

**FEARLESS**  
Martha Wainwright brings her new-found peace and optimism to Milwaukee.  
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THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

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## Rising threat

*Explosive growth of 'patriot groups' in Wisconsin and nation*

**By Lisa Neff**

*Staff writer*

With the wave of enthusiasm for Barack Obama's promise of hope and change came a second wave of conspiracy-minded, right-wing "patriot groups" that are growing in

number and militancy.

The Southern Poverty Law Center, headquartered in Montgomery, Ala., recently reported surging numbers of anti-government patriot groups that remind those at the civil rights organization of the mid-

1990s, when Democrat Bill Clinton was president. That was the era of the Brady Bill, the assault weapon ban, and the religious cult showdown in Waco, Texas.

SPLC documented 149 active patriot or militia groups in 2008, the year Barack

Obama was elected president. In 2011, SPLC identified 1,274 patriot groups. In 2012, the number climbed 7 percent to 1,360, including 321 militias. The number of patriot groups today exceeds by more than 500 the

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### PRIDEFEST ANNOUNCES 2013 HEADLINERS

Andy Bell and Sophie B. Hawkins take the spotlight for Friday's opening.

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## Fallone takes on right-wing judge

**By Louis Weisberg**

*Staff writer*

Marquette University law professor Ed Fallon hopes to accomplish what JoAnne Kloppenburg came close to doing last year – replacing a conservative Wisconsin Supreme Court justice who's up for retention.

And just as last year, when right-wing Justice David Prosser narrowly fought back Kloppenburg's challenge, Fallon's race will be viewed largely as a referendum on Republican Gov. Scott Walker and his tea party

agenda.

Although Justice Patience Roggensack positioned herself as a moderate during her successful 2003 race for the state's highest court, a decade of decisions since then have aligned with the court's 4-3 conservative majority.

The state's far-right extremist groups, including the anti-gay Wisconsin Family Action and Wisconsin Right to Life, which opposes women's reproductive choice, are backing Roggensack.

Fallone, on the other hand, has received the endorsement of Fair Wisconsin and Equality Wisconsin – Wisconsin's leading LGBT advocacy groups – as well as other progressive organizations and leaders.

Among Fallon's many prominent backers is former U.S. Sen. Russ Feingold, who also teaches at Marquette.

"In addition to his intellectual know-how, Ed has a proven commitment to fair treatment in our justice system," Feingold wrote.

**FALLONE** page 11

## News with a twist

# WIGWAG

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg



PHOTO: COURTESY

### CRUZZING TO VICTORY

Puerto Rican boxer Orlando “The Phenomenon” Cruz won his second fight since coming out, defeating Mexican boxer Aalan “The Bomber” Martínez in a sixth-round technical knock-out at the Civic Center in Kissimmee, Fla. Cruz wore a multicolor boxing kilt with Puerto Rican flags on both sides. One of the flags was red, white and blue, the other flag’s stripes reflected the color of the rainbow as a sign of gay Pride. As at his last fight, his mother was ringside cheering him on. The event was filled

to capacity and attendees seemed overwhelmingly on Cruz’s side. He dedicated his win to his recently deceased grandmother.

### WHEN SHE’S 69

President Barack Obama got most of the attention for his comedy routine at the annual Gridiron press dinner in March. But there also were some musical numbers – not involving the president. Club officials produced one skit about Hillary Rodham Clinton’s future to the tune of The Beatles’ “When I’m 64.” The lyrics are: “Got a bit older, Growing my hair, Gained a pound or two/Going home to vegetate in Chappaqua, I just want to be a grandma/ It was more than a case of Benghazi flu, Still I’ll be just fine./Will you select me, will you elect me, When I’m 69?” There also was a skit about the GOP and the NRA, “My Gun,” sung to the tune of “My Girl.”



### HOLY SAUNA

As cardinals from around the world gathered to select the new pope, the Vatican faced yet another public relations debacle. A Rome newspaper revealed that the Holy See owns a \$32-million share in a Roman apartment block whose tenants include Europe’s largest gay bathhouse – Europa Multiclub. Nineteen Vatican officials and priests live in the apartment complex, including Cardinal Ivan Dias, who was part of the papal conclave.

### OUR BAGS TOOK THE SAME DETOUR

A six-year-old English springer spaniel named Hendrix was scheduled to fly in cargo from Newark to Phoenix on United Airlines. Unfortunately, Hendrix ended up in Ireland. But

the story has a tail-wagging ending – Hendrix and his “mom” were tearfully reunited.

### STILL GOT HER ‘VIEW’

Watchers of ABC’s daily chatfest “The View” learned on March 11 that conservative Elisabeth Hasselbeck still has her seat on the panel. Seems US Weekly and the Huffington Post rushed to an erroneous report that Hasselbeck had been fired because market research showed the audience for “The View” disliked her views, which triggered widespread Web delight – for a few days.

### ELLEN CALLED NBC’S JEWEL

“The Ellen DeGeneres Show” has been renewed through 2017. Some 189 television stations, including the 10 owned by NBC, have committed to airing it. In its 10th season, DeGe-

neres’ show scored some of its best ratings this season. Valari Staab, president of the NBC-owned TV stations, described the show as the “crown jewel” of NBC’s daytime lineup.

### TAKING INITIATIVE

Last November, Washington voters approved ballot initiatives that cleared the way for same-sex couples to marry and allowed for the possession and sale of recreational marijuana. Kim Ridgway and Kimberly Bliss took advantage of one initiative and got married in December. Now they are seeking to take advantage of that other initiative and become “potpreneurs.” The lesbian couple wants to open a pot shop.

### NOT A HABIT

A 54-year-old nun in southwest Ohio says she’ll plead guilty to voter fraud. Sister Marguerite Kloos is

one of three people facing charges of illegal voting in Hamilton County after a review of 2012 ballots. Kloos mailed back an absentee ballot sent to a friend, who had died before she could vote. A 75-year-old man faces a fraud charge after he sent in a ballot for his wife, who died before she could vote. And a poll worker faces multiple charges of fraud. Not known and, sigh, irrelevant, is how the accused voted.

### HOOKED ON FITNESS

Last year, a Zumba studio in Maine closed following allegations the instructor was using the center for prostitution. Alex Wright is set to go on trial in May on more than 100 criminal charges. Meanwhile, a new fitness studio is going into the space. The owner is optimistic that the scandal over her predecessor will pump up the business.

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# Sequestration threatens HIV/AIDS programs

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Across-the-board federal spending cuts – the sequester – may leave people living with HIV/AIDS without drugs and emergency housing and threaten the quest for a vaccine and cure, caution activists across the country.

In Wisconsin, efforts are being made to cover potential gaps in care and assistance, said Mike Gifford, president and CEO of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin. “There is such great hope today in the fight against HIV,” he said. “We are working hard to make sure that none of that changes in light of the sequestration.”

On March 1, spending cuts under the sequestration law took effect for defense and discretionary spending programs. The cuts are projected to impact a range of federal services and programs and lead to the furlough of federal workers.

The damage to HIV/AIDS programs will be acute, agree health care and social service experts. Foremost among their concerns is the impact the cuts will have on the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs that are operated by each state using a combination of federal and state dollars. Carl Schmid, deputy executive director of D.C.-based The AIDS Institute, warned that the continuing resolution passed by the House and sequestration cuts could “force states to be in a dangerous situation of stopping payments for medications

to over 7,400 people currently in treatment.”

Patients who go off their medication run the risk of a rebounding infection that not only imperils their lives but also increases their level of contagion to others. Patients who miss even a single dose of their antiviral medication can develop resistance to the entire class of drugs to which it belongs, meaning no drug of the same class will ever control their virus again. That’s a particularly grim scenario at this point in the epidemic, with many patients now on the last remaining drug capable of holding their virus in check.

Gifford said Wisconsin’s HIV/AIDS leaders will do everything possible to protect the state’s ADAP.

“In Wisconsin, we have a proud history of never having a waiting list for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program,” Gifford said. “We’ve made it our top priority to make sure the program is fully funded. And we are hopeful that the political support we have received will be maintained even in light of sequestration.”

Gov. Scott Walker’s budget proposal would fully fund ADAP. So community leaders and health care officials, along with activists such as Madison resident Sean Burke, are working to make sure legislators are aware of the sequester’s impact and the need to protect ADAP at the state level.

Burke, expressing concern for a lack of attention and awareness on the issue,

## WHITE HOUSE ESTIMATES IMPACT OF SEQUESTRATION

In the next year, the White House estimates that the automatic spending cuts will result in Wisconsin losing:

- \$8.5 million in funding for primary and secondary education, risking about 120 teacher and teachers aide jobs.
- \$10.1 million in funds for the education of children with disabilities.
- Head Start services for about 900 children.
- \$3.9 million in funding for clean water and air quality and \$1.5 million in grants for fish and wildlife protection.
- \$216,000 in Justice Assistance Grants for law enforcement and prosecution.
- \$543,000 to respond to public health threats, about \$1.4 million to treat substance abuse and \$108,000 for HIV testing.
- \$120,000 for domestic violence services.
- \$653,000 to provide meals for low-income seniors.
- College aid for 550 low-income students and work-study jobs for 420 students.
- 3,000 Defense Department employees furloughed.
- 2,540 fewer children’s vaccinations.

— L.N.

said eliminating patients from ADAP would threaten lives. In such a situation, wondered the activist who is living with HIV, “Who would decide who would live and who might die? How do you do that?”

Yet another state concern is addressing a \$100,000 reduction in federal funding for HIV prevention. “That cut in funding by the federal government is foolhardy,” Gifford said, noting that caring for a person living with HIV costs hundreds of thousands of dollars. “We would hope that the state would find a way to absorb that cut.”

The CDC and Milwaukee health officials have been struggling in recent years to rein in the skyrocketing rate of new infections among African-American gay and bisexual males in the city.

AmFar/The Foundation for AIDS Research and the National Minority AIDS Council recently released national estimates on the impact of across-the-board funding cuts to domestic HIV/AIDS programs:

- 10,130 people living with HIV/AIDS lose access to the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, which provides medication to low-income people living with the virus or the disease.
- 1,360 fewer households receive perma-

nent housing under the Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program.

- 1,870 fewer households receive short-term assistance to prevent homelessness under HOPWA.

- The National Institutes for Health loses \$163 million in AIDS research funding.

- 297 AIDS research grants from the NIH go unfunded, including 32 specifically for vaccine research.

- More than \$41.7 million in funding from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention gets cut from HIV prevention efforts at the state and local level.

The groups, in a statement released with their estimates, cautioned that the sequester will “have a devastating impact on people living with HIV/AIDS in America” and limit “the United States’ ability to reduce the rate of new HIV infections, improve access to care and reduce the disproportionate impact of HIV/AIDS on communities of color.”

Longtime activist Phil Wilson, who founded the Black AIDS Institute, said the most severe effects will be “felt in black America” and come at a “deciding moment in the trajectory of the AIDS epidemic.”

The Obama administration has said that creating an AIDS-free generation is a realistic goal, but sequestration threatens success. “We are either going to decide to do what’s necessary to end the epidemic in this country or we’re going to decide to continue to see American citizens get infected, get sick and die from AIDS,” Wilson wrote in an op-ed for the Florida Courier.

He and others made the case that to continue advances against HIV/AIDS, funding must be increased, not decreased.

“With the advent of antiretroviral medicines, HIV has turned from a near-certain death sentence to a treatable chronic disease if people have access to consistent and affordable health care and medications,” said Schmid. However, he added, only 37 percent of the people with HIV in the United States are prescribed antiviral treatment and only 25 percent are virally suppressed.



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THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

# New pope supported gay civil unions in Argentina

By Lisa Neff

Many firsts came with the March 13 election of Jorge Bergoglio, 76, as the leader of the Roman Catholic Church. Bergoglio became the first pope elected from outside Europe since the Middle Ages, the first pope from South America, the first Jesuit pope, and the first pope to be known as Francis, in honor of St. Francis of Assisi.

And Francis is also the first pope to have advocated for same-sex civil unions, according to The New York Times. His proposed alternative to marriage equality, which Argentina adopted in 2010, was rejected by more conservative members of the nation's bishops conference.

Still, as head of that body, Bergoglio was the public face of the church's opposition to same-sex relationships. His public writings on the subject drew condemnation from LGBT people and their allies.

"Let's not be naïve, we're not talking about a simple political battle," Bergoglio wrote. "It is a destructive pretension against the plan of God. We are not talking about a mere bill, but rather a machination of the Father of Lies that seeks to confuse and deceive the children of God."

He also called it discriminatory to support gays adopting children, who are denied a mother and a father.

Argentine President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, who went to Rome to celebrate

Francis' inauguration Mass on March 19, once said the tone of the man now serving as pope suggested "Medieval times and the Inquisition."

But de Kirchner became the first head of state ever invited to lunch with the pope after an official meeting.

Leaders in the LGBT community and the progressive Catholic community greeted Francis with prayers and hopes for reform.

"In his life, Jesus condemned gays zero times," said Hernon Graddick of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. "In Pope Benedict's short time in the papacy, he made a priority of condemning gay people routinely. This, in spite of the fact that the Catholic hierarchy had been in collusion to cover up the widespread abuse of children within its care."

He added, in a reference to reports that Francis I had washed the feet of people living with AIDS, "We hope this pope will trade in his red shoes for a pair of sandals and spend a



PHOTO: NEWS.VA/VATICAN  
Pope Francis I visits St. Mary Major on March 14, the day after his election.

lot less time condemning and a lot more time foot-washing."

Jon O'Brien, the president of Catholics for Choice, said he hoped that Francis I would be more like Pope John XXIII, a reformer, than like the conservative Pope Benedict XVI and Pope John Paul II.

"We call on Pope Francis to recognize that he is now the head of a very diverse church, one that includes Catholics who use contraception, who have or provide abortions, who seek fertility treatments, who engage in sex-

ual relationships outside of marriage or with people of the same sex, as well as people who are living with HIV and AIDS," O'Brien said. "These Catholics are absolute traditionalists in that they live according to their consciences and by virtue of their faith every day. A leader of our church who affirms rather than denies the lived wisdom of the faithful would be well within the Catholic tradition as well."

At DignityUSA, a national group of LGBT Catholics, director Marianne Duddy-Burke praised the election of a pope from South America and the choice of a man known for compassion for the poor, but she expressed concern for Francis' "very harsh and inflammatory statements about lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people."

Duddy-Burke said, "We call on our new pope to recognize that he is now head of a church that includes a huge number of LGBT people, their families and friends around the world. We invite him to take the time to learn about our lives, our faith, and our families before he makes any papal pronouncements about us, and we stand ready to enter into dialogue with him at any time."

Polls in the United States indicate the views of church leaders on LGBT issues, abortion and contraception are not shared by a majority of the faithful. A recent Quinnipiac poll, for example, showed that 54 percent of American Catholics support same-sex marriage.

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# Dan Choi headlines joint fundraiser for Equality Wisconsin, Fair Wisconsin

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Former Army Lt. Dan Choi is coming to Wisconsin to campaign for an openly gay local candidate and to help raise money for Fair Wisconsin and Equality Wisconsin, the state's two leading LGBT advocacy groups.

On March 25, Choi will appear at a fundraiser from 5:30-8 p.m. at Andy Nunemaker's historic home on Milwaukee's East Side. Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele and Nunemaker have pledged to match every dollar raised at the event up to \$10,000. The two groups will split the proceeds.

During his visit to Wisconsin, Choi also will hit the campaign trail with Equal-

ity Wisconsin board co-president Dan Manning in his quest to become Fond du Lac's first out city council member. The two veterans became friends while attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Choi's high profile and passionate brand of activism have made him a celebrity in the LGBT civil rights movement. Discharged from the Army after coming out on "The Rachel Maddow Show," Choi became one of the nation's foremost activists fighting to repeal the anti-gay military ban dubbed "don't ask, don't tell." In 2010, Choi was arrested for handcuffing himself to the White House fence to protest what activists considered President

Barack Obama's slow pace in fulfilling his campaign pledge to repeal the discriminatory law (it was finally overturned in September 2011).

Twelve other activists were arrested along with Choi for disobeying a police order to disperse, but he is the only detainee who refused to make a plea deal. Instead, he's continued to pursue his case, which has been tied up in appeals. It resumes on March 28.

Choi also was arrested during a peaceful march in Moscow in 2011 that drew international outrage.

Attendees of the March 25 fundraiser will have the opportunity to meet Choi as well as hear his story firsthand.



PHOTO: COURTESY

The event marks the first joint fundraising effort between two groups that have been increasingly working together behind the scenes to augment each other's efforts and ensure their donors get maximum impact for their contributions.

Well-intentioned advocacy groups sometimes inadvertently overlap each other's efforts, or even unknowingly undermine them. For instance, if elected officials don't like the answer they get from one organization, they sometimes turn to the other looking for a better deal, which can derail strategies and cause intra-community tension.

## A UNITED FRONT

But that's not happening anymore in Wisconsin, said Fair Wisconsin director Katie Belanger and Equality Wisconsin director Jason Burns. They said their goal is to present a united front

and rekindle the spirit of unity that emerged during the 2006 campaign against the voter referendum that ultimately added a ban on same-sex marriage and civil unions to the Wisconsin Constitution.

"When Jason called and said, 'We've got Lt. Dan Choi coming out for an event and we want to explore a joint fundraiser,' I thought it was a way to show very publicly how close our organizations are getting to each other," Belanger said.

"A united community and a community that speaks with one voice and stands together is much harder to divide than a community that's fractured," Burns said. "Our job is ensuring the advancement of the movement in Wisconsin, and we don't do that when we're competing."

"Ultimately, it's incumbent upon us to communicate what the priorities are and

assess what the greatest opportunities are to make positive change," Belanger added. "When we're assessing the (political) landscape and determining priorities and issues, it's important that we're doing that

together, so that we can have even greater impact. When legislators see we're on the same page, it resonates much stronger." The two groups already are working together on several efforts, including the fight to get the Milwaukee Public Schools district to implement domestic partner benefits in a fair way. While married opposite-sex couples automatically receive the benefits, same-sex couples must jump through a number of burdensome hoops to prove that they are a couple. In addition, they must pay onerous taxes on the benefits — taxes that heterosexual married couples are exempt from paying.

In the coming years, major priorities for both EW and FW include cultivating support for equality at the local level and reaching out to Republicans.

"This year, we're trying to identify key Republicans who are supportive of our issues and find ways to work with them," Burns said. Given the GOP's control of state government, "if we're going to get any pro-LGBT legislation passed over the next 10 years, we're going to have to start cultivating bipartisan relationships," he explained.

Belanger described the effort as trying to get Republicans on board a train "that's already left the station."

"People are moving so forward so fast on these issues, that the Republican Party can't afford to be left behind anymore," she said.

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# PrideFest Milwaukee announces opening night acts

Andy Bell and Sophie B. Hawkins are two of the headliners featured on the opening night of PrideFest Milwaukee in June. Organizers also have booked ABBA Salute.

Bell, of Erasure fame, will perform on the Miller Lite Mainstage on June 7. That night also features Hawkins and ABBA Salute, as well as the Wisconsin Royalty Drag Show, the Windy City Beauties, and Chicago legends DJ Teri Bristol and Psycho Bitch.

"We are honored to bring you another amazing festival experience in 2013," PrideFest president Scott Gunkel said in a news release. PrideFest organizers will announce additional performers in the weeks ahead.

PrideFest Milwaukee is heading into spring with a re-launched website, a new regional ad campaign and a special advance ticket campaign for the three-day celebration that takes place June 7-9 at the Summerfest grounds.

PrideFest, in a news release, said this year's event celebrates the strength and pride of families – families of birth and families of choice.

"Last year was not only one of our highest-grossing festivals, but also our most profitable festival in our 25-year history," said Gunkel. "Across the board, our entire team made smart and responsible cost reductions. Those savings allowed us to deliver the best return on our community's investment last year."

For 2013, PrideFest is offering advance ticket packages: single-day admission is \$13; a three-day weekend pass is \$30; single-day VIP passes are \$100 and three-day VIP passes are \$225.

Tickets go on sale April 15 with an option to add \$1 to the price to support the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's "greatest needs fund."

For more about PrideFest, go to [www.pridefest.com](http://www.pridefest.com).

– WiG report



Andy Bell, of Erasure.

PHOTO: FLICKR/ANDY BELL






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# Partisan split marks high court gay marriage briefs

By Mark Sherman

AP writer

A continuing distinct partisan divide is present in the gay marriage cases at the Supreme Court, set for arguments March 26-27, even though a brief on behalf of more than 100 prominent Republicans calls for marriage equality. The split is most in evident in legal briefs filed with the court by state attorneys general.

No Democratic attorney general in a state that prohibits same-sex couples from marrying has signed onto a legal filing asking the Supreme Court to uphold California's constitutional ban on gay marriage.

No Republican attorney general is asking the high court to rule in favor of marriage equality.

Reflecting that divide, the Republican leadership in the House of Representatives, supported by 10 GOP senators, is spearheading the defense of the federal law that prevents legally married gay couples from collecting a range of federal benefits otherwise available to married couples.

Some 212 Democrats and independents in Congress want part of the federal Defense of Marriage Act overturned. That includes two dozen who initially voted for it.

But the divide is clearest in the states. All

21 attorneys general who have signed legal briefs or letters urging the court to uphold California's ban on same-sex marriage are Republican.

The result of the federal appeals court ruling striking down California's ban, known as Proposition 8, "is disintegration of perhaps the most fundamental and revered cultural institution of American life: marriage as we know it," the Republicans said. The states represented on the briefs mostly are reliably Republican and chose GOP nominee Mitt Romney over President Barack Obama in November.

But also are included are four states won by Obama — Colorado, Michigan, Virginia and Wisconsin.

An additional 14 attorneys general who are asking the court for the opposite outcome are Democrats, including those from the nine states that allow gay couples to wed. Also among those Democrats are California's Kamala Harris and Ellen Rosenblum of Oregon, which has a constitutional prohibition on same-sex weddings. Obama won all 14 states.

Removing barriers and promoting the equality of spouses has strengthened the institution of marriage, the Democratic attorneys general said. "Over the past decade, this evolution has been affirmed as same-sex couples have

been permitted to marry. Against that history of greater inclusion and equality, Proposition 8 singles out same-sex couples and excludes them from the opportunity to marry," the Democrats said.

Florida and Ohio are among nine other states that define marriage as the union of a man and a woman in their constitutions, but that are not represented in the Supreme Court debate at all.

Obama won both states in November, but Republicans control the state government. Spokesmen for Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi and Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine, both Republicans, declined comment.

The seven other states have Democrat attorneys general. Mississippi Attorney General Jim Hood wants the court to issue narrow rulings in both cases, spokeswoman Jan Schaefer said. "The outcome of the two cases should not directly impact Mississippi law," Schaefer said.

The participants in the two cases and other interested parties have submitted nearly 200 briefs that range from broad historical overviews to personal stories to technical legal matters.

The Catholic Church, the Southern Baptist Convention, the Mormon Church and Orthodox Jewish congregations are among religious organizations urging the court to uphold the California provision.

Supporters of same-sex marriage include

Episcopal bishops in California, the United Church of Christ, and the Reform and Conservative movements in Judaism.

There are testimonials in support of gay marriage from the straight parents and siblings of gays and lesbians, as well as from people who call themselves survivors of efforts to help them change their sexual orientation. On the other side, some members of the ex-gay community defend traditional marriage laws, and some gay and bisexual men say the courts should not be involved in defining marriage.

One group of international scholars and jurists argues that reserving marriage for straight couples, while offering other protections for gay Americans, is consistent with practices in other countries. Experts in foreign law claim that upholding Proposition 8 would diminish the U.S. on the world stage at a time when many other nations also are moving toward marriage equality.

The court is expected to rule in the cases by the end of June.

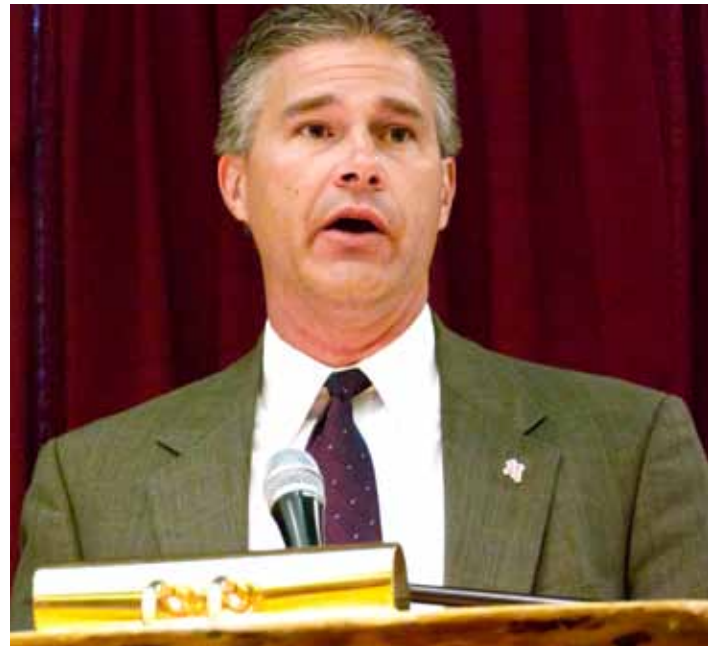



PHOTO: WIS. CENTER FOR INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM



**Wisconsin Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen is one of 21 attorneys general who've signed legal briefs or letters urging the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold California's constitutional ban on same-sex marriage. Van Hollen is one of only four AGs from states that voted to re-elect President Barack Obama.**

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# Conservatives gather for 3-day tea party

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Conservative stars gathered with thousands of their fans just outside Washington, D.C., March 14-16 to pan the president, stake out policy positions, hint at White House interests and debate the meaning of the 2012 election.

The Conservative Political Action Conference, presented by the American Conservative Union, took place at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Md.

Speakers included: U.S. Sens. Kelly Ayotte, Tom Coburn, Ted Cruz, Mike Lee, Rand Paul and Marco Rubio; U.S. Reps. Michele Bachmann, Diane Black and Marsha Blackburn; former U.S. Reps. Ann Marie Beurkle, Artur Davis, Newt Gingrich and Allen West; former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush; House Majority Leader Eric Cantor; Texas Gov. Rick Perry, Virginia Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli; Heritage Foundation president-elect Jim DeMint; Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal; NRA CEO Wayne LaPierre; U.S. Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell; former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin and commentator Ann Coulter.

Wisconsin speakers included U.S. Reps. Sean Duffy and Paul Ryan, U.S. Sen. Ron Johnson, Gov. Scott Walker and Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus.

On Day 1: Attendees shopped for souvenirs, looked for Instagram ops with GOP celebrities, joined panel discussions on waging winnable wars and reforming immigration laws, celebrated at an NRA reception and heard from Rick Perry, Allen West and Marco Rubio, who claimed his opposition to same-sex marriage and abortion rights doesn't make him a "bigot" or a "chauvinist."

On Day 2: Attendees attended a prayer breakfast with Mitch McConnell, discussed the "new tea party," watched a documentary about 40 Democrats and independents disappointed in Barack Obama, had a conversation with Michele Bachmann, and heard from Wayne LaPierre, Mitt Romney, Bobby Jindal and Paul Ryan.

Romney told his audience, "Make sure that we learn from my mistakes ... and from our mistakes, so that we can win the victories this people and this nation depend upon."

Eccentric billionaire Donald Trump spoke about bringing jobs back from China to the United States and apologized for buying his televisions from South Korea.

The day also featured panel discussions, including one called "How I Learned to Stop Worrying & Love Plastic Water Bottles, Fracking, Genetically Modified Food, & Big Gulp Sodas." The Oak Ridge Boys headlined the evening's Ronald Reagan Dinner.

On Day 3: Attendees attended NRA University, heard from Christian-right leader and champion of female modesty Phyllis Schlafly, outrageous commentator Ann Coulter, Sarah Palin, Newt Gingrich, Ted Cruz and Scott Walker. They also learned the results of the 2016 presidential straw poll.

With 25 percent of the vote, Rand Paul of Kentucky won the poll that his father has won twice – in 2010 and 2011. Rubio placed second with 23 percent of the vote.

Rick Santorum placed a distant third with 8 percent of the vote, followed by Chris Christie with 7 percent and Paul Ryan with 6 percent. Pointedly, Christie was not invited to attend.

Organizers sought to show off diversity in the conservative movement, but a conservative gay group, GOProud, was only allowed onsite because the Competitive Enterprise Institute invited its members to a sponsored panel, "A Rainbow on the Right: Growing the Coalition, Bringing Tolerance Out of the Closet."

CPAC Chairman Al Cardenas told radio station 630 WMAL that the GOProud people weren't invited because they don't behave, but the discussion – which took place the day that U.S. Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, announced his support for marriage equality – turned out to be one of the best-attended at the convention center.

Find WiG on Facebook.

## CPAC 2013

Gloria Wist of Lady Lake, Fla., with the Association of Mature Americans, poses for a portrait while attending the 40th annual Conservative Political Action Conference in National Harbor, Md., on March 15.

AP PHOTO/JACQUELYN MARTIN



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# Gay imagery on rise in mainstream advertising

By Leanne Italie

AP writer

A new TV commercial features a good-looking young woman on a beach vacation lounging next to a good-looking young man. He bemoans the glare on his iPad and she fills him in on the Kindle Paperwhite's sun-friendly screen.

He clicks to buy one himself and suggests they celebrate with a drink.

"My husband's bringing me a drink right now," she chirps.

"So is mine," he smiles as they turn and wave at their male loved ones sitting together at a tiki bar.

Welcome to the latest in gay imagery in mainstream advertising, where LGBT

people have been waiting for a larger helping of fairness, or at least something other than punchlines and clichés.

While there are still plenty of those, something has happened in advertising over the last two or three years, nearly two decades after Ikea broke ground in the U.S. with a TV spot featuring a gay couple shopping for a dining room table – a spot that ran only once in New York and Washington, D.C., and was pulled after bomb threats to Ikea stores.

Today, gay and lesbian parents and their kids are featured – along with pitch-

woman Ellen DeGeneres – in JC Penney ads. Same-sex couples have their own,

advertised wedding registries at Macy's and elsewhere, and President Barack Obama offered his seal of approval by evolving into a supporter of gay marriage.

Two happy young men sit together eating at a dining table, with wine and romantic candlelight, in a section of a Crate & Barrel catalog marked "Us & Always." And we made it through a Super Bowl without any gay jokes at commercial breaks – unlike the Snickers ad of several years ago featuring two men freaking out after kissing by accident while eating one of the candy bars.

Traditionally lagging behind TV and film content in terms of LGBT inclusion, advertis-

ers in this country are facing considerably less trouble than they used to when taking on gay themes, observers said. Penney's rebuffed critics and launched a lesbian-focused catalog ad for Mother's Day that the company followed with a two-dads family – a real family – for Father's Day.

DeGeneres, who married Portia de Rossi in 2008, continues as a spokesmodel for CoverGirl makeup. A lesbian couple was recently treated to fireworks in a commercial – real ones flash on screen – for K-Y Intense, a personal lubricant that makes their moment or two more memorable. They're shown spent and satisfied in bed, hair tousled. "Good purchase," one says to the other.

Though Crate & Barrel declined comment for this story and Amazon didn't respond to email requests about the Kindle ad, LGBT-focused marketers and monitors think the Mad Men and Women of today's Madison Avenue and the companies that employ them might finally be getting it. Now, they hope, a greater degree of diversity in skin tone and ethnicity will follow.

"They're no longer just targeting gay and lesbian people. They're targeting people like my mom, who want to know that a company embraces and accepts their gay and lesbian family members, friends and neighbors," said Rich Ferraro, a spokesman for Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

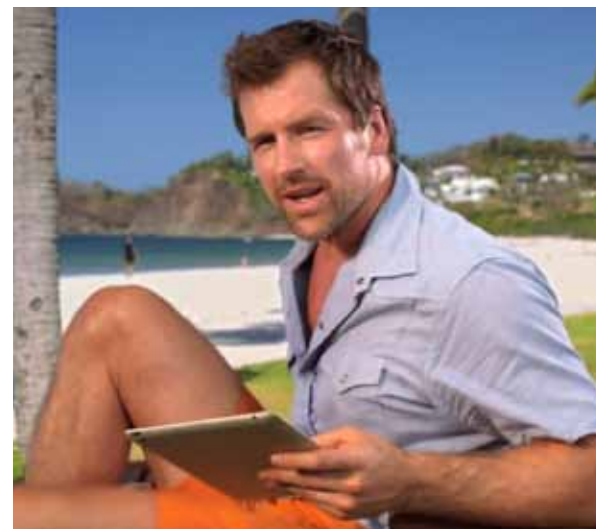


PHOTO: SCREEN CAPTURE/KINDLE PAPERWHITE COMMERCIAL

**A scene from a new commercial that uses a gay couple to promote the Kindle Paperwhite.**

Others, too, are celebrating the newfound bump in ad visibility, a mirror of cultural gains overall. Bob Witeck, who consults for Fortune 100 companies on LGBT marketing and communications strategies, put the buying power of U.S. lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender adults at \$790 billion last year. He estimated, roughly, the U.S. LGBT adult population at 16 million, though others say their ranks could be as many as 25 million.

Evidence indicates that LGBT consumers are strikingly loyal to brands and companies that support them. "Things have changed significantly in terms of risk and reward," Witeck said. "Businesses don't view this as a risk model any longer."

Particularly, he said, when it comes to portraying marriage.

"Marriage, at one time, was the third rail," Witeck said. "That terrified companies. Most of this happened when the president said he supported marriage equality."

A consumer lust for "truth-telling" isn't lost on major advertisers, including those that once restricted themselves to trotting out gay-friendly fodder as one-offs when Pride Month and its multicolored flag flies freely each June.

Generally, Witeck said, putting a human face on gay couples and families in advertising is where much of the effort lands today.

"For the gay consumer and their families and friends, and lots and lots and lots of Americans, they expect to see those couples appear everywhere, but they don't want them trotted out with a Pride flag," Witeck said. "Amazon didn't ballyhoo the message. They just landed it."

Mark Elderkin, CEO of the Gay Ad Network, said mainstream gay messaging has "passed the tipping point, where there's more to gain than there is to lose" for advertisers.

"It's companies that want to be more on the leading edge, more for the next generation of this country," Elderkin said. "It's not your parents' brand anymore. It's your brand and your kids' brand."

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## 'I don't think of myself as swinging the balance of the court'



PHOTO: ED FALLONE FOR SUPREME COURT

**Supreme Court candidate Ed Fallon, center, talks with supporters.**

**FALLONE** from page one  
 "His work in the community and on campus has helped working people obtain legal representation when they otherwise wouldn't be able to afford a lawyer. Ed is exactly the kind of fair-minded person we need making legal decisions on the Wisconsin Supreme Court. And we have a lot of work to do to get out in front of the out-of-state billionaires and corporate interests who are willing to spend millions to buy their way out of facing an impartial judge."

Special interest spending for Roggensack by big-money groups began during her primary campaign against Fallon and Milwaukee attorney Vince Megna. Fallon and Roggensack were the top two vote getters in that Feb. 19 election, allowing them to proceed to the April 2 run-off race.

Fueled by donations from corporate-funded groups, Roggensack has maintained a three-to-one spending advantage over Fallon. The Koch-brothers-backed Club for Growth pumped more than \$400,000 into TV ads for Roggensack during her primary race alone. Roggensack's campaign spent only \$90,000 on television commercials during the primary.

Roggensack has been strongly criticized for joining the Supreme Court's 4-3 right-wing majority in ruling that justices should not recuse themselves from cases involving contributors to their campaigns. In contrast, Fallon supports requiring justices to step aside in cases involving parties who had made political donations to members of the court.

Roggensack contends that disqualifying herself from hearing cases involving her big-money backers would be unfair to the thousands of other citizens who voted for her. But in what many say is a hypocritical contradiction, Roggensack joined the court's other right-wing justices in recusing herself from a case concerning her judicial colleague Justice David Prosser.

A man of notoriously flaming temperament, Prosser allegedly put his hands around Justice Ann Walsh Bradley's neck during an altercation in June 2011.

In recusing herself, Roggensack helped to halt the state Judicial Commission's investigation of an ethics violation against Prosser.

Despite the distinctly partisan differences between the two judicial candidates' backers, Fallon told WiG he believes nothing related to politics has a place in a judicial race.

"As I talk to voters around the state, even those who complain about the court leaning too far in a conservative direction don't think the solution is to push the court in a liberal direction," Fallon said. "They want to elect candidates who won't be too political."

Fallone denied that he has any agenda that he'd try to advance as a Supreme Court justice.

"I don't think of myself as swinging the balance of the court one way or the other on ideological ground," he said. "It's a mistake for judges to embrace overarching philosophies of the law. If you think there is one big theory that explains the law, you end up as a judge trying to pigeonhole cases into to your particular theory. Parties in a case want an independent judge."

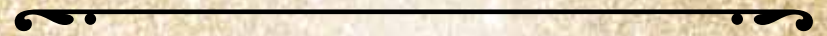
Fallone said he's proud of his endorsements from Equality Wisconsin and Fair Wisconsin.

"Throughout my career I've recognized and advocated for equal treatment under the law for all persons," he said. "I'll continue to promote equality under the law as one of my primary motivations."

In 2010, when Marquette rescinded its offer to a lesbian scholar who'd been selected as dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, Fallon was chairman of the university's academic senate, which condemned the decision. He did not, however, join with about 100 other faculty members who signed a full-page ad that appeared in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel criticizing the university's leadership.



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# { Editorial }

## Divided and falling

In a nation that's more divided along partisan lines than at any time in recent memory, Wisconsin is the most divided of all states.

That's not just an opinion, it's the conclusion of a comprehensive survey conducted by Public Policy Polling. Researchers found the gaps here between Republican and Democratic support for both the governor and the president are the country's widest.

Divisiveness pervades throughout the ranks of Wisconsin's elected officials. U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan has a favorability rating of 92 percent among Republicans, but only 8 percent of Democrats like him. That's the largest gap for any House member that PPP has surveyed in recent years. The gaps in partisan support for U.S. Sens. Ron Johnson and Tammy Baldwin are considerably wider than they are for senators in other states.

The partisanship in Wisconsin is not only reflected in statistics. Partisanship manifests in the intensity of political debate in the state, from the blogosphere to the kitchen table. Ideological differences over such hot-button issues as choice, labor representation and school vouchers have torn apart families, friends and business relationships. Midwest nice has been buried under inflammatory headlines and opinionated "news."

What happened to the middle – the people who amicably agreed to disagree on some issues while finding common ground to work together on others? For Republicans, the art of compromise – which even the Ayn Rand lexicon defines as "an adjustment of conflicting claims by mutual concessions" – has become the target of ridicule. The GOP has adopted a scorched earth approach to politics in which nothing gets done in order to ensure that the other side can claim no victories. In fact, their party marginalizes Republicans who are willing to cooperate with Democrats for the sake of progress.

As a result, the nation is paralyzed with hopelessness and uncertainty – and no state suffers more from the ambient negativity than Wisconsin. Between the extremism and adversarial style of Madison's Republican leadership and the inability of Democrats to stop taking the GOP's bait and focus on selling solutions, we are stuck in perpetual campaign mode, going nowhere.

Leaders are supposed to build consensus through their abilities to persuade and inspire. Their conviction and character must be strong enough to unite us behind them. Honesty and transparency are essential to this process.

While Wisconsin has women and men who possess these qualities, too few have managed to rise high enough in state government to make a difference. Why? Because we have chosen badly in the voting booth, misdirected by facile character assassinations and the faux "facts" of campaign mailers and commercials paid for by special interests.

Talking heads, hate radio hosts, moneyed special interests and bloggers have usurped the role once played by a legitimate media, flooding us with lies and propaganda. Our votes are no longer based on facts and solutions. Our elections are popularity contests between celebrities created by the new, corporate-backed punditocracy – a disastrous situation that has incrementally worsened since the Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United.

We have been turned against each other by those whose wealth multiplies through our division. Unless this stops, we will soon be united in our mutual subjugation.

## WiG's WEB PICKS

Some of our favorite recent pictorials from cyberspace



**IF REPUBLICAN  
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AMERICA, WHY ARE  
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## ON THE RECORD



"I think it is very anti-Christian (to hate gay people). It is the antithesis of what I believe. It is the antithesis of what you should believe if you believe in Jesus. It's not what he taught, it's the opposite of what he taught."

— KRISTIN CHENOWETH telling Gay Star News that Christians should support same-sex marriage.

"A lot of Republicans share my view about this. I don't think it's the government's responsibility to dictate who can marry who. People can make that decision on their own."

— RYAN LYK, the two-term chairman of the Minnesota College Republicans, telling The Associated Press that he wants people to know that not just Democrats support same-sex marriage.

"They have to know that they are a minority and must adjust to smaller things. And not rise to the greatest heights . . . spoiling things for the others and taking (what they want) from the majority. A minority should not impose itself on the majority."

— Nobel Peace Prize winner LECH WALESIA telling TVN that he hates gays and that gays have no rights. He went on to say that gays have no right to sit on the front benches in Parliament and, if represented at all, should sit in the back, "and even behind a wall." Prosecutors declined to pursue hate speech charges against him

"If you feel like an outsider, you tend to observe things a lot more. Early on I felt very much like an observer, because I knew I was gay, I knew I was somehow different."

— CNN's ANDERSON COOPER speaking with Michelangelo Signorile on Sirius XM's OutQ program.

"We would all call black people 'DNs' at home. It stood for 'dumb n-----' and was our private language. We thought it was clever to call them that in front of them. He was deeply prejudiced, and he believed the Bible said they were cursed."

— NATE PHELPS, son of Westboro Baptist Church founder Fred Phelps, telling a British newspaper that his father despises black people.

"Don't tell me Democrats are the party of the future, when their presidential ticket for 2016 is shaping up to look like a rerun of 'The Golden Girls.'"

— U.S. Sen. Minority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL taking a swipe at Hillary Clinton and Vice President Joe Biden.

"Why can't we get a record of women who have had abortions? They get money from Planned Parenthood; they get money from Medicare and Medicaid, much of these are tax subsidies. I think mothers might want to know what other women on their street might be willing to murder a child."

— ANN COULTER telling Fox News host Sean Hannity that she believes the government should collect and publish the names of women who've had abortions.



## Opinion

JAMAKAYA

How many of these accomplished lesbians do you know about?

Katharine Lee Bates (1859-1929) is most famous as the lyric writer of "America the Beautiful," which she penned after being awestruck by the glorious view from the summit of Pikes Peak in Colorado. Her words were set to the hymn "Materna" by Samuel A. Ward, and the song has become a beloved anthem notable for its love of our country's natural beauty and democratic values rather than its militarism.

Bates was a longtime professor of English literature at Wellesley College. She wrote poetry, children's stories and travel books. She lived in a devoted relationship with Katharine Coman, a fellow Wellesley professor, for 25 years. After Coman's death in 1915, Bates published a poetry collection, "Yellow Clover," in her partner's memory. Lily Tomlin, 73, is the

## Honoring women's history

versatile writer, comic and actress who has entertained TV, theater and movie audiences since the 1960s. An Oscar-nominated actress (for "Nashville"), she has won two Tony Awards, multiple Emmys (for writing and performing), a Grammy (for best comedy album) and the prestigious Mark Twain Prize for American Humor.

Tomlin's original characters — including Edith Ann, Ernestine, Mrs. Judith Beasley, Trudy the Bag Lady and Tommy Velour — have attained legendary status in the annals of comedy. Most of these sly and hilarious personas were created with the help of Tomlin's longtime partner, the writer and producer Jane Wagner.

May Swenson (1913-89) was a lyric poet and playwright popular in the mid-20th century. She's undergoing renewed appreciation today for the wit, woman-centeredness and eroticism of her poems. I came across her playful "Poet to Tiger" in

an anthology called "Poems Between Women" and was entranced. To celebrate the centenary of her birth, The Library of America is publishing a volume of her complete poems in April. What an honor for her and a pleasure for a new generation of readers. Some of Swenson's work is in the public domain, so look for it online.

Dr. Susan M. Love is a surgeon and prominent breast cancer researcher whose book, "Dr. Susan Love's Breast Book," is often touted as "the bible" of breast care books. The book is now in its fifth edition. An influential leader of the women's health movement for 30 years, Love has been a member of the National Cancer Advisory Board and is president of the Dr. Susan Love Research Foundation. Love, 65, is undergoing treatment for leukemia.

Chavela Vargas (1919-2012) was a hard-drinking, cross-dressing, gun-toting, woman-loving singer of Mex-

ican rancheras and boleros. Vargas was hugely popular from the 1950s to 1970s in nightclubs in Mexico, the United States, Spain and France. Born in Costa Rica, she left for Mexico to partake in its big cultural awakening in the 1930s. She befriended artists Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera and diligently studied other musical artists to develop her style.

Vargas became as famous for her love affairs as for her incredible voice and guitar playing. It was said the local machos locked away their daughters and wives when Chavela came to town, as she was known to take what she wanted.

Vargas officially came out at age 81, to no one's surprise. To everyone's surprise, however, given her wild lifestyle, she lived to be 93! Her career had a big revival in the 1990s and her songs were featured in "Frida," "Babel" and several Pedro Almodovar movies. Check out Chavela's music on YouTube.

## Opinion

JASON BURNS

## Embracing Senator Portman's 'evolution'

My morning routine usually includes about 10 minutes of lying in bed and scrolling through my Facebook and Twitter feeds to see what, if anything, happened overnight. Most mornings it's quite dull, except for the occasional I-can't-believe-they-posted-that moment. March 15 was very different.

On that morning, my feeds were filled with friends and news organizations touting Sen. Rob Portman's flip on marriage equality. I was thrilled that another conservative Republican was speaking out in favor marriage equality. It is worth remembering that Portman, R-Ohio, was on Mitt Romney's short list as a potential vice-presidential candidate. During his interview with CNN, the senator stated that during the vetting process he informed Romney that

he had a gay son and it was a "non-issue." Most likely, it wasn't.

Portman's evolution was a great way to start my day. I was even more excited about the prospect of discussing the senator's change of position with my husband's family in Ohio the next weekend. But around 10 a.m., something weird happened. Suddenly my Facebook feed was filled with people criticizing Portman's new stance on equality.

It's true that a change of heart does not erase more than a decade of votes that have harmed the LGBT community. And it's sad that it took having a gay son to win his support for our community's basic human rights.

But, unfortunately, Portman's story reflects the reality of the world we live in. Think back to when you came out. Where you

instantly at peace with your new sexual identity?

It took me several years to fully accept my sexual orientation. Until then, internalized homophobia resided deep within me. That shame — plus a little bit of fear — led me to keep my orientation a secret from my family for almost four years after I had officially come out. Knowing that my journey to personal acceptance as a gay man required several years, how can I sneer with disapproval at someone else's timetable?

It better serves our movement to embrace Portman's new position and cultivate him as a stronger ally. Many vitally important pieces of LGBT legislation still need to be addressed by Congress, and they can only pass with bipartisan support.

We have the opportunity now to embrace an influen-

### Criticizing Portman will alienate a potent ally.

tial man and to leverage his support to create positive change for the LGBT community. Criticizing Portman for what he's done in the past will only alienate a potentially potent ally.

Homophobia is still alive and healthy in America, and Portman may not be with us 100 percent. But we must take the moment and run with it. Let's step down from the soapbox and embrace the senator's evolution with some of the enthusiasm we showed President Barack Obama's last year.

# Appling helps sell out UWFox drag show

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

Wisconsin's leading anti-gay crusader inadvertently helped to sell out a University of Wisconsin-Fox Valley drag show in Menasha after an "action alert" she issued about the March 14 event went viral.

Days prior to the show, Wisconsin Family Action director Julaine Appling demonized the event to her followers as a "display of immorality" intended to propagandize young people. She urged readers to contact the event's organizers and ask them to halt the program.

A story that wisconsin Gazette.com posted about Appling's opposition to the event drew more than 26,000 readers. Syndicated gay columnist Dan Savage, who's based in Seattle, brought national attention to the event when he purchased tickets and gave them away. A total of 250 tickets were sold, the maximum available.

School officials said the event was paid for by student fees – not taxpay-

ers – and described drag as part of a classic comedy tradition that pre-dates Shakespeare, whose female characters were played by men.

David Hager, UWFox director of university relations, said the publicity surrounding the event "gave the campus new exposure," including coverage on Milwaukee television and nationwide discussions on Twitter and Facebook.

Feedback varied, Hager said, from people who expressed opposition to indifference to strong support.

UWFox is one of 13 University of Wisconsin campuses.

Appling was the leading force behind the 2006 voter referendum that added anti-gay discrimination to the Wisconsin Constitution by banning same-sex marriage and civil unions in the state. A self-proclaimed defender of "traditional marriage," Appling has never married and has lived for decades with another never-married woman in a home the two own jointly in Watertown.



Shangela, top left, from "RuPaul's Drag Race"; CeeCee LaRouge, top right; and MiAmi Knight, right.

PHOTOS: DAVID HAGER

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## COMMUNITY BRIEFS



### STUDENTS PREPARE FOR DAY OF SILENCE

Youth activists across the country are preparing for the annual Day of Silence, when students on high school and college campuses give bullying and discrimination the silent treatment. Organizing for the day, observed on April 19, is taking place at [DayOfSilence.org](http://DayOfSilence.org), where activists and allies can register activities, report resistance, learn about their rights, download logos and purchase gear.

### UWM PRESENTS 'UPRISINGS'

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Union Art Gallery presents "Uprisings: Images of Labor," an exhibition featuring an interactive print-making factory with print editions based on the theme of labor from the Justseeds Artists' Cooperative.

An opening reception is at 5 p.m. on March 21 and a closing reception at 5 p.m. on March 28. Artist talks will take place 9 a.m.-5 p.m. March 22-23. The exhibit is in Room W199 in the UWM Union, 2200 E. Kenwood Blvd.

### IN OTHER NEWS...

The **ACLU of Wisconsin Foundation** holds its annual Bill of Rights Celebration 6-9 p.m. on March 23 to cheer

champions of "freedom of expression in the arts, a hero for public schools and an emerging civil liberties youth leader." Honorees include David Cessarini and Next Act Theatre, Barbara J. Miner and Michael Freytes. The celebration takes place at The Hamilton, 823 E. Hamilton St., Milwaukee. For more, visit [www.aclu-wi.org](http://www.aclu-wi.org).

**Diverse & Resilient** presents leadership awards and celebrates the life of civil rights activist Bayard Rustin with a gala on March 22 at the Harley Davidson Museum. D&R is honoring Joseph Stanley, Warren Scherer, Kate Erickson, Kimberly Clark, Phoenix Van Laanen, Tsai Robinson, Paul Williams, Rock County LGBT OutReach and Denise Crumble. For more, visit [www.diverseandresilient.org/give](http://www.diverseandresilient.org/give).

**GSafe** (Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools) has settled into a new location with the help of a volunteer moving team. The office's new address is 122 E. Olin Ave., Suite 209, Madison. The organization also is planning its annual Celebration of Leadership Scholarship and Community Awards banquet scheduled for May 11 in Madison. For more, visit [www.gsafewi.org](http://www.gsafewi.org).

The **Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce** joins in a webinar on "What the Healthcare Law Means For LGBT Small Businesses." The session takes place at 11 a.m. on March 25 with discussions on coverage for LGBT people, tax credits, the insurance exchange and business tools. For more, visit [www.wislgbtchamber.com](http://www.wislgbtchamber.com).

— L.N.

# U.S. reps urge marriage equality in Illinois

Members of Illinois' congressional delegation have called on state legislators to pass a bill legalizing same-sex marriage.

The Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act has passed the state Senate and a House committee but has not been voted on in the House, where 60 members need to say "yes."

In a letter on stationery from U.S. Rep. Mike Quigley's office, the congressional members said the bill "will strengthen Illinois families by allowing individuals who love each other to enter into the joys and benefits of a legal marriage."

Signers include Democrats Quigley, Danny K. Davis, Luis Gutierrez, Jan Schakowsky, Tammy Duckworth, Brad Schneider and Bill Foster.

They wrote, "For many years, we have fought together for what we believed was in the best interests of our districts, our state and our country. You have the chance to provide recognition as well as basic legal protec-



GRAPHIC COURTESY: PINKISTHENEWBLOG.COM

tions to all Illinois families across our state."

The marriage equality bill also has received endorsements from major newspapers in Illinois, as well as business and faith-based coalitions.

— L.N.

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

## REGIONAL BRIEFS

### COUNCIL OF MICHIGAN INDIAN TRIBE OKS GAY MARRIAGE

A northern Michigan Indian tribal council has voted to recognize gay marriage.

The Petoskey News-Review reported that the legislative body of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians made the decision in early March. The tribe is based in Harbor Springs.

The 5-4 vote in favor of recognizing same-sex marriage sent the statute to the tribal chairman, who recently signed it.

At least two other U.S. Indian tribes recognize gay marriage. The Coquille Tribe in North Bend, Ore., began recognizing the unions in 2009, and the Suquamish Tribe in Suquamish, Wash., did so in 2011.

Voters approved a ban on gay marriage in the Michigan Constitution in 2004, but Indian tribes are self-governing.

### IN OTHER NEWS...

**A lesbian couple** seeking to jointly adopt children made a "compelling" case that Michigan's gay marriage ban violates the U.S. Constitution, but a federal judge said he wants to wait for guidance from the U.S. Supreme Court before deciding how to proceed.

**An Iowa administrative law judge** has ruled that a transgender woman should not have been ordered out of a courthouse women's restroom by a Johnson County sheriff's deputy. The county, which has not acknowledged wrongdoing, still faces the possibility of a civil suit.

**Wisconsin's AIDS Network** urged testing as it observed National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day earlier in

March. About 25 percent of AIDS Network's clients living with HIV are female, spanning all ages, according to the Madison-based group.

**Minnesota House and Senate committees** recently approved bills to legalize same-sex marriage in the state where voters last November rejected an anti-gay constitutional amendment. Floor votes on the measures are expected later this session. The governor has said he will sign a bill legalizing same-sex marriages if one reaches his desk.

**Scott Walker** is downplaying his interest in being president, saying he loves being governor and is not running for any other job. He finished sixth in a straw poll of potential GOP candidates at the annual Conservative Political Action Conference. Walker also recently reiterated his opposition to marriage equality.

**State Rep. Brett Hulsey** is among the growing number of critics who predict the new strip mining law passed by Republicans will set off a series of legal challenges at the state and federal levels. "Instead of passing a responsible mining bill, Republicans in the legislature have guaranteed a lengthy legal battle that will only create jobs for lawyers," Hulsey said.

**Acting U.S. Secretary of Commerce Rebecca Blank** has been recommended to be the next chancellor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. If the board of regents approves the pick on April 5, she would start in July.

— L.N. and L.W.

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## Anti-government radicalism spurred by recession, demographics

**THREAT** from page one

high-water number in the 1990s.

SPLC publishes annual counts and analyses of U.S. extremist groups. The counts include active, established groups – not lone “key-board commandos,” said Heidi L. Beirich, director of the SPLC Intelligence Project.

Patriot groups are defined by the SPLC as opposing a “New World Order” and promoting anti-government doctrine and conspiracy theories.

Experts theorize that the revival of far-right, anti-government radicalism has been spurred by the economic recession, a Democratic administration, the first black president and intensifying debate about immigration, the environment and gun control. Accompanying the rise in militia groups are increasing calls for secession, nullification and civil war.

“The year that Obama was elected, we started to see these groups rise and rise and rise,” said Beirich, whose department consists of 15 staffers who read far-right publications, monitor websites, track events and activities and collect police reports.

There were 30 active anti-government groups in Wisconsin in 2012 – that’s a slight increase from the 26 identified in 2011. Several, including groups in Appleton and Milwaukee, are affiliates of the John Birch Society, an anti-communism, limited-government organization founded in 1958 by, among others, Fred Koch. The SPLC list also includes the Constitution Party in Milwaukee, the North-

woods Patriots in Eagle River, We the People, Southeast Wisconsin Volunteers, Northeast Wisconsin Militia, Badger State Volunteers and the Tenth Amendment Center.

Some of these groups self-describe as patriot groups or militias while others dispute the SPLC classification.

Several Wisconsin militia websites, for example, contain lists of weapons, ammunition and survival gear that members should have and urge visitors “to protect our property and families by any means necessary.”

But a post for the Badger State Volunteers states, “We are Constitutionalists, survivalists, self-sustainers, and educators plain and simple. We are NOT a religious group! ... We are NOT a racially motivated group! We do not care about your color. We only care that you believe in the preservation of The Constitution of the United States of America.”

### FAR-RIGHT UNIVERSE

The anti-government crusade is one of three basic ideological movements in the far-right universe. The others are the fundamentalist movement that consists of Christian identity groups that fuse religious fundamentalism with white supremacy ideas and the racist or white supremacy movement, according to Arie Perlinger, director of the Combating Terrorism Center at West Point and author of the recent study “Challengers From the Sidelines: Understanding America’s Violent Far Right.”

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## BY THE NUMBERS

### PATRIOT AND MILITIA GROUPS IN THE UNITED STATES

<b>1996:</b>	858	<b>2006:</b>	147
<b>1998:</b>	435	<b>2008:</b>	149
<b>2000:</b>	194	<b>2010:</b>	824
<b>2002:</b>	143	<b>2012:</b>	1,360
<b>2004:</b>	152		

### HATE GROUPS IN THE UNITED STATES

<b>2000:</b>	602	<b>2008:</b>	926
<b>2002:</b>	708	<b>2010:</b>	1,002
<b>2004:</b>	762	<b>2012:</b>	1,007
<b>2006:</b>	844		

Source: SPLC

The number of fundamentalist and white supremacist groups also remains at a near-record high. An expansion of hate group numbers began in 2000, a response to the country’s changing demographics.

“What is interesting about the hate group numbers is they were climbing at a rapid rate. ... They’ve darn near doubled over the last decade,” said Beirich.

SPLC maintains a “hate map” on its website, a page where browsers can click on a state and see its number of extremist groups, as well as a list: 82 in California, 53 in Georgia, 62 in Texas, a handful in Maine and Vermont and 11 in Wisconsin, up from eight last year. The organizations are described as neo-Nazi, Christian identity, black separatist, racist skinhead, anti-gay and KKK. In Wisconsin, they can be found – perhaps not easily – in Mountain, Eau Claire, Milwaukee, New Berlin, Monroe and Shawano.

Beirich stressed that patriot groups are “entirely different” from hate groups, but “we often see people move between these groups.”

None of the groups on the far right advocate equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender people. Some advocate death sentences for gays, or internment or deportation.

“In general,” Beirich said, “all the groups we monitor are anti-LGBT. Unfortunately that is the dominant mode of thinking” on the far right.

She added that not all of the far right extremist organizations advocate violence, but some do.

And, said Perlinger, “since 2007, there has been a dramatic rise in the number of attacks and violent plots originating on the far right of American politics.” Perlinger said that right-wing violence from 2000-2011 surpassed right-wing violence in the 1990s by a factor of four.

His research shows that militia group attacks result in higher numbers of injuries and fatalities than attacks by other right-wing extremist groups, and militia groups are more likely than other extremist groups to use explosives and fire arms.

### DOMESTIC TERROR

In another report, the Congressional Research Service identified more than two

dozen domestic terrorist incidents since September 2001.

The surge in patriot groups prompted SPLC president and CEO J. Richard Cohen to write to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano with a warning.

Cohen began with a reminder that six months before the October 1994 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma City, the SPLC wrote to Attorney General Janet Reno about the growing threat of domestic terrorism.

“Today,” Cohen wrote, “we write to express similar concerns. In the last four years, we have seen a tremendous increase in the number of conspiracy-minded anti-government groups as well as in the number of domestic terrorist plots. As in the period before the Oklahoma City bombing, we now also are seeing ominous threats from those who believe that the government is poised to take their guns.”

The SPLC asked the federal officials to establish an interagency task force to assess “the adequacy of resources devoted to responding to the growing threat of non-Islamic domestic terrorism.”

Mark Potok, a senior fellow at the SPLC and the author of the organization’s recent analysis on extremist groups, said, “We are seeing a real and rising threat of domestic terrorism as the number of far-right anti-government groups continues to grow at an astounding pace. It is critically important that the country take this threat seriously. The potential for deadly violence is real and clearly rising.”

### ON THE COVER

PHOTO: AP/TYLER TJOMSLAND

**Stewart Rhodes, founder of Oath Keepers, addresses a crowd during a Second Amendment gun rally in 2012 in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. The Oath Keepers vow to disobey “unconstitutional” orders from the federal government, which they view as increasingly tyrannical.**



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## Fearless

*Martha Wainwright  
brings her  
new spirit to  
Milwaukee*

Photo: Courtesy

### By Michael Muckian

*Contributing writer*

Singer/songwriter Martha Wainwright waxes domestic when asked what would constitute her perfect day.

"Fixing things or using your hands can make me very happy," says Wainwright, 36, the youngest child of a ferociously musical – or perhaps just ferocious – family. "Maybe making some curtains, planting some seeds or baking bread. I guess being on the road all the time makes me miss these tasks and accomplishments."

Wainwright's answers reflect the relatively new sense of peace and stability that she and husband Brad Albetta, who produced her first recordings, have found since the 2009 birth of their son Arcangelo. Wainwright's attitude today stands in marked contrast to a past filled with domestic discord and emotional neglect. A writer who dedicates her song "Bloody Mother Fuck-

ing Asshole" to her father is not projecting a harmonious family life.

"BMFA" was released as part of a five-song EP in 2005.

Wainwright's father is American musician Loudon Wainwright III, and her mother is the late Canadian folk singer Kate McGarrigle. Out performer Rufus Wainwright is her brother. Growing up in a household of accomplished musicians was not an arpeggio of high notes, according to Wainwright, especially when it came to her relationship with her father.

"For most of my life Loudon talked to me in song, which was a bit of a shitty thing to do," Wainwright told *The Guardian* newspaper in 2005, "especially as he makes himself come off as funny and charming while the rest of us seem like whining victims."

Loudon's unfortunate choice of songs about his daughter's teen years further eroded the relationship.

Wainwright spent her 14th

year in New York with her father, who had long since left the family, and it was a year that proved difficult for both of them. She was touring with her father when he performed "I'd Rather Be Lonely," a song about a man's unsatisfactory relationship with a woman. She hadn't realized the song was written about her until Loudon announced it from the stage, a move that to her crossed the line of decency. Loudon's song "Hitting You," written about a time when he hit his daughter, broadened the divide between them.

However, "BMFA" may have started a period of catharsis for Wainwright. Her subsequent albums were a little less sharp-tongued, but no less insightful about the songwriter and those who influenced her musical growth and talent.

"I'm not exactly sure where the talent comes from, but I am certainly inspired by my folks as well as my

brother," she says. "A part of songwriting comes with being original, and I wanted to have something different in my music from that of my family's music."

Wainwright's songs differ from her brother's, but both artists draw on their experiences growing up in the Wainwright-McGarrigle household. Despite feeling less favored than Rufus as a child, she says, the years have strengthened the relationship between the two siblings.

"In many ways, my brother is my mentor," Wainwright says. "I certainly see his career as a model for the one I would like to have, and I respect and admire his work ethic as well as his confidence."

She performs with him whenever possible, although their tours will just barely miss each other this spring. Martha performs in multiple regional venues March 21-25, while Rufus arrives for concerts April 11-14.

er to help each other out," she says. "We perform more and more together since our mom died. I think we need each other more."

Kate McGarrigle was diagnosed in 2006 with clear-cell sarcoma, a rare form of cancer that affects the connective tissues. She appeared at a concert with Rufus and Martha at London's Royal Albert Hall six weeks before she died to raise money for the Kate McGarrigle Fund, domiciled at Canada's McGill University Health Centre, to raise sarcoma awareness. She died at age 63 on Jan. 18, 2010, three months after Martha gave birth to Arcangelo.

McGarrigle's final song "Proserpina" pays homage to the Roman goddess of springtime, with a refrain that calls the goddess home to her mother. Wainwright performed the song on her 2012 album, "Come Home to Mama," a tribute to her mother.

McGarrigle's passing was difficult for Wainwright, but she feels a new optimism both as a person and an artist. She continues to tour and look for ways to create happiness in her increasingly domestic life.

"Now that I have a son, any time with him is the best time I have," she says. "I think playing with him in the sand and running on a lawn would make me very happy right now."

She and Rufus will perform together several times this summer and the siblings are planning an album of McGarrigle's songs recorded live at various tribute concerts over the past few years. The opportunities to perform together have taken on a new meaning in recent years.

"This is a tough business and we have to stick together-

### WHERE'S MARTHA?

Fans willing to make the drive will have ample opportunity to catch Martha Wainwright over the next few days:

- March 21 The Cedar Cultural Center, Minneapolis
- March 22 Shank Hall, Milwaukee
- March 23 High Noon Saloon, Madison
- March 24 The City Winery, Chicago
- March 25 The Ark, Ann Arbor, Mich.

### WHAT ABOUT RUFUS?

Rufus Wainwright will also visit the upper Midwest, just barely missing the chance to perform with his sister. Here's where you'll find him:

- April 11 The Pabst Theater, Milwaukee
- April 12-13 Fitzgerald Theater, St. Paul
- April 14 Old Town School of Folk Music, Chicago

# Radcliffe takes turn as gay beat poet Ginsberg

By Jill Lawless

AP writer

The time is coming — maybe sooner than you expect — when you look at Daniel Radcliffe and don't think "Harry Potter."

The 23-year-old actor has gone from boy wizard to Broadway hooper to gay Beat poet Allen Ginsberg, whom he plays in the new film "Kill Your Darlings." He has several wildly different films lined up, and is soon to take to the London stage as star of Martin McDonagh's barbed comedy "The Cripple of Inishmaan."

The play gives audiences the chance to see Radcliffe in yet another new light, as Billy, a disabled orphan in 1930s Ireland who harbors an unlikely dream of Hollywood stardom.

"I think one of the hilarious things about this play is, by our standards today, how politically incorrect it is," said the actor, looking lean if a tad tired — he's been at the gym, working out ahead of rehearsals for the play — in the troupe's office atop a West End playhouse. "So much of the comedy is just people being relentlessly cruel to Billy.

It shouldn't come as a surprise that the one-time boy wizard is a fan of the edgier end of comedy. His entire post-Potter career feels designed to wrong-foot anyone seeking to pigeonhole him.

The play is Radcliffe's first time on the West End stage since his 2007 run in "Equus," Peter

Shaffer's play about a troubled stable boy who blinds horses. It featured the then-teenage actor in a nude scene, which triggered a deluge of "Harry Potter's Wand" headlines. But critics praised the young actor's brave and committed performance.

Radcliffe said "Equus" was "a signal of intent as to what I wanted to do."

"I didn't just want to take an easy way out of this. I wanted to really try and take risks and make a career for myself."

Since then, he's mixed movies and theater work, including a 2011 Broadway run as a scheming businessman in "How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying."

He's shot three films due to come out in the next year. "Kill Your Darlings," which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January, stars Radcliffe as Ginsberg — Beat poetry, gay sex scenes and all. Radcliffe says he's never been prouder of a piece of work.

He's also filmed "The F Word," which he calls a "very funny, very sweet but also very smart" romantic comedy from Canadian director Michael Dowse.

"I don't want to say (I'm) playing myself, exactly," Radcliffe said, "but (I'm) playing a character that's fairly high-anxiety, slightly hyperactive guy."

He's especially excited about "Horns," a film by French horror auteur Alexandre Aja ("The Hills Have Eyes," "Piranha"). It's about a bereaved man who grows devilish horns that

allow him access to the thoughts and feelings of others.

"It's a love story, it's a revenge movie, it's a horror movie in parts — it's going to be crazy," said Radcliffe, who made an earlier foray into horror movies with "The Woman in Black."

Next up, he will star as mad-scientist's assistant Igor in Max Landis' pop-culture spin on the "Frankenstein" story.

All in all, it's an eclectic list of projects. Radcliffe says there is a philosophy guiding his career choices, but "it's very basic. It's just what excites me."

"Hopefully later on this year people will start to see some very different performances from me. And hopefully some really good movies," he said. "It's about the movie as a whole, not just people studying my performance and seeing how I'm getting different and how I'm growing up."

Radcliffe accepts that fascination with how he's growing up is unlikely to fade altogether. But he seems comfortable with the Harry Potter legacy, happy to have made the transition from child star to adult actor.

The "Harry Potter" moviemakers have been praised for creating a stable, creative home for their young stars, who went from preteens to adults over the course of eight films released between 2001 and 2011.

"I feel like everyone wanted Potter to be more of a handcuff than it actually was," said the resolutely well-adjusted Radcliffe.



PHOTO: FANPOP

Daniel Radcliffe as beat poet Allen Ginsberg in "Kill Your Darlings."

"I think Harry Potter is going to be around for a while — a long while — but as long as it doesn't inhibit me getting parts in the present time, then it's fine. It's a lovely association to have, because it's something I'm incredibly proud of.

"People always say, 'Don't you just want to forget about it?' No! That was my entire adolescence."

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# Dish it Out!

## A passion for food Restaurateur Marc Bianchini has made appetite 'a way of life'

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

When Osteria Del Mondo closed its doors in the Knickerbocker in April 2011, patrons hoped that one of Milwaukee's best restaurants soon would find a new home. Owner Marc Bianchini initially promised a six-month hiatus before reopening in a smaller, higher-profile location downtown.

Milwaukee foodies are still awaiting the restaurant's return, but anyone who thinks Bianchini has been resting on his culinary laurels underestimates the restaurateur's drive. Bianchini's company On the Marc Restaurants includes the Milwaukee establishments COA, Cubanitas, and Indulge. Those restaurants have been keeping him and wife Marta, a native of Cuba, quite busy.

In June 2012, Bianchini partnered with a northern Illinois investment group to plant a flag in the highly competitive Chicago area. He opened Chili U in Libertyville, Ill., a restaurant that specializes in comfort food and, of course, chili.

For a man who considers his name a growing brand within Milwaukee's restaurant industry, all of this activity is the result of a lifelong interest in food.

### AN EARLY PASSION

A native New Yorker and son of a radiologist and real estate broker, Bianchini's exposure to fine dining began early in life. He was fortunate to have cut his teeth – literally and figuratively – in some of New York's finest restaurants. He fell in love with the industry at age 10, he says.

Bianchini's first job, preparing desserts at a restaurant called Crooked Hill on Long Island, was just the beginning. After graduating from high school at age 17, he went directly to the Culinary Institute of America to learn the trade.

As part of his training, the aspiring chef completed externships at the Locanda del' Angelo in Liguira, Italy, and at the San Domenico restaurants in New York City and Emilia-Romagna, Italy. At San Domenico in New York, he crossed paths with Paul Bartolotta, who invited Bianchini to Milwaukee to help start Ristorante Bartolotta in Wauwatosa. The original chef had quit a week before opening.

Bianchini next moved on to Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises, the high-profile Chicago restaurant chain. There he explored new markets and food types. By 1994, at age 23, Bianchini had returned to Milwaukee and started Osteria Del Mondo, his first restaurant.



PHOTOS: COURTESY

COA's "Average Joe" taco, left, is served with chihuahua cheese, onions and cilantro. It's available with ground beef, grilled chicken or grilled steak. Center, the exterior of COA at Bayshore Town Center in Glendale. The Carne Asada taco contains marinated steak, jalapeños, guacamole, pico de gallo and queso fresco, right.

"I knew from early on food must be done right," Bianchini says. "From ingredients and cooking to presentation and ambiance, eating should be an exceptional experience of culinary art."

Bianchini has carried that philosophy to his other restaurants, including Cubanitas, 728 N. Milwaukee St., which serves an all-Cuban menu and is run by wife Marta. Diners can enjoy hearty Ropa Vieja, shredded flank steak served with tomato creole sauce, or a simple side of Plantanitos Maduros, or sweet plantains.

Indulge, 708 N. Milwaukee St., emphasizes wine, with 60 different varieties available by the glass. These can be paired with handmade chocolates, imported and domestic cheeses and hand-cut charcuterie – all sold by the ounce and designed to satisfy a variety of appetites.

"An appetite for life can never be satisfied," Bianchini says. "We should feed the appetite, help it find the pleasure it seeks, and make that appetite a way of life."

### MILWAUKEEANS GET IT

The Bianchini restaurant currently creating perhaps the greatest stir is COA, 5730 N. Port Washington Road, in Bayshore Town Center. "Coa" is the sharp, long-handled tool used for cutting the agave cactus from which tequila is distilled. Bianchini hopes that COA will form the cutting edge for a new level of Mexican street food in Milwaukee.

"COA is by far the best Mexican restaurant in the city," Bianchini says. "It's one and only problem depends on your expectation when you walk in the door. If you want true Mexican food, you will love us, but if you're after Tex-Mex, you may hate us."

COA is attracting a large following from throughout the city. Its authenticity, quality preparation and competitive prices are helping more diners understand what true Mexican food is like, something that has long been one of Bianchini's goals.

One of the restaurateur's favorite phrases is "now you get it." The short sentence is not meant to be condescending, he says. Bianchini uses the phrase to communicate the simple pleasures of fine food. His enthusiasm and passion for culinary excellence are contagious, and more Milwaukeeans seem to be "getting it" when they experience one of his restaurants.

With the opening of the Libertyville restaurant, Bianchini hopes to continue spreading his culinary expertise and his gospel of good food indulgence to other markets in Chicago, Florida and maybe even home in New York, all under the Bianchini brand.

"There are no boundaries, there are no limits," he explains. "But you have to be willing to take calculated risks in order to grow. But at no time should you compromise your integrity or the culinary experience."

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## Panera's mystery menu

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

We like a mystery as much as the next person, especially when it involves food. But we were at first stumped by the murmurs we heard about Panera Bread's low-calorie "hidden menu," something so secret that Panera didn't advertise it on the restaurant chain's website or in its various franchise locations.

The protocol, we learned, was to ask counter staff for access to the "hidden menu," almost as if it were the password to a secret club. At that point, rumor had it, a knowing look would cross the face of the server, perhaps a nod would result, and the wondrous menu would appear.

The mystery, as it turns out, was a marketing ploy to test the restaurant's word-of-mouth influence and its social networking effectiveness. In exchange for playing the game, diners gain access to a six-item high-protein, low-carb menu that's suitable both for those watching their weight as well as those suffering from any of a number of dietary maladies.

"This is good for people with celiac disease and diabetes," said John "Johnny O." Oestreichen, associate trainer at Panera's Fitchburg store. "It's also a market testing strategy."

The menu, developed by Panera chief concept officer Scott Davis and launched nationwide on Jan. 6, eliminates virtually all carbohydrates, blending meats and vegetables together in bowls for a high-protein breakfast, lunch or dinner. This is Panera's stab at a "power menu," to use the current nomenclature, and the word "power" appears in the name of every dish.

We had the Power Breakfast Egg White Bowl with Roasted Turkey, served with warmed baby spinach, peppers and basil pesto (190 calories/25 grams of protein) and the Power Breakfast Egg Bowl with Steak, served with sliced tomato and avocado (230 calories/20 grams of protein.) Both selections were \$5.29 each.

Lunch and dinner entrées include the Power Mediterranean Chicken Salad (360 calories/35 grams of protein) for \$7.99, the Power Mediterranean Roasted Turkey Salad (320 calories/22 grams of protein) for \$8.59, the Power Chicken Hummus Bowl (330 calories/33 grams of protein), and the Power Steak Lettuce Wraps (280 calories/28 grams of protein) for \$8.29.

Our breakfast bowls met with mixed reviews, with more positive feelings reserved for the Breakfast Egg White Bowl, which was a little warmer when

served. We did feel a bit energized and not at all fat- and carb-laden, as we do following other commercially prepared breakfasts.

We felt so proud and healthy from our choices that we celebrated our dietary

wisdom with a wild blueberry scone (470 calories/20 grams of fat) and a frosted strawberries-and-cream scone (430 calories/20 grams of fat).

Well, at least there were berries. We'll do better next time.



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# Holly Near goes far in new double-CD release

## Music

GREGG SHAPIRO

On her new double-CD release "Peace Becomes You," singer/songwriter and activist Holly Near draws on the various influences and inspirations of her musical career to create a song collection to satisfy a diverse audience. Standards from the Great American Songbook and songs of protest mix comfortably with a few contemporary pop tunes and compositions by women's music legends – including songs by Near herself.

Near, who has used her voice to promote a variety of causes, including peace, environmental sustainability, women's rights and LGBT equality, took time out of her busy schedule to answer a few questions earlier this year.

**Gregg Shapiro: You open this release with the musical statement of "One Good Song," about the current condition of radio.**

**Holly Near:** I think there's some great writing on (pop radio). But I must say that when I sing it to the audience, there is great laughter. I think the laughter that comes from the audience is that they relate to the contradiction in some way.

**Your new double-disc set draws on an array of musical styles – from your original compositions and collaborations to covers of standards to songs from the realm of women's music. Is this your most complete musical statement?**

You ask such good questions (laughs). I would say that I moved toward all of those different styles off and on throughout the last 40 years. What I would say is that I do (them) better now than I did before. What's frustrating to me about recording is at the moment I record a song, I know something more about the song and I want to do it again. The producer in me has to say, "No, you've got it – that's the moment it's going to get recorded. It doesn't matter if you can go back in and do it from a wiser point of view." With live work, you have another chance the next night. I would say that to the best of my abilities this last recording was trying to put forward as much as I know right now.

**You are so closely associated with women's music. When it comes to selecting songs to cover – for instance, Ferron's "It Won't Take Long" and Cris Williamson's "Waiting" – how do you choose songs written by your friends without making anyone feel left out?**

Ultimately, the song has to feel OK coming



PHOTO: COURTESY

**Holly Near draws on many influences for her new double-disc CD.**

out of my mouth. I've been on the other side of this. I've been friends with Bonnie Raitt for quite a long time, and I gave her a few songs and she has never done anything by me because it's just not the way she sings. What I write doesn't feel right coming out of her mouth. I learned not to take that personally. Friendship has nothing to do with it. All I can say to my music friends is that if I don't cover one of their songs, it's either because I never got around to it or it didn't feel right coming out of my mouth.

**You mention Bruno Mars in "One Good Song," and you do a cover of the Gnaris Barkley tune "Crazy." It sounds like you're doing your part to keep up with what is musically current.**

You have to understand that, unless they bring their children and grandchildren, it's a fairly older audience. It's always entertaining for me to find out what they know and don't know. They certainly know Ceelo Green. Maybe it's because of "The Voice," or maybe they've known him from before. Everybody seems to know the song "Crazy." When I sing that song, my audience hears something different in it. There are lines in the song that when I sing them, they hear it in the context of all of the things that we have done as a social-change community. They wouldn't hear it that way when Ceelo sings it or others who have recorded that song. That's what's so lovely about people singing each others' songs.

**I'm glad that you mentioned social change, because a lot has occurred on the political front in the time between 2006's "Show Up" and the more uplifting "Peace**

**Becomes You." Yet, you haven't put your activist voice to rest, as we can hear on "Jump Jump," "In The Shadow of War," "There's a Meeting Here Tonight" and "We're Still Here." Do you think there will ever come a time when peace becomes everyone?**

No, I don't. We are an animal, we're a species. We have mental health issues, we have addictions, we have poverty. We have inequity in education and opportunity. It's very hard to find peace. There are people living in the most complicated environments who somehow inside themselves are able to come through it. There are people who live with the most privilege, the most opportunities, the most education, who will commit suicide, are on heavy anti-depressants and are very disturbed. What is it that gives someone that inner core? How do we come to it? How do we work toward it? I think we're a fragile species, and I don't know what will happen to us. First of all, there are too many of us now. I can't believe people are still having five, six, seven children. What are they thinking (laughs)? What right do they have, in these times, to have more than their share? I don't know what we'll do with us. I don't think it's all political. I think there's some part of it that's just who we are as an animal. I don't know how we'll turn out, how the story turns out.

### ON STAGE

Holly Near performs at The Barrymore Theater in Madison on April 20. For more information, visit [barrymorelive.com](http://barrymorelive.com).

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## Music

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

# Musical revue reheats the phenomenal talent of singer/songwriter Sam Cooke

Singer/songwriter Sam Cooke was shot to death in a cheap motel in South Central Los Angeles on Dec. 11, 1964. No identification was found on his body, and it took police three days to identify him.

Although only 33 when he died, Cooke left behind a legacy of Top 10 hits that endure to this day. Songs like "Chain Gang," "Cupid" and "A Change is Gonna Come" – recognized as one of the first civil rights protest songs – are among 19 other numbers that comprise "The Cooke Book: The Music of Sam Cooke." The musical revue featuring singer Darrian Ford runs March 22-24 at Marcus Center for the Performing Arts' Vogel Hall in Milwaukee.

The son of a Baptist minister from Clarksdale, Miss., Cooke was raised in Chicago. He's generally credited for inventing the blend of gospel, rhythm and blues, and pop

music that became known as "soul." Cooke's music forms the heartbeat of the show, according to Ford.

"There are many conspiracy theories about the death of Sam," Ford says. "Some remain quite inflammatory. We don't address any of them in this show."

Nor does Ford perform as Cooke. Instead, he honors the singer's memory through his music. In creating the show, the Chicago native did extensive research watching performance videos and listening to Cooke's music.

"I sought out songs that spoke to me," says Ford, who has also performed as a dancer with Alvin Ailey and other troupes during his career. "My research revealed to me that Sam was a man seeking to live an unprecedented life in the restricted atmosphere of his time. This impacted every recording, in small ways and in tremendous ways."

Cooke's career started in gospel music as a member of The Soul Stirrers, which enjoyed modest success and an independent record label contract. His matinee idol good looks, smooth tenor and sophisticated style made their mark with gospel audiences and enabled him to move easily into the pop music world in 1957.

His first hit, "You Send Me," spent six weeks in the top spot on Billboard's R&B charts. During the next seven years, Cooke had 30 Top 40 hits and three more after his death. He formed his own record label and management company, becoming the recording industry's first African-American entrepreneur. His music became very popular with a broad cross-section of audiences.

"The catchy melodies, naturally human lyrics and honesty make his music approachable to everyone," Ford says. "Any song that

feels good enough to whistle will last forever. Try whistling 'Cupid' and see how it feels."

Ford was doing a Broadway workshop for a musical focusing on crooners from the 1940s-1960s when Cooke's music came to his attention. Ford grew up listening to Cooke's pop songs, but he was astounded when he uncovered the singer's jazz interpretations, which are not widely known. Cooke's ability to so successfully cross genres at a time when it was difficult for black musicians to do much of anything impressed him.

"These jazz performances, by today's standards, would have been Sam's 'unplugged' material," Ford says. "I thought his range of artistic offerings, not to mention his business accomplishments, were compelling enough to deserve exhibition."

Despite coming from different backgrounds, both musically and personally, Ford sees a lot of similarities between him and the singer he interprets. Cooke emerged from the gospel scene, while much of Ford's work has been in musical theater. In addition to "The Cooke Book," Ford has written songs, produced short films and even acted opposite Halle Berry in HBO's "Introducing Dorothy Dandridge," portraying Fayard Nicholas of the legendary Nicholas Brothers. Ford's reintroduction to Cooke's music through the show has helped him forge a new career path.



PHOTO: SAM CIARDI

**Darrian Ford performs the music of Sam Cooke.**

## ON STAGE

Darrian Ford performs "The Cooke Book: The Music of Sam Cooke" March 22-24 in Vogel Hall at Milwaukee's Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. For more, visit [www.marcuscenter.org](http://www.marcuscenter.org).

"As distinctive as Sam's voice was, we actually share some pretty similar vocal qualities," Ford says. "For me, finding jazz and standards has been like coming home in every way – and has facilitated the same homecoming in others areas of my life. Sam is largely responsible for my personal course correction."

What excites Ford the most is the ability to renew the interest in Cooke's music for existing fans, as well as introduce a new generation to songs that have stood the test of time.

"There is always more to the story and possibly more appreciation to be gained for Sam's life and works," Ford

adds. "I am satisfied that I am telling the part of the story I was divined and equipped to tell."

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## Theater

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

# Renaissance's 'Road to Mecca' guides star's personal journey

Milwaukee actor Linda Stephens might soon draw her lengthy acting career to a close, and she's turning to the character she currently portrays for guidance in navigating her final act.

Stephens, 66, plays eccentric artist Helen Martins in South African playwright Athol Fugard's "The Road to Mecca." Fugard's least political and most metaphorical play closes Milwaukee's Renaissance Theatreworks' 20th season.

The play is based on Martins, who spent her final 20 years creating The Owl House, a collection of imaginative sculptures made out of concrete, wire and crushed glass found in and around her late parents' home in South Africa's Eastern Cape region. Treated as a social outsider in the small town of Karoo, Martins upset their sense of propriety in Apartheid-era South Africa.

In the play, a well-meaning local pastor (Jonathan Gillard Daly) labors to get Martins to move into a seniors home, while a friend (Bri Sudia) fights to help the elderly woman retain her personal freedom. The story dramatizes meta-

phorically how Apartheid limited artists' creativity, according to Suzan Fete, who directs the production.

"I believe Miss Helen may have begun her work as an attempt to beautify her world, but what could have been merely a bizarre experiment in home and garden decorating transformed into a true artistic statement with symbolism, expression and thematic consistency," Fete says. "In that sense her work represents the yearnings of the human spirit as interpreted by a visual artist."

The story has personal meaning for Stephens, whose life contains some uncanny parallels to Martins' life. The South African artist trained as a teacher, married a teacher and traveled her country doing theatrical productions. Stephens married an actor, became an actor and traveled the United States doing theatrical productions. Both Martins and Stephens divorced their husbands at age 30. Both women suffered from arthritis — Stephens is having her knees replaced after the show's run — and both women dealt with problems concerning their eyesight.

When it comes to life passages, Stephens says she's on a parallel track with the character she plays, and in some ways she's looking to the artist for answers about her future.

"I am almost the same age and in the same place that Helen is in the play, a place of letting go and learning what that means," Stephens says. "Letting go of who you were up until now is very hard. You feel compelled to listen to others who have ideas of what you should do or how you should be, but you know it's better finding your own way."

Martins continued to find her own way, including taking on a black male assistant, which further ostracized her from the local community. Years of working with ground glass eventually caused her to go blind, and in 1976 she took her own life by swallowing a mixture of caustic soda, ground glass and olive oil.

It took her three days to die. The Owl House is now a museum and provisional monument.

Martins does not die in the play. Other than the character and her relation to her community, the nar-

rative was fully imagined by Fugard. The militantly anti-Apartheid playwright never met Martins, but he was deeply affected by her predicament and what it said about the artistic spirit.

"The Road to Mecca' focuses on the possibility that creative energy can exhaust itself, probably the most frightening reality an artist can face," Fugard told The Paris Review in 1989. "Every artist lives in total fear of that. I know I do. I kept wondering whether, with an act of terrible prescience, in describing the end of Helen Martins' creative energy, I was in fact writing my own epitaph."

In addition to marking parallels with Stephens' life, Martins has much in common with the late Mary Nohl. The Fox Point artist created a series of outdoor concrete sculptures prior to her death in 2001, and locals referred to her Beach Road residence, now on the National Register of Historic Places, as "The Witch's House." That sobriquet also was applied to Martins' Owl House.

"While both Mary Nohl and

Helen Martins are often called outsider artists, Nohl received a formal arts education. Otherwise there are many similarities," Fete says. "Both women created whimsical, odd figures and sculptures, many made from 'found' objects that other people might think of as junk. Both women were eccentric, reclusive and regarded with derision by their communities."

After hearing that Stephens was appearing in "The Road to Mecca," a friend gave her a small ceramic created by Nohl. The artwork, which might find its way into the complex and expressive set designed by Lisa Schlenker, is a totem to what both women represent to Stephens as artists approaching the end of their careers and their lives.

"Helen says near the end of the play, 'This is as far as I can go,'" Stephens notes. "She says, 'Just as I taught myself how to light candles, and what that means, I must teach myself now how to blow them out ... and what that means.' For me, I'm not sure how much more acting I'll do in my life, and I must teach myself what that means."

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PHOTO: COURTESY  
**Lea Seydoux and Diana Kruger in "Farewell, My Queen."**

## French lessons

### 'Little White Lies' and 'Farewell, My Queen' offer Gallic charms

#### 'LITTLE WHITE LIES'

"Little White Lies" is a French "Big Chill" right down to its Motown soundtrack. It begins with "total head case" Ludo (Jean Dujardin of "The Artist"), high on various substances, leaving a raucous nightclub at dawn on his scooter and getting slammed by a truck. He is visited in the intensive care unit by his gang of close friends, including his bisexual sometime girlfriend Marie (Marion Cotillard), hot but dumb Antoine (Laurence Lafitte), massage therapist Vincent (Benoît Magimel), actor Eric (Gilles Lellouche), opera singer Lea (Louise Monot) and Juliette (Anne Marivin).

With their summer holiday approaching, the friends must decide whether to cancel it or depart on their annual voyage to the home of the wealthy and wise Max (François Cluzet, who is sort of a French Dustin Hoffman). The consensus is to go, but shorten the length of their stay. As if Ludo's condi-

tion wasn't enough to set the tone for the trip, married Vincent's private admission to equally straight buddy Max that he's inexplicably attracted to him casts an unexpected pall over the festivities.

An assortment of comedic situations balance out the drama. The characters communicate with each other the way longtime friends do, and it is often a pleasure to watch their interactions. The characters smoke pot, discuss their attractions and missed opportunities, pine over past successes and failures, and attempt to make the best of the situation while tragedy looms large.

The tension grows heavier over the course of the film, leading to a pair of devastating confrontations and revelations that produce a full-on tearjerker of a conclusion. At more than 150 minutes in length, "Little White



PHOTO: COURTESY  
**Joël Dupuch and Jean Dujardin in "Little White Lies."**

Lies," in French with English subtitles, is a big commitment, but then so is friendship. Blu-ray special features include a "behind the scenes" featurette.

#### 'FAREWELL, MY QUEEN'

Before she lost her head for her country, Marie Antoinette (Diane Kruger) lost her head for Sidonie (Lea Seydoux), a lady-in-waiting who became the queen's favorite reader in "Farewell, My Queen." Spanning the first few tumultuous days of the French Revolution in July 1789, the film opens with a shot illustrating the vast differences between the worlds outside of and within the walls of Versailles. As bread becomes scarce in Paris, the question becomes how safe is it for the king and queen and their staff of servants.

Devoted, discreet and clumsy, Sidonie is regularly summoned to read to Marie Antoinette. Their relationship, which alternates between formal and casual, intensifies as France is plagued with unrest. Flirty and flitty, Marie Antoinette also is infatuated with the duchess Gabrielle de Polignac (Virginie Ledoyen). The queen is not the only one with other amorous pursuits. Sidonie and René (Vladimir Consigny), a gondolier, penniless actor and natural-born liar, have also been eyeing one another.

As the events of revolt continue to mount, including the storming of the Bastille, there is panic in the palace. A pamphlet, containing the names of almost 300 heads to be cut off for "necessary reform," finds its way to the queen's hands. At her drama-queen best, Marie Antoinette makes one final demand of Sidonie, in which the queen's beloved reader will have the chance to make the ultimate sacrifice – herself.

In French with English subtitles, "Farewell, My Queen" is a royal costume drama, with emphasis on both the costumes and the drama. The movie belongs to Seydoux, who gives Sidonie a combination of wide-eyed innocence and the cold stare of experience. Blu-ray features include an interview with writer/director Benoît Jacquot, as well as on-set interviews.

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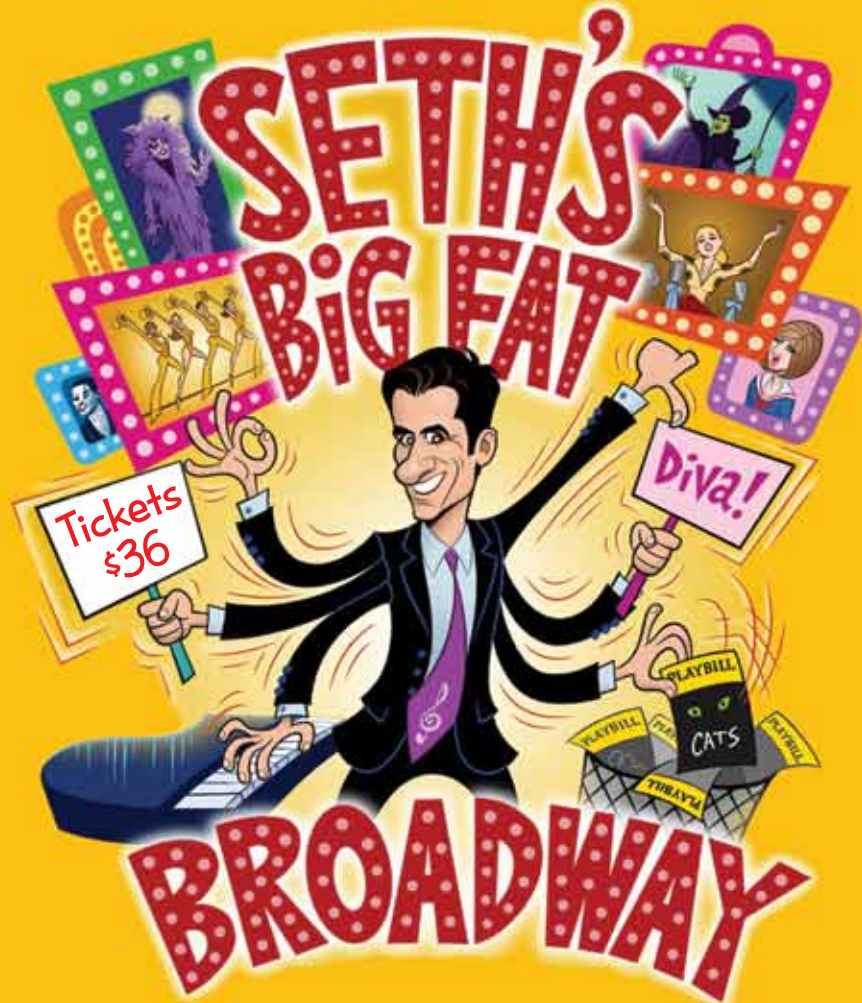
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 BOTTOM: Edward Steichen, *Bouquet of Flowers*, January 8, 1940 (detail). George Eastman House Museum of Photography and Film. Permission © Estate of Edward Steichen.

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