

# WINDY CITY TIMES

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

VOL 35, NO. 14 APRIL 1, 2020

www.WindyCityMediaGroup.com

## JILL ROSE QUINN

Judicial candidate scores groundbreaking win.

Photo by Stephanie Marder



11

## FIT BIT

Fitness site accused of anti-TGNC bias.

Photo by Carrie Maxwell



10

## 'ROAD' RULES

Venezuelan actress Astrid Ovalles stars in coming-of-age film.

Photo courtesy of Recluse Films



16

# REACTION TIME

## Local, national figures respond in the age of COVID-19

STARTING ON PAGE 4

## Gay ASL interpreter Michael Albert

# SEEING SIGNS

PAGE 8

Michael Albert (left) signing at a recent press conference featuring Gov. JB Pritzker (right). Screen shot





**BE COUNTED. 2020 CENSUS**

*Your participation matters.*

Questions about the 2020 Census? We have answers.  
Text us your questions to **987987**.

Complete your census form online: **[my2020Census.gov](https://my2020Census.gov)**



## WINDY CITY TIMES

INDEX

DOWNLOAD  
THIS ISSUEAND BROWSE THE ARCHIVES AT  
[www.WindyCityTimes.com](http://www.WindyCityTimes.com)

NEWS	
LGBTQ Chicagoans weather economic storm	4
AFC president/CEO on coronavirus response	6
Local agencies; Lambda Legal CEO	7
Gay ASL interpreter on press conferences	8
Orangetheory accused of anti-TGNC bias	10
Trans judicial candidate on 'astrounding' victory	11
LETTERS	12
ENTERTAINMENT/EVENTS	
Mourning Terrence McNally	13
Streaming theater reviews	14
'Lesbian of conscience' tells her story	16
IN THE LIFE Yoga instructor Bradshaw Wish	18
NIGHTSPOTS	19
Classifieds	21
Calendar	22

## UPCOMING 2020

## WINDY CITY TIMES PRINT DATES:

April 1, 2020	May 27, 2020	July 22, 2020
April 15, 2020	June 10, 2020	Aug. 5, 2020
April 29, 2020	June 24, 2020	Aug. 19, 2020
May 13, 2020	July 8, 2020	Sept. 2, 2020

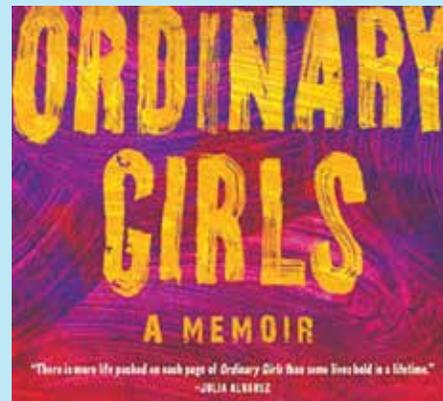
online exclusives at  
[www.WindyCityTimes.com](http://www.WindyCityTimes.com)



## CRITICAL MASS

New Ways Ministry Executive Director Francis DeBernardo (left) writes of closed churches and LGBTQ Catholics. Photo courtesy of DeBernardo

## OUT OF THE 'ORDINARY'



Five Worth Finding spotlights such items as Jaquira Diaz's eye-opening book Ordinary Girls: A Memoir.

## BY THE NUMBERS

LGBTQ Chicagoans weigh in on the pros and cons of the 2020 Census.

## THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Troye Sivan, 'Pose' and Heather Locklear.

plus  
DAILY BREAKING NEWS

Dear Friends,

As difficult as these times are, please know my team and I are here - as always - to help in any way we can. Looking back at a 25+ year career in real estate, I helped my clients navigate their lives through some truly frightening and unprecedented times, including the HIV/AIDS crisis, 9/11, and the Great Recession of 2008.

Although I don't pretend to have all the answers, I do know that in me you have a proven and trusted counselor who will help you evaluate your options with candor, insight into the marketplace, and an unwavering commitment to your well-being. It goes without saying that your focus should be to stay safe and healthy. **And, when it comes to real estate, I will remain your trusted advisor ready to help in any way I can.**

All my best,

• • •  
• • •  
• • •

• •  
• •



Brad Lippitz Group

773.404.1144  
brad@bradlippitz.com  
bradlippitz.com  
3323 N. Broadway

COMPASS

Compass Real Estate is a licensed real estate broker with a principal office in New York, NY and abides by all applicable Equal Housing Opportunity laws. All material presented herein is intended for informational purposes only. Information is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale, or withdrawal without notice. No statement is made as to the accuracy of any description. All measurements and square footages are approximate. This is not intended to solicit property, already listed. Nothing herein shall be construed as legal.

## COVID-19

# LGBT Chicagoans weather pandemic's economic storm

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Millions of U.S. residents will face uncertain financial futures as the coronavirus pandemic unfolds. Nearly 3.3 million people filed new unemployment claims the week of March 23, while economic activity has ground to a virtual halt in many, if not most, business sectors.

Thousands of LGBT Chicagoans will be sharing the burden of the financial pain, with circumstances that range from simply having no extra income coming in from side gigs to not being able to pay rent or put food on the table at all.

Chicagoan Jeff Martin has for many years been a server in a Lincoln Park Italian restaurant. He'd recently found a second job—a temporary position he said was just about to be made permanent—catering meetings for a large architectural firm downtown.

But then the severity of the pandemic became readily apparent in the United States—at least to those beyond public-health stakeholders—in late winter. The architectural firm had no longer had meetings that required catering, so Martin was let go.

"At the restaurant, we're only now allowed to do takeout," Martin noted. The mandate to close restaurants to dine-in business was handed down by Gov. JB Pritzker in an effort to reinforce so-



Jeff Martin.  
Courtesy photo

cial-distancing practices that health officials believe will be key to alleviating the impact from coronavirus.

Nevertheless, the state directive has hit Martin in his wallet. He credited his restaurant's owners with extreme generosity; besides retaining him to work their takeout business, they are paying him a manager's wage and extended him a loan to tide him over.

"I hated doing that," Martin said of accepting the loan, adding that he's fearful of how he'll be able to pay it back; his hours are scaled back. Family and friends kicked in to help with his car payment, and provided a gift card for groceries.

"If it weren't for them, I don't know what I'd do," Martin said. He applied for unemployment, but he is unlikely to receive any payments for several weeks.

There are thousands of other area residents in Martin's position. The U.S. job market had been robust in recent years but a large number of jobs were part of the service industry, which came with both person-to-person contact, now verboten, and minimal, if any, financial safety nets for someone who can't go in for their job.

Yoga therapist per erez began to privately fear that the pandemic might take its toll on the country when he saw reports of medical catastrophes in China and Italy. "I kind of suspected that this was the direction that this was going to go in," he said.

erez knew that his business—a large part of part of which is close contact with clients who have serious medical issues—would not be sustainable, at least in the short term.

"I closed down all my clients, and have been attempting to go online" to sustain the business, erez added. But even taking his work virtual has not been without its costs; erez still has to pay for insurance, as well as equipment to produce higher-grade online video.

"If you're running a business online, you're still running a business, so you still have costs," he said.

Schiller Park resident Justin Torres had worked for 35 years in the restaurant industry. He was fired from his position managing three suburban restaurants on March 13.

"I went from watching over three restaurants to sitting and watching Hulu all day," Torres said. He added that his family's income is now a third of what it was previously, and put out a missive on his Facebook wall asking his friends if they needed help with household repairs.

"But the kindness of strangers can only take you so far," he added.

Chicagoan Steve Hickson lost his executive assistant's position last fall. He began looking for a new job immediately after, and figured that he wouldn't need long to search.



Michael O'Connor.  
Courtesy photo

"I'm a Cancer and I was raised by Depression-era parents," Hickson said. "I had money saved for this possibility."

He had some promising leads, but those businesses' recruiting and hiring processes slowed through the holidays and January. Hickson had

been expecting resolution, but then the pandemic hit. He received assurances that one firm was waiting for a decision from its corporate home office, but, given the current crisis, nobody knows when that will arrive.

Hickson admitted that, being a man in his fifties in a field traditionally dominated by females, he felt like somewhat of a "unicorn." He added, "Now I'll be competing with how many millions of people?"

"It's just frightening—I've never been out of work for more than a month," Hickson said.

Activist Michael O'Connor, who lives in a seniors' building in Bronzeville, said that life has become considerably harder since the shutdown took hold, thanks to both the isolation and money worries.

"I feel the pinch emotionally and I feel it financially," he said, adding that "older people in the LGBT are often invisible."

O'Connor is living with HIV, so maintaining his self-isolation is especially important; coronavirus is especially harsh for persons with compromised immunity. He nevertheless looks forward to when his next assistance check arrives next week, when he'll "put on my mask, my latex gloves and another pair of gloves over that," to get out of his apartment to pick up his medication at Walgreens.

Although O'Connor worries about accessibility of services in the weeks ahead, he said that he was "blessed" that a large number of friends check in on him by phone. Since his building neighbors are older, the halls are silent as everyone self-isolates. He looks forward to obtaining a computer to reduce some of his own isolation.

"But I catch up with my reading and I crochet," O'Connor added. "I figure that every day that you're still above the ground is a good day."

## Advocates: LGBTQs face additional complications in pandemic

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Members of the LGBT community face additional healthcare challenges as they contend with the 2020 coronavirus pandemic, according to national LGBTQ-health advocates and officials speaking in a March 25 webinar.

Those challenges are especially pronounced for transgender community members and persons with HIV, said various participants in the call, which was sponsored by the National Coalition for LGBT Health. But organizations are hastily reconfiguring their logistics for providing services so as to find and preserve what Tyler TerMeer, the CEO of Portland-based Cascade AIDS Project, called the "boundary between serving and protecting" community members when visiting a health facility can be medically dangerous.

Anthony Fortenberry, chief nursing officer at the Callen-Lorde Community Health Center in New York City, said, "We're trying to maintain our support services for our most vulnerable

[clients]. ... Our goal is to stay open as long as possible to keep both patients and staff safe."

He added that his facility "scaled down" patient services, by arranging telemedicine visits, for example, in order to keep going at a sustainable capacity.

Debbie Ojeda-Leitner, a policy advocate at the National Center for Transgender Equality in Washington, D.C., noted that LGBT Americans often have factors putting them more at risk for illness—higher rates of tobacco use, higher rates of HIV and cancer, as well as barriers to culturally competent care, for example—and those risk-factors are often even more pronounced among transgender persons.

Ojeda-Leitner also warned that the transgender community is especially imperiled from right-wing elements in government who will take advantage of the pandemic to slip in anti-trans legislation. Such was the case in Idaho, for example, wherein the legislature passed HB 500, a bill barring transgender women and girls from participating in student sports that are consistent with their gender identity. That bill requires medical testing in order for one to prove their gender and will soon head to the state's governor's desk.

"We're hoping that politicians will focus less on attacks against the trans community and more on the pandemic," said Ojeda-Leitner.



Howard Brown  
Health

The U.S. Census happens only every 10 years. It counts everyone in the United States and uses that information to determine how many members of Congress represent your community and how federal funds are spent. Completing the census is one more way we can help each other. When you fill out the census, you help amplify the LGBTQ community's voice and ensure federal funds go to critical services like schools, libraries, nutrition and health programs, roads and much more.

Get started today at [howardbrown.org/2020census](https://howardbrown.org/2020census)

CAN  
**CHICAGO**  
COUNT ON YOU?

TAKE THE 2020 CENSUS

## COVID-19

# AIDS Foundation of Chicago head details coronavirus response

BY MATT SIMONETTE

AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) is among the Chicago agencies that have mobilized an aggressive response to the coronavirus crisis. AFC President and CEO John Peller, who has led the agency since 2014, discussed AFC's strategies to continue delivering services to its constituency in the midst of the burgeoning health crisis, as well as available resources for persons living with HIV/AIDS who may have recently found themselves in need.

**Windy City Times: Beyond just working remotely, how have AFC's operations shifted with the advent of the COVID-19 crisis?**

John Peller: Working remotely really hasn't changed our operations at all. Staff members are meeting people in the community [virtually] and are asking questions to make sure that clients are healthy and don't have any symptoms of potential coronavirus.

Other than just being careful, our focus has really been making sure that we're able to continue to provide the same level of services that we have previously. There are some challenges, like getting signatures for consent and so forth, but we're doing our best to work through them. Our state and City partners have been helpful in reviewing those requirements and providing flexibility when they're able.

Our biggest concern right now is that folks need help and don't know where to get it. There are a lot of people who've lost their job and need access to medications, or need medical care, or help paying their rent. For people living with HIV, we're able to help with all of that. Our case management system is open and waiting to serve people.

The best place to get all that is the new resource hub we launched with Center on Halsted. The number for that is 844-HUB-4040.

**WCT: Speak a bit about the work with state and local officials as the health crisis has panned out.**

JP: The daily flood of updates that's been coming out from our state and city partners have been incredible. The governor and his team, and the mayor and City folks, have been working overtime to respond to this outbreak.

Our biggest concern with the day-to-day operations of government is to make sure that our programs continue to operate with everyone working remotely. We need to make sure, for example, that people continue to get paid for providing services for people with HIV. So we're having a lot of conversations with our partners about how we're able to continue those critical operations. The [state and local] government response has just been awe-inspiring and we're so grateful for how hard our partners and leaders have been working and



John Peller.  
WCT photo

have been able to respond.

**WCT: How is AFC's solvency in all this? Are you confident you'll be able to weather this?**

JP: I do feel confident that we'll be able to weather this. I of course am quite concerned that we'll face a drop in individual donations and private support, as people lose their jobs. We've had to reschedule some events, as has every organization. This is really a time for anyone who is able to dig deep and provide support for organizations that provide critical services.

**WCT: What services and resources for persons with HIV/AIDS can potentially be impacted?**

JP: What we're seeing right now is that services have not been impacted so far, and should not be into the future. We're seeing the federal government—hopefully this will be finalized in the next couple of days—stepping up for funding with the Ryan White program and the HOPWA [Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS] program.

We are very concerned about housing resources, and people who are newly unemployed and can't pay their rent. Resources are available in Chicago and the greater Chicago area to help people who need support to pay their rent. We can provide emergency one-time assistance with rent or utilities for persons with HIV. That's available by calling the resource hub.

We are in constant communication with the clinics that provide HIV services, and they are really overwhelmed with responding to potential coronavirus cases and people who think they might be exposed or sick. They've been doing a great job of providing services remotely, through telemedicine and just making sure that people don't have to come in.

Another thing we're really concerned about is access to food, and the City has done a really good job with coordinating some of that. But I think the need is going to be great and is going to continue to be. The Vital Bridges food pantry is amazing and they have pre-packaged bags of food for folks with HIV.

Longer term, we're looking at food-delivery and ways that we can respond so that folks can get delivery in their home. I think it's tremendous to see so many providers stepping up and providing services through telemedicine, as well. From counseling to case-management, all of that is being done remotely.

Of course the challenge is, what if someone doesn't have a phone, or they run out of phone minutes? We signed onto a letter and did a separate action alert for a campaign that urged the FCC to give folks unlimited Lifeline minutes—Lifeline is the government phone program. We think it's really critical that folks who have government phones have those unlimited minutes, so they can call their doctor and they can stay in touch with their family when they're isolated, both to maintain their mental health and get their other needs taken care of.

**WCT: What issues do you see this posing for social service delivery in general, over both the short and long terms?**

JP: In the short term, we are all scrambling to maintain services. There are a lot of agencies that just don't have the technology for folks to work remotely and they had to scramble to provide remote access to their employees.

We were able to help folks out in some regards with that—we fortunately were able to act quick-

ly. But just having flexible resources, to be able to invest in the infrastructure needed to survive in the long term and adapt to new service delivery models is critical.

Ultimately it's the small minority-led organizations that could be hurt the most by this, because they're often not able or don't have the flexible resources to adapt. That's something we'll all have to keep an eye on, to support those folks.

I think we all have to work to be prepared for this to go on for a long time. There have been talks of the outbreak coming in waves, and the governor and the City's orders to stay home will eventually be released, and that could lead in the long run to new cases. We'll have to be vigilant and maintain practices that we're getting into now, like hand-washing and social-distancing, because this is going to be a long-haul ahead of us.

**WCT: Is there anything you'd like to add?**

JP: A couple of things: One, this is not the time to be going out and hooking up. We're really concerned that folks are stuck in their house and bored. This is really a time to practice social distancing in all forms; that includes hookups, because that could result in some serious health issues.

We're also concerned that the populations that are most impacted by HIV are going to be most impacted by coronavirus, and that opens equity issues. The populations most impacted by HIV include Black gay men, Black cisgender women, Latinx gay men and of course trans women of all races.

Those populations are most likely to be low-income and are already highly vulnerable. They are [populations] that I think are going to see a real concentration of coronavirus [transmissions], with the fewest resources to respond. I think it's critical that we look at this from a viewpoint of equity, and make sure that we are putting equity at the front-and-center of our response.

**AFC/Center on Halsted's resource hub can be reached by calling 844-HUB-4040.**

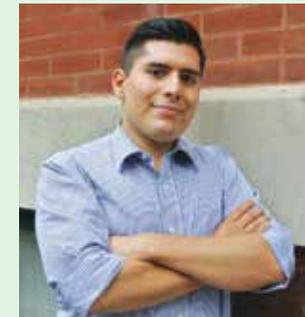
## COVID-19

## Ramirez-Rosa urges undocumented locals to apply for housing help

Chicago Ald. Carlos Ramirez-Rosa (35th Ward) issued a press release urging undocumented Chicagoans to apply for the city's COVID-19 Housing Assistance Grant.

The grant, announced March 27 by the Department of Housing and Mayor Lori Lightfoot, will utilize \$2 million paid by developers in lieu fees under the city's Affordable Requirements Ordinance to fund one-time \$1,000 grants to Chicagoans facing economic fallout due to COVID-19.

Chicagoans can apply online at [www.bit.ly/chirenta](http://www.bit.ly/chirenta). The application is available in multiple languages and is open from Friday, March 27, to 11:59 p.m. on Wed., April 1. Applications received by the deadline will be entered into a lottery, with the Chicago Department of



Ald. Carlos Ramirez-Rosa.  
Photo from campaign team

Housing notifying the selected individuals.

The application does not ask about immigration status, and Chicago's sanctuary city policy—the Welcoming City Ordinance—ensures applicants' information will not be turned over to ICE.

Ramirez-Rosa is working with immigrant community organizations to promote the program, and his office has prepared bilingual materials to promote the COVID-19 Housing Assistance Grant. Anyone who needs help applying for the grant should contact his ward office at 773-887-3772.

## COVID-19

# Agencies offering services, resources during pandemic

COMPILED BY MATT SIMONETTE

AIDS Foundation of Chicago and Center on Halsted have partnered on a helpline for persons with HIV/AIDS who need assistance with rent and/or utilities. Call 844-HUB-4040.

Brave Space Alliance (BSA) announced March 15 that it would be moving its programming online with a "virtual drop-in center" that would incorporate aspects of BSA's workshops for members of the Black and Brown LGBT community on the South and West Sides. BSA, in partnership with Center on Halsted, is also undertaking a rapid-response crisis pantry that will collect food donations and compile lists of Chicagoans in need. Call 708-686-4397 or see [BraveSpaceAlliance.org](http://BraveSpaceAlliance.org).

Broadway Youth Center offers its basic drop-in services Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9-11 a.m. Those requiring medical services should contact Howard Brown Health. Call 773-388-1600, ext. 9, or see [HowardBrown.org/service/broadway-youth-center/](http://HowardBrown.org/service/broadway-youth-center/).

Center on Halsted is closed until further notice,

but various resource lines remain open. See [CenterOnHalsted.org/program-updates.html](http://CenterOnHalsted.org/program-updates.html).

City of Chicago offers a comprehensive online resource page with COVID-19 information at [Chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid-19/home.html](http://Chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid-19/home.html).

Heartland Alliance's citywide Vital Bridges food pantry and delivery program continues, but hours may be affected by the pandemic. For information, call 312-660-1300 or visit [www.heartlandalliance.org/program/vital-bridges-food-program/](http://www.heartlandalliance.org/program/vital-bridges-food-program/).

Howard Brown Health's Sheridan Road location is open, but the health system has closed several of its clinics and offices for the duration of the crisis. The system has also adopted a number of protocols to minimize the chances for exposure. Call 773-388-1600 or see [HowardBrown.org](http://HowardBrown.org).

South Side Help Center has limited public access to its facilities for the duration of the crisis. Call 773-445-5445 or see [SouthSideHelp.org](http://SouthSideHelp.org).

Test Positive Aware Network (TPAN) is closed at least through April 13. The organization continues to serve clients who can be assisted remotely. For information, call 773-989-9400 or see [TPAN.com](http://TPAN.com).

## Vital Bridges resumes food deliveries

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Vital Bridges, which had delivered meals to Chicagoans living with HIV/AIDS but ceased deliveries last year, resumed those deliveries March 21, according to activist Lori Cannon, who is program coordinator at the Vital Bridges North Side Grocery Center.

Cannon said that her pantry was given "exempt" status from the state's March 20 shelter-in-place order.

"As expected the response from folks volunteering to drive has been overwhelming," she added.

Vital Bridges grew from the original Open Hand Chicago, a group of Chicago activists, who, in 1988, began to assemble and deliver meals to persons with HIV/AIDS. Open Hand Chicago became part of the Heartland Alliance organization in 2011. It discontinued its original food-delivery program in 2019, but the coronavirus pandemic necessitated its return.

"Once again, with another pandemic, the LGBT community has risen to help one another—and the world," said Cannon.

## Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame cancels upcoming events

Due to COVID-19-related concerns, the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame announced that it has postponed three planned events—the meeting of its Selection Committee, slated for Saturday, March 21; its Bowlathon Fundraiser at Waveland Bowl on Saturday, April 4; and its induction ceremony scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, at The Chicago History Museum.

Exact dates for all rescheduled events will be announced shortly.

As a result of the postponements, any previous individual inductee may opt to join in the selection committee activities. Those who are interested in participating in the selection committee should email [outreach@LGBTHallofFame.org](mailto:outreach@LGBTHallofFame.org) as soon as possible.

The Bowlathon fundraiser will be postponed until September. However, individuals can still sponsor bowlers for the rescheduled event. For more information, go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/2680184668744145/>.

The June ceremony for inductees will be held in October, during LGBT History Month. The exact date will be announced shortly.

See [ChicagoLGBTHallofFame.org](http://ChicagoLGBTHallofFame.org).

## Lambda Legal CEO: Extra legal vigilance needed during pandemic

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Even as local, state and federal government officials contend with the COVID-19 pandemic, anti-LGBT politicians and political appointees will likely use the medical crisis as an excuse by which to minimize or eliminate entirely the LGBT community's rights, according to Kevin Jennings, CEO of the national advocacy organization Lambda Legal.

"I think we're in a dangerous moment for the community, and I'm not sure that the community is entirely awake to the danger," said Jennings. "Our opponents are seeking to use the courts to do to LGBT rights what they've already done to a woman's right to choose and what they've already done to voting rights for people of color, which is to chip away, chip away, chip away at those rights. They have a very comprehensive and sophisticated legal strategy to do so."

Illinois is among the states with robust protections in place should an LGBT individual face legal perils. But Jennings warned that even residents of those states must never become complacent.

Indeed, as the vulnerabilities of the American healthcare systems have been made readily apparent as communities struggle with coronavirus, laws that impact LGBT Americans' access to care have never been more important; Lambda has long been in ongoing litigation against the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, involving religious-freedom rules; Jennings called the litigation "critical, because it is about denying people healthcare."

Jennings added that legal attacks on the transgender community have been ramped up recently. He noted that the Idaho legislature, for example, had only just passed an anti-trans law targeting birth certificate changes.

"We've already gotten that struck down once in court in Idaho," he noted. "So they already know that this is illegal. They're still trying to do it, and they're trying to do it when the country is in the middle of a pandemic. If you needed to know how determined our opponents are to take away our rights, I give you Idaho as Exhibit A."

The legislature in Idaho also recently passed a rule prohibiting transgender students from partaking in sports that were aligned with the gender with which they identify.

"I think it's a very sobering thing to think about, that we may have to go back to court in Idaho very soon in the middle of a pandemic, because these people are so determined to strip away rights from LGBT people," Jennings added.

Jennings is new to his post heading up Lambda, having only entered into the position late last year. A former teacher, he has a long history in activism, having formed both the nation's first gay-straight alliance as well as founding GLSEN, among his many advocacy achievements.

"I've spent most of my adult life working to win the victories that our movement has won over the last 35 years," he said.

Jennings wanted to remind the public that, even as the COVID-19 pandemic continues, "The Lambda help desk is open and operational throughout the crisis. If people are experiencing legal difficulties, they should contact us. We are here to help."

See [LambdaLegal.org](http://LambdaLegal.org).

Read the full article at [WindyCityMedia-Group.com](http://WindyCityMedia-Group.com).

## ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEON

- BACK
- SHOULDER
- ELBOW
- WRIST
- HAND
- HIP
- KNEE
- ANKLE
- FOOT



CAR ACCIDENT,  
WORK INJURY OR  
ORTHOPAEDIC  
INJURY

GOLD COAST ORTHOPAEDIC SPINE AND HAND SURGERY  
ROBERT JAMES FINK, M.D.

Conveniently located at 7200 N. Western Ave., 2nd Floor  
312-654-8800

19 Clock Tower Plaza  
Elgin, IL 60120

1925 E 95th St  
Chicago, IL 60617

4909 W Division St  
Chicago, IL 60651

1324 E Ogden Ave  
Naperville, IL 60563

# Gay sign-language interpreter on press conferences, LGBTQs

BY JERRY NUNN

As a child, Michael Spencer Albert never knew how important his hands would be one day as an interpreter for the deaf community. He was born in Edgewater Hospital and grew up in Skokie.

In college, he majored in psychology at the University of Illinois. When he needed some elective credits, he took a sign-language class for fun. The following summer he started an internship with the Human Rights Campaign in Washington, D.C. He found a deaf person looking for a roommate in a personal ad and lived with him for a year; this was during the student protests in 1988 at Gallaudet surrounding the appointment of I. King Jordan, a deaf university president. Seeing the empowerment in the deaf community sparked an interest in Albert to move in that direction for his career.

After working on his masters at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, he took a leave of absence from psychology and took an interpreter training class at Western Oregon University in-stead.

He began working the Chicago Hearing Society (CHS) in July 1998, and still does to this day. CHS is a division of the Anixter Center, an organization that services people with disabilities and challenges. He translates for hospitals, lawyers, meetings and conferences on a regular basis. In the past, Albert—who is out and proud—has appeared at Pride festivals and Market Days.

He has garnered much local media attention recently—especially for signing during Gov. Pritzker's COVID-19 press conferences—but said he wants the focus to remain on the virus and community.

**Windy City Times: Has all this attention been overwhelming?**

Michael Albert: Yes. In a time of a crisis, it is good to have something else to focus on to take their mind off of constant barrage of bad news. Interpreters can give people something else to look at. I have been there every single day since the beginning of Gov. Pritzker's press conferences. It has been challenging.

**WCT: What do you like about working for the Chicago Hearing Society?**

MA: Any interpreting that I do that generates revenue is going to other people that are deaf and hard of hearing, also to youth services and domestic violence survivors or victims of crime. There are a lot of services that are supported by our work. It's one of the things that has kept me loyal to that agency. There's not been a moment where I regretted devoting my career to them.

**WCT: How difficult is technical sign language?**

MA: Sign language is like any other language. When technical innovations arrive or slang comes around, languages struggle to adapt to that. For example, when "email" came out, there were sev-

eral signs for [that term]. Over time, the deaf community arrived at a certain sign that would be generally accepted.

Same for the word "transgender"—it was decided at a transgender conference what would be the most appropriate sign.

Sometimes it happens more organically by sharing information among deaf people and agreeing on a sign. With technical terms like "coronavirus," it's a broad term and means a lot of different things.

**WCT: So things are always evolving?**

MA: It's an evolving language. If I'm interpreting at a conference of medical professionals, I will translate it much differently than if I am describing it to an 80-year-old grandmother going to a doctor's appointment. If I spell out the letters "EKG," they may not know what that means, so I have explain how it's attached to someone's body and I may draw the jagged heartbeat pattern. I really try to match my client.

It's very complicated, especially at these press conferences with a variety of clients out there that I can't see. I am trying to use sign language that is the most accessible to the greatest number of people.

**WCT: Do you ever want to ask Pritzker to slow down?**

MA: Pritzker is a very well-paced speaker. I have really been impressed the last few weeks with his leadership. When he speaks with passion, I try to convey this in my interpretation.



Michael Albert.  
Courtesy photo



Michael Albert (left) signing at a recent press conference featuring Gov. JB Pritzker (right).  
Screen shot

He speaks with anger at the government sometimes and speaks with empathy for the citizens of Illinois. Backstage, I can see this isn't just lip service. He is really stepping it up.

**WCT: Do you spend much time with the speakers before going on TV?**

MA: The governor and Illinois Department Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike generally come in at the last minute. I've exchanged pleasantries, but I was flattered and touched that he recognized me publicly.

I do have time when we are backstage with other people, and they are sometimes nice to share their notes with me about what they are going to say.

**WCT: Do you hear from people on social media about the job you are doing?**

MA: I am hearing from a lot of people. There are comments that I have stopped reading. There are hearing people that have said a lot of wonderful things. I take their comments with a grain of salt, because they don't know the language.

What bolsters me to continue [are] the wonderful comments from the deaf community and the support from my fellow interpreting colleagues.

Chicago is a unique place with a supportive interpreting community and a deaf community that collaborates with us pretty well. I've seen other cities where interpreters were divisive. This whole recent experience has made me incredibly proud.

**WCT: How did you prepare to be on TV with wardrobe?**

MA: Stores were closing. I don't do a lot of dressy work, maybe a bar mitzvah or a funeral. I had four colors of dress shirts and now this press conference is going on every day. I try to mix and match.

**WCT: What was your favorite concert to sign?**

MA: My favorite was Olivia Newton-John, at Market Days.

Music interpreting is controversial in our field. There are interpreters who differ philosophically on how we should handle music.

I want to embody the rhythm and give the lyrics. If Eric Clapton is doing a guitar solo, then I just turn toward him and watch him. In the modern music interpretation world, some will relish a pitch or show instrumentation. I think that looks

like an air guitar and not the approach that I care to take. It draws focus from the artist to me. Some deaf people love it, though. You may have seen some of those interpreters go viral.

**WCT: What's your new favorite word to sign?**

MA: "Coronavirus." "Pandemic" has also become very popular. I combine the sign for disease and spreading out an area.

**WCT: What do you recommend for aspiring interpreters?**

MA: Find deaf people and interact with them. Like any language, you are only going to learn it with native users of the language. People can study books, but there are a variety of styles to learn. They do have to go to school and learn the professional standards and ethical code that we abide by. To become certified you have to have a bachelors degree, but not necessarily in interpreting.

**WCT: What trends do you see for interpreters?**

MA: There's a shift in my profession for video remote work. We provide interpreting services to computers. College students are learning from home so we provide that service for them.

**WCT: What can you tell people about the LGBTQ deaf community?**

MA: They are like everyone else. Some have hearing partners, some of them have deaf partners and some have no partners. I think Chicago has the same amount as anywhere else. People just notice them more when they are in a group signing at the bars. It is very diverse here, just like the rest of the gay community.

**WCT: What's a common misunderstanding between the deaf and hearing communities?**

MA: "Hearing-impaired" is not used anymore. It's okay to say "deaf" and "hard of hearing," but "hearing-impaired" makes the deaf community bristle. The description "hearing-impaired" was invented by hearing people saying that someone is broken and that's all they are. "Deaf" is a cultural identification and the community finds using "hearing-impaired" as diminishing.

"Deaf and dumb" or "deaf-mute" are also irritating terms, so don't use them—ever!

**For more information on CHS, visit ChicagoHearingSociety.org.**



## WINDY CITY TIMES ANNOUNCEMENT

Windy City Times is distributing this edition via our wonderful delivery crew, but only to open locations around the city, and our boxes. It is also available as a PDF download on the top right of our website, [www.windycitymediagroup.com](http://www.windycitymediagroup.com), and past issues are under the archives section.

We hope that everyone is staying in and staying safe. If you do go out to walk your dog or get some exercise, this week's WCT is available in all the newspaper boxes we have around the city.

So many of our advertisers are hurting during this difficult time. Bars, theaters, events, restaurants, etc. If you have the ability to help, there is a list of bar fundraisers on page 20 of this issue.

Windy City Times is also facing a difficult economic situation with the loss of advertising. Help us continue to be able to cover our community and pay our team by donating to [\*\*http://windycitymediagroup.com/donate1.php\*\*](http://windycitymediagroup.com/donate1.php)

— WINDY CITY TIMES

# Chicagoan alleges anti-trans bias against Orangetheory location

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Following two years of repeated requests to address alleged anti-trans discrimination at Orangetheory Fitness Chicago-Edgewater, non-binary Chicagoan Jes Scheinpflug posted about their experiences on their blog to raise awareness about the issue. However, the company has taken issue with a number of these allegations.

In the blog post, Scheinpflug outlined the instances where they provided trans-affirming education to the Orangetheory Fitness Chicago-Edgewater management and staff. This included asking that the intake forms have a place for members to provide pronouns. Scheinpflug, whose pronouns are they/them, said in the blog post that they were misgendered on the first day after handwriting their pronouns on the form.

Scheinpflug told Windy City Times they stayed at the gym and signed up for classes because they liked their trainer and thought that the business may be LGBTQ-friendly because of the rainbow flags they have seen there.

In the blog post Scheinpflug stated (with a screenshot included), “I have asked the front desk several times why there are only two options (on the app) and why it is labeled ‘gender’ when it is really asking for ‘sex assigned at birth.’ I ask what they expect intersex folks to choose. To this day, the app still asks for gender and lists sex options of ‘male and female.’”

Scheinpflug also posted that three of the Orangetheory Fitness Chicago-Edgewater front-desk employees attended the trans-affirming business training that took place in Andersonville last February. They added that, afterward, these employees told them they wanted to adopt some of the best practices they learned—but the gym management would not sign off on it. According to Scheinpflug’s post, these employees no longer work at the gym.

Scheinpflug said that they kept raising awareness at the gym for two years, but they were told no changes could be made because corporate policies forbid individual locations from doing so. Scheinpflug added that one employee said corporate management in Florida would not change anything because they are more conservative than the Chicago studios.

Scheinpflug also said in their blog post that this past January that four people from corporate management set up a conference call with them via email. Scheinpflug alleged that, during the phone call, the first thing the corporate staff asked was if this call was being recorded—something Scheinpflug told Windy City Times signaled to them that Orangetheory knew it was doing something wrong.

They also provided proof of these email correspondences between them and various members of Orangetheory Fitness management to Windy City Times.

In addition, Scheinpflug alleged that when Orangetheory Fitness Chicago-Edgewater posted an Instagram story where the public could ask them questions, many TGNC people were blocked when they inquired about the gym’s trans-affirming practices. This is also included in the blog post along with a screenshot of one of the TGNC people who was blocked. Scheinpflug told Windy City Times that this was “another message to TGNC people that the gym does not want them there.”

“I feel duped and saddened and erased,” Scheinpflug told WCT. “I spoke up about this for a long time in hopes to create visibility for TGNC folks since we are regularly erased in this world. I never intended for it to get to this public point. I had hopes that this one studio—out of 1,110 in 23 countries—could make small changes to be more inclusive for TGNC patrons. After countless conversations with employees and management at different levels, things were not improving even though I kept getting told ‘I care, thanks for sharing, keep helping us be better’ while refusing to provide training for their staff. This is why I am speaking out.”

“Orangetheory Fitness Chicago-Edgewater touts LGBTQ allyship but [it] really [means] LGB allyship since they refuse to even ask for pronouns on their handwritten intake form. If we cannot even get one of over one thousand of their studios in a place like this to make such a small change, it is hard to not be anything other than disheartened or worse.”

In an email statement to Windy City Times, Orangetheory Fitness Chicago-Edgewater Owners



Jes Scheinpflug.  
Courtesy photo

David Lanz and Adam Paris said, “Orangetheory Fitness is deeply committed to LGBTQ inclusivity, and Orangetheory’s policy is that everyone is welcome. Orangetheory corporate has been an exceptional partner in focusing on opportunities to be more gender inclusive, and we are always looking for ways to improve.”

The email further stated, “Orangetheory’s corporate policies are spearheaded by individual studios, and Orangetheory Fitness Chicago-Edgewater has been a leader in creating some of the gender inclusivity practices that have been adopted by Orangetheory globally,” including being one of the first studios nationwide to implement all gender bathrooms and signage and removing references to sex in weight selection recommendations and coaching.

When asked about Scheinpflug’s allegations re-

garding the deleted Instagram comments, Lanz and Paris said it is not corporate policy to delete any comments to any post. Lanz and Paris also pointed out the Facebook Live event they held to celebrate the end of the most recent transformation challenge the gym held.

“With our community feeling deep anxiety and fear relating to the Coronavirus, the decision was made to keep this particular [Facebook] discussion focused on the tremendous efforts and achievements of the participants who had just completed their [eight]-week challenge,” said Lanz and Paris in their statement to Windy City Times. “With that being said, we understand that the rules of this transformation challenge did not meet our own standards for gender inclusivity.”

“In January, we facilitated a conversation between one of our members and two of the most senior leaders of Orangetheory, including the director of fitness science. During this call, Orangetheory informed the member that changes in the 2020 Transformation Challenge could not be operational because the challenge was already underway for hundreds of thousands of members across the globe. As a result of our efforts, changes were made to the April challenge and Orangetheory is committed to reviewing the rules of future transformation challenges.”

Lanz and Paris also said that because of the disparate laws regarding fitness contracts in each state, the forms have not been updated to reflect people who identify as non-binary; however, they are “working to ensure a multi-state compliance process to update all forms, and they will be updated.”

The email also stated that Orangetheory Fitness is a heart-rate-based interval training program and that relies on current research which only covers the two sexes assigned at birth—which is why male and female are currently the only two options available on the app.

Additionally, Lanz and Paris said that after the trans-affirming business training in Andersonville, the studio has supported what the staff brought back from that training.

“This issue is so important to us that we and our staff have attended seminars and workshops on gender inclusivity and transgender awareness,” emailed Lanz and Paris. “Our organization will continue to work to increase awareness within Orangetheory. Currently, our local studio is working with Jen Grosshandler of the GenderCool Project to support their mission, and we have assisted them in their efforts to present to Orangetheory Illinois’s leadership teams.”

In a separate email to Windy City Times, Lanz said, “I am sorry that anyone feels that Orangetheory Fitness Chicago-Edgewater is not a supporter of LGBTQ issues. This is extremely important to me personally and to Orangetheory. The things we have done in Edgewater and continue to do have made real changes in Orangetheory Fitness nationwide. I am proud of our progress and of how supportive Orangetheory corporate has been in hearing our voices. I know the job here is not done, and want you to know we will continue our work on gender inclusivity.”



Orangetheory Fitness.  
Photo by Carrie Maxwell



@windycitytimes



/windycitymediagroup



@windycitytimes

www.windycitymediagroup.com

# Jill Rose Quinn heads toward being state's first openly transgender judge

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Among those notching victories on March 14, during Illinois' primary, was Democratic judicial candidate Jill Rose Quinn.

Her win was significant in many ways—including the fact that she will apparently be the first openly transgender judge in the state. (So far, Quinn has no opponent for the November general election.)

**Windy City Times: In this age of the coronavirus, how did you celebrate your win?**

Jill Rose Quinn: We [partner Stephanie Marder] thought about going to a small party of 10 people or less [a decision that was made before the strict statewide mandate was given] but as the night got on the results trickled in—and it was at that point that it was too late to really do anything. I was notified about nine o' clock, and then later it looked pretty good.

By the way, Stephanie, was my campaign manager as well as my source of inspiration.

**WCT: Have you thought about the historic**

**implication of being the state's first openly transgender judge?**

JRQ: The thought has hit me. It's history—and it's a real victory for the state and the county, in that people can say "We voted for this person." Five years ago, late-night comedians made jokes about transgender people, you know? Now, I will have one of the most respected positions in government—it's astounding. And it's about time, and it's a good day.

**WCT: Had you ever thought about ever running for something else, such as state rep?**

JRQ: First of all, I have nothing but the utmost respect for state reps. They have very difficult jobs and get paid very little money, and they to run every two years so they're constantly fundraising. It's a really hard job; I don't know if I'm cut out for that. I did think that, if Pete Buttigieg had kept on and won, that he'd be looking for a Supreme Court justice down the line.

The thing about being a circuit court judge is that you're in charge of a population. I want to [interact] with the public, and I'd much rather be



Jill Rose Quinn.

Photo by Stephanie Marder

in a decision-making role.

And there were some other victories for the [LGBTQ community]; we got Levander Smith elected, we got Mary Cay Marubio elected. And I can't help but be excited that [Cook County State's Attorney and LGBTQ ally] Kim Foxx is continuing. So I was happy about some of the results, and there will be opportunities for other LGBTs to be elected.

**WCT: Anything else to say about your win?**

JRQ: A lot of it was pieces falling into place, but a lot of it was hard work and people believ-

ing in me. It meant a lot to me that people like the mayor [Lori Lightfoot] and [state Sen.] Sara Feigenholtz backed me, and I really appreciated the party's support. I appreciated that the party said, "It's time for diversity." I was supported by a whole bunch of people, and I'm grateful to them, and I'm especially grateful to the people of the state because they opened their hearts to me.

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

**ELECTIONS 2020:  
PRIMARY ELECTION**

## Rep. Pizer concedes to winner Croke

Newly installed state Rep. Yoni Pizer—the first openly gay representative of Illinois' 12th District, which includes Gold Coast, Near North, Old Town, Lincoln Park, Lake View and Buena Park—conceded to Margaret Croke in the race for 12th District state representative on March 18.

In addition to serving as community liaison for Quigley and running two small businesses, Pizer has been a grassroots organizer for Democratic presidential candidates for several decades. Pizer lives with his husband, Brad Lippitz, in East Lake View, where they have raised their two sons.



@windycitytimes

# ANAL CANCER IS

**ON THE RISE**

FOR THOSE OF US

# WITH HIV

CHECK ME OUT!



ANAL CANCER IS MUCH MORE EASILY TREATED WHEN CAUGHT EARLY, BEFORE SYMPTOMS DEVELOP.

**50% OF HIV+ MEN HAVE  
PRECANCEROUS ANAL  
CELLS AND ALMOST ALL  
ARE SYMPTOM-FREE.**

**WE NEED HIV+ VOLUNTEERS OF  
ALL GENDERS WHO ARE 35 AND  
OVER TO TAKE PART IN A  
NATIONAL ANAL CANCER  
PREVENTION STUDY.**

- THOSE THAT QUALIFY WILL BE PAID \$100 PER STUDY VISIT
- YOU WILL HAVE AT LEAST 2 STUDY VISITS PER YEAR FOR 6 TO 8 YEARS

**ANAL DYSPLASIA CLINIC MIDWEST**

DR. GARY BUCHER  
2551 N. CLARK ST., #203  
CHICAGO, IL 60614  
312-623-ANAL (2625)



the  
**ANCHOR**  
study.org

## letters

*A matter of urgency*

*Open Letter to Cook County Regarding COVID-19 and Cook County Jail: Protect public health through decarceration*

Across the world, the impact of the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic has increased with each passing day. The highly contagious respiratory illness has been deadly for many, especially the elderly and people with compromised immune systems. Across the United States, elected officials are taking unprecedented steps to protect the most vulnerable people in their communities and contain the spread of the virus.

People incarcerated in jail are one of the most vulnerable populations, and their protection warrants special emergency action. Jails and prisons are known to quickly spread contagious diseases. Incarcerated people have an inherently limited ability to fight the spread of infectious disease since they are confined in close quarters and unable to avoid contact with people who may have been exposed. Responses such as lock downs, placing people in solitary confinement and limiting access to visits from loved ones are punitive and ineffective responses to outbreaks. Importantly, we know that isolation further endangers people and limiting visitation also has adverse effects.

The only acceptable response to the threat of COVID-19 is decarceration. Today there are 5,576 people incarcerated in Cook County Jail (CCJ)—more than 500 of which are over the age of 55. Almost all of them are still awaiting trial and thus presumed innocent under the law. There are more than 150 children in Cook County's Juvenile Temporary Detention Center (JTDC). Their ongoing incarceration is an unacceptable risk to every incarcerated individual as well as public health.

Jails have extremely high turnover rates. Many people are released and admitted every day, and thousands of employees travel in and out of Cook County Jail each week. As few people as possible should be exposed to this dangerous inevitability.

The following steps should be taken to protect the health of all Cook County residents, including those incarcerated in Cook County Jail and in their homes on electronic monitoring:

—Cook County should immediately release anyone incarcerated in Cook County Jail on an unaffordable money bond (and not onto electronic monitoring unless already ordered by a judge). If a judge has given someone a money bond, it means that they've determined the person is cleared for release pretrial. Their ongoing incarceration due solely to access to money is deeply unfair and unethical, especially during this pandemic.

—No new people should be admitted to Cook County Jail on money bonds. Admission of as many people as possible should be avoided.

—The courts should provide emergency bond reviews for all incarcerated people who request them, with an increased mandate to use all options other than incarceration.

—Cook County should immediately release indi-

viduals over the age of 50 or with compromised immune systems from Cook County Jail. Research has shown that these individuals are at the highest risk for contracting and experiencing the most serious effects of COVID-19.

—The Cook County sheriff's office and Pretrial Services Division should immediately change their protocols around electronic monitoring (EM) and home confinement to permit liberal movement (the ability to leave one's home).

—The ability to pay money bonds and secure pretrial release for people currently incarcerated in the jail or on EM should not be delayed or inhibited in any way.

—People eligible for electronic monitoring must continue to be released into the community. If a person is ordered to EM but does not have access to approved housing, they should be immediately returned to court for a rehearing on their conditions of release.

—If courts remain open, appearance at non-essential criminal court dates should be waived to avoid unnecessary travel and social contact. All in-person pretrial check-ins or other mandated appearances (such as drug testing) should also be waived.

—Cancellation of court dates should not delay anyone's release from Cook County Jail. Given that 70 percent of people released from Cook County Jail return directly to the community, any failure to resolve court cases at the same pace will increase the number of people in jail and thus the threat to their individual health and public health.

—A moratorium should be placed on "turn-arounds," the process by which someone sentenced to time served travels from CCJ to an Illinois Department of Corrections facility to dress in and dress out on the same day. People sentenced to time served should be released directly from Cook County Jail.

—Healthcare access for anyone remaining in Cook County Jail must be liberally provided and unfettered.

—Access to phone calls and video "visitation" should be expanded for all incarcerated people right now and moving forward. This access should be provided free of charge.

—The right to vote must be protected for anyone who remains incarcerated pretrial.

—Personal hygiene, cleaning and sanitation supplies should be made available free of charge to anyone who remains incarcerated. Hand sanitizer and other essential preventative products must be permitted and should not be considered "contraband."

Visit [ChicagoBond.org](http://ChicagoBond.org) for resources about the Coronavirus in jails and the current demands for jails in other jurisdictions. People can find this letter at the website.

*Signed,  
Action Now  
A Just Harvest  
AirGo*

*American Friends Service Committee Chicago  
Arab American Action Network  
Assata's Daughters  
Believers Bail Out  
Black Lives Matter: Chicago  
Black and Pink Chicago*

*Blue Tin Productions  
BYP100*

*Chicago Afro-Socialists and Socialists of Color  
Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression*

*Chicago Appleseed*

*Chicago Community Bond Fund*

*Chicago Council of Lawyers*

*Chicago Feminist Action Group*

*Chicago Freedom School*

*Chicago-Kent College of Law Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild*

*Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights*

*Chicago Torture Justice Center*

*Chicago Votes Action Fund*

*The Children and Family Justice Center*

*Circles & Ciphers*

*Columbus Freedom Fund*

*Community Renewal Society*

*Criminal Justice Policy Program*

*Dissenters*

*Exoneration Project*

*First Defense Legal Aid*

*For the People Artists Collective*

*Free Write Arts & Literacy*

*Giving Others Dreams God*

*Grassroots Collaborative*

*Justice for Our Neighbors Northern Illinois*

*Kuumba Lynx*

*Lawndale Christian Legal Center*

*#LetUsBreathe*

*Liberation Library*

*Lifted Voices*

*Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO)*

*Live Free Chicago*

*Love & Protect*

*Loevy & Loevy*

*Lucy Parson's Labs*

*Moms United Against Violence and Incarceration*

*National Lawyers Guild – Chicago*

*Northside Action for Justice*

*People's Law Office*

*The People's Lobby*

*Pilsen Alliance*

*Precious Blood Ministry Of Reconciliation*

*The Roderick & Solange MacArthur Justice Center*

*Rogers Park Solidarity Network*

*Shiller Preyar Gerard & Samuels*

*Shriver Center on Poverty Law*

*Slutwalk Chicago*

*Smart Decarceration Project*

*Transgender Law Center*

*Transformative Justice Law Project*

*Trinity United Church of Christ*

*UIC John Marshall Law School Black Law Students Association*

*UIC John Marshall Law School South Asian Law Association*

*UIC John Marshall Law School United Immigration*

*Defense Organization of Students*

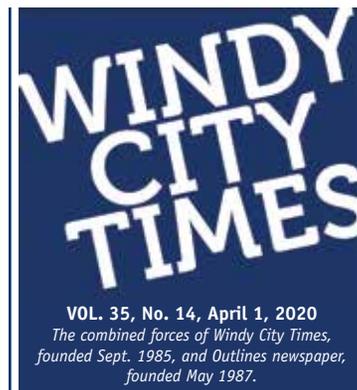
*Unitarian Universalist Prison Ministry of Illinois*

*Uptown People's Law Center*

*Westside Justice Center*

*Women's Justice Initiative*

*Working Family Solidarity*



**PUBLISHER** Terri Klinsky

**EXECUTIVE EDITOR** Andrew Davis

**MANAGING EDITOR** Matt Simonette

**DIGITAL DIRECTOR** Jean Albright

**ART DIRECTOR AND ASSOCIATE EDITOR**

Kirk Williamson

**SOCIAL MEDIA DIRECTOR** Scott Duff

**BUSINESS MANAGER** Ripley Caine

**SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES** Terri Klinsky,

Kirk Williamson

**NATIONAL SALES** Rivendell Media,

212-242-6863

**THEATER AND DANCE EDITOR** Catey Sullivan

**SENIOR WRITERS** Jonathan Abarbanel, Mary

Shen Barnidge, Charlsie Dewey, Ross Forman,

Carrie Maxwell, Rev. Irene Monroe, Jerry Nunn,

Tony Peregrin, Angelique Smith, Sari Staver,

Sarah Toce, Melissa Wasserman

**WRITERS** Sarah Katherine Bowden, Ada Cheng,

Sheri Flanders, Joe Franco, Veronica Harrison,

Kelsey Hoff, Aaron Hunt, Eric Karas, Brian Kirt,

Paige Listerud, Billy Masters, Scott C. Morgan,

Amelia Orozco, Ariel Parrella-Aureli, Kerry

Reid, Dana Rudolph, Ana Serna, Karen Topham,

Regina Victor, Sean Margaret Wagner, Lauren

Warnecke, Steve Warren, Lauren Emily Whalen

**SENIOR PHOTOGRAPHERS** Kat Fitzgerald, Hal

Baim, Tim Carroll, Ed Negron, Vernon Hester

**CIRCULATION DIRECTOR** Jean Albright

**DISTRIBUTION** Ashina, Allan, Dan, John, Sue

and Victor

**WEB HOSTING** LoveYourWebsite.com (lead

programmer: Martie Marro)

**PRESIDENT** Tracy Baim

(773) 871-7610 FAX (773) 871-7609

**Editorial:** [andrew@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:andrew@windycitymediagroup.com)

**Sales:** [terri@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:terri@windycitymediagroup.com)

**Calendar:** [calendar@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:calendar@windycitymediagroup.com)

**Circulation:** [jean@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:jean@windycitymediagroup.com)

**Art/ad copy:** [kirk@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:kirk@windycitymediagroup.com)

**Theater:** [cateysullivan25@gmail.com](mailto:cateysullivan25@gmail.com)

Copyright 2020 Lambda Publications Inc./Windy City Media

Group: All rights reserved. Reprint by permission only. Back

issues (if available) for \$5 per issue (postage included).

Return postage must accompany all manuscripts, drawings,

and photographs submitted if they are to be returned, and

no responsibility may be assumed for unsolicited materials.

All rights to letters, art and photographs sent to Windy

City Times will be treated as unconditionally assigned

for publication purposes and as such, subject to editing

and comment. The opinions expressed by the columnists,

cartoonists, letter writers, and commentators are their own

and do not necessarily reflect the position of Windy City

Times. Publication of the name, photograph, or likeness of

a person or organization in articles or advertising in Windy

City Times is not to be construed as any indication of the

sexual orientation of such person or organization. While

we encourage readers to support the advertisers who make

this newspaper possible, Windy City Times cannot accept

responsibility for advertising claims.

WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP,

5315 N. Clark St. #192, Chicago, IL, 60640 U.S.A.

(MAILING ADDRESS ONLY)

Windy City Times Biweekly; Deadline every

Wednesday prior to street date

OUT! Chicago's LGBTQ Visitor's Guide Online annual

Windy City Times Wedding and Events Guide Annual

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



WINDY  
CITY  
TIMES

# ARTS + THEATER

## Mourning Terrence McNally

PAGE 15

Terrence McNally.  
Photo by Jeffrey Hornstein

## STREAMING THEATER REVIEW

### Teenage Dick

Playwright: Mike Lew

At: Theater Wit (online streaming only)

Tickets: TheaterWit.org; \$28

Runs through: April 19

BY JONATHAN ABARBANEL

In a smart move before shutting down, Theater Wit video recorded a live performance of *Teenage Dick*, now offered on line as a pay-per-view attraction. *Teenage Dick* and 16th Street Theater's *Methtacular!* are the only two complete

*Teenage Dick* does NOT mean what some WCT readers might hope it means: It's Shakespeare's *Richard III* adapted to a contemporary U.S. high school setting. Shakespeare's evil Richard, a major figure in England's Wars of the Roses, is determined to become king by hook or crook. In *Teenage Dick*, playwright Mike Lew reinvents him as 16 year old Richard (MacGregor Arney), a student at aptly-named Roseland High School determined to become class president by hook or crook. Shakespeare's Richard is a disabled hunchback.

Lew's teenage Richard has cerebral palsy that restricts his use of an arm and leg, although he can walk and even dance, as seen in one of the play's highlight moments. Shakespeare's key characters have counterparts in Lew's play, although several have become women.



MacGregor Arney and Courtney Rikki Green in *Teenage Dick*.  
Photo by Charles Osgood

Richard plots to defeat the incumbent class president, Eddie (Ty Fanning), who is an arrogantly empowered football hero. Eddie is every bit as nasty and manipulative as Richard, although Lew gives Eddie an unexpected change of heart at the end. It's no surprise that the students have been studying Machiavelli.

The big difference in *Teenage Dick* is that Lew provides Richard with an actual relationship with a worthy girl, Anne Margaret (Courtney Rikki Green), who embodies several women seen only briefly in *Richard III*. It's an unexpected complication, not just for Richard but also for viewers

following the Shakespearian parallels. Baring her own emotional wounds, Anne shatters stereotypes to see Richard as a person, thereby offering Richard an opportunity to reform, grow and engage honestly—even romantically—with others. Her expanded role, Lew tells us, is a deliberate contrast to Shakespeare's often perfunctory female portrayals. At the end Richard again proclaims his villainy, but we aren't certain whether he's telling the truth or not.

All that makes a good play by itself, but it's not why Mike Lew wrote *Teenage Dick*. His intent was to call attention to issues confronted on a daily

basis by persons with disabilities, and at least one actor in the production and the director are such persons. The play is quite effective in humanizing individuals we sometimes try to avoid staring at or meeting, although one size does not fit all among persons living with disabilities.

Even viewed via streaming video, it's a very effective production, directed by Brian Balon. As Richard, MacGregor Arney does stellar work in a grueling role which keeps him onstage almost every second of the play's 100 minutes. And kudos to Courtney Rikki Green for her highly vulnerable interpretation of Anne Margaret.

## STREAMING THEATER REVIEW

### Methtacular!

Playwright: Steven Strafford

Via: 16th Street Theater,  
6420 16th St., Berwyn

Tickets: 708-795-6704 or  
16thStreetTheater.org;

\$12 per person/on your honor

Available through: April 4

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

The show cannot go on for so many live theaters nationwide. Safety measures put in place to stem the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) have put the kibosh on public gatherings.

However, 16th Street Theater in Berwyn has found a way to go ahead with its spring revival of Steven Strafford's acclaimed one-man show *Methtacular!* Audiences can buy a temporary stream of it online.

About Face Theatre staged the Chicago premiere of *Methtacular!* in 2014, so Strafford's quirky, confessional and adults-only show is already something of a known property. More audiences learned all about Stafford's drug addictions as a gay Chicago stage actor in his early 20s at the start of the millennium when *Methtacular!* was also briefly revived in 2016 as part of Steppenwolf Theatre's *LookOut* series.

Strafford had the foresight to professionally capture *Methtacular!* on video at Steppenwolf's 1700 Theatre. So it's this version of "*Methtacular!*" that 16th Street Theatre is presenting online.

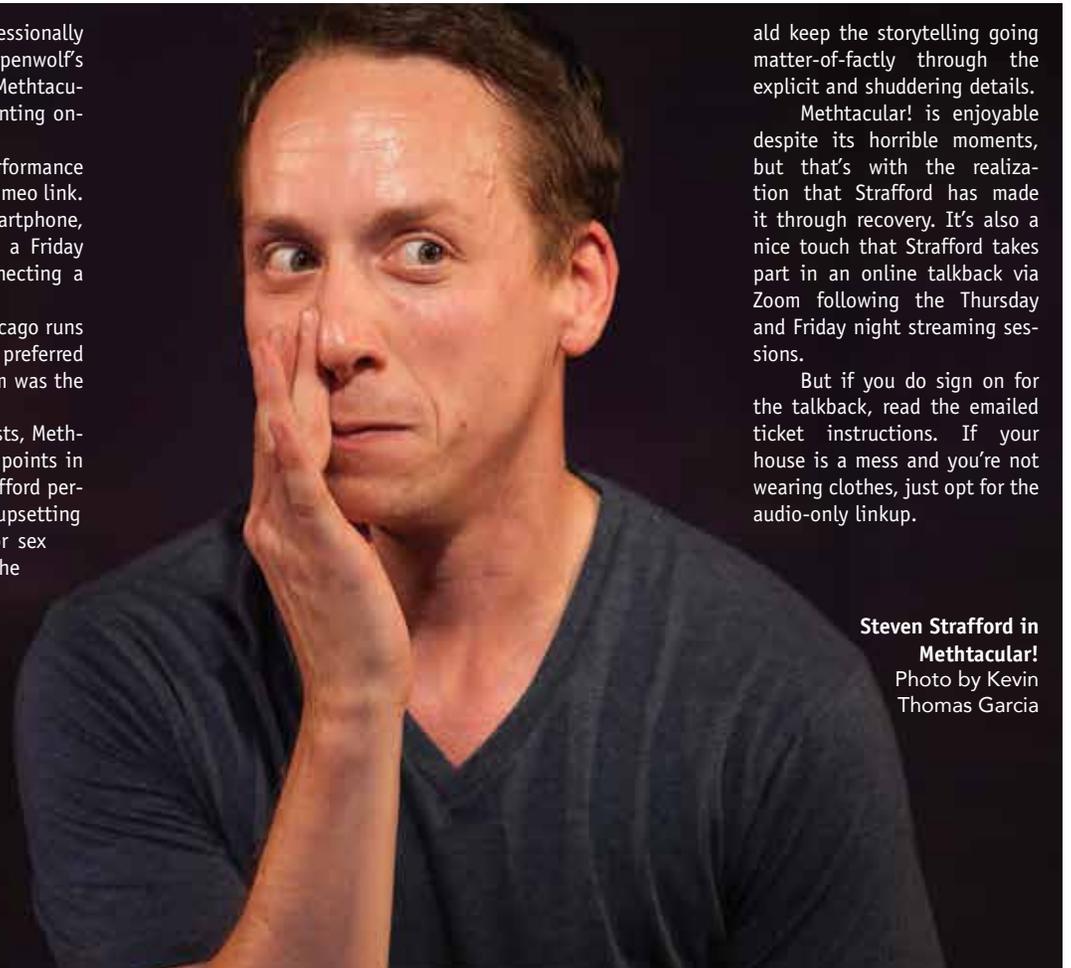
Audiences can pay for a specific performance time to view the show with a special Vimeo link. You can choose to watch on your smartphone, tablet, computer or Smart TV (I saw a Friday evening stream on my TV after connecting a high-definition cable to my laptop).

I missed Strafford's previous two Chicago runs of *Methtacular!* Though I would have preferred to see the show live, the online stream was the next best thing in self-isolation.

As the title exclamation point suggests, *Methtacular!* is actually a musical! At key points in his nearly 100-minute monologue, Stafford performs funny songs tied to the often upsetting situations he's in due to his drive for sex and drugs (William TN Hall is great as the pianist).

A game show also pops up midway through *Methtacular!* It's just another way for Strafford to keep things light amid the many dark stories that get shared.

The video clips of Strafford's interview with his mother captures her genuine despair. And when the anecdotes do turn scary or violent, Strafford and director Adam Fitzger-



Steven Strafford in  
*Methtacular!*

Photo by Kevin  
Thomas Garcia

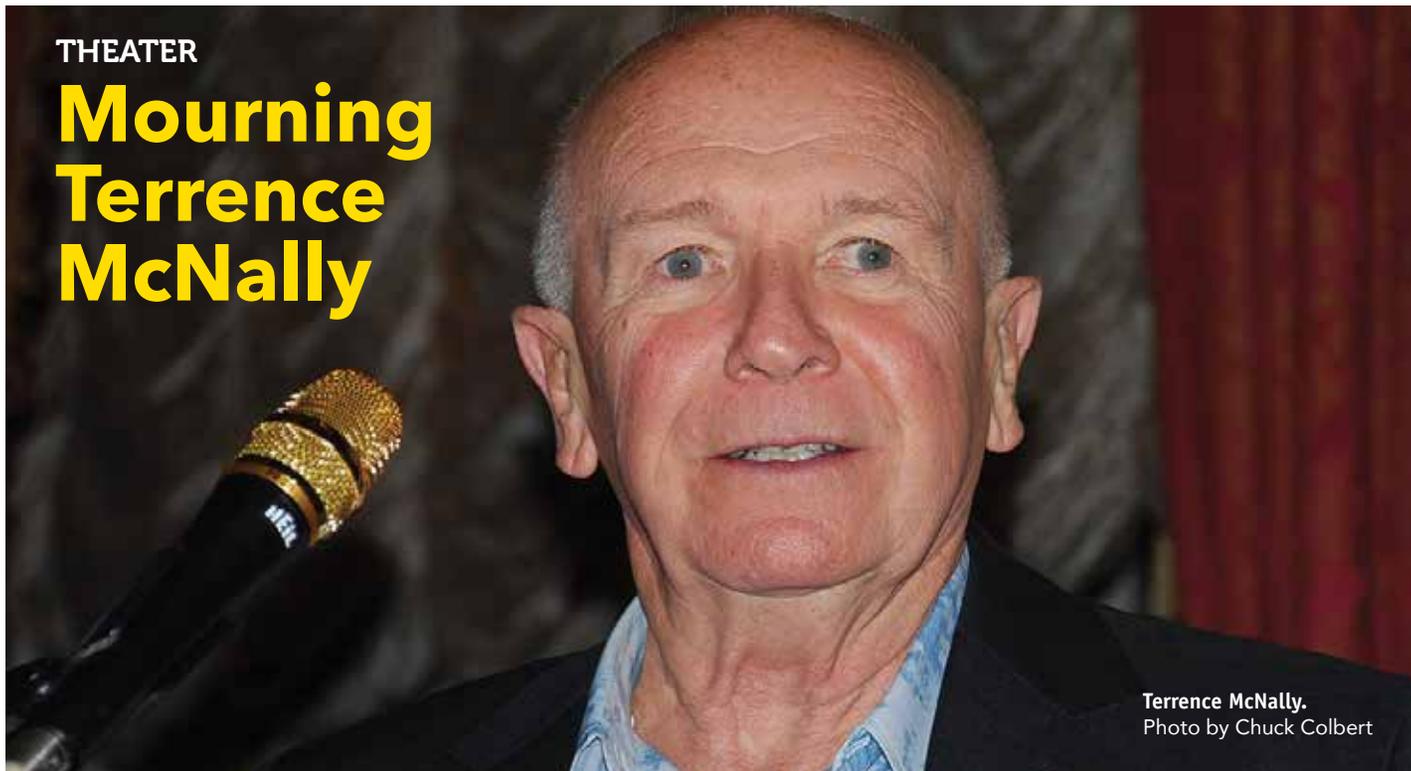
ald keep the storytelling going matter-of-factly through the explicit and shuddering details.

*Methtacular!* is enjoyable despite its horrible moments, but that's with the realization that Strafford has made it through recovery. It's also a nice touch that Strafford takes part in an online talkback via Zoom following the Thursday and Friday night streaming sessions.

But if you do sign on for the talkback, read the emailed ticket instructions. If your house is a mess and you're not wearing clothes, just opt for the audio-only linkup.

## THEATER

# Mourning Terrence McNally



Terrence McNally.  
Photo by Chuck Colbert

BY SCOTT C. MORGAN

The prolific Emmy and Tony Award-winning writer Terrence McNally passed away at the age of 81 in Florida at a Sarasota hospital on Tuesday, March 24. The cause of death was due to complications of the coronavirus (COVID-19).

Throughout his career, McNally chronicled gay culture in all kinds of genres. One of his early hits was the 1974 gay bathhouse farce *The Ritz*. McNally later dealt with different aspects of the AIDS crisis in dramas like *The Lisbon Traviata*, *Mothers and Sons* and *Love! Valour! Compassion!*

"I think my plays are my autobiography," said McNally in a November 2015 interview with the *Windy City Times*. At the time, McNally was in Chicago to promote his book anthology *Selected Works: A Memoir in Plays*.

As a youth growing up in Corpus Christi, Texas, McNally nearly pursued a career in journalism. He won a scholarship to Northwestern University in Evanston, and had previously been part of its National High School Institute program informally known as "The Cherubs."

But McNally was also accepted into Columbia University in New York, so he headed there at the age of 17.

"New York looked like so much fun," McNally said. "I thought it might be so much easier to meet other gay young men in New York than Chicago."

McNally was an early boyfriend of playwright Edward Albee, and he soon became a fixture of New York's burgeoning off-Broadway theater scene. McNally also became a respected book writer for many hit musicals like *Ragtime*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman* and *The Full Monty*. McNally also collaborated with composer Jake Heggie as the librettist to the operas *Dead Man Walking* and *Great Scott*.

All of this is thoroughly covered in Jeff Kaufman's 2018 film documentary on McNally

called *Every Act of Life*. It was broadcast on PBS in 2019, and is available for streaming.

Locally, McNally worked at Chicago's Goodman Theatre in 2001 as the book writer to the world-premiere musical "The Visit" with the songwriting team of John Kander and Fred Ebb. McNally is also fondly remembered by many Chicago theater artists when he came to see local productions of his plays.

"[McNally] never stopped working. The rewrites were constant," said Jim Corti, who originated the roles of The Doctor in *The Visit* and escapologist Harry Houdini in *Ragtime*. "He was very supportive and endearing. Everybody loved him."

Corti is the founding artistic director of the Paramount Theatre in Aurora, and is set to direct *Ragtime* next season. Corti was hoping to see McNally again in April for a New York benefit reunion concert of *Ragtime*, which has since been postponed.

"It's like a punch to the gut," Corti said. "How confounding it is for someone to have to pass away to realize how much you miss them."

David Zak, artistic director of both *Pride Films and Plays* and the former *Bailiwick Repertory Theatre*, has great memories of watching McNally during the Chicago premiere of *Corpus Christi* at the *Bailiwick* in 2001. McNally had received death threats over the 1998 New York premiere of the play, which follows a group of gay men re-enacting Christ's spiritual journey.

"Obviously, no one was walking through metal detectors," said Zak comparing the fraught New York reception of *Corpus Christi* to the more-relaxed one in Chicago.

"After the first couple of lines, the audience just roared with laughter," Zak said. "There was a joke that got everyone's attention, and [McNally] just looked around so delighted as if I've never heard a laugh at this line of text."

Zak was also grateful to McNally for giving per-

mission to do readings of his plays during the early years of *Pride Films and Plays*. The company has gone on to present the Chicago premieres of McNally's drama *Some Men* and the revamped comedy *It's Only a Play*.

In 2015, *Eclipse Theatre Company* dedicated its entire season to McNally with his plays *Lips Together*, *Teeth Apart*, *A Perfect Ganesh* and *The Lisbon Traviata*. McNally himself caught the latter production, and director Steve Scott remembers his complimentary encounters with the cast and crew.

"[McNally] seemed to be very much at peace with himself," Scott said. "He was very calm. I didn't get a sense of the fiery young man that he had obviously been. He had matured into someone who was very proud of the work that he had done and was looking forward to more work."

Since Scott was also slated to direct the Chicago-area premiere of *Mothers and Sons* at *Northlight Theatre* in Skokie in early 2016, he took McNally's only bit of advice which was to look for humor in the play.

"[*Mothers and Sons*] dealt so elegantly with all the tragedies the gay community came through at that point," Scott said. "It's an incredibly healing play to work on, and I got that from a lot of the audience who saw it, many of whom were parents of gay sons who had similar issues to what was in the play."

Scott also offer praise to McNally over the way he was able to lace wit and ironic humor through all of his works—even the most tragic ones.

"I feel a huge sense of loss because of what he did for me personally—not just as a collaborator—but as a gay man and what he did for our community," said Scott about the breadth of McNally's writing and how he chronicled gay life and culture. "It's astounding, and we'll come to treasure that more in the days ahead."

## CAKE postponed until June 2021

Because of coronavirus-related concerns, Chicago Alternative Comics Expo (CAKE) and CAKE-related activities are being postponed until a proposed date of June 2021.

In a statement, organizers said, "Though the quality of the predictive information about the pandemic spread is lower than we would like, we do not want to pressure our many out-of-town exhibitors and guests to make an unsafe decision."

Organizers are also postponing the CAKE Art Auction fundraiser until later in 2020.

This year's CAKE expo was slated to take place at *Broadway Armory*, 5917 N. Broadway. In citing its change from the event's usual spot at *Center on Halsted*, 3656 N. Halsted St., CAKE organizers said that the Armory provided more space but also cited security the Center once hired, adding that the security chief had a documented history with racist violence.



Nicole Hollander at CAKE 2018.  
Photo by Vern Hester

## CMSA events shut down through May 9

Because of COVID-19-related concerns, The Chicago Metropolitan Sports Association (CMSA) is expanding its suspending all game play, team practices and social events through at least May 9, *GoPride.com* noted.

"We are following the CDC guidance asking for no large events of more than 50 people for 8 weeks," said CMSA president Matt Herek. "CMSA will follow guidance from all appropriate authorities. It's hard not knowing for sure, but we have a social responsibility to follow every guideline given to us."

CMSA President Matt Herek told *Windy City Times*, "We continue to monitor developments to determine if a longer suspension will be necessary. The safety of our community is something we take very seriously. In addition, we have started a hardship fund so that once we resume play those athletes affected financially by the current crisis will be able to stay engaged with their sports." See *ChicagoMSA.org* or email [mherek@chicagomsa.org](mailto:mherek@chicagomsa.org) for more information about the fund.

The *GoPride* item is at <http://chicago.gopride.com/news/article.cfm/articleid/108937489>.

—Andrew Davis

## MOVIES

## Astrid Ovalles hits the 'Road'



Astrid Ovalles in *Road of Bygones*.  
Photos courtesy of Recluse Films

BY SARAH TOCE

Venezuelan-born actress/writer/director Astrid Ovalles is the secret ingredient in the upcoming kinky dramedy *Road of Bygones*.

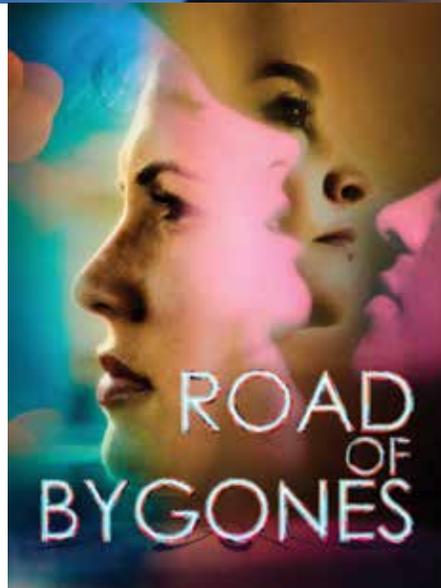
The coming-of-age story centers around three women who embark on a road trip to retrieve the ashes of a figure from the past. Hoping to find closure at their destination, the women are confronted with a series of self-destructive and hilarious events that threaten to destroy all harmony that was left between them.

In the feature-length film, Bobbi and Samantha are estranged sisters who seek to reconnect after hearing of the loss of their mother. Ally, a talented and peculiar character, is Bobbi's romantic partner. In an effort to find closure upon learning about their mother's sudden death, the three embark on a road trip that takes their relationship for a spin. At a time when everyone seems to be seeking out the "new normal," Ovalles is flipping the concept entirely on its head.

Identifying as a lesbian and Latina, Ovalles is the driving force behind Recluse Films, her own independent film company.

"Everything I do regarding film is for the LGBTQ community and for women and minorities," Ovalles said. "I feel like it's needed. I feel like oftentimes our stories are told by men, straight people, people, basically, who aren't us."

In the vein of keeping things realistic on-screen, Ovalles brought a private part of her life



to the forefront—domination and submission (DS). She and her wife have been together for six years.

"We're both lesbians," she said. "We are DS, so I'm a dominant and she's a submissive. We're not extreme. We're just ... I guess, in the more mellow side of it."

Being open about their relationship has not always been easy given the negative feedback from her critics.

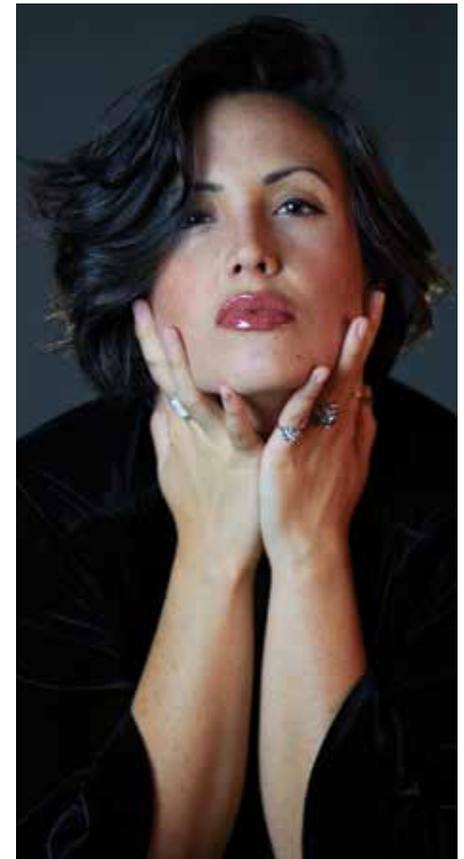
"What inspired me to make [the main characters] DS was the fact that I had received a lot of negativity from the LGBTQ community towards my wife and I being DS," she shared. "We got all kinds of comments saying that we were kinky and sick and we must have been abused."

Ovalles hoped to dispel that myth with *Road of Bygones*, which she says is a "road trip dark comedy."

"I've never been abused," she said. "I come from a very loving, understanding, happy family, and I'm a very loved person, very lucky to be that way. Same thing with my wife. I think submissives get the worst of it because they're thought to be damaged. Dominants get a reputation of being abusive and submissives get a reputation of being unable to make decisions for themselves. ... I think people generally want to protect women from abuse and that's fair. But it's gotten to the point where we're now telling women what to do and we're not trusting that women can make decisions for themselves."

"If a woman is a masochist and she knows her boundaries and her limits and she knows how to exert her power, then she knows when to say 'no' and when to use her safe word. Why do we assume that she's sick and that she's ill?"

*Road of Bygones* is available via Vimeo on Demand and will be available shortly via Amazon Prime. The film also stars Sarah J. Lucey and Oriana Oppice.



Emily L. Quint Freeman.  
Photo by Carlos Zarate



## BOOKS

## Legendary Chicago 'lesbian of conscience' tells her story

BY FRANK PIZZOLI

In Emily L. Quint Freeman's no-holds-barred 262-page memoir, *Failure to Appear: Resistance, Identity and Loss*, she provides a gripping true-life story of a lesbian of conscience who became a fugitive, on the run for over nineteen years using several aliases. Through the lens of nonstop activism, Freeman describes finding her true self and her sexual truth during the turbulent late 1960s through the late '80s.

In a big-picture way, Freeman's story takes place against a backdrop of the Vietnam War, the Nixon and Reagan years, the Women's and Gay Liberation movements, and the AIDS crisis. In a more personal way, she delves into family rejection, the price of ideals, lost love, the agony of an underground existence, and personal renewal.

One May night in 1969, Freeman and 17 others hauled approximately 40,000 records of draft-eligible men from the draft board office on the

South Side of Chicago. They burned them as an act of non-violent civil disobedience against the Vietnam War and racism. The group waited at the scene, singing "We Shall Overcome," and were arrested. She takes readers on her journey, living underground for many long years, before finally voluntarily surrendering.

**Windy City Times: When did the political bug bite?**

Emily L. Quint Freeman: I first got into politics in high school. By the time I reached the [University of California]-Berkeley campus, the 1964 Free Speech Movement was already underway. I went full swing into anti-Vietnam War protests and the civil rights movement. I never looked back.

**WCT: How did your values form?**

EF: I always felt like an outsider even as a child. I think that helped me develop a sense of empathy for other people.

**WCT: And other people helped, too?**

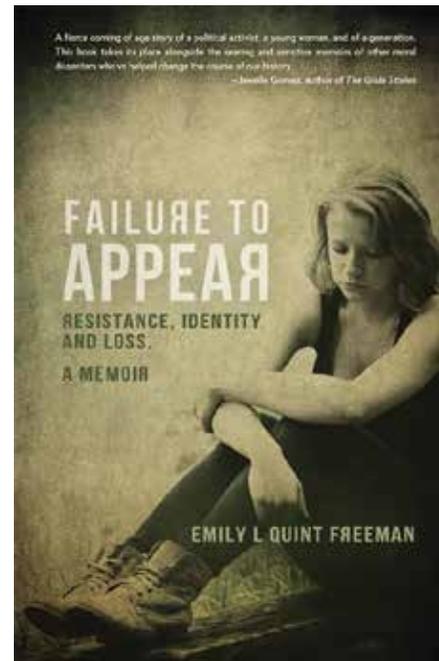
EF: My involvement in Chicago with a Puerto Rican welfare rights organization and the American Friends Service Committee, the social action arm of the Quakers, as a draft counselor helped to shape me, too.

**WCT: In 1969, you and 17 others hauled about 40,000 records of draft-eligible men from the complex of draft board offices on Chicago's South Side. Any regrets?**

EF: It was an act of conscience and remains so. My hope is that this act, prior to the emergence of computers, spared 40,000+ poor and minority men from fighting and dying in Vietnam.

**WCT: This action led to 19 years underground with the help of a radical group. It's your defining moment.**

EF: I separated myself from that group very quickly, as I do not believe or support violence for social change, however laudable. I spent my years underground on my own.



**WCT: Tell readers what it was like to be on the run for all those years.**

EF: I described it best to the probation officer who asked me what regrets I had for fleeing: "I regret fleeing to an invisible prison. I regret living a false, aloof life. I regret lying to those I care about the most. No matter what happens next, my life is stamped by these years as a fugitive." However, I never disavowed the draft action or walked back my belief in social justice and peace.

**WCT: Did the fact that you are a lesbian affect your social-justice work in the '60s? Were you "out"?**

EF: The social justice and peace movement of the '60s was blatantly straight. So-called "free love" was heterosexual. Activists like me were generally in the closet. Even James Baldwin fled to France to be himself.

**WCT: And this affected you?**

EF: After an incredible but tragic first love in college, I wasn't active as a lesbian until much later—in the early 1970s, after Stonewall. I came to an understanding that my sexual truth

required honesty and acceptance, first from me.

**WCT: When did you emerge from hiding?**

EF: In 1989, I engaged a very sympathetic therapist who sensed the turmoil going on inside me. I confessed who I really was to her and realized that I had been living in an invisible prison and my life as an alias, lying to those closest to me, was acceptable no longer.

**WCT: What was it like being a lesbian during the early women's movement?**

EF: Amazing! Daring, creative, a new movement of lesbian-feminist separatism expressed in music, poetry, theatre, prose, social scene, an ideological vanguard distinct from the mainstream National Organization of Women. Still quite relevant today...

**WCT: What was it like being a lesbian during the early gay-liberation movement?**

EF: Bars with no windows; fear of being rousted by the local police or outed; a double life outside of work; a sexual outlaw with a unique jargon, nightlife and culture. My eventual emergence from the shadows was both exhilarating and dangerous.

**WCT: What was it like being a lesbian during the AIDS crisis?**

EF: I had a number of close male friends who died during the AIDS crisis. The book describes those relationships and what many lesbians like myself did to support their gay brothers. At first, it was a disease with no name, a plague with no name, a cruel joke that happened right at the time we could be freer with our sexual life. So, we were sisters, we were friends. Who could forget that the Reagan government responded so slowly and inadequately to the AIDS crisis?

**WCT: You've said, "In a mad country, it's sane to be insane."**

EF: At the height of the carnage in Vietnam, violence and murder of protestors and civil rights leaders in America, it was really our government who was insane. At our trial, we attempted to make that point by pleading insanity so that our motives for striking at the death-dealing system of the draft could be made in court. It still rings true today: same shit, different century.

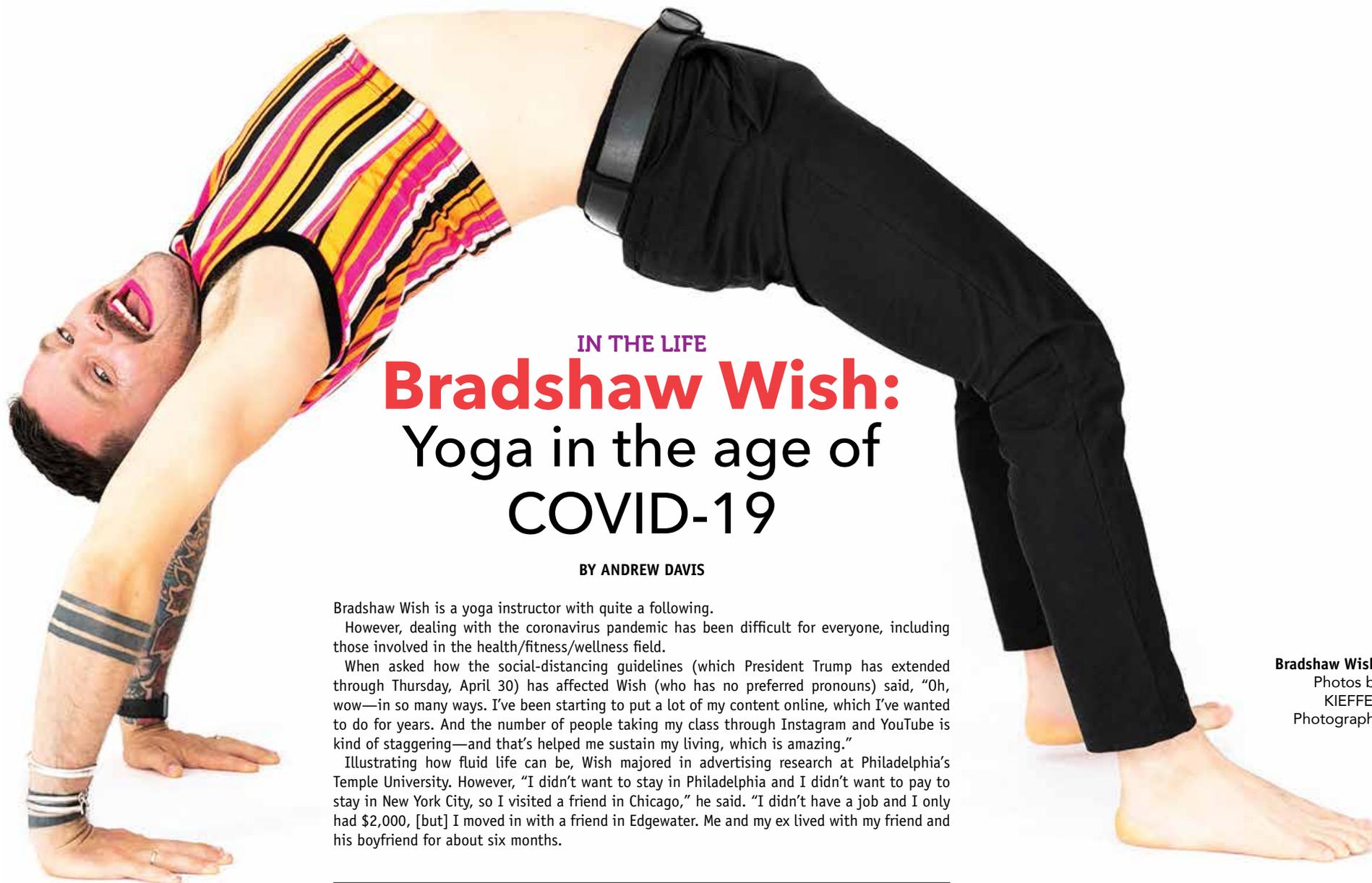
THE GENESSEE DON'T MISS THIS SHOW!  
THE SPOTLIGHT IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK

COUNTLESS AND FRIENDS  
*Cabaret*

Join "The Real Housewives of New York City"  
Star Luann de Lesseps for  
Her Record-Breaking Cabaret Act

SATURDAY, JUNE 6 8:00 PM

THE GENESSEE THEATRE  
203 NORTH GENESSEE STREET, WAUKEGAN, IL  
GENESEETHEATRE.COM  
TICKETMASTER: 800-982-2787



IN THE LIFE

## Bradshaw Wish: Yoga in the age of COVID-19

BY ANDREW DAVIS

Bradshaw Wish is a yoga instructor with quite a following.

However, dealing with the coronavirus pandemic has been difficult for everyone, including those involved in the health/fitness/wellness field.

When asked how the social-distancing guidelines (which President Trump has extended through Thursday, April 30) has affected Wish (who has no preferred pronouns) said, "Oh, wow—in so many ways. I've been starting to put a lot of my content online, which I've wanted to do for years. And the number of people taking my class through Instagram and YouTube is kind of staggering—and that's helped me sustain my living, which is amazing."

Illustrating how fluid life can be, Wish majored in advertising research at Philadelphia's Temple University. However, "I didn't want to stay in Philadelphia and I didn't want to pay to stay in New York City, so I visited a friend in Chicago," he said. "I didn't have a job and I only had \$2,000, [but] I moved in with a friend in Edgewater. Me and my ex lived with my friend and his boyfriend for about six months."

**Bradshaw Wish.**  
Photos by  
KIEFFER  
Photography

"Then we got our own place and I worked in Boystown, at Halsted's Bar & Grill." Cut to a year and a half later, and Wish got a job working at the Apple store in Lincoln Park—but found the experience frustrating.

However, Wish's ex-partner soon introduced him to yoga—and Wish no longer found himself rudderless. Wish had never tried yoga, but told Windy City Times he had a background in collegiate gymnastics and cheerleading. About nine months later, he became a certified instructor.

Wish said the allure of yoga, for him, involved two things: the physicality of the discipline and the opportunity to perform in front of groups. "The work at Apple or the serving was not what I wanted to do, and I saw a lot of opportunity for growth here," said Wish, who is self-employed but also teaches vinyasa yoga for Chicago Athletic Clubs and Bare Feet Power Yoga (the latter which Wish said launched his business). "I can be myself, and teach health and wellness."

And practitioners and teachers are, of course, aware of "trendier" forms such as hot, nude and even goat yoga. Wish said, "I think they work. Yoga is very expansive and comes in many different forms." Adding that there is no one path, he added, "It's not my job to say if it's good or bad. I just stick with that works for me."

Regarding misconceptions about yoga, Wish said, "I think there

is a misconception that the only people practicing yoga are white females between the ages of 18 and 35. There are more people practicing yoga in the world today than ever, so we have to remember that there are different demographics, sexualities, races, colors that are enjoying this practice.

"When people ask me what I want to see more of in the yoga room, I say I want it to look like the streets of Chicago. I want the yoga room to have color, diversity and vibrancy—including older people and people with different body types."

Wish also said that there is a notion of "toxic positivity" that's sometimes attached to yoga. "I want people to know that the message should be that we have to ebb and flow, be there for each other, be happy that we can practice yoga in our homes, and be kind and compassionate toward each other."

"We need to find a space between the college students who partied on St. Patrick's Day and the people talking about doomsday. Yoga is about symmetry and balance, and about connection."

And going back to the online classes (which have an increasing number of devotees), Wish said that he's dealing with an unexpected side effect: "I actually got nervous with a recent class. There were 140 people taking it!"

See BradshawWish.com as well as @bradshawwishyoga (on Instagram) and Facebook.

### Quick facts about **Bradshaw Wish:**

—**Current neighborhood:**  
Buena Park

—**Relationship:** In a partnership

—**Favorite snack:** Plantain chips

—**Source of first name:** Maternal grandmother's maiden name

—**Show that you're binge-watching:** Hunters

—**Personal mantra:** "Your vessel is beautiful."



# Chicago DJ taps online music energy

BY MATT SIMONETTE

As the coronavirus pandemic unfolds, numerous creative professionals have kept their audiences engaged, and kept themselves working, by taking their work online.

Marc Moder—a local DJ who works under the name Moose the DJ and is an occasional Windy City Times contributor—is one such professional in Chicago. His DJ bookings for the near future all fell through, and he faced difficulties with his day job in sales as well when the outbreak occurred.

"I had to feel like I was putting my creativity out

there," said Moder, who lives on the North Side.

He formulated an online dance party, which he launched via Facebook Live March 20.

Moder said his set-up was fairly ad hoc—he was broadcasting the dance party via his iPhone—and that he posted his Venmo and other online information for tips. When he first came online, there were already about 15 or 20 people waiting. Moder had hoped he might reach a few hundred views over the course of the night.

Five thousand viewers joined the party that first evening, to Moder's delight. The response was such that he scheduled another dance party for the following Friday.

But Moder also endured a technical snafu: Facebook mysteriously banned his professional page from streaming anything for a month. No explanation or means of appeal was offered, but he thinks

**Turn to page 21**



Marc "Moose the DJ" Moder.  
Photos from Moder's Facebook page



"Spend more time on your knees than on the internet."—**Mike Pence** shares his advice at a Christian school. I'm not sure what one has to do with the other—except for gay sex. In which case, he's preaching to the choir.

Now let's get back to me. I'm alive, but confined to my bed—and in a sling (which is not nearly as much fun as you'd think). But even in my compromised state, I am still entertaining the masses ... albeit rockin' one arm. While most print publications are taking a break, new columns will appear every week on BillyMasters.com. I'll even be posting more on Facebook.com/Filth2Go. We're planning some live events with friends, tentatively beginning on Tuesday at 3 p.m. ET. I was inspired by pals **Seth Rudetsky** and **James Wesley**, who are doing great things online every day for the Actors Fund. They're at 2 p.m., I'm at 3 p.m.—no conflict there. And what a great lead-in.

The coronavirus has a face (or two)—**Tom Hanks** and **Rita Wilson**. On one hand, Rita Wilson FINALLY has a credit to her name. Still, it must irk her to no end that many reports simply say "Tom Hanks and his wife." Rita has striven to not simply be "wife." She's acted, sung and even produced. Yet whatever she does, her most notable credit is "wife." The couple's position as the face(s) of COVID-19 was short-lived once **Idris Elba** came forward. And then, **Daniel Dae Kim**. If all of these people perish, they'd likely be remembered during the Oscars' "In Memoriam" as "Actor" ... except for Wilson. If she even makes the cut, I suspect she'll simply be referred to as "Wife."



**N.Y. Gov. Andrew Cuomo** has been getting praise for his leadership during the COVID-19 outbreak, **Billy** says.

Official head shot of Cuomo

I'm convinced Donald Trump purposely gives his daily briefings right in the middle of *The View*. That's no accident! Thank God for West Coast feeds (and ABC.com). While many TV shows have gone on hiatus, *The View* continues to be live—sans audience. Also sans **Joy Behar**. The elder stateswoman of *The View*, being of a certain age, is taking time off and sequestering herself in her Hamptons abode. **Whoopi** is moderating from home. The bright side is the welcomed return of **Sara Haines**. Since she's already at ABC for her own show an hour later, she's the perfect fill-in. In fact, everything about her is perfect. She is perhaps the most ideal "View" co-host since Mer-

edith Vieira—a bright ray of articulate sunshine and smarts to start my day. It doesn't hurt that she has a hot gay brother. Yes, Joe, I'm talking to you. Since we're both just sitting home, drop me an email, message me on Facebook and let's see where this goes. According to *The Sun*, it could boost both of our immune systems!

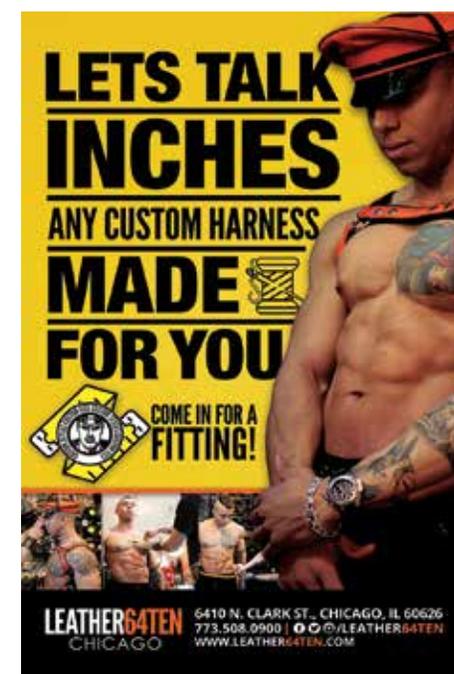
I love that **New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo** is having prisoners make hand sanitizer. "NYS Clean" is said to have a "floral bouquet" and costs only \$6/gallon to make. They are currently making 100K gallons a week, and are scaling up production. Next stop for Cuomo—*Shark Tank*! We heard he enlisted the aid of designer **Christian Siriano** to make surgical masks for medical workers. Sure, they're more expensive, but they go with everything. Drag queens are also making some. This is smart outside-the-box thinking. Many are looking to Cuomo for guidance and comfort. Some are even suggesting he could jump into the presidential race. At least he's under 70!

Not all local government officials are created equally. Take **Andrew Gillum**. Just before the pandemic hit the United States, Gillum (a Democrat who almost became Florida's first Black governor) was caught in a South Beach hotel room with another guy. Making matters worse, the other guy was allegedly ODing on crystal meth. At some point, a third man arrived, found Gillum vomiting in the bathroom, and his companion unresponsive in bed. He called 911 and began chest compressions (presumably on the unresponsive guy). When the cops and paramedics arrived, they found a room riddled with baggies of drugs, empty bottles of (ironically enough) Corona beer, various prescription meds and soiled linens. I know ... icky! They also found an injectable medication for erectile dysfunction—'cause, you know, when you're drunk and high, sometimes you simply cannot perform. When the officers tried to question Gillum, he was unable to provide coherent details—for obvious reasons. And yet, inexplicably, they didn't take him into custody. He checked out of the hotel and returned to his home.

What makes this all worse is that 1) Gillum is married to a woman and has three kids and b) the companion who was ODing was male escort Travis Dyson. Actually, his "working" name is Brodie

Scott—which doesn't sound nearly as porny as Travis Dyson. Anyway, he's mighty hot and mighty hung—and you can see for yourself in the many photos and videos posted on BillyMasters.com. I'm not completely sure, but I think the third guy who stumbled into the hotel room and called 911 was Travis' fiancé. Hmmm .... more to come, I'm sure.

When we're all in bed together, it's time for me to end yet another column. Before closing, I must acknowledge the passing of **Kathy Griffin's mom, Maggie**. In person, she was everything you'd want...and more. She was a helluva gal, and we're tipping it in her memory. If you don't have a box of wine handy, you can simply head on over to BillyMasters.com—the site that'll keep you amused (and healthy) through this crisis. If you to have a question, send a note to Billy@BillyMasters.com, and I promise to get back to you before we get to the bottom of Andrew Gillum. So, until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.



@windycitytimes



/windycitymediagroup



@windycitytimes

www.windycitymediagroup.com

# the DISH

Dining Guide in  
WINDY CITY TIMES

## SAVOR Mason House

BY ANDREW DAVIS

[Note: With the COVID-19 outbreak, Illinois restaurants and bars have been ordered closed through at least Tuesday, April 7. However, this restaurant has its menu items for take-out or delivery through that date.]

**Mason House** (613 N. Wells St.; [MasonHouseRestaurant.com/Chicago](http://MasonHouseRestaurant.com/Chicago)) is what I call a “deceptive” place. Its almost plain exterior



**Lamb meatballs at Mason House.**

Galdones Photography

(even though it's on the first floor of the FOUND Hotel) masks a cool interior—and some tempting dishes.

This spot was known simply as Mason about

two years ago, but recently underwent an extensive change, now offering what the manager called “polished casual” contemporary American cuisine.

And polished, it is. Start with the tangy lamb meatballs—so tender they practically fall apart with the mere touch of a fork. Take in the nacho tots as well; they're cooked well, and come with pulled pork, cheese sauce and jalapenos. (Other appetizer choices include tuna tartare, pulled-pork sliders, and sausage-and-rapini flatbread.) The salads were also good, especially the warm spinach version (which I got with salmon).

Entrees impressed me, for the most part. I was most taken with the mushroom campanile—a delightful pasta dish that comes with black-truffle cream sauce. The shortrib ravioli was flavorful—perhaps a little too much so.

Also, I urge you to try the drinks at this establishment. I really enjoyed my Mixed Fruit Bramble—which is a lot more sinful than it sounds. The pasta was cooked well and I liked the addition of horseradish cream, but there

was just a tad too much red-wine jus; a little of that can go a long way, and too much of it can lead to a bitter aftertaste. Other options include Faroe Island salmon and beef Wellington (which is purported to be the spot's signature item—and which takes almost a half-hour to prepare, so take note).

And please don't skip dessert. The Nutella creme brulee is simply sublime, as was the white-chocolate cheesecake. (At the time we dined in the restaurant, there were also caramel espresso chocolate cake and cherry crumble.)

By the way, once the restaurant ban is lifted, you might want to also patronize Blind Dragon—an Asian-themed karaoke bar that's next door—for a different type of fun. But if you want to just stick with Mason House, that's a fine way to go as well.

Mason House items are available on GrubHub and Seamless.

**Note: Profiles/events are based on invitations arranged from restaurants and/or firms.**



## Fundraisers online for workers sidelined by Chicago bar closings



In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor JB Pritzker has ordered the closing of all bars and restaurants for dine-in business through April 7, 2020. This is a necessary action to stem to transmission of the virus, but it has sidelined servers, bartenders, DJs, drag queens, and many others who earn their livings in Chicago's LGBTQ nightlife scene.

Many online fundraising attempts have been arranged to help support the bars' staffs. Below is a list of links to online fundraisers for many of the local bars and parties. Windy City Times encourages you to show your support in this time of hardship. Check this list on our website, as new fundraisers may be added.

**Help Support The Glenwood Bartenders Fundraiser**  
[www.facebook.com/donate/515529829393212/](http://www.facebook.com/donate/515529829393212/)

**Virtual Tip Jar for Scarlet Bar**  
[www.gofundme.com/f/virtual-tip-jar-for-scarlet-bar](http://www.gofundme.com/f/virtual-tip-jar-for-scarlet-bar)

**Bobby Loves Staff Virtual Tip Jar**  
[www.gofundme.com/f/bobby-loves-staff-relief-fund](http://www.gofundme.com/f/bobby-loves-staff-relief-fund)

**Hydrate Nightclub and Elixir Lounge Tip Jar**  
[www.gofundme.com/f/hydrate-nightclub-and-elixir-lounge-tip-jar](http://www.gofundme.com/f/hydrate-nightclub-and-elixir-lounge-tip-jar)

**Relief Fund for Berlin Employees**  
[www.gofundme.com/f/virtual-tip-jar-for-berlin-employees](http://www.gofundme.com/f/virtual-tip-jar-for-berlin-employees)

**2Bears Tavern Group (Jackhammer/The Sofo Tap/Meeting House Tavern) Staff Assistance Fund**  
[www.gofundme.com/f/2bears-tavern-group-staff-assistance-fund](http://www.gofundme.com/f/2bears-tavern-group-staff-assistance-fund)

**The North End Team (Family)**  
[www.gofundme.com/f/the-north-end-team-family](http://www.gofundme.com/f/the-north-end-team-family)

**ProgressBar Staff Relief Fund**  
[www.gofundme.com/f/progressbar-staff-relief-fund](http://www.gofundme.com/f/progressbar-staff-relief-fund)

**Support the team that serves you at Touche**  
[www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-team-that-serves-you-at-touche](http://www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-team-that-serves-you-at-touche)

**Lucky Horseshoe Lounge Staff Relief Fund**  
[www.gofundme.com/f/fdp5r8-lucky-horseshoe-lounge-staff-relief-fund](http://www.gofundme.com/f/fdp5r8-lucky-horseshoe-lounge-staff-relief-fund)

**The Call Bar-Home Bar of Andersonville**  
[www.gofundme.com/f/the-call-bar](http://www.gofundme.com/f/the-call-bar)

**D.S. Tequila Staff Relief Fund**  
[dstequila.com/donate/](http://dstequila.com/donate/)

**Drew's on Halsted Employees**  
[www.gofundme.com/f/drews-on-halsted](http://www.gofundme.com/f/drews-on-halsted)

**The Closet's Virtual Tip Jar**  
[www.gofundme.com/f/the-closets-virtual-tip-jar](http://www.gofundme.com/f/the-closets-virtual-tip-jar)

**Assistance for Cell Block Chicago**  
[www.gofundme.com/f/assistance-for-cell-block-chicago](http://www.gofundme.com/f/assistance-for-cell-block-chicago)

**Hamburger Mary's Staff Support Fund**  
[www.gofundme.com/f/hamburger-mary039s-staff-support-fund](http://www.gofundme.com/f/hamburger-mary039s-staff-support-fund)

**The Baton Show Lounge Staff Tip Jar**  
[www.gofundme.com/f/the-baton-show-lounge](http://www.gofundme.com/f/the-baton-show-lounge)

**Support the Replay & Elixir Andersonville Staff**  
[www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-replay-andersonville](http://www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-replay-andersonville)

**Fantasy Night Club Employee Relief Fund**  
[www.gofundme.com/f/1xrme2uny0](http://www.gofundme.com/f/1xrme2uny0)

**Shaker's on Clark Staff Virtual Tip Jar**  
[www.gofundme.com/f/shakers-on-clark-staff-fund](http://www.gofundme.com/f/shakers-on-clark-staff-fund)

**Second Story Bar relief fund**  
[www.gofundme.com/f/second-story-bar-relief-fund](http://www.gofundme.com/f/second-story-bar-relief-fund)

**Kit Kat Lounge Staff Relief Fund**  
[www.gofundme.com/f/kit-kat-lounge-staff-relief-fund](http://www.gofundme.com/f/kit-kat-lounge-staff-relief-fund)

**Queen Quarantine Fund**  
[www.gofundme.com/f/queen039s-quarantine-fund](http://www.gofundme.com/f/queen039s-quarantine-fund)

**Staff at Rogers Park Social**  
[www.gofundme.com/f/8rf8kt-serving-the-servers](http://www.gofundme.com/f/8rf8kt-serving-the-servers)

In addition, **Roscoe's** is selling eGift cards with all proceeds going to the staff. You can apply the promotion code STAFF at this link to purchase a card. These cards have no expiration date and can be used for drinks, coat check, ticketed events and meet-and-greets.

[squareup.com/gift/WRF0Y8WRYA9JZ/order](https://squareup.com/gift/WRF0Y8WRYA9JZ/order)



**Marc "Moose the DJ" Moder.**

Photo by Matt Simonette

## MOOSE from page 19

he may not have sufficiently remixed one of the songs for that first broadcast. He organized the second dance party March 27 using the Twitch platform.

He's not sure how frequently he'll do the broadcasts in the weeks ahead, but Moder plans another broadcast April 4 to coincide with the DILF party he was scheduled to DJ at The Sofo Tap before the outbreak hit.

"You don't want to overexpose it and have people get sick of it," Moder said, adding that he knows he won't make much money from doing this. But he loves seeing people join him and engage with the songs he is spinning.

"It makes you feel like things are possible again," he added.

Follow Moder on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/moosethedjPRO/](http://www.facebook.com/moosethedjPRO/).

## CLASSIFIEDS

### ADVERTISE HERE

**ADVERTISE HERE** Want to advertise your product, service, etc. to thousands of readers? Place an ad in the Windy City Times! We offer affordable rates, convenient service, and as a bonus, your ad runs in our online section for free. To place an ad, contact Terri at 773-871-7610 ex 101, [terri@windycitymediagroup.com](mailto:terri@windycitymediagroup.com), or go to our website <http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/placeclassified.php>.

### CLEANING SERVICES

**CHESTNUT ORGANIZING AND CLEANING SERVICES:** especially for people who need an organizing service because of depression, elderly, physical or mental challenges or other causes for your home's clutter, disorganization, dysfunction, etc. We can organize for the downsizing of your current possessions to more easily move into a smaller home. With your help, we can help to organize your move. We can organize and clean for the deceased in lieu of having the bereaved needing to do the preparation to sell or rent the deceased's home. We are absolutely not judgmental; we've seen and done "worse" than your job assignment. With your help, can we please help you? **Chestnut Cleaning Service: 312-332-5575. www.ChestnutCleaning.com (11/11/20-26)**

### COUNSELING & PSYCHOTHERAPY

#### ARE YOU GOING THROUGH A DIFFICULT TIME?

Feeling overwhelmed, anxious or depressed? Is your relationship struggling? I can help you better understand these situations and create solutions for them. My practical approach entails a therapeutic alliance that is affirming, empathic, and interactive. **Michael J. Bland, Psy.D., LCPC. Northside location. 773-404-8161. Michael@BlandTherapy.com / www.BlandTherapy.com (5/13/20-52)**

### HOME IMPROVEMENT & PAINTING

**DECK MAINTENANCE AND STAINING.** We Make Holes in Drywall Go Away. We also do Remodeling, Bathrooms, Carpentry, Tile Backsplashes, Painting. "A+" with BBB. Licensed-Bonded-Insured, One-year Warranty **Free Estimates! Andy OnCall 847-328-3100 www.andyonthecallchicago.com (7/26/20-26)**

**WALLPAPER AND PAINTING BY DAVID.** Northside locations. **773-969-0766 (3/4/20-4)**

### INSURANCE

Same-sex couples deserve the same treatment as everyone else

**Equality is my policy.**  
I'll treat you and your partner with respect and without judgment. I can help you save on car, homeowners, renters, life insurance, even retirement products. Call me today to get all the discounts you deserve.

**CHAR SCHOENBACH**  
773-525-3030  
3322 N HALSTED ST.  
CHICAGO, IL 60657  
[cschoenbach@allstate.com](mailto:cschoenbach@allstate.com)

**Allstate**  
You're in good hands.  
Auto Home Life Retirement

Discounts subject to terms, conditions and availability. Allstate Fire and Casualty Insurance Co., Northbrook, IL. © 2009 Allstate Insurance Co. 20110

## REAL ESTATE

### MOVING TO PALM SPRINGS?

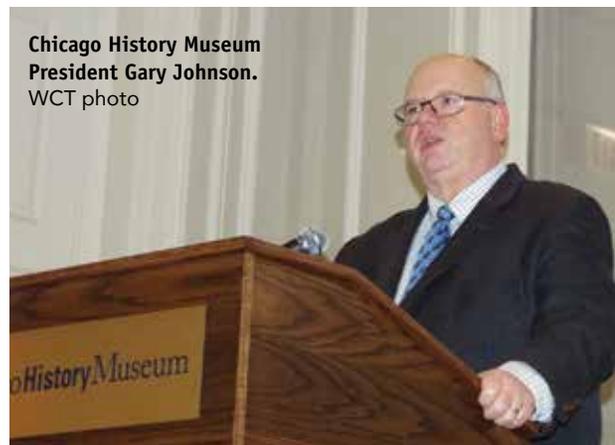


**JOSEPH RATLIFF**  
Realtor • DRE# 02071513

**773.531.0765**  
**RAMSEY REALTY**



**CATHEDRAL CITY**



**Chicago History Museum President Gary Johnson.**  
WCT photo

## Chicago History Museum searching for new president

The Chicago History Museum announced that its president, Gary T. Johnson, is planning to retire.

Johnson has led Chicago's oldest cultural institution, which was founded in 1856, since 2005. A national search is being commenced for his successor.

"Gary wants to retire in a manner that provides a seamless transition for the Chicago History Museum, and he has agreed to stay

until his successor is on board," said Walter Carlson, chair of the museum's Board of Trustees, in a statement. "The next president will be a person who can build on Gary's commitment to the community and to the idea that a museum must continually reinvent itself."

Johnson took the lead at the museum after a 28-year legal career. At the time, he was a partner in the global firm Jones Day, and previously at Mayer Brown. At the museum, he succeeded Lonnie Bunch, who moved to the Smithsonian Institution to develop and lead the then-unopened Museum of African-American History and Culture, which opened in 2016.

## Tony Awards to be postponed; no new date set

The 74th Annual Tony Awards—scheduled to air live on CBS on Sunday, June 7 from New York's Radio City Music Hall—has been postponed because of the COVID-19 outbreak.

The ceremony will be rescheduled at a later date that has not been specified.

Presenters the Broadway League, the American Theater Wing and CBS will coordinate for the new date once the ongoing shutdown has been lifted, Deadline noted. CBS has aired the ceremony for 42 consecutive years.

The decision was expected since Broadway shut down for a month on March 12 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

## New Order, Pet Shop Boys in Chicago in Sept.

New Order and Pet Shop Boys confirmed a co-headlining tour of North America.

The two British electronic bands announced that The Unity Tour will kick off Saturday, Sept. 5, in Toronto and will stop in select venues—including Chicago's Huntington Bank Pavilion, at North-erly Island, on Friday, Sept. 18.

Both bands will play a full set, with the headliner alternating each night.

Rising from the ashes of Joy Division, New Order combined their original post-punk sound with influences from New York's club scene in the '80s. In 2015, the band released the album Music Complete, reaching number two on the UK album chart.

Pet Shop Boys recently released their 14th studio LP, Hotspot, via x2 Records/Kobalt. Pet Shop Boys—Neil Tennant and Chris Lowe—are the most successful pop music duo in UK history and have sold more than 50 million records worldwide since they emerged in the United Kingdom in 1985 with their worldwide number one single, "West End Girls."

Tickets are on sale at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com).

# WINDY CITY TIMES COMMUNITY CALENDAR

[NOTE: Events may not occur because of compliance with guidelines connected with the COVID-19 outbreak. Please contact the venue if interested in a particular event to see if an event is still scheduled.]

## Wed., April 1

**Desperate Measures Virtual House Concerts** Abigail Riccards & Jeannie Tanner, hosted by Jeannie Tanner every Wednesday through April 15. CST. Find Desperate Measures Virtual House Concerts on Facebook 7:00pm Facebook Live Event Tickets: <https://venmo.com/Jeanne-Tanner>

## Saturday, April 4

**The Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame bowling fundraiser POSTPONED** This event has been postponed. Annual fundraising event-the Dick Uyvari Memorial Celebrity Bowl. Bowlers have been gathering pledges and all monies raised will be used to help support the work of the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame. Uyvari was a Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame member,



## I DREAM OF JEANNIE

Wed., April 1

Jeannie Tanner (above) is hosting the Desperate Measures virtual house concert.

Photo courtesy of Tanner

community activist, philanthropist. Registration 10 a.m. See "The Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame" on Facebook. 10:00am Waveland Bowl 3700 N Western Chicago <http://ChicagoLGBTHallOfFame.org>

## Friday, April 10

**Poisoned: A Snow White Rock Musical POSTPONED** Theatrical production by T. James Callahan, all original music, based on the classic story of "Snow White." Postponed. 7:30pm Stage 773 1225 W Belmont Chicago <http://stage773.com>

## Saturday, April 25

**Big Package Auction POSTPONED** Chicago Gay Men's Chorus. More information to come 7:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://cgmc.org>

## Sunday, May 3

**Gay Day at the Zoo** Gay Day at the Zoo takes place on International Family Equality Day. No planned program, just hangout at the zoo with friends and family, be visible, find community, and have fun. Find Gay Day at the Zoo on Facebook 12:00pm - 5:00pm Lincoln Park Zoo <http://www.lpzoo.org>

## Tuesday, May 5

**OUTspoken monthly storytelling event** Celebrating uniquely personal stories from across the LGBTQ community. OUT-

spoken is held on the first Tuesday of each month at Sidetrack. Doors to Main-Bar open at 6 p.m. 7:00pm Sidetrack 3349 N Halsted St Chicago <http://sidetrackchicago.com>

## Friday, May 8

**Queer Prom: Roman Holiday** Center on Halsted is proud to partner with American Airlines for the 2020 Queer Prom. The annual Queer Prom is an opportunity for LGBTQIA youth between the ages of 13 and 24 to celebrate all parts of their identities without feeling silenced or alone. 5:00pm - 8:00pm Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org/newevents-details.cfm?ID=17173>

## Saturday, May 9

**LGBTQ Family Playdates** Calling all LGBTQ families! Bring your children (1 - 8 years of age) for a fun, engaging Saturday morning play date. Meet, network, socialize, and enjoy time together in a safe, fun environment. Second Saturdays of the month. Questions to [jholliman@centeronhalsted.org](mailto:jholliman@centeronhalsted.org) 9:30am Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

## Sunday, May 17

**LGBTQ Country Dance** Fun evening of line dancing and two stepping to some great country music. Meet members of the

Second City Outlaws and The Illinois Gay Rodeo Association. Every third Sunday of the month. Free 4:00pm - 8:00pm The Call (Chicago) 1547 W Bryn Mawr Chicago <https://www.meetup.com/Chicago-LGBTQ-Country-Dancing/events/>

## Saturday, May 30

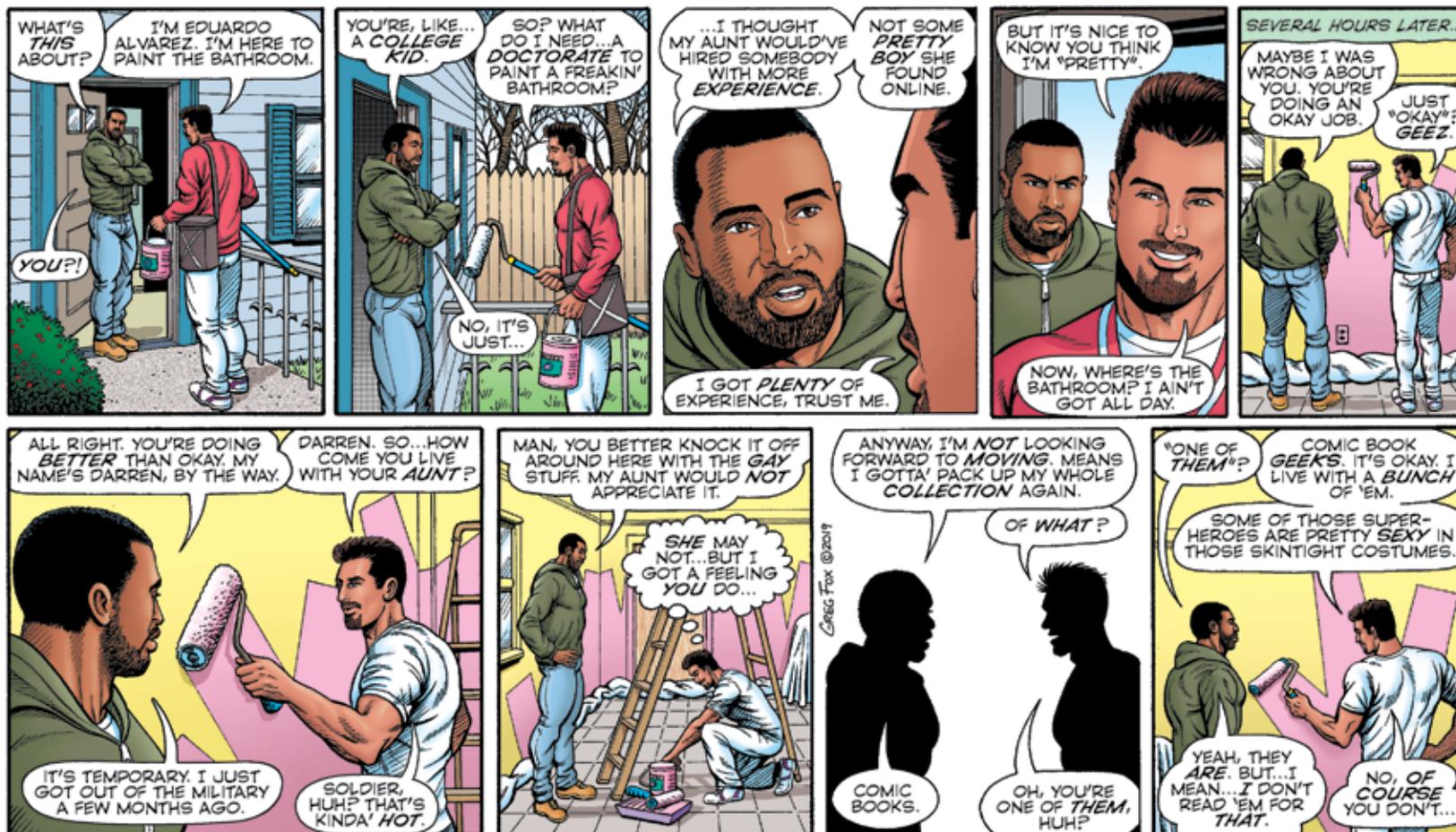
**Wonka Ball, About Face Theatre's annual benefit gala** Glamorous party kicking off Pride Month 2020 with a celebration of About Face Theatre's milestone 25th anniversary, honoring achievements and leadership of local organizations and individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Chicago's LGBTQ+ community. Food, cocktails, silent auctions, raffles, dance floor 7:00pm Venue West, 221 N. Paulina St (773) 784-8565 Tickets: <http://aboutface theatre.com>

## Friday, June 5

**Beaux Arts Ball** Benefiting the South Side Art everykid program. Black tie optional. \$175 6:00pm Center for Visual and Performing Arts, 1040 Ridge Rd., Muncaster, IN 219-836-1839 Tickets: <http://southshoreartsonline.org>

# KYLE'S BED & BREAKFAST

by Greg Fox



## Ray J. Koenig III and Clark Hill PLC



PROBATE  
TRUSTS  
GUARDIANSHIP  
ESTATE PLANNING  
ELDER LAW

312.985.5938 | rkoenig@clarkhill.com

Clark Hill is a multidisciplinary, national law firm that draws on our attorneys' industry and policy knowledge, our deeply held shared values, and a global network of premier firms and advisors to provide innovative legal solutions and client-service excellence worldwide.

CLARK HILL

clarkhill.com

## THE LYSTER FIRM ATTORNEYS

CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEYS  
Serving the LGBT Community for Over 30 Years

TOUGH, EXPERIENCED AND DEDICATED

312-855-0875 | 221 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL

LysterFirm@aol.com

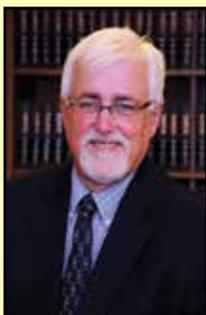
24/7 Emergency Phone: 847-309-7777

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

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



## The Law Office of Roger V. McCaffrey-Boss, P.C.



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

- Business Organization
- Wills, Trusts & Probate
- Real Estate Closings
- Premarital Agreements

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

## Ehrlich Dental General & Cosmetic Dentistry

- Licensed Sedation Dentistry
- Check Out Our Reviews Online



Joshua H. Ehrlich, DMD

3118 N. Sheffield Ave.  
Chicago, IL  
(773) 935-0300

www.EhrlichDental.com

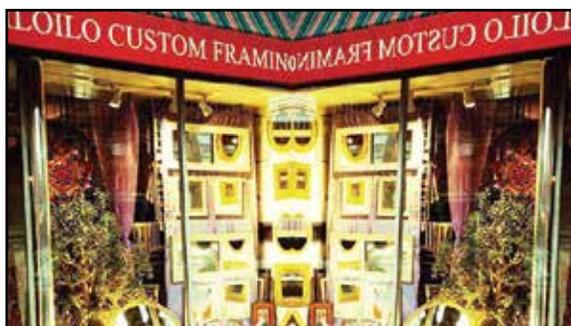


Serving Lakeview & Beyond!

# Mulryan & York

Attorneys At Law

4001 N. Wolcott  
Chicago, IL 60613  
(773) 248-8887



FRAMING CHICAGO'S ART SINCE 1991

**iloilo**  
CUSTOM FRAMING

1478 W. Berwyn, Andersonville



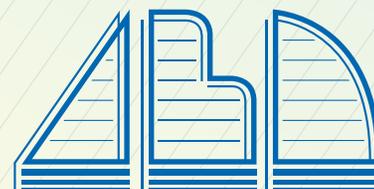
Hector Cerda  
773-782-6300



Allstate  
You're in good hands.

© 2018 Allstate Insurance Co.

258018



ACHILLE BENKO & DUVALL  
BUSINESS SERVICES and CPAs

SERVING: ARTISTS  
PROFESSIONALS  
BUSINESS OWNERS

www.abd-cpas.com • (847) 257-7330



# WE WORK FOR YOU. PLEASE STAY HOME FOR US.

Howard Brown Health will continue to care for our vibrant and resilient community. We strongly encourage everyone to limit non-essential travel outside of your home and to practice physical distancing.



For more information on what COVID-19 is and what you can do to protect yourself and your loved ones, please read our regularly updated FAQ at [howardbrown.org/covid19](https://howardbrown.org/covid19)

Call our COVID-19 information line for screening, information, and resources at **773.388.1600**



**773.388.1600**  
**howardbrown.org**

