

# QUEST

MAGAZINE

Volume 23, #4  
April 2016

**CLUB  
ICON**  
Celebrates  
10 years



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PHOTOGRAPHY  
Mark Mariucci

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# AN INTERVIEW WITH GERALD COON PHD, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF DIVERSE AND RESILIENT

By Paul Masterson

Eight months ago, Gerald Coon succeeded founder Gary Hollander as President and CEO of Diverse and Resilient (D&R). Coon holds a Master's Degree in Science in Rehabilitation Counseling, an MBA, and a PhD in Leadership Studies. He has been involved in the LGBT community since 1980 when he came to Milwaukee to go to graduate school. Professionally he has worked with people with disabilities, most recently as the executive director of Saint Francis Children's Center. He has served on the board of the Human Rights League and that of D&R. Coon spoke with QUEST about his new role as Diverse and Resilient's President and CEO as well as that organization's mission.

**QUEST: For many in Milwaukee's LGBT community, D&R is known simply by that abbreviation. Some know its mission is "capacity building" but don't know what that means. What exactly is capacity building?**

Gerald Coon: Interestingly enough we have a lot of conversation about what that means. Originally, that's what we wanted to do. We wanted to "build capacity" through support for other organizations. The idea was to make connections between smaller locations like Eau Claire, La Crosse, and the Fox Valley, to give them the resources and expertise to do what they do, but better. We would have staff help them do the work they felt was important. We still do that. We work with youth groups around the state, in Appleton and Green Bay, for example. We do training and education related to substance abuse, primarily alcohol, safe dates (helping people make decisions about healthy dating) and interpartner violence. We do very specific work using evidence based interventions. Those are the biggest ways we do capacity building.

**QUEST: And that remains the mission today?**

GC: The world has changed dramatically since the organization started 20 years ago. The impetus of working with young people now has the goal of reducing the exposure to HIV and STIs (sexually transmitted infections). Every other year we hold a summer institute for young people from throughout Wisconsin, male and female, across the gender identity spectrum about HIV. We partner with GSAFE (Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools) to put on the Safe Schools Safe Communities Conference to bring students, administration and staff together to make their environments safe for all, particularly LGBTQ kids. Since younger LGBT folks are now more likely to interact with non-LGBTs, one recent development is the broader application of the strategy to include everyone.

**QUEST: D&R also has a local focus on the African-American community.**

GC: Our statewide work is not exclusively African-American (AA) community focused. Our work around substance abuse, safe dates, lesbian and bisexual health is universal. Locally, most of the HIV and STI testing subjects are AAMSM (African-American Men having Sex with Men). We work with SHEBA, a transgender women's group who are all AA. Most of our youth, the community health promoters who do condom distribution, are high school age or just out of high school, happen to be AA. It's all based on the funding sources. Various government grants focus on that target group because that's where the real crisis is. We're good at it based on our staff connections.

**QUEST: What about HIV and the Milwaukee AAMSM?**



GC: The status is pretty distressing. It's approaching 4 out of 10 AAMSM being HIV positive. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) anticipates it could eventually be 1 in 2 for this demographic. Those are shocking statistics. That's what we're confronted with. There are all kinds of reasons for it. It would be a mistake for people to make a judgement on that. Those statistics are similar for most US urban areas. In some rural areas it's also a problem. Social determinants of health like poverty, education levels, stigma, contribute to it.

**QUEST: You mentioned funding sources. Where does the money come from?**

GC: We received a CDC grant in 2010. It was the first year of a \$300,000 per year, 5-year grant. In 2011 we received a second CDC \$300,000, 5-year grant. At the same time, we started to get more from the State Department of Health Services. But then, to address the HIV/STI crisis in southern states, "The Southern Strategy" became a CDC project. Our first grant ended in 2015 and the second ends later in 2016. But resources are moving to the rural south, so we are now receiving less. The city stepped up to the plate in 2016 and supported some testing. We are working closer with the people we are testing who have some significant needs. So we also help them connect to other resources and jobs. The city helps manage some of these needs. As government partners they couldn't be more helpful. The City of Milwaukee Health Department provides us with a free space, the Northwest Health Center at 76<sup>th</sup> Street and Mill Road. The idea is to be closer to our target population on the northwest side where it is becoming increasingly AA. We do both HIV and STI testing. If someone comes in with symptoms of an STI and wants to be tested, we can also reach them for HIV testing. The city also has a WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program and otherwise serves the population that's in that community.

**QUEST: What has the impact been? Have we seen a decrease in HIV infection rate among the target group?**



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GC: Interestingly enough, what the funding sources want us to do is to find the HIV positives. But the point is to get them linked to care and get viral loads to undetectable. That makes them less likely to infect someone else. We are not a big enough player to say our programs account for an impact. We are a resource people will come to because we are culturally competent. Our testers have been where they are. The HIV rate is still frighteningly high.

**QUEST: The church is a powerful, influential force in the black community. What strategy is currently in place to engage major black churches and their leaders to collaborate?**

GC: There's not any current particular strategy. Back in 2012 there was a push to engage black churches. It's challenging. Some are more helpful than others. The Wisconsin Black Health Coalition pulls together a number of black churches interested in supporting people who have HIV because their faith calls them to help rather than shun people. Ronny Grace, one of our HIV testing staff, was interviewed for *Black Nouveau* as an openly gay and openly HIV positive black man. Part of the interview was shown in churches. We've had conversations about how we better connect with black churches. Dr. Cathy Quinn has done studies through the Center for AIDS Intervention Research and we've helped recruit people for her to interview, providing a resource to someone who is really in the field. It is fascinating to see the research about the connection of black men to their churches. Again, the world has changed so much, in part thanks to President Obama and marriage equality, so it impacts the church's response to the current realities. White people leave faith altogether but it's not true for gay AA. The church has been more a part of daily survival. The experience is different in so many ways.

**QUEST: But there's still a challenge of acceptance if you're black and gay.**

GC: We've found an affirming church might accept someone who is LGBT but the focus here is a health condition that requires support and empathy. I think that's an important distinction. They're not speaking to their views on being gay but rather on HIV as a health condition requiring a Christian response of compassion and care.

Last week The Black Church Week of Prayer for the Healing of AIDS kicked off at St Mathews Church on 9<sup>th</sup> Street and Locust. It was Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. They've done it for many, many years. There were easily 10 or 12 pastors from various churches.

**QUEST: The relationship with the LGBT Community Center has been sometimes competitive and sometimes collaborative? What is the current status?**

GC: I've known Karen Gotzler (LGBT Community Center executive director) and many of its board members for a long time. They are important members of the community. We are talking with each other all the time. Our lease ends in March 2017. The LGBT Center needs a bigger space. So, our staff will talk about both the challenges and benefits of collocating. That means finding a shared space together and making each other stronger by being in the same location. Both sides are going in with an open mind. The lines of communication are open and they should be. More communication will foster more collaboration and that's a good thing.

We're actually going to be working together for a funding proposal. The Center does some things well; we do some things well. If we can get together everyone benefits. Historically we are different agencies. They are a community center but there are overlaps. We need to recognize those things and work well together. The same is true with ARCW. They have a

grant where we are a sub-recipient and we have grant where they are a sub-recipient.

**QUEST: One project the community is very familiar with is the Health and Wellness Area at PrideFest. It's quite a success but it moved on the PrideFest grounds to another location. There's seems to be a mixed reaction.**

GC: It will be the second year at the new location. I know there's been conversation about that. Last year we did see a significant decrease in HIV testing due to the placement of the testing site there.

**QUEST: Can you offer an assessment of your first 8 months at D&R?**

GC: Well, I'm really glad I'm here. I've lived in same house for 29 years with my partner in a very diverse Milwaukee neighborhood. There are poverty issues, urban issues. We are urban people. I couldn't *not* have pursued this. Had I not I would have regretted it on my deathbed. This was my opportunity to work with the LGBT community. It was a career move from the heart and not a strategic one. I have learned so much from the staff and funding sources about the very real health disparities between LGBTs and our non-LGBT peers. And that is rooted in internalized homophobia and we deserve to be as happy and healthy as everyone else. But now many people understand that who didn't before. There are so many opportunities to do good things and minimize the disparities. It's why I do this. It's just that important.

*Diverse and Resilient's 4th Annual Reviving the Dream Celebration takes place April 7. It includes the presentation of its 2016 LGBT leadership awards, honoring individuals and organizations for their leadership in, and on behalf of, Wisconsin's LGBT community.*

*For information go to [www.diverseandresilient.org/reviving/](http://www.diverseandresilient.org/reviving/)*

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# Club ICON Celebrates 10 Years!

Located near the border of Wisconsin and Illinois with easy access from Highway 94, Club ICON is one of the few larger LGBT clubs left in Wisconsin, but what a great club it is. Over the past 10 years this place has undergone continuous remodeling and technological improvements similar in scope to FIVE in Madison, the former Za's Videobar in Green Bay and the LaCage complex in Milwaukee.

Perhaps unique to Wisconsin LGBT bars today, ICON's customers show their pride very publicly. This club is involved in the community in a big way, producing floats for AT&T and WGN Radio that included the Stanley Cup in the Chicago Pride Parade. Their contribution to the Milwaukee LGBT Pride Parade has received 9 awards including the 1st. Place "Best Float" award. In the 10 years ICON has been around they have given over \$100,000 back to the communities they serve. ICON's staff have received a variety of accolades and positions in the community including the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin, the Milwaukee Pride Parade Board of Directors, the Kenosha Pride Board of Directors, and an honorary member of the United States Navy's GLASS Organization.

ICON has hosted events featuring JujuBee, Jackie Beat, Ronnie Nyles, the stars of COLT, Rickey Sins, Furrlesque and my favorite, their annual Turnabout Fundraising show where the staff take to the stage and perform for a very enthusiastic crowd.

ICON's manager says, "Club ICON is a PROUD LGBTQ establishment and we are committed to the community we represent. We believe in building and maintaining a progressive atmosphere that is both entertaining and safe for everyone to enjoy. We value compassion, responsibility, and respect for all facets of diversity in the customers we serve. Club ICON welcomes the LGBTQ community, their friends, families, and straight allies who support this vision. We hold that inclusion ensures progress towards equality for our community both here and beyond our doors."

Thanks for 10 wonderful years! Here's to 10 more!!







Memories from Club ICON's 10 Year Past



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## ART IN BLOOM AT MAM

Photos & Story By Paul Masterson

Spring has truly arrived. The Milwaukee Art Museum celebrated its annual Spring tradition, *Art in Bloom*. The four-day special exhibit presents floral creations inspired by master works from the museum's collection currently on view. This year, the event showcased 41 designers. Each selected a work by drawing from a group of pre-selected pieces. Then it's up to the designer to translate the art into an arrangement of flowers. How this is realized is left up to the talent and imagination of the designer. Some

pieces recreate the art and its composition, making a two-dimensional painting into a three-dimensional living sculpture. Others take the work's colors, textures, shapes or its concept and turn that into an entirely personal interpretation. Sometimes that makes realistic images abstract or abstract ones realistic. Others add whimsy and a sense of humor. One year, a painting of a nude on a couch was turned into a floral bathrobe. The seemingly incongruous interpretation was indeed a logical one. After all, the nude model would have to get up and

put something on after posing, wouldn't she?

This year's selections were particularly exciting to see. With the museum's recent renovation and reinstallation of its collection, visitors were treated to an entirely new and innovative environment. The 41 floral designs could be found on all levels, offering an Easter egg hunt atmosphere with delightful surprises to be discovered in the various galleries.

If you missed it, you'll have to endure another Milwaukee winter before the next *Art in Bloom* next spring. Meanwhile, here are a few pictures of this year's stunning contributions.





# The Iron Diaries – Fitness & Health

## How Much Weight Can I Lose In One Month?

Ah the infamous question! This is a question that unfortunately **there is no exact answer**.

You waited til the last minute and are rushing to get the weight off before summer, right? Well, without getting into a lecture on procrastination, I'll answer your question - but I have a feeling it's not going to be what you want to hear. It usually takes about 4-5 weeks for your body to adjust to a nutrition and fitness program. That is you will have noticeable fat loss in the first four or five weeks but it will accelerate tremendously after that.

In about 4 weeks, if you are following a reasonable balanced nutrition and fitness program you can expect to lose 6-10 lbs of pure fat in that period.

That means you will gain muscle and lose fat, you may not see a change of 6-10lbs on the scale, but your net fat loss will be in that range. Now, This kind of program will help you be more toned and look much better than you did before – but the most effective programs are designed for 12-16 weeks for dramatic results.

If you decide to do what MOST do and severely limit calories and hours of cardio - you will be able to lose some weight – but trust me you won't be happy with what you see in the mirror. You could lose about 20 pounds in a month's time, but its bad

news if you do. You see you will burn away valuable metabolically active lean muscle mass along with the fat. This means you are basically shrinking yourself and will look the same or worse than you do now, just smaller – “Skinny Fat” (it's a real thing – google it).

Here's the kicker, when you come off that diet you will most likely gain all that weight back, plus some. You know why? Because you will have burned off all your valuable calorie burning muscle in the process of dieting for this trip – the engine of your body that burns all that stored body fat.

To combat this, the best programs are designed to give you the greatest long term benefits, along with the short term improvements as well. No diet alone will perfect your body; no workout program will fix a crappy diet; no supplements will magically transform you – you need a delicate balance of all three.

If you are in search of dramatic results in just 12 Weeks, send an email to [Darron@DLFitness-Foundation.com](mailto:Darron@DLFitness-Foundation.com) with “TRANSFORM” in the subject line and I will give you 40% OFF of my Complete Transformation Program that will give you all the information, every resource, and every tool to create the body you've always wanted!

It's your choice though, don't say I didn't warn you if you decide to starve – don't make it harder than it has to be...



Connect with me on social media and visit [www.dlfitnessfoundation.com](http://www.dlfitnessfoundation.com)  
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## NEW ON DVD "The Scandalous Four" By Glenn Bishop

It might come as something of a surprise to many loyal **Quest** readers that Glenn has read all of the delightful novels the lovely Jane Austen, with pen in hand, managed to put to paper. In fact, Glenn is something of a purist, generally preferring Austen's extraordinary storytelling to the many novels, films and yes, even the odd mini-series inspired by our dear Jane and her many iconic characters.

For the most part, in Glenn's youth, Jane Austen languished sadly on dusty library bookshelves, relegated to classrooms of CliffsNotes clutching undergraduates and the occasional faithful (read: dull) adaptation to be found on PBS's Masterpiece Theatre.

So what happened?

What happened was a 1995 **Pride and Prejudice** mini-series which amped up the sex. The 6-part mini-series teased audiences both here in America and in Britain with playful scenes such as that of Colin Firth's Mr. Darcy stripping down and jumping into a lake or, later emerging from his bath. More controversial was the lip-lock that followed Elizabeth's wedding with Mr. Darcy.

It would seem that Jane Austen's absolute sense of decorum did not allow for even the happily married to be depicted sharing a simple kiss.

Thus Glenn blames Colin Firth for the Jane Austen cottage industry which has spiraled out of control. One could spend nearly a lifetime reading books; some where Jane solves murder mysteries, other where murders are solved by Jane's popular characters. A few years back, even acclaimed gay novelist Michael Thomas Ford began a series of light-hearted novels in which Jane Austen is alive and well (and a

vampire) and running a small bookstore in upstate New York.

Steve Hockensmith's **Pride and Prejudice and Zombies** is surely the most frightening of all, a curious Jane Austen/ zombie mash-up. The cinematic adaptation of Hockensmith's novel recently played in multiplexes across the panoramic American landscape where moviegoers far braver than Glenn could find dear Elizabeth Bennet and her haughty monster-hunter beau Fitzwilliam Darcy battling zombies in an alternative Regency England where the undead freely roam across great swathes of the pastoral English countryside.

**The Scandalous Four** is neither based on any one specific Jane Austen work nor upon any specific character, as many of the assembled gentlemen of the monthly cinema circle were heard to complain.

"All but," mused Glenn, under his breath.

Indeed Samantha Hills' Penelope would surely hold her own against Jane's cast of plucky protagonists, Anne Elliot from **Persuasion** coming particularly to mind.

Penelope is (shock, horror) four and twenty years old and as yet unmarried. She is also secretly in love with her dashing music teacher, Mr. Richard Reynolds (Jez Hughes) and he with her but poor Mr. Richard Reynolds is penniless and therefore an unsuitable match.

Determined to marry Penelope off, her shrewish mother plans some entertainment for a couple of afternoons, auditioning possible suitors for Penelope from what eligible young men might be found in the neighborhood. And if Glenn is to be honest, the pickings are right slim.

First up is decidedly creepy lad who claims an unusual pastime: stuffing (dead?) animals with sand. Another, Cuthbert Gelder (Chris Tyler-Reeve), is very much a "jack-the-lad" type rather too fond of his wine.

At this point in the proceedings, Glenn amused

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

Director Christianne van Wijk and her cast of relative newcomers all strive and for the most part succeed in **The Scandalous Four** to fashion a world that our dear Jane, not mention we moviegoers, might recognize and accept despite obvious budgetary constraints.

The story of an arranged marriage is surely a familiar one to fans of historical fiction in general and, of course, especially to those familiar with the works of Jane Austen.

Like the 1995 **Pride and Prejudice** mini-series, van Wijk and company amp up the sex in **The Scandalous Four**. In the film's most scandalous scene, the two star-crossed couples shed both clothing as well as inhibitions in a delightful lake scene that puts that of Colin Firth to shame and would surely horrify poor Jane Austen.

**The Scandalous Four** might not always be smooth sailing, the dialog is occasionally clunky and the acting often quite stilted but the film's sweet, deeply earnest message in the end won over Glenn and the gentlemen of the cinema circle.

### Just the facts...

**The Scandalous Four** is in English and has a running time of 106 minutes

**The Scandalous Four** is available on DVD with a SRP of \$19.95 Meager extras include Theatrical trailer

himself by thinking how very like the game **Mystery Date**, the film was proving to be.

Mr. Jonathan Alexander (Meredith Colchester) is the final contestant and when compared to the previous lads on offer, he's the decided winner. Penelope might pine for her adorable but penniless music teacher but marry she must and does; it is a shockingly humble affair proving an accurate precursor to what Penelope might expect married life with Jonathan Alexander to be.

Our dear Jane, herself never married, spared her readers from any awkwardness of the wedding night, in general being content to send her newlyweds off to their much deserved "happily-ever-after" right after the ceremony. No such luck here; our Mr. Jonathan Alexander not looking like he'd ever be able to do his duty in ensuring an heir and a spare.

Indeed, as cold and taciturn as Mr. Jonathan is with his bride, he is positively giddy and tongue-tied with George the butler (Alistair Lock). It is all exceedingly furtive, what with late night invitations to the master's bedchamber, illicit cups of hot chocolate and days spent on long rides of the grounds.

As is so often the case in stories such as this, Penelope spies her husband and George sharing an intimate moment. Waiting for just the right opportunity, she is determined to confront her husband. Yet before the opportunity arises, George, that scamp, invites Penelope's old music teacher Mr. Richard Reynolds to become the estate's new gardener.

Can the two couples find happiness without frightening the horses, the servants or the local vicar?





# BOUND MAGAZINE

Volume 15 #4 April 2016

**LGBTQ for Larson  
at Hamburger Marys 3/20**



Photos courtesy of Michael Lisowski (Catch Michael on the Queen Program on Milw Public Access Cable)





## *Cordially Yours* by Michael Johnston

Hello again and happy April – hard to believe the first quarter of the year is in! Hoping you are enjoying 2016... For me it's been a year of farewells. Logically, the longer we live, the more good byes we are destined to have. That being said – I have to bid a fond adieu to internationally acclaimed artist and dear friend, Patrick Farrell. Patrick was a self-taught savant in the world of the applied arts – painting. His considerable body of art will live on for the ages bringing great pride to Milwaukee and the LGBT community. I was fortunate to know Patrick as a pal for the last 30 some years. His impressive works be deck my home – in poster form, but signed, matted and framed and valued to me – beyond words. I treasure them as I do our friendship... I usually don't open my monthly effort with an obituary, but in this loss I had to - without Patrick Farrell this column would not exist. Patrick Farrell came up with notion that if The Milwaukee Journal had a "Society Columnist" so should the LGBT Press. He pitched his concept to Bill Attewell who was at the helm at InStep – Bill approached me and a column was born. That was the summer of 1999 and here we are 17 years later! So thank you Patrick for your friendship, the treasured trove of your art and many letters and cards he sent and this column. This column preserves and celebrates

our lifestyle and life choices and simply chronicles our time here together. May You rest in eternal peace, Patrick; Darling.

Thrilled to see PrideFest has



booked Sarah Silverman to open Our Fest on Friday, June 10 and Debbie "Blondie" Harry to close on Sunday, June 12! Can't wait to see who will reign on Saturday night!

The Greatest Promise on Earth – Make a Promise 2016 takes place Saturday, April 9. Step right up and make that Promise! This is the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner of Promising to find a cure for HIV/AIDS. We have come a long way, but so far to go! This year's Award Recipients are: 2016 Philanthropy Award – BMO Harris Bank. 2016 Leadership Award – Wisconsin State Representative John Hygren. 2016 Leadership Award – UW Health. To get your seat or better yet table, please contact Nick Geibel at 414-225-1615 or [Nick.Geibel@ARCW.org](mailto:Nick.Geibel@ARCW.org) The Wisconsin Center 400 West Wisconsin Avenue will be the place to be. all benefitting ARCW, To Nouveau Cirquey!

Sunday, April 3 Sunday Fun Day Showtunes at Club Charlies with Brian Reinkober and Karen Valentine. Usher in spring from 2 – 7 pm. Come and sing, hum, drink, eat, wave a flag, and/or dance on the bar...

Renaissance Theaterworks closes their highly successful season with "Censored on Final Approach" by Local playwright Phylis Rovel, directed by Leda Hoffmann now thru Sunday, April 24. World War II – elite group of female pilots becoming pioneers, heroes and role models. What an impressive resume, worthy of an impressive salute from us the audience. The Broadway Theatre Center 158 North Broadway please call 414-273-0800 to get your tickets to soar!

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Tuesday, April 5 – Sunday, April 10 “Once” the 2010 Best Musical of The Tony Awards makes their Milwaukee debut at The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts – Uihlein Hall 929 North Water Street. You will be transformed to a pub in Dublin and experience the haunting story of going for your dreams and the power of music and love – which will win? Or do you really have to choose? Please call 414-273-2787 for your Irish adventure.

I’m excited to be invited back to “BLU-tend” at BLU on the 23<sup>rd</sup> floor of The Pfister. This time out it will be Wednesday, April 6. The charity being heralded – The Healing Center. An agency that helps people (yes, men and women) after being sexually assaulted get readjusted and cope with day to day life. Come and see me and enjoy the view!

Diverse & Resilient will be hosting their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual “Reviving the Dream Celebration” which includes the presentation of the 2016 Bayard Rustin Leadership Award. You will want to be at the Marriott Downtown Milwaukee 323 East Wisconsin Avenue Thursday, April 7 5:30 – 6:30 pm Reception, Dinner and Program 6:30 – 8:30 pm. Dr. LG Shanklin-Flowers is the Keynote Speaker. Awardees for 2016 are: Brenda Coley, Bayard Rustin Award Shannon Romero, Be Y.O.U. Youth Leadership Award. Broderick Pearson, Gary Hollander Adult Leadership Award. Irmine Reitel, LGBT Ally Award The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, Community Partner Award For more details, please go online to:

[diverseandresilient.org/reviving](http://diverseandresilient.org/reviving).

“Motherhood Out Loud” takes to the stage Thursday, April 7 – Sunday, May 1. 14 All-Star Playwrights have combined their considerable talents and best riffs on the universal topic of “Mom”. Tissues are recommended and laughs guaranteed!

Next Act Theatre 255 South Water Street please call 414-278-0765 this number will provide you and your Mom in-person or in memory a great theatrical adventure. Great parking available in their connected lot, very few downtown venues can claim this! Speaking of Mothers – Mother’s Day is commemorated this year a bit differently with an “M&M Club Reunion Party”. Held on Mother’s Day May 8 – the day the bar closed after over 30 years of successful business. The party starts at Noon and ends when guests leave- possibly to 2:00 am? Everyone is welcomed and invited. The Party is held at the actual Bar – 124 North Water Street – now known as The Irish Pub. Bob Schmidt will return from Palm Springs to celebrate & remember ...

RuPaul’s Drag Race has as much intrigue as the National Election this season... and the drama continues every Monday night! Monday, April 11 Chanel D’Vine the toast of Hybrid Lounge will make her debut Hostess-ing her first event at This Is It and the RuPaul’s Drag Race. Come and see this Beauty add a little local color and a lot of charm to this hit TV show.

Noel Coward’s “Fallen Angels” descend at The Broadway Theatre Center’s Cabot Theatre Thursday, April 14 – Sunday, May 1. This time out cherub Michael C. Wright will direct and the Milwaukee Chamber Theatre will share the marvelous legacy of Coward – who was no coward! The tale is of two lady friends, who are living the all-American dream of husband, home and white picket fences, then their past comes back to haunt them in the form of an old flame. The forbidden conquest creates all kinds of troubles for the ladies, their marriages, and their friendship... Lord help the sister who comes between me and my mister! To see how these angels wing it out call 414-273-0800, you’re in for a

Heavenly experience.

If it’s Mil-M-AIDS time – it must be spring! Saturday, April 16 the infamous mini Bowling Tournament to strike out HIV/AIDS. This fun event started forever ago and still keeps going and going! Thanks to the dedication of the Founders – Debi Vance, Cindy Olscheske, Rick Steiner and Bob Glinicki. Milwaukee and Madison co-host this bowl-athon, swapping locales, this year it is Madison’s turn to host. All proceeds go to Agencies helping those in the battle of HIV/AIDS. Speaking of Madison, Mazo Beach the infamous nude sands of Wisconsin – is officially closed. Where oh where will we be able to get that all over tan? Saugatuck is still selling out all summer ...

Saturday night (April 16) LIVE at This Is It, come see the Drag Super Star from RuPaul’s Drag Race William live and performing like never before! Get there early, you’re sure to want a seat!

“Yeh Bro Podcast Anniversary Party” is being commemorated on Thursday, April 21 at This Is It.

“Ernest in Love” book and lyrics by Anne Crosswell, music by Lee Pockriss – the Oscar Wilde play (The Importance of Being Earnest) put to music. The story of love, class struggles and Miss Angela Iannone as Lady Bracknell. Come and see this classic sung! In Tandem Theatre Company 628 North Tenth Street 414-271-1371 for reservations, Friday, April 22 – Sunday, May 15.

Come and see Miss Nova D’Vine’s righteous revue Sunday, April 24 6 pm Hybrid Lounge 707 East Brady Street “Bubbles & Beauties” will feature the long awaited return of Miss Joey Black and her Michigan temptresses: Mercedes Benz and Co Co Benz. Rounding out the curvaceous cast will be the stunning Chanel D’Vine and of course our favorite star Nova.

## APRIL Bucket List

Sunday, April 3 “Sunday Fun Day Showtunes” Club Charlies 320 East Menomonee Street 2 – 7pm

Tuesday, April 5 **VOTING DAY**

Tuesday, April 5 – Sunday, April 10 “Once” The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts 929 North Water Street

Now – Through Sunday, April 24

“Censored on Final Approach”

Renaissance Theaterworks Broadway Theatre Complex 158 North Broadway

Wednesday, April 6

BluTending for The Healing Center

Blu at Pfister Hotel 424 E Wisconsin Avenue

Thursday, April 7 Diverse & Resilient 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Reviving the Dream Celebration Marriott Downtown 323 East Wisconsin Ave

Thursday, April 7 – Sunday, May 1

“Motherhood Out Loud”

Next Act Theatre 255 South Water Street

Saturday, April 9 Make A Promise Dinner The Wisconsin Center 400 W Wisconsin Ave

Sunday, April 10 thru Saturday, April 16 National Volunteer Week

Monday, April 11 Chanel D’Vine Hostessess “RuPaul’s Drag Race” This Is It 418 East Wells Street

Thursday, April 14 – Sunday, May 1 “Fallen Angels” Milwaukee Chamber Theatre Broadway Theatre Complex 158 North Broadway

Saturday, April 16 Mil-M-AIDS - 2016 Madison

Saturday, April 16 RuPaul Drag Star William This Is It 418 East Wells Street

Monday, April 18 Tax Day All Taxes Must be Filed

Thursday, April 21 Yeh Bro Podcast Anniversary Party” This Is It 418 East Wells Street

Friday, April 22 Earth Day, 2016

Friday, April 22 “Ernest in Love” In Tandem Theatre Company 628 North Tenth Street

Saturday, April 23 Passover begins @ Sundown

Sunday, April 24 “Nova D’Vine’s Bubbles & Beauties Revue” Hybrid Lounge 707 East Brady Street

Tuesday, April 26 – Sunday, May 22 “Fences” The Milwaukee Rep 108 East Wells Street

Wednesday, April 27 “Pink Hat Party – benefits MKE LGBT Community Center” This Is It 418 East Wells Street

Wednesday, April 27 “The Naked Magic Show” The Pabst Theatre 144 East Wells Street

Thursday, April 28 “Everything in the Garden” Off The Wall Theatre 127 East Wells Street

Saturday, April 30 National Animal Advocacy Day



August Wilson's "Fences" a Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award Winning drama comes to life Tuesday, April 26 – Sunday, May 22 The Milwaukee Repertory Theater, Patty and Jay Baker Theater Complex 108 East Wells Street 414-224-9490 to get across into "Fences". This opus explores a family's hopes and dreams in a rapidly changing 1950's America.

If it's the last Wednesday of the month, it's The Pink Hat Party at This Is It! Yes, April 27 8-11 pm. This month's recipient of donations: Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. Wear your pink caps and buy your chances for wonderful prizes and support this much needed asset to our community!

Direct from Australia! Sleeves up, pants down – Murray & Peter Present "The Naked Magic Show"

The Pabst Theater 144 East Wells Street [www.pabsttheater.org](http://www.pabsttheater.org) or traditional calling to 414-286-3663.

Perhaps nothing is up their sleeve, come and check out their arms! Come and see for yourself – Wednesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> – clothing optional? One can only hope for lots of standing ovations ...

Off The Wall Theatre springs out a seasonal favorite with "Everything in the Garden" Thursday, April 28 – Mother's Day, Sunday, May 8.

Michael Pink's Milwaukee Ballet announced their 2016/2017 sterling season: "Scheherazade/Angels in the Architecture" October 20 – 23 The Marcus Center "The Nutcracker" a Holiday gift completely refurbished December 10 – 27 The Marcus Center "Genesis 2017" February 16 – 19 The Pabst Theater "Mirror Mirror" June 1 - 4 The Marcus Center

Happy 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Nate and the Staff of The Hybrid Lounge. They really know how to get the corner of Van Buren and Brady going – long may You pour! Recently enjoyed the services of Raymond – who kept us going ... With spring in the air and better weather coming our way – so is the reopening of Hybrid's neighbor Angelo's. Special Cocktails to lull you after the work day and the return of live music, piano and the lounge we've come to love! What a great way to honor Angelo, the original owner, who recently died.

Bravo to Brian Buchberger for jump starting a hobby to an "art form". For year's Brian has had a highly respectable career in graphic design and no time

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for painting. Well the Universe corrected itself and now Brian has been spending time with his easel, canvas, paints and brushes — making masterpieces. So successful is he, that recently he made his debut at the Villa Terrace in a very exclusive art exhibit his piece was showcased — and rightfully so! Congratz! At deadline Brian's career and reputation is flourishing and he has a couple of pieces on display in Grafton.

So sad to share the passing of Phil DeFilippis AKA

"Liebchen", always a gentleman, with a motorcycle!

Food time — Giovanni's 1033 North Old World Third Street — brings the tastes of the Old World back to Milwaukee. Sidney our server spoiled us, as we feasted on a Saturday night out on the town! Marcell Guyton played piano and serenaded us from 8 — 11:30 when we left — he still was tickling the ivories. Lots of favorites from when they were on Brady and Van Buren — Quality, quantity and comfort! Reservations strongly suggested 414-291-5600 or visit them

online: [giovannismilwaukee.com](http://giovannismilwaukee.com). Loved my dining experience there — my only critique the noise level — but this restaurant is housed in a fabulous old Milwaukee jewel of a building, so the charming architecture balances out the disturbances.

And so closes another column, I'm not fooling as I wish You a Happy April — spring is in the air and in your step! Remember it's the glamor, not the grammar, as I remain Still Cordially Yours,.

## Senator Tammy Baldwin Sends Letter of Thanks to *This Is It* Owner Joe Brehm for his Contributions over the years to Milwaukee's LGBT Community.

### First some history on Joe and his bar, "This Is It"

- "This Is It" bar opened in 1968 by June & Mike Brehm.
- At the time, there were few bars that welcomed the LGBT population; "This Is It" was a pioneer in welcoming gay men and making them feel comfortable, relaxed, and accepted.
- Early advertising called it "The East Side's New Food 'N' Fun Bar", and "Popular downtown lounge busy with reserved gentlemen and then some not so reserved."
- For over 40 years, Joe Brehm continues to operate the bar as a gay bar in relatively unaltered condition; through June's death in 2010 and to this day.
- Under Joe's management, the bar has the distinction of being not only one of the longest continuously running gay bar in the city, but also being a staunch supporter of the gay community.
- Joe helped the owners of the "Wisconsin Light" newspaper computerize and use new technology for typesetting, layout, email, etc.
- Joe and This Is It! are the first in line to support community causes, hosting fundraising events for the Cream City Foundation, AIDS, and other worthy causes.
- Joe Brehm & This Is It has been an annual sponsor of the annual PrideFest History Exhibit.
- This Is It's 40th anniversary was celebrated with a 2008 article in "Q-Life" newspaper.
- In 2012, "This Is It" was highlighted as a major presence in Milwaukee and the State of Wisconsin in the Wisconsin Historical Society Press' book "Bottoms Up- A Toast to Wisconsin's Historic Bars & Breweries" (written by Jim Draeger and Mark Speltz).
- Over the years, Joe (with help from recent partner George Schneider) have together kept the bar exciting, and have maintained a loyal following of old-timers as well as new blood.
- As the only LGBT bar in the immediate downtown area, it is an important social gathering place for visitors staying in downtown hotels.
- And yet, "This Is It" is a comfortable spot for the straight community to patronize as well; it is a favorite spot for all visitors to Jazz in the Park, Bastille Days, and other downtown events.

Check out:

<http://mkelgbthist.org/business/bars/thisisit.htm>



TAMMY BALDWIN  
UNITED STATES SENATOR

March 2016

Dear Joe:

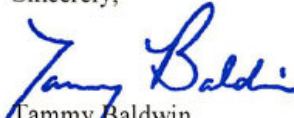
I want to let you know how much you are appreciated, both by me and our community. In the late 1960's, when your mom opened *This Is It*, being gay or lesbian was often synonymous with a feeling of isolation, discrimination, and fear of the very institutions in place to protect the public.

Since 1968, *This Is It* has been a beacon of hope, an oasis of understanding, and a safe haven for those misunderstood by the community around them. It continues to be a lifeline for young people simply trying to find their way, as well as a gathering place for your "regulars," many of whom have built long-lasting relationships and redefined the definition of "family."

Your lifetime of support, both in the early years and since your mom's passing, has been unparalleled. From offering help to Jerry and Terry in publishing the Wisconsin Light, to your often being the first to step forward when there was a need in the LGBT community, your support has been unwavering. I want to join a host of others in expressing my gratitude to you and your family. Because of your life and commitment to our community, lives have been changed for the better.

Thank you for making the world a more welcoming, generous, and understanding place.

Sincerely,

  
Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator

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April showers have brought way to May flowers. . . at least I think they are flowers. . . Could just be a rather tiny drag queen in her Sunday garb. But who am I kidding there is no such thing as a tiny Drag queen right?? (My email is going to be SO full of hate mail this month.)

That's right boys and girls it's May and that means just one short month before pride. The Pride Parade is in full swing and I am sure they are putting together another great show this year. See what they are up to on their website [www.prideparademke.org](http://www.prideparademke.org) or on facebook @Milwaukee Pride Parade.

And of course we can't have Pride without Pridefest! The headliners have been announced and I'm sure you are all flocking to get your tickets together and figure out how you're going to get there. For more information as always you can check out their website [www.pridefest.com](http://www.pridefest.com) or on facebook @Pridefest Milwaukee.

While I am on the topic of these organizations I just want to extend my personal thanks to all of the people involved with each organization. Both of these organizations are run by volunteers and require huge time commitments from all of their members. Both Pridefest and the Pride Parade work year round to make sure that everything will be perfect for the coming year. So, next time you see a volunteer for either Pridefest or the Pride Parade

(Or ANY volunteer organization for that matter) let them know how much you appreciate their hard work.

Okay let's get to it. This month I figured we should talk about a new piercing fad which seems to be taking the world by storm. They are called Dermal Anchors. Now I'm not going to call them piercings because in reality they are not the true definition of what they are is a "Trans-dermal Implant." I know that's a big word for a lot of my readers so we will bring it down a level or 10. What that really means is that there is a piece of metal permanently implanted under your skin and then different "Ends" can be screwed on to the base. That's right I said permanent, once these piercings heal they need to be surgically removed by cutting the skin which holds them in. A not so fun and not so painless procedure I might add.

Dermal Anchors have a few additional concerns over a traditional piercing. For starters when they are removed, or if they migrate (reject), they will leave a larger and more noticeable scar than a traditional piercing. Additionally, Dermal Anchors go deeper into the body than a traditional piercing and thus the risk of bleeding and bruising to the site of the piercing is increased dramatically.

The care of Dermal Anchors also varies from that of traditional piercings. First and foremost the body needs time to heal and begin to grow new tissue to hold in the anchor, for this reason you should wear a small band-aid over the anchor to prevent it from falling out for the first 2 weeks. After that you should wear the band-aid for another 2 weeks when you sleep. If you toss and turn in your sleep you should continue to wear the band-aid every night when you go to bed. As for cleaning it use an anti-bacterial soap and gently clean around, and under the "head" of, the jewelry once to twice daily. The best time to do this is at the end of your shower after you have shampooed and body washed.

Looks like we have some space for reader mail. . . let's see here:

Dear Brent,

*I have been reading your column for a long time and there is one thing I have to ask. How do you come up with the ideas for your column and why do you have such an attitude about it?*

— John

Well thanks for writing in John. As far as how I come up with the idea's that is easy. I just sit down and think of something good to write about. As far as my attitude, I really don't think I have an attitude. I like to think of it as my writing style, and it's not my fault that I do it in my own little crass way. I also have the attitude I do because this is something very important to me, and I will never step down to anyone when it comes to things that are important to me. Thanks for the letter John.

Well that's really about all the brain power I can pour into this one without a serious dose Of Jack Daniels. In the mean time have a great Month of May, a Happy Memorial Day Weekend, and don't forget to check out both the Milwaukee Pride Parade and Pridefest at [www.prideparademke.org](http://www.prideparademke.org) and [www.pridefest.com](http://www.pridefest.com) respectively.

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My Place 3201 South Ave LaCrosse (608)788-9073  
Players 300 4th St, La Crosse (608)784-4200  
Chances R 417 Jay St, La Crosse (608)782-5105  
Club 5 Bar/Restaurant 5 Applegate Ct Madison, (608)277-9700  
Plan B 924 Williamson Street, Madison  
Shamrock 117 W Main Madison (608)255-5029  
SOTTO 303 N Henry St Madison  
WOOF'S 114 King Street, Madison (608)204-6222 [www.madwoofs.com](http://www.madwoofs.com)

### NORTHEASTERN WI (920)

Hideout Bar (Gay friendly) 2828 N Ballard Rd, Appleton 920-830-2137  
Rascals Bar & Grill 702 E. Wisconsin, Appleton (920)954-9262  
Round A Bout 1264 Main St Green Bay, WI 54302 920-544-9544  
Napalese 1351 Cedar Green Bay (920)432-9646  
No Limits 500 N. Baird St Green Bay (920)-544-4963  
THE SHELTER 730 N. Quincy St. Green Bay 920-432-2662  
XS Niteclub 1106 Main Street, Green Bay  
The Remixx 8386 State Rd 76 Neenah 54956 (920)725-6483  
Debs Spare Time 1303 Harrison St Oshkosh (920)235-6577  
Blue Lite 1029 N 8th, Sheboygan (920)457-1636

### NORTHERN WISCONSIN (715)

The Lounge 2823 London Rd., Eau Claire, (715) 952-3456  
Scooters 411 Galloway Eau Claire (715)835-9959  
JT's Bar and Grill 1506 N. 3rd Superior (715)-394-2580  
The Flame 1612 Tower Ave Superior, WI (715)395-0101  
The Main 1217 Tower Ave Superior, WI (715)392-1756  
OZ 320 Washington St, Wausau [www.totheoos.com](http://www.totheoos.com) (715)842-3225

### MILWAUKEE (414)

Art Bar 722 Burleigh, (414)372-7880  
DIX 739 S 1st Street  
Fluid 819 South 2nd (414)643-5843  
Harbor Room 117 E Greenfield (414)672-7988  
Hybrid 707 E Brady St (414)810-1809  
KRUIZ 354 E. National (414)272-KRUIZ  
LaCage (lower & main floor) Montage (Upper) 801S 2nd, (414)383-8330  
Riverwest Public House (LGBTQ friendly) 815 E Locust St. 53212  
Studio 200 (mixed) 200 E Washington St  
This Is It 418 E Wells (414)278-9192  
Two (mixed) 718 E. Burleigh St.  
Walker's Pint 818 S 2nd St (414)643-7468  
Woody's 1579 S 2nd (414) 672-0806

### SOUTHEASTERN WI (262)

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[www.club-icon.com](http://www.club-icon.com)

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