

## MILITARY SURVEY RELEASED

Report shows American troops are ready to serve with out gays and lesbians, page 4



THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

December 2, 2010 | Vol. 2, No. 2

## Milwaukee police name LGBT liaison

By Louis Weisberg  
Staff writer

For the first time, the Milwaukee Police Department has named an official liaison to the city's LGBT community.

Last month, MPD Chief Ed Flynn appointed Mary Hoerig, an out veteran of the police force, to serve in the position. Hoerig already was acting as an unofficial advisor to the department on LGBT issues, as well as a facilitator for the LGBT community on police issues.

Flynn made Hoerig's position official in response to a petition requesting a formal liaison that was submitted by representatives of 14 LGBT organizations, including WiG.

"Milwaukee's a pretty big city not to have had a police liaison ... so it was about time," said Loree Cook-Daniels of FORGE, who coordinated the petition.

"This strengthens the information flow between the community and police."

The need for an official liaison became a priority for FORGE after several killings in the community during the past year, including the murder in May of Chanel Larkin, a transgender Milwaukee woman. In conversations with police surrounding the killing, Cook-Daniels learned that law enforcement personnel were unfamiliar with transgender issues.

Officials in Indianapolis took similar action last month, appointing LGBT liaisons to both the city's police and fire departments following the slaying of a transgender woman and her boyfriend in that city.

Hoerig said her appointment reflects Flynn's commitment to the LGBT community.

"I very much get the sense that he is serious about hearing from our community and he's made that clear to me — not just through conversation but in his inclusiveness," Hoerig said. "In everyday interaction with him, it's clear that he values our community."

For some time, Hoerig has served as a conduit between the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center and the police department. She's also acted as a victim-witness liaison for the district attorney's office in LGBT cases.

Now Hoerig is looking forward to reaching out to more organizations "to let them know that I'm here if

Make the yuletide gay!

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT ON STAGE IN MILWAUKEE, MADISON  
WiGOUT! PAGE 15

## Wis. Republicans already veering into social issues

By Scott Bauer  
AP writer

Leaders of the new Republican majority in the Wisconsin Legislature are quietly twisting arms to try to get their members to focus solely on measures to create jobs and boost the economy when they assume power in two months.

But some Republicans, whose attempts to act on

social issues failed under Democratic Gov. Jim Doyle the past eight years, say they intend to press ahead to legalize concealed weapons, pass tough new immigration restrictions, and eliminate domestic partner benefits and the state's domestic partner registry.

The different perspectives and priorities are starting to emerge as the party tran-

sitions from its triumphant midterm election campaign, in which it won the governor's office and both chambers of the Legislature, to the much different challenge of turning ideas into laws.

Already, the Republicans are facing competing pressures over whether to try to have a wide-ranging impact or to pursue a more cautious and limited agenda.

Soon-to-be Majority Leader Scott Suder, R-Abbotsford, has been pressing members in private calls to focus on the economic legislation and put off everything else.

"I'm a little nervous" about the talk about abortion legislation and other issues, said Rep. Dean Kaufert, R-Neenah, a 20-year veteran

Republicans page 13

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GAYS MOST LIKELY TO BE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE, PAGE 9



# LGBT news with a twist



By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

### TWIRL, KICK, BANG

A Wisconsin man blasted his television with a shotgun after watching one of Bristol Palin's "Dancing with the Stars" routines, saying he was fed up with politics and Palin wasn't a very good dancer, according to court documents.

Janice Cowan, 66, of Vermont, told police that husband Steven Cowan, 67, drank a bottle of beer during dinner before they settled down to watch the show. When Palin began her routine, Cowan jumped up and began swearing, saying something like "The (expletive) politics." He left the living room and reappeared 20 minutes later with his shotgun, "raging," with his face bright red, and blasted the TV.

"He scared the bejebees out of me," Janice Cowan told police.

### FACEBOOK FIGHT

Meanwhile Bristol's sister Willow Palin played the role of baby (anti-gay) bear when she defended her family in a recent Facebook rant. Attacking a critic who said the Palins' reality TV show is failing, Willow posted, "Haha your so gay. I have no idea

who you are, But what I've seen pictures of, your disgusting ... My sister has a kid and is still hot. ...Tre stfu. Your such a faggot."

### TEACHABLE MOMENT?

The Human Rights Campaign, responding to media reports of the post, demanded Mamma Grizzly Sarah Palin publicly condemn her daughter's remarks and make a statement about name-calling among teens. "Anti-gay language by teenagers often starts at home - or at least, that's where it should be stopped," HRC executive director Joe Solmonese said, calling on the former vice presidential candidate to address her daughter's comments.

### REAL MEN KILL

The American Family Association blasted the president for "feminizing" the Medal of Honor by giving it to a soldier who saved the lives of his comrades instead of killing the enemy.

Barack Obama awarded the medal to Sgt. Salvatore Giunta for heroism in Afghanistan. Giunta



"exposed himself to withering enemy fire" to engage the enemy so wounded comrades could be rescued.

"When are we going to start awarding the Medal of Honor once again for soldiers who kill people and break things, so our families can sleep safely at night?" wrote Bryan Fischer, director of issues analysis for the AFA, in a column.



### PRANCING INTO HEAVEN

Two undertakers in Cologne, Germany, are trying to cash in on the gay market by selling coffins adorned with images of male nudes.

The prize piece in their display window is a coffin decorated with images of mostly naked, muscular young men in athletic poses

inspired by Italian Renaissance paintings.

"We believe you should be able to have a coffin that lets you embark on your last journey in a way that reflects how you lived your life," undertaker Thomas Brandl told Reuters.

The gay couple also sells coffins and urns in rainbow colors and offers burials around a tree reserved exclusively for gays.

### LOVE FLIES THE COOP

Dead gay humans in Germany are apparently getting more love than the gay vultures that had happily set up a nest together in Münster's Allwetterzoo. Officials there caused a stir when they separated the lovebirds.

Griffon vultures Guido and Detlef had been together since March, gaily "grooming one another with tender sweeps of their savage beaks between rearranging the sticks that made up their nest," reported The Times of London.

Following their break-up, Detlef took up with a female vulture but Guido, who now lives in a zoo in Ostrava, Czech Republic, still shows no interest in the opposite sex.

### LOHAN CHOKES

Lindsay Lohan has been dropped as the lead in a biopic about "Deep Throat" star Linda Lovelace. "Inferno" director Matthew Wilder said he was unable to obtain insurance on Lohan following her latest probation violation and subsequent return to Betty Ford Center.

### NO SHE ISN'T

No, that eager buzz you've been hearing at the bar over frosty Miller Lites is not true. Rachel Maddow isn't running for the U.S. Senate in 2012. The rumors began circulating after Maddow's address at Harvard University, where the audience pressed her about transitioning from covering politics and politicians to being a politician.

Maddow rejected such a transition with a "never," which means the MSNBC host will not be taking on Republican Scott Brown in his next round in Massachusetts.

Read more at [www.wisconsin Gazette.com](http://www.wisconsin Gazette.com).

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# D-Day arrives for DADT

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

A long-awaited Pentagon study shows that seven out of 10 troops foresee no problem with repealing "don't ask, don't tell," a policy that detractors have called discriminatory, harmful and un-American.

The study, released Nov. 30, was to be vetted by the Senate Armed Services Committee as early as Dec. 3 as top Democrats take another step toward a repeal during the lame-duck session.

DADT was enacted 17 years ago, a Clinton-era compromise intended to soften the ban against gay troops by prohibiting military officers from inquiring about sexual orientation and banning servicemembers from coming out as gay.

Since its implementation, about 14,000 servicemembers have been discharged under DADT, which has been cited as influencing anti-gay harassment and violence in

the Armed Forces.

Barack Obama, as he campaigned for the White House in 2008, vowed to end DADT, and, in his 2010 State of the Union address, the president urged Congress to repeal the measure.

The House voted to do so when it approved a defense spending bill earlier this year, but a highly politicized backlash stalled a similar measure in the Senate just before the November elections.

This week was a pivotal one for opponents of DADT. Republicans' leading argument against a vote to repeal DADT in the fall was that the Defense Department had not yet released the internal study on the impact of repeal and recommendations on how to strike DADT without disrupting operations.

The study, released a day earlier than scheduled and the same date that Clinton signed the bill implementing DADT in 1993, indicated that 70 percent of troops believe

that repealing the policy would have mixed, positive or no impact. Among those troops who said they have worked with a gay servicemember, 92 percent said the experience was a positive one.

Opposition to repeal was strongest among combat troops — about 40 percent said eliminating DADT would have a negative impact on the Armed Forces. The number was higher among Marines — about 46 percent.

Army Gen. Carter F. Ham, who co-authored the report, called it "the most comprehensive assessment of a personnel policy matter that the Department of Defense has conducted."

The DOD assessment led LGBT civil rights advocates to compare DADT defenders to generals taking poorly conceived and wrong-headed last stands.

"This issue has been studied for 50 years ... and the results from over 22 studies

are uniform — open service does not harm effectiveness," said Joe Solmonese of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest LGBT civil rights group. "The small handful of Senators blocking repeal no longer have any fig leaves behind which to hide."

With the completion of the study, the military's top brass and the DOD's highest ranking civilians continued to advocate DADT's repeal — sooner rather than later — through congressional action.

Adm. Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, recently said on ABC's "This Week" that the ban should be lifted because, in part, requiring servicemembers to lie about their sexual orientation "goes counter to who we are as an institution."

Defense Secretary Robert Gates said lawmakers should move to repeal DADT before the courts render the final word. "The timing and the legislative approach and so on, that is completely up

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Source: Servicemembers Legal Defense Network

to the Congress. All I know is if this law is going to change, it's better to be changed by legislation rather than have it struck down by the courts," Gates stated during a conference in Bolivia.

In the Senate, Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., has said he remains committed to attaching an amendment to repeal DADT to the proposed National Defense Authorization Act and scheduling a vote before the new Congress is sworn.

Meanwhile, from the White House Nov. 30, the president said, "With our nation at war and so many Americans serving on the front lines, our troops and their families deserve the certainty that can only come when an act of Congress ends this discriminatory policy once and for all."

Obama said he called "on the Senate to act as soon as possible so I can sign this repeal into law this year and ensure that Americans who are willing to risk their lives for their country are treated fairly and equally."

Read more at [www.wisconsin Gazette.com](http://www.wisconsin Gazette.com).

## In February, Hoerig will be part of a hate crime summit in Milwaukee

Liaison from I

they need me," she said.

Cook-Daniels, who has already met with Hoerig, said she looks forward to working with the new liaison to address ongoing police harassment of transgendering officers and to work toward educating officers about the unique issues surrounding domestic violence involving same-sex couples.

"When (police) break up an argument between same-sex couples, they have nowhere to refer them for additional support," Cook-Daniels said. "A liaison would be able to make sure that law enforcement officers had that information."

In February, Hoerig will be part of a hate crime summit bringing together the U.S. attorney's office, the DA's office, the MPD and the community center. Among the items to be

addressed is the fact that anti-gay hate crime charges have yet to be prosecuted in Milwaukee. Although police have preferred such charges in conjunction with crimes committed against members of the LGBT community, the district attorney's office in Madison, has yet to apply them.

"There's a sense in the criminal justice community that the current hate crime statute is cumbersome and perhaps not helpful," Hoerig said. "We're coming together to talk about where should we be going ... looking at (the statute) critically and seeing what would be the best way to go forward to accomplish what we want to accomplish, which is stopping hate crimes."

Read more WiG at [www.wisconsin Gazette.com](http://www.wisconsin Gazette.com).



PHOTO: BILL SERPE


## A community Thanksgiving

About 130 people enjoyed homemade food along with a helping of community spirit at the ninth annual Rainbow Community Thanksgiving Potluck dinner Nov. 27. PFLAG, Brew City Bears, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, Galano Club, SAGE/Milwaukee, Lesbian Alliance and Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church sponsored the event, which was held at Plymouth United Church of Christ, 2717 E. Hampshire St.

"It's always about bringing people together to be with the rainbow community, where you don't have to explain yourself," said event co-founder Dawn Schmidt.

— Sarah Leonard

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**Employment Opportunity — HIV Prevention Research**

The Center for AIDS Intervention Research (CAIR) in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin announces openings for two positions in a new National Institutes of Health-funded research project that will develop, implement, and evaluate the effectiveness of community HIV prevention programs for African American men who have sex with men (MSM). The project's objective is to determine if friend-to-friend HIV prevention approaches that work through natural social networks of African American MSM in the community can reduce sexual risk behavior, sexually transmitted diseases, and HIV infection. Both Research Associate positions require extensive experience, knowledge, and understanding of Milwaukee's African American MSM community including settings, ways, and places where African American MSM at high risk for HIV can be reached. For both positions, relevant community experience and involvement with organizations that serve African American MSM are more essential than prior formal research experience. Positions will require frequent field work on evenings, nights, weekends, and during nontraditional hours.

Research Associates will perform activities related to the identification of community settings in Milwaukee for reaching African American MSM and for carrying out community outreach to recruit, interview, and conduct HIV prevention activities with social networks of Black gay or bisexual men. The Research Associates will also be responsible for outreach-based recruitment of friendship groups of African American MSM in community settings, for interviewing participants, and for seeking to engage friends of already recruited men to also enroll in the research. Strong interpersonal communication skills and comfort in community settings where the target population meet are important position requirements. Relevant community experience may substitute for some educational requirements.

Both positions offer competitive salaries and excellent fringe benefits. In addition to a resume or completed job application, we welcome applicants to provide an accompanying letter that describes any additional formal or informal community experience, volunteer work, or involvement with community organizations that serve the targeted population if those experiences are relevant to these positions.

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If interested in applying for the role, please visit [www.mcw.jobs](http://www.mcw.jobs) and search for position number 326.31322.







### Honoring victims of anti-trans violence

Brianna Fleury, Kelly Wright and Markie Wenzel attend a candlelight vigil in observance of the Transgender Day of Remembrance at Milwaukee's Metropolitan Community Church. The annual event memorializes transgender victims of hatred and prejudice. It began in honor of Rita Hester, whose 1998 murder kicked off the "Remembering Our Dead" Web project and a San Francisco candlelight vigil in 1999. Since then, the event has grown to encompass memorials in dozens of cities around the globe.

PHOTO: DAN WILSON/BARTOLI FILMWORKS

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# NATIONAL GAZE

Got news? Tell us [managingeditor@wisconsin-gazette.com](mailto:managingeditor@wisconsin-gazette.com).

## C-SPAN to televise Prop 8 hearings

By Lisa Neff  
Staff writer

TV viewers who favor legal drama will have more than "Judge Mathis" to choose from early Dec. 6.

C-SPAN goes live from a federal courtroom in San Francisco that Monday to broadcast the landmark hearings in the Proposition 8 same-sex marriage case.

The hearings will begin at 10 a.m. Pacific Time with C-SPAN providing live coverage, as well as a feed to other networks interested in the unscripted program starting the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel and the attorneys for and against Prop 8. The 2008 Prop 8 ballot measure amended California's constitution to define marriage as the union of a man and a woman and banned recognition of same-sex marriages.

The court announced in mid-November that two C-SPAN cameras would be allowed in the courtroom, a first for a federal court in California.

The decision led to an early celebration among Prop 8 proponents.

"For too long, the truth about marriage equality has been obscured by misleading political rhetoric. Now millions of Americans will be able to hear the truth about this issue firsthand," said Chad Griffin with the American Foundation for Equal Rights. AFER, sponsor of the



PHOTO: DIANA WALKER

David Boies, left, Ted Olson and Lady Booth Olson.

groundbreaking case, sought television coverage of the Prop 8 trial last January, but the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of Prop 8 proponents who argued that camera coverage would distort trial proceedings.

In that trial, U.S. District Court Judge Vaughn Walker determined that Proposition 8 is unconstitutional under both the due process and equal protection clauses in the U.S. Constitution.

Prop 8 proponents appealed Walker's ruling, setting the stage for the two-hour hearings Dec. 6.

Now, a viewer's guide to "Perry vs. Schwarzenegger — The Appeal":

### THE LEADS

American Foundation for Equal Rights attorneys Theodore B. Olson and David Boies, representing the anti-Prop 8 plaintiffs in "Perry vs. Schwarzenegger."

City of San Francisco Attorney Dennis J. Herrera, also seeking to overturn Prop 8.

Charles Cooper, Andrew Pugno and Brian Raum, the attorneys for ProtectMarriage.com and

Dennis Hollingsworth, the voluntary defendant in the case who campaigned for Proposition 8.

Imperial County Attorney Robert Tyler, who sought to intervene in the case to defend Proposition 8.

### OFF-CAMERA CAST

Dozens of groups and individuals have filed amicus or friend of the court briefs on both sides of the issue.

Prop 8 proponents include the Family Research Council, Liberty Institute, Parents and Friends of Ex Gays, U.S.

### Proceedings will be broadcast live from a San Francisco courtroom.

attorneys will argue whether the pro-Prop 8 parties challenging Walker's ruling have standing in court.

Each side will get 30 minutes to make the case. Because the governor and the state attorney general declined to defend Prop 8, Hollingsworth and Imperial County sought to intervene in the case and present a defense of the amendment.

Following a recess, the second hearing will focus on the constitutionality of Prop 8. Again, both sides will get 30 minutes for arguments.

### THE STAKES

High Nielson ratings are not at stake. At stake is whether the appeals court will affirm Walker's finding that Proposition 8 "fails to advance any rational basis in singling out gay men and lesbians for denial of a marriage license. Indeed the evidence shows Proposition 8 does nothing more than enshrine in the California constitution the notion that opposite sex couples are superior to same-sex couples."

### THE SEQUEL

Both parties, as well as case watchers, agree that the dispute likely will go to the U.S. Supreme Court, where cameras and live coverage are unlikely.

C-Span has offered gavel-to-gavel coverage, but the High Court remains opposed to cameras in its courtroom.

### THE FORMAT

The court has scheduled two hour-long hearings. In the first hearing, the

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# HHS introduces visitation rules

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

The U.S. Health and Human Services Department is instituting new rules prohibiting hospitals from interfering with their patients' choice of who can visit them at bedside.

The rules follow a request from President Barack Obama and a promise from HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius to stop medical staff and hospital administrators from denying gays and lesbians visits with their ailing partners.

In April, Obama issued a presidential memorandum instructing HHS to develop rules that would prohibit hospitals from denying visitation privileges on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.

In mid-November, the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services issued rules that hospitals must adhere to or risk loss of federal funding. The rules go into force in mid-January, 60

## The rules follow a request from President Barack Obama.

days after their publication in the federal record.

"These rules put non-clinical decisions about who can visit a patient out of the hands of those who deliver care and into the hands of those who receive it," said CMS administrator Donald Berwick.

The rules require:

- Hospitals to explain to patients their right to choose who may visit them during their stay, regardless of whether the visitor is a blood relative, a spouse, a domestic partner or other type of visitor.

- Hospitals to have writ-

ten policies and procedures detailing patients' visitation rights, as well as the circumstances under which the hospitals may restrict patient access to visitors based on clinical needs.

"Basic human rights – such as your ability to choose your own support system in a time of need – must not be checked at the door of America's hospitals," Sebelius said. The new rules "help give 'full and equal' rights to all of us to choose whom we want by our bedside when we are sick, and override any objection by a hospital or staffer who may disagree with us for any non-clinical reason."

There is a long history of gays and lesbians being barred from the hospital rooms of their sick or injured partners by medical staff citing rules allowing only the next of kin – a legal spouse or blood relative – to enter.

Lamba Legal attorney Tara Borelli called the new rules "a very important first step to address the barriers many same-sex couples and their families face in medical emer-

gencies."

Lambda Legal, the national LGBT civil liberties group, represented Janice Langbehn, the woman whose story touched the president and helped move the federal government to enact the measures.

Hospital staff kept Langbehn apart from her partner Lisa Pond for eight hours. Pond slipped into a coma and later died.

Langbehn said, "I am pleased to see that President Obama's promise for equality in hospitals has come to fruition. Our family endured an eight-hour nightmare but thanks to Lambda Legal, President Obama and Secretary Sebelius, no family will face the same situation."

LGBT civil rights advocates, however, said additional instructions are needed.

For example, the new rules do not address what happens when a patient is incapacitated and cannot choose visitors.

"We're encouraged that HHS has said we can expect announcements of additional guidance," Borelli said.



## LGBTs ♥ NYC

LGBT vacationers rank New York City their top destination in the United States, followed by San Francisco.

The rankings are based on the Community Marketing firm's annual gay and lesbian travel study.

The study, culled from a survey of 5,000 people, found that LGBT travelers took fewer trips in the last year, as did most American travelers, in large part due to the struggling economy. All but one destination – Washington, D.C., – that made the rankings showed a decline in LGBT visitors.

The top destinations include New York City, No. 1; San Francisco, No. 2; Las Vegas, No. 3; Chicago, No. 4; Washington, D.C., No. 5; Los Angeles, No. 6; Fort Lauderdale, Fla., No. 7; San Diego, No. 8; and Orlando, Fla., and Seattle tied for No. 9.

Fifteen other cities made the list, most of them coastal destinations. Chicago was the only Midwestern city to rank in the top 25.

— Lisa Neff

# Gays most likely to be victims of violence

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Gays are far more likely to be targets of a violent hate crime than any other minority group in the United States, according to a new analysis of federal hate crime statistics.

The Southern Poverty Law Center examined FBI data from 1995 to 2008 in preparing the report released Nov. 22. The analysis found that people perceived to be gay are more than twice as likely to be attacked in a violent hate crime as Jews or blacks. Gays are more than four times as likely to be attacked as Muslims and 14 times as likely as Latinos.

SPLC's "Intelligence Report" comes on the heels of a wave of anti-gay attacks. A neighborhood in Covington, Ky., was hit by a series of homophobic violence over the summer. In New York, 10 gang members were arrested in October for torturing three men.

"As Americans become more accepting of homosexuals, the most extreme elements of the anti-gay movement are digging in their heels and continuing to defame gays and lesbians with falsehoods that grow more incendiary by the day," said Mark Potok, editor of the report.

"The leaders of this movement may deny it, but it seems clear that their demonization of homosexuals plays a role

## The report labels 13 right-wing Christian organizations as hate groups.

in fomenting the violence, hatred and bullying we're seeing," Potok said.

The report labels 13 right-wing Christian organizations as hate groups for disseminating falsehoods about LGBT people, including accusations that gays are inherently unhealthy and live shorter lives than heterosexuals, that gays molest children at higher rates than straights and that gays controlled the Nazi Party and helped to orchestrate the Holocaust.

The American Family Association, Americans for Truth About Homosexuality, Family Research Council, Coral Ridge Ministries and Concerned Women for America are among the groups named.

Chip Berlet, co-author of "Right Wing Populism in America: Too Close to Home," said the right wing's homophobia is more complex than its racism and xenophobia. According to

him, the latter represent a backlash against new groups encroaching into the power structure – a backlash that was galvanized by the election of Barack Obama and is rooted in the nation's changing demographics toward a majority non-white society.

Berlet, a senior analyst at the Massachusetts-based Political Research Associates, addressed students at UW-M Nov. 30 about the Tea Party movement. Although that movement does not actively promote an anti-gay agenda, Berlet told WVG that its members feel the same level of mistrust and anger toward LGBT people as they do toward blacks, Muslims and Latino immigrants.

But unlike those prejudices, homophobia is a reaction to desire, Berlet said, which means it impacts people in more visceral ways.

"If a person doesn't think of himself as gay but in fact has a repressed desire, he can (attack gays) to negate the desire, whether it's conscious or unconscious," Berlet said. "Teenage boys will often attack a gay person so they can say to themselves that they have no gay feelings, whether they do or don't."

Berlet said homophobia is further complicated by the fact that straight males perceive gays as a threat to their traditional stature in society: "If gay people are accepted as normal, then what happens to all these claims about

how there's a natural order of hierarchy of men over women?"

Berlet said it's the threat factor that fuels Tea Party homophobia.

"The Tea Party movement is a movement of predominantly white middle-class people who feel squeezed by parasites above and below," Berlet said. "The parasites above are embodied by Obama – a black, Muslim, socialist who loves gay people and is going to take their guns away. And those below are people they see as lazy, black, sinful and gay. They believe they are the people who are going to save America from these twin forces."

Berlet said although more tempered minds tend to dismiss this sort of thinking as silly and irrational, it's critical to confront people who espouse such extremist beliefs with facts.

"We're in a society where the center has collapsed ... and the people who are circling the wagons are the Tea

## FBI REPORTS LOWER HATE CRIMES OVERALL IN 2009

The number of hate-crime incidents and victims declined in 2009 compared with the previous year, the FBI reported Nov. 22.

Of more than 6,000 hate crime offenders, over six in 10 were white while nearly two in 10 were black.

Nearly half of the crime incidents in 2009 were motivated by racial bias, nearly 20 percent by religious bias and over 18 percent by sexual orientation bias.

More than half the reported hate crimes against individual people were assaults, said the FBI. One out of a hundred hate crimes involved murder or rape.

There were 6,604 hate crime incidents reported last year, down from 7,783 in 2008. There were 8,336 reported victims, down from 9,691 in 2008. The victim totals include not only individuals but also businesses, religious buildings and other institutions.

The year-to-year figures in the FBI reports for 2009 and 2008 are not exactly comparable because the number of law enforcement agencies providing data to the bureau on hate crime went up last year to more than 14,000, compared to 13,690 in 2008. Nearly 4,000 police jurisdictions do not participate in the program, said the group Human Rights First.

— Lisa Neff


Party and the Republicans another major economic downturn and everything could collapse very quickly, unraveling yet but another major terrorist attack or people expect."

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## { Editorial }

### Police liaison is valuable position

When Indianapolis officials appointed LGBT liaisons to their police and fire departments last month, they released a statement touting their action to the public.

"Today's announcement establishing police and fire liaisons to the LGBT community demonstrates our commitment to service and inclusion," the statement said. "We look forward to working with the LGBT community, exploring issues involving the LGBT community in police and fire training, and partnering on future projects."

But when the Milwaukee Police Department named Mary Hoerig as its official liaison to the LGBT community last month, there was no statement or announcement. That's unfortunate, because it's an important position that needs visibility in order to be successful. Moreover, the department's silence cost an opportunity to send the message that it values the city's LGBT citizens and expects its officers to serve and protect them.

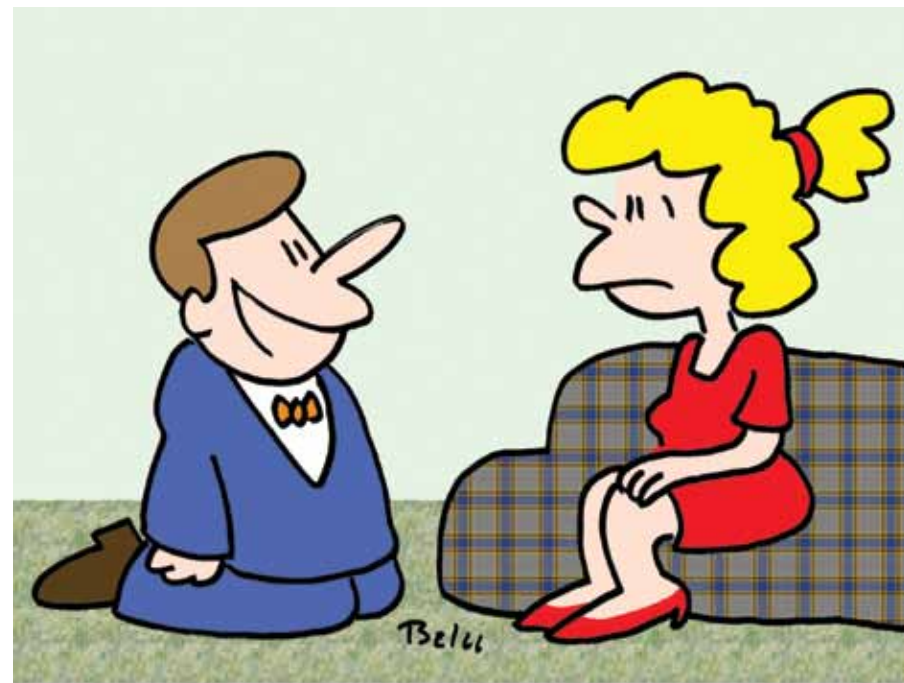
While law enforcement's duty to the LGBT community might seem self-evident, it's a relatively new concept. Until recent years, police were the worst perpetrators of hate crimes toward LGBT citizens. When officers weren't overtly harassing gays, they were ignoring the crimes committed against them by others.

Hoerig's appointment comes nearly 20 years after Milwaukee police arrested Jeffrey Dahmer and the world learned how little the city's police cared about protecting its gay citizens.

Much has happened since. When hearings by the Fire and Police Commission uncovered harassment of LGBT officers within the department several years ago, the department responded by changing its culture to single out the harassers rather than target the victims.

By all accounts, including that of Hoerig, MPD Chief Ed Flynn is sincerely committed to diversity. But someone fumbled the ball by allowing a significant development in police relations with the community to fly in under the radar.

Fortunately, Flynn chose well in Hoerig, an out officer who has served unofficially as a go-between for the community and the MPD for years. She has the capability to serve in her new role with distinction if she's given adequate internal support. We trust that despite the neglectful way her appointment was handled, the MPD will take her work seriously.



"Well, what if I were the last heterosexual man on earth?"

## { Letters }

### LGBT YOUTH NEED SUPPORT DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

While taking a break and contemplating the prospect of having great food and company over Thanksgiving, I received a call about parents seeking legal help to try to deal with their child experiencing anti-gay bullying – it had gone way too far.

GSAFE doesn't offer legal assistance, but we can help parents understand how to take steps in a grievance process in schools.

The telephone conversation made me reflect on how youth who come out can fear the type of harassment to which the person on the phone referred.

An LGBT middle school or high school student, already trying to figure out what it means to be growing up

and fitting in, has the added stress of trying to decide whether to remain closeted or not. Internally negotiating how out to be is an aspect of human development that the majority of youth simply do not experience. Will I be a target? Will my parents accept me? These are real life questions. And even though it is better for LGBT people of all ages now than it was 15 years ago, it is still not easy.

I know that many youth this holiday season are trying to figure out if they should be open about who they are to their families, sometimes extended family members they don't see all the time. It wasn't that many years ago when it seemed I knew more LGBT adults with strained family relationships because of their being sexual minority than I knew ones who were accepted by their families.

It is better today, and some LGBT youth are celebrated in all or almost all corners of their lives. But right now I'm thinking of those teens who are trying to figure out how to approach the holidays. We remember that it is not easy for them and hold them in our thoughts. May they be embraced by their families and communities. May those who are bullied find respite and those who bully find what they really need in their lives, as we all try to make it better.

Cindy Crane  
Gay Straight Alliance for  
Safe Schools, Madison

### TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

Send a letter to the editor at [managingeditor@wisconsin Gazette.com](mailto:managingeditor@wisconsin Gazette.com)

## Our mission

To inform, engage and empower Wisconsin's LGBT community by providing a professional, independent print and online source for news and commentary, as well as coverage of political and cultural issues.

## So they said

**"Politics aside, the success of Sarah Palin and women like her is good for all women ... unless you're a gay woman who wants to marry your partner of 20 years – whatever. But for most women, the success of conservative women is good for all of us. Unless you believe in evolution. You know, actually, I take it back. The whole thing's a disaster."**

– Tina Fey, accepting the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor

**"Willow and I shouldn't have reacted to negative comments about our family. We apologize. On a nicer note, thank you for supporting the great competition in 'Dancing with the Stars!'"**

– Bristol Palin, writing a tepid apology on her Facebook wall for sister Willow's anti-gay rant against a critic of her family's reality show. Willow called the critic "so gay" and a "faggot."

**"My youngest brother, Lloyd, is gay. He's a doctor, so he got every ounce of intelligence in the family. He was probably about 18 when he came out, and I can wholeheartedly tell you that from the day that he did, he was a changed man for the better. The sheer beauty of who he is really came through."**

– Ryan Kwanten, who plays Jason Stackhouse, the resident stud of Bon Temps, La., on HBO's "True Blood," speaking to The Advocate.

**"I sat next to her once. Thought she was beautiful. And she's very happy in Alaska, and I hope she'll stay there."**

– Barbara Bush commenting to Larry King about Sarah Palin.

**"I felt transformed .... We'd been together 26 years when we were legally allowed to get married in California. We went and did it, and we both agree it had a power, an importance to us in our lives that we can't really put into words, but that is totally palpable and intrinsic to who we are."**

– Out actor David Hyde Pierce telling Popeater what it felt like to legally marry his longtime partner before Proposition 8 banned same-sex marriage.

**"Is it fair to travelers who may end up getting 'groped' by homosexual TSA agents who are secretly getting turned on through the process?"**

– Peter LaBarbera who heads the anti-gay group Americans For Truth About Homosexuality, based in Naperville, Ill.

**"We haven't grown at all. We're still children in the schoolyard. Honestly. No offense, Dave, (but) for God's sakes, have you ever seen a gay man? Are there gay people in Indiana? Is it OK to be gay there, is what I'm asking."**

– Actor Jim Carey's response to David Letterman's question, "... Do you worry about your image as a heterosexual leading man playing a homosexual?"

## Bracing for more brain drain

One challenge that we consistently hear about in Wisconsin is that we suffer from what is known as a "brain drain."

Simply put, this is the loss of talented young and highly educated professionals to other states. With the coming takeover of state government by an extreme brand of conservatives, one has to wonder if the coming brain drain inside the Capitol will exacerbate the brain drain in the state as a whole.

The younger workforce that the state is trying to attract and retain is much more tolerant on social issues, including LGBT equality, than older people. The trend toward supporting equality crosses both partisan and ideological lines. In addition to appealing to these younger workers by positioning Wisconsin as a forward-thinking state, leaders must also recognize the increasing number of talent-

ed and open LGBT professionals. Does anyone think that a turn to the most mean-spirited extremes is going to attract and retain these workers? How do we expect to attract outside talent when our incoming lieutenant governor makes national news for comparing same-sex unions to marriages between humans and tables, clocks or dogs?

Unfortunately the Republicans elected Nov. 2 have given us a plethora of examples of their regressive plans. Gov.-elect Scott Walker repeatedly promised on the campaign trail that he would repeal the state's domestic partnership registry. That registry offers only 43 of the more than 200 rights that married couples enjoy. These include such basic protections as inheritance rights and the right to visit partners in the hospital. Such mean-spirited regression will not play well to

a more tolerant generation of younger professionals and academics.

The University of Wisconsin system was for too long the only one in the Big Ten that did not provide domestic partner benefits for its employees. In 2009, the Legislature and Gov. Jim Doyle finally rectified that unfortunate status, not only for university workers but for all state employees. Although they promised to focus on the economy and jobs, incoming Republicans have already indicated they will also take back these benefits.

A recent report by the Cream City Foundation shows that our state lags seriously behind Illinois and Minnesota in terms of how it treats its LGBT professionals. While state government should be creating policy to close the gap, instead it is being taken over by lawmakers who seek to widen it.



This destructive and divisive ideology is best exemplified by soon-to-be state Sen. Leah Vukmir. Last year she received e-mail from a progressive organization seeking to send Wisconsin young people to a Washington, D.C., conference. She forwarded the e-mail to one of her staffers and commented, "Yes. Let's send them to Washington – but they have to promise that they will never come back."

When you combine this kind of thoughtless intolerance with inevitable cuts to education, the loss of funding for world-class research and the rejection of modern transportation alternatives, Vukmir just might get her wish.

Find more WiG at [www.wisconsin Gazette.com](http://www.wisconsin Gazette.com).

## Make the holidays your own

With the season to be gay in full swing, it's time to make the holidays our own.

Twinkling stars, virgin births, couples traveling far and wide to be recognized by the state, no room for us at the inn – hey, our history and culture is embedded right there in the nativity narrative! Add a modern dollop of sugarplum fairies, dazzling light displays and group sing-a-longs and you have the fixings for a very gay yuletide.

Unfortunately, some LGBT folks experience a special kind of anxiety and ambivalence during the holidays. Parental expectations, family conflicts and feelings of alienation can dampen the holiday spirit.

The people we love and support, and those who love and support us, are not always our biological families. But whoever they are – friends, lovers, neighbors, colleagues, even pets – they are our families in the best and deepest sense. We should make plans with them, celebrate with them and share our love together. We can focus on positive attitudes

that reflect our values and choose celebrations that are meaningful to us.

Some of my pagan friends celebrate Winter Solstice, an ancient observance marking the earth's seasonal cycles of darkness and light, death and rebirth. At solstice (Dec. 21 this year), the day with the longest period of darkness gives way to the extension of sunlight and the New Year – yuletide – the following day. People gather to share memories and to express their respect for the natural cycles of life through meditation and ceremonies they design themselves.

Hanukkah marks the rededication of the temple in Jerusalem after a small band of Jews defeated occupiers in the 2nd century, BCE. Legend has it they found only enough oil to light the temple's menorah for one day, but somehow that supply lasted eight days and nights until more could be found. Hanukkah celebrations include lighting the menorah (an additional candle each night until all eight are lit), prayers of thanks to God for

deliverance, foods cooked in oil (love them latkes!), gifts and songs. The Festival of Lights, Hanukkah runs from Dec. 1-9 this year.

Kwanzaa, Swahili for "first fruits," is a more modern invention. Rooted in the Black Nationalist movement of the 1960s, it was devised as a means for African Americans to connect with their African heritage. It is a weeklong event in which seven principles are celebrated and discussed: unity; self-determination; collective effort and responsibility; cooperative economics; purpose; creativity; and faith. Candles are lit each day, feasts are shared, and gifts that symbolize black pride and culture are exchanged. Kwanzaa is observed Dec. 26-Jan. 1.

Renewal and redemption are the themes that transcend cultures and religions at this time of year. Two classics that convey these themes splendidly are Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" and Frank Capra's "It's a Wonderful Life."

I read the tale of Scrooge



and watch the trials of George Bailey in alternate years and never tire of them. I start bawling five minutes into Capra's movie (when Mr. Gower whacks young George) and hardly stop until the credits roll. I'm always amazed by Dickens' brilliant writing and his blazing social conscience ("Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?").

Dickens wrote my favorite evocation of the season, which is spoken by Scrooge's nephew: "I have always thought of Christmastime ... as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely."

Please open your hearts, don your gay apparel and enjoy the season!

Read more WiG at [www.wisconsin Gazette.com](http://www.wisconsin Gazette.com).

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BRIEFS

ARCHBISHOP'S ELECTION CRITICIZED

Gay civil rights advocates said the election of Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York as president of the powerful U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops proves church hierarchy is out of touch.

"The surprise election of Archbishop Timothy Dolan, an outspoken advocate of disrespect for the marriages of same-sex couples, is yet another indicator of how out of step the hierarchy is with the Roman Catholic faithful," said the Rev. Harry Knox, the director of the Human Rights Campaign's religion and faith program. "Great majorities of Catholic lay people know that lesbian and gay couples seek only to live in love and mutual respect with their neighbors. They are dismayed

when the bishops only offer an extension of the divisive 'culture wars' in return."

Surveys show that 62 percent of American Catholics say that homosexuality should be accepted by society and more American Catholics favor marriage equality than oppose it.

"Roman Catholics in the pews know that everyone deserves respect and freedom, including LGBT people. As long as the Catholic hierarchy continues to put up barriers to these basic values, the disconnect between the bishops and the Catholic faithful will continue to widen," Knox said.

AIR FORCE: NOT SO FAST ON REINSTATEMENT

The Air Force said Nov. 23 that it hasn't decided whether to try to keep a les-

bian flight nurse from being reinstated while it appeals a judge's ruling to return her to her old job.

U.S. District Judge Ronald Leighton in Tacoma, Wash., ruled two months ago that former Maj. Margaret Witt's firing under "don't ask, don't tell" violated her rights, and he ordered that she be given her job back as soon as she puts in enough nursing hours to meet qualifications for the position.

The Justice Department appealed that ruling Nov. 22. But government lawyers did not seek a stay that would put the judge's order on hold.

Witt's lawyers celebrated the DOJ's decision, saying it meant she could be reinstated even as the appeal proceeds.

But the Air Force issued a statement making clear that if Witt meets her nursing quali-

fications, military officials and the Justice Department will reconsider whether to seek a stay.

MAN GETS 40 YEARS FOR KILLING DC PRINCIPAL

A 19-year-old who pleaded guilty to shooting a D.C. school principal recently was sentenced to 40 years in prison.

Alante Saunders pleaded guilty to felony murder in November.

Prosecutors say Saunders and Brian Betts, the principal of Shaw Middle School, met through a sex chat line and Betts agreed to leave the door of his home open for Saunders.

Betts was found dead in his Silver Spring, Md., home April 15 after failing to show up for work. Three other teens also were charged.

After the hearing, celebrity Los Angeles attorney Gloria Allred said Betts was gay and that she plans to ask federal prosecutors to investigate the slaying as a hate crime.

THOUSANDS LINE STREET FOR SOLDIER'S FUNERAL

Thousands of people, some from miles away, lined streets of a northwest Missouri town to serve as a buffer between the family of a soldier being laid to rest and an anti-gay group that protests at military funerals.

People were summoned to the funeral of Army Cpl. Jacob R. Carver Nov. 22 by a Facebook posting and word of mouth. Carver died Nov. 13 in Afghanistan.

The Kansas City Star reported that the 2,000 to 3,000 people who showed up in Harrisonville, Mo., included busloads of schoolchildren and senior citizens. They lined the streets for nearly a half-mile in front of the church.

When members of the Westboro Baptist Church from Topeka, Kan., arrived to promote their view that soldiers' deaths are God's punishment for America's tolerance of homosexuality, the only spot available was

a third of a mile from the church.

OHIO CITY OKS PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS

Ohio's largest city will offer domestic partner benefits to its employees a dozen years after a similar plan was canceled under public pressure.

The Columbus City Council in late November approved health insurance coverage for the gay and unmarried partners of city workers.

The vote came after two people addressed the council about the benefits: a man who was in favor of them and a woman who was opposed. She said the council should, in her words, "make God smile, not make Satan smile."

A similar meeting was packed in 1998 when council members first tried to offer domestic partner benefits. They pulled back on the plan when opponents collected enough petition signatures to put a measure on the ballot.

NJ LAWMAKERS APPROVE ANTI-BULLYING BILL

New Jersey lawmakers on Nov. 22, passed a bill that would require schools to develop anti-harassment programs.

The New Jersey General Assembly and Senate both passed the bill overwhelmingly and sent it to the desk of Republican Gov. Chris Christie, who said he hadn't read the bill but that state lawyers have raised concerns over whether its provisions infringe on constitutional rights. The bill would require anti-bullying programs in public schools and language in college codes of conduct to address bullying. Schools would have to form teams to shape policies and review how bullying is handled.

Prosecutors say Cornelius went to the apartment of Pamela Taylor, his ex-girlfriend, and found Taylor's next-door neighbor, Brittany Cheeks, in her bed.

Prosecutors say Cornelius shot both women, killing Cheeks.

The women were not involved in a romantic relationship.

— from AP and WiG reports

his liaison with a man on a webcam. Clementi's family said in a statement that it welcomed the bill.

MAN PLEADS NOT GUILTY IN HATE CRIME CASE

A New Mexico man pleaded not guilty Nov. 22 to federal hate-crime charges in the first case prosecuted by the federal government under a historic 2009 law targeting hate crimes involving disabilities or sexual orientation.

William Hatch, 29, entered his plea during his initial appearance at a federal courthouse in Albuquerque.

Paul Beebe, 26, and Jesse Sanford, 25, also appeared but had no attorneys and didn't enter pleas.

The three men are accused of shaving a swastika onto the back of the 22-year-old victim's head and using markers to write "KKK" and "White Power" on the victim.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Roberto Ortega said the case is the first in the nation to be pursued by the Justice Department under the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act.

MISSISSIPPI MAN SENTENCED FOR MANSLAUGHTER

A Jackson, Miss., man was sentenced to 50 years in prison for killing his ex-girlfriend's neighbor because he believed the two women were involved in a lesbian relationship.

Prosecutors say Cornelius went to the apartment of Pamela Taylor, his ex-girlfriend, and found Taylor's next-door neighbor, Brittany Cheeks, in her bed.

Prosecutors say Cornelius shot both women, killing Cheeks.

The women were not involved in a romantic relationship.

— from AP and WiG reports

Find more WiG at www.wisconsin-gazette.com.

Social conservatives expect GOP action on their issues

Republicans from I

of the Assembly. "I'm going to do what I can to try to keep us focused."

Newly elected state Rep. Kathy Bernier, a Republican from Lake Hallie who received a call from Suder, said she was also a "little bit" worried about the other issues that were prominent in the campaign.

Republican leaders believe they have strong base of support for action on the economy. A survey by St. Norbert College showed that 73 percent of respondents said jobs, economy, budget and debt were the most important issues facing the state. Only 2 percent named immigration and just 1 percent said abortion.

Incoming Republican Gov. Scott Walker has called for quick passage of proposals to spur job creation, including cutting taxes on small businesses, cutting taxes on Health Savings Accounts and reforming the state Department of Commerce.

But the GOP includes fervent and loyal social conservatives who helped deliver the party's dramatic victory in November and now expect action on issues that have already passed in other

Republican-controlled states.

Republican state Rep. Don Pridemore said he plans on introducing a bill similar to the controversial new law in Arizona that would crack down on illegal immigration. Pridemore's bill would require that people suspected of crimes would have to prove they're in the country legally or be turned over to federal immigration authorities.

The idea has been denounced by immigrant-rights groups and would prompt a legislative battle. But Pridemore said the bill could be debated without becoming a distraction.

Sen. Scott Fitzgerald, who will be majority leader in January, declared on election night that the first bill he intends to see passed would require voters to show photo identification at the polls as a way to stop voter fraud.

Democrats have long blocked it, arguing it suppresses turnout. Other Republican lawmakers have said they intend to impose more restrictions on abortions, legalize concealed weapons and repeal a recently enacted law that extends benefits to domestic partners of gay state workers.

It will only be a few months before the Legislature turns to

non-economic issues, said Sen. Glenn Grothman, R-West Bend.

"We're not going to spend the next 18 months doing nothing but economic issues," Grothman said. "That would be a slap in the face to a large share of the electorate."

Former Gov. Tommy Thompson, a Republican who served 14 years, said navigating the agenda will be precarious unless the Legislature successfully enacts a substantial new economic program.

"If they can't deliver there will be hell to pay in 2012," he said before the election.

Kaufert said he also feared voters would have little patience if his colleagues get bogged down.

"The danger is the citizens of the state will just say we'll clean house again and we're going to keep doing it until we get it right," he said.

Republican Party Chairman Reince Priebus said the economy won't prevent the Legislature from acting on other priorities. "It doesn't mean we have to exclude tackling every other issue facing the voters of Wisconsin," he said. "You can walk and chew gum at the same time."

Democrats are encouraged by

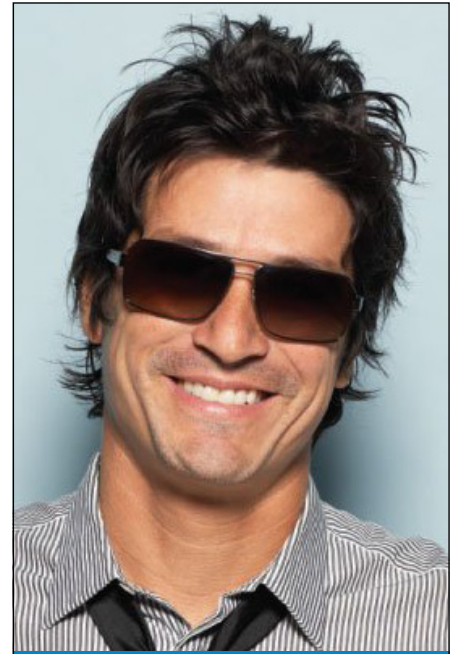
the prospect of Republicans getting entangled in social issues that are highly contentious and have less public support.

The Republican focus on jobs and the economy will last "about 20 seconds," said Mordecai Lee, a former Democratic state lawmaker and currently a University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee political science professor.

"They ran on jobs and the economy," said Democratic state Rep. Mark Pocan of Madison. "Now if we get a bait and switch to a social issues agenda, that would not be a very popular move."

Walker, who ran with Tea Party support, promised on the campaign trail to sign an Arizona-style immigration law and to ban embryonic stem cell research, groundbreaking work that was pioneered at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Since the election, Walker's rhetoric has focused on his pledge that with Republicans back in control, "Wisconsin is open for business." His spokesman, Cullen Werwie, said Walker will review bills not related to the economy on a case by case basis, but his focus remains on his jobs agenda.



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# Pope's condom remarks sow confusion

By Tom Breen and Rachel Zoll

AP writers

Some Roman Catholics are confused. Some are angry. Others just don't believe the pope meant what it seems he said.

Days after the release of Pope Benedict XVI's comments that condoms can be justified to prevent the spread of HIV, there is widespread confusion about

exactly what he was trying to say. The remarks have put some of the strictest defenders of church teachings in the awkward position of potentially disagreeing with the pontiff.

Many church officials worldwide have been conspicuously silent. Some bishops are even seeking clarification from the Vatican.

"It's a mess," said John Haas, president of the National

Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia, which advises church leaders, hospitals and Vatican offices. "I'm not ready to say that the pope said what (papal spokesman the Rev. Frederico) Lombardi said."

On a practical level, most Catholic-affiliated charities that minister to people at high risk of contracting AIDS are unlikely to make changes anytime soon.

Haas, also a moral theologian, said he has fielded numerous calls from confused bishops. Benedict's comments come at a time when American bishops are focused on upholding Catholic orthodoxy on marriage and sexuality.

"It's important to recognize this is not some blanket opening of the door for married people to use artificial birth control," said Mark Silk, director of the Leonard Greenberg Center for the Study of Religion in Public Life at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn.

In some heavily Catholic nations, church leaders have avoided discussing the matter. In Spain, Cardinal Antonio Maria Rouco Varela made no mention of the pope's statements during a meeting of the Spanish Bishops' Conference.

When pressed by reporters, only Cardinal Carlos Amigo responded. Church leaders, he said, would have to read the book carefully first.

In the Andes region of South America, there appeared to be few mentions of the pope in news media, and his remarks were not mentioned in services at several Masses attended by Associated Press reporters.

The National Conference of Brazilian Bishops said it would not comment. Brazil has one of the world's most advanced anti-AIDS programs, and the government distributes more than 200 million free condoms each year, especially during Carnival.

The Brazilian church has officially opposed the distri-

## The uproar is over comments Benedict made in a new book.

bution of condoms, but historically has done little to stop it.

The U.S. Conference on Catholic Bishops has not issued a statement and referred questions to the Vatican.

The uproar is over comments Benedict made in a new book titled "Light of the World: The Pope, the Church and the Signs of the Times." In an exchange with the author about AIDS in Africa, Benedict said that for some people, such as male prostitutes, using condoms could be a step in assuming moral responsibility because the intent is to "reduce the risk of infection."

At a news conference Nov. 22 in Rome, Lombardi said Benedict knew his comments would provoke intense debate, and that the pope meant for his remarks to apply not just to male prostitutes, but also "if you're a man, a woman, or a transsexual."

The pope did not suggest using condoms as birth control, which is banned by the Roman Catholic Church, and he said condoms were not a "real or moral solution" to the AIDS crisis. Catholic

teaching has never totally barred condom use for protection against HIV, and the Vatican has no official policy on the issue.

Larry Barkowski, a lifelong Catholic and married father of three from the Pittsburgh suburb of Natrona Heights, doesn't believe the comments constitute anything new.

"The popes have always promulgated responsible parenthood and responsible sexuality, and this is just a continuation of that. This is really nothing new other than the fact that he addressed the actual use of the condom, which has been something of a taboo," Barkowski said.

Catholic groups who minister to AIDS sufferers and those at high risk of contracting HIV agreed that the pope's remarks — and the rival interpretations of them — leave long-standing practices in place.

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles began what is likely the first U.S. Catholic AIDS ministry in 1986. The Rev. Chris Ponnet, who directs HIV and AIDS outreach efforts, said the pope's comments do not mean a change in doctrine or in practice. Catholic outreach groups are not going to start distributing condoms, he said, adding that a singular focus on condoms ignores the roots of the problem.

Ponnet sees Benedict's remarks as directly addressing parts of the world where HIV and AIDS infection rates are far higher than in the United States.

"I see this as not breaking any new ground, necessarily," he said.

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## Holiday Harmonizing



By Michel Muckian  
Contributing writer

When Madison's Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus opens for The Nylons' Dec. 18 performance at The Barrymore Theatre, the gay and gay-friendly musical group's 20-minute set will cap what has been a remarkable year, according to artistic director Ken Forney.

"It's exciting for us musically to open for The Nylons, and there's a good chance we will gain exposure to people who have never seen us perform," says Forney, a "sometimes tenor" who helped found the group in 1996. "In addition, The Nylons have been quiet activists on behalf

of gay causes, and that's also exciting."

PHMC, a collective of 25 voices, is open to anyone — both musical and non-musical. The ensemble was formed 14 years ago to bring the gala chorus tradition back to Madison, performing for the first time at an AIDS memorial service Dec. 1, 1996. In addition to offering opportunities for self-expression, PHMC's goals include expanding men's choral music literature, cultivating musical, social and spiritual support for its members, and serving as a musical bridge that promotes tolerance among diverse communities.

In support of that final

mission, PHMC has for the past several years sought out opportunities to perform in rural areas and small towns in southern Wisconsin that have never been exposed to gay groups. The purpose is more social than musical — to build greater tolerance and support for gays who live in those areas.

"Our emphasis on social activism uses music as a bridge to reach members of these communities," Forney says. "They're not as friendly as Madison has been, but we feel we can make a difference."

That commitment to activism and the goal of inclusion helped PHMC earn the 2010 Organization of

## The chorus performs in rural areas of that state that have never been exposed to gay groups.

the Year designation from OutReach, Madison's LGBT community center. The award was presented Sept. 24 at the annual OutReach banquet at Monona Terrace

Convention Center.

PHMC's Dec. 18 set with The Nylons will be holiday-centric, Forney says. It will include excerpts from the group's own seasonal concert "Winter Glow," which will be performed at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 10 at the Middleton Community United Church of Christ and at 3 p.m. Dec. 12 at St. Stephens Lutheran Church in Monona.

"Our concerts will be looking at symbolism and light through multiple traditions and include the music of Christmas, Hanukkah and the solstice," Forney says. "The first half will focus on songs about candles and light, the second half on bells and joy."

### ON STAGE

Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus opens for the Nylons at 8 p.m. Dec. 18 at the Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood Ave. in Madison.

PHMC performs its "Winter Glow" holiday concert at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 10 at the Middleton Community United Church of Christ, and at 3 p.m. Dec. 12 at St. Stephens Lutheran Church in Monona. Go to [www.perfectharmonychorus.org](http://www.perfectharmonychorus.org).



# A new spin on retro chic

By Debra Brehmet  
Contributing writer

Here we are sitting at Spin Milwaukee, 233 E. Chicago St., and the play tape just spit out the Violent Femmes' "Blister in the Sun." Somehow it pierced through the popping noise of the ping-pong balls and general chatter of a mostly filled house. From the comfortable perch of the aluminum bar stools, we count five flat screen TVs mounted near the ceiling and two projections of a football game.

Spin Milwaukee opened three months ago in the Historic Third Ward. It is one part college union, one part snazzy basement rec room, one part semi-upscale eatery, a little Chucky Cheese, a little high-designed pool hall. The first Spin opened in New York City's Flatiron District last year. It was funded by actress Susan Sarandon and other investors and designed by ubiquitous hipster Todd Oldham. The second one landed in L.A., and the third in Milwaukee.

The local investment group behind the Milwaukee venture includes Scott Mayer, Lance Allen, Doris Mayer and Dan McNulty.

Spin is basically a Mecca of ping-pong play. But more interesting, it is a window into how we frame our recreational experiences: What excites us? What makes us feel like we are having a good time? What does it take to lure us out of our homes or familiar patterns? What helps us commune with others?

In a capitalist society, the answers, of course, all lie in design: How do we fabricate



PHOTO: COURTESY

**The big room at Spin has the frantic intensity of shifting stimuli.**

the experience?

Oldham (L-7 Designs Inc) was hired to turn these large, vacuous spaces (16,500 square feet) into alluring, stimulating high-energy entertainment. It is no surprise that he has produced a line of dormitory accessories for Target and served as creative director of Old Navy and host of Bravo's "Top Design." And he actually created pretty cool chairs for Lay Z Boy (if that's possible).

Architectural firm Engberg Anderson executed Oldham's design concept in Milwaukee.

We enter Spin through a glass vestibule and are greet-

ed by a large angular dividing wall with a George Nelson ball clock in orange. The nod to mid-century design signals the retro-familiar yet shined-up experience we are about to have. Oldham's palette of orange, teal and chartreuse begins to dance between horizontal strings of phrases on the wall: Adjacent to the entry wall are life-sized photographic portraits with ersatz baroque framing of local folks holding ping-pong paddles. These portraits have been crafted to look like Kehinde Wiley paintings, a contemporary art reference for the knowing, or perhaps

just a blatant rip-off. In all things, including the erotic, the "reveal" is important. We all know that a naked person is less sexy than a clothed person slowly undressing. The same holds true in design. Even Gothic churches used the Narthex or vestibule to guide the transition from the earthly to spiritual world. So the entry wall blocks our entire view of what lies within.

If we travel to the right, the admission desk and gift shop area greet us. Drift to the left and you find yourself released into the epicenter of a large room with 10 or so

blue-topped ping pong tables,

orange and citron oversized ottomans, a quieter corner eating area and a long bar, where employee Noah's shirt announces, "We've got Balls."

This big room has a frantic intensity of shifting stimuli. It feels like you've entered a private club of sorts, and if you are over 40, you may have trouble finding comfort here. But not to worry. Spin tucks two antechambers into the main floor plan that offer a quieter, nearly intimate experience. Each has a few ping pong tables in it (now topped with fake wood grain) and a small bar. Welcome to

Read more WiG online.

Uncle Bert's 'family room' via about 20 years of enhanced style market research.

Because Spin is meant to meet all needs and demographics – exercise, competition, fun, food, drink (there are even small locker room areas with showers in the rest rooms) – its menu strives for cross-over appeal: burgers for the youngsters and pear salad for the professional set.

The small eating areas sport framed silkscreen prints of funky illustrational mid-century bird imagery, which Oldham produced once he received licensing rights to the estate of Cincinnati illustrator Charley Harper (1922-2007). Harper's stylized, modern designs seem like they've been appearing on everything. Now we know why.

It's hard to be skeptical of a place that hosts ping-pong matches. Ping-pong carries the sweet nostalgia of innocent family fun. Anyone can function at it, sober or drunk, young or old, in Manolo Blahniks or Adidas. Families on the Spin floor chase little orange balls right alongside kids on the make, so we must cheer Spin's attempt to break down some of the walls that segregate our night life, even if it is doing so in a manufactured, mediated, artificial way.

Spin Milwaukee does provide us with an arena in which to watch one another act a little stupid while still assuring us of our hip, ironic stance as we engage in a "Leave It to Beaver" activity.

Read more WiG online.

Artwatch  
KAT MURRELL

The holiday season is in full force as decorations light up the streets across the city. The Historic Third Ward, one of Milwaukee's art hot spots, is getting into

the spirit with Christmas in the Ward festivities Dec. 3-4. Catalano Square (on the corner of Broadway and Menomonee) will feature live entertainment, reindeer, and Christmas trees for sale. The Third Ward's annual tree lighting ceremony takes place at 5 p.m. Dec. 3, and a fireworks display lights up the sky over the river at 6 p.m.

Of particular note for art lovers is the Marshall Building, 207 E. Buffalo St. From 6-9 p.m. on Dec. 3

and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 4, numerous art galleries are opening their doors for the holiday event. A food drive will be held in the building for the Hunger Task Force, which will accept non-perishable food items for donation.

The spectacle of the season also is on display at the Pabst Mansion, 2000 W. Wisconsin Ave. The halls are

decked out in their annual festive décor, featuring this year's theme "A Grand Avenue Christmas." The historic, 37-room Flemish Renaissance Revival-style mansion was completed in 1892 for Captain Frederick Pabst, beer baron and arts patron. Victorian opulence is always in style here, but at this time of year the architec-

tural splendor is accented by opulent seasonal decorations. This year's display includes an array of nutcrackers populating the music room, from miniature to life-size in a variety of guises.

For the Pabst Mansion, Charles Allis Art Museum and Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum, a holiday pass is available for \$13.

but she really got into the Santa stuff as well. Our windows were more festive than those at Marshall Field's."

Mother Superior, played by Milwaukee actress Andrea Moser, addresses her "Ho-Ho-Holy Night" audiences as if they were part of St. Gabriel's congregation. The relationship with the audience is cultivated much like the one in "Late Nite Catechism," which opened in Chicago in 1993 and holds the record for the city's longest-running religious comedy.

Quade had worked with Moser before in "Dysfunctional Dixie Christmas," the author's Tennessee Williams spoof. She wanted a Milwaukee actress for the Vogel Hall engagement.

"Andrea does a great job and there is also a practical element," Quade says. "In case there is a snowstorm, I want an actress relatively close by who could still make it to the performances."

Mother Superior is based on the nuns that Quade knew through St. Albert. Her relationship with the nuns went beyond the church and school to a more social environment that showcased the nuns in a more human and humane capacity, she says.

"We have a very gay-friendly show because the nuns wanted the church to be open to everyone," Quade says. "Nuns 4 Fun Entertainment, one of my production companies,



By Michael Muckian  
Contributing writer

In this wacky production, when Mother Superior is invited to St. Gabriel's Catholic Church to create a new type of holiday show, one that blends the secular with the sacred, she comes up with a zany scenario that combines "the gift-ness with the Christmas." One scene has Santa Claus babysitting the baby Jesus so that Mary and Joseph can go caroling with the neighbors.

"Mother Superior's Ho-Ho-Holy Night" is the brainchild of Chicago playwright Vicki Quade, author of the wildly popular "Late Nite Catechism."

"If you've just seen 'A Christmas Carol' for the umpteenth time and are looking for something different, come and see our one-night show," Quade says. "It's probably the goofiest pageant in the entire world, but audiences seem to love it."

Like much of Quade's other works, this one draws on her experience attending St. Albert the Great Church and Catholic school in Burbank, Ill., a southwest Chicago suburb. Add to that a healthy dose of her mother's Christmas mania and the comedy takes on a quality that will appeal to those steeped in both commercial and religious Christmas tradition.

"My mother was very reverent," Quade says. "She carried holy cards in her purse and said the rosary every day,

but she really got into the Santa stuff as well. Our windows were more festive than those at Marshall Field's."

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## ON STAGE

Mother Superior's Ho-Ho-Holy Night plays Dec. 8-19 at Vogel Hall in the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. For more information, visit [www.marcuscenter.org](http://www.marcuscenter.org).

has sponsored a float in Chicago's Gay Pride Parade each June since 1993 and used to have one in the Southside Irish Parade each St. Patrick's Day, before that parade was discontinued. We believe that these two groups were among the most important ones for us."

Despite the fun, "Ho-Ho-Holy Night" has a serious side as well. Quade says that one of the Catholic Church's best-kept secrets is that it has no retirement program for aging nuns, as it does for priests. Those who have espoused a vow of poverty all their lives also find they have no Social Security payments coming their way. To help support aging nuns, Quade takes up a collection at each performance.

"In Milwaukee, the funds are going to the School Sisters of St. Frances and the School Sisters of Notre Dame," Quade says. "Since we started we've raised more than \$2 million, distributed among 25 religious orders."

Such contributions add a little more ho-ho and some pretty holy nights for aging nuns, Quade says.

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# Sedaris adaptation is tale of gays in Toyland

## Theater

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

For George Gonzalez, one of the greatest challenges in directing "The Santaland Diaries," author David Sedaris' wickedly funny bitch session about a season spent serving time as an elf in Santaland at Macy's department store, was what to do about Snowball, the fellow elf on whom main character Crumpet (R. Peter Hunt) has a crush.

"Last year there was a 'family-friendly' version of 'The Santaland Diaries' that wasn't so successful," said Gonzalez, who is also co-founder and artistic director for The Bricks Theatre, which is mounting the show at Madison's Barrymore Theatre for four performances Dec. 9-12. "In this show Peter and I decided that Crumpet is gay, but that factor is not overly empha-



doesn't foresee that as being a problem for 'The Bricks' production this year.

"The arc of Crumpet's story is his anger over having to take a crappy job, something to which a lot of us can relate," says Gonzalez, who has had to work as a part-time drama instructor and in two different restaurants since the demise of Madison Repertory Theatre, for which he served as marketing and communications officer. The Bricks, which Gonzalez is working very hard to establish, is one of two companies to rise from the Rep's ashes.

"We like things that are edgy, but with a little heart, and 'The Santaland Diaries' fills the bill," Gonzalez says.

In the right hands, this one-act, one-elf play can be a scathingly funny and engaging look at the worst of the holidays from someone caught squarely in the gun-sights of the season's gross commercialism. Crumpet rails about his fellow elves, the rudeness

of the customers and a host of other ills with which most of us can relate.

The original story, read by Sedaris on a National Public Radio "Morning Edition" broadcast on Dec. 23, 1992, was adapted for the stage by Mantello in 1996. It first appeared as a Madison Rep production in 2005 and starred gay Milwaukee actor John McGovern in the role of Crumpet. The Rep paired Sedaris' one-act play with McGovern's own "Home for the Holidays," the actor's reminiscences of Christmases while growing up on Milwaukee's East Side.

Gonzalez also plans to lengthen this year's productions with a few additions that will precede "Santaland." The first is a production of Matt Hoverman's "The Student," a 10-minute short about a drama student who writes a play called "Simon the Gay Elf," ostensibly about one of Santa's helpers who has a crush on his boss, but one

**ON STAGE**  
The Bricks Theatre production of David Sedaris' "The Santaland Diaries" runs Dec. 9-12 at Madison's Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood Ave. Call 608-241-8864 or visit [www.barrymorelive.com](http://www.barrymorelive.com).

that reflects his own crush on his drama teacher. The second is a song, "Surabaya Santa," in which Mrs. Claus sings about Santa's loss of affection and her growing love for the elves. Gonzalez says the production is an adaptation of an old German song, "Surabaya Johnny," which covers much of the same ground without the holiday theme.

"This is a good adult combination and really fits The Bricks Theatre," Gonzalez says.

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By Ricky Graham and Jefferson Turner

# Scrooge in Range

A bawdy musical comedy back by popular demand! In a British music hall at the turn-of-the-century, a troupe of 23 actors is about to perform a musical version of *A Christmas Carol* when 20 of them come down with food poisoning! Just three are left to pull off this bawdy and hilariously funny show as costumes fly and mayhem ensues!

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# 'HMS Pinafore' takes Skylight Opera back to its holiday roots

## Theater

HARRY CHERKINIAN

Once upon a time, the holiday season at Skylight Opera Theatre meant a Gilbert & Sullivan operetta. That tradition changed over the theater's 50-year history, but now it's come full circle: "H.M.S. Pinafore" sailed onto the Skylight stage in time to make this season merry and bright with some delightful performances and much-needed comic relief in these uncertain times.

The 132-year-old operetta, which was the duo's first international hit, remains one of their treasures. Arthur Sullivan's tuneful score and W.S. Gilbert's witty lyrics combine to produce some of their most memorable songs, including "I'm Called Little Buttercup."

The plot lampoons the British caste system while poking fun at patriotism and the Royal Navy. Captain's daughter Josephine (Alicia

Berneche) pines away for her lower-class love, a sailor (Colm Fitzmaurice). Meanwhile, her father (John Muriello) betroths her to the pompous, stuffy Sir Joseph Porter (Gary Briggie). Fulfilled havoc ensues as the unrequited lovers chase one another.

There is, of course, the surprise ending that upends the relationships. In the G&S world, all's well that ends topsy-turvy. Berneche is perfectly charming as the lovely but frantic Josephine, determined to have her true love. What an absolute delight (once again) to see Briggie and Muriello in their respective roles of lord and captain. These two truly

understand and capture the heart and soul of the G&S wit and wordplay. It's nonstop laughter when either actor is onstage, which is often.

Not all cast members are up to the vocal demands and, at the fourth performance into the run, there were still some missed cues. But director Bill Theisen capitalizes on the work's visual sight gags as well as its satirical spirit, presenting an "H.M.S. Pinafore" that entertains on a number of levels..

### ON STAGE

"H.M.S. Pinafore" runs through Dec. 19 in the Cabot Theatre at the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800 or visit: [www.skylightopera.com](http://www.skylightopera.com).

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# APT's gift: 'Magi' as musical

By Michael Muckian  
Contributing writer

Maybe it was an idea whose time has finally come, but American Players Theatre has at last embraced the Christmas holidays with a musical version of "The Gift of the Magi," the Spring Green company's first-ever holiday production. The only question is – what took them so long?

Granted this is only the second season that APT has had since the Touchstone Theatre, an intimate, 201-seat indoor black-box space that made the production feasible. A modest set populated with old furniture and strung with clotheslines, coupled with an "orchestra" consisting of just a viola and cello, add to the intimacy of the tale. This production turns its back on holiday extravaganzas to plumb the true meaning of love and sharing during the yuletide season.

In eschewing the standard holiday trappings, "Magi" seems to distance itself from the season to focus on the

## American Players Theatre has at last embraced the holidays.

story. In so doing, APT may be setting a new standard for holiday productions.

The play, based on a very short O. Henry story, tells the day-before-Christmas tale of Jim and Della Young (Marcus Truschinski and Tracey Michelle Arnold, married in real life), a poor New York City couple at the turn of the 19th century who sacrifice their prized possessions to buy each other Christmas gifts.

The scenario was adapted and fluffed up by APT company member and playwright James DeVita, who also directed the play. Milwaukee composer Josh Schmidt set

the work to music, composing 17 songs.

The story's heartfelt but simple arc faithfully follows O. Henry's work, which raises the question of how best to turn a 5-minute short story into a full-length play. DeVita's response was to introduce the character of O. Henry (Brian Mani), who serves as the play's narrator and guide to its historical context. Mani also plays several supporting roles critical to fleshing out the story.

The narrative becomes a bit repetitive, a challenge the writer/director attempts to solve by introducing layers of nuance and a seemingly casual mood that adds complexity without confusion to the performance. O. Henry speaks to the audience as well as his characters. Violist Nick Ehrlinger and cellist Eric Miller provide the music, which moves from operetta to musical revue and back again. They also become part of the drama, operating in a mode more distant but no less interactive than the nar-

ator and his characters. One of the production's most pleasant surprises is how well the non-singing cast sings. Arnold and Truschinski all hold their own, at times delivering well beyond expectations. Even Ehrlinger, a Spring Green resident and music instructor with the River Valley School District, is allowed to flex his pipes to good effect.

### ON STAGE

American Players Theatre's "The Gift of the Magi" runs through Dec. 19 at the Touchstone Theatre on the APT campus in Spring Green. Go to <http://americanplayers.org>.

PHOTO: CARISSA DIXON

**Marcus Truschinski and Tracy Michelle Arnold in American Players Theatre's "The Gift of the Magi."**



# Museum shuttered but legacy lives on

By Michael Muckian  
Contributing writer

Musical legends never die, but every so often they lose their museums.

Nearly a month ago to the day that the Milwaukee Rep opened "Liberace!," a musical love letter to the flamboyant West Allis native who began his career as Little Walter Busterkeys, the Liberace Museum closed its doors after 31 years of operations just a little too far off the Las Vegas strip. Museum officials cited the economic downturn and a declining number of visitors as the reasons for shuttering the museum, formerly located in a small strip mall on East Tropicana Avenue.

A career's worth of glitzy costumes, flamboyant jewelry, antique cars and historic pianos, including instruments on which both Franz Liszt and Frederic Chopin performed, have been consigned to darkness pending a possible national touring exhibit. That's a shame given the impact the former Wladziu Valentino Liberace had on popularizing classical music.

Liberace never publicly admitted he was gay, despite a high-profile palimony suit filed by his live-in lover of five years. He settled the suit for \$95,000 in 1986. Liberace died Feb. 4, 1987, of AIDS-related complications.

The one-story structure that served as a shrine to Liberace did not do the colorful entertainer's memory nearly as proud as the building that was once considered for the museum's site – the Fisk Holbrook Day House, 8000 Milwaukee Ave. in Wauwatosa, a National Historic Landmark. But while close to his West Allis roots, Wauwatosa was far from the glitz and glitter of Las Vegas, where Liberace revived a waning career in the 1970s and, it was hoped, could be closer to tourists and fans.

The museum was actually two buildings strung together by a series of hallways. Together they housed a collection that examined the life and times of "Mr. Showmanship," a moniker

Liberace adopted when he began his Las Vegas career. Each building had a specific theme.

Building one housed the piano and car galleries, while building two was home to Liberace's costume and jewelry collection, his many awards and a recreation of the master bedroom from "The Cloisters," the entertainer's Palm Springs estate.

It was also the site of the Cabaret at the Liberace Museum, home of the legendary nine-foot mirrored grand piano and host to a variety of local entertainers.

The museum opened with a life-size painting of Liberace kneeling and kissing the ring of Pope Pius XII, whom he met at the end of his 1956 European tour. Despite his flamboyant nature, Liberace was politically conservative and unusually devout in his Polish-Italian Catholic heritage. It's said that he considered meeting the Pope the most important event of his life, a legend that the enormous painting would seem to support.

Many fans stopped by to get a closer look at his legendary stage costumes. Liberace originally wore white tuxedos so that he could be better seen in large concert halls. It didn't take long for his predilection for on-stage finery to evolve into costumes much more colorful and flamboyant, including his full-length black diamond mink cape, a 200-pound "King Neptune" costume and the notorious star-spangled hot-pants suit in which he performed July 4, 1976, for the nation's Bicentennial.

Liberace's jewelry was equally outrageous, including the yellow gold piano-shaped ring with 260 individually set diamonds and his trademark candelabra, complete with platinum candlesticks sporting diamond "flames." When asked how he managed to perform wearing such heavy rings, Liberace replied, "Very well, thank you!"

Many of his fans, the majority of whom were middle-aged housewives, agreed with his assessment.

The museum had other attractions. Toward the end of his career, Liberace liked to make his stage entrances in elaborately decorated automobiles, and several were on display at the museum. The collection included two Rolls Royces – one painted with the Stars and Stripes, the other covered in thousands of mirror tiles – and a roadster covered in Austrian rhinestones.

But few remember that before he became Mr. Showmanship, Liberace was a serious musician who began playing piano at age 4 and performed with both the Chicago and Milwaukee symphony orchestras while still in his teens. The musician's extensive piano collection stands in testament to his talent and includes a Chickering grand piano once owned by George Gershwin.

If there's a legacy that Liberace leaves behind, it's through the work of the Liberace Foundation for the Performing and Creative Arts, which shared space with the museum. Over the past 30 years, the foundation has awarded more than \$6 million in musical scholarships to more than 2,700 young musicians. Liberace himself received classical training thanks to a scholarship to the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music in Milwaukee, and he said the foundation was his way of paying back his debt.

Part of the rationale for closing the museum, in fact, was to devote greater resources to the work of the foundation, according to Dr. Jeffrey Koep, dean of the University of Nevada – Las Vegas' College of Fine Arts and chair of the Liberace Foundation.

"We feel it is important to close the museum to ensure the future of the Liberace Foundation and to keep the legacy of Liberace alive through its continued scholarship program," Dr. Koep said.

And that's a sacrifice of which Little Walter Busterkeys would no doubt approve.



PHOTO: COURTESY

**Above, the famous mirrored piano at the now defunct Liberace Museum in Las Vegas. The world premiere of "Liberace!" plays at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater's Stackner Cabaret, 108 E. Wells. St., through Jan. 16. Call 414-224-9490 or visit [milwaukee.com](http://milwaukee.com).**

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# Pretty in ink: an interview with Ariel Aparicio



PHOTO: COURTESY Ariel Aparicio says LOGO has "really gotten my name out there."

**By Gregg Shapiro**  
Staff writer

A modern-day gay Renaissance man, Ariel Aparicio had 2009's third most requested video – "Pretty In Pink" – on the LGBT cable network LOGO. The same year he released the EP "The Bedroom Tapes" (arielaparcio.com).

Aparicio returned to Logo's "The Click List" with the videos for "Lucille" and his remake of the late Jim Carroll's "People Who Died." More recently, he received a nomination for a 2010 Outmusic Award.

As if all that wasn't enough to keep him busy, Aparicio and his partner of 15 years, Andrew Jerro, opened a third Thai restaurant in Brooklyn.

Aparicio took time out of his busy schedule, which includes fatherhood, to answer a few questions.

**GS: You have had amazing success with music videos on LOGO's "The Click List."**

AA: I grew up with MTV, so ... I find it very exciting to add some kind of visual to a song. It's very exciting for me to conceptualize everything that I do in terms of video. ... It has opened up so many new fans. ... I love it.

**GS: The "Pretty In Pink" video was incredibly popular on "The Click List."**

AA: It stayed on there for about 18 weeks. ... Then it ended the year at No. 3, which was great.

**GS: What made you want to cover that song?**

AA: I usually pick a band that I really like first. I've always been a huge fan of The

Psychedelic Furs. When I was in college I had a T-shirt made that read, "Richard Butler is God." (Butler) managed to hear (the cover) and he loved it. We share drummers. Paul Garisto is my normal drummer and he is still touring with the Furs. ... He's been with them since the mid-80s.

**GS: The "Lucille" video was similarly well received. What does that kind of support from LOGO and from fans mean to you?**

AA: It's huge and it's wonderful to have that kind of (national) outlet for the GLBT world. We didn't have that before. We had little niches and local things. ... What it's done for me as a musician is pretty big. It's really gotten my name out there and gotten my videos recognized. I love LOGO. They have been so supportive of me.

**GS: I keep hoping that they will do a "LOGOpalooza" queer music festival.**

AA: I pitched that to LOGO, but they didn't take it. They're not financially prepared at this point. I thought it would be fantastic. We did a show in New York – it was me and Josh (Zuckerman) and Athena (Reich), all Logo artists. ... It was great. ... I thought that this could work in other places ... and markets. I'd like to keep it as diverse as possible ... and bring on someone mainstream like Tegan and Sara or The Gossip. That was the idea: Have a headliner and then all of us nobodies opening. ... (But) it's hard to get that on the road financially.

**GS: Your new EP, "The Bedroom Tapes," also contains Jim Carroll's "People Who Died."**

AA: That song has affected me immensely. It's a very New York song. I remember first coming to New York and discovering all these older punk rock records. They were all on vinyl. "Catholic Boy" was one of the albums I bought on vinyl. I've had a lot of friends who have been affected by AIDS and drugs, so "People Who Died" really resonates with me. I wanted to give it new life and have it mean something else for someone hearing it for the first time.

**GS: Both of the covers come from the early '80s. Also, the song "The Future" reminded me of early Romeo Void.**

AA: I think that's my niche. There was a lot of great stuff that came out in that period. Romeo Void is such an awesome band. I think of Joy Division and very early New Order, that whole dark period which is really just 1980/81/82, before the 1980s started turning into something else.

**GS: You sing in Spanish on "Torito."**

AA: I usually do something in Spanish on all my records, because it's my roots and I always want to be tied to it. I enjoy singing in Spanish immensely. ... And when I do I feel like Celia Cruz.

Spanish rock is very popular. We have a lot of young guys who work with us at the restaurant, most of them are from Mexico, and they play Spanish rock downstairs. I wanted to incorporate that into my music.

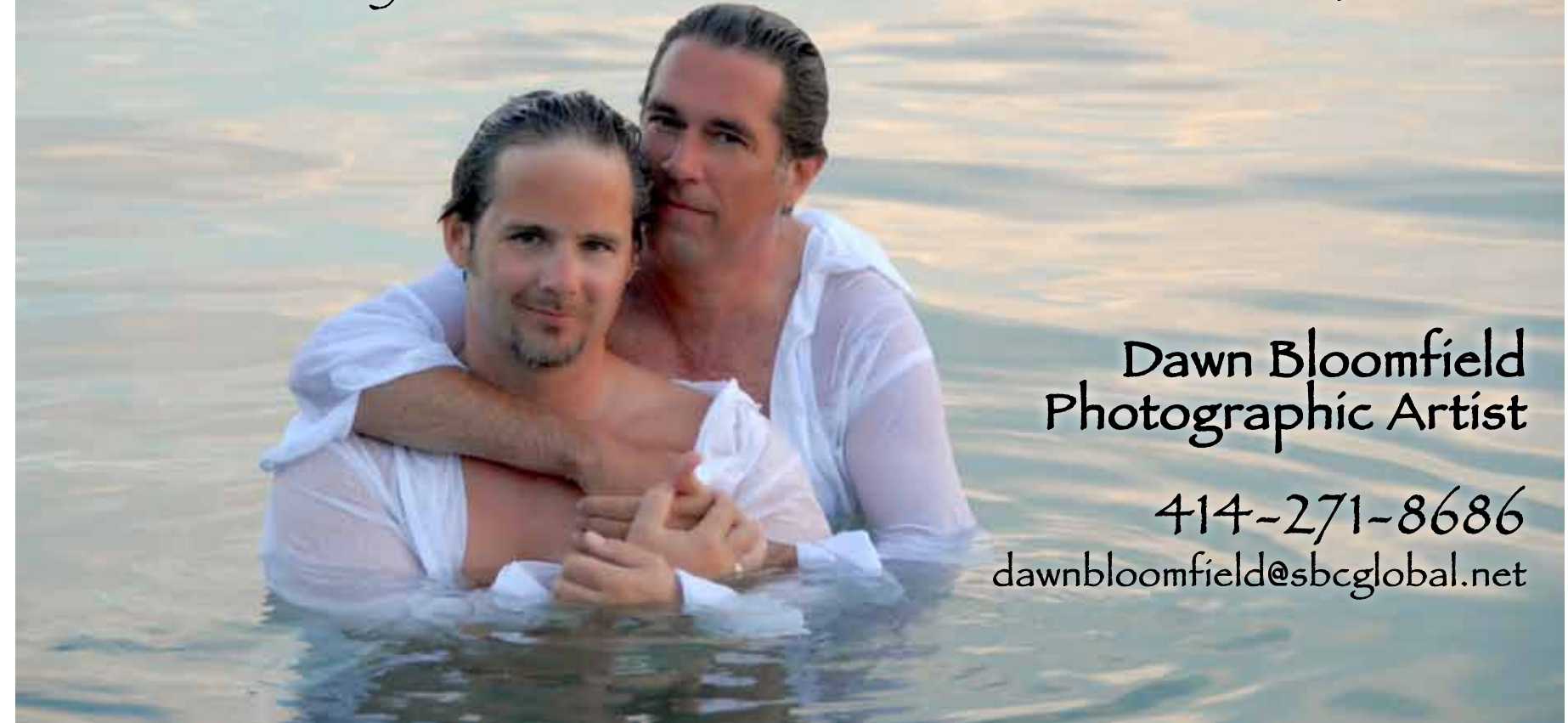
**GS: How do you balance your music career with running three restaurants in Brooklyn?**

AA: And raising a 4-year-old?

And a husband who's pretty demanding?

I don't think about it much. It's all time management. I start my day doing what needs to be done, whether it is the billing for the restaurant or reaching out on Facebook or Twitter or the person who's booking my gig. Honestly, my husband is incredibly supportive.

# "The object of art is to give life shape."



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Film

GREGG SHAPIRO

'I LOVE YOU PHILLIP MORRIS'

By far one of the darkest gay romantic comedies to ever hit the silver screen, the long-delayed "I Love You Phillip Morris," according to the film's opening, "really happened." In the film's first few minutes, we watch as Steve (Jim Carrey), a devout Christian police officer with a wife, Debbie (Leslie Mann), and daughter, undergoes a remarkable personal and sexual transformation after surviving a serious car accident.

Coming out of the near-death experience forces him to come out of the closet and begin life anew. He does so with Jimmy (Rodrigo Santoro). At the same time Steve embraces his homosexuality, he also unleashes an unpleasant side of his personality, pushing himself up through the corporate ranks via a series of lies and scams. Busted for his illegal behavior, Steve goes to jail where

he meets the mild-mannered Phillip (Ewan McGregor).

The most unlikely, tender and touching of romances unfolds between Steve and Phillip. They are each other's physical and emotional comfort. Following the end of his incarceration, Steve presents himself as Phillip's lawyer and, in spite of having no formal law school education or a degree, he assists in Phillip's release.

From there, the couple begins to build a life together on the outside. But, unknown to Phillip, it's not long before Steve is back to his scamming ways. Once again, the law comes knocking, and so it goes, with each of Steve's successive jailbreaks and hair-brained schemes.

Throughout it all, we never doubt for a moment that Phillip is the love of Steve's life. In the ultimate display of his love, Steve even fakes having AIDS to be reunited with Phillip.

It's a non-traditional love story to be sure, but "I Love You Phillip Morris" is a welcome, if wearying, addition to world of queer cinema. All the credit goes to Carrey and McGregor, who give the most

offbeat performances of their careers.

'BURLESQUE'

What do you get when actor-turned-writer/director Steve Antin unapologetically borrows from "Showgirls," "Glitter," "42nd Street" and even Bob Fosse? You get the derivative disaster that is "Burlesque" (it should be titled "Hurlesque").

When Cher is the best actor on-screen, you know that something is amiss. In her dramatic debut, Christina Aguilera's limited acting range makes Britney Spears look

like Meryl Streep. Equally frightful is her hair, which can be explained one of two ways. Either she's got a bisexual hairdresser or she gets her wigs from the shiksa collection at the Sheitel Shack. As if that wasn't enough, the script is an embarrassment of clichés, a source of unintentional laughs, from the opening to the closing credits.

Ali (Christina Aguilera), a waitress in an Iowa (no doubt) diner, quits her dead-end job and buys a one-way bus ticket to Los Angeles. Fresh off the bus, clutching her copy of "Back Stage Magazine," Ali

stumbles upon the Burlesque Lounge and into to a rehearsal, complete with faux-Fosse choreography.

Before you know it, she's flirting with bartender and Kentucky transplant Jack (Cam Gigandet, the prettiest face and the best body in the entire movie). Even though Ali makes a less than promising impression on Tess (Cher), co-owner of and performance legend at Burlesque, Jack admires her spunk when she picks up a slacking waitress's tray and begins filling drink orders. He hires her as a waitress.

Ali's rapid rise through the ranks finds her dancing and, in spite of the long-standing lip-synching policy at the venue, belting her way to the top. To further complicate matters, she must juggle the amorous attentions of Jack (who, despite his eyeliner, is surprisingly not gay and has a fiancée in NYC!) and real-estate mogul-monster Marcus (Eric Dane). Not to mention the threat of the closing of Burlesque due to the bad business acumen of Tess' business partner and ex-husband Vince (Peter Gallagher, busily nibbling at the scenery). Naturally, Marcus is there, offering to buy the club at below-market rate because he has his own plans for the property.

Tess' longtime gay-pal and wardrobe mistress Sean (Stanley Tucci, whose talents are wasted here) tries to provide some solace, but it looks like all is lost. Until, that is, the 11th hour, when just to prove she's got brains to go with that body, Ali comes up with a scheme to save the Burlesque and get revenge on Marcus. You can practically hear the poor guy letting out a Homer Simpson-style, "D'oh!"



Cam Gigandet is the prettiest face in "Burlesque."

PHOTO: COURTESY

'Tis the season for yuletide melodies, rhythms

Music

GREGG SHAPIRO

'GLEE'

Here's a great big holiday surprise (not!): Ryan Murphy and the folk\$ at Fox have come up with a seasonal soundtrack. "Glee: The Music, The Christmas Album" (Columbia) features the talented cast making their way through a series of traditional and contemporary holiday selections in full-tilt "Glee" style. The most-spirited include "We Need A Little Christmas," "Merry Christmas Darling," "Baby, It's Cold Outside" (a duet by Kurt and Blaine), "The Most Wonderful Day of the Year" and "You're A Mean One, Mr. Grinch" (a k.d. lang/Matthew Morrison duet).

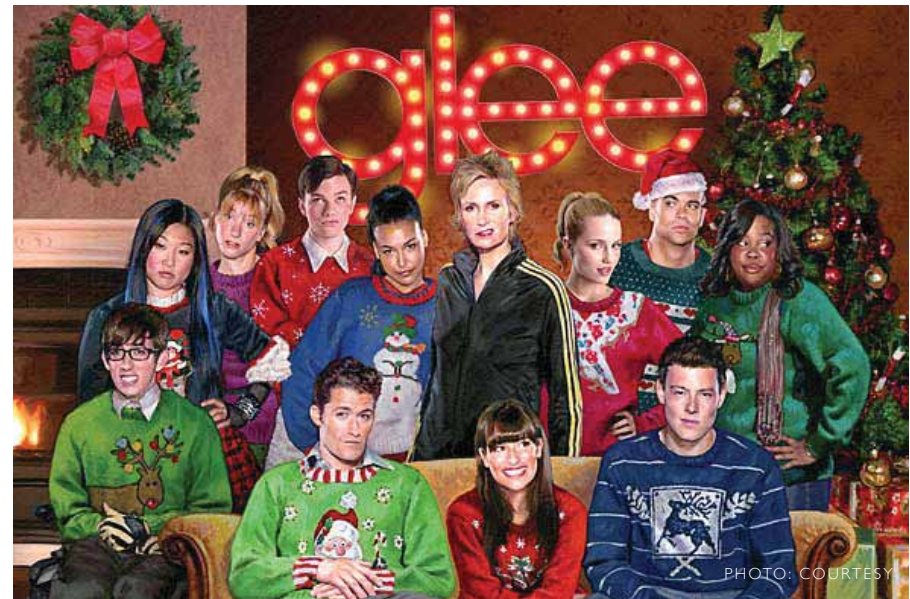
SHELBY LYNNE

Shelby Lynne tosses her Santa hat into the ring with "Merry Christmas!" (Everso/Fontana). Like the Indigo Girls, Lynne combines her renditions of season classics, including "Silent Night," "White Christmas" and a "Sleigh Ride/Winter

Wonderland" medley, with her own compositions. "Ain't Nothing Like Christmas" is a celebratory song of the season, while "Xmas" reminds us of what Lynne can do musically with heartbreak.

THE PUPPINI SISTERS

The Puppini Sisters sound like they were born to sing holiday songs. They put Elton John's "Step Into Christmas" into their personal time machine on "Christmas With The Puppini Sisters" (Verve), giving the song timelessness. The same goes for George Michael's "Last Christmas" and Mariah Carey's "All I Want For Christmas." Familiar favorites like "Santa Baby" and the ukulele-driven "Mele Kalikimaka" are given the respectful treatment one would expect from the Puppinis.



RONNIE SPECTOR

"Best Christmas Ever" (Bad Girls Sounds) marks Ronnie Spector's return to holiday music. The inclusive "It's The Time (Happy Holidays)," the buoyant "My Christmas Wish" and the radiant "Light One Candle" make this one Christmas gift

you won't want to return.

THE CANADIAN TENORS

The Canadian Tenors give "The Perfect Gift" (Decca) an especially Canadian flavor. The vocal quartet teams up with fellow country-person Sarah McLachlan on her

"Wintersong." The title tune and "Instrument of Peace" were co-written by Stephan Moccio. They also perform "Huron Carol," written by Canadian Jesuit Jean de Brébeuf. In an unusual twist, the Tenors extend the Canadian connection to include Leonard Cohen's

"Hallelujah" (complete with bagpipes).

CELTIC THUNDER

Celtic Thunder keeps the thunder to a minimum on their holiday disc "Christmas" (Decca). The inclusion of new or lesser-known songs, such as "Christmas 1915," "Going Home For Christmas" and "Our First Christmas Together," serves to enhance the familiarity factor of the rest of the tracks.

KAT PARRA & THE SEPHARDIC MUSIC EXPERIENCE

On "Dos Amantes" (JazzMe), by Kat Parra & The Sephardic Music Experience, former Cisco Systems graphic designer-turned-jazz musician finally explores her Jewish heritage. The CD closes with the song "Hanukia (Hannukah)." Some may also recognize "Fiestaremos," a version of "Hatikvah.

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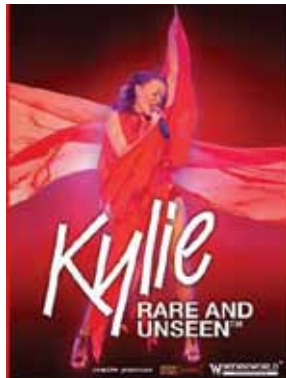
### DVDiva GREGG SHAPIRO

#### 'KYLIE: RARE AND UNSEEN'

The Kylie Minogue installment from the "Rare and Unseen" collection features non-stop interviews with the 21st century "Aphrodite," as well as rare footage, including British TV interviews from the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s, her first-ever TV appearance and more. The DVD also contains an Australian interview with Minogue at 21-years-old, the newly restored "Ghost Train" children's show and press interviews, as well as other thrilling bits.

#### 'MICHAEL FEINSTEIN'S AMERICAN SONGBOOK'

This three part series that originally aired on PBS is available in a double DVD

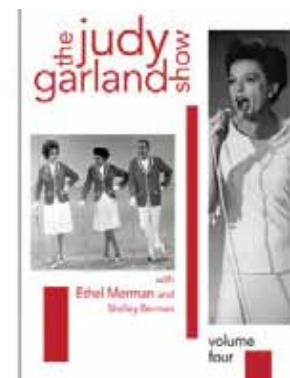


set. Out performer, musical historian and archivist Feinstein guides viewers through a celebration and exploration of 20th-century pop music. The three, one-hour-long episodes on the first disc span the 1920s through the 1960s. The second disc of bonus material includes additional Feinstein performance footage and archived footage with Judy Garland, Duke Ellington and others. The series balances historical information and footage with the more personal aspect of Feinstein's

own story (including his relationship with husband Terrence Flannery).

#### 'MICHAEL JACKSON'S VISION'

Through three DVDs and 40 music videos, including a handful of short films, Michael Jackson's fans can watch his development and domination as the unparalleled King of Pop, as well as the change in his appearance. Jackson's lifelong creativity and vision is obvious in his simple, early productions ("Don't Stop 'Til You Get



Enough"), his storyboarded groundbreakers ("Beat It") and his mini-epics ("Thriller" and "Bad"). His videos included breakthroughs in special effects ("Black and White,") and choreography spectacles ("Smooth Criminal,") The third bonus disc features three Jacksons videos, the Paul McCartney duet "Say Say Say," the previous unreleased "One More Chance" and more.

#### 'THE JUDY GARLAND SHOW'

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#### 'MASTERS OF AMERICAN MUSIC: SARAH VAUGHAN - THE DIVINE ONE'

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10PM: BIG DADDY SIMPLY DIVINE SHOW PART 2  
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## DEC. 2, THURSDAY

Gay playwright Craig Lucas's **"The Dying Gaul"** is presented by StageQ through Dec. 18 at the Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin in Madison.

Carte Blanche Studios Theatre, 1024 S. Fifth St., presents **"The Hostage"** by Brendan Behan through Dec. 19. Call 262-716-4689.

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre presents **"The Subject Was Roses"** by Frank D. Gilroy tonight through Dec. 12 at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800

The Skylight Opera Theatre of Milwaukee presents Gilbert & Sullivan's **"H. M. S. Pinafore"** through Dec. 19 in the Cabot Theatre at the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells, presents the American premiere of **"Bombshells"** by Joanna Murray-Smith in the Quadracci Powerhouse through Dec. 19. Call 414-224-9490.

The Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival screens "Orlando" at 7 p.m. at UWM Union Theatre. Admission is \$5. Visit <http://www4.uwm.edu/psoa/programs/film/lgbtfilm/>



**"Home For The Holidays,"**  
Dec. 3-Jan. 2.

## DEC. 3, FRIDAY

John McGivern returns with **"Home For The Holidays,"** through Jan. 2 in the Stiemke Theatre at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.

**"Liberace!,"** written and directed by Brent Hazelton is at the Milwaukee Repertory Theater's Stackner Cabaret, 108 E. Wells, through Jan. 16. Call 414-224-9490.

Evan Smith's comedy **"The Savannah Disputation"** runs through Jan. 9 at the Boulevard Theatre, 2252 S. Kinnickinnic. Call 414-744-5747 or visit [www.boulevardtheatre.com](http://www.boulevardtheatre.com).

**"The Spitfire Grill"** is presented by Madison Theatre Guild through Dec. 18 at Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin in Madison. Milwaukee Rep's **"A Christmas Carol"** runs through Dec. 26 at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells. Call 414-286-3663

In Tandem Theatre presents **"Scrooge In Rouge"** by Ricky Graham and Jefferson Turner, through Dec. 31 at Tenth Street Theatre, 628 N. 10th. Call 414-271-1371.

## DEC. 4, SATURDAY

Plan B, 924 Williamson in Madison, hosts a performance by Madison's all-star **Genderqueer Revue** at 9 p.m. Call 608-257-5262.

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## DEC. 5, SUNDAY

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

For its 80th anniversary season, The Bel Canto Chorus of Milwaukee presents **Christmas in the Basilica**, at 3 p.m. in the Basilica of St. Josaphat, 2333 S. Sixth. Call 414-645-5623.

## DEC. 8, WEDNESDAY

**"Mother Superior's Ho-Ho-Holy Night"** by Vicki Quade runs through Dec. 19 at Marcus Center For the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.

Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer, welcomes **Joanna Wilson**, author of **"The Christmas TV Companion: a Guide to Cult Classics, Strange Specials & Outrageous Oddities,"** at 7 p.m. Call 414-332-1181.



**"Scrooge In Rouge"**  
Dec. 3-31.

## DEC. 9, THURSDAY

Experience **New Dancemakers: In the Flesh** at 5, 7 and 9 p.m. tonight thru Sat. in UWM Mitchell Hall, Rm 254, 3203 N. Downer.



## DEC. 10, FRIDAY

**Shoreline's 21st Annual Holiday Dance Party**, begins at 8 p.m. at Hot Water Night Club, 818 S. Water. For more information visit [shoreline-mke.org](http://shoreline-mke.org).

Women's Voices Milwaukee presents **"A Holiday of Harmony"** tonight and tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. at Marian Center Auditorium / Marian Center For Nonprofits, 3195 S. Superior. Call 414-483-2430.

Milwaukee Theatre, 500 W. Kilbourn, presents **"Monty Python's Spamalot,"** the Tony Award-winning musical spoofing the film favorite "Monty Python and the Holy Grail," tonight and tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. Call 414-566-1375.

Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer, welcomes **Jonathon Shailor**, author of **"Performing New Lives: Prison Theatre,"** at 7 p.m. Call 414-332-1181.

**"Miracle on 34th Street,"** adapted from the novel by Valentine Davies, runs through Dec. 19 at The Racine Theatre Guild, 2519 Northwestern (Highway 38) in Racine. Call 262-633-4218.

## DEC. 11, SATURDAY

Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave. in Appleton, presents **Handel's Messiah** at 7:30 p.m. Call 920-730-3760.

Experience **New Dancemakers: In the Flesh** at 2 and 4 p.m. in UWM Mitchell Hall, Rm 254, 3203 N. Downer.

## DEC. 12, SUNDAY

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

## STATEWIDE BAR AND ENTERTAINMENT VENUE LISTINGS

## KENOSHA/RACINE

**Club ICON**, 6305 120th St. (off I-94), Kenosha, 262-857-3240

**Fierte**, 5722 Third Ave., Kenosha, 262-764-9713

**JoDee's**, 2139 Racine St., Racine, 262-634-9804

## MILWAUKEE

**Art Bar**, 722 Burleigh, 414-372-7880

**Ballgame**, 196 S. Second St., 414-273-7474

**Boom & The Room**, 625 S. Second St., 414-277-5040

**Boot Camp**, 209 E. National Ave., 414-643-6900

**Fluid**, 819 S. Second St., 414-643-5843

**Harbor Room**, 117 E. Greenfield, 414-672-7988

**Hybrid**, 707 E. Brady St., 414-810-1809

**JACK**, 200 E. Washington St., 414-389-3596

**Kruz**, 354 E. National Ave., 414-272-KRUZ

**LaCage**, 801 S. Second St., 414-383-8330

**Mona's**, 1407 S. First St., 414-643-0377

**Nut Hut**, 1500 W. Scott, 414-647-2673

**Pump**, (Sundays at Decibel), 1905 E. North Ave., 414-272-3337

**This Is It**, 418 E. Wells St., 414-278-9192

**Triangle**, 135 E. National Ave., 414-383-9412

**Tropical Niteclub**, 626 S. Fifth St., 414-460-6277

**Walker's Pint**, 818 S. Second St., 414-643-7468

**D.I.X.**, 739 S. 1st St., 414-231-9085

**Woody's**, 1579 S. Second St., 414-672-0806

## MADISON

**Cardinal Bar**, 418 W. Wilson St., 608-257-2473

**Club 5**, 5 Applegate Court, 608-277-9700

**Plan B**, 924 Williamson St., 608-257-5262

**Shamrock**, 117 W. Main St., 608-255-5029

**WOOF'S**, 114 King St., 608-204-6222

## BELOIT/JANESVILLE

**Impulse**, 132 W. Grand Ave., Beloit, 608-361-0000

## LACROSSE

**My Place**, 3201 South Ave., 608-788-9073

**Players**, 300 Fourth St., 608-784-4200

**Chances R**, 417 Jay St., 608-782-5105

## WISCONSIN DELLS

**Captain Dix Rainbow Valley**

**Resort**, 4124 River Road, 866-553-1818

## SHEBOYGAN

**Blue Lite**, 1029 N. Eighth St., 920-457-1636

## FOX VALLEY

**Rascals Bar & Grill**, 702 E. Wisconsin, Appleton, 920-954-9262

**Ravens**, 215 E. College Ave., Appleton, 920-364-9599

**Napalese**, 1351 Cedar St., Green Bay, 920-432-9646

**SASS**, 840 S. Broadway, Green Bay, 920-437-7277

**The Shelter**, 730 N. Quincy St., Green Bay, 920-432-2662

**XS Niteclub**, 1106 Main St., Green Bay, 920-430-1301

**Debs Spare Time**, 1303 Harrison St., Oshkosh, 920-235-6577

**PJS**, 1601 Oregon St., Oshkosh

## NORTHERN

**Scooters**, 411 Galloway Street, Eau Claire, 715-835-9959

**JT's Bar and Grill**, 1506 N. Third St., Superior, 715--394-2580

**The Flame**, 1612 Tower Ave., Superior, 715-395-0101

**The Main** 1217 Tower Ave., Superior, 715-392-1756

**OZ**, 320 Washington St., Wausau, 715-842-3225



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## TANGO'S TIP

Before starting your car during winter, beep your horn several times. Cats often look for warm places to rest, and the hood of your car or even underneath your vehicle are tempting options. Honking your horn will scare them away and save them from injury or death.



Eddie, a happy 7-month-old pup.



# COMMUNITY GROUPS

## MILWAUKEE

### ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

Cream City Chorus, 252 E. Highland Blvd., 53202, 414-276-8787, www.creamcitychorus.org, info@creamcitychorus.org.  
 Cream City Squares, 414-445-8080, www.iagsdc.org/creamcity.  
 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, 630-890-5984, womensvoicesmke.viviti.com, womensvoicesmilwaukee@gmail.com.

## COMMUNITY

Bay View Gays, 414-482-3796, www.bvlgays.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.  
 Cream City Foundation, 759 N. Milwaukee, Suite 212, 53202, 414-225-0244, www.creamcityfoundation.org.  
 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, gggwi.tripod.com.  
 Lesbian Alliance, 252 E. Highland Ave., 53202, 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.  
 Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 252 E. Highland Blvd., 53202, 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, 252 E. Highland Ave., 53202, 414-299-9198, pflagmilwaukee@hotmail.com.  
 PrideFest, 414-272-3378, www.pridefest.com.  
 Queer Program, P.O. Box 090441, 53209, 414-265-8500, queerprgm@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, debyddo2@yahoo.com.

Washington Heights Rainbow Association, 414-217-1571, on Facebook.  
 Wauwatosa Rainbow Association, tosarainbow@yahoo.com.  
 Wisconsin Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf, P.O. Box 353, Hartland, 53029, www.wiscrad.org.  
 Wisconsin Rainbow Families, 252 E. Highland Blvd., 53202, 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.mwinc.org.  
 Pathfinders, 1614 E. Kane Pl., 53202, 414-271-1560, www.pathfinders.org, info@tcmlw.org.  
 STD Specialties, Inc., 3251 N. Holton St., 53212, 414-264-8800, www.stdspecialties.org.

## POLITICS

Center Advocates, 252 E. Highland Blvd., 53202, 414-271-2656, www.centeradvocates.org.  
 Equality Wisconsin, 2717 E. Hampshire Ave., 53211, 414-431-1306, www.equalitywi.org.  
 Human Rights League, 252 E. Highland Blvd., 53202, 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, 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.milmmc.org.  
 Milwaukee Friends Meeting (Quakers), 3224 N. Gordon Pl., 53212, 414-263-2111, www.milwaukeeequakers.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.  
 Unitarian Church North, 13800 N. Port Washington Road, 53097, 262-375-3890, www.ucnorth.org

## SPORTS

Front Runners/Front Walkers, 414-443-0379, ulirwolf.com/frontrunnersmke, 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.milwaukeeegaysoccer.org.  
 Milwaukee Gay Volleyball League, www.milwaukeeegayvolleyball.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.dcandc.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, toooldforthis@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.madisonbtvolleyball.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, wiwarriors@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, 1305 Woodland Ave., 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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# 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 Raths Keller, 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

1 p.m., Art Experience, SAGE Milwaukee.\*  
 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, 414-383-7593.

## 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.\*

## 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., second Monday, Outwards men's book club, 2710 N. Murray Ave., 53211, 414-963-9089, www.outwardsbooks.com.  
 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.\*  
 7 p.m., second Tuesday, lesbian reading group at Outwards Books, 2710 N. Murray Ave., 53211, 414-963-9089, www.outwardsbooks.com.  
 7 p.m., last Tuesday, Canasta night, SAGE Milwaukee.\*  
 7 p.m., Spectrum GLBT and Allied social group for adults, Harmony Cafe, Appleton.\*  
 7 p.m., Women's Voice Milwaukee rehearsal, 630-890-5984.

## 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., first Wednesday, Bear Club 4 Men monthly meeting, Napalese Lounge, 1351 Cedar St., Green Bay, Info: bearclub4men@gmail.com.

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