

MAKE THE YULETIDE GAY

From ruby slipper
flip-flops to Uberlube,
WiG offers a diverse gift
guide.

page 28



THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

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2013 in review

Special Double Issue! Next Issue January 9, 2014

News with a twist



PHOTO: NBC

Carrie Underwood as Maria and Stephen Moyer as Captain Von Trapp in *The Sound of Music*.

A PROBLEM LIKE MARIA

The Von Trapp family did not approve of Carrie Underwood playing Maria in the NBC production of *The Sound of Music Live*. "Carrie Underwood as Maria? Seriously? I mean, I have nothing against her personally — she's an extremely talented country singer, but I'm pretty sure my father is repeatedly rolling over in his grave," opined Francoise

von Trapp in a blog. She said the family would have preferred Anne Hathaway.

SCOTT WALKER AS THE GRINCH

Gov. Scott Walker's campaign emailed a gift suggestion to his supporters: Skip the long holiday shopping lines and send your money to his re-election campaign instead of spending it on presents for the kids. "Instead of electronics or toys that will undoubtedly be outdated, broken, or lost by the next Holiday Season, help give your children the gift of a Wisconsin that we can all be proud of," the governor's campaign wrote.

THE COMPANY HE KEEPS

Scott Walker recently fired yet another campaign aide for racist rants against Latinos — this time on Twitter. Taylor Palmisano, Walker's deputy campaign finance director, was let go after complaints about her "fuck"-filled tweets about



WIGWAG

the irritating presence of "illegal" people on the bus, in the library and other places she frequents. In August, Walker aide Steven Krieser, assistant deputy secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, lost his job after writing on Facebook that illegal immigrants are the spawn of Satan.

DON'T EXPOSE, DON'T SAG

A fashion patrol at the Schofield Army Barracks on Hawaii's Oahu is looking for soldiers and civilians — on or off-duty — violating a style code of conduct by wearing short shorts or sagging pants, or exposing midribs or underwear. The two-person patrol teams are part of the Army's crackdown on the "revealing, offensive and unkempt."

YEAH, BABY!

A new survey shows

Britons are having sex less often, but the kinds of sex they're having are more diverse than in the past. Scientists also found the sex habits of British women are changing faster than those of men, with a fourfold jump in the proportion of women who had a same-sex experience since the first survey was done in 1990, from 4 percent to 16 percent. The numbers of men who reported a same-sex experience have remained virtually unchanged since 1990, at about 7 percent.

ICKY IKEA

Ikea removed a feature about a lesbian couple from the Russian edition of its December Ikea Family Live magazine to avoid violating the nation's anti-gay "homosexual propaganda" law. The story was about two London women who maintain a blog titled "My Two Mums." The action has drawn accusations of cowardice from some activists. Others consider it yet

By Lisa Neff & Louis Weisberg

another reason not to buy cheap, cardboard furniture made under slave-like conditions in brutally poor nations that go right from the store into landfills.

UNBELIEVING

A group of non-believers is blanketing California's capital city with billboards proclaiming their lack of faith — and that it's OK. Fifty-five billboards in Sacramento feature local atheists with messages such as, "I worship nothing and question everything." The Greater Sacramento Chapter of Freedom From Religion Foundation, which is responsible for the ads, says the messages are not anti-God but rather an effort to let atheists know they aren't alone.

LIBERACE RETURNS

A casino on the Las Vegas Strip is bringing some of Liberace's most decadent possessions back into the public eye. The items have been in storage since the

Liberace museum closed in 2010. Visitors to the six-week exhibition at the Cosmopolitan Las Vegas will be able once again to gaze on Liberace's glittering piano, elaborate candelabras and his so-called Rhinestone Roadster, an old-time car decked out in faux gemstones. Of course, also on view will be the pianist's sequined jumpsuits and jewel-and-ermine capes.

NEW LOVE

Just days after coming out as gay, hunky British Olympic diver Tom Daley told a British broadcast journalist that he'd fallen madly in love on first sight with Oscar-winning screenwriter Dustin Lance Black. The two, who are separated not only by the pond — Black lives in Los Angeles — but also 20 years of age, are reportedly looking for a home together. "I'd never felt anything like it before," Daley said of his first sighting of Black.

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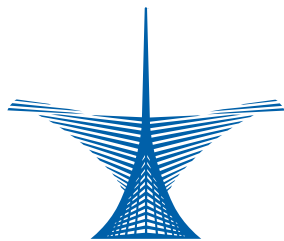
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NATIONAL A YEAR OF SWEEPING CHANGE

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

One sun. One light. One ground. One sky. After a bruising, blistering election season, Richard Blanco helped to usher in a new year with those words in his inaugural poem, "One Today," and in his renewed optimism and hope for one country.

One sun rose on us today, kindled over our shores, peeking over the Smokies, greeting the faces of the Great Lakes, spreading a simple truth across the Great Plains, then charging across the Rockies...

Blanco recited shortly after Barack Obama took his second presidential oath of office on Jan. 21.

A novelist, if not a poet, would see foreshadowing: The first openly gay and the first Latino inaugural poet offering a sweeping telling

of one day in American life to begin a year of sweeping change.

MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Before the November 2012 election, same-sex couples could marry in only six states plus the District of Columbia, and the federal government, under the Defense of Marriage Act, banned recognition of gay marriages, denying more than 100,000 couples more than 1,100 rights and benefits.

In the year that followed, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the discriminatory definition of marriage in DOMA and cleared the way for gay marriages to resume in California. Meanwhile, the number of marriage equality states grew to 16 and, with the New Mexico Supreme Court expected to rule soon on the issue, the number could reach 17 before the first notes of "Auld Lang Syne" on New Year's Eve.

"I guess history will put

2013 in its place, but today, to me, it is the greatest, gayest year ever," said P. Judy McAfree of Minneapolis, who married her partner of 36 years in September, after Minnesota enacted its marriage equality bill.

"I grew up and lived most of my life thinking I'd always be excluded from an ordinary American life," McAfree said. "Little girls today, they won't grow up that way."

For McAfree and many, many others, the year began with promise. Voters in her state had defeated an anti-gay constitutional amendment at the polls in November 2012, gay couples began marrying in Maine and Washington in December 2012 and in Maryland on New Year's Day 2013.

And then the president, in his inaugural address, said the nation's journey for justice and equality will not be complete "until our gay brothers and sisters are treated like anyone else

under the law — for if we are truly created equal, then surely the love we commit to one another must be equal as well."

Americans, the president said, must follow the star that guided the civil rights pioneers of "Seneca Falls, and Selma, and Stonewall."

And so many did, rising up in 2013 to march again for civil rights 50 years after the big march; to demand justice for an unarmed black teenager shot to death in Florida; to seek an end to right-wing assaults on women's reproductive freedoms; to press for comprehensive immigration reform; to strike for living wages and fair benefits; to block further degradation of the environment; to protest corporate influence on elections and government interference with the right to vote; and to rally for LGBT equality.

"When you filter out the viral debris ... and see the year with clarity. Well, it's been a monumental year,"

said civil rights activist Maria Gomez of Baltimore. "And most monumental has been the progress for gay people and our families."

Gomez married her same-sex partner of eight years in June, the same month their son completed kindergarten and they began talking about his becoming a Cub Scout, an interest Gomez said she could support after the Boy Scouts of America ended its ban on gay youth.

"My life will never be the same after this year," she said. "You have no idea how many news events made me cry for joy."

The first gay couples said "I do" and legally wed in Delaware on July 1, in Rhode Island and Minnesota on Aug. 1, in New Jersey on Oct. 21 and in Hawaii on Dec. 2.

In Illinois on Nov. 20, Gov. Pat Quinn signed into law the state's marriage equality bill. It takes effect in June 2014, but one lesbian couple, with an emergency order from a federal court

because of an illness, has exchanged vows.

Same-sex couples also married in New Mexico, where county clerks issued licenses with the question still before the state Supreme Court, and in Pennsylvania, where the state Supreme Court also is considering marriage equality.

Meanwhile, lawsuits seeking marriage equality were filed or advanced in 18 other states in 2013 — Arkansas, Colorado, Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Nevada, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia and West Virginia.

Some of those suits were filed in late summer while others were revised following two widely anticipated rulings from the U.S. Supreme Court on June 26. In *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, justices allowed a lower

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court ruling against California's Proposition 8 to stand and cleared the way for legal same-sex marriages in that state. In the epic United States v. Windsor decision, the justices overturned Section 3 of DOMA, removing many barriers to the federal government recognizing gay marriages and extending full marriage benefits to same-sex couples and their families.

Out U.S. Rep. Mark Pocan, elected to Congress in November 2012 from Dane County, said the Court's rulings left him "more confident than ever that full marriage equality is a question not of if, but when."

"The nation's highest court reaffirmed our founding belief that all Americans are created equal under the law," said U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin, the Wisconsin Democrat who in January became the first openly gay senator in U.S. history. "The court made a strong statement for equality and freedom, overturning discrimination against gay and lesbian American citizens simply because of who they love."

The legal and political victories followed polls showing a clear majority of Americans now support marriage equality and revealing increasing support among Catholic and Republican voters. One poll by the Pew Research Center showed a majority of gay marriage opponents think legal recognition across the nation is inevitable.

Even so, the journey the president spoke about in his inaugural address is far from complete.

REFORMING EMPLOYMENT, IMMIGRATION

In November, the Senate, in a bipartisan 64-32 vote, passed the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which would ban workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

An overwhelming majority of Americans support the bill and momentum is building even among conservatives. "LGBT workers need this law, and employers want it too — because clear and uniform rules help

everyone," said Greg Nevins, a senior staff attorney with Lambda Legal.

But Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, repeatedly indicated the GOP-controlled House would not take up ENDA, just as the House failed to take up the comprehensive immigration reform bill passed by the Senate in June.

"If we can vote 45 times to gut Obamacare and have another vote scheduled this week, why can the Republican Leadership not find the time to schedule one vote on immigration?" asked U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Chicago, who has led the push for immigration reform in the House.

Many LGBT civil rights groups joined the progressive coalition campaigning for the Senate bill, and several community leaders were among those arrested in demonstrations in the capital.

"If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem," said Rea Carey, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, who was arrested protesting inaction on immigration reform in September. "The House must act now and do the right thing for the 11 million undocumented immigrants, over a quarter of a million of whom are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender. These people need a real pathway to citizenship and the American Dream now — not the nightmare of gridlock."

A couple of weeks later, on Oct. 1, congressional gridlock temporarily shut down many parts of the federal government. The shutdown was driven by Republicans' opposition to the Affordable Care Act, which in 2014 will prohibit insurers from denying coverage or charging a higher premium based on a pre-existing condition, including HIV or AIDS. It also prohibits insurers from charging someone more because of gender, sexual orientation or gender identity.

PROTECTING WOMEN, TRANSGENDERED

Federal lawmakers did come together to pass the LGBT-inclusive Violence

Against Women Act, with the victory in the House driven by Milwaukee Democrat Gwen Moore. After the bill passed, Moore said, "Today, the majority of this body stood up for all women — including Native, LGBT and immigrant women. We answered their clarion call and declared that we will protect the victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and human trafficking."

Mara Keisling of the National Center for Transgender Equality said the inclusive legislation will prove significant and life-saving: "This is so important to the many transgender people who experience violence and abuse almost daily. VAWA will give all of

'It's been a monumental year.'

our communities — LGBT, immigrant and Native American — the access we need to services that protect us from abuse."

In another victory, California Gov. Jerry Brown in August signed legislation intended to protect the rights of transgender students to equal access to school facilities, such as bathrooms, and school programs, such as sports teams.

The same forces that fought for Proposition 8 in the state want to repeal the new law at the ballot box. Still, the California legislation may become a model for other states, just as California's groundbreaking statute banning so-called "ex-gay" therapy for minors inspired legislation in New Jersey in 2013 and could inspire new laws in Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New York, Wisconsin and Ohio.

"There is no greater achievement than helping to stop the abuse of our youth," said Troy Stevenson, the executive director of Garden State Equality, New Jersey's statewide LGBT civil rights group.

And so, as the sun sets on 2013, the journey continues.

Eleven months ago, at the inaugural celebration, Blanco brought "One Today" to a close:

... We head home: through the gloss of rain or weight of snow, or the plum blush of dusk, but always — home, always under one sky, our sky. And always one moon like a silent drum tapping on every rooftop and every window, of one country — all of us — facing the stars hope — a new constellation waiting for us to map it, waiting for us to name it — together.

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WISCONSIN BIG GAINS IN SMALL PLACES

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

The year 2013 was exceptionally frustrating for LGBT people in Wisconsin and our allies. We watched as two neighboring states — Minnesota and Illinois — joined Iowa and a rapidly growing number of other states in adopting marriage equality. Meanwhile, our LGBT leaders had to fight in court just to preserve a basic domestic partner registry law. The outcome of that effort to retain the most basic of relationship protections is far from certain, resting now in the hands of the state's Republican-dominated Supreme Court, whose decision is expected by the middle of next year.

As we look back on the closing year, several stories leap out as particularly memorable and/or revelatory for Wisconsin's progressive community.

BIG GAINS IN SMALL PLACES

Given the far-right's iron-clad control of Wisconsin's legislative agenda, the state's equality advocates had no opportunity to match the historic achievements realized by their equivalents to the south and west. But grassroots leaders, with strategic assistance from Equality Wisconsin and Fair Wisconsin (now one merged group), nonetheless made advancements that will make a difference for many of the state's LGBT citizens.

Continuing a trend that began several years ago, local legislative bodies throughout the state extended domestic partnership benefits to the same-sex partners of their workers. Those included Outagamie County, Kenosha, Stevens Point, Middleton, Verona, Grand Chute, La Pointe, Beloit and Fitchburg. The Appleton Town Council passed an ordinance that bans housing discrimination against transgender citizens. Some of the victories were hard-fought, while others passed with minimal opposition.

WISCONSIN ELECTS GAY OFFICIALS

While out U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin and Congressman Mark Pocan made headlines and history in January when they were sworn in to their new offices, other out candidates won local elections in Wisconsin this year.

Dan Manning became the first out gay town councilman in Fond du Lac's history. A former Equality Wisconsin board co-president, Manning is an Army veteran and founder of the group Salute the Troops. He took the third most votes in Fond du Lac's open April 2 election, defeating an incumbent who placed fourth. The Fond du Lac Area Association of Commerce was among the influential local groups that endorsed Manning.

Born in Vidalia, Ga., Manning is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, where a decade ago



PHOTO: COURTESY

Dan Manning: out councilman.

he was closeted and a close friend of famed gay military activist Dan Choi. At the time, the two men were active members of the academy's evangelical Christian community.

Manning is currently a manufacturing engineer at Giddings and Lewis, Inc.

There's been a strong gay political presence in Madison for years, both officially (on the Democratic side of the aisle) and clandestinely (across the aisle). But 2013 brought historic gains for the lesbian and gay officials in the state's progressive stronghold. Out Judge Rhonda Lanford ousted Dane County Circuit Judge Rebecca St. John, who was appointed to the job by Gov. Scott Walker in August 2012.

On Madison's Common Council, three out gay

achievements that gave Wisconsin a stronger foundation than ever for building community and mounting political advocacy efforts.

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center completed a remarkable turnaround during 2013, bouncing back from near-bankruptcy at the beginning of 2012 to eliminate its largest debt, which originally amounted to \$500,000 for back rent and remodeling costs owed to the organization's landlord. With an expanding new menu of programs and services, along with a vibrant and engaged new board of directors representing a broad spectrum of expertise, the center is well positioned to support the growth and influence of Milwaukee's LGBT community.

In mid-November, the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center also got a new leader. After conducting a nationwide search for an executive director, the center hired Colleen Carpenter to fill the post that had been temporarily held by Karen Gotzler. "Colleen's extensive experience in program management, staff development, community outreach and grant-writing make her an outstanding choice," said board co-president Paul Williams in a press statement.

LGBT political organizing in Wisconsin also got a big boost in 2013 with the merger of Equality Wisconsin, a Milwaukee-based LGBT advocacy group, and Fair Wisconsin, which is

Gays hold four of Madison's Common Council seats, which amounts to 20 percent. For the first time, an out gay man also holds a seat on the Fond du Lac Common Council.

based in Madison. After participating together in several joint events and holding months of talks about collaboration, the two organizations joined their boards and became one unified organization operating under the Fair Wisconsin name. In a press statement, the newly merged organization described the move as "the best path toward creating a more unified, stable and successful LGBT equality movement."

By combining resources and supporters, the new Fair Wisconsin says it will have more political leverage and can provide the community with more effective advocacy efforts. Fair Wisconsin executive director Katie Belanger is the president and CEO of the group. Former Equality Wisconsin executive director Jason Burns took a position with U.S. Rep. Mark Pocan's office.

CRITICAL GIFTS FOR LGBT AND AIDS GROUPS

At a time when individual philanthropy for HIV/AIDS appears to be lagging, Milwaukee botanist Will Radler raised the bar with a \$1 million donation to the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin's mental health services. Radler, who bred the world's

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WISCONSIN from prior page

best-selling rose — the Knock Out — is an out gay man who has donated to ARCW since 1992. But his \$1 million gift was the largest donation ever given to ARCW by an individual.

Radler said he hoped that his gift would remind others that the HIV/AIDS epidemic is not over and would challenge others to give.

Equality Wisconsin and Fair Wisconsin both received critical support in 2013 from Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele, who presented two gifts totaling \$175,000 to the organizations. The money came at a critical time for facilitating the merger, and it underscored Abele's commitment to equality.

GAY APPLEBEE'S EMPLOYEE BASHED

While 2013 saw extraordinary progress for LGBT people all over the world, an ugly incident in little Rice Lake served as a grim reminder that the heart of homophobia is still alive and beating — literally.

Our most heavily read and commented on story of the year was about a gay server at an Applebee's in Rice Lake who was brutally assaulted on March 17 by the husband of a co-worker and then told not to return to work due to the negative



PHOTO: COURTESY
Timothy Phares: gay bashed.

publicity generated by the story of his attack.

According to Timothy Phares and his sister, who was with him at the time, attacker Rien Hendricks said, "Fucking faggot, I'm going to kill you" before busting Phares' head with a 2 x 4 piece of lumber. Phares was knocked unconscious and awoke in the hospital with severe fractures in his face and jaw.

The incident occurred in the parking lot of another restaurant and was observed by a patron through the window. But justice was not swift in coming, either from law enforcement or Applebee's. Even after being pressured into letting Phares

return to work, Applebee's refused to fire co-worker Shannon Hendricks, who drove her husband to the crime. The local district attorney's office declined to press charges against Shannon Hendricks for months or to consider adding a hate crime enhancer to the attack.

Nearly 150,000 people read the initial story about the attack on WiG's website, and it was picked up by other news sources. An additional 20,000 people have read our follow-up stories and editorials about the incident.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS RETRACT JOB OFFER TO GAY MAN

Another widely read story this year concerned anti-gay employment bias.

Timothy G. Nelson, a gay man who was living in New Mexico at the time, was overjoyed to sign an agreement naming him president of the Regis Catholic Schools system in his hometown of Eau Claire. Although the job entailed a \$27,000 annual salary cut, Nelson was grateful for the opportunity to return to the school system that educated him and wanted to spend time with his mother, who was terminally ill.

But just three weeks

after Nelson accepted the position, the Diocese of La Crosse suddenly withdrew it. Nelson said the job offer was revoked because the diocese conducted something of a witch-hunt and discovered he's gay.

Interestingly, the diocese questioned Nelson's sexual orientation because the name of another man had been listed parenthetically next to Nelson's in his father's obituary, suggesting that the two men were life partners.

Julaine Appling, who heads the anti-gay group Wisconsin Family Action, also raised eyebrows when her name was listed in the obituary of the father of her longtime "roommate" Diane Westphal. Appling was the guiding force behind Wisconsin's constitutional ban on same-sex marriage and is now trying to have the state's domestic partner registry law declared unconstitutional.

But Appling and Westphal both continue to work for WFA — and continue to live together in a home they own jointly in Watertown.

APPLING SELLS TICKETS TO DRAG SHOW

Every annual news summary should end on a happy note, and Julaine Appling provides this year's concluding smile. She inadvertently helped to sell out a UW-Fox Valley drag show in Menasha after an "action alert"



PHOTO: COURTESY

Shangela's show was sold out.

she issued about the event in March went viral.

Appling's alert demonized the event as a "display of immorality" intended to propagandize young people. She urged readers to contact the event's organizers and ask them to halt the program.

"The 'main attraction' is the guest appearance of self-proclaimed male homosexual transvestite 'Shangela' from a lewd reality television show 'RuPaul's Drag Race,' in which homosexual male drag performers compete for prizes," Appling wrote. "The tickets are cheap (\$3), and so, it appears, is the propaganda,

display of immorality, and overall message to the Fox Valley community."

School officials said the event was paid for by student fees — not taxpayers — and described drag as part of a classic comedy tradition that pre-dates Shakespeare, whose female characters were played by men.

A story that WiG posted online about Appling's rant went viral, and syndicated gay columnist Dan Savage, who's based in Seattle, bought up the tickets and then gave them away, ensuring a sell-out crowd.

So, Julaine, thanks for the memories.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Botanist and philanthropist Will Radler.

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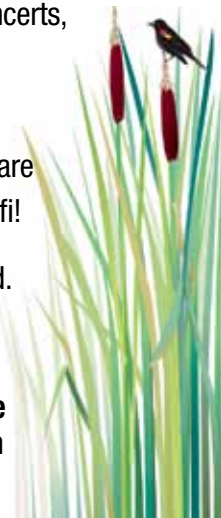
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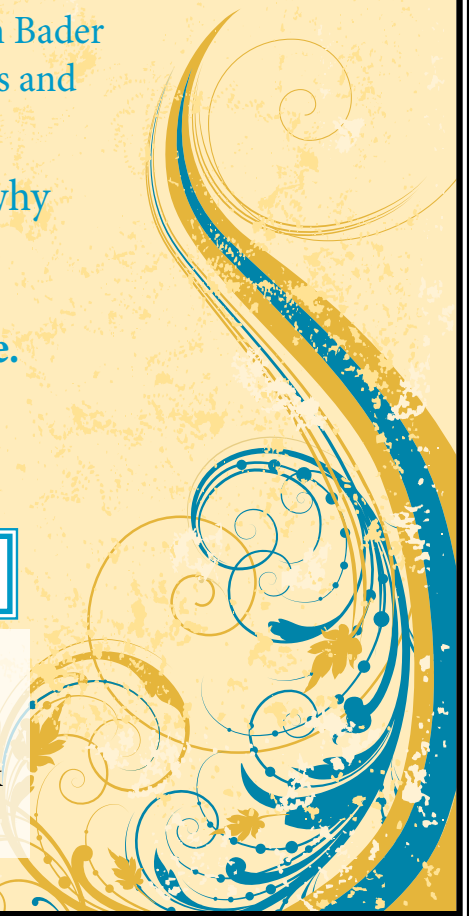
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OUT! CELEBS, ATHLETES EXIT CLOSET

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

Actors and athletes, politicians and pop stars came out in 2013 in tweets and now viral videos, as well as in old-school confessionals in magazine cover stories and memoirs. A look back at some of the bigger coming out occasions of 2013:

Former Navy SEAL Kristin Beck came out as transgender in her profile on LinkedIn and in her memoir *Warrior Princess: A U.S. Navy SEAL's Journey to Coming Out as Transgender*. Beck, the first openly transgender former SEAL, served in 13 deployments, including seven combat deployments.

Actress Maria Bello of *Prime Suspect* came out in early December in an opinion piece for *The New York Times*, writing about her relationship with partner Clare Munn



PHOTO: COURTESY

Actress Maria Bello.

and their family, including fears of coming out to her 12-year-old son.

Singer Crystal Bowersox of *American Idol* in season nine came out as bisexual in early December on *Good Day L.A.* She was promoting her new song, "Coming Out for Christmas." "I have been bisexual as long as I can remember," Bowersox said on the program.

Pop singer Charis Pempengco of *Glee* came out as a lesbian after returning home to the Philippines and reaching the Top 10 on Billboard. The announcement in June followed a newspaper report that described her 21st birthday as a "coming out of sorts."

Basketball player Jason Collins came out as gay in *Sports Illustrated* in April. He became the first openly gay professional male athlete in a major U.S. sport. Collins ended the 2012-13 season with the Washington Wizards, and he's still looking to be picked up by an NBA team this season.

Actor Lucas Cruikshank of Nickelodeon fame came out in a YouTube video in August, saying, "I'm gay. I feel so weird saying it on camera. But my family and friends have known for like three years. I just haven't felt the need to announce it on the Internet."

Actor Matt Dallas of *Kyle XY* came out in January by tweeting a photograph of fiancé — musician Blue Hamilton.

Music mogul Clive Davis came out as bisexual at the age of 80 in his memoir, *The Soundtrack of My Life*. Davis has had two long-term relationships with men and he said he came out so there could be "greater understanding" of bisexuality.

Olympic diver Tom Daley came out in a YouTube video in early December. The 19-year-old Brit said he still fancies girls but he's in



PHOTO: AP

Olympic diver Tom Daley.

a relationship with another man — and that has completely changed his life.

Olympic swimmer Amini Fonua came out as gay at Texas A&M University to defend his peers and the reputation of his school, which often is at the top of the ratings for the least gay-friendly college in the country.

Actor Jodie Foster accepted the Cecil B. DeMille Lifetime Achievement Award at the Golden Globes ceremony in January and confirmed that she's a lesbian, single and Mel Gibson's best friend.

Actor Victor Garber, perhaps

best known for portraying Jesus in *Godspell*, confirmed he is gay and in a relationship with painter and model Rainer Andreesen. Garber said, "I don't really talk about it but everybody knows."

Former college football player Kevin Grayson came out as gay and went on to play professional ball in Italy, where he was the MVP in his league's super bowl.

WNBA basketball star Brittney Griner came out in an interview with *Sports Illustrated* in April. She also talked about being bullied as a kid: "It was hard. Just being picked on for being different. Just being bigger, my sexuality, everything."

Earvin Johnson III, son of basketball legend Magic Johnson, came out publicly after *TMZ* broadcast a video of the young man walking with his boyfriend on Sunset Boulevard. Johnson had been out to his family and friends for years.

Russian TV personality Anton Krasovsky came out on the air on Jan. 25 while anchoring a late-night broadcast. Krasovsky, 37, not only said he's gay, but also that he's "as human as President (Vladimir) Putin and the members of parliament." He was promptly fired.

Soldier and whistleblower Chelsea Manning came out as transgender shortly after being sentenced to 35 years in prison for leaking classified and confidential government documents to WikiLeaks. Manning wrote, "As I transition into this next phase of my life, I want everyone to know the real me. I am Chelsea Manning. I am a female. Given the way that I feel, and have felt since childhood, I want to begin hormone therapy as soon as possible."

Congressman Mike Michaud,



PHOTO: COURTESY

U.S. Rep. Mike Michaud.

a Democrat who represents Maine on Capitol Hill, came out this fall, as he was organizing a campaign for governor. Michaud received praise and support from his colleagues in D.C. and his constituents in Maine. Openly gay U.S. Rep. Jared Polis welcomed Michaud to the LGBT caucus in Congress. He also tweeted, "My #gaydar missed it."

Actor Wentworth Miller of *Prison Break* came out as gay in August as he protested Russia's anti-gay laws. Miller declined "as a gay man" an invitation to a Russian film festival. He wrote, "I cannot in good conscience participate in a celebratory occasion hosted by a country where people like myself are being systematically denied their basic right to live and love openly."

DJ Mister Cee of New York's Hot 97 came out as gay man after some bad publicity and went on to film a public service announcement to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS.

Billionaire Jennifer Natalya Pritzker came out as transgen-

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OUT from prior page

der in August and donated more than \$1 million to study obstacles to transgender people serving in the U.S. military and the discrimination they face in the Armed Forces. Pritzker is a retired lieutenant colonel and founder of the Pritzker Military Museum & Library.

Actor Greg Rikaart of the *Young & the Restless* came out as gay by tweeting a photo of himself and his boyfriend cheering the Supreme Court rulings for marriage equality. He tweeted, "Not getting married anytime soon, but celebrating #equality tonight

nonetheless."

New Jersey teenager Jacob Rudolph made a moving speech about being out to everyone at Parsippany High School during an awards assembly at which he accepted an award for class actor. Students and staff responded with a standing ovation. A video of the teen's acceptance speech went viral.

Pro soccer player Robbie Rogers opted to come out on his website in February while in the process of retiring from the sport. His retirement didn't last. When Rogers signed with the Los Angeles Galaxy in May, he became the first openly gay player in Major League Soccer.

Basketball player Derek Schell came out for National Coming Out Day and became the first openly gay player in NCAA Division II men's basketball. In an essay, he wrote, "You can be who you are and still be an athlete. You can do all the things you want to do and live a beautiful life that you've imagined for yourself. Find your peace of mind knowing you are giving your best self to the world. Be brave. Be love. But most of all, be you."

Actress Raven-Symoné — former *Cosby* kid — came out after the Supreme Court's historic rulings on marriage. She tweeted, "I can finally get married! Yay government! So proud of

you."

Actor Tuc Watkins of *One Life to Live* fame came out as gay in a conversation with Marie Osmond on her show in April. He told Osmond that he's always known three things: He's gay, he was going to be a dad, and *Willie Wonka & the Chocolate Factory*, starring Gene Wilder, is the all-time best film.

Actor Ben Wishaw of *Skyfall* came out and confirmed his civil partnership with Australian composer Mark Bradshaw. The actor had previously said he preferred to keep his private life private.

Wrestler Darren Young aka Fred Rosser III became the first openly gay WWE star when he came out to



PHOTO: COURTESY

Actor Wentworth Miller.

TMZ. He found support from the federation, fans and other wrestlers.



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WNBA basketball player Brittney Griner.

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{ Editorial }

Trickle up economics in the fast food industry

Fast-food workers across the country went on strike in more than 130 U.S. cities on Dec. 5 to demand better wages. We enthusiastically support their efforts and others to raise the minimum to a livable rate.

Protesters in Milwaukee, Madison and Green Bay were among the thousands nationally who raised picket signs against companies such as McDonald's, Burger King, Wendy's and KFC for paying unlivable wages while banking billions in profits and using tax loopholes available only to the very rich to avoid paying Uncle Sam at the same rate as their middle-class workers. At the same time, a portion of the average American's tax payments end up going toward food stamps for fast-food workers living near poverty.

McDonald's is an excellent example of what's happened over the past three decades since elected officials began altering tax codes and re-engineering economic policy to redistribute the nation's wealth to their rich donors.

In 2012, McDonald's Corp. made \$5.5 billion in profit. The company has increased shareholder dividends for 25 consecutive years. CEO Don Thompson recently got a raise to \$13.8 million, up from the \$4.1 million he made in 2011.

But front-line fast-food workers earn only a median hourly wage of \$8.94. For a single mother of two working 40 hours per week, that comes out to less than the federal poverty level. If the worker also must pay for child care, which averages \$11,666 per year, then she can't afford to work at all.

More than half the families of front-line, fast-food workers are enrolled in one or more public programs, compared to 25 percent of the workforce as a whole, according to a study from the UC Berkeley Labor Center. Your tax dollars contribute \$7 billion in public assistance to families of workers in the fast-food industry, the study found.

All of this means that your Big Mac takes more out of your wallet than you pay at the cash register. In order to maintain the extreme wealth of McDonald's corporate chiefs, you pick up some of the company's cost of maintaining a workforce.

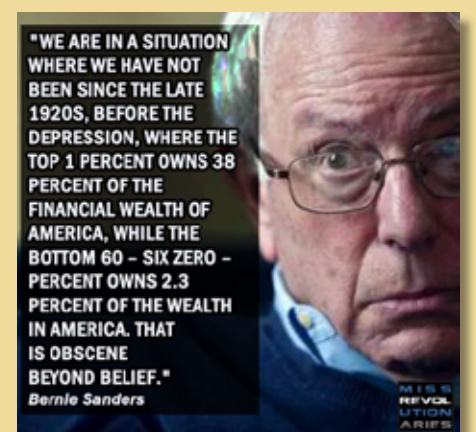
Of course, there's also an issue with the quality of fast food, which is harmful to public health. Since it's cheap and heavily consumed by poor people, fast food also ends up costing you additional bucks when you pay your insurance premiums. Poor people often lack adequate health insurance, and they have no regular or preventive health care. So when they get sick, they go to the emergency room, which cannot turn them away by law. The cost of treating them for free is transferred to you.

The corporate right has warned that raising the minimum wage for fast-food workers would increase the cost of their products. But padded by big profits, McDonald's could easily absorb the cost. And maybe if the price of their poor-quality food rose a little, people would eat less of it, thus reducing overall health costs.

There's no excuse for keeping hardworking people in economic misery and making the middle class pay for it while a few people become fabulously wealthy pushing junk food.

WiG's WEB PICKS

Some of our favorite recent pictorials from cyberspace



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ON THE RECORD



“I think maybe we’ve been out-marketed, sometimes. We’ve been caricatured as being anti-gay. When you have forces like Hollywood, when you have forces like politicians, when you have forces like some opinion-molders that are behind it, it’s a tough battle.”

— CARDINAL TIMOTHY DOLAN of New York acknowledging to host Dick Gregory on *Meet the Press* that Catholic leadership is losing the same-sex marriage debate.

“Mandela was one of the great leaders and teachers of the 20th century. He conceived a model for mortal enemies to overcome their hatred and find a way through compassion to rebuild a nation based on truth, justice and the power of forgiveness. His passing should reignite a worldwide effort for peace.”

— Singer PAUL SIMON commenting on Nelson Mandela’s death on Dec. 5.

“(Mandela) was a communist, all right? But he was a great man. What he did for his people was stunning. ...He was a great man, but he was a communist.” — FOX News right-wing propagandist BILL O’REILLY speaking on his evening program Dec. 5.

“To his Holiness Pope Francis, a great shepherd of our common heritage.”

— The words inscribed by Israeli president BENJAMIN NETANYAHU on the inside front page of a book written by his father about the Roman Catholic Church’s Spanish Inquisition. Netanyahu presented the book to the pope during a meeting in early December.

“Trickle-down economics ... expresses a crude and naïve trust in the goodness of those wielding economic power.”

— POPE FRANCIS writing in the 50,000-word *Evangelii Gaudium*, an apostolic exhortation that goes to the world’s 1.5 billion Roman Catholics. In response, Rush Limbaugh blasted the pope as a “Marxist.”

“A sentence of 25 years to life is an incredibly long period of time, judge. Shouldn’t that be reserved for people who are guilty of killing certain classes of individuals? Amanda was engaged in a life of prostitution, life of drug use, HIV exposure.”

— Attorney JOHN SCARPA asking for a reduced sentence for client Rasheen Everett for the slaying of transgender prostitute Amanda Gonzalez-Andujar. The judge denounced Scarpa’s comments, which also drew condemnation from the Anti-Violence Project, and sentenced Everett to 29 years behind bars.

“I am not quitting. I do not resign. However, I accept that the refusal to comply with this greedy, immoral request means the end of my tenure with this company. I hope you realize that it’s the people at the bottom of the totem pole that make your life possible.”

— TONY ROHR, the manager of a Pizza Hut branch in Elkhart, Ind., protesting to Franchise Management Investors US after he was fired for refusing to make employees work on Thanksgiving.



Holiday jeers and cheers



Join the jeers for Liz Cheney, who threw her lesbian sister onto the tracks in craven pursuit of a U.S. Senate seat that she will never win. Liz, who denounced same-sex marriages like that of her sister Mary, needs to get a clue about real family values.

The Catholic Church’s grant-making arm, the Campaign for Human Development, canceled \$300,000 in grants to immigrant advocacy groups in Illinois because the groups supported marriage equality. The vindictive swat did nothing to stop the momentum for same sex marriage — Hooray, Land of Lincoln! — while depriving immigrants of needed support.

Most deserving of jeers is Vladimir Putin, for pandering to the most reactionary elements in Russian society by championing anti-gay legislation. The law, which

supposedly protects youth by banning gay “propaganda,” whatever that’s supposed to mean, has fueled mob violence. What’s next for the Little Hitler of the East?

Now, for the cheers.

If anyone doubts that lesbians are the strongest and craziest people in the world, Diana Nyad reinforced those stereotypes in September. Nyad braved sharks and jellyfish and swam for 53 hours from Cuba to Key West — at age 64! You go, girl!

Edith Windsor, 84, exhibited courage of another sort. The IRS demanded that she pay hundreds of thousands in estate taxes after the death of her wife and long-time partner. No straight spouse would have had to pay the taxes. In June, the Supreme Court ruled for Windsor by overturning a key provision in the anti-gay Defense of Marriage Act. Thanks, Edie!

“Cheers!” to Neil Patrick Harris for another brilliant hosting job on the 2013 Tony Awards. Hard to think he could outdo his open-

ing number, “It’s Not Just for Gays Anymore,” from the 2011 Tonys (watch it on YouTube — it’s an absolute must-see), but NPH continues to amaze.

Expect a shower of Tonys next June for one of the gayest productions on Broadway. Queer actors Cherry Jones and Zach Quinto shine in the latest revival of Tennessee Williams’s *The Glass Menagerie*. Critics rave that Jones and Quinto inject the old chestnut with renewed passion.

Also on the boards is a musical version of Allison Bechdel’s *Fun Home*, a graphic novel about growing up in a dysfunctional family with a closeted gay dad. The adaptation is written and directed by Lisa Kron, whose rising theatrical career has included membership in the Five Lesbian Brothers comedy troupe. Bechdel is best known for her long-running comic strip “Dykes to Watch Out For” and deserves the wider recognition.

It’s hard to believe Tina Fey and Amy Poehler are not gay (darn) after their

side-splitting routine at the Golden Globes last January. Who can forget Poehler’s jaw-dropping reference to director Kathryn Bigelow: “I haven’t been following the controversy over *Zero Dark Thirty*, but when it comes to torture, I trust the lady who spent three years married to James Cameron.” The glorious duo will be back throwing shade at the Globes on Jan. 12.

Mega-cheers and curtain calls: As if we needed any more proof that the Milwaukee Repertory Theater is one of the greatest theater companies in the country, The Rep followed up their awesome staging of the musical *Ragtime* with the most madcap, hilarious version of *Noises Off* ever seen in these parts. What a company!

Tickets to the Rep and other arts groups make great last-minute holiday gifts. Merry Christmas, everyone!

United front for LGBT health care



Looking back at 2013, I am proud to say that we have a more unified movement for equality than we had in Wisconsin one year ago.

Not only did we accomplish a groundbreaking merger between Fair Wisconsin and Equality Wisconsin to increase the impact of LGBT advocacy for years to come, but we’ve forged new partnerships and deepened existing relationships in exciting ways.

Last month, Fair Wisconsin, Diverse and Resilient, AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin and Cream City Foundation hosted a series of events aimed at educating those who will navigate folks into coverage and the community about the impact of the Affordable Care Act on dismantling the

systems and policies that have created serious health disparities for LGBT people.

Regardless of the challenges related to the Obama administration’s implementation of the ACA, the policies mark a significant victory for LGBT people. It’s estimated that 34 percent of LGBT people do not have health insurance. And many more who have access to health care cannot afford it — or still cannot find health providers culturally competent to provide suitable medical care.

For transgender people, the disparities are horrific. Many insurance policies have so many coverage exclusions for transgender people that the policies are almost meaningless — even for basic preventive care.

The ACA seeks to strip those exclusions and provide LGBT people with coverage that meets their needs and does not discriminate based on sexual orientation or gender identity. It is an

opportunity that, if taken, could mark a significant change in the quality of life for LGBT people in Wisconsin and across our country.

Fair Wisconsin, Diverse and Resilient, AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin and Cream City Foundation each plays a different role in supporting and advocating for LGBT people. But we share a vision for Wisconsin in which LGBT people and their families thrive, living their lives fully, healthily and with dignity.

But our four organizations had never united in a collaborative educational program until we began an exploration of how we could leverage the ACA to work toward our shared vision.

Together we were able to obtain critical support from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation to launch a series of ACA events in Milwaukee. We invited Kellan Baker of the Center for American Progress’ LGBT State Exchanges Project

and Matt Heinz from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to educate navigators and certified application counselors about how to best support LGBT people in the enrollment process. We engaged members of the community in a discussion at Marquette University about the impact of the ACA on LGBT people.

By combining our organizations’ skills, areas of expertise and networks, we had a far greater impact than any one of us would have had alone. But what I appreciated even more was our understanding that together we were stronger, that we each have a unique role to play in advancing and achieving LGBT equality, and that by combining our efforts we are creating a state where all people are free to thrive.

Katie Belanger is president and CEO of Fair Wisconsin.



GLOBAL PROGRESS VS. BACKLASH

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

France, Uruguay, New Zealand and England legalized same-sex marriage in 2013 — unprecedented advancements in the quest for equality for LGBT people.

And spring arrived with the election of a pope who brought hope that the Catholic Church, a leading force in a global campaign against LGBT rights, would change its ways.

But anti-LGBT violence around the world marred a year hailed by some in the United States as the greatest in gay rights history. Activists documented a rise in anti-gay extremism in Africa. Pride celebrants faced arrest and assault in parts of Asia and Europe. And Russian President Vladimir Putin spearheaded a Soviet-style persecution of gay people even as the country prepared to host

the 2014 Winter Olympic Games.

A look at some of the big stories of 2013:

- In March, after an abrupt announcement that Benedict XVI was retiring, the world was introduced to a new pontiff — Pope Francis, who has repeatedly affirmed the Catholic Church's opposition to legalized abortion but also has said church leaders cannot be fixated on the politics of abortion or gay marriage.

- New Zealand, which had allowed civil unions since 2005, legalized same-sex marriage on April 17. In a speech before the final vote on the bill, which took effect in August, lawmaker Tau Henare concluded with a traditional greeting in his indigenous Maori. He said, "My message to you all is, 'Welcome to the mainstream.' ... Do well. Kia Ora."

- Vincent Autin and

Bruno Boileau became the first same-sex couple to marry in France, their wedding in May taking place in the southern city of Montpellier under tight police surveillance. In the months before and the weeks after, right-wing protesters demonstrated against the marriage equality law, which President François Hollande had made a priority. The anti-gay demonstrations drew hundreds of thousands of protesters and, on multiple occasions, turned violent.

- In June, human rights advocates urged President Barack Obama to address rising levels of anti-LGBT violence in Africa when he visited the continent. "These attacks, sometimes deadly, must be stopped," said Widney Brown of Amnesty International. "In too many cases, these attacks on individuals and



PHOTO: AP/DMITRY LOVETSKY

SOVIET TACTICS: An anti-gay protester, center, fights with gay rights activists during an authorized gay rights rally in St. Petersburg, Russia, on June 29. Police detained several gay activists, who were outnumbered by the protesters. Dozens of gay activists had to be protected by police as they gathered for the parade, which proceeded with official approval despite recently passed legislation targeting gays. Throughout the year, LGBT people in Russia and the former Soviet bloc nations were harassed, kidnapped, tortured and murdered, while public officials often looked the other way.

GLOBAL next page

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GLOBAL from prior page

groups are being fueled by key politicians and religious leaders who should be using their position to fight discrimination and promote equality." Homosexuality is a crime in 38 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

- In the summer, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed into law a measure that bans giving young people information about homosexuality. The ban on "propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations" was enacted as part of an effort to promote traditional Russian values over Western liberalism. The law allows for fines and arrests of Russian citizens and tourists. It has fueled a wave of anti-LGBT violence in Russia and boycotts of Russian products elsewhere.

- Queen Elizabeth, on July 17, signed a bill legalizing same-sex marriage in England and Wales. The bill, passed after a long and hard fight in Parliament, won't go into effect until next year. "The title of this bill might be 'Marriage' but its fabric is about freedom and respect," said Culture Secretary Maria Miller.

- Same-sex couples began marrying in early August in Uruguay, the third country in the Americas, after Canada and Argentina, to legalize gay marriage. Sergio Mirando and Rodrigo Borda became the first gay couple to marry. "No longer will there be first- and second-class citizens," Borda said. "This will be seen in many countries where this option still isn't possible, and hopefully help people in those places live more freely."



PHOTO: AP/THIBAUT CAMUS

OUTRAGE ON THE RIGHT: Protesters gather during a Paris demonstration against French President Francois Hollande's marriage equality push. The first same-sex couples married in France in May.

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Gay and gray LGBT seniors fight isolation with dialogue

By Jay Rath

Contributing writer

Senior citizens often face isolation, especially over the holidays. It's worse for LGBT seniors. But the solution can be as simple as talking.

Since 2009, the Gay and Gray Discussion Group has been hosted every other Thursday by the Madison Senior Center, a city agency. It's one of many collaborations between the facility and Madison's OutReach LGBT Community Center.

"There've been lots of national statistics on how LGBT seniors will go back into the closet when they go into a nursing home or assisted living facilities, perhaps because the staff's not particularly friendly or sensitive, or there are no other out clients that they know of," says Steve Starkey, OutReach's executive director. "It negatively impacts their quality of life."

According to the National Health and Aging Center:

- 82 percent of LGBT seniors have been victimized at least once in their lives, 64 percent at least three times.

- 13 percent have been denied

health care or provided with inferior health care.

- 31 percent report depression and 53 percent experience loneliness.

- 14 percent of gay and bisexual male seniors are living with HIV and 27 percent have experienced the death of a partner.

The Madison Senior Center has been working with OutReach since about 2000. "I had come onto this population mainly out of health concerns, just wanting to give more people information on AIDS and HIV," says Christine Beatty, director of the senior center, 330 W. Mifflin St. "I had read at that time that the largest increase in HIV infection — this was about 2000 — was in people over the age of 50."

Even today, Starkey says, "Thirty-three percent of new infections in 2012 are over 45."

Experts aren't sure why. "It's possible that older people will think, 'Well, that's a young person's disease. I'm not going out to the bars and that sort of thing, and so I'm not at risk.' Another thing we thought of is maybe people travel. They'll go on a vacation,

go on a cruise or something and think, 'Oh I'm just interacting with people over 50, so the odds are low that they'll be HIV positive.'"

No matter what the reason, "From a health perspective, we were completely silent on that whole issue," Beatty recalls. "I tend to look at data when I'm doing program development, and what needs to be done. It struck me that something needed to be done."

After focus group discussions, a variety of programs were started, including educational offerings, sensitivity training for

health professionals, social events for LGBT seniors and the Gay and Gray discussion group.

Gay and Gray is led by volunteer facilitator Fay Ferington, a member of the city of Madison Committee on Aging. She's a former Army nurse with expertise in behavioral psychology who served in Vietnam.

"We are very clear that Gay and Gray is not a support group, a self-help group (or) a therapy group," she says. "It's a discussion group. However, discussion can be therapeutic."

Participants can share as much or as little as they want of their identity. Most go by first names. No advance notice is required — people just show up. Eight to 15 usually attend, men and women. "That's not always the case in LGBT groups," notes Ferington.

"I think this is really important, to have the two groups kind of cross-pollinating, culturally," says Starkey. The mix allows for commonalities and contrasts to be examined.

Discussions are informal. Topics are wide-ranging: aches and pains, adolescence, religion, philosophy and politics. And, generally, there's a lot of laughter. "We hit upon a topic usually within a half-hour or 20 minutes," Ferington says. "We generally cover two or three topics in the two hours."

Gay and Gray will go "on the road" this year, meeting at the senior center but also at other locations around the city.

One participant travels from Janesville. "We always made the assumption that the Madison Senior Center, being located in the central area, could be a place

GAY & GRAY next page



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GAY & GRAY from prior page

where people in smaller communities could come out," says Beatty.

Just getting LGBT seniors involved is a success, notes Starkey.

"They access senior facilities and senior service programs less than the general population, and they tend to have more health problems than the general population," he says. "Another issue is isolation. I think seniors in general are isolated, but LGBT seniors are especially isolated. With the baby boomer generation or older, they tend to be either in the closet or, if they did come out, they came out very late."

"We face an entirely different form of socialization ... with people who are 50 and up," explains Ferington. "We came up in an era of police raids, arrests, harassment, abuse, losing one's job. So these people, now having grown older, have an entirely different socialization than youngsters for whom — well, it's not easier, but it's probably a more supportive environment in some respects."

Beatty is trying to take the message to others. When working with colleagues on the state and national level, she says, "I'm constantly beating the drum about, 'Look, you can't let this population of seniors not get the kinds of levels of outreach that we give to other populations.'"

She recalls one particular LGBT event at the senior center. A social worker from a

nursing home brought an older woman in a wheelchair.

"I greeted her, and she looked around the room and she said to me, 'I didn't know there were so many of us.' And the tears were rolling down her face, and my face, too, because we really did something there."

GET CONNECTED

To connect with the center, call 608-266-6581 or visit cityofmadison.com/seniorcenter.

LGBT SENIOR HOLIDAY DINNER ON DEC. 25

The Madison Senior Center, 330 W. Mifflin St., has offered a holiday dinner at noon on Dec. 25 for almost 25 years. "We want to be LGBT friendly," says director Christine Beatty. "This would be a place for all people to come who are alone on the holidays, who don't have a connection or whose family is far." Entertainment will be featured.

Doors open at 11 a.m. for a social hour and hors d'oeuvres. Make a reservation and transportation arrangements, if needed, by calling 608-251-8405 no later than noon on Dec. 17. Cash contributions are encouraged. The event is made possible by Gaylord Catering and Capitol Centre Market.

Liar, liar, pants on fire

PolitiFact, as WiG went to press, was set to announce the biggest Lie of the Year — the most significant falsehood of 2013. The finalists in the contest, in no particular order, included:

- U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, who falsely said, "President Obama just granted all of Congress an exception" to Obamacare during an August speech in Iowa.

- Betsy McCaughney, who, in opinion piece in the *New York Post* in September, said doctors would be required to ask about a person's sex life under Obamacare.

- President Barack Obama, who in June defended the government's monitoring of telephone and Internet traffic by invoking the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court and saying the court "is transparent."

- Chain emails that repeatedly and falsely claimed that the United Nations "adopted a proposed agenda" to enable member nations to "disarm civilians within their borders."

- The president, who repeatedly said that under the Affordable Care Act, people can keep their existing health care insurance coverage. After people received cancellation notices this year, the president said, "What we said was, you can keep it if it hasn't changed since the law passed." That statement was rated a "Pants on Fire" lie.

- Ann Coulter, who this fall falsely claimed, "No doctors who went to an American medical school will be accepting

Obamacare."

- After Syria entered a civil war and tens of thousands of civilians were killed, U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., said, "The United States has never stood by and seen innocent people slaughtered to the extent that's happening in Syria." PolitiFact said that was a "Pants on Fire" statement.

- U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn., who in May falsely claimed in a TV interview that the IRS will be "in charge" of "a huge national database" on health care that will include Americans' "personal, intimate, most close-to-the-vest secrets."

- Right-wing bloggers, who in August circulated a false claim that a provision in the Affordable Care Act would allow "forced home inspections" by government agents.

- Another chain email that falsely claimed the word "Dhimmitude" was on page 107 of the health care law and meant "Muslims are specifically exempted from the government mandate to purchase insurance."

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DIVERSE AND RESILIENT TOASTS CAMPAIGN

Diverse and Resilient recently hosted a gathering to celebrate the achievements of Acceptance Journeys, a marketing campaign aimed at improving the health of LGBT in the state and advancing acceptance. The nonprofit used billboards, bus ads, public presentations and other tools to share stories about their LGBT family, friends and neighbors.

Acceptance Journeys participants, including state Rep. Sandy Pasch and the Rev. Kenneth Wheeler, gathered in late November at the Zilber School of Public Health for the celebration, which included a display of the campaign portraits.

“I won’t tolerate the word tolerance,” Pasch said at the event. “Tolerance is not enough — we are aiming for full acceptance of LGBT people.” She appeared in the campaign with her son, who is gay.

The latest billboard went up on Thanksgiving, sharing the message: “Acceptance means no strings attached.”

“The billboard slogans are designed to move just one small step beyond where the community stands in its views of LGBT people,” said Ciera McKissick, Acceptance Journeys coordinator for Diverse and Resilient. With each round of messages, we take one step further. It will be an exciting day when we are ready to present a billboard that says ‘I accept my gay son.’ We’re not there yet, but we will get there.”

For more, go online to journey2accept.org.

In other news ...

• **The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center**, 1110 N. Market St., holds its third annual holiday book sale Dec. 12-13. Readers and collectors will find hardcovers selling for \$1 and paperbacks selling for 50 cents. For more, go online to www.mkelgbt.org.

• **Diverse and Resilient** recently announced that Anneke Mohr has joined the group as interim



PHOTOS: COURTESY DIVERSE AND RESILIENT

Diverse and Resilient hosts a gathering at the Zilber School of Public Health in Milwaukee to celebrate the achievements of Acceptance Journeys, a marketing campaign aimed at advancing LGBT acceptance.

director of special projects. Mohr will maintain the position for three months while the group continues its search process for a full-time program director.

• **Goodwill Industries of North Central Wisconsin** is simplifying operations at its Harmony Cafes in Appleton and Green Bay. The coffeehouse operations will remain unchanged, but the restaurant, food and catering operations will be eliminated. “The food and drink side of our business has changed many times, but the original dream has always remained — to provide safe space where all people can feel welcomed, included and deeply valued,” said cafe program leaders Jesse Heffernan and Deanna Tappy in a news statement.

• **Local First Milwaukee** is asking consumers to pledge to buy local — and not just during the holiday season. The pledge states, “I understand that if Milwaukeeans shift an additional 10 percent of our year-around shopping and dining from national chains to local businesses, we would create \$311 million in new economic activity in our local economy every year. That is because independent retailers re-spend two to three times more of each sales dollar locally than their chain competitors, resulting in more jobs and community benefits.” For more, go online to localfirstmilwaukee.com.

• **Mary Cheney**, the lesbian daughter of former VP Dick Cheney, is set to headline a fundraiser for Freedom Indiana’s effort to battle a proposed constitutional amendment against same-sex marriage. Cheney married her partner in Washington, D.C., and has been in a high-profile feud on the issue with her more conservative sister, who is running for the U.S. Senate in Wyoming. For more, go online to www.freedomindiana.org.

• **Equality Illinois**, the state’s largest LGBT group, has been sponsoring a series of forums to explain the new marriage equality law, which takes effect June 1 in the state. The closest forums for Wisconsin couples are in Waukegan and Rockford. For more, go online to www.eqil.org.

• **Five members of the Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce** achieved perfect scores on the Human Rights Campaign’s 2014 Corporate Equality Index. AT&T, BMO Harris Bank, Foley & Lardner, MillerCoors and PNC Financial Service Group were awarded scores of 100. “We know firsthand that these businesses have a deep commitment to equality in the workplace, and are actively helping build a more diverse business community in Wisconsin,” said chamber director Jason Rae.

— L.N. and L.W.

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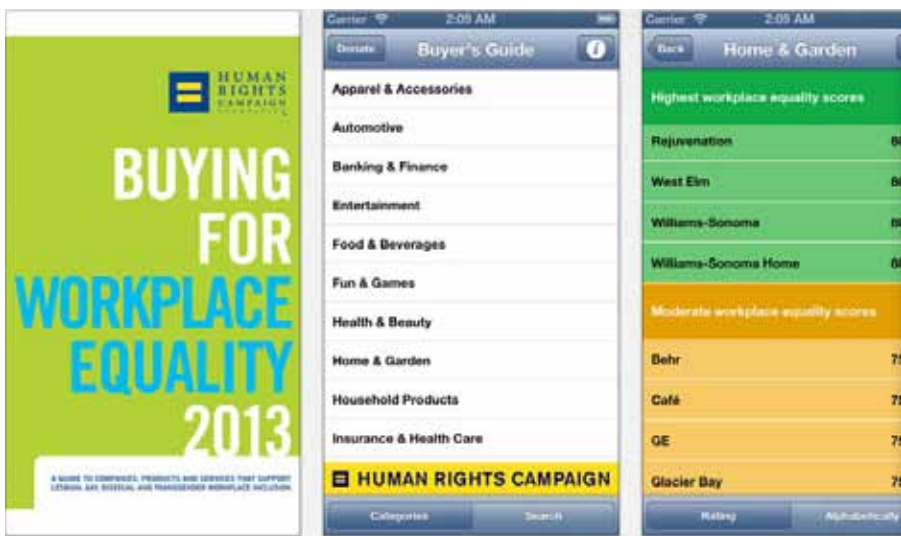
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Retail politics: App vs. apathy

Interested in checking out a list of retailers and manufacturers to see which are naughty and which are nice? WiG tested a number of free smartphone apps that guide shoppers to the businesses that support their causes. Several we like:

- **The Human Rights Campaign's Buying for Workplace Equality App** rates brands, products and businesses on LGBT issues, specifically workplace issues such as non-discrimination policies, domestic partner benefits and employee affinity groups. The guide contains ratings from "Apparel and Accessories" to "Travel and Leisure." The companies with the best

LGBT records receive the highest scores out of 100. Example rating: Converse, 100; Nike, 100; Adidas, 15.

- **2nd Vote** is an app launched at the right-wing Values Voter Summit to help conservatives buy their tea from businesses with similar politics. If you can get past the idea that you're signing up — you'll need a username and password — for a Values Voter tool, you can effectively use 2nd Vote to support businesses that support progressive causes — including marriage equality and choice. Just look for the lowest scoring business, brand or product and be sure to "vote" in the app to

endorse your favorites. Example rating: Chick-fil-A, 8, actively conservative; Arby's, 5.7, passively liberal; Ben & Jerry's, 2, actively liberal.

- **GoodGuide** helps consumers buy products and support companies rated for impact on health, society and the environment. There's a barcode scanner in the app, a search option to find a range of goods ranked from zero to 10 and a shopping list. Example rating: Green and Blacks Almond Chocolate Bar, 7.4; Terry's Dark Chocolate Orange, 3.6; Ferrara Imported Belgian Milk Chocolate Bars, 2.7.



— L.N.

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WIGOUT!
WISCONSIN GAZETTE ENTERTAINMENT

Public art project enriches Milwaukee's inner-city landscape

By Louis Weisberg

Staff writer

It's only 10 a.m. on a chilly Saturday morning in early November, but about 50 mostly 20-somethings are gathered in the basement of Shiloh Tabernacle in northwest Milwaukee's Harambee neighborhood. Just hours earlier they were clubbing the night away, but now, joined by a handful of older hipsters, they're organizing a media tour of a project they hope will help to change perceptions about neighborhoods tainted with the label of "urban blight."

The project, titled *Typeface Milwaukee*, was orchestrated by ArtMilwaukee. A loosely organized group of mostly millennial public art advocates and civic boosters, they're working on bringing a 21st-century vibe to the city's cultural scene. ArtMilwaukee's goal for *Typeface* is both micro and macro — to engender local pride and engage neighborhoods through public art, and also to further Milwaukee's growing profile as a hub of artistic activity.

ArtMilwaukee has attracted financial support from a who's-who list of prestigious regional foundations, including Helen Bader Foundation, Wisconsin Arts Board, Zilber Family Foundation and Greater Milwaukee Foundation. The Joyce Foundation of Chicago awarded *Typeface* a \$50,000 grant.

Typeface Milwaukee involves installations in each of four neighborhoods — Harambee, Burnham Park, Sherman Park and Lindsey Heights. Artist Reginald Baylor transformed abandoned or underutilized sites in those neighborhoods with art installations that grew out of conversations (400 in total) that storyteller Adam Carr had with local residents about their experiences living in the areas.

Baylor, whose brightly colored pop art paintings have drawn comparisons with the energetic humanity of gay artist Keith Haring's work, hatched the idea for *Typeface* while driving past what was once the Finney Library on North Avenue and Sherman Boulevard, not far from his current home. Like others who grew up in the area, Baylor remembers the space as one of gathering

and learning, not the shuttered detritus of urban decline that it's been for the past decade.

Baylor took a closer look at the boards covering the windows and felt a sudden inspiration to bring the words of community members back to the space and to other abandoned places with a rich history.

The first phase of *Typeface* involved a series of community conversations facilitated by Carr. He discovered that despite the boarded-up windows in the neighborhoods, each was a trove of history and thriving with positive activities.

Carr described playing soccer in one of the neighborhood's parks while a band from Mexico played across the street and shoppers drifted in and out of a nearby Asian gift store. He recalled an urban garden near a bus stop that was outfitted with scissors so people could snag fresh vegetables off the vine while waiting for transportation. He was surprised to find a block of houses designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and saw youth volunteers raking leaves off the lawns of abandoned homes.

"There is just so much going on," he said.

The project was constructed to grow out of each neighborhood's uniqueness as experienced by the people who live there. Rather than Carr's perceptions, the residents' words drove

the final concept that Baylor chose for each installation. While each involves some creative use of words in its design, as the title *Typeface* suggests, each is as different as the location it inhabits.

Baylor told the people gathered at Shiloh Tabernacle that the sense of responsibility he felt working on *Typeface* made it "the most stressful thing I've ever done." But he kept up his enthusiasm by thinking of the positive impact that the presence of public art in the neighborhood would have had on him as a kid, he said.

"I spend most of my time making artwork for myself — for the marketplace," Baylor said. "This was unique. In this one

PUBLIC ART next page

The project grew out of each neighborhood's uniqueness as experienced by the people who live there.



PHOTO: ARTMILWAUKEE

"An Arrangement," a bouquet of flowers "as colorful as the neighborhood's cast of characters."

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all of the financials came in advance. I created artwork that had a purpose in advance, and created it by taking content from the community."

In addition to the backing of major foundations, the project has also been endorsed by public officials, including Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett. "Public art, particularly public art that expresses sentiments of neighbors, adds vitality and unity in the area where it is displayed," Barrett said in a press statement. "A project like *TypeFace* does something more; it engages people in a common endeavor that builds community strength."



"Bookshed," located in Lindsay Heights.

PHOTO: ARTMILWAUKEE

On view 'TYPEFACE' INSTALLATIONS INCLUDE:

- "Puzzled & Amazed," a maze described as "a platform for history, memory, and questions from and for the community."
Location: Five Points, 3418 N. Martin Luther King Drive.
- "An Arrangement," a bouquet of flowers "as colorful as the neighborhood's cast of characters."
Location: Burnham Park, at the vacant 31st Street Corner Store, 3028 W. Burnham St.
- "Bookshed," a bookshelf stocked with real conversations.
Location: Lindsay Heights, Franklin Square/Teutonia Gardens, 1420 W. Center St.
- A mural of snippets of stories from community youth, adults and elders.
Location: Sherman/Washington Park, the old Finney Library, 4243 W. North Ave.

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Skylight's 'El Cimarrón' is gay composer's take on true story of runaway Cuban slave

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

More than a play and less than an opera, Skylight Music Theatre's production of *El Cimarrón* is an entertainment that almost defies categorization. It kicks off the Skylight's New Year on Jan. 3 in the Studio Theatre at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee.

The narrative for gay composer Hans Werner Henze's 1970 composition is drawn from Cuban writer Miguel Barnet's *Cimarrón Historia de un Esclavo*. The book tells the true story of Esteban Montejo, a Cuban-



PHOTO: COURTESY

Bass-baritone singer Eric McKeever sings the title role. He was last seen as Don Pizarro in Skylight's *Fidelio*.

born African who escaped slavery and survived living in the wilderness. He returned to civilization to fight for Cuba's independence from Spain.

The life of Montejo, who lived to be 103, fits perfectly within Skylight's theme for the 2013-14 season, says Skylight artistic director Viswa Subbaraman, who is directing the production.

"Our entire season focuses on revolution and freedom, and this story embodies both of those," Subbaraman says. "It is a difficult piece that deals with a difficult aspect of our own humanity, and it's not an easy story to tell."

Henze, who composed the work while living in Cuba, not only tells Montejo's story musically but also a one-character format. Appearing in the role of Montejo is bass-baritone Eric McKeever, who was last seen as Don Pizarro in Skylight's production of *Fidelio*.

The character tells his story with the assistance of three musicians — a guitarist, a flutist and a drummer. Although the work is not through-composed — that is, sung all the way through — even its spoken passages have a certain cadence, bringing a rhythm and musicality to the entire perfor-

mance, Subbaraman says.

Although largely unknown in the United States, Henze was one of Europe's most prolific 20th-century composers. Born in Gütersloh, Germany, in 1926, the young Henze was a member of the Hitler Youth and was conscripted into the German army during the final years of World War II. In 1953, he left Germany because of his sexual orientation and leftist politics, settling in Italy. He died in Dresden, Germany, in 2012.

Subbaraman met Henze in Paris while working with mentor Kurt Mazur. As Mazur's protégé, Subbaraman conducted the French National Orchestra in the premiere of Henze's Symphony No. 10.

"He was one of those important European composers who never made the jump to the U.S.," Subbaraman says. "He has a very eclectic style, from tonal and neo-Romantic all the way to atonal, depending on what he needed to express. Like Mozart, he understands the emotion and pacing of the theater."

El Cimarrón captures the experimental nature of music in the late 1960s, a time when classical composers looked to expand artistic boundaries. More

than a mere composition, it's a true piece of narrative theater.

"This was an effort to find new ways to create sound and put sounds together," Subbaraman says. "It doesn't fit in a genre, and that's what fascinating about the piece."

The stage director for the production is Eugenia Arsenis, who teaches directing at the University of Peloponnese in Greece and drama and theater studies at the Hellenic American University in Manchester, N.H. Arsenis previously staged a production of *El Cimarrón* at the National Theatre of Greece.

El Cimarrón's unique nature presents more challenges than some of Skylight's other shows this season, but Subbaraman believes audiences will appreciate its serious subject matter and unique musical style.

"This is a challenge for us as a company, but the Skylight has a history of looking for ways to move theater forward," Subbaraman says. "It got our juices flowing, and I think Milwaukee audiences will embrace it."

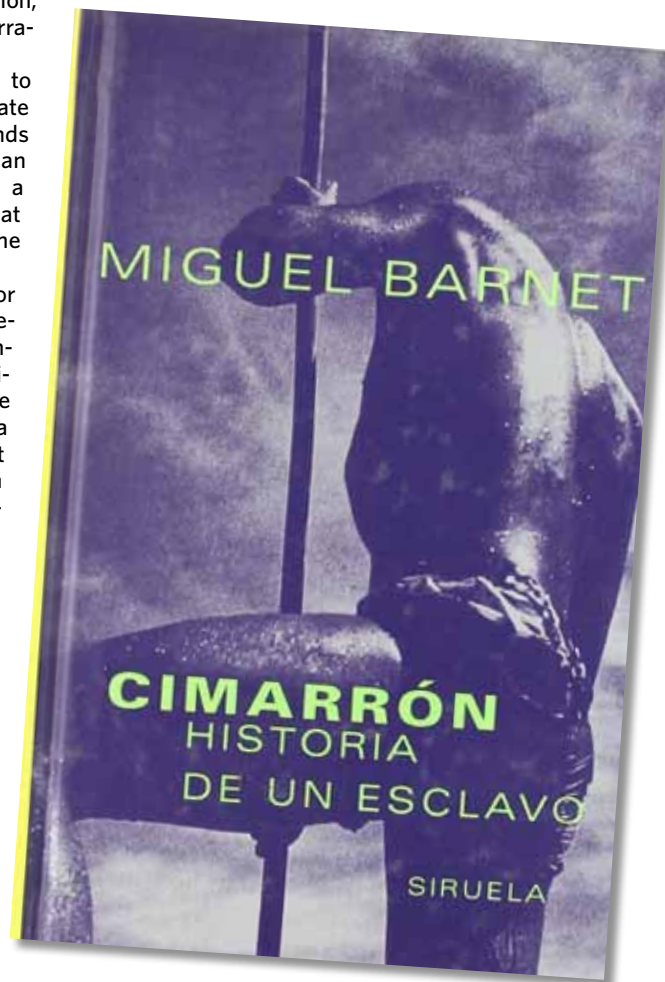


PHOTO: COURTESY

The cover of the book on which gay composer Hans Werner Henze based his 1970 work *El Cimarrón*.

ONSTAGE

Skylight Music Theatres production of Hans Werner Henze's *El Cimarrón* runs Jan. 3-12 in the Studio Theatre at Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. Call 414-291-7811 or visit www.skylightmusictheatre.org.



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Jerry Grillo and all that jazz

By Gregg Shapiro

Contributing writer

Jazz probably isn't the first thing you think of when you think of Milwaukee. But many nights you can catch jazz artists performing in a variety of venues, including the Jazz Estate and Caroline's Jazz Club. Of course, in the summer there are seasonal venues, such as the popular Jazz in the Park at Cathedral Square Park.

Vocalist Jerry Grillo is a frequent performer on Milwaukee's jazz scene. Named Jazz Artist of the Year in 2011 by the Wisconsin Area Music Industry, he was a nominee in 2012 and 2013 as well.

Grillo has a devoted following not just locally but globally. His latest disc, *Music Box: Songs for Quiet Moments* (jerrygrillo.com), is a four-song EP containing three covers, including "Some Other Time" (also recently covered by Barbra Streisand) and one original co-composition. Grillo answered questions about his career in November.

Gregg Shapiro: Before you became an actor and singer, you were a figure skater. Do you still find time to skate?

Jerry Grillo: I would never stop skating. I was put on skates at 3 years old in northern Minnesota, and if we didn't learn to skate, we were drowned. Hence, some of my classmates are dead (laughs)! I Rollerblade now, so I can still do those tricks on cement

instead. I like a challenge.

You have also done theater. Do you have an all-time favorite role?

I loved the roles I have played, every one. But my favorite was out on the East Coast in New Haven, Conn., as George in *George M*, because they made me learn to tap dance in six weeks, or I would lose the part. I was remarkable!

Is there a dream role you'd someday like to play?

Not really. But when I was playing Cliff Bradshaw in the Milwaukee Players' production of *Cabaret*, I would sing "I Don't Care Much" with the rehearsal pianist, and people in the cast would laughingly say that I should be playing Sally instead of Cliff. That song is a great jazz song, but you rarely hear it done that way.

Who do you consider to be your strongest influences?

Well, since the instrumentalists think that we singers aren't musicians, I would say they are wrong! The female jazz singers are the best, Sarah Vaughan, Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, Peggy Lee — we know who they are. The male jazz singers are "vanilla," except for those like Joe Williams and Joe Henderson.

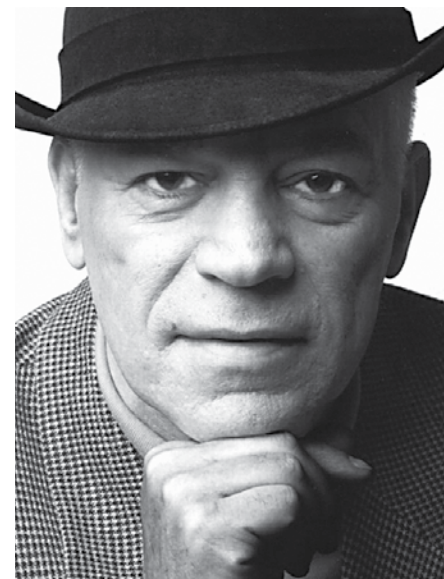


PHOTO: COURTESY

Milwaukee jazz singer and WAMI Award-winner Jerry Grillo.

Your new EP Music Box features three covers and one original titled "Lonely." With so many songs from which to choose, how do you go about deciding what you

JAZZ next page


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JAZZ from prior page

want to?

My recordings and choices of songs reflect what I was going through musically at that time in my career. I didn't know anybody locally when I started. I had to go out and find musicians. My vocal coach, Jackie Allen, helped me find the best! They are on my recordings. Each CD is a progression of steps I had to take. First, local brilliance that I myself recognized. Second, NYC with Lynne Arriale Trio. Third, big band with Nick Contorno Orchestra. Fourth, my own invention, Fever, an alternative take on standards. Fifth, piano/vocal jazz ballads. Sixth, a cabaret show, "Songs Made Famous By Women," from my CD *Under The Influence*, where I get to sing all of the songs made famous by women — but not in drag.

There's often a fine line between cabaret and jazz. When putting together a live show, how do you decide what material is better suited for each?

A cabaret set is mostly based upon interpretations from "show tunes" or a singer's life with a storyline. It's like a mini Broadway show with one performer. They are brilliant if done right. I have seen many, and mine is done right and written in style. A jazz set is composed of songs interpreted vocally in various rhythms, phrasing, and "moods" based upon the singer's present moment. A jazz song is never sung the same way

Grillo has a following not just locally but globally. His latest disc is a four-song EP titled 'Music Box: Songs for Quiet Moments.' He appears at Angelo's Piano Lounge on Fridays through December.

twice. I do not have strict charts. My musicians play off of me and what I am doing and feeling as a singer. If they don't get that, I fire them (laughs).

What do you like best about being a jazz artist in Milwaukee?

JG: A jazz vocal artist in Milwaukee? Not that much to like. Except I did win the WAMI award. And they predicted I would get a Grammy if I left town.

For many years, openly gay jazz artists were rare. But artists such as Andy Bey, Patricia Barber and Lea DeLaria, to name a few, have shaken things up in jazz. Can you please say a few words about your own experience as an out jazz artist?

I don't know if I am an "out" gay artist. I just sing for whoever wants to hear me. "Out" is a strange word. I have always been an open person. My fans and friends are some of the best people in the world. They don't think about doors and windows being open and

closed. They love me for who I am. I am a fortunate person in that way.

If someone worries about whether they are an "out" artist or not, they will tear down the fabric of their own being. You are who you are, or your music means nothing. I have rarely had a bad experience ... because I am honest with myself and with the music I sing. If I do have a problem, I am giving in, and they are winning!

We are approaching the winter holiday season. Do you have any upcoming Christmas or New Year's Eve shows that you'd like to mention?

I am doing Angelo's Piano Lounge, with Joe Kral, on Fridays through December and on New Year's Eve. Angelo's is the one and only jazz and cabaret lounge in Milwaukee that features vocalists, including Angelo himself for the last 27 years.

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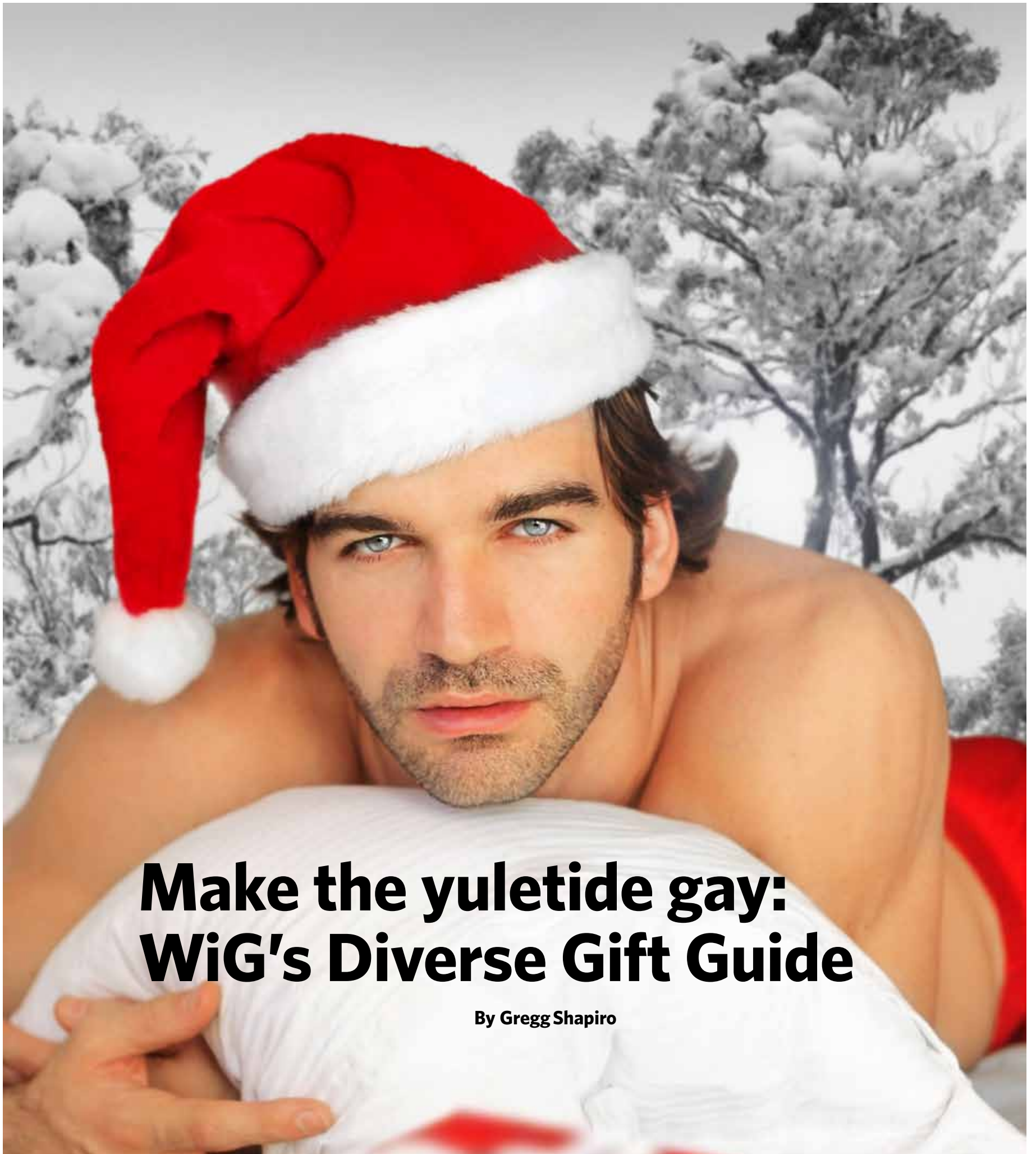
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Make the yuletide gay: WiG's Diverse Gift Guide

By Gregg Shapiro

SEXY GIFTS

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Simply Slick.

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Simply Slick is available from the manufacturer at simplyslick.com or a retail outlet such as pridefactory.myshopify.com.

The aptly named Überlube takes lubrication to the next level — as a multi-purpose product. A "silky" premium lubricant made from "friendly, inert ingredients," Überlube also is useful as an anti-chafing gel for sporting folks and can serve as a frizz-smoothing finishing product on hair. It comes in an unassuming, "night-

stand-friendly" dispenser. More information is available at uberlube.com.

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Murray Ave., is Milwaukee's first women-owned shop catering to **erotic necessities**. From sexy underwear and intimate apparel to sex toys, jewelry (both visible and not), condoms and leather/bondage gear, this "erotic boutique" has everything you need for the sexually active people on your gift list. There are also plenty of unique items for stocking stuffers. For more, go to www.toolshedtoys.com.

Before donning your favorite holiday sweater, Santa tie and/or Christmas tree earrings, why not add a distinctive smell to your gay apparel? **Power Bacon Deodorant**, created for active folks or those "who just sweat like pigs," can be found jdfoods.net.



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THE GIFT OF LAUGHTER

Comedy albums, which peaked in popularity during the 1960s through the 1980s, are making a comeback. Late night talk show host **Jimmy Fallon** won a Grammy for (and bared his butt on the cover of) his comedy CD *Blow Your Pants Off*. A talented mimic and musician, in addition to being a genuinely funny guy, Fallon packed his *Pants* with his trademark parodies of popular songs and his spot-on imitations of singers such as Neil Young and Bruce Springsteen. The disc features numerous guest artists, including Paul McCartney, Justin Timberlake, Eddie Vedder and Stephen Colbert. On "Slow Jam the News," featuring newscaster Brian Williams, Fallon asserts that the "President goes both ways on some issues."

It's difficult to fathom, but comedy legend **Paula**

Poundstone has only released two comedy CDs over the course of her more than 30-year stand-up career. The latest, *I Heart Jokes: Paula Tells Them in Boston*, released earlier in 2013, contains Poundstone's trademark humorous observations about parenthood and culture. A bit about same-sex marriage in Massachusetts, which occurs while Poundstone is talking to a gay man in the audience about texting, is especially amusing.

Groundbreaking comedian **Richard Pryor** was a straight man with a string of wives and girlfriends, but he didn't do too badly by the gays. His daughter Rain, a longtime friend of the LGBT community, played a "lipstick lesbian" on Showtime's *Rude Awakening*. His actor son Richard Pryor Jr. is an openly gay man. *No Pryor Restraint: Life In Concert* brings together Pryor's three concert films (includ-

ing *Richard Pryor Live on the Sunset Strip*) on two DVDs, and seven CDs full of "prime Pryor hilarity" culled from existing and rare live stand-up recordings.

For people who prefer their comedy live, up-close and in-person, a gift certificate to Milwaukee's **Comedy Café**, 615 E. Brady St., makes a terrific present. Certificates are available at 414-271-5653. Go to milwaukeecomedycafe.com for a list of upcoming acts.

Wisconsin is all about sports (and cheese and beer), and nothing creates more opportunities for laughter than sports. So if you can't afford a Brewers season ticket for the fan on your gift list, give them the next best thing — a gift certificate for Milwaukee's renowned **Comedy Sportz**, 420 S. First St. At least fans can laugh about all of the losses. Call 414-272-8888.

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Paula Poundstone

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WWJD GIFTS

Gifts inspired by Judy Garland

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If she were still here among us, Judy might want to pour herself a drink to wash down one of her pills. **Ole Smoky Tennessee Moonshine** comes in eight authentic East

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How would Judy (or her friends) keep that drink cold? **Stainless steel n'ICE Cubes** chill drinks without watering them down. They're made of food-grade stainless steel and available in sets of six liquid-filled cubes. After being stored in the freezer for about four hours, the cubes function

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Once a few drinks are downed, everyone will want to step out of her/his pumps and slip into a pair of **Red Ruby Slipper Flip Flops**. You read that right. They're black-rubber soled and blue-strapped flip-flops with a silk-screened "sparkly" red image on which to rest your tootsies. Available at cafepress.com.

After the slippers, you've probably reached the hour when drunk-dialing begins. Grab your mobile in its **Ruby Slippers iPhone case** — they come in a variety



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The red ruby slipper flip-flop.

of patterns — and start calling. Available at wbshop.com.

Of course, after your Judy Garland evening, there's the possibility of waking up with one heck of a hangover. The solution? Wrap your head in an **Ostrich Pillow**.

WWJD next page



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WWJD from prior page

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Last, but certainly not least, Judy (and friends of Judy) must experience Milwaukee Rep's production of the Tony-nominated musical *End of the Rainbow*, playing Jan. 7-March 9 in the Quadracci Powerhouse main stage theater. Starring Hollis Resnick (currently playing the Mother Superior in the national tour of *Sister Act*), *End of the Rainbow* is set during the late 1960s near the end of Garland's, short, tragic, but most importantly, celebrated life. Tickets, which would make a smashing gift, are available by calling 414-224-4140 or online at milwaukeeerep.com.



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BOOKS



Unwrapping gift books

Some books are for a quick, entertaining read. Others are the kind you want to keep around on your coffee table to share with guests or keep handy for reference from time to time. The following list contains some of both, while leaning toward titles with special interest for LGBT readers.

'WISCONSIN SUPPER CLUBS: AN OLD-FASHIONED EXPERIENCE'

Wisconsin Supper Clubs: An Old-Fashioned Experience (Midway, \$35) by Ron Faiola is a great resource for planning a road trip. It features more than 50 "distinctly Wisconsin-style dining establishments" around the state, running the gamut from "decades old" to modern versions of the classic. The book version of writer/filmmaker Faiola's documentary of the same name, *Wisconsin Supper Clubs* contains a multitude of color photos for armchair travelers.

'LEGENDARY: INSIDE THE HOUSE BALLROOM SCENE'

With "radiant color and black-and-white" photographs by Gerard H. Gaskin, an introduction by Deborah Willis and an essay by Frank Roberts, *Legendary: Inside the House Ballroom Scene* (Duke University Press, \$45) captures the culture of house balls — light-night pageants in which black and Latino drag queens compete for trophies.

Armed with his camera, Gaskin infiltrated balls in NYC, Washington, D.C., and other East Coast locales to record the habitués in all their celebratory revelry.

'HOLLYWOOD IN KODACHROME'

Hollywood in Kodachrome (!t Books, \$40) by David Wills with Stephen Schmidt opens with a foreword by actress Rhonda Fleming and an introduction by Wills. The tome contains "rare and classic images," previously unseen publicity photos and

production stills, "posed candids," print ad campaigns and more. Separated into six themed sections (including "When Goddesses Roamed the Earth" and "Technicolor Tessie"), the book includes such icons as Elizabeth Taylor, Judy Garland, Marilyn Monroe, Joan Crawford, Bette Davis, Carmen Miranda and Lana Turner, as well as queer stars including Katharine Hepburn, Marlene Dietrich, Tyrone Power and Errol Flynn, to name a few. Hollywood, wouldn't you?

'GLORIA SWANSON: THE ULTIMATE STAR'

Stephen Michael Shearer, who previously put pen to the lives of Patricia Neal and Hedy Lamarr, turns his attention to "Hollywood's first successful glamour queen" in *Gloria Swanson: The Ultimate Star* (Thomas Dunne Books/St. Martin's Press, \$29.99). Following Swanson's 60-year career from her early days in Chicago (at the legendary Essanay movie studio) to her breathtaking comeback in *Sunset Boulevard* and her final film role (playing herself!) in *Airport 1975*, Shearer reveals fascinating details about Swanson's personal life.

'INVENTING ELSA MAXWELL'

Midwestern-born, like Swanson, Elsa Maxwell was also famous in Hollywood — but for different reasons, according to *Inventing Elsa Maxwell* (St. Martin's Griffin, \$17.99) by Sam Staggs. Subtitled *How an Irre-*



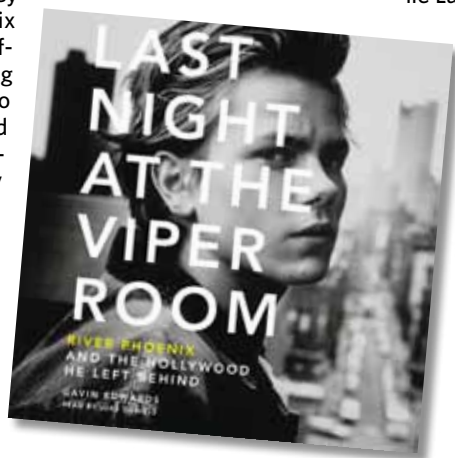
BOOKS next page

BOOKS from prior page

pressible *Nobody Conquered High Society, Hollywood, the Press and the World*, Staggs' book tells the intriguing story of out lesbian Maxwell's rise to become one of the most feared and revered bon vivants in Hollywood while never being "of Hollywood." This one's perfect for the hostess with the "mostest" on your gift list.

'LAST NIGHT AT THE VIPER ROOM: RIVER PHOENIX AND THE HOLLYWOOD HE LEFT BEHIND'

Gone too soon at 23 in 1993, Oscar-nominated actor River Phoenix is the subject of Gavin Edwards' book *Last Night at the Viper Room: River Phoenix and the Hollywood He Left Behind* (It Books, \$24.99). A talented member of the young Hollywood lions of the mid-1980s (including Johnny Depp, Ethan Hawke and Corey Feldman), Phoenix overcame many difficulties, beginning with his family life, to become a celebrated star. Phoenix's performance as a gay hustler in Gus Van Sant's *My Own Private Idaho* (along with Keane Reeves), earned him a sizable following in the queer community.



'THE GREATEST BAD MOVIES OF ALL TIME'

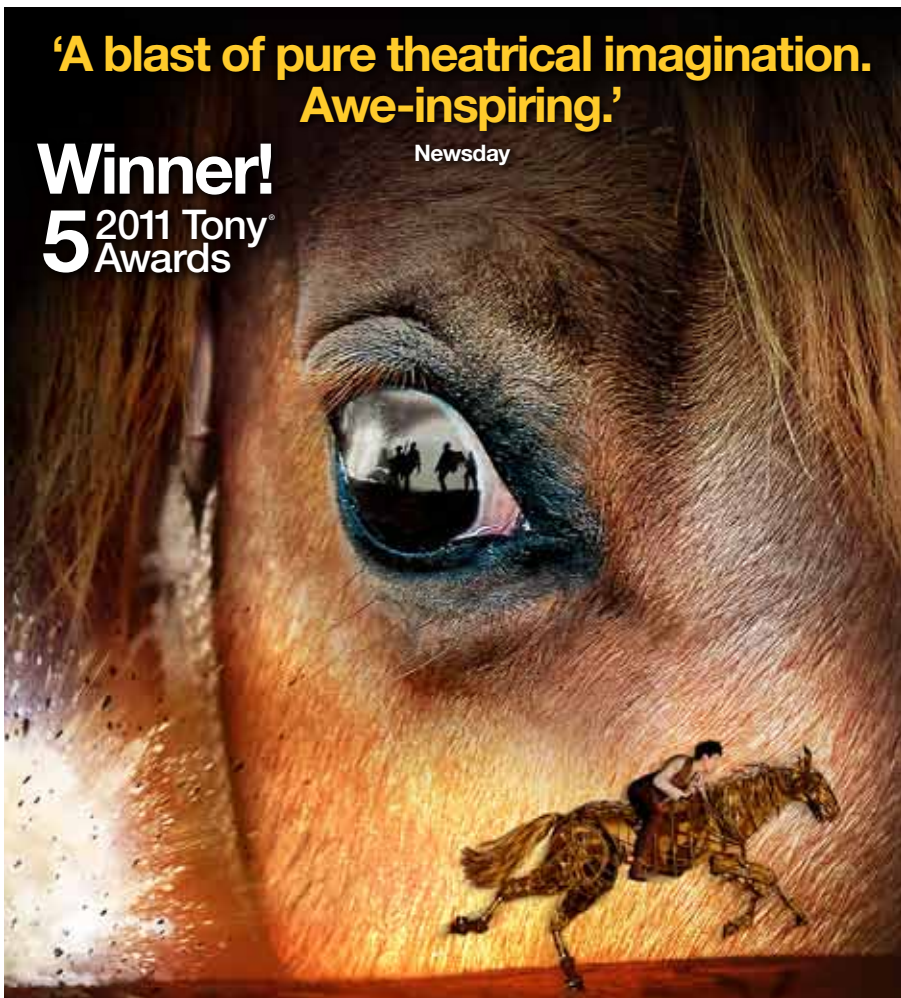
Good and bad movies are subjective, subject to the eye of the beholder. Phil Hall, a contributing editor for *Film Threat* and the author of a number of books on film, tackles 100 of the worst (in his opinion) in *The Greatest Bad Movies of All Time* (BearManor Media, \$19.76). For the most part, it's easy to agree with Hall's choices. The "S" section alone contains the Madonna muddle *Shanghai Surprise*, Pia Zadora in *Santa Claus Conquers the Martians* and the homophobic *Staircase*, starring Richard Burton and Rex Harrison as a gay couple. There are a couple of questionable titles included, such as *Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work and Mystic River*, but for the most part Hall is spot on. This is an ideal gift for the (bad) movie buff on your list.

'MY BROTHER MY SISTER: STORY OF A TRANSFORMATION'

A highly regarded feminist film critic whose reviews have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Vogue*, *Esquire* and other publications, Molly Haskell becomes one of the subjects in her memoir *My Brother My Sister: Story of a Transformation* (Viking, \$26.95). Haskell's younger sister Ellen, who was known as John before her gender reassignment surgery, isn't the only one transformed by the experience. Haskell writes about her own transformative journey alongside her new sister.

'HOLLYWOOD STRIP'

"Dishing the dirt on the secret world of Hollywood's nasty side," Shamron Moore's debut novel *Hollywood Strip* (Forge, \$24.99) follows new L.A. arrival Callie Lambert on her quest for fame and fortune and a career in film. An ideal beach read for your winter getaway to a warmer climate.



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DisH*it Out!

According to traditions, the path to prosperity in the New Year is through your stomach

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

In keeping with what's considered a good-luck tradition in northern Europe, Kim Wall will toast the new year with pickled herring, marinated either in wine sauce or with sour cream and chives. Wall owns Baensch Food Products Co. in Milwaukee's Riverwest neighborhood, which has produced Ma Baensch's Marinated Herring since 1932.

The tradition has its roots in the Baltic Sea region. Herring is an abundant food source in the region, and it's thought to bring abundance in the upcoming year for people who consume it on New Year's Eve. The silvery color of the fish resembles coins, which adds to its aura as a harbinger of riches.

Good-luck traditions surrounding food are common throughout the globe. Consuming a whole fish on New Year's Eve is traditional in China, at least partly because the word for "fish" sounds similar to the word for "abundance." According to Chinese lore, serving the fish whole — its head and tail intact — assures a bountiful New Year from start to finish.

Other cultures also see fish as a good-luck food, largely for its constant forward motion. Conversely, serving lobster and crab on New Year's Eve is thought to bring bad luck because of the crustaceans' sideways and backward movements.

In Asian cultures, serving long noodles on

New Year next page



PHOTO: DREAMSTIME

In many places, it's considered good luck to eat round fruit, such as apples, on New Year's Eve. In the American South, collard greens are thought to bring prosperity.



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New Year from prior page

New Year's Eve is the key to longevity and prosperity. Although "long" is a relative term, the good-luck tradition requires that the noodles must never be broken during preparation, so stir-frying is the most common cooking method.

The American South has its own regional good-luck food traditions — the best known of which are collard greens and black-eyed peas. The greens symbolize dollar bills and the peas represent coins. But these foods also have historical significance.

During the Civil War, marauding Union troops took most of the food as they scoured the countryside. They left behind only collard greens and black-eyed peas as animal fodder. But those foods are rich in nutrients, and they helped Southerners survive during the four years of warfare.

Cornbread also is considered good luck. It was produced when wheat was scarce in the South. The most authentic kind uses little sugar or flour and often features "cracklings," crispy meat bits derived from rendered lard.

Southern cooking features dishes that combine the various good-luck components. "Hoppin' John," a Carolina low-country dish, combines black-eyed peas and rice simmered slowly with bacon fatback, onions and salt. "Skippin' Jenny," as the leftovers are called, demonstrates frugality on the part of the diner, who is then sure to enjoy greater abundance in the New Year.

"Pot Likker," the nutrient-rich juice left behind when cooking collard greens, is considered not only good luck, but also an aphrodisiac. Some recipes mix it with collard greens, cornbread and bits of pork to create a comforting and healthy soup.

In Austria, Cuba, Hungary and Spain, eating pork on New Year's Eve is considered lucky, because pigs move ever forward, their snouts to the ground in pursuit of food. Pig-shaped cookies also are part of this tradition.

Eating fowl is considered good luck by some cultures, but bad luck by others. Birds scratch backward when searching for food, and a life lived backward does not imply progress.

Consuming round fruits — apples, oranges, grapes and others — on New Year's Eve is considered good luck in many cultures. In the United States and Europe, eating 12 such fruits at a sitting is the best bet, while in the Philippines the lucky number is 13.

Pomegranates count as round fruits, but they take on special significance in Turkey. The fruit's red color, which brings to mind the human heart, symbolizes life and fertility. Its medicinal qualities represent good health, and its abundance of seeds represents an abundance of wealth.

In Italy, lentils represent wealth. As the



Ma Baensch's Marinated Herring.

PHOTO: COURTESY

beans are cooked they grow in size, which means greater prosperity for those who consume them.

If all else fails, try eating gold-colored foods, a popular good-luck talisman that signifies increased wealth in many countries. Adding saffron to anything will do the trick. And what is a premium Champagne if not golden to the eye?

Southern cooking features dishes that combine the various individual 'good-luck' components of other dishes.

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Holiday toasts

New Year's Eve calls for a special toast. Here are a few to consider using when 2014 arrives:

"Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors and let every New Year find you a better man . . . whatever that means."

— *Apologies to Benjamin Franklin*

"As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point the wrong way."

— *Anon*

"May you have the hindsight to know where you've been, the foresight to know where you're going, and the insight to know when you're going too far."

— *Anon, again*

"May you live to learn well, and learn to live well."

— *Also Anon (He's a busy guy.)*

"Stir the eggnog, lift the toddy. Happy New Year, everybody."

— *Phyllis McGinley*

Stylish cocktails for your New Year's Eve celebration



By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

When the clock strikes midnight on Dec. 31, you will probably be toasting friends and loved ones with a flute of Champagne in honor of another year survived and the prospects that lay ahead.

To make the experience especially memorable, augment your bubbly with some stylish cocktails.

HAPPY NEW YEAR COCKTAIL

This twist on the old Champagne cocktail will have your guests buzzing, literally as well as figuratively. You'll need:

- ¼ oz. brandy
- ¾ oz. ruby port
- ¾ oz. orange juice
- 4 oz. Champagne

Add the brandy, port and orange juice to an ice-filled cocktail shaker and shake well. Strain into a champagne flute and top with Champagne.



NEW MILLENNIUM TOAST

Granted, we're only 13 years into the 21st century, but those of us who've made it this far still have something to celebrate. This cocktail is a good start. You'll need:

- 1 oz. gin
- ½ oz. cherry brandy
- 1½ oz. orange juice
- Splash of ginger ale

Add the gin, cherry brandy and orange juice to an ice-filled cocktail shaker and shake well. Strain into a chilled cocktail glass and add a splash of ginger ale.



MARTINIS AT MIDNIGHT

Cocktails should be visually appealing as well as flavorful, and this one is a knockout. It brings a stylishly darker hue to a holiday otherwise characterized by bright and bubbly. To stand out from the crowd, you'll need:

- 3½ oz. vodka or coffee vodka
- ¼ oz. coffee liqueur



Lemon twist

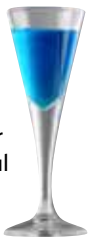
Pour the vodka and coffee liqueur into an ice-filled cocktail shaker and shake well. Strain into a chilled martini glass and garnish with a lemon twist.

THE GOLDEN GOOSE

Whether you see it as the end of a successful year or an exciting new beginning, New Year's Eve is a time to don your finest togs and celebrate with the very best. That should include your beverage choices. For this tasteful concoction, you'll need:

- 1 oz. Grey Goose Vodka
- Perrier-Jouët Fleur de Champagne

1 fresh raspberry or blueberry
Pour vodka into a champagne flute and top with Champagne. Garnish with fruit and revel in the luxury.

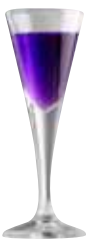


SPARKLING COGNAC

Sometimes it's just as easy to sparkle without Champagne. Here's an innovative yet simple recipe that's likely to surprise your guests. You'll need:

- ½ oz. cognac
- ½ cup sparkling apple cider, chilled

Dash of bitters
Pour cognac into a chilled champagne flute, top the glass with sparkling cider and add a few dashes of bitters.



CHERRY BRANDY SPRITZER

There is nothing quite like adult "soft" drinks to make the evening more festive. The following recipe, which takes off on the popular Old Fashioned, could be called an Express Cherry Bounce. It can be made with good quality bourbon or dark rum. This

Cocktails next page

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Cocktails from prior page

recipe serves four and takes some time to prepare. You'll need:

- 1 cup brandy (or bourbon or dark rum)
- ¾ cup packed dark brown sugar
- 2 cups whole fresh cherries, with stems
- 2 cups club soda

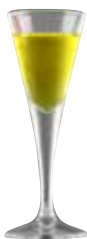
Heat brandy (or bourbon or rum) for 1 minute or until hot. Stir sugar into liquid until dissolved. Pack cherries into a small, heat-resistant container, then add the alcohol-sugar mixture, making sure cherries are submerged. Cover and refrigerate for 1 to 2 weeks.

When it's time to serve, fill four rocks glasses with ice, then add 1½ oz. of brandy-cherry mix and top with 4 oz. of club soda. Garnish with 2 or 3 whole brandied cherries. Leftover cherries may be kept for up to 1 month in the refrigerator.

LEMON DROP PUNCH

Punches are perennial party favorites, and Champagne or sparkling wine punches are de rigueur at News Year's Eve parties. The following recipe can serve up to 8 guests. You'll need:

- 3 lemons
- ½ cup sugar
- 750 ml. (1 bottle) of Champagne or sparkling wine, chilled
- ¾ cup of high-quality vodka, chilled
- 4 oz. candied lemon peels



Remove the lemon peel in one long, continuous spiral, then juice the lemons until you have ¾ cup juice. Heat and dissolve the sugar in ½ cup water, add lemon peel and let cool. Combine Champagne or sparkling wine, vodka, lemon juice and sugar-peel mixture in a punch bowl. Garnish glasses with candied lemon peel.

These cocktails should set you on the path for a joyous and prosperous New Year. Or you won't care. Either way you win.



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2013's best books to get you thinking about food

By J.M. Hirsch

AP writer

Let's all stop being coy and fess up, shall we? The truth is, even those of us who work with cookbooks, write about cookbooks, collect cookbooks — heck, even write cookbooks ourselves — don't actually cook from cookbooks. At least not nearly as frequently as we tell others we do.

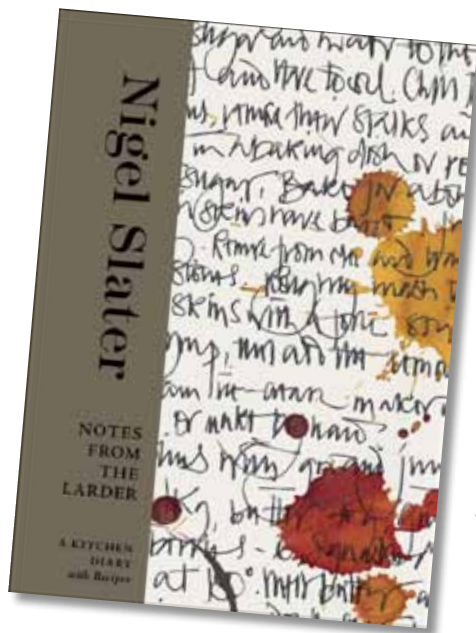
As food has morphed ever more into a pop culture fixture, cookbooks — with their lush photos, their provocative prose, their tempting, come-hither recipes — have become the porn of the food set.

That sounds flip, but it's actually significant. For if we still love cookbooks — and by all accounts we certainly seem to — but no longer see them primarily as a source of dinner inspiration, our selection criteria also must change. A good cookbook back in the day was defined mostly by the quality of the recipes alone.

That remains vital, of course, but hardly critical. Today, story often trumps recipes. A good many books in this category may not even have recipes, or at least none that anyone plans to follow to create a home-cooked meal (I'm talking to you Heston Blumenthal and Ferran Adria). Not too many years ago, that would have been

comical. Today? There's an audience for that.

So it is with this mindset that I made my picks for the best food books of 2013, the ones I would hope to get or gift this holiday season:



Notes From the Larder by Nigel Slater (Ten Speed Press, \$40)

Nigel Slater is a master of the journal-cum-cookbook format. He has an elegant simplicity of language that transports you to his garden, his kitchen, his table. *Notes From the Larder* is only the latest import from this Englishman, and it will leave you ready to dive into his previous volumes.

Slater probably is best known in the U.S. for his memoir-turned-movie *Toast*, which recounts a childhood spent finding himself via food. Books like *Notes From the Larder* make you glad he did. His recipes are simple, yet deftly draw you in. It doesn't hurt that the photography is splendid.

Smoke & Pickles by Edward Lee (Artisan, \$29.95)

Edward Lee earned his fame on Season 9 of Bravo's *Top Chef*, but he earned his credibility for his brash, yet respectful reimagining of Southern cuisine. A Korean-American who grew up in New York, Lee's only connection to the South was a road trip. But he fell in love with the culture and its food, and it shows in his cooking.

Like his Louisville, Ky., restaurant 610 Magnolia, his first cookbook, *Smoke & Pick-*

les, is a delicious amalgam of his cultures. Pulled pork gets sauced with bourbon and black bean paste. A T-bone gets marinated with lemon grass, Asian sesame oil and peanut oil. Anyone who loves Southern cooking — or anyone who claims to "know" what Southern cooking is — will want this book.

The Taste of America by Colman Andrews (Phaidon, \$29.95)

Colman Andrews has succeeded at something that shouldn't have been successful. He has written a reference book that reads like a storybook. His anthology of 250 classic American foods — some ingredients, some products — is a fascinating way to taste our nation's collective menu. From Goo Goo Clusters to boiled peanuts, he tells the story of America through its food.

Mast Brothers Chocolate by Rick Mast and Michael Mast (Little, Brown and Co., \$40)

Gratuitous, over-the-top odes to all things chocolate have become annoyingly common on the cookbook scene. It's a tired format usually built on precious, fussy recipes that rarely inspire, no matter who the author.

COOKBOOKS next page

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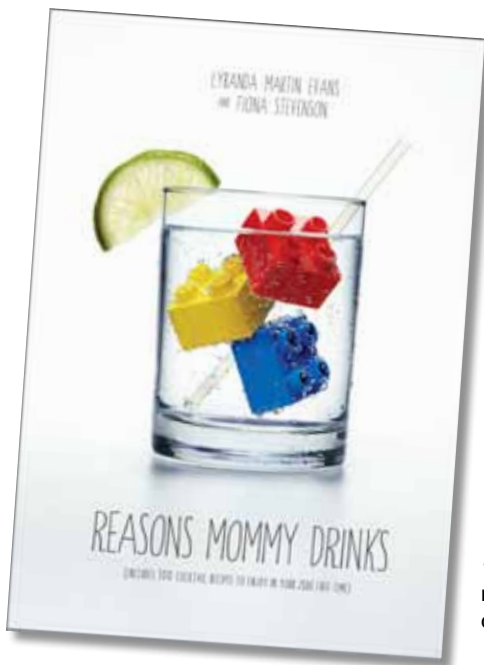


COOKBOOKS from prior page

This book is different. The Mast brothers — known best to Brooklyn hipsters as the men behind local chocolate company Mast Brothers Chocolate — have written a book of delicious simplicity, filled with recipes so evocatively photographed and so clearly written, you will cook from it. Start slow. Try the chocolate soda. Then the chocolate crunch. No need to thank me.

Reasons Mommy Drinks by Lyrandia Martin Evans and Fiona Stevenson (Three Rivers Press, \$12.99)

If foul language and parenting-by-alcohol are things likely to offend you, give this book a pass. But if you have embraced your potty mouth and understand that a good drink can make far more tolerable the terrible



twos right on through those horrible teens, then you will love this tiny book of cocktail recipes (and the parenting horrors that inspired them).

It's a wonderfully raunchy, funny romp through everything we know to be true about parenting. My only complaint? Daddies drink, too.

Eat Drink Vote, by Marion Nestle (Rodale, \$18.99)

The politics of food and diet can be a dense slog for all but the most committed of foodies. But Marion Nestle, one of the nation's leading thinkers on food policy, has written a book that doesn't just inform, it entertains.

Sure, there are plenty of stats and history and discouraging tales of food systems gone bad. But Nestle has paired all that with hundreds of comics and cartoons that bring those issues humorously home. It's odd to say, but readers will laugh hard as they learn the sad truth about all that is wrong — and some of what's right — about the way America eats.

Kitchen Things by Richard Snodgrass (Skyhorse Publishing, \$29.95)

Don't be fooled by this book's cover, which sells itself as "an album of vintage utensils and farm-kitchen recipes." That sounds kind of boring, and the recipes are amusing, but secondary. This book's appeal is in its gorgeous black-and-white photos of old-school kitchen gadgets. Richard Snodgrass actually makes things like measuring spoons and meat tenderizers look sensual. The text is a pleasant blend of history and humorous back-and-forth between Snodgrass, his wife and his mother-in-law, from whose kitchen many of the gizmos come.

The Art of Simple Food II by Alice Waters (Clarkson Potter, \$35)

Alice Waters makes the simplest of foods seem revelatory, even celebratory. This book, a follow-up to her 2007 "The Art of Simple Food," does what so few true cookbooks seem able to these days — it inspires and makes you want to cook, to explore ingredients. Not because of whiz-bang sci-fi gastronomy or because of celebrity or any other trendiness. It's because Waters embraces food as a beautiful thing unto itself.

L.A. Son My Life My City My Food by Roy Choi (Ecco, \$29.99)

This is the man who gave us the Kogi food truck, the Los Angeles-based Korean taco mashup credited with taking the food truck movement respectable. His beautiful book (published under Anthony Bourdain's imprint) is two parts story (Choi's coming up), one part recipe (his OMG crazy good creations, like ketchup fried rice). You may never cook from this book (though the recipes are eminently doable), but it won't matter. It's a fun flip even if all you do is drool.

The America's Test Kitchen Cooking School Cookbook (America's Test Kitchen, \$45)

Do-it-all cookbooks — the sort that try to cover all the culinary bases —

are pretty much been-there, done-that. The folks behind *America's Test Kitchen* (the television shows and magazines) have released a new book that's a comprehensive introduction to the art of cooking simply and well. Some 2,500 photos walk readers through 600 painstakingly tested recipes, leaving little room for error whether you're baking a chocolate chip cookie or trying to master beef Burgundy.



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1. Bug hitting windshield, e.g.
6. Presidents' Day month
9. Party barrels
13. Moonshine
14. Grassland
15. Beyond normal limits
16. ____ Boo Boo
17. Opposite of nothing
18. It has front and rear seats
19. Misfit elf dentist
21. "It's a Wonderful Life" star
23. Unopened tulip
24. Oliver Twist, e.g.
25. White wine and cassis
28. ____ good example
30. Sect follower
35. "National Velvet" author Bagnold
37. Earth's neighbor
39. Some are on a shorter one than others
40. Windmill blade
41. Top dog
43. Attached to a wheel
44. Magazine's special feature
46. "A Christmas Story" leg ____
47. Capital on the Dnieper
48. Vital
50. Cleopatra's necklace
52. Chester White's home
53. Strip of wood

55. " ____ Be Home For Christmas"
57. It happened on 34th Street
61. Show off
64. Acid in proteins
65. Ides month
67. Holy See loyalist practicing different rites
69. Closely watched on Black Friday
70. Before prefix
71. ____ Domingo
72. Old World duck
73. Astaire's character in "Holiday Inn"
74. Clear the blackboard

DOWN

1. "Be quiet!"
2. "Winnie the ____ and Christmas Too"
3. Like a famous Ranger
4. Tart
5. Immune system organ
6. Strip the skin off
7. Slippery reef dweller
8. Model-building wood
9. Acknowledged or recognized
10. Tropical tuberous root
11. Its seed yields gum used as thickener
12. Email folder

15. Utilitarian
20. Swelling from accumulation of fluid
22. Clinical twitching
24. "On the ____" or in a belligerent mood
25. He was left home alone
26. Silly
27. Between shampoo and repeat
29. ____ tale
31. Pipe problem
32. Yellow rides
33. Speck in the ocean
34. Famous lampooner on Christmas vacation
36. Owner's acquisition
38. Idiot, Yiddish
42. Patriots' Day month
45. Phone companies
49. Indian dish
51. Agreement to assume Santa's identity
54. Dangle a carrot
56. Relating to the moon
57. Physics calculation
58. Mosque VIP
59. Agitate
60. All over again
61. Santa's bitter old brother
62. Columbus' vessel
63. Makes lace
66. Exist
68. Corn site

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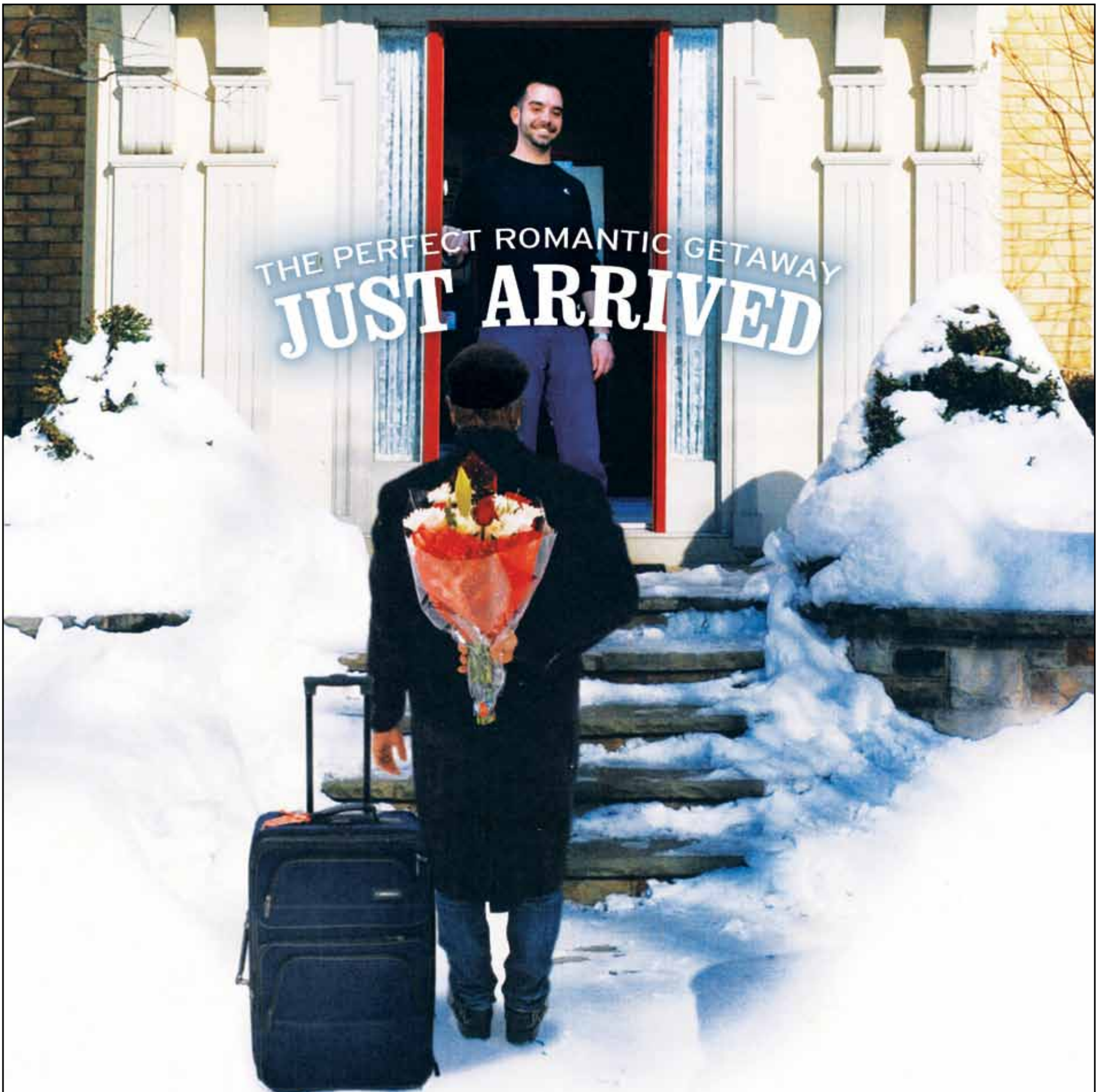
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2013

YEAR IN REVIEW

A look back at the events that shaped our year.

FIRST OUT: Vice President Joe Biden administers the Senate Oath to Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., during a swearing-in ceremony on Capitol Hill on Jan. 3, as the 113th Congress officially began. Baldwin is both the first woman ever elected to the U.S. Senate from Wisconsin and the first out gay person ever to win a U.S. Senate seat.



PHOTO: CLIFF OWEN/AP



PHOTO: NIKI JOHNSON

PAPAL WRAP: Shorewood artist Niki Johnson created a larger-than-life portrait of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI using some 17,000 multi-colored condoms. The piece, titled *Eggs Benedict*, drew attention worldwide, with media from New York to London to Ghana to India writing about it. It was sold to out philanthropist Joseph Pabst after going on display at the Portrait Society Gallery in Milwaukee's Third Ward.



PHOTO: CLIFF OWEN/AP

FIRST COUPLE: Speaker of the House John Boehner swears in openly gay freshman U.S. Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Wis., standing on the right, with his husband Phil Frank in the center. Frank was the first same-sex spouse to attend his husband's swearing-in ceremony.



PHOTO: PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/AP

THE LEADER AND THE POET: President Barack Obama, left, shakes hands with openly gay poet Richard Blanco, who wrote and presented the inaugural poem at Obama's swearing-in at the 57th Presidential Inauguration in Washington on Jan. 21.



PHOTO: MTV

SAME LOVE: Ryan Lewis and rapper Macklemore pose with the MTV Video Music Awards they won for "Same Love" on Aug. 25. The two gave an emotional performance of the equality anthem during the televised awards ceremony, joined by Mary Lambert and Jennifer Hudson in their performance. On Dec. 6, the hip-hop duo was nominated for seven Grammy Awards.

HELLO, GORGEOUS: Plaintiff Edith Windsor of New York reacts as she looks toward supporters in front of the Supreme Court in Washington on March 27, after the justices heard arguments on the Defense of Marriage Act. Windsor, who married her late wife in Canada, was forced to pay \$363,000 in estate taxes due to DOMA. She ultimately prevailed in the case, creating a sea change on the issue in the United States.



PHOTO: CAROLYN KASTER/AP



PHOTO: AP/CHARLES REX ARBOGAST

FIRST IN LINE: Chicagoans Patricia Ewert, left, and Vernita Gray, enter their living room for their Nov. 27 wedding ceremony — the first same-sex marriage in Illinois. Although marriage equality is not set to begin in Illinois until June 2014, a judge ordered the Cook County clerk to issue an expedited marriage license to Gray and Ewert because Gray, an iconic and beloved gay activist in Chicago, is terminally ill.



PHOTO: AP/GERO BRELOER

PUTTING DOWN PUTIN: Demonstrators hold a poster of Vladimir Putin during a protest march in Berlin on Aug. 31 against Russia's anti-gay laws and violence. Worldwide protests against Russia throughout late summer raised criticism about holding the 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Sochi.



PHOTO: AP/RINGO H.W. CHIU

DOWN THE DRAIN: West Hollywood bars owners on Aug. 1 dump Russian vodka into a gutter as part of a nationwide protest against anti-gay laws enacted by Russian President Vladimir Putin.



PHOTO: TILDA SWINTON

FLAGGING HATE: Academy Award-winning actor Tilda Swinton distributed this picture of herself holding a gay Pride flag in front of the Kremlin to protest Russia's draconian laws against LGBT people and the epidemic of violence against gays in Russia.



PHOTO: BRIAN K. LEADINGHAM

VICTORY MARCH: Rallies and celebrations, like this one in Miami, erupted across the United States after the Supreme Court ruling in June striking down key provisions of the federal Defense of Marriage Act and overturning California's Proposition 8.

SPECIAL DELIVERY: In February, petitions calling for an end to the Boy Scouts of America's ban on gays are delivered to the organization's national headquarters in Texas. In May, the executive board voted to allow out gay Scouts but not gay leaders.



PHOTO: GLAAD



PHOTO: AP/TAMIR KALIFA

FIGHTING FOR CHOICE: Texas Democratic Sen. Wendy Davis, center, greets supporters with a sign that she voted against an abortion bill that is, along with Wisconsin's, among the most restrictive in the nation. Davis became a hero to women in the state after delaying the bill through a filibuster. In November, a sharply divided Texas Supreme Court allowed the controversial measure to stand. Davis has launched a bid for governor.

NEW POPE IN TOWN: Pope Francis waves to the crowd as he's driven through St. Peter's Square in September. Francis, who assumed the papacy after Pope Benedict XVI stepped down, has signaled a softer approach at the Vatican on divisive issues about sexual matters and a return to the teachings of Jesus concerning compassion for the poor and economic justice. He was named Time's 2013 Person of the Year.



PHOTO: AP/ANDREW MEDICHINI

LAKESIDE SEAT: A couple watches the fireworks dancing over Lake Michigan on the opening night of Milwaukee PrideFest 2013. Officials said 28,340 patrons attended the event June 7-9 — about 277 more attendees than in 2012, despite poorer weather conditions. Gay performer Andy Bell opened the annual celebration at the Summerfest grounds. Other headliners included Belinda Carlisle and the Indigo Girls.



PHOTO: DAVE LAUERSDORF



PHOTO: ERIC WALTR

HOW YOU SAY 'ANTI-GAY' IN FRENCH? The French anti-gay marriage group Manif Pour Tous stages a demonstration against same-sex marriage in Paris on Jan. 13. The nation's adoption of marriage equality prompted waves of violent protests from right-wing and skinhead groups, and at least one gay man died as a result of the bashings.

FIGHTING FOR CHOICE: Supporters of Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin gather in June at the Capitol to protest laws passed by Republican legislators to make it more difficult for women to terminate unwanted pregnancies. Wisconsin's laws are among the nation's most restrictive and include forcing women to undergo transvaginal ultrasounds prior to having an abortion. Another provision requiring abortion practitioners to have admitting privileges to a nearby hospital is on hold pending a court ruling.



PHOTO: PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF WISCONSIN

2013

YEAR IN REVIEW

A look back at the events that shaped our year.



UP IN LIGHTS: The Overpass Light Brigade protests the not-guilty verdict in George Zimmerman's trial for killing unarmed black teenager Trayvon Martin in Sanford, Fla., last year. Zimmerman's acquittal on July 13 set off protests across the nation. Since then, Zimmerman has had multiple run-ins with the law, including a late November arrest on domestic violence charges. Zimmerman had five guns and more than 100 rounds of ammunition with him at the time of his latest arrest.



THE SOUND OF HANDCUFFS: During a crackdown over the summer, Wisconsin Capitol Police arrested dozens of people gathered in the Capitol rotunda for daily noontime singalongs protesting Gov. Scott Walker's busting of public-sector unions. In one arrest that was videotaped and posted on YouTube, police slammed a man who was offering no resistance to the ground.

TEARS OF JOY: Wisconsin natives Michael Knaapen, left, and his husband John Becker embrace outside the Supreme Court in Washington on June 26 after the Court struck down a federal provision denying benefits to legally married gay couples and overturned California's infamous Proposition 8. The ruling set off a rash of marriage equality cases across the nation and paved the way for marriage equality victories in several states.



PHOTO: AP/CHARLES DHARAPAK



PHOTO: AP/CHUCK SNYDER

SPECIAL DAY: Chris Beagle, left, and Eric Englehart of Rehoboth Beach were the first gay couple to be married in Sussex County on July 1, the first day that same-sex couples could legally wed in Delaware.



PHOTO: AP/STACY BENGIS

MIDWEST MOJO: Margaret Miles, right, celebrates with wife Cathy ten Broeke after marrying Aug. 1 at Minneapolis City Hall. Minnesota is one of five states where lawmakers enacted marriage equality in 2013, including Illinois. Three of Wisconsin's four neighboring states now permit same-sex couples to marry.