

# WINDY CITY TIMES

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

VOL 35, NO. 15      APRIL 15, 2020

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

## LEVILYN CHRISS


Local DJ/media expert passes away.  
Photo by Uriah Berryhill



4

## CLOSED DOOR?


Open Door may fold over funds, firings.  
Photo by Carrie Maxwell



10

## CAT FANCY


WCT reviews 'Tiger King'.  
Photo courtesy of Netflix



18

# LET'S TALK ABOUT SEX

## AFC's Jim Pickett discusses hookups in the age of COVID-19




Jim Pickett.  
Photo courtesy of Pickett

PAGE 9

# DEATH OF AN ICON

## Phyllis Lyon dies at age 95



Phyllis Lyon and California state Sen. Mark Leno.  
Photo by Gerard Koskovich

PAGE 5



## 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.

Windy City Times is 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>

**THANK YOU!**

— *WINDY CITY TIMES*

## WINDY CITY TIMES

## INDEX

## DOWNLOAD THIS ISSUE

AND BROWSE THE ARCHIVES AT  
[www.WindyCityTimes.com](http://www.WindyCityTimes.com)



NEWS	
DJ, media expert Levilyn Chriss dies	4
Lesbian icon Phyllis Lyon dies	5
Passages: Amato, Popiel	8
AFC official talks hookups in the age of COVID-19	9
Open Door faces closure over funds, firings	10
No official word on Pride Parade	11
VIEWPOINTS Davis; letter	12
ENTERTAINMENT/EVENTS	
'Boys in the Band' actor Harris	13
Streaming theater review	14
Dancer discusses having COVID-19	15
Writer Jen Manion on 'Female Husbands'	16
Ravinia's Welz Kauffman on retiring, new season	17
REVIEW Netflix's ubiquitous 'Tiger King'	15
NIGHTSPOTS	19
Classifieds	21
Calendar	22

## UPCOMING 2020

## WINDY CITY TIMES PRINT DATES:

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
May 27, 2020	July 22, 2020	Sept. 16, 2020

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



## NIGHT MOVES

The Night Ministry recently held a webinar on COVID-19 and people experiencing homelessness.

Photo courtesy of The Night Ministry

## GIVE AND HAAKE



Windy City Times talked with lesbian attorney Sabrina Haake, who's running for Congress in Indiana.

Photo courtesy of Haake

## 'SENTENCE' STRUCTURE

WCT reviews the book An Indefinite Sentence: A Personal History of Outlawed Love and Sex.

## THAT'S SHOW BIZ

Find out the latest about Colton Haynes, Jay Maq, Reno 911! and Ezra Miller.

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.

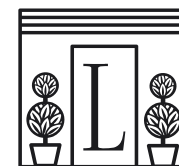
Although I don't pretend to have all the answers, I do know that in me you have a proven and trusted counselor who will help you evaluate your options with candor, insight into the marketplace, and an unwavering commitment to your well-being. It goes without saying that your focus should be to stay safe 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

• • •  
• • •  
• • •

• •  
• •



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.

# Local DJ, media expert and documentarian Levilyn Chriss dies

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Chicago DJ, award-winning documentarian and media specialist Levilyn Marie Chriss died April 1 due to complications from pneumonia. She was 60.

Chriss was born Nov. 3, 1959 in New Orleans, and was raised in New York before moving to Chicago in 1976. She received her associate's degree in media communication from Kennedy-King Community College, her BA in communications media arts and theater from Chicago State University, and an MFA in independent film and digital design from Governors State University.

At the time of her death, Chriss was a Chicago State University faculty member who taught media-production courses as well as founder/CEO of L. Chriss Productions. She previously worked at Governors State University and, while in school, worked at Chicago State University and Kennedy-King Community College.

In 2017, Chriss' documentary *The Louisiana Project* was released. It chronicled several Hurricane Katrina survivors and what their lives had been like in the past decade. She did the documentary in honor of her late father, Levi Simmons, who died because of Katrina. The documentary was an official selection at the 2018 Philadelphia Independent Film Awards and won the Best Documentary award. It was also the Bronze Award winner at the 2017 Spotlight Documentary Film Awards.

Among the events Chriss spun tunes for was Center on Halsted's SAGE WinterPride: A Cool Night Out party and dance in 2008. She was also a DJ at other LGBTQ events for many years throughout Chicago.

Additionally, Chriss was a member of Chicago Alliance of African American Photographers and Reel Black Filmmakers. She also belonged to The Worldwide Fellowship for over 25 years, Affinity Community Services, Performers or Writers for Woman on Woman Issues, (POW-WOW), Bois2Studs Initiative and Imani African Dance.

Chriss is survived by her children, Jae L. Pettigrew, Alvin Pettigrew Jr., Jerald Lee Chriss and Johnny Ray Chriss and siblings Johnny Ray Chriss, Andrea Simmons, Valerie Chriss, Sebastian Greenwood and Brandy Greenwood. She was preceded in death by her father, Levie Simmons, and her mother, Geraldine Chriss.

"Levilyn was one of the most caring, reliable, generous and supportive souls I had the pleasure of knowing," said friend and former Governors State University colleague Uriah Berryhill. "I met Levilyn at a time in my life, where I truly needed someone like her to help influence and bring out the leader in me. I remember meeting Levilyn in a class we had together. This particular day I was ready to leave, and she repeatedly asked questions, and I turned around and look at her aggravated. She said, 'Am I disturbing you from being somewhere, because we still have an hour left in this class, and you might need to hear what I'm asking, thank you.' I said, 'My bad Ma... you are right' from there, she was no longer Levilyn. She had become, Ma, and she truly was that.

"I was just kicked out of one university, and was starting another. Unmotivated and just going with the flow, but Levilyn helped me. She told me that the world expects young Black brothers like me to fail, go to jail or die, and that we have to beat the odds. She lived her life until her last breath. She has encouraged me to do the



Levilyn Chriss.

Photo from Chriss' Facebook page

same, and I will never be the same without her. Ma, I love you dearly, and I thank you for being a perfect role model in my life. In the words of my work mom, 'Live your life because you only get one.'

"Levilyn always had a camera in her hand," said friend and former Governors State University colleague Amanda Martinez. "She wanted to capture the world but little did she know she captured our hearts. Love you Ma."

"Levilyn was an incredibly beautiful person and she will be missed by so many," said friend and former Governors State University colleague Joshua Young. "I honestly cannot say enough about how wonderful she was. She was intelligent, adventurous, exuberant, comical, unbelievably persistent, infinitely optimistic, compassionate, reliable, amiable, sincere, wise, loyal, devoted and humble.

"Our relationship evolved throughout the seven brief years that I knew her. We went from being colleagues to a friendship. She shared so much life wisdom and slowly became a life mentor. Over time, Levilyn became like a second mother to many of us, and we began to affectionately refer to her as 'Ma.' I have seen so few people

grind with such persistence like Levilyn.

"I will always remember her scoffs followed by some witty quip in retort to sarcastic comments made by others about something or other, chasing-down random visitors to our department in the name of security, unbelievably contagious smile, warm hugs, go-to-greeting of 'Hello, my babies,' beaming smile of pride when she visited my new home and continuous optimism even when she was going through truly difficult circumstances."

"Levilyn was such a beautiful soul and moved a department at Governors State University to the point that we called her Ma," said Heather Penn, a friend who was also a Governors State colleague, Heather Penn. "She came to us as a film student and quickly gravitated to the engineering staff. I had the pleasure of working closely with Levilyn, and she fit right in. She was always hungry to learn and wanted to know the history, why things worked the way they worked and never passed up a chance to get hands on experience.

"Levilyn was always the student, but yet, something so much more. She could walk into a room and you would just smile because of the spirit she brought to the table. She made you laugh and she would gently challenge you to think of different points of view. Levilyn was wise and always the teacher. She will live on in our hearts forever."

"Levilyn, or as many called her 'Levi,' was known in the community as a DJ that was smooth as silk," said longtime friend Terry Boi. "She was the DJ for POW-WOW every Tuesday night for eight years. As a member of the Bois2Studs Initiative, she helped assist the organization in motivating and supporting fellow queer women like herself that were looked at as masculine. Levi joined me at CAN TV to learn the ins and outs of the production booth. That is where she started the journey to Governors State and then to teach media at Chicago State.

"Bois2Studs will miss our friend as she was on a mission to change the world through the eyes of a camera lens. She always thrived to teach the next generation how to use media to help change the world."

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the family held a memorial April 11 at Taylor Funeral Home, 63 E. 79th St. Also, Bois2 Studs will honor Chriss in a virtual celebration Saturday, April 25, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. More details about this event are pending.



Levilyn Chriss and Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot.

Photo from Chriss' Facebook page

## Most Cook County cases postponed; video appearances ordered

Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans entered an order that extends the postponement of many criminal and civil cases in the Circuit Court of Cook County through Monday, May 18.

The order also expands the use of videoconferencing for all court proceedings deemed necessary or emergencies during this time. The Office of the Chief Judge has been working with the justice system stakeholders—the sheriff,

clerk, state's attorney and public defender—on this increased use of video appearances.

Currently, all jail detainees with bail hearings at the Leighton Criminal Court Building appear in court via video. Video has also been used in several other areas of the court. The court anticipates more use of video every day, and all matters will be conducted via video no later than April 16.

Chief Judge Evans' order also closes three court facilities from April 6 through May 18: the Chicago branch courts at 5555 W. Grand Ave., 727 E. 111th St. and 3150 W. Flournoy St. Any emergency matters in those cases will be heard at the Leighton Criminal Court Building.

# Lesbian icon Phyllis Lyon dies at 95

Activist Phyllis Lyon—who spent more than five decades fighting for LGBTQ rights—died of natural causes. She was 95.

CNN.com reported that California Gov. Gavin Newsom shared the news of Lyon's death in a post on Twitter on April 9, calling her a "dear friend." Newsom officiated the wedding between Lyon and her late partner Del Martin in 2008, when he was mayor of San Francisco. (Lyon and Martin were initially married by Newsom in February 2004.) Martin passed away in 2008, at age 87.

Born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in 1924, Lyon met Martin in San Francisco in 1950. In 1955, Martin, Lyon and several other women formed the Daughters of Bilitis, generally recognized as the first national lesbian organization in the country. There were chapters in several cities, including Chicago, within the organization's first few years—and the late lesbian icon Barbara Gittings formed the New York chapter after meeting Lyon and Martin.

In 1972, the couple in 1972 were among the first members of the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club. That same year, they authored the groundbreaking book *Lesbian Woman*.

In 2005, Lyon and Martin were inducted into the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association's

LGBT Journalists Hall of Fame.

In a 2017 LGBT History Month piece that Windy City Times ran, Lyon said she planned to donate some of the items in her home to the Smithsonian Institute after she is gone. However, as fellow activist Kate Kendell said in that same article, the memory and legacy of Martin and Lyon live on through their writings, perseverance and love for one another.

Pro-LGBTQ groups commented on Lyon's passing. "Phyllis Lyon was a giant. She was an icon, a trailblazer, a pioneer, a role model, and a friend to the many of us who looked up to her," said National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) Executive Director Imani Rupert-Gordon in a statement. "Her activism changed what we thought was possible, and her strength inspired us. Her vision helped forge our path and made organizations like NCLR possible. And although the path is lonelier without her, we know the way because of her."

Kendell, a former NCLR executive director, added, "Phyllis Lyon is truly an iconic figure in the history of LGBTQ and women's rights. Her life was marked by courage and the tenacious belief that the world must and could change."

In a separate statement, Los Angeles LGBT Center Chief of Staff Darrel Cummings said, "There are



Phyllis Lyon (right) prepares to cut their wedding cake as Del Martin looks on.

Photo by Jane Philomen Cleland

many who can rightfully claim that they helped build the modern movement for LGBTQ rights. But among those many pioneers, there are few who can claim so central a role as Phyllis Lyon and her wife Del. While the loss of Phyllis makes this a profoundly sad day, I hope we can focus on the groundbreaking impact she and Del had on our community from the founding of the Daughters of Bilitis to their hard-fought battles to transform

the National Organization for Women (NOW) into a lesbian-inclusive organization and their activism on behalf of LGBTQ seniors."

Lyon's family is planning a celebration of her life. The family requests that gifts in honor of Phyllis be made to the Lyon-Martin Health Clinic: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-lyonmartin-amp-womens-community-clinic>.

Steps from Lake Michigan • Two Historic Homes • Easy Access to Chicago Attractions and Transportation • Intimate Ambiance



## SAVE 15% ON YOUR 2020 WEDDING

Book your 2020 wedding at Emil Bach House and Lang House Chicago and receive **15% OFF** our **FULL wedding package**.\* Package includes both houses, outdoor tented space, a Japanese tea house, two outdoor decks, and landscaped gardens. Accommodations for your wedding party in both houses for two nights, sleeps up to 22 people. Space for rehearsal dinner, ceremony, and reception—all included in rental fee.



7415 N. Sheridan Rd,  
Chicago, IL 60626  
773.654.3959  
[emilbachhouse.com](http://emilbachhouse.com)

\*Mention code **WINDYCITY2020** when booking.  
Save 10% on 2021 weddings when you book by June 30, 2020.

7421 N. Sheridan Rd,  
Chicago, IL 60626  
773.764.9851  
[langhousechicago.com](http://langhousechicago.com)



## IMPORTANT FACTS FOR BIKTARVY®

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

(bik-TAR-vee)

### MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT BIKTARVY

**BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:**

- ▶ **Worsening of hepatitis B (HBV) infection.** If you have both HIV-1 and HBV, your HBV may suddenly get worse if you stop taking BIKTARVY. Do not stop taking BIKTARVY without first talking to your healthcare provider, as they will need to check your health regularly for several months.

### ABOUT BIKTARVY

BIKTARVY is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in adults and children who weigh at least 55 pounds. It can either be used in people who have never taken HIV-1 medicines before, or people who are replacing their current HIV-1 medicines and whose healthcare provider determines they meet certain requirements.

**BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.** HIV-1 is the virus that causes AIDS.

**Do NOT take BIKTARVY if you also take a medicine that contains:**

- ▶ dofetilide
- ▶ rifampin
- ▶ any other medicines to treat HIV-1

### BEFORE TAKING BIKTARVY

**Tell your healthcare provider if you:**

- ▶ Have or have had any kidney or liver problems, including hepatitis infection.
- ▶ Have any other health problems.
- ▶ Are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if BIKTARVY can harm your unborn baby. Tell your healthcare provider if you become pregnant while taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ Are breastfeeding (nursing) or plan to breastfeed. Do not breastfeed. HIV-1 can be passed to the baby in breast milk.

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

- ▶ Keep a list that includes all prescription and over-the-counter medicines, antacids, laxatives, vitamins, and herbal supplements, and show it to your healthcare provider and pharmacist.
- ▶ BIKTARVY and other medicines may affect each other. Ask your healthcare provider and pharmacist about medicines that interact with BIKTARVY, and ask if it is safe to take BIKTARVY with all your other medicines.

### POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF BIKTARVY

**BIKTARVY may cause serious side effects, including:**

- ▶ Those in the “Most Important Information About BIKTARVY” section.
- ▶ **Changes in your immune system.** Your immune system may get stronger and begin to fight infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have any new symptoms after you start taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **Kidney problems, including kidney failure.** Your healthcare provider should do blood and urine tests to check your kidneys. If you develop new or worse kidney problems, they may tell you to stop taking BIKTARVY.
- ▶ **Too much lactic acid in your blood (lactic acidosis),** which is a serious but rare medical emergency that can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: weakness or being more tired than usual, unusual muscle pain, being short of breath or fast breathing, stomach pain with nausea and vomiting, cold or blue hands and feet, feel dizzy or lightheaded, or a fast or abnormal heartbeat.
- ▶ **Severe liver problems,** which in rare cases can lead to death. Tell your healthcare provider right away if you get these symptoms: skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow, dark “tea-colored” urine, light-colored stools, loss of appetite for several days or longer, nausea, or stomach-area pain.
- ▶ **The most common side effects of BIKTARVY** in clinical studies were diarrhea (6%), nausea (6%), and headache (5%).

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

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

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

### HOW TO TAKE BIKTARVY

Take BIKTARVY 1 time each day with or without food.

### GET MORE INFORMATION

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



Get HIV support by downloading a free app at  
**MyDailyCharge.com**

BIKTARVY, the BIKTARVY Logo, DAILY CHARGE, the DAILY CHARGE Logo, KEEP ASPIRING, LOVE WHAT'S INSIDE, GILEAD, and the GILEAD Logo are trademarks of Gilead Sciences, Inc., or its related companies. Version date: February 2020  
© 2020 Gilead Sciences, Inc. All rights reserved. BVYC0218 04/20

**BIKTARVY**<sup>®</sup>bictegravir 50mg/emtricitabine 200mg/  
tenofovir alafenamide 25mg tablets**LOVE  
WHAT'S  
INSIDE**<sup>®</sup>**DIMITRI**LIVING WITH HIV SINCE 2018  
**REAL BIKTARVY PATIENT**

# KEEP ASPIRING.

Because HIV doesn't change who you are.

BIKTARVY<sup>®</sup> is a complete, 1-pill, once-a-day prescription medicine used to treat HIV-1 in certain adults. **BIKTARVY does not cure HIV-1 or AIDS.**

**Ask your healthcare provider if BIKTARVY is right for you.**

See Dimitri's story at [BIKTARVY.com](https://www.gilead.com/BIKTARVY.com).

Featured patient compensated by Gilead.

Please see Important Facts about BIKTARVY, including important warnings, on the previous page and visit [BIKTARVY.com](https://www.gilead.com/BIKTARVY.com).



# Oak Park activist Alan Amato passes away

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Activist Alan Amato, who was instrumental in a number of LGBT-rights pushes in Oak Park and the western suburbs, passed away April 8.

Amato, who was living in Berwyn at the time of his death, had worked as a travel agent and had co-owned an LGBT bookstore, The Pride Agenda, in Oak Park. He was 68. The cause of his death was heart failure.

In a April 12 statement, Amato's friend Lydia Villaneuva-Soto noted that Amato "was passionate about social justice and activism. He was active in the Oak Park Lesbian and Gay Association (now OPALGA+). As the Public Policy Committee chair for the organization, he was instrumental in passage of Oak Park's landmark domestic partnership registry, the first of its kind in Illinois and one of the few in the nation.

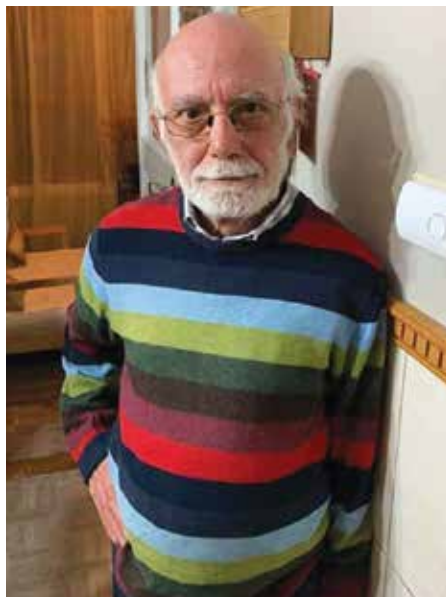
"He was a prominent figure in the efforts to promote acceptance and appreciation for the gifts that lesbians and gay men contributed to the quality of life in Oak Park."

Villaneuva-Soto additionally told Windy City Times that she and Amato became friends when both worked for a travel agency in the late '90s and both realized they shared a passion for helping the community.

"We became co-workers and friends and we worked together for about 20 years," she added. Though Amato went to work elsewhere, he'd still help out at the agency, which Villaneuva-Soto now owns.

"The week he passed, he was still helping me out," she said. "He didn't want me to pay him. He just wanted to do something."

Amato also lived in the in-law suite in Villa-



**Alan Amato.**

Photo from Lydia Villaneuva-Soto's Facebook page

neuva-Soto's home.

"He became part of our family," she added. "My kids considered him an uncle. He was just a good guy."

A native of the Little Italy neighborhood, Amato enjoyed travel, and often spent a month in Italy every year. He also lived for a time in both France and Russia.

Villaneuva-Soto maintained that Amato

"should have been a historian" since he was so steeped in history and politics. Amato also was an aficionado of British sitcoms.

"We'd sit there on Sundays and watch PBS, and laugh until we cried," Villaneuva-Soto said.

But Amato's commitment to the LGBT community was "his heart," she added. "All that hard work he did through the years— when it was frowned upon, he didn't care. He told stories of having water and rocks thrown at him, but he held his ground."

He met at various times with former President Barack Obama, when Obama was a state sena-

tor, and the late Illinois Comptroller Judy Bear Topinka.

"She was a Republican, but he didn't care. He didn't see that. He just wanted the best for his community," Villaneuva-Soto added. ... "Just a great guy all around."

Amato had no surviving immediate family members, but distant family members are coordinating his cremation and burial, as well as an eventual memorial celebration of his life. An online fundraising campaign to offset the related expenses is at [www.gofundme.com/f/Alan-Amato-Burial-and-Memorial-Fund](http://www.gofundme.com/f/Alan-Amato-Burial-and-Memorial-Fund).

## PASSAGES

### Paul Timothy Popiel

On Tuesday, March 10, Paul Popiel passed away after a short illness. He was 69.

Paul was born in New Jersey on May 2, 1950, to Marion and Walter Popiel, and raised in a very religious family, mostly in Brooksville, Florida. He moved to Chicago in the late 1960s, and graduated from Moody Bible Institute in 1970.

Paul was a member of Evangelicals Concerned—a national network of gay and lesbian evangelical Christians and friends—in the early 1970s, and joined Good Shepherd Parish (GSP) Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) in April 1976. MCC is an international, predominately LGBTQ Christian denomination founded in 1968; GSP was one of the first congregations organized within the new denomination. GSP became a leader in Chicago's LGBTQ grassroots community in the late 1970s, an oppressive time when Anita Bryant began her national anti-gay "Save our Children" campaign. GSP was also instrumental in spiritually caring for people with HIV/AIDS from the beginning of the epidemic in the 1980s. Paul was an active participant throughout all of these challenges to the community.

For more than 40 years, until earlier this year, Paul was the owner and operator of the Mail Center of Chicago. Now based near Millennium Park, the Mail Center provides a Michigan Avenue address for business and personal customers. Under Paul's conscientious management, the Mail Center consistently received top reviews.

Paul set a wonderful example by being intellectually curious, diligent, politically-aware, honest and always kind. He quietly nurtured and grew his business and thereby supported many Chicago LGBTQ organizations, in par-



**Paul Popiel.**

Photo courtesy of Mary Brake

ticular GSP. A former pastor of GSP, Rev. Mary Brake, said, "Paul was a source of endless support for me and for GSP. He never sought the limelight, yet Paul was always there, undergirding the efforts of the group and the common good. He was truly 'a good and faithful servant' of God and diligently worked to make the world a better place."

Paul is pre-deceased by his parents and his brother, Philip, and by his beloved dogs, Precious and Lucy. He leaves behind his ex-partner and special friend, Dan Schmitt, and many friends from the business world, the LGBTQ community and the church. A public celebration of Paul's life will be scheduled and announced in the near future.



**Alan Amato with friend Lydia Villaneuva-Soto.**

Photo from Lydia Villaneuva-Soto's Facebook page

## 30 Under 30 Awards moved to October

Windy City Times' annual 30 Under 30 Awards—usually held in June—will be moved to October (LGBT History Month) this year.

The ceremony was originally scheduled to take place Wed., June 24, at Polo Cafe.

The deadline to nominate individuals will now be Friday, Sept. 4.

Nominees should be 30 years or younger as

of June 30, and should have made some substantial contributions to the Chicagoland LGBTQ community, whether in the fields of entertainment, politics, health, activism, academics, sports or other areas.

Individuals, organizations, co-workers, etc. can nominate a person by emailing [Matt@WindyCityTimes.com](mailto:Matt@WindyCityTimes.com) and [Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com](mailto:Andrew@WindyCityMediaGroup.com), or faxed to Matt Simonette's attention to 773-871-7609. Self-nominations are welcome.

## COVID-19

# Hookups during a medical crisis—and an official's take on them

BY MATT SIMONETTE

Even as LGBT Chicagoans, like so many Americans, have adopted social distancing and self-isolation tactics in order to contribute to “flattening the curve” of new COVID-19 transmissions, some community members are still looking to hook up—or are have been approached online with offers to do so—at a time when doing so can have significant health consequences.

Richard (not his real name) lives in the western suburbs with his husband, and said that he has had an uptick in invitations to hook up from friends and online acquaintances since the statewide call for self-isolation started.

“That includes from a lot of people I hadn’t seen in years,” Richard added. “I was like, ‘Really? Now’s the time you want to do this?’”

Richard emphasized that he considers himself to be “super-sex positive,” but his husband tested positive for COVID-19 exposure, so the couple are taking their isolation seriously.

Indeed, one acquaintance is holding a weekly sex party to which he has extended repeated invitations.

“To me, that just seems kind of thoughtless,” said Richard.

According to Jim Pickett, who is the AIDS Foundation of Chicago’s (AFC) senior director of prevention advocacy and gay men’s health, community members should either consider not hooking up for the duration of the pandemic, or at least give serious consideration to how they’re

going to carry it out and still stay safe.

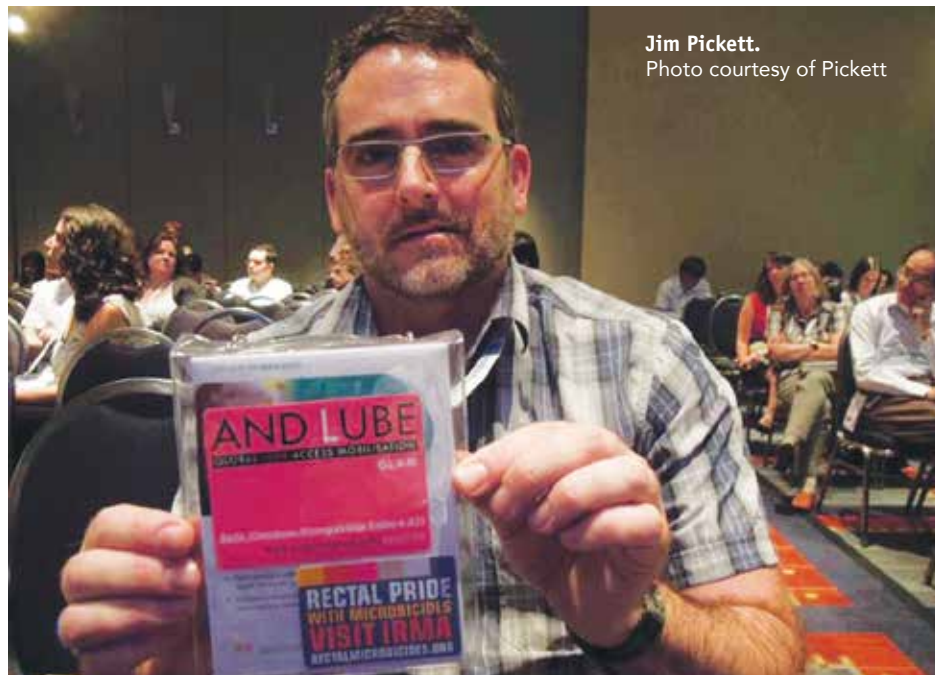
Pickett noted that no data exists detailing to what extent hooking up is still going on, but that numerous individuals have described offers like those extended to Richard on social media and in other forums.

“My take on that is that I’m not surprised,” Pickett added. “This is human nature. When people are stressed out and scared, you still have a human desire to connect. So I don’t want to pathologize people who are doing that. I just think some people don’t understand how serious this pandemic is. It’s not spread sexually, it’s spread casually—you can breathe this virus into your body.”

Pickett has no illusions that every single community member will refrain from hooking up, and offered some tips should someone absolutely insist upon it. He has long maintained that shaming and “finger-waving” from community members and authorities does little more than add to the anxieties that might trigger the behavior in the first place or strengthen the resolve to carry that behavior out.

As such, Pickett suggested, “Keep your circle small. If you have someone who is your ‘quarantine bae’—one person, and you’re both very careful about physical distancing—you’re not going to eliminate harm but you’re going to reduce it. You’re focusing your hookups on one person.”

Pickett suggested that, if someone is meeting for sex with someone from outside their own immediate living space, those people should minimize face-to-face contact all they can, since CO-



Jim Pickett.  
Photo courtesy of Pickett

VID-19 is transmitted primarily through the nose and mouth.

“There are things that you can do sexually, positions that you can do, that are less risky,” Pickett said. “You can fuck from behind, or jack off together. But face-to-face kissing, that’s where transmission occurs, in your mouth and your nose. ... If your favorite position is to have your face in a pillow, that can be a potential harm-reduction technique. You’re not coughing, spitting or breathing on that person.”

He added, “Obviously, if you have any signs or symptoms, stay the fuck home. But even then, that recommendation doesn’t address the fact that you can spread this when you have zero symptoms.”

Indeed, Pickett concluded, “The safest sex partner you can have is the one you’re with with all the time—masturbate. Have a good time.”

Pickett said that hookup apps have value in the current medical climate, even when persons aren’t using them to find physical encounters.

“I think a lot of people are using the apps to share pictures and connect with each other,” he noted. “There’s a lot of sexting going on, which is hot. I think phone sex is coming back. With our technology right now, you can do FaceTime and Houseparty, for example, and have amazing video-sex with people. Keep doing that. Embrace porn—there’s so much available. Explore it and enjoy it.”

Indeed, even Richard admitted that “it was kind of a turn-on” to receive photos from the previous installments of the orgies he was being invited to, even when he had no intention of going to one.

Pickett said, “There are all kinds of ways to connect without being in the same physical place.”

## WOMEN & CHILDREN FIRST



WOMEN & CHILDREN FIRST  
5233 N. CLARK  
CHICAGO, IL 60640  
(773) 769-9299  
womenandchildrenfirst.com

Hours:  
M-T 11-7  
W-F 11-9  
Sat 10-7  
Sun 11-6

Books & Magazines

Cards & Gifts

Weekly Storytime

Frequent Author Events


Book Clubs

Order Any Book Online

Shop anytime at [womenandchildrenfirst.com](http://womenandchildrenfirst.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

# Open Door may close amid staff firings, possible loss of funds

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

Open Door Health Center of Illinois (formerly Open Door Clinic) is teetering on the brink of closure due to financial issues, according to current and former staff members.

The organization's mission, according to its website, "is a regional, patient-centered health care organization that provides services including education, prevention, diagnosis and treatment services to those who have or are at risk for sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, in addition to the greater LGBTQ community."

Open Door has locations in Aurora, DeKalb, Elgin, Joliet and West Chicago and serves residents in DuPage, Kane and suburban Cook counties. This includes both healthcare and housing assistance.

The agency has been contending with financial difficulties and high turnover rates for about two years. Officials have attributed recent decisions to the COVID-19 outbreak, but current and former staff members allege that Open Door's problems started much earlier.

When more than 20 staff members, clients and funders arrived at the February board meeting, no board members were present. They were going to talk to the board about how grant funds have been allocated in the months prior to this scheduled meeting. Now some of these stakeholders are speaking out about what has transpired at the non-profit agency since that aborted meeting.

Former Facilities Manager Lynne Kennedy told Windy City Times that she and her sister, Carol Winters, who was Open Door's accounts payable manager, were fired March 27 via a phone call, after 12 years at the agency.

Kennedy said Interim Executive Director Dr. Zeba Geloo, who was first hired as the medical director in May 2019, called both her and her sister within 15 minutes of each other; both were told Business Operations Director and former Board President La Juan Baines and Jackie Throop from HR Source were in the room with Geloo.

Kennedy said Geloo told her that her entire department was being eliminated to save the clinic. Kennedy added that neither she nor her sister were offered a chance to come back to the building to retrieve their personal belongings.

Four others were fired that day, including Marketing and Communications Manager Jacob Harshbarger, and three were given reduced hours, according to Kennedy, who alleged that, to her knowledge, Geloo and Baines have done nothing to increase income for the agency since they assumed these leadership positions.

Harshbarger told Windy City Times that a num-

ber of board members and the board president have resigned since that aborted board meeting, leaving the board without a quorum. He also said that current executives at Open Door lack sufficient experience to address the agency's various issues.

"Because of this, both clients and employees are suffering and are in jeopardy of major deficits in healthcare and their livelihoods," said Harshbarger. "Our clients are not only challenged with managing their notably extraordinary health conditions but also face acute sensitivity to COVID-19. The possible closure of our clinic adds an exaggerated level of anxiety for all parties involved.

"Over the course of the last year, I have struggled with my health, leading me to require medical leave. I applied and was approved for medical leave that was scheduled to start on March 30 due to a brain tumor diagnosis. Instead of keeping me on the payroll while I was on medical leave, I was let go from my position March 27, right before my medical leave was to take effect. Now I have to contend with unemployment and more expensive COBRA coverage to deal with my medical issues."

Kennedy told Windy City Times that Baines told the staff on Nov. 13, 2019, that the previous executive director had stepped down and Geloo would be the new interim executive director. This despite the fact that succession plans stated that the assistant director would take over if the executive director left.

"At the start of the meeting, Baines announces, 'If anyone does not like this, they can pack their bags,' said Kennedy in her statement to Windy City Times. "People, of course are outraged and confused."

When Windy City Times reached out to Geloo asking why she fired these six staffers, she emailed, "You may be aware that 3.3 million people have been fired due to the consequences of COVID which includes some of our staff."

The turmoil at the agency is potentially imperiling rental payments being made for their clients, staffers say.

"I have been the Housing Program Coordinator at Open Door since August, 2016," said Jena Brauer. "Since January, I have been unable to get access to the funds needed to continue running the housing program per our grant responsibilities. In January, rent for our DuPage County program participants were paid late. The late fees that accrued as a result were not paid until the end of February, despite my team's constant attempts to have the payments approved by the director of business operations.

"Other agency expenses continue to be paid



Open Door (above) may close.

Photo by Carrie Maxwell

late or not at all. With the announcement of delayed evictions as a result of COVID-19, the director of business operations has asked that I call landlords and inform them that rents for April will not be paid. I have provided clarification regarding the continued requirements to pay rent on time and abide by all lease terms; however I have been dismissed."

Brauer also told Windy City Times that, in the past four months, 14 employees have resigned and six key positions were eliminated, with four of those individuals especially needing healthcare coverage— Harshbarger for his brain surgery, two elders at high risk for COVID-19 and Yvonne Viesca who was on FMLA mourning the recent death of her child.

Additionally, Open Door Client Advisory Committee Chairperson Louis Hobson said in an email statement to Windy City Times, "The HIV clinics in the Chicago area, including Open Door, are part of a new system called the Patient Centered Medical Home (PCMH). In this system there are essential services that must be provided to be a PCMH. If you do not have all of these components then you risk losing funding for the rest of the services. At this time, Open Door is missing mental and oral health. These two services rank right behind medical services. I believe that clients are entitled to quality healthcare. The service at Open Door has become unacceptable and needs to be corrected."

"This is so sad for our 1,500 clients, their families and our dedicated staff," said Kennedy. "Power without knowledge or compassion as well as not including the team has led to failure at Open Door. Teamwork starts from the top."

"My concern is that this time of crisis is being leveraged to put off essential operating expenses and let valuable employees go, while contractors and leadership continue to collect high salaries that are not supported by their outcomes for the agency," said Brauer.

"I have been working as a Ryan White medi-

cal case manager for 10 years," said current Elgin location case manager Jay Bowling. "I love what I do, and love working with others who are passionate about the important work that we do. The last five months have been wrought with worry for my clients and myself. I worry that we will not be able to provide the services that our patients/clients so desperately need, and that at any moment, I may not have a job. It appears that the incompetence and arrogance of the new leadership will destroy Open Door and that the vulnerable patients and dedicated staff will be the ones who pay the price."

"No one should lose their housing assistance money because an agency goes out of business," said HIV Housing Task Force Co-Chair and former Open Door Clinic housing client Roy Ferguson.

Kennedy contacted the Illinois Attorney General's office last November after the shift in management. Kennedy and other former staffers filed a complaint alleging that Open Door is in violation of their grants because board members are not in compliance with mandatory e-learning that is required by the organizations grantors.

"This is an ongoing matter and we are continuing to look into it," emailed Illinois Attorney General spokesperson Tori Joseph to Windy City Times.

Windy City Times asked Geloo in an email why the housing program staffers are unable to access funds so they can pay the clients' rent like they always have in the past; whether she was taking a pay cut during this pandemic like other corporate and non-profit leaders have done; how the agency can continue to run properly when 20 people are no longer working there because they were fired or resigned; and her thoughts about allegations that grant funders are threatening to pull their money due to what has been happening at Open Door in recent months. Geloo declined to comment.

Baines did not return a request for comment for this story.



@windycitytimes



/windycitymediagroup



@windycitytimes

www.windycitymediagroup.com

# No word yet on Chicago Pride Parade; 'global' online party planned

BY MATT SIMONETTE

As city officials and others craft an effective response to the coronavirus pandemic, decisions about various LGBT Pride events in June still loom.

Whichever decisions city officials and event organizers reach will have serious implications, both for public health and local commerce. LGBT businesses in Lake View, most of whom are taking serious financial hits as the pandemic and subsequent isolation orders unfold, would be impacted even further without Pride celebrants.

Pride Parade Coordinator Tim Frye told Windy City Times that organizers are still assuming a June 28 date for the parade, but communication with city officials on the matter has been minimal recently, as their attention has been focused on the the immediate coronavirus response.

Executive Director Kevin Richards of Northalsted Business Alliance said that a decision about his organization's Pride Fest celebration will be coming in the weeks ahead.

Organizers of the Pride in the Park celebration, which launched in Grant Park in 2019, announced

that their event was "on hold" until 2021: "Because the health and safety of everyone attending and involved with the festival is our first priority, this is the best course of action due to the uncertainty surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic at this time," they said in a statement.

Various organizers in other cities meanwhile announced the week of March 30 that they'd be forming an online "Global Pride" celebration taking place June 27.

The event will "use online platforms to deliver a Pride in which everyone can participate, wherever they are in the world. It will include musical performances, speeches, and key messages from human rights activists," said organizers in an April 1 statement. "The event will be live-streamed, and people will be invited to join in the event from home."



## COVID-19 Lightfoot stops demolition, officials demand investigation

Mayor Lori Lightfoot ordered Chicago's building department to stop any non-emergency demolitions this week after the April 11 demolition at the Crawford Coal Plant (by Northbrook-based Hilco Redevelopment Partners) sent a cloud of dust into the Little Village neighborhood, The Chicago Tribune reported.

On April 12, city workers started handing out masks to residents near the plant located 3501 S. Pulaski Rd. The site had been shuttered since 2012, after activists contended the plant symbolized environmental racism.

The demolition happened as officials are trying to contain COVID-19. The neighborhood near the plant has already had at least 268 people fall ill with the respiratory illness.

The developers were cited by the city and will not be allowed to continue working on the property until the city conducts an investigation into the demolition, Lightfoot said. In addition, she ordered the company to clean the areas covered with dust.

Also on April 12, Windy City Times received a release from a group of aldermen who criticized air pollution from what they call non-essential industry—and who want the City of Chicago inspector general to investigate the Crawford Coal Plant demolition.

The officials are AIs. Daniel LaSpata (1st Ward), Jeanette Taylor (20th), Byron Sigcho-Lopez (25th), Roberto Maldonado (26th), Rossana Rodriguez-Sanchez (33rd), Carlos Ramirez-Rosa (35th), Andre Vasquez (40th Ward) and Matt Martin (47th). The Latino Caucus is also joining the call for an investigation. According to the aldermen, "Over the weekend, the Mayor's Office put out a statement calling the approved demolition 'scheduled' and referring to it as an 'incident.' Community leaders, including the Little Village Environmental Justice Organization (LVEJO), begged the city not to allow the demolition during the COVID-19 crisis but the city still allowed the demolition."

Also, according to the statement, Sigcho-Lopez, Ald. Brian Hopkins (2nd Ward), state Reps. Ann Williams (D-Chicago) and Theresa Mah (D-Chicago), state Sen. Tony Munoz (D-Chicago) and Cook County Commissioner Alma Anaya—along with Southwest Environmental Alliance and public health experts—sent letters March 31 to Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker and Lightfoot. They asked them to stop air polluters from increasing the likelihood of COVID-19 exposure for workers and their families, and threatening the already vulnerable health of surrounding communities.

The Tribune article is at <https://www.chicagotribune.com/coronavirus/ct-little-village-crawford-coal-demolition-20200412-ske-a74h6fjdvzlupwl5ibwgv3i-story.html>.



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

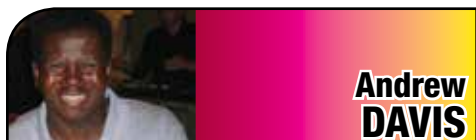
**WE NEED HIV+ VOLUNTEERS OF ALL GENDERS WHO ARE 35 AND OVER TO TAKE PART IN A NATIONAL ANAL CANCER PREVENTION STUDY.**

- 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)



## viewpoints


**Andrew  
DAVIS**

## COVID-19 LGBTQs, minorities disproportionately affected

These are some truly historic times.

And in what may come as no surprise to many, the coronavirus pandemic is adversely affecting many more people in marginalized communities, such as the LGBTQ demographic and racial minorities.

Human Rights Campaign (HRC) recently published "The Lives and Livelihoods of Many in the LGBTQ Community are at Risk Amidst COVID-19 Crisis," which details the unique challenges the LGBTQ community faces due to its economic and healthcare situations.

"As in all emergencies, the most vulnerable are the most at risk during the COVID-19 crisis," said HRC President Alphonso David in a statement. "Data is emerging showing Black communities are contracting and dying from the virus at particularly high rates and our own research shows the economic and health impacts this pandemic may have on LGBTQ people.

HRC Foundation estimates there are nearly 14 million LGBTQ adults and 2 million LGBTQ youth in the United States. Based on HRC Foundation's analyses of General Social Survey (GSS) data, more than 5 million work in jobs that are more likely to be impacted by COVID-19.

Among the highly affected industries are restaurants and food services; hospitals; K-12 education, colleges and universities; and retail.

Also, nearly one in 10 LGBTQ people are unem-

ployed and are more likely to live in poverty than straight and cisgender people, meaning they cannot always afford the healthcare that they need or afford to engage in preventative healthcare measures. In addition, health coverage gaps exist and paid leave is not available to many people—and older LGBTQ individuals face their own unique challenges.

Obstacles such as healthcare challenges affect other marginalized communities, such as racial minorities.

NPR recently cited information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that about one in three people who become sick enough from COVID-19 to require hospitalization were African American. Even though 33 percent of those hospitalized patients were Black, African Americans make up only 13 percent of the U.S. population. (The report also found that 45 percent of hospitalizations were among white people, who make up 76 percent percent of the population; and 8 percent of hospitalizations were among Hispanics, who make up 18 percent of the population.)

The situation is even more dire in Chicago, where, as of April 4, 70 percent of the local residents dying from the coronavirus were African American; the city's population is approximately 30-percent Black. Mayor Lori Lightfoot declared a "public health red alarm" after learning of the figures, and promised a "robust and immediate comprehensive plan" to confront the disparity.

On April 7, Lightfoot told PBS, "The reason is, we have been talking about the health disparities in our city really for years. When you see that African Americans disproportionately have high rates of diabetes, heart disease and a range of respiratory problems, this disease [COVID-19] attacks those underlying medical conditions with a vengeance."

However, there are many other factors, including unemployment (often with jobs with no paid sick leave), environmental factors and lack of access to healthcare, to name a few.

To try and combat this, Lightfoot said that she

has done two things: make sure there is good data, and "mobilize what we're calling a racial equity rapid response team. We have a model in one area of our city that has really broken down a lot of barriers to getting African Americans access to health care, demystifying the system, and really bringing them into preventative care." (Also, Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker announced a partnership between Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago and four federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) on Chicago's West and South Sides that will expand testing in these communities to an additional 400 tests per day—a good start, but a start nonetheless.)

And while Asian Americans are not dying in similar numbers as African Americans, they are also being affected by COVID-19—in the way of stigma. In the past month, there has been everything from a New York City man reportedly spraying Febreze at an Asian subway, to a woman in my own building who talked about avoiding Chinese restaurants and who used a racial slur (prompting me to say, "I didn't know I was at a Klan meeting").

Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or in the darkness of destructive selfishness." Americans are resilient—and that strength can only be reinforced if we band together and not tear each other apart, as we face an unprecedented situation.

To access HRC's "Lives and Livelihoods," visit [HRC.org/resources/the-lives-and-livelihoods-of-many-in-the-lgbtq-community-are-at-risk-amidst](https://www.hrc.org/resources/the-lives-and-livelihoods-of-many-in-the-lgbtq-community-are-at-risk-amidst). The NPR article is at <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/04/08/830030932/cdc-hospital-data-point-to-racial-disparity-in-covid-19-cases>.

The PBS interview is at <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/patients-dying-of-covid-19-are-disproportionately-black-chicagos-mayor-isnt-surprised>.

**Andrew Davis is the executive editor of Windy City Times.**

## letters

### Administrative errors

Dear Editor:

For war against an unforeseen enemy, we need a war administration.

If the framers of the Constitution had foreseen the current lack of steady and effective leadership, they surely would have included a mechanism to replace this Administration with a crisis oriented team capable of winning this war. Yet, we see daily examples of a "perfect storm" of events and circumstances leading our nation towards a political, economic, public health and social breakdown.

First there was interference by a foreign adversary bent on destroying democracy that helped put a proto-dictator in the White House. Unable to see beyond his own fragile ego and corrupt self-interests, Trump surrounds himself with a cabinet and advisors hand-picked from his family, cronies and the indus-

trial centers under federal regulation, with loyalty to himself rather than our nation being the primary qualification. Caught abusing his powers to damage the likely opposition candidate in this fall's presidential election, a Senate controlled by members fearful for their own survival turned the impeachment trial into a farce, signaling their total surrender to Trump's deliberate disregard of the separation of powers required to protect our democracy. And our finest career scientists have to walk on tiptoes in order to correct Trump's constant stream of disinformation in order to stay in the room.

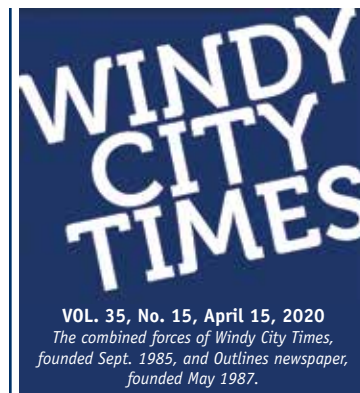
Now we see the results of month's of denial, lies, blame-shifting and corruption that has made our nation vulnerable to an enemy that can pierce any wall and lays bear the systematic looting of our treasury and public-health systems. With a free press sidelined by threats, disrespect and "alternate realities" spun by the unholy Trump-FOX News alliance, it's time to say "Enough is enough!" The more this White House resembles Elsinore, the clearer it is that

no one will survive unscathed.

*David G Ostrow, MD PhD LFAPA (ret.)  
Chicago*

*Note: The writer of this letter led the City of Chicago's responses to the AIDS epidemic with establishment of the Chicago AIDS Task Force in 1982. In 1983, at the invitation of then-U.S. Reps. Dianne Feinstein (D-California) and Mark Green (D-NYC), I testified before the House PHS Appropriations Committee (chaired by then-U.S. Rep. William Natcher) on the failure of the NIH to fund research into the cause and natural history of AIDS—and the testimony led to the first Congressional appropriation of AIDS-specific research funding.*

*I was a developer of the first hepatitis B vaccine, and am currently part of a joint US-Ca team developing coronavirus treatments and "universal" vaccine candidates.*



VOL. 35, No. 15, April 15, 2020  
The combined forces of Windy City Times,  
founded Sept. 1985, and Outlines newspaper,  
founded May 1987.

**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, Charlise 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 Kirst,

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 Negrón, 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)



The production *The Boys in the Band* is a lesson in gay history. Set in 1968, a party is held for a group of friends where one of them is having a birthday. A game of truth or dare, at the party, goes off the rails and issues hit the fan that will leave the group forever changed.

Following a Broadway revival, this play returns to Chicago after 20 years in an immersive performance at Windy City Playhouse with 40 partygoers per show. Audience members will enjoy passed beverages and snacks, along with the freedom to move around and sit in the living room of the party.

Jordan Dell Harris makes his Windy City Playhouse debut in the show. His resume includes *Wonderful Town*, for Goodman Theatre; *Homos, Or Everyone in America*, for Pride Films and Plays Chicago; and *A Little Night Music*, for BoHo Theatre.

**Windy City Times: You are from Georgia?**

Jordan Dell Harris: I lived in Georgia for 25 years, then moved to Atlanta after school.

**WCT: What brought you to Chicago?**

JDH: I had a few friends that lived here. I never lived more than an hour and a half from home before Chicago. Chicago seemed approachable and affordable.

**WCT: You are out?**

JDH: Yes, I am gay. My partner understudies the show, so we get to work together, [which] reminds us how lucky we are. His name is Paul Michael Thomson. He's on this weekend for Emory.

**WCT: Did you know about *The Boys in the Band* before being cast?**

JDH: Yes. I took class at The University of Georgia called *Queer Theatre and Film*. We spent a whole week on *The Boys in the Band*. We read it and watched the movie. I followed the revival and have always been interested in it.

I auditioned for this production in October of 2018, so I had a contract for all of 2019 to sit on. I read as much material as I could. There are a lot of thoughts from people about *Boys in the Band*, queer people especially.

**WCT: The movie is full of such angst.**

JDH: Yes. The movie is the original Broadway cast. We are doing a period piece, but they weren't. They had done it in 1968 together.

One of my favorite professors and the reason I am here taught that class in school, so this was a bucket list item to be in the show.

**WCT: What have you found to be different from the movie to the play?**

JDH: I think the way film acting was happening at the time had different aesthetics and styles. It's very campy of course with the material, but I think with the nature of our production, the immersion and the audience being so close, it has to be more natural. We don't have the luxury to be false. Our version is a little more relaxed and less hyped than what people see in the movie.

**WCT: Describe your character in *The Boys in the Band*.**

JDH: I play Donald. The protagonist in the story is Michael. Donald is Michael's former lover and best friend. It's abstract in the text about their relationship. They are very close friends, but not a couple.

The birthday party begins and all the guys show up. This is Michael's group of friends and Donald is not part of this group. He has beef with the birthday boy Harold and there's tension there.

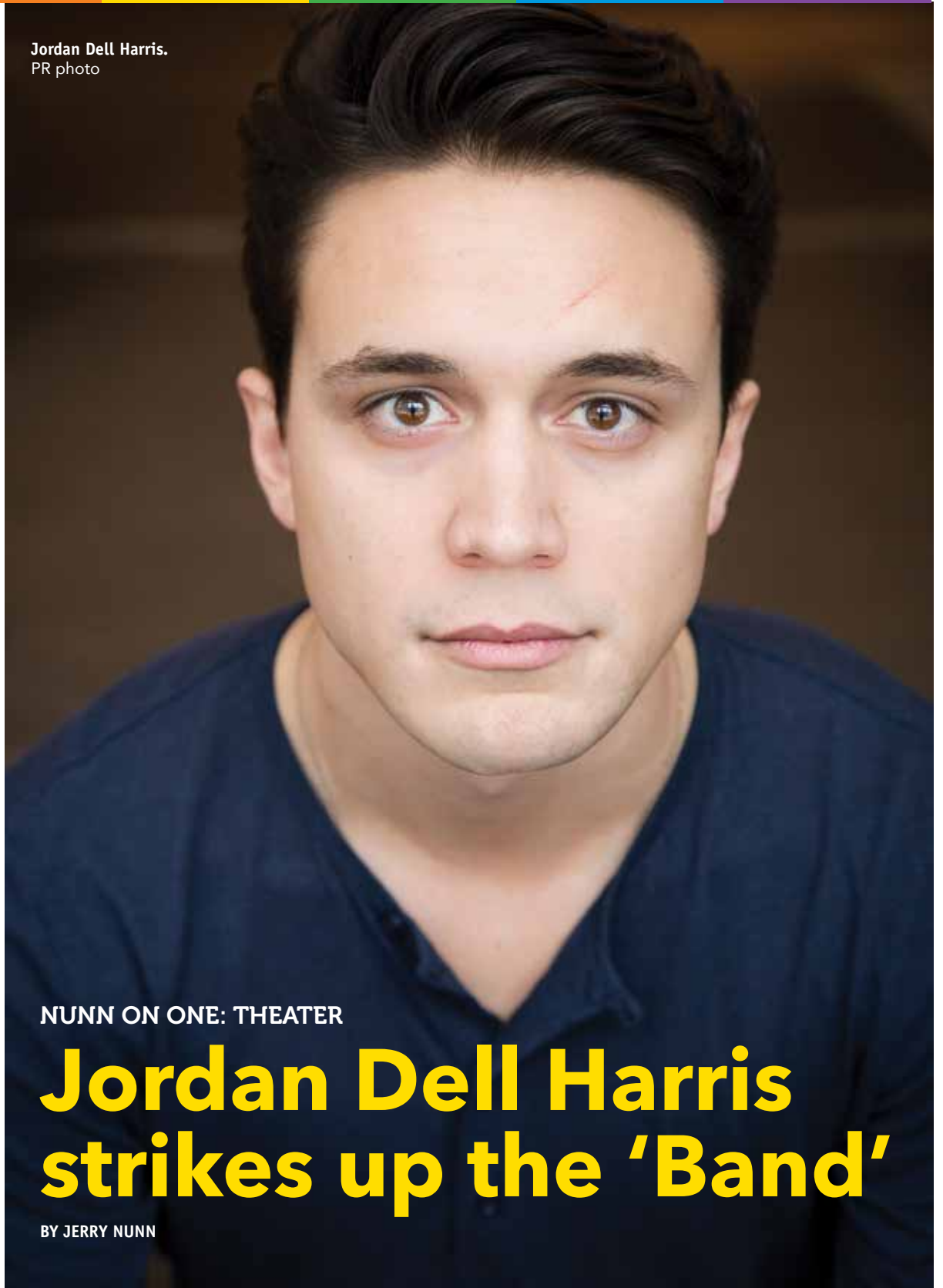
Donald has left New York City and the gay scene. He has moved back in with his parents in The Hamptons. He likes the quiet and talks about his anxiety. He has an inability to deal with Manhattan. He has a line about being too itchy when he's in Manhattan too long.

He hangs out with Michael every Saturday and, then, the birthday party happens.

**WCT: How was creating chemistry with this ensemble cast?**

JDH: The first time we were all together was a photo shoot. We were lucky

Jordan Dell Harris.  
PR photo



NUNN ON ONE: THEATER

# Jordan Dell Harris strikes up the 'Band'

BY JERRY NUNN

Turn to page 14

## STREAMING THEATER REVIEW

# Masque of the Red Coronavirus

Playwright: Ed Rutherford

At: Black Button Eyes

Productions online at  
[BlackButtonEyes.com/masque-of-the-red-coronavirus](http://BlackButtonEyes.com/masque-of-the-red-coronavirus)

Tickets: Online donations accepted

Runs through: Open run

BY MARY SHEN BARNIDGE

It was easy to forget, last month, that playhouses in London were once shuttered for 18 years! You heard that correctly; from 1642 to 1660, all performances of plays were declared illegal, punishable by a hefty fine. Not only did theater survive this cultural drought, however, but in doing so, introduced a number of artistic innovations—among them, casting actual women in female roles—aimed at luring customers back.

Tasked with generating theatrical fizz in seclusion for another four weeks, Chicago artists have likewise implemented an array of hitherto-unexplored performance techniques complying with current public-health restrictions: quasi-televised live-stream taped shows, “Storyboard” picture-books and a hybrid approach, dubbed by its creators, “Enhanced Text” offering curious theatergoers an opportunity to share in stage directions and light/sound cues, just like the pros.

Our story is based on a neogothic tale by Edgar Allan Poe that recounts an arrogant prince’s attempt to escape the contagion known as the “Red Death”—a fictional malady characterized by sharp pains, dizziness, spontaneous hemorrhages and swift death. To this purpose, he has sequestered himself and his favored courtiers in a luxurious retreat where they continue their customary



Dawn Xiana Moon in Masque of the Red Coronavirus.  
Photo courtesy of Black Button Eyes Productions

reveals, oblivious to the suffering of their fellow citizens, as they wait for the danger to pass.

The preface to Ed Rutherford’s update of this morality fable notes that many of the Prince’s speeches are quoted verbatim from “a public figure” so we are not surprised to detect an unmistakable (but, as played by Shane Roberie, not overstated) resemblance to a certain national spokesperson evidenced in the talking-head-of-state wearing a cheap paper crown as he speaks from his video screen—which the script scrolling on the Black Button Eyes website instructs us to imagine is mounted on a robot easel and shows his royal highness flanked by a private physician and a sexy woman “who is not his wife.”

The remainder of the story is conveyed in similar fashion: written text is illustrated by short videos of selected scenes featuring solo actors. These mostly depict the entertainments chosen by our host for the amusement of his guests—among them, an erotic dance involving faux antiseptic ointments, a lover’s lament from a romantic-era opera and a grotesque ditty warbled by a puppet tarantula. We are also occasionally interrupted by hackers apprising us of ominous developments occurring outside our bunker. Additional scenic context, special effects or stage picture configuration are entirely up to us.

Far from emerging as reductive, though, the diversity of talent required to achieve connec-

tion and continuity within a performance dynamic generated in literal isolation—did I mention Kat Evans’ choral poetry, Dawn Xiana Moon’s torch dance and Walter Bezt’s Beardsley-inspired graphic design?—make for a multi-disciplinary collage of a complexity extending well beyond the physical limitations and budgets of live presentation. Never more than when corporeal distance demands spiritual proximity has the pact between actor and audience been more manifestly invoked, from the pre-curtain speech inviting our participation in this world premiere production, right up to the jubilant electro-house musical finale exhorting us to join in a celebratory dance—wherever we may be.

## HARRIS from page 13

to be on the set from the first rehearsal. We were in that beautiful space with the script together. They are a remarkable group of people that really get along in a special way. We all wanted to do the story justice while having a good time.

**WCT: Is everyone gay in the cast?**

JDH: There is one straight man playing the straight man Alan. He’s a great ally to all of us.

**WCT: Do you think it was important to the producers to have a gay cast?**

JDH: I think so. What is happening with casting now is that representation matters and if the show is about queer men, then those are the people we want to see in those roles. It’s the same idea as not having a white Maria in West Side Story anymore.

I think that’s important and has mattered in our telling of the story.

**WCT: Has there been any mishaps with an audience that can go to the bathroom at any time or move around the room freely during the show?**

JDH: It’s been interesting to have people this close. People spill drinks and we spill drinks, but no big horror stories so far. People have tapped



Jordan Dell Harris.  
Photo by Jerry Nunn

on us on the shoulder to say they have spilled a drink, but that’s about it.

Either zero people get up to go to the bathroom or when one person does it, then more people do it. It’s either zero or seven!

Windy City Playhouse regulars who are used to the immersive shows are more comfortable moving around than new people. The Boys in the Band gets tense later and no one moves much after that happens.

**WCT: Was being in your underwear onstage awkward?**

JDH: I’ve been in various states of undress a few times, but never two feet from everyone. It is what it is and the robe is fabulous!

**WCT: Talk about some of your past roles. How was playing straight in Evil Dead: The Musical for Black Button Eyes?**

JDH: It was one of the strangest theatrical experiences ever. Those audiences were zero percent theater people and one hundred percent Evil Dead bros. It was BYOB. It was fun to play a macho zombie killer.

Since then, I went down to my hometown to do Falsettos at one of my favorite theater called Actor’s Express.

Last year, I did a show at Raven Theatre called Sundown Yellow Moon. It was a lovely, quiet little play unlike anything I’ve ever done. I learned guitar for that one.

**WCT: You are a multitasking guy. You sing and paint...**

JDH: I’ve had a busy year with theater and not had much time to paint. I’m working on it and gearing up for some stuff.

**WCT: Do you want to move into TV or movies?**

JDH: I love theater and always want it to be my bread and butter. I have a great agent and get to go on all kinds of auditions. I have taken lots of classes about film and TV in Chicago. I just shot my first network TV thing a few weeks ago.

The Boys in the Band is currently scheduled from Thursday, May 13 through Sunday, May 17, at Windy City Playhouse, 3014 W. Irving Park Rd. Tickets and information can be obtained at [WindyCityPlayhouse.com](http://WindyCityPlayhouse.com).

Please check with the event organizers after April 30 to see if the production is still running.

Stay tuned for the upcoming Netflix movie version of The Boys in the Band with the 2018 Broadway revival cast planned for release sometime this year.

Joseph Hutto, AKA Ben D. Mann.  
Peter Serocki Visuals ([www.peterserockivisuals.com](http://www.peterserockivisuals.com))



## Chicago dancer discusses battle with COVID-19

BY MATT SIMONETTE

When Joseph Hutto—a Chicago dancer who performs locally under the stage name Ben D. Mann—got sick in late March, he assumed that he had somehow contracted food poisoning.

“I couldn’t figure out what this was, because I really hadn’t eaten anything out of the ordinary,” recalled Hutto, who, among his other dance work, is part of the Boylesque dance troupe that performs biweekly at The Call.

Hutto was ill with a multitude of digestive-tract issues at first, but one day he began experiencing chest pains and breathing problems as well—symptoms that were uncharacteristic for him but

are hallmark symptoms of COVID-19. Conversations with his physician and other health professionals led them all to conclude that Hutto was indeed showing symptoms of coronavirus; his digestive issues were showing up in a small but significant number of COVID-19 patients.

“What was tricky with me was that I didn’t present the way most people do,” Hutto said. “It took me a while to figure out what this was. I had digestive problems, intestinal issues and stomach cramping.”

Hutto’s diagnosis of coronavirus was an unofficial one. Since he was ill already, both he and his providers did not want for him to leave his home to get tested or to seek additional medical atten-

tion at a time when community medical resources were being stretched thin; they determined that his best chances were with simply getting bed rest. He was physically on his own for the recovery, but was in touch by phone with providers while friends dropped off food and supplies.

The illness was especially harsh for about a week. For days, Hutto wanted to do little but sleep, and could barely keep food down. He described the recovery as “super-gradual.”

After about a week, he phoned a nurse practitioner for a followup telehealth visit. “I was starting to feel slightly better, but not by much,” he recalled.

But that nurse practitioner warned him that his

malaise was likely not over.

Hutto explained: “She said, ‘Right at the time you feel like you’re going to get better, you’re going to have a day or two where you’re going to get worse. It’s going to feel like you’re sicker than you should be, and it’s going to be kind of scary, but rest assured it’s happened to everyone and they’re getting through it just fine.’”

Indeed, Hutto went into a severe relapse for the next few days. “I had about five days where I was sick as a dog, a couple of days where I felt a little bit better but not much, then a couple of days where I was sick as a dog again, and thought, ‘Holy crap, is this never going to end?’ Then, once I got over that hump, I recovered very quickly. Within a couple days, I was 100-percent back to normal.”

Hutto is living with HIV, and credited his ongoing efforts at staying undetectable with helping him to face the challenges of COVID-19. He had coincidentally just had his T-cell counts run before getting sick and had a clear idea in his mind when he was feeling off and when he wasn’t.

“I have a really strong immune system and my numbers are always really high, and I keep track of them,” he said. “I’m well aware of how that works, way more than the average person. I really stay on top of it. I wasn’t extra-paranoid or scared. I knew that my immune system is strong and I knew that I can fight this off.”

As his symptoms have subsided, Hutto is trying to reclaim whatever normality he can under self-isolation. Money is now a struggle since there will be no dance gigs in the immediate future, and the dog-walking service for whom he works during the day closed for the duration of the state’s shelter-in-place order.

“Being confined for so long is hard mentally, especially if you’re a social person and you’re used to working Chicago nightlife, and have shows every two weeks,” he said. “But I’m getting there. I’m adjusting.”



Joseph Hutto, AKA Ben D. Mann.  
Peter Serocki Visuals  
([www.peterserockivisuals.com](http://www.peterserockivisuals.com))

## BOOKS

# Jen Manion talks 'Female Husbands,' writing process

BY CARRIE MAXWELL

In their new book, *Female Husbands: A Trans History*, Jen Manion illuminates the stories of people assigned female at birth who transed gender to live as men and also marry women in the United Kingdom and United States from 1746 to just before World War I.

While Manion was doing historic research on other topics, they would stumble upon short anecdotes in newspapers about female husbands and they wanted to figure out what to make of these stories. That is how this book came to fruition.

When asked to describe their book to someone who does not know about female husbands, Manion said, "Gender and sexual minority communities have been around forever. We might seem 'new' or 'modern' to some people but history shows nothing could be further from the truth. These female husbands were widely known about and debated in newspapers in both countries during that time and I wanted to share this with a new audience."

Manion decided to focus on the United Kingdom and the United States during those years because that is where the term female husband was used in newspaper reporting.

In terms of their research process, Manion said they verified all their newspaper articles with other archival sources.

"I was able to show that these stories were not just made up by newspaper editors," said Manion. "These couples had legal marriage licenses that I found in the archives. I dug a layer deeper to fill in the context of their lives, the people who encountered them and how they moved through society."

What Manion found was that there was a lot of sadness with these people's stories. They also pointed to the most interesting story in the book was about James Howe and their wife Mary who ran several taverns in the United Kingdom including one in London for more than 20 years. Manion explained that the Howes were two poor teenagers who made a pact where one of them would live as a man, they would get married and live their lives together.

"There is quite a bit written about the Howes and it is very interesting," said Manion. "Their story broke after their wife died because James outed himself as someone assigned female at birth. Over the course of 100 years, newspaper editors regurgitated their story with different kinds of language and judgments embedded."

This is not the first book that Manion has written. They are also the author of *Liberty's Prisoners: Carceral Culture in Early America* and *Taking Back the Academy: History of Activism, History as Activism* along with countless scholarly ar-

ticles on a variety of LGBTQ issues.

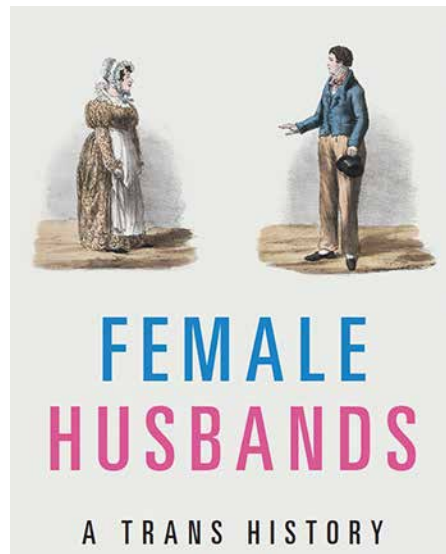
Manion's journey as an author and college professor began as a child growing up in a small town two hours from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and got their Ph.D. from Rutgers University. Currently, Manion is an associate professor of history at Amherst College and previously taught at Connecticut College. While at Connecticut College, Manion founded the LGBTQ Resource Center and served as its director.

The reason why Manion gravitated to academia as a career choice was because "college just completely blew my mind. It was rather overwhelming and exciting to me to be surrounded by so many different kinds of people who knew about everything one could possibly know. Colleges are places of tremendous possibility, where people who are curious and open-minded can thrive. I knew I wanted to be a part of that world."

Writing was a natural step for Manion because they loved reading and researching topics and wanted to share these findings with the world.

"It is very gratifying to string words together in a way that helps to clarify an idea or an issue for people," said Manion. "My topics choose me. As a historian, what I write about depends on what sources I have found. But I only spend time on things that have relevance beyond the world of academic history—such as mass incarceration or transgender liberation—otherwise, I do not think I am making the best use of my time and resources."

When Manion is not teaching or writing books and scholarly articles, they enjoy spending time with their spouse of six years, Jessica Halem. Halem is Harvard Medical School's LGBTQ Outreach and Engagement Director and former Chicagoan. The couple has been together for 10 years



Jen Manion.

Photo courtesy of Code Purple Photography

and married in Provincetown, Massachusetts in 2014.

In their new book's acknowledgements, Manion wrote that Halem declared them their female husband. Manion said, "Somewhere in the middle of this project we realized that the term female husband was the perfect category for me. Some of it is about my gender expression but it is also about caretaking and responsibility that the term husband connotes."

"It's wonderful to learn old-timey language that speaks to the ways that gender lives as both as personal identity and a relational identity," said Halem. "I hope other people in the queer community take this word for a spin. This book also contains the untold stories of the queer wives who are too often ignored in relation to transgender and non-binary people."

Manion's future plans include continuing to teach and keep writing about trans history because there is so much more that needs to be done of this topic.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Manion's book tour has been put on hold, however, they are planning on coming to Women and Children First when medical personnel say travel and gatherings are allowed to resume.

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

## Arts for Illinois launches with grants for artists, groups

Arts Alliance Illinois joined Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker and Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot in launching Arts for Illinois—a collaboration between the State of Illinois, the City of Chicago and members of the philanthropic community to support the statewide creative sector during the COVID-19 crisis.

This new platform will raise money for and provide direct relief to the creative professionals and cultural organizations that have been impacted by the shutdown. It will also serve as an online community where creatives share their work, connecting with the public while at home during these challenging times.

Through the newly launched Arts for Illinois Relief Fund, individual artists and artisans—including stage and production members and part-time cultural workers—experiencing an urgent need are able to apply for one-time grants of \$1,500 distributed by 3Arts. Grants will be awarded through a lottery system and will be disseminated quickly.

Additionally, nonprofit arts and cultural organizations of any size will be able to apply for relief through the Arts Work Fund. Based on their demonstrated financial need, organizations will be awarded grants that are \$6,000-\$30,000.

See [ArtsForIllinois.org/donate-and-apply](http://ArtsForIllinois.org/donate-and-apply).

## Printers Row Lit Fest postponed until Sept.

Out of an abundance of caution, and prioritizing the safety and wellbeing of its guests, authors and vendors, the Near South Planning Board has postponed this year's Printers Row Lit Fest until Labor Day weekend, Sept. 5-6, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

The 2020 festival will be headlined by New York Times best-selling author and National Book Award winner Ta-Nehisi Coates, as previously announced. Coates is the recipient of this year's Harold Washington Literary Award and kicks off Printers Row Lit Fest on Sept. 5 at 10 a.m. at the Cindy Pritzker Auditorium at Harold Washington Library, 400 S. State St.

More than 100,000 visitors are expected during Printers Row Lit Fest, which will feature nearly 100 events with local and national best-selling authors and more than 100 diverse booksellers—plus spoken-word performances, chef demos, writing workshops, and events for children and young adults.

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



Ta-Nehisi Coates.

Photo by Gabriella Demczuk

## EVENTS

# Welz Kauffman on what Ravinia will (hopefully) bring this summer

BY ANDREW DAVIS

It's not a Chicagoland summer without Ravinia, with its multitude of concerts and other attractions (including the opening of RaviniaMusicBox, an immersive experience that is slated to open with two Leonard Bernstein installations).

However, that summer of song may be in jeopardy, as the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a multitude of events being cancelled—and even Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker recently said that sum-

perfect. Sometimes, people stay too long at the dance. Why not go out on a heavily caffeinated high note?"

Then, Kauffman described RaviniaMusicBox, which is slated to open Friday, June 12: "It's a building with a rooftop bar and it offers great views of the parks. It has four different spaces. There's a foyer and there's another space; then, there's a video area and a 60-seat theater that tricked out, technologically. And then there's something like a museum-gallery space.



Photo by  
Adriane White

**Lesbian conductor Marin Alsop (right) is slated to lead the CSO in *Legendary Women's Voices*, starring Cynthia Erivo (left).**

mer festivals may not take place this year. (That being stated, according to Ravinia's website, all public and privately hosted events will be cancelled until at least June 1.)

This is a special season for another reason, though: Welz Kauffman, the out president/CEO, will leave his post after 20 years at the helm. He is only the third full-time professional leader of Ravinia, following Edward Gordon (1974-1989) and Zarin Mehta (1990-2000). "It feels a little daunting that I've been here 20 years," Kauffman told *Windy City Times* in an interview that took place shortly before the lockdowns occurred. "But how many people have their board of directors say, 'Yeah, you can leave—but if you give us one more year.' That just doesn't happen.

"I probably could have [gone on another 20 years], but I have this sense that a lot had been accomplished with the Ravinia family. Also, as a side note, I talked with a bunch of people in Europe—and they basically said that 20 years was

"We decided to focus on Bernstein because there are so many aspects of his musical genius that one can explore. There are his compositions, teachings and even social activism; he's going to be the focus for several seasons. There's a beautiful, wonderful, fun exhibit coming from the National Museum of American Jewish History on Bernstein as well."

And, as usual, there's an incredibly wide variety of acts to entertain everyone. Just a few of the acts slated to appear include Carrie Underwood, John Legend, Rodrigo y Gabriela, Diana Ross, Alan Cumming and Ari Shapiro, Betty Buckley, Patti LaBelle, Tony Bennett, Ani DiFranco, Sheryl Crow, Gladys Knight, Ms. Lauryn Hill, Train and The Zappa Band.

"I love when people are blown away by the acts," Kauffman said. "We have first-timers like Jesse & Joy, from Mexico; she just came out last year. I wanted them for a while. They're schedule to start our season [on June 12] while Rodrigo y



Ravinia President/CEO Welz Kauffman.  
Photo courtesy of Ravinia

Gabriela are scheduled for Sept. 13. Also, Musiq Soulchild is coming for the first time; I'm crazy about that guy. Ruben Studdard hasn't been with us, and he's opening for Patti LaBelle. And Ani DiFranco is new—and she's opening for Indigo Girls, during Pride Week.

"We also have classical musicians, like the gorgeous Italian pianist Beatrice Rana. Also, pianist Jorge Federico Osorio will perform Rachmaninoff."

Also, lesbian conductor Marin Alsop will be in the new position of chief conductor/curator, leading the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in five concerts, including the *Legendary Women's Voices* gala starring Oscar nominee Cynthia Erivo. "I can't wait to see Cynthia," Kauffman said. "She was amazing at the Oscars—and she's such a chameleon."

As for Alsop, "I've known [her] since the '80s," Kauffman said. "She was the director of a small orchestra in the New York area. Not only is she a more-than-competent musician, but she's also one of the most thoughtful, intelligent, diplomatic, inquisitive people I've ever met—warm

and humble, but she has a command of what it takes to get in front of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Also, she's passionate about education for underserved kids. Plus, she's Leonard Bernstein's only female student; he was famous for saying, in the '60s, that women shouldn't be conductors. She's the real thing—and she and her wife have a really good life. It was really important for me to make this [Alsop being at Ravinia] happen."

In addition, there will be an Aug. 23 farewell concert for Kauffman, entitled "All Welz That Ends Well." "The women's board wanted to do something for me, and I tried to beg off—but I didn't want to be rude," he said. "Proceeds will go toward RaviniaMusicBox—and I have no idea what the program will be. That sounds fun."

And as for what he plans on doing after leaving, Kauffman said, "I have no idea. My husband and I are just trying to figure out the next parts of our lives and careers. He's done some consulting work; he's worked in the field of dance. I really don't know what I'm going to do. If anything, I might just take a little bit of a break."

RaviniaMusicBox.  
Photo courtesy of Ravinia





Tiger King's Joe Exotic.  
Images courtesy of Netflix

REVIEW

## 'Tiger King' rules television

BY JERRY NUNN

Netflix had perfect timing when the media company released *Tiger King: Murder, Mayhem and Madness* on March 20. Because of a pandemic that trapped television viewers at home like animals in cages, audiences had time to cram down a seven-episode story arc about the world of big-cat owners.

The welcome distraction left some people astounded and many ravenous for more. Sex, drugs and country music are all part of a new zoo revue that covers animal parks and various owners' interactions with each other throughout the years.

Co-producers/co-creators Eric Goode and Rebecca Chaiklin wanted a big-cat version of the award-winning documentary *Blackfish* and instead ended up with a very entertaining character study. There's something for everyone in *Tiger King*—and that's why it resonates so well with viewers.

The LGBT community pops up throughout the documentary. The star of *Tiger King*—Joseph Maldonado-Passage, also known as "Joe Exotic"—is a gay, gun-toting polygamist zoo owner hungry for fame. Exotic's past husbands are a mix of gay, bisexual and straight. One of Exotic's employees, Saff Saffery, is trans and prefers he/his pronouns. Unfortunately, in *Tiger King*, Saffery not only loses a limb, but is identified incorrectly several times.

After traveling to the Big Cat Rescue in Florida myself, I noticed how small—and far away from the public—the cages were located. In the program, owner Carole Baskin makes the case that the park is helping abused and abandoned big cats while charging customers to enter. If this

is true, then she is making a killing along the way, after starting the project in 1992. Baskin is a fascinating character in *Tiger King*; she was ahead of the curve in terms of social media and even made a virtual-reality zoo last year. Is she a gentle animal lover or an evil genius who killed her husband in some way? These are questions that have both hooked viewers and have resulted in a new investigation against her.

Exotic is still behind bars and loving the attention—while serving 22 years. Now there's even talk of a possible presidential pardon for his sentence.

Lovers of animals have been skittish about watching the series, although another doc—*Don't F\*\*k With Cats: Hunting An Internet Killer*,

on the same platform—is much tougher to watch. The focus is mainly on the human subjects, and that's where *Tiger King* only scratches the surface of the real problem. While it can be fun to see the eccentric and vengeful cast of characters in *Tiger King*, the series really lost sight of being about the animals. Don't worry "all you cool cats and kittens," there's still meat on the bone, with a storyline of misused employees and an underworld of crime. The creators of *Tiger King* didn't complete everything they set out to do, but they have made a highly watchable tiger tale that is must-see TV.

The catty adventure continues with *The Tiger King and I*, a new after-show that was released April 12.



## Humanities Festival postponed, goes digital during crisis

Chicago Humanities Festival (CHF) has shifted its strategy in reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic, rescheduling spring programs for later in the year and moving some events to digital platforms.

Three digital programs are already confirmed with more in the works. The first digital event, on Wed., April 15, is a members-only digital preview: a conversation between CHF's Marilynn Thoma Artistic Director Alison Cuddy and Director of Programming Tiff Beaty about what the 2020 Vision theme means now.

Then, on Thursday, April 16, at 6 p.m., comic Cameron Esposito—author of the best-selling memoir *Save Yourself*—will join Kristen Kaza for a conversation, including answering audience questions. Then, on Tuesday, April 21, at 6 p.m., novelist Veronica Roth, author of the *Divergent* series, will join the host of WBEZ's *Nerdette Podcast* Greta Johnson for a conversation, also including audience questions.

See [ChicagoHumanities.org](http://ChicagoHumanities.org) and [YouTube.com/user/ChicagoHumanities](https://www.youtube.com/user/ChicagoHumanities).

## The Den closed through May 3

The Den Theatre, 1331 N. Milwaukee Ave., will remain closed through Sunday, May 3, in response to the latest stay-at-home order issued by Gov. JB Pritzker in the wake of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The closure includes The Haven Lounge. Cancelled/postponed performances include *Under the Tree*, *Reporting Live: I'm Ana Bel-eval*, *The Juniors*, *The Plough* and *This is Only a Test* as well as shows by comedians Maria Bamford and Maz Jobrani, among others. The Den Theatre box office is contacting patrons via e-mail to process refunds and exchanges for all performances. In the event that a show is rescheduled for a later date, patrons will be offered the option to transfer tickets or request a refund. Visit [TheDenTheatre.com](http://TheDenTheatre.com).

## About Face postpones 'Laced,' Wonka Ball

About Face Theatre announced the postponement of its annual benefit gala and its planned production of *Laced*, which was set to begin performances Wed., May 13.

"*Wonka Ball: Silver & Gold*," which had been scheduled for Saturday, May 30, at Venue West, 221 N. Paulina St., will be rescheduled to a date to be determined. *Laced*—written by Samantha Mueller and set in a recently vandalized queer bar and honoring the power of community solidarity—will be moved into a slot in the 2020-2021 season.

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

# VIRTUAL VIBES

Support your favorite LGBTQ bar events online.

Physical distancing, social togetherness.



## Sidetrack Showtune Countdown

Just gotta croon a tune? Join Sidetrack's own showgirl Dixie Lynn Cartwright and general manager Brad as they count down some of Sidetrack's favorite showtunes. And they're taking requests!

Pour yourself a Slushie (we recommend popsicles and vodka in a blender) and belt along with your favorite Sidetrack regulars.

On [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

Follow [www.facebook.com/SidetrackBar/](http://www.facebook.com/SidetrackBar/)



## Sofonda's House Party – Virtual BIG Gay Gayme Show!

Bearded broad Sofonda Booz and Choose-Your-Own Game Night are sliding back into your DMs with Virtual Big Gay Gayme Show, regularly at **Meeting House Tavern**. They're bringing all your favorite TV game shows together with a big gay twist, and YOU can play from the comfort of your own home.

Join in Tuesdays at 8 p.m. on the Gayme Boyz YouTube channel at [www.GaymeBoyz.com](http://www.GaymeBoyz.com)

Follow [www.facebook.com/MeetingHouseChi/](http://www.facebook.com/MeetingHouseChi/)



## Roscoe's Dance Like Nobody's Watching Stay-At Home Dance Party!

Now you can own (or, more likely, rent) the dance floor as the team at **Roscoe's** brings the high-energy dance moves into your place of residence. Resident DJ MikeyP, Charlie Buttons and more spin all your club favorites.

Dates variable. On [www.mixcloud.com](http://www.mixcloud.com)

Follow [www.facebook.com/RoscoesTavern/](http://www.facebook.com/RoscoesTavern/)



## BILLY Masters

"If you're gonna wear a mask—and you **MUST** wear a mask – it better say something."—Original "Dreamgirl" **Sheryl Lee Ralph** makes her entrance on "Billy Masters LIVE" wearing a black mask encrusted with crystals that spelled out DIVA!

It's possible El Presidente may be in for a rude awakening. Even before his coronation, er, inauguration, it was widely reported that Mr. Trump used some colorful language behind the scenes on The Apprentice. Tapes were said to exist, being locked up by producer **Mark Burnett**. However, those tapes may soon see the light of day. U.S. District Judge Lorna Schofield ruled, "Plaintiffs' motion to compel the MGM Entities to make available to Plaintiffs certain video footage is granted." While there will likely be some explosive footage in the archives, I don't expect it will change anyone's mind—especially people who voted for him after the infamous "Pussy" tape.

Even beloved folks are known to make a misstep—like **Ellen DeGeneres**. When she resumed doing her show from home, she thought she'd make people happy. Instead, she pissed people off! One of her first jokes landed with a thud: "This is like being in jail. ... It's mostly because I've been wearing the same clothes for 10 days and everyone in here is gay." Criticism was quick and vehement. People felt that Ellen in her \$24-million mansion had little to complain about. Even prisoners took offense at the idea that everyone in the hoosegow is gay. Ellen's response? She took down the videos. When she got



**Sheryl Lee Ralph is a diva through and through, Billy says.**

Photo courtesy of David Chadwick

criticized over that, the clips went back up—minus the joke.

You know what show is doing very well? Billy Masters LIVE. When I woke up at the crack of noon last Wednesday, I had oodles of messages saying that our latest show had gone viral. "Viral?" I asked. "It's like P-town over Fourth of July!!" What piqued people's interest was when **Bruce Vilanch**, **Andrea Martin** and composer **Marc Shaiman** joined me in performing a scene from the musical Hairspray. Bruce was Edna, Andrea was Mrs. Pingleton, and Shaiman played

Tracy. Naturally, I played Penny—due to my penchant for sleeping with Black men.

As if that weren't enough, Thursday's show featured **Sheryl Lee Ralph** and **Sam Harris** joining me in the famous dressing room scene from Dreamgirls. Obviously, I played Lorrell—due to my penchant for sleeping with married Black men! The fun continues live every Tuesday and Thursday at 3 p.m. ET on Facebook and YouTube. Of course, the replays can always be found (for free) on BillyMasters.com. Just click on "TV."

Some people in lockdown are coming up with ingenious ways to pass the time. Take **Tori Spelling**. The former starlet has offered fans a chance to join a live video conference with her. Isn't that nice? Ah, but there's a catch—the virtual meet-and-greet comes with a \$95 price tag. I'm torn—on one hand, who the hell does Tori Spelling think she is? Cher? Celine Dion? Donny and Marie? On the other hand, if people are willing to pay it, what does it matter to me? Sure, Billy Masters LIVE is free ... but not everyone is as, shall we say, accommodating to their fans (especially the Black, married fans). On the positive side, Tori's meetings are on Wednesdays at 4 p.m. ET—so she's not conflicting with me, should we happen to share any fans. Spelling's hubby, **Dean McDermott**, came to her defense: "All the studios, everything is shut down. She has no way to work like everybody else. She has no job to go to." That's all true—but, really, you can't blame Tori's career on the coronavirus.

Our "Ask Billy" question comes from Harry in Chicago. "I came across some nude photos of **Dio Johnson** and I think you'd enjoy them. Do you have any idea where they came from?"

Here's a better question: Who is Dio Johnson? I did some research and apparently he's an actor who has done some bit parts on NCIS and Grey's Anatomy. And at some point, he was known as Dio Chaz Johnson. With that out of the way, let me open your photos ... WOW! That's a whole lotta Dio!!! Or, as they'd say in Spanish, "Dios mio!" Before his legitimate career started, he did some porn—because, y'know, there are bills

to be paid. He was allegedly a bi Latin guy who went by the name of Pistola! And his Pistola is definitely cocked in these photos! Dio's certainly got it all—and we're happy to show it all on BillyMasters.com.

When someone's got a Pistola in their pocket and they're happy to see me, it's definitely time to end yet another column. Needless to say, your first stop every morning should be BillyMasters.com—the site that has it all. Gossip, nudes, tops, bottoms and now—live shows! Yes, don't forget that we do live broadcasts every Tuesday and Thursday at 3 p.m. ET. Subscribe to our channel on YouTube—Billy Masters TV. If you have a question—or a hot Black man you wanna share—drop me a note at [Billy@BillyMasters.com](mailto:Billy@BillyMasters.com), and I promise to get back to you before Tori considers a career in online porn! Until next time, remember: One man's filth is another man's bible.

**LETS TALK INCHES**  
ANY CUSTOM HARNESS  
**MADE FOR YOU**  
COME IN FOR A FITTING!

**LEATHER4TEN CHICAGO**  
6410 N. CLARK ST., CHICAGO, IL 60626  
773.508.0900 | @LEATHER4TEN  
[WWW.LEATHER4TEN.COM](http://WWW.LEATHER4TEN.COM)



@windycitytimes



/windycitymediagroup



@windycitytimes

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

# the DISH

Dining Guide in  
WINDY CITY TIMES

## SAVOR Cuisine professionals talk about the impact of COVID-19

BY ANDREW DAVIS

With the COVID-19 pandemic affecting the global food scene, Windy City Times asked local food/cuisine professionals (from chefs to PR people) how their lives have changed and what their feelings are. Here are what a few people had to say:

—**Troy Jorge, Temporis executive chef:** "It's been pretty surreal. Challenges aren't new in our industry. What matters most is how we adapt to the situation and the circumstances. For the first time many of us are working with a takeout menu, which is certainly different. It has allowed us to continue doing what we love—just in a different way. All of Temporis is grateful to still be working in such a crazy time."

—**Debbie Sharpe, founder and CEO, The Goddess and Grocer/The Goddess Rocks!:** "At this time of year, I am usually gearing up for the summer concert season and employing an extra 100 people to start working stadium shows and festivals. I'm now in limbo because I don't know when or if the festival season will even start. I have to decide if I will just do all the work when it comes, which is intense or scramble to hire when we have confirmation that events will be back."



Clockwise from top left: Temporis Executive Chef Troy Jorge; The Goddess and Grocer/The Goddess Rocks! founder and CEO Debbie Sharpe; Tzucu Executive Chef Carlos Gaytan; Virtue Chef Erick Williams.



"We'll also have to think, 'Will people want to work in such close quarters after this? As for The Goddess and Grocer stores, we are hoping to survive by having to-go options as well having a walk-up window at our Bucktown store. Personally, it's just so weird not being overloaded with work every day, so I don't apply myself enough because it all feels like it can wait."

—**Megan Richards Martin, Page One Public Relations:** "These certainly are trying times and I think we are all just figuring out how to cope with the fall out of this virus and our industry. It is heartbreaking to see our clients dealing with the situation and it obviously affects our PR agency, Page One Public Relations. Our clients are family and we are all struggling right now so we have had to have hard conversations with how to work together during this time."

"I think the silver lining of this is that after we come out of this, we will realize the importance of communicators as well as how important we need media in this world. Individually, I am trying to remain positive and I keep going back to the words 'reconnect' and 'hope.' During this time, I have found solace in reconnecting with friends and family and also staying hopeful that we will return to a life that is bigger and better."

—**Erick Williams, chef/owner, Virtue:** "COVID-19 has given the entire world pause. I have never seen medical professionals around the world under this level of pressure without the tools they need to do their jobs. My heart goes out to them and the many families affected. Our medical professionals are displaying great courage as we all face this pandemic together. It is encouraging to be a part of the chef community and witness first-hand the efforts by many small business owners. I am also saddened that our community has been grounded and that the landscape may never be the same after this."

—**Carlos Gaytán, executive chef of Tzucu:**

Turn to page 21

# VIRTUAL VIBES

Support your favorite  
LGBTQ bar events online.

Physical distancing,  
social togetherness.



## Creaoke Lag-Time Quarantoke w/Scott

Belt one out with Creaoke Lag-Time Quarantoke, Sundays from 6-8 p.m. It's your big chance to virtually hang out and catch up with your fellow karaoke fans from **The SoFo Tap** — and sing! Hosted by Scott from Rock & Soul Karaoke with DJ Creagh and Bradley K8 Olsen.  
<https://zoom.us/j/635860454>  
Meeting ID: 635 860 454  
Follow [facebook.com/TheSoFoTap/](https://www.facebook.com/TheSoFoTap/)



## Drag Mati-Net on Twitch: T Rex's Birthday!

Celebrate the hatching of host extraordinaire T Rex at Drag Mati-Net (the virtual incarnation of **Berlin's Drag Matinee**), live on Twitch, Saturday, April 18 at 10 p.m. Performances by The Princess, Neon Calypso, Aurora Sexton, Sexy Galaxy, Iv Fischer, Jessica L'Whor, Domita D. Sanchez, Alexis Bevels, Dusty Bahls, Maureen San Diego and Aura Mayari.  
[www.twitch.tv/DragMatinee](http://www.twitch.tv/DragMatinee)  
Follow [www.facebook.com/BerlinNightclub/](https://www.facebook.com/BerlinNightclub/)



## Kwarantime Kwestions w/ Kwizmaster Trivia

Keep those brains sharp as a tack with this weekly virtual incarnation **The Glenwood's** popular Thursday trivia game at 8 p.m. Topics range from politics to pop culture to obscure math terms. Ya know, trivia. Hosted by Kwizmaster Kirk.

Link to the game on the Zoom platform posted each week at 7:50 on the Facebook group.

Follow [www.facebook.com/groups/qatriviaglenwood/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/qatriviaglenwood/)



@windycitytimes



/windycitymediagroup



@windycitytimes

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

## SAVOR from page 20

"COVID-19 has changed our lives forever and has been devastating to restaurants everywhere. This time has prompted me to tap further into my spiritual side and take stock of everything around me. It has made me appreciate my health, my family and all that I have. When we come out on the other side, I am determined to make the most of every moment and push myself even further, both personally and with my cuisine. I'm going to fight like never before."

—**Sam Toia, president and CEO of the Illinois Restaurant Association:** "We are faced with an industry in crisis, and it will require continued relief to ensure that eating and drinking establishments in Chicago's 77 vibrant communities can make a comeback. Our team is providing as many resources as possible to operators and their employees, and we will continue to work tirelessly with elected leaders at the city, state and federal levels to advocate for the industry's best interests."

—**Janet Isabelli, principal of Isabelli Partners:** "COVID-19 has been catastrophic for Chicago's hotels and restaurants, and industry-adjacent service businesses have also suffered greatly as a result. Most boutique agencies saw an instant, dramatic loss in revenue. I remain optimistic. While it will take time for the industry to rebuild, ours is made up of a resilient, supportive community that will work together to make happen. It is our responsibility as marketers to envision an industry in recovery. This is the time to be forward-thinking and develop smart, effective programs that will speak to the industry's needs in the weeks and months ahead."

Read the entire article, with more statements from other cuisine professionals, at [WindyCityMediaGroup.com](http://WindyCityMediaGroup.com).

## 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](http://www.ChestnutCleaning.com) (11/11/20-26)**

### COUNSELING & PSYCHOTHERAPY

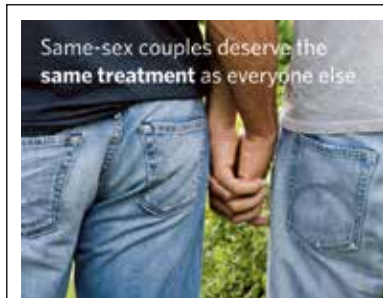
**ARE YOU GOING THROUGH A DIFFICULT TIME?** Feeling overwhelmed, anxious or depressed? Is your relationship struggling? I can help you better understand these situations and create solutions for them. My practical approach entails a therapeutic alliance that is affirming, empathic, and interactive. **Michael J. Bland, Psy.D., LCPC. Northside location. 773-404-8161. [Michael@BlandTherapy.com](mailto:Michael@BlandTherapy.com) / [www.BlandTherapy.com](http://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](http://www.andyonthecallchicago.com) (7/26/20-26)**

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

### INSURANCE



#### 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)



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

## Bolshoi cancels June performances

The Bolshoi Ballet's performances of Swan Lake at the Auditorium Theatre, originally scheduled for June 10-14, have been postponed as a result of COVID-19.

The Auditorium Theatre is working closely with the company to schedule new dates and will share this information as soon as possible.

The Auditorium Theatre has launched various online initiatives to keep audiences engaged while the venue is closed to the public. Visit [AuditoriumTheatre.org](http://AuditoriumTheatre.org) to learn more.

## Virtual reading of Terrence McNally work on April 16

In honor of Terrence McNally, who recently passed away at age 81 of complications from COVID-19, four actors—each participating from a remote location—will perform a live online reading of Mothers and Sons on Thursday, April 16 at 7 p.m.

This is an encore reading of the play the company presented in fall 2018 during the run of their production of McNally's It's Only a Play. Participating actors will include Michelle McKenzie-Voigt, Benjamin Sprunger, Cody Dericks and Patrick Scott McDermott.

This reading of Mothers and Sons can be viewed for \$10 per access. Proceeds will help Pride Films and Plays continue to produce and create important LGBTQ stories. Remote viewing tickets are on

sale now at [PrideFilmsAndPlays.com](http://PrideFilmsAndPlays.com) or 866-811-4111.

Instructions on how to access the reading will be e-mailed to those purchasing remote viewing tickets.

## Photographer Victor Skrebneski dies at 90

World-renowned and Chicago-based photographer Victor Skrebneski died April 4 at age 90 of cancer, The Chicago Sun-Times reported.

He helped discover Jennifer Beals and a teenaged Cindy Crawford, and may be best known for his posters for the Chicago International Film Festival that featured celebrities such as Dolph Lundgren, Iman, Marcus Schenkenberg, Anna Nicole Smith, Crawford and Sigourney Weaver. However, he also took photos of icons like Bette Davis, Audrey Hepburn, David Bowie and Iman, Orson Welles, Sharon Stone and Raquel Welch, among many others.

In the 1940s, he attended Waller High School, the School of the Art Institute and the Institute of Design at the Illinois Institute of Technology, according to the Museum of Contemporary Photography at Columbia College Chicago.

Windy City Times noted that Skrebneski was among the photographers who took pictures of amateur and professional athletes in connection with the 2006 Gay Games, including Esera Tuaolo, Leigh-Ann Naidoo and Matthew Cusick.

There was a virtual Victor Skrebneski Gay Games remembrance April 9. Drew Jemilo hosted the event.

Detail from Victor Skrebneski's poster featuring Marcus Schenkenberg and Maureen Gallagher.



## 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 said event is still scheduled.]

**Wed., April 15**

**Chicago Humanities Festival members-only digital preview** Members-only digital preview: a conversation between CHF's Marilyn Thoma Artistic Director Alison Cuddy and Director of Programming Tiff Beatty about what the 2020 Vision theme means now. 6:00pm Online <http://ChicagoHumanities.org>

**COVID-19 Virtual mental-health forum** Virtual forum focused on mental health and wellness during the pandemic. Panelists from NAMI Chicago, Jewish Child and Family Services and Insight + Regroup. Those who are unable to participate in the forum are encouraged to take advantage of available mental-health resources. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) has a help line at 833-626-4244. Or text NAMI to 741741 for support through text mes-

**WHOLE NEW 'WORLD'****Saturday, April 18**

Lady Gaga will host the "One World: Together at Home" online concert.

Photo by Jerry Nunn

sages. 10:30pm - 11:45pm  
Zoom <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ouaHTxyJ4KPLS6WeuPIXMJQ1ebyQI31yj asN5loSEA8/prefill>

**Saturday, April 16**

**Chicago Humanities Festival event with comic Cameron Esposito** Author of the best-selling memoir *Save Yourself* will join Kristen Kaza for a conversation, including answering audience questions. 6:00pm Online at <http://ChicagoHumanities.org>

**Live virtual reading of Terrence McNally's Mothers and Sons** In honor of Terrence McNally, who recently passed away at age 81 of complications from COVID-19. Four actors, each participating from a remote location. A woman visits the New York apartment of her late son's partner (now married to another man and with a son. Generations collide as she revisits the past and begins to see the life her son might have led.. \$10 9:00pm Online; 866-811-4111 <http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com>

**Saturday, April 18**

**Lady Gaga's "One World: Together at Home" online concert** Lady Gaga gathering Elton John, Lizzo, John Legend, Billie Eilish, Paul McCartney, Finneas, Lizzo, Stevie Wonder, John Legend, Chris Martin, Eddie Vedder, Kacey Musgraves, J Balvin, Keith Urban, Alanis Moris-

sette, Lang Lang, Andrea Bocelli, Billie Joe Armstrong, Burna Boy, Maluma and more for a massive virtual concert to honor medical workers on the front lines of the coronavirus crisis. 8:00pm; <http://www.yahoo.com/entertainment/one-world-together-home-telecast-155044568.html>

**Tuesday, April 21**

**Chicago Humanities Festival, novelist Veronica Roth (virtual event)** Novelist Veronica Roth, author of the *Divergent* series, will join the host of WBEZ's *Nerdette* Podcast Greta Johnson for a conversation, also including audience questions 6:00pm Online <http://ChicagoHumanities.org>

**Friday, April 24**

**GLSEN Day of Silence** A national student-led demonstration where LGBTQ students and allies all around the country and the world take a vow of silence to protest the harmful effects of harassment and discrimination of LGBTQ people in schools. Register to receive updates to prepare lessons and activities leading up to the Day of Silence. 12:00am - 12:00pm Online <http://www.glsen.org/day-of-silence>

**Saturday, April 25**

**Big Package Auction POSTPONED** Chicago Gay Men's Chorus. Originally slated for

7:00pm, Center on Halsted 3656 N Halsted Chicago <http://cgmc.org>

**Sunday, May 17**

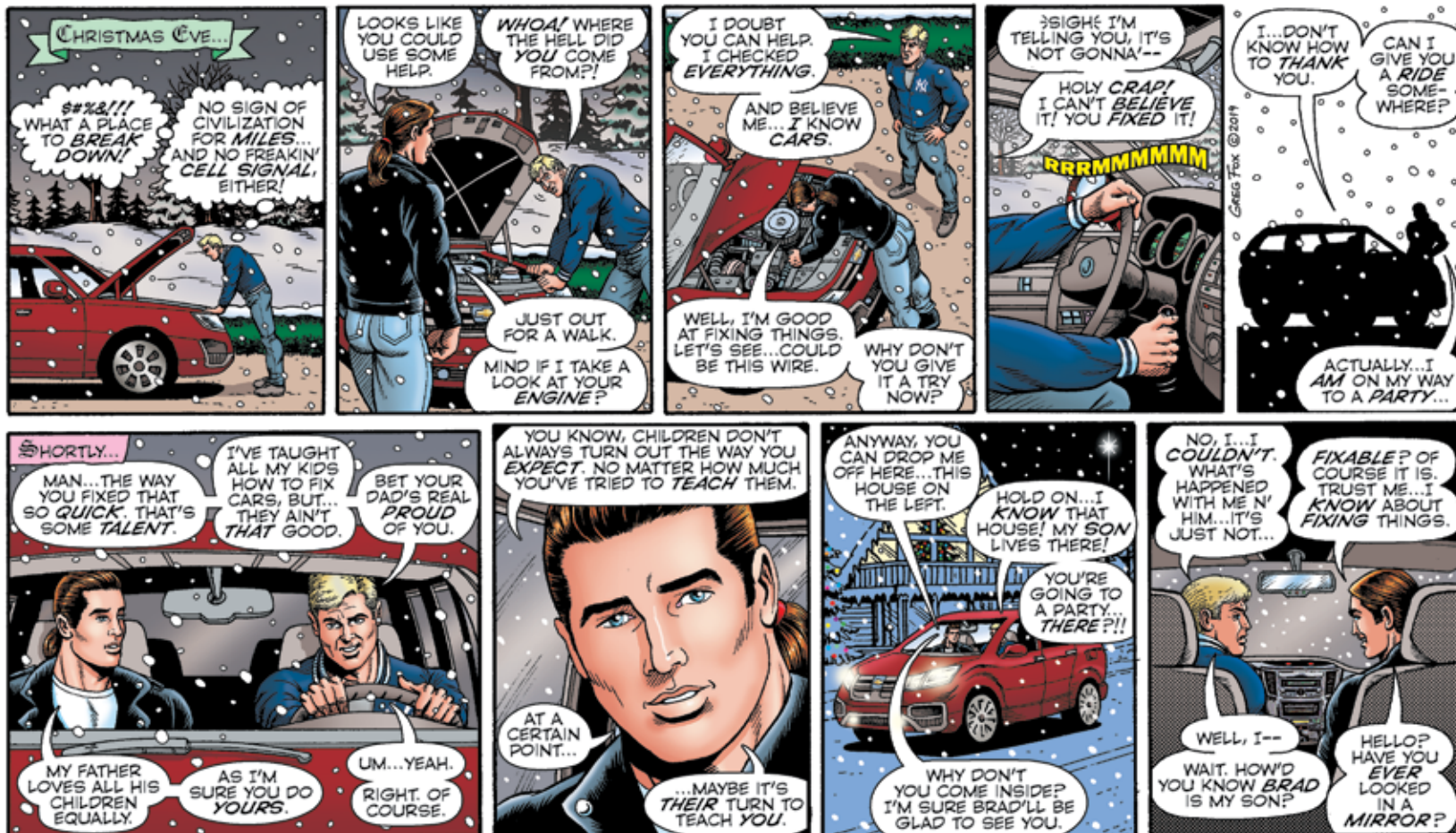
**LGBTQ Country Dance** Fun evening of line dancing and two stepping to some great country music. Meet members of the Second City Outlaws and The Illinois Gay Rodeo Association. Every third Sunday of the month. Free 4:00pm - 8:00pm The Call (Chicago) 1547 W Bryn Mawr Chicago <https://www.meetup.com/Chicago-LGBTQ-Country-Dancing/events/>

**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., Muncie, 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



## Alan Sanchez CPA, P.C.

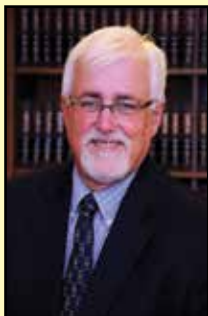
**Accounting Services  
Tax Consultation/Preparation**

**3418 N. Sheffield Ave.  
Chicago, IL 60657-8589**

**773-871-1256**

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

## 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](http://www.EhrlichDental.com)

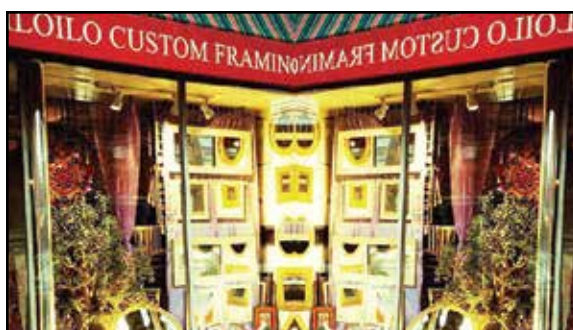


*Serving Lakeview & Beyond!*

# Mulryan & York

Attorneys At Law

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



FRAMING CHICAGO'S ART SINCE 1991

**ilolo**  
CUSTOM FRAMING

1478 W. Berwyn, Andersonville

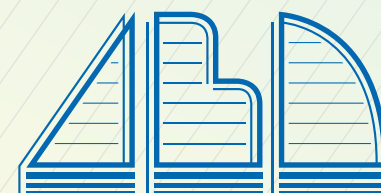


**Hector Cerda**  
**773-782-6300**

**Allstate**  
You're in good hands.

© 2018 Allstate Insurance Co.

258018



**ACHILLE BENKO & DUVAL**  
BUSINESS SERVICES and CPAs

SERVING: ARTISTS  
PROFESSIONALS  
BUSINESS OWNERS

[www.abd-cpas.com](http://www.abd-cpas.com) • (847) 257-7330



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