

QUEST

MAGAZINE

Vol. 21, #11,
November 2014



JONATHAN MEINS

KEEPING THE
BLUE LITE
SHINING
BRIGHT

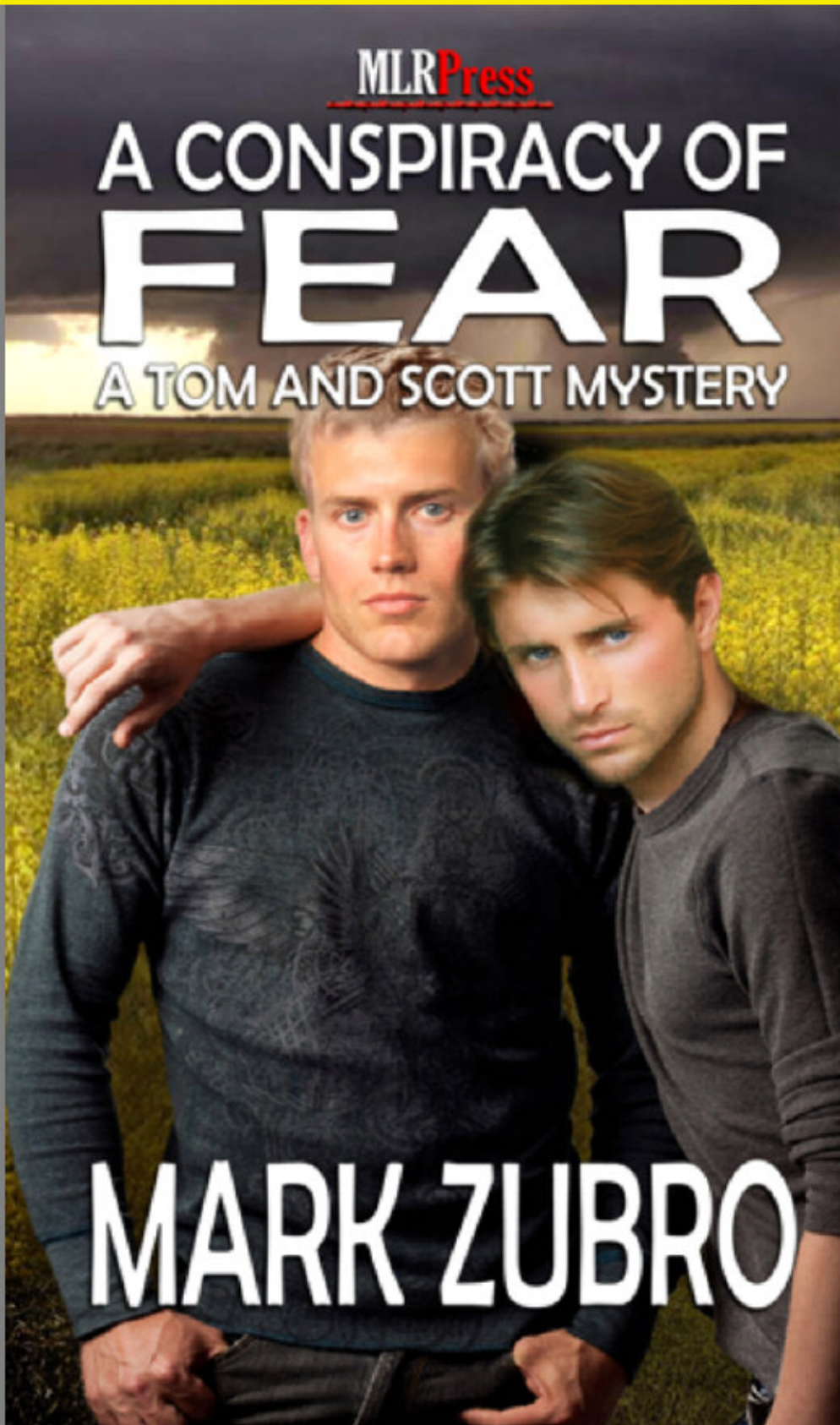
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INSIDE:
REMEMBERING
DEAN DAYTON

REPERTORY
THEATRE'S
LIBERACE!

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REMEMBERING DEAN DAYTON

By Mike Fitzpatrick with David Paul Black

The initial news was simple enough: long-time Sheboygan gay businessman Dean Dayton passed away at his home on October 2 at age 62 following a brief illness. However, finding the words to encapsulate Dean's life and legacy is not such a simple task: bar owner, promoter, community activist, caregiver, mentor, friend. Dean certainly would have resisted being called just any one of these except perhaps for the last one – friend.

To return briefly to the basics of Dean's life, he was born in 1952 in Shawano, WI. He was the only son of the late Daniel A. and Elvira ("Vera") Lorge Dayton. He graduated from Port Washington High School and continued his studies at the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire.

Dean moved to New York and lived with friend and former partner Daniel "Deno" Elmergreen for eight years until he came to Sheboygan to take care of his mother. He owned and operated the city's iconic gay bar The Blue Lite for 22 years, with the help of long time friend David Paul Black.

The Blue Lite wasn't just "any old gay bar," according to Black. "Dean wanted to make the bar a home-like atmosphere, as if you entered someone's living room," he said. "Instead of neon beer signs and football schedules, the bar was decorated with mirrors, lamps, framed art and statuary. The lighting was soft and largely recessed."

There were a few nods to traditional bar fixtures: a pool table could be found in a carpeted area in back as well as tasteful wooden wall racks to display gay publications and brochures. A dance area developed over the years that eventually included both discotheque and show lighting. But to learn about special events for many years, patrons would have to visit the rest rooms. That's where Dean posted promotional posters.

Those special events were very special, Black recalled. "Decorations for the Blue Lite's holiday shows – especially those for Halloween, Christmas and New Year's – were spectacular," he said. "Party favors were aplenty. The party buffets offered dozens of choices and people ate off of fine china with real silverware – no paper plates or plastic forks!"

Central to many of the parties were Dean's costumes. "It took some doing at first, but I got Dean to dress as Santa for the Christmas shows," Black said. "Among Dean's more memorable Halloween moments were the years he dressed up as a purple wizard, a French maid, his drag friend Honita and the Pope."



Dean also was a promoter of male and female impersonation. For eight years the Blue Lite sponsored the Mr.-Miss Lakeshore USofA titles. The Blue Lite also hosted a number of benefit events for LGBT organizations such as ARCW and Rainbow Over Wisconsin.

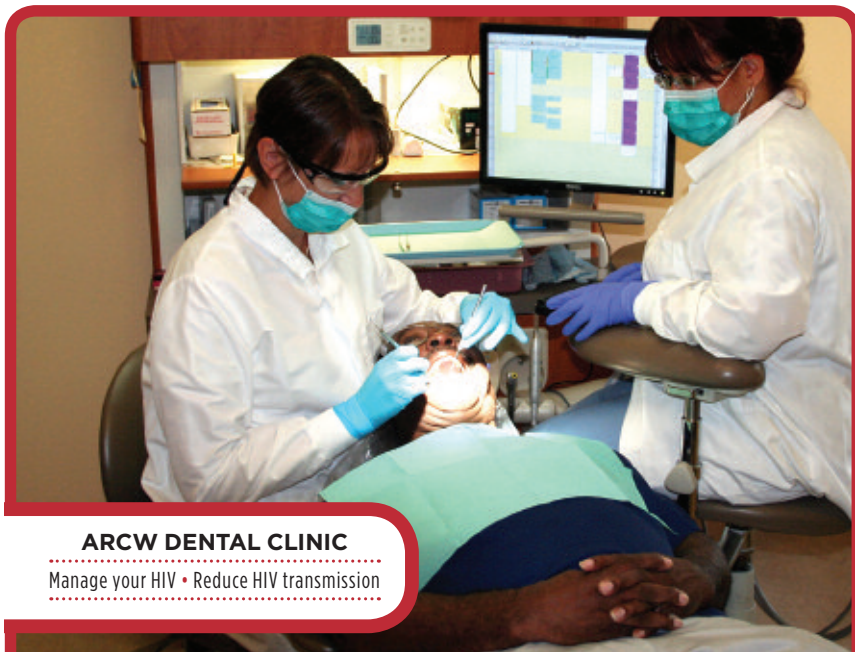
Dean's legacy as a community activist is best exemplified by his years of leadership and service with Rainbow Over Wisconsin (ROW), the northeast Wisconsin LGBT-missioned community foundation. Dean helped co-found the not-for profit in 1996 and served as the group's President for longer than anyone else in its history to date.

For years the ROW's signature event was the annual gay pride picnic held at various locations in northeast Wisconsin. Dean helped transition ROW to a more traditional foundation in the decade that followed, though the group later evolved back into the pride business with the current annual Pride Alive celebration. Much to the original Pride Alive organizer's dismay, Dean continued to call the event "a picnic."

According to Black, Dean's leadership role in ROW was as a centering influence. "Dean would tell it like it was, cutting through the occasional back room drama and discord at ROW board meetings when different factions couldn't reach consensus," he said. "He would let everyone have their chance to speak, but if people could not agree on their own, he would say 'Well, this is what I think,' lay out the argument and people would just basically end up agreeing."

Dean's centering influence most likely developed as a result of his years of caring for his mother, especially following Vera's 1998 stroke. Visiting "mother" at least twice daily was a part of Dean's schedule until her passing earlier this year. "Dean promised his mother that she would be able to live on her own to the very last," Black – who also assisted with Vera's care – noted. "As she became more frail, staying in her own home became very challenging but he kept the promise. I think Dean's personal dislike of doctors and the medical system and his own decision to avoid involving himself with it came in part from helping his mother navigate her way through the health care system over the years."

That level of caring and commitment also led to Dean's role as a mentor in the Sheboygan gay community, Black explained. "Dean made it known that his bar was open to everyone, regardless of their sexual orientation, skin color or whatever. Black, white, gay, straight or questioning, you were welcome at the Blue Lite," he said. "A lot of people took their first steps out of the closet there and shared their hopes and fears to Dean. He was there for them, not in an exploitative way, but as friend and confidant."



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On The Cover: Jonathan Meins

Jon Meins is 23 and quite fit. An expert in martial arts, Jon has been competing in the sport for some time now.

Jon was photographed by Daniel Sutrick for Quest in September to be used on the November cover. Quest Magazine owner Mark Mariucci got a first look at this photo shoot while talking with Jon the same day Dean Dayton passed away. That Jon is now managing the Blue Lite, his appearance on our cover takes on new meaning.

The iconic gay bar will transfer to Meins' ownership following the completion of the probate process. Late Blue Lite owner Dean Dayton's long-time friend and co-worker David Paul Black will be assisting Meins during and after the transition.

"Dean's dying wish was to keep the Blue Lite going just as it was," Black recently told *The Sheboygan Press*.

This is the second time Jon has been featured in a photo shoot for the magazine, but it is his first magazine cover.

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One of Dean's proteges is Jonathan Meins, who also was Dayton's roommate for the last year. "I had no one and no place to stay when I met Dean," Meins told the hundreds of mourners who in some cases had traveled over thousand miles to attend Dayton's Celebration of Life services at the Olsen Funeral Home October 7. "I owe my life to him."

Black and Meins took care of Dayton in his final weeks from what is believed to have been possible advanced lung cancer,

although lung failure was subsequently determined to be the immediate cause of death. Dayton had been in declining health since last winter.

Dayton and Black decided the best thing to do, since Black has some leg disabilities, was to give the bar to Meins with Black's guidance. Meins will continue to manage the day-to-day operations at The Blue Lite with Black's volunteer assistance during and after the probate process permits transfer of the business ownership to Meins in full. "Dean always wanted the bar to continue after he passed away, so that's what we're going to do – keep it running," Black told *Sheboygan Press* reporter Kali Thiel for a front page article on Dean's passing on October 5.

The article characterized Dayton as a "congenial and kind-hearted friend." That is a most appropriate epitaph for the many who enjoyed and cherished him in life and who will miss his jovial and vivid presence in their lives for years to come.

Dean Dayton & David Black in Halloween costume



RAINBOW OVER WISCONSIN ESTABLISHES DEAN DAYTON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

As a founding member of the organization, and president for nine years, Dean was instrumental in the group and has helped to create a stronger, more accepted LGBT community. So it is with heavy hearts that Rainbow of Wisconsin (ROW) members reminisce the life of Dean Dayton.

It is with great pleasure that ROW will be creating a scholarship fund in Dean's name to celebrate his life and contributions to our organization and our community. We feel Dean would be honored to know that he will continue to secure a bright future for those yet to navigate much of their lives.

Please join us in making this scholarship possible by investing in ROW. You can visit www.rainbowoverwisconsin.org or email us at rainbowoverwi@gmail.com for more information.



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Liberace!

An Interview by Paul Masterson

On November 9th Milwaukee Repertory Theatre's Stackner Cabaret opens *Liberace!* It's a reprise of the 2010 play about the iconic and enigmatic Mr. Showmanship. QUEST had the opportunity to sit in on a recent rehearsal and interview both playwright/director Brent Hazelton and Jack Forbes Wilson who again performs the title role.

Born Wladziu "Walter" Valentino Liberace in West Allis, WI, his inadvertent "launch" came at age 20 in La Crosse during a blizzard. As an encore after an otherwise traditional classical concert, an audience member requested he play "Three Little Fishies." His rendition made national news. From there, his keyboard mastery, folksy Midwestern appeal and a keen business sense catapulted him into international stardom. Among his awards and accolades are Emmys, half a dozen gold records and a 1978 Guinness Book of Records listing as the world's highest paid musician. His TV and concert persona attracted a middle-aged, middle American audience of which an estimated 80% were women. Perhaps the other 20% were gay men. He epitomized everything they wanted to be – covered in furs, bedecked with jewels and extravagantly coiffed.

Liberace's Milwaukee connection remained throughout his career. He played local venues dozens of times. He sold out the Riverside Theatre only months before his death from AIDS in February 1987. Liberace's taste was rooted in Milwaukee as well – he loved the local sausage.

QUEST: Before we get into the current production, let me ask how the show came about.

Brent Hazelton: It wasn't a lifelong goal. I was asked to write a play about Liberace. I had a vague recollection of him doing a set piece on the Muppet Show. That's all I knew. I ordered research material and searched Youtube. The first videos I saw were pretty straight up renditions of classical pieces with Liberace in a tux. The question was how does that guy become the 80's guy with the feathers and seashells. The play tries to answer that. The layers of identity and trying to do his work without emotional risk. He knew he has his critics. But his strategy was making himself a joke and laughing at that joke before anyone else did. There's something selfless about that but colossally heartbreaking. He said over and over he just wanted to make people happy knowing if they knew who he was they would hate him. My emphasis is we all have something to hide and that does real



Jack Forbes Wilson as Liberace

damage to us as people. It's a masculine play for me. Liberace said his work was about an expression of masculinity. He co-opted the definition as strength and courage.

QUEST: And that brings us to the heartbreaking part. Liberace was a gay man but never publicly came out. How does the play address that?

BH: I wrote the play true to the Liberace character of not coming out. Many things are left unsaid. He says he loves Scott (*his boyfriend and "chauffeur" who later sued Liberace for palimony – ed.*). It was hard for him to say. He mentions Rock Hudson with whom he allegedly had a brief relationship. Throughout his life he bore a sadness and loneliness and a regret that he could not be honest. There was only a small circle who knew him well.. his housekeeper, manager, and brother George. Liberace almost came out after Stonewall but then chose not to.

QUEST: Was that due to the libel suit against the London tabloid that tried to out him in the 1950's?

BH: Liberace won the lawsuit and continuously restated that. The tragedy is he learned the wrong lesson. When his career began to wane he thought the world was teaching him it was bad to be gay and instead they just wanted new things. He kept having to outdo himself. That started the showmanship trend. He played with gender rolls and definitions. "He walked up to the line" and took the sting out of it.

QUEST: Let me ask Jack about the show itself. You played Liberace in the 2010 production. Can you tell us about that experience?

Jack Forbes Wilson: Audiences liked *Liberace!* My audience is mostly middle aged married couples. I did get standing ovations... usually started by much older men. There is an exoneration... maybe they once called someone a sissy. This is digressing but we've lost those WW2 veterans who never talked about anything emotional. Older men are now able to acknowledge complex things, like loving a friend. I think the safety of the theater allows them to express that.

QUEST: Is it tough doing a one-man show?

It's not a one-man show. It's just one actor. There are a hundred people out there I interact with. I get nervous but once I get out there it's fun. During the show, I bring up a "young woman" volunteer who's probably 80 and play *Night and Day*. It's something Liberace did and it made the audience part of the show.

QUEST: How do you recreate the character? When you play the piano are you imitating Liberace or presenting his style? And what about the hidden story?

JFW: I've listened to a lot of Liberace. He had incredible training. His performances were effortless and he never missed a note. I can't begin to imitate it. I want to people to experience him as a person. In reality, he was warm and kind and loved his audience. If the audience knows the character, they fill in the parts. His story is timely now and we get to it right off the bat with a classic Liberace line he used at his shows: "Let's hear the ladies say 'hey'. Let's hear the men say 'hey' ... I hope I didn't leave anyone out."



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THE MILWAUKEE GAY ARTS CENTER PRESENTS "SÉANCE: SIGNS OF LIFE FROM ANOTHER ROOM"

In conjunction with World AIDS Day, the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center presents **Séance: signs of life from another room**, an evening of spoken word, music and theatre written and composed by gay artists lost to the AIDS epidemic.

Drawn from a roster of the city's most versatile performers, the **Séance** "Mediums" include Peter Zehren (FACT LGBT Festival-Baruch PAC, NY), Michael Keiley (Carte Blanche Studio, World's Stage), Erico Ortiz (founder - Inspiration Studios), Martin McNamee (Skylight, Theatrical Tendencies), Tom Welschenbach (Off the Wall Theatre) and pianist Samuel McClain (KIC Band, Eddie Butts Band). Our Mediums will channel the characters and ideas that inhabited this "other room", the space "BE" – Before the Epidemic. They are embedded voices reporting - once again - direct from the heart of a revolution.

The decades immediately following the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion saw a creative explosion of work. Artists of all disciplines chronicled and celebrated this first flush of their emerging community with music, drama, prose and verse. To borrow a well known phrase, "The Word (until then only said in whispers or catcalls that isolated the intended target) was truly made flesh." With this new visibility came a sense of a shared identity – a commonality that spanned the globe.

Soon the gay community would face a chal-

lenge that would obscure the memory of those heady days of coming out. But, before disease stilled their voices, our artists articulated the growing pains of a fledgling identity finding its place in the broader society.

Conceived and directed by Peter Mortensen, **Séance: signs of life in another room** is inspired by the creative minds that actively documented this growing gay culture. They went on to further recognition as they described their struggles with the disease. In the process they became "AIDS writers" - as though the disease defined their life's work. Others simply passed on, forgotten. The AIDS epidemic's sheer depth and breadth, the devastating loss felt throughout the community and beyond, obliterated any other discourse. The work of "culture building" became survival. The memory of a vibrant community existing before the plague all but disappeared. It is

only now that we dare look back.

Rediscover the exhilaration and passion of that exciting time through the voices of those who were there at **Séance: signs of life in another room**.

Performances take place at the intimate Montage Cabaret, 801 S 2nd St, Milwaukee Wisconsin on Friday and Saturday, November 28th and 29th at 7:30pm and Sunday, November 30, 6pm. Tickets are 15.00 (plus service charges if purchased online), and available at the door or online through Brown Paper Tickets.

For additional information, please visit us on Facebook or contact: seanceproject@gmail.com

"...it rests with ourselves to change the world if the world does not suit us with knowledge, openness, and achievement..."

- Robert Ferro



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LGBT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO HOLD WEDDING EXPO

By Paul Masterson

Now that we have marriage equality, how do we do it? I mean, how do we celebrate getting married? Over the decades there have been LGBT marriages, of course. Although not recognized by any particular authority, unions have been consecrated in a variety of creative ways. In those days, we called them "commitment ceremonies." But now, it's official. Suddenly, our exclusion from "traditional marriage" has changed to inclusion. And with that, all the trappings of marriage are available to us.

Stereotypes of plaid flannel tuxes for the gals and Bob Mackey beaded leather bridal gowns for the guys aside, the dilemma of how we *do* it is quite real. Do we imitate existing tried and true proscribed nuptial etiquette or find alternatives to suit our particular sensibilities? Or perhaps we find a happy fusion of new and old, adjusting the formulas accordingly.

Meanwhile, while we contemplate the ceremonial technicalities, the Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce is about to hold Wisconsin's inaugural LGBT Wedding Expo. The



idea came as a result of an unfortunate experience of a local couple who tried to arrange their wedding. They approached a vendor who turned down the pair when they explained it was a same-sex marriage. The couple reached out to the Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce to help them find wedding industry businesses that shared their values. The result was the upcoming LGBT Wedding Expo.

The Chamber's executive director Jason Rae explains, "we thought it logical for LGBT Chamber of Commerce businesses to take the lead on this. We now have almost 250 members. The Wedding Expo will feature 52. The event was scheduled before the Supreme Court's refusal to hear Wisconsin's and other states' appeals of court rulings allowing marriage equality. We had a huge surge of interest the

day of that decision. In fact, interest was so great that the event's capacity was quickly filled and some vendors had to be turned away."

The complete list of participating vendors can be found at the Chamber's website listed at the end of this article. Suffice it to say, the spectrum spans a wide array from florists to photographers, to caterers, venues, and banks and insurance companies. There's even an adoption agency represented for post-nuptial planning.

The LGBT Wedding Expo takes place Thursday, November 13 from 4-8pm at the Radisson Milwaukee West Hotel by Mayfair Mall. It is open to the public and completely free. Food stations and bar service are provided to make the event enjoyable and provide consumers and businesses a chance to meet. Pre-registration is requested but not required.

For additional information about the LGBT Chamber of Commerce and a complete list of LGBT Wedding Expo vendors go to www.wislgbtchamber.com

LEGENDARY LGBT NOVELIST FELICE PICANO TO APPEAR AT OUTWORDS BOOKS

Felice Picano comes to Outwords Books Gifts & Coffee on Wednesday, November 19 at 7:00pm. Picano, according to Edmund White, "is both a happy and piquant memoirist. Gifted with a prodigious memory and an inexhaustible curiosity, Picano observes everything in a fresh and indelible way."

Felice Picano has just released "**Nights at Rizzoli**," the memoir of an aspiring but near-starving young writer who in 1971 lucked into a part-time job at the stunningly elegant and legendary book store via a friend. It metamorphosed into a life-changing experience, one that exposed him to some of the brightest lights in the world's cultural capital. At the store, he himself became a key player on a stage that opened every night to a new drama that often featured romance, at times violence, and of course always the books and their readers. And when his shift was over, in this post-Stonewall, pre-AIDS era, the handsome young bookstore manager stepped from one world into another, prowling the piers, bars and very private clubs of a different New York City.

Joining Picano is Carlos T. Mock, author of several collections of poetry and essays and who will read from "**Historias**," a collection of short stories ranging from childhood jokes to life and death situations and which was published earlier in 2014.

Considered a founder of modern gay literature, Picano along with Christopher Cox, Robert Ferro, Michael Grumley, Andrew Holleran, Edmund

White, and George Whitmore formed the legendary Violet Quill which helped create the post-Stonewall renaissance of American gay male writing. More recently, Picano has been a regular contributor to the **Huffington Post**, the **San Francisco Examiner**, **The Lesbian & Gay Review** and **The Lambda Book Report**.

Felice Picano is the author of more than 20 books, including the best-selling novels "**Like People in History**," "**Looking Glass Lives**," "**The Lure**," as well as the literary memoirs "**True Stories**," and "**True Stories Too**." He is also the co-author with Dr. Charles Silverstein on the bestselling "**The New Joy of Gay Sex**."

Felice Picano will read from "**Night at Rizzoli**" beginning at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, November 19, 2014 at Outwords Books, Gifts & Coffee.

Later this same month, Saturday, November 22nd at 4:00 pm, best selling author Mark Zubro will make a stop at Outwords Books to read from and discuss his new work, "**A Conspiracy of Fear**." This is the fourteenth book in the Tom and Scott series.

These are free events and all are welcome. Outwords Books, Gifts & Coffee is located at 2710 N. Murray Ave. in Milwaukee. For further information, please call (414) 963-9089 or check our website at www.outwordsbooks.com.

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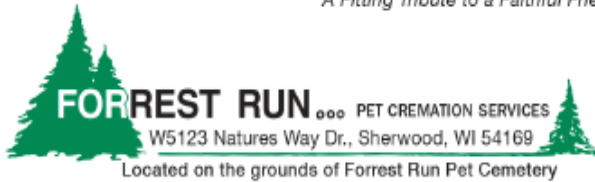
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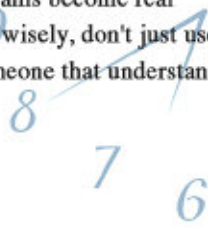
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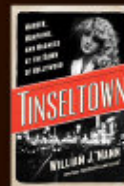
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NEW ON DVD *Snails in the Rain* By Glenn Bishop

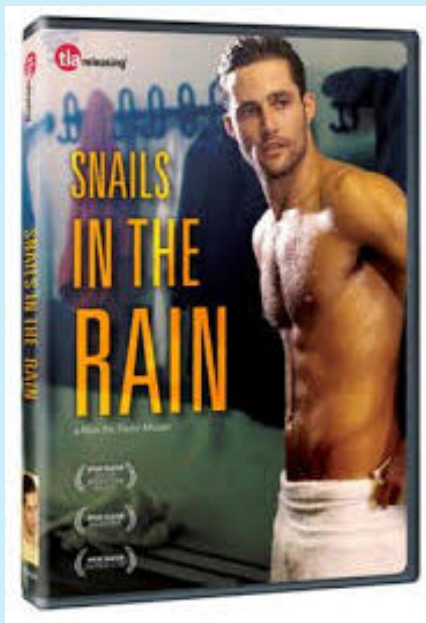
Glenn's cinematic circle has long had a general unease with LGBT filmmakers emerging from Israel, filmmakers like Eytan Fox and Haim Tabakman who do not shy away from stories with nary a happily-ever-after ending in sight. Indeed, it is difficult to imagine a more wrist-slittingly depressing film than Tabakman's acclaimed **Eyes Wide Open**.

So adamant were Glenn's gang, that not even the promise of a complementary kosher cupcake was enough to entice the group to attend Eytan Fox's delightful **Cupcakes**, recently screening as a part of the always fabulous Milwaukee LGBT Film Festival.

How Glenn managed to assemble the group for Yariv Mozer's **Snails in the Rain** is surely down to the sexy DVD box cover art prominently featuring the stunningly attractive, not to mention merely towel-clad Yoav Eruvani.

The one-time international male model, here making his acting debut, Yoav Eruvani plays Boaz, a linguistic student who makes a daily pilgrimage to his post office box in the hopes of finding a letter notifying him that he has been awarded a scholarship to continue his studies in Jerusalem. During these early scenes, Yariv Mozer's screenplay goes to great lengths in establishing how settled and yes, happy Boaz's life is with attractive, live-in girlfriend Noa (Moran Rosenblatt). Even Boaz's meddlesome mother Ruth (Hava Ortman) proves only a mild nuisance.

Then one day Boaz finds not the eagerly awaited acceptance notification but rather a love letter, a mysterious and anonymous missive from a secret (male) admirer. One might think that Boaz would have, initially at least, simply laughed off such a letter as a practical joke or perhaps even be flattered. Instead, his paranoia immediately goes from zero to sixty. He might smile shyly at two giggling girls checking him out but shows a quick flash of anger as another (hot) male swimmer invades Boaz's bit of



the pool.

Still, he and Noa manage to have a fun night out folk dancing but afterwards, shirtless and looking out of a window, Boaz spies a sexy (male) jogger, one whose backward glance triggers a flashback to his military service days and a sexy soldier named Nir (Yehuda Nahari).

A second secret missive arrives, this one both more pathetic and increasingly intrusive indicating as it does a familiarity of Boaz's daily, mundane routine. It is very much a "the call is from inside the house" moment and Boaz becomes even more paranoia, increasingly aware of all of the men around him and how they all seem to be "looking" at him.

The attention, the admiring looks, the number of men that continue to bump into Boaz, jostle Boaz, begins to take on a sinister air. Perhaps Boaz was simply one of those gorgeous, oblivious beings; one who has never been aware of their effect on others. No matter, now Boaz is convinced that one of these admirers is responsible for the declarations of (unrequited) love and loneliness.

That Boaz is spied upon at every turn by the men he encounters will come as absolutely no surprise given that director Yariv Mozer has cast such an extraordinarily attractive actor in the role of Boaz, a man of smoldering good looks and chiseled physique, boasting the poutiest

Buy it, Rent it, or forget it...

Set back nearly 25 years, **Snails in the Rain** offers a very different Tel Aviv than Mozer's (with porn meister Michael Lucas) **Undressing Israel: Gay Men in the Promised Land**, an amiable documentary extolling the joys that now await the gay traveler.

Here Mozer offers a glimpse at a time before "Pride," the first Tel Aviv Pride Parade first having taken place in 1997, a Tel Aviv characterized by an atmosphere of sexual shame and fear of exposure which permeates the film, indeed fueling the narratives of both Boaz and his secret admirer.

As captivating as is Boaz's story is, it is often difficult to remain terribly sympathetic; Yoav Eruvani nevertheless does a fine job of portraying the struggle between his outwardly happy life with Noa and the same-sex desires he's long repressed.

Not always an easy film to watch, the letter writer's story still managing to haunt Glenn several days later, **Snails in the Rain** is never less than captivating viewing.

Just the facts...

Snails in the Rain clocks in at 82 minutes and is Hebrew with English subtitles. **Snails in the Rain** is available on DVD on 11/11/2014. SRP: \$24.99

Filmmaker Yariv Mozer here takes on the pivotal role of Prof. Richlin Cast photographs, Official Trailer and more @ <http://snailsintherain.com/>

lips and the perkier nipples Glenn has seen in a very long time. How can moviegoers not feel progressively more complicit; Glenn indeed turning increasingly to that of a voyeur waiting for the next scene Boaz strips down for, and then the next. Yariv Mozer's screenplay finds ample opportunity, seemingly at every turn, to get Boaz down to his skivvies and less.

By the arrival of a third letter, Boaz's curiosity to the author's identity has turned to something of an obsession. A reference to a geranium plant has Boaz suspecting first a neighbor and later his car mechanic. Maybe the guilty party is the fey librarian who spies Boaz's name on his student identification. The unwanted attention from another (male) student leads to a violent men's room encounter.

With the letters acting as a trigger, the seemingly constant (male) attention awakens in Boaz long repressed feelings centered upon Nir in increasingly erotic flashback sequences. In one such flashback, Boaz is at Nir's side during a ritual group masturbation scene. In another, Boaz secretly spies Nir with a young woman. There is an innocence revealed in Boaz during these scenes, culminating in one during which Nir kisses Boaz. Boaz's reaction is telling, one of both hunger and fear.

Boaz is desperate to learn the name of his correspondent but Noa proves to be the cleverer of the two; having found the hiding place for the love letters and already questioning Boaz's increasingly erratic behavior, Noa takes it upon herself to confront the letter writer.

But what will be Boaz's response to his admirer's ultimatum?





CREAM CITY **FOUNDATION**

2014 Business Equality Luncheon

Cream City Foundation's Business Equality Luncheon is held to showcase southeastern Wisconsin as fair and inclusive of all minority groups in the business world, with particular focus on the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. This is our sixth annual luncheon and grows in size every year — be sure to reserve your table or seat for this well attended event.

This year's luncheon will be held at:

Potawatomi Hotel & Casino Woodlands Dream Ballroom
1611 W Canal Street, Milwaukee

Wednesday, November 12th, 2014
11:15 am – 1:30 pm

Keynote speaker

Neil Giuliano CEO, San Francisco AIDS Foundation



Neil G. Giuliano served as mayor of Tempe, Arizona for four terms, from 1994-2004. Giuliano served as President of the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) from 2005-09, and has served as CEO of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation since being appointed in December 2010.

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or go to **2014BusinessLunch.eventbrite.com**



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BOUND MAGAZINE

Volume 13 #11 November 2014

AIDS WALK WISCONSIN 2014

Photos by Paul Masterson

Check out all the great pics from Paul and Sharkey
online at www.quest-online.com





fluid

Fluid celebrated the opening of a fabulous new outdoor patio called "The Terrace" with an OctoberFest. This is a great new space to gather, check it out!

Photos by
Kelly Klawes





Cordially Yours

by Michael Johnston

November is here; please don't forget to VOTE Tuesday, November 4th! We've got to get the VOTE out!

If it's November, it's HIT (Holiday Invitational Tournament) month – their 36th! Congratulations and wishing all participants plenty of strikes! Celebrating Thanksgiving and HIT in Milwaukee, is a tradition just like turkey and the Macy Day Parade! Time to celebrate...

Sunset Playhouse in elegant Elm Grove offers up a sure bet with "Guys and Dolls" this production runs now through Sunday, November 16th! And I'm quite sure Luck will be a Lady! Speaking of ladies, I really enjoyed taking in "Red Hot Mama – A Tribute to Miss Sophie Tucker" starring the engaging Becky Spice, accompanied by the dashing Jack Forbes Wilson on key board. Please note Jack and his magic fingers salute the incomparable Liberate November 7 – January 11, 2015 at The Stackner Cabaret of The Milwaukee Rep. I was fortunate enough to see Jack "do" Liberate, so to speak, Wilson turns into the Wizard of the mighty Wurlitzer from Wisconsin and what a tour de force! To see Show Biz' best Showman; please call 414-224-9490.

Renaissance Theaterworks proudly produces "Amelia", an epic Civil War love story, a Midwestern Premiere, by Alex Webb and directed by The

Rep's favorite Laura Gordon. "Amelia" is playing through Sunday, November 9.

The King of the forest makes a royal visit in the guise of "The Lion King". Yes this current Broadway classic returns to our hamlet Tue., November 11 – Sun., December 7. The best costumes, sets, lighting - - contemporary theatre at it's very best! The Milwaukee Theatre working in conjunction with BMO Harris Bank Broadway and The Marcus Center makes this magical masterpiece happen! Please call 414-273-2787 and you too can experience the adventure of a symphony safari!

Tis the season for a hauntingly ghoulish time and how about seeing the doctor of such shows – "Frankenstein", as done by Dale Gutzman's Off The Wall Theatre. Make your reservation to the laboratory by calling 414-484-8874 and let Donna know you need an appointment. The good doctor is seeing "patients" November 13, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 22, and 23. A love story of man and his creator via Steam Punk, Directed by Dale Gutzman and Jeremy C. Welter, see what all the screaming is about. OTWT did a most disturbing, yet highly successful version of "Cabaret". It's always fascinating to see a show you know well – with a fresh, unique take. Dale and his dedicated Cast and Crew never disappoint.

Next Act Theatre has A. R. Gurney's "Heresy" –

Speaking truth to power has ever been a risky business, but if the truth-teller's credentials are immaculate, could we be inspired to join in the effort? For the answer to this question and more, call 414-278-0765 and see "Heresy" Thur., November 13 – Sun., December 14.

For something with some cred and thread how about "The Complete Works of Wm. Shakespeare (Abridged) (Revised) November 19 – December 14 the Milwaukee Chamber Theatre co-sponsored by Donald A. Cress and The Dental Offices of Dr. David Paris, directed by Ray Jivoff.

Now that we are once again allowed to wed legally - - if you're inclined and in need of an Officiate, I have one for you – "Joined by Jeff" – Personalized Commitment Ceremonies conducted by Jeffrey S. Schmidt 414-510-3400 joinedbyjeff@yahoo.com.

Thank you for all your positive comments and complements concerning my new eyewear – I've been "Bronzed". Bronze Optical 1568 North Farwell Avenue 414-221-7055. Fabulously affordable eyewear – you should see what you're missing!

I was beyond honored to take part in the very grand, grand opening of Fluid's Terrace. Bill Warlow and Jon (Lizzie) Bauer threw a marvelous Oktoberfest Party, Celebration and Unveiling and I got to cut the ribbon! Will Bris follow, I hear you get great tips. DJ Ryan played everything from Polkas to Lady Gaga, great food, great Bloodys, Jager shots...who could ask for anything more? In spite of the dismal weather, we were shining all day long! Welcome back behind the bar at Fluid BJ, he and Justin added to the visual, as always.

Congratz to Alex Saint Pierre, the current Mr. Har-

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bor Room, what a stud! If you haven't met him yet let your eyes do the walking! I was fortunate enough to host the Mr. Harbor Room Contest once again this year number 14! I know I didn't do every year, but damn close! This year Ross Katzman, a multiple year winner of the coveted Mr. HR title co-hosted with me, and he is as delicious as his jock strap! The Judges all past Mr. Harbor Rooms – what better to look to the future, than utilizing your past? The ever energetic Eddie a past winner, and Judge entertained with two hot numbers to give a little, make that, a lot of beef cake! DJ Kelly was the "Mistress of the Music", making everything harmonious, while Huck, Jeremy and because of the large thirsty crowd – fan-favorite Glenn had to jump behind the bar and help out as well as judge! It was a crazy night! Gregg & Eddie, now in their 12th year of bliss provided a wild weekend we will not soon forget! To the next 14 years of The Harbor Room! While Alex was a great choice as Mr. HR, the runners up are Chris Stone and AJ – all three winners in my black book! It was a hard, pardon the pun, choice this year -- six very capable men stepped forward and vied for the title. Besides the three that won/placed -- Freddie, Kenny, and Jason were the other fine fellows who very amply rounded out the selection. So glad I don't have a vote -- it would have been a hung jury! Thank goodness, Quest very own Will Sharkey was on hand to get some great photos!

A former Mr. Harbor Room, Lee Trudell, has taken the Windy City by storm! You can catch him serving up the finest in a glass, with a great smile at Sidetracks on Halstead in Chicago. On a re-

cent getaway with Roger RamJet touring down South we drop in for Sunday ShowTunes and had a ball with Lee. I remember when Lee and Tod, with one d did Thursday ShowTunes at Boom – it was 2-4-1 and what fun! Lee knows how to treat you well whether he is stirring for Soap Siren Kim Zimmer now touring in "Wicked" or Broadway's Alan Cumming on a book tour (an autobiography – "Not My Father's Son"), or even Karen Valentine – the service and warmth most wonderful! Drop in and find out for yourself – Sundays after 5 pm in the Back Bar at Sidetracks on Halstead.

I'm having a ball with "Finally Friday" at The Red Star Cocktail Club upstairs of Trocadero. Lance has some delectable delights and surprises this fall season, come in and have a taste... Fridays are fun at Angelo's with the recent addition of Craig, the Switch-Master; he is now tending at this bar 10 – Close. Go and make him sweat – LOL. When you're in the mood for a little "Rat Pack", piano bar, and step back into time this venerable Van Buren spot is the place to be! Mid-Month Ginni Smith is there live! She is the Queen of the keys and so much fun! The Milwaukee Film Festival included a Short from UWM's very own Kara Mulrooney "An Evening at Angelo's" – what a great tribute to this lounge and the great performers who have made their mark there like Jerry Grillo, Norma Angeli, Robert and Angelo himself. I remember when Angelo ran The Focal Point on the near south side back in the early 80's -- he has kept the piano bar alive in this city! What a gift! I was at Angelo's one of the nights Kara was filming; unfortunately I ended up on the cutting room floor!

And it won't be the last time either I fear! Kara is quite a talent to watch as her name ascends to stardom. If you miss Mario behind the bar at Angelo's – and who doesn't? You can find him back at Palermo Villa -- I guess you can go home again... In the same neighborhood, another must stop, is the Hybrid Lounge, while Bill Lison has helped in opening and making this a fabulous destination to party at, he has hung up his shot glass (I'm guessing – only temporarily) and has moved on. Nate will keep the neon burning and the revered rainbow flag flying – let the party continue!

Big Night Out – City of Lights Cabaret was great big success! The LGBT Community Center throws this phenomenal gay-la every year in conjunction with National Coming Out Day – what a fit! Due to my Friday night commitment (Red Star, previously The Room and Switch) I could never play... This year it was a Saturday so I could par take and did I ever! Thank You Israel Ramon & David Marsteller to include me in an evening I will never forget! The Expo Center at Potawatomi Hotel & Casino was ablaze with a "Who's Who" from Everywhere! I walked in and to my surprise I was following Governess-Candidate, Mary Burke, Mayor Tom Barrett was shaking hands, Chris Abele – glowing, the ever youthful Tim Carpenter, who always has a moment for me, Will Radler – co-host of the Event, MU's Paul Milakovich, Rod Clark – who starting to get serious about his talent in art, Club Charles' Dawn Bloomfield, Jim Moore & Paul Stabel, Stuey Fieder, Stewart Dempsey & Gerry Coon, Mark Powers, Brad Fell & Rick Derksen, Jack Pike & Vance Baker forgive me if I did

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n't mention you, there is just so much space in the column! I really must start taking notes! What a great night of feeling a sense of community! The Cabaret was flawless as well – Kidd O'Shea of the WMYX was Master of Ceremonies and looking so dapper suited to a tee! Dear Ruthie added her wit and humor in bugle beads, BJ Daniels a legend looked like Louise Brooks in a fab roaring 20's look, Dora Diamond brought down the house singing a live version of "Cabaret" and my pal Corky Morgan closed the show with a warm number – sounding like a hybrid of Nat King Cole and Lou Rawls! What a night! Guests were generous and invested back in the Community Center and the good works Paul Williams, Karen Gotzler and their dedicated Board- including my host Israel Ramon – have so much to be proud of - - and Pride is what it's all about right?

AIDS Walk Wisconsin 25 was the next morning so we all had to sleep fast! Everyone wanted to turn out the next morning looking "fashionable" for Mr. Tim Gunn of "Project Runway". What a great turn out, what great weather! Bravo Mike Gifford, Dan Mueller, Mary Hartwig, Tony Bilot, Kristin Westburg and all you other many angles of ARCW and your auxiliary and volunteers! A shout out to all the great teams from all over the Midwest as well! I had a ball helping out in some AIDS Walk fund raisers – Taylor's Art POP, Fluid's Grand Opening of their Terrace, and Club Charlies where we did a bonus edition of Sunday Fun Day Show

Tunes I know netted \$2,569! So thank You out there, dollars add up and you can't do a fund raiser on any level without a single dollar, which gets multiplied into lots of dollars! Speaking of the AIDS Walk I hope you all read my exclusive interview with Tim Gunn – what a warm, courtly gentleman! The thrill of the AIDS Walk for me was being able to meet him, present him with a copy of the interview, had a photo op and an autograph! Having a national figure such as Tim Gunn really puts a special spin on a special day such as AIDS Walk Wisconsin - - I wonder who will come next year? Bravo to DIX once again they pulled out all the stops and raised a Queen's ransom and won the "Raise the Bar" competition. What a great group of fun people. I interviewed them last June I believe it was, they have been so committed and are so into this - - they work on it all year! It just so happened while I was waiting in line to be presented to Mr. Gunn, the DIX team was standing behind me – and we got to talking and laughing and killing time... their humor and good will was contagious! What better medicine after a long Walk than a Bloody Mary? With Mary, my office "wife", Tim Greene & Michael Karl - - we've done the Walk together forever, Joe Kender, Princess Debbie Biggins, Jerry Janis & John Heidemann, and assortment of friends – we stayed in the 'hood and sipped with Craig & Dawn at Club Charlies enjoying a surprising Packer victory! Talk about a perfect day!

From there it was to Black Sheep and the first Camerata Party of the Season. The Camerata is The Florentine Opera Company's LGBT Auxiliary Group. Now two Sundays before each Opera there is an "Opera Party", it is open to the public, no charge, a buffet, cash bar, live music provided by The Florentine Interns, a Q&A from Special Guests of the Florentine and an opportunity to network with other Opera fans or to learn more about Opera. I look forward to each gathering it's always very casual and comfortable. See you at the next one!

So sorry to share that the Community has lost a very special man in the death of Rene Aguilar, sympathies go out to his special friend Steve.

I'm running a little long, so I'll do an abbreviated Food Time. In the mood for a little continental food, something familiar, yet with a unique spin? How about Trocadero located at 1758 North Water Street. They offer a great array of entrees, sandwiches, soups, salads – and every season the menu gets updated - -providing the best local choices of produce and fruits with a decidedly French flavor to keep you warm this autumn. Be it Brunch, Lunch, Dinner or a little something-something you can't go wrong here! And the Bloodys - without compare! Viva Trocadero!

In this month of Thankfulness, allow me to thank You for spending time with me each month and wishing you the best of the autumn, as I remain still Cordially yours,.



KV being KV at AIDS Walk Wisconsin.



KV & Fluid Owner Bill at the grand opening of "The Terrace"

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LaCage, Wed. 19th, 10-1ish

Club Icon, 21st, 9:30-12:30 (Kenosha)

Welcome to Ruthie's Bitchin' Kitchen

It almost kills me to have to say it...but the holidays are upon us. Yep. Turkey Day is just around the corner, and then we're hit with Hanukah, Christmas, New Years and all that jazz. In addition to all the friggin' gifts and I crap I gotta buy, I just know I'll be invited to a bunch of parties where the damn host is too lazy to make food, and that infamous "bring a dish" note appears at the bottom of the invite.

I say, "Screw you!" You wanna have a party, get your keester in the kitchen and cook us up some grub. I suppose that if I did that, I'd likely not be invited again and I'd miss all the fun.

That said, I whipped up 17 easy appetizers you can take to a party. They're perfect when you forget you need a dish to pass, you're low on time or your kitchen skills aren't very sharp. They're great for Thanksgiving contributions, holiday parties, football watching and more. Most of them come together without cooking or baking, and you can prepare them in a matter of minutes. No lie! I'm talking a few minutes here!

In fact, if I were you, I'd tear this column out of "Quest" and hold on to it as you make your way through the holiday season. You'll want to try one or several of the savory specialties because they're all so damn easy. So what are you waiting for? It's time to eat good and shut up!

Honey-Walnut Bleu Cheese: Set a hearty wedge of bleu cheese on a serving plate. Drizzle a little honey over the cheese; garnish with chopped walnuts. Serve with crackers.

Nifty Gnocchi: Prepare a few packages of gnocchi as directed on package. Drain and cool slightly. Toss with jarred pesto sauce to taste. Serve warm with toothpicks.

Chutney Spread: Set a brick of cream cheese on a serving plate. Top with jarred chutney. Sprinkle chopped peanuts over chutney and serve with crackers.

Mini Kabobs: On a toothpick, thread a date, a cube of ham and a bit of Gouda cheese.

Simply Southwestern Dip: Pour a can of condensed cheese soup into a microwave-

safe bowl. Stir in salsa to taste. Stir in a dash of ground cumin if desired and/or toss in a handful of frozen corn kernels. Microwave until heated through. Serve with tortilla chips.

Endive with Chicken: Separate a head of purple endive into leaves. Fill each leaf with a tiny spoonful of deli chicken salad. Garnish with a sprig of parsley if you'd like.

Pears & Prosciutto: Slice a few pears. Wrap thinly sliced prosciutto around each pear piece. Serve immediately.

Creamy Pizza Dip: In a microwave-safe bowl, combine a handful mozzarella cheese, a jar of (creamy) sun-dried tomato pasta sauce and a small can/jar of pizza sauce. Stir in a small can of sliced black olives (drained) and chopped pepperoni slices if you'd like. Heat in the microwave until warmed through. Slice a prepared pizza crust into narrow strips and serve with dip.

Colorful Cheese Log: Chop some dried cranberries and mix with chopped pistachios. Roll a log of softened goat cheese over mixture, pressing slightly to cover. Serve with crackers.

Tortellini Skewers: Prepare a few packages of tortellini per package directions. Drain tortellini and toss with a little olive oil; cool. Thread three or four tortellini on long wooden skewers. Refrigerate overnight, and serve with jarred Alfredo sauce for dipping.

Tot-chos: Bake up some frozen tater tots. Top with your favorite nacho toppings and serve warm.

Garlic Pretzel Dip: Combine a 16-ounce container of sour cream with an envelope of Savory Herb with Garlic Soup Mix. Stir in a small can of diced jalapenos. Serve with pretzels or pretzel chips.

Greek Spread: Use a hand mixer to combine a brick of softened cream cheese with crumbled feta cheese. Stir in a small can of diced olives, drained. Serve with crackers or vegetables.



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Quest Magazine

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Quick Con Queso: Pour a small jar of cheesy Con Queso dip, smooth cheese dip or nacho dip in a microwave-safe bowl. Stir in a can of chili beans with sauce. Add salsa to taste if desired. Microwave until warmed through. Serve with tortilla chips.

Stuffed Apricots: Slice dried apricots lengthwise to create a pocket. Insert a few bleu cheese crumbles and half of a walnut into each.

Ricotta Dip: Stir jarred pesto into a tub of Ricotta cheese to taste. Serve with vegetables.

Chicken & Waffles: On a baking sheet, bake frozen waffle fries per package directions. When done, top fries with cooked and shredded barbecue chicken. (You'll find tubs of it near the lunchmeat.) Top with shredded cheddar. Return to oven until chicken is heated through and cheese is melted.

Have a recipe you'd like to share with Ruthie?

Email her at DearMsRuthie@yahoo.com.

Don't miss her cooking series at www.RuthiesBitchinKitchen.com!

Progressive Tuesdays

1.....

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Taken at Kruz, Fluid & Walker's Pint
by Will Sharkey



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Miss Gay Wisconsin USofA 2015

Photos by Will Sharkey



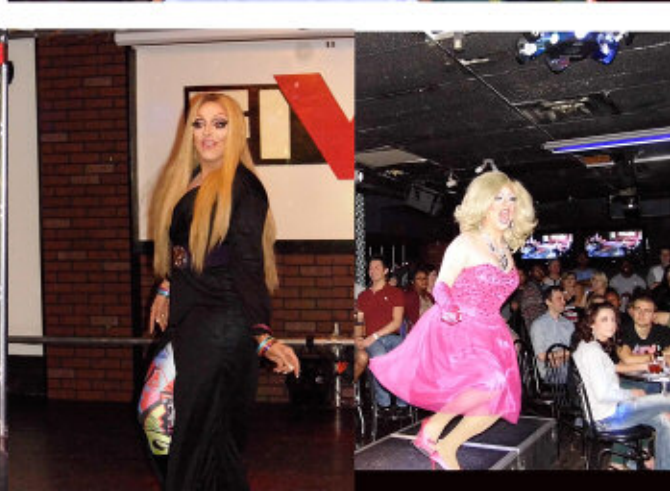



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A fundraiser for AIDS WALK
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