

# 20 YEARS QUEST

VOLUME 20 ISSUE 8  
AUGUST 2013



**Lauren & Laura  
Getting Married**

Photography by Mark Mariucci  
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# ON OUR COVER LAURA SZESZKO & LAUREN MARIUCCI ARE GETTING MARRIED

by Mark Mariucci, Quest Publisher

As a photographer I have attended and shot many weddings. Only one had been of a lesbian couple and we featured them on the cover of Quest; a first for the magazine also the first full color cover for the "little bar rag". This was back in the day when gay marriage was only a distant dream for all LGBT people around the world.

Several states have accepted gay marriage or domestic partnerships and DOMA is now past us so it saddens me to know I live in a state that still discriminates against gays and lesbians getting married. Quest has followed the marriage debate since it's early days when we all had great hope that Wisconsin would be one of those progressive states like it was when we were the first state to pass a hate crimes bill.

For much of my adult life I have been politically active, trying to move our rights forward in every aspect. This has not always made me the popular one in my family or in my group of friends. I dreamed of the day when we would begin to be treated as equal in the eyes of the rest of the world.

I did not know at the time these very rights and freedoms I fought so hard for would one day appear before me on such a personal level as it has this month.

I have been single for most of my gay life and doubted I would ever be in a position to take advantage of getting married. In my mind gay marriage came to symbolize all aspects of equality for LGBT people. In other words, it was somewhat of an abstract concept. It caught me a little off guard

as I was thinking about the August cover. What could I do to follow up with from July when I featured a gay couple that hopes to be married next year. I knew I would be attending a wedding later this August in Green Bay for my niece and although I know she is a lesbian and she would be getting married to her partner, *this was family* and I hadn't stopped to consider how surreal this all was for me.

Suddenly I became keenly aware, that all this hard work has now made it possible for someone in my own family to enjoy the rights and freedoms the heterosexual community has always enjoyed. Laura Szeszko will be marrying my niece, Lauren Mariucci in an official ceremony in Illinois where they live and

will enjoy all the freedoms afforded by them from both the state of Illinois and the federal government. They will also have a more symbolic ceremony for the rest of us here in Green Bay at Heritage Hill shortly after.

Heritage Hill is the same place one of my nephews got married. His wife has a brother who is gay and partnered to one of my best friends. Such a small world but I completely missed how at some point this whole "gay" thing stopped being any issue in my own family and has been accepted as normal. I know I am largely responsible for that, but it happened slowly and only now am I standing back and seeing how different it is today from just a decade ago.

It was never more apparent to me as I sat with my niece, her sister and husband and the rest of the bridal shower party as I waited for Laura to show up from a separate party to do the cover photo. Everything was about the same as it always is for these things except this time it is a bride and bride being married. In some sense I felt very old as these younger people carried on like it has never been something society feared and loathed.

For this reason alone I now know it is only a matter of time when gay marriage will be allowed in all 50 states. No matter how hard the religious right attempts to stop this from happening, it WILL happen and it will be because families have accepted those who are gay or lesbian as just as normal as everyone else. That day is already here in my own family and I know in my heart it is around the corner for many, many others.



## AL CULBREATH TO BE REMEMBERED IN A CELEBRATION OF HIS LIFE SATURDAY, AUGUST 3RD AT THIS IS IT IN MILWAUKEE

Al Culbreath was born in 1924 to sharecropper parents in Covington Tennessee. At a very young age he knew he did not want to pick any more cotton and left Tennessee. He went on to form his own modeling school. One of the few black models in Milwaukee at the time, he was featured in ads for Miller, Schlitz and Pabst, the Boston Store, Macy's, Gimbel's and Nunn Bush.

"We always celebrated his birthday, St. Patrick's Day. Al said he was 'black Irish'" states Larry Krueger a long time friend.

He volunteered for the old Milwaukee Aids Project (MAP) and was on the volunteer board of directors of Charles Allis Art Museum for many years.

Krueger met Al in 1964 when he worked full time at Johnnie Walkers Men's clothing store on 3rd and Wisconsin in Milwaukee. "After he finished his shift at the clothing store, he was kind enough to come over to my restaurant/nightclub Café Melange and work the door, Krueger says. "We'd be there till one in the morning. Still with a spring in his step we would go out for a drink. He would

get up for work in the morning to do it all over again. For 10 years, till Café Melange closed, I had the pleasure of working with him."

For his 90th birthday there was a party at Jim's Time Out Bar on 7th and Wells in Milwaukee. Al said "If I'm dying, I'm going with beer in my belly."

There was a retirement ceremony for a lieutenant commander of the Milw. Fire Dept going on outside of Jim's time Out. They closed the street, lined up officers, hung a huge flag. The Lt. Commander was kind enough to come in and wish Al a happy birthday.

Al fought the cancer 3 years driving himself to the doctor for chemo treatment. Larry went to see Al's cancer doctor when they first realized it wasn't his heart that made Al sick. The cancer doctor spoke about age, and comfort, and side effects of chemo. Al said "give it to me. I want this cancer out of me." When the chemo eventually stopped working, he drove himself to the radiation. He had the most amazing level of energy. But it wasn't a selfish energy. His charm was charismatic. He could make any place a more gracious, fun, and easy place to be.

Apparently Al left a small sum of money in order that friends and family could have a party and remember him. That party will be on Saturday, August 3 at 4 pm at **This Is It**, a popular bar in Milwaukee.



Here is a photo of Al at the Chilton, WI micro brew fest. 2,700 people. Of the number, 2 were people of color. Al was one. He would have been only 86 years old at the time. He partied all day. He came to the brew fest every year till the cancer made him too weak.



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## FORMER MILWAUKEE CONTESTANT, MISTER HARBOR ROOM 2012 JASON PULS SHARES EXPERIENCES COMPETING AT INTERNATIONAL MISTER LEATHER



**By Bennet Goldstein**

Contestant number 25, Jason Puls, wore strategically placed black leather straps. The white of his nude figure looked as though it were a canvas, concealed by a dark spiderweb. He swept the royal blue of Wisconsin's state flag overhead as he paraded down a spotlight stage at the opening ceremony of the 35th Annual International Mr. Leather (IML) Weekend.

An estimated 18,000-20,000 people (mostly gay and bisexual men) gathered in Chicago Memorial Day weekend to celebrate leather and kink. The leather fest also hosted a contest, where 51 men who won regional feeder competitions throughout the world sought the title of International Mr. Leather. Ultimately, Andy Cross from San Francisco bested them all.

Competitors from Wisconsin traveled to IML in past years after they won regional contests. In 2011, the Argonauts Leather Club of Green Bay awarded Jeff Gruenberger the title of Mr. Northwoods. That year, the Harbor Room bar in Milwaukee named Eddie Candelaria Mister Harbor Room. Both men went on to compete at IML, and

Gruenberger finished in the top 20. Gruenberger is also organizing the inaugural Mr. Wisconsin Leather contest this October in Milwaukee.

Puls became involved with the leather community by chance. He worked as a tour guide on the Milwaukee Pedal Tavern – a 16-person powered bicycle – and of his stops included the Harbor Room gay bar. He developed friendships with bartenders and regular customers, who encouraged him to compete in the bar's annual Mister Harbor Room contest. Puls won in July 2012, earning a ticket to compete in Chicago.

A musician himself, Puls strove to portray Milwaukee as an ambitious and progressive art community. He also competed as the only openly straight contestant, which he says shifted more attention to his sexuality than he wanted.

"People told me to play the bi[sexual] card, or people told me to lie and say I was gay, but that's not what I am," he says. "I am here to represent myself honestly."

Puls describes the contest as a bonding experience. As he became acquainted with fellow contestants, he learned of their hardships. Some

contestants found familial support within gay and leather communities, which they were unable to receive from their families of origin.

"Sometimes your chosen family brings you a lot of strength that you may not have found earlier in life," Puls adds.

Puls says IML was also an education about kink. "A lot of people have told me what to expect and how to prepare for it, but that only goes so far," he says. "Once you get there that's a whole other experience."

During the second round of the contest, IML emcee Lenny Broberg evaluated contestants' stage presence by asking them to construct hypothetical sex scenes using people or objects.

Broberg asked Puls, "Since you're from Milwaukee ... please choose a character from *Happy Days* to have a hot sex scene with ... Who would you choose, and why, and what would you do?"

Puls quipped, "There's no 'all of the above'?" Another contestant, Alexandru Sonoc of Ontario, Canada, suggested a "circle of fisting" when Broberg asked him to create a sex scene involving all 51 contestants.

"There were things I'd never even heard of, like electrolysis butt plugs, flogging to the point of bleeding, or urination," Puls says. "I'm more of a vanilla guy when it comes to sex. It doesn't mean I'm not a sexual person. It's just that I just don't really have that many fetishes or kinks."

Puls wonders whether he was penalized for not having enough sexual fetishes when the judges tallied his final score. Although he did not win the contest, Puls says he succeeded in other ways.

"I am now a part of something and it has nothing to do with my orientation. It has everything to do with the bond and openness that everyone shared together that weekend," he says. "It's so profound for me. I'm in this fraternity for life now and no one can ever take this from me."

On July 20, Michael Jones won the 2013 Mister Harbor Room contest. He will compete at IML in May 2014.

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## THE MILWAUKEE LGBT CENTER SEEKS LEADERSHIP

by Paul Masterson

You may have noticed the call for applications for the LGBT Center's position of executive director. It appears in social and print media. It's part of the center's Renaissance.

Just over a year and a half ago, the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center convulsed and nearly imploded. Established in 1995, the center has gone through sometimes inexplicable changes. It morphed from an engaged and growing grass roots LGBT organization located in the Walker's Point gay-borhood to an insular entity in a deserted corner of Brewer's Hill. From there, under its third executive director (ED), Magi Cage, it moved into the heart of the very un-gay MSOE campus, a block away from very un-gay Water Street entertainment district. With Cage, a non-LGBT person, the center's board had an optimistic notion – a straight leader of a gay organization would help integrate the community into the population at large. Among other perks, the otherwise ironic hire, it was hoped, would serve to bring LGBT Milwaukeeans into mainstream acceptance. Success, and funding, would follow. They didn't. Excessive rent and salaries, a lack of real LGBT-focused programming, stagnant fund raising and, perhaps most of all, the toxic personality clash between Cage and employees, membership as well as funders brought the center to near extinction. Only the center's youth program, Project Q, managed to flourish. With a projected \$250,000 deficit, the executive director resigned and bowed out with an undisclosed severance package. It seemed the LGBT Community Center was finished.

Then the cavalry arrived. A contingent of activists came to the rescue. With the conviction the city needs a hub for LGBT services and social programs, they took up the task of picking up the pieces. There were lots of pieces: financial debt, a residual community grudge, among many others.

One by one, they were addressed. The former board and some paid staff, largely seen as culpable members of the old regime, resigned. A new board was formed. Cream City Foundation and other sponsors provided major loans and grants. The center's footprint at its downtown Blatz Brewery location shrank by two-thirds, reducing its \$30,000 monthly rent to under \$10,000. From all accounts, past debt is now settled. A "Believe in the Center" campaign was launched. Outreach and new programming, directed by new hire in 2012, former MPS administrator, Thomas Hanley set about rebuilding bridges. Milwaukee SAGE returned to the center after its own tumultuous ups and downs. Dismantled as a separate organization, is now considered a part of the Center's programming. The annual community summer picnic, recently held in the shadow of the Blatz Building itself, was reported to be a great success.

Now a major hurdle remains. For over a year, Karen Gotzler, recipient of the PrideFest Medal for Community Achievement, has been the center's ED... as a volunteer. Taking the helm of a floundering ship with a quarter million dollar debt is no easy task. As chief operations officer of Urban Strategies, a Milwaukee based consulting firm that has assisted many local LGBT organizations, her expertise helped guide the center through its reorganization. With the center more or less on even keel, she is stepping back. And the now the search for a new ED is on.

**The Future**  
Given the failures of past leadership lessons have been hopefully learned to insure the next ED is right for Milwaukee. Originally locally focused, the search had gone national. Prospective candidates are asked to submit a demanding on-line application. The ED has a rather comprehensive role as supervisor. The center the paid staff and volunteer positions includes an operations manager, an accountant, the manager of counseling programs, the youth program manager, a volunteer communications director, a volunteer librarian, and a volunteer art gallery curator. Then there are the six organizations housed at center. According to the website, 100 local groups use the center for events and meetings.

The application provides insights into the board's intent to hire an AD with an extensive well-developed skill set. It's obvious that this time there is a conscious effort being made to hire someone with community sensitivity, scruples, and ethics as well as managerial, fiscal, and administrative ability. After all, the ED is the "face and voice" of the center, and by extension, of the LGBT Community.

It is clear that requirements for the ED of an LGBT entity are different from other non-profits. There is a specific nature to the community itself. For all its diversity, there is a commonality its goals. That goal is equality. Even in a political atmosphere that is generally positive with great advances being made, Wisconsin's situation is not without its challenges. Ultimately, given that reality, the ED's role for the Milwaukee LGBT Center will change with the community itself. The ED has to be aware of that and be emotionally engaged.

A question on the community's mind is the center's location. Ever since the move into the Blatz Building, it's been a major bone of contention. Rumors say the center will be there for at least 5 years, others say a move is imminent. A future ED will make that decision.

The deadline for applications is in the offing. QUEST will continue to follow the process and keep its readers informed. Meanwhile, for more information and to view the ED application, go to the center's website at [www.mkelgbt.org](http://www.mkelgbt.org)

## NOW YOU SEE ART, NOW YOU DON'T

by Paul Masterson

There's an Italian expression for moments of exasperation, "ma, dove siamo?" Literally, it translates to "but, where are we?" In other words, given the circumstances, *what do you expect?*

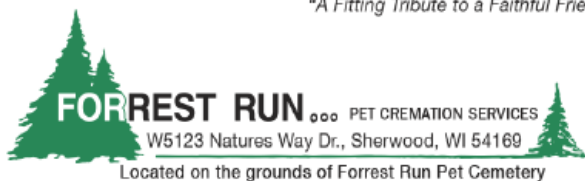
The phrase occurred to me even before the ink dried on the glossy pages of QUEST's June edition. In it, I had written about Jeremy Novy's queer street art. I made particular mention of Novy's Walker's Point Bela Lugosi mural on a beat up 1<sup>st</sup> Street cinder block facade. It included his signature Koi and that arc of ants. Then I noticed it had been painted over. Since then, another Dracula further south disappeared under a fresh coat of whitewash.

From all accounts, Novy's brief reprise in Milwaukee is over. He's back in the San Francisco Bay area. Based on his on-line postings, he sold half his works featured in an exhibit before the show even opened. Here and there in Milwaukee his Koi remain. But, sadly, other stenciled images are gone. So now a dilapidated eyesore structure on South 1<sup>st</sup>, once adorned, looks even less appealing. Whoever buys the property and puts in a parking lot or a supermarket (desperately needed in that part of town) will tear down the building anyway. What was the point of destroying the mural? If anything, the Koi et al. called attention to the blight building's "For Sale" sign. The neighborhood, too, had gained some character as an art target. Now, the unaesthetic splashes of gray paint covering the Koi only make it uglier.

Street art, queer or other, might not always be high art or fine art. But, it is often legitimate art, fulfilling the very purpose of art. Art reacts to social conditions. It articulates one side of a dialog that compels the viewer to look, engage, and, hopefully, think.

The lack of street art in Milwaukee speaks to our fair city's pervasive "lack." The metro's mantra seems to be "Better bleak than Beautiful" especially if the beauty is beyond common comprehension.

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The *Beat* writers are going through something of a renaissance these days, fueled unquestionably by the success of Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman's acclaimed cinematic poem, *Howl* with its oh-so-charismatic star James Franco bringing poet Allen Ginsberg to life.

Later this autumn the actor formerly known as Harry Potter is set to shock the more delicate sensibilities of some *Potter*-aficionados with the release of *Kill Your Darlings*, playing poet Allen Ginsberg. The pre-release hype boasting, as it does, highly controversial man-on-former wizard sex scenes.

Well, that should certainly get the slash-writers back out in force. In the meanwhile, Glenn will have to make do with director Walter Salles' 2012 adaptation of Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*, that most holy of *Beat* texts.

Glenn came to Kerouac's novel rather late in the day, as a part of a college lit class celebrating the works of such literary hipsters as John Clellon Holmes, poets Gary Snyder and Gregory Corso in addition to the expected works from Ginsberg, Kerouac and William Burroughs. By then, Glenn had already hit the road and in rather more comfort than by the hitchhiking and boxcars Kerouac sought to romanticize.

Although published in 1957, *On the Road* chronicled Kerouac's travels beginning nearly a decade earlier in an America still attempting to shed post-war doldrums, a time before the inception of the interstate highway system President Eisenhower would champion.

Budding novelist Kerouac might have remained just another unknown writer still living at home with his mother when he (and indeed Allen Ginsberg) met the charismatic Neal Cassady. Instead, Kerouac, or rather Sal Paradise as he dutifully names his fictional self, took to the open road in search of life, of new experiences, of sex and drugs and Jazz, ultimately

of escape.

The rest is literary and now cinematic history.

Salles' *On the Road* begins appropriately enough with Kerouac, sorry Sal Paradise (Sam Riley), already on the road, hitching a ride somewhere out West; Eric Gautier's splendid cinematography evoking an America both vast and distant.

Sadly, this wistful opening sequence is as close as Salles' manages in capturing the exhilarating wanderlust of the novel.

Jose Rivera's screenplay necessarily brings moviegoers back to the beginning of the story, as Carlo Marx (Tom Sturridge) brings Sal together with Cassady stand-in Dean Moriarty (Garrett Hedlund). The connection between Dean and Sal is immediate and infectious.

Playing near-mythical characters is no easy task as both Michael Douglas (*Behind the Candelabra*) and James Preston (*Joshua Tree, 1951: A Portrait of James Dean*) are sure to admit.

British actor Sam Riley's Kerouac seems content lurk in the background in his role as scribe, dutifully taking copious notes in a small notebook. Boring. Where is that eager adventurer who is willing to crisscross America with little more than ready thumb and a few bucks in his pocket for a bottle of whiskey, all in the search of new experiences; even those of Dean's secondhand if needs be?

And what of Dean Moriarty, the Pied Piper of group, whom all past and future hipsters are meant to follow?

Hedlund's Dean is suitably handsome, a free-spirit easily at home in his skin as well as out of his clothes – which is often and especially intoxicating given the staid 1950s context. Yet he is hardly the charismatic figure Kerouac created on the page; bearing little resemblance to “the ones who are mad to live, mad to talk, mad to be saved, desirous of everything at the same

## Buy it, rent it, or forget it...

Glenn would like to report that *On the Road* is a hedonistic yet glorious mess but sadly the film somehow manages to fall short, taking on a numbing, reverential feel.

The expected cross-country trips are all present and accounted for, tantalizing glimpses of small-town American are, well, glimpsed yet otherwise ignored except by cinematographer Eric Gautier. Sal leaves, returns home, suffers writers block then leaves again when Dean comes a-calling. And repeat.

There is, of course, plenty more Jazz, drugs and sex. Along the way Sal and Dean meet up with a colorful cast of wannabe hipsters and hangers-on in brief snapshot encounters. In addition to Tom Sturridge's youthful Ginsberg, there's also Viggo Mortensen convincing as William S. Burroughs stand-in Old Bull Lee. Danny Morgan's Ed Dunkle emerges as little more than a young man with bad table-manners.

Only in the final moments does Jose Rivera's screenplay finally scratch beneath the surface, capturing a moment of pure irony, as a gussied-up and now successful Sal shuns an all but unrecognizable Dean, now spent and down on his luck; an encounter eerily foreshadowing Kerouac's own dissolute end.

## Just the facts...

*On the Road* has a running time of 124 minutes as is in English.

*On the Road* will available on DVD on August 6 2013 with a MSRP of \$24.99

All about *On the Road* @ <http://themadones.us/>  
Steve Buscemi, briefly seen giving Sal and Dean a ride, had his start in the gay classic, *Parting Glances*.



time, the ones who never yawn or say a commonplace thing, but burn, burn, burn like fabulous yellow roman candles.”

Still, he boasts plenty of charm; his powers of female seduction nonpareil. A few even stick around awhile. First there's 16 year-old Marylou (Kristen Stewart) who even as we meet her seems to have grown weary of Dean's misogynist antics.

Kirsten Dunst's Camille should be smart enough to know better but doesn't, burdened with his children before becoming wife number two.

It should come as no surprise that Dean's careless charms extend beyond the fairer sex: Carlo becomes completely besotted with Dean; a scene in which he professes both his love as well as his despair of the charismatic Dean stands out.



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# BOUND MAGAZINE

Volume 12 #8 August 2013



Above: Kenosha, Wisconsin had their first-ever Gay Pride March. Over 200 participants and 8 dogs walked 1.5 miles through the downtown district to well wishers who applauded, honked and waved.

Photos © Larry Zamba [www.zambaphotography.com](http://www.zambaphotography.com)

Below: Outwards Books, Milwaukee celebrates their 20th anniversary while Quest is going to press this past weekend.

Thank you to Michael Lisowski for the photos.







Photos by Paul Masterson



## DAIRYLAND CLASSIC WEEKEND



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# Welcome to Ruthie's Bitchin' Kitchen



I'm so happy that it's only August! "Only August?" you ask. Yes...only August. You see, I'm a friggin' optimist. Some people see the glass as half empty. Some people see the glass as half full. I see the glass, and say, "Are you gonna finish that drink or what?!"

Pridefest may be over and Independence Day is a memory, but there's still a lot of fun to be had. For instance, check out Fluid bar! Visit the bar's Facebook page for news on fundraising drag shows and a WONDERFUL cabaret review featuring my pal Lizzie. You can also check out "Ruthie's Starry Night Review" at Hamburger Mary's on August 30! At 9:30 that night, I'll emcee a great show of celebrity impressions, featuring the likes of Lady Gaga, Liza Minnelli, Diana Ross, Joan Rivers and more! These Starry Night Reviews sell out fast, so call 414-988-9324 for your reservation.

Apparently not everyone is having a great summer, however. Let's grab a frosty beer, light a cigarette and read this email I recently received.

**Dear Ruthie,**

My boyfriend and I had a great time at Pridefest. Lots of laughs with friends, old and new. And that brings me to my problem. We made a new friend at Pride. A cute, funny, outgoing twink (we're twinks, too, I guess), who we instantly became friends with. We hung out all weekend at the grounds with him and at the parade and more.

The problem is that we've done nothing socially without this guy since we met him. We have hung out with him every day of every weekend since and during many weeknights, too. My boyfriend doesn't want to do anything without this kid, and I'm getting pissed. Jealous, too, I guess.

I'm starting to think they are getting too close and I don't know if I trust them alone together. I'm actually starting to feel like a third wheel. We just need some time without this guy tagging along I think. Am I crazy? What do you think?

**(Signed) Ticked Off Tyler**

**Dear Tick,**

Tell that boy to take a hike...to my trailer home. I'll keep him busy for a weekend! Seriously, though, you need to tell your boyfriend that enough is enough. Let him know that you are craving some alone time with him, and that your relationship is more important than this budding friendship. You may even want to book a weekend out of town.

If twinkie boy (no offense to you) buds in on any plans, calmly remind him that the two of you are a couple, and you're feeling the need for some one-on-one time with your lover. Let him know that, as

a friend, you're sure he understands your needs to be alone with your boyfriend.

If either of them freaks out on you, come see me. I'll keep you busy for a weekend!

## RUTHIE'S BITCHIN' KITCHEN

It's August and that means we still have several weeks of warm-weather fun ahead of us. That said, I've been holding on to a few simple salad recipes, just waiting to share them with you when the time is right. Turns out that the time is now, so let's toss each other's salad, shall we? These three recipes are fast, yummy and great for summer get-togethers. Now eat good and shut up!

### RED, WHITE AND BLUE SALAD

*Hail to the chief...of the friggin' kitchen. This no-fuss salad serves four, but you can easily double it when friends stop by. It's easy, refreshing and a tasty change of pace for summer. Thanks to Lynn of Bay View for sending me the recipe!*

- 4 cups spinach leaves, washed**
- 1 cup seedless red grapes, halved**
- 1/4 cup blueberries**
- 1/4 cup blue cheese crumbles**
- 1/2 cup slivered almonds**
- 1 small bottle raspberry vinaigrette**

Toss the first five ingredients together in a large bowl. Dress with vinaigrette to taste.

### Ruthie's Culinary Clues

Add some cooked chicken strips to turn this into a main dish salad. Hate blue cheese? Try it with feta instead. Love blue cheese? Swap out the raspberry vinaigrette for a creamy blue cheese dressing. If you have a little extra time, toast the almonds in a skillet with a touch of butter. Let them cool before adding them to the salad.

### EASY-DOES-IT PASTA SALAD

*Pasta salad is great for summer because it holds up in the heat, travels well and goes with hot dogs, burgers or whatever your grilling up outside. Shared by Tom of St. Francis, this no-fuss version offers crunchy veggies, artichokes and lots of Parmesan flavor. The marinated oil from the artichoke hearts makes a dressing!*

- 1 pound penne pasta**
- 1 head broccoli, cut into florets**
- 1 jar (6.5 ounces) marinated artichoke hearts**
- 1 medium red pepper, julienned**
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese**

Boil the pasta in a large kettle or Dutch oven for 8 minutes. Add the broccoli and cook 2 minutes longer. Drain pasta and broccoli and rinse with cold water until cool.

Pour the entire contents of the artichoke jar into a large bowl. Add red pepper, pasta and broccoli. Toss with Parmesan cheese.

### Ruthie's Culinary Clues

Rinsing the pasta and broccoli in cold water does a few things: First, it slows/ends the cooking process so the pasta doesn't get mushy; Secondly, it will help the broccoli keep a bright green color; And third, it makes this a cool salad instead of a warm side dish! You may want to add some pepper (freshly cracked, if you're fancy) and/or salt. Toss in a few black olives if you'd like. If the artichoke hearts are too large, use a kitchen scissors to cut them up without removing them from the jar.

### WHITE TRASH SALAD MEXICALI

*Summer parties at my trailer park just wouldn't be the same without this hearty crowd-pleaser. Okay, okay...it's not light. It's not refreshing. It's not particularly summery. But damn it, it's good! Hell, it features Fritos, for God sakes! Serve it as a side dish. Serve it for supper. Serve it at snack time, but just serve it and you'll crave it time and again!*

- 1 pound lean ground beef, cooked & drained**
- 1 head iceberg lettuce, chopped**
- 1-1/2 cups diced tomatoes**
- 1 large onion, diced**
- 2 cups shredded Mexican cheese blend**
- 2 cans (15 ounces each) kidney beans, rinsed and drained**
- 8 ounces Thousand Island salad dressing**
- 1 bag (16 ounces) corn chips**

Combine the cooked ground beef, lettuce, tomatoes, onion, cheese and beans. Cover and chill for at least an hour. Immediately before serving, stir in the dressing and corn chips until evenly coated.

### Ruthie's Culinary Clues

Watching your sodium? Try using cheddar cheese or Colby cheese. You can also trim calories and fat by using ground turkey and a reduced calorie salad dressing. You can also try it with reduced fat cheese, but you're on own if you go that route, sugar!

*Got a problem you'd like Ruthie to address? Have a recipe you'd like to share? Email her at [dearmsruthie@yahoo.com](mailto:dearmsruthie@yahoo.com). If she publishes your recipe, you'll get a free Bitchin' Kitchen T-*



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Photos by Doug Rickert & Za







## Cordially Yours

by Michael Johnston

Summertime and the living is anything but easy! Too many things to do and enjoy... It's all waiting for You!

Beginning Thursday, August 1 – Sunday, August 11 The Wisconsin State Fair! The 162<sup>nd</sup> annual salute to our state's finest fares, as the song goes "our state fair is the best state fair" returns with Heart – the amazing Wilson Sisters opening night, for more information please visit: [wistatefair.com](http://wistatefair.com)

Milwaukee Comedy Festival is taking place at The Next Act Theatre 255 South Water Street, details can be found at: [festival.milwaukeeecomedys.com](http://festival.milwaukeeecomedys.com) Wisconsin's largest comedy event – now in its eighth year – who knew? Hundreds of comedians from across the country and Canada gather and present performances, workshops, and special events – the best in stand-up, sketch, and improv. Every show is different and everyone can use a laugh these days...

African World Fest is back and better than before Saturday August 3 and Sunday, August 4 The Summerfest Grounds. FMI [awfmke.com](http://awfmke.com)

Milwaukee Air and Water Show is also happening the same weekend -- on the Lakefront. The Thunderbirds take to the skies and the wild blue yonder is their stage – how thrilling! Up, up, and away!

Don't be green with envy, take part and celebrate the wearing of the green at Irishfest Thursday, August 15 – Sunday, August 18 The Henry Maier Festival Park. A long weekend of St. Patrick's Day party-ing how fun! Kilt optional! [irishfest.com](http://irishfest.com)

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel ALA Carte – formerly Zoo ALA Carte is also slated for the same time period. Too many events, not enough sunny summer weekends! What a problem! August 15 – 18 The Milwaukee County Zoo will be the site of sampling extraordinary cuisine from all over our city. This extravaganza also provides the chance to take in our nationally renowned zoo. A total win-win situation, bon appetite! Details: [milwaukeezoo.org](http://milwaukeezoo.org)

Mexican Fiesta graces our lush Lakefront grounds Friday, August 23 – Sunday, August 25. Ole! Time once again to forget siesta and to fiesta, making for a hot time on a hot lake this hot summer! [mexicanfiesta.org](http://mexicanfiesta.org)

Harley-Davidson 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration begins Thursday, August 29 – Sunday, September 1 The Summerfest Grounds and throughout our fine city. Every five years the excitement of this legendary four-day party takes over our town – no need to escape from, but into, and enjoy!

The Third Ward Art Festival Saturday, August 31

and Sunday, September 1 on Broadway and Chicago Streets in The Historic Third Ward will close out the month. Last year this art fest made its debut, come and see how it has grown – still outdoors, open to the public, like the bazaars of Europe. You may also find that perfect piece to enhance your life and décor.

"Live at The Peck Pavilion" continues this month with stellar entertainment you won't want to miss. Tuesday, August 6 The Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra (MYSO) Show case – the nation's largest and most extensive youth orchestra program. The MYSO Experience serves more than 900 talented young musicians, from as many as fourteen counties in southeastern Wisconsin. Come and encourage the Stars of tomorrow. Tuesday, August 13 The Florentine Opera Company appears. The country's sixth oldest opera company, now in its 80<sup>th</sup> year will sing out proudly and enhance your summer night like no other! Tuesday, August 20 The Spirit Family Reunion – this act plays homegrown American music to stomp, clap, shake, and holler with. From street corners to stages all across this land, plan your own family reunion and feel the music of the night at The Peck. The Red Baraat closes out this series of fine programming on Tuesday, August 27. A pioneering eight-piece band from Brooklyn, NY providing Jazz, Go-Go, Brass Funk, and Hip-Hop come feel the spirit!

Milwaukee Domes Art Festival "The Cultural Event of the Summer" occurs on Friday, August 16 – Sunday, August 18 for three full days and nights,

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over 60 juried fine artists exhibit their creations in and around the Domes. What an excellent combination of natural art and man-made art. fmi [www.milwaukeehomesartfestival.com](http://www.milwaukeehomesartfestival.com) "Dino Under Glass" – The Dinosaurs have invaded the Domes now through Sunday, November 3. Yaba Daba Do! Come have a Stone Age good time of it in the Jurassic Domes!

Care to do something with a roof/indoors? Look no farther - - the Milwaukee Chamber Theatre (MCT) is offering their season of – Our Friends & Neighbors: Behind Closed Doors and kicking this one off is Yasmina Reza's "Art" the 1998 Tony Award winning Best Play. Thursday, August 8 – Sunday, August 25 in the Cabot Theatre of the Broadway Theatre Center 150 North Broadway 414-291-7800, featured in the cast are: Tom Klubertanz, Brian Mani, and C. Michael Wright.

A few more PrideFest notes - - I didn't have room last time to compliment Dave Lauersdorf on his great photos of the Pride Parade – what phenomenal recording of our Leaders turning out, showing support – Chris Abele, Tom Barrett, Gwen Moore, Peggy West, and JoCasta Zamarripa among others shared their Pride. A shout out to all the glamor girls of the Pride Parade 2013 - - it's an early morning, and can be a pretty hot afternoon – however you all endured and were quite endearing - - Dear Ruthie, Goldie Adams, Lizzie Bordeaux, Maple Veneer, Christina Chase, Betty Boop to mention but the few whom I had a chance to visit with. Loved the intricate hand-made jewelry Kitty created for Maple and me to model during the Leather Fetish Fashion Show. Kitty's work is original, makes a statement, and I'm sure he can custom-make to/for any and all your desires.

The Fourth made for a heck of good mid-summer holiday. On the third an invitation was extended to me to cruise on the Cherry Bounce and what a marvelous time! My hosts Paul Toonen & Jan Hill shared the fireworks and the eve of our Country's birth by amassing a fab group of partiers – Joe Pabst, Joe Kender, Mike & Suzie and their offspring – Lukas and Travis. While the colors in the sky were a bit below par due to the fog, smog, and smoke from the fireworks, the colorful cruise mates made up for a great lake expedition. What a time – Martha Stewart would've been proud and Paula Deen wouldn't have been invited! Leave it to the Lords of Toonen Hill to conduct a wine tasting on board! Lots of reds and whites and trust me no one was blue!

**Michael with Damon, one of the Entertainers at the Dairyland Classic Awards Celebration at The Hybrid**



Speaking of Joe Pabst, he has acquired Niki Johnson's current, controversial, master piece – "Eggs Benedict". This opus is made up of 17,000 unused condoms in protest to the thoughtless comment made by The Pope, The Vatican, and their narrow view/stand on condoms and their use to prevent AIDS. The sheer size and time involved in creating this – is simply beyond belief! Due to the materials used – Latex – this work of art has a very short life expectancy of five years. If given an opportunity to view, please don't hesitate!

Applause, applause to the Stars of the "Wicked Cabaret" – what a magnificent time had by one and all! As you hopefully will remember from my past two columns "Wicked" summered here in old Brew-Town from Wednesday, June 12 – Sunday, July 7 - - and as they did two years ago with an extended stay, they put on a Cabaret to benefit AIDS/HIV in our world. ARCW and Broadway Cares – who shares funding with ARCW benefitted by the money raised and we the fortunate audience got a show we won't forget!

It wouldn't be summer without the Dairyland Classic and this year because of the Harley 110<sup>th</sup>, the ballplayers held their tournament over the Fourth of July weekend – and what fun! Unfortunately, my schedule didn't allow me to take in any of the actual games - - I did attend and thoroughly enjoyed the Catalano Square Party. It seemed everyone in the Community turned out to support our Athletes – home and visiting. Dear Ruthie hostess-ed with her usual aplomb, getting the crowd up and ready for Betty Atchinson – a talented woman, who sang live in the persona of Cher and Lady Gaga – her voice, dancing and dress executed so well that if you didn't know any better... Peter "Hobbit" Nys made for a flawless Milwaukee version of Sonny Bono, The Vixen Dancers completed the whole Vegas look, and the DJ from Jai Bird Productions spun the tunes to keep the dancing going. Club Charlies as well as other vendors provided all we needed to sustain and the weather never better. The faces, smiles, so great to see so many - - Harry Sutton, Cecilia Gilbert and Kim, Brandon Ford, Always Happy Hour's Brian Buchberger & Andy Schaidler, The Todds, Roland Hoffmann, Paul Toonen & Jan Hill, Paul Milakovich, Joe Pabst, Roger RamJet, Jeff Gosseck, Steve, Ward & Jimmy, Jerry, Dan Musha, Jeffrey Ripple & Mike, Felix, Bart Smith, Wally Herman, Jerry Gin&Tonic, Stuey Feider, Brian Reinkober & Michael, Dan Anderson, Dawn & Craig, Liz, Gus, Mona Garcia, and so many more, forgive me for not including your name - - or it would end up being the September column! The Awards were bestowed to the champs the following nite at a wild, fun, very casual to-do at The Hybrid Lounge. Bill and Nate always give their all and adding a lot of zip were entertainers Colby, the stunner from Red Star Productions and Damon who you will be seeing a lot of in the world of adult cinema real soon. The Winners: C-Competitive Champion – Chicago Crush, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Chicago G-Force,

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3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Minneapolis Party Animals C-Recreational Champion – Chicago Ball Busters, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Milwaukee Inch-by-Inch, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Milwaukee BOOM Bulldogs, D-Division Champion – Milwaukee Hamburger Mary Misfits, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Madison Big Cheese, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Milwaukee/Madison Pint Misfits Congratulations to the "Team" that put on such a super midsummer dream: Brian Reinkober, Mark Hare, Mona Garcia, Stuey Feider, Jai Cherney, Peter Nys, Eric Van Egeren, Brandon Ford, Lane King, Paul Masters, Mike Westley, and



Doug Weber.

Stewart Dempsey & Gerry Coon hosted an elegant celebration of their 25 years of restoring and residing in The Frederick Koenig House & Garden with an open house and grounds. I was thrilled to be included on their guest list to tour and take in this architectural treasure. To think they have been together over a quarter of a century (27 years – talk about Young Love), while they rehabbed and nurtured a relationship as well as a household defying all logic. Congratulations! In lieu of gifts they asked for contributions to Diverse & Resilient (D&R), where Gerry serves on their Board. D&R's mission is: Healthy development of LGBT people in Wisconsin by creating and sustaining groups and communities to take action. D&R's Vision: LGBT people thrive, living healthy lives in safe, supportive communities. You may want to consider a gift or support in some way to this worthwhile endeavor that makes our community that much more special. Enjoying the festivities in their Garden of Eden were: Patrick Farrell, Paul P. Mueller (of Hot Water/WhereHouse fame), Peter Ratz, Judy Ramazzini, Katie Gingrass, Dr. Robert Starshak & Ross Draeger, CoCo Burnett & Virginia Little, Jim Stewart & Dr. Michael Faust, Craig Bodoh & Mark Trevor Ranum, Jim Ollrogge & Cory Haywood, Jill Bruss, Dan Riedl & Rick Stabler, D&R's very own Dr. Gary Hollander, the great help of Tony and Tommy, and many others mingling, sipping, supping on a delicious buffet provided by Bosley's on Brady and touring the majestic manor – grand but

yet accessible.

From here Jill Bruss, from The Florentine Opera and I literally darted to Cathedral Square and Bastille Days to enjoy the Florentine Opera's midafternoon recital starring Sarah Lewis Jones, enjoying the musical interlude: Jill, Mark Berry, Joe Kender, Rick Clark, Scott Stewart, Reynolds & Linda, Roger and considering the warm temperature in the bright sun, an amazingly enthusiastic audience. Of course, seeing we were in the neighborhood a respite to This Is It and seeing it was Sunday afternoon Jerry Gin&Tonic was at the helm, with the ample help of Nelson and celebrity bar back Zach from the world of ballet making for an afternoon that was tres magnifique.

Milwaukee we have a brand spanking new Mr. Harbor Room 2013 – 2014, Mike Jones. So glad I don't have to vote on this one it's always a tough one – there were six fine contenders, Runner Up Garen and in Third Place Robert – congratz gents on winning/placing! The other fine specimens taking part were: Dave, Master Mike, and Leo. I always have such a great time working with John Weiler, DJ Kelly and of course our Masters of the House – Gregg & Eddie and their outgoing Staff – Patrick, Randy, Bob, Jorge and the rest. Happy Anniversary Lucky # 13!!!

The Cream City Foundation (CCF) hosted their swell summer soiree – My Best Friend is Straight... Paul Fairchild, his assistant Chuck Grosz and the dedicated Board of Directors – always provide the best of times and it's a pleasure knowing this Foun-

dation provides so much for our state.

Sending best wishes for gold medals and a well-earned laurel wreath to Milwaukee's (actually Wauwatosa's) very own Jack Eigel who is off to Durban, SA, for "The World Transplant Games". A few years ago Jack was in all the papers concerning his heart transplant. No one has a bigger heart than this local hero – or a better wardrobe! I'm sure you all remember him from Watt's where he was the man to see for the very best gifts! Traveling with Jack will be his Donor's Mother, Janet Ramsey and her daughter, Brooke. Jack will be swimming free style and back stroke for Team USA competing against teams from 55 countries. What a marvelous homage to his Heart Donor and Miss Esther Williams!

In last month's effort I mentioned Chris Knutson's & John Kushick's recent nuptials. With the landmark decision of The Supreme Court, it seems we may be entering the Season of Gay Marriages. I love any celebration of any love, an eternal romantic? There are worse things! I'm thrilled to publicly announce the engagements of two dear couples, who have been long-time companions and now will be able to make it legal: Tom Reed & Jon Martin (The Reed/Martins will be relocating to California where their love can be legal and lawful -- a Holiday Ceremony is being planned to take place on Saturday, December 7 – a day that will live in infamy). Robert Parrish & Richard Steele will be legally united in love this autumn in their new home base as well. The second week of October

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will be their day of days, with Jack Balzer & Greg Gowdy as their attendants, and the Mayor of Palm Springs presiding over the ceremony. A more elaborate reception will take place in February (over Valentine's Day?) when all the snowbirds are nesting in the wild, wild, west coast. It seems Palm Springs may become the Gay Wedding Capital of America!

It is with a very heavy heart I report the passing of Tim Kuehne, he was a true gentleman, courtly, suave, and debonair. He had his own antique business and ran some of the best estate sales in this whole town. He was a treasure and he knew treasures -- I look around my flat and can always spot an acquisition from his sales. "A heart is not judged by how much you love, but how much you are loved by others" -- The Wizard to the Tin Man. This quote closed his obit and I can't think of finer words for this fine fellow. My deepest condolences to his life partner and best friend, Jeff Krueger -- I can't even imagine this devastating loss.

Milwaukee has lost yet another legend -- Al Culbreath -- noted model, host, raconteur, fashion icon, Johnnie Walker and Café Mélange fixture gone at 90! He looked maybe 60 -- always dressed to the nines in tie, jacket -- and thoroughbred gentleman. Larry Krueger suggested in his obituary contributions in Al's name to the LGBT Community Center would be greatly appreciated. A Memoria Celebration is scheduled for Al at This Is It on Saturday, August 3. He always complimented me on whatever suit of



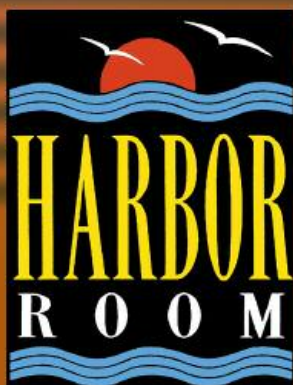
Chris Knutson's & John Kushick's "Wedding" The TazzBah Table

clothing I was sporting -- making me feel so very special, such charm, such presence...

Food Time: RIP Crisp -- I did so enjoy your delectable pizza on Brady Street. Thank goodness Zaffiro's still maintains where Farwell and Brady meet. Since the mid 50's this legendary pizzeria and so much more, provides the best in Italian food, in a quant, café setting. Milwaukee's Mark Luko AKA

Trixie takes care of you like a guest at The Grenadier's. Always a great option to keep in mind -- a visit to Zaffiro's you won't be disappointed!

Remember dear Readers it's the glamour, not the grammar -- enjoy these dog days of summer, before we know it the snow will be flying, as I remain Still Cordially Yours,.



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Well it's August, a time of cows, corn, and cream puffs. That's right state fair is going on this month so try not to fill up too much, and if you do take pictures so I can use them as blackmail later! And don't even get me started on the fact that it is an Illinois dairy supplying the cream for the cream puffs this year. Traitors.

Alright let's get on to bigger and better things. This month as I sit outside, writing away from my computer I cannot help but hunk about a few things. The first of which is how horrible it is to write a column on an iPad, in an email message because I was too dumb to buy pages.... The second of which is all the people who have piercings enjoying the outdoors and how those activities affect body piercings. So that's our topic this month so let's get to it.

Let's start off with something most of us do which is swimming! First off if your piercing is

over 1-2 years old skip everything I'm about to say. For the rest of you, if your going in open water try to cover your piercing with some form of clothing or bandage to help keep any floating particulate matter out of the piercing. If your going into a chlorinated pool, don't worry about covering it. As soon as you are done swimming you need to clean your piercing. Now keep in mind that most piercings should only be cleaned twice daily so you will need to plan your day a little bit so that you are not over cleaning up piercing.

Let's tackle a more active spot now, say rugby! Rugby can be a very rough and physical game and but you should either take out your piercings prior to play or protect them in some way. If your piercings are 2 years or older my advice is to just take them out for the game as this will be the safest thing to do for them. If your piercing are younger than 2

years I would suggest using gauze pads to create a pad, then tape the pad over the top of the piercing to protect it. In both cases you should also clean your piercing after you are done.

Ad now we should maybe talk about a sport that most of us do, running or biking. Neither sport requires extra padding or anything like that the main thing to worry about is cleaning the piercing after you are done.

Okay so most of us probably don't do any of those sports. Hell, if it didn't take energy to make a cocktail I would probably never get an exercise! But the important thing to remember is that I stretch first to reach the remote control, or mouse to change porn. You know, the essential stuff!

Well it looks like I am running out of room I think, after all I'm not writing from my desk this month and this iPad makes it hard to figure my word count. I would like to apologize to my readers for the egregious amount of spelling errors and grammatical typos, thanks for sticking it out and reading through the whole thing to this point. And to those of you who didn't make it here in the column? May the birds of paradise fly up your nose! Applause for any of you who got that reference.

And So I sign off, see you next month, enjoy August and the State fair. And don't forget to get pierced and show off those hot piercings!

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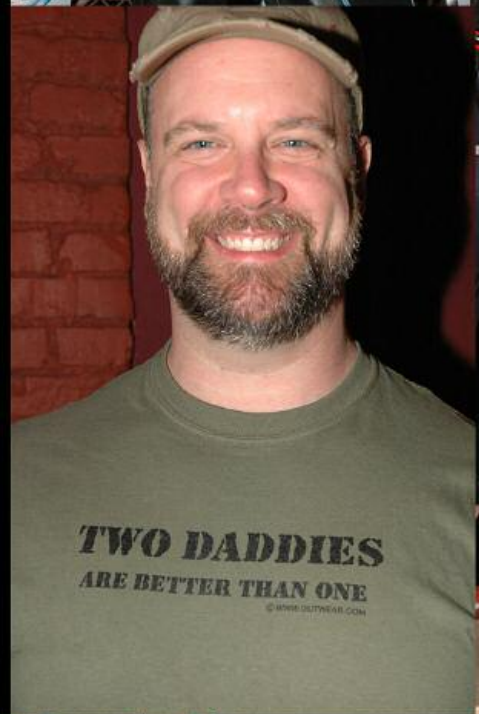
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Harbor Room crowned another Mr Harbor Room during thier anniversary celebration in July. The winner is Michael Jones. Photos by Will Sharkey







# Hybrid lounge

**Friday**  
**FISH FRY**  
 4pm - 10 pm

**Friday**  
**DJ**  
 NO COVER

**SATURDAY**  
**DJ**  
 NO COVER

**SUNDAY**  
**BRUNCH**  
 11am - 3pm

**MONDAY**  
**AUGUST 26**  
**Celebrate August Birthdays**  
SHOW YOUR I.D. FOR A FREE DRINK

• COME TRY OUR FOOD & CRAFT COCKTAIL MENU! •

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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