

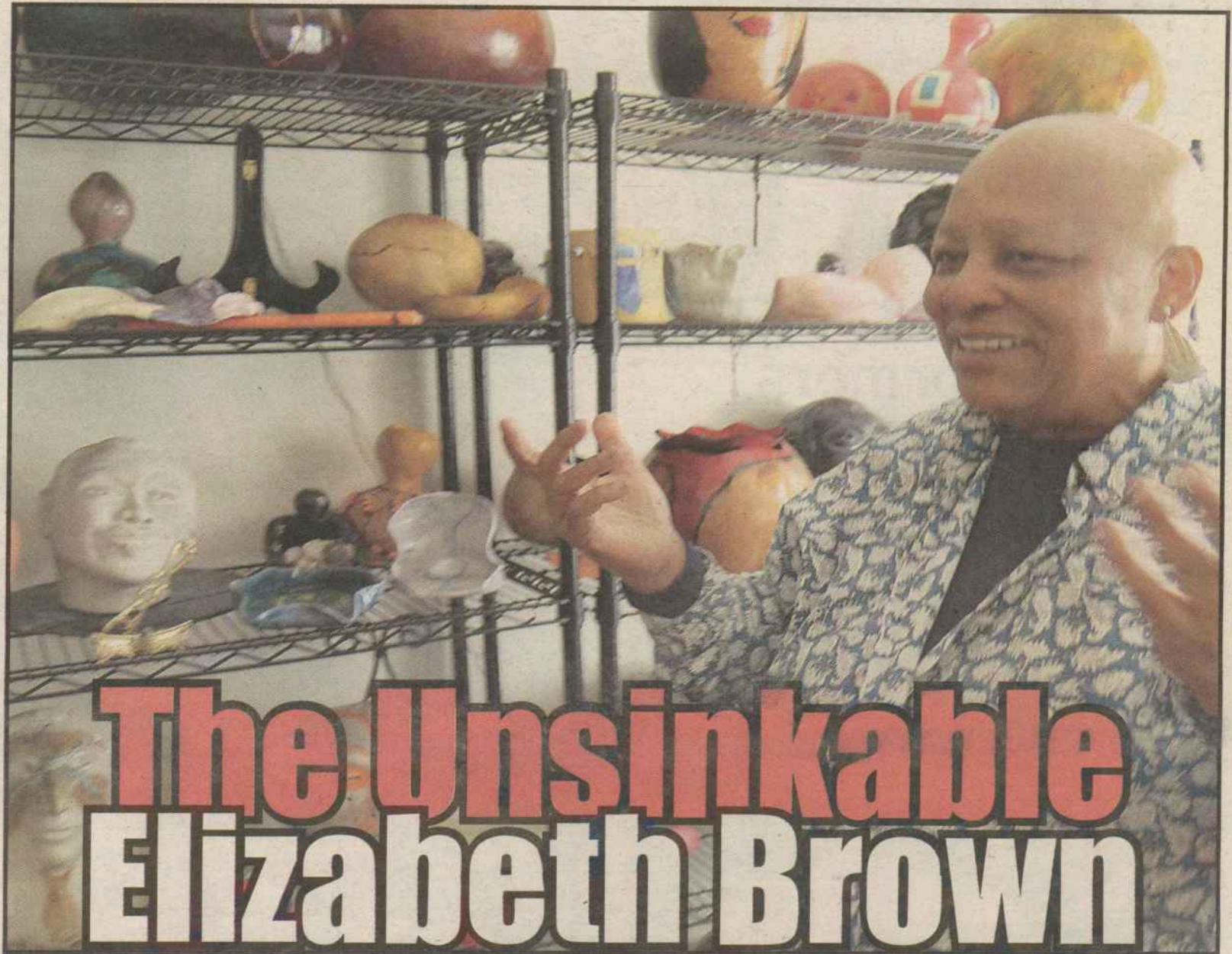
By Kate Sherry

*"Working with what I got, I gotta keep on. Takin care of myself, I wanna live long. Aint never ashamed what life did to me, wasn't afraid to change cuz it was good for me" Work That - Mary J. Blige*

"I'm a Georgia peach," laughs seventy-year-old Bay View resident Elizabeth Brown. The youngest of eight children, she was born in Atlanta, Georgia in 1937 and settled in Milwaukee by way of Chicago. She's the mother of seven children, the devoted partner for the last eleven years to Milwaukee lawyer Janet Mueller; creator of many works of art, and the survivor of several devastating blows. Through it all, she has coped by creating; mixing her spirituality and joy of life with colors and textures - leaving not only a piece of art behind, but the story that goes with it.

"I'm a survivor. I've been blessed," says Elizabeth, who recently passed her one-year milestone in her battle against cancer. "When they said, 'massive amount of cancer' I asked Jesus that I be used to show that miracles can happen," says Elizabeth. And they did. She was treated at Froedert Medical College, and is now cancer free.

"You know, my thing wasn't the fear of dying," says Elizabeth, "But the way you die. I don't



# The Unsinkable Elizabeth Brown

wanna be lingering. Don't bring me back - if I conk out, don't bring me back! Cuz I gotta go again!" She stands, beaming, radiating joy.

"I always had a guardian angel looking after me. Ever since I was born, I always had visions of some kind. You just know something's gonna happen. I believe in Jesus, and the Goddesses, I believe in a greater power. I wouldn't be here if I didn't." She points out one of her sculptures sitting on a turntable. Here comes a story.

"Last year about this time," she starts, "The x-ray technician showed me the x-ray of my cancer and asked what I saw." Elizabeth smiles that big white grin of hers and says, "I didn't see the cancer inside, I saw a silhouette of a bald headed person laughing, and thought I'm going to sculpt it into a mask!" And guess what," she laughs, rubbing her hands over her hairless scalp, "Six months later, here it is!"

"I'm really weird" she says slapping her hands together with a big chuckle. She points back to the sculpture of a laughing, bald female head she created while recouping. It rests on a turntable, so when spinning, it produces different expressions in every direction. She spins it around a few times, pleased with her work.

"My son laughed at me. Told me I look like a baldheaded old man. I said, "Better man than you!" She laughs hard for a moment, then states rather serenely, "See, because you think you gonna shame me. You don't shame me. And you can't criticize

what you came through"

In 1954, after spending a childhood she describes as being "highly abused, sexually," seventeen-year-old Elizabeth gave birth to the first of her seven children. By the time she was twenty-one, she'd have another. She was a single mother, struggling to survive, and struggling to come to terms with her sexuality.

"I knew from since I was an itty bitty girl that I was a lesbian. Had I said anything," explains Elizabeth, "I'm sure I would have been ostracized. In the south they used to call lesbians, "Bulldaggers." I don't understand why, but that was the name for it. Or 'them funny big women.'"

Elizabeth, however, was intrigued. These women were gracious, and had "the most beautiful smiles, and good hugs," she says. "They weren't like the other ladies who were church going and authoritative and stern. But I couldn't ask anybody about any of that."

Finding herself "drifting" and alone after the death of her mother in 1958, Elizabeth continued to struggle. She worked as a cook for the railroad, and for easier cash, sold half pints of whiskey out of her peacoat to the gamblers at the racetrack on Sundays - when it was illegal to sell liquor. "I was a business woman in my younger years" she says with a sly smile.

Elizabeth would visit the liquor store on Saturday, and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

**Call Today to place your ad in Our June Edition 414-383-8200.**



# ON THE RAINBOW STAGE

8pm Saturday  
June 7th

A musical showcase of performers from the Bear community



Tommy Johns (top), Andy Northrup (left), Freddy Freeman (right) plus Charlie K. Brown, Michael West & Ron Morris



## HEADLINE SHOWS ON THE MILLER LITE MAIN STAGE

No Lines! Print Your Tickets At Home!

WANDA SYKES  
Friday, June 6th



NATASHA BEDINGFIELD  
Saturday, June 7th



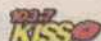
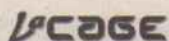
INDIGO GIRLS  
Sunday, June 8th



RESERVED AND GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT PRIDEFEST.COM

[A limited number of reserved seats are available for headline shows, but all ticket types include headline performances.]

DJ Tony Moran in the Dance Pavilion Saturday, June 7





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## In Vino Veritas

Mix N' Mingle at Cedar Creek Winery  
in Cedarburg, WI

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

6:30 P.M. Winery Tour;  
7:30 P.M. Wine Tasting



Join other guests of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center for a tour of a 1860s woolen mill and its stone wine cellars located in the historic Cedar Creek Settlement in downtown Cedarburg. Then participate in a formal wine tasting of five to seven Cedar Creek Wines, while delighting in the view of the beautiful Cedar Creek waterfall that flows alongside the mill and through the heart of Cedarburg. Hors d'œuvres will be provided during the wine tasting as well.

LGBT Center Member rate:	\$15.00
Non-Member rate:	\$20.00

RSVP (with payment) no later than June 10 to Patrick Price, Director of Philanthropy, at (414) 292-3065 or via e-mail at [pprice@mkelgbt.org](mailto:pprice@mkelgbt.org). Winery tour and wine tasting *only permits 45 guests*, so RSVP as early as possible. Please note that *guests must be at least 21 years of age* to participate, so bring proper identification.

Cedar Creek Winery  
N70 W6340 Bridge Road  
Cedarburg, WI 53012  
(262) 377-8020

Llink to <http://www.cedarcreekwinery.com/directions.asp> for directions. Do *not* use MapQuest, as the information provided there has been noted as being incorrect.

*Uva uvam videndo varia fit.*

## SSBL opens 2008 softball season May 3

By Paul Masterson

The Saturday Softball League (SSBL) opens its 12 week 2008 softball season on Saturday, May 3 at Wick Field at 50th Street and Vliet Avenue at 11am. Beginning May 10, all games will be played at Sijan Field in Bay View.

This year's team roster consists of nearly a dozen teams divided into competitive C and recreational D divisions. What's the difference? "There are criteria to establish C or D level. C players have more advanced skills and experience. They play a more competitive game. D players may have less



experience but enjoy playing for the recreation. Both levels are intended to promote sportsmanship and athleticism as well as just have fun," SSBL commissioner Brian Reinkober said.

This year, all teams will play against each other. As always, SSBL promotes a policy of inclusion for all interested players. Teams are composed of a diverse mix of men and women. Non-LGBT players are always welcome. SSBL allows a 50/50 LGBT to non-LGBT player ratio to encourage diversity.

Players may join teams at any time. Anyone interested, regardless of playing skill,

should contact the team of their choice for more information. Player's fee for the season is \$30.

Gay softball in Milwaukee officially began in 1977. Gay Softball Worlds Series (GSWS) took place here in 1979 and 1985. This year, the international Dairyland Classic will set a new precedent with the inclusion of a softball team from Great Britain. The DLC 2008 logo now displays a third flag of participating countries in addition to those of Canada and the United States. The tournament takes place August 14-17.

SSBL teams will likely participate in the Northstar Classic Tournament in Minneapolis over Memorial Day weekend. SSBL is also hoping to send teams to Canadian tournaments in Toronto and Montreal.

This year the Fluid Aardvarks traveling team consisting of qualifying players from SSBL will play in the 2008 NAGAAA World Series in Seattle. All World Series team members are required to help SSBL raise funds by working 10 games as concession volunteers at Miller Park during Brewers' home stands. Last year SSBL sent 18 players to the Gay Softball World Series in Phoenix, Arizona. That team took second place in the D Division.

### GSWS 2009 Update

SSBL Milwaukee won the bid to host the 2009 Gay Softball World Series August 31 through September 5, 2009. Volunteers are already being sought to provide support for this historic event.

GSWS Opening Ceremonies are planned to be at Summerfest grounds; Closing Celebrations at the new Harley Davidson Museum. SSBL recently confirmed the GSWS traditional charity fund raiser, NAGAAA Talent Night, will be held at the Pabst Theater. All proceeds from Talent Night will be donated to a local charity.

The GSWS impact on the SSBL, the Milwaukee LGBT community and the city itself will be huge. Thousands of team members, fans and friends will converge on the city for what promises to be a historic event featuring national name talent to open and close the series as well as street parties, special events and, most of all, spectacular softball.

## Jerry Grillo to do Benefit for SAGE/Milwaukee

On Friday, May 30th at 8:00 p.m. Jazz Singer, Jerry Grillo will do a benefit performance of his cabaret show, "Songs Made Famous By Women" at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center. The event will raise money for SAGE/Milwaukee, Senior Action in a Gay Environment.

Grillo is well known in the Milwaukee area for his performances singing jazz renditions of pop music. He has his own group, the Jerry Grillo Band and also performs with the nationally known Nick Contorno Orchestra. Mr. Grillo has also produced several CD's showcasing his special twists to songs that everyone knows. For this benefit he will be sing-

ing songs that were made famous by women performers.

SAGE/Milwaukee is a local organization that is committed to advancing the quality of life for seniors who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender. This is the second benefit that Mr. Grillo has done for this organization.

The benefit will be held at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 South 2nd Street at 8:00PM. Ticket price is \$15.00. For more information or to order tickets please call SAGE/Milwaukee, 414-224-0517 or stop in their office at 1845 N. Farwell Avenue, Suite 220.



**BROWN** *continued from page 1*

purchase half pints of whiskey to sell at the races the next day for double or triple the cost.

In 1959, Elizabeth and her two children packed their belongings and left Atlanta for her sister's Chicago home. She describes 1960's Chicago as a lonely, overshadowed place with un-friendly people, and streets dirtier than those in Atlanta. Struggling to follow the old southern rules of her upbringing, Elizabeth found herself denying her true feelings when she wed a man to "do the right thing for society."

While still married, a friendship Elizabeth shared with a young woman became romantic, and Elizabeth felt as if she had "committed the ultimate sin". She made a decision. After a life spent living by others rules and regulations, she finally chose to come out as a Lesbian. "Once you become free, there's a happiness can't nobody steal."

With a rocky marriage at best, Elizabeth and her husband separated, and remained so until his death in 1988. Now on her own, Elizabeth supported her family by working both as a dental technician, building sets of fake teeth, and as a Chicago City cabdriver. "I can make the best false teeth in the world," laughs Elizabeth. However, it was driving the cab that paid off.

"It was the best job I ever had in my life. I made more money driving a cab!" She breaks into laughter when she recalls how she didn't know there was a way to flag down a taxi, and used to think people were just being polite by waving at her cab as she drove by waving in return.

Tragedy befell the family, when one of Elizabeth's older sons was killed in Chicago. He had, she says, spent this life mesmerized by Chicago's criminal element. "As a parent, you can only be responsible for what happens in your household, while they're in your household. And whatever went wrong, it didn't happen on my shift. You want to keep teaching 'em, but they reach a certain age, and you can't anymore."

Again, Elizabeth found herself desperate for clarity, and sought help by enrolling in the Moody Bible Institute. "I was trying to be religious," says Elizabeth, "and I prayed when a bad thought come into my head, or I said curse word. It was driving a cab that made all those curse words I hadn't used in 3-4 years come back! I had to leave Chicago. And when the spirit tells you to move, you move."

She searched for job opportunities, and made the move to Milwaukee in 1988 after accepting a position as dental technician. Elizabeth also worked for five years as a family advocate at the Milwaukee Women's Center, and often answered the distraught calls on the center's crisis line.

"You listen to these calls, and it bares on your soul, so you just want to get rid of it. I'd sit before the clay before going to bed, and work it out." Putting her hands on that earth was Elizabeth's way of dealing with realities of life. "There's something about putting your hands in the clay, something comes through the earth, something really good."

It made sense for her to use clay as a cleansing of sorts. As a young child, she had been restricted to the house and the yard following her sexual abuse. She passed the time, playing in the mud,

and making sculptures. "I learned how to do sculpture, before I knew what sculpture was," says Elizabeth. She mentions that she never knew the word sculpture, because she had stopped learning to read in the fourth grade, when she already "knew enough to get by." It wasn't until spending a lifetime of dodging jobs that required a lot of



Several of Elizabeth's jewelry creations

reading that she discovered she is dyslexic.

She continues working with clay, creating sculptures of faces, and female figures. She's discovered the many artistic possibilities of gourds, creates works out of glass, and eases the pain of others by creating artwork specifically for them. She sees art not just for its aesthetics, but for its soul.

Several years ago, Another tragedy led to another "healing" through creating. After exiting a gas station on W.Vliet St., her youngest son Cary was shot and killed.

"He was just so much," she says, her eyes sparkling. "He was my teacher, he was my friend, he was my son." While alone in Cary's room after his death,

Elizabeth sat down and began painting. Hanging on her wall, in a room consumed by various artworks, is a lone canvas. An explosion of black and red paint in the middle of a white canvas. It was her way of working out the pain.

"We fight to keep from moving on sometimes as hard as we fight to get to where we're going." Says Elizabeth. "It is hard moving on, but I got tons of memories and jokes for rainy days. And I can just reach in and pull them out."

For Elizabeth, art not only heals, it celebrates the joys in life. Her approach to creating a piece of art, be it one of her sculptures, paintings, cast jewelry, painted gourds, or her one-of-a-kind walking sticks, she always takes a natural, organic

approach. "Whatever comes up, that's it. Those are the blessings of playing around. You ain't doing wrong, cause that's the only thing you're doing," she says, then adds with a laugh, "would I could, I'd do a three legged dance with my walking stick."

Her basement in the home she shares with her partner Janet, is a maze of workstations, with gourds being her project du jour. "You can make anything out of gourds," announces Elizabeth, as she shows us several that are painted, or decorated, or even open like boxes. Her first creation? A birdhouse for Janet.

Janet, she says, is the love of her life. "she's a wonderful partner," says Elizabeth. "she's a little crazy, because she choose me. But, you know. hey, we're together. I love her I really do. There's no body else in my entire seventy years that has been what Janet has been in my life. There's no replacing that. I wouldn't want to."

Although it's been a while since she has worked with any of Milwaukee's LGBT groups, she wouldn't mind finding a group for inter racial lesbian couples. Because Janet is white, Elizabeth hesitates to join groups geared only towards African Americans. "My blood line is mixed. My relationship is mixed. I can't ignore that part of me, and I don't want to leave her out."

In the past, Elizabeth was involved with the Lesbian Alliance, SAGE, and also helped search for a building for the LGBT Center. "So many times, I had to bite my tongue," she says. "This community should not be fighting each other the way they have been and not supporting each other. What we have to do is drop that ego shit about "me, me me" and come together."

She laughs, perhaps nervous over what she is



Elizabeth shows one of the many decorated gourds in her collection.

saying. But if you know anything about Elizabeth Brown, you know she says what she wants. "I'm just freeing up here. I'm letting it all go, because a couple of months ago I was on my way out the door, and something grabbed me and said, 'come back in - you got to tell them before you leave - tell 'em how you feel!'"

And tell them, she does. "I don't have to ask anybody to be who I am. I paid my dues already. I've been through too much to let it disappoint me. I figure the truth is the best way to go. Truth and honesty. I ain't hurting nobody."

To see Elizabeth's work, visit [www.sagewomancreations.com](http://www.sagewomancreations.com)



## This Month in Wisconsin LGBT History - May

By Don Schwamb and Michail Takach

### 1978 - Thirty Years Ago

Saugatuck Lodges, self-described as both the "Fire Island of the Midwest" and the "gayest resort in the Great Lakes" announced its opening for the 1978 summer season. Offering five acres of secluded woods, campsites, restaurants, a disco, and a nude beach, Saugatuck Lodges was a screaming deal by today's standards, with camping at \$4/night and summer rooms starting at \$17/night. The resort offered monthly events all season long, including Leather Week, Mr. Jockey Shorts Contest, and of course, the "famous giggle weed parties."

### 1988 - Twenty Years Ago

LGBT activists were outraged when a cereal commercial for Kellogg's Nut'N'Honey seemed to encourage gay-bashing. As the memorable Old West scene played out, an effeminate chuck wagon cook is asked by a butch cowboy what's for breakfast. When he responds, "Nut'N'Honey," the entire cowboy camp quickly draw their guns on the cook for what they understand to be a romantic pass.

The Coalition against Media/Marketing Prejudice (CAMMP), a Chicago-based media watchdog group, called for the immediate withdrawal of the ad campaign. "These commercials are not merely offensive, but they send a serious and dangerous message: that gays and lesbians, or anyone perceived as sexually or behaviorally different, are easy and acceptable targets for trivialization and/or direct violence."

Kellogg's vice-president for public affairs assured the media that there was no intention to promote violence against the LGBT community. CAMMP quickly countered with a statement that "any commercial in which gun-toting cowboys threaten to kill a cook who they think has called them 'honey' implicitly promotes a dangerous message endorsing violent intimidation of gays and lesbians." Kellogg's later pulled the ad.

### 1993 - Fifteen Years Ago

Following a two-week cryptosporidium epidemic that caused over 100 deaths, infected over 400,000 Milwaukee residents with gastrointestinal illness, and attracted negative media attention for the city, the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin disclosed a five-month-old study suggesting that Milwaukee had a long-standing problem with cryptosporidium contamination.

Originally mistaken for a flu epidemic, the cryptosporidium outbreak was especially cruel to persons with weakened immune systems. During the crisis, 48% of Milwaukee AIDS Project patients reported illnesses, 12 were hospitalized for dehydration, and four actually died. Although it was never determined if the four deaths were caused by water contamination, the Milwaukee AIDS Project continued to advise its clients to use only boiled or bottled water for years after the outbreak.

Although a malfunctioning water treatment plant received most of the blame, the root cause of the contamination was never fully isolated. To this day, Milwaukee's cryptosporidium crisis remains the largest waterborne disease outbreak ever documented in American history.

### 1998 - Ten Years Ago

A decade ago, Viagra was released by the FDA and became instantly popular for its effects on erectile dysfunction. However, the medical health community asked groundbreaking questions about Viagra's safe interaction with other medications, notably protease inhibitors and antibiotics commonly used by HIV patients. It was rumored that combining Viagra and amyl nitrate (i.e., poppers) could be deadly - and this was later validated by researchers, who proved a Viagra-nitrate combination could cause a fatal drop in blood pressure. In May 1998, the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA) met with drug manufacturer Pfizer, Inc. to lobby for improved consumer education on Viagra's health risks.

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](http://www.WisconsinGayHistory.org)

Please support our LGBT History by donating to the History Project. If you have items to donate, or can help financially, please write: [webmaster@mkelgbthist.org](mailto:webmaster@mkelgbthist.org).

MAY 2 - Author Dawn Marie Sheedy book signing - 6:30PM

Mrs. Fun - 8:30PM

SUN: Big Liquid Brunch  
TUE: \$5 for 5 Miller Shorties  
EVERY WED: Melissa 7-9PM  
THU: 2-4-1 All Night (except Top Shelf)  
FRI: Prize Night  
SAT: Pull Tab Specials  
\*Last Saturday of the Month - Drag Show



TUES-FRI 4PM-CLOSE  
HAPPY HOUR 5-8PM  
SAT-SUN 11PM-Close

1101 S. 2nd St.  
Walkers Point  
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MAY 6 PABST

2008 ARTIST SERIES AT THE PABST  
**GABRIELA MONTERO**

MAY 7 PABST

**TEGAN AND SARA**

MAY 7 TURNER

**STREETLIGHT MANIFESTO  
PLUS SPECIAL GUEST MU330**

MAY 8 TURNER

**DEVOTCHKA**

MAY 8 RIVERSIDE

**THE SWELL SEASON  
THE STARS OF "ONCE"**

MAY 9 & 10 RIVERSIDE

DAVE AND CAROLE'S  
WKLH COMEDYPALOOZA  
W/ KATHLEEN MADIGAN,  
STEPHEN LYNCH

MAY 10 TURNER

**THE AVETT BROTHERS**

MAY 10 PABST

2008 HAL LEONARD JAZZ SERIES  
**RUSSELL MALONE**

MAY 11 RIVERSIDE

**FLIGHT OF THE  
CONCHORDS**

MAY 12 TURNER

**M.I.A.**

MAY 12 PABST

**WAS (NOT WAS)**

MAY 14 TURNER

**LAURA VEIRS  
W/ LIAM FINN**

MAY 16 PABST

**LE MYSTERE DES  
VOIX BULGARES**

MAY 18 PABST

LIFETIME TELEVISION'S  
**LISA WILLIAMS  
LIFE AMONG THE DEAD**

MAY 23 PABST

**RILO KILEY**

MAY 24 TURNER

**TIGER ARMY  
W/ THE UNSEEN, WAR TAPES**

MAY 28 TURNER

**THE SPILL CANVAS  
W/ LUDO, STEEL TRAIN, SING IT LOUD**

MAY 30 PABST

**MARTIN SHORT**

MAY 30 TURNER

**THEE SILVER MT. ZION**

JUNE 1 TURNER

**THE KOOKS**

JUNE 7 TURNER

**MARK KOZELEK OF  
SUN KIL MOON, RED  
HOUSE PAINTERS**

JUNE 13 TURNER

**SHE WANTS REVENGE  
BE YOUR OWN PET  
W/ THE VIRGINS, SWITCHES**

JUNE 13 PABST

**AIMEE MANN**

JUNE 15 PABST

**DAVE KOZ**

JUNE 22 TURNER

**ISRAEL VIBRATION**

JUNE 28 PABST

**NATYARPANA DANCE CO  
PRESENTS MAYA KAILAS**

JULY 24 RIVERSIDE

**BILL MAHER**

JULY 26 TURNER

**SECRET CHIEFS 3**

JULY 31 TURNER

**CSS & THE GO! TEAM**

AUG.1 PABST

**FERRAS**

AUG.15 TURNER

**JOHNNY WINTER**

AUG.16 PABST

**CAPITOL STEPS**

AUG.23 PABST

**GLENN MILLER  
ORCHESTRA**

OCT.5 PABST

**JUNGLE JACK HANNA  
LIVE ANIMAL SHOW!**

DEC.30 & 31 PABST

**JIM GAFFIGAN**

AND MORE SHOWS AT PABSTTHEATER.ORG!



Wisconsin



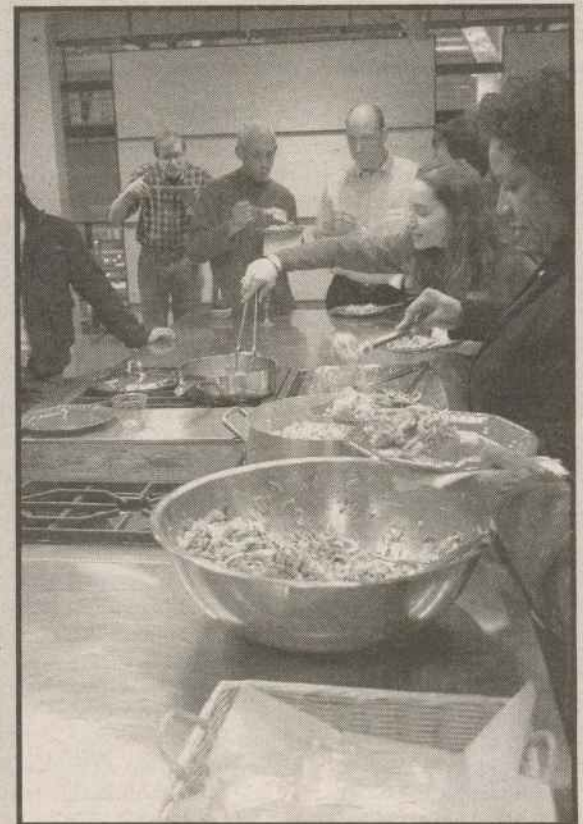
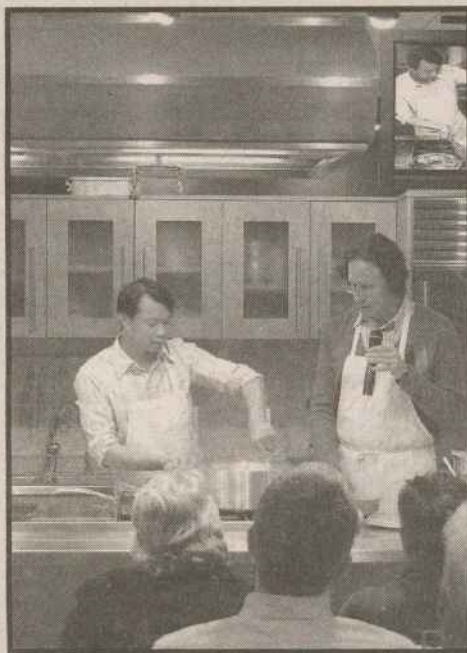
Happenings

## Mix n' Mingle event at Milwaukee Public Market a great success!

The boiling pots, steaming pans, and enticing aromas from Tuesday, April 8th cooking demonstration by chefs Erik Nillson and Dexter Tamondong at the Milwaukee Public Market kept the LGBT community center Mix n' Mingle audience of more than 40 people highly entertained and—well—drooling to “taste the tropics” - the theme of the evening. Combining the unique ingredients and flavors of the Philippines, Guam,

and other Asian countries, chefs Nillson and Tamondong presented a feast of four recipes for everyone to taste and that, as they demonstrated, anyone could easily cook at home. Rumor has it that another demonstration may happen next fall!

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center would like to thank the Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Johnson & Pabst LGBT Humanity Fund and Joe Pabst himself for supporting the Mix n' Mingle gathering, Jill Nickerson of the Milwaukee Public Market for providing a wonderful venue for the cooking demonstration, and, of course, Erik Nillson and Dexter Tamondong for their fascinating and easy-going presentation on Asian cooking...we haven't seen the last of those boys yet!



### New LGBT Business Group Forming

**Milwaukee** - LGBT professionals, business owners and their allies are invited to a meeting to learn more about QShare Business Network - a project of the Cream City Foundation (CCF) on Wednesday May 21, 5:30-7:30pm at Bella Café.

QShare is based of a model used in New York by Cream City Foundation sister organization, Stonewall Foundation. The object is to create a network for business owners and professionals that includes business networking, social and educational events, along with giving back to the community.

QShare fees go to a pool of funds where QShare Business Network members get to select an LGBT organization or project to fund together at the end of the year. In addition, QShare will create member-only networking, social and educational events.

The name of the project comes from “Quarter Share” where 75% of fees go to the grant making pool and 25% of fees go to the administration of the project, including the member gatherings.

“We will have events at least quarterly. Imagine business speed dating, referral networks and directories and sponsoring LGBT projects,” says Denise Cawley, principal Circore Creative and QShare Business Network Chair. The infrastructure is handled by CCF, which means all fees are 100% tax deductible, and members can concentrate on what they care about. The fact that there is a built in “activity” to give back, gives the group value right off the bat.

“I am delighted to chair this group. Business owners and professionals don't have time to run another group. That is the advantage QShare Business Network has over previous groups we tried to start. There is no non-profit status to achieve, no infrastructure to put in place and we have a purpose for meeting - networking and giving,” says Ms. Cawley.

RSVP for the May 21 event by contacting Maria Cadenas at 414.225.0244 or at [director@creamcityfoundation.org](mailto:director@creamcityfoundation.org) for Qshare Business Network.

### Men's Voices Announces Showstoppers

**Milwaukee** - Men's Voices Milwaukee is pleased to announce its Spring concert, “Showstoppers, Sponsored by Jack H. Smith of Shorewest Realtors” on Saturday, June 21 at 8PM, Men's Voices will perform its biannual choral concert at the Helen Zelazio Center at UWM under the direction of maestro John Schaefer.

The concert will be a collection of some of the best songs written by Andrew Lloyd Weber and Steven Sondheim; rarely performed in Milwaukee.

Men's Voices will sing big hits from Sweeny Todd, Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat, Evita, and many other of Broadway's most touching shows.

Tickets are \$15.00 and available by calling the Zelazio Centre at 414-425-7921 or from choral members. There will also be a silent auction conducted.

### Fair Wisconsin Moves Forward

Glenn Carlson, interim Executive Director of Fair Wisconsin since November, had the word “interim” removed from his title by the boards of directors of Fair Wisconsin and the Fair Wisconsin Education Fund, at their meetings held in Milwaukee on March 15th. The move is just one of many actions the advocacy group has made recently to protect the civil liberties of Wisconsin's gay and lesbian citizens and their families.

“The boards and I felt that the executive director recruiting process, which we had just started, was going to be a major distraction from the important plans that Fair Wisconsin developed for 2008,” explained Carlson.

Carlson stepped down last November as board president of the Fair Wisconsin Education Fund to become interim Executive Director. Carlson served as board treasurer of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force until 2006 and, prior to moving to Wisconsin in 1997, served for seven years as board treasurer of the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center, the largest LGBT social service agency in the world. He is a retired CPA and a former partner at both Price Waterhouse

and Arthur Andersen.

Continuing with Carlson on the senior leadership team are Bill Conway, Deputy Executive Director and Fair Wisconsin's lobbyist, and Mike Tate, Political Adviser. Conway previously served as Deputy Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing in the Thompson Administration. Tate was the campaign manager of the Fair Wisconsin campaign in 2006.

“Our goal is to end discrimination permanently,” Carlson said. “Our group has the strategy, tools and passion to do that through education, political action and hard work. Not only is time on our side in this historic battle, but the good people of Wisconsin are seeing the light when it comes to the unintended consequences of writing discrimination into our constitution.”

The new executive director urges those who want to get involved in the crusade to combat injustice to visit his group's website at [www.fairwisconsin.com](http://www.fairwisconsin.com).

### News of the 2008 MKE Pride Parade

**Milwaukee** - It's almost here! Those of you making floats have one month left before you roll them up 2nd St. in front of the adoring crowds and critiquing eyes of the Milwaukee Pride Parade judges. The chosen judges are as follows:

Andrew Debaker from NEW Pride. (Northeast Wisconsin Pride) - Andrew is the Co-Chair of the committee in charge of creating and putting on one of the best Pride events in Northeastern Wisconsin. For more information about Andrew you can contact him through [info@newpride.org](mailto:info@newpride.org). Marilyn Mee from 96.5 WKLH Classic Rock - Marilyn Mee has been a staple of the Radio Industry in Milwaukee for Many Years. She hosts the Mid-day radio show on WKLH on a daily basis and is an active supporter of the Wisconsin Humane Society. For more information about Marilyn you can read a full biography and email her by using this webpage <http://www.wklh.com/MarilynnMee.asp>.

A Mystery Judge from Madison Pride! - Madison Pride is an annual festival held in Madison Wisconsin. Last year



they threw one of the best Pride parties in South Central Wisconsin. The event is slated to take place July 19th and 20th. For more information on Madison Pride and just who exactly is coming to judge you can reach the Madison Pride Board at info@madisonpride.org

**It's Countdown Time!**

The date for the 2008 Milwaukee Pride Parade is Sunday June 8th, with step-off time at 2PM sharp. The location is South 2nd street from Greenfield Ave to Seeboth Ave. If you have any other questions or for an up to date listing of sponsors and unit entries please visit the Pride Parade website at www.prideparademke.org.

**Now, Where to stay?**

The Milwaukee Pride Parade is also happy to announce a partnership with the Hampton Inn Milwaukee-Airport. Through this partnership the Milwaukee Pride Parade has been able to negotiate a special room rate for the thousands of people who travel to Milwaukee for the Pride Weekend. Specially priced rooms will start at \$89.00 per night with complimentary shuttle service to and from the Pride Parade and other Pride events. For more information on room rates you can contact Matthew J Landgraf who is the general manager of the Hampton Inn - Milwaukee Airport. You can contact him by phone at 414-762-4240 or via email at landgraf@raymondteam.com.

**ARCW Medical Center Hires Third Physician**

**Milwaukee** - The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin recently hired Dr. Christine Hogan to serve as the third physician in the ARCW Medical Center. Dr. Hogan's addition to the ARCW Medical Center staff comes at a key time as the agency continues to expand access to medical care for HIV patients throughout the state.

"With new patient intakes at the ARCW Medical Center at an all-time record high level, it is essential we attract talented and experienced health care providers to care for the more than 800 patients," ARCW medical director Dr. John Fangman said. "Dr. Hogan brings a wealth of research and teaching experience to ARCW and has a reputation as a compassionate and skilled clinician."

"I am very excited to be joining the ARCW Medical Center during this tremendous time of growth and expansion," Dr. Hogan said. "With the tremendous advancements in HIV care and treatment now available through the ARCW Medical Center, I am looking forward to developing long-term relationships with HIV patients and working with them to keep or regain their health and reach an undetectable viral load."

Dr. Hogan, a Brookfield native, has an impressive career working with people living with HIV. Following her graduation from the University of California, San Francisco School of Medicine, Dr. Hogan completed her residency at Massachusetts General Hospital and her infectious disease fellowship at Columbia University in New York City. She also did work with the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center in New York on acute HIV infection prior to coming back to Wisconsin and starting with ARCW.

"The ARCW Medical Center is a top-notch clinic providing outstanding service to a growing number of patients who have traditionally not had access to care," Dr. Hogan continued. "I am truly looking forward to being a part of making a positive difference in the lives of people living with HIV."

**Mr. Gay USofA**

**Green Bay** - As many of you are aware, Miss Gay WI USofA is entering its 20th year in pageantry and female impersonation in the state. It is with great pleasure that USofA pageants has added Mr. Gay USofA to the family this year.

Wisconsin's long history with USofA pageants has entitled us to bring Mr. Gay WI USofA to the state, and we are very excited to be part of such a wonderful family.

The first Mr. Gay WI USofA contest has been scheduled for Saturday, May 10th, 2008 at The Shelter Club, in Green Bay. Contestants will be competing not only for the bragging rights of being the first Mr. Gay WI USofA, but for the opportunity to represent Wisconsin at the national competition in San Antonio, Texas, September 18th and 19th. Contestants will compete in personal interview, talent, and club wear. More information, can be found at www.USofA.org, or www.WI-USofA.com

**ARCW Expands Services in Kenosha**

**Kenosha** - As a way to help more HIV patients reach undetectable viral levels, the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) Medical Center now offers mental health services to people living with HIV in Kenosha. The integration of mental health care furthers the ARCW commitment to ensuring everyone living with HIV has access to the care and treatment they need to live a long and health life and comes soon after the clinic tripled its week hours of operation.

"The ARCW Medical Center has set an ambitious goal of helping all HIV patients reach an undetectable viral load," said ARCW Kenosha Clinic Director and nurse practitioner Sharon O'Dwyer. "This is the most important quality-of-care goal in HIV treatment because it indicates that people living with HIV are controlling the production of the virus in their body as effectively as possible."

Achieving an undetectable viral load is evidence HIV medications and medical care are allowing people with HIV to regain their health and live long and health lives. This previously hard to attain goal is now a reality for many HIV patients at the ARCW Medical Center and is the result of successful individualized care and treatment plans each HIV patient has at the clinic.

An extremely important component of quality health care and helping HIV patients reduce their viral load is access to mental health care. Because many people living with HIV are also experiencing depression, anxiety, alcohol or other drug dependency or post-traumatic stress, access to mental health services is vital to help HIV patients adhere to complicated treatment regimens.

"Effective mental health care can promote healthy behaviors that increase the lifespan of people living with HIV while working to reduce behaviors that put people at risk for transmitting HIV," ARCW mental health therapist Dr. Nadia Damm said. "By offering mental health services here in Kenosha, ARCW is making this effective component of HIV care and treatment more accessible to people living with HIV in the Kenosha area."

In addition to medical and mental health care, people living with HIV in and around

Kenosha can access several key services such as access to a food pantry, legal services, housing support, dental care and social work case management.

To learn more about ARCW services, please call 262-657-6644 or go to www.arcw.org.

The ARCW Medical Center, with a clinic in Kenosha, is the largest provider of HIV medical care in Wisconsin. The ARCW Medical Center provides HIV medical care to more gay men, women and people of color than any other clinic in the state. ARCW is Wisconsin's largest and most comprehensive AIDS service organization with nine statewide locations providing medical, dental and mental health care, legal services, food pantries, housing services and social work case management to more than 3,000 people living with HIV.

**PrideFest Update**

Reserve tickets for the Sunday performance of The Indigo Girls sold out in one hour! PrideFest organizers have responded by adding three additional reserved seating rows, which are selling briskly. Also, the block of rooms set aside for PrideFest at the Double Tree hotel have sold out, and organizers are currently seeking more options.

Always a popular stop for PrideFest attendees, this year's Dance Pavilion will more than live up to its reputation as the biggest outdoor dance party on Lake Michigan. PUMPI, the Milwaukee-based dance music collective, will once again produce the PrideFest dance experience, featuring DJ John Murges and a lineup of the region's best DJs.

On June 7th, PrideFest, PUMPI, Decibel Nightclub and Three Olives Vodka welcome DJ Tony Moran for a four-hour set. Over the years he has been a major contributor to the dance and pop music scene, and Moran will bring a blazing DJ set that will be one of the biggest dance events of the year.

The Dance Pavilion will extend its hours to Midnight on Sunday, while the rest of the grounds will close at 10PM. The dance area will also feature upgraded sound, lighting and effects. Video screens will be used all weekend and lighting trusses will be added directly above the crowd. There will also be new elevated dance platforms for the audience with UV-enhanced lighting so the party envelops the entire pavilion.

The Tranny Roadshow rolled into town April 12 to perform at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center. Pictured during the last number, are: (L to R) Ryka Aoki de la Cruz, Dallas-Marie Spitzer, and Tranny Roadshow founder, James Terry.

The fifty plus crowd enjoyed music, and spoken word from the performers, who flew into WI for just that weekend. They also performed in Madison.



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# Happy Mother's Day!

I know many of us have less than perfect relationships with our own mothers – they are not who we wish they were, who we wanted them to be, or we are not who they wish we were or wanted us to be. But, for many, the relationship we have with our mother is like none other. And for many Lesbian and Gay people, coming out to Mom is a moment that we'll always remember, for better or for worse.

I came out to my mom the day after I returned from my first trip to the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival. I was wearing my rainbow beads, my goddess t-shirt, and other Lesbo-wear from Michigan and if it wasn't obvious to her upon seeing me, I vowed that I would have to just come right out and say something. After all, I had just had the most amazing week ever, and I had just met the woman of my dreams, the love of my life and the person I would soon move in with, get commitment-ceremonied to, and create a life with! I was so excited and so happy about this - I had to tell mom right now!

I was in the kitchen with my mom when my sister walked in, looked at me, and said, (something like) "don't those beads mean you're a Lesbian?" I said, "yes." And that was that.

My mom looked shocked, and then asked me to pass her the ketchup from the fridge. We did not say anything more about it after that, not for a while. It wasn't hard, she wasn't upset. I just think she did not expect it at the time, in that way. When I went back to college I emailed and got emails from my love about 20 times a day, and spoke on the phone for hours each night. I was so happy with my new found Festie-inspired Lesbian-freedom, that I hardly noticed my mom wasn't calling as much as she used to.

I called her up and asked her about this, and we had a long talk about me,



## 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.

my life, and about my partner. After that and to this day, she is fine. She loves my partner, approves of our life choices, and is happy to count my partner and I as her family. There's no PFLAG in the small town where she lives, but if there were, I'm sure she'd love to be a member. She always brings me into conversations at work when people are making homophobic comments, seeks out LGBT people in her neighborhood to befriend and keeps me informed about everything she sees or hears about LGBT people.

It's actually kind of cute, and I let her share about which character on the Amazing Race or Big Brother is Gay or Lesbian this season, and I take her updates about the cast of the L-Word appearing on the View seriously, because I know that she is telling me this because she loves me, and she supports who I am.

Thanks Mom, and Happy Mother's Day!

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The Milwaukee LGBT History Project

The Milwaukee LGBT History Project is a major undertaking to gather photos, documents, and archival materials from people and organizations while they still exist.

They are currently being deposited into the UWM archives

View the 2008 History Exhibit in the Arts and History Pavillion at PrideFest  
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a program of SAGE/Milwaukee  
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## Outwards Books

Exclusive to Q Life May 2008.

### LGBT PARENTING TITLES:

1. "On Being a Gay Parent," Brett Webb-Mitchell This practical, down-to-earth guide to being a gay Christian parent is filled with useful stories, creative ideas, and thoughtful reflections, while raising up important issues facing LGBT households. Includes a list of resources helpful in addressing often-surprising issues, simple day-to-day tasks, and crucial decisions.

2. "Gay & Lesbian Parenting Choices," Brette McWhorter Sember Finally, a complete explanation of the many ways gay and lesbian couples can create a family and the legal hoops they must jump through. Written by an attorney in an easy-to-understand style, this guide provides a comprehensive look at the options available to gay couples and offers advice and information on how best to proceed.

3. "Gay Parenting: Complete Guide for Same-Sex Families," Shana Priwer This insightful guide offers sage advice for same-sex families in every stage, from making the decision to have children to dealing with embarrassed teenagers. Discover the ways same sex parents should accent family pride to deal with being more visibly out. Explore the options for bringing children into your lives, including adoption, fostering, surrogacy, and donor insemination.

4. "Complete Lesbian and Gay Parenting Guide," Arlene Istar Lev Gay/Lesbian parenting can be a positive decision, but author and lesbian mother Arlene Lev admits it isn't always an easy one. With practical wisdom and advice, and personal real-life stories, Lev prepares LGBT parents for this endeavor with everything they need to know and can expect while making their own significant and challenging mark on family life in the 21st century.

5. "Gay Uncle's Guide to Parenting" Brett Berk With over twenty years of experience working with children, Gay Uncle Brett Berk uses his expert outsider's perspective to break moms and dads out of the Parenting Bubble, an alternate universe where hourly tantrums somehow seem 'normal'. Packed full of candid advice, handy checklists, and hilarious stories of parents even crazier than you.

### RECOMMENDED YOUNG ADULT FICTION:

1. "The God Box," Alex Sanchez In an unforgettable novel, Lambda Award-winning author Alex Sanchez tells the story of Paul, a religious high-school senior whose life is turned upside-down when he meets Manuel, who says he's both Christian and gay -- two things Paul didn't think could coexist and causes him to reevaluate everything he believed.

2. "Luna," Julie Anne Peters For years, Liam has transformed himself into the beautiful girl he longs to be in the secrecy of the basement bedroom. Now, as Luna, Liam is about to emerge from her cocoon. But are Liam's family and friends ready to welcome Luna into their lives? Compelling and provocative, this is a groundbreaking novel about a transgender teen's struggle for self-identity and acceptance.

3. "Geography Club," Brent Hartinger Russel is gay, and he knows he better keep it secret, or he'll be a total outcast. Then he discovers that there are others like him—including Min, his longtime best friend as well as gorgeous, popular jock star Kevin. Seven of them form a support group, the 'Geography Club'. For a short time, life is blissful until intense peer pressure and insecurity take their toll.

4. "Annie on My Mind," Nancy Garden This classic, groundbreaking novel, first published in 1982, offers the story of two teenage girls whose friendship blossoms into love and who, despite pressures from family and school that threaten their relationship, promise to be true to each other and their feelings.

5. "My Most Excellent Year," Steve Kluger Meet T.C., who is valiantly attempting to get Alejandra to fall in love with him; Alejandra, who is playing hard to get and is busy trying to sashay out from under the responsibilities of being a diplomat's daughter; and T.C.'s brother Augie, who is gay and in love and everyone knows it but him.

All of the above books and many more are available at Outwards Books, Gifts & Coffee located at 2710 N. Murray Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53211 (414) 963-9089 www.outwardsbooks.com



# Staking Our Claim

For many LGBT people in Wisconsin, April and May represent a period of renewal and coming to life again. Religious traditions from Christian or Jewish to Wicca support this perspective in their individual lives, in families, and more broadly in their social networks.

The first warm days or – after a particularly bitter winter – the first non-freezing days, spark the urge to dust off flip-flops, tank tops, and shorts. Many queer folks will regret having added pounds over the past several months. That regret will translate for some into lots of calorie counting, a bit of physical training, or some jogging on city streets. Some will look at that beer or cocktail in a new way: a social lubricant will morph into a toxic brew of empty calories before their eyes.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender homeowners will join their neighbors in assessing winter damage to their homes and gardens. For some, the last several months of poring over seed catalogs will shift to the first tentative forays into the garden center; pruners will get sharpened and spades dusted off.

But as the sun rises earlier each day, warming the air a bit, two other spring traditions are put in our faces: taxes and an annual report of Social

Security benefits upon retirement or disability.

Gay tax dollars support the same wars, roads, social supports, subsidies, and infrastructure that everyone else's dollars do. They are collected in the same way and cost us the same amount of money or time to record or report by April 15. We get the same messages when we make errors in our reporting or when we file late.

But we will not receive the same benefits of these taxes. Tax laws and other regulations of 401(k)s and pension plans discriminate against same-sex partnerships; costing the surviving partners in same-sex relationships tens of thousands of dollars a year.

Our annual Social Security Statements also reflect this inequity. While we pay the same 7.65 to 15.3 percent of our salaries or wages and other income as our heterosexual peers, as a community we will receive significantly fewer benefits upon disability or death. No number of visits to [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov), reading publications, or using the Social Security Benefit Calculator (all purported to assist in accessing benefits), we cannot change this fact: we are screwed.

The National Coalition for LGBT Health notes that Social Security does

not pay survivor benefits to the same-sex partners of someone who dies or is disabled, "equating to an estimated \$124 million a year in disallowed benefits to LGBT elders" alone. They go on to report "Medicaid regulations fail to protect the assets and homes of same-sex partners when the one partner enters a nursing home or long-term care facility." Medicaid appropriately pays for hormones prescribed to women and men for a variety of health reasons, but it does not pay for the exact same hormones when prescribed to transwomen and transmen.

Let me make this clear. I am NOT a reluctant taxpayer. My parents taught me well about the need to support the common good and contribute my fair share. But in the issue of these tax benefit inequities, the good is not common and our share is not fair.

This spring may just be the perfect time for another type of renewal and inspiration. Lesbian, gay, bisexual,



## HEALTH

Gary Hollander, Ph.D., ([ghollander@queerlifeneews.com](mailto: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.

and transgender people in Wisconsin could renew our push for our rights. No state-level fight for civil unions or gender expression alone is going to change our status with the IRS, Social Security, or Medicare/Medicaid.

The stake we plant in the ground this year should be for our rights to access the health and wellness benefits we have paid for...not just for our tomato plants.

## OUR COMMUNITY

### Fund Created for UWM Libraries LGBT Collection

**Milwaukee** - Joseph Pabst, an advocate, activist, and philanthropist in the Milwaukee LGBT community, has created a fund to support the acquisition, processing, and preservation of materials for the UWM Libraries LGBT Collection and to promote the collection to UWM students, faculty, and the general public.

Pabst said the endowment - officially, the UWM Libraries LGBT OUTreach History Fund established by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Johnson and Pabst LGBT Humanity Fund - supports an important objective.

"The UWM Libraries have the largest LGBT collection in Wisconsin," Pabst said. "It's a breathtaking collection that documents Milwaukee's gay community from its beginnings. People in the community need to know about it and support it."

Michael Doylen, Head of the UWM Libraries Archives, noted that Wisconsin has a rich LGBT history, but it is neither well documented nor widely known.

"For the last several years, the UWM Libraries have worked with organizations and individuals from the Milwaukee community to ensure that the record of our local history is preserved and made accessible to everyone," Doylen said.

"Joe Pabst's generous gift to establish the LGBT OUTreach History Fund gives us the financial resources to carry this mission forward. We're deeply grateful."

Pabst established the fund in memory of his partner, Robert Johnson, an attorney, avid reader, and vocal advocate of LGBT issues. He said he hopes that others will contribute to the endowment.

This is not the first time Pabst has been involved in supporting the collection. This past fall, he offered a \$1,500 challenge grant to preserve the audio recordings of /Gay Perspective/, an early 70's radio program produced by the Gay Peoples Union. That challenge was met early this year.

Once preserved, those recordings will be digitized and included in a Web-based collection of print and manuscript materials documenting the history of the Gay Peoples Union, the first gay rights organization in Milwaukee. The recordings will be available on-site in the UWM Archives and accessible to anyone with a computer. To view the UWM Libraries LGBT collection, please contact Michael Doylen, Archives, (414) 229-6980 [doylenm@uwm.edu](mailto:doylenm@uwm.edu) or Max Yela, Special Collections, (414) 229-4345, [maxyela@uwm.edu](mailto:maxyela@uwm.edu).

Although a minimum of \$40,000 is required to establish an endowment at UWM, the Libraries invite others to augment the LGBT OUTreach History Fund with donations of any size. For more information, please contact Susan Modder at (414) 229-2811 [semodder@uwm.edu](mailto:semodder@uwm.edu).

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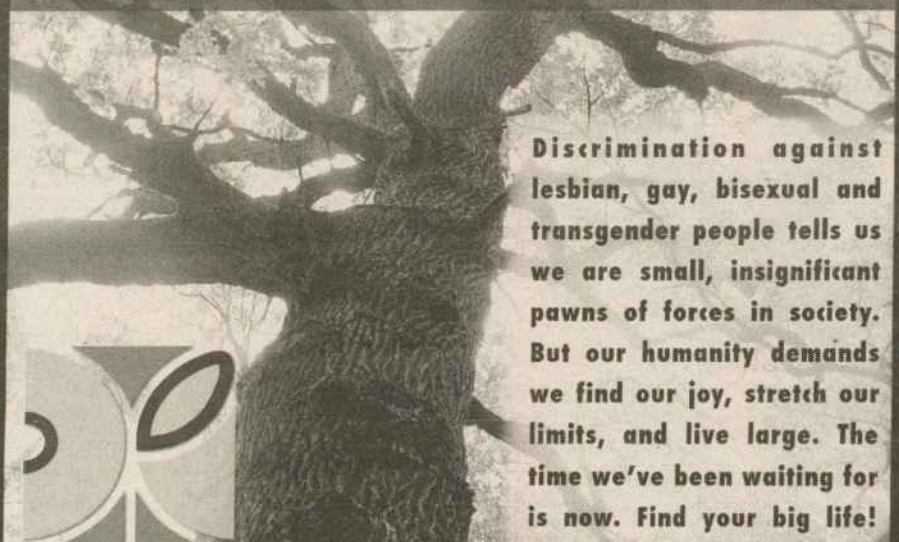
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Queer Life is the information voice of the LGBT community. As a monthly publication and the only state-wide gay newspaper headquartered in Milwaukee, each issue celebrates Wisconsin's diverse population with boldness and class. From what's happening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

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QLife prints a free, monthly newspaper, distributed throughout Milwaukee, and the state. You can find it at coffee shops, bars, libraries, stores, and a variety of gay friendly locales. Have you been wanting to get QLife delivered right to your home? Well, you are in LUCK! Subscriptions to QLife News are now available for \$24/Year. Send check to: QLife News, 2266 N. Prospect Ave, Suite 200, Milwaukee, WI 53202. Or, give us a call at 414-383-8200, and we will take your CC info over the phone. Visa/MasterCard only, please.

#### CONTACT QLife:

Queer Life's offices are open to the public. Regular business hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday - Friday except for holidays.

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Editorial May 2008

## Small World

By Kate Sherry

Over the past year and a half, QLife News has been doing a series of cover stories on different LGBT organizations in town. Connexus, Anti-Violence Project, Diverse and Resilient, Cream City Foundation, and FORGE have all graced our covers. But what about people in the community?

I first met our cover subject a couple of years ago, when my mother told me about this woman in her jewelry class at MATC. As a sidebar, a bit of "small world" phenomena occurred when I arrived at MATC to drive my mother home. I was new to Milwaukee, and had just been to the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, to drop off some of my paintings for an upcoming show, and meet the Director, and Curator, Paul Masterson. He wasn't there, so I nervously left them tucked inside the old QLife office and went on my way.

When I picked up my mother,

I told her how "that guy at the gallery" wasn't there. She said, "what is his last name again?" I said, "Masterson", and she had me to put my things in the car, and follow her back into the class. There, at a table, tinkering away on a piece of metal, was Paul Masterson. Small world. Standing at a nearby table was Elizabeth Brown.

You cannot picture Elizabeth without a smile on her face - so positive, and thoughtful, all wrapped up in crazy. Good crazy. The kind that makes you laugh. A lot. She makes you want to have the courage to speak your mind as well. I thought she'd be a great start to profiles on people in and out of the community. If you know of anyone who you feel would make a good profile story, feel free to nominate them by writing editor@queerlifeneews.com.

This month, we have two pieces that caused the staff a bit of concern - do we print them, do we not print them? Well, there is always the option to edit - which we did.

One piece by Patrick Flaherty is regarding his race for 3rd district Alderman. The other, by Bea Green, regarding "fat" lesbians. Now, the thing about Bea's article was that

I initially found it to be too harsh. Truth hurts me, perhaps? However, I knew that she was coming from a place of promoting good health - and once she explained herself, the article was placed. It was edited due to length. We really appreciate the enthusiasm that the writers provide, but without additional ads to balance out the valuable 'real estate' of the page, we have to cut down lengthy articles.

The other, by Patrick, was also long, but our owners took issue with the content - and before placing the article, we needed to change a few things. What is interesting about his race for Alderman, is the backlash he endured from the LGBT Community. He had an excellent chance of winning, and by the meager amount of votes that decided the outcome (he lost by 71) one has to wonder if he could have succeeded had he been supported by LGBT individuals who favored his opponent. They certainly have every right to vote for who they feel would be best suited for the position, so maybe we really do need to ask ourselves something Patrick mentions - Is being gay enough?



### Reflections on a Race

What an exhilarating four months I had running for alderman on Milwaukee's East Side. The race consumed virtually every waking hour of my day but was worth it - even though we fell 71 votes short of victory on April 1.

The support I had from my partner, my family, friends, LGBT community, neighborhood folks, colleagues in organized labor and progressive organizations, elected officials, clergy and more made it all worthwhile. As an organizer desperate to break open the closed club that is elections, I was thrilled that our campaign brought new people into political organizing in a big way.

For the first 100 years of the city, the Milwaukee Common Council was of the usual straight white male variety. Since the 1950s, women and people of color made inroads. And in 160 years, no openly LGBT person has won the election. The 3rd Aldermanic district has long seemed a logical place to end that streak, as its residents include the city's largest gay community. Indeed, Karen Gotzler, a pioneer in Milwaukee's LGBT community in the 1980s and 1990s, came close to representing the district in 1996, winning the primary (as I did) but ultimately losing the general.

It was in this context that I ran. I had extensive experience with city government, having led passage of four different equality measures and worked on block grant and zoning issues as well as the growing movement to hold corporations that receive city resources to a higher standard.

Our campaign raised the most money of any aldermanic campaign and garnered impressive endorsements from officials and organizations. Our message was informed by the conversations I had with thousands of voters in near-daily door

knocking. Straight or gay, voters wanted to know the same thing - my positions on development, neighborhood safety, declining city services, and relations with UW - Milwaukee.

We also ran the most out campaign in the history of Wisconsin. Campaign communications proudly noted my achievements on LGBT issues and mentioned and depicted my partner Kurt. The day my candidacy was announced in the daily paper I wrote an op-ed describing my organization's gay rights victories in 2007. In summaries of my candidacy, the same paper spelled out exactly what the "LGBT" in my employer's name stood for and listed my family status as "domestic partnership."

We wondered if we were overdoing it when straight voters started confronting me with "what the hell does running the gay community have to do with city hall," gay voters told me being gay "wasn't enough," and the hate mail with detailed descriptions of anal sex started coming in. On Easter Sunday, shaking hands with parishioners outside of my opponent's church, an elderly woman told me she "knows all about Patrick Flaherty" before shuddering and concluding, "ICKY!"

In such a positive campaign with so many dedicated supporters, to comment on anything negative feels a bit like second-guessing a hugely successful party by noting the few who skipped the festivities. And while I will always be grateful for the overwhelming support of the LGBT community and allies, in the interest of community reflection, I do think it worth noting some below-the-radar tactics by some LGBT community members who favored my opponent.

In a widely circulated email I was accused of hiding my partner because one dozen campaign photos showed me with my siblings and my parents but not him. I was also accused of not testifying for domestic partner benefits at an MPS hearing immediately before the campaign when in fact I did testify and indeed had led the campaign to turn out dozens of equal rights supporters.

There were other factors more instrumental in my defeat, but this defamation was potent because it spoke to the two audiences who ultimately defeated me - the ultra-right and ultra-left. Antigay conservatives were made aware that I was gay, and progressives were left to wonder about the integrity of a man who would supposedly hide something so essential.

Patrick Flaherty  
Milwaukee





## Letters to the Editor

### Our Own Worst Enemy

Recently, here in Milwaukee, an openly gay candidate for 3rd District Alderman, a good honorable man who I will always be honored to have been part of this campaign lost by just seventy-one votes' out of almost ten thousand votes cast.

In my opinion, he lost because two members of our community "figuratively" stabbed him in the back.

"A house divided cannot stand" as the saying goes.

Terrance J. Rohloff  
Milwaukee

### Identity Politics

Having worked on Patrick Flaherty's campaign from the start of the aldermanic race in the third district, I was always aware of the tension created by having two, well-known progressive members of the Riverwest queer community competing against each other.

Rather than focus exclusively on pertinent issues affecting the district, Sura Furaj chose to make sexual identity a centerpiece of her campaign. She asked us to unite behind her candidacy because she was presenting herself as the "openly gay" candidate, questioning Patrick's loyalty to the gay community. Identity politics have seldom served our ambitions. As a tactic, it generally pits factions against each other and destroys any hope of finding common ground for the good of the larger community.

So I, and many of my friends, colleagues, and allies of the queer community, was dismayed when Sura endorsed Nik Kovac after losing in the primary. If she truly thought that having a representative of the gay community on Milwaukee's Common Council was important, why didn't she try to unite us behind Patrick's campaign?

Lizzi Dahlk  
Milwaukee

## The SAGE/Milwaukee Luncheon

The Annual Meeting took place Sunday, April 27 at the Astor Hotel. Milwaukee's 19th District State Assembly Representative Jon Richards spoke on legislative events and issues. A reception was followed by a silent auction, then luncheon, and finally the SAGE Annual Meeting.



The SAGE/Milwaukee Board speaks to attendees



19th District State Assembly Representative Jon Richards addresses crowd

From the Editors of E/The Environmental Magazine

### Dear EarthTalk:

*I was surprised to learn recently that some cities, including New York, have outlawed kitchen-sink garbage disposals, at least in homes. I would have thought these machines were Earth-friendly. What's the deal?*

- Maggie Mangan, St. Louis, MO

**K**itchen sink garbage disposals are not necessarily Earth-friendly in and of themselves, but they do play a valuable role in grinding up food scraps into small enough bits for local sewer or on-site septic systems to handle. In the U.S. overall, about half of all homes have a garbage disposal in the kitchen. New York did outlaw the devices for many years, thinking a ban would alleviate the strain on the city's aging sewer system. But a study later conducted in the mid-1990s found benefits to lifting the ban, including a likely reduction in rat and cockroach problems and a reduced flow of solid waste to landfills already bursting at the seams. So in 1997 the Big Apple began allowing the devices again.

But garbage disposals are not the greenest way to dispose of food waste. According to Mark Jeantheau of the popular eco-website Grinning Planet, conscientious consumers interested in returning food-based nutrients back to the Earth should bypass the garbage disposal in favor of composting.

"The ground-up waste [in a garbage disposal] does not go back to nature's water supply to be gobbled up by fish and other life forms," he says. Sewage-treatment and septic systems remove "any food value the waste might have had." Indeed, most modern-day sewer filtration systems utilize chemicals to rid the outflow of any life forms, beneficial or otherwise. Plus, grinding food in a garbage disposal uses a lot of freshwater, which is becoming a more and more precious commodity.

Those on their own septic systems also might want to minimize their use of the garbage disposal. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), regular use of garbage disposals leads to a "more rapid buildup of scum and sludge layers in the septic tank and increased risk of clogging in the soil

adsorption field due to higher concentrations of suspended solids in the effluent." Jeantheau adds that even if a given septic system is designed to handle

heavier, food-based loads, it still might not be worth the risk: "There are few homeowner nightmares worse than having your septic system go belly up."

While composting may sound like a messy proposition, it doesn't have to be. For starters, those doing the dishes should make sure to dump any and all food waste items into a kitchen-based composting bin with a lid that seals tight. Many municipalities now make such bins available to interested residents. A mesh strainer in the hole in the sink can catch smaller food scraps and be dumped into the composting bin when the dishes are done.

When the kitchen-based compost bin fills up, it can be dumped into a larger composting bin outside. After four to six months, you should have some nice compost to add to your garden and jumpstart the health of your soil. Companies such as The Compost Bin and Clean Air Gardening offer online sales of a wide variety of quality compost bins of different shapes and sizes, and provide a wealth of comparative information for the interested consumer.

# EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers  
About Our Environment

CONTACTS: Grinning Planet, [www.grinningplanet.com](http://www.grinningplanet.com);

The Compost Bin, [www.compost-bin.org](http://www.compost-bin.org); Clean Air Gardening, [www.cleanairegardening.com](http://www.cleanairegardening.com).

GOT AN ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTION? Send it to: EarthTalk, c/o E/The Environmental Magazine, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; submit it at: [www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/thisweek/](http://www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/thisweek/), or e-mail: [earthtalk@emagazine.com](mailto:earthtalk@emagazine.com). Read past columns at: [www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/archives.php](http://www.emagazine.com/earthtalk/archives.php).



# The Pregnant Man

"I feel cheated, never being able to know what it's like to get pregnant, carry a child and breast feed." - Dustin Hoffman

Thomas Beatie, recently on Oprah and featured in The Advocate, knows what it's like to be a pregnant man. So do a lot of other men. How is this possible? Here is Thomas's story in a nutshell:

*Person assigned female at birth socially, medically and legally transitions to male. Boy meets girl. Boy legally marries girl. Couple wants to have a child. Girl unable to conceive. Boy still has factory-equipped ovaries and uterus. Boy stops using testosterone. Couple employs widely used insemination technique. Boy gets pregnant.*

*It's that simple. He is just a man who, with his wife, wants to have their own child. End of story.*

**M**ainstream communities are, in some cases, appalled. Some are accepting. Some have a live and let live attitude. Secretly, some - like Dustin Hoffman - are probably jealous of this possibility.

Some people in the broader queer community think this is another example of how people who don't fit within the queer-enough-but-not-too-queer-"norms" are creating barriers for all of us, tainting our community's public image.

Even in the trans community, some

people are outraged that an FTM is being so public about bearing a child. Flurrying concerns abound about the damage it may cause our reputation and rights.

As previously (and still) disempowered communities, we have fought hard to protect and/or gain equal rights. We want to be able to remain employed and not be fired because of our sexual orientation or gender identity (or for any other reason!).

We want to be able to decide what we do with our bodies - to have piercings or tattoos, shave our legs, bulk up at the gym, or wear baggy clothes.

We want to be able to choose who we fall in love with, who we have sex with.

We want to be our own body's graphic designer.

We also want to be able to make reproductive choices that are personal choices, not dictated by laws, policies, or prejudice.

How do we divide what is

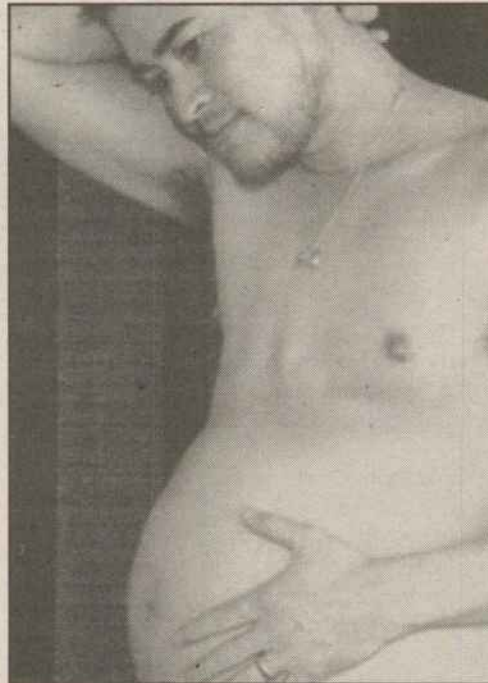
someone's personal right - to make choices about hir own body - and what is political?

Due to increased media attention that some FTMs can and do chose to bear children, it is possible that conservatives will push to make policy changes that require more stringent

(and costly, not to mention physically invasive and often undesired) medical procedures before allowing someone to change their legal status as male or female. Will transgender people lose the ability to control our own bodies and be forced to make medical decisions

based on the need to have identification that matches our outward appearance?

Increased media attention also



## TRANSGENDER

Michael Munson (mmunson@queerlifeneews.com) is an emotionally intense, transgressively gendered, passionate social agitator who strives for inclusion and harmony by focusing on our human similarities and strengths. He is lovingly committed to his partner and their 12 year old son.

puts others not in the central story at risk, too. Because gender identity and expression is not a federally protected class (and surprisingly few cities and states have anti-discrimination laws), the film footage that ABC News ran in response to Thomas Beatie's story may cost a now-stealth FTM birth parent his job. Ironically, this FTM was at the center of a very similar community-splitting controversy in the 90s, when he was one of the first very visible FTMs who consciously decided post-transition to birth a child.

Our country is still arguing, protesting, and murdering about the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision. I doubt that the emerging legal, medical, and social issues surrounding FTM pregnancy will be any shorter-lived. I just deeply hope that our society can honor and encourage personal choice/freedom, without stimulating political restriction, fear or violence.

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## Condo Living

## Your Urban Address Awaits You

**Milwaukee** – It is no secret that Milwaukee has numerous condos for sale. So what is it about Urban Address that makes it so different from the rest? What gives them an edge, in today's complicated housing market? For one, it's not trying to be too many things to too many people.

### All things to six homeowners

"We just think the boutique lifestyle suits people," says Blair Williams, founder and President of WiRED Properties, and co-founder of WiRED Ventures. Williams, along with co-founder and President of WiRED Ventures, Elan Peltz are behind the new six-condo Urban Address development on Jackson Ave. Boutique modern residential and retail projects are their specialty.

There will be no gym, no community room, nor any Internet café, in this building. "All of that is nice," agrees Williams, "but a building should reflect the identity of its residents, rather than residents reflecting the identity of the building. If you have a building with 80 people, it starts to change the people that live there in ways that are subtle. You end up with a very homogeneous character to the building very quickly."

### Catering to the individual; not the masses

"We are not now, nor will we ever be the Wal Mart of condo developers," says Williams. "I have yet to see the 100-unit condominium building that actually is 100 homes the way that I think people actually want to live in right now," he explains. Not only is Urban Address a high quality, highly designed property development, it actually fits into the scale of the neighborhood.

Williams and Peltz, both certainly no strangers to the world of property development, sought out an architect with both talent and experience – someone who not only designed this type of building, but saw it through the construction phase. They found that "someone" in Award-winning Chicago architect Mark R. Peters, principal and founder of Studio Dwell Architects.

With over 20 years experience, their projects range from single-family residences to high-rise buildings located within Chicago and abroad internationally. Studio Dwell Architects believes in the quality of space created with simple forms and light - it encourages people to experience architecture, not just walk within it. Because of that, they have among the most popular/best selling homes and condos in the top/hip areas of Chicago with outstanding resale history.

"The response from the architectural community has been exceptional," says Williams. "They've said they feel Urban Address offers all the type of things that high design is supposed to offer." Things like hardwood floors, euro-modern kitchens with granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, custom cabinetry, tiled surrounds, and luxurious euro-modern baths with walk in showers. Each home will also have an attached heated garage, living spaces ranging from 1000-2300sq feet, and a 275sq.ft terrace overlooking the Milwaukee skyline. Not to mention elevators with semi private entry on each floor -you only have to share the floor with one other unit.

### Hands on Designers

Design Within Reach, the Milwaukee firm behind the high quality design of the units, will work directly with the owners. If they need a full package deal, and need the entire place furnished, Design Within Reach offers classic, modern pieces for every room.

"The 6 homeowners that are likely to buy," explains Williams "are likely to share a love of urbanity. They appreciate fine design, are comfortable with



contemporary vernacular, and comfortable with a mix of folks who live in that environment."

When asked how this property might appeal to the LGBT Community, Williams is quick to point out that Urban Address is about diversity, quality, character, and distinction.

One added perk - Urban Address sits next to buildings with historical character, is in an area easy to navigate on foot, and is a style with little to no competition. So, as a buyer, if there ever comes a time when you choose to sell, you'll have an upper hand over other multi unit condos on the market.

### Come check it out

On May 22nd, together with WiRED Ventures, Design Within Reach is hosting "Urban Oasis" a celebration of spring & summer, great architecture and urban indoor/outdoor living. You'll be sure to get ideas for your outdoor planting and furniture, not to mention a closer look at the Urban Address plans. 6PM, Design Within Reach, 167 N. Broadway, MKE. Complimentary wine/beer/appetizers. RSVP: clopez@dwr.com, 414-224-5353

One home has already been purchased and construction plans should be underway by this July. Located on a distinctly residential tree-lined street powdered with old stately homes, and across from the swanky Sanford restaurant, an easy walk to Brady and Water Streets, Urban Address is sure to offer all of Milwaukee's best.

For more information, please visit [www.urban-address.com](http://www.urban-address.com)

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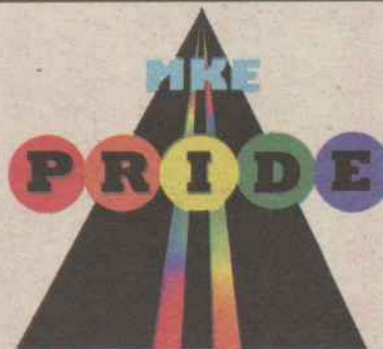
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## MAY CALENDAR

### QLIFE EVENTS PICK: GET YOUR FINANCES IN ORDER!

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center and Prudential Insurance Co. of America along with partnering organizations FORGE, Lesbian Alliance, Gemini Gender Group, and SAGE/Milwaukee present: Financial Wellness: What Every LGBT Person Needs to Know. Thursdays, 6-8PM at various locations. To register for this FREE series, call Patrick Price at (414) 292-3065 or email him at [pprice@mkegbt.org](mailto:pprice@mkegbt.org). Each workshop is stand alone so indicate whether you want the entire series or specific workshops. Times, locations, and speakers are subject to change, so please call ahead to confirm.

## MAY 1

"LGBT PEOPLE & FINANCES" with speaker: Jim Harper. Held at Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St. Milwaukee. Refreshments served.

## MAY 8

"CHARITABLE GIVING" with speaker: Jim Fischer at Home of Joe Pabst, 2770 N. Summit Ave.

## MAY 15

"RETIREMENT RED ZONE" with speaker: Jeff Lewis held either at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St. please call Patrick to confirm: 414-292-3065.

## MAY 22

"LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE" with speaker: Julie Douglas held at the Milw. LGBT Center, 315 W. Court St. Milwaukee.

In the Gallery of the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, be sure not to miss "Art from Saint Paul's" - a special collaboration with Saint Paul's Episcopal Church featuring visual art and music. Photos by Joel Richter. Thru May 30. Gallery Hours: 10AM-4PM, MON-FRI and by appointment. 414-383-3727

### GET IT WHILE YOU CAN...

In the Gallery of the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, be sure not to miss "Art from Saint Paul's" - a special collaboration with Saint Paul's Episcopal Church featuring visual art and music. Photos by Joel Richter. Thru May 30. Gallery Hours: 10AM-4PM, MON-FRI and by appointment. 414-383-3727

Make sure you zip on over to the Milwaukee Public Museum before Bodyworlds takes off on June 1st. Never have we heard a more talked about exhibit. Check the website for times - [www.mpm.edu](http://www.mpm.edu).

### MAY 1

Transitioning Together: Shifting identities, visibility, & hanging in there. 4:30PM, Union 280 at UWM. "Girl meets Girl. Girl becomes Boy. Girl & Boy become a band. Meet "Coyote Grace" - Joe Stevens & Ingrid Elizabeth are partners both on and off stage. In this workshop they share their experience of the FTM transition both as individuals and as a couple. Topics: physical & emotional changes, shifts in orientation, identity, and visibility within the queer community & the mainstream public eye. This discussion will be in a round table format. FREE. MORE INFO: 414-229-4116.

UWM Union Gasthaus Lower Level presents performance by Coyote Grace 9PM. Kenwood Blvd, Milwaukee.

It's Opening Night for MUFF! The Milwaukee Underground Film Festival Starts at 7PM at the UWM Union Theatre, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. (free) The student-run festival features a program of international short films and videos; and continues at various Milwaukee venues through May 4. INFO: Call 414-229-6015, or email [muffinfo@uwm.edu](mailto:muffinfo@uwm.edu), [cinema@aux.uwm.edu](mailto:cinema@aux.uwm.edu), <http://www.filmmilwaukee.org/>

### MAY 2

Femme: Consciously constructing our queered femininities. Whip out your scissors, construction paper, yam, and glitter! Open to anyone who wishes to discuss Femme identity and creatively construct their personal gender expression. All supplies provided Noon Union-Studio Arts & Crafts Center, UWM. MORE INFO: 414-229-4116. FREE

Intro to songwriting: Finding your voice. In this workshop, we will analyze and discuss how the versatility of song form and lyric choice can expand your work. Bring instruments if you have them, although they are not required. Noon. Union-Union Multicultural Student Lounge, W198. MORE INFO: 414-229-4116. FREE.

To celebrate the launch of a new tour season, an ensemble of Milwaukee's most respected actors will perform a two-act reading of The Letters of Noel Coward. Written by Barry Day, this piece created specifically for Ten Chimneys will bring to life revealing letters both to and from the incomparable Noel Coward. 7PM, Lunt-Fontanne Program Center, Genesee Depot, WI. Take I-94 to Exit 287, Hwy 83 South through Wales to Depot Road. \$15 Advance \$20 At the Door

Spiral Theatre Presents "You Should be so Lucky" at their new Bucketworks Venue! Featuring Mark Hooker, Terry Gavin, Jenna Wetzel, Enid Barnes, Amie Strader and Doug Giffin. Last two performances! Tonight at 7:30PM, tomorrow 7:30PM. Bucketworks Playspace, 1340 N. 6th St., Milwaukee. \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors and students. Box Office (414-248-6480) [www.spiraltheatre.com](http://www.spiraltheatre.com).

Get the popcorn, it's SAGE Movie Night!! Hiding out from the Mafia can be an awful drag! Come see the 1975 film, "The Ritz" A movie about a man with a contract out on his life, hiding out in a gay bathhouse, where he thinks he won't be found. It's a loving testament to a bygone era when bathhouses were the focal point of the gay community. SAGE/Milwaukee, 1845 N. Farwell Avenue, Suite 220. 414-224-0517. Bill Serpe will be your grand host, so bring a snack to share. Doors open at 6PM. Movie starts at 6:30PM.

Head to The Alchemist Theatre for "Cracks in the Floor" a new play from the Insurgent Theatre Workshop. May 2-3 at 8PM; May 4 at 4PM and 8PM Alchemist Theater, 2569 S.KK. 414-426-4169

"Livewire" open mic produced by Dayvin Hollman, UW-Parkside Rainbow Alliance President. An evening of spoken word open to all - bring your voice, recite your poetry, dance your dance, express yourself! This will be a new voice in Southeast WI for the LGBTQIS community. Refreshments available. 7PM, Milw. Gay Arts Ctr, 703 S. 2nd, 414-383-8200.

FORGE asks: Think you can't find work? Jolie McKenna will show you can! Never Be Unemployed Again: Self-Reliant Job Searching for Individuals who don't Conform (part one of two, workshop) with presenter Jolie McKenna. 7-9:00PM at LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court Street, Mke. Free. INFO: [www.forge-forward.org](http://www.forge-forward.org) or email [info@forge-forward.org](mailto:info@forge-forward.org). Please write to confirm event.

### MAY 3

Riverwest Fest 12-5PM. Together we must clean our rivers, protect our parks, and allow everyone to have access to a clean and safe lakefront. Through this celebration of the environment and community we shall make a movement for social change and environmental change. Interested in participating? Contact Jess: [helgsen@uwm.edu](mailto:helgsen@uwm.edu) (920)362-1319 or Brianna: [bcharles@uwm.edu](mailto:bcharles@uwm.edu)

Women's Voices Milwaukee present "Greatest Hits" - A benefit concert for the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center. Artistic director Melissa Beastron leads Milwaukee's finest women's chorus in reflections and recollections with musical favorites. 7:30PM, MGAC, 703 S. 2nd St. Donations graciously accepted at the door! Refreshments available.

Bring your friends or children, young and old, to a free performance in Bayview, 1PM. Fasten's own "Le Petit Forest" designer Sabrina

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## ORGANIZATIONS

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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  
bvqpresident@bvqays.com  
www.bvqays.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.bwmtmilwaukee.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/  
femmefamiamke

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.milwaukeegamma.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/TG 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 Gay Soccer  
Association  
info@milwaukeegayssoccer.org  
(414) 405-5878  
www.MilwaukeeGaySoccer.org

Games on Friday nights at  
Uihlein Soccer Park until  
mid-April.

Milwaukee LGBT Community  
Center  
315 W. Court St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53212  
414-271-2656  
www.mkelgibt.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 Asiari and  
North  
African Queers in the Midwest.  
swanaqim-subscribe@  
yahogroups.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.creamcitychorus.org  
Wisconsin Gay Hockey  
414-202-5874  
home.wi.rr.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  
German town, 53022  
www.wiscrad.org

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

### Churches

Bradford Community  
Church Unitarian  
Universalist  
5810 8th Ave  
Kenosha, WI 53140  
262-656-0544  
www.bradforduu.org

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

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.

## MAY CALENDAR

Peterson, and her husband, Josh Peterson master-mind this colorful children's event. Amazingly creative scenery, and loveable hand-made characters tell an educational story. Stay afterwards for children's craft projects and snacks. Free and open to all ages. Fasten, 2224 S Kinnickinnic Ave in Bayview. www.fastencollective.com

UWM Women's Chorus & Men's Glee Chorus. Spring Choral Concert, 7:30PM. Helen Bader Concert Hall, Helene Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts, 2419 E. Kenwood Blvd. Tix: \$10 general/\$7 students, seniors & alumni

Author Moazzam Sheikh reads from The Idol Lover and Other Stories of Pakistan, his latest book at Broad Vocabulary. 4PM, 2241 S. Kinnickinnic Ave. 414.744.8384.

FORGE Social support meeting 6-9:30pm, LGBT Center, 315 Court Street, Milwaukee. The topic: Testosterone! Guest Speaker, Steven Brown, MD explores the benefits of hormone replacement in the process of transitioning for FTMs. Peer-based support in a friendly, facilitated setting. Free. INFO: info@forge-forward.org, or visit www.forge-forward.org/socialsupport/.

Madison Gay Video Club "Darker Secrets, Sideline Secrets 2" (Culture Q, dir. Steven Vasquez, 2008) "Gigolo" (Lucas Entertainment, dir. Michael Lucas, 2007) 8:00 PM, Confidential location. For more info, visit http://www.mgvc.org, or call 608-244-8690 (evenings)

## MAY 4

SAGE/Milwaukee will host a team to participate in the 'Walk A Mile In Her Shoes' event to be held on the Marquette University campus to raise funds for Jewish Family Services, the Task Force on Family Violence and Sojourner Truth House, agencies that SAGE/Milwaukee supports and collaborates with.

This is an opportunity for men to put on women's high-heeled shoes and walk a mile in them to build awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault. For more info or pledge form, call SAGE/Milwaukee at 414-224-0517.

The Milwaukee Tennis Club is having it's registration for the upcoming summer tennis season with Meet & Greet! 2-4PM.

Refreshments available. Milw.Gay Arts Ctr, 703 S. 2nd St. 414-383-3127. For info contact: moenell@sbcglobal.net

## MAY 5

The Community Media Project continues its inquisition into radicalism in film in a new Monday night series. Tonight: "Bamboozled" 7PM. Spike Lee's film explores how old, stereotypical images of Black people are projected through new media. UWM Union Theatre, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. INFO: (414) 229-2931 or www.communitymediaproject.blogspot.com.

UWM Department of Theatre Benefit Reading: "Great Expectations",



# Finding a Congregation

*"No more a stranger, nor a guest, but like a child at home."*

This verse from a hymn by Isaac Watts expresses what many of us want to find in a community of faith – a place where we feel like a beloved child at home with God.

I often hear from people sharing painful experiences of the congregation in which they were raised. Sermons that characterized human sexuality as shameful, a fundamentalist reading of the Bible and outright homophobia can long affect our spirits.

Personally, I grew up Roman Catholic. Other LGBT people may continue to find beauty and meaning in the Catholic tradition despite its teaching on our sexuality but I was never able to. My soul rebelled. I wanted to find a community of faith that held up some positive vision for my life as a gay man.

For a while I journeyed between several different Christian and non-Christian communities. I met some wonderful people but still felt like either a stranger or a guest. It is much easier to leave the church of your birth than to find your spiritual home as an adult.

Eventually I did find the place where I was like a child at home. It was the United Church of Christ, a faith community that offered the one thing I needed most: a commitment to fully welcome LGBT people and to marry

same-sex couples. No congregation is perfect but this spiritual one let me feel at home with God.

Looking back now on my own journey from Catholicism to the United Church of Christ, I realized there were three central questions I wrestled with which may be helpful if you too are searching

As one leaves a community of faith, it is important to ask, "What am I grieving?" There can be a depth and complexity to what we grieve. I needed time to heal from the homophobia I encountered in the Catholic Church and in Christians in general. I was also grieving what I was losing when I left: regular participation in the Eucharist, the ritual meal of bread and wine that

## It is much easier to leave the church of your birth than to find your spiritual home as an adult

is central to Christianity, and a prayer life that included Mary, the mother of Jesus. It remains hard to bond to a new community without acknowledging first our grief.

Next, I asked myself, "What are the gifts of my new community?" Every faith community has unique gifts, special ways they live out their faith: beautiful music, a passion for community service, or even a worship style expressing the mysteriousness of God. This question is a way of getting



## 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.

at what we love in our new community of faith. If there is not a compelling answer then it probably is not the right place. We have to be in love for it to feel like home.

Finally, a community of faith is meant to challenge and stretch us. "What gifts do I bring to this place?" is an essential question. A home is a place where children learn and grow and mature. A community of faith can play the same role in our own lives, helping us to discover new gifts that we have for leadership or service or prayer or advocacy. I knew I was at home in the United Church of Christ when I realized how it had brought out the best in me.

As you look for a community of faith, know that there are many at which you can be welcomed not as a stranger, nor a guest, but like a child coming home.

## MAY CALENDAR

Mainstage Theatre, 7PM. 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd. Tickets: \$25. Students, faculty and illustrious alumni of UWM's Department of Theatre gather to raise money for scholarships for theatre students. A dessert reception follows.

## MAY 6

Milwaukee author Lee Raffel says that avoiding unresolved conflict can drain your energy, wreak havoc on your emotions and destroy your health. "I Hate Conflict!" includes practical advice on how to keep arguments from escalating, how to deal with someone who sabotages conversations, and how to adapt to each of the five most common conflict styles. Schwartz Books, 7PM, 10976 N. Port Washington Rd. Mequon (262) 241-6220

Strengthen your core! Yoyalates, yoga-pilates fusion with Marc - 8 weeks \$40, New students may join at any time. Classes are every Tuesday, 5-30-6:30pm. Milw. Gay Arts Ctr, 703 S. 2nd St. 414-383-3727

Catherine Friend author of "The Compassionate Carnivore" is speaking at Schwartz Books, 7PM, 4093 N. Oakland Ave. (414) 963-3111. Americans eat more meat than citizens in other developed countries. Experts contend that we're eating more meat for two reasons: it is cheaper than ever before, and we're eating more of our meals outside the home. Friend uses her perspective as a sustainable farmer and carnivore to consider meat animals' quality of life, and she shows that it is possible to be happy and humane carnivores. Look for a review online at [www.queerlifeneews.com](http://www.queerlifeneews.com)

Starting today, May 6 and running through NOV 15, The Ten Chimneys Foundation presents the following exhibits. Fashion Forward: The Gowns and Garments of Lynn Fontanne - includes garments created by fashion luminaries like Edward Molyneux, garments created by Lynn Fontanne, and garments she procured at celebrated boutiques. Free. Estate Tours: 24+ hour advance reservations are highly recommended for this virtually barrier-free tour of an estate replete with original furnishings and overflowing with the romance of the Golden Age of Theatre. \$28-\$35 / ages 12 and up/ EXHIBITION: Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne: A Life On Stage. Enter a bygone era of drama and sophistication as you step through the façade of Broadway's Lunt-Fontanne Theatre. FREE. Lunt-Fontanne Program Center, Genesee Depot, WI. Take I-94 to Exit 287, Hwy 83 South through Wales to Depot Road. Open TUE-SAT Closed SUN-MON. (262) 968-4110 Reservation Line; WWW.TENCHIMNEYS.ORG

## MAY 8

Writing to Heal: Transformation Through Words. Topic: Taking Our Power Back. 7-8:30PM, LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. FORGE's monthly facilitated writing group focuses on healing for LGBTQIA survivors of sexual (and other) trauma. All survivors and supporters welcome. All materials provided. \$10 donation requested, sliding fee scale available. Info [www.forge-forward.org/transviolence](http://www.forge-forward.org/transviolence) or email [info@forge-forward.org](mailto:info@forge-forward.org).

## MAY 9

Get your vocal chords warmed up and grab those chintz curtains and hurry down to the Skylight for a dose of the international smash-hit sensation, "Sing-a-long Sound of Music!" from 7-11PM in the Cabot Theater of the Broadway Theater Center. Tix are \$25 - box office 414-291-7800 or [www.skylightopera.com](http://www.skylightopera.com). Watch the film with lyric subtitles and sing along! Repeats May 10.

Milwaukee Short Film Fundraiser/Party at The Art Bar, 722 E. Burleigh, Milwaukee.

## MAY 10

5th Annual Downtown Montessori Academy Auction. Live & Silent Auction, Marian Center for Non-Profits, 3195 S. Superior St, Milw. 6-9PM. \$2 donation to register. Beverage service & free food. You won't want to miss this event! Shop for Mother's Day! [www.downtownmontessori.com](http://www.downtownmontessori.com).

The Diversity and Inclusivity committee of Saint John's On The Lake would like to invite individuals to be a part of a focus group regarding the potential retirement community needs of LGBT persons. Please consider attending the focus group breakfast 9AM.1840 North Prospect Avenue, Milwaukee 414) 831-7300 Contact John St. George,



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# Transcending Pain to Find Power

For the first time in American politics we have a mixed race Presidential candidate poised to be the Democratic nominee and a former adolescent First Child out on the campaign trail on behalf of her mother. Each of these firsts has rendered new lows for inappropriate levels of critique. While vicious mudslinging is going on in mainstream media, we here at QZAP have scored some recent donations to the Archive that shed light on how to steer the way back to being positive.

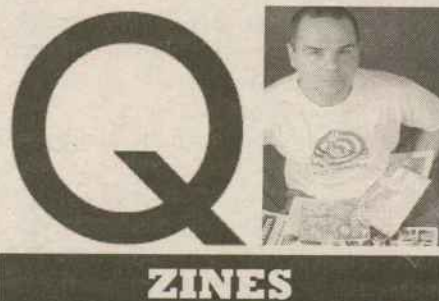
Barack Obama's oratory has inspired good discussion about mixed race people and their identities within American society. It has also brought out creepy, bottom feeding cowards hiding behind misinformed rhetoric while spewing lies about his heritage, beliefs, and patriotism. Mainstream media doesn't provide the means to communicate to average Americans in the brutally honest and frank way zine writers have in **Borderlands: Tales from Disputed Territories between Races and Cultures** [anthology, 2008, 20 pages].

As a follow up to 2007's groundbreaking MXD zine, writer and activist Nia King curated contributions by some of the same authors and has added new writers to bring in fresh stories. From the inclusive call for submissions (boldly asking "Didn't see your experience reflected here?"), the tone is set to create a safe forum for individuals who may have trouble finding collective space. The authors express a wide range of emotion and humor in relating their tales. How lovely that Jessie Michael Aaron Jude Thaddeus Ulibarri is able to connect different aspects of his heritage through an experience in drag! Scary to think that a search for his mother's old neighborhood haunts in a Southern

town subjects Stevie Peace to police harassment. They negate his visit ("your mother never lived here") and directly imply they suspect him of drug dealing.

Shannon Perez-Darby, a MXD alum, brilliantly explores the intersection of sexual identity, classism, racism, body politics, and alcoholism in a mixed Latino family. Her deeply personal story illustrates an underlying theme common to mixed race stories. Brokering use of privilege takes trial and error, with the danger that someone, somewhere at any time can thoroughly disagree with you and seek to cancel you out. I encourage all who desire to move beyond the toxic legacy of racism, and who wish to stop isolating mixed race people through inappropriate questions and awkward situations, to not only read these stories but act upon them. There's a way to build a greater queer community based on all the good things people can bring to the table from their life stories, cultural heritage, and spiritual rituals. Together we can activate the transcendence from pain to find power to craft meaningful identities.

Chelsea Clinton's reception on the campaign trail has been met with hostility in some quarters, but "the gays" are unabashed Chelsea fans. Let's travel back in time to the last teenager to live at the White House to meet a freckled face tomboy from Plains, Georgia named Amy Carter. Much like Chelsea, Amy was subjected to sexist and disgusting commentary about her looks and conduct. In crafting a cult around Amy's unconventional persona, Tammy Rae Carland created the legendary **I ♥ Amy Carter** [Issue 2, 1993, 28 pages] for 1990s alternative/pop culture dykes. Part obsessive fan narrative with multiple pleas for readers to



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

contribute their Amy stories, part radical politics primer, inspiration for this zine aesthetic style clearly comes from G.B. Jones' classic Double Bill. Interspersed with tales of all things Amy are clippings from the Weekly World News about crypto-dykes Kristy McNichol and Jodie Foster. Heck, even a young Chelsea makes an appearance! Tammy Rae's playlist of music taste has names like Donna Dresch and Brat Attack, so it isn't surprising that a few years later she co-founded Mr. Lady records. Label favorites Le Tigre gave her a shout out in their hit "Hot Topic." **I ♥ Amy Carter** Carter is a fun romp through angst-ridden obsession with pop celebrities and serves as powerful feminist critique without being blatant about it. The zine is accessible and enjoyable while making serious points about how society idolizes or destroys young women, who not of their own accord find themselves in the popular eye.

The Queer Zine Archive Project is a free digital archive of past and present zines on the Web at qzap.org.



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P.O. Box 090441

'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.

### MAY CALENDAR

jgeorge@saintjohnsmilw.org

George Motz, author of "Hamburger America: One Man's Cross-Country Odyssey to Find the Best Burgers in the Nation," speaks at Schwartz Books, 2PM, 4093 N. Oakland Ave. (414) 963-3111 "Hamburger America" features 100 of the best burger stands, diners, mom and pop favorites, including Milwaukee's own Solly's Grille, home of the famous butter burger.

Art from Saint Paul's Concert - Part II of a special collaboration with Saint Paul's Episcopal Church. Music from the English, French and German Baroque performed by members of the Saint Paul's Choir with Jerrod Fenske, conductor. Concert includes Psalmi brevi by Andreas Hofer, a composer of the Prince Archbishops of Salzburg and works by J.S. Bach, G.F. Handel and Claude Balabastre. 7:30PM Suggested donation \$10, Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St, MIKE 414-383-3727

### MAY 11

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

University-Community Orchestra conducted by Margery Deutsch, is made up of UWM students and community members and will perform at Helen Bader Concert Hall, 2PM. Helene Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts, 2419 E. Kenwood Blvd. Tix: \$10 general/\$7 students, seniors & alumni.

### MAY 12

Why not check out the Outwords Book Club in May! We will discuss Arnon Grunberg's controversial novel, "The Jewish Messiah." New members are always welcome. Outwords Books, Gifts & Coffee 2710 N Murray Ave Milwaukee, WI 53211 414-963-9089 www.outwordsbooks.com.

In partnership with The Milwaukee Repertory Theater's Intern Company, Ten Chimneys Foundation presents Play Readings at Ten Chimneys. In the tradition of the bygone "golden age of radio," this engaging series allows audiences to see and hear the next generation of professional actors recreate the plays related to the "golden couple of Broadway." Written by George Bernard Shaw, "Arms and the Man" confirmed the Lunts' status as outstanding comedic performers. 7PM, Lunt-Fontanne Program Center, Genesee Depot, WI. Take I-94 to Exit 287, Hwy 83 South through Wales to Depot Road. \$15 Advance Reservations, \$20 At the Door (262) 968-4110; WWW.TENCHIMNEYS.ORG

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# Three Dimensional Training

PrideFest is right around the corner and the clothes are going to be less and less as it will be heating up! The line up at Pride this year is great with comedy, music, and, well it's PrideFest...so lots of surprises!

Sweeney's Gym will be there this year, as we team up with PrideFest to help bring you their first "Heath and Wellness Event". PrideFest has found some of the best health professionals, encompassing a wide range of the fields to bring not only awareness but also provide free assessments to those who would like to make changes in pursuit of better health. So let's make sure we do our best to look and feel great in summer of '08. This can, and will be your year!

## Let's get started:

Think for a second...what is the single biggest mistake people make? They stop eating!! If you want to look like Twiggy, with all skin and bones, where the only date you're going to get is a hungry, supper less pit bull, go for it. If you want your fit self to look good and feel great, eat small meals throughout the day that are high in protein and low in fats with a moderate amount of carbs...."Yes, carbs!"

Now with that being said, stay away from all the starches and anything made with white flour, as it will just go to your trouble spots. Oatmeal and granola are good carbs to supplement your diet. Or green veggies, sweet potatoes, or even spinach greens topped with olive oil and vinegar.

Protein is a very important element that should not be overlooked in your overall diet. Good sources of protein: Eggs, fish, chicken, steak, milk & soy milk.

If you're looking for fast and easy, make a shake. Not a milk shake, but a protein shake with vitamins and amino acids to help build cartilage, support mobility and soothe overworked joints. So, shake things up with a protein shake in the morning for breakfast and again for an afternoon snack. Protein bars are also a great and convenient way to eat on the run or between meetings.

**Bottom line:** With the help of supplements and its proper use; you can eat 5 to 6 small meals a day on any schedule.

**Here is a simple break down:**  
Breakfast, AM snack, Lunch,

Afternoon snack, Dinner, Late night snack (if needed make it very small). Try cooking all your meals on Sunday and store in the refrigerator, so come Monday morning you can just grab and go and you're on the way to the new healthier, fitter you.

## Who wants a six-pack for summer!?

Ab exercises are good, but don't leave out the cardio, as this will help melt away the unwanted fat, so you can see that six pack. You can train abs everyday if you want, but never in replacement of the rest of your body. I want everyone to be three dimensional with their training. The overview is to eat 5 to 6 small meals a day. Weight train the total body three days a week and do 30 to 40 minutes of cardio 3-5 days a week.

## Something New: Sweeney's Gym Fast Fact!

There are a number of ways to determine whether you're working out at an intensity level that's good for you. You can check your heart rate. You can use the "talking test" (being able to converse while exercising). Or, even easier, you can assess your exercise intensity on a scale of 1 to 10. When you use this method—known



## 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.

as the rate of perceived exertion, or RPE—you evaluate your activity level continuously throughout your workout, using a scale like this one:

- 1-2: weak exertion
- 3: moderate
- 4-6: increasingly strong
- 7-9: very strong, vigorous
- 10: maximal; extremely strong

The RPE method can help ensure that you are exercising at a comfortable level. For most people, the recommended RPE range is between 3 and 5.

For more information about Sweeney's Gym and how we can help you make fitness fun go to our web address at [www.sweeneysgym.com](http://www.sweeneysgym.com). You may also try out Sweeney's Gym for free to see how we can fit into your fitness lifestyle.

## MAY CALENDAR

### MAY 13

Waldorf Information Evening. 7PM. Learn more about Waldorf education for Kindergarten-8th grade. Pre-register. Free. 414-277-0009. Tamarack Waldorf School, 1150 East Brady Street. [www.tamarackwaldorf.org](http://www.tamarackwaldorf.org).

The Lesbian Reading Group at Outwards will meet to discuss K.L. Thompson's "The Heart of the Matter" 7PM. Outwards Books, Gifts & Coffee 2710 N Murray Ave, MKE. 414-963-9089. [outwardsbooks@msn.com](mailto:outwardsbooks@msn.com), [www.outwardsbooks.com](http://www.outwardsbooks.com). Come meet the group and discuss a great book!

Hang out and play Scrabble from 5:30-8PM at Broad Vocabulary, 2241 S. Kinnickinnic Ave, Milwaukee, 414.744.8384. Whether you're a Scrabble beginner or a regional champ, you'll find great word-freak fun at Scrabble Night. Drop in for a game and learn some new tricks from resident Scrabble expert, Lesley Salas.

### MAY 14

Brahms For Three: Yuri Gandelsman, Viola & Wendy Warner, Cello with Irina Nuzova, piano. Yuri Gandelsman, violist with the Fine Arts Quartet, is joined by cellist Wendy Warner of the String Academy of Wisconsin faculty and pianist Irina Nuzova in an all-Brahms recital. 7:30PM, Helen Bader Concert Hall, Helene Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts, 2419 E. Kenwood Blvd. Tic: \$19 general/\$10 students, seniors & alumni.

### MAY 15

Waldorf Classroom Observation. 9-11AM. Visitors can observe classrooms in action, followed by discussion. Pre-register. Free. 414-277-0009. Tamarack Waldorf School, 1150 East Brady Street. [www.tamarackwaldorf.org](http://www.tamarackwaldorf.org).

Wisconsin author Tom Farley Jr. author of "The Chris Farley Show" speaks about his brother, the late actor Chris Farley. 7PM at Schwartz Books, 2559 N. Downer Ave. (414) 332-1181 Tom Farley, Jr. is president and managing director of The Chris Farley Foundation, which educates young people about substance abuse and addiction.

### MAY 16

Never Be Unemployed Again: Self-Reliant Job Searching for Individuals who Don't Conform (part two of two, workshop) See MAY 2 QPICK for description. 7:00 - 9:00pm, LGBT Center, 315 W. Court Street, MKE. Free. Everyone Welcome. INFO: [www.forge-forward.org](http://www.forge-forward.org).

[forward.org](http://forward.org) or [info@forge-forward.org](mailto:info@forge-forward.org).

Back By Popular Demand Tony n' Tina's Wedding - the longest running Off-Broadway comedy in history returns to The Turner Hall Ballroom, May 16 and 17. Tickets can be purchased at The Pabst and Riverside box offices, online at [www.turnerhallballroom.org](http://www.turnerhallballroom.org) or by calling (414) 286-3663 or (800) 511-1552. Tickets are \$75.00 and \$65.00. May 16 at 7PM and SAT, May 17 at 2PM and 7PM

### MAY 17

The 7th Annual Ms. Mystique National Pageant tonight and tomorrow. Tonight, head to Club Purr, 3945 N. 35th St. from 4-10PM, \$10 admission. Sunday, head to the Scottish Rite Theater, 790 N. Van Buren in downtown Mke. From 7PM-Midnight. Admission, \$20. First place winner receives \$1500.00. Fundraising Pageant host is Chicago's Heavy Diva, Otis Mack. HIV Prevention Materials and Safer Sex Kits distributed. Special guest performances by Alexis Principle, Ms. Kitty Litter & More! Benefit to support the Health Institute of Milwaukee (H.I.M) for more info: 414-263-9999

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## 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:** 181 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.*

# Trip Out!

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# Queer Academia

In the pitches I have gotten from several current students at different universities, they have boasted about just how "gay" their school is. I've heard, "Well everyone at Vassar is gay." And, "Yale is the 'Gay Ivy.'"

In one sense, that they are able to brag about this much the same way a student would tout "we have a really excellent library," is a triumph in and of itself.

However, you don't go to college for the purpose of meeting gay people, you go to college to learn. So just how important should the prevalence of homosexuality be in a gay high school student's choice of post-secondary education?

As I've come to understand through the course of my high school career, it isn't so much the "gays per capita" that's significant, but rather the level of acceptance that the school community provides. At Shorewood High School, population approximately 650, I can count the number of openly gay students on two hands, but never once have I felt isolated or been ostracized by my peers. So-called "alternative lifestyles" are embraced, and it makes for a more cohesive whole.

Unfortunately, Shorewood High School is not the norm, and teasing, harassment, and lack of a support system are all too common. But that's the beauty of higher education: liberality and education go hand in hand, making acceptance

much more easily achievable. A larger student body increases the chances for diversity. And for any high school students stuck in a small town, or vastly conservative high school, college can provide much needed relief.

Widely known and utilized college information website princetonreview.com even has a specific listing for the top 20 colleges/universities where the "gay community [is] accepted." Unsurprisingly, many of them are liberal arts institutions, two of which we can proudly say are in our home state: Lawrence University and Beloit College. Dozens of institutions that didn't make the list are equally gay-friendly. For example, the annual SexPowerGod party hosted by Brown University's Queer Alliance is arguably the most popular dance of the year. Personal research on school websites and talking to current students are valuable resources for gauging what "gay life" is like at any given school.

There are few schools that could be reasonably labeled "gay un-friendly," as gender and sexuality are becoming less and less taboo (Coed bathrooms, anyone?). Even if being surrounded by other gay students is not particularly important, an environment conducive to your learning and happiness definitely is... which means you might want to take the United States Military Academy off your list.

College is a time for self-exploration and discovery; pursuing



## YOUTH

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

your interests; developing your skills, and particularly given the money that most of us will be paying to go there, discrimination should be the last thing anyone is forced to endure.

One way that I decided to help filter out any less open-minded institutions was by discussing my sexuality openly on my application. I wrote my personal essay on the joys and glories of being a drag queen, included an anecdote about being gay and living in Spain, and noted my involvement with both my school's gay/straight alliance, and Queer Life News. I figured that at worst those details would count against me, in which case I wouldn't want to attend that institution anyway. At best, they would help me stand out as an interesting applicant.

True, you should probably check to see if a school has strong academics before finding out whether or not they have a Queer Prom, but both in combination is undoubtedly ideal.

### Get It Want It Need It

# Good Taste is the Worst Vice ever Invented

By Keith Johnson

Once the intimidating province of the wealthy elite, clothing currently has become much friendlier, more accessible and not the domain of a person's social calendar or purchasing habdashery or women's wear for hundreds of dollars.

I think it has become more of a lifestyle and an affordable one - especially with our "shaky" economy. Many rising young talents such as Diesel, Pull and Bear (gay owned and operated), and London based clothier, Thomas Pink have been doing the custom clothing friendly route and making it price friendly. They eliminate the tailor's bullying and give you finer current fabrics for reasonable rates; also, the client's size is kept on file for easy ordering so check these companies out guys and gals on [www.glam.com](http://www.glam.com).

**A couple of great fashionable rules for an exciting summer into fall!**

**JEANS:** Hard to get the sizing right - the more you get them the more difficult it gets. Choose a jean that is flexible for height, weight, and style.

**FRAGRANCE:** "Gucci" pour homme, which, oddly enough can be worn by men or women. It's sultry blend of citrus, vanilla, cardamom and cedar makes for a wonderful evening scent for a special night out on the town.

**COCKTAIL:** Cassis and chilled water with a lemon twist.

- One shot Cassis
- Chilled water in your tumbler
- A little lemon squeezed into the

mix

- Use a bit of the lemon to create a twist for color!

**CUISINE:** Good home grilling. Do it with whatever suites your fancy!! I prefer grilled salmon marinated with a teaspoon of grated ginger, two tablespoons of tamari (soy sauce), a teaspoon of honey, salt and pepper to taste and garnish with cilantro (if you like.)

**GETAWAY:** Your back yard and the sun

**INDULGANCE:** A good night on the town or a great CD. I would suggest Angélique Kidjo's "Oyaya!" just because it's very soothing and sets one in the mood to enjoy the evening. If not - the new Madonna CD will get you movin'!

**PERSONAL STYLE:** Low-key, natural tan, hair groomed with Shiseido Hair Tonic - it can be found at Macys. For a soothing soap for cleansing and feeling fresh, I would suggest Bliss "super minty soap and scrub", which can be found at either Sephora online or at Macy's.

**LAST on my LIST:** GOOD Nike trainers, because with these festivals coming up this summer you going to need them!

Buying or Selling a Duplex?  
Go To  
[www.buysell duplex.com](http://www.buysell duplex.com)

## MAY CALENDAR

The SAGE/Milwaukee 4th Annual Spring Fling! They will again be electing a king a queen, with a little twist. This has always been a really fun event, so please plan on attending. MONAS. 1407 South First Street, Milwaukee

New York Times best-selling author Augusten Burroughs ("Running with Scissors") delves into new territory with "A Wolf at the Table," his most personal and unexpected memoir yet. Schwartz Books 7PM. 2559 N. Downer Ave, Milwaukee. (414) 332-1181.

Madison Gay Video Club "Socket" (TLA Releasing, dir. Sean Abley, 2007) "East Berlin" (Raging Stallion, dir. Collin O'Neal, 2007) 8PM, Confidential location. Info: <http://www.mgvc.org>, or 608-244-8690 (evenings)

Times Cinema Midnight Movie - Blade Runner: The Final Cut, 590 W. Vliet Street, Milwaukee.

### MAY 18

Seattle's indie folk acoustic duo Coyote Grace 7PM at The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St. 414-383-3727. Tickets are \$7. Refreshments available.

### MAY 20

Milwaukee native Maggi McCormick Gordon, author of "American Folk Art Quilts" 7PM, Schwartz Books, 109676 N. Port Washington Rd., Mequon (262) 241-6220. The twenty-five quilts featured in the book are from the Wisconsin State Historical Society collection.

### MAY 22

Design within Reach and WIRED Ventures present "Urban Oasis" Celebrate this spring & summer by enjoying great architecture and urban indoor/outdoor living. Get ideas for your outdoor plantings and furniture! 6PM, Design Within Reach, 167 N. Broadway, MKE. Complimentary wine/beer/appetizers. RSVP: [clopez@dwr.com](mailto:clopez@dwr.com), 414-224-5353

### MAY 23

TEN CHIMNEYS DAY 2008: You are invited to join us for a group photo and reception in honor of The Lunts' Wedding (5/26/22), Ten Chimneys public opening (5/26/03), our dedication as a National Historic Landmark (5/26/04), and Wisconsin's "Ten Chimneys Day" on May 26th of every year. Festivities include a group photo in the Main House Courtyard, coffee, champagne, and cake reception, and free tours for call-in winners. Please note that regular public tours will not be available this day. 8:30AM. Ten Chimneys Estate and Lunt-Fontanne Program Center, Genesee Depot, WI. Take I-94 to Exit 287, Hwy 83 South through Wales to Depot Road. FREE Event. (262) 968-4161 ext 200; [www.tenchimneys.org](http://www.tenchimneys.org).

### MAY 24

Iranian films are among the most highly regarded in the world, regularly winning festival awards and critical acclaim for their remarkable artistry and social relevance. IRAN: A Cinematographic Revolution traces the development of this film industry, which has always been closely intertwined with the country's tumultuous political history. Shown at 1:30 PM Sat & Sun, 7PM on MON. Admission \$6, Times Cinema, 5906 W. Vliet Street, Milwaukee.

Shaia Fahrid Egyptian Belly Dance presents a weekend extravaganza "Belly Dance Performance Showcase" featuring Mark Balahadia as well as a stunning line-up of professional and student dancers. 7PM, Milw. Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St. INFO: 414-383-3727. Lecture and workshops begin Thursday, May 22. Tickets \$15. INFO on workshops: [www.milwaukeebellydance.com](http://www.milwaukeebellydance.com)



## MAY CALENDAR

## MAY 25

Latino/Latina Talent Show cada ultimo domingo del mes. Ven y diviertete con nosotros. Puertas abiertas 8pm, show 10:30pm. 1407 South First Street, Milwaukee WI. Patrocinado por: HIV Department of the Sixteenth Street Community Health Center, Cream City Foundation, MONA's Bar.

## MAY 29

Milwaukee Short Film Festival Kick Off Party at The Art Bar 722 E. Burleigh, Mke. www.myspace.com/mkeshortsfest.

## MAY 30

Experimental Film/Video Series: "Athleticism vs. Aestheticism." Woodland Pattern Book Center, 720 E. Locust St. 7PM. Tickets: \$2 at the door

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center presents: An Evening with Jerry Grillo. Jazz singer Jerry Grillo performs to benefit SAGE Milwaukee. \$15 tickets at the door. 8PM, Milwaukee Gay Arts Center. 414-224-0517

It's opening night for the 10th Annual Milwaukee Short Film Festival! 7PM-The Alchemist Theatre, 2569 S. Kinnickinnic, Bay View. www.myspace.com/mkeshortsfest.

## MAY 31

The 2nd Annual Lesbian Alliance Art Show. 5-8PM, The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. 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.

Singer composer Scott Malcom returns to the Milwaukee music circuit. He performs at 8PM tonight at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd. St. 414-383-3727

Deadline for the June publication is May 20th for consideration. Please send events to qlifelistings@yahoo.com.

## Bite the Bullet

By Bea Green

It can easily happen that an oppressed group will become so focused on its oppression that it cannot recognize how insidious a *victim mentality* may be. Thus it is, I believe, with lesbians and body image. Popular culture insistently tells women that they must be thin. Virtue is in diet and an exercise routine, while moral restraint elsewhere has been sacrificed to a "just do it" imperative. It seems that indulgence reigns except when it comes to indulging our appetites for food. In contemporary culture and for women especially, over-eating not promiscuity is the ultimate sin.

When I was 45 years old I got into a conversation after too much wine with a friend who I loved very deeply. She told me that I should lose weight so that being seen with me would not embarrass her. She suggested stomach surgery. I was hurt, told her so and we didn't speak for several years.

But I was morbidly obese. And by 1997 I weighed 386 pounds. I had to do something drastic. My life was all about my work, commuting to and from and at home, reading, TV and the computer. I had a partner but not much of a social life.

Growing up chubby, I felt stigmatized if my mother bought me fat clothes, so when I could finally buy my own clothes, I bought men's slacks, shirts and sweaters. My size confined me to a cultural ghetto where claiming a lesbian feminist identity was a way to defend against the stigma associated with being fat.

Women's fashion largely ignored us unless you wanted to buy "fat clothes". What choice there was, was limited. There was expensive up-scale feminine attire designed for large straight women, more moderately priced garments at specialty stores like Lane Bryant, but for the working class and poor, the selections were cheap and shapeless.

I remember the rush I'd feel as a big proud woman in a group of lesbians at Women's Music concerts and then later, on my first Olivia Cruise. Women's space was free from the sexism, dress code oppression, and body image tyranny that straight society imposed everywhere else. I was "out" and I was proud and I never guessed that I was in any danger because of my "politics".

But no amount of denial could get around the fact

that I was fat and as the years went by the weight became a disability. After a complete physical, psychological and behavioral evaluation, and pre-op visit, I was accepted for gastric bypass surgery. It was horrendous and the weeks following were difficult. Since then I have lost 240 pounds and I know I probably would not be alive if I had not had the surgery. I don't have any problems now with cholesterol or blood pressure 'though I do have severe osteoarthritis from having carried so much weight for so long.

As long as the lesbian feminist community continues to encourage overweight women to shelter unchallenged among us, we are not practicing the sisterhood that has been a core value in our movement from the beginning. Sisters do not let sisters kill themselves.

What to do? First of all - get real! Look in the mirror and ask yourself what you have done in the past to lose weight; what worked and what did not? Do some research and learn what the options are now and what will it take to succeed this time? Know that, whatever you decide, there is something that will work for you. Then, bite the bullet and commit to a weight reduction plan.

The Community can offer support by having those who have been successful in their weight reduction mentor women who are just beginning weight loss programs. Provide exercise classes and fitness training to women who want to maintain a desirable weight and level of fitness.

We don't have to believe the stuff we're told in women's magazines to motivate us to buy into yet the latest diet fad. But I think that you do have to own your part of the responsibility for your weight and your health. Too much extra weight will kill you and life is too good, we have too much to do, to let go of it before the very last minute we can squeeze from fate.

**Editors note:** This is a personal account from B.Green of her past struggles with being overweight - and about accepting the responsibility to become healthy. I, for one, know that I owe it to myself to improve my health. And my wardrobe. PrideFest will be launching a new area at this years festivities: The Health and Wellness Area, where several organizations and groups will gather to promote healthier lifestyles. Be sure to stop on by.

## Becoming a Woman: A Biography of Christine Jorgensen

If you were to sit down and write your biography, how much of it would be embellishment?

Would you add a few details here and there, telling the truth as you saw it, making a better story, making yourself look good? Or would you strive to tell the truth and nothing but?

In the new book "Becoming a Woman: A Biography of Christine Jorgensen" by Richard F. Docter, M.D., you'll read about the world's first celebrity transsexual - what she said about herself, the real story, and everything in between.

When George Jorgensen became the woman re-named Christine some 50 years ago, she made headlines around the world. Author Richard Docter said he sat next to Christine Jorgensen by chance one evening at a banquet several years ago, and since he is a behavioral psychologist, he wanted to know how Jorgensen felt about modern transsexuals and cross-dressers.

She didn't give him much more than a few breezy statements. Docter decided to learn more. What he found

was a series of contradictions.

Although Christine's 1967 biography indicates that George was a socially rejected loner, many people remembered him to be popular and well-liked. Others whom Docter interviewed said George was "different" (remember - this was the 1940s) and that he was teased mercilessly.

George vehemently denied being gay and rarely dated women, although it appeared that he wanted to. He admitted to friends that he liked men "as a woman does" and he had homosexual relationships. Ultimately, he decided that living as a woman - becoming a woman - was what he wanted most. He went to Denmark; ostensibly for vacation, but

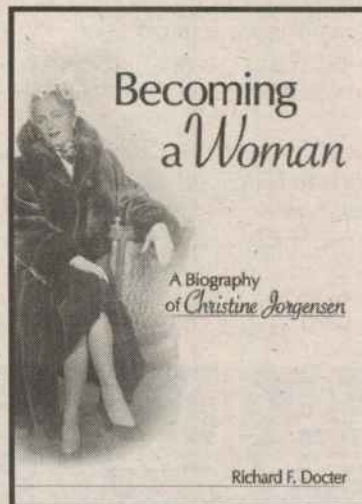
in actuality, for surgery.

But George's gender wasn't all that changed.

The almost-reclusive George came back to America as Christine, an outgoing beauty with style and grace. George eschewed attention; Christine thrived on it. George seemed almost shy; Christine reached for publicity. The tabloids went wild.

In the end, though, Christine Jorgensen could not escape George Jorgensen.

Although a little dry, "Becoming a Woman" is fascinating, not because of what author Richard F. Docter tells us about Jorgensen, but because of what he can't tell us. He's obviously dug deep into the life of the woman that intrigued him, but Chris was a chameleon of sorts. Since different people knew her in different ways, we may never know



### REVIEW

The Bookworm is Terri Schlichenmeyer. Terri has been reading since she was 3 years old and she never goes anywhere without a book. She lives on a hill in Wisconsin with two dogs and 11,000 books.

her entire story.

On the other hand, the problem with reading this book as a true bio is that it's almost too methodical. Some pizzazz would have gone far to make this book more interesting; instead, it reads more like a medical treatise and less like a biography of a beguiling celebrity who brought the subject of sex reassignment into the living rooms of everyday Americans more than half a century ago.

Overlook the aridity of this book, and you'll be rewarded with a peek into the (possible) life of a woman who still has the power to captivate, nearly twenty years after her death. If you want something more lively and chatty, though, truthfully - you'd be better off with another bio.



# And Sometimes, Mommies Take Cruises!



## PARENTING

Fuchsia Woods lives with her partner of more than a decade. Their science experiment resulted in a beautiful baby boy.

The how-to aspect of the "Science Project" will return next month. I want to share an amazing experience this gay family had the pleasure of participating in.

### Question: Where can you find:

- 2000 beautiful, grounded, loving, LGBTQ people, their allies, and their families;
- Delightful, polite, wanted, children of all ages and races;
- Unlimited amazing food like shrimp cocktail, homemade pastry, and European chocolates all served with five-star service;
- Leaders of national gay rights organizations, social justice seminars, bingo, gambling, and dancing;
- Tony Award® winning Broadway stars, famous film and television actors, Cyndi Lauper, and sought-after comedians?

### Answer: R-Family Vacations

The gay, family-friendly vacation company started by Rosie O'Donnell, her partner Kelli and their friend Greg Kaminsky.

A few years ago when watching the documentary, *All Aboard Rosie's Family Cruise*, we vowed to climb aboard. We booked the spring break, Mexican Rivera cruise, in the cheapest room, and were delighted with our beautiful accommodations and the value we got for our money.

We have tried to describe all that went into making this five-star service trip fantastic. It is easy to brag about interacting with famous people. My partner worked-out with Cyndi Lauper and many stars of the Logo's Big Gay Sketch Show. My son ran up to Sharon Gless from *Cagney and Lacy* and more recently Debbie on *Queer as Folk*, about six times during dinner. Ross the Intern from *The Tonight Show* hosted game shows and greeted people all over the ship. Each evening, Broadway stars belted out tunes at the piano bar. My son played with Kevin Chamberlain's (Horton the Elephant from the musical *Suessical*) hat while riding to the pier. Rosie O'Donnell stopped and said goodbye to us when we were in Cabo.

R-Family chartered a Holland America ship known for their cuisine and green friendly practices. We never used a disposable cup, napkin, or paper towel the entire trip. In public bathrooms we were provided with washcloths to dry our hands. The staff were joyful and paid extra attention to all our children, performing magic tricks, singing and playing with them. The food and service were amazing - one waiter who particularly liked us would bring us a dinner course and scoop our son out of his high chair, entertaining him a few feet away while we ate uninterrupted.

The true reason the trip was amazing, however, is the quality of the people who go on an R Family Vacation. This ship was full of the most loving families I have ever witnessed. I think that when so many folks get together who are queer or love someone queer, there is an unspoken bond. Then when gay people go the many extra steps it takes to bring children into their lives, they have to get over their own issues and work instead at being good parents. That intention seems to make for dynamite

families.

We met families made through surrogacy, foreign and local adoption, foster care, and insemination. As children of LGBT folks are wanted and brought into the world with a great deal of intention, those inviting them into their lives seem more grounded because they are actualizing their dreams.

Jennifer, a Holland America childcare worker stated, "R Family Vacations is one of the best things I've ever witnessed... As a straight female with no gay relatives - I've experienced something so genuinely thought provoking and touching that I feel honored to have been a part of it. I would jump at any chance to experience it again."

The children and teenagers we met were so polite and worldly. They are leaders in their communities, raising funds, protesting, and speaking up for equal rights. They understand what it is to fight for one's rights and they are doing what they can to change the world. I can't wait for the children raised by LGBT parents to be our future leaders.

Before having a baby, my partner and I debated whether it was fair to bring a child up with lesbian moms. I left the cruise knowing it isn't only fair, it may in fact be an advantage. These children are brought up wanted, surrounded by love and cherished.

R-Family Vacations are for everyone, young or old, with kids or without, single, partnered, gay or straight families or whomever. This summer there is a cruise leaving from New York touring New England and Canada. Next summer we will be on the Alaskan cruise leaving from Vancouver. Visit [rfamilyvacations.com](http://rfamilyvacations.com) for more details. See you on the ship.

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# The Mystery of Irma Vep

It was a dark and stormy night. The candles flickered ominously in the drawing room of Mandacrest, the mansion isolated on the lonely English moor. The wolves howled and the dark shadows appeared at the windows as lightning flashed. But it was the piercing gaze of the woman in the painting over the fireplace that caught the attention of Lady Enid Hillcrest, the new wife and now mistress of the mysterious manse.

But wait a second! That's no lady in, well, ladies clothing. It's none other than Milwaukee's own number one funnyman, John McGivern!

McGivern, along with local veteran actor Christopher Tarjan

compose all eight roles—in drag and otherwise—as they attempt to solve *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, Charles Busch's hilarious send-up of the horror and film noir genres, with just about everything else thrown in. There's local musician/performer Jack Forbes Wilson as the Mad Gothic Organist playing the foreboding organ music.

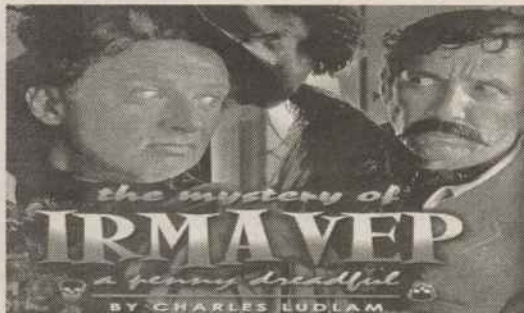
Think Rebecca and Wuthering Heights for Gothic undertones. Throw in Egyptian pyramids and a mummy come back to life for over the top cheesy mysticism. Add in vampires, werewolves and scary servants for howling effects (yes, bad puns abound, even here). And with all the multiple quick changes for multiple roles, *Irma Vep* is the ultimate kitschy catch-all for every kind of bad joke and obvious sight gag.

The premise: Lady Enid Hillcrest (McGivern), the new wife of Lord Hillcrest (Tarjan) finds herself alone and unaware of the mystery and danger surrounding her surroundings. She is at the mercy of the servants the dour, tightlipped housekeeper Jane (Tarjan) and rough edged but loyal Nicodemus (McGivern). As she inquires about the mysterious woman in the painting, the new wife learns that it turns out to be the previous—and late—wife, Irma Vep. When the Lord learns that there is a way to bring back the dead (wife number one) via an ancient Egyptian mummy, off he goes, leaving new wife number two in

the lurch.

What's a new wife to do? Inquiring minds want to know and in the case of *Irma Vep*, get a mystery solved in the midst of over two hours of hilarious parody, one of top of the next.

McGivern and Tarjan play so well off each other as they have in past productions around town, namely *The Odd Couple* and *Shear Madness*. They are, in the true sense, a couple whose sense of comic timing, their own as well as the other's, makes *Irma Vep* work. With the madcap, nonstop costume changes, the laugh meter only increases the more these two dash around, switching back and forth from one role to the next and back again.



Much credit goes to director David Cessarini (also Next Act Theater's Producing Artistic Director), for coordinating the ever-increasing entrances and exits in this fast paced farce. And even the three stage crewmembers deserve their bows for keeping track of all the costumes and



## REVIEW

By Harry Cherkinian

props that go flying about behind the scenes.

As in the case of their past work, Tarjan is the perfect straight guy to McGivern's vamp. As obvious as the sight gags are, watching McGivern's fluttering eyes, exaggerated hand gestures and bathetic swoons still elicit laughs, time after time.

And spontaneity even can get actors at least smiling, which is part of the fun. On opening night, when a audience member sneezed during quiet moment, Tarjan as housekeeper Jane replied, "bless you," eliciting laughs including McGivern, who did all he could to cover his smile. But, hey, it's all in good cross-dressing fun.

"A man who dresses up like a woman can't be all bad," says Lady Enid late in the show, once again sending the audience into tongue in cheek laughter.

In the case of *Irma Vep*, a man dressing up like a woman is a very good—and funny—thing. Indeed.

*The Mystery of Irma Vep* runs through May 25 at the Off-Broadway Theatre, 342 N. Water St., 2nd Floor. For more information, call: 414-278-0765 or visit: [www.nextact.org](http://www.nextact.org)



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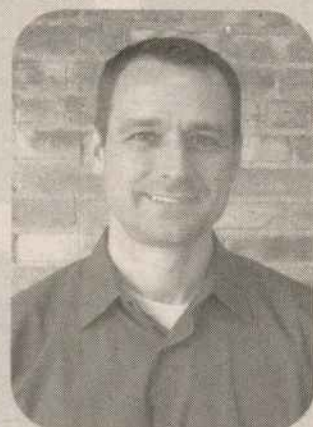
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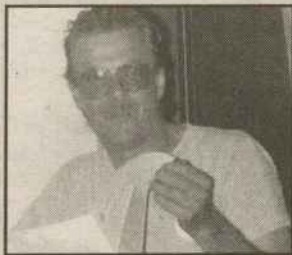
**QLife Obit**

**Richard D. Stevens**, known to his friends as "Rick", born January 18, 1953 in Sheboygan, died in the early hours of Sunday, March 30, 2008 in Sarasota, Florida of TBD causes.

Rick spent most of his early adult life living and working in Milwaukee. In the late 80s he started a company called Advertising Specialties. He was a regular customer at Wreck Room and BootCamp. During the 1990s he was living in Chicago and eventually moved to Florida to take care of his aging aunt.

He has family and friends in Sheboygan and many friends in Chicago and Milwaukee who will miss him dearly.

For more information: ahavlicek@sbcglobal.net



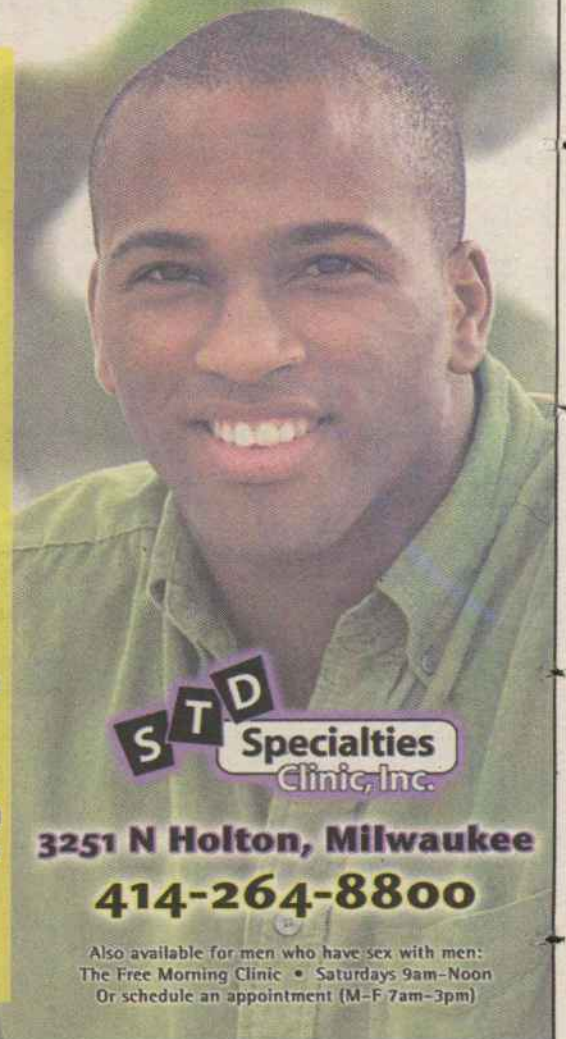
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**2626 W. PARNELL, MILW.** Totally updated condo unit located in Parnell Woods. Kitchen w/ceramic tile, newer cabinets & a breakfast bar. New flooring throughout main level & newer carpeting on stairs and 2nd level. 2 spaciousBDs, 1.5 baths. **\$127,500. MLS #989037**



**3217 N. OAKLAND AVE., MILW.** East Side home recently updated to the height of sophistication. Open concept floor plan features gourmet kitchen with contemporary cabinets, SS countertops, illuminated bar area. 1st floor bath with Japanese soaking tub. Large master bedroom with vaulted ceilings. LL has finished office space. Newer windows & roof. **\$249,900. MLS #951522**



**1830 E. KANE PLACE #4, MILW.** Fantastic condo at Hathaway Towers. Located in a historic district of Milwaukee, this unit features hardwood floors, crown moldings & tons of charm. Entertain in the open concept living & dining rooms or relax in your very own hot tub while enjoying beautiful lake views. Close to all the city has to offer. **\$269,900. #992563**



**215 W. MAPLE ST., #611, MILW.** Hip & trendy Parts House condo unit features all of the amenities you are looking for. KIT boasts granite counters & stainless appliances. Marvelous bath w/ceramic tile & pedestal sink. Enjoy fantastic city views from your oversized wrap around balcony. Hardwood floor, natural fireplace, extra large windows. **\$224,900. MLS #981745**



**906 E. BRADY ST., MILW.** Historic Brady Place Townhome with sunny southern exposure. Kitchen boasts granite counters, maple cabinets, stainless steel appliances. Fantastic master suite with adjacent sitting area and balcony. Relax in the whirlpool tub or enjoy views from the rooftop patio. Expandable 3rd floor and tons of storage space. **\$324,900 #900019**



**2110 N. COMMERCE ST, MIL.** Bright and cheery condo unit with southern & western exposures. This lovely unit features updated kitchen with mosaic glass tile backsplash, great room with doors to private balcony, private entrance and 2 car attached garage. **\$274,900. MLS #984959**



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**3059 N. WEIL ST., MILW.** So Ho chic condo units with stainless steel cabinets, butcher block countertops, in-unit laundry. 1st floor units feature heated concrete floors. 2nd - 4th floor units feature wood floors. Prices range from **\$138,900-\$199,900. www.hifilofts.com**



**904 E. PEARSON ST. #314, MILWAUKEE** Superb condo unit with fantastic city views. Kitchen features oversized island with lighted cabinets, stainless steel appliances, granite counters & tons of cabinet space. Radiant heated floors throughout. Spacious living space is great for entertaining. 2 bedrooms, 2 full baths, 2 parking spaces. **\$309,900 #998843**



**6411 W. WISCONSIN AVE., WAUWATOSA** Spacious condo located in the Jacobs Park neighborhood features modernized kitchen with granite counters and newer cabinets. Open living room with brick fireplace. Hardwood floors throughout. **\$238,400. MLS #951153**



**1835-1839 N. MARTIN LUTHER KING DR., MILW.** Fantastic loft unit features many updates. Kitchen with Avonite solid surface counters, breakfast bar, honey washed maple cabinets & stainless appliances. 2 bedrooms with maple HWFs, large windows & crown molding. Generous bath w/20' deep soaking tub, vessel sink & ceramic tile. Large LL storage locker. **\$135,900-\$139,900 MLS #981198 & MLS #981201**



**1809 N. COMMERCE #202, MILW.** Fabulous condo in the heart of the Beerline neighborhood. Hardwood floors flow throughout the open concept living space. Superb kitchen is spacious and functional with granite counter tops, maple cabinets and stainless steel appliances. Large bedrooms with walk-in California closets. **\$287,000. MLS #971391**



**311 E. ERIE ST., #418 MILW.** Fabulous Marine Terminal Lofts condo boasts incredible river views through floor to ceiling windows and 2-story atrium. Large rooftop terrace. Finishes include maple doors, trim & cabinets, granite counters in kitchen and baths, tons of closet space. Fantastic master bath with luxurious whirlpool tub. 2 indoor parking spaces included. **\$625,000 #1006797**



**GREENWICH ROW - MILWAUKEE**  
**1822 - 1828 E. GREENWICH AVE.** New town homes in Whole Foods neighborhood. 2BR/2.5 BA condos have it all. Renewable resource bamboo floors in LR, KIT, dining room and both BDs. Espresso stained cabinetry & doors, granite counters and stainless steel appliances standard. 2.5 attached car garage. **\$279,900 - \$299,900**



**130 S. Water St #314, MILWAUKEE** Fantastic condo at The Waterfront is bright & spacious. Kitchen, open to the living area, boasts maple floors, stainless appliances & large granite island with breakfast bar. Spacious bedrooms with tons of closet space and beautifully appointed baths. Relax this summer on your extra large balcony or walk to all the Third Ward has to offer. **\$339,900 #997518**



**1530 N. JACKSON ST.,** Designed by national award-winning architect. Attached heated GAs; elevator; private terraces avg. over 180sf; contemporary materials including cedar, burnished block, expansive glass; standard unit finishes include granite, stainless appliances, custom modern cabinetry, tiled baths, hardwood floors & more. **\$459,000. MLS #982150 www.urban-address.com**



**234 E. RESERVOIR #201, MILWAUKEE** Rare 3BR, 2 bath loft condo in Brewer's Hill. Large open KIT w/granite counters & stainless appliances opens to a huge great room perfect for entertaining. Oversized windows, exposed brick, HWFs & sophisticated color scheme add warmth & comfort. Faux finishes create depth & interest. Large master suite. In-unit laundry & 1 indoor GA space. **\$279,900 #1005158**



**1894 N. 4th ST., #301, MILWAUKEE** Fantastic Reservoir Loft condo features heated concrete floors, oversized windows & exposed Cream City brick through out. Open concept living space is perfect for entertaining. Beautiful KIT w/granite counters & SS appliances overlooks extra large living & dining area. Master bedroom boasts a huge walk-in customized closet & an incredible master bath. 2 indoor parking spaces. **\$329,900 #1006728**