

## A GHOSTLY LOVE STORY

Gay director Javier Fuentes Leon comes out with his first feature film. **Page 29**



THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

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# Abele will seek partner benefits

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele said he will enact an ordinance extending health benefits to the same-sex partners of county workers. Former County Executive Scott Walker vetoed a related measure in 2009.

"To continue offering one category of employees fewer benefits than others is unfair and makes it more difficult to attract the best possible job candidates," Abele said in a statement. "I will work with the county board for passage of a sensible domestic-partner benefits ordinance, and I will sign it."

Abele first revealed his intention to pass a domestic partner ordinance during the opening ceremonies of Milwaukee PrideFest on June 10.

Employees of the state and the city of Milwaukee already receive partner

benefits, as do employees of many private Wisconsin-based companies, including Northwestern Mutual, Aurora Health Care, Foley & Lardner, Miller Brewing, M&I Bank, Associated Bank and Marquette University. A majority of the nation's Fortune 500 companies also provide such benefits.

Fair Wisconsin applauded Abele's announcement.

"County Executive Chris Abele's announcement is a signal that Milwaukee County is once again moving forward under his bold and visionary leadership," executive director Katie Belanger said in a statement. "Providing domestic partner health care coverage to county employees is an important step toward building a fair and inclusive work environment and a strong county government. We look forward to working closely with the county executive and the Milwaukee County Board to make this proposal a reality."

In 2009, the board voted 13-6 for a measure to look into the cost of extending health insurance to the domestic partners of county workers. Walker vetoed the measure. He said it would cost taxpayers too much, even though the measure would not have provided the benefits but rather ascertained their true cost to taxpayers.

Walker said the benefits would cost \$4 million annually. But benefits provided by the City of Milwaukee, which has a much larger workforce, cost \$216,000.



# PRIDE 2011

## PRIDE INSIDE

Milwaukee celebrated Gay Pride month with Milwaukee PrideFest June 10-12 and the annual Milwaukee Pride Parade on Sunday, June 12. See photos on pages 26-28.

# Pocan eyes House seat

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Out state Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Madison, is eyeing a run for Congress.

Pocan said he'd seek U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin's 2nd Congressional District seat if she decides to run for the U.S. Senate. "The determining factor is what Tammy's up to, and everything seems to be leaning toward Tammy probably getting in," Pocan said.

Baldwin is expected to

reach a decision by mid-July on whether to launch a bid to replace retiring U.S. Sen. Herb Kohl.

In 1998, Pocan succeeded Baldwin in his current position representing Wisconsin's 78th Assembly District. Since then, he's become a major player in the state's Democratic Party, spearheading the party's takeover of the Assembly in 2008 and serving as co-chair of the

Legislature's powerful Joint Committee on Finance.

Pocan has won numerous awards for his legislative work. In 2009, Milwaukee Magazine and SEIU both named him best legislator. That same year, Planned Parenthood recognized him for helping to pass the Compassionate Care for Rape Victims Act, and Fair Wisconsin honored him with its statewide leader award for his role in creating the state's domestic partner

registry.

As an architect of the 2009 state budget, Pocan helped to address a \$6.6 billion deficit without raising taxes on 99 percent of Wisconsinites and while stimulating the economy through the creation of green jobs and other initiatives.

Despite the deficit, "we still got a lot done and protected things that the Republicans are going against now," Pocan

**POCAN** page 8

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inside and online at [wisconsinGazette.com](http://wisconsin Gazette.com)

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# LGBT news with a twist



By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

### YES, WE'RE THAT 'FAGGOT PAPER'

WiG's distribution manager Bobby Wright was confronted June 3 by a burly homophobe at the Waukesha (go figure) Public Library. "Is that that faggot paper?" he demanded. "Yes, if you want to call it that," replied our equally burly Bobby, as he continued undeterred bringing LGBT visibility to some of the places where it's needed most. Still, we'd rather deal with bigots in Waukesha than Shorewood's City Market, which happily takes the money of beaucoup LGBT customers but refuses to distribute Wisconsin Gazette. At one point the owner threatened to remove all publications from the premises if we continued to make an issue of it. Oops, I guess we just did.

### CAUTION: DIVA NEARBY

Diva Patti LaBelle is facing a lawsuit for allegedly ordering her bodyguards to beat a man waiting for a ride outside a Houston airport terminal. The suit alleges that

Richard King, a West Point cadet, was awaiting a ride at Bush Intercontinental Airport in mid-March when he was attacked by three bodyguards because he was standing too close to LaBelle's luggage. King claims that LaBelle was seated in a limo, lowered the window and commanded her bodyguards to action. A surveillance video shows three men pushing and punching King and then walking away after knocking him to the ground. The video also shows Houston police taking photos of LaBelle, and King being placed into an ambulance.

### RAINBOW IN RICHMOND

A Virginia lawmaker saw only red when he learned that a rainbow Pride flag was flying from the Federal Reserve Bank tower in Richmond. State Del. Bob Marshall, in a memo to bank president Jeffrey Lacker, ordered, "Take down that flag." Marshall complained, "A flagpole in front

of a federal building is not a commercial or political message board," Marshall wrote. "What does flying the homosexual flag, or any other similar display, have to do with your central banking mission?" A spokesman for the bank replied, "It represents the bank's commitment to diversity and inclusion, which are values we support."

### FREE ADVERTISING

An anti-gay Christian group spent \$7,000 to fly planes over Orlando, Fla., dragging giant banners that read, "Warning Gay Day at Disney." The air show was part of the Florida Family Association's boycott and protest of the annual event, which it claims "promotes homosexuality." The group charges that gay couples publicly kiss, hug and grope each other - behavior the group's leaders believe will turn children gay if they witness it.

### FOX NEWS FLASH

Fox News aired a story June 5 about Sarah Palin being "50-50"

on whether to run for president in 2012. But the picture that flashed on television screens to illustrate Palin was actually comedian Tina Fey portraying Palin in a 2008 "Saturday Night Live" skit. The real Palin is an employee of Fox News, making the mistake seem especially odd.

### HOMO DEPOT INDEED

Despite its political giving to right-wing political leaders, Home Depot says it will not cave in to a boycott by the anti-gay American Family Association. AFA executive vice president Buddy Smith traveled to Atlanta to attend Home Depot's annual shareholders meeting and ask chairman Frank Blake and other company executives to cease supporting LGBT groups and causes. Blake thanked the AFA but reiterated the company's support for diversity.

### EXTREME BATTLE

Members of the Ku Klux Klan confronted demonstrators from the anti-gay Westboro Baptist Church during a Memorial Day

protest at Arlington National Cemetery.

Hours before President Obama appeared to lead a service at the Tomb of the Unknowns, 10 members of Virginia's Knights of the Southern Cross, a branch of the KKK, clashed with three members of the anti-gay Kansas-based church. KKK members told reporters they were present to counter Phelps' "anti-troop" message. Members of the battling extremist groups were kept cordoned off in separate areas.

### OFF TARGET AGAIN

Despite its pro-equality workplace policies, Target Corp. said it will neither oppose nor support an effort to enact a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage in the company's home state of Minnesota. At its annual meeting on June 8, Target chairman and CEO Gregg Steinhafel told shareholders, "Our position at this particular time is that we are going to be neutral on that particular issue, as we would be on other social issues that have polarizing points of view."



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# Wis. LGBT youth data cited in CDC report

By Louis Weisberg  
Staff writer

LGBT youth in Wisconsin are nearly five times likelier than their heterosexual peers to have skipped school in the past 30 days due to safety fears.

They're five-and-a-half times more likely to have been in a physical fight resulting in an injury requiring treatment by a doctor or nurse in the past 12 months. And they're nearly three times likelier to have been forced to take part in a sexual activity.

These health disparities and others, first reported a year ago, are included in a new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on the unique challenges facing LGBT youth nationwide. The first of its kind from the federal government, the report shows that the challenges faced by LGBT

**Researchers analyzed data from Youth Risk Behavior Surveys in six urban school districts, including Milwaukee.**

youth in Wisconsin are not an anomaly.

Throughout the nation, LGBT students are more likely than heterosexual students to engage in unhealthy behaviors, including tobacco, alcohol and drug use. They're likelier to have risky sex, demonstrate suicidal behav-

ior and experience violence, according to the study.

"This report should be a wake-up call for families, schools and communities that we need to do a much better job of supporting these young people. Any effort to promote adolescent health and safety must take into account the additional stressors these youth experience because of their sexual orientation, such as stigma, discrimination, and victimization," said Howell Wechsler, director of CDC's Division of Adolescent and School Health. "We are very concerned that these students face such dramatic disparities for so many different health risks."

Researchers analyzed data from Youth Risk Behavior Surveys conducted from 2001 to 2009 in seven states — Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts,

Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin — and six large urban school districts — Boston, Chicago, Milwaukee, New York City, San Diego and San Francisco.

The report represents the first time the federal government has conducted a wide-ranging analysis across states, large urban school districts and risk behaviors.

"Some people will make this a story about how risky and irresponsible LGBT teens are," warned Gary Hollander, executive director of Diverse & Resilient. The Milwaukee-based organization provides advocacy and support for LGBT health issues in Wisconsin.

Hollander said the report actually underscores that the health disparities faced by LGBT youths are "the consequence of insufficient support and acceptance by the broader community and also

the result of a fair amount of exclusion" experienced by LGBT teens.

"It's not genetic and it's not moral turpitude," Hollander said. "It's the result of social exclusion and discrimination."

The CDC report found that gay and lesbian students nationally have higher prevalence rates for 49-90 percent of all the health risks measured, including:

- Behaviors that contribute to unintentional injuries (e.g., rarely or never wore a seat belt).
- Behaviors that contribute to violence (e.g., did not go to school because of safety concerns).
- Behaviors related to attempted suicide (e.g., made a suicide plan).
- Tobacco use (e.g., ever smoked cigarettes).
- Alcohol use (e.g., binge drinking).

• Other drug use (e.g., current marijuana use).

• Sexual behaviors (e.g., condom use).

• Dietary behaviors (e.g., ate vegetables 3 or more times per day).

• Physical activity and sedentary behaviors (e.g., physically active at least 60 minutes per day for 7 days).

• Weight management (e.g., did not eat for 24 hours or more to lose weight or to keep from gaining weight).

Bisexual students had higher prevalence rates for 57 percent to 86 percent of all health risks measured.

Hollander said federal health officials will probably use the data contained in the report "as an opportunity to pay attention" to the specific health needs of LGBT youth.

Follow the news at [www.wisconsinngazette.com](http://www.wisconsinngazette.com).

# NOH8 Campaign coming to Milwaukee

The InterContinental Milwaukee is hosting an open photo shoot for the national NOH8 Campaign from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Aug. 12.

Created by celebrity photographer Adam Bouska and his partner Jeff Parshley in response to the passage of Proposition 8 in California, the campaign is a photographic silent protest. Celebrities ranging from Kin Kardashian and Kathy Griffin to Cindy McCain and Deepak Chopra have been photographed for the project with tape over their mouths and "NOH8" painted on one cheek.

Bouska plans to set up a studio at the hotel to take as

many photos as possible in Milwaukee.

"We are honored to have the opportunity to bring this important campaign to the Milwaukee area and hope to help raise a significant amount of money to support NOH8," says Tim Smith, general manager of the InterContinental Milwaukee. "We're expecting a huge turnout."

Nearly two and a half years since its inception, the NOH8 Campaign has grown to over 13,000 faces. The campaign began with portraits of everyday Californians from all walks of life and soon rose to include politicians, military personnel,

newlyweds, law enforcement, artists, celebrities, and many more.

The cost for an individual portrait is \$40 and for couple/group portraits is \$25 per person. Participants are asked to wear white and arrive camera ready. Reservations are not taken. Photos are taken on a first come, first served basis.

Anyone in line by 8 p.m. to be photographed on the evening of the event will be eligible for the shoot.

For more details on the NOH8 Campaign, visit NOH8 or follow on Twitter (@NOH8Campaign).



— L.W. Photos from the NOH8 campaign.

PHOTO: COURTESY

# High school wrestlers charged with harassment

Four high school wrestlers on Wisconsin's state championship team face criminal charges for allegedly sexually harassing a team member repeatedly in the locker room.

The mother of a 15-year-old boy notified Wisconsin

Rapids police that his Lincoln High School teammates harassed him on five to 10 occasions. According to the criminal complaint filed, the older boys were "dancing around him while they (were) naked, swinging their penises at him."

"During some of those occasions he was hit by each of their penises on his leg," the complaint stated.

In one incident a teammate "placed his penis on (the victim's) butt" and he "could not get away because he was boxed in by two

other wrestlers," according to the complaint.

Police interviewed six witnesses who confirmed aspects of the boy's account. As a result, four wrestlers were charged in Wood County Circuit Court with misdemeanor disorderly conduct.

sexual harassment.

Police interviewed six witnesses who confirmed aspects of the boy's account. As a result, four wrestlers were charged in Wood County Circuit Court with misdemeanor disorderly conduct.

Zachary Benitz, 18, Kasey Einerson, 17, Rylan Lubeck, 17, and Devin Peterson, 17, face fines up to \$1,000 or up to 90 days in jail.

Benitz's father is coach of the team, which won its 20th team state championship this year.

— L.W.

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## West Bend school board approves GSA

By Louis Weisberg  
Staff writer

The West Bend School Board voted June 13 to recognize a Gay-Straight Alliance after denying it official status for nearly a decade.

The 4-3 vote approving the GSA came on condition that the group drop its federal lawsuit against the school board. A suit filed in Milwaukee federal court on May 12 charged board members with violating students' First Amendment rights and breaking a federal law forbidding schools to deny equal access to student organizations based on their beliefs.

With official recognition, the GSA will be able to hold fundraisers, have a place in the yearbook and put up a bulletin board for the first time since the group formed in 2002.

Since then, students and student advisors have continually requested official status, only to be denied. While other student groups were able to gain recognition without even presenting a formal application, West Bend's GSA was required to go through arduous procedures designed specifically to keep it out, Brian Juchems, program director for the Madison-based Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools, told WiG last month.

Daryl Presgraves, communications director for GLSEN, which stands for Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, said the situation faced by the West Bend GSA "is something that's pretty common unfortunately around the country."

"It's unfortunate that a lot of places put their preju-

ices ahead of what's best for young people," Presgraves said.

The West Bend GSA's battle for recognition reopened wounds in the community from a similar battle over a campaign to ban the book "Heather Has Two Mommies" from the local library in 2009. Some of the same religious extremists who waged that war also spearheaded the fight against the GSA, including right-wing activist Ginny Maziarka. She launched the petition drive to ban the book and also fired up opposition to the GSA via her blog, wissup.blogspot.com.

As of press time, Maziarka had yet to weigh in on the GSA's approval. But bootsabers.com, another right-wing West Bend blog site, opined: "So the question

for school board members is ... is it worth \$300,000+ of the taxpayers' money to litigate this point? In my opinion, no."

In fact, federal case law is very clear in supporting the right of GSAs to exist, Presgraves said. If there was any doubt, it was eliminated the morning after the West Bend School Board vote, when Secretary of Education Arne Duncan issued a memo in the form of a "dear colleague" letter underscoring the Obama administration's support for GSAs.

"Gay-straight alliances (GSAs) and similar student-initiated groups addressing LGBT issues can play an important role in promoting safer schools and creating more welcoming learning environments," Duncan wrote. "Nationwide, students

are forming these groups in part to combat bullying and harassment of LGBT students and to promote understanding and respect in the school community."

Duncan said that while GSAs focus primarily on LGBT students, their efforts to promote respect, tolerance and inclusion benefit all students.

"By encouraging dialogue and providing supportive resources, these groups can help make schools safe and affirming environments for everyone," Duncan said.

Presgraves said Duncan's announcement was unrelated to the situation in West Bend. But he predicted that once people in West Bend become familiar with the work of GSAs, they'd change their minds about them.

"The strange thing that

happens in a lot of school district like this is there is a big uproar about Gay Straight Alliances and then once ... the school district follows the law and a GSA forms, all of the people who are big opponents start to realize that what they were told about Gay Straight Alliances is not really what's going on."

Presgraves said denying GSAs has damaging consequences.

"When school districts say there's something wrong with GSAs, that sends a clear message to students at that school that something's wrong with these students. We wonder why nearly nine out of 10 LGBT students have been harassed in the last year at school, but you don't have to look very far to see where the message was sent."

## Same-sex Illinois couples join in civil unions

By Gary Barlow  
Special to WiG

Hundreds of family members, friends and supporters filled Chicago's Millennium Park on June 2 as 32 couples celebrated civil unions on the first day the new Illinois civil unions law made that possible.

"I think it's a wonderful day for the state of Illinois," said Illinois state Rep. Greg Harris, D-Chicago, who was chief sponsor of the civil unions bill and guided it to passage last December. "Just look around at how joyous this is for all the families. If anyone had any doubt about what this is all about, just look around at all the happy faces."

Groups of family and friends crowded around the couples as, one by one, they were declared "spouses forever" by a host of Cook County Circuit Court judges, including Chief Judge Timothy Evans and the court's gay and lesbian judges.

Also there to celebrate were Gov. Pat Quinn, D, who signed the civil unions legislation into law; Lt. Gov. Sheila Simon, D; Harris and the

Illinois House's other two gay/lesbian members, Reps. Kelly Cassidy, D-Chicago, and Deb Mell, D-Chicago. Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel and the city's two gay city council members, Alds. James Cappleman, 46th, and Tom Tunney, 44th, represented the city at the event, which was sponsored by the Chicago Commission on Human Relations' Advisory Council on LGBT Issues.

"This is indeed an historic day, a special day, that all of us in the Land of Lincoln can celebrate," Quinn said. "There are all kinds of families in Illinois, but we are all the family of Illinois."

Couples could get licenses June 1, but had to wait until June 2 to have the union made official, and Emanuel came over to the 10 a.m. celebration in Millennium Park after first using his powers as mayor to officiate at a civil union ceremony in City Hall for one of his staff members.

"It has been a long journey here," Emanuel told the couples. "You have our blessings." The couples who were

joined together came from all walks of life. Some, like Myra Rodriguez and Janeida Rivera, are relatively young. Others, though, had waited much longer for a day to come that they could not have foreseen when they first met.

Patrick Bova, 79, and Jim Darby, 73, were among the first couples joined together, making it official after 47 years as partners when Evans declared them spouses in the eyes of the state. It was something they never thought would happen, they said.

"It was just not on the radar at all back then," Bova said. "When we got together 47 years ago we had to be closeted, and now look."

Longtime activist Vernita Gray, who marches in Chicago's 42nd annual Chicago Pride Parade later this month, said just before she and partner Pat Ewert celebrated their civil union that she had faith that lesbian and gay couples would win state recognition.

"I thought it would happen," Gray said. "I just didn't know if I'd live to see it."

Other longtime couples who've also fought for years for equality said they agreed that it was hard to believe. Among those joined together were Chicago Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame inductees Evette Cardona and Mona Noriega, who just took over as commissioner of the Chicago Department of Human Rights under Emanuel.

"I never thought I would hold hands with her and put a ring on her finger surrounded by our families," Cardona said.

Following the ceremonies, Equality Illinois and Lambda Legal hosted a private reception for the couples, families and friends at the Chicago Cultural Center across the street from Millennium Park.

The new law gives couples joined in a civil union the same rights, benefits and responsibilities as married couples in the eyes of the state of Illinois. The federal government does not recognize it, though it is valid in some states that recognize civil unions. Illinois now recognizes civil unions and



PHOTO: RICK KARLIN

Mona Noriega and Evette Cardona tie the knot.

same-sex marriages performed in other states.

Cook County Clerk David Orr said his office issued 203 licenses for civil unions June

1 and other county clerks across the state also reported that numerous couples received licenses throughout the day.

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# LGBT Outreach's Harold 'Harry' Straetz dies



PHOTO: FACEBOOK  
**Harry Straetz**

Harold "Harry" James Straetz, 53, of Madison died on June 8 at HospiceCare Inc., after a three-and-a-half-year battle with cancer.

Straetz was born on Aug. 20, 1957, in Milwaukee, the son of Thomas and Anna (Beck) Straetz. In 1967 the family moved to Glidden, where Straetz lived his early life and finished school. In 1987 he graduated from the UW-Superior with a bachelor's degree in political sci-

ence. The same year, Straetz moved to Madison to attend UW-Madison Law School. Due to a brief illness, Straetz had to resign from school and pursued a career as a wait staffer and supervisor at various restaurants in Madison, primarily with the Ovens of Brittany Restaurants, Sun Porch, Sun Print and Montes Blue Plate Diner. During this time, Straetz was extensively involved as a volunteer, board member, and for the past nine years

as a staff member for LGBT OutReach, Inc., Madison's LGBT Community Center.

Straetz enjoyed his work, dancing, music, outdoor activities, his friends and family, and his great zest for life. He is survived by his sister Cindy (Aaron) McClaire of Kaukauna; nephews Jake (Pam) McClaire of Kaukauna, Ian (Anna Vandehey) McClaire of Kaukauna, Charles Hauschild of Minneapolis, Tim Hauschild of

Seattle, Ed Hauschild of Park Falls; nieces Susan Hauschild of Minneapolis, Holly Mosley of Iowa, Terry Findley, Tammy Brothers, Kimberly Freeman, Fara Lowry and Christy Botsford, all of Attalla, Ala.; Harry's "Hair-Bear-Care-Team"; Walt Jackson, Robin Gee, Blanka Pinkasova, Josh Bartz, and numerous special friends from over the years.

Memorial services will be held at Gunderson East Funeral Home, 5203 Monona

Drive, Madison, at noon on June 18. Visitation will be at the funeral home from 10 a.m. until the time of the service on Saturday.

Memorials may be made to Gilda's Club of Madison, HospiceCare Inc., and LGBT OutReach.

The family would like to especially thank the doctors, nurses and staff members at UW Hospital Oncology Unit, HospiceCare Inc., and Belmont Rehabilitation Center.



PHOTO: COURTESY  
**State Rep. Mark Pocan**

## Baldwin is a 'very strong vote-getter'

**POCAN** from page 1 said, "We showed that with progressive priorities you can get a lot done and still address the tough fiscal times that were caused by the federal economy."

With so many leadership accomplishments under his belt, Pocan is being aggressively courted to run by the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, if Baldwin decides on a Senate bid. The group's goal is to elect openly gay leaders.

Currently there are four out members of Congress.

"Victory Fund is very enthusiastic about keeping this congressional seat, and they want to be involved in any way possible," Pocan said.

Pocan said it's also important for the 2nd District to "continue to have someone who is an unashamed and unabashed progressive out there willing to fight the fight."

Meanwhile, Pocan is bull-

ish on Baldwin's prospects of becoming the nation's first out senator.

"Tammy's a very strong vote-getter," he said. "She can bring out turnout like no one else."

A late-May poll by Public Policy Polling showed that former Sen. Russ Feingold, who lost reelection last year after serving three terms, is the favorite to succeed Kohl. Baldwin came in second in the poll and outperformed nearly all of the likely GOP candidates, including Wisconsin House Speaker Jeff Fitzgerald, former U.S. Rep. Mark Neumann and Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen - all Tea Party-allied officials.

The poll showed only former Gov. Tommy Thompson beating Baldwin - by 1 percent, which was within the poll's margin of error. Political insiders say Thompson is unlikely to run because pervasive rumors about his extra-marital affairs would embarrass his family and prove to be an electoral distraction.

## REGIONAL BRIEFS

### MEDICAL COLLEGE RECEIVES \$5.9 MILLION HIV GRANT

The Medical College of Wisconsin received a five-year, \$5.9 million grant from the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Mental Health to investigate new HIV prevention approaches for African-American men who have sex with men.

Although African-American gay and bisexual men represent only one percent of the nation's population, they account for 25 percent of all new HIV infections in the United States. Jeffrey A. Kelly, director of the Medical College's Center for AIDS Intervention Research aims to develop an intervention that will help to prevent HIV among high-risk African-American men who have sex with men.

Most existing approaches have relied on individual or small-group risk reduction counseling, but those approaches have limited effectiveness in a population that historically has not sought counseling.

Kelly's research will compare the traditional testing, treatment

and individual counseling to a new, social network-level intervention approach.



### CUBS TO MAKE 'IT GETS BETTER' VIDEO

The Chicago Cubs will become the second major sports team to create an "It Gets Better" video as part of a campaign to prevent suicides among bullied LGBT teens. The San Francisco Giants released a video for the campaign last week.

More than 10,000 "It Gets Better" videos have been produced since syndicated columnist Dan Savage and his partner Terry Miller launched the project in

the fall of 2010 in response to a spate of gay suicides.

"The Cubs applaud the Giants for their stand against anti-LGBT bullying. Bullying of anyone for any reason is unacceptable," said Laura Ricketts, Cubs owner and board member. "We are proud to join the Giants in taking a stand against bullying and encourage other professional sports organizations to do the same."

Ricketts, an out lesbian who serves on the board of directors of Lambda Legal, is the first openly gay owner of a Major League Baseball team.

The Cubs have a long history of support in the LGBT community. In 2010, Ricketts headlined the team's float in Chicago's annual Pride Parade. The now-defunct Chicago Free Press began hosting an annual Out at the Ballgame event at Wrigley Field a decade ago.

Recent Cubs' donations have supported Cubs Care Courts, the gymnasium at Lake View's Center on Halsted (\$30,000 in 2011) and the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (\$50,000 in 2009) as well as many other organizations

serving the LGBT community.

### MINNESOTANS EVENLY SPLIT ON GAY MARRIAGE

A new Public Policy Poll shows Minnesotans evenly split on the issue of same-sex marriage. Voters in the state will decide in fall 2012 whether to amend their constitution to restrict marriage to opposite-sex couples.

Forty-seven percent of Minnesotans told pollsters they believe the constitution should not be amended to prohibit gays and lesbians from marrying, while 46 said it should. Similarly, 46 percent support same-sex marriage, and 45 percent think it should still be illegal.

"Minnesota voters are evenly split on gay marriage right now," said Dean Debnam, president of Public Policy Polling. "What's interesting though is how fast public opinion is moving on this issue. It's entirely conceivable that in another 17 months the state will have a clear majority supportive of same-sex marriage. That's the direction things are going in."

- LW.

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# Fed. judge rejects motion to vacate California Prop 8 ruling

By Lisa Neff  
Staff writer

A federal district judge in San Francisco denied on June 14 a motion to vacate a ruling that declared unconstitutional the anti-gay Proposition 8.

The defenders of California's Prop 8 argued the day before that a federal ruling overturning the ballot measure should be vacated because the now-retired judge on the case is in a long-term same-sex relationship and might want to get married.

A majority of California voters approved the constitutional amendment in November 2008, defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman and bringing to a halt same-sex marriages in the state.

But by August 2010, then-U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker had ruled that Prop 8 was unconstitutional and "gravely harmful."

Prop 8 proponents have challenged Walker's ruling at the appeals court level. They also filed a motion to have Walker's ruling vacated, alleging that the judge couldn't be impartial because he's gay and might someday benefit personally by overturning Prop 8.

California Gov. Jerry Brown and Attorney General Kamala Harris responded in court, stating, "Courts have seen such recusal requests for what they are: thinly veiled attempts to disqualify judges based on their race, gender, religious affiliation, or in this case, sexual orienta-

tion."

The attorneys for the American Federation for Equal Rights, the group that has funded the court battle against Prop 8, called the motion "an utterly baseless attack on the integrity of the judicial system, on then-Chief Judge Walker, and on all gay and lesbian jurists who faithfully perform their duties and decide cases across this country each day."

The AFER team said Walker issued his ruling against Prop 8 after a 12-day trial in which those defending the measure called only two witnesses to rebuff the plaintiff's 17 witnesses.

A day after arguments on the motion, U.S. District Court Judge James S. Ware rejected the motion, finding

that Walker justly presided over the Prop 8 case.

Ware wrote, "The sole fact that a federal judge shares the same circumstances or other characteristics with other members of the general public, and that the judge could be affected by the outcome of a proceeding in the same way that other members of the general public would be affected, is not a basis for either recusal or disqualification."

He also stated, "Such a standard would come dangerously close to holding that minority judges must disqualify themselves from all major civil rights actions."

Ware's rejection of the motion led AFER president Chad Griffin to assert, "Prop 8 is hanging by a thread."



PHOTO: COURTESY

Now-retired Judge Vaughn Walker.

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# Right-wing Christians say they're victims of bullying

By David Crary  
AP writer

As the gay-rights movement advances, there's increasing evidence of an intriguing role reversal: Today, it's the conservative opponents of that movement who seem eager to depict themselves as victims of intolerance.

To them, the gay-rights lobby has morphed into a relentless bully — pressuring companies and law firms into policy reversals, making it taboo in some circumstances to express opposition to same-sex marriage.

"They're advocating for a lot of changes in the name of tolerance," said Jim Campbell, an attorney with the conservative Alliance Defense Fund. "Yet ironically the tolerance is not returned, for people of faith who don't agree with their agenda."

Many gay activists, recalling their movement's past struggles and mindful of remaining bias, consider such protestations by their foes to be hollow and hypocritical.

"They lost the argument on gay rights and now they

**"Diversion, scare tactics and this playing the victim are all they have left."**

are losing the argument on marriage," said lawyer Evan Wolfson, executive director of the advocacy group Freedom to Marry. "Diversion, scare tactics and this playing the victim are all they have left."

Among the recent incidents prompting some conservatives to complain of intolerance or political bullying:

Olympic gold medal gymnast Peter Vidmar stepped down as chief of mission for the 2012 U.S. Olympic team in May following controversy over his opposition to gay marriage.

After coming under fire

from gay-rights groups in April, the Atlanta-based law firm King & Spalding pulled out of an agreement with House Republicans to defend the federal ban on same-sex marriage.

In New York, state Sen. Ruben Diaz, a Democrat from the Bronx, contends he's received death threats because he opposes legislation to legalize same-sex marriage.

Apple Inc. recently withdrew two iPhone apps from its App Store after complaints and petition campaigns by gay-rights supporters.

One app was intended to publicize the Manhattan Declaration, a document signed in 2009 by scores of conservative Christian leaders. It condemns same-sex marriage as immoral and suggests that legalizing it could open the door to recognition of polygamy and sibling incest.

The other app was for Exodus International, a network of ministries that depict homosexuality as a destructive condition that can be overcome through Christian faith.

In both cases, gay activists celebrated the apps' removals, while the apps' creators contended their freedom of expression was being unjustly curtailed.

"The gay-rights groups have shown their fangs," wrote Chuck Colson, the Watergate figure turned born-again Christian who helped launch the Manhattan Declaration. "They want to silence, yes, destroy those who don't agree with their agenda."

The campaign that pressured King & Spalding to withdraw from the U.S. Defense of Marriage Act case was criticized by a relatively wide range of commentators and legal experts, not just conservative foes of gay marriage.

"To think it's a good idea to attack lawyers defending unpopular clients — I don't have words for how stupid and wrong that is," said Wendy Kaminer, a lawyer and writer who formerly served on the board of the American Civil Liberties Union.

However, the gay-rights activists involved in pressuring King & Spalding were unapologetic.

"If we made it such that no law firm would defend the indefensible, then good for us," said Fred Sainz, the Human Rights Campaign's vice president for communication. "When you have people talking about the fact that it's no longer politically correct to be anti-equality, it's a show of progress."

Sainz said it was important

for activists to pick their targets carefully. "We understand there are good-hearted Americans in the middle who are still struggling with these issues," he said. "Different activists have different ways of getting to the same end, and some of those are bound to make certain people feel uncomfortable."

Though same-sex marriage is legal in only five states, it has for the first time gained the support of a majority of Americans, according to a series of recent national opinion polls. For some gay activists, this trend has fueled efforts to make their opponents' views seem shameful.

"Their beliefs on this issue are very quickly becoming socially disgraceful, much in the way white supremacy is socially disgraceful," wrote Evan Hurst of the advocacy group Truth Wins Out. "They are certainly entitled to cling to backwoods, uneducated, reality-rejecting views ... but their 'religious freedom' doesn't call for the rest of us to somehow pretend their views aren't disgusting and hateful."

However, some gay-rights supporters see the public opinion shift as reason to be more magnanimous.

"The turn we now need to execute will be the hardest maneuver the movement has ever had to make, because it will require us to deliberately leave room for homophobia," Jonathan Rauch, a writer and guest scholar at the Brookings Institution, wrote

recently in The Advocate.

"Incidents of rage against haters, verbal abuse of opponents, boycotts of small-business owners, absolutist enforcement of anti-discrimination laws: Those and other 'zero-tolerance' tactics play into the 'homosexual bullies' narrative," Rauch wrote. "The other side, in short, is counting on us to hand them the victimhood weapon. Our task is to deny it to them."

As ideological foes spar over these issues, the American Civil Liberties Union is confronted with a delicate balancing act. Its national gay rights project battles aggressively against anti-gay discrimination, but, as a longtime defender of free speech, the ACLU also is expected to intervene sometimes on behalf of anti-gay expression.

For example, the ACLU pressed a lawsuit on behalf of the fundamentalist Westboro Baptist Church, which has outraged mourning communities by picketing service members' funerals with crudely worded signs condemning homosexuality. The ACLU said the Missouri state law banning such picketing infringes on religious freedom and free speech.

James Esseks, director of the ACLU's gay rights project, said the First Amendment protection of free speech only comes into play when a government entity is seen as curtailing speech rights — which did not occur in the Vidmar or King & Spalding cases.

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## { Editorial }

## Dirty tricks

When a Republican legislator in Alabama switches parties to protest the GOP's attacks on teachers, you know there's a progressive backlash a-coming.

As legislatures across the country adjourn, it's clear that voters are not pleased with the right-wing genie they let out of the bottle last fall. Florida Gov. Rick Scott's approval rating dipped to 29 percent after only four months in office. A recent Ohio poll showed that Tea Party Gov. John Kasich would lose by 25 points if he faced his November 2010 opponent today.

This pattern is repeated in polls taken in state after state. A May 25 poll asking voters whom they would support in a recall election between Gov. Scott Walker and Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett showed Barrett winning by seven points.

Polls also show that Walker is the most polarizing governor in the nation. He has a margin of support that nears 90 percent among Republicans but is only in the single digits among Democrats.

But instead of trying to bring the state together and win over Democrats and Independents, Wisconsin Republicans are desperately trying to rig future elections in their favor. They passed a bill extending the length of residency required to vote from 10 to 28 days, eliminating party-line voting, pushing back the deadline to get an absentee ballot and, most importantly, requiring every voter to present a photo ID or a naturalization certificate in order to vote. The law would allow some student IDs to qualify, but notably not the ones issued by the University of Wisconsin.

All of these moves, of course, have been carefully calibrated based on voting statistics to reduce turnout among Democratic voters, especially seniors, students and lower-income voters.

GOP officials have also admitted they plan to run phony candidates against Democrats in next month's recall elections of six Republican state senators. Putting phony Democrats on the ballot will turn the July 12 race into a primary, stalling the actual election until Aug. 8.

As we saw during the budget standoff last winter, dirty tricks come easily to Walker, who was thrown out of Marquette University for cheating. But they won't play in Wisconsin. Political treachery ultimately derailed Richard Nixon and Rod Blagojevich, and it will bring down Walker even faster.



## { Letters }

## 30 YEARS AFTER

Thirty years after the start of the AIDS epidemic, we are still struggling with stigma, misinformation and fear of those infected with HIV. Just this week, while drinking with friends and colleagues, I was reminded of how much more work we have to do when it comes to educating the public. We ordered a huge drink (bucket sized), one that came complete with six fun neon straws. Folks were chatting, laughing and having a grand ole time. As the evening progressed, people began to forget which straws were theirs. One person exclaimed, "It's OK if I drink from someone else's straw - I'm not sick, it's not like I have AIDS or anything!" That comment struck me like a lightning bolt: "Thirty years into this

epidemic, and still, there are people that think HIV can be transmitted by drinking from the same glass or straw."

HIV can only be transmitted by specific fluids: blood, semen, vaginal secretions and breast milk. And with the help of anti-retroviral therapy, an HIV-positive person with a non-detectable viral load has only a 4 percent chance of passing on the virus.

Black women have been especially hard hit by HIV. In 2009, black women accounted for 64 percent of estimated AIDS diagnoses among women ages 13 and older. Yet we are only 12 percent of the U.S. population of women. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that although black teens (ages 13-19) represent only about 17 percent of U.S.

teenagers, they accounted for 68 percent of new AIDS diagnoses among teens in 2009.

We have failed miserably at developing public health HIV prevention messages that resonate with the men that black women have sex with. We need to invite our brothers to the table. They are virtually invisible in this epidemic.

Today on the 30th year of this pandemic I urge you to change the way you view HIV, I encourage you to learn all that you can about this disease, most of all I implore you join me in working to make certain that this disease is not a birth rite for our youth.

Hadiyah Charles  
Advisory board member  
of The Center of HIV  
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## ON THE RECORD

"I hope for his sake that Tracy's apology will be accepted as sincere by his gay and lesbian co-workers at '30 Rock,' without whom Tracy would not have lines to say, clothes to wear, sets to stand on, scene partners to act with, or a printed-out paycheck from accounting to put in his pocket."  
—Tina Fey, producer and star of "30 Rock," commenting on the shocking anti-gay tirade delivered by her co-star Tracy Morgan during an appearance in Nashville.

"A writer who happens to be gay or lesbian must be able to transcend self. I am not a gay writer. I am a writer who happens to be gay. Any definition which limits us is deplorable."

—Three time Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Edward Albee accepting the Pioneer Award during the 23rd annual Lambda Literary Awards ceremony on May 26.

"I do not believe that a celebration of 'gay Pride' has anything to do with the mission of the Federal Reserve under the Federal Reserve Act passed by Congress. This is a celebration of a behavior that is still a class six felony in Virginia. How can the American people trust the judgment of the Federal Reserve as an institution when its spokesperson celebrates an attack on public morals?"

—Virginia Delegate Robert Marshall in a letter to the president of the Richmond Federal Reserve urging that a rainbow flag being flown for LGBT Pride month be removed.

"We do not make policy decisions based on what's best for our corporate sponsors. (The merger between AT&T and T-Mobile would) increase functionality and speed, thus growing engagement and improving the effectiveness of the online advocacy work that is advancing equality for all."

—GLAAD spokesman Rich Ferraro explaining to Politico why his group supports the merger of AT&T and T-Mobile.

"Our position at this particular time is that we are going to be neutral on that particular issue, as we would be on other social issues that have polarizing points of view."

—Target Corp. CEO Greg Steinhafel saying his company will stay neutral on a law that would amend Minnesota's constitution to ban same-sex marriage.

"When my daughter came home from school one day saying that a classmate had two mommies, my response was, 'Two mommies? How lucky is she!'"  
—Actress Gwyneth Paltrow.

"The gay-rights groups have shown their fangs. They want to silence, yes, destroy those who don't agree with their agenda."

—Chuck Colson, Watergate felon turned born-again Christian.

"We own this place and can tell you to leave if we want to."

—A Bible-wielding maintenance technician forcing two gay men with developmental and intellectual disabilities to leave a public swimming pool in Hazard, Ky. The staff operating the pool said "gay people" aren't allowed to swim there.

## Proud quotables



Writing in 1951, when gay people were being locked up and lobotomized, the brave pioneers of the Mattachine Society adopted this earnest, forward-looking mission statement:

"(T)housands of homosexuals live out their lives bewildered, unhappy and alone - isolated from their own kind and unable to adjust to the dominant culture. ... A major purpose of the Mattachine Society is to provide a consensus of principle around which all of our people can rally and from which they can derive a feeling of 'belonging.'"

"The Society believes homosexuals can lead well-adjusted, wholesome and socially productive lives once ignorance against them is successfully combated and once homosexuals themselves feel they have a dignified and useful role to play in society. ... Once unification and education have progressed, it becomes imperative ... to push forward into the realm of political action to erase from our law books the discriminatory and oppressive legislation presently directed against the homosexual minority."

Twenty years later, after the Stonewall Rebellion, Gay liberation took up a more militant posture. In "Gay is Good," Martha Shelley warned: "Look out straights. Here comes the Gay Liberation Front. ... We want something more now, something more than the tolerance you never gave us. But to understand that, you must understand who we are."

"We are the extrusions of your unconscious mind - your worst fears made flesh. From the beautiful boys at Cherry Grove to the aging queens in the uptown bars, the taxi-driving dykes to the lesbian fashion models, the hookers on 42nd Street, the leather lovers, and the very ordinary, very un-lurid gays. ... We are the sort of people everyone was taught to despise - and now we are shaking off the chains of self-hatred and marching on your citadels of repression."

In 1978, Harvey Milk ingeniously co-opted the

slur about gays "recruiting": "I want to recruit you for the fight to preserve your democracy from the John Briggses and the Anita Bryants who are trying to constitutionalize bigotry. We are not going to allow that to happen. On this anniversary of Stonewall, I ask my gay sisters and brothers to make the commitment to fight for themselves. For their freedom. For their country."

In his "Political Will," Milk asked that people's anger be channeled into coming out: "That would do more to end prejudice overnight than anybody could imagine. I urge them to come out. Only that way will we start to achieve our rights."

Every LGBT person should know about the two Supreme Court rulings that have upheld our rights to privacy and equal protection. The first, *Romer v. Evans* (1996), struck down a Colorado amendment that repealed civil rights protections pertaining to sexual orientation. Justice Anthony Kennedy's decision was eloquent:

"If the constitutional conception of 'equal protection

of the laws' means anything, it must at the very least mean that a bare desire to harm a politically unpopular group cannot constitute a legitimate governmental interest. ... We must conclude that Amendment 2 classifies homosexuals not to further a proper legislative end but to make them unequal to everyone else. This Colorado cannot do. A State cannot so deem a class of persons a stranger to its laws."

From *Lawrence v. Texas* (2003), which struck down the Texas sodomy statute and reversed a previous ruling that states could criminalize private, consensual sexual behavior between adults, here again is Justice Kennedy:

"When homosexual conduct is made criminal by the law of the state, that declaration in and of itself is an invitation to subject homosexual persons to discrimination both in the public and in the private spheres. ... The petitioners are entitled to respect for their private lives. The state cannot demean their existence or control their destiny by making their private sexual conduct a crime."

## Fast track to the fringe



If the first half of this year has taught us anything, it's that our entire state government has not simply been taken over by Republicans but by radicals. Sadly, their extremism includes fighting equality and open hostility toward the LGBT community in general.

The GOP's march to the fringe is not slowing down. The six Republican state senators facing recalls this summer all have bad records on equality. But some of the Republican candidates running in recall elections against current Democratic state senators take things to an entirely new level.

Kim Simac, the leader of the Tea Party group Northwoods Patriots, has announced her campaign to run against Democratic state Sen. Jim Holperin this summer. You don't have to

listen to Simac for very long to realize just how extreme she is compared to most Wisconsinites. Although she has no elected or applicable experience, she's supported by the Republican Party. While promoting one of her "children's books," Simac appeared on a low-quality religious program called "By the Book." During the interview, she expressed nearly every paranoid right-wing idea possible.

Simac made the baseless claim that ministers are losing the freedom to say what they want from their pulpits. She disputed the idea of separation of church and state.

On her various websites,

## Kim Simac takes extremism to a new level.

Simac lists a number of the most rabidly anti-gay national organizations, including Focus on the Family and the American Family Association. She has attended so-called "Values Voters" events in Washington, D.C., which are sponsored by groups like the Family Research Council.

Despite declaring herself to be such a "patriot," Simac doesn't feel fondly about her state or her country when a party that she doesn't like is in power. Prior to the state takeover by Republican extremists, Simac told an

interviewer "my state of Wisconsin is awful." In one of her speeches, she described what she called the "complacent selfish American" and declared that the United States became a "genocide nation" in the 1970s. She went on to suggest that maybe we shouldn't talk about what a great country America is but rather what a great country it was.

Extremist candidates such as Simac are a dime a dozen. They have always popped up in election cycles. The difference in Wisconsin is that the Republican Party apparatus is openly backing them.

It is one thing to be a conservative Republican, but it is an entirely different thing to support divisive candidates on the lunatic fringe. Yet that is exactly the road that the Republican Party of Wisconsin is traveling.

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# DeLong case reflects religious unease

## Religion

ANDREW WARNER

Jesus once said, "They shall know you are my followers by your love." But some religious leaders act as if they think Jesus really said, "They shall know you are my followers by your homophobia."

Homophobia certainly overshadows the upcoming church trial of the Rev. Amy DeLong, a United Methodist pastor accused of "chargeable offenses" under the Methodist Book of Discipline. DeLong's case will be heard by ecclesial authorities June 21-23 at Peace United Methodist Church in Kaukauna.

DeLong serves as executive director of Kairos CoMotion, an education and advocacy organization promoting a progressive understanding of Christianity. As an ordained minister she sent regular reports to her Methodist bishop detailing her work. In one of those annual reports, she acknowledged celebrating the marriage of two women.

When questioned about performing the wedding, DeLong, also a lesbian, submitted documentation of her own domestic partnership registration. Her honesty touched off a firestorm.

The United Methodist Church officially bans same-sex marriage and the ordina-

tion of LGBT people. The bans grew out of the Methodist social policy that holds, "The practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching." Though many Methodists disagree with this policy of their denomination, the bishop receiving DeLong's report charged her with breaking church rules.

Tellingly, DeLong had been out to her bishops and supervisors. "Everyone knew. If they didn't know, they didn't know me," DeLong explains.

This created a bizarre situation. Some of the church bureaucrats investigating DeLong had already known DeLong and her partner.

The case against DeLong reflects the unease of Christian denominations with LGBT people. In her own words, "The church always tries to disintegrate LGBT people by focusing on what we do instead of who we are." Meanwhile, God led DeLong on a path of integration, weaving together her identities as lesbian, pastor, partner and Methodist.

The United Methodist Church's ecclesial court process draws on the traditions of English Common Law. DeLong will be judged by a jury of Methodist clergy, with a bishop presiding over the courtroom and a pastor acting as the prosecuting attorney. The outcome is uncertain, and there is no set punishment if DeLong is found guilty, though it might

include defrocking.

Regardless, DeLong knows that her case will be successful because the church can't take away her ability to tell the truth, be faithful or answer God's call to leadership. No ecclesial court will deter DeLong from her path.

Ironically, the Methodist Church was an important part of that journey. DeLong joined in college because the life and worship of the local congregation near her college spoke to her. In the Methodist tradition, she heard a strong affirmation of God's love, symbolized in baptism.

DeLong glows when she talks about it. "Baptism pours out God's grace," she says. "There's nothing you do to earn God's love. Nothing you can do to get more of it. And nothing you can do to lose it."

DeLong knew the United Methodist teachings on LGBT issues but joined anyway. No church or faith community is perfect. The denomination represented a beautiful church in need of change. She hopes her trial will help make it better by exposing the scandal of intolerance.

Essentially DeLong's case offers Methodists a choice. They could fully embrace the grace they speak about, truly becoming the church of "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors" that their marketing proclaims. Will we know they are followers of Jesus by their love?

Or they could attempt to invalidate DeLong's ordination, implicitly denying God's

unconditional love. Visitors can attend the proceedings or take part in worship and

prayers services around the venue. Go to [www.loveontrial.org](http://www.loveontrial.org) for more information.

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**Central United Methodist Church**, 639 N. 25th St., 53233, 414-344-1600, [www.centralumcmilw.org](http://www.centralumcmilw.org)

**Congregation Shir Hadash**, 414-297-9159, [www.cshmilw.org](http://www.cshmilw.org)

**Cross Lutheran Church**, 1821 N. 16th St., 53205, 414-344-1746, [www.crosslutheranmilwaukee.org](http://www.crosslutheranmilwaukee.org)

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**Lake Park Lutheran Church**, 2647 N. Stowell Ave., 53211, 414-962-9190, [lakeparklutheran.com](http://lakeparklutheran.com)

**Metropolitan Community Church**, 1239 W. Mineral St., 53204, 414-383-1100, [www.milmcc.org](http://www.milmcc.org)

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**Underwood Memorial Baptist Church**, 1916 Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa 53213, [www.underwoodchurch.org](http://www.underwoodchurch.org)

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**Community of Hope UCC**, 7118 Old Sauk Rd., 53717, 608-836-1455, [www.madisonchristiancommunity.org](http://www.madisonchristiancommunity.org)

**First United Methodist Church**, 203 Wisconsin Ave., 53703-2105, 608-256-9061, [www.wisconsinumc.org/madison-firstumc/](http://www.wisconsinumc.org/madison-firstumc/)

**Plymouth Congregational UCC**, 2401 Atwood Ave., 53704, 608-249-1537, [www.pcucc.org](http://www.pcucc.org)

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**Hope United Church of Christ**, 141 S. 12th Ave., Sturgeon Bay, 54235, 920-743-2701, [www.hopechurchcdc.org](http://www.hopechurchcdc.org), [hopeucc@hopechurchcdc.org](mailto:hopeucc@hopechurchcdc.org)

**Union Congregational United Church of Christ**, 716 S. Madison St., 54301-3609, 920-437-9266, [www.unionucc.com](http://www.unionucc.com), [office@unionucc.com](mailto:office@unionucc.com)

### FOX VALLEY

**Fox Valley UU Fellowship**, 2600 Philip Lane, Appleton, 54915, 920-731-0849, [www.fvuuf.org](http://www.fvuuf.org)

**SS Cyril and Methodius United Independent Catholic Church**, 3499 Oakridge Road, Neenah, 54956, 920-750-4465, [www.uicchurch.homestead.com](http://www.uicchurch.homestead.com)

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**Olympia Brown Unitarian Universalist Church**, 625 College Ave., 53403, 262-634-0659, [www.obuuc.org](http://www.obuuc.org), [mail@obuuc.org](mailto:mail@obuuc.org)

### OTHER

**First Christian Church**, 1909 Highland Ave., Janesville, 53548, 608-752-3847, [www.fcjanesville.org](http://www.fcjanesville.org)

**First Congregational UCC**, 504 Washington Ave., Sauk City, 53583, 608-643-8387, [firstucc@merr.com](http://firstucc@merr.com)

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation**, 421 S. Farwell St., Eau Claire, 54701, 715-834-0690, [www.uueauclaire.com](http://www.uueauclaire.com)

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# Labor takes NY marriage vow

By Lisa Neff  
Staff writer

Dozens of union groups have committed to campaigning for same-sex marriage in New York.

An intense effort is underway in the state to move a marriage equality bill before the current legislative session ends this month. The push has the support of a majority of Democratic lawmakers in Albany, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, former Republican National Committee Chair Ken Mehlman, a number of Fortune 500 companies headquartered in New York and a coalition of civil rights groups.

The push also has the support of a long list of labor organizations — from the Actor's Equity Association to the UUP.

"The organized labor movement in this state and a majority of New Yorkers believe the denial of marriage equality hurts not just indi-

viduals, but also family members, neighbors and co-workers who care about the well-being of same-sex couples and the children they care for," said Mary Sullivan, president of the Capital District Area Labor Federation.

She continued, "While some measures have been taken to bring recognition to these families, there is no substitute for marriage. No legal mechanism for protecting families is as widely accepted or has as clear legal precedent and meaning as marriage. Continuing to deny access to marriage for loving, committed same-sex couples discriminates against them and relegates them to second-class citizenship. The time for action, and passage, of marriage equality legislation is now."

Similar endorsements came from representatives of the Public Employees Federation, the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers, the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement and

the SEIU Local 200United. "On behalf of the over 12,000 families represented by SEIU Local 200United, my fellow officers and I fully support the issue of marriage equality," said secretary-treasurer Mike Lonigro. "We will not accept anything less than total equality. As we speak, we are in contract negotiations where we are demanding, among other things, the right for employees to make their same-sex partners in life eligible pension beneficiaries. Marriage equality in New York state would make this a non-issue and would free us up to negotiate for other important matters. I urge the New York State Legislature to pass this legislation before the end of session."

As of WiG press time, the marriage equality bill had been introduced in the GOP-controlled Senate and was expected to be voted upon as early as June 16 or June 17. The measure was still a vote shy of passage on June 15.

# Comic apologizes for anti-gay rant

Actor Tracy Morgan has apologized for telling an audience in Nashville, Tenn., that if his son were gay, he would "pull out a knife and stab" him. The former "Saturday Night Live" comedian and "30 Rock" actor apologized to his gay and lesbian fans for what he called "my choice of words" during his June 3 appearance at the Ryman Auditorium.

A Facebook account posted by an audience member said Morgan's stand-up performance was full of homophobic references. The Ryman issued its own apology afterward for Morgan's behavior.

Morgan's outbursts triggered heated comment on Twitter, making him a "trending" topic Thursday and Friday.

Meanwhile, the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation called on Morgan



PHOTO: COURTESY Tracy Morgan

to remove anti-gay remarks from his show "and send a strong message that anti-gay violence is not something to joke about."

The Human Rights Campaign said apologiz-

ing wasn't enough. The gay civil rights organization said Morgan "now has a responsibility to make amends for his horribly hurtful and dangerous 'comedy' routine."

In his statement, Morgan, who has three sons, denied being a hateful person and acknowledged that "even in a comedy club" what he said went too far "and was not funny in any context."

"30 Rock" producer and star Tina Fey weighed in on the controversy. "I hope for his sake that Tracy's apology will be accepted as sincere by his gay and lesbian co-workers at '30 Rock,' without whom Tracy would not have lines to say, clothes to wear, sets to stand on, scene partners to act with, or a printed-out paycheck from accounting to put in his pocket," she said.

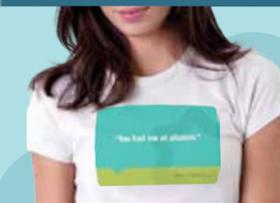
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# VISIT GAY CHICAGO

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# World Series champs champion anti-bullying drive

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Major League Baseball players know something about slumps and hard knocks. They know, in their game, "it gets better."

Earlier this month, San Francisco Giants Barry Zito, Matt Cain, Andres Torres, Sergio Romo and Hensley Meulens shared the encouragement that gets tossed around on the field in a video intended to convince LGBT youth that life "gets better."

The "It Gets Better" multimedia project originated with writer Dan Savage, who wanted to send a message to youths after a series of gay-related suicides at the start of the 2010-11 school year. Some 10,000 people and

## ON THE WEB

To see It Gets Better videos, go to [www.itgetsbetter.org](http://www.itgetsbetter.org).

To sign petitions for It Gets Better campaigns, go to [www.change.org](http://www.change.org).

organizations — from prominent politicians to average citizens — have posted video messages to the "It Gets Better" website.

The Giants became the first pro sports team to post a video, and are being followed by the Chicago Cubs, Boston Red Sox and Seattle Mariners.

More than 6,000 people signed a petition calling on the Giants, the 2010 World

Series champs, to join the "It Gets Better" project.

For the 58-second video, pitchers Cain, Zito and Romo, centerfielder Torres and batting coach Meulens stood in their uniforms in AT&T Park to make their pitch directly to the camera.

Zito said, "We all know how difficult life can be as a teenager."

Romo added, "We've all been there and have had to deal with the pressure to fit in and be accepted by our peers."

"It's particularly challenging for LGBT teens who face adversity and intolerance in their daily lives," said Cain.

In the end, the players promised — in English, Japanese and Spanish — that

"it gets better."

"The Giants are showing us why they are world champions, both on and off the field," said San Fran fan Sean Chapin, who circulated the petition at [change.org](http://change.org), a Web-based warehouse for initiatives. "If every pro sports team joined the Giants in taking a stand against homophobia and anti-gay bullying by making these videos, it would have a tremendous impact on the lives of millions of kids and their families. It would also contribute to a safer playing environment for gay athletes, from high school to professional sports."

Similar petitions were posted to nudge other pro teams, including the New York Yankees, Cleveland

Indians, Texas Rangers, New York Mets, Toronto Blue Jays, St. Louis Cardinals, Minnesota Twins, Atlanta Braves, Anaheim Angels, San Diego Padres, Tampa Rays and Baltimore Orioles.

Twelve-year-old Sam Maden, an avid Boston fan, created the Red Sox petition in memory of an uncle who worked for LGBT youth.

"Uncle Chris knew how much I love the Red Sox and I think he would have been thrilled with the team making an It Gets Better video to support kids," Sam said.

Red Sox senior VP Susan Goodenow said, "Our team stands for respect and inclusion — there is no place for discrimination or acts of hatred in Red Sox Nation."

Cubs owner Laura Ricketts, an out lesbian, not only promised a team video but encouraged other pro sports organizations to produce clips.

The Cubs and Red Sox videos were expected to be released this week. The Giants video, within days of its release, had more than 120,000 views on youtube.com.

Chapin said, "Each of us holds a power to make amazing change, and the only thing that can hold us back is the fear that we can't make a difference. While fear can drive us backward, it is hope that drives us forward. As the legendary visionary Harvey Milk once said, 'You gotta give 'em hope.'"

# Major League Baseball says 'it gets better'

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Earlier this month, when several Major League Baseball teams announced participation in a campaign to combat bullying and support LGBT kids, one major league fan was not surprised.

A decade ago, Chicagoan Bill Gubrud, working as an ad rep for a weekly LGBT newspaper, forged friendships within the friendly confines of Wrigley Field. The Cubs committed to an ad campaign in the gay press, as well as worked with Gubrud on Out at the Ballgame, a gay day in the ballpark.

Gubrud, now a principal at MTM Chicago, has organized the event for the last decade, and is in the midst of preparing for Out at Wrigley, scheduled for July 17, when the Cubs host the Florida Marlins.

WiG recently chatted with Gubrud about Major League support of the LGBT community.

**WiG: You are about a month away from putting on Out at the Ballgame at Wrigley. How has the public reception for this event changed?**

Bill Gubrud: When it first started out in 2001, it was something no one ever expected — 2,000-plus members of the LGBT com-



PHOTO: COURTESY MTM CHICAGO

**Bill Gubrud, founder of Out at the Ballgame/Out at Wrigley in Chicago, with the Cubs' float in the 2010 Chicago Pride Parade. The float featured Cubs owner Laura Ricketts and legendary Cub Ernie Banks. For more information about Out at Wrigley, go to [www.outatwrigley.com](http://www.outatwrigley.com).**

munity at Wrigley Field. It was a little subdued. But in the next two years, people carrying the gay flag through Wrigley Field was a sight to see. I think, as the years have gone on, it has become more of an annual event for people to have fun at as opposed to a political statement. That was the intent of Out at the Ballgame — now Out at Wrigley — to feel

welcome and not to be perceived as different.

**Do you think gay days have influenced how some teams have responded to anti-gay incidents in their parks?**

I honestly and truly do believe that. After Out at the Ballgame at Wrigley happened, gay communities

around the country — Texas Rangers, Minnesota Twins, Atlanta Braves, Boston Red Sox and New York Mets, as well as Toronto — started their own. I was getting calls from different communities asking how I did it and if I had advice for them.

I think that the baseball organizations started valuing and respecting the LGBT fans, and now will not stand

for bigotry against them. Before OATB started, people were not kicked out of Wrigley for saying "fag," "faggot" or making gay jokes at players. Now, you can report it to security and it is treated like any racial slur.

**Now, MLB teams are participating in the It Gets Better campaign. When you started working with the Cubs on Out at the Ballgame, did you think the team would reach this point?**

I dreamed it would and that was the goal from the beginning, for something like this to happen. But actually seeing it is kind of surreal for me. Professional ballplayers actually saying "stop bullying LGBT youth and it will get better" is just, I have no words to describe how I feel.

**Bullying takes place on fields and locker rooms. Do you see the message having much sway with high school athletes or kids playing pick-up games?**

I think both will be influenced. Kids in high school and pick up games emulate pro athletes. When I was a kid, I would always try to imitate Bill Buckner or Ryne Sandberg — they were my sports idols. It hurts when you see a sports figure

like Joakim Noah or Kobe Bryant use homophobic slurs. ... Now we get to hear a reverse message from athletes — it is OK for you to be you and I accept you. Very powerful.

**Do you think you'll see an It Gets Better message from every team before the season wraps?**

Would be nice, but not sure that will happen.

**Would you like to see Out at the Ballgame-type events throughout the league?**

Yes, I would love to see all 30 teams having a gay day. We have an Out at Wrigley committee. ... I think one day in the very near future we would like to help promote a gay day at all ballparks and in all sports.

**Are you interested in helping with the Brewers? Or helping a Milwaukee group get something going?**

Of course, I would very much like to help. No rivalry when it comes to promoting acceptance of the LGBT community in professional sports. Heck, I helped with an out day at a White Sox game. Can't get any bigger rivalry than that. Well, OK, St. Louis I would have to think about. ... Just kidding.

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# INTERNATIONAL GAZE

Got news? Tell us  
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## STUDY: NATIONS BECOMING MORE ACCEPTING OF GAYS

The vast majority of countries have become more accepting of gays, with the exception of Russia and former communist bloc countries, according to a new study.

Compiled by the University of Chicago's National Opinion Research Center, the study examined general trends in attitudes toward homosexuality in more than 30 countries. Five surveys were conducted between 1988 and 2008.

During those years, approval of homosexuality increased in 27 countries and decreased in only four — Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Latvia and Russia. The growth in approval was stronger than the decline.

The study also identified the top five most tolerant countries: the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Switzerland, and Belgium.

The bottom half of the list consisted of seven ex-socialist states, East Asian nations, Latin American countries and Cyprus, South Africa, and Turkey.

In Russia, 59 percent of the population felt that homosexual behavior was wrong in 1991 compared with 64 percent in 2008.



PHOTO: COURTESY  
Pope Benedict XVI

## INTERNATIONAL BRIEFS

### POPE DENOUNCES 'DISINTEGRATION' OF EUROPEAN FAMILY LIFE

Pope Benedict XVI wrapped up his visit to Croatia earlier this month by denouncing the "disintegration" of family life in Europe and calling for couples to make a commitment to marry and have children, not just live together.

Benedict stressed traditional Catholic values, including opposition to abortion, during an open-air Mass attended by about 400,000 people at Zagreb's hippodrome.

While Croatia is nearly 90 percent Catholic, it allows some legal rights for same-sex couples and, thanks to leftover communist-era legislation, permits abortion up to 10 weeks after conception and thereafter with the consent of a special commission of doctors. Elsewhere in Europe, including in Italy, marriages are on the decline as more and more people choose to just live together.

In his homily, Benedict lamented the "increasing disintegration of the family, especially in Europe" and urged young couples to resist "that secularized mentality which proposes living together as a preparation, or even a substitute for marriage."

"Do not be afraid to make a commitment to another person!" he said.

### 150 PEOPLE HOLD GAY PRIDE MARCH IN ROMANIA

About 150 people held a gay Pride march in Romania, hours after a few dozen anti-gay activists held a rally condemning homosexuality.

There were no clashes or incidents during the June 4 march, which was attended by U.S. Ambassador Mark Gitenstein, British Ambassador Martin Harris and Swedish Ambassador Anders Bengtson.

The participants displayed colorful banners calling for sexual diversity and acceptance. Romania decriminalized homosexuality in 2000 under pressure from the European Union and the United States.

But gays say they are still discriminated against in Romania.

Anti-gay activists say they will continue to organize rallies for "normality" for as long as gay parades are held.

### SERBIA'S COURT BANS NEO-NAZI GROUP

Serbia's Constitutional Court has banned a neo-Nazi group as part of the country's attempts to curb

far-right extremists.

The court ruled June 2 that the group known as Nacionalni Stroj, or National Order, was a "secret organization" whose work is contrary to the country's laws.

The decision came three

years after the state prosecutor requested the ban.

Members of the group in 2005 attacked participants of a gathering organized by a liberal group in 2005. The group's leader Goran Davidovic served a year in

prison for the incident.

Authorities have been trying to curb the extremist violence that has been afflicting the country since the end of Balkan wars of the 1990s. Last October, more than 100 people were injured in clashes between extremists and the police securing a gay gathering.

— from AP reports

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# Feds mark Pride month

By Lisa Neff  
Staff writer

The federal government ushered in Pride Month with proclamations, speeches, forums, lunches and awards presentations.

The first federal recognition came on May 31 from the Oval Office, where President Barack Obama issued his annual Pride proclamation. The proclamation began, "The story of America's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community is the story of our fathers and sons, our mothers and daughters, and our friends and neighbors who continue the task of making our country a more perfect union."

Staff in the White House celebrated Pride with the debut of a microsite, [www.whitehouse.gov/lgbt](http://www.whitehouse.gov/lgbt), which touts the administration's efforts to achieve LGBT equality and promises to be "a tool for you to learn

about how President Obama and his team are working to win the future for LGBT Americans."

During a forum June 6-7 at the Washington Court Hotel, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius praised LGBT youth who made "the extraordinary choice to become advocates and leaders at such a young age," and Education Secretary Arne Duncan committed to promoting equal opportunities in public schools.

Meanwhile, Labor Secretary Hilda L. Solis was attending a Pink and Purple Awards Brunch at D.C.'s Mayflower Hotel hosted by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

The organization presented Solis with a "pink and purple" prize, and she returned the praise, introduced "team DOL," thanked the task force for its support on a range of social justice issues and urged passage of the DREAM

Act.

Solis, referring to the United Farm Workers motto, concluded, "I'll leave you with three little words that inspired one of the greatest social movements in our history and that continue to inspire me every day: Si se puede! Yes we can!"

At the Justice Department, associate Attorney General Tom Perrelli presided over a Pride celebration that featured a speech by former Solicitor General Ted Olson, now one of the lead attorneys seeking to overturn California's anti-gay Proposition 8.

Perrelli noted changes since Pride 2010, including the passage of a bill to repeal "don't ask, don't tell" and Justice's decision not to defend elements of the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act in court.

"As we gather today to celebrate what has happened over the last year - not just



Screen capture from [www.whitehouse.gov/lgbt](http://www.whitehouse.gov/lgbt)

in the armed services and the federal government, but in the hearts and minds of the entire nation - we are mindful of the work that remains

to be done before the promise of equality can be fully realized," he said.

"As individual citizens, as a department and as a country,

we cannot afford ever to be content with the status quo when it comes to safeguarding the civil rights of all Americans."

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# Everything's coming up roses for local grower

By Michael Muckian  
Contributing writer

When Milwaukee native William Radler was a boy in the late 1940s, he was expected to be seen and not heard. That gave the youngster little to do when visiting grandparents other than page through their rose catalogues, marvel at the colorful photos and hope someday he could grow something equally as beautiful.

Radler's interest in roses became his obsession and an avocation that eventually blossomed into a vocation. The Garden Club of America has awarded Radler, now 68 and a resident of Greenfield, its prestigious Jane Righter Rose Medal honoring a lifetime of outstanding achievement in rose culture.

The honor, bestowed April 30 at the Garden Club's conference in Indianapolis, was another in a series of awards for Radler that began with the Knock Out, a hybrid he first developed in 1988 but that was not introduced to the public until 2000. The Knock Out has since gone on to become the best-selling rose of all time, with more than 7 million plants sold annually, by Radler's estimation.

"I'm a plant geek," said Radler, who came out at the age of 22. "And I think I have an addictive personality, especially when it comes to roses."

Radler bought his first rose at age 9 at a local A&P food store for 49 cents. It was part of the Floribunda hybrid known as Vogue, something the rosarian (as rose growers are called) today finds amusing.

"The first bud exploded into the most gorgeous thing that I had ever seen. And, it was fragrant!" Radler said "Before long, I had to have more plants to experience the multitude of colors, sizes and forms and the wealth of perfume fragrances that my grandparents' catalogs had promised."

By age 16, he had filled his

parents' backyard with 150 different roses and was a member of the North Shore Rose Society. That's when he noticed the toll that rose gardening was taking on his older neighbors. Many of them had to cut back on their cultivation because they couldn't keep up with the rigors and demands of their roses.

In response, Radler set out to create a rose that was hardy enough to withstand Wisconsin winters and could grow largely maintenance-free.

"Initially my motive was selfish," he said. "I wanted to breed the maintenance out of roses so I wouldn't have to cut back as the years passed."

Radler began cross-pollinating different varieties of rose seeds found in the plants' hips, using pollen from the male part of one rose to fertilize the female part of another rose. Desirable characteristics such as heartiness and disease-resistance from one rose were blended with other desirable characteristics, such as fragrance and physical beauty, from another variety.

It was during those experiments that the Knock Out was born in the basement lab of his home in Greenfield, where he had a two-acre rose garden.

"I had a neighbor who always complained about how the yard looked - its maintenance and so forth," Radler says. "One day she pointed to a rose and said, 'If you could make them all look like that, you'd really have something.' And she was right."

The rose the neighbor pointed to was Knock Out, a variety that draws its heartiness from the Applejack, Carefree Beauty and Eddie's Crimson roses and its color and form from the Fabrege, Tampico, Playboy and other varieties. Radler worked with Conard-Pyle/Star Roses, a wholesaler and developer in West Grove, Penn., to develop and bring the rose to market. The Knock Out received

the prestigious All American Rose Selection Award the year of its introduction. Conard-Pyle is the exclusive distributor of Knock Out, and Radler has received regular royalty checks on the sale of each plant since its introduction in 2000.

Radler, who received a degree in landscape architecture from UW-Madison, worked for the Milwaukee County Park System and as garden director for the Boerner Botanical Gardens from 1981 until his retirement in 1994. As the head of Rose Innovations LLC, which he operates out of his home and his two-acre garden of 1,500 different types of roses, Radler continues to experiment with hybrids.

In addition to Knock Out, he's developed the Carefree Sunshine, Carefree Celebration, Winner's Circle, Rambling Red, Can Can and a host of other roses. He was commissioned by Midwest Living Magazine to create the Midwest Living Rose and Stark Brother's Nurseries and Orchards Co. to create the Stark Pink Lady. Nothing has yet approached the appeal and success of Knock Out.

The name of his most successful rose makes Radler laugh.

"The first name Conard-Pyle wanted to give it was Razzleberry, which was based on something someone there read in a children's book," he said. "Fortunately, another company had developed another plant by that name and wouldn't give it up."

Then the company came up with Knock Out, a name that Radler loved. However, the company spelled it wrong.

"This isn't 'knockout' like some beautiful person, this is 'knock out' like what happens in the boxing ring," he said. "Isn't that just like me? I hate sports."

Despite the error, everything is still coming up roses for Radler.



Bill Radler tends his award-winning Knock Out rose.

PHOTO: COURTESY

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## Wisconsin's PFLAG chapters thrive amid adversity

By Peggy Schulz

Contributing writer

The Madison chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays was told that its members could march in a May 14 parade in Stoughton — but only if they removed the words “lesbian” and “gay” from their banner.

Karen Baker, PFLAG Madison chapter president, said the board organizing Stoughton's annual Syttende Mai parade was concerned there would be something inappropriate or outwardly political on the group's float that might cause kids along the parade route to ask questions. So members of the PFLAG chapter used a bright rainbow patch to cover the words “lesbian” and “gay” on the sign they carried.

But the Madison PFLAG group was able to turn the situation into a positive experience. The group invited a newly-formed Gay Straight

Alliance from Stoughton High School to march with them, and the negotiating that had to be done ahead of the parade was a good lesson for the youth. It introduced them to the art of working with people who can't deal with their openness.

Despite — or perhaps even as a result of — such challenges, the PFLAG organization is growing in the state. Wisconsin is home to 14 chapters, including three that have formed since 2008.

“Things definitely are more difficult in a smaller town,” says Joanne Vogt, founder and president of the three-year-old PFLAG Sauk Chapter. “I know people with a family member who is gay and they never, ever talk about it.”

Vogt went on a Pride march about 10 years ago and met other involved parents. She also talked to her gay son about what she could do to improve the situation

for young people in her town facing the kind of harassment he endured in high school.

News about the Sauk chapter is getting around. Recently, a new family showed up at some meetings, including a mother, grandmother and the grandmother's sister. In all, they have five gay children.

“It was so wonderful to have them come,” Vogt says. “They told us their stories, they cried, and we cried with them.”

“By far, the biggest thing we see with the people who come to the PFLAG meetings, and the people who just show up for the first time, looking for answers, is their need for someplace to turn,” says Joe Wiedenmeier, president of the PFLAG chapter in Oshkosh. “They have a child, somebody close in the family, who has just come out to them, and they're looking for support and information.”

Wiedenmeier got the Oshkosh PFLAG chapter going just over three years ago, after working through an existing group at his church called SOFA — Students of Oshkosh For Acceptance. Several members of that group realized they not only needed to provide places for the kids to go, but also that there were plenty of parents who needed support, too.

**‘It was so wonderful to have them come. They told us their stories, they cried, and we cried with them.’**

Wiedenmeier has worked to connect with other organizations in the Fox Valley, including suicide prevention and counseling groups, other youth groups, the GSAs and larger PFLAG chapters.

“We try to be a resource for someone who walks through the door,” he says. Whether it's a question of a family accepting their son or daughter's sexuality or dealing with bullying at school, the PFLAG group knows how important it is to address whatever issues are brought to them.”

The Stevens Point chapter, like the one in Sauk County, is a small group, with 5-10 members attending every month. “Sometimes there are

more,” Goetz says, “but then we have people who come in and out, new people who need support for a meeting or two, then come back for a while.” She says UW-Stevens Point GSA and the local GSA are fairly active, with 70-100 people attending a recent movie screening.

Goetz and her husband have gone beyond the PFLAG chapter to work directly in local schools, doing “safe school” training. “We work with staff on harassment — that's where my passion lies right now,” she says. “Schools are a firestorm, they can be such horrendous places. It doesn't have to be like that.”

Goetz went into the Wisconsin Rapids school district this past spring and conducted two in-service trainings for staff, addressing harassment and LGBT issues.

Goetz takes a fairly broad perspective of the challenges faced by PFLAG chapters. Although aware of the Stoughton incident and the situation in West Bend — where students recently won the right to have their GSA group be an official school club after filing a lawsuit in federal court — she remains optimistic.

“I think for me it's just really being conscious about equality,” she says. “For me, I think this is definitely our place in time, that we can make a statement for equality, similar to the equal rights movement of the '60s and '70s. This is our time.”

“I think for me it's just really being conscious about equality,” she says. “For me, I think this is definitely our place in time, that we can make a statement for equality, similar to the equal rights movement of the '60s and '70s. This is our time.”

“Sometimes there are

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### Moments of PRIDE

Despite bad weather on opening night, a total of 26,112 people attended PrideFest Milwaukee 2011, held June 10-12. Although the number was shy of last year's record tally of 30,829, organizers were happy with their 24th event.

"You know, it's hard to be upset, when you see so many people having such a great time. Rain or shine, we are grateful to a community that comes out in support of diversity and celebration," said PrideFest president Scott Gunkel.

The weekend got off to a rousing, if rainy, start with an announcement by Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele that he would work with the County Board to extend employment benefits to the partners of county workers.

The opening evening's headliner was Academy Award-winning entertainer Mo'Nique, who gave an inspirational performance during which she talked about buying dresses for one of her 5-year-old twin sons who requested "something pretty to wear."

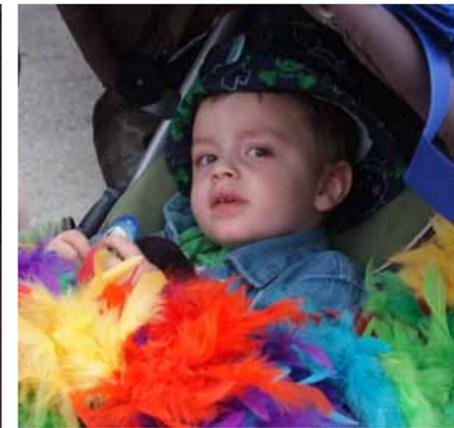
Rap act Salt-N-Pepa headlined Saturday night, and Sunday night featured the festival's first-ever country music headliners. Chely Wright, the first country music entertainer to come out publicly as a lesbian, opened for LeAnn Rimes.

Rimes told the crowd she was honored that PrideFest Milwaukee had chosen her for its first country outing. Expressing love and gratitude to the crowd, she said, "We all have hearts. We should be able to love who we want to love."

Rounding out the weekend, the Milwaukee Pride Parade traveled a route along 2nd Street Sunday afternoon. More than 50 floats participated.

- LW.

PHOTOS BY DAWN BLOOMFIELD & KATE SHERRY





A Spirit of Love

Interview

GREGG SHAPIRO

By Gregg Shapiro

Staff writer

"Undertow/Contracorriente," the feature film debut by gay writer/director Javier Fuentes-Leon, is a deeply moving romantic love story with a ghost-story twist that stirs up an ocean of emotions.

Fisherman Miguel (Cristian Mercado) and his wife Mariela (Tatiana Astengo) are anticipating the birth of their first child. A well-respected man in his village, Miguel also is carrying on a romantic relationship with gay artist Santiago (Manolo Cardona). Macho Miguel is unable to choose one over the other. But when Santiago dies and reappears as a ghost only Miguel can see, it has an unexpected impact on his life.

I spoke with Fuentes-Leon shortly before his film was released on Blu-ray and DVD.

Gregg Shapiro: Before "Undertow," you made a couple of short films. What was it about "Undertow" that made you want to turn it into your feature length debut?

Javier Fuentes-Leon: The seed for "Undertow" comes from an exercise in class when I was studying film at Cal Arts here in L.A. I was taking a screenwriting class and they told us to write

a scene. And they gave us a few conditions, like no more than three characters, one location and try to create conflict between them. And I wrote a scene right there in class which, with a few changes, is pretty much the scene in the kitchen where the fisherman walks in and finds the lover and starts to freak out. And the wife wakes up and then he realizes that she cannot see him (the lover).

It stayed with me, and based on that I wrote a play called "Mariela's Kitchen," because it all took place in the kitchen. Then it was in 2001 that I thought the

story could be more and could become a feature film. Now the main difference from all the previous versions was that, in the meantime, I was in my own process of coming out. So previously the love triangle had been between a fisherman, his wife, and the prostitute of the town who was another woman.

How much of Javier is in Santiago and Miguel?

I think there's a lot. This is definitely not an autobiographical story. I am from Peru, but I'm from the city Lima, which is right next to

the ocean. So I grew up with the ocean close to me, but I was never a fisherman. I never had somebody that I was in love with, so it's not my story at all. But I definitely relate a lot to the fear and the journey of Miguel. The fear of accepting himself, of looking at himself in the mirror and saying, "You are gay. I am gay." And also, the fear of being found out by other people. I was also raised in a Catholic environment. I went to a Catholic school, a Catholic family. I think that everywhere, but especially in America, religion has definitely shaped our views of

sexuality — and not only homosexuality, but sexuality in general.

There's also this really subtle humor in the movie, especially in some of the scenes between Santiago and Miguel.

Yeah, and I'm glad that it came through. When you read the script some people said, "Wow, this is heavy." It is heavy, it's melodramatic, the emotions are intense. I feel that it needed some balance, some sense of humor. And that's why I wrote scenes like the poker scene. By having a ghost you have

the potential to create some funny moments.

There's sort of this strong sense of homophobia of the people in the village. Do you think that a movie such as "Undertow" has the power to change people's perspective on the subject of gay life?

I would hope so. I think it's touched people, some much more than others. And we've had some people come to us and say, "I would never have come to see this movie but my girlfriend dragged me and you had me crying." I think out of the 44 awards that we've had for this film, half have come from audiences. And not only audiences in gay film festivals. Whether it was Sundance or Cartagena or Miami or Utrecht in the Netherlands, it's been received by all kinds of audiences, which is great. So I think people have been surprised to connect to a love story between these two men and also of the fisherman and his wife. Because for me it's really a love triangle, it's not just a love story between two men. But in all honesty, what really is going to make a change, it's not film. It's got to be people coming out, and people around them having to deal with the fact that now they have somebody who they love that is telling them, "I am gay and I am happy being gay." Film can help, art can help, but it's people coming out that will make the change.

Gay director's first feature builds bridges over troubled waters

# EAST MEETS MIDWEST AT MAM

By Debra Brehmer

Contributing writer

The summer of China has arrived at the Milwaukee Art Museum.

After much hype as well as some controversy regarding whether MAM should respond to the imprisonment of China's leading contemporary artist Ai Weiwei, the doors have opened to five stunning exhibitions.

The objects in these exhibitions are perhaps powerful enough to carry us, at least momentarily, away from worldly concerns, as we try to digest "differences" between Eastern and Western modes of thought. It is through this object sense of history that we most fully enter another consciousness.

The central exhibition, which originated at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Mass., and traveled to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, is "The Emperor's Private Paradise: Treasures from the Forbidden City." Milwaukee is the third and last stop.

The Forbidden City (in Beijing) was like Louis XIV's Palace of Versailles. It was the home and political center of the Chinese emperors for nearly 500 years. The first 980 buildings on the site were erected by 1420, and by the time the last leader abdicated in 1925, 24 emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties had called it home.

Parts of the Forbidden City were turned into a museum after it fell into disuse in 1925. Lacking the funds or interest to preserve them, other sections, including the Qianlong Garden, were simply sealed off.

In 1996, the World

Monuments Fund identified the long-abandoned Qianlong Garden as a conservation project. Restoration began in 2001 and will be completed in 2019, when the garden will open to the public.

Qianlong (pronounced Chee-en lohng) reigned during the 18th century (1736-1795). He was a contemporary of George Washington. At age 61, he decided to build a retirement complex called a Ningshougong or Garden of Tranquility and Longevity. He reasoned that a place of beauty and quietude would relieve the stress of ruling the largest, most powerful nation in the world.

While Confucianism outlines

military rigor and conformism, Daoism and Buddhism call for non-doing and the return to nature as a means of purification. Herein lies the spirit of Qianlong's garden.

Qianlong used a two-acre site in the northeast corner of the 180-acre Forbidden City to fashion his imperial earthly paradise. Curving paths lined with ancient trees and rock gardens lead through four sections containing 27 small, poetically named buildings: "Hall of Fulfilling Original Wishes," "Terrace for Collecting Morning Dew," "Studio of Self Restraint," "Building of Extending Delight," and "Supreme Chamber of

Cultivating Harmony."

The first room of the exhibition hosts two large portraits of the emperor painted on silk. To the left, Qianlong sits in a throne in imperial yellow robes. An aged, wizened face carries the weight of a 60-year reign. We sense his need for a walk in the garden.

On the opposite wall is a fresh face. A New Year's domestic scene shows a younger Qianlong surrounded by frolicking children or heirs to the throne. These two portraits set up a nice dichotomy that plays out formally in the art as well: Control (enthroned absolute monarch) versus nature

(emperor on porch, kids running amuck).

Qianlong was an erudite, scholarly ruler and devout Buddhist. He wrote 40,000 poems. His interest in worldly goods and foreign inventions was fed by traveling Jesuits, as evidenced in the exhibition by ornate clocks, glass and illusionistic European painting techniques.

Amid this splendor, ironically, a large natural rock presented on a pedestal dominates the show. Its un-tooled earthiness and sculptural shape represents a profound reverence for nature.

The magnificence of natural forms held the same aesthetic weight as miles of

inlaid jade and carved Zitan. Mountains were considered sacred places and the literati collected rocks. The more protuberances and voids the better as to imagine a tiny human dwarfed by the craggy forms. The scholar's throne in this room is likewise made from many assembled, twisted tree roots, representing another harmonious union of man and nature, each allowed to speak his own name.

Throughout the exhibition the intertwining of nature, spirituality and political power takes many forms. Each object seems to work out its own visual and symbolic accord between absolute imperial control (wealth and power) and the humbling sovereignty of the natural world (beauty and mystery). It's a fascinating design exchange between zhuo (the awkward) and mei (prettiness or power).

A 16-panel wood-and-lacquer screen presented as a gift to the emperor offers another royal reverie on the theme. One side contains marvelously detailed plants painted with gold and silver. The other side holds inlaid white jade images of 16 enlightened disciples of Buddha, called Luohans. These old men are hunched and ugly, suggesting the unimportance of external appearances.

We can easily relate to this show, even though it feels like a different language. With our cottages in Northern Wisconsin we seek similar solace, to flee the "worldly noise," as Qianlong called it. The need to renew one's soul within the natural world is a universal drive that Qianlong had the means to realize without restraint.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Screen panel of Zitan, lacquer, jade and gold paint.

Artwatch  
KAT MURRELL

The current exhibition at the UWV Department of Art History offers a unique opportunity to peruse Pablo Picasso close to

home. Curated by master's degree candidate Daniela Martinez, this selection of pieces is drawn primarily from the department's holdings. Martinez opens some interesting ground in her catalog essay, interpreting the owl in Picasso's work as symbolic of the postwar United States. But for the casual viewer, the

greatest interest might lie in the elegance of Picasso's lines, visible in the variety of etchings and other prints. Works span a good portion of his career, from an early and haunting "Les Pauvres" of 1905 to frolicsome nudes of the 1950s and '60s. The exhibition at Mitchell Hall, Room 154, 3203 N. Downer Ave., is

open to the public through June 24. But call ahead - 414-229-4330 - to make sure the doors are open.

UWM also is represented in the current art scene with the exhibition "Strange Vegetation," now on view at the Villa Terrace Decorative Arts Museum, 2220 N. Terrace Ave. Yevgeniya Kaganovich,

in collaboration with fellow UWM art and design faculty member Nathaniel Stern, has created an installation of translucent and surreal plant forms. The oversized latex organisms grow and evolve, responding to changing temperature and light conditions. They exist in the present, but past references abound

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# APT conjures Noel Coward's 'Blithe Spirit'

## Theater

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

When asked late in his career why he refused to acknowledge he was gay, Noel Coward is reported to have replied, "Because there are two old ladies in Worthing who don't know, and I'd like to keep it that way."

Coward, who died in 1973, had a long list of male lovers. But the legendary showman, actor, singer and raconteur only rarely allowed gay themes to creep into his work.

Coward brought his protean talents to bear often, but in few works more effectively than "Blithe Spirit," which opens Up the Hill at American Players Theatre's outdoor amphitheater on June 18. The black comedy about marriages on the skids was written in 1941, when some critics say Coward was at the height of his powers.

Director David Frank, also APT's producing artistic director, says it was Coward's



PHOTO: ZANE WILLIAMS

Paula Hubman Daniel, David Daniel, Susan Sweeney, Colleen Madden and Jim DeVita appear in APT's "Blithe Spirit."

insight into the human condition that made "Blithe Spirit" such a success. The play put a new face on the traditional British drawing room comedy — the result of Coward's time spent in America.

Asked why he chose "Blithe Spirit" to open the season at APT, Frank doesn't

hesitate. "Because it's a really funny play and we had a cast made in heaven," he replied. "That made it an irresistible temptation and we succumbed."

The story, which takes its title from a line in Percy Bysshe Shelley's poem "To A Skylark," involves novel-

ist and socialite Charles Condomine (James DeVita), who is in search of material for his next book. He invites the eccentric clairvoyant Madame Arcati (APT vocal and text coach Susan Sweeney) to his house to conduct a séance as a possible source for new material.

However, the séance backfires when Madame Arcati conjures the spirit of Condomine's annoying, temperamental first wife Elvira (Milwaukee Repertory Theatre's Deborah Staples), who decides to stay. She plagues Condomine, the only person who can see her, and annoys to no end the novelist's current wife Ruth (Colleen Madden). The denouement is Coward at his wryest, most acidic best.

There is a bit of dry wit in the casting, Franks said. Staples started as an APT intern in 1991, became a company member from 1997 to 2001, then left for Milwaukee just at the time that Madden was emerging as a major actor with APT. Both Staples and Madden have appeared with DeVita, so having the former leading lady return is a lot like what happens in the play, Frank explained.

The production is APT's second outing with a Coward play. The company performed "Hay Fever" in 2009.

"Blithe Spirit" reflects the

fast-paced, tough style of American theater Coward experienced when he was in the states during the 1920s. He applied that style to upper-class British society with great effect, according to Frank.

"When it really takes off the play has a ferociously crackling pace," he said. "Coward understands the rhythm of speech and he has his own rhetoric. His demands are far narrower than those of the Shakespeare plays we put on, but he has his own distinct voice."

That voice and its droll humor have made "Blithe Spirit" a perennial success and, for Frank, a delight to direct.

### ON STAGE

Noel Coward's "Blithe Spirit" on June 18 opens Up the Hill at American Players Theatre's outdoor amphitheater. Go to [www.americanplayers.org](http://www.americanplayers.org).

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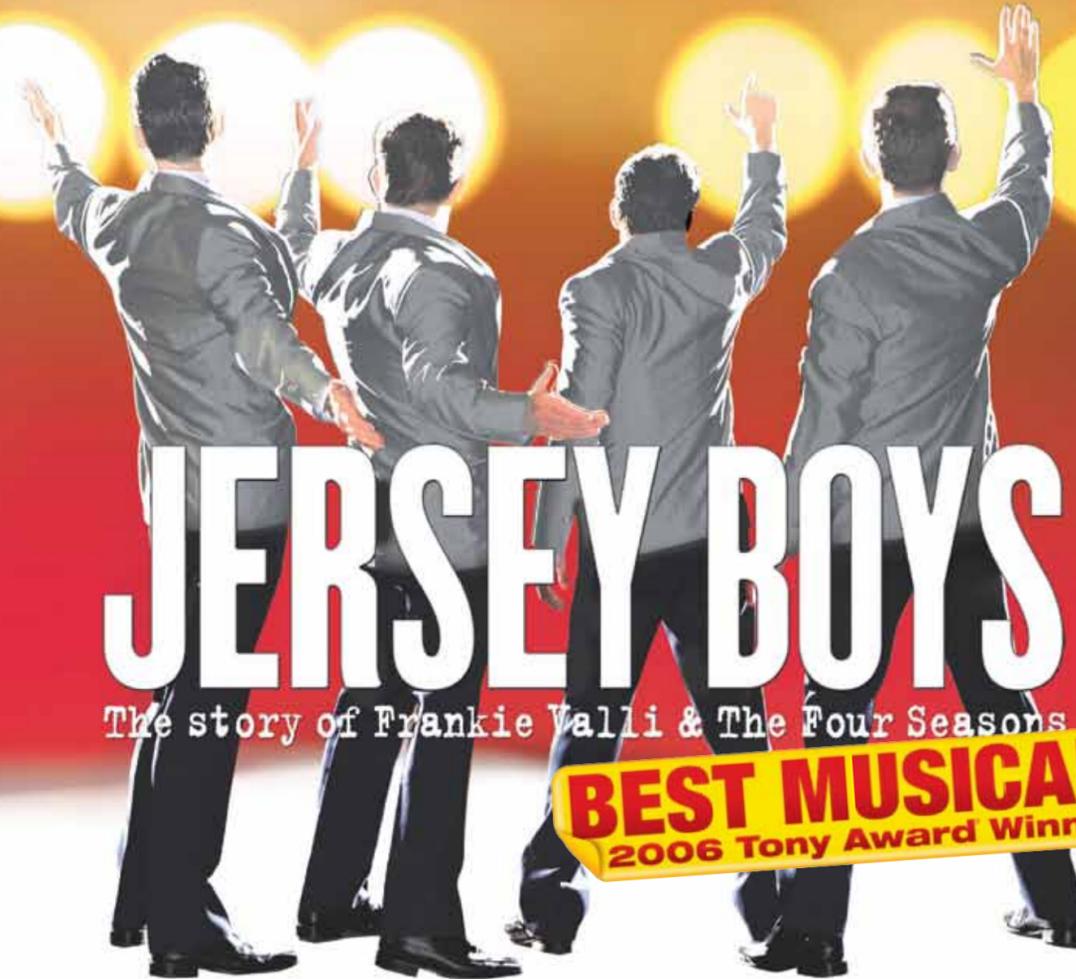
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# 'Glass Menagerie' opens APT's Touchstone

## Theater

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

Tennessee Williams' "The Glass Menagerie" is considered to be the iconic gay American playwright's most autobiographical work. The drama of the Wingfield family and its dashed dreams, crystallized in a collection of small glass animals, opens American Players Theatre's summer season at Touchstone, the intimate 201-seat indoor theater on the company's Spring Green campus.

"The Glass Menagerie" is only APT's second foray into Williams' work. "The Night of the Iguana" was performed Up the Hill at APT's outdoor amphitheater in 2007. But "Menagerie" marks a step forward for the company both in terms of intimacy and in exploring some of Williams' most poignant themes, according to director Aaron Posner.

"This is one of Tennessee Williams' great works and unquestionably a seminal work of American dramatic literature," Posner said. "I think of the play as emotionally autobiographical, in the sense that it was inspired by real people in his life and speaks a great deal to how life feels to him, even though the events are not the 'real' events of his life."

Premiered in Chicago in 1944, "Menagerie" is introduced as a memory play by the character of Tom Wingfield (Darragh Kennan), who represents the playwright (whose real name was Thomas) as a younger man. Tom recalls his life in a cheap St. Louis apartment with his mother Amanda Wingfield (Sarah Day), a former Southern belle abandoned by her husband, and his sister Laura (Susan Shunk), who suffers from a disability. The three scrape by financially and emotionally, all of them living lives of extreme disappointment.

Amanda yearns for all that she has lost, not only for herself but for a daughter whose

### ON STAGE

"The Glass Menagerie" runs June 21-Oct. 15 at American Players Theatre's Touchstone Theatre in Spring Green. Go to [www.americanplayers.org](http://www.americanplayers.org).

world centers on a collection of miniature glass animals. Amanda is determined to find a suitor for Laura, and when Tom brings coworker Jim O'Connor (Marcus Truschinski) home for dinner, she has great hopes. But some things are simply not meant to be, and subsequent actions lead to the dissolution of what little family there was to begin with.

"Williams was remembering something that occurred during the Great Depression," said Day, who plays Amanda. "We've all had different expectations during our youth than what our lives turned out to be, and this speaks to anyone who has survived economic tough times or whose life didn't go as anticipated."

From a literary standpoint, "The Glass Menagerie" is a play about broken promises and disappointed expectations, and scholars note themes that range from the failure of capitalism to the failure of families and even fathers, who leave their loved ones in dire emotional and economic straights. As a play about families in general, and Williams' family in particular, the narrative may strike some as being close to home.

"I think when you are dealing with family, you always see yourself in multiple characters, since that is the reality of a family," Posner said. "We tend to be so intertwined with our families, particularly a complex and troubled family like the Wingfields - that it is often hard to say exactly where one ends and another begins."

The family component has always operated centrally to "The Glass Menagerie," which developed almost concurrently as a screenplay

for Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, which had Williams under contract at the time. The play, reworked from Williams' short story "Portrait of a Girl in Glass," opened to critical acclaim in Chicago, going on the next year to win the New York Drama Critics Circle Award.

The most famous anecdote about the play concerns the night Williams' mother Edwina Williams saw the play and refused to acknowledge any connection to the character of Amanda, which the

playwright had based on her. Despite his mother's denial, the Wingfield family helped establish Williams as a major playwright and continues to be a source of autobiographical angst for those who experience it.

"Whenever you put family members on stage together you have something special," Day said. "For all the hardship and hurt, there is still an undercurrent of love. I hope that audience members walk away better appreciating their own families."

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# DVDiva

GREGG SHAPIRO

## 'THE KIDS IN THE HALL: THE COMPLETE SERIES'

Breaking ground in ways that "Saturday Night Live" never dared, "The Kids in the Hall" not only had male stars playing female characters, but also put them in situations involving physical contact and kissing. While the gay humor was self-deprecating on occasion, it was never homophobic. That's especially remarkable considering that the time period when they were working (1988-1995) included the height of AIDS hysteria in the entertainment industry.

Well-executed queer skits included the "Running Faggot" song, openly gay member Scott Thompson's riff on the word "faggot," the caped queen who prevents a gay bashing, the outing of Broadway actor Jerry, closeted TV star Tony picking up a hustler, the "Liza's Party" movie, a couple of same-sex marriage bits and



PHOTO: COURTESY

### The Kids in the Hall

Thompson's "gay home alone outfit."

The Kids' creations included 30 Helens, Mark McKinney's head crusher and Chicken Lady, Thompson's and Bruce McCullough's secretaries Cathy and Kathie, David Foley's blundering doc-

tor and McCullough's singing sensation Tammy (whose "I'm Not Gonna Spread For No Roses" music vid is wicked funny). But few characters were more memorable than Thompson's Buddy, a swishy but tough, campy and clever barfly-turned-bar-

owner who counted Queen Elizabeth among his close friends. Thompson was also one-third of the "Steps" trio, which featured three gay friends – Butch (Thompson), Smitty (Kevin McDonald) and Riley (Foley) – observing and commenting on gay culture.

In addition to material from all five seasons, "The Kids in the Hall: The Complete Series" box set also includes one bonus DVD

for each season. There's also the 2010 "Kids In the Hall" mini-series "Death Comes To Town," a comedic murder mystery about the death of the mayor of Shucktown following the failure of the town to get to host the 2028 Olympics.

### 'DROP DEAD DIVA'

Not your average legal comedy/drama, Lifetime's "Drop Dead Diva" begins

with a twisted concept and struts down the runway with it. Working from the "life is funnier the second time around" premise, the series centers around full-figured lawyer Jane (Brooke Elliott), whose body is taken over by the spirit of dead, shallow and self-centered model Deb (Brooke D'Orsay). Deb just happened to be dating law office stud Grayson (Jackson Hurst), so poor Jane has to see him every day, but can't reveal who she is. Jane's kept in check by guardian angel Fred (Ben Feldman) and BFF Stacy (April Bowlby). She also has an efficient assistant, Teri (Margaret Cho), to make her look good at work.

The third season launches in June 2011 and you can catch up on what you may have missed in season two with the three-DVD, 13-episode "Drop Dead Diva: The Complete Second Season" (Sony Pictures Home Entertainment). The show is chock full of special guest appearances – the second episode alone featured Veronica Cartwright, Chad Lowe and Ricki Lake. The "Queen of Mean" episode not only starred Cybil Shepherd as ferocious fashion designer Ellie Tanner, but also included a court case involving a transgender widow.

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PHOTO: COURTESY "Drop Dead Diva"

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# Sounds from the Second City

## Music

GREGG SHAPIRO

### RALPH COVERT & THE BAD EXAMPLES

Before becoming a musical savior to a generation of hip moms and their kids under the Ralph's World moniker, Ralph Covert rocked the city and suburbs as a member of The Bad Examples. "Smash Record" (Waterdog), the first new Bad Examples studio album in more than a decade, is sure to make a lot of people happy. The album has plenty to offer the band's devoted following, including smashing tracks such as "Kill Amanda," "You Don't Understand Me," "Your Ex-Girlfriend," "Your Problem Now" and "Gets All Messy."

### RISE AGAINST

John Steinbeck-quoting, politically minded hardcore punk revivalists Rise Against



continue to make message music for disenfranchised suburban kids on "Endgame" (DGC). The track "Make It Stop (September's Children)" finds them following in the footsteps of fellow hard rockers Thursday and taking a stand against homophobia. Said to be inspired by the tragic events surrounding the suicide of gay Rutgers student Tyler Clementi, the song closes with a reading of victims' names, including 17-year-old Cody J. Barker of Shiocton, Wis. Kudos to the

band for this song. Perhaps it will inspire other bands to do the same and work to change the hearts of their less gay-friendly followers.

### LEE DEWYZE

Does "American Idol" champ Lee DeWyze want to be a bland, second-rate John Mayer? Because that's pretty much what he sounds like on "Live It Up" (19/RCA), his post-*AI*-win, major-label debut. It's ironic that a disc this lifeless should be titled "Live It Up." If ever there



was an argument for the end of that ridiculous TV competition show, it's this unfortunate recording and its songwriting-by-committee compositions. Dewyze's "Live It Up" shows what happens when you let the Fox-watching American public decide who gets a recording contract.

### JENNIFER HUDSON

Luckily for Jennifer Hudson, she never won "American Idol." She has to console herself with an Oscar, a Golden Globe, a Grammy and various other awards. Even better, she returns with "I Remember Me" (Arista), a second album that practically puts her debut disc to shame with its combination of better material and Hudson's continuing maturation as a performer. Opening tracks "No One Gonna Love You" and "I Got This" do a good job of setting the tone, which radiates confidence. Modern R&B artists Alicia Keys and R. Kelly contribute the songs "Angel" and "Where You At," which Hudson inhabits fully and fabulously. Two more Keys' compositions, "Everybody Needs Love" and "Don't Look Down" are the kind of dance tracks that guarantee Hudson will fill dance-floors in gay clubs throughout the summer. Hudson's reading of Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley's "Feeling Good," familiar to many from her *Weight Watchers* spots, is heard in its entirety and does Nina Simone proud. With "I Remember Me," Jennifer Hudson is at her most unforgettable.

### L'ALTRA

Exemplifying the artier side of Chicago's music



PHOTOS: COURTESY  
Above, from left: Rise Against, Ralph Covert & The Bad Examples and Jennifer Hudson.

Lee DeWyze (right) plays Turner Hall in Milwaukee on June 24.



scene, post-rock act L'Altra makes beautiful and complex music on "Telepathic" (Acuarela). That's not meant to scare listeners away, because songs such as "Nothing Can Tear It Apart," "Big Air Kiss," "When the Ship Sinks Make It Sing" and the title number are accessible and enjoyable.

### GOLD MOTEL

"Summer House" (goldmotel.com) is a good name for the sunny yet stormy debut disc by Gold Motel. The 10 songs play like the musical equivalent of Chicago's unpredictable (and all too brief) summer season. Standout tracks include the

title cut, "Perfect in My Mind," "Stealing the Moonlight" and the wonderful "Make Me Stay."

### THE 1900S

It wouldn't be surprising to learn that Gold Motel considers their fellow Chicagoans, the multi-member, mixed-gender group The 1900s, to be an influence. And they could do worse. "Return of the Century" (Parasol), The 1900s' delicious second full-length CD, is a joy to hear, a near-perfect pop record with songs that get better with every listen. That is especially true of "Lay a Ghost," "Tucson," "Babies" and "Amulet."

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# Overture's 2011-12 season brings a diversity of entertainment to Madison

By Michael Muckian  
Contributing writer

From blue men to gay men, from Streisand impersonations and Sedaka tributes to "Billy Elliot" and "Beauty and the Beast," Madison's Overture Center for Arts has set its 2011-12 season at sizzle, with a wealth of both mainstream and out-of-the-box entertainment options. After several light seasons due to a soft economy, Overture Hall, The Capitol Theater and The Playhouse will once again sing, dance and just get silly again.

"This season has been booked with an eye toward both artistic diversity and affordability," says Tom Carto, Overture Center's CEO. "We worked hard to keep ticket prices reasonable, and the addition of our new 'Out of the Box' series allowed us to bring in intriguing artists who don't fit into other categories."

The series includes "Simply Barbra," Overture's first drag show, featuring Steven Brinberg as Streisand. Faux Barbra takes the Capitol Theater stage on March 30. Also on the bill are The Intergalactic Nemesis (Nov. 3), defined as a live-action graphic novel, NPR storyteller Ira Glass (Feb. 18) and Luma (April 15), a light show that got its start on Madison's east side.

Out author and personality David Sedaris returns to Madison on Oct. 28 for an evening of wry and catty observations. Milwaukee's favorite gay son John McGivern brings his one-man show "The Wonderbread Years" to the Overture on Jan. 28.

The comedy continues with Chicago's Second City (March 24), actor Frank Ferrante in "The Groucho Years" (April 21) and "Whose Live Anyway" (May 19), the stage version of the popular improv TV show "Whose Line is It Anyway?"

Overture's Broadway season gets underway on Sept. 21 with a 12-day run of "Billy Elliot the Musical," the musical about a young Irish boy who'd rather dance than box. Following on Billy's heels is

## ON STAGE

For more information, go to [www.overturecenter.com](http://www.overturecenter.com).

Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" (Dec. 6-11), Blue Man Group (Jan. 24-29), "Fiddler on the Roof" (Feb. 24-26) and "Cats" (March 16-19).

The Broadway season closes with "The Addams Family" (May 1-6), which makes a stop in Madison on its first national tour.

Broadway spills over into the Overture's Celebrity Series when Tony Award winner Idina Menzel lends her vocal talents on Nov. 15. Legendary jazz keyboard player Herbie Hancock performs on March 15 and world-renowned violinist Itzhak Perlman joins the series on April 19.

Dancing kicks off at the Overture with Slovenia's Ballet Maribor performance of "Radio and Juliet" on Oct. 25. The performance is a

unique retelling of the star-crossed lovers' tale set to the music of Radiohead.

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago returns by popular demand on Feb. 3, as does Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater on March 27, in its first season under new artistic director Robert Battle.

Overture's increasingly popular Cabaret series expands with three rather than two performances next season. Female jazz vocalist Spider Saloff, known for her Cole Porter interpretations, opens the season on Nov. 10. The Sedaka Show, performer Jim Van Slyke's tribute to Neil Sedaka, arrives Feb. 9. The season closes on May 3 with "Chanteur," Lee Lessack's French-inspired performance that delivers what Billboard magazine called "cabaret romanticism of a high order."

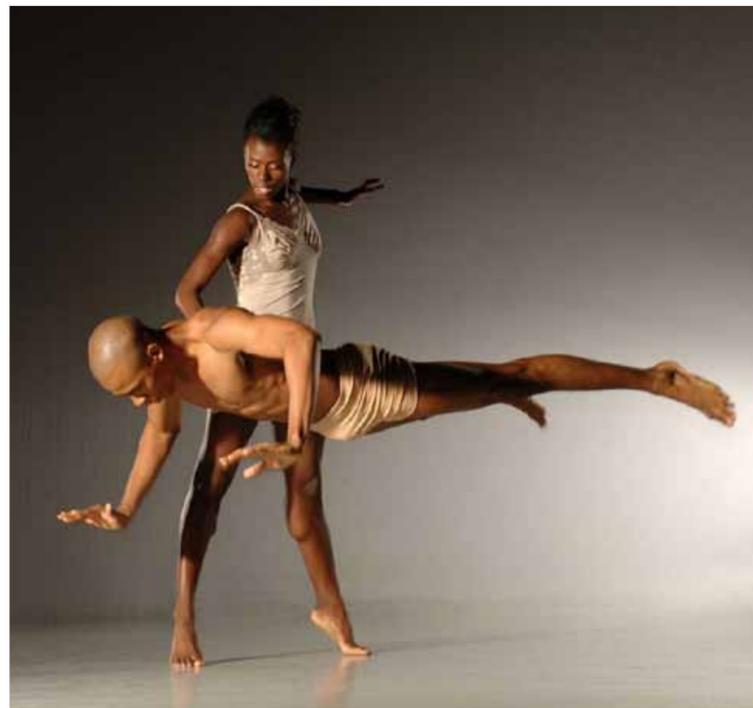
All of the cabaret concerts take place on the Capitol Theater stage and include meals catered by Fresco, the Food Fight Inc. restaurant perched high atop Overture

Center. (Warning: these performances sell out quickly.)

Overture will offer a wealth of special pro-

grams as well, including a family series, world culture series, the Christmas music of Mannheim Steamroller,

pianist Jim Brickman, a capela sensation Straight No Chaser, and "Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles."



Clockwise from top, the Broadway cast of "The Addams Family," Steven Brinberg as Barbra Streisand and Chicago's Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

PHOTO: COURTESY

# 'Two Spirits' explores true story of Navajo tragedy

Film

GREGG SHAPIRO

"The true story of a Navajo boy who was also a girl," Lydia Nibley's powerful doc "Two Spirits" is essential viewing for everyone. By combining the story of the brutal murder of trans teen Fred Martinez, as told by his mother Pauline Mitchell, friends and observers, with that of the nádleehi (Navajo for "male-bodied person with a feminine nature") and their role in Native American culture, the tragedy takes on profound meaning.

Living in a trailer court in Cortez, Colo., Mitchell was the kind of mother who loved her son, "no matter what." She was aware of the hostility Fred faced from his peers and the school administration and did her part to provide a loving and safe home for him.

Following a suicide attempt, Fred emerged stronger, more determined to be the person he wanted to be. But an unfortunate encounter with a meth dealer resulted in Martinez's brutal slaying.

Augmenting the story are interviews with various Two Spirit people, Navajo scholar Wesley Thomas, gay author/photographer Mark Thompson, activist Cathy Renna, journalist Gail Binkly and others.



PHOTO: COURTESY

"Two Spirits" airs on PBS affiliates in June. It's also screened at 1 p.m. on June 18 at Central Library, 201 W. Mifflin in Madison, and is also available on DVD from Independent Lens.

## 'THE HANGOVER, PART II'

When Phil (Bradley Cooper) says, "It happened again," at the beginning of "The Hangover, Part II," it can mean only one thing: Someone got lost. This time it's in Bangkok, which is apparently a much worse place to lose someone than Las Vegas.

One week earlier, the reunited "wolfpack" — grown-

up childhood best friends Phil, divorced dentist Stu (Ed Helms) and "stay-at-home son" Alan (Zach Galifianakis) — are making plans to head to Thailand for Stu's marriage to Lauren (Jamie Chung). After being urged by Phil and Doug (Justin Bartha) to extend an invitation to the socially inept man-child Alan, Stu reluctantly relents. Eager not to have a repeat of what occurred prior to Doug's wedding,

Stu sets some ground rules, including no pre-opened containers at any pre-wedding events.

But Alan, who takes an instant dislike to Lauren's genius younger brother Teddy (Mason Lee, son of Ang Lee), a 16-year-old pre-med student at Stanford and a musical prodigy, has other plans.

Pretty soon the guys are running around the city looking for Teddy with a miraculously revived Chow, a cigarette-smoking monkey (Crystal) and a monk in a wheelchair. Meanwhile they're being pursued by drug-dealing Russian mobsters and confronted with black market weapons dealer Samir (Bryan Callen) and short-fused businessman Kingsley (Paul Giamatti).

Without giving away too much, let's just say that anything that can go wrong does. As sequels go, "The Hangover, Part II" is drunk with humor and harrowing moments, a potent cocktail indeed.

## 'SUPER 8'

If you are willing to overlook the formulaic nature of J. J. Abrams' summer blockbuster "Super 8" and fork

8" doesn't linger long on the down side. Joe's best buddy Charles (Riley Griffiths) is a budding filmmaker and with his Super 8 camera in hand, he goes forward with his plans to make a zombie movie in the kids' Ohio hometown in the late 1970s.

Disobeying the wishes of his shutdown sheriff father Jack (Kyle Chandler, looking more handsome than ever), Joe meets up with his friends Cary (Ryan Lee), Preston (Zach Mills), Martin (Gabriel Basso) and Alice (Elle Fanning) to begin filming Charles' movie, well past his bedtime. But just as they are in the middle of a shot, they witness their science teacher Dr. Woodward (Glynn Turman) drive his pick-up truck onto the train tracks and intentionally derail a freight train.

Soon the military has arrived at the crash site and strange things begin to happen. Metal objects and materials begin disappearing, along with many of the town's dogs and a few of its citizens. Joe is feeling strange too, but it could just be hormonal as he is falling in love with Alice.

Fun, fast-paced, loud (although not as loud as "Thor") and surprisingly touching, "Super 8" is just that — super.



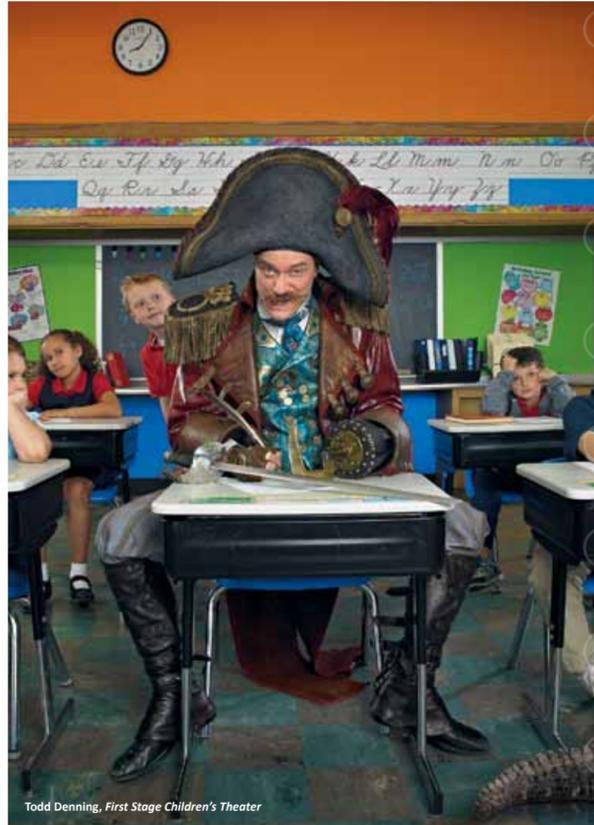
PHOTO: COURTESY

"The Hangover, Part II"



PHOTO: COURTESY

Kyle Chandler in "Super 8"



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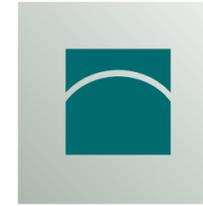
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Lovers

**JUNE 16, THURSDAY**

Queer trio **Lovers** performs at Frank's Power Plant, 2800 S. Kinnickinnic, in Bayview, at 8 p.m. Call 414-481-9200.

The theme of this year's **Pink Banana One-Act Festival** is "Higher Education," at Tenth Street Theatre, 628 N. 10th, through June 18. Call 414-271-131 or visit [www.pinkbananatheatre.com](http://www.pinkbananatheatre.com).

Carte Blanche Studios Theatre, 1024 S. Fifth, presents **"Titus Andronicus"** by William Shakespeare through June 19. Call 262-716-4689.

**Tami Zwicke and Danceworks Art Gallery** runs through June 18 at Danceworks Studio Theatre, 1661 N. Water. Call 414-277-8480.

The beloved musical **"Fiddler on the Roof,"** runs through June 19 at Marcus Center For the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.

**"Jersey Boys,"** the award-winning musical featuring the music of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons, runs through June 19 at Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave. in Appleton. Call 920-730-3760.



"Two Spirits"

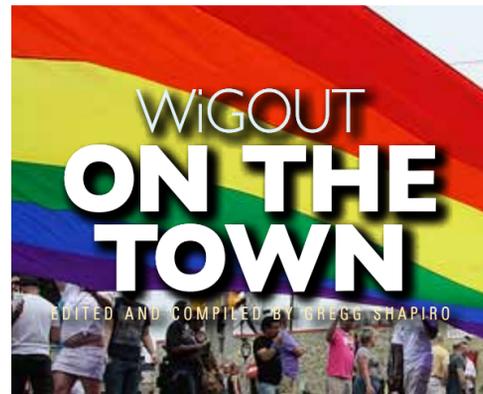
**JUNE 18, SATURDAY**

Majestic, 115 King in Madison, hosts **Studio 54 & Fruit Fest AfterParty**, with DJs Vinnie Toma, Fuzzy Duck & Mike Carlson spinning vintage disco tracks. Call 608-251-2582.

Perfect Harmony, Madison's gay/gay friendly chorus, presents **"Queen: A Tribute to Freddy Mercury"** at 7 p.m. at the McFarland Auditorium, 5103 Farwell in McFarland.

Community Cinema presents a screening of **"Two Spirits"** at 1 p.m. at Central Library, 201 W. Mifflin in Madison.

Riverwest Public House Cooperative, 815 E. Locust, presents **In One Wind** at 8 p.m.



**JUNE 19, SUNDAY**

WAMI Jazz Artist of the Year **Jerry Grillo** performs "Songs from Broadway and the Movies" at 6 p.m. at The Warehouse, 818 S. Water. Call 414-271-0711.

The Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center at Taliesin, 5607 County Road C (at the intersection of Highway 23 and County Road C) in Spring Green, presents the **Bach Dancing & Dynamite Concert Series** tonight and June 26.



Jerry Grillo

**JUNE 20, MONDAY**

Photographer **Jessica Zalewski's** first solo exhibition runs through Sept. 10 at Leenhouts Gallery, 1342 N. Astor. For more about the show and her work visit <http://jessicaz.yolasite.com/>.

**JUNE 21, TUESDAY**

**New Work: Colin Dickson & Shane Walsh**, an exhibition including paintings by Shane Walsh and a site-specific installation by Colin Dickson, runs through July 16 at Walker's Point Center for the Arts, 839 S. Fifth. Call 414-672-2787 or visit [www.wpca-milwaukee.org](http://www.wpca-milwaukee.org).

**JUNE 22, WEDNESDAY**

Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer, welcomes novelist **Ann Patchett**, author of "State of Wonder," at 7 p.m. Call 414-332-1181.

**Danceworks Mad Hot Ballroom and Tap Phase II Dancers** perform a free outdoor concert at 6:30 p.m. at Bayshore Town Center, corner of Silver Spring Drive and I-43 in Glendale.

Helen Bader Concert Hall in the Helene Zelazo Center of the Performing Arts, 2419 E. Kenwood Blvd., presents the free **Fine Arts Quartet Summer Evenings of Music, Concert III**, at 7:30 p.m. Call 414-229-4308.

**JUNE 23, THURSDAY**

Peninsula Players Theatre, 4351 Peninsula Players Road in Fish Creek, America's oldest professional resident summer theater and Door County's theatrical cornerstone, presents the world premiere of Sean Grennan's comedy **"Making God Laugh,"** through July 3. Call 920-868-3287.

Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer, welcomes **Jeffrey Merrick** in a discussion about homosexuality and modern France at 7 p.m. Call 414-332-1181.



**JUNE 24, FRIDAY**

Queer hip-hop act **GOD-DES & She** performs at 10 p.m. at High Noon Saloon, 701A E. Washington in Madison. Call 608-268-1122.

**JUNE 25, SATURDAY**

Come see **Brewcity Bruiser All Stars** take on The Tent City Terrors from Arizona at 6 p.m. at Milwaukee County Sports Complex, 6000 W. Ryan in Franklin.

**JUNE 27, MONDAY**

**Kelly Dorfman**, author of "What's Eating Your Child?," is at Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer, at 7 p.m. Call 414-332-1181.

**JUNE 28, TUESDAY**

Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer, welcomes **Twesigye Jackson Kaguri**, author of "A School for My Village," at 7 p.m. Call 414-332-1181.

**JUNE 29, WEDNESDAY**

Helen Bader Concert Hall in the Helene Zelazo Center of the Performing Arts, 2419 E. Kenwood Blvd., presents the free **Fine Arts Quartet Summer Evenings of Music, Concert IV**, at 7:30 p.m. Call 414-229-4308.

**OUT & ABOUT**



STATEWIDE BAR AND ENTERTAINMENT VENUE LISTINGS

**BELOIT / JANESVILLE**

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

**GREEN BAY / FOX VALLEY**

**Rascals Bar & Grill**, 702 E. Wisconsin Ave., 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 Club**, 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.

**PJ's**, 1601 Oregon St., Oshkosh, 920-385-0442.

**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.

**LACROSSE**

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

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

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

**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.

**MILWAUKEE**

**Art Bar**, 722 E. Burleigh St., 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Purr Nite Club**, 3945 N. 35th St., 414-442-7007.

**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.

**MILWAUKEE (continued)**

**Two**, 718 E. Burleigh St.

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

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

**NORTHERN**

**Scooters**, 411 Galloway St., 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.

**SHEBOYGAN**

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

**WISCONSIN DELLS**

**Captain Dix Rainbow Valley Resort**, 4124 River Road, 866-553-1818.

Don't see your favorite LGBT hangout? To contribute or update a listing, e-mail [managingeditor@wisconsin-gazette.com](mailto:managingeditor@wisconsin-gazette.com).

**WiG'S TAIL-WAGGER**  
COURTESY OF THE WISCONSIN HUMANE SOCIETY

**MEET BEAR**

This sweet, gentle, 5-month-old chow/lab mix has mastered the art of self-containment, always keeping four paws on the floor while greeting visitors! He knows lots of basic commands and will sit, lie and stay. Bear is wise beyond his years, yet playful and eager to please, always crawling into empty laps for affection. Like all of our dogs, Bear has been neutered, vaccinated and microchipped. All he needs now is a loving home!



Bear is a 5-month-old Chow Chow/Lab mix

**TIP OF THE WEEK**

Despite its ability to make some immune-compromised humans and other animals sick, West Nile Virus is primarily a wild bird disease, fatal to crows, jays, hawks and owls infected by mosquitoes. You can help eliminate it by preventing standing water in your birdbaths, gutters, flowerpot bases, ponds and other pooling locations. For more information, visit [wihumane.org](http://wihumane.org) or call 414-431-6204.

**When he asks. You should know. Get Tested. It's Free!**

**We Provide:**

- Hepatitis B Vaccinations for straight men and women.
- Anonymous or name associated HIV testing & counseling.
- STD testing and treatment for men.
- Hepatitis A & B Vaccinations for gay or bisexual men.

Be sure to stop in at our booth at PrideFest this year!



Hours: Mondays & Tuesdays • 6:00pm - 8:30pm

1240 East Brady St • Milw., • 414-272-2144 • [contactus@bestd.org](mailto:contactus@bestd.org)

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.iagsgdc.org/creamcity

**Milwaukee Kings** drag king troupe, www.miltownkings.com, miltownkings@yahoo.com

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

**Milwaukee/LGBT Film/Video Festival**, www4.uwm.edu/psao/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.bvgays.com

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

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

**Castaways**, P.O. Box 1697, 53202, castawaysmnc@yahoo.com

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

**Cream City Foundation**, 759 N. Milwaukee St., 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 Social Support**, P.O. Box 1272, 53201, 414-559-2123, www.forge-forward.org, info@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, queerprgrm@aol.com

**SAGE Milwaukee**, 1845 N. Farwell Ave., 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., 414-390-0444

**Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence Brew City Sisters Abbey**, brewcitysisters@yahoo.com, www.brewcitysisters.org

**WanderWomyn Outdoors Group**, debydoo2@yahoo.com

**Washington Heights Rainbow Association**, 414-217-1571, on Facebook

**Wauwatosa Rainbow Association**, tosarainbow@yahoo.com

**Wisconsin Rainbow Alliance of the Deaf**, 252 E. Highland Ave., 53202, www.wisrad.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.mwcinc.org

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

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

## POLITICS

**Center Advocates**, 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

## SPORTS

**Front Runners/Front Walkers**, 262-285-7645, ullrwolf.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.milwaukeegayoccer.org

**Milwaukee Gay Volleyball League**, www.milwaukeegayvolleyball.com

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

## YOUTH/EDUCATION

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

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

**Gay Youth Milwaukee**, P.O. Box 090441, 53209, 414-265-8500, 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

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

MADISON  
ARTS/ENTERTAINMENT

**Dairyland Cowboys and Cowgirls**, Club 5, 5 Applegate Court, Madison, 53713, 608-277-9700, www.dccandc.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.madisonlbtvolleyball.com

**Madison Minotaurs Rugby Club**, www.madisonminotaurs.com, madisonminotaurs@gmail.com

## YOUTH/EDUCATION

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

FOX VALLEY  
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**, 233 E. College Ave., Appleton, 54911, 920-734-2233, www.harmonycafe.org, skenevan\_gw@gvcc.org

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

**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

**Valued Families**, GLBT parent/child support group, Appleton, www.valuedfamilies.blogspot.com

RACINE/KENOSHA  
COMMUNITY

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

**PFLAG-Racine/Kenosha**, at the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin, 1456 Junction Ave., Racine, 53403, 262-664-4100, pflag@lgbtsewisc.org

## SPORTS

**Wisconsin Warriors**, P.O. Box 334, Somers, 53171, 414-759-8823, wivarrriors.com, wivarrriors@yahoo.com

## YOUTH/EDUCATION

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

## OTHER

**Baraboo LGBT Community**, barabooLGBTcommunity@gmail.com

**LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley**, 1305 Woodland Ave., Eau Claire, 54701, 715-552-LGBT, www.thecentercv.org

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

**PFLAG Door County**, Hope United Church of Christ, 141 S. 12th Ave., Sturgeon Bay, 54235, 920-743-8146, www.pflagdoorcounty.org

**PFLAG of the Greater Oshkosh Area**, First Congregational Church, 137 Algoma Blvd., 54901, www.oshkosh-pflag.org, pflagoshkosh@gmail.com

**PFLAG La Crosse**, LGBT Resource Center of the Seven Rivers Region, 303 Pearl St., 54602, 608-784-0452, www.7riverslgbt.org

**PFLAG of Manitowoc County**, St. James Episcopal Church, 434 N. 8th St., 54220, 920-323-9142, pflagmanitowocco@yahoo.com

**PFLAG Stevens Point**, 715-572-6922, www.pflagpoint.com

**PFLAG Washburn**, Washburn Public Library, 307 Washington Ave., 54891, 715-209-1100, http://community.pflag.org/pflagwashburn, nancyhanson1958@yahoo.com

**WHAT'S GOING ON THIS WEEK?**  
Peruse daily events and add your event.  
[www.wisconsinngazette.com/calendar](http://www.wisconsinngazette.com/calendar)

## ONGOING

1-5 p.m., Monday and Thursday, SAGE Office drop-in hours, Milwaukee.\*

10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin drop-in, Racine.\*

## THURSDAY

2:30 p.m., first and third Thursdays, LGBT senior adults discussion, Madison Senior Center, 330 W. Mifflin St., Madison, ferington@charter.net.

6 p.m., third Thursdays, same-sex partners group, OutReach, Madison.\*

6 p.m., Qgrads, UW Memorial Union Rathskeller, 800 Langdon St., Madison.

7 p.m., third Thursdays, Lesbian Alliance movie night, LGBT Community Center, Milwaukee.\*

7 p.m., Q2-LGBTQ Youth Group, LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley, Eau Claire.\*

7:30 p.m., Four Lakes Bears, Michelangelo's Coffee Shop, 114 State St., Madison, 608-251-5299.

## FRIDAY

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 in 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, Galano Club, Milwaukee.\*

10:30 a.m., AA Step/Topic meeting, 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, 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, gildaslubmadison.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.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Send community briefs to [lweisberg@wisconsinngazette.com](mailto:lweisberg@wisconsinngazette.com).

SE WISCONSIN  
CENTER HOLDS  
FUNDRAISER

The LGBT Community Center of SE Wisconsin hosts "Red, White and Brew," a beer and wine-tasting fundraiser, 6-9 p.m., June 18 at Uncorkt, 240 Main St., Racine.

The event includes "heavy" hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction and raffles.

Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door.

For more information, go to [www.lgbtsewisc.org](http://www.lgbtsewisc.org).

AARP LAUNCHES  
WEBSITE FOR OLDER  
LGBT AMERICANS

AARP launched a new Web portal aimed at serving the interests of older LGBT Americans.

The site — [www.aarp.org/pride](http://www.aarp.org/pride) — is touted as the organization's first online home for the gay community.

"AARP understands that while all Americans 50-plus share the same goals of aging with dignity and peace of mind, each of the communities in our lives offers its own challenges, opportunities and contributions towards helping us get there," said AARP spokesman Hugh Delehanty.

The site features articles dealing with issues of concern within the LGBT community as well as multimedia content such as video documentaries and trivia games.

QUIT SMOKING  
FOR PRIDE

The American Lung Association is encouraging members of the LGBT community to honor national Pride Month by quitting smoking or encouraging their friends to quit.

According to a report released by the American Lung

Association last year, LGBT Americans smoke at a much higher rate than the general public.

"Tobacco use is a pervasive threat to the LGBT community that must be addressed," said Charles D. Connor, president and CEO of the American Lung Association. "This month is the perfect time to confront this health disparity head on by raising awareness and encouraging LGBT smokers to quit smoking for good."

For help quitting in Wisconsin, go to [www.rm2breathe.org](http://www.rm2breathe.org). It's a program developed specifically for LGBT people.

TRIAL OF LESBIAN  
MINISTER BEGINS  
JUNE 21

Supporters of the Rev. Amy DeLong hope for a strong turnout from the LGBT community and its allies for her June 21



PHOTO: UMNS  
The Rev.  
Amy DeLong

church trial in Kaukauna.



He asked for it - wanted to challenge his old man to a race. Well, I was happy to oblige. Gotta show the kid who's boss, you know. So, the girls gave us the signal and we were off. Now, not to make excuses, but when I accepted his challenge, I forgot I was wearing flip-flops. So now, I just hope he'll give me a rematch someday.



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