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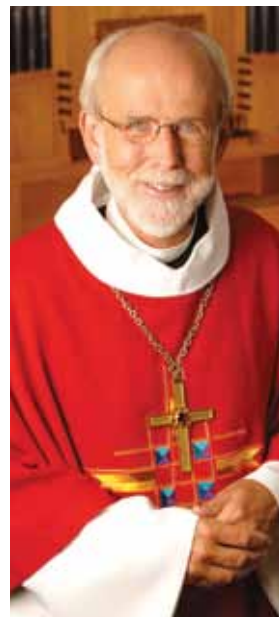
VICCI MARTINEZ TALKS WITH WCT

# WINDY CITY TIMES

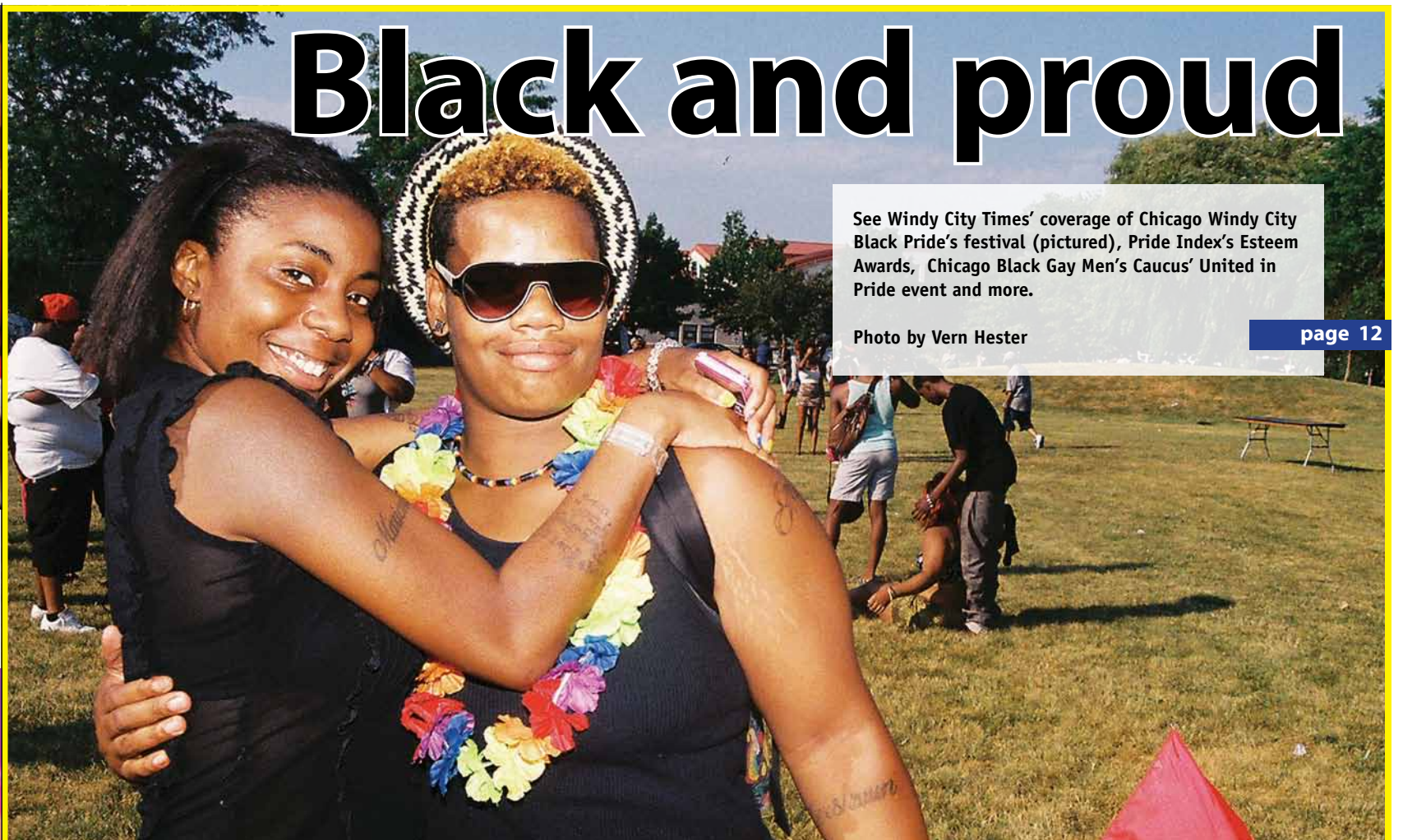
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JULY 11, 2012 VOL 27, NO. 38

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BISHOP MAKES HISTORY PAGE 5



## Black and proud

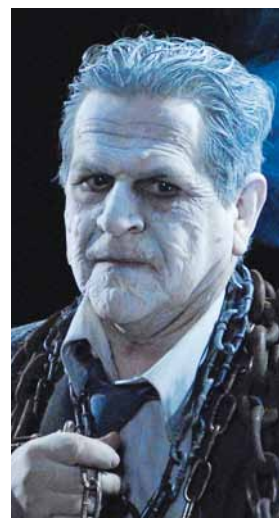
See Windy City Times' coverage of Chicago Windy City Black Pride's festival (pictured), Pride Index's Esteem Awards, Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus' United in Pride event and more.

Photo by Vern Hester

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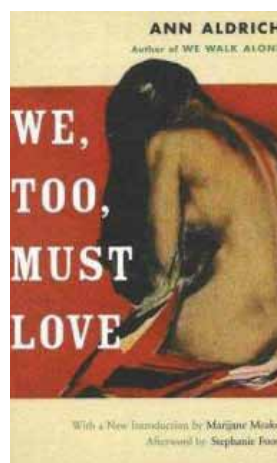


MALE EXOTIC DANCERS TALK PAGE 25



SCROOGE & MARLEY PAGE 30

## PULP FICTION: TALKING WITH AN ICON



Writer Marijane Meaker talks about her personal and professional journeys BY SARAH TOCE

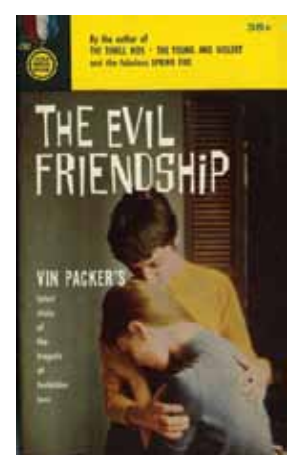
At a time when women were unable to find a publishing house to take a chance on them (never mind lesbians) in the 1950s, there was an inspired gal by the name of Marijane Meaker on the scene. Using the alias of "Vin Packer," Meaker created her own literary house where multiple aliases were her "clients" and she could basically publish whatever she wanted ... as anyone other than her real self.

Meaker is poised to release a new novel in 2013. Will she use her trusty standby of Vin Packer? Or will she stand steadily on the changing times and go where few lesbian authors have gone before? Have the times really changed that much? It is a mystery ... that must be solved [insert mysterious creepy music here]...

**Windy City Times:** At the start of your career, you took the business of writing into your own hands by becoming your own literary agent. How did this idea initially take shape?

Marijane Meaker: I came to New York after graduating from the University of Missouri in 1949. I could not get an agent though I had all these short stories written and a long list of literary agents. Finally, I decided to just have stationery printed and be my own agent. My clients were all me, under pseudonyms. I had stories about my clients so editors would feel they knew them, though of course none of them could live nearby, which was why

Turn to page 32



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Photos on cover (left, from top): Photo of Vicci Martinez by Andrew Zaeh; photo of Bishop Mark Hanson from ELCA website; photo of dancer Jared by Denis Largeron; photo of actor Tim Kazurinsky as Marley in Scrooge & Marley film by Hal Baim

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**'WICKED' FUN**  
See photos from separate concerts featuring former Wicked co-stars Kristin Chenoweth and Idina Menzel (left).

Photo by Jerry Nunn



Lesbian actress Tucky Williams talks about her web series and epilepsy.

See photos from "Dancing with the Queer Stars."

Press photo

Photo of C.C. Carter by Steve Starr

**KID OF CONDUCT**  
Financial expert Phil Sitar talks about parents helping "boomerang kids."

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Read about upcoming events at local restaurants.

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# Gay Catholic group refuses to sign loyalty oath

BY CHUCK COLBERT

The board of directors of a Catholic gay ministry group has refused to sign a loyalty oath, a move that may prompt Bishop Salvatore Cordileone of the Oakland diocese in California to declare the Catholic Association for Lesbian and Gay Ministry (CALGM) "not authentically Catholic."

News of the bishop's loyalty-oath request broke in the National Catholic Reporter (NCR), a publication independent of Church officials, after correspondence from the CALGM board to its members were leaked to NCR.

"In an April 12 letter to the association's [directors]" NCR reported on June 25, "Cordileone stated he would 'take public action to clarify the status of CALGM with regard to authentic Catholic ministry' should they refuse to take an oath that required that each member 'strive to clearly present Catholic doctrine on homosexuality in its fullness' and 'profess personally to hold and believe, and practice all that the holy Church teaches, believes, proclaims to be true, whether from the natural moral law or by way revelation from God through Scripture and tradition.'"

An investigation of the organization and its "adherence to the fullness of Catholic teaching" has been ongoing since December 2010. Representatives of CALGM have met twice in person with Cordileone. The organization and bishop have exchanged nearly a dozen letters, according to NCR.

In refusing to sign an "oath of personal loyalty," CALGM's leadership has called the pact "unprecedented, inappropriate and potentially detrimental to Church ministry."

During a wide-ranging interview on June 26, CALGM Resource Director Arthur Fitzmaurice said the genesis of the investigation stemmed from concerns about organization's newsletter and comments "some of which we could explain" to the bishop and "some he thought were hostile to Church teaching."

Fitzmaurice cited two examples. One was criticism of the term "objective disorder," without CALGM's affirming that Church teaching, in fact, considers the homosexual orientation to be "objectively disordered."

Another concern, he said, was CALGM's claim that "being gay is a gift and a grace."

"The bishop had objections," Fitzmaurice said. And yet, "we shared with him why it could be considered a gift and part of our faith journey," in bringing us "to a closer relationship with Jesus Christ."

Fitzmaurice described the first meeting with Cordileone as "cordial and productive."

"We were able to share stories from our members, stories of our ministry," said Fitzmaurice, who added that the bishop told CALGM's representatives in attendance "he came to a place where he did realize how important it was to reach out to the marginalized in the Church."

CALGM President Sheila Nelson and a priest, along with Fitzmaurice, represented the organization during the face-to-face meetings, one on Jan. 7, 2011, and another on Feb. 1, 2012.

Based in Berkeley, Calif., and founded in 1994 as 501(c)(3) charitable organization, CALGM's network describes itself "as an association of diocesan, parish, and campus-based ministries and those involved in those ministries."

In its pastoral outreach, the association envisions its role as "setting the table" for gay Catholics, particularly those who feel alienated



Arthur Fitzmaurice. Photo by Chuck Colbert

from and unwelcome in the Church.

Setting-the-table imagery is an obvious reference to the Eucharist, as well as safe and welcoming place for conversation and personal story telling and faith sharing.

CALGM also appeals to the gospel of Jesus Christ in its outreach of affirmation, inclusion and pastoral care with lesbian and gay people, their families, and friends in the Catholic community.

CALGM claims 200 dues-paying members, including diocesan ministries in Chicago, Los Angeles, Oakland (parents ministry) and Raleigh, N.C.

Parishes are in Baltimore, Cincinnati, Dallas, Milwaukee and New York City, with a total of about 10 active parish ministries as formal members, Fitzmaurice said.

Other members, for example, are individuals and households from 25 states, such as Hawaii, Oregon, Utah, Tennessee, New Mexico, New Jersey, Missouri, Indiana and Florida. CALGM also has members from Canada and the United Kingdom.

Over the telephone Fitzmaurice offered several examples of how the CALGM network operates. People who contact the national office may request a spiritual director or a priest with whom they can talk, he said.

In other cases, "we offer pastoral care in the Church by helping people find local faith communities, helping them to find reconciliation with religion, with God, the Church, and themselves," Fitzmaurice said.

"We are not violating Church teaching," he said. "We are doing pastoral outreach."

"I get e-mails all the time. I just set someone up with a weekly Mass he can go to in Tampa," said Fitzmaurice.

Over the course of the investigation, Cordileone has asked CALGM to amend its Web site listings, links, and content. The bishop has also directed board directors to vet its conference materials, topics, content and speakers.

Cordileone even took exception to the use of the terms "gay and lesbian" on the association's Web site.

Oddly enough, the Oakland diocese Web site uses those terms, but the ministry offered is that of Courage, a recognized lay ministry with

the goal of bringing gays to celibacy.

CALGM aims to bring people to relationship with Jesus Christ without questioning their sexual behavior first.

Meanwhile, as Nelson wrote to members in an April 5, 2012, letter, "We have done almost everything required of us to maintain a legitimate space within the boundaries of the institutional Church."

"Yet, this has not seemed to be adequate or satisfactory to the office of the bishop," she continued. "We have repeatedly, abundantly and humbly submitted that our work is pastoral in nature and not political or primarily doctrinal."

Bishop Cordileone declined an interview request with NCR.

Reached by phone, Mike Brown, director of communications for the Oakland diocese, said, "The bishop has not made any statements" about the most recent development of board members refusal to take loyalty oaths.

"If there is to be a statement about CALGM, we'll make it," said Brown.

Meanwhile, the association has garnered support from its members as well as from others who minister with LGBT Catholics.

"CALGM is a fine organization, one that has helped many people and represents the future of the Church," said Eugene McMullan, a parishioner at Most Holy Redeemer in San Francisco's Castro neighborhood, and the lead organizer of Catholics for Marriage Equality in California.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone associated with CALGM," said Marianne Duddy-Burke, executive director of DignityUSA, the nation's oldest organization of LGBT Catholics. "We know this is a challenging time."

"However, in the current climate of the Church, anyone involved in LGBT ministry ultimately is forced into a crisis of conscience and integrity," she said, referring to the loyalty-oath request.

"CALGM has been a great support to many church ministers over the years and has provided great work in the field of LGBT ministry," said Francis DeBernardo, executive director of the Mount Rainier, Maryland-based New Ways Ministry. "They have worked hard to maintain a dialogue with church leaders throughout their work. The breakdown of dialogue here says more about the hierarchy's adamancy than it says any-

## Anderson Cooper comes out in email

Confirming a rumor that had been circulating about him for years, reporter/talk-show host Anderson Cooper has officially come out, courtesy of an email openly gay journalist Andrew Sullivan unveiled on his blog on The Daily Beast.

Sullivan started the July 2 posting by discussing a recent story in the publication Entertainment Weekly about gay celebrities coming out more matter-of-factly than in the past. However, he adds, "So these 'non-events' are still also events of a kind; and they matter" because of issues such as bullying and suicides, among others.

Sullivan then segues to Cooper, calling him "a friend for more than two decades." Asking him for his response on the issue of coming out, Cooper responds (in an email printed with Cooper's permission), "Andrew, as you know, the issue you raise is one that I've thought about for years. Even though my job puts me in the public eye, I have tried to maintain some level of privacy in my life. Part of that has been for purely personal reasons. I think most people want some privacy for themselves and the people they are close to.

"But I've also wanted to retain some privacy for professional reasons. Since I started as a reporter in war zones 20 years ago, I've often found myself in some very dangerous places. For my safety and the safety of those I work with, I try to blend in as much as possible..."

"The fact is, I'm gay, always have been,

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thing about CALGM's loyalty to the church."

Chicagoan Joe Murray of the Rainbow Movement said, "All of us should be concerned when any our of sisters and brothers in ministry have road blocks thrown in their path by the Church hierarchy."

However, he added, "My understanding is that Bishop Cordileone does not have authority over the Chicago Archdiocesan Gay and Lesbian Outreach (AGLO) ministry since that ministry is responsible directly to Cardinal Francis George."

"Next year this group will be celebrating their 25th anniversary, and Cardinal George will be the primary celebrant at that celebration liturgy.

"It will be interesting to see whether [local] bishops with AGLO's will take the same tone and approach. I believe this is a conversation that has been a long time in coming. I remember Dignity's earlier days prior to the break with the bishops they had some soul searching to do, but the end result was a stronger organization."

He added, "I suspect, however, Bishop Cordileone only has the authority over his own diocese."

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Anderson Cooper. From CNN website

always will be, and I couldn't be any more happy, comfortable with myself, and proud.

"In a perfect world, I don't think it's anyone else's business, but I do think there is value in standing up and being counted. I'm not an activist, but I am a human being and I don't give that up by being a journalist."

According to E! Online, Cooper acknowledge congratulatory tweets this past holiday by posting, "I appreciate all the nice tweets. I am in Botswana working but want to wish everyone a great 4th of July!" Kelly Ripa, Neil Patrick Harris, Tyra Banks, Jesse Tyler Ferguson and Ellen DeGeneres were among celebrities posting messages to Cooper.

To read the entire email, visit <http://andrewsullivan.thedailybeast.com/2012/07/anderson-cooper-the-fact-is-im-gay.html>.

# Lutheran bishop makes pro-gay history

BY CHUCK COLBERT

For the first time ever, a presiding Lutheran bishop spoke before a pro-LGBT faith group, which also serves a denominational advocacy organization.

The historic first came on July 7, when Bishop Mark S. Hanson of the Evangelical Church In America (ELCA) delivered the keynote address at Luther Place Memorial Church in Washington, D.C., during a kickoff event for a gathering of ReconcilingWorks that spanned several days.

ReconcilingWorks, formerly Concerned Lutherans, drew about 200 people to its biennial assembly, held this year in the nation's capital July 7-10.

The assembly's calendar of events included liturgical celebrations, workshops, Bible studies and yet another first—a lobbying day on Capitol Hill “to carry the group's witness for LGBT people to their individual U.S. representatives and senators,” according to a press release.

Hanson's keynote touched upon a range of intersectional topics such as immigration, ministry to the poor and society's marginalized populations, and LGBT inclusion within the 4.2 million-member ELCA and beyond. During the bishop's nearly hour-long talk, he told the story of a gay college student who told Hanson that his church saved his life.

Based in Chicago, Hanson has served as presiding bishop since 2001. In 2007 he was elected to a second six-year term. A native of Minneapolis, Hanson's installation as bishop took place at Chicago's Rockefeller Chapel in October 2001.

Right after the Hanson concluded his speech, the Rev. Christopher Berry, co-president of ReconcilingWorks, spoke about the importance of the keynote.

“He very prophetically talked about reconciliation and how it is the work of the people of God,” said Berry in a phone interview.

Berry was referring to a bringing together process of the ELCA since the mainline Protestant denomination's 2009 decision allowing for the ordination of openly gay clergy and the blessing of same-gender couples, going so far as to marry them in states that issue civil-marriage licenses to gay couples.

Berry—who serves as in a Lutheran campus ministry at Western Washington University, based in Bellingham, Wash.—also said implementation of the changes is “going very well” in some synods and “very slow” in others.

“We do have more clergy being added to [church] rosters,” he added. “At the same time, there are same-gender married clergy in some synods.”

Synods are governing districts or jurisdictions of the ELCA.

Berry praised Hanson for his advocacy and leadership. ReconcilingWorks consulted with the bishop at length, Berry said, “throughout all the strife and the work to bring about full inclusion.”

Implementation of full LGBT Lutheran equality is underway throughout the church, said Berry, albeit “not as fast as we'd like, but at a good pace.”

The presiding bishop's keynote comes just a month after the name change from Concerned Lutherans to ReconcilingWorks.

Why the change? “When people heard ‘Concerned Lutherans,’” Berry explained. “They thought about worried Lutherans.”

This is not happening any more. “Reconciliation is a process that happens once and for all,” he said. “ReconcilingWorks is a good name,” one “with double entendres.”

With its name change, ReconcilingWorks is drawing upon biblical references to St. Paul in his epistles (letters) warning not to let dis-

agreements foster permanent separation among the faithful one from another.

Coincidentally, ReconcilingWorks is based in St. Paul, Minn.

Hanson's keynote also comes at the same time 25 same-sex couples have brought suit in Illinois challenging the state's 16-year ban on gay marriage, a law limiting wedlock to a man and a woman.

Moreover, last month the Metropolitan Chicago Synod called for same-sex civil marriage during its annual assembly, held in Tinley Park June 1-2.

Better yet, the vote for marriage equality was decidedly lopsided, with more than 90 percent of 350 people on hand favoring it.

The local synod encompasses 202 congregations, with nearly 98,000 members, and is located in Chicago and the surrounding area.

The synod assembly also urged the Illinois Legislature and the governor to “extend the protections and dignity of marriage to all persons

and to protect the freedom of religion for all faith communities and religious organizations.”

Finally, the Chicago assembly urged the local bishop, the Rev. Wayne Miller, to play an active role in making the synod's position known throughout the state—to the Legislature, governor, congregations of the synod, and the public at large.

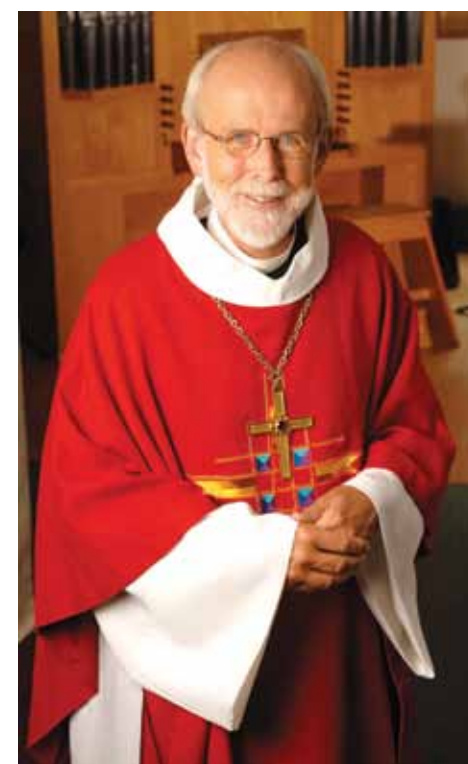
With its action, Metropolitan Chicago joins synods in Maryland; Minnesota; Washington, D.C.; and Washington state in advocating equal marriage rights.

Out West, Lutheran advocacy is at play as Washington state, too, where voters face a same-sex marriage referendum that will decide the fate a new same-sex civil-marriage law.

There, the Rev. William Christopher Boerger, bishop of the Northwest Washington Lutheran Synod, advocates marriage equality. Boerger even testified before the state House and Senate in advance of the Legislature's passing—and the governor's signing—of a bill into law.

Having hired a part-time staffer, ReconcilingWorks, said Berry, is on the ground “working diligently” with the local bishop to preserve equal-marriage rights at the ballot box.

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Bishop Mark S. Hanson. Photo from the ELCA website



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# Wis. legislator marks 30 years since gay-rights bill

BY KATE SOSIN

Three decades ago, a 28-year-old lawmaker pulled off a feat for gay rights that most say would be impossible today.

David Clarenbach helped lead the passage of the country's first statewide gay rights measure. The state was Wisconsin, and the year was 1982.

Wisconsin LGBT advocates are currently celebrating the 30th anniversary of Assembly Bill 70, which outlawed discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in housing, employment and public accommodations in a state that few associate with gay rights today.

"We controlled our destiny," Clarenbach recalled. "It was the gay and lesbian community that set the strategy and made the decisions."

Clarenbach was not exactly "out" at the time. He never tried to hide his sexual orientation, but no one had ever asked him to discuss it publicly either. And he was a likely champion for gay rights regardless of his sexual orientation.

Clarenbach was the son of Kathryn Clarenbach, founder of the National Organization for Women, and he learned progressive politics at a young age.

"When you grow up in Madison in the '60s, you cannot escape the vigor of the anti-war movement and the civil-rights movement," he said.

A self-described precocious Clarenbach started serving in government at age 18, when he won a seat on the Dane County Board of Supervisors. Three years later, he became a Madison alderman before entering the Wisconsin State Assembly that same year.

Others before him had made a run at a Wisconsin gay-rights measure. The Milwaukee LGBT History Project website notes that Lloyd Barbee, an African-American lawmaker from Milwaukee, introduced a bill to decriminalize homosexuality in 1967 and a non-discrimination bill in 1971.

In the years that followed, hundreds of activists worked at building support for an anti-discrimination bill. Among them was Leon Rouse, a college-aged gay-rights activist who was mobilizing local religious leaders in support of gay rights. Rouse would later have a hand in writing the bill.

Clarenbach knew that in addition to religious support, they needed votes from across the aisle. So, he and others bid their time, slowly adding Republicans to his list of supporters.

"In a way, we snuck up on the opposition," Clarenbach said. Clarenbach knew that if they brought the bill to a vote before they had the



David Clarenbach. Photo from Clarenbach

support to pass it, the failed bill would create a rallying point for anti-gay activists, who were working to undo similar protections in cities across the country.

By late 1981, they finally had the votes.

Clarenbach describes the days leading up to the vote as worrisome. While gay-rights advocates believed they had enough votes to pass the bill, they also knew that a last-ditch attempt to add a schoolteacher exemption amendment could gut the bill.

"I knew that if an amendment of that sort were introduced, it would pass," Clarenbach said.

Further, an amendment that made it legal to discriminate against schoolteachers could set off a domino effect of exemptions for several professions, leaving the bill unenforceable.

The morning of the Assembly vote, Clarenbach watched as a lobbyist from the Wisconsin school board association pulled out an exemption and began to walk it around the floor.

According to Clarenbach, Rep. Richard Flintrop, then chair of the education committee, walked up to the man and told him to fold up the amendment and put it in his pocket. The

lobbyist complied, and the bill passed without the amendment.

It passed, said Clarenbach, because it had from several Republicans as well as Democrats.

By February 1982, the bill had also cleared the Senate and was sitting on the desk of Republican Governor Lee Dreyfus.

With Clarenbach and Rouse behind him, Dreyfus signed the bill into law, and the first statewide gay rights law was born.

Don Schwamb, webmaster of the Milwaukee LGBT History Project, said the bill changed more than the law.

"Just the fact that the law was there was helpful to people's self-confidence," said Schwamb.

The new law was a sign of changing times for LGBT people in Wisconsin, and other states soon followed.

But 30 years after its passage, many, including Clarenbach, say the same law would not pass in

Wisconsin today.

"I really think there is a level of mass hysteria [about LGBT people now], and I'm not trying to be funny," said Clarenbach.

Schwamb agreed. "I think it was just a very fortunate set of circumstances that made it possible at that particular time," he said.

But while the two say the bill would not pass today in Wisconsin, Clarenbach noted it has survived against an increasingly anti-gay right wing.

More than that, he said, it is a story of "how in even the most improbable of conditions the moral high ground can prevail."

It may also serve as a reminder that even in the most unlikely places, the LGBT movement has roots.

As Clarenbach joked, "Our license plates say 'America's Dairyland,' not 'America's Fairyland.'"



U.S. Rep. Barney Frank.

## Barney Frank gets married

U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., married Jim Ready July 7 in Newton, Mass., according to the New York Times.

Frank, 72, met Ready, 42, at a political fundraiser in 2005.

Guests at the wedding included U.S. Rep. Nancy Pelosi, the House minority leader, as well as U.S. Sen. John Kerry and Reps. Dennis J. Kucinich and Steny H. Hoyer. Massachusetts Gov. Deval L. Patrick officiated.

Frank became, in 1987, the first sitting member of Congress to come out of the closet. He is now the first to be married to a partner of the same sex.

The congressman is set to retire in six months.

## FDA OKs first over-the-counter home-use HIV test kit

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the OraQuick In-Home HIV Test—the first over-the-counter, self-administered HIV test kit to detect the presence of antibodies to HIV virus types 1 (HIV-1) and 2 (HIV-2), according to a release.

The test allows individuals to collect an oral fluid sample by swabbing the upper and lower gums inside of their mouths; then, they place that sample into a developer vial and obtain test results within 20 to 40 minutes.

A positive result does not mean that an individual is definitely infected with HIV; in-

stead, it means that additional testing should be done in a medical setting to confirm the test result. Similarly, a negative test result does not mean that an individual is definitely not infected with HIV, particularly when exposure may have been within the previous three months.

The CDC estimates that 1.2 million people in the United States are living with HIV.

## Report: Chick-fil-A donated nearly \$2M to anti-gay groups

A report from Media Matters asserts that fast-food chain Chick-fil-A donated more than \$1.9 million to anti-gay causes in 2010 alone.

Last year, IRS 990 forms revealed that Chick-Fil-A donated nearly \$2 million to anti-gay groups in 2009 as well, according to an Equality Matters press release. Three years ago, Chick-Fil-A's charitable arm, WinShape, gave to such organizations as Exodus International, Focus on the Family, Eagle Forum, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Family Research Council. Exodus is one of the world's largest promoters of "ex-gay" therapy.

The Media Matters release showed that WinShape gave money to some of the same groups, including Exodus International, Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Family Research Council. However, the chain also donated to the Marriage & Family Foundation, the National Christian Foundation and the Georgia Family Council.

Chick-fil-A continues to deny it has an anti-gay agenda, Media Matters said.

## Famed gay psychiatrist Dr. Richard Isay dies

Dr. Richard Isay—a psychiatrist and psychoanalyst who argued that being gay was normal and not an illness—has died at the age of 77 of cancer, On Top Magazine reported.

Isay himself was the father of two sons who came out gay later in life. He married his partner of 33 years, artist Gordon Harrell, last year in Manhattan.

Early in his career, Isay accepted the mainstream view about homosexuality, according to the New York Times. Pondering his own sexuality, he thought psychoanalysis might help, and had 10 years of therapy. In the early 1970s, soon after the analysis ended and he was supposedly "cured," he realized, he said, that he was gay. By then, he had a wife and two sons; he eventually told his wife about his sexuality in 1980.

Isay—who also wrote works such as *Being Homosexual* (1989), *Becoming Gay* (1997) and *Commitment and Healing: Gay Men and the Need for Romantic Love* (2006)—is survived by Harrell, his former wife, a brother, two sons and four grandchildren.

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# Downstate clerks granted intervention in marriage cases

BY KATE SOSIN

Two downstate clerks have been granted the right to battle lawsuits that seek marriage equality in Illinois after Lambda Legal and the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois decided not to oppose their petition to intervene in the case.

Tazewell County Clerk Christie Webb and Effingham County Clerk Kerry Hirtzel will argue in favor of the ban on same-sex marriage in Illinois, which Lambda Legal and the ACLU are suing to overturn.

The lawsuits were left undefended after Cook County Clerk David Orr, who is named in the suit, and Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez refused to battle them, stating they agreed with the 25 plaintiff couples. Attorney General Lisa Madigan has also filed to intervene on behalf of the couples.

The intervening clerks are represented by the Thomas More Society, a conservative law firm that opposes same-sex marriage. Peter Breen of the Thomas More Society has argued that the clerks have a vested interest in the case, while Camilla Taylor of Lambda Legal argues that they do not.

Still, Lambda Legal and ACLU did not oppose the petition to intervene in court July 3, stating that they wanted to give both sides a hearing.

"This is not a concession that these clerks have standing to intervene because they don't," said Taylor. "What's important is for our 16 families to have their day in court and to tell their stories."

John Knight of the ACLU said that allowing the intervention was a matter of fairness.

"We think it's important that the other side be heard," he said.



Peter Breen of The Thomas More Society. Photo by Kate Sosin

Some have also speculated that opposition in the cases may yield a clearer win for marriage equality advocates because the appeals process may push the case beyond just Cook County.

Asked if allowing the intervention was part of a strategy to win the cases for the entire state, Taylor stated simply stated, "We always anticipated having an adversary."

The clerks have filed a motion to dismiss the case. The ACLU and Lambda have 45 days to respond to that request.

The next court date for the case has been set for Sept. 27 at 10:30 a.m. in the courtroom of Judge Sophia Hall.

## Gay AP intern dies in Mexico

Armando Montano, who worked this summer as a news intern for the Associated Press in Mexico City, was found dead June 30 in the elevator shaft of an apartment building, according to the Washington Post. He was 22.

Authorities are investigating his death.

Montano, a native of Colorado, arrived in Mexico City in early June after graduating from Grinnell College; he had a bachelor's degree in Spanish, with a concentration in Latin American studies.

He belonged to the National Association of Hispanic Journalists (NAHJ) and the National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association (NLGJA).

Montano was slated to take part in the UNITY journalists convention next month, according to an NLGJA statement. UNITY Student Project NAHJ lead David Plazas said, "His friends loved him, and those who worked with him admired his talent, potential and enthusiasm for life and journalism. Count me among the latter group.

"I cannot imagine the grief of his parents, his family and his closest friends. I, too, am feeling very sad, and I find it hard not to stop thinking about losing him. I will miss him."

Montano is survived by his parents, Diane Alters and Mario Montano, of Colorado Springs, Colo.

## Illinois Republican named among most anti-gay reps

Think Progress named U.S. Rep. Donald Manzullo, R-Ill., among the seven most anti-gay representatives on Capitol Hill.

The organization reported that Manzullo is "a tenth-term Congressman who recently lost

renomination after reportedly telling House Republican Leader Eric Cantor that the devout Jew was not 'saved.'" (Manzullo was defeated in the 2012 Republican primary March 20, losing to freshman incumbent Adam Kinzinger.)

Others on the anti-gay list include W. Todd Akin, R-Mo.; Dan Burton, R-Ind.; Phil Gingrey, R-Ga.; Tim Huelskamp, R-Kan.; Vicky Hartzler,



U.S. Rep. Donald Manzullo.

R-Mo.; and Doug Lamborn, R-Colo.

Think Progress also named Democratic Sens. Daniel Akaka of Hawaii, John Kerry of Massachusetts and Patty Murray of Washington as well as Texas Rep. Barbara Lee as the most LGBT-supportive members of Congress.

## Dearborn Garden Walk July 15

The North Dearborn Association will present the 54th Annual Dearborn Garden Walk Sunday, July 15, 12-5 p.m.

More than 20 private rear gardens will be featured.

Tickets are \$30 (advance)/\$35 (gate). (Accompanied children 16 and under get in free.) The program booth will be in the lobby of the Latin Middle School, 45 W. North Ave. Call 312-632-1241 or visit [www.DearbornGardenWalk.com](http://www.DearbornGardenWalk.com).

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# Funding gap shutteres shelter until October

BY KATE SOSIN

Lack of funds has forced a well-known LGBT-friendly youth shelter to close for the remainder of the summer, with plans to reopen in October.

The Crib, a 20-bed youth shelter run by The Night Ministry and housed at Lake View Lutheran Church, has become an LGBT community fixture since it opened in January 2011 because it is believed to be one of few safe places for LGBTQ homeless youth to sleep.

But a gap in funding streams has forced The Night Ministry to shutter the program through September, according to Rev. Barbara Bolsen, vice president of programs for The Night Ministry.

"It was a really really really tough decision to do this," said Bolsen.

Bolsen said the closure was a cost-saving measure aimed at keeping the organization afloat through difficult economic times.

The Crib has been funded through a combination of City funds and private donations. The city contract is for a "seasonal shelter" from October through April, and it is worth \$250,000.

Last year, the organization bridged that gap with private donations, but this year that money came up short. According to Bolsen, the organization's board of directors instructed them to close The Crib until the date mandated for city funding.

The shelter closed at the start of The Night Ministry's fiscal year, July 1.

"Unless we receive a windfall, we won't reopen until October," said Bolsen. "While it's horrible to have cut back on programming, we need to survive so we can provide programming."

The Night Ministry has suffered other cuts, said Bolsen, including cutting back on nights its Health Outreach Bus delivers services on the street from six nights a week to four.

The Crib opened at the start of 2011 as a pilot project that ran through May 2011 and was reopened as a fully funded project last August. It has since housed hundreds of young people between ages 18-24, many of them LGBTQ.

The cuts have been a call-to-action for local service providers and LGBT-affirming churches. According to Rev. Lois Parr, pastor at Broadway United Methodist Church, several groups are strategizing on how to fill the gaps in services for the summer.

"This is an urgent request for our young people," said Parr.

Parr said that the groups are discussing opening churches as cooling centers for LGBT homeless youth and providing places for youth to shower. They are also working to provide meals and other services on weekends, when some organizations that serve youth are closed.

The groups are looking for volunteers and donations of CTA fare cards. Both are being accepted through Lake View Presbyterian Church [www.lakeviewpresbyterian.org](http://www.lakeviewpresbyterian.org).



Ald. Tom Tunney (right, behind podium) announces senior housing last year. Photo by Steven Chaitman

## LGBT senior housing on track for 2014

BY KATE SOSIN

A highly anticipated and widely publicized project to bring LGBT-friendly senior housing to Lakeview is on track to open in spring 2014.

According to Hume An, director of real estate development at Heartland Housing, the \$21 million project is just months away from closing on its financing and starting construction on the former historic 23rd District Town Hall Police Station. Construction could begin as soon as November of this year.

A collaborative effort between Heartland Housing and Center on Halsted, the new apartments aim to ease some of the burdens placed on LGBT seniors who are often forced back into the closet as they age.

"There are a great deal of additional stressors that LGBT seniors face," said An. "In addition to the normal issues that LGBT seniors face... a lot of LGBT seniors face discrimination."

Many LGBT seniors report feelings of social isolation, lack of culturally-competent medical care and exclusion from younger LGBT communities.

The project aims to ease those burdens by connecting seniors in the new building with Center on Halsted services, including case management.

According to An, the new housing will be made up of 79 units, spread out over six floors. The units will be both studio and one-bedroom

apartments. The building will also contain common areas for residents and an outdoor patio overlooking Halsted Street.

Approximately 4,500 square feet will also be allocated to retail space. Organizers have considered filling the space with healthcare providers or an LGBT museum, An said.

Construction will include green design features and aim for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) gold or silver certification.

A combination of city, state and federal money is funding the project. Project organizers are also pursuing rental subsidies from the Chicago Housing Authority, An said.

## Greg Cameron named Renaissance board president

The board of directors of The Renaissance Society, a non-collecting museum of contemporary art, has elected Greg Cameron to be its new president, succeeding Jennifer Levine. Cameron takes office immediately for a three-year term.

Cameron is chief operating officer of WTTW, having joined the organization in April 2008 as executive vice president and chief development officer. Cameron, a resident of Chicago, served as the deputy director and chief development officer at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago 2000-2008.

For more information on The Renaissance Society, phone 773-702-8670 or visit [www.renaissancesociety.org](http://www.renaissancesociety.org).



A board at The Crib. Photo by Carrie Maxwell



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# Legacy Project hosts first Pride Month celebration

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

More than 100 people attended the Legacy Project's first-ever Pride Month celebration at the Center on Halsted rooftop terrace June 30.

The night featured DJ FLX spinning tunes, piano jazz by Bruce Kamsler and entertainment by Angeliqe Munro, Cyon Flare, Kayla Polanco and Madame X.

Attendees perused mock-ups of the Legacy Walk exhibit and watched a video overview of the Legacy Project Education Initiative in the Hoover-Leppen Theater ahead of a presentation by Victor Salvo, the project's executive director.

Salvo said that the Legacy Walk—which will be dedicated Oct. 11—has been a life-changing experience for him. He noted that as the project/walk has evolved he has reached outside of his sphere of knowledge and comfort zone to get to know aspects of other cultures which were foreign to him.

"We talk a lot about our 'diversity' but I have to tell you there is a wealth of history and perspectives and experiences out there—the reality of each of us—which we rarely, truly get to glimpse," said Salvo. "If the Legacy Walk accomplishes anything—and I expect it to do a lot—I hope it will be to open people's eyes not only to what LGBT folks have contributed to this world we share—but to each other. Because all who



Angeliqe Munro performs at the Legacy Project event. Photo by Carrie Maxwell

come to stroll the Legacy Walk as it continues to grow and evolve will experience a wealth of cultures and backgrounds all collected in one place—a truly unique attraction that will set Chicago apart."

Ending his remarks, Salvo introduced many of the plaque sponsors, thanking them for their leadership as the first people, businesses and organizations to make the Legacy Walk possible. Plaque sponsors in attendance included Arthur Johnston and Pepe Pena, Judge Tom Chiola (ret) and Drew Jemilo, Jim Darby and Patrick Bova, Paul Highfield and Ralph Kennedy as well as representatives from the Adler School of Professional Psychology, BMO Harris Bank, Levi Strauss and Fifth Third Bank. Salvo closed by asking everyone to circle October 11, 2012 on their calendars when "the only outdoor LGBT museum walk in the world is dedicated right here in Chicago."

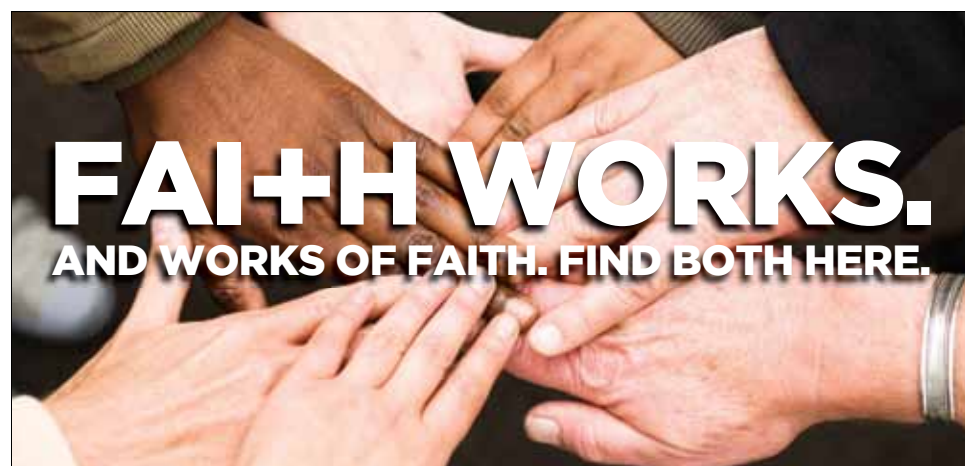
In all, 17-20 bronze plaques are expected to be installed on the Halsted Street rainbow pylons.

Sponsors for the evening included the Center on Halsted, Windy City Media Group, Chicago Pride.com, Grab Magazine, Halls Rentals, Hospitality One, BBJ Linens, MGBPhotoChicago and Gerry Pagorek Florals.

See [www.legacyprojectchicago.org](http://www.legacyprojectchicago.org) for more information.



Victor Salvo speaks at the Legacy Project event. Photo courtesy of Mike Borden



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KOKUMO. Photo courtesy of KOKUMO

## Chicago readying for first trans pride event

BY KATE SOSIN

Organizers of Chicago's first transgender pride celebration are gearing up for the event, to be held later this month.

Transgender Gender non-conforming Intersex Freedom (TGIF) is scheduled for Sunday, July 29, in Union Park, 12-4 p.m., and is believed to be the city's first transgender pride event.

More than 20 groups have signed on to help with the event, according to local transgender activist KOKUMO who is the lead organizer of the event.

Kylar Broadus, founder of the Trans People of Color Coalition, will deliver the event's keynote address. Broadus made history last month when he became the first transgender person to testify before the U.S. Senate.

KOKUMO said that TGIF aims to put forth positive representations of transgender Chicagoans, who experience high unemployment rates and are disproportionately targeted by police.

"The reality in this city is unemployment and lack of education," KOKUMO said. "There is no space in Chicago and in the world really where Black trans women can create their own enterprise."

The theme for this year's event will be "enterprising from the margins."

According to KOKUMO, TGIF organizers aimed to raise \$3,000 but exceeded the goal and raised approximately \$5,000.

TGIF will feature a variety of performances, a speak-out, games and a picnic. The event will also serve as a clothing drive for the

Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois, KOKUMO said.

Performers will include the Youth Empowerment Performance Project, About Face Youth Theatre, Queer Choir, KOKUMO, KrisDeLaRash, El Ray and Mercedes Bonet.

While the first of its kind in Chicago, the 2012 TGIF will not be last trans pride, said KOKUMO. "I'm already ready for next year," she said.

More information is available on the TGIF Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/events/377980595592397](http://www.facebook.com/events/377980595592397).

## Four arrested in Lakeview attack

BY KATE SOSIN

Four men are facing felony charges after they allegedly beat three people in Lakeview in the early hours of July 8.

According to a police statement, a group of people jumped out of a white stretch limousine and "began battering passerby on the street while other subjects in the limo videotaped." The incident occurred on the 3500 block of North Clark at approximately 2:00 a.m.

A 27-year-old man suffered a broken jaw and was treated at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center. A police officer and another man suffered minor injuries but were not hospitalized.

Corry Simmons, Donald Robinson, Alvin Goffin and Edward Robinson all face counts of felony mob action. Simmons and both Robinsons also face other charges.

The men in the limo were reportedly shooting a music video, according to the Chicago Tribune. Relatives of the arrested men say the alleged offenders were taunted and called the N-word.

The attack is one of a handful of recent violent crimes in Lakeview. A perceived influx in crime in the area last summer set residents on edge and stirred controversy over supposed racial profiling in the area.

## 'Fireside Chat' July 16 with Gary Chichester

The "Fireside Chat" series continues at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., Monday, July 16, at 7:30 p.m. with Gary Chichester.

Chichester—a member of the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame—is expected to discuss his extensive work with IML (International Mr. Leather) and his part in signing Chicago's first Gay Pride Parade permit.

This will be the third segment of a four-part series designed to showcase the history and contributions of local luminaries. Baton owner Jim Flint and activist Vernita Gray were the first two subjects.

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# South Side Help Center celebrates 25 years

BY ERICA DEMAREST

AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) CEO David Munar and Fox-Chicago anchor Robin Robinson were among honorees as the South Side Help Center (SSHC) celebrated its 25th anniversary June 25.

Founded in 1987 by retired nurse Betty Smith, the nonprofit organization provides services and anti-stigma programming to South Side residents impacted by HIV/AIDS.

Spirits were high as an estimated 200 guests gathered in the swank ZHOU B Café and Art Lounge. The upbeat anniversary programming included complimentary food and beverages, live entertainment and an awards ceremony overseen by SSHC Executive Director Vanessa Smith.

"All that [the South Side Help Center] has accomplished is so powerful and so important," Munar said. "I hope everyone realizes what it takes to keep a small, struggling agency afloat for 25 years—and to thrive."

Munar was one of five Chicago luminaries honored at the four-hour celebration. During his decades-long career, the AFC CEO has devel-

oped a reputation for his sharp mind, friendly demeanor, and dogged persistence. He has overseen AFC's outreach to traditionally underserved minority communities and helped launch the Coalition for a National AIDS Strategy, which led to President Obama's 2010 strategic plan.

"This epidemic is complex and big," Munar said, "but it comes down to two simple things and two big challenges: inequality and stigma. [We need to address] unequal access to education, prevention services, healthcare, and housing. ... And we need to talk about stigma, [whether] you're taking drugs, homeless, or unemployed."

Robinson, who was honored for her reports at Fox-Chicago, also addressed stigma in her acceptance speech. The longtime anchorwoman famously composed a feature about her brother Greg, a drug user who died of AIDS-related complications; she has also received on-air HIV tests for World AIDS Day.

"We need to stop whispering about AIDS because this is solvable," Robinson said. "There are communities where [the disease] is all but eradicated. Our children don't know the truth from fiction... but people are afraid [to talk

about AIDS] because it's too political."

Robinson noted that, to this day, the story about her brother remains the most powerful and talked-about broadcast she's ever worked on.

Smith (who Munar dubbed "a legend"), 34th Ward Ald. Carrie Austin and City of Chicago Chief Procurement Officer Eric Griggs rounded out the list of honorees. Each was honored for his or her contributions to South Side communities.

Walgreens sponsored the event, which doubled as a fundraiser. Proceeds benefitted the SSHC, which recently experienced budget cuts and lay-offs.

Maggie Brown, the daughter of legendary

Chicago performer Oscar Brown, Jr., performed. Local artist Damon Hendricks painted several pieces throughout the night; one was featured in a silent auction at the event's close.

Although most of the evening focused on past accomplishments, honorees and SSHC staffers urged guests to continue to fight moving forward. Munar invited attendees to sign up for the AIDS Run & Walk, which will be held Sept. 30.

To learn more about the South Side Help Center's programming, visit [www.southsidehelp.org](http://www.southsidehelp.org).

For more information on its 25-year history, check out the Windy City Times "AIDS @ 30" feature at [www.windycitymediagroup.com/gay/lesbian/news/ARTICLE.php?AID=35594](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/gay/lesbian/news/ARTICLE.php?AID=35594).



AIDS Foundation of Chicago CEO David Munar at the South Side Help Center event. Photo by Erica Demarest

## Military act would re-define 'spouse'

Army veteran and Servicemembers Legal Defense Network (SLDN) Executive Director Aubrey Sarvis praised the introduction of HR 6046, the Military Spouses Equal Treatment Act of 2012 (MSET), according to a press release. The act would change the definition of "spouse" in four areas of U.S. Code related to recognition, support and benefits for married service members and veterans.

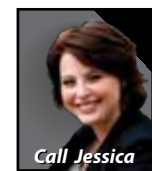
"Our nation's senior military leaders and commanders on the ground are increasingly uncomfortable with administering two classes of recognition, support and benefits for our nation's service members—one for straight service members and a different one for their gay and lesbian peers. There cannot be two classes of service members, and this legislation addresses that effectively," said Sarvis.

In a separate statement, Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin said, "The Military Spouses Equal Treatment Act represents an important step forward in the ongoing work to achieve full equality in our nation's military." However, he added, "This

legislation recognizes that all military families make extraordinary sacrifices and exhibit unparalleled bravery—yet not all of those families are treated with the same dignity and respect. To achieve that, we also must continue pushing for full repeal of the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act."



Aubrey Sarvis.



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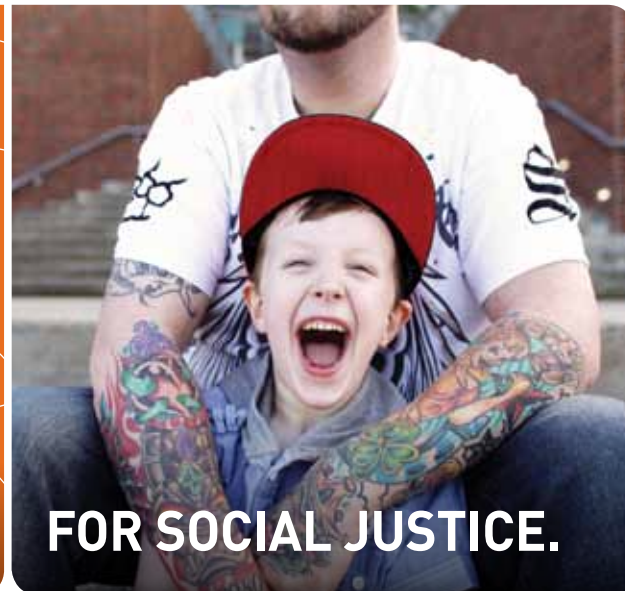
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# BLACK PRIDE 2012 COVERAGE

## WCBP festival cancelled over safety concerns

BY SEAN PYLES

Organizers behind Windy City Black Pride (WCBP) were forced to cancel Chicago Park Festival in Sherman Park July 1 due to safety concerns, according to the organization's website.

The organization said that 9th District Commander David Jarmusz would not allow the festival to take place due to "area gang warfare" and a concern for patron safety. WCBP also noted a very recent shooting in Sherman Park.

"According to the Chicago Police Department, it is in WCBP's and our patron's best interest to reschedule the event for another weekend," the organization said.

Event organizers were not immediately available to comment. Windy City Times will update as details become available.



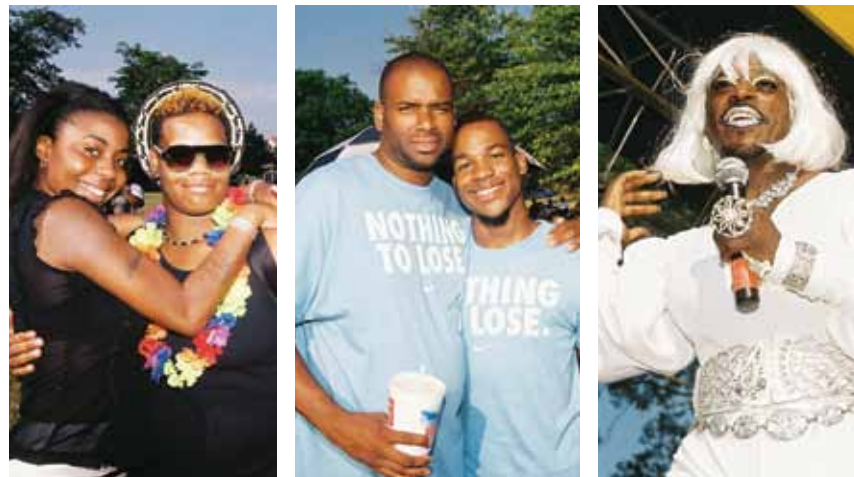
Photos by Vern Hester



## CWCBP's festival goes on

Although Windy City Black Pride did not have a festival, Chicago Windy City Black Pride (CWCBP) did, holding its annual event at (fittingly) Rainbow Beach July 1. It took place a little later than usual because of rain; however, people ended up having loads of fun.

Hundreds attended the event that local entertainers Mz. Ruff-n-Stuff and Otis Mack co-hosted.



## Esteem Awards honor 18

BY KATE SOSIN

Celebrating significant contributions to African American and LGBT communities, this year's PrideIndex.com Esteem Awards honored 18 people and organizations.

The annual award celebrated its sixth year on the deck at Sidetrack June 30. More than 50 people attended the event, which was relocated indoors mid-ceremony due to sweltering heat.

Phil Esteem, who started the awards in 2007, presented honorees with glass plaques.

"People always ask me, 'Why are you doing this and what do you get out of it?'" Esteem said to the honorees. "I get out of it what you do."

Awardees from this year ranged from veteran organizations like Affinity Community Services to young activists like KOKUMO, who is planning the city's first transgender pride event later this month.

C.C. Carter and Langston Smith emceed the two-hour event, which featured musical and poetic performances.

This year's local awardees included:

—Outstanding Service, Male: Charles Nelson, MSM Project Director, South Side Help Center

—Outstanding Service, Transgender: June LaTrobe, Trans\* Community Liaison, Center on Halsted and Vice Chair & Public Policy Director, Illinois Gender Advocates

—Outstanding Service, Youth: KOKUMO KINETIC, CEO/Founder KOKUMO-MEDIA

—Outstanding Social Services/CBO: Affinity Community Services

—Outstanding Newspaper Reporter/Columnist or Feature Article: "Queer Bronzeville: African American LGBT's on Chicago's South Side, 1900-1985 Windy City Times by Tristan Cabello

—Outstanding Magazine Reporter/Columnist or Feature Article: "The Day Cole & Parker Came Into Our Lives," Grab Magazine by Erik Sosa-Kibby

—Institutional Award: The Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois Artistic Expression: Black Ensemble Theater for Black Playwright's Initiative (BPI)

—Special Recognition Award: Bill Greaves, long time advocate for Chicago's LGBT community

National awards went to:

—Outstanding Service, Male: Patrick Kelly, activist and clinical research interviewer, Emory Hope Clinic Vaccine Center (Atlanta)

—Outstanding Service, Female: Michelle E. Brown, longtime civil and LGBT rights Advocate (Detroit)

—Outstanding Service, Transgender: Janet Mock, writer and trans advocate

—Outstanding Service, Youth: Amir Dixon, Board Member, Hispanic Black Gay Coalition and co-host of Brotherhood TV (Boston)

—Outstanding Social Services/CBO: The Ruth Ellis Center for LGBT Run-aways (Detroit)

—Institutional Award: Southern Poverty Law Center (Montgomery, Ala.)

—Outstanding Website: TheGrio.com

—Outstanding Podcaster or Web series: Clay Cane Live WWRL 1600 AM Equality Pride Radio

—Special Recognition: The State Of Black Gay America (SBGA) Summit (Atlanta)



Photos by Kate Sosin

## Windy City Black Pride honors volunteers

BY ELYSSA CZYNSKI

Windy City Black Pride (WCBP) hosted a series of weekend events at the Chicago South Loop Hotel, despite the cancellation of its July 1 festival.

Volunteers and organization members were honored at "Night of Serenity" June 29.

The social event had food, gift bags for attendees and karaoke later in the evening.

Nicole Scarver, co-treasurer of WCBP, explained that the event was to "pump [the guests] up" for the July 1 event in the park.

"We give them informational packets, gift bags to show them we are promoting safe sex, understanding, everything that is going on," she said.

She emphasized that the Night of Serenity was a "thank you" to all those who worked throughout the year for the weekend. According to event organizer and promoter DJ Craig Cannonball, many of the volunteers and attendees travel from outside the Chicago area, and the event was held to welcome them.

Lorraine Sade Baskerville was in attendance, promoting her book *One Trans Woman's Spiritual Journey: Transcending into Womanhood* in Phuket, Thailand. Baskerville also facilitated workshops June 30 as part of WCBP events.

Scarver noted that the weekend's events are open to everyone and suggested that Black Pride allows for more "hands-on" activities than perhaps other gay pride events in June.

"Every year when we do this it stands, to me, for unity, faith, trust, understanding and belief," said Scarver.



Photo by Elyssa Czynski

# Rev. Jesse Jackson case: Investigation goes on, offer rejected

BY ANDREW DAVIS

There have been developments in the case of Tommy Bennett, a gay former Rainbow PUSH employee who filed a discrimination complaint and, later, a lawsuit against the organization and its leader, the Rev. Jesse Jackson.

In the initial complaint, filed with the City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations (CCHR), Bennett claimed that he experienced sexual orientation-based discrimination almost immediately after he started the job in 2007, saying that a now-former membership and volunteer coordinator, complained to Jackson that she did not wish to work with Bennett because he is gay. Bennett also claimed that Jackson cursed at him in front of other staff members and even alleged that Jackson wanted Bennett to perform oral sex on him. (The latter event allegedly happened after Bennett became Jackson's travel assistant.)

The lawsuit, among other things, claims that Bennett's superiors ignored his complaints and that he was eventually let go because of his sexual orientation.

Bennett's attorney, Thomas Leverso, told Windy City Times that rumors that the case had been settled are far from true—but did say his client received an offer. "In terms of disclosure about the amount of money, I can't tell you the figure," he said.

"However, I can tell you that it was so far below any of our demands that it was insulting. As to the process, the case is alive and well in Cook County [regarding] the IDHR [Illinois Department of Human Rights] claims. As for [CCHR], they haven't communicated anything except that they're moving forward with the investigation."

Regarding the court case, Leverso said, "We're headed to a judgment quite soon because they're not even showing up to court." He added that CCHR can "make a finding and issue a monetary amount or [issue] injunctive relief, just like a court can." However, he also said that IDHR chose not to investigate. ("I suspect they're backlogged a little bit," he said.)

Bennett is seeking at least \$98,300 in lost income and benefits and \$350,000 for emotional distress and other damages.

Meanwhile, Candice Brown—another former PUSH employee—has filed three IDHR cases against Rainbow PUSH, Marshette Turner (with PUSH's Trade Bureau) and Chief of Staff John Mitchell, and one CCHR case against all the defendants together. Among other things, Brown alleges harassment.

At one point in the supplement to the complaints, Brown stated "how any time an employee 'was not liked' by the Rainbow PUSH any longer, she was to terminate the employee and draft a letter" that cited "either 'economic downturn' or 'lack of funding' as the reason for the termination, despite funding either remaining constant or increasing during the times of



Tommy Bennett. Photo courtesy of Bennett

the terminations." She also said she "drafted one such letter to a Mr. Tommy Bennett, stating *inter alia* lack of funding as [the] reason for layoff."

In a statement to Windy City Times, Leverso (who also represents Brown) said, "Knowing all of the potential repercussions, Ms. Brown would not have filed her claims against Rainbow PUSH and certain officers and employees if she was not interested in bringing justice to the situation."

"Ms. Brown has no doubt that a thorough investigation will substantiate her allegations and has the utmost faith in the Chicago Commission on Human Relations, the Illinois Department of Human Rights, their respective investigators, and the process. At this point, Rainbow PUSH can either dig in its heels or stand on the side of civil rights and equal justice for all human beings by working with Ms. Brown and with the women's community."

Attempts to reach out to Rainbow PUSH were not returned.

## Cream City 'Straight' event July 26

Milwaukee's Cream City Foundation, an LGBT organization, is hosting the "My Best Friend Is Straight" summer party Thursday, July 26, at 5:30 p.m.

The event will take place at North Point Lighthouse, 2650 N. Wahl Ave., Milwaukee. There will be an after-party at Club Charlie's, 320 E. Menomonee, at 9 p.m.

Admission is \$25-\$75. Visit [www.creamcityfoundation.org](http://www.creamcityfoundation.org).



Left: Cyon Flare. Right: Keith Green. Photos by Sean Pyles

## 2012 BLACK PRIDE

### 'United in Pride' provides space for dialogue on HIV/AIDS

BY SEAN PYLES

The Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus (CBGMC) hosted its "United in Pride" event at the Boystown nightclub minibar July 3. The event promoted inclusion and community while advertising HIV safety and testing.

This is the second year CBGMC has held a "United" event. Last year's focus was "United in HIV." Both events focused on acceptance and discussion about issues in the Black gay community, although this year's focus on pride was intended to be an open invitation to anyone interested, regardless of race or HIV status.

United in Pride was also the second time CBGMC had partnered with Cyon Flare, a local public figure who emceed the event. Flare entertained guests throughout the night while promoting free, five-minute on-site HIV tests.

Craig Johnson, board vice chair of CBGMC, explained the function of having a fun time while also promoting HIV education: "Some of this has to be fun! The statistics are already serious enough. ... We just want people to chill, and while people are chilling, just go get an HIV test."

United in Pride was the first of a number of events CBGMC has planned for the summer. To learn more, visit [www.chiblackgaycaucus.org](http://www.chiblackgaycaucus.org).



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Mike Jarecki and Keren Zwick. Photo by Jamie Anne Royce

## LGBTQ Immigrant Rights Coalition holds workshop

BY JAMIE ANNE ROYCE

The LGBTQ Immigration Rights Coalition hosted an advocacy seminar June 29 at Loyola University Chicago School of Law.

The workshop focused on educating social workers, lawyers and other service providers about immigration issues for LGBT people.

"We want to arm people with information," said Keren Zwick, supervising attorney of the LGBTQ Immigrant Rights Initiative at the National Immigrant Justice Center.

Lawyers working with undocumented people going through immigration proceedings explained the various routes for staying in the United States legally and the problems within the current system.

Most of the U.S. immigration system is family-based, and undocumented people can be sponsored for citizenship by spouses. Because of the Defense of Marriage Act, LGBT families are often excluded from these immigration benefits.

Undocumented LGBT people may also seek asylum in the United States because homosexuality is criminalized in their country of origin.

"Asylum is a true lifesaver for people persecuted for being LGBT in their country or who could be killed for being LGBT," said Mike Jarecki, an attorney affiliated with the LGBTQ Working Group of the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

Asylum is available to a refugee, someone who does not want to return to a country because of fear of persecution by the government on the basis of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. In 1994, sexual orientation was added to the list of protected social groups.

"In LGBT [asylum] cases, there's often desensitization to the abuse experienced by LGBT people," said Jarecki.

Undocumented LGBT people also shared their experiences at the workshop.

"We're illegal in our own country. There is no word for what we are," said an undocumented transgender woman from Mexico who wished not to be named. "Socially, it is very hard to live."

Shortly before coming to the United States, two of her transgender friends were murdered. Mexico also has limited access to transition services, saying that most people use dangerous underground methods to medically transition.

Members of Immigrant Youth Justice League shared their experiences as activists working on immigration reform. They touted the importance of personal stories to help change immigration policies like U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Secure Communities, a program that checks detained people's biometric information (fingerprints) against Department of Homeland Security databases.

Organizers of the workshop were enthusiastic about the turnout for the event and encouraged attendees to further educate themselves on LGBT immigration issues.

"There is a room full of people who care about this issue, and a room full of people who care about this issue in relation to LGBT people. We need to make sure we are as educated as we can be," said Julio Rodriguez, president of the Association of the Latino Men for Action and chair of the LGBTQ Immigrant Rights Coalition.

### PASSAGES

## Jeff Geiger, a.k.a. Minerva Rex

BY KATE SOSIN

Jeff Geiger, a longtime employee of Charlie's Chicago and the face of drag persona Minerva Rex, died June 4 of a heart attack. He was 48.

"He was an amazing person," remembered longtime friend David Krumweide. "He was always jovial, always fun."

Geiger raised thousands of dollars for local organizations like Vital Bridges and Autism Speaks by performing as Minerva Rex at benefits, and he used his drag talents almost solely for charitable causes.

Geiger was born Dec. 1, 1963, in Appleton, Wis. He served in the U.S. Army and was released with an honorable discharge. He became estranged from his family after he came out as gay, but he relocated to Chicago in the early '80s where he eventually found a close chosen family at Charlie's.

Geiger made his living working at Charlie's for 15 years, and he also worked part-time with Krumweide at Advance Event Group.

He held the 1997 and 2000 titles of Miss Illinois Gay Rodeo Association and the 2007 title of Mr. Illinois Gay Rodeo Association. In 2010, he served as the grand marshal for the Windy City Rodeo. He also donated his time and talents to fundraising for the Illinois Gay Rodeo Association.

Geiger had a way with making those around him feel welcome, said Krumweide. He hosted Thanksgiving dinners for community members who chose not to go home for the holiday, and his buoyant nature rubbed off on out-of-town visitors to Charlie's.

But many simply knew Geiger for his performances as Minerva Rex or as drag persona Malva Jean Casterberry. Krumweide describes Rex as "one wild and crazy girl," who worked tirelessly for charitable causes and even sat

fully costumed in a dunk tank to raise funds.

Geiger had been suffering from an extended illness and had taken a leave of absence from work, but he remained a part of the Charlie's family until his passing said Krumweide.

"He enjoyed life very much, and he had a good ride," Krumweide said.

Friends are planning a memorial party for Geiger, the details of which have yet to be announced.



Jeff Geiger, a.k.a. Minerva Rex. Photo courtesy of Ed Neal



## AFC debuts smartphone-linked ads

To mark National HIV Testing Day, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) debuted a series of smartphone-driven bus-shelter ads on the South and West sides of Chicago to help African Americans connect to HIV testing and care services.

The ads, featuring community ambassadors, are part of the agency's community-level educational campaign, known as "Change My Story," designed to inspire communities of color to connect to life-extending health care services.

Change My Story includes public service announcements, text messages, social media, the ChangeMyStory.org health promotion portal and bus shelter ads in 14 communities that are hard-hit by HIV/AIDS: South Shore, Auburn Gresham, Chatham, Washington Park, Greater Grand Crossing, West Englewood, East Garfield Park, North Lawndale, Englewood, Douglas, Grand Boulevard, Austin, Humboldt Park and the Near West Side.

The ads will remain in place through Sept. 17.

## Lambda Legal's Cubs Day July 15

Lambda Legal will celebrate diverse LGBT families with "Family Day Out at Wrigley Field" Sunday, July 15, 12:30 p.m. at 1060 W. Addison St.

Event co-chairs are Laura Ricketts and Heidi Grathouse, Tracy Katz Muhl and Charlie Muhl, and Ray Koenig and Johnny Song.

Admission is \$20-\$30. Contact Carla Avila at 312-663-4413 or visit [www.LambdaLegal.org](http://www.LambdaLegal.org).

## Disability Pride events July 20-21

There will be a few Disability Pride-related events happening July 20-21.

The Disability Pride Open Mic/Poetry Slam will take place Friday, July 20, 6-8:30 p.m., at First United Methodist Church, 77 W. Washington St. Email [GArnold@accessliving.org](mailto:GArnold@accessliving.org) for more info.

The Disability Pride Parade will step off 11 a.m. on Saturday, July 21. The route will wind north on Dearborn Street from Van Buren Street to Washington Street. Email [BylJAdam@gmail.com](mailto:BylJAdam@gmail.com).

**GAY** *in the* **LIFE**  
**Adam Poss**  
 TEXT BY ROSS FORMAN  
 PHOTOS BY FORMAN AND ANTHONY AICARDI



**Age**  
29

**Neighborhood**  
Wrigleyville

**Job title**  
Actor, bartender at Roscoe's Tavern

**Relationship status**  
Single

**Hobbies**  
Running, watching movies, listening to music, reading

**Favorite drink**  
Ketel One and soda, with a splash of orange juice

**Little-known fact**  
Does not kill spiders because Charlotte's Web was the first book he read

Growing up, there were many careers that Adam Poss considered, including lawyer, doctor and mayor.

"But I realized, with acting, I could be all of those things [potentially,] and more," said Poss, who has landed roles in film, TV and on commercials, including one from U.S. Bank that is now airing.

He also will appear in the upcoming movie *The Drunk* that stars Tom Sizemore and Jesse Ventura, and he previously had a role in the TV show *Chicago Code*.

His acting resume has included roles as a sniper, origami whiz, spoiled son of a diplomat and more. Next up for the budding actor: *Oedipus el Rey* at Victory Gardens Theater—Biograph, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave., in which a juvenile delinquent (Poss) from South Central Los Angeles sets off on his journey to be the king of the gangland. According to the theater's website, "Set amid the sizzling rhythms and explosive violence of a California barrio, the gripping story follows his family of ex-cons through the vicious cycle of fate and violence in which they find themselves trapped. *Oedipus el Rey* is a sexy, dangerous and modern Latino take on a classic."



"I'm very excited for this show; it's probably the most demanding role I've had," Poss said of the production, which runs through July 29.

"Career-wise, this is a really exciting opportunity," Poss said. "Getting to work with artistic director and director, Chay Yew, has been great."

Poss is Roscoe's regular front-bar server on Sundays, which is his favorite work shift, from 8 p.m. until the bar closes.

"Roscoe's is a great place to work with a fun staff," Poss said. "Sunday Funday is always a fun day to be at the bar—good people, great crowd, very chill."

Plus, Sundays at Roscoe's means \$1 Miller Lite draft and Male Call as well as the Wet Boxer Contest on the first Sunday of every month.

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**T** *in the* **LIFE**  
 COMPILED BY ELYSSA CZYNSKI



**Rachel Johansen**

**Pronouns**  
 "She preferred ... but never get upset if slip made (seldom) with my children and their friends or neighbors; it has come to be 'Rachel, she's my dad.'"

**Identifies as**  
 "Female. All my legal documents state female."

**Life's work:**  
 "Retired teacher [of] 19 years. Started my own business: Rachel's Gardens landscape design/installation."

**Hobbies**  
 "Chess, Scrabble, reading, hiking, travelling, sharing time with children (keeps me young at heart)."

**Do you have a coming out story?**  
 "Many and still happening as my life continues on. At our home once, a new boy to [my son] Erik's school stopped by to visit. I let him in to play with Erik (then 10 or so), told him the other boys were downstairs and to join them. I heard Erik ask, 'Who let [you] in?' The boy replied, 'Your mom,' to which Erik replied, 'She's my dad!'"

**What is the best thing about being trans/gender-variant?**  
 "Since I pass very well as female because of my

facial features, I would say people get to know me first as a person, then as a transgendered being. My personality, the 'me,' is what they come to know."

**Do you consider yourself an activist?**  
 "I guess so. I have given lectures at church groups or LGBT groups. I even spoke to politicians in Springfield about rights. But I try to speak with kindness and respect rather than harsh, attacking words."

**How do you explain the way you feel about gender to others?**  
 "Human being first and gender second. For me, it was just a physiological happening at birth, something that happened while an embryo, which was no fault of anyone."

**In your opinion, what are the most important issues facing the trans/gender-variant community?**  
 "Hardest one is acceptance of family. Too often rejection sends transgendered persons into solitude. Often [it] just takes family members time. My brother considers me dead and will not communicate with me, but his children have come to accept 'aunt' Rachel. We now have get-togethers. Secondly, that society comes to accept transgendered people as an asset to society with many talents to contribute, rather than to look upon trans/gender as an oddity and liability."

To nominate a person for T in the life, email: Kate Sosin  
[sosin@windycitytimes.com](mailto:sosin@windycitytimes.com)

## VIEWPOINTS

WINDY CITY  
TIMES

VOL. 27, No. 38, July 11, 2012

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"Windy City Media Group generated enormous interest among their readers in this year's LGBT Consumer Index Survey. Out of approximately 100 print and online media partners who participated in the survey, Windy City was the best performing regional media in the U.S. Only survey partners with a nationwide footprint were able to generate a greater number of responses." —David Marshall, Research Director, Community Marketing, Inc.

Community Marketing, Inc.

TRACY  
BAIMJournalism 101:  
The myth of  
objectivity

Brian Williams is a straight white man. Barbara Walters is a straight white woman. Both make a very good living.

These facts inform who they are, what sources they seek out, what social circles they travel in and what slant they may present in their stories.

The myth of some level of journalist objectivity is quite old-fashioned. In my journalism school days (1980-1984), I knew it was an impossible achievement, and that the main goal was to acknowledge your bias and try to do your best to get all sides of a story. I was an out lesbian back then, and did not see much of a future for myself in journalism. I had been warned, nicely, that I likely would not fit into the mainstream media.

Anderson Cooper had many reasons for not officially coming out of the closet as a gay man during his first decades in the news business. But I think one of the most overriding was his fear that he would not be taken seriously as a journalist, nor seen as "objective" when doing reports, if he was "a gay journalist."

This is why it was so important that he come out—not just to show that he was not ashamed of being gay, although that is very important. It's because of these powerful, and mistaken, myths that a straight person can be more objective than a gay person; a white person can be

more objective than a person of color; a man more objective than a woman; and so on.

This fallacy has kept down many great journalists. There were reporters who were out of the closet and, so, not allowed to cover gay stories. Is someone who is straight (or closeted) any more able to cover a gay story? Every reporter has a long list of bias points. It is time we shatter this notion that being part of a minority group means you should not be able to cover that group.

As a side note I also want to comment on the fact that just because LGBTs can hide, should we? As a wealthy white man, Anderson Cooper had the option that many others do not. Women and people of color usually can't hide these traits (though some have "passed" as white and/or male at great emotional expense). It is very important that we as a community don't use this ability to "hide"—not just for our own community's sake, but for our own personal sake. The closet is damaging to those on both sides.

As a lesbian journalist working in LGBT newspapers since 1984, I have witnessed a tremendous shift in how LGBTs in the media have been welcomed. Back then, working in gay media was almost a death knell to one's journalism career. Now, it can be a stepping stone. Back then, the mainstream media looked down at journalists in the gay media as biased. Well, they may still do this, but there is more respect and attention, and there are even awards and associations that welcome the diversity of alternative media.

The myth of objectivity is also not some philosophical debate—it actually can cause damage. Finding the truth of a story does not always mean two sides, or all sides, are equal. There is an interesting example on Wikipedia about the goal of objectivity going too far: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Objectivity\\_\(journalism\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Objectivity_(journalism)).

"Another example of an objection to objectivity, according to communication scholar David

Mindich, was the coverage that the major papers (most notably the New York Times) gave to the lynching of thousands of African Americans during the 1890s. News stories of the period often described with detachment the hanging, immolation and mutilation of people by mobs. Under the regimen of objectivity, news writers often attempted to balance these accounts by recounting the alleged transgressions of the victims that provoked the lynch mobs to fury. Mindich argues that this may have had the effect of normalizing the practice of lynching."

These days, I think we can agree that blaming the victim of a lynching would be objectivity gone wild. But there are still examples of the media quoting anti-gays as a way to seem objective on a story about gay marriage. I don't know when the moment came and went, but at some point there was enough acceptance of interracial marriage that the media stopped quoting racists on that issue with no sense of having failed in the quest for balance.

I understand that a mainstream paper has a different audience than a gay paper. But at some point, anti-gay sources, racist sources, sexist sources and the like present a dilemma for those who seek more than some unattainable "objectivity," but rather the truth. There will always be someone on the "other side" of most issues, including those who argue the earth is flat, the ozone layer is fine and Obama is not an American. But are all these sources equal?

I welcome Anderson Cooper into this new society of openly gay journalists wading through the murky pool of new journalism. It's where we strive to tell stories with as much skill as we can, knowing that there is no way to please all viewers or readers, but that we can try to do the best stories we can, based on our whole selves.

**Tracy Baim is co-founder and publisher of Windy City Times.**

Letters to  
the editor:Violence and gay  
male relationships

Dear Editor:

As members of the Anti-Violence Project at Center on Halsted, we find ourselves moved to respond to the remarks of Esera Tuaolo printed in the July 4 issue of Windy City Times in an interview titled "Esera Tuaolo: Coming back from darkness."

Tuaolo discusses an incident of physical violence that took place with his intimate partner: "I got into an argument/fight with my boyfriend at the time. Things escalated and we got into a fight for personal reasons." Tuaolo then provides his opinion that domestic-violence response systems are designed "to protect women or weaker people from an abusive boyfriend, husband, or stronger person who constantly beats them up, but in this case, it was two men who got into a fight."

We are disturbed by Tuaolo's comments and even more disturbed that they are widely accepted. There are many problems with Tuaolo's statements, which we would like to parse in order to provide education and work to promote healing for individuals and communities struggling around domestic/intimate partner violence.

For one, Tuaolo cannot get away with thinking that his is not a case of intimate partner violence [IPV] (also called domestic violence [DV]), although we may not know about the existence of a pattern. According to the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, domestic violence is defined as a pattern of behaviors utilized by one partner (often labeled the "abuser" or "bat-

terer") to exert and maintain control over their partner(s) (the survivor(s) or victim(s)).

Domestic violence is a widespread problem. Statistics show that domestic violence occurs regardless of gender identity and sexual orientation, with studies suggesting that LGBTQ people may even be at a higher risk for abuse compared to the one in four heterosexual women who are abused by partners during their lives. Tuaolo attempts to normalize, condone and/or excuse the violence he perpetrated by rhetorically separating his actions along self-perceived gender lines while diminishing the dynamics of an intimate partnership: "women or weaker people" are the abused and the "boyfriend, husband, or stronger person" does the beating, and let's forget the part about "boyfriend"...now it's just "two men" who "got into a fight." And to top it off, there is the perception that there are no services for him and/or his boyfriend to end violence in their relationship: "men," it would seem, don't need to be "protect[ed]."

We know from our work, from our lives and from our colleagues around the nation engaged in similar anti-violence efforts both against and within the LGBTQ community, that all people regardless of gender identity and/or expression, sexual orientation, body-size, financial privilege, race, ethnicity, age, etc. may have problems with power and control dynamics in an intimate partnership, as a perpetrator and as a survivor. If we have learned anything as a community, let it be to work against stereotypes that silence those who are marginalized and challenge systems of oppression.

Violence is not reducible to stereotypes, neither are the victim/survivors and perpetrators. Self-identified and culturally perceived "twinks" can beat up, stalk, rape and murder their self-identified and culturally perceived "big muscle daddy" boyfriends. Self-identified and culturally perceived "girly-girl femme lesbians" can do the

same to their partners, even if their partners identify as butch/masculine/male. Likewise, if two partners who seem to be of similar physical ability chose to use violence against each other, that violence does not magically cancel itself out. It is not excusable. It is not "male." And it should not be eroticized or fetishized by others.

Unfortunately for members of the LGBTQ community, there are far fewer resources and more barriers to services (both real and perceived). There may be greater fear of trusting law enforcement, there are no DV shelter beds for males in Chicago, and there are fewer DV/IPV support services that work with the LGBTQ community. It takes a community to advance healing around the issues presented in Tuaolo's interview. Call out violence where you see violence; advocate for funding to support anti-violence programs such as the one at Center on Halsted; and reach out if you are struggling around power and control dynamics in your relationship. Call the Center on Halsted Anti-Violence Project at 773-871-2273 (CARE) to attend to safety needs and get linked to resources. Remember, the estimates are one in four. You are not alone and there is help.

Center on Halsted Anti-Violence Project (AVP)  
 Anne Huffman, AVP Manager  
 John Garver, AVP Therapist &  
 Training Delivery Manager  
 Lisa Gilmore, Director of Education  
 & Victim Advocacy



## GOINGS-ON

WINDY CITY TIMES' ENTERTAINMENT SECTION



Photo courtesy of Chicago Red Stars/David Durochik

## OUT IN HER FIELD

Popular women's soccer player Megan Rapinoe (seen here playing for Chicago in '09) has come out of the closet. See page 28.

## DISH

Naan compliance.  
Page 34.

Photo of naan at Raj Darbar  
by Meghan Streit



## THEATER

'Lover' girl.  
Page 18.

Photo from The Lover  
by Johnny Knight



## SPORTS

CRU love.  
Page 38.

Photo by Ross Forman



## DANCIN' FEATS

## DIY dance

BY VICKI CRAIN

Local dance troupe **Thodos Dance Chicago** (TDC) has had a whirlwind of a year. TDC kicked off its 20th-anniversary season with the revival of its 2011 hit *The White City: Chicago's Columbia Exposition of 1893*, a story ballet choreographed by artistic director Melissa Thodos and Broadway legend Ann Reinking. The ballet was also featured in a PBS documentary by Chicago-area filmmaker Christopher Kai Olsen that premiered on WTTW-11 in February.

Beneath the White City Lights follows the making of the ballet and is currently touring the film festival circuit. Utilizing a MetLife Foundation grant through Audience Architects, they participated in a cross-company concert with Luna Negra Dance Theater at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie. In April, the company set off on a month-long tour of Alaska combining performances with educational outreach stops across the state.

This month, TDC concludes the season by flipping the tables and letting the dancers create the dances. *New Dances 2012* embraces one of the three main mission goals of the company: dance education, choreography and performance. The choreography initiative encourages the dancers to find their voice as a dance maker in a friendly, structured environment. In fact, for many of the company members, it is exactly what drew them to TDC in the first place. For example, Jeremy Blair, a five-year veteran of the company, has choreographed for *New Dances* all of those five years. He will be leaving after this season to attend the University of Iowa on a full scholarship to achieve a Master of Fine Arts in dance.

TDC's *New Dances Project* has created more

than 90 new works since it started in 2000. Several Chicago companies present a new-works or in-house choreography program as part of the season; however, TDC adds a unique component with a panel of dancers/choreographers that serve as mentors and give the budding choreographers feedback throughout the process. This year's panel includes Winifred Haun, artistic director of Winifred Haun & Dancers; Kristina Fluty, a movement collaborator with Molly Shanahan/Mad Shak; Jeff Hancock, a dancer/choreographer/costumer/founding member of River North Dance Chicago; and Michael Anderson, a choreographer/teacher/former dancer with Joffrey Ballet.

*New Dances 2012* will feature nine new dances by company members, one trainee and a guest choreographer, Brian Enos. Thodos is constantly searching for new talent to bring in as a guest to the *New Dances Project*. Enos is a former dancer with Hubbard Street Dance Chicago (HSDC). His name came up in conversation with HSDC artistic director Glenn Edgerton, who was on last year's mentor panel. "Every year I look within the community," Thodos said. "I love Chicago. I'm a big cheerleader of this town artistically. I think it's an unsung treasure trove of voices and a big part of my mission is to really support and work with what happens here, is gestated here and then take it to the world. I look for someone who is ready to come in and have this experience and take from it what they want to learn. The whole goal is to grow. That is a critical component of the process and needs to happen a lot more, in my opinion. Artists need these neutral places to grow and be mentored."

Chicago audiences may remember Enos as the fluid dancer with a mohawk. Growing up in Sonoma County, Calif., he found dance through



Brian Enos. Photo by Cheryl Mann

musical theater. "I realized I didn't enjoy speaking on stage and singing," he said. "I was the person that would stand in the back and then come out for the dance break, so I thought maybe I should go in that direction." He began studying ballet and quickly proved to be a natural attending the summer program at Houston Ballet, which led to acceptance to Houston Ballet's year-round academy and being asked to join the main company as an apprentice all by the age of 18. While still in the academy, Enos choreographed a piece on his fellow students that caught the eye of artistic director Ben Stevenson, who used the work in the graduation spring program and invited him to choreograph

for the main company.

Enos also won HSDC's International Choreographic Competition, which brought to Chicago to set the work on the second company and eventually brought him back to dance with the main company for eight years. He left HSDC in 2010, had surgery on a labral tear in his hip and has been creating work for companies across the country as a freelance choreographer. He lives in Uptown with his partner of five years.

Enos' piece for this concert started with finding the music. The two-section dance for eight dancers is set to *The King Singers*, an a capella group from the U.K. "I almost always start with the music," he said. "With this piece, I was approaching the first section very architecturally. The second section is very human, emotion-based, so I wanted to keep the first section emotionless and stark. I was doing it like building blocks, just creating structure, rather than trying to create a connection between the dancers. I'm not trying to tell a particular story," he said. "I'm more trying to evoke a mood rather than trying to tell a story, but I have a feeling that audience

members will develop a story for themselves."

Along with Enos, TDC dancers creating new works for the performance include Jeremy Blair, John Cartwright, Annie Deutz, Chelsea deVera (trainee), Josh Manculich, Ray Dones, Brian Hare, Jon Sloven, Jessica Miller Tomlinson and Michael McDonald.

Thodos Dance Chicago presents *New Dances 2012* at the Ruth Page Center for the Arts, 1016 N. Dearborn St., Friday-Saturday, July 27-28, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, July 29, at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$28-\$35; call 312-266-6255 or visit [www.thodosdancechicago.org](http://www.thodosdancechicago.org).



References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot. Photo by Gia

## THEATER REVIEW

### References to Salvador Dali Make Me Hot

Playwright: José Rivera

At: National Pastime Theater at the Preston Bradley Center, 941 W. Lawrence Ave.

Tickets: 773-327-7707;

www.nakedjuly.com; \$20

Runs through: Aug. 11

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

There's a fundamental dissonance in José Rivera's play: When a cast of characters include such anthropomorphic incarnations as Cat, Coyote and The Moon, we are led to expect epic myth on the order of Federico Garcia-Lorca, filled with florid poetry and tragic grandeur. The story at the heart of Rivera's narrative, however, is an intimate tale replicated in homes throughout this country today.

Benito's reason for escaping from the ghetto was to join the army and Gabriela's was to marry him, but marital stresses inherent in such arrangements—the military attitude toward “dependents” being essentially, “If the army wanted you to have a family, it would have issued you one”—have caused them to grow apart. Benito's long absences overseas amid war's brutality brings him home seeking only peace and solitude, while Gabriela's isolation at a remote base in the California desert craves intellectual stimulation. When one spouse's world has shrunk under hostile pressure to the minutiae of survival, and the other's has blossomed under a regimen of adult-education classes to encompass a universe wider than either once imagined, can they rediscover what they once shared?

Interpretation of Rivera's text can vacillate in either direction. A production may emphasize the fanciful seduction of the house-raised Cat by the wild beast Coyote, with its parallels to Gabriela's temptation by an adolescent admirer. It may also adopt the tone of Rivera's mandolin-and-fiddle-playing Moon, who comes off more avuncular than archangelic, making for a cozy domestic ambience. What tips the balance in this case, though, is National Pastime Theater's new residency in the art-deco splendor of the landmark Preston Bradley Center in Uptown (not to be confused with the downtown concert facility at the Cultural Center).

The inevitable problems associated with a

company moving into a larger space are immediately apparent (does anyone recall Chicago Shakespeare's first show at Navy Pier?), chiefly the actors' struggle to establish connections over distances designed to showcase the room's opera-house dimensions. Through no fault of Keely Haddad-Null's direction or her ensemble's capabilities, we find ourselves attending more to the downstage activities of the animal totems—garbed in little more than Gary Shirmer's body paint, frolicking to the music of Michael O'Toole's Moon—than to the performances of Virginia Marie, Nelson Rodriguez and Ernesto Melchor, Jr.; the unfamiliar environment cannot help but overwhelm their impressive accomplishments.

## CRITICS' PICKS

**Hank Williams: Lost Highway**, Filament Theater at the Athenaeum, through July 15. Country classics by the songwriter who introduced them to the U.S. and the world, played by a down-home string band with exuberance almost overflowing its too-small venue—but don't you lollygag waiting for it to move to a bigger room. MSB

**Immediate Family**, A co-production with About Face Theatre at the Goodman Theatre, through Aug. 5. After President Obama and the NAACP both made historic endorsements of same-sex marriage, Paul Oakley Stovall's comic drama couldn't be timelier. The fact that director Phylcia Rashad expertly brings out loads of comedy in the show also helps make this a must-see. SCM

**Goodbye Cruel World**, Strange Tree Group at Theater Wit, through July 22. This troupe knows that satire can be savage, physical and non-realistic, which U.S. audiences often mistake for farce. This repressed Soviet satire still has much to say about exploitation and propaganda. JA

**Steamwerkz the Musical**, Annoyance Theatre, through Aug. 31. Gay bathhouse culture gets cleverly mixed together with Alice's Adventures in Wonderland in this zany musical that spoofs the similarly named and notorious North Halsted male sauna with plenty of gross-out humor. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

## THEATER REVIEW

### The Lover

Playwright: Harold Pinter

At: Soul Theatre at A Red Orchid, 1531 N. Wells St.

Tickets: www.brownpapertickets.com; \$20

Runs through: July 15

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

As directed by Paul Wagar, this is a respectable and entertaining staging of an early (1963) one-act play by later Nobel Laureate Harold Pinter (1930-2008), but it needs to remember it's a comedy. Indeed, 50 years after it was written, *The Lover* strikes me as a comedy of manners or a parody of one, which would be interesting if played in the crisp style of Wilde or Coward.

That may seem odd to Pinter aficionados who know his early work is called “comedy of menace” because of the pervasive, often-vague senses of malaise and threat that permeate the plays. But *The Lover* really is a piece apart—the tale of Sarah and Richard, who spice up their 10-year old marriage with outside erotic interests. The menace comes through the personalities involved in their erotic games and how the games affect their marriage. But the menace doesn't come from unknown or vague outside forces: Richard and Sarah themselves are the instigators. Indeed, *The Lover* may be Pinter's most accessible, least opaque and funniest play, perhaps because it originally was written for TV, a shallower medium than theater; a bit of good, clean dirty fun.

However, comedy is a funny thing. (Pause for chuckle.) Sometimes the audience needs permission to laugh, a small gift missing in this production. It's far from totally deadpan, just a bit too earnest. Audiences need a cue that, yes, this is meant to be funny or silly and, yes, you can laugh. The cue generally comes through exaggeration of an action or reaction, or through comic delivery of lines. When the play and playwright are as unfamiliar to audiences as *The Lover* and Pinter still are to most, the cast and physical staging (this is a very physical show) must set the tone for the audience.

Essentially a two-person play, this production has a capable cast in Mick Weber as Richard and Ravi Batista as Sarah, with a red-herring cameo by Carl Lindberg. Weber is right as a trivet in his changeable mix of milquetoast and menace, and Batista is alluring and elastic (she must be a dancer) in her sexy portrayal. Her line readings, however, are a touch monotone. It's difficult to know whether she was directed that way or has limited vocal chops. The production looks good with Grant Sabin's simple, neutral-toned but handsomely furnished contemporary living room set and Skye Geerts' costumes—conservative suits to clingy lingerie—which fit the personalities of Richard, Sarah and their erotic entanglements. Now, if only they get the comedy ball rolling.

NOTE: The second half of each evening offers a post-play discussion or demonstration. “Sex, Yoga and Chocolate” was the offering the night I saw the play.

## MUSICAL REVIEW

### Richmond Jim

Playwright: Cal Yeomans

At: Pride Films and Plays at the Preston Bradley Center, 941 W. Lawrence Ave.

Tickets: 773-327-7077;

www.nakedjuly.com; \$20

Runs through: Aug. 8

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

What we see as we enter the auditorium hints at a shabby apartment in New York's West Village. After our eyes adjust to the dim light, we notice the men curled up in sleep like affectionate puppies on the one narrow bed. When they awake to ask each others' names, the more youthful of the pair proclaims his name to be Jim (whose pronounced Southern accent immediately identifies him as a tourist

in the city), while Mike—at 35, the older—is revealed as the stranger he met the evening preceding. Oh—and did I mention they're both naked?

Despite Jim's inexperience with spontaneous hook-ups, they proceed to get further acquainted over wine, fruit, dope, poppers and evocative music on an old-school phonograph and newfangled tape deck. They are interrupted for a short time by Mike's queenly chum, Biddie, who drops in for a cup of tea and what could be the start of a three-way, if not for the interference of a suddenly protective Mike. When the two lovers-for-the-night are once more alone, Mike proposes experimenting with BDSM fetishwear—an offer that Jim embraces eagerly.

You could check these elements off a list under the heading “Live-Action Sim-Sex Erotica”—the urbane libertine, the country-bred neophyte, the jaded courtesan, the inventory of period motifs and tchotchkes as introduced

15 years earlier in John Rechy's *City of Night*. In order to fully appreciate the value of a scenario reading nowadays like an abbreviated 9 1/2 Weeks, however, playgoers must imagine the impact of Cal Yeomans' candid depiction of man-on-man seduction on post-Stonewall audiences in 1979, only two years after *The Sexual Outlaw* became a rallying cry for liberation of the “homosexual underground.”

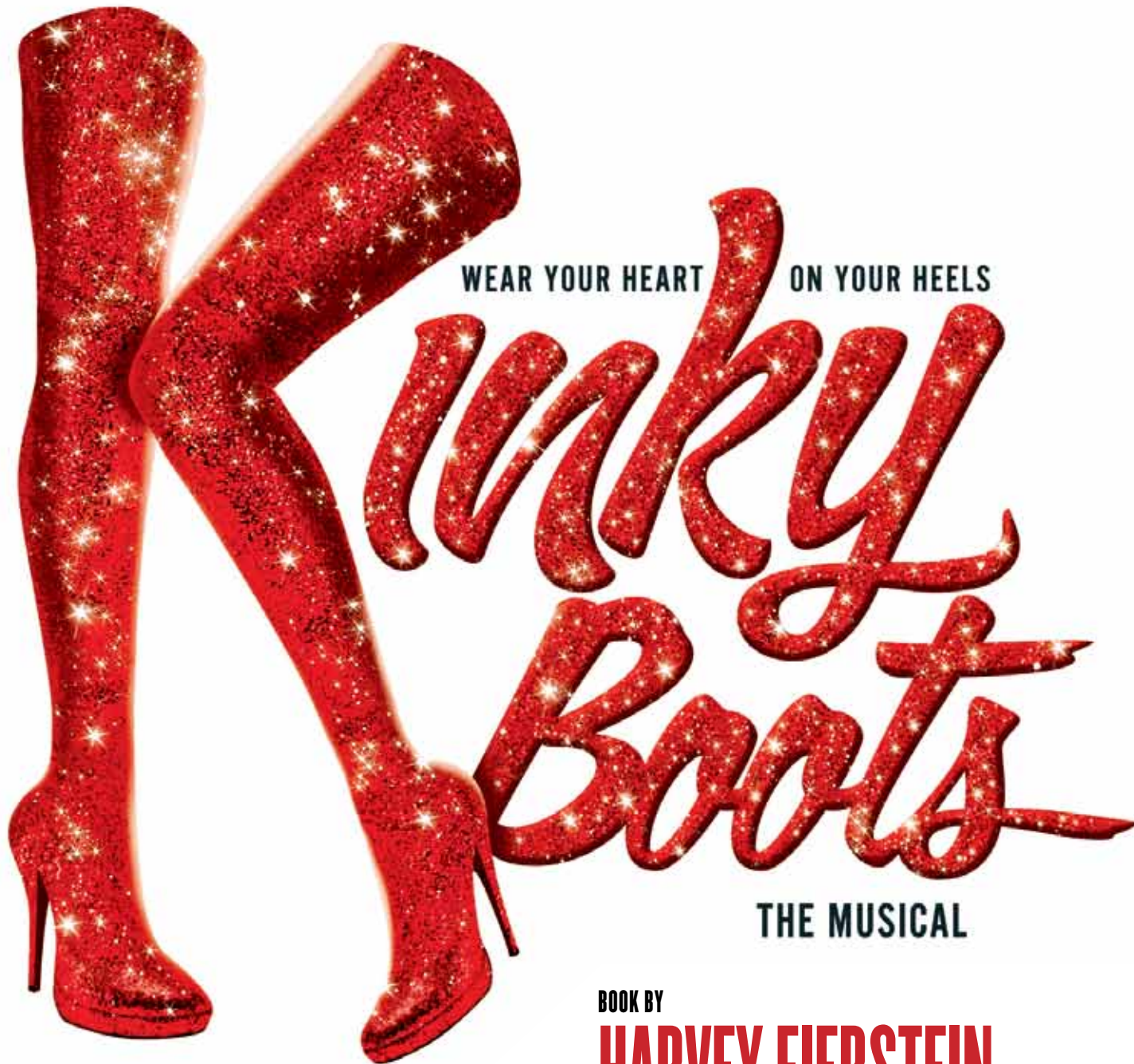
It might have been possible to mock this lost chapter in gay literature, *a la* *Reefer Madness*, but director David Zak and the cast assembled for this Pride Films And Plays production (appearing in conjunction with National Pastime Theater's Naked July Festival) approach the superannuated material with a respect that never coagulates into museum-piece stuffiness. Kris Hyland and Chris Kossen lend their respective archetypes an easy grace to put audiences at their ease, as does Jamie Smith in the role of the Proust-quoting Biddie, infusing Yeoman's tour of his subculture with dignity as intense as its sensuality.



Richmond Jim. Photo from David Zak

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- **Depression or mood changes** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms: feeling sad or hopeless, feeling anxious or restless, or if you have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself
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- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effect of these conditions are not known
- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider if you start having new symptoms after starting your HIV medicine

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**You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch) or call 1-800-FDA-1088.**

**Take COMPLERA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it**

- **Always take COMPLERA with a meal.** Taking COMPLERA with a meal is important to help get the right amount of medicine in your body. A protein drink does not replace a meal
- **Stay under the care of your healthcare provider during treatment with COMPLERA and see your healthcare provider regularly**

**Please see Patient Information for COMPLERA on the following pages.**

\*The co-pay program covers up to \$200 per month for 1 year from card activation or until the card expires, up to \$2400 in a calendar year. The program is subject to change or cancellation at any time.



**COMPLERA<sup>®</sup>**  
 emtricitabine 200mg/rilpivirine 25mg/  
 tenofovir disoproxil fumarate 300mg tablets

Learn more at [www.COMPLERA.com](http://www.COMPLERA.com)

**FDA-Approved Patient Labeling****Patient Information****COMPLERA® (kom-PLER-rah)****(emtricitabine, rilpivirine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) Tablets**

**Important: Ask your doctor or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with COMPLERA.** For more information, see the section “What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking COMPLERA?”

Read this Patient Information before you start taking COMPLERA and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

**What is the most important information I should know about COMPLERA?****COMPLERA can cause serious side effects, including:**

**1. Build-up of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis).** Lactic acidosis can happen in some people who take COMPLERA or similar (nucleoside analogs) medicines. **Lactic acidosis** is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death.

Lactic acidosis can be hard to identify early, because the symptoms could seem like symptoms of other health problems. **Call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms which could be signs of lactic acidosis:**

- feeling very weak or tired
- have unusual (not normal) muscle pain
- have trouble breathing
- have stomach pain with
  - nausea (feel sick to your stomach)
  - vomiting
- feel cold, especially in your arms and legs
- feel dizzy or lightheaded
- have a fast or irregular heartbeat

**2. Severe liver problems.** Severe liver problems can happen in people who take COMPLERA or similar medicines. In some cases these liver problems can lead to death. Your liver may become large (hepatomegaly) and you may develop fat in your liver (steatosis) when you take COMPLERA.

**Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms of liver problems:**

- your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice).
- dark “tea-colored” urine
- light-colored bowel movements (stools)
- loss of appetite for several days or longer
- nausea
- stomach pain

**You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight (obese), or have been taking COMPLERA or a similar medicine containing nucleoside analogs for a long time.**

**3. Worsening of Hepatitis B infection.** If you also have hepatitis B virus (HBV) infection and you stop taking COMPLERA, your HBV infection may become worse (flare-up). A “flare-up” is when your HBV infection suddenly returns in a worse way than before. COMPLERA is not approved for the treatment of HBV, so you must discuss your HBV therapy with your healthcare provider.

- Do not let your COMPLERA run out. Refill your prescription or talk to your healthcare provider before your COMPLERA is all gone.
- Do not stop taking COMPLERA without first talking to your healthcare provider.
- If you stop taking COMPLERA, your healthcare provider will need to check your health often and do regular blood tests to check your HBV infection. Tell your healthcare provider about any new or unusual symptoms you may have after you stop taking COMPLERA.

**What is COMPLERA?**

COMPLERA is a prescription HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) medicine that:

- is used to treat HIV-1 in adults who have **never** taken HIV medicines before. HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome).
- contains 3 medicines, (rilpivirine, emtricitabine, tenofovir disoproxil fumarate) combined in one tablet. EMTRIVA and VIREAD are HIV-1 (human immunodeficiency virus) nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs) and EDURANT is an HIV-1 non-nucleoside analog reverse transcriptase inhibitor (NNRTI).

It is not known if COMPLERA is safe and effective in children under the age of 18 years.

**COMPLERA may help:**

- Reduce the amount of HIV in your blood. This is called your “viral load”.
- Increase the number of white blood cells called CD4+ (T) cells that help fight off other infections.

Reducing the amount of HIV and increasing the CD4+ (T) cell count may improve your immune system. This may reduce your risk of death or infections that can happen when your immune system is weak (opportunistic infections).

**COMPLERA does not cure HIV infections or AIDS.**

- Always practice safer sex.
- Use latex or polyurethane condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with any body fluids such as semen, vaginal secretions, or blood.
- Never re-use or share needles.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have any questions about how to prevent passing HIV to other people.

**Who should not take COMPLERA?**

- Do not take COMPLERA if your HIV infection has been previously treated with HIV medicines.
- **Do not take COMPLERA if you are taking certain other medicines.** For more information about medicines that must not be taken with COMPLERA, see “What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking COMPLERA?”

**What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking COMPLERA?****Before you take COMPLERA, tell your healthcare provider if you:**

- have liver problems, including hepatitis B or C virus infection
- have kidney problems
- have ever had a mental health problem
- have bone problems
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if COMPLERA can harm your unborn child
- **Pregnancy Registry.** There is a pregnancy registry for women who take antiviral medicines during pregnancy. Its purpose is to collect information about the health of you and your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about how you can take part in this registry.
- are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that mothers with HIV not breastfeed because they can pass the HIV through their milk to the baby. It is not known if COMPLERA can pass through your breast milk and harm your baby. Talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.

**Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take,** including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

**COMPLERA may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how COMPLERA works, and may cause serious side effects.** If you take certain medicines with COMPLERA, the amount of COMPLERA in your body may be too low and it may not work to help control your HIV infection. The HIV virus in your body may become resistant to COMPLERA or other HIV medicines that are like it.

**Do not take COMPLERA if you also take these medicines:**

- COMPLERA provides a complete treatment for HIV infection. Do not take other HIV medicines with COMPLERA.
- the anti-seizure medicines carbamazepine (CARBATROL®, EQUETRO®, TEGRETOL®, TEGRETOL-XR®, TERIL®, EPITOL®), oxcarbazepine (TRILEPTAL®), phenobarbital (LUMINAL®), phenytoin (DILANTIN®, DILANTIN-125®, PHENYTEK®)
- the anti-tuberculosis medicines rifabutin (MYCOBUTIN®), rifampin (RIFATER®, RIFAMATE®, RIMACTANE®, RIFADIN®) and rifapentine (PRIFITIN®)
- a proton pump inhibitor medicine for certain stomach or intestinal problems, including esomeprazole (NEXIUM®, VIMOVO®), lansoprazole (PREVACID®), omeprazole (PRILOSEC®), pantoprazole sodium (PROTONIX®), rabeprazole (ACIPHEX®)
- more than 1 dose of the steroid medicine dexamethasone or dexamethasone sodium phosphate
- St. John’s wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)

**If you are taking COMPLERA, you should not take:**

- other medicines that contain tenofovir (VIREAD®, TRUVADA®, ATRIPLA®)
- other medicines that contain emtricitabine or lamivudine (EMTRIVA®, COMBIVIR®, EPIVIR® or EPIVIR-HBV®, EPZICOM®, TRIZIVIR®)
- rilpivirine (EDURANT™)
- adefovir (HEPSERA®)

**Also tell your healthcare provider if you take:**

- an antacid medicine that contains aluminum, magnesium hydroxide, or calcium carbonate. Take antacids at least 2 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA.
- a histamine-2 blocker medicine, including famotidine (PEPCID®), cimetidine (TAGAMET®), nizatidine (AXID®), or ranitidine hydrochloride (ZANTAC®). Take these medicines at least 12 hours before or at least 4 hours after you take COMPLERA.
- the antibiotic medicines clarithromycin (BIAXIN®), erythromycin (E-MYCIN®, ERYC®, ERY-TAB®, PCE®, PEDIAZOLE®, ILOSONE®), and troleandomycin (TAO®)
- an antifungal medicine by mouth, including fluconazole (DIFLUCAN®), itraconazole (SPORANOX®), ketoconazole (NIZORAL®), posaconazole (NOXAFIL®), voriconazole (VFEND®)
- methadone (DOLOPHINE®)

**Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist if you are not sure if your medicine is one that is listed above.**

**Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.** Your healthcare provider and your pharmacist can tell you if you can take these medicines with COMPLERA. Do not start any new medicines while you are taking COMPLERA without first talking with your healthcare provider or pharmacist. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for a list of medicines that can interact with COMPLERA.

**How should I take COMPLERA?**

- **Stay under the care of your healthcare provider during treatment with COMPLERA.**
- **Take COMPLERA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to take it.**
- **Always take COMPLERA with a meal.** Taking COMPLERA with a meal is important to help get the right amount of medicine in your body. A protein drink does not replace a meal.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking COMPLERA without first talking with your healthcare provider. See your healthcare provider regularly while taking COMPLERA.
- If you miss a dose of COMPLERA within 12 hours of the time you usually take it, take your dose of COMPLERA with a meal as soon as possible. Then, take your next dose of COMPLERA at the regularly scheduled time. If you miss a dose of COMPLERA by more than 12 hours of the time you usually take it, wait and then take the next dose of COMPLERA at the regularly scheduled time.
- Do not take more than your prescribed dose to make up for a missed dose.
- When your COMPLERA supply starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. It is very important not to run out of COMPLERA. The amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time.
- If you take too much COMPLERA, contact your local poison control center or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.

**What are the possible side effects of COMPLERA?****COMPLERA may cause the following serious side effects, including:**

- **See “What is the most important information I should know about COMPLERA?”**
- **New or worse kidney problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. If you have had kidney problems in the past or take other medicines that can cause kidney problems, your healthcare provider may need to do blood tests to check your kidneys during your treatment with COMPLERA.
- **Depression or mood changes. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms:**
  - feeling sad or hopeless
  - feeling anxious or restless
  - have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself
- **Bone problems** can happen in some people who take COMPLERA. Bone problems include bone pain, softening or thinning (which may lead to fractures). Your healthcare provider may need to do additional tests to check your bones.
- **Changes in body fat** can happen in people taking HIV medicine. These changes may include increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck (“buffalo hump”), breast, and around the main part of your body (trunk). Loss of fat from the legs, arms and face may also happen. The cause and long term health effect of these conditions are not known.
- **Changes in your immune system (Immune Reconstitution Syndrome)** can happen when you start taking HIV medicines. Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections that have been hidden in your body for a long time. Tell your healthcare provider if you start having new symptoms after starting your HIV medicine.

The most common side effects of COMPLERA include:

- trouble sleeping (insomnia)
- abnormal dreams
- headache
- dizziness
- diarrhea
- nausea
- rash
- tiredness
- depression

Additional common side effects include:

- vomiting
- stomach pain or discomfort
- skin discoloration (small spots or freckles)
- pain

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the possible side effects of COMPLERA. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 (1-800-332-1088).

**How do I store COMPLERA?**

- Store COMPLERA at room temperature 77 °F (25 °C).
- Keep COMPLERA in its original container and keep the container tightly closed.
- Do not use COMPLERA if the seal over the bottle opening is broken or missing.

**Keep COMPLERA and all other medicines out of reach of children.****General information about COMPLERA:**

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information leaflet. Do not use COMPLERA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give COMPLERA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about COMPLERA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for information about COMPLERA that is written for health professionals. For more information, call (1-800-445-3235) or go to [www.COMPLERA.com](http://www.COMPLERA.com).

**What are the ingredients of COMPLERA?**

**Active ingredients:** emtricitabine, rilpivirine hydrochloride, and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate

**Inactive ingredients:** pregelatinized starch, lactose monohydrate, microcrystalline cellulose, croscarmellose sodium, magnesium stearate, povidone, polysorbate 20. The tablet film coating contains polyethylene glycol, hypromellose, lactose monohydrate, triacetin, titanium dioxide, iron oxide red, FD&C Blue #2 aluminum lake, FD&C Yellow #6 aluminum lake.

This Patient Information has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration  
Manufactured and distributed by:

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Foster City, CA 94404

Issued: August 2011

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Andy Luther in *The Gacy Play*. Photo by Jonathan L. Green

## THEATER REVIEW

### The Gacy Play

Playwright: Calamity West

At: Sideshow Theatre Company  
at Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave.

Tickets: 773-975-8150;

[www.sideshowtheatre.org](http://www.sideshowtheatre.org); \$20-\$25

Runs through: July 29

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

"Oh my God! There's the crawl space!"

That's what a fellow critic groaned while eyeing designer Sara Brown's 1970s suburban home set for Sideshow Theatre Company's world premiere of *The Gacy Play* at Theater Wit.

The performance hadn't even started yet, but you could already sense an uneasiness in the audience about playwright Calamity West's drama focusing on the notorious Chicago-area mass murderer John Wayne Gacy Jr., who sexually assaulted and murdered more than 30 young men in the 1970s. Known for dressing up like a clown and for his Democratic Party work (he was even photographed with then-First Lady Rosalynn Carter in 1978), Gacy's string of grisly murders also included the disturbing fact that the majority of his victim's bodies were buried in the crawl space of his suburban home in Norwood Park Township.

With such an unsavory subject matter, West really needed to pull out all the dramatic stops to make *The Gacy Play* work. Alas, West is successful only part of the time in *The Gacy Play*, with certain scenes being far more effective than others.

West sets *The Gacy Play* in the period right

before the break-up of Gacy (Andy Luther) and his second wife, Carol (Elizabeth B. Murphy), as she becomes increasingly suspicious of her husband's attachment to young male employees like Dave (Andrew Goetten) and the stench emanating from below the house. West's play also has fantasy aspects, like an apparition of Hollywood star John Wayne (Jim Farrell) appearing to question Gacy's masculinity and a scene that has three of Gacy's victims (Alex Ring, Adam Shalzi and Andy Sheagren) pondering their untimely fate.

West is best creating an ominous atmosphere throughout the work, even in scenes of comic relief like when visiting guests Tom and Peg (the hilarious duo of Joe Mack and Deanna Boyd) drunkenly spar and inadvertently push Gacy's and Carol's buttons to evaluate aspects of their own troubled marriage. Other times, the dialogue doesn't feel genuine (like in Gacy and Carol's combative break-up scene) or come off like missed opportunities (the John Wayne's butch fantasy appearances.)

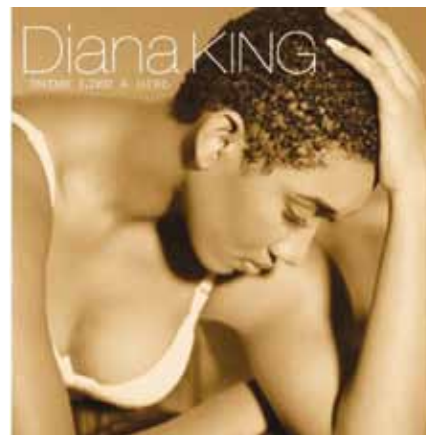
If the play itself isn't perfect, *The Gacy Play* certainly receives a strong physical production with plenty of good performances. Director Jonathan L. Green's decision to place the audience at two opposing ends to peer through the Gacy home center stage offers a certain amount of uncomfortable voyeurism and in-plain-sight/hindsight culpability while watching the show.

But then again, Luther plays Gacy with such regular-guy nonchalance that he gives a hint to how Gacy was able to pull the wool over the eyes of so many friends and colleagues. Knowing what ultimately happened will make you squirm throughout *The Gacy Play*.

## SPOTLIGHT



Call it a cheap cultural gimmick or a brilliant idea to get First Folio-phobic folks fixated on Shakespeare. See how you feel when the Bard is performed in nothing but bikinis and Speedos when Gorilla Tango Theatre presents **Bikini Shakespeare: Much Ado About Nothing**. Will viewers finally pay attention to the text, or will the fleshly beauty on display prove too distracting? *Bikini Shakespeare: Much Ado About Nothing* plays 7:30 p.m. Thursdays from July 12 through Aug. 30 at Gorilla Tango Theatre, 1919 N. Milwaukee Ave. Tickets are \$15; call 773-598-4549 or visit [www.gorillatango.com](http://www.gorillatango.com).



### Diana King, Frank Ocean come out

Jamaican reggae singer Diana King—known for hits such as "Shy Guy" and her remake of "I Say A Little Prayer"—came out as lesbian on her Facebook page, according to SheWired.com. Part of the post reads, "I AM ... WOMAN ... MOTHER ... AUNT ... JAMAICAN ... AMERICAN ... INTERNATIONAL ARTIST ... GODDESS! among other things AND YES!!! ... I AM A LESBIAN." In January, she shared the stage with Celine Dion at the Jamaica Jazz and Blues Festival in Trelawny.

Also, Frank Ocean—an R&B singer who is part of the hip-hop collective Odd Future, and who has also written songs for Justin Bieber, John Legend and Beyoncé—came out on his blog, saying that his first lover was a guy, the Huffington Post reported. He wrote, in part, "I don't know what happens now, and that's alright. I don't have any secrets I need kept anymore... Thanks to my first love, I'm grateful for you." Tyler the Creator, a rapper who is also part of Odd Future and who has been accused of homophobia in the past, tweeted his congratulations to Ocean.

Hip-hop legend Russell Simmons posted on Global Grind that he was "profoundly moved by the courage and honesty of Frank Ocean, according to the Washington Post.

On his new studio album, *Channel Orange*—due July 17—Ocean deals with issues of sexuality.

### Elton, Barrowman back international gay-rights campaign

Out actor John Barrowman (Torchwood) and Sir Elton John are among those backing the launch of the Kaleidoscope Trust, a new major international gay-rights campaign, according to a press release. The campaign is entitled "Imagine if it were illegal for you to be you."

Barrowman said, "Just imagine what it would be like if it were illegal to have blue eyes, or be under 5'10" tall. Just imagine if something you could do nothing about meant you could go to prison, or face attack or even death." The campaign is at [www.KaleidoscopeTrust.com](http://www.KaleidoscopeTrust.com) and on Twitter.



John Barrowman.

"★★★★★" - *Time Out Chicago*

"A timely and important American play." - *Chris Jones, Chicago Tribune*

"One of the best reactions to someone coming out ever written." - *New City*

"Highly Recommended. 90 minutes of fun!" - *Around the Town Chicago*

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# Male exotic dancers talk about their lives

BY BLAIR MISHLEAU

The recently released movie *Magic Mike* has shed new light onto stripping, mostly showing off Channing Tatum's (and friend's) main assets and what life outside of the industry looks like.

Missing from the movie, though, is the gay-dancing scene: a massive market where gay and straight (and in-between) work side by side, often blurring identity lines and assumptions in the process. Add the fact that gay dancers can date, and there's a new level of complexity *Magic Mike* couldn't have dreamt of.

"Among 'tip dancers,' I'd say the majority are straight, or mostly straight," said Jared, a gay dancer who resides in Chicago. [Note: He requested his last name not be used.] "Among the dancers at large parties and circuit events, I'd say the majority are gay."

While you'll find different answers from different dancers throughout Chicago's nightlife and circuit parties across the country, one trend seems consistent: the lines between gay and straight become a bit murky in the dancing industry.

"I've known gay guys who said they were straight, and straight guys who said they were gay while working too," Jared said. "For the straight dancers, many of them are at least very comfortable with the idea of being gay even though they aren't, themselves. I'd say that many of them have experienced homosexual sex for themselves and decided they didn't prefer it [although they probably won't readily admit to it]."

Based on several interviews, the non-scientific



Seth Fornea. Photo courtesy of Fornea

proportion given for dancers hovers anywhere between 50 to 70 percent straight. At the end of the day you'll have to trust the dancer's word: Claiming to be straight or gay can get you further depending on the club you're working.

"Certain clubs, like the Lucky Horseshoe and a few others, are more acceptable for gay guys to work at," said JD, a former dancer of 12 years who is straight (and also requested his last

name not be used). "But clubs like Cocktail are more of a straight-guy place [for dancing]."

Many straight dancers migrate to or start in the gay arena for a few reasons, including consistent work and higher pay.

"During the week I'd work mostly at gay clubs because they're easier to book. ... Straight guys get more in tips." JD said. "Weekends, I did bachelorette parties."

Where the dancing takes place makes a difference, though. According to Seth Fornea, who only works gay bars, gay dancers can make out better.

"Straight dancers do not do nearly as well as their gay counterparts," said Fornea, who's gay and resides in North Carolina. "Straight dancers are less willing to do risqué acts with the gay clientele and tend to become distracted by straight women entering the bar."

This can have the opposite effect at a bar that has straight female clientele who tag along with their gay friends:

"The only animosity I ever saw was that [gay dancers] didn't feel as comfortable dancing on girls," JD said.

"Straight women are great for a high-five hand slap, a couple of \$1's and maybe some lip-synching together to a Britney song," Fornea said. "Beyond that, straight women are not good tipperes to go-go boys."

Among other complexities the gay dancing industry has that the straight dancing sector doesn't involves dating co-workers.

For Jared and Fornea, who are in a relationship, what could be a huge difficulty has been a non-issue.

"For us, dancing is not awkward at all. It's something we do both together and apart and are fully supportive of each other," Fornea said.

Jared added, "I don't think it's difficult as long as the other person isn't the jealous type."

When it comes to entering the industry, advice varies but centers on balance.



Seth Fornea and JD. Photo by Edge New York

"It's not about the money; it's about engaging clientele," Jared said. "Most people entering the bar want to talk with you. If you are fun, interesting and listen to them, you'll do a lot better and have more fun yourself. Stay away from really drunk or shady people and never do anything you don't want to do."

"You're either you're in it or you're not," JD said. "It's hard to work a full-time job then work nights like that. You've got to be a full-time dancer or you'll buy into the propositions and end up being an escort boy."

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## MUSIC

# Vicci Martinez invites fans to 'Come Along'

BY SARAH TOCE

Tacoma, Wash.-native singer/songwriter and Hannah Free musical contributor Vicci Martinez, 27, placed in the top three during the first season of NBC's hit music series *The Voice*, but homespun hungry fans had been following her work prior to 2005. Now, there is something new to celebrate: the powerhouse dynamo's highly-anticipated debut EP *Come Along* from Universal Republic Records.

The four-song release features Cee-Lo Green—the coach who helped Martinez buff her stuff for votes on the show. Green and Martinez jointly appeared on *The Tonight Show* with Jay Leno as well as the May 2 episode of *The Voice* in order to promote *Come Along* before its June 19 street premiere.

The calculated slice of edgy track heaven matches Martinez in her wit and will to keep moving forward in her career as a singer who speaks from the heart—and lives through the soul. The momentum is transparently obvious in the most intriguing way possible and the voice—which viewers remember as she sang Adele's "Rolling in the Deep" on the show—is ever-present.

At first, Martinez had to weigh the pros and cons of waiting more than a year to release her first album under her new label. It was a decision she measured with care.

"The *Voice* opened the door to a ton more people," she said. "I feel that with that there is a rush of, 'You're on a show—let's put it [the record] out. Let's put it out.' But I wanted to put out a good record. You run the risk of people forgetting about you if you wait because they remember you from the show, but I wanted to feel confident about the music I put out there."

She added, "Song messages are important to me. You have to consider, 'Do you want to stick around for awhile or put something out later and [possibly] be forgotten?'"

Of the major record label debut, Martinez shared that she's using her newfound celebrity to reach across the divide. "I'm not going to compromise myself. It's important for me to not tell other people what to do, but I can raise awareness and bring that to as many people as



Vicci Martinez. Photo by Andrew Zaeh

possible now that my reach is much larger."

Martinez described her attraction to the EP title track as a reminder to herself—and others—to take a stand.

"Peter [Svensson] and I had written a handful of songs and Martin [Dodd] came to visit and asked if I had heard Peter's song that he had written for this great Swedish artist Tityo," she said. "Peter played it and I fell off the chair and said, 'Why didn't you play it earlier?' This track has never been released in the U.S. and I just fell in love with the lyrics."

The lyrics include the words "Time flies/ Make a statement/ Take a stand."

Martinez added, "I think the lyrics are really important for people today, for all of us, but especially for our generation. We can break the cycle and habits that our society has been stuck in. It is a time of evolution, evolving into our divine, most perfect self. I feel this is a step that I've been trying to take and by singing this song, I'm asking everyone else to come along with me and take a stand."

In the song "I Can Love," Martinez speaks from the place she knows best—her heart: "It is about putting your heart into it. Everything I do is based on love. Sometimes we don't feel our best, and we can let things and people bring us down. This song is about empowerment and to remind us that we do have hearts and we should use them."

In support of the new release, Martinez will be embarking on a U.S./Canadian tour ranging from her hometown of Tacoma to San Francisco to Vancouver, B.C., to her new place of residency—the City of Angels.

"I live in Los Angeles now! I've lived in L.A. since November 2011. It's so great to be here and have a purpose and know that I am doing what I am meant to be doing," Martinez said. "When I moved from Tacoma to L.A. [I thought], 'Why am I doing this?' It was a big deal to me, because I've never lived anywhere else. Without thinking, I came to L.A., and it felt like I left my old life behind. I wondered if I was doing the right thing, and if this was what I needed to be doing, which I now believe was a necessary

choice and the right thing to do. I've always put my music first, because it is me and it is my passion."

So, what comes next for the Little Engine That Could?

"Right now I'm working on a video concept for the song 'Come Along.' It is turning out artistic and meaningful. I can't wait for people to see it."

Joining Martinez on the Universal Republic label are 3 Doors Down, Black Sabbath, Colbie Caillat, Eddie Vedder, Enrique Iglesias, Florence + the Machine, Godsmack, Owl City, The Rolling Stones, *The Voice* (NBC-TV), Gotye, Of Monsters & Men, Mayer Hawthorne, and others.

**Martinez will be among former contestants from *The Voice* (including Cheesa, James Massone and Jamar Rogers) who will join musicians/show judge Cee-Lo Green at the "Voices for Children Benefit" after-party/fundraiser at Excalibur, 632 N. Dearborn St., on Friday, July 27, 8 p.m.-12 a.m. Tickets are \$50-\$150; see [CeeLoVoicesForTheChildrenes2.eventbrite.com](http://CeeLoVoicesForTheChildrenes2.eventbrite.com).**



Jamar Rogers.

The track is available for free download at [www.kinkybootsthemusical.com](http://www.kinkybootsthemusical.com). Lauper debuted a live performance of "Sex is in the Heel" at NY Pride Parade June 24.

*Kinky Boots*, the new musical that brings together four-time Tony winner Harvey Fierstein (book) and the Grammy-winning Lauper (music and lyrics), will have its pre-Broadway world premiere in Chicago this fall. For tickets for the Chicago engagement of *Kinky Boots*, visit [BroadwayInChicago.com](http://BroadwayInChicago.com).

## Astralwerks' 'Pride' out

Dance/electronica label Astralwerks has released *Hey Boy, Hey Girl!: Pride 2012*, a compilation of some of the label's "most acclaimed artists and several newcomers who are already creating waves on the global stage," according to a press release.

Among the musicians featured are Swedish House Mafia, Air, the Chemical Brothers and David Guetta. See [www.astralwerks.com](http://www.astralwerks.com).

## 'Voice' contestant talks HIV status in magazine

In the July/August issue of the publication *Positively Aware*, Jamar Rogers—who competed on the reality-competition show *The Voice*—talks about his music, struggles and life beyond HIV, according to a press release.

At one point during the interview, he says, "What I'm hoping is that my music is so good, that I won't be the HIV guy, but I'll just be this amazing artist who happens to have HIV."

On the show (which features judges CeeLo Green, Adam Levine, Christina Aguilera and Blake Shelton) and up until his elimination during the semifinals, Rogers spoke very openly about his HIV status as well as his struggles with crystal-meth addiction.

The full interview audio and transcript is online at [www.positivelyaware.com/jamar](http://www.positivelyaware.com/jamar), including never-before-seen photos by Los Angeles photographer Matthew Garsteck, shot exclusively for *Positively Aware*.

The local agency Test Positive Aware Network publishes *Positively Aware*, now in its 23rd year.

## Lauper releases 'Sex is in the Heel'

Cyndi Lauper has released "Sex is in the Heel," a remixed selection from the upcoming musical *Kinky Boots*.



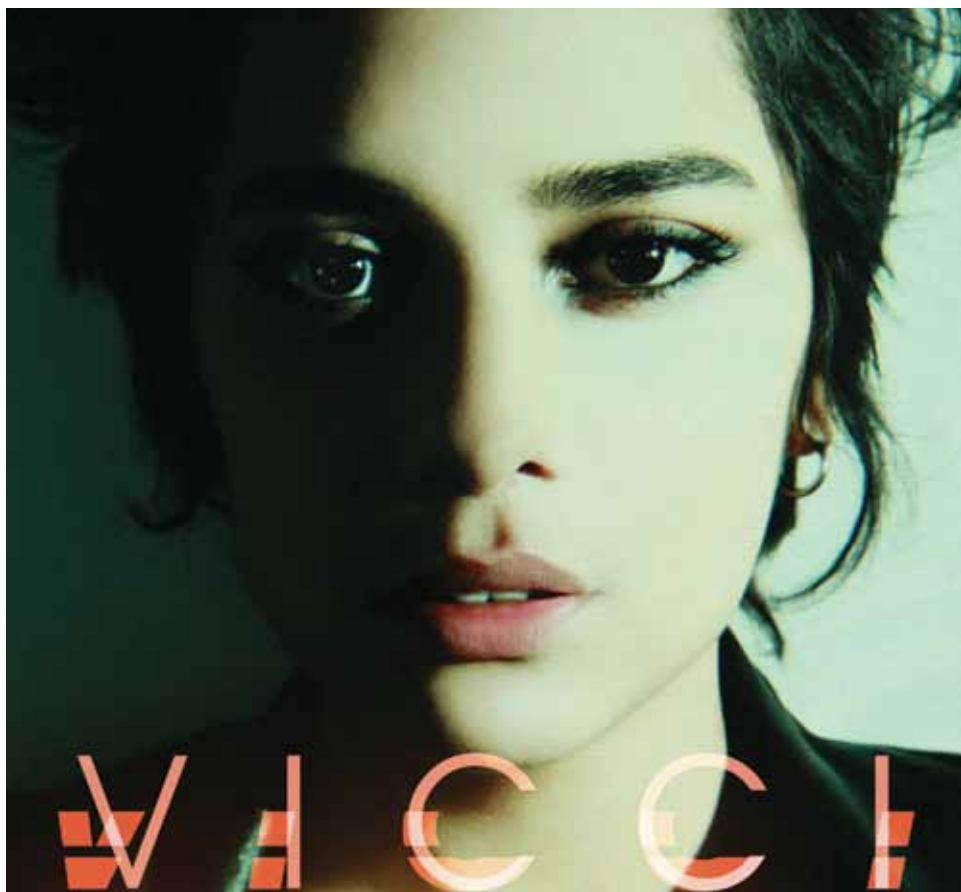
## Sarah Siddons gala July 16 at Ritz-Carlton

The Sarah Siddons Society will hold its 60th-anniversary gala Monday, July 16, at 6:30 p.m. at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, 120 E. Delaware St.

Barbara Cook will be honored with the prestigious "Sarah Siddons Society Award" and Mike Nussbaum will be honored as "Chicago's Leading Actor."

The Sarah Siddons Society Award (which goes to an actor for an outstanding performance in a Chicago theatrical production) was first presented in 1952 to Helen Hayes.

See [www.Sarahsiddonssociety.org](http://www.Sarahsiddonssociety.org) or email [sarahsiddonssociety@gmail.com](mailto:sarahsiddonssociety@gmail.com). Non-members interested in attending can call 312 396-1977 or 773-301-3611.



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Megan Rapinoe. Photo by Mel Ferrand

## Soccer star Megan Rapinoe comes out

BY ROSS FORMAN

Megan Rapinoe has officially kicked the mystery aside.

The standout soccer player who played for the Chicago Red Stars from 2009-2010 and is now preparing for the Summer Olympics with the U.S. Women's National Team confirmed in an interview with Out Magazine that she is gay.

"I feel like sports in general are still homophobic, in the sense that not a lot of people are out," she told Out magazine. "I feel everyone is really craving [for] people to come out. People want—they need—to see that there are people like me playing soccer for the good ol' U.S. of A."

Rapinoe told the magazine that no one ever asked her directly about her sexual orientation. "I think they were trying to be respectful and that it's my job to say, 'I'm gay.' Which I am. For the record: I am gay," she told Out Magazine.

Rapinoe has been dating her girlfriend, an Australian soccer player, for three years, and even brought her home to visit her family in Northern California last Christmas, the magazine reported.

Rapinoe was profiled by the Windy City Times three years ago during her stint with the Red Stars—when she clearly was among the most popular Red Stars within the lesbian community.

"I think that's a good thing," Rapinoe told this reporter in 2009. "I think we need to bring people of all different walks of life into the game. I definitely think there's a place within

the Red Stars organization for everyone.

"I want to make people feel like, when they go watch [the Red Stars], that there is someone like them on the team, and that we're not all the same on the team, that there is diversity. I think that's a good thing for the sport and our team in general."

The Red Stars selected Rapinoe second overall in the 2009 Women's Professional Soccer (WPS) draft. She appeared in 18 games for the Red Stars in 2009, scoring two goals and assisting on three. She was named a WPS First-Team All-Star. In 2010, Rapinoe played in 20 games for the Red Stars, scoring one goal in the last game of the season.

Rapinoe went to the Philadelphia Independence in December 2010 when the Red Stars folded.

She now plays for the Seattle Sounders Women of the W-League.

Rapinoe told Windy City Times three years ago that there definitely were lesbians in the WPS. "Gays and lesbians are everywhere in our society," she said at the time. "I know that our team has reached out to the gay and lesbian community, and I think that's important. I think there's a pretty good potential for a good fan base within that community."

Windy City Times was a sponsor of the Red Stars, and Rapinoe said the cross-promotion "[was] a great thing. Windy City Media Group did promotions for Red Star games and had a special benefit for Lesbian Community Care Project at one home game.

"In female sports, if you're gay, most likely your team knows it pretty quickly," she told Out Magazine. "It's very open and widely supported. For males, it's not that way at all. It's sad."

A California native, Rapinoe played soccer at the University of Portland—and as a freshman in 2005, she led the Pilots to an undefeated season and the NCAA women's soccer championship.

### 'Play Like a Girl' July 13

The women's professional football team Chicago Force and Chicago Women's Rugby are co-hosting a fundraiser Friday, July 13, at Spin, 800 W. Belmont, at 8 p.m.

A \$25 admission includes three drink tickets, dancing and live performances by Sami Grisafe and Hot Mess.

See "PLAY like a girl fundraiser!" on Facebook.

### 'Homelessness' run July 15

The Chicago social-service agency A Safe Haven will host its second annual "RUN! To End Homelessness" Sunday, July 15, in Douglas Park, 2800 W. Roosevelt Rd.

Registration is \$35-\$40. To register, visit [www.runtoendhomelessness.org](http://www.runtoendhomelessness.org) or call 773-868-3010.

## Chicago Fire partners with Equality Illinois

BY ROSS FORMAN

Dan Gargan, playing now in his second season for the Chicago Fire professional soccer team, said he would be surprised if a teammate came out as gay—because "I think I know my teammates," he said.

But it wouldn't be a shocker and Gargan would offer nothing but support.

"To take a step forward and come out as a gay athlete [while active, not when retired], it would take a lot of strength, and I certainly would admire that person," Gargan said in an exclusive interview July 6 at the Boystown nightclub Sidetrack.

Gargan and teammate Jay Nolly joined Fire front-office staff for Equality Illinois' First Friday social networking cocktail party, marking one of several partnered events this summer between Equality Illinois, the state's oldest and largest LGBT advocacy organization, and the Fire of Major League Soccer (MLS).

"If [an active player] came out, I think he'd receive a wide spectrum of emotions, just as it would with any other hot-button subject or topic. However, we view our team, and I can only speak for the Chicago Fire, as a family and if a player came out, I think that player would be embraced; I wouldn't expect it to be any different."

Gargan, a defender who was born in Costa Rica, said it certainly will take a lot of "strength and inner fortitude," to come out while active. "I think it will take a strong per-

The partnership between Equality Illinois and the Chicago Fire was launched during the Chicago Pride Parade in June, when representatives of the Fire marched along with the Equality Illinois float with its "I Do" marriage-equality theme.

Members of the Fire organization also will be on the receiving end of pies when Equality Illinois holds its annual Celebrity Pie Toss July 28 at Sidetrack. Funds raised, through pie donations, will aid Equality Illinois programs.

The team will hold Chicago Fire Pride Night at its game Aug. 4 at Toyota Park in Bridgeview. A portion of ticket sale proceeds that night will go to benefit the work of the Equality Illinois Education Project.

"The relationship started with a very natural, organic conversation that we had with the Chicago Fire because we were participating in soccer-watching parties; that was Equality Illinois board members, community members and general organizational members," said Bernard Cherkasov, CEO of Equality Illinois. "We just said, there are so many of us watching the Fire games, so there has to be some way to come together and stand in solidarity together.

"At the same time, the Chicago Fire was trying to identify ways that it could show to the LGBT fan base just how much [the team] loved and appreciated it back. We started conversation a few months ago that we wanted a more organized presence with the



Equality Illinois Executive Director Bernard Cherkasov with Chicago Fire players Dan Gargan (left) and Jay Nolly. Photo by Ross Forman

son to do it, but when it happens, I think our world probably is a little better equipped to handle it [than years ago]."

Gargan has played against openly gay professional soccer player David Testo for several years, while Testo has worn multiple uniforms. It was never an issue, Gargan said.

"I think the Fire is happy to be partners with Equality Illinois and show the rest of the community that everyone is embraced and show that we, the Chicago Fire, believe in equality," Gargan said.

Nolly added, "I think it's great that the Fire has teamed up with Equality Illinois. I'm all about equality; I think everyone should have their own rights; I felt this was a good way for me to support the cause and am happy to be here."

Nolly said he has had a gay teammate, and added, "It doesn't bother me; I don't think it's a big deal, and if people have an open mind, it shouldn't be."

Chicago Fire, and they said that [the team] wanted a more organized presence within the LGBT community."

Cherkasov said the alliance with the Fire "tells us so much about society because there was a time, in our lifetime, where public officials, religious clergy members, business leaders, sports heroes, would not touch LGBT equality issues with a 10-foot pole. Their agents would recommend against it; their employers and society as a whole would, too. But now, we see political officials coming out in support of LGBT issues, [as well as] religious leaders, business leaders and sports teams."

Cherkasov was hesitant to tag his favorite Fire player, instead saying he supports all. But, when pressured, he said Orr Baruch, "with whom I share more in common with [than other players.] He comes from the land of my ancestors, [Israel], so I feel a particular connection to him."

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## REFLECTIONS

# Movie Magic:

## Why LGBT cinema matters

BY TRACY BAIM

I can't ever remember not being in love with the movies. I am by no means a cinema expert, but I know that movies have always been a guilty pleasure. As a young lesbian, there were very few movies I could relate to, but I learned early to read between the lines, and find strong women wherever I could.

One early TV movie still has an impact on me today, *In the Glitter Palace* (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0076187/combined>), starring Barbara Hershey. It's a campy over-the-top lesbian TV movie for sure, but I can still remember watching it, at age 14, on an old tiny black-and-white TV in my bedroom.

As I grew older, slowly more films became available, including *Personal Best* (1982 <http://www.imdb.com/find?q=Personal+best&s=all>) and one of my all-times favorites, *Desert Hearts* (1985, <http://www.imdb.com/find?q=Desert+Hearts+&s=all>).

As Vito Russo [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vito\\_Russo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vito_Russo) and B. Ruby Rich <http://www.bruby-rich.com/>, among others, have documented, queer cinema started to really take off around this time.

As a fan, I loved having more choices in the movies, even if there were so few good lesbian films coming out each year. As a journalist, I really can appreciate the different way a film tells a story. My first foray into non-journalism work was producing a play based on a book I wrote, *Half Life* <http://www.amazon.com/The-Half-Life-Sgt-Hunter/dp/1456461923>, in 2005. Bev Spangler adapted it, and we did a fun 18-show run. I thought maybe I would eventually do a movie from the story, but that proved difficult to do. (It was a story about lesbians in the pre-DADT military.)

Luckily, I happened on a project in 2008, producing a film adaptation of playwright Claudia Allen's *Hannah Free* <http://hannahfree.com/>. It's about two women together all their lives, separated at the end by family. Wow, what an experience that was. I learned so much, including how difficult making movies is. Well, difficult is one part of it. But mainly it is about the money. We did the film ultra low budget, but it still has not broken even. Our stars, including Sharon Gless <http://www.sharongless.com/>, are fantastic, and the film is available in North America and multiple other countries. It was a blast to do, but I thought I could never do that again.

Well, never say never. I am always up for leaping off cliffs for another challenge. This time,

it's a completely different gay film, based on *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. *Ellen Stoneking*, Richard Knight, Jr. and the late Timothy Imse penned the beautiful script for *Scrooge & Marley*, and we shot the film in May in Chicago. Acclaimed out actor David Pevsner portrays Ben Scrooge while former SNL star Tim Kazurinsky appears as the Ghost of Jacob Marley. Other stars include Rusty Schwimmer, Bruce Vilanch, Megan Cavanagh, Ronnie Kroell, David Moretti, Richard Ganoung, and JoJo Baby.

My fellow journalists are quite curious how I made this leap to movies. I am not quite sure how it worked, but I do find that it is another form of storytelling—and project management similar to running a newspaper. There is payroll, actor negotiations, finding crew and equipment, finding locations, and juggling about 100 things at once for the brief shoot. It is 20-hour days and lots of food and snacks for hungry crew and cast. And if you are lucky, there is a little film magic thrown in to make it work.

We are now in post-production, and because this is a holiday movie, we have a very quick deadline. So we have launched a Christmas in July fundraising campaign through Indiegogo, and are hoping that other LGBTs, and our allies, see the value of telling our Christmas stories through a gay lens.

To support the Indiegogo campaign, see <http://igg.me/p/124360?a=396864>.

[www.scroogeandmarleymovie.com](http://www.scroogeandmarleymovie.com) is our Web site and [www.facebook.com/ScroogeAndMarley](http://www.facebook.com/ScroogeAndMarley) is our Facebook page. We also have a benefit Thursday, July 26, 6-9 p.m. at 3160 Cabaret (3160 N. Clark), where several scenes in the movie were shot. Guests will have a chance to win exclusive Scrooge & Marley merchandise and will be treated to music from the film performed live by cabaret entertainers Becca Kaufman and Dick O'Day (alter ego of Richard Knight, Jr., co-director and co-writer of the film), who appear in the movie. The trailer and never-before-seen behind-the-scenes photos will also be shown. The event is free, but donations will be requested.

There are many new ways to make independent movies, and these online campaigns can really help put the projects over the finish line. Telling our stories is one important way we change society. Yes, we need laws, we need positive court rulings, and we need progressive political leaders. But to shift society further we also need to change the culture—and we can help do that one movie at a time.

Tracy Baim is publisher of Windy City Times. [www.windycitymediagroup.com](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com)



Images from the upcoming film *Scrooge and Marley*. Photos by Hal Baim

## DVD REVIEW

## The Casserole Club

BY STEVE WARREN

To call *The Casserole Club* junk food would be an insult to Ding Dongs and McDonalds.

I invited my husband to watch it with me because he's a big fan of the period TV series *Swingtown* (R.I.P.) and *Mad Men*. He bowed out near the half-hour mark, just before everyone got naked for the first time.

*The Casserole Club* is more like *Swingtown*, which focused on free-loving couple-swapping without the distraction of people working at jobs to sustain their



Starina Johnson and Garrett Swann in *The Casserole Club*. Photo by Dusti Cunningham

suburban lifestyle. Oh, maybe a round of golf at the country club while the men recharge their batteries...

There are five couples, all conveniently childless, who hang out together. The bored housewives decide to start a cooking competition, even though low-self-esteem Marybelle (Jennifer Grace) feels outclassed.

They display their wares at a party at the home of Sugar (Susan Traylor) and Conrad (Backstreet Boy Kevin Scott Richardson), an event that happens to take place on the day of Judy Garland's death (the weekend before Stonewall, for you LGBT historians out there).

There is lot of talking, a lot of drinking and a few party games—and suddenly the clothes come off and the orgy begins. We've already seen what a dick Conrad is (and he's into self-mutilation before it was cool), so it's no surprise when Sugar jumps the bones of Marybelle's husband, Max (Michael Maize), starting an affair that's apparently been waiting to happen.

It's not clear who else hooks up with whom, but everyone—including Marybelle, who has declared herself "not a sex person"—pairs off heterosexually (this time) and does what heterosexuals do.

At the next party, everyone is loosened up further by pot in cookies served as appetizers. The word is out and some additional guests have showed up, but church mouse Marjorie (Jane Wiedlin of the Go-Gos, who apparently bought herself a cameo) doesn't stay long.

This time Sugar gets it on with Jerome (Daniela Sea of *The L Word*) while Jerome's husband, Leslie (Mark Booker), watches from the shadows; meanwhile, Sterling (Garrett Swann) hits on Ned (Nic Roewert).

There's another party but the good times soon give way to suicide, jealousy, pregnancy, homophobia and anything else Frankie Krainz can cram into the script. News events are used to establish the period. Besides Garland's death there are the Manson murders and a rerun of the first moon walk.

Pastiche songs—cheaper than paying for rights, though some are close enough to the originals to spawn lawsuits—also set the period, though some sound like they're from about a decade earlier.

There are fleeting moments that seem insightful or genuine and some of the performers do a decent job, considering the dreadful material; but I won't identify them because I'm sure they'll want to delete this from their resumes.

Had it been made in 1969, like the nearly-as-dreadful-but-now-iconic *Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice*, *The Casserole Club* might have been passed off as a cautionary tale—*Swapper Madness*, if you will. More than 40 years of hindsight have added nothing to its perspective or freshness, although it may be intended as an expose of what today's tight-assed defenders of traditional marriage did in their younger days.

Directed by Steve Balderson, *The Casserole Club* is more likely to discourage movie-watching than promiscuity.

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## MEAKER from cover

they never came to NYC.

**WCT: The first pseudonym used, Vin Packer, arose from a lunch meeting with a man named Vincent and a woman with the last name of Packer. Were there bells and whistles going off upon this meeting or did that come later when attempting to formulate an alternate identity for press purposes?**

MJM: No bells and whistles. Vincent and Packer had no idea I was planning to write as Vin Packer. Our luncheon was not about business. But right after riding home on the subway I thought of the pseudonym for the novel I wanted to write. It was not called Spring Fire, but Sorority Girl. Dick Carroll, my editor, did not think that was a selling title. James Michener had just published his book Fires of Spring. Dick hoped if we called mine Spring Fire the public might confuse it with Michener and we'd sell more copies.

**WCT: Spring Fire was based on your own personal experiences at a Southern boarding school where men were prohibited, but you were not allowed by the publishers [Gold Medal Books] to incorporate the school into the plotline because of the students being underage. Did this redirection cause any hesitation to commit on your part?**

MJM: No hesitation. All I could think of was that I'd be published—that the Meaker agency's client would have a sale.

**WCT: Gold Medal Books also said Spring Fire could not have a happy ending because it would seem as though the author accepted homosexuality as normal. What was your initial reaction to that comment?**

MJM: My only reaction was I'd be published! I wanted to be a writer all of my life, since I was a little kid. I had no sense of entitlement as a lesbian. No one did. This was the end of the '40s, the early '50s. Any kind of acceptance was gratifying, and being published was a small miracle. (Never mind it wasn't under my own name—that would suit my family just fine. They believed I was a literary agent and Packer was a client.) It was expected.

**WCT: How would you respond to this type of comment today vs. in the 1950s?**

MJM: Of course, it would be unacceptable.

**WCT: Dark Don't Catch Me, Young and Violent, The Twisted Ones and Come Destroy Me helped put you on the map following Spring Fire. Why did the genre of mystery appeal to you during this time in your career?**

MJM: I chose to have Packer my mystery client because the Sunday New York Times mystery columnist, Anthony Boucher, reviewed Come Destroy Me, an early book, with a rave. It was very unusual for him to review a paperback. It was the first review I ever got anywhere. I decided Packer would always write crime. I never met Boucher, was not a good friend. He lived on the coast, I think. It was just a business relationship. I was very in awe of him and grateful to him.

There was a time I wanted credit for my mystery novels, and I told Dick Carroll, my editor, that I was thinking of doing that. He said, "No one knows the name Meaker. Stick with Packer." ... When I wrote a series of books reporting on lesbian life in the '50s, I told Dick I would use the pseudonym Bianca Blye. He said, "No way. That name has negative connotations: Captain [Bligh]. Think of an All-American name, like Henry Aldrich." As a result, my lesbian reporter became Ann Aldrich.

**WCT: Please tell us more about Ann Aldrich.**

MJM: Ann Aldrich was me reporting on the world I lived in—the bars we all went to—because it was the only way we found others like us ... then the little world that was gay, the butch/femme scene, the downtown girls and uptown girls, all of it. I was a good reporter, but not everyone was happy with my take on our life. I might have been too critical. But I was honest. It was the way I saw things.



Marijane Meaker.

Even Aldrich changed, though. You could see it in the titles, beginning with We Walk Alone, then We, Too, Must Love, then We Two Won't Last, then Take A Lesbian To Lunch. ... Carol In a Thousand Cities was an anthology of short stories, analytic writings and observations by writers who were not me.

**WCT: Can you tell us why The Damnation of Adam Blessing and Intimate Victims stand out as your favorite Vin Packer novels?**

MJM: I don't really know why, except Intimate Victims was written right after Pat Highsmith [writer Patricia Highsmith] and I broke up and the main character was very much like her—although a male, and he was killed in the novel. At the same time, she was killing me in her own novel.

**WCT: Ultimately, you retired the Vin Packer moniker in exchange for your own—Marijane Meaker. What prompted you to bring Vin Packer back to the forefront nearly 40 years later?**

MJM: It was not my idea to bring Packer back. It was the publisher's [idea].

**WCT: Why did you decide to list Vin Packer and Marijane Meaker on the cover of Scott Free (versus one or the other)?**

MJM: That, too, was the editor's idea. He thought both names would add more selling power.

**WCT: Your next pseudonym made its debut as M.E. Kerr. Can you tell us about the choice in name, and why it was necessary for you to create another identity for your young-adult novels in the '70s?**

MJM: A move into the young-adult field necessitated taking another name, if only to signal to librarians that the books were not for adults. M.E. Kerr was a takeoff on my last name Meaker. ... I always liked taking new names. I don't know why. But even as a youngster I called myself Eric Ranthram McKay when I wrote because my father's stationery had the initials ERM.

**WCT: Personally, how was the transition from writing mystery (Vin Packer) to young adult (M. E. Kerr)?**

MJM: I wasn't aware of any transition difficulties. Remember, I was writing for slick magazines, confession magazines, etc.—all under pseudonyms so that Meaker had a lot of clients. I just loved writing, whatever I wrote, and I liked disguises.

**WCT: Prologue Books re-released The Evil Friendship in digital format during Pride Month. The novel had been out of print. What type of response did you anticipate from new readers who maybe have never read your novels?**

MJM: As my own agent, I rarely got feedback from writers. Paperback writers were seldom reacting with their readers. My friends cheered me on but otherwise I counted on my sales figures to tell me how I was doing. ... I don't think that'll change [and] I don't think I'll have any personal interaction with readers.

**WCT: At one point you were romantically linked to Patricia Highsmith (aka Claire Morgan—author of the popular Ripley books, made into movies, including Hitchcock's Strangers on a Train). How did this relationship take form?**

MJM: Pat and I had a two-year relationship in the late '50s, early '60s. I adored her and vice versa, but we were so different. She was smarter, a few years older, loved Europe, spoke several languages, was published in hardcover (while I was still just a paperback writer), etc., etc. She became very anti-Semitic in her later years, but when I knew her she was sometimes grumpy and never antagonistic toward Jews.

I think her dear love, Ellen Hill, was a Jew and several others [were]. We were not friends from the mid-'60s through to the mid-'70s. She lived in Europe and I lived in the U.S. Then she wrote me and we reconnected. She had changed and was very against Israel, and all Jews. She visited me for three miserable days, because she would not stop telling me a few minutes after she came through my door that she'd longed for those great ham sandwiches they used to make on planes, but no more! "Why?" I asked her ... and her finger shot up to her nose as she made a hook ... then on and on. She was never off the subject. She was most unpleasant, though she wrote very loving letters after she got home ... and I doubt she ever knew we didn't get along. She died shortly thereafter [in 1995]. She'd told me she had cancer during her visit, another reason I didn't argue with her.

**WCT: Please tell us about Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Lorraine Hansberry [A Raisin in the Sun].**

MJM: I knew her in the '50s. She was part of gay life, though she was very, very closeted. She

wrote letters to The Ladder [the lesbian magazine published by Daughters of Bilitis] under pseudonyms. She was a political person but she was a Black [person] first. She didn't want to do anything that would reflect badly on her people. She was often at gay parties and sometimes in the bars, but we all knew she had a front marriage with a man she was very fond of. She had several female loves, but the '50s was a hard time if you wanted to be yourself and your self was a lesbian. She was a very serious, gentle woman. I never knew her really well, but I liked her and I respected her.

**WCT: If you knew then what you know now, what might you have done differently in the literary world given the chance?**

MJM: I don't have regrets about what I did with my career. I had a lot of help and encouragement and from the time I got out of college to present day my only livelihood came from writing. I supported myself—60 books in all—and I will have a new one out [soon] called New York Nights. Don Weise who used to publish Alyson Books is now publishing a new line called Magnus. They will publish, perhaps, my last take on lesbian life, set in the '50s. [Note: Meaker is not sure yet if she will use her real name as she did in Shockproof Sydney Skate, or publish this as Vin Packer.]

Books being released digitally:

The Twisted Ones by Vin Packer (Dec. 15, 2011)

The Evil Friendship by Vin Packer (Dec. 15, 2011)

5:45 to Suburbia by Vin Packer (Dec. 31, 2011)

3 Day Terror by Vin Packer (Dec. 15, 2011)

Girl on the Best Seller List by Vin Packer (Dec. 31, 2011)

Alone at Night by Vin Packer (Dec. 15, 2011)

Intimate Victims by Vin Packer (Dec. 15, 2011)

Something in the Shadows by Vin Packer (Dec. 31, 2011)

Dark Don't Catch Me by Vin Packer (Dec. 31, 2011)

Don't Rely on Gemini by Vin Packer (Dec. 15, 2011)

Come Destroy Me by Vin Packer (Dec. 31, 2011)

## Book-release party Aug. 22 at Jackhammer

Oeishik Moitra-Goel Chowdhury will release his first collection of prose, poetry and photography—Tribute to Sam Steward—Wed., Aug. 22, at Jackhammer, 6406 N. Clark St., at 6:30 p.m.

The book chronicles the journey of Chowdhury, who describes himself in the release as "a dyslexic, gay immigrant." Despite his challenges, he eventually graduated from college and law school.

At the event, Chowdhury will also introduce the concept for his second book, The Alice Project, a culinary-artistic collaboration.

## Jay Michaelson at Unity July 15

Jay Michaelson—the best-selling author of God vs. Gay? The Religious Case for Equality—will be at Unity in Chicago, 1925 W. Thome Ave., on Sunday, July 15, for the church's 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. services.

An afternoon program—"The Spirituality of the LGBT Movement: Why 'Gay Rights' is a Spiritual Opportunity for Straight People, Gay People, and Everyone in Between"—begins at 1:30 p.m.

A \$10 donation is requested for the afternoon program. Call 773-973-0007 or visit [www.UnityChicago.org](http://www.UnityChicago.org).



## BOOK REVIEW

**Folsom Street Blues**

by Jim Stewart \$14.95; Palm Drive Publishing; 213 pages

BY OWEN KEEHNEN

San Francisco in 1976 was a party. Gay expatriates were flooding the metropolis, defining and changing the face and texture of gay culture and identity forever. If the city at the time was Oz, then SoMa (South of Market) was Oz in a harness. It was a rough and uninhibited working-class area that tended to attract men into leather, bondage, uniforms, rough play and fetish galore. Jim Stewart was a carpenter who moved into the area and proceeded to rehab a dilapidated building at 766 Clementina Street.

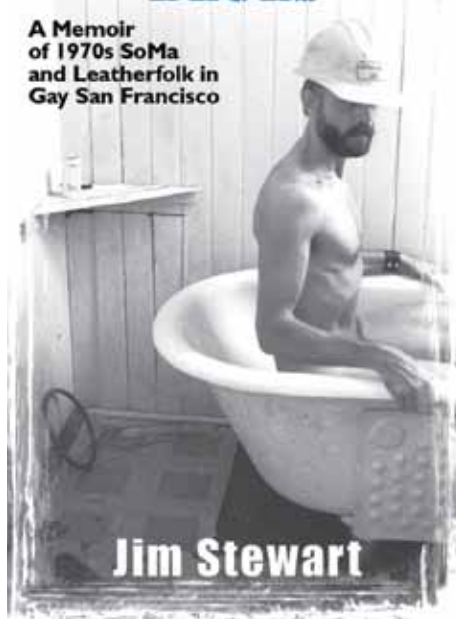
Folsom Street Blues, a new memoir by Stewart, succeeds in celebrating that vibrant post-Stonewall and pre-AIDS era at its very epicenter with colorful anecdotes and a generous number of photos. The result is an evocative and visceral portrait, a precious first-hand account of a lost time and place in gay history, a valuable record of a world that needs to be remembered.

In addition to his work as a carpenter and handyman, which included constructing the interiors for some of the grittier bars of the era, Stewart was also a photographer. His rehabbed building became the home of Key Hole Studio. The photos he took celebrated the darker side of sexual liberation with a reverence and beauty that helped reclaim and redefine the raunchy world around him. His home became his studio, his playroom and even his work room when he created fetish-for-hire scenarios to accommodate the sexual hunger of the populace.

Stewart's photographic prowess is also evident in his prose. The narrative of Folsom Street Blues is best described as a series of evocative and erotic snapshots. Stewart was in the midst of it all, capturing moments with his camera and

**FOLSOM STREET BLUES**

A Memoir of 1970s SoMa and Leatherfolk in Gay San Francisco



his mind's eye—the joyous sexual exploration, the cultural liberation, the emerging gay artist scene and more. It was drugs, bondage and decadence, but more than that. It was a grand brotherhood, a great generation of hedonists celebrating camaraderie with wild abandon.

An array of his Keyhole Studio photo work is interspersed with the text and reflects the bold unapologetic nature of this new sexual liberation with titles such as the Four Seasons of Ass series; Leatherneck Bartender Ron; Bound Feet and Bound Hands; Malefactors with Bound Cruci-

fix; Johnny Gets His Hair Cut I and II; and Drugs, Sex, and Leather. Folsom Street Blues also includes several of Stewart's bar promotional photos and advertisements. It all serves to bring the era more fully to life. Even Stewart's sporadic poems provide an interesting cross-literary rendering of what was going on in his life at the time.

Woven into the narrative are anecdotes of the edgy notables of the day, like Robert Opel, who streaked behind David Niven and Elizabeth Taylor at the 1974 Oscars and who was slain in 1979 at his Fey Way Studio, a gallery at the very heart of the emerging homo-masculine art scene. Stewart's book includes stories of legends like Tom of Finland, porn director Wakefield Poole, Robert Mapplethorpe, gay leather poet Tom Gunn, author Jack Fritscher, artist Chuck Arnett, Harvey Milk and San Francisco Mayor George Moscone, Camille O'Grady, The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and Drummer magazine publisher John Embry, among others.

For the most part, the snapshot quality of the narrative and the somewhat disjointed and oftentimes non-chronological style helps to convey the frenzied pace and mosaic nature of life at that time. Reading Folsom Street Blues is like sifting through a box of fascinating photos or pulling up a barstool beside a guy with great stories to tell. Stewart captures an age when bouncers would pass bottles of poppers down the line of patrons waiting to get in the club so they didn't get bored, where joints were smoked openly in restaurants and where sex was rampant and often without boundaries.

Folsom Street Blues is a heartfelt love letter to a bygone time and place. It is a more than worthy addition to the much needed and precious first hand chronicling of an amazing time in gay history. Stewart was front row and center—right in the hotbed of it all—and history is richer because of his multi-disciplined ability to convey a bit of that era's magic.

**Queer Fest America July 22 at Reggie's**

Queer Fest America will present a multimedia PG-13 showcase to benefit EL Rescate Independent Transitional Living for Homeless and HIV/AIDS Youth Sunday, July 22 at Reggie's Rock Club, 2105 S. State St., 4-9 p.m.

Headlining are national LGBTQ musician/comedian Jonny McGovern, Elephant and New York City dance-pop artist Matt Ryan. International LGBTQ activist and musician Lair Scott will host and perform.

Other scheduled acts include hip-hop twins Coleman and Jackson Vrana; band Spherical Banana; and comedians Thomas Bottoms and Patty Vaccarella.

Tickets are \$15-\$25; email [queerfestamerica@gmail.com](mailto:queerfestamerica@gmail.com) or visit "Queer Fest America" on Facebook.

**Hal Sparks at Mayne Stage in Sept.**

Actor/comedian Hal Sparks will perform at Mayne Stage, 1328 W. Morse Ave., Sept. 6-8.

Sparks began his professional career in Chicago as a member of Second City. Later, he hosted Talk Soup on E!, and co-starred as Michael Novotny on the Showtime series Queer As Folk. He will start in the stand-up special Charmageddon this June.

He will perform at Mayne Thursday, Sept. 6 at 8 p.m.; Friday, Sept. 7, at 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.; and Saturday, Sept. 8, at 8 and 10:30 p.m. Tickets are \$23-\$27; see [www.mayne-stage.com](http://www.mayne-stage.com).

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and many more.

Some of the local actors for the film, plus directors, writers and other crew, will attend the parties.

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Scrooge & Marley, an independent film, was shot in Chicago May 2012. The film is based on an original script by Ellen Stoneking, Richard Knight, Jr. and the late Timothy Imse. It was directed by Knight and Peter Neville.

[www.scroogeandmarleymovie.com](http://www.scroogeandmarleymovie.com)



## WEEKLY DINING GUIDE IN WINDY CITY TIMES



### Raj Darbar

BY MEGHAN STREIT

On a recent steamy summer evening, I wandered into Raj Darbar to satisfy my fiancée's late night craving for Indian food. I will admit that Indian cuisine is not my favorite. I don't dislike it, but it's rarely my first choice. That said, I was beyond pleasantly surprised by Raj Darbar, and the place did wonders for my relationship with Indian cuisine.

Raj Darbar earned a coveted Michelin "Bib Gourmand" designation this year. Bib Gourmand restaurants are chosen for offering what Michelin inspectors consider particularly good value – specifically, two courses and a glass of wine or dessert for less than \$40. Raj Darbar is in good company on the 2012 Bib Gourmand list, which also includes hot spots like Bistronomic, The Purple Pig, Girl & The Goat and GT Fish & Oyster.

About three or four bites into Raj Darbar's abundant appetizer sampler platter, it was clear to me why this Indian restaurant caught discerning critics' eyes. If you're not sure which appetizer to try or you've come with a group (or a gigantic appetite), the mix platter is the way to go. It's filled with all kinds of fried Indian favorites. Tender beef and flavorful vegetables are both stuffed into rich, flaky crusts to make what I believe are some of the best samosas in Chicago. The alu tikki, seasoned potatoes and peas fried in chickpea batter, were a definite standout.

I also tried the onion bhajia, which, to my delight, was essentially a slightly spicier version of Outback Steakhouse's "bloomin' onion." (Hey: Once in a while a chain restaurant comes up with a good idea.) My favorite of the many scrumptious starters was the paneer pakora, a simple nibble of homemade cheese fried in chickpea batter. I had to specifically request the paneer pakora on my appetizer platter and forgo another offering, but the sacrifice was well worth it.



Photo by Meghan Streit

It's easy to fill up on the appetizers, but you must save room for the main event: the meats and seafood that emerge juicy and bursting with flavor from Raj Darbar's tandoor oven. The charcoal-fired clay oven cooks meat and fish to piping hot perfection. The oven reaches 900 degrees, which may explain why Raj Darbar was so hot on the night I visited – which, in fairness, was also during the height of the recent Chicago heat wave. Either way, it was like sitting under the sun at high noon in Mumbai in May (or at least what I imagine that would feel like). The uncomfortably warm temperature in the restaurant did detract a bit from my dining experience, but there were plenty of reasonably priced cold white wines on the menu to temper the heat—of both the spicy food and the steamy air.

I indulged in the Darbar special, which is described on the menu as a "Royal Feast"—and, indeed, it was. The sizzling plate, which was removed from the tandoor oven, was overflowing with moist chunks of spicy chicken, tender bits of lamb and one of the largest shrimp I've ever laid eyes on, prepared in Tandoori style. The generous entree (easily enough for two to share) also comes with a creamy bowl of chicken tikka masala, fluffy rice and plenty of crisp, garlicky naan to sop and scoop it all up. The whole extravaganza costs just \$22.95—a bargain considering not only the sheer quantity of food it in-

cludes, but also the very evident high quality of the meats and fish. I'd say the folks at Michelin hit the nail on the head when they singled out Raj Darbar for its good value.

If you love Indian food, you'll be wild about Raj Darbar, and happy to know that they also deliver. If, like I was, you're sort of on the fence about cuisine from that region, this may be

the one simply delicious Indian restaurant that changes your mind.

Raj Darbar is located at 2660 N. Halsted St.; call 773-348-1010 or visit [www.rajdarbar.com](http://www.rajdarbar.com).

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# calendar

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GARY ON

### Monday, July 16

Gary Chichester will be the subject of the Fireside Chat series at Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St.

Photo by Hal Baim

### Wed., July 11

**GLN Gay Liberation Network organizing meeting** Get Involved in Chicago's Multi-Issue, LGBT Direct Action Group! Whether it's protesting for equality and liberation for LGBTs, against America's wars, supporting labor and immigrant rights, and more, the Gay Liberation Network is there. 7pm-9pm, 312-543-7552, Berger Pk, 6205 N. Sheridan Rd., www.gayliberation.net

**Author, The Heavens Weep for Us and Other Stories, Breath and Bone** Thelma T. Reyna is author of the blogs American Latina/o Writers Today and The Literary Self. 7:30pm, Women & Children First Books, 5233 N. Clark St., www.womenand-childrenfirst.com

**Superstar Karaoke** This uber-fun and chill after work set is comprised of cool young professionals, great drinks, and a microphone for you to own up to your superstar destiny! Come out and network, get buzzed, & sing your heart out each and every Wednesday at this relaxed Wicker Park lounge. 7pm, 773-342-5282, Seven Ultra Lounge, 1270 N. Milwaukee Ave., www.7ultralounge.com

**Hydrag Revue** Join Hydrate Nightclub for the world famous HYDRAG REVUE hosted by Tajma Hall, featuring the all star cast of DiDa Ritz, Sorraya Dash, Mercedes Andrews, Kelly Lauren, Erica Andrews and special guests each week! 10pm, Hydrate, 3458 N. Halsted St., www.hydratechicago.com

### Thursday, July 12

**Cirque Shanghai: Year of the Dragon** Running through Sept. 3, rain or shine, at the Pepsi Skyline Stage, the 1,500-seat, canopied, open-air theater on Navy Pier.

## SPIRITUAL HIGH

### Sunday, July 15

Jay Michaelson will discuss gay people and spirituality at Unity in Chicago, 1925 W. Thome Ave.

Photo by Sebastian Collett



2pm-4pm, Navy Pier, 600 E. Grand Ave., www.navy Pier.com

**HIV testing for 35 years old and up** For anyone living with HIV regardless of length of diagnosis, we offer HIV+ support groups. Pre-registration required. 6pm-7:30pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

**Parents of transgender individuals** A peer led, conversation and support group for those who are the parents of individuals, who identify as Transgender, or are questioning their gender. 7pm-9pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St.

**Zanna, Don't!** Enter Zanna, a magical, musical fairy who, with a wave of his wand, brings true love to one and all. The 2012 Young Artists' Program, through July 22, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7:30pm. Sundays at 2 pm. Tickets \$25; 7:30pm, 847-579-4900, The Music Theatre Company, 1850 Green Bay Rd., Highland Park, www.themusictheatrecompany.org

**Meghan Murphy Presents: Big Red Cabaret** Brassy, boozy, good time starring the mu-

sical stylings of Murphy and friends with a new themed show the 2nd Thursday of every month. \$5 at door. Doors open 9:30pm. 10pm, Mary's Attic, 5400 N Clark St., www.hamburgermarys.com/chicago

### Friday, July 13

**Barry Manilow LIVE** Calling all Fanilows! Barry Manilow will be on Windy City LIVE, Chicago's only local daytime talk show on ABC-7, with hosts Val Warner and Ryan Chavierini. 9am, 190 N State St., www.facebook.com/windycitylive

**Reception, 20th Anniversary Exhibitions "20 Jurors" and "Archives + Permanent Collection."** The first, a group exhibition with works by 20 artists who have curated and juried past WMG shows. Both exhibitions through Aug. 16. 6pm-9pm, Woman Made Gallery, 685 N. Milwaukee Ave., www.womanmade.org

**2nd Friday Guest Bartender Charity Night** benefits Civil Rights Agenda. 6pm-8pm, Cocktail Chicago, 3359 N Halsted St., http://gopride.com/z799

**Steamwerkz: The Musical** Wide-eyed gay boy comes to Chicago looking for love in all the wrong places when he stumbles on a popular bathhouse, Steamwerkz. As our hero makes his way through the labyrinth of the bathhouse, he meets a host of fun, sexy and antagonizing characters. Shows every Friday through Aug. 31. No show Aug. 17. \$20, \$15 students and preview. 10pm, Annoyance Theatre, 4830 N Broadway, www.theannoyance.com

**Play Like a Girl Fundraiser** Join the Chicago Force Women's Tackle Football and Chicago Women's Rugby for a night of music, dancing and fun. \$25 cover for 3 drink tickets, dancing, and live performances by Sami Grisafe and Hot Mess. Bring your A-game to participate in cornhole, arm wrestling, 50/50 raffle and other bar games for just \$1! 8pm, Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave, Chicago, http://www.facebook.com/events/257321977702259/

**Mad Midnight: A Sixties Sketch Comedy Cocktail** Join Cake-n-Hatred and fall into the alcoholism, sexism, racism and all the other great isms of the 1960s in their second sketch comedy review MAD MIDNIGHT. 11:45pm, 312-337-3992, Donny's Skybox, 1608 N. Wells St., www.secondcity.com/training/chicago/performances/

### Saturday, July 14

**Ride for AIDS** Ride for AIDS Chicago is a two-day, 200-mile, bicycling event produced by Test Positive Aware Network and designed to raise needed monies for TPAN and Community Partners. 7/14/2012 4:30 am - 7/15/2012 6:00 pm; 4:30am-11:45pm, www.rideforaids.org

**Wheelchair Parade** Vibrant seniors 55+, open to all, route supporters welcome. Attire: red, white and blue. End route refreshments and performance by South Shore Drill Team. 10am-12pm, 708-533-6558, Chicago Defender parking lot, 4455 S. King Dr., www.pioneergardensslf.com

**NW Indiana Rainbow Days** 5th Gay Pride Parade and Picnic follows. 12pm, 25th and Adams St. to Taft St., Gary, Ind., www.nw-rainbowdays.bravehost.com

**Asians and Friends "He-Bay" auction** Bring items and be ready to bid for Male treasures (erotic, fun) plus anything else you think will sell. BYOB and/or bring a dish. angelchgo@aol.com; 5pm-10pm, email for location

**Democracy Day, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights** Meeting of key stakeholders on DREAM Relief: educators, community leaders, politicians, DREAMers, etc. Registration 9am. Workshops 9:30am, Rally 11 am. Attorneys available for individual consultation at noon. Confirmed guests include: Cong. Luis Gutierrez, State Rep. Lisa Hernandez, and State Rep. Daniel Biss. 9pm, Benito Juarez High School, 1510 W. Cermak Ave., www.lambdalegal.org

**RuPaul's Drag Race stars Manila Luzon and Phi Phi O'Hara** Two performances at midnight and 1 am. \$5 in advance; \$10 at the door; \$20 VIP includes hosted bar package 11 pm - midnight and a meet and greet after the show. 11pm, Spin Nightclub, 800 W. Belmont Ave., www.spin-nightclub.com

### Sunday, July 15

**Jay Michaelson: A Holy Conversation, Sexuality and Religion** Best-selling author Jay Michaelson will speak at the 9:30 and 11:30 am services. An afternoon program, The Spirituality of the LGBT Movement: Why Gay Rights is a Spiritual Opportunity for Straight People, Gay People, and Everyone in Between, begins at 1:30 pm. 9:30am, 773-973-0007, Unity in Chicago (Unity Church), 1925 W. Thome Ave., www.unitychicago.org

**Urban Village Church** Spiritual worship is about coming together as community to make space for God to move in us. It's a place to receive God's grace and love and to give of ourselves, as well. 10am-11:15pm, Spertus Institute 610 S. Michigan Ave., www.urbanvillagechurch.org

**Urban Village Church: Andersonville service** Andersonville is a neighborhood full of passion, art, diversity, and eclectic energy, all which makes Urban Village Church thrilled to be joining the community! 10:30am-11:45am, 1602 W. Ainslie (at Ashland), www.newchicagochurch.com

**Dearborn Garden Walk** One of the country's oldest, most prestigious garden walks. This year's vignette theme of "Musical Gardens" will showcase dramatic outdoor rooms and scenes utilizing a variety of outdoor tables, chairs, colorful cushions, linens, floral decorations, and other accessories including fine china, crystal, and flatware. 12pm-5pm, 312-632-1241, Latin Middle School, 45 W. North Ave., www.dearborngardenwalk.com

**Family Day Out at Wrigley Field** Meet some of the plaintiffs' families in Lambda Legal's pending suit for Illinois marriage and celebrate Lambda Legal's work for same-sex couples and our families. For more information, call Carla Avila. 12:30pm, 312-663-4413, Wrigley Field, 1060 W Addison St., # 1

**Robyn showcase** The polar music party with DJ Greg Haus. 10pm, Berlin Nightclub, 954 W Belmont Ave., www.berlinchicago.com

### Monday, July 16

**Job Club** The Center on Halsted has set aside time in the Cyber Center for folks who are looking for work. FREE; 10am-12pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

**Open gym volleyball** Come play volleyball

and meet new people. 6pm-9pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted, Chicago, www.centeronhalsted.org

**LGBT Narcotics Anonymous** LGBT meetings take place Mondays. For more info, call Anthony Oltean at 312-208-4021. 8pm-9pm, Haymarket Center, 20 N. Sangamon St.

**Essay Fiesta** A cross-section of Chicago's art and writing communities share humorous/poignant personal essays and charity in a free monthly reading series that benefits 826chi, a non-profit writing and tutoring center. (www.826chi.org/); 7pm, The Book Cellar, 736 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago, http://www.essayfiesta.com

**Fireside Chat: Gary Chichester** live-on-stage Fireside Chat with Chichester, who began his gay journey in 1964 and, in addition to forming the Chicago Gay Alliance, Chicago's first gay community center, signed the first Chicago Pride March parade permit. Gary has produced the IML contest since its inception. 7:30pm-9pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., www.centeronhalsted.org

### Tuesday, July 17

**Drag Race with Frida Lay** Chicago's only amateur drag contest, hosted by Frida Lay! A hit at Roscoe's since its premiere in 2000. 9pm, Roscoe's, 3356 N. Halsted St., www.roscoes.com

**Winning the freedom to marry in court** Hear from the couples challenging the Illinois law denying gay and lesbian couples from the freedom to marry and their attorneys from the ACLU of Illinois and Lambda Legal. You'll hear recent updates in the battle, our chances for victory and how you can get involved in the fight for marriage equality. 6:30pm-8pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St.

### Wed., July 18

**7th biennial Deaf Lesbian Festival** Workshops, entertainment, socializing, activities, dyke ball, sightseeing in Chicago. The first time DLF will be held in the Midwest. Through July 21. DLFchicago2012@gmail.com. 4pm, Center on Halsted, 3656 N Halsted St., www.deaflesbianfestival.org; Tickets: http://www.deaflesbianfestival.org/chicago2012/registration.html

**ATC's Youth Ensemble in The Laramie Project: Ten Years Later!** In October 1998, a gay student was found tied to a fence post and brutally beaten on the outskirts of Laramie, Wyoming. This act of violence against Matthew Shepard launched a nationwide response to hate crimes and LG-BTQ rights and inspired Tectonic Theater Project to create the original production of The Laramie Project. Limited engagement through July 24; 7pm, 773-409-4125, American Theater Company, 1909 W Byron St., www.atcweb.org



## ONE FOR THE BIKES

### Saturday-Sunday, July 14-15

Ride for AIDS Chicago will start in Evanston and go up to Wisconsin, coming back the following day.

Photo by Ross Forman

# BILLY MASTERS

"No—I think of ONE diva!"—Patti LuPone's response to Seth Rudetsky's question, "Do you think of three divas? Bernadette, Betty and Patti?" She followed her answer with a hearty laugh, adding, "What the fuck did you think I was gonna say?"

I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't seen it with my own two eyes. I'm chatting with friends in the lobby of the Provincetown Art House. Dozens of theater queens are begging, pleading and offering sexual favors for a ticket to see Patti LuPone, who will be doing four intimate shows over the next two days. Needless to say, there is not a single seat to be had. In the midst of this gaggle of gays, in wanders a petite woman dressed entirely in white, loose pageboy haircut and sunglasses. I can smell her clear across the room—Miss Patti LuPone. And yet, she's meandering through the crowd without a single person recognizing her. But like the intuitive animal she is, she knows she's been spotted. She glances over her sunglasses in my direction. I give a subtle nod but I don't approach. You see, acknowledging Patti in this environment could set off a stampede not unlike when a gazelle trips on the Serengeti. You don't want to spook the LuPone. She smiles and tosses her hair as she walks away.

The chance to see Patti in an intimate setting is almost unheard of. Since she has such an enormous repertoire, each program would vary show to show depending on the topics discussed, the mood of the room, what Patti felt like singing and what Seth could coax out of her. The two shows on July 4th had no overlap (except the requisite "Don't Cry For Me" encore). "Les Misérables," "Women on the Verge," "Oliver," "Anything Goes" and some Piaf songs were featured in the early show, while the later show found her talking about Sondheim, Lloyd Weber and singing from Company, West Side Story, The Robber Bridegroom and Kurt Weill.

What made this later show remarkable was an extended Evita section. Miss LuPone dove head-first into the "High Flying Adored" and "Rainbow High" sequence, which she claimed to have not sung in 30 years (although she said the same thing about a robust "Buenos Aires"—yet I saw her do it at the Hollywood Bowl in 2000). It was fearless—as you'll see when clips soon emerge on Rudetsky's website, SethTV.com (although, I wouldn't be surprised if some audio clips appear on BillyMasters.com). I'd say Patti is in remarkable voice for her age, but she's in remarkable voice for ANY age. Every generation has a handful of great vocalists. However, very few generations are graced with a LuPone.

What would be a summer in Provincetown without our drag divas??? Varla Jean Merman's new show, "Topping Myself," (also at the Art House) is a treat for all of the senses. And the title is apt because she is most certainly topping herself. I truly believe that this show includes some of the most brilliant and outrageous material I've ever seen her do—and that's saying something. And then there's Randy Roberts, who is one of the most astonishing singers I know. What he does to vocally capture every nuance of Cher, Bette Midler, Gaga and oodles of others is nothing short of magnificent. This season, Randy can be seen at the Pied ([www.PiedBar.com](http://www.PiedBar.com)).

Most of you know David Drake as an accomplished writer, performer and director. This year, he's developed a new character that is a welcome addition to the Provincetown line-up. Tawny Heatherton's show at the Crown & Anchor on Sundays ([www.OnlyAtTheCrown.com](http://www.OnlyAtTheCrown.com)) assays her own musical history while pondering the bigger questions—are we alone in the universe, how can we achieve personal happiness, and will

she ever reunite with her aunt Joey Heatherton? That's a lot of work for someone who was last seen foraging on all fours in the parking lot of an Indian casino. The show "Tawny, Tell Me True" is very reminiscent of early Lily Tomlin and manages to be provocative and kitschy all at the same time. I expect Miss Heatherton will be around for a long, long time.

She's probably a lovely person, but it seems to me that Brooke Shields is the kiss of death for a Broadway show. How do you change that? Perform an exorcism ... perhaps on stage. Good thing she's been cast in The Exorcist, a stage version of William Peter Beatty's book LA's Geffen Playhouse. In addition to Brooke (playing the mom), we have Richard Chamberlain playing the aging priest called in to deal with all that pea soup and Tony-winning director John Doyle keeping things under control. We hear that it was written into Mr. Chamberlain's contract that if the play goes to Broadway, the producers have the right to replace him with Malcolm McDowell. I betcha this sounds mighty familiar to Patti LuPone. Next thing you know, Brooke will be replaced by Glenn Close!

I neglected to mention that Ryan Murphy and



**Patti LuPone: Leave it to diva. Photo by Brigitte LaCombe**

longtime beau David Miller got married in Provincetown on the same day as La LuPone's first show (otherwise known as Independence Day). The happy couple staged their ceremony in the dunes—how "unique." Well, so many people meet there for the first time—maybe it has sentimental value for them. Patti scattered rose petals around the lovebirds' suite and sang a few extra songs for them at the concert (the one I attended, naturally). When asked how he liked the show, Murphy said, "Are you kidding? It was like crack." The dunes are making more and more sense.

When LuPone is being compared to crack, it's definitely time to end yet another column. See? Who needs male nudity when you've got Patti? Of course, I've got oodles of non-Broadway gossip on [www.BillyMasters.com](http://www.BillyMasters.com), the truly versatile site. I may not have been able to squeeze in any of your questions, but I'm always here for you. Just send an e-mail to [Billy@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Billy@BillyMasters.com) and I promise to get back to you before Glenn Close calls Patti. (Look, it's gotta happen eventually.) Until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

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# CRU rows on in local regatta

BY ROSS FORMAN

The Chicago Rowing Union had a record number of entries (11) at the annual Chicago Sprints, held July 7-9 at the Lincoln Park Lagoon, including the first women's boat under the CRU name.

"We have been trying very hard to build our women's team this year to enter more races," said Craig Wu, CRU's director of marketing.

CRU had more than 30 members participate in the two-day event.

"I am so proud of how we raced," Wu said.

"The Men's Masters 4+A and 8+A had very good times, but could not overcome the large handicaps (12 seconds and 3 seconds, respectively).

"The women's boat finished really strong despite having lost an integral part of the boat before the race even started."

Wu, 30, a data assistant at the University of Chicago, has been a CRU rower for six years.

"It was a great two days of racing in the hot temperatures. Everyone put [out] 100 percent. We are looking towards next year's Chicago Sprints," said Ernie Kimlin, a coxswain for CRU.



Members of the Chicago Rowing Union at the Chicago Sprints. Photo by Ross Forman

"This is largest and best showing at this event for CRU, and shows great promise for CRU men's and women's crews in the future," added Matthew Honaberger, CRU vice president and coxswain.

Lucie-Ann Chen added, "I think it's great that we have a dedicated group of women [who] have been practicing together for a while now, preparing for races. Our results from the Sprints show that we are competitive and that we can really compete against some of the other local clubs."

CRU president Bill Moudry said he is very excited about the team's current state.

"[The Chicago Sprints results] demonstrate our growth this year across all programs, and sets a good tone for the rest of the season," Moudry said.

CRU's next regatta is Aug. 14—the U.S. National's Master's Championships in Worcester, Mass.

Here's a look at CRU results in the annual Chicago Sprints:

#### July 7:

Men's Open 4+A: 7th

Men's open 4+B: 9th

Women's 4+ (First CRU women's boat at the Chicago Sprints.): 8th

Men's Masters 4+A: 3rd—missed finals by one second

Men's Masters 4+B: 4th

Men's Novice 4+A: 14th

#### July 8:

Men's Masters 4+A: 4th place. Made the semi-finals but finished in third due to a large time handicap of the other three boats.

Men's Masters 4+B: 6th

Women's Masters 4+A: 6th

Men's Open 8+: 4th

Novice 8+: 4th

Mixed 8+: 4th

## Force smashes Dixie Blues in playoffs

BY ROSS FORMAN

Two down, two to go. Such is the current playoff mantra of the Chicago Force, as the team rolled over the Jacksonville Dixie Blues on Saturday night, July 7, at Evanston Township High School.

The Force moved to 10-0 with a dominant 67-14 win in front of about 300 fans. The Dixie Blues ended their season at 9-1.

The win pushes the Force into the National Conference Championship Game Saturday, July 21, against the Boston Militia. The Militia defeated the D.C. Divas 55-34 to advance in the Women's Football Alliance (WFA) playoffs.



game tonight, and we came through."

Grisafe stuck early, connecting with Albi Zhubi for a 29-yard touchdown pass at 7:57 of the first quarter. The Force built a 24-0 lead after the first quarter.

Arteria Ziegler was Chicago's offensive powerhouse, rushing in for four touchdowns, including a 31-yarder in the fourth quarter.

The Force led 40-0 at halftime.

"The difference tonight was, we came out of the gates and immediately played Chicago Force football," Grisafe said. "We still have a lot of work to do before [the next playoff game on July 21,] but we're very confident that we can win it all."

Running back Mary Choules had two rushing TDs, scoring from 16 and three yards.

Laura Ricketts, part owner of the Chicago Cubs, attended the game and took part in the pre-game coin toss. She sported a black Force jersey with RICKETTS on the back.



Scenes from Saturday's Force game against the Dixie Blues. Photos by Hal Baim and Ross Forman; many more photos at [www.windycitymediagroup.com](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com)

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This past year we have witnessed three of the most substantive changes in the law that I have seen in over 35 years. This week concerns more benefits of the Illinois Residential Real Property Transfer on Death Instrument Act

This new law, effective Jan 1, 2012, provides for a non-probate transfer of real estate upon the death of the owner. The benefit of the new law is that it allows for the creation of a "transfer on death instrument" (TODI) that when properly witnessed, acknowledged, (just like a will) and recorded, allows an owner of residential real estate to transfer the property to a stated beneficiary effective only upon the owner's death.

One benefit of the TODI is the potential it has to preserve the real estate from the creditors of the decedent owner by avoiding probate. The problem with using just a will to transfer title of real estate upon death is that a will usually must be probated and probate opens the house to the claims of creditors of the owner, such as credit card bills and student loans.

Under current Illinois law property passing at death by means of a non-probate transfer is not subject to the probate creditors' claims with exceptions. If an exception applies, any action to assert that claim must be commenced within the earlier of two years from the date of the decedent's death or six months after notice of claims is given or published in accordance with the Probate Act.

With a TODI, upon the death of the owner, the beneficiary records the acceptance, and waits for the two-year statute of limitations to run out so that debts against the house are barred.

To summarize, a TODI passes title of real estate, avoids probate, gift tax issues and potentially avoids claims against the owner, and passes title to the beneficiary. It is a potential asset protection method.

However, the strongest asset protection tool for the Civil Union couple, is for them to own their house as tenants by the entirety. A judgment creditor against only owner can't foreclose on house as long as the couple resides there and stays in a civil union. The owner with the judgment can also file bankruptcy and the Bankruptcy Trustee will be unable to sell the house, thus protecting the asset for the couple

But couples actually need to sign and record a deed to create that tenancy. Next week the new Power of Attorney Act.

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Ray is a legal authority on all of his practice areas, which include probate, trusts, guardianship, estate planning, and elder law, including the litigation of those areas. He is a longtime advocate for and member of the LGBT community, and is involved in several charitable groups, community associations, and professional organizations. Ray is a member of Clark Hill PLC, a full-service law firm consisting of a diverse team of attorneys and professionals committed to our clients and our communities.

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