

MUSICAL PREVIEW

A look at what's on the performance calendar of the state's classical ensembles this season. See **Page 22**



THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

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FALLING FOR THE SCENERY

Tourists spent nearly \$3 billion in Wisconsin last fall in pursuit of nature's gold. WiG visits Door County, one of the state's favorite fall destinations, to check in with some of the gay business owners who've helped make the area a world-class destination (page 12). WiG also reports from Bayfield, where fall's transformation begins its colorful journey southward (page 27).

PHOTO: DOORCOUNTY.COM/DOOR COUNTY VISITOR BUREAU

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

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Celebrations follow end of 'don't ask'

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

"Don't ask, don't tell" officially ended at 12:01 a.m. on Sept. 20, a date greeted like a holiday by the politicians and activists who fought for repeal, by gay servicemembers who were forced into the closet, and by military veterans who felt disrespected.

"Justice has prevailed and 'don't ask, don't tell' is dead. God bless America," said Alexander Nicholson, the

founder of Servicemembers United and a veteran discharged under the policy.

DADT was enacted almost 18 years ago. It was a hard-fought loss for Bill Clinton's administration and a gay community that was just coming into its own in Washington. Clinton, who courted the gay vote, had campaigned on a promise to lift a long-standing ban against gays in the military. But facing staunch opposition in a conservative

Congress, Clinton agreed to a compromise that did not end but rather codified the ban. DADT barred military officers from asking about a recruit's or servicemember's sexual orientation, but it also barred gay servicemembers from disclosing their sexual orientation.

Since 1993, at least 14,346 men and women have been discharged from the Armed Forces under DADT.

At the White House, President Barack Obama

FOR THE RECORD

"My thoughts, today, are with all those gay men and lesbians who suffered directly or indirectly because of discriminatory policies in our military. The injustice they endured is not undone by today's events. But, I also think of all the young men and women who now have great opportunities to serve their country and live their lives honestly and openly. I am grateful for this day."

— U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., on the official repeal of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy on Sept. 20.

issued a mid-morning statement on Sept. 20, about nine hours after gay bars in major cities hosted gay sailors, marines, soldiers and pilots

DADT page 10

GAY WWII VET FINALLY GETS HONORABLE DISCHARGE PAGE 9

LGBT news with a twist



By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

ON BROADWAY

The play "8" is based on the federal Proposition 8 trial in California that lasted 13 days, with an intermission that spanned months. The play, by Academy Award winner Dustin Lance Black and based on transcripts from the landmark trial, is a lot shorter at 90 minutes. It was bound this week for a one-night only reading on Broadway. The cast included Morgan Freeman, Anthony Edwards, John Lithgow, Christine Lahti, Rob Reiner, Larry Kramer and Marisa Tomei.

the "Dump Michele Bachmann" blog plan to release a book to coincide with the November release of the presidential candidate's autobiography. The book is titled "The Madness of Michele Bachmann: A Broad-minded Survey of a Small-Minded Candidate."

Of course, by November, there will probably be little interest in either book about Bachmann, whose candidacy appears to have already tanked.

SCHWEDDY BALLS

Ben & Jerry's latest ice cream flavor pays homage to a classic "Saturday Night Live" skit. "Schweddy Balls" ice cream will debut on Sept. 24 to mark SNL's 37th season premiere. The limited-batch flavor is made with fudge-covered rum balls and chocolate malt balls stirred into vanilla ice cream. The inspiration is a character created by Alec Baldwin - a specialty food marketer named Pete Schweddy. As a guest on a fake NPR program called "Delicious Dish," Schweddy speaks with "hosts" Ana Gasteyer and Molly Shannon about his holiday treats, including rum balls, malt balls and, of course, his famous Schweddy balls. "No one can resist my Schweddy balls," Baldwin deadpans.

SPARE THE TREES

Sarah Palin's former heir apparent to the title of "Tea Party queen" is also getting skewered in print. The people behind

SINGING RON PAUL'S PRAISES

Musician Barry Manilow surprised his fans recently when he told The Daily Caller that he supports U.S. Rep. Ron Paul for president. Manilow said he agrees with "just about everything" Paul says, calling him a "solid" contender for the White House.

Although Manilow has been rumored to be gay throughout his career - he got his start working with Bette Midler at New York's famed Continental Baths - he has never officially come out of the closet.

LIVE FROM THE HOLLYWOOD BOWL

The William J. Clinton Foundation will host Lady Gaga, Usher and U2's The Edge and Bono for "A Decade of Difference" at the Hollywood Bowl. The Oct. 15 concert celebrates the work of the foundation, which Clinton established after leaving the White House. WiG

knows what you are wondering: Will Bill play the sax on Gaga's "Edge of Glory"?

RESPECT & ACCEPT

The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network is honoring Chaz Bono, Michele and Rob Reiner and Phoenix Sun CEO Rick Welts with 2011 Respect Awards. The ceremony will take place at the Beverly Hills Hotel on Oct. 21, and also include a Diversity Award to Wells Fargo and the announcement of the 2011 Student Advocate Award. GLSEN is honoring transgender celeb Bono, a star on this season's "Dancing with the Stars," with the Hero Award.

LIVE-IN & LOVIN'

Same-sex couples in Florida can't get married, but they apparently can live together without breaking state law. But an unmarried heterosexual couple? Well, a statute still on the books in the Sunshine State makes it a second-degree misdemeanor for "any man or woman, not being married to each other" ... to "lewdly and lasciviously associate and cohabit together." A conviction can result in 60 days in jail and a \$500 fine.

HATE DOLLARS DOWN

The anti-gay hate group Focus on the Family announced Sept. 16 that it's eliminating 49 jobs in the latest of several rounds of layoffs. The Colorado Springs group had a \$105 million budget this fiscal year ending Sept. 30, but officials project it will receive donations of only \$90



FROLIC ON THE RIGHT

Author Joe McGinniss' highly anticipated book about Sarah Palin includes details on the former veep candidate's alleged sexual relationship with former basketball star Glen Rice while she was courting current husband Todd Palin. In the book, McGinniss quotes Rice as confirming the one-night stand. The book also confirms a longstanding rumor that Palin had an extramarital affair with her husband's ex-business partner Brad Hanson and that she dabbled with cocaine use.

million to \$95 million. The new 7 percent staff reduction brings the group's total number of employees to 650, down from a 2002 peak of 1,400 people. In the last few years, Focus has let go almost 500 workers.

ROSIE FINDS LOVE AMID THE LATTES

Rosie O'Donnell has a new girlfriend she met at Starbucks, reports People magazine. O'Donnell introduced her new girlfriend Michelle Rounds at her annual Rosie Theater Kids Gala in

New York City. "They are adorable together and are very, very happy," an unnamed source told People. O'Donnell is returning to TV on Oct. 10 with "The Rosie Show," a new talk program on Oprah Winfrey's OWN network.

Rounds is a corporate head hunter for an IT company in New York City. O'Donnell has four children with her former partner Kelli Carpenter, whom she married in 2004. They separated three years later.

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Cain's campaign tried to hide gay staffer charged with ripping off Madison Pride

By Louis Weisberg
Staff writer

Just days after GOP presidential candidate Herman Cain said he would have no problem hiring gay employees, his campaign took steps to cover up the employment of a top gay adviser with a record of controversy in Madison's LGBT community, according to a former Cain staffer.

Cain's former Iowa straw poll coordinator, Kevin Hall, made the allegation in a letter applying for unemployment benefits and also in testimony during an unemployment insurance hearing last month.

The alleged cover-up involves Scott Toomey, treasurer of Cain's political action committee and former senior political adviser of the campaign. According

to documents obtained by The Associated Press, Hall wrote that Toomey's sexual orientation and allegations of misconduct in his role as treasurer of the Madison Pride Board "had become an issue" for several Cain supporters.

Madison Pride Board put on the city's annual Gay Pride Parade before folding due to financial problems. The group removed Toomey as treasurer after learning that bills related to its 2007 event had not been paid and discovering other "financial discrepancies" that Toomey had failed to report.

Toomey held the event's bank account and all of the money in it, as well as all of the financial records, said Steve Starkey, executive director of Madison's

Outreach. The records "just disappeared," he said.

"(Board members) had no evidence against him because all the records had gone," Starkey said.

According to Starkey, Toomey, who operated an event promotion company in Madison, was pocketing payments that his clients thought they were making to vendors, leaving the vendors unpaid.

"There were several examples of him doing that to Madison print companies," Starkey said. "He did it at least three times that I know of. Then he moved to Florida after burning all his bridges with the gay and the business community here."

After Toomey's scam came to their attention, Madison Pride Board apologized to its supporters, scaled back

its 2008 event and eventually folded.

Toomey reportedly filed for bankruptcy in 2009. He later surfaced in Iowa as part of the anti-gay Cain's presidential campaign.

The only African-American in the GOP presidential field, Cain is the former CEO of Godfather's Pizza. Since generating some initial support when he announced for the White House, Cain's campaign has floundered and he has since remained mired in the lower tier of candidates.

In response to a question in Iowa on June 6, Cain said he would have no problem appointing gay staff members to work in his administration as long as they were qualified.

That prompted conservative bloggers to point out Toomey's role with the campaign.

In his testimony, Hall said that on June 9, campaign spokeswoman Ellen Carmichael told the staff to tell anyone who asked about Toomey that he was no longer involved with the campaign in any capacity.

But Hall said he learned weeks later that Toomey was still "very much involved" as an outside consultant through his firm The Soarin' Group.

Filings with the Federal Election Commission show Toomey was last paid salary from the campaign June 13, but The Soarin' Group started receiving payments the same month. Hall said he was not bothered by Toomey's background, but aides knew it exposed Cain to charges of hypocrisy.

"A conservative candidate, Mr. Cain is on the record

as stating that he believes homosexuality is a sin and a choice. And they know that, if his top adviser, his highly paid adviser, is openly gay that it would cast a negative light on Mr. Cain and would cost him in his efforts to become president," Hall testified. "Basically the campaign was trying to cover up the fact that Mr. Toomey was still involved. They asked ... me to help them cover up that fact."

A Cain campaign lawyer did not dispute Hall's allegations. Hall was awarded the benefits he sought, with the judge ruling that he resigned only after the campaign tried to get him involved in the alleged cover-up, which could have damaged Hall's career as a political consultant.

— The Associated Press contributed to this story

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ATTORNEY DAVID E. GRUBER

Appleton OKs partner benefits

By a vote of 10 to 6, the Appleton Common Council approved a measure extending healthcare and related employment benefits to the registered domestic partners of city workers on Sept. 7.

The move makes the city a more competitive recruiter, said Mayor Tim Hanna.

"We do want to be able to attract good, talented employees and retain good, talented employees and level the playing field in terms of access to benefits," Hanna told council members.

The decision also marks an important victory for fairness, said Fair Wisconsin

executive director Katie Belanger. "Appleton's vision for creating an inclusive and welcoming workplace makes them a leader in our efforts to build a more fair and just state for all Wisconsinites," Belanger said.

Belanger singled out Hanna, Alds. Teege Mettill, Christoph Wahl and Kole Oswald, as well as Appleton human resources director Sandy Neisen, for praise.

The benefit expansion was opposed by aldermen who said the estimated \$100,000 price tag is too high.

The addition of domestic partner benefits in Appleton

was part of a larger plan to standardize benefit packages for non-union employees after a state law adopted earlier this year eliminated most collective bargaining rights for state unions.

Appleton's extension of domestic partnership benefits comes after Milwaukee County passed a similar law this summer. The state of Wisconsin, the city of Milwaukee, Marquette University, Kimberly-Clark, Aurora Health Care and MillerCoors are among the state's many major employers also offering the benefits.

— Louis Weisberg

Gay man named top social worker

By Louis Weisberg
Staff writer

Dale Decker, an out social worker from Madison, was named the state's "distinguished social worker" of 2011 by the Wisconsin Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

Decker picked up the award on Sept. 14 at an awards luncheon held at Madison's Sheraton Hotel.

"Dale Decker is a model of what social work can be," said Sherry Brown, one of Decker's peers, in a statement announcing the award. "During the past year, he has demonstrated several acts of distinction, which have crystallized his dedication to social and economic justice for the clients we serve and fellow social workers."

Decker, 41, said that he was both "extremely surprised" and "flattered" by the honor.

"I thought, 'That's very kind of you.' But I thought, 'There's someone with a lot more under their belt than me,'" he said. "I don't think of myself as someone who's paid enough of my dues. (But) I guess it's true that I'm a little louder and more political than my colleagues."

In 2009, Decker was a leader in lobbying state law-

makers to pass the so-called "Vendorship Bill." The law allows licensed social workers to provide counseling independently of clinics, as they do in other states. It also changed state Medicaid rules to allow social workers to receive direct reimbursement for their services.

Decker said that credit for the law really belongs to out state Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Madison.

"At the time, Mark was co-chair of the finance committee and he was a very powerful man," Decker said. "He was instrumental, along with other people on that committee, in getting the bill passed."

Pocan is running for Congress in 2012.

As a partner with Mootree Psychotherapy Center, Decker counsels a number of transgendered clients, many of whom he sees on a pro bono, or free, basis. He has increased awareness of transgenderism among his mental health colleagues as well, according to a statement from the Wisconsin Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

The organization also credits Decker with being a key advocate "for the importance of the LGBT commu-

nity, not only through his work, but in his personal life."

Decker, who's been with his partner for 22 years, is a longtime volunteer at Stage Q, a community theater group that develops and performs LGBT-themed plays. He said he's done everything at Stage Q from sweep the floors to serve as president of the board of directors.

Decker said the most surprising thing about counseling LGBT clients today is that so many younger ones are unaware of the negative impact that anti-gay messages have on their lives. "Some of them don't even know the word 'homophobia' or what it is," he said.

Some clients try to avoid talking about their sexual orientation during sessions, he said.

"A lot of young people are like, 'I'm gay, but let's talk about someone else,'" he said. "Not that it should be the center of your life, but if you push it to the edge, you're sort of denying yourself. It's eye-opening to them to learn that society is always pointing out to them in subtle ways that they're not OK. That can lead to isolating or drinking too much or having too much sex."

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ACCIDENT SHINES LIGHT ON IND. LAW

Legal claims filed by the partners of two lesbians killed in a stage collapse at the Indiana State Fair last month could lead the state to re-examine how it defines survivors in wrongful death cases.

Christina Santiago of Chicago and Tammy VanDam of Wanatah, Ind., were among seven people who died after wind toppled the stage rigging before an Aug. 13 Sugarland concert. Their partners, Alisha Brennon and Beth Urschel, were injured.

Urschel has filed a wrongful death lawsuit, and Brennon has filed a wrongful death tort claim.

Indiana's wrongful death statute allows next of kin to collect damages. Indiana University School of Law professor Jennifer A. Drobcak says those are technically people related by DNA.

But Drobcak says courts could choose to define next of kin more broadly.

VICTORY FUND BACKS POCAN

The Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund has endorsed out state Rep. Mark Pocan in his bid for the Madison-area congressional seat being vacated by Tammy Baldwin to run for the U.S. Senate.

Pocan has served in the Wisconsin Assembly for more than 12 years, during six of which he sat on the state's powerful budget-writing Joint Finance Committee, including a term as co-chair. He has taken a leadership role among Assembly Democrats, help-

REGIONAL BRIEFS



PHOTO: COURTESY Mark Pocan

ing to secure a Democratic majority in 2008 for the first time in 14 years.

In addition to Pocan, the Victory Fund has endorsed two other openly gay congressional candidates, including Marko Llias from Washington and Mark Takano from California.

Victory Fund president Chuck Wolfe said the early endorsements signal the group plans to push hard in 2012 to increase the community's representation in Congress, where currently just four of 535 members are openly LGBT.

The Victory Fund has also endorsed Baldwin in her Senate race.

MICHIGAN GOP TRIES TO OUTLAW BENEFITS

Republicans who control the Michigan House of Representatives passed legisla-

tion on Sept. 15 to prohibit public employees from sharing their health benefits with their domestic partners.

The 64-44 to vote was mostly along party lines. The measure goes next to the Republican-led Senate, where it's also expected to pass.

The Associated Press reports that it's unclear how much impact the legislation would have if it became law. It's written to apply to "all public employers to the greatest extent consistent with constitutionally allocated powers."

Democrats who opposed the legislation say it is unconstitutional and would be challenged in court. They say public universities have the constitutional authority to determine their own policies, and that the Michigan Civil Service Commission has the power to make decisions about what kinds of benefits are offered to many state employees.

The civil service commission voted early this year to allow domestic partner benefits for some state employees starting in October. Republicans tried to overturn the decision but couldn't get the two-thirds majority vote needed in the House.

CHANGE OF SENATE LEADERSHIP IN IOWA POSSIBLE

Republican Gov. Terry Branstad appointed Marion Democratic Sen. Swati Dandekar to serve on the Iowa Utilities Board, raising questions about which party will control the Iowa Senate.

Democrats hold a 26-to-24-seat majority in the Senate, and Dandekar's district was seen as leaning toward Republicans. Branstad has set a special election for Nov. 8 to replace Dandekar.

A GOP victory would mean a tie in the Senate and could increase chances the chamber would take up a proposed constitutional ban on gay marriage that has been blocked by Senate Majority Leader Mike Gronstal.

If a Republican won the special election, Senate President Jack Kibbie said it's unclear whether there would be changes in leadership posts.

IOWA LGBT STUDENTS SEEK OWN HOUSING

Gay and lesbian students at the University of Iowa are

seeking their own floor in a residence hall on the Iowa City campus.

The Gazette in Cedar Rapids says Quentin Hall of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Allied Union is working with the university to open the floor for the 2012 school year.

Hill, a freshman from

Eagle Grove, says the group asked University Housing and Dining to offer the option on housing applications ahead of the current year, but only 10 students signed up. Hill says it needs to be better advertised.

Iowa has more than a dozen dormitory floors designated as "communities" that focus on specific areas of study. University spokeswoman Kate Fitzgerald says a GLBT floor would be classified as such a community.



CHAZ TO ADDRESS FAIR WISCONSIN EQUALITY GATHERING

PHOTO: COURTESY

Chaz Bono, the national transgender activist who is currently appearing on ABC's "Dancing with the Stars," will deliver the keynote address at Fair Wisconsin's gala dinner on Jan. 14, 2012, at the Milwaukee City Center. The dinner is part of a first-ever weekend of events that will give Wisconsin equality advocates a chance to get together and pursue strategies to strengthen the state's grassroots movement. For more information, go to fairwisconsineducationfund.com/conference/register.

GOP blasts Thompson as too liberal

Former GOP Gov. Tommy Thompson filed papers on Sept. 19 that allow him to begin fundraising for a U.S. Senate bid in 2012. Thompson, along with a growing list of Republicans, is eyeing the seat being vacated by longtime Democratic Sen. Herb Kohl.



PHOTO: AP/MORRY GASH

Tommy Thompson

The only declared Republican candidate is former right-wing U.S. Rep. Mark Neumann, but Assembly Speaker Jeff Fitzgerald, state Sen. Frank Lasee and former GOP state Sen. Ted Kanavas are also weighing bids.

Among Democrats, the only declared candidate is U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin of Madison, who would become the first openly gay U.S. senator if elected and the first woman to represent Wisconsin in the U.S. Senate.

Thompson is the state GOP's most famous living politician. He was elected governor four times before leaving the office in 2001 to serve as George W. Bush's Secretary of Health and Human Services.

But Thompson's candidacy has been anything but welcomed by his party's current leaders, who have moved very far to the right since his heyday.

"He's done a lot of good things," said Fitzgerald, who along with his brother Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald and Gov. Scott Walker now hold the reins of state government. But, Fitzgerald added, "I think people are looking for something different."

Some conservatives have put it more bluntly. "Sit this one out," said Kirsten Lombard, a Madison-based Tea Party organizer active in the campaign that put right-wing candidates into office last year.

The tepid response to Thompson, who only two years ago was begged by national party leaders to run for the state's

other Senate seat, illustrates the dramatic political change that's occurred in the state.

Rather than sweeping to victory as a returning hero, some Republicans now worry that Thompson would become part of a crowded competition with new-wave conservatives for the seat. They fear a brutal intraparty battle could damage the eventual nominee and cost the party a prime opportunity.

For Thompson, the ambivalence has left him trying to explain himself to a party he has long embodied.

"I am a true conservative and make no bones about it," Thompson insisted in an interview with The Associated Press. "I led the conservative movement for 14 years as governor. My record is solid and complete and I'm really happy with that record and most people in the state of Wisconsin are as well."

Before Thompson's election in 1986, five of the previous seven governors had been Democrats. He often governed by consensus. He got Democratic support for introducing the nation's first private school choice program in

Milwaukee in 1990 and even won over some Democrats for his overhaul of the welfare system in the mid-1990s.

But that's a far cry from the state's charged political environment today. Earlier this year, when Walker, who is far to the political right, moved to strip collective bargaining rights for state employees, he did so without a single Democratic vote.

Some Republicans clearly want more candidates who will continue to press a hard ideological line. Conservative groups like David Koch's Club for Growth are already working against Thompson. In August the group aired a statewide television ad attacking him. South Carolina Sen. Jim DeMint, a conservative kingmaker, recently took a thinly veiled swipe at Thompson, claiming he supported President Barack Obama's healthcare plan - a charge Thompson denies.

Meanwhile, the National Republican Senatorial Campaign, which courted Thompson as a candidate in 2010, isn't calling this time. Both the Club for Growth and DeMint have endorsed Neumann.

- From staff and wire reports



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FROM GRIEF TO TRIUMPH LGBT center offers new support group

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

Amy Kallas showed the first symptoms she had a rare form of endometrial cancer shortly after Mother's Day in May 2008.

"It was a very aggressive form of cancer," said Ann Lewis, Kallas' partner.

On May 21, 2010, Kallas died at the age of 63, and Lewis began the struggle to cope with the loss, to deal with the grief.

"Amy lived life large," Lewis said. "She was a bold personality. And smart. And funny. And you never had to guess what was on Amy's mind. She was very out there. Very outspoken."

Lewis and Kallas shared 24 years together, most of them in Milwaukee and the last few in a suburb of the city.

They were married in their hearts, if not by law.

"Our world revolved around one another," Lewis said.

Kallas, briefly, was in care affiliated with Horizon Home Care and Hospice. And after her partner's death, Lewis received an invitation from Horizon to attend a grief support group for those who lost a spouse or a partner.

"I'm a believer in support groups," Lewis said.

She was feeling isolated and alienated after the death of her best friend, lover, confidant and companion.

"The best way I've been able to describe it is I felt like I was outside of the spaceship on a walk and someone cut the tether," she said. "I felt so disconnected. ... That person who had given so



PHOTOS: COURTESY ANN LEWIS

much meaning and organization to my life was gone."

So, Lewis began attending support sessions at the Horizon Grief Resource Center led by counselor Kayla Waldschmidt, who observed that the "loss of a spouse or a partner affects every minute of every day. Everything changes."

The loneliness for the survivor can be intense.

"One of the most helpful things was being able to go and talk about the pain of the loss, the pain around trying to pull my life together and finding that other people in the group were going through the same thing."

The experience with the Horizon group was terrific. "I was very open about

who I was," said Lewis, who is retired from a consulting business. "And who my partner was and the issues I was dealing with. And, in many ways, these were the same issues that all of the straight people in this group were dealing with."

But some of Lewis' issues were unique, and she began to see the value of a support group specifically for LGBT people grieving the loss of a partner — dealing with estranged relatives or strained relationships, the legal matters that can be complicated by the lack of a marriage license or a partnership certificate and, no less important, society's perception that the loss of a partner is less significant for

unmarried people. Waldschmidt also saw the need: "Partner loss is not recognized. We discount people in long-term relationships who aren't married or just lived together, thinking they weren't married so they couldn't have been in that deep of relationships."

At the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, executive director Maggi Cage, with funding support from several sources, was fortifying partnerships with Horizon and Jewish Family Services to operate an LGBT mental health clinic, providing clients with individual and group therapy and prescription assistance.

The opportunity had arrived to create the Death



Ann Lewis, above, has helped establish a grief support group at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. She says about her late partner, Amy Kallas (left): "She was everything to me." The two were together 24 years.

of a Partner Support Group, the first in the Milwaukee area.

"I felt I wanted to get a conversation going about the viability of an LGBT group," Lewis said. "And so the three of us sat down and did some brainstorming."

The group has started small, with a couple of people dropping in with Waldschmidt on Wednesdays from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the center, 252 E. Highland Ave.

GETTING CONNECTED

For more information about the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center and its programs, visit www.mklgbt.org.

For more information about Horizon Home Care and Hospice and its free support groups, visit horizonhchc.org/griefcenter.

"My hope is that the group will continue to add members," Waldschmidt said.

"We're still trying to figure out how to get going, where to place announcements, what times will work," Lewis said. "This is a brand new endeavor."

The meeting day might change. The hours might change. But not the purpose.

"I think this is really important," Cage said of the loss of a partner group. "It's a brilliant idea."

The center plans to expand its group offerings, which in addition to the grief support group already include a lesbian support group, an HIV/AIDS support group and a psychodrama group.

Lewis said her late partner, who once served on the center board and was a friend of Cage, would be proud of the initiative.

"Amy was the activist," Lewis said. "And was involved with the center quite early on.... I think she'd love it. There's an opportunity here to get involved, to make a difference and hopefully help someone else have a little easier path."

And Lewis' path? "Activist" seems to suit her well, said Cage. "Ann is a champion for this cause," she said.

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NATIONAL GAZE

Wisconsin Gazette .com

Gay vet gets honorable discharge after 70 years

From the Associated Press

Nearly 70 years after expelling Melvin Dwork for being gay, the Navy is changing his discharge from "undesirable" to "honorable" — marking what is believed to be the first time the Pentagon has taken such a step on behalf of a World War II veteran since the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell."

The Navy notified the 89-year-old former corpsman last month that he will now be eligible for the benefits he had long been denied, including medical care and a military burial.

Dwork spent decades fighting to remove the blot on his record.

"I resented that word 'undesirable,'" said Dwork, who was expelled in 1944, at the height of the war, and is now a successful interior designer in New York. "That word really stuck in my craw. To me it was a terrible insult. It had to be righted. It's really worse than 'dishonorable.' I think it was the worst word they could have used."

For Dwork, victory came with a heartbreaking truth: Last year, when the Navy finally released his records, he learned that his name had been given up by his boyfriend at the time.

The decision to amend his discharge papers was made by the Board for Corrections of Naval Records in Washington. In its Aug. 17 proceedings, obtained by The Associated Press, the board noted that

the Navy has undergone a "radical departure" from the outright ban on gays in place in 1944. The board noted Dwork's "exemplary period of active duty" and said that changing his discharge was "in the interest of justice."

Navy officials declined to discuss Dwork's case, citing privacy reasons.

"I think that with the end of 'don't ask, don't tell,' there is a growing realization within the military that not only gays be allowed to serve openly now but this was probably the wrong policy all along," said Aaron Belkin, an expert on gays in the U.S. military at UCLA.

He added: "This illustrates, at least in the case of one person, that the military is trying to set things right."

About 100,000 troops were discharged between World War II and 1993 for being gay and lost their benefits as a result, Belkin said. Under the more relaxed "don't ask, don't tell" policy, which allowed gays to serve as long as they kept their sexual orientation to themselves, about 14,000 troops were forced out. Most were given honorable discharges that allowed them to draw benefits.

Since Congress voted last year to repeal the Clinton-era law, dozens of gay veterans who were given undesirable, dishonorable or less-than-honorable discharges before 1993 have stepped forward, seeking to have the stain removed from

their records, according to the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network.

The SLDN, which provides free legal representation to gays in the military, said Dwork is the first World War II veteran they know of to succeed in getting his records changed.

Many of the other cases involve veterans from the Gulf War era of the early 1990s. Next to Dwork, the oldest veteran is from the Vietnam era, the SLDN said.

Navy officials said that legally, they could have amended the discharge records of gay veterans even during the "don't ask, don't tell" era. But they could not say for certain whether that was ever done. And the SLDN said it could not recall any such cases.

"As the military progresses and the culture progresses, people should not be left with the inaccurate characteristic of their service with words like 'unfitness' or 'undesirable' on their paperwork," said David McKean, SLDN legal director and Dwork's attorney. "That paperwork has consequences for people throughout their lives."

Dwork was not allowed to draw GI benefits to continue his studies as a young man and was denied medical care in his later years. He said he needs a hearing aid that he cannot afford.

Over the years, he filed countless requests with the Navy, traveled to Washington,

lobbied lawmakers and hired a law firm to help.

The Board for Corrections of Naval Records said it would reinstate Dwork's benefits retroactively. But exactly what that means — whether, for example, the Navy will write him a check for the benefits he missed out on over a lifetime — is unclear, his attorney said.

The son of open-minded, liberal parents, Dwork grew up in Kansas City, Mo. He said he realized at 18 that he was gay and had his first serious relationship soon afterward with a man he met while studying at the Kansas City Institute of Art. Both joined the Navy hospital corps in 1943.

"I had heard that the hospital corps was sympathetic to gay people," Dwork said. While working at the Marine base on Parris Island, S.C., Dwork sent letters to his boyfriend, stationed in New Orleans, declaring in one: "I love you, love you, love you incessantly." But after his gay friends warned him to be careful, he stopped.

Later, Dwork was sitting in class, training to be an officer at the University of South Carolina at Columbia, when MPs showed up, whispered something in his instructor's ear and marched him out of the room. His teacher told the class that if he were Dwork's father, he would cut off Dwork's genitals.

He was thrown in the brig, then transferred to a psychiatric ward in Charleston, S.C., where he said he was questioned for two weeks. "This patient is a 22-year-old male who keeps his robe tightly wrapped around him and speaks in a slightly effeminate manner," the doctors wrote in their report. They said Dwork took an "avid interest in female attire, household furnishings and shopping."

Dwork said he assumed his love letters had fallen into the wrong hands and led to his discharge. After he recently learned the truth,



PHOTO: AP/SETH WENIG

Nearly 70 years after Melvin Dwork was expelled from the Navy for being gay, the military is changing his discharge from "undesirable" to "honorable."

he contacted his former boyfriend, who had long ago married and had children. The man did not want to discuss the matter, Dwork said.

Dwork said the young man was pressured into giving up names as part of a "witch hunt."

"It was confusing to me that anything like that could happen," Dwork said. "I always knew I was innocent, and I wasn't ashamed of what I was or what I am. It was just a sad period. I didn't know frankly at that point it would affect the rest of my life."

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Feds issue new rules on gay patients' rights

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

The federal government has issued a new prescription for protecting LGBT patients' rights to hospitals enrolled in Medicare and Medicaid programs. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recently relayed new guidelines to hospitals that support enforcement of rules protecting patients' right to choose their own visitors during a hospital stay.

The guidance was developed to guarantee that a patient's domestic partner is not barred from the hospital room because there is no blood relationship or marriage license. The U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services finalized that rule last November, following directives from President Barack Obama and Health Secretary Kathleen Sebelius. Earlier this month, HHS provided hospital administra-

tors with directives on how best to comply with the rule. "Couples take a vow to be with each other in sickness and in health, and it is unacceptable that, in the past, some same-sex partners were denied the right to visit their loved ones in times of need," Sebelius said in a statement Sept. 7. "We are releasing guidance for enforcing new rules that give all patients, including those with same-sex partners, the right to choose who can visit

them in the hospital, as well as enhancing existing guidance regarding the right to choose who will help make medical decisions on their behalf." The rule applies to hospitals that participate in the federal Medicare and Medicaid programs, but it applies to all patients in a participating hospital, not just those enrolled in Medicare or Medicaid. Hospital representatives have been instructed to give

all patients an explanation of their rights, including the right to choose their visitors and the right to withdraw visitation consent. Fenway plans to use the grant to recruit experts in LGBT health to lead seminars and consult with community center staff, develop curricula targeted to LGBT populations and work with state primary care associations. "Different groups of people have distinct healthcare needs," Sebelius said.

and Technical Assistance Center, which will help community health centers provide LGBT services. Fenway plans to use the grant to recruit experts in LGBT health to lead seminars and consult with community center staff, develop curricula targeted to LGBT populations and work with state primary care associations. "Different groups of people have distinct healthcare needs," Sebelius said.

Activists pledged to continue pursuing equal rights in the Armed Forces

DADT from I at coming out parties. "As of today, patriotic Americans in uniform will no longer have to lie about who they are in order to serve the country they love," the president said. "As of today, our Armed Forces will no longer lose the extraordinary skills and combat experience of so many gay and lesbian servicemembers. And today, as commander in chief, I want those who were discharged

under this law to know that your country deeply values your service." At the Pentagon, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and Adm. Mike Mullen, chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, held a news briefing. Panetta hailed Sept. 20 as a historic day, when "we move closer to achieving the goal at the foundation of the values that America's all about - equality, equal opportunity and dignity for all Americans." Mullen said DADT was "fundamentally against every-

thing we stand for as an institution" and forced servicemembers "to lie about who they are just to wear a uniform." "We are better than that," Mullen said. Obama signed the repeal in December 2010, beginning months of reviewing policy and regulations at the Pentagon and in each of the military branches. Next began training programs, intended to condition servicemembers for DADT's repeal. With the demise of DADT this week came pledges to continue to pursue equal rights in the Armed Forces. The legal marriages of gay and lesbian servicemembers will not be recognized because of the Defense of Marriage Act, so their benefits will still not be the same as those available to het-

erosexual couples. Female servicemembers continue to be denied some of the opportunities available to men. Transgenders still face barriers in open service. In numerous locations on Sept. 20, activists with the GetEQUAL civil disobedience group staged Day of Discontent demonstrations.


Adm. Mullen said DADT was "against everything we stand for as an institution."

"It has taken 17 years of hard work to remove this discriminatory policy and still our community faces discrimination and intolerance on a daily basis that this one important victory won't fix," said GetEQUAL director Robin McGehee. Obama and his aides and advisors also committed to pursuing equal rights. "There are LGBT Americans who still face discrimination and are denied the rights they are deserved," said senior presidential advisor Valerie Jarrett. "So we are not done fighting."

A COLONIAL RULE
The ban on gay servicemembers did not begin with adoption of the "don't ask, don't tell" policy in 1993. The first anti-gay discharge was in 1778, according to Servicemembers United.

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N.C. business leaders oppose anti-gay amendment in 2012

By Lisa Neff
Staff writer

North Carolina business CEOs, civil rights activists, progressive politicians and vexed voters are uniting to defeat a constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman. The measure also would bar any state recognition of civil unions and domestic partnerships. Last week, business-minded opponents of the amendment gathered in a conference room at the capitol to warn that passage would tarnish the Tar Heel State's reputation as a welcoming place to live and work. "If you want to figure out a way to push Bank of America from its headquarters in Charlotte to New York, pass this amendment," said Martin Eakes, CEO of the Center for Responsible Learning and a member of the bank's national advisory board. Richard Degnan, vice president of The Body Shop, said

during the press conference Sept. 14 that his company would not have relocated from San Francisco to Wake Forest, N.C., if the amendment had been in place four years ago. Mitchell Gold, co-founder of the Taylorsville, N.C.-based home furnishings empire Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams, said of the legislative votes, "I am frankly disgusted." About 80 other corporate executives signed a letter opposing the amendment and emphasizing that 95 percent of voters say their top priority is creating jobs and boosting the economy. Lobbyists also are organizing against the ballot initiative, along with activists,

Organizations on both sides are raising money.

including demonstrators with the national GetEQUAL civil disobedience group, and members of Equality North Carolina, the statewide GLBT organization. "The politicians of this state - my state - cemented their future legacies alongside those of George Wallace, Bull Connor and ... other ... bigots," said GetEQUAL organizer Angel Chandler.

"Today, we have a very clear message for them: The days when North Carolina's LGBT population sat silently in their closets, too ashamed to stand up and fight this act of state-sponsored bigotry and hatred are over. ... We are standing up, our voices will be heard, and we will work to disarm opponents of progress in this country by calling them out publicly for the nation to see their bigotry."

The North Carolina Senate vote for the amendment was 30-16 on Sept. 13. The house vote on Sept. 12 was 75-42, with Republicans mostly lining up on the "yes" side and Democrats in the "no" column. Organizations on both sides of the issue now are raising money and courting voters. There is general agreement that the primary, with a hotly contested race for the GOP presidential nomination, likely will draw many more Republicans than Democrats to the polls.

ON THE BALLOT
Next May, North Carolina's presidential primary ballot will ask voters to answer "yes" or "no" to enacting a constitutional amendment making marriage between one man and one woman the only domestic legal union valid or recognized in the state.

Gays big users of social networks

A massive survey shows that social networks increasingly are an effective way to reach LGBT consumers. The fifth annual LGBT Community Survey, conducted by Community Marketing Inc., involved a partnership with 150 organizations, websites and publications and the polling of 30,000 people. Gay consumers, the survey shows, are leading the charge toward the intersection of social networking and brand interaction, using mobile apps such as Grindr. Also, they increasingly are making use of mobile ad platforms, including QR codes and tags. Nearly 70 percent of gay men own a smartphone - a percentage slightly higher than among lesbians. About 50 percent of gay smartphone owners have iPhones, which are used, according to the survey, mostly for texting, Web browsing and updating social networks such as Facebook. The survey also shows:
• Gay and lesbian consumers are 50 percent more likely than the general population to make a purchase with their smartphone, and 50 percent are more likely than the general population to receive notifications from Groupon, Living Social and other "deal" services on their devices.
• 85 percent of older gay men and 88 percent of older lesbians are connecting with friends on Facebook.
• 39 percent of gay men and 37 percent of lesbians are planning a major vacation in the next year.
• 18 percent of gay men plan to purchase cars in the next year, and 16 percent plan to purchase tablet computers.
• 48 percent of older gay men and 33 percent of younger gay men regularly read local LGBT publications.
- Lisa Neff

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THE BOYS BEHIND THE DOOR

Gays have helped make Door County a top destination

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

It's a familiar scenario in Door County: Visitors are so smitten with the peninsula's scenic beauty and postcard-quiet villages that they impulsively move here to open the bed-and-breakfast, restaurant or gift shop they've always dreamed of owning.

But those who've been there and done that will tell you that life does not magically morph into a cinematic montage of panoramic sunsets and friendly neighborhood fish boils. Instead, Door County entrepreneurs find themselves chained to a life of hard work that can test their relationships, fry their nest eggs and entail bouts of isolation.

Still, those who've succeeded say it's well worth the effort.

Many of the Door's successful entrepreneurs are gay men who faced the additional uncertainty of social acceptance when they left the shelter of urban enclaves to live in rural, Republican Wisconsin. The area owes much of its magic to their hard work and talent. God provided the scenery, but gay entrepreneurs have made significant contributions to the amenities that make this area a cherished destination.

Lifelong partners Darrin Day and Bryon Groeschl are literally Door County's gay poster boys. Last year, the Door County Visitors Bureau asked the handsome owners of Sturgeon Bay's popular Chanticleer Guest House to serve as models for a print advertising campaign targeting LGBT tourists through Midwest publications, including the Wisconsin Gazette. Recognizing the historic symbolism of the ads, the two agreed to do it.

After 20 years together, portraying a gay couple in an ad wasn't much of a stretch for them. But when they first moved to the area in 1993, they say, it would have been unthinkable for the visitor's bureau to invest in a campaign targeting gay tourists, and certainly not a campaign using the image of a same-sex couple lounging in their

hotel room.

The couple says they were proud to be a part of the historic effort because they recognized the validating impact it could have, especially for young people struggling with their sexual identities.

In many ways, Day and Groeschl were uniquely prepared for lives as B&B owners.

Although they met at UW-Madison, both came from Wisconsin farming backgrounds and prefer the rural lifestyle. They're able to survive the pressure of working together because they have the unusual good fortune of agreeing about nearly everything, they say.

"When Bryon and I go to pick out wallpaper for a room, we go our separate ways and each select three options," Day says. "Then, when we get together to compare them, they're always the same three."

Thinking in synch comes in handy for a couple that's together literally all the time. "We live and work and go to the gym together," Day says.

They also share a strong work ethic and have the gay decorating gene operating in their favor. Their 70-acre property is immaculately landscaped and groomed. Their eight suites, divided between two buildings, are each distinctively outfitted with lovely period touches. (They also have four cabins for rent.) And their sumptuously simple breakfasts, often made with eggs and fruit from their property, are the very essence of the best sort of B&B experience.

Chanticleer Guest House was a success from the start, when the entire enterprise consisted of only four suites and one building, they say. Day, who was working as a dairy nutritionist for Land O'Lakes when they opened the inn, was able to quit his job the following year.

"I never think anything is going to fail," Groeschl says. "I always think everything is going to work out, and it always has."

Despite their success and positive attitude, the two do sometimes get a case of, well, cabin fever. They spend a lot of time with another



Bryon Groeschl and Darrin Day.

PHOTO: COURTESY

gay male couple who own a nearby riding stable, but otherwise their social contact is largely limited to visitors. They've learned to cope by getting out of town once a month, often visiting cities with larger gay communities. In the winter, they fly to southern destinations, such as Miami — "places with palm trees," Day says.

"Most of our friends from the big city shake their heads and say, 'How do you do it?'" Day says. "Sometimes we feel like we've missed out on a whole gay life that other folks live. When we go to Chicago or Miami, it's fun. But to live there day after day ... I don't know."

Even though Day and Groeschl feel comfortable enough to have a giant rainbow flag hoisted at the entrance to their property, they say living as an openly gay couple in Door County is not as comfortable as in a place like Madison.

"I'm sure some people talk," Groeschl says. "The neighbors we know love us, and the ones we don't know leave us alone. We occasionally get (anti-gay) letters, but they're always from church groups from another state."

call us 'The Bickersons.' But we make it work. We know when to back down and how to choose our battles."

Their portion of Door County has changed over the past three decades, becoming less conservative and gay-friendlier, they say. "In the beginning, we just stuck to ourselves," McKeefry says. But now, he adds, they enjoy a more expansive social life. New friendships include a number of gays from Milwaukee and other cities who have bought condos in the area.

The duo also is involved in local civic life. McKeefry, for example, sits on the board of the nationally acclaimed Peninsula Music Festival.

Although they operate a year-round business and work seemingly every waking minute during the summer, they say, the couple also enjoys a pastoral lifestyle that even Hallmark might envy. They live with a virtual petting zoo of welcoming pooches in a comfortable, country-style home on 40 acres of former farmland. Some of that acreage is devoted to a complex array of gardens that produce everything from garlic to zin-

nias. Aided by a staff of 10, the couple produces 30,000 to 40,000 annuals every year that wind up in the flowerbeds that encircle the area's homes and businesses.

"Anywhere you drive around the community where you see a huge splash of color and a huge gay touch, we might have been involved in it," McKeefry says.

At Chanticleer Guest House, autumn bustles with tourists in search of fall color at off-peak rates. At McKeefry and Yeomans, it's Door County's condo and second-home owners who keep the cash register ringing into late October. In late August, the store already is spilling over with Halloween table settings, Thanksgiving centerpieces and Christmas decorations. At McKeefry and Yeomans, these chronologically disparate items of merchandise are displayed so artfully that they seem to belong together.

Gay, as they say, is in the details. It's not until the dead of winter that business slows to a crawl, McKeefry says. To avoid the winter blues, *continued on next page*



Nathan Nichols in his showroom.

PHOTO: COURTESY

continued

he and Yeomans do a lot of skiing and snowshoeing. They also travel a good deal.

GLOBAL IMPACT

One of the couple's favorite traveling companions is Nathan Nichols, an openly gay man who has accomplished the seemingly impossible: He's created a furniture and home accessory business in tiny Bailey's Harbor that has an international client base that includes famed composer Andrew Lloyd Webber. The industry publication Home Accents Today named Nathan Nichols & Company one of the world's Top 50 "retail stars" for 2011.

How did a small business in Door County make such a splash on the international radar? "I have a thing for display," Nichols says sheepishly, with a twinkle in his eye.

With the kind of merchandising talent Nichols possesses, he could have made his home anywhere — and he did travel around for a while before settling in Door County in 2000. At one point in time, he worked for Milwaukee's Peabody's Interiors. He has warehouses in Milwaukee,

Madison and Green Bay.

But Nichols decided to settle in Bailey's Harbor because the natural beauty of the area reminded him of his native New England but the people of Door County are much friendlier, he says.

"The people here are the biggest reason I stay. They're wonderful," he says. "The people in Wisconsin actually say hi to you — in the grocery store, on the street."

Like Day and Groeschl and McKeefry and Yeomans, Nichols let his business grow organically, starting with one building and then acquiring adjacent properties as demand grew. The small building he began with was constructed in 1887 as a barbershop. The circular imprint of the barber's chair is still visible on the floor.

Nichols lives in a cozy flat above the former barbershop. Ingeniously designed, it looks like a Soho flat featured in Architectural Digest, except for the partial Lake Michigan view.

Downstairs, however, is the main attraction. "This is my life," Nichols says, gesturing. The 6,000-square-foot showroom is filled with a

combination of high-end furniture brands such as Baker and unique, one-of-a-kind items he finds during travels around the globe.

"When I started here, people said, 'You're never going to be able to sell a \$5,000 sofa in Door County,'" Nichols remembers. In the last two years alone, however, he's sold 29 Barbara Barry sofas, each for double that amount.

One of the ingredients in Nichols' success formula, he says, is keeping his showroom dynamic. He wants to wow customers with a new experience every time they visit. To that end, he sells off one-third of his inventory every year during a blow-out sale and then re-arranges his entire showroom.

Nichols' only complaint about Door County is that it gets lonely. In a place where the number of tourist brochures probably exceeds the permanent population, there aren't a lot of dating opportunities for a middle-aged gay man. In winter, when his store is only open on weekends, Nichols spends most of his time reading and having dinner with friends. He does a considerable amount

of traveling in the winter as well, often with McKeefry and Yeomans.

BALANCING ACT

Partners Ron Perley and Jerry Spitz might have found the ultimate winter solution for gay life in Door County. They divide their year evenly between Chicago, where they maintain a home, and Egg Harbor, where they own the popular Mediterranean restaurant Trio.

Two decades ago, Perley was working for a bank in Chicago and Spitz was employed in the design industry when they made their fateful visit to the Door.

"We came up for a long weekend and decided there's too much to do here for a weekend," Perley says. So they went back. And back.

Eventually they became hooked on Egg Harbor as the perfect place to realize their dream of owning a restaurant. That was 19 years ago.

"We're in the 19th year of our five-year plan," Spitz jokes.

At the time they started Trio, most of the restaurants in Door County were supper clubs. "We asked local people if they thought a French/

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Italian restaurant would work in this environment," Spitz says. Perhaps starved for something new, people overwhelmed replied, "Please, please do it," he remembers.

"Still, we were ready to start doing fish boils and pot roasts, if that's what it took," Spitz says.

Fortunately, they never had to implement their back-up plan, although the menu does feature such decidedly un-

Mediterranean favorites as Door County cherry cobbler and Lake Michigan whitefish.

With Perley as chef and Spitz as the manager of front-end operations, Trio was an instant hit with locals and tourists

alike. It still gets rave reviews for its excellent and affordable fare, attractive decor and relaxed bistro ambience.

Trio is rated 4.5 out of 5 on TripAdvisor.com, making it Egg Harbor's second highest-rated eatery.

Perley and Spitz open the restaurant every April and close for the winter in late October. They say the period between Labor Day and late October is their favorite time of the year. Then, they say, the visitors are more sophisticated and the crowds are smaller. The crisper nights make things feel cozy, and people seem to mellow with the softening light.



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{ Editorial }

Back to school beneath the shadow of tragedy

Last year, a spate of LGBT youth suicides sent shock waves throughout America.

Despite repeated polls showing young people are ahead of their elders in supporting same-sex marriage, it became evident last September that a shocking backlash of hate was poisoning the hallways, dormitories and locker rooms of the nation's schools and colleges.

On Sept. 22, 2010, exactly one year prior to the publication date of this issue of WiG, Rutgers University freshman Tyler Clementi leaped to his death off the George Washington Bridge. Clementi was humiliated after his dorm roommate broadcast a recording online of him having a sexual encounter with a man online.

For many LGBT Americans, Clementi's death became emblematic of the senseless loss of young lives last September. But it was the death of 17-year-old Cody Barker of Shiocton on Sept. 13, 2010, that brought the issue home to Wisconsin like a knife through the heart.

Bright, loving, handsome and brave, Barker had a supportive, adoring family and even a gay uncle as a role model. He was out at school, where he was struggling to establish a Gay-Straight Alliance club. He was part of an LGBT youth support group that met regularly in nearby Appleton.

But even with all of that going for him, Cody found conditions at his school intolerable. During the first week of his senior year, he hung himself in his family's barn.

For decades, experts have documented with alarm the disproportionately high rates of suicide among LGBT youth. There's no evidence that 2010's body count was higher than in previous years. It was just more visible.

In the year since last September's tragedies, the LGBT community and its allies have come together in a way seldom seen since the early years of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The Trevor Project and writer Dan Savage's "It Gets Better" video series have raised the issue to a level of unparalleled awareness. These projects are trying to save young lives by offering reassuring messages from high-profile role models along with supportive resources to those at risk.

In many areas, school districts, state governments and other policy-making bodies have aggressively taken on the complex issue of school bullying, some with a resolve that could make a real difference.

Still, harassment at the nation's schools continues to cost young lives and leave lasting emotional scars. And right-wing Christians are fighting anti-bullying policies with all the money and propaganda tools in their arsenal. They contend that ridiculing and damning LGBT youth is essential to the practice of their religious faith. They also claim it's the only way to save young people from the eternal damnation of the so-called "gay lifestyle."

Republican lawmakers have enthusiastically co-opted the evangelical agenda, even to the extent of opposing laws designed to protect youth from harassment in schools.

The only way to keep up the momentum for our youth is for parents and students to continue stepping forward, challenging school authorities and telling their stories to the public before those stories erupt into the kind of headlines that horrified us last September.



"Civil union would be a step up."

{ Feedback }

THANKS FOR COVERAGE OF NEO-NAZI RALLY

I am writing to thank you for the Wisconsin Gazette's balanced, informative and accurate article on the Sept. 3 neo-Nazi rally and counter-demonstration.

As a member of Milwaukee Inner-city Congregations Allied for Hope, I was one of the many standing in the rain in protest of those claiming to "defend white America." I was disgusted by the posturing of the combat-booted thugs hoisting their massive swastika flags, but comforted to see how few of them turned out for the occasion. I saw a great deal of camaraderie,

an astonishing degree of tolerance for the bad weather, and a large number of fairly bored-looking police in riot gear. Good heavens — we even sang several verses of "Kumbaya" at one point!

Imagine my surprise, then, to see Milwaukee Journal Sentinel lead with a photograph of an African-American man with his fist raised, and two whites in the foreground appearing to be backing away from him. Their emphasis was not on the unwelcome intrusion of neo-Nazis into our community, but on a handful of arrests.

This contrasts with my own experience of seeing several instances of "White People Behaving Badly" —

foul language on a sign or two and, in one case, a man screaming abusive remarks. He was escorted out of the rally by an African-American organizer. The greatest threat that day seemed to be terminally sodden footwear, not race wars.

MJS's article was grossly misleading, in my opinion. Such irresponsible misrepresentation contributes to the ongoing racial tension so prevalent in this city.

I'm glad that my congregation (Divine Word/Pentecost) makes Wisconsin Gazette available to its members. I'm enjoying reading your paper. Keep up the good work!

Cindi Morgan
Parks Neighborhood Parish

Our mission

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



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ON THE RECORD

"I am a true conservative and make no bones about it. I led the conservative movement for 14 years as governor. My record is solid and complete and I'm really happy with that record and most people in the state of Wisconsin are as well."

— FORMER GOV. TOMMY THOMPSON *defending his record against Tea Party critics as he weighs entering the state's 2012 U.S. Senate race.*

"Leaving one of the best jobs in sports to go figure out what's next is something I never would've done a year ago or five years ago or 10 years ago. Personally, there is a level of confidence and that I can figure it out and the future is going to be terrific. I'm just in a different place."

— PHOENIX SUNS PRESIDENT & CEO RICK WELTS *announcing his resignation. The first openly gay senior executive of a men's professional sports team, Welts said he's moving to Sacramento, Calif., to be with his partner.*

"North Carolinians struggling through this recession want to see the general assembly work on creating jobs. Instead, Republicans choose to focus on writing divisive social issues into our constitution — an effort that will hurt business recruitment."

— NORTH CAROLINA STATE SEN. JOSH STEIN, *D-Wake, on the GOP's plan to amend the state's constitution to ban same-sex marriage.*

"We don't believe in separate but equal in any other legal position except this. We feel that this is the last piece of the civil rights puzzle being put into place."

— ROB REINER *speaking about marriage equality on MSNBC's "Morning Joe."*

"I think freedom means freedom for everybody, and you ought to have the right to make whatever choice you want to make with respect to your own personal situation."

— FORMER VICE PRESIDENT DICK CHENEY *telling the Daily Caller that he supports the presidential campaign of Republican U.S. Rep. Ron Paul.*

"I like him. I like what he says, I do. I like what he says. I think he's solid."

— PERFORMER BARRY MANILOW *confirming to the Daily Caller that he supports the presidential campaign of Republican U.S. Rep. Ron Paul.*

"But the real problem is that the federal government hides behind states on this issue. It is blatant, ugly bigotry, and the federal government shouldn't be doing that. You're denying some Americans the right that all Americans have, to live their lives as they choose."

— ACTOR BRAD PITT *once again coming out strongly for marriage equality, this time in an interview with Parade magazine.*

"Wow! How great was my son? The greatest thing, greatest thing, greatest thing no matter what! He's a winner! I was so nervous."

— CHER, *tweeting about son Chaz Bono's debut on "Dancing with the Stars."*

Inspired by Baldwin's candidacy



It seems incredible, but within a few months we are going to be in the thick of another presidential election and an arduous recall campaign against Gov. Scott Walker.

I have serious doubts about whether the president can win a second term with the economy in the shape it's in. And I'm concerned that the gubernatorial recall will expend enormous amounts of energy and money only to result in maintenance of the status quo.

So what's a depressed cynic to do?

There is one campaign that faces challenges but promises to be energizing, inspiring and — dare I say it? — victorious. That is Tammy Baldwin's campaign for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Herb Kohl.

Baldwin is an intelligent and dedicated public servant. She first got politically engaged on her middle school student council in the 1970s, raising money for a school in Nicaragua (Wisconsin's "sister" state) and resolving hot-button issues like stu-

ing her 30 years of public service. Her priorities have been promotion of a universal healthcare system, environmental protection and sustainable energy, civil rights and liberties, and peace. In 2003, she voted against the war in Iraq. This summer, she voted against more hundreds of billions for our endless wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Baldwin has performed a public service of another order by always being open about her lesbianism and speaking out in support of LGBT rights. She defuses the issue of her own sexuality matter-of-factly, saying that her constituents are less concerned with her personal life than the fact that she represents them well and responds to their needs. Her openness on the issue has added to her reputation for integrity.

While earning a law degree from the University of Wisconsin, Baldwin won election to the Dane County Board of Supervisors, serving four terms (1986-94). She then won election to the Assembly, representing the 78th district from January 1993 to January 1999. She ran a smart, successful campaign for U.S. Congress in 1998 and has been re-elected ever since.

Less important than her resume are the causes Baldwin has championed dur-

ing her 30 years of public service. Her priorities have been promotion of a universal healthcare system, environmental protection and sustainable energy, civil rights and liberties, and peace. In 2003, she voted against the war in Iraq. This summer, she voted against more hundreds of billions for our endless wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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There are challenges ahead. Republicans and the mainstream media are already dismissing Baldwin as too liberal, a label that has been thoroughly demonized in recent years. When push

comes to shove, I expect the other "L" word — lesbian — will be trotted out as an overt or covert fear tactic. Baldwin also faces potential backdraft from voters' disenchantment with Obama, which could lower Democratic turnout next year. Ultimately, she may need to defeat still popular former Gov. Tommy Thompson.

Baldwin has always been a good fundraiser with a crack campaign organization that engages hundreds of volunteers. That machine needs to be retrofitted to encompass all of Wisconsin. She needs advisors who can immediately respond to the attack ads that are inevitable. Mostly, she needs to become a familiar face and voice to Wisconsin voters over the next year, offering reason and reassurance about the bread-and-butter issues worrying everyone.

Working to elect Wisconsin's first woman senator — and a liberal lesbian to boot! — makes the 2012 election much more enticing.



Disturbed by Walker's cronyism

Gov. Scott Walker's tenure has been marked by very low approval ratings, an extremist agenda and a worsening unemployment rate.

If that isn't bad enough, now we are seeing headlines involving a John Doe investigation and the FBI searching the home of a top Walker aide. John Doe investigations are secret proceedings. Witnesses can be subpoenaed and compelled to testify under oath, and they're forbidden from talking publicly about the case.

On Sept. 14, reports surfaced that officers with the FBI and other agencies were searching the home of Walker's former deputy administration secretary Cynthia Archer. She recently resigned from that post but still is part of the administration. The raid of her home appears to be a part of a John Doe investigation that is certainly nothing new.

Over the past 16 months, the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel's Dan Bice has repeatedly reported on the existence of a John Doe

investigation. It appears to involve Walker's campaign and a number of his former Milwaukee County staff.

Based on the reports of the investigation, at least one element appears to deal with campaigning done by Walker staffers while they were at their county jobs, which are paid for by taxpayers. In fact, one of Walker's former Milwaukee County aides, Darlene Wink, resigned last year when she was confronted with that issue.

The Walker campaign must be taking this investigation seriously because they have retained the services of an expensive law firm. These recent developments shouldn't be a surprise to anyone who paid close attention to Walker and his Milwaukee County administration. Although he originally campaigned on ending cronyism, in many ways he perfected the practice. He went fur-

ther than anyone before him in blurring the lines between his various campaigns and county government.

Throughout his tenure as Milwaukee County executive, Walker provided high profile county jobs to his long list of campaign cronies and other supporters. Many of them were cycled back and forth between his campaigns and official county positions.

These campaign cronies were effective at getting Walker elected, but many were not so great at their cushy county jobs. The county's economic development division repeatedly had problems while Walker's campaign cronies ran it, including multimillion-dollar deficits. Eventually the division became such a failure that Walker eliminated it.

Unfortunately not even that disaster stopped him from continually cycling these and other campaign cronies into taxpayer-funded jobs.

Hopefully the John Doe investigation is looking into how Walker's political cronies were handling things like

open records requests sent to his county administration. When political opponents sent requests for records, they were often met with deception and obstacles. One incident led to a rebuke of the Walker administration by an assistant attorney general.

Last year, when the anonymous blog "ScottforGov" sent in a records request to the Walker administration, it received the documents with lighting speed and at no charge. But the administration took months and charged hundreds of dollars to requests from others. The "ScottforGov" example is even more disturbing because this cult-like blog was taken down very quickly after serious questions were raised about Walker cronies possibly campaigning on county time. Many found the timing very telling.

Clearly investigators in this John Doe investigation believe they are on to something big. Otherwise, it would be hard to justify a 16-month investigation and raids of homes.

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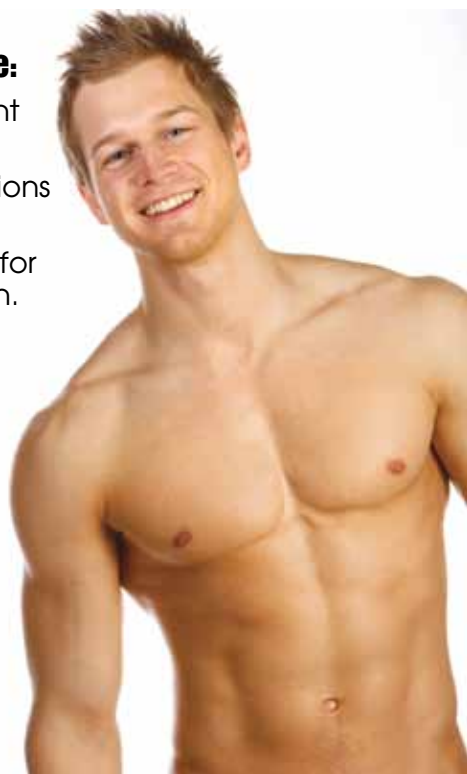
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FAITH GAZE



Coming out spiritually makes life better

Religion ANDREW WARNER

Living now as an out gay man in his congregation, Dave, 60, feels truly free.

On Oct. 11, our community celebrates National Coming Out Day. Whether you've been out since before Cher's first facelift or came out just this year, it's a time to reflect on our personal stories of self-discovery and transformation.

Often coming out focuses on the "big" conversation with friends and family. But for queer people of faith, it also involves one's relationship with God.

How do we come out to God?

Wondering about this question led Equality Wisconsin and the LGBT

Resource Center to plan "Coming Out with God: Bringing Your Whole Self to Faith." The special program takes place on Oct. 11 in the student union of UW-M. Various speakers will share their stories of finding accepting congregations.

(Call 414-431-1306 for more information).

Fully coming out with God can take a lifetime. Dave, a member of Lake Park Lutheran Church on Milwaukee's East Side, recently shared his story with me.

"I knew I was gay from an early age," Dave explained. "When I heard the Cinderella story, I dreamed of Prince Charming coming for me."

Dave's fairy tale came true after college in the 1970s. He went to Milwaukee, where he met his partner Fred and they moved in together.

Early in their relationship, Fred sought out a church. He picked a Missouri Synod Lutheran congregation because he liked the pastor and the conservative theology.

Moved by Jesus' teaching that "a house divided cannot stand," Dave joined the conservative church with Fred. They were not open with the congregation about their relationship. Instead they presented themselves as if Fred was Dave's uncle.

For many years Dave led a closeted life professionally, spiritually and even with his family. Staying in the closet was a pragmatic response to a homophobic environment.

Dave remembers how police chief Harold Breier targeted gay bars in the 1970s and 1980s. Even in the 1990s he felt it was not safe to come out while teaching in MPS.

Thankfully, society changed. Fred loved the Missouri Synod, but Dave was ready for a change. After Fred

died, Dave looked for a new church and found Lake Park Lutheran. The warm, embracing attitude of the people kept him there.

"At my old church the people were suspicious of new people. They greeted them with 'the look,'" Dave explained. "But at Lake Park people introduced themselves and took me in."

One of the defining moments of welcome came for Dave in the celebration of communion.

"During communion we say, 'This is the Lord's table so all are welcome here.'" It was so different than at his previous church, where only some were allowed communion — and certainly all of him was not welcome.

Now, living as an out, gay man, Dave feels truly free.

"I'm 60 years old," he said. "I don't give a damn what people think."

The transformation in Dave's life was facilitated by a spiritual home that allowed him to explore fully who he is.

Over the summer, Dave led worship along with a lesbian and another gay man. It would have been inconceivable for him just a few years ago to be out and in leadership at a church.

"We had one gay ole time up there," Dave said. And in the rich joy of his voice, it's clear that he's found a church that's given him everything he needed spiritually and beyond.

Follow the news at www.wisconsin Gazette.com.

OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATIONS

MILWAUKEE

- All Saints' Cathedral** (Episcopal), 818 E. Juneau Ave., 53202, 414-271-7719, www.ascathedral.org
- Central United Methodist Church**, 639 N. 25th St., 53233, 414-344-1600, www.centralumcmilw.org
- Congregation Shir Hadash**, 414-297-9159, www.cshmilw.org
- Cross Lutheran Church**, 1821 N. 16th St., 53205, 414-344-1746, www.crosslutheranmilwaukee.org
- Divine Word Lutheran Church**, 5505 Lloyd St., 53208, 414-476-3189, divinewordlutheran.org
- First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee**, 1342 N. Astor St., 53202, 414-273-5257, www.uumilwaukee.org
- Lake Park Lutheran Church**, 2647 N. Stowell Ave., 53211, 414-962-9190, lakeparklutheran.com
- Metropolitan Community Church**, 1239 W. Mineral St., 53204, 414-383-1100, www.milbcc.org
- Milwaukee Friends Meeting (Quakers)**, 3224 N. Gordon Place, 53212, 414-263-2111, www.milwaukeequakers.org
- Mt. Zion Lutheran Church**, 12012 W. North Ave., Wauwatosa 53226, 414-258-0456, www.mtzionlutheran.org
- Our Savior's Lutheran Church**, 3022 W. Wisconsin Ave., 53208, 414-342-5252, www.oslcmilw.org
- Plymouth Church**, 2717 E. Hampshire Ave., 53211, 414-964-1513, www.plymouth-church.org
- St. James Episcopal Church**, 833 W. Wisconsin Ave., 53233, 414-964-1513, www.stjamesmilwaukee.org
- Tippecanoe Church PCUSA-Living Waters Contemplative Life Center**, 125 W. Saveland Ave., Bay View, 53207, 414-481-4680, www.tippecanoechurch.org
- Underwood Memorial Baptist Church**, 1916 Wauwatosa Ave., Wauwatosa 53213, www.underwoodchurch.org
- Unitarian Church North**, 13800 N. Port Washington Rd., 53097,

- 262-375-3890, www.ucnorth.org
- Universal Anglican Church — Christ Enlight**, Marion Center for Nonprofits, 3195 S. Superior St., 53207, 414-793-4828, www.uacmilwaukee.org
- Village Church**, 130 E. Juneau Ave., 53202, 414-273-7617, www.villagechurchmilwaukee.org
- Wauwatosa Presbyterian Church**, 2366 N. 80th St., Wauwatosa, 53213, 414-774-5005, www.tosapres.com

MADISON

- Advent Lutheran Church ELCA**, 7118 Old Sauk Rd., 53717, 608-836-1455, www.madisonchristiancommunity.org
- Beth'El Evangelical Lutheran Church**, 101 Bethel Drive, P.O. Box 70, Poynette, WI 53955-0070
- Community of Hope UCC**, 7118 Old Sauk Rd., 53717, 608-836-1455, www.madisonchristiancommunity.org
- First United Methodist Church**, 203 Wisconsin Ave., 53703-2105, 608-256-9061, www.wisconsinumc.org/madison-firstumc/
- James Reeb Unitarian Universalist Congregation**, 2146 E. Johnson St., 53704, 608-242-8887, www.jruuc.org
- Plymouth Congregational UCC**, 2401 Atwood Ave., 53704, 608-249-1537, www.pcucc.org

GREEN BAY

- Angels of Hope MCC**, P.O. Box 672, Green Bay, 54305, 920-983-7452, www.aohmcc.org, aohchurch@netnet.net
- Hope United Church of Christ**, 141 S. 12th Ave., Sturgeon Bay, 54235, 920-743-2701, www.hopechurchdc.org, hopeucc@hopechurchdc.org

- Union Congregational United Church of Christ**, 716 S. Madison St., 54301-3609, 920-437-9266, www.unionucc.com, office@unionucc.com

FOX VALLEY

- Fox Valley UU Fellowship**, 2600 Philip Lane, Appleton, 54915, 920-731-0849, www.fvuuf.org
- SS Cyril and Methodius United Independent Catholic Church**, 3499 Oakridge Road, Neenah, 54956, 920-809-3969, www.uicchurch.homestead.com, sscyrilandmethodius@yahoo.com

KENOSHA/RACINE

- Bradford Community Church-Unitarian Universalist**, 5810 Eighth Ave., 53140, 262-656-0544, www.bradforduu.org
- Olympia Brown Unitarian Universalist Church**, 625 College Ave., 53403, 262-634-0659, www.obuuc.org, mail@obuuc.org

OTHER

- First Christian Church**, 1909 Highland Ave., Janesville, 53548, 608-752-3847, www.fccjanesville.org
- First Congregational UCC**, 504 Washington Ave., Sauk City, 53583, 608-643-8387, firstucc@merr.com
- Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lakes**, 319 N. Broad St., Elkhorn, 53121, 262-723-7440, www.uulakes.org
- Unitarian Universalist Congregation**, 421 S. Farwell St., Eau Claire, 54701, 715-834-0690, www.uueauclaire.com

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Dolphin's rescue story surfaces on the big screen

By Mitch Stacy

AP writer
The little injured dolphin they called Winter couldn't have come along at a better time for the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, a rustic sea life rescue center occupying the Florida city's old sewage treatment plant.

The nonprofit public aquarium was about to go belly-up at the end of 2005, when the baby bottlenose dolphin was brought there after getting her tail entangled in a crab-trap line. She lived, but her tail fluke withered away, forcing the young animal to learn how to swim with just a stump and then adapt to a revolutionary prosthetic.

Winter's inspirational story of perseverance made her a global media star, quadrupled attendance at the aquarium and spawned a lucrative line of toys, books

and other merchandise.

Now Winter is a movie star.

The charismatic animal plays herself in "Dolphin Tale," a family-friendly 3-D movie starring Harry Connick Jr., Morgan Freeman, Ashley Judd and Kris Kristofferson, opening Sept. 23. The production is based on Winter's unlikely story of surviving the loss of her tail, then thriving and inspiring human visitors — including war veterans — who have lost limbs and are adapting to their own prosthetics.

The movie sticks closely to the real events surrounding the loss of Winter's tail and her recovery at the aquarium. And in another twist on art imitating life, in the movie Winter's presence helps save the modest marine rescue center from financial ruin. A big chunk of the film was shot at the facility last fall.

"Largely what you see with her rescue, her rehabilitation, the (prosthetic) tail being made, the fact it was filmed here and Winter stars as herself, it's pretty much real life," aquarium CEO David Yates says.

Winter wasn't expected to survive when she was brought to the aquarium. A team of more than 150 volunteers and veterinarians spent more than four months nursing her back to health around the clock.

"When she arrived here we didn't think she would make it through the night," says trainer Abby Stone. "She was stressed, she was not physically doing well, she had been through a major ordeal. Most animals in that situation would not have made it."

Winter learned how to swim without her tail — amazing her handlers with a unique combination of moves that resemble an alligator's undulating swimming style and a shark's side-to-side tail swipes. She uses her flippers, normally employed for steering and braking, to get moving.

The prosthetic tail — made of rubberized plastic and carbon fiber — is a wonder of modern science. The developers had not only to design the intricate tail fluke but



PHOTO: COURTESY
Ashley Judd and Harry Connick Jr. star with Winter in "Dolphin Tale," based on Winter's inspirational true-life story. The 3-D film opens on Sept. 23.

also figure out a way to keep it on her body. The solution was a sticky gel composite that slips down onto her stump and creates suction when the prosthetic appendage is applied.

Director Charles Martin Smith says Winter was so social and animated that cap-

ture her engaging behaviors on film was relatively easy. She enjoys human contact, which he says opened up a lot of possibilities for filming people in the water with her.

"I spent those first three days just walking around and learning about her," Smith says. "She likes to carry toys around on her (nose), so I

wrote that into the movie. She has a blue mattress that she likes to jump up on and float around on like a little kid, so I put that in the movie. She has this signature sound that she makes that they call a 'tweety bird' — like a little high-pitched bird trill — so I wrote that into the movie."

The aquarium got a significant expansion thanks to the movie, after Smith decided he needed a nicer pool to film some of the water scenes. The other concrete tanks were left over from the aquarium's previous life treating the city's sewage. Yates says a second aquarium building is opening in downtown Clearwater that will display the movie props.

"It was like a dream come true getting her story out there, because she has such an amazing story," says Stone, the trainer. "It was like the best thing that could ever happen to this facility."

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MEET HONEY BUNCH

Honey Bunch is a 5-year-old American pit bull terrier mix with an incredibly sweet personality and excellent manners. You won't catch this pretty girl jumping on visitors. She prefers to wag her whole body and greet you with a dance. Calm and gentle, Honey Bunch gets along with people of all ages. Like all of our dogs, she's been vaccinated, micro-chipped and spayed, so all she needs now is a loving home!



Honey Bunch is a 5-year-old American pit bull terrier mix.

TIP OF THE WEEK:

Puppy ABC class isn't only wonderful because you and your new puppy get to bond, but it's great to start off on the right paw with training. Plus he or she will love the socialization with other canines — and you'll love having a tired pup. There is a discount for adopters of dogs from shelters and rescue groups, too. Register at www.wihumane.org.

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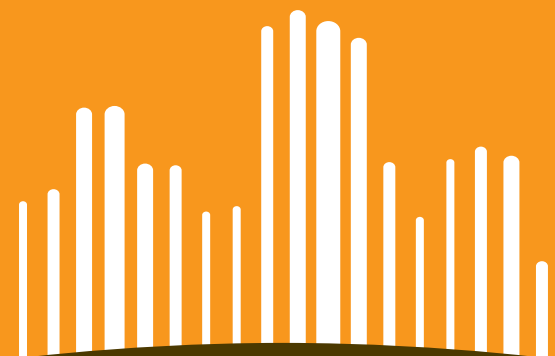
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In Tune

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Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra

Previewing this season's classical music slate

By Mike Muckian

Contributing writer

Wisconsin's rich musical landscape favors the classics, and this year opportunities abound. Whether your tastes run to full symphony orchestras performing with crowd-pleasing thunder or elegant string quartets rendering delicate musical miniatures, there are options for you throughout central and southern Wisconsin. Here is a look at some of the more prominent ensembles and their seasons.

MILWAUKEE
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

A bevy of Beethoven, a rasher of Rachmaninoff and double-doses of Brahms, Mahler, Stravinsky and Tchaikovsky mark what promises to be a titanic, crowd-pleasing season for the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra.

Artistic Director Edo de Waart

takes the baton for 11 of MSO's 18 scheduled concerts, conducting Mahler's Symphony No. 1 in D Major" – also known as "The Titan" – (Oct. 14-15) and his "Symphony No. 9 in D Major" (May 25-26). The maestro also leads MSO's all-Beethoven opener featuring the composer's famous "Fifth Symphony" (Sept. 23-24), Stravinsky's "Le sacre du printemps" (The Rite of Spring) (Jan. 27-28), Debussy's "La mer" (April 27-28), and "The Dream of Gerontius Op. 38," Sir Edward Elgar's heaven-stirring affirmation of faith with the MSO Chorus (June 1-3).

And if that weren't enough, MSO Conductor Emeritus Andreas Delfs returns to lead the orchestra and chorus in Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana" in all its sacred and profane glory (Jan. 20-22).

Uihlein Hall, Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 N. Water

St., Milwaukee; tickets (414) 291-7605; www.mso.org

MADISON SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

Virtuosity, variety and a wealth of guest soloists populate Madison Symphony Orchestra's eight concerts this season. Artistic director John DeMain's eclectic programming mixes contemporary with classical, the unfamiliar with the tried-and-true to create a winning repertoire.

Pianist Andre Watts opens the season with Grieg's "Piano Concerto in A minor" on a program that also includes Beethoven's "Fifth Symphony" (Sept. 16-18). The season continues, featuring cellist Lynn Harrell performing Édouard Lalo's "Cello Concerto in D minor" (Oct. 14-16), violinist Midori performing Shostakovich's "Violin Concerto No. 1" (Nov. 11-13), violinist Augustin Hadelich

performing Prokofiev's "Violin Concerto No. 2" (Jan. 20-22); pianist Philippe Bianconi performing Beethoven's "Piano Concerto No. 4" (March 30-April 1); and even the Los Angeles Guitar Quartet performing Rodrigo's "Concierto Andaluz" (March 9-11). DeMain and MSO closes the season with an all-Gershwin program, including highlights from "Porgy and Bess," a work for which the conductor is well known.

Overture Hall, Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State St., Madison; tickets (608) 258-4141; www.madisonsymphony.org.

FOX VALLEY
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

Pops and the classics mix in the Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra's six season concerts. With FVSO's performance of the hits of Pink Floyd already behind it, music

director Brian Groner and the orchestra are ready to get a little more serious in their mix of film scores, show tunes and Celtic rhythms, along with dashes of Strauss, Mozart and Mahler. The party starts with guest violinist Philippe Quint performing film music composer Eric Korngold's "Violin Concerto in D Major" on a program that includes Bartók's "Concerto for Orchestra" (Oct. 1). "Three Phantoms in Concert" helps usher in the Halloween season with music from "Miss Saigon," "Les Miserables" and, of course, "The Phantom of the Opera" (Oct. 29). Young soloists Kitsho Hosotani, violin, and David Hou, piano, test their mettle on Saint-Saens' "Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso, Op. 28" and Liszt's "Piano Concerto No. 1 in E flat, S 124" (Feb. 4). Irish and Scottish traditional instruments

continued on next page

continued

dominate St. Patrick's Day festivities with "Celtic Celebrations" (March 17).

FVSO closes its 45th season fittingly with Mahler's "Symphony No. 1 in D Major."

Fox Valley Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave., Appleton; tickets (920) 730-3760; www.foxvalleysymphony.com

WISCONSIN
CHAMBER
ORCHESTRA

The orchestra known for its summer outdoor Concerts on the Square heads indoors this fall for its Masterworks series. Maestro Andrew Sewell leads the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra (WCO) in an inventive five-concert series highlighted by both local and internationally known soloists.

Pianist Ilya Yakushev opens the season with Prokofiev's "Piano Concerto No. 1 in D-flat Major, Op. 10" (Oct. 7). Cellist Amit Peled pays his third WCO visit to perform Boccherini's rarely heard "Cello Concerto in B-flat major, G482," aka, the "Grutzmacher version." (Jan. 13). Violinist Alexander Sitkovetsky appears with a (nearly) all Beethoven program, including the "Symphony No. 6 in F Major, Op. 68" (The Pastoral) and "Violin Concerto in D Major, Op. 61" (Feb. 24). UW music professor and concert pianist Christopher Taylor solos on Irish composer John Field's rarely heard "Piano Concerto No. 4 in E-flat Major, H2" (March 16).

WCO and a brace of soloists will close the Masterworks series with Beethoven's "Symphony No. 9 in D Minor, Op. 125" (Choral) featuring the much-loved "Ode to Joy" (April 13).

Capitol Theater, Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State St., Madison; tickets (608) 258-4141; www.wco-concerts.org

ALSO OF NOTE

The Wisconsin Philharmonic (formerly the Waukesha Symphony Orchestra) this season is performing "Tour de France," its all-things-French program at venues throughout Milwaukee's western suburbs, starting with a Sept. 24 season tailgate kickoff party on Carroll University's Sneed House lawn. The six-concert series, which ends May 6, will include Debussy's "La Mer" and "Clair de Lune," Gershwin's "An American in Paris," Faure's "Pelleas and Melisande," Ravel's "Spanish Symphony" and Dukas' "The Sorcerer's Apprentice." For details, venues and tickets visit www.wisconsinphilharmonic.org.

The Sheboygan Symphony Orchestra offers a repertoire of six concerts in its 2011-2012 series, starting off with a guest appearance by UW-Madison music professor and pianist Christopher Taylor performing Liszt's "Totentanz" (Oct. 8). The season continues with guest clarinetist James Smith performing Mozart's "Clarinet Concerto" as part of a program otherwise themed "South of the Border" (Nov. 12); pianist Li-shan Hung performing Beethoven's "Piano Concerto No. 5," the so-called "Emperor" (Feb. 4); a tribute to the film music of John Williams ("Star Wars," "Saving Private Ryan"), with violinist Debbie Williamson soloing during a suite of numbers from "Schindler's List" (March 10); and a season closer of Broadway melodies from top shows (May 12). For details and tickets visit www.sheboygansymphony.org.

The Green Bay Symphony Orchestra this year introduces new conductor Donato Cabrera with Saint-Saens' "Symphony No. 3"

PHOTO COURTESY
Fine Arts Quartet

(Organ) plus a little Dukas, Dvorak and Gershwin (Oct. 8); Bach's "Brandenburg Concerto No. 3" and Mozart's "Sinfonia Concertante for Winds" (Nov. 12); Tchaikovsky's "Symphony No. 4" and Strauss' "Voices of Spring" (Feb. 11); as well as Christmas holiday programming and tributes to Irish rock and the music from Disney films and shows. WCO Maestro Andrew Sewell substitutes for Cabrera during several of the performances. For details and tickets visit www.greenbaysymphony.com.

SWEET ENSEMBLES

The Fine Arts Quartet, founded in Chicago in 1946 and affiliated with the UWM since 1963, is one of the world's oldest touring and recording chamber ensembles. Of the remaining 29 dates in its 2011-2012 performance calendar, many are in Europe and only six are in the Milwaukee area.

Upcoming engagements and locations include: UWM - Haydn "Quartet Op.71-2," Bernard Herrmann "Echoes," Dvorak "Piano Quintet" (Sept. 25); Sharon Lynne Wilson Center, Brookfield

- Mozart "Quartet KV 575," Shostakovich "Quartet No.1," Schumann "Quartet Op.41-1" (Oct. 16); Milwaukee Catholic Home - Mozart "Quartet KV 575," Shostakovich "Quartet No.1," Schumann "Quartet Op.41-1" (Oct. 19); UWM - Mozart "Quartet KV 421," Bartok "Quartet No.3, Grieg Quartet" (Nov. 6); UWM - Saint-Saens "Quartet No.2"; Brahms: Schumann "Variations, Op.9"; Brahms "Piano Quintet" (Jan. 29); UWM - an all Saint-Saens program featuring "Piano Quartet in E major," Piano Quartet, Op.41," "Piano Quintet, Op.14" (March 4).

From Feb. 5-12, the group will perform at sea on the "Fine Arts Quartet and Friends" Caribbean cruise. For details visit www.fineartsquartet.org.

The Pro Arte Quartet, artists-in-residence at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, this celebrates 100 years of existence this year, making it the world's oldest continuously performing string quartet. The ensemble began as the Belgian Quatour Pro Arte, but in 1940 changed its affilia-

tion to the UW when Nazi tanks rolled through Belgium, making it impossible for the musicians to return home. The quartet, which was performing in Madison when its homeland was invaded, has been based in the Capital City ever since.

To celebrate its centennial year, the Pro Arte Quartet has commissioned original works from four contemporary composers, all of which will premiere during the 2011-12 season in Mills Concert Hall in the Mosse Humanities Building on the UW-Madison campus. The works and their world premiere dates include:

- Walter Mays' "String Quartet No. 2" (Oct. 22)
- Paul Schoenfeld's "Piano Quintet" (Nov. 19)
- William Bolcom's "Piano Quintet No. 2" (March 24)
- John Harbison's "String Quartet No. 5" (April 21)

The world premiere will be accompanied by master classes held at the UW and lectures by top classical music experts. All events, including the concerts, are free and open to the public. For details visit <http://proartequartet.org>.

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Elements of surrealism, Pop Art offer surprises at Madison exhibition of Chicago Imagists

By Kat Murrell

Contributing writer

There is an old cliché of the artist as a solitary type, a reclusive soul starving alone in a garret while creating masterpieces. But there are many moments in art history when groups of artists came together collectively, and while not necessarily following lockstep in terms of style, they operated together under a single banner at least for a while.

"Chicago Imagists at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art" explores one creative coterie with more than 75 works in various media, including painting, drawing, prints, and some interesting pieces of ephemera and videos. The Madison Museum of Contemporary Art has amassed a substantial collection in its own right, particularly through gifts from University of Wisconsin professor Bill McClain, the Kohler Foundation Inc., the Raymond K. Yoshida Living Trust and other donors.

Ray Yoshida was one of the mainstays of the Chicago art scene, an influential teacher to many of the Imagists, and a member of the group exhibiting under the moniker "The Hairy Who." The heyday of the Chicago Imagists was the late 1960s and early 1970s, but their binding ties were less about a prescribed style than common interests. Many of the artists were Chicago natives and had affiliations with the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

The Imagists rose after the 1950s, which were dominated by the New York School's muscular Abstract Expressionism, exemplified by Jackson Pollock and Willem de Kooning, and in the wake of the snappy stylings of Pop Art. The Imagists looked outside of traditional high art realms for influences and sources, drawing from ordinary life, lowbrow humor, and what Yoshida called "trash treasures."

Visually, there are cross-



PHOTO: COURTESY

Art Green's "Regulatory Body," 1969.

over elements with the tendencies of Pop Art. Bright colors, crisp lines and recognizable imagery show up in paintings such as Art Green's "Regulatory Body." A delectable ice cream cone balances on its pointed end like a monumental sculpture,

inexplicably poised between curtains pulled back to reveal a conventional architectural alcove. It gets stranger with the appearance of mechanical gears and implements, gleaming with precision and foreboding. The night sky appears to shimmer in the peeled-

back lower right corner.

If this sounds surrealistic, that is an accurate assessment. Works by Jim Nutt play up the surrealist angle even more in paintings like "Toot 'n Toe." Disembodied female body parts float around a cartoonish nude male, a sort of

satirical sexuality implied. The compositional direction is reminiscent of Salvador Dali's "Little Cinders" but translated through an aesthetic closer to Mad Magazine.

Other artists, such as Roger Brown, incorporate a more minimalist approach

with selective and crisp lines. Brown's 1972 work called "Sudden Avalanche" is a freeze-frame disaster. Cool and sharp, the contrast of light and shadow belies the frantic body language of figures succumbing to snow.

The museum offers a bonus with the complementary exhibition "Chicago School: Imagists in Context." Located on the ground floor, it may be the exhibition to first command your attention as you enter the museum. But it might be useful to hold off on this one until after viewing the main Imagists show. The scope of the "Imagists in Context" exhibition is broad, and as noted by the exhibition description, includes artists who are "geographically, philosophically and artistically associated with the Imagists."

Given those criteria, this casts a pretty wide net. But, it also opens up some interesting surprises and contemporaries. Artists associated with other groups, such as Monster Roster, are well represented.

A standout piece by Nancy Spero and Leon Golub is their collaborative "They Will Torture You, My Friend." This print comes from the portfolio "Conspiracy: The Artist as Witness," a project done in 1971 to raise funds for the legal defense of the Chicago Eight (who faced charges stemming from protests at the 1968 Democratic National Convention). It's a strong example of art that is specific to time and place, operating on an important level of aesthetics and social awareness.

Both of these exhibitions are major events for the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art. To augment the visuals, a spate of lectures and presentations are planned for the coming months. "Chicago Imagists at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art" closes on Jan. 15, 2012, and "Chicago School: Imagists in Context" closes on Dec. 30, 2011.

Artwatch

DEBRA BREHMER

Sometimes, the discretely remote art history gallery tucked into UW-M's Mitchell Hall, 3203 N. Downer Ave., Room 154, hosts some delicious shows, most often with an academic swirl.

Opening Oct. 6, from 5 to

7 p.m. and running through Oct. 26 is a knock-out little exhibition curated by art history graduate student Nathan Gramse. "The Expressionist Portrait: Pathos and Persona in German Art" features drawings, paintings and prints by Max Beckmann, Oskar Kokoschka, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner and others hailing from Germany and Austria at the turn of the century.

What used to be called angst may now be called Emo, but it still stacks up to the idea of feeling all you can feel to the detriment of your health. The German expressionists got it right. At no other time in history has a line collided with a jagged shape only to be lit on fire with achingly bruised tonalities and then scraped and scoured into compositions where you can nearly

hear moaning if you lean close. Nowhere does this assault of the canvas ring more true than through the genre of the portrait.

Art history professor Kenneth Bendiner will present a 6 p.m. lecture during the opening.

Also of note is a major photography exhibition at the Milwaukee Art Museum. Opening Sept. 22, is "Taryn Simon: Photographs

and Text." The show was organized locally by MAM photography curator Lisa Hostetler and will travel to Helsinki and Moscow.

Taryn Simon, a photographer from Brooklyn, creates sociological bodies of work that require courageous engagement with difficult subjects. The show will feature excerpts from several of her large projects: "The Innocents"

(2002), about people falsely convicted of violent crimes; "An American Index of the Hidden and Unfamiliar" (2007), about normally unseen places such as waste disposal sites or operating rooms; and "Contraband" (2010), involving 1,075 images of things detained from airline passengers.

Taryn Simon will speak at 1:30 p.m. on Nov. 19, at the art museum.

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Celebration, color make Bayfield a fall favorite

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Watching the sunrise from the front porch of the Old Rittenhouse Inn in Bayfield is a clear reminder of how life should be lived.

The Rittenhouse, 301 Rittenhouse Ave., sits atop the hill at one of the highest points of one of Wisconsin's northernmost communities. The view from the stately Queen Anne-style bed and breakfast's wraparound porch — made especially appealing with a hot cup of the inn's good coffee to ward off the crisp morning chill — takes in a sweeping panorama of Lake Superior over the rooftops. Birdsongs from among the maples and oaks changing to their autumn colors enhance the serenity, providing a much-needed balm for the soul.

Over the years, Bayfield has become one of the state's most popular retreats, its main streets often crowded with visitors.

Bayfield is the gateway to the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, and ferries run to Madeline Island, the largest of the Apostles, on regular daily schedules. The pace slows a bit in fall, when the weather cools, the colors change and things return to a more leisurely pace.

PEAK COLORS

The peak color season in northern Wisconsin is generally from early to mid-October. As the season approaches, the website bayfield.org includes a fall color report.

Of course, there are exceptions, the largest of which is the Bayfield Apple Festival, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. An estimated 50,000 visitors will crowd Bayfield (population about 600) during the weekend of Oct. 7-9 for the annual event. They come to browse the arts and crafts booths, sample the wares of some 60 orchards and food vendors, and dance in the street to the locally-based, but nationally-known Big Top Chautauqua Blue Canvas Orchestra.

The festival, the largest on Bayfield's social calendar, also features fish boils, boat cruises, a Venetian boat parade, a performance by the Ojibwe Drum and Dance Troop, a grand parade and a 600-member "mass band" finale on Sunday. Many area hotel and bed-and-breakfast rooms are booked a year out, but last-minute cancellations can open

the door for new revelers and fans of the state's favorite fruit (apologies to any readers who thought they held that title).

The end of the Apple Festival does not close the door on Bayfield's season of celebration and serenity. The town remains an attractive destination throughout the fall, with continued availability of bountiful produce, an array of shops, galleries and restaurants, and the continued warmth of its inhabitants even as the days grow shorter and the nights cooler.

Nearby Madeline Island holds its own fall festival Oct. 22 as a way to end the social season. Established in 1718 by French colonists as the primary Lake Superior fur-trading center, the island boasts a rich history to augment its peaceful atmosphere. (Unfortunately, many of its attractions close in October or before.)

Bayfield's activities continue through the winter months, offering lively antidotes to Wisconsin "cabin fever."

On Feb. 4-5, the 17th annual Apostle Islands Sled Dog Race pits amateur mushers against the elements. There are two main races: an eight-dog, 80-mile race

and a six-dog, 60-mile race. The distance is split between the two days. A 40-mile race, a 6- to 8-mile family race and a 6- to 8-mile youth race (16 and under) round out the weekend. Multiple spectator locations are available, with amenities including warming tents, concessions and bonfires.

On Feb. 11, the annual Blue Moon Ball, held at Bayfield's Lakeside Pavilion, is prom night for adults. Go in black tie or your best vintage prom dress and dance to the sounds of the Big Woods Big Band. Trophies are given in several "best dressed" categories and a king and queen (alas, of the traditional variety) will be crowned.

The season ends March 4-6 with the Bayfield Winter Festival. Take a polar bear plunge or run on the water — all the activities are designed to break you out of your winter doldrums and ready you for spring, which is just around the corner.

For some, however, Bayfield's allure remains its solitude and peace. And there is nothing better on a cold Bayfield winter's night than curling up by a cozy fire with a glass of wine, a good book or pleasant companions and remembering once again how life should be lived.

PHOTO: BAYFIELD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND VISITOR BUREAU

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Dancing straight

Music

GREGG SHAPIRO

YELLE

Yelle's straight (or non-gay) domination of the dance floor continues with a swirl of new releases, including "Safari Disco Club" (V2/Downtown). This one picks up the beats where Yelle left off with "Pop-Up." You'll be encouraged to don your pith helmets and head for the club, where you won't have any trouble hunting and capturing reasons for dancing to "Comme un Enfant," "Que VeuX-Tu," "J'ai Bu" and others, all sung en Français.

CUT COPY

The album opener on "Zonoscope" is as exhilarating as the urban waterfall depicted on its cover. Titled "Need You Now," it gets things off to a spectacular start. You can almost feel the spray — or is that your dance partner's sweat? The thrills continue with "Take Me Over," which sounds like it fell out of 1982. Other dance delights include "Pharaohs & Pyramids," "Blink and You'll Miss a Revolution," and "Corner of the Sky."

STRFKR

Starfucker is a nifty name for a band, don't you think?

The Pacific Northwest-based trio's third full-length "Reptilians" takes an interesting approach to getting you up and in motion. A playfully experimental quality saturates much of the record. Determined not to bore, Starfucker keeps the beats breezy and bright on songs such as "Julius," "Bury Us Alive," "Death as a Fetish" (featuring Mattress) and "Quality Time."

COLD CAVE

"Cherish the Light Years" by Cold Cave is a hot commodity that alternates between the audio slam of "The Great Pan Is Dead" and the updated new wave undertow of "Pacing Around the Church." The cut "Confetti," with its New Order influence, is cause for celebration. The horns on "Alchemy and You" conjure a kind of nostalgia. If the aptly named "Icons of Summer" doesn't become a tea dance sensation, then shame on the DJs.

JESSICA 6

Led by Nomi Ruiz (of Hercules and Love Affair fame), the trio Jessica 6 wastes no time in getting listeners' asses in gear on "See the Light," "White Horse" is a magnificent piece of dance music, and Ruiz's distinctive vocal skills make it that much more special. "Prisoner of

Love," featuring guest vocalist Antony, has a lock on hipness and hip-shaking. "In the Heat" is a steamy blast from the past, while "Fun Girl" and "U Motion" live up to their names. The dramatic ballad "Not Anymore" gives Ruiz a chance to show off another side of herself.

YOUNG GALAXY

Canadians Young Galaxy, featuring the husky Annie Lennox-esque vocals of Catherine McCandless, find their dance groove on "Shapeshifting." "Blown Minded" is the exactly right title for a song that is capable of messing with your head and your feet. The strutting and relaxed "Peripheral Visionaries," the funky and folky "Phantoms" and the handclap-inspiring "B.S.E." are also standout cuts.

HOLY GHOST!

Holy Ghost! scares up plenty of opportunities to dance on their self-titled DFA full-length debut disc. The blissed-out track "Wait and See" won't keep dancers waiting long to move to it. The same goes for "Hold My Breath," "Jam for Jerry" and the anything-but-slow "Slow Motion," all of which will have dancers testifying to the power of dance music.

Follow the news at www.wisconsin Gazette.com.



Cut Copy plays Turner Hall in Milwaukee on Sept. 22.

PHOTO: COURTESY



PHOTO: COURTESY
Joan Osborne
performs on Sept. 27 in Milwaukee's Turner Hall.

Joan Osborne joins Dar Williams for tour

Interview

GREGG SHAPIRO

After years of struggling to find an audience, singer Joan Osborne finally became an overnight sensation 15 years ago with her hit song "One of Us." Since then, she's been recording and performing steadily. Osborne is on a multi-city concert tour with singer/songwriter Dar Williams. She also has a pair of recordings forthcoming in the new year.

Gregg Shapiro: I understand that there are plans for you and Dar Williams to perform as a duo for part of the show.

Joan Osborne: I'm really looking forward to the two of us being onstage together. I don't get a chance to do a lot of harmony singing. It's something that I love to do. I'm hoping that Dar and I will get a chance to do some harmony singing, because I really love her voice and, of course, the fans are going to want to see that. You come to see two artists, you want to see them mix it up together. We're also considering her covering one of my songs and me covering one of hers. ...

Dar comes from a folk background, while you have more of a rock and R&B style. Is this a chance for you to let your inner folkie shine through?

There's definitely something

about this acoustic duo format that seems more folkie. The songs that I do for my part of the show, I'm able to do them in a way that's a little more subtle than with a full-on rock band. It gives me the opportunity to explore different ways of presenting the songs. But I don't know that I would claim to be a folkie in that way. I do (play acoustic guitar) a little bit, but I'm really bad at it. I wouldn't charge people money to see that.

Will you be trying out new material on the audience?

Oh, yeah! I've got a bunch of brand new songs that I'm very anxious to play for people. It's part of an original song cycle called "Love and Hate." We premiered a bunch of it at Lincoln Center as part of their "Songbook" series. I can't wait for the songs to be released next year. ...

Dar has a sizable following in the LGBT community, probably due in part to the time she spent in Northampton, Mass., and her singing about queer people. Are you also aware of an LGBT fan base?

Yes, I definitely have met fans from that community. I've received e-mails and messages and letters from them. That's great. I've never set out to court any specific audience at all, but I'm really grateful for any fans. It's an equal opportunity experience. I'm happy for anybody who likes the music.

How are things coming with your next

album, which is said to be a collection of soul and blues covers by the likes of Al Green, Bill Withers and others?

That's called "Bring It On Home," and we're hoping to release that in February of 2012. And hopefully this "Love and Hate" original music project will follow hot on its heels. It's been a little while since I've had anything new out, so I'm excited to have these two different things come out next year.

Did you include any songs by female songwriters?

There's a woman named Olive Brown, a little-known R&B shouter, and I'm covering a song of hers. I tried to do a Nina Simone song, and I wasn't even coming close to doing it as well as she did. Unfortunately, I had to abandon that one. If you can't bring something unique to it, then you're just going to get compared to the original version — and I wasn't brave enough to do that. Maybe I'll try again with a different song next time.

Finally, if God was one of us, what do you think he'd make of Michele and Marcus Bachmann, Rick Santorum, Sarah Palin and Rick Perry?

(Big laugh.) I hope he's got a sense of humor. Otherwise he'd be pissed, right? For them to pretend that they represent him and in fact are doing things that would fly in the face of what I think any self-respecting God would want people to be like to each other.

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Two very different styles of 1971 film-making

DVDiva

GREGG SHAPIRO

'STRAW DOGS'

The release of the unrated Blu-ray of "Straw Dogs" starring Dustin Hoffman comes just in time for the film's 40th anniversary and just as the remake starring James Marsden is hitting theaters.

Besppectacled mathematician and pacifist David (Hoffman) returns to his British bride Amy's (Susan George) countryside village to work on a book. Away from the protests and anti-war hubbub of America, David, who "never claimed to



PHOTO: COURTESY
Dustin Hoffman in "Straw Dogs"

be one of the involved," just stands out simply for being American. Pretty blonde Amy draws attention for her very out in the crowd. David short skirts and going bra-

less. And, as it turns out, she has a history in the town. A crew of workers, including Amy's ex, Charlie (Del Henney), are hired to work on repairing David and Amy's garage, but they spend more time observing and taunting the couple. They kill Amy's cat and a couple of them, including Charlie, sexually assault her.

David doesn't do much to ingratiate himself to the locals. He insults the vicar, creates a stir in the pub and is generally awkward in social situations. Then he provides shelter to Henry (David Warner), the village pervert, unaware that he has killed a young girl. That's when David experiences the full wrath of

perpetually drunk town elder Tom (Peter Vaughan) and his demented posse. In the ultimate battle of brains versus brawn and mind over muscle, "dirty Yank" David stands tall, vowing not to "allow violence against his house."

The hyper-violent "Straw Dogs" is a showcase for director Sam Peckinpah's trademark use of slow-motion camera tricks and bloodshed. The violence of "Straw Dogs" set the standard for the remainder of the decade, as exemplified in films such as "Deliverance," "Death Wish" and "Taxi Driver." Blu-ray special features include the original theatrical trailer and TV ads.



PHOTO: COURTESY
"Fiddler On The Roof"

Norman Jewison directed this movie version of the stage musical, which was based on Sholom Aleichem's stories of persecuted Jews struggling for survival in a Russian shtetl. Notorious scene nosher Topol stars as poor milkman Tevye, anxious to marry off the three eldest of his five daughters. The late gay actor Leonard Frey ("The Boys in the Band") earned an Oscar nomination as Motel the tailor and a young Paul Michael Glaser appears as free-thinking Perchik.

Jerry Bock & Sheldon Harnick's songs, including "Sunrise, Sunset," "Matchmaker" and "If I Were a Rich Man" (later sampled by Gwen Stefani in her song "Rich Girl"), have become part of the American musical theater vernacular. Hours of Blu-ray bonus material include audio commentary by Jewison and Topol, a deleted song and a multitude of featurettes.

'FIDDLER ON THE ROOF'

By 1971, the elaborate, MGM-style movie musical was becoming a thing of the past. What better way to celebrate the end of an era than with the newly re-mastered, 40th-anniversary Blu-

LGBT athlete of the year search begins

The search is on to draft the 2011 LGBT athlete of the year.

The contest, conducted by Compete Sports Media, involves selecting the athlete most committed to personal achievement, actively participating in an individual or team sport, committed to encouraging others in sports and committed to the LGBT community.

Prior contest winners include Jeff Kagen, founder of Out of Bounds New York; John Defee, commissioner of the Cactus Cities Softball League in Arizona and Michael Holtz, Mr. Gay World runner-up.

The nominating committee includes Pat Griffin, director of GLSEN's sports project; former NBA player Matt Fish, Compete Sports Media CEO Eric Carlyle and PBA Rookie of the Year Scott Norton.

The deadline for nominations is Oct. 7. Details can be found at competenetwork.com/aoty.

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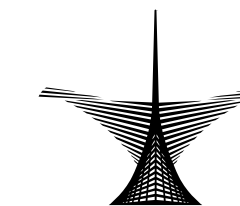
Larry Mayes

Scene of arrest, The Royal Inn, Gary, Indiana
Police found Mayes hiding beneath a mattress in this room
Served 18.5 years of an 80-year sentence for Rape, Robbery, and Unlawful Deviate Conduct, 2002

From *The Innocents*

Internationally acclaimed artist Taryn Simon's photographs and writings underscore the invisible space between language and the visual world—a space in which translation and disorientation continually occur. This exhibition presents a selection of works from Simon's major projects from 2002 to 2010.

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Lesbian comic Tig Notaro coming to Wisconsin

Interview

GREGG SHAPIRO

Out comedian Tig Notaro is wickedly funny. She has a sense of humor so dry you want to offer her a glass of water. On her aptly named debut comedy disc "Good One," Notaro touches on a variety of topics, ranging from Chaz Bono and Taylor Dayne to artificial insemination and babies taking showers.

I spoke with Notaro just prior to the August release of her album.

Gregg Shapiro: Have you ever performed on an Olivia Cruise or at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival?

Tig Notaro: I have not done the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival. I did an Olivia show once, years ago. It was a little bizarre to be secluded and traveling with your audience for an entire week.

What was the best

part of your "Last Comic Standing" experience?

I wasn't on for very long, maybe two or three episodes. To me it was kind of a ridiculous thing. There were so many comedians who took it very seriously. I guess it's a good opportunity for people to burst onto the scene out of nowhere. I enjoyed that I just made it to the semi-final round. When you get to that level, you're just on for three minutes, just doing a set. It's kind of like doing a late-night talk-show set. That was the best thing. And I made some good friends out of it. I'm doing this podcast now with David Huntsberger, who I met on "Last Comic Standing." In general, it's kind of a blur to me. It happened so quickly. I kind of forget that I was on it.

Who do you consider to be your comedy inspirations?

Before I got into stand-up, I was really into Richard Pryor and Joan Rivers and Paula Poundstone and Steve



PHOTO: COURTESY

Tig Notaro has a series of upcoming performances at colleges and universities in Wisconsin. Visit tignation.com for the complete schedule.

Martin, people like that. Then it changed when I got into stand-up. I really started to be inspired by my peers that I was coming up with — Maria Bamford, Zach Galifiniakis and Sarah Silverman.

How does it feel to be the first comedian to release a comedy album on uber-hipster indie label Secretly

things that I had written in the past year. But then I also wanted to put in some less popular, older bits of mine. I was just in Philadelphia last week, and for my whole show, this woman kept saying "No moleste," which I guess is my signature bit. She kept turning to her husband saying, "When is she going to do it? I can't wait until she does 'No moleste.'" I was like, "Lady! Shut your trap!" That's how all my shows are — new stuff, old stuff, right on the spot.

Would you say that "No moleste" is your "Free Bird"?

[Laughs.] I guess so. But I feel like my Taylor Dayne story that I wrote in the past year is creeping up on that popularity.

Do you know if Taylor Dayne is aware of being the subject of a comedy routine?

Yeah, her agent told my manager that Taylor wanted me to know that she heard through the grapevine

that I was telling this story about her and that she's a fan of mine and that she'd like to work with me one day (laughs). I don't know what on Earth we would do together (laughs).

The deluxe edition includes the "Have Tig at Your Party" DVD, described as the "human equivalent to the 'burning log' DVD." What was the inspiration for the concept?

Touring so much, I missed so many parties and get-togethers. This friend of mine, years ago, was having a party. And I was sitting in my hotel room thinking, what if I videotaped myself in my hotel room and I just mailed that to her and she could just play it at her party. I didn't do it, but it inspired the idea of me making that DVD. And every time I mentioned it to people, they would laugh and say, "You have to do that!" So I did and hopefully people will enjoy it. It's me standing there and I say very little every now and then.

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New version proves 'Straw Dogs' worth remaking

Film

GREGG SHAPIRO

'STRAW DOGS'

Having just watched the original Dustin Hoffman vehicle on Blu-ray, I found it easy to see both sides when it comes to "Straw Dogs," the mostly faithful, updated remake of the controversial 1971 Sam Peckinpah film of the same name. Some might ask why would anyone want to remake such a physically brutal and sexually violent film? But with our current political climate and the U.S. embroiled in an unwinnable war, as it was in 1971, the similarities present an interesting argument.

As in the original, a pretty and popular woman named Amy (this time portrayed by Kate Bosworth) returns to her rural hometown (this time it's Black Water, Miss.) with her educated and literate husband David (this time it's handsome James Marsden).

Southern hospitality becomes Southern discomfort



PHOTO: COURTESY

James Marsden in "Straw Dogs."

In this version, David's a Hollywood screenwriter who met and married actress Amy after they worked together on a TV series. They have temporarily relocated to Black Water and moved into the house Amy inherited from her late father so that David can work on a screenplay.

Southern hospitality becomes Southern discomfort

as the couple tries to settle in. Amy's ex, Charlie (Alexander Skarsgård in a variety of borderline states of undress), has his sights set on getting her back, one way or another. When David unknowingly hires Charlie and his redneck crew to repair the garage, he's setting himself and Amy up for the worst.

But Charlie doesn't call all the shots in town. That

falls to the alcoholic, retired football coach Tom (James Woods, chewing scenery like a buzz saw). Everyone, including returning Iraq war vet turned sheriff John (Laz Alonso) is wary of him.

David and Amy set off the town's vigilante mentality when they unwittingly give shelter to pedophile Jeremy (Dominic Niles), unaware that he has just accidentally killed Tom's daughter.

Mild-mannered David is forced to defend his wife and his home against Tom, Charlie and the other good ole boys' when they come for Jeremy, guns blazing. A bloodbath, with a few variations on the original theme, ensues.

Interestingly, "Straw Dogs" and the box office blockbuster "The Help" paint some of the most unflattering cinematic portraits of the state and people of Mississippi ever shown onscreen. With Gov. Scott Walker and the state's GOP looking to Mississippi's laws and policies as a roadmap for the future, Wisconsinites should be warned.

'I DON'T KNOW HOW SHE DOES IT'

A very minor improvement over "Sex and the City 2" and "Did You Hear About the Morgans?" "I Don't Know How She Does It" is the latest in Sarah Jessica Parker's series of rom-coms in which she pursues the dream of being America's sweetheart.

But the results are sour. Katie (SJP), is considered

by some, including single parent Allison (Christina Hendricks) and nanny Paula (Jessica Szohr), to be a working mother's hero. She has a high-stress job, working under a demanding boss Clark (Kelsey Grammer). Her workaholic assistant Momo thinks she's a pariah. She has two kids, one of whom, Emily, is old enough to know exactly how to make Kate feel like a bad mother. And her understanding husband Richard (Greg Kinnear) is on the brink of running out of understanding. But her career is going great guns.

When you add high-powered and widowed business man Jack (Pierce Brosnan) into the stew, you have the potential for all sorts of complications. An overreliance on sight gags and feminist revisionism tend to bog things down.

Parker deserves better; yet she continues to return to this type of project. In SJP's case, it might just be better stated: "I don't know why she does it."

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SEPT. 22, THURSDAY

Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter **Rick Springfield** performs at 8 p.m. at Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave., Appleton. Call 920-730-3760. Dazzling dance band **Cut Copy** plays Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663. The Racine Theatre Guild, 2519 Northwestern (Highway 38) in Racine, presents **"Comic Potential"** by Alan Ayckbourn through Sept. 25. Call 262-633-4218. Skylight Opera Theatre presents **"The Rivals"** through Oct. 2 in the Cabot Theatre at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

SEPT. 23, FRIDAY

Soulstice Theatre Company presents **"Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks"** Fridays and Saturdays through Oct. 8 at Soulstice Theatre, 3770 S. Pennsylvania, Suite 2 in St. Francis. The UWM Union Art Gallery presents **"Askew: The New Work of Min Hyung, Wil Murray & Erik Olson"** through Oct. 15 at UWM Union, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd. Call 414-229-5538.



Ani DiFranco

SEPT. 24, SATURDAY

"Hal Rammel: Comix & Cartoons" runs through Sept. 25 at Woodland Pattern Book Center, 720 E. Locust. Call 414-263-5001. Peninsula Players presents the Wisconsin premiere of **"God of Carnage"** through Oct. 16 at Peninsula Players Theatre, W4351 Peninsula Players Road, Fish Creek. Call 920-868-3287. Singer/songwriter **Rosanne Cash** plays Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, 19805 W. Capitol Drive, Brookfield, at 8 p.m. Call 262-781-9520. Barrymore Theatre, 2090 Atwood, Madison, presents **Ani DiFranco** at 8 p.m. Call 608-241-2345.

SEPT. 25, SUNDAY

Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, welcomes **OMD** (aka Orchestral Manoeuvres in the Dark) at 7 p.m. Call 414-286-3663. South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center, 901 15th, South Milwaukee, presents the **Preservation Hall Jazz Band** at 7:30 p.m. Call 414-766-5049. **"The Wizard of Oz"** by L. Frank Baum, adapted by John Kane with music and lyrics by Harold Arlen and E.Y. Harburg, runs through Oct. 2 at La Crosse Community Theatre, 118 Fifth Ave. N., La Crosse. Call 608-784-9292.



WIGOUT ON THE TOWN

EDITED AND COMPILED BY GREGG SHAPIRO

SEPT. 26, MONDAY

High Noon Saloon, 701A E. Washington, Madison, has **The Pains of Being Pure at Heart**, at 8 p.m. Call 608-268-1122. Frankly Music's **"The Power of Three"** program includes the rarely heard trio from a young Rachmaninov, as well as the edgy work of Ellen Taaffe Zwilich and Brahms' B major trio at 7 p.m. tonight and tomorrow night at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music Bader Recital Hall, 1584 N. Prospect.



Dar Williams

Joan Osborne

SEPT. 27, TUESDAY

Dar Williams and **Joan Osborne** share the stage at Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, at 7:30 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

SEPT. 28, WEDNESDAY

Indie dance band **STRFKR** plays Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth, at 7 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

SEPT. 29, THURSDAY

"Out of the Suitcase IV: Works by Recipients of the Mary L. Nohl Suitcase Awards" runs through Oct. 8 in the Frederick Layton Gallery at Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design, 273 E. Erie.

SEPT. 30, FRIDAY

The Bay Players open its 60th season with the Ken Ludwig comedy **"Leading Ladies"** tonight and tomorrow night at 8 p.m. at the Whitefish Bay High School Auditorium, 1200 E. Fairmount in WFB. Visit www.thebayplayers.com.



Jon Stewart

OCT. 1, SATURDAY

Hysterically funny straight ally and "Daily Show" god **Jon Stewart** is at The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin, at 7:30 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

OCT. 2, SUNDAY

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

OCT. 4, TUESDAY

Marcus Center for the Performing Arts presents **The Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis** at 7:30 p.m. in Uihlein Hall. Call 414-273-2787.

OCT. 6, THURSDAY

The Frequency, 121 W. Main, Madison, welcomes **The Belle Brigade**, featuring out member Barbara Gruska, and **Grouplove** at 8 p.m. Call 608-819-8777.



Rosanne Cash is at Brookfield's Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts on Sept. 24.



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