

# WINDY CITY TIMES

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

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Touche owner Chuck Rodocker (right) at the bar's 30th anniversary in 2007.  
Photo by Kirk Williamson

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# TURNING THE BIG 4-0

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Photo courtesy of Alcaraz

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#### What Is Mytesi?

Mytesi is a prescription medicine used to improve symptoms of noninfectious diarrhea (diarrhea not caused by a bacterial, viral, or parasitic infection) in adults living with HIV/AIDS on ART.

**Do Not Take Mytesi** if you have diarrhea caused by an infection. Before you start Mytesi, your doctor and you should make sure your diarrhea is not caused by an infection (such as bacteria, virus, or parasite).

#### Possible Side Effects of Mytesi Include:

- Upper respiratory tract infection (sinus, nose, and throat infection)
- Bronchitis (swelling in the tubes that carry air to and from your lungs)
- Cough
- Flatulence (gas)
- Increased bilirubin (a waste product when red blood cells break down)

For a full list of side effects, please talk to your doctor. Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or does not go away.

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

#### Should I Take Mytesi If I Am:

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- Studies in animals show that Mytesi could harm an unborn baby or affect the ability to become pregnant
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- This drug should only be used during pregnancy if clearly needed

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- It is not known whether Mytesi is passed through human breast milk
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#### What Should I Know About Taking Mytesi

##### With Other Medicines?

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##### What If I Have More Questions About Mytesi?

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To report side effects or make a product complaint or for additional information, call 1-844-722-8256.



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Mytesi comes from the *Croton lechleri* tree harvested in South America.

Please see complete Prescribing Information at [Mytesi.com](http://Mytesi.com).

# WINDY CITY TIMES

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Above: WCT profiles Dulcelandia manager Jose Ruiz.  
Photo by Carrie Maxwell

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



## BY DESIGN

Teen designer Matt Sarafa (left) has already accomplished much, including taking part in Paris Fashion Week.  
PR photo

## PERRY, GOOD



WCT reviews Katy Perry's Chicago show.

Photo by Jerry Nunn

## SPARE 'CHANGE'

WCT reviews the collection Subject to Change: Trans Poetry and Conversation.

## THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Wilson Cruz, Sara Ramirez and Sheryl Crow.

plus  
**DAILY BREAKING NEWS**

## BRAD LIPPITZ GROUP FEATURED PROPERTIES



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Panelists Steve Scaffidi, Christian Piccolini and Pardeep Kaleka, and moderator Imani Rupert-Gordon.

Photo by Tracy Baim

## Summit tackles hate crimes and community responses

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Chicago Commission on Human Relations (CCHR) and other community stakeholders convened the second Hate Crime Summit to address bias-based crimes against members of local constituencies, among them Chicago's LGBT community, on Oct. 25.

The event was intended as an exercise in "bridge-building in the face of hate," said CCHR Commissioner Mona Noriega in her opening remarks.

The morning's keynote session featured two individuals whose lives were deeply impacted by the August 2012 killings at a Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. In that incident, a white supremacist gunman shot and killed six individuals and wounded four others.

Milwaukee-based therapist Pardeep Kaleka,

who founded the anti-racism organization Serve2Unite, spoke about his professional focus, which he called "generational, personal [and] familial trauma." He was inspired to become a therapist shortly after the Oak Creek incident; his father was one of the six persons killed. In August, Kaleka confronted House Speaker Paul Ryan about white supremacists and gun control in a nationally televised town hall meeting in Racine, Wisconsin.

Incidents such as the shootings are "driven by hate, and they can only [be healed] by love," Kaleka said at the summit. "If people don't use incidents like those as a catalyst for change, we will continue to put people in harm's way."

Steve Scaffidi, who had been sworn in as Oak Creek's mayor just a short time before the shootings, spoke about the importance of increasing awareness about both diversity and connections

between community constituencies, which the community sought out in the wake of the tragedy. Oak Creek residents, he said, refused to allow themselves to be defined by the shooting.

"We chose a path that said we're not going to accept it," Scaffidi added.

Another keynote panelist, Christian Piccolini, who decades ago was instrumental in organizing the American neo-Nazi skinhead movement and is now an anti-racism advocate and television producer, noted what he calls "potholes" that often lead people to casting their lots with white supremacists, among them mental-health issues, unemployment and extreme poverty and even extreme privilege.

"What people need to overcome hate is resiliency, self-confidence and connections" with people, he said. "They're projecting their own pain on

other people, so they don't have to deal with it themselves."

Piccolini added that the most essential part of what moderator Imani Rupert-Gordon, executive director of Affinity Community Services, called his "deradicalization"—evolving from a white supremacist to an anti-racism activist—was getting away from his "own fear, [lack of] self-worth and hatred."

Chicago Police Department (CPD) 1st Deputy Superintendent Kevin Navarro opened the panel with brief remarks, noting that a commitment to combating bias-based crimes was inherent in the first line of CPD's mission statement. The statement declares a commitment "to protecting the rights, lives and property of all people," he said. "Nowhere in that one line does it say, 'all people except...'"

Workshops throughout the day included sessions about hate crimes against LGBT youth; coalition building and community interventions; and hate crimes against persons with disabilities.

Transgender activist Precious Brady Davis closed the day with a keynote address to motivate attendees.

"On the individual and institutional levels, horrors are faced every day by those of us in historically marginalized communities," she said.

She added, "It is vital though that we continue to name, document and bring attention to what is happening, and that we create spaces like this to address the hateful violence and the continual violence in the form of an inadequate response."

The event was organized by the Hate Crimes Coalition, an ad hoc group composed of law enforcement officials, non-profit officials and academics. The first area Hate Crime Summit took place in 2014.

The morning panel and Brady Davis' speech are on the Windy City Times YouTube channel.



CCHR Commissioner Mona Noriega (left) and Precious Brady Davis.

Photo by Tracy Baim

## TransWorks starting mentorship program

Chicago House is launching its fourth TransWorks Mentorship Program this fall, beginning Wed., Nov. 15.

The purpose of the program is to facilitate supportive and positive relationships between trans\* individuals in order to build community, increase life skills and create leadership opportunities.

TransWorks is seeking transgender identified individuals to participate in the six month program as mentors. Mentor applicants must have been employed for at least six months by October, and must commit to meeting with the group and with their mentee once a month for six months, a total of three hours per month.

The program will take place the third Wednesday of every month (6:30-8:30 p.m.) from Nov.

15, 2017, until April 15, 2018.

Interested persons should contact Carolyn Leach at 773-248-5200, ext. 339, or cleach@chicagohouse.org.

## EI to honor Bennett, Planned Parenthood

For their dedication to social justice and equality, Planned Parenthood of Illinois and veteran LGBTQ-rights activist Jim Bennett will be honored at the 2018 Equality Illinois (EI) Gala.

United Airlines is the presenting sponsor of the gala, which will be held Saturday, Feb. 3, 2018, at the Hilton Chicago, 720 S. Michigan Ave.

Tables and individual tickets for the 2018 Equality Illinois Gala are now available at EqualityIllinois.org/2018Gala.



Vanessa Smith and Cynthia Tucker at the BTAN open house.  
Photo by Vern Hester

## BTAN hosts open house

BY VERNON HESTER

On Oct. 24, The Black Treatment Advocate Network Chicago (BTAN Chicago) hosted an afternoon party and open house aimed at broadening its network of caregivers and to engage members of the LGBTQ African American community to mingle, network and engage with one another.

Spearheading the event—which took place at the coach house behind Storyographers at 4740 S. Drexel Blvd.—was Anthony Galloway, the director of civic engagement for Equality Illinois. The event also featured a full buffet, and DJ Superman provided music.

BTAN, in partnership with The Black AIDS Institute, is the only collaboration of its kind. The organization links HIV-positive African-Americans into care and treatment, strengthens local and national leadership, connects influential peers, and raises HIV science and treatment literacy in Black communities while advocating for policy change and research priorities.

The Chicago branch of the network, established in 2011, is part of an umbrella organization that includes offshoots in Philadelphia; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Houston; Oakland, California; Jackson, Mississippi; and Miami/Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The goal of the national and local organizations, as noted on the BTAN website, is to “create an army of trained treatment advocates in Black communities across the nation.”

At the Chicago event, guests were encouraged to become board members and contribute their talents. When the question of money arose, Cynthia Tucker of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago said, “It’s not about funding—it’s about where your heart is.”

Many health and caregiving organizations were represented at the event, including The Haymarket Center, Center on Halsted, Howard Brown

Health, Austin Health Center, The Chicago Department of Health and Human Services, Brave Space Alliance, The AIDS Legal Council, Fellowship of Affirming Ministry, The Young Men’s Christian Association, Storyographers and Men and Women in Prison Ministry.

For further information regarding upcoming events, visit the BTAN Chicago page on Facebook.

## Zopp now at WBC; Hawkins is deputy chief of staff

Mayor Rahm Emanuel announced he has tapped Deputy Mayor Andrea Zopp to serve as the next CEO of World Business Chicago (WBC)—a move that aims to build on the mayor’s efforts to drive economic growth in neighborhoods throughout Chicago.

The move will allow current WBC CEO Jeff Malehorn to focus his time and efforts exclusively on the city’s efforts to bring Amazon’s second headquarters (and 50,000 new jobs) to Chicago.

Also, Emanuel announced that LGBTQ-rights advocate Roderick Hawkins will serve as deputy chief of staff for public engagement. Hawkins has been director of the Mayor’s Office of Public Engagement since July 2016.

In addition, Victoria Watkins will serve as senior advisor, while Aarti Kotak will be the deputy chief of staff for neighborhood economic development.

## Correction

In the Oct. 25 issue, Danny Morales was incorrectly identified on the cover.

Windy City Times sincerely regrets the error.



## SATURDAY, NOV. 4

### SOUTH LOOP, 9 AM

### 5K RUN, 1 MILE WALK, RUN OR ROLL

The Pink Hat Run will benefit organizations that provide services, advocacy and support to women and girls, and are central to improving the lives of Chicago communities.

The 5K/1 mile run, walk or roll is a pledge drive along Chicago’s beautiful lakefront and museum campus downtown, with a starting point on Prairie Avenue in the South Loop neighborhood, next to the Women’s Park & Gardens.

#### PINK HAT RUN CHICAGO’S 2017 BENEFICIARIES INCLUDE:

- Access Living
- Chicago Foundation for Women (CFW)
- Chicago National Organization for Women
- Chicago Women Take Action (CWTA)
- Chicago Women’s AIDS Project
- Fierce Over 40
- Mujeres Latinas en Acción
- Moms Demand Action Chicago
- Pediatric AIDS Chicago Prevention Initiative
- Personal PAC
- Planned Parenthood Illinois Action
- A Sister’s Hope
- Women’s March on Chicago
- YWCA Metropolitan Chicago

The Pink Hat Run brings together women, allies and families - “pink hatters” - to participate in a day of community and wellness. Participants will enjoy a morning of fun, conviviality and sisterhood while raising funds for these worthy organizations. The registration fee includes a T-shirt and pink hat. This is a pledge drive event, with each organization fielding teams of participants to raise funds for their agency.

[pinkhatrun.com](http://pinkhatrun.com)  
pinkhatrun





# Intersex protest held at Lurie Children's Hospital

BY VERN HESTER

On Oct. 26 (Intersex Awareness Day), Chicago intersex activist and filmmaker Pidgeon Pagonis led a protest rally to speak against unnecessary surgeries in front of Lurie Children's Hospital at 225 E. Chicago Ave.

Pagonis—a survivor of numerous medical procedures described as “corrective” during her childhood—was joined in the protest by intersex activists Sean Saifa Wall (of Intersex People of Color) and Lynnell Stephani Long (of The Intersex Society of America), as well as representatives from For the People Artist's Collective, The Chicago Black Trans and Gender Non-Conforming Collective, and The Chicago Dyke Collective.

The rally was an action to “protest for intersex human rights demanding Lurie Children's Hospital [to] change policy to become the first hospital in the United States to end unnecessary intersex surgeries,” according to a press release from Pagonis. Currently Center on Halsted, The Human Rights Watch, The World Health Organization, Amnesty International, three former U.S. surgeons general and The American Medical Association's board of trustees, among others, have called for an end to medically unnecessary non-consensual surgeries on intersex children; however, Lurie still promotes the procedure on its website.

Pagonis said in a statement, “When I was a child, doctors at Chicago's Memorial Hospital chose my sex and performed multiple surgeries to make my intersex body conform to their choice.” Later in the same statement they said, “Intersex

children should be allowed to determine if they want surgery when they are adults.”

Lurie Children's Hospital will host the largest U.S. support group conference for parents and their intersex children next summer in Chicago.

Although the Oct. 26 rally included about 30 people, many passersby stopped and listened for a few minutes while reporters from WBEZ radio

and a documentary film crew recorded the event.

Ruby, of For the People Artists Collective, said, “We want to make sure healthcare is for our health, not to force children into a binary.” Saifa Wall, in words before the group, said, “It is a human right [not to have the surgery]. We are here to disrupt a paradigm which has forced intersex children into a box.” Wall drew laughs when they commented, “When Donald Trump's State Department is against this, something is extremely wrong (the State Department's statement acknowledging Intersex Awareness Day was supportive).”

Long said, “We're working not to be silent and

saying, ‘Please, please, pretty please.’ This is why we are protesting in front of Lurie.”

According to the Free and Equal Intersex Fact Sheet, “intersex” is “an umbrella term describing the 1.7 percent of babies who are born with chromosomes, gonads, or the internal or external sex traits that differ from societal expectations.”

Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital issued a media statement that said, in part, “We are committed to open communication with the intersex community and fully respect the diversity of opinions that exist in affected individuals, including those at the intersex protest at Lurie Children's.”



Upper left: Pidgeon Pagonis speaks at the rally. Above: Lynnell Stephani Long. Photos by Vern Hester

## Report: Doctors need to set intersex care standards

Medical professional associations should enact standards of care for intersex children that rule out medically unnecessary surgery before patients are old enough to consent, Human Rights Watch and interACT said in a report.

The 41-page report, “A Changing Paradigm: US Medical Provider Discomfort with Intersex Care Practices,” examines the controversy over the operations inside the medical community and the pressure on parents to opt for surgery.

“The intersex community today is saying the same thing we were saying two decades ago; we want doctors to care for us, not try to ‘fix’ us,” said Kimberly Zieselman, an intersex woman and the executive director of interACT Advocates for Intersex Youth. “We're not anti-doctor or anti-surgery, we're just pro-consent and pro-honesty, especially for children who are too young to speak or to comprehend what's going on around

them.”

Human Rights Watch and interACT released the report on the 21st Intersex Awareness Day, which commemorates the first public protest against medically unnecessary surgery, at the 1996 American Academy of Pediatrics conference in Boston.

“A Changing Paradigm: US Medical Provider Discomfort with Intersex Care Practices” is available at <https://www.hrw.org/node/310340/>.

## Reports: Trump opioid response may imperil HIV/AIDS dollars

BY MATT SIMONETTE

President Donald Trump's Oct. 26 declaration that the opioid crisis is a federal health emergency, without allocating additional dollars to address the issue, may ultimately result in a cut to spending on HIV/AIDS prevention and treat-

ments, some experts fear.

Without allocating new funds towards addressing opioids issues, the government could only combat the problem through reallocating parts of existing funding streams. Trump's largely symbolic declaration allows federal dollars directed for spending on HIV/AIDS to be redirected for combatting opioid abuse.

While there is some overlap in persons who are affected by each issue, advocates and service providers say that opioid abuse and HIV/AIDS can only effectively both be addressed with discrete revenue streams.

Courtney Mulhern-Pearson, senior director of policy and strategy at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation told San Francisco Chronicle on Oct. 26 that “the response needs to come with increased funding. So we're very concerned about proposals that would redirect funding that's vital for HIV care and treatment to other areas.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, over 64,000 persons died from overdoses in 2016.

The San Francisco Chronicle's article is at <http://bit.ly/2zJHd2p>.

# Illinois treasurer holds LGBT event

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs hosted an LGBT History Month celebration Oct. 25 at the James R. Thompson Center. Frerichs initiated this annual awards celebration when he took office three years ago.

Telemundo Chicago Anchor/Reporter Jorge Enrique De Santiago served as the master of ceremonies.

American Veterans for Equal Rights Chicago Chapter members presented the colors and Danika Bonet performed the National Anthem ahead of Frerichs remarks and Sidetrack Co-owner and Equality Illinois Co-founder Art Johnston's keynote address.

"You do not have to be physically tall [like me] to stand tall for other people, especially those who have been discriminated against," said Frerichs.

Frerichs spoke about the importance of this celebration's location being on the concourse level of the building because LGBTQ people's lives and accomplishments should be honored out in the open. He explained that when he became treasurer, the department brought in an LGBT advisory committee to make the office more inclusive and productive.

Johnston explained the importance of teaching LGBT history so everyone knows the full story of human history.

"The stories of LGBTQ people, many of whom you think you may know, have had the basic facts of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity systematically removed, erased, redacted from the common historical narrative we have all grown up with," said Johnston. "We have all been denied historically significant LGBTQ role models and the price our whole society has paid is incalculable. Much of the histrionics and madness we see on the news every day about increasing

restrictions on LGBTQ people is perpetrated by those whose hatred of LGBTQ people could not exist had we not been erased from the common story of humankind."

Johnston noted that LGBTQ people have never had the intergenerational passing down of history that other minorities have to act as a bulwark against the hatred they experience outside their households. He explained that this lack of knowledge causes people to bully and reject their LGBTQ family members as well as higher suicide rates among LGBTQ youth. Johnston said that, especially right now, LGBTQ people and their allies have to fight back against the onslaught of anti-LGBTQ rhetoric and actions coming from all corners of the country.

Following Johnston's remarks, De Santiago presented the awards.

Among the award recipients were Pastoral Artisan Cheese, Bread & Wine Co-owner and Co-founder Greg O'Neill (Outstanding Service in Business), Youth Outlook Executive Director Nancy Mullen (Outstanding Commitment to Community Service), Aunt Martha's Health and Wellness Chief Professional Development and Marketing Officer and ALMA Chicago Board of Directors Vice President Kenny Martin-Ocasio (Outstanding Commitment to Education), Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Commissioner Debra Shore (Outstanding Commitment as an Elected Official), Human Rights Activist and former Illinois Department of Human Rights Director Rocco Claps (Outstanding Service in Leadership), Local 881 United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Legislative and Political Director Zach Koutsky on behalf of Local 881 UFCW (Outstanding Service in Workforce and Labor) and Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA) President Michael Erwin on behalf of the CMSA (Outstanding Service in Sportsmanship).

O'Neill said his award should have gone to both

him and his life/business partner Ken Miller because they built the business together. Mullen talked about the LGBTQ youth and family picnic they recently held in Naperville with 100 people in attendance as a sign of positive change happening in suburban Chicago. Martin-Ocasio said he accepted the award on behalf of ALMA and vowed to keep working for equality. Shore spoke about how vital it is for LGBTQ people to be at the table when policies and legislation are discussed.

Claps echoed Johnston's remarks regarding the importance of connecting back to history, especially now in this age of fake news. Koutsky noted his lesbian mothers while Erwin spoke about the need for an organization like CMSA so LGBTQ people can play sports in a safe environment. Three Gayco Productions improv comedy artists closed the event.



Nancy Mullen, Kenny Martin-Ocasio, Michael Erwin, Greg O'Neill, Michael Frerichs, Debra Shore, Zach Koutsky, Art Johnston, Rocco Claps, Danika Bonet and Jorge Enrique De Santiago.

Photos by Carrie Maxwell

## 'Sleep Out' Nov. 16 at St. James

The Chicago Coalition for the Homeless reports that, each night, approximately 1,800-3,000 unaccompanied youth are homeless in Chicago. However, there are only 375 units of housing, collectively, for homeless youth in the city.

On Thursday, Nov. 16, at 7 p.m., local celebrities, business leaders and young professionals are invited to "sleep out" at St. James Commons, 65 E. Huron St., in solidarity with Chicago's homeless youth as part of Covenant House Illinois' (CHIL) inaugural Sleep Out in downtown Chicago.

Covenant House Illinois—located at the Lawson House, 30 W. Chicago Ave.—is a day-time service center where homeless youth are welcomed into a safe, caring environment where they can access food, showers, laundry services, computers, and beds for rest.

The Sleep Out is a nationwide campaign that takes place at nineteen Covenant House sites throughout North America. Over the course of the last 10 years, Covenant House Sleep Out events have raised over \$36 million and have included celebrity participants such as Robin Roberts (CH New York) and Nikki Sixx (CH California).

For more information, visit [CovenantHouseIL.org](http://CovenantHouseIL.org).



### OPEN HOUSE Sun., Nov. 12, 11am-3pm

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## Judge blocks Trump's trans military ban

In a blow to the President Donald Trump, U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly has stopped him from banning transgender people from serving in the U.S. military.

In July, Trump announced that he would ban transgender people from the military, reversing former President Barack Obama's policy.

The following month, the transgender service members sued to block the ban—which had not yet gone into effect—and Kollar-Kotelly granted them an injunction halting enforcement of it until the case is resolved. The memo called on Secretary of Defense James Mattis to submit a plan to the president by Feb. 21 about implementing the changes, and the Pentagon has created a panel of officials for that purpose.

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Scott Reichelsdorf (right) and partner Rafael Kim.  
Photo courtesy of Nitin Vyas

## PASSAGES

# Event planner Scott Reichelsdorf

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Scott Reichelsdorf died Oct. 24 from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). He was 57.

Windy City Times was notified of his death via a Facebook posting.

At the time of his death, Reichelsdorf was the event planner at J&L Catering, where he produced galas and events such as the Lincoln Park Zoo Ball, Northwestern University's Center for Wrongful Convictions Annual Gala, Chicago Children's Theater Gala, Teen Living Annual Gala and the St. Joseph's School Annual Gala as well as events for Heartland Alliance, Chicago House and the Chicago Fire Foundation.

Previously, Reichelsdorf worked as an event planner for Calihan Catering. He also worked for Entertaining Company and Jim Guth's Chicago Caterers.

A native of Kenosha, Wisconsin, Reichelsdorf was born Nov. 13, 1959, and received his Bachelor of Arts in theater from the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. He originally planned on being an actor; however, years of working in the catering industry in between acting gigs changed his career trajectory toward event planning.

Reichelsdorf is survived by his partner of 15 years, Hyun Tae "Rafael" Kim, and a cousin, Dennis Vogel. His parents, Evelyn and Joseph Guzakus, and a half-brother preceded Reichelsdorf in death.

"Scott had an incredible gift for making everyone feel cared for," said friend and J&L Catering co-owner/event designer Ted Grady. "He guided our clients through many of life's journeys with grace and confidence. This is such a tremendous loss for our J&L family, as well as the Chicago special events community. He will be missed by many."

"Scott was one of my dearest friends, a great mentor and a colleague for many, many years," said longtime friend and colleague Rachel Razowsky. "We sometimes fought like siblings, but always loved each other like siblings. He brought so much joy to so many people. Scott was definitely one of the greats in our catering community. We will miss him every day."

"I first met Scott about 18 years ago at an open house we were having at our catering company," said J&L Catering co-owner/Executive Chef Kevin Kelly. "I knew of his reputation in the industry for being a true professional and incredibly passionate about his work. A few years later, he came

to work for us and I was able to witness that first hand. He became more than a colleague, he became a true friend. We will miss him dearly."

"Scott was a dear friend, colleague, partner, lover and mentor for everyone he touched," said J&L Catering event designer Nitin Vyas. "I loved getting you several cups of coffee a day in your Mojo Jojo coffee mug and learning about classic movies and storylines while we drank our beverages. I will miss having you as a sounding-board for ideas as well as both our agreements and disagreements on many issues. You were always a dear friend and always supportive. I will miss you very much."

"Scott was a friend and mentor and taught

me so much about the industry we loved," said long-time friend and colleague Luis Lazu. "He will forever be in my heart and memory. Love you Scotty."

Reichelsdorf's memorial service will take place at Venue West, 221 N. Paulina St., on Tuesday, Nov. 7, 4-7 p.m. Complimentary parking is available across the street.

In addition, the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame will honor him Nov. 8 at the Chicago History Museum for his years of work with the organization. The event is free and open to the public.

A fund has been set up to cover the cost of Reichelsdorf's funeral. To donate, visit <https://www.gofundme.com/scott-reichelsdorf-memorial>.

## Chicagoan Bill Gutrich dies

William "Bill" Gutrich, of Chicago, passed away Sept. 29 at his home after a short fight against cancer. He was 67.

Gutrich was born in the Beverly neighborhood on the South Side of Chicago on Dec. 19, 1949 to parents Michael and Kathryn Gutrich. He is the beloved partner/husband of Kevin Meek; loving father of Mary Kay, Kris (Jody), and Kory (Rae Ellen); cherished grandfather of Wesley, Kyler, Lukas, Ryder, and Kathryn; dear brother of Tom (Peggy), Mary Kay (Bill) Brown, Ken (Jeanne), Janet (Jan Dee), the late Michael (Rita), the late Richard (Nancy), the late baby Susanne and in-laws Maureen (John) Zawsza and Jack (Liz) Meek; treasured uncle, cousin and friend to many.

He was a connoisseur in the food and beverage industry and managed a number of prestigious places such as Grassfields on Ridge, The Hut in Colorado, the Columbia Yacht Club and The Shedd Aquarium.

"Bill and I met in a gay bar on the South Side of Chicago 33 years ago and we have been together ever since," said his husband Kevin Meek. "It was love at first sight, and 33 years later I love him more now than ever. We've had so much fun together over the years."

"I have traveled all over the United State and Europe with Bill, my best friend. We went to a royal wedding in Monaco! Bill just goes up to Prince Charles like he was just a regular guy and starts talking to Prince Charles and his wife Princess Charlene."

The couple, both real estate agents, worked 17 years in business together. "Everybody loved Bill," Kevin said. "He was a big personality. He could go into a room of 50 people not knowing anyone, and by the end of the evening everyone is listening to his stories. God he was a great story teller. He was so smart, a voracious reader and lover of cinema, a master of movie trivia. Bill paid the bills and whenever I would ask him how we were doing, he would hold my hand and say we're doing just fine, always keeping me happy, never letting me worry about anything."

The couple has three children and five grandchildren. Gutrich is from a big Irish family, one of eight children. His sister Janet Gituch, an LGBT activist, said: "He was my big brother always my protector, confidant and conspirator. We had a blast growing up together the two youngest of eight, loving our music and gay life styles."

"I miss my prince so bad, I just can't stop crying," Kevin said. "I look forward to the day that I can hold his hand and kiss his lips again."



Bill Gutrich (left) and husband Kevin Meek.  
Photo courtesy of Janet Gutrich

## TransTech summit Nov. 3-4 in Chicago

The first-of-its-kind TransTech Summit will kick off Trans Awareness Month on Nov. 3-4 in Chicago.

With Angelica Ross as the its creator, the event will provide training in the four technology categories—design, web/app, media and business—with workshops led by trans and gender non-conforming facilitators (including Dezjorn Gauthier, Hope Giselle, Max Masure, Cameron Pizarro, Brielle Harrison and Ross).

The summit will feature a kick-off game night Friday, Nov. 3, with Columbia College hosting and a keynote speech from Madison Hinton. On Saturday, Nov. 4, the summit will take place at Groupon, 600 W. Chicago Ave.

Email [info@transtechsocial.org](mailto:info@transtechsocial.org) and/or visit [TransTechSocial.org/summit](http://TransTechSocial.org/summit).

# Leather spot Touché marking 40th year

BY MATT SIMONETTE

North Side leather bar Touché marks its 40th anniversary in November, and is kicking off the month with a five-day long celebration starting Nov. 1.

"It was 40 years to the day that [owner Chuck Rodocker] welcomed everybody to the bar," said the bar's longtime manager, David Boyer. "We'll have food of course, but the big thing is, we'll be rolling some of our drink prices back to the 1977 levels. "Back then we sold cans of Miller Lite for 75 cents. Smirnov vodka was a dollar, and Jack Daniels was only a buck-and-a-half. We can't [lower prices] on everything, but we are going to do it on those three items, to remind everybody of the day."

Singer Sharon McNight will also perform a special set on Wed., Nov. 1, Boyer added.

Thursday, Nov. 2, will feature what Boyer called a "salute to our 'rubbery side.'"

"We've sponsored the Mr. Midwest Rubber contest for many years now," he said. "We're welcoming the guys coming in for Mr. International Rubber 21. It'll be hosted by the current Mr. Midwest Rubber, and there'll be some more giveaways and drink specials that night."

Friday, Nov. 3, will feature a tribute to Chicago's leather clubs, Boyer noted. "We've been home at the bar for many of the clubs over the year. Traditionally on Friday nights one of the clubs would host a party, or do something crazy, so this night we're saluting all the clubs to come in and have some fun. They might want to display some of their history and other stuff that shows off what has gone on at Touché."

He added that on Saturday, Nov. 4, "We're all about the bears, because Saturday is Bear Night. But it's a two-for-one party night—there's a full moon and Touché is known for our full moon con-

test. ... We were the first ones to establish it; we were Chicago's original bear night. Our Mr. Chicago Bear and Mr. Chicago Cub will be there. We're going to give a weekend pass for North American Bear Weekend, and then later on, we're going to have a full moon contest with a hundred-dollar cash prize—crazy stuff like that."

The initial festivities wrap up Sunday, Nov. 5, with the Sunday Beer Bust, featuring dollar beers and two-dollar lager shots.

"That day we'll salute our staff alumni—all the guys that have, over the years, poured a drink and took care of people while they've been customers at the bar," Boyer said.

The bar will also have a drawing that afternoon for a trip to New Orleans.

Boyer was a customer at Touché when Rodocker first opened it, he recalled.

"Within that first year, I started working for him there," he recalled. "Never did I have a thought that we were going to be doing this 40 years later. It's been an amazing journey, with highs and lows—when everybody was wild and crazy in the '70s. Then when AIDS struck in the '80s, that hit squarely at Touché. Some of the people that passed away were customers and employees."

Boyer further noted that Touché staff and patrons, "from the get-go, supported places like Chicago House and anything that we could. That's one of the main things to say about us: For 40 years, I can't think of all the thousands of dollars that have been raised at fundraisers and auctions that have gone on at the bar. Usually there's one or two a month."

He emphasized that the point of the anniversary celebration was that "We couldn't have gotten to 40 years without people coming through our doors. That's what we're so grateful for."



From top: Exterior of Touché as it was in 1977; image from Touché's 10th anniversary party in 1987; owner Chuck Rodocker with Santa Sheldon.

Photo courtesy of David Boyer



Touché owner Chuck Rodocker at Touché's 10th anniversary (left, center) and their 30th anniversary (right, right). Left photo courtesy of David Boyer; right photo by Kirk Williamson



More from Touché's 30th anniversary party in 2007.

Photos by Kirk Williamson



## ELECTIONS 2018

# Gaylon Alcaraz steps into race for county commissioner

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Longtime activist and community organizer Gaylon Alcaraz has announced that she'll be running for the Cook County Board of Commissioners' 4th District post, which is currently held by Comm. Stanley Moore.

Alcaraz, who was inducted into the Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame (now the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame) in 2013, is a lifelong Chicagoan who has made significant impacts in local progressive politics. She was a founding member of Affinity Community Services in 1997, and was executive director of Chicago Abortion Fund from 2005-2014, among her many accomplishments.

She maintains that her campaign is about helping residents feel empowered within their district. Alcaraz told Windy City Times that, "I really take that seriously. Increased civic engagement is real important to me—that's one of my platform areas. I want to be sure that I create and leverage partnerships and resources that make a difference in the lives of the residents."

**Windy City Times: What compelled you to run for the commission, and why now?**

Gaylon Alcaraz: It's because we deserve better. Cook County deserves better. Voters deserve a representative that listens to their concerns and is accessible and engaging in their district, and not just at election time. I'm a community activist so I do believe about engagement.

People are gravely concerned about increased taxes, but their voices are ignored. People continuously complain about these things, but their voices are ignored. ... I'm running because Cook County is one of the largest governing counties in the U.S., and it needs strong, progressive and visionary leadership to move the county forward.

**WCT: What experiences would you draw from? What in your background qualifies you for a county office?**

GA: I have a long history in Chicago as an activist. I have the ability to work with diverse populations. I am also a former City of Chicago recruiter, from the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development, so I have the ability to work with businesses. Also, as a former executive director of a not-for-profit, I have experiences overseeing operations and budgets, and partnering with management companies to oversee large rehab and relocation projects—I did that back in the '90s. I have the experience and the skills. Yes, I come from not-for-profits, but I also did some for-profit [work] as well.

**WCT: What do you see as your biggest advantage in a campaign?**

GA: My grassroots experience, and being able

to relate to people and being on the ground talking to them. Not being afraid to go out on the ground and pounding the pavement—that's one of my biggest advantages. I had to go into all different types of communities, at any time, and engage residents.

**WCT: What do you see as your biggest disadvantage?**

GA: The not-for-profit world is all about fundraising, and that's very different from the county. But not-for-profits are used to operating on shoe-string budgets and doing a lot of work with very, very little, and I believe that this framework can be beneficial tied into the county leadership.

The county is a government body that does not operate the same way that a not-for-profit would, but it needs economic growth, job retention and increased income. It also needs to be attracting businesses for tax bases. Because of that alone, I have been out in the district meeting with businesses and stakeholders to determine ways to improve economic growth and well-being to improve the quality of life for the entire district.

**WCT: What kind of feedback did you get from those meetings? What kind of candidate are they looking for?**

GA: They have to do some visionary work and come to the table with some visionary ideas. We can't keep taxing and overtaxing people. Not only are residents talking about that, but businesses are talking about that. People are up in arms about this taxing. That's a concern across the board.

**WCT: What do you see as the biggest issues facing Cook County that you would like to help tackle as a commissioner?**

GA: The biggest issue facing the county for the past few years has been the population drop here. Cook County has had the largest population drop of any county in the U.S. If we're not gravely concerned about this, we need to be. Because what does that mean? More taxes and higher taxes, and we can't keep taxing residents because they keep leaving.

**WCT: What are the most important issues facing Cook County's LGBT community?**

GA: Although the LGBTQ community has made great strides, we still have a long way to go towards justice and fairness for individuals. Regardless of individuals, it's about justice and fairness. The current White House administration is determined to turn that all back, turning back the clock on equality. I think that Cook County can stand up for its residents and assure that our residents know that they are going to be treated fairly and know that quality and fairness exist, no matter what.



Gaylon Alcaraz at her birthday party/campaign launch.  
Photo by Vern Hester

We can do that through legislation that focuses on equality, justice and fairness for everyone. Sexual orientation should have nothing to do with how you are treated as a human being.

**WCT: Describe some of your work and accomplishments in LGBT activism.**

GA: I'm one of the founding board members with Affinity Community Services. The work that I did with them not only helped place the organization at the center of the conversation, both locally and nationally, around justice, fairness and visibility for Black lesbian and bisexual women, but it was a much needed resource, it was an anchor for support for the women serviced. The goal was to create visibility, which we did—to have women come out of the shadows, to fully participate in Affinity's work. We created this safe space for these women on the South Side of Chicago.

This can translate into other work, and it has. When we create safe spaces, and when we create visibility—when we make people feel like they are part of the process and they are not being ignored—you get buy-in. You get togetherness and you get people who feel like they're working in one direction, towards one goal. That work that I did was critical, because at that time, the voices of Black lesbian and bisexual women were not being heard, not in here in Chicago and definitely not nationally. Definitely there were some organizations but it definitely was not this blossoming thing that you're seeing now.

Because we created this visibility, this safe space, it allowed all this to happen. ... When you empower people, such as the people of a [political] district, everything around them grows and blossoms.

See [Gaylon2018.com](http://Gaylon2018.com).

## Lambda Legal adds attorney

Lambda Legal announced the addition of Jamie Glikberg to the organization as a staff attorney in its Midwest regional office, located in Chicago.

Glikberg comes to Lambda Legal from Steptoe & Johnson and, previously, Sidley Austin. She has experience in a variety of civil rights matters, including advocacy on behalf of prisoners, immigrant victims of violent crime, and asylum seekers, including individuals seeking relief from persecution in their home countries on the basis of their LGBT status.

She is a graduate of Northwestern Pritzker School of Law, where she graduated *cum laude* and was a member of the Order of the Coif.

## ALMA honorary event Nov. 9

The Association of Latinos/as Motivating Action (ALMA) will celebrate this year's Latinx LGBTQ Hall of Fame inductees and 30 Under 30 honorees Thursday, Nov. 9, 6-9 p.m., at Zebra 18, 1104 W. 18th St.

This year's group represents the largest number of Latinx LGBTQ leaders recognized for their contributions to the LGBTQ community.

See ALMA Chicago's page on Facebook.

# Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame inductees to be honored Nov. 8

Nine individuals, three organizations and two friends of the community have been selected for 2017 induction into the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame, the organization which honors and celebrates notable members of Chicago's LGBT communities.

The Hall of Fame's annual induction ceremony will take place Wed., Nov. 8, at 5:30 p.m. at the Chicago History Museum, 1601 N. Clark St. The reception will begin at 5:30 p.m., with the program scheduled to follow. The event is free and open to the public.

The inductees were selected by a committee composed of current individual inductees who reviewed an array of nominations submitted by members of the public. The names were released by Friends of the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame, a section 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Hall of Fame inductees fall into one of three categories: "individual," "organization" or "friend of the community." Nominees represent LGBT Chicagoans, past and present, living and dead, as well as those who have supported or assisted them.

## Those honored in 2017 in the "Individual" category include:

—Keith Butler, 45: Butler is an actor who starred as Kevin in the groundbreaking three-part TV movie *Kevin's Room*, about a support group for Black gay men. Butler used the platform to raise AIDS awareness and improve sexual health in the LGBT community, particularly within communities of color.

—Kathy Caldwell, 58: Caldwell is a police officer whose community service includes positions as treasurer of the Lesbian and Gay Police Association and Gay Officer's Action League as well as the vice chair of the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame. She is a former board member of the Chicago Gay Games, serving as liaison between police, the city and the Gay Games.

—Ketty Teanga aka Miss Ketty (1947-2011): Teanga was a performer and pioneer in the Latina trans community as well as a mentor to many young Latina and drag performers. Teanga was largely known for performing at Circuit Nightclub with the long-running promotion *La Noche Loca* for 15 years.

—Greer Lankton (1958-1996): Raised in Park Forest, Illinois, Lankton was a distinctive transgender artist who blended folk and fine art in her work. A leading figure in the East Village Art Renaissance of the 1980s, she died in Chicago in 1996. In early 2017, Lankton became the first trans artist to show at the National Gallery of Art.

—Mark Nagel, 55: A veteran of Chicago's LGBT press and avid supporter of numerous community causes and organizations. Starting in 1993, Nagel worked in several capacities at Gay Chicago

Magazine. Eight years ago, he helped launch the popular publication, GRAB Magazine.

—Glen Pietrandoni, 61: A veteran of Walgreens who from 1996-2003 managed the pharmacy at Howard Brown Health Center specializing in HIV/AIDS, he also co-chaired AIDS Foundation of Chicago World of Chocolate for nine years and was a board member for TPA, where he was recognized as volunteer of the year in 2002.

—Dulce Quintero, 39: Director of Health Center Operations at Erie Humboldt Park. Quintero was a former direct service provider and advocate for homeless/street-based clients including LGBT youth and established and operated La Casa Norte's Casa Corazon Youth Drop-in program for LGBTQ street based youth.

—Timothy Stewart-Winter, 37: He is a historian and author of the critically acclaimed book *Queer Clout: Chicago and the Rise of Gay Politics*, which documents the emergence of the LGBT movement in Chicago. Stewart-Winter is currently associate professor of history at Rutgers University-Newark.

—Alicia T. Vega, 46: Vega is a founder of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance at Loyola. In 1995, Vega joined Amigas Latinas, eventually becoming joining the board and serving as co-chair and treasurer. She is also a committed advocate for communities affected by trauma, especially LGBTQ youth. In 2013, she founded Q-Yes: Queer Youth Exploring Spirituality.

## Those in the "Organization" category include:

—Lavender Woman: It was a groundbreaking publication and one of the earliest lesbian periodicals in the country. The all-volunteer staff published 26 issues during 1971-1976, fostering lesbian awareness while chronicling art, news and issues in the lesbian community of Chicago and beyond.

—Leather Archives and Museum: It is an internationally renowned museum and archives committed to safeguarding the history of the leather and kink community. Founded in 1991 by Chuck Renslow and Tony DeBlase, the LA&M has been as source of research and education through exhibits and workshops for 26 years.

—People Like Us Bookstore (1988-1997): Chicago's only exclusively gay and lesbian bookstore functioned as a community center, providing a safe space for LGBT individuals to explore their sexuality. The store hosted numerous LGBT authors, readings and events as well as donated gift certificates to countless LGBT organizations.

## Those in the "Friends of the Community" category include:

—Alphawood Foundation: A leader in Chicago's philanthropic community for more than 25 years, offering grants to assist numerous LGBT organizations including the AIDS Foundation of Chicago,



Left: Timothy Stewart-Winter. Right: Alicia Vega.

Stewart-Winter promo photo; Vega photo courtesy of Maria del Carmen Calderon



TPAN and the Center on Halsted. The organization recently presented the Art AIDS America exhibit from December 2016 through April 2017.

—Ralla Klepak, 80: Klepak is a longtime Chicago lawyer recognized for decades of service to the LGBT community. Klepak represented hundreds of gay men in raids and entrapment cases. Klepak was a *pro bono* lawyer for Mattachine Midwest and a champion of same sex adoptions. Additional contributions included changing birth certificates for trans clients, and providing estate planning for those dying of AIDS.

The Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame was established in 1991 under the auspices of what was then the Chicago Commission on Human Relations' Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian (later, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) Issues, a municipal government agency. At the end of 2011, the advisory council ceased to exist after a commission restructuring, and the Friends organization succeeded it as caretaker of the Hall of Fame in partnership with city government.

Beginning with the first ceremony in 1991,

## Pawar ends run for governor

Citing a lack of funds, Chicago Ald. Ameya Pawar (47th Ward) has dropped his bid for governor, the Chicago Sun-Times reported.

"We raised \$828,000 from 2,600 donors—but we don't have enough money to meaningfully scale our campaign," Pawar said.

There is now speculation that Pawar's now-defunct campaign could foreshadow a 2019 race for mayor against incumbent Mayor Rahm Emanuel. Pawar stated, "I'm not ruling anything out. I just don't want to talk about another office or another race today or any time in the near future. But I can tell you I'm not done in politics. I'm sure that I will run again."

In addition, The Daily Northwestern noted that state Sen. Daniel Biss (D-Evanston) announced that Tom Elliott—a former official on Pawar's campaign—is his new communications director. Elliott said in a news release that he is "proud" to join Biss's campaign, which promotes a progressive platform by supporting a progressive income tax, free college tuition

former Mayor Richard M. Daley personally participated in the Hall of Fame's induction ceremonies. Current Mayor Rahm Emanuel has done the same.

The purpose of the organization is to recognize the achievements of LGBT Chicagoans, their contributions to the development of the city, and the help they have received from others. This year marks the 27th annual induction ceremony, which remains an official recognition by Chicago's government of the city's LGBT residents and their allies.

Those selected for the "individual" category are or were members of Chicago's LGBT communities and have made single far-reaching or significant long-term contributions to the quality of life of those communities or the city as a whole. Those in the "organization" category are LGBT businesses and nonprofit groups that have done likewise. "Friends of the community" are non-LGBT-identified individuals and organizations that have contributed to the quality of life of the city's LGBT communities.

and statewide Medicare.

The Sun-Times article is at <https://chicago.suntimes.com>, while The Daily Northwestern piece is at <https://dailynorthwestern.com>.

## Pat Quinn to run for attorney general

Former Illinois Gov. Patrick Quinn is tossing his hat back into the political ring, having announced that he is running next year for attorney general, the Chicago Sun-Times reported.

"I want to be the lawyer for the people," Quinn said.

Other announced or potential candidates include state Sen. Kwame Raoul, state Rep. Scott Drury, former Chicago Civilian Office of Police Accountability chief administrator Sharon Fairley, Metropolitan Water Reclamation Board President Mariyana Spyropoulos, Chicago Park District Board President Jesse Ruiz and Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering.

The article is at <https://chicago.suntimes.com/news/ex-illinois-governor-pat-quinn-run-attorney-general/>.

# The life of 'Patty the Pin Lady'

BY LIZ BAUDLER

Nearly every weekend, some Sunday afternoons, and at big Boystown events like Market Days, you can find a feisty 74-year-old woman selling buttons out on street corners and in gay bars up and down the North Side. As she periodically has to remind her audience, the money isn't for her. Patricia Latham, better known as Patty the Pin Lady, is legendary for a 25-year career of volunteer work that saw her raising over \$50,000 for AIDS services, and perhaps even more.

For anyone, this would be remarkable, but for the last 8 years, Latham has battled stage 3 melanoma. No matter: she's scheduled her life to be able to make her weekly rounds, getting up late, leaving her house at five pm on the weekends, hopping on the Clark bus with her walker, and only coming back home when she's tired, usually around midnight or one am.

"I try to keep up with what's going on! I can't lay in bed just because I have cancer!" Latham explained. "I try to get out and do things. I have so much more work to do. I told God, I can't die today, I got too much work to do."

What on earth kickstarted such a unique, serious commitment to AIDS fundraising? Latham pinpoints a friend she made while living in Hawaii in the late 1980s. "I met this guy, James, a gay fella, and we became good friends, and he had HIV and he died in 1991," she explained. "His family would not take any money. They wanted to do it all on their own. So I was really kind of ticked off about it, and I was talking to a police officer, and he said, why don't you get some AIDS ribbons, Patty?"

Following his advice, she bought a dozen red ribbons from a supplier. "They said, 'ma'am, you're going to need more than that,'" she recalled. "I said, 'I don't know anything about these things.' [The police officer] took me down to Halsted and Roscoe, and he said, 'now you stand right here and do not move, I'll come back in an hour and get you.' I sold them all, I made \$20. I was so excited, my god, \$20. I called the company and I ordered a couple dozen, and it took off like hotcakes."

Her police-officer friend then took her to Open Hand Chicago, a food pantry that assisted HIV and AIDS patients at the time. While depositing her first \$20, Latham had an idea that became her ticket to success.

"I told them, 'You know, why don't you give me a letter saying that I gave you a \$20 donation today? That might get me into the bars.' And it sure did. I'd come through every day and sell my little ribbons and talk to people and meet people and tell them about Open Hand Chicago. They had a lot of programs, and I stayed with them for 22 years."

Open Hands evolved into Vital Bridges and eventually became part of Heartland Alliance. For the past few years, Latham has continued her

fundraising with Gay Liberation Network.

In the early days of her fundraising, she credits the recently departed Chuck Renslow with helping introduce her to the lucrative leathermen market.

"He broke me in, during the leather years," said Latham. "He told me what to buy. There's a lot of different things about leather that I do not know. But when they had International Mr. Leather... 'Now, Patty, you buy this flag, you buy these handcuffs.' I used to make thousands of dollars in three days! I couldn't believe it! They wanted those things."

Bartenders and doormen at the various bars also made sure she got access to their patrons. "Everybody took me underneath their wing," Latham explained. "The bartenders all helped me, the door guy at Eagle, they all helped me. They knew I was honest. If I was not, they would not allow me to sit out in front and come into the bars. I don't steal, I gave the money to Open Hand, and I got a letter every month. And they noticed that all the people liked me. Which means a lot to me of course, and to the community. Anyone that talks about me, they talk about me highly."

Although over the years her fans have told Latham to "market herself," it took a while for the natural entrepreneur to find the right strategy. In the end, it was obvious.

"One guy says, 'you know, you're the Queen, Patty, why don't you make up a button says you're the Queen?'" Oh, they went like hotcakes! One week I had 100 buttons, they were gone," she remembered. "Every time I get an idea, I make more buttons, and off I go. I carry them around with me, I go into the bars, 'any more new buttons?' Oh, they're thrilled. I've been doing that lately, on the side, Sunday afternoon. People snatch them right off of me."

She called Rogers Park's Jackhammer her "mother bar", although she doesn't always get there these days. It doesn't really get busy until 2 am, she explains, by which point she's worn out. And well ... the atmosphere isn't always conducive to a sale.

"I see them in the corner touching one another, I just walk right by with my candy dish," Latham said of the preoccupied leatherman clientele. "It gets crowded in there, there's no room for me, I just sit outside." Even so, Latham is an enthusiastic saleswoman for the bar's monthly naked party. As she puts it, "Everyone should try it just once in their life."

Younger patrons, raised in an era where AIDS is not a death sentence, don't take Latham's quest quite so seriously. "They don't know what I'm doing," she said. "I've told them 100 times, 'What is that about? AIDS? I don't know about AIDS.' When I was doing the AIDS program, [I'd hear] 'Oh, they have cocktails for that.' I said, 'You better wear a condom.' [They would say] 'Oh, you're old.' I said, 'Yeah, I'm 74, lived that long, I don't have AIDS, I never caught any kind of sexual dis-



**Patty the Pin Lady (real name: Patricia Latham).**  
Photo by Liz Baudler

ease."

She remembers one of the young men who scoffed at her advice. "About a month later, I see him, he says, 'oh Patty, I'm so glad to see you. I got AIDS, oh my god.' I gave him a big kiss and I held him. He was crying and crying, and said, 'I wish I would have listened to you, you told me about the condoms. I thought you were just some old lady out here!' I said, 'I am an old lady out here, I tried to warn you and you didn't listen to me.' That was about two years ago, he's doing better now. But if they have the condoms on the table for something, you take them! Have them in your wallet: when you meet somebody, put them on! I've been out here for twenty five years, young man! I'm not just some old woman walking around with a candy dish."

Even the older generation occasionally needs a reminder of her mission, though Latham can count on her fans to deliver. Once, as she sat outside Progress Bar on a Sunday afternoon, a man accused her of robbing the community of thousands of dollars over the years.

"I made him really mad," she gloated. "I said, 'Sir, excuse me, you have your story wrong. It's not thousands, it's millions!' He went insane. Two guys heard me and gave me \$20 apiece, and were they mad--'We love our Patty, leave her alone!' That Sunday I made over \$300 just sitting there from 4 o'clock to 7:30."

But, overall, she's slowed down on her Sunday afternoon collection. "Things are tough, I'm not going to sit there like I'm begging, because I'm not begging," she said. "I just stopped going because they're just not giving as much. I don't have time to sit there and do nothing."

The community is mindful of Latham's health. "They're very good to me with the cancer, you know," Latham says. They don't like to talk about it--I don't like to talk about it either. They ask me, "how's your cancer?" I says, "I don't know about today, maybe tomorrow I'll feel better." They say if you need something, call me. I don't like to bother them, you know."

Latham counts herself lucky that she has a devoted friend, Jenny, who does everything from take her to the hospital for treatments to clean her house. "She doesn't want money," Latham

marveled. "All the boys love her in Boystown and the doctors, too. 'How's Jenny? What do you mean? I'm the one that's sick!' She is a godsend."

Help like this lets Latham get back to her work. She's clearly proud of her time with Gay Liberation Network, collecting funds she says the group uses to print flyers and obtain march permits. With her health, Latham isn't a marcher these days, but she's enthusiastic about GLN's mission.

"We fight for your rights and we march and tell people what's going on in this world," she explained. "For Black Lives Matter, we got 1,000 marchers or more and we closed down Lakeshore Drive. Black lives do matter and we need to take care of them, too. God made everybody, you know?"

Her most popular product at recent marches is, perhaps unsurprisingly, "Dump Trump" buttons. "I sold more of them than I did for Hillary," said Latham, who voted for Clinton. She's amused by the negotiations a "Dump Trump" button sale involves.

"I hate to put a price tag on Dump Trump, because I don't know the buttons are worth," Latham said. If I say \$3, 'why so much?' [I say] make a donation if that makes you feel better. Then they give me a \$5 anyhow! Or a \$10 or 20. I've gotten as much as \$50 for Dump Trump."

Latham said she regards her volunteer fundraising career as a duty, and while she might have gone to incredible lengths to fulfill it, it's a duty she feels resides with everyone.

"I enjoy serving the community," she said. "You gotta get out and you gotta do things in your community. You may not have money to give, but you can do something that's productive. You can give up an hour of your time. Get a benefit going, raise some money, do something. Anything that you think you might like to do to help somebody. God gave you a life to live and you have to live it to the fullest, whether it's serving the community or doing something at work to help somebody, or buying a lunch...anything to do to say that you contributed today. You are a gay man or a gay woman, get out there and help the people who need it the most. And you will feel much better about yourself."

# CFW luncheon features Dolores Huerta, Alicia Garza

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

"Activate" was the theme of the Oct. 19 Chicago Foundation for Women's (CFW) 32nd annual luncheon and morning symposium at the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

CFW founding board member and author Rebecca Sive moderated a conversation with featured guests Dolores Huerta (United Farm Workers—UFW co-founder, American labor leader and civil rights activist) and Alicia Garza (#Black Lives Matter co-creator and social activist) focusing on the luncheon's theme to the approximately 1,800 people in attendance.

Ahead of the conversation, CFW's President/CEO K. Sujata announced the creation of the Willie Taplin Barrow Fund for Black Women's Leadership. The fund will focus on investing in Black women and girls in the Chicago region with a number of initiatives—Willie's Warriors (a cohort of Black women from different sectors who will examine and address challenges face by Black women leaders), the Rev. Willie Barrow Emerging Leaders Award and leadership development programming. Barrow, alongside Rev. Jesse Jackson Sr., organized Operation Breadbasket's Chicago chapter and was the board chair of Rainbow/PUSH for a number of years.

"Willie's Warriors will carry on the spirit of the late Rev. Willie Barrow, a fierce civil rights leader who was known as 'The Little Warrior' for her passion for racial justice and social change," said Sujata. "We are honored and humbled to carry on

the Rev. Barrow's remarkable legacy."

Sujata talked about the growing activism, especially among women, over the past year and HB40—which guarantees affordable and comprehensive reproductive healthcare, including abortion access, in Illinois—being signed into law. She noted the newly formed Englewood Women's Initiative which will create career opportunities for women in the Englewood neighborhood.

"We must remain active in the face of escalating threats to the health, safety and security of women and girls," said Sujata. "Women are the glue holding communities together as breadwinners and caregivers. The future is female. It is also Black and Brown, trans and queer, immigrant and undocumented. My liberation, our liberation and the liberation of all women is tied with those who are most vulnerable among us."

Sive asked Huerta and Garza how they came to be involved in activism and social justice causes.

Huerta gave credit to community organizer Fred Ross Sr., who she said got her and Cesar Chavez involved in activism. She explained that changing policies, getting legislation passed and supporting progressive candidates are the ways to affect positive change for women and minorities. Huerta said she left the UFW in 2002 to start the Dolores Huerta Foundation.

Garza said she started fighting for reproductive health and justice at age 12 during George W. Bush's administration. She credits her single mom for sparking her activism because her mom never gave her the "birds and the bees" or stork



Chicago Foundation for Women President/CEO K. Sujata.

Photo by Michelle Dokes

talks and instead talked to her about comprehensive sex education at an early age. Garza noted that after college she moved from advocacy to organizing and that's when #BlackLivesMatter was created. Currently, there are 40 chapters across North America and satellite chapters worldwide.

In terms of recognizing structural gender and race discrimination, Huerta said one has to dismantle systems of oppression. She explained that when white cis men are the only ones in the room they will almost always make the wrong decision. Huerta said the key is removing people from power who do not respect women. She said the women's movement should take a page out of the LGBTQ playbook with messaging that nor-

malizes abortion. Huerta explained that in order to make these changes it has to come from the bottom up—from school boards to city councils to state legislatures and governors and then at the federal level. She said empowering people to make positive change is what sustains her.

Garza noted how the economy gendered and racialized. She pointed out the disparity between what white women make versus white men and how that amount is even less when it comes to women of color. Garza said it is not enough to elect more women and people of color—they also have to "share our progressive vision and be accountable to it." She explained that the best policies and laws get shaped by those who have a stake in making them come to fruition. Garza noted that what keeps her going is dreaming about what is possible.

Other speakers included CFW Board Chair Pat Slovak; Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health (ICAH—a CFW grantee) Youth Leadership Council member and peer educator Akosuah Owusu; and Women's March on Chicago (Jan. 21, 2017) Co-Chairs Jessica Scheller, Ann Scholhamer and Liz Radford.

Slovak spoke about being optimistic about the election at last year's luncheon as well as how challenging the past year has been for many groups of people. She noted the leadership of the last board chair Wendy White Eagle and said CFW has awarded 3,800 grants totaling more than \$30 million since its founding in 1985.

Owusu explained that due to ICAH she was able to grow and thrive as a young mother. She decided to become a peer educator with ICAH because "everyone should have access to information about sexual and reproductive health." Owusu also spoke in Springfield, Illinois on reproductive health issues.

Scheller talked about the genesis of Chicago's march on Jan. 21, 2017, including CFW's role in securing the necessary permits.

See <https://www.cfw.org/> for more information.

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## viewpoints



**Rev. Irene  
MONROE**

## Looking back: LGBTQ History Month's canon

Winston Churchill once said, "History is written by the winners." When the Stonewall Riots occurred in 1969, the history of more than a century-long oppressed people finally got national attention. And, since that historical moment, the suppressed and closeted oral histories of our fierce and courageous LGBTQ brothers and sisters began to be documented—openly and uncensored.

In less than half a century later, a new field of inquiry called queer studies began to tell our stories. And, as a young discipline, it's still on a fact-gathering mission.

LGBTQ History Month (which was just celebrated in October) is young, too. It's a public month-long celebration and acknowledgment of our contribution to American History. Just 23 years old, it was first celebrated in 1994, as an outgrowth from National Coming Out Day (Oct. 11), which was founded in 1988.

As a community that can now openly gather, preserve and archive our history, LGBTQ History Month affords us the opportunity to celebrate new voices and individuals to this newly emerging canon. And, the more diversified the LGBTQ historical cannon becomes a more robust and accurate picture emerges of the shakers and movers of a century-long civil-rights movement pre-dating Stonewall.

However, the whitewashing that's showcased during this month with the usual renowned figures like James Baldwin and Bayard Rustin thrown in as tokens of inclusion does a tremendous disservice not only to the intention of the month-long celebration but it also does a disservice to the importance of the historical record attempting to climb out of a queer closet now open.

Both Black History Month (in February) and Women's History Month (in March) similarly omit from their month-long celebrations trailblazers whose lives should be acknowledged, too. In presently analyzing the intersectionality of peoples' lives, historical records that were once canonized and deemed as the gospel of truth are now being redacted for their glaring omissions. For example, queer studies forced the once deliberated and hidden omission of Bayard Rustin from the historical annals of the 1960s Black civil-rights movement to his rightful place as a key figure. Usually mentioned as merely a historical footnote, we can no longer accurately talk about the



**Bayard Rustin.**

Photo courtesy of Victor Salvo

historic 1963 March on Washington without Bayard Rustin. Rustin—who, inarguably, is one of the tallest trees in our forest—was the strategist and chief organizer of the march that catapulted the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. onto a global stage. Sadly, he's still largely an unknown due to the heterosexism that canonized the history.

Queer histories, however, are not without their blind spots, too.

For example, African-American LGBTQ communities have always existed in Harlem, residing here since this former Dutch enclave became this country's Black Mecca in the 1920s.

The visibility of Harlem's LGBTQ communities, for the most part, was forced to be on the "down low." But gay Harlem, nonetheless, showcased its inimitable style with rent parties, speakeasies, sex circuses, and buffet flats as places to engage in protected same-gender milieus.

And let's not forget Harlem's notorious gay balls. During the 1920s in Harlem, the renowned Savoy Ballroom and the Rockland Palace hosted drag-ball extravaganzas with prizes awarded for the best costumes. Harlem Renaissance writer Langston Hughes depicted the balls as "spectacles of color." As expected, however, African-American ministers railed against these communities—as they continue to do today.

While we have come to know of gay and bisexual male literary figures of the Harlem Renaissance like Alain Locke, Countee Cullen, Langston Hughes, Claude McKay, Wallace Thurman and Richard Bruce Nugent, to name a few, we know too little of the LBT and queer-friendly feminist women writers. Zora Neale Hurston, Jessie Fauset, Georgia Douglas Johnson, Nella Larsen, Alice Dunbar-Nelson, and other African-American feminist writers of the era used issues of sexuality and gender non-conforming identities as artistic influences in their literary works.

The invisibility of LGBTQ and women of color is not because there is a paucity of us that exist or made history; our invisibility is evidence of how race, gender and sexual politics of the dominant heterosexual cultures—Black or white—are reinforced in white queer, too.

It leads you to believe that the only shakers and movers in the history of people of African descent in the U.S. were and still are heterosexuals and of LGBTQ people is white. And because of these biases, the sheroes and heroes of LGBTQ people of African descent—like Pat Parker, Audre Lorde, Essex Hemphill, Joseph Beam and Bayard Rustin—are mostly known and lauded within a subculture of Black life.

Deceased African-American poet and activist Pat Parker, in her book *Movement in Black*, talked about how society did not embrace her multiple identities. "If I could take all my parts with me when I go somewhere, and not have to say to one of them, 'No, you stay home tonight, you won't be welcome, because I'm going to an all-white party where I can be gay, but not Black.' Or I'm going to a Black poetry reading, and half of the poets are antihomosexual, or thousands of situations where something of what I am cannot come with me. The day all the different parts of me can come along, we would have what I would call a revolution."

The Stonewall Riots was a revolution. And, it wasn't just white! The historical facts are not all gathered.

For example, the 2015 film *Stonewall* is the most disturbing of films on the rebellion because of its apparent whitewashing of a historic moment that turned into a movement. When I look back at the first night of the Stonewall Inn riots, as a young teen in the riots, I could have never imagined its future importance.

On the first night of the Stonewall Inn riots, African-Americans and Latinos were the largest percentages of the protesters, because we heavily frequented the Stonewall Inn. For Black and Latino homeless youth and young adults who slept in nearby Christopher Park, the bar was their stable domicile. The Stonewall Inn being raided was nothing new—gay bars in the Village were routinely raided in the 1960s, but many believe the decision to raid Stonewall that fateful night happened because the police were increasingly incensed by how many LGBT people of color hung out there.

The Stonewall riots of June 27-29, 1969, in Greenwich Village started on the backs of working-class African-American and Latino queers who patronized that bar. Those brown and Black LGBTQ people are not only absent from the photos of that night but have been bleached from its written history. Many LGBTQ Blacks and Latinos argue that one of the reasons for the gulf between whites and themselves is about how the dominant queer community rewrite and continues to control the narrative of Stonewall.

LGBTQ History Month can be a public acknowledgment of correcting the record.



**PUBLISHER & EXECUTIVE EDITOR**  
Tracy Baim

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e-mail: [editor@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:editor@windycitymediagroup.com) or  
[Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:Andrew@windycitymediagroup.com)

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WCT reviews the production *Lysistrata Jones*.

Photo of cast by Zeke Dolezalek

### SCOTTISH PLAY SCOTT

## Lesbian opera singer Racette seeks asylum in 'The Consul'

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Lesbian opera soprano Patricia Racette considers herself to be very lucky.

In her three-decade performing career of tackling both classics (*Madama Butterfly*, *Salome*) and world premieres (*Emmeline*, *Dolores Claiborne*), Racette has been able to check off most of the dream roles on her operatic wish list.

Racette shares one of her more elusive wish-list roles when Chicago Opera Theater presents *The Consul* by gay Italian-American composer and librettist Gian-Carlo Menotti (1911-2007). It's a Pulitzer Prize-winning operatic tragedy that ran on Broadway for more than 250 performances back in 1950. *The Consul* was last professionally produced locally in 2006 by Chamber Opera Chicago.

In *The Consul*, Racette portrays the political asylum seeker Magda Sorel. She is desperately trying to get her persecuted family out of an unnamed eastern European country, only to run into repeated bureaucratic road blocks at the U.S. consulate.

"The issues in this piece are phenomenally relevant, which has made the rehearsal process somehow more emotionally taxing," said Racette in light of all the hardened rhetoric over immigration and "The Wall" coming from the current presidential administration. "When I come home and turn on the news, I think, 'Wait a second—have I left rehearsals or not?'"

The opportunity to play Magda came about last

year after Racette enjoyed a collaboration with former Chicago Opera Theater general director Andreas Mitisek on Francis Poulenc's solo-drama *La voix humaine*. The Consul has turned out to be an ideal fit not only for Racette, but as a co-production shared by Chicago Opera Theater and Long Beach Opera in California (where it finished its initial run last month).

"It fits my voice like a glove," said Racette of Menotti's melodic and dramatic vocal writing for Magda. "I love singing this part."

Racette also revealed that Mitisek's staging of *The Consul* isn't completely traditional. Magda's infamous Sylvia Plath-like demise isn't followed in this production, but Racette added, "There's nothing so far out that you don't know what it means."

"Andreas thoroughly explored the storytelling of this piece," Racette said. "It has the impact, without being overly obvious and hitting you over the head. It's extremely poignant."

Racette still has a few more unfulfilled dream roles on her wish list like the common-law wife Marie in Alban Berg's *Wozzeck*, or any number of the former showgirls in Stephen Sondheim's musical *Follies*. Yet Racette is excited to reveal that she is booked to play one of her wish-list roles, the murderous Kostelnicka in Leos Janáček's *Jenufa*, although she couldn't contractually say when and where just yet.

Racette is also branching out artistically beyond singing. She recently created a weeklong performance seminar/master class to share her



Patricia Racette.  
Publicity photo

knowledge and to work with younger opera singers in San Francisco and New York.

Racette also will make her directorial debut staging a new production of Giuseppe Verdi's *La Traviata* next year with Opera Theater of St. Louis. It's a work that has great significance for Racette since she met her future wife, mezzo-soprano Beth Clayton, when they were both performing in a production at Santa Fe Opera 20 years ago.

"I love the piece of theater that it is. Some of the early Verdi can be more stilted, but I feel

*La Traviata* still really reads well as a play," Racette said. "I'm hoping for it to be a beautifully opulent and thorough telling of the story."

At a time when so many hard-won freedoms for LG-BTQ people and other minorities are under threat in America, Racette said it is very important to be visible and outspoken. (Racette and Clayton both came out via a cover story in *Opera News* magazine back in 2002.)

"It's important to me to be out," Racette said. "Because the antithesis of that is hiding and there's an element of shame in that."

Racette is also grateful that she gets the opportunity to perform in a rarely-done 20th-century tragedy like *The Consul*—especially when its dramatic story can take on added political resonances for audiences of today.

"One of the beautiful aspects of live performance and art is that within it, we can find something cathartic, something healing or something very telling about what is going on in life," Racette said. "So I feel there is an importance to this work."

Chicago Opera Theater's *The Consul* plays three performances only at the Studebaker Theater in the Fine Arts Building, 410 S. Michigan Ave. Curtain times are 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Friday, Nov. 4 and 10, with a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday, Nov. 12. Tickets are \$45-\$145; call 312-704-8414 or visit [ChicagoOperaTheater.org](http://ChicagoOperaTheater.org).

## What is TRUVADA for PrEP?

TRUVADA for PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is a prescription medicine that is used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1. To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Ask your healthcare provider if you have questions about how to prevent getting HIV. Always practice safer sex and use condoms to lower the chance of sexual contact with body fluids. Never reuse or share needles or other items that have body fluids on them.

## IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

### What is the most important information I should know about TRUVADA for PrEP?

#### Before taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

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- ◆ **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** If you have flu-like symptoms, you could have recently become infected with HIV-1. Tell your healthcare provider if you had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting or at any time while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin.

#### While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:

- ◆ **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
- ◆ **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP:**
  - ◆ Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months.
  - ◆ If you think you were exposed to HIV-1, tell your healthcare provider right away.
- ◆ **To further help reduce your risk of getting HIV-1:**
  - ◆ Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
  - ◆ Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
  - ◆ Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
  - ◆ Do not miss any doses of TRUVADA. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- ◆ **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.

#### TRUVADA can cause serious side effects:

- ◆ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV and stop taking TRUVADA, your HBV may suddenly get worse. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to monitor your health.

## Who should not take TRUVADA for PrEP?

#### Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- ◆ **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.** If you are HIV-1 positive, you need to take other medicines with TRUVADA to treat HIV-1. TRUVADA by itself is not a complete treatment for HIV-1. If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- ◆ **Also take** certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

## What are the other possible side effects of TRUVADA for PrEP?

#### Serious side effects of TRUVADA may also include:

- ◆ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider may do blood tests to check your kidneys before and during treatment with TRUVADA. If you develop kidney problems, your healthcare provider may tell you to stop taking TRUVADA.
- ◆ **Too much lactic acid in your blood** (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- ◆ **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark "tea-colored" urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- ◆ **Bone problems,** including bone pain, softening, or thinning, which may lead to fractures. Your healthcare provider may do tests to check your bones.

**Common side effects** in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP are stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any side effects that bother you or do not go away.

## What should I tell my healthcare provider before taking TRUVADA for PrEP?

- ◆ **All your health problems.** Be sure to tell your healthcare provider if you have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- ◆ **If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** It is not known if TRUVADA can harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking TRUVADA for PrEP, talk to your healthcare provider to decide if you should keep taking TRUVADA.
- ◆ **If you are breastfeeding** (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can be passed to the baby in breast milk.
- ◆ **All the medicines you take,** including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. TRUVADA may interact with other medicines. Keep a list of all your medicines and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.
- ◆ **If you take certain other medicines** with TRUVADA, your healthcare provider may need to check you more often or change your dose. These medicines include certain medicines to treat hepatitis C (HCV) infection.

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

**Please see Important Facts about TRUVADA for PrEP including important warnings on the following page.**

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**TRUVADA for PrEP™** is a once-daily prescription medicine that can help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 when taken every day and used together with safer sex practices.

- ◆ TRUVADA for PrEP is only for adults who are at high risk of getting HIV through sex.
- ◆ You must be HIV-negative before you start taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

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Before starting TRUVADA for PrEP:

- **You must be HIV-1 negative.** You must get tested to make sure that you do not already have HIV-1. Do not take TRUVADA for PrEP to reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 unless you are confirmed to be HIV-1 negative.
- **Many HIV-1 tests can miss HIV-1 infection in a person who has recently become infected.** Symptoms of new HIV-1 infection include flu-like symptoms, tiredness, fever, joint or muscle aches, headache, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, night sweats, and/or enlarged lymph nodes in the neck or groin. Tell your healthcare provider if you have had a flu-like illness within the last month before starting TRUVADA for PrEP.
- **While taking TRUVADA for PrEP:**
  - **You must continue to use safer sex practices. Just taking TRUVADA for PrEP may not keep you from getting HIV-1.**
  - **You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.** Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months while taking TRUVADA for PrEP. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you think you were exposed to HIV-1 or have a flu-like illness while taking TRUVADA for PrEP.
  - **If you do become HIV-1 positive, you need more medicine than TRUVADA alone to treat HIV-1.** If you have HIV-1 and take only TRUVADA, your HIV-1 may become harder to treat over time.
- See the “How To Further Reduce Your Risk” section for more information.

TRUVADA may cause serious side effects, including:

- **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** TRUVADA is not approved to treat HBV. If you have HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking TRUVADA. Do not stop taking TRUVADA without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

ABOUT TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA for PrEP is a prescription medicine used together with safer sex practices to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 through sex. This use is only for HIV-negative adults who are at high risk of getting HIV-1.

- To help determine your risk of getting HIV-1, talk openly with your healthcare provider about your sexual health.

Do NOT take TRUVADA for PrEP if you:

- **Already have HIV-1 infection or if you do not know your HIV-1 status.**
- Take certain medicines to treat hepatitis B infection.

HOW TO TAKE TRUVADA FOR PrEP

- **Take 1 tablet once a day, every day,** not just when you think you have been exposed to HIV-1.
- Do not miss any doses. Missing doses may increase your risk of getting HIV-1 infection.
- Use TRUVADA for PrEP together with condoms and safer sex practices.
- Get tested for HIV-1 at least every 3 months. You must stay HIV-negative to keep taking TRUVADA for PrEP.

IMPORTANT FACTS

This is only a brief summary of important information about taking TRUVADA for PrEP™ (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to help reduce the risk of getting HIV-1 infection. This does not replace talking to your healthcare provider about your medicine.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF TRUVADA FOR PrEP

TRUVADA can cause serious side effects, including:

- Those in the “Most Important Information About TRUVADA for PrEP” section.
- New or worse kidney problems, including kidney failure.
- Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis), which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- Severe liver problems, which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- Bone problems.

**Common side effects** in people taking TRUVADA for PrEP include stomach-area (abdomen) pain, headache, and decreased weight.

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

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

BEFORE TAKING TRUVADA FOR PrEP

Tell your healthcare provider if you:

- Have or have had any kidney, bone, or liver problems, including hepatitis.
- Have any other medical conditions.
- Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. If you become HIV-positive, HIV can pass to the baby in breast milk.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take:

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

HOW TO FURTHER REDUCE YOUR RISK

- Know your HIV status and the HIV status of your partners.
- Get tested for other sexually transmitted infections. Other infections make it easier for HIV to infect you.
- Get information and support to help reduce risky sexual behavior, such as having fewer sex partners.
- Do not share needles or personal items that can have blood or body fluids on them.

GET MORE INFORMATION

- This is only a brief summary of important information about TRUVADA for PrEP. Talk to your healthcare provider or pharmacist to learn more, including how to prevent HIV infection.
- Go to [start.truvada.com](http://start.truvada.com) or call 1-800-GILEAD-5
- If you need help paying for your medicine, visit [start.truvada.com](http://start.truvada.com) for program information.



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# Trans leader Reyna Ortiz on new book, being prom queen



Reyna Ortiz.

Publicity photo by Wade Chandler

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Trans Latinx activist and advocate Reyna Ortiz's upcoming book, "T: Stands for Truth," will be released Nov. 7.

"It is about my life and experiences as a trans Latina living in Chicago," said Ortiz. "From sex work to social work, telling my story is obviously really personal. But, I wanted it to be truthful. So many trans women are living a very similar life-style and it is necessary to shine a light on these issues. Trans women need to break free from the perception of what society expects from us. Why can't trans woman of color strive for better, for success?"

This is not the first time Ortiz has told her story. She was also featured on StoryCorps (<https://www.wbez.org/shows/wbez-news/transgender-teenager-named-prom-queen/2802b91e-f552-4fdc-8c31-09c35ad6b25d>).

"StoryCorps was a great experience," said Ortiz. "I really started to understand how impactful my story can be with regards to educating society about the trans experience."

Ortiz was born in the Little Village neighborhood of Chicago and has three brothers (older brother John and younger brothers Israel and Rafael).

"I went to public schools mostly in Cicero, Illinois," said Ortiz. "My freshman year at Morton East High School was probably the hardest to endure. I believe I was the first person at the school to introduce them to what 'gender fluidity' means. I was determined to have a high school experience the way I felt I deserved."

"Of course, there was a small percentage of my high school that were very uncomfortable with me. Initially, I had to fight my way through the halls and early on my older brother John had to step in. He showed the school that I was pro-

tected, that I had a support system, that was not going to allow people to bully or intimate me. After that incident my high school experience became pretty normal. I really had a great time in high school, very minimal instances of discrimination."

Ortiz (who self-identified as a two-spirit, androgynous, genderfluid youth at the time) was named prom queen in 1998 and calls that night a pivotal moment in her life. She said this was the moment she achieved respect from her peers by winning the highest honor of femininity.

In addition to being an author, Ortiz is the trans resource navigator for TaskForce Prevention

and Community Services (the only LGBT organization in the heart of the West Side of Chicago) where her primary roles are as health educator, HIV counselor and drop-in coordinator.

"Taskforce, or what the youth call 'The Vogue School,' is one of my most favorite places to be," said Ortiz. "We provide a safe space for African-American and Latinx LGBTQ youth. It is a phenomenal place where youth can express themselves without judgment or ridicule. We offer various resources and referrals that can benefit our youth—housing, medical, legal, PrEP and most importantly support and guidance."

Ortiz is also the TransSafe coordinator for Chi-

cago House, where she connects trans-identified people to resources involving housing, legal, medical and employment opportunities.

She also founded, alongside GiGi Boom and Monica Fernandez, Trans Women in Real Life (T.W.I.R.L.) to build community and pride as well as educate and empower trans identified women.

Ortiz's message to allies put their words into action to help trans and gender nonconforming people get ahead. This includes learning about trans people and issues, hiring them and standing up to people who say anti-trans slurs or other comments.

"At this time in my life, simplicity is important to me," said Ortiz. "I love to cook, write and work. My work is a huge part of my life. I never would have thought that working for my trans community would bring me so much fulfillment, peace and happiness."

In Ortiz's message to fellow trans and gender nonconforming people, she invoked Channy Lynne Parker's quote "It is a good day to be trans," adding, "Trans women are taking more pride in our community. We are striving for success, entrepreneurship and leadership roles so we can prosper. Keep living and pushing yourself but also enjoy the moment. Sometimes we get all wrapped up in the bureaucracy of gender that we forget what it is all about. Live, laugh, use condoms and take your hormones."

Vives Q will be hosting a free event to celebrate Ortiz's book release Tuesday, Nov. 7 at the National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 19th St., 6-9 p.m.

The event will include a talk by Ortiz; a panel featuring people in her book; and performances by entertainers Gaby Bady, Fatima Galindo and Lila Star. Also, Ortiz's book will be available for purchase.

To register for the event, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/vives-q-presents-t-stands-for-truth-book-release-celebration-tickets-37979278043>.

## Spacey accused of abuse by Rapp, comes out as gay to distract

Two-time Oscar winner and House of Cards star Kevin Spacey has come out of the closet as gay (an open secret in Hollywood)—but only after apologizing to actor Anthony Rapp for an alleged sexual advance that happened when Rapp was 14, several media outlets have reported.

Rapp—who plays Lt. Paul Stamets on the CBS online series Star Trek: Discovery, and who became a star in the Broadway production of Rent in the mid-1990s—initially told BuzzFeed that Spacey climbed on top of him in a bedroom at a 1986 party in New York.

Spacey issued an apology, on Twitter, saying he didn't remember the incident, but added, "If I did behave then as he describes, I owe him the sincerest apology for what would have been

deeply inappropriate drunken behavior, and I am sorry for the feelings he describes having carried with him all these years."

He added, "As those closest to me know, in my life I have had relationships with both men and women. I have loved and had romantic encounters with men throughout my life, and I choose now to live as a gay man. I want to deal with this honestly and openly and that starts with examining my own behavior."

Beau Willimon, the creator of House of Cards, has called Rapp's story "deeply troubling," TheWrap reported.

"During the time I worked with Kevin Spacey on 'House of Cards,' I neither witnessed nor was aware of any inappropriate behavior on set or off," he said in a statement TheWrap obtained. "That said, I take reports of such behavior seriously and this is no exception. I feel for Mr. Rapp and I support his courage." It was announced Oct. 30 that House of Cards would end after its upcoming sixth season.

TheWrap's article is at <https://www.thewrap.com/house-of-cards-creator-beau-willimon-kevin-spacey-deeply-troubling/>.



Kevin Spacey.

Photo by Jerry Nunn

## THEATER REVIEW

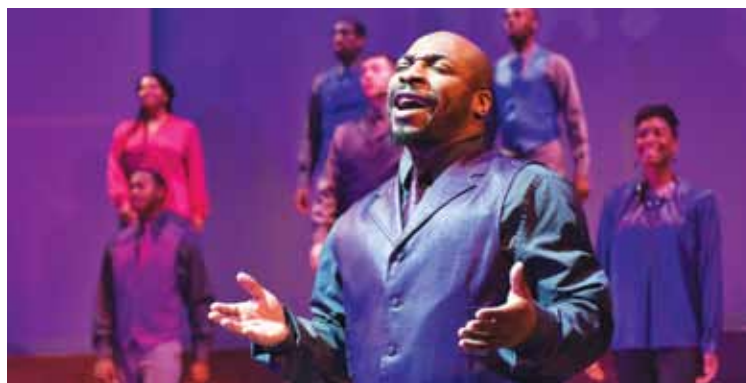
## The Black Renaissance (A Musical Resistance Against Racism)

Script and new songs: Jackie Taylor  
At: Black Ensemble Theater, 4450 N. Clark St.  
Tickets: 773-769-4451 or  
BlackEnsemble.org; \$45-\$65  
Runs through: Nov. 19

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

Ending racism has been built into the mission statement of Black Ensemble Theater since its inception more than 40 years ago. So the company is truly honoring its roots with the timely new revue *The Black Renaissance (A Musical Resistance Against Racism)*.

The Black Renaissance is a reactionary response to America's growing divisive political situation under the Trump administration. But rather than focusing entirely on the now, *The Black Renaissance*



Rueben D. Echoles in *The Black Renaissance*. Photo by Michael Courier

sance looks to history for context as a way to educate, enlighten and entertain.

Company founder and director Jackie Taylor spearheads *The Black Renaissance*. Her script packs in plenty of history to wrestle with the U.S. roots of slavery, racism and even self-hatred to grapple with each of their insidious and lingering legacies today.

But Taylor ensures that *The Black Renaissance* isn't a dry history lesson or lecture. Taylor's eclectic song score features styles including R&B, gospel and rap to get to the emotional core of

universal truths recognized by African-American and their allies throughout time.

And vitally, the songs give each member of the very talented 13-member ensemble a chance to vocally shine individually and as a unified group. Some of the vocal standouts include the commanding Rhonda Preston, a soulful Dwight Neal and the powerful Lekeya Shearill and Janaah Coats.

Ensemble member Reuben D. Echoles' choreography is also a nice touch, particularly in an early number focusing on the enduring African

origins among a group of American slaves celebrating a wedding ceremony. Linnea Norwood and Michael Adkins are impressive as the daunted young couple.

Structurally, *The Black Renaissance* doesn't stick to its initial path. Most of its first act is a dash up to Reconstruction, but Act II skimps on the history to deal with more day-to-day concerns like uncovering and calling out institutionalized racism among other intersectional "-isms." So audiences expecting a lot of 20th-century history might feel slighted.

And on the performance level, there is room for some improvement. At the post-opening performance I attended, some of the ensemble choreography wasn't as precisely or confidently executed as it could have been. Also, there were some coordination hesitations with vocal entrances to many songs.

Audibility can also be an issue at times, whether it's a balance issue by sound/projection designer Aaron Quick, or if some ensemble members aren't enunciating as crisply as they could be.

But overall, *The Black Renaissance* does its part to inform, inspire and reassure audiences caught up in our fraught political times. And that's what makes it so powerful and vital.

## THEATER REVIEW

## Lysistrata Jones

Playwright: Book by Douglas Carter Beane, music and lyrics by Lewis Flinn  
At: Refuge Theatre Project at Unity Lutheran Church, 1212 W. Balmoral Ave.  
Tickets: \$25  
Runs through: Nov. 19

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

Scholarly playgoers scrambling to retrieve their SparksNotes will be relieved to learn that all that's left of Aristophanes' much-tweaked comedy in this musical romp is the launching device of women initiating a moratorium on sex.

This adaptive conceit enables book author Douglas Carter Beane and composer-lyricist Lewis Flinn to bypass the difficulties of transposing the literary context from 411 B.C. to 2010. Protocol for making war may not have changed much over 25 centuries, but that for making love certainly has—sometimes as recently as yesterday.

Our play is set in and around Athens University, where the Spartans have lost every basketball game for 30 years. In vain do the varsity players' girlfriends cheer on their swains, until Lysistrata Jones, the captain's consort, determines that the only solution to the curse of the sports gods lies in a regimen of enforced chastity. With the ladies of Athens U. refusing to "give it up" until a victory on the courts is achieved, both factions discover hitherto-overlooked attractions based

in (gasp!) platonic affinities. Even Lyssie herself comes to recognize the reasons behind her obsession with, well, coming out on top for once in her life.

This is merely a pretext for exploration of familiar themes reflecting youthful uncertainty and confusion, of course. We are not surprised when the glamour girl succumbs to the team mascot's nerdy charms, or the stud recites poetry in duet with the brainy slammer-chick and—since this is Beane writing—a pair of hoopsters bond in, um, brotherhood. Providing narration and *deus ex machina* is Hetaira—aka proprietess of the Eros Motor Lodge—who ensures that the foolish youngsters never stray far from the path of true you-know-what.

There's no denying the plot's frivolous stakes,

but the Refuge Theatre Project has cultivated a reputation for generating oodles of excitement from little more than thin air and adrenalin—assisted, in this case, by site-specific staging in a church gymnasium acoustically designed for amplification, if not articulation, and a four-piece band giving the impression of playing everything in double-time. For all its puppyish exuberance, however, by the time that the most deserving of Aphrodite's disciples scores the winning point in an actual tournament-grade hoop, we are having too much fun to quibble over trifling pedantry.

## CRITICS' PICKS

**Fun Home**, Victory Gardens Theater, extended through Nov. 19. Lisa Kron and Jeanine Tesori's Tony Award-winning musical adaptation of Alison Bechdel's 2006 graphic memoir is back. Broadway veteran Gary Griffin directs a gloriously intimate and heartbreaking production that musicalizes Bechdel's life as a budding lesbian in contrast to her closeted gay dad's troubled existence. SCM

**His Greatness**, Pride Films and Plays at Pride Arts Center, through Nov. 12. Canadian playwright Daniel MacIvor pays homage to Tennessee Williams in this tenderly romantic fictionalized account of the writer's final days. MSB

**The Taming of the Shrew**, Chicago Shakespeare Theater at Navy Pier, through Nov. 12. A band of sister suffragettes in gilded-age Chicago grapple with Shakespeare's problematic play and emerge triumphant in this exuberant adaptation. MSB

**Quixote: On the Conquest of Self**, Writers Theatre through Dec. 17. Henry Godinez as the mad knight, Don Quixote, is brilliant, skilled, assured, funny, physical and profound in this less-than-perfect 90-minute contemporary Mexican play with a sappy Peter Pan-ish ending. Godinez more than makes it worthwhile. JA

—By Abarbanel, Barnidge and Morgan

## THEATER REVIEW

## Upstairs: The Musical

Playwright: Music by Elton John, book and lyrics by Lee Hall  
Playwright: Wayne Self  
At: Pride Arts Broadway, 4139 N. Broadway  
Tickets: \$35  
Runs through: Nov. 26

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

New Orleans tourism thrives on that city's legacy of necrophilic attractions, so why do the circumstances surrounding the destruction of the Upstairs Lounge in its antebellum French Quarter district remain a mystery nearly fifty years later? Is it because 1973 is too recent for the tale to be safely swaddled in romantic myth, or because the 32 men and women—many unidentified to this day—who perished in the arson-

initiated fire were in an LGBT establishment?

Wayne Self refuses to let these ghosts go unrecognized. Intrigued at the perpetrator of the hate crime (before such a term existed) having never been found—oversight perhaps precipitated by authorities unwilling to acknowledge the scandal of homosexual activity in their jurisdiction—the Louisiana native brings to the stage a speculative account of the events leading up to that fatal night.

His play's goal is not the helpless horror of a holocaust play, however, nor does it deliver visceral immediacy arousing us to street-trashing fury. Our author presents his story from the perspective of two survivors—bartender Buddy and drifter Agneau (French for "lamb")—reuniting years after the fact and recollecting, not without reluctance, the tragic ending to the club's benefit for the Metropolitan Community Church, held on the fourth anniversary of the Stonewall uprising.

Neither do the *Upstairs* patrons conform to Hollywood notions of demographic appeal, being instead composites of the real-life vic-

tims and witnesses. These include such diverse personalities as single mom Inez and her two grown sons—concert pianist George and ex-hustler Horace, the latter of whom now shares a monogamous union with activist minister Mitch. Also in attendance is our evening's hostess, Miss Mercy Goodman, whose drag finery reflects the defiant chic characteristic of the early Gay Movement.

That same low-budget ambience is reinforced by the Pride Arts Broadway space, where, at press preview, the company assembled by director Eric Coleman had yet to reconcile the unamplified vocals and Dixieland instrumentals constituting the title's "musical" element with the erratic acoustics of their speakeasy-vintage auditorium. A few more performances should ensure the ensemble's acclimation to their environment and confidence in its capabilities, though. Meanwhile, there's no denying the impressive potential manifested in Self's intelligently crafted portrait of a long-forgotten chapter in LGBT history.

## THEATER REVIEW

In the Next Room,  
or The Vibrator Play

Playwright: Sarah Ruhl

At: TimeLine at Stage 773,  
1225 W. Belmont Ave.

Tickets: 773-327-5252;

TimelineTheatre.com; \$42.50-\$56.50

Runs through: Dec. 16

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

In the Next Room, or The Vibrator Play also could be sub-titled “clueless about orgasm,” but perhaps that’s too blunt for a comedy. There always have been skilled lovers, male and female, who understand sexual mechanics, but there probably have been more who have not understood or willfully misunderstood (for example, cultures supporting female circumcision). Indeed, certain time periods are famous for promoting sexual ignorance and repression, among them the 1880s Victorian Era, during which Sarah Ruhl’s 2009 play is set.

The focus is on Dr. Givings (Anish Jethmalani) and his free-spirited wife Catherine (Rochelle Therrien), and the doctor’s patient Sabrina Daldry (Melissa Cancellor) and her husband (Joel Ewing). Progressive Dr. Givings specializes in new-fangled electrical stimulation machinery to treat “hysteria,” a wide-ranging collection of symptoms—mostly in women but occasionally in men—re-



From left: Krystel McNeil, Melissa Cancellor and Rochelle Therrien in *In the Next Room, or The Vibrator Play*.

Photo by Lara Goetsch

sulting from tight corsets, lack of exercise, bad diet, psychological subordination, emotional repression and sexual dysfunction. Basically, good Dr. Givings uses machines to bring patients to orgasm, after which—surprise!—they feel much, much better. Givings is caring, considerate, courteous and staggeringly ignorant. He never recognizes the link between his treatments and human sexuality, female or male. Both couples live in what they imagine are happy marriages, but in which romantic notions vanished long ago and physical fulfillment is absent.

In the course of the play’s intricate structure, two catalytic figures enter the scene: a quietly-knowing and self-assured African-American wet nurse (Krystel McNeil) and a passionate Diony-

## SPOTLIGHT

American Blues Theater will soon serve up the Chicago premiere of *This Wonderful Life*. No, this isn’t the company’s annual radio-play adaptation of Frank Capra’s beloved Christmas film *It’s a Wonderful Life* (which returns for another holiday season run from Nov. 16 to Jan. 6, at Stage 773). It’s actually a different one-man show adaptation featuring a script by Steve Murray and starring founding ensemble member James Leaming. *This Wonderful Life* plays from Thursday, Nov. 1, through Sunday, Nov. 26, at the Edge Theater, 5451 N. Broad-



way St. Tickets are \$19-\$49. For information on both holiday shows, call 773-645-3103 or visit [AmericanBluesTheater.com](http://AmericanBluesTheater.com).

Caption: James Leaming in the Chicago premiere of *This Wonderful Life*. Photo courtesy of American Blues Theater

sian artist (Edgar Miguel Sanchez). The person they affect most is Catherine Givings, who slowly emerges as the hero of the play, drawing her devoted but repressed husband towards the prospect of a marriage based on new-found emotional and physical openness, leading to fulfilling and trusting intimacy.

Whew! It’s hot stuff, fundamental stuff and surprisingly funny stuff, but never at the expense of the characters. With a lot of irony and a touch of sarcasm, Ruhl’s women rule but she makes the men sympathetic as well, much preferring to educate them rather than punish them. It’s smart, gifted, inquisitive and compassionate playwrighting, which are hallmarks of Ruhl’s tremendously varied output.

Under director Mechelle Moe, this production is appealingly acted and incredibly handsome. Alison Siple’s sumptuous period costumes make one wonder how women did anything at all in the voluminous, bustled, corseted garments of the day. Sarah JHP Watkins’s elaborate but airy see-through scenic design (so warmly lit by Brandon Wardell) suggests the busy patterns and textures of late-Victorian décor without actually recreating them (except for one floral border). The acting is focused, sincere, frequently wry (especially Ewing) and usually understated (except for Sanchez who is too oversized). There’s effective original music, too, by Andrew Hansen. In the Next Room is a good destination.

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## BOOKS

# Rewriting Vivian Maier: Book uncovers more on mystery photographer

BY LIZ BAUDLER

Vivian Maier's photographs elevated a woman thought merely to be a reclusive former suburban nanny into an international phenomenon. Her life was presented as a mystery; her work, miraculous. None of this impressed Northwestern University photography professor Pamela Bannos when she took her class to see the first show of Maier's work at the Chicago Cultural Center in 2011.

"It wasn't her work that stood out, it was the way her life was being presented in display cases," Bannos remembered. "This little rubber-banded bundle was on display like an artifact, and the first thing that I thought of was how weird it was that this woman who nobody knew anything about was on such display amidst her photographs."

Bannos attributes the longstanding impression of Maier the mystery woman to her main collector, John Maloof, who in addition to several other people, purchased the contents of Maier's storage

locker in 2007, and who set the narrative of his muse with his 2011 documentary, *Finding Vivian Maier*.

"His documentary about her is essentially a documentary about him trying to find her," Bannos said. "He very selectively was giving and withholding information about her, stating instead that he had some peculiar details about her life. Everyone had to wait until the book came out, and then until the movie came out, and so the strategy of keeping her a mystery—and then she actually remains a mystery—what might reveal her intentions never become exposed."

It's become clear to Bannos over the years that not only does Maloof's official Vivian Maier website perpetuate several inaccuracies about the photographer, but that the woman herself has been removed from her own story.

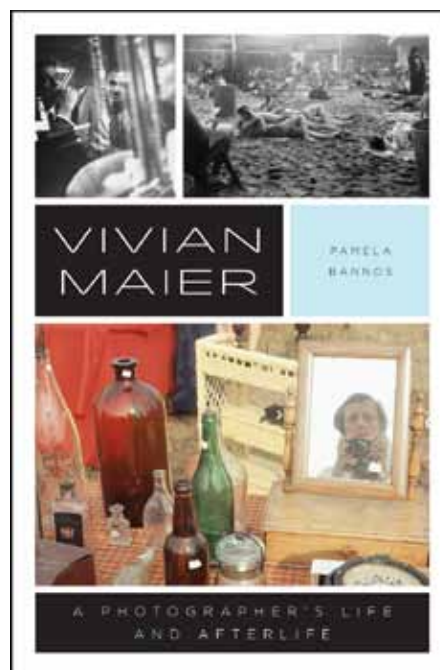
"She and her story have been defined by the men who acquired her stuff," Bannos said. "And she had no say in the way that she's been defined or her photographs have been characterized or produced or displayed and published and sold."

Bannos' *Vivian Maier: A Photographer's Life and Afterlife* is an exhaustively researched biography of a woman who, perhaps because of a combination of life circumstance and personality, could be genuinely hard to research. Bannos traveled to New York and around Chicago to the scenes of many of Maier's photos, and even followed Maier's footsteps to her birthplace in France. Her genealogical research helped confirm the death of Maier's brother, Karl, to Cook County, which aided a ruling on the photographer's estate.

Bannos' biggest undertaking was the two years she studied over 20,000 of Maier's prints and negatives, learning how the photographer worked through analyzing the sequence of shots and technical aspects of her work. Through that, she was able to negate Maloof's assertion that Maier jumped from a private box camera to a more sophisticated Roliflex.

"The greatest myth is that she was a nanny with a hobby of photography," Bannos explained. "What I've tried to do is flip that and portray her as a serious photographer whose occupation as being a nanny gave her the freedom to not have to worry about where she was living and where her next meal was coming from, and still had the independence to go out and be the photographer that I think she saw herself as."

Bannos sees Maier as similar to other woman



photographers of her time period. She discovered that Maier had, in the 1950s, assembled a portfolio of work that she might have used to apply for jobs in New York.

"She's 25 years old when she's doing that," Bannos explained. "People are like, why didn't she share her photographs? And the people who are saying that knew her when she was 60 or 70 years old, knew a different person than the hopeful 25-year-old in New York who might have been putting a portfolio together for whatever reason."

A third of Maier's known work was not developed, which Bannos suspects occurred because the photographer became more transient in later years. Yet Maier kept taking pictures, often just of movies she was watching in theaters and her important documents. Bannos likens Maier to a prototype of today's smartphone photographer.

"She would just have 12,000 pictures on her Instagram, but I don't know that she would have shared them," Bannos said. "It was the action of photographing that I think she was the most taken with."

Bannos finds the development of work that Maier herself did not see invasive, and she finds

it equally irresponsible to speculate questions of Maier's personality or sexuality. She's most comfortable stating facts about Maier, who wore men's clothing and could be considered a hoarder.

"The appropriation of the way we want to see her if we want her to be one of us becomes more about us than about her," said Bannos, a long-time member of the LGBTQ community. "Wishful thinking that she's like us because we hold her up, and if we don't, we don't want her to be like us. I think it's fascinating how people talk about her and what they do embrace about her in this way."

She views Maier's secretiveness as an outcropping of both her family situation—Maier was an illegitimate child and her brother was mentally ill—and her employment.

"The secrets she might have wanted to keep have to do with the shame that's associated with those things, and ultimately I just don't think she wanted anybody to know her business," Bannos said. "They're in power, they're her employers. She did what she could to maintain her own autonomy within their homes."

Overall, Bannos sees the handling of Maier's legacy as rife with ethical dilemmas, but unlike the men who between them own Maier's lifework, she's taking a different approach.

"I don't have that kind of vested stake in her legacy that I'm going to make more money because I'm going to call her a certain thing," Bannos said. "I just wanted to have her put back in her story."

**Vivian Maier, A Photographer's Life and Afterlife**, by Pamela Bannos, Hardcover, University of Chicago. See <http://vivianmaierproject.com/>.

Pamela Bannos is an artist and researcher who utilizes methods that highlight the forgotten and overlooked, exploring the links between visual representation, urban space, history, and collective memory. She has exhibited her work nationally and internationally, including in solo exhibitions at the Photographers' Gallery in London, England, and the Edwynn Houk Gallery in New York. Her research projects include an investigation of Chicago's Lincoln Park and the grounds of the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago. Bannos has taught photography in Northwestern University's Department of Art Theory and Practice since 1993.



Pamela Bannos.

Photo by Manuela Hung

## LGBTQ comedy feature filmed in Chicago

Award-winning Spanish filmmaker Sonia Sebastian (*De Chica en Chica*/Amazon) has teamed with Lisa Cordileone and playwright Amy Dellagiarino on *Freelancers Anonymous*, a comedy feature highlighting the LGBTQ community and women in tech industries.

The cast includes Alexandra Billings (Transparent), Natasha Negovanlis (Carmilla), Lisa Cordileone (Easy Abby) and Jennifer Bartels (American Woman), with Mouzam Makkar (Champions) and Megan Cavanagh (A League of Their Own).

The plot is as follows: Billie hates her job and is desperate for a change, so she quits mere months before getting married. When she breaks the news to her fiancée Gayle, things don't go exactly as planned. Billie meets a ragtag group of women who are also looking for employment, and is struck with the idea of cultivating their skills to create an app for freelancers.

The film wrapped principal photography in Chicago Oct. 5 and has moved directly into post-production. The team has partnered with non-profit Fiscal Sponsor Full Spectrum Features to raise funds on Seed & Spark.

Learn more about how to support the movie at <https://www.seedandspark.com/fund/freelancers-anonymous-1#story>.



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Nick Adams.  
Publicity photo

NUNN ON ONE: ENTERTAINMENT

# Nick Adams: 'Priscilla, 'La Cage' and upcoming benefit

BY JERRY NUNN

Performer Nick Adams has made a career out of music. After earning a BFA in musical theater at the Boston Conservatory of Music, he joined the national tour of the musical Chicago before becoming a part of the Broadway cast.

He contributed to many hit revivals, including A Chorus Line, Guys and Dolls, and La Cage Aux Folles. Adams famously originated the role of Adam/Felicia in Priscilla: Queen of the Desert that premiered on Broadway.

Television and film credits include Sex and the City 2, Smash and As the World Turns. His world is turning fast with new projects before and after an upcoming benefit in the Windy City.

**Windy City Times: Start off with your background.**

Nick Adams: I was born and raised in Erie, Pennsylvania. I went to school in Boston. I have been in New York for 12 years.

**WCT: Did you always love musicals?**

NA: I started doing shows in my hometown in a little community theater when I was nine. I fell in love with it.

I was a really shy kid. I felt isolated, like a lot of theater people do, but I found a community that celebrated something I was good at. I never really considered doing anything else. I

didn't make a choice of my profession. It was just understood that this was what I was going to do with my life.

**WCT: Do you have a favorite musical of all time?**

NA: It is hard to pick, but I grew up loving Chicago and A Chorus Line. They were the two shows I was obsessed with.

When I was in college as a young gay I had show posters on my walls from those two musicals. They are two Broadway shows I have done. It is pretty wild how that manifested.

**WCT: You are living the dream. If there was a musical about your coming out what would it be called?**

NA: Isn't It Obvious?

**WCT: That's a good name for a musical! [both laugh] When did you come out of the closet?**

NA: I went to a Catholic high school. Not that my parents gave me any indication that they wouldn't be a hundred percent accepting, but I didn't have the self-awareness that kids these days have. I wasn't exposed to any role models in that regard. I felt it wasn't normal so I tried to be what normal was at the time.

I did summer stock when I was 16 and lived in Cincinnati by myself for four months. I figured out who I was at that point as much as I could. By the time I was a freshman in college I was around people that were like me so it was not

an issue.

I then shared that part of my life with my parents. They were very grateful I was finally ready to talk about it. It wasn't a big deal at all. I was fortunate.

**WCT: When you landed the role in Priscilla, did you know it would be life changing?**

NA: I knew in my gut that show was going to happen and that role was mine. I knew it would be my opportunity to move on from the ensemble. I set my sights on it and did everything in my power to make it happen.

My agent at the time had an office in Times Square. I had just done a commercial. I had to come in and fill out some tax paperwork. I came in and there was a stack of papers. I was initialing the bottom and flipped a page. Typed out was, "We have the offer for you to play the part of Felicia in Broadway's Priscilla." I am getting emotional just saying it. I just started sobbing. I will never forget it. I framed it later.

It is every actor's dream to create something from the ground up and star in a new musical. It was everything I could have wanted and more. It was so fun to perform and it resonated with people in our community. The magnitude of it was much greater with the way it impacted people. Fans still say to me today that show gave them the courage to come out or be proud of themselves. That was the biggest takeaway from the experience. It wasn't just a good time. It touched people.

It was absolutely life changing. I don't know if I will ever have that much fun in a show again. I hope I do, but I don't know how anything can top it. It was fabulous and a wild ride.

**WCT: How was working with Kelsey Grammer in La Cage Aux Folles?**

NA: Kelsey is a gracious, generous human being. He was so nice our first day of rehearsal. I grew up watching Frasier and Cheers. I didn't know what to expect, but by the second day he knew all of the ensemble. He made conversations and connections with everyone. At the beginning of every show he did an energy circle with us

onstage before it started.

When I left La Cage to be in Priscilla he hosted a farewell party for me at the bar next door to the theater. He remembers me even years later and says he's proud of me.

**WCT: Describe your upcoming show in Chicago.**

NA: I am doing a handful of songs from shows I have been in or just love. There is some Priscilla in there of course. I will be joined onstage by some of the cast members who did Priscilla at Pride Films and Plays earlier this year. It will be fun for me to share that with them. I am really looking forward to it.

I love Chicago. I did a summer with Gus Giordano before I went to college. My first national tour after college was Chicago that started there and I did Pirate Queen there. I love the town and I am happy to help out our community.

**WCT: What are you working on for the future?**

NA: I just closed a run of Evita up in Boston at the North Shore Music Theatre where I played Magaldi with Constantine Maroulis, who was a classmate of mine in college before American Idol.

I am currently in Hunter Foster's Rocky Horror Picture Show at the Bucks County Playhouse. I am now rehearsing for The World Goes Round, which is the annual benefit for Abingdon Theatre Company in New York. I close Rocky then come out to Chicago.

When I return I start a musical called Mary and Max. It is based off of an Australian movie that was a claymation film with Toni Collette. It is a beautiful story. I go right from the airport when I get back to work on it.

**WCT: Who knew an Australian accent would be so crucial to your career?**

NA: I was happy to pull it back out again!

**Join Adams and the Pride family at the fall benefit "Simply Sensational" on Monday, Nov. 6, at 4139 N. Broadway, with ticket information at [PrideFilmsAndPlays.com](http://PrideFilmsAndPlays.com) or 800-737-0984.**

Kristin Chenoweth.  
PR photo

NUNN ON ONE

# Kristin Chenoweth on touring, cartoons and 'American Gods'



BY JERRY NUNN

The petite powerhouse Kristin Chenoweth continues to keep up a grueling touring schedule. Through the years she has crossed over from theater to film to television. Early in her career she won a Tony for You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown that led to a standout stint with Wicked as Glinda.

Television credits include Glee and the current Starz television series American Gods; movies range from The Peanuts Movie to Bewitched.

**Windy City Times:** Hi, Kristin. First off, describe this current tour.

Kristin Chenoweth: I will be performing songs from this latest album. I released it about a year ago. It seems to be going over pretty well on the tour. I am constantly changing the material and putting songs in that I have always wanted to sing for some reason.

When I come there, I will be doing some new Dolly Parton, which makes me happy. I have a new original piece that Mary-Mitchell Campbell wrote. It is message to all of us about having hope.

I was just listening to Lee Ann Womack's album yesterday. I'm thinking about putting a song of hers in there. I have a new Henry Mancini song

that I will do. You know how I am. I just change things all the time. It just never stops. It is just the fun of being onstage.

**WCT:** Should ticket holders start practicing the song "For Good," from Wicked? You usually call someone onstage to sing it with you.

KC: Sometimes I do that, and sometimes I won't. When people start expecting it I don't do it anymore. I take breaks from it.

It does make the audience so happy. I always decide that night how I am feeling. [Musical director] Michael Orland never really knows what is going to happen, bless his heart.

**WCT:** He just follows you...

KC: Exactly, which is why he is so good at his job.

**WCT:** You must have to take care of your voice to hit those high notes.

KC: That is one of the biggest challenges, to be honest with you. I feel tired a lot. I am on the road a ton.

My biggest and greatest challenge is to stay healthy. My days off are really important. That is why the key to a good performance is to rest.

**WCT:** You take your dog on the road, don't you?

KC: You bet. Unless I am in Europe I will take her. She's my baby. I have to take her with me!

**WCT:** Speaking of babies, we were both adopted babies. Have you ever wanted to adopt a child?

KC: Of course. I have met some relatives. It has really completed my life. I love them and it explains a lot. I have been under the radar with it. You know me and I have never really led with that out of privacy for them. I did meet them and overall it has been the perfect scenario.

**WCT:** I went to Oklahoma to write a travel story and saw your video about the bombing at Oklahoma City National Memorial. Was that tough to make?

KC: It was very hard. I wanted it to be me, but not be me, because I wanted to take the right tone. It is a peaceful place. I feel a vibe there that I definitely respect, but yet I want to get the message across. When they first called me I was scared, but it was something I had to say "yes" to. I'm glad I did it.

**WCT:** Did you read the book before accepting American Gods?

KC: I hadn't read the book but Bryan Fuller called me and asked me about the show. It was on my list to read since it was a New York Times best-seller. I began to read it and it took me a long time. I wanted to make sure I had all the families and groups straight so I took notes as

well.

After I read it, Bryan said he had a part for me. He wanted to part to be different than in the book. I wasn't which part it would be because I knew there was no way I could play Laura Moon because I was too old. When he told me Easter I said, "No way." She is described very differently than me in the book. He said that I had to do it.

I found myself on set with Ian McShane and Ricky Whittle. It is just great fun and I love it.

**WCT:** When is the next season coming out?

KC: The networks make us wait so long now. I think we start in the spring.

**WCT:** Has Ryan Murphy ever asked you to be on American Horror Story?

KC: No, he hasn't. Isn't it good? That whole show is so well done.

**WCT:** Would you ever want to write another book?

KC: Yes, I do. Maybe in the winter of my life. I am still learning and growing. I make little notes to remember things for the book. I don't think it would necessarily be a tell all. It would be about my truth and things I have learned. That is not always pretty. [Laughs]

**WCT:** You have a couple of new cartoon movies. My Little Pony was just released. What is The Star?

KC: I get to work with animators and they start drawing you. We work together as a team. The Star comes out in two weeks. It is the story of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus told through the eyes of the animals. I thought it would be interesting so I did it.

**WCT:** Don't you have some upcoming concerts with Andrea Bocelli?

KC: Yes, and I am a little nervous. We did Celebrity Fight Night. I wanted to get to know him so I could see how he does it with his charity and where he puts the emphasis. We did "The Prayer" in Rome and it just worked. Now I will join him for a couple of his shows and sing.

**WCT:** I am interviewing his son Matteo at an upcoming red carpet.

KC: Here is the problem with Matteo. He has an amazing voice just like his dad, he's tall and handsome. Those are his problems. Good luck—he's incredible. You are going to love him.

**WCT:** What was your project Class Rank [about]?

KC: It was an independent film. I am very proud of it. It is about kids finding their rank in school and life. I played a mom. Since I am not a mother, I live vicariously. In this particular movie she had the disease where she couldn't leave the home. Working the kid that played my son, Skyler Gisondo, took such care with the role. It is really his movie. I predict wonderful things for him.

**WCT:** We have to get you back out to the gay bars, like the time you went to Sidetrack; it was packed.

KC: I would like to. I just went to Dublin to accept an award from Trinity College. I went to a drag-queen bar while I was there and had so much fun. Gay bars are much more civilized!

**Don't miss Chenoweth performing at Paramount Theatre, 23 East Galena Boulevard, in Aurora, Illinois, on Saturday, Nov. 4, at 8 p.m. Visit [OfficialKristinChenoweth.com](http://OfficialKristinChenoweth.com) for tickets and information.**

## Joffrey adds three dancers

Ashley Wheeler, artistic director of The Joffrey Ballet, has announced the addition of three dancers to the Joffrey's international roster for the 2017-2018 season.

They are Olivia Duryea (Haslett, Michigan), Yuka Iwai (Iwate, Japan) and Greig Matthew (Aberdeen, Scotland). Duryea and Iwai join the Joffrey directly from the Joffrey Academy of Dance, Official School of The Joffrey Ballet's Studio Company.

With these new company members, the Joffrey is currently composed of 43 dancers.

## Lyric holding 'Superstar' auditions

Lyric Opera of Chicago will hold auditions for dancer/singers for the 2017-18 season production of Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's rock opera Jesus Christ Superstar.

Auditions will be held Dec. 2-4, and the deadline for registration is Monday, Nov. 20, at 5 p.m. CT. For more information about this production and to submit for these auditions, email a resume and photo to [choraud@lyricopera.org](mailto:choraud@lyricopera.org); people should indicate if they belong to AGMA or Actor's Equity.

Weekly rates for ensemble performers are subject to the collective bargaining agreement with The American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA), and were set at \$1,130/week in the 2017-18 season. The rehearsal and performance period for Jesus Christ Superstar is Monday, April 2, through Sunday, May 20, 2018.

## 'Homocore Chicago 25' on Nov. 2-4 at DfbrL8r

Homocore will celebrate a quarter-century with "Homocore Chicago 25" on Nov. 2-4.

Events will take place at DfbrL8r, 1463 W. Chicago Ave. Highlights will include an archival exhibit, videos, photographs, a band-shirt display, a discussion panel and performances by Thalia Zedek, Scott Free, Jenny Urban as well as surprise guests.

Homocore was a regular space for queer punks to gather, and featured live music by queercore and feminist punk bands. Joanna Brown and Mark Freitas founded it in 1992.

See "Homocore Chicago 25" on Facebook for more information.

## Tegan and Sara in Chicago Nov. 4

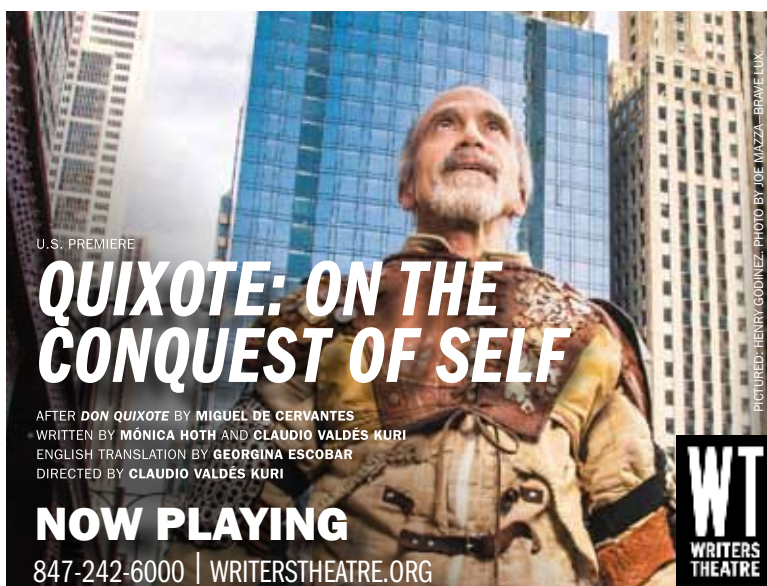
Tegan and Sara will perform at Rockefeller Memorial Chapel, 5850 S. Woodlawn Ave., on Saturday, Nov. 4, during their The Con X: Tour in support of the original album's 10-year anniversary.

Tegan and Sara also will release The Con X: Covers on Friday, Oct. 20. It is a new album featuring 14 of their favorite artists—including Bleachers, Ryan Adams and Muna—covering all 14 songs from the 2007 album.

Both the anniversary tour and album benefit the Tegan and Sara foundation, which fights for health, economic justice and representation for LGBTQ girls and women.

See <http://teganandsara.com/>.

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# José Ruiz on managing Dulcelandia, coming out and being an immigrant

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

When José Ruiz arrived in the United States 12 years ago from his hometown of Guanajuato, Mexico, his life changed in many ways—both personally and professionally. This included being able to live his truth freely as an openly gay man without fear or shame.

Ruiz was born May 10, 1978 (Mexican Mother's Day) in Guanajuato and studied at Francisco Madero School and District 230 Ocampo High School. He later became a pre-school teacher while still living in Mexico but does not plan on being an educator in the United States.

Most of Ruiz's family members live in Chicago; however, his parents (who are retired) live in Guanajuato. Ruiz visits them a couple of times a year.

Ruiz is currently the manager of Dulcelandia Candy Store in Chicago's Little Village neighborhood—a position he has held for the past de-

cade.

Eduardo Rodriguez started Dulcelandia (which also has locations in Brighton Park, Logan Square and McKinley Park) after the North American Free Trade Agreement was passed in 1995. Rodriguez's daughter, Eve Rodriguez (Dulcelandia Candy Store vice president of branding and Yogolandia Yogurt and Botana Bar creator), explained that her dad's idea for the business came from realizing there was a market for authentic Mexican candy and piñatas in Chicago. Hiring Ruiz was a natural fit for the Rodriguez's business mission.

"My role is to make sure that every person who enters Dulcelandia feel welcome, that they have a wonderful visit with us and leave with a big smile," said Ruiz. "After all we sell candy, piñatas and frozen yogurt. I also make sure that everyone who works in the store enjoys what they do and are able to do so with confidence. I want them to think of me as family since we spend a lot of time together. Of course, and no less important



Dulcelandia's Jose Ruiz.  
Photo by Carrie Maxwell

is, keeping the store very organized and presentable so that our customers are excited to visit and happy with their purchases. Since I started working at Dulcelandia, the store has expanded and the neighborhood is more popular than ever."

"José is a dedicated, self-motivated and efficient manager," said Eve Rodriguez. "We all enjoy working with him and look forward to his huge smile and delightfulness the minute he walks into Dulcelandia."

Ruiz's life partner of 11 years is Vicente Diaz.

"If I was still living in Mexico I do not think I would have a partner, let alone living so many years with him for the simple reason that in Mexico being gay for me was a nightmare, not being accepted," said Ruiz. "Here in Chicago, I can be whoever I want to be and that is the reason why we have not wanted to live in Mexico. Growing up, I had to endure taunts and insults. I felt fear, shame and did not have anyone to really turn to. In my case, I preferred to remain locked in my house for many years. I could not do many things during my youth because of fear of being insulted so I isolated myself both personally and professionally. I am glad things changed for me once I decided to be the happiest person I could be."

As far as the current political climate is concerned, especially regarding immigration, Ruiz said "America's immigration policies harm not only undocumented immigrants but entire families, businesses and more. My advice is for people to live day to day without fear and enjoy what life gives you."

In terms of what Ruiz likes to do for fun; he enjoys spending time with his partner, hanging out with friends, sharing holidays and special moments with his family as well as watching movies (mostly comedies), dancing, taking walks in nature, meeting new people and making new friends. Ruiz said he considers himself to be a very cheerful person and his dream is to move ahead and live life to the fullest.

See <https://dulcelandia.com/> and <https://twitter.com/dulcelandiachicago> for more information.



Dulcelandia storefront.  
Photo by Carrie Maxwell

## Doc looks at trans Tupperware salesperson

ABC News will be releasing a new short-documentary entitled *Unsealed: The Story Behind Long Island's Tupperware Queen*.

It follows Jennifer Bobbi after her transition from Robert Suchan who—by dressing in drag and embodying the outlandish Aunt Barbara—was once North America's top-selling Tupperware salesperson. However, parties were canceled and debts started to mount after announcing his transition to become Jennifer. Now facing bankruptcy, Jennifer is starting over while learning how to live as a transgender woman in suburban Long Island.

"Unsealed" premiered on Spirit Day, Oct. 19, and can now be seen on [ABCNews.com/Features](http://ABCNews.com/Features) as well as streaming platforms such as AppleTV, Roku, and XBox One.

## Brown Elephant's 'Best of' Nov. 4-5

On Nov. 4-5, the Brown Elephant, 3020 N. Lincoln Ave. will host its 5th "Best of" event, offering a curated selection of vintage and high-end clothes, shoes, and accessories from all three of its Chicago-area stores.

The event will take place Saturday, Nov. 4, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 5, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. It will feature designers such as Gucci, Chanel, Balmain, Chloe, Lavin, Prada and many one-of-a-kind vintage garments.

Proceeds from the event and all Brown Elephant locations benefit Howard Brown Health, which provides healthcare services to the LGBTQ community and allies at seven clinic locations in Chicago.

# 'Queer Lines': Drag kings, spoken word and more Nov. 24

Queer Lines—a show produced by artists Jenn Freeman (aka Po'Chop), Andy Bellomo (aka O.Snap!), Tiff Beatty and Emily Claibourne—returns Friday, Nov. 24, at Chicago Art Department, 1932 S. Halsted St.

Doors open 8 p.m., with the show at 9 p.m.

Freeman made her debut as the burlesque artist Po'Chop in 2010 and has built a repertoire that sparks conversations regarding notions of gender, sexual prowess, and race. Po'Chop uses elements of dance, storytelling, and striptease to create performances that are described by Chicago critics as "... the most provocative symbol of might on stage." Her work can be viewed at [www.itspochop.com](http://www.itspochop.com).

Beatty is a Chicago Humanities Festival programming curator, spoken word performer, and self-described People's Champion. In 2011, Beatty launched her annual bonfire cypher series, Art Is Bonfire, a fire, poetry, and sacred ritual performance. Tiff's programming efforts for CHF are currently mentioned here: <http://www.chicago-tribune.com/entertainment/ct-ent-chf-belief-preview-20171010-story.html>.

Bellomo is a visual artist, educator and performer. She has been creating public art in Chicago for more than 10 years, performs as a drag

king, and teaches public art to teens. Her work can be viewed at [AndyBartWorks.com](http://AndyBartWorks.com).

Claibourne has a BA in theater from Columbia College Chicago and has been a part of the Chicago theater scene for more than a decade, doing everything from acting to producing to directing.

Together, this team is collaborating on Queer Lines, an annual performance event that sparks conversations surrounding queer identity. Utilizing spoken word poetry, drag-king performance and live music, this investigative project is a multi-disciplinary experience that creates space for honest and celebratory conversations regarding the queer and gender nonconforming experience. Drag king and spoken word performance together structure an evening for queer and gender-nonconforming people and their families.

Performers will include Switch The Boi Wonder, Nikki Patin + Marta Cook, Po'Chop, Bella Bahhs, Niki Gee, O.Snap!, Tiff Beatty, Nova Sparx, Roman Empire, Lilly Rascal, Music x DJ Dapper, Photography x Tori Brown Rice, and Promo Design x Chi Nwosu.

See "Queer Lines" on Facebook. Also, tickets can be directly purchased at <https://www.brown-papertickets.com/event/3127807>.



Jenn Freeman (aka Po'Chop).  
PR photo

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## 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.



# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## Wed., Nov. 1

**David Sedaris** Author of the collections of personal essays *Naked*, *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim*, *When You Are Engulfed in Flames*, *Squirrel Seeks Chipmunk: A Modern Bestiary* and *Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls*. 8:00pm Auditorium Theatre of Roosevelt University, 50 E Congress Pkwy Chicago <http://AuditoriumTheatre.org>

**Queerly Beloved** Huggable Riot presents an LGBTQ revue. Written by a spectrum-spanning all-queer-identifying cast of first-time Rioters, *Queerly Beloved* explores the notion of identity and what it means to be LGBTQ in today's world. Every Wednesday at 8 pm 8:00pm Annoyance Theatre, 851 W Belmont Ave., Chicago 773-697-9693 Tickets: <http://www.theannoyance.com>

## Thursday, Nov. 2

**We See You: Countering the Invisibility of Bisexual Health** AIDS Foundation of Chicago To explore the relationships of racial equity and social justice in the bisexual community,



### TECH AND CALL Fri.-Sat., Nov. 3-4

Angelica Ross is one of the people behind the TransTech Summit.

Photo from Ross

investigate the challenges and opportunities of HIV risk, access PrEP, and healthcare services, effectively addressing bisexual stigma, trauma and discrimination. Attendees will interact directly with expert speakers 9:00am - 4:00am 200 W Jackson Blvd Suite

2800 <http://events.aidschicago.org/site/Calendar?id=102706&view=Detail>.

**Protest Banner Lending Library workshop** Communal sewing space to support each other's voices, an opportunity to gain banner-making skills and a place to borrow handmade banners to use in protests. During workshop hours, the public is invited to check out and return banners. 2:00pm - 5:00pm Alphawood Gallery, 2401 N. Halsted St.

**She100 Quarterly meeting/social** An LGBTQ women's community whose work, presence and advocacy seeks to strengthen and support the greater LGBTQ community in Chicago 5:30pm, Jenner & Block LLP, 353 N. Clark St., 45th floor, <http://she100.org>

**New Town Writers' Workshop** Participants are asked to bring copies of their work so other writers and listeners may more easily follow the texts. 7:00pm - 9:00pm Charmers' Cafe, 1500 W. Jarvis

## Friday, Nov. 3

**Trans Tech Summit** Focusing on giving young people and adults the tools to step up their career game. Four tracks. [Info@Transtechsociety.org](mailto:Info@Transtechsociety.org) 5:00pm - 8:00pm TBD Tickets: <http://www.transtechsociety.org/summit/>

## Saturday, Nov. 4

**Pink Hat Run and Walk** The 5K/1 mile pledge drive run, walk or roll will benefit

organizations that provide services, advocacy and support to women and girls, including Access Living, Chicago Foundation for Women, Chicago Women Take Action, Fierce Over 40, Mujeres Latinas en Accion, Chicago National Organization for Women, Personal PAC, Planned Parenthood Illinois Action, A Sister's Hope, Women's March on Chicago and YWCA Metropolitan Chicago. Kids welcome. Register online. 9:00am S. Prairie Avenue and 18th Street adjacent to the Women's Park & Gardens in Chicago's South Loop neighborhood <http://pinkhatrun.com> Tickets: <http://www.pinkhatrun.com/registration/>

**Brown Elephant's 5th "Best of" event** Curated vintage and high-end clothes, shoes, and accessories from all three of its Chicago-area stores and will feature designers such as Gucci, Chanel, Balmain, Chloe, Lavin, Prada and many one-of-a-kind vintage garments. Benefits Howard Brown Health. Through Nov. 5. 10:00am - 7:00am Brown Elephant, 3020 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago

**Gerber/Hart Library and Archives Gala: Brick by Brick** Event to celebrate saving and growing LGBTQ history. All proceeds go to support the mission of Gerber/Hart Library and Archives. 7:00pm - 11:00pm Gerber Hart Library and Archives 6500 N Clark St Chicago <http://www.gerberhart.org> Tickets: <http://form.jotform.us/72506475792162>

## Sunday, Nov. 5

**Chili Cook Off to Benefit Broadway Youth Center** Trident International Windy City Leather Club 6th year hosting a Chili Cook Off. Chefs represent the LGBTQA Leather, Kink, Fetish Community vying for bragging rights of the best chili. \$5 gets you a tasting card to be the judge in this chili cook event. 21+ Proceeds to benefit Broadway Youth Center 5:00pm - 7:00pm Jackhammer, 6406 N Clark St., <http://www.facebook.com/tridentwindycity/>

## Monday, Nov. 6

**Center on Halsted Presents Cleve Jones** Meet this legendary AIDS and LGBT rights activist. Mix and mingle 5-6pm interview with Cleve at 6pm by Owen from Unbridged Books and signing of books afterwards. 5:00pm - 8:00pm Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St Chicago <http://community.centeronhalsted.org/pages/clevejones>

## Wed., Nov. 8

**LGBT Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony** Free event open to the public. RSVP to [rsvp@glhalloffame.org](mailto:rsvp@glhalloffame.org) 5:30pm - 8:00pm Chicago History Museum 1601 N Clark Chicago <http://chicagolgbthalloffame.org/event/2017-chicago-lgbt-hall-of-fame-induction-ceremony->

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## Cleve Jones event Nov. 6 at Sidetrack

Legendary AIDS and LGBT-rights activist Cleve Jones will be at Sidetrack, 3349 N. Halsted St., on Monday, Nov. 6, 5-8 p.m.

He will be promoting his book, *When We Rise*.

Jones joined the gay-rights movement in the early 1970s. LGBT activist Harvey Milk was Jones' mentor, and he worked in Milk's City Hall office as a student intern until Milk's assassination in 1978.

Jones 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 projects, in 1987. Jones led the 2009 National March for Equality in Washington, D.C., and served on the advisory board of the American Foundation for Equal Rights.

Hachette Book Group published his new memoir, *When We Rise*, in November 2016. The ABC TV mini-series inspired in part by stories from Cleve's book was broadcast in February 2017, with a screenplay by Academy Award winner Dustin Lance Black.

Center on Halsted is sponsoring the discussion/book-signing event in conjunction with Sidetrack and Unbridged Bookstore.

Jones will also be participating in the November edition of Sidetrack's OUTspoken! LGBTQ storyteller series the following day, Tuesday, Nov. 7

See [community.CenterOnHalsted.org](http://community.CenterOnHalsted.org).



**Cleve Jones.**  
Photo by Henry Walker

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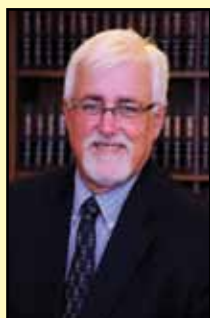
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