

QUEST

MAGAZINE

Volume 23, #5

May 2016



ERIC THE NEW DIRECTOR OF MILWAUKEE PRIDE

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
Mike Hiller

A Reading and Discussion with
Mark Zubro

for his new lgbt mystery

4:00 P.M. Saturday May 14

Outwords Books 2710 N. Murray Avenue Milwaukee



Mark will also be at the Outwords booth at Pridefest June 11.
Still available his lgbt political mystery
Another Dead Republican

OUTWORDS BOOKS HOSTS RECEPTION FOR AUTHOR MARK ZUBRO



Outwords Books, Gifts & Coffee will host a literary reception on Saturday May 14, 2016 at 4:00pm for bestselling Gay Murder Mystery writer Mark Zubro. Mark will read from **Dying for a Thrill**, the second in the award-winning mystery writer's new "Mike King" mystery series.

Dying for a Thrill follows on the heels of Mark's popular 2015 release, **Dying to Play**.

In **Dying for a Thrill**, Detective Mike King finds himself investigating international intrigue after a group of gay computer hackers seeks his help and protection. Even as the worst blizzard in Chicago history rages outside, Mike King and his cohorts must deal with the usual apocalyptic folderol of spies, plots, and fear. Throw in a dead body no one can find and plots against various governments and individuals around the world, which become centered on a group of gay self-proclaimed Robin Hoods and it is left to Mike King to sort it all out before the world caves in on them or on himself.

In addition to **Dying for a Thrill**, Mark Zubro has two additional gay murder mystery series to his credit. The Lammy-winning **Simple Suburban Murder** introduced Mark's "Tom & Scott" series back in 1989. Mark's second series follows gay Chicago detective Paul Turner. The latest Paul Turner mystery, **Satan's Pawn**, recently received a Lambda Literary Award nomination for Best Gay Mystery.

Mark Zubro will read and sign copies of **Dying for a Thrill** beginning at 4:00pm on Saturday May 14, 2016 at **Outwords Books, Gifts & Coffee**, located at 2710 N. Murray Ave. in Milwaukee.

And, before you ask, yes, there will be Kringle...

This is a free event and all are welcome. For further information, please call visit www.outwordsbooks.com or (414) 963-9089.

PIRATES AT THE SKYLIGHT By Paul Masterson

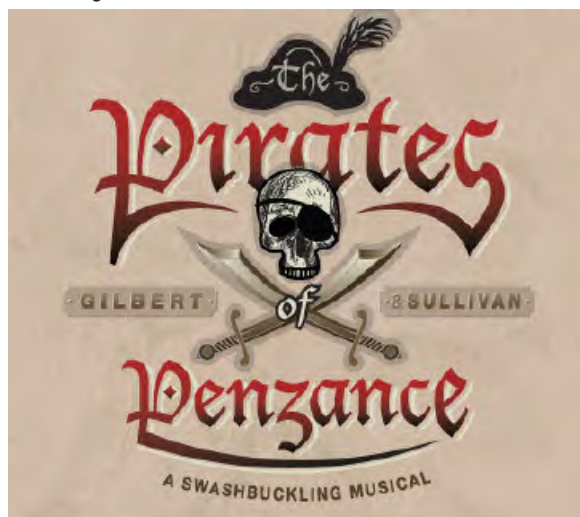
The Skylight Music Theatre ends its season dedicated to divas, heroines, and harlots with a performance of Gilbert & Sullivan's *The Pirates of Penzance*. The English duo's work actually premiered in New York City in 1879 to critical acclaim. For the following near decade and a half it remains a popular mainstay of the American operetta repertoire. The connection to the Skylight theme of powerful women may not be at first apparent. However, for all Pirates' swashbuckling and swagger, it is the women who manage the mayhem of the males.


While the Skylight's audience is well known for its penchant for Gilbert and Sullivan, this is the first work of theirs to be staged at the Skylight since the arrival of its current artistic director, Vishwa Subbaraman in 2013. There's nothing like anticipation. With stage direction by Shawna Lucey, Robert Linder's musical direction and choreography by Ryan Cappelmann, it will, no doubt, be well worth the wait.

The run also features the last of the BeOUT LGBT Nights of the season. Supported by various community organizations, these are wonderful evenings of entertainment with a cocktail hour, a light buffet beginning at 6:30 pm. Curtain is at 7:30. Tickets are also offered at a reduced rate. Since its inception a few seasons ago, Milwaukee GAMMA has made the Skylight BeOUT Night a tradition of its monthly GAMMA-OUT events.

For tickets call the Skylight Theatre at 414-291-7800 or order tickets @ www.skylightmusictheatre.org/shows-events/events/be-out-at-skylight-2 Use the Code "BEOUT40" when ordering!

And, in case you haven't heard, the Skylight's holiday offering for the 2016-17 season is none other than that calamitous gay musical farce, *La Cage Aux Folles*! The celebration of drag and gay family values opens November 18 and runs through December 23, 2016. But, more on that when the time comes.





THURSDAY MULES

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Thursdays are all about Mules.

Grab a Tito's American Mule,
or any other mule, and enjoy!



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PO Box 1961 Green Bay, 54305 920-655-0611
editor@quest-online.com
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Publisher: Mark Mariucci (ZA)

Contributors: Paul Masterson, Glenn Bishop, Dear Ruthie, Michael Johnston, Brent H

Photography: Mark Mariucci, Will Sharkey, Paul Masterson

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PHOTOGRAPHY



ERIC HEINRITZ, MILWAUKEE PRIDE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND PRIDEFEST PRODUCER

Story by Paul Masterson, Photography by Mike Hiller

Earlier this year, QUEST reported the hiring of Eric Heinritz as the first Executive Director of Milwaukee Pride. This month QUEST's cover features the new face of the region's greatest LGBT Pride organization celebration, and, at the same time, the producer of its main event, PrideFest.

Heinritz is long familiar with the workings of major festival production. He served for 14 seasons with Milwaukee World Festival, Inc, producer of Summerfest and the various ethnic festivals. Since 2001 Heinritz worked directly with PrideFest (The event has been part of the World Festivals, Inc since moving to Henry W. Meier Festival Park in 1996). In 2010 Heinritz became Director of Food and Beverage for Milwaukee World Festival and assisted PrideFest in its development of food and beverage sales.

Heinritz joined the Milwaukee Pride board of directors in 2014 just in time for its restructuring as a 501(c)3 organization. He was then elected Vice President, serving in that capacity until being hired as its Executive Director in January of 2016.

Heinritz's new role as executive director of Milwaukee Pride and PrideFest producer will certainly rely on his background and extensive experience gained while working for Milwaukee World Festival. There are obvious similarities in the structures of the various ethnic festivals, Summerfest and PrideFest. Of course, there are inherent dif-



ferences as well. For one thing, PrideFest staff is all volunteer. That adds a positive dynamic of enthusiastic individuals with great dedication and a sense of common purpose. Many volunteers return year after year and know their roles. However, the sheer numbers required for the various parts that make up PrideFest – entertainment, grounds management, security, food, beverage, and vendors among others – result in volunteer turnover, training and a degree of staff adjustment. That unto itself is an undertaking.

And because PrideFest represents the greater LGBT community's spectrum of diversity, there are always new challenges. It's not just about bears and drag queens. Un-

like the ethnic festivals that cater to essentially their homogeneous communities, PrideFest needs to be sure everyone has an equal stake in the festival. The ever evolving social and political environment requires that PrideFest respond accordingly. That means expanding the PrideFest programs and services to include once marginalized or otherwise underserved groups, like the transgender community and LGBT families. That takes sensitivity and a conscientious effort. Last year, for example, in deference to the transcommunity, Milwaukee Pride formalized its all-access public bathroom policy.

Heinritz also takes on the duties of fundraising and integrating sponsors, corporations and individuals into the greater family of Pride supporters. In the past, this function was part many obligations of the board of directors. However, as the festival grew and the board implemented a strategy of year-round programming and collaborations with other entities, it became clear that the task required a full-time effort. So, once PrideFest is over and done with for 2016, Heinritz will focus on developing that new aspect of Pride's mission.

Under Heinritz's direction we can expect Milwaukee Pride's role in the city's profile both as an unifying LGBT organization and as an integral part of our larger community to continue to grow exponentially.

WIN PRIDEFEST TICKETS ON THE QUEER PROGRAM

Once again The Queer Program will be giving away a pair of PrideFest one-day tickets on each Monday's live TV program until PrideFest. All you have to do is call in to answer the trivia question correctly &

you win the pair of tickets!

The Queer Program -in its 23rd year- is a live weekly public access cable TV program produced through Milwaukee Community Media and sponsored by the

G/L Community Fund.

The Queer Program airs live Mondays at 6:30-7:30pm on Time Warner Cable 96 and ATT Uverse 99. The Queer Program replays Fridays Midnite and Saturdays 10pm

A promotional poster for a screening of 'Pink Flamingos' hosted by Divine Trash. The background is a dense field of pink flamingos. In the lower-left corner, there is a black and white photo of a person with blonde hair and heavy makeup, wearing a red sequined dress. The text 'PINK FLAMINGOS' is at the top in large white letters. Below it, 'SCREENING HOSTED BY DIVINE TRASH' is written in a stylized font. The date '5.12.16' is prominently displayed in the center. Below the date, it says 'hosts arrive 8pm, film starts 9pm'. In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for 'THIS IS IT!' featuring a stylized archway, and the address '418 E. WELLS STREET - MILWAUKEE' is at the very bottom.

MAM FEATURES COLLECTION OF GAY PLAYWRIGHT LANFORD WILSON

By Paul Masterson

By Paul Masterson

It was 1962. Like many artists, playwright Lanford Wilson arrived in New York City with great expectations and little money. He lived in fleabag motels among the city's riffraff...prostitutes, their johns, drug addicts, and the extended coterie of those living on the seamy edge of society. His own creative beat was the Off-Off Broadway scene. It should really be of no surprise that a gay man gravitated to the outside periphery of the social order of the times. It would be another seven years until Stonewall, and even after the fact, gay life would still be challenging.

Wilson's career would, however, move from those humble beginnings to greater fame. It would take off with his 1964 production of *The Madness of Lady Bright*. In the 1969, he co-founded the Circle Repertory Company. In 1978 his *Fifth of July* would be nominated for a Tony Award and, in 1980, he won a Pulitzer Prize for *Talley's Follies*. Along the way, he would study art history, hang with the notable artists of his time and collect their art.

Perhaps his affinity and personal connection to outsiders like himself attracted Wilson to visual artists of a similar ilk. He began collecting quite inadvertently while in Louisiana during the filming of friend Robert Harling's *Steel Magnolias*. There, he happened to notice a painting by Clementine Hunter, *Zinnias*, and bought it as a souvenir of his trip. The 18x14" canvas shows a red jug with nine large blossoms. Perhaps he was attracted to its simplicity or its bright, natural clutter of colors. Either way or another, the purchase ignited a passion. He would assemble hundreds of works, sometimes selling some to acquire others. He would collect not by artist but by aesthetic. But, of those artists he chose, he selected the best. The resulting collection would reside in his home, where he would curate the array of drawings, paintings and sculptures, moving pieces and rearranging them as the mood struck him.

Wilson died in 2011 and, a year later, his estate donated the collection to the Milwaukee Art Museum. Already renowned for its holdings of outsider, self-taught and folk art, it was yet another natural fit for Wilson's continuing legacy.



Taking Center Stage: The Lanford Wilson Collection of Self-Taught Art is currently on view in the special exhibition room in the newly renovated second level of the Milwaukee Art Museum's Bradley Gallery and runs through July 3, 2016.

PHOTOGRAPHER MAGNUS HASTINGS' NEW COLLECTION OF BRILLIANTLY VIBRANT IMAGES POSES THE QUESTION: "WHY DRAG?"

Magnus Hastings' new coffee-table book, *Why Drag?*, offers readers a rare glimpse at a generation in drag. Inspired by the photographer's renowned New York art exhibition, *Why Drag?* began in the summer of 2014, when Hastings set out to travel through North America to shoot some of drag's brightest talents and biggest names. With his camera in tow, Hastings made his way across the country for two years, snapping hundreds of intimate portraits while posing models the question: *Why drag?* The book offers answers from the industry's top talent, in the form of gorgeous photos by Hastings accompanied by short stories that are marked by their humor and, oftentimes, sincerity. Queens featured in the book include Bianca Del Rio, Courtney Act, Jackie Beat, Adore Delano, Jinkx Monsoon, Lady Bunny, Detox, and Sharon Needles. The legendary Boy George writes the book's foreword. Magnus Hastings' *Why Drag?* is available everywhere books are sold on May 17 via Chronicle Books.

Magnus Hastings' affection for his subject runs deep, and if only in his meticulous attention to detail, it shows in earnest from cover to cover. "I think

a big part of *Why Drag?* is rooted in that little effeminate boy who was shamed out of doing what made him happy," says Hastings. "I grew up resenting that childhood version of myself until one day, I had such a wave of love for him. I realized how extraordinary and beautiful he was, how fearless. Somehow I think this honors him." Hastings' reputation precedes him as the eminent man behind the lens when it comes to all things drag, so it only makes sense that his volume of drag portraits would push boundaries, provoke thought, and put the unapologetic on parade. Prevalent cityscapes include New York City, Los Angeles, and the artist's drag city of choice, San Francisco. "I have such a soft spot for San Francisco drag," says Hastings. "And the incredible way they create something for just one night. That's kind of been skipped by the mainstream, but it's a huge part of my book."

"Adore Delano is a fantastic representation of an important side of drag," says Hastings. "That punk rock, I-don't-give-a-shit edge that gets watered down the more mainstream it gets. Drag is meant to be challenging and dangerous as far as I'm con-



cerned, not safe and sponsored by Disney."

"Drag doesn't make much sense." So writes Alaska Thunderfuck, pictured off of Melrose Avenue. "It takes up all of your time, consumes most of your money, and

may subject you to some of the most extreme ridicule on the planet."

"But I imagine it is like being a nun or priest," she continues. "Once you get the divine calling, you have no choice in the matter and you belong to drag for life."

A testimony to the photographer's talents as a portraitist, *Why Drag?* also serves as a timely reiteration that in a drag culture - where pushing boundaries is the exception rather than the rule - there will always be a need to stand up for grit.

"I want people who don't know drag to be opened up to its beauty and its comedy," says Hastings. "It's a wonderland, and I want people to go there."



**Diverse & Resilient
Bayard Rustin
Awards Dinner**
held at the
Milwaukee Marriott
April 7, 2016

Photos courtesy of
Michael Lisowski





"Helicopter Mom" and "Henry Gamble's Birthday Party"

By Glenn Bishop

Increasingly convinced that Glenn was born sans a sense of humor, the gentlemen of the monthly cinema circle co-opted programming, deliberately choosing **Helicopter Mom** to be paired with **Henry Gamble's Birthday Party**, a film Glenn had already seen at last year always fabulous Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival.

As both films prominently feature a 17 year-olds' birthday, the pairing reflects impeccable logic. Still, any success in this cinematic stroll down memory lane would surely rest upon how amply stocked the bar proved to be, of that Glenn was quite certain.

For those loyal **Quest** readers unfamiliar with the term "Helicopter Mom," as indeed Glenn must concede ignorance, let's take a moment and look to those lovely folks at Wikipedia for guidance, "Helicopter parents are so named because, like helicopters, they hover overhead, overseeing their child's life."

The 'copter in question is Maggie Cooper who is played by Nia Vardalos, familiar to many amongst the cinema circle as Toula in **My Big Fat Greek Wedding** and again in the unimaginatively titled, **My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2**, currently playing in various local cinemas.

The object of her obsession is her long-suffering son Lloyd (Jason Dolley), whose 17th birthday celebration opens the film.

Initially Glenn was intrigued as their relationship seemed somewhat reminiscent of the mother/son relationship in Josh Thomas' fabulous Australian comedy, **Please Like Me**, which definitely puts the "fun" back in dysfunctional families.

In Duke Tran's stereotype riddled screenplay, early scenes are of the "wouldn't it be funny if Maggie did..." variety. For example, wouldn't it be funny if for Lloyd's birthday Maggie takes her blindfolded son to Venice Beach, accessorize him nearly to death and then deliberately

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

As Cone did with his acclaimed, **The Wise Kids**, the focus in **Henry Gamble's Birthday Party** is how characters seek to align their religious beliefs within the daily challenges of a world dominated with rampant exposure to social media and changing notions of sexual freedom.

Often quite entertaining and boasting plenty of cute shirtless lads, upon further review Glenn found himself to have warmed to **Henry Gamble's Birthday Party**.

Now, **Helicopter Mom** is different kettle of fish altogether.

A film or a television show centered on a pompous or overbearing character is tricky business. Glenn can think of several successful examples, certainly Carroll O'Connor's iconic Archie Bunker (**All in the Family**) comes quickly to mind. **Keeping Up Appearances'** Hyacinth (Patricia Routledge) is a particular favorite of many in the monthly cinema circle.

Perhaps delightful in her signature role in **My Big Fat Greek Wedding**, Nia Vardalos' Maggie quickly becomes unsympathetic because her antics aren't cute and, in some cases, like papering Lloyd's school with the embarrassing flyers, she's in on the joke; she too is laughing at, not with her son.

For his part, Jason Dolley's Lloyd possesses a winning sanguine acceptance surely down to long years of Maggie's misbehavior. Lloyd might love his mother but the clock is ticking down until time when he too will leave her.

Normally Glenn would jettison **Helicopter Mom** right to the bin but many in the group found much more to enjoy than did Glenn, again suggesting that perhaps Glenn is somewhat lacking in the sense of humor department. -- Then again, perhaps not.

Just the facts...

Helicopter Mom is in English and has a running time of 81 minutes Due on DVD May 17 with a SRP of \$24.99

Henry Gamble's Birthday Party is in English and has a running time of 86 minutes Due on DVD May 3 with a SRP of \$24.95 Extras include Theatrical trailer, Closed Captioning, Director's commentary, Interview with Cole Doman plus Bonus short



shove him into a group of rough and tumble bikers conveniently passing by? Or, wouldn't it be hilarious for Lloyd to go to school after Maggie has taped up dozens of really embarrassing flyers.

There's laughter from his classmates but as Lloyd ruefully points out, his classmates were laughing at him, not with him.

Surprisingly enough, Maggie's been rather oblivious over Lloyd's sexuality until her new friend Norma (Kate Flannery) mentions the existence of gay student scholarships. Sadly, Norma's son is not gay – he doesn't like Pesto.

Maggie warms to the notion, insisting that she'd be thrilled if Lloyd were gay, "He'd be the only man in my life who never left me for another woman.

He'd be with me all the time. Oh, my God. My gay son and me going purse shopping."

Deciding that her sensitive, poetry-writing son must be gay, Maggie completes the gay student scholarship application, creates an online profile and even sets Lloyd up with Parker (David Lewis), just the sort of stereotypical gay character moviegoers are far likelier to laugh at, not with.

Amidst 'copter Mom Maggie's increasingly embarrassing antics, her scenes at the prom proving especially inappropriate, it is the quieter, more genuine narrative of Lloyd's own questioning of his sexuality that is very nearly lost.

Like Lloyd in **Helicopter Mom**, Henry Gamble (Cole Doman) is turning 17. Unlike Lloyd, Henry is not questioning his sexuality; this is made abundantly clear from the film's opening sequence in which Henry deftly maneuvers Gabe (Joe Keery) his best friend and the object of his affection, into a jerk-off session.

Come the next afternoon, even God seems to have cooperated, bestowing a picture-perfect day for Henry Gamble's birthday party, a poolside gathering peopled with a curious hodgepodge of Henry's teen friends and assorted oldsters including Henry's parents plus church staff resulting in an intoxicating suburban Christian microcosm for director Stephen Cone, who here doubles as screenwriter.

Nominally the title character, Henry's narrative is just one of many, even within the Gamble family. Henry's mother Kat (Elizabeth Laidlaw) is clearly quite unhappy, giving her son's party scant attention while his sister Autumn (Nina Ganet) finds her brother's party the perfect time to have a meltdown with her once and then once-again boyfriend.

Indeed a myriad of other, supporting characters vie for attention over



the course of the afternoon, some more effectively drawn than others. Glenn was particularly smitten with Christine (Melanie Neilan), openly lesbian and delightfully mischievous when quizzing Henry's sister Autumn about having biology as a major at a Christian College. Less successful is shrewish Bonnie (Hanna Dworkin), a self-righteous old prude, obsessed with the evils of sex trafficking and who reminded Glenn of the Dementors from the Harry Potter films, creatures who drain all of the joy, hope, and happiness out of all around them. A perfect example of one of Bonnie's victims is her deeply forlorn daughter Grace, wistfully played by newcomer Darci Nalepa.

Neither invited, nor made to feel welcome is Ricky (Patrick Andrews), an emotional train wreck of a character who might be gay and more disturbingly, may have tried to commit suicide. Director Stephen Cone makes no more effective an indictment of the hypocrisy of these Christians who are content to allow unsubstantiated rumors about Ricky to be spread. Even Pastor Bob, outwardly a warm and genial family man, tragically fails Ricky.



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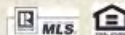
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The Iron Diaries – Fitness & Health

5 Tips For Getting Fit By Summer

It's never too late to start brushing up on your diet and training to feel more comfortable when the nice weather appears. *Motivate yourself for some killer workouts and delicious healthy meals leading up to Summer with these 5 tips:*

#1 Set a New Goal

New Year isn't the only time you can set yourself a new resolution, and when you're low on motivation, it's the perfect time to set yourself a new one. Aim small, *something you can achieve in 2-4 weeks:*

- Progress on your splits
- 3-pull ups in a row
- Running for 20 minutes without stopping
- A new squat Personal Best

Just choose something that will push you, but won't take you too long to achieve – that way you won't get bored of it!

#2 Sort Out Your Kitchen

Give your kitchen a mini-overhaul and get some lean meats, fresh fruits and fresh veggies in.

When you're hungry you go for something quick and easy, so it's no wonder you end up snacking on chips and chocolate if that's what you've got in your cupboards.

- Go get yourself some healthy foods in and get ready to spring clean your diet.
- Shoot me an email to

Darron@DLFitnessFoundation.com and I'll send you my grocery list for clients.

#3 Reward Yourself

It's good to treat yourself – *but only every once in a while*, so use it to keep you motivated. Put at least \$1 in a jar every time you workout and treat yourself to something new when you reach your goal.

- Not only will this keep you motivated to work out regularly, it'll keep you motivated to keep reaching for your goal.
- The bigger the goal, the bigger the pay out!

#4 Get Ready

Even when you don't feel like working out, *just get into your gym gear*. By the time you're ready to go you either feel ready to go or you think "well I might as well do it now" as you're already changed!

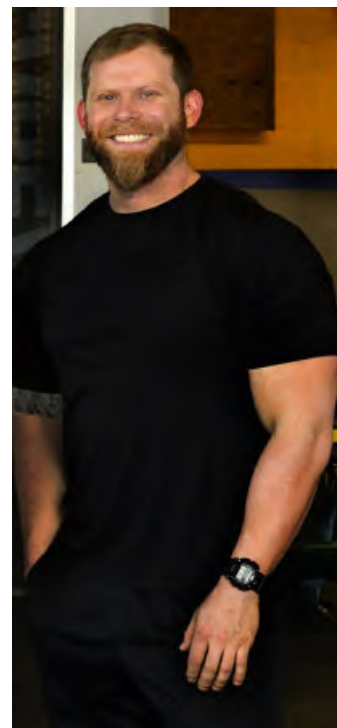
- Whether you prefer early workouts or evening workouts, this trick works every time – so get ready, and go!

#5 Get Pumped

When all else fails, there's always caffeine! Whether you're a coffee person or a *pre-workout* person, there's always something to get us going – my personal favorite is Megawatt V2 which can be found at www.WeAre.1stPhorm.com (Free Shipping!). Pick your flavor and get ready to workout!

Take Home Message

It's never too late to start living a healthier lifestyle – begin adapting your routine now and reap the benefits.



Darron Lattomus MS, CPT, FNS
Founder of
DLFitnessFoundation.com
Director of Strength Training at
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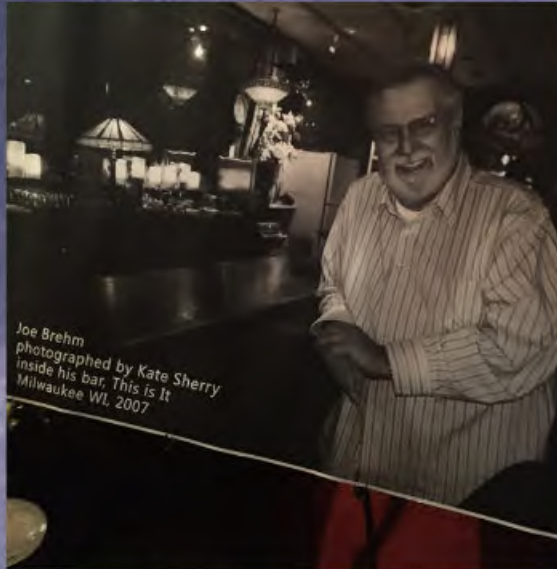
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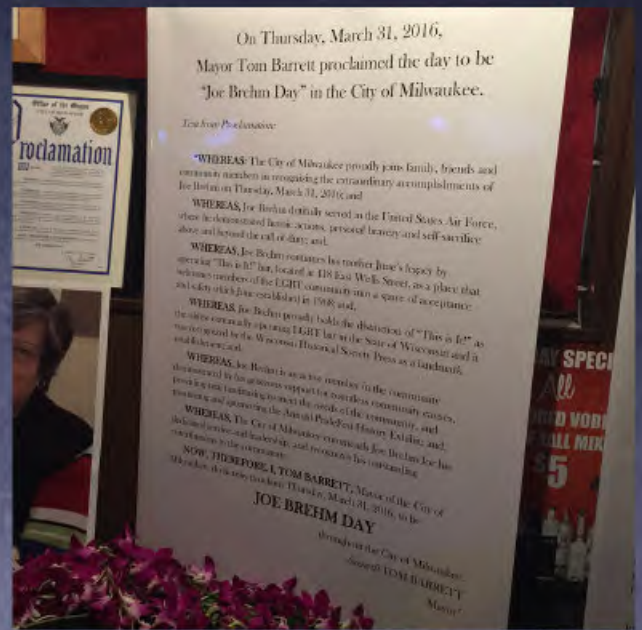
BOUND MAGAZINE

Volume 15 #5 May 2016



Joe Brehm
photographed by Kate Sherry
inside his bar, This is It
Milwaukee WI, 2007

Joe Brehm Memorial at This Is It, Milwaukee



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



Cordially Yours

by Michael Johnston

May Day, May Day – here we are once again in the very, very month of May. Hopefully the Sun is shining and the snow is on hiatus for at least six months!

Sunday, May 1 brings the re-opening of the Mitchell Park Domes and not a moment too soon. Go commune with nature and enjoy while you can, this international treat in our own back yard!

Come celebrate Cinco de Mayo-nniase (Thursday, May 5) at This Is It hosted by the titillating Divine Trash. In this case please hold the Mayo!

While the Domes are a perfect spot to celebrate everything this month has to offer including Mother's Day – I just wanted to remind you all that The M&M Club Reunion Party is this Mother's Day – Sunday, May 8th Noon – 6 pm. This has been Rona's passion all year! Bob Schmidt will be coming in from the left coast and all we need is You to be there and make it happen! The Irish Bar – formerly The M&M Club 124 North Water Street in the Historic Third Ward is where we'll all be gathering, come and make some history!

Now through Sunday, May 8th Dale Gutzman's Off The Wall Theatre will be doing Terrence McNally's "It's Only A Play". An all-star cast recreates the exciting all-star Broadway cast production. First time done here! Come and salute this great collaboration. To get your reser-

vation call the darling Donna at 414-327-3552.

The season of spring is in the air finally, as is "Sirens of Song" running now through Sunday, May 29 – a world premiere with The Milwaukee Rep. Conceived and directed by Kevin Ramsey, text by Pearl Ramsey and Kevin Ramsey. Featuring three powerhouse female vocalists rocking the house from "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" to "I Will Survive" – You will do more than survive if you see and hear this epic, you're guaranteed to flourish! www.milwaukeeerep.com/414-224-9490.

Off-Broadway's hilarious "Dixie's Tupperware Party" starring Dixie Longate returns to the Marcus Center's Wilson Theater at Vogel Hall Thursday, May 12 – Sunday, May 15. Miss Dixie made the Midwest rise again when this sexy siren landed in the Cream City. Do yourself the favor and come see this laugh-a-thon!

Thursday, May 12th I return to The Pfister's Blu to BLU-tend! This time out it is for the Mitchell Park Domes. 5:30 – 7:30 pm, all tips and 10% of the receipts go to support our cherished "Igloos of Nature".

Afterwards let's all go to This Is It and make George's night complete as he pours during Happy Hour(s). And stay on for a special screening of "Pink Flamingos" the John Water's classic (Thursday, May 12) at This Is It. The d-vine Miss

Divine Trash will hostess and make your movie adventure that much richer!

Friday, May 13 and Sunday, May 15 Johann Strauss, II "Die Fledermaus" roars in at Uihlein Hall of The Marcus to close out the Florentine Opera's season majestically. You must love this one, grand opera at it's very best! Prince Orlofsky the Drag King for the ages! I adored The Florentine's last show "Three Decembers" – if you ever get the chance to view this/hear this do it, truly a modern day Masterpiece. This summer catch The Florentine singing all over our fair hamlet – Florentine @ Colectivo on Humboldt June 17, @ the Lakefront June 18 and July 9 and 23 In Bay View August 5, Florentine @ Estrabrook Beer Garden @ Eastabrook Park June 21, July 11. August 9 Florentine @ Festa Italiana –Summerfest Grounds July 17 and 18, Live @ Peck Pavilion @ The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts August 7 and 14. Opera isn't just for your Grandmother anymore!

Potawatomi Hotel & Casino's The Northern Lights Theater proudly presents some pleasant diversion for us this month: Carrot Top Thursday, May 12, In Living Color Comedy Tour Friday, May 13 and Jason Bonham's Led Zeppelin Experience Friday, May 27 Tickets available at: Ticketmaster.com, 800-745-3000 or visit NLT Box Office. You're sure to be a winner by taking in these shows at Potawatomi!

Stamp Out Hunger – Saturday, May 14 – the largest single day Food Drive! Fill bag(s) with non-perishable food items and leave it for your Mail

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Sunday, May 15 is Nova D'Vine's sensational revue: "Bubbles & Beauties" 6 pm at The Hybrid Lounge. What a great way to ease from the weekend – and oh so glamorously!

Thursday, May 19 Tall Thomas Terrific of This Is It fame rings in another year! Come on down and party with the party starter and help usher in a flawless year.

Skylight Music Theatre is closing out their season in sensational song with Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Pirates of Penzance" – a swashbuckling musical Friday, May 20 – Sunday, June 12. For tickets please call: 414-291-7800/skylightmusictheatre.org. I'm thrilled to be hosting Skylight Music Theatre's "Be Out" – Thursday, May 26. For \$40 You get a ticket to the current show (Pirates) and a pre-show gathering for the LGBT Community, Patrons and Friends. When ordering your tickets use the code: BeOut40 – see You all there!

A new Art Festival "Art in the Green" is blooming at The Mitchell Park Domes Saturday, May 21 9 am – 7 pm and Sunday, May 22 9 am – 4 pm – a two day Art Fair featuring up to 60 primarily local Artists – paintings, photography, jewelry, ceramics, glassworks, and much more! "Art in the Green" offers free admission and parking, come and enjoy the debut of this new event.

Broadway at The Marcus Center concludes with "Kinky Boots" Tuesday, May 31 – Sunday, June 5. What a stylish show to close the season out with... The music of Cyndi Lauper and the uplifting book by Harvey Fierstein – it's a cause for celebration and perfect to lead us into Pride

weekend! Come and take a walk on the wild side, in wild boots – 1-800-905-7469. Keep in mind the Cream City Foundation is hosting a special evening with "Kinky Boots". Wed., June 1 – the Gayest night – to take part use the code: CreamCity. 414-273-7121 # 213 or khough@marcuscenter.org Nancy Sinatra was right about these Boots ...

In the last issue, I hailed and farewell-ed dear Patrick Farrell... This month, yet another so long, to another legend, Joe Brehm of This Is It. Joe was not only This Is It – he was a gracious host, business owner and community advocate. And what a booming bass-o voice! The money he could have made in radio! I was a fan of him, his Mother and their lounge - always a lounge, never a tavern! ALS was his last fight and it was a valiant one. I am honored to be a member of the staff of This Is It working the Friday afternoon Happy Hour 5 – 8:30 pm. George Schneider, Joe's business partner is dedicated to taking TITs as it is called in the vernacular into our 50th year of business in two years. Yes TITs has been around since 1968! The oldest, longest running Gay bar in Wisconsin and with June and Joe watching from on high, the party at This Is It will never end. Kudos to all who worked so diligently to make "Joe's Send Off Party" so fabulous! Three hours of toasts, speeches, pictures, old songs, old friends, family, food, open bar - - what a way to go ...

Fluid is done with their mini facelift... a new floor making the place look even finer. It's terrific seeing businesses reinvest in themselves making it all much nicer for us the customer.

Congratz to Nate and Company for redo-ing An-

gelo's and bringing it in the new century, talk about a facelift! So glad this place didn't reinvent itself into another Chinese restaurant! As if we need one, thank you Nate for sparing this landmark, an authentic piano bar. There is a fun gal named Megan who makes a great dirty martini, go ahead and sample one – Cheers!

Love is in the air as yet another couple tied the knot! After a significant engagement of 16 years Peter Holbrook the CEO of the Cream City Foundation and his partner, noted fine artist, Tom (T.C.) Hoffman exchanged vows and are now one! They even married on their anniversary (of their first meeting/date) – no way forgetting now fellows.

One of my all-time favorite servers – arguably, one of the best in town, John has a new gig. After a lifetime at Chez Jacques in Walker's Point, John has gone west, as most young men do. Eddie Martini's is his new venue. So when you're in the mood for a fine martini and a quality steak – look up John at Eddie Martini's and you'll be in for a flawless dining experience!

A hearty thank you to all the marvelous Makers and Shakers that turned out and made "One Heartland – The fund Raiser", the success it was! Maple Veneer, Dear Ruthie, Goldie Adams, Wendi Bazaar, Chester Monroe and I had a blast – as we often do performing for you! As did the very generous capacity audience who were propelled to make this event even more profitable than last year. You got to love The Wherehouse and Paul Mueller for always opening his heart and doors to us.

It was sheer pleasure working with Parker Cristan,

MAY Bucket List

Sunday, May 1

The Re-opening of The Mitchell Park Domes
Mitchell Park Domes 524 S Layton Boulevard
9 am – 4 pm

Now – Sunday, May 29 "Sirens of Song"
The Milwaukee Repertory Theatre
108 East Wells Street

Thursday, May 5 Cinco De Mayo
Margaritas everyone – Ole!

Thursday, May 5 Cinco de Mayo-nnaise with
Divine Trash This Is It 418 East Wells Street

Saturday, May 7 The Running of the Roses –
The Kentucky Derby

Sunday, May 8 Mother's Day

Sunday, May 8 The M&M Club Reunion Party
The Irish Pub (formerly The M&M Club)
124 North Water Street Noon – 6 pm

Now – Sunday, May 8 "It's Only A Play"
Off The Wall Theatre 127 East Wells Street

Thursday, May 12 BLU-Tending for The
Mitchell Park Domes
The Pfister Hotel 424 East Wisconsin Avenue
5:30 – 7:30 pm 23rd floor

Thursday, May 12 "Pink Flamingos"
a special Screening with Divine Trash
This Is It 418 East Wells Street
George will be bartending – Happy Hour)

Thursday, May 12 – Sunday, May 15
"Dixie's Tupperware Party"
Wilson Theater at Vogel Hall – The Marcus
Center 929 North Water Street

Thursday, May 12 Carrot Top at Northern
Lights Theater Potawatomi Hotel & Casino
1721 West Canal Street

Friday, May 13 Friday the 13th – Beware!

Friday, May 13 and Sunday, May 15
Florentine Opera Company's "Die Fledermaus"
Uihlein Hall of The Marcus Center 929 N Water Street

Friday, May 13 In Living Color Comedy Tour
at Northern Lights Theater Potawatomi Hotel
& Casino 1721 West Canal Street

Saturday, May 14 Stamp Out Hunger – Leave
a bag of non-perishables for your mail carrier

Sunday, May 15
Miss Nova D'Vine's "Bubbles & Beauties" Revue
The Hybrid Lounge 707 E Brady Street 6 pm

Thursday, May 19
Thomas' Birthday Party
This Is It 418 East Wells Street

Friday, May 20 – Sunday, June 12
"Pirates of Penzance"
The Broadway Center 158 North Broadway

Saturday, May 21 Art in the Green
The Mitchell Park Domes 524 South Layton
Boulevard 9am – 7 pm

Sunday, May 22 Art in the Green
The Mitchell Park Domes 524 South Layton
Boulevard 9am – 4 pm

Wednesday, May 25 Pink Hat Party –
This Is It 418 East Wells Street 8 pm

Thursday, May 26 BeOut Skylight Music
Theatre "Pirates of Penzance"
The Broadway Center 158 North Broadway

Friday, May 27 Jason Bonham's Led Zeppelin
Experience at Northern Lights Theater
Potawatomi Hotel & Casino 1721 W Canal St

Friday, May 27 – Monday, May 30
IML – International Mr. Leather – Chicago

Monday, May 30 Memorial Day –
The first unofficial day of summer!

Tuesday, May 31 – Sunday, June 5
"Kinky Boots" Uihlein Hall of
The Marcus Center 929 North Water Street

Wednesday, June 1
Cream City Foundation and Kinky Boots
The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts

Laura Monagle, Tamara Martinsek, Peter Pfisterer, Phaedra Free and Maple Veneer as we helped Team Breitenbach battle Cancer for sweet Tari. It is always a pleasure to work the great stage at Montage of La Cage – and thank You Danny and Staff for rallying with us and making a bright lady's life a bit brighter!

Sunday Fun Day Show Tunes at Club Charlies is always way too much fun! Brian Reinkober, Nicole Lesser, De, Benji Franco, Matt and of course Craig help us make the most memorable Sundays on Earth!

We're on recurring status so watch Club Charlies web page or friend Karen Valentine Milwaukee on Face Book to know when we are taking to the stage again! Happy 7th Anniversary of successful business Club Charlies! Craig was beaming at their recent anniversary bash! He has a great crew seeing to everyone's needs in the Historic Third Ward – Liz and Gunner are have been there since the very beginning!

A great time was had by all at Diverse and Resilient's Reviving the Dream Celebration. Dr. L.G. Shanklin-Flowers had the ballroom at the Marriott Downtown in the palm of her hand. So compelling! Gerry Coons, President and CEO of D&R made for a most engaging host, and it was wonderful to see Carlton Stansbury, Board Chair – make introductions and keep the seamless show on schedule. Paul Williams and Karen Gotzler of The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center made for the best couple of the night! So good to see Karen back and better than ever!

The Greatest Promise on Earth – Make A Promise 2016 – 30th Annual evening of Promise was definitely fun under the big top – loved the circus motif! Dr. Beto in his lion coat and his beloved DJ Tim in a top hat – made for very chic Ringmasters in the center ring of it all! Jerry Janis, Chair of the Board opened the evening marvelously; followed by the best Mistress of Ceremonies in town, Toya Washington of WISN TV 12 she had the most fab-

ulous fastener! Mary Hartwig and Nick Giebel out did themselves and it was Nick's first year! And thank you to my tablemates – the best table ever – Tim & Michael, Brian & Andy, Roger, Jack, Mark & Ryan, Princess Debbie and Gary – what fun!

Food Time: Story Hill – Bottle, Kitchen, Cocktail 5100 West Bluemound Road Wauwatosa 414-539-4424. Be it breakfast, brunch, lunch, cocktails, dinner, and dessert – it is all here! And if you're in route, you can stop and get a hostess gift and ensure you will be invited back! Jamie was so fun and welcoming and bravo to her staff – Executive Chef Joe Wuench, Sous Chefs Brandon Shea and Jose Rodrigues, General Manager Jason Kerstein they all know Milwaukee loves to Taste, Share and Pass and Story Hill is the place to do it at!

So this is a wrap – from the Kentucky Derby to Memorial Day let the month of May launch us into a marvelous summer of 2016, reminding You all – it's the glamor, not the grammar - as I remain Still Cordially Yours..

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THE TOOL SHED... not your grand daddy's sex shop

By Paul Masterson

For most, the term “sex shop” conjures those seedy video arcades off the highway on the outskirts of the city. Those familiar sticky floors, racks of cellophane wrapped porn magazines and the intermittent jingling chime of quarters being exchanged for dollar bills remain vestiges of less tolerant days.

But, Milwaukee can boast *The Tool Shed: An Erotic Boutique*, a progressive and user friendly outlet for all things sexual. Established in 2003 by two women on a mission, it offered a sex-positive, gender-positive, healthy and comfortable environment to not only supply customers' needs but also to educate and empower them. They wanted to break taboos and bring honesty to the conversation about sex and sexuality.

In 2008, Laura Anne Haave, an LGBTQ activist and sexual educator, took over the business. She shared the founders' concern that people make informed decisions regarding their sexual health and pleasure. She moved business to a new, more accessible location on Murray Street just two blocks north of the bustling North and Farwell Avenue intersection where it still stands today. In the meantime, *the Tool Shed* has been voted Milwaukee's Best Adult Retail Store 2010-2015 and the received the Best Adult Boutique in the Nation Award by Adult Video News (AVN) in 2014.

LGBTQ owned with a largely LGBTQ staff, the *Tool Shed's* affiliation with other community groups and resources comes naturally. It has been present at PrideFest for years and is a community presenter at the LGBTQ Film/Video Festival.

Tool Shed spokesperson Matt Button explains, “The original owners wanted a shop that didn't have that typical male-centricity and would appeal to all genders. They also wanted to have a sexual health aspect as well as a comfortable and safe environment. That's also reflected in their inventory of non-toxic products. That was new and few stores cared about that. In the meantime, the industry is responding accordingly. People never realized the level of toxins in their sex toys. That became a point of the owners' vision to carry body safe toys. Today people come in and look at dildos and ask why they are so expensive. We explain the difference between an \$18 giant jelly dong and a body safe silicon dildo in the \$40-100 range. The choice of materials makes the difference. The toxic ones



are often made of cheap PVC and other mystery materials. The chemical softeners that make the toys feel squishy are part of the manufacturing process and those are the hazardous ingredients.” He cites phthalates, an ingredient banned in some countries for children's toys. But, since adult sex toys aren't regulated, the toxic material is used in their manufacture. “You might see a warning ‘Do not use internally’ on a sex toy box. There is no law or regulation about what you can be put on a label. The result is toys often being mislabeled as to what they are made of. Stores like ours advocate for quality products and demand well designed and safe toys. That did not exist a decade or 15 years ago,” Button adds.

“We really curate our selection of toys. They come from companies that focus on body safe products. We select based on the craftsmanship of the product customer demand. That's too much trouble for big stores.. For the most part there are enough little companies doing quality pieces that we can fulfill most people's needs. One, Oxballs is gay owned. They love their work. They started by hand-pouring silicon toys for gay men. Some are unusual and incredibly large. We like working with companies like that,” Button said.

Besides the tools of trade, education is another *Tool Shed* mission. Button explains, “We hold classes on various topics around sexual pleasure and health. Depending on the class, some are free; some cost money. All are by reservation.

Topics range from “How to give a good BJ” to “How to talk to your kids about sex.” Some focus on “how-to” pleasure tips. Those are super popular. Others are more on communication within relationships. For example we have a polyamory discussion group that meets here. That's the kind of community stuff we like to support.” And, understandably, the clientele ranges from soccer moms to transpeople. According to Button, their only thing consistent about the audience is its unpredictability. “We have a wide range of ages, backgrounds, singles, and couples. We just held a “Sex and Aging” class that was sold out and did an entire week of educational events in April we call Milwaukee Share. Staff members also present at local public and private universities. Our role is often making up for the fact that people have gotten terrible education over the years like abstinence only education. They

know very little about their bodies and how not to get pregnant. They are told merely not to have sex. Some get good education but it is such a patchwork of information we cannot count on someone knowing even the basics of anatomy or pleasure,” Button said.

Another unique aspect of the shop's mission is its trans community focus. “We've worked with FORGE because we have a strong product selection for trans people. That's one of our areas of expertise. We have the largest selection of gender expression products of any store of our kind. Those are things that allow people to live and express the gender with which they identify. That would include “soft packers”, flaccid penis prosthetics for use by transmen and breast forms for transwomen,” Button explains.

The shop also provides an extended service for doctors and clinicians who send their patients there for more in depth services. But, in general, *Tool Shed* staff provides support for all. “People come in and have never been able to talk about sex with anyone. It's super important to them and they can finally get non-judgmental answers or at least a sympathetic ear. We can't solve every problem but we have some answers and can point people to other resources. They may feel alone and afraid to tell friends or a partner. The answer is ‘you are not the only one’ pretty much most of the time,” Button said.

The Tool Shed: An Erotic Boutique is located at 2427 N Murray Avenue in Milwaukee.



Well here we are and spring is finally here! At least I hope it is finally here! Not much really went on last month with the exception I had way too much fun one night and ended up at a local gyro place plowing tons of gyro and onions into my mouth at 1:30 in the morning! (Mental note: never eat that much gyro, onion, and cucumber sauce that late after drinking since 6:00pm!) Well enough about my adventures! But before we get going I just want to remind everyone that next month is PRIDE MONTH! And as I am sure you all know the pride parade and Pridefest has a lot in store for us all this year! The pride parade will be held on 2nd street between Greenfield Ave and Seeboth Ave on Sunday June 8th. For more info you can visit their website at www.pridparademke.org. Pridefest also has a ton of things planned for us this year. They have three big names coming in to headline this year, the festival will once again be on the Henry Maier festival ground and will take place from June 6th through the 8th. You can get more information from their website www.pridefest.com.

Well now that all the shameless plugs are out of the way let's get to this month shall we? Last month I promised a reader that I would talk about female piercings this month. So without any further whining let's get to it and get this column in the books!

Well I can only think of one area to really begin to really focus on female piercings, and that is genital piercings, so let's run with that. (Course for some of readers that should read let's run from that, but anyway) Female piercings are actually very simple to explain. Unlike male piercings where the piercing does provide sensation for both the person giving and receiving. Female piercings only trigger sensation in the person wearing the piercing, and the only real thing to ask yourself when you are getting one is what area of your genitals do you really want to stimulate? Once you figure that out the rest is easy!

Once you decide what you want it is really just about aftercare. And aftercare is pretty easy! (Especially if you have ever read my column even once!) Very simple just wash the piercing with anti bacterial soap and leave the damn thing alone! (That means no fiddling!) The more you leave it be the faster it will heal.. Also you need to avoid sexual contact for at least three weeks after it has been pierced. Otherwise you open yourself up to all kinds of nasty things like infections and possibly Hepatitis or even AIDS! So just relax for the first three weeks, remember you will have the rest of your life to play with your new piercing, leave it be for the first three ok?

Well that is really all I have to say about that, unless you want me to get so in depth that you all fall asleep and start drooling all over the pages of this finely made magazine! So seeing that I have some space left let's do some reader mail.

Brent,

I was just wondering if you were going to be in the Pride Parade this year. I didn't see you in it last year. -Jeff

Well thanks for writing in; yes I am going to be in the parade this year. Also I was in the parade last year but was so spent after helping out with the parade that I could barely lift my arms to wave at anyone. This year I will try to be more outgoing. Although no one knows how that will work out after working for 8 hours in the sun!

Looks like I have room for one more! Wow, I feel all tingly. I can't remember the last time I had enough space to do this!

Brent,

I was just wondering how I can tell if my piercing is infected? I know you say that most of the time it is just irritated but how do I know? -Greg

Well Greg there are a lot of ways to know but if you don't know what you are looking for odds are you won't notice them. The best advice I can give you is to go and talk with your piercer and have them take a look at your piercing to make sure nothing is going wrong with it. Thanks for writing in.

Well I am out of room again, hopefully this month will be nothing but warm weather filled with good times with good friends. Until next month, have a great month of May!

Do you have questions? Want to know more about piercing and tattooing? You know you want to! Send your questions to Brent at Avantgarde@voyager.net !

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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
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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
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KRUZ 354 E.National (414)272-KRUZ
LaCage (lower & main floor) Montage (Upper) 801S 2nd, (414)383-8330
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This Is It 418 E Wells (414)278-9192
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FREE HIV & SYPHILIS Testing at:**

LGBT Center, Wed. 4th, 5:30-8

Kruz, Fri. 6th 7-9

Harbor Room, Fri. 6th 10-12

Fluid, Mon. 9th, 9:30-11:30

Club Icon, 13th, 9:30-12:30 (Kenosha)

LaCage, Wed. 18th, 10-12

Woodys, Thurs. 26th, 9-11

Club Icon, 18th, 9:30-12:30 (Kenosha)

Woodys, Thurs. 24th, 9-11



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