

Hiding Out

By Paul Masterson

Across Milwaukee's diverse LGBT demographic profile, there's at least one common thread: closeted men and women.

Decades after Stonewall sparked a gay revolution, the phenomenon of closeted LGBT people living in a self-imposed limbo should be a thing of the past. But, for many, nothing has changed. In Wisconsin's largely rural heartland, the reluctance of people to come out is understandable. Yet, even in progressive urban areas such as Madison and Milwaukee where dozens of LGBT organizations encompass everything from athletics to religion and include youth to seniors, closeted life is alive and well.

While researching this article, many Wisconsin LGBT individuals, both in and out of the closet, were interviewed. LGBT on-line chat sites

including gay.com and bgclive.com also provided details on the state of the Milwaukee closeted and "down low" (D.L.) scene.

Not surprisingly, even though people are willing to talk about it, many requested not to be quoted or have their name published. But, perhaps it weighs on them enough to the point where there's something therapeutic about discussing it.

The closeted lifestyle spans Milwaukee's socio-economic demographics. However, variant terminology is used. "Closeted" is more typically used by Caucasian, Latin and Asian respondents and "down low (D.L)" by African-Americans. For this article those differentiations are maintained. In the health field, the abbreviations MSM (Men who

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Milwaukee Gay Soccer League filling up fast!

The Milwaukee Gay Soccer Association is thrilled by the excitement for the upcoming league hosted at Uihlein Indoor Soccer Park and urges you to act quickly before all the spots are filled.

Teams only have a few more weeks to get registration forms in before the rate goes up. Early Bird Registration for the league ends on January 18th. Team costs are \$750 for 15 players if registered by January 18th. More information can be found at www.milwaukee gaysoccer.org. The league is open to people of all skill levels and will be an opportunity for LGBT people to have an enjoyable time playing soccer in a harassment-free, supportive environment.

"I am very excited by the amount of people expressing an interest in playing in the league," says Kurt Dyer who is organizing the league. "There are a lot of people who've never played the sport signing up and are very excited about the health benefits

and social opportunities available. If you aren't sure if you are right for the league, now is the time to put those worries behind you because this league will be great for everyone."

There is only room for eight teams in the league so get your registration in today. The league will play on Friday nights starting on Friday, February 29th. Slots are filling up fast.

Don't have a full team but still want to play? Email info@milwaukee gaysoccer.org to be connected with other interested players. Stay tuned for more information about a Welcome Reception in February and practices for anyone interested.

Opportunities are still available for businesses and community leaders to sponsor this league. If you are interested contact Kurt Dyer immediately (email above) to figure out how you can support this unique opportunity while promoting your business.

Thank you CCF - Over \$80,000 for LGBT Programming Distributed

Milwaukee - The Cream City Foundation, the nation's second oldest Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) community foundation, distributed over \$80,000 in 2007 to LGBT programming during its fiscal 2007 year in southeastern Wisconsin.

The distribution marks a significant increase over a three-year period of grant allocation by the Cream City Foundation. A key factor in the increase was the creation of Donor Advised Funds. Because the funds do not charge any administrative fees, a unique stand among foundations, donors enjoy the full benefits the Foundation's staff, knowledge, and investment policies, while continuing or growing their current level of commitment to LGBT needs.

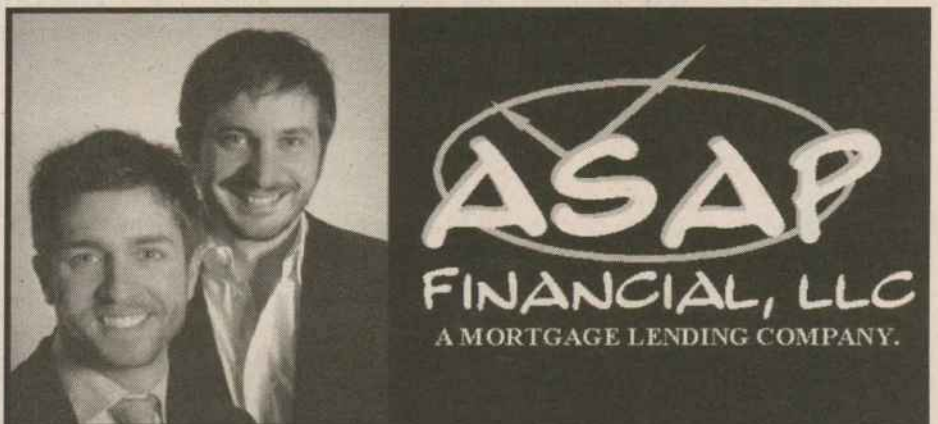
In December alone, Donor Advised Funds accounted for over \$12,000 in grants, including \$9,000 from the Birch Lodge Fund. "We are committed to funding LGBT needs through Cream City Foundation because we believe strongly in the benefit of combined economic power to make a difference," said Ross Draegert, co-founder of the Cream City Foundation's Birch Lodge Fund, which to date has distributed over \$210,000.

"It is a win-win situation for us," said Robert Starshak, Vice-President of the Cream City Foundation and co-founder of the Cream City Foundation's Birch Lodge Fund. "Our giving has not only impacted the programs we care about, but because it is within the Cream City Foundation, we are helping build a strong philanthropic institution that will impact LGBT communities for generations to come, at no additional cost."

"The impact of truly leveraging our resources, including our philanthropic investment, is immense," said Tim Clark, President of the Cream City Foundation. "Partnerships and contributions like this go a long way toward achieving quality programs and to ensure the success for sustainable LGBT funding."

Recent recipients from the Cream City Foundation include: AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin Foundation, Children's Service Society of Wisconsin, Fair Wisconsin Education Fund, Milwaukee Art Museum, and the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center.

Cream City Foundation launched its Donor Advised Fund Program in early 2006 with the creation of the Joseph R. Pabst LGBT Infrastructure Fund.



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HIDING OUT *continued from page 1*

have Sex with Men) and WSW (Women who have Sex with Women) refer to men and women who, although they have same-sex relations, they do not necessarily identify as gay or lesbian.

Difficulties in coming out range from family to the dominance of church culture - the latter especially due to the resurgence of religious influence and the Christian Right's ascent as a political power. Old prejudices against homosexuals remain and stereotypes, often still seen in media, also create an aversion to coming out. Whether real or imagined, many individuals of all races cite the discomfort of their communities with homosexuality as a reason to remain closeted.

For many Wisconsinites, regardless of color, culture or creed, coming out is, at least in their own minds, not an option. Some closeted individuals are married, some single - some are promiscuous while others rarely or sporadically give into their urges. The fear of social and familial rejection outweighs the stress of being closeted and so they remain trapped in a perpetual personal crisis of risk and denial. The state's recent Marriage Amendment further reinforces the perception that Wisconsin is homophobic and hostile towards LGBT people - undermining the inclination to come out.

Beyond the social pressure to remain closeted, modern technology in the form of the Internet gives closeted individuals an outlet for same-sex liaisons without the need to interact with the live gay community.

Conflicts with the American Dream

While gay liberation established an "out" prerogative for LGBT people in major urban centers like New York, San Francisco and Chicago, the American heartland, including Wisconsin, did not embrace a similar trend.

Gay self-awareness of the heady 1970's was thwarted by resurgent conservative trends of the Reagan years and the HIV pandemic. Locally, the Milwaukee Police Department's infamous Chief Harold Brier kept the gay bars under surveillance and continued to employ the vice squad to harass gay men until his twenty year tenure ended in 1984.

So, despite the growth of the "out" LGBT community, many remain tied to the expectations of the hetero-normative environment and the traditional American dream. Fear of leaving family and friends restrained others from coming out. The closeted scene for the city's white working and middle classes never went away.

Asian LGBT persons are particularly mired in the closeted dilemma. Their community is relatively new in Milwaukee and represents a small population. It is further segmented into yet smaller ethnic groups including Vietnamese, Hmong and Korean. None have a tradition of LGBT tolerance. Consequently, the Asian LGBT people are largely closeted. Several interviewed for this article, like "Tommy", stated they only dated outside their community in order to diminish the risk of being outed. Many feared being ostracized from their closely-knit communities if their orientation were discovered. When interviewed for this article, Chad, who is out, said "as a gay man, other Asian Milwaukeeans avoid me. It may be a self-esteem issue or internalized racism, but definitely they are uncomfortable with an 'out' Asian and prefer 'out' whites, Latinos, or blacks."

The Down Low

African American urban slang for "on the sly," the down low took on a sexual connotation for same-gender relations in a song from the 1930's about two women. The recent spate of D.L. exposés on national TV talk shows and in books brought attention to the subject. For the most part these were sensationalized accounts, and are often the center of heated debates.

For African American Milwaukeeans, living in a city ranked among the nation's most segregated, the struggle for equality is multi-tiered. As in other cultures, the D.L. lifestyle fulfills the purpose of allowing an acceptable public heterosexual identity while pursuing the expression of a homosexual or bisexual orientation. The

D.L. crosses demographic boundaries- it is as common in the inner city as it is in the suburbs.

The Mystique

Ironically, the D.L. and closeted realms have a certain cachet in popular culture. Since many closeted individuals define themselves as bi-sexual, there's an aura of respectability attached to them. Some seek out closeted partners presuming they have less sex and hence, less chance of having an STD. There's discretion too - practical for both out and closeted partners when cheating on a spouse or lover.

If you read any of the millions of web pages dedicated to the "down low" topic, most will describe D.L. and closeted men considering themselves masculine. They may specifically seek out closeted partners who are masculine as a matter not only of preference but also to mitigate the belief that sex with a man means they're gay and, by stereotype, feminine. Some see the masculine "straight-acting" partner as a more attractive "catch." Their reasoning - if both partners are "manly", they can't possibly be "gay." Others might seek out an effeminate, cross dressing or transgendered partner to reinforce their own hyper masculine self-image. Yet, when asked about partner preference, most male D.L. respondents chose other males.

Health Considerations

For closeted / D.L. men and women, health repercussions create a minefield. Their deliberate distance from the LGBT community restricts health education. The results are dangerous misconceptions and false beliefs regarding STD's and in particular HIV and its transmission. Some interviewed, admitted to being on the D.L., and believe that only a "bottom" can get HIV. These same misguided persons are also unlikely to tell health care providers about their same sex adventures and may avoid STD and HIV testing, opening up a deluge of health problems for their unaware partners (both male and female) back home.

Health risks associated with the D.L. and closeted lifestyles, regardless of ethnic, socio-economic or cultural background are recognized by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). But, due to its secretive nature, researching the phenomenon is complicated - those involved prefer not to admit their behavior and hence do not reveal it to health care providers.

Addressing the Issue and the Future

The main social risk for a closeted person is being outed, and whether or not a person stays closeted or on the D.L., the choice remains personal one. However, local LGBT groups should be more proactive in approaching the closeted population. There are certainly enough organizations to offer inclusion, support and a means to express their true identity within a certain comfort level.

Dayvin Hallmon, president of UW-Parkside's Rainbow Alliance said, "The closeted and down low lifestyle is a cultural phenomenon that needs to be thoroughly investigated. It is the pain of a severely broken people and requires a credible process of healing involving both LGBT and non-LGBT communities. The result of that would be its end."

On the bright side, change is in the offing. While today's community leaders remain influenced by social mores of their own formative years, future generations will definitely shake off the shackles of discrimination and LGBT people will be simply part of the landscape. Both LGBT and non-LGBT youth show signs of less concern for discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Coupled with the fact that openly LGBT politicians serve and have served in Wisconsin political offices, and the fact that Milwaukee's upcoming April primary will include out LGBT candidates, that an LGBTQ friendly Alliance School exists and that more and more schools have gay-straight alliance groups, the need for the closet and D.L. scene will fade.

Most religious institutions continue to struggle with the issue. That will impede progress. However, sooner or later, even they will have to accommodate the reality of our diverse community.

The WCCC Brings Choral Theatre to Milwaukee

Milwaukee - Imagine a choral concert that includes actors, staging, costuming, sets, spoken word, musicians and more... That's choral theatre.

A cutting-edge trend still rare on this continent, choral theatre draws on a much wider sampling of the performing arts to enhance a standard choral concert, creating a more engaging - and certainly memorable experience for the audience. Although this may be a unique concept among the choruses of Milwaukee, it is nothing new for the Wisconsin Cream City Chorus. The group's Artistic Director, Kristen L. Weber, explained that, "Over the last 20 years, the WCCC has added these elements to many of our concerts, one or two at a time."

According to Weber, the group is anxious to take it to the next level. "For our first full-scale endeavor, our April concert, we'll be adding a dozen or more actor/singers, plus making use of staging, costumes and a few well-placed solos." Weber expects this to "bring to life a world of characters and ideas created through our music." In keeping with its mission to celebrate the diversity of our community through quality choral music, the WCCC's April 12th concert will explore social issues related to compassion.

"Milwaukee has a rich tradition

for choral music," says Weber. "It supports more choruses than any other city its size. In addition, Milwaukee's community theatre is bubbling over with incredible talent - talent worthy of professional stages in most communities."

Currently, the group is sending out the call for actor/singers, ASL interpreters, ASL actors, and musicians interested in participating in making choral theatre a part of Milwaukee's performance community. Auditions for actor/singers and other performance roles will be held on January 30 & 31 at 7 PM, and will consist of readings, sight-singing and movement. Resumes are requested. The group is also seeking a stage manager and stagehands for the event. Additional information can be found at www.creamcitychorus.org/auditions.asp.

The concert, "Safe Harbor: Signs of Compassion", will be held on Saturday, April 12 at UUCW, 13001 W. North Avenue, Brookfield. Tickets are available: \$15 for adult; child rates also available.

More information about the Wisconsin Cream City Chorus, the concert, and ticket availability is available online at www.creamcitychorus.org. The group can also be contacted at 414-276-8787 or 315 W. Court Street, Milwaukee, WI 53212.

LGBT Center Updates Staff

Starting this month, the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is reorganizing its Development & Marketing functions into two positions - Director of Philanthropy and Director of Communications

Angie Guerra will move into the Director of Communications role as an Interim Director.

Based on her experience, interests, and contacts in the community, Guerra will work with LGBT Center Executive Director Maggi Cage to develop a strategy for communicating to the community and donors future plans for the center.

"Communications with the community will be critical to the success of the center," says Cage, who anticipates moving forward towards expanded programming for foster parents, more adult activities and plans for a new Community Center space.

"Special Events, of which Angie is a master, will be included under Communications," continues Cage.

The center's efforts in philanthropy will also expand to include Planned Giving, more Major Donor cultivation and possibly a Capitol Campaign and Endowment.

Patrick Price will become the new Director of Philanthropy at the Milwaukee LGBT Community

Center on January 2, 2008. He is currently the Director of Philanthropy Services for the Midwest Palliative & Hospice Care Center in Glenview, Illinois.

In this role he supervised annual and memorial fundraising activities, grants management and prospect research, corporate and foundation relations, and endowments and estate gifts. Previously, he worked as office manager of the dental clinic for the AIDS Resource Center of Milwaukee. Price is an active member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and the Association of Professional



Researchers for Advancement. He is also serving a three-year term as a board member for the Chicago Council on Planned Giving.

"As the Community Center grows and expands, change is always inevitable," states Cage. "I believe the changes over the last year have been very beneficial to the Center and the people we serve. I expect this new change to better position the Center for the future and our goals for expansion."

Milwaukee NARI Home Improvement Show Scheduled

Milwaukee - The 46th annual Milwaukee/NARI Home Improvement Show will be held Thurs., Feb. 7-Sun., Feb. 10, 2008 at the Wisconsin Exposition Center at State Fair Park in West Allis, Wis.

Cosponsored by the Milwaukee/NARI Home Improvement Council, Inc., and the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, the 2008 Show will provide Milwaukee/NARI, the area's leading home improvement and remodeling industry resource for more than 46 years, with the opportunity to have its members provide consumers with "A Celebration of Home," the theme for the Show.

Nearly 700 booth spaces covering the entire exposition center will feature providers of thousands of home improvement products and services, including kitchens, decks, cabinets, windows, bathrooms, siding, lighting, landscaping, media rooms, wall covering, rec rooms, roofing, fireplaces, and more. During the Show, educational demonstrations and seminars by home improvement experts and media celebrities will be held, including presentations on

the Ver Halen - Pella Window Store Seminar Stage by Kelly Edwards of HGTV's "Design on a Dime" and Michael Weishan of "The Victory Garden" on PBS. Kennedy Hahn Appliance/American will sponsor the Cooking

Demonstration Stage, which will feature area chefs and national cooking celebrities, including Chef Kris Winkelman of Babe Winkelman Productions, Chef Darren McGrady who worked more than 11 years at Buckingham Palace and four years for Princess Diana, and Chef Keegan Gerhard, pastry chef judge from The Food

Network.

In addition, the Show's Outdoor Living Area will feature garden areas, a deck, and outdoor cooking component. There will also be special attractions, including manufacturer displays.

Hours on Thurs., Feb. 7, and Fri., Feb. 8, are 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 9, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; and Sun., Feb. 10, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission is \$6 in advance, \$8 at the door on Thurs. and Fri., and \$10 Sat. and Sun. Tickets for seniors 55 and older are \$5.00, with a special price of \$4.00 at the door on Thurs, Feb. 8, for Senior Day. Children 12 and younger are free and there is free childcare for ages 3 - 12. For more information, visit www.milwaukeehari.com or call 414-771-4071.

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Wisconsin



Happenings

More than 800 Patients Served by ARCW Medical Center

Milwaukee - The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) is the largest and most rapidly growing provider of outpatient HIV medical care in the state. During the last 12 months, the ARCW Medical Center has seen a 36% increase in the number of active medical patients, bringing that number to 801.

The continued rapid growth at the ARCW Medical Center is a function of the team of dedicated health care professionals who provide high quality medical care combined with integrated dental, mental health and social services. Together, this unique health care model provides ARCW medical patients with the best opportunity for successful HIV management and treatment.

"ARCW is dedicated to ensuring everyone with HIV in Wisconsin access to quality medical care, regardless of their ability to pay," said Michael J. Gifford, ARCW Chief Operating Officer. "To this end, ARCW is working hard to make the ARCW Medical Center a center of excellence for all the HIV patients who will turn to us in the coming years for treatment."

The tremendous growth in medical patients has also spurred a substantial renovation project at ARCW. The recently completed project doubled the number of medical exam rooms, increased the number of mental health counseling rooms and allowed for the installation of new, state-of-the-art medical equipment.

"With the recent completion of our renovation project and the addition of new medical equipment, we are better able to accommodate all patients in a more comfortable setting," said Doug Johnson, a registered nurse at the ARCW Medical Center. "We are also now able to provide quality care to more patients every day in a clinic that is warm and welcoming."

In addition to the ARCW Medical Center location in Milwaukee; ARCW also operates a medical clinic in Kenosha. ARCW will open the clinic for an additional two days to accommodate additional patients starting January 2008. Under the new schedule, Sharon O'Dwyer, a nurse practitioner with ARCW, will be available for appointments in Kenosha three days a week.

"I am excited to see our Kenosha clinic hours expand," O'Dwyer said. "The increase in hours will make our clinic even more accessible and improve services for our current and future patients."

The extension of hours in Kenosha is a reflection of the ARCW commitment to ensuring that everyone with HIV in Wisconsin has access to quality medical care. For HIV patients outside of southeast Wisconsin, ARCW helps its clients find local infectious disease physicians and will also cover the costs of care for patients who do not have insurance and are unable to pay for their medical visits.

The Milwaukee Pride Parade has set its date for 2008

Milwaukee - Start making those floats! The date and time of the 2008 Milwaukee Pride Parade will be Sunday, June 8th, 2008 at 2:00pm. At this time the parade is still in its planning phase and the committee is unable to disclose any further information; however if you have any questions (how to get involved? Help sponsor? Become a volunteer?) you can contact them at ParadeCoordinator@prideparademke.org. For images from last year's parade, go to www.prideparademke.org.

Cream City and Channel 18/24 Join Forces

Milwaukee - Cream City Foundation and WCGV/WVTV (Milwaukee's Channel 18/24) are working together to create a **Free to Be Me** campaign to help bring awareness of LGBT issues and promotion of LGBT friendly businesses.

The promotional campaign will be a year-round effort with focus points in June for Pride month and October for Coming Out month. The campaign will also feature and help highlight local LGBT leaders.

"We are very excited about the increased LGBT visibility this partnership will create," said Tim Clark, President of the Cream City Foundation. "Our hope

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is to have business leaders take this opportunity to promote their services and show their support for an equal Milwaukee - regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity."

Cream City Foundation will also receive 10% of the total funds raised through advertising related to the campaign to continue its strategic grant making programs.

"The possibility of raising philanthropic funds while promoting and increasing LGBT visibility is of great value to all our grantees and community members," said Maria Cadenas, Executive Director of the Cream City Foundation.

To learn more about the **Free to Be Me** campaign please contact Maria Cadenas at 414.225.0244 or Lynn Richter at 414.874.1815.

Cream City Foundation was established in 1982 to provide charitable grants to programs and projects that improve the quality of life for LGBT communities in Southeastern Wisconsin. The Foundation funds grants and initiatives that would work to establish real social change in the treatment and quality of life for LGBT individuals. For more information visit www.creamcityfoundation.org

Participate in Your Community

Milwaukee - The next breakfast meeting for the Visioning Project will be held at the Milwaukee Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Center on January 26th, 2008, and all are encouraged to attend. The topic of the morning will be "Intergenerational Relationships: A Discussion About Consensual vs. Coercive Sexual Activity Within the LGBT Community." The Mke LGBT Center is located at 315 W. Court St, Milwaukee. A breakfast will be provided starting at 9:30am, with discussion to follow from 10-11:30AM. It's casual, open, and accepting of all members (and allies) of the community.

Wisconsin Partnership Fund Awards Diverse and Resilient and Partners \$450,000

Milwaukee - The University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health (SMPH) through the Wisconsin Partnership Program has announced a three-year grant totaling \$450,000 to Diverse and Resilient and a group of project partners. The funded program will use social marketing, small group interventions and improved access to services to reduce tobacco use among LGBT adults in Wisconsin.

Twenty additional grants totaling \$5.3 million were also announced. The annual Community-Academic Partnership Fund grant awards are designed to support Wisconsin-based projects that focus on health and prevention initiatives aimed at improving the health of Wisconsin citizens. The funded projects are the fourth annual series of grants awarded by the Wisconsin Partnership Program. Since 2004, the School has awarded over 100 community grants totaling \$22 million; Diverse and Resilient has now received four of them.

"The fourth annual community grants will build on a diverse mix of creative initiatives funded in the past three years," says Susan Goelzer, MD, chair of the Partnership's Oversight and Advisory Program (OAC). "These programs foster unique partnerships between community organizations and the UW School of Medicine and Public Health to address a wide variety of public health priorities in Wisconsin."

The committee funds two kinds of grants, development and implementation grants. Development grants typically cover one to two years of activity and help local organizations develop collaborations that may lead to larger projects. Implementation grants, typically covering three years, emphasize more expansive projects specifically targeting some of Wisconsin's most urgent public health needs.

Earlier grants awarded to Diverse and Resilient have focused on assessing public health needs of Wisconsin LGBT Communities. The organization is currently midway through a one-year project that pilots an alcohol prevention program for LGBT teens and establishes a statewide LGBT youth health coalition.

The current project funded by the University program continues the academic partnership with Dr. Kathy Oriol, a family practice physician in Madison. Community partners include LGBT community centers in Milwaukee, Madison, La Crosse, and Eau Claire as well as SAGE in Milwaukee. Addition partners will be added to the program after the first year.

"The Wisconsin Partnership Program enables us to leverage the creativity and commitment of our community and academic partners to improve our health and address in the best ways possible the stresses that lead to illness and death," said Gary Hollander, Ph.D., Executive Director of Diverse and Resilient. "One can hardly believe the generosity and commitment of this university program and its staff to our community and its needs."

Get Out of the Cold and Into the DANCE!

Milwaukee - Your friends at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center have come up with something everyone should take advantage of! Beginning Monday, February 4, from 7-8:30pm, the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center at 703 s.2nd St (Walkers Point) will host beginning ballroom dance lessons for LGBT same-sex couples. MGAC has a beautiful hardwood floor that was made for dancing! Laura Sutherland is an experienced dancer and teacher affiliated with Shoreline-Milwaukee, the community's LGBT country dance club. Laura offers lessons in East Coast swing (jitterbug), two-step, waltz, and West Coast swing. You'll dance to big band, blues, rock, country and pop. The lessons will be offered at a very reasonable rate and incorporate practice time. Laura also might be persuaded to offer a line dance from time to time. NO partner is required but smooth-soled shoes are recommended. For more information call Laura at 414-747-0388.

The 2nd Annual Lesbian Alliance Art Show

Milwaukee - This Spring, the Lesbian Alliance and The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center will co-sponsor a women's art exhibition focused on answering the question: "What is your community?" Any woman identifying as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Pansexual, Transgender or Gender Queer is welcome to submit artwork. Female identified allies of the LGBT community including straight female or gender queer partners of transmen or bisexual men are highly encouraged to submit artwork.

All work must be finished and made of quality materials. Two-dimensional art must be framed or stretched canvas with a hanging wire. Stands, hangers, or a means of displaying three-dimensional pieces must be provided by the artist. Artwork depicting graphic violence or sex cannot be accepted.

All works sold at auction on June 28, 2008 will have a 20% commission to cover the costs of the exhibit. Items will not be sold for less than the minimum bid specified by the artist. If you do not wish to sell your piece, but wish to exhibit it, you may submit it as not for sale.

Deadline for submissions is April 1, 2008. Artists whose work is accepted will be notified via email by April 15, 2008. Pieces must be received no later than May 15, 2008; any late arrivals will be returned without hanging at the owner's expense. If your work does not sell and you would like to have it returned to you please send a check, made out to the Lesbian Alliance Education Fund for the amount it will cost to send the piece back. Items without payment for return shipment will become property of the juror.

The opening reception will be on Saturday, May 31, 2008 from 5 to 8pm at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 West Court Street, Milwaukee, WI. Refreshments will be served. The reception is free and open to the public. Items that are for sale will be auctioned June 28, 2008 starting at 6pm. Please submit digital images of artwork via email to lesbian_alliance_art_show_entry@yahoo.com. Include your name, address, media type, work dimensions, minimum bid (including 20% percent commission) and artist's statement with your submission. For more info: 414- 272-9442



Were they naughty or nice at the Dec. 7th LGBT Community Center Mix n' Mingle at Art Bar? Only Santa knows!

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Happenings

SHEBA Girls Awarded Grant from Women's Fund

Milwaukee - The Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee has awarded grants totaling \$115,000 to 13 local non-profit agencies for gender-responsive programs that address economic justice, social justice, and leadership development. The mission of the Women's Fund is to advance social change that will positively affect women, girls and the greater Milwaukee community. One agency, Diverse & Resilient, was granted \$5,000 for the SHEBA Project, supporting the healthy development, empowerment and leadership potential of African-American Male to Female (MTF) transgender individuals.

The Women's Fund is the first and largest permanent resource in Wisconsin dedicated exclusively to funding and advocacy for the emerging needs of women and girls. Founded in 1986 as a component fund of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, the Women's Fund became an independent public foundation in 2006 and is part of an international association of more than 125 women's funds.

Milwaukee Bidding to Host 2009 Gay Softball World Series

A committee comprised of Saturday Softball League (SSBL) members is very proud to announce that Milwaukee has submitted to the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance (NAGAAA) its bid to host the 2009 Gay Softball World Series (Open Division).

Approximately twelve SSBL members will be making a formal presentation at the NAGAAA Winter Meeting being held on February 2 & 3, 2008 in Seattle, Washington.

Various aspects of the bid are currently being worked on by the SSBL bidding committee, and VISIT Milwaukee.

The talents of Committee members will be featured in the presentation. Brian Reinkober and Mona Garcia are serving as Co-Chairs of this Committee.

The Saturday Softball League, or SSBL, was created in 1977, to allow gay, lesbian, and bisexual players to gain experience and develop softball skills within a formalized structure. For more information on SSBL, or how to become involved, please visit www.ssblmilwaukee.org

Help your Doctor with Sensitive Questions - Panelists needed

Milwaukee- Have you ever had a doctor make you feel uncomfortable about disclosing your sexual orientation? Or had a doctor stumble over sensitive questions regarding gender identity, or your partner? Here's an opportunity to inform future Medical College of Wisconsin physicians on how to ask those sensitive questions. Tell them how would you like to be treated in the medical community. If you would like to participate in this teaching opportunity (panel format), mark your calendars for Tuesday, February 19th, at 10AM. The discussion will take place at the Medical College of Wisconsin, first floor, in ROOM H1210-30, 8701 W. Watertown Plank Road. Parking is available in the visitor lot across from Main Entrance.

Meet for coffee and donuts, and then break up into three groups (6-8 men and women per panel). The groups meet from 10:30AM to 12 noon. One smaller group will stay in H1210-30 and the other groups will go to the HRC Auditorium and the Alumni Center (on the first floor). For more information, please contact

Kristine James with the Medical College of Wisconsin at kjames@mcw.edu or 414-955-8992 OR

Michael Lisowski at h/414-265-8500 mllisowski@aol.com.

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Submit an email to editor@queerlifeneeds.com (with giveaways in the subject line) Tell us which one you want and why you should win! Make us laugh, even better. Here's what we have this time around:

Tickets for 2 to the 46th annual Milwaukee/NARI Home Improvement Show - Feb. 7-Sun., Feb. 10 at the Wisconsin Exposition Center at State Fair Park in West Allis, Wis.

Tickets for 2 to Gunther Von Hagen's "Body Worlds 1" exhibit at the Milwaukee Public Museum. Very interesting exhibit - check out the ad in this issue. Limited engagement!

\$125 gift certificate for spa services. Our friends at arvasi spa medica in Kenosha hooked us up with one & we would like one of you to have it! Check them out online arvasispamedica.com to see all the great services they offer.



Outwords Books

Top 5 Picks for January

"The Best of '07" Fiction Releases Exclusive to Q Life.

FOR THE BOYS:

1. "Michael Tolliver Lives," Armistead Maupin

Maupin has returned to his "Tales." When last seen, Michael "Mouse" Tolliver was coping with the supposed death sentence of HIV. Now 10 years later, number 28 Barbary Lane itself might be no more, but Michael, Anna Madrigal, the transsexual landlady, and other familiar friends are back and more lovable than ever.

2. "Call Me By Your Name," Andre Aciman

In this erotically charged coming-of-age story, Elio finds himself attracted to this year's visiting resident scholar: Oliver, who at 24 is fun, sexy and handsome. A trip to Rome, sanctioned by Elio's prescient father, will usher Elio fully into his first venture into love's joys and pain.

3. "Hotel de Dream," Edmund White

Did literary giant Stephen Crane ever begin writing a novel about a syphilitic, impoverished sixteen-year-old boy prostitute? That is the intriguing premise offering Edmund White, the dean of gay novelists, the inspiration for his best novel in ages.

4. "Vintage: A Ghost Story," Steve Berman

Looking for a reason to live following a suicide attempt, a lonely gay teen meets a strange and beautiful boy who looks like he stepped out of a dream. But the vision becomes into a nightmare when the boy turns out to be the local urban legend, the ghost of a star athlete killed in 1957—a ghost with a deadly secret and a dangerous obsession.

5. "When You Were Me," Robert Rodi

Jack Ackerly, 53, has devoted his life to making money, missing out on promiscuous lifestyle of those around him. Cute 26-year-old Corey Szaslow lives on the kindness of friends, getting by—just barely—on his looks. Find out what happens when they switch bodies in Rodi's hilarious, cautionary tale.

FOR THE GIRLS:

1 "Butch Girls Can Fix Anything," Paula Offutt

This charming lesbian romance follows three women as they learn about others and about themselves. Kelly Walker can fix anything — except herself. Grace Owens seeks a stable community of friends. Lucy Owens wants help her with fourth-grade math. As their stories unfold, each must deal with her own version of trust, of risks, and of what makes someone strong.

2. "The Spanish Pearl," Catherine Friend

When Kate Vincent and her partner travel to Spain, Kate is accidentally transported back in time...way back in time...to 1085. What can Kate do in a world of no antibiotics, no feminism, no Diet Coke? To stay alive Kate must flee exotic harems, filthy dungeons, and treacherous Moorish courts. When a sword-brandishing woman with an astonishing secret sweeps into Kate's life, she is torn between two women in two centuries.

3. "Greetings from Jamaica, Wish You Were Queer," Mari Sangiovanni

Here is a delightful romantic comedy with no agenda other than to entertain as readers follow the foibles of lovable, quirky Marie on her twin quests to deal with her crazy Italian family and capture the heart of the girl of her dreams.

4. "Second Season," Ali Vali

Tully Gaston Badeaux might be successful in the courtroom but her relationship with her partner and their children has fallen apart. In one life changing moment, one precipitated by a cup of spilt coffee, Tully's carefully constructed world comes to an end. This romance set in New Orleans amidst betrayal, Hurricane Katrina, suggests new beginnings can come of hardships and heartbreak.

5. "Deep Waters," Karin Kallmaker & Radclyffe

Book passage on this deliciously sensual Mediterranean cruise with tour guides Radclyffe and Karin Kallmaker. Here is a vacation unlike any you've ever experienced when these two adventurous authors lure you into the deep waters where everyone gets wet.

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Off Your Crocker!

Recently at a thrift store, I chanced upon a pristine, spiral bound tome in the form of a 1950s Betty Crocker cookbook, the same edition as the one my mother handed to me when I was first learning to cook. Despite surfing a wave of nostalgia, I didn't feel the need to replace Mom's now long-lost copy. Instead, I can turn to the zine world for kitchen magic and inspiration. In recent years at zine fests across North America, there has been a 'cook zine explosion.' Take a radical approach to food and cooking, fold in some political philosophy, add a healthy dose of sexual spice, and out pops a delicious addition to one's cooking arsenal that even a blast from Futurama character Elzar's spice weasel couldn't knock up a notch. Bam, indeed!

Simple pleasures abound in the curiously titled vegan cook zine **barefoot and in the kitchen**. Feminists can rest assured the title is merely a playful, cheeky way to describe the editor's two greatest joys! This zine crackles with thought in addition to providing practical recipes for novice and hardcore vegans alike. The level of self-awareness is refreshing. Don't expect Ashley or her "cooking partners in crime" to pull heavy-handed punches about veganism, but be prepared to be schooled on how anything, and they mean anything, can not only simply be replicated in vegan form, but also be flavorful, healthy and nutritious. In fact, there is a call to send

in any recipe a reader might want to be transformed into a vegan equivalent. This "challenge" illustrates how well suited the hybrid of cookbook and fanzine can be. Rather than a 'top down' and authoritative voice driving the teaching of food preparation as often the case, the editor invites dialog and creates potential to share, network, and build community around veganism. The best example of this is the list of restaurants that ends with invocative questions about maintaining and strengthening the list through reader input. The cover to issue two says it all. "Resistance is tasty!"

This past fall 2007, **Wild Fermentation** zine and book editor Sandor Katz visited the metro Milwaukee area to teach a class on fermentation. His excitement exudes on nearly every page for all things creative and resourceful when it comes to preserving food and plant life for future use. Unless your parents or grandparents were hardcore when it came to canning, chances are the methods presented in **Wild Fermentation** might take a little bit of getting used to. Not for the faint of heart, but certainly not beyond the reach of someone with little preservation experience, Sandor walks the reader through processes that are based on his years of interest and experience. Along the way, wisdom from these experiments seeps into the narrative helping to round out the joyful experiences to be had by taking direct control of truly preparing

sources of food for the table.

Gleefully geeky and all out punk rock, **Vegan Slut Cook Zine** takes us on a manic skateboard ride through the figurative kitchen of the four editors who put this together. Pen and ink sketches tie together a random assortment of photocopy collages that lend punk cred to the basic recipes. They have a good handle on their audience and dispense with the usual instructively pedantic tone vegan zines sometime take on. This leaves room for the editors to add in pop culture reference humor and make mention of their favorite bands. Accompanying the set of directions for "Vanilla Ice-I'n'g" is accompanied by a fanciful ink drawing of the erstwhile Robbie Van Winkle with an arrow pointing to him with the comment "Don't tell me you don't know who this is!" Games and a "What Essential Vegan Ingredient Are You?" quiz, along with hilarious sex tips round out the bits in between all the basic yummy things to give it a great finish.

Light and fluffy, with sparse text and graphics, **Krazy Kat Lady Cookbook** is perfect for vegans who are also cat lovers. It isn't often that a cookbook describes in detail the feline residents who may, from time to time, pop through the kitchen workspace. In its simplicity, this zine captures the essence of what any cooking experience should be - fun and delightful.

The Queer Zine Archive Project is a free



ZINES

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

digital archive of past and present zines on the Web at qzap.org.

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Women's Voices Holiday Solo

Saturday, December 15th, Women's Voices Milwaukee took to the stage with "O Joyful Night" - their first holiday show on their own. And they were magnificent!

Under the "most awesome" Artistic Direction of Melissa Beaström, the women delivered time and time again, beautiful renditions of many of our holiday favorites to a packed audience at the UWM Peck School of the Arts Recital Hall.

One of the nights funniest moments came when audience members began clapping before the piece had ended. Beaström stood still, then as the women began to sing the ending of the song, she abruptly turned to glare at the audience for their mistake - which, of course, resulted in an enormous burst of laughter.

"We sing to entertain, inspire and heal through the power of choral music" is a statement made by Women's Voices, which is sponsored in part by grants from the Cream City Foundation.

The evening's emcee, Elaine Maly, Director of the Women's Fund, thanked the choir after one particularly moving piece, telling them they were "absolutely sparkling."

Hopefully, they will continue to do shows on their own to showcase their powerful and moving voices. What a treat the audience was given, and in return, Women's Voices received not one, two, but three standing ovations.



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Planning For Retirement: Using Traditional and Roth IRAs

There are many vehicles used for retirement planning. One of the most common is the traditional IRA (individual retirement account). Since the federal government does not yet recognize same-sex couples, the following centers on lifetime rules of IRAs. At the death of the individual, continuation rules are different for survivors who are spouses, rather than non-recognized same sex couples.

Contributions to IRAs are often tax deductible and distributions are often taxable as income. Another type of IRA is the Roth IRA in which contributions are made after tax and distributions can be tax-free. Tax-free withdrawals can be attractive which often prompts the question: Can a traditional IRA be converted to a Roth IRA?

The answer is yes, provided you meet the eligibility requirements below and understand how it works.

The IRA owner must not have gross income in excess of \$100,000

in the year of the conversion. This income limit is repealed as of 2010.

The conversion will be treated as a distribution from the Traditional IRA. Therefore, any deductible contributions and gain will be taxable to the owner and included in income in the year of the conversion. If the IRA being converted includes additional benefits, the actuarial value of those benefits is also taxable at conversion.

The distribution is not subject to the 10% federal income tax penalty. And, for purposes of determining conversion eligibility, the conversion amount is not added to the individual's adjusted gross income.

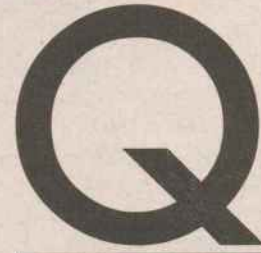
It is important to note that currently funds from an employer-sponsored retirement plan cannot be rolled directly into a Roth IRA. The money must first be rolled into a Traditional IRA and then may be converted to a Roth IRA. Beginning in 2008, employer-sponsored retirement

plans will be able to be rolled directly to a Roth IRA. But the income limits on conversion will still apply.

Withdrawals of earned dollars made in the five-year period following conversion will be taxable. And, for the Roth owner under 59 1/2, withdrawal of the conversion portion will subject the amount previously taxed at conversion to the 10% tax penalty. This prevents a Traditional IRA owner from avoiding the 10% penalty by first converting to a Roth IRA.

IRA transfers and rollovers are powerful financial tools. If properly handled, these transactions allow funds to be shifted between IRAs or withdrawn without paying income taxes. The end result is often greater convenience and/or greater control of funds for the IRA owner. If you think a transfer or rollover might make sense for you or your partner, contact a qualified financial professional.

Kurt Schummer is a Manager,



FINANCE

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Upcoming Guests on 'The Queer Program':

Monday Jan. 7th - Jennifer Morales, MPS school board director, will provide an update on her recent proposal to include domestic partner benefits for non-union employees.

Monday Jan. 14th - Sheldon Jones, owner of Special Touch Massage & Spa Service, will demonstrate some pampering tips.

Monday, Jan. 28th - Johnny King, coordinator of HIV testing and men's programs at the Milwaukee LGBT Center, will highlight programs and activities for black MSM.

'The Queer Program' is Milwaukee's weekly public access call-in cable television program by, for and about Milwaukee's queer communities, providing greater visibility since October, 1992. 'The Queer Program' broadcasts live on Mondays from 6:30PM - 7:30PM and replays Friday midnight and Saturday 10 PM. To promote any announcements or upcoming events, or to schedule an appearance, call 414-265-8500, write The Queer Program, PO Box 090441, Milwaukee, WI 53209 or email queerprgrm@aol.com.

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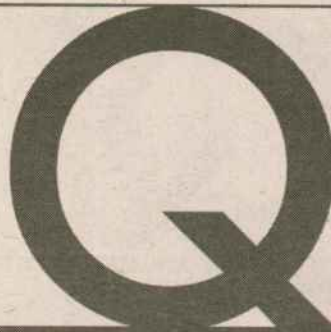
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Queer Life is the information voice of the LGBT community. As a monthly publication and the only state-wide gay newspaper headquartered in Milwaukee, each issue celebrates Wisconsin's diverse population with boldness and class. From what's happening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

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Same Thing Different Day?

By Kate Sherry

About a month or so ago, I got an email from the originators of a web-based support group for men who are "hiding a secret sex life." They claim to offer answers and counseling to these men, for their "shame, pain and alienation," - and to present it in a safe and supportive atmosphere.

The website's specific purpose is to "address the needs of those who cannot reveal their true sexual identity - those living on the "Down Low." This particular topic can be discussed, debated, and debunked 'til the cows come home - it doesn't change the fact that people are still afraid to come out. Or, that the "shame" these men (and women, too, don't forget!) are experiencing is so high, that often times, safe sex practices are ignored.

Now, I know I am not the most up to date person on popular lingo, but isn't

the "down low" really just a hipper way of saying "in the closet?" What is so different? I never liked the 'closet' term anyway, and the secret, shadowy images conjured up by 'down low' offer more mystique and sexual intrigue than some poor soul hiding in the hall closet. Yet, both terms are reminders that homophobia still exists, and that people are still afraid to be who they are.

I read through online journals, blogs, and articles about people on the "down low", and thought, there is no way we could cover this topic in just one issue. Would I want to make a series out of it? Possibly. What I did discover, however, after reading all of the articles both agreeing and denying the issue of the "d.l.", was something more important than definitions of a word - more must be done to promote safe sex.

Last month, Charles Daniels of Charles D' Productions, one of Milwaukee's leading HIV Prevention organizations, told us that there is a significant rise in HIV cases for African American women. WHY? And yet, here he is being stalled on posting important billboards getting the word out about prevention to the communities affected the most.

Without a study to find out why such numbers are rising, the assumptions will be just that - assumptions. The only concrete reason in rising HIV cases, is the fact that people are having unprotected sex. Plain and simple. All races, ages, orientations - I'm sorry, but when did AIDS become less of a threat?

To those of us who've endured the death of several loved ones, AIDS will always be considered a threat. It isn't a simple cold that can be cured with a handful of pills. And it's still an issue that still angers us - especially when there are people who seem to care less, and therefore, are careless.

Perhaps this new website will help closeted / d.l. individuals come to terms with their sexuality. It isn't easy for people of any color, gender, background, to come out. Sadly, discrimination and persecution based solely on sexual orientation are alive and well.

But if you know of someone who is in the closet, or on the 'down low' - or if it is YOU - know that there are services out there that will help you, a community that will take you in, and that you above all are more important than a hookup refusing to use protection.



QLife needs to raise their game

I have not picked up a copy of QLife for several months. So, I read with interest your Q Editorial, "Slow and Steady" in which you expressed concern about The Greater Mke LGBT Visioning Project and their support for the Shepherd Express's new monthly LGBT section. You seem to lament the fact that you were not included or informed about this collaboration prior to the

announcement.

Sadly, the blame for that rests squarely at your feet. Apparently, you have not been involved enough with the LGBT community or its leadership to realize that your publication is falling short in providing coverage of the community.

The evidence of this is that you didn't have your ear close enough to the ground to realize that community members have been desperate for better coverage of the LGBT community by your publication.

Maybe you shouldn't have waited so long to attend one of their breakfast meetings.

You cannot expect a community to support your publication if you are not providing the coverage it wants, needs and deserves. In many LGBT circles, QLife is largely seen as irrelevant.

Hopefully, this new competition will help you raise your game and make a new commitment to quality journalism. If not, your publication will likely go the way of the other LGBT publications that have gone before it.

Ben Rassmusen

Editor's note: Hi Ben - For the record, my response asking for clarification of "better coverage" was not an attempt to have you do MY job.

"I don't believe the community has any obligation whatsoever to your publication to improve it."

That wasn't the question, Ben. The question was, "What type of coverage do you feel is lacking?"

When I asked you to let us know "if we are irrelevant because we aren't covering YOUR community," did you? No. You instead said, "Poppycrack!" and declared Queer Life News as nothing but "very little news content or stories and a lot of fluff." Well "POPPYCRACK!" right back atcha. (That really is a fun word, thanks. Who says that?) To further clarify, it was not my first VP meeting, and I encourage everyone to start attending these meetings. Community input a good thing - especially for us. I want to make sure everyone feels acknowledged by QLife as vital members of Wisconsin's LGBT Community. That everyone has a voice - even those in your circle who feel we are irrelevant. We can't, however include it if they decline involvement when requested. Thank you, though for your letter, and your wishes for our future success.

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I Resolve

This month nearly all of us will think about New Year's resolutions, even if few of us go so far as to keep them past January 2nd. There are many ways this tradition may have started. Christians have long made resolutions to "give something up" for Lent. Other religious traditions do the same at various times of the year.

Yet the precursor to our American tradition may well be Benjamin Franklin, who governed his life by the making of resolutions. His were always resolutions aimed at his self-improvement or betterment, which is basically what we do when we resolve to lose weight, quit smoking, or start exercising.

This year, in my congregation, resolutions as a religious practice and resolutions as a form of self-improvement have come together. Plymouth and other congregations are working with the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee to call people in our community to resolve to reduce their greenhouse emissions impact on our environment.

For many in my congregation this comes out of our spiritual commitment to the earth as a gift from God that is to be treasured, protected, and passed on

to future generations. Others embrace it for more practical reasons: the earth is in danger.

The goal is to get households to pledge to adopt at least one 'green idea' that reduces their emission of green house gases.

I became more concerned about the issue of global warming this summer, when the weather was unusually hot. I kept thinking about Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth." I felt as if I was living in Missouri, not Wisconsin. I thought of these unusual weather

The goal is to get households to pledge to adopt at least one 'green idea' that reduces their emission of green house gases.

days as "Al Gore Days" because they made me think of his call to action around global warming. Much of the fall was unusually

hot, though in December the normal weather did return. Beyond what I can see unscientifically, there have been enough reports of polar ice melting and the oceans becoming too acidic to make me wonder what the future holds.

My particular concern is what global warming will mean to human communities around the world. Both the genocides in Rwanda and Darfur were precipitated by environmental calamities. Beyond the long-term effects on the environment, it seems to me that global warming is likely to create many more Darfurs: neighbors



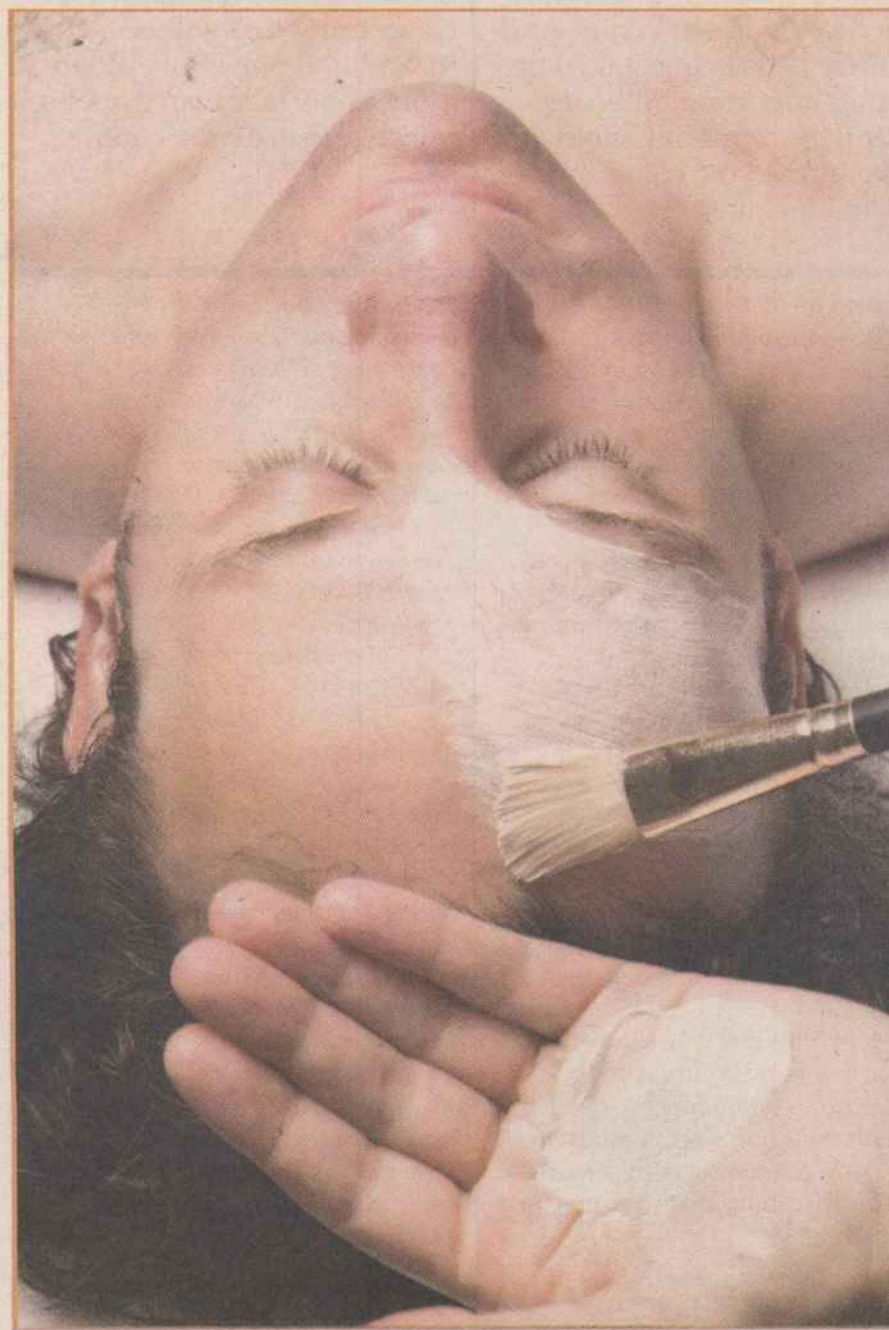
RELIGION

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.

facing off against neighbors for dwindling water supplies. My faith calls on me to try to stop what is happening in Darfur and to prevent as much as I can the next one.

Last year the green initiative of my congregation was to switch nearly all of our lighting from high-energy incandescent bulbs to low-energy florescent bulbs. We found the new lighting was actually better and it is turning out to be cheaper because the new bulbs use so much less electricity. This conversion is one of the most basic steps a family can take to becoming "more green." It is one my partner and I are making in our own home too. A great source of ideas on practical steps you can take in your house to reduce your green house gas emissions can be found on the National Geographic's website, among others.

It is not too late to make a Green New Year's Resolution.



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QLife Quickies

Federley assaulted in homophobic attack

Stockholm – Frederick Federley, a Centre Party member of parliament was beaten by a gang of youths who shouted anti-gay threats between blows.

Federley, who was out with friends, stopped by a food stand after leaving the nightclub where they had been socializing.

"Here come the fags" was shouted by a group of six or seven men in their twenties.

"Then they screamed that we were disgusting and a threat to Sweden and that they were going to beat us up," said Federley.

He was struck with a blow to the face while attempting to explain that fighting was a bad idea, and received several more blows before attackers were stopped by one of their own.

It was the first time he had been assaulted because of his sexuality.

Requesting Gender-Neutral Restrooms at UWSP

Stephens Point - A newly formed campus committee for non-heterosexual students is seeking gender-neutral bathrooms at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

"Many of the issues we address are statewide, even nationwide problems. We just want our campus to be truly student-friendly," said Melissa Phinney, chairwoman of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Committee.

The committee, part of the Student Government Association, is lobbying for single-occupancy bathrooms without gender-specific signs.

"It's really an access issue," Phinney said. "If someone doesn't identify as male or female, or if they are queer or transgender, where do they go?"

The committee also hopes to develop "queer-friendly" residential living opportunities for UWSP students.



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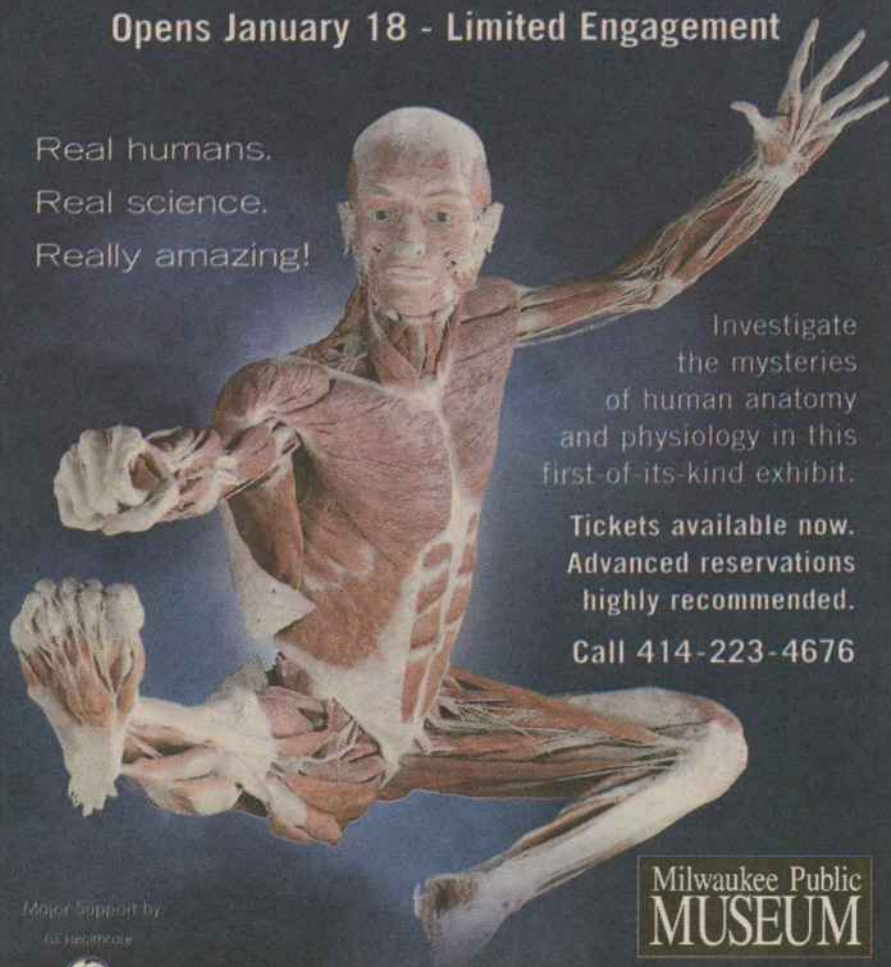
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MAMA Q Reflects on how sharing our stories can impact the world -

When I presented a workshop a few months ago, I showed a video clip of the Barbara Walters TV special about Transgendered Children. The footage I chose included two young children, ages 9 and 5, both in transition from male to female. My audience was visibly moved by the poignant piece, a portrayal of two families showing unwavering support of their children as they seek to understand their young sons, who from toddler age on, wanted to be

girls. Indeed, their passionate pleas for a friendlier world touched the hearts and minds of the 30 or so people who attended the seminar.

During the informal discussion that followed, one person asked, "Why would parents want to openly discuss something so personal - especially on TV?"

Hoping to foster ongoing discussion, I

responded with a question.

"How did their stories affect you?" "I feel sorry for the kids... it seems like they have really hard lives," she pondered. I nodded.

"And now that you know about their challenges...?" I paused.

"Well, I think I have a soft spot in my heart now for people like them."

Others lingering nearby were drawn into our discussion and many nodded in agreement and support. One, however, questioned further.

"What business is it of anybody's just what people are?"

I wanted to scream. What business is it of anyone to care about someone else's life challenges and successes? Why would anyone want to know if someone is gay or lesbian or transgendered? Why do we ever disclose personal information or listen to others' stories? Why not see the world as a mass of generic, non-descript humans who occasionally say hello?

Because knowing others is a gift. Because taking the time to find the uniqueness in another person forges human connections. Because people are meant to build connections and support one another through challenges; through life. Because knowing about the challenges of fellow human beings creates soft spots in our hearts. That's why we share our lives. That's why we tell. That's why the parents of transgendered children told their stories to Barbara Walters - to forge human connection and understanding. Keeping one more piece of diversity in the forefront of humans' minds might help their children and others survive - maybe even thrive. Maybe their children can go forth with a little less scrutiny by the uninformed. Yes, personal stories are a powerful tool to soften hearts and change the world so that everyone can live life to the fullest.

So why then, are there so many secrets? Why do we sometimes hesitate when we could build connections through sharing our stories? Could it



MAMA Q

Cyndie Ody-Weis (MAMAQLN@yahoo.com) is mom to two daughters and a son, all of whom date men. Cyndie is an active PFLAG member, college teacher and freelance writer, whose works have been published in *Roots and Wings*, *Adoptive Families*, *Adoptalk*, *Faithwriters* and *Advocate.com*.

be that sometimes there is little hope that others will understand? Do we fear that they may heave the stones of judgment and throw toxic verbal punches? Do we risk physical pain or could it be that we fear being pushed over the cliff of the unknown?

I would be ignorant to say, "FEAR NOT!" for persecution takes many real and hurtful forms. For some, "coming out" is simply not possible in their present circumstances and I hope and pray that someday, they can share as freely as they choose to.

Yes, there may be risks. But maybe, just maybe, the blows can form thicker skin so the next ones hurt less. Walking along rocky roads or wading through toxic waters may build the calluses of perseverance necessary to take on the next bigger steps. And maybe, just maybe the rocks will become pedestals and form a bridge at the edge of a cliff; a bridge of connection to someone previously uninformed.

One of the previously uninformed approached me after the seminar. "Thanks," said the person, "I never really thought about what it must be like for those who don't fit traditional gender molds... and now I have a lot to think about."

Lots of thoughts that may soften hearts.

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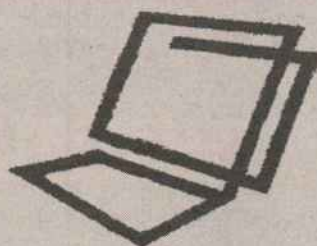
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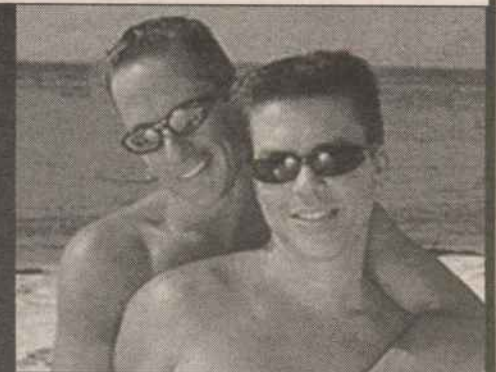
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GET IT-NEED IT-WANT IT

By Keith Johnson

Celebrating the art of high and low-end fashion has always been a challenge for the average consumer. With the rise of new innovative designers flooding the industry, the rising cost of rags and the need to keep a great look - especially when one is on a "tight budget" how do we stay in style?

As of late, I've been receiving online invites for new, lower-priced labels by established designers for a mere fraction of the price. Vera Wang for Kohl's and Roberto Cavalli for H&M just to name a few. They say that things come in "threes" which helps your average consumer mix and match effectively and still be good to the wallet. Well, in theory this is a great concept - but not creative. So I decided to hit the streets!

On a great Saturday morning, I met up with a very talented friend of mine, Trent Wesley who has an extreme sense of personal style and we decided to see what the city could offer anyone for the next spring season. With my consul at my hip we hit the streets of Milwaukee - here is what we came up with.

Our first stop was Ess elle style-studio (1919 E. Kennilworth.) Owners Lisa Trautner and Sarah Skinner, have both been deeply involved in the industry - buying, working on promotions and finding time to purchase their own boutique in 2007. Just about 85% of the clothing is under one hundred dollars and 15% is high end. These great girls give you quality fabrics, current trends, accessories and a great sense of customer service - which both owners insist on for their clientele. Good luck, girls on a very affordable and wonderful shopping experience!

Our second stop was "the Jean house" (904 E. Center St.) in the Riverwest area. Used jeans at very affordable rates sell anywhere from \$5-\$35. Brand names from your traditional Levi, vintage Jordache, and Gap, to higher end such as

Abercrombie & Fitch. Looking for that "hot-new-skinny jean" fad? Check this place out - it's a steal. The owner also has a wide selection of bags and designer shoes, "Chinese Laundry, Via Spiga, Stephen Madden and many others at very good price. We thought of it as a bit of "Canal Street Jeans" in New York had finally arrived in Milwaukee.

When shopping, guys and gals, you want to look for inspiration from local vendors, whether it's color or shape. Always change the look with accessories, shoes and a very strong sense of self - this always makes the difference. I love the basics, clothes that can be reinvented time and time again. I found, by my day running through town: playful bracelets, great affordable flats and early eighties-inspired shoes for guys - and I thought to myself: one can certainly look chic for less!

TIPS and IDEAS

1. Take a chance and try out new looks you can afford
2. Personalize your outfit, belts, and bags or even swap buttons for a different effect
3. Don't go for total trend knockoffs. Focus on colors and silhouettes that will enhance your shape.
4. Spend the 30 bucks to get a lowered-priced dress or jacket to fit your body. The dress didn't cost much and you'll come out looking like a million bucks.
5. Stock up on the classics and look for items that fit well and get them in many colors.
6. Don't forget that great cocktail after a wind down from an exhausting day off shopping. Remember: The night is still waiting for people to see you in your latest garb.

A place to go and show off: (my favorite place as of late)

Zenden Lounge, located in the InterContinental Hotel, 139 E. Kilbourn.

The Faces of Milwaukee's Common Council are about to Change

By Carmen Alicia Murguia

(With editorial assistance by Folayemi Wilson)

Milwaukee - a metropolitan city in a state known for its progressive politics, is struggling to promote itself and its diversity. Native Americans, Blacks, Latinos, Asians make up the minority majority of the city's inhabitants with 51% of the population. As of the 2000 Census, Women in Metropolitan Milwaukee make up 51.5% of the population and females headed 43% of the households.

Yet, even with Latinos of 2nd and 3rd generations growing, immigrants moving here at a steady rate and women in the majority, the City of Milwaukee's Common Council managed to create an all-male board in 2004. The Common Council exercises all policy-making and legislative powers of the city, including the adoption of ordinances and resolutions, the approval of the city's annual budget, and the enactment of appropriation and tax levy ordinances. The council also has approval over the mayor's appointments of cabinet heads to direct day-to-day operations of city departments. In addition to their powers as legislators, council members serve as district administrators, responsible to the citizens in their districts for city services.

After four years of allowing persistent representation of minority

majority and women's issues in the City of Milwaukee by a male minority it is time for change!

Two savvy, brilliant women are about to be elected in 2008 for 3rd District, Sura Faraj (www.suraforchange.com) and the 12th District, JoCasta Zamarripa (www.forwardwithjocasta.com).

Faraj and Zamarripa, whose names are as colorful as the areas they live in, represent the faces and voices of their residents on Milwaukee's Northeast and East Side, and Southside Neighborhoods.

Faraj is a striking Middle Eastern woman with a business and activist background whose Riverwest community is her first love. Zamarripa, a graduate of the prestigious Latino Non-Profit Leadership Program is a beautiful, young, hip, Mexican-American whose roots on the Southside go back generations.

It is time to elect Sura Faraj for the 3rd District and JoCasta Zamarripa for the 12th District and be the elected officials that finally decide enough is enough. It is time for the men to step aside and let women in! Imagine the impact we in the City of Milwaukee have by electing two women, daughters of Arab and Latin American decent, young and seasoned, to be the individuals that bridge all residents, business owners and homeowners, of the Aldermanic districts 3rd and 12th!


Flaherty Submits Nomination Papers

Friday, December 21, Patrick Flaherty submitted nomination papers required to put his name on the ballot in his effort to win the 3rd district Aldermanic seat.

Only 3 weeks after formally announcing his candidacy, Flaherty submitted 400 signatures, twice the number required to be placed on the ballot and the maximum accepted by the Election Commission under the law.

"Since I decided to run for this seat, I have been overwhelmed by the show of support I have received," said Flaherty. "The 3rd District needs strong leadership

continued on next page

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PATRICK *continued from page 16*

to see us through the challenges we face. My background in non-profit management has prepared me well to be the strategic, results-oriented representative we need at City Hall."

With over 14 years of non-profit management experience, Flaherty has raised money, overseen budgets and supervised staff. He has worked directly with City and State governments to shepherd community initiatives through the legislative process, and to secure earmarked funding for programs critical to Milwaukee-area communities. "In my experience working in non-profit settings and as a community leader, I have seen how effective government can be when it

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The Joy of Doing Less: Letting Go of Things that Stress You Out

S ometime around August 2007, it came to me. I was doing too much. I was involved in too many groups and I wasn't happy. I never thought I would be able to just up and leave, but that is exactly what I did. And it was the best thing that could have happened to me. I highly recommend it as a viable and easy to accomplish New Year's resolution for those of you who are looking for one.

Do you go to more than 3 or 4 meetings a month for more than 3 or 4 different groups? Do you take on too many responsibilities for each of these groups, and find that you either don't have the time to get the job done to the best of your ability, or that in making the time, you lose sight of the other people, places, and things in your life? It is ok to step back, and let go. This isn't to say drop out of everything that takes up your time, but it is to say that if you find that you are juggling too much, perhaps you might want to really evaluate which activities and groups make you feel the best, allow your time and talents to be utilized in the most productive and meaningful ways, and provide you with inspiration and community.

Do you belong to any groups simply because you feel you have to, that it is your duty as a woman, as a Lesbian, as a letter in the LGBT

community to be a member of these groups? Do you belong to organizations that you dread going to meetings for – do you find that just thinking about attending another board or committee meeting for a group stresses you out and makes you really cranky? If you are unhappy being a member of a group, take a minute to reflect on how your time and talents might best be used in other ways, for your sake and for the sake of the groups as well. It might not be productive for the rest of the members to have an unhappy, duty-bound person there just because she feels she has to be.

There are so many issues and causes out there to work on. Each person has something they really care about enough to give it their time, money, talent, and energy. There are so many other sources of stress and unhappiness in the world, why volunteer for a group if it only adds to your stress? Why not take the time to find a group or cause that fits best with you, that brings you bliss and matches your outlook on the world and the problems we all face? In the end all of us who aren't big corporations or their elite shareholders are fighting the same basic fight anyway.

It often seems that the same ten people are in the same ten groups,



WOMEN

Jennifer Curtis is a former board member of the Lesbian Alliance and was a founding member of the Greater Milwaukee Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Visioning Project Catalyst Committee. With her Masters in Sociology, she is currently working on her PhD in Urban Studies at UWM where she plans to study the consequences of neoliberalism on urban social movements. Jennifer is an ecofeminist who believes in think globally, act locally, and in reduce, reuse, recycle and loves spending time at home with her partner and their cat and dog.

which isn't healthy for them, or for the communities they serve. Being stressed can lead to burn out and to eventually dropping out of the community entirely. Why not prevent that before it happens by making sure you are happy and supported in the groups you do chose to belong to?

Best of luck as you learn to let go of the things that stress you out and discover the joy that can come from simply doing less in terms of quantity in order to do more in terms of quality.



TRANSGENDER

michael munson (mmunson@queerlifeneeds.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 12 year old son.

Alice, a classically striking woman, walks into the room. Her hair is long and blonde, immaculately combed so it shimmers no matter which direction she moves her head. She is slender – American-size-four-model-slender – with jeans that hug her body, accentuating her narrow waist and slightly fuller hips. Her t-shirt is notched (revealing the top of ample breasts) and tight, leaving no room for imagination. Her skin glows a radiant pinkish-tan and is soft and smooth. Her voice has a lilting quality to it, resonant in its firmly mid-alto range.

Not all of us have – or want – stereotypical, culturally defined feminine or masculine bodies. Some of us crave bodies that defy categorization, that are ambiguous, or that have prominent features that mark our uniqueness even if it challenges others' perceptions of "normal" or "beautiful." Some of us, though, do

Tranny-Style Midlife Crisis

long for ultra-feminine-femaleness or uber-masculine-maleness – and those who have the means or perseverance are willing to go to any lengths to achieve that goal.

Alice recently turned 50, and almost over night, started to question her ability to pass. For twenty years, she had not doubted that others would see her as anything other than a woman. She moved from inner and outer congruence with her ultra-femininity, to feeling a deep sense of uncertainty.

Perhaps in her own way, she was having a midlife crisis, trans-style! "Did I make the right choice?" "Who am I fooling?" "Will everyone know?!"

She knew. She was aware of the nuance of her presentation and was consciously stacking components of femininity to assure a maximal womanly presentation. Beauty was changing before her eyes, and around her eyes - through the enchanting lines slowly growing from the corners of her lashes to the salient silver strands that glimmered in her hair.

Her aesthetic ideals were redefining day by day, as she grew older in the body she loved so much.

People in the trans community are often deeply aware of how we create our bodies and how we construct the outward self that others see. At times, the results we seek may not come fast enough or we may have been misled

into believing certain physiological changes are possible, when they actually might not be. Even though we may not be able to actualize the physical changes we sometimes seek, we do have an awareness that many others don't: we know that changing our bodies is possible. We have control over our physical destiny (to a certain degree) and we can sculpt our bodies into our own image. We know, too, that we can create an image that changes and morphs and moves, as we evolve and experience life in new ways.

Sometimes we are swayed by cultural images of beauty that show only thin, white, young, able-bodied people as the standard which all of us "should" replicate. There are roughly a one hundred million Americans who are fifty years or older. That means there are between one and five million trans people in the United States who are over fifty, too.

Sometimes we need to construct our own vision of physical attractiveness and develop a stronger acceptance of the realness held within bodies, our bodies that are aging and evolving every single minute.

Would we rather gaze into the mirror to find a smiling, radiant face, or drape a dark cloth over it, covering up our own superb creation?

"Go ask Alice.

I think she'll know."

TAXES

Keeping Out of Trouble

By Dan O'Keefe

Dan O'Keefe has been a CPA in Wisconsin for 29 years and is author of several articles for various publications including the Chicago Tribune, and several trade publications.

No taxpayer wants to pay more taxes than necessary, but all taxpayers have to pay the amounts required by law. There are serious monetary penalties for under-reporting small amounts of income, and, taxpayers risk imprisonment for omitting large amounts of taxable income. Politics aside, there is the idea of fair play: that all citizens should pay towards the many government services all of us receive. But everyone wants to stay out of trouble.

Under reporting has become so commonplace, the Internal Revenue Service has declared the existence of a tangible underground economy measured in the billions of dollars. The underground economy takes the form of citizens who offer their daytime service for hire on the side, as in a sidejob or moonlighting.

A professional carpenter could offer for a fee to remodel a neighbor's kitchen. Or a high school music teacher could play the clarinet professionally once a month at a local nightclub. Often such honest, hard working people do not feel an obligation to report their extra income.

Is the extra income that difficult to compute? Will the taxes paid on the extra income ever be seen again by the taxpayer? Are the reporting requirements so complicated as to discourage compliance with the law?

The approach to following the law starts with a simple number 10 envelope. The erstwhile taxpayer would keep all receipts incurred for materials and other expenses for the sidejob in this envelope. Mileage information, number of miles driven, date of the trip, where to and from, can also be written on the envelope itself.

The carpenter would track lumber, hardware and related expenses, as well as any mileage for errands to and from a lumberyard, hardware, or home supply store. The music teacher could track her mileage to the nightclub and any related expenses such as clarinet maintenance costs, or music lessons she receives.

The income and expenses would be reported on Schedule C. If the expenses total less than \$2,500 Schedule C-EZ can be used instead. The line-by-line instructions for the different Schedule C's are mostly intuitive. The mileage computation may take a few extra minutes, but is worth the extra effort in terms of offering a tax advantage to the taxpayer.

If the profit (income less expenses) exceeds \$400, a self-employment tax is computed on form SE. The self-employment tax is often misunderstood. This is the social security tax of 15.3% of the profit for the self-employed.

Working people have social security tax withheld from each paycheck at a rate of 7.65% of their income, or one-half the rate of the self-employment tax. In addition, their employers pay an equal amount to the Social Security Administration. Because the self-employed are both employer and employee, the self-employed taxpayer must pay the full 15.3 percent.

The self-employment tax is for a taxpayers retirement benefits and is used by the Social Security Administration to determine the amount of the monthly social security payments for taxpayers at retirement.

If expenses exceed income for a sidejob, the taxpayer can report the loss as a reduction in the computation of their taxable income.

The side services offered by the carpenter and music teacher must be done according to tax law with the intention of making a profit. If the carpenter kept a large flower garden and sold off what he thinned out from his garden, this would be a hobby sale. He did not go into the flower selling business. His main intention is to keep his flower garden in presentable conditions to show off to his neighbors and other gardeners.

A hobby, a product or service offered without the intention of making a profit is handled differently. A loss cannot be reported for a hobby. Expenses cannot exceed the income of the project, and the income and expenses are required to be reported in differing places from the Schedule C or C-EZ. Hobby income must be reported on the form 1040's line 21. The related expenses would be posted to Schedule A as a miscellaneous deduction.

Accurately reporting our income is important. No one wants to underpay or overpay his or her tax bill. There are always straightforward ways of meeting our tax obligations without incurring penalties like a costly fine or, in the extreme, imprisonment.

QLife Quickies

Survey Says! LGBT Adults Love Pets

Rochester, NY - When it comes to owning pets, more LGBT adults are likely to have them than heterosexual adults. This is according to a national survey conducted by Harris Interactive. Seven out of ten (71%) LGBT adults today say that they own pets, compared with 63 percent of heterosexual adults, according to the results. The same survey also shows that nine in ten (90%) LGBT pet owners say their pet is like family and 64 percent add that they bought their pet a holiday present. Also, LGBT pet owners are somewhat more likely than heterosexuals to own a cat, according to the survey.

Once-a-day HIV Pill Approved Overseas

European authorities have approved a once-a-day pill for HIV medication. Atripla would reduce the number of pills that HIV positive individuals currently take, and represents what some experts say is a revolution in treatment for the virus that causes AIDS. However, taking Atripla does not reduce the risk of transmitting the virus.

Atripla combines three existing drugs (efavirenz, tenofovir and emtricitabine). It has come into existence as a result of collaboration between three rival drug companies - Gilead Sciences, Bristol-Myers Squibb and Merck.

In July of last year, the single pill was licensed in the US, and approval by the European Commission means Atripla will soon be available to people with HIV in Germany, Austria and the UK

Side effects include dizziness, abnormal dreams, and or sleep disturbance.

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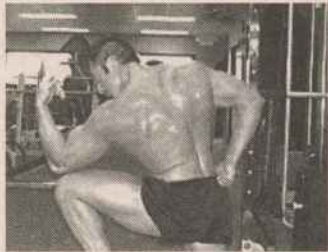
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Sweeney's Gym has been ranked as one of the top three gyms in the Milwaukee area by the Channel 12 news group.

The Business Journal places Sweeney's above the rest.

5311 S. Howell Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 414-769-0772

ARTS CALENDAR

NOW SHOWING

In the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center Gallery: Double Exposure - two artists, two media.

Bi-curious lesbian trans feminist film maker Ashley Altadonna and gay iconographer, painter, photographer collage artist Greg Jacobson combine for a duet of images in motion and suspension. Runs thru January 11. MGAC 703 S. 2nd St, Milwaukee. 414-383-3727.

Danceworks offers ongoing registration for studio classes. Classes run Monday through Saturday, ages 3 through mature adult, beginner to professional levels in Modern, Modern-Jazz, Ballet, Tap, African, Pilates, Yoga and more. To register and for more information, call Danceworks at (414) 277-8480, or visit www.danceworks1661.org.

JAN 4

The Milwaukee Theatre presents: RING OF FIRE - THE MUSIC OF JOHNNY CASH, January 4 & 5. Tickets are on sale now at The Milwaukee Theatre Box Office and by phone at 414-276-4545 or online at www.ticketmaster.com. The Milwaukee Theatre, 500 W. Kilbourn Ave., Milwaukee. 414.908.6001.

JAN 5

Tone & Texture opens at River's End Gallery. Exhibition of different tones & textures used in art. Featuring more than 6 unique artists. 12 noon-6pm Runs through March 30, 2008. River's End Gallery, 380 W. Main Street, Waukesha. For more info: 262-896-8875 / www.riversendgallery.com

JAN 11

Cabaret Series at the Wilson Center presents: Brandon Cutrell - Let's Misbehave: A Fresh Look at the Great American Songbook. 8:00pm in the Dawes Studio Theater. Cutrell made his debut on the NY

cabaret stage in 2001 and his show, "No Reservations," earned him the 2005 MAC Award and BackStage Bistro Award for Outstanding Male Vocalist. Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, 19805 W. Capitol Drive, Brookfield. Single tickets are \$25. Senior/student \$22. Repeats January 12, 8:00 pm. Tickets at the Wilson Center Box Office, or by calling 262.781.9520 or visiting us online at <http://www.wilson-center.com>.

JAN 12

Head over to the Milwaukee Art Museum for a Present Music Event. Celebrate the New and Creative Forces Shaping our city! 6-10:30PM, with a concert at 7:30PM. Tickets are \$16/\$27/\$37. INFO: 414-271-0711

JAN 16

The Boulevard Ensemble Studio Theatre, located at 2252 South Kinnickinnic, opens 2008 on a "high" note by presenting the Milwaukee premiere of neglected playwright Ralph Pape's comedy "SAY GOODNIGHT, GRACE." Pape's comedy tells of five friends meeting in a New York City cold-water flat and of their foiled attempts to attend their high school reunion. Directed by: Jon Beidelschies, and Featuring: Ericka Wade, Rachael Lau, Tom Dillon, Keith Tarrisset, Jason Will. Visit www.boulevardtheatre.com for a listing of show times or call 414.744.5757 to contact Boulevard's 24-hour voicemail/office. Runs thru Feb 3rd.

JAN 18

Gallery Night

Danceworks: Eddee Daniel: Digital Photocollage. Filtered through film and digital capture, Daniel showcases his artistry in photocollage series, which explore the paradoxical realities and intersections between natural and built environments. Friday, 6:00-9:00 p.m., with a 7:30 artist talk and reception. For more information, call Danceworks at (414) 277-8480 or visit www.danceworks1661.org. Danceworks, Inc. 1661 N. Water Street

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center: New exhibition opening reception "Domestic Tensions" Axes of Longing - A women's group show

Smarter, not Harder

Happy New Year! Sweeney's Gym welcomes you to 2008. We will do all we can to make your new fitness goals last longer than a two-minute man!

When beginning a resistance program, it is not unusual for muscles to become stiff or sore within 24 to 48 hours after exercising. This soreness, known as Delayed Onset Muscle Soreness (D.O.M.S.) is believed to be the result of tiny tears in the muscle or connective tissue. When your body is adjusting to a new activity, and your muscles are working in ways they are not used to, some degree of D.O.M.S. is to be expected. Excessive stiffness, soreness and pain warrant rest. Your body needs rest to repair tissue, grow and get stronger.

We at Sweeney's want to warn you that although your mind may be ready to jump on the treadmill for two hours, your body only wants 20 minutes. When starting your new workout program this year take it slow. Work out on days such as Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, giving yourself the rest of the week off. The added bonus is free weekends to stop down by our friends at Fluid!

Fitness should be fun; this is part of my philosophy. If you don't like something you will not do it! If you need help on getting started, ask a Personal Trainer. I say do that first so you don't waste your time on another year's fad - of failure.

People have asked me if fat burners are safe. What I can say:

- They can be taken safely.
- When taking a fat burner you must drink a lot of water. Fat burners can dehydrate you which could make your head spin.
- Please EAT; food can be your friend.

As we all know eating can be like a bad one-night stand. One night you just want to eat so badly, but after all the frosting is done and gone it's just wasn't worth it.

Now this leads me into talking about some of the most common running ailments - shin splints, heel spurs and plantar fasciitis (inflammation of tissue on the bottom of the foot) - are actually caused by calf muscles that are too tight. If you have



FITNESS

Sweeney's Gym is family owned and operated by Michael Sweeney, a personal trainer for the last 8 years. Sweeney's prides itself on caring for people and their health.

not eaten enough to repair you body properly, or you're just getting started, splints and spurs are very common when over doing it. In the case of shin splints, for instance, the shin muscles have to work extra hard during a run when the calf muscles aren't supple enough, and shin pain results from this overexertion.

Fortunately, this is a problem that's easy to resolve. Stretching your calf muscles frequently can help prevent these running-related problems.

Here's a simple calf stretch you can do almost anywhere:

- Standing backwards on the bottom step of a staircase, slide one foot back so that your heel extends off the step.
- Then stretch your ankle downward slowly so that you feel your calf muscles stretching from the ankle to the back of your knee.
- Hold for 20 to 30 seconds, than alternate to the other foot.

Note: Tight calf muscles are not the only cause of problems like shin splints, heel spurs and plantar fasciitis. If stretching does not help these problems, talk to a doctor or personal trainer.

Sweeney's wishes everyone a safe and slow start to their fitness goals. This way they can become a long lasting part of your every day lifestyle. Sweeney's Gym New Years resolution for 2008 is for everyone to exercise **Smarter Not Harder**.

Saturday January 5, 2008 from 1pm-6pm is Sweeney's Gym New Years Fitness Party. Check out our ad in QLife for more information on prices and samplings. *Sweeney's Gym* has a new website www.sweeneysgym.com

ARTS CALENDAR

curated by Carrie Hoelzer. 6PM. MGAC 703 S. 2nd St, Milwaukee. 414-383-3727.

The Bay Players Present "Laughing Stock" at Whitefish Bay High, 1200 E. Fairmount. Comic mayhem ensues when a well-intentioned but overmatched New Hampshire theatre company schedules a repertory season of "Dracula, Hamlet, and Charley's Aunt." Follow along from outrageous auditions, to ego driven rehearsals, to disastrous opening nights to the elation of a great play told well and a nostalgic close. Directed by Ray Bradford and featuring an ensemble cast of local luminaries, Tom Zeugner, Sandy Lewis and Roger Uscila among them, "Laughing Stock" is sure to warm a cold January night! 8pm Curtain. Seniors \$10 Other Adults \$12. Tickets Available at the Door or You may call to Reserve at 414-299-9040. Runs also Jan 19, 25, 26.

Spiral Theatre announces the fourth show of its inaugural season, True West by Sam

Shepard, at Spiral Theatre, 534 W. National Avenue (6th & National). Tickets are \$15 for adults (\$10 for students and seniors) and can be

purchased by calling the box office at (414) 248-6481 or visiting www.spiraltheatre.com. Runs Fri, Sat, Sundays through Feb 3rd. Only 9 performances! Don't miss it!

JAN 24

Schwartz Bookstore presents fiction/Milwaukee author Philip A. Nero and his novel, *Twice Upon a Time*. Philip Nero is also the author, with PGA professional Don Peterson, of *The Original Baseball Swing Golf Method*. He lives in Shorewood, Wisconsin with his wife. 7 p.m. reading, Schwartz Bookstore, 4093 N. Oakland Ave. (414) 963-3111

JAN 25

Experimental Film/Video Series at Woodland Pattern Book Center, "Dear Friends and Monsters: An evening with Ari Hamidi" Tickets: \$2 at the door. 7PM. 720 E. Locust St.

Be it resolved!

That time of year – the time when we resolve to turn over a new leaf. Or the time when we don't even bother to make resolutions because we've already given up.

For several years this column has used the first issue of the year to address approaches and topics where Wisconsin lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities could benefit from some healthy changes. This year is not different, but I will take a twist.

This time, let's start by notice and appreciating what we've done well.

First, we have stayed alive and viable as a community. After the 2006 constitutional crisis in Wisconsin, many LGBT individuals and community organizations experienced exhaustion, regret, and disappointment. Some became bitter and hopeless for awhile. However, overall we have been picking ourselves up, dusting off, and getting back to business.

Second, we have increasingly shown ourselves to each other and to our heterosexual peers, both allies and disinterested others. The "amendment" issue got some of us pretty pissed off. So much so that we had little time for the niceties of playing cool. I have heard many stories in the past year that involved LGBT folks just letting others know how things needed to change.

Third, we have garnered support. Fair Wisconsin and Center Advocates understandably tout the big numbers associated with volunteers and donors to their highly successful 2005 campaign. But I believe the larger support has come from our disappointed allies after the vote. We have found allies in community-based organizations, health groups, boards, and foundations. People more clearly know that our human rights have been violated.

Fourth, we have produced some solid health practices. While the entire hubbub of the past two years has drawn our collective attention, LGBT community centers and other LGBT organizations around Wisconsin have put together some good health programs for teens and adults alike. These programs range from financial health to sexual health, from addressing partner violence to creating community gardens.

Fifth, we have buried some hatchets. A few weeks ago I ran into an old community nemesis, someone I have avoided like plague for a decade. He was cordial and apologetic and engaging. In our conversation he said he was over his grudge because he could no longer accurately remember what it was about.

I encourage each of us to notice what else has been going well in our LGBT communities. Then, on that foundation, let's think about what processes and environments we might imagine that could make things even better for ourselves, our organizations, and our communities.

For me the list is long, but I will start here to stimulate readers' own lists.

I want a smoke-free Wisconsin. I want universal health care. I want LGBT people to take the lead on eliminating racism and classism, with a goal of ending both in our life times. I want gay and bisexual men to become the models of how to eliminate sexist behavior. I want LGBT youth to graduate, get meaningful work, and excel in it. I want the promise of wealth transfer in Wisconsin to benefit LGBT people and community organizations.



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.

I want all queer people to want one another. I want you to want these things, too.

I want it all.

ARTS CALENDAR

Danceworks Performance Company will take you on a flight of fancy as they bring wild and whimsical short dance stories to life with "Tall Tales from the Wide Sky" Tickets are \$20/general admission, \$15/students and seniors. Danceworks, Inc. 1661 N. Water Street. Tickets at (414) 277-8480, or online at www.danceworks1661.org. Runs thru the 27th

Milwaukee Shakespeare presents "Twelfth Night" at Kuttemperoor Auditorium, Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, 19805 W. Capitol Drive, Brookfield, 7:30PM. A countess orphaned, twins near drowned, a steward desperate for affection, and a clown with a song to sing collide in this sparkling comedy of mistaken identities, grief, and blind devotion. One of Shakespeare's most beloved plays, Twelfth Night begins with the pain of loss and exploded into music, laughter, and all-consuming love. \$50 Adults, \$40 Seniors, \$25 Students, \$25 Children. Through Feb 3rd. Call for more info. Tickets available by visiting the Wilson Center Box Office, calling 262.781.9520 or visiting us online at <http://www.wilson-center.com>.

UWM Opera Theatre: The Coronation of Poppea at Helen Bader Concert Hall, 2419 E. Kenwood Blvd. Jan. 25 & 26 at 7:30 pm; Jan. 27 at 2PM. The Coronation of Poppea, Claudio Monteverdi's 1642 masterpiece, recounts the ancient Roman story of the devious Poppea who, with the support of the all-powerful God of Love, triumphs over her foes, seducing Nero and taking the place of Octavia as Empress of Rome. The fully staged production, sung in English, will be presented by the students of the UWM Voice program with a student chamber ensemble. Guest Metropolitan Opera bass Ryan Allen plays Seneca. Tickets: \$19 general/\$10 students, seniors & alumni.

Box Office, 2419 E. Kenwood Blvd. Box Office hours are Tuesday – Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. and one hour prior to performances. Box office phone: 414.229.4308.

JAN 29

FILM: EXPERIMENTAL TUESDAYS. "Shoot Shoot Shoot: British Avant-Garde Films of the 1960s & 1970s" (Program I) 7 PM, and its FREE! UWM Union Theatre, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. Info: (414) 229-4070. The first of a two-part program of short British avant-garde films from the 1960s and 70s; decades in which independent filmmakers challenged cinematic convention (The second program is February 5.)

JAN 30

AUDITION for the Wisconsin Cream City Chorus! WCCC seeks actor/singers for its April show "Safe Harbor: Signs of Compassion" (Performance date is Saturday, April 12, 2008). This original choral theatre work will explore social issues related to compassion. Looking for 12-18 performers, men and women of all ethnicities, ages 20s – 60s, to fill these unique roles.

Auditions will be held at the LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court Street, Milwaukee, at 7PM and will consist of readings, sight-singing and movement. Please bring a resume. Also seeking ASL interpreters, ASL actors, and musicians, stage manager and stagehands. For more detailed information, visit www.creamcitychorus.org/auditions.asp or contact Kristen L. Weber, Artistic Director, at 414/276-8787 or director@creamcitychorus.org. Repeats Jan 31.

UWM Department of Visual Art Spring Lecture Series: DEB SOKOLOW. Chicago-based artist Deb Sokolow inaugurates this new lecture series with a talk in conjunction with the current exhibition in Inova/Kenilworth. The Wednesday night series will present twelve visiting artists between January and May. Arts Center Lecture Hall, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd. 7PM. FREE

JAN 31

Nonfiction/Milwaukee author Doug Schmidt speaks at Schwartz bookstore in Brookfield about his new book, "They Came To Bowl: How Milwaukee Became America's Tenpin Capital" In this authoritative and lively book, Schmidt traces bowling's roots from a German religious rite centuries ago to the sport that made Milwaukee famous. From the taverns and saloons that housed recreational games to the sell-out crowds and million-dollar beer sponsorships of televised tournaments, They Came to Bowl will take you back to the changing lanes of bowling in Milwaukee. 7 p.m. Schwartz Bookstore, 17145 W. Bluemound Rd. Brookfield. More info: (262) 797-6140

Please send art listing to qlifelistings@yahoo.com Deadline for the February Issue is January 20th.

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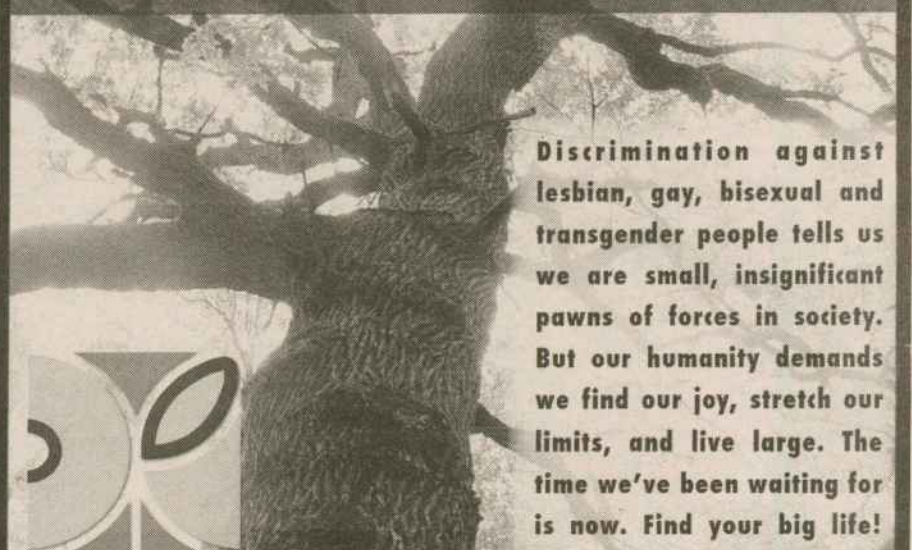
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FIND YOUR BIG LIFE!



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

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

ONGOINGS

Stretch out at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, with Yogalates - yoga-pilates fusion with Marc. 8 weeks \$40. Strengthen your core! New students may join at any time. Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30PM. Info: 414-383-3727. MGAC 703 S. 2nd St, Milwaukee.

See STD Specialties Clinic Ad (page 23) for Jan. free HIV/Syphilis testing dates

JAN 3

Femiknits! One Year Anniversary - Broad Vocabulary, 2241 S Kinnickinnic Ave. 6PM. We will have cake to celebrate, and feel free to bring beverages or other goodies of your choice. Femiknits is a feminist knitting & crocheting circle open to all genders and all skill levels. We meet twice a month at Broad Vocabulary, on the first Thursday of every month at 6PM and the third Sunday of every month at 2PM. Queer-and trans-friendly. Info: www.broadvocabulary.com.

JAN 5

Sweeney's Gym is having a New Years Party! Come support the Gym that supports your community. 1-6PM, Special Pricing on all programs, Chance to win Personal Training, Chance to win One Year Membership, Fitness assessments, Body Fat Testing, Food & Drink, New Product Sampling! Sweeney's Gym, 5311 S. Howell Ave, Milwaukee

Join FORGE, and guest speaker Dr. Paul M. Steinwald who will be speaking on the topic of "FTM Chest Recontouring" via the "keyhole" technique, which is designed to preserve nipple viability and sensation as best possible. He will explain how the procedure evolved, how it is performed, and its risks and limitations. Includes "before and after" photos. 7:00-9:30PM at the MKE LGBT Center, 315 West Court St.

JAN 10

Thank you for helping us build community for 10 years.

2008 marks the tenth anniversary of the opening of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's doors. Hundreds have contributed time and money so that thousands more can benefit from Center Programs like:

- Project Q Youth Development
- Anti-Violence Project
- Community Organizing
- Many Men, Many Voices
- HIV prevention and testing
- David Bohnett Cyber Center
- Jack H. Smith Library
- Health and Wellness
- Foster Parenting
- Information Resource & Referral
- Legal Night

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center
1998 - 2008: Celebrating 10 Years
of Building Community

315 W. Court Street | Milwaukee, WI 53212
414.271.2656 | www.mkelgbt.org



This Month in Wisconsin LGBT History January

By Don Schwamb and Michail Takach

1973 - Thirty-Five Years Ago

Fox Valley Gay Alliance (FVGA) is formed, including men and women in Appleton, Neenah, Oshkosh and Fond du Lac area. Joining existing organizations GPU of Milwaukee, and GLF and Crossroads of Madison "in the continuing struggle for social acceptance and gay rights in Wisconsin," FVGA had a goal of "improving the social life of gays in the Fox Valley", by organizing social activities, and finding manager and owner to open a gay bar in the area. They also organized outreach to local doctors and lawyers, attempting to identify those who were "are not uptight about homosexual issues and concerns."

Several gay people with drinking problems began meeting on a weekly basis in the Newman Center. Loosely affiliated with Alcoholics Anonymous, the intent was to deal strictly with individual problems of alcoholism, not involve themselves in social, political, or gay liberation issues.

1978 - Thirty Years Ago

Two lesbian groups announced project and meeting plans for January. The Gay and Lesbian Coalition of Greater Milwaukee (GLCGM), meeting at the Women's Coalition Center, patterned its projects after a similarly named group in Chicago of discussions and meetings, working with businesses on areas of mutual concern. Meanwhile, the Women's Health Committee (WHC), associated with the GPU, had as its fundamental aim the provision of hassle-free health care for lesbians.

A Federal Judge dismissed a lawsuit filed by Patrick Batt, who was fired by Marion Heights Nursing Home because of his homosexuality. The judge's decision was based solely on the technical grounds that the nursing home is a private, not public institution.

1988 - Twenty Years Ago

- LaCage announced a new Sunday schedule at Dance Dance Dance, including a 4:30 P.M. tea dance, free buffet and weekly drag/variety revue featuring "Holly & Company." Advertising read "We have the dance floor...but no tea! So we use champagne instead!"

- On February 18, cult movie performer Divine was scheduled to perform at Club 219's "seven year itch" party. Almost 200 tickets were sold, at \$10 per head, for the legendary drag diva's midnight show. Unfortunately, this would be the last visit to Milwaukee for the "filthiest person alive." Divine - the star of countless B movies and the original HAIRSPRAY - died on March 7, 1988 while filming her network TV debut on MARRIED WITH CHILDREN.

- Despite pressures from the public health community, Milwaukee's only operating bathhouse, the lucrative Club Bath, was still going strong at 7th and Wisconsin. A six-month membership cost only \$12.00.

1993 - Fifteen Years Ago

- "Outing" was a popular strategy to force political figures to take a stand on LGBT issues. Queer Nation attempted to "out" UW Chancellor Donna Shalala as a lesbian, but the unflappable chancellor denied the accusations and called the situation "ridiculous."

- Milwaukee hosted the Annual Gay & Lesbian Film & Video Festival from January 29 to February 5. In celebration of DADDY AND THE MUSCLE ACADEMY's breakout success that year, the Wreck Room Saloon sponsored a post-festival Tom of Finland contest on Saturday, January 30.

- The "Brand New Queer Program" debuted on public access cable, providing a new medium for the LGBT Milwaukee agenda. The one-hour call-in show covered everything from politics to the performing arts during its time on Channel 47.

- NewBar, at Madison's Hotel Washington entertainment complex, celebrated its ninth birthday with extensive remodeling and a new 7-day-per-week schedule. Although the 1993 renovation added 24 new rooms in a 3-story addition, the Hotel Washington would be destroyed by a catastrophic fire only three years later. LGBT Madison would never be quite the same.

Find out more about these and other events and history in Wisconsin's GLBT community at the Milwaukee History Project web site: www.WisconsinGayHistory.org

continued on next page

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

continued from page 20

Bring your favorite board or card game and a dish to pass! For more information call the Lesbian Alliance office at 414-272-9442

JAN 12

From 10AM-Noon, why not head to the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center for "Making Dreams Come True Without the Ruby Slippers!" Make the best of 2008 by working on the things that you dream about! Presented in cooperation with gainingtime.com. Suggested Donation \$15. MGAC 703 S. 2nd St, Milwaukee. 414-383-3727.

Hafsa Belly Dance Party at 8PM with Shaia, bring your favorite CD and dance with professional and amateur dancers to the music of the Middle East. Admission \$5. MGAC 703 S. 2nd St, Milwaukee. 414-383-3727.

JAN 13

A Woman's Touch presents: The Art of Erotic Dance: How to Strip. Join Exotic George for this women-only class designed to help you learn the basics of erotic dance. You will learn the history of erotic dance, how to choose music and props, the various moves to make a routine sexy, and how to put a routine together to perform for your partner. This class is designed for women of all ages, sizes & ability. Class fee is \$40 and you must pre-register to hold a place for yourself. A Woman's Touch, 200 N. Jefferson St. Suite 101, Milwaukee. awt.milwaukee@gmail.com or 414-221-0400

JAN 16

Forces for Good: The Six Practices of High Impact Non-profits. 800-CEO-READ, Wipfli, and

Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee present: FORCES FOR GOOD: The Six Practices of High Impact Non-profits. What makes great non-profits great? Talk by author Leslie Crutchfield from 11:30 - 1:00PM. The Eisner Museum of Advertising and Design, 208 N. Water Street. Cost: \$35.00. Lunch and a copy of Forces for Good will be provided to all attendees. Whether you're a nonprofit leader, a philanthropist, a business executive, a donor, a volunteer, a board member or simply interested in learning how to be a force for good-you'll find something that inspires you to be an even more effective catalyst for lasting social change. Everyone from Jim Collins to Barack Obama is talking about this book and the potential impact it can have on the way the world works.

JAN 18

Visioning Project meets at 9AM at the SAGE offices. 1845 North Farwell Ave, suite 220.

Secrets of the Zodiac! Most of us know our sign of the zodiac, the astrological system by which people are said to have specific traits based on where the planets are at the time of their birth. But does astrology really work? Does your horoscope in the newspaper really accurately predict what is going to happen to you throughout the day? Secrets of the Zodiac will take a look at this celestial system and why it has been so instrumental and familiar since humans first looked to the heavens. Daniel M. Soreff Planetarium 800 W. Wells St. - Milwaukee

JAN 19

Speed dating at MONA's!! 1407 s 1st St., Milwaukee, 414.643.0377

Madison Gay Video Club meets for: "Colma: The Musical" (Lions Gate, dir. Richard Wong, 2006)

"Grunts: The New Recruits" (Raging Stallion, dir. Ward & Leon, 2007) 8:00PM. <http://www.mgvc.org/> For info: 608-244-8675 (evenings) mail@mgvc.org.

JAN 26

Visioning Project Breakfast at the LGBT Center, 9:30AM breakfast, 10-11:30AM discussion. Topic: "Intergenerational Relationships: A Discussion About Consensual vs Coercive Sexual Activity Within the LGBT Community". 315 W. Court St, Milwaukee.

Come to the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center for the Women Singing in Circle Workshop. Co-sponsored by Lesbian Alliance Education Fund and SAGE/Milwaukee. Shelley Graff of Cincinnati, Ohio will facilitate this Singing In Sacred Circle workshop. In Kay Gardner's musical tradition, Shelley draws her audiences down a path of political inquiry, peace, healing, and transformation. While learning short, repetitive women-centered songs from a variety of traditions, power rises from the center of the circle as all voices create an energy that is both empowering and healing. This opportunity is intended to allow all self-identified women, regardless of singing experience, to share their voices in a non-competitive, relaxed safe space. Come sing along! From 10:00AM-12:30PM. 315 W. Court St. Sliding scale \$20-\$35.

Shelley Graff with Julie Kronenberger in concert, 7:00PM, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. Sliding scale \$10-30. Co-sponsored by Lesbian Alliance Education Fund and SAGE/Milwaukee. Shelley Graff, a feminist singer, songwriter, guitarist, has been sharing her songs with audiences during the past fifteen years. Shelley's motivational fast-paced tunes are delicately balanced by her inspiring sweet, slow ballads. Personal empowerment and transformation are the common themes that Shelley's strong and steady voice projects as she shares her stories through song. Shelley Graff is a

true visionary who believes in remembering the past, focusing on the present, and dreaming about the future! 315 W. Court St, Milwaukee.

MONA's is hosting another one of their great OLD TIMER'S Parties. 1407 s First Street, Milwaukee. 414.643.0377

JAN 27

Mr. Gay Latino Wisconsin Pageant, Ramada Inn. 6pm. Information available at the 16th Street Community Health Center. Contact Jose Salazar at 414-672-1315 ext 395.

JAN 28TH

Center Advocates will hold its annual membership meeting from 5:30pm - 6:00pm at Art Bar, 722 E Burleigh. This gives an opportunity for eligible members to vote for members of the board of directors, and to approve or reject bylaw changes that strengthen the organization by expanding the definition of membership and increasing the size of the board. Meeting to be followed by a reception from 6-7:30pm in the same location. Light appetizers, cash bar, and a short update on Advocates successes in 2007, and plans for the important 2008 election year. INFO: Patrick Flaherty, Center Advocates Director, at (414) 292-3073.

Deadline for the February Issue is January 20th. Please send events to qlifelistsings@yahoo.com.

Local Talent at Spiral Theatre

By Sandra Stark

Ever since actor and director Mark Hooker left New York City and his professional acting career behind after becoming HIV positive, he has yearned to start a theatre company that would produce thought provoking plays in an intimate setting for a broad audience.

"We certainly have a vast mixture of people here in Milwaukee," Hooker said as he gave me a tour of the space for his fledgling theatre company, Spiral Theatre. "Everyone seems to converge right here in historic Walker's Point. This area has so much to offer - restaurants, galleries, - nightlife. I love the ethnic diversity here."

The storefront at 534 W. National Ave. had been vacant for quite a while. Hooker and his partner, Dave Berg, rented the space in October and began transforming it into a charming black box theatre. My first impression was of the shabby-chic lobby Hooker and Berg created as a cross between an inviting living room and a funky 70's lounge. Huge velvet drapes adorn the ceiling to floor windows as well as the doorway leading into the theatre space. Comfortable chairs from various historic periods create a lobby conducive to intimate conversation and enjoying a soft drink and snack from the self-service honor bar. The feeling is casual, hip, and friendly.

"I named this theatre company Spiral after the ancient symbol of the spiral which represents continued and recycled life. We all breathe the very same air that Aristophanes and Euripides breathed in ancient Greece at the very dawn of theatre. By doing live theatre, we are carrying on that ancient tradition. The Greeks had a notion of perfection only existing in the heavens. For instance, there was the perfect bed, which existed only in essence. It was the closest thing to God that could be attained. On earth, a carpenter would make a bed. This physical creation of the perfect bed was one step away from God. A

painter would then paint a picture of the bed, - the third step away from the ideal perfection. To me, doing live theatre is a mystical experience," Hooker explained.

I asked Hooker how this applied to his theatre vision.

"Live theatre is the earthly creation of the ideal play - one step away from

God, or perfection. In live theatre, one has a real relationship with the actors, and the actors have a real relationship with each individual audience. It is a two-way street. It is storytelling at its most basic level."

So far this year, Spiral Theatre Company has produced three plays: Extremities, The Shape of Things, and Someone Who'll Watch Over Me. All three productions, populated by local Milwaukee actors, received favorable reviews from local papers.

There are 50 seats on a steel grey painted wooden floor in Spiral's new theatre area. The stage area is large enough to produce a huge variety of plays, yet small enough to retain an intimate relationship with the audience.

"The actors always come out after the show to mingle with the audience," Hooker said, as he turned on the lighting board

to show off the mere 8 par can lights he has purchased so far. "And you'd be amazed at what I've learned to do with the limited resources that we have so far. I also have had so much support from local businesses - including Melody Carranza, this fantastic photographer, who has volunteered to be Spiral Theatre's company photographer."

Spiral Theatre's next offering is Sam Shepard's True West, opening January 18th and running through February 3rd. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30pm, and Sundays at 4:30pm. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors and students. Reservations may be made by calling the box office number 414-248-6481 or via website at www.spiraltheatre.com.

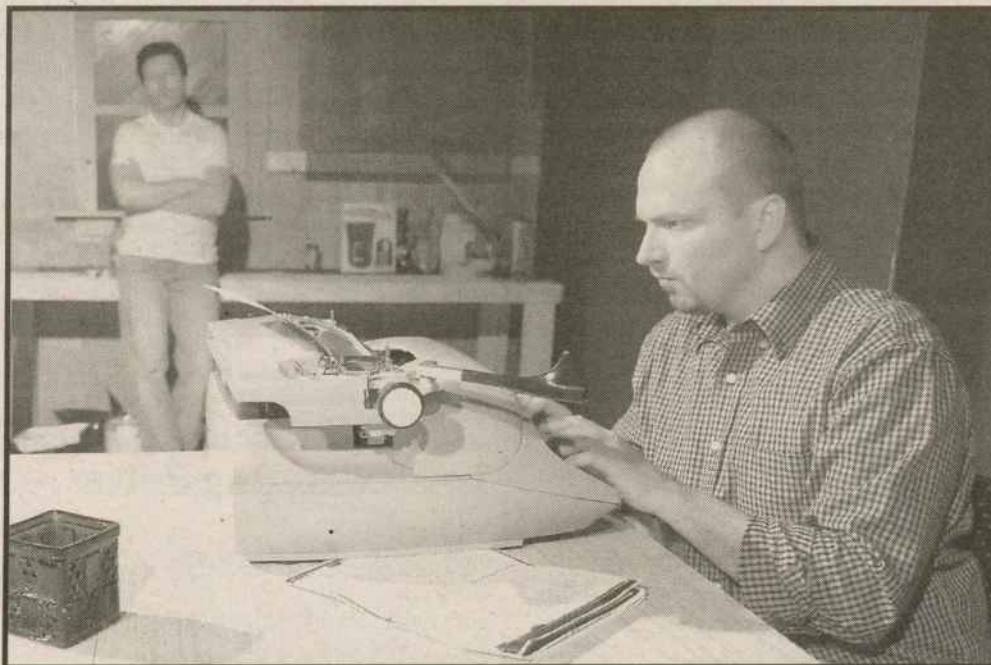


PHOTO CREDIT: Melody Carranza LEFT TO RIGHT: Terry Gavin, Len Maki



ORGANIZATIONS

QLife's organizations that serve the LGBT Community are on our website. We are also looking for an individual, business or organization to sponsor this page so it can appear monthly in print call 414-383-8200 for information. If we've missed you or it's time to update your organization's information, please email editor@queerlifeneews.com.

Statewide

AIDS Action Wisconsin
820 Plankinton Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414-225-1568

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin
820 Plankinton Ave
POB 510498
Milwaukee, 53203,
414-273-1991 www.arcw.org

BiNet USA
National bisexual political organization
202-882-4384

Children Service Society of Wisconsin
620 South 76th Suite 120
Milwaukee, WI 53214
414-453-1400

Diverse & Resilient
1240 E. Brady St. 2nd floor
Milwaukee, 53202,
414-390-0444
www.diverseandresilient.org

Fair Wisconsin
122 State St., Suite 500
Madison, WI 53703
608-441-0143
www.fairwisconsin.com

FORGE
PO Box 1272
Milwaukee, 53201,
414-559-2123,
414-278-6031

Gay Youth Wisconsin Hotline
Fridays and Saturdays,
7-10pm
1-866-gay-youth
414-272-TEEN

Generation Q
Social/support group for
18-24 year old LGBTQ youth
OutReach,
600 Williamson St., Madison.
608-255-8582

Outbound
LGBT nightlife publication
P.O. Box 1961
Green Bay, WI 54305
800-578-3785
920-655-0611

Pride in Wisconsin
Government
c/o OutReach
P.O. Box 310
Madison, WI 53701
608-255-8582

Queer Life News
LGBT publication
2266 N. Prospect Ave

Suite 200
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414-383-8200
www.queerlifeneews.com

Quest
LGBT nightlife publication
P.O. Box 1961
Green Bay, WI 54301
414-433-9821

Rainbow Families Wisconsin
LGBT family support
600 Williamson St., #1P
Madison, WI 53703
608-270-1024

Wisconsin DHFS HIV/AIDS Program
P.O. Box 2659
Madison, WI 53701
800-991-5532

Wisconsin HIV/STD Hepatitis C Information and Referral Center
Free, anonymous, available
24/7 800-334-2437
www.irc-wisconsin.org

Milwaukee

Alcoholics Anonymous
Request gay meetings
414-771-9119

Bay View GAYS
(414) 482-3796
bvgsresident@bvgsays.com
www.bvgsays.com

Bi Definition
Bisexual community events
315 W. Court St., Suite 101
Milwaukee, WI 53212
414-299-9612

Black Pride
www.blackpridecdp.com
A Charles D. Productions
Program
1817 N. Martin Luther King
Drive #3
Milwaukee, 53212
414-263-9999

Black and White Men Together
P.O. Box 091475
Milwaukee, 53209
414-540-9437
www.bwmtilwaukee.org

Brady East STD Clinic
1240 E. Brady Street
Milwaukee, 53202,
414-272-2144
www.bestd.org

Brew City Bears
P.O. Box 1035
Milwaukee, WI 53201

414-299-0401
www.brewcitybears.org

Castaways M.C.
Levi/leather club
P.O. Box 1697
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Center Advocates PAC
Political action committee
315 W Court Street
Milwaukee WI 53212
www.centeradvocatespac.org
(414) 347-1892

Charles D Productions
315 W. Court St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212
414-263-9999
www.charlesdprodinc.com

Connexus
LGBT people of color in
Wisconsin
A Diverse and Resilient.
Program
1240B East Brady St.
Milwaukee, WI, 53202

Counseling Center
LGBT support & discussion
groups
2038 N. Bartlett Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414-271-2565

Cream City Chorus
315 W. Court St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212
414-276-8787

Cream City Foundation
759 N. Milwaukee St.
Suite 212
Milwaukee, 53202,
414-225-0244
www.creamcityfoundation.org

Cream City Squares
G/L square dancing club
414-445-8080
www.iagsdc.org/creamcity

Femme Mafia Milwaukee
www.myspace.com/
femmefamake

FORGE
FTM+ and SOFFA social
support
group
P.O. Box 1272
Milwaukee, WI 53201
414-278-6031
www.forge-forward.org

Foster Youth Independence
2672 N. Holton St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212
www.fyicenter.org

Front Runners
Running group
414-332-1527

Galano Club
12-step recovery club
315 W. Court St. Suite 201
Milwaukee, WI 53212
414-276-6936

Narcotics Anonymous, Al-Anon and Sexual Compulsive Anonymous Meetings
www.galanoclub.org

GAMMA- Milwaukee
Sports/outdoors/recreation/
social
P.O. Box 1900
Milwaukee, WI 53201
414-530-1886
www.milwaukeeegamma.com

Gay Lesbian Education
Employees of Metro
Milwaukee
414-462-8404

Gay/Lesbian Studies at UWM 414-229-6402

Gay Youth Milwaukee
P.O. Box 090441
Milwaukee, WI 53209
414-265-8500

Gay People's Union
P.O. Box 208
Milwaukee, WI 53201
Hotline: 414-645-0585

Gay Straight Alliance
Waukesha County Technical
College GSA c/o Student Life
C121, 800 Main St.
Waukesha, WI
262-691-5388

Gemini Gender Group
(TV/TS/TF support/social)
P.O. Box 44211, Milwaukee
53214
414-297-9328

Girth & Mirth/Milwaukee
P.O. Box 862
Milwaukee, WI 53201

G/L Community Trust Fund
P.O. Box 1686
Milwaukee, WI 53201
414-643-1652
www.glcommunitytrustfund.com

GlobalAge.org
Workplace issues and more!
www.GlobalAge.org

Great Lakes Harley Riders
P.O. Box 341611
Milwaukee, WI 53234
bootedhog@aol.com

Holiday Invitational Tournament
G/L bowling event
P.O. Box 899
Milwaukee, WI 53201
414-881-8071
www.hitmilwaukee.org

Lesbian Alliance (LAMM)
315 W. Court St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212
414-272-9442
www.lesbianalliance.org

Log Cabin Republicans
P.O. Box 199
Milwaukee, WI 53201
414-299-9443

MGALA
Marquette University G/L
alumni
P.O. Box 92722
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Madison Minotaurs United
Rugby Football Club
PO Box 14282
Madison, WI 53708
info@madisonminotaursrfc.org
madisonminotaursrfc.org

Marquette Gay/Straight Alliance
Campus Ministry
617 N. 14th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53233
414-288-6873

Men's Voices Milwaukee
315 W. Court St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212
414-765-9198
www.mvmchorus.org

Metro Milwaukee Tennis Club
3957 N. 81st St.
Milw., 53222, 414-616-3716
www.milwaukeeetennis.com

Miltown Kings
www.myspace.com/
miltownkings

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center
703 S. 2nd St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
414-383-3727
www.milwaukeegayartscenter.org

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center
315 W. Court St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212
414-271-2656
www.mkelgbt.org

Milwaukee LGBT History Project
P.O. Box 510194
Milwaukee, WI 53203
www.mkelgbthist.org

Milwaukee Pride Parade
P.O. Box 070177
Milwaukee, WI 53207
414-607-3793
www.prideparademke.org
President@prideparademke.org

Milwaukee Symphony Chorus
Auditions/info
414-559-9330

Narcotics Anonymous
Request gay meetings
800-711-6375
414-276-8546

OutCare Sexual Health Center
Walk-in health center.
A service of Planned
Parenthood
315 W. Court St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212
414-277-9370

Outdoors Cooperative Sports Group
414-963-9833

PFLAG
315 W. Court St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212
414-299-9198

Pathfinders
Youth counseling, shelter
1614 E. Kane Place
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414-271-1560
www.tccmilw.org

Positive Direction Milwaukee
315 W. Court St.
Milwaukee, 53212, 414-461-5894

PrideFest, Inc.
315 W. Court Street
Milwaukee, 53203, 414-272-3378
www.pridefest.com

Project Q Youth Program
315 W. Court
Milwaukee, WI 53212
414-223-3220

SPECTRUM
P.O. Box 254
Milwaukee, WI 53201
414-482-4310

The Queer Program
Channel 96
P.O. Box 090441
Milwaukee, 53209, 414-265-8500

Queer Zine Archive Project
2935 N. Fratney St.
Milwaukee, 53202

Rainbow Alliance at UWM
Box 122, 2200 E. Kenwood
Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53211
414-229-6555

Rainbow Families Milwaukee C/O PFLAG
315 W. Court
Milwaukee, WI 53212
mkerainbowfamilies@hotmail.com

Riverwest Rainbow Assoc.
P.O. Box 12888
Milwaukee, WI 53212
414-562-2344
riverwestrainbow@hotmail.com

SAGE Milwaukee
For older LGBTs
1845 N. Farwell Ave., Suite 220
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414-224-0517

Saturday Softball League
2333 N. 56th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53210
414-350-7147
www.ssbmilwaukee.com

Sexual Compulsives Anonymous (SCA)
414-299-0755

Shoreline Country Dancers
2809 E. Oklahoma Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53207
www.shoreline-milw.org

SWANAQIM
LGBTI South West Asian and North
African Queers in the Midwest
swanaqim-subscribe@yahoo.com

Two Spirit Society
Indigenous LGBT people of
America
1186 W. Glenview Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53213

Washington Heights Rainbow Association
(414) 258-8834
washhtrsrainbow@aol.com
www.shingtonheightsrainbow.org

Wauwatosa Rainbow Association
(aka Rainbow Fireflies)
(414) 774-9470
tosarainbow@yahoo.com

Wisconsin Cream City Chorus
315 W. Court St.
Milwaukee, 53212
414-276-8787
www.creamcitychourus.org

Wisconsin Gay Hockey
414-202-5874
home.wi.rc.com/wigayhockey

Wisconsin Outdoor Women
P.O. Box 94
Hales Corners, WI 53130
414-427-2082

WI Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf
P.O. Box 432
Germantown, 53022
www.wiscrad.org

Women's Voices Milwaukee
315 W. Court St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212
414-534-5645

Churches

First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee
1342 N Astor
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 273-5257
www.uumilwaukee.org

Lake Park Lutheran Church
2647 N Stowell St
Milwaukee, WI 53211
(414) 962-9190
www.lakeparklutheran.com

Living Waters Contemplative Life Center/Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church
125 W. Saveland Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53207
414-481-4680
http://tippechurch.org

Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church
1239 W. Mineral Street
POB 1421
Milwaukee,
WI 53201-1421
414-383-1100
info@milmcc.org

Plymouth Church
2717 E. Hampshire Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53211
(414) 964-1513
www.plymouth-church.org

Underwood Baptist
1916 N Wauwatosa Ave
Wauwatosa, WI 53213
(414) 258-4246
www.underwoodchurch.com

Unitarian Universalist Church West (UUCW)
13001 W. North Ave.,
Brookfield.
262-782-3535

Local Watering Holes

- Art Bar:** 722 E. Burleigh St. Milwaukee, WI 414-372-7880
- Ballgame:** 196 S 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 414-273-7474
- Boom:** 625 South 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 414-277-5040
- Boot Camp:** 209 E National Ave. Mil, WI 414-643-6900
- Cest La Vie:** 231 S 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 414-291-9600
- City Lights Chill:** 111 W. Howard Ave. Mil, WI 414-481-1441
- Cuvee:** 177 N. Broadway, Mil, WI 414-225-9800
- Fluid:** 819 S.2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 414-643-5843
- Harbor Room:** 117 E. Greenfield Ave. Mil, WI 414-672-7988
- Kathy's Nut Hut:** 1500 W. Scott St. Mil, WI 414-647-2673
- Kruz:** 354 E. National Ave. Milwaukee, WI 414-272-5789
- LaCage:** 801 S 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 414-383-8330
- M's:** 1101 S. 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 414-383-8900
- Mona's**
- Out 'N About:** 1407 S. 1st St. Milwaukee, WI 414- 643-0377
- PumpHouse:** 2011 S. 1st St. Milwaukee, WI 414-744-7008
- Switch:** 124 W National Ave, Milwaukee, WI 414-220-4340
- This Is It:** 418 E Wells St. Milwaukee, WI 414-278-9192
- Tracks:** 1534 W. Grant Ave. Milwaukee, WI 414-562-2020
- Triangle:** 135 E. National Ave. Mil, WI 414-383-9412
- Walker's Pint:** 818 S. 2nd St. Mil, WI 414-643-7468
- Woody's:** 1579 S. 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 414-672-0806

Just a sampling of watering holes in Milwaukee. We regret any omission at time of print. Please call 414-383-8200 to be added.



On December 4, leaders of Milwaukee's largest LGBT organizations met with Mayor Tom Barrett and mayoral staffer Paul Vornholt in the Mayor's City Hall offices. Pictured left to right are Patrick Flaherty, Director, Center Advocates; Scott Gunkel,

President, Pridefest; Dawn Schmidt, President, Lesbian Alliance; Mayor Barrett; Maggi Cage, Executive Director, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center; Maria Cadenas, Executive Director of Cream City Foundation; Bill Serpe, Executive Director, SAGE; Charles Daniels, Executive Director, Charles D Productions; Brenda Coley, Director of Adult Services, Diverse and Resilient.

QCLASSIFIEDS - JANUARY 2008

FOR RENT

2675 N.69 in Tosa. Large 1BR in quiet 4 unit. Smoke free. No Pets. \$525 plus utils. 414-628-7404 to see & apply.

Walker's Point. Enormous brick rowhouse flats! Historic 1894 charmer, newly renovated. Arched entrances, HWF & high ceilings. 2-3BR, \$550-750. 1223-1241 S. 8th St. Call Dave @ 414-248-9327.

Store Front for Rent: 3464 S. 13th Street Former Guido G,s Pizza Great location just off of Holt. Perfect for retail, office or food service. Call 414-704-7103.

Office Space Available: Only a few spaces left in the Clock Tower at Prospect and North Ave. 200-2000 Sq Ft. Call 414-704-7103.

FOR SALE

Single crypt, located in the historic and stunning Great Memorial Building, Court of the Prophets, Wisconsin Memorial Park, Milwaukee. A Stately surrounding for your loved one. Crypt is valued at over \$14,000; however, will accept \$8K or best offer. My sisters and I buried our loving Father in LaCrosse, WI, so we do not need this crypt in the family anymore. This is a tremendous opportunity as this area is completely sold out. Telephone 972-393-2727, ask for Debra.

EMPLOYMENT:

Manager for Motel and restaurant in a smaller town. If you want a future to be your own boss, become a full partner and owner in a successful business. Live in position. For information: 651-330-2927 Ext.#2. Collect calls okay.

Reporters needed for Milwaukee's own QLife News. Journalism majors - want to build your portfolio? Lets work together! We are seeking enthusiastic writers who are willing to report on events happening in our community. Call 383-8200, or submit resume (or really great letter of intro) and sample to: editor@queerlifeneews.com

Delivery drivers and Sales Rep welcome for Milwaukee's gay lifestyles leader. Call 414-383-8200. Send resume to editor@queerlifeneews.com

TRAVEL

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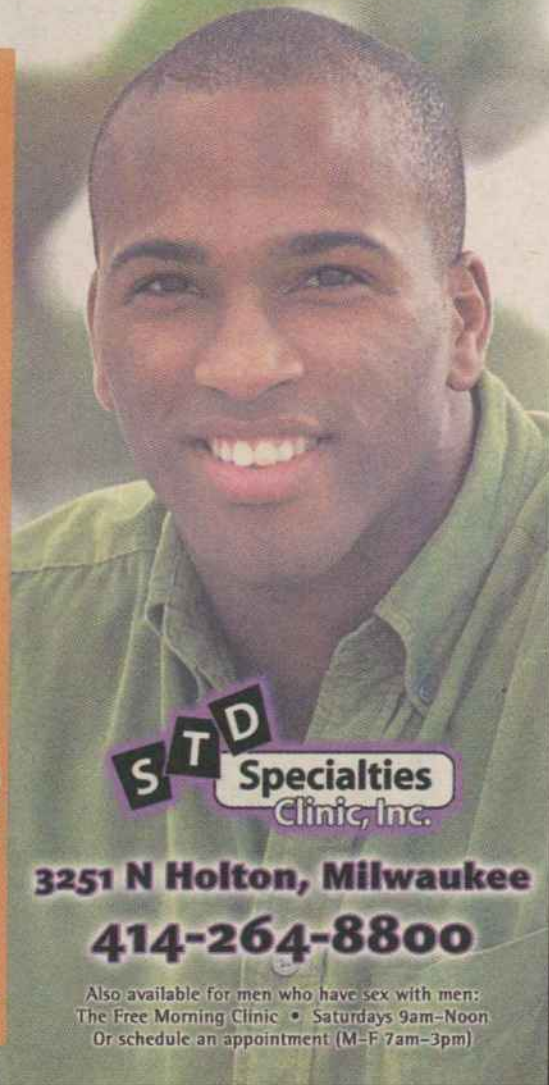
VOLUNTEERS

We here at QLife want to stick around. (And take over the world!) It is possible, but we need a little help from our friends. All we are asking, is that you let us know of any location you think would be a great fit for QLife to distribute the paper. On your way to work, school, or church, perhaps you see a fun store, or coffee shop, or business, or office building, and you think, "HEY! It would be GREAT if I could pick up QLife right here on the corner!" Let us know, where it is, and we'll take it from there. Sometimes, the business says "no" for whatever reasons, and sometimes they say "YES, of COURSE!!" So lets do it! What business should start carrying QLife? 414-383-8200.

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**JANUARY '08
 OUTREACH
 SCHEDULE**

- 10** Woody's 9-11pm
- 11** Kruz 6-8pm
- 12** Pump House 9pm-Midnight
- 15** Triangle 9pm-Midnight
- 18** City Lights 8-10pm
- 22** Boom 9-11pm
- 25** Club Icon (Kenosha) 9:30pm-12:30am
- 28** Fluid 9-11pm
- 30** Switch 9:30pm-12:30am



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Moments To Remember

Last month I wrote an article entitled COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS. I thanked many of my favorite people; and mentioned that the song is from WHITE CHRISTMAS. The musical was playing at the Skylight Opera Company. The song I'M DREAMING OF A WHITE CHRISTMAS is sung in the musical; and if you haven't noticed, we have had snow nearly every day since the show opened. I would rather have the fake snow they use on stage every night; then the awful snow we have had to drive in all of December. But, if you wanted a white Christmas you certainly had one the last month of 2007!

Now it is time for a New Year, and lots of resolutions...that last a week or so. It is also time to start the 2008 theater season, along with all types of local Milwaukee entertainment. This is a wonderful town for theater. One only has to look at THE NORMAN CONQUESTS at the REP to see that. Also, it is a time to make sure

you take in theater on every level. Community, school, semi-professional and professional. If you know children putting on a show in the garage or basement, go out and enjoy the theater experience. Also take in the Symphony, and Ballet, and the many Jazz clubs.

In 2008 there will never be a weekend that does not challenge us in all the area of the performing arts. The group THE FOUR LADS had a hit with the popular standard MOMENTS TO REMEMBER. So, take the time to enjoy the wonderful moments in life every single day. Also, think of how much we have grown as a community of people; who only a few decades ago had to hide all of their personal feelings about love, and life.

- The First of Many 2008!**
- Boulevard Ensemble- SAY GOODNIGHT GRACIE
- Stackner Cabaret- GRAFTON CITY BLUES
- The Rep-THE NORMAN

- CONQUESTS**
- Racine Theatre Guild-YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU
- Renaissance Theaterworks- RED PEPPER JELLY: THE BEST RECIPE
- The Bay Players-LAUGHING STOCK

The show LAUGHING STOCK is about a group of actors doing Summer Stock. They mix up their repertory shows of CHARLEY'S AUNT, DRACULA, and HAMLET. It is a hilarious time for all, and the entire cast closes with AULD LANG SYNE. Outstanding 2007 Entertainment (Local Celebs) Lee Ernst, Debra Staples, Dale Gutzman, Mark Hooker, Sandra Stark, Mark Ninneman, Mark Bucher, Dear Ruthie, Michael Johnston Jonathan West, Norman Moses, Kelly Simon, Joshua Parks, Paul Helm, James Searles, David Flores, Brian Richards.....thanks for your wonderful, creative work. And a special thanks to all entertainers in Milwaukee. Support your local area bars!



THEATER

Ray lives on the Lake on the East Side. He is artistic director of RSVP Productions at the Astor Theatre. He also directs theater in Whitefish Bay, and works as a free-lance director, and theater teacher. Highlights include working with Lana Turner, and Mickey Rooney.

My Aunt Blanche was seen around town for New Years Eve; and hasn't been seen since....Where is Blanche? (most likely drunk at Harbor Room) R.B.

Last MONTH's Trivia Answer
 HAVE YOURSELF A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS is in the movie "Meet Me In St. Louis"

This Month's Trivia Question
 What is a BURLESQUE show?

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