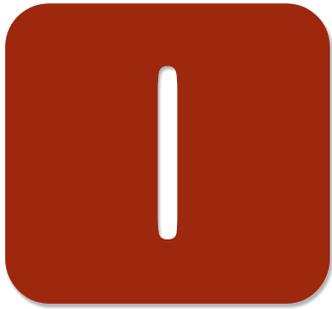


our lives



EXCLUSIVE: KATHLEEN FALK

On Unions, Her Record, and a Post-Walker Wisconsin

Fromagination owner
Ken Monteleone

May/June
2012

Madison's LGBT&XYZ Magazine



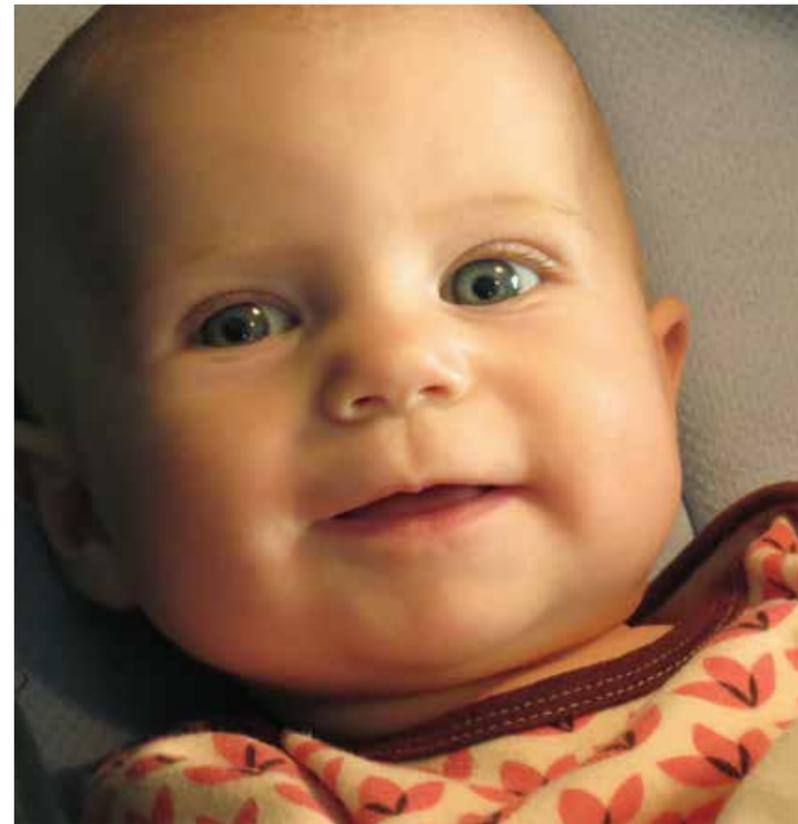
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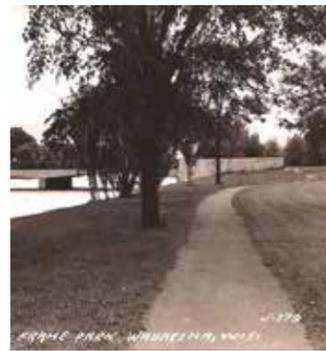
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Madison's LGBT&XYZ Magazine

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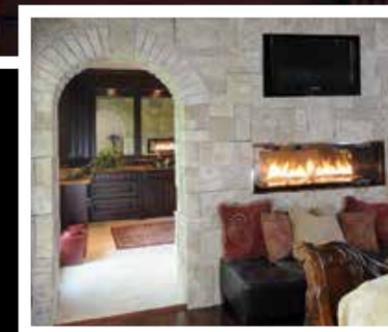
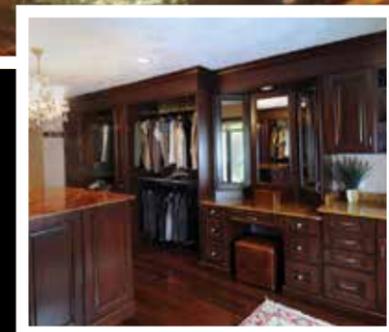
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May/June 2012 Volume 5, Issue 6
Life in the Middle Publishing, LLC
Patrick Farabaugh & Joseph Patane,
Publishers. 215 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.,
Box 1202, Madison, WI 53701

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editor

Diverse Offerings for Our Diverse Palates



Madison is a great place to live, providing a healthy amount of professional, recreational, and cultural opportunities. This is true when it comes to food and dining, as well. From intimate cafes and specialty food shops to polished cuisine and upscale establishments, Madison is increasingly serving locally grown and organic offerings. We never want for variety and quality in our dining and food shopping experiences; so much so that you might say that Madison is as diverse in its food options as it is in its demographic make-up.

I hope you find our biggest issue yet to be just as intimate and enlightening as you have found any issue to date. Please share your thoughts with us at vharrison@ourlivesmadison.com.

Virginia Harrison
EDITOR

OUR KITCHEN by Leanne Cordisco

Celebrating what's in season at our local farmers' market

Morel Fondue

The arrival of the outdoor market is a certain sign of a yearly passion of mine—morel mushrooms! Because I am the worst morel hunter in the world, I am forced to rely upon our market vendors to bring the earthy goodies to me. But I find that having them one month out of the year isn't enough. Therefore, I like to have a stash of frozen and dried ones on hand. Here's a twist on a classic recipe that should never go out of style, including directions for substituting dried morels for fresh ones.

- 1/2 lb fresh morels, cleaned
- 1 minced ramp (wild leek)
- 3 Tbls butter
- 1 lb emmentaler cheese, shredded
- 1 tsp cornstarch
- 1/2 tsp lemon juice
- 1 C + 2 Tbls dry white wine
- 1 bunch young asparagus
- 1 baguette, cut into cubes

Watch Leanne make this recipe on [ourlivesmadison.com!](http://ourlivesmadison.com)

In a small glass, mix 2 Tbls white wine, lemon juice, and the cornstarch to make a smooth slurry; set aside. Clean the mushrooms by soaking them in water for 5 minutes, then drain vigorously and thoroughly pat dry. Mince the mushrooms into very small pieces. In a saucepan, sauté the morels in the butter until brown. Add the minced ramps and continue to cook for 1/2 minute. Add the remaining white wine to the saucepan (do this off the heat, unless you feel brave and want to see the alcohol in the wine flare up and burn off). Turn the heat down to medium/low and add the shredded cheese. Gently stir the cheese to melt it evenly and keep it from clumping. When the cheese has melted, add the cornstarch and wine and continue to simmer for 2-3 minutes. Pour into a fondue pot and enjoy with the bread.

Get creative and try dipping some young asparagus in the fondue. Ramps, asparagus, and morels all come up at the same time, and it would be a shame not to enjoy them together.

You can substitute dried morels in this recipe. Reconstitute them by simmering the mushrooms in the white wine for 5 minutes. Turn off the heat and let them steep for another 30 minutes. Use the morel-flavored wine in the recipe. Then substitute 1/2 clove of minced garlic and 1/4 minced shallot for the ramp. You can also use 1 ounce of porcini mushroom powder if you can't find morels. Porcini powder can be found online or at The Spice House in Milwaukee.

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contributors

Nyle Biondi (Our Issues) grew up in Madison and has been a therapist since 2007. He specializes in working with transgender and LGBTQ youth and adults. He works with individuals, couples, and families. Additionally, Nyle works with people who struggle with emotion regulation through bringing mindfulness practices into therapy. Prior to starting his private practice, Nyle spent nearly four years working as an in-home family therapist in rural areas. For more information about Nyle's practice, please visit nylebiondi.com.



David Nevala (Our Advocates/Falk) photographs and produces multimedia projects for local, national, and international clients, including Organic Valley, Planned Parenthood, and *The New York Times* magazine. He met his wife while pedaling 3,254 miles across the United States as a bicycling photographer for the American Lung Association. They live in Madison with their son, a coop full of chickens, and seven bikes.

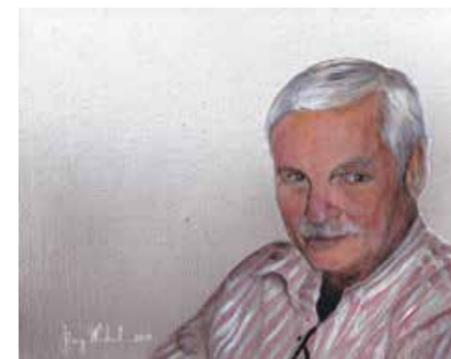
Marcelle Richards' (Our Taste) first word was "more" after having Thanksgiving turkey for the first time, and not much has changed since. Her love of food is trumped perhaps only by her love of writing and her bull terrier, Claire. And pigs.

She contributes to "Our Taste" every *Our Lives* issue and also holds a longstanding freelance gig with *Isthmus*, for which she writes cooking columns, reviews, features, and occasionally cover stories. The deeper recesses of her mind lurk at The Gastro-pocalypse Test Kitchen: www.gastropocalypse.com.



Sharon Vanorny's (Cover Story Photos) favorite things in the whole world are taking photos and having fun. Mostly she wants to take photos of fun things. She shoots a lot of wedding and family photos—it's good! She also loves to bike around and play Scrabble. Check out her blog at svheartphotography.com/blog.

Dick Wagner (Our History) moved to Madison in 1965 to study American history at the University of Wisconsin. Deciding to stay in Madison, he worked for the state and got involved in local politics. In the 1980s, he was one of the first dozen out gay elected officials in the country. Governor Tony Earl appointed him in 1983 to co-chair the first-ever state level Governor's Council on Lesbian and Gay Issues. In retirement, he gardens, serves on boards, and researches and writes about Wisconsin gay history.



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An Impressive Magazine

Dear Editor:
My first copy of *Our Lives* arrived today (Mar/Apr 2012), and I read it cover to cover. It's an impressive magazine ... and lucky me, to start with the first full-color issue. The layout is reader-friendly, and I especially like the "What's Trending" sidebars for ease in scanning related, interesting mini-pieces. I found myself looking carefully at ads, as they are excellently designed and well placed. I noticed the ad for First United Methodist downtown where I went now and then while a student at the UW. Sure wish Mark Pocan (a triple threat in this issue, as contributing writer, article focus, and testimonial in the Time 2 Remodel ad) lived in my district ...The magazine makes Madtown come alive for me once again.

-William Wilson, Menomonee Falls

Do Hate Crime Sentences Keep Us Safer?

Dear Editor:
I'm writing in response to Tamara Packard's column in the last issue (*Our Lives*, Mar/Apr 2012), in which she encouraged our community to use hate-crime statutes to enhance convictions and sentences, as a way to educate the public about homophobia and transphobia. Personally, I worry about the consequences of this strategy, which I know many other LGBTQ people support, and I'd like to add an alternative perspective to this important conversation.

I agree that hate-crime legislation sends a strong message against violence. My skepticism comes from having seen the criminal justice system perpetuate many other forms of violence. Jails and prisons are largely unequipped to treat the mental-health issues that may have contributed to an act of aggression or violence; rather, they often exacerbate them. People of color and poor people are disproportionately policed and convicted of crimes in the first place, including many LGBTQ people who are at even greater risk for hate crimes while they are incarcerated. Hate-crime legislation can also target the same marginalized people it's supposed to protect. In the case of the "New Jersey Four" in 2006, a group of black lesbians were charged with a hate crime for defending themselves against sexual harassment and physical assault from a straight man. (Source: <http://srjp.org/genda>,

10th paragraph.)
Strengthening the criminal justice system for mostly white and middle-/upper-class people can also strengthen the racial and economic divides in LGBTQ communities. In fact, the consequences of criminal convictions include many of the things LGBTQ people are trying to work against. Like many LGBTQ people, someone with a criminal conviction will face tremendous barriers to housing and employment. People who are incarcerated are at greater risk for HIV and STIs, and receive poor—if not abominable—health care.

It's all too easy to exclude people from our social justice work when they've harmed us. Our society tends to see victims and perpetrators on opposing sides of a binary, especially when the perpetrator was violently enforcing another binary: Gay vs. straight, man vs. woman, Christian vs. Muslim.

The grief and outrage I feel in response to hate crimes is part of what fuels me as an activist. But when I think about responding with hate-crime legislation, I think about the countless stories of homophobic politicians who are outed for having homosexual relationships, or how just the other day someone said he used to get thrown into lockers by the man standing next to us at the gay bar. We often joke about the hypocrisy in these stories, but they are also tragedies.

A good friend of mine is a criminal-defense lawyer, and she often reminds me that not all victims are perpetrators, but every perpetrator is also a victim. For this reason, I don't believe hate crime sentences keep us safer. My fear is that they actually contribute to our danger. Putting someone in prison quite literally bars us from healing the root causes of their bigotry, since prisons are designed to keep us separated—from each other and from ourselves.

The question of what to do instead is not an easy one. Fortunately, we live in a time when many of our LGBTQ leaders are also leading movements for prison abolition and community-based alternatives to the criminal justice system. Some good examples are the Transformative Justice Law Project, Queers for Economic Justice, and Black and Pink. I hope others will find their work as inspiring and challenging as I do.

-Anders Zanichkowsky, Madison

(Note: Anders Zanichkowsky works for the Tenant Resource Center and AIDS Network, and has roots in the reproductive justice movement.)

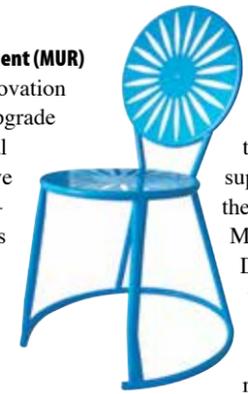
Honoring and Updating an Institution

At the ripe old age of 84, the Memorial Union is scheduled for its first comprehensive renovation. We asked Mark C. Guthier, Director of the Wisconsin Union, to explain for us the details of the project.

What is the Memorial Union Reinvestment (MUR) Project? [It] is a comprehensive renovation project that aims to preserve and upgrade the Memorial Union. The Memorial Union has not seen a comprehensive renovation project since it was constructed in 1928, and the building is in dire need of improvements after more than 80 years of serving as the "living room of campus."

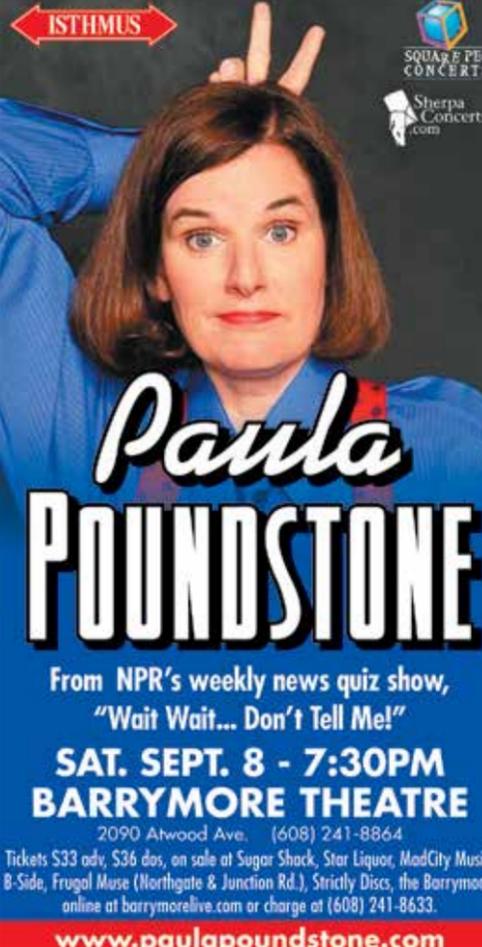
What should visitors expect from the project? After all renovations are completed, visitors can expect to return to the same building that they know and love, but it will finally have the modern-day improvements that we have come to expect from campus facilities. There will also be new areas, like the Play Circle Theater and outdoor recreation facilities. Visitors in wheelchairs will finally be able

to easily navigate the Memorial Union. A new west entrance on Langdon Street will allow individuals to enter through the building without having to walk up or down stairs.



What do the blue terrace chairs symbolize? The limited-edition "Mendota Blue" terrace chairs were introduced as a fun and unique way to create community awareness and support for the MUR project. They are the centerpiece of the "Mendota Blue Movement" fundraising program. Donations at all giving levels have a tremendous impact and are greatly appreciated, and people who make a donation at the \$1,000 level will receive their very own Mendota Blue terrace chair as our way of saying thank you. For more information or to make a gift, readers can visit mendotablue.org.

How can readers learn more about the project? Readers should visit the Memorial Union Reinvestment Project's website, unionreinvestment.wisc.edu.



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OUR ORGANIZERS

Aging Gracefully

For Madison's National Women's Music Festival, according to **Kate Moran**, the times they are a-changin'.

Who are you and where are you from? I'm from Lincoln, Nebraska, a proud former member of the Lincoln Legion of Lesbians (LLL). My first girlfriend taught me how to package "beautiful lesbian notecards" in sandwich bags and roll up Tee Corrine Sinister Wisdom Posters that LLL sold through the mail. DIY ain't nothing new to lesbian culture.

What is your role with this year's National Women's Music Festival (NWMF)? I'm reaching out to the Madison community. I want everyone in Madison to think, "How can I support or attend the National Women's Music Festival?" I'd like to show everyone what makes Madison so special, to have every part that's good about us there and represented. The festival is open to everyone, although there are sometimes sections or workshops that are intended specifically for women or people of color.

We as Wisconsin working women have lots we need to share with everyone in the country. Teachers and public workers have always been a big part of festival attendees. There are a lot of folks coming from Ohio, Illinois, and Indiana. I really hope that women who were active in the Wisconsin uprising propose workshops. There is a form on the www.wiaonline.org website for workshop proposals.

How has the festival audience changed from its founding until now? I turned 50 in April. Toshi Reagon is the same age and she talks about holding space for the ones who come behind us. I think this festival is at a turning point. Is it going to gracefully age out, as those in the initial audience pass away or is it going to change and be relevant to new generations?

It's hard for a lot of boomers to look at what they fought to establish changing. We clung to "women's music" for decades because it was the only thing affirming us. Now there is a generation busting through what "woman" means. Can the generations talk

There is a generation busting through what "woman" means. Can the generations talk and understand each other?

and understand each other? I remember how important it was to dialogue and have solidarity and respect across generations when I was 19. Now, at 50, I know how important it is to be amazed by new ways of seeing things. I love a new political insight.

How does the NWMF benefit the Madison community? The festival brings hundreds of amazing



National Women's Music Festival organizers at a planning meeting.

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Kate Moran

women to town. Having this gathering can help make Madison even more of an LGBTQA destination. I know that Mayor Soglin is embracing the festival. I hope that the festival can begin working with the Madison LGBTQA business community; there aren't that many drivable/busable vacation sites in the Midwest that are LGBTQ-friendly and as beautiful as Madison.

What are some of the highlights of NWMF 2012? Toshi Reagon is the Saturday night headliner. That Saturday night concert and the jam session that follows it are going to be amazing.

This year the early concert on Saturday night is going to be a staging of *A Rainbow Path* by Kay Gardner. Friday night is going to be Holly Near, with Melanie De More and Emma's Revolution. Holly is back after a two-year sabbatical. Melanie De More and Emma's Revolution are fabulous. Thursday night is going to be our official Welcome to Wisconsin night. We're planning a local-foods fundraising dinner where we'll feature women who farm and our great local food movement in Southern Wisconsin. That meal will be followed by *Nervous But Excited*, and *Ladies Must Swing* will be doing a swing dance.

How can readers learn more about the National Women's Music Festival? Check out the website www.wiaonline.org and sign up for our e-mail newsletter, look us up and like us on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter. But mostly, come to the festival—come for a day, come to the marketplace to shop, check out a concert. Just come have the experience; you'll find something for you. ■



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Meet Kathleen Falk.

As Falk candidly shares with her friend Linda S. Balisle, we have an opportunity to see how this Wisconsin gubernatorial candidate's personal and political life shaped her vision of a "tough but fair" government.



You were an early supporter of domestic partner benefits for same-sex couples in Dane County. How did you get that implemented?

In 1999 I sat down with the unions and put domestic partner benefits on the bargaining table, because I thought it was not fair that one union member had family benefits and another one didn't.

Tell us about your family.

My dad died before I was 30, of alcoholism. Mom died unexpectedly right after I started my first run for county executive. She was 69 and still working because she had to. She was a fabulous person, very Irish, and I knew she would want me to continue in the race. My son, Eric, is in New York and works for the DA in Nassau County in his campaign work. He went to east-side Madison schools, including East High School.

When I lived in the same east-side area as you, we were concerned about some of the children in our neighborhood. I remember that you had some children living with you.

Yes, a number of kids over the years. They're still a part of my life. Some were my son's friends; others were kids in the neighborhood. A couple of the kids were homeless and a couple had moms who were struggling. I was frustrated in my inability to make a permanent difference in their lives. It actually contributed to my wanting to run for public office. I've worked hard to increase the standard of living of low-income families in Dane County.

You're married to Peter Bock, former representative and all-around great guy.

He's out there campaigning for me; he's a warrior.

Your family didn't have money, so how did you go to college?

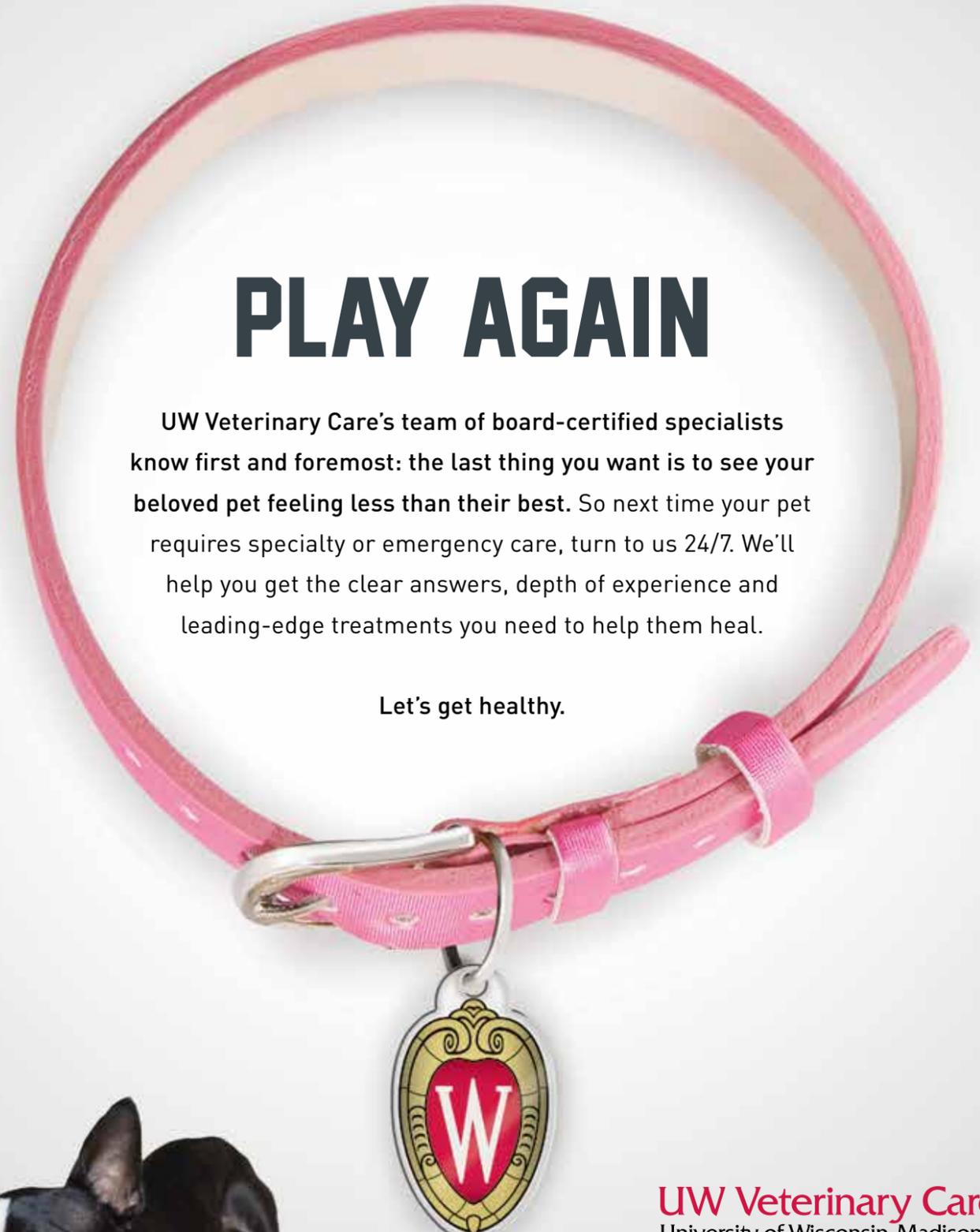
I started at UW-Waukesha, which was my local campus. I worked a couple of jobs. Tuition was about \$200, and I lived at home. One of my part-time jobs was typing manuscripts for a professor. He said, "You should go to Harvard." I thought it was a boys' school. I couldn't imagine me going there. Then he said, "Then go to Stanford." I'd never heard of it, so I thought it would be okay for me to go there. I applied and I got a letter back from Stanford accepting me. I wrote them back and said, "Great, but I have no money." They wrote back and gave me a full ride at Stanford. I was there two years in school and stayed a year later doing odd jobs while applying to law school.

Was housing included?

No, there was a housing shortage at Stanford. They had housing for freshman but not for transfer students, so I knew I had to find a place to live.

I had never been to California, but my wonderful Catholic mother said, "You go to the Catholic center and ask for help." So I got on a plane and arrived in San Francisco. I met this man on the plane and he gave me a ride to a bike store in Palo Alto. I bought my first new bike of my life. I biked to the Newman Center, which is the Catholic center near campus, with all my belongings on my bike.

I knocked on the door and said, "I'm a transfer student I have no place to live—can I stay for the night until I can find a place



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tomorrow?" They said, "Sure." I never left. It was a house of men; priests, former priests, or studying-to-be-priests. They were an incredible group of people who are to this day some of my dearest friends, who come visit and have helped me on some of my campaigns.

How did you earn your room and board?

I was the gardener because I have no culinary skills. They made sure to keep me out of the kitchen. I have a great green thumb.

You eventually did attend Harvard, didn't you?

I graduated from Harvard's Senior Executives in State and Local Government program after I was Dane County executive.

Your hometown, Waukesha, is a major Republican area. What kind of support do you have there?

There's a great environmental core, as well as former classmates, friends, aunts, and uncles, who are a great help. One of the things I've learned working around the state is that we do have these shared values, no matter where you live. It's true in Waukesha, just as it is everywhere else.

A great environmental group that arose in Waukesha about 20 years ago had a fundraiser about a week ago in Brookfield. My former high school and grade school classmates showed up. That is where I started out, and it's where I promised where I'd go the day after the election. I think we need to heal our state. And that's where I'll go to start that healing process.

How are you going to compete with Tom Barrett in Milwaukee? What kind of presence are you going to have?

I'm in Milwaukee a lot, but it's important to be everywhere in a statewide campaign.

So you're not going to concede Milwaukee as Tom's base?

Absolutely not. I was born there. Aside from having a slew of relatives there, I have tremendous support from many people. Lynde Uihlein, a leading woman philanthropist who cares about women, the environment, and many good causes, is a big supporter of ours. Many others in Milwaukee are doing good work for me.

On the south side at the Voces de la Frontera office, I met with a young man worried about how he will finish college. They are worried about the cuts to the UW system and tuition. Some of the plans I have launched really build off what I learn in Milwaukee, such as why we have to build more manufacturing jobs.

One of the examples I use is, UW-Milwaukee has this brand-new, state-of-the-art center for freshwater fisheries. We are home to one of the largest freshwater bodies on the planet. We have the best scientists

who are doing the research here that the world needs. So why can't we also be manufacturing the equipment and technology that's close to that research, in an area of Milwaukee that needs good paying jobs?

What kind of support do you have outside of Dane and Milwaukee County?

I worked all over this state for the Environmental Decade and the State Public Intervenor. When I travel the state, people I met during those many projects greet me. I've got great support throughout the state and it continues to build. I've worked on the recalls since last summer and I have traveled to meet many of the people who collected signatures for the recall. I've had great conversations with people all over and learned a lot.



One of the things I've learned working around the state is that we do have these shared values, no matter where you live. It's true in Waukesha, just as it is everywhere else.

Let's talk about the work you've done throughout the state. My memory is that when you graduated from law school, you were working for Wisconsin Environmental Decade for \$100 per week.

Actually, it was \$35, to be exact. It eventually went up to \$100, but that was a big increase. I was co-director and the only attorney.

What was it like to be a woman lawyer in the '70s and '80s?

Usually the court reporter and I were the only women in the room. I was asking courts to say things they had never said before. I wore pantsuits because it was important then not to draw attention to the fact that I was a woman. Things have changed about some of that, but that's how it was then.

You argued several cases of first impression to our Wisconsin Supreme Court. Tell me about the significance of those cases.

There was a new federal environmental law, and the courts had not applied it or interpreted it yet. We had to work to get the laws in place in Wisconsin, and there were so many questions of interpretation of what they meant. My job was to make sure that these new laws had the breadth we thought they were intended to have.

When you make local law in Wisconsin, how does that affect the national law?

Early on I was getting the court to say that when you determine the environmental impact of an action, you not only look at immediate consequences but the long-term environmental consequences. That was very revolutionary at the time. Then courts around the country would pick up our court's cases and use them in applying the federal law.

What did you do as Public Intervenor?

From 1983 to 1997, I represented the public throughout the state on

mining, wetlands, land use, transportation, and public access to lakes and streams.

When you ran for Dane County executive the first time, did you have the property developers' support?

No. There was a concern about the environmental advocate related to land-use planning. My opponent had the builders', developers', and Gov. Tommy Thompson's support. I had never run for office before. I had support of the environmental community, working men and women, and women who thought it was time to elect a woman.

So the fact you were a woman made a difference in the race?

It was an interesting campaign because there was a question about whether a woman could do the job. The comments and questions were frequent and direct. Not subtle.

After the primary, I ran against County Board Chair Mike Blaska, who had a 15-year-old daughter. My son was 15 at the time. At one of the forums, a very nice man expressed that he was worried about who would take care of my son when I had to work long hours. I thanked him for caring about my son and hoped he would ask the same question of Mr. Blaska about who would take care of his daughter. Those kinds of things were normal.

During the first years of my tenure, all eyes were on, "Can she balance a budget?" I did balance the budget, every year for 14 years—even after the recession in 2008.

What was the first thing you did after you got elected?

The very first day after the first election, I thought, there were two ways to operate here. I did not run to be in politics, but because I

wanted to get something done. My job as top executive is how to get the job done. Normally politics is how to beat the other side, which is not a successful long-term strategy for getting things done.

So the day after election, I called the builders' association and I said, I'm calling to ask for your help. Will you work with me? I had to figure out what that would mean. How could I get both sides—developers and the environmentalists—to see that they shared the same

Falk's record on LGBT issues

- In 2000, Kathleen created domestic partner insurance for Dane County employees; one of the first counties in the nation to do so.
- Kathleen added gender identity protection to Dane County anti-discrimination ordinances in 2001.
- Kathleen extended Family Medical Leave Act to domestic partners of employees in 2006.
- In 2008, Kathleen required certain contractors doing business with Dane County to provide benefits to domestic partners of their employees.
- Fair Wisconsin presented Kathleen with the organization's Leadership Award in 2009.
- Kathleen was proudly endorsed by Fair Wisconsin in past campaigns for Dane County Executive.

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ultimate goal of what the county ought to look like? It was in nobody's interest to misuse our natural resources and have sprawl.

So I did this exercise. The hottest issue was land use, and anytime we had a hearing we'd have a packed room. So I called an open meeting in the Dane County Exhibition Hall (now the Alliant Center). I knew a lot of people would show up, and they did. I set up a bunch of round tables with a map of Dane county on each table. I put a bowl of M&Ms on every table.

The card-carrying Sierra Club member would sit next to a builder. People of varied interests were at each table. I said, "Let's put the M&Ms on the map where you want development to occur in Dane County." They started putting the M&Ms on the map and when we looked at the end, they all put them in the same place. It told them they shared the same goal. But for their different views about how to get there, or the role of government or the Sixth Amendment "takings" clause, they really wanted the same thing. Then I had to figure out what could they work on together to carry out this shared goal in a way that neither side had to give up strongly held philosophical views, which no one wanted to do.

I knew from my years of experience, sometimes governments can't regulate and you have to do it the old-fashioned way and "buy the land." So I asked, "Why don't we put together this conservation refer-

During the first years of my tenure, all eyes were on, "Can she balance a budget?" I did balance the budget, every year for 14 years—even after the recession in 2008.

endum where we go to the public in Dane County and ask them to support using \$30 million to buy more park land over the next 10 years?"

It represented shared values, shared philosophy, and a tremendous outcome. Both sides okayed it. I said, "But you have to campaign together. Builders, developers, and environmentalists campaigned and that was extraordinary. Then on the night of the election where the referendum passed by 76% in 1999, all sides appropriately congratulated each other. They could have at that point said, "We did this, now bye." Instead they said, "Now what do you want us to do?" And over the next 12 years we created some of the best environmental protections measured by any barometer.

Have any of these developers and builders supported you in your subsequent elections?

Yes. Now Jeff Rosenberg, one of the largest homebuilders in the state, is supporting me for governor, as well as the Sierra Club and Clean Wisconsin Action Fund.

Much has been made of the multiple endorsements of you by the unions and your commitment to veto any budget bill that doesn't restore collective-bargaining rights. While you've been Dane County executive, have you and the unions always agreed on everything?

No. When we had major funding cuts in 2008, I talked to each union personally. I went to see the folks at the highway department, showed them the numbers I had to work with and asked them, "Will you work with me on how to do this?" While it was not easy and took

some months, the unions agreed to pay cuts and benefit contributions three years in a row.

Sounds like you asked the unions to take the same pay cuts and make the same increased contributions to their benefits that Governor Walker asked of state workers and Mayor Tom Barrett asked of Milwaukee unions. If it's the same, why are the unions supporting you?

Because I worked with them face-to-face at the bargaining table instead of taking away their rights. I respected them. They also saw me ask for similar sacrifices from every department. Everyone had to share the pain we were going through. They thought I was tough but fair.

You held the Dane County executive position for 14 years, which is the longest anyone has held the position. But some people ask, why did you leave a few months before your term ended?

I had completed my promises. When I ran in 2009, I said I wanted to get two things done. First I wanted to launch a citizen-wide alcohol coalition, given my belief that the single biggest threat to our safety is misuse of alcohol. The second thing I wanted to do was to get the manure digester up and running. I wanted to help our dairy industry grow (three-quarters of a billion dollars a year), keep the manure out of our lakes, and create a green economy and new jobs. It wasn't easy, but I got it done and it is a model for the future.

On Facebook posts and other statements during county budget deliberations, it seemed that the city, through Mayor Dave—and some County Board members—did not like your budget proposals because they cut too much in different areas. How did you decide what was the right level of budget cuts or additions?

I decided on certain guidelines we had to meet, which were lower than what some in the city government and county board wanted. My responsibility to the taxpayers is balanced by the needs of our community, but we had to have standards for setting a budget.

But the advertising that is already out by Republicans paints you with the "tax and spend" brush. Some say you raised taxes and had excessive budgets. So which is it? Did you increase budgets and taxes a lot or did you hold a line on your budgets?

At the time each budget was debated I was criticized for not allowing more to be spent. I knew we had to keep it in line and deal realistically with the major cuts that were pushed down to cities and counties. I balanced the budget every year for 14 years even during the worst of the economic downturn. I'm a very frugal person and have no problem figuring out ways to get more from what you have. That's what families have to do and that's what responsible government has to do.

You know what a statewide race is like and how it feels to lose, yet you constantly encourage people to run. Why is that?

If you lose a campaign, your family and friends still love you, and if you win, you can change the world. ■



Linda Balisle is a shareholder in the Madison law firm of Balisle & Roberson, S.C. where she practices Family Law. For 31 years she has represented children and adults whose families are either being put together or falling apart. For the LGBT community she has worked in the courts and legislature to establish rights of children of LGBT parents.

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Playing Her Part

StageQ Artistic Director **Tara Ayres** on how and why she came to be an *Our Lives* contributor.



I met Patrick Farabaugh on November 3, 2007, when we both turned up as panel members at a queer media workshop. Patrick had recently launched *Our Lives*, and I was a long-time programmer on WORT. I have to admit that I hadn't been all that impressed by the first few issues of *Our Lives*; they seemed heavily focused on white men, and I didn't really see myself or my friends in them. However, during the panel, I was impressed by Patrick.

The panel moderator had apparently taken issue with this upstart kid who had the audacity to launch a queer magazine. Instead of facilitating respectful dialogue, the moderator fanned the flames when audience members waxed increasingly vitriolic about the homogeneity of the first issues. I agreed with the criticism; what I didn't agree with was trashing someone who had taken the trouble to get off his butt and start doing something to build community,

This radical lesbian found myself in the rather odd position of rising to defend a white man.

without giving him the opportunity to respond or believing him when he expressed the intention of making the requested changes.

Despite the nasty tone of much of the criticism, Patrick was open to hearing it, and promised to improve the inclusiveness of the magazine. Patrick was honest in saying that he had reached out to people he knew to fill the pages of the first issues, and that was other men like himself. He seemed genuinely interested in creating a publication that was more representative of our communities. This radical lesbian found myself in the rather odd position of rising to defend a white man. I absolutely believed that he should be accountable for his

work; it seemed incredibly unfair not to give him the benefit of the doubt when he promised to do better, and in fact had a plan for broadening the base of *Our Lives*.

He sought me out after the panel and asked for my help with making *Our Lives* more representative of lesbians, and he immediately started implementing my suggestions and those he received during that painful panel. And he's regularly asked for my opinion over the last four and a half years. We don't always agree, but I cherish what he does for our communities.

I'd bet that Patrick has heard as much critical feedback about *Our Lives* from me as from anyone in town. He has always been willing to listen, and eager to improve the publication. And improve it has; funded out of his own pocket, and created and nurtured by his vision, *Our Lives* has moved from the small newsprint version of the first year to a full-sized, glossy color periodical. It's the only magazine of its kind in the country that doesn't accept ads for alcohol or sex services, not because Patrick is a prude, but because part of his vision is to help create a healthy community. For years, Patrick did not take a dime out of *Our Lives*, while all of its initial funding came from him. If he had to choose between paying rent and paying the printer, he paid the printer. As his friend, I sometimes wish that he took better care of himself. As part of the community, I'm blown away by his generosity and heart.

I'm stepping down as a regular columnist with this issue, after writing the "Our Stages" column for the last three years. I'll continue to look forward to each new issue of *Our Lives*, to reading stories that I wouldn't otherwise have encountered, and to the serendipitous joy of seeing a startled teenager at the grocery store doing a double take upon realizing that there's a magazine about LGBTQ people on the rack there. I'm happy to have been a part of it. ■



Take Care, a play about the politics and the personal stories of caregiving, opened in Wausau on April 26. Madison performances of *Take Care* are scheduled for Promenade Hall in the Overture Center at:

May 3 10:30 a.m.

May 4 10:30 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.

May 5 2:00 & 7:30 p.m.

May 6 2:00 p.m.

Take Care

TAPIT/new works Ensemble Theater's **Danielle Dresden** and **Donna Peckett** on their current theater production.

Madison theater director/designer **Greg Harris** spoke with Danielle and Donna about their work—a combination of drama, dance, music, visual art, and social commentary.

How long has TAPIT/new works been producing original theater? We created it in 1985, so it has been 27 years.

What makes a TAPIT play a "TAPIT" play? We do multi-disciplinary work. We commission original scores. Donna often choreographs and dances. We invite visual artists to design sets. For instance, Christopher Dunham's set for *Take Care* is a social-networking set. It is abstract and represents the way people find caregivers through word of mouth. Video projections by Wendy Nelson and an original score complement the production. We incorporate many art forms to enrich the work.

How did *Take Care* originate? DONNA: Danielle lost her mother last year, several months after her mother suffered a devastating stroke. Several years ago, I developed close relationships with the two women who cared for my late stepmother. The play grew out of their stories and ours.

DANIELLE: I built the script from interviews and workshops with more than 300 caregivers, older people, Hospice workers, and people trying to manage healthcare for their family members. A lot of the lines are direct quotes from people we spoke with.

DONNA: The director of a Dane County senior center told us, "In the next 19 years, 10,000 people a day will turn 65." Can you imagine what a stress that will be on the healthcare system? That's some of what the play is about.

What is *Take Care* about? The play, inspired by real-life caregivers, explores the relationships that develop between a member of the "Sandwich Generation" and her mother's caregivers as they try to navigate the physical, emotional, and institutional terrain of aging in America.

Would you call what you do "socially-conscious" theater? We call it "civically engaged." Artists need to give back to society, not just take.

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A Piece from the LGBTQ Narratives Group

lgbtqnarratives.blogspot.com

Born in Detroit, **Ashlin Ware** faced adversities that taught her resilience and determination. Through education and service she rose above circumstance, receiving a bachelor's in Social Welfare from UW-Madison. With little fear she follows her dreams of poetry and music management. Her biggest goal in life is to teach underrepresented youth a way out of poverty through positivity.



Descendant of Solomon

by Ashlin Ware
 Chapter 7

1. How I wish to travel the seven seas, place feet on cement overseas or clay like Alabama kid days. How am I to fathom luxuries when I barely understand the ground under me? How can I believe when even in summer I see brown leaves? It's smothering my potential. All I hear is arguing at 8 in the a.m. — piqued. Dreams of traveling yet I live in chaos. The bill payer surrounds me in opulence. At night it's more obvious. I return to nightlings—I'm talking danger, where anxiety always stresses me; two locks on, double check the patio door make sure it's not ajar. I don't want these worries anymore. Stuck in a place of limbo. Lost. Disconnected. Emotions overwhelm me. Don't look too long in faces. The devil couldn't erase the secrets I see in eyes. I don't want to bear such a burden—familiar pain in the reflection of a stranger.

2. I question you. And why no matter how hard I try...why this, why that? Sitting in a self-pity hat. Time moves slow. How long till I'm known? Who's more deserving than a child like I? Have I not been diligent? Have I not yet sinned again? Have I not repented? Your extra arm you've lent it but why the short givings? Let me climb your limb to a new beginning. And they say the longer it takes, the grimmer your birth's place more worth the stork's wait. Is this the right way? And I'm sorry that I question you but it's a quarter past 2 and I must work in a few. You keep whispering in my ear, telling me to "go here," "do this," never look back! Lord...! Loudly you contest.

3. "You're not like the rest so I test and I test to show you how to relax. It's you that's hard on self. I have blessed you with everything a man needs. Not this excess that clutters building decrepit tykes—you're a different type. A firm strong soldier. All you shall conquer if you just believe. One day you'll breathe, sit back, re-chat. You'll remember the days, like this day that prompted this pray. We'll both laugh and you'll say, "It was here former eve I turned life to fate. Stood tall and went forward for I am no coward. Made in his honor. Glory to the maker of the lands and the skies, the utmost all-high, the spirit, my chi, the voice inside me. Lets celebrate!" and you'll chuckle at the last of it; celebrate's been the half of it. You are of the elite, go forth and receive.

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Our Lives Recommends:



1222 BY ANNE HOLT

This Scandinavian thriller by Anne Holt received glowing pre-publication reviews comparing it to early Agatha Christie novels. I started reading it for the locked-room plot (Norwegian train is derailed; passengers are trapped in remote hotel; bodies turn up quickly), so I was surprised and delighted as I read to discover that the crusty, brilliant former police detective/narrator, Hanne, has a Muslim female life partner. Her name is Nefis, and together they have a daughter, Ida. Hanne, who suffers from physical and psychological pain from a gunshot prior to this tale, makes clear that Nefis and Ida are the primary source of happiness in her life. The puzzle-solving aspects of *1222* are fun, but the relationship between these two women makes this a great read. Published by Corvus, 2010. —Liz Dannenbaum



Windy City Queer: LGBTQ Dispatches from the Third Coast

EDITED BY KATHIE BERGQUIST

The contributions of the Midwest and, specifically, Chicago to LGBTQ literature have been largely uncelebrated over the last century. This anthology showcases Chicago's thriving urban arts community. It features works from: Edmund White, Achy Obejas, Sharon Bridgforth, Brian Bouldrey, E. Patrick Johnson, Carol Anshaw, David Trinidad, and Mark Zubro. Published by the University of Wisconsin Press.

ANGELA BAERWOLF lives in Madison, Wisconsin and has been teaching English for the last five years. She is a member of the LGBTQ Narratives activist-writers group and is currently working toward a master's in social work at UW-Madison.



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 A simultaneous action.
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 A life's passion questioned, an ego shattered.
 I was like a lost soul realizing I no longer had a body to inhabit.
 Who was I? Who am I?
 Amnesia for a time when I knew these things.
 This story has a foil:
 An identity discovered, when I found the source of my attraction to my own sex.
 A whole part of my identity missing (or repressed), I finally came to know and embrace.
 Like a homecoming, a missing piece found.
 I wondered,
 "Why can't this be another one of those times?"
 Am I ready for the journey? (Can one ever really be?)
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Christian Right—and Left

When Reverend **Scott D. Anderson** became the world's first out ordained clergy in the Presbyterian church he found himself in the middle of religious controversy. In his own words, he takes us through the best and worst of his spiritual journey with grace and wisdom.

On October 9, 2011, when I became the first openly gay man to be ordained to the ministry by the Presbyterian Church (USA) in Madison, I witnessed the best and the worst of what the religious community offers gay people.

Six members of Fred Phelps's congregation, Westboro Baptist Church, came to town to picket my ordination service that day with their "God Hates Fags" placards and offensive chants.

In response, more than 70 folks showed up from Madison's religious community to offer a loving and peaceful counter-witness on the sidewalk adjacent to Covenant Presbyterian Church, where the ordination service was taking place. Rainbow flags were abundant. The crowd took up an offering for a local food pantry. They signed cards, delivered to me after the service, congratulating me.

The visual outside the church captured the full spectrum of Christian witness to the LGBTQ community: hatred, homophobia, and outright bigotry at one end, and unconditional love and welcome at the other.

I know firsthand about both ends of this continuum.

Serving in the Closet

The ordination service last October was not my first. In 1987, I began serving as pastor of Bethany Presbyterian Church, a 400-member congregation in suburban Sacramento, California.

Since I had arrived at Bethany, a couple in the church and I had been in conflict over a particular set of social issues. They wrote to me and told me just after New Year's in 1990 that they had heard from a colleague in town—another Presbyterian pastor who had been a trusted friend for almost 20 years—that I was a gay man. They surmised that my need to hide my sexual orientation as a closeted Presbyterian minister was the reason that I was so timid about supporting their issues, which had nothing to do with being a gay man and serving as a Presbyterian minister. Now, if only I would do what they wanted me to do for their cause, they would keep my secret.

Ironically, a year earlier I had already made the decision to leave the Presbyterian ministry. What drove me to that decision was initially the departure of my partner after eight and a half years of a com-

mitted relationship. He was simply fed up with having to lie about our relationship with our closest friends in the church, with deceiving and pretending on a daily basis, and with all of the unhealthy emotional energy we invested in being in the closet.

The trauma and pain of his leaving heightened my own growing dissatisfaction with having to live a lie about who I was. I, too, was emotionally weary of living under the pretense that I was someone I was not, and that generated an enormous amount of despair and self-hatred. If I were to live with the kind of honesty, integrity, and wholeness that God intended for my life, I realized I could not do so as a Presbyterian minister living in the closet.

Outed

Six weeks later, my worst nightmare came true. This couple sent a letter to Presbyterian leaders throughout Sacramento informing them that I was gay. What had, up to that point, been private and confidential, was now a matter of public discussion.

After several sleepless nights I finally did what I had preached about to others so many times. I turned to God and prayed: I am putting this situation—my life—in your hands. I have no control over what will happen next.

My fear and anxiety began to dissipate. I let go of my worry about what other people were going to think of me when they learned that their pastor was a gay man. As I stopped wondering what tomorrow would hold for my life, I realized that I could not leave the ministry in silence and shame. There was more going on here than a living nightmare. The fearful, anxious, closeted Scott Anderson was dying, and somebody new was being born.

With my anxiety gone and filled with strength I had never before possessed, I decided it was time to be open and honest. I called a special meeting of the governing board of our church, and through a teary and emotional discussion, I told them the truth of who I was, what this couple had done, and why I felt I needed to resign.

The following Sunday, I lived through what I always felt would be my worst moment: at a congregational meeting after our Sunday morning worship service, I told the congregation that I am a gay man, the circumstances of the last several months, and the reasons why I



could not stay as their pastor.

Two days later, I stood before the Presbytery of Sacramento, the regional body of the Presbyterian Church in our area, and told my story a third time. Each time I spoke, to the governing board, the congregation, and then to the Presbytery, I gained power to face the next situation, filled not only with anger, grief, and pain, but also with a new and overwhelming sense of dignity, grace, and gratitude.

Congregational Response

The biggest surprise for me through this whole experience was the response of people at Bethany Church to my revelation. I expected anger, hostility, fear, and rejection. Instead I encountered love, affirmation, support, and care beyond my wildest imagination. Several weeks after I left the pulpit, the congregation hosted a good-bye gathering for me. They knew I planned to return to graduate school in the fall, and presented me with a check to fully cover the cost of tuition and expenses for two years.

Ecumenical Work

God has surprised me in many ways on this 22-year journey since I left the parish ministry.

After finishing graduate school in public policy and administration, I assumed I would get lost in the bowels of California state bureaucracy as a mid-level manager, never darkening the doors of any church again. But while in graduate school I was hired for a part-time

Each time I spoke I gained power to face the next situation, filled not only with anger, grief, and pain, but also with a new and overwhelming sense of dignity, grace, and gratitude.

job with the California Council of Churches, where I stayed for 12 years and eventually became its executive director.

My ecumenical work in California and now here in Wisconsin as executive director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches has given me a different kind of ministry than parish work; a place to serve and grow and heal that I never expected when I left the pastorate in 1990.

Another surprise came soon after leaving ministry in 1990. I met my current partner, Ian MacAllister, through a newspaper ad in 1991; last year we celebrated our 20th anniversary.

Presbyterian Church Policy Change

In the summer of 2011, God surprised me once again when the Presbyterian Church made a change in church policy that now allows people like me to be ordained. Back in 1990, I never thought this day would come in my lifetime. And I never dreamed I would be the first such candidate, or that it would happen in Madison, a city I had never visited at the time.

There have been other unexpected surprises. Three years after I left the ministry in 1990, I became involved in the denominational struggle over sexuality and ordination in the Presbyterian Church, joining the voices of other LGBTQ Presbyterians who had been wounded by the denomination's longstanding policy of denying ordination to those of us in committed relationships.

For much of that decade, I spoke out regularly at national church



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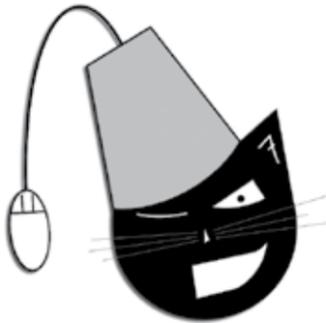
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meetings and in congregations around the country, challenging conservative Christian orthodoxy regarding gay people and sharing my story of leaving the ministry.

National Church Politics

Over time, I grew deeply disenchanted with the denominational merry-go-round of mean-spirited debates and national votes that didn't lead to progress but created a perpetual set of winners and losers, friends who are with us and enemies who oppose us.

In fact, Presbyterian national meetings—like many mainline Protestant groups—looked increasingly like the religious version of the Wisconsin state legislature, with its cadre of professional lobbyists, partisan vitriol, and warring factions exercising power to gain strategic advantage—all of which had little to do with being a community of faith, in my view.

This was the most diverse group of people I have ever sat with in the Presbyterian Church, a group that under ordinary circumstances would never consider being in the same room with one other.

After half a dozen years of national church politics, I grew emotionally and spiritually exhausted. I had to confess that I had become part of the problem, and that I could no longer participate in or support a system that creates enemies out of people who happen to hold a different Biblical and theological perspective than mine.

Presbyterian Task Force on Hot-Button Issues

In 2001, the Presbyterian Church created a 20-member task force and charged it with finding a new way forward on a variety of hot-button issues over five years, including the ordination of openly gay, partnered LGBTQ people who were called to serve as ministers. As soon as I saw the announcement about the formation of this group, I knew I wanted to be a part of it. Eventually I was appointed as its only openly gay member. The group also included some theologically conservative and outspoken critics of gay ordination.

All of us on the task force started our work with a great deal of fear and trepidation. This was the most diverse group of people I have ever sat with in the Presbyterian Church, a group that under ordinary circumstances would never consider being in the same room with one other.

In the first few years of our work, we spent an enormous amount of time getting to know one another and growing to care for and appreciate the people who were behind the labels the church had placed on us, or that we placed on each other. Enemies slowly became friends.

Gay people in our culture have developed a kind of "sixth sense" about who is safe to talk to, and who is not safe; which groups of people are trustworthy, and which are not.

My experience of this task force—in all of its diversity—is that it evolved into a thoroughly trustworthy community. And as one who has not always felt welcome in the Christian Church, this gift of hospitality was particularly healing for me, and in and of itself embodied a sign of hope for a new way forward.

Personal Evolution

As a result of this hospitable community, I began an inward jour-

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ney of change and spiritual maturation. This community of trust increased my capacity to listen, especially to those with whom I disagreed theologically. It also enabled me over time to begin to speak the truth in love to others in our group, deepening my level of transparency and honesty.

We began our work as a task force by focusing on what we share in common, which, we discovered, was much larger and more important than the differences that separated us.

This was not rushed conversation. We took the first three years to talk about what unites us. Only in the fourth year did we start to look at divisive issues such as the ordination of LGBTQ individuals called to ministry.

Even with the deep differences around the table, we chose not to debate with one another. We began with the proposition that we have not come together to change anybody's mind on any issue before us, but rather to learn from each other and to be attentive to God's presence in our midst.

When I walked into the meeting room at the first gathering of our task force 2001, I felt pretty confident about who was right and who was wrong. By our last meeting in 2006, after five years of deep conversation in an atmosphere of hospitality, I realized that I could no longer make those judgments.

In many ways this experience of community is the Christian Church at its best, rooted in relationships that transcend our differences, able to engender a level of trust where each of us can speak the truth of our lives with respect for others.

The Rev. Scott D. Anderson is Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches. He was ordained at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Madison.

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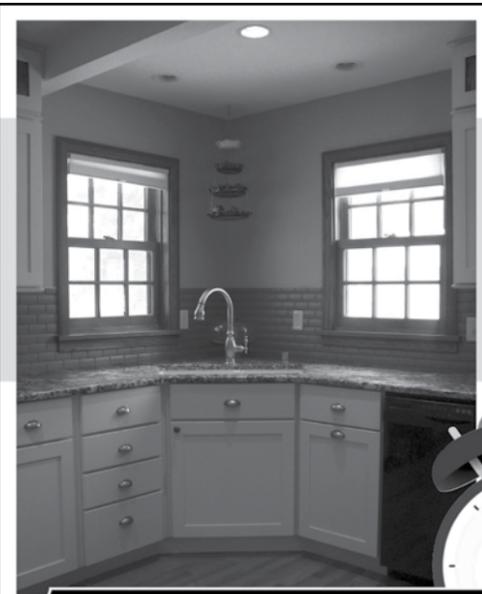
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Out of the Frying Pan

What happens when you cross ironwork with the slow food movement? Just ask **Alisa Toninato**.

Like many who migrate to our area, love lured Alisa Toninato to Madison. She did not make the decision to move lightly, but had not anticipated how challenging it would be to find a place of belonging in the local visual-arts scene. Members of the vibrant and well-connected cultural scene in Milwaukee had served as her family for many years, and she assumed she would find a similar troupe of artists here. Instead, she would develop an even wider creative network that included people from the do-it-yourself (DIY), inventor, and slow food movements.

As an undergraduate, Toninato attended the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design (MIAD), matriculating in 2005 with a degree in sculpture. Her first post-graduate job was assisting public artist Jin Soo Kim on her piece *Strataformis* (2006), commissioned and built for Catalano Square in Milwaukee's Third Ward. Toninato then worked for three years in the exhibition fabrication industry, creating large-scale museum displays out of fiberglass. She loved her job, but knew the work environment was too toxic for her long-term health.



people, and they pulled her back from the artist's edge.

Some of those Minnesota folks, including her mentor, Kelly Ludeking, helped Toninato build her first "backyard" furnace upon her post-Franconia return to Milwaukee. Meeting other "ironheads" brought Toninato back to the intentions she had when she graduated from art school: to build, run, and continue doing foundry work. "It took four years after graduation to finally do it and to even realize that I could do it. Now I had a crew to call on," Toninato says of that period of self-rediscovery.

Soon after, love swept her 80 miles westward. Compared to many cities in the Midwest, Madison's industrial past did not leave many working foundries where she could connect with other iron artists. Toninato wanted to focus on her own work, but she did not wish to do so in isolation. As Toninato began to explore the local art scene, she and her partner, Andrew, began to work together. Once they worked out the details of a collaborative relationship, they opened their own two-person shop, complete with a beautiful furnace that looks like an 1890s industrial knitting machine. The design fits her aesthetic perfectly, and more importantly, she has a room of her own, so to speak, in which to create her work.

A few years ago, a member of the local slow food community discovered Toninato's work in a show titled "Harvest Tools" at the Project Lodge on East Johnson. He was intrigued by Toninato's "Wisconsin Skillet" (2010), an iron pan cast in the shape of the state of Wisconsin, a small sculptural tribute to our state and the materials of its industrial past.

From that entrée, Toninato met Jonny Hunter, who invited Toninato to display the Midwest portion of yet-to-be-completed "Made in America," her series of 48 American contiguous state skillets, at Madison's Underground Kitchen. For many months the "Midwest," and later the "Eastern States," were exhibited at the East Mifflin Street restaurant collective that, unfortunately, closed last year due to a fire that destroyed the building.

Through her newfound connections to a diaspora of slow food champions and various blogs, such as *kitchen.com*, Toninato has become successful in New York and elsewhere on the East Coast, where growing consumers of Wisconsin's edible bounty have purchased a variety of states from "Made in America."

She's one of our region's young DIY artist entrepreneurs, possessed by the new American dream, with a retro aesthetic and a small-planet consciousness.

In 2011, Toninato's "Midwest" skillets were exhibited at the Artists for Art (AFA) show in Scranton, Pennsylvania. She was also accepted into ArtPrize 2011 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She promised ArtPrize all 48 pieces of "Made in America" would be completed in time for the event. Overwhelmed by the enormity of the commitment she had made, she turned to Madison's Chris Meyer, founder and director of Sector 67 maker's space, for help with completing the remaining 28 patterns she needed to make the remaining moulds. After they banged out the work at Sector 67, she took the moulds to Smith Foundry in Minneapolis to pour her remaining map pieces. Meyer and others at Sector 67 were "awesome and accommodating," holding Toninato's hand "through the steep learning curve." After meeting the folks at Sector 67, with its wonderful culture as "one of the top geeky spots in the universe," Toninato felt confident that her connections with the community were becoming stronger.



After a six-month trip to Norway, she attended a four-month residency at Franconia Sculpture Park in Minnesota, where she did some major soul-searching about who she wanted to be as an artist. Surprisingly, it was then that she hit rock bottom as a creative person.

The internship at Franconia was rough on Toninato in many ways, but it gave her the huge gift of connection with her iron family at a Minneapolis iron pour. There she met ironmongers—men and "kick ass" women—who befriended her and helped her hone her craft. Luckily for Toninato, ironworkers are a unique breed of unusually helpful and collaborative

Much to her delight, Toninato's creative community is now linked to people such as Madison Club's Chef Dan Fox, who owns 30 heritage pigs just outside of Madison; the micro-granting event organizer Heather Wentler, who created Madison Soup; and Sara Lemke and Matt Heindl, co-owners of Blue Mounds' farm-to-table, wood-fired, and community-supported Naked Elm Bakery, who hired her to design and build their café's display rack.

In the end, being forced to expand her creative network beyond Milwaukee's artist foundries has been positive for Toninato. It was not only a fortuitous business move because she represents a rare breed of artisan in this area, but it also gave her the amazing gift of kinship in a beautiful community of hardcore, smart people with whom she has great synergy. She's one of our region's young DIY artist entrepreneurs, possessed by the new American dream, with a retro aesthetic and a small-planet consciousness. Toninato admits to "hope and dreams galore" and demonstrates ample energy to achieve them.

Toninato does not focus on getting into gallery exhibitions; she just "puts it out there" with other people who work from the ground up. She is clearly enjoying the zen of her fire art and wool pants and eating sparingly from the fruit of collective labor.

For more information about observing or participating in an iron pour or in Alisa Toninato's custom cast iron art, visit her website www.FeLion-Studios.com. —Karin Wolf



Karin Wolf is the Arts Program Administrator for the City of Madison Department of Planning and Community and Economic Development and the Madison Arts Commission. Her freelance arts writing has appeared in *Sculpture Magazine*, *Public Art Review*, and the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*.

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GSAFE Celebration of Leadership
May 12, Monona Terrace

The Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools will award a Community Activist and an Educator Award at the 16th Annual Celebration of Leadership Awards Banquet. Scholarships will also be given to four high school graduates. gsafei.org



Milwaukee PrideFest
June 8-10, Summerfest Grounds

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. Headliners include Taylor Dayne and GOD-DES & SHE. This year marks 25 years of Milwaukee Pride! pridefest.com



Fruit Fest
June 16, Williamson Street

Fruit Fest is a free all-ages music festival celebrating Madison's gay community. Cazwell headlines a lineup that includes folk musicians, punk bands, DJs, and drag queens. The event also includes the Second Annual Fruit Loop 5k, the First Annual Summer Camp Bingo, and the Star Fruit karaoke competition. fruitfestmadison.org

ORGANIZATIONS

A representative sampling

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

Alianza Latina
facebook.com/alianzalatnamadison

Bowling Out Loud
beckwith.matt@yahoo.com

Dairyland Cowboys & Cowgirls
dcandc.org

Fair Wisconsin
203 S. Paterson Street, Madison (608) 441-0143
fairwisconsin.com

Frontrunners/Frontwalkers
personalpages.tds.net/~tmcdurg

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

Gay Softball League
ssblmadison.com

Gay Volleyball League
madisongayvolleyball.com

Hermanos Latinos
sneal@aidsnetwork.org

Lez In Color Yahoo Group
LezInColor@yahoo.com

Lez Talk Yahoo Group
leztalkmadison@yahoo.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
lgbt Outreach.org

PFLAG - Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays
(608) 848-2333
pflag-madison.org

Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus
perfectharmonychorus.org

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

March 25 | AIDS Network "Superhero" Camp Bingo



2012-2013 SEASON
THE MUSIC SPEAKS

RUSSIA RESOUNDS SEPT 21 22 23
PROKOFIEV Classical Symphony
TCHAIKOVSKY Piano Concerto No. 2 JOHN DEMAIN Conductor
STRAVINSKY Firebird Suite (1945) GARRICK OHLSSON Piano

THE THREE "B's" OCT 12 13 14
(JUST NOT ALL THE ONES YOU'D EXPECT!)
BERLIOZ Overture to Beatrice and Benedict JOHN DEMAIN Conductor
BARTOK Violin Concerto No. 2 JOHN DEMAIN Conductor
BRAHMS Symphony No. 4 JAMES EHNES Violin

TWICE AS NICE NOV 2 3 4
KODALY Dances of Galanta JOHN DEMAIN Conductor
POULENC Concerto for Two Pianos CHRISTINA & MICHELLE NAUGHTON Piano Duo
SCHUBERT The Great C Major Symphony

A GRAND TRADITION NOV 30 DEC 1 2
A MADISON SYMPHONY CHRISTMAS
JOHN DEMAIN Conductor
EMILY FONTS Mezzo-Soprano
DAVID PORTILLO Tenor
MADISON SYMPHONY CHORUS Beverly Taylor, Director
MADISON YOUTH CHOIRS Michael Ross, Artistic Director
MT. ZION GOSPEL CHOIR Leatha Stanley, Director

DISCOVERY! JAN 18 19 20
JENNIFER HIGDON blue cathedral
BEETHOVEN Piano Concerto No. 1 JOHN DEMAIN Conductor
DVOŘAK Symphony No. 6 GABRIELA MONTERO Piano

TURNING POINTS FEB 8 9 10
RAVEL Rapsodie Espagnole JOHN DEMAIN Conductor
PROKOFIEV Sinfonia Concertante ALBAN GERHARDT Cello
BEETHOVEN Symphony No. 4

CHAMPAGNE AND VODKA MARCH 8 9 10
MOZART Overture to Der Schauspieldirektor
MOZART Violin Concerto No. 4 in D Major JOHN DEMAIN Conductor
SHOSTAKOVICH Symphony No. 10 HENNING KRAGGERUD Violin

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HANDEL Arrival of the Queen of Sheba and Three Choruses from Solomon
MENDELSSOHN Violin Concerto JOHN DEMAIN Conductor
RACHMANINOFF The Bells NAHA GREENHOLTZ Violin
VAUGHAN WILLIAMS Toward the Unknown Region ALEXANDRA LOBIANCO Soprano
HAROLD MEERS Tenor
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Out Professional and Executive Network

May 16 | Mentoring event at Hotel Red

June 12 | Betty-Lou Cruise

July 15 | Night out at Billy Elliott

August 19 | Pride Brunch, Parade

September | Workplace Summit

October | National Coming Out Day

November | Arts Event

openmadison.org

Proud Theater: Beyond, May 3-5, Fredric March Play Circle, Memorial Union A
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

Badgerland Softball, Monday and Tuesday nights beginning May 7 at Bowman Park
The Badgerland Softball League is a LGBTQQA social organization structured around the sport of softball. Games begin at 6:30, 7:30, and 8:30. badgerlandsoftball.com

k.d. lang and the Siss Boom Bang, May 15, Overture Center
Now touring again with a band, lang says, "I love going where I'm not supposed to go." Overture Hall is just the place for her strong, throaty vocals. overturecenter.com

Queer Shorts 7, May 31-June 9, The Bartell Theater
The seventh installment of StageQ's annual playfest. Ten to twelve short plays in one evening—heavy on the comedy—served up by a huge cast and crew. An audience favorite! stageq.com

Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus Spring Concert, June 16, Madison Masonic Center Auditorium
Madison's gay and gay-friendly men's chorus' Fifteenth Anniversary Spring Concert features "Heartlands," an original choral work by Arthur Durkee. perfectharmonychorus.org

National Women's Music Festival, June 28-July 1, Marriott Madison West, Middleton
This four-day musical and cultural extravaganza incorporates all facets of women's lives. It's a jam-packed long weekend where choices include workshops, concerts, comedy, theater presentations, a marketplace, newly released films and videos, a live auction, spirituality series, writer's series, animal-lovers series, and more! wionline.org

Drag Down Cancer Comedy Benefit, June 30, High Noon Saloon
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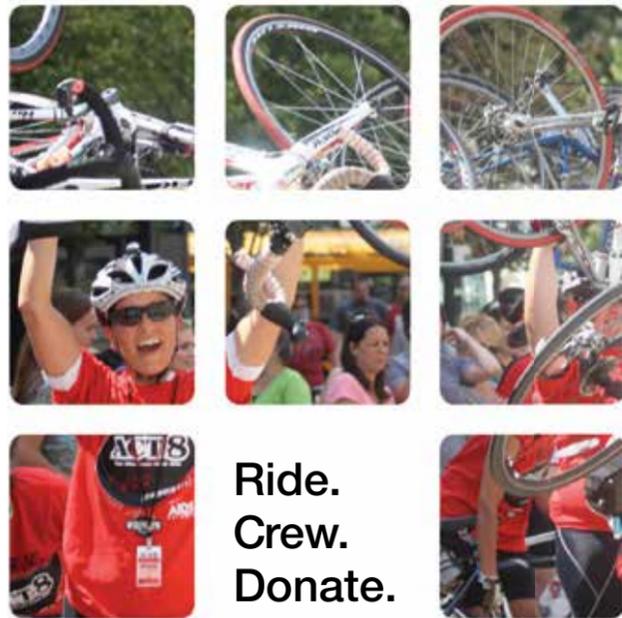
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March 3 | New Harvest Foundation Comedy Fundraiser at the Edgewater



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10a-12p: **KATIE KRUZ**

12p-04: **RYAN SEACREST**

04p-07: **HUNTER**

07p-12a:
AARON ROGERS

12a-5:30a: **DUSTIN WEBER**

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KIDD LEOW

sun 7p-10p:
CLUB KANE



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March 8 | OPEN membership appreciation event at Plan B



April 13 | AIDS Network's Red Ribbon Affair at Monona Terrace



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feed YOUR passion

Journey with **Ken Monteleone** on his path of self-discovery and expression to learn what went into his creation of the Madison jewel: Fromagination.

When I was growing up in a traditional Italian household, food was always the focal point of our family's events. Every one of us loved to entertain, and because of this I spent most of my childhood either working for our family's wholesale/retail food business or helping in the kitchen—watching my mom and dad cook, bake, and prepare all sorts of delectable delights for family gatherings. At every family gathering, there was an accordion or a guitar in hand. If we were not eating, we were talking about what we were planning to eat. It truly was a way of life, and they are some of my fondest memories of those days.

I grew up in Trinidad, a small town in Southern Colorado. A local doctor had an international reputation for performing sex reassignment surgeries dating back to 1960, and soon the

town became known as the “Sex Change Capital of the World.” Because of this, growing up in the Trinidad community helped to instill an understanding of diversity and tolerance within me and many of the people who called this special place home. I was taught at an early age to live and let live, to treat others like you wanted to be treated—no matter how different from you they might be—and to never judge until you have walked in someone else's shoes. (It's unfortunate that later I discovered that beliefs like these were not so commonly shared and valued outside of my hometown.)

My parents encouraged me to feed my passions and explore my interests, and my hunger to explore new things in the world of food and entertaining grew each day.

During my teenage years, I worked in all aspects of the family business, from unloading semi trucks filled with the delightful scent of fresh fruits and vegetables to delivering food to the elderly to working in the retail shop waiting on customers. Growing up, I did not have a lot of friends. I was very shy and was bullied in grade school. Work-

I moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico, and I became part of a community where I could truly discover my authentic self.

ing in the family business brought me great comfort; it was a safe place where I could express myself. I looked at it as my escape from reality. One of the most valuable lessons I learned early on was the importance of service. It became clear that if you took care of your customers, then the customers would take care of you in turn. Honor, confidence, service, and cooperation were the guiding principles of our family business.

But my insatiable need to learn grew as I matured into a young adult, and thoughts of escaping my small-town life to become a buyer filled my dreams more and more each day. I was always interested in understanding what made people purchase a particular product or from a particular store, and I knew the only way to pursue this knowledge was to head off to college. I left Trinidad, and after a few years of hard work I earned a bachelor of science degree in marketing and accounting.

I yearned to become part of a buying program, but the road in front of me was going to be long, and I knew I first I had to prove myself. Everything happens for a reason in life, and I knew I had to be open to any journey life took me on.

Soon, I was recruited by JC Penney. I worked for them for two long years in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Then I moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico, to help open a new JC Penney store there, and I became part of a community where I could truly discover my authentic self. After two years there, I made the move to the much faster pace of New York, and worked to foster my creativity and explore this world that I wanted to be part of at the JC Penney corporate headquarters. When JC Penney moved its headquarters to Dallas, Texas, I went. But, it wasn't long before Famous Footwear offered me a buying position in Madison. I had never been to Madison, but liked what I had heard, so I decided this was the move I needed to make in order to grow. I moved to Madison in 1993, and shortly thereafter, I met my partner, Robbie.

Finally! I was living in a world I wanted to live in: I traveled extensively for work and with Robbie, I had a job that fed my passions, I had a great partner, and I was living in a great city. I felt as if I had everything I could ever want in life.

Famous Footwear allowed me to see the world, and exposed me to another food culture that I wanted to discover. After numerous buying



Diversity.

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We have a long history of embracing diversity in all we do. We believe the success of our business is enhanced through a wide range of points of view, backgrounds, genders, races, ages and cultures.

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Food & Dining

Restaurateurs and foodies share what recent innovations excite them

Not surprisingly, many point to the huge momentum behind local sourcing for meat, produce, and even the smaller ingredients used to create everything from signature offerings to standard fare. There is so much cooperation and a sense of a common goal among the local food scene. It is a boon to the local economy as well as to local customers!

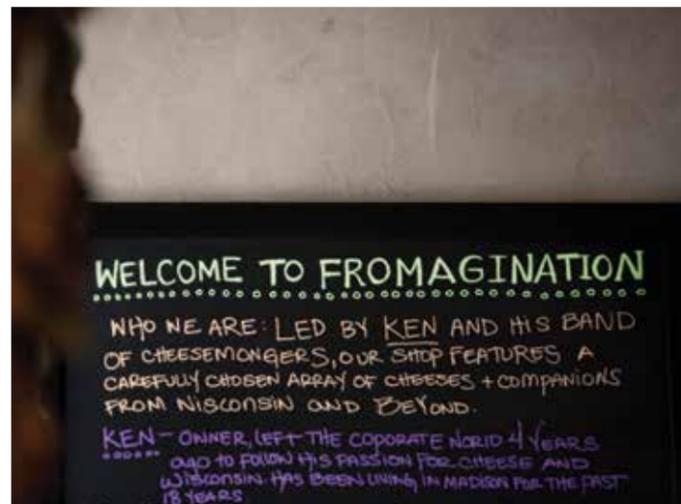
Gluten-Free Pioneers



BUNKY'S
TINA CALANTONI, GENERAL MANAGER

We are excited about the growth in buying local. Keeping things local and giving back to the community is a decision that gives back 110%. We find immeasurable value in being able to deal directly with the source when maintaining high-quality product. We take pride in our delicious made-from-scratch menu, and we know that starts with quality product.

While we have been pioneers in the gluten-free movement, we always have our eyes open for new ways of offering quality gluten-free. I have always said Bunky's does gluten-free so well, you can't even tell it is gluten-free. The only way to achieve such standards is having the ability to continue learning, which in turn promotes growth. bunkyscafe.net



trips to Europe, I started to realize that my passion for working in the food world was still close to my heart. During my last two years at Famous Footwear, I found myself wanting to spend more time in the discovery of food shops of Europe than in their shoe stores. I started to envision what it would be like to open a specialty food shop in Madison. I put this idea out into the universe, not knowing where this might lead. I knew I needed to make another change in order to move my dream forward. Every time I traveled, I would always make time to pop in specialty food stores around the world, from Peck in Milan to Dean and DeLuca in NYC, Barthelemy in Paris, Zingermans in Ann Arbor...the list went on and on, and I keep telling myself I could see myself doing this; that this was the world I wanted to be part of.

My journey took some unexpected twists and turns, and the tapestry of my world began to unravel. After 13 years with Famous Footwear and a year with Lands' End, Robbie and I decided the corporate world and I needed to part ways, and I was ready to strike out on my own. At the time we made this decision, Robbie, whose leukemia had been in remission for years, was in good health and we decided the time was right to take the risk and open my own business. I wanted to take my 23 years of working in the corporate world—my marketing, buying, and product development background—and chart my own destiny.

We were committed to staying in Madison, and I wanted to feed my inner passion by opening a specialty food shop focusing on cheese. Having lived in Madison for some time, I wanted a location that attracted people from all over the city and state. Madison, I thought, was ideally suited for a retail concept like what was fomenting in my head—and soon the concept of Fromagination was born. Wisconsin after all, was the nation's leading producer of specialty, artisan, and farmhouse cheeses, and the Dane County Farmers' Market has a long and rich history in celebrating fresh, premium food products and culinary experiences.

Aside from this, I was committed to ensuring that Fromagination would become a vehicle for positive social change, supporting the community and providing an environment that would benefit its customers, employees, and "local" food artisans. I wanted to support these hardworking people by giving them a venue to let their wares shine!

I loved Madison's openness, its diversity, its authenticity, its hunger for learning, and its enthusiasm for a mix of experiences, and wanted a shop that could be a small part of showcasing our uniqueness. I loved the pride the city took in its cosmopolitan quirkiness, its Mid-



I knew I wanted to create a European-style shop, but one that brimmed with Wisconsin pride—a shop that celebrated our state's rich history of cheese making.

western lack of pretension, and its respect for the environment—and I wanted my shop to echo that as well. I chose the capitol square for the store's location because that is where Madison's diversity flourished, and I wanted a shop that engaged people from all over the city and state, no matter what their station in life.

Cheese is a natural part of the living landscape of Wisconsin—from the farmers who have been working the land for generations to the cheese makers who brought their families' craft with them to the Heartland. Through this journey, I realized I was going back to my family roots and doing something that was deep inside the very core of my being. I knew deep inside that the time was right to bring my vision to life.

I took full advantage of the year it took to bring Fromagination to life and networked with people throughout the community, pitching my ideas and getting feedback, and enhancing the plan along the way. I spent a year researching, developing a business plan, networking with people in the food world, educating myself, and bringing the concept to life. I talked to numerous people who had taken the risk and were doing their own thing. That gave me hope and inspiration to move the idea forward. I knew I wanted to create a European-style shop, but one that brimmed with Wisconsin pride—a shop that celebrated our state's rich history of cheese making. I wanted the shop to become an advocate for the cheese makers.

Robbie, whom I had been with for 15 years at the time, was very

Organic Conversations



THE WILLY STREET CO-OP
JOSH PERKINS, CHEF AND KITCHEN MANAGER

I find the various challenges to the organic certification process and labeling to be the most exciting innovation of the past year. While they've been taking place longer than that, they have ramped up steadily. There have been a variety of reasons for this, including the entry of mega-vendors like Wal-Mart into the organics market, and the (possibly related) amplification of "local" as the qualifier of choice. This has been an exciting development because it has motivated food shoppers to learn about what they're eating in a much more complex fashion than simply looking for a label, and to realize that you have to keep learning constantly. In turn, there is now a more sophisticated dialogue among chefs, grocers, and diners about what good food is. willystreet.coop

Farm-to-Table Partnerships



ARTISAN GALLERY AND CREAMERY CAFÉ
PHIL RODRIGUEZ, HEAD CHEF

For a café interested in farm-to-table dining, the best recent innovation for us has been the greater ease in distribution channels to get local, fresh, seasonal produce.

Small farmers are willing to partner with restaurants in growing numbers. This may not be the newest idea and does not involve technology, but to me it has the greatest impact on

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WHAT'S TRENDING [FOOD]

our food quality. The number of diners now interested in where their food comes from paired with more and more support of eating at local establishments has a positive impact on the local economy. artisangal.com

Not Your Grandmother's Cakes and Loaves



DAISY CAFÉ & CUPCAKERY
KATHY BROOKS & DARYL SISSON, FOOD DESIGNERS
JENNIFER HALL, HEAD BAKER

When we opened the Daisy with Wisconsin's first gourmet cupcakes three years ago, it was certainly innovative for the region. Now there are cupcake places throughout the state, but we've innovated to stay unique:

1) We've moved beyond traditional cakes and have featured atypical cupcake "bottoms" like croissant, scone and flourless cake, plus more gluten-free selections.

2) We use an ever-expanding set of ingredients in our cakes, frostings, and fillings, such as beer, tea, quark cheese, and whiskey, and we feature more exotic flavors like mango, passion fruit, and caramelized pears.

It's similar to what we do with our Café menu—people are used to seeing meatloaf on a menu, but not meatloaves made of chicken and gorgonzola, turkey and feta, or chorizo and pepperjack—even a Reuben meatloaf. For us, innovation is just constantly playing with our food. daisycafeandcupcakery.com

Farm-fresh Ingredients



DAYTON STREET GRILLE
AT THE MADISON CONCOURSE HOTEL
CHARLES LAZZARESCHI, HEAD CHEF

People are becoming more aware of healthy cooking, whether cooking at home or eating out. This has changed my cooking style for the better. The food we serve has less sodium, is natural, is fresher, and is locally sourced.

I have discovered incredible local ingredients here in Madison that are grown with integrity and real passion and are delivered to our kitchen just hours out of the fields by the farmers who have grown them. The incredible-tasting local product allows us to showcase every item. Most of our entrees have just a handful of ingredients because I don't want to hide their flavors. We focus on cooking techniques and let the quality of the ingredients speak for themselves. concoursehotel.com/dining/dayton-street-grille

Locavores and Food Shares



THE EDGEWATER HOTEL
STEVEN E. KEIP, DIRECTOR OF SALES AND CATERING

The most exciting and especially relevant trend that I see is the locavore phenomenon: eating only what is produced within 100 miles of your location. In our area, we are certainly blessed with an abundance of sources and resources to do this. Those include the Dane County Farmers' Market, the fantastic artisanal cheese producers, Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs), and other farmers producing top-quality produce.

Another related trend is consumers purchasing a "share" of a cow for a farmer to raise, and then getting the dairy products it produces. The same thing is being done with beef cattle and hogs; buying a share of an animal that is humanely raised and grass-fed, and then getting a share of the final product. It boils down to superior products produced within a practical distance for ultimate quality and sustainability. theedgewater.com

instrumental in allowing me to follow my dream and passion, and I had hoped one day we would both be part of this business. Three months before opening Fromagination, however, Robbie's health took a downward turn. His leukemia, in remission for so many years, was back in full force, but at that point it was far too late to turn back from opening the business—the lease had been signed and the build-out was in motion. I knew my life was about to change, and a new journey was about to begin.

Fromagination opened as planned in September 2007, but Robbie passed away in July of 2008. During the last three months of his life, I spent a lot of time with him while he was getting treatments. He was a strong person right until the end. Shortly before Robbie died, however, he gave me one of the greatest gifts anyone could receive.

He spoke with the wisdom of the dying these words from Steve Jobs that he lived by: "Our time on earth is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Follow your heart and don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice...and most important, have the courage to follow your heart, intuition, and dreams."

After Robbie died I escaped into the being of Fromagination. I spent seven 15-hour days a week focusing on the business and little else. I would go home at night to cry myself to sleep. Subsequently, I gained a lot of weight. I soon realized I was no longer feeding my passion; I was feeding the emptiness I felt from no longer having my Robbie in my life. I knew I had to take control; the pain and misery were unnecessary. I knew I had to take charge of my beliefs, feelings, and actions



Our time on earth is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Follow your heart and don't let the noise of others' opinions drown out your own inner voice.

in order to modify the process of my life without Robbie. I started to read books on health and wellness, self-help books, and grief and loss books. I journaled daily and started to take charge again. Slowly the tears turned into understanding and acceptance. Deep inside, I knew whenever life presents a new challenge or requires a change in course, it provides an arsenal of tools for lasting change as well as lessons for enriching the quality of life.

It was a two-year journey, but I finally realized I had to get my life back on track and listen once again to the inner voice my partner so vividly reminded me to pay attention to. I focused on mind, body, and soul. I started strength training, running, and focusing on a healthy diet. It renewed my commitment to reviving my life. It was a rebirth!

With renewed focus and energy, I ran my first marathon in June 2011, and I have since completed several half-marathons. Once again, things slowly started to fall into place as I realized life is for the living and I need to make the most of my time left. Last year, Fromagination was awarded Retailer of the Year by the National Specialty Food Association.

Fromagination has opened the doors to so many personal opportunities that feed my passions in life. It has allowed me to celebrate what our living journey is all about—from the roots we call home to the inevitable challenges we face in life—and it lets me meet each day head-on with an insatiable hunger for growth and learning. I am able to work with a passionate team of people who are committed to enriching our lives in the world of food.

The simple things in life are worth sharing. In the past five years, Madison and Fromagination have made great inroads in the culinary world. We are what I call a "full-flavored experience" in Madison. We are not only surrounded by great cheese makers and great farmers' markets throughout the city, but we also have great microbreweries, great food artisans making chocolate, crackers, preserves, and cured meats, and of course we have all the great chefs working with local farmers. Madison is a community that works together to enrich all of our lives. It is a city filled with people who are eager to discover and support small local businesses like Fromagination.

Feed your passion! We all deserve to live our best lives! ■

[FOOD] WHAT'S TRENDING

Chocolates, From Infusions to Throwbacks



GAIL AMBROSIUS CHOCOLATIER
GAIL AMBROSIUS, PROPRIETOR

It's exciting that so many people are making chocolate! Whether bean or bar, from enthusiasts to adventurers, chocolatiers are infusing their work with art, science, and creativity. It really is magic. I also love that more and more people are discovering single-origin blends. I find it so delectable to explore regional flavors through chocolate.

This year, too, marks the return of the comfort or nostalgia confection. People are creating their own marshmallows and tantalizing marshmallow pairings. Nostalgia candy bars have made a welcome comeback, this time with fresh, ridiculously tasty ingredients. Think Payday meets Snickers with a little 3M ingenuity tossed into the mix. It's heaven! gailambrosius.com

Buy Locally & Organically



HARVEST RESTAURANT
TAMI LAX, PROPRIETOR

Eighteen years ago, I decided to change my career and enter the culinary world. The only way I knew how to do this—and be fulfilled—was through joining a growing number of restaurants that were committed to buying locally and organically. Through the leadership of chefs like Odessa Piper and Alice Waters, this trend gained momentum to a point that buying locally has become a trend to be reckoned with. Buying locally is still the most exciting trend for me in this

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member profile



NAME:
Brian Miller
TITLE:
President & CEO
EMPLOYER:
Inclusive Talent Solutions

Brian Miller is currently serving on the OPEN board as Secretary. He is the President & CEO of Inclusive Talent Solutions, a professional staffing firm, and certified LGBT Business Enterprise through the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC). OPEN recently announced affiliation with the NGLCC to provide access of its benefits to OPEN members. At a recent kick-off breakfast meeting, Brian alongside the NGLCC discussed how this new partnership will benefit local LGBT business owners. For more information, you can contact him at bmiller@inclusivetalentsolutions.com.

upcoming events

MAY 16 5:30 PM - 7:00

Mentor Program Informational Event

JUNE 12 5:30 PM - 8:00

Betty Lou Cruise
departing from Machinery Row

JULY 15

Billy Elliot: The Musical
Overture Center

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- Networking
- Mentoring programs

openmadison.org

feature



Betty Lou Cruises



The Edgewater



Best Places

— FOR OUTDOOR DINING —

Our community boasts a variety of outdoor dining venues and locales to please every palate. In anticipation of summer, we've listed some of our personal favorites.



Nau-ti-gal



Monty's Blue Plate Diner



Creamery Café

Artisan Gallery and Creamery Café

6858 PAOLI ROAD, PAOLI, WI 53508

608.845.6600 | ARTISANGAL.COM

After riding your bike on a scenic path to Paoli, head to the Creamery Café for lunch. Indoor dining allows you to view original works of art, but we recommend the lush views of the Sugar River from their outdoor patio when weather allows.

Phil Rodriguez, Head Chef, recommends: Start with a blood-orange mimosa and a French press cup of coffee. Order the trout scramble: smoked trout, eggs, spinach, tomato, and chevre cheese served with choice of house side salad or rosemary fingerling potatoes, then finish with chocolate cheesecake served with a raspberry coulis.

Concerts on the Square

WISCONSIN CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

321 E. MAIN STREET, MADISON, WI 53703

608.257.0638 | WCOCONCERTS.ORG

There are several ways to dine at Madison's free outdoor concerts put on by the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra for six weeks each summer. The most traditional way to go is to pack a picnic basket and blanket or low-height chairs and lounge with your sweetie and/or family and friends. Another option is to purchase boxed meals from the many vendors that set up along the square and take the food to your spot on the lawn or piece of curb you have grabbed if the lawn is full. You can also reserve a place in the outdoor dining areas of restaurants located on the square and have a little more elbow room. Finally, Concerts on the Square offers table reservations on the spoke of the capitol where the orchestra is located, giving those diners prime seating for viewing the musicians and speakers.

The Edgewater Hotel

666 WISCONSIN AVENUE, MADISON, WI 53703

608.256.9071 | THEEDGEWATER.COM

There is no other hotel that offers dining on the water in Madison. Invite out-of-town guests to stay the night. No out-of-towners? No worries! Stop by for cocktails and appetizers or order from the full menu while lounging on an actual pier Lake Mendota's southern shore.

WHAT'S TRENDING [FOOD]

industry, and as it continues to expand, my wish is that buying local will become commonplace. harvest-restaurant.com

Connecting with Customers via Social Media



JAVA CAT
RENEE RASPILLER AND SHARI OLSON, PROPRIETORS

We think that some of the most exciting innovations in our business right now are all of the different avenues and ways that social media is being used. Not only are we able to keep

customers aware of new and exciting menu items, but it also gives us another outlet to stay in touch with our customers and their wants and needs. This is definitely the age of technology, and there are so many new and exciting ways to communicate with our customers. We've only just begun to use the power of technology here at our store, and that makes us excited about the potential. It's truly a great time to be a small-business owner. javacatmadison.com

The Lure of Rye



CHRISTINE'S GOURMET TOFFEE
LEANNE CORDISCO, PROPRIETOR

As a candy maker, I'm always amazed by how very small changes in a recipe can greatly affect the quality of the finished product. For example, toffee cooked to 305 degrees is wonderful; toffee cooked to 315 degrees is charcoal. The same is true of the art of brewing beer. The naturally occurring yeast in one abbey is very different that the yeast at another, resulting into two very different Belgian beers. Changing the malted barley in a beer recipe is the reason for my pick of an upcoming food trend.

I'm looking for an increase in popularity of rye beers over the next year. Why, you ask? Our microbrewers are very busy out-hopping and out-portering each other, with delicious results for the beer drinkers in our area. But to stay competitive, they need to differentiate themselves. Where else is there to go? Rye beers. To make a rye beer, the brewer will replace some of the barley with a malted rye. Yes, the same grain used to make pumpernickel bread. Lakefront Brewery recently made some, and sampled it at the Wisconsin Restaurant Show. That piqued my interest. popularsnacks.com

Mixing Local and International Flavors



LIL CHOCOLATES
LISA NELSON, PROPRIETOR

I have enjoyed seeing many new flavor and texture influences in the chocolate and confection industry. Exotic fruits, spices, and even edible flowers are being infused into chocolate. New textures using products like cornflakes or crispy tortilla chips are also popping up. The same innovation goes for caramels, toffees, and other confections. One of my personal favorites is artisan gingerbread or maple-pecan-flavored marshmallows for hot chocolate, coffee, or s'mores.

At LiL chocolates, many of my seasonal flavor profiles incorporate local fruits, herbs, and honey from our farm and local Wisconsin farms. However, I enjoy creating and testing fusion flavors and textures by mixing local products with international products to create exciting new tastes! lifeislikechocolates.com

Mobile Restaurants



MICHAEL'S FROZEN CUSTARD
MICHAEL DIX, PROPRIETOR

The biggest trend I see coming down the pike is taking your restaurant on the road and going mobile. I was recently in California and saw mobile food trucks in the trendiest spots; some of the hottest restaurants are doing this. Unlike the food carts you see around Madison, these are actual trucks decked out with grills, deep fryers, freezers, and all the refrigeration you need. What restaurateurs have found out is that going mobile frees up all the cost restraints of a fixed location; plus, you can go where the customers are. In the coming years, watch for a mobile Michael's Frozen Custard traveling to a hotspot near you! ilovemichaels.com

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220 WEST BROADWAY, MONONA, WI 53716 608-223-9300
Mon-Fri 10am-6pm Saturday 10am-5pm Sunday 12pm-5pm



Steven Keip, Director Catering, recommends: Look for a Caprese chicken sandwich or salad: the sandwich is chicken, fresh mozzarella, tomato, basil, and balsamic mayo on soft pretzel roll, and the salad has a balsamic dressing. Another great option is the grilled veggie cheese sandwich with a choice of provolone or cheddar. Our grilled flatbread with our hummus and topped with tomatoes, green and red onions, and black olives is a delicious appetizer.

Memorial Union Terrace
800 LANGDON STREET, MADISON, WI 53706
608.265.3000 | UNION.WISC.EDU

We love the atmosphere of the Memorial Union Terrace, located on the U.W. cam-



pus on the south shore of Lake Mendota. Granted, the iconic terrace chairs are not really all that comfortable, but the view, the friendly vibe, the live music, the cold beer and grilled food make up for it. You can grab something from the outdoor grill or indoor cafeteria. Don't forget to save room for a cone or dish of fresh Babcock Ice Cream, then stroll down the Lakeshore Path enveloped by a canopy of woods or sit along the lake with your toes in the water.

Michael's Frozen Custard
ILOVEMICHAELS.COM
5602 SCHROEDER RD, MADISON, WI 53711 | 608.276.8100
3826 ATWOOD AVE, MADISON, WI 53716 | 608.222.4110
407 W. VERONA AVE, VERONA, WI 53593 | 608.845.8887
2531 MONROE ST, MADISON, WI 53711 | 608.231.3500

One of the iconic images of summer in Madison has to be the red-and-white umbrellas outside Michael's Frozen Custard. Sure, you could sit in the air-conditioned comfort of the building, but on the patio you'll find better people-watching and dog-petting opportunities.

Michael Dix, Proprietor, recommends: I recommend a classic quarter-pound cheeseburger topped with lettuce, tomato, and crispy dill pickles, served with a side of Wisconsin hand-battered cheese curds along with classic Orange Crush soda in a glass bottle. For dessert, it is always a turtle sundae topped with rich, creamy caramel; heavenly hot fudge; and roasted, salted pecan halves.

Monty's Blue Plate Diner
2089 ATWOOD AVENUE, MADISON, WI 53704
608.244.8505 | MONTYSBLUEPLATEDINER.COM

Nestled in Madison's east side shopping district, Monty's offers an outdoor patio with umbrella tables and is the perfect spot to dine before or after a performance at The Barrymore Theatre, a visit to the boutique shops, or a ride on the bike path. The area is enclosed enough to allow young children to play nearby and to buffer diners from the traffic on Atwood Avenue.

WHAT'S TRENDING [FOOD]

Serving House-made or Locally Made Fare



THE SOW'S EAR
DEBRA WHEELER, PROPRIETOR

As a small-business owner, I find it necessary to serve quality, fresh products. We use small-batch, artisan coffee and take pride in crafting perfectly hand-pulled shots of espresso. We are exploring fun, new ways of brewing the unique blends offered to us. It is also important to educate people on the origins of coffee and how to pinpoint each unique flavor in a cup of expertly brewed coffee. Head Barista Ben Wineke has made it a personal mission to know as much as possible about the coffee industry, and his passion shines through in his beverages and classes. For any food that we do not make in-house, we use as many local cheeses as possible and take advantage of the wonderful handcrafted pastries and pies available from area small businesses. knitandsip.com

Single-origin Ingredients



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KRISTOPHER ALAN CHOCOLATIER
KRIS A. KALB

Imagine being able to wake up every morning excited to get to work! This is exactly what I feel every day knowing that I am creating artisanal, unique, local food products. I love to see the expressions on customers' faces when they taste the first bite of my latest creation. Over the last few years, there has been an increase in awareness of locally produced, artisanal foods. Knowing where our food comes from has become very relevant.

In my business, I focus on sourcing local agriculture and single-origin ingredients to produce the freshest, highest quality product while also creating works of art in the form of chocolate truffles. I also handcraft salsas, jams, and relishes. Fusing high style with organic, natural local ingredients whenever possible excites the palate and the eye. Great food should have no boundaries. I am constantly challenging myself to create something truly unexpected. spiritofwisconsin.com

Healthy Food that Tastes Good



STAGIONI
ANGELA TRENTADUE, CHEF, OWNER

As a great chef in New York City recently said, "Modern food is healthy, fun, and tasty." I'm excited to see a move toward healthy food that is inspiring in flavor and freshness. We're turning away from portions as big as your head, loaded with unnecessary fat, to lighter, brighter, tantalizing dishes that celebrate food and the communal act of eating together. Looking for vegetarian food in restaurants or delis used to mean a plate of steamed vegetables. Now we see chefs at every level crafting vegetarian, vegan, even gluten-free dishes that make our palates swoon. It is exciting to be a part of this and to be able to share how good healthy can taste. thirtytoseasons.com

Community-driven Dining



VON RUTENBERG VENTURES
ROBERT VON RUTENBERG, CO-OWNER

Especially in Madison, the return to local is huge. We are so fortunate to have an incredible organization, REAP food group, and their "Buy Fresh, Buy Local" program. It connects our chefs with local farmers to form partnerships and get the food from farm to table. It would appear that what is old is new again. Locally owned, community-driven dining is more important than ever. Madison Originals is an organization of locally owned restaurants that support each other and educate the public on the importance of dining local. When you spend money at an independently owned business, it stays in the community. We know who our customers are and what they like. Personal-touch service and knowing where their food comes from are not something the customer gets when they spend money at a chain restaurant. vrv-madison.com



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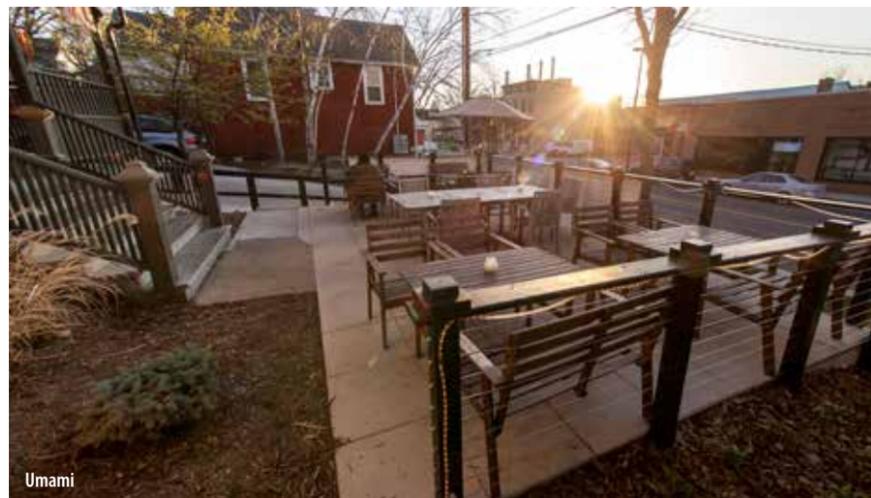
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Quivey's Grove

6261 NESBITT ROAD, MADISON, WI 53719
608.273.4900 | QUIVEYSGROVE.COM

No matter what the season, Wisconsin and Friday fish fries go hand-in-hand. And Quivey's Grove does it with flair: they serve their ever-popular fish fry outside under their big, white tent from mid-June to mid-August. With an outdoor bar, kids' games on the lawn, and a summer's eve in Wisconsin, it is hard to imagine a better setting for a fish fry.

Craig Kuenning, Proprietor, recommends: Enjoy our delicious beer-battered cod, served with all the traditional sides. You can get the cod baked, or you can even order a serving of the unique pretzel-crust fresh lake perch.

The Old Fashioned

23 N. PINCKNEY STREET, MADISON, WI 53703
608.310.4545 | THEOLDFASHIONED.COM

If you are downtown for the Dane County Farmers' Market, Concerts on the Capitol Square, or simply bumming around, be sure to take a breather at The Old Fashioned. Their outdoor seating allows a great view of the capitol and passers by.

Jen DeBolt recommends: Here's a great meal to enjoy outdoors: Door County cherry salad, followed by a warm seasonal fruit crisp with vanilla ice cream, and of course, all washed down with one of our 52 Wisconsin tap beers.

Umami Ramen & Dumpling Bar

923 WILLIAMSON STREET, MADISON, WI 53703
608.819.6319 | UMAMIMADISON.COM

Going to Fruit Fest? Be sure and get premium seating just across the street on the

outdoor patio at Umami. The same goes for the Willy Street Fair and any other day you want to enjoy hot ramen and cool views.

Mike Ding, Co-owner, recommends: Start off a perfect meal with the summer roll or tuna poke, followed by an order of our famous pork buns. For a main entree, try our dumplings or our summer special, the Hiyashi Chukka, a cold noodle dish tossed with seasonal veggies and a soy citrus vinaigrette. Wash it all down with a refreshing mango mojito or an O-Cha Mark.

Von Rutenberg Ventures

The royal family of outdoor dining in Dane County is unquestionably the Von Rutenberg brothers: Bill, Jack, and Robert. Here, Robert maps out the evolution of their Ventures ...

Nau-Ti-Gal

5360 WESTPORT ROAD, MADISON, WI 53704
608.246.3130 | NAUTIGAL.COM

Captain Bill's

2701 CENTURY HARBOR ROAD, MIDDLETON, WI 53562
608.831.7327 | CAPBILLS.COM

The Mariner's Inn

5339 LIGHTHOUSE BAY DRIVE, MADISON, WI 53704
608.246.3120 | MARINERSMADISON.COM

Betty Lou Cruises

1001 ARBORETUM DRIVE, #204, WAUNAKEE, WI 53597
608-246-3138 | BETTYLOUCRUISES.COM

Robert Von Rutenberg, Co-owner: As children, my brothers and I lived on and in the lake. We were very fortunate to grow up on Lake Mendota in an area that is now Governor Nelson State Park. What we enjoyed

Betty Lou Cruises began as a tribute to our mom after her death. She loved Madison lakes and all they have to offer. She was fond of saying all your troubles go away when you are in the water.

with friends as children is now open for everyone to enjoy. We have many fond memories of boating over to Picnic Point and enjoying a breakfast of scrambled eggs, sausage, and bacon cooked over a campfire with a swim afterward.

That, however, was in the sixties. A few things have changed since then. After 20-some years of annually vacationing in Florida, our mother wanted to bring outdoor dining to Madison. Before 1982, outdoor dining via patio, porch, or deck was virtually non-existent. The two exceptions were the Union Terrace and the Edgewater pier—Monona Terrace didn't even exist!

When my brother Bill opened the Nau-Ti-Gal, our mom insisted, "The deck was the deal," and not just for drinking. Full service, outside on the deck, in Wisconsin, it was the only game in town at the time. Bright yellow chairs and umbrellas and seating for 30 people. Everyone thought

my mother was crazy. Who would want to eat outside in a swamp? Today, The Nau-Ti-Gal deck is partially covered, seats 80 in the dining area, has an outdoor bar and cocktail area that seats 50, and features live music a couple of nights a week with lawn seating for 200+. People come by bike, boat, canoe, kayak, and car. We even provide dog bowls and water for your dog.

In 1993, thanks to my brother Jack, Captain Bill's was launched. Thanks to re-



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CAPITOL SQUARE



zoning and help from the city of Middleton, a large deck was added on to the restaurant. Unlike the Nau-Ti-Gal, this deck may only be accessed by going through the restaurant. A sloping lot to the lake is one of the reasons for this. Depending on where you are seated, you could be as little as a foot off the ground or as high as 11 feet off the ground. Last year, we added a sectional sofa and large coffee table to the deck. It is affectionately known as "The Captain's Passion Pit."

The Mariner's Inn was the one that started it all. When my parents purchased the property in 1966, the water was not visible from

the dining-room windows. My father and his friends spent two years clearing trees and brush just to carve out a little lawn to get to the pier. There were two round white tables with red chairs—seating for eight to have cocktails at while you waited for your table to be ready. At that time, no reservations were taken and the wait for dinner could be over three hours. In response to increased demand for outdoor seating, we added a patio that seats up to 90 people. It has a beautiful view of the marina, not to mention some spectacular sunsets.

The best outdoor dining experience in Madison is not on land. Don't get me wrong; I love eating outside at all three of our places. They all have water views and each one is very different. But, my absolute favorite place to dine is on the water. Literally, eating on the lake. Betty Lou Cruises began as a tribute to our mom after her death. She loved Madison lakes and all they have to offer. She was fond of saying all your troubles go away when you are in the water. I cannot recall how many times she told us, "Go jump in the lake!" It has always worked for me.

What began as a tribute to promote lake life in Madison has become quite a business for my brothers and me. Betty Lou Cruises



now has four vessels. Two are on Lake Mendota and two are on Lake Monona. There are a variety of menus in many, price points, from Weddings on Water to a beer and pizza cruise featuring Ian's Pizza. We do a mixture of public cruises and private charters from April until the end of October.

On behalf of my brothers and me, we greatly thank you for dining with us all these years. As much as I love outdoor dining, we would love to see you just as much in the winter sitting around one of our fireplaces at the restaurant. Until then, we will see you, and toast to you on the deck, patio, or on the Lake! ■

Our History by Richard Wagner

Gay in Waukesha

In 1960, Waukesha, Wisconsin became notorious as a place for homosexual hook-ups.



The modern discussion of homosexuality in Wisconsin was kicked off in the state in a big way by the coverage of the Oscar Wilde trial. Even in far-off Wisconsin, the coverage of his 1895 London trial was a big event with many of the dailies having 20 to 30 stories on Wilde's demise, a coverage equal in the number of stories, if not the length, of the New York dailies. The themes set by Wisconsin's editors then were that 1) homosexuals are rightly subject to the criminal justice systems (jail, courts, prison); 2) they are deserving of public shame; 3) they are a sickly bunch or certainly not normal folks; and 4) economic ruin was a likely and appropriate consequence of their depravity.

Some 65 years later, these themes would still appear to ring true, at least at first. Panic hit Waukesha, which was a relatively small Wisconsin city (population 30,000), when a "sex ring" was discovered to exist in the city's Frame Park. Before widespread suburbanization, the city located between Milwaukee and Madison was an old industrial site and county seat of independent identity.

Illicit Sex Ring

Starting September 7, 1960, headlines in the *Waukesha Daily Freeman* blared, "Arrest 10 Men for Illicit Sex Activities in City Area," and "City as Center of Illicit Sex Ring." The story that had been developing since mid-August was withheld by the *Freeman* and the Milwaukee papers at the request of the district attorney and the police chief in order to permit the undercover investigation to proceed without public disclosure. Up to six undercover police detectives per night had staked out the Frame Park restroom after learning it was being used for illicit sex. For the month of September the *Freeman* had multiple front-page stories on the scandal's developments.

Other papers in the state joined in the reporting. The *Madison Capital Times* had the story on Sept. 7 with a headline "Charge 9 Men in Sex Case at Waukesha." The *Wisconsin State Journal's* headline the next day noted, "Sex Case Crackdown Nabs 10 Men." One of the most colorful on September 8 was the *Milwaukee Sentinel's* "Arrests Break Deviate Ring in Waukesha."

In addition to the 10 arrested associated with the park events, police indicated that there were a dozen other suspects who would be questioned in the next week or so. On September 12, two more men were in court on morals charges for activity in their own home.

"Go to Frame Park, Waukesha"

The stories reputedly noted the phrase "Go to Frame Park, Waukesha" was advice passed around among homosexuals in the Midwest. The saying, "Have you tried Frame Park, Waukesha, Wisconsin?" was reputed to be on restroom walls in Milwaukee, Chicago, and Detroit. From comments made by those arrested, this reputation apparently had existed for several years. Yet, the reports of the arrestees showed that all came from the Milwaukee metropolitan area or had ties to it, as one man from Michigan was a former athlete of Carroll College of Waukesha. Clearly gay men had established a communications network under the radar that was thought to be effective.

Such notoriety and the resultant panic about homosexuals that set in seemed to alarm local officials. By September 8, some local officials were trying to calm the waters and end the sensationalism about the city being a center of illicit gay sex. Waukesha Police Chief Walter Moody was quoted as saying he did "not believe Waukesha is a 'center' of homosexual activity." Moody said

the Chicago police were unaware of Waukesha's homosexual reputation. As if to diffuse the situation, the District Attorney noted that while there had been increasing complaints in recent months about homosexuality, they had come from all areas of the county (population 150,000), not just Waukesha. The Waukesha police chief said, "This is not a haven for homosexuals or that type."

Crackdown

Later, on September 21, District Attorney George Lawler urged a "crackdown" on rumors naming Waukesha residents as homosexuals. "Because of these vicious rumors, I have asked Police Chief Moody to conduct an investigation into the sources of the rumors and who is spreading them." Apparently the witch-hunt spirit among the citizens was getting out of control. The District Attorney said he would prosecute rumormongers—noting the penalty for defamation was \$1,000 and a year in jail—saying, "Talking about others just on hearsay is ridiculous and criminal."

Concern rose as more prominent people were named. Perhaps the most prominent was the dean of men at Carroll College, enrollment 866. Adding to the concern that homosexuals might be influencing the young, in addition to the dean, arrestees included an elementary school teacher in Waukesha; a former Carroll athlete now teaching in Grosse Point, Michigan; and a Roman Catholic priest attached to the church of SS. Peter and Paul in Milwaukee. Also caught in the net were the vice president of a local oil company, an accountant, a dentist, and three physicians.



Concern rose as more prominent people were named. Perhaps the most prominent was the dean of men at Carroll College, enrollment 866.

Convictions

The youngest arrested was 22 and the oldest involved was 58. Most accounts showed consensual sex between adults was involved, though two charges involved 15-year-old boys. All the men were subjected to the criminal justice system; most were jailed and then had to post bail. Trials and hearings would develop for them over the course of the month. Most were convicted, though sometimes by pleading guilty to lesser charges.

All had their names and actions in the press. Their names were linked in stories and headlines proclaiming "morals charges" or "sex perversion" or "indecent liberties" or "sex deviates" or at least "disorderly conduct" in morally ambiguous circumstances.

Letters to the Editor

The readers of the *Waukesha Daily Freeman* who wrote letters had various takes on the sex scandal. One deplored the publishing of the stories, particularly citing the pain caused to family members by publishing the names of those involved. Yet another reader, signed "a Waukesha Parent,"

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praised the paper and police for taking action rather than giving it the kid-glove treatment and sweeping the whole mess under the rug. The letter ended with "The citizens of Waukesha want a clean town..." Yet another writer noted, "This affair has happened in other cities of this size throughout the nation before, and with our society's laxness on sexual mores will happen (however unfortunate) again in cities this size." One reader commented on the prominence of the arrestees. "There is something wrong with our standard of values when we allow men who are prominent and well-educated such as most of these men were, to go unpunished. They should be setting standards for our youth." Another wrote, "Most of these people had good educations, good families but are sick and need help badly." As if moral perversion could be everywhere, one letter writer deplored the fact that the boys in school physical education swimming classes had a "no suit" rule.

The fact that these gay men were thought to be sick was illustrated by the sending of some to state mental institutions, and others to a local sanatorium for psychiatric evaluations. At least one, the Catholic priest, had his psychiatrist testify at the trial on his need for mental help.

Financial Ruin

Economic ruin of those involved was noted in press accounts as the dean at the college resigned his job, as did the elementary teacher. The Waukesha Medical Society took steps to expel two of the doctors among the arrested who were from Waukesha. The basis for the Medical Society action was "a principle of medical ethics requiring that the medical profession safeguard the public and itself against physicians deficient in moral character or professional competence." In an indirectly related story, the paper noted that a Milwaukee teacher, a bachelor, had been "ousted" from his job for discussing prostitution, pre-marital relations, and homosexuality in his classroom.

National Attention

The Wisconsin fracas caught the attention of early national homophile

activists. *ONE* magazine published on the west coast in October 1960 contained a letter from a Mr. B. in Milwaukee in the Waukesha arrests noting that he imagined it "will lead to demands for a general crackdown on all parks by 'righteously outraged' citizens." In November, a follow-up news item in the homophile magazine reported on the Waukesha charges of sex perversion with possible prison sentences and the prominence of some of those arrested. It concluded that after the initial busts, "Several other arrests made in following weeks, with police showing little regard for proper arrest methods." This was one of the themes that *ONE* preached about: that homosexuals did not get equal justice at the hands of the police.

Ripple Effect

The dimensions of the panic were several. Not doubt local gay folks worried they would be denounced and arrested as so many already had been. There was a worry among gays about an area-wide crackdown in parks, with perhaps sexual activity in Milwaukee's Juneau Park being even more notorious. Waukesha moral guardians were in a panic because they no longer had a "clean town." Public officials had a panic about the community's good name and about prominent individuals being subject to rumors. Community institutions like schools and the Waukesha Medical Society worked quickly to clean house of homosexuals.

So when panic about homosexual activity in this small Wisconsin city occurred in 1960, they used the tried and true themes for public discourse of the prior decades to deal with the crisis: Lock them up. Shame them in public. Declare them sick. And destroy their livelihoods. While this would not be the last such incident of homosexual visibility leading to panic in Wisconsin, times of change were not far away.

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.

OUR PETS

quality of life



Zeus and Brewser with their Dads

Breeds: Zeus: Siberian husky, Brewser: Rat/Boston terrier

Ages: Zeus: 8 years, Brewser: 8 months

Owners: Jason Walker-Crawford, D. E. Walker-Crawford (Walker), and James Kohler

Where/how did you meet your dogs? Friends of ours in Atlanta had rescued Zeus. We decided to give him a go on our farm, and here he is! James's parents had a house Boston terrier and a farm rat terrier that had an unplanned encounter, resulting in Brewser.

What kind of family member is Zeus? Zeus loves to be outside roaming the farm and the nearby countryside. Brewser is our lap puppy. He's always looking for a place to cuddle into.

Zeus and Brewser, what kind of family members are your dads? Walker makes us follow the rules, James does whatever we want to be happy, and Jason rocks because he always feeds us! We should also mention our roommate Karyl helps take great care of us.

Zeus, what is your favorite toy? I have a large stuffed turtle that I like to be with me in the house.

Brewser, what is yours? I love my sister cats' little mousies. They're fun to throw up into the air and run after.

What are your must-have treats? We especially love turkey jerky and fortune cookies. The turkey jerky comes from Tabby & Jack's, and the fortune cookies come from our daddies' take-out meals.

How do your dads meet your needs? Jason, James, and Walker let us monitor the farm as much as we want. They take us to the dog park, they cuddle us, and they keep us well-groomed.

Photographed by Steena Cirves, bigredphotographymadison.com

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When Disclosure Equals Exposure

Have you ever “outed” a trans friend without asking? Therapist **Nyle Biondi** explains why this could be harmful.

Recently, I have heard several stories from trans people I know about being outed by their peers and allies. These circumstances have, perhaps surprisingly, been situations where the person doing the outing was an LGB person, an ally, or even another transgender person. The people doing the outing rarely had malicious intentions, yet their actions, in many cases, were harmful. Respecting the lives of trans people, and everyone, involves being mindful of how we are sharing stories.

Some questions that may be useful to ask yourself before you disclose someone else’s trans status are: Is disclosing this information about my trans friend relevant to my story? Does my story make sense without this information? And if my story wouldn’t make sense, do I need to tell it? Can I tell it without revealing the identity of the person in the story? What am I trying to gain by disclosing this information? Is there a way for me to check in with my trans friend before I disclose their status to others?

The stories I have heard of people being outed have varied from a trans person joining a new organization being given names of all of the other trans people in the organization, to being called upon in class to speak on behalf of trans people, to sharing gender history to make another person at ease knowing that the trans person may have been socialized differently than their gender presentation suggests (i.e., “I know you don’t really like men, but my friend is trans, so I think you’ll like him.”). In all of these instances, people have good intentions but do not always recognize why their behaviors may be problematic.

When someone outs a trans person to other trans people, they send the message that anyone’s status could be disclosed at any time. The person doing the outing may presume that all trans people will want to connect with one another and that their trans status is the thing that would connect them. Asking a trans person to share a “trans perspective” on a particular topic in class can feel violating if that person was not out to the entire class. We all know it’s unreasonable to expect one person to represent an entire community. Disclosing status to make another person feel at ease can make the trans person in question feel ill at ease, and as if their gender is not seen as real or valid.

Other things to keep in mind before outing someone without their consent:

- 1. SAFETY:** Not all trans people are out to their families, employers, landlords, teammates, friends, sexual partners, etc. Outing them may put them at risk for losing family, jobs, housing, friends, etc.
- 2. INVALIDATION AND OBJECTIFICATION:** Once a person is outed, their status often

becomes the focus of others’ attention. Frequently, trans people are asked to explain the transition process or other personal medical information about their bodies to people who are curious. Outing them discloses some of this information to others without their consent.

- 3. RESPECT:** While you may see your friend as safe person to talk about trans people with, it doesn’t mean that your trans friend will find that person safe—even if that person is also trans.
- 4. DIFFERENCES IN IDENTITIES:** most of us are aware that gender identity and sexual orientation are different. Sometimes LGBTQ people out people to each other as a way of indicating who may be in their dating pool. Outing someone as trans ignores the unique safety and privacy concerns of gender-variant people.

Asking permission around when and whether to out someone may lend itself to valuable and in-depth discussions with the trans and gender-variant people in your life. I hope we can all feel encouraged to ask questions and listen to the stories of the people in our lives in order to be better allies and advocates for each other. ■



When we consciously consider what stories belong to us and what stories belong to others, we begin to create a safer community in which people get to choose which parts of their lives they want to share with the people they encounter.

Our personal stories are some of the most powerful tools we have to educate others about our experiences. When we consciously consider what stories belong to us and what stories belong to others, we begin to create a safer community in which people get to choose which parts of their lives they want to share with the people they encounter. Separating our own stories from others’ becomes complicated when our stories overlap. The closer you are to someone, the less space there is between where your story stops and where theirs begins. This separation is especially hard when you have witnessed transition, are partnered to a trans person, or are a family member of a trans person.

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OUR RIGHTS

NOH8 Indeed

Tamara Packard breaks down for us the February Federal Appeals Court ruling on California's Proposition 8.

a Almost two years ago, a federal judge in California declared that California's constitutional amendment that took away from same-sex couples the existing right to marry violated the United States Constitution. The judge was the Honorable Vaughn R. Walker, and the amendment was known as Proposition 8. This column covered that historic decision in the September/October 2010 issue. Judge Walker's decision eloquently reflected the realities of our lives



It recognized that what Prop. 8 did was take away the status and dignity of marriage, no less and no more, and that there was no legitimate reason to do so.

and the significance of marriage in American culture. The ruling that denying same-sex couples access to civil marriage hurts us, our children, and society as a whole, while benefiting no one, lifted our spirits and helped us envision a future of marriage equality. It gave us hope that the promise of Equal Protection, made in our nation's constitution, was a promise we could believe in.

On February 7, 2012, a three-judge panel of the Federal Appeals Court for the 9th Circuit affirmed Judge Walker, agreeing that same-sex couples have a right under the United States Constitution to marry in California.*

"But wait," you ask, "What about the rest of us? Don't WE ALL have a right to marriage equality?" Many legal experts think so, but no court has yet said so. Courts regularly aim to decide cases, especially

those implicating constitutional rights, on the narrowest possible grounds. This practice leaves society the room to continue debating the broader issues, and come to a variety of resolutions along the way, each of which might also face constitutional challenge, and incrementally develop both the law and the debate. The hope is that over time, the people, the governments, and the courts will all arrive at the right big-picture conclusion at about the same time. The 9th Circuit's ruling thus did not find a broader constitutional right for same-sex couples throughout the country to marry, but limited itself to considering the narrow and unique situation presented.

Key to the 9th Circuit's ruling was the fact that prior to the passage of Prop. 8, "The California Constitution guaranteed the right to marry to opposite-sex couples and same-sex couples alike," and even after Prop. 8, California's statutes provided same-sex and opposite-sex couples identical legal rights, by different names: "marriage" and "domestic partnership." The only effect of Prop. 8 was to strip same-sex couples of their previous ability to obtain marriage licenses and use the legal term "marriage" to describe their relationships. The 9th Circuit explained that it served no purpose, and had no effect, "other than to lessen the status and human dignity of gays and lesbians in California, and to officially reclassify their relationships and families as inferior to those of opposite-sex couples." This, then, framed the question addressed by the 9th Circuit: whether the Equal Protection clause of the United States Constitution allows a state to take away the designation of "marriage" from same-sex couples, once that has already been given (and regardless of whether the U.S. Constitution requires marriage equality), while still allowing us all of the rights and responsibilities of marriage but by another name. The 9th Circuit found that doing so served no legitimate purpose, but instead merely harmed a disfavored group, and thus violated the promise of Equal Protection under the law provided in the United States Constitution.

Through its decision, the court contributed significantly to the public debate about

the meaning of marriage. It emphasized the extraordinary social significance of the official designation of marriage: "It is the designation of 'marriage' itself that expresses validation, by the state and the community, and that serves as a symbol ... of something profoundly important." It recognized that what Prop. 8 did was take away the status and dignity of marriage, no less and no more, and that there was no legitimate reason to do so.

Legally speaking, the 9th Circuit found that a 1996 U.S. Supreme Court case, *Romer v. Evans*, governed its decision. In *Romer*, Colorado's Amendment 2 made it illegal for the state and local governments to prohibit discrimination in employment, housing, and other areas based on sexual orientation, and made all such existing laws null and void. That amendment violated the Equal Protection clause because, "It is not within our constitutional tradition to enact laws ... [that] single out a certain class of citizens for disfavored legal status," which "raise the inevitable inference that the disadvantage imposed is born of animosity toward the class of persons affected." It concluded that the amendment "classifie[d] homosexuals not to further a proper legislative end but to make them unequal to everyone else." In short, the 9th Circuit found that Prop. 8 did the same thing, and therefore violated the Equal Protection clause: "By withdrawing the availability of ... 'marriage,' Proposition 8 enacts nothing more or less than a judgment about the worth and dignity of gays and lesbians as a class."

There is no doubt that the Prop. 8 proponents will ask the U.S. Supreme Court to review this decision. Yet the narrow grounds on which it was decided, mandating marriage equality only in California, and heavy reliance on *Romer*, make it less likely to interest the high court. If it does take the case, however, the Court will likely consider it on the same narrow grounds. Thus, for better or worse, we must continue to educate and debate the issue of marriage equality both before judges and in the court of public opinion. ■

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

*Editor's Note: NOH8 refers to the anti-Prop 8 campaign. Learn more at noh8campaign.com. *Unfortunately, such marriages have not resumed due to a stay pending appeal.*

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Food for Thought

Caroline Werner asks: Have you completed your Advance Directives paperwork?

As people live longer, healthier lives, how many of us seriously plan to die? Silly question! We're planning to live our lives to the fullest and enjoy ourselves, not planning to have to deal with serious illness or injury, much less die from it.

The Wisconsin Medical Society has developed a new initiative to encourage people to complete their advance directives, beginning at age 18. When you become an adult, your parents no longer have the automatic right to speak for your health care needs. When people arrive at the hospital emergency room in a comatose state or severely injured, someone needs to make decisions quickly. It's too late then to complete an advance directive.

An advance directive, according to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, "Describes, in writing, your choices about the

who are closest to you about, how you want to be taken care of when you can no longer make those decisions. When a situation arises where you are not able to speak for yourself, even if only for a brief period of time, your loved ones need to know what to say on your behalf. Completing your advance directives (Health Care Power of Attorney, Living Will, Final Disposition, and Financial Power of Attorney) gives your loved ones the power and information they need to speak for you.

Last September, the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced new guidance to support enforcement of rules that protect hospital patients' right to choose their visitors during a hospital stay, including a visitor who is a same-sex domestic partner.

According to HHS, "The rules updated the Conditions of Participation (CoPs), which are the health and safety standards all Medicare- and Medicaid-participating hospitals and critical access hospitals must meet, and apply to all patients of those hospitals even if they are not on Medicare or Medicaid. Among other things, the CoPs require hospitals to explain to all patients their right to choose who may visit them during their inpatient stay, regardless of whether the visitor is a family member, a spouse, a domestic partner (including a same-sex domestic partner), or another type of visitor, as well as their right to withdraw such consent to visitation at any time.

"Existing CoPs also protect the rights of hospital patients to have representatives who can act on their behalf. HHS has updated the guidance for these rules to emphasize that hospitals should give deference to patients' wishes concerning their representatives, whether expressed in writing, orally, or through other evidence, unless prohibited by state law," said the HHS. "The guidance issued in September is intended to make it easier for family members, including a same-sex domestic partner, to make informed care decisions for loved ones who have become incapacitated."

Because we ARE living long, healthier lives, we have the opportunity to take control of our health and our end-of-life planning. Without documentation, our loved ones won't have the information they need to make our decisions. Worse, if there are people you don't want to leave an inheritance to, they may be



When a situation arises where you are not able to speak for yourself, even if only for a brief period of time, your loved ones need to know what to say on your behalf.

treatments you want or do not want or about how health care decisions should be made for you if you cannot express your wishes.

An advance directive expresses your personal wishes, beliefs, and values. When you make an advance directive, you should consider issues like dying, living as long as possible, being kept alive on machines, being independent, and quality of life. Addressing these may be difficult but it is necessary if you want others to follow your wishes."

Taking care of your health includes thinking about, and having the conversation with those

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able to receive one if you don't leave a will. These are difficult and complex decisions to make. It's best to have information and, often, professional assistance, although forms are available online that are legal and can be easily completed. Go to www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/forms/advdirectives.

Caroline Werner is the Volunteer Senior Program Coordinator at OutReach.

LGBTQ Intergenerational Health Conference on May 5

With generous support from the New Harvest Foundation, OutReach is holding its first annual LGBTQ Intergenerational Health Conference on Saturday, May 5, at Agrace HospiceCare in Madison. This conference, planned by LGBTQ and allied professionals, includes valuable guidance about health maintenance and health care from multiple perspectives: politics, life planning, self-advocacy, and advocacy for others. Breakout sessions focus on personal and community health and life planning. Attendees will also learn about OutReach's new Share the Care Station.

Older Americans Act Update

U.S. Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin's office announced that LGBT Americans are being added to the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act in the definition of "greatest social need" as well as other amendments.

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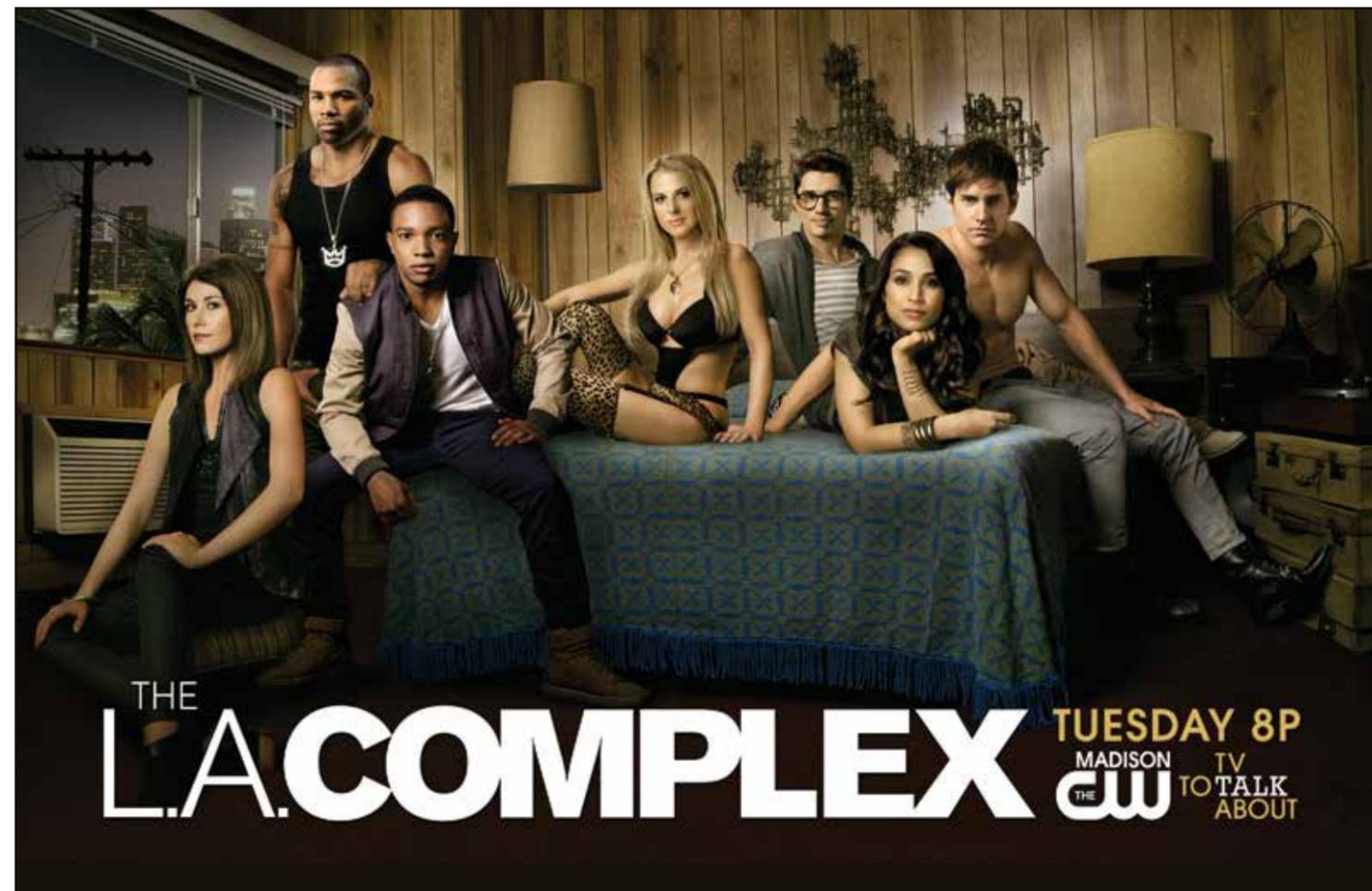


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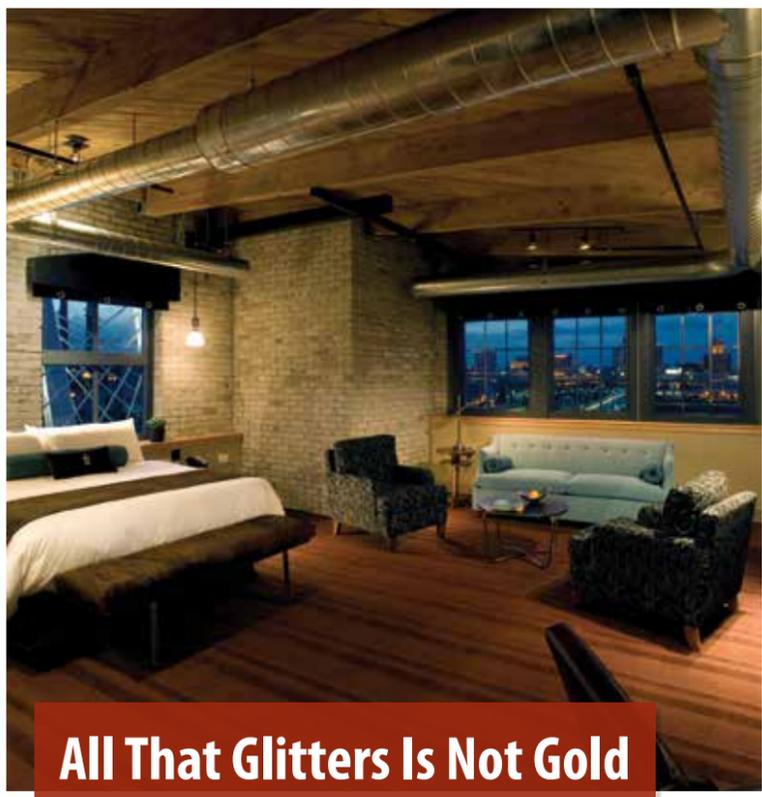
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All That Glitters Is Not Gold
The Iron Horse Hotel dazzles with industrial charm and history

The Iron Horse Hotel in Milwaukee is an experience in itself. The 100-year-old historic warehouse with open-faced brick walls, exposed beams, antiques, leather-cuffed beds, and peek-a-boo showers is enough to jog any imagination, but the fantasy goes far beyond what meets the eye.

"Everybody is treated the same, but everyone is treated as if they're rich and famous," says Front Office Manager James Valona. He comments that walking into the bar, one could expect to see "a business executive sitting next to a hardcore biker sitting next to a lesbian couple sitting next to a person from Europe."

And everyone gets along, he says. "It should be a model."

Iron Horse's leading service and ambience has garnered national attention. Among its recognition: the Boutique Hotel of the Year award from the Boutique and Lifestyle Lodging Association, and AAA's Four Diamond award; both awards won in succession for 2010 and 2011. And, Valona won the Outstanding Manager for Small Property award for 2011 from the American Hotel and Lodging Association.

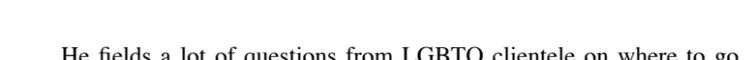
Iron Horse is also a gay-friendly, TAG-approved hotel, and though its reputation for promoting a welcome atmosphere to all guests is its main platform, a special nod to the LGBTQ community extends to its off-season "Free-to-Be" promotion. The hotel is also an official sponsor of Milwaukee Pride.

"We have a lot of staff who are lesbian and gay—it's a big part of the culture of the hotel," says Food and Beverage Director Jesse Wilder, adding that the tone for tolerance is set all the way through the corporate offices by the owner.

On a more personal level, Valona, who goes out on the town as a gay man, has noticed that guests are no exception to the human tendency to seek out others—at least at first—who are like themselves.

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OUR TASTE



He fields a lot of questions from LGBTQ clientele on where to go and what to do—because he can offer firsthand experience—but the whole staff is so open that it doesn't take long for guests to warm right up, he says.

"It's just a happy place," Valona says. "(Guests) will feel comfortable with anyone by the time they check out."

Adding to the appeal are a number of dining options: Smyth for rustic contemporary American cuisine, The Library for a piping-hot breakfast, Branded for inspired bar food, or a seasonal favorite: The Yard for outdoor dining.

Chef Maikel Correa is the hotel's executive chef. "He has a Cuban heritage but he is definitely a Wisconsin boy," Wilder says. "There's a bit of influence from his heritage yet he's still rooted in Wisconsin cooking."

Guests can find locally sourced ingredients and inspiration across the menus, from duck nachos with Door County cherry salsa and Roth Kase Grand Cru cheese sauce at Branded to a Strauss veal chop with Wisconsin Billy Blue cheese risotto, French beans, and a rosemary red wine reduction at Smyth.

"It's a very comfortable place for anyone to come in and dine," Wilder says.

History abounds, too. The name "Iron Horse" stems from the moniker Native Americans gave to trains, a nod to the nearby historic railroad; the name plays on its geographical proximity to the Harley-Davidson Museum. Inside, the stories are in the fabric of the very materials and furniture of the place: one popular antique is a monstrous apothecary cabinet from an apothecary shop that serial bank robber John Dillinger visited before robbing the bank across the street.

"There are stories everywhere in the hotel, and that's part of who we are," Wilder says. "It's more than just a hotel. When you stay here, you stay in a story." —Marcelle Richards

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U.W.-Madison student **Colton Boettcher** wanted to make a difference and give back, so he created an It Gets Better video that got noticed.

making an It Gets Better video had been on my checklist for a while, and I wanted mine to have an effect on a large scale, spreading the message that it does get better, but also normalizing homosexuality in the context of high school. My #HairMusicVideo, using Lady Gaga's song "Hair," was released in January at an event at Plan B in Madison. The video made its way to YouTube the following Thursday. The next day, at 2:51 p.m., Lady Gaga herself posted the video on Facebook and Twitter, praising our hard work for the It Gets Better Project. With the help of Lady Gaga, #HairMusicVideo went viral and reached the intended audience base within hours.

At 15, I came out as gay in a rural Wisconsin town; I was the first openly gay student at Bonduel High School. My coming-out story is not a bad one. My parents raised me to be confident and to stand up for myself. I made it a point to let people know that I was gay and that they could not have a problem with it. Being gay was normal to me; I saw myself as a normal person, so why wouldn't everyone else? This confidence helped me with bullies. I am not claiming to have had a perfect high school experience; however, it was better than many of my close friends.

It has been seven years since I came out; I am a senior at UW-Madison studying television & film. I couldn't ask for better friends or a better life. I have the full support of my parents, family, and friends; I am lucky.

When Lady Gaga's song "Hair" was released, I knew the song could be something great. I decided to create my It Gets Better video using her song and to film at Bonduel High School as a way of thanking them for my positive coming-out experience there.

Last year, from the end of September to the filming in November, we had weekly rehearsals for the dancers. Over the span of those two months, we wrote the script, recruited extras, perfected the choreography, and ordered clothing, shoes, and accessories. In the beginning of November, we shot the music video; the shoot totaled 12 hours. Editing the video took longer. Finding time to sit down and edit the video to perfection between school and work schedule proved difficult. Most of the work took place during January after the fall semester came to a close.

The amount of support and positive feedback we have received and continue to receive makes the entire project worth it. Teens need to understand that the years they spend in high school are nothing compared to what their lives entail. They need to understand that there isn't anything worth taking your life over; that there are many who want them to succeed, and many others they have yet to meet who will be grateful they made it through.

A large majority of gay teens struggle coming to terms with their sexuality, not to mention confronting their friends, peers, and family about it. Without the confidence of knowing their friends support them, knowing they can turn to their parents if they have a problem, and

understanding that they are normal, these teens are forced to face what society has stigmatized as immoral behavior on their own.

I had an advantage as a gay teen; I had support. I couldn't imagine going through high school, such an important time in any teenager's life, unsure of myself, unsure of who I was, and unsure whether my friends and

family would accept who I was because of my sexual orientation. It was because of this imbalance of support that I wanted to make a difference.

Continuing our LGBTQ activism, ceeJbee Productions is in production of our next music video. The video will bring much-needed attention to the fight for #MarriageEquality. Calling on Lady Gaga's inspiration and music again, the music video will be set to her song "Fashion of His Love." ■



With the help of Lady Gaga, #HairMusicVideo went viral and reached the intended audience base within hours.

The It Gets Better Project amazed me from day one. Their message was clear, simple, and concise. Your life as a gay individual will get better. Lady Gaga has also amazed me from her beginnings; breaking normative behavior by blessing God and gays at the same time on stage at her performances, awards acceptances, and speeches. Letting her fans and the people watching know that she not only supports the gays, but also that she is a Christian who fully supports homosexuality. For too long, the dichotomy of Christianity and homosexuality has been played out; we can coexist and be one in the same. Lady Gaga's outspoken advocacy for the gay community is one of the most important inspirational forces behind my work.



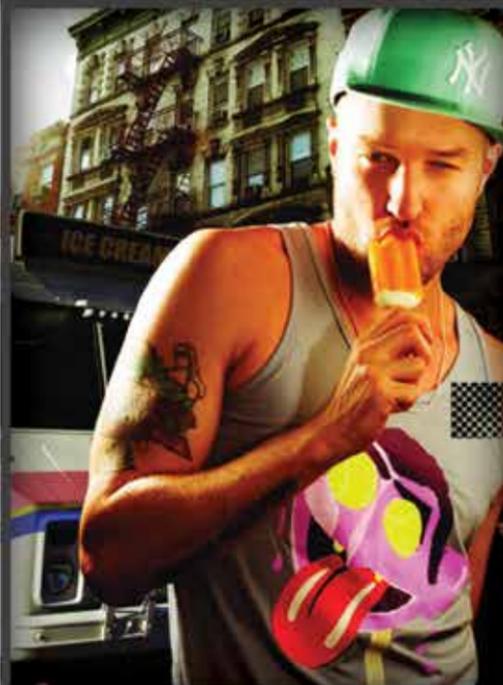
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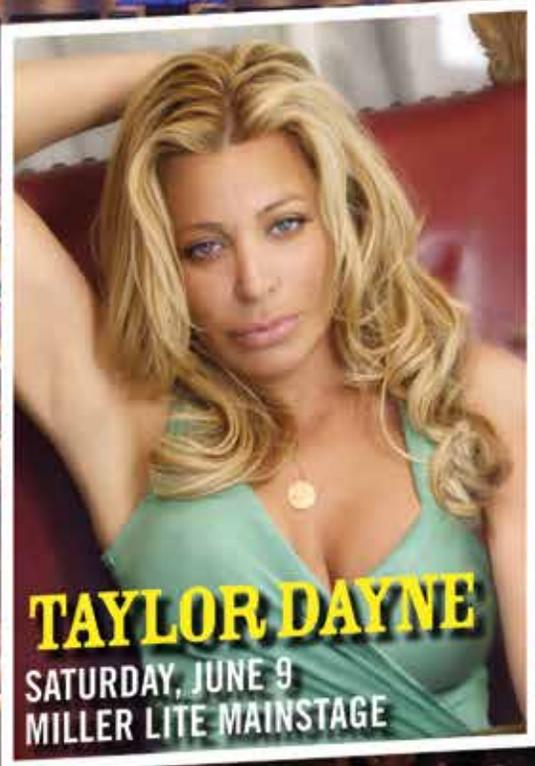


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