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WINDY CITY TIMES

## SAVOR

### Grounds for success: New coffee shop opens in Uptown

BY TONY PEREGRIN

Sarah Riddle and Katy Weseman have been partners in life for 12 years—and now they are partners in business with the launch of Ridman's Coffee, a cozy, independent shop at the south-western corner of Clark and Lawrence that brews up Dark Matter Coffee with a side of Southern hospitality.

Originally from Tennessee, Riddle brings 15 years of experience working in Chicago's coffee industry to this venture, including her tenure as a barista and store manager at Intelligentsia Coffee and Tea, followed by a stretch at SteamVolt, a craft coffee machine repair company, where she acquired an extensive knowledge of coffee and espresso equipment.

"One of the things I learned about myself [while working at SteamVolt] is that I'm far too extroverted to be a service technician," said Riddle,



Katy Weseman (left) and Sarah Riddle of Ridman's Coffee.

Photo by Julia Thiel

39. "Katy and I would often joke around about finding an opportunity for me to get more face-time with people. When we found out about this space becoming available we pursued it without really talking about it too much—we just decided to go for it."

Ridman's, a hybrid of the owners' last names, has an old-school ring to it—a vibe that is quietly enhanced by the shop's beautifully restored mosaic tile floor, which was uncovered when the old carpet was peeled back during the building's rehab. (In fact, the mosaic tiles inspired Ridman's logo.)

"We tried to make the space really inviting for a variety of people," said Riddle. "We have comfortable furniture, and we have tables with chairs for folks who want to work and have meetings. We also put a changing table in the restroom for people with kids. We simply set out to be a neighborhood shop and it definitely seems that the neighborhood is responding to us."

### Look at these fireworks at the Katy Perry concert with Noah Cyrus!

Photos by Jerry Nunn



"It's also been really exciting for us to see lots of members of the LGBTQ community come in to the shop," added Weseman, 37, who grew up just a couple of miles from Ridman's, and works in higher education with a focus on student development. "It's a priority for us to have a space that is inviting for LGBTQ-identified people. For example, we put up a sign that says 'This restroom is for everyone.' Having an overt statement around inclusion—whether that's babies getting their diapers changed or transgender or non-

binary folks just having a safe place to pee—is really important to us."

Read the full article online at [WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://WindyCityMediaGroup.com).

Ridman's, 4758 N. Clark St., is open seven days a week: Monday-Friday 6:30 a.m.-6 p.m., and Saturday-Sunday 7 a.m.-4 p.m. See <https://www.ridmanscoffee.com/>.

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

## Sidetrack's OUTspoken! Series: November's featured storytellers



Nestor Gomez



Don Hall



Cleve Jones



Barbara Marian



Jennifer Ould



Vicki Quade

The November edition of  
OUTspoken! LGBTQ storyteller  
series takes place Tuesday, Nov. 7,  
at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St.  
Doors open at 6 pm, stories begin  
at 7.

See [www.outspokenchicago.com](http://www.outspokenchicago.com) for  
more info.

—Nestor Gomez was born in Guatemala and moved to Chicago in the mid '80s. He told his first story at a Chicago Moth Slam as a way to finally get over stuttering. Surprisingly, he won the slam that night and has not stop telling sharing stories ever since. Nestor holds the record for the most Chicago Moth Slam wins (22) and curates, produces and hosts his own storytelling show, 80 Minutes Around the World: Immigration Stories.

—Don Hall is an events consultant and an artistic mercenary. In the past thirty years, Don has worn many hats: Former public school music teacher, veteran Moth Story Slam host, Off Loop theatrical producer, the decade-long Director of Events for WBEZ and House Manager of NPR's "Wait Wait...Don't Tell Me!", retired professional trumpet player, and one-time homeless busker.

—Cleve Jones is an activist, lecturer, and author of *When We Rise*. Mentored by pioneer LGBT activist Harvey Milk, Cleve co-founded the San Francisco AIDS Foundation in 1983 and founded the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt, one of the world's largest community arts project. See what Cleve is up to today as an organizer for the hospitality workers' union, UNITE HERE.

—Barbara Marian is the proud aunt of a nephew and three nieces who also identify as members of the LGBTQ+ community. Barbara is from Harvard, Illinois, but was born in Wisconsin. Her mother, a fierce woman and the first feminist Barbara encountered, emigrated from the Netherlands. Even as a kid, Barbara followed her mother's dictum: "You've gotta mouth. Use it!" And she does — in letters to the editor, state and local demonstrations, parades, seminars and workshops, through the LGBT Family and Friends Ministry at St. Nicholas in Evanston and for the past twelve years as a member of the McHenry County (IL) Chapter of PFLAG.

—Jennifer Ould moved to Chicago from North Carolina 13 years ago and found a home here. She has a Master's of Divinity degree and, in addition to her day job at a progressive and inclusive seminary in Hyde Park, she works in leadership at Trinity Episcopal Church, Highland Park, and Gilead, an inclusive church that meets in a Rogers Park bar to tell true stories that change lives. She's a sunshine, cider, and bourbon lover who completed her first marathon last month, occasionally preaches, and blogs at [jennifereould.com](http://jennifereould.com).

—Vicki Quade is one of the creators of the international hit comedy, *Late Nite Catechism*, and has performed regularly on a national tour with her many religious comedies. Born in Chicago, she started her career as a journalist before falling in love with theater. You can find her almost any weekend at the Royal George Theater performing one of her bingo comedies.



## BILLY Masters

"The whole time I was working there, I didn't know Andy Cohen wanted to be me."—**Kathy Griffin** on her long and, apparently, unhappy tenure at Bravo. Watch what happens, indeed!

Just as we went to press, a story broke which we've already rewritten—twice. **Anthony Rapp**, original cast member of *Rent* and currently starring on *Star Trek: Discovery*, accused **Kevin Spacey** of making sexual advances on him when he was 14! In 1986, Rapp was in the Broadway revival of *Precious Sons* and Spacey was in *Long Day's Journey Into Night*. After a party at Spacey's home, the two were alone. Kevin laid Anthony on the bed and then, as Rapp says, "He lays down on top of me. He was trying to seduce me. I don't know if I would have used that language. But I was aware that he was trying to get with me sexually." Anthony got himself out of there fast.

He didn't tell anyone about this until he was in *Six Degrees of Separation* on Broadway during 1990-92. I can corroborate the timeline because, when I met Anthony in 1991, he told me about this incident. He even tried to go public in a 2001 Q&A with *The Advocate*—although Spacey's name was redacted from the story. So why speak up now? He said it's "[n]ot simply to air a grievance, but to try to shine another light on the decades of behavior that have been allowed to continue because many people, including myself, being silent. I'm feeling really awake to the moment that we're living in, and I'm hopeful that this can make a difference." But can one voice make a difference?

Within moments of Rapp going public, Spacey made his own statement—too lengthy for the confines of this column. He apologized to Anthony without admitting any guilt. He said he is gay, which doesn't excuse his past behavior. Just goes to show, the power of one voice. Bravo, Anthony.

You all know **Kathy Griffin** was dumped from CNN's New Year's Eve with **Anderson Cooper** and replaced by **Andy Cohen**. Well, TMZ ran into Cohen at LAX, congratulated him on the gig and asked if he's talked to Kathy about it. Andy innocently said, "Who?" The "reporter" (and I used that term loosely) then clarified, "Kathy Griffin. Kathy Griffin." Andy simply said, "I don't know her." The cameraman was most certainly flummoxed—well, he would have been if he knew what "flummoxed" meant. Obviously, Andy knows Kathy—in fact, she's the one who introduced us! I suspect Cohen was simply playing dumb. Unlike most "showbiz friendships," Andy and Anderson are actually best friends. So, who did you expect him to side with?

Kathy wasted no time in clapping back (as the kids say). She tweeted, "Even when it's on tape, there are doubters? He is NOT kidding w paps. Was my boss for 10 years. Treated me like a dog. Deeply misogynistic." But Kathy wasn't finished. After her tweet, **Harvey Levin** of TMZ called—likely to see if she wanted to make a comment on



**Billy says that Anthony Rapp's voice has made a difference.**

PR photo of Rapp

the clip. Instead, she posted a 17-minute video that is surely the definition of viral. Kathy also exposes Levin's close ties with Trump, calling him "the gay version of Kellyanne Conway!" She reveals that Trump and Levin speak several times a week. She also claimed that all of TMZ's stories about women are ones that make them look bad or where they physically look bad. As opposed to all those positive stories about men!

As to Cohen, she says he was a "miserable boss for all those years." She also states how loathsome Bravo is to women—both the women behind the scenes and the women on the shows. She says, "I didn't know that when they ended *The D-List* and I desperately wanted to do a talk show, Andy Cohen would be the first television executive in the history of television to give himself a talk show that seems to get picked up every season." Griffin claims that the two times she was on *Watch What Happens Live*, "Andy Cohen privately asked me in an office ... if I wanted to do blow." She predicted Andy would say he was just kidding. And, she was right: Cohen tweeted, "I am completely stunned by this story. It is 100% false and totally made up."

Kathy also says that, because of the Trump investigation, she's been on the no-fly list, the Interpol list and that she's been "detained alone at every single airport I've gone to." Kathy wraps it up by saying, "So when I go to Singapore, if I don't return, I just want you guys to know that's why."

At long last, we have an "Ask Billy" question worthy of this column. Justin in San Francisco writes, "What do you know about **Shawn Mendes**? He's so fucking hot. He sure seems gay to me, but I figure you'd know for sure."

The sexy singer—who is now 19 and, therefore, fair game—addressed these rumors last year in a series of Snapchats after numerous posts about



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his "gay vibe." He posted, "First of all, I'm not gay. Second of all, it shouldn't make a difference if I was or if I wasn't. The focus should be on the music and not my sexuality." That's a lovely sentiment, but the many photo spreads focusing on Shawn's fantastic physique and face belie the sentiment. And then there are those questionable selfies that have fallen into our clutches. They also don't focus on vocals—although they may inspire other oral activities, if you catch my drift. Are they really him? Decide for yourself on *BillyMasters.com*.

When Shawn's too old for Spacey, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Since we ran long, I barely have time to remind you to check out *BillyMasters.com*—the best bargain on the web. If you have a question—preferably one that leads to nudity—send it off to *BillyMasters.com* and I promise to get back to you before Kathy announces her (mandatory) residency at the Singapore Hilton! So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.