



## LGBT Domestic Violence Declined in '07

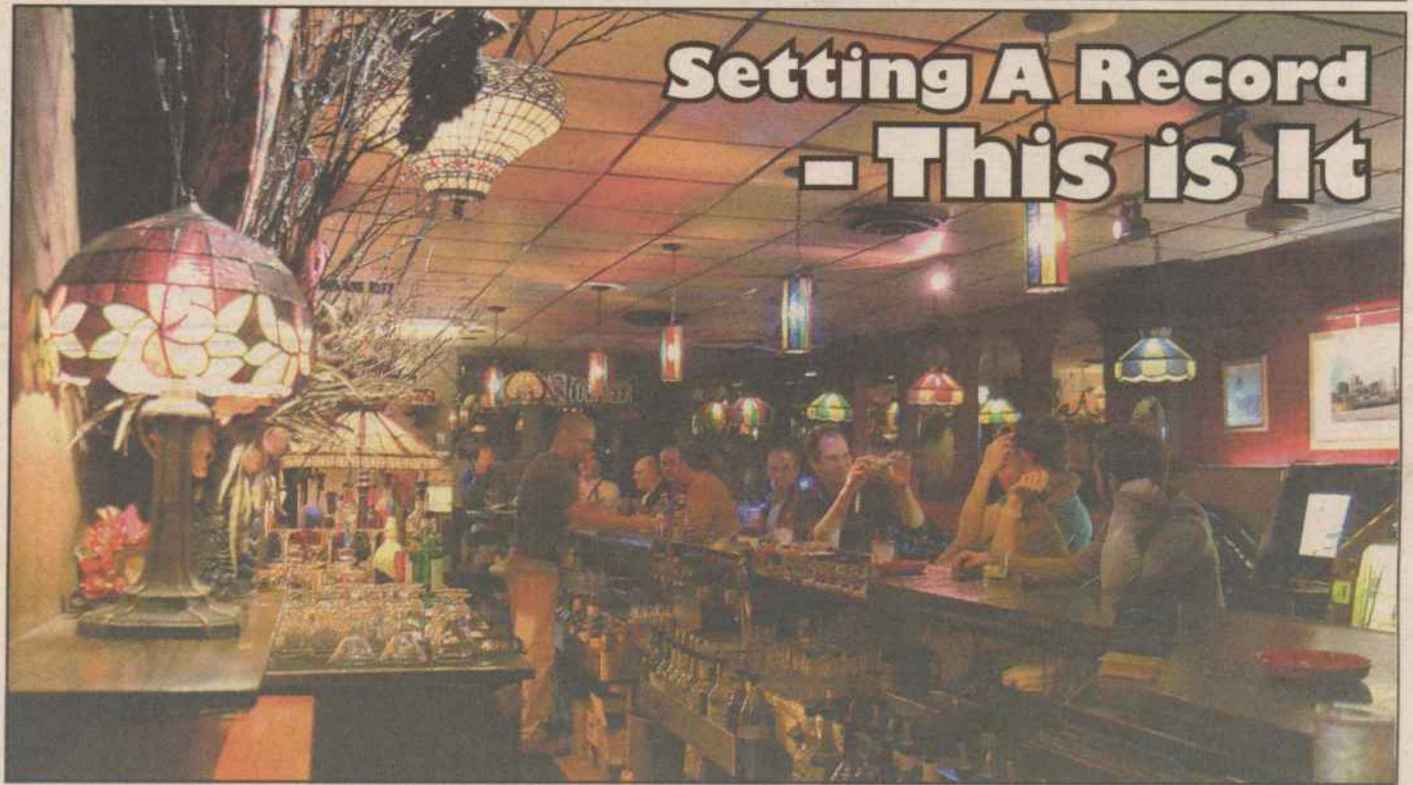
**New York** – Last month, the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) and 37 of its member organizations across the country released their report on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Domestic Violence in 2007. This annual report studies the data compiled from thousands of LGBT people who experienced intimate partner violence during the year 2007. Although the report shows a 13% decline in reported domestic violence for last year, domestic violence in LGBT relationships is still vastly unreported.

Reporting regions include: Los Angeles, San Francisco, Colorado, Chicago, Boston, Kansas City, New York City, Columbus, Philadelphia, Houston, Virginia, Seattle, and Milwaukee. In addition to the quantitative information, the report includes narratives from survivors, data analyses from local LGBT community groups, recommendations and tips for service providers, and a state guide on LGBT access to domestic violence orders of protection. The Anti-Violence Project at the Milwaukee LGBT Center submitted data, and several educational pieces were submitted by FORGE.

"Cases for the Anti-Violence Project of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center have only been tracked for the past two years, as the advocacy program was established in November of 2005," reported Julie Bock, Director of Programs at Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. "A continued trend over the past two years is the difficulty in acquiring safe housing. Experiences of domestic violence have occurred because clients are dependent upon family members or platonic roommates who are not accepting of their sexual orientation and/or gender identities."

Loree Cook-Daniels and Michael Munson, co-founders of FORGE (For Ourselves: Reworking Gender Expression) contributed a list of tactics used against transgender victims, as well as those used by transgender abusers. They include things such as being called "it", telling you that you are not a real man/woman, or calling you pejorative names. Tactics used by transgender abusers include: blaming their violent behavior on the use of hormones, or forbidding their partner to talk to others about transgender topics.

"It is critically important that LGBT communities know that there is support available if they are in a violent relationship," said Sharon Stapel, Executive  
*continued on page 2*



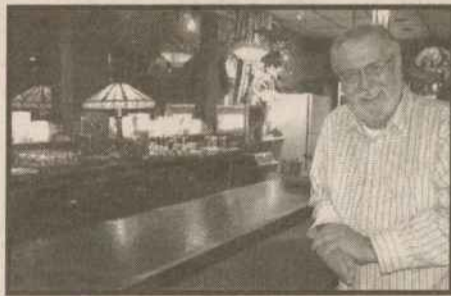
## Setting A Record - This is It

By Michail Tackesh

**"Over the years, so many people have told my mother that she should write a book about This Is It, but she'd never do it. She loves them all too much to do that to them." - Joe Brehm**

From the outside, it's almost impossible to believe there's anything here. Three lanes of one-way traffic speed eastward on Wells Street, and if you blink, you'll literally miss it. There's no neon sign, no doorman, no flashing lights, no thumping bass – in fact, none of the usual clues that you've arrived. But when you step up on that unremarkable mid-block stoop and throw open that big, unmarked door, you're stepping right into one of Milwaukee's most remarkable nightlife experiences.

With its dark woods, stained glass pendants, red carpeted walls, black leather banquettes and Tiffany chandeliers, the bar feels like the set of a 1950s Douglas Sirk movie. This is a true cocktail lounge, where everything is served in a proper glass, proven by the collection of Irish coffee mugs, brandy snifters and



Joe Brehm

cordials that line the bar. Bartenders use two massive, metal cash registers that were probably antiques by 1968. There's a jukebox with a notoriously fussy dollar feeder and an eclectic musical collection, including everything from Billie Holiday to Bjork. There's an ancient, rotary dial phone in the corner that rings with the kind of brrring you haven't heard in decades.

Don't expect fancy bar food here – your choices include Beer Nuts or cheese and crackers. An 1,800-photo slideshow runs all night, featuring the bar's friends and family members from over the years. It's the kind of bar that maintains handwritten lists of VIP customers who can open bar tabs or write checks, the kind of bar where everyone really does know your name and really is always glad you came.

Sitting here awhile, it can quickly become easy to forget what time it is, what day it is, and sometimes, even what year it is.

You've arrived at This Is It. And make no mistake – this place is living history. This year, This Is It celebrates its fortieth year in business, and takes the title of being Milwaukee's oldest continuously operating gay bar.

But don't come here expecting an Old World Wisconsin exhibit, because the place is popping like it hasn't popped in years. A younger generation has fallen in love with the bar's retro charm, and now this really IS it.

After forty years, what's the lasting appeal of this tiny, windowless cocktail lounge, when so many downtown hot spots have come and gone?

This month, QLIFE News answers these questions and more in our special tribute to This Is It, one of our city's landmark LGBT institutions.

### Secret origins

Forty years ago, June Brehm and her business partner were running a supper club in Butler. Business was good, but she really wanted something downtown. When the tiny corner unit at 418 E. Wells Street became available, June took one look at the property and said, "This is it – we aren't going anywhere else." And This Is It was born.

"My mother knew a lot of gay people, and she wanted a place for gay men to congregate comfortably," explains Joe Brehm, June's son and business partner. This was an especially bold business plan, a full year before the Stonewall riots, but June fearlessly forged ahead. And it's been owned and operated by the Brehm family ever since.

How were things different for customers in those early years? "When we opened, we were a man's bar for many years. It was a little bit like a private club atmosphere. And it was very rare for women to ever come here. We always welcomed everybody, but our guys sometimes didn't like their space being intruded."

Joe explains, "People had such a wonderful time, and were relaxed in many ways that they aren't today. But at the same time, people had to be more careful, more

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## AIDS Walk Wisconsin Raises \$305,747

**Milwaukee** - The organizers of AIDS Walk Wisconsin 2008 are proud to announce 2,556 people from across Wisconsin gathered at the Summerfest grounds on Oct. 4th, and raised \$305,747 for the fight against AIDS. Every dollar raised at AIDS Walk Wisconsin benefits organizations providing HIV prevention, care and treatment services in the state.

"AIDS Walk Wisconsin is an event of tremendous solidarity where people come together with great courage and bring enlightenment and strength to the fight against AIDS," said Doug Nelson, ARCW President and Chief Executive Officer.

Proceeds from AIDS Walk Wisconsin 2008 benefit the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW). The ARCW Medical Center is the largest and fastest growing outpatient HIV medical clinic in the state, offering integrated medical, dental, and mental health services for people living with HIV and AIDS. It has provided care and treatment to over 1,000 HIV patients over the past year.



ARCW is also pleased to announce that the Raising the Bar Challenge, a contest among gay bars throughout Wisconsin made possible through the support of the Johnson and Pabst LGBT Fund, raised a record amount of money this year and surpassed the \$100,000 mark for total funds raised since the Challenge's inception.

Headlining the opening ceremonies for AIDS Walk Wisconsin was American Idol star and Curb recording artist Kimberley Locke, a committed advocate in the fight against AIDS

and a strong supporter of the LGBT community.

In addition to ARCW, other agencies benefiting from AIDS Walk Wisconsin proceeds include One Heartland, the City of Milwaukee's No Condom? No Way! Campaign, the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, Common Ground Ministry/Elena's House, the Sheboygan County AIDS Task Force and La Case De Esperanza.

Corporate sponsors for AIDS Walk Wisconsin include American Family Insurance, MillerCoors, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy, Assurant Health, Dynacare Laboratories, Milwaukee Brewers Charities, Tibotec Therapeutics, Managed Health Services, Promolux, MAC Global Foundation, and Weyco Group.

## VIOLENCE *continued from page 1*

Director of the New York City Anti-Violence Project (AVP). "Although we are heartened to see a drop in the number of reports of LGBT domestic violence across the country, we know that the numbers are drastically underreported. We have seen a sharp spike in domestic violence-related calls at NYC AVP in October 2008 as the economy worsens."

Traditional domestic violence programs do not always offer services specific to LGBT victims of domestic violence, which may prevent some LGBT victims from seeking services. This report provides referral information to LGBT-specific anti-violence programs around the U.S. and Canada. Almost all of these programs provide crisis intervention services for LGBT people experiencing domestic violence.

The calls from men and women were nearly equal, with 5% of reports coming from transgender victims. Victims identifying themselves as gay or lesbian accounted for over 75% of calls, with 12% identifying as heterosexual, 7% as bisexual, and the remainder self identifying as queer or questioning. Callers accessing NCAVP reported weapons as part of the abuse 7% of the time, sexual assault 9% of the time, and police involvement 18% of the time.

"Many LGBT individuals experience hate-motivated violence, harassment, mistreatment and bullying as a part of their daily lives - this can make any violent or controlling behavior within a relationship seem like a minor issue by comparison," said Avy Skolnik, AVP's coordinator of NCAVP.

"This is dangerous, because intimate partner violence can be deadly." In 2007, NCAVP documented five DV-related deaths.

Additionally, intimate partner violence can be difficult for LGBT communities to publicly acknowledge and address at a time when there is a struggle for legal recognition of LGBT relationships. "People often feel immense pressure to keep quiet about any relationship problems they are experiencing," remarked Terra Slavin, Lead DV Staff Attorney at the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center. "But LGBT people, just like straight people, deserve to be in relationships free of violence and fear. We deserve the same access to support."

The data in the report is derived from an intake tool that NCAVP member organizations - primarily local LGBT victim services organizations - utilize when directly working with victims of domestic and intimate partner violence and is submitted to NCAVP for analysis.

PDF versions of the 2007 Domestic Violence Report are available at [www.ncavp.org](http://www.ncavp.org) or at [www.avp.org](http://www.avp.org), as well as previous editions of NCAVP's reports. For additional and/or regional contact information, please call 212-714-1184.

*The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) addresses the pervasive problem of violence committed against and within lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ) and HIV-affected communities. NCAVP is a coalition of community-based organizations that document and advocate for victims of anti-LGBT and anti-HIV/AIDS violence/harassment, domestic violence, sexual assault, police misconduct and other forms of abuse. NCAVP is dedicated to creating a national response to the violence plaguing these communities and supporting existing anti-violence organizations and emerging local programs in their efforts to document and prevent such violence.*

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To purchase advance tickets, please call 1-800-359-9272 ext. 1615  
or visit [www.arcw.org](http://www.arcw.org) and click on the Jolly Holly Folly link.

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## Plymouth Church's 4th Annual Gift Fair

**Milwaukee** - Plymouth United Church of Christ welcomes the public to its third annual Alternative Gift Fair on Sunday, Nov. 23, where shoppers can browse an array of books, music, children's toys, art and craft items, jewelry and edible goods.

More than twenty vendors will fill the church's gymnasium during this year's fair, which church organizers designed as an alternative to commercialized holiday shopping. Every purchased item "gives twice," with 20 percent of the fair's total proceeds allocated to health, education, and economic assistance projects organized by the United Church of Christ for communities in the developing world.

"We think the 'giving twice' concept really represents the spirit of the holiday season," explains fair organizer Mary Warren. "We wanted this fair to be a place where you could find a gift that does more than just brighten the day of the person who will receive it, but also directly benefits the person who made it, or gives back to the Milwaukee community in some way."

The goods, ranging from fair trade coffee and decorative soaps to the work of Wisconsin artists and children's literature, come from small handcraft cooperatives as distant as Tanzania and India. Local vendors include fair trade, organic, non-profit, or independent entrepreneurs, like Milwaukee's own Peace Action Center, Urban Ecology Center, Broad Vocabulary bookstore and the Guest House homeless shelter.

The Alternative Gift Fair is open from 10:30AM-4PM, Sunday, Nov. 23. Plymouth United Church of Christ is located at 2717 E. Hampshire St., just two blocks from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Shoppers should enter the church gymnasium on east Hampshire Street. Payment methods vary by vendor. For more information contact Bridget Flad at [pastorbridget@choiceonemail.com](mailto:pastorbridget@choiceonemail.com) or 414-964-1513.

## The Tool Shed is moving!

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## MONKEY LOVE SONGS

**Milwaukee** - Songwriters Ryan Mintz & Keith Hampton share the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center (MGAC) stage November 22, in a musical evening of humorous & heartfelt tunes.

This event is named after the endearing story-songs from Mintz's 2007 release, *Monkeys & Ice Cream*, which features the unforgettable love ballad, "Let Me Be Your Monkey."

Joining Mintz is Hampton, whose 2006 CD, *Chance & Change*, includes a selection of wedding songs, reflections on relationships, memories of childhood, and tales of hope through adversity.

The common thread between these two musical voices is a keen skill for combing melody with poetry, inviting the audience to experience the emotions embedded in thoughtful storytelling through song.

Ryan Mintz is Heartfelt... genuine... quirky. Armed with an acoustic guitar and a penchant for honesty, this newcomer to the singer/songwriter scene is poised to touch listeners across the country with his refreshing brand of folk pop. With a unique voice that many liken to Cat Stevens, Ryan brings a gentle vulnerability to his raw lyrics. Aching heart one minute, and wry smile the next, Ryan has the unique ability to make audiences laugh and cry... sometimes within the same song. "For me, music is emotion," Ryan says. "If I can help someone feel something, then I've done my job."

After honing his craft for 7 years, Ryan put his most memorable material together for his debut record, *Monkeys & Ice Cream*. Recorded in Los Angeles with producer Erik Eldénus, the songs tackle themes as varied as gay relationships, life as a nomad, addiction, and one cute little stuffed monkey. Ryan's writing is mainly influenced by the potent female singer/songwriters of the 90s: Alanis Morissette, Indigo Girls, Aimee Mann, Lisa Loeb, Jewel, and Chantal Kreviazuk. Sometimes cozy and sometimes daring, infused through the album is a positive sense of hope.

Wisconsin native Keith Hampton launched his performing career as a regular on New England's historic folk music scene. His latest CD, *Chance & Change*, is a beautifully balanced group of uniquely shaped songs about the mystery of things made more beautiful because they're simply observed and allowed to be.

Influences of Joni Mitchell, James Taylor, and Bruce Springsteen can be found in Keith's acoustic guitar style, which combines percussive finger picking and rhythmic strumming patterns.

Event details: November 22, 8PM, MGAC, 703 S. 2nd Street. \$10 at the door, or in advance at [www.braverecords.com](http://www.braverecords.com)

## Saint Joan of Arc Project at MGAC

**Milwaukee** - In April 2009, the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center will present a special art project dedicated to the theme of Saint Joan of Arc. The intent is to create a Saint Joan Festival in honor of the 100th anniversary of her beatification and her feast day on May 30. Artists should contribute works, in any media, including music and theater works, based on their interpretation of Saint Joan of Arc. They should reflect the LGBT community's relationship with the society in which it lives.



Artists should express the gay heart in the context of the Saint Joan story be it martyrdom in its bliss, ecstasy, love, loyalty, sacrifice and commitment. Themes of feminism, cross-dressing, heroism, suffering, the destruction of beauty, loss, persecution, victimization, repression, oppression and suppression all are valid. Any manifestation of the Saint Joan, from the sublime to the ridiculous, is sought.

Interested artists should contact the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center by email at [milwgac@yahoo.com](mailto:milwgac@yahoo.com)

## Wisconsin Cream City Chorus Concert

**Milwaukee** - December...no other month evokes more thoughts of unity and peace in the world's religions. That's the message of the Wisconsin Cream City Chorus' December 13 concert, "One World: Dare to Dream."

True to the WCCC's message of celebrating diversity through song, the concert "...is designed to celebrate the hope that we can truly become One World," says Artistic Director Kristen L. Weber.

"The music examines our desire and need for unity throughout the world. This year, two religious traditions are represented: Christian and Jewish. The traditional Christmas theme of bells is featured in the first act, and the Hanukkah theme of light is central to the second. Both have been important images in the quest for peace and world unity."

"One World: Dare to Dream" will be held at 7:30 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Church West, 13001 W. North Avenue in Brookfield.

Tickets for the concert are \$15 for adult, available through chorus members and the chorus office. Child and group rates are also available. Season subscriptions are also currently on sale for the three-concert season - \$30 through 12/1/08, \$40 through the date of the first concert.

For more information about the Wisconsin Cream City Chorus, the concert, the 2008-2009 concert season and ticket availability, visit [creamcitychorus.org](http://creamcitychorus.org). The group can also be contacted at (414) 276-8787 or 315 W. Court Street, Milwaukee, WI, 53212.

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## Outwords Books

Top Picks for November

New Fiction Bestsellers,  
Autumn 2008  
Exclusive to Q Life

### For the Guys:

**"Kath" Murder in the Rue Ursulines,** Greg Herren  
As New Orleans continues to rebuild in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Chane MacLeod becomes involved in a high profile murder case involving a golden couple of Hollywood who have committed themselves to helping New Orleans recover.

**"My Fair Captain," J.L. Langley** A storm of political intrigue is brewing on planet Regelence. Intergalactic Navy Captain Nathaniel Hawkins is sent there to investigate a missing weapons stash. Nate soon finds himself attracted to the king's desirable unmarried son. Aiden and Nate find they have to fight their growing attraction long enough to find out who stole the weapons.

**"Murder Most Gay," Drew Ferguson** A serial killer is targeting gay men in popular bars and parks. Assigned to the case is rookie cop Pat St. James who feels all too close to the victims. He's gay and closeted. As the killer continues his rampage, Pat has to focus on his work and hope that his personal life survives. But when his hopes and dreams for happiness overlap with the investigation, Pat may be headed for big trouble.

**"With Caution," J.L. Langley**, Remington Lassiter is learning the ropes of being a werewolf when his little brother turns up covered in bruises and feels driven to finally bring their abusive father to justice. Jake Romero realizes he has his work cut out for him when Remi asks for his help. Jake will do anything to protect Remi but he is about to uncover something far more deadly than they ever imagined.

**"Changing Tides," Michael Thomas Ford** Few authors write about the full spectrum of gay men's lives with as much warmth, honesty, humor, and compassion as Michael Thomas Ford. Now the best-selling author of "Last Summer," "Looking For It," and "Full Circle," delivers a shimmering, heartwarming story of one summer in the lives of three people, of the elusive search for human connection—and the necessity of love.

### For the Gals:

**"Lake Effect Snow," C.P. Rowlands** News correspondent Annie T. Booker has covered Iraq for over three years when she is injured in Baghdad. Exhausted, she returns stateside. She finds her name is on an Iraqi hit list, her partner has left and her TV network wants the FBI assigned to her. When the danger escalates, Annie and FBI agent Sarah Moore must struggle to stay ahead of disaster.

**"Night Call," Raddyffe** Now that Medivac helicopter pilot Jett McNally is finally home from Afghanistan, everyone expects she should be happy. Flying and the adrenaline-rush of a crisis are the only things that make her happy, and so she volunteers to fly night call. There she meets Dr. Tristan Holmes. High-stakes medical drama, life on the edge, and love in the fast lane -- it's all just routine for Night Call.

**"Remember Tomorrow," Gabrielle Goldsby** Cees Bannigan has it all -- a successful home improvement television show, a new house, and an intelligent and beautiful woman. So what is she doing at the hospital bedside of Arieanna Simons, who had abandoned her a year before? Past secrets are revealed and Cees must decide if past betrayals can ever be forgiven.

**"Racing Toward Providence," Laurel Mills** Samantha Warren has moved to a secluded cabin in Maine where she hopes to paint undisturbed. Then Kate Sinclair comes along, and Sam discovers another passion. Soon events transpire that will change Sam's life and disrupt the idyllic world she has created for herself. How will she resolve these unexpected complications and what does providence have in mind for her?

**"Midnight Melodies," Megan Carter** Erica's closeted relationship with Alice Goodman is hanging by a thread, and for reasons she won't explain, Erica's grandmother is actively creating a generational feud with Erica caught in the middle. Then the frazzled local historian is replaced with a professional: out and audacious Rae, who jumps into the already powder keg situation.

Outwords Books, Gifts & Coffee located at  
2710 N. Murray Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53211  
(414) 963-9089. [www.outwordsbooks.com](http://www.outwordsbooks.com)

## This Is It *continued from page 1*

discreet. Lots of men came in through the back door and stayed towards the back of the bar. We kept the lights much dimmer then, probably half as bright as they are now."

"Remember that people were afraid back then; they could lose their jobs if they weren't careful. So when the front door opened during cocktail hour, everyone's head would turn to see who was coming in. Like, the entire bar's heads would turn at the same moment. And whoever was walking in was blinded for a few seconds while their eyes adjusted to the light. So this gave people a chance to scoot out the back door if they saw someone they didn't want to see, before that person even knew you were there. It wasn't until the law passed in 1981 that most people started using the front door." (In 1981, Wisconsin Chapter 112 was passed to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation.)

Preserving June's original vision for the bar - and the privacy of the regular customers - has led to some major business decisions. In the early years, June served meals from the bar's tiny kitchen, but the popularity of the food business caused some tension in the bar. "We opened for lunch at 11 A.M. in those days," Joe Brehm explains, "and my mother was an excellent cook. We had New York strip steak sandwiches, 1/2 pound ground round burgers, Italian sausage sandwiches - all for \$1.75. We also had two homemade soups everyday. People would come for lunch and stay until 2, 3 o'clock in the afternoon."

This started to pose a problem for closeted customers who weren't interested in mingling with a straight crowd. "We were starting to lose our regular cocktail crowd. So, even though she was making money, she made a decision to focus on her loyal customers and shut down the kitchen, except for parties."

To this day, June Brehm still visits the bar every morning around 7 A.M. to count down the registers, handle the banking and accounting, and manage any business paperwork. She also works closely with Douglas, who has been supervising the impeccable cleaning and maintenance of This Is It for over 25 years. June's usually gone long before the bar opens at 3 P.M., and that's when Joe takes over managing the operation.

"The primary reason 'This Is It' is still around is the dedication and faith of the owner and manager, the mother-son team of June and Joe Brehm," notes Don Schwamb, curator and webmaster of the Milwaukee LGBT History Project. "By keeping the faith, and continuing to support organizations and causes meaningful to the GLBT community, 'This Is It' has hung on and been able to keep its doors open through good times and bad."

### Local legends

Ask five people why This Is It doesn't have a sign out front, and you'll get five different stories. Many people believe that the bar goes unannounced because it's a throwback from the "secret password" gay bars of the 1950s. That's a nice legend, but it was no longer common for police to raid gay bars in 1968.

So what's the scoop? Joe Brehm sets the record straight. "We did have our name on the front of the bar in big metal letters. And those MSOE kids had fun rearranging them! It just got too cumbersome over time to keep fixing them." And that's not all. "We also used to have a big Andecker sign hanging outside with our name on it. But when Louisa's Trattoria (just up the street) opened in the 1990s, they asked us to take the old sign down. Since then, I've contracted with three different companies to make a neon sign, and the contractors kept disappearing. After the third time, when a hefty down payment disappeared also, I realized we probably just weren't meant

to have a sign." Joe reflected on the bar's word-of-mouth popularity. "It's really neat to have a little place where people who know about it are the only ones who can find it."

Customers aren't the only ones who can't find This Is It. Joe's favorite story about the bar is one that every first-time visitor can appreciate. "One day, I opened the front door and found a beat cop looking at me with a strange expression. 'Where are you coming from?' he asked me. I told him, I'm opening my bar for the day. The cop said, 'There's no bar in there. I've been walking this beat for five years and I would know if there was a bar in there.' Since he didn't believe me, I took him inside, and he still couldn't believe what was here."

This Is It only had one notable police incident in forty years, and even that underscored the bar's spotless reputation. Joe Brehm explains, "One night in 1990, the community was hosting town hall meetings about police harassment in gay bars. And then the police showed up here at 2:02 A.M. and ticketed people for serving and drinking liquor two minutes after bar time. Some people were detained until 5 A.M. but nobody was arrested or mistreated. It was all so very odd."

"Well, we got into a meeting with our attorney and the District Attorney, and when they opened our folder, they said 'This has never happened before.' And that had two meanings. Number one, there was nothing in our folder because we had no past violations. And number two, the D.A. had never heard a case where the bar had no record. The D.A. was willing to throw out all the tickets, but since one ticket had already been paid, he said he'd hold the rest for 12 months and toss them out if there were no further charges. One year later, all the remaining tickets were thrown out, and our folder is still empty to this day."

### Changing times

Few people would recognize the Cathedral Square neighborhood in 1968, years before Juneau Village, Yankee Hill, or any of today's condominiums were constructed. Just as Downtown was recovering from urban renewal and freeway projects that decimated entire neighborhoods, the 1967 riots expedited "white flight" to the suburbs. As a result, downtown Milwaukee was a very lonely place to be.

As Joe Brehm remembers, "There was hardly anything down here. This whole building was empty when we opened. Back then, there were only a handful of bars within a 5-6 block area, whereas today you have too many to count. And until about 15 years ago, there was a parking lot next door. There were a lot of parking lots... so much had been torn down around here. You had a lot of places to park, but nowhere really to go to."

Flash forward forty years: "It's been a big change to see so many people actually living downtown, and walking around all night long. It's done great things for walk-in business."

And business is indeed looking up. Even when so many other options exist within walking distance, This Is It is filling up with a whole new generation of customers. And Joe is thrilled.

"We love seeing younger people embracing the bar for what it is. This is the most exciting thing to happen in recent years. And it's because they're enjoying the bar for what it is, not because we're changing it for them. They have surprisingly sophisticated tastes for their age."

Performing artist Jerry Grillo adds, "I've been coming here for over 30 years. And yet, for awhile, this was known only as an old man's bar, and mean-spirited people called it 'This Is Old,' 'The Wrinkle Room,' and 'God's Waiting Room.' It was so unfair. Those attitudes, that name-calling, it all hurt the business. And the bar's contributions to the community should

*continued on page 5*




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**This Is It** *continued from page 4*

never be overlooked. It's wonderful to see people respecting it again."

Michael, who used to work here as a bartender in the early 80s, comments, "This bar was absolutely phenomenal back in the 1980s - it was so packed you couldn't walk, almost every night of the week. I have to admit I don't understand the appeal of the bar to younger people, but I think it's great that they are coming back."

And then there's Jason, one of those younger people, who at 21 is probably the youngest person in the bar. "I've only been coming here since Memorial Day weekend. The cheap, strong drinks bring me back. My friends always say, 'that bar is full of old men,' but I've noticed an increase in people of all ages coming here."

That increase includes a large number of young women, like Megan and Carrie, who work downtown and

stop by for vodka seltzer Happy Hours. What brings two straight girls to this bar? "I was a cigarette company representative who worked the bar one night. I met Joe Brehm and I fell in love! I've been coming at least once a week ever since then," Carrie comments. "The Swiss Almond cheese spread and the Neptune Salad keep bringing us back. And so does Fabulous Larry busting a move!"

**What's next for This is It?**

Joe predicts the next big thing is cocktail hour. "What I see happening is that martinis are starting to wane, and the newest thing is classic cocktails from the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. We're going back to Old Fashioneds, Tom Collins, Manhattans, Rickeys... a whole menu of classic drinks for people to rediscover."

Joe remembers his favorite story about the bar, and how it speaks to what This Is It is all about. "During the streaking craze years ago, we had a guy

who would run through the bar naked. Everyone thought he was probably in the closet, and as it turned out, he was. He wound up being a regular customer. Man, he could run pretty fast!"

"And that's what we've always done right: accepting, embracing and enjoying new people. Not every bar is welcoming to new people. And not all people want to be embraced. But so many guys have come up to me over the years and said, 'I came out in this bar,' or 'This is the first bar I ever came to.' That means so much to us. We are just so happy that people have enjoyed this place."

So what is the lasting appeal of This Is It? What's the magic ingredient that so many other businesses have failed to find? Joe admits, he's still looking for it himself. "I almost don't want to ever find out. It may be the end of us. We have the most wonderful customers in the world, and we are just fortunate enough to know that."

**Who's Who at THIS IS IT**

**DAN, 22 Started: 2007 Works:** Weeknights 3-8PM. **Drinks:** "Anything



served neat - no ice - especially whiskey, but it's got to be a good whiskey." **Dreads:** "Making anything fruity. I don't have the ingredients for a Flirtini, and this isn't that kind of bar."

**What initially brought you here?** "Some friends brought me here, and I thought, wow, this is a really cool, laidback corner bar."

**What's your best bar story?** "During Jazz in the Park, someone rode a bicycle through the bar...buck naked."

**JUSTIN, 33 Started: 2007 Works:** Weeknights after 8PM. **Drinks:**



Jagermeister shots **Dreads:** "We're really not an ice cream drink bar. This isn't Bryant's or At Random. I also hate making Bloody Marys, even though I make a really good

one." **What initially brought you here?** "I don't even remember - but I've been coming here 11 years." **What's your best bar story?** "I once had a crazy dream that a thin man with mirror shadows was peering through the glass window in the front door, while my boyfriend was traipsing naked through the bar."

bar for behaving inappropriately. On his way out, he kind of lost his pants, so here's this bottomless man yelling at me. Our customers got a free show that day."

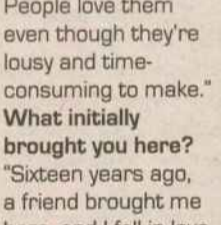
**CLARK Age: 24 Started: 2007 Works:** Weekends after 3 PM. **Drinks:** Jagermeister shots **Dreads:** "When people order trendy new shots, but don't know the ingredients."



**What initially brought you here?** "I had no idea this place existed, and my friend insisted that it did. The only problem is that we didn't know where it was."

And then we wound up having a really good time! Unlike other bars where people stay in groups, everyone here was very talkative and unpretentious." **What's your best bar story?** "The bar opens every day at 3PM, and there's normally not many people here. So imagine my surprise when a blonde woman in a tight red dress showed up alone and wandered through the bar. She didn't respond to my greeting as she came in, and then disappeared into the restroom for over 10 minutes. When she came out, she told me we had a really nice place, said she was looking for a place for her wedding party, and started asking strange questions - do we have a dance floor, do we have a non-smoking section - then asked for a business card and left. It was like something out of a David Lynch movie."

**PAULY, 43 Started: 2005 Works:** Weeknights after 8PM **Drinks:** Three Olives Grape with Seltzer **Dreads:** "Cosmopolitans. People love them



even though they're lousy and time-consuming to make." **What initially brought you here?** "Sixteen years ago, a friend brought me here, and I fell in love with it when I walked in the door. The bar sells itself - it's like stepping back into the 1960s."

**What's your best bar story?** "We had to ask a homeless gentleman to leave the

**Then and Now:**

When This Is It opened in 1968, Lyndon Johnson was President, the Beatles were still together, Jackie O was still a Kennedy, NASA still hadn't landed on the moon, and the world was a completely different place.

In 1968, a pint of tap beer cost .25 cents, and a gallon of gas was only .34 cents - for that car of yours which only cost \$2,800. To mail a letter, you'd be charged .06 cents, and your \$2.65 minimum wage job could buy you several .49 cent McDonald's hamburgers.

Over the past forty years, over 170 LGBT bars have opened and closed in Milwaukee, while This Is It is still going strong. When the bar opened in 1968, there were already 8 other gay bars in Milwaukee, most of which were in or very near downtown.

- The Mint Bar (422 W. State St, opened in 1949)
- The Forum (1801 N. 12th St)
- The Antlers Hotel Bar (616 N. 2nd St.)
- Club 546 / Royal Hotel (546 W. Michigan)
- The River Queen (402 N. Water St.)
- The Rooster (181 S. 2nd St.)
- Castaways (196 S. 2nd St.)
- Your Place (813 S. 1st St.)

"In 1968, it was still only a recent phenomenon to have true 'gay bars,'" notes Don Schwamb, curator and webmaster for the Milwaukee LGBT History Project. "The first local gay or lesbian publication in Milwaukee did not begin publishing until 1971. Prior to that, gay bars would be known only to other gay men."

Today, it seems unusual that only one bar (Your Place) was located in the 2nd and National area, now the epicenter of the city's LGBT nightlife. "This Is It was one of the last gay bars to open in the downtown area. Most bars opened after 1968 were located south of the East-West expressway: the Factory, the M&M Club, and the Wreck Room being major examples," says Schwamb. The 1968 extension of the East-West expressway isolated the Third and Fifth Wards from downtown, creating a new development area south of the freeway. "That area had plentiful underutilized buildings available for...start-up bars and other businesses."

Although most early gay bars were extremely short-lived, Milwaukee has been fortunate enough to see several reach the 30-year mark, including the M&M Club (30 years,) C'est La Vie (34 years,) Ballgame (34 years,) and the Mint Bar (37 years at its original location.)

This Is It, however, now takes the record of being the city's longest-operating gay bar in its original location.

For more information, see the Wisconsin LGBT History Project website: [www.wiscansingayhistory.org](http://www.wiscansingayhistory.org)

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Raising The Bar is sponsored by the Johnson & Pabst LGBT Humanity Fund of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation

Wisconsin



Happenings

## Smoke Free Town Hall

**Milwaukee** -- Did you know that 44% of the WI LGBT population smokes? Or that 6,960 years of LGBT life are lost annually due to deaths caused by smoking? This leads to an economic cost to our community and Wisconsin in the amount of \$297,632,000.

This month, at the Milwaukee Lesbian, Gay, BiSexual, Transgender (LGBT) Center, you can enjoy light refreshments, while discussing the harmful effects of smoking on the community. Meet your fellow LGBT community members, on Thursday, November 20th, from 6-8PM at

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. Meet concerned people like yourself, and discover what you didn't know about the impact of second hand smoke on our community. The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is Celebrating 10 Years of Building Community, and are partnered in a "Smoke Free LGBT" with FORGE - For Ourselves: Reworking Gender Expression, The Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee, and The UWM LGBT Resource Center. For more information, please contact the Mke LGBT Center at 414-271-2656.

## Eldon Murry Foundation fund supports LGBT causes

**Milwaukee** - The Eldon Murray Foundation Fund is now accepting proposals to fund organizations or programs that promote lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) causes. The fund honors the life and work of Eldon Murray, a longtime Milwaukee businessman who was a local and national leader for gay rights.



Murray was instrumental in forming the Gay People's Union, Milwaukee's oldest LGBT organization, and was involved in a number of "firsts" in Milwaukee and around the country. He was one of the editors of America's first LGBT publications, GPU News and started Gay Perspectives, a weekly primetime radio program. He was also instrumental in founding what is now the Brady East STD Clinic and Senior Action in a Gay Environment. Murray passed away in March 2007.

Organizations seeking more information or who want to apply for funding should contact Rafael Acevedo, Greater Milwaukee Foundation Senior Donor Services Officer, at 414.272.5805.

The Greater Milwaukee Foundation is a family of more than 1,000 individual charitable funds, each created by donors to serve the charitable causes of their choice. Grants from these funds serve people throughout Milwaukee, Waukesha, Ozaukee and Washington counties and beyond. Started in 1915, the Foundation is one of the oldest and largest community foundations in the world with assets of \$525 million.

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## LGBT Resource Center at UWM celebrates Trans Awareness Week

Milwaukee - November 10th - 14th

### Monday, November 10th

Lee Harrington, Author/Educator/Artist/Shaman: "From Tits to Tats: Traversing Sex Politics in the First Person," 3:30-4:30pm Union Room 191. Your average boy next door, Lee Harrington was born Bridgett Louise Ashlee Jauregui Harrington - a clever girl who won awards for academic work and eventually ended up working simultaneously as an adult film actor and a database administrator for a Christian faith organization. In this first person tale of coming to grips with gender as a cosmopolitan human, Lee will share his tale of moving through being a girl, being a boy, being forced by the therapeutic institution back into being a girl, going into sex work to try to learn to love his body, a happy marriage as a two-spirited human, hardcore porn, spiritual adventures, near death experiences, and eventually to an identity as a femme man in America. Join Lee as he works towards the hard questions - what is gender, what is identity, and how do we look at ourselves in the mirror. Free & Open to the Public

### Monday, November 10th

"Fleshing It Out: Sacred and Profane Body Modifications" 7:30pm in Union Fireside Lounge. The world over, body modification is used as a way to express identity, whether that is self identity, cultural (or sub-cultural) affiliation or milestones, political views, spiritual connections, or other roads of identity. Are you aware of the modifications you have already made to live the life you currently have, such as having a specific hair style to blend in with your peer circle, or living at a specific weight? What does having a tattoo mean nowadays? What did it used to mean? How does the act of jewelry wearing change (such as a wedding band) when we must consciously put it on each day? We will look at the wide variety of body modifications available today (from henna/mehndi to hook hangs, stage makeup to genital reconstruction surgery, temporary piercing to flesh removal), and discuss the energy inherent in each type of modification, an overview of their history, and social implications today. Free & Open to the Public.

### Wednesday, November 12th

Good Asian Drivers: "Queer Asians - Doin' It for Themselves," 3:30-4:45pm in the Multicultural Student Lounge. The Good Asian Drivers will present a workshop in which they address their personal stories in the navigation of queer and trans identities within the family structure, performance communities, and the mainstream. They will speak about their Do It Yourself road tour through 30 states and Canada, and also will show video clips of blogs, music videos, and spoofs and how they market themselves and connect with fans and friends across the nation.

### Wednesday, November 12th

Lyrical Sanctuary with Kit Yan, 8pm in the Union Fireside Lounge. Lyrical Sanctuary is an open mic series that welcomes poets, singers, rappers, visual artists and other performers to express themselves before a captive audience. Feature Champion Slam-poet Kit Yan will perform. He has won numerous slams including the Individual World Poetry Slam. Free & Open to the Public.

### Thursday, November 13th

Good Asian Drivers perform for Gasthaus Entertainment Series, 9PM, Gasthaus. Kit Yan performs with folk singer-songwriter Melissa Li. This social mission, along with an undeniably entertaining performance and a reputation for being personable and approachable, makes the Good Asian Drivers a duo that must be placed on everyone's radar. A Q & A will follow the performance. Free & Open to the Public.

## Seventh Annual Thanksgiving Pot Luck Dinner

**Milwaukee** - Once again, it is time for that spectacular dining experience known as the Thanksgiving Pot Luck Dinner! Hosted by Black & White Men Together, Brew City Bears, Lesbian Alliance, Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church, ProjectQ, PFLAG, and SAGE/Milwaukee at Plymouth Church, 2717 East Hampshire on Milwaukee's East Side.

Bring your friends, and a dish to share on Saturday, November 29 - doors open at 4:30PM, and dinner follows at 5:30PM.

Here's how the potluck dinner works: If your last name begins with:

- A-E - please bring a dessert
- F-K - please bring an appetizer
- L-S - please bring a side dish
- T-Z - please bring a salad

And, please bring enough to serve 6 to 8 people. Call the SAGE/Milwaukee office at 414-224-0517 by Wednesday, November 26th to confirm you will be there. Volunteers for set up and/or clean up are much appreciated and welcomed.

## Welcome to "Vets Do Ask Do Tell"

**Milwaukee** - On June 17, 2008 a new veteran's organization was born. In response to the military's policy of "Don't Ask Don't Tell," three LGBT individuals got together and formed Vets Do Ask Do Tell. The response from the LGBT community was over whelming. Two months later the organization became an LLC and had their first official board meeting. This organization is dedicated to the LGBT service men and women who have unselfishly served their country with honor even though they always lived under the threat of "Don't Ask Don't Tell."

The main mission of the organization is to make known any and all Veterans Administration programs targeted to the LGBT community when information is available. VDADT keeps LGBT veterans aware of policy changes within the VA and military concerning Don't Ask Don't Tell. Provide a forum where LGBT veterans can openly discuss issues that are related to their service, benefits and social aspects. Promoting and supporting change within the VA system to give awareness to the needs of LGBT veterans.

Vets Do Ask Do Tell, LLC on October 1st moved into the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center with an office in Room 114. For more information you can visit their website at <http://www.vetsdoaskdotell.org>.

Vets Do Ask Do Tell is an organization with diversity. "We welcome all vets, all lifestyles and anyone supportive of our mission."

## Popular LGBT Community Breakfasts Return November 15

**Milwaukee** - After a brief hiatus, the quarterly Metro-Milwaukee LGBT Community Breakfasts are returning! This popular event will now be under the direction of Gary Gussick, newly named Chair. Gary will continue to work closely with the leaders of the LGBT community, who felt having the breakfasts organized by a single person would be more efficient.

Always a relaxed time for seeing old friends and meeting new ones, previous topics have been dictated by the wants and needs of the community. To sharpen that focus, attendees at this session will be asked to complete a simple survey, identifying guests' future interests.



The fall breakfast will start at 9:30AM Saturday, November 15, at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 Court Street. Attendees will be treated to juices, "Harvest Breads," and of course coffee!

Scheduled at the time when we usually begin focusing on the upcoming holidays, the theme for the session is that of giving and gifting, but not in the usual sense. Indeed the presenters, who are currently conducting the Spiritual Wellness Program at the Community Center, are hoping that by using some of the techniques and approaches from various traditions we will reinterpret the spirit of the season. The first gifts received by all who attend will be a gift of tranquility for a time that is often especially stressful for members of the gay community; a feeling of hope, not hype; a sense of being centered without becoming self-centered; and a time for touching without becoming touchy.

We will spend our time together learning and sharing about the concept of peace and what holds us back from peace in our minds, bodies, spirits, and our greater world. We will share a Gifting Blanket - a Native American tradition that teaches us about gratitude and the perfect web of all things.

If you would like to participate in the gifting blanket, please bring a small gift of personal significance - perhaps something you already own - wrapped in brown paper or newsprint with your name inside. We will exchange these gifts in a meaningful way - each receiving exactly the gift that was meant for us.

So, grab a friend or two and head for Court Street.



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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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#### CONTACT QLife:

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Editorial, November 2008

## Com - pas - sion

By Kate Sherry

*Sympathetic consciousness of other's distress together with a desire to alleviate it.*

Over the past month, I have heard the word 'compassion' used on several occasions. Each time slightly different than the last. By the third or fourth happening, I started to feel as if I were being sent some kind of message - that perhaps my 'sympathetic consciousness of other's distress' needed work.

Since I am the type of person who can tear up any time some emotion-fueled television commercial airs, or tragic news report hits the airwaves, my 'compassion' surely needed no refresher course. Those who are capable of viewing homes vanishing down a river, lost or abused animals, or the suffering, and despair of starving children - without showing one bit of compassion are people I don't want to know. Worst of all, are those who laugh at the situation, or declare that those suffering asked for, and deserve to be hurt.

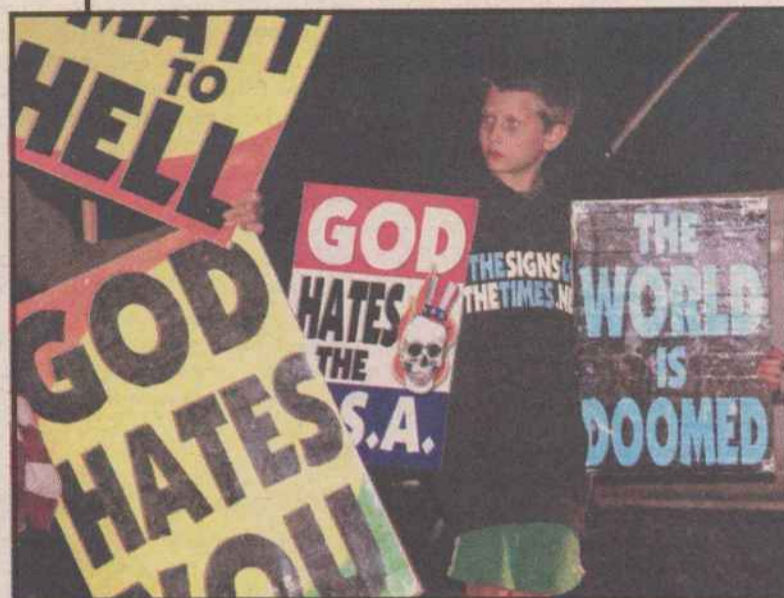
Last month, Arkansas Television anchorwoman, Anne Pressly (26) didn't answer her wakeup call and was found beaten and bloody, by her horrified mother. It was a terrible tragedy that led to a flurry of activity on a website news blog. While the majority of comments listed were respectful, sincere condolences for Pressly's family, there were some who said she "got what she deserved." One final comment simply asked, "Got compassion?"

While doing a recent photoshoot for QLife, I was approached and asked to delete several photos because some individuals photographed feared being "outed." I understood, and immediately began deleting the images. What I did not expect, however, was the reaction from others around me. They were irritated that "closet cases" were around them and wanted them pointed out. It was a "how dare they" kind-of-attitude, when we've all been there at some point in our lives, haven't we? We all "come out" when and how we want, or maybe not at all. In hushed tones, one man ordered his friends to "have compassion, it's a big deal."

On October 10th, the Westboro Baptist Church (WBC) arrived from Kansas to protest twice - first against Hamilton High School's support of a Gay Straight Alliance, and secondly for the Soulstice Theatre production of "the Laramie Project." WBC is well known for bringing their message of hate to soldiers funerals,

the funeral of slain Matthew Shepard (whose death is the topic of "The Laramie Project"), and anywhere else where they can mock, ridicule, and verbally attack based on their views that the world is going to hell - all because (according to them) "America tolerates fags." Clearly, no compassion here.

Standing outside in the cool evening, holding signs that read, "God Hates the USA," and "The World is Doomed," was a nine-year old, confused looking little boy. He never smiled, he never yelled, and he never sang along with the rest of the WBC. When asked how he felt about being there that evening, he replied, "good." This was, of course, with who appeared to be his mother, hovering above him. He stood there for the hour-long protest, looking at the ground, the WBC members, and



A child stands with WBC protesting The Laramie Project, Milwaukee, Oct. 10, 2008

every so often, scanning the supporters across the street, with a sad face. They in turn, begged the WBC to "have compassion, he's just a kid!" and, "Please don't make him hear all of this."

The Westboro Baptist Church followers have every right to think and say whatever they choose - but to bring a small child into such hate-filled activities is beyond me. And to teach him how to NOT have compassion for others is just terrifying. If they have any kind of love for this child, they would tell him that God does NOT hate the USA, that you do not laugh at, or praise the murder of anyone, and that his world is not doomed. Imagine being a nine-year-old boy, with no hope for a future.

Then again, maybe with the compassion he heard from the Soulstice supporters upset over his being involved, he will realize that there is a much more beautiful world out there waiting for him.

One can only hope.

Opinion, November 2008

## The Palin Dilemma

Along with its official endorsement of John McCain, the Log Cabin Republicans (LCR) pronounced, "Alaska Governor Sarah Palin can help Sen. McCain win this election by appealing to independent and young voters. She's a mainstream Republican who will unite the Party and serve John McCain well as Vice President. Gov. Palin is an inclusive Republican who will help Sen. McCain appeal to gay and lesbian voters."

With that commentary, the LCR embraced presidential candidate John McCain's VP pick, the evangelical Christian Sarah Palin - despite her not so inclusive attitude towards LGBT Americans. When McCain chose her as his running mate, little was known about her positions on gay issues and the Log Cabin spin attempted to give her the benefit of the doubt.

However, now, after especially her Christian Broadcast Network interview, her

record on gay issues is blatantly apparent. She would amend the United States Constitution to ban gay marriage.

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) stated "Sarah Palin not only supported the 1998 Alaska constitutional amendment banning marriage equality but, in her less than two years as Governor, even expressed the extreme position of supporting stripping away domestic partner benefits for state workers. When you can't even support giving our community the rights to health insurance and pension benefits, it's a frightening window into where she stands on equality."

So the question is, now that she has clearly stated her position, one that apparently conflicts with McCain's, how can the Log Cabin Republicans (LCR) stand by their endorsement? How can the Republican ticket be defended by LCR when the candidates do not share a common opinion on LGBT issues?

It is certainly a moral dilemma for anyone to stand by a party that, by virtue of its conservative base, does not support LGBT

rights. The LCR change-from-within strategy is noble but, given the circumstances, far-fetched. Even if John McCain does oppose a Federal gay marriage ban, he supports it in his own state of Arizona. He's open to reviewing the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy but that sounds more like pandering than a sincere interest. McCain's own words from a recent Washington Blade interview should reveal his intent. "I promise to give full consideration to any legislation that reaches my desk. I'm going to defer to our military commanders. So far they have told me it's working. I'm willing to have the policy reviewed to make sure that's the case, but at the end of the day, I'm going to rely on the commanders who will be impacted by a change in the law," McCain said.

Besides, given the fact that his running mate is anti-gay, whose policy will actually matter - especially since Palin is the one who, by McCain's own admission, "has mobilized the base." That base is the notoriously anti-gay Christian Right.

Paul Masterson - Milwaukee, WI



## LGBT Community Center Granted \$47,565 for Crime Victims

**MILWAUKEE** – Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen awarded \$47,565 in Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding to the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center program.

With this funding, the Milwaukee Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Community Center's Anti-Violence Project will provide victim outreach/advocacy services including crisis counseling, assistance with crime victim compensation, personal advocacy, and follow-up contact to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) victims of violent crimes (including but not limited to domestic violence, sexual assault and hate crimes) in Milwaukee County and surrounding areas.

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center is one of 83 programs that Van Hollen has chosen for more than \$7.4 million dollars in funding to help crime victims this year. The Attorney General said this money reflects his desire to improve the quality of life for innocent crime victims of all ages who live in communities across Wisconsin. Trauma counseling, crises intervention and other advocacy services are essential to restoring victims to a sense of wellness.

"Innocent victims of crime can find important support in these programs run by our community partners and government agencies," said Van Hollen. "I am pleased that these awards will assist in providing much needed services to innocent children and adults throughout Wisconsin."

Enacted in 1984, VOCA is administered by the US Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime. An annual state grant is awarded to the Wisconsin Department of Justice – Office of Crime Victim Services which awards subgrants to local government and nonprofit agencies that directly serve victims of crime. Money used by VOCA comes from revenue that is generated by various federal criminal fines, forfeitures, assessments and penalties. No taxpayer monies are used.

For more information on all programs receiving awards, please go to <http://www.doj.state.wi.us/news/files/VOCAAwardAmounts.pdf>

Proud Member of Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee. Spread the word: you can support the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center by payroll deduction through a Community Shares campaign in your workplace: [www.MilwaukeeShares.org](http://www.MilwaukeeShares.org)

## From S.C.U.M. to Smoke Free

By Julie Bock

What could you do with \$297,632,000? I know that number is difficult to imagine. It is the equivalent to purchasing 7,089 completely decked out Hummers. And believe me, I really added every extra available; from custom rims and paint to a top of the line stereo system. Or you could buy beautiful and exclusive Waterford Crystal chess sets from Neiman Marcus to give to the entire population of West Bend (approximately 20,000). But perhaps you would prefer to give 2 tickets to Madonna's most recent live tour to every single person in Milwaukee (425,990 at 2000 US Census). But anyway you cut it; nearly \$3,000,000 is a lot of money. And that is the economic cost of smoking to the LGBT community and the state of Wisconsin annually. And while smoking is a personal choice, everyone needs smoke free air.

Unfortunately here are some of the facts:

- Members of our LGBT community in Wisconsin are over twice as likely to smoke as non-LGBT individuals, 44% vs. 20%

respectively.

- Lesbians smoke approximately three times more than straight women.
- Approximately 38–50% of our LGBT youth smoke - compared to 28–35% of non-LGBT youth.
- Wisconsin LGBT adults seek routine medical check-ups 17% less frequently and experience asthma 8% more frequently than their straight counterparts.

Clearly our LGBT community members are at greater risk for smoking induced illnesses.

Last legislative session the Wisconsin legislature failed to pass the smoke free air bill before it. This is despite the fact that 69% of Wisconsin voters support a statewide smoke-free law including bars and restaurants. Secondhand smoke is the third leading cause of preventable death in the United States. For every eight smokers the tobacco companies kill, they take one nonsmoker with them. The effects of even brief exposure (minutes to hours) to secondhand smoke can be nearly as large (averaging 80% to 90%) as chronic active smoking.

Our LGBT community has been targeted by the tobacco industry. In the mid-1990s, tobacco control professionals discovered documents that revealed the tobacco industry's marketing

campaign, "Project SCUM" (Sub Culture Urban Marketing). This campaign was an aggressive attempt to increase smoking and brand loyalty of homeless people and lesbian, gay, and bisexual adults in San Francisco's Castro district. Anyone who has received the free cigarettes at PrideFest can attest to this methodology.

The fact is that smoke free air is good for business. All reputable studies have shown that smoke free indoor air laws either have no impact or a positive impact on the economic health of businesses within the hospitality industry. In addition, going 100% smoke free indoors reduces maintenance costs and medical costs, legal liability, and increased worker productivity and moral.

Please join your friends and family at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center on Thursday, November 20th at 6 pm for "Smoke Free LGBT," an informational town hall meeting about the effect of smoke in our community and what action we can take to increase safety and health for everyone.

Sources:

- [www.rm2breathe.org](http://www.rm2breathe.org)
- [www.smokefreewi.org](http://www.smokefreewi.org)
- [www.smokefreelgbt.org](http://www.smokefreelgbt.org)
- <http://www.diverseandresilient.org/adult/documents/whitepaper-acx2.pdf>

## "Big Night Out 2008 - As Big As Ever!"

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's Big Night Out gala was as big as ever. The event, held October 11 at the Potawatomi Bingo & Casino, had a strong community feeling with many old friends getting reacquainted and introducing first time attendees to an evening of sumptuous food and contemporary dance by DanceWorks. The online auction was touted by many guests as a great improvement from the days of the onsite silent auction.

Without the distraction of displaying auction items, the room seemed bigger and people focused on talking to each other. Computers set up at the gala for last minute bidding got lots of use. The online auction was as successful as last year's auction, and the entire event raised nearly as much money as last year. The auctioneering skill of Gary Hollander during the live action helped the Community Center obtain funding to begin replacing old and worn out furniture. Sue Haertel, Master of Ceremonies, kept everyone laughing with her jokes about the economy, leaving us all to wonder if there is life as a stand up comedian in her future.

This year's awards went to people who have given significant support to the LGBT Community in various ways.

- Gary Timm, for his sustained commitment as a long time volunteer in the community. He encouraged everyone to try volunteering.
- Jane Ottow, Childrens Service Society, for her singular leadership on behalf of LGBT foster parents and kids, reminding everyone of the importance of collaboration in making systems change.
- Jim Marks, Greater-Milwaukee Foundation, for his recognition of the needs in the LGBT community, and developing visibility and support for these needs in the philanthropic sector.
- Lisa Phillips, City of Milwaukee Health Department, an indispensable partner and funder for LGBT health disparities such as tobacco use.
- Jim Fischer, Prudential Financial, who made the first commitment to be a Corporate Sponsor of the Community Center and he has been a sponsor for several other organizations in the LGBT Community. Jim believes in the importance of financial literacy and has led efforts to provide seminars on this topic for the LGBT community.

We were honored to give awards to such a distinguished group of people.

- Maggi Cage, Executive Director, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.



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## Tool Shed Moves

**Milwaukee** - After four years in its Riverwest location, the Tool Shed is moving to Milwaukee's historic East Side. On Tuesday, November 11, the Tool Shed will open its doors at 2427 N. Murray Ave., near the intersection of Farwell and North Avenues. The new location is almost three times as large as the Tool Shed's original storefront and is well able to accommodate the expanded range of products and the many educational events that owner Laura Anne Stuart has brought to the shop in the past four months.

In addition to a bigger space, the Murray Avenue store will have free and metered off-street parking and will be much more accessible to people with disabilities.

"I'm especially excited that we will now have more space to hold classes, since sexuality education is my passion," says Stuart. "Riverwest has been a nurturing and supportive home for the Tool Shed since it opened, and I'm looking forward to the next chapter of our existence just a mile away from our original location." From November 1 - 8, the Tool Shed will have a special moving sale, with up to 75% off select items and free gifts with qualifying purchases. Lingerie, sex toys, and unique gift items will all be available at reduced prices. Shoppers who spend \$25 will get a free pair of the Tool Shed's famous quirky socks, while those who spend \$50 will get socks and a free Tool Shed t-shirt, and those spending \$75 or more receive socks, a t-shirt and a Tool Shed logo duffle bag.

The store will be closed on Sunday, November 9 to prepare for the move. The Tool Shed will celebrate its move with a workshop led by special guest Lee Harrington, a nationally known expert on rope bondage and author of the book *Shibari You Can Use: Japanese Rope Bondage and Erotic Macrame*. Lee will facilitate a class on speed bondage at 7:00 pm on November 11, where participants will learn a variety of techniques that are quick, sturdy and beautiful. The class costs \$15 or \$8 for students/low-income. The Tool Shed was founded in 2004 by Eilis O'Herlihy and Molly Cassidy, two Milwaukee residents who felt that the city needed a friendly, welcoming place to shop for toys, books and other items to enhance sexual experiences. In July 2008, the Tool Shed was purchased by Laura Anne Stuart, who has worked as a sexuality educator for more than ten years. She is the co-author of a sexuality education curriculum for young adults, which was published in spring 2008, and she has a master's degree in public health. In the tradition of other woman-owned sex toy stores across the country, the Tool Shed embraces the philosophy that sexuality is a healthy, natural part of life and that the store is not just a place to buy products, but also a place where knowledgeable staff help educate customers.

Shortly after opening, O'Herlihy and Cassidy decided that the Tool Shed would only carry non-toxic, phthalate-free products, making the store one of only three adult retail stores in the country to do so. Under Stuart's ownership, these practices have continued, along with the Tool Shed's commitment to carrying locally-made and handmade items.

# The Real Burden of Suicide

In the mid-1980's, the Urban Institute, a progressive Washington think tank (remember those?), published a landmark report on teen pregnancy in America titled "Private Crisis, Public Cost". The report detailed the antecedents and consequences of teen pregnancy on girls' lives and on their families. It also calculated the enormous costs to taxpayers and communities for each birth to unwed teens.

About the same time, the Federal Register reported the work of a little-known social worker who claimed that one-third of all teen suicides was among gay and lesbian teens. While Gibson's work was over-stated and critically flawed in several ways, he was pointing to a crisis that remains with us in Wisconsin nearly 25 years later.

According to the Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), data collected in public schools by the Department of Public Instruction and in Milwaukee by the school district, LGBT youth are three times more likely to report having made a plan to die by suicide and six times more likely to require medical treatment following an attempt than their heterosexual peers. Almost half of all lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth (47.8%) reported feeling sad or hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row and that during that time they stopped doing some usual activities.

Beyond these numbers are real lives. These are real young people

called Cindy, Craig, Tonisha, and Shack. They have friends, families, parents and pets. They sing in church and hang out at a coffee house. And they don't want to live.

Why this call to death? For the most part these youth are not inherently psychologically flawed. They also report on the YRBS that they skipped school more days than their heterosexual peers because they felt unsafe. More than one in three gay youth reported having been harassed, picked on, or bullied so much that they felt unsafe at school or that it was hard to do their best at school, in comparison to one in five of their heterosexual peers.

Lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth also disagree more than their heterosexual peers with the statement, "your family loves you and gives you help and support when you need it." They disagree more than their heterosexual peers do with the statement, "your teachers really care about you and give you a lot of encouragement." They also report having fewer adults they feel comfortable with seeking help from than their heterosexual peers.

The public costs of these suicidal youth are staggering. We could calculate them in terms of lost years of life, lost or limited revenue, attenuated career aspirations, hospitalizations, and failed creative energy. We could calculate some sort of loss of social capital to their peers, parents, families, schools, and communities.



## HEALTH

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

But we would be hard pressed to calculate added costs to tax payers because these young people's dilemma is lost on policy makers and most health officials. No government funding currently supports suicide prevention for LGBT youth in Wisconsin. In fact, their plight is ignored in reports about suicide.

But they bare the real burden of violence and indifference.

Let's not pretend all is well with LGBT youth. Support your local LGBT youth program like Project Q at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. Follow local school politics. Protect school-based Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs). Consider becoming a foster parent.

Decide to take on the public cost and private crisis as our own.

## The Legacy of GAMMA

by Don Schwamb

This year, GAMMA celebrates its 30th anniversary. For those of you not familiar with GAMMA, it is a gay sports and social organization in Milwaukee.

GAMMA started as a sports group playing touch football along the lakeshore in the summer of 1978. They had a celebratory dinner that fall, and the following year also took up social and competitive volleyball inside a gym at UWM. The group quickly became a combined social and sports organization, establishing traditions such as camping, biking and rafting trips; an annual early-September corn roast; cruises on the Iroquois cruise boat; roller-skating; game nights, dining out, etc.

GAMMA was the gathering place of an extraordinary number of Milwaukee's community activists in the 1980's. John Cowles, Bob Moore, Arnie Malmon, and Don Schwamb all were early and active members of GAMMA, who made their marks in numerous other ways in Milwaukee's gay community. Those four men all had different interests, but between them were integral in the founding of Milwaukee's gay bowling and volleyball leagues, Cream City Business Association and Cream City Foundation, ACT UP, AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Cream City Squares, Frontrunners, and other groups.

The genesis of the GAMMA organization's name has long been questioned. In its early years some members said it might have stood for "Gay Athletic Milwaukee Men's Association" - but that has long been in contention, and is certainly not 'politically correct' when the organization continues to try to recruit women.

In the 1980's, the average age of a GAMMA member was between 25 and 30 years old. Over the past 10 years, the average age of a member has increased: longer-term members seem to remain, but there has not been a large influx of younger members in recent years. This seems to be typical of the times: younger gay men seem to feel less need to belong to a "gay" organization, as they can participate more openly as gay people in mainstream groups and activities. And the younger activist types typically participate more in either the Milw. LGBT Community Center, or the AIDS Resource Center. Also, the focus of events has shifted somewhat over the years, more towards social activities and fewer athletic ones. Even volleyball, an old mainstay during the group's first 20 years, is done less often now. Still, the group continues to sponsor both sports and social activities each month: during the warmer months, biking, camping and hiking are popular, while during the colder months snow skiing and other physical events are pursued. Party nights, game nights, theatre and dining out continue to be mainstays year-round.

Overall, the organization has remained remarkably healthy and vibrant as it passes its 30-year mark. The number of activities continues to be healthy, with the typical monthly activity calendar in 2008 still showing 10-15 events a month. And 2008 also saw its 28th year holding an annual corn roast on the Sunday after Labor Day. All indications are GAMMA will still be going strong years into the future.

So what has it meant for the author to be involved in GAMMA almost since its beginning? I have always valued GAMMA as a social outlet and as an opportunity to participate in sporting events and other activities outside the bar scene. For the more active members who serve on the Board of Directors or on a committee (as I did for over 8 years, including a term as President in the mid-1980's), GAMMA provides an opportunity to actually make things happen that benefit the community: organizing and running events, setting policy, recruiting new members. Today, as a less active member, even though months may pass when I am too busy to attend a GAMMA function, the monthly newsletter is a reassuring connection to the community, and a welcome release when I do have a free evening or weekend and want to participate in an activity. Virtually any weekend I might want to do something, GAMMA is there.

GAMMA celebrates its 30th anniversary at its annual dinner party on Friday, November 14th. Find out more about GAMMA at their web site, [www.milwaukeegamma.com](http://www.milwaukeegamma.com). The Milwaukee LGBT History Project web site also has an historical perspective on GAMMA, see that at [www.mkelgbhist.org/organiz/social/gamma.htm](http://www.mkelgbhist.org/organiz/social/gamma.htm).

# As a patriot

Over the last few weeks the campaign of John McCain disparaged the patriotism of people who are not voting Republican. Sarah Palin expressed her delight at visiting "real America." By that, she meant states where people were voting Republican.

If ever I wondered what McCain thought of LGBT people, his campaign made it clear. In his eyes we are not real Americans.



## 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.

Republicans have already claimed Christianity as their own, and tried to perpetuate the myth that being Christian meant voting Republican. Now they are trying the same with patriotism.

But my heart beats with a love of Jesus and of my country. One of the classic statements of American patriotism is our national anthem. Francis Scott Key wrote it while he was imprisoned on a British ship during the War of 1812.

From his prison cell, Francis Scott Key wrote a hymn that was full of passion for America, but also full of questions. Our national anthem is one of questions:

*O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light?*

*O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave?*

*What is that which the breeze, half conceals, half discloses?*

The power of Francis Scott Key's patriotism is its uncertain questions. Patriotism is not about an arrogant, willful, flagrant pride. (But such arrogance is all I hear from the McCain-Palin tirades).

Rather the voice of true patriotism rises from a prison cell to ask, "Are we the land of the free?" As a patriot, I want to take up the questions raised by Francis Scott Key: Are we all free from the sins of the past? Are we brave enough to face the wrongs of today?

The sins that I see, and the wrongs that I can name in our country, are ones made apparent to me by my faith: a blinding bigotry that causes many to mistake prejudice for piety; an indifference to the poor; and a disregard of civil rights, gallingly on display in Guantanamo. These are the things my faith leaves me wondering about.

My hope is that in this election we can see the success of Barack Obama but also the defeat of divisive politics. Instead of exulting in "real America," perhaps we can begin to ask how to make America really great for all its citizens.

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## CCF Receives Ground Breaking Bequest

**Milwaukee** - Cream City Foundation (CCF) is honored to announce Mr. Clarence Germershausen's (a.k.a John Clayton) legacy gift of \$400,000. The bequest to southeastern Wisconsin's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) movement is the largest gift to the Cream City Foundation in its 26-year history.

Germershausen's gift will be invested in Cream City Foundation's Mission Fund where only the interest growth from the fund will be available for efforts to create a more respectful and fair community, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. The structure of the gift ensures a permanent financial source for LGBT funding.

"Mr. Germershausen was one of Cream City Foundation's first supporters," said Tim Clark, president of the CCF. "We are honored to receive the generous and thoughtful bequest from Clarence. His gift makes it possible for us to strengthen our Mission Fund and future grant making efforts that advance LGBT equality."

When Germershausen died, he made sure that the work he cared about in his life would continue, leaving the vast majority of his estate to CCF - a community foundation focusing on serving LGBT rights.

"We are all thankful for his commitment and initiative in creating a legacy that will benefit LGBT individuals well into the future," said Maria Cadenas, executive director of the CCF. "His legacy lives on through the work of Cream City Foundation and the charitable organizations it supports."

Germershausen first connected to CCF by providing office space during the early years of the organization. His gift is a source of inspiration for positive change and the value of a strong LGBT community.

Clarence Germershausen died in August of 2005, after a brief but serious illness.

Cream City Foundation is a community foundation that serves as the leader in mobilizing philanthropic resources, fostering strategic collaboration, effecting positive change and the advancement of the quality, dignity, and health of LGBT people in Southeastern Wisconsin. Founded in 1982, Cream City Foundation has funded over \$600,000 in an effort to strengthen the LGBT community. To learn more about Cream City Foundation and find out how to create your own legacy please visit [www.creamcityfoundation.org/legacyplanning.htm](http://www.creamcityfoundation.org/legacyplanning.htm)

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Ideally, you should consult with a professional financial advisor to map out a comprehensive strategy. But with personal commitment and perhaps some sacrifice, you can take several steps on your own to help build a successful financial game plan.

### Know Yourself

Take inventory of your finances. Calculate your assets -- cash, IRAs, mutual funds, real estate, life insurance -- and your liabilities, like a mortgage or consumer debt and deferred income taxes on investments. Prioritize your objectives by what's most important to you: retirement planning, saving for college, increased investment returns, risk management, etc. Determine your current tax bracket and understand its implications for your strategy.

### Start Saving Now

Assuming an average 8% annual return and a retirement age of 65, every dollar saved at age 25 is worth nearly five times as much as a dollar saved at 45. Probably the first thing to do is take full advantage of any employer match in any qualified savings program offered by your employer. Don't miss out on the "Triple Treat" of an initial tax deduction, matching employer contributions and tax-deferred earnings offered by most 401(k) or 403(b) plans.

### Take Stock of the Market

Mutual funds may be a good way to start in the stock market. Find one that's well managed and meets the risk profile you will be comfortable with. If you can, sign up for the built-in discipline of an automatic investment program. This will not only allow you to take advantage of dollar cost averaging, but may help you avoid the investment minimums otherwise required by some mutual fund companies. Also, if you choose a fund, plan to stick with it for a while. (Of course, a periodic investment plan such as dollar cost averaging does



## FINANCE

Kurt A. Schummer is a Manager, Financial Services with The Prudential Insurance Company of America, located at 10000 Innovation Dr., Wauwatosa, WI, 53226. 414-456-1770, ext. 7240 The Prudential Insurance Company of America 751 Broad St., Newark, N.J. 07102-3777.

not assure a profit or protect against a loss in declining markets. You should consider your ability to make continued purchases even through periods of low price levels.)

### Curb Your Credit Cards

If your total monthly debt payments (excluding your mortgage payments) are 20% or more of your monthly take-home pay, you're probably overextended. Analyze your debts and see if any of the interest rates are more than the after-tax return on your invested savings. If they are, it makes sense to pay off these loans out of your savings. If you can't pay off your credit cards in full every month to avoid paying interest, shop around for the card with the lowest available rate.

### Be Wise with Windfalls

If you come up with a significant lump sum -- such as a bonus or inheritance -- try to resist the urge to buy the hot sports car you've always dreamed of. Your long-term financial future will probably be a lot rosier if you invest at least part of it.

### Keep Current

Financial markets are a dynamic, fluid environment. That, combined with the impact of major life events such as births, deaths, inheritances, or new jobs, make it imperative that you carefully review your strategy every year or so. Naturally, your review should be rigorous and disciplined, just like any successful game plan.

*Prudential, its affiliates, and their financial professionals do not give tax or legal advice. Be sure to consult with your tax and legal advisors regarding your personal circumstances.*

## Madison Gay Hockey Association Sponsors Fundraiser

**Madison** - The Madison Gay Hockey Association (MGHA) is pleased to announce the date for Blades Against AIDS. This fundraiser for the AIDS Network will take place on Saturday, November 8, 2008 at 7PM at the Capitol Ice Arena in Middleton, WI.

The MGHA invites the community to this open skate, which is staffed by members of the MGHA. Food donated by Queen Anne's Catering (Madison, WI) will be available and the MGHA will provide music. Skate rentals are included in the ticket price. An after-party and raffle will be held at Abuelo's in Middleton, WI.

More than 250 people attended the inaugural Blades Against AIDS, held March 3, 2007, where over \$3,000 was raised for AIDS Network to help support its services to those touched by HIV/AIDS. The MGHA hopes to meet or exceed these amounts for the

second annual Blades Against AIDS.

Tickets to the events are \$15 for ages 16 and up; \$10 for ages 10-15; and \$5 for students and children under 10 years old. Tickets are available at the door.

For more information please call 608-446-6762, or [communications@madisongayhockey.org](mailto:communications@madisongayhockey.org).

The Madison Gay Hockey Association is an adult developmental ice hockey league for members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning and Allied (LGBTQA) Community. They provide opportunities to learn and teach ice hockey in a safe, supportive and fun environment, while aspiring to the highest standards of sportsmanship and promoting integration within the LGBTQA and wider Madison Communities.



**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.

Joe Wurzelbacher became instantly famous; making world news, when John McCain used him to illustrate how different his tax plan is from Barack Obama's. From one day to the next "Joe the Plumber" moved from an anonymous "average Joe" to a household name.

Joe's name was mentioned 23 times in a 90-minute presidential debate - each time, without his permission. (I, too, am using his name without his permission.) As a result of the publicity, the world not only knows Joe's name, but also discovered that he owes back taxes and medical bills, and isn't a licensed plumber.

In a post-9/11 world, where peoples' histories are relatively transparent, McCain opened the door to one person's closet (easily accessible by public record laws) by simply mentioning his name.

Some might say that Joe, who

# I am Joe the Plumber

attended a public rally, where cameras were present, was aware of the risk he was taking. That risk - asking a candidate a question - meant his life would become an open book because the other candidate would use him as an example, as a pawn in his own game.

Although I want to believe that the intention was good - to use an "average American" (if such a person even exists) - the result was a painful invasion of privacy for Joe.

In an email exchange I had with a friend on the East Coast, she cogently proclaimed that Joe "got what he had coming." If he had secrets in his past (no license, back taxes, etc), he should just "take it like a man and accept his fate."

Wow.

My friend, who has a trans history, has routinely criticized others for not respecting the privacy of her past. She lives a public life and justifiably expects others to honor the privacy of her unknown-to-them-history.

What if Joe had been her? She was recently in a nearly identical position - at a candidate's rally, where she took the opportunity to directly ask the candidate a question. Would she feel the same way, if that candidate decided to use her question - and identity - as an example to prove his point? Would she want reporters crawling through her underwear drawer to dig up any juicy pieces

of her past to use in internationally-syndicated articles?

If reporters uncovered her history, might they see the still-not-fully-paid SRS (sex reassignment surgery) medical debt/loans, or that she was/used to be Albert the Accountant before her current identity as Alice the Accountant (not her real name or profession)? How would she feel if her face was plastered on televisions across the country, with headlines like "transgender accountant"? Could she take her own "advice" to Joe and take the undesired media invasion "like a woman and accept her fate?"

We have lost perspective - both within our country as a whole (particularly in the political realm) and within the transgender community. Politicians and the media seem to have no problem spotlighting individuals and opening their lives to high levels of personal scrutiny (without their consent). Likewise, people in the trans community often assert their desire for privacy, and yet, feel they have a right to reveal personal information about other peoples' histories (without their consent).

Do we really want to use others as examples to prove our point? Maybe we just all want to be "average Joe's" who can live our lives, able to access ample and affordable healthcare, livable wages, modest taxes, a modicum of privacy, and a wallop of respect.



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Tobacco use represents a private crisis for LGBT people in Wisconsin; it comes at a huge public cost to us all.

### WHY DO WE SMOKE MORE?

One of the leading factors associated with LGBT people smoking is minority stress—the stress related to the stigma and discrimination we feel in our daily lives as LGBT people. Even those who have successfully quit for a period of time are more likely to state they returned to smoking because of the stressors of our lives.

### WHAT WORKS?

- Cold turkey rarely works. You can double or triple your chances of a successful quit by combining strategies.
- Build a social support network among your friends and family that cheers you on.
- Work on changing the habits of smoking. Think about where and when you smoke. What triggers your smoking behaviors? Be aware of the feelings that increase your desire to smoke and work on those.

### GET HELP.

Check out [www.rm2breathe.org](http://www.rm2breathe.org)

Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW for loads of resources, including nicotine replacement products.



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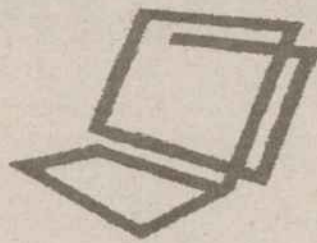
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**Music of the  
English Baroque**

**Milwaukee** - The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center presents an evening of English baroque stage music. Arias, songs and instrumental works by Henry Purcell (1659-1695), Johann Christoph Pepusch (1667-1752) and G. F. Handel (1685-1759.)

This rare performance is the latest in a series of early music concerts by Jerrad J. Fenske, head of Choral and Vocal studies at Cardinal Stritch University. He is joined by Amelia Spierer, Voice Faculty, Cardinal Stritch University and cellist Scott Cook, Faculty at the University of WI-Milwaukee, Carroll College and the String Academy of WI.

The English baroque musical stage developed from Italian and French influences but struck-out to establish its own specific character. In the last decades of the 17th century, Henry Purcell's English language operas were mostly musical scenes set within traditional stage works. However, his successful Dido and Aeneas (1689) was among the first complete English operas. Dido's famous aria is a centerpiece of the evening's concert.

Johann Christoph Pepusch left Germany to find a more compatible music scene in England. He is best known for his setting of The Beggar's Opera (1728) that competed with the popular Italian language works of his fellow expatriate, Georg Frederick Handel. It is not only an accessible English language opera but, contrary to Handel's lofty plots in royal courts, it is set in the gritty streets of London.

The concert takes place Saturday, November 8 at 7:30 at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 South 2nd Street in Walker's Point. Admission is \$10. The lush acoustics of this intimate space offer the audience a particularly rare aural experience typical of the baroque venues of the time.

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Entertainment 8:00 p.m.

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# This Holiday Season Buy Local, Give Practical

It isn't news to anyone that our economy is in a sad, sorry state. Government bailouts of big banks and 8 years of tax cuts for the very wealthy haven't seemed to "trickle down" to the rest of us yet. For many, the state of the economy isn't recent news at all. A large majority of Americans have long been feeling the impact of this economy as joblessness, lack of healthcare and home foreclosures have been hitting certain areas of our country for years now. Given all of this it might be hard for many to think about the holidays and the gift-giving season.

But with the holiday season also comes that familiar feeling of hope and renewal as we all focus on what really matters: the support and love of our community of family and friends and the things we can do in our lives to benefit our health and personal wellbeing.

Giving gifts to those we love doesn't have to be stressful. Buying things from big box stores and searching for this year's most popular new gadget that no one really needs by going to those hectic 4am store openings isn't the way to go. This year what's good for our own sense of sanity is also what's good for our local economy. A stress-free and uplifting holiday season involves making an investment in buying local, and giving practical gifts to those we love.

Invest in your health and the health of your friends and family by seeking out gifts that you know they will use and that will put money back into our local community. For example, everyone needs groceries and usually they need them on a weekly basis. Consider giving your friends and family members gift certificates in any amount to locally owned grocery stores such as the Outpost, the Riverwest Coop, or Beans and Barley.

Have a friend or family member with glasses? Give them a gift certificate to Bronze Optical, a locally and gay owned small business that specializes in high quality frames at a range of prices. The Bronze experience is truly unique and your loved one will enjoy the attention Bronze pays to finding them the right pair of glasses. Give Bronze a call at 221.7055 or visit him online at: <http://www.bronzeoptical.com>.



## WOMEN

Jennifer Cadenas 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. Jenny and her partner are expecting their first child in December and in case you were wondering, they are registered at "Babies R Us".

Do you have a friend, or a family member that suffers from migraines, backaches, or complains of just feeling physically out of sorts? Giving them the gift of a chiropractic visit to Foti Chiropractic is a way to help them make an investment in their health. Chiropractic care is also good for pregnant women, new mothers, and children! I have been a patient of Dr. Foti's for over a year now and can say that giving someone the gift that going to the Foti's (Dr. David Foti, Dr. Felicia Foti, and Dr. Hans Helaska) has been for me would be a very special holiday gift indeed. For more information on Foti Chiropractic, visit them online at, <http://www.fotichiropractic.com> or call them at 259.9008.

Another way to buy local and give practical involves making an investment in the long-term vision of our Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender communities by honoring your friends and loved ones with a gift in their name to the Cream City Foundation (CCF), our local LGBT community foundation that gives back in big ways such as the Gay Neighbor Billboard campaign and via grants to local LGBT groups.

More information about CCF can be found on their website at [www.creamcityfoundation.org](http://www.creamcityfoundation.org), or by calling 414.225.0244. You could also give to the LGBT organization - be it PrideFest, the Center Advocates, PFLAG, the LGBT Film/Video Festival or other group - of your choice by contacting them directly.

## NOVEMBER CALENDAR • CATCH IT IF YOU CAN

### TIL NOV 8

Drawing Influence: Joseph Frieber & His Students. UWM Department of Visual Art's Continuum 7 Exhibition. Joseph Frieber was a beloved and influential teacher in UWM's Department of Visual Art, and throughout his lengthy career there he taught life drawing. On the occasion of Frieber's centenary, we display a selection of his drawings and the work of Visual Art alumni who were influenced by him. Inova/Arts Center, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd. FREE. Tuesday-Saturday, 11 am-4pm. 414-229-5070 or <http://arts.uwm.edu/inova>.

### TIL NOV 9

The Boulevard Ensemble Studio Theatre, located at 2252 South Kinnickinnic, continues its 23rd season by staging Hugh Whitmore's delightful biographical play STEVIE. Boulevard Artistic Director Mark Bucher directs this Milwaukee premiere which showcases the life and works of neglected British literary lioness and poet Stevie Smith. 414.744.5757 or visit [www.boulevardtheatre.com](http://www.boulevardtheatre.com).

### TIL NOV 28

5th Annual Gay Youth Art Show - "Ritualizations" - A collaboration with MPS Alliance School. Guest curators Jill Engel and Carrie Hoelzer present an exhibition of exploratory art in various media. Students' work deconstructs identity and the urban experience in poignant and humorous ways. Show runs through November 28. Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St. Gallery Hours: 10am-4pm Mon-Fri and by appointment.

### NOV 3

A series of classes exploring wines as broken down by their "color." Weekly classes begin on 11/3 with red wines, then venture on to orange, yellow, and green, finally ending with blue and purple on 12/1. Cost per class is \$30 per person. Bacchus, 925 E. Wells St. 414-765-1166. Class: 6:15PM - 7:30PM. Repeats: Nov 10; 17; 24; Dec 01.

### NOV 4

VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE VOTE!!!

Tonight, at 6PM, Master Sommelier Candidate Toni Johnson and Vino 100 Milwaukee present: South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, Argentina & Chile. 102 N. Water St. Suite C. While buds burst in North America and Europe, grapes south of the equator ripen. Taste and learn why these regions, with their varying altitudes and climates, are growing in popularity and prominence on in the U.S. market. Call Vino 100 after noon weekdays to pre-register. 414-277-8466 \$25 (\$20 discount with all six classes). more info: [melissa@vino100milwaukee.com](mailto:melissa@vino100milwaukee.com).

### NOV 5

ARTISTS NOW! Guest Lecture Series at UWM presents: Gary John Gresl: Synthesis of Four Dimensions: Objects, Collecting, Creating. FREE. Arts Center Lecture Hall, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd. 7PM. Info: (414) 229-6052. Gary John Gresl, a 2007 recipient of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation's Mary L. Nohl Fund Individual Artist Fellowship in the established category, talks about found or selected objects utilized in assemblage sculptures.

Learn the ancient art of brewing beer while gaining insight into the origins of this fermented beverage throughout time. 5:30-7PM. Must be 21 or older or accompanied by a parent. Cost to participate is \$10 per session, which includes take-home samples. Please call 414.765.8625 to register. Discovery World, 500 N. Harbor Dr., Milwaukee. 414-765-9966

The Mitchell Park Domes Grand Reopening Ceremony. Milwaukee County Executive, Scott Walker, will flip the switch at to unveil the Domes new high-tech LED lighting

system. Parks Director Sue Black, Dome's architect Donald Grieb and others will welcome visitors and offer thoughts during the ceremony as well. 5 - 9PM, Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory, 524 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee. 414-649-9830

Get comfy and be prepared to stretch. Strengthen your core! On-going YOGA classes at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center continue every Wednesday, 5:30-6:45PM with Dean Farrell. New students may join at any time. Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St

### NOV 6

RSVP Productions presents: Show People Directed by Raymond Bradford. 8PM. Runs Nov 7-22nd, with a "pay what you can" evening on the 20th. \$12 tickets, \$10 seniors. At the Astor St. Theatre, corner of Brady and Astor. INFO: 272-5694

Truth and Transformation: Empowered Exploration through Writing. 7-8:30pm, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court Street. FORGE's monthly facilitated writing group focuses on healing for LGBTQIA survivors of sexual (and other) trauma. All survivors and supporters welcome. No experience necessary, all materials provided. \$10 donation requested, sliding fee scale available. Info: [www.forge-forward.org](http://www.forge-forward.org) or by emailing [info@forge-forward.org](mailto:info@forge-forward.org).

### NOV 7

The UWM Symphony Orchestra and the UWM Choirs come together for another in their series of popular collaborative concerts. Sharon Hansen is the guest conductor for a program that includes Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade and Frostiana by Thompson. 7:30PM, Helen Bader Concert Hall, Helene Zelazo Center for the Performing Arts, 2419 E. Kenwood Blvd. Tickets: \$10 general/\$7 students, seniors & UWM alumni, faculty & staff.

Shall Not be Recognized: Portraits of Same Sex Couples is an exhibit of photographic and verbal portraits of couples whose committed relationships are considered by many to be unworthy of recognition. In recent years, the battle surrounding legal recognition of same-sex marriages and civil unions has grabbed headlines. Often lost in the debate have been the voices of same-sex couples themselves. The photography is by Jeff Pearcy and text by Will Fellows. [www.shallnotberecognized.org](http://www.shallnotberecognized.org). on display now thru Nov 21, at UWM Student Union Atrium Gallery (outside UW-Milwaukee Union Bookstore). The exhibit is free to the public.

Belly Dance Hafra-Harvest. Shaia Fahrid Egyptian Belly Dance presents a special harvest-theme night of belly dancing with friends and pilgrims. Open to all! Bring your favorite CD and dance! Donation at the door \$5. Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St, 8-11PM. Refreshments available.

### NOV 8

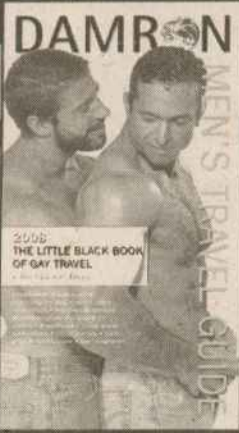
UW-Milwaukee's Helen Bader School of Social Welfare's Alumni Association will host a scholarship fundraising event and gala opening reception of the exhibit Shall Not be Recognized: Portraits of Same Sex Couples from 2-4pm in the UWM Student Union Alumni Fireside Lounge, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. \$25pp. RSVP to John Bartel, [jwbartel@uwm.edu](mailto:jwbartel@uwm.edu), 414-906-4665.

Musick of the English Baroque Stage. Henry Purcell, G.F. Handel and Johann Christoph Pepusch performed by Amelia Spierer, soprano; Jerrad Fenske, harpsichord; and Scott Cook, cello. 7:30pm. \$10 at the door. Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd St. 414-383-3727.

Design Within Reach Book Fair. Browse goods from Broad Vocabulary, Milwaukee Art Museum, Harry W. Schwartz Books, Paper Boat, and more. 11AM-6PM. Design Within Reach, 167 N. Broadway Milwaukee. 414.224.5353

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# MKE Goes To LGBT Aging Conference

From October 11th through the 13th the New York Marriott at Brooklyn Bridge was over run with people working with the elderly, and more specifically, people working with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender elderly.

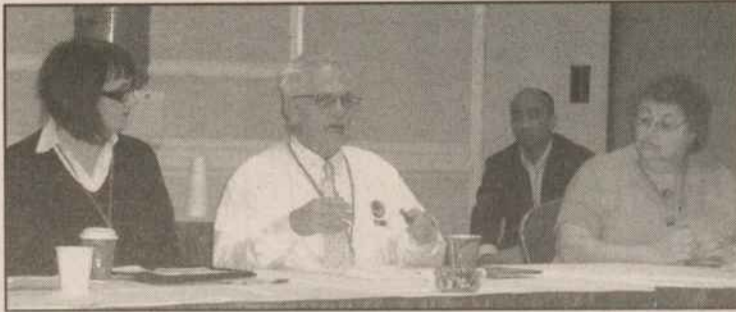
The SAGE Fourth National Conference on Aging 'It's About Time: LGBT Aging in a Changing World' attracted some 600 participants from all

across the United States, England and Australia. These were Social workers, administrators, educators and researchers who came together to dialogue on the unique needs of LGBT elders and in particular as related to the 'Baby Boomers' coming of age.

Four people from Milwaukee attended the conference; Michael Lisowski of the Queer Program; Beatrice Green, Senior Independence Project; Loree Cook-Daniels, Transgender Aging Network and Forge; and yours truly from SAGE/Milwaukee. Ms. Green, Ms. Cook-Daniels and myself all presented at the conference. Besides helping facilitate the Transgender Aging Roundtable, Loree presented three workshops - Transgender 101, Trauma Among LGBT Elders, and one presenting a ground-breaking online curriculum for

health care providers on LGBT aging issues. Ms. Green did a symposium on 'Death, Dying and the Law'; And I, on the other hand, presented and presented and presented.

On Sunday the 12th the conference presented 4 all-day Intensives;



Planning Your Aging Future, LGBT Elder Housing, Best Practices for LGBT Cultural Competency Trainers and How to Build a SAGE Program. This fourth track is where I spent all day Sunday. I was on the panel at the opening session, another panel at the second session, another panel for the third session and then a workshop on events planning in the late afternoon. I was also on a panel for a SAGE roundtable for people who are involved in other SAGE programs in the country.

What was so important about the day long program on building a SAGE organization was that the Milwaukee SAGE is the second oldest of the 12 National SAGE offices, and is autonomous from any other entity, like a community center, and therefore of major interest to people just stating

an organization. Our longevity made it obvious that we know how to do it. Because the advent of the 'Baby Boomers' is so huge, the need for senior LGBT programming around the country is very important. So at the workshops throughout the day we talked about funding and program development, connecting with community and board development.

This kind of inclusion puts SAGE/Milwaukee in the unique position of being expert in the field of developing a new organization and building it to be successful. People from across the country are looking at SAGE/Milwaukee and asking questions about how we did it and how we are developing as we get older and bigger. This is not to say that my personal involvement with the organization has made it what it is. The real credit for Milwaukee being so important on a national level goes to it's founder Eldon Murray and people like Dr. Robert Carpenter, Tracy Kreisman and other founders who saw the need long before anyone else did. But starting an organization is easy so being around for fifteen years says a lot about all of the other people who worked to keep it viable, like Si Smits, John Terhardt and Arlene Kochman.

At the conference Michael Adams, Executive Director of SAGE (New York



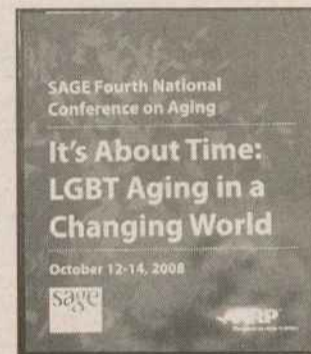
## SENIOR

Mr. Serpe has been Executive Director of SAGE/Milwaukee for three and 1/2 years. He sits on the Board of Governors for the Milwaukee County Department on Aging Care Management Organization by appointment from the County Executive. Bill is single and lives with three cats, Clio, Chloe and Buddy.

City) and Karen Taylor talked about the need to have this conference more often and that there would be another one in 2010. They also stated that they wanted it in the Midwest - which means, Milwaukee, Chicago or St.

Louis. Milwaukee looks to be the favorite because this past July we hosted most of the SAGE Executive Directors from around the United States in the first ever SAGENet Conference. All of the people who were here fell in love with Milwaukee, except, maybe, for the guys from Florida who were disappointed that there were no male stripper bars.

So we can all be part of hosting a major national conference in 2010 and when I say we, I mean all of us. It was obvious in New York, how many volunteers are needed to run an event like that so I will be calling all of you to help make the Milwaukee Conference a success.



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*'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.*

**NOVEMBER CALENDAR CONTINUED**

**NOV 9**  
Sketch comedy and long form Improv. The Gentlemen's Hour does a new show every other Sunday. \$5. 8PM, Alchemist Theatre 2569 S. Kinnickinnic Ave.

The Good Shepherd Gay and Straight in Christ Ministry invites you to a Prayer Vigil for peace and justice to help fight the immorality of discrimination and hate crime. 7pm. Good Shepherd Catholic Church, N188 W17658 Christman Road, Menomonee Falls. For more info please call 262-255-2035

**NOV 10**  
Come and join the Outwards Book Club for a discussion of Andre Aicman's wonderful new coming-of-age novel, Call Me By Your Name. Come and meet the group and discuss a great book. 7PM, Outwards Books, Gifts & Coffee 2710 N Murray Ave Milwaukee. 414-963-9089 outwardsbooks@msn.com www.outwardsbooks.com

Building strong relationships in tough times. In this innovative, and very practical series of 6 workshops, participants will gain insights, tools, and skills they can use to create stronger, healthier relationships of all kinds. All of us have experienced some kind of trauma or significant life stress. Creative arts, movement, negotiation strategies, small group discussions, interactive exercises and introspective techniques will lead participants to a deeper knowledge of themselves and assist them in getting more of what they want out of their relationships and life! 6-8pm. Weekly at 6pm on Monday until Dec 15. For more information, contact info@forge-forward.org or 414-559-2123. This program is being offered through the Nicolet Recreation Department. Location TBA. Presented by FORGE.

**NOV 11**  
Take a tour of your cook top as you learn to make delicious pasta dishes and Asian-inspired stir-fry. \$20 for owners, \$25 for non-owners. Please call 414.431.3377 ext. 110. Outpost Bay View Community Room - 2826 S. Kinnickinnic Ave. 6-8PM

The Lesbian Reading Group meets at Outwards Books at 7PM. The book to be discussed is C.P. Rowlands' debut novel Lake Effect Snow. All interested readers are always welcome to join in. Outwards Books, Gifts & Coffee 2710 N Murray Ave Milwaukee. 414-963-9089 outwardsbooks@msn.com www.outwardsbooks.com

**NOV 12**  
ARTISTS NOW! Guest Lecture Series at UWM presents: Mads Lynnerup: You are the Artist - You figure it Out. Arts Center Lecture Hall, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd. 7PM. Free. Info: (414) 229-6052. Site-specific sculptor and video artist Mads Lynnerup talks about his process, inspiration and art practice, and discusses his influences and interest in artwork that responds to its immediate audience and environment.

Cats have nine lives. Shouldn't they be lived to the fullest? The Onion authors behind The Dangerous Book for Dogs are back with another hilarious parody, The Devious Book for Cats by Fluffy and Bonkers. From in-depth guides on getting the most out of cardboard boxes to fail-safe tips for waking a human when you want to get fed. Cat owners, you wont want to miss this event with the authors (Joe Garden and Chris Pauls) who were allowed to help Fluffy and Bonkers write their book. 7PM. Schwartz Bookstore 4093 N. Oakland Ave, (414) 963-3111

Environmental Wellness Seminar, 6-8:00 P.M. free. limited to twenty participants on a first-registered, first-served basis. The focus of the Environmental Awareness program is learn how to leave less of a "carbon footprint" on our planet by exploring and discussing a variety of "green" topics and by discovering and using tools that will allow each participant to live more gently on the land. Tonights presentation: Smart, Sexy, Sustainable Clothing with Sarah Szymanski of Chartreuse. Chartreuse, 2227 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue. Site tour of a facility or examination of products. Question-and-answer period. Special hands-on activity. Resource and referral lists. Presented by the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.

**NOV 13**  
This holiday season, Milwaukee Chamber Theatre presents, THE DALY NEWS, a new musical based on a true Milwaukee story. Written by well-known Milwaukee actor and playwright, Jonathan Gillard Daly, THE DALY NEWS chronicles the lives of Daly's relatives during WWII. Runs through Dec. 14. Broadway Theatre Center's Studio Theatre, 158 N. Broadway. Office 414-291-7800. www.milwaukeechambertheatre.com

TheWorldTour ofGymnastics Superstars featuring reigning world champion Shawn Johnson, Olympic Champion Paul Hamm, 9-time world medalist Nastia Liukin plus the Men and Women of Team USA will perform like nothing you have seen before. Special musical performances from KSM and Jordan Pruitt. Athletes include: Shawn Johnson, Nastia Liukin, Kevin Tan, Shannon Miller, Jonathan Horton, Joseph Hagerty, Justin Spring and Blaine Wilson, Paul Hamm, Morgan Hamm and Chelsie Memmel. 7PM Bradley Center, 1001 N. Fourth St., Milw. 414-227-0400

The Childrens Service Society of WI (CSSW) is holding treatment foster parent informational meetings this month at various locations. Tonight, join them at CSSW, 620 S. 76th St. Ste. 120 in Milwaukee, 6-7:30PM. Become a treatment foster parent for emotionally or behaviorally challenged children - help change lives! Call Langston Verdin at 414-231-4854 to register.

Broad Vocabulary and Café Lulu's are hosting "The Bumbling Bee Spelling Bee" contest! It's \$5 to enter and you're eligible for prizes big and small. 9:30PM. \$5. Café LuLu, 2265 S Howell Ave. Call 414-294-LULU to register.



**NOVEMBER CALENDAR CONTINUED**

**NOV 14**

The Cream City Foundation would like to honor and thank their donors and volunteers, and what better way than a Donor and Volunteer Thank You Party! This Is It! (418 East Wells St.) will host the event and provide 2-for-1 for the first drink as well as great appetizers! Come meet donors, volunteers, staff and Board Members! RSVP at 414.225.0244 or director@creamcityfoundation.org. 5PM - 8PM. As a bonus, Cream City Foundation's offices (one block from This Is It! at 759 N. Milwaukee Street, Suite 212 ) will be an "Open House" from 4-5:30PM. This is for DONORS and VOLUNTEERS only - but don't fret! You can become a donor at the door, and still enjoy a lovely party!

Art Bar Studio 54 Fund Raiser for MGAC - DJ's spin a disco night to remember. Silent Auction with Fabulous Items. 8pm - midnight. 722 E. Burleigh St, Milwaukee.

The Lesbian Alliance presents their popular "Potluck and Game Night" 6pm - 9pm. LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St. Bring your favorite game for an evening of fun. As you are able, please bring a dish to pass. For more information call 414-272-9442.

**NOV 17**

The Childrens Service Society of WI (CSSW) is holding treatment foster parent informational meetings this month at various locations. Tonight, join them at the COA Youth & Family Center, 909 E. Garfield Ave, in Milwaukee, 6-7:30PM. Become a treatment foster parent for emotionally or behaviorally challenged children - help change lives! Call Langston Verdin at 414-231-4854 to register.

Join editor Rachel Buff and author Christine Neumann-Ortiz for a discussion of immigration rights and citizenship. Their new book, Immigrant Rights in the Shadows of Citizenship brings prominent activists and scholars together to examine the emergence and significance of the contemporary immigrant rights movement. Rachel Buff teaches history and comparative ethnic studies at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Schwartz Bookstore, 7PM, 2559 N. Downer Ave, (414) 332-1181

**NOV 18**

Tonight, through the 23rd, The UWM Theatre Mainstage Series presents: Arms and the Man by George Bernard Shaw. Directed by Michelle Lopez-Rios. All performances 7:30PM except Sunday, 2PM. Mainstage Theatre, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd. Tickets: \$15 general/\$9 students, seniors & alumni. Student matinee: November 20 at 10AM. Pre-performance talk on Wednesday, Nov. 19 at 6:45PM. Sign language interpretation provided for the Nov. 23 performance.

**NOV 19**

The Boulevard Theater presents: David Mamet's Triumphant Trilogy: Dark Pony, The Duck Variations and Reunion. Three neglected gems by the author of Glengarry, Glen Ross and Broadway's current hit comedy November. This choice theatrical trifecta of plays, written before fame was bestowed on America's master of the invective, reveal heart and charm in Mamet's writing that will affect and amaze you. Guest director Jaime Jastrab directs a talented cast of Ericka Wade, Don Devona, Mark Ninnemann, and Michael Weber. Runs thru DEC 7.

**NOV 20**

5th Annual Nohl Fellowship Exhibit: Fire in the Hole! Institute of Visual Arts, Inova/Kenilworth, 2155 N. Prospect Ave. FREE 6-8PM. Infor: (414) 229-5070 or arts.uwm.edu/inova. The first fifty participants at Matthes's

War Fair installation will receive a free coupon to play his carnival game, Fire in the Hole. Try your luck and kill the insurgents.

Mo's - A Place for Steaks is having series of wine dinners. Each wine dinner includes a raffle of a 2-night stay at the corresponding winery of the evening. One raffle entry will be provided with the purchase of a dinner ticket and an additional entry will be provided with the purchase of a case of wine. Maximum of 2 entries per guest. Tonight's featured guest: Heather Haehl, Winery Representative for King Estate Winery, Oregon. Raffle prize: Accommodations and tour at King Estate Winery. 6:30pm. Cost is \$150.00 per person, all-inclusive, or \$800 for a table of six. Mo's - A Place for Steaks, 720 N. Plankinton Ave.. 414-272-0720.

**NOV 22**

The Milwaukee Gay Arts Center is proud to present two distinctive performers in a unique presentation. Both are "guys with guitars," singing original tunes from their own perspective. Join Songwriters Ryan Mintz & Keith Hampton for a musical evening of humorous & heartfelt tunes. 8PM. Admission \$10 at the door, or in advance at www.braverecords.com. Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. 2nd Street, Milwaukee WI, 53204.

**NOV 23**

Browse an array of books, music, children's toys, art and craft items, jewelry and edible goods at Plymouth United Church of Christ's third annual Alternative Gift Fair. 10:30AM-4PM. Plymouth United Church of Christ, 2717 E. Hampshire St., just two blocks from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Shoppers should enter the church gymnasium on east Hampshire Street. Info: Bridget Flad at pastorbridget@choiceonemail.com or 414-964-1513.

The Plymouth Chorale presents "Divine Comedy" 7 p.m., at Plymouth Church, 2717 E. Hampshire. The concert will feature two short masses: Missa Solemnis by Mozart and Missa Hilarious by P.D.Q. Bach. \$10 (\$8 students & seniors). The Missa Hilarious will feature Everett McKinney as the "Bargain Counter-Tenor" and Jim Sampson as the "Basso Blotto."

**NOV 25**

My Vote Performs: For the Nov 4 presidential election, My Vote Performs is producing performance art at 11 different polling places in the City of Milwaukee. A project of this nature has not been undertaken before in the United States. Tonight's free forum will present documentation of all the projects, including some live performances. The Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design, 273 E. Erie St. 7PM. For more info contact Pegi Taylor at pegitaylor@sbcglobal.net or visit http://www.myvoteperforms.com.

**NOV 29**

7th Annual Potluck Dinner at Plymouth Church. Hosted by Black & White Men Together, Brew City Bears, Lesbian Alliance, Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church, ProjectQ, PFLAG, and SAGE/Milwaukee. Plymouth Church, 2717 East Hampshire Ave. doors open 4:30PM, dinner follows at 5:30PM. Here's how it works: If your last name begins with: A-E - please bring a dessert; F-K - please bring an appetizer; L-S - please bring a side dish; T-Z - please bring a salad. Bring enough to serve 6-8 people. Call SAGE/Milwaukee office at 414-224-0517 by Wednesday, November 26th to confirm you will be there. Volunteers for set up and/or clean up are much appreciated and welcomed.

Deadline for the December publication is Nov 20th for consideration. Please send to qlifelistsings@yahoo.com.

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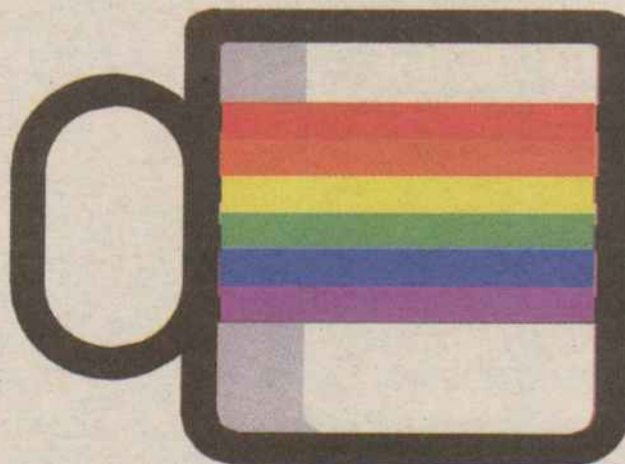
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**City Lights Chill:** 111 W. Howard Ave. Mil, WI 414-481-1441  
**Club 200 East:** 200 E. Washington St. Mil, WI 414-389-3596  
**Cuvee:** 181 N. Broadway, Mil, WI 414-225-9800  
**Fluid:** 819 S. 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 414-643-5843  
**Harbor Room:** 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. Mil, WI 414-643-0377  
**PumpHouse:** 2011 S. 1st St. Milwaukee, WI 414-744-7008  
**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.*

# Known Downer: One Man's Journey into Fatherhood

**FW:** Is it a decision you regret or are you glad you went ahead?  
**Known Donor (KD):** I've never regretted it.

**FW:** What was the process of becoming a known donor like?  
**KD:** Fascinating and amusing. The first step was testing my sperm for viability. At an east side clinic, I was led to a small room containing a chest of drawers with a few ragged (straight) porn magazines, was handed a vial and told to place the filled vial in a little drawer in the wall. I'll never forget laying on the carpet in the darkened room, my pants around my ankles, with my head two feet away from the door, watching the feet of staff and patients walking by in the corridor outside, trying to think sexy thoughts. Fortunately, I had just ridden the elevator up with a really hot guy. That helped.

I went to Best-D Clinic and was tested for all STDs, including HIV. In fact, I had 3 HIV tests over the course of two months just to be sure. I decided to remain celibate for the entire insemination process. The mother and baby-to-be's well being were entwined with mine now - a trust I took very seriously.

Next, the women proceeded with the home insemination. I visited every night during the birth mother-to-be's ovulation cycle. There I repeated my performance in a more relaxed private atmosphere upstairs. Once done, I would wrap the Tupperware vial in a towel, leave it on the kitchen table, give the women a quick good-luck kiss and be on my way.

It seemed SO unlikely our "biology experiment" was ever going to produce a real baby. To everyone's amazement, a week after our first real attempt, I received a call. "We're pregnant."

**FW:** Do you have any advice for people considering becoming a known donor?

**KD:** Yes, and on this issue I feel very strongly. The mothers were startled when I announced (before the insemination process began) that I was seeking my own legal counsel. The women's attorney had drafted an agreement, obviously with her clients' best interests in mind. My attorney reviewed it very carefully and made a number of revisions and additions. The moms were relieved that the amendments my lawyer proposed were fair and keeping all our protections in mind and signed



## PARENTING

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

willingly. My approach was to think through every worst-case scenario and make sure that my interests were protected as best they could. There are no guarantees with these types of agreements, but this approach gave me some peace of mind.

I also asked to review the moms' entire financial situation. This is a sensitive issue for many people and deeply personal territory ... but so is having a baby. The moms were completely forthcoming and put everything out on the table for me to review and ask questions about.

**FW:** How is your relationship with the moms and your biological child?

**KD:** Wonderful. And it has grown deeper and better over time. At first, I have to be honest -- I was slightly ambivalent about the crying little alien pod in my arms. Don't get me wrong, it was wonderful ... but slightly strange. As time went on and the personality emerged, I fell head over heels in love with the little man. The four of us are as close as can be, but it evolved in a natural and unforced way.

Some people think it must be awkward to have a known donor who does not have any legal rights to the child. The moms felt a true calling toward parenting -- they wanted to extend the beauty of their wonderful relationship and bring along and nurture a new life.

I have no desire to be a parent. I was only contributing raw materials. For me, this meant relinquishing ALL rights and all choices in my son's upbringing. They are the parents - I am a biological father. THAT is an important distinction. I'm sure other people will have different (and successful) approaches, but this is what works for us.

To other gay and straight men considering doing this, I can only say: think it through carefully, arm yourself with information and ultimately, follow your heart.

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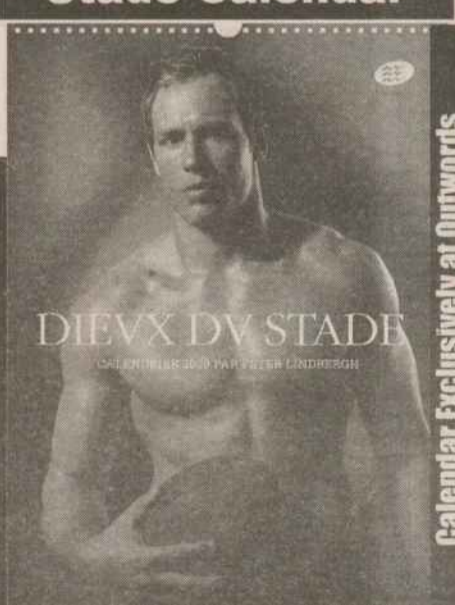
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# Capturing the Imagination and Hopes of this Country

The first time I heard the name Barack Obama was following the February '04 WI primary. I was a Howard Dean fan and not quite ready to accept the history of the campaign just a few short days after it was over. I made contact with some Dean supporters in Chicago, went to the downtown office in Milwaukee, filled my car with the bumper stickers, signs, etc "chum" as we call it in the business, and drove to Chicago to give them stuff headed for the dumpster.

Driving around Chicago, I saw signs everywhere in all neighborhoods, rich and poor, with a funny name on them and made it a point to ask who that Obama guy was... Their eyes lit up and they burst out with phrases like:

"That's the coolest politician in America."

"He's our next Senator!" and, "He's going to be president of the United States someday!" I stowed his name in my brain for future reference.

That same year, I was a delegate to the DNC convention in Boston. When I heard that the "new guy" from Chicago running for the Senate was going to speak at the convention, I made it a point

to be front and center that night to make sure I heard his speech.

Barack Obama hit the stage and I was enraptured with the speech along with the rest of the thousands in the room and as I found out later, the entire country.

"We are not red states, we are not blue states, we are the UNITED States of America!"

Tears welled up in my eyes and when the speech was over I looked around me and along with the roar of the crowd, everyone, I mean everyone on that floor had tears on their faces. This is what the Democratic Party had been waiting for decades to hear. This is what America had been waiting for decades to hear and there was an instant recognition that something in American politics changed that night, with that speech.

I turned to the woman next to me and said, out loud, "That's the next president of the United States." She looked at me and said, "No, I think that will be Hillary." (Note the latent recognition that Kerry would not be the next president...) I burst out through my tears, "Look around you, these are the party loyal, look at them go wild! Look at the tears, look at how inspired we all

are, I'm telling you, he will be our next president."

Last November, in the heat of the campaign, Barack Obama gave the Fierce Urgency of Now speech. I was again blown away, but still was not hopeful. I knew the country we lived in and I knew the road would be nearly impossible to navigate. Between the inevitability of Hillary's campaign and the deep seeded although generally hidden racial divisions in this country, I just did not quite know what Barack knew... that the country was ready for him to lead - and he knew how to bring them along with him.

Now here we are... Somehow, the man who has become to me a shining example of what's still really awesome about the United States of America is on the brink of the possible impossible.

Honestly, I'm tired of the fear, horribly irresponsible policies, divisiveness, random hatred, the abuse of power, the word terrorist being thrown around with the same venom and carelessness as the word anti-Christ. I NEED to be inspired for a change and if for four years, I can turn on the news and see Barack Obama introducing his new plans to Congress, healing the wounds from LGBT hate campaigns, torture, special rendition, the destruction of our schools and our healthcare debacle, taking a huge step forward in just forcing our people to face their own prejudices and get over them, then it

# Q

## POLITICS

By Renee Crawford

will be a better four years than the last eight by far.

The dream my parents told me like all parents tell their children "You can be president of the United States of America someday if you work hard and believe..." That dream that so many African American and Native American and Latin American and Asian American and all other Americans have been instilled with is now on the cusp of reality for ALL American children. ALL American children.

That may not be a compelling enough reason for you to vote for Barack Obama, but for me, I know this will be the proudest vote I've ever cast in my life. Barack Obama is someone like you and I who listened to his parents and grandparents, and went out and learned what he needed to know to capture the imagination and hopes of this country at just this moment when we needed him so desperately.

**NOW GO VOTE!**

### ARCW Congratulates Distinguished Nurse Practitioner Winsome Panton

Winsome Panton, a Nurse Practitioner at the ARCW Medical Center, has received Marquette University's College of Nursing Distinguished Alumni Service Award.

"I have dedicated my career to ensure that African-Americans and all people diagnosed with HIV disease receive the quality health care they deserve," she says.

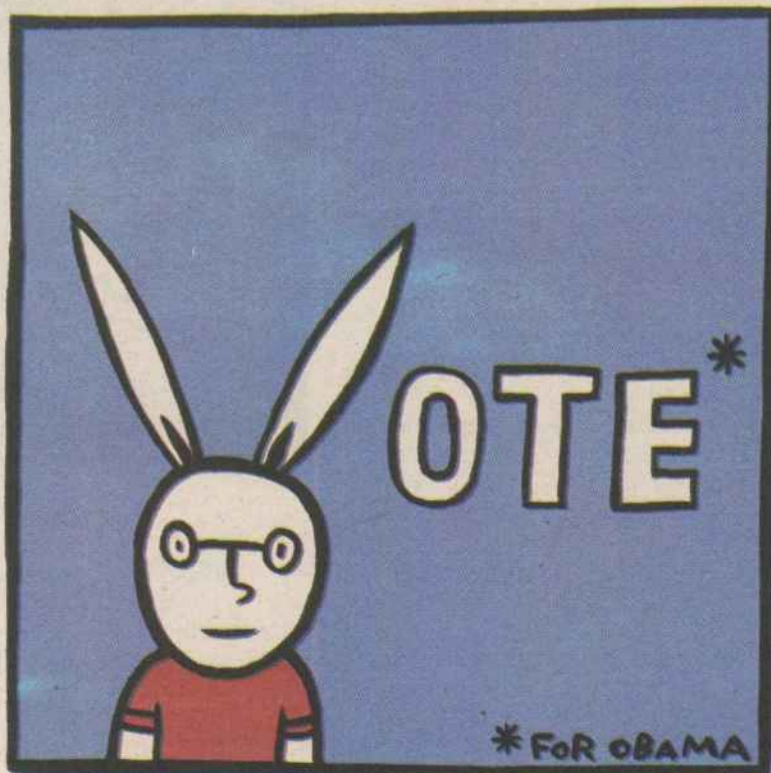
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My Life as a Bunny

by Max Estes



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# Electile Dysfunction

In a rare convergence in the Fall of 2008, both Canadians and Americans went to the polls to elect their respective national government figurehead. The Canadians weighed in first in October and sadly Conservative party leader Stephen Harper once again heads up a minority government as none of the opposition parties were able to secure enough votes to gain a majority in Parliament. Here in the States, we're suffering through one of the ugliest campaigns in recent memory all the while distracted from real issues when political discourse is replaced by mental images of vicious animals wearing cosmetic products. History, as recorded in the faded, dog-eared, sticky pages of queer zines, serves to remind us of how far we have come since the 1990s. It points the way forward to how much potential we have despite negative, polarizing forces at work in national politics on both sides of the border.

A Queer Nation group in Canada produced the hilariously satirical *In Your Face* [Issue 7, 1993, 34 pages]. They managed to turn Canada's first female

Prime Minister, Kim Campbell, into a sleazy, large breasted porn star for their "Girl of the Month" page, yet somehow maintained their feminist credibility by balancing this with an insert section ranting against the "beauty" industry. The creators also called attention to a woman unfairly fired from her job as a chef at a posh Toronto hotel due to her HIV status and pointed out the hypocrisy of anti-abortion terrorists killing doctors. To round out the issue, positive commentary about how Lynn Johnston's introduction of a gay character in "For Better or For Worse" produced a radical shake up of the daily funny pages. That is followed by a slash fiction queer detourment of an original series Star Trek photo story (Uhura pipes the incoming lesbian sex scene transmission to the main viewer as Scottie offers to show Kirk his genital piercings!). *In Your Face* makes for a good antidote to even the worst political mud conservatives lob at the queer community.

The last time the US stood at the precipice of an unpopular Bush leaving office after destroying the nation's

economic health, we had a newcomer with hope in his heart on the rise who promised us a better tomorrow for our troubles. It was also a turbulent time for *Turbo Queer* [Issue 3, 1992, 32 pages]. Thanks to a nosy busybody who unwittingly stumbled across *Better Homos and Gardens* on a rack at Tower Bookstore in Seattle and duly reported it to the home office in Des Moines, the threat of an expensive lawsuit vanished in the face of an abrupt name change. Editor Dan Levy took it in stride. He capitalized on this setback by giving birth to a brilliant issue that speaks volumes to the election year angst when Bill Clinton defeated a sitting president, thanks in part to major support from the LGBT community.

A highlight of this issue is a piece by performance artist Tim Miller. Fitting that one of the NEA 4 should write a brilliant peaceful call to arms for a post-Bush world. Miller was made a queer bogeyman by right wing fundamentalists in 1990. He successfully sued the government over the cancellation of his grant, but that decision was later overturned by the Supreme Court when they ruled that a 'decency standard' could be used in handing out arts funding. His "Erection Day 1992" captures the heat of a day in which he starts off by doing one last



## ZINES

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

round of 'get out the vote' support and then meets up with a lover for a steamy, salty sex romp on the beach before heading home to watch the results on TV.

Where will we go from here following what should prove to be a revolutionary election result? Will we be able to "Claim our Power and our Pleasure" as Miller eloquently ends his piece?

QZAP is a free digital archive of past and present queer zines on the Web at [www.qzap.org](http://www.qzap.org).

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## Band Fags! by Frank Polito

**B**and Fags! Is the story of Jack Paterno and Bradley Dayton who meet each other in the 7th grade and become best friends. Set in the 1980's *Band Fags!* takes you back to high school and the 1980's and all the angst and excitement of the teen years. That keen wanting to fit in and to be accepted by your peers, and also the need to find yourself and your own path. Never easy for young people in any era and even more difficult for young LGBT people in the 1980's when there was even less understanding and acceptance.

Told largely by Jack, it's a story of coming of age and of a coming to terms with their true selves. Narrated in the true teen vernacular style and liberally sprinkled with the lyrics of popular songs and pop cultural

references of the decade. Those of you who came of age in the 80's will like "totally" remember and "like" relive the "awesome" era.

Beyond the style it's a story that is also gently funny, and amusing with charm. The characters ring true throughout the journey of first crushes, exams, and pep rallies to young adulthood and self-acceptance.

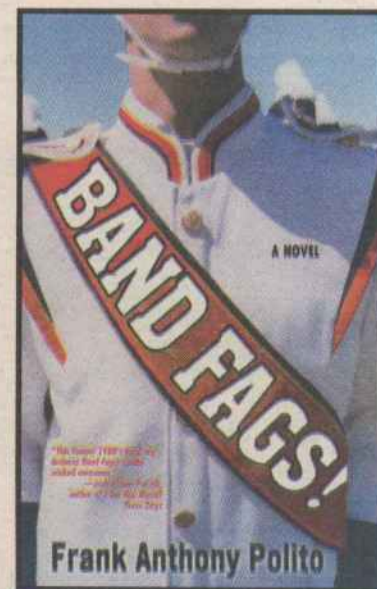
*Band Fags!* Gets its title from the high school hierarchy. Remember jocks, cool kids, cheerleaders, and nerds, and how being in drama and chorus were scorned?

\*The author, Frank Polito, grew up in Hazel Park, the Detroit suburb where our heroes live but says that not everything in the book is autobiographical. He is proud to say he is a former Band Fag having played trumpet in the 6th grade, later switching to French horn.

Mr. Polito is an

accomplished actor and playwright, appearing with Meryl Streep in the film *One True Thing*, *Hitch* with Will Smith and *The Peacemaker* with George Clooney.

*Band Fags!* Is available online from Amazon and Kensington Publishing Corp.



Frank Anthony Polito

\* The information on the author is taken from the accompanying letter from Kensington Publishing and the inside back cover of the book.

## Book REVIEW

By Roger Usdila



# ORGANIZATIONS

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

## Statewide

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

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

BiNet USA  
National bisexual political organization  
202-882-4384

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Queer Life News  
LGBT publication  
2266 N. Prospect Ave Suite 200  
Milwaukee, WI 53202  
414-383-8200  
www.queerlifeneews.com

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

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

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

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

## Milwaukee

Alcoholics Anonymous  
Request gay meetings  
414-771-9119

Bay View GAYS  
(414) 482-3796  
bvgpresident@bvgays.com  
www.bvgays.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.bwmTMLwaukee.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.lagsdc.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.milwaukeeegamma.com

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

Gay/Lesbian Studies  
at UWM 414-229-6402

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

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

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

Gemini Gender Group  
(TV/TS/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  
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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 Minotours United  
Rugby Football Club  
PO Box 14282  
Madison, WI 53708  
info@madisonminotoursrfc.org  
madisonminotoursrfc.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@milwaukeeegaysoccer.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.mkelgblt.org

Milwaukee LGBT History  
Project  
P.O. Box 510194  
Milwaukee, WI 53203  
www.mkelgblthist.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.ssbilmilwaukee.com

Sexual Compulsives  
Anonymous (SCA)  
414-299-0755

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

SWANAQIM  
LGBTI South West Asian 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  
washtsrainbow@aol.com  
www.shingtonheightsrainbow.org

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

Wisconsin Cream City Chorus  
315 W. Court St.  
Milwaukee, 53212  
414-276-8787  
www.creamcitychourus.org  
Wisconsin Gay Hockey  
414-202-5874  
home.wi.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  
Germantown, 53022  
www.wiscrad.org

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

## Churches

All Saints' Cathedral  
(Episcopal)  
818 E Juneau Ave  
Milwaukee, Wis 53202  
414-271-7719  
www.ascathedral.org

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/  
Tippicanoe 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

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# Our Milwaukee is the Number One Town For.....

**W**e have an excellent choice of Theaters in our town. We have some great sports teams, the beautiful lake, upscale condos and historic residences and buildings. Our town is known for the wonderful Summer Festivals, and the Harley-Davidson Events. We now have a FONZIE statue. A few months ago, we were even voted the "SEXIEST CITY!"

But when it comes to "Number One," Milwaukee ranks as the Number One town ...for...DRINKING!

Why can't we be remembered for anything else from that great list of "number ones"? Why does it have to be for DRINKING!?

Well, Milwaukee is known to many as "The Home of Beer." It made us famous. We are also a college town; and our town used to have a legal drinking age of 18. What kind of fun would it be at one of our exciting sports events or festivals without a beer in our hand?

### Our Gay Scene Support

There are many, many bars and groups that support our Gay lifestyle. I would consider Milwaukee a very open city; but our scene also has its share of current problems. I realize we are trying to fight our image; but the bar scene is getting worse. More and more patrons are kicked out for being drunk. There are people asking patrons

for free drinks. Too many violent and loud outbursts. I myself have felt depressed and upset after going out for what was supposed to be a relaxing and social night.

I blame much of this on our current economy. People are just not happy. Our gas, heating, rent, phone, Internet, etc costs go up every day. Some go out with a few bucks to have some fun, and wind up venting or getting drunk to just forget their problems.

Milwaukee may have an image problem, and drinking may be Number One. But there are other forms of socializing. Alcohol is expensive, and the few health benefits are outnumbered by many serious health hazards. The depression that comes with drinking can make the problems end one night - and much worse the next day. I see this also in the straight, and college bars. Our town may be frustrated with the economy...but lets try to shake our image as the town for Drinking and lets be Number one for something much more rewarding. "SEXY" is at least more exciting!

### November show line-up

Continuing this month is STEVIE at Boulevard Ensemble Theatre. This show features actress Sally Marks. The next production at Boulevard is by David Mamet THE DUCK VARIATIONS and REUNION. This

show features Mark Ninneman.

The Next Act Presents MURDERERS. Soulstice Theatre plays the comical A TUNA CHRISTMAS. The Stackner Cabaret performs the musical ISN'T IT ROMANTIC. As the Thanksgiving season approaches PABST Theater plays its annual Holiday A CHRISTMAS CAROL.

SHOW PEOPLE by Paul Weitz who wrote the screenplay for AMERICAN PIE plays at RSVP PRODUCTIONS at the ASTOR THEATER on Astor and Brady Street. This new comedy is about the darker aspects of being an actor. Much like drinking makes us forget...the life of any celebrity can be full of dark times, and booze and drugs. How far will an artist go to make a living and survive? Randall T. Anderson, Sharon Nieman-Koebert, Gloria Loeding and Brian Richards star.

THE PRODUCERS is coming to the Skylight Theater. This is the first local production of the award-winning musical that took Broadway by storm for many, many seasons. Bill Theisen stars in this musical. Local choreographer/director Pam Kriger stages this musical. Susan Stroman staged the original Broadway musical; and Pam Kriger is our own local celebrity. I have loved musicals by Kriger; and I also once sat next to Stroman while watching the Broadway



## THEATER

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

production a few years ago.

In closing please check out the bar CITY LIGHTS on Howard Avenue. The management and staff are wonderful. The patrons are friendly; and the bar has less DRAMA then most area bars. One can just relax and enjoy!

**Old Trivia:** Marni Nixon sang for Deborah Kerr in the movie KING AND I.

**New Trivia:** What many man is the producer of the movie and the stage version of THE PRODUCERS?

*My Aunt Sally is trying out for DANCING WITH THE STARS. She is even older than Cloris Leachman. I will be her partner. R.B.*

# ARCW MEDICAL CENTER

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- Couples therapy
- Crisis intervention
- Neuropsychological testing
- Complementary services



John Fangman, MD



Iram Nadeem, MD



Christine Hogan, MD



Sharon O'Dwyer, APNP



Winsome Pantan, APRN-BC



Steve Debbink, DDS



Ajama Giscombe, DDS



Kevin Roeder, PhD



Nadia Damm, PsyD

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**QCLASSIFIEDS - NOVEMBER 2008**

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**In The Meantime**

by Robin Lippincott

Time, the stuff life is made of. How inalterable time alters us and yet in some respects doesn't. How time changes our perceptions, and how the social conventions of the times that we live in can affect us and our relationships in ways that we are powerless to control. These are some of the themes explored through the lives of three individuals who meet in the innocence of childhood and become intertwined through the coming of age and into adulthood and beyond.

These three form a bond between them that does endure through their time, although it is nearly broken by sexual tensions.

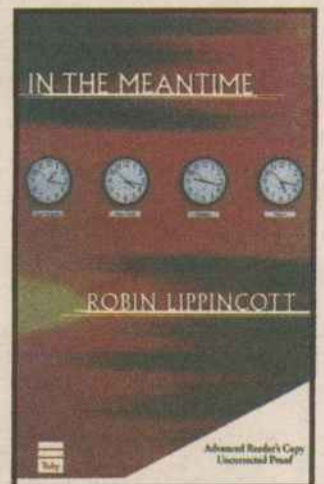
The three friends, Kathryn, Luke, and

Starling meet as children of five in the early 1930's and grow up together in a small midwestern town. Kathryn is smart and well grounded, from a working class Irish family. Luke's family is rigid, convention bound, with a military tradition. Starling has an absentee white father and is raised by his black mother and comes to realize that he is gay.

Their story continues up to nearly the present day, largely recounted by Kathryn, the lone survivor, in her old age. They experience the angst of adolescence, the joys and sorrows of love and sex and the effects of prejudice and bigotry as they move to post World War II Manhattan to follow dreams and find life beyond the stultifying confines of their small town. It's an engaging story about life, lives, and time, and how time continues on while in

the meantime we are engaged in our pursuits.

Robin Lippincott, the author, lives in Cambridge, MA, and has written two previous novels and a collection of short stories. His work has appeared in The Paris Review, The New York Times Book Review and many other journals\* *In The Meantime* is available online.



\*The information about the author is taken from the Toby Press home web site

**BOOK REVIEW**

By Roger Usdila

**NICE PACKAGE!  
LEATHER NIGHT**

**1 YEAR ANNIVERSARY!**

**SATURDAY NOV. 8TH  
7:00 PM**

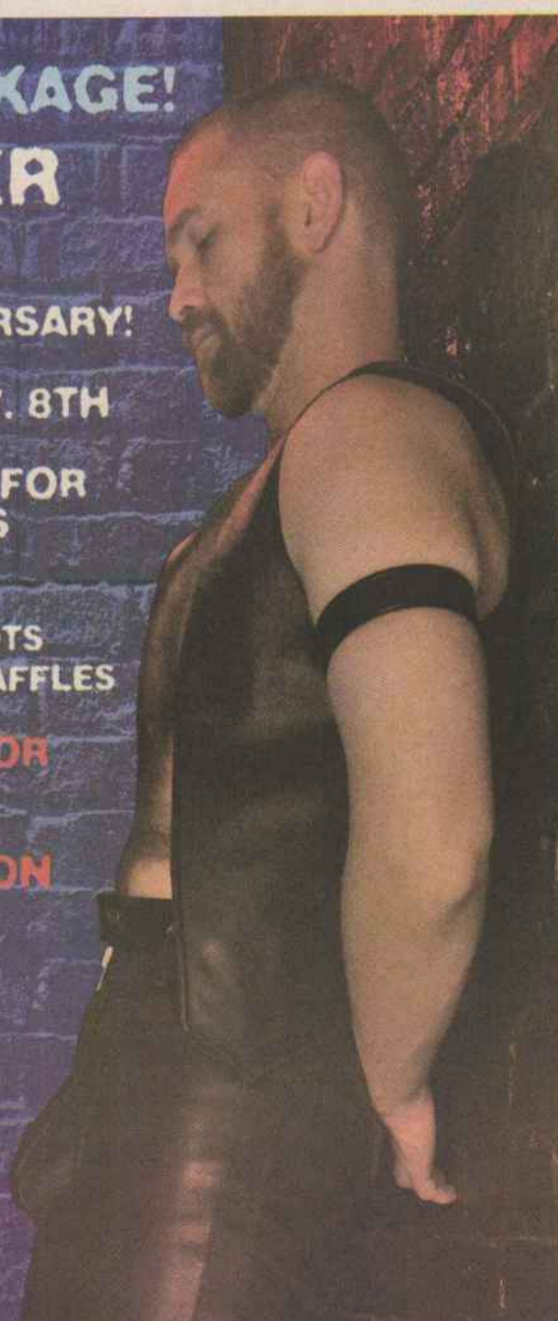
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- Th **13** Boom 9-11pm
- Fr **14** Club Icon (Kenosha) 9:30pm-12:30am
- We **19** LaCage 10:30pm-12:30am
- Fr **21** City Lights 8-10pm
- Tu **25** Triangle 7-10pm



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**2649 N. PROSPECT #3 & #4, Milw.** Beautifully renovated building in a prime location just a few blocks away from Downer shops. KIT w/cherry cabs, SS appls, granite C-tops & breakfast bar. LR has AFP.BA has Kohler fixtures & ped sinks. \$234,900-\$246,900 MLS #1028267 & 1028266



**925 PEARSON, MILW.** Fabulous Pearson Bourn town home w/3 FP's, Brazilian cherry HWF & crown molding throughout. KIT outfitted w/Viking Professional SS appls & huge granite island. Spa like MBA w/marble flr, whirlpool tub & dual sinks. \$569,000 MLS #990578



**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



**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. 2 car garage. \$238,400. MLS # 1014329.



**GREENWICH ROW - MILW. 1828 E. GREENWICH AVE.** Only One Unit Left!!!!!! New town homes in Whole Foods neighborhood. 2BR/2.5BA condo has 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. \$289,400 MLS# 988043



**311 E. Erie #429, MILWAUKEE** Fantastic 1BR condo at Marine Terminal has a fabulous view of Downtown. LR has HWF, GFP w/granite surround, drs to balcony & BI-surround sound. KIT has granite, breakfast bar, maple cabs and stainless appliances. Lofted MBR has wall of windows, BI-bookcase, 2 WIC & attached laundry rm. MBA has whirlpool, SS w/marble surround, marble flr, dual sinks w/granite c-tops. Don't wait!!! \$384,900



**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. \$239,900. MLS #951522



**2080 N. COMMERCE #511, MILW.** Stunning loft condo with soaring 24' ceilings. Foyer has natural slate floor. KIT w/SS appls, Corian counter tops & under cab lights. LR/DR have bamboo floors, exposed trusses & duct work. Lofted MBR overlooks LR/DR. Community room & exercise room complete the package. \$299,900 MLS #1029075



**2080 N. Commerce #418, MILW.** Bright and cheery 4th floor unit at Union Point is flooded with sunlight. Open concept living space features a KIT w/stainless appliances, breakfast bar, maple cabs, Corian c-tops and HWF. LR has sliding glass drs to balcony. Exposed duct work throughout. 2BR 2BA. Other amenities include clubhouse, fitness center, security and underground pkg. \$219,900 MLS #1042629



**311 E. Erie #216, MILW.** Beautiful spacious condo at Marine Terminal overlooking the river. 2BR 2BA loft-like unit features exceptional finishes including granite, maple cabinets, HWF, exposed columns with capitals, Kohler fixtures and ceramic tile. LR/DR wall of windows lets in loads of natural light. In-unit W/D. Balcony has gas hook-up. \$484,900 MLS #1044790



**HI-FI LOFTS 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 \$134,900-\$199,900. www.hifilofts.com



**1809 N. COMMERCE #202, MILW.** 1872 Historic Fabulous condo in the heart of the Beerline neighborhood. HWFs flow throughout the open concept living space. Superb KIT, spacious and functional w/solid surface c-tops, maple cabs & stainless appls. Large BRs w/walk-in California closets. \$260,000 MLS #1034134



**545 E. WELLS #702 MILW.** Unique Cathedral Square condo. Open concept LR w/HWF, flr to ceiling windows & door to balcony. KIT has granite, BB, GE Profile SS appls, & maple cabs. BR has WIC, flr to ceiling windows. BA w/marble flr & whirlpool tub. 1 pkg space, community & exercise rm in this sought after building. \$289,900 MLS #1035368



**1610 N. PROSPECT #204, MILW.** Spacious condo at The Newport w/2BR 2BA. LR features huge windows, BI storage & nook with storage. KIT has BB, CT flrs, Corian and newer appls. MBR has BIBS & storage, amazing WIC, MBA w/marble c-tops, dual sinks & vanity. \$199,999 MLS #1032098



**1329 & 1335 W. LLOYD ST., MILW.** New construction in Josey Heights. 2 story Colonial features KIT w/oak cabs, LR w/GFP & FDR. Spacious MBR suite w/private balcony & beautiful MBA. 2 car detached GA & full LL. MLS #973010 & 973035



**7861 N. FAIRCHILD RD., FOX POINT** Fabulous mid-century modern with loads of outstanding updates. Contemporary KIT w/attached laundry room. Family room has exposed limestone walls & natural fireplace. Formal LR & DR. Master suite has 2WIC & spa BA. \$459,900 MLS #989260



**1530 N. JACKSON ST., MILW.** 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. \$529,000. MLS #982150 www.urban-address.com



**12393 W. CROSSING BLVD., GREENFIELD** Impeccably maintained 3BR 2BA home in Foxwood Crossing has open concept floor plan. HWF thru-out the foyer, hall, KIT & dinette. MBR has WIC, MBA w/whirlpool tub, dual sinks & comfort height c-tops. KIT has granite, breakfast bar, 42" cabs and open to LR. HUGE lower. 3C GA. Main flr laundry. \$357,400 MLS #1041548