

40 YEARS AFTER ROE V. WADE

Abortion remains the nation's most divisive social issue, but choice activists are working to counter common misconceptions.

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THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

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Obama inauguration emphasizes the strength of nation's diversity



PHOTO: PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/AP

President Barack Obama, left, and Vice President Joe Biden listen as poet Richard Blanco delivers the inaugural poem on the west front of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 21. Blanco, a gay Cuban-American, is the first out poet ever to deliver the poem in a tradition that was begun by President John F. Kennedy, who tapped poet Robert Frost for the job.

On the front Voces de la Frontera marches on

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

The marches take activists across bridges, down streets, through parks, along the lakefront, around the Capitol, into the halls of government.

Always the goal for the activists with Wisconsin-based Voces de la Frontera is to pave a path to citizenship – for young dreamers and also for the adults in their families.

“Our huge priority this year is to fight for federal immigration reform, **VOCES** page 10

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Barack Obama, grayer and wiser than on his Inauguration Day four years ago, began his second term calling for “we, the people” to be guided by the star that led Americans from Seneca Falls to Selma to Stonewall.

In the inaugural address he delivered on Jan. 21 on the west steps of the U.S. Capitol, the president began with a quote from the Declaration of Independence: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

We, the people, he said, are on “a never-ending journey to bridge the meaning of those words with

the realities of our time.”

The quest for equality, the president continued, “guided ... all those men and women, sung and unsung, who left footprints along this great Mall, to hear a preacher say that we cannot walk alone; to hear a King proclaim that our individual freedom is inextricably bound to the freedom of every soul on Earth.”

Now, Obama said, comes the “task to carry on what those pioneers began. For our journey is not complete until our wives, our mothers and daughters can earn a living equal to their efforts. Our journey is not complete until our gay brothers and sisters are treated like anyone else under the law – for if we are truly created equal, then surely the love we commit to one another must be equal as well.”

And the journey, the president continued, is not complete “until no citizen is forced to wait for hours to exercise the right to vote. Our journey is not complete until we find a better way to welcome the striving, hopeful immigrants who still see America as a land of opportunity – until bright young students and engineers are enlisted in our workforce rather than expelled from our country. Our journey is not complete until all our children, from the streets of Detroit to the hills of Appalachia, to the quiet lanes of Newtown, know that they are cared for and cherished and always safe from harm.”

Responding to the president's words on Twitter, gay American Nate Green, 21, tweeted, “Way to go, bro,” from the inaugural cel-

ebration on the National Mall.

Another gay American on the Mall, 67-year-old Veronica Toress, cried as the president spoke. “I never thought I'd hear those words in an inaugural speech. Never. I didn't think the day would come,” she said.

Toress cried again when inaugural poet Richard Blanco, the gay son of Cuban exiles who eventually settled in Miami, recited “One Today.”

Blanco, the first openly gay and first Latino inaugural poet, as well as the youngest to hold the honor, began his poem, “One sun rose on us today, kindled over our shores, peeking over the Smokies, greeting the faces of the Great Lakes, spreading a simple truth/across the Great Plains, then charging across

BLANCO page 6

News with a twist



WIGWAG

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg



PHOTO: COURTESY

Robin Williams as Mrs. Doubtfire.

DOUBTS ABOUT TRANS DEPICTION

Fox News became the focus of another protest petition after Fox Nation illustrated a news story about health care coverage for transgender citizens with a photograph of Robin Williams as Mrs. Doubtfire in the movie of that name. Basic Rights Oregon circulated the petition, calling on Fox News to "stop

misrepresenting gay and transgender people with sensational and dehumanizing coverage." BRO was instrumental in encouraging the insurance division of the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services to announce that insurance companies doing business in Oregon must end discriminatory exclusions of medically necessary healthcare for transgender Oregonians.

POPULAR VOTE

A Public Policy Polling survey found that Congress has a 9 percent favorability rating and, on a popularity scale, Congress rates below cockroaches, carnies, Genghis Khan, Donald Trump, traffic jams, political pundits, France and Nickelback but above Lindsey Lohan, playground bullies, the Kardashians, Fidel Castro and John Edwards. Lots of room for improvement over the next two years.

TOP PASTOR

A Detroit pastor wants YouTube to remove a video of him lying on top of new bishops as part of their consecration ceremony. Bishop Wayne T. Jackson told The Detroit News that insults left on his Facebook page in response to the video have "been a main attack on homosexuals." The video, taken in August at Jackson's Impact Ministries International, shows

Rising cost of hate

House Republicans secretly renegotiated their contract with attorney Paul Clement to defend the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act at the U.S. Supreme Court. This is the third-time that budget hawk Republicans have upped the legal contract — the cap was originally set at \$500,000.

him praying while lying atop new bishops who are on the floor, clothed and covered in white clothes.

STRIPPING IN THE SQUARE

The same day that hundreds of thousands of anti-gay marriage demonstrators marched in Paris, four women staged a small but highly visible protest for marriage equality in St. Peter's Square. The women went topless to protest the Vatican's opposition to gay marriage as the pope delivered a prayer from his studio window overlooking the square. News reports said he "appeared not to have been disturbed."

YOU COULD RUN YOUR CAR ON IT

A federal government agency did more than wrinkle its nose at an employee's flatulence problem, issuing an official reprimand after months of malodorous

emissions. The reprimand letter, which runs four pages and is dated Dec. 10, charges the Social Security Administration employee with "conduct unbecoming a federal employee" and "creating a hostile work environment" because of repeated gas passing. The letter contains a chart documenting 60 instances of flatulence, nine on one day in September. The employee blamed lactose intolerance.

THE VOTE MADE HIM DO IT

A Maryland lawmaker charged with operating a boat under the influence of alcohol says he began drinking heavily after long-time colleagues betrayed him by voting for same-sex marriage. Delegate Don Dwyer, a Republican from Anne Arundel, said he spent years working against the issue. He also said it contributed to his divorce. Voters affirmed marriage

equality in the state in November, leading to the first same-sex weddings in Maryland on Jan. 1.

THE FLYING PRIEST

A former Catholic priest busted for selling crystal meth sometimes appeared at his Connecticut church in drag and was fond of sex in the rectory, according to a published report. Kevin Wallin, 61, nicknamed "monsignor meth," resigned as spiritual leader of St. Augustine's Parish in Bridgeport in 2011, but continued to receive a stipend from the diocese until his Jan. 3 arrest on drug charges. Speculation is that he might have been laundering his drug profits at a Westbury porn store he owned called the Land of Oz. His arrest reportedly shocked his former flock, who remembered him as an affable man who loved Broadway musicals.



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Fetal attraction Forty years after Roe, abortion is still nation's hottest social issue

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

By today's politically polarized standards, the Supreme Court's history-changing Roe v. Wade ruling was a landslide. Voting 7-2 on Jan. 22, 1973, the justices established a woman's right to control her own reproductive system.

Forty years and roughly 55 million abortions later, however, the ruling's legacy is the opposite of consensus. While there's been a strong trend of increasing support in recent years for same-sex marriage — support that encompasses nearly all major demographic groups — choice remains the most intractably divisive social issue in America.

A new Pew Research Center poll found that 63 percent of U.S. adults oppose overturning Roe, compared to 60 percent in 1992. In the latest Gallup poll on the issue, 52 percent of Americans said abortion should be legal under certain circumstances, 25 percent want it legal in all cases and 20 percent want to outlaw it period. That's roughly the same breakdown as in the 1970s.

"Unlike a lot of other issues in the culture wars, this is the one in which both sides really regard themselves as civil rights activists, trying to expand the frontiers of human freedom," said Jon Shields, a professor of government at California's Claremont McKenna College. "That's a recipe for permanent conflict."

Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin conducted polling in September 2012 that found 30 percent of voters in the state want abortion banned, said PPWI public policy director Nicole Safar. But, she added, representatives of that 30 percent "just happen to be in leadership" in Madison right now.

As a result, Wisconsin — along with a number of other states where tea party radicals took control of government in 2010 — has seen an onslaught of legislation designed to make abortion, as well as all women's reproductive health services, much more difficult to access. Just months after taking the reins of state government in 2011, the GOP eliminated all state funding for PPWI, which primarily provides such women's health services as cancer and STD screenings. Abortions account for less than 2 percent of the group's health care services, but even that was enough to prompt Republican tea party leaders to imperil the general health of tens of thousands of poor

women for whom PPWI is their primary care provider.

Those same leaders in Madison also repealed the Healthy Youth Act, which assured access to factual reproductive information in public schools. And they tried to enact a so-called "personhood amendment," which, in addition to giving a fertilized egg the same rights as a person, would have made some forms of birth control punishable by law.

A version of the personhood amendment proved too radical even for the Bible Belt, where voters in Mississippi rejected such a law. But even that response failed to deter the concept. U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., is currently promoting a personhood law at the federal level.

NORMALIZED EXTREMISM

Extremism is the new normal on reproductive issues in GOP politics, according to pro-choice advocates. Mainstream Republicans would like to ditch the issues altogether following the roles they played in defeating Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney and in contributing to Democratic gains in the U.S. Senate, political observers say. But the obsession of a small but shrill minority of anti-abortion activists makes the issue impossible for them to ignore.

Political observers said state Sen. Alberta Darling is a prime example of the forced migration toward extremism among Wisconsin Republicans. A resident of River Hills, an upscale enclave of north of Milwaukee, Darling served on PPWI's board of directors for 11 years. But as her party's leadership veered sharply right, she was dragged along.

Times have changed dramatically for Republicans like Darling. She can no longer remain in office simply by schmoozing about facelifts with her rich backers' wives at the country club. To avoid being forced to run against a well-financed born-again challenger, Darling had to be born-again herself — as a virulent anti-choice activist. She's had to rewrite her history Soviet-style.

Safar said a few Republicans have simply resigned their seats in recent years rather than suffer the humiliation of publicly drinking the far-right's Kool-Aid the way that Darling has. Safar said that's why, despite polling that shows broad support for choice, she expects to see more efforts to whittle away at



PHOTO: WIG

Anti-choice protesters on Jan. 18 at Planned Parenthood's Milwaukee-Jackson Health Center, 302 N. Jackson St. The images used are purposely misleading, say choice advocates. More than 62 percent of abortions in the United States are performed when embryos are fewer than eight weeks' old and slightly over half an inch in size.

Roe v. Wade in the state's current Assembly session.

With the GOP firmly in control of all facets of state government, including the Supreme Court, it's likely that some restrictive measures will become law this session. Although they will fall short of banning abortion outright, they will continue the anti-choice movement's efforts to make abortion "humiliating and onerous," Safar said. "They're just designed to make women feel bad."

Dr. Douglas Laube of Madison, who began performing abortions as part of his practice a year after the Roe decision, is worried by the spread of anti-abortion state laws, but encouraged by the surge of women becoming obstetrician-gynecologists in the state — a trend he hopes will ease the shortage of abortion providers.

"I see the movement toward the religious right being countered by a growing movement among practitioners and advocates for maintaining this as legal," he said. "That means the controversy will continue. But it also means we will hold our ground."

Even though the immediate

future looks bleak for pro-choice activists in states such as Wisconsin, the prospects at the federal level received a big boost with the re-election of Barack Obama over anti-abortion Republican Mitt Romney.

The Supreme Court's justices are believed to divide 5-4 in favor of a broad right to abortion. Romney, if elected, might have been able to appoint conservative justices who could help overturn Roe v. Wade, but Obama's victory makes that unlikely at least for the next four years.

Pro-choice groups also were heartened by the backlash to extremist anti-abortion initiatives and rhetoric that was suffered by Republicans last November.

In Missouri and Indiana, Republican candidates for the U.S. Senate lost races that their party initially expected to win after making widely criticized comments regarding abortion rights for impregnated rape victims. In Virginia, protests combined with mockery on late-night TV shows prompted GOP politicians to scale back a bill that would have required women seeking abortions to undergo a trans-

vaginal ultrasound.

"All these things got Americans angry and got them to realize just how extreme the other side is," said Jennifer Dalven, director of the American Civil Liberties Union's Reproductive Freedom Project.

"This issue will remain very divisive," she said. "But I do see this as a sea-change moment. The American public wants abortion to remain safe, legal and accessible."

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

CELEBRATE CHOICE

"Our Lives. Our Stories. Our Celebration," an event organized by Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin to mark the 40th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, takes place at 6 p.m. on Jan. 27 at Madison's Majestic Theater, 115 King St. Journalist Ruth Conniiff, political editor of the Progressive magazine, is emcee of the event. Tickets are \$15. Round-trip bus rides are available from Milwaukee for \$35.

Abortion – the untold stories

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

During morning rush hour, the scene near Affiliated Medical Services, a Milwaukee abortion clinic at 1428 N. Farwell Ave., would stop traffic – if it weren't so commonplace. In the shadow of a Clear Channel-owned billboard featuring a pro-life message, raging anti-abortion activists spill into the street, thrusting signs with pictures of mangled fetuses in the windshields of passersby.

"Abortion is murder," they scream.

After rush hour, the crowd generally disperses, leaving only a massive and grim-faced fellow with linebacker shoulders. On a recent visit to the site, his stature was accentuated by two tiny, older women – Planned Parenthood volunteers – who stood sheltered from the cold in a nearby doorway.

Just a few feet away from the hulking protester's car was parked on the street – a junker littered with trash. A dirty pink baby blanket covered part of the back seat.

The two women are "escorts," they explained. They accompany patients into the clinic and back to their cars in an attempt to

shield them from demonstrators. I watched as one of the shivering women walked a patient from the clinic to her car, the protester following a few feet behind them.

"What's your name?" I asked him. "Why do you do this?"

"Would you like to share your point of view?" I prodded.

My questions were met with stony silence and withering stares. The protester produced a camera and asked my name in a rumbling sotto voce. I gave it to him and smiled. He snapped my picture. One of the escorts shook her head, signaling that I'd just made a grave mistake.

About halfway through the encounter, a homeless man appeared and asked everyone for change. I declined politely. The protester gave a brusque dismissal that elicited an angry response.

I wanted to ask the man why he was so committed to helping embryos but so dismissive toward a person in peril. But I said nothing. By now, I was intimidated, too.

SHARING STORIES

For all the love they have for zygotes, embryos and fetuses, radical pro-lifers have

little affection for people. A small percentage of extremists occasionally bomb abortion clinics and gun down their doctors and support staff. From 1998 to 2009, the National Abortion Federation recorded more than 50 arsons, bombings, shootings, stabbings and other attacks on abortion providers.

Perhaps the best-known incident occurred in May 2009, when Dr. George Tiller was shot to death by a pro-life activist while attending a service at his church in Wichita, Kan. Tiller was one of the only physicians in the country willing to provide late-term abortions.

While pro-life activists focus on these procedures as if they're undertaken frequently and willy-nilly, they are extremely rare (slightly over 1 percent of all abortions) and medically necessary. They all involve tragic, heart-breaking stories.

A few years ago, I caught up with a childhood friend on Facebook, and we met for lunch in a Southern city where she's made her home since graduating from college. As we filled each other in on the events of the past three decades, she began to cry.

Some years ago, she said,

she'd had one of those rare pregnancies in which the fetus was badly deformed and destined to die prior to birth or shortly thereafter. The pregnancy also endangered her health.

Normally outgoing, my friend said she became pathologically depressed and withdrawn. She, her husband and her physician finally decided to end the pregnancy before it went any further.

But because the pregnancy was advanced, no one in her area would help her. Then she found Tiller.

"He saved my life," she tearfully told me. "And they killed him."

My friend and her husband went on to become supporters of Tiller's work and personal friends. They also went on to have healthy children.

Stories like my friend's will be featured at the event "Our Lives. Our Stories. Our Celebration," organized by Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin to mark the 40th anniversary of Roe v. Wade on Jan. 27 at Madison's Majestic Theater.

"The centerpiece of the event is storytelling," said Linda Neff, vice president of development for PPWI. The goal is to present the



PHOTO: WIG

An unidentified woman, left, and a volunteer escort, center, are trailed by a pro-life protester on the street near Affiliated Medical Services.

compelling stories of women who have gratitude for the availability of safe abortions.

"Six people will share their stories, and the stories are just humbling and powerful and so incredibly brave," Neff said. "It is an event where everyday people are going to be sharing their stories about how they needed to access this essential health service ... and what it means when women are demonized and

not allowed to access reproductive healthcare.

"If you don't walk out of there feeling that we need to continue to be vigilant at the most basic level for the access to this most essential healthcare, there's something wrong with you. I think all of us, at the end of the event, are going to say, 'I wish I had invited so-and-so – they really needed to have heard this.'"

Wisconsin must unite around reproductive health care

By Tanya Atkinson

Special to WIG

As we enter 2013, we continue to face the stark reality that too many people are dying or facing a life-threatening disease due to lack of access to health care. The new year provides a new opportunity for all of us to work together, despite partisanship, to address essential health care needs.

Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin's number one priority is to continue to meet our communities' needs for essential and life-saving health care. Each year, Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin serves nearly 80,000 patients with a wide range of preventative health services, including life-saving breast and cervical cancer screenings, birth control, testing and treatment for STDs and sexual health education.

Despite these efforts, nearly 60 percent of Wisconsin women in need of publicly supported reproductive and sexual health services – more than 165,000 people – go without this care.

Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin is the largest non-profit reproductive and sexual health care provider in the state. We work every day to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies and to keep women and men safe, healthy and strong through early cancer detection and testing and treatment of STDs.

According to the Guttmacher Institute, Planned Parenthood and the other community-based health providers in Wisconsin helped avert 24,300 unintended pregnancies in 2008, which would likely have resulted in 10,800 births and 10,100 abortions.

Averting these unintended pregnancies in Wisconsin helped save the federal and state governments \$94.3 million in Medicaid costs for pregnancy-related and newborn care in 2008.

Improving access to reproductive health care also means enhanced access to the early detection and treatment of breast and cervical cancer. Breast and cervical cancer are two of the most common forms of cancer among women in the United States.

Early detection is key to successful treatment. In 2011, Planned Parenthood played a critical role in the early detection and screening of breast and cervical cancer by conducting 9,040 cancer screenings.

The socioeconomic barriers faced by many women of color; however, leave them

without access to early cancer detection screenings. Consequently, cervical cancer impacts women of color at a rate two times higher than white women, and African-American women die from breast cancer at a much higher rate than white women.

If we are committed to addressing this significant gap in care, investments in early cancer detection and treatment programs will be key to saving the lives of all Wisconsin women.

In 2011, Planned Parenthood provided more than 73,515 STD and HIV tests. While HIV rates have remained stable over the past decade, African-American and Hispanic men and women are infected at a rate 5-25 times greater than whites. Today, one in three African-American men

who have sex with men ages 15-59 are estimated to be HIV-positive – a rate 500 times higher than the general public in Wisconsin.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and estimates that 21 percent of people living with HIV are unaware of their HIV status. We must get serious about addressing this and saving lives by enhancing access to HIV prevention information, testing and care.

Providing essential health care services to people should not be a partisan issue. Whether you are a Democrat or a Republican, we can all agree that ensuring women and men have access to health care is an important priority. Yet, each legislative session we are faced with dozens of politically motivated policies that impose barriers to access.

It appears the 2013 ses-

sion will follow this pattern. Despite an election where voters spoke loud and clear that they don't want politicians meddling in personal medical decisions, our legislative leaders have not indicated any intention of changing their ways. Special interest groups focused on ending women's access to all reproductive care have already previewed their wish list – policies restricting women's access to everything from birth control to fertility services to abortion.

There is still time to choose a new direction. We must work together. We call on our elected leaders to set aside politics and join with us in addressing the health of the state of Wisconsin.

Tanya Atkinson is vice president for public affairs and education for Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin.

Opposition to Obama Cabinet nominee softens

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Barack Obama's selection of Chuck Hagel for defense secretary prompted some foot stomping in Republican and Democratic circles, but opposition has softened, at least among Democrats, with a series of promises and apologies from the nominee.

Meanwhile, the president has had to deflect concern that the cabinet for his second term may be less diverse than his first-term cabinet. Responding to critics and questions, Obama said at a news conference in January, "I would just suggest that everybody kind of wait until they've seen all my appointments, who's in the White House staff and who's in my Cabinet before they rush to judgment."

He pointed to his past appointments and said, "I think people should expect that that record will be built upon during the next four years."

The president has nomi-

nated Hagel to succeed Leon Panetta at the Pentagon, U.S. Sen. John Kerry to succeed Hillary Rodham Clinton as secretary of state and Jack Lew to succeed Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner. Obama has yet to announce nominees to succeed Interior Secretary Ken Salazar and Labor Secretary Hilda L. Solis, a strong voice for LGBT workers.

Announcing the Kerry nomination, the president said, "Over these many years, John has earned the respect and confidence of leaders around the world. He is not going to need a lot of on-the-job training. He has earned the respect and trust of his Senate colleagues, Democrats and Republicans. I think it's fair to say that few individuals know as many presidents and prime ministers, or grasp our foreign policies as firmly as John Kerry. And this makes him a perfect choice to guide American diplomacy in the years ahead."

Kerry seems a popular

choice among his colleagues to replace the widely popular Clinton.

He also has a lot of support outside the Capitol.

At the Human Rights Campaign, president Chad Griffin said, "Sen. Kerry has been a trailblazer in the fight for LGBT equality, both domestically and internationally. His leadership in repealing the HIV travel ban, as well as his steadfast support for employment non-discrimination protections and addressing the needs of LGBT homeless youth demonstrate his dedication to equality and to the rights of LGBT people worldwide."

"The State Department's unwavering commitment to LGBT people around the world under the leadership of Secretary Clinton has been exemplary. We look forward to even more progress, including growth of the Global Equality Fund and continued support for the human rights of LGBT people, as Sen. Kerry takes the helm."

Kerry has consistently scored 100 percent with HRC, the nation's largest LGBT civil rights group. He also ran for president in 2004 with substantial support from the LGBT community. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force called the John Kerry-John Edwards ticket the "most gay-supportive in American history."

As for Hagel, opposition remains among conservative senators concerned about his views on Israel and Iran.

But the nomination has gained support among Democrats, including Charles Schumer of New York and Barbara Boxer of California, the Senate's most prominent Jewish members.

Hagel once referred to Israel supporters in the United States as the "Jewish lobby."


Schumer said he met with the nominee for 90 minutes and believes Hagel understands the sensitivity of "such

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AP PHOTO/CAROLYN KASTER

President Barack Obama, left, and former Nebraska Sen. Chuck Hagel walk past each other during a news conference in the East Room of the White House on Jan. 7, 2013. The president nominated Hagel as the new defense secretary that day. He also announced that he was nominating Deputy National Security Adviser for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism John Brennan as the new director of the CIA.




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the Rockies./One light, waking up rooftops, under each one, a story/told by our silent gestures moving behind windows."

After the Capitol ceremony and a luncheon, dozens of groups, including the national Lesbian and Gay Band Association, joined in the inaugural parade, a tradition that began with the local militias that accompanied George Washington from his Virginia home to New York, where his inauguration was held in 1789.

Later, there was the inaugural ball, which former Air Force Sgt. David Hall, discharged under "don't ask, don't tell," attended. Hall served as one of eight citizen co-chairs of the inauguration. He also attended the swearing-in ceremony, rode in the parade and helped with the Day of Service events on Jan. 19.

"This is certainly the honor of a lifetime," said Hall, who works for Outserve-SLDN, an LGBT civil rights group focused on equality in

the military.

Absent from the celebration was the Atlanta pastor who the inaugural committee had invited to deliver the benediction at the swearing-in. The Rev. Louie Giglio withdrew from the program as controversy brewed over his selection. Giglio, in the 1990s, delivered at least one sermon in which he said, the "only way out of a homosexual lifestyle ... is through the healing power of Jesus," and, "We've got to say to the homosexuals, the same thing that I say to you and that you would say to me ... it's not easy to change, but it is possible to change."

Protests prompted his pullout. The inaugural committee announced that organizers were unaware of "Pastor Giglio's past comments at the time of his selection and they don't reflect our desire to celebrate the strength and diversity of our country at this inaugural."

Instead, the Rev. Luis Leon, an Episcopal priest at the "church of the presidents"

and a native of Cuba, gave the benediction. He prayed, "With the blessing of your blessing we will see that we are created in your image, whether brown, black or white, male or female, first generation or immigrant American, or daughter of the American Revolution, gay or straight, rich or poor."

The swearing-in ceremonies began at about 11:30 a.m. with the U.S. Marine Band, performances by the chorus at PS 22 from Staten Island, N.Y., and the Lee University Festival Choir from Cleveland, Tenn.; welcoming remarks by U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y.; the invocation by civil rights leader Myrlie Evers-Williams; music by the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir; Vice President Joe Biden taking his oath; music by James Taylor; Obama taking his oath; the inaugural address; music by Kelly Clarkson, the poem by Blanco; the benediction by Leon and the national anthem sung by Beyoncé.

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a loaded term and regrets saying it," according to The AP.

"I know some will question whether Sen. Hagel's assurances are merely attempts to quiet critics as he seeks confirmation to this critical post. But I don't think so," Schumer said. "Sen. Hagel realizes the situation in the Middle East has changed, with Israel in a dramatically more endangered position than it was even five years ago. His views are genuine, and reflect this new reality."

And concerns about Hagel's anti-gay record as a senator seem to have been alleviated, except among the leadership at Log Cabin Republicans, a GOP gay group.

Hagel, as a senator from Nebraska in the 1990s, earned a zero rating from HRC. And when Bill Clinton nominated philanthropist James Hormel as the nation's first openly gay ambassador, Hagel opposed the candidate because he was "openly, aggressively gay." Eventually Hormel served as ambassador to Luxembourg, taking the oath in June 1999 after Clinton made a recess appointment.

Hagel recently apologized for his remark: "My comments 14 years ago in 1998 were insensitive. They do not reflect my views or the totality of my public record, and I apologize to Ambassador Hormel and any LGBT Americans who may question my commitment to their civil rights. I am fully supportive of 'open service' and committed to LGBT military families."

Some LGBT civil rights

advocates welcomed the apology and indicated they wouldn't oppose the nomination.

But with questions remaining and a public hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee coming soon, Hagel issued another statement in mid-January, saying he also supported the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell," as well as the extension of equal benefits to gay servicemembers and their families.

The Vietnam veteran, in a letter to Boxer, said, "I know firsthand the profound sac-

rifice our service members and their families make, and if confirmed as Secretary of Defense, I will do everything possible to the extent permissible under current law to provide equal benefits to the families of all our service members."

LCR, however, continues to oppose Hagel.

In a full-page ad in The New York Times paid for by unnamed donors, LCR said, "Chuck Hagel: Bad on Gay Rights. Bad on Iran. Bad on Israel. Tell President Obama that Chuck Hagel is wrong for Defense Secretary."

OBAMA COUNTERS RYAN IN SPEECH

President Barack Obama, in his inaugural address, challenged the rhetoric of Wisconsin Congressman Paul Ryan and other conservatives, saying America is "not a nation of takers."

"The commitments we make to each other through Medicare and Medicaid and Social Security, these things do not sap our initiative, they strengthen us," Obama said. "They do not make us a nation of takers; they free us to take the risks that make this country great."

Ryan, Mitt Romney's running mate in 2012, has said such programs lull citizens into "dependency and complacency" and encourage a nation of "takers."

In a news release on Inauguration Day, the congressman congratulated Obama: "The president and I were political opponents. We had strong disagreements over the direction of the country – we still do now. But today, we put those disagreements aside.

"We serve the same country, one that is still in need of repair – and is still the freest on Earth. We serve alongside men and women from both parties, who govern in good faith and good will. Finally, we serve the same people, who have honored us with their charge. We may disagree on matters of policy. But today we remember why we take those matters so seriously – because we seek the public good. It's our highest duty – one that we share – and one for which we're grateful."

Milwaukee Congresswoman Gwen Moore, D, also marked the occasion: "As we look ahead to four more years of progress, we must also commemorate a peaceful man whose life ended early from gun violence. On this Martin Luther King Jr. Day, let us remember the legacy of the man who spread a message of peace and justice and challenged America to fulfill the true promise of Democracy."
– LN.

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{ Editorial }

Deficit gone, state's economy unchanged

Gov. Scott Walker and his tea party acolytes are breathlessly touting the possibility of a \$342-million budget surplus, but what does it mean?

When Walker took office two years ago, the state faced a severe projected budget deficit. Republicans had voters quaking in their UGGs with warnings that Wisconsin was bankrupt and financially imploding.

But as everyone with a credit card knows, having a deficit is not the same thing as being bankrupt and indigent. The state had not defaulted on its bills. It had – and has – strong revenue sources and enormous assets. For example, the Wisconsin Retirement System pension fund made a \$10.5-billion profit in 2009.

Still, the tea party proceeded to destroy unions, slash health and education funding, kill promising infrastructure projects and eliminate thousands of good government jobs – all in the name of defeating the budget deficit.

Well, now the mission has been accomplished. The bogeyman is dead. So we should be sitting on top of the world – right?

Not hardly.

Wisconsin ranks 42nd in the nation in terms of job creation. In December, Forbes branded the state one of the nation's worst places to do business and projected that job growth here would be the second worst in the country through 2016.

Wisconsin ranks 39th in terms of labor supply – a hindrance to growth that will only worsen due to budget hits taken by public education and backward social engineering that drives young people to move elsewhere. The state ranks 35th in business costs, a problem that Republicans haven't even tried to address.

The lion's share of new jobs are created by small businesses. Their major costs are health care and worker productivity. But Republicans have done nothing to assist small businesses in either area.

In fact, the GOP actively opposes the Affordable Health Act and has trimmed Badger-Care, both of which can help small start-ups that can't afford to pay for employee health care. Wisconsin Workforce Development invariably sides with employees, which makes hiring for small ventures almost impossibly risky. There's been no effort to address that problem.

Meanwhile, in an attempt to recoup some of the state funding they've lost under Walker, local governments sock it to small businesses using any bizarre revenue schemes they can devise.

Reforming the climate for small businesses in the state isn't even on the table. The GOP has focused solely on policies to bolster the bottom lines of mega-corporations, which don't even pay taxes, while small business are taxed through the roof and strangled with red tape.

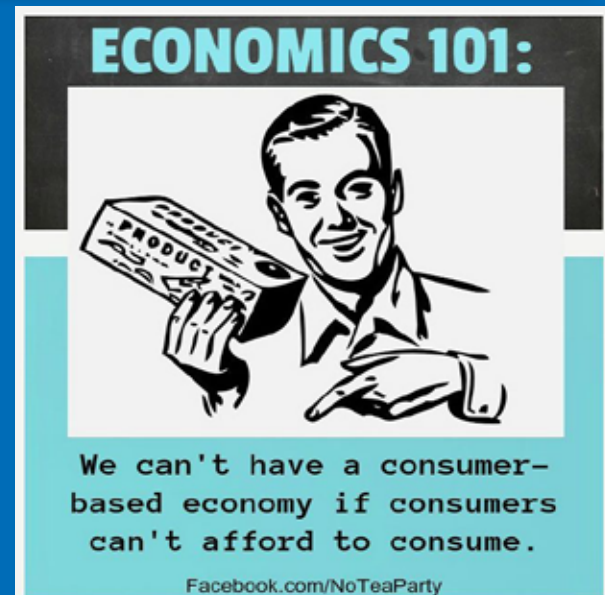
Walker says he plans to use the budget surplus to give tax breaks – undoubtedly to the rich – in order to stimulate job growth. Unfortunately, that's never worked.

Under the higher tax rates the wealthy paid during the Clinton presidency, jobs were created at a rate of 230,000 per month. After the Bush-era tax cuts, job growth fell to a meager 10,000 a month until the employment rate sputtered in 2006 and then nosedived.

The GOP's touted budget surplus is just an empty figure for a misleading campaign billboard. It does nothing to make Wisconsin "open for business," and Walker's disastrous jobs record proves it.

WiG's WEB PICKS

Some of our favorite recent pictorials from cyberspace



Why does Facebook even give me the option to 'Like' my own status? Of course I like my status, I'm fucking hilarious. And sexy.



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ON THE RECORD



"If you had to fight for a life that felt real and honest and normal against all odds, then maybe you, too, would value privacy above all else."

— JODIE FOSTER sort of coming out again at the Golden Globes.

"I believe that Gun Appreciation Day honors the legacy of Dr. King. The truth is, I think Martin Luther King would agree with me if he were alive today that if African-Americans had been given the right to keep and bear arms from day one of the country's founding, perhaps slavery might not have been a chapter in our history. And I believe wholeheartedly that's essential to liberty."

— LARRY WARD, chairman of Gun Appreciation Day, attempting to redefine the message of one of the 20th century's most admired anti-violence activists.

"Homosexuality is not a super sin. It's one of many, including adultery — other things — lying, cheating, gossiping; it's right there in the list. So often I think in the Christian community, because of the political nature of it today, that we tend to raise it up as something worse than all the others."

— JIM DALEY, president of the anti-gay group Focus on the Family, urging his fellow fundamentalists to keep the "sin" of homosexuality in perspective.

"I am not engaged. I don't want to get married until all gay people can get married!"

— Golden Globe winner LENA DUNHAM of TV's "Girls" answering questions from reporters backstage after the awards ceremony.

"Whenever I say a kind word about gays, I hear from people, and some of them are damn mad. People throw Leviticus, Deuteronomy and other parts of the Bible to me. It doesn't bother me. I've always been compassionate toward gay people."

— PAULINE PHILLIPS, better known as the advice columnist "Dear Abby," expressing her support for the LGBT community in a 1998 interview. She died on Jan. 16 at age 94 after suffering from Alzheimer's disease for many years.

"The papers used to say I had a gay face, whatever that is, or a gay voice but it simply wasn't true... (But) when you know a gay guy has a crush on you, it's the most flattering thing."

— Actor DANIEL RADCLIFFE telling the U.K.'s Daily Express that he was amused by all the public speculation that he's gay, which he dismisses.

"It's a good time to lay low."

— JOHN FEEHERY, a former top congressional aide, telling the Associated Press that many Republicans were leaving Washington, D.C., or going into hibernation during Barack Obama's inauguration weekend.



Opinion

JAMAKAYA

Cardinal Francis George told the Chicago Tribune that "two men or two women cannot consummate a marriage. It's a physical impossibility." After that statement, I was hoping for an appropriate response from the queer community.

I'd love to have seen a gay or lesbian couple getting down and dirty before the altar of whatever cathedral the cardinal calls home. I prefer the idea of collective action, so how about a mass demonstration of same sex copulation to bring on the headlines and howls of outrage?

Vanessa Redgrave, playing free-spirited dance pioneer Isadora Duncan in the 1968 biopic "Isadora," shouts at a disapproving audience: "We were wild once! Don't let them tame you!"

On the way to achieving legal equality and respect

We were wild once

for our relationships, we've all become so darn well-behaved. The focus-grouped and leadership-approved plea seems to be: "Please accept us. We're just like you."

I understand why this is seen as the most pragmatic approach, but I'm uncomfortable with the fact that pleas have replaced demands. I understand that we want to be effective, but can't we also be a little outrageous and have fun along the way? Can't we be "gay" for heaven's sake?

In my activist youth in the 1970s and '80s, I was a "bad" lesbian feminist, doing things that organizational leaders often disapproved. Once, the anti-feminist group Eagle Forum held an event to warn the public that the Equal Rights Amendment would bring on co-ed restrooms and rampant lesbianism. A few of us freaked out the right-wing ladies by presenting them with copies of Jill Johnston's "Lesbian Nation."

In 1978, the Wisconsin Legislature was voting to ban state funds for poor wom-

en's abortions. We knew the vote was lost but we held a weeklong vigil and big rally at the Capitol anyway. The night before the vote, we purchased every pipe cleaner and red magic marker in Madison. We pulled an all-nighter shaping thousands of tiny, blood-marked coat hangers, which we showered on the legislators when they took their infamous vote. We hung a huge banner with the word "SHAME" from the gallery and were ejected by Capitol cops.

As a reporter covering the heyday of ACT UP and Queer Nation in Milwaukee from 1989 to 1995, I have great memories of their bold actions. They raised the hackles of some schools and parents by promoting safer sex through condom distributions at high school proms. They disrupted the mayor's State of the City speech. They physically assaulted the Milwaukee Police Department to protest police incompetence in the Jeffrey Dahmer case. Dipping their hands in red paint and slapping them

on the police building, they shouted that the MPD had "blood on its hands." Arrests ensued.

Some will probably say that the issues are not as critical now, that we have reached a level of acceptance that makes militancy unnecessary. They will cite the biggest bugaboo — that such tactics are counterproductive.

In fact, in-your-face tactics were sometimes very productive. Militant protesters and mainstream groups formed a kind of "good cop/bad cop" dynamic in which the militants dramatically raised awareness and made demands; then the mainstream leaders moved in to obtain concessions and compromises with authorities.

Active, creative protests build solidarity among participants and demonstrate there will be organized resistance to unfair policies and ignorant pronouncements like those of Cardinal George. They can also be lots of fun.

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Following up a history-making year

Opinion

JASON BURNS

A year ago, my husband and I packed up our lives in Florida and began a 1,200-mile drive north. In truth, it was a move home. I was born and raised in northwest Michigan, and my husband is from northwest Ohio. So it was really a move home to the Midwest. To a people whose values we share.

It's good to be home. We never could have anticipated how warm the people here have been. You have welcomed us into your homes and into your community. Thank you.

A year ago we started a series of conversations about what we, the LGBT community, wanted to accomplish in 2012 and beyond. First and foremost on the list was to elect Tammy Baldwin to the

U.S. Senate: mission accomplished.

Also on the agenda was to make sure our community had people not just advocating for policies but for individuals. Working with the Wisconsin Gazette, we were able to advocate for two new Wisconsinites when one of them was originally denied in-state tuition at UWM. The only thing more satisfying than the outcome was seeing how firm UWM's commitment is to the LGBT community. That's why the university is ranked as one of the top 10 most-welcoming campuses in the country.

We also saw the cities of Racine, Janesville, Eau Claire, Manitowoc and Kenosha add domestic partnership benefits, with our friends at Fair Wisconsin taking a leading role and continuing to make a difference in our state.

In addition, the city of Milwaukee passed an ordinance expanding its benefits pack-

age to include the children of domestic partners, retirees and their children.

By passing this policy as an ordinance, the city made history. It was the first time Milwaukee passed a benefits policy as an ordinance. The city now has the most progressive benefits policy of any municipality in the state.

We also talked about moving past the negative community in-fighting of the past toward a brighter future of unity. A community that is united is always stronger than a community divided. A key component to bringing the community together has been the resurgence of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center.

Karen Gotzler, the committed volunteer interim executive director, and a board led by co-presidents Paul Williams and Jennifer Morales, have taken the center from an organization on life-support to a thriving

stronghold at the center of Milwaukee's LGBT community.

Coming from an LGBT center in South Florida, I've witnessed the important role these centers play in our community. I encourage you to support the center's current fundraising campaign and to take the time to visit, support, and believe in the center.

Last year was a great one for our community, but we can't slow down. We have the chance to continue moving Wisconsin forward toward a more fair and equal future. We can't forget how lucky we are to be in a position to be the agents of change. The time to step up is now.

In 2013, vow to make a difference, to be OUTspoken.

Jason Burns is executive director of Equality Wisconsin.

Grassroots work has won honors

VOCES page 1

forge a path to citizenship for the 11 million people in this country who are still living in the shadows so they can come into the full light of day," said Voces executive director Christine Neumann-Ortiz. "That's long overdue for immigrants."

President Barack Obama has indicated the dream may not be deferred much longer. Immigration reform is a priority in his second term, which he symbolically began on Jan. 21, taking his public oath of office on the west steps of the Capitol. In his inaugural, he said, "Our journey is not complete until we find a better way to welcome the striving, hopeful immigrants who still see America as a land of opportunity."

WISCONSIN VOICE

Voces, founded in 2001, "fights for the rights of low-income and immigrant workers and students through education, advocacy and organizing." In addition to the 501(c)(3) group, there is Voces de la Frontera Action, a 501(c)(4) group, and YES!, the Youth Empowered in the Struggle social justice group, with chapters in Wisconsin high schools and universities.

In 2012, Voces was at the

forefront of the campaign to protect voting rights in Wisconsin, including challenges to the GOP-driven voter ID law. At the national level, the Obama administration responded to calls from grassroots groups such as Voces to defer deportations of immigrant youths. Voces also supported and promoted workers at Palermo's Pizza, who went on strike in June for union recognition and continue to picket. The company, one of the largest producers of frozen pizza in the U.S., retaliated against unionizing efforts by intimidating and then firing immigrant workers.

Those efforts helped Neumann-Ortiz earn a place on Huffington Post's list of "50 young progressive activists who are changing America." Voces, meanwhile, secured a position as "Most Valuable Grassroots Group" in The Nation's 2012 honor roll, which also included U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin. The Nation said Voces "has allied with antiwar and gay rights groups and placed itself at the center of the struggle to defend public workers and teachers. With the NAACP, it successfully sued to overturn Wisconsin's voter ID law and got another judge to over-

turn a redistricting plan that discriminated against Latinos. But the primary focus of Voces is on the toughest fights: organizing and defending immigrant workers. Its campaign on behalf of Palermo Pizza workers forged a strategic alliance with the United Steelworkers and won the endorsement of the AFL-CIO for a boycott of the company's products."

Voces also has come to the attention of right-wing media, specifically shock jock Mark Belling, who in recent months has attacked Racine's annual Martin Luther King Day celebration specifically because of Voces' role in organizing it.

Student Alexia Gates, a senior at Horlick High School in Racine, said Belling cost organizers thousands of dollars in donations and formal support from the school district, the United Way and the Racine Community Foundation. But Belling couldn't stop the celebration, which included community service efforts, workshops and a march for peace and justice.

"We talked to churches, talked to local businesses, talked to individuals and our schools and community as a whole," Gates said. "Although we've been through so much, we were still able to make this event as successful as it has been for the past three years."

On King Day, about 500 postcards were distributed calling on WISN station manager Jerry Bott to take Belling off the air "for the harm he's caused our community and democracy."

And although the Racine



PHOTO: SUE RUGGLES

Thousands turned out to march for immigrant rights in Voces de la Frontera's 2012 May Day march. The puppet is an effigy of Gov. Scott Walker.

Unified School District chose not to collaborate or support the King Day events, some school officials and teachers attended the programs. The theme was "the students united will never be divided," Gates said. "And we know that is what King would have wanted."

"In spite of Belling's hateful rhetoric and bullying, our young leaders and adults are showing more courage and conviction in honoring Dr. King's legacy. In fact, Belling might be offering them the best example of why getting involved is so important in the first place," Neumann-Ortiz said of the King Day event, which was supported by the local teachers' union and the local NAACP.

In its work, Voces has built a broad, progressive agenda — peace, justice, education rights, LGBT rights, worker rights and immigrant rights. And it has stood in solidarity with other progressive groups in the state, including

Equality Wisconsin, an LGBT civil rights group.

"It's a symbiotic relationship," said EW executive director Jason Burns, a contributing columnist to WiG.

Voces turns out activists for Equality Wisconsin efforts and EW does likewise.

EW, for example, has marched for immigrant rights in Voces' annual May 1 event and will do so again this May Day. And Voces campaigned for domestic partnership rights and against anti-gay marriage drives in the state.

"There are so many parallels," Neumann-Ortiz said of the LGBT and immigrant rights movements. And, of course, there is a blending of constituencies.

"The communities intersect. There is a need to have strong protection against hate crimes. There are issues around workplace rights," she said, adding that in the fight for immigration reform is a fight for how families are defined and a struggle to

keep families together.

"We have common ground and common goals," Burns said.

SOLIDARITY FOR CITIZENSHIP

With the oaths taken and the new Congress seated, Obama has indicated he wants quick action on immigration reform.

How quick? A bipartisan group of senators is already writing a bill that could be introduced by March and likely will include a path to citizenship, as well as an increase in the number of visas and probably a guest-worker program.

Lawmakers in both parties cannot avoid the issue without peril — Latinos represent the youngest and fastest-growing voting bloc in the nation. The president won reelection with 65 percent of the Latino vote in Wisconsin and 71 percent nationwide.

"The president's move to

VOCES page 11

VOCES AND VOLUNTEERS

For more about Voces de la Frontera, go to vdlf.org. Adult membership costs \$20; youth membership, \$5.

"Voces volunteers are the engine that drives our work, and we're always looking for people to help — anything from membership outreach, working with our youth program, database work, to writing, photography, archiving materials," said Voces spokesman Joe Shanksy.

For more information about the Palermo Pizza workers' strike, go to sliceofjustice.com.

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VOCES from 10

provide relief to hundreds of thousands of undocumented youth through deferred action was instrumental in the remarkable voter turnout that we saw," said Neumann-Ortiz.

Support for comprehensive reform comes from a coalition of labor, faith, law enforcement, civil rights and business groups, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. In a recent speech on the state of business, the chamber's president called for an overhaul of immigration law, saying the "door to the American dream must always remain open."

Broad support among voters also exists. A bipartisan poll released in mid-January said four out of five voters support reform ensuring that undocumented immigrants have a chance to work toward citizenship. The survey commissioned by the Service Employees International Union, Americans Voice Education Fund and National Immigration Forum showed support at 83 percent among Republicans, 91 percent among Democrats and 82 percent among Independents.

"The results of this poll confirm that Americans of all political stripes agree that the current patchwork of immigration policies is not working for our nation's best interests," NIF board member Jeb Bush Jr. said.

Such broad support may help to explain why Wisconsin's GOP, looking ahead to the 2014 and 2016 elections, apparently has backed off anti-immigrant legislation modeled on Arizona's controversial law.

ONWARD IN 2013

By May 1, when Voces holds its annual march and rally in Milwaukee, activists should know the specifics of proposed reform – and where Wisconsin's congressional members stand on any legislation.

Milwaukee's May Day marches often are among the largest in the nation. More than 70,000 people attended the 2006 march in Milwaukee, largely a response to U.S. Rep. James Sensenbrenner's campaign to bar immigrant workers from getting driver's licenses. In 2012, an estimated 20,000 people marched.

This year's May Day event will begin taking shape on Jan. 26, when the organization's members gather at Ascension Lutheran Church, 1236 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee, for an annual assembly. Supporters of Voces' political action group also will gather that day, with a likely focus on the April elections. For the November election, Voces Action organized 250 volunteers to mobilize voters for Obama and Baldwin, with a focus on 22 Milwaukee wards.

"Every year we have an annual assembly where members come together to elect our steering committee and have a discussion about what our priorities are going to be, about strategies to move forward," Neumann-Ortiz said.

Looking forward, Gates said, "One thing I hope to see the group accomplish this year is immigration reform. We've been in this fight for too long now and it's time for a change. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. Dr. King... I can't stop and won't stop until justice is served and I will continue to fight for what's right."

SAN FRANCISCO OFFICIALS MULL MILK FOR AIRPORT NAME

A San Francisco supervisor on Jan. 15 introduced legislation asking voters to rename the city's airport after slain gay rights leader Harvey Milk.

A charter amendment sponsored by Supervisor David Campos would put the question of creating Harvey Milk-San Francisco International Airport on San Francisco's November ballot.

If five of Campos' colleagues agree to submit the proposed name change to voters and the amendment passes in the fall, the city would become home to the world's first airport honoring an openly gay person, said Milk's nephew, Stuart Milk.

"For young gay people in an illegal place looking up at a monitor and being able to point to this international airport named after an LGBT advocate, it gives them the green light to authenticity," Milk said. "It's a major representation that (they) are being celebrated somewhere in the world in a high-level way."

RHODE ISLAND HOUSE COMMITTEE VOTES FOR MARRIAGE BILL

Legislation to allow gay and lesbian couples to marry in Rhode Island got its first 2013 political test on Jan. 22. The House Judiciary

NATIONAL BRIEFS

Committee approved the measure. The vote was 11-0.

The next step is a vote in the full House, possibly as early as Jan. 24, after WiG press time.

Rhode Islanders United for Marriage said, "Moments ago, the House Judiciary Committee voted unanimously to advance the marriage bill to the House floor. Today marks the first time a marriage bill has advanced past committee in Rhode Island history."

"Momentum is with us, but we can't let up for even a second," said RIUM campaign director Ray Sullivan.

House Speaker Gordon Fox has said he wants the House to vote on the legislation by month's end.

Advocates for gay marriage like their chances in the House, but concede that the Senate is a tougher challenge.

Nine states and the District of Columbia now allow gay marriage. Rhode Island is the only state in New England without it.

Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Chafee, an independent, has said all couples should be afforded the same rights to wed. He urged lawmakers to "call the roll" and vote this year to join the rest of New England.

LESBIAN-THEMED BOOK BACK ON UTAH SCHOOL'S SHELVES

A book about a lesbian couple raising

children has returned to a Utah school district's library shelves amid a lawsuit from the American Civil Liberties Union.

The Davis School District had put the book "In Our Mothers' House" behind the library counter and required schoolchildren to have a parent's permission to check it out. District officials cited state law, which prohibits advocacy of homosexuality in its curriculum.

The ACLU argued the library book wasn't instructional material and didn't constitute advocacy of homosexuality.

TINY APPALACHIAN CITY ENACTS GAY RIGHTS ORDINANCE

A tiny city in southeastern Kentucky enacted a gay-rights ordinance that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

The city commission of Vicco in southern Perry County passed the new law on Jan. 14.

A statement from the Fairness Coalition, an affiliation of Kentucky groups that focuses on gay rights, says the Appalachian town is the fourth city in the state to pass a law aimed at protecting gays from discrimination.

Three of four commissioners voted in favor of the ordinance, which bans discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations in the city of about 330 residents.

— from AP and WiG reports

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Michael Raisler at the opening of his film "Beasts of the Southern Wild" at the Downer Theatre in Milwaukee in July 2011.

PHOTO: PAUL WILLIAMS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

ALUM OF MILWAUKEE'S PROJECT Q GETS OSCAR NOD

Filmmaker Michael Raisler, a former Wauwatosa native who was active in the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's Project Q program for LGBT youth, is up for an Academy Award as an executive producer of "Beasts of the Southern Wild," a best picture nominee.

The film is also nominated for best director (Ben Zeitlin), best actress (Quvenzhané Wallis) and best adapted screenplay (Zeitlin and Lucy Alibar). Wallis, 9, is the youngest best actress nominee in history.

Raisler has thanked the center for the role it played in his life and success.

"Milwaukee's LGBT Community Center played an important part in my life," he said. "When I was coming out, Project Q was a tremendous resource for me. Having a safe space and supportive community helped me overcome personal challenges and build confidence. The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center helped me to become the person I am today."

For more, go to www.mkelgbt.org.

FAIR WISCONSIN EDUCATION FUND GALA, AWARDS PLANNED

Fair Wisconsin Education Fund holds its gala dinner and Milwaukee Leadership Awards on Feb. 9 at the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee, 333 W. Kilbourn Ave.

The event honors "leaders and activists who stand up for fairness and advance equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Wisconsinites," according to a press release.

Activist Zach Wahls is the keynote speaker. Wahls came to national attention as the eloquent son who spoke about his two moms during an Iowa House Judiciary Committee hearing on a proposed constitutional amendment against gay marriage. He also has campaigned against the Boy Scouts of America's ban of gay troops

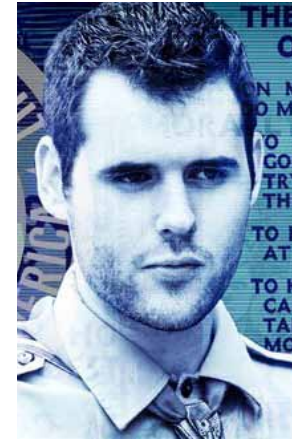


PHOTO: FACEBOOK

Zach Wahls.

and leaders and campaigned for Barack Obama's re-election, which involved his giving a speech at the Democratic National Convention.

The evening includes cocktails, dinner and the program, with ticket sales beginning at \$125. For more, go to fairwisconsineducationfund.com/leadership.

REPORT: LGBT FUNDING GREW BY 27 PERCENT IN 2011

A report from Funders for LGBTQ Issues shows that foundation funding for LGBT communities grew by 27 percent in 2011 to a record \$123 million.

"Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Grant-making by US Foundation" shows that the 2011 increase in funding to LGBT communities far out-paced the 2.2 percent growth of overall foundation grant dollars that year.

"This increase in foundation giving is a sign of the growing momentum for equality regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity," said Ben Francisco Maulbeck, Funders for LGBTQ Issues president. "LGBT-focused funders like the Arcus Foundation are growing in number and size, and more and more mainstream funders like American Jewish World Service are integrating LGBTQ communities into their grant-making strategies."

For more, go to www.lgbtfunders.org.

GAY CHORUS, LEANN RIMES KICK OFF TOUR

The Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles kicks off its nationwide It Gets Better Tour on Feb. 1 at The Wilshire Ebell Theatre with a performance featuring LeAnn Rimes.

"It is so important to continue to get the message that 'it gets better' to everyone out there that has ever felt like an outcast, struggled with their sense of self or felt alone," said Rimes. "As a longtime supporter of the GMCLA, I jumped at the chance to be a part of this night and this significant message."

The tour features an ensemble cast of six actors whose real-life stories of growing up gay are woven into the production.

The show premiered at the University of Iowa in October. For more, go to www.gmcla.org.

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR YOUTH AWARDS

The nominating is under way for the Colin Higgins Foundation scholarships, which are given to LGBT youth activists.

The foundation is making up to \$10,000 in awards available to "lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, two-spirit, queer and questioning youth activists (through age 18) who have bravely stood up to hostility and intolerance based on their sexual orientation and/or gender identity and triumphed over bigotry through working for LGBTQ rights and social justice."

Nominations are due Feb. 28. For more, go to www.colinhiggins.org.

—WiG

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LEFT: Xavier Samuel and James Frecheville play two boys who have love affairs with each other's mothers in "Two Mothers." CENTER: Amanda Seyfried plays porn star Linda Lovelace in the film "Lovelace." RIGHT: A scene from "Interior. Leather Bar.," a gay art film co-directed by James Franco. The films are among 119 independent features playing at Sundance Film Festival, through Jan. 27 in Park City, Utah.

Diversity reigns at Sundance Film Festival

By Sandy Cohen

AP entertainment writer

Diversity is king at the Sundance Film Festival — and queen, too.

For the first time, half of the films featured at the festival were made by women.

Festival founder Robert Redford opened the event Jan. 17, saying "diversity is the point" of the independent film showcase, further evidenced by contributions from 32 countries and 51 first-time filmmakers this year. The chorus of voices represented at Sundance "reflects the times we're in," he said.

"What Sundance stands for is giving new voices and new filmmakers an opportunity to be seen and heard," Redford said in an interview. "We show what's there, and what comes up will usually give you an indication of changing times."

Redford, along with festival director John Cooper and Sundance Institute director Keri Putnam, opened the 11-day festival with a news conference at the Egyptian Theatre in Park City, Utah, Sundance's home since 1981.

The films featured at the

'Sundance stands for giving new voices and new filmmakers an opportunity to be seen and heard.'

festival, like all art, reflect and inspire change, Redford told reporters.

"The festival, being as diverse as it is, shows all kinds of content, and that gives the audience a chance to choose," he said. "That's not quite so available in the main marketplace."

One of the most significant changes he's noticed over his years in filmmaking is the role sex plays on screen. Several of the festival films deal with sex: "Lovelace" looks at porn star Linda Lovelace, "Interior. Leather Bar." examines the gay S&M leather-bar scene in the early 1980s,

"Two Mothers" follows a pair of friends who have affairs with each other's (adult) sons, and "Kink" is about the business of bondage and discipline pornography.

"When I got into the film business in the early '60s, it was a romantic time. Sex and romance were pretty well tied together," Redford said. "Now, 40, 50 years later, we see that sexual relations have moved to a place where it doesn't feel like there's so much romance involved. ... Relations have changed, and they've changed because of changing times and because of new technology. People are texting rather than dating and all that kind of stuff."

"We just show what's there. We don't predict anything. We don't shape anything. ... We might be agents for change, but we're not shape-shifters. So there you have sexual relations and you look at how sex is treated today: It's just simply a reflection of the times we're living in and nothing more."

One conservative group isn't pleased with the sexual content and suggested the state of Utah cease its financial support of the festival.

But Redford isn't worried.

"We either ignore them or remind them that it's a free country and they should maybe look at the Constitution," he said.

Meanwhile, with recent attention on gun violence and what role Hollywood might play, Redford said the conversation ought to continue, noting that President Ronald Reagan was shot the same year the Sundance Festival began.

"Now, 30 years later, it's absolutely not only appropriate, but overdue to have a dialogue," he said.

He added that he has a question for the film industry after seeing two movie billboards in Los Angeles that prominently feature guns: "Does my industry think that guns will help sell tickets?"

One of the documentaries in competition this year, "Valentine Road," deals with the 2008 school shooting of an eighth-grader in California by a fellow classmate.

"It all the sudden has a new resonance," said Cooper, noting that the film was selected before last month's school shooting in Newtown, Conn. "We chose it because

it's an amazing movie."

Screenings, workshops, parties and schmoozing will continue through Jan. 27. Cooper, whose staff culled the 119 festival offerings from thousands of submissions, said he can't wait for audiences to see the selections.

"I just want to get this thing started," he said. "I feel like I'm sitting on a powder keg of talent that needs to explode."

On the web...

Find more about Sundance at www.sundance.org/festival.

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Dish it Out!

Pause and savor the port

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Winemaker Philippe Coquard knows that nothing goes better with winter's biting winds than a warm fire and a glass of port, the fortified dessert wine favored by sophisticated palates. For Coquard, co-owner of Wollersheim Winery north of Madison, winter is a time for reflection and relaxation – and a bracing glass of the winery's red or white port.

"In my younger days, I used to drink a lot of port as an aperitif wine while my friends were drinking mixed drinks," says Coquard, who grew up in a winemaking family in France's Beaujolais region. "Like anything made from the grapes, port was just a natural fit for my taste buds."

Coquard began making his red port in 2001, starting with just five barrels. The winemaker now has 80 barrels aging in his cellars. White port was introduced in 2009 after Coquard and his wife Julie sampled some Muscat-based dessert wines while traveling in southern France. The first batch, offered in January 2010, sold out in a little over a month, he says.

"Port is a special wine because it's a gentle wine that satisfies many senses," Coquard adds. "It has some sweetness, yet it has depth because of the aging, and it has class and personality."

Wollersheim's red port is made from fully ripened blackish-red Foch grapes, while the white port is made from fragrant, white Muscat grapes. Both ports are produced through a short fermentation time of just a few days, after which brandy is added at 187 proof to stop the fermentation process, leaving some of the wine's natural sweetness and fruitiness. Coquard ages his red port for 13 months in older American oak barrels, and white port for six months in older French oak barrels, each of which imparts different nuances to the finished wine.



PHOTO: COURTESY

"Our red port has a rich, smooth sweetness with notes of dried cherry and raisin, and our white port is sweet and aromatic and full of fruit with floral hints of peach," he says.

Port originated in Portugal, specifically in the Douro Valley in the country's northern provinces. The wine's name derives from the city of Porto at the mouth of the Douro River. Port produced in Portugal utilizes any of five wine grapes, although Touriga Nacional, considered the country's national grape, is preferred.

Port can be served relatively young, or it can be aged through the introduction of distilled spirits. The wine is now made in countries around the world.

Here is a brief guide to some ports worth sampling:

One of the best values is **De Krans Cape Ruby Port** (\$13) from South Africa's Klein Karoo. The blend of Tinta Barraca, Touriga Nacional and Souzão grapes offers a palate of sweet red fruits, chocolate and spices in a youthful, softly textured wine.

Hardy's Whiskers Blake Classic Tawny Port (\$14) is a non-vintage wine from Australia. It pours a brownish brick-red, with complex notes of toffee and caramel on the palate, balanced with apple, pear and even a little blood orange. It's an excellent value for the price.

Another Australian tawny port, **The Portly Gentleman** (\$15) from Buller Wines, is produced from a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon, Grenache, Mataro and Shiraz grapes. The result is a bouquet of berries with

'The longer process helps the wine lose its youth and boldness and become classy and smooth.'

a rich, smooth mouth-feel.

The Offley 2005 Late Bottled Vintage Porto (\$19) ratchets things up a notch. The Portuguese wine opens with a distinctly different aroma of cedar and pine needles, offering a well-balanced palate of red fruit with a hint of chocolate.

Churchill's 10-Year-Old Tawny Port (\$32) remains among the best. The palate offers touches of bitter orange, lemon peel and a hint of ginger, with a medium-long finish that is both soft and sweet. Picky wine critic Robert Parker Jr. declared it "the best tawny port I've tasted in years."

Coquard also has several port barrels aging an additional three to five years at Wollersheim. He expects them to turn into a fine tawny port.

"The longer process helps the wine lose its youth and boldness and become classy and smooth," he says.

And that will be the port to sip some winter's day in years to come.

ON TAP

Wollersheim will release its latest vintages of red and white port on Jan. 26 with a celebration at the winery that includes food, music and, of course, wine. For more information, visit www.wollersheim.com.



PHOTO: MUSICADALPIANETATERRA.NE

The legendary singer Edith Piaf, whose voice was called the “soul of Paris.”

Theater

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

Milwaukee actor and singer Leslie Fitzwater did not know who Edith Piaf was when she was asked to per-

form one of the French chanteuse's songs during the Bastille Days celebration in 1987. Twenty-five years later, no area performer has a stronger connection to “The Waif Sparrow” than Fitzwater.

She has played Piaf, who died in 1963, numerous times, including four productions at Skylight Music Theatre – most

Fitzwater reprises role as the tragic and triumphant Edith Piaf

recently in 2007. On Jan. 25, Fitzwater becomes Piaf once again in Skylight Music Theatre's “Edith Piaf Onstage.” Interspersing Piaf songs with monologues that chronicle episodes in the singer's life, Fitzwater shares the singer's artistry while building the audience's understanding of the first French superstar.

“Piaf approached songs the way I do, choosing those that affected her deeply,” says Fitzwater, who also serves as a private vocal and acting coach. “What I love about her is her absolute dedication to telling the stories contained in the songs.”

Piaf's devotion to songs of love, loss, despair and hope were considered some of the best of their day. The emotion she projected drew heavily on the singer's colorful and tragic past.

Born Edith Giovanna Gassion in 1915, Piaf's mother was said to have given birth

to her on the Paris streets, although documentation shows she was born in the Hôpital Tenon in Belleville, in the city's 20th arrondissement. Her father was a street acrobat, her mother a café singer who had no capability or interest in caring for her daughter. Shuttled between grandparents, she eventually landed with her paternal grandmother, who ran a brothel in Normandy. The brothel's prostitutes helped to raise the young girl.

As a child, Piaf contracted keratitis, which rendered her blind. The prostitutes made a pilgrimage to honor St. Thérèse of Lisieux, and Piaf regained her sight. While a miracle may be questionable – she was under a doctor's care – its possibility made Piaf a lifelong devotee of the saint.

Piaf first sang on the streets of Paris at 14, sharing an act with her father. She soon went her own way, gave birth to her only child at 17 and saw her daughter die two years later from meningitis. She was discovered singing in Pigalle by nightclub owner Louis Leplée, who persuaded her to sing in his club and helped refine her as both a performer and human being. He nicknamed the 4-foot, 8-inch performer “la môme piaf,” or “the waif sparrow,” her stage name.

Fitzwater's original research for the show took her through multiple biographies, articles, and eventually a 10-CD collection of Piaf's

music, some of which she wrote herself. A recording of a live Carnegie Hall performance from 1957 allowed the actress to master Piaf's stage patter and storytelling, as well as better understand how she presented a song.

“She insisted on choosing great material and surrounded herself with people who could help her mold her career,” Fitzwater explains.

Piaf's music evolved with the times, moving from a jazzy sound in the 1930s to more of a Big Band delivery during the '40s. By the 1960s, when Piaf recorded “Non, je ne regrette rien,” her music was arranged using a rock 'n' roll triplet in the background, signaling that both she and her arrangers understood the market in which she was performing.

But the lyrics about love and loss remained the same, themes that Fitzwater says most resemble current country music.

“Piaf's parents and grandparents were deeply alcoholic, so she started drinking early,” Fitzwater says. “She was involved in several serious car crashes, one with protégé Charles Aznavour, which also led to a morphine addiction that plagued her in the later years of her life.”

The personal tragedy of Piaf's life was a contrast to her enormous success, especially after World War II. She toured Europe, South America and the U.S., appearing at Carnegie Hall several times and on “The Ed Sullivan

Show.” Piaf's signature song, “La vie en rose,” written in 1945, was voted a Grammy Hall of Fame Award winner in 1998.

Piaf married three times, with Marlene Dietrich, who famously called the singer's voice “the soul of Paris,” serving as the maid of honor at her second nuptials. Her third marriage was to a former hairdresser-turned-singer 20 years her junior.

Piaf went into rehab three times for addiction, but none of the treatments curbed her dependency.

Piaf died of liver cancer in October 1963 at age 47 while planning her next series of concerts in Berlin. Her final recording, also in 1963, was “L'Homme de Berlin.”

Despite her personal challenges, Piaf was a tower of strength and a pillar of hope, Fitzwater says. That's what kept her going to create her a global musical legacy.

“I want to introduce, or maybe re-introduce my audiences to Piaf and her spirit,” the actress adds. “Bad things happened to her, but with Piaf, there was always hope.”

ON STAGE

Skylight Music Theatre's production of “Edith Piaf Onstage” starring Leslie Fitzwater runs Jan. 25-Feb. 10 at the Cabot Theatre in the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. Phone 414-291-7811 or visit www.skylightmusictheatre.org.

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STREISAND TRIBUTE UNEVEN, DISAPPOINTING

The Blu-ray "A MusiCares Tribute to Barbra Streisand" should have been monumental, but it's uneven, dull and disappointing. As the 2011 MusiCares Person of the Year, Streisand was feted at a gala affair in Los Angeles. This Blu-ray captures more than a dozen of that evening's performances.

Diana Krall's performance of "Down With Love" pales in comparison with Streisand's renowned rendition, but you can tell that Krall, who worked with Streisand on her 2009 "Love is the Answer" disc, feels genuine affection for Barbra. Seal's performance of "Guilty" is exceptional, especially when he occasionally evokes Barry Gibb. Also delivering knockout performances are Lea Michelle ("My Man"), Faith Hill (with a beautiful interpretation of "Send in the Clowns"), a class Tony Bennett ("Smile") and Kristin Chenoweth and Matthew Morrison.

But the concert also has its share of sour notes. Barry Manilow's Vegas-schmaltz version of "Memory" has his trademark key changes. Other lowlights include Stevie Wonder and Arturo Sandoval's off-kilter take on "People" and Herbie Hancock and Nikki Yanofsky's "On A Clear Day/Lazy Afternoon" medley.

Streisand closes the concert with "The Windmills of Your Mind" and "The Promise (I'll Never Say Goodbye)," a pair of Marilyn and Alan Bergman compositions. The Blu-ray contains no bonus material.

BEATLES' 'MAGICAL MYSTERY TOUR' MAKES FOR A PLEASANT DAY'S NIGHT

The Beatles' 1967 made-for-television "Magical Mystery Tour," now on DVD, takes the camp and silliness of the group's previous feature films to a vivid new level. Directed by all four Beatles along with Bernard Knowles, "Magical Mystery Tour" plays out like a series of scenes woven together as an excuse to have a goofy, good time — and, of course, to hear

Beatles' songs, including "Fool On the Hill," "I Am the Walrus" and "Your Mother Should Know."

Richard B. Starkey (aka Ringo Starr) and his Aunt Jessica (Jessie Robins) never give their bickering a rest, even after they board the Magical Mystery Tour bus. Run by courier Jolly Jimmy (Derek Royle), hostess Wendy (Mandy Weet) and driver Alf, the bus leaves town, headed for the countryside. Among the other bus passengers are the rest of the Beatles (Paul McCartney, John Lennon and George Harrison), a starlet (Maggie Wright), a child (Nicola Hale) and the "quite harmless" Mr. Bloodvessel (poet Ivor Cutler).

The tour features "enjoyment within the limits of British decency," such as games (Blind Man's Bluff, Tug of War, wrestling, races, a jolly good sing-along) and a visit to a strip club (where the Bonzo Dog Doo-Dah Band performs "Death Cab For Cutie"). There is magic at work, as "four or five" magicians (played by The Beatles) whip things up in their lab. There also is love, as Mr. Bloodvessel falls for Aunt Jessica. Period touches of psychedelia and surrealism, including Aunt Jessica food dream, as well as select musical numbers, abound.

"Magical Mystery Tour" is certainly no "Help!" or "A Hard Day's Night," but it's not a bad way to spend an hour with The Beatles. DVD special features include commentary by McCartney, a making-of featurette, and much more.



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~ONGOING~

Strollers Theatre presents Tennessee Williams' "**Cat on a Hot Tin Roof**" through Feb. 2 at the Bartell Theatre, 113 E. Mifflin in Madison. Call 608-661-9696, ext. 2, or visit strollerstheatre.org.

Billy Van Zandt and Jane Milmore's Marx Brothers-style musical farce "**A Night at the Nutcracker**" runs through Feb. 3 at The Racine Theatre Guild, 2519 Northwestern (Highway 38) in Racine. Call 262-633-4218.

"**Class**," "a spoof, inspired by a true story," runs through Feb. 4 at Broom Street Theater, 1119 Williamson in Madison. Call 608-244-8338.

Renaissance Theatreworks presents "**Educating Rita**" by Willy Russell, through Feb. 10 in the Studio Theater at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Milwaukee Art Museum, 700 N. Art Museum Drive, presents "**Western Union: Small Boats**," an exhibition by queer filmmaker and video artist Isaac Julien ("Looking For Langston," "Young Soul Rebels") through Feb. 17. Visit mam.org or call 414-224-3200.

Ahoy, matey, Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 W. Wells, presents the exhibition "**Real Pirates**," including treasures from the only authenticated pirate shipwreck in the waters of the U.S., through May 27. Call 414-278-2702.



"Cinderella"

JAN. 24, THURSDAY

James Murphy, formerly of LCD Soundsystem, performs a DJ set at 10 p.m. at the Majestic, 115 King in Madison. Call 608-251-2582.

State Ballet Theater of Russia presents "**Cinderella**," tonight and tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. at The Pabst Theater, 144 E. Wells. Call 414-286-3663.

The Domes at Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory, 524 S. Layton, presents **The Jerry Grillo Orchestra** performing during Health Fair Night, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Call 414-649-9830.

JAN. 25, FRIDAY

Milwaukee's own Golda Meir is a character in the world premiere of Jonathan Gillard Daly's play "**To the Promised Land**," running through Feb. 10 in the Todd Wehr Theater at Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. Call 414-273-2787.

Skyline Music Theatre presents "**Edith Piaf Onstage**" through Feb. 10 in the Cabot Theatre at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Call 414-291-7800.

Majestic Theatre, 115 King in Madison, presents "**Fire Ball V: Night One**," subtitled "a masquerade of fire and ice," hosted by Miss Tamale and featuring burlesque and more, at 8 p.m. "Fire Ball V: Night Two" is presented tomorrow night. Call 608-251-2582.

Milwaukee band **I'm Not a Pilot** plays Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, 19805 W. Capitol Drive in Brookfield, at 8 p.m. Call 262-781-9520.

Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra performs Bruckner's "**Romantic**" tonight and tomorrow night at 8 p.m. in Uihlien Hall at Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, at the corner of Water and State. Call 414-273-2787.



Kelly Hogan

JAN. 26, SATURDAY

Cactus Club, 2496 S. Wentworth in Milwaukee, presents Wisconsin-based diva **Kelly Hogan** and her band, with The Snowbirds at 9:30 p.m. Call 414-897-0663.

Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State St. in Madison, presents a live broadcast of "**A Prairie Home Companion**" with Garrison Keillor at 4:45 p.m. Call 608-258-4141.

Chris Pickering, an award-winning Aussie singer-songwriter, performs at 8:30 p.m. at Redamte, 449 State (above Asian Kitchen) in Madison. Call 608-819-8650

The Riverside, 116 W. Wisconsin, presents "**The Legend of Zelda: Symphony of The Goddesses**," at 7 p.m. Call 414-286-3663.

JAN. 27, SUNDAY

Cajun Strangers, Last Gaspé Band, Madison Maennerchor, Sergei Belkin, The Dang-Its Trio and the Yid Vicious Klezmer Ensemble are among the many acts performing from noon to 6 p.m. at the 32nd installment of **Overture's International Festival**, at Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State in Madison. Call 608-258-4141.

Milwaukee's Festival City Symphony presents "**Roman Holiday**," featuring Berlioz's "Roman Carnival Overture," Ottorino Respighi's "Pines of Rome" and Georges Bizet's "Symphony No. 2," at 3 p.m. at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells. Visit festivalcitysymphony.org or call 414-963-9067.

Pro Arte Quartet, the faculty string quartet in residence at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, performs at 2 p.m. at Sharon Lynne Wilson Center for the Arts, 19805 W. Capitol Dr. in Brookfield. Call 262-781-9520.

JAN. 30, WEDNESDAY

High Noon Saloon, 701A E. Washington in Madison, welcomes **Beefus, Famby Fun!** and **Problem Child**, at 9 p.m. Call 608-268-1122.

JAN. 31, THURSDAY

The Domes at Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory, 524 S. Layton, hosts **BrewCity Bruisers Roller Derby Night**, featuring a performance by **The Barrettes**, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Call 414-649-9830..

FEB. 1, FRIDAY

Catering to the after-work lesbian crowd who "still love to party but don't want to wait until 10 to get started," Hot Water Night Club, 818 S. Water, hosts **Ladies Night Out**, with piano bar beginning at 5:30 p.m., followed by dance music from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Call 414-383-7593.

Dance Performance Company presents "**Serendipity**," through Sunday at Danceworks Studio Theatre, 1661 N. Water. Call 414-277-8480 for times.

Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State in Madison, welcomes the **Diavolo Dance Theater** at 8 p.m. Call 608-258-4141.

FEB. 2, SATURDAY

Yo La Tengo performs at 7 p.m. at Turner Hall Ballroom, 103 N. Fourth. Call 414-286-3663.

FEB. 3, SUNDAY

Bristol Riverside Theatre presents "**The Little Prince**" at 3 p.m. at Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State in Madison. Call 608-258-4141.

FEB. 5, TUESDAY

Boldt Arts Alive! series presents the **BBC Concert Orchestra** at 7:30 p.m. at Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave. in Appleton. Call 920-730-3760.

FEB. 6, WEDNESDAY

Rita Coolidge lifts you higher and higher at 8 p.m. at The Northern Lights Theater at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal. Call 414-847-7922.

Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave. in Appleton, presents "**Lord of the Dance**," created by Michael Flatley, at 7:30 p.m. Call 920-730-3760.

FEB. 7, THURSDAY

In support of her new disc "Manifesta," queer singer/songwriter **Erin McKeown** performs at 7:30 p.m. at High Noon Saloon, 701A E. Washington in Madison. Call 608-268-1122.

Milwaukee Ballet presents "**Genesis: International Choreographic Competition**," through Feb. 10 at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells. Call 414-286-3663.



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