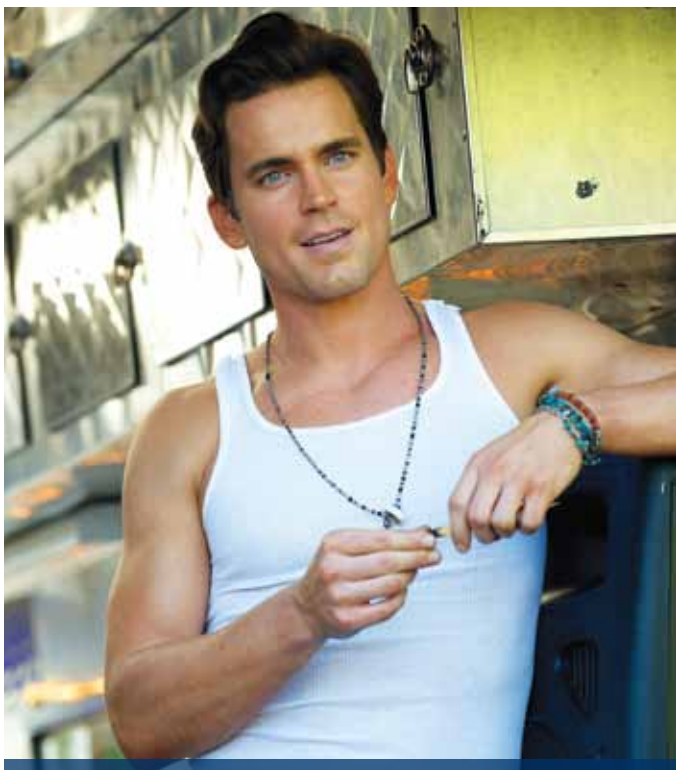
WINDY CITY TIMES

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

VOL 30, NO. 41 JULY 8, 2015

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com



MAGIC MATT

WCT talks with Magic Mike XXL actor Matt Bomer.
Photo courtesy of Warner Bros.
17

AMIGAS LATINAS



Amigas Latinas leadership throughout the years.
Photo by Carrie Maxwell

Leaders reflect on activism as organization folds

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

This month, Amigas Latinas will be folding after 20 years of support, advocacy and education for Chicago-area LGBTQ Latinas.

Co-founded in 1995 by Evette Cardona, Mona Noriega, Alicia Amador, Aurora Pineda, Karen Rothstein-Pineda, Norma Seledon, Mary Torres and Lydia Vega, Amigas Latinas grew from a monthly discussion group (platicas) to a non-profit organization providing services and events for LGBTQ Latinas and their allies.

On the eve of Amigas Latinas' final event, a number of leaders from over the years reflected on their time with the organization and how they feel about the organization ending. Although Amigas Latinas is folding, the organization's materials will be housed at the Gerber/Hart Library and Archives, and be made available to anyone seeking information about the organization. The library continues to accept materials from the organization to add to the archives.

Cardona—vice-president of programs for the Polk Bros. Foundation and Amigas Latinas' first board president—said that establishing the Aixa Diaz Latina Youth Scholarship Fund after Diaz, one of Amigas Latinas' other co-founders who died in 1999, was really important because it gave the organization an opportunity to support young Latina queer activists who were actively fighting homophobia in their schools and/or communities.

"With the recent Pride Parade I've been remembering when Amigas had their own float and the crowd would go wild when they saw us because I'd like to think that they weren't expecting a Latina queer float to come by with 50 women just wallowing in our lesbianism," said Cardona."I've had fun marching in the parade over the years but the best times were when Amigas had a float and I was marching with them."

Cardona noted that starting the Amiguitas Youth Group and doing service provider training for larger Latin@ organizations on how to better serve Latin@ queers as well as helping mainstream LGBTQ organizations figure out how to deal with Latin@ LGBTQ people were also important work that Amigas Latinas did. She also explained that the family work that they did, including picnics and discussion groups with children of queer Latinas, was also very exciting.

"I want people to know that so many things were different 20 years ago," said Cardona. "When we first started Amigas we could've never envisioned marriage or two women choosing to have children together and being out as a family. We couldn't have envisioned all the Latina queer women who are in positions of power and influence as they are now, whether it's Mona working for the City of Chicago [as the chair and commissioner of the Commission on Human Relations], me in my job or Alicia [Vega] being the vice-president of youth development at the Boys and Girls Club of Chicago, because you don't get more American than the Boys and Girls Club."

"In terms of Amigas folding, it was time," said Cardona. "That single need for one space where all Latina lesbians could gather isn't true anymore because we are everywhere. I always say that 20 years of organizing in the LGBTQ community is measured in dog years, not people years."

Noriega, Cardona's wife and founding board member of Amigas Latinas, said she really enjoyed all the family events as well as addressing intersectionality within the organization because part of what made Amigas Latinas important to her

Turn to page 6



IMMIGRATION

ICE updates guidelines.
Photo of Keren Zwick by Gretchen Rachel Hammond.
8

nightspots

NOW A WEEKLY SECTION IN WINDY CITY TIMES!
18-20



JAZZ JENNINGS

Trans teen talks as her new reality show, I Am Jazz, is set to debut.
16

Kinky Boots
BROADWAY'S HUGE-HEARTED HIT!

WINNER!
BEST MUSICAL
2013 TONY AWARD

NOW THROUGH JULY 26 ONLY!
Cadillac Palace
800-775-2000 • BROADWAY IN CHICAGO.COM
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ALL BROADWAY IN CHICAGO BOX OFFICES AND TICKETMASTER RETAIL LOCATIONS
GROUPS 10+: 312-977-1710 • KINKYBOOTSTHEMUSICAL.COM

Dr. Yates, MD

The Hair Loss Medical Doctor

HAIR LOSS? We Have the ANSWER.



After 8 hours of Expert Hair Restoration work with Dr. Yates, you can look like this in 6 months!

NO SCARS. NO PAIN. NO STITCHES.

We only offer New Technology with the ARTAS Robotic Hair Transplant System and FUE (Follicular Unit Extraction), PRP (Platelet Rich Plasma) and Stem Cell Therapy

STAY THICK



A: 565 Lakeview Parkway Ste. 108, Vernon Hills, IL 60061 | 50 E Washington, Ste. 200 Chicago, IL
W: dryateshairscience.com | P: 312.261.0872

WINDY CITY TIMES

INDEX

NEWS

Episcopalians OK marriage; column	4
Analyzing the marriage decision	5
Amigas Latinas: Looking back	6
Chicago LGBT veterans salute	7
ICE's updated guidelines	8
CAPS meeting; party uproar	10
World Cup win and LGBTs	11
Senior Moments; Gardenhire	12

ENTERTAINMENT/EVENTS

Dancin' Feats	13
Trans TV star Jazz Jennings	16
Matt Bomer interview	17
NIGHTSPOTS	18

OUTLINES

Calendar Q	21
Classifieds	22

DOWNLOAD THIS ISSUE

AND BROWSE THE ARCHIVES AT WWW.WINDYCITYTIMES.COM



online exclusives at www.WindyCityTimes.com



ROCK ON

Bent Nights reviews one of U2's recent concerts at the United Center.

Photo of U2's Bono by Vern Hester

STAGE BRIGHT



Windy City Times reviews the theatrical production Matawan (above), and spotlights the musical Join the Club!

Photo by Jeff Bivins

PUTTING ON A CLINIC

Open Door Clinic held a grand-opening celebration for its Elgin facility.

KENYA BELIEVE IT?

Black Pride celebrations took place around Chicago, including one at Metro Chicago with reality-TV star Kenya Moore.

THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Marc Jacobs, Betty Buckley and Ellen DeGeneres.

plus

DAILY BREAKING NEWS

'GIRL' POWER



Windy City Times talked with author Caitlin Moran (How to Build a Girl), who's been called the British Lena Dunham.

Photo by Mark Harrison

nightspots

THE FINAL PRIDE ISSUE

/nightspots

nightspotschicago



WINDY CITY QUEERCAST QUEER AND NOW

THE QUEERCAST FAREWELL: PART TWO

Show #632



www.WindyCityQueercast.com

artfest MICHIGAN AVENUE



Art. Own it.

Friday July 10 10a-7p

Saturday July 11 10a-7p

Sunday July 12 10a-5p

In Pioneer Court
Michigan Avenue at the River

AMDUR PRODUCTIONS 847-926-4300

ArtfestMichiganAvenue.com

ARTZIPPER.COM YOUR ONLINE ART GALLERY

$500 OFF

ALL CLEAR BRACES

Chicago Six Month Braces is an effective, safe and affordable way to get straight teeth in an average of 6 months. FREE EVALUATION!



CHICAGO 6 MONTH BRACES

CALL FOR YOUR FREE EVALUATION

773-878-7467

5503 N. Clark Street, Chicago

www.chicago6monthbraces.com

Episcopalians vote for marriage equality

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Bishops of the Episcopal Church, on July 1, approved a measure authorizing clergy nationwide to perform same-sex marriages. The vote came at the denomination's general convention in Salt Lake City.

Resolutions passed that day replaced "man and woman" with more gender-neutral language in traditional marriage liturgies and endorsed recent liturgies developed for same-sex couples.

The news will have a larger impact on some dioceses more than others, according to officials from the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago, depending on how supportive local officials had been of marriage equality.

Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, director of Networking for the Diocese, said that the ruling allows LGBT couples to utilize either traditional liturgy or new wordings.

"We're saying to same-sex couples, you can have either set of words—here are the words you grew up hearing," she explained. "Locally, the impact is minimal—we carry on as before. But the vote gives us cause to rejoice, because this option is now available across the nation."

The Episcopal Church has allowed individual bishops to authorize blessings and legal weddings for several years. Bishop Jeffrey Lee authorized same-sex marriages in Chicago-area churches when they became legal in Illinois. He did not go to Salt Lake City due to a family emergency, but, on June 26, he published a statement supporting the Supreme Court decision on marriage equality.

"I support civil marriage equality simply because I believe in equal protection under the law," Lee wrote. "I support sacramental marriage equality because I believe that the union of two persons in heart, body and mind is a school of holiness, a way of ordering our lives so that we might learn to be more faithful servants of Christ. Such unions can be sources and signs of grace, both for the couple and for the wider community, and we need all of the grace we can get."

Rev. Nikki Seeger, who is priest in charge at St. Michael's Church in Lansing, Michigan, praised the July 1 vote.

"I'm a pastored lesbian who can now get married in the church that I love and serve," said Seeger, adding that the decision "upholds the dignity of every human being in the church."



Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows, director of Networking for the Diocese.
Facebook photo

No priest can be compelled to perform a same-sex marriage, nor can a bishop be compelled to allow them in their diocese. Congregants must be directed to venues where they are available, however. Marriage equality remains a controversial subject throughout the Anglican Communion, of which the Episcopal Church is a part.

"Most people here [in Salt Lake City] were absolutely overjoyed at the passing of these resolutions," Seeger said. "I was walking through the hallway and I saw a woman in tears. But then I remembered that those might not be tears of joy. My prayer is that, in our joy, we're going to still be sensitive to those who are not yet supportive."

Seeger and her partner, who are former Chicago residents, first had a commitment ceremony in 2003 and were legally wed in California in 2013. Seeger said she would consider another ceremony under the auspices of the church. "I actually would like to, as a witness of what the church does, and as an agent of change."

The new rules will take effect at the beginning of Advent, according to Baskerville-Burrows.

@windycitytimes1

CONSENT
IS HOT
RAPE
IS NOT
sex without consent is rape

RVA is proud to serve LGBTQ communities.

How You Can Make A Difference
» Volunteer your time
» Make a donation to RVA
» Educate yourself & others about rape
» Learn about resources like rape crisis centers

RVA provides:
» Crisis intervention
» Medical Advocacy
» Legal Advocacy
» Individual, Couples and Family Counseling
» Support Groups
» Prevention Education
» Professional Training
» Volunteer and Internship Opportunities

Specialized services for: children and youth, seniors, LGBTQ people, people with disabilities, people involved in the sex trade.

All services are free and confidential, and available to anyone who is a victim of sexual violence.

Chicago Rape Crisis Hotline 888-293-2080

RVA
Rape Victim Advocates
rapevictimadvocates.org
312.443.9603

Time Out



BY REV. LOIS MCCULLEN PARR

For everything there's a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.
— Ecclesiastes 3

At 57, there are moments I remember watching history being made: President Kennedy's assassination; Dr. King's funeral. I was a child, with my family. My parents explained the gravity, the significance.

As an adult: 9/11. I was a pastor—called to comfort; called to dinner with my Muslim neighbors.

As an adult: President Obama's election. The first campaign I'd worked on in many years—on my Sabbath days I traveled to swing states, working side by side with young Black students who imagined a new world.

Last year I traveled to Ferguson and followed the young queer people of color, leaders of the #blacklivesmatter movement, who lead us to shut down all the freeways into downtown St. Louis.

And recently: marriage equality for our nation.

I'm experiencing it in a kind of dream-like way, sitting at my dining room table in a new home in Albion, Michigan, watching it unfold on social media. I'm with my spouse. We are alternately crying at the funeral of Rev. Clementa Pinckney in Charleston, listening to our President preach about grace, talk about race, and sing.

All afternoon my friends who are LGBTQ and allies are posting photos of their weddings, of themselves on Halsted Street, in dusty rainbow profiles.

For the last six years as a pastor in Boystown, Halsted Street has been my parish. We've worked toward Marriage Equality in Illinois on phonebanks in our church classrooms and up the street at community centers, in Springfield, in press conferences, in clergy gatherings. We've celebrated for our state, screaming together in the parking lot at 7-11 on Halsted and Cornelia the day the legislature voted. Present at Gov. Quinn's signature, singing and dancing in triumph.

Tonight I sit in a friend's basement, ready to leave the country tomorrow from O'Hare, missing the Chicago Pride Parade for the first time in 17 years (my first as a seminarian; last year, driving the van for the Coalition of Welcoming Churches).

It's a weird kind of body experience—feeling bereft that I'm not celebrating this moment in LGBTQ history with the people I've had the privilege to serve as pastor for the last six years at Broadway United Methodist Church, people whose weddings I've officiated, people who've been waiting for this day, this victory.

Yet I'm reading about Bree, who climbed a flagpole to take down the confederate flag in the south, whose courage and tenacity is a symbol for the kind of spirit that is rising in our nation that says something's gotta give in our understanding of how racial fear and hatred have shaped the lives of all of us. Those of us who are white, who have access and silent privilege daily, don't see or hear the truth of what our friends of color tell us: it is not safe.

I find it hard to separate these two things in this moment in history—the cartoon that showed the confederate flag coming down and the rainbow flag rising speaks a certain truth about liberty; I think it also gives us hope for a future where "other" does not need to be the source of fear, but an invitation to a wider and deeper revelation of our own humanity.

As a white woman, my own experience of sexism has taught me what it feels like to be invisible or de-valued—to be called "honey" or to get a feel in the elevator; to make 72 cents to a man's dollar; to speak an idea at a meeting only to have it ignored, repeated by a man five minutes later, and then lifted up as his brilliance. Internalized sexism has laid me low.

Today a little kid asked me "are you a girl or a boy?" As a bisexual, queer woman married to a man, my own experience has taught me what it feels like to be invisible and to "pass"—to be assumed straight; to be unafraid to hold the hand of the one I love.

My spouse and I have two sons, two beautiful men who are now adults in a world where they can marry whomever they love. Two beautiful men who text me about the latest Atlantic or Salon article on racism. Two white men whose Black cousins live more carefully and close to home.

It's all roaming around in my head and heart this night—this country of conflicting emotions in these days. Deep and profound sorrow and rage at the sin of racism, the whiteness that isn't held accountable. Deep and profound gladness and unbridled joy at the swift movement of equality under the law for LGBTQ folks.

All of it brings tears, and a heart beating so very loud in my chest.

As I embark on a new phase of ministry, I wonder about the Church I'm called to serve, and the Christ we name as the cornerstone. The kind of boundary-crossing love that Jesus practiced was radical, transforming. Tradition named him "Christ" and made him a King beyond reach; the "Church" took out his humanity, dressed him in an ironed robe and painted him white.

But tonight, in a quiet study, I think of what my Mom & Dad first taught me about a man named Jesus. They used to recite a poem with a part that went something like this:

I heard about a man named Jesus
who was
going about
doing good.
It is very disconcerting to me
that I am so easily satisfied
with just
going about.

And then I hear the words of my President, speaking about Rev. Pinckney: "he was a good man," said the President, "and isn't that what we hope will be said about us?"

So there's something for me about not celebrating this liberty victory with the people I've worked side by side to get to—something that feels murky-good as an ache, actually; a longing that stirs in me that says we aren't done yet.

An initial look at the marriage decision

BY LISA KEEN
KEEN NEWS SERVICE

The U.S. Supreme Court's June 26 decision striking down state bans against same-sex marriage has been touted as "probably the strongest manifesto in favor of marriage" and pilloried as "a threat to American democracy." It energized celebrations at LGBT Pride events and private living rooms across the country and prompted warnings of "an all-out assault against the religious freedom rights of Christians who disagree with this decision."

But despite these vastly different reactions, there has not yet been an attempt by any state to secede from the union that President Obama characterized as "a little more perfect" now. Eleven of the 13 of the states that had statewide bans in effect have started issuing licenses in most if not all their counties, and the other two states (Louisiana and Mississippi) have indicated they will comply with the Supreme Court's ruling once the official mandates are issued.

The Texas attorney general is encouraging clerks to raise religious objections to issuing the licenses but has warned them that, doing so, could lead to "litigation and/or a fine." Mississippi's attorney general told clerks to delay issuing licenses until a formal order to do so is issued from the federal appeals court.

Republican presidential hopeful Mike Huckabee has vowed that he "will not acquiesce to an imperial court," a statement that will almost certainly come back to haunt him, given that the constitution requires the president "shall take Care that the Laws be faithfully executed." (Obama continued to enforce the Defense of Marriage Act until the Supreme Court struck it down as unconstitutional.)

The huff and puff will soon die down, and the legal bricks that will remain standing in the Supreme Court's *Obergefell v. Hodges* ruling are these:

—the word "liberty" in the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution includes the fundamental right of a citizen to marry;

—state bans against allowing same-sex couples to marry burden the "liberty" of gay and lesbian citizens;

—the bans are unconstitutional infringements on the rights to due process and equal protection; and

—states with such bans have not shown "a foundation for the conclusion that allowing same-sex marriage will cause the harmful outcomes they describe."

The word "liberty" was at the center of the *Obergefell* decision, authored by Justice Anthony Kennedy. He used the word 25 times. The dissenters used it 122 times.

Kennedy noted that the 14th Amendment to the constitution says that "no State shall 'deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.'" He cited Supreme Court precedent saying that the word "denotes not merely freedom from bodily restraint but also the right "to marry, establish a home and bring up children…." The quote came from a 1923 case, *Meyer v. Nebraska*, that struck down a state ban on the use or teaching of foreign languages in schools and that referred to numerous other precedents discussing the meanings of "liberty."

None of the four justices in dissent mentioned *Meyer*. Instead, each claimed that the Kennedy majority based its decision on non-legal grounds. Chief Justice John Roberts contended the majority "relied on its own conception of liberty" and that its opinion was rooted in "social policy and considerations of fairness." Justice Antonin Scalia, however, said the majority engaged in "constitutional revision." Justice Clarence Thomas said the majority's opinion was "based on an imaginary constitutional protection and revisionist view of our history and tradition." Justice Samuel Alito said the majority "invent[ed] a new right and impose[d] that right on the rest of the country."

Some will argue that it was the dissenters who invented something new: the idea that, when there is a vigorous public debate about a matter, the Supreme Court should not act.

"Supporters of same-sex marriage have achieved considerable success persuading their fellow citizens—through the democratic process—to adopt their view. That ends today," wrote Roberts. "Five lawyers have closed the debate and enacted their own vision of marriage as a matter of constitutional law. Stealing this issue from the people will for many cast a cloud over same-sex marriage, making a dramatic social change that much more difficult to accept."

(A Williams Institute fellow, Adam Romero, said his research before and after the Supreme Court struck down DOMA found the court's action "fostered positive attitude changes.")

All four dissenters lamented the end of the national debate over same-sex marriage.

The debate over marriage for same-sex couples, wrote Scalia, "displayed American democracy at its best."

"Individuals on both sides of the issue passionately, but respectfully, attempted to persuade their fellow citizens to accept their views…. Win or lose," Scalia wrote, "advocates for both sides continued pressing their cases, secure in the knowledge that an electoral loss can be negated by a later electoral win. That is exactly how our system of government is supposed to work."

But that's not the system Scalia defended in 2000, when he went along with the five-to-four decision in *Bush v. Gore* that delivered the presidential election to Republican George W. Bush. That opinion (which did not identify an author) said that the majority admired the Constitution's design to leave certain matters "to the people, through their legislatures, and to the political sphere" with one notable exception:

"When contending parties invoke the process of the courts… it becomes our unsought responsibility to resolve the federal and constitutional issues the judicial system has been forced to confront."

That latter line might well have fit into the majority opinion for Obergefell. Instead, Kennedy wrote, "the Constitution contemplates that democracy is the appropriate process for change, so long as that process does not abridge fundamental rights."

"The dynamic of our constitutional system," Kennedy wrote, "is that individuals need not await legislative action before asserting a fundamental right."

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders attorney Mary Bonauto put it most succinctly on The Rachel Maddow Show June 26: "In our system, you don't have to convince every single person before the court vindicates your constitutional rights."

©2015 Keen News Service. All rights reserved.

Man attacks another over alleged sexual advances

Dallas police arrested 25-year-old murder suspect Kieron Alexander, who they say beat 54-year-old Ricky Griffin to death and tried to set him on fire in his apartment, The Dallas Morning News reported.

Although it is unclear what provoked the attack, Alexander claimed that Griffin "made several unwanted sexual gestures toward him," causing him to lose control and strike the victim. He also admitted attempting to set Griffin on fire.

In a National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) statement, Nell Gaither, president of Trans Pride Initiative, said, "We need to recognize that even if Griffin did not identify as a member of the LGBTQ community, the homicide appears to be motivated in part by stigma against the community. It's so important to recognize that hate violence is connected to stigma held by the aggressor, not the identity of the victim."

NCAVP's most recent report—Hate Violence Against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and HIV-Affected Communities in the United States in 2014—found that gay and bisexual men, along with transgender women and LGBTQ people of color, face the highest risk of homicide. In 2014, 35 percent of homicide victims were men, all of whom identified as gay or bisexual.

The article is at http://crimeblog.dallasnews.com/2015/06/murder-suspect-said-he-beat-dallas-man-after-unwanted-sexual-gestures.html/.



AMIGAS from cover

was sharing and exploring multiple identities.

As for what the organization has meant to her, Noriega said, "I'm happy for all the years that it existed, all the women I met and all the relationships that I formed. I feel like it was a consistent nurturing force in my life. I was able to learn and make contributions as we created a community. I will always appreciate that development opportunity and remember Amigas as a safe, warm and loving place where we both loved and challenged each other."

Vega, current archive coordinator and former board member of Amigas Latinas, noted that she was the first person to respond to Cardona's ad looking for Latina lesbians to become members of Amigas Latina.

"As I was coming out and embracing my identity, Amigas Latinas was the only place where I could bring all of myself—Latina and lesbian—to the table," said Vega. "After years of receiving support, I joined the board and found my place to give back to the community. I also learned fundraising, event planning and grant writing while on the board. So even though I gave of my time, I still gained so much more."

Vega explained that during her time on the board she spearheaded the first-of-its-kind comprehensive study of LGBTQ Latina women in Chicago called Proyecto Latina, which documented domestic-violence incidents, how and when people come out, discrimination and other aspects in the life-cycle of LGBTQ Latina women.

"As for Amigas folding, 20 years is a significantly long history, especially for a grassroots organization," said Vega. "Amigas Latinas has made an impact on so many lives and its impact will live on in the lives of those it touched. The official closing of the organization is administrative; the legacy of Amigas Latins lives on. The timing and way in which Amigas Latinas is folding are graceful and respectful. You rarely see this happen in this way."



Amigas Latinas at the Pride Parade, late 1990s.
Photo courtesy of Lourdes Torres

Lourdes Torres—professor of Latin American and Latino studies at DePaul University and former board member and president of Amigas Latinas—recalled that when she moved to Chicago in 2000, one of the first things she did was look for queer Latina spaces. When she found Amigas Latinas, she immediately got involved. She noted that her first meeting was a focus group to figure out Amigas Latinas' next steps so she ended up learning a lot about the group from that meeting. Torres said she started going to events after that meeting but didn't participate on the board until 2006.

Torres said that she signed on to help Vega with her Proyecto Latina survey and she, along with Nicole Perez—a grad student who later became an Amigas Latinas board member—surveyed 305 queer Latina women in Chicago. They wrote up the findings of the survey which was published in 2008 by the non-profit group Mujeres Latinas En Acción. The report is currently housed on its website.

"It was important for me to be able to contribute to Amigas Latinas in that way," said Torres. "After the study was done we started responding to the issues including the high incidents of domestic violence within the Latina queer community. We held a series of successful platicas to train women on ways to deal with these issues in a productive way within their own community. That was cool because it involved Latinas who were members of the organization as well as queer friendly women who worked on issues surrounding domestic violence. One of the things I loved about Amigas Latinas was that it wasn't just about providing entertainment and social opportunities it was also about responding to significant issues within our own community."

Torres explained that she wanted to use her academic skills to document the history of the organization because what they were doing was unique and her concern was it wasn't being documented.

"If you look at studies of queer organizations, usually they only focus on the East and West coast and leave out the Midwest, like nothing is happening here, and that's especially true when you think about people of color organizing, because very little of that history is being documented," said Torres.

Torres has written two articles about this. One is in the Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies and the other one was included in the companion book that came out when the Chicago History Museum had its "Out in Chicago" exhibit.

"What was great about Amigas Latinas was it wasn't just one big group," said Torres. "There were subgroups, including Madurando Elegante for older women; the youth group Amiguitas; and Entre Familia for families that were created to meet the needs of the different demographics within Amigas Latinas. When they got together, intergenerational connections occurred."

"I'm sad that it's ending but I'm grateful for the experience I got when I was a member of the leadership of the organization because it introduced me to Chicago politics in a new way, helped me develop new skills in terms of organizing and speaking to the media as well as running meetings and doing all kinds of things that I hadn't done politically," said Torres. "It was a great space for creating leaders and I'm grateful for that in my life and also for the other women of Amigas who've become leaders in their fields."

Alma Izquierdo—head of the makeup department on NBC's Chicago PD and Amigas Latinas' final board president—first got involved with Amigas Latinas by attending and promoting its events in the late 1990s. In 2010, she became a board member when the late Christina Santiago and Rosa Yadira Ortiz, who was then the board president, asked her to be on the board. Two years later, she became the board president.

"I will always remember the Siempre Latina galas that I helped organize," said Izquierdo. "It was a beautiful thing to see everyone there supporting Amigas Latinas. Also, the last event that I put together [was] at the Center on Halsted, with the comedian Sandra Valls and C.C. Carter as the emcee. It was a packed house and everyone had a great time."

As for the decision to dissolve the organization, Izquierdo said that, organically, it wasn't moving in the same direction as the Latina LGBTQ community as a whole was. Over time, she added, it was difficult to find people who were able to put in the time, effort and energy that it takes to run an organization like Amigas Latinas. Izquierdo noted that it took her about a year and a half to come to this decision. She added that she also met with a number of other leaders in the community for guidance as well as with Cardona, Noriega and a few of the other founders prior to making this decision.

"Since this announcement I've had people approach me and tell me that they want to start something new and I think that's wonderful," said Izquierdo. "I'm hoping that this situation will cause people to step up and either create something new or mentor and support the younger generation to help them become leaders. If that happens it will be the silver lining to Amigas folding."

"After the archiving event I was just in awe of the community stepping up and sharing what Amigas Latinas has meant to them," said Izquierdo. "To hear an individual who was at a very challenging and difficult point in their life tell their story and just knowing that Amigas Latinas was there to help them that to me is the epitome of what Amigas Latinas has meant to the community. It's really had an impact on the LGBTQ community here in Chicago and across the United States. To this day I'm still getting emails from people that have and are still using the survey that we did on domestic violence in the queer Latina community to this day."

Pineda—a bilingual (Spanish) benefits/medical case manager at The Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center and founding board member of Amigas Latinas—has had a journey with the organization that's included meeting and marrying her wife. They later became parents but also participated in the creation of the organization's mission/vision statement and by-laws when Amigas Latinas obtained its non-profit status.

"During the October 2002 LLEGO International Conference in Miami, where we represented Amigas Latinas, my wife [Karen Rothstein-Pineda] and I decided to be a part of Catholic commitment ceremony which several other couples participated," said Pineda. "Evette and Mona were our commitment/wedding madrinas. Lydia Vega was my best women and Norma Seledon was Karen's maid of honor."

Pineda explained that, for her, Amigas Latinas was the place where she transformed from a shy and quiet person to an advocate for the LGBTQ community as well as the underserved youth, young adults and undocumented individuals that she sees at work.

"It was hard for me to hear that Amigas might need to fold but I did have the privilege, along with other members of Amigas, of making this hard decision," said Pineda, "I thank Alma for all her hard work and taking on this final task as president. I think it's time for others to come up with something new. Amigas Latinas did a lot but there are many lessons that can be learned. I support the fact that Amigas Latinas' history will be archived for others to see, examine and learn from."

"It's with a very heavy heart that I/we say 'adios' to one the most honored and respected organizations of our Latina/o and LGBTQ family and community," said Julio Rodriguez, president of the board of directors of the Association for Latinos/as Motivating Action. "As leaders of a critical organization, the women of Amigas Latinas were sisters and mentors and they gave a voice and spirit to the Latina movement in Chicago.

"Unfortunately, the departure of Amigas Latinas from the Latino and LGBTQ movement is another example of the lack of resources and supports for grassroots advocacy and organizing by both the public and private sectors. Finally, we can never forget the amazing contributions and accomplishments that Amigas Latinas gave to our movement and our collective families. It is now up to the rest of us to carry on the legacy. Adios, mis amigas!"

"The loss of Amigas Latinas leaves a big hole in the LGBTQ social justice movement, especially in this moment where organizations that primarily serve queer and trans people of color are closing across the country," said Kim Hunt, executive director of Affinity Community Services. "Affinity honors the work and the history of Amigas Latinas and will always consider its leaders and constituents to be sisters in the struggle."

Amigas Latinas' last event, "Siempre Latina Celebrando 20 Años," will take place Friday, July 10, 8 p.m.-1 a.m. at Michelle's Ballroom, 2800 W. Belmont Ave.

See www.facebook.com/amigas.latinas.16?fref=ts for more information.




Photo by Hal Baim

City salutes LGBT veterans

The annual "City of Chicago Salutes Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Veterans" was held June 30 at Daley Plaza.

Jim Darby, founder of the Chicago chapter of the American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER), now VP/secretary, acted as emcee.

A mayoral proclamation honoring the veterans was read by Mona Noriega, Commissioner City of Chicago Commission on Human Relations and the National Anthem was performed by Dean Ogren, Show Director International Mr. Leather. The invocation was by Rabbi Cindy Enger of Congregation Or Chadash.

The speaker for the salute was Stanley Jenczyk, who, over a four-year period, spearheaded the approval and dedication of the first federally approved monument honoring LGBT veterans, dedicated on Memorial Day 2015 and now standing in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Illinois.

"The steps to this monument were very difficult for our entire organization," said Jenczyk, "but through hard work, persistence, and a never ending spirit we fulfilled the pledge to our fellow servicemen. I say again, as I said in the cemetery, that this pledge is in our hearts,. It is not written lot in any document, it is not shown on any computer. It is imprinted in our hearts. That is that we shall never forget our fallen brothers and sisters.

"Let this monument be the first in the nation but not the last, " he said. "Let every national cemetery in great nation have a monument to LGBT men and women who have serve this great nation with great honor and dignity."

The program was followed by "America, the Beautiful," sung by AVER member travis; a wreath-laying ceremony led by AVER member Ed Wosylus and "Echo Taps," performed by Susan Jones and Melissa Terrell of the Lakeside Pride Marching Band.

Text by Jean Albright. See more photos and video online at www.windycitymediagroup.com



Evette Cardona (left) and Mona Noriega at Latinos Progressando's Tomorrow's Heroes Today event.
Facebook photo

Cardona, Noriega honored at event

The Chicago-based organization Latinos Progresando recently held its Tomorrow's Heroes Today event at Loft on Lake.

Bringing together 300 diverse professionals, the event recognizes one individual leader and one business through the Progresando Awards and highlights the accomplishments of that year's Dr. Angela Perez Miller Scholarship recipients.

Couple Evette Cardona and Mona Noriega were among the awardees, being honored with the Community Leader Award.

Latinos Progresando serves immigrants with low-cost services, community education and engagement, and advocacy/organizing around policy that affects immigrants. Visit http://latinospro.org/.

Navy, Marines make pro-trans move

The U.S. Navy and Marine Corps have elevated the level of the commander able to decide whether an active-duty service member should be discharged for being transgender, Advocate.com reported.

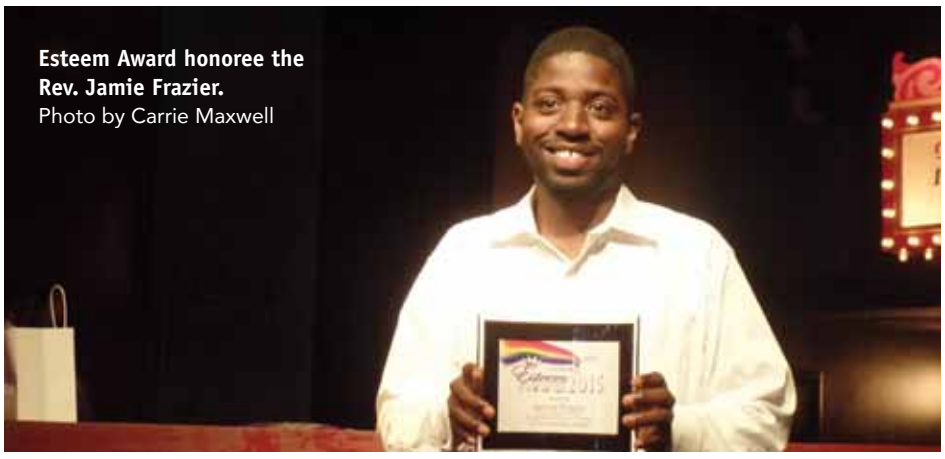
The move follows similar developments in the Army and Air Force.

This change, which is effective immediately, does not quash the military's longstanding ban on open military service by transgender U.S. residents. However, it does decrease the likelihood that service members in each of these branches will be discharged solely for being transgender.

In a statement, American Military Partner Association President Ashley Broadway-Mack said, "While this is welcome news and an important step in the right direction, it does not change the ultimate risk of being fired that transgender troops continue to face simply for being open and honest about who they are.

"We need the Department of Defense to expeditiously update the outdated regulations that continue to threaten and harm our transgender service members and their families."

The original article is at https://www.advocate.com/transgender-military-ban/2015/07/02/navy-marines-take-step-toward-open-trans-service.


Esteem Award honoree the Rev. Jamie Frazier.
Photo by Carrie Maxwell

Ninth Esteem Awards ceremony honors LGBTQ, Black leaders

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

PrideIndex held its ninth annual Esteem Awards—which honors the contributions of African-Americans and members of the LGBTQ community in the arts, business, civil rights, entertainment and the media—at Boystown spot Sidetrack on July 4.

The Esteem Awards is among a number of events held during Chicago's annual Black Gay Pride holiday weekend. Approximately 60 people attended the awards ceremony.

Emcee Langstan Smith introduced and presented the awards following introductory remarks by Phil Esteem, editor and founder of PrideIndex.com and The Esteem Awards.

Recipients included: Outstanding Service (Female)—Mona Noriega (Chicago Human Rights Commission chairman and commissioner); Future Leaders Award—Pastor Jamie Frazier (The Lighthouse Church of Chicago founder and senior pastor); and Outstanding Service (Female)—Mandy Carter (owner of Mandy Carter Consulting in Durham, North Carolina). Co-founder and former Ruth Ellis Center board member Dr. Kofi Adoma accepted on Carter's behalf.

Some of the other honorees included Artistic Expression Based on Another Medium—Youth Empowerment Performance Project (YEPP) (with Executive/Artistic Director Bonsai Bermudez accepting); Outstanding Social Services/CBO—Care2Prevent at the University of Chicago Medicine (Care2Prevent Prevention and Outreach Coordinator Evany Turk accepted the award); Special Recognition Award—Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus; and Artistic Expression—Dykes Delicious Film Series presented by Chicago Filmmakers and Black Kat Productions (with Sharon Zurek, curator, accepting).

The event featured trailers from a number of Black Alphabet Film Festival entries, raffle drawings, and performances by YEPP and The Brian-Alwyn.

See www.prideindex.com/wpcms and www.theesteemawards.com for more information.



ICE announces updated guidelines regarding trans immigrants

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) has announced updated guidelines concerning the care of transgender immigrants in custody.

This announcement comes on the heels of a letter that was sent by 35 members of Congress to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Jeh Johnson calling for limits on the use of detention for LGBT immigrants.

Currently, ICE has about 65 transgender immigrants in custody out of a total of 30,000 undocumented immigrants in custody at 200 detention facilities across the country.

The Transgender Care Memorandum, released June 29, is the result of a six-month ICE NGO Working Group examination of policies concerning transgender detainees involving subject matter experts including LGBTI experts, input from transgender individuals and visits to a number of non-federal facilities across the country to observe best practices regarding transgender individuals in custody. The working group looked at how federal and non-federal entities identified, classified and housed transgender individuals.

The new guidelines include how ERO personnel will identify, process and look at individuals who identify as transgender as well as the adoption of a voluntary contract modification that will allow for detention facilities who care for transgender individuals to look at them holistically. This will include recording an individual's gender identity during the data collection stage, officer training and tools regarding identifying an individual's gender identity as well as updated housing placement options.

As far as placement in the facilities, ICE ERO Transgender Care Classification Committee (TCCC) members will be looking at each individual on a case-by-case basis from a safety and security perspective, medical and mental health perspective as well as consultation with the detainee to determine placement. The TCCC question guide will include asking the detainee their preferred name and gender pronoun, any medical issues they might have, hygiene and grooming needs, housing preferences, recreation programming options and who should search them.

While transgender detainees will be able to have housing assignments based on their gender identity for the first time, that doesn't mean that some transgender detainees won't still be housed based on their gender assigned at birth, be put in protective custody units or put in medical or administrative segregation units.

"The Transgender Care Memorandum reaffirms ICE's commitment to provide a safe, secure, and respectful environment for all those in our custody, including those individuals who identify as transgender," said ICE ERO Executive Assistant Director Thomas Homan. "We want to make sure our employees have the tools and resources available to learn more about how to interact with transgender individuals and ensure effective standards exist to house and care for them throughout the custody cycle."

In response to the memorandum, the National Center for Transgender Equality, the National Immigrant Justice Center, United We Dream, Immigration Equality, and the Human Rights Campaign have released a joint statement regarding ICE's updated guidelines.

"We welcome these long-overdue developments but insist that ICE can and must do more to protect LGBTQ immigrants. We stress that the core question here is why so many vulnerable people are imprisoned by ICE in the first place to await immigration court hearings. Earlier this week, the secretary of DHS stated that the detention of women and children who are seeking asylum was an inappropriate use of agency resources; for LGBTQ individuals, the same logic applies.

"This community is at the highest risk of rape and assault, and for most there is no compelling reason to justify their detention. Indeed, a recent Center for American Progress report shows that ICE routinely detains LGBTQ immigrants who it knows are at great risk and should not be behind bars. Together with immigrant and LGBTQ communities nationwide, we will continue pressing DHS and ICE to move away from the needless, costly, and dangerous policy of mass detention."

"ICE's guidelines finally acknowledges what we've known for a long time: transgender people cannot be held safely in detention," said Raffi Freedman-Gurspan, racial and economic justice initiative policy advisor at the National Center for Transgender Equality. "Though the guidance represents a significant improvement in how transgender immigration detainees will be treated, ICE's record on implementing guidance such as this is mixed. To really end the suffering transgender detainees face, the Obama Administration must release transgender detainees for whom being in detention makes them a target of sexual assault and violence."

"The LGBTQ undocumented community has stood up to end the detention of their community by ICE," said Carlos Padilla, coordinator for the Queer Undocumented Immigrant Program, a project of United We Dream. "As numerous examples this year have shown, LGBTQ immigrants are affected at much higher levels by abuse, including sexual assault and rape while being detained. In particular, transgender women housed in men's detention facilities have encountered horrific attacks and are at grave risk for physical violence and sexual assault. Detention is bad for everyone. United We Dream is committed to ending the enforcement and detention system that criminalizes and harms our community, particularly the most vulnerable including children, pregnant women, people living with HIV and/or other chronic medical conditions, people with disabilities, and LGBTQ immigrants."

"After years of raising concerns about the treatment of LGBT immigrants, especially transgender women, we are happy to see ICE take this step," says Keren Zwick, managing attorney for the National Immigrant Justice Centers' LGBT Immigrant Rights Initiative. "But as with any ICE initiative, the devil is in the details. We continue to have significant concerns that the implementation of this guidance will be slow, insufficient and that it will result in centralizing transgender women in remote areas where they cannot have meaningful access to counsel."

Transgender Law Center Executive Director Kris Hayashi said, "This guidance does not change the fundamental issue that Jennicet Gutierrez so bravely brought to President Obama last week: detention and deportation of transgender people must end."

Gutierrez interrupted Obama's annual LGBT Pride reception at the White House. An undocumented transgender Latina immigrant, Gutierrez was boo'd by some of the attendees for yelling for immigration justice issues during Obama's speech. She was escorted out by security.

"We are encouraged to see that ICE has formally recognized the special vulnerability of transgender individuals in immigration detention centers. However, mitigating a problem and fixing it are not the same thing. The quickest, the most humane, and the most cost-effective solution is to stop detaining transgender people in the first place," said Aaron Morris, legal director of Immigration Equality.

"Any time the government restricts a person's liberty, it has an absolute obligation to keep them safe," said Lovisa Stannow, executive director of Just Detention International. "Today's guidance moves the agency forward in creating safer facilities that better meet the needs and dignity of transgender detainees. However, this initial step must be supported by aggressive implementation and the guidance should be reviewed every six months to add additional protections when possible."

Additionally the #Not1More campaign and member groups—Familia: Trans Queer Liberation Movement, Transgender Law Center, GetEQUAL, and Southerners On New Ground have issued the following statement in response to the memorandum.

"A guidance document cannot be expected to change the fact that DHS and ICE have consistently failed at maintaining a minimum of safety and dignity for transgender immigrants. Transgender immigrants and other vulnerable populations, including mothers with their children and LGBTQ detainees, should be released from detention. While we have an imperative to advance short and long term protections for LGBTQ people and all people in immigration detention, our experience with guidance documents such as these is that their implementation is inconsistent and with little oversight or accountability.

"In addition, this guidance still allows for practices that have been denounced as inhumane—including administrative segregation, 'protective custody,' and isolated pods—as adequate forms of housing for transgender individuals. Every one of these practices has failed to protect transgender immigrants, particularly women, from rape, sexual and physical abuse and dangerous living conditions in detention. Lastly, it is extremely concerning that this guidance does not mandate that contracted detention facilities sign on to pre-existing protections such as to the Contract Modification for Transgender Care. This will result in a continuation of the practice of using isolation or inadequate GBT specific pods to detain transgender women."

In addition to the updated guidelines, ICE has also designated a new National ERO LGBTI coordinator, Andrew Lorenzen-Strait. Straight is also the deputy assistant director for ERO ICE. ICE will also be designating local LGBTI field liaisons at each of the 24 ERO field offices. The local LGBTI field liaisons will be charged with providing resources for the other ICE officers at those offices.

See http://www.ice.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Document/2015/TransgenderCareMemorandum.pdf for more information.

Linda S. Levi, LCPC
Serving the LGBTQ community for 15+ years

Offering psychodynamic counseling to individuals, couples, and family; Experienced clinician, just added clinical hours to new Ravenswood location, with an emphasis in:

LGBTQ Concerns
Couples & Family
Transgender Community

Chicago & NW Suburb Locations
847-207-2595 • lindaslevi.com/LGBTQ

Protesters arrested at White House

On Tuesday, June 30, undocumented trans and queer leaders from across the country conducted a "die-in" in Washington, D.C., at the intersection of 16th and H St. NW (at the White House) to symbolize the deaths of LGBTQ immigrants in detention as well as those LGBTQ immigrants who have been deported back to their death, according to a press release from United We Dream.

The Washington Blade reported that six people were arrested at the event, called Operation "Break the Cage." They had been positioned at or near the White House for two hours before being arrested.

Officers took Felipe Sousa-Rodriguez, Brooke Cerda-Guzman, Joselyn Mendoza, Richard Masson, Dagoberto Bailon and Damian Lima into custody after they refused to leave the intersection of 16th and H Streets in front of Lafayette Park. Nine others staged the "die-in."

United We Dream is the largest immigrant youth-led organization in the nation. It is a nonpartisan network of 55 affiliate organizations in 26 states. United We Dream organized the protest, along with Casa Ruby, GetEQUAL and Make the Road New York.

The Blade article is at http://www.washingtonblade.com/2015/06/30/six-arrested-during-protest-against-detention-of-lgbt-immigrants/.

All-gay law firm has new attorney

Prather Ebner LLP—a Chicago law firm in The Monadnock Building at 53 W. Jackson Blvd.—has added a fourth attorney.

All attorneys at the firm are gay.

Raymond W. Prather and Daniel S. Ebner founded Prather Ebner in 2010. Landon Perkinson joined the Prather Ebner team in 2012 to further broaden the practice to include international estate and tax issues. (The firm had previously specialized in trust and estate administrations as well as estate litigation matters.)

Thomas M. Schroeder will join the firm as of July 1. Schroeder has been involved with various organizations in the LGBT community, including serving on the board of governors of the Human Rights Campaign and the advisory board of the ACLU's Roger Baldwin Foundation.

Visit PratherEbner.com.

Chicagoans among top 40 LGBT lawyers

The National LGBT Bar Association has released its 2015 "Best Under 40" list, recognizing the country's most accomplished young LGBT legal professionals.

Among those named from local firms are Mario Sullivan, a partner at Johnson and Sullivan, Ltd.; and Sarah Baker, an associate at Quarles & Brady LLP.

The awards will be presented during the organization's Lavender Law® Conference & Career Fair in Chicago on Aug. 6.

Shirtless Summer?



BEFORE



AFTER

Go ahead....take your shirt off this summer.

Enjoy $500 OFF Body Reshaping
through June 30th.

Member of the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery

American Society of Plastic Surgeons



DAVID SHIFRIN MD
PLASTIC SURGERY

Visit www.davidshifrinmd.com Call 1.312.502.6200

Officials: Post-parade celebrations still need work

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Lake View business owners, community members and police officials said they were largely pleased with security measures implemented during the 46th annual Pride parade on June 29, but all acknowledged more work remains in order to make the after-parade celebrations more orderly.

At a July 1 Town Hall Police District CAPS meeting, police officials and Ald. Tom Tunney (44th Ward) had few answers about the Pride parade's future, and said no talks had yet been held yet about whether events at the 2015 parade warranted its moving in 2016. CPD reported 52 arrests in conjunction with the parade and said at the meeting that the number of alcohol-related citations had not yet been tabulated.

"I think [police] did a tremendous job," Sidetrack General Manager Brad Balof said, adding that he only knew of two significant parade disruptions, caused by protesters and an errant motorist. "I expected things to be through the roof … The police were amazing, clearing the crowds out in a peaceful way. For that many people, there were very few serious problems."

Many other audience members agreed with Balof. But many in attendance also said that crowds were out of hand in the celebrations following the parade.

"What I saw on Halsted was nothing short of riot conditions," said one audience member.

One of the largest challenges facing police during the evening hours was keeping crowds along Halsted Street moving, and dispersing groups causing noise disturbances. They asked some businesses to keep their windows shut, and asked some others to briefly shut down altogether. Audiences questioned whether, even



Tom Walsh and Jason Clark of CPD and Ald. Tom Tunney.
Photo by Matt Simonette

with full police details deployed, the district was adequately staffed.

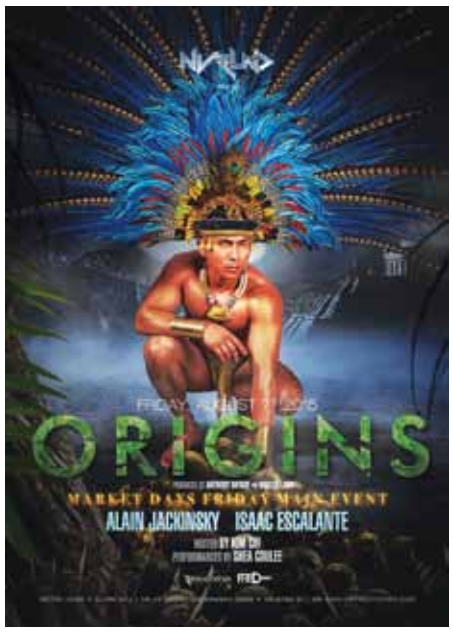
CPD Sergeant Jason Clark said, "You can give me a million police officers, and we always want more. It's a tough day; it really is. When you've got a bunch of people drinking in one area, it's really hard."

One audience member said that, the night before the parade, she was nearly attacked and that she made a point of leaving the area while the event was underway. "If you think that was an improvement, you guys are crazy," she said.

Northalsted Business Alliance Executive Director Christopher Barrett Politan said that new barriers helped keep the crowd dispersed; Tunney concurred.

"The barricades worked on Belmont," Tunney said. "I think it was an orderly group … This was the best that I've seen Belmont. It [gave] a sense that the police were in control."

City officials estimated that 1 million spectators were out for the parade. Following reports of mayhem after the 2014 parade, residents and officials raised the prospect of moving the event downtown. This year's heightened security measures, including alcohol checkpoints and extra security officers, were implemented in an effort to determine whether Lake View and Uptown can still sustain the safety and maintenance requirements for the event.



Neverland to change party's theme after uproar

BY ROSS FORMAN

After an online uproar over the name of an upcoming Market Days weekend party, event organizers quickly acknowledged the mistake, apologized and immediately announced it would be changing the name of the party on Friday, Aug. 7, to "Origins."

Neverland Productions, which ran three well-attended events/parties over Pride weekend in Chicago, announced its Market Days party theme would be "Savages"—and the initial ad to promote the event featured a man wearing face paint and a Native American headdress.

Facebook responses immediately blasted the party's name.

"This is incredibly racist," Erin Rusmi of Chicago posted.

"'Savages'? What the hell? That is disgusting. Please get rid of that name and pick something more respectful of indigenous people," Tiefer Alt said.

"Are you kidding me? This is beyond racist. It is disgusting," Mischa Misschief of Albuquerque posted.

Anthony DiFiore of Neverland told Windy City Times that Neverland is "extremely disappointed" with the negative reaction to the party's name. "More importantly, we are deeply saddened our decision has offended so many people. Please know that was never our intent," he said.

"Our mistake was not recognizing the name could cause offense. For that, we apologize to you, our fans, and our sponsors. Today, our team will be reworking the name of the Neverland Market Days party. We appreciate your understanding and continued support."

Neverland produced a pool party and two late-night parties during Pride weekend, and each was well attended by the LGBT community, including one at Metro Chicago—where the Market Days weekend event is scheduled to be.

"Neverland is about art, costumes and high production," DiFiore said. "We've wanted to do a tribal theme for a long time, because the music at Neverland parties is tribal house (house music with drums), and our team has wanted to recreate beautiful tribal headdresses out of respect and celebration of past cultures.

"The Neverland team is composed of different races and cultures. The model in the event poster is one of the Neverland co-owners, Martin Luna, who is a Mexican from Campeche—in the region where the Mayans once lived. Our goal at Neverland is simply to create a fun dance party with excellent music and production. We choose themes that challenge our team to create something visually magnificent. The name 'Savages' was selected to best define the kind of fierce production we intend on creating."

TenniSchools℠

Adult Tennis Lessons
for Beginner through
Advanced Intermediate Players

4 Lessons Starting at $105
Begins August 3

Learn to play tennis in 4 weeks while
enjoying full club access at Midtown.

**For more information and to register,
call Midtown Athletic Club at 773.235.2300
or visit midtown.com/chicago.**

MIDTOWN
ATHLETIC CLUB®
2020 W. Fullerton Ave Chicago

OBITUARIES

Roger Goodman

Roger Goodman, M.Mus., M.Div., died June 19. He was 69.

Roger was born in New York City in 1946. He was the son of Florence and Gerald Goodman. Roger attended Oberlin College and Trinity College of Music in London for his undergraduate degree (B.Mus) and attended Northwestern University for his M.Mus. He earned the M.Div., specializing in queer theology of the body, at Chicago Theological Seminary; and was trained in spiritual direction by a Benedictine abbot at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in the 1980s.

He was active during the civil-rights movement and protests over the Vietnam War in the 1960s. Yet, he slowly grew away from these movements because of the heterosexism politic. He was also a veteran of the Stonewall Rebellion, the watershed event for the contemporary LGBTQ movement in June, 1969.

Roger was also an international concert harpsichordist, teacher and recording artist who performed in such venues as Alice Tully Hall in Lincoln Center in NYC;, Carnegie Recital Hall in NYC; the Wigmore Hall in London; the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts in St. Paul, Minnesota; and Orchestra Hall in Chicago as well as four appearances on the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series broadcast live over WFMT-Chicago. He retired from music in 2010 after 40 years of devoted and dedicated work.

Upon his retirement, he began the completion of his published book Thoughts of a Tribal Elder: One Queerman's Journey from the Ashes Risen. a book of essays on topics such as politics, spirituality, mysticism, mythology, the arts, coming out, the politics and spirituality of HIV/AIDS, and his own journey of recovery from addiction as well as his poetry.

Because of his addictions to drugs and sex he became HIV-positive in the early 1980s and was diagnosed with AIDS in 1995, at which time he came near to death during a 10-day coma, but miraculously came back from death. He often said that the reason he came back was because he had important transformational work to do with queer people everywhere. Part of this transformation work was performing benefit concerts for various AIDS service organizations in Chicago: the AIDS Pastoral Care Network, The AIDS Alternative Health Project, Open Hand and GroceryLand Free Pantry. Thoughts of a Tribal Elder is a major part of that great work, as was his performing and teaching during which time he touched the lives of countless thousands of people.

From 1987 through 2010, Roger was in a thriving private practice as a spiritual director doing chaplaincy work in the death rooms in two hospitals in Chicago with his queer brothers dying during the AIDS genocide in the 1980s and '90s. Roger lived with a number of HIV-related illnesses, two of them being terminal.

He lived in Chicago where he is survived by his beloved partner, Jerry Scholle; his much-loved brother, Len (Susan) of Santa Fe, New Mexico; and his two nephews, Joshua and Eli, and their families. Roger will be greatly missed by countless thousands of people, both gay and straight, whose lives he touched with a profound grace, especially his CMA family of recovering addicts: Matt K., Will B., Rudy M., Gregg G., John L., Todd B., Daniel R. and Christopher M.

A memorial service will be held for Goodman on Sunday, July 6, at 2 p.m. at Leather Archives & Museum, 6418 N. Greenview. His ashes will be interred privately in the Cremation Garden within Chicago's Rosehill Cemetery. No flowers please, but donations should be given to AIDS Foundation of Chicago at http://www.aidschicago.org/page/donate.

Women's World Cup win shines into LGBT community

BY ROSS FORMAN

The United States won its third Women's World Cup on July 5, dominating Japan 5-2 in the championship game, played in front of 53,341 fans in Vancouver—setting off joyful reactions from the White House, to a viewing party in Lincoln Park, to the predominantly gay Lake View neighborhood on Chicago's North Side, where many red, white and blue-wearing fans packed DS Tequila Company for the late afternoon excitement.

The U.S. was out for revenge against Japan after a devastating loss in 2011, and they struck early and often. Carli Lloyd opened the scoring in the third minute and added another tally two minutes later. The U.S. sensation completed her hat trick in the 16th minute—the fastest three goals for a single player in any World Cup game. Lloyd was ultimately voted the Golden Ball as player of the tournament.

"The enthusiasm behind the women's road to the World Cup was stronger than I've ever seen before," said John Rutka, soccer commissioner for the Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA).

"The U.S. Women's Soccer Team [showed] their impeccable athleticism, teamwork and drive. [They] are more than champions; [they] are role-models for ALL athletes. Thank you for proving gender is not the defining characteristic of an inspiring performance," said Sami Grisafe, the former standout quarterback for the Chicago Force women's tackle football team.

President Obama, via Twitter, said, "What a win for Team USA! Great game @CarliLloyd! Your country is so proud of all of you. Come visit the White House with the World Cup soon."

This year's World Cup was certainly a proud event for the LGBT community. There were at least 17 out women—15 players and two coaches. And the U.S. was certainly LGBT proud. The out U.S. contingent includes coach Jillian Ellis, Ali Krieger, Megan Rapinoe and Abby Wambach—and Wambach hugged her wife, Sarah Huffman, minutes after the game ended, a scene shown on the ESPN telecast.



U.S. women's national team player Abby Wambach.
Photo from Mark Novak/WNY Flash

"The world's most publicly out soccer team was USA's pride and joy," Rutka said. "This World Cup powerhouse not only shows us a compelling journey to success, but continues to be a blooming beacon of light to soccer fans and all LGBT players worldwide. Soccer continues to be the leader in unity, inclusion, and respect and CMSA strongly aligns with these same values; we couldn't be more proud of these women."

Cyd Zeigler of Outsports.com said, "We keep being told that by coming out an athlete risks 'distracting' her team. To see the U.S. women's national team win the World Cup with an out coach and several out players is such a powerful testament to the fortitude that coming out builds in an athlete."

Chicago-based sportswriter Christina Kahrl added, "I don't think there could be a better possible message about the ultimate irrelevance of sexuality when it comes to anyone's ability to compete and win at the highest levels of sports than this team delivering in this way with these awesome women."

John Dalton of Chicago spot DS Tequila Company reported a "great turnout" for the game, including one fan with an American flag shaved into her head. There were red, white and blue pomp oms on every table at the bar-restaurant. DS also had red, white and blue shots.

"The United States Women's National Team winning the World Cup is not only huge for our country and for women's sports, but also for all LGBT, especially athletes," said Eric Leushen, a former college football player who lives in Chicago. "Having the most publicly out team be crowned the best in the world sends a powerful message that you can be LGBT, honest about your sexuality and gender identity, and still compete and win at the highest level of sports. Coach Jillian Ellis and players such as Abby Wambach and Megan Rapinoe will forever be remembered as heroes within the LGBT Sports Movement."

CMSA president Michael Erwin added, "It was great to see the excitement and interest among CMSA members and Chicago in general around the Women's World Cup. Soccer is one of the most, if not the, most popular sport in the world and I encourage everyone to come out and play with CMSA. This year, U.S. Women's Soccer was a mix of very talented young and older players that came together to not only form a very solid team, but also showed a high level of class and sportsmanship that we all should strive to imitate in the sports we play."

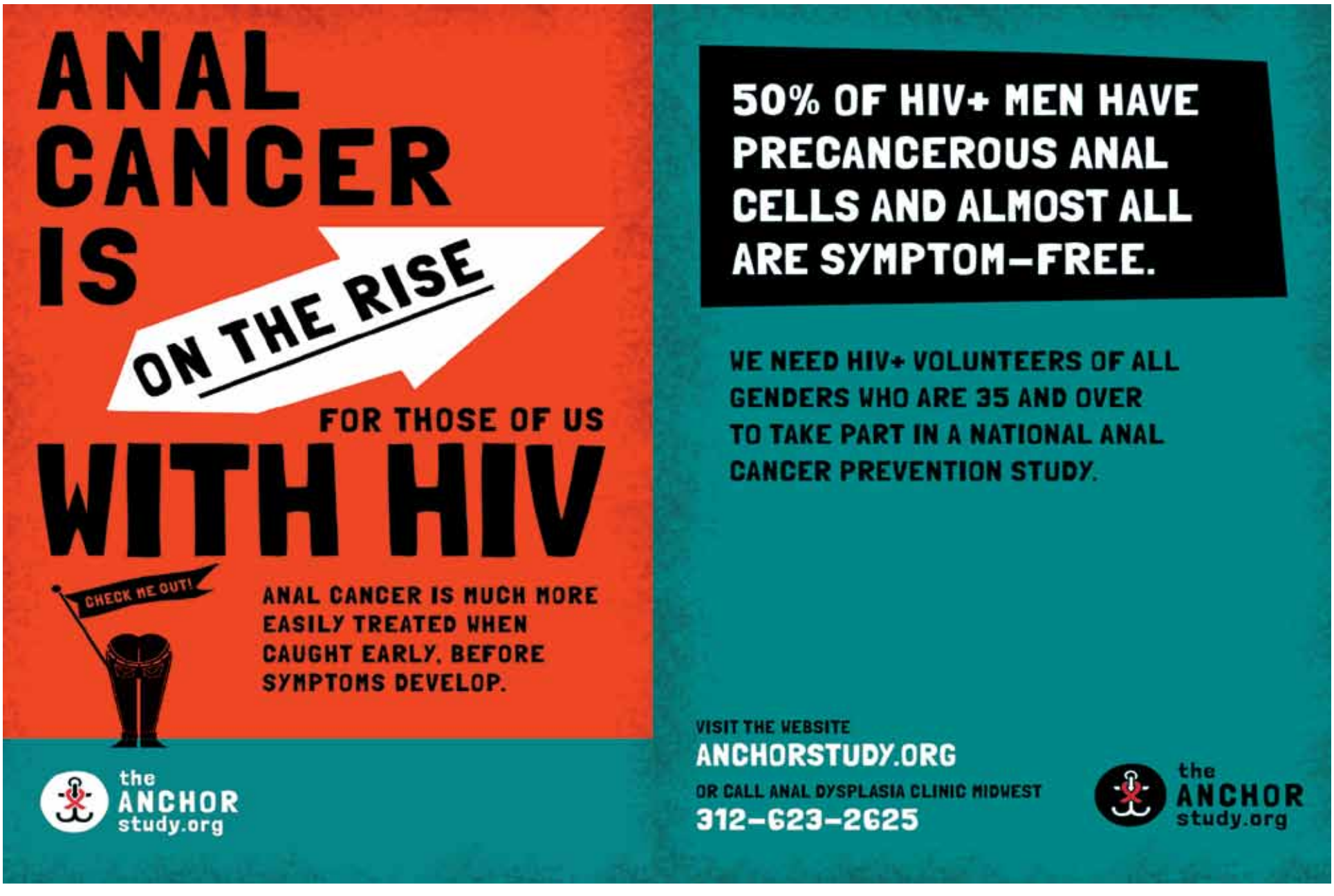
The Chicago Red Stars will be honoring all eight of their World Cup participants, including their U.S. quartet—Julie Johnston, Christen Press, Lori Chalupny and Shannon Boxx—in the club's official "Welcome Back Game" against Boston Breakers on July 18. Single-game and season tickets for the 2015 Red Stars campaign may be purchased by calling 773-698-6001 or by visiting www.chicagoredstars.com.

Legacy Project events July 11-12

On Saturday, July 11, at 1-3 p.m., The Legacy Project will host a rooftop reception/fundraiser at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.

The following day, there will be a special program at 2-5 p.m., at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted St., featuring an address by Pepe-Julian Onziema. Onziema will reflect on the life of slain Ugandan activist David Kato, recount the ongoing human rights crisis in Uganda, and chair a panel discussion exploring the terrible situation there since the re-introduction of the "Anti-Homosexuality Act."

View "Legacy Project 5th Anniversary Season Kick-Off" on Facebook, or visit LegacyProjectChicago.org.



viewpoints



SENIOR MOMENTS

Blessed are the fairies...

Assuming you're old enough, can you remember where you were when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated? I can. I was 12 years old, living in Bath, England, in a working-class pre-fabricated house built by German prisoners of World War II. It was the day before the first episode of Doctor Who, another momentous event—albeit in a different league.

While the black-and-white TV flickered in the corner of a sparsely furnished mid-century modern room, I was sitting behind a sofa reading a book; it could have been Robert Louis Stevenson's Treasure Island, Alexandre Dumas' The Three Musketeers, Arthur Ransome's Swallows and Amazons, or some other swashbuckling adventure. For a limp-wristed nelly boy, I was quite butch in my book choices. Of course, there's nothing butch about reading books.

The news of Kennedy's assassination was broadcast in an emotionless British BBC voice, and I probably wouldn't have noticed if it hadn't been for my parents being shocked and upset by it. I didn't realize the implications of what I was hearing, but I do remember a pall of sadness descending upon the house.

The Stonewall Riots, another momentous historical event, was barely reported in any newspapers anywhere, but much later in life I discovered where I was on June 28, 1969, when the uprising occurred. I was at the Bath Festival of Blues on the Recreation Ground listening to Fleetwood Mac, John Mayall, Ten Years After, Led Zeppelin, the Nice and other musical giants of the 1960s. I had long hair and velvet flared pants, and I was high on LSD. The past is so embarrassing.

As I write this in my office in Cathedral City, California, I'm glowing, as I've just heard that "gay marriage" has been abolished and replaced by boring old everyday "marriage." As I jokingly noted on Facebook, "Now I can divorce my husband in all 50 states. Yay!"

I waited to write this Senior Moment until the SCOTUS decision was handed down. I wanted to capture my thoughts at this historical moment. What I feel is not joy or elation, but an overwhelming sense of relief, as if a weight has been lifted. This was heavy for us to carry all these years. I'm glad the majority of the Supremes remembered they're not deities in black frocks, but human, and humane, beings. Often, when wearing the drag of the authorities, individuals forget their humanity and act like bullies, e.g., certain police officers. It's a strange thing for an atheist to say, but what the Supremes did was the Christian thing to do. I'm sure their Jesus Christ would approve. The four dissenters are not worthy of my comments.

My thoughts now turn to the thousands of LGBTs and our friends who made this happen and to those who have passed away before we arrived at this day, from Henry Gerber to William B. Kelley, from Pearl Hart to Vernita Gray. Each and every one of us contributed to this special day. For is it not written in the Babble, the Book of Lady Gaga 6:9:

"Blessed are those who came out of the closet to their family and friends, for they shall be rewarded with joy and happiness; Blessed are those young LGBTs who stood up in the classroom and said, 'I Am What I Am,' for they have created a new world for themselves to live in; Blessed are the gays and street people who threw rocks at the 'PIGS' at Stonewall, for they have earned a place in our hearts forever; Blessed is the man who walked into his place of employment, swinging a purse and saying 'This is how it's going to be from now on,' for he shall be fabulous; Blessed are those lesbians who took an axe and smashed down the barriers between us and them; and Blessed are those who went to their first gay bar and woke up the next morning in bed with a stranger."

You have all contributed to this glorious day.

And to all those who threw a tantrum of epic proportions, you need to stop stamping your feet, threatening to divorce your spouse and set yourself on fire. It's petulant, it's childish and it's embarrassing to watch.



Partisan gridlock is killing my people

Do gay Black lives matter to Illinois' legislators and governor?

On May 31, the Illinois General Assembly and Gov. Bruce Rauner adjourned without enacting a state budget. They are at a stalemate over funding levels for state programs—many of which directly impact the lives of the thousands of gay Black men in Illinois—and items on Rauner's so-called "turnaround agenda."

You are probably saying to yourself, "How is this different than previous years? Politicians always make campaign promises and turn their back on them once in office." Time has never been on the side of those fighting against HIV; however, this time, inaction is killing my community!

I serve as the vice president of policy and advocacy for the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) so that I can engage in the fight to stop the tide of rising HIV infections in my community. Put bluntly, the Black community in Illinois and other parts of the United States is being ravaged by HIV and AIDS. Let these numbers soak in for a moment:

There are nearly 43,500 people living with HIV in Illinois, and each year there are approximately 1,800 new HIV infections in our state.

Fifty percent of those infections are in the Black community.

According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, nearly 40 percent of new HIV cases are among young people aged 20-29.

Most alarmingly, HIV rates are highest among young gay and bisexual Black men. A recent report highlights that a young Black gay man becoming sexually active today at the age of 18 has about a 60-percent chance of being HIV positive by the age of 40. In addition, a recent study suggests that 66.7 percent of Blacks between the ages of 18 and 65 years old have never been tested for HIV.

What does all this tell us? It's an alarming signal that there are troubling racial disparities within our domestic HIV epidemic. The saying "when white America catches a cold, black America gets the pneumonia" has never rung more true than right now, as it relates to HIV infections.

This is further compounded by the fact that Rauner proposed a 25-percent ($6 million dollars) cut to HIV/AIDS programs and services as well as a 66-percent ($1 million) reduction in the African-American AIDS Response Act Fund (AAARAF) in his budget. To add salt to the wound, an administrative error made last fiscal year caused $1.5 million that was appropriated to the AAARAF to never be delivered, resulting in 14 service organizations granted the funds not being able to do critical prevention and treatment work in the Black community.

With the General Assembly at a standstill and engaging in a political stag fight, precious, life-saving HIV funding hangs in the peril. If no action is taken soon, more HIV infections will continue to happen in the Black community and, in particular, the Black gay community. This inaction stops us from putting scarce HIV prevention dollars in communities where they are most needed.

I urge Rauner and General Assembly to get a handle on this situation, work to finalize a budget that doesn't harm HIV services and come to a consensus on items that protect working families and essential state services and programs.

The governor and General Assembly have many revenue options available to them that will produce a responsible state budget. They both have revenue options available to them that will produce a responsible state budget with adequate revenue to avoid cuts and make wise investments for the future.

It's time that our leaders demonstrate that gay Black lives matter!

Letters

A shot in the arm

This year we have an opportunity to help our neighbor. Recently, the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) has warned our community about a meningitis outbreak. This outbreak only appears to be surfacing in Chicago.

CDPH has made available a meningitis shot to fight off infection. I was glad to see that Ald. Tom Tunney stepped out front on this by his public example of getting the shot.

Let me be very clear: This outbreak is spread casually, and there is no need for sexual contact. Any action that puts one in contact with another's saliva—through kissing, sharing cigarettes or drinks, or sneezing—can put one at risk of getting meningitis.

The CDPH has responded to this outbreak in a very responsible way, and I applaud its efforts. That is why I am calling on all gay-bar owners to alert their patrons to this risk factor.

Likewise, I am calling on Catholic churches in the Boystown area and all the parishes to begin a moratorium on communion. The wine cup could be a way to spread the virus farther.

I am also calling on Dignity/Chicago as well as the Chicago Lesbian and Gay Archdiocesan Outreach ministry to join in this effort.

It is not my intention to interfere with the Coalition of Welcoming Churches, but I think it prudent if they also have a moratorium on the Communion Cup.

I got the shot after Tunney's lead.

Joe Murray
Chicago

WINDY CITY TIMES

VOL. 30, No. 41, July 8, 2015
The combined forces of Windy City Times, founded Sept. 1985, and Outlines newspaper, founded May 1987.

PUBLISHER & EXECUTIVE EDITOR
Tracy Baim

ASSISTANT PUBLISHER Terri Klinsky
MANAGING EDITOR Andrew Davis
BUSINESS MANAGER Ripley Caine
DIRECTOR OF NEW MEDIA Jean Albright
ART DIRECTOR Kirk Williamson
SENIOR REPORTER Matt Simonette
SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES Terri Klinsky, Kirk Williamson, Amy Matheny, Chris Cheuvront, Rafael Alanis
NATIONAL SALES Rivendell Media, 212-242-6863
SENIOR WRITERS Bob Roehr, Tony Peregrin, Lisa Keen, Yasmin Nair
THEATER EDITOR Scott C. Morgan
CINEMA WRITER Richard Knight Jr.
SPORTS WRITER Ross Forman
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT WRITERS
Mary Shen Barnidge, Lawrence Ferber, Mel Ferrand, Jerry Nunn, Jonathan Abarbanel
COLUMNISTS/WRITERS: Yvonne Zipter, Jorjet Harper, Charlsie Dewey, Carrie Maxwell, Billy Masters, Sarah Toce, Dana Rudolph, Melissa Wasserman, Joe Franco, Nick Patricca, Liz Baudler, Rex Wockner, Marie J. Kuda, Angelique Smith, Meghan Streit
SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHERS Mel Ferrand, Hal Baim, Tim Carroll, Ed Negron

CIRCULATION
CIRCULATION DIRECTOR Jean Albright
DISTRIBUTION: Ashina, Allan, Dan, John, Renee, Sue and Victor
WEB HOSTING: LoveYourWebsite.com (lead programmer: Martie Marro)

Copyright 2015 Lambda Publications Inc./Windy City Media Group; All rights reserved. Reprint by permission only. Back issues (if available) for **$5 per issue** (postage included). Return postage must accompany all manuscripts, drawings, and photographs submitted if they are to be returned, and no responsibility may be assumed for unsolicited materials. All rights to letters, art and photographs sent to ***Windy City Times*** will be treated as unconditionally assigned for publication purposes and as such, subject to editing and comment. The opinions expressed by the columnists, cartoonists, letter writers, and commentators are their own and do not necessarily reflect the position of ***Windy City Times***. Publication of the name, photograph, or likeness of a person or organization in articles or advertising in ***Windy City Times*** is not to be construed as any indication of the sexual orientation of such person or organization. While we encourage readers to support the advertisers who make this newspaper possible, ***Windy City Times*** cannot accept responsibility for advertising claims.

(773) 871-7610 FAX (773) 871-7609
e-mail: editor@windycitymediagroup.com or Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com
podcast: WindyCityQueercast.com

WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP,
5315 N. Clark St. #192, Chicago, IL, 60640 U.S.A
(MAILING ADDRESS ONLY)

Windy City Times Deadline every Wednesday.
Nightspots Deadline Wednesday prior to street date.
OUT! Resource Guide ONLINE
www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com
www.WindyCityQueercast.com

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

FOUNDING MEMBER
National Gay Media Association

WINDY CITY TIMES
DIVERSIONS
THEATER • FILM • ENTERTAINMENT • SPORTS



Mr. Brown's Lounge.



Nightspots in Windy City Times!



Life's a 'Beach' 14

WCT reviews the production Beaches.

Photo by Brett Beiner

DANCIN' FEATS

A closer look at 'Queer, Ill & Okay'

BY LAUREN WARNECKE

Look up the definition of self-made man, and you're likely to see a picture of Joseph Varisco.

While working toward a career in social services and volunteering at Howard Brown Health Center, Varisco began to interact with various performance scenes in Chicago and fell in love, so to speak. "I became enamored with wanting to know these people," he said in an interview with Windy City Times.

What started as a few gigs here and there—providing documentation support for various projects and developing professional partnerships with Chicago IRL and Jane Beachy's Salonathon—has today turned into a full-scale production company called JRV Majesty Productions. Under this guise, Varisco has produced a number of literary collections, oral-history projects, educational workshops and live performance series, including his current posts as resident curator of Poonie's Cabaret, co-curator of Salonathon and producer of POST-Q and **Queer, Ill, & Okay**, opening its third season July 24 at the Storefront Theater.

If anything seems to unite Varisco's many projects, it is a tireless commitment to providing queer, gender non-conforming and otherwise underrepresented artists with resources and opportunities to show their work. In the process of building his company over the past three and a half years, Varisco has worked random jobs to support himself, including anything from "data-entry crap," as he called it, to grant writing, to most recently becoming development director to The Inconvenience—a multidisciplinary performance cooperative.

Varisco sometimes escapes notice in the dance community because the focus of his projects is not purely dance. However, dancers are increasingly collaborating with theater and performance artists, spoken-word performers and musicians/sound artists, and the need and desire for a diverse range of voices from within the queer and gender non-conforming communities is putting Varisco on the map across disciplines.

"The word queer is sometimes associated with privilege or holds specific connotations," he said, and desires a broader definition of "queer" then the one generally accepted and demonstrated by mainstream media sources. In creating multidisciplinary performance opportunities for any and all queer people, Varisco makes his living providing multiple platforms for the exploration, expression and promotion of conversation and collaboration surrounding topics such as gender, politics, sexuality and disability.

In its third season, Queer, Ill, & Okay is a performance series that features the narratives of queer artists and their relationships with various forms of chronic illness. The series began as a response to Varisco's diagnosis as HIV-positive, and has evolved to incorporate stories from individuals coping with a wide range of mental and chronic illnesses.

This year, the performance will feature three headliners: interdisciplinary film, photography, and performance artist Oli Rodriguez; poet Amir Rabiyah; and multimedia artist/activist Joan Giroux, in addition to Sky Cubabub, Scott Artley, Ireashia Monet, Allie Shyer and Donnell Williams (a dancer and long-time teaching artist with the Barrel of Monkeys).

Varisco envisions growth for series like Queer, Ill, & Okay, and recognizes the challenge of diversifying his audiences to include individuals from outside the communities he serves, he said. Varisco is passionate about finding a way to make these conversations happen.

Varisco said he imagines regional workshops, collaborations and partnerships in neighboring communities that open lines of communication as well as allow for transparency and vulnerability between people who don't think they have anything in common.

JRV Majesty Productions presents the third annual Queer, Ill, & Okay July 24-25 at the Storefront Theater, 66 E. Randolph St., in partnership with the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE). Shows begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $15, available at the door. The Storefront Theater is an ADA-accessible space.

Also by JRV Majesty: Varisco is helping produce the exceedingly popular **Fly Honey Show**, an annual modern burlesque extravaganza/benefit for the Inconvenience Aug. 13-29 at the Chopin Theatre. Also, through a partnership with High Concept Laboratories at Mana Contemporary Chicago in Pilsen, Varisco is also developing a brand-new initiative called the Chicago Queer Arts Mentorship Program (CQAMP). Modeled after similar programs in New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles, CQAMP pairs 10 emerging artists with a mentor, plus a stipend and access to rehearsal/exhibition space, as well as administrative and production support. Look for the full kickoff about CQAMP in Fall 2016. Read more about Varisco's recent production, POST-Q , in the Dancin' Feats column from May.



THEATER REVIEW

Bent

Playwright: Martin Sherman
At: The Other Theatre Company
at Strawdog Theatre, 3829 N. Broadway
Tickets: 773-528-9696;
www.theothertheatrecompany.com; $25
Runs through: July 26

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

The dramatic dynamic in run-of-the-mill prison plays focuses on the ability—or inability—of the inmates to forge a unity sufficient to survive their ordeal. The dynamic in Holocaust plays is shaped by documentation of Jewish persecution under the Third Reich, though its conventions may be applied to victims of any political oppression. The dynamic in *gay* prison or Holocaust plays, by contrast, is most frequently rooted in romantic sensibilities mandating erotic attraction leading to martyrdom.

In 1979, British playwright Martin Sherman incorporated motifs from all of these genres in service of his diatribe on social prejudice toward men who love men. Instead of the usual family opposition, patriotic loyalties or crossed stars, however, the would-be lovers, in this case, are obstructed by the Nazi Party's attempts in 1934 to rid Germany of "deviants."

Our play first introduces Berlin party-boy Max, who is arrested along with his gentle consort and sent to Dachau. En route, the guards force Max to bludgeon his boyfriend to death and perform sex on a female corpse, atrocities gaining their reluctant perpetrator a measure of leniency after arriving at the camps, where he becomes increasingly preoccupied with out-and-proud fellow internee Horst. Before long, the two find themselves sharing a consciousness-raising relationship that will seal both their fates.



Nik Kourtis and Alex Weisman in Bent.
Photo by Carin Silkaitis

It would be unthinkable to trivialize the historical events providing Sherman his premise, but the author's wholesale co-opting of facts to bolster his own reductive analogies tends to distance audiences, diminishing the empathy of their responses. Director Keira Fromm wisely takes advantage of the intimate Strawdog space, though, amplifying well-worn Weimar-Republic stereotypes through highlighting of small narrative details—for example, the stratagems by which German citizens of marginal status postponed their doom a little longer. In doing so, Fromm and her cast lend a semblance of depth to their characters' environment, assisted by fight designer Barbara Charlene, who keeps the potentially cartoonish jackboot antics perfunctory. Indeed, every member of The Other Theatre Company shows evidence of going the extra mile to elevate their material.

Their efforts cannot wholly disguise the purpose of Sherman's propagandistic exposition as an excuse to conduct an existential dialogue on the difficulties of identity, commitment and loving under duress (an exercise bearing more than passing resemblance to an R-rated Waiting For Godot). Nik Kourtis and Alex Weisman gamely flex their actorly muscles, embracing every opportunity for subtextual grace notes to ensure that the spiritual growth of their respective personae achieves a level of engagement enabling us to overlook the inconsistencies marring this undeniably flawed script.

THEATER REVIEW

Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike

Playwright: Christopher Durang
At: Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St.
Tickets: 312-443-3800;
www.GoodmanTheatre.org; $25-$86
Runs through: July 26

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

The three step-siblings are petty aristocrats with a lovely country house, some land and enough money so they don't have to work. Middle-aged, unmarried and lonely, they regret roads not taken. They are self-absorbed but also keenly self-aware, rueful but also comical. They have too much time with little to do. They pine for the past and fear the future, especially as the money is running out and the family estate—with its little cherry grove—may be sold.



Vanya and Sonia ...
Photo by Liz Lauren

Theatre cognoscenti will recognize these characters instantly as creations of the great Russian dramatist Anton Chekhov, a seminal architect of modern theater. But this Vanya (Ross Lehman), Sonia (Janet Ulrich Brooks) and Masha (Mary Beth Fisher) are contemporary Americans in upscale Bucks County, PA and slightly embarrassed by their Chekhovian names. The happenings at the family manse are more absurd than Chekhov would allow, with a devoted housekeeper (E. Faye Butler) who practices voodoo. This could only be the work of absurdist writer Christopher Durang, who's struck gold with the most commercial success of his 40-year career. Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike (VSMS) is drop-dead funny and brilliantly performed by a sure-fire cast under director Steve Scott.

So who's Spike? Well, Spike (Jordan Brown) is an extreme variation on a Chekhov character, too, transformed into a Hollywood boytoy for Masha, the one sibling with a career as a successful-but-now-aging movie star. And there's Nina (Rebecca Buller) as well, the neighbor girl in awe of Masha and perhaps the character most true to Chekhov. But, really, you need not know a jot about Chekhov to enjoy this play. If it has a weakness, it's that it becomes more like a sitcom as it progresses through Act II, with a happy ending that's both predictable and audience-pleasing. This is new for Durang, whose earlier plays have a darker, rougher comic edge, are filled with literary satire and chronicle the destruction of the nuclear family and/or criticize traditional religion (Durang was raised Catholic). It's kinder, gentler Durang even if the family is typically dysfunctional.

VSMS is a good-looking show. You'll want to move into the airy luxe country house setting by Charlie Corcoran, warmly lit by Robert Perry. Amy Clark's costumes generally are fun, especially Spike's—because he doesn't wear very much! The performances are past-perfect: Brooks as a bundle of neurotic insecurities, Fisher as her fiercely competitive sister, Butler pumping out the juju in a gaudy, funny turn and Lehman whose brilliantly-understated work provides the bedrock for the others. Buller has the least to do but is entirely engaging doing it. Finally, there's hyper-enthused Brown as wide-eyed, self-absorbed but totally unaware Spike, who's vapidity has no limits. VSMS is a summer show to relish.

CRITICS' PICKS

City of Angels, Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire; through Aug. 2. Film-noir buffs won't want to miss this smart jazzy musical comedy that pays homage to hardboiled gumshoes while also spoofing the 1940s Hollywood studio system. Director Nick Bowling does a masterful job of juggling the musicals two worlds. SCM

The Diary of Anne Frank, Writers Theatre, through Aug. 16. The revised script of this familiar drama incorporates long-expurgated diary passages which make Anne more human and less saintly. This production also looks afresh at the characters—Anne's parents, Mr. Dussel, etc.—to make them less archetypal and more nuanced. JA

Stick Fly, Windy City Playhouse, extended through July 19. Don't be fooled by the onstage and offstage swank—even nearly 10 years after its premiere, Lydia R. Diamond's observations on privileged African-American families has lost none of their satirical insight. MSB

The Who and The What, Victory Gardens Theater, through July 12. Rom Barkhorder delivers a Jeff-worthy performance as a tradition-bound Muslim patriarch who we just can't bring ourselves to hate in Ayad Akhtar's latest cultural-exchange seminar. MSB

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

THEATER REVIEW

Beaches

Book: Iris Rainer Dart
and Thom Thomas
At: Drury Lane Theatre,
100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace
Tickets: 630-530-0111 or
www.drurylane.com; $45-$60
Runs through Aug. 16

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Hundreds of handwritten letters fill the stage for the new musical Beaches, now playing in a "pre-Broadway Chicago premiere" at Drury Lane Theatre in Oakbrook Terrace.

Those letters symbolize the exchanged missives of the show's leading ladies, although wags could joke that they also symbolize the pages and pages of rewrites Beaches has undergone since its 2014 debut at the Signature Theatre in Arlington, Virginia.

Sarcasm aside, Beaches has plenty of potential as a musical, and that isn't just capitalizing on the name recognition of the weepy 1988 Bette Midler and Barbara Hershey film adaptation. Iris Rainer Dart has teamed with composer David Austin and playwright Thom Thomas to adapt her 1985 novel of Beaches, a much-beloved paean to sisterly friendship in the face of life's adversity.

But Beaches had better be booked into one of Broadway's smaller theaters if it does brave New York, since the musical is largely an intimate two-hander that will get lost in a huge house.

Beaches follows the lifelong friendship between the brassy showbiz striver Cee Cee Bloom and the much more refined Bertie White from 1952 to 1985. Three sets of actresses portray Cee Cee and Bertie through the different stages of their lives, starting with precocious whippersnappers Presely Ryan and Brookly Shuck, and Samantha Pauly and Olivia Renteria as the teenage versions before concluding with Broadway veterans Shoshana Bean and Whitney Bashor as the adults.

Bean has the tougher task as Cee Cee, since she will inevitably be compared with Midler from the movie. Bean acquits herself well, playing up Cee Cee's brashness and crudeness with lots of gusto and a big belting voice. Yet she won't erase memories of Midler. Bashor, by contrast, has it easier since Bertie is so much more reactionary.

Director Eric Schaeffer does a straightforward job in staging the show, using the multiple Cee Cee and Bertie convention to best effect for the number "My Perfect Wedding" to show how child and teenage expectations of the big matrimonial day don't always pan out. Beaches has a supporting ensemble, but their roles feel largely fleeting and underwritten.

Austin and Dart's score is pleasantly ballad-heavy, though many will note how the number "What a Star Looks Like" feels like a pale imitation of "I'm the Greatest Star," from Funny Girl. The pre-existing "The Wind Beneath My Wings" by other writers has been interpolated in, but it feels like a defeat since the musical Beaches doesn't feature a new song to quite match it.

As it stands, Beaches is certainly entertaining enough, especially with some touching moments toward the end. But to make it on Broadway, more rewrites are probably necessary.

steppenwolf

Grand Concourse

BY HEIDI SCHRECK
DIRECTED BY ENSEMBLE MEMBER
YASEN PEYANKOV

Featuring ensemble members **Mariann Mayberry**, **Tim Hopper** (7/2 – 8/9) and **Francis Guinan** (8/11 – 8/30) with **Brittany Uomoleale** and **Victor Almanzar**



What happens when *faith* & *forgiveness* reach the boiling point?

NOW PLAYING

steppenwolf.org
312-335-1650

2-FOR-1 TICKETS

preview performances July 2-10
use code: 21122

2014/15 Grand Benefactors

Ogilvy UNITED

2014/15 Benefactors

Allstate. CHICAGO'S OWN GOOD HANDS BMO Harris Bank CHASE J.P.Morgan ComEd Northern Trust 125 YEARS PNC pwc VINCI RESTAURANT



Jazz Jennings (right) in I Am Jazz.
Photo courtesy of TLC

TELEVISION

'I Am Jazz' series documents famed transgender girl

BY TERRI-LYNNE WALDRON

Transgender teen Jazz Jennings has always had a strong sense of self and knew—from an early age—that she was a girl trapped in the body of a boy. It has been nine years since her transition and 14-year-old Jennings—along with her family—are set to star in their own TLC docuseries entitled I Am Jazz. Jennings talked to Windy City Times about being a trans advocate, bullies and having camera's follow her around.

Windy City Times: You were born a boy, but as soon as you could talk you told your family that you were a girl.

Jazz Jennings: I prefer to say that I was assigned male at birth, because I've always been a girl. As soon as I could express myself, I acted like a stereotypical girl. I'd crawl toward girl toys, and when I began to speak I insisted I was a girl. I never felt like anything other than a girl. I felt so strongly about being a girl because I am a girl, trapped in a boy's body.

WCT: Was it a scary process when you began your transition at the age of 5?

JJ: Not really. By the time I was 5, I was beyond ready to begin my social transition. I was ecstatic.

WCT: Did it take some time for your parents and siblings to adjust to you declaring that you were a girl?

JJ: My family has always been really supportive. When I was three, a doctor told them that I had gender-identity disorder, which is now called gender dysphoria. My family was told to follow my lead and support me—not to encourage, but support. My sister had the hardest time, because she was the only girl and princess of the family. When it was time to transition she wasn't quite ready to share the spotlight with me, but my parents explained to her how serious it was and that I needed the family to stick by me because I was going to have a rough road ahead.

WCT: What added pressures do you face being a transgender girl going to high school this fall?

JJ: Being transgender isn't easy. There will always be those kids who make fun of me and don't understand that I'm just like all the other girls. I have to worry about being bullied. Eighty-seven percent of gender-non-conforming youth are verbally harassed, and more than 50 percent are physically harassed. Those are scary statistics. And then there's the whole dating thing. Most straight guys don't want to date a trans girl, and a lot of them won't even acknowledge my presence.

WCT: How did you come to work with TLC on the show I Am Jazz?

JJ: The production company This is Just a Test approached us about doing a docuseries. They made a sizzle reel of our family and pitched the idea to TLC. We were a little nervous about the idea of having a show that revolves around our family, but it's something we always thought would be a good idea. It's not sensationalized or over-the-top. It's just our family being us.

WCT: What message do you want to send to viewers?

JJ: I hope by inviting the audience into my home I can show everyone that I'm just like any other teenager except for the fact that I just happen to be transgender. I want to educate people, open up hearts and minds, and help those who may be struggling.

WCT: What was it like having cameras follow you around?

JJ: At first it was weird having cameras around, but the crew is amazing and made me feel comfortable in no time.

WCT: You have shared your story via the book you co-authored in 2014 entitled I Am Jazz. You also started the Transkids Purple Rainbow Foundation which is a non-profit devoted to supporting transgender youth and their families. Was it always your plan to become an advocate for the transgender community?

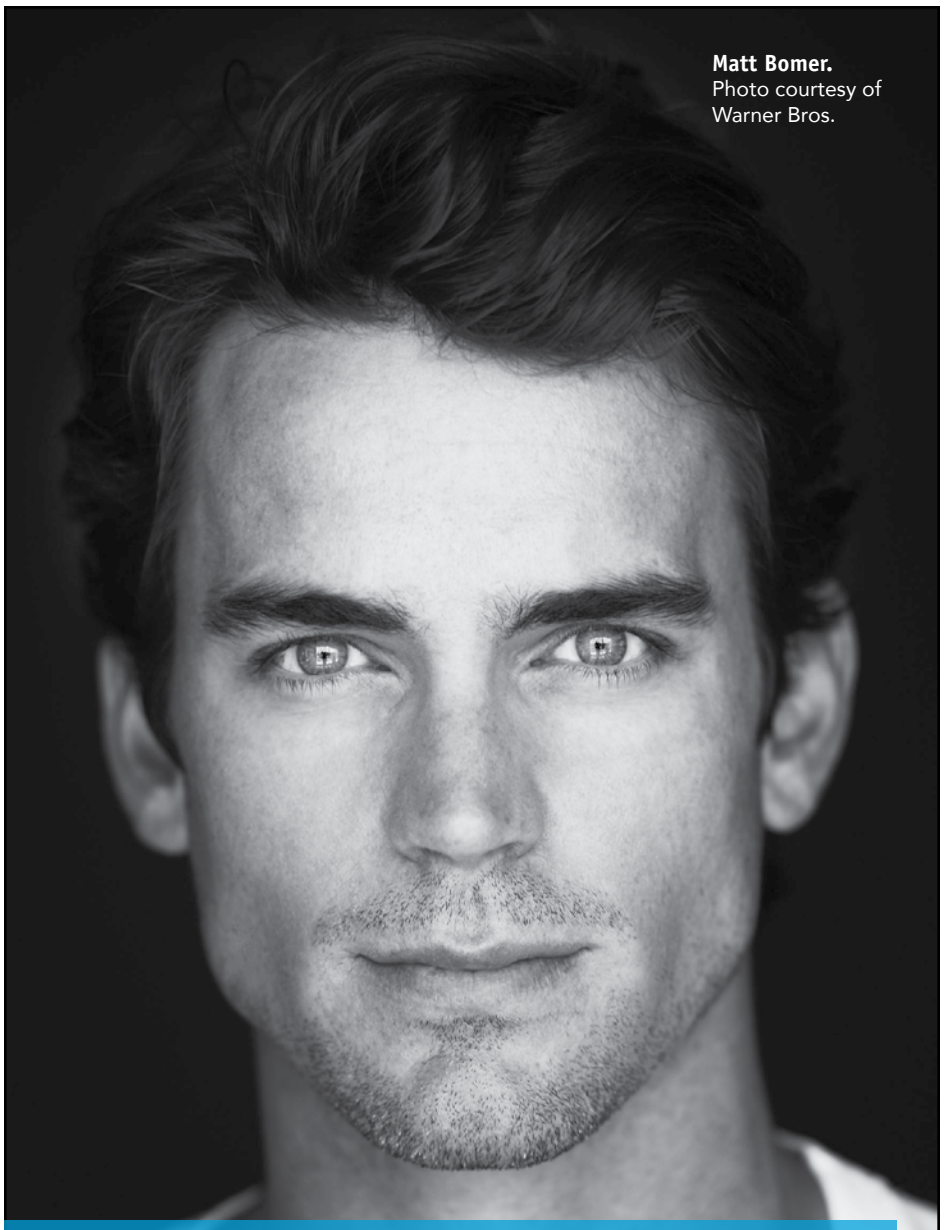
JJ: When I first appeared on 20/20 with Barbara Walters at the age of 6, I had no idea I was going to become an advocate. We started the foundation, but I didn't know that I would continue sharing my story in the capacity that I am today. I really enjoy the work I do. The best feeling comes from helping others. When a youth tells me that I've changed or even saved their lives, it's very rewarding.

WCT: Earlier this year you joined the Clean & Clear ad campaign "See the Real Me." What would you like to say to people who may be afraid to come out as transgender?

JJ: Just because you are different doesn't make you a bad person. In fact, I think it's the opposite; it makes us unique and special, which is pretty cool. Love yourself and show the world how great you are.

I Am Jazz premieres Wed., July 15, on TLC. For more info, visit www.tlc.com/.





Matt Bomer.
Photo courtesy of Warner Bros.

MOVIES

Matt Bomer:
More than meets the eyes

Magic Mike star on telling his kids he's in a stripper movie, Channing flattery and indecent gyrations

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

Matt Bomer is not buying all the buzz about Matt Bomer.

Channeling his trademark charm, the actor calls it "sheer fallacy" that anyone—let alone heterosexual men—could possibly find his piercing baby-blue eyes swoon-worthy.

And then there's his body. On display in all its near-nakedness in Magic Mike XXL, Bomer is modest about his sculpted physique. You expect it, of course. The 37-year-old dreamboat—just ask Channing Tatum—was born in Missouri and raised in Texas, and he hasn't strayed from his humble Southern roots despite scorching screen after screen.

Not just with a striptease, either.

His Golden Globe-winning performance as Felix Turner in HBO's powerful adaptation of Larry Kramer's 1985 play The Normal Heart was a tear-jerking tour de force. And soon, Bomer will bring the spooks, starring alongside Lady Gaga during the upcoming American Horror Story: Hotel, another collaboration with Ryan Murphy. (They worked together previously on Glee and The New Normal.)

Bomer talked about geeking out to Gaga, explaining Magic Mike to his sons and how Channing Tatum made him blush.

Windy City Times: You and your Magic Mike co-star Channing Tatum recently made a surprise appearance at LA Pride. As a gay man yourself, what was it like having Channing show his support for you and the rest of the LGBT community?

Matt Bomer: It's one of the many things that makes him the magnanimous, amazing, cherished soul that he is. It was his idea, to be honest with you. And he didn't have to do it. The reality of the situation is, it wasn't some PR move on his part—he wanted to be inclusive, and that's a big part of who he is as a human being. So, given the opportunity to work with him, and really everybody in this cast—they're just a great example of what we all can be, which are people who are secure in themselves, and loving and accepting of people no matter who they are and where they come from.

WCT: Channing was very complimentary toward you in his recent Reddit AMA interview. He said he "absofuckinglutely" gets lost in your eyes, and that "I don't know what they are made of outside of dreams and rainbows and amazingness…" How did you react when you learned of his enthusiasm for you?

MB: [*Laughs*] I mean, obviously, I blushed. Knowing Channing, and what a kind soul he is, I guess when you're the most handsome man on the planet—and probably the most desired man on the planet—you have the security to give those kinds of compliments. And so, it was great. It made my day, of course! I and the rest of the world feel the same way about him.

WCT: Your eyes get a lot of attention from a lot of people. Have they always stopped traffic?

I don't think they do! I think that's sheer fallacy and kindness on the part of others. [*Laughs*] No—I'm still just trying to wake up in the morning with the kids, so I don't really have time to think about that. More like, "Do I look like I got five hours of sleep last night?!"

WCT: So there's a gay bar scene in Magic Mike XXL.

MB: How great is that—to have a gay bar scene with a full-on drag show and some of the best voguers in the world? I mean, it was like a little vogue ball going on.

WCT: Did you shoot at a real gay bar?

MB: I'm not sure, to be honest with you. They sure made the location feel like it! I didn't ask; you roll up on set and that's where you are that day. I wasn't like, "Guys, is this a legit gay bar?!" The set-dec team on this movie is so gifted, so everywhere you go you just think, "Oh, this is what it is!"

WCT: It's good to see you have more lines in XXL.

MB: Well, that wouldn't be hard. I would only have had to say, like, two or three words to have more lines than I had in the first one. [*Laughs*]

WCT: And the singing! You get to cover D'Angelo's "Untitled (How Does It Feel)."

MB: Oh my god. I mean, that was the best white man's attempt I could make at that song. I just tried to stay in the game, man. I mean, that vocal and that song—I couldn't believe we were even trying to touch it.

WCT: Were you intimidated?

MB: Of course! The whole thing was Channing's idea. We did the first movie on a tiny budget, and we entertained the extras between takes. One time he just threw them right in front of my face and was like, "Do something entertaining." That's the creative, spontaneous soul that Channing is, and Joe [Manganiello] has known me since we were 18 and so [Joe] was like, "You should sing something!" And I was like, "What do I sing?" Channing was like, "I don't know—sing some Jodeci." And so I did!

He remembered that for the second movie. He was like, "Why don't you sing something? What song would you sing?" I was like, "Obviously the sexiest song of all time is 'How Does It Feel' by D'Angelo, but I'm not gonna touch that song." He was like, "Why don't you give it a try?" So I basically recorded a vocal over a karaoke track, more or less—I ended up singing it live in the movie—but that recording is basically what we used to choreograph the piece and what we based the eventual performance on.

WCT: What do you remember thinking the first time you saw D'Angelo bare almost all during the "Untitled" video?

MB: Honestly, I got Voodoo as soon as it came out [in 2000], and I remember hearing that song and just playing it over and over again. And there's an extended cut of that song that's, like, seven minutes long! I was just so fascinated to hear a song that's in six-eight time, and I know that's musician lingo, but it was so inherently sexy in such an effortless way. Seeing the video was icing on the cake. I think I was like, "How do you get that jacked? How do you get in that kind of shape?" And then I was also like, "Was he really naked?!"

WCT: And now you are that jacked in Magic Mike.

MB: Oh, please! Not even.

WCT: As they get older, how will you explain Magic Mike to your three sons?

MB: You know, I think the dialogue has already begun. I think it's dangerous to just ignore something. Fortunately or unfortunately, there are billboards on the way to their school, so when I'm driving them to school in the morning—the first couple of times I tried to duck my head—they realize it's me. So, I told them when I was doing the movie, "This is a movie I'm doing where we play dancers and we

Turn to page 21



/nightspots @nightspotschicago

nightspots

weekly nightlife section in WINDY CITY TIMES









JACKHAMMER

Raising the 'woof' at the Friday, July 3 launch party for Pup411.com, the web site for pups and handlers.
Photos by Jerry Nunn



DANCING ABOUT ARCHITECTURE

BY MARC 'MOOSE' MODER



Not Just Lip Service Anymore…

If you're under fifty—or over thirty—your education in drag has probably consisted of lip-syncing glamour girls giving you face, nails and massive wigs. The culture and technology of the DJ came right up with drag and went hand in hand, ushering out a need for the pre-Stonewall vocal drag performers. Nowadays, the queen of vocal drag, Rupaul, has once again made it standard issue for drag performers to carry a tune if they want to take it to the next level. Drag hasn't been associated with decent aural qualities for years (see Amanda Lepore), but there is a plethora of fantastic drag albums and EPs out there to swing you into the summer party season. Here's quick rundown of the essentials.

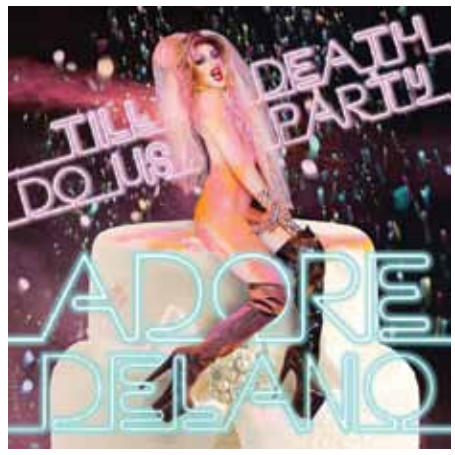
While the Billie Holiday of drag, Joey Arias, and John Waters' muse Divine broke ground in the late '70s and early '80s, much of their output is all over the place and hard to find. The real '70s mother is the departed **Sylvester**.



While not, in my book, a "drag queen," she certainly lived her life genderfucking across the disco era and putting out such classics as "You Make Me Feel (Mighty Real)," "Do Ya Wanna Funk" and "Dance (Disco Heat)," as well as discovering The Weather Girls ("It's Raining Men").

After the passing of Divine and Sylvester, the drag vocals dried up, leaving **RuPaul** to take the reins. She came smashing out of the velvet curtain with what to this day is her finest effort, "Supermodel of the World." Chock full of catchy hits, strong vocals and humor, Ru's put out great songs with every annual album, but now rushes so fast to squeeze in 10 jobs, that she's failed to top her debut.

That said, if it weren't for Rupaul, we would not have some of the best party albums of the past seven seasons. While **Sharon Needles**' PG-13 failed to capture her true spirit and sounds like a warmed over Ru release, **Alaska Thunderfuck** (Anus) and **Willam** (Shartistry In Motion) have, in the past year, put out releases that rival any modern pop artists, drag or not. Both CDs are inventive, edgy, sexy and, most of all, fun. Also, no surprise that the vocally talented **Adore Delano** blew us all away last year with Till Death Do Us Party, which I called the drag Miley/Bangerz.



While it's not a stretch to expect Adore's debut to be amazing and on-point, due to his American Idol past, it is sad to see that the phenomenal **Courtney Act** has yet to pull together enough songs for an eagerly anticipated debut, and same for Shangela, who recently did an amazing cover of "Uptown Funk." Here's hoping both strike while the flattening iron's still hot and start serving us up more vocal realness.

Catch DJ Moose with Debbie Fox at Replay Lakeview's Tat-Tuesday, July 14.



CREW

The Stanley Cup stopped by for a quick one, just before the parade on Sunday, June 28.
Photo by Kirk Williamson





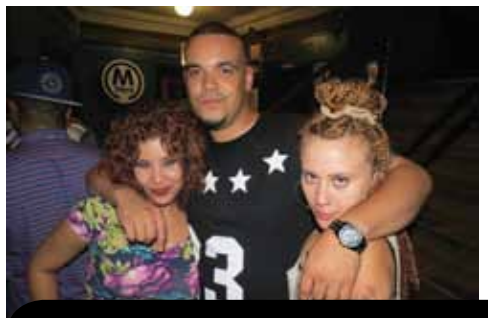


THE SOFO TAP

Why go to London just to ride a pony when you could've gone to Yankee DILF-y Daddy, Saturday, July 4?
Photos from Marc 'Moose' Moder









METRO

Urbano gives you The Black Party, Saturday, July 4, for Black Pride weekend.
Photos by Jerry Nunn





SIDETRACK

Waving their flags at the big IndepenDance, Saturday, July 4.
Photos by Jed Dulanas







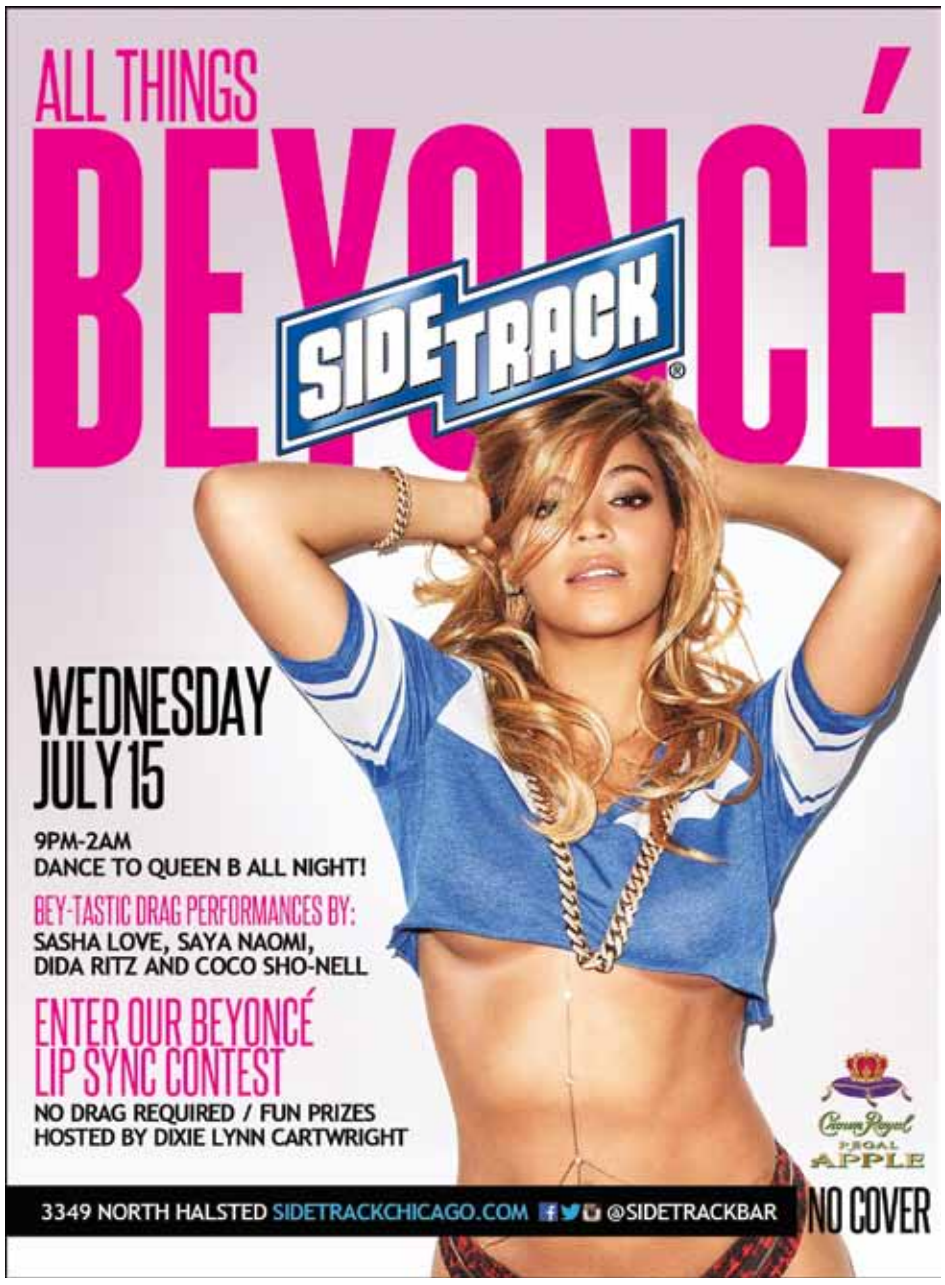




MARY'S ATTIC

Celebrating the fourth on Sunday, July 5 at the Tea in A-ville dance.
Photos by Jerry Nunn





the DISH
Weekly Dining Guide in
WINDY CITY TIMES

SAVOR
Mr. Brown's Lounge

BY ANDREW DAVIS







Throughout my years covering restaurants for Windy City Times, there are few cuisines I haven't covered.

However, authentic Jamaican was one of them—until recently. **Mr. Brown's Lounge** (81 E. Wacker Dr.; MrBrownsLounge.com), an eatery offering such cuisine, has opened a branch in the Loop. (Another is in West Town, at 2301 W. Chicago Ave.)

Judging by the quality of the food—and the jovial atmosphere—I will be returning soon. The jerk chicken alone is worth the price of admission; on a recent visit, it managed to be tasty while having some kick. (The trick, of course, is for a dish to not have too much kick—which takes away from the experience, for me.) Be sure to try it with the slightly sweet coco bread, or plantains.

Be warned, though: A lot of Jamaican food—at least, at Mr. Brown's Lounge—has a kick. That includes the Island Mac 'n' Cheese, which includes five types of cheese. There's also the jerk chicken burger, although it has ranch dressing to cool off things. The Jamaican fried snapper comes with hot-and-sweet pepper sauce. (Other entrees include the traditional oxtail, with brown sauce and butter beans, and curried goat, with Jamaican seasonings.)

Also, don't forget the dessert. The coconut-drop cookies were fun (albeit a bit sticky), but the banana pudding won my heart. An alternative to the Nilla-wafer ones most of us have heard of or tasted, this one is not too sweet and filled with large chunks of banana bread.

As for drinks, my Hummingbird (a cocktail with Appleton Gold Jamaican rum, Tia Maria, milk, fresh banana and strawberry syrup) looked so good I didn't want to try it—and it tasted pretty good, to boot. A nice variety of cocktails is available (at $10-$12 each). However, if you're in a celebratory mood, there's also Dom Perignon ($350)—but there are also various beers ($7-$8).

Then, there's the atmosphere. The DJ spins tunes (and I was actually singing along to Dawn Penn's reggae classic "No, No, No"), the walls are festooned with album covers and the telegenic staff is extremely friendly. You'll feel like you're in the islands—at least, until you walk back outside, and Chicago traffic and pedestrians bring you back to reality.



BILLY Masters

"When you Google yourself and the first thing that comes up is 'Jeremy Renner gay,' it's like, 'Oh, now you've arrived. You're now a giant movie star.' So I just had a big laugh about it. I don't care, ultimately, if that's what people want to think, read, and care about. Fucking say whatever the hell you want about me."—Jeremy Renner in Playboy. While I appreciate the sentiment, what straight man who doesn't care about rumors still Googles himself?

This week, I'd like to open my column in defense of whores. Yes, you heard me right—whores. We all condemn them but you know we love them ... and often, we are them. Oh, yeah, it's such a terrible thing to be able to sleep with lots of hot people. Jealous much? Then again, I'm on my way to Provincetown, so sex is on my mind. This diatribe (or diatrite—my new word) is spurred by the condemnation of "Bachelorette" Kaitlyn—as opposed to the latest Jenner spawn, Caitlyn. There are lots of reasons to dislike Kaitlyn—she's annoying, not funny, kinda rude, classless and not so bright. And did I mention she's annoying? But she's the "Bachelorette" and these guys wanna sleep with her—and these guys are hot. News flash: If I were the "Bachelorette," I'd be sleeping with EVERYONE—including the crew (and that's actually happened before). So, let he without lust in his heart (and without opportunities) cast the first stone. So let it be written; so let it be done.

Then there are Michael Sam and Vito Whatshisname—the one who was previously dating a porn star. (Not that there's anything wrong with that—I married one.) Perhaps more details will be revealed by the time this is published, but on the day I'm writing this (and in between orgasms), it seems that the couple has split up. That would explain why Sam had to fly home to Texas for a "personal matter."

As you may recall, the couple famously posted photos of Mikey proposing to Vito on the roof of Saint Peter's Basilica in January—an event I'm sure was not sanctioned by the Vatican. In the past week, photos of that special moment have been scrubbed from both of their social media accounts, and people close to the couple say they have been estranged for weeks. For their part, Michael and Vito have thus far issued a terse "no comment" to press requests about their status.



How much love is Katy Perry getting from the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary? Nun.
Photo from Paramount Pictures

Someone who always has something to say is Donald Trump. I've been waiting for a gay angle in this whole mess, and finally it's arrived. Thomas Roberts and Cheryl Burke were slated to host the Miss USA Pageant, but given the brouhaha, they have both pulled out. Last week, Roselyn Sanchez and Cristian de la Fuente pulled out from hosting the Univision telecast. Then judges Flo Rida, Emmitt Smith,and Jonathan Scott pulled out. Performers Craig Wayne Boyd and Natalie La Rose pulled out. The only one who never pulled out was Donald—that's why we've been plagued with his untalented children!

It's all moot at this point—Univision dumped the pageant last week. Now NBC announced they're cutting all ties with Trump—including no longer airing Miss USA or Miss Universe. The network stressed that if Celebrity Apprentice returns, it would have a new host. Needless to say, The Donald is considering filing suit against the network, saying, "NBC is weak, and like everybody else is trying to be politically correct." He's already filed a $500-million lawsuit against Univision. The pageant will now air on that thriving network, Reelz, which I believe is somewhere in the thousands on your cable provider.

If I'm worried about offending people, then Katy Perry sure has balls—she's risking pissing off a gaggle of nuns! It all started when she innocently bought what she thought was a former convent. It turns out that some nuns still live there. L.A. Archbishop Jose Gomez signed a deal for Perry to pay $14.5 million for the Convent of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. However, the sister had signed papers to sell the property to a restaurateur for $15.5 million. Wait a minute? Can nuns do that? Sell a convent? Next thing you know, Pope Francis will list the Basilica on eBay! Apparently, 47 of the resident nuns were moved out of the convent back in 2011. But there are still five nuns there as squatters—and we all know how that goes in California. (See the film Pacific Heights.) The irony is that prior to her pop success, Perry was a Christian singer. She tried to appeal to the stubborn sisters directly by meeting with them, showing them her Jesus tattoo, and singing "Oh Happy Day." Sister Rita Callanan told the Today show, "Our days have not been happy since then, I can assure you." I love a snappy sister!

Alas, I can't be everywhere. If I could, I would certainly not have missed last week's screening of Showgirls at the Hollywood Forever Cemetery—especially since it was attended by Nomi herself, Elizabeth Berkley. Although Showgirls has become a gay cult classic, it is also considered one of the worst movies ever made and is regarded as putting the nail in Elizabeth Berkley's burgeoning film career—it's her Mommie Dearest. We're told this was Berkley's first appearance at a screening in 20 years and she was greeted as a goddess (take a hint, Faye). As luck would have it, the screening took place the day after the Supreme Court ruled in favor of same-sex marriage. So it was a celebratory mood all around, with Berkley saying, "I wanna just start this incredible night off by just acknowledging what a celebration tonight is on the heels of such a monumental, incredible win last night. Love wins!" She then struck a Nomi pose, and the audience erupted—as you'll see in the video on BillyMasters.com.

Lastly, I must mention the prank that was pulled on poor Paris Hilton last week in Egypt. I know this made all the news, but it's just too delicious. Paris was in Egypt and thought she was on a TV show that would fly her in a little airplane. Shortly after take-off, the plane starts to nose-dive. Paris kept yelling, "What the fuck is happening?" Of course, this was all scripted, but Hilton was in the dark ... or was she? Rumor has it that the heiress was in on the prank and paid "in the millions." You can decide for yourself when you see the footage on our website.

When Paris Hilton could have any discernible acting ability, it's time to end yet another column. I trust you all had a festive Fourth. Be sure to check out www.BillyMasters.com, the site that always provides a bang. If you have a question for me to tackle, send it to Billy@BillyMasters.com and I promise to get back to you before Michael Sam's recruited to be the next Bachelor. So, until next time, remember, one man's filth is another man's bible.

nightspots
the big TO-DO

OUR WEEKLY PICKS TO PLAN YOUR NIGHTLIFE CALENDAR



Official MAMBY kickoff party

Thursday, July 9, 10 pm
Berlin, 932 W. Belmont Ave.
The lakeside festival, reincarnated from a weekly Chicago party from the mid-2000s, begins with DJ sets from YAWN, My Gold Mask (pictured), Greg Corner, Zebo + Eddie and more. MAMBY ticket giveaway at midnight.



Totally Requested Live benefit for The Chicago Outfit

Friday, July 10, 9 pm
Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St.
The Chicago Outfit Roller Derby team comes to Mary's Attic to raise funds for the team with TOTALLY REQUESTED LIVE!, Mary's all request dance party.



Official MAMBY afterparty

Sunday, July 12, 10 pm
Progress Bar, 3359 N. Halsted St.
See Tanlines (pictured) spin a special DJ set as the sun sets of the MAMBY beach party.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Wed., July 8

I Live for Trans Education: Screening & Discussion Trans Oral History Project screens documentary shorts from a grass-roots multimedia curriculum. 7:00pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

Thursday, July 9

Move Your Body: The Evolution of House Music Exhibition in the Chicago Rooms celebrating more than 30 years of a home-grown art form that is now heard around the world. Through Aug. 16, 2015 7:00pm - 9:30pm Chicago Cultural Center 78 E. Washington St. Chicago http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/dca/supp_info/moveyourbody.html?utm_source=Move+Your+Body+Exhibit+Preview+2015&utm_campaign=Move+Your+Body+Exhibit+Preview+2015&utm_medium=email

War of the Worlds Radical adaptation of the Orson Welles radio play, written by Robert Eric Shoemaker. 7:00pm Gorilla Tango Theatre 1919 N Milwaukee Ave., 773-598-4549 Tickets: http://gorillatango.com

ROOF Runway Featuring Tommy Bahama Doors open 4pm. RSVP by phone for express entry - No cover charge 7:00pm 201 N. State St., 27th Floor, Chicago 312-239-9502

Patricia Skalka Author Death at Gills Rock 7:30pm Women & Children First Bookstore 5233 N Clark St Chicago http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

MIRACLE! with Dan Savage talkback William Gibson's Helen Keller drama The Miracle Worker, hilariously reset in modern-day gay drag and lesbian bars. $17-$35 with VIP reserved seats available. 7:30pm Mary's Attic 5400 N Clark Chicago Tickets: http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1387877



DAN FAVORITE
Thursday, July 9

Dan Savage will be at a talkback for his play MIRACLE!, at Mary's Attic, 5400 N. Clark St.
Photo by LaRae Lobdell

Singer's Showcase w/ David Lahm - Special Open Mic For singers of Broadway tunes or jazz standards. Accompanied by David Lahm. Rehearsal starts at 6:00 pm. Performers need to email David at dflahm@gmail.com to sign up. Bring sheet music or ask David if he has it on hand. No cover, full bar. Times are ET. 8:00pm The Acorn Theater 107 Generations Dr. Three Oaks, MI 49107 269-756-3879 Tickets: https://www.vendini.com/ticket-software.html?e=031646872682355a7af522fcac275715&t=tix

Wicker Park to Pay Tribute to Late, Great Robin Williams Movies in the Park Series, Thursdays 9:00pm 1425 N. Damen, Chicago http://www.WickerPark.org

Friday, July 10

Loose Chicks Courageous women share experiences that most women keep to themselves, featuring Roberta Miles and Jillian Erickson. Admission is free. Donations are encouraged. BYOB venue. 7:15pm - 8:30pm Uncharted Books 2630 N. Milwaukee Chicago

Caitlin Moran, author How to Build a Girl Fourteen-year-old reinvents herself as a fast-talking, hard-drinking Lady Sex Adventurer and then realizes she's rebuilt herself with a fatal flaw. $10 at door or purchase of any of Caitlin's books. 7:30pm The Swedish American Museum Center 5211 N. Clark St. Chicago http://www.womenandchildrenfirst.com

Chicago Sky vs. Minnesota Lynx 2014 WNBA Eastern Conference Champions 7:30pm Allstate Arena 6920 N Mannheim Rd Rosemont, IL 60018 Tickets: http://www.ticketmaster.com/chicago-sky-vs-minnesota-lynx-rosemont-illinois-07-10-2015/event/04004E4CAEF129D9?brand=sky&camefrom=CFC_SKY_DISP_wc_2015

Siempre Latina -Y se acabo Final event of Amigas Latinas, as its founders, former board members, past and current Amigas Latinas members, friends and families come together to celebrate the organization's twenty year long history. Free. Cash bar. Buffet between 8pm-11pm. RSVP 8:00pm - 1:00am Michelle's Ballroom, 2800 W. Belmont Ave, Chicago Tickets: http://www.amigaslatinas2015.eventbrite.com

Ginger Minj in Crossdresser For Christ: The Musical Here comes RuPaul's Drag Race Season 7 superstar Ginger Minj starring in this hilarious off-Broadway musical. All reserved seating, $40 & $25. Limited VIP meet-and-greet tickets also available for $75. Tickets on sale at the theater box office, www.eTix.com or call 800-514-3849. WARNING: Adult content. This is one of the first dates of the World Tour. Murray & Peter proudly present a night of stories, songs and comedy from the mind of a Southern queen. For more info, www.facebook.com/murrayandpeterpresent or www.gingerminj.com 9:00pm - 12:00am Park West Chicago 322 W Armitage Ave

Saturday, July 11

Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance (LGBTQ) Support meeting to talk about illnesses, symptoms, treatment, doctors, and personal issues such as dating, relationships and work. Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted 11:00am - 12:30pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago http://dbsa-glbt-chicago.com

Ride for AIDS 12th year for the two-day, 200-mile, bicycling event produced by the Test Positive Aware Network. All donations go to beneficiaries. Ride egins Saturday morning, goes through Wisconsin to sleep in cabins or hotels and return to Chicago on Sunday. Rider and crew check-in begin at 5 am. 6:45am Depart from Chandler Park, 1028 Central St., Evanston http://rideforaids.kintera.org/faf/search/searchTeamPart.asp?ievent=1114932&lis=1&kntae1114932=D2B7A1269D0841B6BD021FA05CE5975C&team=6247619

Legacy Project hosts Pepe-Julian Onziema Reception Onziema is coming to Chicago for the first time to see the Legacy Walk's bronze memorial to slain Ugandan Activist David Kato. 1:00pm - 3:00pm Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St Tickets: http://www.legacyprojectchicago.org

Sunday, July 12

Pepe-Julian Onziema Onziema will join a select panel to discuss present day challenges in his homeland, explore ways the international community can step up to address the crisis claiming LGBTI people worldwide, and assist the LGBTI immigrant population fleeing persecution. $5. 2:00pm - 5:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago Tickets: http://www.legacyprojectchicago.org/Onziema_Reception.html

Monday, July 13

TransSafe Drop In Resource Center Trans and gender non-conforming. Hang out, socialize, enjoy some food. Access medical, hormones, legal, housing, social, employment New day and location. 1:00pm - 4:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago http://www.chicagohouse.org/?post_causes=translife-center

FWD Theatre Project Presents EXPOSURE Premiere performance of a staged reading of a new musical conceived by Cathy Nathan with music and lyrics by Erik Della Penna, book by William Brown and Douglas Frew and photography by Sandro. Depicts a runaway teen living by her wits on the streets of Chicago. Directed by William Brown with musical direction by Doug Peck. $15 reserved seating. Open to all ages. 8:00pm City Winery Chicago 1200 W Randolph St., 312-733-WINE (9463) Tickets: http://www.citywinery.com/chicago/

Tuesday, July 14

Chicagoland Shorts screening and filmmaker discussion Short films series produced by Eugene Sun Park and Kayla Ginsburg, co-curated with Becky Stocchetti (Katemquin Films). Stocchetti will be in attendance to lead a post-screening Q&A session. The program includes Queen of My Dreams with out lesbian Fawzia Mirza as well as Self-Deportation: The Untold Tale of a Marginal Woman. Admission to the gallery is free. 7:00pm - 9:00pm Gallery 400, 400 S. Peoria St., (MC 034), Chicago, IL 312-996-6114 http://fullspectrumfeatures.com/chicagoshorts/

Wed., July 15

Men's Speed Dating Enjoy comedy - all while searching for the man of your dreams in this classic, round-robin evening of speed dating! $10 in advance, $15 at door 7:00pm - 9:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago http://www.gayco.com Tickets: http://community.centeronhalsted.org/SpeedDating

BOMER from page 17

have fun and we try to entertain these ladies." I try to frame it in a context that they can understand so that they're not just operating in the dark and going, "Why is my dad naked on a billboard?" Because I'm trying to help them make sense of their world. In terms of a real conversation as to what that is, that probably won't start until they're teenagers. [*Laughs*]

And, by the way, they keep me real grounded and real down to earth about it all. I remember I was actually taking my older son to see Jurassic World, and on the way there was the billboard and I was like, "Ah, crap." And he brought it up. "Hey, that's you on that billboard." I was like, "Yeah." And he goes, "But they're not all you." Like, you ain't that cool. [*Laughs*]

The interesting thing about kids is, they don't care what you do so much or what other people think about you; they're more interested in what your relationship with them is like and how you prioritize them in your life. I try to make a strong effort to make them know they're always number one for me.

WCT: As an actor, what's it like to go from a role in a movie that's as intense as The Normal Heart to Magic Mike XXL? Is that balance critical for you as a person?

MB: I'll be honest with you, it was for me, man. I went from Normal Heart into the last season of a show I'd done for six years [USA's White Collar, 2009-2014], and then into a couple of more serious roles in other films, and this was the perfect break. The thing about being an actor is you approach your work the same regardless of what the role is or what the genre is or what the themes are—you try to put the same amount of work into it—but it was certainly nice and a breath of fresh air to get to chill out and have fun with these guys.

WCT: You came out publicly in 2012, and you handled it with so much grace and subtlety. These days, there's a lot of pressure on Hollywood actors to take that step. Where do you stand on the role of public Hollywood figures in terms of advancing the gay movement?

MB: You know, it's not my business to get up on a soapbox and tell people what they should and shouldn't do. I think one thing that people don't always take into consideration is a holistic aspect of what may or may not be going on in that individual's life—you know, what kind of relationship they have with their family, how the people around them feel about it. But for me, having kids and being married, it was important to maintain the integrity of those relationships and not teach my kids that this is a shameful secret and that my husband [Simon Halls] has to be waiting in the wings all the time. So that's why it was important to me personally. By the same token, I don't hold anyone else accountable. It's their choice.

WCT: Now on to American Horror Story. According to a tweet from Ryan Murphy, Lady Gaga has to choose between you and actor Finn Wittrock during the upcoming season of American Horror Story: Hotel. First of all, have you even read the script yet?

MB: [*Laughs*] That's a great question. You're the first person who's started with that question, which I think is, ultimately, the most important question. I've read a couple of them. I wish I could tell you more. Honestly, I have no specifics of who's playing which role and what Finn is playing, but I have a tremendous amount of respect for him as an actor and a person, and I'm incredibly excited to work with Stefani [Germanotta, aka Lady Gaga] as well and see what she brings to the table. And listen, Ryan is a creative genius. He really is. Nobody does a show quite like he does, so I'm really excited to get to play in that twisted and beautiful world they've created. Whatever they bring my way, I'm down.

WCT: Which Lady Gaga song could you see yourself stripping to?

MB: Oh, you mean which one do I blast full volume in my car? I don't know which one I'd strip to, to be honest with you, but I definitely get down to "The Edge of Glory" in my car and just geek out to it. If anyone saw me at a stoplight, they would think I was crazy. I just let it fly in the car. I'll do that.

Do you ever watch that show Broad City? It's everything. I'm so in love with these two girls who are the leads, and one of them at one point finally gets the apartment to herself and she blasts Edge of Glory and just does a full-on dance around her apartment. I will straight up do the same thing at my house when I get, you know, two free seconds.

Chris Azzopardi is the editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBT wire service. Reach him via his website at www.chrisazzopardi.com and on Twitter (@chrisazzopardi).

Read the entire interview online at www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com.

LGBTRIVIA

Which symbol of gay pride and AIDS activism was actually based on a negative use of the same symbol during the Nazi era?

Answer on page 22

CULTURE CLUB



CLASSIFIEDS

BOOKKEEPER AVAILABLE

QUICKBOOK BOOKKEPER AVAILABLE. Accounts Payable/Accounts Receivable, Invoicing, Collections, Time Tracking, Bank & Credit card reconciliations, Financial Statements, Journal Entry, Reports for accountants for year-end and Much More! www.rockstarbooks.webs.com

CLEANING SERVICES

CHESTNUT CLEANING SERVICES: We're a house cleaning service for homes, small businesses and small buildings. We also have fabulous organizational skills (a separate function at a separate cost that utilizes your assistance) for what hasn't been cleaned in many months or years due to long-term illness, depression, physical/mental challenges, for the elderly, if you have downsized and more. Depressed about going home to chaos? We can organize your chaos, straighten out your chaos, help you make sense of your chaos and finally clean what is no longer chaos. Can we help you? Bonded and insured. **Chestnut Cleaning Service: 312-332-5575. www.ChestnutCleaning.com** *(11/18/15-52)*

HELP WANTED

PrEP NAVIGATOR/TESTER - CHICAGO HOUSE The primary role of the PrEP Navigator/Tester will be to test and connect HIV negative individuals, who are considered to be at a heightened risk of contracting HIV, to healthcare services for the prospect of having them commence a regimen of pre-exposure prophylaxis. Qualifications include: Training in conducting HIV Counseling, Testing, and Referral services (through Chicago Department of Public Health or Illinois Department of Public Health) required; Demonstrated experience providing direct clinical services with highly vulnerable, difficult-to-engage populations is required; High school diploma or GED required, and applicable life experience and training; Qualified to administer HIV tests; Strong leadership, communication, organizational and interpersonal skills with a diverse range of individuals, organizations, and communities required; Willingness to travel throughout the Chicago metropolitan area required; Willingness to conduct street and Agency outreach; Willingness to work night and weekend hours required; Bi-lingual, Spanish speaking preferred. **E-MAIL RESUME TO: swaclaw@chicagohouse.org** *(7/15/15-2)*

HOME IMPROVEMENT & PAINTING

MARRIAGE EQUALITY – LOVE WINS. MAKE YOUR HOME TOGETHER LOOK FABULOUS! We do bathrooms, carpentry, drywall repairs, deck cleaning, staining and painting. "A+" with BBB. Licensed-Bonded-Insured, One year Warranty. Free Estimates! **Andy OnCall 847-328-3100 www.andyoncallchicago.com** *(10/14/15-56)*

MEDIATION SERVICES

McDONOUGH MARITAL MEDIATION SERVICES Divorce, prenuptial, parenting, EEO, and workplace. Thirty years experience mediating – personal, workplace, and federal. Telephone conferencing available. **Call Virginia 630.355.7055 or McDonoughMediation@gmail.com. www.McDonoughMediation.com** *(10/14/15-52)*

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

INCLUSIVE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY. Dignity/Chicago envisions a Catholic Church welcoming to all – LGBTIQ. Join us on Sunday's for Catholic Mass 5:00 p.m. at BUMC, 3344 N Broadway. **Learn more at www.dignity-chicago.org** *(11/11/15-52)*

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

HELLENISMOS



ORPHISMOS

STUDY AND WORSHIP

inquire.hellenicgods@gmail.com

www.hellenicgods.org

SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS

ARE YOU INTELLECTUALLY GIFTED? Are you interested in meeting other LGBTs like you? Come join the LGBT and Allies Special Interest Group in Chicago Area Mensa. **To inquire, contact lgbta@chicago.us.mensa.org**. *(4/20/16-52)*

WINDOW TREATMENTS

WONDERING WHAT TO DO WITH THOSE WINDOWS?: Call me! I take care of it all from design through installation, customizing to your needs. JOSEPH RICE Interiors, Inc. Full Decorating Services with a specialty in window treatments for over 25 years. **773-271-2361. www.JosephRiceInteriors.com** *(9/2/15-13)*

LGBTRIVIA

From page 21

ANSWER:
Pink triangle

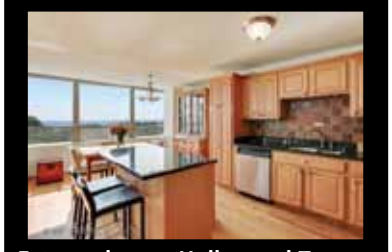
Questions from That's So Gay! A Game of LGBTQ Discovery, a 2400-question board game available from Women & Children First Books and on Amazon.com.

REAL ESTATE

CASH BACK HOME PURCHASE

Top Chicago Gay Realtors Represent You FREE. Choose your Perfect Agent On-Line & Receive up to $2500 VISA Gift Card! No Cost / Obligation.
WWW.GAYREALESTATE.COM/PERK *(9/9/15-26)*

MAGNIFICENT LAKE, BEACH & SKYLINE VIEWS



Extremely rare Hollywood Towers 2BR/2BTH 7th floor CORNER UNIT, overlooking fabulous HOLLYWOOD BEACH. Featuring a very sunny, spacious open-concept layout, remodeled kitchen and baths, hardwood flooring throughout, tons of closets & more! Full amenity building ON THE BEACH with LOW ASSESSMENTS including HEAT, A/C, CABLE TV, and INTERNET! $259,900

Keith Schumann / 847.404.8800
Keiths@atproperties.com

CONNEXIONS

MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS



JOSEPH RICE
INTERIORS, INC.
CHICAGO
(773) 779-8707
www.josephriceinteriors.com
Specializing in Drapery Treatments

TRANSGENDER LAWYER
Joanie Rae Wimmer



EMPLOYMENT LAW •
POLICE MISCONDUCT •
DIVORCE •
NAME CHANGE •

"Joanie obtained the first award in favor of a transgender person under the Illinois Human Rights Act."
—The award in favor of cab driver Venessa Fitzsimmons totaled $104,711.00—Fitzsimmons v. Universal Taxi Dispatch, Inc., ALS No. 09-0661

(630) 810-0005 or (630) 880-5005
www.joanieraewimmer.com



Discounts as big as a house. Or condo. Or apartment.

Linda Kuczka, Agent
954 W Webster
Chicago, IL 60614
Bus: 773-975-9111
www.lindakuczka.com

See just how big your savings could be.
Your savings could add up to hundreds of dollars when you put all your policies together under our State Farm® roof.
GET TO A BETTER STATE.™
CALL AN AGENT OR VISIT US ONLINE TODAY.

State Farm

1103155 11/11
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, Bloomington, IL

Family Law
Donald B. Boyd, Jr.
• Civil Unions • LGBT Issues
• Divorce/Wills/Trusts • Real Estate Closings
• Custody Violation • Child Support
Free Initial Consultation
708-848-1005
113 South Marion St., Ste. 100, Oak Park, Ill., 60302
Evening & Weekend Appointments Available
Major Credit Cards Accepted
www.BoydDivorce.com

AA SERVICE CO.
Heating & Cooling
Family Owned & Operated Since 1965
24-Hour Emergency Service
We Service ALL Makes & Models
• Residential • Service
• Commercial • Installation
• Industrial • Sales
Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AAService
847-729-7889
www.AAServiceCo.com
550 Anthony Trail, Northbrook, IL

We Bring the Showroom To You®



Helping our clients with:
Flooring Projects including Wood, Laminate, Carpet, Vinyl and Tile.
Window Covering Projects from Shades to Shutters to Draperies.
NATIONWIDE FLOOR & WINDOW COVERINGS
We Bring the Showroom to You®
Schedule a Free Estimate
Mention this ad for a 20% discount
Charles Jones
(773) 935-8700
(773) 915-3271 Cell/Text
cjones@nfwchicago.com
www.nfwchicago.com
2014 Angie's List Super Service Award
Gay owned and operated Chicago small business since 2007

CONNEXIONS MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS

You Have Unique Needs, I Can Help.



James E. Elvord, AWM
First Vice President
Financial Advisor

500 West Madison Street, Suite 2500
Chicago, IL 60661
(312) 559-1738 | (800) 683-3246
james.elvord@rbc.com

RBC Wealth Management

© 2015 RBC Wealth Management, a division of RBC Capital Markets, LLC, Member NYSE/FINRA/SIPC.



Dr. Teresa Tam
MD, FACOG
Board Certified

Specialist in:
- Well-Woman Care
- Genetic Screening
- Contraception
- Minimally Invasive Surgery
- Bleeding & Menstrual Issues
- Pelvic Pain and Endometriosis
- Sexually Transmitted Infections

AAGL Center of Excellence in Minimally Invasive Gynecology

Call: 773.904.8641

2800 N. Sheridan Road, Ste. 205N, Chicago, IL
1725 W. Harrison St, Ste. 400, Chicago, IL
(New location in Rush Medical Center)

All for Women Healthcare, SC
Exceptional Care for Exceptional Women

Book Your Appointment Online At:
www.allforwomenhealthcare.com

Whether you are just acquainting with your gender identity, struggling with a gender transition, confused about your sexuality or you may be facing issues in an existing relationship, Guided Path can help.

Guided Path
Psychological Services
Enhancing Your Journey Toward Wellness

847-809-3031
Two locations: Palatine and Hinsdale
www.guidedpathpsychologicalservices.com

Ray J. Koenig III and **Clark Hill PLC**



- Probate
- Trusts
- Guardianship
- Estate Planning
- Elder Law

Clark Hill is an entrepreneurial, full service law firm that provides business legal services, government & public affairs, and personal legal services to our clients throughout the country. With offices in Arizona, Delaware, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C. and West Virginia, Clark Hill has more than 300 attorneys and professionals.

312.985.5938 | rkoenig@clarkhill.com
clarkhill.com
CLARK HILL

Dr. Edward J. Fajardo

Licensed Clinical Psychologist

4633 N. Western Ave., Suite 206
Chicago, IL 60625
(312) 623-0502
dr.edwardfajardo@gmail.com

Look for Dr. Edward Fajardo on Facebook

Specializing in Gay-Affirmative Psychotherapy

American Budget Mechanical Service

Air Conditioning/Heating
847-529-0050
Repair • Service • Maintenance • Installation

A gay owned and operated business
Proudly serving our community

Lowest prices on Services & Products
GUARANTEED!!!

24/7 Weekends, Nights & Holidays
100% Guarantee







WWW.AMERICANBUDGETMECHANICALSERVICE.COM

Susan O'Dell, PhD
Down to earth, change oriented therapy

I see individuals, couples, children & families for crisis and ongoing work.

I also offer wellness support for persons living with chronic illness, including cancer and HIV-AIDS, their partners and families.

773.262.7010
1435 W. Rosemont Ave, #1W , Chicago, IL, 60660

Mr. Porch™

"If it's not a Mr. Porch, it's just another porch."

Call today for a FREE on-site inspection!

Call Mr. Porch at 877-677-6724
or email us at info@mrporch.com

100% GUARANTEE SATISFACTION



Scan QR Code with smart phone to view more samples of our previous work!

For more information please visit,
www.MrPorch.com

Building Porches and Decks in the Chicago Area for Over 15 Years

iloilo



CUSTOM FRAMING

Framing Chicago's art since 1991.

1478 W. Berwyn - 773.784.3962



Bernie Carter
708-912-2769

Bernie LaRocco
312-543-3838

Serving Chicago and Suburbs
"Let our years of experience work for you"
PROUD MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY

The Lyster Firm

ATTORNEYS
CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEYS
Serving the LGBT Community for Over 30 Years

Tough, Experienced and Dedicated
312-855-0875 | 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL
LysterFirm@aol.com
24/7 Emergency Phone : 847-309-7777

- State & Federal Courts
- Felonies & Misdemeanors
- Internet & White-Collar Crime
- All Drug Charges
- Sex Offenses
- Weapon & Gun Charges
- All Serious Traffic Offenses
- Drunk Driving
- Orders of Protection
- Expungements

Speak to an experienced attorney within minutes who will fight for you



The Law Offices of
Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss & Associates

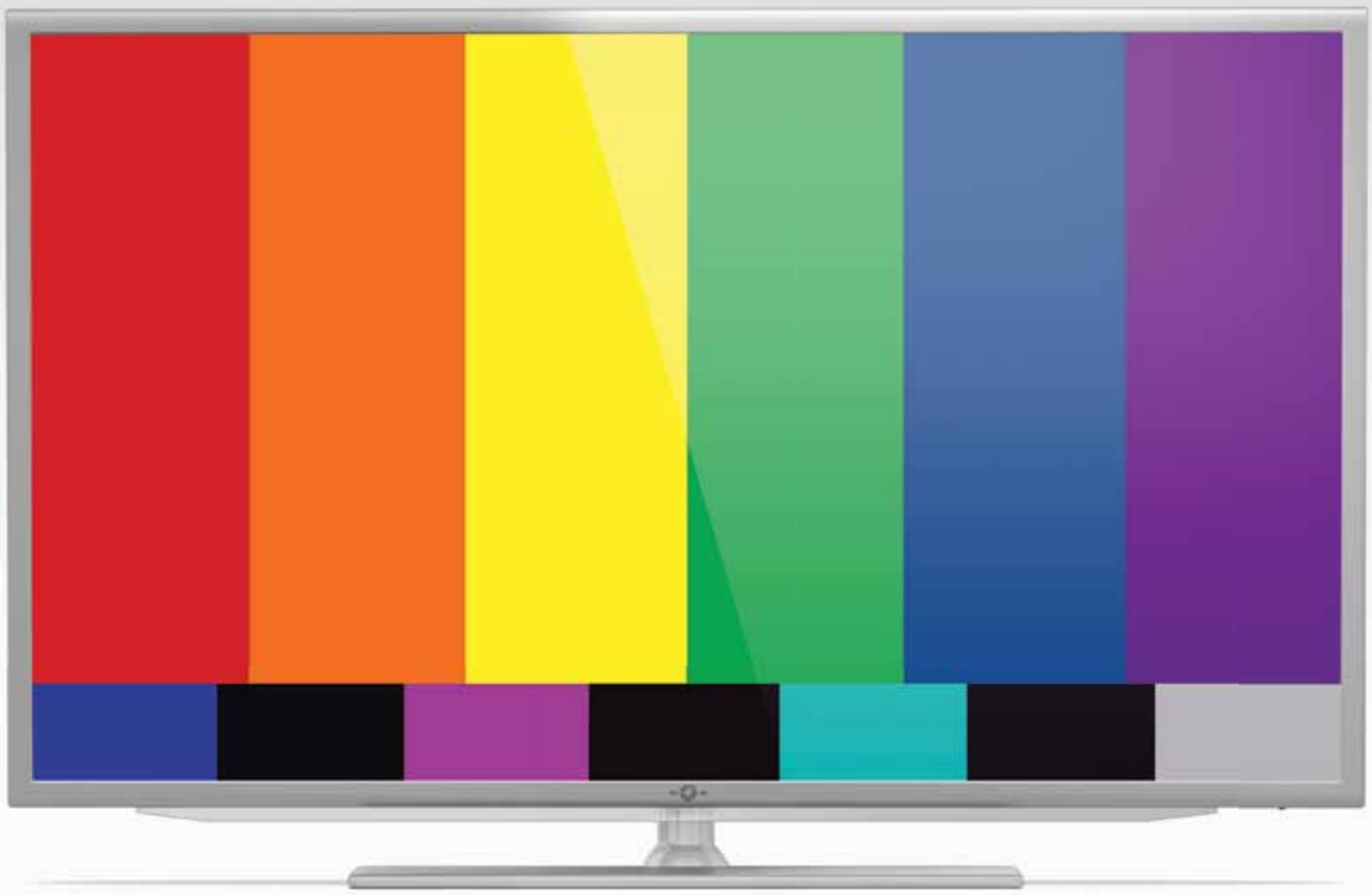


When experience counts... In service to the community for over 35 years.

- Bankruptcy
- Wills, Trusts & Probate
- Real Estate Closings
- Premarital Agreements

33 N. Dearborn St., Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60602
312-263-8800 **RVMLAWYER@AOL.COM**

We are a debt relief agency.
We help people file for bankruptcy relief under the bankruptcy code.



xfinity.com/lgbt

XFINITY® is perfect for people with diverse taste.
Enjoy an exclusive collection of films from Frameline.
Available at xfinity.com/lgbt. No subscription necessary.

XFINITY® Triple Play
$79.99
a month for 12 months
with 2-year agreement

Offer includes
$100 VISA

Upgrade to
105 Mbps
of speed
FREE for 12 months

Call **1-800-XFINITY** today.

COMCAST

xfinity
the future of awesome®

Offer ends 7/12/15. Limited to new residential customers. Not available in all areas. Requires subscription to Starter XF Triple Play with Digital Starter TV, Performance Internet and XFINITY Voice Unlimited®. Early termination fee applies. Equipment, taxes and fees, including regulatory recovery fees, Broadcast TV Fee (up to $3.50/mo.), Regional Sports Fee (up to $1.00/mo.) and other applicable charges extra, and subject to change during and after the promo. After 12 months, regular monthly charge applies to Blast!® Internet service. After promotional period, or if any service is cancelled or downgraded, regular rates apply. Comcast's current monthly service charge for Starter XF Triple Play is $136.99–$141.99 and for Blast!® Internet is $12 (pricing subject to change). TV and Internet service limited to a single outlet. May not be combined with other offers. **TV:** Limited Basic service subscription required to receive other levels of service. **Internet:** Actual speeds vary and are not guaranteed. WiFi claim based on November 2014 study by Allion Test Labs, Inc. Reliability claim based on 2014 FCC Measuring Broadband America report. Prepaid card mailed to Comcast account holder within 18 weeks of activation of all required services and expires in 90 days. Cards issued by Citibank, N.A., pursuant to a license from Visa® U.S.A. Inc. and managed by Citi Prepaid Services. Cards will not have cash access and can be used everywhere Visa® debit cards are accepted. Call for restrictions and complete details. © 2015 Comcast. All rights reserved.
NED00440