



# Transgender History for Milwaukee

*Special to QLife*

**M**ilwaukee's Sheraton Four Points (at the airport) is going to host the largest gathering of transgender individuals in Wisconsin's history when more than 500 people from throughout the world converge here for the FORGE Forward 2007 Conference and Intensives, March 29-April 1. FORGE, (For Ourselves: Reworking Gender Expression) a Milwaukee organization known to support

female to male transsexuals, as well as transgenderists, and significant others, has been very involved in helping organize many of the national conferences that have focused on the female-to-male (FTM) transgender or transmasculine spectrum. This time, Milwaukee has been chosen as host.

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# LGBT Visioning Project to Hold Community Breakfast

Over the past year a group of people have formed the Greater Milwaukee LGBT Visioning Project. The vision of the group is "to create a unified collaboration among Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender communities and allies with mutual respect, trust and inclusivity. And to mobilize and empower presence that fosters equality and well being for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people."

On Saturday January 27th the Project will be hosting a Community Breakfast at the Milwaukee LGBT

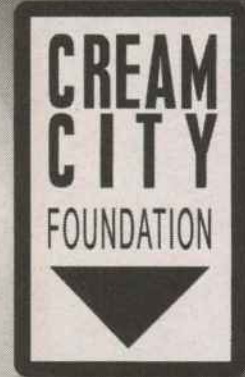


Community Center, 315 West Court Street from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. This will be the first quarterly breakfast of the year.

These community meetings offer to anyone from the LGBT community come and voice their opinions about issues that are affecting us, interests for promoting the community and ideas that will help bring the community together and build a sustainable infrastructure that will allow us to have a singular voice. The Catalyst Committee of the Project is most interested in learning what people think is missing in the LGBT communities in Milwaukee.

The Catalyst Committee is a group of interested people from the LGBT community who meet on the second Friday of each month. Membership on the committee is open to any one who is concerned about the issues that face people who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender. Meetings are held at the offices of SAGE/Milwaukee, 1845 N. Farwell Avenue, Suite 220. These meetings begin at 9:00 a.m. and are facilitated by a different member of the committee each month.

Breakfast will be free to all guests and is being funded by the Johnson Pabst LGBT Infrastructure Fund within the Cream City Foundation. For more information please call Maria Cadenas at 414-225-0244 or Bill Serpe at 414-224-0517.



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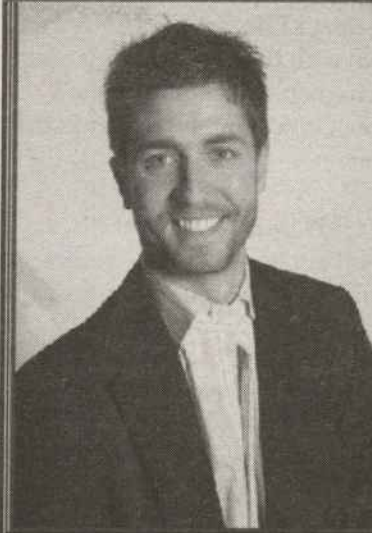
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## Queer Life News Busts a Move

Effective January, 2007 - After two years in wonderful Walkers Point, Queer Life News is moving on up! To the intersection of Prospect/North. Come check out our new digs! We'll even put on a fresh pot of coffee and break out the cookies. Now, we will enjoy lunches at Hooligans, and the Twisted Fork, shopping at Whole Foods, and if we indulge too much, we can get fixed up at Columbia St. Mary's. It's been fun working down in Walkers Point, but its time for a change. And big plus -we actually have a window at the new pad! So come check us out! 2266 N. Prospect Ave, Suite 200 in the Clocktower building.



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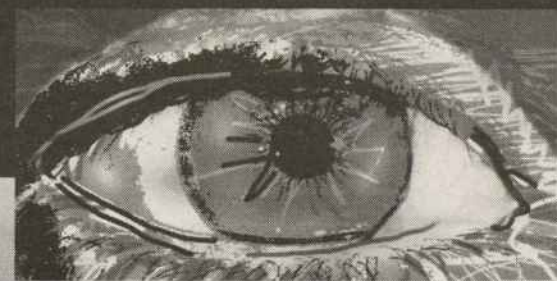
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Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's Anti-Violence Project  
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FORGE *continued from page 1*

Queer Life News recently sat down with the FORGE Conference co-chairs Michael Munson and Loree Cook-Daniels to discuss the event.

**QLN:** Milwaukee's not exactly known as a hotbed of transgender organizing. Who picked it to host a

national trans conference?

**FORGE:** We did! Although these conferences always attract people from all over the country, it is cheaper and easier to attend if you live within driving distance of a conference site. All of the other national FTM conferences have been held on either the East or West Coasts, and we wanted give people from the Heartland more opportunity to attend. In addition, we thought that if a conference were held locally, we could do a better job of involving SOFFAs.

**QLN:** What does that mean?

**FORGE:** SOFFA stands for Significant Others, Friends, Family, and Allies. For many years, national FTM+ conferences have included SOFFA presenters and issues, but local communities haven't always taken full advantage of the unique training and networking opportunities that a national conference brings to town. For example, two university professors have already arranged to have their gender studies students work as Conference volunteers so they can learn more about trans issues. We're also working with several local LGBT and mainstream groups like AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin to co-sponsor events so staff and members get an opportunity to hear from national trans activists and theorists that they'd probably never otherwise get the chance to see. The Intensives also offer local professionals and LGBT activists unprecedented opportunities to get top-notch training.

**QLN:** How is an Intensive different from a typical conference workshop?

**FORGE:** Our conference workshops will run for just over an hour, and there will be nine different workshops running simultaneously all day Saturday and Sunday. Attendees will be able to participate in up to 10 of the more than 90 scheduled workshops. So during the Conference weekend, people can patch together really diverse schedules that address a wide range of their individual needs and interests.

During the Thursday and Friday Intensives, however, attendees will spend the whole day focusing intensely on just ONE topic. Intensives are designed so that if someone has a particular interest – say, they are a school counselor who is working with a transgender grade schooler – they can learn a lot of what they, specifically, need to know in just one focused day.

**QLN:** It's kind of hard to think of nine different transgender topics that one could take up a full day of training.

**FORGE:** Yes, we're finding many people who haven't had a lot of experience with trans and SOFFA issues can't imagine there is that much to talk about! We're also offering an Intensive on HIV prevention for FTMs and mental health providers; training for those who work with trans survivors of violence; and "Creative Spirituality for the Third Gender Tribe."

We recruited one of our Friday Intensives specifically to help address a simmering division in the Southeastern Wisconsin LGBT community around race.

The Sylvia Rivera Law Project, a cutting-edge, multiracial, multi-issue transgender collective based in New York City, will lead participants through a day of exercises and discussions designed to help build political coalitions that successfully address multiple issues and identities. We also have a Friday Intensive to help those who don't feel they are either male or female to find language and community; an FTM 101 for service providers; and one exploring "femme" as its own gender identity, available to anyone regardless of their biology. Friday we are also hosting a Breaking Isolation Gathering for trans/SOFFA people who are also disabled and/or deaf.

**QLN:** So, what's left for the workshops to cover?

**FORGE:** A basic part of any transgender conference is the 101 workshops on finding a mental health therapist, learning about hormones and other body modification options, transitioning on the job, and changing identity papers. For those who are considering gender-related surgery, conferences provide the only opportunity to meet the various surgeons from around the country that specialize in FTM chest surgeries and/or genital surgeries, and see what their results are like in the flesh. We've scheduled the "big names" (Brownstein, Meltzer, Menard, and Reardon) to not only give workshops on their techniques, but also to schedule free, private consultations with potential clients.

We also have multiple workshops on aspects of family and couple relationships, sexuality, parenting, political organizing, educating the public, self-expression, and legal issues. A large slice of workshops focus on the intersections of identities: what it is like to be the partner of a young trans person, a genderqueer elder, a trans person of color, etc.

We have a whole track at which researchers will be presenting results of their studies of trans/SOFFA people, issues, and organizing strategies.

We are particularly thrilled with some of our cutting-edge workshops, such as those on creating accessible spaces for those with multiple chemical sensitivities. Body image and eating disorders within the trans community will also be addressed, as well as helping trans people in homeless shelters and prisons, countering urban bias against rural people, the Real ID Act's impact on people's ability to be "stealth", and transgender characters in young adult fiction.

**QLN:** That all sounds really heady.

**FORGE:** There'll be LOTS of entertainment like well-known trans performance artists Imani Henry and S. Bear Bergman, and plain old socializing opportunities, too! We'll be running a film festival co-sponsored by the Milwaukee LGBT Film and Video Festival, a vendors hall, authors' readings, an open mic for entertainers, and a hospitality suite hosted by SAGE Milwaukee. The evenings are devoted to provocative keynote speakers such as Jay Sennett who will address male privilege, along with micro-publishing and how to empower ourselves. There is a dance Saturday and other musical entertainment throughout. There will be lots of spaces to hang out and talk to new friends or just chill out.

**QLN:** I want to back up a minute. I am unclear if the Conference is for those who are FTM, those who are MTF, or both.

**FORGE:** Everyone is welcome at the Conference, regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation. However, the hormone and surgery workshops and most of the keynoters are focused on the FTM side of the transgender umbrella. For the Intensives, the name either says it is FTM focused, or it will address both FTMs and MTFs and all the trans variations in between.

**QLN:** What's the cost to attend, and how else can people be involved?

**FORGE:** Pre-registration for the 2-1/2 day Conference is \$140, which includes all plenary sessions. Intensives are priced separately for those only wishing to attend one topic area, as are tickets for each plenary session and dinners (if community members just want to hear a couple of speakers or see a performance artist.) The best thing to do is go to our website at [www.forgeforward.org/conference](http://www.forgeforward.org/conference) and take a look at all the options.

Gender identity issues are more than just the next big political movement; they really go to the core of what we think we can or can't change or have control over. That's an issue everyone deals with.

For people who want to support the Conference but not necessarily attend the programming, organizers are in great need of community housing for low-income attendees, as well as use help with scholarship fund donations.

**FORGE Forward 2007 Conference and Intensives**

Sheraton Four Points (Milwaukee Airport)

March 29 – April 1, 2007

[www.forge-forward.org/conference](http://www.forge-forward.org/conference)

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Wisconsin



Happenings

## Center Advocates Says Thanks! Appreciation Party for Fair Wisconsin supporters

**Milwaukee** - Center Advocates, a Milwaukee organization dedicated to winning equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, is holding its annual membership townhall meeting, Monday, January 22, 2007 from 5:30pm to 6:00pm. The meeting (open to all but only Advocates members can vote in board elections) is followed by an appreciation party for local supporters of the Fair Wisconsin campaign (from 6:00pm to 7:30pm) that includes a short presentation of election results and a community conversation about 2007 goals. The meeting will be held at Trocadero's Red Light (2nd Floor) 1758 N Water Street, Milwaukee. On-street parking available on Water and Pearson Streets. Free Appetizers with drinks available for purchase. The event is free but a silent auction held will benefit

the 2007 organizing efforts of Center Advocates.

"Now more than ever, people in Southeast Wisconsin tell us that we need a strong, local voice with integrity for LGBT equality, and they want us working right where the movement is most needed - in our hometowns. Center Advocates is dedicated to being that voice," said Advocates Director Patrick Flaherty.

Center Advocates co-founded Wisconsin's \$5 million Fair Wisconsin campaign, an historic effort to try to defeat the constitutional ban on civil unions and gay marriage. While voters approved the discriminatory amendment, the monumental effort positions Center Advocates and its allies to win specific improvements in public policy for LGBT people in 2007 and beyond.

### Congrats Danceworks!

**Milwaukee** - Danceworks Inc. received 2006 United Performing Arts Fund Management Excellence Awards in the areas of Administration, Artistic Planning, and Education/Outreach. Danceworks also received the Northwestern Mutual/Cudahy Foundation Management Excellence Award for scoring the highest in all management categories. Danceworks was one of 15 to receive these four awards and a cash stipend of \$17,500. UPAF makes it possible for Danceworks to sustain the day to day organizational administration that makes its arts programs and performances possible. Danceworks employs over 100 artists and arts educators annually serving over 40,000 through their performances, classes and community-based programs.

### Naked Boys Hushed

**Milwaukee** - The civil rights lawsuit filed last year by the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center after police shut down its production of "Naked Boys Singing" has been tossed out.

MGAC was seeking more than \$600,000 in damages, alleging constitutional violations of free speech and due process. U-S District Judge Charles Clevert dismissed the suit saying the center had failed to prove that the violations were part of a policy by the city.

Police shut down the show in August 2005 saying MGAC did not have a city theater license. MGAC, being non-profit, however, is exempt from the license requirement. The city later admitted it made a mistake.

At the time of the bust police said that they began looking into the show after evangelist Drew Heiss requested a copy of the center's licenses to serve alcohol, show nude photos and have nude dancers.

"Naked Boys Singing," is a musical revue that "celebrates the splendors of male nudity in comedy, song and dance." The six male actors featured in the show perform primarily in the buff.

Proceeds from the production had been designated for various AIDS research groups and theater groups.

### Gay legislator ties knot

**Wisconsin** - Congratulations to Rep. Mark Pocan and his partner of four-plus years, Philip Frank. The couple flew to Toronto on Thanksgiving and were married on Nov. 24 at the wedding chamber in Toronto's City Hall. For the honeymoon, they spent two weeks in Bali. Congratulations!



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National



Happenings

## New Jersey Ok's Civil Unions State signs Civil Union Legislation

**Trenton, New Jersey** - Beginning February 19, same-sex couples in New Jersey will be able to enter civil unions under legislation signed Dec. 21 by Gov. Jon Corzine. Garden State Equality, the largest LGBT civil rights organization in the state has faith that gay marriage will be legalized within two years.

This civil union bill offers couples who register most state benefits and protections currently available to opposite-sex couples, including the right to health insurance through a partner's employer.

The legislation is a result of an October ruling by the New Jersey Supreme Court that same-sex couples should have access to the same rights and benefits as married couples.

Although seen as a positive move forward, the bill does not provide any of the benefits of marriage under federal law, and it still could cost same-sex couples more than marriage couples for health insurance.

Same-sex marriage is legal only in the state of Massachusetts and is limited to residents of the state and of Rhode Island.

New Jersey is the third state to legalize civil unions after Vermont and Connecticut. California has a domestic partner registry, which provides some of the state benefits of marriage. The California Supreme Court will hear arguments this year in a case involving same-sex marriage rights.

### School Board Against Gay Groups

**Okeechobee, Florida** - A Florida student has filed a lawsuit against the school district for banning a Gay-Straight Alliance group at her school. The school district, in turn, has asked a federal judge to dismiss the suit, arguing that gay students are not protected by the federal Equal Access Act. They stand behind Principal Toni Wiersma's decision to reject the club.

Students attempted to organize the club after Yasmin Gonzalez and her girlfriend were told they could not attend the school prom as a couple. The rejection was one of several incidents targeting LGBT students at Okeechobee High School.

When Principal Wiersma told Gonzalez and fellow students Amber Sewell and Erica Rodriguez they could not form the club on school property they turned to the American Civil Liberties Union to file suit.

"Straight kids cannot turn their backs on the plague of violence and discrimination against gay and lesbian students," said Sewell, who is straight and one of the GSA founders. "When students aren't safe, we can't learn. Only when we stand together will we find a solution."

The GSA, now with approximately 50 members, currently meets at a local restaurant, has elected officers and adopted a constitution.

"Florida's gay and lesbian students deserve schools that are places of learning, not training camps for intolerance, intimidation and violence," said Robert Rosenwald, Director of the ACLU of Florida's LGBT Advocacy Project.

The school allows a number of extracurricular clubs - including the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Key Club, and the Rodeo team - to meet regularly on school grounds.

But school district attorney David Gibbs says that the Equal Access Act can't be used in the case of a GSA and furthermore Florida law requires schools to teach abstinence, "while teaching the benefits of monogamous heterosexual marriage."

The ACLU suit argues that under the federal Equal Access Act schools that allow any extracurricular activities to meet on campus are required to allow all extracurricular student groups to do so and to treat every club equally.

A ruling on the motion to dismiss the case is expected early in 2007.

### Gay couple beaten after dining out

**Scottsdale, Arizona** - The Arizona Republic is reporting that a gay couple leaving a Scottsdale restaurant while holding hands were the victims of a hate crime beating. As many as seven men were involved in the attack, leaving the pair badly beaten.

Andrew Frost and Jean Rolland stated that as they left the restaurant, they were jumped. Frost, 19, was left with wounds on his head and face, needing stitches. Rolland, 28, had numerous bruises.

"I had blood pouring out of me and I actually blacked out at one point," Frost told the Arizona Republic.

After exiting the restaurant, someone shouted "fag" at the couple, and punched Frost. The two attackers were joined by at least five others rushing from the restaurant. A police report has been filed, but surprisingly, no one at the restaurant seems to have seen anything occur.

Arizona includes sexuality under its hate crime law, and if caught, the assailants could face hate crime charges.

## San Francisco a Favorite Among Gays: Who Knew?

**Washington** - San Francisco was named the top "gay-friendly" destination in a new survey of gay travelers conducted by the Travel Industry Association.

Following San Francisco on the list's top 10 were Key West, Fla.; New York City; Fire Island, which is part of Long Island in New York; Provincetown, Mass.; Los Angeles; Miami-South Beach, Fla.; Las Vegas; New Orleans, and Palm Springs-Palm Desert, Calif.

A place where "they can hold their partner's hand in public" without fear of harassment was cited as an example of something that more than half of gay men and more than two-thirds of gay women look for when they are choosing a destination, according to the survey.

## Serial Killer Confesses to 23 Slayings

**(LA)** - By all appearances, Ronald J. Dominique, 42, hardly seemed a threat, much less a serial killer. He was arrested in December at a Louisiana homeless shelter, and ended up confessing to raping and killing 23 men.

Even with a meek persona, investigators said Dominique apparently was able to charm his victims into accompanying him, after which he would bound and strangle them.

Once investigators began interrogating him, Dominique eagerly claimed credit for the killings, Terrebonne Sheriff Jerry Larpenier said "He's nothing on the street, a nobody. But here he had power. Once he got those ropes on them, they were his." Dominique is believed to have raped his victims before killing them, Larpenier said.

The victims, all homeless males, ranging from 16 to 46, were killed and their bodies were dumped in remote spots in seven parishes.

FBI Special Agent in Charge Jim Bernazzani said FBI profilers felt this was the most significant current serial killer case in the country in terms of the number of victims and its time span -- the killings took place from 1997 to 2005.

Investigators said Dominique was charged at least seven times and jailed twice over the years, mostly for minor offenses, but a 1996 rape charge case apparently planted the seed for his later crimes. The case did not go to trial because the victim could not be found.

"He said he killed them because he didn't want to get caught," Larpenier said. "But I would think he discovered somewhere on the way to killing 23 that it was not just because of that. I think he discovered he liked it."

Dominique is being held without bond at the Terrebonne Parish jail pending a January 17 arraignment.

Joseph Waitz, the Terrebonne district attorney, said he would seek the death penalty.

## California Student Suing over Outing Case

**LA, California** - A former Southern California high school student, who alleges she was outed to her parents, was forced to transfer and that her grades suffered as a result of the harassment is suing the Garden Grove Unified School District for \$1.3 million. She claims they violated her constitutional privacy rights and engaged in an alleged terror campaign against her.

The school district disputes the claim that the former student had been outed and that her mother was only told that her daughter was being disciplined for "kissing another girl." And that it did not constitute disclosing her sexuality. The lawsuit alleges the former student was singled out for discipline a number of times for displaying affection with her girlfriend. She is represented by the ACLU.

## Lesbian Fire Chief Booted

**MN** - Bonnie Bleskachek, the nation's first openly lesbian big-city fire chief, has resigned in the wake of firefighter lawsuits accusing her of harassment and discrimination, her attorney and the mayor said.

Three female firefighters have sued, alleging various acts of discrimination and sexual harassment. Two of the lawsuits were settled, but earlier this month, a male firefighter brought another lawsuit alleging he was denied advancement because he is male and not gay. A city investigation is still under way.

## Catholic Leader Attacks Gay Ally

**MN** - Sarah Loy, a straight supporter of same-sex marriage, went to a rally organized by anti-gay VoteOnMarriage and Catholic Citizenship in Worcester, Mass. She held a sign saying "No discrimination in the Constitution."

The executive director of Boston-based Catholic Citizenship, Larry Cirignano didn't care for that much, and decided the best thing to do would be to tackle the woman to the ground.

Police have filed an assault charge.

The rally was one of many aiming to pressure the Massachusetts legislature to vote on a proposed amendment to halt same-sex marriage in the state, the only one where it is legal.

Loy, who attended with her husband and a few other gay allies, went to the rally and staged a counter protest.

MassEquality campaign director Marc Solomon called for Cirignano to "clean out his desk."

International



Happenings

## Gays in Baghdad facing death squads

**Baghdad** - The British LGBT rights group Outrage, which has been supporting an underground gay group in Baghdad, says the situation for gays in Iraq is worsening. Iraqi police in Baghdad abducted five gay activists at gunpoint on November 9th. They have not been heard from since. Speculation is that they have met their deaths by squads operating under the cover of the Iraqi Police.

The five men were part of Iraqi LGBT, Iraq's covert gay rights movement, and had been documenting the executions of lesbians and gays.

Ali Hili, a gay Iraqi Muslim who is head of Iraqi LGBT and Middle East spokesperson for Outrage said the men were also providing "safe houses and support to queers fleeing the death squads." At the time of the police raid, Hili was on the phone with the five activists, as they were holding a secret meeting inside a safe house in the al-Shaab district of Baghdad.

"Suddenly there was a lot of noise, then the connection ended," Hili said.

Day's later, alleged members of the Mahdi army, an Islamist militia loyal to fundamentalist leader Muqtada al-Sadr, kidnaped an owner of a clothing store in the al-Karada district of Baghdad.

He had received death threats in the past because of his alleged homosexuality. He had also financially supported several men who were in

hiding after being accused of being gay by death squads.

Another recent raid was on the Jar al-Qamar barbershop in an area of Baghdad popular with gay men. All four employees were arrested and have not been seen since.

Outrage calls these disappearances the latest "sexual cleansing" operations mounted by extremist Islamist death squads, many of whom have infiltrated the Iraqi police.

"They are targeting gays and lesbians for extra-judicial execution, as part of their so-called moral purification campaign," said Hili.

Earlier, in June this year, extreme Islamist death squads burst into the home of two lesbian members of Iraqi LGBT in the city of Najaf. They had been providing a safe house for gay men on the run from death squads. They were shot and killed, their throats slashed and a young child the women had rescued from the sex trade was also killed.

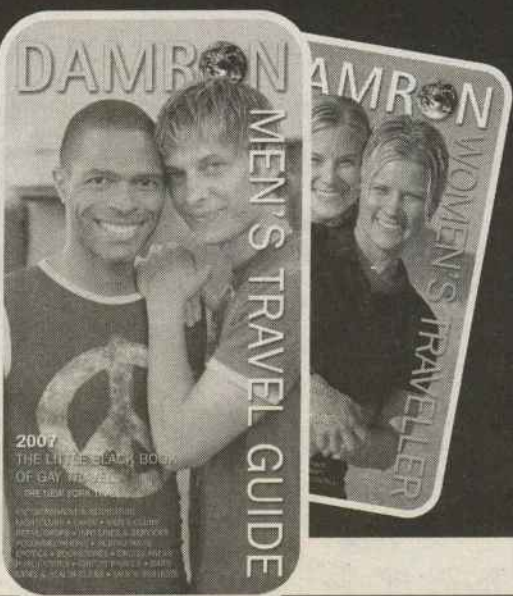
Amidst great danger, Iraqi LGBT has established a clandestine network of gay activists inside Iraq's major cities, including Baghdad, Najaf, Karbala, Hilla and Basra. "These courageous activists are helping gay people on the run from fundamentalist death squads; hiding them in safe houses in Baghdad, and helping them escape to Syria, Jordan and Lebanon," said Peter Tatchell of the UK-based LGBT rights group OutRage.

## China to test new AIDS vaccine on humans

**Beijing** - In March of 2005, China began its first human clinical trials on an AIDS vaccine. They are now working on a second trial to be conducted early this year, and are seeking volunteers to participate.

Men and women are both needed for the trials, which are scheduled to take place in Beijing. Shao Yiming, the chief expert for the National Center for AIDS/STD Control and Prevention announced the trial plans at a conference on Sino-US AIDS vaccine held in December. The vaccine, which was approved for clinical trials by Chinese drug authorities in November, indicated that it is safe, and effective in preventing HIV infections.

According to a recent report, there are 120 clinical trials of AIDS vaccines being conducted on humans throughout the world.



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## Wisconsin's Queer Funding: 25 Years and Counting

Today's largest and most successful gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender programs and organizations in southeastern Wisconsin have one thing in common – The Cream City Foundation.

The AIDS Resource Center of Milwaukee (formerly the Milwaukee AIDS Project), the Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival and PrideFest are but a few of the many groups that Cream City Foundation has funded at crucial points in their history. "2007 is not only a celebration of our 25 year anniversary, but also an opportunity to recognize the work of the many organizations we support," said Maria Cadenas, Executive Director of the Cream City Foundation. To kickoff its yearlong celebration, Cream City Foundation will be hosting a *Winter-Get-Away* celebration at the Milwaukee Domes on February 22nd. The Event will include performances by Rhythm & Torch, Men's Voices Milwaukee and Women's Voices Milwaukee.

Founded in 1982, Cream City Foundation originally spun-off from the former Cream City Business Association, an association of LGBT business owners formed to promote LGBT entrepreneurship and business support for LGBT communities. Initially begun with \$500 in seed money, Cream City Foundation has grown to provide over \$500,000 in grant dollars to many organizations and projects that are working to improve the quality of life for LGBT people.

"We have a diverse history, from hosting the first Gay and Lesbian public access cable show to distributing rights cards to combat police abuse," said Cadenas.

As one of only 14 LGBT community foundations nationwide, Cream City Foundation stands as a partner and leader of Southeastern Wisconsin's LGBT communities. In fact, Cream City Foundation goes beyond grant making; it works closely with grantees to develop organizational capacity and fund development knowledge. The Foundation also instituted a leadership development program that includes a partnership with the Nonprofit Center of Milwaukee and allowed for the fund development education of 43 LGBT leaders, created an innovative scholarship program where undergraduate students get hands on experience in fund development and foundation work, and provide support to the Greater Milwaukee Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Visioning Project.

As part of its 25 Year Celebration, Cream City Foundation and Joseph Pabst,

local philanthropist, joined forces to create the *Lesbian and Bisexual Women 25/25 Venture*, which will distribute \$25,000 in January to recognize current and future LGBT programs. A panel of five lesbian and bisexual women leaders in southeastern Wisconsin will determine the funding.

In addition, Cream City Foundation will encourage community members to become fundraisers by promoting its online \$250 Challenge. Following the traditional sponsorship models used for runs and walks, individuals will be able to get sponsorships from friends and families to raise \$250 or more. All proceeds will go to support the Foundation's growth and grant giving program.

"Not many people realize how important those \$25 and \$50 donations are. They truly make a difference in the size of the grants and in the work we do. We wanted to offer this opportunity to show the community just how influential they can be," said Terri Coughlin, Board Member of the Cream City Foundation.

"Cream City Foundation is our community. Over 80% of our income is from direct donations. We want to make sure that Wisconsin knows this," said Kevin Loos, President of the Cream City Foundation. "The future of Wisconsin's LGBT movement must include a strong sustainable financial resource – and that is what Cream City Foundation is ready to become."

As part of this effort, Foundation leaders have hopes to continue to work to secure the foundation's own future by growing its endowment to a minimum of \$2 million over the next 25 years. Investment gifts given to the Foundation through wills or other end-of-life gifts will be key source of income for endowment building.

"We are standing on the shoulders of strong and visionary leaders. They were here before many of us came out to provide us with the resources that we have today. Our job is to continue that work forward," said Cadenas.

MMK Design, Clark Graphics, Queer Life, -Roundy's Supermarkets, Ritz, Holman, Butala & Fine LLP, and Kevin Flaherty sponsor the Cream City Foundation's 25-Year Celebration. If you are interested in being a sponsor please call 414.221.0244 or visit [www.creamcityfoundation.org](http://www.creamcityfoundation.org)



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## LGBT Center Appoints New Executive Director

Milwaukee: The Board of Directors of the Milwaukee Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) Community



Dr. Maggie Cage

Center has announced the appointment of Maggi Cage, Ph.D. as the organization's next Executive Director. Dr. Cage will assume the chief executive position at the LGBT Center, a nonprofit organization working to improve the lives of LGBT people in Metro Milwaukee through programs that include; Project Q Youth Development, the Anti-Violence Project, the David Bohnett CyberCenter, community organizing for equal rights, and HIV prevention and testing.

"I am pleased to be joining the committed staff and board in the important work of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. The Center has really helped change how Metro Milwaukee sees and relates to its LGBT

neighbors, and the community and I believe the Center has a very bright future," said Dr. Cage.

"The Center has grown to become Wisconsin's largest LGBT organization and one of the largest in the Midwest, which meant that we had many strong candidates apply. We are so pleased to hire someone of Maggi's caliber," said Sheldon Walker, Co-President of the board. The Center's previous executive director left in November so he could re-enter the field of pastoral ministry. Dr. Cage has twenty-one years of experience in health care administration, health care service development and implementation, fiscal and human resource management, and government affairs at organizations like the Medical College of Wisconsin and the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin. She has a Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Santa Barbara and has been active in several area boards of directors, including the LGBT Center and Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin. She and her husband have been long-time Milwaukee area residents.

The LGBT Center's Board of Directors is confident that Dr. Cage will help the Center tap into new funding sources and continue the growth in fundraising it needs to expand its services for the LGBT community. Dr. Cage will also be invaluable in adding to the growing list of straight allies for the LGBT community in Metro Milwaukee.

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is at 315 W. Court Street on the north edge of downtown, with fourteen professional staff and a budget of \$750,000. More information about the Center can be found online at [www.mkelgbt.org](http://www.mkelgbt.org).



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Queer Life is the information voice of the LGBT community. As a monthly publication and the only state-wide gay newspaper headquartered in Milwaukee, each issue celebrates Wisconsin's diverse population with boldness and class. From what's happening locally and nationally to features on everyday life, Queer Life has got it all.

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#### Specials to QLife provided by:

Paul Masterson

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J Harvey

#### WEBMASTER

Jeff Norton

#### CIRCULATION

QLife prints 10,000 copies a month. It is a free, monthly newspaper, distributed throughout Milwaukee, and the state. You can find it at coffee shops, bars, libraries, stores, and a variety of gay friendly locales.

#### CONTACT QLIFE:

Queer Life's offices are open to the public. Regular business hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday - Friday except for holidays.

#### ADVERTISE IN QLIFE

Studies prove that LGBT consumers have deeper trust for brands and products that target gay consumers. Reach this powerful segment of the population in the pages of Queer Life and gain loyal customers, a significant percentage of the general population. As Wisconsin's premier LGBT News leader, QLife serves an important buying audience ready to embrace companies friendly to the gay community.

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#### Letters to the Editor:

QLife welcomes letters to the editor and guest editorials. Letters must be signed and include author's name and phone number. Author's name will be withheld upon request. Send to editor@queerlifeneews.com.

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## I'll have a Double Please

By Kate Sherry

First, I would like to say on behalf of the staff of QLife, that we wish you the happiest of New Years. We all know it's been labeled a time of reflection and renewal, and we certainly are taking advantage of that. Our offices have moved from Walkers Point to our new happy little corner of Prospect and North.

In the spirit of resolutions, we will be trying out some new things this year. We hope to make the paper more exciting, more newsworthy, and more accessible. Feel free to let us know how we are doing.

QLife has always hoped to show the diversity of the LGBT community. This means in every way. We aren't a paper for just one type of queer. We queers come in every shape, size, color, choice, profession, dream, religion and political party, etc etc. We have come a long way, not just from Stonewall, but from centuries ago, and we still have a fight for equality on our hands.

I've read that some queers don't want to be considered "equal," because it's "mainstream" and we would only molding ourselves in the image of those who don't want us around anyway. Do queer activists not want to be included in a movement they consider too mainstream and not revolutionary enough? Perhaps. Perhaps not. Maybe in some far off universe, sexual preferences are really no big deal.

Personally, I'm not an activist. I am more "Will and Grace" mainstream



EDITORIAL

than I am Queer Nation. I don't live and breathe my sexuality; I just live. I make no apologies for that. This does not mean, however, that I look down the beliefs, organizing, or mere existence of the more activist/revolutionary queer. More power to them, I say. My eyes have been opened from time to time about things I didn't even take notice of. I've often envied their conviction, but, alas, I wouldn't cut it in their world. Maybe I'm too settled. Maybe I pass the buck. Maybe I fight the battles in different ways. Maybe I am a silent protester. Maybe it's not enough. All I know is that we are no better than one another. Don't accuse another member of our community for being "too queer" or not "queer enough" whatever that means. We need each other whether we like it or not. And getting along is a helluva lot more fun than shunning one another. Good Lord, we get enough of that in this world as it is; we don't have to do it in our own community.

Now, on a different, sillier, out there kind of note: Did you hear that soy causes homosexuality? According to World Net Daily writer Jim Rutz, the "slow poison" known as soy is not only "feminizing", but also leads to a decreased penis size, sexual confusion, and homosexuality." Check out the article on the website, it's a real hoot.

#### Letter to the Editor

Where is the GLBT Community support? As an inmate at Oshkosh Correctional Institute, I ask myself this all the time. Being in prison is hard enough but if you are gay it is even harder.

I see many support groups but NO support groups for the GLBT inmates- especially WI inmates.

As a GLBT community we must stick together for one another no matter what. Yes, I've made a big mistake to get into prison. But I still think we need to stick together for one another. We all make mistakes, some bigger than others. But does that mean the GLBT community should ignore the GLBT people who are in prison?

We don't want you to buy us things; we ask only for a few letters or encouragement, maybe even a visit.

But (what) it all comes down to is a simple friend. Is this too much to ask from our own community? I don't think so.

As an inmate, I don't want to come back to prison; but to succeed on this mission, it always helps that I have support from my own people.

Please support GLBT inmates.

James Hinkle, #253820, Oshkosh Correctional Institution.

#### Letter to the Editor

So the Pentagon has just now reclassified homosexuality as a dubious "condition, circumstance, and defect," similar to - get this - "allergies to uniforms, bed-wetting, sleepwalking, dyslexia, stuttering, fear of flying, repeated STD infections, and obesity." (No I am not making this up.)

Hmm, seems like Darwinian evolution at work. But for the survival of the fittest, not the most fit? Here's a traditional-conventional irrationality banished by science, but stubbornly seeking whatever new niche it can find, to keep on growing its old mold. Can't call it a "psychiatric disorder" anymore, so it's gotta be stamped like some kind of bizarre bending. We'll find a square hole for a twisted peg (ouch...).

How can a military which grossly misperceives minor social reality (as in fearing the queers) be relied on the respond accurately to major survival issues, competently see new true dangers, and adapt agile to them supple not sludgy?

Brian Kevin Beck, Whitewater, WI

## So what about...? Kinship Mentoring Program

By Paul Masterson

An interview with Chaz Holmon, program specialist for Kinship Mentoring Program of Milwaukee, a youth mentoring agency of Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Inc. Queer Life News recently spoke with Holmon about Kinship and its mission.

**Queer Life:** What is Kinship of Milwaukee?

**Chaz Holmon:** Kinship is a mentoring program that works with youth, ages 5-17, from single parent households who are looking for a positive role model, regardless of religion, race, economic status or sexual orientation.

**QL:** How does Kinship differ from other mentoring programs like Big Brothers-Big Sisters?

**CH:** Kinship is smaller with just over 30 mentors. We're also the only local agency working with children as young as five and with the family's other needs such as housing, food, job readiness and education. And, we're one of three agencies nationwide that match LGBTQ youth and mentors. They represent about 10% of our members.

**QL:** Given the attitude of many mainstream churches towards the LGBT community, as an agency of Lutheran Social Services, how does Kinship deal with the sexual orientation issue?

**CH:** We have a more open attitude regarding LGBT issues because Kinship's mission is to serve all youth. We can't discriminate - every child has a right to mentoring.

**QL:** Who qualifies to be a mentor?

**CH:** A genuine interest in children, and knowledge of child development. As well as being at least 18 years old and dedicated. A prospective mentor is screened through an interview that takes

place in the person's home environment, background checks, TB and drug screening. It also asks questions about interests and skills to better match mentor and youth. It determines who is ready to commit their time and energy.

**QL:** Is training required?

**CH:** Yes, training sessions are held two or three times per year depending on need. They cover a variety of things: for example, how to answer the typical questions a child might ask, like "how can I be gay and Christian?" as well as dealing with issues that are specific to children in their particular situation.

**QL:** What's the typical demographic background of mentors and youth?

**CH:** Mentors tend to be single males, 30-42. We also have both male and female couples.

The LGBTQ mentoring program is open to young people from 12-17. The participants are mostly boys of color. Some have been in foster homes. Some have some social problems and others just need a positive role model.

**QL:** So, what about Kinship's success and impact?

**CH:** I think the measure of success is in the duration of the relationship. The Kinship program ends when the youth turns 18 but we have had several pairings that continue as enduring friendships beyond that. It takes patience and dedication on both sides and it may take a few months for the mentor and youth to reach a comfort and confidence level. Overall the kids show improvement in social skills and self-esteem. A lot of teens lose confidence in adults and I think Kinship helps restore that.

For more information on the Lutheran Social Services Kinship Mentoring Program, see its website at [www.lsswis.org](http://www.lsswis.org) or call 414-372-6902

## Play for Yourself

The other day I caught a snippet of a news story about a brawl during a Denver Nuggets-NY Knicks game. The newscasters were lamenting the fact that Carmelo Anthony's entry into the fight may have ruined his chances for a place in the All-Star game.

I thought, "He's not playing for an All-Star game slot. He's playing for himself!"

Underneath the jersey of an NBA basketball player beats the heart of a kid who toughed his way through hundreds of scuffling schoolyard games.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar described an uncharacteristic 1977 incident when he administered rough justice (breaking his own hand in the process) in reaction to a particularly vicious elbow foul by opponent Kent Benton. He said, "I wasn't going to let this be established as a precedent. I wasn't going to stand for it." I'm not necessarily endorsing violence, but Abdul-Jabbar's explanation rings true for me.

To my mind, we LGBT people have gotten too used to rejection and abuse. Sometimes it seems like our self-esteem rises and falls according to what others think of us. Despite its negative outcome (for now), the recent Wisconsin Marriage Amendment fight showed our community can believe in itself.

Sometimes an individual's life personifies "playing for yourself." Cheryl Johnson, an African-American lesbian who recently died of cancer at 52, is a prime example of the benefits of a healthy self-identity. One of ten children of a couple who didn't have an eighth-grade education between them, Cheryl eventually left her Chicago South Side neighborhood, attended law school and worked for the prestigious Quarles and Brady law firm.

At her funeral I heard a tribute from a heterosexual white woman who had been in the same mother-daughter book club as Cheryl and her daughter Bailey. Cheryl's

# Q

### LESBIAN VIEW

Lesley Salas is a Cuban-American lesbian mother of two. She currently enjoys life in Riverwest with her blended family: her partner, their lovable dog and disgruntled cat

family members expressed support of her white partner and adopted daughters. Cory Nettles, who has served in statewide office, praised her for being his first mentor in the legal world. A niece described the cagey way Cheryl used reverse psychology to goad her into pursuing a higher education and loftier personal goals.

A nephew commented on the mix of black and white, gay and straight people who had come out to pay their respects. Looking out over the packed sanctuary, he said simply, "She did this." She touched all different kinds of people by refusing to be anything but her authentic self.

Cheryl listened to her instincts, not the external messages telling her not to be a lesbian and a mother or to settle for low expectations. Ceci Chapple, her white partner of 16 years, expressed it best: "She insisted on being part of the world. And she didn't let anything stop her."

I think we could all use a dose of "playing for ourselves." Not in a selfish way, but by realizing our own value. I hope wherever you are on your life journey, you know you are not "less than" anyone else and act accordingly.

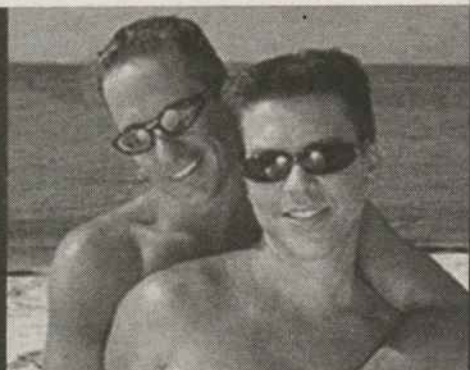
As poet George Herbert observed over 300 years ago, "Living well is the best revenge."

## We LGBT people have gotten too used to rejection and abuse

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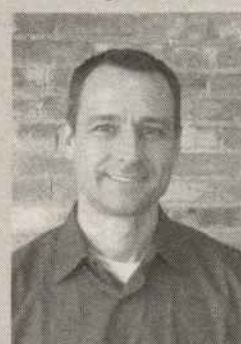
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## Carbs Can be Healthy

**F**eeling stressed-out? Is it because your thinking about that low carb diet your going to start? New Year or not, let's be smart about what our bodies do need. So, every so often, give your body a treat. Adding carbs after 3 or 4 days on a low carb diet will make your Metabolism increase. So, make whole-wheat pasta with puttanesca sauce! Why? When you're overwhelmed, your body releases extra amounts of the stress hormone cortisol, which can cause carbohydrate cravings. This dish not only gives you a dose of healthy whole-wheat carbs, it may also boost production of the feel-good hormone serotonin. Added bonus: Tomatoes have vitamin c, an antioxidant that can help decrease stress-induced damage to cells brought on by inflammation.

### Whole-wheat Pasta with Puttanesca Sauce

Makes: 6 servings

- (1) Tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- (6) Cloves garlic, minced (1 tablespoon)
- (3) 14-1/2 ounce cans crushed tomatoes
- (1/4) Teaspoon crushed tomatoes
- (1/4) Cup pitted kalamata olives, chopped
- (1/4) Cup capers, rinsed and drained
- (2) Tablespoon balsamic vinegar
- (1/4) Teaspoon kosher salt
- (1/4) Teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- (1) Tablespoon chopped fresh thyme
- (2) Tablespoon chopped fresh marjoram
- (10) Ounces whole-wheat pasta, such as lasagna (look for brands with 7 grams of fiber per serving, such as (Barilla Plus)
- (1/4) Cup finely shredded Parmesan cheese (1 ounce)

1. In a medium saucepan, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add garlic; cook for 30 seconds. Stir in tomatoes and crushed red pepper; bring to a boil.



### FITNESS

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2. Stir in olives, capers, vinegar, salt and black pepper. Return to a boil and reduce heat to low. Simmer, uncovered, about 30 minutes, or until desired consistency. Stir in thyme and marjoram.

3. Meanwhile, cook pasta according to package direction. Drain. Pour sauce over cooked pasta; sprinkle with cheese.

Nutrition facts per serving: 296 Calories, 11g protein, 53g carbohydrate, 6g fat (1g saturated), 7g fiber.

It's a new year and you have a new recipe, with carbs! You still should workout at least three days a week as well. Caution-if you don't know what you're doing, ask. Better still - get a personal trainer so he or she can customize a workout program to fit your every day needs and wants. The workout program below is basic. Like I said, everyone is different and not everything works the same for everybody. Start off with a total body workout. This workout should take 45-60 minutes depending on your rest periods. Sweeney's Gym specializes in customize fitness programs for all ages. Don't let the New Year pass you by. Get fit today with a trainer at Sweeney's Gym. See you soon and have a healthy New Year.

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### The warm-up:

Ten minutes on a stationary bike or cardio alternative  
Two to three minutes of stretching

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- Abs ..... Rope Crunches ..... 3x25
- Lower Back ..... Hyperextensions ..... 3x15
- Thighs ..... Machine Press ..... 4x15
- Chest ..... Machine Press ..... 4x15
- Back ..... Dumbbell Rows ..... 4x15
- Upper Lats ..... Chin or lat pull downs to ..... 4x15
- ..... The front
- Shoulders ..... Seated Military Presses ..... 4x15
- Triceps ..... Push downs ..... 4x15
- Biceps ..... Barbell curls ..... 4x15

Workout Rotation ..... \*Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

Rest Days: ..... Sunday

# Knitted by God

**M**aya Angelou has described her faith as the experience of "stepping out on the Word of God." I treasure that image of faith: it captures the fragility and the audacity, the sense of uncertainty and of soaring hope.

As LGBT people it can be tempting to dismiss the Bible because of its abusive use by fundamentalists. We remember texts that are used to inflict pain and to terrorize. Or we think of the passages scrawled on placards by protestors at Pridefest. Too often stepping out on the Word can feel like being forced to "walk the

## No matter what we have done in our lives, we are still loved by God

plank" by a pirate.

Yet I think Maya Angelou is right. Amidst the words of terror we know all too well, there are passages of great beauty, moments when scripture is trying to lift us up and make us soar. There are verses we ought to know by heart, words that we can stand upon.

One of those passages for me comes in the letter of Paul to the Ephesians. He says there, "You are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus for good works prepared before hand" (Eph. 2:10).

Years ago, when I was in college, I struggled to accept my sexuality. I prayed and prayed that God would make me straight. One night, in a chapel on my college campus, I sat exhausted before the cross. I'd poured my heart out and sat in the dark, quiet, emptiness. In the silence I heard the voice of God inside of me, reciting these words, "you are my work of art."

God's utter care in making us comes out in so many places in scripture. In Genesis we hear that God created humanity in the divine image and in Jeremiah the prophet hears that God knew his name before he was even born. I'll especially treasure Psalm 139, in which it is said, "we are wonderfully, fearfully made" by a God who "knit us together in our mother's womb."

As spiritual people we need to claim and affirm that God's hands shaped our very being. And that part of the beauty God gave us is our sexuality, our erotic energy, our physical passion. These are part of the very artistry of God.

There are healing words not just about our birth, but about the entire scope of our lives. I step out on another promise of Paul, where he writes, "For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth,

nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8: 38-39). No matter what we have done in our lives, we are still loved by God. We remain forever God's beloved creations.

Amidst the familiar verses that can inspire terror, there are even more numerous verses on which we can base our lives. These words promise God's care; these words are sound enough for us to step out on; these words can help us soar to heaven.



## RELIGION

The Rev. Andrew Warner (awarner@queerlifeneews.com) is a pastor at Plymouth Church UCC on Milwaukee's East Side. He lives with his partner, Jay, and their two children in Whitefish Bay. Your questions about LGBT spirituality are welcome.

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## Renew, Refresh, and Revive - But Be Realistic

**W**elcome to the year 2007! After all of the scrambling and stress of the last two months of 2006, one due to political stress, the other to holiday shopping, giving and entertaining stress, it's time to take a minute ... and breathe.

For many of us, the start of a new year gives us the chance to revive our spirits, renew our commitments, and refresh ourselves as we vow to stop doing things that don't work for us and to start doing things that might work a little better.

New Year's resolutions are often seen as something we wish for and would like to see happen, but by the end year, those resolutions we had once made with the best intentions and hopes haven't quite gone according to plan. What can we do differently to make this year's resolutions come true? We can start by being realistic with our goals. When making resolutions, start small, be clear, and get support.

Other than the change of the year, most changes don't happen over night. It's no good for anyone's self esteem to say, "I want to lose 100 pounds by my next birthday" and when that day arrives, you've lost 10 pounds and instead of feeling great about that

### We are also practical people who need clarity

victory, you feel depressed and like a failure. That's not cool. Goals have to be realistic. Not only will they be more likely to happen, but also when they do happen, they are more likely to be appreciated and celebrated for what they are - significant steps towards the positive changes we seek.

Another common resolution goes a



### WOMEN

Jennifer Curtis has been an active member of the Milwaukee Lesbian community since 2002. She is also involved in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Visioning Project, a local group that is working to create unified and respectful collaborations between all members of our diverse community. She lives with her wife, cat and dog and is currently pursuing her PhD in Urban Studies at UWM

bit like this; "I want to be a better person." While that is something we all should strive for, we are also practical people who need clarity in order to best understand how to reach a goal. Better how? Better at what? Better for whom? Be clear about the changes you want to see happen in your life and provide yourself with an easy way to measure these changes. If you really want to be better at your job, tell yourself this and set weekly goals that you can check off once you've accomplished them. There's nothing like a checklist to make you feel like you have successfully taken care of something that needed to be done!

Finally, most of us make resolutions to ourselves, in our heads. The problem with that is, we are a social species and we need support and people to celebrate with us no matter how small we feel the accomplishment may be. Tell a your partner or a friend and I bet you two could help each other out along the way. Another form of support for some of us may come from writing our goals down and putting them where we can see them. This way, we - and our loved ones - know that we are serious about our resolutions and are committed to changing our lives for the better.

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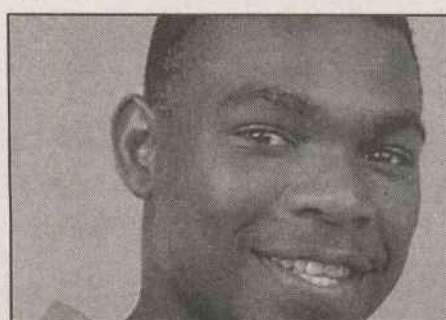
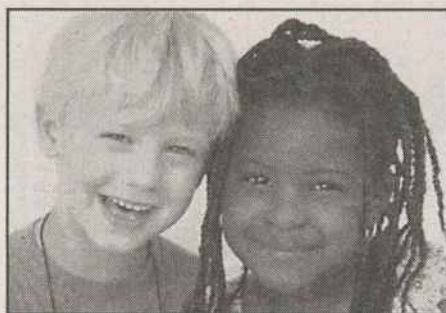
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## Outwords Books

Top 5 Picks for January

New & Noteworthy Fiction Releases  
Exclusive to Q Life.

### FOR THE BOYS:

#### 1. "Summer Cruising," Dave Benbow

The hunky passengers of the RMS Princess Diana, a rollicking all-gay cruise enjoy the expect steamy sex and shipboard romance until a psychopath sets in motion a dastardly plan to send the luxurious liner to the bottom of the sea.

#### 2. "Bound in Flesh," David Thomas

Lord Vampire Jean-Luc Courbet is back with his lover and fellow vampire Claude Halloran and together they wreak havoc on cities across the world, leaving a trail of bodies in their wake. One of their victims, Mike O'Donald, is the only one who may be able to stop them.

#### 3. "Full Circle," by Michael Thomas Ford

History professor Ned Brummel is well content when he learns that a friend is possibly near death. Boarding a plane to his friend's bedside, Ned examines the major events and small moments that have shaped his world and his relationships with two very different men.

#### 4. "Going Down in La-La Land," Andy Zeffer

Young, ambitious, and gay, Adam Zeller has the looks and talent to become a star but soon finds himself dealing with down-and-out directors, washed up starlets, crystal meth addicts, and the pretty boy Hollywood "A" list.

#### 5. "Rainbow Road" by Alex Sanchez

The third entry in Alex Sanchez's wildly popular "Rainbow" series. During an eye-opening post graduation summer road trip, each of the three protagonists embarks on a personal journey across a landscape of love, sexuality, homophobia, and above all, friendship.

### FOR THE GIRLS:

#### 1. "Honor Reclaimed" by Radclyffe

Following 9/11, Secret Service agent Cameron Roberts and her lover, first daughter Blair Powell, must contend with recriminations from within the government and dangers from without as they struggle to uncover those who betrayed the nation.

#### 2. "Terror of the High Seas" by Melissa Good

Melissa Good's latest action/romance finds Kerry and Dar on a fabulous Caribbean vacation which turns deadly when they come face to face with pirates.

#### 3. "The Killing Room" by Gerri Hill

Escaping to her cabin in the mountains after the shooting death of a young boy, Denver detective Jake McCoy meets psychologist Nicole Westbrook. The attraction is immediate but neither are ready for a relationship. Or are they?

#### 4. "Just Like That" by Karin Kallmaker

Syrah Ardani returns home to try to save the family vineyard from bankruptcy and in the process believes she must safeguard her heart from beautiful Toni Blanchard, or does she?

#### 5. "Too Close to Touch," by Georgia Beers

Kylie O'Brien is the kind of girl who believes in true love and is willing to wait until it shows up at her door. Gretchen Kaiser is a corporate workaholic and Kylie's new boss. But will Kylie find that Gretchen is just too close to...



## YOUTH

Harry James Hanson, a junior at Shorewood High School, is Co-President of the school's Gay-Straight Alliance, as well as an active member of both its drama department and school newspaper.

Every year my high school has its annual blood drive, in conjunction with the Blood Center of Wisconsin. And every year a student council committee helps organize it. This year, I'm on the student council, so when discussion of the drive first began, and a Blood Center representative came to speak with us, I was present to offer my two cents.

I wanted to raise the issue of the FDA's (Food and Drug Administration) ruling which states that (according to their website) "men who have had sex with another man even one time since 1977" are not eligible to give blood. Unfortunately, there was never quite the appropriate time, so instead I just attended the drive myself to be nosy and ask questions.

When she didn't seem too busy, I approached a woman in a lab coat that had been registering potential donors.

"Hi, my name is Harry Hanson... and, I'm actually not interested in donating, but I'd like to ask you a couple of questions."

I told her about my feelings on the policy, and she seemed neither annoyed nor defensive.

So, I inquired: "Let's say for instance that I brought in a signed letter from someone with a PhD saying that he/she was absolutely, 100% certain, without a doubt, that I did not have HIV, yet I had had sexual contact with another male. Could I donate, then?"

She responded shortly with a, "No."  
"Well... what if I just lied?" I proposed.  
"Yeah, you could just do that," she said with a nonchalant tone.

I thought about this for a while, and the more I thought about it, the more ridiculous it seemed. Why would you have a policy that can be so easily evaded and yet could also be interpreted as discriminatory and promotion of prejudice? It just isn't logical, particularly considering how all donated blood is already tested for HIV antibodies.

Now, I'm not going to deny or ignore the facts and figures. The CDC (Center for Disease Control) reports that the largest numbers of new AIDS cases are among homosexual men, at about 35%. Current estimates as to the percentage of HIV positive homosexual males ranges between 8% and 15%. Yet the same time, the CDC also estimates that around 50% of new AIDS cases (in the U.S.) are among African Americans. Are they to be excluded as well? No no no—that would be racism. Homophobia is clearly a lesser crime.

It just doesn't seem right that gay men should be thrown into a bracket of complete exclusion, treated the same way as prostitutes and drug abusers. Along those same lines, the FDA gives the thumbs up to anyone that has had sex with a prostitute (safely or unsafely— not specified) so long as it hasn't been within the last 12 months. Additionally, any woman that has slept with a bisexual man, so long as it was in the past 12 months, can give blood. Yet if a male were to have sexual relations with that very same bisexual man, he would be excluded from the donor

# Blood isn't Thicker than Equality?

pool for the rest of his life.

Despite petitions at dozens of universities, and even a recommendation by the Red Cross, the light at the end of the tunnel remains dim. Just this past September the FDA ruled 7-6 to keep the ban on 'men that have had sex with other men since 1977.'

And of course, all of this is in spite of the fact that blood supply at hospitals nationwide is consistently low, and the number of blood transfusions increases by 9% each year.

So, what do we do? Do we lie? I can't really say; it would seem unwise to advise such a thing, but at the same time it could be saving people's lives. What we do need to do is promote safe sex practices— use condoms and use good judgment. Prevent the spread of HIV, and eliminate stereotypes. If that 8-15% continues to decline every year, there is no way for the FDA to ignore that. You can also call the FDA and voice your opinion with their Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research at this number: 800-835-4709.

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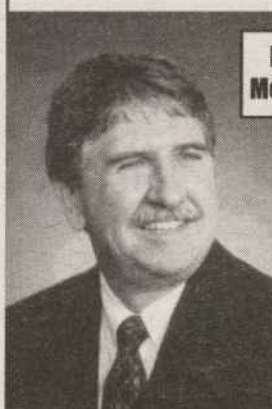
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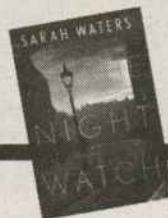


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# Size Matters

*"Five inches guaranteed or your money back"*

Every day my email inbox is cluttered with similar promises about increasing the size of my penis. I find the overwhelming number of spam emails to be both humorous and annoying. Part of me is tempted to find out if they would really honor their money back guarantees (or if I'd have miraculous, non-surgical growth)! Mostly, though, they take up space and significant amounts of time to sort through and delete.

For many trans people, their in-person, day-to-day lives are filled with people asking them about the size of their penis, scrutinizing their validity based on their answers to the barrage of intrusive questions. Store clerks, co-workers, state officials and even people on the streets feel they have a right to ask trans people about their genitals. (Of course, those same people would never dream of asking the identical questions to their cisgender peers).

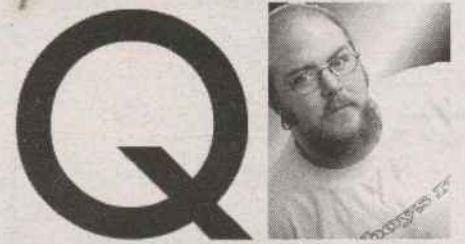
The penis questions seem to be the ultimate litmus test of "realness" for many trans and non-trans individuals. Vaginas are second rate, and are rarely called into the equation. It is the absence of a penis that is essential for many outsiders to even consider the possibility of femaleness, or the presence of one required for manhood.

No penis = no man.  
*"Time to make it bigger"*

Those emails that continue to stream into my inbox are also daily reminders that my body is not like non-trans bodies, that something about me is allegedly deficient or less than average, below the belt.

Even though we all know the claims from penis-enhancing companies are false and misleading, their advertising plays on our perceived inadequacies. Even if it's only for a fraction of a second, each of those emails draws me into my body and I can choose to affirm that my body is a beautiful creation just the way it is, or I can wallow in the possibility that my body is not acceptable in its current form.

Body insecurity and dysmorphia, though, are not purely trans issues.



## TRANSGENDER

Michael Munson (mmunson@queerlifeneews.com) is an emotionally intense, transgressively gendered, passionate social agitator who strives for inclusion and harmony by focusing on our human similarities and strengths. He is lovingly committed to his partner and their 10-year-old son.

Anxieties about body runs rampant in our culture, extending beyond penis and breast size, to waist circumference, the amount of body or head hair, the volume of sweat, the fluidity of mobility, the evenness of complexion, and more.

*"XXL? What's the right size for you?"*

We live in a society where advertisers, teachers, consumers, government and just about everyone else has a "more-is-better" philosophy. What we have -- no matter how current, how big, how expensive -- is never the top of the line.

We are continually led to believe that if we don't want the next step up, there is something inherently wrong with us.

While some trans people experience body or gender dysphoria that is generated from an internal "mismatch" or other inner cause, both trans and cisgender individuals alike experience this "more-is-better"

**I can choose to affirm that my body is a beautiful creation just the way it is**

media bullying that propels many of us to make choices that we wouldn't otherwise make if left up to our own heart-centered process and personal relationships.

For those of us who have fallen prey to broadcasting blips, most of us quickly realize that bigger doesn't always bring bliss.

*"You know, size really does matter"*

It does -- not the length of our genitals or the dollars in our wallet, or the span of our belt, but the size of our hearts and the expansiveness of our minds. I've found, repeatedly, that the small kindnesses in life far outweigh the slightness of my genitals.

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# A New Year upon us

## Merci beaucoup, Montréal!

The zine scene is alive and kicking in Montréal! In November I traveled there to talk about QZAP as one of three guests (one of whom is from the collective that produces the queer sex-positive zine **Lickety Split**) on "Dykes on Mykes," the longest running Queer community radio show airing on McGill University's CKUT. The following day, I participated in a three-person panel on queer zine history at Café Esperanza. The room was packed with an attentive array of fans, students, and zinesters. Here's a smattering of just what was getting them excited!

## Personal is Political

Montréal Expozine was a one-day event held on the day I arrived in a tiny multi-purpose room at the back of a church near the Laurier Métro stop. Despite being pushed along by the crowd, I was able to stop at the Ste-Emilie Skillshare table, a collectively run community art space serving mostly queer and trans people of colour. "Skillshare" is a non-authoritative peer-based alternative to traditional education. The selection of zines they distribute contained the most thought-provoking content I've read in quite a while! They proudly pointed me to **A Queersafe Zine** [One-off, 2006, 40 pages] produced by Head & Hands / à Deux Mains and written by nurse in training, Mary Potter. This zine tackles the overlooked area of providing plain-language guidance on sexual health issues

for unique groups such as immigrants and youth. Along with the candid text, there are illustrations by Sarah Mangle that nicely complement the informal approach used to convey life-altering and important safe sex information.

It was amazing to find this zine after the nail-biting election results here in Wisconsin in which prejudice against same-sex marriage and civil unions will be enshrined in our state's constitution. **Some Thoughts On Gay Marriage** [One-off, 2005, 16 pages, www.illegalvoices.org] is an off-shoot of the radical Gay Shame movement and distributed by Downward Mobility Press in Florida. This zine brings together broad political views of so-called "gay marriage" struggles. In the first essay "Is Gay Marriage Anti-Black?" Kenyon Farrow, a self-identified black gay man who is not interested in getting "married," breathes fresh life into the deeper political ramifications of this current advancement in queer politics. By rightfully bringing to task the white gays and lesbians who thoughtlessly appropriate language from and equate the Civil Rights Movement of the '50s and '60s with the current fights for marriage equality, he brings awareness to the fact that without further advancement in other political arenas, marriage equality is essentially a moot point. He expresses frustration that if issues of racism, classism, and economic disparity aren't addressed, marriage is meaningless to someone who holds a job that doesn't pay well or provide benefits. I believe this article is mandatory



## ZINES

Christopher Wilde (cwilde@queerlifeneews.com) is a co-founder of QZAP, artist, DJ and Mac tech support specialist building community in Milwaukee's Riverwest.

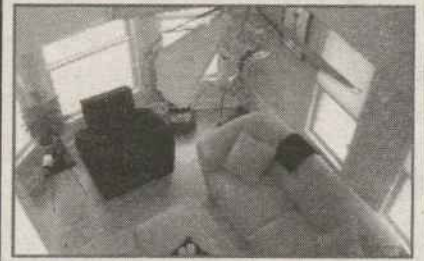
reading to understand why, despite hard work by good people here in Wisconsin, we ultimately failed to stop the No vote from prevailing.

## Colour Me Impressed

**My 2nd Lesbian Colouring Book** [Issue 2, 2006, 16 pages] is a delightful homage to dyke icons like Joan Jett and Lily Tomlin. The producers encourage fans to submit their coloured-in zines to them in exchange for a care package that includes herbal tea, among other things. Although not a colouring book, **Textazine** [Issue 4, 2006, 32 pages, www.textaqueen.com] has artwork with an open feel, relaxed lines and style, and the best body hair drawing I've seen since Sina Shamsavari's work. These drawings were inspired by Texta's travels in the Americas over the last two years and the commentary for each of them is humorous and zingy.

Special thanks to hosts m-c and Mel of "Dykes on Mykes." The Nov 27, 2006 interview is in the Archives section at ckut.ca and more details on these Montréal events can be found at qzap.org.

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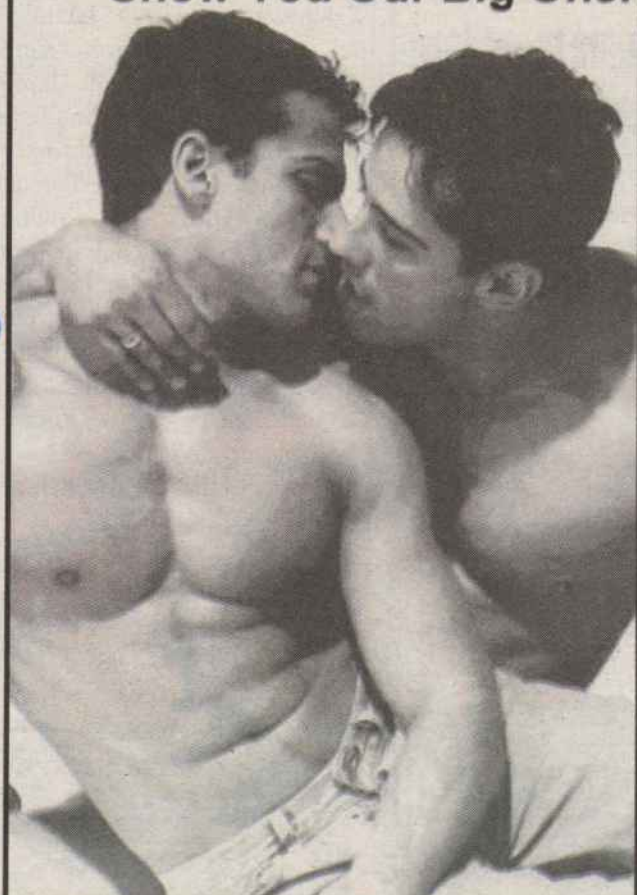
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# Artasia

The hats and horns are put away; the confetti has been swept clean and the heartfelt resolutions have already been broken. Want to try New Year's again? Seriously and soberly this time?

Celebrate Chinese New Year at Artasia Gallery and Museum.

What a treat is in store for you. The new digs are chock full of art, antiques, artifacts, jewelry, furniture and architectural objects, all of it coming from China, Mongolia, Nepal, Tibet and southeast Asia. New shipments are arriving all the time.

The owners and operators of Artasia are brothers-in-law Eli Rosenblatt and Craig Stone; last year they purchased the late 1890's building at 181 N. Broadway just up the street from their former location. This Third Ward structure was originally built as a mirror and glass works and has served in many different capacities over the years. They have renovated 6000 square feet of it to include the store, a gallery and a museum. The upper two floors will house a spa and perhaps a wine lounge.

With an eye toward both historical significance and good design, Rosenblatt and Stone have maintained the architectural integrity of the building and created interesting and functional new space. New features, such as lighting and fans, have been selected so that they look original to the buildings. The structural walls are classic cream city brick and provide a natural background for display.

The huge and fabulous front doors lead to an off-center, serpentine wooden stairway rising from a stone-floored entry.

The main floors are bamboo. A second interior stairway is made of poplar stained to allow a beautiful grain to show; the risers are tempered glass custom made in China.

Glass panels crowned with wooden Chinese fret work cordon off and showcase different areas.

The Asian theme extends to the Chinese lacquer red painted bathroom, which is presided over by a framed batik ganesh representing the Hindu elephant-headed god, Ganesha.

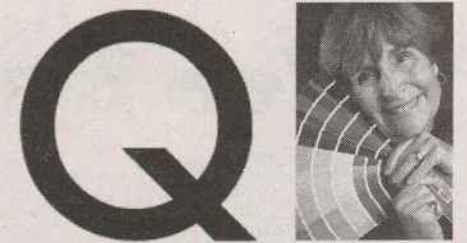
At the rear of the building, 10 x 12 foot paneled doors, also custom made in China allow drums, statuary and furniture to be delivered with ease.

Toward the front of the store is an impressive, giant red drum and stand from Tibet. Smaller drums and gongs are also available.

Since the owners deal directly with their Asian sources, many of the items that you see at Artasia can be custom ordered in different sizes, finishes and materials. Many of the statues can be cast in metal or made in stone, so that they can be used in outdoor gardens. Antique cabinets and chests can be adapted in Artasia's own workshop, so that they can house TVs, entertainment centers or computers.

Furniture selections include wedding beds, opium beds, altar tables, chairs and apothecary chests - some formal, some rustic, some antique and some contemporary.

If you are in the process of remodeling, there are many styles of bamboo flooring, porcelain basins in classic patterns, rattan stands and Japanese-style tubs. There are also rugs and upholstered, custom made



## DECORATING

Mary Stearns (mstearns@queerlifeneews.com) is the owner of Orientations Ltd., which she co-founded in 1977. Orientations originally imported Korean chests and other Asian antiquities and now offers a full range of interior design services. Stearns is an allied member of the American Society of Interior Designers.

furniture.

Artasia houses a collection of Chinese ancestors, which are folk art statues of various eras. Many have documentation that traces their provenances inside their hollow bodies. The collection is one of the largest in the world (here in Milwaukee, folks.) There are two other collections in China and one in France that are larger. If you would like to know more about the ancestors, visit WUWM's website where co-owner Craig Stone is featured in a conversation about the ancestors and the University of Michigan scholar coming here to study them

Books, art, music, lecterns, scrolls, clothing and jewel to die for - Artasia is a cultural center and a museum where every thing is for sale. Now, if they'd only serve tea ....

Celebrate Chinese New Year, it's February 18th, the year of the pig.  
 www.artasiagallery.com

## What's happening

### Gallery Night, Friday,

#### January 19, 6-9pm

Final night of B. J. Gruling Photography Exhibition - **Life in the Islamic World**  
 B.J. Gruling lived and worked in Saudi Arabia from 1985 to 1990. During this time he was able to take hundreds of photographic images of life in the Arab and Islamic world. A selection of this collection in this exhibit. Gruling won the top award in a Kodak sponsored photography contest for his photograph, Egyptian Man at Abu Simbal Temple, which showcased in this exhibit. While living in the Middle East, he also accumulated a variety of typical artifacts from pottery and metal ware to jewelry ad costumes that are also included in this

exhibition.

"It is my goal to show the warmth and beauty of the people and places in the Arab world; the human faces in everyday throughout the Islamic world," Gruling said of his solo show. The closing reception will also include Egyptian cabaret style belly dance performed by Shaia Fahrid.

### Photographer Jeremy Novy opens a solo exhibition, Scribble, Friday, January 26, 6-9pm

MGAC presents Jeremy Novy's solo photography exhibit, Scribble, opening with an artist's reception on Friday, January 26th from 6 to 9 p.m. Novy will give a brief gallery talk at 7 p.m. For the duration of the show, the artist invites viewers to leave their mark on the community canvas that will be photographed periodically in the same style as the featured art. Scribble runs through March 2nd. Novy is a rising artist with work in photography as well as public art. His photography has been exhibited in Milwaukee and in venues throughout Wisconsin, including the John Michael Kohler Art Center and the Lakefront Festival of Arts. He has been showcased in several local newspapers, including a front-page article in the Milwaukee

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Journal Sentinel. Novy describes his perspective saying, "the way members of a community interact with one another is a fascinating topic to contemplate. My photography (of graffiti scribbled on dumpsters, electrical boxes and other surfaces in Milwaukee) focuses on this human interaction. This subject provides scrutiny on a variety of layers. It takes three or more graffiti artists working separately to build up a surface before I find it interesting enough to photograph. Of course, there are other community members who negatively interact - they remove the graffiti. So the subject I document is extremely temporary. The final layer is the visual quality of my photographs that leads to them to be mistaken for abstract paintings." For further information, contact: Milwaukee Gay Arts Center at 414-383-3727, 703 S 2nd Street Milwaukee, WI 53204 See our new website at www.milwaukeegayartscenter.org Gallery Hours: Monday-Friday 10am-4pm And by appointment

### Classes:

Middle Eastern Belly Dance for Men with Shaia Fahrid - Call 414-383-3727 for Information

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## Community

## Calendar

**THURSDAY, JAN. 4**

**Legal Night.** Free legal consultation with LGBT-friendly attorneys. First come, first served. Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. 6-8 p.m. 414-271-2656 ext. 111. www.mkelgbt.org.

**SATURDAY, JAN. 6**

**FORGE (For Ourselves: Reworking Gender Expression).** A social support group open to all people interested in Female to Male (FTM+) and Significant Others, Family, Friends, and Allies (SOFFAs) issues. FORGE will host a free discussion on January 6th, 2007 from 6-9:30pm. Topic of discussion will be "Taking Care of our Mental Health." Description: We'll talk about some of the challenges of living with both acute and chronic mental health conditions. We'll also address ways in which we can all improve or maintain our good mental health through support networks, stress reduction techniques, knowing when to seek professional help, medication, diet and exercise, and other coping strategies. Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. 6-10 p.m. 414-278-6031. www.forge-forward.org.

**SUNDAY, JAN. 7**

**Brunch Club.** Lesbian potluck brunch. Meet new friends the relaxed way -- over food! 11 a.m. Susan.Kohler@med.ge.com.

**MONDAY, JAN. 8**

**Outwards Book Club.** "Cutbank Path," by Joseph Hansen will be discussed. Outwards Books, 2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. 414-963-9089. www.outwardsbooks.com.

**TUESDAY, JAN. 9**

**Lesbian Reading Group.** "Pipeline," by Brenda Adcock will be discussed. Outwards Books, 2710 N. Murray Ave., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. 414-963-9089.

www.outwardsbooks.com.

**THURSDAY, JAN. 11**

**MPS Reform: Listening to Educators.** Everybody seems to have a solution to the problems of urban education, but can we learn from the educators and those people working on the front lines? Milwaukee Turner Hall, 1034 N. 4th St., Milwaukee. Noon. 414-272-2833. www.4thstreetforum.org.

**FRIDAY, JAN. 12**

**Game Night and Potluck.** 6 pm. LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St., Milwaukee Take some time to wind down from the holidays. Bring your favorite board or card game and a dish to pass. 414-559-4610.

**SATURDAY, JAN. 13**

**Gemini Gender Group.** Support and social group for cross-dressers and transsexuals. 6-9:30 p.m. Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. gemini\_gender\_group@hotmail.com.

**SUNDAY, JAN. 14**

**The Gays of our Lives.** StageQ will be holding auditions for its March production of the play, The Gays of our Lives, by Claudia Allen. Auditions will include readings from the script. Please bring your calendar through the end of March. Appointments are not necessary but may be arranged. Callbacks on January 16. Bartell Theater, 113 E. Mifflin St., Madison. 7 p.m. 608-257-3379. www.stageq.com. Repeats January 15.

**TUESDAY, JAN. 16**

**Generation Q.** This group aims to be fun while being open and informative, without being intimidating. So, if you're queer, or questioning, or both, and you want to talk, bring yourself down. This is a social group for 18-24 year olds. OutReach, 600 Williamson St., Madison. 7 p.m. 608-255-8582. www.outreachinc.com.

**THURSDAY, JAN. 18**

**The Arts and Successful Children.** Arts programs are slashed in struggling urban schools. Yet children achieve success through the arts. If the arts are a path to success, why are these programs in danger? Milwaukee Turner Hall, 1034 N. 4th St., Milwaukee. Noon. 414-272-2833. www.4thstreetforum.org.

**Distinguished Lecture Series.** René Antrop-González is particularly interested in having difficult dialogues around the extent to which small school reform is addressing racial/ethnic/linguistic in/equalities in urban schools and the ways in which universities, urban school districts, and teacher unions can collaborate to address such issues. Broad Vocabulary, 2241 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., Milwaukee. 414-744-8384. www.broadvocabulary.com.

**Writing to Heal.** Transformation through words. An ongoing writing group for allies and survivors of sexual violence and other traumatic events. Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. 7-8:30 p.m. 414-559-2123. www.forge-forward.org.

**SATURDAY, JAN. 20**

**BWMT (Black and White Men Together).** Open to all members, guests, and visitors. 7-9 p.m. Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. 414-540-9437 ext. 3. www.bwmtmilwaukee.org.

**Rainbow Families Milwaukee.** Support and social group for LGBT parents and kids. 3-6 p.m. 414-447-0251. mkerainbowfamilies@hotmail.com.

**SUNDAY, JAN. 21**

**Open Space.** A Lesbian drop-in discussion group for real talk and new friends. Counseling Center of Milwaukee, 2038 N. Bartlett Ave. 6-8 p.m. Please be prompt. Door locked at 6:15. 414-271-2565. Contact Cheryl at groups@execpc.com.

**THURSDAY, JAN. 25**

The Race Card and Health Care Attitudes, Access, and Outcomes. Racial minorities are less healthy

than the majority population. What can the health care system do and is it doing enough to help solve the problem? In collaboration with the Department of Population Health and The Healthy Wisconsin Leadership Institute, Medical College of Wisconsin. Milwaukee Turner Hall, 1034 N. 4th St., Milwaukee. Noon. 414-272-2833. www.4thstreetforum.org.

**SUNDAY, JAN. 28**

**Waldorf Open House.** Learn about Waldorf Education by taking a school tour, meeting teachers, and enjoying a performance by students. Tamarack Community School, 1150 E. Brady St., Milwaukee. 1-4 p.m. 414-277-0009. www.tamarackwaldorf.org.

**Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.** 315 W. Court Street, for a White Elephant Gift Exchange and Community Mixer, join us at 2:00 p.m. Suggested donation of \$5 will go directly into a fund to help pay registration fees of Project Q trans/SOFFA youth attending the FORGE Forward 2007 Conference and Intensives, March 29 - April 1, 2007. For each unwanted (unwrapped) gift you bring us, you'll be given a ticket. When your ticket is drawn, it'll be your turn to pick something from what everyone else brought. We'll be sampling refreshments, playing games, and trading stories. Bring a friend or two or three! Join us for an easy, fun winter get-together that benefits LGBTQ youth. Questions? Call Loree at 414-540-6456

**THURSDAY, FEB. 1**

**Pathway to a Prosperous Southeastern Wisconsin.** Economics and our environment looking toward the future...what will Southeastern Wisconsin look like in 2050? Milwaukee Turner Hall, 1034 N. 4th St., Milwaukee. Noon. 414-272-2833. www.4thstreetforum.org.

**SATURDAY, FEB. 3**

**WI Rainbow Alliance for the Deaf.** Meeting and socializing for deaf and hearing-impaired LGBT people. 7-10 p.m. Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St., www.wiscrad.org.

Send submissions one month in advance to qlifelistsings@yahoo.com.

# 3's Company



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www.theknickrestaurant.com

## Three Great Flavors

Arts



Calendar

**OUT NOW**

**Visions of Heaven.** Self-taught folk artist Denny Nava transforms the traditional Latin American art of santos - painted wooden sculptures of saints and angels - into a lively yet heartfelt statement of personal faith. Latino Arts, 1028 S. 9th St., Milwaukee. 414-384-3100. www.latinartsinc.org. Through January 5.

**Why Do Fools Fall In Love?** Four girlfriends gather to celebrate the upcoming wedding of one of their own in this new musical comedy revue. Stackner Cabaret, 108 E. Wells St., Milwaukee. 414-224-9490. www.milwaukeeerep.com. Through January 7.

**Marion Bridge.** Boulevard Ensemble Studio Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., Milwaukee. Through January 14, various

times. 414-744-5757. www.boulevardtheatre.com.

**Join Us.** Annual children's show curated by local artist Paul Stoelting. Walker's Point Center for the Arts, 911 W. National Ave., Milwaukee. 414-672-2787. www.wpca-milwaukee.com.

**THURSDAY, JAN. 4**

**A Cudahy Caroler Christmas.** Vogel Hall, 123 E. State St., Milwaukee. 414-273-7206. www.marcuscenter.org. Through January 6, various times.

**FRIDAY, JAN. 5**

**Hamlet.** Nevermore Theatre. Off Broadway Theatre, 342 N Water St., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. 414-278-0765. www.nevermoretheatre.com. Through January 21, various times.

**SATURDAY, JAN. 6**

**Blitz Smackdown.** Modeled after Mercury's 24-hour play challenge, in this competition the audience decides to whom the crown will go! Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin St., Madison. 8 p.m. 608-661-9696 ext. 5.

**Premieres and Polkas.** This lively concert features two world premieres, "Lies You Can Believe In" by Melissa Mazzoli, and "Motor City Requiem" by Randall Woolf. Pre-concert with Milwaukee Accordion Club at 6:30 p.m. Milwaukee Art Museum, 700 N. Art Museum Dr., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. 414-271-0711. www.presentmusic.org.

**WEDNESDAY, JAN. 10**

**Translations.** In 19th century rural Ireland, a young British officer struggles to convert the Irish Names age-old landmarks to the King's English that only reveals a culture far richer than he ever could have expected. Milwaukee Rep's Quadracci Powerhouse, 108 E. Wells St., Milwaukee. 7:30 p.m. 414-224-1761. Through February 10, various times.

**THURSDAY, JAN. 11**

**Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra.** The Russian Festival begins with two masterworks: Stravinsky's Petrouchka and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5. Uihlein Hall, 700 N. Water St., Milwaukee. 414-291-7605. www.milwaueesymphony.org

**Undercurrents Benefit.** Jail, Dites Doncl, The Goodnight Loving, The Night Terrors. Mad Planet, 533 E. Center St., Milwaukee. 9 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JAN. 12**

**Artpost's Annual Open Juried Exhibit.** Artpost Gallery and Studios, 1300 14th Ave., Grafton. 262-376-0381. www.artpostgalleryandstudios.com.

**Combat Theatre.** Milwaukee Youth Arts Center, 325 W. Walnut Way, Milwaukee. 8 p.m. Repeats January 13.

**Q Pick**

**Falsettos.** The play is a study in contradictions: a laugh-a-minute musical -- about families dealing with AIDS; a tragedy filled with hope. Bartell Theatre, 113 E Mifflin St., Madison. 608-661-9696. www.stageq.com. Through February 3, various times.

**Proof.** A revolutionary mathematical theory is found in the papers of a famous and unstable mathematician. His reclusive daughter claims to have written it. Is she lying? Is she a genius? Is she mad? Racine Theatre Guild, 2519 Northwestern Ave., Racine. 262-633-4218. www.racine theatre.org. Through February 4, various times.

**They Came from Way Out There.** The candidates for president of the Paranormal Society are set to present a musical comedy show reenacting actual paranormal events that have happened to them. Milwaukee Rep's Stackner Cabaret, 108 E. Wells St., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. 414-224-1761. Through February 11, various times.

**SUNDAY, JAN. 14**

**Q Pick**

**MLK Birthday Celebration.** Performances from community organizations will include - Native American Drummers, Hmong American Friendship Association Dance Group, and Polish Community Dancers. Reception will follow. 929 N. Water St., Milwaukee. 414-273-7121. www.marcuscenter.org.

*continued on page 20*

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2 underground parking. **\$229,900.**

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in-unit laundry, central air are all included in the price. Parking available. [hifilofts.com](http://hifilofts.com)

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## Last Call

Time ticks away and the lights come up.

*Fishing lines get reeled in. Nets are put away. Men row home alone or motor away with others. Shouts can now go out because the night's expedition is concluded. "Where's the after set? Who's going for coffee?"*

For gay and bisexual men in Wisconsin, we must yell "last call" on involving underage youth and young adults in our bars. Our nostalgia for and our commitment to underage drinking must end because they are damaging our community physically, legally, and ethically.

Many of us know that a few businesses are just not sufficiently vigilant to monitor the age of their customers. All of them probably get deceived at some point by a wily youth who has perfected identity fraud. These are manageable problems, and we can all understand the challenges that can come with oversight.

But what we must re-evaluate and refuse to accept is that set of practices that intentionally and systematically induct queer youth into bars. (Before the calls start coming in, I want to assure readers that I do not believe that bars are bad, wrong, sinful, disgusting, or evil – it is just not rational from a public health perspective to intentionally engage youth in early drinking when our community already is burdened by significant disparities in alcohol abuse and its attendant negative health outcomes.)

So, what are we talking about here? Some of Wisconsin's gay bars provide an array of opportunities for under-age youth and youth adults to become patrons. A couple have "dry nights," another cordons off a section of the bar for youth while legal age drinkers are doing just that nearby. A couple employ underage entertainers. Still others legally hire 18 year olds as bartenders.

In short, these businesses are using underage youth as a commodity that provides us a sense of freshness, edginess, sexual tension, wistfulness, and curiosity. Those of us who had a hard time in adolescence get to rub



### HEALTH

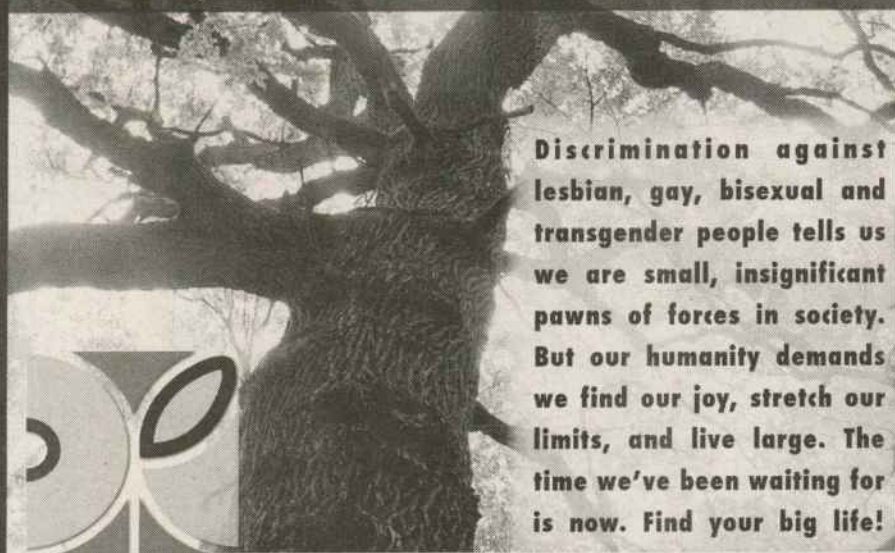
**Gary Hollander, Ph.D.**, (ghollander@queerlifeneews.com) is president and executive director of **Diverse and Resilient**, a nonprofit committed to the healthy development of LGBT people in Wisconsin. He is also owner and principal consultant of **Gary Hollander Enterprises**, which assists organizations with their development, emphasizing change management, team development and cultural competency.

shoulders with young people we hope are having a different sort of life. Granted, some business owners may hold the misconception that they are doing these youth and the community a service by creating a social venue that was so important for many gay and bisexual men. But reality challenges that position. Are these youth any safer or more accepted for who they really are (besides sex objects, that is) in these businesses than in community centers, coffee shops, and gay-straight alliances? The contribution of even a few thousand dollars annually to youth programs by each of these businesses could eliminate the remaining problems with safe venues.

We keep "buying" the youth commodity in Wisconsin bars by failing to walk out the door when these businesses cross the line. Even though a few of these induction practices are legal, others are not, and none are rational from the perspective of the health of the youth involved. Vintners, brewers, and distilleries all do an excellent job of marketing and promote their sales on bill boards and over the air waves. Must we do their job for them by providing questionable access to underage youth to bars to habituate their involvement before they are even legal patrons?

I have no illusion that calling our businesses and their patrons to task on these issues will be popularly received. Neither are flu shots, HIV tests, or prostate exams. But we need them for the good of our personal and collective health.

## FIND YOUR BIG LIFE!



**Discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people tells us we are small, insignificant pawns of forces in society. But our humanity demands we find our joy, stretch our limits, and live large. The time we've been waiting for is now. Find your big life!**

Diverse&Resilient is a statewide organization committed to the healthy development of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Wisconsin. We accomplish our mission by helping grow the organizations and youth and adult leaders who aid us as a community. [www.diverseandresilient.org](http://www.diverseandresilient.org)

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## Arts

## Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 17

### Q Pick

**Our Children.** Raising awareness: AIDS Crisis in Africa. In association with Fasten Clothing Co-op, over 100 volunteers are offering their talent and time to put together a fashion show. All proceeds raised will be donated to The Global Fund. Hi-hat, 1709 N Arlington Pl., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. 414-324-5685. [www.fastencollective.com](http://www.fastencollective.com)

FRIDAY, JAN 19

**Sive.** Opening exhibit with recent works from Lauren Garber, Carol Golembowski, Josie Osborne, Amy Newell, Kristen Rothrock. Desire, flight, loss, memory, longing are present in the works of this exhibition. Walker's Point Center for the Arts, 911 W. National Ave., Milwaukee. 6-9 p.m. 414-672-2787. [www.wpca-milwaukee.com](http://www.wpca-milwaukee.com). Through February 24.

**Frozen.** The disappearance of a ten-year-old girl brings three people together for a journey into the mysteries of human behavior and the limits of forgiveness. Milwaukee Rep's Stiemke Theater, 108 E. Wells St., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. 414-224-1761. Through February 18, various times.

**Space on the Ledge.** Environmental poet Suzanne Rosenblatt and Artistic Director Betty Salamun collaborate, with humor, on environment changes. Humphrey Masonic Center, 790 N. Van Buren St., Milwaukee. 8 p.m. 414-277-8151. [www.dancecircus.org](http://www.dancecircus.org).

FRIDAY, JAN. 26

**Renatured Redux.** Woodland Pattern Book Center, 720 E. Locust St., Milwaukee. 7 p.m. 414-229-4758. [www.woodlandpattern.org](http://www.woodlandpattern.org).

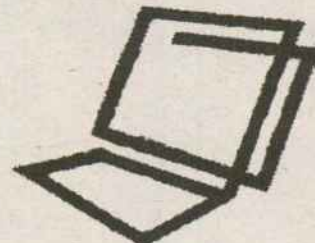
**Steve Ross.** Along with his interpretations of Porter, the Gershwins and Coward, Steve offers a special collection of songs by Stephen Sondheim to celebrate his 75th birthday. Sharon Lynne Center for the Arts, 19805 W. Capitol Dr., Brookfield. 262-781-9470. [www.wilson-center.com](http://www.wilson-center.com). Repeats January 27.

**The Threepenny Opera.** This full staged production explores the evils of post-industrial capitalism through the story of gang leader and Don Juan figure Mack the Knife. Helene Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts, 2419 E. Kenwood Blvd. 7:30 p.m. 414-229-4308. Through January 28, various times.

SATURDAY, FEB. 3

**Peter Westermann.** Featured Artist recently did artwork for the well-known hard rock band, Tool. River's End Gallery, 380 W. Main St., Waukesha. 262-896-8875. [www.riversendgallery.com](http://www.riversendgallery.com).

Send submissions one month in advance to [qlifelistings@yahoo.com](mailto:qlifelistings@yahoo.com).



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# An Off The Wall Legend

What becomes a legend most? It most certainly is not diamonds, perfume or mink. It also has nothing to do with rewards and metals.

A legend in any field (like the Arts) is someone who earns our respect. Not only the respect of the community, but of fellow artists as well. Dale Gutzman, producer of the successful **Off The Wall Theatre Company**, (an intimate venue located on Wells Street) is also known as an actor, director, teacher, and writer. Off The Wall, which has shared the space with other companies, is now in its sixth season.

One such artist who shared of the season was Michael Kalinyen, who passed away suddenly several months ago. This passing of such a noted artist put a strain on Off The Wall. It also made many area artists take a strong look at their life; and realize that each moment in life and in the spotlight must be treasured.



Dale Gutzman

Dale Gutzman spent 12 seasons directing for the Milwaukee Players. His productions have also played at the Milwaukee Rep Theater complex, and Vogel Hall. For a short time he performed on the stage located in the Milwaukee Public Library. Twenty-three shows of his have been performed at the old Skylight Theatre, and even Russia and Thailand have hosted spectacular

shows by Gutzman.

Most recently Gutzman performed his annual HOLIDAY PUNCH, a Milwaukee Holiday landmark, for the 28th successful year!

Some of his personal favorites include his original work BEMBENEK, WILD PARTY and NINE. The Off The Wall Company members are now like family to Dale; and he admires all their dedication and constant hard work.

When I questioned him recently about the shock value and nudity in his theatre work, he said nothing had influenced him to move in that direction. Though he admits that he can sometimes see the dark side of human nature, his being "shocking" stems from wanting that seldom seen original approach. Why replicate past productions of shows like CALIGULA, CABARET, CLOCKWORK and EDWARD II?

Does he get the respect he deserves as a Milwaukee legend? He most certainly gets respect from his fellow actors. Somehow I can't help but feel that his work would be honored more in cities like San Francisco, New York and Chicago since they thrive on the success of new creative experiences. Shows similar to Dale's have moved from Off Broadway to Broadway; and many have walked off with a Tony. There was nothing unique about the new CABARET on Broadway. Dale did that long before that show opened! Shows like RENT and GREY GARDENS look so similar to shows one might experience at Off The

Wall Theatre.

This summer Gutzman will mount an exciting production of the musical CHESS. One can't help but admire any artist that makes a name in this competitive field of the Theater Arts. Even if you should happen to not like his shocking original choices, you really can't help but admire and respect this man. Dale Gutzman is not afraid to take a chance; so just watch his work on stage EXPLODE!

Next month I will feature another area Actor, Choreographer, Musician, Director... or Theater Company.

### A New Year of Theater 2007!

It is exciting to be in the creative world of 2007. So, please try to catch the mystery play DEATHTRAP opening at the Off The Wall Theatre. Go see the Dramatists Company production of **THIRD AND OAK**. Milwaukee Rep will open a romantic drama **TRANSLATIONS**, followed by the Broadway drama **FROZEN**. At exciting Renaissance Theaterworks they are playing **TOPDOG/UNDERDOG**. The Next Act will open a production of **PARADISE**. Skylight Opera will present **TARTUFFE**.

Don't underestimate the quality of fine community theater. For around \$12.00 you will see a very well acted production. Why pay \$25-60 when the show has no actual star in the cast, when you can add another glass of wine to your dinner tab?

This happens to be a Neil Simon favorite month. Sunset Playhouse opens **JAKE'S WOMEN**, and The North Shore Bay Players will bring us a production



## THEATER

Raymond Bradford (rbradford@queerlifeneews.com) is a freelance director, choreographer and actor. Ray teaches acting and is artistic director of R.S.V.P. Productions. He lives on Milwaukee's East Side.

### BAREFOOT IN THE PARK.

Many actors in these productions also work in the smaller venues in our Milwaukee area; and you would be surprised how many go on to success in New York, and also Los Angeles.

Have a safe and Happy New Year...and PLEASE support the bars!

*My Aunt Blanche can still drink more Vodka Martinis than even Dale Gutzman!*

### Last December's Trivia Answer

Judy Holliday starred in the original movie and play **BORN YESTERDAY**.

### This Month's Trivia Question

What blond male Hollywood icon starred in the original Broadway and movie version of **BAREFOOT IN THE PARK**?

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During Cream City Foundation's 2006 campaign these members of the community led the way in making a historic \$221,000 grant distribution possible.

*Thank you for your support.*

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## JOIN US FOR THE FIRST COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Saturday, January 27th at 10am. The Community Breakfast will be a quarterly event that will serve as a vehicle to share with you what our LGBT leaders are doing and to provide you a forum to share your thoughts. *The Breakfast is part of the efforts of the Greater Milwaukee Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Visioning Project. Location: Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W Court Street. Event is sponsored by the Cream City Foundation and the Cream City Foundation's Joseph Pabst LGBT Infrastructure Fund.*

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*Cream City Foundation is a proud member of Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee.*

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