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THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

October 31, 2013 | Vol. 4, No. 26

Activists celebrate as equality surges forward page 6

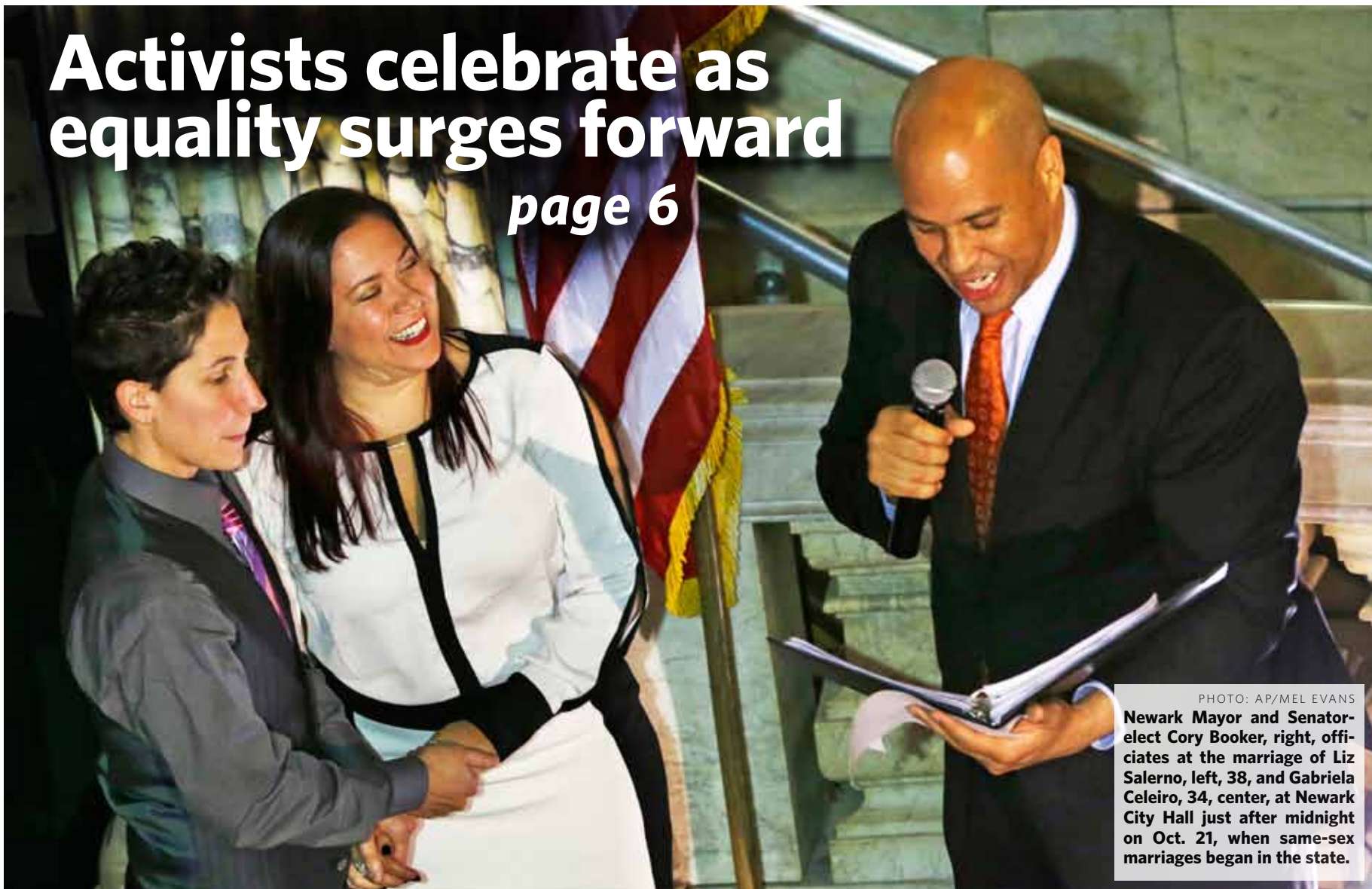


PHOTO: AP/MEL EVANS
Newark Mayor and Senator-elect Cory Booker, right, officiates at the marriage of Liz Salerno, left, 38, and Gabriela Celeiro, 34, center, at Newark City Hall just after midnight on Oct. 21, when same-sex marriages began in the state.



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Anti-gay activists take effort to overturn the state's domestic partner registry to the high court.



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News with a twist

WIGWAG

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg



PHOTO: PSU.EDU

Giovanni Graziano's year-book photo from Penn State University.

FOX IN THE CHICKEN COOP

The homosexuality of Shepard Smith, one of Fox News' angriest vein-popping pundits, has long been an open secret. Out magazine's has listed him on its annual power-gays list for years. Gawker recently discovered Smith's boyfriend

— 26-year-old Fox Business producer Giovanni "Gio" Graziano, who used to work under Smith, 49, by day as well. The outing occurred after the two were spotted holding hands at a restaurant where Smith berated and humiliated the cocktail waitress for not replenishing his drink fast enough. He's famous among service people for such tirades.

PERFORMANCE ART

Clayton Pettet, a 19-year-old gay art student at Central Saint Martins College of Arts and Design in London, says he'll have his first sexual experience in front of up to 100 people in London on Jan. 25, 2014, for a project called "Art School Stole My Virginity," according to the Daily Star. He and his anonymous partner will have sex until completion and then hold a Q&A with the audience afterward. He says his goal is to explore the ideal of virginity.



REMEMBER THE AMMO?

Hundreds of gun rights activists gathered with rifles and shotguns outside of the historic Alamo on a recent Saturday. The "Come and Take It San Antonio!" rally was to celebrate the right to carry long arms under Texas law and to protest a local ordinance that gun owners claim interferes with their rights. The San Antonio Police Department "is no longer going to be messing with us," proclaimed C.J. Grisham, president of Open Carry Texas.

SUPER DUD

Universal Studios Hollywood caught some flak recently for its staging of *Bill and Ted's Excellent Halloween Adventures Halloween Show*. The plot involved a witch using fairy dust to take away Superman's superpowers. The Man of Steel lisped, pranced, cheerfully

took some gut punches and squealed "finally" when he was ordered to get down on his knees before the villainous General Zod.

MARITAL DISCORD?

U.S. Sen. John McCain's wife Cindy McCain signed a postcard urging the senator to back legislation barring workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. She committed her signature after being approached by a Human Rights Campaign volunteer in front of a Staples store in Arizona. A spokesman for McCain responded, "Sen. McCain enjoys and appreciates having discussions on the important issues of the day with all the members of his family, and he respects their views."

STINGING SUIT

A man arrested in a Manhattan Beach, Calif., sex sting has sued in federal court, alleging that the

police department unfairly targeted him and violated his privacy when they publicized his name and released his photo. Eighteen men were arrested for allegedly seeking sex from undercover male officers in a beach bathroom in March 2012. The plaintiff maintains that he was protecting a child frightened by a peeping undercover officer when he was tackled, choked, handcuffed and interrogated for hours.



SOUR BELLY

It can take up to 21 days to make a single jelly belly, but it only takes one act to make a bigot.

The chairman of The Jelly Belly Candy Company has donated \$5,000 to a campaign attempting to repeal a California law allowing transgender students equal access to school facilities such as locker rooms and bathrooms. Jelly Belly has a regional warehouse in Pleasant Prairie, just south of Kenosha.

THE DEER SHOPPER

A western Pennsylvania hunter who shot a deer in a crowded Wal-Mart parking lot on the first day of hunting season last year will have his record expunged if he completes six months' probation without incident. Arcangelo Bianco Jr. was in a pickup truck when he saw the deer near the store's cargo loading area. He fired at the animal with his handgun and then shot it several more times before it fell dead in a nearby yard.



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High court weighs state registry law

News Analysis

LOUIS WEISBERG

While a band of states sprinted forward on marriage equality in recent weeks, Wisconsin activists were battling in the state's highest court just to keep a domestic partner registry law on the books.

The registry accords limited but critical protections to same-sex couples and their families, according to its supporters.

The state's leading anti-gay Christian group, Wisconsin Family Action, contends that by providing same-sex couples with any of the rights associated with marriage, the registry law violates the state's Constitution.

An Oct. 23 hearing before the state's Supreme Court was the third attempt by WFA president Julaine Appling to overturn the reg-

istry law. Two lower-courts dismissed her suit, which an appeals court called "non-sense."

Nonetheless, Appling's most recent day in court was her best chance of winning. The Wisconsin Supreme Court is heavily politicized and dominated 4-3 by justices aligned with the conservative political agenda. Justice David Prosser, in fact, promised during his 2011 retention campaign to support the policies enacted by Gov. Scott Walker.

Other conservatives on the bench have received formidable campaign funding from special interests allied politically with WFA.

As a formality, Walker is named as one of the defendants in Appling's suit. But he and Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen have both declared the registry law unconstitutional and refused to defend it in court, a responsibility that was assumed by the statewide equality group Fair Wisconsin.

'FAR CRY' FROM MARRIAGE

Appling and WFA were behind the 2006 constitutional amendment that banned same-sex marriage along with "any legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage." Appling insists that the registry law, also known as Chapter 770, is unconstitutional because it mimics marriage.

The Assembly narrowly approved Chapter 770 in 2009 to provide same-sex couples with such basic rights as the ability to inherit a partner's estate in the absence of a will, access to family medical leave to care for a sick partner, and hospital visitation rights. Then-Gov. Jim Doyle, D, signed the bill into law.

Defending the registry law on behalf of Fair Wisconsin and five registered same-sex couples, Lambda Legal attorney Christopher Clark told the court that the limited set of rights bestowed

by the registry is "a far cry" from marriage. Furthermore, unlike marriage and civil unions, he said, the registry law requires no commitment of exclusivity, no formal legal mechanism for dissolving the arrangement and no requirement of mutual obligation of support — key legal components of civil marriage.

Registered same-sex couples from Wisconsin are not recognized as married in other states where same-sex marriage is legal, Clark added. The 2009 law was crafted with the help of legal experts specifically so that it would not violate the intent of the 2006 constitutional amendment, he said.

Justice Michael Gableman, a leading advocate on the bench for Walker's political agenda, grilled Clark about which rights — and how many rights — would be required to create a domestic arrangement substantially similar to marriage. Other justices echoed that line of questioning.



PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

The entrance to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, located in the Capitol.

But Austin Nimocks, an attorney with the Scottsdale, Ariz.-based anti-gay Alliance Defense Fund, argued on behalf of WFA that the plaintiffs' objection was not based on the rights themselves or even the number of rights, but rather on the "formation requirements" of the law. He said those requirements closely resemble those of marriage. For example, he said the

minimum age requirement and the ban prohibiting closely related people from registering as partners both reflect traditional marriage requirements.

"There is no other legal status under Wisconsin law that is so specific," Nimocks argued. "I believe (the registry contains) the essence of what marriage is . . . the fea-

REGISTRY next page

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REGISTRY from prior page tures are very, very similar."

Clark countered that in campaigning for the 2006 amendment, its backers expressly told voters that it would not prevent the enactment of other legal measures protecting same-sex couples. Amendment proponents promised the law would ban only marriage and "Vermont-style marriage," a reference to civil unions in Vermont at the time, which provided partners with all of the privileges and responsibilities of marriage. Vermont has since enacted full marriage rights for same-sex couples.

Gableman agreed: "Sponsors of the amendment told voters and legislators that the law would allow them to create some sort of (measure supporting same-sex couples) as long as it wasn't a 'Vermont-style marriage,'" he said.

Clark also told the court that overturning the registry law would cause "very real legal ramifications for (registered) couples and their families." Employers, including a growing number of municipalities in the state, use the registry as the basis for determining whether same-sex couples are eligible for health care and other employment benefits extended to partners of workers, he explained.

Nimocks suggested that the plaintiff was not asking the court to retroactively undo registrations that have already been occurred, but rather to prevent couples from registering in the future.

ROLLING THE DICE

Clark noted that the legal arguments employed by WFA's attorneys to overturn the law have changed over the course of litigation. But Justice Patience Roggensack, who sides with Republicans on the bench, responded that it's not unusual for lawyers to change their arguments as cases progress. What was unusual about this case, she said, was that its opponents insisted on invalidating the entire law as opposed to challenging a specific aspect of the law.

"It's something very different from what we usually see," she said.

Prosser noted that

Nimocks was "rolling the dice here" by hinging the case on the "constituent elements" of the registry law — that is, for focusing his argument on the requirements for registering as domestic partners rather than the rights accorded under the law. He said Nimocks' strategy, if he loses, would give the Legislature an opening to go back and add additional benefits to the law — "bing, bing, bing," as he put it.

Following the nearly hour-long hearing, reporters and television cameras crowded around the pro-equality contingent outside the courtroom. Kathy Flores and Ann Kendzierski, a same-sex couple from Appleton and defendants in the case, told reporters that their inclusion on the registry grants them crucial rights, such as ensuring they can see each other in the hospital. With tears in her eyes, Flores described how hospital staff refused to let Kendzierski see her when she was diagnosed with cancer.

"(The registry) is . . . how we take care of each other," Flores told reporters.

ELEPHANTS IN THE ROOM

Leaders on both sides of the case described themselves as "cautiously optimistic" after the hearing, although Appling indicated that she believed the judges' questions did not favor her position.

"I have seen many times when justices ask questions and then turn around and vote the other way," she said hopefully.

Appling, suffering from a bad case of laryngitis, appeared weary.

"I've lived for this day for four years," she said. "I'm glad it's over. We rest in the hands of the justices."

Appling's high-profile case in the name of "protecting marriage" has brought ridicule to her personally because she's never been married and has lived for many years with another never-married woman in a home the two own together in Watertown.

Appling was accompanied in court by a contingent of people that included her longtime "roommate" Diane Westphal and James Maillette, WFA's executive vice

president. In an introduction posted on YouTube in January 2013, Maillette made a point of presenting himself as married with three sons.

Although fundamentalist Christian beliefs are at the heart of WFA's mission, as well as its motive in opposing the registry law, the words "bible" and "God" were not mentioned during the hearing, nor during Appling's conversation with WiG that followed the hearing. Neither were the words "lesbian," "gay" or "homosexual."

Clark said the changes in language and tone that have evolved since same-sex marriage was a new concept reflect how far society has moved forward on the issue. The most recent Marquette

University Law School poll showed that 53 percent of Wisconsinites now favor same-sex marriage.

Still, one thing that hasn't changed is the insistence of anti-gay activists that same-sex marriage will destroy traditional marriage. That argument was another elephant that went unspoken in the courtroom, and Appling only brought it forward in speaking with WiG following the hearing.

Perhaps that's partly because the argument has been discredited by facts. The northeastern United States, which has the highest concentration of states that allow same-sex marriage, also has the lowest divorce rates. Massachusetts, which in 2005

became the first state to legalize same-sex marriage, has the lowest divorce rate of all the states.

It's unclear how the carefully choreographed dance around the real issues will affect the justices' decision. Both sides asked the court to consider only the technicalities of a case that two lower courts found had no legal merit. And, as Clark pointed out in presenting his case, the constitution only permits a finding in favor of the plaintiffs if there is "no reasonable doubt" that the registry law does indeed create a legal status identical to marriage.

That's probably why the justices' questions, especially those of Gableman, seemed to favor the regis-

try's supporters, despite the court's conservative bent.

"This is all a veiled effort to undermine the ability of gay and lesbian couples to be together and take care of each other," said Katie Belanger, president of Fair Wisconsin, following the hearing. "The lower courts have been very clear about the legal claims in this case."

Clark expressed confidence that "the court will honor the intent of the legislation in 2009" and "do the right thing."

But Belanger agreed with Appling about one aspect of the case: "It's been a long road," she said.

The high court's justices are expected to issue their final say on *Appling v. Scott Walker* by June 2014.

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Marriage equality: Adding it up coast-to-coast

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

One. Two. Three... There was a time when counting the marriage equality states involved simple arithmetic that could be done on one hand.

These days, counting up the equality states gets complicated.

Same-sex couples can marry in the District of Columbia and 14 states for sure, but there have been marriage licenses issued by county officials in at least two other states.

Meanwhile, Oregon is recognizing out-of-state gay marriages and same-sex couples are entering into marriages under tribal law in Oklahoma.

And, as WiG went to press, lawmakers in Illinois and Hawaii were poised to vote on marriage equality bills while courts in Michigan, Pennsylvania, New Mexico and at least 16 other states were facing lawsuits seeking to overturn anti-gay marriage bans.

"Not only did we usher in a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that struck a mortal blow to federal marriage discrimination, bringing important legal protections to families in every state, but this year alone we've won the freedom to marry in five more states — and the year is not even over," said Evan Wolfson, founder of the Freedom to Marry campaign and one of the earliest leaders in the marriage equality effort.

SAYING 'I DO' TODAY

Same-sex couples can marry, with certainty, in California, Connecticut, Delaware, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, Washington and the District of Columbia.

Gay couples won the freedom to marry most recently in New Jersey, where, in September, a state judge ruled the marriage ban unconstitutional and ordered that same-sex

couples be allowed to marry beginning Oct. 21. The judge then denied a request for a stay from the state.

The state Supreme Court also denied a state request for a stay.

So, just after midnight on Oct. 21, same-sex couples began exchanging vows. One of the first ceremonies took place in Newark, with Mayor Cory Booker officiating. "Tonight, we have crossed a barrier, and now, while you all have fallen into love, I want to say that the truth is, that the state of New Jersey has risen to love," said Booker, elected to the U.S. Senate a week earlier.

By mid-day, Republican Gov. Chris Christie, who in 2012 vetoed an equality bill, announced there would be no further challenge to marriage equality in the Garden State, where an estimated 17,000 same-sex couples reside.

New Jersey lawmakers may adopt a law codifying same-sex marriage — which

could happen this winter — but Christie's announcement has brought to an end an 11-year legal battle.

However, legal challenges continue in at least 19 other states, as WiG went to press.

COURT CHALLENGES

The same day same-sex couples began marrying in New Jersey, the National Center for Lesbian Rights filed a federal lawsuit against the state of Tennessee on behalf of four same-sex couples who want their marriages recognized by the state.

"Fairness and equality are the guiding principles of our government and, as a member of the Armed Forces, I have fought and will continue to fight for those principles," said Army Reserve Sgt. Ijpe DeKoe, a plaintiff in the case. "After returning to Memphis with Thom (Kostura), I was saddened to learn that Tennessee law does not live up to those ideals in the way it treats



PHOTO: AP / THE ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL / ROBERTO ROSALES
Desiree Padilla, left, and wife Betty Garcia kiss after exchanging vows in a ceremony performed by the Rev. Judith Maynard in Albuquerque, N.M.

married same-sex couples." Also that day, after relishing the victory in New

Jersey, executive director Kevin Cathcart announced Lambda Legal defense fund would focus on its lawsuits in Illinois, Virginia, West Virginia and Nevada, where a federal suit to overturn a constitutional amendment is at the appeals court level and could be headed for the U.S. Supreme Court.

Cathcart said Lambda has a national strategy and "with our local and national partners, marriage equality will be a reality coast-to-coast very soon."

MARRY next page

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MARRY from prior page
Marriage equality also is the goal in:

- Federal and state lawsuits filed in Arkansas, where three gay couples are seeking recognition of their marriages in New York and 11 same-sex couples are suing for the right to marry.

- A federal complaint in Hawaii, where a trial is scheduled for January.

- Two federal suits in Kentucky, both seeking to overturn the state constitutional ban on gay marriage.

- A federal case in Michigan filed by a lesbian couple seeking to marry and to protect their family. A trial to determine the fate of the 2004 constitutional amendment is set for Feb. 25.

- A federal lawsuit in Mississippi, where a couple is demanding the state recognize their marriage from California.

- Multiple lawsuits in New Mexico, where the state Supreme Court held a two-hour hearing on Oct. 23. Civil rights activists, gay couples, a number of county clerks and the state attorney general asked the justices to rule that same-sex couples can legally marry in the state.

Earlier this year, based on lower court rulings, clerks in eight New Mexico counties began issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples. To date, nearly 1,500 gay couples have received licenses — and many of them have held weddings.

"We have county clerks who are truly struggling with this issue on a daily basis," Daniel Ivey-Soto, the attorney for the state's county clerks, told the five justices.

On the opposing side, a lawyer from Alliance Defending Freedom, representing a group of Republican legislators, told the justices that if they allowed marriage "to be a genderless institution, there is no longer an inherent link between procreation and marriage."

The court's decision is expected this year.

- A federal case in North Carolina brought by the ACLU on behalf of six couples and their children.

- A lawsuit in Ohio, where two same-sex couples sued

for recognition of their out-of-state marriages and to overturn a constitutional amendment. A federal judge has ordered the state to recognize the marriages, but the state is challenging the ruling.

One of the plaintiffs, John Arthur, died on Oct. 22 at age 48 after suffering from Lou Gehrig's disease.

Arthur and James Obergefell, who were together more than 20 years, married in Maryland and sued Ohio to recognize their marriage earlier this year, hoping for a resolution before Arthur died.

The couple's attorney, Al Gerhardstein, said the love Arthur and Obergefell shared "is a model for us all."

"Part of John's legacy will be the difference he has already made in the struggle for marriage equality," he added.

- A federal lawsuit in Oklahoma alleging a constitutional amendment defining marriage as the union of a man and a woman denies people the right to marry the person of one's choice.

- A lawsuit filed by two same-sex couples seeking marriage rights in Oregon.

- Three lawsuits in Pennsylvania, including a federal case brought by the ACLU on behalf of 23 people and another lawsuit over Montgomery County Clerk Bruce Hanes' decision to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples.

- A federal lawsuit in South Carolina brought by a lesbian couple seeking to marry.

- A federal lawsuit filed by three gay couples challenging Utah's ban.

Also, two cases in which same-sex couples are seeking the freedom to divorce in Texas have reached the state Supreme Court and could lead to a ruling of some kind on marriage equality.

Meanwhile, Equality Florida has issued a call for same-sex couples willing to be plaintiffs in a lawsuit challenging the anti-gay ban in the Sunshine State.

LEGISLATIVE DRIVE

The lawsuits pending in Hawaii and Illinois could be nullified this fall — even as

quickly as this week or next.

A special session called solely to consider a marriage equality bill began on Oct. 28 in Hawaii. If lawmakers pass the measure, Democratic Gov. Neil Abercrombie is certain to sign it into law and gay couples could begin marrying on Nov. 18.

In Illinois, a fall veto session is taking place in Springfield, and the House could consider an equality bill this month or next.

The measure passed the Senate in February and has the support of Democratic Gov. Pat Quinn, but it was not called for a vote in the House during the regular session, which ended in May.

The bill's proponents and opponents rallied at the Capitol in the first days of the veto session.

Quinn addressed the equality rally, attended by about 3,000 people. Later, he said, "It's time for members of the Illinois House to guarantee equal rights for all and send this bill to my desk as soon as possible."

ORGANIZING AND ACTIVISM

In a number of states, legislative and legal drives for equality are being supported by protest movements, especially in the South, where same-sex couples associated with the Campaign for Southern Equality are visiting clerks to request marriage licenses.

The actions are taking place in Georgia, Tennessee, Mississippi, South Carolina, Virginia and North Carolina, where, in early October, Buncombe County Register of Deeds Drew Reisinger accepted marriage license applications to same-sex couples and asked the state attorney general for a ruling on whether he could issue licenses.

In several other states, activists are working to ask voters to overturn anti-gay amendments. Arizona, Colorado and Nevada voters could vote on the issue in 2016. Oregon voters could vote on it in 2014.

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Wiccans seek to preserve nature, promote equality

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

On Halloween night, when costumed kids plunder their neighborhoods for treats, Selena Fox honors her dead ancestors and friends at an altar in her home. The ceremony follows a week of activities that include feasting, a costume ball, Tarot card readings, listening to Celtic music and dancing around a large bonfire.

But Oct. 31 is more than Halloween for Fox, the high priestess and founder of Circle Sanctuary, a Wiccan church located in rural Iowa County, southwest of Madison. Instead, she celebrated Samhain (pronounced Sow-in), an end-of-harvest festival that's best described as New Year's Eve for the world's pagan religions.

Fox, who founded the nonprofit organization in 1974, is not fond of the "W" word, which conjures images of pointy black hats and broomsticks. The word also is weighted with the dark history of genocide against

early pagan practitioners, whose isolation and affinity for nature were mistaken for black magic and Satanic liaisons.

Fox's church occupies a recently rehabbed barn and about 200 acres of forests and fields just north of Barneveld. She'd like for people to recognize Wicca and the dozens of other pagan religions for their devotion to preserving nature.

Fox believes that absolute equality is a universal truth, and supporting LGBT rights has always been a part of her civil rights work, as well as that of her husband Dennis Carpenter, a psychology professor at U.W.-Richland Center. As a college student, she helped found the Lambda Alliance, one of the first gay rights groups in the southern United States.

Born Suzanne Marie Bisset to a Southern Baptist family, Fox grew up in Alexandria, Va. As a child, she first experienced an unusual connection to nature while

sitting under a pear tree in her parents' backyard. The surroundings seemed to speak to her in unusual ways, she says.

"I began to feel the tree and understand it, as I did other forms of plants and animals," says Fox, who changed her name when she began to write about pagan themes and issues. "I started having mystical experiences as a child, including precognitive dreams."

Now 64, Fox began identifying with pagan spirituality at age 17 and became interested in the classics and ancient traditions. At 21, she conducted her first ceremony, one based on ancient Greco-Roman traditions, to welcome spring in the Sunken Gardens on the College of William and Mary's campus in Williamsburg, Va., where she was an undergraduate. She graduated in 1971 with a degree in psychology, spent some time at Rutgers University and finally landed at UW-Madison, where she earned

a master's degree in counseling in 1995.

Fox's interest in social justice issues intensified concurrently with her faith. She was active in the civil rights movement in the 1960s and an early feminist, working as executive assistant for Kathryn Clarenbach, the founding chair of the National Organization for Women.

Fox also was active in the first Earth Day. As an undergraduate in 1970, she organized an environmental teach-in while at William and Mary to take action against pollution in the Chesapeake Bay.

Fox became an ordained minister in the Wiccan church in 1978. Her ministry has included performing same-sex marriages — something she says that she's been doing for 30 years.

"Spiritual marriage rites, whether legally binding or not, can enrich the relationship and strengthen support for the couple within their converged networks of family and friends," Fox says.

In March, Fox was one of four religious leaders who performed blessings of same-sex couples at the culmination of the national interfaith service on Capitol Hill, part of the rally for marriage equality on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. More than a dozen same-sex couples were joined together during that ceremony.

The Wiccan faith and other pagan religions are seeing greater interest from the LGBT community, whose kinship with the groups is



PHOTO: COURTESY

The Rev. Selena Fox of Circle Sanctuary at the marriage equality rally on March 26 on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C.

strengthened by their mutual experience of social persecution. However, it's hard to know how many gay and lesbian members the faith has attracted, because many fear persecution if they come out as pagans.

For that reason, the number of practicing pagans in general is hard to estimate. Based on networking and other means, Fox believes all U.S. pagan groups combined total from 750,000 to 1.5 million practitioners.

The numbers are growing thanks to the efforts of Circle Sanctuary and other pagan groups. Circle Sanctuary ministers have been active as chaplains in the U.S. military and in prison programs, and the organization has been a strong supporter of environmental programs, including prairie restoration.

The Wiccan church's

most visible success was a 2007 victory against the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to allow pen-tacles, the Wiccan equivalent of the Christian cross or the Jewish Star of David, to be carved on the headstones of military veterans. Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, representing Circle Sanctuary and the widows of several Wiccan soldiers, won the concession from the Bush administration to settle a suit filed in U.S. District Court of Western Wisconsin.

The graves of nearly a dozen military veterans, including that of U.S. Army Sgt. Patrick Dana Stewart, the first Wiccan serviceman killed in Afghanistan, sit atop the "Military Ridge" section of the Circle Sanctuary Cemetery, one of Wisconsin's first "green" cemeteries. Fox serves as director of the cemetery.

"I have been a peace activist all my life, but I have a warrior dimension to me," says Fox as she gazes at Stewart's grave marker and the forested hills beyond Military Ridge. "As a nation we were founded on the basis of equality, and we have to work to guarantee equality and freedom for all."

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Jason Rae, executive director, accepting the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce's 2013 Excellence in Community Impact Award for the Wisconsin LGBT Chamber.

For information on joining the Chamber, visit WisLGBTChamber.com or call (414) 678-9275.

{ Editorial }

Health care rollout a disgrace

In the initial weeks of full implementation, the Affordable Care Act was marred by computer glitches that left hundreds of thousands — if not millions — of consumers in the lurch. Healthcare.gov, the Web portal established for Americans to purchase health insurance through federal exchanges, is a travesty.

Residents of individual states that created their own insurance exchanges are faring better under the ACA. But the dysfunctional Web portal set up for the federal exchange has let down the citizens of Wisconsin and other states where Republican leaders refused to establish state exchanges.

Americans who are reliant on the exchanges earn 400 percent or less of the federal poverty level. Most of them live in impoverished states. The ACA provides them with subsidies to help pay their insurance premiums, but they must register in order to receive this benefit.

Unfortunately, the majority of people who've attempted to register on healthcare.gov have failed. They've waited for hours to get on the website, only to find that the system is incapable of finalizing their applications. According to local industry insiders, only about 50 people in southeastern Wisconsin had been able to apply successfully in the first two weeks.

How did this happen? The law was passed three years ago, giving the Obama administration ample time to execute an effective website. By dropping the ball on the president's signature legislation, his own administration has left millions of people in a panic and thrown a meaty bone to conservatives who argue that government is incapable of managing such complex programs.

We grudgingly supported the ACA, despite our belief that a single-payer system would have been fairer and more cost-effective. But we strongly endorsed the new law's fundamental features, including: ending the denial of coverage based on pre-existing conditions; lowering health-care costs by expanding the risk pool and halting the practice of uninsured people using emergency rooms as primary care providers; eliminating lifetime limits on coverage; prohibiting insurers from dropping coverage or raising premiums due to illness; capping annual out-of-pocket medical and drug expenses at \$6,400 for individuals and \$12,800 for families; and ensuring that children can remain on their parents' coverage until age 26.

People who can afford their own plans or receive coverage through their employers will enjoy these essential improvements to the system. But low-income citizens who are unable to register for federal subsidies will find the insurance market is out of their reach.

Although the enrollment phase of the program lasts through March, people who don't register by Dec. 15 could face devastating gaps in their coverage if their current policies expire before their new ones are processed. The Department of Health and Human Services must now work 24/7 to guarantee the website is functioning effectively before that can happen.

And the White House owes the nation more than its initial excuse that the system failed because it was overcome with so many people signing up at once when it went live on Oct. 1. That's hogwash. Unofficial reports are that testing did not even begin on healthcare.gov until the waning days of September.

The administration was caught unprepared to implement the most contentious law the nation has seen in decades — a law that cost Democrats control of the House and nearly cost them the presidency. That makes this failure of the White House far more than shoddy — it's downright terrifying.

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Some of our favorite recent pictorials from cyberspace

"Here's a simple economic formula that works:

people who supported the Iraq war don't ever, ever, ever get to complain about deficits."



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The Wisconsin Gazette is published every other week and distributed throughout the Milwaukee area, Madison, Racine, Kenosha, and 40 other cities statewide. To have WiG delivered to your address, contact rwright@wisconsin-gazette.com or call 414-961-3240, ext. 101
WiG Publishing, LLC. © 2013

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Rivendell Media, 212-242-6863

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ON THE RECORD



“I think one of my absolute strengths as a coach is being openly, unapologetically gay. It models for the athletes one of our team’s core values, which is that they get to be who they are, and all of who they are, when they come down to the boathouse. We ask them to work too hard to also have to worry about not just being themselves.”

— CHARLEY SULLIVAN, associate head coach of men’s rowing at the University of Michigan, speaking to OutSports about being named Collegiate Coach of the Year in a poll by US Rowing magazine.

“Not hearing any substantive, worthy objections, I now will proceed.”

— Newark Mayor and U.S. Sen.-elect CORY BOOKER responding to a heckler as he officiated over his city’s first same-sex wedding at 12:01 a.m., Oct. 21, in Newark City Hall. Booker had just asked whether anyone present objected to the union of the two men he was about to marry. “This is unlawful in the eyes of God!” responded the heckler. Booker had the protester removed to thunderous applause and proceeded to perform the ceremony, after delivering the line above.

“Some people in the gay community were very upset with me for not coming out on their terms. They don’t stop to think about what’s going on in somebody’s personal life, and the struggles that they’re having. It was all very scary. We got death threats. It was a really rough time for me, but I was also having the time of my life.”

— Out actor SEAN HAYES talking to the Los Angeles Times about his closeted days while playing Jack on *Will & Grace*.

“Nakedness trumps sincerity. I do not want a naked boy in front of a young girl in the shower or bathroom even if he sincerely identifies as a girl.”

— National Organization for Marriage president BRIAN BROWN in a fundraising pitch for his campaign to overturn a California law protecting transgender youth.

“There are people who are so rabidly homophobic and I just find that fascinating. It’s as if you met someone who absolutely spent all their life trying to get rid of red telephones. You’d go, what? You just would not understand it. Why would someone bother to attack a group of people who mean to do them no harm?”

— British actor, writer and activist STEPHEN FRY introducing his two-part documentary titled *Stephen Fry: Out There*, which he describes as “a series about gay people and the trouble people have accepting them.”

“And he has used that power for any number of odious measures to benefit the fat cats and the politically connected. He can use that same power to pass something that is truly popularly supported around the state and he has failed thus far to do it.”

— Chicago activist ANDY THAYER criticizing Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan for not pushing more forcefully to bring a measure to legalize same-sex marriage in the state to the Assembly floor.



Matthew Shepard’s honorable legacy



The Internet is buzzing with debate about *The Book of Matt: Hidden Truths About the Murder of Matthew Shepard* by Stephen Jimenez.

Jimenez, who spent more than a decade researching the book, concludes that Shepard’s 1998 murder was not a hate crime. He asserts that Shepard was involved in the methamphetamine trade and may have turned tricks for meth and money, including with his killer, Aaron McKinney. He alleges that McKinney murdered Shepard not out of anti-gay bias but over a bad drug deal.

Critics call it a hatchet job and tie it to the ongoing campaign by anti-gay, right-wing zealots to discredit Shepard and the federal hate crime statute named for him. Others note that Jimenez is himself gay and

an award-winning reporter who conducted extensive interviews and dug up new facts about the crime.

I found the book fascinating. Jimenez presents his findings like an attorney building a case on layers of evidence. I wasn’t surprised by his assertions of Shepard’s drug dealing and sexual history. Shepard’s mother Judy wrote honestly about what a troubled kid he was in her own book. People touted as heroes or role models are often complicated, flawed individuals.

I don’t object to Jimenez’s reconsideration of the case. History is always being revised in light of new evidence and perspectives. We certainly have a much better understanding of the scope and horrors of the meth epidemic than we did at the time. I am troubled, however, by how many of the author’s allegations are based on unnamed sources whose words he “recreated” rather than recorded. Some testimony is from rather dodgy sources — including

the killer himself, who has changed his story several times.

The claim that McKinney is bisexual seems irrelevant. Jimenez cites sources who say McKinney was a hustler, and he implies that McKinney’s experience of homo sex was coerced due to drug debts. McKinney’s own defense in the case was that he attacked Shepard for coming on to him.

Self-hating bi and gay men can be the worst kind of homophobes. His status doesn’t make him less likely to commit a hate crime, especially given his history of violence.

Some people have used the findings of this questionable book to denigrate Shepard and his legacy. One writer (in *The Nation* of all places!) condemned the “machinery” of the Matthew Shepard Foundation. They have accused Shepard supporters of misrepresenting his murder, profiting from his death and promoting a “political agenda.”

First of all, no conspiracy

of activists made up what happened. All people of conscience were horrified by the crime as it was revealed through extensive reporting and evidence presented at the trial. There was no organized campaign to mislead anyone, just a spontaneous outpouring of outrage and concern.

The Matthew Shepard Foundation, founded by Matthew’s parents, is beyond reproach. No one who has talked with Judy and Dennis Shepard or seen the tireless work they have done to promote tolerance can deny their decency and their desire to turn their personal tragedy into something constructive.

Finally, federal hate crime legislation passed not only because of Matthew Shepard but also because of James Byrd, Jr., and thousands of other victims of hate violence in this country. Shepard’s character and murder can be debated, but his legacy of justice for victims and tolerance for all is an honorable one.

Why the registry law must be preserved



It may not be a high profile marriage case, but to those 2,000-plus same-sex couples who’ve registered in Wisconsin, *Appling v. Walker* is a case that’s poised to have a tremendous impact on their lives.

Two of those couples joined us at the Wisconsin State Supreme Court for oral arguments in *Appling* — Kathy Flores and Ann Kendzierski of Appleton and Janice Cyscon and Crystal Hyslop of Madison. They are two of the five couples who joined Fair Wisconsin in defending the domestic partnership registry against Julaine Appling and Wisconsin Family Action’s attempt to have it declared unconstitutional.

When our opposition filed its lawsuit in 2009, we knew that highlighting the stories of individuals who were impacted by the avail-

ability — or lack of — legal protections would be critical in defending the registry. In joining the case, the defending couples have made public some of their most private moments — times when they have been subjected to homophobia and discrimination.

Flores has several serious health issues. In 2009, she was in an Appleton hospital and wanted Kendzierski by her side during a procedure. The nurse told Flores her “friend” would be more comfortable in the waiting room. Flores explained their relationship but the nurse refused to let Kendzierski join her.

Flores successfully advocated for herself, however. She ultimately persuaded the doctor to allow Kendzierski’s presence during the procedure, but the fact that she had to deal with discrimination at such a traumatic time illustrates why the registry is so important.

Cyscon and Hyslop have been together for 33 years. As they plan for their

future, the protections the registry provides for hospital visitation, family medical leave and inheritance are critical for them to care for each other. I remember their excitement when we gathered outside the Dane County Clerk’s office at 5 a.m. on Aug. 3, 2009, so they could become the first couple registered in the county. That was when I fully realized the enormity of what domestic partnerships meant for Wisconsin.

It’s true that today, seven years after Wisconsin voters banned marriage equality and civil unions, the conversation about equality is vastly different. Even conservative Justice Michael Gableman made that point during oral arguments. It’s surprising that we are defending such a limited set of legal protections while other states are fighting for full marriage equality.

But before we can move forward, we have to protect our previous victories. We are extremely fortunate to have Lambda Legal repre-

senting Fair Wisconsin and our five couples who volunteered to be defendants in this case. Christopher Clark, Lambda Legal’s senior staff attorney, made an impassioned presentation to the Supreme Court, laying out the clear, logical reasons why the registry does not violate our constitutional amendment while also sharing the critical need for same-sex couples to have basic legal protections.

There was a sharp contrast between Clark’s arguments and our opposition’s attempts to strip the most basic protections from same-sex couples.

Justice David Prosser summed up the religious rights’ legal efforts best when he said they were “just rolling the dice.”

Wisconsin has fallen far behind our neighbors and many parts of the country but a victory in the Supreme Court will prevent us from falling farther in terms of progress and equality.

Katie Belanger is the president of Fair Wisconsin.

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United Way of Greater Milwaukee

Lesbian fund seeks to build assets, grow community

By **Lisa Neff**
Staff writer

It's a tradition at PrideFest Milwaukee for the Lesbian Fund to take the community's pulse with a question like, "What would you do if you had all the money in the world?"

A couple of years ago, one woman after another answered that she'd invest in building and strengthening the community.

And that's exactly the goal of the Lesbian Fund, but without all the money in the world.

A group of women established the fund in 2006 as a community resource built and advised by lesbians. Donations are used for direct grants to programs that benefit lesbians and support lesbian leadership, as well as to grow the fund's investment assets.

"We've been doing very worthwhile work," said Leslie Salas, co-chair of the fund steering committee, which meets monthly. Other members include Chris Doerfler, Ann Ellingboe, Velvet Moore, Kathy Prodoehl, Eren Turk and co-chair Dalila Cardona.

Salas joined in early 2012, impressed with the mission and the uniqueness of the fund, one of several under the umbrella of the Women's Fund of Greater Milwaukee. "I've been doing my research and I cannot find another lesbian fund in the nation," Salas said.

Since 2009, the fund has awarded more than \$55,000 for a number of efforts, including, most recently:

- The Grow Great Women program at Diverse & Resilient.
- Fair Wisconsin's annual conference.
- The employment of a school nurse at the Alliance School, the year-round Milwaukee Public school established to provide a "safe place for students regardless of sexuality, identity, appearance, ability or beliefs."

"We really value our partnership with the Alliance School," Salas said. On Nov. 3, the LF partners Alliance on a drag extravaganza



PHOTO: COURTESY THE LESBIAN FUND

Two of the "foremothers" of the Lesbian Fund, **India McCause** and **Fai De Mark**, at the group's PrideFest booth in 2012.

to raise money for the school and the fund. A Night to Remember: A Night to Celebrate Diversity begins at 8 p.m. at Montage Lounge, 801 S. Second St., Milwaukee. The lineup includes DJ Kelly and some of the state's most popular drag performers. "We have some fabulous queens and we promise off-the-charts fierceness," Salas said.

Ahead on the calendar is a town meeting. Also, in early 2014, the fund plans to issue grants. The group fell short in 2013 and postponed the grant cycle until early next year to focus more time on fundraising. "We really need the community to come out and support us at this critical time," Salas said.

MAKE A DATE

The Lesbian Fund and the Alliance School in Milwaukee are the beneficiaries of A Night to Remember: A Night to Celebrate Diversity at 8 p.m. on Nov. 3 at Montage Lounge, 801 S. Second St. Admission to the drag extravaganza is \$15 per person or \$75 per table. For more, call 414-277-8092.

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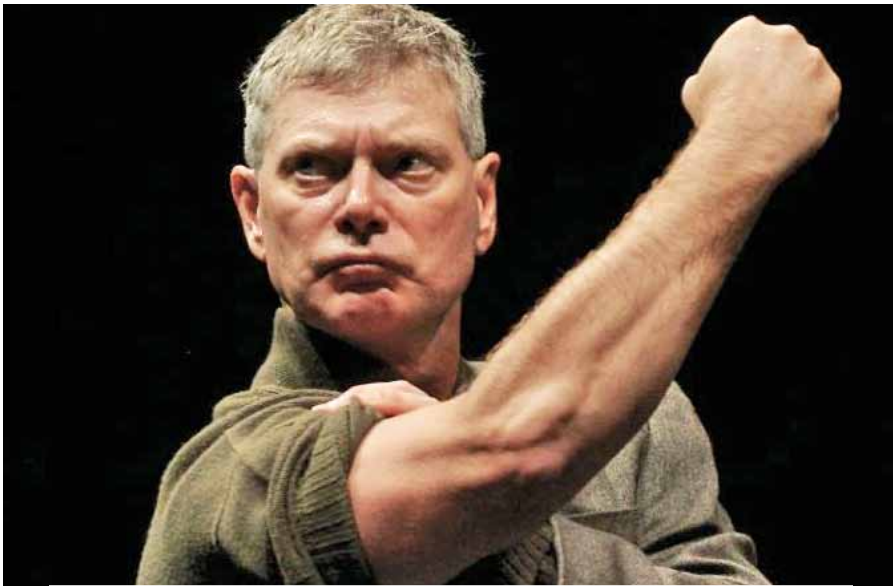
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Out on the town Nov. 1–Nov. 14

A curated calendar of upcoming events



'BEYOND GLORY' 7:30 p.m., Mon., Nov. 11, Veterans Day

Observe Veterans Day by attending this lauded production in which award-winning playwright, stage and screen star Stephen Lang brings the stories of eight military heroes to the stage. *Beyond Glory* is a one-man show adapted from Larry Smith's book. Lang, who's earned praise for his film portrayals of Babe Ruth, Stonewall Jackson and *Avatar's* Col. Quaritch, enjoyed a celebrated run in *Beyond Glory* on Broadway and at Chicago's Goodman Theater. Lang also has performed the show on military bases and the floor of

Congress. Wisconsin Medal of Honor recipient Gary Wetzel says, "The red, white and blue is not just to look at, but to feel. I know every man portrayed in the show (some are deceased). *Beyond Glory* is not just for active military and veterans, but for all who value courage, valor and freedom." A portion of ticket revenue will be donated to The Milwaukee Homeless Veterans Initiative (mkehomelessvets.org). Call 414-273-7206 and purchase a ticket for a vet.



PHOTO: MICHAEL BROSILOW

From left to right, Adam Estes, Paul Helm, Anand Nagraj and Nate Lewellyn in Milwaukee Repertory Theater's 2013-14 *Stacker Cabaret* production *Forever Plaid*.

'FOREVER PLAID' Through Dec. 29

This popular homage to the close-harmony male singing groups of the 1950s resurrects The Plaids, a fictional group who died in a car crash en route to their first big gig. But Sparky, Jinx, Frankie and Smudge get one chance to return from the afterlife and bop-shoo-bop their way through such tuneful classics as "Love is a Many Splendored

Thing," "Three Coins in the Fountain" and "Sixteen Tons." The music, intermingled with boyish squabbles and outlandish choreography, makes for a memorable evening of entertainment. At Stackner Cabaret at the Milwaukee Rep, 108 E. Wells St., Milwaukee. Call 414-224-9490 or visit www.milwaukee-erep.com.

SKYWAUKEE TOUR 1 p.m., Saturdays through Nov. 14

Milwaukee's skywalks take touring the city to the next level — the second level. And you can avoid the seasonal chill. Guided tour groups meet every Saturday at 1 p.m. in front of the T.J. Maxx entrance to the Plankinton Building section of the Shops of Grand Ave-

nue, 161 W. Wisconsin Ave. Tours are free to members of Historic Milwaukee Incorporated (historicmilwaukee.org), \$10 for adult non-members, \$2 for kids ages 7 to 17, and free for children under 6. Call 414-277-7795 to reserve group space.



'DEATHTRAP' Through Nov. 10

This evergreen comedy-thriller by Ira Levine (*Rosemary's Baby*, *The Stepford Wives*) is a huge crowd pleaser that also was made into a movie starring Michael Caine and Christopher Reeve as lovers. The gay aspect of the lead characters' relationship is not, however, in the play. At Racine Theatre Guild, 2519 Northwestern Ave. (Hwy. 38), Racine. Call 262-633-4218 or go to www.rainetheatre.org.

'THE SWEET LOWDOWN' 8 p.m. on weekends through Nov. 16

A grant from the Diabetes Hands Foundation helped to support this presentation of two one-act plays about diabetes that combines music, comedy and dance to explain the science, stigma and politics of the disease. At Broom Street Theater, 1119 Williamson St., Madison. Tickets are \$11. Phone the theater at 608-244-8338 or go to bstonlin.org.



'AN EVENING WITH DAVID SEDARIS' 7 p.m., Fri., Nov. 1



Offbeat gay memoirist and raconteur David Sedaris has made a name for himself both on the page and on the stage. Fans of his unique brand of ironic wit will devour his latest book *Let's Explore Diabetes with Owls*. Like most of the Sedaris canon, it's a book that lends itself easily to live performance, and Sedaris will undoubtedly milk its entertainment value in his next appearance at The Pabst, 144 E. Wells, Milwaukee. Call 414-286-3663 or visit www.pabsttheater.org. Madison residents get their chance to hear Sedaris read on Mon., Nov. 4, at Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State St. in Madison. Call 608-258-4141 or go to overturecenter.com.

Out on the town Nov. 1–Nov. 14

A curated calendar of upcoming events

'PATTI LUPONE: FAR AWAY PLACES' 7:30 p.m., Fri., Nov. 1

Fox Valley Symphony Orchestra presents Broadway superstar Patti LuPone in concert. The legendary diva and two-time Tony Award-winner came to fame as the original Evita in the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical of the same name in 1978, and she hasn't left center stage since. Besides having one of her generation's most phenomenal voices, LuPone is famous for peppering performances with amusing backstage anecdotes. At Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, 400 W. College Ave., Appleton. For tickets, call 920-730-3760.

'DARK PLAY' OR 'STORIES FOR BOYS' Fridays and Saturdays Nov. 1–Nov. 16

Pink Banana Theatre Co. presents this mature play by Carlos Murillo about a 14-year-old boy who discovers the intoxicating pleasures of inventing fake personalities in Internet chat rooms. A tale of deception and sexual license in the cyber age, *Dark Play* shows what happens when the real world collides with the virtual. The production includes adult situations and is best suited for mature audiences. At the Arcade Theater in the Underground Collaborative, 161 W. Wisconsin Ave., lower level, Milwaukee. Tickets are \$18 pre-sale and \$20 on the day of show. Go to pinkbananatheater.com or at the venue box office day of show.



MILWAUKEE COUNTY WINTER FARMERS MARKET 9 a.m.–1 p.m., Saturdays Nov. 2–April 19

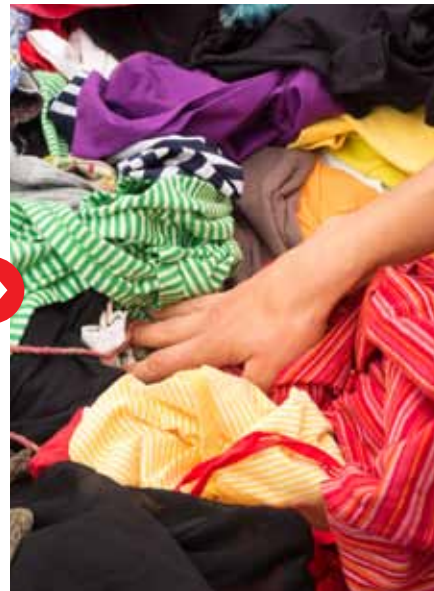
There's a good chance the tomato vine on your patio has gone to the compost heap — or the trash. For fresh produce — and a warm environment — visit the Milwaukee County Winter Farmers Market. You'll find apples and cider, hand-rolled butter, goat milk, rainbow trout, artisan cheese, granola, stone-ground flour and more. At Mitchell Park Domes, 524 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee. Admission and parking are free. Call 262-893-5978 or go to www.mcwfm.org.

MilQ 7 p.m., Nov. 2

UWM's Peck School of the Arts and the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center sponsor a free program of local LGBT short films and videos at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 1110 N. Market St., Milwaukee. Admission is free. Go to www4.uwm.edu/psaoa/film/lgbtfilmfestival/monthly.html.

RUMMAGE-A-RAMA! 9 a.m., Sat., Nov. 2, and Sun., Nov. 3

Bargain hunting? Looking for antiques? Vendors at Rummage-A-Rama! include local antique dealers, business owners who need to get rid of overstock and close-outs, and everyday people unloading their tchotchkes. At Wisconsin Products Pavilion at Wisconsin State Fair Park, 640 S. 84th St., West Allis. Admission is \$4 or \$2 with a donation to the Hunger Task Force.



THOMAS DOLBY'S 'INVISIBLE LIGHTHOUSE' 8 p.m., Wed., Nov. 6

Eighties synth-pop groundbreaker Thomas Dolby ("She Blinded Me With Science," "Hyperactive!") also is the father of a trans son (Harper) and lesbian daughter (Talia). A big Joni Mitchell fan, he worked on her *Dog Eat Dog* album. In recent years, Dolby has been expanding his repertoire, and he brings his interactive concert/film experience *The Invisible Lighthouse* to Madison on Nov. 6, at The Majestic Theatre, 115 King, Madison. Call 608-251-2582 or visit www.majesticmadison.com. On Thurs., Nov. 4, you can also catch the performance at Milwaukee's Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell Ave.



DESSA 9:30 p.m., Sat., Nov. 2

Minnesota-based singer, rapper, and spoken-word artist Dessa Darling, whose newest album *Parts of Speech* was released in June, has won praise for her witty style and rhythmic delivery. A native of Minneapolis, she's a member of the indie hip hop collective Doomtree. Her appearance at The Sett, Union South, 1308 W. Dayton, on the campus of UW-Madison, is free.

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PHOTO: ZANE WILLIAMS
Jake Penner, left, and Marcus Truschinski star as brothers in Forward Theater's production of *Sons of the Prophet*.



YANCE MARTI AND 'MISSING MILWAUKEE'

6 p.m., Wed., Nov. 6

Yance Marti, author of *Missing Milwaukee: The Lost Buildings of Downtown*, talks about buildings demolished during the 1960s and 1970s — and the challenges of preserving architecture. Marti also will sign copies of his book, which contains vintage photographs of the Norman Apartments, Belmont Hotel, Metropolitan Block, Pabst Building, Chapman's Department Store, Chicago and Northwestern Railway Depot and the Elks Club. At Chudnow Museum, 839 N. 11th St., Milwaukee. Admission is \$3.

'SONS OF THE PROPHET'

7:30 p.m., Thurs., Nov. 7

Forward Theater Company of Madison debuts its 2013-14 season with Pulitzer Prize for drama finalist *Sons of the Prophet* by Stephen Karam. The brutally funny comedy follows a young man navigating responsibilities and grief in an unconventional family. Meanwhile, his boss is pressuring him to write a memoir about his family's distant connection to Kahlil Gibran, author of the iconic book, *The Prophet*. At the Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State St., Madison. For tickets, call 608-258-4177 or 608 258-4141. For more information, go to overturecenter.com.



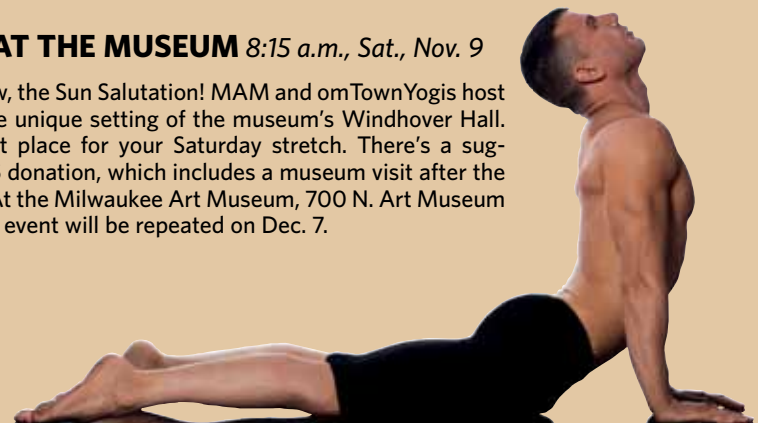
'SALFORD LADS CLUB: A TRIBUTE TO THE SMITHS/MORRISSEY'

6:30 p.m., Fri., Nov. 8

Long the subject of speculation concerning his sexual orientation, former Smiths frontman Morrissey recently clarified his proclivity in a way that only he could by declaring himself a "humasexual" — attracted to humans (but just a few). Unfortunately, the way he's been canceling shows lately, Morrissey runs the risk of being confused with Liza Minnelli. "Salford Lads Club: A Tribute to The Smiths/Morrissey" is probably as close as you'll get to the genuine article for a while. At the Turner Hall Ballroom, 1034 N. Fourth St., Milwaukee Call 414-286-3663 or go to www.milwaukeeeturners.org.

YOGA AT THE MUSEUM 8:15 a.m., Sat., Nov. 9

And now, the Sun Salutation! MAM and omTownYogis host yoga in the unique setting of the museum's Windhover Hall. It's a great place for your Saturday stretch. There's a suggested \$15 donation, which includes a museum visit after the workout. At the Milwaukee Art Museum, 700 N. Art Museum Drive. The event will be repeated on Dec. 7.



The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin invites you to enjoy the wonders of the season at the 18th annual Jolly Holly Folly.

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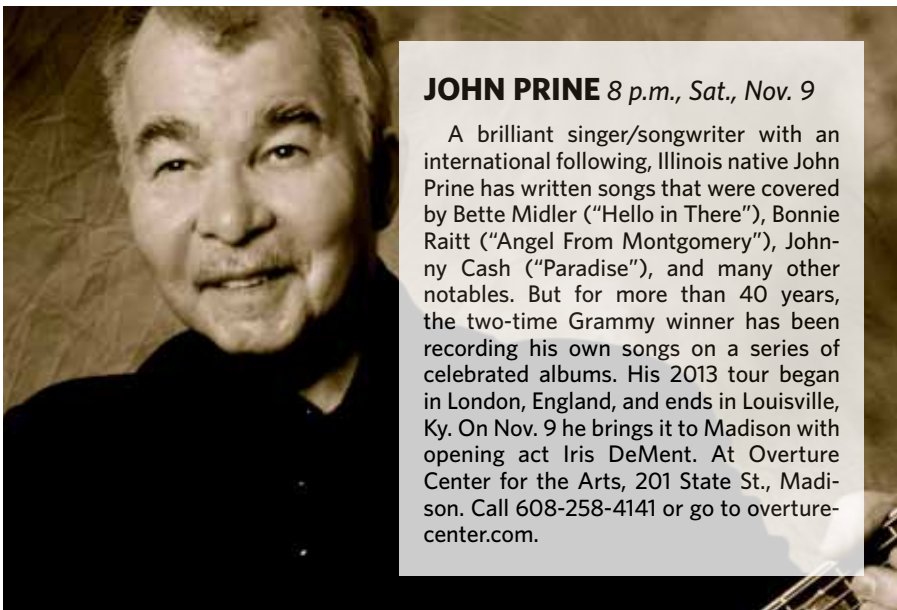
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Irving Berlin's WHITE CHRISTMAS THE MUSICAL

Out on the town Nov. 1–Nov. 14

A curated calendar of upcoming events



JOHN PRINE 8 p.m., Sat., Nov. 9

A brilliant singer/songwriter with an international following, Illinois native John Prine has written songs that were covered by Bette Midler ("Hello in There"), Bonnie Raitt ("Angel From Montgomery"), Johnny Cash ("Paradise"), and many other notables. But for more than 40 years, the two-time Grammy winner has been recording his own songs on a series of celebrated albums. His 2013 tour began in London, England, and ends in Louisville, Ky. On Nov. 9 he brings it to Madison with opening act Iris DeMent. At Overture Center for the Arts, 201 State St., Madison. Call 608-258-4141 or go to overture-center.com.



JAMES BLAKE

7 p.m., Thurs., Nov. 14

One of the most ambitious and rewarding blue-eyed soul albums of the year, James Blake's *Overgrown* (Republic) makes experimentation safe for the masses. With a vocal range reminiscent of Antony Hegarty's (of Antony and the Johnsons), Blake employs his subtly plaintive wail to great effect. Like Active Child, Blake utilizes atmospheric to set and maintain a mood. Even when he brings in RZA (of Wu-Tang Clan), as he does on "Take A Fall For Me," it feels organic and not disruptive (take note, Jay-Z!). The overall result resonates with haunted beauty, particularly on "Life Round Here," "Retrograde," "DLM" and "Our Love Comes Back." Blake's Milwaukee appearance is part of his tour supporting *Overgrown*. At the Turner Hall Ballroom, 1034 N. Fourth St., Milwaukee. Call 414-286-3663 or go to www.milwaukeeeturners.org.



'THE SOUL OF FLAMENCO'

6:30 p.m., Tues., Nov. 12, and 7:30 p.m., Thurs., Nov. 14

Flamenco Vivo returns to the Kohler Arts Center with *The Soul of Flamenco*, described as a "fierce and eclectic program" of Spanish dance and music featuring "lamenting solos, sizzling duets, and festive company dances." At the John Michael Kohler Arts Center, 608 New York Ave., Sheboygan. Ticket prices from \$10 to \$24. Call 920-458-6144 or visit jmkac.org.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS



PHOTO: COURTESY ARCW

The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin announced the receipt of a \$50,000 gift from Cary and Susie Silverstein's Baye Foundation. ARCW president Mike Gifford, left, accepted the check during a presentation at the ARCW Dental Clinic. He is with Susie Silverstein, Cary Silverstein and ARCW vice president Dan Mueller.

BAYE FOUNDATION DONATES \$50,000 TO ARCW

The AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin recently received \$50,000 from Cary and Susie Silverstein through the Baye Foundation to help connect the electronic health records of patients receiving care in ARCW dental and medical clinics.

"Today, 78 percent of ARCW patients are successfully managing their HIV compared to only 25 percent nationally," ARCW president and CEO Mike Gifford said in a news release. "With the generous support of Cary and Susie through their foundation, ARCW will be better able to deliver outstanding patient care and help more of our patients achieve this health care outcome."

The electronic health record project will cost about \$100,000 and will ensure the nation's largest and most comprehensive HIV clinic continues to provide high quality, patient-centered care to a constantly growing number of patients, Gifford said.

The Silversteins, who live in Fox Point, have supported ARCW since 1994.



MILWAUKEE CENTER NAMES NEW LGBT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's board of directors on Oct. 22 announced the selection of an executive director after an extensive nationwide search. Colleen Carpenter assumes the post at the nonprofit

on Nov. 18.

In a statement to the press, center board co-president Paul Williams said, "Thanks to strong community support, the center has experienced a remarkable comeback, allowing us to take this next step toward our goal of making the center a national model of effectiveness and vibrancy."

He continued, "Colleen's extensive experience in program management, staff development, community outreach and grant-writing make her an outstanding choice for helping to achieve that goal."

Carpenter currently is the executive director of Daystar Inc., a Milwaukee-based organization that provides long-term transitional housing for women fleeing domestic violence.

Her resume details more than 25 years of experience working for nonprofits in the areas of domestic violence prevention, housing for people living with AIDS and also youth services.

The entire community is invited to attend a welcome reception for Carpenter at the center on Thurs., Dec. 5.

Editor's Note: See WiG's one-on-one interview with Carpenter in our Nov. 14 issue.

CHRISTIAN RIGHT GROUP DENOUNCES SAFE SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN

The Christian right group Wisconsin Family Action challenged a federal grant to create safer Wisconsin schools because it said anti-bullying efforts are "spearheaded" by "homosexual activists."

On its website, the WFA, which also is leading the suit to overturn the state's domestic partnership registry, criticized the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's announcement in October that it had received an \$8.7 million federal grant for safe schools.

A news release from the DPI said the

four-year grant from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration would be used for pilot programs in the Beloit, Racine and Menominee Indian school districts to promote students' mental health and academic achievement and prevent violence and substance abuse.

State Superintendent Tony Evers said, "When students feel safe and connected in school, they have a much better chance of doing well in their studies and graduating ready for college and careers."

The release also contained a statement from Republican Gov. Scott Walker, who said, "This is welcome news for Wisconsin and all the children who will be positively affected by this grant."

At the federal level, the safe schools campaign is a collaborative initiative of the Justice, Education and Health and Human Services departments. It has been in place since 1999. Previous awards in Wisconsin have been directed to the Green Bay, Beaver Dam, Madison, Milwaukee and Wautoma school districts.

Wisconsin Family Action president Julaine Appling encouraged its supporters to raise concerns with local school board members about anti-bullying programs and examine school district budgets for anti-bullying efforts.

In other community news ...

- **Lambda Literary Foundation**, which promotes LGBT literature, recently received six \$2,500 pledges from donors to celebrate the group's 25th anniversary. LLF is seeking members in Wisconsin to help raise \$30,000 this fall. For more, go to lambdaliterary.org.

- **Out Professional and Executive Network** hosted LGBT professionals at a career fair in Madison on Oct. 23. Employers at the fair included American Family Insurance, CDW, Keller Williams, Kimberly Clark, the Peace Corps, the Madison police and fire departments and the state of Wisconsin. For more about OPEN, go to openmadison.org.

- **International Transgender Remembrance Day** takes place Nov. 20. The day was established to memorialize those killed because of anti-transgender prejudice. The first event honored Rita Hester, whose slaying on Nov. 28, 1998, in San Francisco remains unsolved. For more, go to transgender.org.

- **Equality Illinois**, a leader in the ongoing campaign for marriage equality in the Land of Lincoln, benefited from a Night of 100 Drag Queens: 100 Shades of Drag, which was held in October at Sidetrack nightclub in Chicago.

- L.N.

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Keynote speaker

Nick W. Turkal, M.D. Aurora Health Care



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CREAM CITY FOUNDATION

Our luncheon will feature keynote speaker Nick W. Turkal, M.D. who will address the audience on communicating corporate LGBT engagement to the local community and current and potential employees. The audience will be representatives from many local companies from various departments, including chief executive officers, human resources, employee affinity, diversity, and inclusion groups, as well as a variety of other professionals in the greater Milwaukee area that are supportive of Wisconsin's LGBT communities.

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WISCONSIN GAZETTE ENTERTAINMENT

'La Traviata' soars on big emotions and Verdi's intricate coloratura

Opera has never excelled on the merits of plot, but composer Giuseppe Verdi's *La Traviata* benefits more than most from the timeless, tragic tale at its heart.

Based on a play *La Dame aux camellias*, which itself was based on a novel by Alexandre Dumas fils, *La Traviata* (in English *The Strayed Woman*) tells the tale of Violetta Valéry, a dying Parisian courtesan exhausted by her lifestyle and seeking a quiet life in the country with Alfredo Germont. But old habits die hard, and when Baron Douphol re-enters her life, Violetta knows all soon will be lost.

And, this being opera, that's exactly what happens.

La Traviata opens the Florentine Opera's 2013-14 season on Nov. 8 in Milwaukee's Marcus Center for the Performing Arts' Uihlein Hall. Valéry is sung by soprano Elizabeth Cabellaro, tenor Rolando Sanz sings Germont and Douphol is sung by baritone Pablo Siquieros.

While the story resonates, Verdi's compositions transcend. *La Traviata* stands among his best works — and the best of the operatic canon as a whole, according to William Florescu, the Florentine's general director. Florescu also is directing the production.

"It's the truth and sincerity in Verdi's music that makes (the opera) stand out," he says.

A significant facet of Verdi's success is his skillful use of coloratura — elaborate melody — to enhance emotional content, according to Florescu. For example, Violetta's aria "*Sempre libera*" contains an arching cascade of notes that reflects her desperate pursuit of freedom.

Performers must balance the strong emotional nature of the content with the intricate technical demands on their voices. In addition, they must sing over large orchestras, generally without microphones. The combination of skills demanded of operatic artists puts them in a class by themselves, Florescu says.

"I suggest the same thing that many directors do," Florescu says. "Get to the heart of the character's emotions, retain the shell, and then reclaim your inner calm so that you can sing this very difficult music."

Florescu notes that the late Maria Callas, considered one of Verdi's leading interpreters, sometimes failed to achieve the inner calm required for mastery of the composer's more challenging passages. Callas, known as "La Divina" and praised for her wide vocal range, was 53 when she died of a heart attack in Paris in 1977.

A very influential composer in his day, Verdi is credited with advancing opera as an art form. Verdi added dramatic realism to the *bel canto* (Italian for "beautiful singing") style early in his career, then blurred the lines of the aria and recitative formats to serve the needs of both the structure and narrative.

"Ultimately, Verdi created the through-composed style of opera," Florescu says. "Wagner is often credited for integrating music and drama, but Verdi did the same thing following his own creative and uniquely Italian path."

Although *La Traviata* is a big, bold opera, Florescu wants audiences to be swept up in the story's emotions, as well as the music.

"Although the party scenes are big fun and musically thrilling, this is essentially a human tragedy amongst three characters," Florescu says. "The central heart of the story is the second act with Violetta and Alfredo's father Giorgio Germont. Everything grows out of her sacrificing her love for Alfredo."

Indeed, the duet between the elder Germont (baritone Mark Walters) and Violetta, "*Pura siccome un angelo*," may be worth the price of admission.

FLORENTINE'S SEASON AT A GLANCE

La Traviata launches a stellar season for the Florentine Opera. Upcoming productions include:

- *Fiesta Fiorentina*: A *Concert of Love*, the annual song-filled performance that allows the Florentine Opera Studio Artists to shine, Feb. 14-16.
- Handel's *Julius Caesar*, a story of power, corruption and death, March 28 and March 30.
- Puccini's *La Bohème*, another masterwork of the opera canon and the inspiration for the musical *Rent*, May 9 and May 11.

ON STAGE

The Florentine Opera mounts its production of *La Traviata* Nov. 8 and Nov. 10 at Milwaukee's Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. Call 414-291-5700, ext. 22, or go to www.florentineopera.org/tickets.



Opera

MICHAEL MUCKIAN

PHOTOS: JAMES GILL/MADISON OPERA

Soprano Elizabeth Cabellaro singing the role of Valéry in Madison Opera's production of *La Traviata*, a role she's reprising in a new production for Florentine Opera.

Singer/songwriter Patty Larkin turns scraps to songs

Music

GREGG SHAPIRO

Out singer/songwriter Patty Larkin is approaching her 30th year as a recording artist. Her latest disc is the radiant and raw *Still Green* (Signature Sounds). An extraordinary guitarist, Larkin stretches the bounds of traditional folk, incorporating influences ranging from jazz to rock — with the occasional bit of programming thrown in (check out the loops on “Mando Drum” and “So Cold”). A musical journey of healing and heartache, *Still Green* is a verdant collection of songs that highlights Larkin’s ability to make us cry, laugh and think, all set to appealing and unforgettable melodies. I spoke with Larkin shortly before the disc’s release.

Gregg Shapiro: In the liner notes for *Still Green*, you write that the songs were culled from “journals, digital recorders, cellphones, smartphones, scraps of paper, from memory and dreams.” Is this typical of your songwriting process?

Patty Larkin: My studio wasn’t up and running. I upgraded my entire studio and just hadn’t gotten it together (laughs). A lot of it was on my cellphone and iPhone and digital recorder, which I take with me

when I visit my family and record in my hotel room or my room. The interesting thing about that process was that I thought I had 40 or 50 songs. It turns out that I had maybe six or eight finished songs, and 34 snippets. Once I put it on the voice recorder, I thought, “I’m going to get back to that.” It was a different few years. I didn’t have the wherewithal to get back into these long writing periods. I started going through stuff and said, “Wow, I like this song, but I need to finish it.” Toward the end of the writing process, I thought, “You need to go back to the notebook.” These tools are great for putting down the ideas, but then you need to go back and listen to them once or twice a week so that you know where you’re at. I still haven’t culled all the ideas out.

Over the course of the disc, you take the listener from grief in “Best of Intentions” to gratitude in “Because of This.” Would you have made the journey yourself if you hadn’t been able to turn these experiences into songs?

No, I think the songs are a reflection of the journey. It’s very internal. There’s a reason why, in the Jewish tradition, that you have this service about a year after (someone’s death). Because I found that this whole year you’re still in mourning or it’s reminiscent of what happened a year ago — or here’s a holiday and I can’t recall. My dad died a year ago in September. I feel

so fortunate to have the partner I have for 28 years now, and a family we started late in life (laughs). I feel full of emotion and joy. I told a friend that I cry almost every day with joy. The beauty of these children and the companionship I have and how fragile life is. I’m seeing how my life can be as a writer, musician and then as a mother.

Being a singer/songwriter of literary merit, it’s not surprising that Kay Ryan’s poetry found its way into your music. Is interacting with poetry a part of your daily routine?

It gives me points of reflection. Kay’s poetry definitely does that for me. My friend (musician Peter Mulvey) sent me a book of her poems. I love his writing and I love when we tour together, because we talk about different writers. (Ryan’s poems) immediately struck me as songs. The rhyming couplets or the internal rhyme she has is something that I love doing. I just started singing to that poem (“Green Behind the Ears”). That’s kind of rare for me. I’ve done it as a writing exercise, but this was like, “Oh, wow, what am I going to do with this? I really like this!” I started singing it out almost immediately, because it’s really close to my process, really close to what I was going through in terms of my kids and what I had just experienced through my sister’s illness and the death of my mom. “So much freshness to unlearn,” is the line. How tender and green we are. I got really sad, very emotional. This one poem brought all that in for me in just a few sentences. She has that talent.

Has Kay heard “Green Behind the Ears”?

She has definitely heard the song. We waited until it was fairly well along to send it to her for permission. She responded almost immediately. She’s been very generous. She doesn’t want a fee for it. I need to find where to send the album because I would love for her to have a copy.

Do you ever cross paths with poet Mary Oliver on the Cape?

(Laughs.) I’ve been to her house in Provincetown, but she wasn’t there. Artist friends of mine were staying there, friends of hers. I’m a big fan of hers as well. I haven’t had the chance to meet her yet.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Milwaukee native Patty Larkin performs at Shank Hall in Milwaukee on Nov. 21 and at Cafe Carpe in Fort Atkinson on Nov. 23.

You sing about coffee in “Mando Drum” and name check Starbucks in “New Hotel.” Is there something you’re trying to tell us?

(Big laugh.) Those are two really different songs. We had gotten to the tea point, the Earl Grey in the morning and maybe a little in the afternoon. Then we adopted our first daughter (laughs), and it was back to the coffee. We try not to make it too strong. It’s definitely a lifestyle for me. The reference to Starbucks in “New Hotel” is somewhat ironic. I was writing that song in a really beautiful field and I wondered why was that hotel there, why that (highway) exit with nothing else. I just see the process, the ex-urbanization of America. These little farm fields in Pennsylvania, or wherever I was, why here? You travel to Canada and you can go for a long time, like an hour, without a gas station, without a McDonald’s or anything. And yet, when I do see the Starbucks sign in 10 or 15 miles, I’m going to wait (laughs). I know there is at least some standard of excellence there.

When you’re in Milwaukee, do you ever stop for java at Colectivo?

Oh, sure. The one down at the lakefront, that’s a good one. That’s a great stop, that’s a great hang. They do good work. It’s a wonderful company.

Do you have any interest in writing film music?

Yes (laughs), I do. I haven’t done any scoring, but it’s really of interest to me. I have two different album projects I want to do. One is an album of covers and one is an album of instrumentals. That’s my plan.

What can your fans expect from the upcoming tour?

I’m doing a national tour. My job is to showcase the new music and to talk about the ideas on the album.

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Jessica Redish keeps shows on the move



PHOTO: COURTESY

The young cast members of *Shrek* in a scene choreographed by Jessica Redish.

By **Gregg Shapiro**

Contributing writer

The founding artistic director of The Music Theatre Company in Highland Park, Ill., Jessica Redish has directed and choreographed numerous works, including the Joseph Jefferson Award-nominated productions of *Pippin* and *Merrily We Roll Along*. Her numerous regional credits include choreographing *Rent* (at American Theater Company/About Face Theatre), Writers' Theatre's production of *She Loves Me* and *Seussical* at First Stage in Milwaukee.

In September, we spoke at The Music Theatre Company's home in Highland Park, Ill.

Gregg Shapiro: How did you get involved with First Stage in Milwaukee, for whom you choreographed *Pinkalicious* and *Shrek*, which opens on Nov. 1?

Jessica Redish: I think my First Stage relationship began with Tony Clements, whom I knew when I lived in New York after graduating from Northwestern and before starting this company. Tony was directing *Seussical* in 2011, and he asked me if I would like to come up and choreograph. First Stage is an excellent theater. What I love about working with this other theater, in addition to The Music Theater Company, is that they've created a way of working with their staff and their students that is very inspiring to me. It's a joy to work with the actors and designers they bring as well as the young people you work with that they've trained so well.

What can you tell me about The Music Theatre Company?

The company's mission is to expand the canon of musical theater through commissions of new works, fully staged productions, musicals and musical experiments. What that means is that we commission new works of musical theater, we develop them and we also present existing works. Our goal is to present them so that audi-

ences can re-hear them in a new way. I'm developing a new dance musical that will be a story told completely through movement and dance. It will go up here next June.

What do you enjoy most about choreography?

I really enjoy moving bodies in space to tell a story. I love the power that holds — that we can say a lot with one gesture.

What do you enjoy most about directing?

I think my passion for directing comes from the idea of creating a very specific detailed world with a group of designers and actors and singers and dancers. Living in it and saying, "Here's what's happening in this world. Here are the circumstances of this world. Here's how we exist in this world, and let's live here together for this time."

Do you have a favorite production that you have directed?

Each project is very special to me. The first was one I adapted, with my colleague Michael Mahler — the 9/11 report into a play with music. It was an exciting group effort to explore the events leading up to it and to dramatize and create movement in a respectful way around that. It was very cathartic. We also presented *Merrily We Roll Along* in 2011. I think Stephen Sondheim is a gift to any director, because of the specificity of his lyrics and the honesty with which he writes.

ON STAGE

First Stage presents *Shrek: The Musical* in the Todd Wehr Theater at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 N. Water St. Performances are scheduled at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through Nov. 17. Call 414-267-2961 or go to www.firststage.org

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Thomas Sully, *Frances Anne Kemble as Beatrice*, 1833 (detail). Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, Bequest of Henry C. Carey (The Carey Collection), 1879.8.24. Courtesy of Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia.

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MTV DEBUTS NEW PROGRAM IN APP

In a technological milestone for television, MTV recently released a full season of its new series about a downtrodden high school football team on its mobile application a week before the first episode is seen on TV.

MTV's release of *Wait 'Til Next Year* on its app is reminiscent of when the streaming service Netflix made an entire season of the drama *House of Cards* available at the same time.

Nearly 2 million MTV apps have been downloaded, primarily on iPhones and iPads, since MTV made them available in June. The network also recently experimented by making extra content from its Miley Cyrus documentary available exclusively through the app.

NEW MUSICAL BRINGS BACK SONGWRITER FRED KANDER

The Landing, a musical starring out actor David Hyde Pierce, had its world premiere at New York City's Vineyard Theatre on Oct. 23.



The play is notable because it brings legendary composer Fred Kander (*Chicago*, *Cabaret*, *Kiss of the Spider Woman*) out of retirement at age 86 and teams him with Pierce's nephew, rising playwright Greg Pierce.

The Landing, which consists of three one-act musicals, is garnering strong reviews from critics.



PHOTO: MICHAEL BROSILOW

Carl Clemons-Hopkins and Martel Manning, standing, and Gavin Gregory, seated, in *The Rep's* production of *Ragtime*.

'RAGTIME' BREAKS REP'S RECORD

Ragtime became the bestselling musical in The Milwaukee Rep's history after the first week of performances, surpassing the previous recordholder *Cabaret*. The latter,

which opened The Rep's 2010-11 season, was artistic director Mark Clements' directorial debut. *Ragtime* was Clements' latest directorial effort and also the largest production ever mounted on the Quadracci Powerhouse stage.

Clements signed a new four-year contract with The Rep earlier this year.

SKYLIGHT REPORTS RECORD YEAR

Skylight Music Theatre's 2012-13 season broke box-office records and resulted in a small operating surplus, according to managing director Amy Jensen.

"We are pleased to report that we increased revenues by 14 percent over the prior year while holding our expenses to a nominal 2 percent increase," she said in a press release.

Ticket sales topped \$1.5 million — the highest in the theater's 54-year history and 31 percent above projections. Last year's *The Sound of Music* was the biggest draw.

Last season was the ninth and final year for outgoing artistic director Bill Theisen.

in Monroeville has displays honoring her and presents the play *To Kill a Mockingbird* each summer in the old county courthouse courtroom, which served as a model for the movie's courtroom. The museum pays royalties for using the play, and that is not an issue in the suit.

The Milwaukee Rep presented the stage version of the book last year.

**'WALKING DEAD' INSPIRES NEW CONVENTION**

Cable TV's *The Walking Dead* has inspired a new convention, a podcast and a one-man play.

The podcast and Atlanta-based convention are the creations of Eric Nordhoff and James Frazier, also known as the "Walker Stalkers" because of a road trip they made last fall from Nashville, Tenn., to Georgia to see the AMC show being filmed.

The convention, Walker Stalker Con, is expected to draw 10,000 or more participants, Nordhoff said.

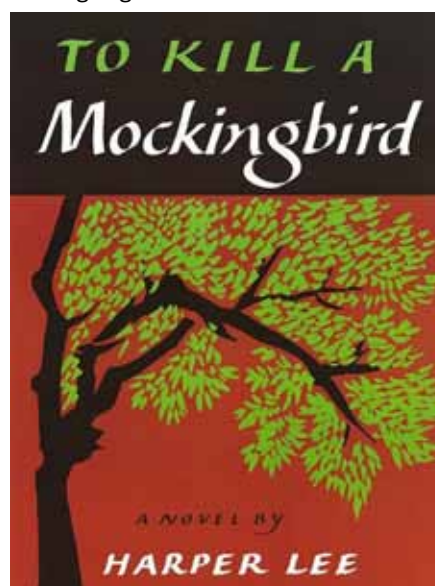
The Walking Dead characters battle zombies known as "walkers" in the streets of downtown Atlanta and in forests, small towns and a prison south of the city.

The convention will feature appearances by some of the show's actors.

The series returned for its fourth season this month with its biggest audience ever. The 16.1 million people who watched the Oct. 13 series premiere shattered the show's previous record of 12.4 million, the Nielsen company said.

PECK SCHOOL PROFESSOR HONORED

Rebecca Holderness, associate professor of acting at UWM's Peck School of the Arts, will be honored for her work in regional theater and for transforming "the national arts landscape by (her) artistry, passion, and courage," according to a UWM press release. Holderness is one of four finalists for the Stage Director and Choreographer Society's Zelda Fichandler Award, to be presented Nov. 4 in Cincinnati. The university said that Holderness has reached "beyond the world of academia to create opportunities for creative endeavors in Milwaukee."

**HARPER LEE SUES ALABAMA MUSEUM**

To Kill a Mockingbird author Harper Lee is suing a museum in her hometown of Monroeville to stop it from selling souvenirs with her name and the title of her Pulitzer Prize-winning book.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Mobile, said the Monroe County Heritage Museum has traded on Lee's fame without her approval and without compensating her. It seeks an unspecified amount in damages.

The lawsuit comes after Lee sought a federal trademark for the title of her book when it's used on clothing. The museum opposed her application, saying its souvenir sales are vital to its continued operation. A ruling is more than a year away.

Lee's book is set in fictional Maycomb County, but her suit says the setting was inspired by the real Monroe County in south Alabama, where she lives. The museum

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BRIEFS from prior page

REP WINS UPAF AWARD

Milwaukee Repertory Theater has been named recipient of the prestigious 2013 United Performing Arts Fund's Management & Organizational Performance Excellence Award, sponsored by Northwestern Mutual.

The Rep also announced that it's conducting a fundraising challenge campaign to coincide with its anniversary. Anonymous donors have pledged to match every new or increased gift up to \$200,000, doubling the impact of each gift. To learn more about Milwaukee Repertory Theater, its productions and how to donate, go to www.milwaukeerep.com.



CAROL BURNETT WINS AMERICA'S TOP PRIZE FOR HUMOR

A big Tarzan yell to Carol Burnett. The trailblazing comedienne received the nation's top humor prize at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Top entertainers, including Julie Andrews, Tony Bennett, Tina Fey and Amy Poehler, paid tribute to Burnett as she received the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. The show will air on Nov. 24 on PBS stations. Ellen DeGeneres won the prize last year.

LOU REED DEAD AT 71

Lou Reed, the bisexual punk poet of rock 'n' roll who influenced generations of musicians as leader of the Velvet Underground and as a solo performer for decades, has died at 71 from complications related to a recent liver transplant.

No band did more than the Velvet Underground to open rock music to the avant-garde — to experimental theater, art, literature and film, to William Burroughs and Kurt Weill, to John Cage and Andy Warhol, Reed's early patron.

Indie rock essentially began in the 1960s with Reed and the Velvets. Likewise, the punk, New Wave and alternative rock movements of the 1970s, '80s and '90s were all indebted to Reed.

Reed's New York was a jaded city of drag queens and drug addicts. His songs quested for transcendence.

His one Top 20 hit "Walk on the Wild Side" and many other Reed singles became standards among his fans, including "Heroin," "Sweet Jane" and "Pale Blue Eyes."

- WiG and AP reports



PHOTO: COURTESY

Tom Hardy in the 2011 film *Warrior*.

TOM HARDY TO PLAY ELTON JOHN IN BIOPIC

Tom Hardy will play Elton John in a biopic titled *Rocketman*. The film is planned to begin shooting late next year.

The 36-year-old British actor is well respected for his wide-ranging talent, but his brawny, tattooed frame makes him an unconventional choice. Hardy is most famous for playing the terrorist Bane in *The Dark Knight Rises*. He has showcased a muscled masculinity in films like *Warrior*, *Lawless* and *Bronson*.

John's an executive producer of the film.

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DisH it Over!

Latkes are for Hanukkah and Thanksgiving

By Alison Ladman

AP writer

Potato latkes may be the best-known variety of this crispy staple of Hanukkah meals, but don't feel you need to limit yourself to them.

Though potatoes have their own symbol-

ism for this Jewish holiday, it's the oil used in the frying that is particularly significant. It symbolizes the long-lasting oil burned in the temple lamps in the Hanukkah story. There are many latke variations, including sweet potato, onion and carrot.

Since the first day of Hanukkah falls on Thanksgiving this year, we drew on a staple of that all-American holiday to make a delicious variation — pumpkin latkes. We top ours with a cranberry-spiked sour cream, but applesauce would be just as delicious.

PUMPKIN LATKES WITH SPICED CRANBERRY SOUR CREAM

Start to finish: 30 minutes
Servings: 10

INGREDIENTS
1 cup sour cream



¼ cup finely chopped dried cranberries
2 tablespoons packed dark brown sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon
¼ teaspoon nutmeg

¼ teaspoon ground cloves
Vegetable oil
1 medium yellow onion, chopped
1 small sugar pumpkin, peeled, seeded and shredded (about 3 cups)
2 eggs
¼ cup all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon ground black pepper
Toasted pecans, to garnish

DIRECTIONS

In a small bowl, stir together the sour cream, cranberries, brown sugar, cinnamon, nutmeg and cloves. Set aside.

In a medium skillet over medium, heat 1 tablespoon of vegetable oil. Add the onion and cook until very tender and well browned, about 12 to 15 minutes. Transfer the onion (reserving the skillet) to a medium bowl and mix in the shredded pumpkin, eggs, flour, salt and black pepper.

Wipe out the skillet used to cook the onions. Return it to medium-high heat and add ¼ inch of vegetable oil. Working in batches, scoop the pumpkin mixture by the heaping tablespoonful into the pan, 3 or 4 scoops at a time. Flatten each scoop with the back of the spatula and cook until browned on both sides and tender at the

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center, about 3 minutes per side.

Transfer to a wire rack set over a baking sheet to drain. Serve topped with the cranberry sour cream and garnished with toasted pecans.

Nutrition information per serving: 140 calories; 80 calories from fat (57 percent of total calories); 9 g fat (3.5 g saturated, 0 g trans fats); 50 mg cholesterol; 12 g carbohydrate (1 g fiber, 7 g sugar); 3 g protein; 220 mg sodium.

LATKE-CRUSTED APPLE STUFFING

Part of what makes the traditional Thanksgiving stuffing so irresistible is its delicious blend of the lightly crisped top and sides with the tender and moist inside.

That quality also happens to be the mark of a great fried potato latke, one of the most iconic foods of Hanukkah. We decided to combine these classic comfort foods in one dish.

The result is a wonderfully rich stuffing topped by a crispy layer of fried latkes. It's so good that you may want to make it for years to come, regardless of when Hanukkah or Thanksgiving fall on the calendar.

Start to finish: 1 hour 10 minutes (30 minutes active)

Servings: 12

INGREDIENTS

2 large russet potatoes
4 eggs, divided
½ cup all-purpose flour
2 tablespoons minced fresh sage
Salt and ground black pepper
Vegetable oil, for frying
1 large yellow onion, roughly chopped
3 stalks celery, roughly chopped
2 carrots, roughly chopped
1 green bell pepper, cored and roughly chopped
¼ cup chopped fresh chives
2 medium apples, peeled and diced
1 large loaf (about 1 pound) challah bread, cut into ½-inch cubes and toasted
2 cups low-sodium chicken or turkey broth or stock

DIRECTIONS

Heat the oven to 350 F. Coat a large casserole dish or a 9-by-13-inch pan with cooking spray.

Into a medium bowl lined with several layers of paper towels or a clean kitchen towel, shred the potatoes. Gather the towels with the potatoes inside and squeeze out as much liquid as possible. Discard the liquid, dry the bowl, then return the potatoes to the bowl, removing the towels. Stir in 2 of the eggs, the flour, sage and a hefty pinch each of salt and pepper.

In a large skillet over medium-high, heat ¼ inch of oil. Working in batches, drop the potato mixture in ¼ cup mounds into the oil, flattening them with the

back of a spatula. Cook until golden brown on both sides, about 2 to 3 minutes per side. Transfer the latkes to a paper towel-lined plate and repeat with the remaining potato mixture.

In a food processor, combine the onion, celery, carrots and green pepper. Pulse until finely chopped.

Drain all but ¼ cup of the oil from the pan used to cook the latkes. Set the pan over medium heat, then transfer the vegetable mixture to it and cook until lightly browned and tender, 5 to 7 minutes. Transfer the mixture to a large bowl, then add the chives, apples and challah. Season with a hefty sprinkle each of salt and pepper.

In a small bowl, whisk together the 2 remaining eggs and the broth. Pour over the stuffing mixture and mix well. Spoon the stuffing into the prepared pan. Arrange the latkes over the top. Wrap with foil or cover and bake for 35 minutes. Remove the foil or cover and continue baking for 10 minutes, or until 165 F in the center.

Nutrition information per serving: 260 calories; 50 calories from fat (19 percent of total calories); 6 g fat (1 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 80 mg cholesterol; 42 g carbohydrate (4 g fiber, 7 g sugar); 8 g protein; 330 mg sodium.



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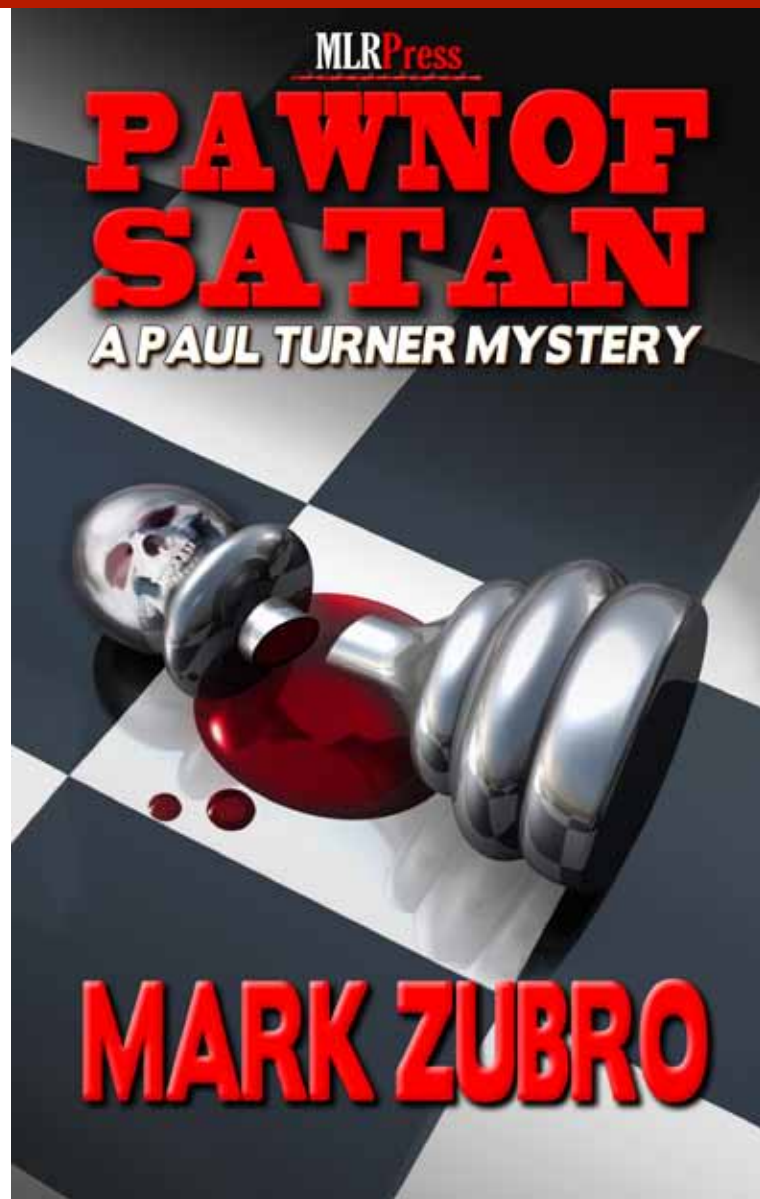
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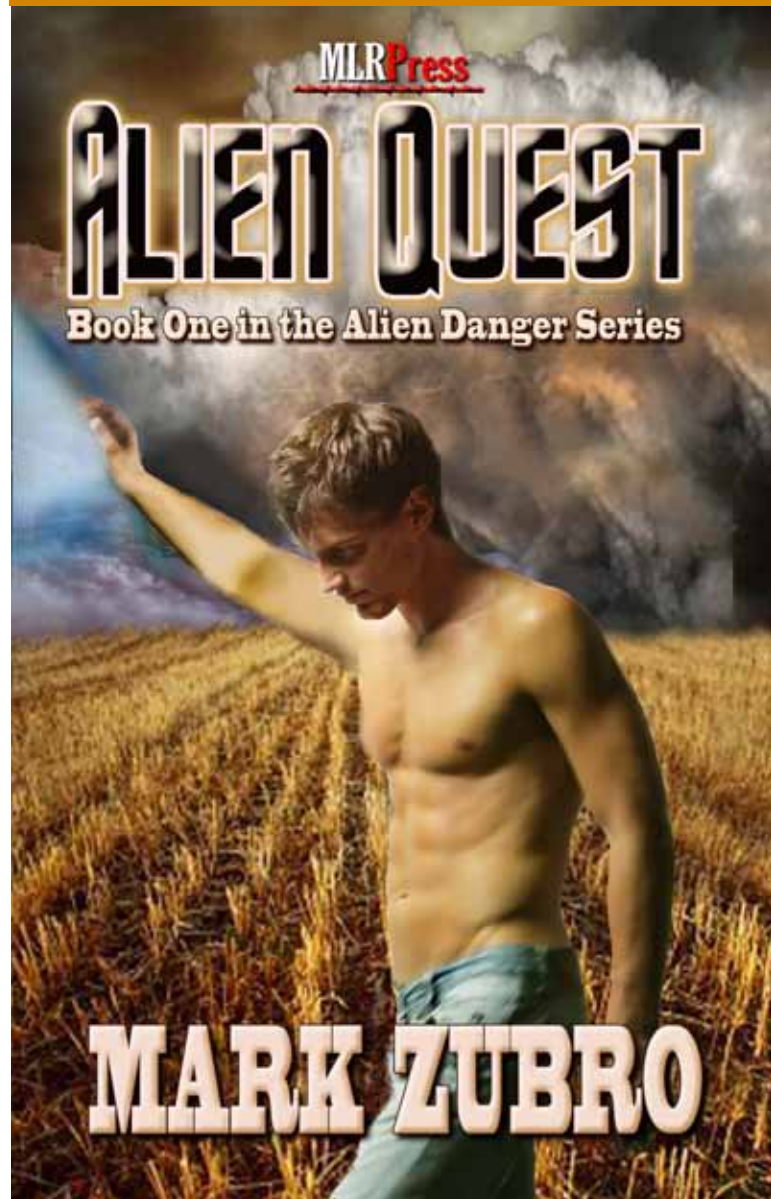
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