

Help shape our coverage. Take our short audience survey and enter to win a \$100 gift card.

[TAKE SURVEY →](#)



**Anna DeShawn**

BLACKlines coordinator



## Family,

Is it too late to say Happy New Year? Well, I'm still in my January window and we haven't spoken since 2025 so I feel like I'm good. I do hope you've taken good care of yourself during these tumultuous and anxiety driving times.

From the Supreme Court hearing oral arguments for the rights of trans kids to play in sports to ICE murdering innocent people in Minneapolis, it's a lot.

While on the other hand, joy is never too far away. Chicago has announced the hire of [Antonio King as the first Director of LGBTQ+ Affairs](#) and your favorite queer radio personality, *me*, has been [nominated for an Ambie](#) (the Emmy's of podcasting) for Best Indie Podcast Host for Queer News.

So in a time where another American reckoning is upon us don't forget that joy is never too far away. Choose to see and find the joy family.

Till next month,



p.s. I could use help getting to the Ambie awards ceremony taking place February 23rd in New York City. This trip wasn't planned and I don't want to miss this moment. Can you help me get there? I'd really appreciate anything you could do ✨

Help Anna get to the Ambies!

 Were you forwarded this email? [Sign up here](#) to receive BLACKlines on the fourth Wednesday of each month!

Our top story 

## Antonio King named Chicago Director of LGBTQ+ Affairs



Mayor Brandon Johnson has appointed Antonio King as Chicago's Director of LGBTQ+ Affairs.

King is a longtime city employee and LGBTQ+ health advocate who previously served as the LGBTQ+ Health and Outreach Liaison at the Chicago Department of Public Health.

While Chicago has had LGBTQ+ liaisons and advisory structures under previous administrations, King's appointment marks the first time that work has been elevated to an executive level inside the mayor's office.

As director of LGBTQ+ affairs, King will work within the mayor's office to develop an LGBTQ+ policy plan aimed at strengthening protections and opportunities for LGBTQ+ Chicagoans.

King comes to the role after years working as the LGBTQ+ Health and Outreach Liaison at the Chicago Department of Public Health.

[Read More](#)



We want to hear from you.

Take our short audience survey and help us better understand the people we serve and enter to win a \$100 gift card.

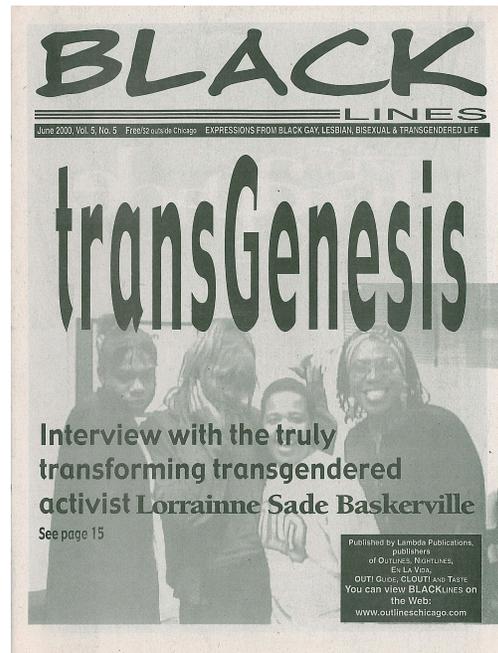
TAKE SURVEY →

## Out the Archives

### BLACKlines interviews the late trans leader Lorraine Sade Baskerville

The interview captures Baskerville's clarity of purpose and deep commitment to collective care.

[Read More](#)



More BLACKlines stories 



## Saundra Johnson, fierce HIV/AIDS activist and advocate, dies at 65

[Read More](#)



## Queer 'rapbrarian' Roy Kinsey talks hip-hop, dandelions and representation

[Read More](#)



## WCT issues call for 30 Under 30 nominees

[Read More](#)



## Chicago Sky announce 2026 season schedule

[Read More](#)



Subscribe to News on Q for weekly LGBTQ+ news stories from Windy City Times.

# A Dr. King Special Edition: Honoring Coretta while Remembering Martin



On this episode of the Queer News podcast Anna DeShawn shares a few top queer news stories and drops a special episode honoring the work and LGBTQ advocacy of Coretta Scott King.

Just as Dr. Martin Luther King was called to civil rights work, so was Coretta. History has put her in boxes that keep her narrative somewhere behind Martin's but no, not here on the Queer News podcast. On Queer News she is not just the wife of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.; she is the movement.

 [Listen Here](#)



Want more of the **Queer News** podcast? Visit [E3Radio.FM](http://E3Radio.FM)

QUEER  
NEWS



# Shine a Light On It: Black Women, HIV & Its Impact



I Went Live & Told the World My Status: My Journey to Love and Freedom

In our second episode of *Shine A Light On It*, we're joined by the incredible Chatrivia, who shares the life-changing moment she went live on social media to reveal her HIV status and reclaim her power. Through stories of taco-shop traditions and escaping an abusive past, Chatrivia illustrates how unconditional love and self-forgiveness can pave the way for a beautiful "new normal."

Tap into this moving conversation about resilience, legacy, and the true meaning of love and freedom.

[Watch Here](#)

For the Social Butterflies 

Windy City Times adds new events every week to the **Chicago Social Butterflies** calendar. To submit your event, go to our [submission page](#).

Visit [ChicagoSocialButterflies.com](http://ChicagoSocialButterflies.com) for our full events calendar.

## Black History Month celebration with State Sen. Mike Simmons

 17 : Sunday, Feb. 1

 : 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

 : The International Servant Leaders Museum in Morton Grove

[More Info](#)



Join us to celebrate Black History Month, remembering the legacy of all Black Leaders, including some who were born in February: Langston Hughes, Rosa Parks, Nina Simone, and Frederick Douglass, with remarks by the Honorable Illinois Senator, Mike Simmons

February 1, 2026, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Remarks at 12:00 noon  
The International Servant Leaders Museum  
9233 Shermer Road, Morton Grove, IL 60053  
Dehfoundation.org - Co-Sponsored by:

MORTON GROVE PRIDE  
Vision Morton Grove



Subscribe to Chicago Social Butterflies for more LGBTQ+ events!

Thanks for reading *BLACKlines!*

Do you have a story idea we should pursue? Hit reply and let us know!



Windy City Times  
Chicago Social Butterflies/News on Q/BLACKlines/En La Vida  
5315 N. Clark St. #192, Chicago,  
Illinois, United States of America

You received this email because you signed up on our website.

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update preferences](#)