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## Capitol Hill Chamber of Commerce Newsletter



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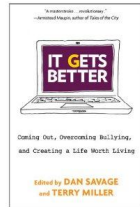
### We're Having a Party!

**The Capitol Hill Chamber of Commerce Toasts our New Executive Director and Board members on March 16th, 2011 from 5:30-7:30 at our new home 1641 Nagle Place!**

Please join us in showing off our new Executive Director, our newest Board members and our new office space! Please mark your calendars and join us for a drink (or two) and some tasty delights from Capitol Hill restaurants including the Broadway Grill, High Five Pies, Poco Wine Room, Poppy and more!  
*(We are located right across from the Cal Anderson tennis courts)*

Don't forget our monthly mixer on March 24th at Rock Box.

### It Gets Better - Capitol Hill Edition



I've known Dan Savage and Terry Miller for a long time. I met Dan soon after he moved to Seattle, and Terry, his partner, worked at my former business, Bailey/Coy Books, for many years. Terry did our fabulous window displays and could always be counted on for a pithy recommendation for Cormac McCarthy or Edna Ferber. I was working on the floor at the bookstore when Terry got the call that their son D.J. had been born. I occasionally took on some babysitting duties. It may be cliché but it's true:

we really were a sort of family unit at Bailey/Coy. So when Terry called and asked me to contribute a piece to a book based on the It Gets Better Project, I was delighted to be asked. I certainly believed in what they were doing: trying to make the world a safer, saner place for LGBT teens and kids. I just wasn't sure about what I was going to say . . .

It Gets Better ([www.itgetsbetter.org](http://www.itgetsbetter.org)), for those of you who don't know, is a project started by Dan and Terry in the summer of 2010 during what seemed to be an epidemic of suicides by LGBT teenagers. The intent of the project is to help kids who are struggling realize that "it gets better," and that making it through the minefield of adolescence means that a world of possibilities opens to you as an adult. The project started with a video of Dan and Terry on YouTube and soon other people's videos came pouring in—more than 1,000 in the first week alone. The book arose as an effort to transform some of those videos into written text—a format that could be easily adapted for classrooms. I'm proud to be a part of it.

The reason I'm writing about it here is that my essay is all about how it got better for me on Capitol Hill. I grew up in a small town, Normal, Illinois, where being creative and different were not always seen as positive character traits. My trajectory from childhood on was focused on finding the right place for me—a place that was distinctly "Not-Normal." As I say in my essay, it took me a while to find Capitol Hill; once I did I knew that I had found my home. Capitol Hill is filled with art and music. Capitol Hill is a celebration of urban life, an embrace of culture and community. When you open a business on Capitol Hill, you will interact with your neighbors and customers on a daily basis. We work and play in a community that encourages diversity. This is the community that I imagined and dreamed of while growing up in Normal. This is where I could fully be myself in the world. And that's a strong message to send to kids in small towns everywhere who might feel out of place. I'm proud that Capitol Hill is a part of my story. I'm proud that it is my home.

It got better.

Celebrate the publication of **It Gets Better: Coming Out, Overcoming Bullying, and Creating a Life worth Living** at a special event at Town Hall on March 29. All ticket proceeds benefit the It Gets Better Project. The book will be available for sale on March 22 but you can pre-order your copy at Elliott Bay Book Company today at 206-624-6600, [orders@elliottbaybook.com](mailto:orders@elliottbaybook.com).

**Michael Wells**  
 Executive Director

### Umpqua Build a Block Challenge!

Our newest Capitol Hill banking neighbor, [Umpqua Bank](#), is making a very generous gift to the Capitol Hill community at large!

"Is there something you've always thought would make Capitol Hill an even better place? Tell us about it! Our new Build Your Block Challenge offers up to \$10,000 for the

### In This Issue

- [CHCC Party!](#)
- [It Gets Better](#)
- [Umpqua Bank Challenge](#)
- [Member Profile](#)
- [Block Party Community Discussion](#)

### Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

### Follow our Tweets!



### Upcoming Events

**March 16**  
**5:30-7:30pm**  
 CHCC Open House  
 1641 Nagle Pl Ste 003  
 Seattle, WA  
 206-328-6646

**March 24**  
**5:30-7:00pm**  
**CHCC Mixer!**  
 Rock Box  
 1603 Nagle Pl  
 Corner of Nagle Place  
 and Pine

**March 29**  
**It Gets Better**  
 book release party  
 Town Hall  
[tickets available online](#)

**May 22**  
**GLSEN AWARDS**  
 Pier 66

### 2011 CHCC New Members

- Nadra Burns**
- Anne Michelson**  
 Properties
- CIDBIA, Don Blakeney**
- Coldwell Banker Bains,**  
**Michael Herren**

Crescent Down Works

Envy Grows LLC

Friends of the  
Conservatory

Samadhi Yoga Center

Shed Architecture &  
Design

Simple Apothecary &  
Salon

Capitol Hill neighborhood project that receives the most votes. We'll take your project ideas starting March 7th through April 1st. Then a team from Umpqua and the neighborhood will narrow the field to the top three. From April 25th - May 20th, you can vote for your favorite in our Capitol Hill store. We'll announce the winner the week of May 23rd, then we can all get to work making the project come to life."

For details on the Build a Block challenge: [Build Your Block Ballot](#)

### Member Profile: Stacey Krynsky - Umpqua Bank



Stacey & Butch

This month we're introducing you to Stacey Krynsky, the manager of the new Umpqua Bank on Broadway and the genius behind Umpqua's Build Your Block Challenge for Capitol Hill.

Stacey is a long time Capitol Hill resident and a graduate of Seattle University.

#### 1. Why is Capitol Hill home to the new Umpqua branch?

When looking for a place to call home in Seattle, we looked for a location that has a strong community based presence. Capitol Hill was a natural fit. The team at A community that embraces the different. We love going against the mold, and being and embracing the community we are part of.

#### 2. Tell us one thing about Umpqua Bank that most people wouldn't know.

We have an ice cream truck that gives out free ice cream, and we love to use it.

#### 3. Do you have a favorite Capitol Hill neighbor business?

Cakespy. Jessie is infectious. How can you not love that place? Finding sweetness in everyday life...no truer words were ever spoken.

#### 4. Tell us your favorite place on Capitol Hill to get (one or any of these) a cocktail, coffee, ice cream, pizza, etc. etc..

Cocktail: [Knee High Stocking Company](#)  
Coffee: [Vivace](#) and Café Nico is AMAZING!  
Brunch: [Table 219](#)  
Flowers: [Kan's Flowers](#)  
Lunch spot: [Julia's](#)

*If you are interested in featuring your business or have a business neighbor that you'd like to introduce to our members let us know at [office@caphillchamber.org](mailto:office@caphillchamber.org).*

### Capitol Hill Block Party Community Discussion

On Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, the Capitol Hill Chamber of Commerce hosted a community discussion on the Capitol Hill Block Party in the East Hall of Oddfellows lodge. In attendance were over 50 business and community members. The purpose of the discussion was to provide an open forum for business members to communicate with the organizers of the Capitol Hill Block Party about both the positive and negative impacts of the event on their business. Last year the Block Party added a third day to their lineup and this year, when the Block Party organizers went to the City Special Events Committee for the permitting process, the committee asked the Block party organizers to hold a community meeting where the community could speak freely about the event. There will be another open public meeting to discuss the issue in April, date and time to be determined. The Chamber will make sure to notify members when that date and time is set.

At the Capitol Hill Chamber of Commerce we not only showcase and market your business and doing business on Capitol Hill, we advocate for the Capitol Hill community with the City of Seattle and other public agencies. Facilitating a discussion around the Capitol Hill Block Party is just a part of what we do to make sure that members have an opportunity to participate in public process around Capitol Hill issues.

For an excellent breakdown of the evening's discussion here's a link to the excellent reporting done by Justin Carder of the [Capitol Hill Seattle Blog](#).

To let the City of Seattle Special Events Committee know your thoughts on the Block Party contact [Joanne Orsucci](mailto:Joanne.Orsucci).

Thank you for reading our newsletter this month. If you have any comments or questions about our newsletters please contact us at [office@caphillchamber.org](mailto:office@caphillchamber.org)