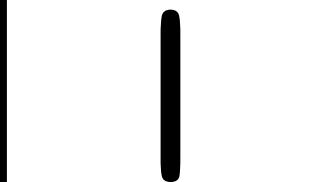


May/June 2009

our lives



Madison's LGBT&XYZ Magazine

THE Music ISSUE

National Women's
Music Festival

How Madison became home
to a national treasure

PianoFondue

Dueling Pianos' Chris Lange on
mixing his passion and career

Marriage in Iowa

Tamara Packard on what our
neighboring state did right



For most of my adult life

MY CAREER HAS TOO OFTEN BEEN
AFFECTED BY MY SEXUAL ORIENTATION

*and mostly without my
realization or understanding*

—TRET FURE

OURLIVESMADISON.COM >> Forums, User Directory, Event Calendar, Guides and Group Listings



madisonfestivals inc

"Fun for you. Good for Madison!"



WORLD'S LARGEST
BRAT FEST
MADISON, WISCONSIN



May 22-25, 2009
www.Bratfest.com



May 23 & 24, 2009
www.MadisonMarathon.com



Sept. 5 & 6, 2009
www.TasteofMadison.com

How are our events good for Madison? They create opportunities for you to raise money for your favorite charity or non-profit organization. And they're a lot of fun for everyone! Visit our website to learn how you can become a volunteer.

www.MadisonFestivals.com

Don't simply envision a better you—embody it.

our lives
Featured Nov./Dec. '08

Botox® Cosmetic
Dermal Fillers
Restylane® • Perlane® • Juvederm™ • Radiesse®
Laser
skin resurfacing • discoloration removal • hair removal
Acne Treatments
LipoDissolve™
Medical Grade Chemical Peels
Microdermabrasion

EMBODY MEDICAL SPA

in the Agora
(608) 274-6920
www.EmbodyMedical.com
5500 E. Cheryl Parkway, Suite 108 • Fitchburg
Just off Fish Hatchery Road 2 miles south of the Beltline

forward
realty group

Mark Gladue
239-5593
Jane Schmidt
217-1427
Brandon Grosse
577-9860

"Forward Realty Group was invaluable in assisting selling my home. The sale of my home of over 30 years was emotional, but made much easier by the professionalism of the Forward Realty Group."

—Client Testimonial

lake, luxury & first time specialists

www.forwardrealtygroup.com
info@forwardrealtygroup.com

BUNBURY & ASSOCIATES REALTORS

Gail Ambrosius
CHOCOLATIER — MADISON

Inspired Globally,
Made Locally

CATERING & CUSTOM BOXES AVAILABLE

2086 ATWOOD AVE | MADISON
P 249 3500 | GAILAMBROSIOUS.COM

THE RACHEL MADDOW SHOW

weekdays
5pm

92.1 THE MIC
MADISON'S PROGRESSIVE TALK

Features



18 Look What Love Has Given Me

In her own words, **Tret Fure** tells how she built a career for herself in folk music

23 National Women's Music Festival

Jane Weldon chronicles how Madison became the home to this 35-year mission

26 From Serene to Surreal

Emily Mills uncovers the scope of musicians from our community on the Madison music scene

Departments

6 Editor's Letter Why Madison?

7 Contributors The faces behind our pages

Community

9 Our People Meet the owners of Plan B

10 Our Stages StageQ's Queer Shorts 4 and Four Seasons Theater's Andy Abrams

11 Our Pages *The Sweet In-Between* and *The King of the Screwups*

12 Our Athletes What Gay Hockey means to Max Camp

14 Our Entrepreneurs PianoFondue's Chris Lange

16 Our Calendar GSAFE Celebration of Leadership, PrideFest and more...



Quality of Life

28 Our Issues Jimmy Owen tells the truth about telling lies

30 Our Rights Tamara Packard on Iowa's historic marriage equality ruling

32 Our Health Amber Ault keeps up the pace with FrontRunners

23 Our Apparel Bonnie Raimy starts thinking about shorts

34 Our Money Jaime Zimmerman's practical tips for reducing debt

36 Our Plates Kathleen Nichols samples the Middle East at the Dardanelles

38 Our Beginnings Adam Nelson celebrates a personal milestone

Our History

22 Before Christopher St.

Richard Wagner looks back at the early work of the New Harvest Foundation.



Cover Photo by
Jessica Horn

Share your story ideas with us. Consider contributing to *Our Lives*. Tell us your interests at: OURLIVESMADISON.COM

Made on a Mac

MAY / JUNE 2009



Madison's LGBT&XYZ Magazine

Patrick Farabaugh
Publisher / Editor-in-Chief

Nikki Baumbhatt
Senior Consulting Editor

Virginia Harrison
Deputy Editor

Jessica Horn
Photo Editor

Daña Alder
Copy Editor

Contributing Writers

Tara Ayres

Amber Ault

Max Camp

Tret Fure

Emily Mills

Kathleen Nichols

Jimmy Owen

Tamara Packard

Bonnie Raimy

Dick Wagner

Jane Welton

Jaime Zimmerman

Contributing Photographers

Roberto Amezcua

Francesca DiMarco

Paul Baker Prindle

Advertising Consultants

Nikki Baumbhatt

Jimmy Owen

National Advertising Sales

Rivendell Media Inc.

Cris Derrick

Administrative Assistant

Matt Jelinek

Business Manager

Distribution

Jazzi Gaafe

Susie Gaafe

Marcus Ortelee

Mary Sykes

Cory Moll

Webmaster

©2009 All Rights Reserved.

May/June 2009 Volume 2, Issue 6

Life in the Middle Publishing, LLC

Patrick Farabaugh & Joseph Patane,

Publishers. 215 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.,

Box 1202, Madison, WI 53703

Any reproduction of OL: Our Lives Magazine in part or in full without the written permission of the publisher is strictly prohibited. OL: Our Lives Magazine shall not be held responsible for any claims made by our advertisers. Submission of photographs or other images to OL: Our Lives Magazine may be published without providing image credit. Appearance of any person, business or organization within photographs, advertisements, or editorial content neither implies nor infers any indication of their sexual orientation.

Le Dame® Footwear
Where style and fit matter.



The **only line** of feminine styled footwear built to fit the masculine foot and designed specifically for **transgender, drag queen and cross dressing customers**.

Le Dame Footwear • 877-365-6147 • www.ledame.com

THE MIDWEST'S NEWEST ENTERTAINMENT DESTINATION!
DINING COFFEE NIGHTCLUB ART SPACE LIVE MUSIC VIP & COMMUNITY SPACE & MORE!
LGBTQ OWNED AND OPERATED!

OPENS MAY 1ST
GUIT

FEAT. LEXI RAVYN PRODUCTIONS

OPENING WEEKEND HOURS:
FRI & SAT: 11AM TO 9PM (RESTAURANT), 10PM TO CLOSE (NIGHTCLUB)
SUNDAY: 10AM TO 2PM (BRUNCH), 2PM TO 6PM (HAPPY HOUR)

RESTAURANT OPEN TO ALL AGES

NIGHTCLUB IS 21 AND UP. 18 & UP NIGHTS BEGIN SUMMER 2009
OUT COFFEE BAR OPENS MONDAY MORNING, MAY 4TH!!!
PASTRIES, BAKED ITEMS, FREE WI-FI...OUTSIDE DINING BEGINS MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

I 262 JOHN Q HAMMONS DR
MADISON, WISCONSIN
WWW.OECMADISON.COM
INFO@OECMADISON.COM
608.203.8338



Coming in November

THE
CORPORATE
DIVERSITY INITIATIVE
REPORT

Do you have any **dedicated LGBT initiatives** at work? To learn more about the report or to have your company listed, please contact:
pfarabaugh@ourlivesmadison.com



ourlivesmadison.com

For sponsorship opportunities: ourlivesmadison.com/advertise



editor

608.257.0945
hbslawfirm.com

Effectively Representing the Community for Over 25 Years!

A business is an individual, or group of individuals, focused on providing a product or service to others in exchange for fair compensation. Businesses have a life span, just like the individuals who run them. Hurley, Burish & Staton, S.C. offers both business clients and individual clients a full range of advice and assistance through the growth and change that everyone experiences.

Practice Areas

- Domestic Partnership Agreements
- Estate Planning
- Business + Personal Services
- Mediation
- Professional Licensing + Discipline
- Civil Litigation
- Criminal Litigation

Attorneys

Virginia M. Bartelt	Daniel J. Schlichting
Stephen P. Hurley*	Richard A. Coad**
Ralph Cage	Andrew Erlandson
Marie A. Stanton*	Marcus J. Bergahn
Howard Sweet	John D. Hyland
Erik R. Guenther**	Clifford "Joe" Cavitt
Mark D. Burish	Dean A. Strang

*Super Lawyers 2008, **2008 Rising Stars

Downtown Madison
33 East Main Street • Madison, WI
53701

Madison: A Safe Space

Editor's note: This was originally written for and published in Spectrum Magazine, a project of the Madison Area Diversity Roundtable, and produced by Madison Magazine.



As I travel through life, when I look at my parents I can see reflections of them in myself. I can see how an odd smile I sometimes make is something I take from my father, how my mother's willingness to sacrifice has become one of the most honest ways I've grown to understand love. We all have role models that help shape our own identities and how we see the world. We adopt life designs from the people who show us a path, and until the need presents itself, we follow that path often unknowingly right in our role models' footsteps.

For anyone, change can be terrifying. When we come to a fork in our path and a decision needs to be made, logic would tell us to safely look at a map to lower the risk of the unknown before we choose which direction to continue. But what if there isn't a map to look at?

This is what happens when I fall in love. I know it is love because of the emotion I feel—it defies logic. It is a combination of emotion, intense interpersonal and sexual attraction that makes me deeply attach my feelings to another man. It is finding the courage to listen to my emotions—despite having little cultural history to guide me—and journey on an unmarked path that makes me gay.

If you have ever tried to imagine what a queer person's life is like, consider this: Imagine an emotion so strong that accepting it will marginalize you. Think about the weight of the potential loss involved in identifying as the only minority who cannot assume that their family's love is unconditional. And now, consider what force would still move someone to walk this path. It is easy to see why the LGBT community holds personal truth as a paramount value. When you prepare yourself for the potential to lose everything for the chance to live out who you are, the quest for authenticity is uncompromising and raised to new standards.

Self-acceptance for anyone requires understanding how you fit into your environment, what you contribute to your community.

Necessity is the mother of invention. Life rarely creates a solution before a problem requires one. Without a map to follow, a queer person often has to attempt a multitude of directions to discover which is the most natural. Self-acceptance for anyone requires understanding how you fit into your environment, what you contribute to your community. The interpersonal distance gay people travel shapes us into cultural pioneers who are able to open doors and revitalize communities. Think of an economically depressed neighborhood like the near-east side of Madison once was. It is the gays, the lesbians, the bohemians and the artists who are the first to recognize potential, move in and bring it back to life. LGBT people have often been able to find solutions to issues ahead of other communities because for us the need is often greater. We have a need to create safe spaces that celebrate diversity and support open minds—our culture is still being written.

Three-and-a-half years ago I was living in New York City, working as a senior designer for *Condé Nast Traveler* magazine. My coming-out process, as for many LGBT people, temporarily cost me my family back in northwest Indiana. After ten years, the need for family was strong and brought me back to the Midwest. Rather than move to Chicago, I chose Madison because I didn't feel like I would be marginalized into a minority ghetto as the more urban cities have subdivided their communities. I felt the potential here to expand culturally and reconnect to a community with an established economy that makes a healthy quality of life for a minority still achievable. For a city this size, what Madison has accomplished is truly remarkable. Our city is a place that has brought me closer to feeling home than anywhere else I have lived.

There is a list of reasons why Madison is that safe space for so many of us. The decisions made by earlier generations have shaped this city into a place that attracts people with a desire to learn and people who recognize that social change keeps us all ahead. Embracing and celebrating diversity in culture and ideology in our offices, our neighborhoods and our homes help empower everyone to believe that they have something to contribute. It helps draw the map that the next generation will follow. You have an LGBT community here that is proud to contribute to keeping us all moving forward. All we ask in return is that you be proud of us. ■

With love,

Patrick Farabaugh

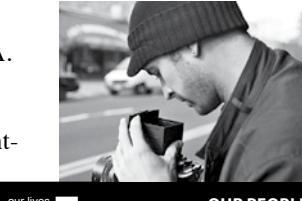
PUBLISHER / EDITOR

To advertise, contact us at: **OURLIVESMADISON.COM**

contributors

To contact all **OURLIVESMADISON.COM** users, visit their profiles at:
www.ourlivesmadison.com/user/username

There was a time when **Paul Baker Prindle**'s main artistic inspirations were the JC Penny catalog and his Grandma's collection of evening wear. Since then, his tastes have broadened and his work has grown to include photography, installation, printmaking and sculpture. His current project, photographing gay meeting places, has taken this Brooklyn-based artist across the globe from Will Rogers Park in L.A. to Hampstead Heath in London. Baker Prindle's work is included in Spectacular Spectacular, a one-night-only group exhibition May 1st at 1414 S. Park St. in Madison. His work can be viewed at paulbakerprindle.com.



our lives
OUR PEOPLE
ourlivesmadison.com
user paulbakerprindle

Emily Mills is a freelance writer, musician and occasional show organizer who has been living in Madison since '00. She currently sings and plays drums in two local bands (Little Red Wolf, The Shabelles), is the co-organizer of the micro-cinema group Wis-Kino, and writes for dane101.com, Isthmus, 77 Square, and anyone else who will have her. She keeps active

through road and mountain biking and has high hopes of mixing her love of those sports with her love of writing and travel. She also organized and produced last summer's "Hot Mess" drag and burlesque show at the Majestic and is looking forward to working with the Asana Softball World Series on the next installment of that production, coming this September!

Jane Weldon is the producer of the National Women's Music Festival. Although her career is in the business of health care, she has always had a passion for the arts. She began producing music and comedy events as a hobby in the 1990s and has since worked as an agent, manager, consultant and producer in her spare time. She and her partner, Tret Fure, moved to Madison in 2000 and created Tomboy girl Records along with its signature clothing line, the series Music & Comedy in Madison, and Tomboy girl Fest.

Jane is deeply committed to making the National Women's Music Festival not just survive, but thrive. She sees her role as creating the experience of the Festival, the story told across the four-day event.



our lives
MUSIC FESTIVAL
ourlivesmadison.com
user Jane

Please Welcome New Advertisers:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2 Madison Festivals | 15 Nate Mathis, Stark |
| 5 OUT Nightclub | 39 Diverse & Resilient |
| 7 Lakeview Veterinary Clinic | |

To advertise, contact us at: **OURLIVESMADISON.COM**

Powerful Results.
Real People.

The Experienced Real Estate Agents You Want On Your Side!



LIZ LAUER
608.444.5725
liz@lizlauer.com



WWW.LIZLAUER.COM

BUNBURY
& ASSOCIATES
REALTORS



Pam Mache, DVM
Tom Bach, DVM
Kristi Crass, DVM



3518 Monroe Street
Madison, WI 53711
608-236-4570
lakeviewvetclinic.com

Compassionate care right in your neighborhood

**When? Where?
We Can Get
You There!**

Shane Champion
Travel Consultant
scampion@middletontravel.com

Jim Wills
Travel Consultant
jwills@middletontravel.com

Middleton Travel
P **608-831-4664**
TF **800-688-8785**
F **608-831-2930**

www.middletontravel.com

Get “Buzzed Into Madison”

Weekday mornings with Emmy Fink

Broadcast Channel 57 or Cable Channel 2

OUR PEOPLE



our lives
Corey Gresen and Rico Sabatini
ourlivesmadison.com
users Core-yeah and r6kid



Men with a Plan

Meet **Corey Gresen** and **Rico Sabatini** the dynamic duo behind **Plan B**, the new Williamson Street hotspot.

Gresen and Sabatini inside 924 Williamson St. as the renovation starts to create Plan B

Where are you from and what's your background? **Rico:** I'm 28 going on 18. I love life and was born and raised in Madison. I have a deep-rooted love for this town. I went to work for a local phone company before I was approached by a storm chaser to do insurance restoration and chase hail storms. I dropped my job of six years, bought a truck and some tools, and opened my own company. I incorporated Coast 2 Coast construction in 2006. I traveled around the country and did insurance restoration for hail-ravaged areas such Madison after the hail-storm that struck in 2006. Coast 2 Coast did over \$1,000,000 in revenue its first year in business. After a couple of years, I decided to stick close to home and started working for AT&T. My last day with them was April 2. **Corey:** I'm 26 and was born and raised in Wausau. I graduated from DePaul University in Chicago, with my B.M. in Music Business. While there I worked at Roscoe's in Boystown. I honestly believe this was my first glimpse to where I wanted my life to go... but before that, I moved to Los Angeles for two years and worked in the publicity department at Interscope Records. I helped coordinate events for Sheryl Crow, Gwen Stefani, Pussycat Dolls and various other artists. It was the life! The monetary requirements of LA, though, were just too much. In November 2006 I moved back to Wisconsin. After two weeks in Madison (and being used to a certain style of nightlife), I incorporated an LLC to begin opening a new kind of gay bar. In the spring of 2007, the fortunes of

fate sent Rico my way, and we've been working together every day since.

What is Plan B? **Corey:** It's that night where you start partying at one place, but then deep down you know you'll end up at another (which more often than not is WAY more fun).... Plan B is that other place.

Why did you pick the Willy Street location? **Corey:** Who doesn't love that street? It's so close to downtown and campus, but still separate and unique.

Rico: It's the perfect neighborhood for Plan B. The community here works in a very collaborative way to support each other as a whole. The old Star Photo building (924 Williamson St.) is on a main artery bike path and within blocks of two major bus lines. We wanted something the UW students can access without having to drive or take an expensive cab ride.

And where did that name come from? **Corey:** Plan B came from many many hours of brainstorming and emails. We went through a slew of names before this one stuck. I saved the papers to someday look back and laugh at the ridiculousness we came up with in the early stages. Plus—since the location change—it truly is a Plan B. **Rico:** We had a fun time picking the name. We had to move to our own Plan B when negotiations failed at another close-by location. To me though, I guess the name represents an alternative, a new way or something different. That's exactly what we want to provide the community with.

Be proud of who you are. Express your individuality, create a profile and tell us what makes you unique at: OURLIVESMADISON.COM

Playbill, Spotlight and Calendar by Tara Ayres

SPOTLIGHT

Andy Abrams

Four Seasons Theatre's Founder and Artistic Director

andy Abrams is the founder and artistic director of Four Seasons Theatre, as well as a talented composer and musician. While he grew up doing theater (he was president of the Middleton High School Drama Club and a member of the Thespian Initiation), he didn't get into musical theater until he was an adult. He just wanted to be an opera singer and studied vocal performance at the UW-Madison.

While in high school, Andy directed "Snappy" for the Middleton Recreation Department. He went to Patty Whitley and asked her why Middleton didn't have a community theater. Within six months, they'd started Middleton Players Theater (Andy was 19). Through college, he would sing all year, then serve as music director for MPT in the summer.

After college, Andy won a scholarship to study voice in Milan, followed by an opera apprenticeship program in Iowa. He wasn't sure whether he wanted to pursue opera or musical theater, so he moved to New York to try both. In his first NY apartment building, he put a note under the doors of neighbors advertising his services as a vocal coach and pianist. Within a month, a neighbor introduced him to the national tour director for "Kiss of the Spider Woman," who hired him as its music director. He toured for a year with "Kiss." Back in NY, Andy worked on a variety of shows and got his Equity card. Eventually, he auditioned for the BMI Musical Theater Writing Work-



day he returned, Andy met with Erin Burke and Chris Lange to talk about starting Four Seasons Theatre, now in its fourth season. In addition to serving as the Four Seasons' Artistic Director, Andy is also the Chorus Master for the Madison Opera, which he describes as a lot of fun, prepping the chorus and directing back stage.

And he's talking with local theater producers about a professional Madison production of "But I'm a Cheerleader" to lure producers from the coasts. Stay tuned! In the meantime, you can see Four Seasons' production of "Evita" in August 2009 at the Memorial Union Theater on the UW-Madison campus. ■

SPOTLIGHT

The Short and Sweet

StageQ's fourth annual playfest returns with 10 national award-winning shorts.



What kind of evening at the theater features penguins, superheroes, phone-sex operators, blind dates, cops and robbers, and every phase of love? Judging by past years, StageQ's **QUEER SHORTS**, of course!

QUEER SHORTS 4 is StageQ's fourth annual playfest, an evening of 10 short plays. The scripts are the results of an international play-writing competition, with the top 10 coming from over 300 submissions. With 10 local directors and 35 actors, **QUEER SHORTS 4** aims to build community and get people involved in the theater as it entertains. And if you don't love one of the scripts? In five or 10 minutes, you'll be on to the next one! From the touching and moving to the ridiculous and irreverent, **QUEER SHORTS 4** really does have something for everyone! ■

CALENDAR

LESTER AND THE TRAILER TRASH

by Cassi Harris
Broom Street Theater
Madison, May 1 – June 7
broomstreet.org

ALL SHOOK UP

by Joe DiPietro
Sun Prairie Civic Theatre
Sun Prairie, May 1 – 10
sunprairiecivictheatre.com

ONE FLEW OVER THE CUCKOO'S NEST

By Ken Kesey
Madison Theatre Guild
Madison, May 8 – 23
madisontheatreguild.org

4 YEARS OF FOUR SEASONS (a cabaret)

Four Seasons Theatre
Madison, May 9
fourseasonstheatre.com

LITTLE DOG LAUGHED

by Douglas Carter Beane
Strollers Theatre
Madison, May 14 – June 6
strollertheatre.org

WELL

By Lisa Kron
Mercury Players Theatre
Madison, May 15 – June 7
mercuryplayerstheatre.com

FAUST

by Charles Gounod
Madison Opera
Madison, May 15 - 17
madisonopera.org

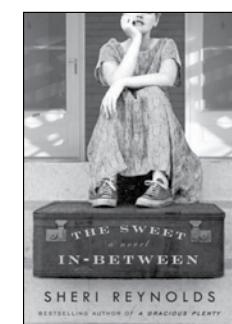
QUEER SHORTS 4

StageQ
Madison, May 28 – June 6
stageq.com

STAGEQ COMEDY IMPROV WORKSHOP PERFORMANCE

StageQ
Madison, June 3
stageq.com

Subscribe to *Our Lives* for FREE and have your copy mailed directly to you. Never miss an issue! Support us at: OURLIVESMADISON.COM

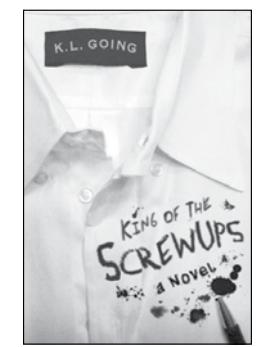
An Identity Comes of Age**The Sweet In-Between** by Sheri Reynolds

If you haven't read a novel by Sheri Reynolds, you're not only missing out on her gorgeous, descriptive prose, but also her storytelling of underdog protagonists overcoming the ugliness of life. She is one of my all-time favorite writers, and I was pleased that her newest novel keeps to her writing style and themes, but adds a delicate twist to the story.

The "Sweet In-Between" follows Kendra (Kenny) as she comes of age amidst confusion about her sexuality and gender. After a local tragedy makes Kenny rethink her importance to her adoptive family, she decides to make herself indispensable to Aunt Glo, the girlfriend of her incarcerated father. Kenny knows she's different—she binds her chest and cuts her hair short—but she also is desperate to fit in to a family that's not really hers.

Reynolds tackles the issue of Kenny's gender/sexuality delicately. Kenny is called a dyke (an unfamiliar word to her) and gender confused, but she doesn't necessarily feel that she's a lesbian. She also dresses like a boy and binds her chest, but being "trans" is beyond her realm of experience. She just knows she's different.

Sheri Reynolds is a genius at creating complex female characters, and, while you could argue that Kenny isn't necessarily female, there's no question that she's unique and memorable. —Gretchen Treu

The Value of Individuality**King of the Screwups** by K.L. Going

"King of the Screwups" is the latest novel from K.L. Going, multiple award-winning young adult author. It is the funny story of a teen trying hard not to be himself- and messing up everything along the way.

Liam grew up popular, rich and good looking. But one thing he can't help is disappointing his smart, business-savvy father. During his senior year of high school, he gets kicked out of the house. What he doesn't expect is that his mom, former super-model Sarah Geller, has arranged for him to stay with his Aunt Pete, a gay glam rocker DJ.

It doesn't take Liam long to figure out that he wants to be like Pete. Not the sloppy, cross-dressing, beer drinking Pete, but a man who doesn't care what anyone thinks of him. The problem is that Liam does care what people think of him, and he thinks everyone has got him wrong. While trying hard to be unpopular and not mess up his life any more, Liam becomes more and more unhappy. Luckily, Pete and his aging, gay glam-rock bandmates see what Liam is capable of and encourage him to be himself.

As far as letting teens know that it's ok to be different, this book hits the nail on the head. While Liam isn't gay, the presence of so much positivity from the gay characters sends a strong message that LGBT people in your life are valuable and have lessons to share.

You'll laugh throughout this book and smile at the end. I definitely did. —Gretchen Treu

Available at: A Room of One's Own Feminist Bookstore

608-213-2906

EcoBroker® Realtor®

Kim Nemacheck

Helping our community make informed buying and selling decisions

kimnemacheck.com

BUNBURY & ASSOCIATES
REALTORS

ECOBROKER CERTIFIED

SPRING CONCERT:
*Equal-
Not Special*

Saturday, May 30, 2009 - 7:00 p.m.
Mills Concert Hall, UW Humanities Building
455 N. Park Street, Madison
(Corner of Park St & University Ave.)

Tickets: \$15 Adult, \$12 Student/Senior
Available via PayPal at perfectharmonychorus.org,
from chorus members and at the door

perfect
harmony
MEN'S CHORUS • MADISON, WI

A Room of
One's Own
Feminist Bookstore

Serving the
LGBT
community for
over 30 years
307 West Johnson St., Madison, WI 53703
608/257-7888 room@chorus.net
www.roomofonesown.com



Max Camp at the UW Shell ice rink where he and many MGHA members have started learning to ice skate.

What Gay Hockey Means to Me

Each year the Madison Gay Hockey Association invites its members to write about the role the MGHA plays in building their identity. 2009 Scholarship winner Max Camp shares his essay.

In 2006 I was working at the UW-Madison LGBT Campus Center and saw a poster of a shirtless man clad in shoulder pads and holding a hockey stick. Not just another ad for a local fetish night, I immediately jumped when I realized there was a gay hockey league in development. In high school I had played some pick-up games of roller hockey with neighborhood friends, but I never had the chance to play ice hockey—much less in an organized league. Three-and-a-half years later, after first seeing that poster, the Madison Gay Hockey Association has played a transformative role in my personal happiness and my social connection to Madison's gay community.

As a kid, my dad encouraged me to play many sports as he dreamed that one of his kids would go pro. I started off with the team sports, baseball and soccer, and gradually added doubles-tennis, swim team, and even a year of little-league football in sixth grade in exchange for a Gap jean jacket. However, as puberty set in, and team sports developed an atmosphere that was less about having fun, and more about male bonding over girls, or proving you were not a girl, or worse, a faggot, sports gradually came to be, not a source of pleasure, but something to dread and occasionally fear.

However, MGHA and its emphasis on recruiting inexperienced players and teaching each other through peer-development has been an amazing

**APRIL 10, 2009
OUTSPORTS.COM
named the Madison Gay
Hockey Association
the top gay sports group
in America.**

Engagement in political struggle fostered tendencies in me to judge people by their politics (or lack of). Gay men who seemed to play into the hands of consumer capitalism by looking for the next cute outfit were kind of sad, I thought. I was instantly repelled by gay men who didn't like women. I could go on, but hope you get the point. I closed myself off from people I disagreed with, rather than opening dialogue with them.

Subscribe to *Our Lives* for FREE and have your copy mailed directly to you. Never miss an issue! Support us at: OURLIVESMADISON.COM

However, when I tried to explore social outlets, I found them fairly unfulfilling. Despite a commitment to feminism, I could not help but feel when I walked into a gay bar that I was there to "find someone" for some yet undecided reason. It was difficult to not feel like I was objectifying people. I hated thinking and feeling this way, when it went against so much of what I believed in and strove for. As a result, I tended to avoid gay bars and just went to "straight" bars with friends where we could grab a drink and chat.

MGHA has opened an incredible social space where I can be around other gay men (and queer women, trans-folks, hetero men and women, etc.) and have a great time in an environment that is not hyper-sexualized.

In contrast to these two experiences, MGHA has opened an incredible social space where I can be around other gay men (and queer women, trans-folks, hetero men and women, etc.) and have a great time in an environment that is not hyper-sexualized. Although the environment itself fosters building positive connections with others, the people that MGHA has attracted have been wonderful. Most people are grounded and relaxed. I think the developmental aspect of the league tends to attract people who care about others and are patient. For example, on my team this year, a shy, straight guy bends down and helps tie the laces of a butch, queer woman. Where else would you see this type of bonding and concern across people of different orientations and gender expressions? This is just one example of what makes this space so special for me.

Now that you know how important MGHA has been to me over the last three years, I think it is appropriate to discuss why I would like a scholarship to the Chelsea Challenge. After 15 amazing years in Madison, a place I proudly call home, I will be moving in August to attend law school. Prior to joining MGHA, I really could not ice skate. I had been to the UW Shell a handful of times, and held onto the boards as I took insecure baby-steps—not glides—and prayed I did not fall. These days, I receive compliments from my Coach and Captain that I am an "animal" on the ice. I would really like to represent MGHA and demonstrate how amazing this league is in terms of developing complete newbies into puck-thirsty monsters on the ice. Thus, I think I am a good candidate to represent the unique mission of MGHA as a developmental league. Conversely, attending this tournament would be a wonderful way to conclude a three-year tenure with an organization that has taught me new skills, introduced me to amazing people and brought me much happiness on a weekly basis.

In addition to being a product of MGHA, I am applying for this scholarship because, as a graduate student who faced unforeseen financial hardship in 2008, I would not be able to attend otherwise. Last year my partner, Boian, who is not a U.S. citizen, ran into complications when applying for a work visa. Not only did he not get the work visa, but he lost the job he held at the time. This made me the sole income-earner for our two-person family while I was still a grad student. We made ends meet, but in doing so, I tapped out various financial resources available to me. Therefore, the scholarship would open an opportunity for me that otherwise would not exist.

After 32 years, I've come to realize that life in general is pretty hard. And for many in our community, life is frequently unnecessarily hard. This league has brought so much joy and happiness to me and others on a weekly basis. When I move in August, a piece of my heart will be left with MGHA, but the fantastic memories will remain strong. Thank you. ■

Madison's Premier Running Specialty Store

Berkeley
Running Company

Your Town. Your Neighborhood. Your Store.



3234 University Ave. • 608/395-BERK

Weekdays 10am-8pm • Sat 10am-6pm • Sun 11am-5pm

www.berkeleyrunningcompany.com

Car Insurance with **PERSONAL SERVICE.**

NO EXTRA CHARGE.

Are you **there?**

You deserve a competitive rate on car insurance—and free personal service from me, your State Farm® agent. Let me help you find the coverage that's right for you.

Call me today for more information.



Jim Hartman Ins Agcy Inc

Jim Hartman, Agent
McFarland, WI 53558
Bus: 608-838-4171 Fax: 608-838-0441
jim@jimhartman.com



State Farm

[statefarm.com®](http://statefarm.com)

P080259 11/08
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company
State Farm Indemnity Company • Bloomington, IL



Celebrate the activism and leadership of our LGBTQ youth and their allies.

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Social Hour & Silent Auction
6:30 p.m. Dinner & Program

www.gsafof safeschools.org

community

OUR ENTREPRENEURS

PrideAlive

COMMUNITY • DIVERSITY • EQUALITY



save the date:

**JULY 11, 2009
JOANNES PARK**

1430 E. Walnut, Green Bay, WI
11am – 10pm

**LIVE MUSIC, ENTERTAINMENT, SPEAKERS,
FAMILY FUN, FOOD & DRINK**

FIVE DAYS OF CELEBRATION BEGIN JULY 8:
including a legal workshop, an art gallery,
Pre-Pride kick-off party including drag performance,
a 5k run/walk and post-event brunch.
Visit the web site for more information!

www.newpride.org

The Music Man

When his love for music mixed with a passion for performing, **Christopher Lange** developed **PianoFondué**—a comedy cabaret that puts humor and musical diversity on the center stage.

Interviewed by **Virginia Harrison** Photographed by **Roberto Amezua**

Tell us a little bit about yourself. What was it like growing up gay in northern Wisconsin? I grew up in Niagara, a town of 2000 in northern Wisconsin. I was not out growing up, but I knew I was gay since I was a little kid. Competitive sports weren't interesting to me. I was in theater, band, dance and was the first male cheerleader in the school's history. I never really knew anyone else who was gay growing up. In college, the people I met who were gay were very flamboyant and "out there," and I didn't really fit in with them either. So, I had a really tough time coming to terms with my sexuality. I thought, "I like guys, but I'm not like that, so I can't be gay."

After college, I became good friends with a gay couple who had many of the same interests as I. I didn't know initially that they were gay. They were out, but didn't feel the need to make sure everyone around them knew it. They became like older brothers to me and helped me realize that being gay doesn't mean I need to act any certain way. I can be myself, and I have my likes and dislikes and just happen to be gay. Being gay doesn't define me any more than being Italian or a musician or a dog lover. It's just one more part of me.

How did you get started performing? I had some fantastic mentors in the performing arts growing up who were very integral to molding my performing interests. I sang in church, took piano lessons, performed with school choirs, played in the band and joined the community theater. However, my first major performance was at the Christmas concert when I was in fifth grade. I came out in pajamas and a bathrobe, holding a teddy bear and sang, "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus" to a packed gymnasium. I got a standing ovation, and it was "all downhill from there."

I went on to college and became a singer/dance and the Public Relations Director of the Wisconsin Singers. I was also the founding member of BC3 a cappella—a men's a cappella quartet that I toured and performed with for about 11 years. It really honed my producing and performing abilities.

What is the origin of the name of your dueling pianos act,

PianoFondué? The name "PianoFondué" came up when my business partner Josh Dupont and I spent hours rehearsing, drinking wine and brainstorming. We wanted to come up with a name that not only meant dueling pianos but also showed the diversity of the music and humor we provide to audiences. One of these nights, I was making fondue. At first we laughed at the name, but then it began to make sense. We liked the term "fondué" because it was a mixture of different ingredients mixed together to make one great thing. There are different types (chocolate, cheese, etc.) and it's never the same twice. Also, the name fondue is kitschy, catchy and easy to market into posters, apparel, etc. We also wanted something unique that people would remember ... that has certainly become the case.

To advertise, contact us at: OURLIVESMADISON.COM

Are you out to your audiences? Why/why not? I'm out to the audience when appropriate. If people ask me, I always tell them. The really entertaining part of the show is that Josh is straight and I'm gay, but during the show everyone assumes the opposite. At the end of the show, women often come up to talk to me and men come to talk to him. It's very entertaining when they hear the truth.

Tell us about a time when you had a brush with greatness. We were touring the Liberace Museum in Las Vegas, and at the end of the tour, one of the museum directors asked us if we would like to play Liberace's mirrored grand piano—we were floored! We took turns playing for the museum patrons. It was truly a religious experience.

Who are your personal heroes (musical or otherwise)? My biggest musical heroes/influences include Sting, Brian Setzer, Styx and Billy Joel.

My biggest personal hero is my little sister, Sarah. Sarah is 31 and has Down Syndrome. She is truly the light of my life and has taught me so much over the years. She believes in herself 100%—and always rolls with whatever life throws at her. She has taught me that life is an adventure.

Are you as high-energy in normal life as you are when you perform? When I'm working, whether it's in the office running the business or on stage, I'm giving 200%. In the last year with the addition of the Fondué Band and Savvy Entertainment and working with booking more artists, I've begun to learn more about my personal time and how important it is to make and take that time.



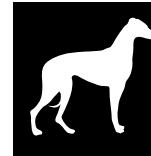
Anything else you'd like to add? I never dreamed when I was young, or even as recently as five years ago, that I would be a fulltime performer—let alone be running my own entertainment company. Today I feel truly blessed with the people I have in my personal and professional life.

In our business, Josh and I believe in building relationships and partnerships and don't see ourselves as simply musical mercenaries. We work very hard with each organization to ensure that everyone gets a positive experience out of each show, both financially and personally. Because of this, most of the people we work with feel more like family to us than a business relationship.

You can learn more about Chris and at www.savvy.pianofondué.com

To advertise, contact us at: OURLIVESMADISON.COM

our lives
11
Featured Sept/Oct '07



SPAWOOF

We pamper your pup from head to tail

Boarding • Day Care

Grooming • Massage Therapy

BARK-N-RIDE™

Drop Off/Pick-up Dane County Airport

MADISON'S PREMIER DOG SPA

**608-663-9663(WOOF) • www.spawoof.net
2250 Pennsylvania Avenue • Madison, WI**



STARK
COMPANY REALTORS
A family tradition since 1908

**Honesty.
Integrity.
Reliability.**

Nate Mathis
Cell 608-669-3448
Direct - 608-443-2531
nmathis@starkhomes.com

**LIKE MOVIES?
we do, too.**

**Specializing in foreign-language, documentary,
anime, LGBT, local and independent films**

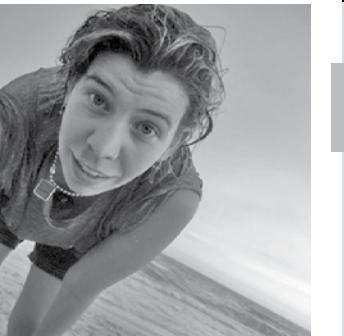
Your business keeps us in business – Thank You!



Four Star Video Heaven

315 N. Henry -Just off Johnson & State Street, downtown Madison
(608) 255-1994 www.fourstarvideoheaven.com

Cultural, Social, Service and Nightlife listings edited by Virginia Harrison



Celebration of Leadership

May 16, Monona Terrace

The Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools will award a Community Activist and an Educator Award at the 13th Annual Celebration of Leadership Awards Banquet. The awards honor the activism and courage of our schools' youth and adults. This year's speakers include State Representative Mark Pocan and Madison School Board President Arlene Silveira.

gsaforsafeschools.org

PrideFest

June 12–14, Milwaukee

PrideFest energizes the shores of Milwaukee's lakefront with one of the nation's most dynamic celebrations of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender culture and community, including music and dancing, shopping, health & wellness information, family activities, and more. Headliners include **Cyndi Lauper**, Brandy, Etta James and Deborah Cox.

pridefest.com

National Women's Music Festival

July 2–5, Marriott Madison West

This musical and cultural extravaganza includes workshops, concerts, comedy, theatre, marketplace, films and videos, live auction, writer's series, and more. Performers include Lucie Blue Tremblay, Vickie Shaw, Erin McKeown, **Alix Olson**, and many others.

wiaonline.org

GET LISTED To see your event on this page, be sure to post it on our community calendar ourlivesmadison.com

ACT 7 (AIDS Network Cycles Together)

Informational Meetings Saturdays in May at 2 p.m.

Don't miss out on the fun of being part of the ACT community. Come be a rider, a crew member or a day volunteer. May 2: Glass Nickel Pizza; May 9: Central Library, Rm 204; May 30: High Noon Saloon.

actride.org

SSBL Madison Summer League Begins

Monday nights beginning May 4 at Bowman Park, Field No. 1, Madison

Madison Gay Softball has evolved into an institution that has revitalized the gay community and enriched the lives of our members. Games begin at 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, and 9:30.

ssblmadison.com

Water Divas Spring Event

May 17, Rutabaga Paddlesport Shop, Madison This annual women-only paddling event is a great way to meet other women paddlers and discover the fun that awaits you.

rutabaga.com

Proud Theater: Full Circle

May 21–23, Fredric March Play Circle, Memorial Union, Madison

An exciting evening of theater, music, poetry and dance written by and starring the talented youth of Proud Theater, Madison's very own LGBTQ youth theater troupe.

proudtheater.org

Madison Marathon and Expo

May 23 and 24, Alliant Energy Center, Madison The Health & Fitness expo is on Saturday the 23rd, and the Marathon

is on Sunday the 24th. The Marathon starts and ends at the Alliant Energy Center.

madisonfestivals.com/marathon

World's Largest Bratfest

May 23–25, Willow Island at Alliant Energy Center, Madison The Memorial Day weekend event features volunteers attempting to set a new world record by serving 200,000 brats during the event while raising funds for more than 70 groups and charities.

bratfest.com

Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus: Equal, Not Special

May 30, Mills Concert Hall, UW-Madison campus

The finale to their twelfth season, "Equal, Not Special" is a concert retrospective of the civil rights movements of the United States from the 19th century forward.

perfectharmonychorus.org

Concerts on the Square

Wednesdays at 7 p.m., beginning June 24, on the Capital Grounds Bring a picnic or purchase your meal on the Square and settle in for a musical community event. Runs for six weeks.

wcoconcerts.org

Third Annual Drag Down Cancer Comedy Benefit

June 27, High Noon Saloon, Madison

Come out for an evening of performances, funz and spectacles featuring Cass Marie and friends; more than a dozen drag acts are scheduled.

myspace.com/dragdowncancercomedy

ORGANIZATIONS

A representative sampling

AIDS Network

600 Williamson St., Madison (608) 252-6540
aidsnetwork.org

Bowling Out Loud

beckwith.matt@yahoo.com

Dairyland Cowboys and Cowgirls

dcandc.org

Fair Wisconsin

122 State St., Madison (608) 441-0143
fairwisconsin.org

First Congregational Church

1609 University Ave., Madison (608) 233-9751
firstcongmadison.org

FrontRunners/FrontWalkers

personalpages.tds.net/~tmclurg

Gay/Bi Fathers Support Group

Doolguy@charter.net

Gay/Straight Alliance for Safe Schools (GSafe)

301 S. Bedford St., Madison (608) 661-4141
gsafesafeschools.org

Gay Softball League

ssblmadison.com

Gay Volleyball League

madisongayvolleyball.com

Hermanos Latinos

sneal@aidsnetwork.org

LGBT Business Alliance

madisonbusinessalliance.com

Madison Gay Hockey Association

madisongayhockey.org

Madison Minotaurs Gay Rugby

minotaursrugby.org

New Harvest Foundation

newharvestfoundation.org

OutReach Community Center

600 Williamson St., Madison (608) 255-8582
lgbtoutreach.org

PFLAG - Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays

(608) 848-2333

pflag-madison.org

Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus

perfectharmonychorus.org

Rural Dykes Association

pswfarm@juno.com

StageQ

stageq.com

UW - Madison LGBT Campus Center

800 Langdon St., Madison (608) 265-3344
wisc.edu/lgbt

Wisconsin Rainbow Families

wirainbowfamilies.com

OUR EVENTS

March 14 | Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus "The Dark Mirror" Cabaret



March 29 | AIDS Network's Camp Bingo at the Edgewater Hotel



April 3 | AIDS Network's Red Ribbon Affair at Monona Terrace



What baggage are you carrying?

Ready to let it go?



Jimmy G. Owen, M.S.

Licensed Professional Counselor

(608) 213-7583

www.madisongaytherapist.com

EXPERIENCED HELP TO DEAL WITH:

Depression & Anxiety • Relationships & Codependency • Grief & Loss
Addiction & Recovery • Compulsive Behaviors • Isolation & Lonliness



MONDAY'S

Dart League

TUESDAY'S

Pool Tournament

WEDNESDAY'S

Watch Project Runway, Sordid Lives and Top Chef on the BIG screen
Wii™ play for Prizes

THURSDAY'S

First Thursday-Bear Nite • Second Thursday-Cat Call/Ladies Nite

FRIDAY'S

Live DJ-House Dance Party

SATURDAY'S

Badger Games on the big screen • First Saturday-Jock Nite
Live DJ-House Dance Party • SPiT NYC

SUNDAY'S

Packer Games on the BIG screen • BEAR BASH/FREE PIZZA

Check our website www.woofsmadison.com for specials

114 King Street-across from the Majestic

www.woofsmadison.com



LOOK WHAT *Love* HAS GIVEN ME

How do you make it in the music industry as an out artist? In her own words, legendary folk musician **Tret Fure** chronicles her career from piano lessons to Billboard charts.

For most of my adult life, my career has too often been affected by my sexual orientation and mostly without my realization or understanding. Though it may not seem to be that important in our lives these days, it still really is. So many of us still suffer as second-class citizens, not allowed to realize our full potential because of others' limited visions. It continues to baffle me, as it continues to touch my career and therefore my life.

Music has been my life since I was five years old. My parents purchased a used piano, which sat in our dining room by a window that looked out on our back yard. My mother was a big-band singer, and I inherited her musical talent. The day that we acquired that piano, I heard a tune on the radio. I got up and went to the piano, where I easily picked out the melody. I had an uncanny ear. My parents were both startled and delighted and immediately found me a piano teacher. Though I found lessons tedious and spent more time staring out the back-yard window than at my lessons, I was writing songs by the age of seven. My teacher was so proud of my writing, she would have me perform for her high school students. I was her little inspiration.

That same year, we moved from Iowa to Illinois. Moving the piano was an expensive proposition, one that would have cost more than the piano itself, so my parents decided to sell it and promised to purchase another when we settled in. That never happened, and I'm sure I didn't press it, being of an age where playing baseball was as important as playing the piano.

My next musical opportunity unfolded in fourth grade when we were asked to pick instruments for music class. I migrated toward the violin, my second stringed instrument. I took to it as easily as I had to the piano, and by the sixth grade I was first chair in the high school orchestra. But another move, this time to the upper peninsula of Michigan, and poor instructors ended my interest in the violin. More important, right before we left Illinois, my oldest brother came home one day with a four-string guitar. "Mine," I said. I took it from him and played "Red River Valley" by ear. Why that song, I don't know, but my life-long love of the guitar started right then and there.

I started learning every folk song I could. I had to learn by ear because I didn't know anyone else who played guitar, and there were

no books in those days. This was the early 1960s. I bought every Judy Collins, Joan Baez and Bob Dylan album I could find and put my ear to the speaker of our old Magnavox TV/Hi-Fi combo. I'd place that needle down over and over on a particular passage to learn the chords and picking techniques of my favorite songs and players. Judy Collins was a particularly fine finger picker, and I learned most of my Travis-style picking from her. I learned everything she recorded on her first five albums, most of Joan Baez's early work, and a lot of Dylan. I would then teach my oldest brother how to play, and together we became the local folk duo. He is six years my senior, so by fourteen and twenty, we were playing the local coffee house in Marquette, church socials, student union concerts and faculty parties at Northern Michigan University. My brother was a student at the university so we had a lot of college gigs. But by the time he was twenty-two, he left and I was on my own. I played everywhere I could, including my junior and senior proms.

I left home at 18 because I needed to take my music beyond my hometown. I was accepted at the University of California, Berkeley, the farthest place I could go within the U.S. Once out there, I played everywhere I could. I had a weekly impromptu performance on Sproul Plaza, where I'd open my case for donations and make good spending money. I had a great campus following. I was amazed, not only by how playing music affected me, but also how it affected my audience. I always made sure people left with smiles on their faces. I discovered how music could change people's demeanors and their lives.

I also played the campus coffee house, open mike at the Freight and Salvage, and gatherings in my dorm. I would hitchhike across the Bay Bridge and play the folk clubs in San Francisco as well. I discovered James Taylor and Joni Mitchell; my repertoire grew and my playing styles increased. Though I had started writing my own songs, they were not very good and I was hesitant to play them in public. I would add a few to my shows, but mostly I played folk covers. I have to say, though, that it was at a James Taylor concert in Berkeley that I realized I did want to write my own songs and I hoped I had something to say. The words of my favorite artists resonated deeply with me, and the sense that someone could say just what I was feeling was remarkable. I wanted to do that; I wanted that gift.

This was a wonderful time for me, and by the end of my freshman year, I was ready to make music my career. I was much more passionate about my music than I was about going to school. I knew what I wanted to do with my life, and at the time, I didn't feel that a degree was necessary. I thought that waiting three more years would just frustrate me. I dropped out of school and moved to New York City to find my first manager. Little did I know how challenging the music industry was.

My first week in New York City I went to Hoot Night at Gerde's Folk City. I was determined to be discovered. When I walked in, I saw Bob Dylan sitting at the bar, and I had hopes of him hearing me and discovering my talent. Boy, was I naive! I didn't go on until almost 2 a.m., and by then he was long gone. But my brother was in town, and he showed up with a woman named Maggie Corey. As soon as she heard me, she announced that she should be my manager. She claimed she had contacts because she was an ex-girlfriend of James Taylor, and because she was the daughter of Professor Irwin Corey, a well-known, though eccentric, comic in the city. I decided that I would give it a try, and, after spending a very hot and humid August in New York, I decided to

relocate to Los Angeles, which was the hub of the music business.

I met Maggie in LA, where she had found an apartment. I was to stay with her until things started happening in my career, and I was to have my own room. But when I arrived, there was only one bedroom, which I had to share with Maggie. The first night there, she seduced me; it was not a good time. I was confused. I disliked everything about my situation, the place I was living, the smog, Maggie, and the fact that no one really wanted to have anything to do with her in a business sense. I felt I had made a huge mistake on all fronts. My career didn't seem to be going anywhere.

But there was a silver lining. Through Maggie, I met the women in Fanny, the first successful all-women rock-and-roll band in the 1970s. They didn't just front the band, they were the band, and they all were amazing musicians. I was specifically taken by the guitar player, June Millington, and over the course of the next few months, we became a couple. June saved my life. I found someone I related to musically and personally. I discovered the love of a woman, and I was finally happy. I spent the next three years with June, traveling the country and the world with Fanny, taking care of her and helping out as I could with the band.

I traveled with them until the day that the keyboardist, Nicky Barklay, introduced me to Spencer Davis. Spencer was looking for an acoustic blues player for his new blues band. When he discovered I could play Lead Belly-style slide and 12-string finger picking blues and that I could sing, he hired me. I brought a great friend and bass player to him as well, and we became the Spencer Davis Trio. I don't think he intended to hire a woman, but the group worked. We traveled quite a bit and eventually recorded an album called "Mousetrap." I penned the single for that album.

But it wasn't really my thing, and when Fanny's manager heard me play and sing with Spencer, he discovered my talent and secured a record deal for me with MCA/UNI Records. It wasn't easy in those days for a woman to get a record deal. Every label had one; that's all they needed. Women were a novelty, not to be taken seriously. But fortunately MCA didn't have "one" at that time. It was unbelievably insulting, but that was how it was in those days. We've come far.

At that time, Lowell George was a friend of mine, and he expressed an interest in producing the album. I jumped at the chance. An incredible roster of musicians played on that album, and in early 1973, "Tret Fure" was released on UNI Records.

Lowell taught me a lot about the industry. I knew it was very

I have never really done lesbian music.

MY MUSIC HAS ALWAYS BEEN FOR THE WORLD;
women just knew the meaning of it.

misogynistic, and also greedy. He taught me to hold on to my publishing, to not give my music away. He reminded me to maintain my integrity and my honor. A lot of artists, especially women, slept their way to a record deal and a career. That wasn't me, and people knew it. They also knew I was in a relationship with a woman and that was not a deal maker.

I toured on that album, and through a producer I met in Texas, I became the opening act for such groups as the J. Geils Band, Yes, Poco and even Black Oak Arkansas, playing arenas for 20,000 people. It was a hard time because as the "walk-in" act, I had to perform

while kids were coming in, mostly stoned on the drugs of the time and mostly not caring about me. But I'll never forget one night at the Armadillo World Music Headquarters in Austin, Texas. I was performing my short set, thinking no one was listening when all of a sudden, I realized that the people in the first 10 rows were singing along. They knew my album! It turned out that a DJ in Austin played me all the time. I was on the charts there, and I had a following! You can't imagine what that did for a 21-year old trying to make an impression.

I got a great deal of work from that album. I was on the San Francisco Billboard Charts with my single, "Catalina," and seemed to be the next new thing. But then the then-president of MCA left the company, and all the artists he brought in were terminated; at least the ones who weren't making the label a lot of money were. I lost my record deal, and I fired my manager. It was all connected in a sleazy way. Even worse, the outgoing president who claimed to love my work, wanting to help, took me to the house of a man whom he said could really get me a break. He had "money and clout." What he really had was a hooker with whom he wanted me to sleep while he watched. I walked out, my heart broken and my spirits flagging. I want to say that this was only one of many such discouraging episodes in that town. That's a whole story in itself.



Though k.d. lang and Melissa Etheridge DID COME OUT AND CHANGE THE FACE OF LESBIANS MAKING MUSIC, they didn't change the face of lesbian music.

This was the way of the music business, especially in the 1970s, and though I did get another deal, made another album for United Artists, I got caught in another dissolution. United Artists Industries was owned by the Trans America Life Insurance Company, and they wanted out of the music business, only maintaining interest in the

movie end of the company. As a result, my new album was never released, and though my recording's masters were returned to me, I couldn't sell it to anyone else. It was considered dead.

Fortunately, around the same time, I had the opportunity to learn sound engineering, working as a second engineer for the guy who was my engineer on that album. I worked hard and became good enough to reach the first engineer level, and I worked at several major studios in LA.

I was one of the first women engineers in the country, but because I was a woman, I always had to prove myself. New clients usually couldn't tell I was a woman from my name, so when they came in and saw me, they would absolutely blanch and look frantically around the room for the real engineer! But they always found that I knew what I was doing, and I never lost a client. In fact, I was considered an easy person to work with and knowledgeable of my craft.

There were always the advances and innuendos, but again I held my ground. Oddly, though, the owner of the studio where I worked the most made a point of letting the clients know that, not only was I a woman, I was a lesbian. I never figured out why. I actually identified as bisexual in those days, and it had nothing to do with my work anyway. I don't know if that chased away any clients because I can't imagine the owner would bring it up if it turned away business. I

sometimes wondered if he said that to save the clients (always men) from the embarrassment of unsuccessfully trying to hit on me. It remains a mystery, but it never curbed my interest in engineering, and I felt blessed to be working in music in some fashion while waiting for the next deal. I also learned production, which led to my career as a record producer.

By the late seventies, I was getting very discouraged with the music business and with LA, having gone through many managers and many near-misses. But I did land another deal in 1978 with Pasha Records, a smaller label owned by a man with a large ego. Not only did he want to own all my publishing, he wanted me to sing his songs, not mine. His songs were all written from a man's point of view on love, and they really didn't suit me. I recorded a few of his songs because it was the only way I could record my own, and, in the long run, it was my songs that got all the attention. When he tried to dress me all in leather, I had enough. His songs, my publishing, and his idea of how I should look pushed me over the edge, and I walked away again.

Right after that, I hooked up with June Millington again, and we decided that I would record her music, co-produce it with her, and put it out on our own label. I really felt like I was through with LA and was looking for a way to move somewhere else and try other things. I used the studio where I worked, trading hours with the owner and giving

up my wages in exchange. We started Heartsong Records and went on the road selling cassettes at our concerts.

My life really changed the day Olivia Records came into the picture. June knew the women at Olivia, and through her I met Judy Dlugacz, the president of Olivia. I sold "Heartsong," the album, to Olivia Re-

cords, and we closed the record company that June and I had started.

June also had a working relationship and a deep friendship with Cris Williamson. She took me to meet Cris, recommending me as the engineer for her children's album, "Lumiere." This started a 20-year working and personal relationship that gave birth to several solo projects as well as three duo albums. I engineered and produced four of Cris's albums, including "Meg and Cris at Carnegie Hall" and the three CDs we did together. I also released three of my own works: "Terminal Hold," "Edges of the Heart" and "Time Turns the Moon" on Second Wave Records, which was a subsidiary of Olivia. I was doing folk-pop-rock at the time, and Second Wave accommodated that style of music.

Finding Olivia Records and women's music was a godsend. I had known about Olivia while I was in LA but never considered it a real option. But as Olivia evolved and grew in prominence, so did the audience, and I was amazed to be able to share the stage with Cris, performing for thousands of adoring women. These were women who loved my music and loved me, just because I was a woman doing my own music and doing it well. It was a heady time and an honor to be on those stages and part of a movement that was changing so many lives. I'll never forget it or get over it. This was what I had been waiting for. The women were so real and so excited about the music and the culture. Again, my life was saved. I had grown up with three brothers, and I had spent my twenties in LA, mostly with men. Up until that time, I really had not been in the company of women, nor did I have many deep friendships with women. This was new for me, and it brought me home to myself. I never take it for granted.

Now Olivia Records is closed, having long ago been replaced by Olivia Travel. The women's movement has faded to a large extent, and though k.d.lang and Melissa Etheridge did come out and changed the face of lesbians making music, they didn't change the face of lesbian music. They were already successful when they came out. They had little to lose. I have always been out and have never had the chance to know that lack of onus. It still follows me.

I have a wonderful, solid following of women around the country who love my music and whose lives I have impacted. The crowds are smaller but the heart is there. But I'm still missing half my audience. Though women took my music as their own, I have never really done lesbian music. My music has always been for the world; women just knew the meaning of it. I hardly ever use pronouns, and I always try to be inclusive and sing and write from my heart, writing about the world condition and matters of love.

And I now work in the folk and women's world. I started in folk and have returned to it. I am very well respected in the folk world, but you hardly find the folk crowd at my shows unless it is specifically a "folk" event. For some reason, men think they are not welcome. I've never promoted that, never implied that, but any time the press calls me a "pioneer of women's music," I know that the folk world won't come. They feel they won't be welcome. Everyone is welcome at my shows. My music is for everyone.

When I moved to Madison in 2000, I started my own record company, "Tomboy girl Records" and have released four CDs on that label, music of which I am very proud. Right now I am writing the best songs I've ever written. I am happier than I've ever been and feel very fulfilled in my work, my life and my marriage. And I plan on making music for many years to come. As long as live music remains alive, you will find me on a stage somewhere, singing the songs of my life, and possibly yours. ■

WORT 89.9 FM



**Music/News/Culture
for the LGBTQ community**

Sundays 11am - 3pm

- ▼ **Her Turn (11 - 11:30)**
News by & about women
- ▼ **Her Infinite Variety (11:30 - 2)**
Womyn's music
- ▼ **Better Living Through Show Tunes (2 - 3)**
Classic & lesser known show tunes

Wednesdays 7 - 8pm

- ▼ **Queery (7 - 7:30)**
Locally produced LGBTQ news & culture (music 1st show of month)
- ▼ **This Way Out (7:30 - 8)**
International gay & lesbian radio magazine

Listen Online/Archives/Podcasts

608.231.2001

www.wort-fm.org



From left to right circa 1989: Richard Wagner, then Dane County Board Chair, Madison Alder Jim McFarland, district 8, Dane County Supervisor Earl Bricker, district 9, Madison Alder Ricardo Gonzalez, district 4, Dane County Supervisor Kathleen Nichols, district 2, Dane County Supervisor Tammy Baldwin, district 8.

Our History by Richard Wagner

Before Christopher Street

Years before George Segal's "Gay Liberation" was permanently installed in New York's Sheridan Square, the statues' first home was in Madison's Orton Park. **Richard Wagner** celebrates the work of the New Harvest Foundation.

Twenty five years ago, in 1984, a group of gay men and lesbians set out to recruit. What they wanted to recruit was dollars for LGBTQ purposes. Up to that time, one of the largest revenue sources for gay organizations had been the coat-check staffed by volunteers accepting donations at gay bars. You might imagine it did not produce large sums. Additionally, there was a seasonal nature to coats, though that was offset by the MAGIC picnic fundraiser held in summer.

So the recruiting plotters got together in my living room to establish a more professional approach to fundraising. Luckily they had a professional fundraiser amongst them, Jerry Dahlke, and Ron Sommers, an expert in organizing non-profits for 501c(3) status. They also included fire sparklers like Carla Dubinski and the Queen Bee of askers, Claire Fulenwider, and the dedicated Tess Meuer. And so the New Harvest Foundation was formed, with credit to Carla for the name.

New Harvest Foundation just celebrated its 25th anniversary, and I want to tell a tale that links those beginnings to the present.

One of the first projects undertaken by New Harvest regarded internationally known George

Segal's sculpture "Gay Liberation." The work consisted of two gay men standing and two lesbians seated with park benches. The gentleman who commissioned the work from the artist was from Houma, LA, and was a bridge-tender by day down in the land of bayous. The original intention was that castings of the work were to be placed in New York City, near the site of Stonewall, and in Los Angeles. In the early 1980s, however, neither city was ready to accept them. The bi-coastal criticisms ranged from complaints that the sculptor was not gay, the jeans were too tight and thus sexually suggestive, "cruising clones" were not representative of the community, public funds should not be spent, to threats to blow up the works.

The Los Angeles casting was placed in 1984 on the Stanford University campus. Within a month it was attacked with a ball-peen hammer and struck 40 times, causing \$50,000 in damage. The sculpture was removed and placed in storage. Flowers began to appear on the site, and about a year later, the sculpture was placed in public again. At the time of the first attack, George Segal issued a statement that his point in "Gay Liberation" was

"a human one regarding our common humanity." Once reinstalled, someone spray-painted the word AIDS on the male couple. In another incident, the Stanford football team splattered black paint on, and wedged a bench between, the figures for \$8,000 in damage. Student vandals were sentenced to probation and the judge suggested they take a class in gay studies. (What progress that such a class was available!)

Meanwhile Tom Garver, then the director of the Madison Art Center on State Street, arranged a showing of the New York casting in the Art Center's galleries. As the show was set to conclude, the sculpture would have been sent back to Segal's studio, which was a converted chicken coop (no pun intended) as New York still did not have its act together to place it near the Stonewall Inn. The coop was on the poultry farm in New Jersey where Segal grew up after his parents left the Bronx. So Tom called me and asked whether it might be displayed in a Madison park, since Sheridan Square, the urban park in New York, was not ready.

We immediately began hatching plans. We determined that if we could avoid seeking public funds, we might skip some of the hue and cry. So, enter the New Harvest Foundation (NHF). In cooperation with the Art Center, NHF hosted a fundraising lunch in the gallery in the presence of the work and raised the funds needed for installation. Next task was finding the site, and Orton Park in the gay-friendly Marquette Neighborhood was a likely suspect. Alderman Billy Feitlinger, and I as County Supervisor, were the public officials who represented the area. We went door-to-door

around the Park and spoke to householders, finding no real opposition and some support. The next hurdle was getting permission from the Park Commission. The Art Center made the request, and we rounded up supporters to speak. The local Anita Bryant types were there, too, with bibles open to testify against the sculpture. By an overwhelming vote, the Park Commission supported the placement in Orton Park. In designing the installation, Garver had bollards strategically located so no redneck in a truck might slam into it.

As it was installed in 1986, people drank champagne and had great fun coming up to pose with the figures. The first Halloween there was a heightened concern for vandalism, and neighborhood resident Henry X. Dudek organized neighbors to take shifts to protect "Gay Liberation" from tricksters. Other folks put warm scarves and caps on the figures in our deep winter cold.

As it was installed in 1986, people drank champagne and had great fun coming up to pose with the figures. ... Dudek organized neighbors to take shifts to protect "Gay Liberation" from tricksters. Other folks put warm scarves and caps on the figures in our deep winter cold.

One vandalism incident occurred when paint was thrown at the figures, and four young men were sentenced to 100 hours each of community service as a result. The Art Center found that Wisconsin winters were a more severe test and had to do various maintenance efforts on the figures. But we did better than Stanford.

Finally in 1991 New York was ready for Segal's work, and the sculpture now resides in Sheridan Square near Stonewall as intended. But Madison, Wisconsin, proved a welcoming and appropriate place in the mid-1980s for "Gay Liberation" after becoming the first gay rights state in 1982.

Now back to the present. At the New Harvest 25th anniversary dinner, where over \$350,000 in grants were celebrated, I chatted with many folks. One was a man who described how he wrestled with coming out. During that period in his life, he had gone to sit on the benches in Orton Park with the sculpture, and it had helped him to figure things out. So, in the "small world" division, one good deed in the past can show rewards in ways one never expects. ■

Dick Wagner (rdickwagner@gmail.com), openly gay former Dane County Board Chair and co-chair of Governor Earl's Commission on Lesbian and Gay Issues, is now working on gay Wisconsin history and welcomes topics and sources.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL

Festival producer **Jane Weldon** chronicles how Madison became the home to this 35-year mission.

May 8, 1974 | First National Women's Music Festival in Urbana-Champaign, Illinois

May 20 - June 2

"This festival, long overdue in our country, has many purposes. First, it would examine and discuss problems of women in music in America and why they are so under-represented. This would involve examination of such aspects as contractual disparities in the record industry between men and women musicians, women's involvement in the Musician's Union, women radio announcers, the situation of women in backup music as opposed to vocal, and the psychological structures developed that would tend to deter women from the pursuit of a career in music. Secondly, the conference would provide a chance for women musicians to meet and play together, to perform for each other, to exchange songs, and to learn more about music and themselves."

"Thus, the purpose of the event would be both to instruct and to entertain. Its emphasis would be placed on nonclassical music, since we feel in the scope of the conference we can best only cover so much. We hope to have two or three evening concerts of well-known women musicians, and many workshops, seminars, and small concerts by day. In addition, we are seeking contact with other women-run operations in music, such as women-run recording studios, with the idea of recording the concerts in mind."

A Newsletter About Women in Music & The Music In Women Issue #2

Editor, Indy Allen
Troutdale, Oregon



Lucie Blue Tremblay



Wahru



God-des & She



All the King's Men



Karen Williams



Flaming Dykasaurus



Jane Weldon

As I contemplate those words and the message in that 35-year old typewritten newsletter, I am deeply moved to realize how little has changed. For many of the same reasons, the National Women's Music Festival remains today, the first and longest-running women's music festival in the United States. Women In the Arts, Inc., (WIA) is a non-profit 501c-3 corporation whose sole purpose is to produce the Festival. Its mission is to create opportunities and venues for women to exhibit, celebrate and share their artistic achievements.

Today, we admire many women artists who have found their way through the struggle to the top of the charts, to the headline spots at national festivals, to the places women artists only dreamt of not-so-very long ago. In the culture of women's music, we also celebrate fully those who paved the way and those who continue to fight for airplay, record deals and stages to call their own. This is the National Women's Music Festival.

From 1974 to 2007, the Festival (NWMF) made its home on various college campuses. After just a year at the University of Illinois (Champaign-Urbana), the Festival moved on, first, to Indiana University, Bloomington, for 20 years, before moving to Ball State in Muncie, then Kent State in Kent, Ohio, then Ohio State in Columbus, and finally to Illinois State University in Normal. Over those decades, so many artists graced the stages and the halls of NWMF with their gifts, and so many credit the Festival with being integral to their careers.

My friends and I made our first trip to the NWMF in the late 1980s, when it was on the Indiana University campus. I will never forget the opening moments, seeing the video, "One Fine Day," for the first time. I remember the tears, the excitement, and how surreal it was to be surrounded by thousands of women who were so incredibly happy. Then, I remember a shy, young artist, who came out and sat alone on what seemed to be a massive stage. She played a single song on her guitar that brought the house down. Someone near me asked who she was, but no one around us knew... then. Just a few months later that shy, young artist hit the charts with "Fast Car." She was Tracy Chapman, and my love affair with NWMF began that weekend in Bloomington, Indiana.

Across the decades, as more festivals and venues were born, the crowds became smaller. With costs going up and attendance going down, it became a challenge for the WIA Board and volunteers to keep the Festival alive. However, the need for this event remained, as did this rich history that had to be preserved.

Based on a lot of feedback, the Board decided in 2007 to move away from a university setting. Festi-goers had become more selective with how they wanted to spend their money, and they no longer wished to sleep in dormitory rooms or eat cafeteria food. The decline in attendance the NWMF had experienced was never about the entertainment; it was more about comfort.

The Board also knew that moving the Festival around was not a plus for building attendance. NWMF needed a permanent home. Most importantly, it needed a home in a city that embraced the Festival, where volunteers and staff could be involved year round and not be fearful of repercussions from their association with a women's event. The NWMF needed Madison, Wisconsin! In December of 2007 the Board voted unanimously to make what it intends to be its last move. Madison has everything NWMF needs for success and a long-term partnership.

Board members and other volunteers leaped into the familiar rush to learn a new venue and get the details in order with only six months from the date of the decision until the Festival. It had a great feel from the start.

The 2008 National Women's Music Festival was held at the Alliant Energy Center Exhibition Hall in Madison. Past attendees found the transition an easy one. With a hotel attached, most Festi-goers stayed onsite and were able to feel the sense of community that builds across the Festival's four days. NWMF 2008 was a great success. At the 2008 NWMF's end, we had a new Madison Board member and amazing volunteers who stepped into key positions.

Another milestone occurred for NWMF in 2008. On the Saturday night main stage, Women In the Arts, Inc., signed a collective bargaining agreement with Local 1000, the North American Traveling Musicians Union. NWMF became the second Festival, the other being Pete Seeger's Clearwater, to sign a CBA with the Union, and NWMF is the only women's music festival with such an agreement. Through this agreement, NWMF guarantees artists fair wages and a pension contribution on behalf of each musician. Looking back to that 1974 article, the Festival still holds those same values.

For 2009, the NWMF announced a new partnership with the Madison Marriott West. This facility brings all of the events into one conference center with great meeting rooms, excellent acoustics, multiple food op-

comedic genius trio of Lisa Koch, Vickie Shaw and Roxanna Ward return by popular demand and are guaranteed to make you laugh until you cry. Maggie Cassella, a favorite comic headliner during Women's Week in Provincetown, makes her NWMF debut this year. Some awesome musicians are also making their first NWMF appearances: Steff Mahan, Julie Clark and Adrienne, along with Erin McKeown, Patrice Pike and Sarah Bettens are sure to rock the house.

Women of the Drum is a must-see this year. This cultural collaboration of rhythm and sound features Judy Piazza and the amazing Ubaka Hill. An NWMF version of "Idol" will also take the stage for the first time. Winners from Kansas City and Indianapolis will join our Madison finalists for the semi-finals on Thursday and the big event on Sunday. The NWMF Idol

I REMEMBER THE TEARS, THE EXCITEMENT, AND HOW SURREAL IT WAS TO BE SURROUNDED BY THOUSANDS OF WOMEN WHO WERE SO INCREDIBLY HAPPY.

tions, and excellent hotel rates. Another wonderful feature of this location is the close proximity (walking distance) to multiple hotels at various prices and many restaurants close by. These options will allow everyone to find lodging and food that fit their individual needs, while still having easy access to everything at all four days of the Fest itself.

The 2009 NWMF will be July 2-5, and those dates will continue to be the Festival's dates into the future. In 2009 the holiday (July 4) falls on the weekend, but this will not always be the case. Signing on to this consistent date allowed the Festival to secure better hotel rates and will give many attendees the benefit of a holiday from work, with more time to travel!

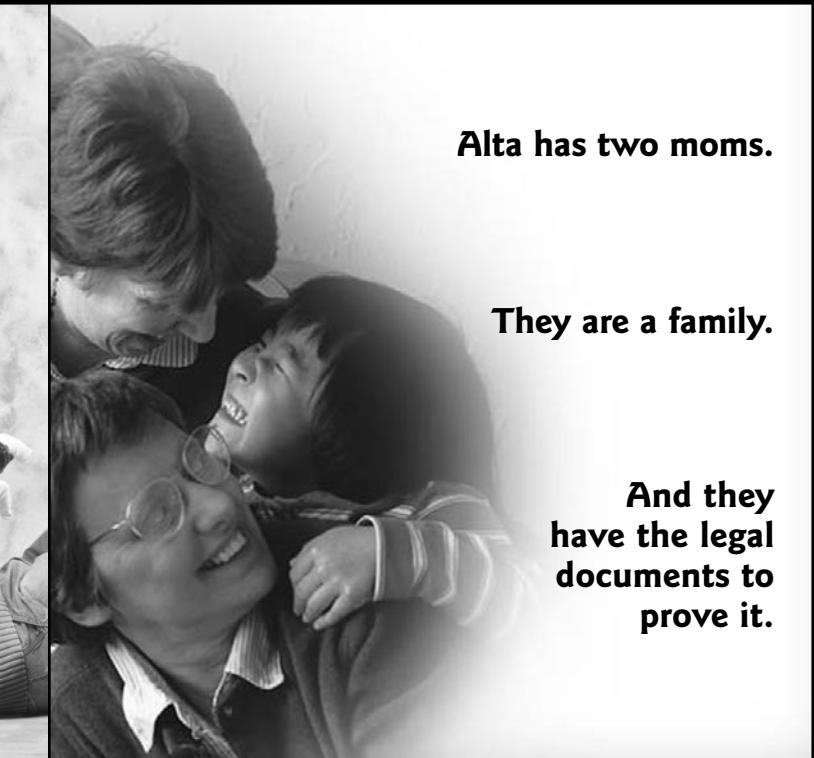
The 2009 lineup is packed with talent, some NWMF legends and many new faces. Festival favorites, Lucie Blue Tremblay, Zoe Lewis and Pamela Means, will return along with spoken-word artist, Alix Olson. The

winner will be featured on the Festival main stage in 2010, so the competition will be fierce! The Sunday stage also will feature the Fest's annual all-performer jam where attendees get to see all of the NWMF artists on stage together in a live jam session, always a Festival highlight!

Music is just one part of the Festival. The NWMF is full of workshops (including a writers' series, a women's spirituality series, an animal lovers' series and more!) networking and fantastic shopping in the Marketplace. The NWMF Auction is quite the event, a show within itself really, where everything from kayaks to breathy wake-up messages from favorite performers are sold to the highest bidder. The Auction, along with the intimate Sunday Artists' fundraising breakfast, are events that help pay the bills and seed the 2010 Festival.

Find more on NWMF and purchase your tickets at wiaonline.org ■

**Two Dads.
Twin Daughters.
One Family.**



Alta has two moms.

**They are a family.
And they
have the legal
documents to
prove it.**



**The
Surrogacy
Center[™]**
HELPING FAMILIES GROW

450 S. Yellowstone Dr.
Madison WI 53719
608-821-8230
surrogacycenter.com



**the LAW CENTER for
CHILDREN
& FAMILIES**

450 S. Yellowstone Dr.
Madison WI 53719
608-821-8200
law4kids.com

Judith Sperling-Newton • Carol M. Gopen • Lynn J. Bodin • Alberto Quiroga • Emily Dudak Taylor

FROM Serene TO Surreal

Emily Mills surveys the diverse family of musicians that call Madison home.



our lives
Shane O'Neill
ourlivesmadison.com
user shaneface

Those of us who have a habit of making music are often placed in one of two groups: the type who derives their creativity from being incredibly introverted and anti-social, and the type who finds their inspiration in interactions with as many other artistic people as possible. That latter group's desire for a sense of family is a major attribute of the creative world, and it tends to draw together people from all different walks of life, with myriad different styles.

It can also help to bring together people who might otherwise find themselves marginalized or isolated in a particular community. It should come as no surprise, then, that musicians tend to have at least a small sense of otherness and that they tend to be a diverse bunch.

Madison is known for playing host to a fairly thriving music scene. Among the crowds of indie rockers, jazz bands, electro artists and folk crooners, you'll also find a whole range of LGBT people. We've formed queer-specific groups like the men's chorus, **Perfect Harmony**, have helped provide gay-friendly venues for performance like Java Cat, and have participated in a wide range of musical groups.

I've been involved in the music scene here for the past eight years, and over that time I've slowly but surely been introduced to a wonderfully dizzying array of styles and people: straight and gay, jazz and electronic, amateur and professional. Recently, I've been making a concerted effort to seek out those members of the community who are also members of the family, so to speak. I wanted to ask, what's changed over the years? What's exciting or troubling about the current climate? Why Madison?



PHOTOGRAPH BY JESSICA HORN

MAY / JUNE 2009

LGBT musicians carve out their own unique niches, whether they're creating gay-friendly events like the now-defunct **Lesbian Variety Show**, or subverting stereotypes of what's expected of the frontman for a hard rock group like Flat Atom's **Nick Seward**.

According to those who've been on the scene longer than I, a great deal has changed over a few decades. Rock tends to dominate now, while jazz and folk musicians have a harder time finding places to play. The number of live venues has waxed and waned. People move on and new faces move in. Art is always in a state of flux.

Tara Ayers, a longtime Madison resident and current member of the a cappella group, The Murder Sisters, reminisces a little about the shifts in demographics and opportunities for LGBT artists in the area.

"The music scene has changed a lot for lesbian artists," Ayers explains. "There used to be lesbian-specific venues, lesbian/feminist production companies." She ticks off names from the past: "**Fallen Woman Productions** is gone, **Luna Tech** is gone, **Apple Island** is gone, the Lesbian Variety Show is gone, **Scrawl** is gone, **SPRAWL** is gone."

Still, Ayers does find plenty of ways to play out and has a good appreciation for the people who come to the shows. "Madison audiences are kind even to less-than-stellar performers, but are musically sophisticated enough to appreciate really good bands. So, when you suck they don't destroy your ego, and when you're hot their appreciation knocks your socks off."

Shane O'Neil, who plays a mean keytar and sings for local band, **Screamin' Cyn Cyn & The Pons**, has also found a receptive audience in Madison. I asked him, through an email interview, how he would describe the climate for queer artists in particular.

"In my experience, it has been a non-issue," O'Neil replied. "When we were just starting out and we were playing at the Anchor Inn, I was just waiting for the time some biker wasn't going to be amused and was going to kick my ass—but it never happened." And it's not as though there's anything low-key about the group's shows. O'Neil spends most of his time on stage fully kitted out with delightfully garish makeup and brightly colored clothes, often getting up close and personal with the audience.

"All the lip service Madison gets about being friendly to the gays has been totally true in my experience," he goes on. "In five years of living, playing and drinking in Madison, I can think of maybe one instance when I've been at a bar and someone's said something ignorant. Considering what other LGBT people go through, I've been extraordinarily lucky."

A thought popped into my head during my various discussions with area musicians: Is the loss of LGBT-specific venues and groups repre-

sentative of a generational shift? Do gay Madisonians have the same need for that safe space, or have social norms changed so that fuller integration has become what younger queer artists look for? I suspect the answer lies somewhere in the middle, but it's certainly not a question I could pretend to fully figure out on my own. It may, however, be an important subject to address in a rapidly evolving community.

Those shifting demographics can be seen, to a certain degree, in long-standing local acts like **Dark of the Moon Contra Band**, a women's folk group that began its run in 1995 as a mostly all-lesbian outfit, but which has, over the years, seen an ever changing line-up of members both straight and gay. **Mary Mullen**, who currently plays with the band, identifies as "the only lesbian of the seven members."

Regardless of the changing face of things, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender artists continue to make their mark on the music scene. From up-and-comers like hip-hop artists **God-des & She** (who have since moved to New York City), retro-punks **Seven Stone Weaklings**, and goth/industrial group **Sensuous Enemy**, to well-established and widely renowned artists like troubadour **Tret Fure** and jazz singer **Lynette Margulies**, Madison can boast of supporting a talented and diverse crowd of LGBT musicians.

Margulies, who has been playing professionally since age 19, has run a full gamut of styles.

"I started solo, went into folky blues, then funk and rhythm-and-blues with a hint of jazz, then jazz, followed by a mix of everything," she explains. In 2007, the Madison Area Music Awards chose Margulies to receive its Best Jazz Artist of the Year honors. "Madison has always treated me well. I have been respected by both my fellow musicians as well as by those who have hired me and the audiences."

It's a sentiment often echoed both by artists that call Dane County their home and by those just passing through while on tour. A California-based duo who are partners in both music and life, **The Ditty Bops** have played several shows in the city over the past few years. During one gig at the Barrymore Theatre, they enthusiastically noted, "We love Madison! You bike in the snow, you've got a great co-op, and lots of gay people—and our straight allies!"

It would be impossible to name all the LGBT musicians in the area in one story alone. Plus, even in our supposedly enlightened age, there are still those who cannot or will not come out.

There are also simply too many names to recount at once, and so I hope to continue talking with and profiling the various people who make up the colorful, multi-layered tapestry of our artistic community. No matter what generation or genre they hail from, every one has a common thread of history and something unique to contribute to the creative world. ■

*Mention this ad
and receive 20%
off all services*

**LASER HAIR REMOVAL
SKIN REJUVENATION
MICRODERMABRASION
ANTI-AGING FACIALS**

**Become the you
that you've always
dreamed of.**

TRUE LASER
HAIR REMOVAL

www.truelaserltd.com | 8066 Watts Road | Madison, WI 53719 | 608-827-8783

quality of life

OUR ISSUES



Shine
Inside and Out
Bonnie Raimy
Personal Shopping
for Men & Women, LLC
608-203-5343
bonnieraimy.com

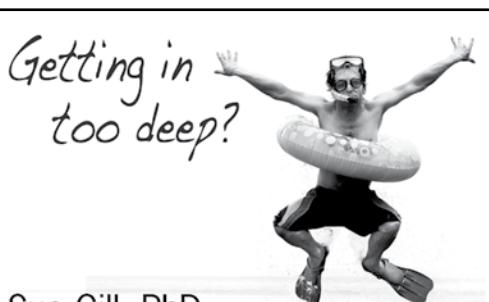
proud community member and **act rider**



i du hair

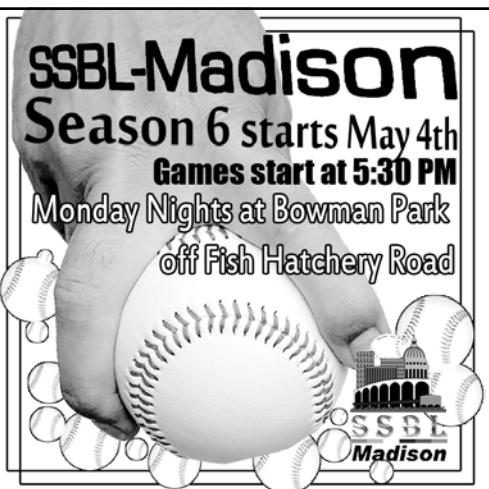


duhair.com
608.630.0766
21 n. butler street, madison • shairburner@gmail.com



Getting in too deep?

Sue Gill, PhD
Licensed Psychologist
Proud member of the LGBT community
608-250-2492 • www.drsuegill.com
6314 Odana Rd, Ste E, Madison, WI 53719



SSBL-Madison
Season 6 starts May 4th
Games start at 5:30 PM
Monday Nights at Bowman Park
off Fish Hatchery Road

Have Our Lives mailed directly to you. **Subscribe at: OURLIVESMADISON.COM**

Do You Tell the Whole Truth?

Can you see your glass ceiling? **Jimmy Owen** looks at the facts about what "little white lies" can do to our physical and emotional health.

Joe is furious with his workmate but won't risk talking to him about it. It's easier to just grin and bear it. Dawn sees the unhappiness in her partner, Erin's, face every day when she comes home from work, but doesn't want to talk about it for fear of losing the relationship and everything that comes with it. Kevin disapproves of the "party" lifestyle he's engaging in, but doesn't want his new friends to view him poorly. Hector thrives in his work life but cannot translate that success into his social world.



it would be just as easy to tell the truth? Have we unconsciously allowed secrets and lies into the safe parts of our lives simply because they are familiar to us?

Please understand: I am not saying here, nor do I believe, that our community is a group of liars - nothing could be further from the truth! It is our very integrity and our need for authenticity that give us the strength and the motivation to take the significant risks involved in coming out. It takes courage and integrity to let everyone see you honestly and openly.

Let me explain what I am talking about. How many times have you told a "little white lie" about being late to an appointment when telling the truth would have been just as easy? Have you ever withheld or embellished a story when the truth would have sufficed? How about creating an excuse when a simple "No" would have been enough? Do you live your life with consistency at work and home?

In the 1960's, the humanistic psychologist Abraham Maslow studied the basic needs of humans and determined that we do not move to a deeper level of satisfaction unless our basic needs are met. He also concluded that the happiest people are those more in touch with their inner selves. In other words, the happiest people are the ones who accept themselves.

I believe that lies and embellishments come from a place of not feeling "enough," when we need to lie, add or change a story in order to feel accepted by those we're telling the story to. It's as if we think the truth about ourselves isn't good enough.

Maybe you grew up in a world where there needed to be "more to the story" in order for you to feel accepted or to push focus away from yourself. If it wasn't safe for you to tell the truth as a child, plain and simple, for fear of emotional or physical harm, you may have continued using that protective device into the present day when, in fact, as an adult, you have the skill and understanding to know when it is safe to share the truth about yourself with others.

Another reason you may sway from telling the truth could be your belief that, "I'm

only OK if THEY think I'm OK," thereby using "their" approval as a barometer for how you feel about yourself. Although this might work in the short term, the discord and discomfort you feel inside can end up creating a sense of shame about the embellishment or lie.

Lies and embellishments come from a place of not feeling "enough," when we need to lie, add or change a story in order to feel accepted by those we're telling the story to.

Another interesting dynamic I see is the disconnect between one's professional and personal worlds as they pertain to truth and honesty - and how this creates complications in a person's life as they collide. You know your role and responsibility as a "worker," so you follow the rules, work hard, maybe even excel. However, in your outside-of-work, social world, the expectations and norms are more intangible, and you may still cling to a set of values that in no way matches your professional self.

I have heard so many times in my office, "I wish I could translate the success I have at work to my social life." The question I would encourage you to ask yourself is, "What am I doing differently when I know the rules and expectations vs. when I create the rules and expectations myself? Have I created rules or guidelines for myself as an adult, or am I still doing what's old and familiar?"

The dissonance that occurs between following others and leading yourself creates undue stress and holds us back from creating a consistent adult persona. Could we be creating our own glass ceilings by not putting our professional lives and our private lives in sync with one another?

As humans, we struggle to establish and position ourselves in the hierarchy of our world. Once there, we don't want to lose our position. It can be incredibly difficult to break out of an established niche, to free ourselves of "what others will think" if we stop conforming to what others expect of us. There are times when our values and ideals may be contrary to those of the majority. This can threaten our place in the pecking order, even if the values of the majority are not our values. As we grow and change, so do our truths, authenticity and awareness.

Recently, Professor Steve Cole of the University of California, Los Angeles, studied 200 gay men over a period of five years and found the incidence of cancer and other diseases was three times higher among those who hid their sexuality. (Ode Magazine, December 2008). I understand the process of coming out is personal and belongs to the individual, but this tells me that, not only do our emotional selves benefit from the truth, our physical bodies do as well.

Whether the truth is as simple as claiming our human nature in the freedom to make mistakes, speaking up to address a problem, standing up for what we believe to be best for us, creating consistency between our personal and professional lives, or taking off the mask of deception and silence and replacing it with a commitment to truth and authenticity - ultimately our happiness and our physical health are at risk. Think about it. Pay attention. See what happens. I believe the quality and richness of your life will multiply when you tell the truth and commit yourself to honesty. ■

Jimmy has been a LGBT psychotherapist for over 20 years. He and his partner, Jim, moved to Madison last June with Dixie, their 12-yr-old beagle. He can be found online at www.jimmyowen.com

We'll get your car moving.
So you can keep your life moving.



- 24/7 Towing Available
- Industries Best Nationwide Warranty
- Quality Repair, Fast Turn-Around, Great Price

Relax, We'll Take It From Here.™

Quality CARSTAR
1240 East Washington Ave.
Madison, WI 53703
P: 608-256-6500

1-800-CARSTAR
24/7 Accident Assistance

CARSTAR®
Quality Collision Service

MADE WITH
SUPPORTING
WISH

**Can't share your dreams with your financial advisor?
Then why share your finances?**



Do you dream of opening a B&B in Key West? Adopting a child? Writing the great American gay novel? I want to hear your dreams, then working together we'll define your dream, develop your plan and track your progress.

To get started, call today at (608) 663-7526.

Shannon M. Anderson
Associate Financial Advisor
2912 Marketplace Drive, Suite 100
Madison, WI 53719
(608) 663-7526 x 401
shannon.m.anderson@ampf.com
ameripriseadvisors.com/shannon.m.anderson

Focusing on:

- Domestic partner planning
- Retirement planning
- Investment planning

The Personal Advisors of
Ameriprise
Financial

Financial advisory services and investments available through Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc., Member FINRA and SIPC.
© 2008 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved.

quality of life

OUR RIGHTS



"Taking care of those dirty little affairs."

**GREEN
CLEAN**
LLC

608.442.0513

Helping you move from dreaming to doing.®

As a proud part of the LGBT community, we are uniquely aware of the financial issues and concerns within our community.

Call for a no cost, no obligation financial analysis.

Tom Westfall
608-206-6363

Beth Laper
920-420-3581

World Financial Group
2801 Coho St., Madison, WI 53713
608-276-6060

World Financial Group, Inc. (WFG) is a financial services marketing company whose affiliates offer life insurance and a broad array of financial products and services. Headquarters: 11315 Johns Creek Parkway, Duluth, GA 30097-1517, PO Box 100035, Duluth, GA 30096-9403. 770.453.9300
WorldFinancialGroup.com



**WORLD FINANCIAL
G R O U P**
an AEGON company

an AEGON company



Proudly serving your legal representation and advice needs since 1995.

Wills & Partnership Planning
Traffic and Criminal
Civil Litigation
Special Education
Landlord-Tenant
Estates and Probate
Construction Liens
Corporations and LLC's
Real Estate Transactions
Small Business



MEMBER:
The Business Alliance (Greater Madison's LGBT Chamber of Commerce) & US Referral Network

(608) 288-7859
smickels2@mailbag.com

2817 Fish Hatchery Road • Madison, WI • 53713
P.O. Box 259125 • Madison, WI • 53725-9125

As Goes Iowa...

How did our neighboring state 90 minutes west achieve marriage equality?

Tamara Packard reviews their Supreme Court's unanimous opinion.

Real estate just got hot in Iowa! Wisconsin same-sex couples wishing to relocate to where they may legally marry might consider hopping the border, saying "I do," and settling down. On April 3, 2009 the Iowa Supreme Court unanimously ruled in *Kerrigan v. Commissioner of Public Health* that the Iowa Constitution's guarantee of equal protection under the laws entitles same-sex couples the right to civil marriage. By the time you read this, gay and lesbian couples will likely be exercising that right, a mere 90 minutes from Madison. How did this happen, and what does it mean for Wisconsin same-sex couples?



The Iowa Supreme Court deserves special praise for addressing the pink elephant in the room: religious opposition to same-sex civil marriage.

understand. Most importantly, the Court's opinion elegantly and convincingly rejects the usual arguments we often hear from our opposition. It is such a pleasure to read this opinion! I urge you to do so (it is available on the internet, including at ourlivesmadison.com). Here is a small taste of what you will find:

Addressing the oft-heard claim that marriage bans don't discriminate against gays and lesbians "because they are allowed to marry, so long as they marry someone of the opposite sex," the Iowa Supreme Court said this:

It is true the marriage statute does not expressly prohibit gay and lesbian persons from marrying; it does, however, require that if they marry, it must be to someone of the opposite sex. Viewed in the complete context of marriage, including intimacy, civil marriage with a person of the opposite sex is as unappealing to a gay or lesbian person as civil marriage with a person of the same sex is to a heterosexual. Thus, the right of a gay or lesbian person under the marriage statute to enter into a civil marriage only with a person of the opposite sex is no right at all.

In order to prove that the 1998 statute was not merely borne of prejudice and stereotype against gays and lesbians (and therefore in violation of Iowa's equal protection clause), the state had to show that excluding gay and lesbian people from civil marriage is substantially related to an important government objective. One claim made by the state was that limiting marriage to heterosexual couples was substantially related to the important government objective of ensuring optimal rearing of children. In other words, denying us the right to marry would somehow be good for kids. The Court rejected that claim, and made this beautiful observation:

If the statute was truly about the best interest of children, some benefit to children derived from the ban on same-sex civil marriage would be observable. Yet, the germane analysis does not show how the best interests of children of gay and lesbian parents, who are denied an environment supported by the benefits of marriage under the statute, are served by the ban.

The Iowa Supreme Court agreed and issued a unanimous decision written for regular people, not just lawyers, to read and

The Iowa Supreme Court deserves special praise for addressing the pink elephant in the room: religious opposition to same-sex civil marriage. The state was not foolish enough to advance this as a reason for the statute, but the Court recognized that much citizen opposition to marriage equality is fueled by religious sentiment. The Court also recognized, however, that many other equally religious Iowans support marriage for same-sex couples. The Court explained that neither religious perspective had a place in its resolution of the dispute: "Our constitution does not permit any branch of government to resolve these types of religious debates and entrusts to courts the task of ensuring government avoids them." It explained that constitutional principles, not religious principles, must resolve the debate:

In the final analysis, we give respect to the views of all Iowans on the issue of same-sex marriage—religious or otherwise—by giving respect to our constitutional principles. These principles require that the state recognize both opposite-sex and same-sex marriage. Religious doctrine and views contrary to this principle of law are unaffected, and people can continue to associate with the religion that best reflects their views. ... civil marriage will now take on a new meaning that reflects a more complete understanding of equal protection of the law.

For those of us staying in Wisconsin, civil marriage equality in Iowa means little more than it does in California, Spain, or Sweden: big picture progress, but no concrete changes. While Iowa has no residency requirement (although it does have a 3-day waiting period to obtain a marriage license), Wisconsin's government will not recognize a same-sex marriage formed in Iowa. And, in theory, Wisconsinites who go to Iowa, marry, and then return home could perhaps be charged with a misdemeanor for violating Wisconsin's "marriage evasion" statute. This is a law that, especially now, should be repealed. Those in Wisconsin who oppose marriage equality are well-protected so long as Wisconsin's anti-marriage amendment remains in place. We should be able to travel in Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut and Iowa with the legal protections those states would provide with an Iowa marriage license without fear of doing time at home. ■

Tamara Packard is a Madison civil rights lawyer, activist and partner in the law firm of Cullen Weston Pines & Bach LLP, www.cwpb.com.

Subscribe to Our Lives for FREE at: OURLIVESMADISON.COM

MADISON OPERA'S 2008/2009 SEASON

CHARLES GOUNOD'S

FAUST

**FRIDAY, MAY 15
8:00 P.M.**

OVERTURE HALL,
201 STATE ST., MADISON



**Featuring Broadway star David Pittsinger,
recently Emile de Becque in South Pacific**

TICKETS: (608) 258-4141 | WWW.MADISONOPERA.ORG



50% OFF!

OFFER APPLIES TO BALCONY SECTIONS
B, D, E, & F; MENTION DISCOUNT CODE
'BALCONY'; NOT VALID ON PRIOR SALES



Mike Fumelle
4402 East Towne Blvd.
(608) 259-4263
michael.fumelle@associatedbank.com

To find out how you can get into the home of your dreams, call Mike today.

- Buyers Edge® – first time homebuyers program
- Conventional, FHA and VA financing
- New construction loans
- Refinancing
- Jumbo financing

Associated Bank provides statewide support to the community.



**Associated
Bank**

Subject to credit approval. Equal Housing Lender.
Member FDIC and Associated Banc-Corp (6/08) 3837

associatedbank.com

quality of life

OUR HEALTH

OUR APPAREL

recruiting
new paddlers.

At Your Own Pace

Amber Ault goes out for a jog with the Madison Front Runners/Front Walkers and finds support for athletes at any level.



ooking for a little inspiration for your summer fitness goals? Spend five or ten minutes with Brian J., an enthusiastic member of the Madison chapter of Front Runners/Front Walkers, and you're likely to be headed to your closet for your running shoes.

"I had friends who were runners," Brian recounts, "and they would go on and on about their races. I would think, 'Enough, already'.... but secretly I was jealous. I was never athletic, and never a runner, but I wished I could be."

Brian showed up for one of the Saturday morning runs organized by Front Runners/Front Walkers. The group does a 10k loop through Madison's scenic University of Wisconsin Arboretum, then reconvenes for coffee somewhere near Monroe Street. Brian's first run was a bust.

"I couldn't keep up," he recalls. He contemplated if this meant he really wasn't meant to run, but decided to take on the challenge.

What he found was encouragement, support and camaraderie. Even though the six mile Arb loop still seemed daunting, he hung with it, with a little help from his Front Runner friends. Once six miles came to seem normal, Brian set his sights on a twenty-miler, then the 26.2 marathon distance. Now, he says, "I'm asking myself, 'Which marathon do I want to do next?'"

From Brian's perspective, an LGBT athletic organization like Front Runners/Front Walkers offers our community an opportunity to socialize that's away from a bar and feels like a safer space to explore developing one's inner athlete than some mainstream sports organizations. When Brian is feeling some discomfort during a run, he feels safe to express that to Front Runner pals with what he describes as his own special dramatic flair—something that he might be less comfortable doing in straight company.

Madison's chapter of Front Runners/Front Walkers is about 10 years old and is affiliated with a national network of LGBT running groups. When members travel, they can connect with chapters in other cities to run, meet local community members and get oriented toward the local geographic and cultural landscapes.

Madison's chapter fluctuates in size, but always includes walkers as well as runners. And the walkers always include dogs.

While Front Runners events attract fewer women than men, women interested in an LGBT-friendly running experience have op-

Madison's chapter fluctuates in size, but always includes walkers as well as runners. And the walkers always include dogs.

our lives
Amber Ault
ourlivesmadison.com
user Amber

justterry.com • justterry.com • justterry.com
justterry.com time-shares • flights
justterry.com cruises • hotels • group rates
justterry.com destination weddings

Just Terry
Alternative Travel Excursions
608.438.2457

Refer family and friends!
Put Terry's strong network of
LGBT travel agents to work
so all you have to do is
relax and enjoy

bad dog frida

Our Family Caters to Your Family
Toys, Treats, Food, Essentials & Gifts
baddogfrida.com
608.442.6868
2094 atwood avenue
REALLY COOL THINGS FOR GOOD DOGS AND THEIR PEOPLE

THE CHAKRA HOUSE

Healing Studio & Boutique

www.TheChakraHouse.com

Feel Like YOU Again

- Yoga, Nia & Zumba studio classes
- Energywork & Counseling
- Events, Workshops & Courses
- Great Gift Boutique

608.237.6128
330 West Lakeside Street, Madison, WI 53715

Have Our Lives mailed directly to you. **Subscribe at: OURLIVESMADISON.COM**

The Short and Simple

Bonnie Raimy's tips to purchasing the perfect summer shorts.



No denim shorts...please, I beg you.

Stick with a flat front chino/cotton short. You can find 5" and 7" inseams, but if I'm being honest, 5" is a bit too short for my taste. If you are a cyclist, have amazingly tanned, shaved thighs...by all means, rock the 5" or 7" inseam; otherwise, 9" or 9 3/4" are good standard lengths. If you need a longer short, go no longer than an 11" inseam, but know that you are dangerously close to looking sloppy. FYI: make sure, especially if you are Mr. Shorty Shorts, that you wear underwear...nuff said.

If you need a cargo short, choose a pair where the pockets fall closer to the hem of the short and not the upper thigh. Cargo pockets add unwanted bulkiness to your legs. It's better to have the pockets closer to the knee.

Shake things up with color options not style options. Try investing in a great pair of madras shorts (patchwork/plaid cotton...I love Brooks Brothers), think about worn-in chinos in red, orange and green. If you like the little icons sewn into the fabric, stay away from martini glasses and flamingos and go for scorpions and skulls...you bad boy, you!

Try choosing long-sleeve, collared shirts with the sleeves rolled up (elbow length) instead of short sleeved shirts, add a loose tie and blazer, and rock the Converse All-Stars sans the socks...you will be amazing!

Ladies, our options are vast and go way beyond the standard short. Take what you want from the above info, and if you have any specific questions, shoot me an email. I'd be happy to help! bonnieraimy.com



no experience necessary.



rutabaga.com THE PADDLESPORT SHOP
220 WEST BROADWAY, MONONA, WI. 53716 608-223-9300
Mon - Fri 10am-6pm Saturday 10am-5pm Sunday 12pm-5pm

STARK
COMPANY REALTORS®
A family tradition since 1908

Susan Oshman
REALTOR®

Archie and Susan are out looking for your next new home

Direct: 608-443-2532 | Office: 608-221-4000
Mobile: 608-206-1440 | Fax: 608-221-4031

soshman@starkhomes.com
www.putdownnewroots.com



"We are a Family Business"

- Comprehensive reproductive services and treatments
- Registered assisted reproductive technology center
- Board-Certified Physicians

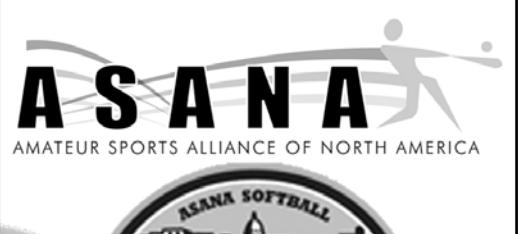
Madison Special Pricing for IUI's:
If you're not pregnant after two cycles,
the third is complimentary*

Coming in the JULY/AUGUST issue:

ACT 7: The Wisconsin AIDS Ride
The ASANA World Series
Madison Pride

Begin relationship building with a community that still has discretionary dollars to spend.

To advertise:
ourlivesmadison.com/advertise



ASANA
AMATEUR SPORTS ALLIANCE OF NORTH AMERICA



ASANA SOFTBALL
WORLD SERIES
2009
SHOWDOWN IN MADTOWN
MADISON

**In September,
SSBL-Madison will be,
hosting the largest gay
women's sporting event
in the country!**

**We are looking for
volunteers and event
sponsors.
We also hold monthly
fun'draisers and would
appreciate your support!**

For more information, visit:
www.madtown2009.org

Have Our Lives mailed directly to you. **Subscribe at: OURLIVESMADISON.COM**

quality of life

OUR MONEY

Take Steps to Reduce Debt

Looking for some relief from the stress of the recession? **Jaime Zimmerman** suggests ways to lessen your debt and keep financial independence.

Every day, we hear about the sour condition of our economy. We're in a recession, or worse, and no one seems to know how long we'll be stuck here. We're experiencing a credit crunch and plummeting housing prices. Some of America's biggest and most well-known companies have filed bankruptcy or been snatched up in order to avoid failure. The world seems to have changed overnight and the clouds aren't parting quite yet. What does this mean to us on Main Street?

Many companies are tightening their belts, and often that means laying workers off and foregoing pay raises. And there's the heavy toll the markets have taken on our investment portfolios and retirement accounts. Many of us had plans for retirement, and now we're calculating how many more years we'll be working. If you're lucky enough to be young, you have a lot of time for your financial wounds to heal. If you've already retired, you're likely worried about your cash flow and income. Admittedly, there is probably a great opportunity to make healthy returns over the coming decade given the depressed prices we currently have in our markets. But it's still hard to commit more money to what's been a failing proposition.

There are, however, some things we can all do to get our financial houses in order. Primarily, we can reduce our debt and our spending. If we run our household like a business, we can give ourselves the best chance to weather these tough times. First, some statistics:

1. Some 40% of American families spend more than they earn. (10 Proven Strategies, John Hancock Funds, LLC)
2. The average wealth of a 50-year-old is less than \$40,000. (bankrate.com, March 1, 2006)
3. Average U.S. consumer debt, excluding mortgages, is over \$21,900 per household. (SmartMoney, Surviving Debt, Aug. 8, 2007)
4. About 60% of active accounts are not paid off monthly (bankrate.com, March 1, 2006)
5. 23% of Americans admit to maxing out a credit card. (bankrate.com, March 1, 2006)

Believe it or not, with such turmoil often comes opportunity. To stimulate the economy, the Federal Reserve has aggressively lowered interest rates. This could be a great time to consolidate your debts, pay off some of those high-rate credit cards and lower your cost of living. If you're able to refinance your mort-



Many of us had plans for retirement, and now we're calculating how many more years we'll be working.

our lives
Jaime Zimmerman
ourlivesmadison.com
user Jaime

gage to a lower rate, that will help too.

Paying off your credit card debt and ridding yourself of those payments is one of the most effective ways to get back on solid financial footing. Even in normal market conditions, investments likely can't make the returns that credit cards charge you. If you have a good record of making payments to your credit card company, call and ask if they'll lower your interest rate. If they won't, look into other card providers with lower rates. Some even offer 0% interest for a limited term but there are restrictions. Be sure to read the fine print. Always try to pay the entire balance by the due date. If you can't, then at least make extra payments until you've paid off the card. Once you aren't saddled with monthly payments, your cash flow will improve and you can use the extra money for savings or chipping away at the next debt hovering over you, like your car and college loans or your home equity and mortgage.

Finally, remember to be kind to yourself. When you've accomplished your goal of reducing a debt or paying off a nagging bill, treat yourself. Go out to dinner or buy yourself a small gift. BUT DON'T CHARGE IT! ■

Jaime Zimmerman is a Vice President, Senior Investment Consultant at the Madison office of Robert W. Baird & Co., member SIPC. For more information, visit www.jzimmermanfinancialadvisor.com, or call him at (608) 252-5757 or (800) 937-8625.

THE WISCONSIN AIDS RIDE™

MILE 148

CHAIN PURRING, TIRES SINGING, LIVES CHANGING.

AUGUST 6–9, 2009 | WWW.ACTRIDE.ORG

Get tips on training and fundraising, training ride schedules and much more. It's easier than you think. And more rewarding than you can imagine. Call us at 608-252-6540.

Sat., May 2 2pm Glass Nickel Pizza, Atwood Ave.

Sat., May 9 2pm Madison Central Library

Sat., May 30 2pm High Noon Saloon



our lives
Williamson
ourlivesmadison.com

Special thanks to

Sponsors: Isthmus, Firepower Design, SprintPrint, American Family Insurance, Becker Law Offices, Club 5, Dean/St. Mary's, Kobussen, Our Lives Magazine, Sheraton Hotel, Sticha Bros., The Builder's Group, Inc., TIBIA Massage School, The Mic 92.1 and Pride Radio 92.1-2, Willy Street Co-op.

Sponsored by:



Brought to you by:

ACT⁷

quality of life



The Dardanelles 1851 Monroe St, Madison (608) 256-8804

Chef: Youssef Amraoui Assistant: Nick Moran

Hours: Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs: Lunch - 11a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Dinner - 5pm to 9 p.m.
Friday and Saturday – Open from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday – Brunch from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Reservations Accepted

A Culinary Crossroads

The Dardanelles connects Arab, Berber, Ottoman, Jewish, Moorish, French and Italian cuisine by way of the Middle East.

THE DARDANELLES STRAIT IS OFTEN DESCRIBED AS A channel of water that separates Europe and Asia. The owner of the restaurant Dardanelles, Barbara Wright, would say it is the body of water that connects the two continents. Her restaurant and philosophy of food are all about connection through diversity. The Dardanelles serves Middle Eastern cuisine, which she defines as “a blend of desert foods and foods from the more moderate climates around the Mediterranean Sea...a cuisine that is a cross-fertilization of Arab, Berber, Ottoman, Jewish, Moorish, French and Italian culinary traditions and ingredients.” You will find dishes spiced with saffron, cinnamon, garlic, onion, preserved lemon and ‘ras al hanout.’ The main dishes vary from chicken in an artichoke cream sauce, to lamb chops with bleu cheese and a lovely vegetarian couscous salad.”

Her restaurant and philosophy of food is all about connection through diversity.

The restaurant is a community crossroads, hosting groups of international musicians, memorial services, wedding receptions—gay and straight, special events such as Earth Day dining adventures and catering a Bar Mitzvah that featured the special dishes of Jewish Morocco. The clientele is quite a mix: devoted neighborhood residents, the “lamous...you know, the locally famous” and even monks from Deer Park. They come for the lamb shank. Connection shows in the farm-to-table menu. The lapin ragout is made of locally raised rabbit; the summer menu showcases locally grown eggplant in pan-Levant dishes. Ms. Wright’s answer to “Why should the LGBT community spend its dining dollar at the Dardanelles?” “For the same reason anyone should enjoy dining out...we are a romantic place... you won’t have to wait to be seated... our staff is diverse... our food is delicious and well priced.” —Kathleen Nichols

Expand your reach and Get Seen. Have your business included in *Our Lives*. For rates and info, contact us at: OURLIVESMADISON.COM

OUR PLATES

Central

Amy's Cafe
414 W. Gilman St., 255-8172

American \$
www.amyscafe.com

Angelic
322 W. Johnson St., 257-2707

American, Pizza \$
angelicbrewing.com

Bab's French Quarter Kitchen
1353 Williamson St., 251-1222

French, Creole \$
bandungrestaurant.com

Bandung Restaurant
600 Williamson St., 255-6910

Indonesian \$\$
frescomadison.com

Bellini Restaurant
401 E. Washington Ave., 250-0097

Italian, Pasta \$\$\$
bellinirestaurant.com

Blue Velvet Lounge
430 W. Gilman, 250-9900

American, Tapas \$
thebluevelvetlounge.com

The Brass Ring
701 E. Washington Ave., 256-9359

American, Burgers \$
thebrassringmadison.com

Brocach Irish Pub
7 W. Main St., 255-2015

Irish \$\$
brocach.com

Buraka
543 State St., 255-3646

East African \$
buraka.com

Burrito Drive
310 S. Bearly St., 260-8586

Mexican \$
burritodrive.com

Cafe Continental
108 King St., 251-4880

Continental \$\$
cafekontinent.com

Cafe Costa Rica
141 S. Butler St., 356-9830

Costa Rican \$
themomo.com

Cafe Montmartre
127 E. Mifflin St., 255-5900

French, Tapas \$
lechardonnymadison.com

Cafe Porta Alba
15 N. Butler St., 441-0202

Pizza \$\$
cafeportalalba.com

Cafe Soleil
25 N. Pinckney St., 251-2700

Bread, Sandwiches/Deli \$
letoile-restaurant.com

Cardinal Bar & Cafe
418 E. Wilson St., 251-0080

Lunch \$
cardinalbar.com

Crave Restaurant

201 W. Gorham, 268-2728
Seafood, Burgers \$\$\$
cravemadison.com

Dayton Street Grille

1 W. Dayton St. 257-6000
American \$\$
concoursehotel.com/dining

Dotty Dumpling's Dowry

317 N. Frances St., 259-0000
American, Burgers \$
dottydumplingsdowry.com

Eldorado Grill

744 Williamson St., 280-9378
Tex-Mex \$\$\$
eldoradogrillmadison.com

Fresco

227 State St., 663-7374
American \$\$\$
frescomadison.com

Frida Mexican Grill

117 State St., 256-4000
Mexican, Southwestern \$\$
fridamexicangrill.com

Great Dane

123 E. Doty St., 284-0000
Brewery, Burgers \$\$
greatdanepub.com

Harvest

21 N. Pinckney St., 255-6075
American, French \$\$\$
harvest-restaurant.com

Himal Chuli

318 State St., 251-9225
Nepalese, Vegetarian \$

Husnu's

547 State St., 256-0900
Turkish, Italian \$

Buraku

543 State St., 255-3646
East African \$
buraku.com

Burrito Drive

310 S. Bearly St., 260-8586
Mexican \$
burritodrive.com

Cafe Continental

108 King St., 251-4880
Continental \$\$
cafekontinent.com

Cafe Costa Rica

141 S. Butler St., 356-9830
Costa Rican \$
themomo.com

Cafe Montmartre

127 E. Mifflin St., 255-5900
French, Tapas \$
lechardonnymadison.com

Cafe Porta Alba

15 N. Butler St., 441-0202
Pizza \$\$
cafeportalalba.com

Cafe Soleil

25 N. Pinckney St., 251-2700
Bread, Sandwiches/Deli \$
letoile-restaurant.com

Cardinal Bar & Cafe

418 E. Wilson St., 251-0080
Lunch \$
cardinalbar.com

Michael's Frozen Custard

2531 Monroe St., 231-3500
Frozen Custard, Burgers \$
ilovemichaels.com

New Orleans Takeout

1517 Monroe St., 280-8000
New Orleans Cuisine \$
eatmobettah.com

Ocean Grill

117 MLK Jr. Blvd., 285-2582
Seafood \$\$
oceangrillmadison.com

The Old Fashioned

23 N. Pinckney St., 310-4545
Steak, American \$\$
theoldfashioned.com

Opus Lounge

116 King St., 441-6787
Tapas \$\$
opuslounge.com

Parthenon Gyros

316 State St., 251-6311
Greek \$

Restaurant Muramoto

106 King St., 260-2680
Asian Fusion, Vegetarian \$

Roman Candle

1054 Williamson St., 258-2000
Pizza \$
theromancandle.com

Sardine

517 Williamson St., 441-1600
French \$\$\$

Shamrock Bar

117 W. Main St., 255-5029
Sunday Brunch \$
shamrockbar.com

Sunprint Cafe

1 S. Pinckney St., 268-0114
Sandwiches, Vegetarian \$

Takara

315 State St., 268-0188
Japanese, Sushi \$

Tornado Club

116 S. Hamilton St., 256-3570
Steak \$\$\$
apartmentrenting.com/tornado

Kabul Restaurant

541 State St., 256-6322
Afghanistani \$

Lazy Jane's Cafe

1358 Williamson St., 257-5263
Sandwiches, Deli \$

Le Chardonnay

320 W. Johnson St., 268-0372
Mediterranean, French \$\$\$
lechardonnymadison.com

Wisconsin Union

800 Langdon St., 265-3000
American, Sandwiches \$
www.union.wisc.edu

East

Bunk's Cafe

2827 Atwood Ave., 204-7004
Italian, Mediterranean \$\$
bunkyscafe.net

L'Etoile

25 N. Pinckney St., 251-0500
French, American \$\$\$
letoile-restaurant.com

Maharani

380 W. Washington Ave., 251-9999
Indian \$\$

Ella's Deli

2902 E. Washington Ave., 241-5291
Kosher/Deli, Ice Cream \$
ellasdeliandicecremparlor.com

Fork and Spoon Cafe

1133 E. Wilson St., 257-7216
Italian, Pasta \$
forkandspooncafe.com

Glass Nickel

2916 Atwood Ave., 245-0880
Pizza \$
<a href="http://glassnick

quality of life



our lives
Adam Nelson
ourlivesmadison.com
user adammnelson

Happy Anniversary

Making the choice to come out let **Adam Nelson** live openly.
10 years later he looks back at how he did it.

ten years ago I came out to almost everyone in less than twenty-four hours. That was a busy summer. I was a year out of high school, had just turned nineteen, fresh home from a year abroad, preparing to start college, and planning a trip to visit my dad near the headwaters of the Mississippi.

I had spent the previous two years contemplating the prospect of coming out. The hardest part was that coming out meant admitting I hadn't been fully honest with everyone. I remember a sense of comfort about being different, but admitting a lack of honesty tormented me.

Not being honest wasn't my fault because I didn't hold it in; everyone else assumed it didn't exist.

I wondered why gay people even needed to come out in the first place. It was frustrating knowing that being out would have been so much easier if I had just been out from the beginning.

I didn't know any better at the time so I blamed myself for just holding it in. Now I know that society denies gay people the privilege of being out from the start of our lives. Not being honest wasn't my fault because I didn't hold it in; everyone else assumed it didn't exist.

In my ignorance, I searched for a solution, and the one I found involved going abroad after high school. While abroad, everybody in my life was new to me. Having never met these people meant that being out didn't require admitting a lack of honesty. It didn't work; I'm not

Ask questions, find support and learn more about the coming-out process in our forums online at: OURLIVESMADISON.COM

Photographed by Francesca DiMarco

OUR BEGINNINGS

Summer, 1999

Hey Dad —

After I got back from Europe I told many of my friends that I am gay. I want you to know that I have been saying this and that this is how I am.

I am delivering these words to you in a note because there never is a good time to just say it. I told Mom on the phone but it was awkward. I thought this might be less awkward.

I have no problems with the way I feel. I am not embarrassed. This note is to force the issue. I think Charlotte and her family should know. You can tell them or I can tell them. They can be told before my stay with you or after my stay. They can be told or we can wait for them to ask.

I say again: I have no problems about how I feel. I want to be open. You can make the decision on how they find out. It might just be less awkward to let them ask. But let me know.

You're it for mail tag. Dad, write back soon. E-mail me or something.

Love, Adam

SMART DENTAL
www.SmartDentalMadison.com

He saw your smile,
He didn't see your braces.

Call today and learn how to
straighten your teeth
without braces!

608-241-8782

Ask about new patient incentives!

2317 International Ln • Suite 101 • Madison, WI



Tamim Sifri, DDS

General, Cosmetic, and
Implant Dentistry for
Today's Family.

R U Ready? READY TO QUIT!?

Every year in Wisconsin, nearly 7,000 years of life are lost to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people because of their tobacco use.

Tobacco use represents a private crisis for LGBT people in Wisconsin; it comes at a huge public cost to us all.

rm2breathe



Madison's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center

LGBT Community Center of the Chippewa Valley



University of Wisconsin SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH



UW-CIRI



SAGE MILWAUKEE



LGBT Resource Center SEVEN RIVERS REGION



Positive VOICE



Milwaukee LGBT Community Center

WHY DO WE SMOKE MORE?

One of the leading factors associated with LGBT people smoking is minority stress—the stress related to the stigma and discrimination we feel in our daily lives as LGBT people. Even those who have successfully quit for a period of time are more likely to state they returned to smoking because of the stressors of our lives.

WHAT WORKS?

- You can double or triple your chances of a successful quit by combining strategies. Cold turkey rarely works.
- Build a social support network among your friends and family that cheers you on.
- Work on changing the habits of smoking. Think about where and when you smoke. What triggers your smoking behaviors? Be aware of the feelings that increase your desire to smoke and work on those.

GET HELP.

Check out www.rm2breathe.org
Call 1-800-QUIT-NOW for loads of resources,
including nicotine replacement products.

Miller Lite Main Stage 2009 Headline Entertainment



Maier Festival Grounds (Summerfest)

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
WWW.PRIDEFEST.COM

Friday, June 12, 2009, 8PM

Featuring **CYNDI LAUPER**

VIP RESERVED SEATING AVAILABLE



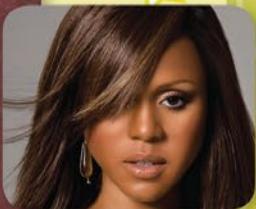
BRANDY Saturday, June 13, 2009, 9PM

VIP RESERVED SEATING AVAILABLE

Sunday, June 14, 2009, 7PM

ETTA JAMES with The Roots Band
and Special Guest, **DEBORAH COX**

VIP RESERVED SEATING AVAILABLE



In the Dance Pavilion, Sunday, June 14, 2009, 10PM
SEPTEMBER Direct from Europe for an exclusive Performance!

A weekend full of non-stop entertainment, friends, food, merchandise, music, exhibits, dance, information, activities, family fun, and PRIDE! Log on to www.pridefest.com for

• Volunteer applications • Proud Crowd VIP info • Full entertainment lineup • Ticket purchasing • Festival information

• Full entertainment lineup • Ticket purchasing • Festival information

Be sure to find PrideFest on Facebook, MySpace and Twitter!



GREAT TASTE OF PRIDE FEST

PrideFest, P.O. Box 511763
Milwaukee, WI 53203 • 414-272-3378



QUEST

iPACTY RADIO

104

CHICAGO
FreePress

WGN-TV

the ONION



95.9 KISS

CHICAGO
PRIDE.COM

DOUBLETREE
HOTEL
MILWAUKEE CITY CENTER

Make it a weekend! Stay at the DoubleTree Hotel in downtown Milwaukee, special PrideFest rates! Visit pridefest.com

98.3

WINDY CITY
MEDIA
GROUP

MILWAUKEE'S
94.5 LAKE

THE IRON HORSE
HOTELS

WISCONSIN
PLAYERS