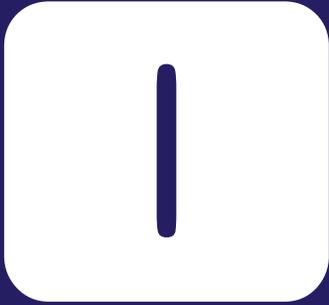


May/June
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our lives



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Cover Photo by Eric Baillies, ericbaillies.com



Madison's LGBT&XYZ Magazine

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May/June 2010 Volume 3, Issue 6
Life in the Middle Publishing, LLC
Patrick Farabaugh & Joseph Patane,
Publishers. 215 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.,
Box 1202, Madison, WI 53701

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Our Role in Strengthening Relationships



Something that I value quite a bit—and gives *Our Lives* its voice—is the narrative nature of its writing. I think a narrative has a power beyond the traditional story to speak to a reader and bring them closer to the person they are reading about.

What I strive to have this magazine provide is insights into who we are, and I hope those insights bring us closer together. I love that even after knowing Robert von Rutenberg since beginning the magazine three years ago, there are still things that I took away from reading his cover story that help color in what makes him who he is. I deeply believe that we become more connected, build more trust, and begin to develop stronger relationships through learning about each other—and therefore ourselves. I'm grateful to you for giving *Our Lives* a role in that process.

I truly want to thank every person who has (or will ...) write for us. You are what makes this magazine special.

With love,
Patrick Farabaugh
 PUBLISHER / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



contributors

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Eric Baillies is a photographer from De Forest, WI who, after working in numerous cubical jobs, decided to leave it all behind to pursue his life long passion—photography. He started his own wedding photography and videography business. He shares a photo studio at Winnebago Studios with long-time commercial photographer Eric Tadsen who has aided him in professional education and experience.

When Eric is not taking pictures, you can find him coaching soccer in De Forest, running, doing yoga, or preparing for his next exhibit at Gary's Art & Frame where he works part time. For more information, go to Elitevideophoto.com or EricBaillies.com.



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. 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.

Marcelle Richards loves to dish and tell. She sometimes even writes about it. In her quest for the best foodie hotspots in town, she has been known to endure grueling tests of will before deli cases, and feats of fortitude in chocolate consumption. In her spare time, she also writes a food column for *Isthmus* and hosts the *Gastropocalypse Test Kitchen* (gastropocalypse.com). She was a food crewmember for ACT 6 and ACT 7, and this year plans to put her hams to the test as a rider. She lives in Madison with her partner, Sid, and their well-fed dogs, Ringo and Claire.



Juliet Darken is an illustrator who was born in Madison and educated at the Savannah College of Art and Design. She moved back to Madison to rejoin the LGBT community she so missed while in Georgia. In her opinion, the most important thing for people to learn is how to communicate, and she enjoys adding her personal visual language to the human conversation. Find her work at darkenart.com.



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Letter to the Editor:

I just finished reading the March/April issue of *Our Lives*. Can I tell you that I was blown away with the quality of the articles and the information shared? The Pink Plaque Tour of historic downtown Madison was amazing, the articles on local LGBT businesses were inspiring, and the Insider's Guide feature story on people's favorite Madison neighborhoods made me feel lucky to live here all over again. Kudos to you and your team for creating a fantastic magazine that I can't wait to see each time it is delivered.

You might like to let your advertisers know that your readers are watching who is taking out ads. I normally page right by the ads in mainstream magazines. Not with *Our Lives*. I read each ad with great interest to find the best places to spend my hard earned dollars. I'm very excited to see who joins you for the May/June issue as my partner and I fall in the \$50+ category for dining out each week. What is my favorite thing to make for dinner? Of course, it's reservations!

Angela Prestil
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School of Fish

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OUR INTRODUCTIONS

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Where are you from? I was born and raised in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and have lived in Madison for 20 years.

How did you come to start Wisconsin Women Fish? I have been fishing all my life and started hosting ice-fishing outings with my friends in 2003. In the early days, it was more about partying because not everybody fished. About five years ago, I started meeting women from all over the state who also loved to fish. We had a few conversations about getting a bunch of women together to fish, and it grew from there. It has now become an educational resource as well as a social one. Everyone involved loves to fish—that is the common denominator.

What is the best part of your fishing events? At first for me it was about catching the fish, but that has totally changed. I have had so many moving experiences at these. One was when I handed out the "Most Determined Angler" award to a woman who had been fighting cancer and was in poor health. She attended the Fall Fish Camp and she had the time of her life. Her dedication in trying to fish even though it was really cold and she was weak earned her that award. She was so moved by it that she cried. Recently, another woman who has had MS for over 20 years and can barely walk attended an ice fishing class. To see these women have these opportunities, make lifelong friends, and share a common passion is better than any fish I could ever catch.

How has Wisconsin Women Fish benefitted our community? There is no other organization that provides these opportunities for women. Fishing is a back-to-nature experience, and I am thrilled to provide a supportive group for women of all abilities to be a part of. I am the only woman on many of my sponsors' pro staff, and hopefully I can break down some of these barriers for the women who come after me. Initially,

I was trying to connect with other Madison women who fish, but at our last Fish Camp, there were women from five states who attended. Many of those who meet at these events become very close friends.

What is your hope for the future of Wisconsin Women Fish? I would like to see it become more of a club with the organizational responsibilities shared among its members. I have spearheaded this, and done all of the creation of the events and structure. I would like to see it live beyond me and belong to all the women anglers who want to be a part of it. It's really about being part of a team and forging new adventures. This has become very popular, and I could really use some help.

When you're not fishing, where can we find you? I am a very social person and have some of the greatest friends who have supported me through all my big ideas. If I am not fishing, I am connecting with friends at the Harmony Bar or in someone's house playing cards.

What's your next event, and where can readers learn more about it? The big event for the summer is the Women's Fly Fishing Clinic to be held in Avalanche, WI. For this event, we have the support of Trout Unlimited, allowing us to create a top-notch program and offer it at a low cost to women. Our signature event has become our Fall Fish Camp. That camping/fishing weekend has become very popular. My personal favorite is the Lake Superior Ice Challenge. Many women have dreamt of fishing on Lake Superior, and this event is a great angling adventure. All the events are posted on the website at wiwomenfish.com. If people sign up to be on the mailing list, or better yet a club member, they can be notified of new events as they are posted. ■

Photographed by Amber Sowards

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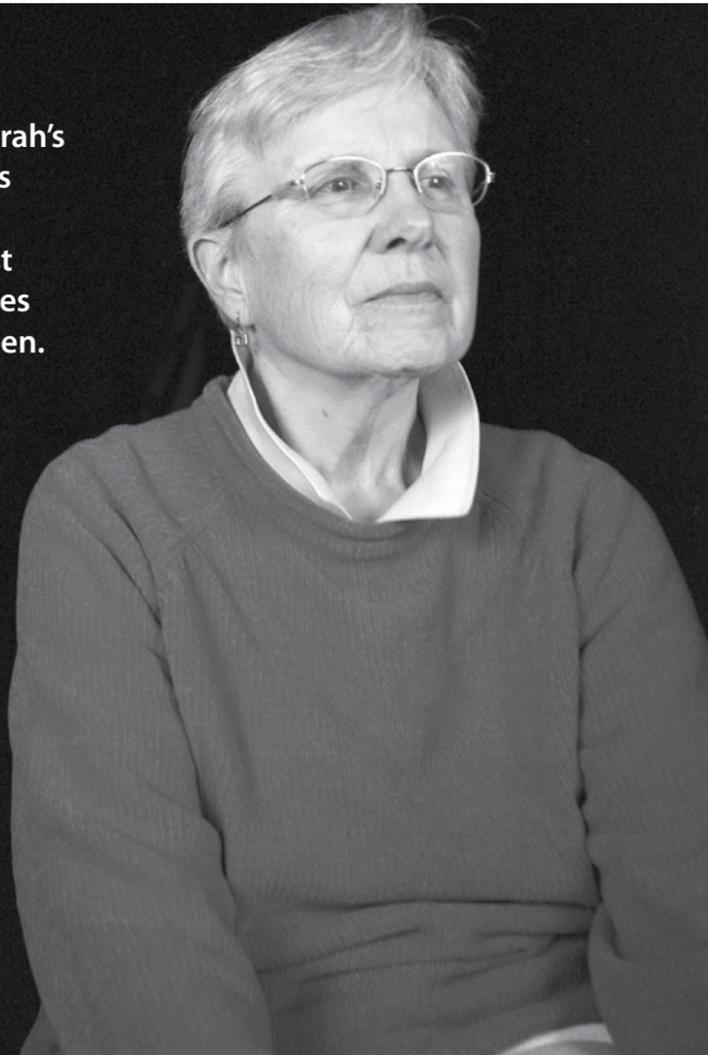
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Spotlight by StageQ Artistic Director Tara Ayres

People still tell StageQ that Sarah's performance as Hannah Free is one of the most memorable roles they've ever seen.



Sarah Free

Sarah Newport is an extraordinary, ordinary person who has taken risks to have a creative life and be part of Madison community theater.

In the fourth grade, in Lafayette, Louisiana, Sarah Newport was cast as the mother in a Hansel and Gretel operetta. What she thought was a stomachache due to stage fright turned out to be a ruptured appendix, and it took Sarah until she was 45 years old to get back on stage as an actor. She does remember going to see a touring production of "Life With Father," and being transfixed watching the two little boys who were just her age, wondering, "How in the world did they get to do that?" Her desire to act was born then and there.

Wanting to Minister through Music

Growing up in the choir loft of the Methodist church, Sarah learned

to read music and sing alto. She studied in college to become a minister of music. During her senior year, the federal government sent the school choir on a good will tour of Asia, where they spent a semester touring 20 Asian countries. In 1956, they spent Christmas in Saigon, and Sarah visited a refugee camp with her host. It changed her life, and confirmed her desire to minister through music.

Becoming Sarah Newport

After graduation, Sarah got a job as minister of music and youth director in a little church in Wheeling, WV. During her fourth year there, Sarah fell in love with a woman. She says of that time: "That was the first time I knew who I was, and it was shocking. It wasn't okay; I worked for the church. I didn't know any lesbians; there was no community. I couldn't tell my minister, I couldn't tell my best friend. I had never heard of women living together, but I hoped that she would leave her husband and live with me."

Sarah was totally isolated, trying to stay in her church, and decided that she needed to do penance and live a "right life." She married her husband, Jim, and vowed to be perfect in her new role. Sarah says that's where she really learned to act. Her husband was transferred to Chicago. By then Sarah had two daughters. When her older daughter was in preschool, Sarah took a swim class at the YWCA and fell in love with her teacher. Sarah decided that she would go crazy if she stayed married

to Jim while loving someone else, even though she felt guilty about hurting him. Sarah and her new partner, Julie, moved to LaCrosse, where she got a job teaching music at Cathedral School, before moving on to a job as a music teacher in the Onalaska public schools.

After 11 years, Julie fell in love with someone else. Sarah didn't know any other lesbians. She was 44, and super-closeted because she didn't want her girls to suffer, and she wanted to keep her job (there weren't any out lesbian school teacher in 1974). Once Sarah started to recover from the devastating breakup, she realized that her daughters were worried about her health, since she had lost so much weight. Sarah says, "I sat them down and told them what was going on, and that I didn't have cancer, but that Julie and I had broken up. Their response was 'Thank goodness you're not going to die, you're just a lesbian.' Over the next few months, they started deciding about which of their friends to come out, they started talking to me more openly about their lives and their friends. When they got to college, they were really pleased that they could be more out about me. One of the first things they did when they started dating someone was make them pass the litmus test of being okay with mom's being gay."

Bit Parts

Many years later, now married/divorced, the mother of two girls, and an out lesbian, Sarah decided that she wanted a little part in a play, "just to be on stage for a few minutes." She auditioned for *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, not wanting a role, but just to practice. "I was scared, but told myself that I don't know any of these people and it didn't matter if I made a fool of myself," she said. "Well, lo and behold someone I knew well was there. The director called my friend and me up to read first. Being in the theater, under the lights, was magical. I didn't want to stop when the director called time on us. I got the part of the school principal."

Sarah and her daughters moved to Madison in 1975, but she didn't do theater again until *Another Round* six years ago. She saw an audition notice for this play set in a lesbian bar, and I thought, "I could sit at a table and be an extra." She was cast as the bartender.

"That was the first time I knew who I was, and it was shocking. It wasn't okay; I worked for the church. I had never heard of women living together, but I hoped that she would leave her husband and live with me."

Hannah Free

Megan Cavanaugh, who came in from LA to direct, pointed out the *Hannah Free* listing on the StageQ season poster, told Sarah that she was a natural and needed to keep acting. Sarah thought, "Well, it's about older women, I can go get a small role. I didn't realize it was just two older women." Sarah was offered the role of Hannah.

"I fell in love with the play, with Hannah, with Rachel. That month of rehearsals was the hardest month I can remember," she remembers. "I felt so imperfect. All of the other actors seemed to know what they were doing, and I didn't. I was trying to be Hannah. I struggled and struggled and worked and worked. I didn't know what a big deal Sarah Whelan, who played Rachel was, and here I was a total neophyte. I was bawling all the way home from every rehearsal because I was so afraid I was going to wreck the play."

Hannah Free director Roseann Sheridan gave Sarah two solo rehearsals; one was just before final dress rehearsal, and she told her the time had come for Hannah to find her voice. Hannah, at the end of her life, was older than Sarah, and so Sarah needed a more elderly voice for that part of her role. She visualized an old friend of hers, and tried his voice. "Roseann loved it, and from then on it was so easy. Right after that rehearsal, I just sang and laughed and did my lines in that voice," Sarah said.

Ultimately, Sarah said, "I loved telling Hannah's story; I wanted everyone to come hear it." People still tell StageQ that Sarah's performance as Hannah Free is one of the most memorable roles they've ever seen.

Into the Future

Sarah hasn't looked back. She says that she fell in love with the Bartell Theater, and went on to roles in *Gays of Our Lives*, *Walmartopia*, *The Crone Show*, *Queer Shorts*, and *Riot Acts*. And she continues her involvement in community theater. Why? "I feel that my head and my heart and my spirit are finally connected." ■



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What Gay Hockey Means to Me

Each year the Madison Gay Hockey Association invites its members to write about the role that the MGHA plays in building their identity. 2010 scholarship winner **Amy Barker** shares her essay.

If you would have passed me on the street approximately a year and a half ago, I would have been unrecognizable compared to today. I was a bit overweight with my head slightly lowered, avoiding eye contact and even conversation. Then something happened to me that totally changed my life.

Growing up, I always had a feeling that I wasn't going to be typical. Coming from a pretty small town and with a narrow-minded attitude, I can still remember specific times in my life where my mind and mentality changed. When I was around seven years old, I knew my "preference." I was honest about it, and I paid for it. I can still see in my mind as if it was yesterday when I was 13 and the phrase that was spoken to me at school. That was the exact moment when my emotional state shut down. I went through the motions of life devoid of passion and feeling. I had built a wall high around me and would not let anyone or anything in. For the next 15 years, I walked alone through life as much as possible.

I then found the Madison Gay Hockey Association. Having an appreciation for sports, I was interested. Upon reading more and more on the MGHA website, I decided to sign up. If nothing else, I'd be learning another sport. As I took my quiet self to one of the first open skates, I had no idea what to expect. Upon introducing myself I was prepared for the usual reaction, but to my surprise, I was met with openness and kindness. Throughout the summer, I attended more and more open skates, quickly meeting the founder and most of the board members. I was unsure whether to be scared or intrigued.

By the time the first skills clinic came around, I remember finishing up and sitting in the stands and watching the others. I was approached by a few people that I hadn't yet met, but they seemed to know my name. They sat next to me and started up a conversation. This happened more frequently as the season started to get underway. I was totally in awe of the community that existed and the idea that I could possibly have a place here and be accepted. I could feel a part of myself come alive; the wall that I had built was quickly crumbling away.

The one thing that I've learned this season is that life doesn't happen to you, you have to participate in life for anything to happen.

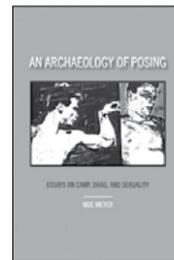
It didn't matter that I had never been on a pair of skates before or that my hockey knowledge was limited. It didn't matter that I knew no one in the league before I signed up, nor who I was as a person. Through constant support, encouragement, and positive reinforcement (on and off the ice), I have made such amazing friendships and discovered so much about myself that I never knew existed.

Everything has been going in a positive direction which, honestly, I am not used to. I remember being at an open skate by myself. I was working on trying to stop and the one thing that I distinctly remember someone saying was, "You'll be fine. Just keep at it. Remember, you get out what you put into it." At that time, I thought the statement only applied to hockey. Little did I know it would apply to so many other aspects of my life.

The one thing that I've learned this season is that life doesn't happen to you, you have to participate in life for anything to happen. I may have been brought into this world in the 1980s, but the summer of 2009 is when I truly was born and brought into the light of life. ■

An Archaeology of Posing: Essays on Camp, Drag, and Sexuality

by Moe Meyer



This critique of gay cultural performance compiles two decades of new and previously published writings on gay culture by one of the field's most provocative and outspoken critics. Diverging from the text-based premise of most queer theory, Meyer utilizes performance studies and interpretive anthropology to examine camp and drag performances in the spaces in which they appear. He explores a variety of topics—from transsexual striptease and Harlem drag balls to the death of camp—within the genre of queer drag and sexuality performance. This collection of essays, with Meyer's rejection of gender parity and his celebration of the effeminate gay male body, presents a fresh interpretation of established art forms. From the pre-Stonewall era to the present day, Meyer's cultural critique redefines how we understand the phenomena of camp and drag. *An Archaeology of Posing* is distributed for Macater Press by The University of Wisconsin Press. Available in June.

Bob Leschke is a full-time physician and amateur writer. He's working on a collection of poems involving relationships and air travel. He's a triathlete and fundraiser for GLSEN and his writing about the subject can be found on his blog: itsnotabouttherace.blogspot.com.



Departure

I've packed this bag,
 Separated my share of dancehall tricks from yours
 And yet the room doesn't look different
 Though I feel quietly changed.

I can still hear the music pumping my blood
 More in my heart now than in my ears,
 Taking a last look backward
 Before yellow cabbaging away.

You remain, flying where you fly
 To heights I cannot follow today.
 A thousand hands, minus two,
 To hold you up in this air.

And, oh, to breathe you in—your smile, your joy,
 The small of your back, the way you
 Predictably move through this deafening crowd.
 I can pick you out of a hundred.

But there are miles to bridge and time to lapse,
 Lives to lead where the stratosphere is unreachable.
 Wheels that come up should touch down
 Until another flight brings us back to this sky.

Sitting alone now in this empty seat
 Reserved to go home, like me.
 I remember that I somehow forget my fear of flying
 When you are with me. You're magic that way.

I've always been amazed that planes can fly.
 Heavy steel like heavy hearts defying forward motion.
 Only faith, promise of safety, the perpetual energy of our countless hands
 Will keep it above these clouds.

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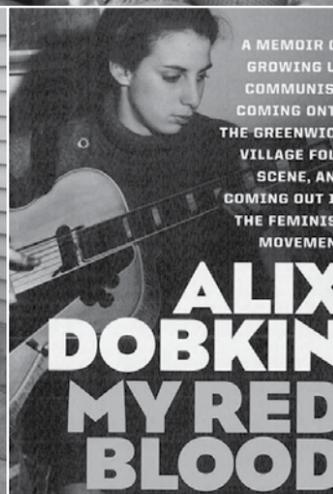
Suede



God-des and She



Andrea Gibson



More than Music

The 35th National Women's Music Festival, as festival producer **Jane Weldon** reports, promises four days of music, workshops, networking, and comfort.

Herstory

Begun in 1974 on the campus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the NWMF is the oldest and longest-running festival of its kind. It was the project of folk artist Kristin Lems who, frustrated with her continued unsuccessful attempts to be booked at the mainstream folk festivals, decided to create her own venue. The festival has continued every year since, with the exception of the year the Board of Directors re-organized and restructured to better position NWMF for the future.

The National Women's Music Festival moved from Urbana-Champaign to Bloomington, Indiana, where it made its home for the better part of two decades. Then it moved around from Ball State University, Kent State University, The Ohio State University, and Illinois State University in Bloomington-Normal to Madison in 2008.

The move to Madison has been a great decision by Women in the Arts, Inc., the nonprofit that produces the festival. A strong community of women and men that support women's music and culture is critical to its success, and Madison is just that place.

NWMF 2009

Last year was the first festival produced at NWMF's new and current home, the Madison Marriott West in Middleton. Festival attendees loved the venue, which provides excellent accommodations and immediate proximity to all of the festival events. This has allowed the National Women's Music Festival to really differentiate itself with more of a conference environment and feel. Attendees don't have to worry about weather impacting their stages or workshops and they really are somewhat pampered by the excellent hospitality of the Marriott staff.

Board President Laura Leigh Fowlkes shared that the Board and Producer really focus on feedback from attendees and over the last several years, comfort of accommodations and ease of maneuvering the space had emerged as strong expectations among festival guests. She described the experience with the Marriott last summer as wonderful.

"We knew the Marriott staff would provide a good service but we were thrilled with how they embraced the festival and really took an interest in what was happening," stated Fowlkes. "The feedback from attendees was great."

This Year's Festival: July 1-4

There will be even more comfort in the space this year. "The NWMF Living Room" will be a large area for guests to lounge: take a break, have coffee, plan what they are doing next, or just visit with other Festival-goers. Sometimes there is so much going on that it can be overwhelming. Having a really comfortable spot to relax and regroup without having to leave the venue will be really nice. There is also the possibility of some unplugged entertainment in the Living Room space each day.

Attendees don't have to worry about weather impacting their stages or workshops.

The 2010 lineup provides a wide range of talent across multiple genres from Thursday through Sunday. The music stages welcome some returning favorites as well as new talent this year. Erika Lockett and Lisa Ferraro, Girl Parts, Leslie & the Lys, God-des and She, Suede, Adrienne, Michelle Vought, and Nancy Beaudette will perform. Suzanne Westenhofer and Mimi Gonzales bring their comedic genius back to NWMF by popular demand. Andrea Gibson is back with the intensity and passion of her spoken word. Wicked Jezebel will perform live in the NWMF dance pavilion and Sunday's Artist's Breakfast features the amazing Alix Dobkin.

In 2009, NWMF created its own version of a talent competition in several cities around the country. Those winners from each regional contest came to NWMF for a semi-final round on the opening night and a final competition on the closing stage Sunday. Those artists were vying for a main stage spot in 2010. Our 2009 WIA's Got Talent winners finished in a tie and return this year on the main stage bill. We welcome The Sirens in the Woods and Teneia Sanders to NWMF! They brought the house down last summer and have a new festival fan base anxiously awaiting their performances.

In addition to the performance stages, the festival offers a wide variety of workshops and opportunities to network with women from around the country, and the NWMF Marketplace provides the opportunity to shop and support the incredibly talented craftswomen and vendors.

For more information and to purchase tickets visit WIAonline.org

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



Celebration of Leadership
May 8, Monona Terrace

The Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools will award a Community Activist and an Educator Award at the 14th annual Celebration of Leadership Awards Banquet. The awards honor the activism and courage of our schools' youth and adults. This year's speakers include former scholarship recipient Sol Kelley-Jones and U.S. Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin. gsaforsafeschools.org



PrideFest
June 11-13, 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 Joan Rivers, Patti LaBelle, Kathy Griffin, and Amanda Lepore. pridefest.com



National Women's Music Festival
July 1-4, Marriott Madison West

This four-day musical and cultural extravaganza incorporates all facets of women's lives. The choices for things to do range from workshops, concerts, comedy, theatre presentations, a marketplace, newly released films and videos, a live auction, spirituality series, writer's series, animal lovers series, and much, much more! wiaonline.org

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

Frontrunners/Frontwalkers
personalpages.tds.net/~tmclurg

Gay/Straight Alliance for Safe Schools (GSAFE)
301 S. Bedford St., Madison (608) 661-4141
gsaforsafeschools.org

Gay Softball League
ssblmadison.com

Gay Volleyball League
madisongayvolleyball.com

Hermanos Latinos
sneal@aidsnetwork.org

Lez Talk Yahoo Group
leztalkmadison@yahoo.com

LGBT Business Alliance
madisonbusinessalliance.com

Madison Gay Hockey Association
madisongayhockey.org

Madison Minotaurs Gay Rugby
minotaursrugby.org

New Harvest Foundation
newharvestfoundation.org

Out Professional and Executive Network (O.P.E.N.)
openmadison.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 - Madison's Queer Theater
stageq.com

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

Wisconsin Rainbow Families
wirainbowfamilies.com

April 16 | AIDS Network's Red Ribbon Affair at Monona Terrace



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PLAN B

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SSBL Madison Summer League Begins
Monday nights beginning May 10 at Bowman Park, Madison
Madison Gay Softball has evolved into an institution that has revitalized the gay community and enriched the lives of our members, both players and non-players, gay and straight. Games begin at 6:30, 7:30, and 8:30. ssblmadison.com

Fourth Annual Drag Down Cancer Comedy Benefit
May 8, High Noon Saloon, Madison
Come out for an evening of performances, fun, and spectacles featuring Cass Marie and friends; more than a dozen drag acts are scheduled. myspace.com/dragdowncancercomedy

Proud Theater: 3D in Queer-O-Rama
May 20-22, Fredric March Play Circle, Memorial Union, Madison
A fun and 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

Dick Wagner's Pink Plaque Walking Tour
May 22
Join the Out Professional and Executive Network (OPEN) to retrace steps and relive history as you take a stroll through time to discover some of the hidden stories of Madison's LGBT community. Former Dane County Board Chair Dick Wagner has mapped out a walking tour of Madison's downtown and near eastside. openmadison.org

Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus: Broadway, Our Way
May 22, Mills Concert Hall, UW-Madison campus
"Broadway, Our Way" is a review of new Broadway standards since 1970. Broadway, Our Way is a heartfelt exploration of cultural change setting direction. Selections include Jersey Boys, Sondheim's Company, Sunday in the Park with George, Merrily We Roll Along, Into the Woods, selections from Hairspray, Les Misérables and Wicked, and jewels like Children of Eden, A New Brain and Chess. perfectharmonychorus.org

Madison Marathon and Expo
May 30, Alliant Energy Center, Madison
The Health & Fitness expo is on Friday and Saturday, May 28 and 29. The Marathon is on Sunday, May 30. The Marathon starts and ends on the Capitol Square. Approximately 7,000 participants are expected. madisonfestivals.com/marathon

Building Leaders with Cultural Competency
June 10, Sheraton Madison Hotel, Madison
Join the the Out Professional and Executive Network (OPEN) for a leadership training seminar featuring Laurie Frank of GOAL Consulting. Surrounded by your peers, you'll explore cultural competence and leadership connections in the workplace while discussing concrete ways to personally and professionally progress along the continuum. openmadison.org

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COMING HOME

Restaurant owner **Robert von Rutenberg** looks back on his return to Madison and the family business.

HAVE YOU EVER FELT YOU ARE EXACTLY WHERE you are supposed to be at a given moment in time? That could describe my life now. I am in the right place at the right time and so very fortunate to be here. That was certainly not the case when I moved back to Madison ten years ago.

I had been away from Madison for 16 years and had never lived here as an adult. In 1999 I was living a great life in Manhattan. Dream job, great partner, beautiful apartment. I was thirty-three and thought I had it all. It all changed pretty fast. A new CEO made my job absolutely miserable. My partner was diagnosed with leukemia and was dead within three months. Starting to realize what was most important I quit my job to be with him before he died. Very soon it became no work, no man, just me alone in the apartment. Not a good combination. Very bad.

A dear friend from Madison who also had a place in Manhattan could see just how much I was struggling with my grief and depression. When he got back to Madison he phoned my brothers and a plan was made to get me out of the city and back to my family to heal.

The Brothers to the Rescue

My brothers Jack and Bill are just a tub of love and have always looked out for their “baby” brother. They may think I am a bit eccentric but their love and support has never wavered since I came out as a teenager. When my mom died they sort of became my parents.

I don't think they were prepared for what came back to them in the winter of 2000. I was a shell of my former self.

Grief and depression had taken hold of me, and I was lost somewhere inside. They had always known me to be outgoing, adventurous, and creative. I was the crazy younger brother who traveled the world, lived in Australia, was a Peace Corps volunteer in West Africa, then came back to the States and climbed the corporate ladder in Chicago and New York City. When I got off the plane I was none of those. I was mostly a saddened, broken man.

The first two years back are just a fog. If I met you during that time I do not remember. Most days it was a challenge just to get out of bed. My brother Jack would come to my apartment and force me to go to work as a bartender at one of the restaurants. Sometimes he would have to push me in the shower. The only thing I did accomplish during that time was two AIDS Rides from Minneapolis to Chicago. The first one I did was all about my grief and so many wonderful people were there for me. Everyone has an AIDS Ride story. The second year it was nice to be there for others.

As I slowly returned to good health, I realized that I did not want to

I slowly began to realize this food thing is in my blood. It helped that every day I had living examples in my brothers. They really love what they do. They are men of integrity. They always put their families first. They enjoy life. They know what matters most.

this even something to consider? I had not bartended since my early twenties and bartending at the Nau-Ti-Gal is a quite a bit different from bartending at Roscoe's in college. But, I slowly began to realize this food thing is in my blood. It helped that every day I had living examples in my brothers. They really love what they do. They are men of integrity. They always put their families first. They enjoy life. They know what matters most.

A Decision Is Made

My brothers had always been equal partners in the business while I was off doing my own thing. When my mom died, they purchased the business from my father with my blessing. I never thought I would live in Madison, and I knew I would never leave the corporate world—certainly never work in a restaurant. I had absolutely no interest in working in the family business. Time is a funny thing. I should never have said “never.” After I had been working for them for two years, we started the discussion about me possibly staying around a while. Much to my surprise, I was

offered the opportunity to buy into the business and be an equal partner. Now not only had they helped me, emotionally and physically, they were giving me an incredible gift professionally.

Many Changes, Very Fast

So now we are equal partners. We expanded Betty Lou Cruises from one boat on one lake to four boats on two lakes. I bought a tiny bungalow. I had always lived in apartment buildings or lofts, but having a house and land in Madison now felt right. I turned 40, did the Ironman, and reflected a lot. Something was still missing. I just was not being fulfilled creatively. Then the light bulb finally went on. I could be creative with food. I love to eat. I saw how much fun my friends Marcia Castro and Patrick O'Halloran had in the kitchen and how passionate they were about food when we traveled together to Tucson for the food and wine festival. I decided I needed to go to culinary school. It turns out Madison has one of the best culinary schools in the county right here at MATC. I enrolled and will most likely graduate this year.

Loving Life

My schedule is quite grueling but I pretty much love everything I do. I am able to spend time with friends and family. I consider my customers and employees friends. I am able to give back to the community: if not by volunteering my time, I contribute financially as much as I possibly can.

Robert, Bill and Jack von Rutenberg at the Mariner's Inn



Being surrounded by all the young people at MATC and realizing that they will be our future, I am hopeful. It was a strange un-chosen journey that brought me to this place in life, but for whatever reason, I am here in Madison with my brothers and new friends. I am definitely in the right place at the right time. ■

Robert von Rutenberg and his brothers Jack and Bill are co-owners of The Mariner's Inn, The Nau-Ti-Gal, Captain Bill's, and Betty Lou Cruises. Most nights you can find one of them at their restaurants, and in summer they will occasionally stow away on a cruise or two.

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COMMUNAL ROOTS

Marcelle Richards explores the community and outreach of the abundant women-owned Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms in Dane County.

“WHEN I WAS LITTLE I WAS GOING TO be a printer or farmer,” says **Shirley Young**, who grew up to do both. Fifteen years ago she left her path as a printer, sold her house, and started an organic farming internship. Today, she and her partner **Karol Niemann** operate Young Earth Farm, a certified organic farm that is one of 42 farms endorsed by the Madison Area Community Supported Agriculture Coalition (MACSAC).

They are one of a few lesbian-owned farms, and among several other women-owned farms in the coalition that are working to tighten the connections between consumers, the food they eat, and the farms and farmers who produce it. Customers can sign up for a weekly CSA share, and that money goes directly to the farmers.

Everyone Wins

“Not only does buying local help the environment and support local farmers, but it

encourages community among growers,” says **Kiera Mulvey**, MACSAC director.

Several health insurance providers even offer rebates.

“[Having a CSA share creates] a connection with a particular farm, a particular farmer, a particular community that is unparalleled by buying food at a farmers’ market or local grocery store,” says **Claire Strader**, owner of Troy Community Farm.

Women as Farm Producers

More women are taking a lead in starting their own farms, as Small Family CSA Farm owner **Jillian Jacquinot** observes.

J&M Garden Farm owner **Michelle Root** pointed out that 50 years ago, farming was a partnership: the husband was the farmer and the wife was the wife. “The women have probably always done work on farms,” she says, “but they are now starting to get credit as producers.”

“The women have probably always done work on farms, but they are now starting to get credit as producers.” —Michelle Root, owner of J&M Garden Farm

“More women are finding, ‘You know what? I can do this,’ and are pursuing it,” Root says.

Long Days, Big Rewards

Time hasn’t changed the fact that the work is grueling. Year-round planning goes into raising a wide variety of crops, but it’s nothing short of a passion for these farmers.

“What I like best is having a job I absolutely love. It’s still a lot of hard work, but whenever those hard days start to get me down I think about the office—18 years in the office or 18 months on the factory line...I just feel really fortunate,” Root says.

It’s February and the Niemann-Young living room is doubling as a germination chamber and sign-ups for CSA memberships are underway. Plans for seeds, plantings, and harvests were already done in December. Come the peak of the growing season, the workday will start at 5:00 or 6:00 a.m. and end at dark.

“There’s no pastoral paradise out here. It’s a lot of hard work and you give it your all. The rewards are huge,” Young says.

Growing Passion for Food and Community

Niemann complements her green thumb with her passion for the value of food and food community. It’s the faces of her customers that keep her going, and knowing that their food is being appreciated.

Tracing her vegetarian devotion back 14 years to the last mention of a hot dog in her diary, she puts good food at the core of her well-being.

“From a young age, I was conscious of my food. As I grew older and started having control over what I was eating on a daily basis, I started to notice how much better I felt when I was eating good food,” she says.

Farming internships were a natural progression for her and many others who wanted to get hands-on experience in the field.

Strader’s interest in farming evolved from an academic background in philosophy and women’s studies in which she questioned how to meet her own basic needs. Interning in a women-exclusive setting at Luna Circle made a big difference in her learning experience, especially in terms of operating machinery.

Strader recalls being asked by a male farmer on a different farm, “Well, are you sure you can run the roto-tiller?”

“After that experience I craved being in a women-only setting,” she said.

Today on her own farm, Strader feels a very strong connection to the communities that she’s a part of as a lesbian and a vegetable farmer.

Young Earth Farm started with just two shares that went out to friends. A lot of their customers are queer, Young says, and a lot of their customers are friends. “We do such a great job with our people because they’re our people,” she said.

What Local Means in Madison

Strader appreciates her community in Madison, having traveled with her partner to Florida. “I guess I didn’t realize how incredibly conservative Florida is in terms of food and farming and the LGBT community,” Strader says.

They had gone to an outdoor farmers’ market in Florida, excited at the prospect of fresh citrus, but were surprised to find that the market was stocked with produce grown from around the world. Being out also seemed more strained.

“We’re lucky here both in terms of access to good food and the progressive community we’re able to be a part of,” she says.

Through Thick and Thin

Many farmers experienced hardships during 2008 with floods, the tornado, and blight. But come rain or shine, the CSA boxes are filled.

Niemann says it’s the guaranteed income from their CSA shares that saved them that year.

“Really open your heart to try to be supportive to that farmer. Yes, hold your gardener to a standard, but realize that gardener doesn’t control the weather,” Root says. “We need your support whether everything is growing great or we’re having some difficulties.”

Jacquinot and others notice that only a small percentage of their members actually visit the farm, but she would like to see those numbers increase as people start to take a more local approach to their consumer habits.

“It’s about getting people in the cities re-connected to where their food comes from,” she says, adding that the farmers’ market is the next best thing.

Young Earth Farm and many other CSA are recruiting interns; visit <http://www.macsac.org> for contact information.



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WORD OF MOUTH

Madison has a vibrant food community of chefs, specialty shop owners, food writers, foodies, and culinary experts.

Marcelle Richards asks some local food personalities to share their favorite recipes.

Tami Lax

Owner, Harvest Restaurant



If you love asparagus as much as I do, double the amount of asparagus and egg and enjoy this dish as an entrée.

Salad of Local Asparagus, Egg, Wisconsin Parmesan-style Cheese

Serves 4 (or 2 asparagus lovers)

- 1 pound Wisconsin fresh picked asparagus, farm raised or wild
- 4 fresh, local eggs
- ¼ pound Wisconsin parmesan-style cheese (SarVecchio, Farmer John's)
- High-quality Italian olive oil
- Zest of organic lemon
- Kosher salt or sea salt
- Fresh ground black pepper

Start with a 6-quart pot of water on your stovetop. Make the water as salty as the sea by using either Kosher salt or sea salt. (Making the water salty enough will pull the true flavors of the asparagus and eliminate any top applied salt at the end of the cooking process.) Bring to boil. Clean your asparagus. Remove the bottom portion of stalk if the stem is woody. Only use the tender portion of your asparagus stalks, this will generally be the top 75 percent of your asparagus.

Heat a heavy-gauged sauté (or non-stick pan) to medium-low heat. Pour a generous amount of olive oil in the pan. Turn the heat down slightly. Crack egg into pan, keeping the yolk in tact. Salt and pepper. (The secret to a perfectly cooked egg is not to rush it. The egg likes to be cooked on lower heat until the translucent white of the egg becomes porcelain white.) Once your egg starts to turn porcelain white, drop your asparagus into the pot of boiling, salted water until al dente, approximately 3-4 minutes.

Place your drained cooked asparagus onto your plate and slide egg onto the top of the asparagus, pouring the remaining olive oil

over your dish. Garnish with freshly grated organic lemon zest and ribbons of Wisconsin parmesan-style cheese. Use your vegetable peeler to make cheese ribbons. Season with freshly ground black pepper.

Thom Hemeleski

Chef and Food Crew Captain, ACT 5-7



My work in the Madison area has ranged from pub fare to omelets to high-end catering. I am most proud of leading the food crew for the past three ACT rides. My emphasis recently has been on affordable, vegetarian, family cooking. So many recipes involve purchasing expensive ingredients to complete them. But with planning and practice, vegetarian cooking can be delicious for all members of the family as well as inexpensive.

Here is my Italian Sausage Soup Recipe. It takes less than an hour from start to finish.

Italian Sausage Soup

- 1 onion
- 2 Tablespoons garlic
- 2 Tablespoons oil
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1 Tablespoon oregano
- Ground cayenne pepper (optional)
- 2 quarts water or vegetable stock
- 1 28-oz. can diced tomatoes
- 1 cup orzo pasta
- 1 box vegetarian sausage (8 to 10 links)

Sauté onions in oil with salt, pepper, and oregano, on a medium heat. When onions are soft and translucent, add garlic. (If you add it at the beginning, you might scorch it!) Add diced tomatoes and stock, let simmer while you slice the sausage. Cut links into coins. Add sausages and Orzo and turn down the heat. Let simmer for 15 minutes or so, until the orzo is cooked. Add more salt, pepper, cayenne, or oregano, if desired. Add more water if the soup seems too thick. (You'll also need to add more water when you reheat it.)

Anna Alberici

Owner, Greenbush Bar



This is a classic and delicious version of white clam sauce. Don't overcook the clams!

Linguine with White Clam Sauce

Serves 4

- 3 dozen little-neck clams
- ⅛-¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 2 Tablespoons diced shallots or yellow onion
- 2 ½ Tablespoons butter
- ⅓ cup extra virgin olive oil
- 3 Tablespoons freshly grated Parmigiano Reggiano
- 2 teaspoons minced garlic
- ¼ cup white wine, ¾ cup white wine
- 2 Tablespoons chopped parsley
- 1 ½ cup juice from clams or fresh juice and bottled clam juice to equal 1 ¼ cups
- 1 pound linguine

Scrub clams then soak in cold water and 1 Tablespoon salt for about half an hour. Drain and rinse to remove salt.

Steam clams in ¼ cup white wine, covered, until they open. As clams open, move to a fine-mesh sieve placed over a container

to catch the juices. Shuck and chop 16 of the clams and set aside along with the 20 whole clams. In a wide saucepan, heat the olive oil over medium heat and cook the shallots or onions until very lightly browned. Add the garlic and cook until very lightly browned. Add the parsley and red pepper flakes, and cook another minute. Add ¾ cup white wine and reduce by half, add 1 ½ cups of clam juice and reduce by half. Add butter to sauce. Cook pasta, reserving ½ cup cooking water. Drain pasta. Add cooked clams to hot sauce along with cooked pasta. Add cheese and toss well. If pasta seems dry, add some of the reserved pasta water. Portion into bowls and garnish with whole clams, parsley, and lemon wedges.

Jennifer Gaber

Owner, Nutshell Catering



My love for making this salad has carried over to the palates of my customers; it is the most often requested salad I make.

I prefer using Spanish olive oil, partly for the more-fruity-less-peppery flavor that I have found in them, but also as a way to reconcile history. When Europe conquered South America, quinoa was scorned by the Spanish colonists as "Indian food" and actively suppressed.

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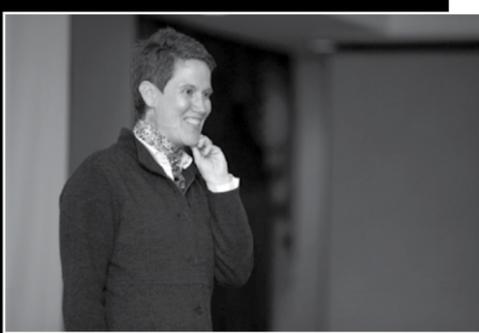
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May 1	HYVEE - 3801 E Washington Ave	2 pm	INFO SESSION
May 11	JAVA CAT - 3918 Monona Dr	6 pm	INFO SESSION
June 6	High Noon Saloon - 701 E Washington Ave	2 pm	RIDE KICKOFF



The conquistadors forbade quinoa cultivation and the Incas were forced to grow corn instead. Today, it has made a comeback as a “super-grain,” even though it is a seed. High in protein and iron, and gluten free, it has been a great choice for special diets.

Black Bean Quinoa Salad Dressing

- ¼ cup Spanish olive oil
- ¼ cup canola oil
- ½ cup balsamic vinegar

2 dried chilis, can vary—I like cascabels—and ½ teaspoon cumin seed, warmed together in a skillet until fragrant and ground (coffee grinder works well) to a powder

- 1 teaspoon sea salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon mustard
- 1 clove garlic, minced

Blend ingredients on medium-high speed until well-mixed.

Prepare Quinoa:

- 1 cup quinoa and 2 cups water.

Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to simmer and cover for 10–15 minutes.

When it is done, the grain appears semi-translucent and the germ ring is visible.

Add:

- 4 cups cooked black beans
- 1 bunch green onions, thinly sliced
- 1 pint cherry tomatoes, halved (or 2 cups sliced, roasted sweet potatoes)
- 2 stalks of celery, thinly sliced
- 1 green bell pepper, diced
- 4 avocados, diced
- ½ cup fresh cilantro minced

Stir in the dressing and refrigerate for 2–4 hours. Served chilled.

Dan Curd

Food Writer/Blogger, Madison Magazine



I grew up in Kentucky where the focus on food in my family was definitely Southern. Ever since, I have loved strawberries and anxiously anticipated spring and their arrival.

Back then, a new dessert was fresh—uncooked—strawberry pie. Before the recipe was hijacked and wrecked by too many chain restaurants, it was my favorite and still is—if made right. Here is a recipe that my grandmother clipped from the Nashville Banner that I still make today.

Fresh Strawberry Pie

Serves 6–8

1 9-inch pie shell made from short pastry, baked and cooled

¼ cup water

1 Tablespoon unflavored gelatin

2 quarts picked-over strawberries, hulled

1 Tablespoon fresh lemon juice

1 cup granulated sugar

2 Tablespoons cornstarch

Pinch of salt

Whipped cream

Put the water in a glass measuring cup or small bowl and sprinkle with the gelatin. Let soften 5 minutes.

Meanwhile, put about three cups of the smaller or less attractive strawberries in a blender or food processor. Add the lemon juice, sugar, cornstarch, and salt. Blend or process until the strawberry mixture is smooth. Transfer the strawberry mixture to a saucepan and set over low heat. Stirring constantly, heat the mixture until it comes to a boil. Continue to cook and stir until the purée is thick and transparent. Stir in the softened gelatin and immediately remove from the heat. Let it cool.

Slice the remaining strawberries in half and add to the cooled purée. Gently fold together and transfer to the pie shell. Use a rubber spatula to smooth the top. Chill the pie for at least 2 hours and serve chilled with whipped cream.

Renee Raspiller

Co-Owner, Java Cat



When I was young, my mother would make these sticky buns twice a year, once on Christmas morning and once on Easter. They were so delicious! It was definitely one of the things my brothers, sister, and I looked forward to on the holidays. We’d wake up in the morning and she’d be just pulling them out of the oven. I remember scraping the warm caramel out of the bottom of the pan, making sure I got my fill. Mmmmm ...

Sticky Buns

Yields 18 rolls

½ 36-roll package of Rhodes frozen roll dough

¼ cup butter

(margarine can work but it isn’t as good)

½ cup brown sugar

2 Tablespoons corn syrup

½ cup pecan halves (I use a lot more)

Melt butter, stir in brown sugar and corn syrup.

Grease Bundt pan (or angel food cake pan). Place pecans in bottom of pan. Place 18 frozen rolls on top. Pour butter mixture over top.

Cover pan with towel and let rise overnight. If kitchen is cold, heat oven to 100 degrees. Turn oven off and place pan in oven overnight.

When risen to double original size, pre-heat oven to 375 degrees. Place rolls in oven and bake 25 to 30 minutes until brown. Let sit 10 minutes or so and invert pan on plate. Let sit a few more minutes for caramel to cover rolls.

Ken Monteleone

Owner, Fromagination



Just about all of my favorite things about food come together in fondues. To me fondue is the ultimate selection “après ski” or as a winter’s day lunch accompanied by a green salad and a glass of wine. Everyone knows about dipping bread cubes in fondue, but other accompaniments such as sliced vegetables, smoked and cured meats, and even pickled vegetables are just as traditional and satisfying.

Fromagination Artisanal Blend Fondue

Serves 6

Kosher salt

1 clove of garlic, peeled and cut

3 cups (1 cup each) of grated Emmenthaler (Wisconsin), Appenzeller (Switzerland), and

Gruyere (Switzerland)

1 ½ cup dry white wine

1 teaspoon freshly squeezed lemon

Pinch nutmeg

Black pepper in a mill

Vigorously rub the exposed end of the garlic over the surface of the pot, starting in the salt and coating the entire surface. Discard the garlic.

In a medium bowl, combine the grated cheeses. Add one cup of wine and lemon juice to the cheese. Mix well. Let the cheese and wine soak at room temperature for at least 45 minutes.

Add half of wine into the prepared fondue pot and bring to a boil over medium heat. Once the liquid has come to a boil, slowly add the cheese, whisking continuously.

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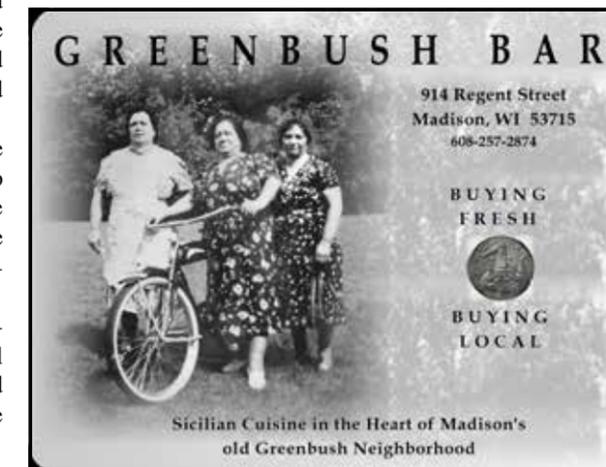
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feature

Edgar Hellum (L) and Robert Neal(R) stand before Polperro, one of three restored Cornish cottages, now a State Historical site open May to October. Credit: Mineral Point Library Archives.



Robert Neal serving a Cornish pasty that could feed six. Credit: Wisconsin Historical Society ID 37871.



Neal had practice gathering the Cornish history of the town sparked in part by his Cornish grandmother, so he gathered old authentic Cornish recipes.

to fall that Bob should be here, that he hadn't gone back to London, and that our lives here started together. He had talents that I didn't have. We were two entirely different people. We made a good team." The quote is taken from *On the Shake Rag Mineral Point's Pendarvis House, 1935-1970*, published in 1990 by The State Historical Society and The Memorial Pendarvis Trust based on interviews with Hellum.

For \$10 and other costs, they bought a small stone house built in the mid-nineteenth century by Cornish miners. That house was later named Pendarvis. The couple planned to run a small antiques business from their home. Then they made a collection of Cornish cottages by buying two more—one on each side of the original. Later more property was added. All needed lots of work; they were well beyond the fix-up state.

Neal made one allusion in the 1946 article to the difficulties they encountered. "The legal and, I should say, social problems involved in acquiring this property were something that we recall with amazement, and we wonder at our patience." How much of the problem derived from two gay men doing the task was not specified. The next sentence reads, "Poorly kept title transactions and records were as nothing compared with the family intrigues and obstacles we encountered." Though written by Neal, the article constantly used the plural pronoun to refer to "our" effort or that "we" decided.

Hellum recalled, "There isn't anything you can't do, if you want to do it. You have to want to do it badly enough. No, there isn't anything you can't do." Was he talking about preservation or talking about two gay men making a life together in pre-World War II Wisconsin?

To help cover the costs of repairs, they started to serve teas to paying guests. Since they had a Cornish venue, the teas became Cornish themed and were accompanied by saffron cake. Neal had practice gathering the Cornish history of the town sparked in part by his Cornish grandmother, so he gathered old authentic Cornish recipes. His sister helped with lessons about cooking a pasty: a meat, onion, and potatoes meal served in a pie-style crust. Neal baked a large pasty to serve a party of six.

The popularity of the food and ambience was spread by publicity in the Madison newspapers. Thus a specialty restaurant was born. The noted national food critic of the day—Duncan Hines—included Pendarvis in *Adventures in Good Eating* in 1937 and 1939. When Hines ate there, Hellum recalled he "wanted clotted cream, pre-

serves, and saffron cake."

Neal became a repository of Cornish lore and history. The efforts of these gay partners to make a home and a living had a profound effect within Mineral Point in encouraging the preservation of historic buildings and of Cornish culture. Through their pioneering work the city of Mineral Point, Neal created the first historic district in Wisconsin.

In tribute to this pioneering gay couple, I researched and experimented in my kitchen with several Cornish recipes of Mineral Point origins containing saffron. I here offer my own take on saffron buns ... Enjoy! ■

Dick Wagner (rrdickwagner@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.

Savory Saffron Buns

Let sit overnight ½ teaspoon of saffron with ½ cup boiling water. Also soak overnight golden raisins in another ½ cup water. Currants may be used instead of raisins, but do not use the water currants soaked in as it will be dark and darken the dough. A female cook from Milwaukee described the threads of saffron in water as think "little red sperm." Grate the zest of one lemon and soak in the juice of half a lemon.

Next day mix 1 package dry yeast or equivalent with 3 cups flour, one egg well beaten. Melt 2-3 Tablespoons butter and cool and add to the dough. Add ¼ cup sugar and ½ teaspoon salt. Drain the saffron and add the saffron-infused water to the dough. You may include the saffron threads for a stronger taste. Add the lemon zest and juice. Add the raisins and water. Make a medium-stiff bread dough adding more water or flour if needed for consistency.

Knead the dough and then let rise until double. Punch down and form little buns by rolling balls of dough in your floured hands. Set on a baking sheet lined with parchment paper. Let rise again until double. Bake 20-30 minutes in 375-degree oven. Buns should be just beginning to brown a very little and should sound hollow when tapped on the bottom.

Our History by Richard Wagner

Serve the Saffron Buns!

In the 1930s, an enterprising couple offered hospitality to travelers in their Mineral Point cottage and built a life together there.



and saved a state historical treasure. He and Edgar Hellum's partnership influenced Wisconsin history and preservation as told in Will Fellows's *A Passion to Preserve: Gay Men as Keepers of Culture and other writings*.

Neal was a native of Mineral Point, a town with a population around 2,300 in the 1930s. He relocated to Chicago to work for the antique and decorator shop of Syrie Maugham, former wife of internationally acclaimed bisexual British novelist W. Somerset Maugham.

Syrie Maugham was famous in the 1920s amongst decorating circles for popularizing the all-white room. The Ten Chimneys estate of Alfred Lunt and Lynne Fontanne (a Brit) had a white on white room inspired by Maugham. When the hard times of the depression caused

From the city lights to a Cornish cottage—such was the trajectory of one of the most significant gay men in 1930s Wisconsin: Robert Neal. This small-town boy saw the world then returned to his roots, took a gay lover,

a retrenchment in Maugham's American business, she offered Neal work in London in 1933. (In the period between the two great wars, many Americans went to Europe.) While in London as a young bachelor, Neal went to tailors for formal wear and on buying trips to Paris. We have no idea if while in London he heard about "English cottaging"—the use of public toilets for male rendezvous—but upon return to his hometown, a cottage would be his future.

"As far back as I can remember, I had always been interested in old houses. When in high school I often thought of buying one of these ..." wrote Neal in *the Wisconsin Magazine of History*, June 1946, in an article entitled, "Pendarvis, Trelawny, and Polperro Shake Rag's Cornish Houses." Soon after he returned to Wisconsin in 1934 he met Edgar Hellum. Hellum, originally from Stoughton, was in Mineral Point looking for inexpensive lumber. The two embarked on a venture that would shape their lives and the town. As Neal remembered in his 1940s story, "We met and discovered that we had a common interest in the old stone houses."

On embarking on their 1935 effort at preservation, Hellum recalled, "The cards just seemed

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Dr. Ruddy

Naturopathic Doctor, nationally board-certified and VT state-licensed

Years in the Industry: 3 years (combining previous clinical shifts in Scottsdale, AZ and current private practice in Madison)

Years in Madison: 11 years (on-and-off, having been gone for 4 years to complete residential medical education & training)

What community organizations are you involved with?

Wisconsin Naturopathic Physicians Association and Luke House Madison (which serves meals to local low-income population)

Stylist Bonnie Raimy on Dressing Dr. Ruddy:

Dr. Ruddy is lovely. He is kind, thoughtful, soft-spoken, intelligent, insightful, and witty. He's the kind of man a person naturally gravitates toward because of his authenticity for life, health, and wellness.

Dr. Ruddy found his way to naturopathic medicine through a series of life changing events. A debilitating injury led him to bikram yoga, which led him to becoming a yoga instructor, which led him to a higher appreciation for natural healing, which thus led him to the Southwest College of Naturopathic Medicine. Now Dr. Ruddy is a naturopathic doctor with The Center for Natural Medicine here in Middleton.

Just like Dr. Ruddy, Context Clothing pays attention to detail, authenticity, and gives customers individualized attention and exceptional service.

When selecting clothing, I deferred largely to Sam, one of the owners of Context, because of his expert knowledge. The clothing chosen for Dr. Ruddy conveys class, quality, and professionalism with approachability. Pairing a button down, waistcoat and field jacket with gabardine white pants is both professional and original. The outfit easily transitions into evening, and the grey suede shoes are perfect, both in and out of the office. Using the same shirt, waistcoat and jacket, the white pants can be replaced with denim for a "casual Fridays" ensemble. For a weekend look, the khaki pants with rolled cuff paired with Rapha for Apolis Activism sweater work well on a bike ride, or simply watching TV.

Dr. Ruddy is one-of-a-kind, and his vast knowledge of the human body and his passion to heal it are palpable. Context is also one-of-a-kind, and the owners' passion for fine clothing and quality service is evident in the garments they carry and their attention to customer satisfaction.

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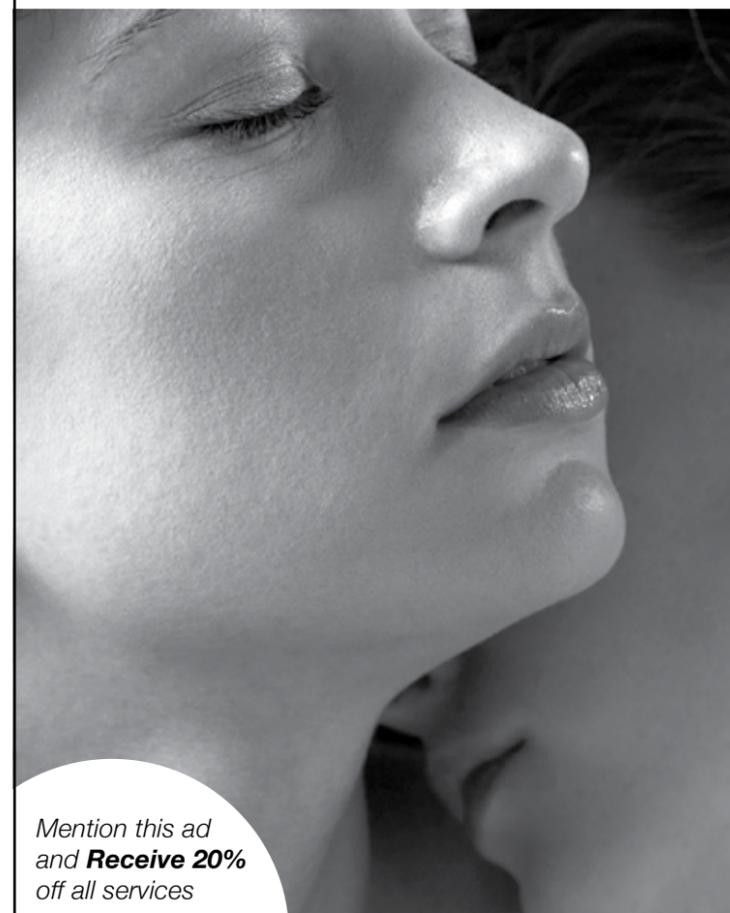
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The ABCs of ERGs

Marty Fox outlines the eight ways to grow an employee network, resource group, or affinity group

In the *Our Lives* Corporate Diversity Initiative Report (Nov/Dec '09), I provided an outline for building a fully welcoming and inclusive workplace. The very first item on that outline was an employee network organization, resource, or affinity group. Herewith is additional information on how to go about building such a group. Roll up your sleeves and get busy!



Members who are not out at work. In order for these individuals to participate, it may be necessary to develop a distribution that protects the identity of some of the members. Navigating this issue successfully requires a fair amount of trust from the company and from the leadership of the employee network. The company must be flexible as they provide space and financial resources for a group that may have members that are not on the official roster.

3. Engage and nurture allies.

One way to mitigate confidentiality challenges is to include allies. Attendance at meetings of your company's LGBT resource group should indicate only one's desire for a fair and equal workplace, not necessarily one's orientation. The more committed allies in a company, the safer the environment and richer the culture. As good as it is to connect with other LGBT employees, it is equally empowering to discover supportive allies.

4. Build a model that fits your company.

Many of the initial decisions about your resource group will depend on your company's culture and environment. Is there space that will accommodate the group and still allow for confidentiality, or should the meetings be offsite? How will you invite employees to attend? Can the core team hold planning sessions during work hours? Will you invite employees from other locations? Whenever possible, set a regular monthly meeting time and place so people can always find you, even if they miss a meeting.

5. Develop a core group of committed individuals and strong leadership from HR and/or an executive champion.

An employee resource group must have a "get-it-done" group of committed individuals who are willing to put in extra effort to make their workplace fair, welcoming, and safe. A strong executive champion can guide these individuals as they lead the group and as they share their stories and perspectives with senior leadership.

Attendance at meetings of your company's LGBT resource group should indicate only one's desire for a fair and equal workplace, not necessarily one's orientation.

6. Keep building new leaders to offset potential turnover problems.

The vitality of your group depends on having new ideas and fresh perspectives. Those involved should have the opportunity to take on new and challenging roles. Those who are striving for leadership titles can be encouraged to practice their leadership skill sets within the employee network group. Good tracks and processes can keep an employee group in gear through change and turnover.

7. Balance social networking with cause and purpose.

Initially a new group will enjoy the energy of a new community of colleagues, but if the focus is on networking alone, the organization will soon fizzle. The group will need to find its purpose, starting with making a difference in your company in order to fully engage today's professionals.

Use the Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index as a guideline (hrc.org/issues/workplace/cei.htm). Review potential diversity training materials along with human resources partners. You may find training materials that omit or misrepresent the LGBT community, or you may find issues with language of emphasis.

Develop an LGBT-inclusive supplier diversity program. Work with the NGLCC, America's LGBT Chamber of Commerce to help your suppliers become certified (nglcc.org/programs/supplierdiversity/overview). Find ways to be supportive to company leadership. Help them build their cultural competency by working with you and your employee group.

Help your company build programs that address the needs of its LGBT customers.

In addition, you can encourage your company to support the LGBT community through philanthropic gifts and sponsorships.

8. Look to other organizations and groups for assistance.

If there are other ERGs or employee networks in your company, attend some of their meetings. Learn how they plan events. As questions about how they navigate your organization. You may find great tracks to follow and you can find opportunities to have joint events and build an even stronger

community of allies.

Talk with people at other companies. Check the HRC's Corporate Equality Index for information about which local companies has an LGBT employee group. Contact information is available at that site.

Watch the workplace site at HRC and at Out and Equal for information about Webinars or the Annual Workplace Summit to learn more about best practices for employee organizations (outandequal.org).

So go ahead, it's spring. Help your organization grow. You and your efforts will make more of a difference than you could ever imagine. As always, you can contact me with questions and comments, or to share your experience in the workplace. ■

Marty Fox has over 25 years of experience as an accountant for five different companies. She retired in 2009 as the Executive Director of the Alliant Energy Foundation. She is now a full-time volunteer for her favorite causes and nonprofit organizations. She and her wife, Catherine, have five adult children and a French bulldog named Lily.

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Initially a new group will enjoy the energy of a new community of colleagues, but if the focus is on networking alone, the organization will soon fizzle.



1. Plant the seed.

Employee groups are sometimes started by a handful of interested employees who approach the company with a request to sanction the group. Other groups are initiated through efforts of the human resources department or senior management. If the group is started "unofficially," there is a danger that the structure will be too informal and the links to the company not strong enough to sustain its support. On the other hand, LGBT employees may not fully trust or take ownership in a group that is started through a corporate initiative.

2. Respect confidentiality.

LGBT resource group differ from other employee groups in that it may have mem-

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Giving Back

Tamara Packard encourages us to add planned financial giving to the many ways we support and participate in the local organizations that support us.

Community. What would Madison be—who would we be—without our community? Our friends encourage us to be out and stand up for what is fair. Our politicians look for opportunities to strengthen and protect our relationships. Our neighborhood businesses welcome us and know that we are crucial to their prosperity. Most importantly, LGBT community organizations have for decades supported us through the coming-out process, provided us with a place to talk about the latest in gay culture, funded performance and other art expressing our experiences, educated the wider community about our families, and held government officials accountable. Without our



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Tamara Packard
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community organizations, Madison would not be the place we are proud to call home. We need to support and nourish these organizations as surely as they have supported and nourished us.

There are many ways to give back to our community organizations: sit on a board, respond to a call for feedback, volunteer, and, of course, give money. There is virtually no end to the ways to give financially, either, ranging from cash today to property after your death. This column explains a handful of these methods, as well as the pros and cons of donating to “charitable” versus “political” LGBT organizations.

Donating to Charitable Organizations

The advantage to donating to an organization recognized by the IRS as “charitable” under section 501(c)(3) of the tax code is that the gift can be deducted from your Federal and State taxes. LGBT charities are most often organized to advance education, eliminate prejudice and discrimination, or defend human and civil rights secured by law. Organizations that provide direct services like AIDS Network and Outreach, educate communities about the harms of discrimination like the Fair Wisconsin Education Fund and GSA for Safe Schools, or otherwise support LGBT culture and community development like New Harvest, are usually charities. The trade-off for charities in qualifying for tax-deductible donations is that they are limited in what they can do. Charities may perform only limited “political” work such as lobbying, and are absolutely prohibited from certain other political activity such as contributing resources to political campaigns and endorsing candidates for public office.

Donating to Political Organizations

Because the advancement and protection of LGBT rights today depends so much on direct political involvement, some of our community organizations are necessarily not “charitable” for tax purposes. Instead, they fall under section 501(c)(4) of the tax code, and are sometimes referred to as “political” organizations. Political organizations can do all of the things charities can do, plus all of the direct participation in politics that charities cannot. The tradeoff for this freedom is that donations to political organizations, just like donations to political campaigns, are not tax deductible. An example of a political LGBT organization is Fair Wisconsin, Inc. If you want your donation to be used by a community organization to help secure the election of pro-fairness candidates, lobby governmental officials to pass pro-LGBT legislation or initiate the repeal of bad laws like Wisconsin’s “marriage amendment,” a 501(c)(4) will have the most freedom to carry out those intentions.

Matching and Recurring Monthly Gifts

Most people simply write a check to their favorite LGBT community organization when

asked and don’t think about a longer-term or broader approach. But think of how much stronger our community organizations would be, and consequently how much stronger our community would be, if we all went even one step further. Find out if your employer has a matching gifts program: a matching gift will double your donation at no additional cost to you. Or consider a recurring monthly gift that comes right out of your bank account or paycheck—you don’t even notice \$25 per month, but by the end of the year, you have given \$300 to support the community! Gifts of stocks to charities, especially appreciated stocks, are a great way to maximize benefits available to you through the tax laws. Consult your broker or financial advisor for the best way to accomplish such a gift.

Will and Estate Plan Giving

Of course, every one of us needs to have a will or other estate plan. Consider including a gift to one or more of our community organizations through your will: you can leave a specific sum of money or give a percentage of the total value of your estate. If you already have a will but did not include a gift to support our community, you may not have to rewrite your entire will. Instead, to make your gift, you may be able to create a codicil to your will. You could also name your favorite charity or political organization as beneficiary of a life insurance policy—either the full policy, part of the policy, or as the “contingent” beneficiary, which means the organization would only be paid if your primary beneficiary dies before you do. Talk with your estate-planning attorney about how to give through your estate plan.

Addressing the State of Our Unions

In closing, I want to give special thanks to several of my fellow “Addressing the State of our Unions” presenters: Attorneys Madelyn Leopold, Scott Mickelson, and Howard Sweet, who helped me with this column by sharing their estate planning expertise and tips with me; and Financial Advisor Jaime Zimmerman, who cleared up some of my confusion about stock gifts. (Though any remaining errors are mine!) If you missed our free seminar on May 1, you missed a wealth of information on the law as it impacts our lives at work, at home, and after death, as well as what you can do to help change the law. I hope we will have the opportunity to offer the seminar again. ■

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

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“Just” Jimmy

Gay Jimmy or Just Jimmy? This is the question Jimmy Owen recently pondered and posed to others. Here are the results.

Recently I received a message from a dear friend, Amy, on Facebook. We’ve known each other for over 20 years and have always shared a close bond. Since my move to Madison, most of our conversations have been via social media. Here’s what she wrote:

I have a sincere question and I believe you are the right person to ask. I notice that a lot of your posts (and that of other gay people’s) are about being gay, coming out, etc. ... It seems as though being gay is almost a persona or a greater identity than who you are in general. Like, one is not “Jimmy” or “insert name here” but “gay Jimmy.” I am a nurse, a mom, a Catholic, a Caucasian,



I wouldn’t expect your friend to know the history of sexual identity politics, though I would expect she knows that gay people weren’t always tolerated.



a woman, and I’m also straight. But I do not identify myself as those things either singularly or collectively. Can you help me to be more understanding of the professing of such status/being as superceding other identities? I know you’ll enlighten me like no one else can. Thank you!!

After reading the question, my initial reaction was, “Really? I have to answer this question in 2010?” Then I began looking beyond myself and closer at the question. I did get why she might not understand,

so I decided to create a virtual round table discussion with some friends and colleagues, both gay and straight, to hear how this collective group would respond.

Jack Pepple, a librarian, started with several interesting points. “Social media basically demands the use of identifiers and labels since it all happens in virtual reality. The actual person is sometimes not even presented in a picture. So, really, this is a medium that is not only rich in identifiers but deliberately makes use of them as its function for helping people share identity-based interests, likes, hobbies, and perspectives.

“I also think it’s interesting to deconstruct the notion of somehow being ‘unidentifying,’ with regard to her various labels. Her identity as a nurse is proclaimed through her uniform and simply by talking about her workday. Likewise for the other labels: any mention of her husband lets us know she is heterosexual; any mentioning of her child tells us she’s a mom; and listing that she’s in attendance at Mass or celebrating a Holy Day tells us she is Catholic.

“When we are talking to a person in front of us, we don’t have to use identifiers in every sentence, such as, ‘Bob how is Cecelia, your wife?’ We can just say, ‘Hey, how is Cecelia?’ We are able to use other identifying clues and make assumptions that we are being understood. Being heterosexual is assumed to be the norm, hence gays tend to feel straight people are always identifying themselves as straight, not with the ‘official’ label, but with everything else said in a conversation or context.

“I wouldn’t expect your friend to know the history of sexual identity politics, though I would expect she knows that gay people weren’t always tolerated. That being said, she must understand that, especially in ages past, gay people were not always easy to identify. Yes, we exist in every culture throughout time, but we are a tribe apart. Sometimes we had to hide. Now it is liberating to self-identify and celebrate as a culture of our own.”

Susan Hoey, a copywriter, added, “Coming from a straight white woman, I don’t think most gay people bring up sexual orientation any more than straight people—I think

straight people just notice it more, as it goes against their default assumption. Straight women often list themselves as ‘wife,’ or ‘girlfriend’ without even realizing they’re revealing their sexual orientation as loudly as any gay person.

“Being straight isn’t an ‘identity’ for us as it has never been challenged by our parents, friends, and society in general—it’s taken for granted. Of course straight people don’t ‘identify’ as straight—we’ve never HAD to speak up, never had to write articles or challenge school boards, or fight the courts for recognition.

Being able to say ‘this is me and this is who I love’ has been part of who we are as human beings since the first poems and songs were written. With 21 centuries of only straight verses and songs, people can be a little surprised when shown an alternative.”

Michael Piazza, a minister, wrote, “In our case, who we are is not always apparent as it is with women or people of color. In this case, the majority tend to think that our sexual orientation is only about the gender of the person we sleep with. Sexual orientation permeates every part of who we are, but again that is not apparent to others.

“Also, we are clear that silence (the closet) has empowered oppression and so to resist that reality we who can be out have felt an obligation to do so consistently and assertively. We speak up for our sisters and brothers who can’t and hence every self-expression (every time you are gay Jimmy) is an act of resistance, liberation, and hope for you and those who will come after.”

Stephani Faurot-Reuter, a Commercial Make-up Artist in the film industry, added, “I agree with Michael, it probably is more to break the silence or ‘closet’ and to be more open so that those who are less comfortable with the LGBT world can feel more comfortable to learn about what it is to be gay. For instance ... your friend obviously felt

comfortable asking you the question because you were so open and unashamed about it. We only hate what we fear so if more people are more open about being gay, then maybe there will be less fear and therefore ... less hate.”

So, Amy, I hope this helps. I cannot assume that you would know the answer and understand that I have a responsibility to find the answers for you and with you. I appreciate your trust in posing the question. I believe that there is always room to grow and learn. Although my initial reaction was one of defensiveness, I learned through the process as well. Thank you, Jack, Susan, Michael, and Stephani, for your insights.

Amy, because you see and respect me as more than gay Jimmy (I’m also a dad, a therapist, a husband, and a friend), I, too, see you for all of who you are—labels and non-labels, both assumed and unassumed.

Jimmy has been a LGBT therapist for over 20 years. In addition, he works as a Trauma Specialist for the Dane County District Attorney’s office Crime Response Program. He and his partner, Jim, have 3 beagles, Dixie, Silas and Tatum. He can be found online a www.jimmyowen.com

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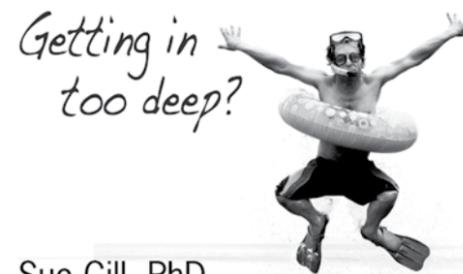
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View menu at thegreenowlcafe.com;
specials updated on facebook.

It's hard to make a bad
choice at the Green Owl Café,
which can make choosing even
harder, especially for vegetar-
ians who stumble into this hip
little nook in Schenk's corners
and find that they can order
anything off the menu.

The idea of ordering any-
thing—anything—off the menu is sort of a phenomenon for vegetar-
ians. As a former vegan, I can appreciate what it feels like to be stuck
in Outback Steakhouse with nothing to spend a well-intended Outback
Christmas gift card on but martinis and a broccoli side.

It's funny in hindsight. I was more or less able to rely on a number
of vegetarian-friendly restaurants in town when I went out. Still, I had
come to accept that I would always have to scan the menu margin for
carrot icons. Well, not at the Green Owl Cafe, which opened its doors
in December 2009 and is currently the only exclusively vegan and veg-
etarian restaurant in town. Vegans and vegetarians, you finally have a
menu free-for-all.

Owner and chef Jennie Capellaro fills this niche with finesse, offer-

ing up "whatever food felt good to me, just in a vegetarian style."

I can't pay the tofu and mushroom-based crabby cakes a higher
compliment than to say I love real crab cakes and these nearly had me
fooled—the texture of the filling, the golden crunchiness of the bread-
ing, and the standout chipotle remoulade are the makings of a godsend
for anyone who wants to save a crustacean and satisfy their craving.

Jennie's personal picks are the Vegetarian Italian Beef Sandwich,
piled with homemade seitan; and her grandmother's namesake salad,
Izzy's salad, which pays tribute to her grandmother's Lebanese culi-
nary influence.

And then there are the kale chips—crispy, flavorful fans of green
that bumped kale even higher on my list of likeable greens.

"I love the kale crisps," says Jennie. "It seemed like a potato chip
substitute but kind of a virtuous choice."

Everything tastes homemade, and that's because it is, right down
to the ketchup. It can be labor-intensive, Jennie admits, but it's clear
that it's a labor of love. The food she's created certainly lives up to the
restaurant's slogan of "vegetarian cuisine for people who love food."

If you love food, you'll love this charming near-Eastside restaurant,
flushed with earthy orange and green walls and cutesy owl decorations
both given to and collected by Jennie. Come in for a kombucha mixer,
or have lunch from the salad bar; there's something for everyone.

"It's a welcoming place for all types of people," Jennie says.

—Marcelle Richards

Photographed by Marc Korobkin

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Surprising everyone (including herself), blonde, femme, cheerleader Jean Wennlund came out as a lesbian and came in to her own!



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I'll never forget the first day I ventured into the basement office of GLSEN, the Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network (now GSAFE) on Willy Street. It was the summer before my sophomore year of high school at Madison West. I'd wanted to get an early start on completing my volunteer hours for National Honor Society, and I'd seen a notice that GLSEN needed help with miscellaneous clerical tasks. Embracing social justice causes was ingrained in me from birth, and gay rights had become more important to me when my cousin Becky came out to our extended family a couple years earlier. So GLSEN seemed like a good place to spend some time and lend a hand.

I got a job working for Fair Wisconsin, moved back to Madison, and made truly amazing queer friends.

I was all dolled up that afternoon in a summer dress, feeling a bit silly about my overt femininity and hoping no one would possibly mistake me for anything but straight in that outfit. The two men I met working there, Brian J and Jason, were so welcoming that I quickly felt at home.

The role of a straight ally fit.

The folks at GLSEN, especially Brian, became important mentors to me as my involvement in LGBT activism increased. As summer turned into fall, they encouraged me to get more involved with my high school GSA. Have you ever had times in your life when the people, the experiences, and the environment just felt right? That's what becoming involved with my GSA felt like. Queer culture felt so comfortable to me, though I still identified as a straight ally. I knew it was silly, but I would worry that people might think I was gay because I was involved in gay rights groups. I also rationalized that people couldn't possibly think I was a lesbian. The little blonde femme cheerleader? Never. As unenlightened as it sounds to me now, at the time, I thought that being a gay woman meant embracing a certain identity, parts of which I felt were incompatible with other, larger aspects of who I was.

During my junior year of high school, I had my first crush on a girl—though I certainly didn't admit that's what it was at the time. She was smart and sweet and a talented musician, quite an extraordinary woman, but when she asked me out I said no. Instead, I started dating a guy in my circle of friends and ended up being

in a relationship with him into college. He was a loving and attentive boyfriend, but something never felt right. The roles never quite fit.

College is where a lot of people delve more deeply into the finer points of who they are, including their sexuality. Some of the hardest years of my life were attending college in a small Wisconsin town for exactly the opposite reason: I forgot large parts of who I was and certainly didn't make attempts to explore new ones. The queer activist culture I loved so much in Madison was practically nonexistent at the time, and the LGBT campus group focused largely on support for queer students, among whom I didn't count myself. I put myself in the mentality of having to survive being in a "hick town," which meant conforming and fitting in.

So I donned pearls and togas and pledged a sorority. I still value many of the experiences and friendships I had during that time, but I wasn't living my life openly. I wasn't content, though I made myself think I was. The times when I would escape the small town and spend breaks in Austin, TX—where I allowed myself to live more openly—made me question whether or not the conformity I had been forcing myself into was working.

My breaking point was a failed engagement to a man, which made me face and admit explicitly what was going to make me happy. I got a job working for Fair Wisconsin, moved back to Madison, and made truly amazing queer friends—all of which helped me do one of the hardest things I will probably ever do in my life: come out.

For all my years of being involved in LGBT activism, I never fully understood just how difficult that process is under even the best circumstances. I agonized over the possibility that people that I cared about might reject me for being honest about who I was. Not a single one of my friends or family had a bad reaction to me coming out and dating women, and for that I realize how truly lucky I am. Even my sorority sisters, whose reactions I was the most anxious about, confirmed that the bonds of our friendship were strong and unconditional.

Coming out meant surprising a lot of people, not least of all myself. It meant giving up some of the perceived power that went with comfortable roles and identities. But most importantly, it meant accepting and melding together all the many and varied aspects of who I am. Being a lesbian and being a cheerleader aren't mutually exclusive. Being a sorority woman isn't antithetical to being queer. It was not about coming out, it was about coming in to who I am. ■

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