

Wisconsin's LGBT News & Entertainment Magazine for 17 Years

QUEST

Volume 17 Issue 19 November 11 - 24, 2010



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THREE PAGES OF PICS

**FAIR WISCONSIN'S DIRECTOR KATIE BELANGER TALKS ABOUT
MOVING FORWARD PAST THE ELECTIONS**

**INTERVIEW WITH SEASON ONE RUPAUL DRAG RACE WINNER
BEBE ZAHARA BENET APPEARING ONSTAGE AT MONTAGE**

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GREEN BAY COUNCIL POSTPONES RESOLUTION TO JOIN DP SUIT

by Bruce McKay

Green Bay - Just 24 hours after the polls had closed on Election Day, the first fruit of Wisconsin's steer to the political right blossomed at Green Bay City Hall. The City Council voted to indefinitely postpone a proposed resolution to join a lawsuit against Wisconsin's Domestic Partners laws.

The alderman who wanted the council to endorse a lawsuit to overturn the state's DP benefits said the election results had changed his mind. Shae Sortwell said that, in light of the state election results, he wanted the council to ignore his proposal. "We have a whole lot of new people in state government at all levels."

Green Bay's newspaper had run an editorial on Election Eve that said joining the lawsuit filed by Wisconsin Family Action was inappropriate for the city. A day later, voters decided to withdraw Democrats from control in the Assembly, Senate and Governor's Office. It was against this backdrop that the Council voted 9-to-2 bypass further discussion of Sortwell's resolution and table it indefinitely.

As soon as the vote was finished several dozen domestic rights supporters left the council chambers. Disappointed that they lost a chance to speak on the issue, some vented their frustration to TV reporters who had followed them out into the hallway. Among them was a Jenny Sykes-Schwenk, a Sunday School teacher at Green Bay's gay-friendly Union Congregational Church. She had planned to read a letter from its pastors to the council.

The church's letter urged the council to provide DP benefits to the city's 950-odd employees. And, it implored them not to join forces with Wisconsin Family Action, an organization the pastors wrote have "clear connections to radical Christian fundamentalism." Doing so, said Pastors Chuck Mize and Peggy Feyen, "would be highly improper."

The issue of DP benefits for Green Bay's municipal workforce initially surfaced in mid-Septem-



David Fowles, pictured here with supportive Alderman Ned Dorf

ber. That's when a long-time city employee approached the Council's Personnel Committee asking for health insurance coverage for the man he loves and lives with.

David Fowles got a cold shoulder from the committee when he asked them to add his registered domestic partner to City Hall's definition of family for insurance purposes. Fowles request was officially 'filed' on a unanimous vote. And, although Fowles's request had been deep-sixed, the fact that he had come out to the city fathers and asked for equal benefits for his man-mate prompted Alderman Sortwell to light a political backfire.

Sortwell, elected last spring on a razor-thin margin with Tea Party backing, had drafted a resolution to direct the City Attorney to file a Friend of Court brief in the lawsuit filed in Madison by Wisconsin Family Action. WFA is the virulently anti-gay organization that spearheaded the campaign to pass Wisconsin's constitutional amendment that limits marriage to hetero-couples only. Ironically, it's headed by Julaine Appling and her longtime domestic partner Diane Westphal who--according to public records--share a house they purchased jointly in Watertown.

At a council meeting in October, Sortwell insisted that City Hall needed to contribute attorneys to battle what he sees as an ongoing moral war. "The people of Green Bay want marriage to only consist of one man and one woman. This is a direction violation of what the people want." He told the Council that he'd spoken with the plaintiffs and that they'd welcome the free legal aid.

The staff attorney for the council told Sortwell that his proposal made no sense. Allison Swanson, the city's number-two lawyer, told Sortwell and the council that Friend of Court briefs are normally filed only in appellate cases. "There are complex issues in this case and you don't know how it's going to play out."

Swanson said that although the lawsuit filed by Wisconsin Family Action has targeted the state's Medical Leave Act--a law that loosely defines 'domestic partners'--it seems to be ultimately aimed at the the state's official Domestic Partners Registry. Those two laws, said Swanson, "are not necessarily synonymous with each other." Intervening now, she said, could have unintended consequences for the city.

She also told Sortwell that she doubted the City of Green Bay had any legal basis to file a brief. "The city has no administration of the Domestic Partners Registry. It's done at the county level."

Alderman Dorf made his opposition clear. "I don't want to see us take the attorney time," Dorf said. "The Wisconsin Supreme Court has already denied the overturn of Domestic Partners. And, the Family Medical Leave Act is only about providing care to sick and dying loved ones."

Just as the council was about to decide Sortwell's request to table his resolution, Alder Amy Kocha asked for a roll call vote. As it was, only she and Dorf voted against Sortwell's resolution--in the hope that the idea to join forces with Wisconsin Family would be openly discussed and voted down.

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Milwaukee - Make your holiday shopping count for something important this year when you shop at Outwords Books, Gifts & Coffee and you participate in their Cream City Foundation Give-Back Program.

Beginning Friday, November 19 and continuing through Thanksgiving, Outwords Books will donate 5% of your purchase total to CCF. There is absolutely no cost to participate!

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important organization ask Outwords Books to "round up" an equal amount or more as an additional tax deductible amount to go towards the Cream City Foundation Give-Back Program.



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Some restrictions do apply. For further information about the The Cream City Foundation Give-Back Program, please call (414) 963-9089 or find them online @ www.outwordsbooks.com

FAIR WISCONSIN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KATIE BELANGER TALKS ABOUT MOVING FORWARD POST ELECTIONS

On Tuesday, November 2, Wisconsin voters went to the polls to determine the fate of our state and our country.

We now live in a very different Wisconsin.

A state with a long-progressive tradition, a state that took remarkable steps in 2009 to advance equality for the LGBT community, now has a government led by the very people who sought to ban marriage equality and civil unions in 2006.

But as we take stock of the new political realities in our state, we must determine how, not if, we can continue to move forward.

The change in our government has certainly put us on the defense. As Senator Glenn Grothman and Rep. Mark Gottlieb outlined on Wisconsin Eye on November 3, one of their top priorities when the Republicans take over in January is to dismantle the domestic partner health care coverage for state employees.

I do not question either party's intention to do what they think is best for our state. I do, however, believe that there is a fundamental lack of understanding about why these types of protections are important to our state. It's not about a price tag — it's about creating a stronger state for every Wisconsinite. It's about building a stronger economy by attracting and retaining the most talented employees. It's about the government not standing in the way of caring, committed same-sex couples and their ability to take care of each other in times of need.

Playing defense is not a new phenomenon in the LGBT equality movement. Following the Republican takeover of Congress in 1994, we saw anti-gay policies like the Defense of Marriage Act pass that continue to have a negative impact on the lives of LGBT people in Wisconsin and beyond.

However, the landscape is different in that not only do we have those antiquated and discriminatory policies to dismantle, but we also have concrete victories to defend.

With the passage of domestic partnership protections in 2009, Wisconsin became the first state in the nation with a constitutional amendment banning marriage equality and civil unions to pass a domestic partner registry. Wisconsin is now the first state in the Midwest to pass protections for same-sex couples through legislation.

Whether it is a repeal measure or through the legal challenge Wisconsin Family Action brought forward for a second time this summer, Fair Wisconsin is actively working to defend the critical protections that more than 1500 couples across the state currently enjoy.

I remain hopeful that the new leadership in our State Capitol remembers the day they won their discriminatory amendment fight and simultaneously lost their majorities. That day was a turning point in the fight for equality. Conservatives are no longer able to use the LGBT community for political gain; to use equality as a wedge issue to turn out anti-gay voters and elect conservative leaders. In fact, when they attack, the community responds in droves, fighting harder at every turn.

As we prepare to defend our victories at the state level, our work to proac-



tively advance equality shifts in focus to the local level, where we were successful in blocking an anti-gay resolution just last week.

Fair Wisconsin, our local partner organizations and our members turned out in force to the Green Bay City Council meeting on Wednesday, November 3, when Alderman Shae Sortwell was advancing a resolution to join Wisconsin Family Action's lawsuit challenging the domestic partnership registry.

In an act of bullying and retribution, Sortwell's resolution emerged following a request made for domestic partner health care coverage by David Fowles, a City of Green Bay Department of Public Works employee.

Fair Wisconsin refuses to allow Sortwell and others like him to bully brave LGBT people who dare to stand up for basic protections.

Ultimately, the City Council voted to postpone the measure indefinitely, resulting in a victory for the LGBT community, for equality and for the more than 100 people who joined us on Wednesday evening to stand up against Sortwell and his actions.

But our work is not over. As we redouble our efforts to defend domestic partnerships, we will remain vigilant in cities like Green Bay across Wisconsin to continue speaking out against discrimination, building inclusive communities and workplaces and, one day, create a Wisconsin that treats all its citizens fairly and decently.

For more information about Fair Wisconsin, or to find out how you can help advance LGBT equality, visit fairwisconsin.com.

Katie Belanger is the Executive Director of Fair Wisconsin, our statewide LGBT advocacy, education and political organization dedicated to advancing, achieving and protecting LGBT equality.

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REPORT RELEASED ON LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUEER (LGBTQ) DOMESTIC/INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IN THE US

LGBTQ domestic and intimate partner violence reports rise by 15% since 2008; Murder rate up 50% since 2007; Economic crisis and anti-LGBTQ discrimination present barriers for survivors

NATIONAL— The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) today released the Report on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence in the United States in 2009. The Report found that LGBTQ domestic/intimate partner violence reports rose 15% since 2008 and is a pervasive social problem at a time when LGBTQ-specific programs were losing staff or closing altogether due to the economic crisis. In 2009, NCAVP documented 6 murders related to LGBTQ domestic/intimate partner violence, representing a 50% rise since 2007.

"NCAVP member programs face sharp increases in calls from LGBTQ survivors while sustaining 50% or more in cuts to staffing and programs closures because of the financial crisis," said Lisa Gilmore of the Center on Halsted Anti-Violence Project, "We know that LGBTQ survivors need specific and culturally competent services to stay safe and our primary recommendation in this Report is that funding for LGBTQ-specific anti-violence programs is needed now more than ever."

LGBTQ survivors reported that from 2008 to 2009, there was a 99% increase in calls for police assistance, with a 135% increase in arrests being

made; however during this same time, reports of misarrest were up 144% and reports of police misconduct rose 74%. "NCAVP knows that the police are 10 to 15 times as likely to make a dual arrest in cases of same-sex domestic/intimate partner violence than in heterosexual ones," said Kelly Clark at the Gay Alliance of the Genesee Valley's Community Safety Program, "This Report demonstrates the critical need for LGBTQ-specific cultural competence for first responders, such as law enforcement, to prevent re-traumatizing the survivor of violence."

NCAVP also found significant barriers related to anti-LGBTQ bias and discrimination to service provision and shelter options for LGBTQ survivors. In this Report, NCAVP calls on local, state and federal governments and private funders to increase funding for community-based LGBTQ-focused domestic/intimate partner violence direct services and prevention. "Policy makers, community organizations and the general public must work to eradicate the anti-LGBTQ bias and discrimination in our laws, culture and society that are barriers to LGBTQ survivors seeking access to vital services and supports," Terra Slavin of the LA Gay & Lesbian Center's Domestic Violence Legal Advocacy Proj-

ect. "Legislators must take immediate action to overturn discriminatory legislation, to implement laws that prohibit these practices and to support the civil rights of LGBTQ communities including survivors of domestic/intimate partner violence."

The findings and recommendations made in this Report, and the compelling real-life survivor stories that are highlighted in the accompanying *Survival, Support and Resilience: Stories of LGBTQ Survivors and Victims of Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence*, highlight the distinct experiences and challenges encountered by LGBTQ survivors of domestic/intimate partner violence. Policymakers and the public have the responsibility to support NCAVP member organizations in our work to foster survivor self-determination and safety, to eradicate LGBTQ domestic/intimate partner violence, and to end institutional discrimination against LGBTQ communities.

A complete version of the report and the accompanying survivor stories, as well as a pre-recorded audio release from NCAVP members, can be found at: <http://www.avp.org/ncavp.htm>. or contact Milwaukee LGBT Community Center Anti-Violence Project MaryAnn Gorski, (414) 271-2656 mgorski@mkelgbt.org



Employment Opportunity HIV Prevention Research

The Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR) in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin announces openings for two positions in a new National Institutes of Health-funded research project that will develop, implement, and evaluate the effectiveness of community HIV prevention programs for African American men who have sex with men (MSM). The project's objective is to determine if friend-to-friend HIV prevention approaches that work through natural social networks of African American MSM in the community can reduce sexual risk behavior, sexually transmitted diseases, and HIV infection. Both Research Associate positions require extensive experience, knowledge, and understanding of Milwaukee's African American MSM community including settings, ways, and places where African American MSM at high risk for HIV can be reached. For both positions, relevant community experience and involvement with organizations that serve African American MSM are more essential than prior formal research experience. Positions will require frequent field work on evenings, nights, weekends, and during nontraditional hours.

Research Associates will perform activities related to the identification of community settings in Milwaukee for reaching African American MSM and for carrying out community outreach to recruit, interview, and conduct HIV prevention activities with social networks of Black gay or bisexual men. The Research Associates will also be responsible for outreach-based recruitment of friendship groups of African American MSM in community settings, for interviewing participants, and for seeking to engage friends of already recruited men to also enroll in the research. Strong interpersonal communication skills and comfort in community settings where the target population meet are important position requirements. Relevant community experience may substitute for some educational requirements.

Both positions offer competitive salaries and excellent fringe benefits. In addition to a resume or completed job application, we welcome applicants to provide an accompanying letter that describes any additional formal or informal community experience, volunteer work, or involvement with community organizations that serve the targeted population if those experiences are relevant to these positions.

The Medical College is an equal opportunity and affirmative action employer.

If interested in applying for the role, please visit www.mcw.jobs and search for position number **326.31322**.

MILWAUKEE LAGS BEHIND NEIGHBORING STATES ON LGBT WORKPLACE RIGHTS

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RAINBOWOVERWISCONSIN.ORG 



Milwaukee - A recent report by the Cream City Foundation shows that Milwaukee lags behind Minnesota and Illinois on workplace rights for LGBT employees. In addition, an estimated 30% of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) employees feel that their being open about their sexual orientation or gender identity hurts their careers.

"Creating a thriving Milwaukee is deeply dependent in the ability of our region to attract and retain a high quality workforce," said Maria Cadenas, executive director of the Cream City Foundation. "Our report is a starting point to discuss how we need to look at the full spectrum of diversity to ensure we are able to attract and retain the best talent – regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity."

The report uses data collected during local focus groups and online surveys, as well as data gathered by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation (HRC) during their annual nation-wide survey on corporate equality. HRC's Corporate Equality Index (CEI) data shows that in the 2011 report, 16 Wisconsin corporations were rated and only two received top rating CEI scores of 100%.

Both, Illinois and Minnesota, have significantly higher number of top rating CEI companies, 34 and 14, respectively. Wisconsin's average CEI of 51% falls significantly behind to these neighbors' rate of 81% and 80%.

But even within Wisconsin, Milwaukee area headquartered employers fall behind. Madison based companies average rating was of 78% to Milwaukee's 47%. Even when we only review Milwaukee's largest HRC rated private sector employers, regardless of headquarters location, Milwaukee's CEI average rating remains below Madison, Illinois and Minnesota's, going up only to 70%.

While Milwaukee has moved forward on offering non-discrimination policies and same-sex benefits for domestic partners, regional and national corporate leaders have increased diversity training, provided employee network groups, supported local professional LGBT associations, conduct LGBT marketing, and provide community support to LGBT programs.

Please see chart on the next page

SUMMARY OF HRC FINDINGS IN WISCONSIN

Employer Name	CEI Rating	Fortune 1000 Rank	Largest Milwaukee-Area Private Sector Employers	Non-Discrimination Policies	Diversity Training	Domestic Partner Benefits	Employee Resource Group	External LGBT Engagement	City	State
Headquarters in Wisconsin										
Quarles & Brady LLP	100			●	●	●	●	●	Milwaukee	WI
S.C. Johnson & Son Inc.	100		23	●	●	●	●	●	Racine	WI
Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated	90		46	●	●	●	●	●	Milwaukee	WI
American Family Insurance Group	88	388		●	●	●	●	●	Madison	WI
Foley & Lardner LLP	85			●	●	●	●	●	Milwaukee	WI
Alliant Energy Corp.	80	588		●	●	●	●	●	Madison	WI
CUNA Mutual Insurance Group	65	792		●	●	●	●	●	Madison	WI
Wisconsin Energy Corp.	55	515		●	●	●	●	●	Milwaukee	WI
Johnson Controls Inc.	30	58	14	●	●	●	●	●	Milwaukee	WI
Northwestern Mutual	30	118	9	●	●	●	●	●	Milwaukee	WI
Fiserv Inc.	15	482		●	●	●	●	●	Brookfield	WI
Kohl's Corp.	15	155	7	●	●	●	●	●	Menomonee Falls	WI
Harley-Davidson Inc.	15	412	15	●	●	●	●	●	Milwaukee	WI
Manpower Inc.	15	119		●	●	●	●	●	Milwaukee	WI
Rockwell Automation Inc.	15	429	19	●	●	●	●	●	Milwaukee	WI
Oshkosh Corp.	15	349		●	●	●	●	●	Oshkosh	WI

Headquarters Out of State – Largest Milwaukee Area Employers (Rated)

AT&T	100	8	13	●	●	●	●	●	Dallas	TX
Bon-Ton Department Stores	100	654	31	●	●	●	●	●	York	PA
JP Morgan Chase	100	16	40	●	●	●	●	●	New York	NY
Ernst & Young	100			●	●	●	●	●	New York	NY
General Electric	80	5	6	●	●	●	●	●	Fairfield	CT
MillerCoors LLC	100	487	36	●	●	●	●	●	Chicago	IL
PNC Bank	100	278		●	●	●	●	●	Pittsburgh	PA
Prudential	100	84		●	●	●	●	●	Newark	NJ
Southwest Airlines	95	246		●	●	●	●	●	Dallas	TX
Target Corp.*	85	28	18	●	●	●	●	●	Minneapolis	MN
United Parcel Service Inc.	100	43	47	●	●	●	●	●	Atlanta	GA
US Bancorp	100	129	20	●	●	●	●	●	Minneapolis	MN
Walgreens Co.	100	36	21	●	●	●	●	●	Deerfield	IL
Wal-Mart Stores Inc.	40	2	3	●	●	●	●	●	Bentonville	AR
Wells Fargo	100	41	27	●	●	●	●	●	San Francisco	CA
Assurant	15	299	29	●	●	●	●	●	New York	NY
Cargill	100		33	●	●	●	●	●	Wayzata	MN
Charter Communication	15	385	50	●	●	●	●	●	St. Louis	MO

*Target's rating was impacted by their refusal to apologize or conduct any corrective action regarding a corporate contribution to a political candidate that actively opposed LGBT rights.

SAGE/MILWAUKEE BECOMES A UNITED WAY AGENCY

Milwaukee - United Way of Greater Milwaukee awarded this past October a \$20,000 grant to SAGE/Milwaukee to develop a structured senior center program. Working with Katie Hamm of United Way, Sue Kelley and Bill Serpe wrote a proposal for this grant seeking funds to begin the work of making SAGE/Milwaukee a full-time senior center.

"Our ultimate goal," said Serpe, "is for us (SAGE) to be in our own building with a full complement of activities and opportunities for seniors who are LGBT in a space that is safe and free from discrimination and homophobia. This grant from United Way is just the beginning, but it provides us with the opportunity to begin working toward that ultimate goal." To that end we will now be calling our space at 1845 N. Farwell The SAGE Senior Center.

United Way of Greater Milwaukee gives out short term grants yearly from its Community Impact Division. United Way's Philosophy is that everyone deserves opportunities to build a good life ... through all of life's stages, good health and a safe home. Community Impact is positive change in a community over time. The changes are measurable, sustainable and meet current and emerging needs within the community.

SAGE/Milwaukee will apply again next year for this grant. If successful they will become a permanent United Way Agency with all of the benefits that that implies.

With this assistance from United Way, SAGE/Milwaukee is going to develop a structured senior center program, building upon their strength in offering social opportunities to reduce isolation and recognizing the need for LGBT Milwaukeeans to have a place of their own as they age.

"We will be adding a part-time Senior Center Activities Planner who will work with the Milwaukee County Department on Aging's "Senior Center Directors' Roundtable", SAGE will be able to

plan and implement a greater number of structured activities based upon member input, and we will recruit a greater number of participants from the LGBT community, thereby decreasing isolation within this vulnerable population," states Mr. Serpe. "Eventually we will have our own space, where ever that may be, be open from 9-5 daily with special events in the evening and on weekends," he continues.

SAGE/Milwaukee is excited about this opportunity from United Way of Greater Milwaukee to move the organization forward by building a stronger program for today and for the future seniors in the LGBT community.

LGBT CENTER OF SE-WI CHRISTMAS OVER THE RAINBOW @ UNCORKT

Racine - The LGBT Center of Southeastern Wisconsin will host a European-style holiday gift market! at Uncorkt, 240 Main St., Racine on Saturday, November 20 from 6 - 9 pm.

While you're shopping, taste fabulous wines, feast on hors d'oeuvres and dessert bar, and bid on a variety of silent auction items! Tickets are \$15 and are available at the Center, from any Board member, or at the door!

Vendors include: handmade holiday decor by Sisterly Simplicities; jewelry and art by Jacquie Lindo; beaded jewelry by Brenda LaBelle; holiday decor from Forever Christmas of Kenosha; toys and candy from Scoops of Kenosha; handmade Santas by Mike Dobrowski; handmade purses; and George Mangold's holiday wreaths and decor.

The center's newsletter they also published the following additional calendar dates at the center:

Saturday, November 13 @ 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Artist's Reception - Open house with hors d'oeuvres and refreshments as Jacqueline Lindo discusses some of her artwork hanging in the Center's Gallery!

Friday, November 19 @ 7:00 - 10:00 PM
Movie Night & Transgender Day of Remembrance

Monday, November 22 @ 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Art Therapy & LGBT Support Groups
At 6:30 - 7:30pm, Jacquie Lindo, MS, ATR, will lead the group in therapeutic uses of art. At 7:30 - 8:30pm certified licensed counselor, Lisa Wright, MA, LCPC, will facilitate discussion related to issues involving sexual orientation and gender identity.

Tuesday, November 23 @ 11 AM

STD Testing @ LGBT Center

The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin will be performing free, confidential testing for sexually transmitted diseases including HIV, Syphilis, Gonorrhea, and Hepatitis.

Friday, Nov 26 @ 7:30 - 10 PM Game On!

Sunday, November 28 @ 5pm - 6:30 PM

PFLAG of Kenosha-Racine @ LGBT Center
Join us for an evening of support, friendship and advocacy as PFLAG Kenosha-Racine continues to grow and spread our mission!

SKIBUDZ ANNOUNCES 5TH ANNUAL GAY SKI WEEKEND

Chicago - SkiBudz Chicago and the Midwest's Gay Ski and Snowboard Club is hosting their 5th annual Midwest gay Ski Weekend January 7-9, 2011 in Wausau, Wisconsin. Join guys from all over the Midwest for this fun weekend.

This year's trip will include a special Friday welcome dinner, skiing and snowboarding at Granite Peak Ski Area, post skiing pool party, special Saturday night event and Sunday brunch.

The trip is for skiers and snowboarders of all levels including beginners (lessons can be arranged through the ski area).

This year's host hotel will again be the Jefferson Street Inn an upscale boutique hotel in Downtown Wausau in walking distance to great shopping, restaurants and activities.

More information about the trip including registration information can be found at www.skibudz.org, on Facebook: **Skibudz** or e-mailing granitepeak@skibudz.org.

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MILWAUKEE LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER MEMBERSHIP MEETING, MONDAY, NOV. 29

Milwaukee - The annual membership meeting for 2010, will be held in the new Community Center at 252 E. Highland Avenue in downtown Milwaukee November 29, 2010, starting promptly at 6:30 pm.

The center will be presenting some proposed by-laws changes during the meeting, which would modify the governance structure of the organization by creating a self-perpetuating Board of Directors, wherein all Directors are elected by the Board itself. Additionally, the changes would place the responsibility for revising by-laws squarely on the shoulders of the Board of Directors.

These changes can be viewed online at the center's website www.mkelgbt.org or in the first-floor lobby of the new Community Center.

In order to attend this member's-only meeting, you will need to be a member in good standing no later than November 24, 2010.

Other calendar items posted in the LGBT Community Center's newsletter include:

TGIF PARTY!-Friday, November 19

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's Rainbow Arts and Cultural Connection (RACC) will hold it's monthly TGIF Party at Ginger Tapas Bar, 235 S. 2nd St. in Milwaukee.

Ginger offers a mix of shareable - or hoggable -

tapas-style plates with something for vegetarians and omnivores alike. Tasty sauces that are out of the ordinary put an exclamation mark on well-prepared, flavorful dishes. Ginger was one of JSOnline's Best New Restaurants of 2009. Happy hour is from 5-6pm with \$3 Tapas, beers and wine. Bring your business card for our monthly prize drawing.

RACC is a socializing/networking group offering a variety of art, music, theater, sports and other cultural activities to the Milwaukee LGBT community at large. The purpose of this connection is to be inclusive of all sectors of the LGBT community and their allies offering new opportunities to experience many different arts and cultural events.

Lesbian Alliance Movie Night-Friday, Nov 19

7 pm. LGBT Community Center, 252 E. Highland Ave. Showing a lesbian-themed movie each month. This month's movie: *Loving Annabelle* (2006) Annabelle is the wise-beyond-her-years newcomer to an exclusive Catholic girls school. Having been expelled from her first two schools she's bound to stir some trouble. Sparks fly though when sexual chemistry appears between her and the Head of her dorm and English teacher, Simone Bradley. Based on *Mädchen in Uniform*. Popcorn and soda provided. For more information visit www.lesbianalliance.org or call 414-272-9442.

RIC FEST SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

Milwaukee - The Ricardo Correa Scholarship Foundation is hosting a fundraiser to raise money for scholarships in 2011 on Saturday, November 20, at Frank's Power Plant in Bayview (2800 Kinnickinnick). It will have a drag show starting at 8:30 p.m. followed by a karaoke contest. Prizes for the karaoke contest will be a quarter barrel to the grand prize winner; \$25 gift certificate to the 2nd place; and \$10 gift certificate to the 3rd place winner. The contest is open to all singers. During Ric Fest, there will also be a silent auction. All money raised will be split between the state and the national scholarship.

Following Ric Fest, Glitter Stage Productions will be hosting a drag show fundraiser at Mona's on Sunday, December 12, 2010 at 9:00 p.m. sharp. The proceeds will benefit the scholarships.

This past summer, Ric Fest went national, raising almost \$1,500 of the \$2,000 that will be given out this summer in Chicago at the NEA Convention. Ric Fest will still be giving out a state scholarship this spring. Check out more about the scholarship at the new website at ricfest.org.

For anyone interested in getting involved with the planning of Ric Fest, the next meeting will be at Frank's Power Plant on Monday, Nov. 15 at 5:30 p.m.



Chez Bouche'
An Erotic Dance-Comedy

Sat. Nov. 27
Club 5, Madison
9 pm

chezbouche.com

Quest Cover Feature – Interview by Paul Masterson

Nea Marshall Kudi was a model in his native Cameroon. His inadvertant transformation to drag began a carreer in the fine art of illusion. That career spans a spectrum of genres from fashion design and modelling to music video production and national tours. Since winning season 1 of *RuPaul's Drag Race* in February 2009, Bebe Zahara Benet has triumphed on the drag stage. Now relocated from Minneapolis to Brooklyn, Nea is climbing the ladder to drag superstardom.

QUEST's Paul Masterson interviewed Nea who, as BeBe Zahara Benet, will grace the La Cage Montage Lounge stage on Friday November 19 at 11pm.

QUEST: Nea, let's start with the basics: why drag?

Nea: Everyone does drag for a different reason. Some do it for fun or for a hobby. Some do it as a profession to build a brand. I do it as a profession. It's hard work. If I weren't building a brand, I wouldn't do it. Doing drag allows me to do other work, like fashion and modeling. It's a different story for other people.

QUEST: What is the state of drag today?

Nea: People have realized drag is now an integral part of pop culture. Drag is moving towards acceptance as legitimate mainstream entertainment.

QUEST: You were a male model before your drag debut. How did that happen?

Nea: I was a very young male model and working with an African designer in Paris. There was a shortage of girls for a fashion show. I thought "I can do this," and I did. I became a female model for the show. I just walked the runway. When I got back to Cameroon I kept it hush-hush. Cameroon isn't big on drag. But, I secretly worked at creating the illusion that became Bebe.

QUEST: How is illusion different from female impersonation?

Nea: It's all drag. Impersonation is portraying a

character in existence. It mimics or imitates celebrity - a personality, like Cher. But, illusion is different. Illusion is a personal creation. It's unique. You create your own persona. You can be glamorous or do comedy. It's whatever you want to be.

QUEST: Looking at your fashion shoots and videos, the costumes are amazing. Who does BeBe's wardrobe and all the details?

Nea: I design all my costumes. I've developed a concept. It's part of my brand. People don't know how much work goes behind the scenes. Creating drag is an incredible amount of work. When I got started it took hours to do make-up and dress. Now I know how to do it and it's much easier. Now it's second nature. But I'm always adding new costumes so BeBe is always fresh.

QUEST: How did winning the title "America's Next Drag Superstar" at RuPaul's Drag Race season 1 affect your career?

Nea: RuPaul's Drag Race gave me a platform. It gave me the chance to reach more people. I was already creating a career. The show definitely helped that. Eventually I would have gotten where I am but just not as quickly.

QUEST: So what about your Milwaukee appearance at La Cage?

Nea: I'm really looking forward to it. It'll be exciting and fun playing with the kids. The show is called "Cameroon." I'll be performing my song "I'm the shit." I can't wait to see what Milwaukee has to offer.



QUEST: And your illusion is BeBe Zahara Benet. Who is BeBe?

Nea: BeBe is strong. She's very fashion, very extravagant and a visionary. She's international, dynamic, and sexy. She's wild in the way she dresses. People think of BeBe as a wild Amazon. It is a jungle out there and you don't survive the jungle being shy. BeBe is definitely not shy. It's survival of the fittest.



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Thursday, November 11

Milwaukee City Hall Rotunda Veterans Day program, 7 pm with speakers and music. Sponsored by Milwaukee Veterans for Peace, Chapter 102. Free and open to the public. More information: www.milwaukeevfp.org

Miss Katie's Diner (Milwaukee) SWITCH KARAOKE returns Every Thurs 9-close. Reunite with Craig & Switch alumni, drink specials to all who SING & to Marquette students

Friday, November 12

LaCage (Milwaukee) Traffic Light Party 10 pm

Napalese (Green Bay) Argonauts Club Nite - ARCW Food Drive, bring a food or personal care item for 1 raffle ticket. 9 pm - Close

Stadium View Bar & Grill (Green Bay) comedian Paula Poundstone live (see story this issue)

UW-Madison (336 Ingraham Hall) Presentation on Hmong Gay Men "The Challenges of Hmong Gay Men in the United States" by Vang Tou Xiong 2:30-4:30 PM CONTACT: Lynet Uttal, luttal@wisc.edu OR Yer Lor, aasp@mailplus.wisc.edu

Saturday November 13

ICON (Kenosha) Leather night with the ICON All Male Revue 10pm

KRUZ (Milwaukee) Castaway's M.C. ANNIVERSARY Beer/Soda Bust \$7.00 Sat Nov. 13th - 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Raffles and prizes.

Outwords Books (Milwaukee) Photographer John Gress: Reception and Book & Calendar Signing "The Score." & his equally stunning over-sized 2011 Calendar based on photographs from the book - Starts 4 pm

Tempt (Milwaukee) 70's Disco Ball with Hot Male GoGo Dancers \$3 Stoli products

Sunday, November 14

Triangle (Milwaukee) S.I.N. Night

Friday, November 19

BOOM (Milwaukee) Free Beer if you're on our email list. Contact bar for details.

Mditowne Spa (Milwaukee) Lights Out Party

Montage (Milwaukee) Cameroon! Special show feat RuPaul's Drag Race Season 1 winner, BeBe Zahara Benet. See article this issue.

Saturday November 20

ICON (Kenosha) Mr ICON 2010 Benefit Show

KRUZ (Milwaukee) M.A.U.L. Bear Night 10-close

LGBT Center of Southeast Wisconsin Benefit. at Unkork! 240 Main St Racine, Wisconsin. "Christmas Over the Rainbow" Holiday Gift Market, Silent Auction, and Wine Tasting. Shop for: art jewelry, toys, candy, & holiday decor while tasting wine, & feasting on a dessert & hors d'oeuvre buffet. 6-9 p.m., tickets 15\$. Call center for info 262-664-4100. Tickets avail at door.

Madison Gay Video Club "Ice Blues" (Here!, dir. Ron Oliver, 2008) "Steamworks" (Raging Stallion, dir. Tony DiMarco & Steve Cruz, 2010) 8 PM, www.mgvc.org, 608-244-8690 (eve)

Miramar Theater (Milwaukee) The Miltown Kings' Sci Fi show, "Double Feature, Miltown Show" \$7 admission, but save a buck and only pay \$6 if wearing a Sci Fi themed costume. Costumes are at the discretion of our doorman/bouncer Cabby Malone, make it a good one!

XS (Green Bay) TURNABOUT 2010

Sunday, November 21

Fluid (Milwaukee) Bingo 4pm

Wednesday, November 24

ICON (Kenosha) Pre-thanksgiving DJ Dance Party

Tempt (Milwaukee) Be Thankful for STRIPPERS! Day B4 T-Day Bash! \$3 Effen Vodka

Triangle (Milwaukee) Special DJ Party

Thursday, November 25 - Thanksgiving

Ballgame (Milw) Gobble down a FREE SHOT of Doctor's with your first Paid Cocktail

KRUZ (Milwaukee) Kruz Anniversary Party 7pm-close

Friday, November 26

LaCage (Milwaukee) NO PANTS PARTY with hot male dancers. 10 pm

Saturday November 27

Club 5 Madison) Chez Bouche, an erotic dance comedy. 9pm chezbouche.com

Club Impulse (Beloit) RuPaul's Drag Race Contestant ONGINA Act9 AIDS Ride Benefit

Fluid (Milwaukee) Glowvember Party w/ DJ Kelly (Glow blacklight party)

ICON (Kenosha) Ronnie Nyles Performs live.

Thursday, December 2

Milwaukee LGBT film/Video Festival (UW Union Milwaukee) Tilda Swinton in "Orlando" The celebrated reissue of Sally Potter's 1992 Academy Award Nominated film based on Virginia Woolf's novel *Orlando: A Biography with Quentin Crisp as Queen Elizabeth* \$5 7pm

Friday, December 10

Satge Q (Bartell Theatre Madison) Chez Bouche, an erotic dance comedy. Repeats 11th

Women's Voices Milwaukee A Holiday of Harmony Concert 7:30pm Repeats Sat. 11th Reserve tickets \$12 in advance by calling 414-483-2430 \$15 at the door (cash or check only) Marian Center for Non-Profits 3195 S. Superior St. Milw.

Sunday, December 12

KRUZ (Milwaukee) Castaway's M.C. Beer/Soda Bust - "HARD CANDY X-MAS" - KRUZ Sunday Dec. 12, 2010 3:00 - 7:00 P.M. SANTA - GIFTS/PRIZES

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VERBAL ACUMEN READING @ MGAC

New play by Ray Proctor and Olivia Dawson addresses issues of race and friendship

Verbal Acumen might just be a play about friendship. It might question the intricacies of African-American friendships. It might be a play about intellect versus intuition. It might be a play about finding and defining love. It might have a rousing Gospel number with singing and dancing. It might. It probably won't have an angry black man or a pregnant teen mother. But it might. It probably won't mention liberal white guilt, privilege or entitlement. But it might. It might be about how two lives can intersect for a period of time and two people find a way to be honest with each other. It might be a play about nothing at all. But it's not.

Verbal Acumen is a collaborative playwrighting effort by Ray Proctor and Olivia Dawson. A little more than six years ago Ray Proctor met Olivia Dawson in The Next Act Theatre's production of *Between Men and Cattle*. At the time, Proctor was a doctoral candidate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, pursuing a PhD in Shakespeare Studies and Dawson was a professional actor working in Madison, Milwaukee and Chicago. Dawson subsequently enrolled in the MFA program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where the two became roommates, friends and colleagues. They now live in Chicago.

Verbal Acumen negotiates the terrains of pretense, race and friendship. Sometimes it interrogates the complexities of being black in a world that is not. Parts of it consider what it's like to want...simple desires...nothing fancy. Occasionally the play talks about expectations and what happens when those expectations are not met. Parts of the play look for ways to be black and gay...to exist...on stage and in the world without being a caricature or a stereotype. Parts of the play focus on rejection and tenacity. But mostly it's just a play about two people who learn to love each other, in spite of themselves. *Verbal Acumen* a new play by Ray Proctor and Olivia Dawson Directed by Sherri Williams-Pannel features the talents of Ray Proctor, Olivia Dawson, and Bear Bellingier The reading with discussion to follow takes place Friday and Saturday, November 19 and 20 at the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 South 2nd Street in Milwaukee's Historic Walker's Point neighborhood.. Refreshments available. Suggested donation is \$10 general and \$8 for students.



October 30 - December 3

Shrine

Photography
by
Paul Masterson



Phantoms and Shadows

Photography
by
Jeff Main

9TH ANNUAL RAINBOW COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING POTLUCK SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Milwaukee - Join your rainbow family for this annual gathering on Saturday, November 27. Doors open 4:30 PM, dinner is served 5:30 PM. The dinner is again held at Plymouth UCC, 2717 East Hampshire Avenue, Milwaukee WI As you are able, please bring a dish to pass. Sponsors will be providing turkey, ham, vegetarian

lasagna and beverages.

Sponsored by PFLAG, Brew City Bears, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, Galano Club, SAGE/Milwaukee, Lesbian Alliance, Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church, and Plymouth United Church of Christ.

Chez Bouche' An Erotic Dance-Comedy

Madison - After a five year hiatus Randy Bouche' (AKA CC Rae) is back with a new show, **Chez Bouche'** ("Shay Boo Shay"). It promises to be sexy, provocative, edgy and many times funny. Describing the show in one sentence is difficult because it entails a variety of pieces ranging from high-energy dance numbers to comedy sketches to belly dancing to an impersonation of Lady Gaga and more. This time Mr. Bouche' has hired 3 sexy Madison entertainers to share the stage with him for this unique performance. Each individual comes from various backgrounds with a variety of talents.

"Redd Hott" is a 26 year old model taking her runway charisma to the next level, from her uncanny and seductive resemblance to Nicole Kidman in *Moulin Rouge* to the sexy femme-fatale, Catwoman, in **Chez Bouche's** version of *Batman 2012*. This strawberry blonde bombshell can "personally" handle any character type that comes her way.

"Misha", an actor, dancer, singer, fitness model and belly dancer, taps into fifteen years of performance experience to bring you characters ranging from the Biblical Adam to a not-safe-for-TV version of Adam Lambert.

Tyler Falco-Schott is a 22 year old college theatre major with emphasis on acting, directing, tech design and playwriting. He also has an interest in puppetry and puppet design which is well utilized in this show. Tyler brings some fantastic acting and comedic skills along with a playful sexiness to the show.

Randy Bouche' is a 47 year old veteran to the stage. He is the artistic director and lead chore-

ographer for this performance. His background is in a variety of stage performances including: dancing, acting, comedy, puppetry, magic, celebrity impersonations and female impersonation. Some of you will remember him from his 1990's national tour show: *The CC Rae Comedy Show*.

Chez Bouche': An Erotic Dance-Comedy is scheduled to be an ongoing Midwest tour show. Opening night is scheduled for Saturday, November 27 @ Club 5 in Madison, WI at 9pm. Watch for future Wisconsin performances including the Bartell Theater in Madison, WI.

FMI on show dates and booking opportunities check out the **Chez Bouche'** website at chezbouche.com. Also, visit us on Facebook under **Chez Bouche**.

Chez Bouche' is currently seeking male and female understudies. For details visit chezbouche.com and click on **AUDITIONS**.



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MIKEY ROX'S ULTIMATE GUIDE TO GAY GIFT GIVING

by Mikey Rox

SNAP TO IT

Ramona Singer infamously called **Kodak** antiquated, much to the chagrin of Jill Zarin, who was hosting an event on the company's behalf during a season three episode of *The Real Housewives of New York*. Points go to Team Jill for that round, because Ramona was way off base. In fact, the iconic brand is as cutting-edge as they come where affordable consumer technology is involved. Case in point: the EasyShare M580, the world's thinnest 14-megapixel, five-times-zoom digital camera. The pocket-sized point-and-shoot also features a Share Button, which allows users to tag and upload pics to Facebook, YouTube, the Kodak Gallery and Flickr within seconds of plugging it into a computer. Mmmhmm. Whatcha got now, Ramona? (\$199.95; www.kodak.com)



OFF THE CUFF

Picture it: You're at your fave guppie's Chrismukkah party (because he's still "in lurve" with Seth Cohen) when tragedy strikes; the batteries in the electric bottle opener have died and your sanity is in danger. What to do? You reach for the barware drawer to retrieve a manual device just as you're reminded that such "primitive items" don't reside at that dwelling. Don't slap the bitch. Collect yourself and think. It'll come to you. A-ha! Your **stainless steel bottle opener cuff links** that you said you'd never use. At least not in public, anyway. But don't be ashamed. You saved the day and, let's be honest, you'll embarrass yourself in other ways. Starting in about three hours. (\$50; www.cufflinks.com)



to the frame by camera phone, e-mail, Facebook and more – a nice surprise for grandma when she walks in to see new pictures from her favorite gay grandson. Unless her favorite gay grandson hits the wrong button, of course. But then, he really shouldn't have such scandalous content stored on his Droid, now should he? (\$127.99 and up; www.ceiva.com)

RINSE & REPEAT

Shower time is sacred. And **simplehuman** aims to make it even better with its twin wall mounts with basket. Wide openings on the shampoo and conditioner dispensers prevent messy spills (is there a such thing in the shower?) and makes refills fast and easy. Convenient storage hooks hold a razor, loofah or other accessories, and the square tissue holder features an integrated clamp that keeps the box from falling out. Although, if you're blowing your nose in the bath, you've likely got bigger issues than escaping tissues. Mount secures to a dry wall in 24 hours with silicone glue. (\$69.99; www.simplehuman.com)



DRINK TANK

If you're still buying bottle water on a daily basis, you're behind the times. Not only is it expensive, but it's also bad for the environment. In fact, you probably own a small part of your local landfill by now. For shame! Reduce your carbon footprint by investing in **3M's** latest innovation, the Filtrete Water Station, which features four reusable water bottles that fill with fresh, filtered H2O. The liquid station provides the approximate recommended daily water intake – 64 ounces – with each bottle containing 16.9 ounces. The bottles are BPA-free with leak-proof caps and can be washed conveniently on the top rack. Cut down. Drink up. (\$38; www.filtrete.com)



PRODIGAL SUN



Go green while gettin' down with Solar Sound 2, the new and improved sun-powered portable speakers from pioneering company **Devotec**. Building upon the success of the original Solar Sound, this upgrade promises a superior listening experience with the use of specialty woven speaker cones; silver-plated, oxygen-free copper cabling; an efficient power circuit to provide even more juice to the amp; and a larger integrated battery that increases playing time to five to 10 hours, depending on the volume level. That's where the sun comes in. With its embedded solar panel and quick charging system, the unit can play continuously under UV rays – even when the built-in battery is dead. Party on, party boy. (\$99.99; www.devotecindustries.com)

THE BIGGER PICTURE

There are digital photo frames, and then there's the **CEIVA** digital photo frame. What's the difference? For starters, CEIVA frames come pre-loaded with your favorite pics, so when the recipient opens the box your pearly whites are peering right back. But that's not the best part. The frames are connected, allowing anyone, anywhere to send photos directly



GARDEN VARIETY

Paging Peg Bundy! Al's trophy wife loved her some bonbons – but probably not this kind. **Moulton's** Bon Bons are truffle-shaped mounds of clay and organic compost combined with seeds. The Garden pack features two each of basil, parsley, chives and thyme, while the herb tea selection includes double quantities of borage, chamomile, lemon balm and Stinging Nettle. Just toss the handcrafted clay balls into the garden or an indoor container, add water, and watch them grow. Perfect for that crazy uncle who "talks" his plants. Misery loves company. (\$14.95; www.moultonology.com)



THE POTTY EXPRESS

Small children do exactly three things – eat, sleep and wail. That is, when they're not relieving themselves wherever they want like incontinent animals. Since you can't outfit the kid with an electronic collar that'll teach it to piss and poo in the pot (silly laws!), you have to train the little bugger – which can be a nightmare in itself. To make life easier, the people at **Baby Signs** have created a potty training kit that makes go time interactive, easy and – you can be the judge of this – fun. The kit comes with a parents' guide, the "All Aboard the Potty Train" DVD, *All About the Potty Train* board book and conductor's whistle, and Job Well Done! stickers. Hooray for stickers! Just wash your hands before you start doling those out, OK? (\$39.95; www.pottytrainwithbabysigns.com)

COME WHAT CLAY

Crate & Barrel and Bed Bath & Beyond deserve mad props – mostly because they've got the wedding-gift market on lock. Think about it. Even when you don't know where a dear friend (or a not-so-dear friend for whom you're obligated to buy a gift) is registered, you can bet they've signed up for swag at one of those stores. But don't fall prey. You're faboo – and so should your gift be. Enter **Maid of Clay Ceramics**, handmade pottery with custom monograms sculpted by a little lady named Felicia in her California studio. Two styles of vases as offered – Wedding and Sweetheart – but rest assured that each is one of a kind. (\$99-\$110; www.etsy.com/shop/maidofclay)



BIKES FOR DYKES

Sexy ladies have long had a love affair with motorcycles. Seems unlikely, but examine the evidence; nobody's forcing those busty blonds and brunettes to bend over the handlebars in every bike rag sitting on newsstands. One could argue that the female species likes the feeling of all that power between their legs, no? (Insert your own



dirty joke here.) Whatever the case may be, **California Scooter Co.** has carved a niche in the market for women who have a need for speed with three styles – Classic, Greaser and Babydoll – and a custom-built option. The company claims on its website that you're in for the ride of your life. And if one of these is waiting for your honey in the garage on Christmas morning, you probably will be. (\$4,995 and up; www.californiascooterco.com)

SHAVE THE WAY

This ain't your daddy's razor. The **Philips Norelco** SensoTouch 3D uses GyroFlex 3D technology to enable three-dimensional contouring that pivots around, tilts inward and



flexes outward to adjust seamlessly to every curve of the face and neck. The UltraTrack heads include channels to catch longer hairs, slots to catch normal hairs, and holes to catch even the shortest stubble, cutting every hair with fewer strokes. Designed to be innovative and attractive in function and design, this cordless, electric shaver also features the SkinGlide system that combines a smooth surface with rounded edges to glide effortlessly over his manly mug. Kyan would be proud. (\$199-\$349; www.store.philips.com)

HAUTE DOG (not pictured)

It's no secret that gays pamper their pets. Custom feeders, top-of-line leashes, sherpa-lined winter parkas – we go all out when it comes to our furbabies. And why not? They're loyal, they don't talk back, and they want to cuddle when that guy from Grindr doesn't. Now your pooch can shimmer and shine like the star it is with Bowl Me Over dog tags from **Wags & Tags**, maker of luxury pet pendants. The three-dimensional design is composed of non-tarnishing sterling silver with silver beads framing the entire circumference of the bowl. Five bones wrap around the side, and a stainless steel connector that's snap- and crack-proof secures the tag to your dog's collar. Available in small, medium and large sizes. (\$199-\$559; www.wagsandtags.com)

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GO THE EXTRA SMILE

Unless your dentist looks like John Stamos, you'd rather stay away. Which presents a problem if you covet bright white chompers. Sure, there are over-the-counter bleaching methods – and they're relatively inexpensive – but they're also messy and often painful. Simple, safe and effective, **Supersmile** takes a bite out of the competition with a clinically proven gift set that includes a Professional Series II LS45 Advanced Sonic Pulse Toothbrush (with patented 45-degree angled bristles) and a three-month supply of its professional whitening system. The system safely whitens natural teeth and restores bonding, veneers, caps and dentures to their original splendor. It also strengthens enamel and eliminates harmful bacteria, plaque and gingivitis. The one thing it won't do, however, is cure morning breath; dude is still gonna taste icky in the a.m. (\$159; www.supersmile.com)



NEURAL TUBE

While movie tickets continue to climb, the ultimate in home-viewing entertainment gets more accessible. The **Toshiba WX800 Cinema Series 3D LED HDTV** delivers an impressive three-dimensional experience within a premium, ultra-thin package. Beyond its luxe look, the WX800 is a wonder worthy of the Cinema Series label, with an array of picture enhancements and wireless access to hundreds of streaming content options. In addition, beautiful cosmetics (a depth of less than 1.2 inches and sleek chrome trim) and state-of-the-art features (multiple 3D input formats, including MPEG4-MVC, RealD) make this powerhouse the perfect choice for today's most demanding home theater connoisseurs. It goes without saying, too, that it's conducive to some serious cuddling. (\$2,599 and up; www.toshiba.com)



STOCKING STUFFERS

BUZZED ABOUT

Handcrafted. All natural. Sulfate-free. These are the words that describe **Beecology**, a line of skin and hair care products from the family-owned and –operated, Ohio-based company. Stock up on earthy soaps, shampoos and lip balms for gifts that keep on giving all year round. (\$2.99 and up; www.beecology.com)



'MODERN FAMILY' AND 'GLEE' ON DVD



Forget to set your TIVO last year? Never fear. TV's gayest new series come packed with tons of extras and special features in season-one box sets perfect for anyone craving awkward laughter & impromptu musical numbers. (TBD; www.amazon.com)

DIY DESSERT

Take notes, **Hershey's Chocri** customers can create their own sweet snack online, which is then hand-manufactured in Germany with premium Belgian chocolate. Just choose a base (dark, milk or white), then select from over 100 toppings, which includes traditional accompaniments like dried fruit and nuts and out-of-the-ordinary options like real gold flakes, jalapenos and bacon. (\$6.90 and up; www.createmychocolate.com)



FIVE O'CLOCK SOMEWHERE

Get your glug on anytime, anywhere with **The Original Disposable Flask**, a lightweight, durable, collapsible and freezable portal of potency that fits perfectly in a pocket or purse. Great for one-time use or as reusable, refillable respite. (\$2.99; www.disposableflasks.com)



LIGHT 'EM UP

His bulbs will shine bright in these festive trunks from **Pact**, an eco-friendly and cause-conscious underwear shop. A portion of the proceeds will help charitable organizations EarthSpark and Citizen Effect send handheld solar lanterns to Haitians in need. (\$22; www.wearpact.com)



SPICE OF LIFE (not pictured)

Surprise the amateur chef in your life with **tsp spices'** Set for the Holidays, six tins of essential organic herbs for the seasonal kitchen. Each palm-sized box contains a bounty of fresh flavor to make delicious dishes like roast turkey, gingerbread cookies, pumpkin pie, mulled wine and more. (\$40; www.tspspices.com)

'SCANDLE'-OUS

Turn up the heat with **Scandle**, a shimmering candle that burns two degrees above body temperature to produce a soothing body oil in a relaxing aroma. Perfect for massages, cuticle treatments or as an everyday moisturizer. (\$22.95; www.scandlecandle.com)



POWER HOUR

Motivate your partner to get moving with **S2H Replay**, a wristband that offers rewards for physical activity. Earn 60 points for every hour of exercise, which can be cashed in for prizes like gift cards, movie tickets, Wii consoles and iPods. (\$19.95; www.s2h.com)

PANTY RAID

Fun, flirty and affordable, **Affinitas Intimates** offer packaged panties in both hipster and thong styles fabricated from comfy stretch lace and mesh. Three-packs come in assorted, solid colors and one size that fits waists zero to eight. (\$28; www.affinitasintimates.com)



Mikey Rox is an award-winning writer/journalist and the founder of Paper Rox Scissors, a copywriting and creative consulting company in New York City. He can be reached at mikey@paperroxscissors.com.

BOOKWORM SEZ GIVE A BOOK AS A GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS

by Terri Schlichenmeyer

Did you ever notice how the holidays are all about OY?

Oy, as in JOY: a joyous season for family.

Oy, as in TOY: what the kids want from Santa.

Oy, as in OY, I don't have my Christmas shopping done so now what am I going to do?

Yeah, and that last one is the toughie. So why not relax & head to the bookstore. Look for some of these gift ideas & wrap up a book....

FICTION

There's a little intrigue and lots of small-town flavor in "**Cranberry Red**", the fourth in the Ames County series by **Jerry Apps**. In this new installment, people are getting sick because of a new chemical added to Wisconsin's beloved cranberry crop. Can there be a connection?

And more: if your giftee loves a good whodunit, check out "**Truthful Moments**" by **Tom Reed**. When a veteran witnesses a killing, it triggers his PTSD. Separating memory from murder might be a challenge. "**Easy As Pie at Bobby's Diner**" by **Susan Wingate** is another fun mystery with a Thelma-and-Louise flair, and look for "**The Shadow Woman**" by **Ake Edwardson**. Set in Sweden, it will make your shiver.

Is your giftee a major fan of "The Office"? Then they'll love "**Russell Wiley Is Out to Lunch**" by **Richard Hine**. Professionally, Russell Wiley's life stinks and his job at a newspaper is practically causing ulcers. Personally, things are no better. And then it gets worse. Hint: wrap this book up for your budding journalist.

Does someone on your gift list love to bite into things-that-go-bump-in-the-night novels? Then wrap up "**Venom**" by **Jennifer Estep**, because this novel – a bit of urban-fantasy-crime-drama and the third in the series – has vamps, dwarves, assassins, and more, and it's partly set in a Tennessee bar-b-cue joint. What's not to love, right? And along those same lines, look for "**The Vampire Book: Third Edition**" by **J. Gordon Melton, PhD**. This uber-comprehensive "Encyclopedia of the Undead" will surely make your vampire fan show her fangs with happiness this holiday....

Who doesn't like a good whodunit for the holidays? If you know your giftee loves intrigue, wrap up "**Innocent Monster**" by **Reed Farrel Coleman**. When Moe Prager's daughter asks for a favor, he dusts off his PI license and gets to work. Also look for "**By Hook or By Crook**", edited by **Ed Gorman & Martin H. Greenberg**. That's an anthology by more than two dozen of your favorite authors, and it's a can't-miss for mystery mavens.

If there's a Monkeewrench fan on your list (and if there is, you know what I'm talking about), then you'll get lots of smiles when you give "**Shoot to Thrill**" by **P.J. Tracy**. When a floater is found in the Mississippi River, Minneapolis detectives Magozzi and Rolseth are on the case, while the Monkeewrench crew is working with the FBI. Can they, together, stop a killer?

If time is always of the essence for your giftee, then wrap up "**Blue Vegas**", a quick-to-read anthology of short stories by **P. Moss**. There's a seamy side of the City in the Desert, and Moss writes about it – and he should know. In his "other life", he's a gambler himself, as well as a bar owner in Las Vegas. I also liked "**As If We Were Prey**" by **Michael Delp**. This skinny book – part of the Made in Michigan Writers Series – is filled with short stories, and is perfect for the giftee who loves to read but is thin on time.

Novel lovers will relish reading "**The Good Daughters**" by **Joyce Maynard**. In this book, two "birthday sisters" with totally different personalities share their love for one's older brother throughout their lives. This book spans several decades and put a smile on the face of everyone who embraces love and family. Also try "**An Irish Country Courtship**" by **Patrick Taylor**. Set in Ireland, this sweet romance may be just what a wintering leprechaun needs.

Sometimes, you just need a good oater, right? If you've got a western fan on your list, you can't go wrong with "**Texas Standoff**" by **Elmer Kelton**. This novel of the Texas Rangers has horses, guns, cowboys... what more could a reader need? Also try "**Take Me Home**" by **Brian Leung**. Set in Wyoming in the 1880s, this beautiful novel is about forbidden (but necessarily chaste) friendships, secrets kept, and one woman's quest to stay alive.

Without a doubt, there's times when nothing else but a good story will do. If you've got a novel lover on your list, then take a look at "**The Wake of Forgiveness**" by **Bruce Machart**, a book about a young horseman's life quest to make things right and repair the past. Wrap it up with "**Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter**" by **Tom Franklin**, another book about the past visiting the present with shaky results.

Who among us didn't struggle to find our place in the world way once upon a time? If your giftee still is, you may want to wrap up "**Sometimes We're Always Real Same-Same**" by **Mattox Roesch**. This book, set in Alaska, is about a boy from Los Angeles who hates living up north but is intrigued by his cousin, who is nothing California-like. And from the other side of the continent comes "**Safe from the Sea**" by **Peter Geye**, a book about a son, his father, and a long-buried family story.

PARENTING

Got a parent on your list? Then look for "**Without a Word**" by **Jill Kelly**, wife of football Hall of Famer Jim Kelly. This is the true story of their son Hunter's illness and how they doggedly looked for a way to save his life against incredible odds. Wrap it up with tissue; it's that kind of book. Also look for "Shut Up About Your Perfect Kid" by **Gina Gallagher & Patricia Konjoian**. That's a book filled with tips and help for parents of special children facing challenges in a world that loves perfection. And don't forget to look for "**The Modern Dad's Dilemma**" by **John Badalament, EdM**. For a father who wants the best relationship with his children, this book is perfect.

Brand-new parents won't need it now, but they'll definitely want "**CyberSafe**" by **Gwenn Schurgin O'Ke-**

effe, MD, FAAP around in the near future. This book will help them keep their kids safe in this digital world – including social media, texting, web searching, and gaming – because that little one will be computer literate before you know it. I also liked "**Brain Rules for Baby**" by **John Medina** and "**Beyond Smart**" by **Linda Morgan**. Both of these books will help you help your baby get a jump-start in life. Also look for "**Every Natural Fact: Five Seasons of Open-Air Preanting**" by **Amy Lou Jenkins**, outdoorsy families will cherish.

Are your giftees looking forward to an adoption in the coming year? Then you'll want to give them "**In On It: What Adoptive Parents Would Like You to Know About Adoption**" by **Elisabeth O'Toole**. This guide for relatives and friends answers questions that you all will be asking, and it addresses the good and worrisome about the process.

NON-FICTION

Does someone you know love to be scared? You won't find many things scarier than "**Real Monsters, Gruesome Critters, and Beasts from the Darkside**" by **Brad Steiger**. This comprehensive book by the Master of Monsters is filled with short, readable paragraphs about all sorts of things that go bump in the night. Be sure to wrap it up with a flashlight, for obvious reasons...

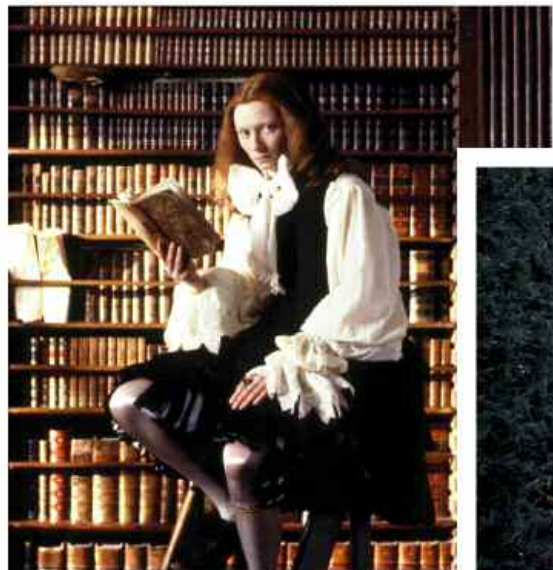
Also look for **Steiger's "Real Zombies, The Living Dead, and Creatures of the Apocalypse"** and "**Mirage Men**" by **Mark Pilkington**, a book about UFOs, espionage, and paranoia in America.

You've given gift baskets in the past to a lovely recipient. This year, add to the basket a copy of "**No More Dirty Looks**" by **Siobhan O'Connor & Alexandra Spunt**. This helpful book is filled with information on the things she puts on her face, and lots of better-for-her ideas that she'll feel safer using. Also look for "**Unforgettable You**" by **Daisy Fuentes** (yes, that D.F.), a book about style, allure, and looking your most awesome and "**Bad Shoes & The Women Who Love Them**" by **Leora Tanenbaum, illustrated by Vanessa Davis**. Your shoe fashionista can't be without it.

Does your giftee love the movie (or play) "Chicago"? Then he (or she) will love to read "**The Girls of Murder City**" by **Douglas Perry**, the true story that inspired the movie. This book is scandal extraordinaire, and will also appeal to anyone who loves to read about good old-fashioned gangster-era crime. I also enjoyed "**Chasing the White Dog**" by **Max Watman**. That's a true adventure of moonshinin' and outlawin'.

Every scientist, philosopher, and astronomer on your list will love unwrapping "**How It Ends**" by **Chris Impey**. How will the world end? How will we end? Will the universe implode? Not a doomsday scenario, this is straight science about how all good must come to an end, and it's perfect for laboratory lovers or anyone who's just plain curious about this sort of thing. For more science-y reading – albeit, on the weirder side – your giftee might like "**Hidden Realms, Lost Civilizations, and Beings from Other Worlds**" by **Jerome Clark**. This book is also perfect for

MILWAUKEE LGBT FILM/VIDEO FESTIVAL



This month!



Tilda Swinton in
Orlando

Thursday, December 2, 7pm, \$5

The celebrated reissue of Sally Potter's 1992 Academy
Award-nominated film based on Virginia Woolf's
ground-breaking novel *Orlando: A Biography*
with Quentin Crisp as Queen Elizabeth.

UWM Union Theatre
arts.uwm.edu/lgbtfilm

**PECKSCHOOL
OF THE ARTS**

UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN
UWMILWAUKEE

anybody who cherishes things that jump out in the night.

Got an athlete on your gift list? Then wrap up **“Death, Drugs, and Muscle”** by Gregg Valentino. This biography tells the story of a man who got deeply involved with bodybuilding – so much so, that he started dealing in drugs. It’s all true, it’s controversial, and it’s cautionary, so be aware. Also look for **“A Bum Deal”** by Rufus Hannah & Barry M. Soper, a memoir of homelessness, underground fame, and redemption.

Looking for something for the armchair genealogist? Wrap up **“Shaking the Family Tree”** by Buzzy Jackson. This is the story of a woman in search of a story about her family and where they came from. It’s a fun book and may spur you to get involved in your family’s history, too. You might also want to look for **“Stealing Secrets”** by H. Donald Winkler, a history book about women spies during the Civil War and how they may have changed the outcome with their courage and talents.

Does someone on your list love to travel? Then you can’t go wrong by giving **“Turn Left at the Trojan Horse”** by Brad Herzog. This wonderful book is the story of a cross-country search for lost youth and American ideals. Wrap it up in a map and a gas card for a great bon voyage! Another travel-type book – and this one will appeal to musicians, too – is **“Fiddle”** by Vivian Wagner. This is the story of Wagner’s newfound love of a fiddle and her journey to find others who love to fiddle around.

If you’ve got a historian on your gift list, you’re lucky because gift giving is easy this year. First of all, wrap up **“Reckoning at Eagle Creek: The Secret Legacy of Coal in the Heartland”** by Jeff Biggers. This book is part history, part social commentary, and a lot of human interest, and the timing of it couldn’t be more perfect. Also check out **“Inside America’s Concentration Camps”** by James L. Dickerson. This comprehensive and well-researched book is about a part of our history that is little-discussed and – surprised? – on-going, even today.

Does your giftee believe in the Boy Scouts motto, times four? Then wrap up **“It’s a Disaster! ... And What are YOU Gonna Do About It?”** by Bill and Janet Liebsch. This book is filled with step-by-step ways to protect families and assets in every kind of disaster possible, from the benign to the worst imaginable. Though this book may be a little hard to find, it’s worth it. Also look for **“The Viking in the Wheat Field”** by Susan Dworkin. That’s a cautionary true story about preserving our crops and food sources, and it will give you food for thought.

If there’s a politician on your list, you may want to look for **“More Davids Than Goliaths”** by Harold Ford, Jr. This book, part politics and part memoir, also tells the story of a life lived with values and morals, and is perfect for anybody who must know what’s going on in Washington. Your politician may also like **“The Handy Philosopher Answer Book”** by Naomi Zack, PhD. This comprehensive book looks at the lives and words of the great thinkers, and it’s easy to browse, too.

Looking for a gift that will last awhile? Then wrap up **“Mandela: A Biography”** by Martin Meredith. This brick of a book (over 600 pages) tells the story of a mod-

ern-day hero, his life, and his works. Yes, there are pictures in here, but they pale in comparison to the story. I also loved **“Homeless Hearts”** collected by Dr. Jean A. Newsome. This book – written by homeless women living in shelters – tells the kind of stories that could happen to any of us. It will bring tears to your eyes and make your giftee very, very thankful this holiday.

And speaking of thankful, look for **“Dove on a Barbed Wire”** by Deborah Steiner-Van Rooyen. It’s the true story of a concentration camp survivor and the author’s almost-forty-year journey to piece together his memories and to find family. There’s brutality in this book, but also beauty. I liked **“A Sense of Duty”** by Quang Pham, too. That’s a memoir from a former Vietnamese refugee who escaped and later became a U.S. Marine combat aviator.

Beatles or Stones? Mick or Paul? Brian or Ringo? Your giftee has definite opinions on those questions, so you’d be well-advised to look for **“The Beatles vs. The Rolling Stones”** by Jim Derogatis and Greg Kot. Filled with pictures and tons of stats, this book will make your giftee smile big. For an added grin, wrap it up with **“Star Guitars: 101 Guitars That Rocked the World”** by Dave Hunter. This picture-packed, heavy tome tells the story of Lucille, Blackie, Frankenstat, and more.

Tired of giving the same old thing (cookbooks) to your foodie friend? Then wrap up **“Best Food Writing 2010”**, edited by Holly Hughes. This book contains stories about eating, eats, and what to eat – and it includes recipes, too. And if your cook is into growing it her- (or him-) self, then a can’t-miss gift is **“The Polytunnel Handbook”** by Andy McKee & Mark Gatter. This book gives relatively easy, step-by-step advice for building an eco-friendly greenhouse that will allow any gardener to indulge in the passion year ‘round. Oh, and don’t forget to look for **“Ripe: The Search for the Perfect Tomato”** by Arthur Allen. Yep, it’s a book about tomatoes. Who could resist?

Moms, Dads, and Grandparents are always hard to buy for, but this year, you can rest easy. Wrap up **“Next Steps: A Practical Guide to Planning for the Best Half of Your Life”** by Jan Warner & Jan Collins. This book covers the basics and then some – finances, health care, marital situations, even planning for your pets. Also look for **“The Best of Everything After 50”** by Barbara Hannah Grufferman. This jam-packed paperback includes advice, hints, tips from experts, health and beauty information, financial nudges and tons more. And one more: just to put a smile on someone’s face, look for **“The Complete Geezer Guidebook”** by Charles F. “Chuck” Adams. Filled with cartoons, jokes, bios, anecdotes, and fun, this book (meant for a grump) is definitely anti-grumpy!

Everybody knows somebody who loves to dig deep into the human psyche, and I’ve got two suggestions to fill the bill: **“The Art of Choosing”** by Sheena Iyengar is a book about why we pick what we pick and how our choices mold our lives and attitudes. I also loved **“How We Live & Why We Die: The Secret Lives of Cells”** by

Lewis Wolpert. Either book is perfect for your science geek, so why not wrap up both?

For the budding writer, **“A Writer’s Book of Days”** by Judy Reeves is an excellent gift this holiday. This revised edition includes advice, exercises, fun stories, things to do, and ideas for anyone who wants to work with words. And speaking of writers, look for **“The Great Typo Hunt”** by Jeff Deck and Benjamin D. Herson, the true story of two men and their cross-country jaunt for the sake of proper punctuation.

No science geek should be without a copy of **“Seeing Further”**, edited by Bill Bryson. This thick tome tells, through essays, the story of science through The Royal Society, starting three hundred fifty years ago. Filled with pictures, this is the perfect gift for anyone with a curious streak. Also look for **“How to Disappear”** by Frank M. Ahearn. This book is perfect for conspiracy theorists, the curious, and anyone who just wants to be left completely alone with their books.

Soap fans will love opening a package that contains **“The Days of Our Lives: The True Story of One Family’s Dream and the Untold History of Days of Our Lives”** by Ken Corday. This surprising book tells the story of a family that conceived the serial that has kept fans’ attention for over forty-five years. Since you wouldn’t want to burst your soap fan’s bubble, wrap up this book filled with insider peeks, trivia, and reminiscings. And speaking of reminiscing, you might want to look for **“The Thunder and the Sunshine”** by former Senator Gary Hart, a hard look back at politics, America, and living a life of service.

One of my Best Books Ever celebrated the 15th anniversary of its initial publication this year, and I promise you won’t regret wrapping up **“Salvation on Sand Mountain”** by Dennis Covington, the true story of a journalist who joins a snake-handling church in order to report on an attempted murder. Though the first few pages are a little slow, it’s worth the wait because this book is brilliant. This version updates readers on the lives of the people inside. Also look for **“A Beggars Purse”** by Toni Nelson, a faith-based look at homelessness and poverty in Las Vegas.

Got a cook on your list? Then wrap up **“The Mitsitam Café Cookbook”** by Richard Hetzler. This book is filled with recipes from the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, so you know this is a very different kind of cookbook and the sidebars and pictures make it an even better gift. Wrap it up with **“Muffins & Mayhem: Recipes for a Happy (if Disorderly) Life”** by Suzanne Beecher, a memoir with recipes.

Here’s a book you’ll want to wrap up and you’ll also want a copy of your own: **“Never Pay Retail Again”** by Daisy Lewellyn. Filled with tips, ideas, and ways to look and feel smart on a budget, this book will make you and your giftee both smile in the coming year.

Does your giftee relish a good biography? Then wrap up **“Designated Fat Girl”** by Jennifer Joyner. This is the true story of an obese woman: her life, her trials, and her decision to save her own life. Sobering, but a great

read. Another great book (think: lots of biographies) is **“Gold Diggers: Striking it Rich in the Klondike” by Charlotte Gray**. This is a book about gold in them thar hills, and for anyone who feels rich this holiday, it can’t be missed.

TRUE CRIME

If there’s a CSI fan on your gift list, you’ll be glad to give **“The Profiler” by Pat Brown with Bob Andelman**. This is the true story of a woman who knows killers like she knows her own face – because she hunts them down for a living. This book is not for the faint of heart, but it’s an excellent read for your armchair detective. Also look for **“Denial: A Memoir of Terror” by Jessica Stern**, the true story of an expert in terrorism and PTSD who is forced to remember her own assault at the hands of a serial rapist. This is a lock-the-door kind of book, so be aware.

Armchair psychologists will love **“The Measure of Madness” by Cheryl Paradis**. What goes on in the mind of a serial killer or psychopath? Paradis, a forensic psychologist, teases the truth and your giftee will love it. After all, with a subtitle like “Inside the Disturbed and Disturbing Criminal Mind”, what’s not to love? Another must-read is **“The Anatomy of Evil” by Michael H. Stone, MD**. This uber-scary book, filled with inside looks at many (too many!) despicable people will keep your true crime fan up all night, one way or the other.

Crime fighters love true crime stories, but this one is different: **“Murder Behind the Badge: True Stories of Cops Who Kill” by Stacy Dittrich** is a chilling look at the bad guys within the good guys. This book is filled with intriguing and fascinating chapters, each one about a flatfoot with a flat-out need for blood. I also liked **“History in Blue” by Allan T. Duffin**, a book about women in law enforcement from the 1840s to now.

If your true crime buff is tired of the same-old, same-old, then why not wrap up something different? Put **“The Autobiography of an Execution” by David R. Dow** under the tree. This is a memoir by a lawyer who has represented dozens of death-row inmates; it’s about his life, his work, and his beliefs. Wrap it up with another different book: **“I Fell in Love with a Con Man” by Elizabeth Grzeszczyk**.

TRIVIA & FUN STUFF

I’m a big fan of trivia, so I can tell you for sure that **“The Judge Who Hated Red Nail Polish” by Ilona Bray, Richard Stim, and the Editors of Nolo** is a trivia-lover’s dream. This light-hearted book is filled with “crazy-but-true” stories of law and lawyers, and it made me laugh. Wrap it up with **“But They Didn’t Read Me My Rights!” by Michael D. Cicchini, JD & Amy B. Kushner, PhD** for a great gift for lovers of humor, arcane knowledge, and law. I also liked **“The Handy Law Answer Book” by David L. Hudson, Jr.**, a wonderful book for the curious and anybody who needs clarification on anything legalese.

Everybody needs to count their blessings, especially at a time like this. If your giftee has things like that on his or her mind, then be sure to give **“The Book of Awesome” by Neil Pasricha**. What simple pleasures do you

love best? What things make you smile? This book will, for sure...

Without a doubt, anybody who’s curious – and that includes the squeamish – will love reading **“The Curious World of Bugs” by Daniel Marlos**, creator of What’sThatBug.com. This book includes all sorts of info on all sorts of creepy-crawlies: the biggest, the smallest, eating habits, mating habits, habitats, and how to get them to move out of your house.

If your giftee is of the nostalgic sort, then **“Mr. Ed: Dead” by Barry Nelson and Tom Schecker** will gain you smiles. This book is filled with obituaries of famous people (and creatures) that only existed in our imaginations.

PETS

Does your recipient aspire to be like Dr. Doolittle? Then help them open the flow of communication between dog and owner by giving **“Through a Dog’s Eyes” by Jennifer Arnold**. This fascinating, useful book will give any dog owner an understandable way to understand their canine best friend, and – just like any good dog book – there are stories to read in between lessons, too.

If you’re like most pet-lovers, you wrap up gifts for Fido and Fluffy, too. But here’s a gift for you that’s actually for them: **Chow Hounds by Ernie Ward, D.V.M.** This book takes the wrapper off why our pups are portly, and it includes recipes that will make your pooch sit up and beg all year round. Another book for you (but really for the dog) is **“Trust the Dog” by the Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation with Gerri Hirshey**. This book is about you and your dog becoming a real team, and Poochie will thank you for getting this book “for him”.

Most pet owners think of Guide Dogs when they think of service animals, but if your giftee thinks of horses first, then wrap up **“Horses with a Mission” by Allen and Linda Anderson**. This book is filled with inspiring stories just for horse lovers and will thrill equestrians (or equestriennes) ages 12 and up. Another book for kids of all ages is **“Royal and Snuggles” by Coleen Hefley**. That’s a book about pet turkeys, and it’s one you may gobble up.

So your giftee is going green? Why not take the pets, too? **“Pets Gone Green” by Eve Adamson** is a book about making this world a better place with and for your pets. It includes advice on getting a pet, safe pet products, and more. It’s purrfect for all kinds of pet lovers.

AFRICAN AMERICAN AUTHORS

What happens when you take two very different women and put them together in circumstances they wouldn’t normally ask for? You’ve got the novel **“Butterfly Rising” by HBO star Tanya Wright**. This beautiful novel features a little magic, and lots of dream-making. Wrap it up for your favorite dreamer this year. Also try **“Don’t Blame the Devil” by Pat G’Orge-Walker**.

If you’re looking for something unique for a gift, look for **“The Secret Lives of Baba Segi’s Wives” by Lola Shoneyin**. This novel is the story of a man who has three wives and a passel of children. When wife Number

Three arrives, it upsets everything. This small novel would make a great stocking-stuffer, when added with a bookmark. For a bigger read, wrap up **“Full Circle” by Ayana Ellis**. It’s the story of a Brooklyn girl who gets involved with a gang of thugs but escapes The Life, only to dive into a life of easy money and violence with the man she loves. You won’t need a bookmark with this one; your giftee will race through this book.

Need a gift for your favorite guy? Then look for **“Family Ties” by Ernest Hill**. When a young man gets out of jail, he tries to reconnect with his mother but nothing goes right. His brother is on the lam, his mother is pointing fingers, and more.

Got a dreamer on your gift list? Show her that you believe in those dreams by wrapping up **“The Little Black Book of Success: Laws of Leadership for Black Women” by Elaine Meryl Brown, Marsha Haybood, and Rhonda Joy McLean**. This easy-to-read book is filled with food for thought, “Mama-isms” and other great motivational words, and would also make a great gift for a recent or almost college graduate. For more inspiration, look for **“It Is Well With My Soul” by Ella Mae Cheeks Johnson with Patricia Mulcahy**. The sub-title, “The Extraordinary Life of a 105-Year-Old Woman” is all you need to know...

Your historian is going to enjoy unwrapping **“Tradition and the Black Atlantic: Critical Theory in the African Diaspora” by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.** This book, part history and part personal anecdote, takes a look at cultural studies from Britain to the U.S. to Africa. Also take a look at **“Race and Renaissance: African Americans in Pittsburgh since World War II” by Joe W. Trotter and Jared N. Day**. This hard-hitting, hard-history book is filled with stories, graphs, and lots of information, making it the perfect gift for a scholar.

“My Darkest Hour: The Day I Realized I was Abusive” by Harold L. Turley II is one of those books that you’re going to hate to give away – but in some cases, you know you’ll have to. Here, Turley comes to terms with the abuse that he endured, and he admits that he, himself, was an abuser. There’s advice in this book and more motivation to spur readers to get the help they need. This is an amazing memoir, but give it carefully... Also look for **“At the Dark End of the Street” by Danielle L. McGuire**, a story of “black women, rape, and resistance”, starting more than fifty years ago.

The historian on your gift list will definitely love unwrapping **“Our Black Fathers: Brave, Bold & Beautiful” by Joslyn Gaines Vanderpool and Anita Royston**. This book is filled with stories about and tributes to Black Men, including athletes, writers, men who made a difference, and men who created traditions within countries and within individual homes. Wrap it up with **“Dare to Take Charge” by Judge Glenda Hatchett**, a book about a woman who makes a difference, and the stories she has to tell, or **“Say It Loud!”**, edited by Catherine Ellis and Stephen Drury Smith. That book is about great speeches on Civil Rights and more, and includes a MP3 CD.



Halloween at ICON Kenaosha

Photos by Paul Carbonneau





Halloween at Napalese Green Bay

Photos by Gerald Johnson





Halloween at Club 5 Madison

Photos by Tony Ritschard



LGBT CINEMA AVAILABLE ON DVD by Glenn Bishop "BEAR CITY"

While planning a recent get-together, post Milwaukee LGBT Film Festival, many amongst Glenn's nearest and dearest laid down the law: no tragic endings. Period. End of discussion!

Well, with so many screeners and yet so little time, what better film to choose than director Doug Langway's upcoming DVD release, **BearCity**? Focusing on a community of NYC bears and their ardent admirers, **BearCity** held great promise for many of Glenn's closest acquaintances, a large group in which a t-shirt emblazoned with "Real Men Wear Fur" would hardly warrant even a second glance from the most fervent PETA supporter?

How curious to discover that the central character in **BearCity** is neither bear nor cub. Tyler (Joe Conti) is a cute, rather cherubic "bear-curious" twink hiding a great big (not to mention hairy) secret from his sweet, flaming roommate Simon (Alex Di Dio). As is often the case in stories such as this, while his roommate Simon pines unrequitedly away for Tyler, Tyler lurks, under the cover of night, on hot bear porn sites identified merely as "boy4fur21."

After one such online encounter, Tyler ventures out, a virgin visit as it so happens, to the Ramrod, a place where big men go to let their fur down. Tyler is welcomed with open arms (and then some) and can't help looking like the proverbial kid in a candy store. So warm is his welcome in fact, Tyler very quickly finds himself not only a new place to live but a whole new set of friends including Tyler's soon to be new roommates: the bearded and seriously cuddly Fred (Brian Keane) along with Fred's gently acerbic, totally monogamous boyfriend Brent (Stephen Guarino). Taking the role of Mama Bear in this hairy fairy story is Michael (Gregory Gunter), an obese, unemployed and desperate bear blessed with Carlos (James Martinez), a red-hot wildly jealous significant other.

And by the very next morning, Tyler has even gotten a new job as a barista at **The Bear Café**, a bears-only coffee shop where many of the fat and fabulous guys he met at the Ramrod also happen to hang out. Yes, yes, this is all sounding very familiar to Glenn: think Mary Ann's arrival in San Francisco (**Tales of the City**) or Dorothy landing in Oz (**The Wizard of Oz**).

Well, Tyler doesn't need a house to fall on him not to realize that he's got a good thing going.

Tyler might not know a Cappuccino from a Frappuccino but he'll manage a-okay at **The Bear Café** as long as he's a smile and snappy comeback at the ready, which thankfully, he does. Then into this furry madness enters Roger (**CSI**'s Gerald McCullouch), less a bear really than a hunky Silver Daddy who is rugged, randy and totally confident. Think Brett Favre wearing his favorite Open-Fly Wrangler jeans. Not so much boyfriend material, Roger seems more the "f*ck 'em and forget 'em" type.

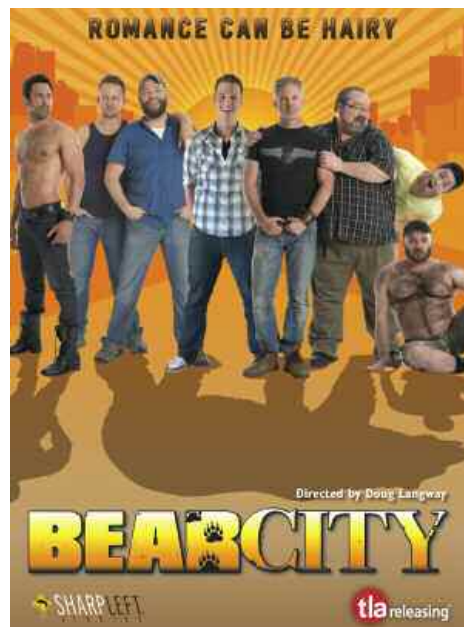
One sight of Roger leaves poor Tyler totally tongue-tied – really a blessing in disguise, thinks Glenn. When Tyler



does managing to regain some semblance of composure, he attempts to bring the gang their round of coffee drinks. Big mistake. A glimpse of Roger's sounding set finds Tyler weak-kneed and suddenly wearing his tray of (fortunately iced) coffee drinks.

Glenn couldn't help but ponder how this virginal stud-muffin recognized the dazzling to the eye tool kit as a sounding set?

From here Doug Langway and Lawrence Ferber's screenplay, in turn, fleshes out each couple's story. Unemployed Michael must decide if radical weight-loss surgery will provide him with sufficient self-esteem to get hired, even if the consequences include losing Carlos in the bargain. Even as Fred is tempted by young Tyler, he seeks to persuade a decidedly dubious Brett that their relationship needs some spicing up. The final subplot requires moviegoers to believe that after a few furtive looks and a heated game of bowling, unlikely lovers Roger and Tyler find themselves learning to accept their May-December relationship and shout out that they fallen truly, madly, deeply in love.



Buy it, rent it, or just forget about it . . .

BearCity left Glenn's unofficial (to say the least) focus group split right down the middle. A **Sex-in-the City** for the fabulous furry set, thought some; shamefully evoking the excesses of **The Boys in Band**, many others countered.

Glenn, as often happens, split down the middle. On one hand, Glenn found it refreshing to learn that just like the rest of the known gay universe; bears can be bitchy, campy and think only of sex. And let's give credit to director Doug Langway's determined (and for the most part successful) attempt to eroticize the bodies of bears. Carlos vigorously tonguing Michael's flabby, hairy bellybutton proves a powerfully intimate scene. Less clear is why these bears (and admirers) are friends. For no other, perhaps, than the fact they are bears (and admirers); in much the same way the boys in **The Boys in the Band** are friends simply because they are all gay and therefore must be. Indeed, Brent and Fred's relationship difficulties recall those of Hank and Larry, only Mart Crowley, would surely find the preposterous shower room three-way, nothing short of horrifying, as did Glenn.

Even more perplexing to Glenn is Tyler's role in Langway's narrative. It is surely breaking new ground for **BearCity** to offer a cute young kid who is attracted to big, burly men and if he's got a hairy back, so much the better. But just as surely it is a step back or two to then have Tyler in turn become the center of so much attention. His arrival at the Ramrod immediately ignites a virtual sexual frenzy; later Fred is on the brink of ravishing the slumbering (passed-out?) twink even as Brent is in the kitchen ordering Chinese. Why don't any of the hot, hairy bears end up with another hot, hairy bear?

Just the facts...

BearCity is in English and has a running time of 105 minutes. **BearCity** is available on DVD on Tuesday, Nov 23 with a SRP of \$19.99. Look for more of Stephen Guarino (Brent) on **The Big Gay Sketch Show**.

BearCity offers a wealth of DVD extras including a featurette: *Out of the Woods: The Making of BearCity*, director commentary tracks, a music video plus English subtitles for the hearing-impaired.

ASK THE IRREVERENT UNCLE BARBIE Your Intellectual Whore

(An effervescently gay advice columnist) Disclaimer: Although the author of this column holds a doctorate in clinical psychology, the tongue-in-cheek advice given is for entertainment only and is not a substitute for therapy. Barbie responds to all emails...whether you deserve it or not. Send questions to askunclebarbie@aol.com

ONE DUMB ASS!

Hello Uncle Barbie!

I think all people on welfare should be cut off immediately! If they can't work or make it on their own, then too bad. It's survival of the fittest. Just like in the wilderness, if an animal is too sick or weak to survive, then they die. That's how the gene pool stays strong and healthy. I am sick of my tax dollars paying for those lazy welfare recipients who just don't want to work. I think that Social Security should be abolished! People should save their own money for retirement. And, if your money runs out, it's your own damn fault for not saving enough.

Signed, Richard

Hello Rich,

Well, well, well, Richard--mind if I call you DICK?! (This is, yet, another letter in which the writer forgets to ask me a question.) Have you ever thought of asking questions before making conclusions? Or, maybe, you think you already know all the answers. It seems that you are a selective elitist, DICK. You appear to have a lot of admiration for the rich and nothing but spitefulness for the poor. Let me correct you on a little common misnomer, DICK; It's not survival of the "fittest;" it's survival of the "fit." You make it sound like only one life form can survive. According to the natural laws of biology, any organism that can adapt to the surrounding environment

is capable of surviving. The survival rate of an animal in the wilderness is not a case of being the fittest one. Any creature that is reasonably fit can survive. It's not like the Olympic Games where only one wins the gold metal. (You really need to get over this elitist attitude of yours, DICK--it's most unbecoming.)

Do you really think that we should treat each other like the wild animals competing for scarce resources? I have a hard time imagining even you turning your back on your own parents or grandparents when their retirement money runs out and there's no "welfare" money to be had anymore. What are you going to say to them? "Well folks, this is the law of the wild; you didn't save enough when you were raising me--now die!" I think I speak for low income people everywhere when I say, "You can kiss my poor ass, DICK!"

Kisses, Barbie

"GOD BLESS US" DOESN'T MEAN GOD DAMN EVERYONE ELSE!

Dear Uncle Barbie,

I'm writing to let you know how much I enjoy your column. I'm a straight, Christian woman, and I am saddened every time a fellow Christian chooses hate instead of love. It's sad that people are so willing to say negative things and



Normality is overrated!

keep their positive thoughts to themselves. You give wonderful advice with a wit and a bit of sass, which is helpful and entertaining. Keep up the good work and have a great day!

Signed, Happy Thoughts

Hello Gaily Thinking,

Thank you ever so much for your support. I know a lot of loving Christians; however, there are a lot of hateful ones, too. To be fair, I guess the same thing could be said about any religious community. There are always a few bad apples in every bushel. I really do try my best to stay positive and look at the bright side of life. And, I want to thank you for having a bright soul. Let your little light shine, honey.

Keep Sparkling, Barbie

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The DATING DIET by Anthony Paull

Fantasy Football

Big things happen to those who wait! Yes! That's what my friends tell me when they call, and I inform them that I haven't met or talked to anyone on a romantic level in six months. Others, like my dad, think I'm lying, that I'm a closet whore who has slumber parties with indie rockers when I get done shooting and interviewing them for the paper. Yes, I'm such a legend, except my penis isn't speaking to me out of spite — and last night, my asshole declared a holy war. Basically, from what I can tell, the hole is threatening to, a-hem, close up.

Funny, I never knew my butt was religious, but I think its learned helplessness in the last few days, and now, it's threatening to open a mosque near Ground Zero. Yeah, I know; my ass is famous. That was my butt in the news, stealing all the press when I'm in the midst of a depression. And I know, I know, "But we're in a recession, and everyone is depressed."

Yeah...try telling that to my butt. The selfish thing — it just wants attention.

Therefore, to silence it, I have been going out, kind of. There's this sexy bar with a great foreign beer selection and a fire pit in the middle of the star-canopied backyard, and when I'm frisky I slice up a shirt and stick on a really, really, tight pair of skinny jeans, and, voila, I'm a slut!

Well, not really. I mean, my dad would love that, because he thinks gay men just go gay to be sluts, but I'm more of a prude. Well, I guess I'd be more of a tease if I were actually teasing anyone. But for the most part, everyone is (snore, snore, snore) straight, and I just can't compete with pussy. It always wins. Well, except when the wrong guy is in the right kind of mood due to the beer in his belly.

Tonight, he comes in the too heavenly form of a tall, wiry hipster who finds Pabst Blue Ribbon hip because he thinks it's the cheapest way to get me drunk.

Like I need to be drunk to be a slut. Hello, college is over! I've evolved.

Besides, I'm a lightweight. I can get drunk on Sprite if it's been lying out too long. "Awesome, then you'll be a cheap date," Mr. Hipster jokes, scratching his black mustache. "Not that I've ever dated a guy. But for you, I'd think about it. Seriously, I don't know WHAT the fuck I am."

"Well, buy me an expensive beer, and I'll help you figure it out," I inform him.

Yes, I'm so brave, for a second, and then I flee, run-walking to the other side of the unlit fire pit, where a group of college kids compare tattoos. Avoiding Mr. Hipster, I snap pictures of a skinny music trio, wearing superhero capes and football pads on a wood plank of a stage. The leader, wrapped in Christmas lights, sings a torch song about someone teaching him how to die. I think of giving him instructions, seeing as lately, I feel like a pro.

That's the thing about ending a long-term relationship — every breath is a tiny death unless you're ready to seal the coffin. Unfortunately, I like to think there's life left with my ex; even if we're just friends, how do we make it through to the other side alive? How do I handle seeing him with someone else? How will he see me? How do I pretend not to care?

"You ask too many questions," Mr. Hipster tells me. Later, drunk and brazen, he surprises me with the beer I requested, plopping down beside me on a picnic bench, where he toys with my camera.

"Wrong, I asked you one question," I correct him.



"And I'll ask again. Why do you keep following me?"

"Because you think I'm cute," he slurs, being ever so clever. And true, he is cute, but I'm not willing to admit that because he's not willing to admit he likes guys. When I grill him about it, he just laughs and then gets real serious.

"Look, don't judge me, man. I don't know what I like, but I like talking to you, ok?" He makes it so simple.

Still, I find no rhyme, no reason to this encounter, other than the words of advice I recently received from a friend. "Quit thinking every guy you meet has to be Mr. Right. You attract the kind of man your soul needs. Right now, your soul has a hole, so repair it before you meet the right one. You had Mr. Right. You might need Mr. Right Now or Mr. Wrong. He might be what your soul is calling...."

Hence, I'm writing this in a brave attempt to be all right with feeling all wrong all the time. In fact, I'm naming it Fantasy Football, so it will get in the wrong search engine so the wrong people will read it, because I'm that punk rock, and I'm that fucked up.

The truth is, I've been playing it safe too long, so worried what my friends, my ex, and my family will think that I haven't been thinking for myself. I'm sick of shape shifting, afraid of the stigma attached to being single. True, I'm lost, but I'm determined to love it, because I'm not ready to love anyone else. BUT I can like someone.

"So wait, uh...dude, will you give you me your digits?" Mr. Hipster nervously asks, chasing me down in the parking lot after last call.

And yes, it feels wrong, totally wrong, YES!

But I guess that's why I give him the right number.

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Quest is published bi-monthly, second & fourth Thursday. Distributed free throughout Wisconsin in area bars & businesses that cater to the LGBT community. Quest © 2010 All rights are reserved. Publication of the name or photograph of any person or business in this magazine does not reflect upon one's sexual orientation. All copy, text, photographs & illustrations in advertisements are published with the understanding the advertisers have secured the proper consent for use, and Quest may lawfully publish & cause such publication to be made & save blameless Quest from any & all liability, loss and expense of any nature arising from publication.



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Box 12793, Green Bay,
54307
www.NEWBrotherhood.org

Rainbow Families c/o PFLAG
252 E Highland Ave. Milw,
53202
mkeraibowfamilies@hotmail.com

LGBT Welcoming Churches

Angels of Hope MCC
3607 Libal St., Green Bay,
WI (920) 983-7453
Appleton at UCC Chapel,
724 E. South River Dr.
aohmcc@netnet.net
www.angelsfohopebcc.org

Church of Atheism
206 Vine St., Eau Claire, WI
54703 (706) 593-2686
church_of_atheism@yahoo.com
freewebs.com/churchofatheism

**First Unitarian Society of
Milwaukee** 1342 N. Astor,
Milw. 53202 (414) 273-5257
office@uwmilwaukee.org
www.uwmilwaukee.org

Footstep Fellowship First
Presbyterian Church Cjapel
(715) 355-8641 PO Box 171,
Wausau, WI 54402
footstepfellowship@yahoo.com
geocities.com/footstepfellowship

Fox Valley UU Fellowship
2600 E Phillip Lane Appleton
WI 54915 (920) 731-0849
www.fvuuf.org

Lake Park Lutheran Church
2647 N. Stowell St. Milwaukee,
WI 53211 (414) 962-9190
office@lakeparklutheran.com
www.lakeparklutheran.com
**Love of God Cathedral
Universal Anglican Church**
9633 W Greenfield Ave
West Allis, WI 53214
www.L-O-G.org
RevJ@MilwaukeeMinistry.org

**Milwaukee Metropolitan
Community Church** PO Box
2421 1239 W. Mineral St.
Milw. WI 53204 (414)383-1100
info@queerchur h.org
pastor@milwcc.org
www.queerchurch.org

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

**Preble Park Presbyterian
Church** 607 Ravenswood
Dr. Green Bay, WI 54302
(920) 468-7125

**SS Cyril & Methodius
United Independent
Catholic Church** Neenah,
WI 54956 (920) 836-2199
stcyrilandmethodius@centrytel.net

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

Union Congregational UCC
716 So. Madison St., Green
Bay 54303 (920) 437-9266
Fax (930) 437-3765
unionucc@gbonline.com

Unity Church of Kenosha,
Racine 9220 26th Ave.,
Kenosha, WI 53143 Rev.
Don (262) 914-8389
hellodjd@sbcglobal.net

Neighborhood Associations

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

**Washington Heights
Rainbow Association**
(414) 258-8834
washhtsrainbow@aol.com
washingtonheightsrainbow.org

Wauwatosa Rainbow Association
tosarainbow@yahoo.com

Other Service Agencies with LGBT Programming

**Aids Resource Center of
Wisconsin**
820 Plankinton Ave. PO Box
510498 Milwaukee, WI
53202 (414) 273-1991
www.arcw.org

Brady East STD (BESTD)
Clinic 12240 E. Brady St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 272-2144
bestd@execpc.com
www.bestd.org

**Children Service Society of
Wisconsin**
1212 S. 70th St. Milwaukee,
WI 53212 (414) 453-1400
jane.ottow@cssw.org
www.cssw.org

**The Counseling Center of
Milwaukee**
2038 N. Bartlett Ave. Milw,
WI 53202
(414) 271-2565
info@tccmilw.org
www.tccmilw.org

OutReach
600 Williamson St. (Ste. P1)
Madison, WI 53703
(608) 255-8582
www.lgbt Outreach.org

STD Specialties Inc.
32351 N. Holton St. Milwau-
kee, WI 53212
(414) 264-8800
www.STDSpecialties.org

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WISCONSIN LGBT BAR GUIDE

LACROSSE/MADISON (608)

Impulse 132 W. Grand Ave Beloit, (608)361-0000
My Place 3201 South Ave LaCrosse (608)788-9073
Players 300 4th St, La Crosse (608)784-4200
Chances R 417 Jay St, La Crosse (608)782-5105
Club Haven/Bridgeport Bar & Grille
18-24 S River St Janesville (608)359-6109
Club 5 Bar/Restaurant 5 Applegate Ct
Madison, (608)277-9700
Plan B 924 Williamson Street, Madison
Shamrock 117 W Main Madison (608)255-5029
WOOF'S 114 King Street, Madison
(608)204-6222 www.woofsmadison.com

Captain Dix (*Rainbow Valley Resort*)
4124 River Road WI Dells, WI (866) 553-1818

NORTHERN WISCONSIN (715)

Scooters 411 Galloway Eau Claire (715)835-9959

JT's Bar and Grill 1506 N. 3rd
Superior (715)-394-2580

The Flame 1612 Tower Ave
Superior, WI (715)395-0101

The Main 1217 Tower Ave
Superior, WI (715)392-1756

OZ 320 Washington St, Wausau
www.totheoz.com (715)842-3225

NORTHEASTERN WISCONSIN (920)

Rascals Bar & Grill 702 E. Wisconsin,
Appleton (920)954-9262

Ravens 215 E. College Ave Appleton (920)364-9599

Napalese 1351 Cedar Green Bay (920)432-9646

SASS 840 S. Broadway, Green Bay (920)437-7277

THE SHELTER 730 N. Quincy St. Green Bay
920-432-2662 • theshelterclub.com

XS Niteclub 1106 Main Street, Green Bay

Debs Spare Time 1303 Harrison St Oshkosh (920)235-6577

PJ's 1601 Oregon St. Oshkosh (920)385-0442

Blue Lite 1029 N 8th, Sheboygan (920)457-1636

SOUTHERN WISCONSIN (262)

Club ICON 6305 120th (Off I-94) Kenosha,
(262)857-3240 www.club-icon.com

JoDee's 2139 Racine St Racine (262)634-9804

MILWAUKEE (414)

* Art Bar 722 Burleigh, (414)372-7880

1 Ballgame 196 S 2nd (414)273-7474

2 Boom (& The ROOM) 625 S. 2nd St
(414)277-5040

3 Boot Camp 209 E National (414)643-6900

4 DIX 739 S 1st Street

5 ETC (Basement level of LaCage)
801S 2nd, (414)383-8330

6 Fluid 819 South 2nd (414)643-5843

7 Harbor Room 117 E Greenfield (414)672-7988

* Hybrid 707 E Brady St (414)810-1809

8 KRUIZ 354 E. National (414)272-KRUIZ

5 LaCage 801S 2nd, (414)383-8330

9 Midtowne Spa (*this is not a bar*)
315 S Water (414)278-8989

10 Mona's 1407 S. First St (414)643-0377

5 Montage (Upper level of LaCage)
801S 2nd, (414)383-8330

11 Nut Hut 1500 W Scott (414)647-2673

* PURR 3945 N. 35TH Milwaukee

12 This Is It 418 E Wells (414)278-9192

13 Triangle 135 E National (414)383-9412

14 TEMPT 324 E Mason (414)221-0228

15 Tropical Niteclub 626 S5th (414)460-6277

* Two 718 E. Burleigh St.

16 Walker's Pint 818 S 2nd St (414)643-7468

18 Woody's 1579 S 2nd (414) 672-0806

* means not on Milwaukee map



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