

# CHECKERED PAST

## Chicago Dem Rep Dan Lipinski has mixed LGBT record

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Congressional Republicans said in December that they planned to reintroduce a 2015 bill this year that protects individuals and businesses who discriminate against LGBT people and cite their religious convictions as their reasons.

Among the co-sponsors of that legislation, which has yet to be reintroduced in this Congress, is Illinois 3rd District Rep. Dan Lipinski, a Democrat who has opposed LGBT and pro-choice measures in the past.

Lipinski represents Chicago's Southwest Side starting with Bridgeport, and with a gerrymandered link that connects to Midway Airport and the Southwest Suburbs.

Lipinski, who is the only Democratic co-sponsor of the religious legislation, told Windy City Times that he has rethought that measure, but he has a long record of opposing LGBT- and abortion-rights.

The legislation, known as the First Amendment Defense Act (FADA), was introduced as identical bills in the House, where it is H.R. 2802, introduced by Rep. Paul Labrador (R-Idaho), and in the Senate, where it is S.1598, sponsored by Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah), on June 17, 2015. It was reassigned to committees and seemingly had no legislative traction.

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U.S. Rep. Dan Lipinski.  
PR photo



### ALL HAIL THE QUEEN

Queen Latifah reigns on Fox's Star.

Photo courtesy of Fox

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### COMMUNITY LOSSES

Augie of Augie & C.K.'s (left) and Yvonne of Sons of Sappho (right) die.

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### MAXX BOYKIN

Activist talks about HIV/AIDS fight.

Photo from AIDS Foundation of Chicago

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### ASIA KATE DILLON

Gender non-binary actor stars on show Billions.

PR photo

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### FRANKLIN RAMIREZ

Bisexual man running for office in Elgin.

Photo from Ramirez

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Above: WCT reviews the theatrical production Faceless.  
Photo of the cast of Faceless by Michael Brosilow

online exclusives at  
[www.WindyCityTimes.com](http://www.WindyCityTimes.com)



## HAY, NOW!

WCT talked with singer Colin Hay (left, formerly of Men at Work) about Sia and gay anthems.  
PR photo

## YOU AUTO KNOW



The Chicago Auto Show is taking place through Feb. 20.  
Photo by Andrew Davis

## 'BOOK' HIM

WCT reviews the theatrical production The Book of Joseph.

## THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Michael C. Hall, Orange Is the New Black and Aretha Franklin.

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## LGBTQA college confab at Navy Pier on Feb. 17-19

The Midwest Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, and Ally College Conference (MBLGTACC) will take place Feb. 17-19 at Chicago's Navy Pier, and will kick off with #BlackLivesMatter co-founder Patrisse Cullors.

Cullors, an openly queer performance artist from Los Angeles, started the Twitter hashtag #BlackLivesMatter (with Alicia Garza and Opal Tometi) in response to George Zimmerman's 2013 acquittal in the fatal shooting of Florida teenager Trayvon Martin.

In addition, it's been announced that Peter Staley, who has dedicated his career to advocating for awareness of the illness and eliminating barriers to treatment of those living with HIV/AIDS since the mid-1980s, will present the second keynote of the conference at 6 p.m. on Feb. 18. Staley is also prominently featured in the 2012 Oscar-nominated documentary *How to Survive a Plague*.

Also, transgender and undocumented immigrant-rights activist Jennicet Gutierrez—who famously interrupted President Obama during an address on LGBT Pride Month last June—will present the keynote of the conference on Feb. 19. Among other accomplishments, Gutierrez has fought on behalf of her organization FAMILA: TQLM (Trans Queer Liberation Movement) to raise



Jennicet Gutierrez.  
Photo from MBLGTACC

awareness for trans women in immigration detention centers.

In addition, Artists J Mase III and Vita E.—also known as duo #BlackTransMagick—will perform.

In their own words, "We are a multi-gendered piece of Black Trans, multi-faith, neurodivergent, clay seeking to make a world for ourselves and those like us to rebuild in. For the masses we exist as poets and beats, but to those who we call family, call artists, call Black & Brown trans creators, call queer artists of color, call wisdom seekers, we are part of the very real revolution centering Black trans people."

The 2017 MBLGTACC will mark the 25th anniversary of the first conference and will center on the theme of "United in Solidarity." Approximately 2,500 people are expected to attend.

For more information or to register for the conference, visit <https://mbtgtacc.org>.

## Harris, Cassidy named committee chairs

In recognition of his of years of commitment to fighting for equality and opportunity for all Illinoisans, state Rep. Greg Harris, D-Chicago, was named Majority Conference Chairman for the Illinois House Democrats.

Also, state Rep. Kelly Cassidy will chair the Public Safety Appropriations Committee in Springfield.

With his appointment as chairman, Harris becomes the first openly gay legislator in Illinois history to serve in a caucus leadership position. During the 100th General Assembly, he will also chair the Appropriations-Human Services Committee and as a member of the Executive, the Health & Life Insurance and Aging committees.

Also, as chief budget negotiator for the House Democrats, Harris is urging the governor to return to the table and compromise on a full-year budget that funds critical services, improves our business climate and restores fiscal stability to our state budget.

In a statement, Cassidy said, "As one of five appropriations committee chairs, I will help to lead the process that I hope will restore financial stability and true collaboration to our state."

"In addition to my work on the Appropriations Committee, I will continue to serve as vice-chair of Restorative Justice and am the newly appointed vice-chair of the Judiciary-Criminal Law committee. I will also serve as a member on the Labor & Commerce, Human Services, Economic Opportunity and Tourism & Hospitality committees."

## NYC nightclub owner attacked

BY MATT SIMONETTE

The owner of a popular New York City-based drag nightclub said that he suffered a brutal attack because he is gay.

Mark Zschiesche, who owns the LIPS Drag Queen Show Palace, Restaurant & Bar on Manhattan's Upper East Side, as well as other locations, posted a video to Facebook on Feb. 12 that shows his face bruised and his nose bleeding. On the video he said that he was assaulted because he is gay and that he blamed President Donald Trump and his supporters for the attack.

"This has never, ever happened to me," said Zschiesche, who frequently performs under the name Yvonne Lame, on the video. "So somebody hit me because I am gay, and I never, ever, in my entire life, have experienced this, and I blame this on Trump and all of you who supported him."

Sobbing and visibly shaken, Zschiesche does not explain the specific circumstances around the attack on the video, which was first reported by the San Diego Gay and Lesbian News (SDGLN).

There are several LIPS locations across the country. A Chicago location is currently scheduled to open in Sept. 2017 in the McCormick Square area being developed by the Metropolitan Pier and Exposition Authority on the Near South Side.

SDGLN's article is at <http://bit.ly/2lOV9Pf>. Zschiesche's post is at <http://bit.ly/2lHAA2W>.

## RELATIONSHIPS & THE LAW TODAY

BY CHRIS HOPKINS



### Newly enacted responsibilities of a guardian making personal decisions for a disabled person in Illinois

While the law presumes that an adult 18 years of age or older is capable of handling their own affairs, a guardian may be appointed to serve as a substitute decision maker if a person is disabled because of mental deterioration, physical incapacity, mental illness, or developmental disability.

A guardian may be appointed if the disability prevents the person from making or communicating responsible decisions about their personal and/or financial affairs. The duties and responsibilities of a guardian for personal decisions are set forth in 755 ILCS 5/11a-17 and include, among other things, making decisions regarding the support, care, comfort, health, education ... maintenance and professional services for the person under a disability.

Recently, the Illinois Legislature added a subsection (g) to 755 ILCS 5/11a-17, effective Jan. 1, 2017, which expanded the rights of a disabled person's family members and added to the duties of a guardian of the disabled person's person. New subsection (g) expands the rights of a disabled person's adult children which the Court in *Struck v. Cook County Public Guardian*, 387 Ill.App.3d 867, 901 N.E.2d 946 (1st Dist. 2008) limited to alerting the court to potential harm and asking the court to intervene. While adult children seemingly still cannot challenge a guardian's decisions, 755 ILCS 5/11a-17(g) explicitly provides a disabled person's adult children with certain rights and provides a procedure through which an adult child can seek court-ordered visitation with the disabled person.

Subsection (g) requires that a guardian of the person make reasonable efforts to communicate with a disabled person's adult children regarding the disabled person's status and may require the guardian to authorize visitation between a disabled person and his or her adult children. Subsection (g)(1) requires that, absent a court order to the contrary, a guardian must use reasonable efforts to notify

a disabled person's adult children of: (i) the disabled person's admission to the hospital or hospice program; (ii) the disabled person's death; and (iii) the arrangements for the disposition of the disabled person's remains. Subsection (g)(2) authorizes adult children of a disabled person to take specific actions if they believe a guardian is unreasonably preventing them from visiting a disabled person by requesting the Court to order the guardian to permit visitation between a disabled person and the adult child. Before the court authorizes visitation between the adult child and a disabled person, the court must find that the requested visitation is in the best interests of a disabled person.

Actions by a guardian of the person under subsection (g)(1) and court findings under subsection (g)(2) must be made conforming as closely as possible to what the disabled person, if competent, would have done. Where possible, the guardian should consider a disabled person's previously expressed preferences and make decisions in accordance with those preferences. If the disabled person wishes are unknown or remain unknown, 755 ILCS 5/11a-17(e) requires decisions be made on the basis of a disabled person's best interest as determined by the guardian by considering, among other things, the benefits, risks, and any alternatives.

If you have a family member or loved one that has been or may be adjudicated a disabled person due to mental deterioration, physical incapacity, mental illness, or developmental disability, an experienced guardianship attorney can ensure your rights are protected and obligations fully understood. If you are interested in learning more about how to ensure the personal and financial security for a family member or loved one that has been or may be adjudicated a disabled person, please feel free to contact any of Clark Hill's experienced guardianship attorneys.

Chris Hopkins is an associate in the litigation practice group at Clark Hill PLC and helps individuals, families and closely held business owners avoid and resolve difficult transitions of wealth, businesses and real property.



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# Sleep-in to benefit 13 youth homeless agencies Feb. 24

Chicago's youth-serving homeless agencies, shelters and drop-in centers will benefit from the Out in the Open Sleep In on Friday, Feb. 24, in Chicago's South Loop. Thirteen non-profits will come together for a night of advocacy and fundraising at Second Presbyterian Church, 1936 S. Michigan Ave.

More than 20,000 young adults and students are looking for a permanent home, not just overnight shelter.

The event will feature music and art, with speeches by youth who have experienced housing instability. New work by artist Erik R. Sosa-Kibby will be for sale, with 100 percent of proceeds being split among the nonprofits.

This is the second event raising funds for these agencies. The first was held during a blizzard in November 2015, and raised more than \$44,000.

The event works like other pledge-related events. People sign up for teams that select which agency they are raising funds for. Individuals can join any team to benefit any of the partner agencies. Team names should also include the beneficiary agency. Team members sleep in overnight at the church, in the gym and other spaces.

Chicago-based rapper Taylor Bennett, who is releasing his new album the same date, has created a team to raise funds for three South Side-serving youth agencies.

This year, the event is also able to accommodate satellite events anywhere, with people creating their own event in the city or suburbs, and selecting which agencies to raise funds for. This is perfect for schools, religious organizations or families to build their own Sleep In and be part of the benefit, connecting through live social media posts during that evening.

During the 7-10 p.m. program, attendees will hear from individual youth and participate in a variety of activities. There will also be dozens of entertainers performing during the event, including Melo Makes Music, Lucy Smith, Jess Godwin, Yohan Stevenson, Alma Mendoza, Sami Grisafe and, on the church's organ, University of Chicago student Chelsie Coren. Poet e. nina jay will read from her work.

Fawzia Mirza, fresh off emceeing the 250,000-strong Women's March on Chicago, will emcee this event along with NBC Chicago's Lee-Ann Trotter.

In addition to youth of lived experience, there will be three special guest political speakers: Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx, Illinois state Rep. Juliana Stratton and Chicago Ald. Pat Dowell.

This year's partner agencies include The 750 Club Apartment Adoption Project, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Broadway Youth Center of Howard Brown Health, Center on Halsted, Chicago Youth Storage Initiative, El Rescate, La Casa Norte, LYTE Collective, New Moms, The Night Ministry, Pride Action Tank, Teen Living Programs and

Unity Parenting.

The event is hosted by Pride Action Tank, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Edelman, agencyEA, Windy City Times newspaper, Second Presbyterian Church, along with a wide range of other partners.

To donate or sign up for this event as well as to learn more about individual teen's stories, visit <http://sleepinchicago.org/>.

To volunteer or for information on team sign-ups, email [JThaney@aidschicago.org](mailto:JThaney@aidschicago.org).

For info on sponsorships, email Tracy Baim at [editor@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:editor@windycitymediagroup.com). Also, visit "Sleep In Chicago" on Facebook.





## LIPINSKI from cover

But a spokesman for Lee told BuzzFeed Dec. 9 that he plans to reintroduce the bill in the new Congress. President Donald J. Trump said during his campaign that he would sign the legislation.

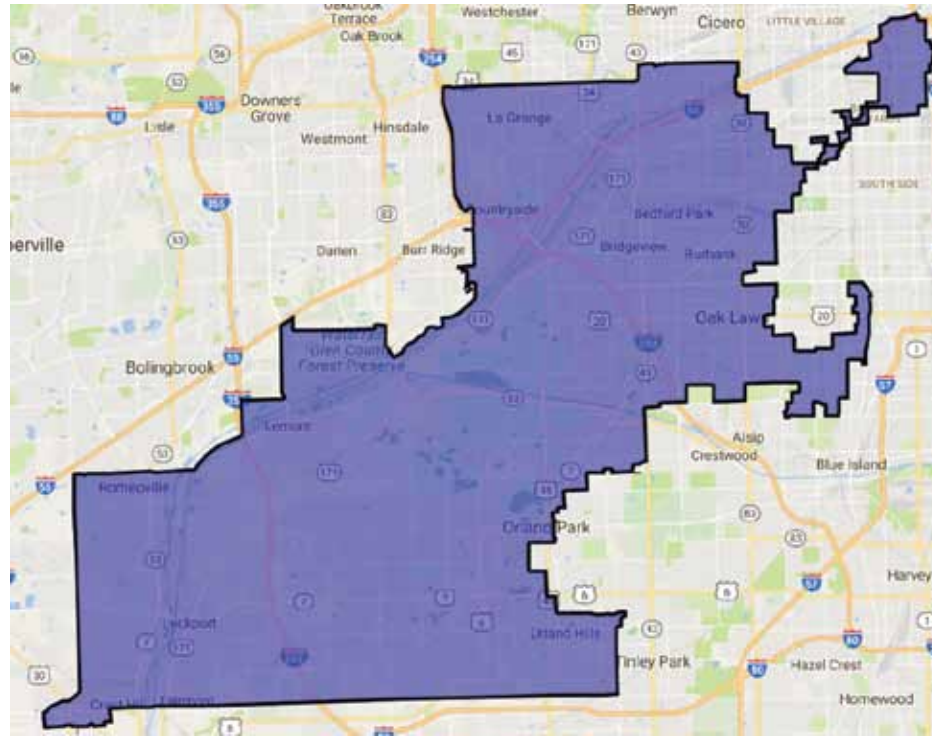
"Hopefully November's results will give us the momentum we need to get this done next year," said Lee's spokesman, Conn Carroll. "We do plan to reintroduce FADA next Congress and we welcome Trump's positive words about the bill."

Indeed, the White House leaked, on the week of Jan. 30, a prospective draft order that would have put into place the rules in FADA. LGBT activists and their allies immediately prepared to go into action upon the signing. But Trump Administration officials emphasized that the leaked order was one of many submitted to the administration and that they did not intend to take any action. According to reports, Trump's decision came at the behest of his daughter Ivanka and her husband, Jared Kushner, who frequently give counsel to the president.

If Trump does indeed follow his word about the executive order, the likelihood of FADA being reintroduced seems high in the current political climate. Some officials have vowed to fight the law, which would operate similarly in many ways to the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), which passed in Indiana in 2015.

Among the tenets of FADA are that the federal government would be prohibited from taking retaliatory action against a person who is accused of discrimination, should that discrimination be rooted in the religious belief or moral conviction that marriage should be the union between a man and a woman and/or the belief that sexual relations should be reserved to persons in such a relationship.

While the leaked draft-order from the White House was broader in its strokes, passage of FADA would still have wide-reaching implications. LGBT employees of federal contractors could no longer



**Chicago's gerrymandered 3rd Congressional District, on the city's Southwest Side and Southwest suburbs.**

claim federal protections that they won in a 2014 executive order signed by then-President Barack Obama. Students who are LGBT would no longer have any protections against discrimination since the specter of withholding federal funds from school districts would be dropped. The definition of "person" is also extended to corporations and non-religious organizations as well.

Human Rights Campaign (HRC) said on its website that FADA "would allow individuals, many businesses, and non-profit organizations—even those contracting with the federal government—to

circumvent critical federal protections designed to protect LGBTQ families from harmful discrimination. ... FADA would allow individuals and businesses using taxpayer dollars to ignore the few federal policies that do exist to protect them if they claim the protections aren't in line with their individual beliefs about marriage."

In a statement to Windy City Times, U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley (D-5th), who is vice-chairman of the House's LGBT Equality Caucus, said of FADA, "If we are committed to preserving the founding principles of our nation, we must stop injustice and hatred in its tracks. The First Amendment Defense Act does just the opposite by protecting prejudices and validating discrimination. I strongly oppose this legislation because I believe that all people—regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity—deserve to be treated with respect and compassion."

U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-9th) added in a statement, "Discrimination against LGBTQ people is wrong and unconstitutional. That is why I so strongly oppose the First Amendment Defense Act, which would allow people to discriminate with impunity. I am fervently opposed to this attack on the rights of the LGBTQ community, and I pledge to fight against its passage and against any legislation that would discriminate against people because of who they are or whom they love."

FADA was proposed in the fervor surrounding the passage of RFRA in Indiana; at that time, Lipinski signed on to co-sponsor the legislation in the House along with Illinois Reps. Peter Roskam (R-6th) and Randy Hultgren (R-14th).

HRC spokesman Brandon Lorenz decried Lipinski's FADA sponsorship and his past votes on LGBT issues.

"Discrimination isn't an American value and

## Rep. Lipinski's votes on LGBT issues

BY MATT SIMONETTE

U.S. Rep. Dan Lipinski has the lowest score of any House Democrat on Human Rights Campaign's (HRC) Congressional Rating Index. Among the actions Lipinski has taken, and statements he's made, on LGBT-rights, are the following, according to HRC:

2006: Lipinski voted "present" on a Constitutional Amendment prohibiting marriage equality. Lipinski dismissed the amendment as a Republican ploy at the time, but publicly emphasized his opposition to same-sex marriage.

2007: Lipinski voted against H.R. 3685, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act Of 2007 (ENDA).

2009: Lipinski voted in favor of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

2010: Lipinski voted to repeal the military's anti-gay "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. He said at the time that a congressional repeal was needed so that the military would not be disrupted by a more sudden repeal in the courts.

2011: Lipinski was one of nine Democrats who voted to uphold the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA).

2011: Lipinski Voted in favor of an amendment to the Defense Appropriations Bill which stated, "No funds under the act may be used for activities in contravention of ... the Defense of Marriage Act."

2011: When speaking about DOMA to Chicago Sun-Times, Lipinski said, "I do not support same-sex marriage. ... [DOMA] protects the longstanding tradition of marriage, and serves as a strong commitment by the federal government to protecting the core values of this country in any future policymaking decisions."

2013: Lipinski cosponsored an early bill similar to the First American Defense Act (FADA) legislation. The Marriage and Religious Freedom Act would have prohibited retaliation through the federal tax code against individuals or institutions that exercised "religious conscience regarding marriage as the union of one man and one woman."

2013: Lipinski voted in support of a GOP version of a bill that would have stripped expanded language on protections for gays, lesbians and illegal aliens in a domestic violence bill.

2014: In an Illinois Family Institute Voter guide, Lipinski said he supported a marriage amendment defining marriage as between one man and one woman, as well as legislation that prohibited the Justice Department from undermining DOMA. Lipinski also said that he opposed ENDA.

2015: Lipinski was the only Democrat who co-sponsored FADA.

2015: Lipinski voted "present" on an amendment reinforcing the Obama order protecting LGBT employees of federal contractors.

## The 3rd Congressional District

Wikipedia notes that Rep. Dan Lipinski's 3rd Congressional district is "situated between the Hispanic-majority 4th District to the north and the black-majority 1st and 7th Districts to the east" and "is the home of numerous sizable and historic ethnic groups including Irish, Polish, Arab, German, Italian and Czech immigrants and their descendants. At 14.2%, the Irish make up the largest ethnic group in the district, most prominently in the Bridgeport area (the ancestral neighborhood of the Daley family and other Chicago Irish politicians) and the Mount Greenwood-Beverly area ... . The Polish form the next largest white ethnic group at 13.5%, tying the Northwest Side's 5th District for the second highest percentage of any district, behind only New York's 27th congressional district. ... The next largest ethnic groups are Germans (11.0%) and Italians (6.9%). Of the suburbs primarily south of 87th Street (in Palos and Worth Townships), 9 of 10 have larger Irish than Polish populations, usually by large margins; but north of 87th Street, in those areas in Lyons Township south of Interstate 55 or in the townships to the east of Harlem Avenue, 9 of 10 suburbs have greater Polish populations than Irish, again by large margins. In Oak Lawn, the district's largest suburb, Irish outnumber Polish 30%-19% ... .

"More recently a large Mexican community has moved to the district, notably in Berwyn, Cicero, Hodgkins and Summit where they represent over 30% of the population, and along Archer Avenue, a major Chicago artery that runs through the district's northern section. There is also a sizable Greek community in Oak Lawn and Palos Hills. In the last two decades, there has been notable Arab settlement in the vicinity of Bridgeview, and by the 2000 Census, Arabs represented one of the five largest non-Hispanic ethnic groups in Bridgeview and three adjacent suburbs. Approximately 41% of the district's residents live in Chicago. Roughly 21% of the district's population is Hispanic, 68% are Caucasian, 6% are African American and 3% are Asian; redistricting following the 2000 Census and the continued influx of Hispanics tripled the minority population from a decade earlier, as the district in its previous configuration had a population that was 7% Hispanic, 2% African American and 1% Asian."

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LIPINSKI from page 6

it certainly isn't a Chicago value," Lorenz said. Congressman Lipinski's willingness to enable discrimination against LGBTQ people is simply inexcusable. It's bad enough that Congressman Lipinski has refused to join the majority of Americans who support comprehensive LGBTQ non-discrimination protections in federal law. Sponsoring the so-called First Amendment Defense Act, which would allow taxpayer-funded discrimination, is reckless, irresponsible and harms LGBTQ Americans."

Lipinski has the distinction of being the Democrat with the lowest score—56—on HRC's 2016 Congressional Scorecard. The average Democrat's score is 96, according to the organization.

Terry Cosgrove, CEO of the pro-choice organization Personal PAC and an LGBT-rights activist, called Lipinski "public enemy number one" among the Democrats when it came to choice and LGBT issues.

"People believe that if you're a Democrat, you're always good about these issues," Cosgrove said. "While that's mostly true, it's not universally

true. ... He's endorsed by every right-to-life organization and anti-LGBT groups like Focus on the Family."

Cosgrove recalled that when the logistics of the Affordable Care Act were being ironed out, Lipinski was one of several congresspersons who threatened to vote against the bill if abortions were covered. When that element was removed, Lipinski voted against it anyway.

"He's a total right-winger," Cosgrove added. "There's no other way to sugarcoat this."

On Jan. 25, Lipinski voted in favor of HR 7, a bill that would, if enacted, make into permanent law restrictions prohibiting the federal government from funding abortion services, especially for persons whose insurance is subsidized by the Affordable Care Act. Such restrictions were already in place, but they've usually been attached to separate pieces of funding legislation. With HR 7, such restrictions would be enshrined into law permanently.

Lipinski indicated in a 2014 Illinois Family Institute voter's guide that he supported a constitutional amendment defining a marriage as being between a man and a woman and did not support the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). He also said that he supported a

law "preventing the undermining of the Defense of Marriage Act." Lipinski did however vote to repeal Don't Ask, Don't Tell, as well as for the implementation of the Hate Crimes Expansion Bill.

He has long enjoyed the backing of the Illinois Democratic Party. His father, Bill Lipinski, who had long served the 3rd District, announced his retirement in 2004 just two weeks before the deadline for a ballot replacement, leaving no time for a new primary race. As such, Dan Lipinski—who had not lived in Illinois for several years—was named by local Democratic leaders, including Bill Lipinski and House Speaker Mike Madigan, as a replacement.

Lipinski's district is a major transportation hub; Bill Lipinski was referred to by Chicago media as the "king of transportation clout." Dan Lipinski in the 2015-2016 election cycle received financial contributions from PACs related to transportation companies such as Boeing, American Airlines, Federal Express and Norfolk Southern. Other contributors included PACs affiliated with AFL-CIO, AT&T, Comcast, General Electric and Honeywell.

Windy City Times asked Lipinski for an interview about the FADA co-sponsorship and his views on

LGBT issues. While his office did not agree to the interview, they issued a statement from the congressman emphasizing that there had been no formal announcement of FADA's re-introduction, and that he was committed to carefully thinking through any legislation involving discrimination.

Lipinski said, "Discrimination is wrong. That is why I voted to add sexual orientation to the federal hate crime law and to repeal the 'don't ask, don't tell' policy.

"My decision to cosponsor this legislation in 2015 was based on concerns such as those mentioned by President Obama's solicitor general stating that religious organizations could lose their tax exempt status because of the Obergefell [marriage] decision. Since that time, I have met with constituents who have expressed concerns that the language of that bill could have had impacts that resulted in unjust discrimination. With the start of the new Congress this year, that bill is no longer under consideration in the House. If a similar bill is introduced this year, I will take a critical view of it and meet with concerned constituents in the LGBTQ community before taking any position on it."

Lipinski, like all U.S. House representatives, will be up for re-election in 2018.

Chart: Lipinski corporate donors, 2015-2016

The following chart outlines all corporate donations to Daniel Lipinski from the years 2015 and 2016. Listed are all donors who donated a minimum total of \$1,000 for at least one of the two years. Contribution information taken from Federal Election Commission at <http://www.fec.gov/fecviewer/CandidateCommitteeDetail.do?candidateCommitteeId=H4IL03077&tabIndex=1>.

DONOR	STATE	DONATION	YEAR	DONOR	STATE	DONATION	YEAR
31st & Kildare Partnership	IL	\$2,500.00	2015	American Water Works Company, Inc. Federal PAC A/K/A American Water Federal PAC	NJ	\$1,000.00	2016
AAJ PAC	DC	\$4,000.00	2015	American Waterways Operators PAC	VA	\$2,500.00	2016
AAJ PAC	DC	\$2,000.00	2016	Arcadis G and M Inc PAC Aka; Arcadis PAC	CO	\$1,000.00	2015
Abbvie PAC	IL	\$1,000.00	2015	Asbestos Workers PAC	MD	\$1,000.00	2016
Abbvie PAC	IL	\$2,000.00	2016	Assn. of Professional Flight Attendants PAC	TX	\$1,000.00	2015
ADM PAC	IL	\$1,000.00	2016	Associated General Contractors of America PAC	VA	\$1,500.00	2015
AFL-CIO Cope Political Contributions Cmte.	DC	\$1,000.00	2016	Associated General Contractors of America PAC	VA	\$2,000.00	2016
Air Line Pilots Assn. PAC	DC	\$10,000.00	2015	Assn. of American Railroads-DC	DC	\$1,000.00	2015
Aircraft Owners & Pilots Assn. PAC	DC	\$2,500.00	2015	Assn. of American Railroads-DC	DC	\$1,000.00	2016
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Assn. (PAC)	MD	\$2,500.00	2015	AT&T Inc. Federal PAC (AT&T Federal PAC)	TX	\$2,500.00	2015
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Assn. (PAC)	MD	\$4,500.00	2016	AT&T Inc. Federal PAC (AT&T Federal PAC)	TX	\$3,000.00	2016
Allied Pilots Assn. PAC	TX	\$3,500.00	2015	ATSSA PAC	VA	\$1,000.00	2015
Allstate Insurance Company PAC	IL	\$1,000.00	2016	ATSSA PAC	VA	\$2,000.00	2016
Amalgamated Transit Union - Cope	MD	\$2,500.00	2016	Atu Cope Voluntary Account	DC	\$2,500.00	2015
American Airlines PAC	DC	\$3,500.00	2015	Bloomin' Brands, Inc. PAC	FL	\$2,000.00	2016
American Bankers Assn. PAC (BankPAC)	DC	\$1,000.00	2015	Blue Dog PAC	VA	\$4,000.00	2015
American Bankers Assn. PAC (BankPAC)	DC	\$1,000.00	2016	Blue Dog PAC	VA	\$4,000.00	2016
American Commercial Lines Inc. PAC	IN	\$1,000.00	2016	BNSF Rail PAC	TX	\$10,000.00	2015
American Concrete Pavement Assn. PAC	IL	\$1,000.00	2016	Boeing PAC	VA	\$2,000.00	2015
American Council of Engineering Companies (PAC)	DC	\$1,000.00	2015	Boeing PAC	VA	\$5,000.00	2016
American Council of Engineering Companies (PAC)	DC	\$9,000.00	2016	Boilermakers-Blacksmiths Legislative Educ. PAC	KS	\$1,000.00	2016
American Dental Assn. Independent Expenditures Cmte.	DC	\$2,500.00	2016	Bombardier Corporation PAC	DC	\$1,000.00	2015
American Family Mutual Insurance Company Federal PAC (AMFAM PAC)	WI	\$1,000.00	2016	Bombardier Corporation PAC	DC	\$1,000.00	2016
American Federation of Government Employees	DC	\$1,000.00	2015	Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen	OH	\$2,500.00	2015
American Federation of Government Employees	DC	\$1,000.00	2016	Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen	OH	\$1,000.00	2016
American Hospital Assn. PAC	DC	\$2,000.00	2015	Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen PAC	VA	\$1,000.00	2015
American Hospital Assn. PAC	DC	\$1,000.00	2016	Brotherhood of Railroad Signalmen PAC	VA	\$500.00	2016
American Hotel and Lodging Assn. PAC ('HotelPAC')	DC	\$2,500.00	2016	Bunge North America Inc. PAC	DC	\$1,000.00	2016
American Petroleum Institute PAC (API PAC)	DC	\$1,000.00	2016	Burger King Franchisee PAC	GA	\$2,000.00	2015
American Road & Transportation Builders Assn. PAC	DC	\$1,000.00	2015	Bus PAC	DC	\$2,000.00	2016
American Road & Transportation Builders Assn. PAC	DC	\$500.00	2016	Canal Barge Company Inc PAC (Canal Barge PAC)	LA	\$2,000.00	2016
American Short Line and Regional Railroad Assn. - Political Action Cmte (ASLRRA-PAC)	DC	\$3,000.00	2016	Carpenters Legislative Improvement Cmte. United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners	DC	\$5,000.00	2015

# Chart: Lipinski corporate donors, 2015-2016 (continued from page 7)

The following chart outlines all corporate donations to Daniel Lipinski from the years 2015 and 2016. Listed are all donors who donated a minimum total of \$1,000 for at least one of the two years. Contribution information taken from Federal Election Commission at <http://www.fec.gov/fecviewer/CandidateCommitteeDetail.do?candidateCommitteeId=H4IL03077&tabIndex=1>.

DONOR	STATE	DONATION	YEAR	DONOR	STATE	DONATION	YEAR
Carpenters Legislative Improvement Cmte. United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners	DC	\$5,000.00	2016	Intl. Union of Operating Engineers	DC	\$5,000.00	2015
Caterpillar Inc. Employee PAC, The	IL	\$5,000.00	2015	Ironworkers Political Action League	DC	\$5,000.00	2016
CBOE/PAC	IL	\$4,500.00	2016	Lehigh Hanson Inc PAC	TX	\$3,500.00	2015
CDM Smith Inc. National PAC	VA	\$1,000.00	2016	Lehigh Hanson Inc PAC	TX	\$3,500.00	2016
Cemex Inc. Employees PAC	TX	\$2,500.00	2016	Liuna Building America	DC	\$2,500.00	2016
Chevron Employees PAC - Chevron Corporation	CA	\$1,000.00	2016	Liuna PAC	DC	\$2,500.00	2015
CHS Inc. PAC	MN	\$1,000.00	2016	Lockheed Martin Corporation Employees' PAC	VA	\$1,000.00	2015
Cintas Corporation Partners PAC	OH	\$1,000.00	2015	Lockheed Martin Corporation Employees' PAC	VA	\$2,000.00	2016
Cit Group Inc PAC (Cit PAC)	NJ	\$1,000.00	2015	Luna PAC	DC	\$5,000.00	2015
Clorox Employees' PAC	CA	\$1,500.00	2015	Machinists Non-Partisan Political League	MD	\$5,000.00	2015
CME/PAC, Chicago Mercantile Exchange PAC	IL	\$1,000.00	2015	McDonald's Corporation PAC	IL	\$1,000.00	2016
CME/PAC, Chicago Mercantile Exchange PAC	IL	\$1,000.00	2016	McGuire Woods Federal PAC	VA	\$1,000.00	2016
Comcast Corporation PAC- Federal	PA	\$1,000.00	2016	Mondelez Intl., Inc. PAC	DC	\$1,000.00	2015
Concrete PAC	MD	\$1,000.00	2015	Mondelez Intl., Inc. PAC	DC	\$1,000.00	2016
Concrete PAC	MD	\$3,000.00	2016	Motorola Solutions, Inc. PAC	DC	\$1,000.00	2016
Constellation Brands Inc. PAC	NY	\$1,000.00	2016	NACO Responsible Distribution PAC	VA	\$2,000.00	2015
Continental Airlines, Inc. Employees PAC	DC	\$3,000.00	2015	NAHU PAC	DC	\$2,000.00	2015
Continental Airlines, Inc. Employees PAC	DC	\$2,000.00	2016	NAHU PAC	DC	\$2,000.00	2016
Corn PAC	DC	\$1,000.00	2015	NAIOP-PAC	VA	\$2,500.00	2016
Costello For Congress	IL	\$2,000.00	2015	NARFE PAC	VA	\$500.00	2015
Costello For Congress Cmte.	IL	\$2,000.00	2016	NARFE PAC	VA	\$1,000.00	2016
Credit Union Legislative Action Council	DC	\$1,000.00	2016	National Air Traffic Controllers Assn PAC	DC	\$3,000.00	2015
CSX Corp. Good Gov't Fund-Federal	DC	\$5,000.00	2015	National Air Traffic Controllers Assn PAC	DC	\$3,500.00	2016
CSX Corp. Good Gov't Fund-Federal	DC	\$5,000.00	2016	National Asphalt Pavement Assn. PAC (NAPA-PAC)	DC	\$1,000.00	2015
Culac The PAC of Credit Union National Assn.	DC	\$1,000.00	2015	National Assn. of Health Underwriters PAC (Hupac)	DC	\$1,000.00	2016
Culac The PAC of Credit Union National Assn.	DC	\$1,000.00	2016	National Assn. of Mutual Insurance Companies PAC	IN	\$1,000.00	2016
CWA Cope PAC	DC	\$5,000.00	2015	National Automobile Dealers Assn. PAC	VA	\$4,000.00	2016
Dealers Election Action Cmte. of The National Automotive Dealers Assn.	VA	\$5,000.00	2015	National Automobile Dealers Assn. PAC	DC	\$1,000.00	2016
Delta Air Lines PAC	DC	\$1,000.00	2015	National Beer Wholesalers Assn. PAC	VA	\$7,500.00	2015
Doctors' Company Federal PAC (DOCPAC)	CA	\$2,700.00	2015	National Beer Wholesalers Assn. PAC	VA	\$5,000.00	2016
Drinker Biddle PAC	DC	\$1,000.00	2016	National Business Aviation Assn. Inc PAC (NBAA-PAC)	DC	\$2,500.00	2015
DuPage Medical Group Ltd PAC	IL	\$2,500.00	2016	National Community Pharmacists Assn. - PAC	VA	\$3,500.00	2016
Ecolab Inc. PAC	MN	\$1,000.00	2016	National Ironworkers Political Action League	DC	\$1,000.00	2016
EcoPAC	MN	\$3,000.00	2015	National Restaurant Assn. PAC	DC	\$2,500.00	2015
Education Management Corporation Employee PAC (Edmc Edu-PAC)	PA	\$2,000.00	2016	National Restaurant Assn. PAC	DC	\$2,500.00	2016
Electrical Construction PAC-National Electrical Contractors Assn., Inc (ECPAC)	MD	\$7,500.00	2015	National Society of Professional Engineers PAC	VA	\$1,000.00	2015
Electrical Construction PAC-National Electrical Contractors Assn., Inc (ECPAC)	MD	\$2,500.00	2016	National Tank Truck Carriers Inc PAC	VA	\$1,000.00	2015
Employees of Northrop Grumman Corporation PAC	VA	\$5,000.00	2016	National Venture Capital Assn. VenturePAC	DC	\$1,000.00	2016
Exelon Corporation PAC (ExelonPAC)	IL	\$1,000.00	2015	National Weather Service Employees Organization PAC	DC	\$1,500.00	2015
Exelon Corporation PAC (ExelonPAC)	IL	\$1,000.00	2015	National Weather Service Employees Organization PAC	DC	\$500.00	2016
FAAMA PAC	FL	\$9,500.00	2015	Natso Inc. Natso PAC	VA	\$1,000.00	2015
Federal Express PAC	TN	\$1,000.00	2015	Natso Inc. Natso PAC	VA	\$1,000.00	2016
Food PAC	VA	\$1,000.00	2015	NJASAP PAC	OH	\$2,500.00	2015
Franchising PAC	DC	\$5,000.00	2015	Norfolk Southern Corporation Good Government Fund	VA	\$5,000.00	2015
Friends of Bud Cramer	AL	\$1,000.00	2015	Norfolk Southern Corporation Good Government Fund	VA	\$2,500.00	2016
GAMA PAC	DC	\$1,500.00	2015	NSSGA RockPAC	VA	\$3,500.00	2015
GATX Corporation Good Government Program	IL	\$1,000.00	2016	NSSGA RockPAC	VA	\$3,000.00	2016
General Aviation Manufacturers Assn. PAC	DC	\$2,000.00	2016	Nsta PAC	VA	\$1,000.00	2015
General Electric Company PAC (GEPAC)	DC	\$3,000.00	2015	Nucor Corporation PAC	NC	\$1,000.00	2015
General Electric Company PAC (GEPAC)	DC	\$6,000.00	2016	Oldcastle Materials Inc. PAC	DC	\$1,000.00	2015
General Motors Company PAC (GM PAC)	DC	\$1,000.00	2015	Oldcastle Materials Inc. PAC	DC	\$1,000.00	2016
General Motors Company PAC (GM PAC)	DC	\$1,000.00	2016	Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Assn Inc PAC	MO	\$2,000.00	2015
Genessee & Wyoming, Inc. PAC	PA	\$4,700.00	2016	Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Assn Inc PAC	MO	\$2,000.00	2016
H-PAC	DC	\$1,000.00	2015	Pass PAC	DC	\$2,000.00	2015
Harris Corporation PAC	DC	\$1,000.00	2016	Pass PAC	DC	\$1,500.00	2016
HNTB Corporation PAC	MO	\$1,000.00	2015	Physical Therapy PAC	VA	\$1,000.00	2015
HNTB Corporation PAC	MO	\$1,000.00	2016	Portland Cement Assn. Inc. PCA PAC	DC	\$1,000.00	2016
Holland & Knight Cmte. For Effective Government	DC	\$1,500.00	2016	Property Casualty Insurers Assn. of America PAC	IL	\$1,000.00	2016
Honeywell Intl. PAC	DC	\$2,500.00	2015	Railway Supply Institute PAC	DC	\$1,500.00	2016
Honeywell Intl. PAC	DC	\$7,500.00	2016	Raytheon Company PAC	VA	\$10,000.00	2015
IBEW PAC Voluntary Fund	DC	\$5,000.00	2016	Realtors PAC (RPAC)	IL	\$4,000.00	2015
iheartmedia, Inc. - Clear Channel Outdoor PAC	TX	\$1,000.00	2016	Realtors PAC (RPAC)	IL	\$1,000.00	2016
Illinois Corn Growers Assn. Political Involvement Fund-Federal	IL	\$5,000.00	2015	Retail Industry Leaders Assn. PAC	VA	\$2,500.00	2015
Illinois Corn Growers Assn. Political Involvement Fund-Federal	IL	\$2,500.00	2016	Retail PAC	VA	\$1,000.00	2015
Illinois Political Active Letter Carriers	IL	\$1,000.00	2015	RockPAC	VA	\$2,500.00	2016
Illinois Restaurateurs PAC	IL	\$1,000.00	2015	Schneider National Inc., TransPAC	WI	\$1,000.00	2016
Illinois Road Builders Assn. Federal PAC	IL	\$5,000.00	2015	Service Corporation Intl. PAC (SCI/PAC)	TX	\$1,000.00	2016
Ingram Barge Company PAC	TN	\$1,000.00	2016	Sheet Metal Workers' Intl. Assn. Political Action League	DC	\$2,000.00	2016
Int. Paper PAC	DC	\$1,000.00	2015	SLM Corporation PAC Sallie Mae PAC	DE	\$1,000.00	2016
Intl. Assn. of Fire Fighters	DC	\$1,500.00	2015	Southwest Airlines Co. Freedom Fund	TX	\$1,500.00	2015
Intl. Assn. of Fire Fighters	DC	\$2,000.00	2016	Southwest Airlines Co. Freedom Fund	TX	\$3,500.00	2016
Intl. Paper PAC (IP-PAC)	DC	\$1,000.00	2016	Southwest Airlines Pilots Assn.	TX	\$5,500.00	2015
				Southwest Airlines Pilots Assn.	TX	\$3,500.00	2016
				Squire Patton Boggs PAC (Squire Patton Boggs PAC)	DC	\$1,000.00	2016
				State Farm Federal PAC	IL	\$1,000.00	2015



DONOR	STATE	DONATION	YEAR	DONOR	STATE	DONATION	YEAR
State Farm Federal PAC	IL	\$1,000.00	2016	Union Pacific Corporation Fund For Effect	DC	\$6,500.00	2016
Susan B Anthony List Inc	DC	\$5,000.00	2016	Unite Here Tip Campaign Cmte.	NY	\$5,000.00	2016
Textile PAC	NC	\$1,000.00	2016	United Motorcoach Assn. PAC	VA	\$1,000.00	2015
Textron Inc. PAC	RI	\$2,000.00	2015	United Steelworkers Political Action Fund	PA	\$5,000.00	2016
To Protect Our Heritage PAC	IL	\$5,000.00	2015	United Transportation Union PAC (Utu PAC)	OH	\$7,000.00	2015
Transport Workers Union Political Contributions Cmte.	NY	\$2,500.00	2015	United Transportation Union PAC (Utu PAC)	OH	\$1,000.00	2016
Transport Workers Union Political Contributions Cmte.	NY	\$7,500.00	2016	University Public Issues Co. UPIC	IL	\$1,500.00	2015
Transportation Trades Department Afl-Cio PAC (Ttd/PAC)	DC	\$1,000.00	2015	University Public Issues Co. UPIC	IL	\$500.00	2016
Truck PAC	DC	\$2,500.00	2015	UPSPAC	GA	\$5,500.00	2015
Truck PAC	DC	\$1,000.00	2016	UPSPAC	GA	\$3,000.00	2016
Ttx Company PAC	IL	\$2,500.00	2016	Vulcan Materials Co., PAC	AL	\$3,000.00	2016
U.S. Travel Assn. PAC	DC	\$1,000.00	2015	Walgreen Co PAC	IL	\$2,000.00	2015
U.S.-Cuba Democracy PAC	FL	\$1,000.00	2015	Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of America, Inc. PAC	DC	\$2,000.00	2015
Uaw - V - Cap (Uaw Voluntary Community Action Program)	MI	\$1,500.00	2015	Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of America, Inc. PAC	DC	\$2,500.00	2016
Uaw - V - Cap (Uaw Voluntary Community Action Program)	MI	\$5,000.00	2016				
Union Pacific Corporation Fund For Effect	DC	\$3,500.00	2015				
				<b>OVERALL TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$586,645.00</b>	

## Chart: Lipinski private donors, 2015-2016

The following chart outlines all private donations to Daniel Lipinski from the years 2015 and 2016. Listed are all donors who donated a minimum total of \$1,000 for at least one of the two years. Contribution information taken from Federal Election Commission at <http://www.fec.gov/fecviewer/CandidateCommitteeDetail.do?candidateCommitteeId=H4IL03077&tabIndex=1>.

DONOR	DONOR'S EMPLOYER	STATE	DONATION	YEAR	DONOR	DONOR'S EMPLOYER	STATE	DONATION	YEAR
Aldridge, Kenneth	Aldridge Electric	IL	\$1,000.00	2015	Margolis, Lawrence	Self-Employed	IL	\$2,500.00	2015
Baruch, Tom	Self-Employed	CA	\$2,700.00	2015	Mavlyankulov, Kairat	New Plan Learning, Inc.	IL	\$1,500.00	2015
Berg, Kevin	Legacy Marketing	IL	\$2,000.00	2016	Mcnaughton, William	Mcnaughton Bros. Const.	IL	\$1,000.00	2016
Blank, Steven	Unemployed	CA	\$5,400.00	2015	Melman, Richard	Self-Employed	IL	\$1,000.00	2016
Blanusha, James	CTE	IL	\$1,000.00	2015	Parker, Tim	Parker Towing Company	AL	\$1,000.00	2016
Blanusha, James J.	CTE/Aecom	IL	\$250.00	2016	Pydo, Donald	Wirtz Beverage	IL	\$1,000.00	2016
Blunk, Marci	Wirtz Corporation	IL	\$1,000.00	2016	Quandel, Charles Sr.	Quandel Consultants	IL	\$1,000.00	2015
Bryan, John Patrick	Geneva Construction	IL	\$1,000.00	2015	Quandel, Charles Sr.	Quandel Consultants	IL	\$1,050.00	2016
Burke, Christopher B.	Christopher Burke	IL	\$1,500.00	2015	Rajunov, Manuel	Thompson Knight	TX	\$1,500.00	2015
Burke, Christopher B.	Christopher Burke	IL	\$1,800.00	2016	Robinson, Bernie	The Livingston Group, Llc	DC	\$2,700.00	2016
Chipparoni, Guy	Res Publica Group	IL	\$1,000.00	2016	Saltzman, Matthew	Cooper Health Systems	NJ	\$1,500.00	2015
Collins, Thomas	Collins Engineers	IL	\$2,000.00	2015	Scheck, Richard N. Hon.	Scheck Industries	IL	\$1,000.00	2015
Collins, Thomas	Collins Engineers	IL	\$2,000.00	2016	Scheck, Richard N. Hon.	Scheck Industries	IL	\$1,000.00	2016
D'Escoto, Federico	D'Escoto, Inc.	IL	\$1,000.00	2015	Schivarelli, Peter J.	Demon Dogs	IL	\$1,000.00	2016
D'Escoto, Federico	D'Escoto, Inc.	IL	\$500.00	2016	Schnaidman, Manuel	Retired	NJ	\$2,700.00	2015
Daschle, Linda Hall	Baker Donelson Bearman & Cald.	DC	\$1,000.00	2016	Schnaidman, Rene	Retired	NJ	\$2,700.00	2015
Davis, Kyra	Launchpad Central	CA	\$1,000.00	2015	Shea, Courtney	Columbia Capital Mgmt.	IL	\$1,000.00	2016
Del Galdo, Michael	Del Galdo Law Group, Llc	IL	\$1,000.00	2016	Southern Company		GA	\$1,000.00	2016
Delgiudice, Richard	Self-Employed	IL	\$1,000.00	2016	Steiber, Jay	Lettuce Entertain You	IL	\$1,000.00	2016
Donovan, Thomas R.	Quantum Crossings, Llc	IL	\$2,500.00	2015	Stephanich, Peter		PA	\$1,000.00	2016
Elk, Eric		IL	\$2,000.00	2016	Strahl, Stuart D.	Brookfield Zoo	IL	\$1,000.00	2015
Elliot, Aison		CA	\$5,400.00	2015	Sullivan, Suzanne	Self-Employed	DE	\$2,500.00	2015
Ellis, Edwin E.	Iowa Pacific Corp	IL	\$2,000.00	2015	Sullivan, Suzanne	Self-Employed	DE	\$2,700.00	2016
Farkas, Earl	Gozdecki	IL	\$1,000.00	2016	Tai, Jason	Self-Employed	DC	\$3,100.00	2015
Fridman, Mort	Self-Employed	NJ	\$3,800.00	2015	Tai, Jason	Self-Employed	DC	\$1,750.00	2016
Gallagher, Charles J.	Gallagher Asphalt	IL	\$1,000.00	2016	Toohey, Michael	The Livingston Group Llc	WI	\$1,000.00	2016
Gallucci, Louis	Self-Employed	IL	\$1,000.00	2016	Tremaine, Arthur	Self-Employed	IL	\$1,000.00	2016
Greenspon, Steven		IL	\$1,000.00	2015	Tully, Thomas	Res Publica Group	IL	\$1,000.00	2016
Griffin, William J.	Riordan Fulkerson	IL	\$1,000.00	2015	Vender, Barbara	Retired	IL	\$1,000.00	2016
Guzior, Richard	Self-Employed	IL	\$3,000.00	2016	Vondra, Michael	Reliable Materials Corp.	IL	\$2,500.00	2015
Hamano, Mickey	Electro-Wire	IL	\$2,500.00	2015	W. Rockwell Wirtz Trust		IL	\$2,000.00	2016
Hbk Engineering, Llc		IL	\$1,500.00	2016	Webb, Richard		KS	\$1,710.00	2016
Heidrich, Paul		IL	\$2,000.00	2016	Weglarz, Mark	Weglarz Company	IL	\$2,500.00	2015
Hickey, William M.	President/Owner	IL	\$1,000.00	2015	Weglarz, Mark	Weglarz Company	IL	\$2,550.00	2016
Hillock, David	Transit Associates	MO	\$1,000.00	2016	Weglarz, Jon	Weglarz Company	IL	\$2,500.00	2015
Hochberg, Laurie		IL	\$1,000.00	2015	Weglarz, Jon	Weglarz Company	IL	\$2,050.00	2016
Houlihan, Michael	All Circo, Inc,	IL	\$1,000.00	2016	Weiss, Paul D.	Bksh And Associates	DC	\$500.00	2015
Jon S. Weglarz 2003 Trust		IL	\$1,000.00	2016	Weiss, Paul D.	Bksh And Associates	DC	\$500.00	2016
Jones Walker L.L.P.		LA	\$1,000.00	2016	Winnetka Animal Hospital		IL	\$2,000.00	2016
Kelly, John J. Jr.	All Circo, Inc.	IL	\$1,000.00	2016	Wirtz, James	Wirtz Beverage	IL	\$2,000.00	2016
Klein, Batya	Homemaker	NJ	\$5,400.00	2015	Wolfe, James E.	Knight Infrastructure	IL	\$1,500.00	2015
Klein, Ben	J & J	NJ	\$5,400.00	2015	Wolfe, James E.	Knight Infrastructure	IL	\$2,050.00	2016
Kossow, Daniel	Hoist Liftruck	IL	\$1,500.00	2015	Zimmermann, Michael	Self-Employed	NY	\$1,500.00	2015
Krozel, Gerald	Prairie Material Sales	IL	\$1,000.00	2015	Zweig, Arie	Rr Zweig, Inc.	IL	\$2,700.00	2016
Krug, George Jr.	Self-Employed	IL	\$1,000.00	2015	Zweig, Bozena	R.R. Zwieg, Inc.	IL	\$2,700.00	2016
Lewandowski, Mike	Self-Employed	IL	\$1,000.00	2015					
Lyman Law Firm, Llc		IL	\$1,000.00	2016					
					<b>OVERALL TOTAL:</b>		<b>\$189,171.00</b>		



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# Bisexual candidate running for Elgin Township supervisor

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Franklin Ramirez, who is openly bisexual, is running for office to better call attention to the role of the Elgin Township government.

In Elgin, "The township government flies under the radar," said Ramirez, who wants to be elected township supervisor this spring. "The current supervisor [Annette Miller] is a Republican who has been in office for 12 years and has worked for the township for 30. No one knows who she is—and that's not meant as a diss to her personally; that's meant as a diss to township government in terms of transparency and outreach to citizens. It's just lackluster."

Elgin Township has three major roles: assessing property values, maintaining unincorporated roads and providing general assistance to the poor. The supervisor functions as the township's CEO, administering finances as well as area pro-

grams.

Ramirez recently left a job with Jewel/Osco to go to work for Open Door Health in Elgin, where he is a community engagement coordinator. He's been interested in politics since he was a teenager, and this is not his first run for office.

"I ran for alderman in Park Ridge six years ago," he recalled. "'Ramirez vs. [Ald. Marty] Maloney' is an uphill battle. But I got 32 percent of the vote. I knocked on doors, called on the houses and made my case for building a better community. That is honestly the tenet that I keep inside, that we need to move forward."

He moved to Elgin about four years ago. He grew fond of the city when he was a campaign manager for former state Rep. Ruth Munson, a local Republican. Ramirez left the Republicans because of their stances on LGBT issues, he added. "I said, I can't be with you if you can't support minorities or LGBT individuals. Those that know



Franklin Ramirez.

Photo from Ramirez

me understand that. I'm pretty moderate."

Elgin is "a community that gets to know its neighbors," Ramirez said. "They're actively involved in local government. You have organizations that fight for their voice to be heard.

... When you go to a city council meeting, it's packed all the time."

But the township government doesn't inspire that same passion, according to Ramirez. "It's unincorporated areas that get a lot of handholding," he noted. "In Elgin Township, you're talking about the west side. [Residents] haven't gotten a newsletter in 16 years. They're very proud of their prescription-drug program. ... It increased from 10 people to 14 people. There's almost 120,000 people in Elgin alone, and you only help 14 individuals when it comes to prescription-drugs?"

He added, "People don't look at township government, and why should they? I only pay \$50 towards it on my taxes. I want to introduce the community to township government again. ... I want to bring transparency to it. They don't even record their meetings. If you need to know what happens with the township, you need to go to the township."

Ramirez said that he's been comfortable being out about being bisexual in Elgin. There's not much LGBT nightlife, he added, "But we just live our lives as ordinary people. ... I have no problem, because that's who I am."

He nevertheless emphasized that he should not be considered a one-issue candidate. "I'm not solely fighting for LGBT rights in Elgin Township. That may be part of my experiences and tools—and that is definitely a community that is here—but my general focus is to advance the welfare of my neighbors for tomorrow."

## GUIDE TO THE GAY

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Besides Franklin Ramirez, who is running for Elgin Township supervisor, a number of other openly LGBT individuals will be running in municipal elections in Evanston and Berwyn. In both locations, a primary takes place Feb. 28 and the general election takes place April 4.

—Evanston: **Ald. Mark Tendam** is running against four other candidates in a Feb. 28 primary for outgoing Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl's replacement.

—Berwyn: **Scott Lennon**, a close political ally of Mayor Robert J. Lovero and vice-president of the board of directors of Berwyn Development Corporation is running for 1st Ward alderman.

Businessman **Jose Ramirez** is running for 2nd Ward alderman as part of a political action committee calling itself Berwyn United, which also includes 3rd Ward **Ald. Marge Paul**, who is running for city clerk; **Jeanine Reardon**, a hospital chaplain who is running to replace Paul in the 3rd Ward; and **Joey Johnston**, who works for a renewable energy company and is running for a township trustee post.

All are openly gay.



From left: Jeanine Reardon, Joe Johnston, Marge Paul and Jose Ramirez.

Photo by Julia Mcaleer-Forte

## SPECIAL ELECTION 2017 - Feb. 28, 2017

WCT - Windy City Times mailed questionnaires to every candidate for 4th ward alderman.

IVI - Independent Voters of Illinois Independent Precinct Organization

### CHICAGO CITY COUNCIL ALDERMAN - 4th WARD

Ebony D. Lucas  
Marcellus H. Moore, Jr.  
Sophia King  
Gregory Seal Livingston  
Gerald Scott McCarthy

WCT

IVI

Y

14/24



Mark Tendam.

Photo by Hal Baim



Scott Lennon.

Photo courtesy of Lennon





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# Olga 'Augie' Flanigan, of Augie & C.K.'s bar, dies

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

*"Daylight. I must wait for the sunrise. I must think of a new life and I mustn't give in."* —"Memory," from the musical Cats.

To everyone who knew Olga "Augie" Flanigan—whether her partner of 41 years Cary McNamara, their close friends, those thousands who frequented first Augie's bar and then Augie & C.K.'s—the words of Flanigan's favorite song "Memory" have a particularly profound meaning following her unexpected death from an illness Feb. 5, 2017.

Flanigan never gave in. The bar she founded at the dawn of the LGBT movement—because her preternatural business ability correctly judged the need for a lesbian bar on Halsted Street in Lake View (long before it was a thriving community hub)—became the epicenter of a boisterous and free new life for the many hundreds of women who crammed inside on a Saturday evening, dancing until the sunrise.

Born on May 10, 1932 to an Italian family, Flanigan was a lifelong Chicagoan who grew up on the North Side and attended Robert A. Waller High School. Although she started her career as an office worker, for Flanigan, her destiny as a pioneering bar owner was always in the stars.

"I remember her telling me that in those days, they would go to lesbian bars in Calumet City [Indiana]," longtime friend and former bartender at Augie & C.K.'s Maryanne O'Malley told Windy City Times.

According to a 2012 interview she gave in Windy City Times, Flanigan opened Augie's at 3729 N. Halsted Street in 1972 "because there were no girls' bars. I had just come back from a trip to Puerto Rico, and they had a beautiful girls' bar. And that inspired me."

"She wanted to provide a safe and fun gathering spot for lesbians that was run and owned by lesbians," O'Malley said. "Back in those days, men ran those bars. Augie was one of the first to change that. Halsted was nothing then. There was nothing there. She was visionary even way back then."

According to Windy City Times writer Jamie Anne Royce, "[Augie's] quickly became a community for the regulars. They formed sports leagues, participated in the annual Pride Parade, and hosted picnics."

It was as a sponsor of a softball team that Flanigan was to meet a South Side woman who, for more than four decades, ensured that Flanigan never smiled alone.

"It was 1975 and Cary and I were playing softball together," O'Malley recalled. "Augie was the sponsor of the other team. Augie spotted Cary and she used to always say that the first things she noticed were Cary's blue eyes, how good of a player she was. So Augie recruited her for her team and they won the championship. I went away to college and my friends would write me letters and say, 'Cary is dating Augie!' We were



Augie at her bar in the late 1970s.  
Photo from the Gay Chicago Archives

like, 'That'll never last.'"

They were wrong.

Although the couple had a 20-year age gap, O'Malley said they worked beautifully together.

"The age difference was never an issue because Augie was young at heart," O'Malley said. "In 1979, Flanigan merged her bar with C.K.'s [owned by Carol Kappa], which was then located on West Diversey." The new business opened at 3726 N. Broadway. Today it is the site of Charlie's bar.

O'Malley remembered that, "On a Saturday night, the line of people to get into Augie & C.K.'s would be down Broadway. It was so popular. Sometimes women would get there extra early just so they could make sure they had a table to sit at. It was open until 5 a.m. on Saturdays and, even at 5 a.m., that bar was packed."

One customer told Windy City Times writer Sukie De La Croix, "I used to go to Augie & C.K.'s but I would get there very late in the evening. I worked in a place where we wore long black evening gowns and I would be in such a hurry to get to Augie and C.K.'s that I wouldn't even change out of my gown. I'd hop in a cab and get down there half an hour, or sometimes 15 minutes, before they were going to close."

Augie & C.K.'s former bartender Victoria "Pickles" Martinez told Windy City Times, "It was just a lot of fun back in those days. You can ask anybody that used to go in that bar. Everyone would just be at Augie & C.K.'s."

Tragedy struck in the early 1980s when the loaded gun C.K. carried accidentally discharged and killed her. The community was in shock but Flanigan would not give in to the loss of her business partner. Instead, life partner McNamara took over and the couple kept Augie & C.K.'s open until 1994.

"Augie was pragmatic about her business, but 100 percent Italian, so she was also very passionate," O'Malley said. "Cary already knew the

bar business from her own family so it was a no-brainer and they made it work."

"Cary was the people person and Augie was the business person," O'Malley added. "Certain nights Cary would be there. Other nights Augie would. But Augie was very friendly, laughing all the time and fun. She could swear like a truck driver! She wasn't politically active but she did her part personally. She sponsored bowling teams, darts teams; it was a sense of family and a sense of community. Augie talked to everyone. Any woman who came out in the '70s and '80s and who lived in or passed through had some kind of connection, with Augie & C.K.'s."

After Flanigan and McNamara closed Augie & C.K.'s, they moved to Plainfield, Illinois, to be closer to family. They spent retirement together traveling and still hosting evenings for friends.

"They were soulmates, of course," O'Malley said. "Different in many ways but they respected each other's differences to the point that they just complemented each other. They were a fixture in the community. It was always Augie and Cary or Cary and Augie. We really respected that. You couldn't imagine it being any other way and they had a really magical life together. It was a

South Side meets North Side Chicago love affair."

Flanigan's illness occurred shortly after the couple celebrated 41 years together.

"She went into hospital for something really minor," O'Malley said. "She just deteriorated. Cary was expecting for her to be released on Sunday. Cary has a very large, supportive family and lots of friends but she is just devastated. She told me that she wants people to remember 'Aug' not as an activist but as a provider of a fun safe-haven for thousands of women."

"Life was beautiful then," Flanigan's favorite song serves not only to recall the heyday of Augie's and C.K.'s but every day that she and McNamara spent together. "I remember the time I knew what happiness was. Let the memory live again."

"Augie was an icon, a pioneer in many ways," O'Malley said. "But her legacy will be Cary, her friends and her family."

Flanigan was preceded in death by her son Billy. She is survived by McNamara, sister Theresa and brother Frank.

The viewing was held Feb. 10 at Cumberland Funeral Home, 8300 W. Lawrence Ave., Norridge. The funeral took place Feb. 11.

## PASSAGES

### Yvonne Hudson

BY LIZ BAUDLER

Yvonne Hudson, who passed away in early February at age 80, was a force in two worlds: as a part of the Black women's group Sons of Sappho—one of the only organizations for gay women on the South Side—and as part of her church, Generation Church of Christ, for decades as a treasurer, trustee and choir member.

Hudson and her friend Ernestine Medley founded the Sons of Sappho in 1965 to combat harassment they encountered from being gay in South Side bars and being Black in North side bars. At its peak, the group, later the Sappho Socialites, had three-day-long parties, hosting 300 people in Chicago's hotels.

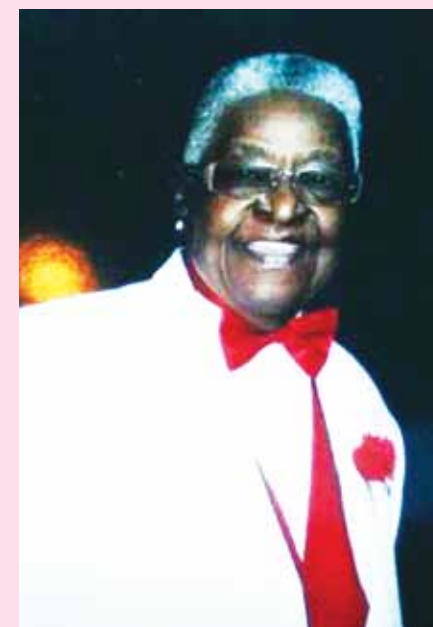
"When I saw Yvonne—you talk about swag. I mean, she was so, so cool. That was just her demeanor, period," said her longtime friend Takala Welch. Hudson was one of the last surviving members of the Sappho group.

Welch also knew Hudson from church: Welch would kiss Hudson on the jaw whenever they met, a funny thing for the two studs to do. "I just wanted her to know how much I respected her and how much I loved her," Welch said.

Pastor Kenneth Wiggins of Generation Church had a special relationship with Hudson. They met when he was 16 and she became his godmother in the church they both attended.

"I was a little radical back then and Yvonne kind of took me under her wing," Wiggins said. "I was a youngster and I had some issues going on, and she mentored me. She helped open my mind to what was going on in church."

Wiggins said Hudson was there when he took over the congregation, walking beside him. "She helped get me started," he remembered. "She wanted to help boost me into the ministry."



Yvonne Hudson.  
Photo from Ramirez

Welch described Hudson as soft-spoken, genuine and trustworthy. "She loved God with everything in her," Welch said.

Wiggins felt Hudson aided his spiritual development. "She wasn't biased. Yvonne loved people," he said. "I admired the work she was doing in the church and outside of the church. She would bring people together for a good time. I admired the big beautiful affairs she would throw back in the day. I've learned to love people, I don't think God is picking and choosing who can come to his kingdom. Talking to Yvonne helped me understand all that. She loved Jesus. She lived a good, long life."

Hudson's funeral took place Feb. 14 at St. Martin's Church of Christ, 5648 S. State St.



# Activist Maxx Boykin on HIV/AIDS fight and new challenges

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) Community, Advocacy and Social Justice Manager, HIV Prevention Justice Alliance co-manager and Black Youth Project (BYP) 100 member Maxx Boykin is prominent not only in the ongoing fight against HIV/AIDS but through his seemingly tireless efforts for Black empowerment.

Now Boykin faces a new set of challenges in a cause to which he has dedicated his life. The election of a new U.S. president could mean the loss of lifesaving HIV/AIDS services through the dismantling of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the defunding of Planned Parenthood.

Many believe President Trump is also engaged in attacks on the Black community, particularly given the appointment of Jeff Sessions as attorney general and the chief executive's tweeted and verbal perceptions of inner cities.

Ahead of the Feb. 7 National Black AIDS Awareness Day, Boykin spoke with Windy City Times from Washington, D.C.—now the front line in a war that is not merely political but one in which there are lives and communities at stake.

**Windy City Times: How would you characterize the progress that has been made in the fight against HIV/AIDS and what are your concerns under this new administration?**

Maxx Boykin: In terms of HIV/AIDS in this country and across the world, we made a lot of progress over the last eight years. We have a national HIV/AIDS strategy. It was not a perfect document, but [Obama's] Presidential Advisory

Council on HIV/AIDS continued to improve that strategy year in and year out. Along with that, the advent of PrEP and trying to get it to African American communities really gave people access to groundbreaking technologies, treatment, prevention and helped to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS in this country. With the Affordable Care Act coupled with [the] Ryan White [CARE Act], we have also seen people who couldn't afford healthcare get the kind of access they had never had before.

There were limitations, especially in Southern states where Medicaid was not expanded and we have seen the spread of HIV/AIDS because of lack of access to insurance.

The main concerns I have now are the ways in which Black communities across this country will be attacked on many sides; with this "new healthcare" that Republicans want to roll out but that we still have not seen, attacks on our chances of really ending the epidemic. If the current administration defunds a lot of the programs they say they are going to, it really impacts people of color more than anyone by removing direct services that help communities the most.

**WCT: There is a lot of concern that a lot of HIV testing that had been free for low income people is just going to evaporate with the defunding of Planned Parenthood and the dismantling of the ACA coupled with the groups suffering financially under the Illinois budget impasse. What can people do to make sure that testing remains intact?**

MB: We must continue to find ways to resist



Maxx Boykin.

Photo courtesy of AIDS Foundation of Chicago

and people must understand what it means to resist. The Women's March was a beautiful thing. There must be economic boycotts of those who support racist policies in this country. There are also ways in which to celebrate people's lives such as going to Art AIDS America and learning about what is really going on. We must continue to educate people, push back against elected officials and policies that are racist or discriminatory in nature and which do not allow the access that people need to health insurance or PrEP. We must fight for access to proper education. That

is huge.

**WCT: Recalling the time when people with HIV were barred admission to the United States, now there is a different type of ban implemented (and now being fought) against Muslims. This must bring up some very bad memories. It's still a ban on personhood.**

MB: I truly believe in the freedom of expression, of religion and always in the importance of immigrant rights in this country. This country was built on the backs of slaves and immigrants. It would be nowhere near where it is today without that influx of people, knowledge and culture coming into this country. The fact that we would ban a particular group of folks from particular countries is un-American, illegal and I am glad there has been some push-back.

**WCT: Black Lives Matter (BLM) co-founder Patrisse Cullors said she hopes the organization can gain more political capital. Do we have an opportunity now for that to happen with the resistance movement?**

MB: I think the movement for Black lives will push for political power both in local settings and also on a national level. I am also a member of Black Youth Project 100 and we have a vision for Black futures and economic empowerment through policies that must be moved in a political context. We need to make sure that all elected officials understand that Black lives do matter and policies that uplift our communities, uplift America. There will be a continued push for years to come. This will be a long fight.

**For more information on the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, visit AIDSChicago.org.**

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## viewpoints


**Nadine  
SMITH**

## Time to play chess, not checkers with Bannon/Trump

After my eighth invitation in two days to emergency calls, I thought it wise to pause and reflect on how we avoid the Whack-A-Mole trap and focus our energies.

In addition to the electoral strategies in 2018 and 2020 that we have to build starting now, I see three pressure points we need to leverage with greater thought and clearer strategy.

- 1) Leverage our collective economic clout
- 2) A disaffected Trump voters strategy (compassion, not contempt)
- 3) Continued mass resistance
- 4) Laser-like focus on moveable GOP legislators.

This deals with number four.

Time to move from checkers to chess in opposing the divisive and dangerous Bannon/ Trump agenda. They want us lurching from one catastrophe to the next, shifting just as we gain traction. They want us fighting over which should take priority. They are counting on outrage fatigue as they test the boundaries of their power grab.

*"He who defends everything defends nothing."*—Frederick the Great

Instead of being overwhelmed by each new calamity, we must see them as opportunities to expose Bannon/Trump and to recruit a whole new wave of activists and awakening Trump supporters ready to atone.

We know what he will do and we should stop acting surprised. Instead, we need to drop the

breadcrumbs that lead people toward the inevitable conclusion.

He plans to ignore the judiciary and undermine the separation of powers.

He has undisclosed financial entanglements with Russia

He will destroy longstanding alliances and get them

He will greenlight Russian aggression.

He is using the Presidency to line his pockets.

He is going to take us to war.

He has given white nationalists control of his administration.

We have to look past each twist and turn to the choke point for their agenda in total.

The bottom line is this: We have a Senate made up of 48 Democrats and 52 Republicans.

That means we need Democrats to hold the line while we find three to five Republicans who will have the decency to put the country ahead of their party and the courage to stand up to the Bannon/Trump pattern of retribution. Depending on the issue we have eight to 13 GOP senators worth focusing on.

The GOP is gambling that they can get apply the brakes on the Bannon/Trump train after the extract everything they want. Instead, they are the frogs slowly boiled a degree at a time who will not be able to control what they have unleashed. These stakes are greater than any single issue. Bannon/Trump want to dismantle the rule of law, eliminate the separation of powers and divide Americans through fear and intimidation.

It is time to move the frame beyond the romantic notion of resistors. We are not a ragtag minority scampering in the shadows, plotting against the well-oiled machine. We don't just resist, we stand for core values that are the promise of America. We are the majority who reject the spiteful bigotry. We are the majority who believe we must protect the earth, clean the water and air. We are the majority who believe in civil rights and equal justice under the law. spirit and character of America protecting

what makes us the beacon to the world.

We are the majority who believe religious freedom means we each can worship according to our beliefs, not that we may wield our faith as a weapon to curtail liberties of other. We need to prepare a place for the people whose health insurance is about to be gutted to know we are here, ready to fight for them even if they voted for Trump. We need room for the immigrant families who voted for Trump not realizing it would be their families labeled terrorists and deported. Bannon/Trump want us furious, distrustful and vengeful toward our fellow Americans. We must not allow them to divide us by race, religion, ethnicity or any other difference they seek to exploit.

We must be indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

Here is a list of the GOP legislators we should be calling, writing, meeting and swarming.

### Legend

\* = GOP senators who have denounced the Muslim ban.

! = GOP senators who have voiced concern about Affordable Care Act Repeal

# = GOP senators in districts Clinton won

^ = GOP senators challenging Russian interference

\* Sen. Ben Sasse (R-Neb.): 202-224-4224

\*!# Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME): 202-224-2523

\*Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.): 202-224-4521

\*^Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz): 202-224-2235

\*^Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC): 202-224-5972

\*!Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) 202-224-3353

\*Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) 202-224-5251

\*!Sen. Bob Corker (R-TN): 202-224-3344

! Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) 202-224-6665

! Sen Cassidy (R-LA) 202-224-5824.

# Sen Cory Gardner (R-CO) 202-224-5941

# Sen Dean Heller (R-NV) 202-224-6244

^ Sen Rand Paul (R-KY) 202-224-4343

**Nadine Smith heads Equality Florida.**

## Letters:

### Clearing the air

[Note: The following letter that Windy City Times obtained was sent to the members of the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA) following this publication's report about misappropriation of funds connected to the organization.]

### Members:

We have received several inquiries over the last week regarding reports in the Windy City Times that a former commissioner misappropriated funds from CMSA. The media accounts are partially accurate, but also contain some inaccuracies and omit some relevant details. We wish to be as open and transparent as we can with our members about this situation, as the reports relate to claims of misconduct in connection with the use of CMSA funds, and those funds come from our members. At the

same time, some of the details are sensitive and could still become the subject of future legal action. With that in mind, we are going to describe the circumstances and answer whatever questions we can in this statement, and ask you to understand that there are some specifics we cannot fully share at this time.

Last year, while making an inquiry with a vendor, CMSA became aware of and concerned about a former commissioner's actions related to financial reimbursements. Specifically, CMSA found that a number of reimbursements submitted to CMSA by the former commissioner could not be reconciled with the vendor's records. CMSA then inquired of several other vendors whose invoices had been submitted by the former commissioner for reimbursement, and found similar discrepancies. Put simply, the invoices submitted for reimbursement did not match the vendors' records, raising serious concerns about misappropriation of CMSA funds. The board of directors promptly engaged experienced counsel and undertook a thorough investi-

gation. Through this investigation, the board discovered unverified reimbursements to the former commissioner totaling approximately \$33,000.

The board promptly commenced disciplinary proceedings against the former commissioner. Additionally, with the advice of its counsel, the board contemplated various options, including criminal charges and a civil lawsuit. The former commissioner was given notice of a disciplinary hearing and was advised that he could, if he chose, hire his own attorney to represent him in connection with this matter. The former commissioner chose to be represented by an attorney, and CMSA and the former commissioner then engaged in discussions to determine whether the dispute could be resolved without undertaking the time and expense of a civil lawsuit. At all times, the board was guided by two core objectives: (1) full reimbursement must be made to CMSA for any and all amounts (plus interest) that had been misappropriated from the

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## Oh, 'Boys'

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Denzel Tsoptang and Mark J.P. Hood star in *The Scottsboro Boys*.

Photo by Kelsey Jorissen

### DANCIN' FEATS

## Immersed in Merce at the MCA

BY LAUREN WARNECKE

Through April 30, the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago (MCA) highlights the life and work of an iconic U.S. choreographer: Merce Cunningham (1919-2009).

The "Common Time" exhibit is presented in partnership with Minnesota's Walker Art Center, which opened a simultaneous exhibit Feb. 8. The sprawling displays span a combined 42,000 square feet and feature Cunningham in the context of his many collaborative partners, who created music, set pieces, backdrops, and costumes for his works, as well as the many advances Cunningham spearheaded through the use technologies such as motion-capture video to create and document his dances.

In the Chicago exhibit's opening presentations Feb. 11, curator Lynne Warren and the Walker Center's Philip Bither and Joan Rothfuss were on hand for a tour of the MCA's fourth floor, and dance fans will find recognizable set pieces like Robert Rauschenberg's 1958 massive speckled backdrop from "Summerspace," Frank Stella's primary-colored rectangular banners created for the 1967 premiere of "Scramble" at Ravinia Festival in Highland Park, IL, and Andy Warhol's whimsical mylar pillows, which bounced about in Cunningham's "RainForest" in 1968.

Cunningham first made his mark as a dancer, working for the Martha Graham Dance Company before breaking off to form his own company in the early 1950s. Today he is recognized as one of the greatest and most prolific American choreographers in modern history, having produced hundreds of works with a radical approach to dance

and choreography. Until Cunningham, most choreographers built dances directly to music, either working closely with a composer or designing steps that accompanied existing musical scores.

"Common Time" refers to Cunningham's philosophy that artistic mediums could be created independently and convened in a performance space, having in common nothing more than the time at which they occur. Dances were created in silence, as a "dance for dance's sake"—that is, with no specific narrative behind it. Cunningham's artistic collaborators, in a sense, weren't collaborators at all. Members of the design team were often given free license to create whatever they wanted, with few rules or specifications. In a way, this liberated the artists to do what they do, and created a performance experience whose mediums held equal weight.

It was a tenet Cunningham shared with composer John Cage, his life partner for more than five decades and most frequent artistic partner. Cage is perhaps most famous for a work called "4'33," which has no music or deliberate noise and is, indeed, four minutes and 33 seconds of whatever sounds the audience makes as they (typically) writhe in discomfort. He and Cunningham reveled in the random, employing chance in both the creative process and performance, creating an enormous challenge for the dancers.

By today's standards, the Cunningham technique appears balletic, and this is on display in video artist Charles Atlas's "MC9," an immersive installation showing film clips that span 35 years and fill an entire room of the exhibit. Cunningham employed turned out legs, leotards and tights, and rigid, regimented positions and



Merce Cunningham at Black Mountain College, 1948.

Photo by Hazel Larsen Archer, courtesy of the Estate of Hazel Larsen Archer and the Black Mountain College Museum + Arts Center

postures. But any ballet dancer will tell you that a Cunningham work—sometimes referred to as "ballet off its axis"—is exceptionally hard, unforgiving, and something no ballet class can prepare her for. The legs go one way while the torso goes another, requiring a locus of control that is unlike any other dance technique. Former Cunningham dancer Paige Cunningham Caldarella (no relation) confirmed this at the press preview; showing bits of choreography spanning from "Summerspace" (1958) to "Interspace" (2000), she pointed out the difficulty of a Merce dance. His process might be random, but his expectation was precision. Caldarella said the most beautiful moments were those in which the dancers "honed" in on a way to make a seemingly impossible movement work in their bodies.

Throughout his seven decades as a choreographer, Cunningham's spirit of innovation and fearlessness for pushing the envelope are the mark he left on the field, not to mention the countless dancers and dancemakers who now carry the torch and continue to expand the definition of dance. His aesthetic was crystal clear, but Cunningham wasn't afraid to change, and the exhibit shows his artistic evolution. The balance between preserving Cunningham's legacy and further evolving the field are apparent in "Common Time," with five avant-garde performance events incorporating the latest technology complementing the retrospective exhibit.

**The "Common Time" exhibition is open at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, 220 E. Chicago Ave., through April 30, Wednesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Tuesdays 10 a.m.-8 p.m. The museum is closed Mondays.**

**General admission is \$12, with free admission on Tuesdays for all Illinois residents. Special performance programs affiliated with the exhibit are available for an additional cost. For more information on these programs, visit [MCAChicago.org](http://MCAChicago.org). Merce Cunningham's works are also meticulously archived by the Merce Cunningham Trust, online at [MerceCunningham.org](http://MerceCunningham.org).**

## WHAT IS ODEFSEY®?

ODEFSEY is a 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years and older. It can either be used in people who are starting HIV-1 treatment, have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, and have an amount of HIV-1 in their blood ("viral load") that is no more than 100,000 copies/mL; or in people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements. These include having an undetectable viral load (less than 50 copies/mL) for 6 months or more on their current HIV-1 treatment. ODEFSEY combines 3 medicines into 1 pill taken once a day with a meal. ODEFSEY is a complete HIV-1 treatment and should not be used with other HIV-1 medicines.

**ODEFSEY does not cure HIV-1 infection or AIDS.** To control HIV-1 infection and decrease HIV-related illnesses, you must keep taking ODEFSEY. Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to reduce the risk of passing HIV-1 to others. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

### What is the most important information I should know about ODEFSEY?

**ODEFSEY may cause serious side effects:**

- **Buildup of an acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious medical emergency. Symptoms of lactic acidosis include feeling very weak or tired, unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold (especially in your arms and legs), feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Serious liver problems.** The liver may become large and fatty. Symptoms of liver problems include your skin or the white part of your eyes turning yellow (jaundice); dark "tea-colored" urine; loss of appetite; light-colored bowel movements (stools); nausea; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.
- **You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or serious liver problems** if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking ODEFSEY or a similar medicine for a long time. In some cases, lactic acidosis and serious liver problems have led to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any symptoms of these conditions.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** ODEFSEY is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV and stop taking ODEFSEY, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking ODEFSEY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

### Who should not take ODEFSEY?

**Do not take ODEFSEY if you take:**

- **Certain prescription medicines for other conditions.** It is important to ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with ODEFSEY. Do not start a new medicine without telling your healthcare provider.
- **The herbal supplement St. John's wort.**
- **Any other medicines to treat HIV-1 infection.**

**Ask your healthcare provider if ODEFSEY is right for you, and visit [ODEFSEY.com](http://ODEFSEY.com) to learn more.**

**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.**



**GILEAD**

Please see Important Facts about ODEFSEY including important warnings on the following page.

## What are the other possible side effects of ODEFSEY?

**Serious side effects of ODEFSEY may also include:**

- **Severe skin rash and allergic reactions.** Skin rash is a common side effect of ODEFSEY. Call your healthcare provider right away if you get a rash, as some rashes and allergic reactions may need to be treated in a hospital. Stop taking ODEFSEY and get medical help right away if you get a rash with any of the following symptoms: fever, skin blisters, mouth sores, redness or swelling of the eyes (conjunctivitis), swelling of the face, lips, mouth, or throat, trouble breathing or swallowing, pain on the right side of the stomach (abdominal) area, and/or dark "tea-colored" urine.
- **Depression or mood changes.** Tell your healthcare provider right away if you: feel sad or hopeless, feel anxious or restless, have thoughts of hurting yourself (suicide) or have tried to hurt yourself.
- **Changes in liver enzymes.** People who have had hepatitis B or C or who have certain liver enzyme changes may have a higher risk for new or worse liver problems while taking ODEFSEY. Liver problems can also happen in people who have not had liver disease. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your liver enzymes before and during treatment with ODEFSEY.
- **Changes in body fat,** which can happen in people taking HIV-1 medicines.
- **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking ODEFSEY.
- **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. Your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking ODEFSEY if you develop new or worse kidney problems.
- **Bone problems,** such as bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

**The most common side effects of rilpivirine,** one of the medicines in ODEFSEY, are depression, trouble sleeping (insomnia), and headache.

**The most common side effect of emtricitabine and tenofovir alafenamide,** two of the medicines in ODEFSEY, is nausea.

Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

### What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking ODEFSEY?

- **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, mental health (depression or suicidal thoughts), or liver problems, including hepatitis virus infection.
- **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Other medicines may affect how ODEFSEY works. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist. Ask your healthcare provider if it is safe to take ODEFSEY with all of your other medicines.
- **If you are pregnant** or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if ODEFSEY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking ODEFSEY.
- **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.



ODEFSEY does not  
cure HIV-1 or AIDS.



# SHOW YOUR RADIANCE

ODEFSEY is a **complete, 1-pill, once-a-day HIV-1 treatment** for people 12 years and older who are either new to treatment and have less than 100,000 copies/mL of virus in their blood or people whose healthcare provider determines they can replace their current HIV-1 medicines with ODEFSEY.

**Odefsey**   
emtricitabine 200mg/rilpivirine 25mg/  
tenofovir alafenamide 25mg tablets

LOVE  
WHAT'S  
INSIDE



(oh-DEF-see)

## MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT ODEFSEY

### ODEFSEY may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Buildup of lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis)**, which is a serious medical emergency that can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: feeling very weak or tired, unusual muscle pain, trouble breathing, stomach pain with nausea or vomiting, feeling cold (especially in your arms and legs), feeling dizzy or lightheaded, and/or a fast or irregular heartbeat.
- **Severe liver problems**, which in some cases can lead to death. Call your healthcare provider right away if you have any of these symptoms: your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow (jaundice); dark “tea-colored” urine; loss of appetite; light-colored bowel movements (stools); nausea; and/or pain, aching, or tenderness on the right side of your stomach area.
- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection**. ODEFSEY is not approved to treat HBV. If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking ODEFSEY. Do not stop taking ODEFSEY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

You may be more likely to get lactic acidosis or severe liver problems if you are female, very overweight, or have been taking ODEFSEY or a similar medicine for a long time.

## ABOUT ODEFSEY

- ODEFSEY is a prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in people 12 years of age and older who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before and who have an amount of HIV-1 in their blood (“viral load”) that is no more than 100,000 copies/mL. ODEFSEY can also be used to replace current HIV-1 medicines for some people who have an undetectable viral load (less than 50 copies/mL), have been on the same HIV-1 medicines for at least 6 months, have never failed HIV-1 treatment, and whose healthcare provider determines that they meet certain other requirements.
- **ODEFSEY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS**. Ask your healthcare provider about how to prevent passing HIV-1 to others.

### Do NOT take ODEFSEY if you:

- Take a medicine that contains: carbamazepine (Carbatrol®, Epitol®, Equetro®, Tegretol®, Tegretol-XR®, Teril®), dexamethasone (Ozurdex®, Maxidex®, Decadron®, Baycadron™), dexlansoprazole (Dexilant®), esomeprazole (Nexium®, Vimovo®), lansoprazole (Prevacid®), omeprazole (Prilosec®, Zegerid®), oxcarbazepine (Trileptal®), pantoprazole sodium (Protonix®), phenobarbital (Luminal®), phenytoin (Dilantin®, Dilantin-125®, Phenytek®), rabeprazole (Aciphex®), rifampin (Rifadin®, Rifamate®, Rifater®, Rimactane®), or rifapentine (Priftin®).
- Take the herbal supplement St. John’s wort.
- Take any other HIV-1 medicines at the same time.

## IMPORTANT FACTS

**This is only a brief summary of important information about ODEFSEY® and does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your condition and your treatment.**

## POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF ODEFSEY

### ODEFSEY can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the “Most Important Information About ODEFSEY” section.
- Severe skin rash and allergic reactions.
- Depression or mood changes.
- Changes in liver enzymes.
- Changes in body fat.
- Changes in your immune system.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Bone problems.

**The most common side effects of rilpivirine**, one of the medicines in ODEFSEY, are depression, trouble sleeping (insomnia), and headache.

**The most common side effect of emtricitabine and tenofovir alafenamide**, two of the medicines in ODEFSEY, is nausea.

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

**Your healthcare provider will need to do tests to monitor your health before and during treatment with ODEFSEY.**

## BEFORE TAKING ODEFSEY

### Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, mental health (depression or suicidal thoughts), or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- Have any other medical condition.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed if you have HIV-1 because of the risk of passing HIV-1 to your baby.

### Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

- Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about medicines that should not be taken with ODEFSEY.

## HOW TO TAKE ODEFSEY

- ODEFSEY is a complete 1-pill, once-a-day HIV-1 medicine.
- Take ODEFSEY with a meal.

## GET MORE INFORMATION

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



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## THEATER REVIEW

## The Scottsboro Boys

Playwright: Music and lyrics by John Kander and Fred Ebb, book by David Thompson

At: Porchlight Music Theatre at Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave.

Tickets: \$45-\$51

Runs through: March 12

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The real-life story related in our play is of how nine African-American teenagers, one day in 1931, all happened to be freight-hopping on the same Chattanooga-to-Memphis train. Their discovery and arrest revealed two more illegal passengers on board—white women, who accused the colored men of raping them. Despite evidence of the latter's innocence, regional justice mandated a guilty verdict, repeated in several

J.P. Hood in *The Scottsboro Boys*.  
Photo by Kelsey Jorissen



## THEATER REVIEW

## Faceless

Playwright: Selina Fillinger

At: Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie

Tickets: 847-673-6300 or Northlight.org; \$30-\$81

Runs through: March 4

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Selina Fillinger's world-premiere courtroom drama *Faceless* for Northlight Theatre was clearly meant to be up-to-the-minute current when it was first commissioned. But now that *Faceless* has opened with the erratic and right-leaning Trump administration in power, Fillinger may have to add in

some snippets of dialogue to either acknowledge that fact or find a way to re-set the action back to President Barack Obama's administration.

Like it or not, knowing which political party is in control will likely affect how audiences view the play's characters and their motivations. But otherwise Fillinger's timely premise for *Faceless* is intriguing, though perhaps a tad too neatly built for oppositional and juicy conflict.

*Faceless* largely focuses on the U.S. Muslim lawyer Claire Fathi (Susaan Jamshidi). She's brought aboard by the cocky and insensitive prosecutor Scott Bader (Timothy Edward Kane) to aid the U.S. government's terrorism trial against an 18-year-old white Chicago-area teenager named Susie Glenn (Lindsay Stock) who pledged allegiance to Islamic State.

Bereft from her mother's recent death, Susie

appeals over the next six years, while drawing national attention to the prisoners facing an uncertain future on Death Row.

This dark chapter in our nation's history would appear an unlikely premise for musical comedy, but hitmakers John Kander and Fred Ebb, having earlier in their career successfully depicted the Nazi Invasion and prohibition-era Gangland Corruption as razzle-dazzle extravaganzas, decided the time was ripe in 2006 for an account of racial atrocities framed in the conventions of an old-time blackface Minstrel Show.

Audience demographics have changed over the intervening decades, however, and in 2017, not even a pious denouement meant to inject a note of self-righteous distance into the grin-and-shuffle stage picture can prevent this one-note concept emerging the most cringeworthy exercise in bad taste since Stephen Dolginoff's *Thrill Me*.

To be sure, playgoers repelled by nearly two intermissionless hours of Kander and Ebb's faux-naïf iconography can focus on the scholarly aspects of this once-popular period entertainment whose conventions are preserved chiefly in print

found solace with an unseen Islamic State recruiter via social media and now identifies as Muslim. So now Susie's paramedic father, Alan (Joe Dempsey), and her Jewish defense lawyer, Mark Arenberg (Ross Lehman), have to argue that she was led astray. Yet Susie insists that she is secure in her newfound beliefs that she disturbingly conflates with the terrorist organization.

With *Faceless*, Fillinger dexterously plays with hard-hitting questions of personal and public loyalties to one's faith, family or country. These challenges certainly give director BJ Jones' extremely skilled ensemble lots to explore, and they all juggle the moments of drama and comedy with plenty of aplomb.

It's particularly refreshing to have Jamshidi portraying such a powerful Muslim woman who rises to the challenges of becoming a public face

images, forcing the actors in this Porchlight Music Theatre revival to deliver their patter in tab-leau mode, effectively stifling any comic phrasing likely to elicit laughs. You can also suspend your enlightened moral sensibilities and revel in a score reflecting Broadway fashions of a decade ago, performed by a muscular-voiced and agile-footed cast who discharge their duties with unflinching alacrity, whether tapping energetically as prison guards playfully engage in terrifying a child with threats of imminent execution in the electric chair, or extolling the advantages of "Jew Money" in a stroll-tempo ballad.

The talent and industry invested by Porchlight's production company is certainly to be commended. That said, though, would-be composers inspired by its success to embark on such prospective song-and-dance pageants as, say, *The Emmett Till Follies* or *Maine Coon Cats*, are advised that if satire (as George S. Kaufman once observed) is what closes on Saturday night, the shelf life of irony is considerably shorter.

of such a contentious trial. Stock, too, stands out as a lost young woman who clings to her new and emboldened identity. Also giving a great dramatic turn is Dempsey, easily conveying the hurt and anger of a widower whose parental skills are so harshly judged.

But despite many intriguing arguments and situations, *Faceless* does feel constrained in its taught 90-minute running time. Fillinger brings up so many topics and ideas that some only feel cursorily explored when they could be further elaborated upon.

And now that Trump is in the White House, all the characters and their actions are all inevitably clouded by the country's drastic political shift. Fillinger will likely need to make revisions for any future productions of *Faceless*.

## CRITICS' PICKS

**High Fidelity**, Refuge Theatre Project, through March 5. Last year's sleeper hit is back in a fully-accessible space even more environmentally intimate than the former temporary shelters favored by this up-and-coming new company. MSB

**Hobo King**, Congo Square Theatre Company at Athenaeum Theatre, through March 5. The contradictions of homelessness are endowed with tragic dignity in Javon Johnson's gritty fantasy, starring the indomitable Velma Austin. MSB

**The Temperamentals**, About Face Theatre at Theater Wit, through Feb. 18. Jim Marans' intelligent play illuminates perhaps the most-important pre-Stonewall event in American LGBTQ history, the 1952 founding of the Mattachine Society by unlikely lovers Harry Hay and future fashion great Rudi Gernreich. Their love, and their history with Mattachine, are bittersweet and important. JA

**Wit**, The Hypocrites at Den Theatre, through Feb. 19. Lisa Tejero gives a heartbreaking performance of a stern English professor facing down a severe course of chemotherapy in director Marti Lyons' impressive production of Margaret Edson's Pulitzer Prize-winning drama. SCM

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

## THEATER REVIEW

## The Wolf at the End of the Block

Playwright: Ike Holter

At: Teatro Vista at Victory Gardens Theater, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave.

Tickets: 773-871-3000;

TeatroVista.org; \$25-\$30

Runs through: March 5

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

Abe (Gabriel Ruiz) shows up beaten, bloody and discombobulated in the middle of the night in a marginal Chicago neighborhood.

Next day he tells his boss/friend Nunley (Bear Bellinger, in a witty and energetic performance) and kid sister Miranda (Ayssette Munoz) that he was verbally attacked ("spic," "wetback") in a bar and then followed and jumped in an alley. Abe says the perp was a white cop. Same old Chicago, right? Sis contacts a local Latinx TV

reporter, Frida (Sandra Marquez in an assured turn), who agrees to air Abe's story, characterized as a hate crime. Frida is hard-boiled, manipulative and dismissive but believes Abe's willingness to speak publically can be a game-changer in how the Latino community is perceived.

Of course, there are complications, even in an 85-minute play. Seems Abe is not telling the complete story. Then, Nunley meets a white cop (James D. Farruggio) at a dive bar who may be the perp, but definitely is threatening. Author Ike Holter also adds quick bursts of conflict between Abe and Nunley—can Nunley be both boss and friend?—and between Abe and Miranda, who lives with Abe but contributes nothing towards rent or expenses. These personal conflicts are important character beats, but they aren't what the play is about. They aren't fully explored or resolved, so maybe the play doesn't need them.

There are several themes: standing up for oneself, honesty and trust, fighting back, community and how to bring about change within the 'hood and city. This last idea is the domi-

nant one, along with the unasked question of what kind of change to seek. Abe, Nunley and Frida see media exposure as an effective tool, but Miranda demurs when she uncovers the details Abe has withheld. In the final tableau, the threatening cop silently sidles up to Abe as he celebrates his new media fame.

Holter is a master of language so everyone in the play is glib, sometimes too glib. Several sections of colorful patter are delivered too fast for comprehension, especially when two characters speak at the same time. Is it written that way? Or is this a choice of director Gerald Gutierrez?

For the most part, however, this world premiere is very well done. Ruiz brings clarity to Abe's fear, anger and occasional charm while Munoz is passionate in her largely-reactive role as sometimes-annoying Miranda. Farruggio is effectively scary as the undercover and drunk cop. Milo Bue's gritty loading dock setting is generic but suitably urban. Still, *The Wolf at the End of the Block* isn't a complete play. The ambiguous final moment and the underexplored personal issues make it seem like a really interesting Act I of a larger piece.

# Tangible Things immerses visitors in African culture

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

To stop at the unassuming storefront and walk through the doors of Tangible Things is to immediately allow all the senses to become immersed in a wealth of African culture—a beautiful myriad of spirituality and an epicenter of free expression that may occasionally change in its outward display but is constant in its welcome and the knowledge to be found even browsing the extraordinary face masks, intricately crafted earthen wear, magnificently rendered artwork celebrating Black bodies, stunning jewelry fashioned from the elements, and the aroma of incense that calms as much as it enlivens.

Chances are, even before walking onto the store, customers will meet co-owner Dr. Nancy Jackson standing outside just to meet and talk with the people of Bronzeville. She embraces humanity with an exuberance matched only by her profound knowledge of the depth of its nature.

Behind the counter, Jackson's co-owner and partner, Gwen Pruitt, is hard at the business of creation, whether for an innovative project called Tangible Tees which takes any image a person chooses and transfers it to a T-shirt, finishing a lovingly detailed custom oil painting ordered by clients who want the chance to see themselves, a loved one or a friend rendered in a way that is totally unique, or turning the passionate colors and sublime images that are her art into a clock face.

Pruitt has an empathy that is prodigious and immediate. When Windy City Times arrived at Tangible Things three years after its December 2014 opening, Jackson was at a meeting, so Pruitt was on the spot. Yet she was happy to talk candidly about the lives which brought the two together in not only physical and emotional love but a labor of it.

However, she would not finish the discussion without offering a sage session during which she

gently offered instruction on how to shed the tensions of an unsettling week.

"Nancy and I were working together on some projects," Pruitt said as she recalled their meeting six years ago. "She was involved with schools and I did art work in the schools and shared my knowledge and experiences with at-risk high school kids. She asked me out for dinner. I got to know her and the rest is history."

"It was really Nancy's idea to open the store," Pruitt added. "She always viewed my art as something special. I viewed her work in the same way. She's a historian who had all these pieces of African art and she wanted to showcase them and share information about them with the community. It also gave me an opportunity to share the paintings, sculptures, jewelry, stained glass and woodwork that I do."

One of the original goals of Tangible Things, transformed from the torn-out remains of a former T-shirt shop, was to partly become a community café.

"We used to have a bar up front," Pruitt said. "We were serving coffee and tea but the city came in and started threatening us. They told us that we had to have certain licensing. They let us stay open as long as we didn't serve food. Back then, I wasn't sure how we would be received but Nancy loves conversation. Even if it is freezing, she will stand outside and draw people in. So people came to hang out. We would have wine and offer classes like grant writing, painting and aromatherapy. The community has been very flexible and accepting because of the variety that we offer to them."

No matter what their heritage, sexual orientation or gender identity, that community will also find unconditional acceptance within the walls of Tangible Things.

"People can interact with us and equals," Pruitt said.



Gwen Pruitt of Tangible Things.

Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

She and Jackson treasure and honor the support they have received from a neighborhood determined to aid in the success of a Black business; however, Bronzeville is a neighborhood that has changed dramatically since Pruitt's childhood.

"My mother has a big, beautiful sandstone home on 44th and Berkeley," she said. "I remember my grandma taking me on 47th Street, and all those shops and stores. As I grew up, there was a point my grandmother didn't want me sitting on the porch because she was afraid that someone would shoot me. Now there's been another transition. Just recently restaurants that wouldn't even deliver food have just started. We are in the middle of a process of a re-gentrified community."

The country around Bronzeville has shifted as well, but in a far more radical direction. Speaking by phone to Windy City Times, Jackson examined the significance of this moment in history and this year's Black History Month, in particular.

"The average people I'm talking to out here in the community are afraid of what is to come," she said. "Sixty percent are not sure where they are going to be three years from now. Forty percent are excited about the prospect of new jobs and business development."

"What started out as Black History Week is extremely significant and important not only to our store but also our neighborhood," she added. "There are so many African-American families that are involved in the cultural economy of the city of Chicago. This February, at this time, is very important because we came out of a very polarizing election. We are seeing young people getting engaged in very positive ways such as with groups like Black Lives Matter. We are seeing women galvanized. This month is

an opportunity for us to shine to those who don't know us, don't believe in us, who don't view African Americans as making the great contribution that we have made, so that they can take a moment to pause and look at us and see that we are the purveyors of culture."

Tangible Things is a deliberate testament to that.

"We are trying to remind people that treasures come in all sizes, shapes and colors and all kinds of origins, locally, from the broader region and through the United States and the African continent," Jackson said. "We present these treasures and opportunities for learning that are outside of the mainstream, outside of the box or a narrow, nationalistic focus."

**For more information, visit [TangibleThings.net](http://TangibleThings.net).**



Galileo Sphere clock at Tangible Things. Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

## SPOTLIGHT

Gay actor Steven Strafford, famed for his one-man show *Methhtacular!*, goes solo once again to star in William Spatz's world-premiere play **Jesus the Jew As Told By His Brother James** for Forum Productions. Strafford plays a modern-day biblical history professor who tries to make sense of a recent tragedy by imagining himself as a Jewish brother of Jesus Christ. *Jesus the Jew As Told By His Brother James* plays from Friday, Feb. 17, through Sunday, March 26, at the Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave. Regular-run prices are \$30-\$35; call



773-404-7336 or visit [GreenhouseTheater.org](http://GreenhouseTheater.org).

Caption: Steven Strafford in the world-premiere one-man show *Jesus the Jew As Told by His Brother James*. Photo by Caleb Forsythe



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From left: Owen Keehnen, Tim Miller, Victor Salvo and Lori Cannon.  
Photo by Richard Knight Jr.

## AIDS film kicks off Legacy LIVE series

The Legacy LIVE Series for 2017 kicked off on Feb. 5 at the Alphawood Gallery with a screening of the rarely seen, award-winning 1990 documentary *Short Fuse: Story of an AIDS Activist*.

The hour-long documentary, which originally aired on PBS, explores the fiery, funny, passionate life of Daniel Sotomayor, the nation's first openly gay political cartoonist and ACT-UP/Chicago AIDS activist. The documentary follows Daniel's struggle to balance life, death, and protest cast against some of the most explosive footage of AIDS activism ever captured in Chicago. Often very funny—and gut-wrenchingly sad—the presentation captured the reality of AIDS both as a health crisis and as a political and social catalyst.

The presentation was followed by an extensive 90-minute Q&A with four of Sotomayor's closest friends, comrades and, in the end, caregivers. LGBTQ activists Lori Cannon, Tim Miller, Owen Keehnen and Victor Salvo discussed various aspects of Sotomayor's personality and his motivations, the role of Act-UP, the lessons learned from that time, the strategic alliances that were formed, the political changes that were wrought—all emanating from a movement that for a period seemed to spiral out from Sotomayor himself.

More than 70 people crowded the gallery's screening space to experience what was, in effect, a memorial for Sotomayor, who had passed away from AIDS 25 years ago, on Feb. 5, 1992. The event brought out numerous activists to share their recollections and mix with emerging activists who are seeking inspiration for tackling the new challenges ahead both for the LGBTQ community and all the other communities of which we are a part.

Among the notables in the audience sharing their unique perspectives of that time were former 46th Ward Ald. Helen Shiller, whose work on the advancement of legislation to expand the City of Chicago's AIDS budget was driven by

her close friendship with Sotomayor; and activist Joanne Trapani, former mayor of Oak Park, who worked closely with Sotomayor on strategies to confront and confound Mayor Daley. Along with comments from activists like Bill Greaves, Richard Knight Jr., Malone Sizelove and several others, the gathering in Sotomayor's honor offered an extraordinary glimpse into the mindset and mechanics of protest and effective cross-platform engagement with people from a variety of backgrounds.

The program was conceived and produced with the assistance of the Alphawood Gallery, where the Art AIDS America/Chicago Exhibit currently features several of Sotomayor's original artworks and cartoons. Legacy LIVE is a joint venture of the Legacy Project and Center on Halsted.

### 'Gender Breakdown' Feb. 16-March 19

Gender Breakdown—Collaboration Theatre Company's first world premiere of 2017, that's a response to the lack of gender equity on and offstage—will take place Feb. 16-March 19.

According to the Dramatist's Guild, only 14 percent of plays produced in regional theaters were by U.S. white women in 2015. Only 3.4 percent were written by U.S. women of color.

Dani Bryant is the creator and Erica Vannon is the director.

Gender Breakdown will be presented in The Vault at Collaboration Studios in the Flat Iron Arts Building, 1579 N. Milwaukee Ave. Single tickets to performances are \$20-30 (\$10-\$15 for students, educators and industry); visit [Collaboration.org](http://Collaboration.org) or call 312-226-9633.

## CULTURE CLUB

Photo by Joe Mazza / Brave Lux Inc.

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## LETTERS from page 14

organization; and (2) any misconduct by the former commissioner involving misappropriation of funds would require the most serious and severe disciplinary action, with or without a settlement.

The board and the former commissioner were ultimately able to reach a settlement agreement. To be clear, this agreement does not represent a second chance or a reprieve of any kind. The former commissioner must repay the entire amount owed to CMSA, plus interest. To date, the former commissioner is still making payments. Should the former commissioner default on payments, the entire amount (including interest) will be immediately due, and the settlement agreement includes security interests and enforcement mechanisms that would facilitate much quicker enforcement than CMSA could have obtained if it had been required to file a lawsuit from the outset. The agreement also includes a lifetime ban from all CMSA activities, including permanent removal from the CMSA Hall of Fame. The agreement has no effect on possible criminal charges against the former commissioner.

While CMSA already had significant safeguards in place at the time of the unverified reimbursements, needless to say this situation has required the organization to re-evaluate these safeguards and controls. The CMSA board has since enacted new, more stringent safeguards. For example, the board lowered the reimbursement threshold triggering a requirement for specific board approval prior to purchase, and also now requires purchases exceeding a certain amount to be paid to the vendor directly by the CMSA treasurer. CMSA will continue to evaluate its financial safeguards regularly going forward as part of its annual review process.

CMSA is an all-volunteer league that has been run successfully by volunteers for decades to provide a safe and inclusive environment for LGBTQ athletes. CMSA and the board of directors take

the trust and best interests of its membership very seriously and expect CMSA's officers and commissioners to carry out their responsibilities ethically and responsibly. The board of directors hopes that this isolated and unfortunate situation will not detract from the dedicated and honest efforts of the numerous volunteers who have helped make CMSA one of the largest and most successful LGBTQ athletic organizations in the country.

Please direct all inquiries to me at president@chicagomsa.org.

*Thank you,  
CMSA President  
Michael Erwin*

*House of lies*

*An open letter to Donald Trump:*

How on earth can you be my president when you continually lie to me?

I am sick and tired of your mindless mendacity. Your latest fib is to blame Chicago's violence on "undocumented immigrants." This is a ludicrous lie. You said recently that terrorists are "pouring" into our country—another ridiculous untruth. You have no shame. And with their smiling silence, your new cabinet members are all now complicit with these lies.

Now I repeat: How can you be my president when your word is unreliable, deceptive, distracting and hurtful? I cannot trust you. And I need to have some measure of trust in the person I respect as my president. As of this date you are not my president. At best, you are a "so-called" president—your words.

*Martin Deppe  
Chicago*

## CULTURE CLUB



## steppenwolf

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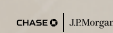
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Queen Latifah.  
Photo courtesy of Fox

NUNN ON ONE

## Queen Latifah wishes on a 'Star'

BY JERRY NUNN

Queen Latifah rules the entertainment kingdom; she acts, wries and is even a label president.

Also, she was the first hip-hop artist to gain a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, in 2006.

After her debut on Spike Lee's *Jungle Fever*, she garnered praise with Golden Globe nominations for the musical *Chicago*, the life story of HIV-positive Ana Wallace in *Life Support*, and for portraying blues singer Bessie Smith in *Bessie*. On TV, she not only starred in her own talk show but had a hit with *Living Single* for several years.

In the music world, she has six Grammy nominations under her belt.

Her latest endeavor, *Star*, is a musical drama about three talented singers. Latifah plays Carlotta Brown, the owner of an Atlanta beauty salon. Her daughter, Cotton, is played by Amiyah Scott, one of the rare trans people to have played a major trans character on a scripted television series.

Windy City Times talked to Latifah about several topics on a press call recently.

**Windy City Times: Hey, Queen. What drew you in to the character of Carlotta in the first place?**

Queen Latifah: I think how much she's been through and how many mistakes she's made in life, but how gifted she is at the same time. She's a character who is extremely flawed, who's been hurt, who's made mistakes that have had dramatic consequences on her life and her future. She still has a huge capacity to love, and she never gives up.

She still wanted to be redeemed in many ways. She's never all the way there, but she never gives up. Carlotta never stops trying. She never just completely gives in to one side. She always keeps trying to challenge and grow and change, and it doesn't necessarily look like it because she may play it real cool and calm sometimes, but she's always going through a lot underneath.

I think she's much more complicated and much more challenging for me as an actor to play than people might think because there's so many layers underneath what Carlotta is feeling that I have to find so many angles into her at all times.

When Lee throws in twists and turns which is always fun, I have to find more angles into her. It's fun, it's challenging and it's exciting for an actor. I don't get bored doing it.

**WCT: Can you talk about having a trans daughter on *Star* and what that has meant to you?**

QL: That was also one of the big draws of *Carlotta* is the fact that she has a trans daughter. Carlotta, completely different [from] Queen Latifah, but they cross over in certain ways.

The topic of being trans or having a trans child, or becoming trans later in life—these things are very topical. More importantly, the thing that [creator] Lee [Daniels] and I talked about when we developed the concept of this show and what we were interested in about this was the fact that everybody doesn't know the right thing to say. It's a new experience for a lot of people, and if we could only communicate about it, we could grow to understand each other.

You'll find that theme along a lot of lines in this show, but this particular thing is very important to us, especially since our whole relationship in beginning this whole movement came after we were at the after party for *Precious*. We kind of hung, and we got on the topic of *Paris is Burning*, and how much we both loved that movie and how some of the people in that movie were high school classmates of mine or friends that I knew from hanging out in the clubs in my teenage years. His young years he kind of crossed a lot for the same places and how we wanted build that understanding.

At the same time, you can't always fault people for what they don't understand. You always have to try to build a bridge. We wanted to show the conversation. We hear about those conversations, especially when Caitlyn Jenner became Caitlyn Jenner. It became a huge topic of conversation, but some of it was sort of trivialized, stereotyped or overblown, but what was missing was the actual conversation what was had to get from point A to point Z.

We wanted to show those actual conversations, what challenges people go through, what Cotton is feeling. Let's just start with what Cotton is feeling and why Cotton feels this way and what Cotton is going through. Then, let's deal with Carlotta and what she's feeling and what she's going through and how can a mother and child build a bridge between each other when they both love each other but they're worlds apart on so many other things.

Those were the things that were important to us to really show, and not just show in one episode, but really to carry it through a whole season, carry it through a whole arc and really, really get down and dirty with it. Not just show the pretty sides of it, but show the uglier sides of it so that everybody can gain a better understanding on their own, form their own opinions.

**WCT: With Carlotta and Pastor Bobby [played by Tyrese Gibson] just finding out that their daughter is trans, is that going to change their relationship?**

QL: Well, I think what's interesting about Carlotta and Pastor Bobby is they are both very flawed people who had a very checkered past and found Jesus. They found some peace and growth and forgiveness in Jesus by following Jesus. But,

their lives are still what their lives are, and they come with the baggage they come with and their experiences, so I think what you're going to see is that they also greatly care for each other. They're in love, so Pastor Bobby is one of the few sweet spots in Carlotta's life.

All of these truths are going to make it a lot more messy, and it was one of the easy escapes. It was like going to the movies for her. For a couple of hours, she could escape from everything going on in her life and just be in church, be in his arms and have someone who could care for her for a change where she's normally caring for everything else.

I think she tried to protect that relationship from her life to just hold on to this little piece of Heaven for as long as she could, but now that things are starting to come out, he wanted to be more in her life, he wanted to get into it, and now he's going to get it. She may be surprised by his response to it.

She still loves him, and there's a lot of love there, but the fact that she kept secrets from him is probably what hurts him most, and the concern about how he'll react to the whole truth of her is what may concern her most, so we're going to see that explored, and it's going to take—there's going to be some powerful television coming up, like something you've never seen on TV in the next couple episodes.

I think definitely tune into that because it's something I've never seen and I've never done, and actually knowing Tyrese Gibson and Amiyah Scott in real life, and them knowing me, it was one for the hardest things we've had to play this whole season because we have such love and care for each other.

To go where these characters had to go to be honest, oh man, we all had to hug each other afterward and cry. The tears did not stop when they said, "Cut." We needed a moment to pull ourselves together just to go on the next take because it took so much out of us.

I hope everybody checks it out.

**WCT: How much input did you put in for the wigs you wear on *Star*?**

QL: The idea definitely came from Lee. Carlotta is not a stereotype. She is someone we know, but the women we know love to spend time on their hair. Hair is very important, particularly in the Black community. Even though she's busy running a business and has many hairstylists around, she doesn't really have time to really do her own hair like that, so wigs are a way of her changing up her look, expressing herself, doing something a little different, and keeping it fresh.

Part of how she does have a lot of expression and difference inside of her that she kind of gets to let out through these wigs. She's not afraid to take chances on it. It's also maybe a little advertisement, a little display of what the shop can do and connecting to the community.

These wigs are not primarily very expensive wigs. I think if anything costs over \$20, then Lee will pretty much call me and tell me to take it off, because he makes sure that we connect to a community that is really shopping in that price point but still wants to look good, and still wants to express themselves even if they don't have a

Turn to page 27



# Faith groups to host diverse, trans-inclusive Evanston book fair

BY GRETCHEN RACHEL HAMMOND

Novelist Marcel Proust once noted that “there are perhaps no days of our childhood we lived so fully as those we spent with a favorite book.”

InterfaithFamily (IFF)/Chicago, the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation (JRC) in Evanston and PJ Library (a program of the Harold Grinspoon Foundation which sends free Jewish children’s books and music to kids and families across the world) have teamed up for a Feb. 26 book fair at the JRC which promises not only to introduce a child to their new favorite book but open their eyes to the magnificently diverse world in which they can live “so fully.”

Rabbi Ari Moffic is the Director of InterfaithFamily Chicago—a local office of the organization dedicated to supporting interfaith families exploring Jewish life.

She told Windy City Times that the idea for the book fair was seeded following an introduction to author Jessica Herthel who co-wrote the 2014 children’s bestseller *I am Jazz* about the life of celebrated transgender spokesperson Jazz Jennings.

“Jessica graciously offered to come into Chicago and share the book, how she came to write it and the lessons from it,” Moffic said. “So we took her up on it. The JRC were not only willing to host but put in a lot of volunteer and talent effort towards what now has become a book fair on increasing the diversity of the books we read to our kids.”

The event has blossomed in size and scope with nine different organizations participating including IFF/Chicago, JRC, the Jewish Child and Family Services (JCFS) Response Center and Project Esther, Keshet, the Illinois Holocaust Museum, the Evanston Public Library, Illinois Safe Schools Alliance and Education Center and Spiritual Playdate.

Each will be bringing their favorite children’s and family books available to read. Some will also be available to purchase on the day of the fair through the Evanston store Book Ends and Beginnings.

They are works which beautifully weave illustrations, poetry and prose into understanding about adoption, LGBTQ families and children, Jewish spirituality, bullying, Latino life, Autism, Downs Syndrome immigration and a host of other stories crafted from an increasingly multifaceted world.

“As an out lesbian, it’s important to me that we are modeling the diverse ways in which we create Jewish families and in which they come together,” JRC Rabbi Rachel Weiss said. “I’m really mindful of the books I read to my kids and the books that I want to read to the children of a 500-household congregation. If we want to build the skills, empathies and abilities for our kids to be allies to people who are different than they

are, then it has to start with giving them the education of who and what people who are different than them are about.”

“We’re a congregation where Jewish families don’t just look one way,” Weiss added. “They are multifait and multiracial. Some kids join their families through adoption, some have two parents, one parent, queer and straight, coming from different cultures all within one family. Oftentimes we don’t have adequate kids’ books that reflect who our families actually are.”

It was sentiment echoed by both Moffic and JRC Gender Inclusion Taskforce Co-Chair Juliet Berger-White.

“IFF/Chicago took the lead to organize this book fair because our mission is to help create and sustain inclusive Jewish communities and these books showcase the beautiful diversity of families who we want to celebrate and see represented in organized Jewish life,” Moffic stated.

“The Gender Inclusion Taskforce is looking at all the systems within JRC to ensure it is an inclusive space for people of all gender identities and gender expressions,” Berger-White added. “An event such as this is one of the many outgrowths of that work.”

Herthel will serve as the keynote speaker for the book fair. She will be joined by three other renowned writers Gracefully Grayson author Ami Polonsky, *Jazzy’s Quest* co-author Carrie Goldman and *The Golden Rule* author and Chicagoan Ilene Cooper.

They won’t be the only ones reading selections from their books.

Members of the JRC’s community comprising all gender identities and expressions will also participate.

Unfortunately, books dealing with diversity which focus in particular on LGB and, most recently, transgender lives and families have been the targets of vitriolic hatred from conservative groups who accuse authors of “indoctrination” into what they believe is a “leftist/liberal agenda.”

“One of the dangers that has happened in this country, politically and in the Jewish world is that the only religious voice is the most conservative,” Weiss asserted. “The religious left has ceded a public voice to the more orthodox or conservative. It’s important for us to raise up the fact that the Jewish world has a strong, progressive voice. It’s an important value in Judaism that there’s not just one way to be a Jew. We need to model that for our kids. We want to raise kids who are fluent in the language of diversity.”

“People can say to themselves ‘why would I read to my child a book about someone who is transgender? It might open a can of worms and I don’t know if I want them thinking about their gender,’” Moffic added. “But learning about people who are different from yourself can enrich you and your understanding of who you are and



From left: Rabbi Rachel Weiss, Juliet Berger-White and Rabbi Ari Moffic.

Photo by Gretchen Rachel Hammond

your neighbor.”

“Fear and pushback about an event such as this emphasizes the need for an event such as this,” Berger-White said. “The fear is grounded in a lack of understanding and education.”

Open to all, organizers of the book fair—which is open from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 26—are on a mission to change all that with the kind of imaginative magic not only children

but their parents and family will thoroughly enjoy.

For more information about InterfaithFamily/Chicago, visit: [InterfaithFamily.com/elgg/pg/groups/82847/chicagoland](https://www.interfaithfamily.com/elgg/pg/groups/82847/chicagoland). For more information about the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation (JRC), visit <https://www.jrc-ewanston.org>.

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## QUEEN! @ SMART BAR

Shea Coulee and Darling Squire slay.  
Photos by Erik M. Kommer ([www.ErikMKommer.com](http://www.ErikMKommer.com))



## SIA 'SYNC-IT @ SIDETRACK

Showing face and voice, Wed., February 8.  
Photos by Jed Dulanias

## the DISH

Weekly Dining Guide in  
WINDY CITY TIMES

### SAVOR Latinicity/ Pata Negra

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Variety is the spice of life. That's the idea behind **Latinicity Food Hall and Lounge** (108 N. State St.; [Latinicity.com](http://Latinicity.com)), described on its website as "a multi-sensory experience featuring 10 innovative kitchens, a tapas restaurant, coffee cafe, full bar, market and lounge." The venue also aims to bring elements of Spain, Portugal and Latin America to Chica-



Tacos at Latinicity.  
Photo by Andrew Davis

go—and, in a lot of way, it succeeds. Among the items that are available salads, grilled chicken, sushi (reflecting the Japanese influence in Peru) and burgers (that sport a Latin twist).

I recently tried a variety of items, and came away understanding why Latinicity is so crowded. The lomo saltado with quinoa was delicious and

I'd definitely return for the tres leches cake. However, the chicken torta was only serviceable and the tacos were delicious but cooled quickly—reminding me of my Chipotle experiences.

However, I also got to go to Pata Negra ([Latinicity.com/patanegra](http://Latinicity.com/patanegra))—a separate restaurant within Latinicity—and had a much less uneven experience. In fact, I highly recommend this Block 37 spot.

**Pata Negra** specializes in tapas divided into several categories, including charcuterie and cheese, meat or fish, and other classifications. (By the way, starting with sangrias is a great way to begin the meal.)

The chorizo pamploña (15 slices) is smoky and tasty, and the garlic shrimp was pretty delicious as well. However, don't even think of leaving Pata Negra without trying the cauliflower, which is easily the best dish there. (It wasn't listed online when I last looked, so definitely check to see if it's there.) Also, save room for dessert, as the creme brulee is practically impossible to resist.

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



Pata Negra's coliflor rostisada.  
PR photo





## BILLY Masters

Palm Springs, March 2000. I was cast in Ronnie Larsen's new play, *Shooting Porn*—not to be confused with his hit play *Making Porn*. *Shooting Porn* is the stage version of his award-winning documentary, also called *Shooting Porn*. Ronnie may have some good ideas, but the well runs dry when it comes to titles! This play had opened a few months earlier in LA, and Ronnie asked me to take over the role of the narrator when it moved to Palm Springs with most of the original cast.

While I'm sure there was drama (there always is), I look back on this experience quite nostalgically. And now, almost 17 years later, *Shooting Porn* is playing at the Empire Stage in Fort Lauderdale. Although I wasn't available to reprise my role, I was able to help out during the rehearsal period. It's been fun working with Kyle Garcia, who plays my part and makes it his own. Watching Ronnie once again transform into the Chi Chi La Rue of the 1990s is nothing short of staggering. The talented and attractive cast is enhanced (in more ways than one) by actor and DNA fitness model **Adam Davenport**—he's as nice as he is stunning. The first week was completely sold out, and I predict a healthy run through March 12. What few tickets are left can be purchased at [RonnieLarsen.com](http://RonnieLarsen.com).

Whenever we get complacent about the strides the LGBT community has made, we only have to turn on the news to remember that we have miles to go. Someone (or some people) spray-painted "Fuck Trannies" and "Fuck all yall" on the side of the Los Angeles LGBT Center. The wall was repainted in a matter of hours. Surveillance footage is being reviewed in hopes of catching the perpetrators—who are perhaps in need of a dictionary.

A French-Cuban gay porn star recently ran into trouble at Ben Gurion Airport in Israel. **Ibrahim Moreno** (no relation to Rita) flew to Tel Aviv to "perform" in a club. Moreno claims that he was targeted when entering the country because of his Muslim name. "Believed the worst would have happened but, no...it was only a sign of what would come later." When it was time to fly home, Ibrahim was detained for close to three hours and interrogated by four customs officials. His luggage was thoroughly examined, many of his toiletries were discarded and he was strip-searched! Israel's version of TSA says it did nothing unusual and that "items that are prohibited on flights in hand luggage are confiscated as is the norm all over the world."

**Melania Trump** has filed a \$150-million lawsuit against The Daily Mail for repeating a rumor that she may have once been an escort. What I find interesting is the wording of the suit. It is alleged that Trump was poised to embark on a "unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, as an extremely famous and well-known person, as well as a former professional model, brand spokesperson and successful businesswoman, to launch a broad-based commercial brand in multiple product categories, each of which could have garnered multi-million dollar business relationships



**Adam Davenport is spicing up things in Fort Lauderdale, Billy says.**  
Instagram photo

for a multi-year term during which plaintiff is one of the most photographed women in the world." I took special note of the term "could have." I also wonder how the reporting of this rumor thwarted such an opportunity. Kim Kardashian was videotaped being banged around like a human pinata, and it made her a star!

In short order, little **Garrett Clayton** appeared as Brent Corrigan in *King Cobra* and headlined NBC's live presentation of *Hairspray*. Now he's sharing the stage with **Judith Light** and **Al Pacino**! The Pasadena Playhouse is hosting a developmental run of a new play about Tennessee Williams called *God Looked Away*. Pacino, naturally, is playing Tenn and Clayton has been cast as his rental companion. Needless to say, while costumes are not necessarily mandatory, acting chops are. We hear that Clayton gets to flex his thespianistic muscles while showing off some of his more superficial ones—and does so with aplomb. The play runs through March 19, but you can get a glimpse of him in action on [BillyMasters.com](http://BillyMasters.com).

Yet another perfect segue into an "Ask Billy" question. Patrick in Texas writes, "Whatever happened to that **James Franco** movie about XY magazine? That hot boy from 'Teen Wolf' was in it. Did it ever come out?"

I Am Michael played a few film festivals and got a little buzz. But, like most James Franco movies, it was considered too uneven and artsy. It turned up OnDemand a week or two ago, so you can check it out there. I suspect most of you will be specifically interested in the three-way scene between Franco, **Zachary Quinto** and **Charlie Carver**. Since it's worth seeing, I'll post it on [BillyMasters.com](http://BillyMasters.com).

When three isn't a crowd, it's time to end yet another column. I hate to toot my own horn, but it's time for a little celebration. It's once again Billy's birthday. And you can join in the festivities on [www.BillyMasters.com](http://www.BillyMasters.com)—the site that doesn't look its age. Feel free to send your best wishes along to me at [Billy@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Billy@BillyMasters.com) and I promise to get back to you before Garrett Clayton appears in his first Ronnie Larsen production! So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

## LATIFAH from page 24

lot of money.

That's something people connect to. This is still a way of her feeling special even in the midst of everything going crazy around her.

**WCT: Thank you so much for marrying many of the gay community at the Grammys. It meant so much to people and must have been a great experience you, too.**

**QL: You know, it was a great experience, and two of my best friends got married, and I didn't even know they were getting married until they wanted to have my name on their marriage certificate. That situation has the same gravitas that I'm talking about in this situation by having a trans daughter on Star.**

I wish you could see behind the scenes, the things that I thought about and went through to actually do that. These are the kind of conversations that are important to have to really allow everyone to move everything forward but to have real conversations all along the way.

**Look for Latifah Wednesdays at 8 p.m. CT on Fox.**



## TELEVISION

# Gender non-binary actor set to star on 'Billions'

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Performer, writer and director Asia Kate Dillon will be debuting in the groundbreaking role of Taylor on Showtime's *Billions* this season.

Both Dillon and the character they (Dillon's preferred pronoun) play are playing are gender non-binary identifying. This marks the first time a gender non-binary identifying actor has ever been cast in a major television series.

"I will be appearing in every episode of season two," said Dillon. "Seeing a character like Taylor navigate the murky world of finance and step out of their comfort zone are the things people should watch out for."

When asked about their experience on set, Dillon said that everyone is kind, funny, charming and real. They noted that in terms of their character, co-creators/writers/showrunners Brian Koppelman and David Levien (who are both self-identifying white, straight, cisgender men) said it was an organic process to add a gender non-binary identifying character to the show as opposed to it being just a social justice statement.

"It wasn't until after I was cast in the role that I spoke with Brian and David about my self-identifying as non-binary," said Dillon. "They did seek out non-binary identifying people to consult with them as they were creating the Taylor character and writing Taylor's initial dialogue. They were extremely forthright in asking me questions, admitting their ignorance in certain areas regarding gender identity and were always willing to have any conversation I wanted to have about it. I admire and respect both Brian and David for the way they've handled my character and interacted with me on set."

Acting has been a part of Dillon's life since they were a kid growing up in Ithaca, New York.

Dillon noted that they can point to three moments that stand out in their early life that awakened the performer in them—when they saw the movie *Stand by Me* for the first time when they were two years old, seeing a Michael Jackson performance when they were four years old and acting in a Hans Christian Andersen play while in kindergarten.

"I never questioned what I was supposed to be doing when it came to my acting career path," said Dillon. "I feel like I've always known this was inside of me and I've continued to uncover and discover it as I've gotten older. After that kindergarten performance, I continued to do whatever I could as a theater performer including the spring or fall plays or musicals. My mother enrolled me in the Next Generation School of Acting in town which was geared toward youth ages 8-18. I was in voice lessons and took dance classes."

Dillon also attended the Actor's Workshop of Ithaca—a Meisner training program—when they were still in high school.

"When I graduated from Lehman Alternative Community High School, I went to a two year conservatory program at the American Musical Dramatic Academy (AMDA) in New York City," said Dillon. "After I completed the program at AMDA, I went back to Ithaca to complete my Meisner training."

Prior to *Billions*, Dillon's other notable role was in the fourth season of Netflix's *Orange Is the New Black* (OITNB) as Brandy Epps—a neo-Nazi skinhead with a confederate flag tattoo on her neck who joined Piper's white pride movement.

"Brandy is the polar opposite of me," said Dillon. "I'm a Black Lives Matter activist. Being a social justice activist has been something close to my heart for a long time. As an actor, what I want is a challenge in a role and playing Brandy

was both an emotional and physical challenge. Part of my job as an actor and professional is to leave my character at work. The producers were counting on that so it was my responsibility to show up as myself, put on the wardrobe and play the character and leave it behind when I left the set for the day."

They also appeared in one episode each of Netflix's *Master of None* and TV Land's *Younger*.

"*Younger* was my first one-liner on a TV show,"



Asia Kate Dillon (right).  
Still courtesy of Showtime

said Dillon. "I remember thinking while I was there how right it all felt to arrive on set, get into costume and perform my scene. It was wonderful."

Dillon remarked that working on *Master of None* was a revelation for them because Aziz Ansari had so many hats on during the episode—co-producer, co-director, co-writer and actor.

"I was very impressed with Aziz," said Dillon.

In early 2016, Dillon co-founded MIRROR/FIRE Productions Inc. and serves as its president. Through MIRROR/FIRE, Dillon created, curated and directed *US*.

"It's an evening of storytelling followed by a talkback," said Dillon. "It puts a magnifying glass to racism in the United States in an attempt to uncover the ideological systems that continue to

purposely oppress and separate us from our humanity. The evening uses original text as well as audio and video footage to drive the Black Lives Matter conversation forward. The most recent talkback was moderated by myself and two of my former OITNB co-stars Amanda Stephen who played Alison and Miriam Morales who played Ramona."

Dillon's goal is to get *US* in front of as many audiences as possible because they want to spread

the message of Black Lives Matter through art.

"I'm light-skinned but was labeled white at birth," said Dillon. "The opening of the *US* piece is a monologue I perform which explains my connection to Black Lives Matter."

When Dillon isn't working on their craft; they like to spend time with family and friends, listen to music, read books and listen to podcasts.

*Billions* premieres Feb. 19 and will run through the spring. Episodes are also available On Demand.

See <http://mirrorfire.org/> for more information on Dillon's production company. Dillon can also be found on twitter <https://twitter.com/AsiaKateDillon> and instagram <https://www.instagram.com/heeeysia/?hl=en>.

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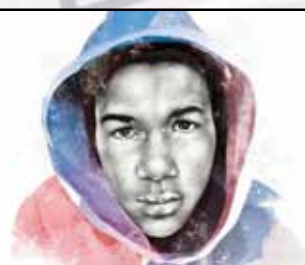
Center on Halsted provides free confidential services here first and third Wednesdays, #108 1:00pm - 5:00pm Affinity Community Services, 2850 S. Wabash Ave. #108 <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/the-nxt-lvl/>

**ACTIVISM: A Social Justice Series**

Showcasing a specific local social justice organization one weeknight each month with their mission, Q&A, and action plan for how attendees can get involved. This session features Chicago Women's Health Center. 7:00pm - 8:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St., Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/event/activism-series-chicago-womens-health-center>

**Thursday, Feb. 16**

**Trayvon Martin event** Chicago Humanities Festival, DuSable Museum of African American History and the Chicago Urban League will present Sybrina Fulton and Tracy Martin—the parents of Trayvon Martin—for a discussion about justice and their son. 6:00pm - 7:15pm First United Methodist Church at The Chicago

**TALKING JUSTICE  
Feb. 16-17**

**Trayvon Martin-related events will take place throughout Chicago.**

Image from Chicago Humanities Festival

Temple, 77 W. Washington St. 312-494-9509 Tickets: <http://tickets.Chicago-Humanities.org>

**Friday, Feb. 17**

**Chicago Auto Show** North America's largest auto show shows domestic and imported passenger cars, trucks, sport-utility vehicles, minivans and concept

cars. Admission \$13 adults, \$7 seniors 62+ and kids 7-12, kids 0-6 free. Through Feb. 20 7:00am McCormick Place, 2301 S. Lake Shore Dr. Chicago-AutoShow.com

**The Midwest Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay, Transgender, and Ally College Conference (MBGLTACC)** Resource fair opens at 2pm. #BlackLivesMatter co-founder and openly queer performance artist Patrisse Cullors gives opening address. 6:00pm Navy Pier 600 E Grand Ave Chicago <https://mblgtacc.org>

**LGBTQ Artists' Gallery Opening** Cash bar available. Ervin A. Johnson, 2nd Floor Gallery. In observance of Black History Month. Robert Constant & Arcangelo Vincent Scalici, 3rd Floor Gallery. Sight Unseen (photo diptychs). \$5 suggested donation. Questions to Yossi Held, [yheld@centeronhalsted.org](mailto:yheld@centeronhalsted.org) 6:00pm - 8:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/newevents-details.cfm?ID=12835>

**Trayvon Martin event** Chicago Humanities Festival, DuSable Museum of African American History and the Chicago Urban League will present Sybrina Fulton and Tracy Martin—the parents of Trayvon Martin—for a discussion about justice and their son. 6:00pm - 7:15pm DuSable Museum 40 E 56th Pl Chicago 773-947-0600 Tickets: <http://DusableMuseum.org/events>

**LookOut Presents Unicorn Gratitude Mystery, by Karen Finley** Two weekends

of acerbic riveting performances taking on politics, sexuality, trauma, and national policy. Renowned performance artist and activist Finley was one the artists known as the NEA4 with a suit with the Supreme Court. Through Feb. 18, 2017. Doors 7:30pm. \$25 8:00pm Steppenwolf 1650 N Halsted Chicago Tickets: <https://www.steppenwolf.org/tickets--events/seasons/2016-17/unicorn-gratitude-mystery/>

**Saturday, Feb. 18**

**Mommy & Me Coloring Event** W&CF will provide kid-friendly coloring sheets and other art supplies, along with cookies and hot cocoa. The theme this month is French Impressionism and features the artwork of Karlene Bland. Great for ages 2 and up. Moms are encouraged to stay and join in the class. Suggested donation: \$10 per family (one parent and up to 2 kids) to cover art supplies and treats. 3:00pm - 4:00pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N. Clark St.; <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/event/mommy-me-coloring-cocoa-party>

**Kathy Griffin** In her true element: live onstage. First show 6pm. Tickets from \$115 9:00pm North Shore Center for the Performing Arts 9501 Skokie Blvd. Skokie, IL 60077 Tickets: <https://www.chicago-theater.com/theaters/center-east-theatre/tickets.php?eventName=Kathy+Griffin&cmsEventId=55&month=2&year=2017>

**Monday, Feb. 20**

**S.A.F.E presents the 2nd annual LGBTQ Veteran Meet & Greet** Mix and mingle with veterans. Vendors, singers, representatives from other nonprofits serving veterans are welcome. \$5 donation. Facebook.com/Sheissafe2015. Questions to she\_is\_safe@safeenlistee.org 3:00pm - 8:30pm Jeffery Pub 7041 S Jeffery Blvd Chicago <http://sheissafe>

**Wed., Feb. 22**

**A Call to Rise** Community meeting. Free. For more information, contact Tamale Sepp at [tsepp@centeronhalsted.org](mailto:tsepp@centeronhalsted.org) 6:00pm - 8:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/newevents-details.cfm?ID=14046>

**Art-Based Supervision: Cultivating Therapeutic Insight Through Imagery**

This workshop offers an opportunity to look at relationships in a new way. Images, like dreams, can bring new insights. Barbara Fish, author of Art-Based Supervision, introduces the way therapists use imagery to deepen their understanding of their relationships with their clients. Drawing materials will be provided. The cost of this workshop is \$10, payable by cash or check. 7:00pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com/event/art-therapy-workshop-barbara-fish>

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