 33. Knuckles, who was openly gay, died in 2014 at age 59 from diabetes complications.) "Imagine all the Black queer artists we would have today if they hadn't come to the plague. HIV/AIDS figures hugely into why we have that missing generation, and perhaps why [house music] hasn't been archived and celebrated as much as it should be."

While Salkind's research was funded by his graduate program, writing the book while working was a whole new challenge. "I had to sequester myself on weekends to get it done around my nine to five," he said. "My father was an academic, and I learned early that half the battle was just sitting down and putting something on the page. My dad always said, 'Don't let perfect



Cover of *Do You Remember House?*

Image by Erik M. Kommer and Oxford University Press

be the enemy of done."

When asked why he'd chosen house music as his academic and literary focus, Salkind recalled the boy from Kansas he once was. "Everyone who does research, does 'me-search.' You're always doing work to repair something in yourself," Salkind said. "What I realized [was that] I was looking for queer ancestry in this music I related to so deeply as a teenager, when I wasn't out. Having these new connections with people who I share this music with, across generational and racial lines, was really impactful."

Salkind has thrown house parties and worked as a DJ in Providence since 2007. He's planning a New England book launch with some of the artists he interviewed, but hopes to eventually host an event in Chicago, where the subject of his studies began.

"Chicago house is part of a legacy of musical culture, a history of DIY Black entrepreneurship [and] experimentation, cross-class and interracial spaces, where all kinds of ideas could flourish," he said. "You can't have house music without Chicago."

For more about the author, visit micah-salkind.squarespace.com.

March with us!

Lakeside Pride, Chicago's LGBTQA marching band, is starting to rehearse for summer parades! Join us for the Chicago Pride Parade and other events. Percussion, winds, and colorguard LGBTQ individuals and allies of all skill levels are encouraged to join, even if it's been years since you've played. Visit our website to learn more, to get ask questions, and to let us know you're coming!

Rehearsals begin 5:00pm Sunday, April 28 at DePaul University, 2330 N Halsted St

lakesidepride.org/march



Fashion Excellence Awards on April 26

Driehaus Design Initiative will present The Driehaus Awards for Fashion Excellence on Friday, April 26, at 6:30 p.m. at Chicago Vintage Motor Carriage, 700 S. Desplaines St.

Themed "Infinite Possibilities," the event is a cocktail party and runway show competition highlighting the talents and innovative collections of top emerging fashion design students in Chicago.

Media personalities Linda Yu and Sylvia Per-

ez return as emcees of the fundraiser, which includes a pre-party with hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, live entertainment and a live auction.

The first-place winner will take home \$7,500, and a prize package including the production of a lookbook, an apparel display at Neiman Marcus Michigan Avenue, and mentoring and media opportunities. The second and third place designers, as well as the five honorable mention designers, will win cash honorariums.

Tickets are \$100-\$175 each; visit Driehaus-Design.org.

THE SPORTING LIFE: Barrett A. Solorio

BY ROSS FORMAN

Barrett A. Solorio has been playing gay sports for almost five years, first starting in the Stonewall Kickball League, and has since also competed in dodgeball, flag football, soccer, volleyball and

bowling.

"At first, I was scared on a team [because I] didn't know anyone. I was a little afraid that I might mess up, affecting the team. Luckily I had a great team that was understanding; I played well and flourished," said Solorio, who was born



Barrett A. Solorio (second from left, front row).
Photos from Solorio

and raised in Southern California and has called Chicago home for about the past six years.

"In the beginning, [gay sports] were just a good way to meet new people and a great way to stay active. Now this is my sport family."

Solorio, 35, who lives in Chicago's Lake View neighborhood, is a patient access specialist at Northwestern Medical.

Sports isn't just about winning and losing to Solorio. Rather, "knowing that the team had a good time is my highlight," he said. "Gay sports

have become more diverse within our community and other surrounding communities."

Solorio once dressed in drag for a football team charity event, his first time performing in drag. "I had blast putting on a show and raising money," he said.

"What a lot of people don't know about me is, I used to be very shy. [Participating in] gay sports have helped me break out of my shell."

Solorio's sporting bucket list includes archery and water polo, he said.

Extra innings with ... Barrett A. Solorio

—**Favorite pro sports team:** Green Bay Packers

—**Favorite pro athlete:** Dominik Koll

—**Favorite pro sports stadium:** Lake Elsinore Storm Stadium in California

—**One pro athlete who you'd like to meet:** Dominik Koll

—**Who is Dominik Koll?:** An Austrian former swimmer, now 34, who is a two-time Olympian, a 41-time national titleholder and is openly gay. Koll made his Olympic debut at the 2004 Summer Olympics in Athens, and then participated at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing.

—**If you could attend any pro sports event/game, what would it be?:** "The Winter and Summer Olympics."

—**Regarding the LGBT community:** "I try to volunteer as much as I can."



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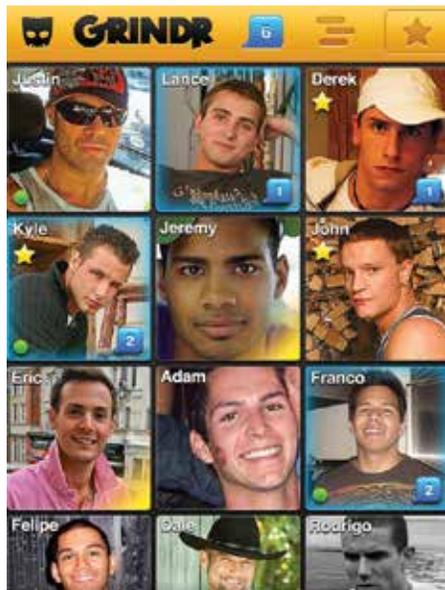
"Let's see how long I last."—Patti LuPone says of her latest venture—as a member of Twitter. Her first Tweet? "Contain me with only 280 characters? Fuck that." All that with 240 characters to spare.

If you're anything like me (and I believe many of you are), you have been waiting with bated breath for the tell-all book about *The View*. Ladies Who Punch: The Explosive Inside Story of *The View* could only have been written by a gay man. That gay man, **Ramin Setoodeh**, had unprecedented access to virtually every member of the talk show—both behind and in front of the camera. He had previously written various pieces for *Variety*, *Vanity Fair* and other publications. Once the book was announced, virtually everyone was willing to go on the record—the only holdouts of note were **Whoopi Goldberg** and **Elisabeth Hasselbeck**. Even to someone like me who has had more access than most to the inner workings of ABC's venerable daytime drama, much of this was news. Quotes by **Barbara Walters** herself, executive producer Bill Geddie and others will shock and titillate you.

One of the biggest scandals recounted in the book stems from the time after **Meredith Vieira** had left, **Star Jones** had been fired and **Rosie O'Donnell** had yet to debut as moderator (although she was backstage). On the panel with Barbara that day were **Joy Behar**, Elisabeth Hasselbeck and guest host **Lisa Loeb**. The prime "Hot Topic" was that the morning-after pill had been approved by the FDA. Hasselbeck made it clear in the pre-show meeting that she was passionately against the pill. Alas, her passion was a bit out of control. Lizzie got more vitriolic than Walters was comfortable with, and the grande dame attempted several times to calm things down. Finally, Walter scolded, "Could you stop now? We have to go on and we have to learn how to discuss these things in some sort of rational way."

The show went to commercial, Elisabeth quickly left the set and first erupted to Behar—forgetting, of course, that they all still had their mikes on. "Fuck that!," Hasselbeck shouted. "I'm not going to sit there and get reprimanded on the air!" Joy attempted to calm her down, but Elisabeth kept complaining about "that woman" and stormed off to her dressing room saying she quit. Meanwhile, a producer told Barbara (who was also still miked) that Elisabeth wouldn't come back on the air. Walters responded, "She has to! Bill, she has to. This is why we shouldn't have done this discussion." Then Behar came back and confirmed the news. Barbara's response? "Well, that's ridiculous."

Geddie darted downstairs to Hasselbeck's dressing room to avert a disaster—bear in mind, it's only a three-minute commercial break. He does some fast talking, lying and cajoling, and gets her to return—with Barbara alternately apologizing and defending herself. In case anyone doubts the veracity of this combustible scene, turns out



If you have a spare \$100 million, you can buy Grindr, Billy says.

Screen shot

that "someone" made a copy of the audio from everyone's mikes in the sound booth. To hear it all transpire in real time, check out **BillyMasters.com**.

It was announced last week that **RuPaul** will be getting a daytime talk show. Fox announced that the daytime RuPaul show will get a three-week trial run starting on June 10. This is an idea the network has tried several times in the past with attempts to launch shows with people like Kris Jenner and **Fran Drescher**. Good luck.

Speaking of our favorite "Nanny," I caught up with Fran last week at the opening of Renee Taylor's one-woman show, *My Life on a Diet*, at the Wallis Annenberg Center in Beverly Hills. Fran (accompanied by her dashing ex-hubby Peter Marc Jacobson) enthusiastically talked about her upcoming return to sitcom television. A pilot of *Uninsured* was ordered by NBC, and the cast just had their first table read. "And everyone is so nice," gushed Fran. "If it's not going to be fun, why bother?" And she sure knows about fun—Drescher has been on the road lately performing her own show, "Schmoozing with Fran Drescher." She spends half of the show onstage alone telling stories. And then, Peter comes out to interview her and also take questions from the audience. I have heard the show has been a smash hit on the road—so much so that she's gonna be at Town Hall in Provincetown this summer, courtesy of Rick Murray and *The Crown & Anchor*. You can grab tickets for the Aug. 10 show at **OnlyAt-TheCrown.com**.

Back to **Renee Taylor**. Quite simply, she's a national treasure. What a lady! The 86-year-old effortlessly weaves her way through a lifetime of struggles with her weight—which mirrored many of the other struggles in her life and career. Ironically, once she accepted herself, fame, fortune and love arrived at roughly the same time. There's a lesson in there somewhere. The love Taylor has for the audience was reciprocated by the capacity audience, led by Drescher and other members of *The Nanny* cast. Also in the crowd were veteran actors **Hal Linden** and **Barbara Eden**, who

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recently appeared together in *Love Letters*. *My Life on a Diet* is in the midst of a national tour. It plays here in Beverly Hills until April 14. For more dates and info, check out **MyLifeOnADiet-Play.com**. And, of course, I'll run photos from the opening on **BillyMasters.com**.

Do you have a spare \$100 million? If so, you could buy **Grindr**. Yes, the popular "gay dating" app is for sale—and not necessarily by choice. The Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) has ruled that the ownership of the California-based app by a Chinese gaming company is a security risk. Apparently, the government is concerned that the personal data of users could be compromised.

When I'm the only one who hasn't been compromised on Grindr, it's time to end yet another column. If you're looking for online fun where the risks are minimal, check out **BillyMasters.com**—the site that always plays safe. If you have a question for me, send it along to **Billy@BillyMasters.com** and I promise to get back to you before China offers me millions for my website! Until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

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Dining Guide in
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SAVOR Barton G. The Restaurant

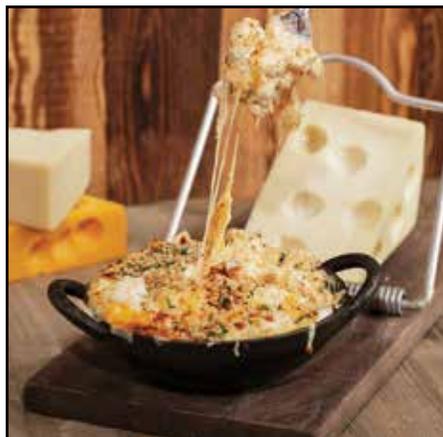
BY ANDREW DAVIS

It's safe to say that there's no spot in Chicago like **Barton G. The Restaurant** (415 N. Dearborn St.; <https://www.bartong.com/restaurants.html>).

Restaurants here have been everything from elegant to bright to laid-back and even artsy—but Barton G. (which Barton G. Weiss has expanded to this Midwestern city from its base in Miami) brings the showmanship in ways this writer has never experienced.

And that's why Barton G. The Restaurant is: an experience. The decor is whimsical, but a look at the props shelved by the bar indicates that guests are in store for something very different.

Start with the drinks. (Actually, start with the napkin, which is folded to look like a robe.) For example, the Diamonds Are Forever (served on



Lobster mac 'n cheese at Barton G. The Restaurant.

PR photo

a tray of "diamonds") is an intriguing mix of Grey Goose Citron, Cointreau and lemon—and it came with a vodka popsicle that you can dip/leave in your drink. My dining partner had the Sabrinatini, which literally comes smoking—and had a chocolate monkey (the animal being a motif of the spot) hanging from the side of the glass.

And things actually become more theatrical from there. The popcorn shrimp was presented in an actual popcorn machine, the lobster pot

pie came in a metallic sculpture and the lobster mac 'n cheese was served in a giant mousetrap—complete with a piece of (edible) cheese. The pork came with a four-foot-tall fork—and, last and certainly not least, dessert was the head of "Marie Antoinette," complete with a towering cotton-candy wig.

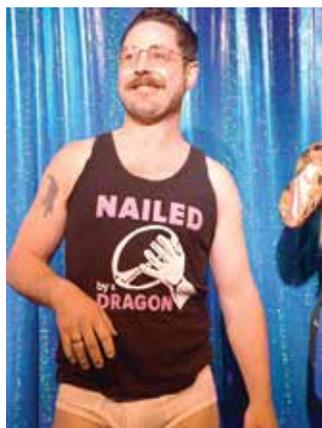
However, all of this would essentially be for naught if the food were bad. However, the drinks were tasty, the mac 'n cheese was addictive and the pork practically melted in our mouths.

Barton G. can almost be overwhelming, but there are at least two strikes against it. First, as my friend pointed out, the dishes are Instagram-worthy—so much so that a thousand cellphone camera flashes can go off at once, making your meal a possibly distracting experience. Second, the drinks are eye-catching—and so are the prices (\$25-\$30 each); however, at least the meals (most of which cost approximately the same) can be split between two people.

The restaurant is possibly expanding to at least two other cities: New York and Las Vegas. Given the over-the-top style, the latter (at least) is definitely a no-brainer.

Barton G. The Restaurant certainly warrants a visit. After being there, you will certainly say you haven't been to anyplace like it.

Note: Restaurant profiles/events are based on invitations arranged from restaurants and/or firms.



SIDETRACK

Gettin' scrummy at the Chicago Dragons Rugby bachelor auction.

Joseph Stevens Photography



TOUCHE

Trident's Cupcake Wars rakes in over \$2,500 for Broadway Youth Center.

Joseph Stevens Photography



PROFILE BY
TONY PEREGRIN

DRAG PROFILE OF THE WEEK
::CLAIRE VOYANT::

NAME

"Claire Voyant is a reference to a psychic with the ability to see the future. Being born in early November, I am a hardcore Scorpio and one of Scorpio's many characteristics is their psychic potential—and that became the basis for when my drag persona began to materialize."

FIRST DRAG PERFORMANCE

"My first drag performance was in *Crash Landing: Cycle Two* at Berlin. I channeled the darker side of my personality by dressing as a 'seductive Satan.' I opened with an anti-smoking public service announcement before transitioning into 'Highway to Hell' by ACDC. Although I remember little after the music started, I advanced the next two rounds and ultimately placed top six."

DRAG INSPIRATION

"Because my first, genuine interaction with drag was through RuPaul's Drag Race, those drag queens (Raja and Sharon Needles) sparked my interest in the art form. In terms of my looks and drag persona, I find myself creatively stimulated by astrology, unexplained myths and legends, and characters and femme fatales from iconic horror movies."

GO-TO NUMBER TO SLAY A CROWD

"Although I do not have a go-to number, I do have a go-to artist—Lady Gaga."

FUN FACT

"One hidden talent I possess is my ability to make professional animal noises. They are incredibly realistic and were even featured on a prominent Chicago radio station. Unfortunately, I have yet to master my favorite animal, a sloth."

WHERE CAN WE CATCH YOU

"I host *Slay*, a horror-themed drag show with *The Lady Ivory* at Berlin Nightclub, the first Wednesday of every other month. Also, I host *Neon Pop*, a neon paint party-themed drag show with *Veronica Pop* at *Charlie's Chicago* the last Friday of every month."

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: [claire.voyant.queen](https://www.facebook.com/claire.voyant.queen)
Instagram: [@claire.voyant.queen](https://www.instagram.com/claire.voyant.queen)
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LGBTQ HEALING SERVICE The Reformation Project Chicago presents an LGBTQ+ worship experience for everyone who has felt excluded, disrespected or unsure about their body. A time to heal, to sing, to pray. A time for lament and healing. Featuring The Many. April 12, 7pm, Saint James Cathedral Huron & Wabash, Chicago (4/10/19-1)

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Michael J. Bland, Psy.D., LCPC. Northside location. 773-404-8161. Michael@BlandTherapy.com / www.BlandTherapy.com (9/26/19-52)

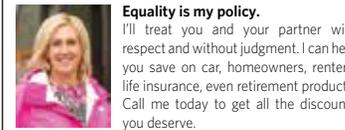
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AGUILAR from page 22

comfortable with the word Lesbian. But as each day goes by, I'm more and more comfortable with the word LAURA."

At the same time, she was also photographing working-class lesbians just outside East LA at a bar called the Plush Pony. "These are not her close friends, but she hangs out there," said Moreno. The women in the bar were initially reluctant for her to take their photos, noted Moreno. But when Aguilar offered to sell them their photos for \$5 a print, they agreed. Moreno added, "I personally find it interesting that in the working-class world, there is this understanding that 'OK, I will pay you.' Otherwise they don't understand. 'Why would you want to take my photo?'"

The show includes what is perhaps Aguilar's best-known image, "Three Eagles Flying." Here, the flags of the United States and Mexico (two nations who incorporate eagle mythology into their national symbols) flank a central image of a bare-breasted Aguilar (whose surname means "eagle" in Spanish) bound by rope and the American flag on the bottom half of her body and blindfolded with the Mexican coat of arms. There have been many interpretations of the meaning, but Moreno stated, "Laura said, 'They're all full of it. This piece is about me and my relationship to my mother.'" (Aguilar's mother died when the photographer was a teenager.)

Aguilar's struggles with depression come into sharpest focus in the series "Don't Tell Her Art Can't Hurt," which features an image of a nude Aguilar with a gun in her mouth. Excoriating confessional videos lay bare the pain of self-doubt that accompanied her along with her camera.

Yet there is also great joy in the show, from the "Clothed/Uncloded" series, in which Aguilar captured all different kinds of families, including queer couples, with and without clothing, celebrating their connections with each other. She also created a series of breathtaking works in which her nude body meshes with the wild landscapes of the New Mexico desert. Aguilar—who spent so much time on the edges of identity as well as economic and emotional upheaval—once said, "I am trying to know that it is my right to stand on solid ground."

"Laura Aguilar: Show and Tell" takes place through Sunday, Aug. 18, at the National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 19th St. Call 312-738-1503 or visit NationalMuseumOfMexicanArt.org.

A fundraiser to support LGBTQ journalists at Windy City Times

Tracy started her work as a journalist in May of 1984 at GayLife newspaper, going on to co-found Windy City Times in 1985. In this changing media landscape, it's important to support community media.

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WINDY CITY TIMES COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wed., April 10

GenderQueer Chicago Discussion group for anybody who wants to talk about gender or topics that relate to gender. We center the needs of anybody who falls under the umbrella of trans, gender-queer, gender non-conforming, or non-binary. 7:00pm - 8:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.genderqueerchicago.org>.

All Things Beyonce Monthly Celebration of Queen Bey. Dance all night. No cover. 9:00pm Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St Chicago <http://www.sidetrackchicago.com>

19th District Community Alternative Policing Strategies (CAPS) 19th District Beat 1914. The partnership between police and community is the foundation of Chicago's own philosophy of community policing 7:00pm - 8:00pm Clarendon Park Field House 4501 N. Clarendon Ave Chicago <http://home.chicagopolice.org/office-of-community-policing/how-caps-works/>

Thursday, April 11

Buyer and Seller A struggling actor who takes a job managing a make-believe shopping mall in the basement of Barbra Streisand's Malibu home. \$40/\$30/\$20 2:00pm Broadway Theatre at 4139 N. Broadway 866-811-4111 <http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com>



'DISCO' FEVER Friday, April 12

About Face Theatre will hold its annual Wonka Ball—and this year's theme is "Disco Inferno." Photo from last year's ball by Jerry Nunn

Friday, April 12

Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association Loud and Proud 2019 Take a trip to the high school carnival that never existed when you were young. Games, food prizes, enjoy School of Rock show teams and raise money for Center on Halsted 3:30pm - 5:30pm 815 Wisconsin Ave., Oak Park <https://opalga.org>

The Reformation Project Chicago LG-BTQ inclusive worship experience For everyone who has ever felt excluded, disrespected or unsure about their body. Sing, pray, lament, heal. 7:00pm St James Episcopal, 65 E Huron St, Chicago <http://saintjamescathedral.org>

WONKA BALL: Disco Inferno About Face Theatre, Chicago's celebrated LGBTQIA theatre, presents annual gala, with VIP cocktail reception and awards ceremony celebrating a 23rd season. Cleo Pockalipps will host. 8:00pm - 11:00pm Venue West, 221 N. Paulina St. 773-784-8565 Tickets: <http://www.about-face-theatre.com>

Saturday, April 13

Honoring Ella Jenkins Jenkins is scheduled to attend and meet & greet friends and fans after the performance. DuSable Museum and Smithsonian Year of Music 2019 host a day of family programming. Performers: Chicago Children's Choir, Carol Weston, Alice Collins, Reggio "the Hooper" McLaughlin, Tammy McCann. Free admission. Screening a clip from forthcoming doc, Ella Jenkins: We'll Sing a Song Together. Free. RSVP at the link. 11:00am - 2:00pm DuSable Museum 40 E 56th Pl Chicago Tickets: <http://www.facebook.com/events/2222125047856905/>

Dyke Delicious presents ALMA Alma Thorpe's bizarre views on sexuality, motherhood, God and mail-order sweepstakes make her a living breathing shrine to Southern Gothic. Film follows Alma's daughter's struggle with a mentally ill mother and an abusive alcoholic father. 7:00pm Chicago Filmmakers, 5720 N. Ridge Ave. Tickets: <http://www.chicago-filmmakers.org/screenings/2839>

Let's Make a Deal: Asians & Friends Fundraiser Dress in a crazy outfit for

playing games, filming a video to air in social media and raising money for Asians & Friends Pride. 7:00pm Atmosphere Bar 5355 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.facebook.com/events/317577728897362/>

Sunday, April 14

Night of Noise: Onward and Upward The Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, breaking the Day of Silence and celebrating LG-BTQ+ superheroes past and present with singing, dancing, enjoying an amazing roster of talent and raffle prizes. General \$25. VIP \$100 5:30pm Haymarket Pub and Brewery Tickets: <http://non19.brownpapertickets.com/>

Thursday, April 18

Youth and Systems: Providing Hope & Healing Summit Pride Action Tank is collaborating with the Illinois LGBTQ Roundtable and Training Resource and Information Network (TRAIN) to host, or service providers, educators, researchers, For funders, policy makers and others whose work or interests include improving outcomes for LGBTQ+ young adults. 8:30am - 5:30pm 5501 N Kedzie Ave, Chicago Tickets: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com>

Bon Foster Civil Rights Celebration Remember a fighter for justice as we refight old battles and continually push forward for equality. Open bar, hors d'oeuvres reception, entertainment. \$150 6:00pm - 10:00pm Morgan Manufacturing, 401 N. Morgan St. Tickets: <http://www.lambda-legal.org/bonfoster>

Friday, April 19

CAKE Art Auction Annual fundraiser for CAKE (Chicago Alternative Comics Expo. Admission is \$10 7:00pm - 10:00pm 826Chi, 1276 N. Milwaukee <http://www.cakechicago.com>

cakechicago.com

Joel Hall birthday master class and legacy event Video presentation on Hall's career and moderated conversation in celebration of Artistic Director Emeritus Joel Hall's extensive contributions to the field. 7:30pm - 9:30pm Logan Center for the Arts' Performance Hall, 915 E. 60th St. Tickets: <http://ticketsweb.uchicago.edu>

Saturday, April 20

WCCC Build-an-Easter-Bonnet Party Bonnets and decorating supplies provided. At 5, wear your creation (or bring one from home) for the contest hosted by Dixie Lynn Cartwright. \$15 suggested donation to Windy City Cycling Club. 1:00pm Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St Chicago <https://www.facebook.com/events/260969671521858/>

Slo 'Mo Party & Space Babes Powered by and for queer women, trans and non-binary babes and friends. Intimate and indulgent five-course cheese tasting curated by "Cheese Sex Death" complimented by pairings by Space Babes. Then, The Sonic Infusion, Slo 'Mo dance with DJs Selah Say & Dapper and a market "high" lighting all-queer women vendors. \$65. 7:00pm - 1:00am Humboldt Park address will be shared 24hrs in advance Tickets: <http://www.slomoparty.com/events/420>

Adult Prom Do-Over Biggest, queerest, raddest dance party, a chance to take back prom night. Hosted by drag celebs Dixie Lynn Cartwright and Alexis Bevels, features pop up drag, burlesque and circus with awkward photos and cheesy dance music. \$20 advance, \$25 at door. Prom attire ... however that plays out for you. 9:00pm - 1:00am 1113 W. Belmont Ave. <http://adultprom.wellattended.com>

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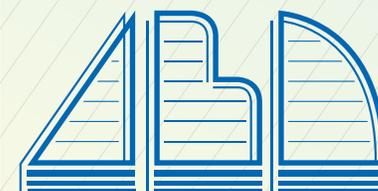
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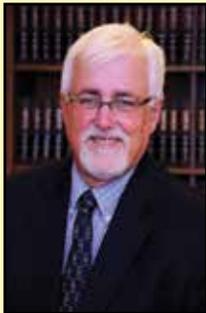
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