

## FLACKING FOR THE BEATLES

Roberta Flack tells WiG all about her new album of Beatles covers.

**WIGOUT!** Page 23



THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

## Anti-gay Anglicans desecrate altar in Elm Grove

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Members of a breakaway Episcopal congregation in Elm Grove desecrated the altar of a church it had occupied for years to protest the denomination's ordination of openly gay clergy.

Although a number of Episcopal congregations have seceded over the issue, St. Edmund's Episcopal Church is the only one in Wisconsin. In 2008, the congregation voted to join the anti-gay Anglican realignment movement, which shifts its affiliation away from the local bishop to foreign bishops in such places as Uganda. In that country, churchmen have backed laws calling for the public execution of gays and the imprisonment of their family and friends.

Following St. Edmund's vote to join this movement,

"They changed the locks and in effect took the property away," said bishop's assistant Rev. David Pfaff of the Milwaukee diocese. He said diocesan officials tried to negotiate the return of the church property before filing a lawsuit in the winter of 2009.

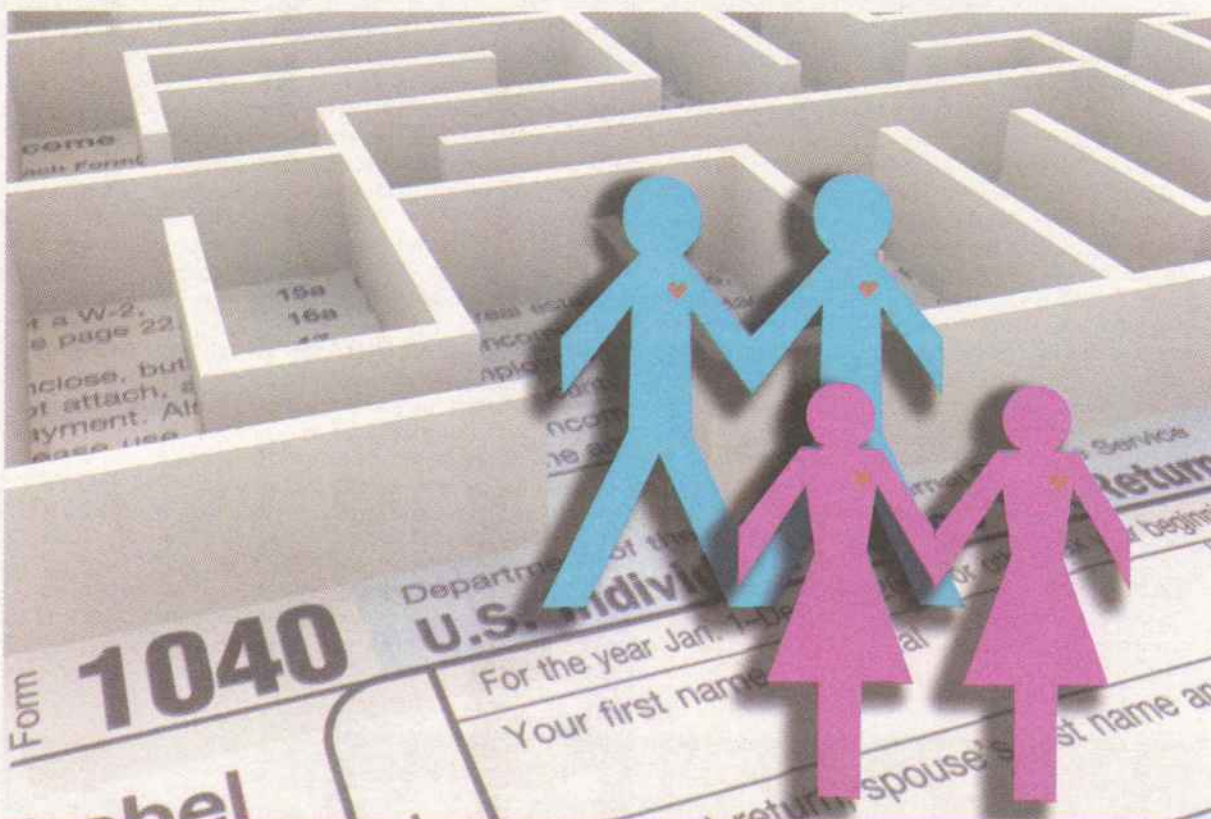
"Going to court was not our first inclination or option but we couldn't get any discussion going," Pfaff said.

Courts have ruled consistently in Wisconsin and other states that church property is held in trust by the denomination and does not belong to the congregation's current membership. In December 2011, Waukesha Circuit Court granted the Milwaukee diocese a summary judgment and ordered the breakaway congregation to return the property.

On Feb. 1, Pfaff and other diocesan officials went to inspect their property after being locked out for years. What they found inside disturbed them greatly, Pfaff said: Hebrew words painted all over the altar.

"My understanding is that it was an attempt to quote a passage from the Old Testament having to do with the Philistines taking control of the (great) temple and something to the effect that the glory of God has departed," Pfaff said. "Just to see something that you regard as a sacred object being defaced is disappointing."

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# TAXING MATTERS

## Complications await same-sex couples

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

President Barack Obama mentioned "fair" 14 times to LGBT donors at a private campaign fundraiser on Feb. 9.

The president spoke of fair play whether on Wall Street or Main Street, of everybody in "our society" getting a

fair shot and being "treated fairly," of his administration basing its work on "the concept of fairness."

And, the president observed, there are "still areas where fairness is not the rule."

Four days later, the president presented his proposed fiscal 2013 budget

to Congress, a \$3.8 trillion spending plan. Again, in his remarks, Obama emphasized "fair" – fair shot, fair share.

But gay civil rights advocates, with tax season having arrived, note that same-sex couples often tend to pay more than their fair share for less than

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## LGBT news with a twist

## WIGWAG

By Lisa Neff &amp; Louis Weisberg

## CASTING CALL

TLC's hit show "Extreme Couponing," currently filming its third season, is looking for LGBT couponers to feature on the show. So, if you're LGBT and have the expertise to get amazing deals and accumulate fantastic stockpiles of goodies, e-mail the program at [extremecouponing-casting@gmail.com](mailto:extremecouponing-casting@gmail.com).

## SCOUT OF THEIR MINDS

Religious extremists have launched a crusade against the Girl Scouts. Churches are ousting troops from meeting on their premises and urging parents to yank their daughters from the group. A boycott of Girl Scout cookies is under way. According to its critics, the Girl Scouts promotes birth control, paganism, abortion and – the ultimate evil of all – homosexuality. They also contend the group is affiliated with Planned Parenthood.

## BAD BOY!

In 1983, Mitt Romney strapped a carrier containing the family dog,

Seamus, to the luggage rack on the roof of his station wagon for a 12-hour drive from Boston to Ontario. Meanwhile, Romney's luggage traveled comfortably inside the vehicle. The story has dogged Romney ever since. Most recently, a Facebook page called "Dogs Against Romney" was formed, bearing the motto "dogs are not luggage." The Facebook page was used to organize a lively rally against Romney outside the recent Westminster dog show at Madison Square Garden.

## ELLEN'S FANS

A group of gay men wearing pink and waving credit cards mobbed midtown Manhattan's JC Penney store recently to support the company's decision to retain out comedian Ellen DeGeneres as its spokesperson. There's also a Facebook page called "1 million people who support Ellen for JC Penney" that has nearly 190,000 "likes." Meanwhile, the One Million Moms Facebook page that

was launched to protest DeGeneres' new gig has only 43,000 "likes."

## WORKERS BE DAMNED

Milwaukee Archbishop Jerome Listecky caused a stir recently when he gave his blessing to Gov. Scott Walker during a TV interview. The Vatican has traditionally promoted worker's rights, unions and economic justice. But Listecky said he respected the governor for standing up to workers. He tore into President Barack Obama, though, for promoting birth control, which, of course, would mean fewer altar boys.

## CONSPIRACY CLOSET

Houston prosecutors are refusing to press charges against an anti-gay, right-wing talk radio host accused of a hit-and-run accident in the parking lot of a popular Houston gay bar. A bouncer at the bar said KTRH talk show host Michael Berry plowed his SUV into the bouncer's car after leaving a drag show at TC's Bar in the Montrose area. Without knowing

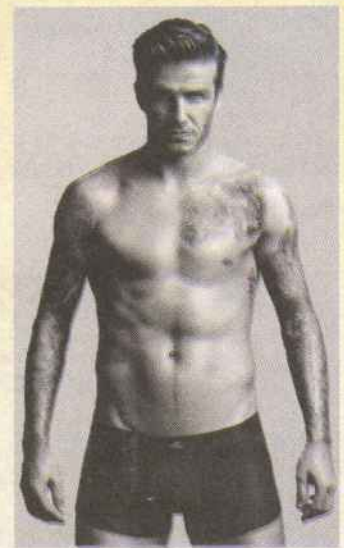
who Berry is, the bouncer wrote down the license plate number and gave it to police. Once they identified the car's owner, however, police appeared to drop the investigation.

## HOUSE PARTY FOR THE PARTY

Lesbian power-couple Karen Dixon and Nan Schaffer hosted President Barack Obama at a house party on Feb. 9. The event, a fundraiser for the Democratic Party and the president's re-election campaign, drew about 40 people who paid about \$35,800 per plate. Chicago Cubs co-owner Laura Ricketts, the first openly lesbian owner of a Major League Baseball team, introduced the president. Yes, the former South Side politician joked about his White Sox leanings.

## BUY IT WITH BECKHAM

H&M's Super Bowl commercial with an underwear-clad David Beckham scored triumphantly with an LGBT focus group watching the Super Bowl. That would



be the same commercial that prompted now-suspended CNN commentator Roland Martin to tweet, "If a dude at your Super Bowl party is hyped about David Beckham's H&M underwear ad, smack the ish out of him." LGBT Super Bowl watchers also said they were looking forward to the game, but not more than Madonna's halftime show.

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# Walker appointees lose judicial races

By Louis Weisberg  
Staff writer

In an unexpected development that was cheered by critics of Gov. Scott Walker, an unknown candidate for Milwaukee County Circuit Court bested a Walker-appointed incumbent on Feb. 21 in a countywide race.

Carolina Maria Stark, an administrative law judge for the Department of Workforce Development, received 19,221 votes — one percent more than the 18,514 received by incumbent Nelson Phillips III. Third-time challenger Christopher Lipscomb Sr. took 16,775 votes.

As the top two vote-getters, Stark and Nelson will square off in an April 3 general election.

"I was really thrilled to see Carolina Stark get ahead of the Walker appointee," said progressive state Sen. Chris Larson. "That was the buzz at all the election parties. ... She's really framing this whole race as a referendum on Walker's choices."



PHOTO: CAROLINA STARK  
Carolina Stark.

A similar scenario played out in Dane County, where a challenger trounced a Walker-appointed Dane County Circuit Judge running for retention.

Roger Allen, who Walker appointed to the bench on Dec. 14, received 31 percent of the vote compared with 44 percent for state Assistant Public Defender Ellen Berz.

A third candidate in the race garnered 24 percent. Allen and Berz now advance to the April 3 general election.

Accused of playing politics in the race by portraying Allen as the Walker candidate, Berz responded: "I didn't paint Roger as the Walker candidate. Roger Allen is the Walker candidate. He sought the appointment and the governor chose him."

Equality Wisconsin was among the groups that endorsed Stark. "I was delighted with Carolina's win," said the group's co-chair Ray Vahey.

EW was also on the winning side in an upset race for Milwaukee Common Council. The group endorsed Jose Perez, who took first place in Milwaukee's 12th Alderperson District, besting three-term incumbent James Witkowiak. Perez took 49 percent of the vote to Witkowiak's 36 percent.

The two will face off again on April 3 in a district that now has a majority Latino population.

"I think Perez will bring life to the Common Council," Vahey said.

All of the County Board

candidates endorsed by Equality Wisconsin in races with multiple contenders won enough votes to proceed to the April 3 runoff election.

But two out gay candidates for Milwaukee Common Council lost their bids. Jennifer Morales and Chez Ordonez placed third and fourth, respectively, in a four-way race against 8th District Alderman Bob Donovan. Benjamin Juarez, who placed second, will take on Donovan again at the polls on April 3.

Morales, a former Milwaukee School Board member, said she decided to challenge Donovan after racist remarks he made last year following assaults by black youth on Wisconsin State Fair attendees. Donovan and Ald. Joe Dudzik released a joint statement blaming the incident on "a deteriorating African-American culture in our city."

"This district is one of the most diverse in the city — if not the most diverse," Morales said. "His response

was not a problem-solving solution, it was a press release. I'm talking to black moms in the 8th District, and most of them are extremely unhappy with (Donovan). There's definitely energy for change."

"All three of Donovan's challengers hopefully will come together and get rid of somebody who speaks so poorly of our residents," Larson said.

State Sen. Tim Carpenter, another out candidate on the Milwaukee ballot, received 38 percent of the vote to come in second in a four-way race for Milwaukee Treasurer. He'll square off April 3 against state Sen. Spencer Coggs, an LGBT ally, who came in first with 41 percent of the vote.

Overall, voter turnout in Milwaukee County was somewhat higher than expected, said Susan Edman, executive director of the City of Milwaukee Election Commission. She said 35,545 people — or 12 percent of the electorate — turned out to vote in a low-profile election

with few names on the ballot. The state had estimated turnout as low as 3 percent, Edman said. Ironically, the hoopla over the new voter ID law might have resulted in higher turnout by raising the election's profile, she added.

According to most reports, the new voter law went smoothly with only scattered complaints among voters.

The Journal Times reported that a Mount Pleasant man declined to vote after poll workers refused to accept his U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs card as ID. Gil Paar, 69, said he had a driver's license but refused to show it.

"Basically I was trying to make a point," Paar said. "I gave them four years of my life, why shouldn't I be able to use my vet's card?"

Paar said he was shocked that the card isn't an acceptable form of ID under the state's new law. He said that VA cards are the only form of identification some veterans have.

## JUDGE DENIES WALKER

A judge has denied Gov. Scott Walker's request for a two-week extension to review recall petition signatures, saying the election is likely to proceed.

Dane County Circuit Judge Richard Niess' ruling was a victory for recall organizers, who had said

there was no good reason for another extension and that Walker's request was an attempt to delay the inevitable.

Walker's campaign argued it had only reviewed 330,000 of the roughly 1 million signatures and couldn't get through all of them by the Feb. 27 deadline.

The ruling means Walker

has to submit any challenges by Feb. 27. The Government Accountability Board has until March 19 to rule on whether to set recall elections against Walker, his lieutenant governor and four Republican state senators.

## ELECTION BRIEFS

### \$8.2 MILLION SPENT ON RECALLS

A new report finds that 22 state lawmakers involved in recall and special elections last year raised \$8.2 million dollars.

The Wisconsin Democracy Campaign report shows that amount to be more than four times the nearly \$2 million raised by the rest of the Legislature last year.

When counting special partisan fundraising committees, \$12.2 million was raised for the races in 2011. Two Republican

incumbent state senators were defeated in recall elections.

Republican Sen. Alberta Darling raised the most at \$1.3 million. She won her race. Fellow Republican Sen. Dan Kapanke raised the second most at \$1.1 million. He was one of the two who were defeated.

— From AP

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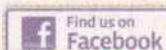
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# Candidates square off in 4th District

## Bill Buresh wants to reduce county board

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Bill Buresh describes himself as a "Chris Abele Democrat" — meaning, he explains, that he's fiscally conservative and socially progressive.

He may have coined a new phrase.

An openly gay Bay View businessman, Buresh, 38, is challenging LGBT ally Marina Dimitrijevic to represent the Fourth District on the Milwaukee County Board. The race appears on the April 3 ballot in a district that includes the heavily gay Bay View neighborhood as well as the city of Milwaukee's near South Side, which has a sizable Latino population.

Buresh knows that he's ruffled some feathers in the LGBT community by taking on a county supervisor who's acted as a leader in promoting equality on the county board.

"I'm not running on the gay ticket," he responds. "I'm not asking for gay support. I'm not doing it because I'm gay. I'm doing it because I want to do right by the people in District Four."

But Buresh, who's been with partner Erich Krueger for 15 years, attended a recent candidate-training seminar sponsored by the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund in Tampa, Fla. Victory Fund donates to LGBT candidates nationwide and helps them develop the political skills to mount successful campaigns.

Buresh has positioned himself as the conservative in the race. He's running because he believes the county's debt level has grown out of control and he wants to downsize the board, he says. Dimitrijevic's opposition to reducing the board prompted him to enter the race, he says.

The board voted in April 2011 to eliminate only one of its 19 seats, rejecting calls for deeper reductions from conservatives as well as The Greater Milwaukee



PHOTO: STACY KAAT

Bay View businessman Bill Buresh.

Committee, a group of business and civic leaders who studied the issue. That group called for cutting the board to as few as seven members.

Progressive board members, including Dimitrijevic, said such a reduction would have diluted minority representation. Instead the board dropped only one seat but adopted a plan that added a second Latino-majority district.

Buresh also criticized Dimitrijevic and other progressives on the board for adding \$5.8 million in expenditures to the balanced budget submitted by Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele. The increase adopted by the board is being paid for by a slight increase in the county portion of annual property taxes. For a home assessed at \$150,000, the increase amounts to an estimated \$3.84.

Buresh and other fiscal conservatives maintain that the county and city duplicate services, resulting in a waste of taxpayer dollars. "We need to find efficiencies," Buresh says. "That's what big companies are doing and that's what governments need to do. ... Many people have lost their jobs and have had to live within their budgets, and I think that county government has to do the same."

He's also critical of the way that the board priori-

tizes its spending, saying that more money should be put into addressing deferred maintenance on the park system, for instance.

Buresh says his professional background embodies the kind of experience that's needed to guide the board toward a more business-like demeanor.

A former agent for Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate, Buresh was No. 1 for new agents in Wisconsin during his first year and No. 4 nationally, he says. He bought his first home at 18 and his first apartment building at 26.

At age 30, Buresh purchased AutoSpa, 160 W. Layton Ave. a full-service car wash, a company he continues to operate. He also owns several apartment buildings. Additionally, he's supported community groups and events in Bay View.

Buresh has been endorsed by El Conquistador, a Spanish-language newspaper. To learn more about his candidacy, go to [www.billburesh.com](http://www.billburesh.com).

## Marina Dimitrijevic wins LGBT support

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Despite running for reelection against an out gay man, Milwaukee County Board Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic can probably count on big support from Bay View's large LGBT community. A fervent equality champion, she marshaled a domestic partner benefits resolution through the board just two years after now-Gov. Scott Walker famously vetoed a resolution that sought simply to study the impact of such a policy on the budget.

The policy allows county employees to extend their health benefits to their registered same-sex domestic partners. In recognition of her role in passing it, Dimitrijevic received leadership awards from both Equality Wisconsin and Fair Wisconsin. EW has endorsed Dimitrijevic in her April 3 race against Bay View businessman Bill Buresh.

Dimitrijevic says a fundraiser thrown by her LGBT and allied supporters was her largest ever.

Dimitrijevic might have an edge with another significant demographic in the county's Fourth District — the Latino population of the near South Side. In a district where 52 percent of the voting age population is Hispanic, it helps that Dimitrijevic is fluent in Spanish. She met her husband, a native of Uruguay, while participating in a political exchange program in that country.

But Buresh says his more conservative approach to county government resonates stronger with the local Latin population. He picked up the endorse-



PHOTO: COURTESY

County Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic.

ment of the conservative Spanish-language paper El Conquistador.

The progressive Latino group Voces de la Frontera is backing Dimitrijevic.

Although Dimitrijevic and Buresh fall into different categories on the conservative-liberal continuum, they have one thing in common besides supporting LGBT equality: Both were early achievers.

Buresh purchased his first house at 18, while Dimitrijevic made history eight years ago when, at the age of 22, she became the youngest woman ever to be elected to any office in Milwaukee County. In her first race, Dimitrijevic mounted a grassroots campaign and beat a well-funded candidate recruited by Walker. She won her last election with 73 percent of the vote.

While Buresh has succeeded in the business arena, Dimitrijevic has amassed enough clout on the county board to be a leading contender to serve as its next chair.

Dimitrijevic says that her success is built on a passion for public service and a sincere commitment to her constituents. Easily one of the board's most active supervisors, she's involved in more than 30 local organizations. She's held more than 140 town hall meetings. She

takes Buresh to task for not having been more present in the community.

"I've never seen him at any of the grassroots neighborhood groups," she says. "He's never once in eight years called my office. He calls what I do being a 'career politician.' To me, it's eight years of service."

At a recent debate, Buresh got Dimitrijevic's hackles up by saying the position should be part-time.

"The districts now have 55,000 residents," she responds. "That's the same as two aldermanic wards. How can you serve that many people on a part-time basis? I answer phone calls from constituents within 24 hours. (Buresh's) attack is the kind you get from someone with no experience."

Dimitrijevic was voted the "Best County Supervisor" by the readers of the Shepherd Express three years in a row. She's received endorsements from state Sen. Chris Larson, Wisconsin Citizen Action, SEIU Wisconsin State Council, Milwaukee Deputy Sheriff's Association, American Federation of Teachers, and a slew of other groups representing progressives and public employees.

To learn more about Dimitrijevic, go to [www.reelectmarina.com](http://www.reelectmarina.com).

### ON THE BALLOT

#### Non-partisan race:

Milwaukee County Supervisor, Fourth District

#### Where:

Bay View and Milwaukee's near South Side

When: April 3



## UW-MILWAUKEE DRAG SHOW BENEFITS PROJECT Q

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee LGBT Resource Center and Out in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics are hosting the annual UWM Drag Show at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 25 in the Union Ballroom.

Performers include the Miltown Kings, Jessica Properties, Chaz Ricardo, Windy Breeze, Noah Feck, Libra, along with farewell performances by Lady Gia, Madam Sparkkl and Pretty Boi.

Tips will benefit Project Q, the youth program of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.

## WALKER ISSUES 'NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK' PROCLAMATION

Republican Gov. Scott Walker celebrated marriage in the Dairy State by signing a proclamation for National Marriage Week USA. The campaign is part of a right-wing effort to block marriage equality.

Julaine Appling, president of the Wisconsin Family Council, praised Walker for the support.

"We are thrilled to see Wisconsin recognizing the importance of marriage to the men, women and children of our great state," said

Appling, who has never married and owns a home with a woman she's lived with for decades.

Appling has sued the state to overturn the domestic partner registry, and Walker has declined to defend the registry in court, claiming that it's unconstitutional.

The registry provides same-sex couples in Wisconsin with just a handful of the 200 rights given to opposite-sex married couples.

## LGBT CENTER HOSTS FOUNDER'S DAY

The LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin will hold a

Founder's Day celebration with Bruce Joffe.

The event – a potluck breakfast – is set to take place from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Feb. 25 at the center, 1456 Junction Ave., Racine.

Attendees are asked to bring a dish to share.

A \$5 donation is requested. For more, call 262-664-4100 or visit [www.lgbt-sewisc.org](http://www.lgbt-sewisc.org).

## CREAM CITY FOUNDATION BENEFIT PLANNED

The Cream City Foundation will hold a benefit for its Arts & Culture Fund at 6 p.m. on March 14 at the new home of Next Act Theatre, 255 S. Water St., Milwaukee.

CCF offers attendees an opportunity to "play onstage, backstage and in the dressing rooms" and to see a performance by silent film sketch troupe the MUTES, as well as special guests from Milwaukee's theater scene.

For more, call CCF at 414-225-0244 or visit [info@CreamCityFoundation.org](mailto:info@CreamCityFoundation.org).

Tickets can be purchased at [www.artphilanthropy.eventbrite.com](http://www.artphilanthropy.eventbrite.com).

## JANESVILLE APPROVES EMPLOYEE PROTECTIONS

In mid-February, the Janesville City Council passed a measure extending funeral leave to city employees with domestic partners.

The council, however, deferred a vote on domestic partner health care coverage.

Fair Wisconsin executive director Katie Belanger

responded, "This decision marks a small but important step toward fairness. Janesville's vision for creating an inclusive and welcoming workplace helps make them a leader in our efforts to build a more fair and just state for all Wisconsinites, and we commend Alder Sam Liebert for his leadership in bringing this issue forward."

Belanger said FW looked forward to "working with council leadership" on health care, because "providing domestic partner benefits and creating a more inclusive workplace is a critical step toward building a stronger, more diverse workforce that will lead Janesville and Wisconsin in the years ahead."

## IOWA ERASES MOM'S NAME ON DEATH CERTIFICATE

An Iowa couple is suing the state public health department over its decision to omit a parent's name from the death certificate for their stillborn baby.

Lambda Legal filed the suit this week on behalf of Jenny and Jessica Buntmeyer, a married Iowa couple seeking an accurate death certificate for their stillborn baby.

The two women, in completing a death certificate, indicated that they were married and the parents.

When the Iowa Department of Public Health sent the formal certificate to the couple, Jenny Buntmeyer's name was erased.

"This is an egregious display of insensitivity and dis-



PHOTO: THOMAS FOR CONGRESS CAMPAIGN

## Trevor Thomas is an openly gay candidate running for Congress in Michigan.

regard for Iowa law," said Camilla Taylor of Lambda Legal.

## GAY CANDIDATE ANNOUNCES CONGRESSIONAL BID

A leading campaigner in the effort to repeal the anti-gay "don't ask, don't tell" policy launched his campaign for Congress early on Feb. 13.

West Michigan native Trevor Thomas, a gay Democrat, is running in Michigan's 3rd District against U.S. Rep. Justin Amish, a Tea Party Republican.

Thomas said, "My parents' generation helped put the world on wheels and furniture in our living rooms. Now it is our time to stand up and fight for Michigan families to ensure they get a fair shake."

## ILLINOIS LAUNCHES LGBT TOURISM EFFORT

The Illinois governor's office this month announced the debut of Pride Illinois at [EnjoyIllinois.com](http://EnjoyIllinois.com), the state's tourism website. Pride Illinois contains LGBT-friendly travel information, including destinations, accommodations and events.

The debut of the section came a year after Illinois Gov. Patrick Quinn signed the state's civil union bill.

Quinn has not endorsed the marriage equality bill introduced earlier this year by three gay lawmakers from Chicago – Deb Mell, Kelly Cassidy and Greg Harris.

But Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel has pledged to push for the legislation.

– Lisa Neff



PHOTO: LAURA SUTHERLAND

## CREAM CITY SQUARES RAISES \$800 FOR CENTER

Cream City Squares members Don Dilges, James Tate, Joe Fraiser, Bruce Rasmussen, and Gary Anderson won awards for their contributions to square dancing at a fundraiser the group held for the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center at Lake Park Lutheran Church on Jan. 29. The event raised \$800 for the center.

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# School district ditches anti-gay 'neutrality'

By Steve Karnowski

AP writer

Minnesota's largest school district has abandoned a much-criticized policy that required teachers to remain neutral when issues of sexual identity arose in the classroom. The policy has been replaced with one designed to create respectful discussion about controversial topics.

With only one dissenting vote, the Anoka-Hennepin School Board dropped the policy, which is the subject of two lawsuits by critics who contend it muzzled teachers and prevented them from holding effective discussions to reduce bullying against students who are gay or perceived to be gay.

The old policy had the support of some parents who believe same-sex relations are immoral and who worry that their children might be taught otherwise.

The new policy says when contentious political, religious, social or economic issues come up — it



PHOTO: ANOKA-HENNEPIN GAY EQUITY TEAM

**Robin Mavis addresses a press conference last September to condemn the Anoka-Hennepin School District's stance on LGBT issues.**

does not specifically cite sexuality issues — teachers shouldn't try to persuade students to adopt a particular viewpoint. It calls for teachers to foster respectful exchanges of views. It also says in such discussions, staff should affirm the dignity and self-worth of all

students, regardless of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation.

"This policy is truly a compromise," board member Scott Wenzel said after more than an hour of testimony from more than 20 people. "And I truly hope that it will move this district and com-

munity forward."

Barb Anderson, of Champlin, spoke up for parents who supported the neutrality policy. She asked the board not to give in to demands to change it.

"We are at a crossroads. You either cave in to the demands of the homosexual

activists, an action that will make our schools unsafe for all kids, or you stand firm and protect the children," Anderson said.

Rachael Hawley, a senior at Anoka High School who led a petition drive against the old policy, said she isn't sure how much difference the new "Respectful Learning Environment" policy will make in the long run but hopes it opens the door to better discussions.

The debate over how teachers should handle controversial classroom topics ballooned after six students in the district committed suicide in less than two years.

The mother of one of the students who committed suicide says her son was bullied for being gay. Gay advocacy groups say some of the others students who killed themselves were also bullied. The district has said its investigation found no evidence that bullying contributed to the deaths, but the district changed its anti-bullying and anti-harassment policies in

2010 to state that harassment or bullying of gay students wouldn't be tolerated.

The district, which has found itself in the national spotlight over the issue, is part of anti-gay U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann's congressional district.

Julie Blaha, president of the Anoka-Hennepin local of the teachers union Education Minnesota, said the months of discussions about the old policy may prove to be more important than the language of the new policy itself because of the awareness raised about the problems of bullying. She said the new policy sets a better tone, and the next step will be for teachers to discuss how they'll translate it into a welcoming environment for all students.

The new policy may speed settlements of two lawsuits filed by students, former students and parents over the neutrality policy.

The next round of mediation in those lawsuits is March 1 and 2.

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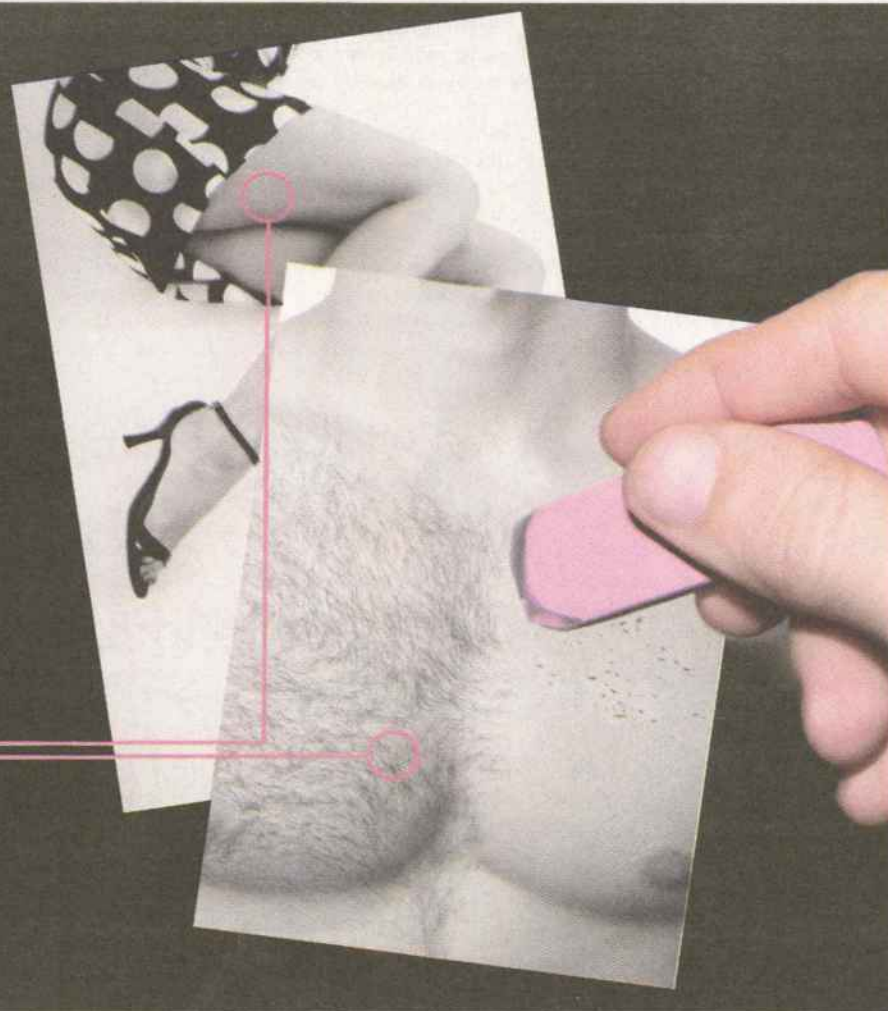
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# Washington legalizes same-sex marriage

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

"This is your time," Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire said to those "who have been fighting for this day for years."

Then, with an expression of pride, she announced, "And now I'll sign the bill."

On Feb. 13, Gregoire signed Washington State's marriage equality legislation. Six other states — Iowa, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York and Vermont — and the District of Columbia have marriage equality laws.

Maryland may become the eighth as early as this month.

But in New Jersey, where a bill passed in the Senate on Feb. 13 and in the Assembly on Feb. 16, Republican Gov. Chris Christie wielded his veto power. He did not accept an offer of counsel from Gregoire, who described the bill-signing in Olympia, Wash., as a proud moment for the state and in her life.

"It is a day historians will mark as a milestone for equal rights," Gregoire, a Democrat, said. "A day when we did what was right, we did what was just, and we did what was fair. We stood up for equality and we did it together — Republicans and



PHOTO: AP/ELAINE THOMPSON

**Washington Gov. Christine Gregoire, seated, raises her arms as legislators and supporters cheer her for signing into law a measure that legalizes same-sex marriage. A campaign to repeal the new law at the polls is already under way.**

Democrats, gay and straight, young and old, and a variety of religious faiths. I'm proud of who and what we are in this state."

She signed the bill surrounded by lawmakers and same-sex couples, including

state Sen. Ed Murray and partner Michael Shiosaki.

"I'm proud that our same-sex couples will no longer be treated as separate but equal," the governor said. "They will be equal."

Celebrations took place

throughout the day, including a reception at the Capitol, followed by a party and a concert.

A cheery announcement from Equal Rights Washington noted that a lobby day scheduled for Feb. 16 was canceled due to "our success in securing marriage equality."

But the morning after the signing, on Valentine's Day, it was back to work for activists because Preserve Marriage Washington filed papers for a referendum to repeal the law.

The coalition includes the National Organization for Marriage, Stand for Marriage Washington and the Family Policy Institute of Washington.

"Preserving marriage as the union of one man and one woman is worth fighting for," said Brian Brown of NOM in a statement. "Marriage is a cornerstone of society that not only unites a couple to each other, but ensures that any children born of their union will have

the best opportunity to be raised by their own mother and father. We're committed to giving Washington voters the right to decide the definition of marriage in their state, just as voters in 31 other states have been able to do."

The coalition must collect 120,577 signatures by June 6 to place the issue on the November ballot. If the ballot question is certified, then same-sex marriages, set to begin on June 7, would be blocked until after the election.

While PMW collects signatures and raises money for a repeal effort, Washington United for Marriage is organizing a campaign to protect the law.

The same day Gregoire signed Washington's bill, the New Jersey Senate passed the Marriage Equality and Religious Exemption Act by 24 to 16. A vote on a similar bill in 2010 failed 14 to 20.

"When an issue sees a 70 percent increase in support in just two years, that

proves the world isn't changing — it proves the world has changed," said Steven Goldstein of Garden State Equality.

On Feb. 16, the New Jersey General Assembly voted 42 to 33 for the bill.

"Today's milestone came in the face of some of the toughest obstacles in the history of the marriage equality movement," Goldstein said. "Instead of a governor twisting arms on our behalf, we have a governor who twisted arms against us right up until the final votes in each chamber. ... But we had the people and the passion."

Trying to placate many, Christie, considered a possible vice presidential candidate this year and a presidential candidate in 2016, has called for a referendum on marriage but emphasized that polls show gay marriage will win at the ballot box.

Critics, however, say minority rights should not be decided by majority vote and Garden State Equality is organizing to override the veto with a two-thirds majority vote in both the Assembly and the Senate.

"To win an override, we will take the time we need," Goldstein said. "We have until the end of the legislative session, January 2014. The key is winning."

Meanwhile, in Maryland, delegates twice delayed a vote on Gov. Martin O'Malley's Civil Marriage Protection Act and then took up full debate on Feb. 17. They voted 72-67 to pass the bill.

The Senate, which passed a similar bill last year, was expected to vote as early as this week.

If the measure becomes law, same-sex couples would begin marrying in January 2013.

"We took a giant step toward marriage equality becoming law — and we are in this position due to the unwavering leadership and resolve of Gov. O'Malley, Speaker (Michael) Busch and our legislative allies," Joe Solmonese of the Human Rights Campaign said.

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# Polls: Opinions in pews different than in pulpits

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

The Fort Des Moines Church of Christ's domain name is "godsfort."

On Feb. 12, gay rights advocates amassed outside the central Iowa church that, with a sign that read "Gay is not okay," had earned a reputation as a fortress for prejudice.

That same day, in Chicago, gay rights advocates gathered outside Holy Name Cathedral which, for the positions of Cardinal Francis George and other Catholic Church leaders, had earned a reputation as a bastion for bias.

But polls show that while gay may not be OK with preachers and priests and the pope's cardinal, gay is OK with those in the pews. Demonstrators on Feb. 12 in Des Moines and Chicago were careful to take issue with the church leadership, not the laity.

The Fort Des Moines Church of Christ protest drew about 100 people on the frigid February Sunday when the Rev. Michael Demastus delivered a sermon on homosexuality.

Demastus, whose sermon streamed live on the Web, preached that homosexuality is not an "unpardonable sin," but it is a sin and that a "God-fearing" person cannot be gay. He made an analogy comparing homosexuality to alcoholism and asserted that homosexuality is not God's way. "God created sex. He knows how it works," he said.

Protesters were alerted days earlier, after 28-year-old Patrick Boltinghouse of Des Moines posted a photograph

**Fifty-four percent of white mainline Protestants and 52 percent of Catholics now support same-sex marriage.**

of the church marquee on Facebook and the message, "Greetings from the south side of Des Moines, IA ... Just wanted you all to know Jesus loves you, even if it's not ok to these bigots :) xoxoxoxo."

Boltinghouse told the Des Moines Register, "For someone to say 'Gay is not OK' is pushing kids more in the closet. We're in the 21st century. You'd think that gays could be part of humanity."

Meanwhile, in Chicago on Feb. 12, about 20 gay civil rights advocates rallied outside Holy Name Cathedral. Some called the cardinal an "archbigot," but most greeted worshipers with "good morning" and invited discussions.

A demonstration had been planned at Holy Name weeks ago to protest George's remarks comparing gay rights activists to the KKK, but that formal protest was canceled after George issued a carefully constructed apology.

The Gay Liberation Network, an organizer of the Feb. 12 demonstration, issued



PHOTO: VIA FACEBOOK

**A sign outside a church in Des Moines, Iowa, that prompted a protest on Feb. 12.**

a statement: "The leadership of the Catholic Church – in contrast to the majority of the laity – opposes equal rights for LGBT people."

"On this weekend before Valentine's Day – a day that the Church and many others celebrate romantic relationships – we are emphasizing that celebrations of love between consenting adults should not be subject to discrimination and hate."

GLN emphasized the Catholic Church's financial investment in blocking civil rights laws and overturning civil rights laws in multiple states.

"We will proactively

push back against the bigotry of the leadership of the Catholic Church, while aligning ourselves with the majority in the pews who are opposed to discrimination," GLN stated.

In recent weeks, gay rights advocates also defended the community against remarks by the pope and the Catholic League in Washington, D.C.; against a coalition of Catholic bishops seeking to undo a marriage law in New Hampshire; and against a coalition of 39 religious leaders led by Cardinal Timothy Dolan, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, pressing the presi-

dent to defend "traditional marriage."

Catholic League president Bill Donohue said, "There is no world religion that embraces the bizarre idea that two men can get married, and there is no state in the nation where the people have directly chosen to approve it."

But studies and polls show these religious leaders are out of step with the religious faithful, as are the Christian right leaders whose recent calls for boycotts of Starbucks and protests at JC Penney failed to raise Christian soldiers.

The Public Religion Research Institute recently reported that majorities of five major religious groups and the religiously unaffiliated favor allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry, compared to three major religious groups who oppose same-sex marriage.

The latest polling from the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press also shows increasing support for same-sex marriage, with the steepest gains in the last two years.

Among religious groups, white evangelical Protestants express the greatest opposition to same-sex marriage, with 74 percent saying they oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally. A large majority of black Protestants – 62 percent – also oppose same-sex marriage.

But 54 percent of white mainline Protestants say they favor allowing gay and lesbian couples to get married.

And among Catholics as a whole, supporters of same-

sex marriage now outnumber opponents 52 percent to 37 percent.

In 2010, Catholics were more evenly divided on the issue, with 46 percent favoring same-sex marriage and 42 percent expressing opposition. A majority of white Catholics now express support for same-sex marriage, while Hispanic Catholics continue to be closely divided – 42 percent favor same-sex marriage, 42 percent are opposed.

Other analysis shows improved support for gay marriage from religious leaders as faith-based campaigns gain strength. In Minnesota, a rabbinical group is challenging a proposed same-sex marriage ban, and in Maryland an Episcopal bishop urged passage of the gay marriage bill.

Ross Murray, the director of religion, faith and values for the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, sees a new religious reality.

"In 2008, the 'gays versus religion' frame was strongly entrenched in the mentality of the American public," Murray said. "Much of the driving force behind Prop 8, in terms of both organization and money, came from the leadership of the Roman Catholic and Mormon churches. People of faith who were personally supportive of marriage equality didn't speak out, or felt that their support of LGBT people would be seen as being at odds with their faith."

"That is no longer the case. We are in a new reality."

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# Right-wing sheriff comes out amid allegations

By Bob Christie

AP writer

Pinal County, Ariz., Sheriff Paul Babeu built a reputation as a rising, conservative star by taking a hardline stance against illegal immigration, attacking the Obama administration and appearing alongside Sen. John McCain in an ad in which McCain urged federal officials to just "complete the danged fence."

But Babeu's conservative image took a beating as he was forced to confirm publicly that he's gay and was involved in a relationship with a Mexican immigrant who claims the sheriff threatened to have him deported if he revealed their relationship.

Babeu denies any wrongdoing, and has vowed to continue his battle for the GOP nomination in his conservative, rural congressional district. He recognizes he is fighting an uphill battle, especially in a state where "family values" often battle fierce, anti-immigrant beliefs to define conservatism.

Babeu said he hopes vot-

ers will stick with him.

His competitors think that's unlikely. Arizona Sen. Ron Gould says Babeu is sure to lose major support among the district's anti-gay voters.

Babeu previously avoided a public stance on gay rights, but came out in favor of them under pressure.

"I can be a supporter and get out there and help articulate as we progress as a culture and a society, that there should be individual liberties and there should be individual freedoms," Babeu said. "For any other person to define somebody else's relationship and say it's not OK, that is not who we are as Americans."

## RESIGNS AS ROMNEY CO-CHAIR

The revelation already led Babeu to call presidential candidate Mitt Romney's staff to say he would step down from his post as state campaign co-chair. Babeu campaigned with Romney and was featured in robocalls in Iowa attacking Texas Gov.

Rick Perry, who was then seeking the GOP nomination.

And now some political observers think Babeu's career could be over.

"There is no question that his budding congressional campaign is over," longtime Arizona Republican political consultant Sean Noble wrote on his blog. "Because it is a Republican primary in a conservative district, it's likely that the thing that hurts him the most is that he was in a gay relationship."

Others aren't sure it's the end, but they said there's no doubt he will be hurt.

"It obviously has implications for a congressional race. There's just no question about it," said Bruce Merrill, an Arizona State University political science professor emeritus and a longtime pollster. "I don't see how any reasonable person cannot think that this is going to hurt him, particularly with the constituency that he has built, which is a very evangelical, right-wing ... conservative constituency."

Babeu's acknowledgment

that he is gay came after a story in the Phoenix New Times, an alternative weekly magazine that quoted a former lover as saying Babeu threatened his immigration status if he revealed their relationship.

Babeu denied claims he tried to threaten the man, a former campaign volunteer. He said the accusations were an attempt to hurt his political career. The legal status of the man, identified only as Jose by the New Times and Babeu, was unclear. His lawyer said he was unavailable for comment but might be available in a few days.

Jose provided the New Times with photos of him and Babeu embracing. There also was a cell phone self-portrait of a smiling Babeu in his underwear and another of what appears to be the shirtless sheriff in a bathroom, posted on a gay dating web site. Babeu didn't deny their authenticity.

Babeu made national headlines soon after his 2008 defeat of an incumbent in his rural county south of



PHOTO: COURTESY

Pinal County, Ariz., Sheriff Paul Babeu

Phoenix by jumping on the anti-illegal immigration bandwagon led by longtime Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio and berating the federal government for allowing human and drug smuggling to go unchecked.

Then in 2010, he was tapped by McCain to help champion his border security plan during McCain's re-election effort.

McCain, asked on ABC's "This Week" about Babeu, said he thought of him as a friend.

"I'm sure there will be a thorough and complete investigation, if there is any allegation of wrongdoing," McCain said. "All I can say is that he also deserves the benefit, as every citizen does, of innocence until proven guilty. But I appreciate the support that he gave me in my campaign and always will."

Arpaio, a longtime ally, distanced himself.

"All I can say is he's the sheriff of Pinal County, and it's up to him to face his issues, not me," Arpaio told The Arizona Republic. He said Babeu has been "begging" for an endorsement in the congressional primary.

"I don't even think I'm going to get involved," Arpaio said. "We'll see what happens with Babeu."

Babeu gave a speech at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Washington, D.C., reiterating his criticism of Obama, the Justice Department's failed Operation Fast and Furious gunrunning investigation and seeking support for his congressional campaign.



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# Activists push for Democratic plank on marriage

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Gay rights advocates want the Democratic Party to include a marriage equality plank in the platform that will be adopted at the national convention in September.

The idea has the support of House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi.

Proposed platform language was circulated by the Freedom to Marry campaign on Feb. 13. Earlier in the month Freedom to Marry announced its partnership with a coalition of U.S. mayors, including Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, supporting marriage rights for gays and lesbians.

Freedom to Marry's proposed plank reads, "We support the full inclusion of all families in the life of our nation, with equal respect, responsibilities, and protections under the law, including the freedom to marry. Government has no business putting barriers in the path of people seeking to care for their family members, particularly in challenging

economic times. We support the Respect for Marriage Act and the overturning of the federal so-called Defense of Marriage Act, and oppose discriminatory constitutional amendments and other attempts to deny the freedom to marry to loving and committed same-sex couples."

President Barack Obama, who will be nominated to run for a second term at the convention in North Carolina, has said his view on marriage is "evolving."

But the president does support the repeal of DOMA and has ordered the Justice Department not to defend the law in court. He also supports the Respect for Marriage Act, which would repeal DOMA. He has opposed proposals to amend the federal Constitution to ban same-sex marriage and denounced "divisive and discriminatory efforts to deny rights and benefits to same-sex couples."

Freedom to Marry has circulated a petition that's drawn more than 10,000

signatures for the marriage equality plank.

"A strong majority of Democrats and Independents support the freedom to marry, and standing up for all families is not just the right thing to do morally, it's also right to do politically," said Freedom to Marry founder Evan Wolfson.

Four years ago, the party platform contained language opposing DOMA and supporting "equal responsibilities, benefits and protections."

The 2004 platform opposed a Republican-pushed anti-gay marriage amendment and stated that marriage matters should be left to the states.

The Republican Party's platforms have consistently endorsed DOMA and a constitutional amendment against same-sex marriage.

The 2008 platform stated, "Because our children's future is best preserved within the traditional understanding of marriage, we call for a constitutional amendment that fully protects mar-



PHOTO: COURTESY

**U.S. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-California, supports adding a plank to the Democratic Party platform supporting marriage equality.**

riage as a union of a man and a woman, so that judges cannot make other arrangements equivalent to it. In the absence of a national amendment, we support the right of the people of the various states to affirm traditional

marriage through state initiatives."

Of the four GOP candidates for president, Mitt Romney, Rick Santorum and Newt Gingrich support DOMA and an anti-gay marriage amendment. Ron Paul

has said that marriage should be reserved for a man and a woman, but that marriage is an issue for the states rather than the federal government.

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# Feds investigate gang assault of gay Atlanta man

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Federal authorities are looking into whether a gang's beating of a young gay man in Georgia is a hate crime.

On Feb. 4, Brandon White, 20, stepped out of a corner store in Atlanta's Pittsburgh neighborhood and was ambushed by three men as another five men looked on. The assailants punched and kicked White and hit him with a tire.

The attack was captured on video, which one of the perpetrators posted on the Web. On the audio, the attackers, believed to be members of the Jack City street gang, call White "faggot" and yelled, "No faggots in Jack City."

Atlanta police were alerted to the crime by people reporting the video, which had gone viral.

White did not go to authorities for several days, explaining at a press conference that he was embarrassed and afraid.

"I could have died that day. They are monsters," White

said of the attackers.

By then, Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed had increased a reward for information leading to arrests and prosecution.

Federal authorities also stated an interest in the case. The FBI was involved. And U.S. Attorney Sally Quillian Yates said her office was reviewing the case and the video — which she described as "appalling" — to determine if the actions portrayed violate federal law.

Police have arrested Christopher Cain, 18, who faces charges of aggravated assault and robbery, and Dorian Moragne, 19, who turned himself into authorities. One other suspect has been identified.

The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crime Prevention Act of 2009 expanded federal authority to investigate hate crimes based on sexual orientation and to assist with hate crimes prosecution in places such as Georgia, which lacks a state law.

U.S. Rep. John Lewis,

D-Ga., meanwhile, offered his support to White.

And the longtime civil rights leader sent a message to White's attackers: "All human beings are made by the same hands, so no one has the right to demean, humiliate or beat down another individual because he or she is different. We should begin to see difference as an opportunity to grow, to understand something that is new to us, not as an invitation to violence."


Lewis joined about 150 people on Feb. 11 for a rally against violence.

At the event, Georgia state Rep. Rashad Taylor, a Democrat from Atlanta, promised to introduce a state hate crimes bill. "There's no law here in Georgia that says it's a crime to beat a man because he is gay, no law in Georgia that says it's a crime to beat someone because they're Jewish, because they're a lesbian, because they're black, because they don't look like you," Taylor, who is openly gay, said.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Brandon White of Atlanta came forward in mid-February to talk about being assaulted by members of a neighborhood street gang. The incident is under investigation by the Atlanta Police Department and the FBI.



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## OBAMA: 2013 BUDGET INVESTS IN LGBT SECURITY

President Barack Obama's proposed 2013 budget seeks to "construct an economy that is built to last and provide security for the LGBT community, while continuing to defend their rights."

The budget plan posted by the White House emphasizes "fair" — as in getting a fair shot and doing a fair share.

In terms of the LGBT community, the president's budget proposes to strengthen civil rights enforcement, extend domestic partner benefits to federal employees, support the national HIV/AIDS strategy, support housing assistance for people living with HIV/AIDS and combat bullying.

## OKLAHOMA GAY CANDIDATE WINS IN LANDSLIDE

Al McAffrey is moving from one chamber in Oklahoma's statehouse to another.

The gay state representative on Feb. 14 won a special election for the state Senate. McAffrey, a Democrat, was the first gay candidate elected to the House and is now

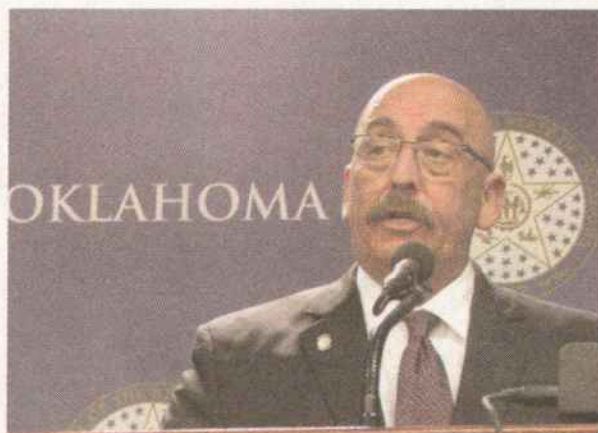


PHOTO: AL MCAFFREY

**Al McAffrey, the first openly gay man elected to the Oklahoma House, is now the first openly gay man elected to the Oklahoma Senate.**

the first openly gay candidate elected to the Senate.

"Al's election to the state Senate is another milestone for LGBT Oklahomans, and we are proud to support his campaign," said Chuck Wolfe, president of the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund. "There are still a number of states that have never elected any openly LGBT state legislators, so Oklahoma can

be proud that Al has been elected to both the House and the Senate."

## GAY SOLDIER MANNING FACES ARRAIGNMENT

Army Pfc. Bradley Manning was to face a military arraignment on Feb. 23, as WiG went to press.

The formal arraignment was to take place at Fort

Meade, Md., where Manning, 24, faced a preliminary hearing on charges that he leaked hundreds of thousands of sensitive documents to WikiLeaks.

Demonstrators with the Free Bradley Manning Network were expected to protest outside the base and attend the hearing, when a date for Manning's trial will be set.

At the same time, Manning has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize by the Icelandic Parliament because his "alleged actions helped motivate the democratic Arab Spring movements, shed light on secret corporate influence on our foreign policies, and most recently contributed to the Obama Administration agreeing to withdraw all U.S. troops from the occupation in Iraq."

## CATHOLIC LEAGUE CONDEMNS GRAMMY PERFORMANCE

Catholic League president Bill Donohue was exorcis-

ing some demons after the Grammy Awards. Donohue, who does not officially represent the church, raged about Nicki Minaj's arrival — she was dressed in red and accompanied by a guy dressed like the pope. Minaj followed that with, according to Donohue, a performance

featuring a "mock confession-al," a "mock exorcism" and a dancing troupe of choir boys and monks. "None of this was by accident, and all of it was approved by The Recording Academy," Donohue said. "It's bad enough," he complained, "that Catholics have to fight for their rights vis-à-vis a hostile administration in Washington without also having to fend off attacks in the entertainment industry."



PHOTO: COURTESY

**Singer Nicki Minaj dressed for the Grammy Awards earlier this month. The Catholic League took issue with her fashion statement and performance, calling it vulgar and anti-Catholic.**



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## { Editorial }

### Obsessed with sex

When Congress gave then-President George W. Bush unilateral power to invade Iraq, there was an outcry from the Vatican. But no U.S. Roman Catholic officials sought to deny communion to lawmakers who voted for the resolution. As many as 114,000 innocent civilians died from 2003 to 2011 as a result of the unprovoked conflict.

Yet when House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi announced her support for the contraception mandate in President Obama's health care reform law, priests flooded the Web with calls to deny her the rite.

When Gov. Scott Walker in effect gutted public unions, Milwaukee Archbishop Jerome Listeck issued a critical statement. The Vatican has long championed economic justice and worker's rights.

But in a recent interview, Listeck left behind such concerns and spoke out against the effort to recall the governor, who has embarked on a far-right social agenda. He also praised Walker for his courageous leadership.

The religious right's moral disconnects have become so routine that pundits no longer notice them, let alone the public. That's unfortunate, since the religious right's thinking actually drives one-half of our two-party system.

Despite all of the challenges facing our nation – and the world – the issues of contraception, abortion and same-sex marriage have emerged as the determining factors in the Republican presidential primaries. The religious right has positioned these as the most urgent concerns facing our government, despite the fact that they ultimately involve personal matters that are outside the control or the interest of government.

The religious right is so obsessed with issues related to sexual behavior that it's lost all perspective on reality. Leaders on the religious right frequently spout statements about human sexuality that sound insane to reasonable people. Yet these leaders have forced Mitt Romney to perform the most embarrassing philosophical contortions in political history in an attempt to reconcile his really rather reasonable record with their really bizarre worldview.

Given that religious right leaders can scarcely think of anything but sex, it's not surprising that so many of them suffer sexual dysfunctions so extreme that they erupt into headlines. Just when we thought we'd heard the worst of the clerical child-abuse scandal, sealed documents filed in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's bankruptcy proceeding identified at least 8,000 acts of child sexual abuse committed by 100 alleged offenders, according to the plaintiffs' attorney. Such crimes typically involve massive cover-up conspiracies to protect the perpetrators and expose more potential victims to sexual predation.

Perhaps it's not surprising that a worldview that's more obsessed with contraception than mass killing would cover up hundreds of thousands of cases of child abuse worldwide. Once religious leaders have lost their moral compass and sense of proportion, how can they be expected to behave reasonably?

But it can only end in disaster when religious right groups succeed in making sex not only a moral issue but the defining political issue of an election. The Republican Party has so empowered this obsession that it has become a serious threat to our nation's survival. When a presidential frontrunner like Rick Santorum can comfortably praise the medieval Crusades, which resulted in the slaughter of tens of thousands of Jews and Muslims, as a triumph of faith, then our civilization is in serious trouble.

## BY THE NUMBERS

7  
Number of out gay or lesbian members  
of Maryland's House of Delegates

5.8 million  
Population of Maryland

1  
Number of times Maryland's  
House of Delegates has passed  
a law for marriage equality

1  
Number of out gay or lesbian members  
of Wisconsin's House of Representatives

5.7 million  
Population of Wisconsin

0  
Number of times  
Wisconsin's House has passed  
a law for marriage equality

## { Feedback }

### TOMMY THOMPSON CODDLED PEDOPHILE PRIEST

Pedophile priest the Rev. Norbert Maday, whose bizarre case illustrated the hierarchy's sometimes deep reach into the political world, could be out of a secure state facility for violent sex offenders in time for Christmas.

Prosecutors in Winnebago County have reached an agreement with Maday that would release him in nine months if it is signed off by a state medical evaluator.

Maday has between 35 and 45 known victims, according to church documents released in a previous civil case against him and the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Maday was convicted in the mid-1990s for bringing grade school children from his Chicago parish to Wisconsin for purposes of sexually assaulting them. At the time, he was also

convicted for intimidating a witness. The priest threatened to kill a victim's older brother if he testified against him in court.

When Maday's mother died in 1997, then-Gov. Tommy Thompson, at the personal request of Cardinal Francis George of Chicago, ordered state correction officials to work with the state's legal counsel and arrange to have her body transported across state lines to the Fox Lake Correctional Institute. Maday was approved to attend a private viewing and service, even though Wisconsin state law prohibits imprisoned felons from attending funerals, which can be videotaped.

But Thompson brought the body to Maday. This had never been allowed and has not happened since.

Unfortunately, the same preferential treatment was not extended to Maday's victims and their families. At least one suicide has been

linked to Maday's crimes. In 2006, John Houston, a victim of Maday, took his life. In 2008, the last time Maday's case came up for review, the mother of the victim urged officials to keep Maday locked up. They did. At the time, and still to this day, Thompson has refused to comment on his actions.

According to church records, after Thompson left office, church officials in Chicago continued to try to directly influence the governor's office to gain an early release for Maday.

It's hard to imagine that Maday, who left a trail of misery in Wisconsin and Illinois, can suddenly be rehabilitated in the next nine months. He needs to remain in a secure facility for the rest of his life. Thompson needs to change direction in this case and urge correction officials to do just that.

*Survivors Network  
of Those Abused by Priests*

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**ENTERTAINMENT  
EDITOR**  
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MANAGER**  
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**OFFICE ASSISTANT**  
Anita Gielow

**CONTRIBUTORS**  
Adam Horwitz, Debra Brehmer,  
Jody Hirsh, Rick Karlin,  
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Mike Muckian, Kat Murrell



## ON THE RECORD

“

“We’ve spent a lot of money in Wisconsin. We’re going to spend more.”

– OIL MOGUL AND RIGHT-WING CORPORATE LEADER DAVID KOCH, who helped elect Gov. Scott Walker and remains one of his biggest money men.

“In my opinion, Kim Kardashian is a far worse role model than Ellen DeGeneres, and the One Million Moms might want to check that out. ... Let’s leave Ellen alone and allow the marketplace to dictate exactly what Americans believe is worthy. That is the American way. Witch hunting against certain people and groups is not.

– ULTRA-RIGHT FOX NEWS PUNDIT BILL O’REILLY speaking up in support of JC Penney’s hiring of Ellen DeGeneres as company spokesperson.

“Like a lot of people, I thought to be gay you had to be feminine, you had to go to nightclubs and you had to be in the scene and I was never into that. I played sport, I loved rugby league, I liked going to the pub with my mates.”

– NATIONAL RUGBY LEAGUE REFEREE MATT CECCHIN coming out as gay in an interview with *The Sunday Telegraph* newspaper.

“It was our best Sunday in eight years. The people in the pew are further along on this issue than those of us in the pulpit.”

– THE REV. DELMAN COATES of Mt. Ennon Baptist Church in Prince George’s County, Md., explaining that attendance at his church shot up after he supported a measure to legalize marriage equality.

“Since I’m not gay, the answer to that would be no.”

– DAVE MUSTAINE, frontman for the thrash metal band Megadeth, telling an interviewer that he opposes same-sex marriage because he’s a “Christian.”

“What I want to know is, where are the women? I look at this panel, and I don’t see one single individual representing the tens of millions of women across the country who want and need insurance coverage for basic preventative health care services, including family planning. Where are the women?”

– U.S. REP. CAROLYN MALONEY, D-N.Y., addressing a House committee hearing on religious freedom and the Obama administration’s contraception rule. Maloney and two other Democrats walked out of the all-male hearing after the committee’s Republican chairman refused to allow a woman to testify in favor of the president’s contraception policy.

“It’s too bad Newt’s bus didn’t breakdown in front of Rage. That would have been a kiss from baby Jesus.”

– One of numerous tweets following the sighting of Newt Gingrich’s campaign bus broken down in the heart of West Hollywood, Calif.

“Senator, you’re one of us.”

– PINAL COUNTY SHERIFF PAUL BABEU addressing John McCain in a commercial that Babeu filmed for the senator’s 2008 presidential campaign. Babeu came out recently as gay.

”

## Honoring 2 black path breakers

Before Black History Month slips away, and in keeping with my resolution to take a break from new media and “read more about it” as the old library promo urged, here’s a short intro to two of my favorite African American gay and lesbian writers – James Baldwin and Audre Lorde.

Baldwin and Lorde were both born in Harlem, he in 1924, she in 1934. They were raised there and came of age as the civil rights movement for African Americans re-emerged during the war years and gained momentum in the 1950s. Both became activists, distinguished writers and social critics, tackling issues of race, gender and sexuality. Both of them left us too early due to cancer, Baldwin in 1987, Lorde in 1992.

Disgusted with the racism he experienced in America and conflicted about his homosexuality – his guilt made worse by an abusive stepfather who was a Pentecostal preacher

Opinion  
JAMAKAYA

– Baldwin moved to France in 1948 at age 24. He spent much of his life and wrote many of his books there and developed lifelong friendships with many intellectuals worldwide.

Baldwin found success as a novelist in the 1950s with the publication of “Go Tell It On the Mountain” and “Giovanni’s Room.” The first is an intense read, the complicated intergenerational saga of a black family in Harlem struggling among themselves and with the racist society around them. “Giovanni’s Room” is credited with being one of the first novels to openly explore the lives of gay men. While path-breaking for its time, it is suffused with the tragic themes associated with much of early gay literature.

Baldwin also wrote several successful plays and the blaz-

ing, now-classic collection of essays “Notes of a Native Son” and “The Fire Next Time,” which explore racism and the civil rights struggle.

His essays are full of wise observations. “Ignorance, allied to power, is the most ferocious enemy justice can have,” he wrote. One of my favorite Baldwin statements is: “There is never time in the future in which we will work out our salvation. The challenge is in the moment; the time is always now.”

Audre Lorde worked as a librarian until publishing poetry in the late 1960s. She later wrote non-fiction, including her autobiography “Zami: A New Spelling of My Name.” In that work, she credited the strong women in her family with helping her recognize and embrace her lesbianism. Lorde also wrote a memoir of her struggle with cancer called “The Cancer Journals” and several essay collections that exposed the intersections of race, class, sexuality and feminism.

Lorde was a role model and mentor to the generation of lesbians, especially women of color, who came out in the 1970s, ’80s and ’90s. She continually challenged the lesbian and feminist movements to deal with their racism.

In one of her most famous essays, “The Master’s Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master’s House,” Lorde declared: “The failure of academic feminists to recognize difference as a crucial strength is a failure to reach beyond the first patriarchal lesson. In our world, divide and conquer must become define and empower.”

Lorde wrote that our differences are enriching rather than threatening. “It is not difference which immobilizes us,” she said, “but silence. And there are so many silences to be broken.”

Please honor the lives of James Baldwin and Audre Lorde and enhance your own by familiarizing yourself with their work.

## Demagogue or driven by a dream?

Cleo Manago is despised by some in the LGBTQ community, who refer to him as “homo demagogue,” contrarian, separatist and anti-white, among other epithets.

But to a nationwide community of same-gender loving, bisexual, transgender and progressive heterosexual African-American men, Manago is the MAN! They see him as a visionary focused on advocating for and healing a group of men who continue to be maligned and marginalized – brothers.

“Without an understanding of the deep hurt that black men have around issues of masculinity and their role as a man, you can’t hope to eliminate anti-homosexual sentiment in black men,” Manago wrote in his recent article “Getting at the Root of Black Homophobic Speech.”

In the article, he castigated GLAAD for demanding that CNN fire Roland Martin for misconstrued homophobic tweets.

“There has been no national project to address the psychic damage that white supremacy has done to black

Opinion  
REV. IRENE MONROE

men,” he wrote. “But there is always some predominantly white institution waiting, ready to pounce on a black man for behaving badly.”

Unapologetically Afro-centric, Manago is founder and CEO of the African American Advocacy, Support Services & Survival Institute. His national study on black men, “Critical Thinking and Cultural Affirmation,” is a culturally informed preventive health strategy that addresses positive mental, sexual, and community health, self-actualization, cultural empowerment, and responsibility. AmASSI has been at work since 1989.

Manago was one of the first innovators in the AIDS movement to provide HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention services utilizing a psychosocial, mental health model that was culturally specific to the African American identity. He’s cred-

ited with coining the terms “men who have sex with men” (MSM) and “same-gender-loving” (SGL).

Manago is the national organizer and founder of Black Men’s Xchange, the oldest and largest community-based movement devoted to promoting healthy self-concept and behavior, cultural affirmation, and critical consciousness among LGBT males and their allies. BMX, which has been funded by the Center for Disease Control’s Act Against AIDS Leadership Initiative, has chapters in a dozen U.S. cities.

A native of South Central Los Angeles, Manago began his vocation in social services at the age of 16. While many would call him a social activist, he does not like the term “activist” applied to him, because he considers black LGBTQ activism tethered to mainstream white privilege, ideology, and single-focused gay organizations.

Manago has aligned BMX with the Nation of Islam. In an open letter in 2005, Manago wrote, “BMX knows the Nation of Islam. It’s an

independent black organization not funded by the HRC or any white folks. The NOI does not, nor does it have to succumb to white gay press-laden, black homosexual coercives who want to ram a white constructed gay-identity political agenda – that even most black homosexuals reject – down their throats.”

Many LGBTQ African Americans applaud BMX for being unabashedly queer and unapologetically black. But the terms “queer” and “gay” are not descriptors Manago and his organization would use to depict themselves. They prefer the term “same-gender-loving.” They contend that terms like “gay” and “queer” uphold a white queer hegemony that Manago and many in the African-American LGBTQ community denounce.

To many people in the LGBTQ community, Manago is seen as a dangerous demagogue. But to tens of thousands of African American brothers and generous funders he’s seen as a brother driven with a dream.



# Program helps abuse victims and their pets

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Remember the fate of the pet rabbit in the movie "Fatal Attraction"? Unfortunately, that scenario is not far-fetched. Pets often become tools of manipulation or revenge in unhealthy relationships.

In situations involving domestic violence, it's not uncommon for the abuser to hold a pet hostage to demand silence about the abuse or to prevent the victim from leaving the relationship. In one study of women seeking shelter from an abusive partner, 71 percent of those with pets said their partner had threatened, hurt or killed their animal companions.

Other studies have found that 25 to 40 percent of battered women remain in abusive situations primarily out of concern for their pets' safety.

To address this problem, the Wisconsin Humane Society, with financial support from

gay philanthropist Joe Pabst, has launched the Safe Haven Program. The program finds temporary housing for pets caught in the middle of domestic violence situations, allowing battered partners to escape abusive relationships without endangering their pets' safety. Milwaukee's Sojourner Family Peace Project is also a partner.

"It's difficult enough for victims to find housing if they have kids, and there's no housing (facility) that's going to say, 'We'll take your Pekinese too,'" Pabst said. He became aware of the problem after his sister was caught in a relationship in which her beloved dog became the pawn of her abuser.

"We've known about the need for quite a while," said Jill Kline, education and advocacy manager at the Wisconsin Humane Society. Kline worked with domestic violence programs before joining WHS, so she has a keen understanding

of the issue.

At first, WHS tried housing pets taken from domestic abuse situations at its shelter, but that didn't work out. "It's not best for the animals to be in a shelter setting for a long time," Kline said.

WHS decided to model its program, which launched on Jan. 17, after one in Madison that finds foster homes for the pets of people trying to leave abusive relationships. Sojourner makes the connection with WHS on behalf of the abuse victim, and WHS coordinates the placement of victims' pets with foster homes for up to 60 days.

"There isn't any contact between the foster home and the victim," Kline said. "Both are kept confidential for the safety of everyone."

The goal, according to Kline and Pabst, is to remove one of the barriers that prevents victims from leaving abusive

relationships.

"In doing the research, we've found stories of women who've lived in their car with their animals because that's how much it meant for that animal to be with them," Kline said. "There's also often a bond between children and animals that becomes a factor in these situations."

Domestic violence is one of the greatest public health issues facing Wisconsin. It accounted for nearly 30 percent of all homicides in the state last year, according to the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Deaths resulting from domestic violence occurred in 17 counties, with victims ranging in age from younger than 1 year to as old as 87.

Helping victims leave abusive relationships will reduce this tragic toll.

"If this program has a positive impact for just one person, that would be reward enough for me," Pabst said.



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"Bay View is just the perfect dog-loving, close-knit community for Community Bark. It's also easily accessible to downtown and the South shore, and the Dwell building provides a fantastic pedestrian-friendly location right in the heart of the neighborhood. We're so excited to join this wonderful community," said CB founder Andrew Appel.

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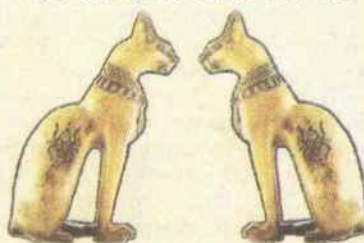
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## There are some tax strategies that allow same-sex couples to come out ahead

**TAXES** from I equal rights because, in marriage, fairness is not the rule.

### DOMA AND DISPARITY

The 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, signed into law by Bill Clinton and driven through Congress by Newt Gingrich, defines marriage as the union of a man and a woman, bans federal recognition of same-sex marriages and allows states to refuse to recognize gay marriages performed in other states.

Because of DOMA, same-sex couples are denied more than 1,100 rights and responsibilities related to adoption, parenting, immigration, inheritance, insurance, property ownership, pensions, Social Security and survivor benefits, wrongful death benefits, sick leave, bereavement, domestic violence protection and taxation.

A recent CNNMoney report estimated that same-sex spouses are paying as much as \$6,000 a year in extra income taxes because the U.S. government doesn't recognize gay marriage or other partnerships.

At the state level, same-sex couples can marry in six states and the District of Columbia – and they may be able to marry in Washington later this year and in Maryland in 2013. A mix of marriage bans, civil union laws and domestic partnership provisions exist

in other states. Some offer joint filing at the state level for same-sex couples. Some don't.

"There are a lot of twists and turns," observed Los Angeles-based accountant Elisha Wiesenberg, who has a sizeable gay and lesbian client base.

### MOMENTUM FOR EQUALITY BUT TAX ISSUES LINGER

In just the first six weeks of 2012, a new marriage bill was signed into law in one state and bills advanced in two other states.

In Maine, voters may decide in November to legalize gay marriage – again – while a marriage equality bill is pending in Illinois.

In California, a federal appeals court has ruled against Proposition 8, the anti-gay amendment passed in 2008 to block same-sex marriages.

The Obama administration continues to refuse to defend DOMA in court and is pushing for passage of a bill to repeal it.

In the meantime, LGBT leaders encourage same-sex couples to protect their families, their assets and their security.

Lambda Legal, a civil liberties group at the forefront of the marriage fight, recommends that couples' "life and financial planning team include an attorney with

experience addressing legal issues impacting same-sex and/or unmarried different-sex couples, a financial advisor and, depending upon your circumstances, a certified public accountant."

Financial matters can get complicated quickly – income, home ownership, gifts, inheritance, retirement, tax returns.

"Everybody's returns, no matter whose it is, has some complexity," said accountant Andrew Komisar of Komisar Brady and Co., 135 S. 84th St., Milwaukee.

Wiesenberg concurred: "You add in a few more variables, too many rules, and you have some head-scratching.... It can be mind-boggling to people."

Consider that this spring, same-sex couples in some states may file multiple tax returns.

Registered domestic partners in California must file a joint state income tax return but, because of DOMA, each partner must file an individual federal return. Ten other states allow same-sex couples in legal relationships to file joint state returns, but they too must file single returns with the IRS.

Meanwhile, in Wisconsin, even registered domestic partners file individual returns at the state and the federal level, where credits phase out sooner for single filers.

"Somebody in a domestic

partnership situation probably needs some guidance," said Wiesenberg.

Financial and legal professionals can't close the equality gap for same-sex couples, but they can sometimes close the tax gap and minimize other economic hardships, said Susan Davis, who works for Milwaukee-based UBS Financial Services and is the first woman in Wisconsin to become an accredited domestic partnership advisor from the College of Financial Planning.

Davis, also a Cream City Foundation board member, said experts familiar with all the rules can "look for a few things."

Generally, same-sex couples pay more in taxes than married heterosexuals, but there can be advantages when same-sex couples file as individuals.

"You've heard of the marriage penalty," Komisar said of the higher taxes married heterosexual couples, because of their tax bracket, sometimes get hit with in federal filing. "So, it all depends."

A gay couple could come out ahead when filing separately by assigning jointly earned interest income to the lower-income earner and some jointly-made deductions, such as charitable contributions, to the higher-wage earner.

Also, Davis said it is easier for a single filer to reach

the floor for allowable medical and other miscellaneous itemized deductions.

And, she said, if both domestic partners are over 65, they would receive more for this additional standard deduction filing single than they would on a joint return. "There can be a lot of opportunity if you do a little tax planning," observed Wiesenberg.

The professionals offered some tips to simplify tax season for same-sex couples:

- Consult with a qualified tax adviser or preparer. "At-home software programs are great for simple tax situations, but registered domestic partners can have enormously complicated returns," Wiesenberg said. "It varies state by state.... That's the truth."

Wiesenberg said it is crucial for same-sex couples to find someone who understands the issues. "You never want to be the guinea pig," he warned. "If you can find somebody familiar with your situation, that's best."

Referrals from friends are a good place to start, said accountant Jon Neal of Neal Group, 3001 W. Layton Ave., Greenfield. He works with a number of same-sex couples who were referred "from other clients who liked our work."

Davis said friends and family can provide good referrals, but another professional might also have a valuable

lead. As a financial planner in the community, she scouts out knowledgeable attorneys and accountants "that I feel comfortable sending my clients to, that are focused on the issues."

A face-to-face interview also can help find a couple the right guide. "We make sure there is a good fit," said Komisar. "We're not an H&R Block office. That is not who we are.... If you are a brand new client I like to meet face to face."

- Understand the total financial situation. "If you don't already have a clear grasp of both partners' financial situations, now is the time to have those conversations," Wiesenberg said.

Neal added, "We try to minimize the tax burden and optimize the refund.... In that, there are issues that need to be discussed and addressed and questions that come up, like in the area of who owns what."

- Take notes. Both partners should be prepared to keep detailed records of their transactions and their financial conversations – whether with a tax adviser or, especially, when communicating with the IRS.

Wiesenberg said his clients often are frustrated by the system – or systems – in place for same-sex couples, but he advised that patience can pay off.

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## New program addresses LGBT financial needs

Opinion

SUSAN DAVIS

The Defense of Marriage Act dictates that there can be no federal consideration for domestic partners in legal areas involving taxes and estates. At the same time, state laws vary widely. Some states allow same-sex marriage, some offer civil unions, some provide domestic partnership rights and many have no provisions at all. As a result, there's a growing need – and demand – for specialized expertise in financial planning for the LGBT community.

The myriad and complexity of planning issues for domestic



partners led Wachovia Bank (now Wells Fargo) to ask the College for Financial Planning to create courses for a new "Accredited Domestic Partnership Advisor" designation. In November 2010,

the college began offering the nation's only professional designation specifically geared toward the LGBT community.

The curriculum addresses issues that make financial planning for domestic partners different from financial planning for legally married opposite-sex spouses – including such issues as buying a home, making a will and hospital visitation rights. Domestic partner issues involving wealth transfer, federal taxation, retirement planning, estate planning, and end-of-life needs are all covered.

I am the first woman and fifth person in Wisconsin to obtain this designation. A Milwaukee-based UBS Financial Services advisor who has dedicated her career

to working with the LGBT community, I found this designation to be an important advancement in financial planning. Before this curriculum, I had to independently research information to be conversant on these special planning issues for my clients. I feel that the federal government looks at same-sex partners as business partners versus a couple or family. This designation has given me more knowledge to work with these challenges and opened my eyes to the few advantages of not being legally married.

Only individuals who complete the program, pass a rigorous final exam and sign a code of professional ethics and disclosure form attesting to their professional conduct can earn the right to use

the ADPA designation. All ADPA designees must sign a commitment to ongoing continuing education credit to ensure that they stay current in the field.

In addition to being an expert on issues facing domestic partners, advisors holding the ADPA must also hold one or more CFP certifications.

To find a financial advisor who has the "Accredited Domestic Partnership Advisor" designation, go to [www.cfpdesignations.com](http://www.cfpdesignations.com) and click on "Find an Advisor." You can search by designation and name or location.

Susan Davis, AWMMA, is an officer on the Cream City Foundation's board of directors. She's a Milwaukee-based UBS Financial Service advisor.





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## 'There was not weeping and wailing – just a feeling that this was kind of low'

**ALTAR** from I  
ing in a really deep and pro-  
found way.

"Bishop (Steven) Miller, who was kind of leading the group, got very quiet and had a very angry and upset expression on his face. There was not weeping and wailing and beating of breasts. There was just a feeling that this was kind of low."

Pfaff said the graffiti was relatively easy to remove and the diocese is eager to put the whole episode behind it. But far-right bloggers have attempted to make martyrs of the congregants who illegally possessed the property and then desecrated it.

Anti-gay zealots also have attempted to discredit Waukesha Circuit Court Judge J. Mac Davis for the ruling because he's a member of the Episcopal Church. The evangelical Christian blog VirtueOnline.org opined: "The judge would like to make St. Edmund's a 2011 Christmas present to Milwaukee Episcopal Bishop Steven Miller much the same way that in 1864 Union

### Far-right bloggers have attempted to make martyrs of the Anglicans who defaced the altar.

General William T. Sherman made the City of Savannah a Christmas gift to President Abraham Lincoln."

But Davis' finding was the same as the others in the nation, including those in the Bible Belt South. The same month Davis issued his ruling, the Supreme Court of Georgia found in the denomination's favor in a high-profile case involving a historic \$3 million Episcopal church in Savannah.

Pfaff said there would be a "period of discernment"

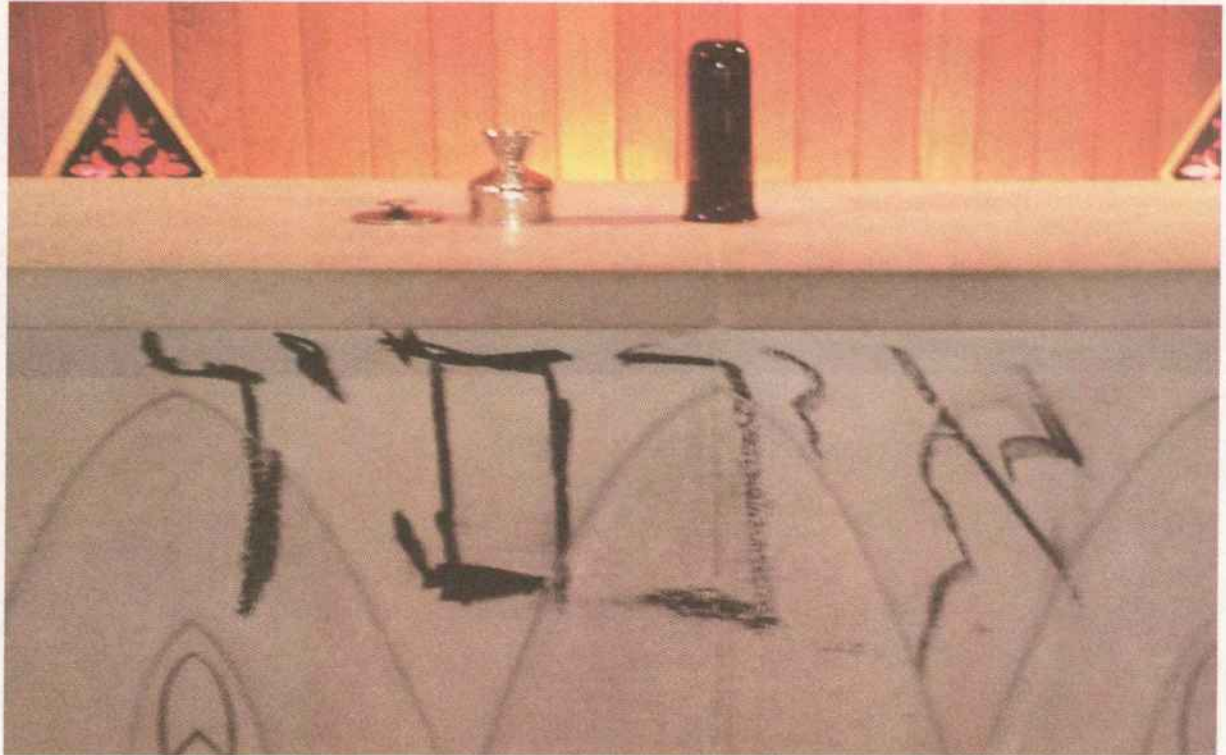


PHOTO: THE REV. DAVID PFAFF

**Graffiti left behind by anti-gay zealots on the altar at St. Edmund's Episcopal Church in Elm Grove.**

during which the diocese would listen to input from the public concerning how people would like to see the

building used in the future. The diocese is allowing a pre-school associated with the evicted group to con-

tinue in the building until March 1.

Meanwhile, the breakaway congregation is temporar-

ily meeting at Elm Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church, 945 Terrace Drive in Elm Grove.



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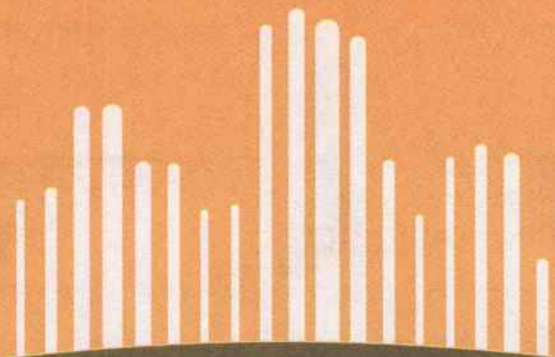


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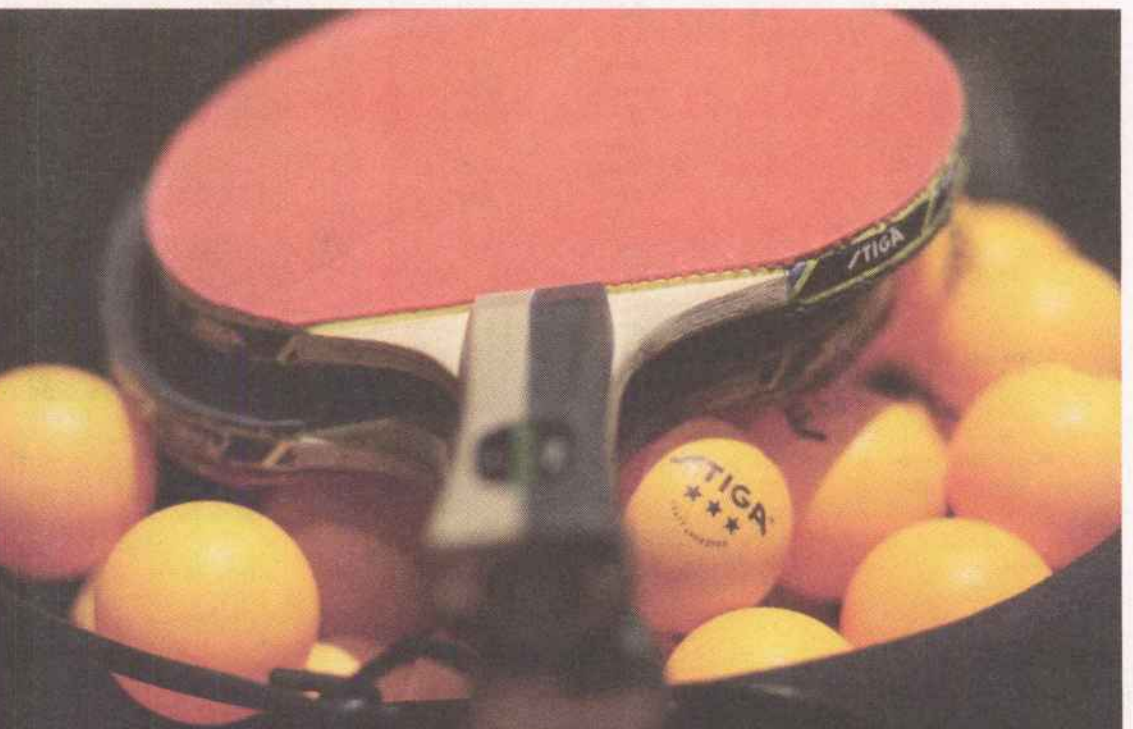
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# WIGOUT!

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## Flack takes on the Beatles canon

Interview

GREGG SHAPIRO

Still killing us softly more than 40 years since the release of her first album, Roberta Flack, who says she was sure that she "was going to be the first short black girl from North Carolina to be applauded for her knowledge and ability to play Scriabin," has turned her attention to the Beatles. On "Let It Be" (429), the diva who ruled the charts in the 1970s and '80s leaves her distinct mark on a dozen Beatles classics, renewing and refreshing them in ways that only she could.

I spoke with Flack about her new album and her career in February.

**Gregg Shapiro: With such a vast array of Beatles material to choose from, how did you select the songs on "Let It Be"?**

Roberta Flack: I think there's 1,088 or more — and it wasn't easy. What was involved in the final selection was my commitment to try to do something that I thought the songs deserved, their work deserved, in terms of ... my musical abilities.

**Looking back at your catalog of studio albums, were you surprised to discover that you hadn't included a Beatles cover on any of them until now?**

I wasn't surprised. You probably know that I came up through the clubs — a club in Washington, D.C., on Capitol Hill (called) Mr. Henry's. I had artists in the audience at all times handing me songs and telling me about stuff that wasn't even known by the general public at that point. They would say, "Why don't you sing a Spanish song? Here I'll give you the words to 'Angelitos Negros.'" Or they would say, "Bette Midler is doing this song, why don't you do that one?" I had that kind of support. But I did do "Here, There, and Everywhere," "Let It Be" and "Yesterday," all of the obvious ballads. Because I was in a club where

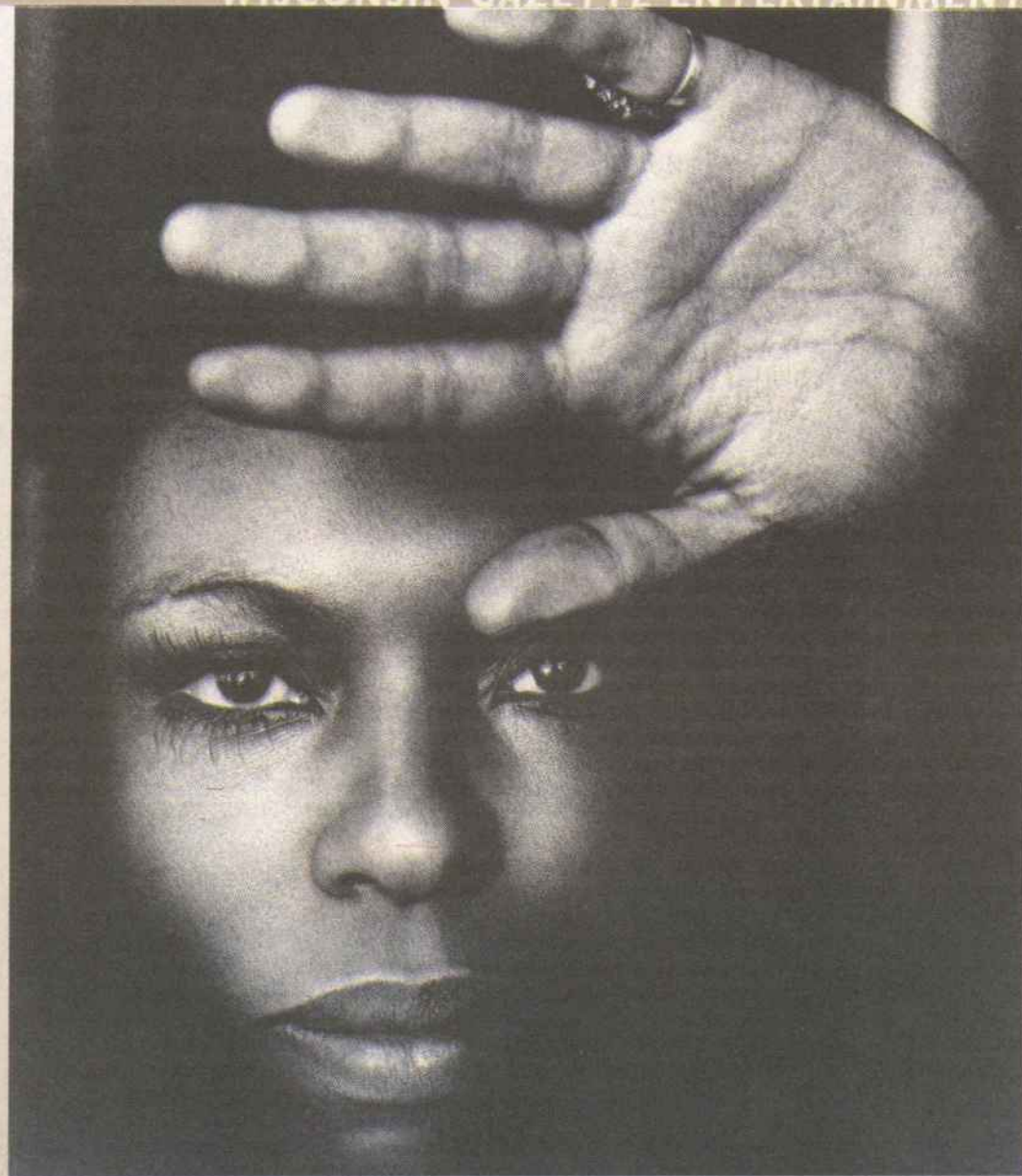
people adored me and let me do that, I could try anything. I'm the kind of musician, if I hear it in my head, my fingers somehow can find the notes. I had a lot of fun while the Beatles were in my head and everybody's heads. (When I sang) "I Want to Hold Your Hand," people would substitute the word "hand" with another word — I won't say what (laughs).

**Reading what Yoko (Ono) wrote in the liner notes, it's clear that she gave you her blessing for the project. Was it important for you to have that?**

Yeah, as opposed to something else (laughs), whatever that might've been. Yoko and I have a very nice relationship. I had just come back from Iceland with her, where she goes every year since John's death to light the Peace Tower. This incredible light that goes up to the sky. Once she lights it on his birthday, it stays lit until the day he was assassinated. I was so moved by her invitation to come. A lot of serious music industry people were there. ... There I was. I was overcome and overwhelmed. I thought, I'm going to ask her. She had heard a little bit of the album and she said, "Oh Roberta, I like that." I had not really expected her to make a comment. ... And I asked her to write the liner notes, and she sent me back a note saying, "I'm tired, but I'll listen to the album and I'll make a comment." And she did, it was just wonderful.

**You mentioned Mr. Henry's. Was that where you developed your gay following?**

Yes. That's where I developed myself, because the people in my audience, and they were gay and straight and undecided, especially back in the '60s, and not telling and telling. But it was wonderful because the one thing that we all had in common was our love for music. That's how I got "Ballad of the Sad Young Men." Somebody came up to me one day and said, "Roberta, there's a show on Broadway called 'The Nervous Set,' and here's a song from it, 'Ballad of the Sad Young Men.'" And I embraced it and



it embraced me back. I got a lot of response from my audience for that song. That is so important. Not necessarily, Gregg, but important.

**In 1982, you recorded the theme song to the gay movie "Making Love," which was considered a daring move at the time.**

It was a daring move to make the movie. We were still living in the dark ages. I don't know if it was don't ask, don't tell or don't think about it. As an artist you took chances if you did something like that. Here's my interpretation about songs, especially songs with words. You can take a song and interpret it anyway you want it. People have asked me, "Roberta, what were you thinking when you recorded 'The

First Time Ever I Saw Your Face"?' I was actually thinking about my cat. I had come home after my first job away from Washington, D.C., at a club in Detroit, and my cat was in the yard, dead. I was so torn up about it. It was a little black cat that I had named Sancho Panza. I really adored that cat and he adored me. That was the first time I had a pet that was mine. But here I am, a married woman, and my piano tuner gave me a cat for a birthday present. At any rate, when you can sit down at the keyboard or at whatever your instrument is and sing the song that interprets exactly what you feel but at the same time, Gregg, giving everybody else the chance to say, "I know what you mean."

**Making it universal.**

Yes! And that's what music is. My point is, there's nothing sacred about creativity. Once it becomes something that's in the universe, that palpates and has heartbeat and pulse, it's up for grabs.

**Have you sung at or been asked to sing at any same-sex weddings or civil union?**

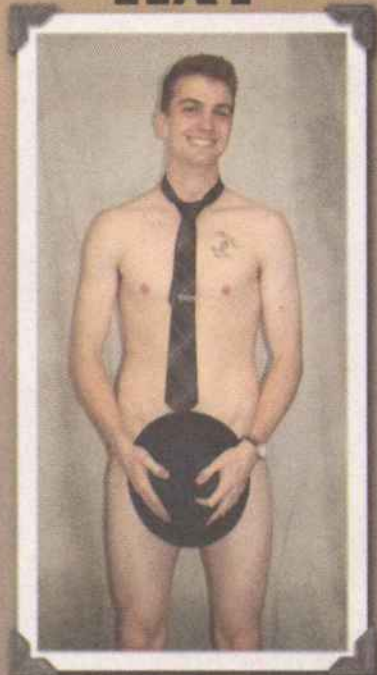
No, but I would sing! If you know somebody who's getting ready for one, (tell them) have I got a surprise for you!

**Well, I just had mine on Sunday. I wish I would have known.**

You should have waited! You could have called me and asked me. Well, congratulations to you my love.



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PHOTO: MARK KITAOKA

Jervis Pendleton (Robert Adelman Hancock) and Jerusha Abbott (Megan McGinnis) in the Ventura, Calif., production of "Daddy Long Legs," which Skylight Music Theatre is staging March 9 to April 1.

# The story behind Skylight's new musical has very long legs

## Theater

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

Playwright John Ciard wants to make one thing perfectly clear: "Daddy Long Legs," his musical adaptation of Jean Webster's 1912 young adult novel that opens March 9 at the Skylight Music Theatre, bears little resemblance to the 1955 Fred Astaire film of the same name.

"It's a perfect novel," Ciard said during a telephone interview from his London home. "The Fred Astaire film was a dance movie, and our play is not like it at all."

Webster's work, written in pre-women's suffrage America, tells the tale of orphan Jerusha "Judy" Abbott, a young girl with absolutely nothing, who attracts the attention of Jervis, a mysterious and anonymous benefactor. He agrees to pay Abbott's way through college in exchange for one monthly letter to which he would never reply.

The letters were designed to cultivate the girl's literary skills, which begin to fascinate the benefactor. He eventually contrives to meet her and, of course, they fall in love. By the time the

surprising denouement occurs, there has been plenty of song, laughter and touching emotional content.

"There is the wonderful problem of basic dishonesty in the relationship that provides the fundamentals of good comedy," Ciard said.

An epistolary novel told entirely through Abbott's letters, the work was lauded for presenting a young woman with an independent spirit at a time when women's places were in the home. But the work also has been derided as an unrealistic Cinderella tale. Ciard said both facets of the work are true.

"It absolutely does have a Cinderella aspect," he said. "But this was a template used a lot at the beginning of the 20th century. It's very much an 'Anne of Green Gables' type of story."

Ciard was first introduced to the novel by his Japanese wife, who knew it from its enormous popularity in her native country. Research has shown that it was also the favorite novel of President Theodore Roosevelt, who Ciard said enjoyed it so much that he insisted on interrupting Webster on her honeymoon in a remote Quebec cabin to pay his respects and thank her for the story.

## ON STAGE

The Skylight Music Theatre's production of "Daddy Long Legs" runs March 9 to April 1 at the Cabot Theatre. For details see [www.skylightmusictheatre.org](http://www.skylightmusictheatre.org).

Skylight is staging a "consortium" world premiere of a new version of the production. The effort involves theater companies in Detroit, Cincinnati, Skokie, Ill., and Ventura and Palo Alto, Calif. This shared approach is an economical alternative, he said, as is the two-person cast.

"I call this my 'recession musical,'" said Ciard, who along with composer Paul Gordon and actor Megan McGinnis (Judy Abbott) each won recent Ovation Awards for the work. "No one can afford to put on lavish musicals anymore, so I thought this would be a good way to do everyone a favor."

Ciard's play, which debuted in 2009 in Ventura, and Astaire's film have not been the only adaptations of "Daddy Long Legs." Webster herself adapted it for the stage, followed by a 1919 film

version starring Mary Pickford and a 1931 adaptation with Janet Gaynor. The 1935 Shirley Temple film "Curly Top" is said to have been adapted from the work, and there have even been a Japanese anime version and live action versions filmed in Korea and India.

Still, it's the Astaire version, which also featured French actress Leslie Caron, which everyone seems to remember. That film version took significant liberties with the original novel, including making the anonymous benefactor a much older man. Astaire has described "Daddy Long Legs" as his favorite film because of its realistic portrayal of the difficulties of a May-December romance, a concept at which Ciard bristles.

"I find the film a little creepy," Ciard said. "It was made at a time when such a romance was better accepted than it might be today. It's not a pedophile movie, but it's getting there."

The appeal of the Skylight production definitely will be found in other aspects of the story, he said.

"Take a handkerchief," he advised. "It's very funny but you won't be able to help getting emotionally involved with the characters."



# 'Rainey' depicts the exploitation of black artists

## Theater

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

"Ma Rainey's Black Bottom," the first and best known of August Wilson's 10-play cycle about the African-American experience, opens the second half of the 2011-2012 season at UW-Madison's theater department. It also marks the University Theatre directorial debut of associate professor Patrick Sims, a native of Chicago's South Side with a strong affinity for Wilson.

"Wilson's plays allow African-Americans – and all Americans – to understand the roles, the trials and tribulations, and the successes that African Americans have experienced," Sims says. "That's why his work is so important."

Known as "the mother of the blues," Gertrude "Ma" Rainey Pridgett is rumored to have taught the legendary Bessie Smith, one of her lovers, how to sing the

blues. "Prove It on Me Blues," Rainey's 1928 song of lesbian self-affirmation and defiance, was considered radical in pre-Stonewall America.

Wilson's play about Rainey, which won a Tony Award in 1984, chronicles a one-day recording session by Ma Rainey's band in a Chicago studio in 1927. Rainey (Jaki Terry) wrestles to control her musicians, a blend of players young and old, at a time when jazz is beginning to usurp traditional southern blues, and African-American cultural awareness and pride is beginning to emerge.

Rainey struggles with a white producer and manager who seem to make a better living off of her music than she and her musicians do. While early exploitation of African-American artists is legendary, it's something that still affects all artists, Sims says. In Wilson's play, the exploitation can be interpreted not only at face value, but also as a symptom of even deeper discrimination.

"Musicians may get all the fame and glory, but the sys-

tem is set up so that the artists get pimped," he says. "Add to that the layer of race and you realize it's just one more form of discrimination."

Despite the play's title, Sims sees it as a coming-of-age story for Levee (Trevon Jackson), the young trumpet player who challenges his fellow musicians' complacency. He says the character represents the emergence of African-Americans' awareness of their own art form and their desire to make their own kind of music.

"Black folks were looking to entertain themselves, first and foremost," Sims says. "Levee is like, 'It's my music. I don't want no jug band music; I want to create art.'"

Wilson's play challenges the religious thinking promulgated by the African-American church – that all wrongs would be righted in the afterlife. Sims says that attitude resulted in an incredible loss of potential for the community. People were persuaded to grudgingly accept a system that denied the fulfillment of their talents



PHOTO: COURTESY

Gertrude "Ma" Rainey Pridgett.

in the belief that they'd be rewarded after death.

While the character Levee bridles at complacency and oppression, in the end he

succumbs to it just like the older band members, Sims says.

"Levee talks a good game, but when confronted with

challenging a white man, he folds," Sims says. "He becomes a tragic hero in a play with themes of redemption and lost possibilities."

The production's primarily African-American cast is composed mostly of students, but it also features professional actor Alfred Wilson in the role of Toledo. Wilson also has played the role at Chicago Court Theatre and the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre.

"Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" is a play with cultural and emotional lessons for audiences of all races, Sims says, but what audiences take away from the show is up to them.

### ON STAGE

University Theatre's production of "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" runs March 2 to 17 at the Mitchell Theater in Vilas Hall on the UW-Madison campus. For information, visit [www.utmadison.com](http://www.utmadison.com).

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James Lloyd, Among the Grapes, (Susanly York), and (detail) Gift by Anthony Petullo. Photo by [unreadable]

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## Forget Miller, it's doppelbock time

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

When Capital Brewery in Madison's Middleton suburb opens its outdoor Bier Garten on Feb. 25 for the annual Bockfest, several thousand revelers will celebrate the coming of spring (no matter what the weather) and the arrival of Capital's Blonde Doppelbock. The popular and potent seasonal brew is steeped in centuries of brewing tradition.

Bock beers have heralded spring's imminent arrival since the 14th century, when brewers in the German town of Einbeck began developing stronger, more robust ales to help local monastic orders survive during the weeks of Lenten fasting. In the 17th century, brewers in Munich adapted the style to the then-new lagering process and, due to their Bavarian accents, pronounced result as "ein bock" (literally "a billy goat"). The name stuck, as did the image of the goat, which now appears frequently on bock beer labels.

Today, many breweries produce bock beer. Its richer, malty flavor is an attractive characteristic during winter's waning months. There are several styles of bock, but none quite so compelling as doppelbock, or "double bock," a version that offers a little more of everything that bock beer drinkers have come to appreciate.

The first doppelbock was brewed in Munich by the Paulaner monks, again to provide sustenance during the Lenten fasts when solid food was not permitted. The potent brew, which ranged from 7 percent to 12 percent alcohol by volume or more, became known as "liquid bread" because of its malted grain base. Many a monk

saw Easter morning thanks the filling nature and pleasant alcoholic haze provided by his locally brewed doppelbocks.

Doppelbocks are available in far fewer numbers than standard bock beer. Higher alcohol levels require the brewer to start out with more fermentable ingredients, meaning doppelbocks are a little more expensive to brew. But a good doppelbock is richer, smoother, stronger and more fully flavored than its counterparts, making it worth the effort to seek them out.

Here are some recommendations, from Germany and locally.

## THE ORIGINALS

One of the best is Ayinger Celebrator (\$12.49 per four-pack), which is almost stout-like in its dark, opaque appearance. It pours with an aromatic nose and thick, somewhat rocky brownish head. Its rich, creamy finish offers subtle chocolate notes and, at 6.7 percent ABV, Celebrator is one of the tamer doppelbocks available.

The Spaten Optimator (\$7.99 per six-pack) raises the alcohol stakes to 7.8 percent ABV, pouring with a similar opacity but almost no nose. The beer has a crisper character than the Celebrator, offering a good balance of malt and hops, a subtle hops bitterness and nice mouthfeel.

Our go-to doppelbock has long been Paulaner Salvator (\$7.99 per six-pack), a replica of the original that weighs in at 7.9 percent ABV. The beer pours with a dark copper color and reasonably good head, and the flavor is well balanced while leaning more in the malt direction, as would be expected.

The Primator Double Bock (\$2.99 for a pint bottle), new



## LOCAL CHOICES

Capital's Blonde Doppelbock is one of the better-known local brands, but not the only one brewer Kirby Nelson produces. The subtle, highly approachable and slightly dangerous beer, is available only in spring. It's complemented in the fall by Autumnal Fire, Nelson's ode to Oktoberfest, which stands head and shoulders above the competition.

The brewer also has produced several doppelbock varieties as part of his Square series (about \$12 per four-pack), which includes an Imperial Doppelbock, a Weizen Doppelbock and Eisphyrer, an Eisbock with an even greater alcohol content due to a process that removes excess water by freezing the brew.

Glendale's Sprecher Brewery also produces a doppelbock (about \$9 per four pack) as part of its premium series. The beer pours a dark amber color, offering full flavors of nuts and chocolate, depending on the vintage. At 7.85 percent ABV, the creation of brewer Randy Sprecher's efforts run with the best of them.

Milwaukee's Lakefront Brewery doesn't produce a doppelbock, but every spring brewer Russ Klisch releases The Big Easy (\$8.49 per six pack), an Imperial Maibock that weighs in at 7.7 percent ABV, just in time for Mardi Gras. Lighter and brighter than a doppelbock, the Maibock still maintains a balance of Munich pale malt and Hallertauer hops for a bold, robust flavor. Just about every other Big Easy six-pack comes laced with Mardi Gras beads.

If the stronger beer doesn't make you the life of the party, then perhaps the beads will.

to us this year, arrived from the Czech Republic boasting a whopping 10.5 percent ABV. A blend of five Moravian and Bavarian malts, it pours a deep chestnut color with perceptible alcohol characteristics in the nose and on the palate. But the blend is well balanced and deceptively dangerous, with a slight coffee nose and a pleasantly lingering flavor.



PHOTO: RICHARD BRODZELLER

A scene from Florentine Opera's  
"Elmer Gantry" by Robert Aldridge  
and Herschel Garfein.

## FLORENTINE OPERA RECORDING NETS 3 GRAMMYS

The Florentine Opera's recording of "Elmer Gantry" won two classical music Grammys on Feb. 12.

Robert Aldridge and Herschel Garfein won awards for Best Classical Contemporary Composition, and Byeong-Joon Hwang, John Newton and Jesse Lewis won for Best Engineered Album, Classical.

Naxos Records recorded the Florentine's 2010 production of the contemporary opera live at Marcus Center for the Performing Arts with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra. The work is based on a 1926 novel by Sinclair Lewis.

"I was convinced of the importance of 'Elmer Gantry' as a new American Opera, and I was excited by its ability to highlight popular American forms as a compelling work of art," said Florentine general director William Florescu. "I am proud that the Florentine produced 'Elmer Gantry,' which has now achieved international acclaim through this recording and the Grammy Awards, introducing countless new fans to the opera. The nominations and subsequent awards are an exciting endorsement of the Florentine's recent innovative work."

The recording is available on iTunes and through Naxos, Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

— Louis Weisberg



# Novel probes same-sex love in black community

## Books

GREGG SHAPIRO

Since the untimely death of writer E. Lynn Harris, there has been a void in the gay African-American literary community. Chicago-based Eddie S. Pierce's debut novel "Love: Something Infinite" (rainbowroompublishing.com) could change all that. The story follows writer Seron, who returns to his Chicago birthplace from his home in Las Vegas to attend his dying ex-lover Calvin. The novel provides insight into the unique struggles of African-American gay men, and one man in particular.

I spoke with Eddie about his work in early 2012.

**Gregg Shapiro: I want to begin by asking you about the title of "Love: Something Infinite."**

Eddie S. Pierce: The title was meant to be a description of love's longevity. It speaks to the idea that when one is loved, the emotion and sensation appear to have always been — and you may believe that it will never end.

**Was it inevitable that the protagonist of your first novel would be a writer?**

The story began as a cathartic exercise in which I was attempting to write my own hopes, dreams, fears and frustrations. Since the central character is based on my life, it did seem inevitable that he be a writer.

**Even though you con-**

**sider yourself to be primarily a writer of fiction and prose, there are eight poems interwoven throughout the book. Why did you include them in the novel?**

The poems are intended to add emphasis to the emotions expressed within the chapters of prose. Also I wanted to try something different to make my novel stand out more.

**Seron talks about making the "life choice not to ever marry." With civil unions and gay marriage becoming more commonplace, do you think that would have an effect on changing his mind, despite the failed straight marriages that he witnessed?**

Perhaps. But this statement was more so a reflection of how much he respected the union of marriage to the point that he would not enter into it for fear of it not being successful.

**In the chapter where we are introduced to Seron's younger sister Regina, Seron checks out her boyfriend Jonathan to determine whether he's a "DL bisexual brother." Is that something that you would do?**

The opportunity hasn't presented itself, and honestly I don't think I would in most cases. I'm not entirely sure how I would accomplish it, but I hope I'd manage to strike a balance between respecting the secrets of the man, the choices and judg-

ment of the woman and my desire to protect my loved ones. I don't believe anyone should be forced out of the closet, but I don't respect selfishness and dishonesty especially when it harms another person.

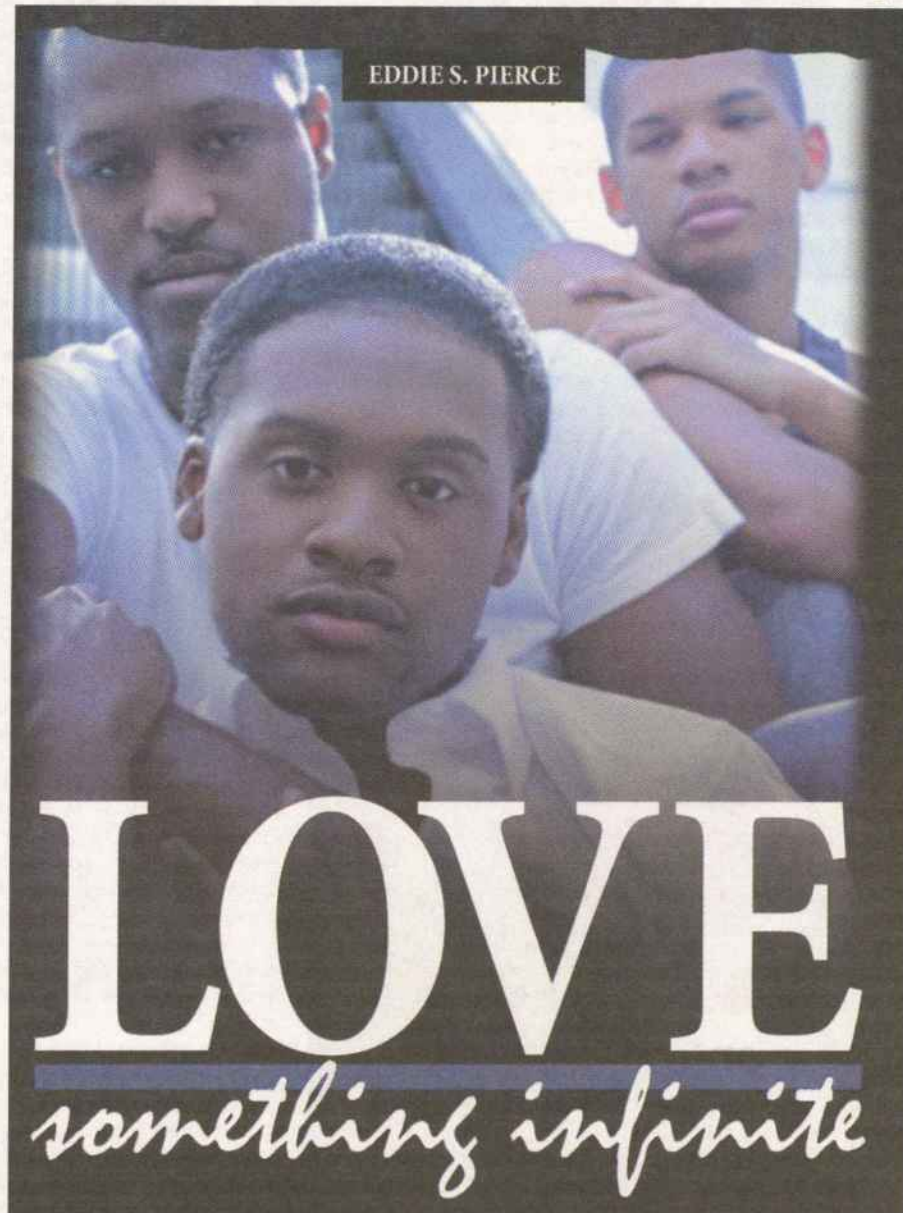
**What is your take on the relationship between gay men and straight women?**

I'm hesitant to speak on the relationships between gay men and straight women in general. In my personal experiences, my female friends literally knew me as a person first and later as a gay man. That is how I honestly believe they continue to perceive me. A person who is their friend — and oh, yeah, he's gay as well. I sincerely hope that someday that is how we all relate to each other, as people first.

**Throughout the novel you write about being out.**

These passages illustrate the pressure that Seron, and numerous other same-gender-loving individuals have felt or continue to feel they are under to hide their sexual (orientations). It is mentioned several times to give the reader an idea of how constant and prevalent this weight is. I hope that the readers also get a sense of how operating under this stressor ... can affect virtually every aspect of a person's life. Most importantly it speaks to the idea that living a double life can compromise one's self esteem.

**The novel also deals with HIV and respon-**



**sibility.**

Seron makes some serious mistakes and some very bad choices. Having unprotected sex which leads to HIV, the end of a relationship and a host of emotional issues is just one of many. If just one

reader can avoid any one of Seron's pitfalls by living vicariously through him, this novel will be more of a success than I could have hoped for.

**The book ends with a preview of the follow-**

**up novel "Love: From Behind." When do you expect that book to be available to readers?**

My target release date for "Love: From Behind" is Nov. 12, 2012, the anniversary of this novel's release.

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# Documentaries among new video releases

DVDiva

GREGG SHAPIRO

## 'BEAUTIFUL DARLING'

Subtitled "The Life and Times of Candy Darling, Andy Warhol Superstar," James Rasin's compassionate documentary gives the late transgender actress, who was immortalized in song by Lou Reed, the recognition that she

rightly deserved.

Rasin bookends Darling's life between the story of her close companion Jeremiah Newton's search for a way to give her ashes a proper burial and the actual "funeral" event. In between, "Beautiful Darling" combines dazzling archival photographs and film footage of Darling with audio recordings of interviews and Darling's diary entries, read by Chloë Sevigny. Rasin incorporates present-day interviews with actors, filmmakers, personal

and professional associates and Warhol Factory legends including Fran Lebowitz, John Waters, Julie Newmar, Michael J. Pollard and Holly Woodlawn.

Born James Slattery, Darling lived as a woman but never had the inclination for gender reassignment surgery. Warhol provided the chance to fulfill her dreams of movie stardom when he cast her in some of his pictures. Amid Warhol's hip, pop art scene, Darling was a throwback to old Hollywood, the kind of actress who wished the old studio system still existed. She was photographed by the great photographers of the day, including Richard Avedon, Francesco Scavullo, Cecil Beaton and Peter Beard.

An artist whose greatest work was herself, Darling became the toast of the town, the reigning queen of 1960s Greenwich Village. She held court in the back room of Max's Kansas City and did everything in her power to conquer New York before it conquered her. Living as a veritable prisoner of her own making, Darling died of lymphoma in 1974 at the age of 29. A glamour girl to the end, she enlisted the late gay photographer Peter Hujar to photograph her in her hospital bed shortly before passing.

"Beautiful Darling" is kind-hearted portrait of a legend whose light dimmed too soon.

## 'IF A TREE FALLS: A STORY OF THE EARTH LIBERATION FRONT'

This Oscar-nominated doc focuses on Daniel McGowan,



PHOTO: COURTESY

## From "If a Tree Falls: A Story of the Earth Liberation Front."

a member of the radical titular environmental group. The son of a Brooklyn cop, McGowan was arrested in 2005. He relates his life story while under house arrest, explaining how he went from a business-school graduate to an activist with what's been described as a "domestic eco-terrorist organization." His story is a fascinating journey.

Filmmaker Marshall Curry is careful to present a variety of voices and opinions from the logging industry as well as the environmental movement. Wherever you stand (or fall) on the issue, "If a

Tree Falls" is sure to make you barking mad. DVD special features include audio commentary, deleted scenes, extended interviews and more.

Also on the doc docket are:

Werner Herzog's "Cave of Forgotten Dreams," which follows an exclusive expedition team into France's Chauvet Cave, the site of the most ancient cave illustrations. The Blu-ray includes a 3D version of the film on the same disc.

In "The Other F Word," second-wave punk

rock fathers, including Mark Hoppus (Blink-182), Art Alex (Everclear), Fat Mike (NOFX), Jim Lindberg (Pennywise) and Flea (Red Hot Chili Peppers) offer their unique take on being a parent.

Real-life "horse-whisperer" Buck Brannaman is the subject of "Buck" (Sundance), the fascinating story of how Brannaman overcame the odds (including a troubled childhood) to become a sensitive, successful and in-demand professional.

Get news updates at [www.wisconsin gazette.com](http://www.wisconsin gazette.com).

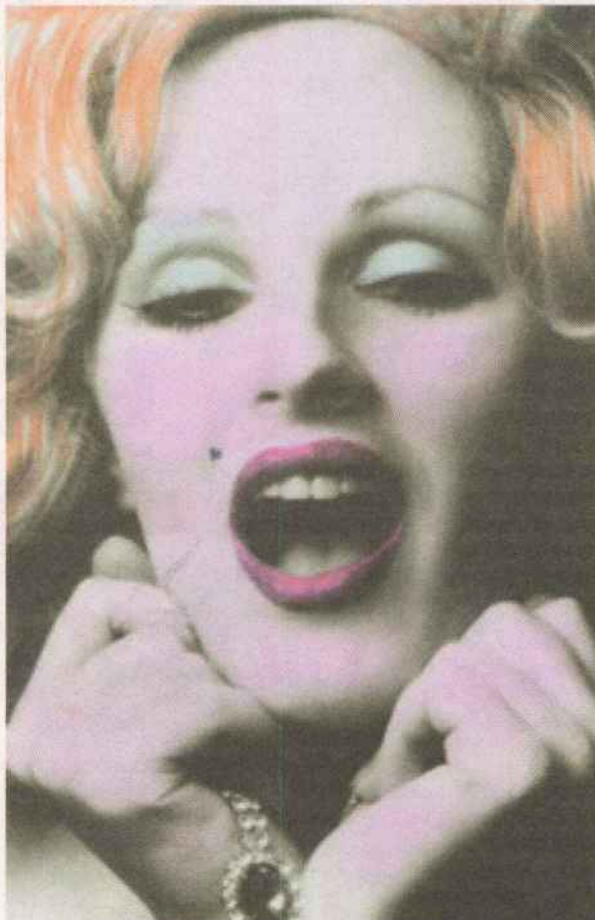


PHOTO: COURTESY

Candy Darling.



Josh Aaron McCabe & Molly Rhode (Photo Nick Berard)

## A THOUSAND WORDS

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# For these artists, life is a cabaret

## Music

GREGG SHAPIRO

### LEE LESSACK

Cabaret crooner and record label mogul Lee Lessack gives listeners a French kiss on his new album "Chanteur." The dozen songs have some connection to France. Some are sung in French, including gay songwriter Rod McKuen's "The Importance of the Rose (L'important C'es La Rose)" and Edith Piaf's "Hymne à l'Amour." Others are written (or co-written) by such French songwriters as Charles Aznavour ("She," "Yesterday When I Was Young"), Michel Legrand ("The Summer Knows," "The Windmills of Your Mind," "I Will Wait For You," "Pieces of Dreams") and Jacques Brel ("If We Only Have Love"). In the case of Jennifer Warnes and Leonard Cohen's "Song of Bernadette," the subject matter is French. But it's Lessack's pure and powerful voice that is the draw here.



PHOTO: COURTESY

**Michael Feinstein brings his "Sinatra Project" to The Riverside Theater in Milwaukee on March 3.**

### MICHAEL FEINSTEIN

Michael Feinstein might bristle at the thought of being considered a cabaret artist, but his vocal performance style, knack for informative storytelling and selection of material often leans in that direction. But on "The Sinatra

Project, Vol. II: The Good Life," Feinstein sounds more like a crooner as he reinterprets the Chairman of the Board. On this release, he strikes a respectable balance between the familiar ("The Lady Is a Tramp," "For Once in My Life" and "The Good Life") with less-familiar selections

("Thirteen Women," "C'est Comme Ça"). Combined, this makes for a pleasant tribute.

Feinstein also recently released "We Dreamed These Days," an album he recorded with the Carmel Symphony Orchestra. In addition to two Feinstein originals, including the anthemic title cut co-penned with Maya Angelou, he digs into his cabaret performer's bag of tricks, performing contemporary standards such as "How Do You Keep the Music Playing," "Two for the Road," "What Kind of Fool Am I," "Dream a Little Dream of Me" and "I'd Rather Leave While I'm in Love," among others.

### ANN HAMPTON CALLAWAY & LIZ CALLAWAY

The fabulous Callaway sisters, out lesbian Ann Hampton and Liz, relive their musical youth, live at Birdland, on "Boom!" They team up on the "Back-Seat-of-the-Car Medley" (including "Mercedes Benz," "Brand New Key" and "Sugar,

Sugar"), a Stevie Wonder medley (including "You Are the Sunshine of My Life," "Sir Duke" and "Isn't She Lovely?") and such period selections as Joni Mitchell's "A Case of You," Carly Simon's "That's The Way I've Always Heard it Should Be" and Carole King's "You've Got a Friend." There are also nods to Petula Clark, Nancy Sinatra and Jimmy Webb. Even if you weren't there (at the show or during the decades), the Callaways make you feel like you were.

### TOM MICHAEL

Tom Michael, a product of Chicago's fertile cabaret scene, returns with "Let Me Be Your Home." Accompanied on piano (and occasionally on vocals) by Chicago's reigning queen of cabaret Beckie Menzie, Michael dips into tunes by songwriters as diverse as Stephen Sondheim ("Somewhere," "So Many People"), Johnny Mandel ("The Shadow of Your Smile"), Johnny Mercer and Harold Arlen ("Out of This World")

and David Gates ("If"). He also remains faithful to his Windy City roots by including songs by Chuck Larkin (the title tune) and Menzie and Cheri Coons ("The Perfect Cup of Coffee").

### VARIOUS ARTISTS

A multitude of cabaret performers can be heard on a trio of discs celebrating the work of three composers. "Cautiously Optimistic: The Music of Scott Evan Davis" features Liz Callaway, as well as Jason Graae, Faith Prince, Lisa Howard and others performing Davis' songs. Lisa Howard can be heard on "Out of Context: The Music of Michael Patrick Walker," along with Cheyenne Jackson, Rachel York, Peter Friedman and Kelli O'Hara to name a few. "My Lifelong Love" features Jesse Tyler Ferguson, Anika Noni Rose, Brian d'Arcy James, Shoshana Bean, Kate Baldwin, Michael Arden, Jessica Molasky and John Pizzarelli, and Susan Egan performing the songs of Georgia Stitt.

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# Michael Feinstein

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## FEB. 23, THURSDAY

Next Act Theatre, 255 S. Water, continues the Milwaukee premiere of the dark comedy **"Vigil"** by Morris Panych, through Feb. 26. Call 414-278-0765 or visit [www.nextact.org](http://www.nextact.org).

Four Guyz in Dinner Jackets launch their retro-rocket into the stratosphere with their salute to '50s and '60s music in **"Always in Style"** through Feb. 26 at Sunset Playhouse, 800 Elm Grove Road in Elm Grove. Call 262-782-4430.

**Foxy Veronica's Peach Pies Caburlesque Show** begins at 10:30 p.m. at Club 5 Bar, 5 Applegate Court in Madison. Call 608-277-9700.

## FEB. 24, FRIDAY

South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center, 901 15th in South Milwaukee, presents its fifth annual Mystery Dinner Theatre Fundraiser **"And the Killer Is..."** tonight through Feb. 26. The event features a three-course meal by Skyline Catering. Call 414-766-5049 or go to [www.southmilwaukee.org](http://www.southmilwaukee.org).

**Tennis** makes some racket at High Noon Saloon, 701A E. Washington in Madison, at 8 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

Harper Lee's **"To Kill a Mockingbird,"** adapted for the stage by Christopher Sergel and directed by Aaron Posner, runs through March 11 in the Quadracci Powerhouse, at Milwaukee Repertory Theater, 108 E. Wells. Call 414-224-9490.

## FEB. 25, SATURDAY

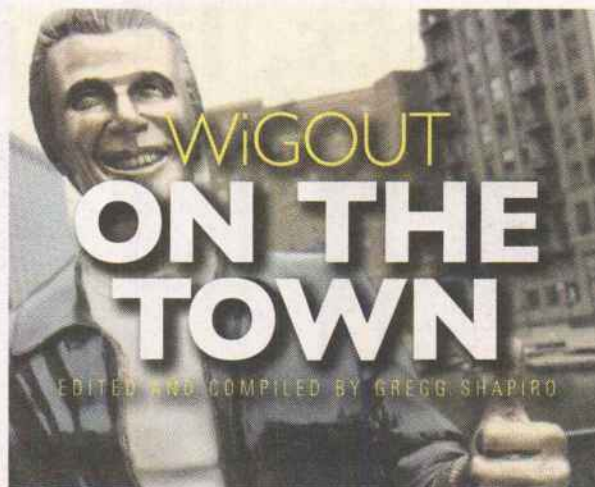
Humphrey Scottish Rite Masonic Center, 790 N. Van Buren, presents **"An Evening with John McGivern"** at 7:30 p.m. Call 414-276-4744.

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre presents **"A Thousand Words"** through March 11 in the Studio Theatre at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Jean's Jazz Series at The Racine Theatre Guild, 2519 Northwestern (Highway 38) in Racine, continues its international theme with **Los Perros Cubanos** headlining and pianist **Tim Clausen** opening at 7 p.m. Call 262-633-4218.

Yolanda Marculescu Vocal Arts Series presents **"An Evening in the Harlem Renaissance"** with soprano Adrienne Danrich, featuring songs by Drew Hemenger, William Grant Still, Margaret Bonds, Jerome Kern, Harold Arlen, George Gershwin and others. The concert starts at 7:30 p.m. in the UWM Recital Hall, 2400 E. Kenwood Blvd. Call 414-229-4308.

**"The All-New Original Tribute to the Blues Brothers" on March 8**



## FEB. 27, MONDAY

Milwaukee Chamber Theatre and Skylight Music Theatre present a staged reading of the new musical **"The Tavern Keeper's Daughter,"** with book, music and lyrics by Muskego native Brett Ryback, at 7:30 p.m. in the Cabot Theatre at the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.



## FEB. 28, TUESDAY

**"Mary Poppins"** runs through March 4 at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.

## FEB. 29, WEDNESDAY

Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer, welcomes **Eleanor Henderson**, author of the gay-themed novel "Ten Thousand Saints" at 7 p.m. Call 414-332-1181.

Traditional Irish song and dance is on tap with **"Celtic Nights: A Journey of Hope"** at 7:30 p.m. in Overture Hall at the Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State in Madison. Call 608-258-4141.

## MARCH 1, THURSDAY

Youngblood Theatre's production of **"The Flu Season"** by Will Eno runs through March 17 at Northwest Quadrant Building A, formerly known as Columbia St. Mary's, 3211 N. Maryland. For more info, visit [YoungbloodTheatre.com](http://YoungbloodTheatre.com).

Milwaukee Theatre, 500 W. Kilbourn, presents **"Rain - A Tribute to The Beatles"** at 7:30 p.m. Call 414-566-1375.

## MARCH 2, FRIDAY

Catering to the after-work lesbian crowd who "still love to party but don't want to wait until 10 to get started," **Ladies Night Out** runs 5-11 p.m. at Hot Water Night Club, 818 S. Water. Call 414-383-7593.

**"The Official Blues Brothers Revue,"** starring Wayne Catania as Jake and Kieron Lafferty as Elwood, runs through March 4 in Vogel Hall at Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.

The Racine Theatre Guild, 2519 Northwestern (Highway 38) in Racine, presents **"The Curious Savage"** by John Patrick, through March 18. Call 262-633-4218.



Michael Feinstein

## MARCH 3, SATURDAY

The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin, presents **Michael Feinstein: The Sinatra Project** at 6:30 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

**"Present Music - Around 30"** features 30 of the brightest, most inventive young composers, musicians, dancers, designers, videographers, and visual artists from Milwaukee and around the country, at 6:30 p.m. at Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth. Call 414-286-3663.

## MARCH 4, SUNDAY

Richard Hynson's composition **"Evensong"** serves as the cornerstone for an afternoon of choral music featuring Bel Canto Chorus and Bel Canto Boy Choirs, starting at 3 p.m. at St. Joseph Center Chapel, 1501 S. Layton.

## MARCH 6, TUESDAY

**Tony Bennett** is at Marcus Center for the Performing Arts' Uihlein Hall at 7:30 p.m. Call 414-273-2787.

The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin, welcomes **"Legends of Russian Ballet,"** tonight and tomorrow night at 7 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

## MARCH 8, THURSDAY

Milwaukee Theatre, 500 W. Kilbourn, presents **"The All-New Original Tribute to the Blues Brothers,"** at 7:30 p.m. Call 414-566-1375.

**Lyle Lovett & John Hiatt** play The Pabst, 144 E. Wells, at 7 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.



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