



September 9, 2010 | Vol. 1, No. 22

Man pleads guilty in Larkin homicide

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

A man pleaded guilty Aug. 31 to second-degree reckless homicide in the death of Milwaukee transgender woman Dana "Chanel" Larkin.

In exchange, the state dropped more serious charges against Andrew Olaciregui, 27, who faces up to 25 years in prison and a fine of \$100,000 at a sentencing hearing Oct. 25.

About a dozen of Larkin's friends, relatives and supporters attended the Aug. 31 hearing, some wearing T-shirts bearing the message, "I remember." They watched with emotion as Olaciregui, a thin, tattooed man with a shaved head and a grave bearing, was led into the courtroom in handcuffs. They listened intently as he stonily answered "yes" and "no" to Judge Glenn H. Yamahiro's perfunctory questions about

the plea-bargain agreement.

While Olaciregui admitted firing the shot that killed Larkin on May 7, his defense attorney disputed the coroner's finding that the weapon was fired at point-blank range. He indicated that he would argue against that finding at sentencing, probably to characterize the crime as less vicious when asking for leniency.

Relatives also can make statements at sentencing to influence the judge's decision. The group FORGE plans to submit letters to the court asking for the maximum sentence due to the damage that such crimes have on the entire transgender community.

Milwaukee LGBT community leaders had urged the district attorney's office to consider filing a hate-crime charge in the case. But prosecutors said there were no witnesses or evidence to demonstrate that bias played a role in Olaciregui's intent, leaving them with no grounds to pursue such a charge.

Olaciregui's admission of guilt brought at least a small measure of relief to Larkin's supporters.

"I'm glad he admitted it, and we don't have to go through all that trial," said Larkin's grandmother Carla Clemmon after the plea proceeding. "I'm glad my grandchild has some vindication."

Larkin was living with Clemmon at the time of her death.

"I really miss (her)," Clemmon said through tears. "(Olaciregui) took a life. I don't care what kind of life-Guilty page 18



Wisconsin lags in use of drugs for HIV prevention

Preventing HIV after exposure

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Maybe you had so much to drink that you didn't care. Or maybe you assumed he'd have told you if he was HIV-positive.

Whatever led you to engage in risky sexual behavior, there you are the next day, your head throbbing with the question: "Did I expose myself to HIV?"

The scenario is not unusual. Repeated studies show that condom

use among gay and bisexual men is inconsistent at best. And people sometimes fail to ask about or disclose HIV status to their partners — often because they don't even know it.

But there is something you can do on those angst-ridden mornings after. It's called post-exposure prophylaxis, or PEP for short. While it's seldom used as a prevention strategy in Wisconsin, it's becoming increasingly common elsewhere for

people worried about an unsafe sexual encounter they've had with a partner who's HIV-positive or one whose status is unknown and who engages in high-risk activity.

PEP is a 28-day course of treatment with the same anti-viral drugs used to treat people who are already infected. PEP carries one major caveat, however: It must be taken within 72 hours of exposure — and the sooner the better.

PEP page 18

PHOTO BY JASON SMITH

This issue

inside and online at wisconsin Gazette.com

News

- WiGWAG.....4
- Wisconsin Gaze.....5
- Regional Gaze.....8
- Editorial.....10
- National Gaze.....12

Features

- WiGOUT.....20
- Art Gaze.....28
- Interview.....30
- On the Town.....32
- Community Events....33

September, 2010

Dear fellow readers,

We write today as concerned members of the LGBT community. We're concerned because **the future of fairness and equality for all Wisconsin families is at stake in the upcoming elections.**

If elected, the Republicans have promised to roll back all of the progress we've made over the last few years, dismantling the domestic partnership registry, eliminating benefits for partners of government employees, and so much more.

Our community can't afford to sit this one out. We must work to **elect candidates who are willing to stand up for fairness - leaders like Henry Sanders, who is running for Lieutenant Governor in the upcoming September 14 Primary.**

Henry Sanders isn't just talking about LGBT rights, he's on the frontlines of the fight:

Henry is the first statewide candidate in Wisconsin history to openly advocate for full marriage equality for all couples.

Henry's editorial, "Marriage Equality is key to our economic recovery", ran in newspapers and magazines across the country.

Henry's supporters have already gathered over 1,000 signatures on a statewide petition in support of marriage rights. (Add your name at henrysanders.org/petition.)

Too many politicians talk about their support for LGBT issues, but hide when the community really needs them. Enough is enough. It's time we elected a real champion for LGBT rights - a champion like Henry. **Join us in voting Henry Sanders for Lieutenant Governor on September 14.**

On behalf of OUT for Sanders,
Glenn Carlson, La Pointe
Patrick Farabaugh, Madison

Tim Clark, Milwaukee
Mark Webster, Madison

Paid for by Tim Clark as an in-kind contribution to Sanders for WI, Eve Galanter, Treasurer.



Henry still looks to Tammy for policy advice.

Sanders Campaign

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TICKETS ON SALE NOW! Visit milwaukee-film.org to purchase tickets, view trailers and learn more.



LGBT news with a twist

WiG WAG

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

SUPER SECRET LIE

The Wisconsin Republican Party blasted pro-equality Democratic gubernatorial candidate Tom Barrett for holding a fundraiser with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that never happened.

The state GOP sent out a press release saying Barrett hosted a "super secret" fundraiser with Pelosi, but he didn't want to admit it. Their release showed drawings of Pelosi handing Barrett a bag of money.

When confronted by AP about the falsehood, Republican Party spokesman Andrew Welhouse said he thought the fundraiser had happened because he heard about it on Milwaukee talk radio.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Former flight attendant Steve Slater.**UP AND AWAY**

A flight attendant who captured America's attention when he told off a plane full of passengers and then slid down an emergency chute with a beer resigned from his job and was not fired, insists his lawyer. Steven Slater, 38, left JetBlue Airways Corp. after he had been suspended following the on-board antics, attorney Daniel J. Horwitz said. Slater is still working out some details with the Queens-based airline, the lawyer added.

Jet Blue launched an internal investigation after the incident, and Slater was charged with felony counts of reckless endangerment and criminal mischief and criminal trespass. If convicted, he could face up to seven years in prison.

A week after his arrest, Slater had more than 200,000 Facebook fans.

CHO TO CHA-CHA

The next season – can you believe it's the 11th? – of "Dancing with the Stars" will feature comic Margaret Cho. Other contestants include singer Brandy, ex-basketball player Rick Fox, ex-"Baywatch" dude David Hasselhoff, actors Audrina Patridge and Mike Sorrentino, favorite TV mom Florence Henderson, teen mom Bristol Palin and, drum roll, "Dirty Dancing" star Jennifer Grey. The season starts this month. Where is WiG placing its bet? "Nobody puts Baby in a corner."

DRESS GAGA'S WAXED FIGURE

Madame Tussauds is inviting Lady Gaga fans to help pick a signature outfit for the singer/songwriter's waxed figure to wear. Gaga's wax effigy will appear in many of the nine Madame Tussauds outlets worldwide, according to a company spokesperson. Fans can pick their favorite outfits at NYCWax.com.

EMMY-ANIA

The Emmys got modern. The Emmys got gleeful. The Emmys got sentimental. The Emmys got political. And the Emmys got funny. A recap: Six Emmy trophies went to ABC's "Modern Family," which features, among its several modern

households, that of a gay couple and their adopted daughter. Gay actor Jim Parsons, who won lead actor in a comedy series for his work in "The Big Bang Theory," thanked his partner, and said he'd



PHOTO: COURTESY

The gay couple of "Modern Family."

probably celebrate his victory by having ice cream. Lesbian actor Jane Lynch, who won supporting actress in a comedy series for her work in "Glee," thanked her wife Laura Embry and their daughter, as well as her "lord and creator, Ryan Murphy." Straight actor George Clooney, honored with the Bob Hope Humanitarian Award, talked backstage about the anti-gay Prop 8: "People will look back at this period of time of history and think of it as an archaic time." Gay actor Neil Patrick Harris, who hosted last year's telecast, had some fun with host Jimmy Fallon: "I want to thank the academy for allowing a gay man to host the Emmys two years in a row. Congratulations, Jimmy, you're doing a good job." And that's how rumors begin.

CHRISTWIRE.ORG FOUNDERS COME OUT

The gay men behind Christwire.

org, an Onion-inspired website that satirizes the religious right, have come out of the closet. A recent New York Times article identified the two co-founders as Bryan Butvidas, a 28-year-old software developer in Southern California, and Kirwin Watson, a 28-year-old employee of a Kansas hospital.

Recent headlines on the site include: Angry God Flexes His Power; Blows Up Indonesian Volcano For Cheating American Businesses; Glenn Beck Rally Makes Martin Luther King Jr. Proud; and Gays Now Using Santa To Entice Man Boy Love Relations.

"There's just rampant idiocy in the media sometimes," Watson told NYT when asked about the inspiration behind the site. "People watch their favorite news channels, don't question it and will regurgitate it the next day at the office. That is no good at all."

FROM 14 TO 1

"America's Next Top Model" began its "Cycle 15" this week with 14 women competing for the title. The contestants include Kayla, a 19-year-old from Rockford, Ill. She's a Hooter's waitress. Her favorite designer is Stella McCartney. In her "ANTM" interview she says she played soccer for nine years and "can kick butt." She says she has an "all around" look. And, she's gay.

SUNDAY MORNING IN AMERICA

Fueled by Cheetos and nicotine, seven bikini-clad strippers and their supporters staged a protest in front of New Beginnings Ministries in Warsaw, Ohio. The demonstration was payback time for the church's pickets in front of the strippers' place of employment, The Fox Hole strip club,

which is nine miles away.

Laura Meske aka Lola – stage age 36, real age 42 – hid behind a sign proclaiming, "Jesus loves the children of the world!" as pastor Bill Dunfee extended his hand for a shake. But despite the friendly gesture, Dunfee had hell on his mind.

"As a Christian community, we cannot share territory with the devil," he told an AP reporter. "Light and darkness cannot exist together, so The Fox Hole has got to go."



PHOTO: COURTESY

Ben Cohen shows support.**JOCK SUPPORT**

A jockstrap signed by hunky rugby star Ben Cohen raised \$460 for the U.K.-based Gay Men Fighting AIDS organization. The jockstrap was one of several items that Cohen, a vocal supporter of gay rights, donated to the charity auction.



"I hope everyone had a great summer in Milwaukee and is looking forward to the LGBT Film Festival this fall.

I proudly support the City of Milwaukee's domestic partner benefits, and hope City leadership will promote such benefits in all public employment."

NIK KOVAC
3RD DISTRICT ALDERMAN

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In lieutenant governor's race, support those who've always been there for us

Opinion

MARK POCAN

I read WiG's editorial endorsing Rep. Thomas Nelson of Kaukauna for lieutenant governor, and I felt compelled to provide my thoughts on this race. Having served for six terms in the Legislature and having worked with all the candidates, I feel my perspective on who has the best credentials when it comes to LGBT equality might help voters as they go to the polls Sept. 14.

I don't know of another time where so many candidates courted our community. That alone is a big plus. But I feel we need to know



who has really fought for us – not just for their own political advantage but because of their values. This is what I consider most important.

In his three terms in the Legislature, Nelson has voted on the couple of occasions he could with the LGBT community, as has almost every

A candidate who fights for us is more important than geography or fundraising prowess.

Democrat in the Legislature. While he votes OK, he has never taken a strong public position for our community. In fact, when the question of marriage equality came up

at a recent forum, he merely said he supported "equality" (not marriage equality) and didn't mention the words "gay" or "lesbian" once in a several-minute answer.

When there is a Democratic primary race, you can vote for the person who best represents your values – in this case the best person for LGBT civil rights. At least two other candidates have superior credentials when it comes to advancing equality – Henry Sanders of Madison and Sen. Spencer Coggs of Milwaukee.

Henry Sanders has gone out of his way to make marriage equality a focal point of his campaign. As a former staff person for U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, Sanders has fought on the ground for

LGBT equality. As a businessperson he laid out his plan for economic progress for Wisconsin in which he stakes marriage equality as a "must" to be economically competitive. His passion and commitment make him an outstanding candidate for lieutenant governor.

Sen. Spencer Coggs has been an outspoken voice for civil rights for decades in the Legislature. His unwavering support for LGBT rights, his support for marriage equality and his accomplishments on a wide variety of progressive issues make him ready to take over as governor on day one if needed, an important quality for a candidate for Wisconsin's number two spot. Having served with Coggs, I have never wor-

ried about whether he would vote with us or against us, because he considers himself a part of the larger "us."

In a primary, I vote for my ideals and values first and consider politics secondary criteria. With two outstanding candidates like Sanders and Coggs, it is crucial we show our support for those who have so strongly supported our community.

Having a candidate for lieutenant governor who fights for us is more important than geography or fundraising prowess as far as I am concerned. That's why I like both Sanders and Coggs.

Openly gay state Rep. Mark Pocan is a Democrat who represents the Madison area.

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Wrapped in Pride vodka is out on the shelf

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Swathed in a label of rainbow-colored stripes, its neck gaily festooned with a rainbow ribbon, Wrapped in Pride Yahara Bay vodka practically has LGBT written all over it.

The specialty liquor, made from corn and apples grown in Wisconsin – the apples come from Gays Mills – arrives on store shelves in Wisconsin this month. As the label suggests, the product has specific ties to the LGBT community. Yahara Bay Distillers, the Madison-based artisan distillery that produces it, will donate 10 percent of the proceeds from each bottle sold to LGBT service organizations and HIV/AIDS agencies.

The idea for a Pride-

themed liquor originated with openly gay state Rep. Mark Pocan last year while he was working on legislation to allow Yahara Bay and the state's other artisan distilleries to sell products and offer samples to visitors in the same way that wineries do. Prior law banned such activity.

"A lot of people like to come out and visit these distilleries," Pocan said. "It's nice that they can actually now provide their product at their own location."

A growing trend nationwide, artisan distilleries provide a finely tuned, small-batch alternative to the mass-produced liquors marketed by major labelers. "We smell, taste and touch the alcohol as it's coming out, and in the process we're able

Yahara Bay will donate 10 percent of the proceeds from each bottle sold to LGBT groups.

to eliminate the bad alcohol that has a lot of chemicals in it," said Yahara Bay owner Nick J. Quint. "We're able to keep the aroma and taste but distill out the chemicals and the headaches they cause."

Artisan distilleries also provide an additional mar-



ket for local crops. Pocan saw the overall economic-development potential these distilleries offer.

"Just having more products made in Wisconsin and buying local puts more money back into the community," he said. "This is a good example of a company that's putting money right back into the hands of the community."

The state of Washington has added 20 artisan distilleries in the past couple of years. The concept has caught on so well with connoisseurs that even factory distillers are starting artisan lines.

The Wrapped in Pride label and packaging were created by openly gay Yahara Bay president Kris Kalb, who said initial response to the product has been "just phe-

nomenal." After sampling the product, major distributors in Colorado and Florida placed substantial orders – even before bottling was completed in late August, he said.

"Distributors all over Wisconsin are jumping on this," added Kalb, who also produces gourmet foods and chocolates using Yahara Bay spirits that are marketed under the Spirit of Wisconsin Gourmet Foods brand.

In addition to Wrapped in Pride vodka, Yahara Bay produces gin, rum, apple brandy, whiskey, lemoncello, aged Mad Bird Rum and apple crisp liqueur. A cherry brandy made from Door County cherries is also in the works, Quint said.

www.wisconsin-gazette.com

Fair Wisconsin completes endorsements

Fair Wisconsin PAC and HRL-PAC have jointly endorsed the candidates below. All are Democrats. Some face primary opponents Sept. 14, while others will not be challenged until Nov. 2.

GOVERNOR

- Mayor Tom Barrett

ATTORNEY GENERAL

- Scott Hassett

WISCONSIN STATE SENATE

- Sen. Tim Carpenter, District 3
- Sen. Jim Sullivan, District 5
- Sen. Jeff Plale, District 7
- Sen. John Lehman, District 21
- Sen. Pat Kreitlow, District 23
- Sen. Jon Erpenbach, District 27
- Sen. Kathleen Vinehout, District 31

WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

- JoCasta Zamarripa, District 8
- Rep. Fred Kessler, District 12
- Rep. Christine Sinicki, District 20
- Tom Michalski, District 21
- Rep. Sandy Pasch, District 22
- Liz Jones, District 29
- Rep. Kim Hixson, District 43
- Speaker Mike Sheridan,

District 44

- Rep. Gary Hebl, District 46
- Rep. Joe Parisi, District 48
- Rep. Penny Bernard Schaber, District 57
- Rep. Robert Turner, District 61
- Steve Brown, District 66
- Rep. Kristen Dexter, District 68
- Rep. Nick Milroy, District 73
- Janet Bewley, District 74
- Rep. Terese Berceau, District 76

District 78

- Rep. Mark Pocan, District 78
- Janis Ringhand, District 80
- Rep. Kelda Helen Roys, District 81
- Rep. Donna Seidel, District 85
- Rep. Jim Soletski, District 88
- Rep. Chris Danou- District 91
- Rep. Mark Radcliffe, District 92
- Rep. Jeff Smith, District 93
- Rep. Jennifer Shilling,

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- DANE COUNTY SHERIFF**
- Sheriff David Mahoney

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DID YOU KNOW?

People aged 50 and over
account for 15 percent of new
HIV/AIDS diagnoses.

Grant to increase LGBT domestic violence awareness

The U.S. Department of Justice has awarded Diverse and Resilient a \$155,000 grant for a program to increase awareness of partner violence among LGBT people in Wisconsin.

The grant comes in response to youth and adult health surveys in Wisconsin that have shown significant disparities in partner violence and community violence for LGBT people.

In 2008 and 2009, Diverse and Resilient and the Center for AIDS Intervention of the Medical College of Wisconsin undertook research to determine the readiness of Wisconsin's LGBT communities to take action on partner violence. Despite high rates of violence, communities

across the state showed only a vague awareness of the issues and few activities were in place to address them.

"Most people who have experienced intimate partner violence don't even know that they have," said Diverse and Resilient executive director Gary Hollander. "Community members, including close friends, pretty much act like it's not (violence) unless (the victim) has a black eye. When we talked to community leaders in four communities in Wisconsin, they were only vaguely aware of the resources available in their communities."

The federal award will support three program efforts: to implement strategies to build awareness among

LGBT people about intimate partner violence; to build the capacity of LGBT organizations to respond to partner violence; and to help develop relationships among LGBT groups and general community service providers to victims of violence and assault.

OutReach, Madison's LGBT Community Center, will be the primary site for the program, which will also involve communities in Eau Claire, La Crosse and Milwaukee. Melissa Lemke is the project manager.

The project was funded with the support of U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin through the Congressionally Recommended Grants Program.

— Louis Weisberg

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To purchase a ticket or table and for information on how to become an event sponsor & its rewards, go to www.diverseandresilient.org/anniversary



Diverse & Resilient 2439 North Holton Street, Milwaukee, WI 53212
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LGBT news online www.wisconsin Gazette.com



Wisconsin Gazette endorses Tom Nelson for Lt. Governor

"Tom Nelson has been an effective LGBT advocate behind the scenes – and in the face of potential political backlash. ... But our major reason for endorsing Nelson is that he brings the most political strength to the Democratic gubernatorial ticket. Scott Walker, the likely Republican nominee, has vowed to erase the fragile gains that LGBT Wisconsinites have made toward equality. Tom Barrett, on the other hand, has vowed to protect our rights. It is in the best interests of LGBT voters that Barrett has a running mate who increases his odds of winning. ... Nelson's name-recognition and popularity in Green Bay and Appleton could prove very helpful to Barrett. So could his access to money and his record as an energetic campaigner who's able to bridge ideological divides: Nelson was re-elected in a district that's 55-percent Republican by a 64-percent margin while maintaining not only an excellent record on LGBT rights but also perfect voting scores from Planned Parenthood and the League of Conservation Voters.

... This primary race could prove critical to the future of LGBT Wisconsinites. Vote for Nelson on Sept. 14.

VOTE SEPTEMBER 14

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BRIEFS

WISCONSIN HEALTH DEPT. LAUNCHES LGBT WEBSITE

The Wisconsin Division of Public Health has launched a website specifically for LGBT health issues at www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/lgbthealth.

The website highlights health issues facing LGBT populations, providing links to resources on issues such as alcohol and drug use, cancer, HIV/AIDS, mental health, tobacco use, and violence and safety.

The website, which falls under the mission of the Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 plan, was undertaken to address significant health disparities and access to healthcare for LGBT Wisconsinites. Those disparities include: 27 percent of LGBT adults in Wisconsin are uninsured, compared with 10 percent of

heterosexual adults; and one in four Wisconsin high school students who had same-sex relations have attempted suicide – a rate more than four times higher than of students who had had only opposite-sex sexual contact.

DIVERSE AND RESILIENT CELEBRATES 15TH ANNIVERSARY

Diverse and Resilient celebrates its 15th anniversary with a reception and dinner on Sept. 30 at the Peck Welcome Center at the Milwaukee County Zoo, 10001 W. Blue Mound Road.

The dinner will honor Lynde Uihlein, president of Brico Fund, LLC, for her significant contributions to LGBT communities across Wisconsin.

Diverse and Resilient provides about \$195,000 for health promotion to LGBT groups in Appleton, Eau Claire, La Crosse, Madison and Milwaukee. The organi-

zation focuses on intimate partner violence, tobacco cessation, alcohol abuse prevention, HIV prevention and aging.

Diverse and Resilient also hosts several Milwaukee-area programs, including the African American Men's Leadership project, SHEBA (Sisters Helping Each other Battle AIDS) and the Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Leadership Initiative. The agency's centerpiece program for youth is its biennial Youth Health Institute, a four-day leadership development workshop for LGBT teens and their adult allies with an emphasis on disease prevention and health promotion.

Event sponsorship opportunities are still available. For more information about the agency's celebration go to www.diverseandresilient.org/anniversary or call 414-390-0444.

CADENAS HONORED BY BELOIT COLLEGE

Beloit College has named Cream City Foundation executive director Maria Cadenas as the sixth recipient of its Young Alumni Award, which will be presented at the college's homecoming weekend.

The Young Alumni Award recognizes alumni who've distinguished the college through their overall achievements, personal growth in career and outstanding civic, cultural, and professional/business service.

Cadenas has worked for more than nine years with social change, legal, advocacy and community organizations to create respectful and fair communities in southeastern Wisconsin. A Progressive Women's Voices alumna, she sits on the board of Funders for LGBTQ Issues, a national affinity group working on behalf of gay and transgender philanthropy, and has also served as the associate direc-

tor for the American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin.

Cadenas created the Cream City Scholar program to provide a space for college students to learn about organizational management and build their resumes before graduation.

"I'm humbled and honored to receive this recognition," Cadenas said. "Beloit College changed my life. My work with Cream City Foundation and other social change organizations is a reflection of the values and convictions I learned at Beloit."

HOSPITAL RESPONDS TO TRANSGENDER COMPLAINT

A transgender woman said she was satisfied with changes promised by a hospital after she complained of being ridiculed by medical staff and denied treatment in its emergency room in July.

Ball Memorial Hospital in Indiana announced that all

employees would receive mandatory lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender awareness training starting in September and that it was updating its nondiscrimination policies to include language specific to sexual orientation and gender identity.

Erin Vaught, a transsexual who has transitioned from male to female, complained that she was referred to as a "he-she" and "it" by hospital staffers after she arrived at the emergency room coughing up blood on July 18.

"I'm happy with the outcome," Vaught told The Star Press. "I think that we reached a positive resolution."

The hospital worked with the advocacy groups Indiana Transgender Rights Advocacy Alliance and Indiana Equality in deciding on its response to Vaught's complaints.

- WIG and AP reports



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Former Republican chairman comes out

From staff and AP reports

Ken Mehlman, campaign manager for President George W. Bush in 2004 and then RNC chairman after Bush's re-election, says he recently came to the conclusion that he's gay and wants to talk about it publicly.

Mehlman told *The Atlantic* magazine that he thought questions would arise when he participates in an upcoming fundraiser for the group challenging California's ballot measure opposing marriage equality for gays.

"It's taken me 43 years to get comfortable with that part of my life," said Mehlman, now an executive vice president with KKR, a New York City-based private equity firm.

"Everybody has their own path to travel, their own journey, and for me, over the past few months, I've told my fam-

'The process has been something that has made me a happier and better person. I wish I had done it years ago.'

ily, friends, former colleagues and current colleagues and they've been wonderful and supportive. The process has been something that has made me a happier and better person. It's something I wish I had done years ago."

Mehlman's leadership positions with the Republican

Party came at a time when some in the party were working to put anti-gay ballot measures before the public in several states. He has said he tried to convince Republican officials privately not to attack gay marriage, *The Atlantic* reported. He also said that, as a solitary Republican, he could not go against the party consensus.

Mehlman, who has never married, said he wishes he had tried to expand the GOP's outreach to the gay community and worked openly against political initiatives opposing gay marriage.

Log Cabin Republicans, the largest national gay GOP group, welcomed Mehlman to their fight to build a more inclusive Republican Party.

"I am happy that Ken has come to a place where he can take a stand with integrity, and I welcome him as yet another conservative,

common-sense voice to join with Log Cabin Republicans and all Americans in this important dialogue," said LCR executive director R. Clarke Cooper.

Michael Mitchell, executive director of National Stonewall Democrats, also issued a statement: "We're glad that Mehlman has taken the opportunity to live his life openly and authentically. It is a stark illustration, however, of how damaging the closet can be when one puts ideology over personal integrity. Mehlman presided over the Republican Party at a time when the lives of LGBT Americans were used to ill ends — marriage amendments in dozens of states, vitriolic attacks on our families, our soldiers, our very lives — all for political expediency, votes at the ballot box and power."

www.wisconsin-gazette.com



Former GOP chair and newly out gay man: Ken Mehlman.

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{ Editorial }

Support AIDS Walk

On Sept. 19, AIDS Walk Wisconsin, the state's largest AIDS fundraiser, returns to the Summerfest grounds. We urge you to become involved.

AIDS is not a gay disease but it continues to disproportionately impact our community. Gay and bisexual men in the United States are diagnosed with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, at 44 times the rate of straight men. Still, the LGBT community has become increasingly apathetic toward the ongoing epidemic. The disconnect is generally attributed to the lack of experience that young people have had with the disease and to the improved treatments that have made HIV a largely manageable condition.

But while people diagnosed with HIV today can expect to live long and relatively healthy lives if they access treatment promptly and adhere to it, they still face significant challenges. HIV drugs are outside the financial grasp of many people, especially the young men and men of color who are currently experiencing the highest rates of new infections. To survive, they must turn to government programs and HIV/AIDS organizations like the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, which benefits from AIDS Walk.

Treatment also is technically complex, often requiring the services of a case manager in order to be implemented effectively. Housing is another major challenge, particularly for those who experience periods of illness in which they're unable to work.

For people battling HIV, it's imperative to maintain a healthy lifestyle. That means getting treatment for depression and addiction problems, eating right and receiving dental and other ancillary healthcare.

ARCW provides all of these services to more than 2,600 people in the state living with HIV. In addition, ARCW makes 150,000 prevention contacts every year with people at risk.

Nearly three decades into the epidemic, AIDS discrimination still exists and service organizations still have to lobby for funding. In addition to providing care, ARCW has proven a formidable advocate at the Capitol and throughout the state, helping to secure funding, preventing harmful legislation from becoming law and intervening on behalf of people experiencing discrimination.

Help ARCW continue this critical work by walking on Sept. 19. Go to www.aidswalkwis.org for information.



"And to think that only yesterday I was a lonely scientist and you were a failed experiment!"

{ Letters }

Here's a suggestion for this election season: Before you consider your views on any particular policy or issue ask yourself, "Do I believe in democracy?" If you answer "yes," as I assume nearly all Americans would, then let me propose that the life's blood of democracy is honesty. We rightly demand it of our politicians, of our candidates.

Which brings me to a so-called "push poll" being conducted for the benefit of Leah Vukmir, a candidate for Wisconsin Senate in the 5th Senate District. According to Wikipedia, "the push poll is a form of telemarketing-based propaganda and rumor mongering, masquerading as a poll.

Push polls may rely on innuendo or knowledge gleaned from opposition research on an opponent. They are generally viewed as a form of negative campaigning." You may have already received the call purporting to be a poll. It includes such outright lies as saying Sullivan voted for a \$5-million scoreboard that in fact he did not vote for. It's also noteworthy that the "pollsters" refused say who paid for the call, which is illegal.

Jim Sullivan has a clear record of serving his constituents on safety, fiscal responsibility and economic development. His opponent is using a devious tactic to sow confusion and

doubt about his record. The record shows Sullivan has served his constituents well, and his opponents must rely on deceit to defeat him. If Leah Vukmir does not loudly and clearly denounce this tactic being used on her behalf, she is party to deception – a subversion of the democratic process – and does not deserve the support of those of us who value our American, democratic form of government.

Greg Walz-Chojnacki
Wauwatosa

Note: Democrat Jim Sullivan is a pro-equality senator seeking re-election. Republican Leah Vukmir is a harshly anti-LGBT state representative seeking to unseat him.

{ Endorsements }

WiG endorses the following candidates in the Sept. 14 Democratic primary election. Additional endorsements will be made prior to the Nov. 2 general election.

WISCONSIN SENATE
Chris Larson –District 7

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
Tom Nelson

MILWAUKEE COUNTY SHERIFF
Chris Moews

For information about voting, go to <http://gab.wi.gov/>.

LGBT news online www.wisconsin Gazette.com

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What they said



"I am not ultra-ultra-conservative on every issue. I actually support gay marriage."

— Elisabeth Hasselbeck, the conservative member of "The View," talking to Fancast.

"If God hates fags, then why did he create chifffon?"

— Comedian Brick Stone questioning a protester with the Westboro Baptist Church during the group's Aug. 13 demonstration against a Jewish organization.

"Who's Shivon?"

— A Westboro Baptist Church protester answering Stone's question.

"If someone is responsible, it's me."

— Fidel Castro telling *La Jornada* that he's to blame for the persecution of gay people in Cuba following the revolution of 1959. In the 1960s and 1970s, many gays in Cuba were fired, imprisoned or sent to "re-education camps."

"It is slowly going pro-homosexual even as GOP leaders continue to advertise theirs as the party of family values. Just one more reason why so many grassroots conservatives who regularly vote Republican call the GOP 'The Stupid Party.'"

— Peter LaBarbera, head of the anti-gay group *Americans for Truth*, commenting on the coming-out of Ken Mehlman, who managed George W. Bush's 2004 presidential campaign.

"Whatever your views about gay marriage, I think many of us would conclude that when voters have such a clear decision, for that decision to be overturned by a single judge seems perhaps not appropriate."

— Republican U.S. Senate challenger Carly Fiorina in her first debate against incumbent California Sen. Barbara Boxer.

"Reality is that we don't agree on every issue, but that makes it even more interesting conversation around the dinner table."

— U.S. Sen. John McCain commenting on his pro-equality daughter Meghan McCain's new book "Dirty, Sexy Politics." In it, Meghan McCain dissects her father's failed 2008 presidential bid and refers to religious conservatives as the "intolerant far right."

"If marriage is going to be upheld between a man and a woman, which we believe is the best for families and children and society, then right now, it seems we need divine intervention."

— Anti-gay crusader Lou Engles addressing thousands of religious right protesters in front of the California Capitol in Sacramento on Sept. 4.

"A gay relationship is like decaffeinated coffee, you do not wake up."

— Father Gonzalo Miranda, bioethics professor and Vatican prelate, speaking about the legalization of gay marriage and adoption in Mexico City.

"So, we just lost to a bunch of dudes in cheerleading skirts and wigs."

— Overheard by a player for Woody's Red at Milwaukee's Dairyland Classic.



Letting the intolerant be your guide

As the primary and general elections approach, voters face important choices up and down the ballot. Sometimes they're unable to invest the time to investigate each candidate. One alternative is to look at who endorsed the candidates and who didn't. In the LGBT community voters can look to endorsements by the Wisconsin Gazette, Equality Wisconsin, Fair Wisconsin and others. Another way to gauge where a candidate stands is to look at the endorsements and scorecards from those that stand against equality.

Perhaps the most prominent anti-gay group is Wisconsin Family Council. It's the same group that brought us the 2006 constitutional amendment, fought bullying legislation in 2009 and is fighting the state domestic partner registry. Obviously if WFC endorses a candidate, we can be reasonably certain he or she is not a friend of

equality.

WFC provides a list of its endorsements for 2010 at wifamilyaction.org (enter endorsements in the search on the home page). The group also includes a link to the details of the questionnaires it sent to the various candidates, which can give you an extra level of understanding on its positions.

For all of his attacks against LGBT families in Milwaukee County, County Executive Scott Walker got very little in return from WFC. He had to settle for a joint endorsement with Mark Neumann. Apparently the group couldn't resist endorsing Neumann as well, given his infamous comments from the late-1990s about not hiring gay people. If he were "elected god for a day," he said, "homosexuality wouldn't be permitted."

On the WFC questionnaire, both Walker and Neumann indicated they oppose the state's domestic partner reg-

istry, which affords approximately 43 of the more than 200 protections that married couples get. Every one of the Republican candidates for lieutenant governor followed Walker and Neumann's lead in opposing the registry. Likewise, nearly every Republican candidate for the Assembly and Senate opposed it.

For the various congressional candidates, the WFC questionnaire asked if they would retain the so-called Defense of Marriage Act. They also were asked for positions on the inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity "as protected classes, like race or religion, in the hiring, firing and promoting of employers."

Every major Republican candidate for the U.S. House who responded to the questionnaire pledged to continue DOMA and to oppose discrimination protections for LGBT workers, including



Dan Kapanke (3rd District), James Sensenbrenner (5th), Sean Duffy (7th), and all three Republicans who want to challenge Steve Kagen (8th). For the U.S. Senate both Republican candidates Ron Johnson and Dave Westlake followed the pattern.

As we approach the elections, it is critical we understand the relevant positions of each candidate. Thankfully many groups provide scorecards, endorsements and other tools to give us a better understanding. Even those organizations that continually stand against equality can help inform us. In a sense we can actually let their intolerance be our guide on Election Day.

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Join the Cross-Border Fiesta

Mexico is throwing the biggest fiesta in its history, and the world is invited.

This year Mexico is celebrating its Bicentenario marking the 200th year of independence from Spain. The partying is expected to reach fever pitch Sept. 16, Mexico's Independence Day.

The country has spent millions preparing for the observance, funding an array of history projects, art exhibits and cultural events. It's developed *Ruta 2010*, similar to our Freedom Trails, mapping historic buildings and sites, encouraging Mexicanos as well as tourists to explore the nation's history.

Many Spanish-language stations will air entertainment spectaculars Sept. 12-18. You don't have to be fluent in Spanish to enjoy fabulous singing and dancing.

I hope some of the excitement of the Bicentenario will rub off on people in the United States, where mainstream media seems to cover Mexico only when it involves drug gangs or "illegal aliens."

We're so narrowly focused that too few in the United



States seem aware of the varied, vibrant culture of Mexico, the diversity of its people, and the enormous impact its writers, artists, musicians, filmmakers, educators, scientists and investors are having in the world.

What prompted this column was the venomous nativism on display in the past few months regarding both Muslims and Spanish-speaking immigrants. Despite all our hallowed democratic principles, we have a regrettable history in this country of demonizing newcomers. I think that as gay people, with our own long history as pariahs and scapegoats, we have a responsibility to speak out against this ignorance.

I am a historian, and this is what I have learned: The history of the world is the history of migrations. All people in all times have traveled down rivers, through valleys

and deserts, across oceans and continents. Sometimes it has been for conquest, sometimes for survival. Human migration is inevitable. Walls cannot hold people back. Laws will not stop them. Armies cannot shoot them all.

There was a time when the entire Southwest was Spanish. It could very easily become Spanish-speaking again in the next century. Anglo-Americans can spread bitterness and shed blood in fruitless attempts to prevent this possibility, or they can learn to respect Hispanic culture and adapt. Mexico's Bicentenario is an opportunity to jumpstart the learning process.

So join the fiesta Sept. 16!

Call the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce or Latino service agency in your area to find out about local events. Many Mexican restaurants will be offering specials and featuring entertainers. Watch the Bicentenario specials on Spanish-language stations such as Univision and Telemundo. Sign up for a Spanish-language course

at your college or tech school. Google "Mexican Bicentennial" and learn about our neighbor to the south.

Finally, I recommend that you rent, download or buy the movie "Lone Star." Written and directed by independent filmmaker John Sayles, it stars Chris Cooper, Matthew McConaughey, Kris Kristofferson and Elizabeth Pena.

"Lone Star" is a gripping murder mystery set in a Texas border town. It keeps you entertained while exploring a profound theme: the borders that divide us, whether between countries, between parents and children, between races and classes, citizens and immigrants, myths and reality.

In light of recent debates about immigration, "Lone Star" is one of the most thoughtful and prescient U.S. movies of the last 20 years. It deserves a wider audience than it got in 1996. It is a classic.

WiG welcomes reader comments. E-mail lweisberg@wisconsinngazette.com.

Group demands Brown, Schwarzenegger defend Prop 8

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

A right-wing organization is seeking a court order to force California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and Attorney General Jerry Brown to defend the state constitutional amendment banning same-sex couples from marrying.

The petition from the Pacific Justice Institute came days after Republican Meg Whitman made Prop 8 an issue in her campaign against Brown, the Democratic nominee for the office he held from 1975 to 1983.

"I think the governor, the attorney general today has to defend the constitution and has to enable the judicial process to go along and has to enable an appeal to go through," Whitman told the Sacramento Bee in late August. "So if I was governor, I would give that ruling standing to be able to appeal."

In early August, U.S. District Court Judge Vaughn Walker declared Prop 8 violated the U.S. Constitution. His ruling quickly was appealed to the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Both Brown and Schwarzenegger have refused to defend Prop 8 in the federal court system though they are, as officeholders, named as defendants in the Prop 8 case.

With the lack of participation from the state, the parties that advocated for the measure in the 2008 election have stood in as defendants, but there have been questions raised about whether the Prop 8 advocates now have standing for an appeal.

So last week the Pacific Justice Institute, a nonprofit legal defense organization specializing in "religious freedom and parental rights, and other civil liberties" cases, filed a petition asking an

'If I was governor I would give that ruling standing to be able to appeal.'

appeals court in Sacramento, the state capital, to order the governor and the attorney general to defend Prop 8 in the appeal process.

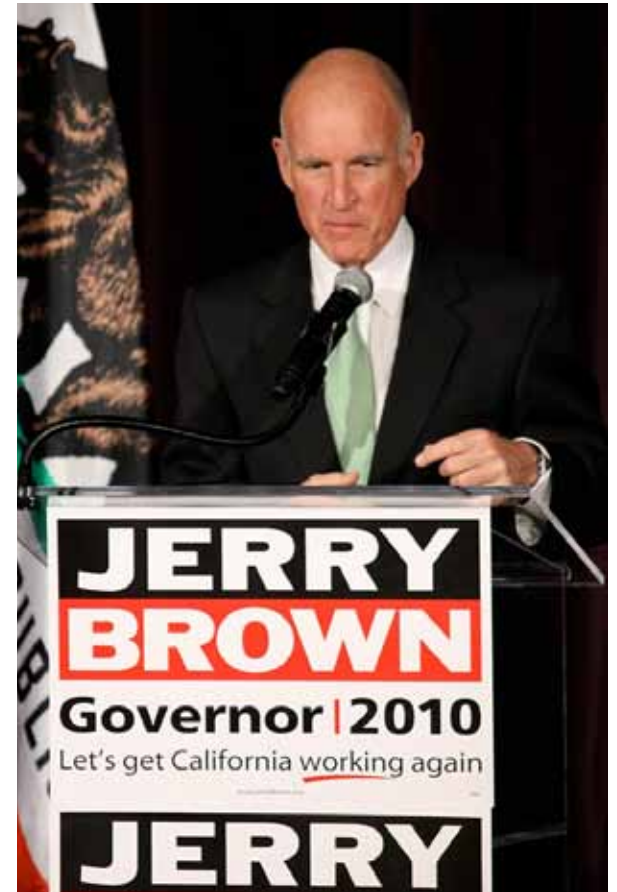
PJI filed the motion on behalf of Joshua Beckley, a pastor in San Bernardino, with supporting documents from Ed Meese, U.S. attorney general under Ronald Reagan, as well as legal advisor to Reagan when he served as California's governor.

"This is an outrageous attempt to try and force elected officials who have sworn to uphold the United States Constitution to defend a law that the federal court has found to be unconstitutional," said Geoff Kors of Equality California, a statewide LGBT group. "It demonstrates their acknowledgment that the proponents of Proposition 8 lack standing to appeal, that the case should be dismissed and loving same-sex couples should be allowed to exercise their constitutional right to marry."

Both Brown and Schwarzenegger have said they have no plans to appeal Walker's decision.

Brown said, "In striking down Proposition 8, Judge Walker came to the same conclusion I did when I declined to defend it: Proposition 8 violates the equal protection guarantee of the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution by taking away the right of same-sex couples to marry, without a sufficient governmental interest."

Schwarzenegger, in a statement following Walker's ruling, said, "For the hundreds of thousands of Californians in gay and lesbian households who are managing their day-to-day lives, this decision affirms the full legal protec-



Jerry Brown, Democratic candidate for governor in California and current attorney general.

tions and safeguards I believe everyone deserves."

The Whitman campaign, following Walker's ruling, stated, "Meg supported Proposition 8 and believes

marriage is between a man and a woman. Meg also strongly supports California's civil union laws. Today's ruling is the first step in a process that will continue."

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Activists fire up for repeal vote

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

LGBT civil rights activists are readying for a U.S. Senate vote as early as this month on the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell," the policy prohibiting gays from serving openly in the Armed Forces.

The Senate will reconvene Sept. 13 after an August recess.

Days later, on Sept. 16, Servicemembers United, a national group for LGBT veterans, plans to hold a DADT Repeal lobby day. SU has billed the effort as "the final assault" on DADT.

Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, a national LGBT watchdog and legal services group, is urging citizens to meet with senators at home, before the return to Washington, to urge them to vote to repeal DADT as part of the National Defense Authorization Act.

A House vote has already been made for repeal.

"As we approach expected key votes on repeal in only a matter of weeks in the Senate, we need repeal supporters in all 50 states to contact their senators and tell them to end 'don't ask, don't tell,'" said SLDN executive director Aubrey Sarvis. "Your senators need to hear that you expect them to beat back the filibuster threat, stop attempts to strike repeal, and defeat any crippling amendments."

SLDN, in partnership with the national Human Rights Campaign, has waged a grassroots campaign this summer against DADT, mobilizing activists in key states — Arkansas, Indiana, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota and Virginia.

Former Navy Petty Officer Jed Batchelder recently took

up SLDN's call and met with staff for U.S. Sens. Byron Dorgan, D-S.D., and Kent Conrad, D-N.D.

"I shared my story as a veteran who served as a petty officer second-class in the U.S. Navy until being discharged under DADT," Batchelder said.

He said he hoped his story "made a positive impact upon both senators" and that others will positively influence their senators.

"Whether your senators are Democrat or Republican, they were elected to serve their constituents and do what's right," said Batchelder. "Senators must be reminded that DADT repeal is a priority and should be at the top of the legislative calendar when they return."

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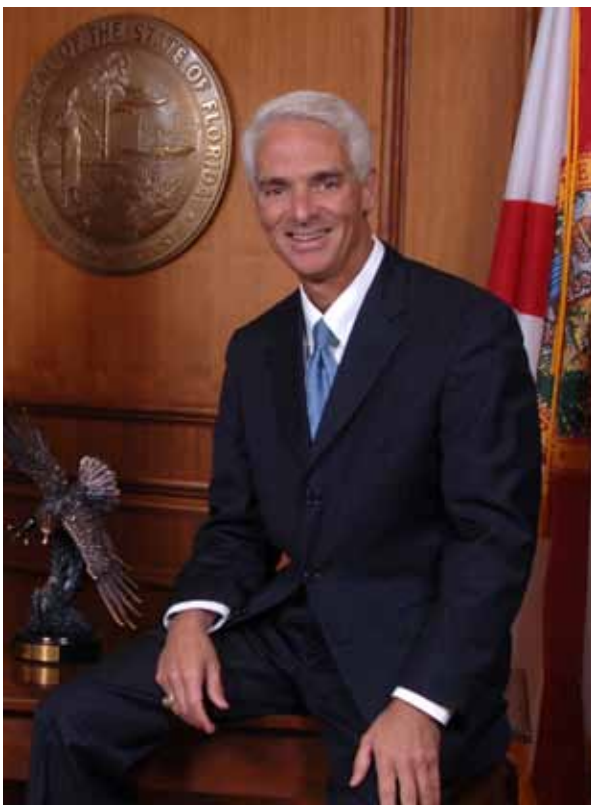


PHOTO: COURTESY

Florida Gov. Charlie Crist is running for the U.S. Senate as an Independent.

CHARLIE CRIST RUNNING AS INDEPENDENT

Florida Gov. Charlie Crist, who is waging a serious Independent campaign for the U.S. Senate, recently restated his support of Florida's constitutional amendment banning gays from marrying.

Crist made his statement on CNN and was initially reported to have endorsed a federal constitutional amendment against marriage equality.

"When it comes to marriage, I think it is a sacred institution, I believe it is between a man and a woman, but partners living together, you know, I don't have a problem with it," the governor said on the cable news channel.

Later Crist issued a statement to clarify that he was discussing an existing state amendment, not a possible federal amendment.

And, he said, "I am fully supportive of civil unions and will continue to be as a U.S.

senator."

Crist was one of the allegedly closeted gay politicians featured in the documentary film "Outrage." He faces Republican Marco Rubio and Democrat Kendrick Meek in the November race.

RI CANDIDATES TAKE STANDS

Rhode Island's gubernatorial candidates assembled in Newport Aug. 30 to debate issues and policies and explain why they are best suited to succeed Republican Don Carcieri.

The candidates at the forum included Democrat Frank Caprio, Independent Lincoln Chafee, Moderate Party candidate Ken Block and Republicans Victor Moffitt and John Robitaille.

On the issue of marriage, Chafee, Block and Caprio said they would sign a bill legalizing same-sex marriage if it passed the state Legislature, where such bills have repeatedly died.

Robitaille and Moffitt said

they opposed marriage for gays and lesbians, but were open to civil unions.

"I'm a traditionalist," Moffitt said.

TEA PARTY ACTIVIST GETS BOOTED

Republican Debra Miller may yet win an Idaho Senate seat, but she hasn't won any popularity contests on her job — or former job — in Boise.

Miller, a Tea Party activist, is running against incumbent Nicole LeFavour, the state's only openly gay lawmaker. Miller, on her campaign website, said, "I believe the Lord wants me to run for office and that HIS blessing is on me for taking a stand against the tyranny being imposed on us within our own society."

In late August, Boise canceled Miller's lease to operate her Boise Trolley Tours from a city-owned park because of complaints that she screamed and cursed at

patrons.

Miller said she's been unfairly targeted, probably by a "likely gay activist" with an underlying agenda, according to the Idaho Statesman newspaper.

The city's memo to Miller said she was "rude, profane and disrespectful of park patrons and city employees."

GAY CANDIDATE THREATENED

An openly gay Democratic candidate for the Kansas Legislature said he received a death threat containing anti-gay slurs.

Dan Manning of Wichita said someone left a note at his front door containing cut-out words and letters that spelled "Kill" and "Will die."

The incident is under investigation by the Wichita police department.

Manning, in the Nov. 2 election, faces Republican incumbent Brenda Landwehr, who condemned the threat against her opponent.

— from WiG and AP reports



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BRIEFS

MINISTER 'GUILTY'
FOR MARRYING
GAYS

A retired Presbyterian minister was found guilty of misconduct in August by a church court for officiating the weddings of 16 gay couples when same-sex marriage was legal in California.

A regional commission of the Presbyterian Church (USA) ruled 4-2 that the Rev. Jane Spahr of San Francisco "persisted in a pattern or practice of disobedience" by performing the weddings in 2008 before Proposition 8 banned the unions in the state.

The church's highest court has held that Presbyterian ministers may bless same-sex unions as long as they do

"not state, imply, or represent that a same-sex ceremony is a marriage."

By willfully challenging that holding, Spahr broke her ordination vows, the commission said in its majority opinion.

At the same time, however, the tribunal devoted most of its 2 1/2-page ruling to praising the 68-year-old pastor, a lesbian who founded a church group in the early

1990s for gay Presbyterians.

Spahr was acknowledged "for her prophetic ministry" and "faithful compassion." The commissioners called on the broader church to use her example "to re-examine our own fear and ignorance."

LUTHERANS
SPLIT OVER GAY
PASTORS, BIBLE
BELIEFS

Critics of the country's

largest Lutheran denomination and its more open stance toward gay clergy have formed a new group at a meeting in Ohio of a conservative activist group.

Members of Lutheran CORE voted overwhelmingly to approve the creation of the North American Lutheran Church in Grove City in suburban Columbus.

The new denomination will consist largely of congre-

gations leaving the Chicago-headquartered Evangelical Lutheran Church in America over issues of adhering to scriptural authority.

Paul Spring, the new bishop of the North American Lutheran Church, says the ELCA's acceptance of openly gay pastors was a tipping point for many.

— from AP

Couple challenges Wyoming marriage law

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Wyoming's nickname is the Equality State, but a federal court brief questions the validity of that claim as it challenges the state's ban against same-sex couples marrying.

Two men who say they were denied a marriage license because state law defines marriage as the union of a man and a woman brought the complaint, filed in August in Cheyenne.

David Shupe-Roderick, 25, and Ryan W. Dupree, 21, say they sought a license at the Laramie County Clerk's Office. After they were turned away, they filed a federal suit, which is before U.S. District Court Judge Alan B. Johnson.

"There comes a time in everyone's life when there are things that are wrong and you have a moral duty to stand up and you have to advocate for what's right," Shupe-Roderick told the

There are
questions
about the
legitimacy of
the Wyoming
case.

press.

He and Dupree are representing themselves in the case, which has not drawn the attention or the support devoted to other same-sex marriage cases.

In California, two of the nation's top attorneys are representing the same-sex couples challenging the anti-gay Proposition 8 ban on same-sex marriage and numerous LGBT and civil rights groups have filed

friend-of-the-court briefs in the closely watched case.

But there are questions about the legitimacy of the case in Wyoming.

Laramie County Clerk Debbye Balcaen Lathrop said she never met with Shupe-Roderick and Dupree and that no one from her staff dealt with them on a marriage license application.

The clerk maintains that her office hasn't received a marriage license application from a same-sex couple in the 16 years she's held the office.

In the federal filing, Shupe-Roderick said he and Dupree were denied a license Aug. 9. In a subsequent interview, he said he and Dupree spoke with Lathrop three times about a license.

Additionally, Shupe-Roderick has had a number of dealings with the law.

He's filed five suits over the past three years that have either been dropped or dismissed, including a claim

he made of sexual misconduct against prison guards, a claim of assault and breach of contract against a business associate, a claim for \$16,398 from ex-associates and a claim against a bank for the alleged unauthorized release of funds from an account.

Shupe-Roderick also is involved in a criminal case in which prosecutors allege he falsified state documents.

Shupe-Roderick, according to authorities, noted on a state application to become a notary public that he is not a convicted felon, failing to disclose that he served four years in a state prison. He also allegedly used a fake civil union certificate to obtain a Wyoming driver's license.

The marriage case is Shupe-Roderick et al v. Wyoming Governor et al.



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CHRISTIAN SCHOOL IN TEXAS REJECTS STUDENT

A Christian school in suburban Fort Worth denied admission to a 4-year-old girl after learning her parents are lesbians.

The couple said their daughter enrolled in a fine arts school less than a week after she was rejected by St. Vincent's Cathedral School in Bedford, Texas.

The private Christian school, which identifies itself as Episcopalian but is affiliated with the Anglican Church in North America, acknowledges it revoked Olivia's spot in class after meeting her mothers at a parents' night.

On enrollment forms filled out in June, Jill Harrison said she listed herself as the girl's mother. She crossed out father, and then listed Tracy Harrison's name. The couple married in Canada in 2006 but have since separated.

St. Vincent's chaplain Randall Foster said the school takes "a traditional stand on Christian marriage."

Foster told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, "We cannot do anything that would give legitimacy to same-sex relationships."

FORMER OFFICER PLEADS GUILTY TO BEATING PRISONER

A former Memphis, Tenn., police officer pleaded guilty to beating a transgender prisoner at a jail more than two years ago.

Bridges McRae pleaded guilty in federal court to a felony civil rights charge. He

had faced up to 10 years in prison, but instead he will serve two years under his plea agreement.

McRae acknowledged he used excessive force when he repeatedly hit Duanna Johnson in the face while she was being booked on a prostitution charge in February 2008.

McRae was scheduled to be retried next month after the first attempt was declared a mistrial in April.

Johnson, 43, was shot to death later in 2008 on a street corner near her home.

STUDY LINKS BULLYING TO SCHOOL TIES

Research from the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network shows that students who endure anti-LGBT harassment and lack administrative support are less likely to be involved in their schools.

GLSEN recently published its findings, based on an analysis of the nonprofit's 2007 school climate survey, in *The Prevention Researcher*.

In the survey, researchers questioned 6,200 LGBT middle and high school students about harassment in school and how educators respond to reports of such harassment.

A new look at the data found a direct link between anti-LGBT victimization and lower levels of "school connectedness" for LGBT youth.

The review also found that in schools where LGBT students found supportive staff who followed anti-bullying policies or provided Gay-

Straight Alliances, the level of school connectedness increases.

"Past research shows that feeling like a valued and accepted member of a school community is an important contributor to healthy adolescent development," said GLSEN researcher Joseph Kosciw.

"We also find that access to institutional supports can make a positive difference in the lives of LGBT youth and plays a critical role in interrupting the damaging relationship between hostile school climate and school connectedness," Kosciw said.

ATLANTA POLICE INVESTIGATE SHOOTING DEATH

Police said Durand Robinson, 50, was found shot dead in the middle of a street in Atlanta following a possible carjacking.

The Decatur, Ga., man was co-owner of the popular gay nightclub Traxx and an organizer of Atlanta's popular black gay Pride celebration.

Witnesses told Atlanta police he had gotten into an argument with someone just before shots rang out. Friends said they believe he may have been the victim of an attempted carjacking, but police said they don't have a motive or suspect.

Atlanta police said a resident called 911 to report that she heard a scream and saw a man lying in the street. Police arrived to find the man had been shot in the chest.

— from AP and WiG reports

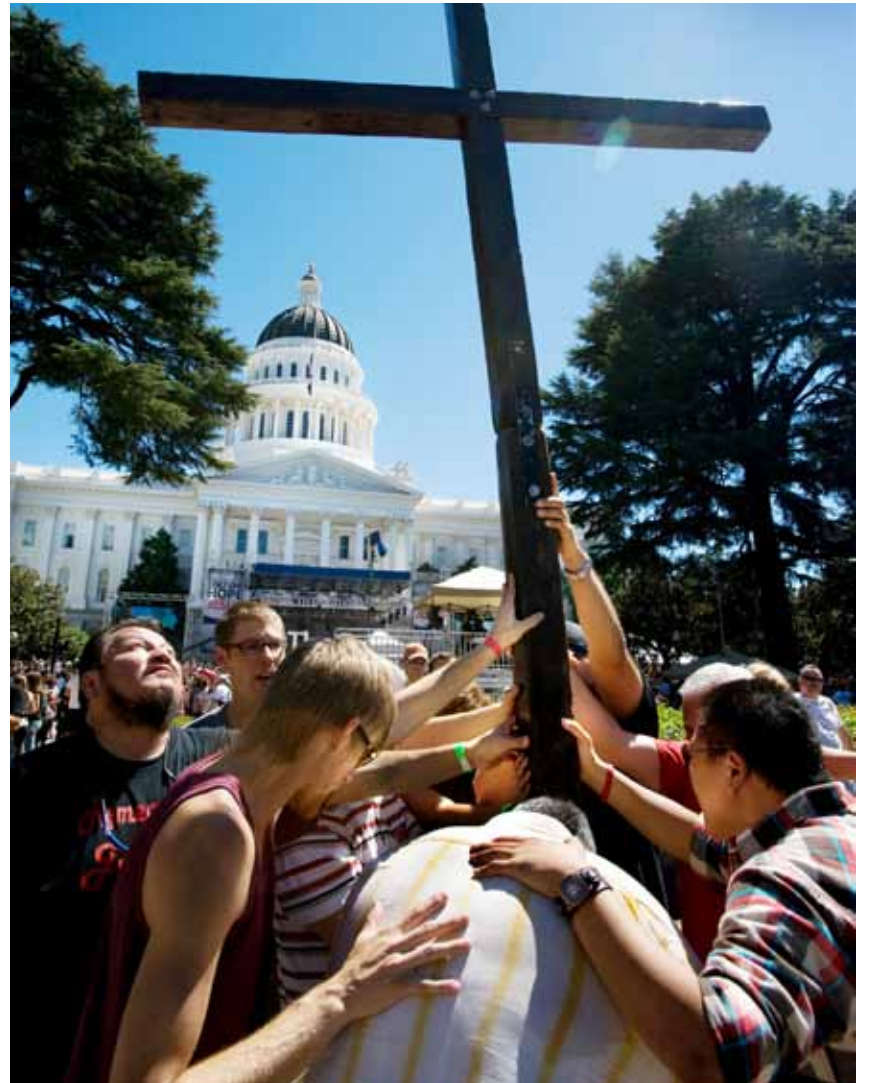


PHOTO: BRYAN PATRICK/AP

HALF-DAY OF PRAYER

Thousands of Christian conservatives spent 12 hours on Sept. 4 praying and fasting in front of the California Capitol in Sacramento. Organizers described the gathering as spiritual repentance "when there is no hope for a nation." The daylong religious event, "The Call to Conscience," was led by Lou Engle, as well as other pastors and speakers, to protest marriage equality, pornography and abortion.

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'This is going to be a big deal in the next couple of years.'

PEP from I

It's impossible to determine the success rate of PEP in preventing HIV from gaining a foothold in the body following a sexual exposure. Controlled studies – those in which some patients are given a placebo, or sugar pill, in order to compare the results with those given actual drugs – would be unethical to perform.

But the success rate is thought to be high. There have been studies of PEP among healthcare workers exposed through contaminated needle pricks and other job-related activities. Even using AZT – a relatively ineffective, first-generation anti-HIV drug – as therapy, PEP has been shown to prevent infection about 80 percent of the time. With today's better drugs used in combination, the success rate is likely much higher.

A study in which 24 macaque monkeys were intravenously given SIV – the simian version of HIV – found that none received

ing a multi-drug therapy for 28 days afterward became infected.

Despite such encouraging evidence, PEP is seldom prescribed in Wisconsin. Dr. John Fangman of AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin said he's discussed PEP with patients who are in sero-discordant relationships, the technical term for relationships in which one partner is HIV-positive and the other isn't. Recent studies have shown that up to two-thirds of HIV transmissions occur within such relationships.

But Fangman, who used to prescribe PEP when he practiced medicine in Massachusetts, said no one in his Milwaukee practice has asked for the drugs. He's only received one call here inquiring about PEP. "I don't think we've done as good a job as we could have to educate the public about this possibility," he said.

Even if PEP were to become more widely known in Wisconsin, patients would face major barriers in obtaining it. Perhaps the most sig-

nificant is the cost, which runs \$1,500-\$2,000 for one course of treatment.

"The only people I know who've been able to access PEP are fairly well-off," said Gary Hollander, executive director of Diverse and Resilient. "There doesn't seem to be a strategy for poor and uninsured people to take advantage of this."

Even people with insurance might find their carriers are unwilling to pay for the drugs in the absence of an HIV diagnosis, said Dr. Andrew Petroll of the Center for AIDS Intervention Research in Milwaukee. "It's unclear to me what happens in those cases," he said.

Some states, such as Massachusetts, pay for PEP, but Wisconsin does not.

'The only people I know who've been able to access PEP are fairly well-off.'

Michael McFadden, supervisor of the HIV Care and Surveillance Unit of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, said his office has occasionally referred callers seeking PEP to patient assistance programs that are offered by the drugs' manufacturers. "This has worked in

a couple of instances where the companies have agreed to overnight the medications," McFadden said.

Along with cost, the narrow window of time in which PEP must be taken in order to be effective is a major challenge. If you can't get a doctor's appointment until next Tuesday and exposure occurs on Saturday night, "that's not OK," Fangman said.

Most commonly, people concerned about exposure to HIV head for the nearest ER, "because they want to start the process ASAP," Fangman said. But he's received disturbing feedback about the outcomes of such visits to Milwaukee-area emergency rooms.

"I've heard of people having bad experiences, getting turned away or not getting very good advice," he said.

The lack of support locally for PEP comes at a time when drug therapy is increasingly being used in prevention planning. "Everybody recognizes that this is going to be a big deal in the next couple

of years," Fangman said.

Recent studies show promise for HIV drugs in other prevention strategies as well. One is pre-exposure prophylaxis (PREP), in which individuals engaged in high-risk behavior take anti-viral medications on an ongoing basis to prevent infection. Also, responding to research suggesting that HIV-positive people with very low or undetectable viral loads are much less likely to transmit the virus, San Francisco health officials have begun an aggressive campaign to test everyone at risk at six-month intervals and then get those who test positive into treatment immediately in order to prevent them from spreading infection.

Some experts believe the latter approach to prevention could ultimately come close to eradicating the virus in high-risk populations.

WiG welcomes reader comments. E-mail lweisberg@wisconsin-gazette.com.

GET IN TOUCH

Medical professionals can contact the National Clinicians' Post-Exposure Prophylaxis Hotline (PEpline) at 888-448-4911 for help in determining whether PEP should be administered, as well as recommendations for a treatment regimen specific to the exposure and the source history (if available).

A prior conviction for concealed carry

Guilty from I

style my grandchild was living, (she) didn't deserve to die like that."

"I'm not surprised that (Olaciregui) pled guilty," said Loree Cook-Daniels of FORGE. "I'm concerned about what happens to the community – and can we advance?"

FORGE has hosted five community meetings at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center since Larkin's slaying to give people a place to express their grief and outrage, as well as to work together on the underlying problems that tragically coalesced on the night of May 7.

A high-school dropout with a prior conviction for unlawfully carrying a concealed weapon, Olaciregui told police he was looking



Larkin (left) and Olaciregui

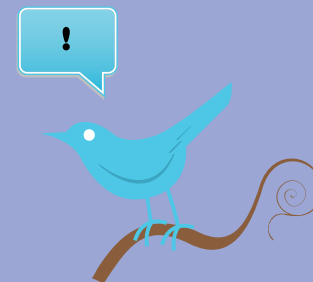
for a prostitute in a "rough neighborhood" when he went cruising down North Avenue with a loaded gun that night. On the corner of North 27th Street, he met Larkin, who was looking for a ride home, according to friends who spoke during a May 14 memorial service.

Olaciregui told police that Larkin agreed to perform

oral sex for \$20 and they drove to North 23rd Street, just south of North Avenue. He claimed that a fight broke out after he realized that Larkin was "a man" and that he accidentally shot her as they wrestled for his gun.

Police arrested Olaciregui when he returned to the crime scene looking for his cell phone.

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Gay characters, sensibilities out on the Milwaukee stage this season

By Jody Hirsh

Contributing writer

Gay theater has certainly come a long way since Stonewall. Classic plays such as Lillian Hellman's "The Children's Hour" (1934) or Robert Anderson's "Tea and Sympathy" (1953) cast homosexuality as an evil – even a suspicion of it could destroy a person's life. Yet Broadway plays were peopled with gay and lesbian characters drawn so subtly that tourists from Idaho (or Wisconsin, for that matter) didn't have a clue that the wisecracking "delicate" men or "tough" women were recognizably gay or lesbian to those in the know. Camp performances were always riotously popular, and even drag was acceptable as long as there was no hint of alternative sexual identification.

Now, sweep forward to 21st-century Milwaukee, where no stigma of lesbian or gay sensibility would prompt a local theater group to censorship. In this new context of theatrical enlightenment, Milwaukee's upcoming theater season has quite a few offerings for her LGBT sons and daughters.

The Milwaukee Repertory Theater, under the leadership of new artistic director Mark Clements, is presenting not one but three shows of particular interest to LGBT Milwaukeeans. The pick of the season is the new production of the Kander and Ebb musical "Cabaret," directed by Clements.

The groundbreaking 1968 show and subsequent 1972 movie present the end of Germany's Weimar Republic and the rise of fascism. The musical is based loosely on gay writer Christopher Isherwood's insightful "Berlin Stories," written between

1935 and 1939. It's one of the very first big Broadway shows to cast gay characters as positive figures. The story takes place in 1929 and 1930, well before the Holocaust; yet with the hindsight of history, we wonder about the fate of the gay and Jewish characters, potential victims of the Nazis. This production is the Rep's first musical on the main Quadracci Powerhouse stage, and its largest cast to date – 33

people. It is not to be missed. Two other Rep shows will interest the LGBT community. "Liberace!," written by Rep artistic associate Brent Hazelton, will be performed in the Stackner Cabaret. This new production about Milwaukee's native son will not steer away from the reality of Liberace's "secret" gay life. "The 39 Steps," to be performed on the Quadracci stage, is not strictly speaking an LGBT play, but it's a riot

of campy physical humor that includes loads of cross-dressing. Four actors play dozens of characters in reenacting the classic Alfred Hitchcock thriller.

One of the newcomers on the Milwaukee scene is Theatrical Tendencies, a new LGBT theater company that claims "Inclusive Theatre with a Passion for OUTstanding Storytelling." Housed in the Milwaukee Gay Arts Center on Second



PHOTO: KEITH KUCHARSKI

Left, the poster from the original New York production of "Corpus Christi," which Milwaukee's Theatrical Tendencies presents this season. Above, Marty McNamee as Richard Loeb in "Thrill Me."

Street in Walker's Point, the group offers two shows in its 2010 season. "Thrill Me: The Leopold & Loeb Story," by Stephen Dolginoff, is a new musical that tells the story of the two gay young men who lured a boy to his death in the real-life scandal that shocked 1924 Chicago – and the world. Although this grim story, directed by Mark E. Schuster, is an unlikely musical, it should, nonetheless prove to be fascinating.

Tendencies' spring production "Corpus Christi," by gay playwright Terrence McNally, is a story of homophobia and violence set in 1950s Texas, with thought-provoking parallels to the New Testament. The play has sparked numerous protests around the country from religious right activists.

Were you ever suspicious of Sir Lancelot, of King Arthur's Round Table? Wonder no more! Monty Python's "Spamalot," appearing at the Milwaukee Theater,

will present the classic Arthurian story with a twist, as a gay Sir Lancelot adds diversity to the Knights of the Round Table.

In December, Next Act Theatre will produce a special presentation of local gay icon John McGivern's riotous one-man show "Home for the Holidays." McGivern, who starred in last year's Renaissance Theaterwork's gay show "American Fiesta," will recreate all the people, including gay ones, who people his holiday nostalgia.

Remember the classic 1960s musical "Hair"? See it again this year at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. The show may be less shocking than it was in 1967, but this so-called "American tribal rock musical" was groundbreaking in its treatment of sexuality, anti-war activism, nudity and the hippie counter-culture.

WiG welcomes reader comments. E-mail lweisberg@wisconsin-gazette.com.



The 2010 national tour of "Spamalot" is coming to the Milwaukee Theater.

Musicals take center stage in Milwaukee

By Harry Cherkinian
Contributing writer

In Milwaukee, you can always count on another opening, another show. There's plenty to choose from this season, from the Broadway musical version of the movie favorite "Young Frankenstein" (Marcus Center) to the gritty, nightmarish travelling circus world of "Freakshow" (Youngblood Theater Company).

Once again, musicals take center stage this upcoming season, from the Skylight Opera Theater to the "Broadway Across America" series. Even the Milwaukee Rep is getting in on the act, kicking off its 57th season with "Cabaret," the first musical ever performed in its main stage Quadracci Powerhouse.

If large (production) and funny (as in skewed British humor) are what you're looking for, be sure to see "Monty Python's Spamalot" at the Milwaukee Theater. For those

who missed the first tour when it came to the Marcus Center in 2008, here's your chance to see why it remains one of the funniest modern musicals around.

Funny can also be found with this fall's offering at the intimate Boulevard Theater, as the company celebrates its 25th season. "The Savannah Disputation" showcases the Southern humor of two sisters whose souls are in dire need of saving by their Baptist beautician (she's very concerned about their hair color as well). Veteran funnyman Mark Bucher (who also serves as the Boulevard's founder, artistic director and everything else) keeps the laughs coming onstage (and offstage, as loyal subscribers can attest).

Head just south of Milwaukee's downtown to the Third Ward and you'll discover "Dames at Sea" at the Skylight Opera, a hit that began as a parody of the lavish, 1930s Busby Berkeley musicals. Afterward, use your imagination as you gaze east at Lake Michigan.

Milwaukee Chamber

Theater (the Skylight's next-door neighbor) stages a musical with a Wisconsin twist in "Main-Travelled Roads," based on the short stories of Hamlin Garland, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author who was born in West Salem, Wis., and spent time living the rural life through the Midwest before settling in Boston.

Collaboration among theaters continues as a key strategy this season. Renaissance Theaterworks, now in its 18th season, teams up with Milwaukee's new African-American theater group, Uprooted Theater Company, formed by veteran local performers Tiffany Cox, Marti Gobel, Dennis Johnson and Travis Knight. As the first production in its new diversity series, the two companies will stage "Crumbs from the Table of Joy" by Lynn Nottage (who won the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for "Ruined," her retelling of Bertolt Brecht's "Mother Courage and Her Children" set in the war-torn Congo Republic. Nottage also had an earlier breakthrough work,

"Intimate Apparel," performed at The Rep's Stiemke Theater in 2006). "Crumbs" tells the story of an African-American family moving from the Deep South to 1950s Brooklyn, all seen through the eyes of a 17-year-old girl.

This season, Next Act Theater will share Tenth Street Theater with In Tandem Theater. While Next Act conducts its ongoing capital campaign to create a new space within a larger one on Water Street, the shows still go on, with this fall's "Four Places," Joel Drake's Johnson's story about aging parents, dwindling independence and the "sandwich" generation of sons and daughters who have their own ideas about caring for Mom and Dad. Artistic director David Cesarini directs a strong ensemble of veteran actors Flora Coker, Laura Gray, Mary McDonald Kerr and Mark Ulrich.

In Tandem's husband and wife team of Jane and Chris Flieller offer up one of the few murder mysteries this fall season with "Art of Murder." And Christmas will never be the same after their seasonal

offering, "Scrooge in Rouge." (Picture all the characters of the Dickens classic "A Christmas Carol" played by just three actors. Plenty of costume changes and zany humor is just the gift for the holidays).

"New and diverse" continues this season with two other theater companies debuting. Theatrical Tendencies focuses on "the lives and experiences of men and women in the LGBT community." Founded by David Carter and Mark Schuster, the theater presents the Milwaukee premier of "Thrill Me - The Leopold and Loeb Story," a musical based on the sensational 1924 murder case. In Tandem Theater presents the show again in Spring 2011.

Carte Blanche Studios Theatre started out as multimedia space in 2007, when founder Jimmy Dragolovich, a local director, actor and filmmaker, began hosting workshops and live music in the loft above an antique store on First Street. They've now moved up (literally) to South Fifth Street into

a newly renovated 80-seat theater, including gallery and lounge. CBST will feature Shakespeare ("Taming of the Shrew") and Silverstein ("An Adult Evening of Shel Silverstein"), with some Irish music and politics courtesy of playwright Brendan Behan thrown in for good measure ("The Hostage").

Shakespeare's "King Lear" turns up at Theatre Gigante, founded by the husband and wife team of Isabelle Kralj and Mark Anderson. True to their unique artistic vision, the twosome has revised this "Lear" with enough of their own twist while giving a nod to the Bard in the process.

Given the Great Recession, this season also features affordability, with many theaters offering some good deals and promotions to come in out of the autumn air.

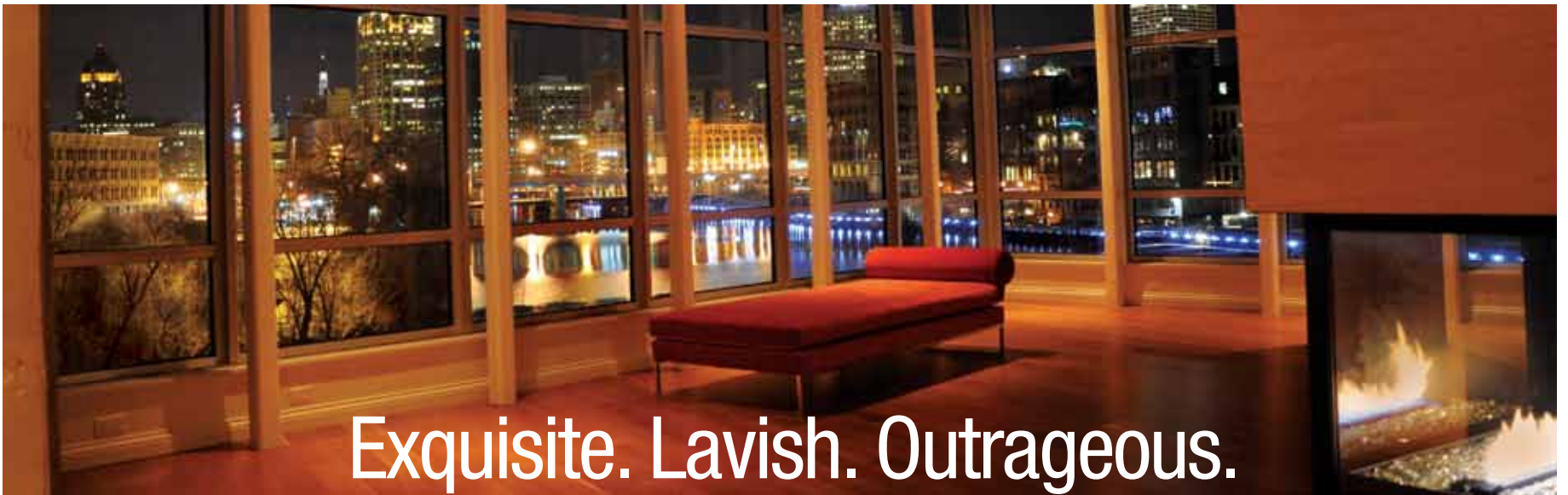
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Madison spotlights classic and modern works

By Jay Rath

Contributing writer

From witches and world premieres to "The Big Chill" for lesbians, Madison's upcoming performance season offers a variety of classic and modern works.

The hottest ticket in town will be for "Wicked," which swoops into the Overture Center for the Arts Sept. 22-Oct. 10.

The musical comedy about what happened before Dorothy came to Oz kicks off Overture's season of Broadway blockbusters that also includes Mel Brooks' "Young Frankenstein," "Legally Blonde," "Mamma Mia!" and a 25th-anniversary production of "Les Misérables."

"This is one of the most exciting performance lineups we've ever put together," says Overture president and CEO Tom Carto.

Liza Minnelli has unfortu-

nately canceled her scheduled performance, but her Oct. 23 slot will be filled by comedian and runway pundit Joan Rivers. For information, visit www.overturecenter.com.

Through Sept. 25, StageQ presents "Last Summer At Bluefish Cove" at the Bartell Theatre, a venue shared by several Madison community theater companies. One of StageQ's missions is to "produce gay, lesbian, and other queer-focused theater productions and works authored by gay and lesbian playwrights."

Described as a witty "Big Chill" for lesbians, "Bluefish Cove," by Jane Chambers, is about a group of women who gather in 1979 to reflect on life, love and illness.

StageQ also presents "The Dying Gaul," by Craig Lucas, Dec. 2 through 18, and "Make Me a Song," with music by William Finn, March

6-26. From May 27 to June 4 it presents its own annual "Queer Shorts" revue. For information, visit StageQ.com.

The Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra, best known for its broadcast concerts on the Wisconsin Capitol Square, launches its season with guest violinist Alexander Sitkovetsy Oct. 8 at the Overture Center for the Arts. Other guests this season include Christina and Michelle Naughton and Molly Barth. For information, visit www.wcoconcerts.org.

The Madison Symphony Orchestra is looking forward to a rich concert season with guests including Alisa Weilerstein and Henning Kraggerud. The orchestra's season premiere features Russian classical pianist Olga Kern, Oct. 15-17, at the Overture Center for the Arts. For information, visit www.madisonsymphony.org.

Madison Opera celebrates its 50th year with "The Threepenny Opera" and "La Traviata." The group's season begins with performances of "The Marriage of Figaro," Nov. 5 and Nov. 7, at the Overture Center for the Arts. New York Opera star Jason Hardy is slated to perform as Figaro. For information, visit www.madisonopera.org.

Kanopy Dance presents the world premiere of an untitled work by former Martha Graham principal Martin Lofsnes at the Overture Center for the Arts, Nov. 12-14. Lofsnes is director of New York's 360-degree Dance Company. He presents the Midwest



PHOTO: CAROL ROSEGG

A scene from the 2009 "Mamma Mia!" national tour.

premiere of "Que Color Tiene el Amor." Kanopy's season continues with dance concerts Feb. 18-20 and April 8-9. For information, visit www.kanopydance.org.

Four Seasons Theatre, a polished semi-pro troupe and a favorite of critics, presents another season of musicals, including the Madison premiere of "The Spitfire Grill," Dec. 3-18, at the Bartell Theatre in partnership with Madison Theater Guild. Set in Wisconsin, it's the whimsical story of a diner that's down on its luck until a parolee follows her dreams.

Four Seasons' schedule also includes "Spring Awakening," presented in association with University Theater on Oct. 23-24 at the Wisconsin Union Theater. The rock adaptation won

eight Tony Awards, including best musical, in 2007. For information, visit www.fourseasonstheatre.com.

The holidays come early to the Memorial Coliseum at the Alliant Energy Center. On Nov. 10 the Rockettes present their Radio City Christmas Spectacular. The production includes bold stage effects in addition to the Rockettes' precision dance. For information, visit www.alliantenergycenter.com.

A number of neighboring communities recently have begun programming their own seasons of touring artists. Most notable is the charmingly restored Stoughton Opera House. The small audience size and vintage setting are sure to make it a treat when Riders in

the Sky perform "Christmas the Cowboy Way!" on Dec. 18. Suzanne Vega performs Oct. 10. "An Evening with Jeff Daniels" is scheduled for Nov. 13, featuring the actor/playwright's singing and songwriting. For information, visit www.stoughtonoperahouse.com.

On campus, the Wisconsin Union Theater presents Ballet Hispanico on Oct. 2. "An Evening with Joan Baez" follows on Oct. 8. Gaelic Storm appears Feb. 19. For information, visit uniontheater.wisc.edu.

University Theater presents "The Rocky Horror Show" March 3-5. For information, visit www.utmadison.com.

Proud Theater is looking forward to again presenting a work-shopped revue sometime in the spring. Meanwhile, artistic director Brian Wild says the troupe is looking for a new home. Proud is an award-winning and innovative youth theater program designed to foster self-expression and self-empowerment for Madison-area youth. It's aligned with Outreach, Inc., Madison's LGBT resource center.



PHOTO: COURTESY

The Rockettes bring the Radio City Christmas Spectacular to Madison this season.

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Allen Ginsberg: portrait of the gay poet as superstar



PHOTO: COURTESY

James Franco (right) stars as Allen Ginsberg.

By Jody Hirsh

Contributing writer

Name a poet, any poet. Now name a rock star. Picture the thousands of people who wait in line to buy tickets to Lady Gaga, Dave Matthews Band or U2. But no one imagines a poet as a superstar with the crowd-drawing power of today's celebrity musicians.

The gay/bi/Jewish Beat poet Allen Ginsberg, however, was an exception. A celebrity among poets, he commonly drew huge crowds to his readings, notably 7,000 people to his "International Poetry Incarnation" at London's Royal Albert Hall in 1967.

"Howl," a feature film chronicling the life of Ginsberg as a young poet, could introduce a new generation to the electrifying Beat

star. Directed by Rob Epstein ("The Times of Harvey Milk") and Jeffrey Friedman ("The Celluloid Closet"), the film stars James Franco ("Milk") as Ginsberg, along with a supporting cast that includes Jon Hamm, Mary-Louise Parker, David Strathairn, Jeff Daniels and Treat Williams.

Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival will present a special advance screening of the film Sept. 15 as a prelude to "Banned Books Week" (Sept. 25 to Oct. 2). The screening is co-sponsored by the UW-M Union Theatre and Equality Wisconsin, and co-presented by Milwaukee Film, Woodland Pattern Book Center, the Milwaukee Public Library, UW-M Libraries and the ACLU of Wisconsin Foundation.

Ginsberg (1926-1997) was considered by many to be a

The Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival screens "Howl" at 7 p.m. Sept. 15, at UW-M Union Theater.

ringleader of the 1950s Beat Generation, an association he constantly denied. His work reflected his take on life in a post-war society, characterized by the aimlessness of his generation. He protested militarism, censorship, materialism, right-wing politics, conventional thinking, the "war on drugs," and later the wars in Vietnam and the Middle East. He condemned orthodoxy of any kind – even the orthodoxy of the left.

Ginsberg was thrust into celebrity with a reading of his groundbreaking poem "Howl" at the Six Gallery in San Francisco in 1955. His opening lines are among the most famous in world poetry:

"I saw the best minds of my generation destroyed by madness, starving hysterical naked, dragging themselves through the negro streets at dawn looking for an angry fix;

Angel-headed hipsters burning for the ancient heavenly connection

to the starry dynamo in the machinery of night."

Ginsberg stunned audiences with his frank and shocking language, not expected in the medium of poetry. His open descriptions of sexual acts broke all 1950s societal conventions. His descriptions of gay sex were considered beyond obscene at a time when homosexual acts were outlawed in virtually every state.

With the release of "Howl," Ginsberg's publisher was charged with obscenity, sparking a world famous trial and the banning of his book. His description of those same best minds "who let themselves be fucked in the ass by saintly motorcyclists, and screamed with joy" was specifically referred to in the trial.

The verdict, however, vindicated publisher Lawrence

Ferlinghetti and the poem. The judge declared, "Would there be any freedom of press or speech if one must reduce his vocabulary to vapid innocuous euphemisms?"

Ever an advocate for gay rights, Ginsberg insisted that his lifelong companion Peter Orlovsky be listed as his "spouse" in "Who's Who in America." Prolific even at the end, Ginsberg's heartbreaking

last poem, "Things I'll Not Do (Nostalgias)," was written a week before his death from liver cancer:

"No more sweet summers with lovers, teaching Blake at Naropa ...

Any visits to B'nai Israel graves of Buddha, Aunt Rose, Harry Melzer and Aunt Clara, Father Louis

Not myself except in an urn of ashes."

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Film

GREGG SHAPIRO

'THE AMERICAN'
(FOCUS)

It's probably unfair to expect photographer-turned-filmmaker Anton Corbijn to repeat the visual magic he created with "Control," his Joy Division biopic and feature film debut. But his latest, an awkward and stilted thriller called "The American," is utterly the polar opposite. It's the latest in a string of assassin flix (see "Salt," better yet, don't. See the forthcoming "Red" instead, at least it has

a sense of humor).

"The American" of the title is Jack (George Clooney), a first-rate assassin attempting to age gracefully and retire with dignity. But there are some angry Swedes who don't want that to happen. Relocated to a small town in Italy, Jack must carry out one final job before he's finished. As his boss Pavel (Johan Leysen) says, he doesn't even have to pull the trigger. All he has to do is construct a weapon for another assassin, Mathilde (Thekla Reuten). Of course, any one with half a brain (I'm talking to you, Glenn Beck) can figure out that Jack is manufacturing the means of his own demise.

In the meantime, Jack (also known as Edward) fills his numbered days in Castel Del Monte with workouts (thank you!), visits to the open-air market, dinner with Father Benedetto (Paolo Bonacelli), his standing appointment with hooker Clara (Violante Placido), cryptic phone calls to Pavel and avoiding another hit man. Suspenseless, leaden and predictable, "The American" seems to be trying to recapture the style of the 1960s spy cinema, but doesn't succeed. Not even a fit and often shirtless Clooney is enough to make this fiasco bearable.

This "American's" passport and license to kill should be revoked.

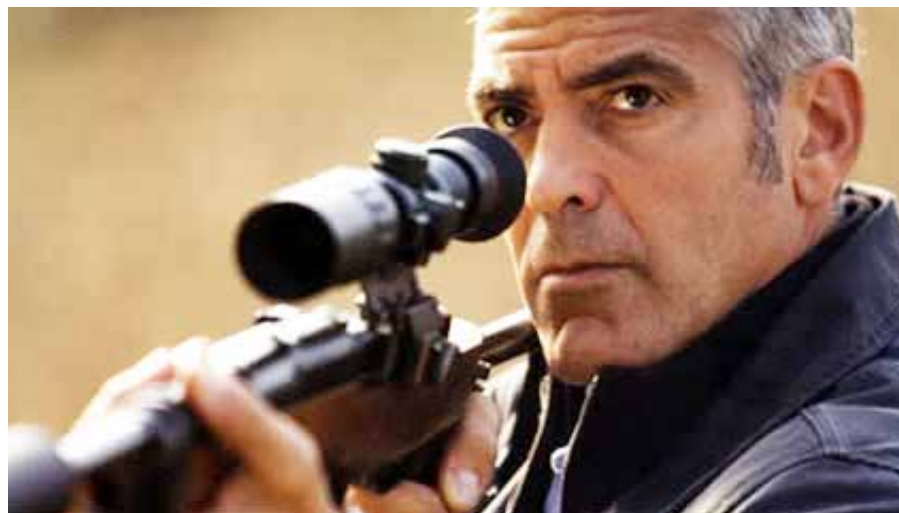


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George Clooney in "The American," a new release from director Anton Corbijn.

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Milwaukee goes gaga over a certain lady



PHOTO: COURTESY

The meteoric Lady Gaga. Her Milwaukee performance on Sept. 2 had everything one could ask for – amazing production values, visuals that simply dazzled, state-of-the-art technology and non-stop energy.

By Harry Cherkinian

Contributing writer

“The Monster Ball” made its way to Milwaukee Sept. 2 courtesy of its merry mistress of ceremonies, the unstoppable Lady Gaga. And for all who attended the more than two-hour dance party, “the ball” had everything one could ask for: Amazing production values, visuals that simply dazzled, state-of-the-art technology (read: excellent sound system) and non-stop energy coupled with a creative vision spotlighting the ball’s superstar attraction – Gaga herself.

At 24, the former Stephanie Germanotta stands high atop the music biz heap today (and helps to support it as well). Amid all her over-the-top theatricality and eccentric fashion, she’s the true heir apparent to Madonna and Michael Jackson (his music played continuously before the ball kicked off). Clearly influenced by glam rockers such as David Bowie and Freddie Mercury (remember “Radio Gaga?” – hence the name), G2 took the near-capacity audience on her journey to the ball, along with 10 dancers, six musicians and set designs that show her to be a performer ahead of her time. She’s just stopping off in the “now” to entertain us in her own futuristic manner.

“I’m here to tell you, you can be whoever you want to be,” proclaimed Her Royal Ladyness, in one of the show’s many invocations to authenticity and tolerance. A fiercely outspoken supporter of the LGBT community, Gaga peppered her performance with pro-gay remarks, reminding the appreciative audience that “God makes no mistakes.”

The audience included conspicuously high numbers of lesbians and gays, many of the latter adorned in Gaga-inspired drag for the occa-

sion. Each night of her tour, Virgin, the tour sponsor, donates \$20,000 to organizations serving homeless LGBT youth.

Gaga is living proof of the wisdom of being true to oneself. Her meteoric rise to the top is already strewn with many Top 10 hits, all of which she performed, from her debut “The Fame” as well as “The Fame Monster,” making the show a true fan’s fantasy come true.

Rather than take the easy way out in live performance, G2 works hard for the money – and so does the audience. Straining for the first glimpse of the superstar, the crowd saw her shadow projected through a scrim, a simple movement eliciting zealous screams as she sang “Dance in the Dark.”

Once face to face with her fans (and heartbeats returned to near normal), it was a no-holds-barred, plenty-of-skin-bared extravaganza, starting with her breakthrough hit “Let’s Dance.” The costume changes were many and eye-popping, the sexual gyrations in full force amid an atmosphere of gender-bending androgyny.

Show stoppers? Where to begin? There’s the faux nun outfit complete with white tape over her nipples during “Love Game.” The fake blood along with the black leather in “Monster.”

There’s a spontaneous method to Gaga’s creative madness. Despite the precision of the sets, music and choreography, she seems remarkably down-to-earth, unrehearsed. G2 is at times tough, other times, vulnerable – the child woman whose dreams are made real onstage.

And how those dreams materialize! In “Paparazzi, she sang fearlessly to an enormous “Fame Monster”

while intertwined within the creature’s writhing, squid-like appendages. For the show’s encore, “Bad Romance,” she emerged onstage tucked in a full-body gyroscope, stepping out in shiny metallic, reminiscent of the ‘80s glam rock era.

The future is here. And her name is Lady Gaga. Remember it. Because she won’t let you forget it. Not ever.

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A garden of reverie, tended with reverence

By Debra Brehmer

Contributing writer

As our society eliminates unscheduled time, the concept of daydreaming feels ever more remote. The Japanese (via the Chinese historically) understood that to create a sense of reverie one needed to carefully structure the passage. It was only through artificial ordering and attentive effort that one could lay the means for relaxation.

The Anderson Japanese Gardens in Rockford, Ill., are built on this kind of paradox – and perhaps that is why their beauty is so pronounced. Rockford is a ravished city that struggles for an economic foothold. Yet hidden within its folds is this 12-acre gem of reflecting pools, golden koi, stone paths, shady knolls, a 50-foot waterfall and trickling streams. It was recently rated the No. 1 Japanese garden in America.

About 90 miles from Milwaukee, one approaches Rockford through long stretches of big-box sprawl to a depleted downtown of once noble 19th-century buildings. A busy street borders the garden entrance, but once you step inside a mythical land beckons. You immediately forget the white noise of traffic as your hearing adjusts to the focused tick of a bamboo funnel collecting and pouring water in a hidden grove. The soul thrives on simplicity, and here a single leaf floating down a shallow stream offers everything you need.

John D. Anderson was the son of a prominent Rockford



PHOTO: COURTESY

Anderson Japanese Gardens is at 318 Spring Creek Road, in Rockford, Ill. (www.AndersonGardens.org.) While in Rockford, check out the Rockford Art Museum, currently featuring work by Chicago artists Richard Hull and Nicholas Sistler.

family who ran Anderson Packaging. He graduated from the UW-Madison in 1966, married, had four children and purchased a home on a hill on Stoneridge Road with an acre lot. He had visited Japan with a college buddy in the 1960s but it wasn't until a trip to a Japanese garden in Portland, Ore., in 1978 that his "aha" moment occurred.

Anderson returned to the Midwest and called landscape architect Hoichi Kurisu, who had designed the Portland

garden. Together they initiated a project that would shape the next 30 years of their lives. They sculpted acre after acre of swampy Midwestern scrub into an other-worldly pastoral dream featuring three styles of Japanese gardens: a 12th-century pond strolling garden, 16th-century tea garden and a contemporary garden of reflection.

The gardens could be considered one large composition that entices and

rewards slow, engaged looking – a little like a Kandinsky painting, but not as messy. The formal elements here are air, stones, water and plants. Spun together within a 1,000-year tradition, the principles of animism and Buddhism provide gentle philosophical depth to the notion of a stroll.

Your eyes need time to adjust to this new language. Then, slowly, nuances appear. Layers and textures of leaves, innumerable shades of green,

the feeling of a curve and the color of a shadow begin to assert themselves as if they were always there, but we hadn't noticed. It's a perfect lesson in observation: What we think we see is only a fragment of what could be seen.

As the 1.5-mile half path zigzags and crosses small bridges, new scenes (like the sight of a tea house built into the hillside or a lone duck perched on a rock) nudge our consciousness

toward the ethereal. Sunlight falls into shadowy places in a rhythm that feels programmed to make us notice. Simple log benches provide moments to rest and contemplate the view. The ponds and streams first dazzle us with sparkling surfaces but soon fish or turtles emerge, and then reflections begin to appear. The more you look, the more you see.

Be sure to buy the koi food at the ticket counter, because a sprinkling of these pellets causes eruptions of fat, orange, yellow, gold and black fish that dissipate back to their leisurely drift as quickly as they arrive.

Although Anderson gave the site to the public 13 years ago and had his home on the hill demolished a year and a half ago, renovations and expansion continues. Anderson plans to build a new, more architecturally appropriate home on the hill in the near future. A restaurant opened in the visitor's center in 2008, featuring a chef from Thailand via Laos with an Asian fusion menu of her family recipes.

Prime fall viewing at the garden is the first or second week of October. You can call the center to ask the percentage of color change. Legend has it that there is a Japanese maple tree by the garden of reflection that turns so red that people think it's artificial. As the Zen koan suggests: Reality is elusive. Impermanence is the only truth.

*There's always more at
www.wisconsin-gazette.com*

Artwatch

KAT MURRELL

There is plenty of art to gaze at as Milwaukee's fall cultural season revs into high gear. Walker's Point Center for the Arts, 839 S. Fifth St., opens its annual member's show Sept. 10, from 5-8 p.m. The exhibition content var-

ies year to year, but always promises to be a great big grab bag of form and style.

The Marshall Building in the Third Ward, 207 E. Buffalo St., will hold an open house from 6-9 p.m. Sept. 10. This creative epicenter boasts about 20 art-related businesses, including galleries, artists' studios and design showcases. A highlight of this event will be the reopening of Luckystar Studio, which

has gone through numerous incarnations in the past decade.

Also on Friday in the Third Ward, Tory Folliard Gallery, 233 N. Milwaukee St., opens "Terrance James Coffman: New Paintings" from 5-8 p.m. A gallery favorite, Coffman is known for vibrant colors, expressive gestures and works that linger between landscapes and abstraction.

Recently opened exhibi-

tions include "Art in Clay: Masterworks of North Carolina Earthenware," currently showing at the Milwaukee Art Museum. This exhibition offers about 120 pieces of handcrafted pottery dating from the 18th century.

It's a look back in time at the traditions of Moravian potters in North Carolina, trained or influenced by Gottfried Aust. Exhibition curator Luke Beckerdite

says, "For the Moravians, slipware plates and dishes functioned as reminders of their European roots as well as potent symbols of religion and the cycle of life."

An exhibition to catch before it closes on Sept. 26 is the work of Bruce Connor at Inova, 2155 N. Prospect Ave. An esteemed American artist, the surrealistic and psychedelic Connor was versatile, and

this exhibition surveys prints, drawings and films, including an early 1970s series, "The Dennis Hopper One Man Show." Running concurrently is "Psychotrope," a view of video art exploring our inundation of images and social connections. As artist Jacob Ciocci states, "Culture is out of control, but it is OK."

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Dining

RICK KARLIN

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Every city neighborhood needs a great little spot where locals can gather for a friendly, casual nosh.

Riverwest's Nessun Dorma is just such a place. There are no pretensions at this charming little storefront cafe – it's a neighborhood joint in the best possible sense.

We hit the place with a gaggle of gays on a Friday night and only had to wait as long as it took to push a couple of tables together. Our server Talia handed us our menus with a smile, memorized our drink orders and hustled off to get things started. When she returned mere moments later with every drink perfectly placed, I was impressed. I've been to five-star places where the service wasn't as efficient.

As we perused the menu we grazed on an enormous bowl of olives. The large portion, priced at \$8, included red and black Bella de Cerignola, green Castelvetrano and tart Nicoise tossed in a fresh vinaigrette with capers. A cheese plate would be a nice add-on for this appetizer, which would easily serve 8-10 people.

The menu isn't vast – a half dozen sandwiches, a couple of daily soups, a salad or two and a daily entrée special (roast duck on the night of our visit). It still took a while to decide, not only because queens do everything but look at the menu when they sit down, but also because everything sounded so yummy. Most of us kicked off our meal with a spicy corn and red pepper chowder. The vegetarian treat was priced at \$2.50 for a "cup," which anywhere else would have been a bowl.

In the end, the majority of us decided on sandwiches. The "Puccini" is thinly sliced beef tenderloin with capicola (a spicy cross between salami and Canadian bacon) topped with sautéed peppers and onions, provolone and piled atop kalamata olive tapanade-laden Tuscan-style country bread. The "Formaggio" is an Italian grilled cheese on steroids. Fresh mozzarella, provolone and fontinella cheeses are topped with roasted sweet red peppers nestled between thick slices of Asiago ciabatta. The fresh basil pesto mayo slathered on the bread made

this comfort food for any nationality.

The true test of a panini eatery is an Italian deli combo. Nessun's version passed with flying colors. Genoa salami, capicola and pepperoni is alternated in layers with provolone on a seeded deli loaf and augmented simply with roasted sweet red peppers and a mild giardinara relish.

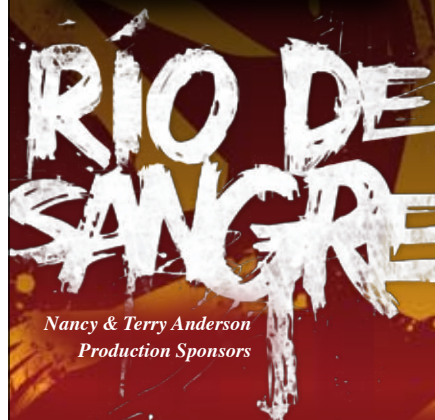
One of the most body-conscious of our group passed on the carb-heavy treats and opted for a Caesar salad of chopped romaine presented in a large bowl coated with grated romano and fontinella cheeses, lightly dressed in a lemony Caesar dressing. The salad was so good that he actually broke down and tasted a couple of the house-made croutons.

None of us are big beer drinkers, but for those who are the nearly 100 strong beer menu, eight of them on draught, is vast in scope. Wine choices include 35 by the glass and more than 100 by the bottle, many priced at \$25 or less. We all enjoyed the quality and generous portions of our wine selections.

In the end, we fed five hungry guys for \$100, and that included a hefty tip for our fabulous server Talia, who recommended Leon's Drive-In when we asked for an ice cream suggestion – but that's another story.

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The art of fiction

An interview with writer
Michael Cunningham

Interview

GREGG SHAPIRO

Michael Cunningham, gay, Pulitzer Prize-winning writer of "The Hours" (the film adaptation earned Nicole Kidman an Oscar), has written a new novel, "By Nightfall" (Farrar Straus Giroux, 2010). In it, art dealer Peter is married to magazine editor Rebecca and they live in New York. The arrival of Rebecca's younger brother Ethan (a.k.a. Mizzy, as in "mistake") throws the couple's seemingly happy existence into a severe tailspin. The attractive and sexually ambiguous Mizzy comes on to Peter, leading the poor fellow to question everything about himself.

Cunningham handles the material with all of the grace, wit, sensitivity and insight that we have come to expect from him over the years. I spoke with him at his Provincetown, Mass., residence in August.

Gregg Shapiro: *The New York art world is at the center of "By Nightfall," with Peter operating an art gallery. What was it about that setting that was intriguing to you?*

Michael Cunningham: One of the great things about writing novels is that you get to live parallel lives. I wanted to be a painter when I

started out, but wasn't good enough at it. I am fascinated by the whole world of buying and selling art. So writing a book is a good excuse to take a field trip into some parallel realm and live in it for the time it takes to write the book.

GS: *At one point, Peter's assistant says to him, "You've always been in love with beauty itself." Is that true of you?*

MC: I am in love with beauty. In this regard, Peter is to some degree autobiographical. Because I am reluctant to believe that beauty is dead. Yes, I am a whore for beauty.

GS: *The book includes a nice blend of literary and visual art references.*

MC: Yeah. If I'm a whore for beauty, then I'm also a whore for art and literature. I find the books I read and the art I care about to be enormously important to me, part of the way I live in the world and look at the world.

GS: *Family, and brothers in particular, also plays an essential role in the book. Do you have brothers?*

MC: I do not have any brothers. I have one younger sister. I'm surprised to find these powerful brother figures appearing in my fiction so much. I think it probably gets down to this, and I think a lot of people have had this experience: When I was in high school, I had this crew of gay friends. They were like

my second family.

GS: *Sort of surrogate brothers.*

MC: Yes. And they taught me how to love other people. Of course, I was in love with all of them. Actually, two of us turned out to be gay. I've talked to so many of my gay friends who had this charismatic high school best friend who they adored. This intense friendship I had with these guys was every bit as important to them as it was to me. But because it was all caught up with my awakening sexuality, it may have stayed with me in a way that it hasn't for those other guys.

GS: *Matthew dies of AIDS complications, which is not as prevalent as it once was in contemporary gay lit. Do you feel like you have to remind people that the AIDS crisis is not over?*

MC: It's not over! I'm 57. I lived through the AIDS epidemic. And if you have been in a war or survived an epidemic, it profoundly effects what you write. How could it not? I was in ACT-UP for years. Some of my closest friends died of AIDS. It's part of my consciousness. Will it be in every book I write? I don't know. But it appears, it comes up.

GS: *Peter hails from Milwaukee. Do you think things would have happened differently for him, as well as Matthew, if they had been from San Francisco or Boston?*

MC: Once I've thorough-



PHOTO: GREGG SHAPIRO

Michael Cunningham

ly imagined a character it's as difficult to imagine San Francisco on behalf of Peter and Matthew as it would be to imagine how I might have turned out differently if I'd grown up in San Francisco and my parents had been hippies instead of suburbanites. But I'm very much aware of New York, in particular, as a city of American immigrants. Literally everybody I know has escaped some other place to come to New York.

GS: *And not from just other countries, but from other parts of this country.*

MC: Which are like another country. I think you could probably argue that moving to New York from Paris is less of a culture shock than moving to New York from Akron, Ohio, would be.

GS: *Why did you choose to make the central couple, Peter and Rebecca, a hetero couple*

and not a same-sex couple?

MC: I've always written about gay people and straight people, but I have tended to focus on characters that were gay or gay-ish. Part of it was the pure challenge of it. If you're lucky enough to write more than a few books, you want to keep trying new things. I thought, "Straight world! Can I go there?"

GS: *And you did it well!*

MC: I hope so. I showed the manuscript to some actual heterosexuals, just to be sure.

GS: *Did you think it would have lessened the impact of what occurs between Ethan/Mizzy and Peter, if Peter and Rebecca were a gay couple?*

MC: Yeah. What was interesting to me was the idea that somebody like Peter, who is essentially heterosexual, could be queer for one other guy. If it's simply

a story of a closeted gay man coming into possession of his true sexuality, that's a story that's worth telling, but we've heard that story a lot. I felt like it took on different and more interesting ramifications if I had an essentially straight guy who could fall into a kind of eroticized love, but a really unfamiliar kind of love, with one very specific other man.

GS: *"By Nightfall" has a cinematic quality to it. Are there plans for a movie version?*

MC: No. I find that it is best when I am writing a novel to think, not at all, about the movie version. Some of the best books don't make very good movies because they're interior, because they're meant to be books. If they were meant to be movies, you would have written them as movies to begin with.

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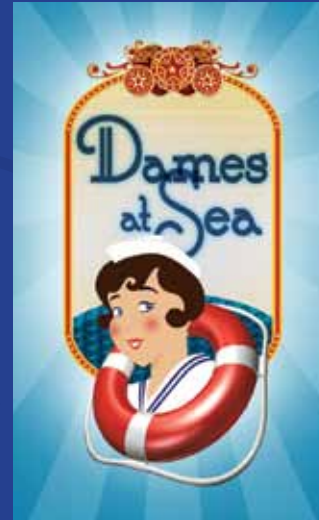
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

**AIDS
WALK
WISCONSIN**

Wisconsin Gazette invites you to walk with Team WiG in ARCW's AIDS Walk Wisconsin. The walk takes place Sept. 19 on Milwaukee's lakefront. All WiG walkers get a free Wisconsin Gazette T-shirt and sense of personal satisfaction! Contact WiG team captain Lucky Tomaszek (ltomaszek@wisconsin-gazette.com) to join us. For more information about the walk, go to www.aidswalkwis.org.

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SEPT. 9, THURSDAY

Steve Martin's "The Underpants" runs through Oct. 3 in the Furlan Auditorium at Sunset Playhouse, 800 Elm Grove Road in Elm Grove. Call 262-782-4430.

Strollers Theatre presents the play "84 Charing Cross Road" through Oct. 2 at Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin in Madison.

Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, presents gay-friendly, politically-minded music legend Billy Bragg at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

SEPT. 10, FRIDAY

Menomonie Theater Guild stages "Hedwig and the Angry Inch," starring renowned Eau Claire female impersonator Miss Dee-Lovely, tonight and tomorrow night at Acoustic Café, 102 Main Street West (SW corner of Main & Broadway) in Menomonie. Call 715-505-6011.

Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin in Madison, stages "Last Summer at Bluefish Cove" by the late lesbian playwright Jane Chambers, through Sept. 25. Call 608-661-9696.

"Southern Hospitality," a Southern-fried, laugh-out-loud farce, plays weekends through Sept. 26 at The Racine Theatre Guild, 2519 Northwestern (Highway 38) in Racine. Call 262-633-4218.

**Dee-Lovely****SEPT. 11, SATURDAY**

Schauer Arts & Activities Center, 147 N. Rural in Hartford, presents "Vicki Lawrence & Mama: A Two Woman Show," at 3 & 7:30 p.m. Call 262-670-0560.

"Hairspray" runs through Oct. 31 at The Fireside Theatre, 1131 Janesville (Business HWY 26 South) in Fort Atkinson. Call 800-477-9505.

SEPT. 12, SUNDAY

The Fine Arts Quartet performs a concert for its 65th anniversary season at 3 p.m. in the Helen Bader Concert Hall in the Helene Zelazo Center of the Performing Arts, 2419 E. Kenwood. Call 414-229-4308.

Club 5 Bar, 5 Applegate Court in Madison, presents a live female impersonator show at 10 p.m. Call 608-277-9700.

SEPT. 13, MONDAY

High Noon Saloon, 701 E. Washington in Madison, presents a night of queer bands, featuring Girl In A Coma with special guests Hacienda, Sick Of Sarah and Little Red Wolf at 8 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

**WIGOUT
ON THE
TOWN**

EDITED AND COMPILED BY GREGG SHAPIRO

SEPT. 14, TUESDAY

Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells, presents Kander and Ebb's "Cabaret" in the Quadracci Powerhouse through Oct. 24. Call 414-224-9490.

SEPT. 15, WEDNESDAY

Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, presents actor and singer/songwriter Jeff Daniels at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin, presents '70s music legends Donald Fagen, Michael McDonald & Boz Scaggs at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

SEPT. 16, THURSDAY

"Four Places" by Chicago playwright Joel Drake Johnson runs through Oct. 10 at the Tenth Street Theatre, 628 N. 10th. Call 414-278-0765.

SEPT. 17, FRIDAY

Theatrical Tendencies presents the Milwaukee premiere of "Thrill Me - The Leopold and Loeb Story," Stephen Dolginoff's chilling musical based on Chicago's 'thrill killers' of 1924, at Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second, through October 2. Call 414-383-3727.

"Dames At Sea" runs through Oct. 3 in the Cabot Theatre at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Miramar Theater, 2844 N. Oakland, presents formerly queer singer/songwriter Michelle Shocked with The Liberty Bluegrass Band at 8 p.m.

SEPT. 18, SATURDAY

Out singer/songwriter Brandi Carlile plays the Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood in Madison, at 8 p.m. Call 608-241-2345.

Miltown Kings want to see you in your nighties at their season opener "Miltown Kings Between the Sheets" at 9 p.m. at the Miramar Theater, 2844 N. Oakland.

The Present Music Ensemble performs with Gabriel Prokofiev and Phillip Bush at 8 p.m. in Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth. Call 414-286-3663.

The dazzling School of Seven Bells performs at the Majestic, 115 King in Madison, at 9 p.m. Call 608-251-2582.

**Brandi Carlile****SEPT. 19, SUNDAY**

The Milwaukee Chamber Orchestra performs a concert including Giovanni Pergolesi's final work "Stabat Mater" along with John Tavener's "Cantus Mysticus" and more at 4 p.m. in Calvary Presbyterian Church, 935 W. Wisconsin. Visit MilwaukeeChamberOrchestra.org.

Fake Problems plays the Majestic, 115 King in Madison, at 8 p.m. Call 608-251-2582.

Club 5 Bar, 5 Applegate Court in Madison, presents a female impersonator show, at 10 p.m. Call 608-277-9700.

SEPT. 21 TUESDAY

Majestic, 115 King in Madison, welcomes dance duo Matt & Kim at 8 p.m. Call 608-251-2582.

Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, presents Rogue Wave and Midlake at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

SEPT. 23 THURSDAY

Carte Blanche Studios Theatre, 1024 S. Fifth St., presents "Taming of the Shrew" by William Shakespeare, running through October 10. Call 262-716-4689.

Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, welcomes Tokyo Police Club at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

**Fine Arts Quartet performs
Sept. 12, Sunday**

COMMUNITY EVENTS

ONGOING

SAGE Office drop-in hours, 1-5 p.m. Monday and Thursday, Milwaukee.*
LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin drop-in hours, 4-8 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, 2-6 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Racine.*

THURSDAY

2:30 p.m., first and third Thursdays, LGBT senior adults discussion, Madison Senior Center, 330 W. Mifflin St., Madison, ferington@charter.net.
6 p.m., third Thursdays, same-sex partners group, OutReach, Madison.*
6 p.m., Qgrads, UW Memorial Union Rathskeller, 800 Langdon St., Madison.
7 p.m., third Thursdays, Lesbian Alliance movie night, LGBT Community Center, Milwaukee.*
7 p.m., Q2-LGBTQ Youth Group, LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, Eau Claire.
7:30 p.m., Four Lakes Bears, Michelangelo's Coffee Shop, 114 State St., Madison, 608-251-5299.

FRIDAY

4-7 p.m., fourth Friday, Happy Hour with Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin, rotating location in Milwaukee/Madison, www.ppawi.org.
5:30 p.m., second and fourth Fridays, Pozitive Lite HIV/AIDS group, OutReach, Madison.*
6 p.m., second Fridays, Lesbian Alliance game night and potluck, LGBT Community Center, Milwaukee.*
6:30 p.m., Open Mic night, Harmony Cafe, Green Bay.*
7 p.m., AA, The Galano Club, Milwaukee.*
7 p.m., Gay Narcotics Anonymous, The Galano Club, Milwaukee.*
7 p.m., Drop-in night, LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, Eau Claire.*
8:30 p.m., second and fourth Fridays, Shoreline Milwaukee line dancing and lessons, Hot Water, 818 S. Water St., Milwaukee, 414-383-75936.
9:30 p.m., first Friday, Milwaukee Guerilla Gay Bar takeover, location varies, www.mkegg.com.

SATURDAY

9 a.m., Frontrunners/Walkers Milwaukee Run Walk, starting at the Water Tower at the East end of North Avenue, Milwaukee, 262-285-7645.
9 a.m., Frontrunners/Frontwalkers Madison, Wingra Park off Monroe St., Madison, 608-469-4882.
3 p.m., second and fourth Saturdays, Women4Women, OutReach, Madison.*
6 p.m., Rotating Activity Night each week, LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, Eau Claire.*
7-8:30 p.m., third Saturdays, BWMT (Black and White Men Together), general meeting.*
7:30 p.m., AA Spiritual Light, The Galano Club, Milwaukee.*

SUNDAY

10:30 a.m., Al-Anon, The Galano Club, Milwaukee.*
10:30 a.m., AA Step/Topic meeting, The Galano Club, Milwaukee.*
1 p.m., Cream City Squares dances, Lake Park Lutheran Church, 2647 N. Stowell, Milwaukee.
7 p.m., AA The Big Book meeting, The

Galano Club, Milwaukee.*
5 p.m., OutThere LGBT youth group meeting, OutReach, Madison.*
5 p.m., third Sundays, PFLAG Milwaukee, Martin Luther Church, 9235 W. Bluemound Road, Wauwatosa.
7 p.m., second Sundays, Gay and Straight in Christ, Good Shepherd Catholic Church, N88 W17658 Christman Road, Menomonee Falls, 262-502-0437.

MONDAY

7 p.m., Spectrum - Social and networking LGBT group, Harmony Cafe, Appleton.*
7:30 p.m., AA Came to Believe, The Galano Club, Milwaukee.*

TUESDAY

12:30 p.m., third Tuesday, Retired Old/Older Lesbians (ROLLers), Madison. Info: 608-219-7751.
5:30 p.m., AA Over and Under 40; 7 p.m. AA The Blue Group, The Galano Club, Milwaukee.*
6 p.m., third Tuesday, Fair Wisconsin Action Network of the Chippewa

Valley, LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, Eau Claire.*
6:30 p.m., NORML weekly meeting, Berlin Public Library, 121 W. Park Ave., Berlin, www.northerwinorml.com.
7 p.m., last Tuesday, Canasta night, SAGE Milwaukee.*
7 p.m., Spectrum GLBT and Allied social group for adults, Harmony Cafe, Appleton.*

WEDNESDAY

6 p.m., first Wednesday, LGBT cancer networking group, Gilda's Club, 7907 UW Health Court, Middleton, 608-828-8880, www.gildasclubmadison.org
6:30 p.m., third Wednesday, Wauwatosa Rainbow Association monthly meeting, tosarainbow@yahoo.com.
7 p.m., AA 12 Steps and 12 Traditions, The Galano Club, Milwaukee.*
7 p.m., first Wednesday, Bear Club 4 Men monthly meeting, Napalese Lounge, 1351 Cedar St., Green Bay, Info: bearclub4men@gmail.com.

Join us on Facebook.

*** SEE COMMUNITY LISTINGS, NEXT PAGE, FOR ADDRESS AND CONTACT INFORMATION.**

THE NEXT TWO WEEKS

THURSDAY

Sept. 9

2 p.m., older LGBT adult resources informational session presented by Barbara Quirk, Madison Senior Center, 330 Mifflin St., Madison, 608-255-8582, harrys@lgb-toutreach.org.

7-9 p.m., play Pictionary with SAGE Milwaukee (adults of all ages welcome), 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Suite 220, 414-224-0517.

FRIDAY

Sept. 10

6 p.m., Thunda on the Tundra, regional roller derby tournament, through Sept. 12, Brown County Veterans Memorial Arena, 1901 S. Oneida St., Green Bay, www.brew-citybruisers.com.

8 p.m., Flirting for Nerds class at the Tool Shed, 2427 N. Murray Ave., register at 414-906-5305 or www.toolshedtoys.com.

9 p.m., AIDS Walk fundraiser drag event at Monkey Bar, 1619 S. First St., the3king-senterprises@yahoo.com.

SATURDAY

Sept. 11

8:45 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Fighting Bob Fest, progressive speakers and entertainment, Sauk County Fairgrounds, 850 Lincoln Ave., Baraboo, bus available from Milwaukee and Johnson Creek, www.fightingbobfest.org.

SUNDAY

Sept. 12

3 p.m., The Pack is Back beer/soda bust with Castaway M.C. at KRUIZ, 354 E. National Ave., 414-481-0260.

WEDNESDAY

Sept. 15

5 p.m., LGBT Center Link Center Awareness Day, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St., Suite 101, 414-271-2656.

7 p.m., advanced screening of "Howl," presented by Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival, UWM Union Theater, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd., arts.uwm.edu/lgbtfilm.

FRIDAY

Sept. 17

6 p.m., Fish Fry with SAGE, MONAs Out N About, 1407 S. First St. RSVP required to 414-224-0517.

SATURDAY

Sept. 18

8:45 a.m., day trip to Wisconsin Dells, cars depart at 9 a.m. from SAGE Milwaukee (adults of all ages welcome), 1845 N. Farwell Ave., Suite 220, 414-224-0517.

10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Fourth Annual Tomato Romp, includes Bloody Mary competition and a rotten tomato fight, held in the 1900 block of North Avenue, theeastside.org.

11 a.m.-10 p.m., Bay View Bash, KK Avenue between Potter and Clement in Bay View, www.bayviewbash.org.

8 p.m., Madison Gay Video Club screens "Dream Boy" and "Taboo: The Peter Twins," 608-244-8690, www.mgvc.org.

SUNDAY

Sept. 19

10 a.m., AIDS Walk Wisconsin begins at Summerfest Grounds main gate, 200 N. Harbor Drive, www.aidswalkwis.org.

Noon, pontoon boat ride/ice cream

social with the LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, www.thecentercv.org, 715-552-LGBT.

5-8 p.m., The Art of the Tease burlesque dance class with Bella Sue Devianti, the Tool Shed, 2427 N. Murray Ave. Register at 414-906-5305 or www.toolshedtoys.com.

TUESDAY

Sept. 21

5 p.m., arts showcase/networking event with OPEN Madison, Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State St., Madison, info@openmadison.org.

WEDNESDAY

Sept. 22

2-4 p.m., older LGBT adult resources informational sessions presented by Joann Russell and Elizabeth Conrad, Madison Senior Center, 330 Mifflin St., Madison, 608-255-8582, harrys@lgbtoutreach.org.

6:30-8:30, Sapphic Dinner at Lulu Cafe with Sapphic Adventures Mke, 2265 S. Howell Ave., RSVP by Sept. 17 to 414-628-1049, sapphicadventuresmke@gmail.com.

Join us on Facebook.

COMMUNITY GROUPS

MILWAUKEE ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

Cream City Chorus, 315 W. Court St., 53212, 414-276-8787, www.creamcitychorus.org, info@creamcitychorus.org.

Cream City Squares, 414-445-8080, www.iagsdc.org/creamcity.

Men's Voices Milwaukee, 2717 E. Hampshire St., 53211, 414-964-1513 www.mensvoicesmilwaukee.com.

Milwaukee Gay Arts Center, 703 S. Second St., 53204, 414-383-3727, www.milwaukeegayartscenter.org.

Milwaukee/LGBT Film/Video Festival, www4.uwm.edu/psoa/programs/film/lgbtfilm.

Queer Zine Archive Project, 2935 N. Fratney St., 53202, www.qzap.org.

Shoreline Country Dancers, 2809 E. Oklahoma Ave., 53207, www.shoreline-milw.org, info@shoreline-milw.org.

Women's Voices Milwaukee, 315 W. Court St., 53212, 414-534-5645, womensvoicesmke.viviti.com, womensvoicesmilwaukee@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY

Bay View Gays, 414-482-3796, www.bvgays.com.

Brew City Bears, P.O. Box 1035, 53201, 414-331-3744, www.bcb4men.info.

BWMT, 414-463-5359, www.nabwmt.org/milwaukee.

Castaways, P.O. Box 1697, 53202, castawaysmc@yahoo.com.

CONNEXUS, 2439 N. Holton St., 53212, 414-390-0444, www.diverseandresilient.org/connexus.

Diverse and Resilient, 2439 N. Holton St., 53212, 414-390-0444, www.diverseandresilient.org.

Firebirds, P.O. Box 159, 53201.

FORGE, P.O. Box 1272, 53201, 414-559-2123, www.forge-forward.org.

GAMMA Milwaukee, P.O. Box 1900, 53201, 414-530-1886, www.milwaukeegamma.com.

Gemini Gender Group, P.O. Box 44211, 53214, 414-297-9328, ggwi.tripod.com.

Lesbian Alliance, 315 W. Court St., 53212, 414-272-9442, www.lesbianalliance.org.

Lesbian Fund of the Women's Fund of Milwaukee, 414-290-7350, www.womensfund.com/who_we_are/lesbian_fund.

LOC/Women of Color, P.O. Box 93594, 53203, 414-263-1631.

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 315 W. Court St., 53212, 414-271-2656, www.mkelgbt.org.

Milwaukee LGBT History Project, 414-224-0517, www.mkelgbthist.org.

Milwaukee Pride Parade, P.O. Box 070177, 53207, www.prideparademke.org.

PFLAG-Milwaukee, 315 W. Court St., 53212, 414-299-9198, pflagmilwaukee@hotmail.com.

PrideFest, 414-272-3378, www.pridefest.com.

Queer Program, P.O. Box 090441, 53209, 414-265-8500, queerprgrm@aol.com.

SAGE Milwaukee, 1845 N. Farwell, Suite 220, 53202, 414-224-0517, www.sagemilwaukee.org.

Sapphic Adventures MKE, 414-628-1049, www.facebook.com/sapphicadventures.mke, sapphicadventuresmke@gmail.com.

SHEBA/Sisters Helping Each other Battle AIDS,

2349 N. Holton St., 53212, 414-390-0444.

WanderWomyn Outdoors Group, debydoo2@yahoo.com.

Washington Heights Rainbow Association, 414-258-8834 www.washingtonheightsrainbow.org.

Wauwatosa Rainbow Association, tosarainbow@yahoo.com.

Wisconsin Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf, P.O. Box 353, Hartland, 53029, www.wiscrad.org.

Wisconsin Rainbow Families, 315 W. Court St., 53212, www.wirainbowfamilies.com, info@wirainbowfamilies.com.

HEALTH

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, P.O. Box 510498, 53202, 414-273-1991, www.arcw.org, info@arcw.org.

Brady East STD (BESTD) Clinic, 1240 E. Brady St., 53202, 414-272-2144, www.bestd.org, bestd@execpc.com.

Galano Club, 315 Court St., Suite 201, 53213, 414-276-6936, www.galanoclub.org, mail@galanoclub.org.

Health Institute of Milwaukee, 1817 N. Martin Luther King Drive, Suite 3, 53212, 414-263-9999.

Milwaukee Women's Center, 611 N. Broadway, Suite 230, 53202, www.mwcinc.org.

Pathfinders, 1614 E. Kane Pl., 53202, 414-271-1560, www.pathfinders.org, info@tccmilw.org.

STD Specialties, Inc., 3251 N. Holton St., 53212, 414-264-8800, www.stdspecialties.org.

POLITICS

Center Advocates, 315 W. Court St., 53212, 414-271-2656, www.centeradvocates.org.

Equality Wisconsin, 2717 E. Hampshire Ave., 53211, 414-431-1306, www.equalitywi.org.

Human Rights League, 315 Court St., #9, 53212, 414-445-5292, www.hrl-pac.org, hrlpac@yahoo.com.

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

Central United Methodist Church, 639 N. 25th St., 53233, 414-344-1600, www.centralumcmilw.org.

Congregation Shir Hadash, 414-297-9159, www.cshmilw.org.

Cross Lutheran Church, 1821 N. 16th St., 53205, 414-344-1746, www.crosslutheranmilwaukee.org.

Divine Word Lutheran Church, 5505 Lloyd St., 53208, 414-476-3189, www.divinewordlutheran.org.

First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, 1342 N. Astor St., 53202, 414-273-5257, www.uumilwaukee.org.

Lake Park Lutheran Church, 2647 N. Stowell Ave., 53211, 414-962-9190, lakeparklutheran.com.

Metropolitan Community Church, 1239 W. Mineral St., 53204, 414-383-1100, www.milccc.org.

Milwaukee Friends Meeting (Quakers), 3224 N. Gordon Pl., 53212, 414-263-2111, www.milwaukeequakers.org.

Plymouth Church, 2717 E. Hampshire Ave., 53211, 414-964-1513, www.plymouth-church.org.

St. James Episcopal Church, 833 W. Wisconsin Ave., 53233, 414-964-1513, www.stjamesmilwaukee.org.

stjamesmilwaukee.org.

SPORTS

Front Runners/Front Walkers, 414-443-0379, ullrwolf.com/fronrunnersmke, thbolt@milwpc.com.

Metro Milwaukee Tennis Club, 3957 81st St., 53222, 414-616-3716, moenell@sbcglobal.net.

Milwaukee Gay Soccer League, 1012 E. Clark St., 53212, 414-405-5878, www.milwaukeegayssoccer.org.

Milwaukee Gay Volleyball League, www.milwaukeegayvolleyball.com.

Saturday Softball Beer League, 2333 N. 56th St., 53210, www.ssbmilwaukee.com.

YOUTH/EDUCATION

Alliance School, 850 W. Walnut St., 53205, 414-267-5400, www.allianceschool.org.

Alliance for LGBTQ Youth, 1212 S. 70th St., 53214, 414-453-1400, www.cssw.org.

Gay Youth Milwaukee, P.O. Box 090441, 53209, 414-265-8500, <http://gayyouthmilwaukee.tripod.com>.

Marquette Gay/Straight Alliance, 1442 W. Wisconsin Ave., 53233.

Marquette U G/L Alumni, P.O. Box 92722, 53202.

Project Q, 315 W. Court St., 53212, 414-223-3220.

UWM LGBT Resource Center, UWM Union WG 89, P.O. Box 413, 53201, 414-229-4116, www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/LGBT.

FOX VALLEY COMMUNITY

Harmony Café, 233 E. College Ave., Appleton, 54911, 920-734-2233, www.harmonycafe.org, skenevan_gw@gwicc.org.

PFLAG-Appleton/Fox Cities, 740 Kensington Road, Neenah, 54956, 920-722-7145. Rainbow Over Wisconsin, 702 E. Wisconsin Ave., Appleton, WI 54911, www.rainbowoverwisconsin.org.

GREEN BAY COMMUNITY

Argonauts of Wisconsin, P.O. Box 22096, Green Bay, 54305, www.argonautsll.org, info@argonautsll.org.

Bear Club 4 Men, P.O. Box 13463, Green Bay, 54307, www.bc4m.com.

Harmony Café, 1660 W. Mason St., Green Bay, 54303, 920-569-1593, www.harmonycafe.org.

Positive Voice, P.O. Box 1381, Green Bay, 54305, 920-435-4404, pvinc.org, info@pvinc.org.

Pride Alive, 920-471-3260, www.newpride.org, info@newpride.org.

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

Angels of Hope MCC, P.O. Box 672, Green Bay, 54305, 920-983-7452, www.aohmcc.org, aohchurch@netnet.net.

MADISON ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

Dairyland Cowboys and Cowgirls, Club 5, 5

Applegate Court, Madison, 53713, 608-277-9700, www.dcancd.org

COMMUNITY

OutReach, 600 Williamson St., Suite P1, Madison, 53703, 608-255-8582, www.lgbtoutreach.org, info@lgbtoutreach.org.

PFLAG-Madison, 4221 Venetian Ln., Madison 53718, 608-848-2333, pflagmadison@yahoo.com.

Gay / Bi Fathers Support Group, c/o Outreach, 600 Williamson St., Madison, 53703, tooldforthis@tds.net.

POLITICS

Fair Wisconsin, 122 State St., Suite 500, Madison, 53703, 608-441-0143, www.fairwisconsin.org, info@fairwisconsin.com.

SPORTS

Madison Gay Hockey Association, www.madisongayhockey.org.

Madison Gay Volleyball, 608-347-8907, www.madisonlbtvolleyball.com.

YOUTH/EDUCATION

GSA for Safe Schools, 301 S. Bedford St., Madison, 53703, 608-661-4141, www.gsaforsafeschools.org.

RACINE/KENOSHA COMMUNITY

LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin, 1456 Junction Ave., Racine, 53403, 262-664-4100, info@lgbtsewisc.org.

PFLAG-Racine/Kenosha, P.O. Box 580058, Pleasant Prairie, 53158, 262-694-2729, pflagkenosha@aol.com.

RELIGION/SPIRITUALITY

Bradford Community Church-Unitarian Universalist, 5810 8th Ave., 53140, 262-656-

0544, www.bradforduu.org.

SPORTS

Wisconsin Warriors, P.O. Box 334, Somers, 53171, 414-759-8823, [wiwarriors.com](http://www.wiwarriors.com), wwarriors@yahoo.com.

YOUTH/EDUCATION

Rainbow Alliance, UW-Parkside, Student Center, L108D, 262-595-2685, <http://www.uwp.edu/clubs/clubtemp.cfm?clubID=38>.

OTHER

LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, 510 S. Farwell St., Eau Claire 54701, 715-552-LGBT, www.thecentercv.org.

LGBT Community Resource Center Seven Rivers, P.O. Box 3313, 303 Pearl St., LaCrosse, 54602, 608-784-0452, www.7riverslgbt.org, r.st.sauver@7riverslgbt.org, lgbtcommunitycenter@yahoo.com.



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VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITES!

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- Best gay bar _____
- Best lesbian bar _____
- Best place to meet men _____
- Best place to meet women _____
- Best bartender _____
- Best drag queen _____
- Best drag king Best Wisconsin LGBT personality _____
- Best national LGBT personality _____
- Best national male performer/entertainer _____
- Best national female performer/entertainer _____
- Best LGBT social group _____
- Best LGBT sports league in Wisconsin _____

DINING OUT

- Best fine-dining restaurant _____
- Best local restaurant _____
- Best ethnic restaurant _____
- Most romantic restaurant _____
- Best coffee shop _____
- Best pizza _____
- Best vegetarian food _____
- Best brunch _____

POLITICALLY SPEAKING

- Best LGBT politician _____
- Worst politician on LGBT issues _____
- Best LGBT ally political - organization _____
- Best LGBT ally political - individual _____
- Best LGBT community group _____
- Most homophobic group _____

MULTI-MEDIA

- Best non-LGBT publication _____

- Best TV station _____
- Best radio station _____
- Best movie theater _____
- Best movie of 2010 _____
- Best TV series _____
- Best book _____
- Best LGBT commercial _____
- Best LGBT website _____
- Best online dating site _____
- Best Wisconsin radio personality _____

LIFESTYLES

- Best performing arts group _____
- Best performing arts venue _____
- Best LGBT neighborhood _____
- Best green space _____
- Best LGBT event of the year _____
- Best veterinarian _____
- Best grocery store _____
- Best auto mechanic _____

KEEPING UP APPEARANCES

- Best clothing store _____
- Best stylist/salon _____
- Best place to work out _____

SHOPPING!

- Best bookstore _____
- Best shopping district or mall _____
- Best florist _____
- Best garden center _____
- Dykiest vehicle make and model _____
- Gayest vehicle make and model _____
- Best Realtor _____

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GET READY FOR A BASH!**

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BAY VIEW
Bash!**

**A FESTIVAL
OF MUSIC,
FOOD & ART**

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Children's activities
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Neighborhood vendors
and more!

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ADMISSION
11am *til* 10pm**

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