

## HOLIDAY STAGES

From multiple "Messiahs" to numerous "Nutcrackers," WiGOUT has the scoop.

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THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

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## Walker appointee says workplace harassment of gays is legal

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

A commissioner on the board that makes final decisions in cases involving workplace discrimination says Wisconsin law does not prohibit anti-gay harassment on the job.

Her two fellow commissioners strongly disagree.

Laurie McCallum, recently appointed by Gov. Scott Walker to a six-year term on the state's Labor and Industry Review Commission, wrote that the Wisconsin Fair Employment Act applies only to sexual harassment. That contention was the basis for her dissenting opinion in a case involving Milwaukeean Chris Bowen, a machine operator who was subjected to years of anti-gay harassment as an employee of Stroh Precision

Die Casting.

In a 2-1 decision, commissioners Robert Glaser and Ann L. Crump found that Stroh was responsible for fostering a workplace environment hostile to Bowen because of his sexual orientation. Stroh did not deny that the harassment occurred, nor did the company argue during the eight years that the case bounced around the court system that anti-gay harassment is not allowed under state law.

But McCallum, the politically connected wife of former GOP Gov. Scott McCallum, defied nearly 30 years of precedent in state law by asserting that sexual "preference," as she put it, is not a protected category in workplace discrimination cases.

McCallum's stance alarmed civil rights advocates as well as other commissioners, who warned that her view could upend legal tradition and "make it permissible to harass an employee based upon race, national origin, religion, age or disability," as well as sexual orientation.

Although Glaser and Crump prevailed over McCallum in the case, Bowen attorney Art Heitzer warned that Walker would have the opportunity to appoint another commissioner if he completes his four-year term. That would swing control of the commission, which also

**HARASSMENT** page 19

Milwaukee Repertory Theater artistic director Mark Clements directs a scene in the upcoming production of "Next to Normal."

PHOTO: ADAM HORWITZ



## New Direction

# Clements leads the Rep to new heights

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

On mild days, you might still find Mark Clements walking his pooches – boxers Walter and Blanche – on the Milwaukee lake-

front. If he appears to be lost in thought, perhaps he's reminiscing about a Green Bay Packers game or London's Arsenal football (soccer) club. Don't be surprised if his head turns

at the potato-potato-potato sound of an idling Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

Clements, 50, has a passion for contact sports and motocross, fields he

considered pursuing as a young man in England. But fortunately for Wisconsin, he chose a very different career – in the theater. After successes in the United Kingdom and

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# LGBT news with a twist



By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

### POLYGAMY VS. CONGRESS

A greater percentage of Americans approve of polygamy than they do the Congress, according to a set of recent polls. A New York Times poll found Congress' approval rating was at 9 percent, while 11 percent of respondents said they found polygamy to be "morally acceptable."

### FAREWELL TO DIXIE

Yvonne Fasnacht, an early gay rights supporter who spent much of her life playing jazz and welcoming aficionados to her French Quarter Club - Dixie's Bar of Music on Bourbon Street - has died at 101. Known as Dixie, the elegant and sophisticated Fasnacht toured with the Southland Rhythm Girls in the 1930s. In 1939, she and her sister Irma opened the first of several bars, all bearing the name Dixie's. The Bourbon Street edition was described as a place where rich and poor, famous and not, gay and straight felt comfortable. According to the Preservation

Resource Center's publication, "Preservation in Print," Truman Capote, Tennessee Williams, Rock Hudson, Danny Kaye and Gore Vidal were among those who visited the bar.

### LIBERACE'S STICKY BUNS

With 145 dead celebrities, author and former "Daily Show" movie critic Frank DeCaro whipped up "The Dead Celebrity Cookbook: A Resurrection of Recipes from More Than 145 Stars of Stage and Screen" in time for readers to throw a unique holiday brunch. DeCaro's cookbook includes recipes from Elizabeth Taylor, Sonny Bono, Humphrey Bogart and Peter Falk. What's on the menu? Liberace's Sticky Buns? Mae West's Fruit Compote? Or perhaps Rock Hudson's cannoli?

### AND PRAY AWAY THE SONG

Michele Bachmann demanded and received an apology from

NBC's "Late Night With Jimmy Fallon" after she was introduced as a guest on the show with the song "Lyn' Ass Bitch" by Fishbone. Bachmann said the song was sexist and proof of Hollywood's bias against her.

### DUMB LIKE A FOX VIEWER

A new poll from Farleigh Dickinson University found that viewers of Fox News are less informed than people who don't watch any news. "People who watch Fox News are 18 points less likely to know that Egyptians overthrew their government" and "six points less likely to know that Syrians have not yet overthrown their government" compared to those who watch no news at all, the pollsters found.

### GAY WATER

The mayor of the Peruvian town of Huarney says a toxic metal in the water supply is making his town gay. "Unfortunately Strontium reduces male hor-

mones and suddenly we'll be as Tabalosos, as other towns, where the percentages are increasing of homosexuality," Mayor José Benitez warned his citizens. A Peruvian program several years ago falsely claimed the population of Tabalosos, which provides Huarney's water supply, is predominantly gay.

### CHAZ TO WED

Chaz Bono proposed to his longtime girlfriend Jenniger Elia in a moving moment that was captured on camera for "Being Chaz," a one-hour reality TV special that aired recently on the Oprah Winfrey Network. The couple has been together more than six years.

### THOSE DIRTY HIPPIES

Borrowing a line from Richard Nixon, GOP presidential candidate Newt Gingrich told the Occupy Wall Street protesters to "go get a job right after you take a bath." Gingrich, who made his remarks at a forum in Iowa, seems oblivious to the demon-

strators' motivation - the lack of economic and employment opportunities. No doubt the former House Speaker knows something about hot water, but he's not squeaky clean.



### FAIR AND BALANCED?

Doug Manchester, a San Diego developer, is buying the 143-year-old San Diego Union-Tribune. Equality supporters boycotted his Manchester Grand Hyatt following revelations that he'd donated \$125,000 to the successful 2008 Proposition 8 campaign that banned same-sex marriage in California. He reportedly agreed to pay more than \$110 million for San Diego's leading newspaper. Gay rights advocates condemned the sale.

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JOEY CARRILLO



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**A wealth of programs and resources**  
We support our LGBT students through a variety of campus organizations and events. The student group EQUAL (Elmhurst Queers and Allies) promotes awareness through events and advocacy. SAFE (Staff, Administrators and Faculty for Equality) offers a support network for the LGBT community. An annual guestship and other special events focus on issues of concern to the LGBT community. Our faculty is adding courses in LGBT studies.

**A step ahead of the rest**  
"In a small but meaningful step, Elmhurst College is now officially telling applicants that gay students are welcome on campus. The private liberal arts college is the first college in the U.S. to ask potential students about their sexual orientation or gender identity on its application....The question is meant to increase diversity at the school, which is affiliated with the United Church of Christ, and to direct incoming students toward services that might ease their transition into college life. It's also a strong signal that the school will embrace LGBT students and will do its best to support them."  
—Chicago Sun-Times, August 26, 2011



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# Group threatens to sue Bachmann over fee dispute

By Louis Weisberg  
Staff writer

When LGBT activist and Wisconsin native John Becker visited Marcus Bachmann's clinic undercover in July, it was to learn whether the husband of presidential candidate Michele Bachmann offered patients so-called "reparative therapy."

Armed with a hidden camera, Becker caught a counselor at the center offering the therapy, which right-wing Christians claim can "cure" same-sex urges through prayer. Becker's visit to the clinic, staged on behalf of the LGBT advocacy group Truth Wins Out, made national headlines. His visit refuted the Bachmanns' claims that they never offered the treatment, which every major medical and psychological association has denounced as unethical

and damaging. But instead of trying to put the whole embarrassing episode behind him, Marcus Bachmann has revived it by demanding that Truth Wins Out pay him \$150 for canceled appointments. Bachmann himself called TWO to demand payment, threatening to sic a collection agency on the group. If Bachmann hoped to intimidate TWO, he was dis-

appointed. The group's attorney Norm Kent responded by giving Bachmann 72 hours to back down or face legal action from his side. "We consider your therapy and practices fraudulent," Kent wrote in response, adding that Becker followed the official cancellation policy. The lawyer went on to state that any claim by the Bachmanns to offer "therapeutic" services for "curing

homosexuality" equates to false advertising. "We will be interested in the civil discovery process," Kent wrote, implying the group would put Marcus Bachmann under oath. "Please do not embarrass yourself or your firm further by attempting to collect a debt that you are not owed for a point you cannot make." So far, Bachmann appears

to have backed down. "I think it's personal for him," said TWO executive director Wayne Bessen. "Marcus Bachmann as a result of all this has become a joke. But if he wants to build us a platform to publicize the damage done by the ex-gay movement, who are we not to step on it?"

Follow the news at [www.wisconsin-gazette.com](http://www.wisconsin-gazette.com).

## BARRETT ENDORSES BALDWIN

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett on Nov. 22 endorsed U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Madison, for U.S. Senate. "Milwaukee and Wisconsin need a fighter in the U.S. Senate we can trust to create jobs and put aside the polarizing rhetoric that only divides us, and Tammy Baldwin is

that leader," Barrett stated. "Tammy is a proven champion for Wisconsin's working and middle class families, and she understands the challenges and issues facing people right here in Milwaukee. Tammy Baldwin will be the adult in the room we can trust to get things done and reject the same tired political games that get us nowhere. That's why I'm proud to endorse her."

## REGIONAL BRIEFS

If Baldwin, who represents the Madison area in Congress, wins, she would become the first out gay or lesbian ever elected to the Senate. Barrett, meanwhile, is frequently mentioned as a prospective candidate to face Gov. Scott Walker

if Democrats succeed in gathering enough signatures to force a recall election next year. Walker defeated Barrett in the 2010 gubernatorial race 52-46 percent. But recent poll shows Barrett seven points ahead of Walker.

## ILLINOIS OKS JOINT FILING FOR SAME-SEX COUPLES

After months of discussion with the Illinois Department of Revenue, Equality Illinois announced Nov. 28 that the state will allow a same-sex couple in a civil union to jointly file 2011 state tax returns.

Under the new guidelines issued by the revenue department, a same-sex couple in a civil union may elect to file state taxes as "married, filed jointly" or "married, filed separately" — the same options opposite-sex married couples may choose. If applicable, couples would check a box for "same-sex civil union return."

In order to determine the adjusted gross income to include on state filings, couples will have to complete a pro forma federal IRS return.

"In order to ensure that couples in a civil union were afforded the same rights as other spouses, we needed the leadership of Gov. Quinn and revenue director Brian Hamer, and we thank them for standing up for equal-

ity," said Bernard Cherkasov, Equality Illinois CEO. Illinois is the 10th state, along with Washington, D.C., to allow same-sex couples to file joint state tax returns.

## DIVERSE & RESILIENT ANNOUNCES STAFF CHANGE

Diverse and Resilient promoted Mark O'Neil to senior director of programs, a position that became necessary due to expanded programming in HIV prevention and testing, according to a press release.

O'Neil's new position is responsible for a staff of 10, including two managers and three program coordinators. In addition to overseeing HIV prevention, O'Neil will direct programs in alcohol prevention and healthy relationship development among youth.

As part of the change, Brenda Coley was named director of special projects. In addition to her continued work with Sister's Helping Each Other Battle AIDS (SHEBA), Grow Great Women, and PrideFest's Health and Wellness Area, Coley is taking on an expansion of services that address partner violence, mental health, community health workers and a variety of planning events.

## LUTHERAN LEADER ARRESTED FOR CHILD PORN

The communications director of the conservative Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod was arrested Nov. 15 at his Waukesha home on suspicion of pos-

sessing or distributing child pornography. Joel W. Hochmuth, 52, was taken into custody after the FBI Cyber Crimes Task Force put out an alert. Detectives said they found numerous images of child pornography at his home.

The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, also known as WELS, opposed the 2009 decision by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to allow the ordination of gays and lesbians in committed monogamous relationships. With about 390,000 members and nearly 1,300 congregations nationwide, WELS is the third largest Lutheran church body in the United States.

## IOWA DEM LEADER SAYS NO VOTE ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

A proposed constitutional amendment banning gay marriage in Iowa will again be a topic during the legislative session beginning Jan. 9. But the top Senate Democrat has vowed to block debate. "People's rights should not be put to a popular vote," said Senate Majority Leader Michael Gronstal, D-Council Bluffs. "We didn't put slavery to a vote of the people. We didn't put the right to go to a school in your neighborhood to a vote of the people of Iowa."

Senate Minority Leader Jerry Behn, R-Boone, said the debate is less about gay marriage than allowing voters to have their say on an emotional issue. He promised that Republicans will again push the issue.

— from WiG and AP reports



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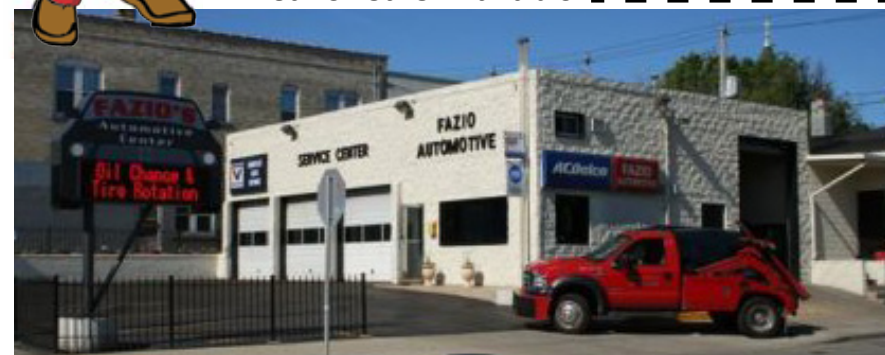
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# Frank won't seek re-election in 2012

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Frank will end his congressional career in 2012.

The powerful 16-term U.S. representative who made history in 1987 when he came out as gay will not seek re-election next November.

Frank, a Democrat from a suburban Boston district and a senior member of the House, announced his pending retirement on Nov. 28 during a press conference in Newton, Mass.

He cited two basic concerns – a redrawn congressional district that promised a hard general election fight and a polarized national political climate.

"The kind of inside work I have felt best at is not going to be as productive in the foreseeable future," the feisty

Frank said.

Ten months ago, the congressman had issued a statement announcing his plans to seek another term.

Frank, 71, won his seat in 1980, and developed a reputation as a sharp-witted liberal who doesn't pull or duck punches. Before serving in Congress, he served eight years in the Massachusetts State House.

He came out publicly in 1987, and in the years that followed became the most prominent gay politician in the country. Frank has championed LGBT equality, sponsoring a number of reform bills, elevating the status of the LGBT caucus in the Democratic National Party, driving the creation of a national LGBT Democratic organization and co-founding

the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus.

"Barney Frank has exemplified true leadership over his more than 30 years in the U.S. House of Representatives," said Joe Solmonese, the president of the Human Rights Campaign in Washington, D.C. Solmonese, a native of Massachusetts, worked for Frank on an early campaign.

"As one of the first openly gay members of Congress, Barney defied stereotypes and kicked doors open for LGBT Americans," Solmonese said.

Frank also has driven legislative efforts to protect commercial fishermen, expand affordable housing and boost economic development. Perhaps most prominently, Frank was heavily influential in the passage of last year's Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, which the Washington Post called "the most sweeping overhaul of the nation's financial regulatory system since the Great Depression."

Following the surprise announcement on Nov. 28, Massachusetts Democratic Party Chairman John Walsh



PHOTO: COURTESY

U.S. Rep. Barney Frank will not seek re-election in 2012.

called Frank a "shining son of Massachusetts" and a "tireless advocate for justice and equality."

Frank's colleagues issued statements praising his progressive politics and no-holds-barred leadership.

"He has been a role model for LGBT youth in and out of government," said openly lesbian U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis.

"For me, he also has been a valued mentor and friend. For all of us committed to

social justice, Barney leaves an enduring legacy."

Baldwin is not seeking re-election to her House seat in 2012, but instead running for the U.S. Senate.

Follow the news at www.wisconsin-gazette.com.

## OVAL OFFICE DISPATCH

President Barack Obama, responding Nov. 28 to U.S. Rep. Barney Frank's announcement that he won't seek re-election next year, said: "This country has never had a congressman like Barney Frank, and the House of Representatives will not be the same without him. ... Barney's passion and his quick wit will be missed in the halls of Congress, and Michelle and I join the people of the Bay State in thanking him for his years of service."

## HATE CRIMES RISE SLIGHTLY

The number of hate crimes committed in 2010 increased slightly over 2009, according to an FBI report released Nov. 14. Incidents classified as hate crimes totaled 6,628 in 2010, an increase from 6,604 in 2009.

Data showed that hate crimes motivated by race represented the largest number of cases, followed by sexual orientation, religion and ethnicity/national origin.

## BENEFITS BILL INTRODUCED

A coalition of progressive senators and representatives recently introduced the Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act to extend equal spousal benefits to gays and lesbians in the federal civilian workforce.

Benefits would include retirement programs, life and health insurance coverage and family and medical leave.

"The federal government must set an example as an equal opportunity employer," said U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, D-Madison, one of the sponsors. "If we are to treat all federal employees fairly and recruit the best and the brightest to serve in government, we need this legislation."

## NO CHARGES IN SUICIDE OF TEEN

New York police investigating the suicide of a bullied gay teenager say the offensive comments the victim endured can't be considered criminal.

Police investigators last month sent 14-year-old Jamey Rodemeyer's computer and phone to a lab to help

## NATIONAL BRIEFS

determine whether anyone should be prosecuted for the bullying he often talked about before taking his life Sept. 18. Police also interviewed Jamey's family, friends and peers, uncovering five bullying episodes at Williamsville North High School.

## HOUSING SECRETARY BACKS MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Housing Secretary Shaun Donovan became the first sitting cabinet secretary to declare his support for marriage equality.

Donovan, who has promoted several pro-gay initiatives in housing and urban development, answered

"absolutely" when a D.C. Metro Weekly reporter asked if he supported marriage rights for same-sex couples.

The question followed Donovan's speech to the National Center for Transgender Equality, also a first for a sitting cabinet member.

## PLEA DEAL IN CALIFORNIA CLASSMATE KILLING

A California teenager pleaded guilty in November to second-degree murder for killing a gay classmate three years ago.

Brandon McInerney, 17, pleaded guilty to the murder

charge, as well as one count each of voluntary manslaughter and use of a firearm. He will go to prison for 21 years.

The case drew wide attention after the defense claimed that McInerney, in a fit of homophobic rage, killed 15-year-old Larry King at an Oxnard junior high because he was offended by King's dress and how the victim interacted with him.

"I don't think that 21-year sentence is justice for my son, but I understand the reality that was facing the DA of trying to convict a defendant who was 14 ... when he committed the murder," father Greg King said.

## GA HIGH COURT SIDES WITH CHURCH

The Georgia Supreme Court ruled in a long-sim-

mering property dispute over the state's oldest church that a breakaway congregation from the national Episcopal Church must return the \$3 million Savannah property.

The breakaway group has used the sanctuary of Christ Church since 87 percent of its members voted to split from the Episcopal Church in 2007 over the affirmation of an openly gay bishop.

Christ Church members had a right "to leave the Episcopal Church and worship as they please, like all other Americans," Justice David Nahmias wrote. "But it does not allow them to take with them the property that has for generations been accumulated and held by a constituent church of the Protestant Episcopal Church."

— from WiG and AP reports

## WORLD AIDS DAY • DEC. 1

# Clinton aims for AIDS-free generation

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called on the world to create an AIDS-free generation, setting a monumental policy priority in a speech to scientists at the National Institutes for Health prior to World AIDS Day.

"Creating an AIDS-free generation has never been a policy priority for the U.S. government until today, because this goal would have been unimaginable just a few years ago," Clinton said in the highly promoted address at the NIH in Bethesda, Md., on Nov. 8.

Clinton selected the NIH as the site for the speech because, she said, its scientists have conducted frontline, groundbreaking work on HIV/AIDS over the past 30 years. And the secretary

### GET TESTED ON WORLD AIDS DAY

For HIV testing sites throughout Wisconsin visit <http://www.irc-wisconsin.org/hivtest.htm>.

sought to emphasize science.

Clinton said in 30 years a lot has been learned about the virus – how it hides from the immune system and mutates in the body; about the impact – an estimated 30 million people have died of AIDS-related illnesses since 1981 and an estimated 34 million people are living with HIV; and about treatment and prevention – AIDS remains an incurable disease, but becoming infected with HIV is no longer a death sentence.

"HIV may be with us well into the future," the secretary said. "But the disease that it causes need not be."

Clinton said an AIDS-free

generation meant living in a world in which "virtually no children are born with the virus; second, as these children become teenagers and adults, they are at far lower risk of becoming infected than they would be today thanks to a wide range of prevention tools; and third, if they do acquire HIV, they have access to treatment that helps prevent them from developing AIDS and passing the virus on to others."

The state department has identified three key scientific interventions to achieving the goal:

- Prevention of mother-to-child transmission. One in seven new infections worldwide occur through mother-to-child transmission. Clinton said, "We can get that number to zero."

- Voluntary male circumcision. The state department says this low-cost procedure reduces the risk of female-to-male transmission of HIV by more than 60 percent.

- Treatment as prevention. Effective treatment of a person living with HIV reduces the risk of transmission to a partner by 96 percent.

Public health advocates hailed Clinton's speech, which was punctuated by lengthy rounds of applause.

"For 30 years, the world has been ravaged by the AIDS epidemic, but for the first time in three decades, we have the tools to put a stop to it," said Daniel Montoya of the National AIDS Council in Washington, D.C. "We owe it to ourselves and future generations to see that through."

In another cabinet-level address in advance of World AIDS Day, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius told the U.S. Conference on AIDS in November that fully implementing the Affordable Care Act is crucial to expanding treatment and care for people living with HIV/AIDS.

About 13 percent of



PHOTO: U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton delivers remarks on the future of the global HIV/AIDS pandemic at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md., on Nov. 8.

people living with HIV/AIDS are privately insured. The ACA, which is set for a U.S. Supreme Court review,

would improve access to care through its Medicaid expansion provision and insurance exchanges. The ACA

also would make it illegal for insurers to discriminate based on pre-existing conditions, including HIV/AIDS.

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PHOTO: COURTESY

### SPECIAL ENVOY

In mid-November, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton announced the appointment of talk show host Ellen DeGeneres to serve as a special envoy for global AIDS awareness. "Ellen is going to bring not only her sharp wit and her big heart, but her impressive TV audience and more than 8 million followers on Twitter to raise awareness and support for this effort," Clinton said in an address on "creating an AIDS-free generation." DeGeneres said she was honored to be tapped for the job. "Now," she added, "if you'll excuse me, I have to go look up what 'envoy' means."

# TransACTION: Remembrance day observed

By Lisa Neff  
Staff writer

From Milwaukee to Melbourne, civil rights advocates read names and cried tears for the dead on Nov. 20, the International Transgender Day of Remembrance.

Activists joined in the annual observance in dozens of locations on every continent but Antarctica, calling attention to prejudice and remembering the victims of anti-transgender violence. The first remembrance day was held in San Francisco in 1999 in memory of African-American trans-

gender woman Rita Hester, 34, whose slaying in 1998 remains unsolved.

"So many kinds of violence are epidemic for transgender people: hate violence, domestic violence, sexual violence, school bullying and violence by police," said Mara Keisling of the National Center for Transgender Equality. "And though certain categories of trans people are more likely to face violence, especially people of color, working class people, young people, women and immigrants, all demographic categories of trans people are more likely

to be victims than non-trans people."

TDOR memorials took place in Belfast, Athens, Helsinki, Hong Kong, London, Manila, Montreal, Rome, Tel Aviv, Vancouver, Warsaw.

U.S. observances – vigils, demonstrations, rallies and town halls – took place in 37 states and the District of Columbia. In Atlanta, at a ceremony outside the state capitol, activists read the names of 222 transgender people killed in the last year in Colombia, Brazil, Philippines, India, Jamaica, Honduras, Venezuela, Russia, Mexico, the United States, Argentina, Ecuador, Malaysia, Panama, Poland, Guatemala, Indonesia, Pakistan, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Chile and Turkey. At the conclusion of the program, activists released 222 red balloons, the color representing the blood of those whose lives were taken.

In Washington, D.C., on Nov. 17, activists concerned with an escalation of anti-transgender violence, includ-

ing two slayings last summer, gathered to deliver a series of demands to Metropolitan Police Department Chief Cathy Lanier and U.S. District Attorney Ron Machen.

Protesters demanded the district halt efforts to establish permanent "prostitution-free zones;" improve efforts to track and report crimes against transgender people, ensure adherence to the D.C. Human Rights Law, train police on transgender issues and improve the clearance rate on anti-transgender crimes, which currently are far less likely to be solved than other crimes.

"Transgender and gender non-conforming people face injustice at every turn: in childhood homes, in school systems that promise to shelter and educate, in harsh and exclusionary workplaces, at the grocery store, the hotel front desk, in doctors' offices and emergency rooms, before judges and at the hands of landlords, police officers, health care workers and other service providers," authors Jaime M. Grant, Lisa

Meanwhile, in other locations, activists explored the findings of "Injustice at Every Turn: A Report of the National Transgender Discrimination Survey," which was released earlier this year by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and the National Center for Transgender Equality.

More than 6,400 transgender people were surveyed for the study, which the authors say "brings to light what is both patently obvious and far too often dismissed from the human rights agenda."

"Transgender and gender non-conforming people face injustice at every turn: in childhood homes, in school systems that promise to shelter and educate, in harsh and exclusionary workplaces, at the grocery store, the hotel front desk, in doctors' offices and emergency rooms, before judges and at the hands of landlords, police officers, health care workers and other service providers," authors Jaime M. Grant, Lisa

A. Mottet, Justin Tanis, Jack Harrison, Jody L. Hermand and Keisling wrote in their executive summary.

The authors, in surveying thousands from all 50 states as well as several U.S. territories, say they created the first large-scale comprehensive look at anti-trans bias to guide policymakers, activists and legal advocates.

The authors found:  
• Discrimination is pervasive, but racism and anti-trans bias is "especially devastating."

• Those surveyed are four times more likely than the general population to live in poverty, with an annual household income of less than \$10,000.

• 41 percent of those surveyed reported attempting suicide, a rate much higher than the 1.6 percent for the general population.

• Those who identified as transgender or as gender non-conforming in K-12 grades experienced harassment (78 percent), physi-

*Continued on next page*

## FORGE ATTENDS HISTORIC WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE

Wearing a button with the image of slain Milwaukee transwoman Chanel Larkin, FORGE policy and program director Loree Cook-Daniels participated in a historic briefing convened by the White House on Nov. 16. The event gave transgender anti-violence advocates the opportunity to speak with administration officials about the widespread violence against transgender people and strategies for addressing the violence.

"The White House convening this meeting at all, let alone this week in honor of the Day of Remembrance, says a lot about the president's commitment to making America safer and better for transgender people," said Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, one of the nine groups represented at the event.

Cook-Daniels shared with federal officials unpublished data from an ongoing FORGE survey that demonstrates the wide prevalence of violence facing the transgender community. She also told stories of transgender victims turned away from or mistreated by government-funded victim services.

President Barack Obama was cared for by a transgender nanny when he was a child living in Indonesia.



PHOTO: TYLER KEEGAN

A Transgender Day of Remembrance action in Washington, D.C.

*Continued*

cal assault (35 percent) and sexual violence (12 percent).

• The unemployment rate for the survey population is double the rate of the general population.

• 26 percent of those surveyed reported losing a job due to anti-transgender bias.

• 19 percent of those surveyed said they were denied housing because of bias.

• 53 percent of the survey population reported being verbally harassed in a public place.

• 59 percent of those surveyed reported updating the gender on their driver's

license and other documents, meaning 41 percent live without an ID that matches their gender identity.

• 46 percent reported discomfort seeking police assistance.

The authors, in their conclusion, write that "Injustice at Every Turn" is a call to

action for those who pass laws and set policies.

"Discrimination is pervasive and severe toward transgender and gender non-conforming people," said NGLTF executive director Rea Carey. "The alarming personal stories and stats show that transgender

people face injustice everywhere and in many ways. They fear for their livelihood, their safety, their ability to feed their families and have a roof over their heads. This is simply unacceptable.

We must continue working toward a culture that affirms the dignity and worth of all people. Until no more of our transgender friends and family are lost to senseless hate violence, we must not rest."

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# 'Milwaukee has so much going on culturally. I'm still discovering the city.'

**CLEMENTS** from I on the East Coast, he's setting box office records in his second season as artistic director of the Milwaukee Repertory Theater.

Clements and friend and fellow Brit Michael Pink, artistic director of the Milwaukee Ballet, were drawn to the city for its vibrant performing arts scene. Their genius has catapulted their respective organizations to the next level of achievement, and the city's cultural stature has risen along with them. Civic leaders increasingly view cultural tourism as a major force in the city's economic future.

Clements' artistic influence and broad choices of material have breathed new life into his troupe. And Milwaukee has breathed new life into the artistic director in return. If Milwaukee loves Clements, the feeling is mutual. The city has proven to be a perfect setting for his diverse set of interests, including football and motorcycles.

"People talk about Milwaukee like it's some

large village, but I don't see that at all," he says. "Milwaukee has so much going on culturally. I am still discovering the city."

Clements' girlfriend Kelley Faulkner, who played Sally Bowles in the director's inaugural Rep production of "Cabaret" last season, earlier this year gave birth to daughter Amelia. That event, along with his growing affection for the city, means there's a very good chance the English expat will be around for awhile.

### A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE

Like Pink, Clements comes from an English theatrical family. Despite his early desire to play professional soccer and race motorcycles, he followed his parents into what might be called the family business. He started on the technical side - lights, sound design and props - quickly moving into management.

By age 17 he was assistant stage manager for a local theater company, graduating to stage manager at 21. He made his directing debut

with Harold Pinter's "The Dumbwaiter" at the Royal Theatre in Northampton. By age 29 he was artistic director of the Derby Playhouse, directing some 50 productions and producing more than 100 shows.

Clements served as associate artistic director for Vanessa and Corin Redgrave's Moving Theatre Co. before moving to the United States to produce and direct plays in New York and Philadelphia, and then coming to Milwaukee.

Awards have marked milestones in Clements' career. Nominated numerous times in England, he won New York's 2004 Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Production of an Off-Broadway Musical for "The Thing About Men." In Philadelphia he picked up dual awards for best director and best production for his version of John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men" in 2007. In 2008 he won his second Barrymore Award for best production of a musical for his new staging of "Les Miserables."

Main stage musicals were



PHOTO: MILWAUKEE REPERTORY THEATER  
**A scene from "Cabaret," artistic director Mark Clements' first production for the Rep - and the company's first-ever mainstage musical. The production won raves from critics and audiences alike.**

one of Clements' first innovations when he arrived at the Rep. Rep fans were initially startled - and ultimately enraptured - when he chose "Cabaret" to kick off his first season last fall.

Clements is following

up this year with "Next to Normal," a Tony- and Pulitzer Prize-winning rock musical about a suburban housewife with bipolar disorder. As he did with "Cabaret," Clements asked Pink to do the choreography.

### MORE THEATER IN MILWAUKEE

"There is more theater in Milwaukee than one might expect," Clements says, praising the Rep's facilities and multiple stages. "The  
*Continued on next page*

*Continued*

Milwaukee Rep is one of the largest theaters in terms of real estate that I've ever seen, akin to Britain's National Theatre in that regard."

But like most area arts companies, the Rep has a loyal but small following relative to the metro area population, something that Clements is working hard to correct. He'd like to see a wider socio-economic and cultural variety of theatergoers evolve, including younger audiences.

The Rep chooses its shows to appeal to different audience segments, but that doesn't always attract the people he'd like to introduce to the performing arts. It's a constant struggle to capture a larger share of the entertainment dollar, and results have been mixed.

"Lombardi" will have been the Rep's most successful play ever in terms of ticket sales," says Clements about the recent production of Eric Simon's play about the legendary Green Bay Packers coach, which required additional shows to meet all the demand. "But at the same time I have this beautifully rendered play "Yellowman" about prejudice within the African-American community, and I am not getting the people I know this play deserves."

More aggressive marketing and greater retail opportunities may help the Rep increase its revenues. For ideas, Clements and his staff have been looking at how the music industry and professional sports market themselves. "I want to be more proactive about taking care of the audience in the building," he says.

The Rep also has studied other dramatic venues, such as American Players Theatre. The Spring Green company has theatrical marketing and retail sales down to a science. Three years ago, APT lengthened the season of its open-air amphitheater and increased its seating capacity with the addition of The Touchstone, a 200-seat indoor "black box" theater constructed with funds raised during the height of the lingering economic recession.

### SERVING LGBT AUDIENCES

Not surprisingly, Clements counts LGBT theatergoers as among the best audiences for theater in general - and the Milwaukee Rep in particular. Clements is still surprised when racism and homophobia rear their ugly heads.

"I was doing 'Happy Now?'"

(at Philadelphia's Walnut Street Playhouse) before I got here and got letters complaining that I had a gay character on stage," Clements says. "In this day and age that makes me angry. I want to keep our audiences, but not at the expense of not being able to explore these issues."

Milwaukee suffers from many of the same phobias. The push-back he received about some of the Kit Kat Club boys in "Cabaret" came as no surprise in a city where same-sex couples usually don't hold hands walking down the street.

"The Rep actually is the straightest theater I've ever worked in," he says. "I'd like to see a pinker strand running through this theater."

Clements plans to further cultivate Milwaukee's LGBT community, finding the right plays at the right time to make the kinds of social statements the director feels need to be spotlighted. Clements loves being controversial in ways that get people to think.

"I want to have the right conversations with the right people in the LGBT community to find out what they want," he says.

### SETTLING IN

Milwaukee audiences want to

be challenged by what the Rep puts on stage, Clements says. Toward that end, he's started commissioning works from new writers that explore a variety of subjects. One play the troupe commissioned is ready to launch, and two more are slated for the near future.

"There is a hunger for new works in this market, but the question is just how large an audience they will attract," Clements says. "Low attendance is a big frustration for theater-makers. It's the obligation of the arts to provide us with a broader view of life, but it's no use playing to empty seats."

These are the kind of thoughts that occupy Clements' mind as he takes off daily from his home in the city's Yankee Hill neighborhood with his dogs Walter, named for the John Goodman character in "The Big Lebowski," and Blanche, named for the Rue McClanahan character from the television series "Golden Girls."

"Most people think she's named for Blanche Dubois from 'A Streetcar Named Desire,' but that's not the case," Clements says with a smirk. "It's a reasonable guess given that I am ultimately the guy who lives and falls by his theater's success."

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## { Editorial }

## The wages of homophobia

With the ongoing revelations of child sex abuse involving right-wing religious institutions and sports organizations – two of the nation's most homophobic settings – it's tempting to throw all the headlines back in their faces.

Tempting, but unfair. It's understandable that pedophiles would be drawn to clerical and coaching positions, which offer a high level of access to children. But just as there's no relationship between same-sex orientation and pedophilia, there's no evidence that religion, sports or homophobia are connected to the disorder.

Pedophilia is a world unto itself. Mental health experts agree that pedophiles lack any sort of adult sexuality. Many offenders prey on children of both genders. Like Penn State coach Jerry Sandusky and Syracuse coach Bernie Fine, who are alleged offenders, abusers of young boys are often married to women. That's not a "gay lifestyle."

But homophobia does play a tragic role in the cover-ups that allow cases against boys to go unreported and unpunished. As author Daniel Mendelsohn wrote recently in *The New York Times*, if Sandusky had been caught sodomizing a 10-year-old girl in the Penn State locker room, there's no question authorities would have taken decisive action. Yet when a graduate student reported him for sodomizing a 10-year-old boy in 2002, the only action taken was to ban him from bringing children into the football building.

"For Penn State officials, disgust at the perceived gay element seems to have outweighed the horror of the crimes themselves," Mendelsohn wrote. He added that victims in such cases are often treated as "untouchable, so fully tainted they couldn't, or shouldn't, be rescued."

This unfortunate attitude is likely more prevalent in the macho realm of sports and the sin-obsessed culture of right-wing Christianity than elsewhere in society. Sadly, it's also prevalent among pre-pubescent and adolescent boys. Due to feelings of shame about their abuse, young male victims often remain silent. Many of them mentally block the experience altogether and only recall it years later.

That's why it's so critical that the Legislature finally pass the "Child Victims Act," recently re-introduced by state Sen. Julie Lassa, D-Stevens Point, and state Rep. Sandy Pasch, D-Whitefish Bay. The law would remove the statute of limitations in cases of child sexual assault.

Wisconsin law now bars victims from filing suit after they turn 35. The new law would open a two-year window in which previously barred victims could take legal action.

Twice in recent years, the powerful Roman Catholic lobby has blocked passage of the law, claiming it would bankrupt the church. But the Archdiocese of Milwaukee recently filed for bankruptcy and can no longer make that argument.

In truth, the leaders and institutions enabling these crimes deserve far worse than bankruptcy. The sense of dehumanization and powerlessness experienced by sexually abused children leaves them with emotionally disabling wounds that last a lifetime. Considering the hypocrisy these institutions have demonstrated and the human devastation they've coddled, who really cares about their financial health?

The "Child Victims Act" is badly needed in this state. This is legislation that both sides of the aisle in Madison could and should support.

GOP: LIFE BEGINS WHEN ANYONE IS THINKING ABOUT SEX!



## { Feedback }

### CENTER SEEKS INPUT

I send a sincere thank you to all for bringing forth ideas about the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center regarding the current changes. During times of change we open ourselves up for great opportunity. A community center cannot be a center for all without the community coming together. This is accomplished by the community engaging with the center and the center visibly engaging with the community.

I am here to listen to your concerns. More than anything, please understand that today is a new day for the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. On behalf of the center, I invite you to have conversations with me about what you would like to see the center doing in the future.

If you know of ways we can open ourselves up to other aspects of the community,

please contact me at [walk-er@mkelglt.org](mailto:walk-er@mkelglt.org).

If you know of people who would like to lead the center into a productive future by sharing their leadership, ideas and talents with us, please send me their names. If you would like to volunteer for a committee, the board, or to help us hone our skills as an organization, please contact me.

I have a positive outlook for what we can achieve if we all work together. Thank you for all the support during this time of transition.

*Sheldon Walker  
Interim executive director,  
Milwaukee LGBT  
Community Center*

### A SCOTT WALKER THANKSGIVING

Wisconsin's very rich and powerful had much to celebrate this Thanksgiving.

Walker could be thankful for the \$7,300 raise he is tak-

ing, the fine healthcare and pension benefits he is receiving. His cronies can be thankful for massive giveaways and tax gifts.

Polluters could give thanks for the new roadblocks put in the way to weed out their wrongdoing. Abusive nursing homes could give thanks that their liability has been limited.

Those rich enough to pay for private education could be thankful that their children won't have to go to schools with larger class sizes, fewer teachers and diminished resources.

Unfortunately, working families and their children being kicked off health insurance didn't have a lot for which to be thankful.

But all of Wisconsin could give thanks that we have the right of recall.

*Mike Tate  
Democratic Party of  
Wisconsin Chair*

## ON THE RECORD

“The more toppings a man has on his pizza, I believe the more manly he is. Because the more manly man is not afraid of abundance. A manly man don't want it piled high with vegetables! He would call that a sissy pizza. I love the sausage, the mushrooms. Love it.”

– GOP PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE HERMAN CAIN

“What is this mac and cheese? Is that a black thing?”

– TELEVANGELIST PAT ROBERTSON, who has a long history of scandalous involvement with African dictators but apparently little experience with African-Americans.

“It's amazing what paying attention to a candidate can do to their candidacy.”

– “DAILY SHOW” HOST JON STEWART commenting on the abrupt rise and fall in the polls of Michele Bachmann, Rick Perry and Herman Cain.

“We definitely cleanse and bind demonic powers out of females' uterus cavities, out of genitals and, of course, out of anal canals and out of intestines – out of throats and mouths if there's been ungodly deposit of semen in those areas.”

– “EX-GAY” ACTIVIST JOANNE HIGHLEY explaining how she casts out the demons of homosexuality from related areas of the human anatomy.

“And if you're a homosexual, her husband will take care of ya. He's got a thing, a camp or a clinic or something. And if you're a homosexual and you feel you're in the need of some special treatment or counseling, he'll take care of you.”

– DAVID LETTERMAN speaking about Michele Bachmann's husband Marcus, an effeminate “pray away the gay” counselor. The statement was deleted from the Web archives of Letterman's show.

“So when he finally came out it was a huge relief for me because I had harbored so much guilt for having hurt him by abandoning him and divorcing him. I just felt like it took a load off my shoulders.”

– COMEDIAN FRAN DRESCHER describing how she felt after learning that the husband she left after 21 years came out as gay.

“Man, I will say this, the funniest joke I ever heard Tracy say during a stand-up was, ‘C'mon man, I think gay people are too sensitive. If you can take a dick, you can take a joke.’ That shit was funny to me. And it's kind of true.”

– RAPPER T.I. defending comedian Tracy Morgan's notorious anti-gay rap as funny. T.I. was recently released from prison.

“I'm very pleased with how it has gone.”

– GEN. JAMES F. AMOS, who heads the U.S. Marines, telling *The Associated Press* that allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly has presented no problems in his branch of the service. Amos had argued against repealing “don't ask, don't tell” during wartime.

## Dirty tricks fuel recall effort

Not even three weeks into the Scott Walker recall, the effort has gathered overwhelming momentum. Organizers recently announced that they obtained more than 300,000 signatures in the first 12 days, after collecting 105,000 during the first weekend.

In total, 540,000 signatures are needed to trigger a recall election.

In response, Republicans have employed every desperate measure they can imagine. They even resorted to trying to change the recall rules in the middle of the game. For instance, the GOP has essentially filed suit over its own redistricting plan in a mad scramble to hang on to control of the state Senate.

In addition to Walker, the recall effort targets three of the governor's rubber-stamp senators, all of whom are vulnerable in their current district boundaries. So Republicans are suing to move up the date that their gerrymandered redistricting

Opinion  
CORY LIEBMAN

maps go into effect.

In effect, they are suing themselves. They passed the legislation saying that the map would become effective with the November 2012 election. Now they're counting on the GOP activist majority on the state Supreme Court to come to their rescue. They're asking the court's partisan majority to overrule their own redistricting legislation.

Meanwhile, right-wing front groups are working overtime to thwart and otherwise defame the recall process. The shady operatives at Media Trackers videotaped young African-American women from Milwaukee signing a recall petition. They posted the video online and then appeared on Charlie Sykes' right-wing radio show to make wild, unsubstantiated

claims. Without providing any support, they told listeners that the young women were under age and not eligible to sign the petitions.

The Democratic Party of Wisconsin followed up, documenting that the two women were eligible to sign the recall petition. But that didn't stop Media Trackers, Sykes and the usual right-wing suspects from alleging fraud. Their goal was to sully the recall process, and they weren't about to let the truth get in their way.

If the Republican Party goes to such wild extremes to suppress citizens' rights to call for an election, you can imagine how far fringe activists are willing to go. Zealots have tried to sow confusion through creation of a variety of fake websites. There have been several reports of right-wing activists tearing up recall petitions, which is a felony in Wisconsin.

The progressive organization One Wisconsin Now has created a \$10,000 fund

to help fight such crimes. The group also created a recall petitioner's rights document, available at their website, [onewisconsinnow.org](http://onewisconsinnow.org).

All of the desperate right-wing measures have only served to invigorate recall supporters. Voters are signing petitions at a break-neck pace not only in Madison and Milwaukee but also in rural counties all over the state.

If the Republican establishment is using dirty tricks now, just wait until the signatures are submitted. They'll try every possible method to invalidate as many as possible. That's why we cannot rest, even though we're working at a remarkable pace. Not only will a very large number of signatures guard against more Republican dirty tricks, they will also serve as a clear statement that Wisconsin is ready to exercise its constitutional right to hold a recall election.

Join the conversation!  
Like WiG on Facebook.

## Condolences just don't cut it

As we enter the Christmas season, I want to write about peace.

We have many problems closer to home that distract us from the bloodshed in Afghanistan. It's become just another of our perpetual wars for perpetual peace (Gore Vidal's thesis) that's part of the background noise in our frenetic culture. I feel ashamed of that kind of casual disregard, and I am appealing to readers to take action. Here's why.

Last January, a NATO airstrike killed three Afghan police officers and critically wounded three others. The Afghan cops were our allies on their way to meet up with American Special Forces for a joint patrol against local insurgents. NATO sent its condolences and said it would investigate.

A month later, German Chancellor Angela Merkel offered her excuses and condolences to a commission investigating the killing of 91 Afghan civilians in a German-ordered airstrike near Kunduz in 2009. – and

Opinion  
JAMAKAYA

the subsequent cover-up.

In late February, as Wisconsinites rallied against Gov. Scott Walker, NATO helicopters and F-15 bombers killed 51 Afghan civilians, including 22 women and 26 children, in Kunar Province. A 2-year-old survivor had her leg amputated. NATO apologized and launched an inquiry.

On March 25, NATO airstrikes targeting Taliban fighters killed 18 civilians, 11 of them children. In late May, as Americans relaxed on Memorial Day weekend, NATO planes mistakenly bombed two homes in Helmand Province, killing 14 civilians, mostly women and children. Major Gen. John Toolan apologized on behalf of coalition forces: “We will ensure that we make amends with the families in accordance with Afghan culture,” he said.

The Helmand incident came one week after NATO forces killed 20 more Afghan police officers they mistook for Taliban fighters in Nuristan Province. In early July, eight women and two children were killed in a NATO bombing in Khost. Seven civilians were killed in Kandahar in yet another snafu for which commanders have apologized.

Imposing terror from the skies, which has become pervasively normalized since the days of 9/11 and our own “shock and awe” campaign in Iraq, is hardly the way to win hearts and minds.

“These people will, I am sure, be defeated,” one Afghan bombing victim said. “I hope God destroys Americans.”

In late November, news emerged that NATO aircraft killed 25 Pakistani soldiers, our ostensible allies, in their military posts along the Afghan border. Pakistan is angry about breaches of its sovereignty by the United States and NATO, and our secretaries of state and defense apologized profusely

and vowed the usual investigation.

So what are we still doing in this stupid, purposeless war? It is achieving nothing. The Taliban are stronger than they have been for years. We are killing thousands of Afghans every year. We are alienating allies, exacerbating Muslim extremism, destroying the lives of our soldiers (some of whom are reverting to savagery under the stress) and wasting hundreds of billions of dollars in borrowed money.

The Afghans are no closer to peace or integration than they were 10 years ago when we launched this nightmare.

If you have not spoken up about the war, write or call your representatives and senators. Write a letter to the editor, call in your views to a talk show, grill candidates, get involved in Peace Action Wisconsin or other groups organizing against the war. Encourage friends and family members to do the same.

Please, make a commitment to work for peace.

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## Alliance School's Owen receives interfaith award

### Religion

ANDREW WARNER

Every year the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee gathers in December to recognize leaders and organizations whose work demonstrates a commitment to "uphold the dignity of every person and the solidarity of the human community." This year the Interfaith Conference honorees include Tina Owen, lead teacher of the Alliance School of Milwaukee.

The award to Tina Owen reflects her deep commitment to working with LGBTQ youth and others who experience bullying and need a safe place to learn

and grow. This marks the first time the conference has publicly honored a person for work in the LGBT community.

The Alliance School serves 165 youth from Milwaukee and the surrounding suburban area. Many youth go to Alliance because they were bullied or harassed elsewhere. But others come because a friend or family member went to the school, or because they're excited about its mission.

Since 2005 that mission has remained clear: "To be a safe, student-centered, and academically challenging environment to meet the needs of all students."

While the school itself is not religiously based, Tina Owen's motivation to start and lead it developed natu-

rally out of her spirituality. She grew up Roman Catholic. As a child she helped out as an altar server three times a week.

Her love of the church was crushed by a new priest who arrived with a new rule — no girls could be altar servers. The experience pushed her away from organized religion.

Yet spirituality still mattered to her.

"I would always tell people, 'I'm a Christian because I believe in the life of Jesus and I want to be like him. I'm just not religious because of all the rules that hurt and harm people.'"

Owen felt a profound sense of calling to become a teacher to disadvantaged children in college. Experiences of trauma in her

own childhood made her want to help the youth who most needed support and advocates.

She quickly moved into an advocacy role for LGBTQ students during her first years as a teacher. "LGBT youth were being bullied to the point of not coming back. Brilliant, creative, good-hearted people were checking out and dropping out of school," she said.

Soon Owen realized it was not just LGBTQ youth, but all sorts of students who didn't "fit" and needed an advocate — for instance, Goth teens and disabled students.

A grant to the Milwaukee Public Schools by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation gave Owen the opportunity to start a school for all the youth who didn't fit in

and needed a place to learn where they would not be bullied or harassed.

Alliance embodies many of the values Owen finds in Jesus and other religious leaders. Alliance also engages students and staff in a democratic process to ensure every voice is heard. Voting takes place on a five-point scale: five means complete agreement, one means a different solution is needed.

The school does not adopt a new policy or approach until everyone votes three or higher. Developing consensus may seem cumbersome, but it's crucial in a school where there are so many who felt shut out in past academic settings. The egalitarian decision-making process at Alliance is one way the school honors the dignity of



PHOTO: FACEBOOK

Tina Owen.

every student.

The Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee Annual Awards Luncheon takes place on Dec. 8, at the Italian Community Center. For information on tickets or to learn more about the Interfaith Conference, call the office at 414-276-9050.

## OPEN & AFFIRMING CONGREGATIONS

### MILWAUKEE

**All Saints' Cathedral** (Episcopal), 818 E. Juneau Ave., 53202, 414-271-7719, [www.ascathedral.org](http://www.ascathedral.org)

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

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

**Divine Word Lutheran Church**, 5505 Lloyd St., 53208, 414-476-3189, [divinewordlutheran.org](http://divinewordlutheran.org)

**First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee**, 1342 N. Astor St., 53202, 414-273-5257, [www.uumilwaukee.org](http://www.uumilwaukee.org)

**Grace Lutheran Church (ELCA)**, 303 Green Bay Rd., Thiensville, 53092, 262-242-1174, [www.grace53092.org](http://www.grace53092.org)

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

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**Tippecanoe Church PCUSA-Living Waters Contemplative Life Center**, 125 W. Saveland Ave., Bay View, 53207, 414-481-4680, [www.tippechurch.org](http://www.tippechurch.org)

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

**Unitarian Church North**, 13800 N. Port Washington Rd., 53097, 262-375-3890, [www.ucnorth.org](http://www.ucnorth.org)

**Unitarian Universalist Church West**, 13001 W. North Ave., Brookfield, WI 53005, 262-782-3535 ext. 12, <http://uuwv.org>

**Universal Anglican Church — Christ Enlight**, Marion Center for Nonprofits, 3195 S. Superior St., 53207, 414-793-4828, [www.uacmilwaukee.org](http://www.uacmilwaukee.org)

**Village Church**, 130 E. Juneau Ave., 53202, 414-273-7617, [villagechurchmilwaukee.org](http://villagechurchmilwaukee.org)

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**Bradford Community Church-Unitarian Universalist**, 5810 Eighth Ave., 53140, 262-656-0544, [www.bradforduu.org](http://www.bradforduu.org)

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

### OTHER

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

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

**Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lakes**, 319 N. Broad St., Elkhorn, 53121, 262-723-7440, [www.uulakes.org](http://www.uulakes.org)

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

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# Choosing houseplants that are safe for pooches

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In addition to offering charm and living texture, houseplants are excellent oxygen producers that are good for the home environment. But some plants are not good – and even deadly – for dogs.

Pets are a precious part of the family, and many of them spend most of their time indoors. So it's extremely important to know which indoor plants can be harmful to them.

Puppies are a particular challenge. "Puppies chew and eat everything!" says Kim Smith, dog specialist at Milwaukee's Central Bark Doggy Day Care. "We warn new dog owners that puppies will nibble and taste anything they come in contact with, so a little bit of puppy-proofing in your home is important for your dog's health and your peace of mind."

For instance, caladium, alopecia, skunk cabbage,

elephant ears and philodendrons are common indoor or patio plants. They're very attractive, but they all contain calcium oxalate, a potentially deadly enzyme. The enzyme forms small crystals that become embedded in dogs' tongues and cause their mouths to swell so severely they suffocate.

Jasmine is another popular houseplant that is toxic to dogs. The blooms are prized for their beauty and fragrance but their sweet smell

also can be alluring to dogs, and even discarded petals in the trash can attract Rover's attention and wreak havoc on his health.

At this time of year, discarded holiday mistletoe is also a hazard for dogs, cats and children alike. But poinsettias, which have long been viewed as poisonous, are really only dangerous if a large quantity is consumed.

Fortunately, there are numerous houseplants that are pet-friendly.

An increasingly popular house plant, the bamboo palm is harmless if accidentally ingested by a pet. The bamboo palm also is known as the miniature fish-tail dwarf palm, the parlor palm and the good luck palm. It grows into a large, tree-like specimen made up of many dark-green palm fronds on delicate stems.



**At this time of year, discarded holiday mistletoe is a hazard for dogs, cats and children.**

The African violet, with its thick, furry or shiny leaves and colorful flowers, is non-toxic to dogs. Commonly

known as the cape marigold, this plant is safe to display around the house and rarely grows more than 6 inches in height.

The American rubber plant is extremely easy to care for and also safe to have around dogs. It features wide, waxy, veined leaves and can grow ceiling-tall. This species of nontoxic house plant likes regular watering and dusting of the leaves to keep it looking shiny, healthy and robust.

If a pet may have been poisoned, both the plant and the pet should immediately go to the vet or nearest animal hospital. Every minute counts. Bringing the plant saves the vet precious time in identifying an antidote. If additional help is needed, the Poison Control Center can assist in diagnosis and treatment.

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Hud is an 8-year-old Australian cattle dog mix.

## TIP OF THE WEEK

Ensure that there's no confusion about what your dog is allowed to chew on. If you have Oriental rugs, don't give him rope toys with long tassels. If your child likes stuffed animals, no plush toys for your dog. Your dog can't decipher the difference and it's not fair to punish him for what he can't understand.

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# Brass Rooster helps guys cover the pate in style

**By Matt Simonette**  
Contributing writer  
A few years ago, buying a man a hat for a gift meant either something to keep his head warm or a baseball cap emblazoned with the logo of his favorite team.

But this year, hats are hot fashion-wise. From the porkpies and trilbys favored by hipsters to Don Draper-inspired fedoras, hats have fallen back into favor with clothing-conscious men.

When designers unveiled their fall 2011 collections in Milan and Paris earlier this year, every fashion house from Armani to Dior was sending male models down the runway with covered heads.

As the New York Times put it, "The runway shows in Europe looked as if everyone had visited the same hatters' convention."

This doesn't surprise Milwaukeean John McLaughlin, who's been "a hat guy my whole life, ever since I was in fifth or sixth grade and found my grandfather's hat," he says. He thinks

the resurgence of men's hats is a predictable part of the fashion cycle.

"Most people wouldn't be caught dead in what their parents were wearing, but a lot of time they do look back at what their grandparents wore when they were younger," he explains.

This year, McLaughlin and his wife Kate, who works as a milliner for the Milwaukee Repertory Theater, turned their mutual passion for hats into a business. The Brass Rooster, their store at 2479 S. Kinnickinnic Ave. in Bay View, opened, appropriately, on Derby Day. It specializes in hats, accessories and shaving supplies for men — "anything that makes a man look cool," McLaughlin says.

The inspiration behind Brass Rooster was simple: "There was no place for anyone interested in hats to go," McLaughlin says. "We spent a lot of time in Chicago looking, and couldn't find anything."

Shortly after one particularly lackluster shopping excursion, Kate "looked at



PHOTO: COURTESY

**Don Draper, the leading character of the hit TV show "Mad Men," has been instrumental in bringing the fedora back into fashion. Of course, not every man can wear a hat as well as actor Jon Hamm.**

me and asked, 'What would you think about opening our own hat shop?'" McLaughlin says. "It took me all of five

seconds to say yes." The McLaughlins scrimped and saved in order to finance the store themselves. All

## This year, hats are hot fashion-wise.

their efforts were rewarded when 300 customers visited the store on its first day of operation.

"Business has been overwhelming," McLaughlin says. The Brass Rooster does a particularly brisk business in vintage hats from the eras depicted in the TV shows "Mad Men" and "Boardwalk Empire."

"In fact, we start with the 1920s and I think I go all the way up to the late '80s and early '90s," McLaughlin says. "Pop culture is one of the reflections of our society, especially with fashion — it makes it acceptable to wear something like a hat."

But "permission" often needs to be granted by someone else — the wearer's significant other.

"Many of our customers come in with a boyfriend, girlfriend, husband or wife and need to be reassured that they look all right. And if they come in alone, that's where I step in," McLaughlin says.

He's not afraid to tell a customer when the hat he likes is not the hat for him.

"I had a guy get really, really mad at me," he says. "He had been trying on a hat, brought it to the counter and said, 'I'll take it' — I said, 'No, you won't.'"

McLaughlin helped the customer find a similar model that was more flattering. A customer leaving the store looking bad in a hat makes the store look bad, he explains.

McLaughlin says he's not surprised that the Brass Rooster is doing so well despite the bad economy.

"In a downturned economy, guys will spend money on clothes, but it has to be something they will use over and over again," he explains. "They know they'll get that with a hat."

# Co-workers repeatedly called him 'fag' and 'my little bitch'

**HARASSMENT** from I oversees workers compensation and unemployment insurance, in McCallum's ideological direction.

Opponents of the governor are currently circulating petitions calling for his recall. They have a total of 60 days to gather 540,000 signatures and force him to face an election.

Although Bowen won the portion of his case alleging that Stroh was liable for creating a hostile work environment, he lost his complaint contending that he was fired over his sexual orientation. The commission did not have the authority to award Bowen monetary compensation for the harassment, but Stroh was ordered to pay a portion of his legal fees.

Both sides had until Nov. 30 to file an appeal.

The court record showed that a group of Bowen's co-workers repeatedly called him "fag," "maricon" and "my little bitch," among other slurs, over a period of years. Bowen once found a bulls-eye hunting target over which the word "gay" was written stuck to his toolbox. Someone put a sign that said, "queer" or "queen" on his locker. A sticker was put in his

workplace that said, "Honk if you're gay."

In a statement that was excluded as evidence at Bowen's administrative hearing, co-worker Kathryn Corroo said, "I witnessed the sexual harassment against Chris Bowen, especially during February 2002 through May 2002 by (co-employees) Tom Meier, Rick Hafemeister, David Lepke, Jesse Manhardt and Rose McGee. ... I heard Tom Meier say that Chris was not in a very good mood and that maybe it was because he (Chris) didn't get a apiece (sic) of ass over the weekend at Pridefest, the day after the weekend of Pridefest. I heard Rick Hafemeister make comments to Chris and myself about how all nigers (sic) and queers, etc. ... (sic) should be put in a big hole and shot. And get rid of them all."

Glaser and Crump agreed with an administrative law judge that Stroh did not take reasonable steps to stop this sort of harassment, which made it difficult for McCallum to perform his duties. McCallum disagreed on that point as well, stating that the company acted responsibly in responding to Bowen's complaints.

Gary Hollander, the executive director of the Milwaukee LGBT organization Diverse and Resilient, said the sort of behavior revealed in the case is damaging not only to the victim, but also to fellow workers and the employer.

"Targets of harassment may experience a variety of physical and mental health consequences, including sleeplessness, weight loss, anxiety, depression, digestive complaints, and headache," Hollander said. "Bystanders and perpetrators may also experience negative consequences associated with a blow to their own humanity. Business owners invariably experience a loss of productivity and profit."

"Workplace harassment consumes hours per day of loss of focused concentration at work and increases risk of injury. This time, multiplied by the tens of thousands of area employees who experience, witness, or perpetrate harassment costs employers millions of dollars."

Bowen was fired in 2003 after a disagreement with another worker, who claimed Bowen grabbed his shirtsleeve during an altercation. Heitzer said the worker taunted Bowen and then

complained he'd been assaulted when Bowen responded.

"We think the firing was retaliatory because (Bowen) complained about harassment and the company was very insensitive to the kind of harassment he complained about," Heitzer said.

Bowen worked at Stroh a total of two decades — from 1978 to 1988 and from 1992 to 2003.

Despite the mixed and controversial ruling in the case, Heitzer and co-attorney Brenda Lewison described it as a landmark for LGBT civil rights.

It's "the only reported case where the state found sufficiently strong evidence of a hostile environment based on sexual orientation, combined with notice to the employer, to conclude the law had been violated," Heitzer's office said in a press statement.

"This was a hard fought and significant victory for the employees in Wisconsin, even though the rationale of the dissent threatens to take it away along with other protections we have had for decades," Lewison said.

Find breaking news at [www.wisconsin Gazette.com](http://www.wisconsin Gazette.com).



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# 'Tis the Season!

## In December Wisconsin stages light up like Christmas trees

PHOTO: COURTESY

Moscow Ballet's "Great Russian Nutcracker" comes to Milwaukee's Riverside Theater on Dec. 1. The Milwaukee Ballet brings back choreographer Michael Pink's popular "Nutcracker" Dec. 10-26, and The Madison Ballet, under W. Earle Smith's direction, dances the Tchaikovsky favorite Dec. 17-26.

### By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Wisconsin stages will be filled with singing, dancing, acting up, acting out and other forms of merriment this holiday season. Mark your calendar and make your plans for 24 days of holiday cheer.

### HERE WE COME A CAROLING

"John DeMain's Christmas Spectacular" features the holiday spirit of the Madison Symphony Orchestra Dec. 2-4 at Overture Center for the Arts, Madison. Join Maestro DeMain and the MSO, soprano Jamie-Rose Guarrine,

bass-baritone Kyle Ketelsen, the Madison Symphony Chorus, the Madison Youth Choirs and the Mt. Zion Gospel Choir for an evening of holiday favorites. And don't forget your Santa hat! Details: [www.madisonsymphony.org](http://www.madisonsymphony.org).

The Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's "Holiday Pops Spectacular" runs Dec. 2-4 at Uihlein Hall at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, Milwaukee. Guest conductor Jeff Tyzik, the MSO Chorus, the Milwaukee Children's Choir and the Alleluia Ringers of Concordia University celebrate the season with carols, sing-alongs and some

of the city's most festive musical holiday traditions. On Dec. 8 the MSO reappears in Holiday Pops, Too! at the South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center. Details: [www.mso.org](http://www.mso.org).

Start your holiday with beloved carols and hymns, performed in the Milwaukee's breathtaking Basilica. Bel Canto Chorus, the Bel Canto Boy Choirs, and the Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble join together Dec. 10-11 for "Christmas in the Basilica." Details: [www.belcanto.org](http://www.belcanto.org).

### MULTIPLE MESSIAHS

Georg Friedrich Handel's mas-

terpiece "The Messiah," about the life and death of Jesus Christ, is scheduled throughout the state this season, giving you multiple opportunities to stand for the "Alleluia Chorus."

UW-Parkside in Kenosha offers "The Messiah" in the acoustically perfect Frances Bedford Concert Hall under the direction of music professor James Bedford Kinchen Jr. with the Voices of Parkside and the UW-Parkside Master Singers. The show runs Dec. 4-5, but Dec. 4 is already sold out. Details: [www.kenoshacvb.com](http://www.kenoshacvb.com).

The Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra under Maestro

Andrew Sewell performs "The Messiah" on Dec. 9 at Blackhawk Church in the Madison suburb of Middleton. Stunning soloists join WCO and its newly formed chorus for a beautiful rendition of this timeless classic. Details: [www.wcoconcerts.org](http://www.wcoconcerts.org).

The Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra presents "The Messiah" Dec. 14-18 at various church locations throughout Milwaukee and Hales Corners. In addition to the MSO, under the direction of guest conductor Christopher Seaman, the performances also feature the Milwaukee Symphony

Continued on next page

Continued

Chorus and Florentine Opera Studio's soprano Erica Schuller, alto Kristen DiNinno, tenor Matthew Richardson and bass-baritone Dan Richardson. Details: [www.mso.org](http://www.mso.org).

### NUMEROUS NUTCRACKERS

Wisconsin ballet fans will get many chances to enjoy seasonal favorite "The Nutcracker Ballet," the immortal tale of Uncle Drosselmeyer, his young niece Clara and a magical nutcracker that comes to life, all set to composer Tchaikovsky's gorgeous score.

Moscow Ballet's "Great Russian Nutcracker" comes to Milwaukee's Riverside Theater on Dec. 1. The New York Times called the show "a visual treat that creates lifetime memories." And Russia, after all, is where the composer was from. Details: [www.pabsttheater.org](http://www.pabsttheater.org).

The Valley Academy for the Arts is staging "Nutcracker in the Castle" at the historic Paine Art Center in Oshkosh through Jan. 8. The center's historic rooms are elaborately decorated with scenes from the ballet, while live music and youth ballet performances bring the story to life throughout the art center, known as "the castle." Details: [www.thepaine.org](http://www.thepaine.org).

The Milwaukee Ballet, under Michael Pink's direction, performs "The Nutcracker" Dec. 10-26 in Uihlein Hall at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, Milwaukee. Details: [www.milwaukeeballet.org](http://www.milwaukeeballet.org).

The Madison Ballet, under W.

Earle Smith's direction, performs its version of "The Nutcracker" Dec. 17-26 at Overture Center for the Arts, Madison. Details: [www.madisonballet.org](http://www.madisonballet.org).

Madison's Overture Center also hosts world-renowned choreographer and UW School of Dance professor Li-Chiao Ping's "The Knotcracker," a blend of adventurous dancing, humorous vignettes and insightful works that entertain and inspire. Performances run Dec. 1-4 in Promenade Hall. Details: [www.lichiaopingdance.org](http://www.lichiaopingdance.org).

### COUNTLESS CHRISTMAS CAROLS

For many, it just isn't the holidays without a heaping dose of Charles Dickens' tale of selfishness, remorse and redemption. For those who can't get their Christmas on without miserly Mr. Scrooge, crutch-saddled Tiny Tim, and some big, scary stage prop as The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come, here is a list of times and places to catch "A Christmas Carol" in various versions of its Victorian glory.

The Milwaukee Rep offers its nearly month-long Scrooge-a-palooza Dec. 2-24 at Milwaukee's historic Pabst Theater. Details: [www.milwaukeeballet.org](http://www.milwaukeeballet.org).

The West Bend Masonic Lodge offers its version of Dickens' classic Dec. 2-11 with a cast of local actors that last year included someone named "Kidd Beat Box" doing a hip-hop riff on the Ghost of Christmas Present. OK. Details: [www.westbendchristmascarol.com](http://www.westbendchristmascarol.com).

Children's Theater of Madison brings its enduring production of the endearing tale back to

the Capitol Theater stage in Madison's Overture Center for the Arts Dec. 9-23, wisely rehiring American Players Theater's James Ridge to reprise his Scrooge. Details: [www.ctmtheater.org](http://www.ctmtheater.org).

Fox Cities Performing Arts Center in Appleton offers only one enchanted evening with "the old screw" on Dec. 15. Details: [www.foxcitiespac.com](http://www.foxcitiespac.com).

### HOW ABOUT IRREVERENCE?

"A Kodachrome Christmas Starring John McGivern" features Milwaukee's favorite gay native son as cable access TV hostess Earlene Hoopole, the self-proclaimed "Queen of Rural Media." The hilarity runs through Dec. 31 at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts in Vogel Hall. Details: [www.easttown.com/do-a-kodachrome-christmas-starring-john-mcgivern](http://www.easttown.com/do-a-kodachrome-christmas-starring-john-mcgivern).

If a little bit of "God bless us, everyone" goes a long way, the Christmas season at Madison's Barrymore Theatre offers some refreshingly adult holiday alternatives.

The local traveling troupe Bricks Theatre once again brings out author and NPR commentator David Sedaris' hilariously funny holiday nightmare to life in "The Santaland Diaries" Dec. 9-11. The one-elf show wryly chronicles Sedaris' single season as one of Santa's helpers at Macy's. This is not the stuff of which holiday dreams are made.

Looking to put the "X" back into Xmas? You might enjoy "A John Waters Christmas" on Dec. 14, an unlikely evening with the alternative film director best known for the smash hit "Hairspray" and the cult classic "Pink Flamingos." The rapid-fire Baltimore bad boy may be the most unlikely holiday monologist imaginable. Waters shares his desire to give and receive perverted gifts, his religious fanaticism for Santa Claus, his unholy love of true crime holiday horror stories, and other weirdness. Details: [www.barrymorelive.com](http://www.barrymorelive.com).

### HOLIDAY HUMOR

"A Christmas Carol" isn't the only stage production to grace the boards this season. Several Milwaukee companies have some stocking stuffers of the more unorthodox sort.

Off the Wall Theatre is bringing back Dale Gutzman's "Holiday Punch," described as fall-on-the-floor-funny shtick mixed with Christmas tunes and an anything-goes party atmosphere. The pro-



PHOTO: ROSS ZENTNER

Milwaukee's favorite gay native son plays cable access TV hostess Earlene Hoopole, the self-proclaimed "Queen of Rural Media," in "A Kodachrome Christmas Starring John McGivern," through Dec. 31 at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts in Milwaukee.

duction runs Dec. 16-31. Bring your friends, but warn them first. Details: [www.offthewalltheatre.com](http://www.offthewalltheatre.com).

In Tandem Theater is bringing back "Scrooge in Rouge," the hilarious English music hall comedy about three performers trying to play all the parts in a musical version of "A Christmas Carol." It's funny, bawdy and an antidote for sugarplum overload. The show runs Dec. 2-31. Details: [www.intanemtheatre.org](http://www.intanemtheatre.org).

### A LOT OF NIGHT MUSIC

Then there are the holiday extravaganzas, programs almost too big to contain on a single stage. But somehow they manage, and here they are.

Country superstar Lee Greenwood, best known for his hit "God Bless the USA," seizes the season with two evenings of Christmas favorites Dec. 6-7 at the Northern Lights Theater in Potawatomi Bingo Casino. You can bet on a mix of both the

secular and sacred here. Details: [www.paysbig.com](http://www.paysbig.com).

If you're ready to have yourself a merry little Christmas season, start it out with the "John Tesh Big Band Christmas" Dec. 9 at the Milwaukee Theatre. The two-time Grammy Award nominee alternates soulful piano solos, engaging patter and the big sounds of a 14-member band to put a little swing in the holiday season. Details: [www.milwaukee-theatre.com](http://www.milwaukee-theatre.com).

As if on a seasonal cue, The Trans-Siberian Orchestra chugs back into the Bradley Center Dec. 15 with the classic "Christmas Eve and Other Stories," its traditional holiday spectacular. Climb aboard either the 4 p.m. or 8 p.m. show. Details: [www.bradleycenter.com](http://www.bradleycenter.com).

Silver-throated Sandi Patty joins members of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra for an evening of holiday favorites Dec. 17 at Milwaukee's Riverside Theater. Sing along or sit and listen. Details: [www.pabsttheater.org](http://www.pabsttheater.org).



PHOTO: COURTESY

Sandi Patty joins members of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra to sing an evening of holiday favorites Dec. 17 at Milwaukee's Riverside Theater.

# Skylight's rousing 'Music Man' is a holiday tonic

## Theater

LOUIS WEISBERG

The best holiday show in Milwaukee this season doesn't contain a single reference to Christmas, snow or Santa Claus. In fact, it's set in mid-summer.

But Skylight Opera Theatre's production of Meredith Willson's "The Music Man" explodes with the kind of sentimental cheer we crave this time of year. Perhaps no other major musical better conveys the spirit of the season than this exhilarating story of faith, miracles and rebirth set in a small Iowa town in 1912.

Unlike so many big musicals, the story line of "Music Man" is much more than a vehicle on which to hang song-and-dance numbers and special effects. Harold Hill, the titular character, is a traveling salesman who sets out to sell musical instruments and uniforms to the parents of River City by promising to organize their recalcitrant boys into a band under his instruction. Hill is a brilliant and unrepentant grifter who reads and exploits people's weaknesses as easily as he drops words of unctuous flattery.

What Hill can't do is read a note of music. After the instruments and uniforms arrive, he plans to take the money and run, leaving River



PHOTO: SKYLIGHT OPERA THEATRE

Norman Moses, center, headlines an extraordinary cast in Skylight Opera Theatre's joyous and impeccable production of "The Music Man."

City with a lot of expensive and utterly useless band paraphernalia. It's a scam that's made him legendary among the region's traveling salesmen, one of whom is determined to stop him before he completely ruins the profession's reputation.

But his nemesis proves to be the town's librarian and music teacher, Marian Paroo, a character as cynical in her way as he is in his. He intends to romance her attention away from his lack of musical knowledge, but the steely Marian is one of the few locals immune to Hill's charms.

It's not until Marian observes the tonic effect Hill has on her emotionally withdrawn little brother

Winthrop and the rest of the town that her feelings sway. Marian is ultimately grateful for the magic Hill injects into their stubbornly lusterless Iowa existence. Beneath his impenetrable façade, which is not unlike hers, she ultimately finds a kindred soul — someone else who won't settle for the ordinary.

This is a story of ideas as grand as 76-trombone parades, and part of the brilliance of the book is that its subplots tie so neatly to the overarching narrative and reinforce its themes. The book is also distinguished by a Wells Fargo wagonload of quirky and authentic characters, a welcome contrast to the stock figures so common on the mid-century musical stage.

Bill Thiesen that he keeps the action moving with such ease. Choreographer Pam Kriger also makes the most of the space, with economical moves that convey the music's exuberance without the leaping, gymnastic routines typically employed by larger scale productions of this work.

In fact, every facet of this production is as impeccable as it is charming, from Peter Dean Beck's sets that invoke Norman Rockwell's America to Gregory W. Slawko's colorful, elaborate costumes, some of which could stand as characters all on their own.

The production's chief strength, however, is the extraordinary cast Thiesen has assembled. The commanding Norman Moses, a Skylight veteran, looks and sounds like Robert Preston, who originated "The Music Man" on Broadway and starred in the hit 1962 movie version opposite Shirley Jones. But his performance is more nuanced. Particularly in the final scenes, Moses shows the audience glimpses of the tenderness that Hill has bottled up for so many years, making for a surprisingly moving climax.

Likewise, Niffer Clarke finds the vulnerability beneath the purposefully straight-laced Marian. Clarke wears Marian's poise like armor but there's mist in her eyes and longing in her seemingly effortless, crystalline soprano voice. I've seen

numerous productions of this work over the years, including the Tony Award-winning 2000 Broadway revival, and I've near heard Marian sung more beautifully.

Mark Bucher, founder of Bay View's Boulevard Theatre, clearly has a blast as the bombastic, vocabulary-challenged Mayor George Shinn. As his pretentious wife Eulalie Mackecknie Shinn, Debra Babich wrings laughs from nearly every syllable and grimace.

Rhonda Rae Busch conjures an Irish Marjorie Main as the widow Paroo, Marian's mother. Despite his youth, Cole A. Winston persuasively handles Winthrop's transition from lisping petulance to happily engaged youngster.

Ryan Tutton is all athletic grace as town bad boy Tommy Dijas; as his love interest, the mayor's daughter Zaneeta Shinn, Sydney Kirkegaard is all infectious adolescent giggles.

That Thiesen found so many talented, cherubic and disciplined kids in today's world is indeed a Christmas miracle.

### ON STAGE

Skylight Opera Theatre's "The Music Man" continues through Dec. 18 at the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800 or go to [www.skylightopera.com](http://www.skylightopera.com).

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# A tres gay holiday gift list

By Gregg Shapiro  
Staff writer

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## FOR DIRTY BOYZ

Every guy wants to look and smell his best, and Dirty Boyz products help you clean up well. The "Play Clean" line of personal care products, aimed at gay men, features five lustrous bars of soap, including the oatmeal-based Bear Bar (Havana Nights), the glycerin Gay Bar (Commando),



the olive and oats Bitch Bar, the natural and old-fashioned Anti-Homophobia Soap ("wash away stupidity, feel clean again") and, perfect for Christmas, Gingerbread Man Soap. There's a clever black raspberry cream body massage candle (use the melted oils for a sexy rubdown), a tin of balm and ball balm ("if you shave them, you need this to run free") and the Forever Boy Wrinkle Warfare Anti-Aging Serum. Other products in the line include Hand Job silicone personal lube, a tin of dulce de leche lip butter, top-and-bottom, all-in-one hair and body wash and Lover Boy Skin Silk moisturizer and massage oil. Visit [dirtyboyz-playclean.com](http://dirtyboyz-playclean.com).

## WHERE'S WHAT?

Taking the puzzle search craze in an entirely new direction, the "Where's Waldo?"-inspired "Where's Dildo?" invites players to find the "hard partying" dildo among the sexual revelers in a series of 24-by-36-inch

posters. Search for "dildo on a bar crawl, on Spring Break or on campus at Blowzenfux University. Visit [finddildo.com](http://finddildo.com).

## CALENDAR BOYZ

The male stripper phenomenon known as Chippendales is still going strong after more than 30 years. Taking a page from the gay body handbook, these buff dudes in their trademark black bow ties and white cuffs take it all off for writing and squealing suburbanites around the world. The 16-month Chippendales 2011/2012 calendar features an array of ripped and pumped models flexing (and trying not to look gay) for the camera.

Gay Love features the brilliant Shakespearean musical "Were The World Mine" and the Chad Allen vehicle "Hollywood, je t'aime." Big Lesbian Love titles include "Itty Bitty Titty Committee," directed by Jamie Babbit ("But, I'm A Cheerleader") and featuring Melonie Diaz, Daniela Sea and Melanie Mayron.



Make the yuletide especially gay this year with gifts such as a Chippendales calendar (left) or personal care products from Dirty Boyz (bottom left), a queer movie collectors' set with films such as "Were The World Mine" (center) or "Where's Dildo?" (below), a poster puzzle series that offers visual scavenger hunts in various worlds of debauchery (below).

PHOTOS: COURTESY



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# Chef Dominic Zumpano knocks it out of the park at Ryan Braun's Graffito

## Dining

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

Attaching a celebrity's name to a restaurant isn't a new marketing strategy, but it can still work. Affiliations with sports figures, in particular, often bring faithful fans through the door.

We know — and are thankful for the fact — that former Chicago Bears coach Mike Ditka isn't grilling steaks in the kitchens of his namesake restaurants in Chicago and Pittsburgh. But some diners find a certain cachet in frequenting Ditka's eateries.

We expect the steaks at Ditka's to be big, manly-man cuts of meat, because we imagine that's what Da Coach would eat. We're not exactly sure what Milwaukee Brewer and National League MVP Ryan Braun would eat, but the restaurant bearing his name suggests that it's nouvelle Italian-American cuisine with a bit of whimsy seasoning the mix.

Located in Milwaukee's Third Ward, Ryan Braun's Graffito — formerly Ryan Braun's WaterFront Grill — is trying to reinvent itself as a relatively new member of the Oak Creek-based SURG Group. That group is responsible for such culinary hits as Carnevor, Charro, Distil, Mi-Keys and Umami Moto. In SURG's hands, the riverside restaurant has lost the heavy-handed baseball theme and



PHOTO: COURTESY Ryan Braun's Graffito.

imagery, but Braun's name remains on the sign.

Graffito, which means "scratch" in Italian, implies fresh food that's freshly prepared. By bringing chef Dominic Zumpano, formerly of Umami Moto, back to Milwaukee, Graffito assured that in addition to fresh, the food would be creative, unusual and — pardon the pun — even a little out of left field.

Maybe that explains the Braun connection.

Several of us enjoyed a quiet lunch on a very quiet mid-Saturday afternoon. We

received attentive service and dined in relative bliss during our off-peak visit.

Excellent home-baked ciabatta and olive oil dressed with a freshly crushed garlic clove and herbs started us out. We added an order of fried olives (\$7), which had been stuffed with Gorgonzola cheese, breaded and deep-fried. They were served with a sweet and spicy sauce. This was the first time we'd experienced fried olives, but not the last time we would order them.

Glasses of 2010 Sciarpa Pinot Grigio (\$8) from

Veneto and 2010 Castello Chianti DOCG (\$8) from Tuscany arrived early and accompanied us throughout the meal.

A good start, we thought as we nibbled and sipped. However, we didn't quite expect the visual splendor Zumpano's touch would bring to our entrées.

All of our dishes appeared as multi-hued displays on long narrow plates and were as pretty to look at as they were flavorful to eat. The menu selections more than pleased the group's two vegetarians, proving it doesn't

take meat to create culinary magic.

Take for example, the Mezzaluna (\$16). The blend of butternut-squash-and-goat-cheese-filled half-moon pasta, Brussels sprouts, roasted tomatoes and mushrooms had been tossed with pumpkin seed pesto, creating a collision of flavors both complementary and contrasting. The entrée offered a new experience with each bite.

Next consider the eggplant (\$17). As a takeoff on eggplant involtini, made popular recently by Emeril Lagasse, the dark-skinned

**ON THE TABLE**  
Ryan Braun's Graffito  
102 N. Water St.,  
Milwaukee  
414-727-2888  
ryanbraunsgraffito.com

vegetable had been sliced, coated in parmigiano bread crumbs and prepared with oven-roasted tomatoes, then served with black pepper pasta. As an involtini, the blend was baked to allow the mozzarella cheese to melt over it. The dish delivered enough spark and character to change the most recalcitrant diner into an eggplant-lover.

Our group's lone meat-eater opted for the restaurant's popular hot wing ravioli (\$14 for lunch/\$19 for dinner). The little pasta pillows had been stuffed with house-made ricotta cheese and topped with braised chicken strips, melted Gorgonzola and hot sauce. The dish was served with tarragon butter and fried onions. The hot sauce flared and ebbed as it interacted with the other components, creating yet another dish offering a different experience with each mouthful.

For our finale, as the menu calls them, we sampled a walnut, cranberry and granola dessert (\$7) that had been prepared in house. The variety of flavors and textures balanced the multiple influences so none of the elements — not even the tart cranberries — overwhelmed the palate. For our money, however, the chocolate and hazelnut mousse (\$7), served with salted caramel gelato, hazelnut crunch and dark chocolate ganache offered a richer and more potent mix.

Ryan Braun's Graffito does not have prominent signage and is a little difficult to find for first-timers, but it's well worth the effort and valet parking is available. We might even say that Zumpano's creative plates, ahem, hit it out of the park just about every time.

# Stocking stuffers for book lovers

By Gregg Shapiro  
Staff writer

It's almost impossible to go wrong when it comes to giving books as gifts. Even diehard Kindle and Nook users can find something to like among the following mainly print titles.

• For kitchen wizards. Colorful photos of food, stories of family and country history, as well as delicious Polish recipes are shared throughout "Rose Petal Jam: Recipes & Stories from a Summer in Poland" (Tabula Books, 2011).

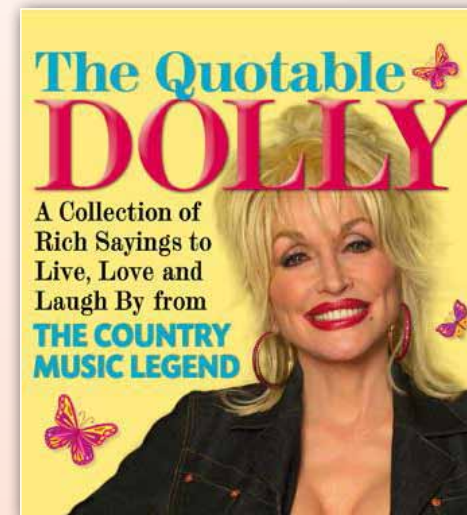
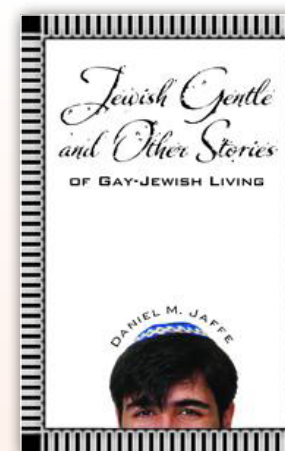
• For the kids. Lilly has two mommies and a brother named Jonah in "Pigeons Don't Float" by Jennifer C. Manion with illustrations by Jackie Urbanovic. This is a story about the unexpected, for LGBT-headed families and others (Rainbow Rumpus, 2011, downloadable without charge at www.rainbowrumpus.org).

• For the bloodsuckers. The updated and expanded fourth edition of "The Vampire Film: From Nosferatu to True Blood" by Alain Silver and James Ursini has almost everything but "Twilight: Breaking Dawn — Part 1" between its nearly 500 pages (Limelight Editions/Hal Leonard, 2011).

• For the Dollyheads. "The Quotable Dolly," subtitled "a Collection of Rich Sayings to Live, Love and Laugh by from the Country Music Legend," contains a variety of photos and almost 50 classic Dolly quips, including one for her LGBT fans (Rock & Read Books, 2011).

• For burgeoning writers. "Shut Up & Write!" by Milwaukee writing mentor and writer Judy Bridges promises to demystify the writing process via practical and entertaining means (Redbird Studio Press, 2011).

• For the Divine ones. In memory of Harris Glenn Milstead (a.k.a. Divine), "Postcards From Divine" by Noah Brodie, Dan Marshall, Frances Milstead and Michael O'Quinn collects more than 50 postcards Divine sent to his parents over a 10-year period. In addition, there are terrific photos, filmography and discography, and quotes from costars such as Deborah Harry, Ricki Lake, Lainie Kazan, Tab Hunter, Ruth Brown, Mink Stole, and of course, John Waters (Everything Divine, Inc., 2011).



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# 'Hugo' captivates, sun sets on 'Breaking Dawn'

## Film

GREGG SHAPIRO

### 'HUGO'

What possessed Martin Scorsese to direct his first family film – and in 3D, no less? After all, Scorsese is famous for such brutal, testosterone-fueled character studies as “Raging Bull,” “Mean Streets,” “Taxi Driver,” “Cape Fear,” “Goodfellas” and “Gangs of New York.”

But, based on Brian Selznick’s award-winning young-adult novel “The Invention of Hugo Cabret,” Scorsese’s film is a love letter to filmmaking, suitable for children and adults alike. The plotline celebrates the early days of cinema, specifically the work of Georges Méliès (played by Ben Kingsley), the groundbreaking French filmmaker who created the seminal motion picture “A Trip to the Moon” in 1902.

Hugo (Asa Butterfield) is an orphaned boy who



PHOTO: COURTESY From 'Hugo.'

secretly cares for the clocks in a Paris train station in the 1930s and lives in fear of being caught by station inspector Gustav (Sacha Baron Cohen). Hugo is on a mission to find the missing pieces to complete the assembly of an automaton, a job left to him following the sudden death of his father. His quest for parts

(gears and such) leads him to Georges, a cranky toy salesman with a stall in the station.

A confrontation with Georges leads to the loss of Hugo’s notebook with the illustrations for assembling the automaton. It also results in Hugo meeting and befriending Georges’ god-daughter Isabelle (Chloë

visually captivating spectacle for moviegoers of all ages.

### 'THE TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN – PART I'

The fourth installment of the “Twilight” saga is beginning to show signs of a sagging franchise. That’s disappointing, because “Breaking Dawn – Part I” is in the hands of capable gay filmmaker Bill Condon (“Gods & Monsters,” “Dreamgirls”). Condon does get points for having Jacob (Taylor Lautner) shirtless within the movie’s first few minutes.

When we last left Bella (Kristen Stewart), our sullen teenage damsel in distress, she accepted the marriage proposal of vain vampire Edward (Robert Pattinson), as well as his pledge to “change” her so they could be together eternally. Talk about the gift that keeps on giving. Too much of the movie is given over to the wedding – from pre-wedding jitters and cold feet (aren’t Edward’s feet always cold?) to the ceremony and

reception (how marvelous that vampires and humans can marry in Stephenie Meyer’s world, but most gays and lesbians still can’t). None of this elaborate set-up, including the honeymoon on a private island near Rio de Janeiro, rises above dull. Even the long-awaited sex scenes are flaccid.

The action begins after Bella discovers that she’s pregnant and her fast-growing fetus wreaks havoc on her innards. Could she be carrying a “Rosemary’s Baby”-style bundle of beastliness or just a bouncing bundle of joy? Jacob’s wolf-pack doesn’t want to take any chances. They prepare for all-out war with the vampires.

If you’re still awake at this point, you’ll get to see Bella give birth and then flatline. But fear not, there’s a clumsy and predictable surprise ending in the works. The humor, some of it actually intentional, helps occasionally. But for the most part, the sun sets early on “Breaking Dawn – Part I.”

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Tickets \$20 adv, \$22 d.o.s. Thur. (7:30pm) & Sun. (5pm)  
\$25 d.o.s Friday & Saturday (8pm both)

FRANK PRODUCTIONS

# A JOHN WATERS CHRISTMAS

Four Star Video Heaven

ISTHMUS

WED. DEC. 14 7:30PM

Like a wayward Santa for the Christmas obsessed, legendary filmmaker and raconteur John Waters (Pink Flamingos, Hairspray, A Dirty Shame) rides into town on his sleigh full of smut spreading yuletide cheer with his critically acclaimed one-man show, "A John Waters Christmas."

BALTIMORE

Tickets \$35 ad, \$99 VIP (front 50 reserved seats)

Tickets on sale at Sugar Shack, Star Liquor, MadCity Music, B-Side, Frugal Muse (Northgate & Junction Rd.), Strictly Discs, the Barrymore, online at barrymorelive.com or call & charge at (608) 241-8833.

# Anniversary editions bring back fond cinematic memories on DVD and Blu-ray

DVDiva

GREGG SHAPIRO

## DISNEY DELIGHTS

Just in time for his 70th birthday, the beloved animated flying circus elephant "Dumbo" is feted with a double-disc, digitally restored edition on DVD and Blu-ray. Dumbo was one of Disney's earliest and most inspirational celebrations of being different.

"Bambi," who turns 70 in 2012, and "Bambi II," who turns 5, also are getting the reissue treatment. The "Bambi: Diamond Edition" and "Bambi II: Special Edition" include newly enhanced, digitally restored Blu-rays and

DVDs, as well as an array of bonus features.

The 30th-anniversary edition of "The Fox and the Hound," featuring the voices of Sandy Duncan, Kurt Russell and the late Pearl Bailey, comes in a triple-disc combo pack. The Blu-ray disc includes "The Fox and the Hound" and its 2006 sequel "The Fox and the Hound II," plus bonus material. The two DVDs contain the films individually.

## WAR STORIES

"Dances with Wolves" commemorates its 20th anniversary with a double-disc, extended-cut, Blu-ray debut in 7.1 audio and new hi-def transfer. Directed by and starring Kevin Costner as a Civil War hero who befriends the Sioux Indians

while stationed at a desolate American frontier outpost, "Dances with Wolves" won seven Academy Awards, including best picture of 1990.

Oliver Stone's Oscar-winning 1986 classic "Platoon" featured a young, pre-breakdown Charlie Sheen, along with Johnny Depp, Forest Whitaker and Willem Dafoe. The 25th-anniversary Blu-ray/DVD edition is loaded with special features, including audio commentary from Stone, deleted and extended scenes.

"West Side Story," the film based on Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim's acclaimed musical that transported the "Romeo and Juliet" story to New York City in the mid-20th century, is 50 years old. The limited edition, four-disc set (including two Blu-rays, one DVD and a CD of cover songs from the soundtrack) gives the 10-time Academy Award winner a chance to be discovered by a whole new generation. Special features include choreographers explaining the film's famous dance sequences and a look back at the iconic film and its impact on the world.



PHOTO: COURTESY

From David Lynch's "Blue Velvet."

## COLORFUL ASSORTMENT

With an additional 50 minutes of previously unseen footage, the 25th anniversary Blu-ray edition of David Lynch's "Blue Velvet" is one of the season's must-haves. Lynch's classic portrayal of a suburban underworld not only revived the careers of Dennis Hopper, Dean Stockwell and Hope Lange, but also made stars of Kyle McLachlan, Laura Dern and

Isabella Rossellini. Blu-ray special features include the original "Siskel & Ebert" review and more.

The late Gwen Welles ("Desert Hearts," "Nashville") headlined Henry Jaglom's "Eating," described as "a very serious comedy about women & food." The 20th-anniversary edition DVD reissue features commentary by Jaglom and the cast's appearance on "The Phil Donahue Show."

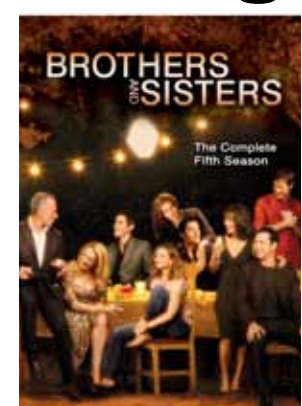
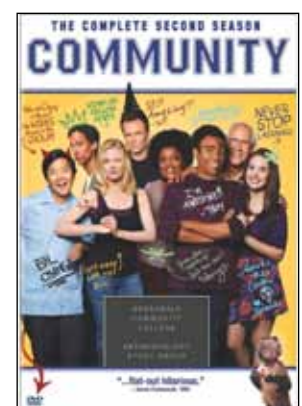
Originally released theatrically 40 years ago, "The Secret of Dorian Gray/Il Dio Chiamato Dorian" is Italian filmmaker Massimo Dallamano's modern retelling of Oscar Wilde's classic novel. Starring the stunning and often half-dressed Helmut Berger as the ageless Dorian, the film is a campy, sexy, queer period piece that's finally found its way onto a domestically released DVD.



# TV DVDs make entertaining stocking stuffers

From the delightfully twisted Saturday morning minds of Sid and Marty Krofft comes the three-DVD set "Sigmund and The Sea Monsters: Season One." Originally aired on NBC from 1973 to 1975, the show followed the wacky adventures of Sigmund Ooze, a friendly sea monster who ran away from his family after refusing to scare people.

"Talk Soup" and stand-up stud Joel McHale leads the cast of Greendale Community College's students and faculty on "Community: The Complete Second Season." The cast also includes Ken Jeong, Chevy Chase and Donald Glover. Guest stars on this four-DVD set include Betty White, Drew Carey, Hilary Duff, Malcolm-Jamal Warner and Josh Holloway. NBC is



removing "Community" from its midseason primetime lineup, so now is the time to give or get this bit of TV history. The six-disc, 22-episode "Glee: The Complete Second Season" finds William McKinley High School Glee Club more driven and determined than ever after the loss

at regionals. The gay romance between Kurt (out actor Chris Colfer) and Blaine (Darren Criss) also continues. DVD special features include a "Glee" music jukebox, the making of "The Rocky Horror Glee Show," "Getting Waxed with Jane Lynch" and exclusive bonus songs.

With "Brothers and Sisters: The Complete Fifth and Final Season," the Walker family, portrayed by Sally Field, Rachel Griffiths, Calista Flockhart and others, support one another through joy and heartache. The season includes relationship trouble between

gay couple Kevin (Matthew Rhys) and Scotty (Luke Macfarlane). Bonus features include deleted scenes, outtakes and bloopers. The first-ever complete and collectible 11-DVD box set for "JEM and The Holograms: The Truly Outrageous Complete

Series!" is finally available. The show, which ran from 1985 to 1988, is about an animated '80s pop diva with trademark pink hair and outrageous make-up. Combining glamor, glitter, fashion and musical numbers, the popular series influenced a whole generation of viewers.

# Dixie chicks and dixie dudes

Music

GREGG SHAPIRO

## KRISTIN CHENOWETH

There's good and bad news when it comes to Kristin Chenoweth's country album "Some Lessons Learned." The good news is that it's not as humiliating as Gwyneth Paltrow's country music movie "Country Strong." The bad news: It's wickedly mediocre and generic. Exercising different vocal muscles than we're used to hearing the Broadway diva utilize, she sounds like she's trying to break in those cowboy boots and there's gonna be more than a few blisters when she slips 'em off her feet.

The blame goes largely to schlock and schmaltz queens Diane Warren and Desmond Child. Warren's songs, including "Borrowed Angels" (previously recorded by Chenoweth on her "As I Am" disc), "Lessons Learned" and the insipid single "I Want Somebody (Bitch About)" should be listened to with a diabetes testing kit nearby. Child's compositions, co-penned by Chenoweth and others, fare a bit better, especially the novelty tune "What Would Dolly Do."

Speaking of Dolly, Chenoweth does a splendid job with Parton's "Change," as well as the more authentic Nashville selections "God and Me" and "I Didn't."

## DIANE SCHUUR

Jazz legend Diane Schuur steps out of her comfort zone on "The Gathering." Recorded in Nashville, with a stellar lineup of musicians that includes Alison Krauss, Vince Gill and Mark Knopfler, "The Gathering" finds Schuur strutting her stuff in the country realm. She sounds like Willie Nelson's kid sister on Nelson's "Healing Hands of Time," does Tammy Wynette proud on "Til I Can Make It on My Own," gets to the heart of a pair of Hank Cochran tunes ("Don't Touch Me" and "Why Can't He Be You") and scores with Kris Kristofferson's "Nobody Wins."

## GLENN CAMPBELL

After being a dominant force in the country-pop world of the 1960s and '70s, Glenn Campbell did something of a disappearing act, available only to audiences in Branson, Mo.. But like a variety of musicians, including Loretta Lynn, Mavis Staple, Candi Staton and Wanda Jackson, Campbell was rediscovered by a younger generation and given the opportunity to reach a new audi-



PHOTO: COURTESY

Kristin Chenoweth.

ence with his 2008 "Meet Glenn Campbell" album.

But just a few years later, after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, Campbell has announced his retirement. With "Ghost On The Canvas," he's planning to go out with a bang and not a whimper. Similar in spirit to Johnny Cash's final series of "American" recordings, Campbell performs a set of his own co-compositions along with songs by Paul Westerberg, Teddy Thompson and others. This is a fond farewell.

## JEFF BRIDGES

Several years before Jeff Bridges won an Oscar for his portrayal of a washed-up country singer in the "Tender Mercies" retreat "Crazy Heart," he proved himself to be both a decent singer and songwriter with the album "Be Here Soon." Almost as if to cash in on the remaining "Crazy Heart" momentum, we now have Bridges' self-titled, T Bone Burnett-produced disc. Accompanied by Burnett and other musicians and featuring guest vocals by Rosanne Cash and Burnett's wife Sam Phillips, the whole affair is as dark and



PHOTO: COURTESY

Glenn Campbell plays the Crystal Grand Theatre in Wausau on Dec. 8.

moody as Chenoweth's CD is slick and glittery.

## CONNIE SMITH

A contemporary of Campbell's, Connie Smith is also making something of a return with "Long Line of Heartaches," her first solo recording in more than a dozen years. A throwback to vintage Nashville, the Marty Stuart-produced disc, featuring standouts such as the title track, "I'm Not Blue," "Pain of a Broken Heart," and "Blue Heartaches," functions as both an introduction to and a welcome return for a certified country queen.

## GILLIAN WELCH

Gillian Welch, on the forefront of the alternative/insurgent country music scene since the mid-1990s, returns with her best work on "The Harrow & The Harvest." Welch's gift for 21st-century Americana is at its peak on the amazing "The Way It Goes," a song that is musically traditional but with profoundly modern subject matter. The album's bounty also includes "Dark Turn of Mind," "The Way It Will Be," "Silver Dagger" and "The Way The Whole Thing Ends."

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## Houseman/Caretaker

GWM executive leading a busy life in Chicago is seeking a professional to care for my large home. I have a terrific long-term housekeeper and chef in place. I want to hire "Alfred" to do the following: driving, managing vendors, hands-on maintenance, and organizing events ranging from a casual dinner party, charity event or high-level political event. You may currently work in a home or have had a career working in a fine hotel, airline or private club. I am prepared to pay \$60k to \$75k plus benefits (depending on experience) and willing to pay relocation costs. I perform a serious security check and require a solid work history. Please send your resume, letter of introduction and salary history to [bertmici@gmail.com](mailto:bertmici@gmail.com).

DEC. 1, THURSDAY

For World AIDS Day, the Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival presents a 6:15 p.m. screening of David Weissman's documentary "We Were Here: The AIDS Years in San Francisco" at the Milwaukee Art Museum, 700 N. Art Museum Dr. The film explores the impact of AIDS on the LGBT community of San Francisco.



DEC. 2, FRIDAY

Queen of Mean **Lisa Lampanelli** (pictured above) brings her unique brand of humor to The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin, at 7 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Experience "peace in earth" while being serenaded underground in the candlelit beauty of the North Cave at the **5th Annual Caroling in the Cave Holiday Music Series**. The event features performers from all over southern Wisconsin at Cave of the Mounds National Natural Landmark in Blue Mounds, through Sunday. Visit [www.caveofthemounds.com](http://www.caveofthemounds.com).

**MillerCoors Holiday Lites** is back to light up your holiday season. In addition to the light show, visitors can enjoy a tour of the Milwaukee brewery and sample MillerCoors seasonal brews at Miller Visitor Center, 4251 W. State St. Tours begin every 20 minutes from 4:40 to 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays through Dec. 23.

DEC. 3, SATURDAY

Sample cookies from a collection of bakeries during the **Christmas Around Milwaukee Bakery Bus Tour**. Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased through [www.milwaukeefoodtours.com](http://www.milwaukeefoodtours.com).

The **Milwaukee Vegan Bake Sale** returns to the Urban Ecology Center, 1500 E. Park Place, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The bake theme is winter holiday classics, featuring cookies, cupcakes, muffins and more, plus gift bags of sweet treats for the vegans on your shopping list. Call 414-964-8505 or go to [www.urbanecologycenter.org](http://www.urbanecologycenter.org).

Find one-of-a-kind handmade gifts from local artisans at Discovery World's **Holiday Artisan Market**, 500 N. Harbor Dr., from 10 a.m. today to 4 p.m. tomorrow. Enjoy live music, artist demonstrations, festive treats and complimentary gift-wrapping for all purchases. Admission is free.



DEC. 4, SUNDAY

**Jolly Holly Folly**, a benefit for AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin featuring cocktails and cuisine from area restaurants and a private Milwaukee Rep performance of "Next to Normal," starts at 5 p.m. at the InterContinental Milwaukee, 139 E. Kilbourn. Visit [www.arcw.org](http://www.arcw.org) or call 414-225-1570.

The 16th Street Clinic's official **"Red Party,"** a fundraiser for the 16th Street Community Health Center's HIV program, begins at 9 p.m. at Mona's, 1407 S. First. The event includes a contest for the best in red, plus free raffles all night and music by DJ Tommy. Call 414-643-0377

Compete in feats of strength and air your holiday grievances at the **Brady Street Festivus**, beginning at 9 p.m. on Brady Street.

DEC. 5, MONDAY

Jura Silverman Gallery, 143 S. Washington in Spring Green, hosts a **Wisconsin Artists Showcase** highlighting crafts made with wood, straw and glass. Featured are handmade Christmas ornaments, decorations and gifts by Wisconsin artists. The showcase continues through Dec. 31. Call 608-588-7049 or visit [springgreen.com/jsgallery](http://springgreen.com/jsgallery).

DEC. 6, TUESDAY

**"Cleopatra: The Search for the Last Queen of Egypt"** features nearly 150 artifacts from Cleopatra's time and allows visitors to experience the present-day search for the elusive queen, which extends from the sands of Egypt to the depths of the Bay of Aboukir near Alexandria. The exhibit continues at Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 W. Wells.



MillerCoors Holiday Lites from Dec. 2 to 23

DEC. 8, THURSDAY

The multi-platinum, Grammy-winning group **Lady Antebellum** rolls into La Crosse Center, 300 Harborview Plaza, La Crosse, at 7:30 p.m. Call (608) 789-7400 or visit [www.lacrossecenter.com](http://www.lacrossecenter.com).

DEC. 9, FRIDAY

**Afternoon tea** at The Pfister, 424 E. Wisconsin Ave., harkens back to a nobler, gentler era. Tea time is 3 to 4:30 p.m. Call 414-390-3878 to reserve seats.

Performing in support of their amazing new album "The Whole Love," **Wilco** plays The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin, at 8 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

Wisconsin Conservatory of Music, 1584 N. Prospect Ave., presents a **jazz jam session** from 7 to 9 p.m. Drums, piano, vibes, bass amps, guitar amps and vocal P.A. are provided. Call 414-276-5760.



Wilco

DEC. 10, SATURDAY

**Jerry Grillo** and **John Hefter** perform at 7 p.m. at The Savoy in the Shorecrest Hotel, 1962 N. Prospect. Call 414-270-1070.

**Milwaukee Symphony** plays the music of Led Zeppelin at 7 p.m. at The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin. Call 414-286-3663.

DEC. 11, SUNDAY

**"Let There Be Light!"** is a concert of seasonal folk songs, popular tunes, original songs and traditional carols performed by David HB Drake at The Domes. The concert begins at 2:30 p.m. at Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory, 524 S. Layton Blvd. Call 414-649-9830.

DEC. 13, TUESDAY

Boldt Arts Alive! Series presents **"Danú: A Christmas in Ireland"** at 7:30 p.m. at the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave. in Appleton. Call 920-730-3760.



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