



## How does this little piggy get to market?

*What producers don't want you to know* page 10



**12-14 GOP steamrolls Dems**  
GOP sweeps Election Day nationwide. What's next for Wisconsin and the nation?



**29 Milwaukee's maestro**  
Edo de Waart shuttles between continents to make beautiful music with the MSO.



**35 New star in Madison**  
Tony Award-winner Karen Olivo chose Madison as her home, and the city is delighted.



**38 Mr. Showmanship returns**  
The Milwaukee Repertory Theater resurrects *Liberace!* starring Jack Forbes Wilson.

# News with a twist



## WIGWAG

By Lisa Neff, Matthew Reddin, Louis Weisberg

### GRATEFUL GAMERS

The gaming community has rallied to help John Spinello, the 77-year-old creator of the board game Operation, after they learned he didn't have the money to pay for an operation of his own. The Illinois man invented the game in the early 1960s, when he was a student at the University of Illinois. He sold the concept for \$500 to a toy inventor, who licensed the game to Milton Bradley. A series of misfortunes left Spinello with outstanding bills for oral surgery, but a crowdfunding benefit has raised well over the \$25,000 required for the operation.

Anderson Cooper, Alec Baldwin and David Furnish also attended. A lunch date with Cooper and Lauer sold at auction for \$45,000.



### HERO WORSHIP

At his annual AIDS benefit earlier this fall in New York City, Elton John called Pope Francis a hero and said he ought to be a "St. Francis." The music man had only praise for the pope: "Ten years ago, one of the biggest obstacles in the fight against AIDS was the Catholic Church. Today we have a pope that speaks out about it." New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo attended the gala — offering a joke about being from Queens. Neil Patrick Harris, Matt Lauer,

### ON PARADE

The lineup for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade — in addition to the super-sized balloons — includes Sting, Idina Menzel, Miss USA Nia Sanchez, Nick Jonas, Romeo Santos, hockey players John LeClair and Pat LaFontaine, the cast of *Sesame Street* and KISS. Yes, KISS. But the stars of the show? Little League pitching sensation Mo'ne Davis and the Philadelphia Taney Dragons.

### HELLO, THIS IS HAL

A New York City worker was suspended for 20 days without pay because he answered a city information-technology help line in a "robotic voice." Callers complained and one hung up because she wanted "to speak to a human." The judge called the man a "disgruntled employee."

### PISTOL-PACKING WALKER FAN

A gun-toting Wisconsin man says his right to continuous self-defense was infringed upon when police escorted him from a Sun Prairie rally for Republican Scott Walker. Police made the man stow his pistol in his car while he attended the event because the business prohibits firearms. But the man complained there was no notice on the door.

### SMIFF, SNIFF

Sneaking away for a smoke in the restroom could get more difficult. Researchers at Dartmouth College say they've created a sensor that can detect second- and third-hand tobacco smoke. The AirGuard can record the presence of nicotine vapor molecules in real time and

measured in parts per billion. A wearable version of the device could reach the market by next spring.

### D'OUGH!

A 28-year-old man has been arrested on suspicion of burglary after a Wichita, Kansas, woman found him eating cookie dough from her freezer in the early-morning hours. According to the *Wichita Eagle*, the 52-year-old woman came out of her bedroom shortly before 3:30 a.m. to find the intruder, who told police he thought he was in his aunt's house. That's a late night snack he'll regret for more than his waistline.

### WHEN BAMBIS ATTACK

A South Milwaukee dog is recovering after being mauled by an unlikely assailant: a deer. Ted Moss told WISN he was walking his dogs in Grant Park when he saw a buck and a doe come out of the woods. The doe ran off, but the buck attacked Moss' dog Rowdy. Moss, carrying a permitted concealed pistol, says he fired the gun and took Rowdy to a veterinarian when the buck ran off. A spokesperson

from the Milwaukee County Parks Department suggested the abnormal behavior was due to it being deer mating season.

### WHO'S THE REAL BAD APPLE?

In yet another startling display of Russian homophobia, residents of St. Petersburg recently tore down a memorial to deceased Apple founder Steve Jobs after current Apple CEO Tim Cook came out as gay. The 6-foot-tall memorial was erected in 2013, featuring a large screen that displayed moments from Jobs' life and quotations from his speeches. The chairman of ZEFS, the company that originally funded the memorial, said he'd be willing to reinstall the memorial if it could be reprogrammed to include a message instructing Russians not to purchase Apple products. Which is sort of missing the point.

Get more WigWag at [wisconsin Gazette.com](http://wisconsin Gazette.com).

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# What's next for gay marriage in the U.S.?

## From WiG and AP reports

A decision by a panel of federal judges to uphold anti-gay marriage laws in four states has created a split among the nation's appeals courts and made it very likely that the U.S. Supreme Court will review the same-sex marriage issue.

But it is unclear whether the matter will reach the justices in time for a decision in June.

Lawyers for same-sex couples in Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee want the high court to reverse the Nov. 6 2-1 ruling from a panel of the Sixth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati.

That court found that nothing in the U.S. Constitution gives same-sex couples a right to marry.

It was the first time an appellate court ruled in favor of state bans since a Supreme Court decision struck part of the federal anti-gay marriage law. Most courts have taken that decision to mean states cannot forbid same-sex marriages.

The high court is under no obligation to take the case, but Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg recently said a split among the appellate courts would make the court's involvement likely.

Last month, before there was such a division, the justices turned away appeals from five states that sought to uphold their bans, even though same-sex plaintiffs who won in the lower courts also pressed the Supreme Court to intervene.

The effect of the Supreme Court's denial, and a subsequent appeals court ruling in the West, was to permit same-sex marriage or remove the legal underpinnings of state bans in nearly three dozen states.

Some essential things to know about the gay marriage movement and where it's headed:

## WHEN DOES THE ISSUE REACH THE SUPREME COURT?

The biggest question now appears to be one of timing. If both sides can file their written arguments by late December, the justices should have enough time to schedule arguments in the spring and decide the matter by late June.

The court usually fills its calendar for the term by mid-January, so if a same-sex marriage case is squeezed out, it would be pushed back into the term that begins next October. An argument in the fall of 2015, and a likely decision in the spring of 2016, could make gay marriage more of an

issue in the 2016 presidential campaign.

Another issue for the justices is which case to take.

Federal judges in Kentucky and Michigan struck down each state's gay marriage ban. The cases from Ohio and Tennessee were more limited.

One other possibility is Idaho, which lost its case at the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. Idaho's attorney general, Lawrence Wasden, said the state intends to appeal, "but we don't have a firm timeline for when that will happen."

## HOW CAN AN APPEALS COURT RULE AGAINST SAME-SEX COUPLES AFTER FOUR APPEALS COURTS HAVE DECIDED IN THEIR FAVOR?

Federal appeals courts have no obligation to fall in line with each other, and indeed, disagreement on important matters is a major factor in Supreme Court review.

The surprising thing has been how one court after another has lined up in support of gay marriage since the Supreme Court's 2013 decision in *Windsor v. U.S.* But that decision divided the court 5-4, and while support for same-sex marriage has increased dramatically, there is still significant opposition.

Of course, Circuit Judge Jeffrey Sutton made clear in his ruling on Nov. 6 that what he thinks about same-sex marriage as a policy matter is beside the point. Sutton wrote in his majority opinion that lower courts remain bound by a one-sentence decision dismissing a gay marriage case from Minnesota in 1972, even though other courts have said the decision no longer carries any force. He also disagreed with the other courts when he said judges should let the political process play out.

One last note on judges: All the judges who have voted to uphold anti-gay marriage laws are Republican appointees. Rulings striking down state bans have been made by Democratic and Republican appointees alike.

## WHAT IS THE STATUS OF GAY MARRIAGE CASES IN OTHER APPEALS COURTS?

The Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans has scheduled arguments in January in cases from Texas, where a judge struck down the state's ban, and Louisiana, where the ban was upheld.

Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi has asked the Eleventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta to review a judge's ruling that state law limiting marriage to a man and a woman is unconstitutional.

Also, as WiG went to press, the Supreme Court was set to decide whether to allow same-sex marriages in Kansas pending an appeal of a ruling there.

## THE TALLY

Same-sex marriage is legal in 32 states, the District of Columbia and parts of Missouri.

Kansas, Montana and South Carolina are continuing their legal fight against same-sex marriage, despite rulings from federal appeals courts that oversee those states that concluded gay and lesbian couples have the right to marry.

At press time Nov. 12, gay and lesbian couples could not marry in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, most of Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee and Texas.

The Supreme Court has struck down part of the Defense of Marriage Act that forbade the federal government to grant tax, health and other benefits to married gay couples.

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## ON THE WEB...

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# Driving digital diversity



A proposal to expand the skin color options for emojis may get the thumbs up.

Emojis are cartoon-like pictograms — such as smiley faces or hearts — that have become popular in texts and online chats to express emotion.

Unicode Consortium, the nonprofit organization that sets the standards for these pictograms, said in a proposal that is considering adding five new skin colors.

The default emoji face was designed to be generic, but Unicode says users have been clamoring for changes to better

reflect global diversity.

The proposal is still under review but could lead to changes for many users as many emoji collections are based on Unicode standards.

— Lisa Neff

**ON THE WEB...**

The Unicode Consortium is [www.unicode.org](http://www.unicode.org).

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# World on track to close gender gap — in 81 years

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

The world has seen only a small improvement in equality for women in the workplace in nine years of measuring the global gender gap. And, with all else remaining equal, it will take 81 years for the world to close the equality gap, according to a report by the World Economic Forum.

"Much of the progress on gender equality over the last 10 years has come from more women entering politics and the workforce," said Saadia Zahidi, head of the gender parity program at the Geneva-based nonprofit and the lead author of the report. "While more women and more men have joined the workforce over the last decade, more women than men entered the labor force in 49 countries."

The WEF has been measuring the gaps between men and women worldwide since 2006, and the ninth edition of their Global Gender Gap Report was released in late October, measuring 142 countries. The report measures gender equity in four areas: economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, political empowerment, and health and survival.

That last category features the narrowest gap, 96 percent, meaning women live 4 percent fewer healthy years than men worldwide. That gap has been closed entirely by 35 countries, three of which did so within the past 12 months.

The next narrowest is the educational attainment gap, measuring literacy and educational enrollment rates worldwide. Women have 94 percent of the academic opportunities afforded men, with 25 countries having closed the gap entirely.

No country has closed the gender gap in economic participation or political empowerment, and both gaps remain wide. Economic participation narrowed by four percentage points to 60 percent worldwide, meaning women get six-tenths of the income and labor force opportunities of men.

By far the largest gap is political. Women have 21 percent of the representation men have in legislative and executive positions. Only two countries, Iceland and Finland, are even above 60 percent.

Zahidi said, "In the case of politics, globally, there are now 26 percent more female parliamentarians and 50 percent more female ministers than nine years ago. These are far-reaching changes. ... However, it is clear that much work still remains to be done, and that the pace of change must in some areas be accelerated."

With no one country having closed its overall gender gap, Nordic nations remain the most gender-equal societies in the world, according to the survey. Last year's leading nations — Iceland (1), Finland (2), Norway (3) and Sweden (4) — are joined this year by Denmark (5).

Global Top 10	
The Global Gender Gap Index	Global rank*
Iceland	1
Finland	2
Norway	3
Sweden	4
Denmark	5
Nicaragua	6
Rwanda	7
Ireland	8
Philippines	9
Belgium	10

Source: The Global Gender Gap Report 2014  
Note: 2014 rank out of 142 countries

Nicaragua climbs four places to 6 and Rwanda enters the index at 7, Ireland falls to 8, the Philippines declines four places to 9 and Belgium climbs one place to 10.

The United States climbs three places to 20, after narrowing its wage gap and improving the number of women in governmental positions.

## REGION TO REGION

Countries from Europe and Central Asia occupy 12 of the top 20 positions in the index. Of that region's major economies, Germany climbs two places to No. 12, France leaps from 45 to 16, while the UK falls to 26 from 18.

France's gain is mostly due to increases in the number of women in politics and narrowing wage gaps.

The UK's lower position can be mainly attributed to changes in income estimates.

In Asia and the Pacific, the Philippines remains the region's highest-ranked country, followed by New Zealand and Australia.

Japan moves one place to 104. China falls 18 places to No. 87 — largely due to its uneven sex ratio at birth, an indicator of male preference. And India slumps to No. 114, one of the few countries where female labor force participation is shrinking.

Ranked at 6, Nicaragua reinforces its position as the gender parity leader for Latin America and the Caribbean. This is due to strong performance in eliminating health, education and political gaps.

Among the larger economies, Brazil declines to 71 in spite of having closed both its educational attainment and health and survival gender gaps.

Mexico's drop to 80 is a result of reduced female representation in politics, but is partially offset by improvements in labor force participation and income gaps.

In the Middle East and North Africa, Kuwait, at 113, is the highest-ranked coun-

try. The United Arab Emirates falls to 115 but shows major improvement on economic and political participation and remains the second highest-ranked country in the region. The region is also home to the lowest-ranked country in the index, Yemen, which, at 142, has remained at the bottom of the index in every single year.

Sub-Saharan Africa, meanwhile, boasts three countries in the top 20 of the index. The highest, Rwanda, scores well in economic and political participation and is the top developing country in the index. Next is Burundi, which climbs five places to 17, followed by South Africa. Nigeria, the region's largest economy, falls 12 places to 118.

## NINE YEARS OF DATA

Progress has not been even. Although many countries have reached parity in educational attainment and health and survival, the trend is actually reversing in some parts of the world. Nearly 30 percent of the countries have wider education gaps than they did nine years ago, and over 40 percent have wider health and survival gaps than they did nine years ago.

Also, of the 111 countries continuously covered in the report, 105 have narrowed their gender gaps, but another six — Sri Lanka, Mali, Croatia, Macedonia, Jordan and Tunisia — have seen prospects for women deteriorate.

In the Americas, no country has widening gender gaps.

"Achieving gender equality is obviously necessary for economic reasons," said Klaus Schwab, founder and executive chairman of the forum. "But even more important, gender equality is a matter of justice. As a humanity, we also have the obligation to ensure a balanced set of values."

For more information, visit the World Economic Forum's website, [weforum.org](http://weforum.org).



# Explosion in wealth inequality around world

By Lisa Neff  
Staff writer

The 85 richest people in the world now have the same wealth as the poorest half of the world, according to anti-poverty organization Oxfam. In a report released in late October, the charitable group said the number of billionaires in the world has doubled since the financial crisis, but prosperity hasn't — and won't — trickle down.

Those 85 people at the top of the pyramid saw their collective wealth increase \$668 million per day from 2013 to 2014 — almost \$500,000 a minute, according to the report *Even it Up: Time to End Extreme Inequality*.

The report, released with endorsements from Mozambican politician Graca Machel, former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Nobel prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz, urges world leaders to focus on pov-

erty and to clamp down on tax dodging by multinational corporations and the wealthy.

"Today, wealth is trickling upwards and will continue to do so until governments act," said Winnie Byanyima, executive director of Oxfam International. "We should not allow narrow-minded economic doctrine and the self-interest of the rich and powerful to blind us to these facts."

"Around the world millions of people are dying due to a lack of health care and millions of children are missing out on school, while a small elite have more money than they could spend in a lifetime."

In South Africa, the report says, inequality is now greater than it was at the end of apartheid.

For more information on the report, visit [oxfam.org](http://oxfam.org).



PHOTOS: COURTESY OXFAM

Oxfam launched a new global campaign to tackle the gap between the rich and the rest, with messages like this one: "Equal but playing by different rules."

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# Meat producers aim to silence whistle-blowers as activists' videos bring change

By Lisa Neff  
Staff writer

At any given moment at Reichardt Duck Farm in Petaluma, California, about 200,000 ducks are living in tightly cramped pens, suffering disease, injury and starvation until they join the ranks of the million ducks the farm slaughters in a year for the food industry.

That's a fact only known to the world at large thanks to the activist group Mercy for Animals, which in late October released "Ducks in Despair," a secretly-filmed video that quickly went viral as viewers saw workers burning ducklings' beaks and brutally breaking injured ducks' necks. The images were captured by an undercover Mercy investigator working as a barn-cleaner on the farm, and also show birds being denied access to food, water and veterinary care.

Reichardt is no isolated incident. Other viral videos, filmed by Mercy and other undercover investigators, show animal abuses on farms providing dairy, eggs, beef, pork and poultry to consumers nationwide.

Videos show calves, being raised for veal, crammed into feces-covered boxes so small they cannot lie down.

Videos show pigs being stowed in crates so small they can't turn around, and being beaten with metal rods.



PHOTOS: SCREENSHOTS/MERCY FOR ANIMALS

**SUFFERING EXPOSED:** Hidden-camera video from a Wisconsin dairy farm led to the conviction of four men on animal abuse charges, as well as a pledge of reform from the company that did business with the farm. Video from another farm was released Nov. 12.

Videos show live chicks getting tossed into machines to be mashed into feed.

And here at home, a Mercy investigator released hidden-camera footage in early 2014 from Wiese Brothers Farms, a dairy farm in Greenleaf, Wisconsin, where workers were shown kicking, stabbing and whipping cows, even dragging downed animals around by chains attached to their legs and necks.

More recently, on Nov. 12, Mercy released an undercover video from Andrus Dairy in Birnamwood, Wisconsin, showing workers kicking and punching cows, hacking at their tails with pruning shears and dragging animals by their necks with ropes attached to tractors. The dairy was identified as a supplier to Ohio-based Great Lakes Cheese, one of the largest cheese companies in the country and a supplier to

major grocery chains.

"The handling of the dairy cows in this video is not acceptable," Dr. Temple Grandin, animal welfare expert, said after reviewing the footage.

More than 80 undercover investigations have been conducted at U.S. factory farms in the past decade, resulting in dozens of videos that reveal animal abuse and real threats to food safety. And even as campaigns are launched to implement policies that can prevent such cruelty, counter-campaigns are trying to prevent undercover investigations in the first place.

Earlier this year, the state of Idaho enacted an "ag-gag" law that criminalizes undercover investigations, making unauthorized recordings punishable by up to a year in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

**EXPOSED** next page

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**EXPOSED** from prior page

The measure is not the first of its kind, and it likely will not be the last.

Model ag-gag bills have been circulated by the right-wing, corporate-backed American Legislative Exchange Council as early as 2002. ALEC, the organization behind so-called "Stand Your Ground" legislation and anti-immigrant bills, published a draft that year misleadingly titled the Animal and Ecological Terrorism Act that would prohibit "entering an animal or research facility to take pictures by photograph, video camera or other means with the intent to commit criminal activities or defame the facility or its owner."

Seven states have thus far passed ag-gag measures aimed at blocking whistleblowers from revealing abuse or unsafe conditions at livestock facilities. Advocates say farmers and livestock producers need the laws to guard against intrusions into their homes and businesses.

### PROGRESSIVE PUSHBACK

But a broad progressive coalition has come out against the bills, with constitutional challenges pending against ag-gag laws in Utah and Idaho. It is a cause that intertwines animal welfare, the environment, labor rights, free speech, freedom of the press, food safety and consumer protection.

Some 70 groups have publicly stated opposition to ag-gag laws. Plaintiffs in the federal challenge to the Idaho law include the Animal Legal Defense Fund, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, American Civil Liberties Union, Center for Food Safety and Farm Sanctuary.

The law is "deeply distressing because it is aimed entirely at protecting an industry, especially in its worst practices that endanger people, at the expense of freedom of speech," says professor Erwin Chemerinsky, a constitutional law expert and dean at the University of California, Irvine School of Law. "It would even criminalize a whistleblower who took a picture or video of wrongdoing in the workplace."

In fact, an undercover investigator punished in Idaho faces far more severe penalties than a farmworker who abuses animals. Animal cruelty in the state can result in a mere six months in jail; people caught filming abuse face up to a year and a \$5,000 fine.

Those who shoot, circulate and defend the hidden-camera videos say the films do much more than shock viewers. The videos obviously can have an immediate impact on how people shop, and what they put on the dinner table. But the videos also impact how workers, farms, factories, corporations and government regulators operate.

Seven years ago, a Humane Society of the United States investigation at a slaughterhouse in Chino, California, revealed workers using forklifts and chains to push and drag cows too sick to stand to the killing floor. Much of the meat from the slaughterhouse was for the National School Lunch Program. The undercover video pushed the U.S. Department of Agriculture to order the nation's largest meat recall.

More recently, a Mercy for Animals investigation of an egg farm where dead chickens were rotting in cages with egg-laying hens prompted major retailers and restaurant chains to drop the supplier.

The full impact of the video from the Andrus Dairy in Wisconsin isn't known. But quickly Great Lakes Cheese issued a statement of outrage and said it would no longer accept milk from the farm.

And Mercy's investigation at the Wiese farm resulted in arrests and convictions of the animal abusers, as well as a corporate pledge of change. The Brown County Sheriff's Department arrested four men for animal cruelty in connection with the Wiese video, and all four were convicted on multiple counts of animal cruelty and ordered to pay fines.

Mercy, in statements, praised the sheriff's department and the district attorney's office for "taking swift and

## People filming abuse face up to a year in jail and a \$5,000 fine.

decisive action in pursuing justice for these abused and exploited animals."

The organization's efforts in that case extended far beyond Wisconsin. At the time the footage was taken, Wiese Brothers supplied cheese to DiGiorno Pizza, owned by Nestlé. And Mercy called out the company for its association, with Mercy's executive director Nathan Runkle saying in a news release, "No socially responsible corporation should support dairy operations that beat, kick, mutilate and neglect animals. Due to its complete lack of meaningful animal welfare standards, DiGiorno has allowed a culture of cruelty to flourish in its cheese supply chain."

Nestlé publicly deplored the abuse and, last January, announced changes in how it scrutinizes suppliers. "We will not do business with companies that do not adhere to our strict standards, and we are always looking for ways to do better," a company statement read.

By August, Nestlé, the world's largest food company, had announced what Mercy called "the most comprehen-

sive and far-reaching animal welfare policy of its kind."

Nestlé vowed to eliminate many of the cruelest forms of institutionalized animal abuse from its supply chain, including an end to:

- Tail docking and dehorning of dairy cattle.
- Castrating piglets without painkillers.
- Confining calves in veal crates, pregnant pigs in gestation crates and egg-laying hens in battery cages.

Nestlé also vowed to phase out pharmaceutical growth promoters for poultry.

Runkle, in a statement, said, "We are heartened that Nestlé not only took notice, but also took action after egregious cruelty was exposed at one of its dairy suppliers. Nestlé's new industry-leading policy will reduce the suffering of millions of animals each year and hopefully inspire other food providers to implement and enforce similar animal welfare requirements."

Opponents of the ag-gag laws say Nestlé's response to the documented abuse at a dairy farm and to the U.S. government's response to abuse and health and safety issues at the California slaughterhouse prove the value of whistleblowers and undercover investigations.

Still, animal welfare activists expect a dozen ag-gag bills to be introduced in state legislatures in the next two years.

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# Walker wins, Burke urges supporters to 'get back up'

By Lisa Neff and Louis Weisberg

Staff writers

Scott Walker, having won a second term on Nov. 4, will govern Wisconsin with an expanded Republican legislative majority. But, as Walker's Democratic challenger Mary Burke said on Election Night with a nod to Vince Lombardi: "It is OK to be disappointed tonight, but it is not OK to not get back up."

## ON ELECTION NIGHT

Walker, on Election Day, won his third statewide victory in four years, defeating Burke in a hard-fought race that brought intense national attention — and national dollars. Thanks to his victory, Walker is now seen as a possible 2016 presidential contender. He's already visited key primary and caucus states and made self-promoting appearances at high-profile conservative forums. Delivering his victory speech at State Fair Park in West Allis, Walker stood at a podium behind the logo "Continuing Wisconsin's Comeback."

In his statement to supporters, Walker said, "Wisconsin is back on the right track, and we are better off than we were four years ago, but we are not done yet."

He pledged, in his next term, to "move forward with policies aimed at helping people keep more of their paychecks through continued property and income-tax relief, helping people learn more to earn more through worker training, and helping move people from government dependence to true independence through work."

Burke, in her concession speech at the Overture Center in Madison, said, "No election outcome or political fight matters as much as the values we hold near and dear. We know we are all better off when everyone in every community across this great state gets a fair shot to get ahead."

She urged her supporters to continue to fight for quality and equality in education, fair wages, collective-bargaining rights and

reproductive freedoms.

## THE CONTEST

Walker was elected governor in 2010 and gained national prominence in 2011 after ramming through the Legislature a surprise law that eliminated collective bargaining for most public workers. He survived the historic recall election the next year and followed up with a series of laws attacking women's reproductive rights, environmental protections and public education — all of which made him a hero to right-wing Republicans.

The day after the election, Walker said his administration would "spend the next couple months putting together our legislative agenda." Walker already has said his agenda includes expanding enrollment in the private school voucher program, replacing Common Core academic standards and requiring drug tests for people seeking food stamps or unemployment benefits.

Burke gave it all to her campaign, including \$5 million of her personal wealth. She drew on Democratic Party favorites — Barack Obama and Bill Clinton campaigned on her behalf in the final weeks of the race. She also had strong, solid support from women's groups and unions.

And she campaigned on the fact that Walker fell far short of his promise to create 250,000 jobs in his first term.

But her campaign was not enough to rival the influence of big money from outside conservative groups or late-in-the-game tricks, like the well-timed circulation of rumors from the right that she was fired from her executive position with the family-owned Trek Bicycles over two decades ago. The story, denied by Burke and debunked by fact-checkers, got bounced around on conservative blogs and in social media before receiving prominent page-one play in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, which endorsed Walker in 2010. Missing from the pro-Walker coverage was the fact that Burke rejoined the family business as head



PHOTO: AP/ANDY MANIS

Fans of Wisconsin Democratic gubernatorial candidate Mary Burke react during Burke's concession speech on Nov. 4 in Madison.

of global forecasting about two years after taking a break — and then remained in that position for seven years before leaving to devote herself to charitable work helping underprivileged youth.

Although Burke came the closest to defeating Walker in his three gubernatorial races, she said she would not seek statewide office again. She currently has a seat on the Madison County School Board.

"I think I don't really fit the mold of most people who run for governor," Burke told reporters at Wisconsin Democratic headquarters on Nov. 10.

"I ran for governor because I wanted to be governor but also because it was a call to duty," she said. "There was not anyone stepping up to do this, to mount the type of campaign to win, and that's what drove me to do it."

Democratic Party Chairman Mike Tate said he would welcome Burke running again, saying she would be a great candidate in future elections, but she will continue to contribute regardless of whether she's running for public office.

Burke said she didn't regret spending \$5 million of her own money on the campaign, saying "it's a lot of money for me," but she knew going in she would have to do that in order to be competitive with Walker.

Burke laughed and cracked jokes during the 15-minute interview, saying she wasn't as bothered by the personal attacks as her supporters, including her brother John Burke, who would call to vent about the latest campaign ads targeting her.

"People are buying me drinks every time I go out, but it's going to take a lot of free drinks to get up to \$5 million," Burke said with a laugh. "It's good going out with me in Madison. You basically can count on a round of drinks wherever I go. Not that I'm spending all my time drinking."

## THE TURNOUT

About 55 percent of Wisconsin's voting-age population participated in the election, the highest turnout in a non-presidential election year in at least six decades and just a few points shy of the turnout in the 2012 recall. About 2.4 million people voted in the Nov. 4 election.

Walker raked in about 1.26 million of those votes compared with Burke's 1.12 million, giving him a victory with 52 percent of the votes cast by 55 percent of the state's electorate.

While turnout was high for a midterm election, turnout in the Democratic base

**WALKER** next page



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PHOTO: AP/MORRY GASH

**Supporters cheer as they watch election results on TV during Wisconsin Republican Gov. Scott Walker's campaign party on Nov. 4 in West Allis.**

**WALKER** from prior page

tions of Milwaukee and Dane County — 65 percent and 69 percent, respectively — were too low for Burke to overcome high GOP turnout in counties such as Waukesha, Washington and Ozaukee counties. In the 2012 presidential race, 87 percent of registered voters in Milwaukee and 79 percent in Dane County turned out to vote.

A survey from the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin and Wisconsin Election Protection identified long lines for people waiting to register to vote as the most widespread problem at the polls. At times, lines contained 50-80 people, according to the nonpartisan league, which said the problem was especially noticeable in wards with high student populations.

The watchdog group cited new laws making it more difficult to register voters ahead of the election and also shortening early voting opportunities, which disproportion-

ately affects people in low-level jobs. It's more challenging for them to take time off work to stand in long lines on Election Day. And "the net effect of these new laws, which make it harder for people to register early is to create longer lines for voter registration at the polls," said league executive director Andrea Kaminski.

Milwaukee Election Commissioner Neil Albrecht commented, "Based on the number of voters that we'd see when we offered early voting on weekend hours and the confusion we heard about voter ID, is there a probability that some people didn't vote because of one or both of those factors? I would say there's a pretty strong probability."

The league's poll observers identified some confusion at polling places early on Election Day about the state's photo ID law. The U.S. Supreme Court temporarily blocked it for the Nov. 4 election, but anonymous tricksters tried to mislead voters by circulating fliers prior to the election stating that photo IDs were indeed required. A stack of such fliers, bearing a picture of African-American U.S. Rep. Gwen Moore, were found on *Wisconsin Gazette's* rack in the garage of a Whole Foods in Milwaukee.

#### EXITING THE POLLS

Throughout the state, exit polls showed that a majority feels Wisconsin is on the right track and Walker gets the job done.

Yet, there were contradictions. Voters, for example, said they are not satisfied with economic growth. A majority of voters supported referenda on ballots in many areas of the state that called for raising the minimum wage, strengthening environmental protections and overturning Citizens United, the Supreme Court ruling that opened the door to unrestricted, anonymous contributions to political groups.

Voters in Wisconsin, as well as in the competitive states of Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio and Virginia, also expressed dissatisfaction with both the Republican and Democratic parties.

#### ELECTION DAY BRINGS GOP GUBERNATORIAL VICTORIES

- Republican Gov. Rick Scott scored a razor-thin victory against Democrat Charlie Crist in Florida.
- Republican Larry Hogan, in an upset, was elected governor of Maryland.
- Republican Asa Hutchinson won his gubernatorial race in Arkansas.
- Republican Gov. John Kasich retained his office in Ohio.
- Republican Gov. Rick Snyder kept his office in Michigan.
- Republican Sam Brownback, perhaps the most reactionary right-wing governor in the nation, won re-election in Kansas.
- Charlie Backer became Massachusetts's first Republican governor since Mitt Romney's exit in 2007.
- Republican Bruce Rauner unseated incumbent Gov. Pat Quinn in Illinois.
- Republican Gov. Paul LePage held on in Maine against openly gay challenger Mike Michaud.
- Republican Gov. Nathan Deal held on in Georgia.

Bucking the trend, Democrat Tom Wolf ousted incumbent Republican Gov. Tom Corbett in Pennsylvania.

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# Republicans expand majorities in Madison

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

There was no quickie cure for the hangover that progressives woke with on Nov. 5, after suffering defeats at the polls across the country, including in Wisconsin, where right-wing Gov. Scott Walker won a second term and the GOP could boast of greater majorities in the Capitol.

So, the hangover sufferers ignored the aches and re-committed to carrying on for their causes. "We will continue every day to stand up for what we believe in — to stand up for collective bargaining rights, for a workers' voice in the workplace and for liv-

ing wages for all workers. We will continue to be a voice for social and economic justice and for strong communities," vowed Wisconsin AFL-CIO president Phil Neuenfeldt.

Despite his determination, the odds are stacked against progressives.

Rebecca Kleefisch is still lieutenant governor. Republican prosecutor Brad Schimel defeated Democrat Susan Happ to become Wisconsin's next attorney general. His agenda is identical to that of current AG J.B. Van Hollen — anti-abortion, anti-union, anti-voting rights, pro-corporate. Republican Matt Adamczyk was elected state treasurer, succeeding Republican Kurt Schul-

ler. Right-wing state Sen. Glenn Grothman defeated moderate Democrat Mark Harris in the U.S. House race for Tom Petri's seat, giving Wisconsin one of the most embarrassingly gaffe-prone extremist congressmen in the nation.

And voters in the Nov. 4 election delivered the strongest GOP majority in the Assembly since 1957, according to Jennifer Toftness, executive director of the Republican Assembly Campaign Committee. Republicans won 11 Senate races, boosting their majority to 19 seats. For most of the last session, Republicans held the edge at 18-15.

The "results reinforce what I have been saying since the beginning of this election cycle, and that is voters will reward the party that acts as a responsible steward of their tax dollars," Senate Majority Leader Scott Fitzgerald, R-Juneau, said in a statement.

Toftness drew an even bolder conclusion: "Republicans have a strong mandate to lead the Assembly and the state of Wisconsin."

In the Assembly, Republicans won at least 62 seats, capturing 15 open seats and defeating three Democratic incumbents. One race, as WiG went to press on Nov. 12, was not called, but the GOP had an edge of 59 votes.

"This was a conservative team victory led by Gov. Walker that should be celebrated across the state," Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, R-Rochester said.

Vos added, "We look forward to passing our conservative agenda and delivering on our campaign promises of growing the economy and reforming government."

Of course, the GOP wins did not draw universal cheers. Progressives fear that two years with conservative GOP leadership in the governor's office and in charge of the Legislature could mean the advance of so-called "right to work" legislation, as well as an expansion of the state's school voucher program at the expense of public education. Also expected are relaxed environmental regulations and further efforts to restrict women's access to reproductive health care.

## PROGRESSIVES WIN REFERENDA

Still, progressives found positives in the election results, especially in their analyses

of non-binding ballot questions.

Overall, 73 percent of voters in 20 localities — including some conservative strongholds — approved non-binding referenda advising lawmakers to take enhanced federal Medicaid dollars and strengthen the state's BadgerCare health program.

"That the advisory referendums passed overwhelmingly in both red and blue areas of the state shows once again that access to health care is not a partisan issue," said Robert Kraig, executive director of Citizen Action of Wisconsin. "This issue is not going away. The BadgerCare referendum results show that the public wants Gov. Walker and the new Legislature to take advantage of the opportunity offered by the health-care reform law to expand access to affordable health coverage to moderate income families."

Another non-binding initiative, raising the minimum wage in Wisconsin, won by a wider margin than Scott Walker, who opposes a hike in the base pay. The question was on multiple ballots and the "yes" vote averaged 70 percent.

Sizable majorities also voted in favor of a U.S. constitutional amendment overturning Citizens United, the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that opened the floodgates to big money in elections. Non-binding questions were approved in Milwaukee County (70 percent), Dunn County (72 percent), Green Bay (77 percent), Appleton (74 percent), Fond du Lac (73 percent), Neenah (79 percent), Menasha (80 percent), Ripon (79 percent), Oregon (79 percent), Wausau (77 percent) and Park Ridge (83 percent). The measure was on the ballot in Stoughton, but there were problems with the count. Forty other communities in Wisconsin have already endorsed an amendment campaign.

"This clearly demonstrates the will of the people," said Betty Kossik, a campaign leader in Green Bay. "It is time for our state representatives to put this resolution to a statewide vote and to move toward sending a resolution from Wisconsin to the U.S. Congress."

Kati Schierl, a campaign leader in Neenah and Menasha, added, "The status quo needs to change."



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# America elects 'the greatest Congress the Kochs ever bought'

By Lisa Neff

Staff writer

The moon was nearly full and a red tide washed across the United States on Nov. 4. Did you hear the wolves howling?

Aided by the lowest voter turnout nationally in 72 years, Republicans made sweeping gains, seizing control of the U.S. Senate from the Democrats. The party won its largest majority in the U.S. House since the World War II era, although Republicans then were more like today's Democrats than the far-right members who dominate today's GOP.

Republicans captured the most majorities in state legislatures in 100 years and won gubernatorial races in competitive states like Wisconsin, as well as Democratic strongholds such as Illinois. The red surge seemed to swamp the South and even crept into liberal New England.

But despite the GOP victories, exit polls and ballot initiatives nationwide suggest the election was much more about dissatisfaction with Obama's leadership and slow economic growth rather than conservative values and the GOP platform — an agenda with which most voters don't seem to agree.

Still, from a progressive point of view, that agenda could prove damaging in many areas of American life. "The fight the next two years will be over the environment because of who bought the election and who won the election," said Amelia Rivera, a Madison activist and advocate with EarthJustice.

## FOSSIL FUEL FUNDING

The fossil fuel industry spent heavily in the midterms and the man likely to become chair of the House Natural Resources Committee is Rob Bishop, a Republican from Utah and an ardent foe of environmentalists.

"Bishop is devoutly committed to silencing the calls of the wild and pirating public lands for private profit and yesterday brought him one step closer to his goal of

gutting the Endangered Species Act," said Kieran Suckling, executive director of the environmental group Center for Biological Diversity.

"Big Oil helped bankroll the takeover of the Senate and they're going to want their new friends to pay tribute," said May Boeve of the environmental action group 350.org. "Expect all sorts of shenanigans when the new Congress takes control in January."

Boeve and other activists also are concerned that the new Congress will work to:

- Block EPA rules to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from power plants.
- Fast-track exports of U.S. natural gas, coal and oil.
- Halt creation of new parks and wilderness areas.
- Roll back investments in renewable energy.

▪ Open the Atlantic and environmentally sensitive lands to oil and gas drilling.

▪ Complete the controversial Keystone XL pipeline from Canada's tar sands to Texas.

"The oil and gas industry and other special interests spent big on yesterday's election and now expect those investments to pay off in the new Congress," said Matt Lee-Ashley, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress and director of the group's public lands project. The center tracked massive political spending by special interest groups in the 2014 midterm, including spending by organizations affiliated with the billionaire brothers Charles and David Koch.

Friends of the Earth president Erica Pica said, "The legacy of Citizens United looms large and powerful in this election. With a tremendous amount of spending, the Koch brothers have literally purchased the best Congress they could buy."

However, Pica said, "Americans still care about smart climate policies and expect President Obama to champion them. And that means rejecting the Keystone XL pipe-



PHOTO: AP/J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE

**Mitch McConnell of Kentucky waits to cast his ballot in the midterm election in Louisville on Nov. 4. The Senate race, with McConnell facing a challenge from Democrat Alison Lundergan Grimes, was among the most combative and closely watched contests. McConnell won.**

line, strengthening EPA regulations and making real commitments to renewable energy."

## BIPARTISAN COMPROMISE

The only hope for environmentalists and others on the side of progress to stem their losses is bipartisan compromise.

Even before the polls closed in the western states, Republican and Democratic leadership were talking about just that.

The president, during a news conference at the White House on Nov. 5, said he reached out to Republicans because, "what's most important to the American people right now, the resounding message not just of this election, but basically the last several is: Get stuff done. Don't worry about the next election. Don't worry about party affiliation."

But bipartisanship in the capital will only go so far, especially with the next year serving as a run-up to the presidential contest of 2016.

Republicans aren't likely to fall back from staunch opposition to the Affordable Care Act, the signature achievement of Barack Obama's first term. And the president has made clear he won't back down on his promise of some protections for undocumented immigrants through executive action.

So where might the parties cooperate or compromise? Probably on balancing the budget, overhauling the tax code, building up infrastructure and dealing with national security threats, from ISIS to Ebola.

Still, Sierra Club executive director Michael Brune said, "We're not backing down. A Congress elected by corporate polluters may think it can force a polluter agenda on this country. But public support is solidly behind action to tackle the climate crisis. There is a growing movement of climate and clean energy voters that will be standing up to polluters and their political allies every step of the way."

The exit polls on Nov. 4 support Brune's assertion. Most voters consider climate

change a serious problem. A majority also favors action offering undocumented immigrants a way to legally stay in the country and a slight majority thinks abortion should remain legal in most cases.

The exit polls indicate:

- Majority support for marriage equality.
- Two-thirds of voters agree the U.S. economic system favors the wealthy.
- A lot of voters don't like the health care overhaul, but many complained that it didn't go far enough.

As for ballot initiatives, voters in Alaska, Arkansas, Nebraska and South Dakota approved increases in state minimum wages. Voters in Massachusetts approved guarantees to paid sick time — one hour of sick time for every 30 hours worked.


Voters in Oregon and Alaska approved ballot measures to legalize the recreational use of marijuana and voters in the District of Columbia approved a measure to legalize possession of up to 2 ounces of pot or three mature marijuana plants. Meanwhile, 58 percent of voters backed medical marijuana in Florida, but the initiative needed 60 percent to pass.

Voters in Washington state approved a measure to expand background checks on gun sales.

At the local level, multiple communities, including locales in Wisconsin, backed measures calling for a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United, the Supreme Court ruling that cleared the way for a flood of campaign spending from businesses and special interest groups.

"Money in politics affects our lives every day," said Donna Richards, a Move to Amend volunteer from Fond du Lac. "We pay too much for health care. Our taxes go toward corporate welfare and wars instead of education and protecting our environment. Our energy policy is dictated by Big Oil and we can't even pass reasonable background checks because the gun manufacturers have bought half of Congress. This isn't what democracy looks like."

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## Pride at the polls

Openly gay U.S. Rep. Mark Pocan of Wisconsin will serve another two-year term. As will openly LGBT U.S. Reps. Mark Takano of California, Jared Polis of Colorado, Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona, Sean Patrick Maloney of New York and David Cicilline of Rhode Island.

Also, on Election Day, lesbian Maura Healey won her historic race for attorney general in Massachusetts.

There were other LGBT victories, including in Wisconsin, where the number of openly LGBT state lawmakers will increase from two to four.

Mark Spreitzer and Todd Novak will join state Rep. JoCasta Zamarripa in the Assembly. Spreitzer is the president of the Beloit City Council and Novak is the mayor of Dodgeville. He becomes the first openly gay Republican elected to the Legislature.

Meanwhile, Tim Carpenter won his third term in the state Senate without opposition. "I am truly humbled by the trust the voters in the 3rd Senate District have shown in electing me again to this office. I promise to repay this trust with hard work and dedication to the interests of the people I represent," he said.

— Lisa Neff



PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

**Maura Healey is the first LGBT attorney general in the nation. She won her election in Massachusetts.**

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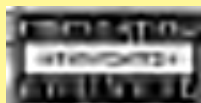
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Wisconsin LGBT  
Chamber of Commerce

## EDITORIAL

# Parsing the 2014 elections

A race is lost, and so is a rising star. Democratic gubernatorial nominee Mary Burke took on the uphill — in retrospect, quixotic — task of trying to unseat a national hero of the corporate-backed right. Tea party leaders considered Gov. Scott Walker's re-election essential to their long-term success in reducing government services, cutting taxes for corporations and the wealthy, and eliminating unions. Some right-wing leaders said that Walker's defeat would be seen as a repudiation of those goals, since Walker strode boldly to the forefront of promoting that agenda.

According to right-wing thinking, a victory by the likes of Walker, Florida Gov. Rick Scott, Ohio Gov. John Kasich and Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback would embolden other state leaders to follow them without fear of voter reprisal. On the other hand, if those governors had suffered defeat, GOP political strategists might be inclined to interpret the corporate right's policies as too politically risky. But all four governors won, giving the Koch brothers and their corporate colleagues reason to feel vindicated.

Those victories, however, were far from decisive concerning the corporate right's agenda. Kasich was helped by a deeply flawed opponent, as well as by the way his state has benefitted from the nation's economic recovery. Scott

won by only one percent of the vote — and only because voter turnout was mystifyingly low in heavily Democratic Dade and Broward counties.

Democratic turnout is generally small in midterm elections and polls show that Republican voters were more determined to punish Democratic President Barack Obama than to support right-wing corporate policies, which the majority of voters don't even understand.

If Democrats in Milwaukee and Dane counties had turned out for challenger Mary Burke in the same numbers that they have during the past two presidential elections, Walker would not have won by the 5.7 percent margin he did, or perhaps not even at all.

Former President George W. Bush made the mistake of interpreting his slim 2004 reelection victory as a mandate to continue his first-term agenda. The results were losses in the 2006 midterm elections and a Democratic landslide in 2008. Pundits expect that history to repeat itself in 2016 if the GOP treats its 2014 victories, which reflected antipathy toward Obama more than anything else, as a burning desire among voters for more of the GOP's corporate-right agenda.

Progressive Wisconsinites owe Burke gratitude for operating such a disciplined, energetic campaign on

our behalf. She promised to work hard every day if elected, and judging by her spirited and tenacious campaign, we have every reason to believe her. One of the greatest pleasures of observing the gubernatorial race was watching Burke find her footing on the campaign trail. But the last-minute, right-wing media smears perpetuated against Burke, still largely a stranger to the electorate, put her on the defensive at a time when she was gaining momentum. That, combined with typically lower Democratic midterm turnout, anti-Obama backlash and the long-established history of losses suffered by the party in the White House during the sixth year of an eight-year term, sealed the deal against her.

Nevertheless, Burke's fortitude, commitment and remarkable restraint in a contest that grew more vicious as Election Day neared will not be forgotten. While she has vowed since the election to never again campaign for statewide office, we hope her example galvanizes progressives equally committed to reclaiming this state from corporate interests that see Wisconsin as nothing more than a political pawn. Wisconsin deserves leaders in her mold, pragmatic individuals with real-world experience who want to solve Wisconsin's problems, not create more division.

## WiG's WEB PICKS



Some of our favorite recent pictorials from cyberspace

## ON THE RECORD



“When women succeed, America succeeds. And we should be choosing policies that benefit women — because that benefits all of us.”

— PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA in his final Saturday radio address before the mid-term elections.

“In keeping with our care for the earth values, this opportunity helps us get closer to our ultimate goal of providing 100 percent of our energy needs from on-site renewable energy systems. Our Benedictine values call us to do what we can to conserve precious natural resources on this earth.”

— SR. MARY DAVID WALGENBACH, the prioress of Benedictine Women of Madison with Holy Wisdom Monastery, commenting on the recent installation of 463 solar panels on its property in Middleton. The monastery is now Madison Gas and Electric’s largest solar-producing customer.

“I’ve heard people talk about images in popular culture changing, and that makes me feel great, because it means that the little girl I was, once upon a time, has an image to instill in her that she is beautiful, that she is worthy — that she can. Until I saw people who looked like me, doing the things I wanted to, I wasn’t so sure it was a possibility. Seeing Whoopi Goldberg and Oprah in *The Color Purple*, it dawned on me: ‘Oh — I could be an actress!’ We plant the seed of possibility.”

— Oscar winner LUPITA NYONG’O talking about “the Lupita effect” in an interview that appears in the December issue of *Glamour* magazine, which named Nyong’o woman of the year.

“For all you ladies in Texas, trust me when I tell you this: when you’re seated in your restroom, putting on your Maybelline, when I need to take a leak, I’m not going there.”

— PHIL ROBERTSON, head of the homophobic *Duck Dynasty* clan speaking out, yet again, against LGBT people.

“Let me be clear: I’m proud to be gay, and I consider being gay among the greatest gifts God has given me.”

— Apple CEO TIM COOK writing about being gay in a column that appeared in *Bloomberg Businessweek*.

“Ladies and gentlemen, the Republican Party has a genuine star. His name is Scott Walker. The Democrat Party, in conjunction with the national media, has thrown every bit of slime, every bit of excrement, every dirty trick they have at Scott Walker, and he has beat every effort. Scott Walker defeated the A team, not once, not twice, but three times. What’s happened in Wisconsin doesn’t get very much chatter because it’s Wisconsin. It’s the upper Midwest, no real stars there.”

— Part of a lengthy on-air hosanna that RUSH LIMBAUGH gave to Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker on his reelection. Despite the windy, fact-challenged praise, Limbaugh made the state sound like a backwater place of little consequence.



## The Road to Wisconsin Gazette

## Opinion

JAMAKAYA

*Wisconsin Gazette* celebrates its fifth anniversary this month. It’s a wonderful accomplishment in this era when newspapers are struggling and face competition from so many digital distractions.

Being a columnist for *WiG*, I’m not exactly an unbiased observer. Yet I have a unique perspective on how far queer journalism has come. I know where *WiG* fits into the scheme of things because I’ve been writing for LGBT presses since the 1970s.

My first reporting in a gay publication was for the *GPU News* in 1977-78. Editor Eldon Murray grew what began as a news outlet for Milwaukee’s Gay People’s Union into a nationally distributed monthly magazine featuring poetry and fiction as well as news and commentary.

From 1979 to 1983, I published *Amazon: Milwaukee’s Feminist Press*, a bi-monthly for Milwaukee’s feminist and lesbian communities. Ama-

zon covered women’s music festivals and protests. It showcased poetry and political manifestos. It was half inspiration, half argumentation.

Production in those days was primitive. We typed stories on an IBM Selectric typewriter and cut and pasted the copy onto graph paper. We created headlines by using an X-Acto knife to cut each letter from large sheets of different fonts and laying them evenly across the page to form words. It was exhausting. Printing turnaround could be up to two weeks! Every issue that came out was a miracle.

Eldon Murray was passionate about men and gay rights; I was a raging lesbian feminist. But we always agreed about one thing: It was essential to document the development of our communities (gay, lesbian, feminist) and that in doing so we were writing the first draft of our histories.

In the late 1980s and ‘90s, I wrote for *Wisconsin Light* and *Wisconsin In Step*, two publications that covered an exciting period of growth for the queer community.

AIDS, outing, PrideFest, the anti-gay backlash, the Jeffrey Dahmer case — there was never a dull moment.

Word processing and then desktop publishing made production more efficient. However, lack of journalistic expertise and quality control often led to inaccuracies and typos, and the publications relied too much on revenue from phone sex ads, scaring away other advertisers and many readers.

*Wisconsin Gazette* has many things going for it that previous publications lacked.

Businessman and community activist Leonard Sobczak invested substantial capital to launch and sustain *WiG*. He hired veteran editor Louis Weisberg who called in professional colleagues like Lisa Neff and Gregg Shapiro, who provided outstanding news and arts coverage from the start.

*WiG*’s stories venture beyond gay issues, covering topics like environmentalism, animal welfare, women’s rights and immigration. Gay people are not defined or impacted solely by our sexuality. We engage with the world and are invested in its

progress.

*WiG* now engages with the broader world too. Since late 2013, the paper has rebranded itself as a broad-spectrum alternative publication, and its slogan has changed to match, from “The voice of progress for Wisconsin’s LGBT community” to the more direct “Progressive. Alternative.”

*WiG* won the Milwaukee Press Club Award for Best Designed Newsprint Publication in Wisconsin for 2013. Is there any paper more colorful or welcoming to the eye? I don’t think so.

The rich content and classy design attract a wider range of readers and advertisers than previous publications. *WiG* has an easy-to-navigate web site where you can check on breaking news and sign up to have a PDF of each issue sent to you via email the night before it hits the streets.

It’s great to see how far the LGBT community has come as part of the broader progressive community, and exhilarating to be part of such a professional, widely read and growing alternative publication.

## Progressives must step forward, then run

## Opinion

SCOTT SPECTOR

The midterm election results were obviously not everything that progressives were hoping for. However, many strong progressive champions were elected to the Legislature across Wisconsin. This includes two new state senators — Janis Ringhand in Janesville and Janet Bewley in Ashland. Four new progressive state assembly members under the age of 35 also were elected on Nov. 4, which means we now have 10 Democrats under 35 serving in the Legislature. The youth movement among progressives is alive and well.

Progressives have important work to do to rebuild our infrastructure. This will not happen overnight. If we want to be successful, we

must first focus on recruiting and electing champions to local office. Mayors, county board supervisors, town board chairs and school board members all serve as an important check on conservative overreach coming from the state Capitol. They are the officials who have to endure the consequences of the policies created by the Republican majority. In the years to come, we must rely on these local elected officials to provide a voice for progressives — and to make it clear that decisions made in Madison affect Wisconsinites every day.

Our local elected officials are the bench of future candidates who will run for higher office. We must focus our efforts on electing smart, energetic progressives to local offices in rural and suburban communities across the state, as well as in our cities. We must prepare them

once they are elected to be effective and forward thinking. And we must continue to help them develop so that they can successfully make the jump from local office to legislative office in Madison.

This is a blueprint that Republicans nationally have been following for decades, and we have only just begun to implement in the Badger State.

Since our founding five years ago, *Wisconsin Progress* has recruited, trained and helped elect hundreds of progressive leaders to local political offices around the state, and we are committed to redoubling that effort moving forward.

In April 2015, we will be working in critical local elections around the state to elect progressives to 29 city council chambers, 17 village/town boards, thirty school boards and to three county executive offices and ten

mayoral offices.

With less than a month until the official start of the 2015 spring election season, *Wisconsin Progress* knows that the important work of rebuilding starts now.

We all have the opportunity to make Wisconsin a better place to live, work and raise a family. We ask that you take a step forward — run for local office and become a voice for our progressive values.

And if you need a hand, *Wisconsin Progress* is here to help.

*Scott Spector is the executive director of Wisconsin Progress, a state-based organization that recruits, trains and develops candidates at the local and state level. Wisconsin Progress is committed to making Wisconsin a better place to live, work and raise a family.*



# 5 years on the beat

The *Wisconsin Gazette* was conceived over dinner at a sushi restaurant in Kenosha in June 2009. Present were photographer Jason Smith, journalist Lisa Neff and Louis Weisberg, who'd worked in both journalism and marketing. The three, who had worked together at weekly LGBT newspapers in Chicago, presented Milwaukee businessman Leonard Sobczak with a terrible idea: to start a new LGBT publication at the depth of the worst recession in memory.

Despite the odds, Sobczak agreed to fund the enterprise, primarily as a public service for the state's LGBT community. The paper's first cover story on Nov. 19, 2009, was an interview with U.S. Rep. Tammy Baldwin, who said that she might consider running for U.S. Senate some day — a successful campaign *WiG* would still be around to cover.

*WiG* found widespread acceptance from the start. Responding to its broadening audience and seeking to connect the LGBT community with other progressive supporters and causes, *WiG* rebranded in 2013 as an independent alternative voice for all things progressive. Last summer, *WiG* joined the national Association of Alternative Newsmedia as an affiliate member, receiving a unanimous recommendation from the group's board.

With a lot of hard work, talent and sufficient capitalization, *WiG* has grown in every way, proving that print is far from dead. The print run of this edition is 25,500 papers, nearly three times the number of our first edition. The papers are distributed at more than 650 sites in southeastern Wisconsin and Madison. Online, *wisconsin-gazette.com* has twice won awards from the Milwaukee Press Club for best local news website, and *WiG*'s Facebook community is the most actively engaged of any alternative paper in Milwaukee and the second-most active in Madison.

## WIG'S BACKBONE

Senior editor Lisa Neff, above at her desk in Anna Maria, Florida, has proven that distance is no obstacle when it comes to reporting the news. It helps that Neff is a native of Waukegan, Illinois, and has close family ties to Kenosha. It also helps that she's one of the most professional and hard-working journalists in the nation, having racked up awards and respect at daily news-

papers from New England to Rock Island, Illinois. Neff and *WiG* publisher Louis Weisberg have a magical yin-and-yang rapport that dates back two decades. In 1999, they were part of a group of colleagues who founded the *Chicago Free Press*, which quickly grew to become the largest LGBT weekly newspaper in that city until Neff departed for sunnier climes and Weisberg left for what proved to be a temporary career in marketing and advertising.

## Wisconsin Gazette .com

November 19, 2009 | Vol. 1, No. 1

### WELCOME!

THANK YOU for picking up our premiere issue. Like what you see? Share it with friends, family and co-workers. Have feedback? Write us at [managingeditor@wisconsin-gazette.com](mailto:managingeditor@wisconsin-gazette.com).

THE VOICE OF PROGRESS FOR WISCONSIN'S LGBT COMMUNITY

### Court delivers 'huge' victory for state partners

By Louis Weisberg

*WiG Staff Writer*  
MADISON — The Wisconsin Supreme Court has rejected a lawsuit seeking to declare the state's domestic partner registry unconstitutional.

In an unusual move, lawyers for Wisconsin Family Action had filed the case directly with the state's high court rather than a lower court of jurisdiction. The Christian-right group said that "it was important to act quickly," because the registry violates a 2006 constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage or civil unions.

Supporters of the registry argue that domestic partnerships are not the equivalent Partner page 5



## Still 'out' front

By Louis Weisberg

*WiG Staff Writer*  
MADISON — Shortly after joining Congress, Tammy Baldwin took her partner to an official event and gave her

After keeping LGBT rights on Congress' radar

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inside and online at [wisconsin-gazette.com](http://wisconsin-gazette.com)

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## Reaching out to save the monarch butterfly

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- 8 Bachmann's last bow As her term concludes, the Minnesota conservative stays mum about her future aspirations.
- 17 MMoCA's mountain Artist Jason S. Yi finishes a landscape-influenced installation at the Museum of Contemporary Art.
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- 24 Wines red and green Portugal's red table wines and sparkling whites are exemplary and affordable options.



*Wisconsin Gazette is the winner of SEVENTEEN Milwaukee Press Club Awards*

2011	2012	2013
<i>Silver</i>	<i>Silver</i>	<i>Gold</i>
Best Overall Design	Best Local News Website	Best Story Any Medium
Best Local News Website	Louis Weisberg and Lisa Neff	Lisa Neff
Louis Weisberg and Lisa Neff	Best Column	Best Overall Design
	Jamakaya	Best Illustration or Cartoon
<i>Bronze</i>	Best Overall Design	Maureen M. Kane
Best Special Section Design	Best Single Page Design	Best Coverage of a Single News Topic or Event
Best Single Page Design		Louis Weisberg
Best Coverage of a Single News Topic or Event		<i>Silver</i>
Louis Weisberg		Best Essay or Critical Review
		Michael Muckian



DiCaprio on greed  
Oscar-nominated actor Leonardo DiCaprio disses the hedonism and greed flaunted by his character in *Wolf of Wall Street*.  
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**Major missteps that cost Wisconsin jobs**

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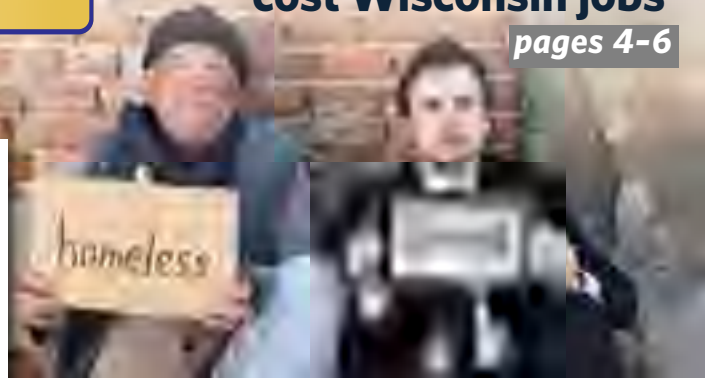


PHOTO: WIG  
LEFT: WiG President and CEO Leonard Sobczak, right, and Dave Pionke, his partner and an unofficial part of the newspaper's auxiliary team, staff the Wisconsin Gazette's PrideFest booth in 2012.



Pride Series 2 includes pix from PrideFest & parade page 19

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**Wisconsin celebrates first gay marriages**

page 14



4 New fly zones Climate change is affecting bird behavior, including where and when species migrate.  
6 25 years after Defying government, Chinese remember demonstration, massacre in Tiananmen Square.  
10 Jenniferize Pride Jennifer Hudson aims to "Jenniferize" Chicago's Pride Festival this month.  
11 Up and coming Milwaukee band Guilty Wannad graduates to headline position at Summerfest.  
15 Summer freeze La Coppa Artisan Gelato and others are giving ice cream the cold shoulder.

**MUCH TO CELEBRATE**

The past five years have been a roller-coaster for progressives in Wisconsin, and WiG's staff has been privileged to chronicle such a dynamic slice of history. LGBT acceptance in the state has soared, but women, unions, immigrants and people of color have faced daunting discrimination and injustice. The fight for social and economic justice has never met with greater resistance in the state, and WiG is on top of every facet of that overarching story. We hope to continue promoting those goals, along with conservation, animal welfare, good government and support for the state's incomparable arts scene, for many years to come.

Our efforts have been rewarding, professionally and personally. The Milwaukee Press Club has recognized us with 17 awards since 2011. And when a federal judge in Wisconsin overturned the state's anti-gay marriage ban in June, WiG publisher Louis Weisberg and original circulation manager Robert Wright were among the first to say "I do" at the Milwaukee County Courthouse.



PHOTO: DAVE LAUERSDORF  
LEFT: Publisher Louis Weisberg, business manager Kaity Weisensel and original circulation manager (and Weisberg's husband) Robert Wright enjoy Big Night Out, the annual fundraiser for the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, in 2013.

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- 9 Hoosiers show heart Indiana lawmakers stall a measure to enact a constitutional ban against marriage equality.
- 10 Workers rising up Wisconsin GOP defeats a proposal to hike the minimum wage and proposes a seven-day work week.
- 21 Woody Sez Tom Strini praises the Rep for authenticity in presenting the music of Woody Guthrie.
- 25 Madison Ballet Repertory performance explores new themes and dance styles

## NATIONAL BRIEFS

### AUDUBON PLANNING CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The National Audubon Society is recruiting volunteers across the western hemisphere to participate in the longest-running citizen science survey in the world — the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count.

Each year from Dec. 14 to Jan. 5, Audubon mobilizes more than 70,000 volunteer observers in more than 2,400 locations, including Wisconsin. The counters produce the most comprehensive data set depicting the fluctuation, range and movement of bird populations across the continent.

Scientists rely on the data to better understand how birds and the environment are faring. Every local count continues a holiday tradition stretching back a century.

"The Audubon Christmas Bird Count harnesses volunteer power to gather knowledge that shapes conservation policy at enormous scales in this country," said Audubon president David Yarnold. "Christmas Bird Count data is becoming increasingly important not only in documenting current climate change but in predicting the future effects of climate change on North American bird populations."

For more information, including how to join the effort, go to [christmasbirdcount.org](http://christmasbirdcount.org).

### JUDGE APPROVES BANKRUPTCY EXIT PLAN FOR DETROIT

A judge cleared Detroit to emerge from

bankruptcy Friday, approving a hard-fought turnaround plan to help fix the Motor City.

"What happened in Detroit must never happen again," federal judge Steven Rhodes said in bringing the case to a close 16 months after Detroit became the biggest city in U.S. history to file for bankruptcy.

The plan calls for cutting the pensions of 12,000 non-public safety retirees by 4.5 percent, erasing \$7 billion of debt and spending \$1.7 billion to demolish thousands of blighted buildings, make the city safer and improve long-neglected basic services.

Rhodes praised decisions that settled the most contentious issues in the case, including a deal to prevent the sale of world-class art at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

Detroit was brought down by a combination of factors, including corruption and mismanagement at City Hall, a long decline in the auto industry, and a flight to the suburbs that caused the population to plummet to 688,000 from 1.2 million in 1980.

The case concluded in lightning speed by bankruptcy standards, largely due to a series of deals between Detroit and major creditors. It took more than two years for a smaller city, Stockton, California, to get out of bankruptcy.

### In other national news ...

- **The U.S. Census Bureau** recently released a new estimate of the number of U.S. same-sex married couples: 252,000. The



PHOTO: DETROIT INSTITUTES OF ART

**The holdings of the Detroit Institute of Arts remain safe after a federal judge approved a bankruptcy exit plan that prevents the sale of the museum's city-purchased art.**

data show a sharp increase, but agency officials acknowledge the estimates are flawed following the wave of court rulings that cleared the way for marriage equality in a majority of states.

- **A state judge** refused to block Oklahoma's restrictions on non-surgical abortion. The Center for Reproductive Rights responded with an emergency appeal to the Oklahoma Supreme Court. The state measure restricts medication abortions in the earliest stages of pregnancy, forcing women to instead seek surgical procedures.

- **The New Hampshire Civil Liberties Union** and three voters, including a state representative and a man who voted for his dead dog because he didn't approve of the candidates, are challenging a new law that bans ballot photos being posted to social media or shared with anyone. The law makes publishing someone's marked

ballot a violation punishable by a \$1,000 fine.

- **The state of Vermont** wants a judge to order the forfeiture of animals seized from a holiday-themed park — Santa's Land — over concerns about their health. Earlier this year, the park's owner and caretaker were charged with animal cruelty after some animals were found dead at the park in Putney.

- **Justice Sonia Sotomayor** is considering Kansas' request to postpone implementation of a judge's ruling in favor of same-sex marriage. The American Civil Liberties Union sued to overturn Kansas' ban after the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear appeals from five states seeking to save their gay marriage bans. Among them were Oklahoma and Utah, which are in the same appeals court circuit as Kansas.

— Lisa Neff

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## REGIONAL BRIEFS



PHOTO: COURTESY

**Voces de la Frontera will host Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas as the keynote speaker at this year's Gala de Colores, which is Dec. 12 at the Hyatt Regency, 333 W. Kilbourn Ave., Milwaukee. Vargas gained nationwide attention when he came out as an undocumented immigrant. His story is told in *Documented: A Film by an Undocumented American*.**

### BIG MONEY DROWNS OUT VOICE OF SMALL BUSINESS

A recent Wisconsin survey finds the owners of small businesses think big businesses have an unfair influence on government decisions and the political process, which gives them a competitive advantage.

Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research conducted the poll for the Small Business Majority earlier this fall. The researchers found 71 percent of small business owners say big businesses have a significant impact on government decisions and the political process. However, just 18 percent say small businesses have a significant impact on the process. Two-thirds of small business owners say major changes are needed to the electoral system.

"Small businesses like mine make up the backbone of America's economy,

but wealthy special interests often overshadow our voices because of unfair campaign finance laws," said Mike Phillips, co-founder of B2B Dynamix in Milwaukee. "We need reforms to increase transparency and give everyone an equal say in the policy process." For more, go online to [smallbusinessmajority.org](http://smallbusinessmajority.org).

### WAUKESHA SCHOOL RENAMED FOR GUITAR LEGEND LES PAUL

Music legend Les Paul discovered his penchant for guitar at Waukesha Junior High. Now school officials hope Paul's inspiration and innovative spirit rub off on current students. They've renamed the suburban school after the country and jazz guitarist who developed technology and recording techniques that set the standard in the music industry.

Born Lester William Polfuss in 1915, Paul built his first crystal radio at age 9, around the time he first picked up a guitar. Playing it came quickly for Paul, and he performed on the school stage that still stands today in Waukesha.

Paul went on to develop tape echo, multi-track recording and overdubs. He was even working on improving hearing aid technology when he died in 2009, at the age of 94.

His son, Rusty Paul, and longtime business manager Michael Braunstein said Waukesha was very important to Les Paul. He insisted on being buried there even though he lived in New Jersey.

"He would be blown away that the fact his hometown thought so much of him that they would do this," said Braunstein, the executive director of the Les Paul Foundation.

The renamed Les Paul Middle School features Paul's quotes painted on walls, his name in the gym and a historical display. The foundation funded the transition, including sign changes, new letterheads and uniforms.

### In other regional news ...

• **Wisconsin Democrats** asked for an audit of the Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare because of a large backlog of unresolved child abuse and neglect cases. State Rep. LaTonya Johnson specifically

cited the death of an autistic boy and said the backlog put thousands of children like him at risk.

• **The National Heritage Land Trust** announced the purchase of 40 acres of land on the northeast side of Stoughton in Dane County. The conservation group said the purchase includes more than a mile fronting the Yahara River, a stopover for migrating waterfowl. For more, go online to [nhlt.org](http://nhlt.org).

• **America Recycles Day** is Nov. 15 and the Associated Recyclers of Wisconsin want to make sure Wisconsinites participate. For details, go online to [arow-online.org](http://arow-online.org).

• **The Donald C. Cook Nuclear Power Plant** in southwestern Michigan brought two reactors back online after rough waters on Lake Michigan forced a shutdown for several days. Swells off the lake washed debris into cooling water tunnels.


— WiG and AP reports

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# Dish it Out!

## Chef Tory Miller: Cook authentically this Thanksgiving

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Madison chef Tory Miller plans Thanksgiving dinner around the same main dish as most families — the turkey.

But the James Beard winner, who owns the Madison restaurants L'Etoile, Graze and Sujeo, a pan-Asian eatery that opened last summer, raises the bar on his holiday feast, preparing birds that are worth their calories. He says Thanksgiving provides a unique opportunity for chefs of all capabilities to step up their game.

"Thanksgiving dinner offers a near-perfect balance of culinary elements, from sweet to salty, from the richness of gravies

to the tartness of Wisconsin cranberries," Miller says.

Given his "slow food" and locavore ethos, Miller uses tricks and techniques that might be a little different from what we attempt at home. Take, for example, the bird itself.

"I try and pick a turkey from a grower I know," Miller says. "Buying direct from the farm will cost you more, but it supports local agriculture and can introduce your family to new flavors."

Heritage turkeys, now available online from growers statewide, were once on the verge of irrelevance, thanks to the ubiquity of Butterball and other supermarket birds.

During the 1990s, industrially raised Broadbreasted Whites replaced flavorful heritage breeds with a turkey that is factory bred under shockingly inhumane conditions. Broadbreasted Whites are so named because they have chests so disproportionately large that they often can't stand, walk or mate. They're artificially inseminated, and the chicks are raised in incubators after having their claws and upper beaks clipped so they can't injure each other in the cramped, filthy cages where they spend their lives.

Fed with a diet heavy on corn to fatten them up, the birds are disease-prone due to their living conditions and are fed large quantities of antibiotics to keep them alive. The twin diets continue through the turkey's abnormally fast 12-week growth cycle, after which they are shipped to the slaughterhouse for processing.

Heritage turkeys are raised naturally. While not as meaty in the breast, the birds make up for their lack of girth with richer and more varied flavors. In order to be considered a heritage breed, a turkey must be raised outdoors, mate naturally and enjoy a lifespan typical to that of a normal turkey.

The American Poultry Association currently lists about a dozen varieties that meet their exacting standards, including the standard Bronze, Beltsville Small White, Black, Bourbon Red, Narragansett, Royal Palm, Slate and White Holland breeds.

In Wisconsin, local farmers favor the American Bronze, one of the most flavorful varieties of heritage turkeys. They remind us why Thanksgiving was once such a highly anticipated holiday.

In addition to choosing a healthy and flavorful turkey, Miller marinates his birds for 48 hours prior to preparation. For a



PHOTO: SHUTTERSTOCK

Thanksgiving is the opportunity to show off your culinary skills, says Madison chef Tory Miller. He chooses only humanely raised local turkeys for his central dish.

15- or 20-pound bird, he prepares a water bath seasoned with two cups of kosher salt and one cup of sugar, along with coriander, allspice cloves and other herbs and spices.

Miller cooks the brine for 15 to 20 minutes and then cuts it with ice. The goal is to rapidly cool the brine and increase its volume to at least the gallon necessary to cover the turkey. Once set, the bird absorbs the solution, augmenting the natural juices.

On Thanksgiving Day, Miller removes the bird from the brine and dries it thoroughly. Turning his oven to its highest temperature, he cooks the bird for 30 minutes, searing the outside to keep the moisture and flavors

in the meat.

Miller then reduces the temperature to 325 degrees and cooks the turkey for another hour. Since the bird expels some juices, the chef lets it rest for 30 minutes prior to serving.

A dressing of breadcrumbs, wild mushrooms, turkey livers, pork sausage and aromatic vegetables completes the entrée.

Some of Miller's favorite Thanksgiving side dishes are white wine-braised Brussels sprouts, hickory nut-topped sweet potato casserole and gastrique of currants (rather than cranberries), which together complete a feast of unparalleled flavors.

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Madison's original locavore dining experience, L'Etoile this year adopted a multi-course, prix fixe menu as a way to better highlight local foods and creative presentations. A three-course dinner is \$65, with accompanying wines priced at \$45. The seven-course dinner is \$125, with wine selection at \$65.

#### Graze

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Located across the hall from L'Etoile, Graze honors New York's gastropub scene, elevating pub fare while keeping its sister restaurant's local focus. Graze is the home of the \$21 Graze Burger, stacking bacon, sirloin, ribeye, short ribs and caramelized onions between a brioche bun with Worcestershire-cabernet jus and Emmental compound butter.

#### Sujeo

10 N. Livingston St., Madison  
608-630-9400

Tory Miller honors his Korean heritage in this pan-Asian restaurant and noodle bar located in the street-level suite of the new 12-story Constellation apartment building. The menu includes Korean Ssam, a dish of lettuce-wrapped meats.

# Taste tradition in red wines of the Old World

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Next time you pour a glass of wine, consider how long the nectar of the grape has been filling drinking vessels around the world.

The first evidence of wine dates back to 6000 B.C. in the Middle East, and its progeny has been pouring forth ever since. Only during the past several hundred years, however, has a geographically-based wine industry created a spirited competition among winemakers worldwide.

Most U.S. wine drinkers are well versed in "New World" wines, which include those produced in the United States, South America, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Bright, zesty and fruit-forward, those wines trade on aromatic noses and abundant, vivid flavors.

Then there is "Old World" wine, a term for wines produced in Europe, the Middle East and points between. These traditional wines are generally less fruity and more subdued, because Old World wines were meant, first and foremost, as a complement to food. They were also often blended to remain cellared for extended periods, making the resulting wines refined and subtle.

Treat yourself to some Old World wines this holiday season for a taste of tradition. Following are seven reds from five countries that provide great examples of traditional Old World wines that don't break the bank.

Long noted for its fine port dessert wines, Portugal has recently emerged as a provider of fine table wines as well. One favorite we've written about before is the **2009 Grão Vasco Dão Red** (\$8.99). Grown in the Região Demarcada do Dão, a mountainous region in central Portugal whose climate is tempered by both maritime and continental influences, the wine is blended from touriga nacional, tinta roriz, Jaen, afrocheiro and tinta pinheira grapes.

The wine pours a medium ruby red, with hints of plum and black cherry on the nose. Those notes, including a hint of balsamic, carry over to the palate, which is characterized by elegance, smoothness and well-balanced tannins and acidity.

Spain also offers fine selections, one of which stands out for its character and value. Fans of "old vine" wines will find the **2010 Finca Museum Vinea Cigales Crianza** (\$21) a special treat, because it's produced from Tempranillo grapes grown on vines estimated to be between 60 and 100 years old.

The garnet wine is elegant, even a bit velvety, with dark cherries, cocoa, plums and vanilla on both the nose and palate. Well-structured tannins provide a framework that gives the wine a lingering, pleasing finish.

The great chateaus of France produce some of the world's greatest wines, but they are beyond many wine drinkers' price reach. That doesn't mean there isn't a wealth of affordable options waiting to be sampled. The **2011 Hecht & Bannier Miner-**

**vois** (\$24) may be one of the more unusually pleasing ones.

Minervois is a name for distinctive red wines from the Languedoc region in southwestern France. The grapes used in these wines benefit from long days of Mediterranean sunshine. The wine itself is a blend of syrah (45 percent), grenache (45 percent) and touches of both mourvèdre and carignan. The result is fruity, with flavors of blackberry, blueberry and spice. Firm tannins give strength and structure to the wine, which has a slight minerality and finishes with a hint of chocolate on the back palate.

Equally good is the **2012 Domaine Faiveley Bourgogne Rouge** (\$24). The wine is blended from pinot noir grapes sourced from vineyards in Côte de Nuits, Côte de Beaune and Côte



Chalonnaise. The resulting wine offers a palate of bright red fruits and a refined finish that speaks to its high Burgundy pedigree.

Austria isn't known for its red wines, and those it does produce are usually reserved for local consumption. Thankfully, such is not the case with the **2011 Biohoff Pratsch Zweigelt Organic Wine** (\$15).

Grown in the Weinviertal region near Vienna and produced entirely from organic zweigelt grapes, Austria's favorite red wine grape, the wine offers a bright blend of fruit and spice. Its nose of dark red fruits gives way to a palate of cherry, raspberry and black pepper; a good structure and light acidity make it a compelling complement to food.

Finally it's on to Italy, where we have saved the best for last.

Vintners still make chianti in the traditional wicker-wrapped bottles, but the best ones eschew the tourist trappings and stand on their

**REDS** next page



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REDS from prior page

own character. The **2005 Ruffino Riserva Ducale Chianti Classico Riserva** (\$28) stands taller than most.

A fragrant nose of sweet cherry and berry fruits gives way to a well-balanced palate of red fruits with hints of tobacco, figs and white pepper. The wine's flavors linger in a long, refined finish.

As good as the Ruffino is, it doesn't quite stand up to the **2010 Farina Amarone della Valpolicella** (\$47).

Amarones are the pride of Valpolicella, because of the process by which they are made. The grapes used in the wine — in this case corvina (70 percent), rondinella (20 percent) and molinara (10 percent) — are sun-dried on

wooden trays for up to six months after picking, a process that concentrates the fruits' natural sugars and, consequently, the wine's rich flavors. The grapes are pressed and the wine barrel-aged for three to four years, then bottle-aged for an additional year.

The result is a rich red wine of great depth and character. Fruit flavors and earthiness blend to give it a spicy, even slightly bitter quality that clearly tells of its terroir and the volcanic, gravelly soil in which the vines were raised and the traditional processes by which the wine was blended.

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# WIGOUT! WIG

## Conductor De Waart makes most of streamlined MSO

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Edo de Waart, music director of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, has logged a lot of miles in the past few months. Yet the 73-year-old maestro remains remarkably vibrant and ready to take on his share of the MSO's 2014-15 season.

A native of Amsterdam, de Waart splits his time as music director between the MSO and the Royal Flemish Philharmonic in Antwerp, Belgium, where earlier this fall he spent two weeks of his annual 12-week commitment conducting works by Gustav Mahler and Richard Strauss. After that, de Waart flew to Kuala Lumpur for a two-week series with the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, made a brief stop in Madison (where he lives with his wife Rebecca and their two young children), and then headed to the Twin Cities to conduct an all-Strauss program performed by the Minnesota Orchestra.

"I am wildly jet-lagged," says de Waart, just a week after his return to Madison. He'd already opened his sixth season with the MSO in September. The opening came in the wake of a financial crisis.

Back in 2012, in order to eliminate its long-term debt and try to stabilize its finances, MSO was forced to pull \$6.5 million from its unrestricted endowment funds.

That proved not to be quite enough. MSO posted a \$2.1 million revenue deficit at the close of its 2012-13 fiscal year in August 2013, a figure that added to the orchestra's \$2.5 million structural deficit. Without many options, the company sent out a call in December 2013 asking old and new donors to help fill the immediate need for \$5 million to staunch the bleeding bottom line.

"People had been telling us for years to get our house in order, and they were absolutely right," de Waart says. "We have been through 18 or 19 years of red ink and have always teetered on the brink."

Fortunately, the donors came through. After some tough negotiations with the orchestra's musicians that ultimately resulted in reducing the number of musicians from 79 to 68 and changing their health benefits, the MSO continues to survive, albeit on a smaller scale with a more restricted repertoire.

Other orchestras and performing arts groups have not been so lucky. Budgetary woes and musicians' strikes have affected

the Minnesota Orchestra, Detroit Symphony Orchestra and Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in recent years, with the latter agreeing on Nov. 8 to a four-year contract, after a two-month lockout. In 2013 alone, the San Diego Opera and New York Opera ceased to exist, and the Nashville Symphony Orchestra nearly joined them, avoiding foreclosure by mere days.

De Waart says he was not aware how dire MSO's financial situation was when he took over as music director in 2008. He originally planned to pursue building a symphony hall designed specifically for orchestral concerts.

Obviously the hall never materialized, and MSO still calls the Marcus Center home. But being in "survival mode" has helped the company hone in on cultivating the musicians who remain.

"We're in a carefully optimistic mood," de Waart says. "Artistically, we have not lost anything and the orchestra still plays wonderfully."

Still, the downsized orchestra forces de Waart to be cautious when he programs his seasons. Big symphonies by composers like Mahler, Anton Bruckner and Dmitri Shostakovich can only be scheduled once or twice a year, when MSO can hire freelance performers to fill out the various orchestral sections needed to do the compositions justice.

Other than that, de Waart says, programming for MSO is much like programming for other orchestras, requiring a mix of audience favorites — Beethoven, Handel, Mozart, Strauss and Tchaikovsky, for example — and new works.

"Programs that work offer a good balance between what audiences know and would like to hear again, some pieces that they know by name only, and some that they have never heard of before," de Waart says. "You also want to make the program appealing to the orchestra, because if they enjoy playing it, the audience will enjoy hearing it."

Audiences in general enjoy a mix that leans heavily on a blend of European classicists, including British, French, Russian and Scandinavian composers, he adds. However, the heavy lifting is still done by middle-European composers from Germany, Austria, Poland and Slovakia.

"There's a general aversion among audiences to composers with names they can't pronounce," de Waart says. "If it's a name they haven't heard before, it's like serving up a new fruit. They're less apt to bite into it, so we serve it up in little

pieces."

Milwaukee audiences are no different, but their relative acceptance and appetite for new works pleases the conductor.

"They know their stuff and are pretty sophisticated," de Waart says. "It's nice to do your work in front of people who have a good ear for it."

De Waart's favorite composers include Hector Berlioz, Bruckner, Edward Elgar, Mahler, Strauss, Tchaikovsky and others of the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

"I like the Romantic and late Romantic style very much, because the writing for the orchestra is so sublime," de Waart says. "It's music that has a beating heart and comes right out of the emotionality of the composer."

Despite the MSO's continuing financial challenges, de Waart believes his

orchestra can offer performances that are greater than its reduced size would suggest.

"MSO does an exemplary job on those works, both the classics and the contemporary," de Waart says. "The musicians are adroit and flexible, which is a prerequisite for the modern orchestra. It's the ability to creep into many different skins, as it were, that makes MSO as fine an orchestra as it is."



### ON STAGE

Edo de Waart returns to the MSO to conduct Beethoven's Sixth "Pastoral" Symphony Jan. 16-17 at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, 929 N. Water St. For more information and tickets, visit [mso.org](http://mso.org) or call 414-291-7605.

# Roches' mother-daughter harmonies to fill Shank Hall

By Bill Lamb

Contributing writer

To their many fans, the surnames Roche and Wainwright imply musical royalty. Their intertwined family tree has created two generations of accomplished folk musicians connected by blood and marriage.

Two key members of the family join together in concert on Nov. 19 at Milwaukee's Shank Hall. Suzzy Roche and her daughter Lucy Wainwright Roche are appearing to support their joint 2013 album *Fairytale and Myth*.

Suzzy (rhymes with "fuzzy") Roche is the youngest of the sister trio The Roches. After the release of the group's self-titled 1979 album, The Roches were invited by Paul Simon to perform on *Saturday Night Live*, giving the group national exposure. But despite glowing critical reviews and the support of such acclaimed musicians as Robert Fripp, The Roches never achieved a major commercial breakthrough. One of their most enduring recordings is the 1990 Christmas collection *We Three Kings*.

In 1997, with The Roches on hiatus, Suzzy Roche released her first solo album *Holy Smokes*, and followed it with the outstanding *Songs From an Unmarried Housewife and Mother, Greenwich Village, USA* in 2000. In addition to featuring guest vocals by Lucy Wainwright Roche, Suzzy Roche included her daughter's father, ex-husband Loudon Wainwright III. He and folk singer

Kate McGarrigle are the parents of musicians Rufus and Martha Wainwright.

Lucy Wainwright Roche initially rejected the family career path and became an elementary school teacher. She once told NPR, "I had no interest in being a musician, because I was surrounded by them. It seemed like a terrible plan."

In 2005, however, she joined half-brother Rufus Wainwright on tour as a backup vocalist. By 2007, she'd released a collection of eight songs, and her debut full-length album *Lucy* appeared in 2010.

In addition to her 2013 album *There's a Last Time For Everything*, Lucy Wainwright Roche has sung backup with Neko Case and toured with Amos Lee. She's drawn comparisons to artists like Joni Mitchell.

Despite their penchant for singing about family strife, the Roche and Wainwright families' albums and concert tours are often family affairs. *Fairytale and Myth* is no different.

"I spent some of the warmest hours of my life making this album. It was one of the most magical musical moments of my life," Suzzy Roche says of working with her daughter.

The close vocal harmonies between mother and daughter will be familiar to anyone who's followed The Roches through the years. The subject matter of the album's songs includes the numerous ways in which people generate myths out of reality. Tracks on the album include



PHOTO: COURTESY

Suzzy Roche and her daughter Lucy Wainwright Roche.

a touching cover of the Beatles' "For No One"; "Lily," a song inspired by Edith Wharton's classic novel *House of Mirth* and its lead character Lily Bart; and long-time family-concert favorite "When I'm at Your House," featuring Loudon Wainwright III on guest vocals.

The closing song, "When a Heart Breaks Down," perhaps best encapsulates the spirit of the album. It celebrates those who come to your rescue in dark times; the song ends with the advice, "Return that love with a newfound heart."

Lucy Wainwright Roche has described

touring with her mother as comfortable — reminiscent of the time she spent with her mother on the road with The Roches as a child. The tour gives her the opportunity to sing songs featuring vocal harmonies, which is obviously not possible as a solo artist.

Both daughter and mother are known for the rapport that they develop with audiences in concert appearances. Suzzy Wainwright Roche often tells quirky stories and makes wry commentary on everyday life, while her daughter exhibits a quiet but moving sense of humor.

The Nov. 19 show at Shank Hall is guaranteed to be memorable. Whether you are a fan from The Roches' first album release in 1979, a long-term follower of the Wainwright family, or simply looking for some of the finest, intimate, live folk-pop music available, this is a not-to-miss show.

## ON STAGE

Suzzy Roche and her daughter Lucy Wainwright Roche appear at Milwaukee's Shank Hall, 1434 N. Farwell Ave., on Nov. 19. For showtimes and ticket information, visit [shankhall.com](http://shankhall.com) or phone 414-276-7288.

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# 'Fidelio': Beethoven's struggle, Madison Opera's reward

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Talking to Kathryn Smith, general manager of the Madison Opera, it's clear how much she loves her medium. And how challenging a medium she's picked.

"Opera is the greatest of art forms, in my opinion, but it is not an easy one," says Smith, entering her fourth season with the company and its 55th season overall.

That's an opinion likely shared by Ludwig van Beethoven, whose *Fidelio* opens Madison Opera's season at Overture Center Nov. 21. *Fidelio* is the only opera the classical music giant ever wrote, the story of a noblewoman named Leonore who works to free her unjustly imprisoned husband.

Smith says the experience of composing the work was neither easy nor pleasant for the German composer.

Beethoven wrote the opera to fulfill an 1803 commission from opera producer Emanuel Schikaneder, according to Smith. The commission was originally for a score to accompany a libretto penned by Schikaneder titled *The Vestal Flame*, but Beethoven didn't like it. Instead, he chose a completely different story: *Leonore*, a libretto written by Jean-Nicholas Bouilly and previously set to music in both French and Italian.

Beethoven would live to regret the choice. His work on the re-titled *Fidelio* proved a constant struggle for the next decade. Smith says the opera ran for only three performances when it premiered in 1805, and a rewritten version that was staged in 1806 was equally disastrous.

*Fidelio* only escaped becoming a footnote in Beethoven's larger canon when a theater in Vienna decided to stage the work in 1814. Beethoven did a final rewrite, and the third time proved the charm. The opera was finally a success — although not enough of one to convince Beethoven to try the genre again.

"Beethoven certainly talked about writing other operas after *Fidelio*, but no

part of his experience in writing any of the three iterations was positive," Smith says. "I imagine opera was not a priority for him."

Despite the composer's struggle, *Fidelio* contains some of the memorable arias and best symphonic passages in the operatic canon. "*Fidelio's* undeniable strength is its choral writing, but the arias are equally stunning, and the overall effect is exhilarating," Smith says.

Madison Symphony Orchestra maestro and artistic director John DeMain says the opera is threaded with elements that reflect Beethoven's more famous symphonies, including his Ninth Symphony, and is more dense than other works of the time. "The demands on the singers are greater than with Mozart," DeMain says, "and the orchestra becomes richer in harmony and orchestration so typically associated with Beethoven."

But he says *Fidelio* clearly shows the influences of those earlier operatic works. "The German operas, as we hear so clearly in Mozart's operatic works, throw an emphasis on the orchestra," DeMain says. "This contrasts greatly with the Italian operatic approach, which focused on the vocal lines for the singer with largely simple accompaniments."

One of the areas that gave Beethoven the most trouble was *Fidelio's* overture. There are in fact four different versions, each composed at different times in the work's evolution. Those performed in conjunction with the failed *Fidelios* suggest the composer's symphonic leanings got the better of him, according to Smith.

"I do not believe there was anything particularly wrong with Beethoven's first overture from 1805, which we now call 'Leonore No. 2,' but he chose to expand it for the second production," Smith says. "That second overture, which we now call 'Leonore No. 3,' is a great symphonic piece, but it lasts 17 minutes, which is way too long for the overture to an



PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Beethoven as painted by Joseph Karl Stieler in 1820.

opera."

Beethoven wrote a completely new overture in 1814, which is now the standard opening to the opera.

The Madison Opera has

chosen to present *Fidelio* in the 19th-century setting in which it originated, with sets on loan from the Michigan Opera Theater and costumes procured from the Utah Opera. Director Tara Faircloth, an opera veteran making her Madison Opera debut, will stick to the basics in order to make the composer's musical and dramatic points stronger.

"*Fidelio* is not an elaborate opera — there are no dancers waltzing through ballrooms," Smith says. "But the theatrical framework sets off the intensity of the music and the emotional truth of the drama."

The roles of Leonore

and her husband Florestan will be played by rising stars new to the parts, Smith says, but not new to the Madison Opera. Dramatic soprano Alexandra LoBiano, a singer finding national success, sang the romantic lead of Amelia in *A Masked Ball* in 2012. And last spring, tenor Clay Hilley sang Father Grenville in *Dead Man Walking*.

A mix of veterans and new singers fleshes out the cast. Kelly Markgraf and Matt Boehler are returning to the Madison Opera as the villainous Don Pizarro and guard Rocco, respectively. David Blalock, Liam Moran and Wisconsin native Alisa Jordheim will fill other lead roles.

## ON STAGE

Madison Opera performs Beethoven's opera *Fidelio* at 8 p.m. on Nov. 21, and 2:30 p.m. on Nov. 23 at Madison's Overture Center for the Arts, 221 State St. Tickets range from \$18 to \$125. For more information, call 608-258-4141 or visit [madisonopera.org](http://madisonopera.org).

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# With the help of First Stage, 'Rudolph' takes flight

By Matthew Reddin

Staff writer

Turning successful film and television programming into stage productions is the way the entertainment industry operates these days, and the classic holiday special *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* isn't exempt from the trend. Fifty years after the original TV special first aired, a stage version of the beloved holiday tale is currently being produced at theaters across the United States, and a national touring production is crisscrossing North America.

And the concept behind all of those shows originated in Milwaukee.

*Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical* was conceived by the city's acclaimed First Stage Children's Theater and company artistic director Jeff Frank, and adapted by Robert Penola with musical arrangements by Timothy Splain.

Frank says the company had been interested in

producing an adaptation of *Rudolph* for some time but first needed permission from Character Arts, LLC, the company that manages the Rudolph character as an intellectual property. His pitch to them was based on preserving and honoring the handcrafted nature of the original stop-motion TV special.

Frank believed he could accomplish that goal by using a technique borrowed from Japanese Noh theater, in which stagehands dressed in black (called kokens) manipulate and move set elements. In the case of First Stage, the stagehands could move the young actors themselves.

Frank and the company had explored the technique before, most effectively in a 2011 production of *Peter Pan and Wendy*. They found kokens were effective in creating stage illusions without complicated technology.

"Audiences really responded to the boldness of that theatricality ... which

then gave me the confidence that we could tackle Rudolph and make him fly, because we'd just flown Peter and Wendy and all the kids," Frank says.

The idea took a little tweaking for *Rudolph* — most notably, changing the stagehands' outfits from all-black to all-white and dubbing them "snowkens." But Frank presented it to Character Arts as a solution to the problem of making the stage version resemble the familiar TV version.

"With the Island of Misfit Toys and trees and snow pieces moving around, we could create a living environment to bring this story to life," Frank says. "They bought into that concept, and then they saw the show and really loved what we did."

First Stage's original 2012 production of *Rudolph* was a big success for both the company and the musical. Frank says it's served as the starting point for all current productions of the show —

including a revival at First Stage opening on Nov. 28.

For the upcoming Milwaukee production, Frank is passing directorial duties to Matt Daniels, who Frank says assisted in the development of the snowken work in the 2012 production. He says the revival is largely the same as the original, albeit with a few upgrades. The score has been re-orchestrated and re-recorded — a full orchestra now performs it.

The Abominable Snowman puppet has been altered from a five-person puppet — "really heavy, a bit awkward and limited in where we could put him and move him," Frank says — to a more fully realized backpack puppet that can be moved about the stage. And there may even be some new songs, depending on how conversations with Penola, who's directing the national tour, go this month.

But despite the show's constant evolutions, Frank thinks there's something about *Rudolph's* basic story that will always make it appeal to children and their families. "Everybody's felt like a misfit at some point in their lives, where we don't know how we fit in, or where we fit in, or will we ever fit in," he says.

From that perspective, all the work they're doing is just designed to make



PHOTO: MARK FROHNA

Young actors portray the young characters of *Rudolph*.

the show's inclusive message shine a little brighter. "Everything's going to be sharper," he says. "It's going

to come alive more. ... It's a perfect show for the holidays; it just is."

## ON STAGE

First Stage's new production of *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical* opens on Nov. 28 and runs through Dec. 28 at the Todd Wehr Theatre, 929 N. Water St. Performances are recommended to ages 4-plus. Tickets range from \$12 to \$37. For showtimes or to order tickets, visit [firststage.org](http://firststage.org) or call 414-267-2961.

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## ART GAZE — MILWAUKEE

By Kat Murrell

Contributing writer

### REDLINE EXPOSES CUBAN HANDICRAFTS

Out of small seeds come great and unexpected things. In 1985, artist Rolando Estévez Jordán and poet Alfredo Zaldivar established a workshop in Matanzas, Cuba, about 70 miles west of Havana. Their first visual works were fliers promoting meetings for writers and artists interested in sharing their work and ideas. This modest initiative developed into a publishing house for handmade artists books, produced under the name Ediciones Vigía.

Twenty-seven of their delicately crafted books, along with large color photographs by Joseph Mougel, are currently on view in *Experiencing Cuba* at RedLine Milwaukee. This is an intimate exhibition, exploring creative pleasures that largely bypass political and economic complexities.

These artworks are deliciously insular. Each is made like an illuminated manuscript drawn and written by the artist's hand, aided in details by the DIY-aesthetic of the photocopier and hand-applied collage elements. Some of the works are accented with woven strings and other materials, such as driftwood. Many unfold in nontraditional ways, such as a foldout cityscape or long scrolls in accordion folds, displayed to great advantage by hanging from the ceiling between glass panels.

While a reading knowledge of Spanish is helpful for decoding the text, it is not necessary for admiring the imagery. The cover of *La Revisita del Vigía* features a somber portrait of José Martí (1853-1895), a renowned poet in his homeland. Underneath his image, a scroll of text declares, "I have two homelands: Cuba and the night." He is illuminated by dark figures on his shoulders hoisting oil lamps and a larger lamp superimposed on his forehead. The lamp is the logo of Ediciones Vigía, representing a bright spot in dark places and a source of inspiration.

Nancy Morejón, a Cuban poet laureate, composed a poem and book dedicated to the artist Ana Mendieta (1948-1985). Mendieta became renowned in the contemporary art world for sculpture and performance art in which her body melded with the earth in forms reminiscent of either the womb or the grave. Rolando Estévez's book-cover design echoes Mendieta's art, casting a woman's silhouetted body underneath sparse linear forms like twigs. The design includes a collage of tiny icons such as crosses and leaves, accented by the application of broken eggshells.

Similarly compelling for the use of inventive materials is the magazine cover for *Barquitos del San Juan* (Little Boats of San Juan). A young woman strums a guitar against the intricate drawing of a cobblestone street and colonial building. An arched opening breaks the illusion, reveal-



PHOTO: UWM SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY

### A portrait of poet José Martí graces the cover of *La Revisita del Vigía*.

ing the texture of a real wall in the distance.

Surprises like these — the placement of unexpected details and elegance of craft — adds great delight to these pieces.

As the works from Ediciones Vigía are largely displayed in vitrines and hanging displays, the walls are given over to photographs by Joseph Mougel, assistant professor and head of photography at UWM. In the exhibition catalog, Mougel recounts his experiences in Cuba, both when he was stationed there in the U.S. Marine Corps and subsequent visits.

His images record moments of people and places in a cordial, documentary manner. He captures views of city life: a woman sitting in a doorway nonchalantly smoking a cigar or an elderly man paused in the middle of a street, cautiously pleased to be photographed. In a domestic view, a modest bed with a thin pillow and floral-printed cover is neatly made up, its exuberant color echoed by the bright pink walls. The color belies the condition of the peeling, cracking plaster. It's a dignified decrepitude, a poignant statement about living graciously regardless of circumstances.

That same impulse is part of the work of Ediciones Vigía. Materials for art may be difficult to come by in Cuba, but the desire

to create something of beauty and aesthetic reward is unquenchable, as sustained as the illuminating lamp that is their symbol.

*Experiencing Cuba: Artists Books of Ediciones Vigía and Photographs by Joseph Mougel* continues through Dec. 20 at RedLine Milwaukee, 1422 N. Fourth St.

### CLOSING EXHIBITIONS

Janet Werner, Ariana Huggett, and Elly Hazard

Closing Nov. 15

Canadian artist Janet Werner has had scant showings in the Midwest, although she's a highly regarded figure in her home country and internationally. Although she retains the qualities of a traditional portrait painter, what makes her work more compelling is its psychological intensity, augmented by subtly active brushwork and flourishes of color. Painter and designer Ariana Huggett adopts home and office interiors as a form of portraiture, executing small canvases over a few days that capture the silence of personal spaces. They are warm, gorgeously colorful and conspiratorial, as though awaiting the return of their inhabitants. Emerging artist Elly Hazard reconstitutes the experiences of daily life in expressionistic paintings that meld figure painting and notes of still life into a rush of frenetic angst and energy.

At the Portrait Society Gallery, 207 E. Buffalo St., on the fifth floor.

### 2014 Día de los Muertos Exhibition

Closing Nov. 22

For more than two decades, WPCA has hosted an annual exhibition of ofrendas, or altars, created for Day of the Dead celebrations. While the subject of death is one that might inspire reticence, these are physical gestures that combine mementos, photos, objects and artifacts of a personal nature that form a representation of identity. While some are very traditional, others take on the character of contemporary art installations, each functioning like a large-scale memento mori, a reminder of mortality. In the end, this is not a bleak proposition, but one that celebrates life and sustains the spirits of the departed in the minds of the living.

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**SCHAUER**

# Madison hosts Broadway star Karen Olivo's next act

By Michael Muckian

Contributing writer

Karen Olivo's next performance will be far from the glittering lights of Broadway, where she won a Tony Award for her performance as Anita in the 2009 Broadway revival of *West Side Story*. She'll appear in the city she now calls home — Madison.

Olivo will present an intimate cabaret performance at the Capitol Theater in Madison's Overture Center for the Arts on Nov. 20. Tickets are sold out for the event, which includes dinner and stage seating.

A New York City native, Olivo moved to Madison in June 2013 to be with husband James Uphoff, a former New York theater lighting designer who now works for Middleton-based Electronic Theater Controls.

Prior to the move, Olivo announced in her personal blog that it was time to reinvent herself and "start a new chapter." But that didn't mean leaving the theater behind.

"If you're a true performer you're always in the arts," says Olivo, 38. "The new chapter has more to do with claiming some ownership of my art and the way I make art."

Olivo technically hasn't even left New York behind, even as Madison remains her home base. She recently returned to the city in June to perform at City Center in Jonathan Larson's autobiographical musical *Tick...Tick...Boom!*; Larson is best known for writing the music and lyrics of *Rent*.

Olivo originally burst onto the New York theater scene in 2004 in *Brooklyn the Musical*. But it was the role of Vanessa, which she originated in the original Off Broadway run of *In The Heights* in 2007, that put her front and center among Broadway's elite.

*In the Heights* began its 2008 Broadway run with Olivo, who earned an Astaire Award for dancing in the role. Two years later she won a Tony and an Outer Critics Circle Award for best featured actress in *West Side Story* — the first performer ever to win a Tony for that legendary musical.

Olivo says the roles that made her famous happened to parallel what was occurring in her life when she portrayed them.

"The character that was most like me was Vanessa from *In the Heights*, who was rough around the edges with a lot of heart and spunk," Olivo says. "Anita in *West Side Story* was a more grown-up version of (myself). I can better understand loss, loyalty and that one can fight for love and juggle things in life to preserve relationships."

Olivo says her role as Susan in *Tick...Tick...Boom!* mirrored the latest development in her life too. Susan struggles with the desire to give up New York's rat race and its continuous artistic challenges and move on to the next phase in her life. Unlike Susan, however, Olivo had a real-life partner who was ready for the same thing, which led to the move to Madison.

Olivo's exploration of character as a form of personal growth is part of a well-measured plan she says has benefited both her acting and her personal life.

"I have a theory about performers in general," Olivo says. "There are artists and there are technicians. A technician is a gun

for hire, while artists are constantly on the hunt for the next role that will complete them or take them to the next step."

Olivo says her film and television career, including a regular role as lawyer Cassie Reynolds on NBC's *Harry's Law* during the 2011-12 season, might be best described as technician work. Moving to Madison and taking on a growing role in the city's theater and education scene has been part of her artist's journey.

Since arriving in Wisconsin, she's taught acting as a guest lecturer at UW-Madison and at the workshop component of the new Madison-based Theatre LILA troupe. She also contributed several short segments of the troupe's last production *The Suitcase Dreams*, which ran during September in the Overture Center's Promenade Hall.

"Young artists are looking for teachers who have on-the-job experience, and that's really hard to come by," Olivo says. "Being here gives me the opportunity to give back and cultivate the medium that I love, which is musical theater."

Olivo served as a judge for last year's TOMMY Awards, which recognize accomplishments in Madison high school musical theater. The awards are named for Broadway star Tom Wopat, one of television's original *Dukes of Hazzard* and a Lodi native.

Olivo also has moved beyond theater since arriving in Madison. She's learned to throw and glaze pottery at the Midwest Clay Project on Williamson Street, and is also testing out a singing career. This year, she launched a successful Kickstarter campaign to raise funds to record and release her first-ever CD (the title and content still TBD), earning \$40,001, five grand over her \$35,000 goal. She says she hopes to cut tracks at a Madison recording studio for an album release through Borderlight Entertainment early in 2015.

She says her album's mix will likely parallel that of her cabaret performance at Overture Center, a multi-genre set list. True to form, she is reinventing Overture's cabaret program in her own image.

"Normally, the cabaret series features one performer and maybe a backup musician and is very intimate," Olivo says. "I have changed the structure and made the show a little bit more about my journey and arrival in Madison."

Olivo will chronicle her career and her life with the aid of a four-piece jazz combo composed of UW music students and three backup singers. The playlist will cross genres but maintain a heavy emphasis on musical theater.

"Throughout my career I've realized my strong suit is working with other artists and, frankly, I get bored if it's just me," says Olivo. "With the amount of talented people here and Madison's respect for the arts, the city is artistically rife."

It's also currently home to the next steps in a journey that still has many miles ahead of it, and many twists likely still to come.

"For me, it's destination unknown," she says. "If I did know, then it wouldn't be very exciting."



PHOTO: AP/CHARLES SYKES

Karen Olivo attends the 56th annual Drama Desk Awards in 2011.

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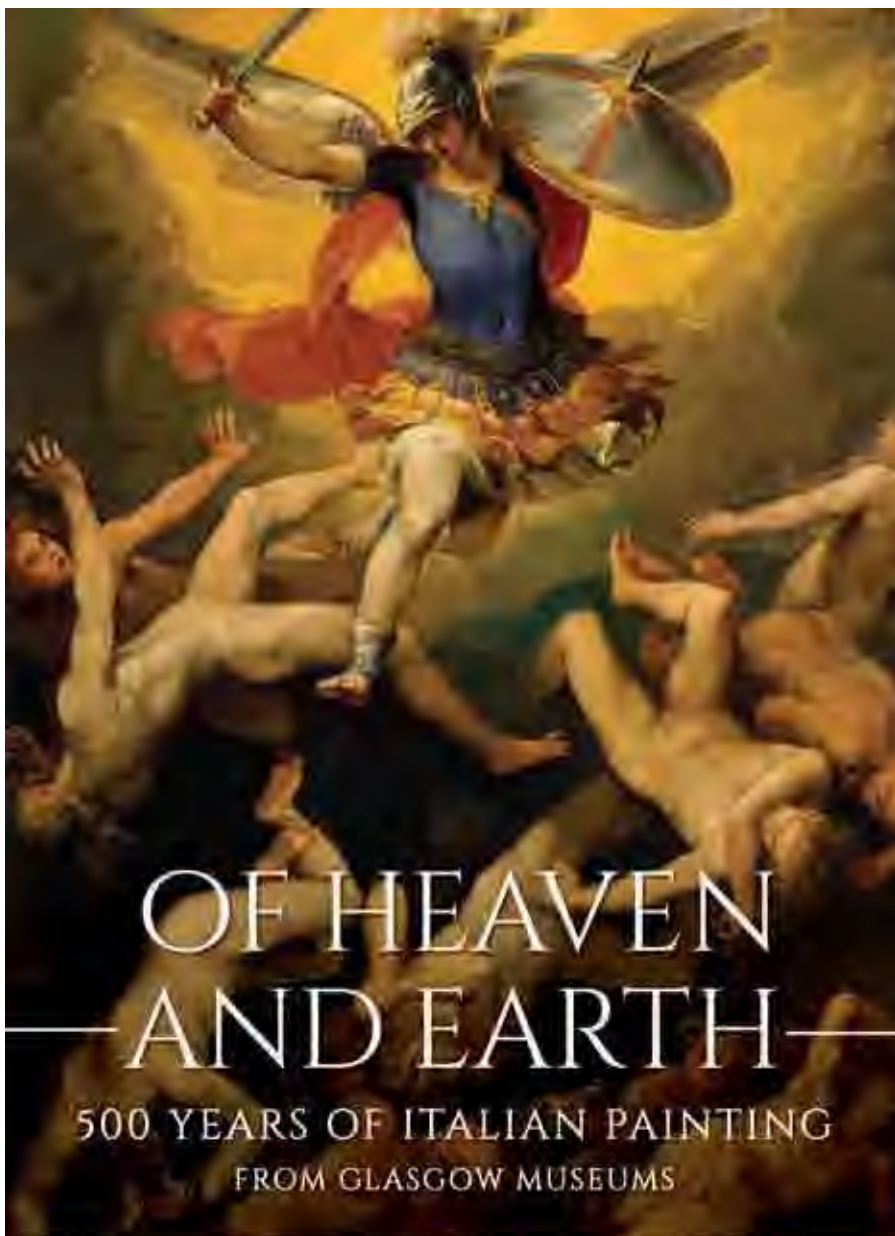
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# The Rep resurrects 'Mr. Showmanship'

By Matthew Reddin

Staff writer

Given that the legendary pianist Liberace was a Milwaukee native, the Milwaukee Repertory Theater had reason to believe local audiences would embrace its 2010 biographical cabaret performance starring local musician Jack Forbes Wilson as Mr. Showmanship himself. But *Liberace!* more than earned its explanation point, wowing critics and audiences alike, and it was only a matter of time before an encore hit the boards (and the ivories).

Now, four years later, Forbes Wilson is hauling out the furs and bedazzled long-tailed tuxes once again to tell the story of the native Milwaukeean who was once the highest paid entertainer in the world.

WiG spoke to Forbes Wilson about the origins of the show and how he manages so convincingly to embody Liberace's unique persona.

**How did the Rep decide to produce *Liberace!*? Did director Brent Hazelton have you in mind for the role from the start?**

I think the answer to that is no. ... They were originally going to do something (already) written, and they were going to use somebody who had done that show before, maybe even the writer. I believe it was more along the lines of what you might call a "Liberace act." When they decided that the original production was maybe not what Milwaukee Rep wanted to do, and perhaps when he decided that was not the venue for him, I think Brent said to (artistic director) Mark Clements, "We can write this ourselves."

**Had you worked with Brent or Mark before?** Brent knew who I was. Mark was brand-new; it was the spring before his first year. So he might have been called the artistic director but he hadn't started directing plays. But he was in charge of the spring gala, and they hired me to play the piano for

that. And so in fact, those rehearsals sort of became an audition.

**But you'd worked at the Rep before?** Yeah, in that space mostly, the Stackner Cabaret. ... I'd done at least 10 shows there, I think. I would venture to say I've performed on that space more than anybody — in various roles, sometimes just as a pianist.

**How was the rehearsal process? Was Brent working on the script simultaneously?** He was. I had gotten started selecting music based on what we thought I could do and what we thought would still carry with an audience 20 years later. ... But I don't think I had the end of the script on the first day of rehearsal. And the end of the script is the hardest part, because ... (he's) dying of AIDS. And this is a man who never even admitted he was gay. That's hard.

**How does the play deal with details that the real Liberace kept private?** Well, the first half is a play about that denial — actually, I wouldn't say denial. He created such a strong role for himself, that I bet he never felt he was denying anything. It was his performance persona, and that's who he became. It's only when we get to the last 20 minutes of the play that something imposes itself on him, in front of this live audience, that forces him to confront that.

**What changes has Brent made to the script since 2010, if any?** With a play like this, sometimes just a little tiny word change can make a difference. When we went into the first rehearsal, I said, "You know, I had so much trouble with those last 20 minutes of the play. Literally, if I could add one word, and the word is 'just.'" I thought we were going to battle on this for hours, and he said, "Oh, no problem, add your 'just.'" To me, it makes a big difference.

**How much of the show would you say**

**is Liberace performing, versus speaking to the audience?** Well, if you see it as him always performing, it's 100 percent performance. But if you're asking how much is music and how much is narration, I might say that 75 percent of it is music, 75 percent is narration — there's a lot of overlap. There are times when Brent wants me to be telling a story as I'm playing. That's something I can do with a lot of work, but that's taken a lot of practice.

**What are the elements of Liberace you absolutely have to get right in portraying him?** The thing I have to get right off the bat is the piano playing. (Liberace) wasn't all glitter and feathers. That was a big part of it, but the only reason he could do what he did was that he was phenomenally talented. My problem is I'm not phenomenally talented as a pianist. So that's where I feel inferior. I think that's a really important part of his story, that despite everything else, he was a great piano player.

**What reason does the play give for Liberace's return?** It's hard to know exactly why he comes back. That was part of what Brent had to struggle with. Is it just to confront some of these things that he ignored — you'll notice I used the word "just." That was where I needed that word. I think it is to confront some of those demons. But I think he wanted to play the piano because it was important to him — but to play the piano in a way that was sincere. If he could have made the career without all the feathers and without all the fur, and without all the jewels — that's the question: Would he have tried to do that if he could?

**Between your two productions of *Liberace!*, HBO unveiled its *Liberace* biopic, *Behind the Candelabra*, a very different look at Liberace. Has that film impacted your portrayal?** I never watched it; I can say that honestly. Here's the thing: That sort of venue can do something that we can't do, because it shows Liberace behind the scenes. That's the name of it, *Behind the Candelabra*. So it can go backstage, and it can focus on private things. Which we might have been able to find a way to do,



PHOTO: MICHAEL BROSILOW

**Jack Forbes Wilson in Milwaukee Repertory Theater's 2010-11 Stackner Cabaret production of *Liberace!***

except we went for a continual interaction with the audience. That's something that a movie can't do. It can't give the audience that real feeling of being at a performance. And we can.

## ON STAGE

*Liberace!* runs through Jan. 11 at the Milwaukee Rep's Stackner Cabaret, 108 E. Wells St. Tickets start at \$40, and can be purchased at 414-224-9490 or milwaukeeerep.com.

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# Cerebral palsy is part of this gay comedian's act

By Gregg Shapiro

Contributing writer

Greg Walloch is a hilarious guy. A first-rate storyteller with a sharp sense of humor, Walloch is an author whose work appears in a variety of publications and anthologies. But he's probably best known for his performances as a monologist and comedian.

Walloch is openly gay and has cerebral palsy. He frequently references both in his work, most notably in *About to Eat Cake*, a narrative he told for *The Moth* that is perhaps his most popular to date. Walloch also hosts *Eat Your Words*, a live performance event where people tell stories about food, held the first Thursday of every month at The Standard in Hollywood.

An artist who is perpetually on tour and performing, Walloch took time out of his busy schedule this month to talk about his career thus far.

**What's involved in taking a piece from the page to the stage?** I love writing and am a big fan of human nature. I'm always collecting stories that strike me, funny moments, and tucking them away for later. I can bring an idea to the stage and tell it on its feet, build it live in front of an audience. That works best and has the most exciting energy. You know, like the way you'd really tell a story in life around the dinner table. Human beings are structure- and story-making creatures, so narrative and meaning happens quite naturally if we let it. I show up and literally try to go with the flow. The most difficult part of my process is showering and putting on pants.

**How do you test your material?** When you've been writing and performing for a while, you know what works. If you're paying attention, it's something you feel in your gut. Also, don't mistrust something because it came too easily. Great work can actually feel good to make. Just because you're suffering doesn't mean your work is



PHOTO: COURTESY ROBYN VON SWANK

**Comedian Greg Walloch.**

better. As I mentioned, I often take work directly to the audience, I like to think of them as my trusted friends. However, I will not tolerate any direct eye contact after the show (laughs).

**Comedians are notorious for being competitive. Is it the same in the world of monologists?** Is there a world of monologists (laughs)? They sound like a good-time crew: NPR, scones, suicide pacts. There's a world of storytellers, I suppose. I believe that we become successful as communities of artists. What you accomplish is yours. It doesn't detract from what I've got going on. One of my favorite storytelling shows in Los Angeles is *Radio Picture Show*, hosted by Lauren Cook, Shauna McGarry and KCRW DJ Marion Hodges. They are kindred spirits for sure, and audiences ultimately win, because there's more great content happening out there.

**In addition to performing, you host the *Eat Your Words* performance series. What makes food funny?** Everybody eats and everyone has a story to tell. Food is a constant thread in our lives. In the moments that are happy, tragic, funny — food is always there somehow. With *Eat Your Words*, I wanted to create an evening that gives folks that feeling of community — that moment where you take a break in your day and just sit around the kitchen table, sharing stories over some great food and a bottle of wine.

**You are famous for your piece *About to Eat Cake*. What are your top three favorite kinds of cake?** Hmm, I love that big wedge of white layer cake with buttercream frosting that you can get down South, the kind you have with an ice-cold glass of milk. If you eat it all, you are totally going to feel sick, but it's somehow worth it. I love it for what it symbolizes as much as for how it tastes. (It's) an American icon really. I got hooked on tres leches cake when I lived in West Harlem in New York. How can you not love cake soaked in three kinds of milk? By the way, I can only think of two kinds of milk, condensed and regular. What is the third "milk" exactly? I think I want to stay in the dark on that one and just enjoy it. Lastly, angel food cake, you know, for when you're on a diet.

**What are your three least favorite kinds of cake?** I know it's a clichéd answer, but fruitcake is low on the list. A bad cheesecake that has sat in the refrigerator case too long can be really disappointing, and I'm not a lover of carrot cake. Though I have had exceptions in all three cases. So if you think you have a fantastic fruitcake for me, bring it on!

**You also spend a lot of time on tour. Do you have a favorite part of the world to perform in?** Tel Aviv was a stunning experience all the way around! Audiences in Tel Aviv are so smart, dialed-in and awake. Performance is part of the cultural fabric there. Everybody came out to support it. It's a different cultural attitude. In America, I think we view the arts as "something extra" or as "just entertainment." It's not valued in the same way.

**You have used religion, specifically Christianity, in an interesting way in your work, by talking about the way people of that faith regard you as a person with cerebral palsy. Have you had similar interactions with Buddhists, Muslims, Sikhs, pagans, Hindus, Jews or atheists?** Sure, I've had people of various faiths tell me my disability was bad luck or my karma. An atheist asked, "How can you believe in a god that would do this to you?" Folks, I'm fine, really! It's all just people's projection and fear about their own bodies or mortality. It's been a good lesson in understanding where I end and other people begin.

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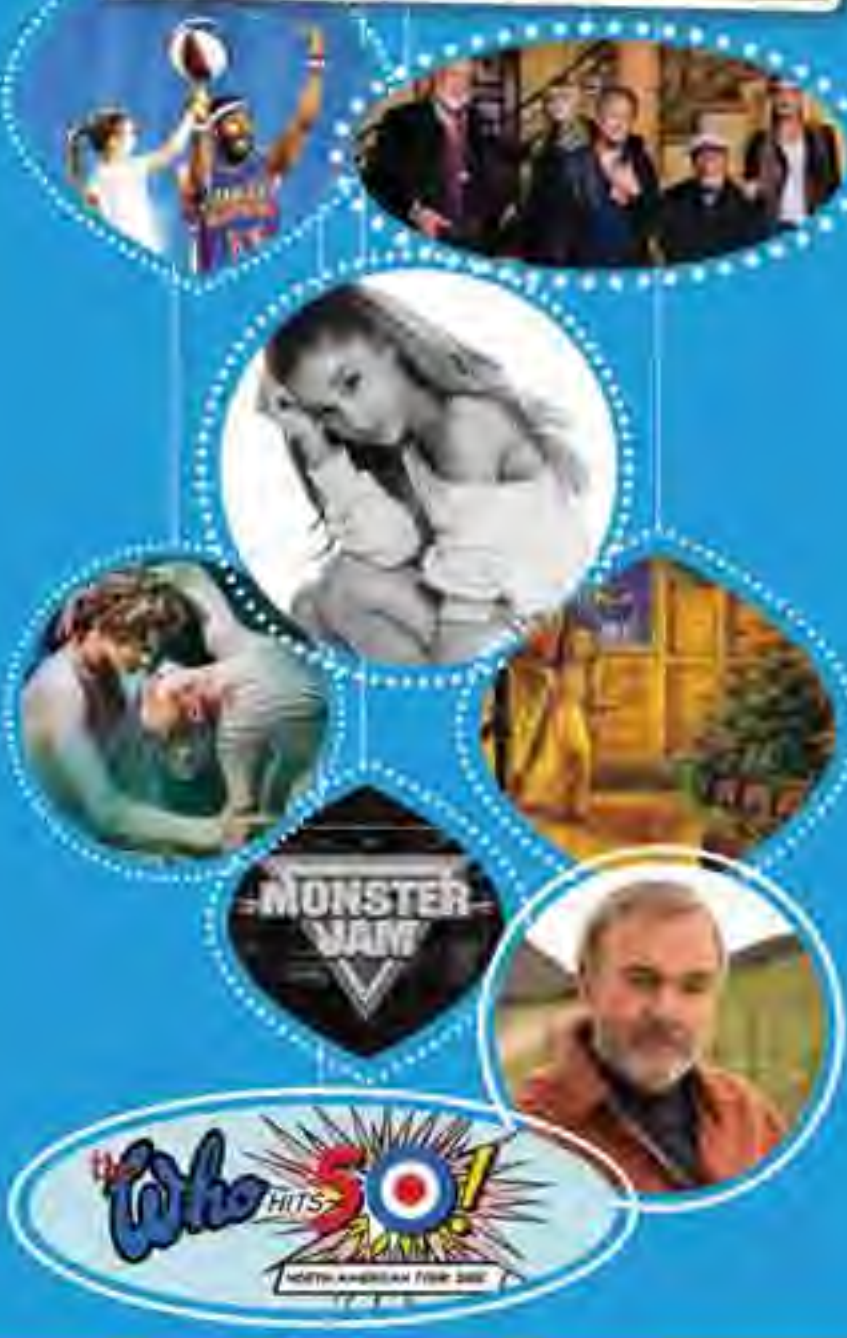
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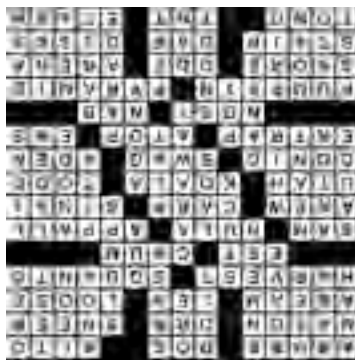
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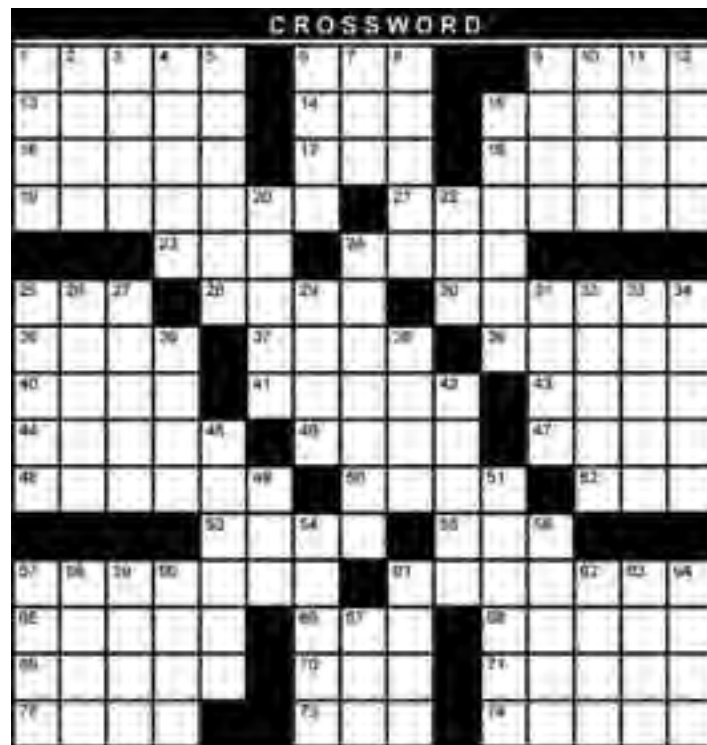
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### ACROSS

- Bullying, e.g.
- Brown of *Back to the Future*
- Choir member
- Brick worker
- Bruin legend Bobby \_\_\_\_\_
- Show contempt
- At right angle to a ship
- Actress \_\_\_\_\_ Michele of *Glee*
- These lips sink ships
- \*Reason to celebrate Thanksgiving
- \*Pilgrim helper
- "C'\_\_\_\_ la vie!"
- Chopped fish bait
- Casablanca* pianist
- Mauai dance
- Horrify
- All over again
- Oily freshwater fish, native to Asia and Europe
- Red Sea peninsula
- Beehive State
- Aussie "bear"
- \*Baste the turkey or set the table, e.g.
- \*Cornucopia's shape
- Ill-gotten gains
- Yemeni port
- Frame or trap
- \*Marshmallows are placed \_\_\_\_\_ the sweet

### DOWN

- Wet nurse
- Ali \_\_\_\_\_ and the 40 Thieves*
- \_\_\_\_-friendly
- Dry white Italian wine
- Catch in a net
- Airhead
- Bonanza find
- "\_\_\_\_\_ into Me" by Dave Matthews Band
- Dwarf buffalo
- \*\_\_\_\_ Lett's famous Thanksgiving football blunder
- Reason to cram
- Three-layer cookie
- Sinks into a couch, e.g.
- Between rock and a hard place?
- In so far as, conjunction
- Popular rye bread addition
- \*Cranberry \_\_\_\_\_
- Playwright Chekhov
- Had in mind
- Cambodia's neighbor
- Falafel bread
- Battery terminal
- Burdened
- \*NFL hosts
- Helicopter sound
- Surveyor's map
- Extreme suffering
- Mouth sore
- Hawaiian dish
- \*Macy's tradition
- Arrogant person
- Relating to barium
- "Hey ... over here!"
- "Do \_\_\_\_\_ others as..."
- Express complaint
- Synonym to #54 Down
- Chipper
- Phoenix neighbor
- Cyan and magenta in printer, e.g.
- 100-meter race
- Da Vinci Code* by \_\_\_\_\_ Brown

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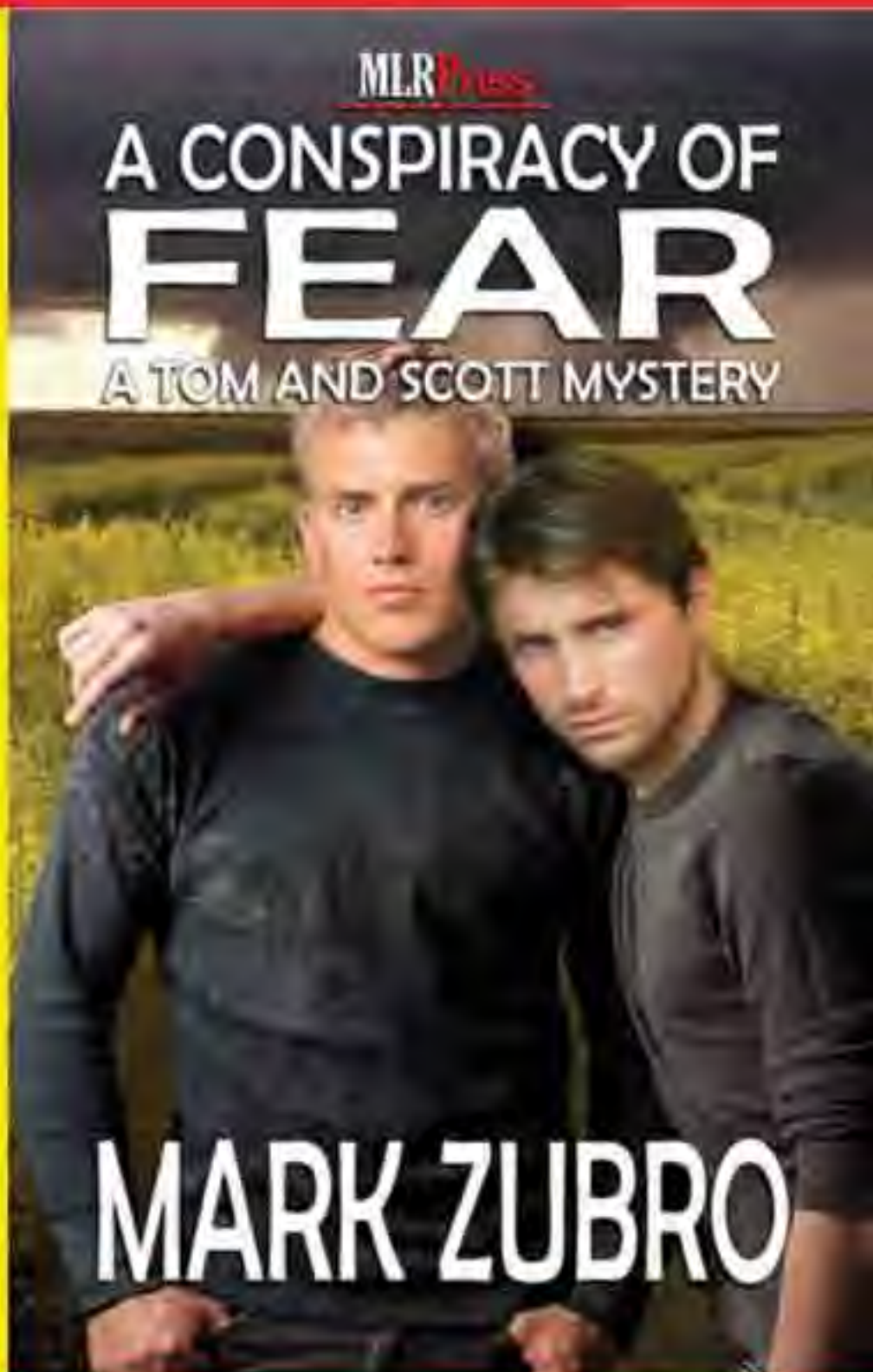
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# Out on the town November 13 - 27

A curated calendar of upcoming events



PHOTO: COURTESY

## 'MIME BODY SPIRIT' Nov. 14 to 16

Kanopy Dance Company opens its season with a program that blends dance with physical theater and miming to create a mysterious and powerful evening. The centerpiece is "A Strange Day for Mister K," a world premiere commission from Steve Wasson and Corrine Soum, the artistic directors of both London's Theatre de L'Ange Fou and the White Church Theatre Project right here in Spring Green. That piece tells a Kafkaesque tale, performed by both Kanopy company members and current and former principals from the Martha Graham Dance Company. The evening will be rounded out by a series of works including the corporeal mime-inspired "Resonance II" and a reprise of the Graham company work "Lamentation Variation." At Overture Center, 201 State St., Madison. Tickets range from \$14 to \$29 and can be purchased at [overturecenter.org](http://overturecenter.org) or 608-258-4141.

## 'HERESY' Through Dec. 14

Staging a near-future messianic story at Christmas time is just the sort of quirky scheduling Next Act Theatre is best at. Better still: the play, *Heresy*, has as much satirical humor as it does sharp social commentary. That means this tale of a turbulent future further upended by a teenage revolutionary placed in "protective custody" by Homeland Security strikes a firmly different tone than the average *Passion* — even if its message of speaking truth to power stays intact. At 255 S. Water St., Milwaukee. Tickets range from \$28 to \$38. To order, visit [nextact.org](http://nextact.org) or call 414-278-0765.



PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

## 'JOHN MUIR: UNIVERSITY OF THE WILDERNESS' 7:30 p.m. Sat., Nov. 15

This narrative concert at the Cedarburg Cultural Center pays tribute to the life of John Muir, the environmentalist and naturalist who co-founded the Sierra Club and helped develop our national park system. Muir passed away 100 years ago, but his words live on, in writings that will be delivered by actor Thomas Clyde Mitchell. Mitchell's readings will alternate with music by the Chance quartet, an ensemble specializing in the creation of musical landscapes that blend classical, Celtic and contemporary sounds in a manner evocative of the natural beauty Muir so admired. At W62 N546 Washington Ave., Cedarburg. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at [cedarburgculturalcenter.org](http://cedarburgculturalcenter.org).



PHOTO: RCA RECORDS

## BLEACHERS 8 p.m. Fri. Nov. 14

Dropping the single "I Wanna Get Better" at the beginning of the year was all it took to turn Jack Antonoff from sidekick (in either his main band, fun., or his relationship with Lena Dunham) into a star. In his new band, Bleachers, Antonoff has gone from lead guitarist to lead everything, and the group's '80s-tinged debut LP, *Strange Desire*, turned out to be one of the strongest indie pop releases of the summer. They'll perform with Nashville quintet Wild Cub at Milwaukee's Turner Hall Ballroom, 1040 N. Fourth St. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at 414-286-3663 or [pabsttheater.org](http://pabsttheater.org).

# Out on the town November 13 - 27



PHOTO: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

## 'LA FÊTE DU BEAUJOLAIS NOUVEAU'

6 p.m. Thurs., Nov. 20

In France, the third Thursday in November has been set aside for decades as "Beaujolais Nouveau Day" — the first day of the year in which that year's batch of Beaujolais may be sold — and over the years, the event has spread globally to become a prime weekend for wine-drinkers. In Wisconsin, the Alliance Française de Milwaukee will join the frenzy with a Beaujolais Nouveau release event, featuring the 2014 wine along with French delicacies, world music curated by 88Nine's Marcus Doucette and a number of door prizes. At the Hamilton, 832 E. Hamilton St. Tickets are \$30 for AF members, \$35 for non-members and \$15 for current AF students. Visit [afmilwaukee.org](http://afmilwaukee.org) to register.

## HOLIDAY FOLK FAIR Nov. 21 to 23

More than 25 Milwaukee-area ethnic groups will have the opportunity to celebrate their cultural heritage through food, performance and a world bazaar at the Holiday Folk Fair. A Milwaukee tradition for more than 70 years, the Holiday Folk Fair fills the Wisconsin Exposition Center for three days, this year built around the theme "Celebrate the Culture of the Artisan." Among the many artisans being presented: the Mexican folkloric dancers of Ballet Folklorico Huehucocoyotl, French-Canadian youth dance group La Troupe Jeunesse and Ocean Rush, a musical group performing a combination of Hawaiian and reggae music they call "Jawaiian" music. At State Fair Park in West Allis. Admission at the door is \$12 for adults, \$8 for children 6 to 12 and free for military personnel and children five and under; tickets are \$10 for seniors and if purchased in advance online. Visit [folkfair.org](http://folkfair.org) to order or for more information.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Youth performers from La Troupe Jeunesse, who will perform at the Holiday Folk Fair.

## 'FIDELIO' 8 p.m. Fri., Nov. 21; 2:30 p.m. Sun., Nov. 23

Beethoven's best-known symphony features an ode to joy, but his only opera is best characterized as an ode to freedom. *Fidelio*, being performed by Madison Opera for one weekend only, tells the story of Leonore, a noblewoman who disguises herself as a male guard at the prison where her husband has been held in order to save his life. The Madison Opera will perform the piece in its original German, under the direction of acclaimed Houston opera director Tara Faircloth, making her Madison debut. At Overture Center, 201 State St. Tickets range from \$18 to \$125 and can be purchased at [overturecenter.org](http://overturecenter.org) or 608-258-4141.

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# A curated calendar of upcoming events



PHOTO: JOHN NIENHUIS

## 'THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) [REVISED]' Nov. 21 to Dec. 14

Shakespeare's works are known for their length, but this madcap mashup of the Bard is known for its brevity, packing all 37 of his plays into a mere 99 minutes. *Complete Works* was last performed at Milwaukee Chamber Theatre in 2001, but they've brought it back this year as part of their 40th anniversary season, with revisions by the original performers. There's a twist this time around, though: All four actors involved (Chris Klopatek, Rick Pendzich, Chase Stoeger and Marcus Truschinski) are friends and former roommates from UW-Whitewater, so they've already got the camaraderie needed to pull off this crazy show. At the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway. Tickets are \$34 or \$38 Fridays and Saturdays, with a \$5 discount for students and seniors. Visit [milwaukeechambertheatre.com](http://milwaukeechambertheatre.com) or call 414-291-7800 to order.

## 'THE WIZARD OF OZ' Nov. 21 to Jan. 4

Nov. 21 to Jan. 4

Don't call the Skylight's main stage the Cabot Theater this winter; call it Oz. The company has chosen *The Wizard of Oz* as its holiday show, and the family-friendly musical will be staged in all the Technicolor glory of the original 1939 film. There's no bad night to enjoy Dorothy's journey from Kansas to Munchkinland to the Emerald City and beyond, but the Skylight will be sweetening the deal with a variety of tie-in events: a Coquette Cafe-sponsored Date Night December 3, an LGBT-focused "Friends of Dorothy" pre-show reception and costume contest December 11, and a New Year's Eve sing-along December 31. At the Broadway Theatre Center, 158 N. Broadway, Milwaukee. Tickets range from \$22.50 to \$85. To order, or for more information on special events, call 414-291-7800 or visit [skylightmusictheatre.org](http://skylightmusictheatre.org).



PHOTO: COURTESY

## 'HELEN' Nov. 21 to Dec. 7

Helen of Troy gets a bad reputation, what with the whole "prompting the Trojan War" thing. But in what must be one of the earliest examples of the "what if?" genre, Greek playwright Euripides wrote *Helen*, a drama that theorizes that Helen never actually went to Troy, but was replaced by a look-alike and imprisoned in Egypt for the duration of the war — until her husband Menelaus accidentally stumbles across her hiding place, and must help her escape an arranged marriage to the King of Egypt. UW-Madison's theater department stages an adaptation of that original by Ellen McLaughlin, which translates Helen's plight to modern times and gives her the floor, casting the beauty as a forever-waiting philosopher. At Hemsley Theatre, 821 University Ave. Tickets are \$23, \$21 for seniors, \$16 for students and Friends of UT. Visit [theatre.wisc.edu](http://theatre.wisc.edu) to order.

## 'HARVEY' Nov. 21 to Dec. 21

The Milwaukee Rep's holiday season comedy has a big star in its ranks: the imaginary six-foot-tall rabbit "pooka" immortalized in *Harvey*, the Pulitzer-winning comedy later made into a film starring Jimmy Stewart. Rep favorite Jonathan Gillard Daly takes on Stewart's role, the quirky Elwood P. Dowd, who's a constant source of frustration for his sister Veta and is nearly committed to an asylum before she realizes she'd rather have him the way he is. And Daly's not the only Rep veteran on the Quadracci Powerhouse stage; he'll be joined by Laura Gordon, Deborah Staples, James Pickering and a host of other talented actors from here and afar. At 108 E. Wells St. Tickets begin at \$20, and can be purchased at [milwaukeerep.com](http://milwaukeerep.com) or 414-224-9490.

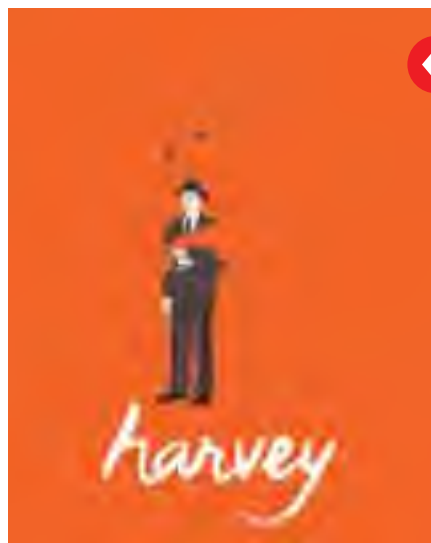


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# Out on the town November 13 - 27

A curated calendar of upcoming events



PHOTO: ANGELA MORGAN

**Violinists from the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra perform during Present Music's 2011 Thanksgiving concert at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist.**

## PRESENT MUSIC: THANKSGIVING

4 p.m. Sun., Nov. 23

Present Music's annual Thanksgiving concert returns again this year at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. All the guests they've invited for years are set to return — the Milwaukee Handbell Ensemble, the Bucks Native American Singing and Drumming Group, young artists from the Milwaukee Youth Symphony Orchestra and elsewhere — as are the newer additions, like PM's recently formed Hearing Voices Ensemble of singers. This year's menu will have a Kamran Ince flavor to it, with two works by the Turkish-American composer on the program, but Present Music will also be giving their brass and vocal sections a workout with Gavin Bryars' "Jesus' Blood Never Failed Me Yet." At 812 N. Jackson St., Milwaukee. Tickets are \$35, \$25 and \$15, with a 50 percent discount for students. Order at [presentmusic.org](http://presentmusic.org).



PHOTO: DANIEL A. SWALEC

## 'JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT'

Nov. 25 to 30

Andrew Lloyd Webber-lovers in Madison have something extra to be grateful for this Thanksgiving: a new touring production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, Webber's genre-bouncing family musical about Joseph, Israel's favorite son. At the head of this particular tour are *American Idol* alums and real-life married couple Diana DeGarmo and Ace Young, starring as the Narrator and Joseph, respectively. Their stay in Madison also comes with a charitable opportunity: Attend the matinee Friday, Nov. 28, and you can both save \$5 on your ticket and prompt Overture to donate an additional \$5 to Second Harvest Food Bank of Southern Wisconsin (use promo code HARVEST online). At Overture Center, 201 State St. Tickets range from \$40 to \$95 and can be purchased at 608-258-4141 or [overturecenter.org](http://overturecenter.org).

## 'STRAUSS AND MOZART' 7 p.m. Mon., Nov. 24

The 150th anniversary of Richard Strauss' birth is an excellent excuse for Frankly Music to celebrate the life of the prominent German Romantic composer, a successor to Wagner considered one of the greatest artists of the early 20th century. Frankly Music will perform two works from his later period: the sextet from his final opera *Capriccio*, and *Metamorphosen*, an elegy to the destruction of Munich composed near the end of World War II. They'll also acknowledge Strauss' lifelong respect for Mozart by performing his String Quintet No. 3. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 914 E. Knapp St., Milwaukee. Tickets range from \$10 to \$30, and can be purchased at [franklymusic.org](http://franklymusic.org).

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## FEATURING HONEST MONDAY

**FRIDAY,  
DEC. 12th  
7:00 PM**

**SHANK HALL**  
1434 N. Farwell Ave.

**PROUD SUPPORTER OF  
LGBTQ COMMUNITY**

Join Community Shares as we celebrate another successful season of workplace giving. Enjoy live music from swamp-grass folk band, Honest Monday, and meet members of local nonprofits working to make Milwaukee a better place to live, work, and play!

**\$10  
IN ADVANCE**

**\$15  
AT THE DOOR**

**7PM DOORS/  
7:30PM SHOW**

**Buy tickets:  
[communitysharesmke.org](http://communitysharesmke.org)**

**COMMUNITY  
SHARES**  
OF GREATER MILWAUKEE