

our lives



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Madison's LGBT&XYZ Magazine

July/August 2014



Special Issue

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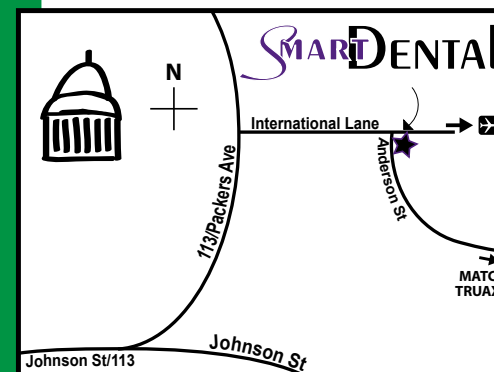
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Madison police officers Sue Carnell, Matt Kenny, and Zach Kimbrow bring wedding cakes to the couples marrying at the City-County Building on June 6.

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The Daisy Cafe brought wedding cupcakes to the County Clerk's office on June 9.

our lives



Madison's LGBT&XYZ Magazine

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Photos by Sharon Vanorny

I Got Married!

I married my fiancé, Sedrick Huppert, on the morning of June 9th, just a few days after Judge Crabb struck down Wisconsin's constitutional ban on same-sex marriage. I didn't expect it to be a huge event. We've been planning a formal ceremony for next spring, and when the opportunity opened, we both saw it as our chance to make it legal where we lived rather than driving to Minnesota to get our license.

Perhaps it was naive of me, but the emotions that I started to feel when we were handed our marriage license took me by surprise. They only grew, too, as we walked out of the county clerk's office. It was overwhelming to be received by my mom and my family, by our officiant Marty Fox, and by the line of couples who were waiting for that same important piece of paper. It all started to rush to the surface as we walked across the street to the rooftop of Monona Terrace where we said our vows with both our loved ones and the state capitol as our witness. I had to choke back tears to be able to say, "I do."

The experience and significance of legally marrying my best friend and muse helped deepen and strengthen my understanding and appreciation for how we arrived at this moment. Working through the organized chaos to produce this issue, our seventh anniversary issue no less, has been something profound, celebratory, and personal. I would like to thank everyone who helped us arrive here. You've all helped to make my life and *Our Lives* infinitely richer.

Patrick Farabaugh
Publisher

CELEBRATING OUR READERS WHO ARE

Just Married



June 7

Elizabeth Petty & Karen Milner,
Madison

June 26

Silvana & Staci Mercedes-Isbell,
Madison



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FEATURES

24 MARRIAGE MOVES FORWARD

Our special package includes an outline of the ruling striking down the ban on same-sex marriage, a dossier of the plaintiffs in the ACLU lawsuit, the path we've taken to this moment, front line comments, and newlyweds celebrations!

34 WATER RHYTHMS

Mendota Rowing Club rowers reflect on what the sport means to them.

36 WHAT'S TRENDING: HEALTH & FITNESS

Experts talk what's new and next.

38 THE RIGHT TO CARE

Dylan Byrne on health care for transpeople.

42 OUR HISTORY: JURIST PRUDES FROM THE PAST

Dick Wagner on some of the less-than-friendly court rulings in the state's past.

DEPARTMENTS

5 PUBLISHER'S LETTER

6 CONTRIBUTORS & DANE BUY LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

COMMUNITY

8 OUR ORGANIZERS

Kitty La Rue and Moxie Rhodes on the second annual Fierce! International Queer Burlesque Festival.

10 OUR ATHLETES

Alex Hanna on the culture and community of roller derby.

12 OUR ATHLETES

Kit Hamada and Daniel Burkhardt on gay hockey.

16 OUR ADVOCATES

Gypsy Vered Meltzer on becoming the first trans* person elected to office in Wisconsin.

18 OUR CALENDAR

LGBTQ events for July & August.

QUALITY OF LIFE

44 OUR PETS

Readers show off their furry family members.

46 OUR REPRESENTATIVE

Rep. Mark Pocan on LGBTQ pioneer Harvey Milk and his current work in Washington.

48 OUR ELDERS

Caroline Werner on the health care system for older LGBT community members.

50 OUR HEALTH

Molly Herrmann explains the new state health report on LGB people.

52 OUR INTERSECTIONS

Linda Ketcham on why it's crucial to change the systems that enforce monochrome workplaces.

54 OUR ISSUES

Connie North explores the work of author and teacher Helen Boyd.

56 OUR TASTE

Local food options expand with the new CSA Market Share program.

58 OUR FUTURE LEADERS

The Indian Mound Middle School GSA provides a safe space for students to provide support for each other and explore their own personalities.

CELEBRATING OUR READERS WHO ARE

Just Married

June 7

Charlotte Heron & Charlee Larson, Madison



June 6

David Goodwin & John Mysliwicz, Madison



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Samantha Dutcher has been capturing souls as a co-owner of Dutcher Photography for over 12 years. She loves photographing those perfectly imperfect little moments that make up a life well lived. Samantha and co-owner Rob currently photograph weddings, portraits of all kinds, events, and the fine sport of roller derby. To see more, visit robandsamphoto.com.



Daniella Echeverria is a designer, illustrator, and web designer in Madison, WI. She's currently working at designCraft Advertising, designing and developing websites. You can also find her tweeting at @khomuz or on her website, khomuz.com.



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June 9

Brad & Nick Schlaikowski,
Wauwatosa



June 9

Angie & Deanne Kowalzek-Adrians,
Green Bay



June 7

Mark Drzewiecki &
John Augustyniak, Milwaukee



June 7

Paula Obrien & Dawn Hoak,
Milwaukee



June 11

Robert Archer &
Allen Borgwardt, Neenah



June 7

Nicole Arndt & Jennifer Larson,
Milwaukee



June 7

Holly Ellickson &
Corissa Miller, Waunakee



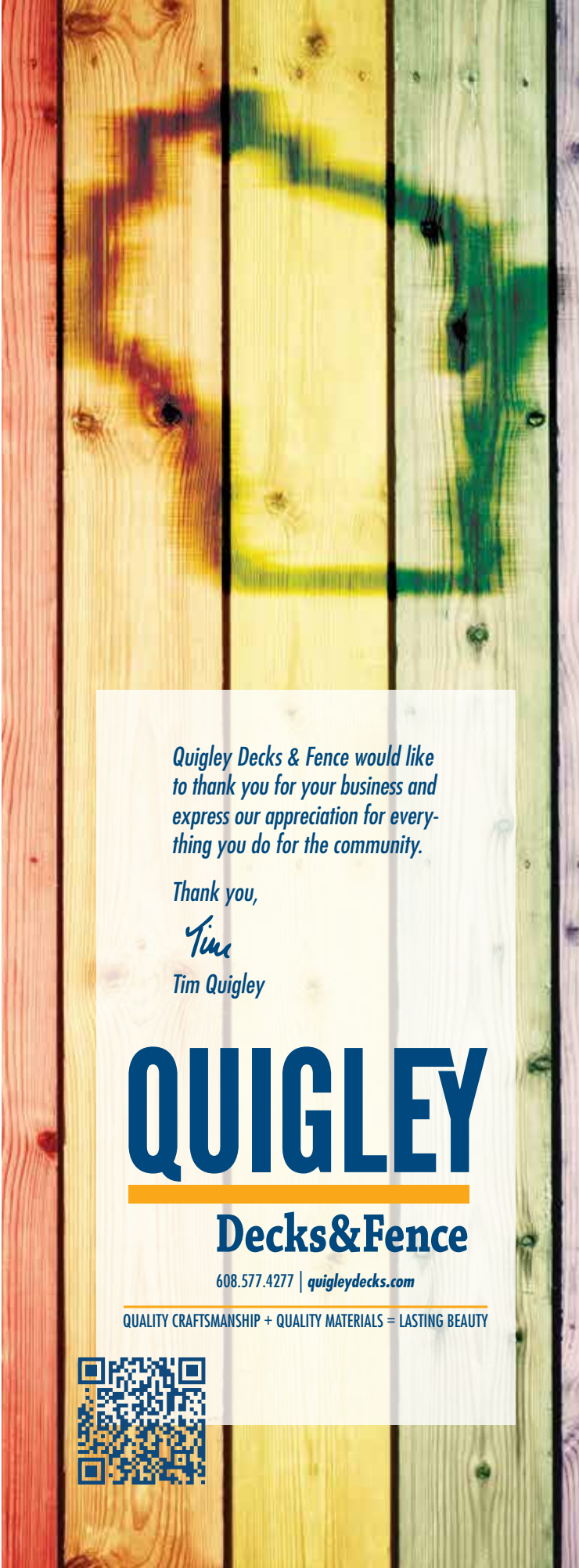
June 6

Janis Senungetuk & Sue Currier,
Madison



June 6

Amanda Evenstone &
Dawn Siebert, Madison



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Fierce and Fabulous

Local performers **Kitty La Rue** and **Moxie Rhodes** of **Peach Pies Caburlesque** helped to bring the second annual Fierce! International Queer Burlesque Festival to Madison this summer.

glitter, gumption, gaiety: All of that and more will be on display at the second annual **Fierce! International Queer Burlesque Festival**, coming to Madison for a four day run over July 24–27. The extravaganza will feature queer-identified performance artists from across the country and around the globe, strutting their finest stuff for locals to lap up.

Thursday’s show storms into Plan B with hosts Cass Marie and Sexual Chocolate. Friday sees the action move to the Majestic with host Kaiser Colonic. Saturday sashays its way into FIVE Nightclub with host Tiger. And Sunday sees the culmination of this kaleidoscopic cabaret at the Shamrock Bar & Grille with hosts the Mad City Sisters.

Co-producers **Kitty La Rue** and **Moxie Rhodes**, both of **Peach Pies Caburlesque**, talk about their roles in bringing the fest to town and what attendees can expect:

KITTY LA RUE: Last year’s fest was in Columbus and around that time (fest founder) Viva Valezz! came to us asking our thoughts for Madison being the next host city. Viva was familiar with Madison and some of our venues from previous Fierce! tours, when the festival itself was just a twinkle of an idea. Through these previous tours we also became familiar and then friendly with several other key queer/ally performers from across the country.

The festival is a four day party extravaganza. We have four completely different shows each day at four different venues. You’ll see local performers and community members, as well as people from all over the country. We really want this to be a Madison community event, not just a sparkly show. We want this festival to be all-inclusive—from the variety of performances to the make-up of the audience. This is a festival celebrating everyone! The performers are an amazingly talented group as well as incredible people, so we really are looking forward to bringing them to Madison. We are very lucky to have this caliber of talent here for four days!



Festival founder
Viva Valezz



Moxie Rhodes and
Kitty La Rue



MOXIE RHODES: Queer performance art such as burlesque has always been a large part of the queer community. Plus the amount of glitter always has been a bit of an icon. We love it flashy and fabulous, and we expect the best dance, drag, and face from this group. Queer burlesque is about acceptance and diversity. We do things a bit differently than the average as we think outside of the box. Prepare to be amazed! Our headliners are international sensations that have all graced the stages of the Burlesque Hall of Fame in Las Vegas, Nevada and some even winning titles!

KITTY: Visibility of queer art is important if for no other reason than it is incredibly diverse. It’s also a voice that until recently hasn’t been in the public eye much. The experiences that these artists have inform the artwork, creating one-of-a-kind works that are unique yet often times comment on a shared overall experience. Sometimes, though, we just want to show off pride in accepting who we are, celebrate ourselves and our community, or just be sparkly and silly.

Queer performance art is in-your-face, and you get direct feedback and reactions from an audience. Burlesque already kind of pushes the envelope a lot of times and is a safe space to explore ideas, try out new themes, raise awareness of an issue, etc. It can be over the top and ridiculous. And it can be funny. These are all things that help to maybe pave the way for an audience to accept ideas and concepts that they might not otherwise be exposed to.

My hopes are that Fierce! continues to grow each year. I hope the fact that the city of the fest is different each year helps to incorporate many more communities over the next years. It’s important that the queer/ally community is visible, respected, and accepted in relation to performance events. I’d love to see more community inclusion where the fest and host city really come together to make it a celebration of everyone in town—acceptance of who we all are, regardless of how we look, who we love, how we identify. Just one big party celebrating life. ■

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Stephanie Johnson, Madison

June 6

Renee Currie & Shari Roll,
Madison



June 11

Joline & Jessica Moore,
Oshkosh



June 7

Ellen Budden &
Annie Underberg, Stoughton



June 6

Jenny Quisler & Sara Brown,
Madison



June 6

Mare Chapman & Pamela Porter,
Madison



June 6

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June 10

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June 9

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Free to Roll

The culture and community of roller derby helped Alex Hanna get comfortable with their non-binary gender identity and kick butt on skates.



Photo by Wendi Kent

I can't say that I'm not conflicted about pushing for the inclusion of non-binary genders within roller derby. Establishing a women's-only space can be empowering, liberating, and a truly feminist act.



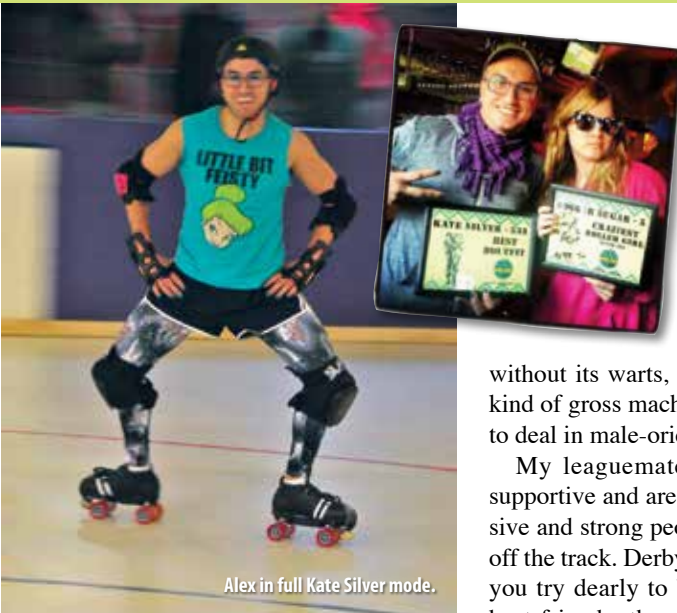
In the fall of 2012 I had a revelation: I am transgender. I identify as a non-binary trans* person tending toward the more feminine end of the gender continuum, an identity that shifts the more I've been exploring my gender expression and presentation.

At first, I only told close friends and sought out therapy. I dug for trans* narratives that didn't follow the pattern of "I've always known" or spending childhood evenings praying that God would turn me into a woman—because I did neither of those things. I was a nerdy boy, with religious immigrant parents, who knew he didn't really fit in with anyone but the other social outcasts in grade school. That's not to say that those other narratives aren't just as valid, but personally I couldn't find anything to which I could relate.

I happened on roller derby around the same time. I had a few friends involved with the Mad Rollin' Dolls (MRD) league in Madison who took me to my first bout. Even though my skater friend ended up breaking a leg that night (she's better now!), I was hooked. Even at that first game, derby seemed like a really queer-friendly place that took all kinds, old and young, short and tall, fishnets and full athletic garb. I wanted to find some way to get involved with the league. Getting on skates seemed the most exciting of these prospects, so I went the path of becoming a referee, which is open to all genders.

The second time I was on skates was during Baby Dolls, MRD's summer boot camp. Really fast people whizzed by me as I shook in my (skate) boots, which were, I found out later, much too big for me. The whole four-hour assessment went by like a blur, but my favorite part of that experience was when I had to do two laps of backwards skating around the track. At the time, you might as well have asked me to levitate around it. It took me an eternity to do a single lap, but all the other skaters chanted my name while I was doing it. That's the first taste I got of the loving, supportive community that is roller derby.

I didn't end up skating with Baby Dolls that summer but instead started with the Mad Wreckin' Dolls (or as we call ourselves, the Wreckers), the recreational league affiliated with MRD. Although originally intending to train as a ref, the more I got involved with Wreckers, the more I realized how important of a space derby was becoming for understanding my gender identity. Wreckers take



Alex in full Kate Silver mode.

all sorts, from seasoned athletes to shaky first-timers. It's an environment of full support.

Having amazing leaguemates and the environment they fostered allowed me to become more comfortable expressing my femininity in a semi-public place, and the community made me realize how much I wanted to play the game.

Some of the work around trans* issues and policies in derby undertaken by the Trans, Gender-Non conforming, and Intersex Athletes Network encouraged me to send a timid email to the Wreckers executive board, asking what the policy would be for non-binary trans* folks playing a sport in a league that has traditionally been for those who are female-identified. The board was more than receptive, and we've been working to draft and implement a gender policy that is more inclusive. Encouragingly, similar discussions are now playing out within MRD and the Women's Flat Track Derby Association, the largest governing body of roller derby leagues in the world.

I can't say that I'm not conflicted about pushing for the inclusion of non-binary genders within roller derby. We live in an incredibly patriarchal society that constantly puts unrealistic expectations and limitations on women and what they can do with their own bodies. Establishing a women's-only space can be empowering, liberating, and a truly feminist act.

At the same time, I believe that it's completely in the spirit of those feminist ideals to establish a space that accepts non-binary people who want to be accepted into a dominant women's space. Roller derby is the first

sport that I've played in which I've felt incredibly confident and good about myself and self-image. I wrestled in high school but was driven out by a coach who was the embodiment of hypermasculinity. While derby isn't

without its warts, it's practically free of the kind of gross machismo with which I've had to deal in male-oriented sports.

My leaguemates have been incredibly supportive and are some of the most impressive and strong people I've ever met, on and off the track. Derby's the kind of sport where you try dearly to beat the crap out of your best friends, then go out and sing karaoke with them, brag about the bruises they left you, cry in their cars, and hug it out.

At a time in my life when I'm continually unsure of my body, vacillating between abhorring it and celebrating whatever kind of femininity I can manage to express, roller derby has helped me to take the utmost care of it, to eat well and drink less, to cross-train regularly, to treat myself to days of self-care and love. It's made me realize more and more how amazing my body is and to what extent I can push it. I'm proud to be a part of this community. ■

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Why Gay Sports?

The essays that players from the **Madison Gay Hockey Association** write each year show the unique significance of the support they receive by playing in an LGBTQ sports league.



Each year for the last 8 years, the Madison Gay Hockey Association has invited its players at the end of the season to write an essay about the impact being a part of the association has had on their identity and their relationship to both sports and the LGBTQ community. As the league founder these essays always move me to tears. But I am also taken by the diversity of the experience from player to player and the common themes that all of them seem to share. This past season the league had a record 11 players come forward to write a narrative. Although the two below especially stood out to league leadership, each essay written shined a light on something unique to its author. If you like Kit’s and Daniel’s essays, I hope you will consider reading the others in-full on the league’s website at madisongayhockey.org/history-mgha-essay

–Patrick Farabaugh

Kit Hamada: The Rookie

I’ve never been any good at sports. Before joining the MGHA, the last time I tried to play a team sport was in high school gym class, where it seemed like everyone else instinctively knew how to play the game and I was left in the dark. If someone happened to pass to me, my options were to flail wildly or duck and hope the ball wouldn’t hit me. My teammates generally avoided passing to me after the first few times. I tried my best to look like I was trying hard, but I had already learned the one thing that gym class had to teach me: I just wasn’t cut out for sports.

Fast forward ten years. In the summer of 2012, I moved from New Mexico to Madison to start a new job. Madison was an entirely new city for me, and I hardly knew anyone, so I was determined to get involved with something where I could make new friends.

Around the same time, my friend Lexi had dragged me into watching hockey with her. I was living in Canada in 2010, so of course I had to watch Olympics hockey, which was probably my first inkling of interest in the sport. But I didn’t have the time or attention span to keep up with NHL hockey...or so I thought, until I found myself actively seeking out games and watching with bated breath, even though I didn’t understand half of what was going on. I thought maybe if I watched for long enough, a lightbulb would go on in my head and all of the whistles and plays would suddenly make sense to me. When that didn’t happen, I started entertaining the thought of learning how to play hockey because then at least I’d get an explanation of the rules. If that were my goal, I decided, then it’d be okay if I were terrible at it.

I wasn’t thinking about hockey when I decided to move to Madison, but I quickly realized that I couldn’t be living in a better place for it. On a whim, I googled “Madison hockey” and the website for the

Madison Gay Hockey Association came up as one of the top results. It sounded perfect—too good to be true.

The problem was, I was nervous enough about the idea of hockey and trying something new. And the thought of joining the Gay Hockey Association felt terrifying for entirely different reasons.

I’ve never been a part of a gay community before. I’ve never really felt like I fit into the communities I have been a part of, but rather like someone lurking around the outskirts, unsure of my welcome. That’s how I was used to living my life. Growing up, the few gay role models I had were teachers involved in the GSA, whom I observed from afar. I was too intimidated to talk to people I knew were gay and too scared to talk about being gay. Gay people were brash and unafraid. They wore rainbows on their backpacks and wrists and didn’t care what other people thought. They talked about girls they thought were cute—classmates, actors, coffee shop baristas—in places where anyone could overhear, whereas by the time I graduated college, I could count the number of people I’d come out to on one hand.

Heart hammering, I filled out the new player form and submitted it anyway. This is how I found myself a month later, armed with a bag full of hockey gear and a stick I had no idea how to use, having one of the weirdest thoughts possible as I walked into the locker room: what if I’m not gay enough? All of the returning players looked so cool, and clearly knew each other. I couldn’t imagine myself fitting in. And even the other newbies seemed at ease with both each other and themselves.



Just being surrounded by people who accepted me for who I am made some vital part of me that I didn’t even realize was constantly on guard relax.

I don’t remember much from that first practice anymore, but a few moments still stand out vividly. Watching Ames hockey stop inches away from the boards like it was easy, and despairing over ever being able to do that. Me falling over backwards every time we would stop and gather to listen to the coaches because I was used to figure skates and kept forgetting that in hockey skates you couldn’t lean back as far. A kid with the biggest smile on his face, who skated fast even though he looked like he barely knew where his feet were and crashed into the boards at both ends. I got up the courage to smile back at him, and he introduced himself as Chue.

I was about as awful at hockey as I expected. I could skate around okay, but I couldn’t stop at all. I had no idea what to do with my stick. And I couldn’t carry the puck for even a second unless I slowed down to a snail’s pace. None of that mattered though, because no one was yelling at me for not doing things right. The complete opposite, actually—all I ever heard was constant encouragement.

Our second practice was a week later, on my 24th birthday. Even though no one knew it was my birthday, I remember thinking that learning how to play hockey was the best possible gift.

From then on, I was hooked. It didn’t seem to matter that I was awkward and didn’t know what to say to anyone off the ice because we were all awkward on the ice, and no one cared. We came from vastly different backgrounds and experiences, and we came to the MGHA for a variety of reasons, but now that we were here, we were in this together. As we learned how to play hockey the MGHA way, I made more friends than I ever expected. Just being surrounded by people who accepted me for who I am made some vital part of me that I didn’t even realize was constantly on guard relax.

I look up to every single person in this league. For being brave enough to play hockey, for being brave enough to try, for not giving up, for having fun, for falling down and laughing about it. For loving hockey enough to dedicate countless hours to it. For leading by example, in both hockey and life. For showing up to play, week in and week out, as much as you can. For being amazing. For being yourselves.

This is what gay hockey means to me.

It means that even when I could barely keep track of the puck, much less the rest of the game, I never once felt like my teammates resented me or wished they could have a better player in my place. They had more confidence in me than I had in myself. It took a while for it to truly sink in that no one was going to be mad at me whenever I went offside or turned over the puck or failed to catch an easy pass. But once it did, I stopped worrying about making mistakes and started trying to prove myself wrong about not being good at sports.

It means that the amazing level of support I felt from my team exists throughout the entire league. We help each other up when we fall

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down, and we celebrate each others’ achievements like they’re our own. We show our support and caring for each other in so many ways, both on the ice and off, that listing all of the moments I can think of would be overwhelming. I know many people have their own stories to tell—personally, the one that blew me away the most was when a group of us played in a pond hockey tournament this year. Despite the well-below-freezing temperatures, our friends showed up at 8 a.m. to cheer us on (with a cowbell!).

It means that I am not only a part of a community—a hockey community and a gay community—but I’ve found myself right in the middle of it. Even a year ago, I wouldn’t have believed it if you told me I would be one of the people in charge of planning championship night. I’m not that good at putting myself out there, and I never expected that I could be a part of something so big and feel like I truly belong, but you guys drew me in and showed me what it feels like to be surrounded by wholehearted acceptance. Because of this league, I am proud to be a gay hockey player.

Gay hockey means challenging yourself to do things you’ve never done before. It’s about overcoming things that you think are impossible. It’s about having the courage to even try.

Before I joined the MGHA, I could skate well enough to get around the rink without falling but not much more. I couldn’t skate particularly fast, but it didn’t matter—back then, skating with my arms spread wide felt like flying.

Two years and 287 hours of ice time later, I can feel my skate blades dig into the ice with each stride. I don’t feel like I’m about to launch myself into flight. Instead, I feel like I’m landing. Like I’ve finally found a place for myself. Like I have something in my life that’s worth holding on to. Like I’m coming home. ■

Daniel Burkhardt: Reconnecting to His Inner Athlete

I started playing hockey when I was in fourth grade. My parents viewed it as a healthy social activity to gain independence and self-confidence. As I began to develop my skills on the ice, I was becoming more and more aware of my identity off the ice. Entering my teen years, that confidence and independence began to be replaced with anxiety and intimidation. I began to smell more from fear than gear—a scent that is hard enough to wash off as it is.

I was hiding and realized that my timidity was starting to be noticed. And, of course, playing hockey at a private Roman Catholic high school was...interesting to say the least. Dealing with group showers where older students singled you out—pinned you against the wall naked in the shower—because you were new to the team and already enough of an outcast made for a very convincing reason to put the pads back in the closet and hope to stay there myself as well.

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Years later, as a sophomore in college, I created a new stereotype that was not founded on experience—when I first saw advertisements for MGHA in fall of 2007. Wow, a bunch of other gays on the ice. That’s gotta be...

So this is what it’s like to not be hetero and to play sports...no thanks. I like the game, not the players. It became ingrained into a sport that I grew up playing, that I had in common with many of my close friends and cousins. A stereotype founded on experience had been established: the ice was too thin to skate if you don’t fit the mold. Years later, as a sophomore in college, I created a new stereotype that was not founded on experience—when I first saw advertisements for MGHA in fall of 2007. Wow, a bunch of other gays on the ice. That’s gotta be...“fabulous! pschh”...maybe we’d break into synchronized figure-skating routines midway through and have matching leotards.

I laughed it off, knowing I couldn’t go back to the game I grew up with, and that MGHA probably wouldn’t compare; that I’d just be associating myself with a bunch of flamboyant queens at a time when I was still in the closet, trying to avoid any potential sources of ridicule.

Even after I came out, it took me five years and plenty of excuses to even give MGHA a fair shot. “I’m too busy, I don’t have all my gear, I probably can’t afford it. Besides, I’m probably the only gay that actually knows how to play this ‘hyper-masculinized’ sport, plus...I’m not that gay.”

It wasn’t until I used that excuse to an MGHA player at Plan B, when they shot back with “What do you mean by that gay? MGHA isn’t about being gay. It’s about being accepted. What, do you think we’re just a bunch of queens on ice? Okay, well...some of us are...but that aside! You’re assuming what we are. We have plenty of straight players. And, yes, we actually DO know how to play. If you don’t believe me, we have our first clinic this coming Sunday. Show up. See how you do back on skates; see if you can keep up. If you don’t like it...then don’t join.”

I mulled it over for a bit, shocked that all of my excuses had been diffused by this one guy on his fourth drink. Either my excuses were weak or his powers of deliberation were strong. Since his drinks were

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obviously potent, I could easily dismiss the latter, meaning that I took what he said to heart.

I arrived at Hartmeyer not really planning to talk much with anyone. “Get on the ice, slap the puck around a bit, and leave.”

That plan fell through almost immediately—as soon as I realized and thought to myself, “I didn’t pack my jersey...oh, fu—” The person sitting next to me tossed one at me, saying, “I have an extra one... looks like you need it for the next hour more than my bag does.”

I’m embarrassed by the assumptions and subsequent restrictions I forced on myself, still kicking myself over the fact that it took me this long to get back into a sport I love.

After I geared up, as I took my first strides in over ten years back onto the ice, I looked around and was in awe not only with the number of people, but also with how skilled many of the players were—especially those who had only been in the league for a year or two. “Holy H-E-double-hockey-sticks! There’s actually some pretty stiff competition.”

I found out after the first practice clinic that MGHA is actually the largest rec hockey league in Madison. Because someone got me back on the ice for that one practice, I was able to restore hockey as a part of my weekly routine and even started branching out to other local pickup leagues just to get more ice time. I’m embarrassed by the assumptions and subsequent restrictions I forced on myself, still kicking myself over the fact that it took me this long to get back into a sport I love.

It takes just one person. Next thing you know, you’re in the game. You’re no longer watching on the sidelines. You’re ready to make the big play...and you fall on your ass. In front of everyone.

But instead of a laugh, you get a hand reaching out to help you back on your feet. You get words of affirmation; that you’re almost there, that they’re gonna make sure you keep at it, that you get better, and that you succeed.

The hardest part of accomplishing any goal in life is taking the initiative to start. Sometimes we sit on the bench and watch others as they make the big plays. Sometimes we talk with others about our aspirations, that someday, we’ll be successful. Someday, we’ll prove ourselves to anyone that ever challenged us. Someday, we’ll be in a better place. And sometimes we just sit there...waiting for everything to be right.

It takes just one person. This is the kind of play that everyone faces each day, on and off the ice. How others respond speaks to their demeanor. How you react can speak wonders to your character.

Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Trans, Cis, Straight, Queer, Questioning... Within MGHA, everyone is viewed as a teammate, regardless of which team you play for. You are viewed, accepted, and respected as a person. And if you can lace up those skates and make it on the ice, you can play. Even after your first time there, you develop the mindset that it’s no longer MGHA and you’re a participant. You get the feeling right away that you are an extension of MGHA.

The best thing that MGHA does is that it embraces everyone looking for friends and community. It becomes a family that you know will be there for you, a group of individuals that you can learn and

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grow from. You can make mistakes and people will be there not to point them out, but to take the time to help teach you. You learn about far more than hockey. You learn about the intricate diversity in those around you. You learn about yourself. You learn to replace your timid discomfort with appreciation and respect. You learn how to be there for others while you develop more confidence and trust in yourself.

Why join? The better question is; why not? Perhaps you haven’t gotten that push yet. Perhaps you don’t think you’re good enough. Perhaps you have an excuse like I did that hasn’t been dissolved away by someone. Perhaps you’re scared to make that play and fall on the ice. Make that play. If you fall, we’ll be here to help you up.

And soon enough, you’ll be the one who’s helping others up. ■

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Gypsy Vered Meltzer became the first trans* person elected to public office in Wisconsin when he became an Appleton alderperson earlier this year.



One of my favorite things about growing up in China is the gender neutral language. The pronouns for “he,” “she,” and “it” are all “ta,” all pronounced with the same tone.

my understanding of social constructs and the fluidity of reality.

I was seven years old when I arrived in China, and my mother had given me a very short haircut. One of the first Chinese phrases I learned to understand was the question posed to my parents: “Is that your son or your daughter?” My parents did not enforce gender conformity and encouraged me to figure myself out on my own terms. My parents and my sister have always been loving and supportive. I was homeschooled quite a lot, and during the two years I spent at Stevens Point Area Senior High, I was such a socially awkward freak on so many different levels that no one knew what to think of me, and I enjoyed keeping it that way. So my gender identity and expression were always organic and taken for granted. My parents always encouraged self-discovery, and my peers avoided me rather than making me defend myself. I’d say I was very lucky, but I believe in coincidence

and serendipity rather than luck.

When I arrived at Lawrence University, I had the joy of all joys to find the Yuai Community, a gender-neutral fraternity of sorts that has existed on campus for many years now. In this campus organization focused on tolerance and diversity, I made deep, meaningful friendships. I helped create and maintain a judgment-free atmosphere in which gender identity was incidental, and we all supported each others’ self-expression with a spiritual passion.

As a result, thinking of myself as representative of any particular group or category of people gives me a bit of cognitive dissonance. I am a cultivated tangle of contradiction and paradox. I never expected to make history or be taken seriously. As a writer, raising questions is satisfying enough. I never aspired to do more. So it is difficult to relate to my personal place in history. One of my biggest challenges has been discovering that I really am making a difference in real time rather than through my writing. But where do I go from here?

Another big challenge I will always face is the fact that I will always be a boy in a girl’s body. I have physical conditions that have led me to rule out hormone treatment and surgery as viable options. Over the years I have developed various methods and mythologies in order to accept and love my body. It’s a type of self-discipline somewhat like yoga, and I still often lapse into depression and feel overcome by physical dissonance.

I long for a world in which gender is a fluid spectrum rather than a rigid binary. A world in which gender roles are all improvised rather than scripted. Creating that world is much more important to me than asserting my masculinity or adhering to cultural norms. ■

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Cultural, Social, Service, and Nightlife listings



Fierce! 2: International Queer Burlesque Festival
July 24–27, Downtown Madison

This burlesque and performance art extravaganza brings in talent from across the country for shows honoring the history of and diversity within the queer burlesque community, celebrating a spectrum of age, race, ethnicity, class, body type, access/ability, and gender expressions.



WOOF's Pride Block Party
August 9, 100 Block of King St.

WOOF's Pride celebration will feature live music, dancing, games, and more, with guest appearances by DJ Chomper, Furrlesque, Tom Goss, and DJ John Murges. All charitable contributions will go to support the OutReach Pride Parade the next day. www.woofsmadison.com



OutReach Pride Parade
August 10, East Side & Capitol Sq.

OutReach leads a coalition of local organizations and businesses to host the 2014 Pride Parade. The parade stages and kicks off from Madison's new Central Park, and marches up Williamson St. to the Capitol Square. The event will culminate with a rally on the State St. side of the Capitol. lgbtoutreach.com

ORGANIZATIONS

A representative sampling

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

Alianza Latina
facebook.com/alianzalatinamadison

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)
122 E. Olin Ave., Madison (608) 661-4141
gsafeui.org

Gay Softball League
badgerlandsoftball.com

Gay Volleyball League
madisongayvolleyball.com

Hermanos Latinos
sneal@aidsnetwork.org

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
lgbtoutreach.org

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

Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus
perfectharmonychorus.org

Proud Theater (LGBTQ Youth)
proudtheater.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

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October 12:

GSAFE Walk/Run/Eat

October 18:

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October 12:

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our lives

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Art Fair on the Square, July 12–13, Capitol Square, Madison With its mix of music, entertainment, and outdoor dining, as well as more than 450 artists exhibiting paintings, prints, photographs, sculpture, jewelry, handmade clothing and accessories, and fine crafts, the fair draws nearly 200,000 visitors to Madison's Capitol Square each year. mmoca.org

Art Fair Off the Square, July 12–13, Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and on the Monona Terrace Esplanade, Madison The two day event is a showcase for about 140 Wisconsin exhibitors and includes food and unexpected, spontaneous happenings. The show features ceramics, art glass, paintings, fiber, sculpture, jewelry, graphics, paper-making, photography, wood, and more. artcraftwis.org

Middleton Players Theatre presents "A Chorus Line," August 8–16, Middleton Performing Arts Center MPT presents a production of the stunning musical-verite about a chorus audition for a Broadway musical. It tells of the achingly poignant ambitions of professional Broadway gypsies to land a job in the show and is a powerful metaphor for all human aspiration. middletonplayers.com



Disability Pride, July 26, Brittingham Park, Madison Celebrate the talents, skills, arts, energy, and pride of people with and without disabilities. The Disability Pride Festival brings families, friends, and neighbors together to forward the possibility of every life. The event will feature live music, performance, food, vendors, and more. disabilitypridemadison.org

ACT12: Wisconsin AIDS Ride, July 31 – August 3, South-central Wisconsin The annual 300+ mile bike ride raises money to support AIDS Network while building community. Support riders and crew at the opening ceremonies on July 31 or at one of the designated cheering stations along the route (listed on website). actride.org

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1982

Wisconsin becomes the first state in the nation to ban discrimination on the basis of one's sexual orientation.

1997

Rep. Lorraine Serrati from Spread Eagle introduced Assembly Bill 104 to prohibit the possibility of same-sex marriage in Wisconsin. The only public hearing on the bill was in Wausau on March 10, 1997. Activists, including Representative Tammy Baldwin, began organizing trips to Wausau for the public to testify against it. The chair of that committee, Rep. Michael Huebsch, cut off debate with more people waiting to testify, saying "I don't need to hear any more; I've already made up my mind." This was the beginning of Action Wisconsin, later renamed Fair Wisconsin.

2006

59.4 percent of Wisconsin voters approve a constitutional amendment that limits marriage in the state to "one man and one woman."

May 30, 2008

Dane County Court Judge Richard Niess dismisses a lawsuit seeking to overturn the same-sex marriage ban on the grounds that the wording of the question on the ballot improperly asked two questions at once: whether the state should ban same-sex marriage and whether it should ban similar arrangements such as civil unions.

Aug. 3, 2009

Wisconsin creates a domestic partner registry so that same-sex couples may have access to a handful of the rights and protections given under full marriage.

June 20, 2011

A challenge to the state's domestic partnership registry is thrown out by Dane County Judge Daniel Moeser who says the registry "does not violate the Marriage Amendment because it does not create a legal status that is identical or substantially similar to that of marriage."

June 26, 2013

The U.S. Supreme Court rules that the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is unconstitutional, allowing the federal government to recognize same-sex marriages performed in those states that have legalized it.

Feb. 3, 2014

The ACLU of Wisconsin files a lawsuit on behalf of four (later increased to eight) couples arguing that the state's ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

our lives • special section

MARRIAGE MOVES FORWARD

Victory for Equality

Attorney **Michele L. Perreault** explains Judge Crabb's historic ruling declaring Wisconsin's marriage equality ban unconstitutional.

"It is DECLARED that art. XIII, § 13 of the Wisconsin Constitution violates plaintiffs' fundamental right to marry and their right to equal protection of laws under the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. Any Wisconsin statutory provisions, including those in Wisconsin Statutes chapter 765 [marriage statutes] that limit marriages to a 'husband' and a 'wife,' are unconstitutional as applied to same-sex marriages." Barbara B. Crabb, District Court Judge, Western District of Wisconsin.

With those words, on June 6, 2014, Judge Crabb issued a legal decision that many of us have been seeking our entire lives and one that generations of Wisconsin citizens could see only as an unattainable dream. Marriage equality has come to Wisconsin. Just as important as the outcome set forth in the quote above is the reasoning and legal analysis contained in Judge Crabb's 88-page decision. Despite the fact that her decision is already subject to an appeal and efforts by Attorney General JB Van Hollen and Governor Scott Walker to have marriage equality overturned, her thoughtful, detailed analysis provides a roadmap to what most of us believe to be inevitable: full marriage equality in Wisconsin.

"I conclude that the right to marry protected by the Constitution includes same-sex couples."

Barbara B. Crabb
District Court Judge,
Western District of
Wisconsin

The lawsuit challenged two categories of laws that interfere with marriage equality: the constitutional amendment passed in 2006 and statutes related to marriage formation and recognition. Plaintiffs, represented by the ACLU, contended that these laws violate their fundamental right to marry (a right that the U.S. Supreme Court has previously confirmed for interracial marriages, incarcerated individuals, and people who do not pay court-ordered child support, among others). Judge Crabb declared, "I conclude that the right to marry protected by the Constitution includes same-sex couples."

Judge Crabb addressed each of the State's arguments against marriage equality, giving more attention to some over others. She also addressed an argument not specifically raised by the State. In a perhaps preemptive statement, Judge Crabb wrote that domestic partnerships are not the equivalent of marriage, even if all of the tangible benefits would be the same, as

"a 'separate but equal' institution still connotes a second-class status."

The State contended that the Court should not interfere with "the traditional view of marriage—between a man and woman [that] has been recognized for millennia." In response, Judge Crabb pointed out that "throughout history, the most 'traditional' (CONTINUED ON PAGE 26)

inside:

- 26 **Victory For Equality:** The legal impact of the ruling
- 26 **Timeline:** Wisconsin's path to marriage equality
- 27 **Firsts:** Dane County couples legally wed
- 28 **Front Line Force:** Dane County Clerk Scott McDonnell, Judge Ellen Berz, and Judge Rhonda Lanford
- 28 **Fair Wisconsin:** Standing on many strong shoulders
- 29 **Firsts:** Marriage equality pioneer Donna Burkett
- 30 **Out at Work:** A past cover couple makes it legal
- 30 **Love Warriors:** Meet the ACLU plaintiffs
- 30 **Marriage Equality:** State-by-State

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March 24

U.S. District Judge Barbara Crabb (Western District of Wisconsin) rejects an attempt by Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen to delay the marriage equality case pending before her, confirming a schedule established by Magistrate Judge Stephen Crocker to complete briefing in the case by the end of May.

May 23

AG Van Hollen takes the unusual step of asking Judge Crabb to immediately block her own decision if she does strike down the ban. On the same day, Governor Walker backs away from his previous ardent support for the marriage ban by saying he doesn't know if the 2006 amendment violates the state constitution or whether it would still be approved by voters now.

3:30 p.m., June 6

Judge Crabb overturns Wisconsin's gay marriage ban as unconstitutional, saying that it violates same-sex couples' rights to equal protection. She does not issue an immediate stay of her ruling, and both Dane and Milwaukee Counties almost immediately begin to issue licenses to same-sex couples.

4:23 p.m., June 6

Renee Currie and Shari Roll, together for 10 years, are the first in line to get a license from the Dane County clerk's office. They are married on the steps of the City-County building by Mike Quieto, who works in the City Clerk's office. Dane County Clerk Scott McDonell, who prepped the office to be ready in the event the ban was overturned, keeps the offices open late Friday and into Saturday to see couples married.

4:30 p.m., June 6

AG Van Hollen files an emergency order with Judge Crabb asking that a stay be placed on her decision in order to stop same-sex marriages from proceeding.

June 9

Judge Crabb declines to issue a stay of her ruling but says her decision doesn't mean county clerks should be issuing same-sex licenses yet. Judge Crabb asks ACLU to propose language for an injunction of the state's marriage equality ban.

June 9

The ACLU files their proposed injunctive language on the ban on same-sex marriage in Wisconsin. The proposed language would, among other things, require county clerks to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples and also provide for recognition of marriages of couples lawfully married in Wisconsin or other jurisdictions. It would also provide to same-sex couples lawfully married in Wisconsin or other jurisdictions all the state law's rights, protections, obligations, and benefits of marriage that are provided to different-sex couples.

June 12

In an interview with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Van Hollen warns that county clerks could be charged for issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples but walks back the statement a day later and claims his comments received "unfortunate and amplified media attention." Meanwhile, Gov. Walker continues to back away from his own opposition to marriage equality by stating in an interview that his views on the subject "don't matter."

June 13

Judge Crabb reluctantly decides to stay her ruling, putting same-sex marriages on hold and in legal limbo until the state's appeal runs its course. "After seeing the expressions of joy on the faces of so many newly wedded couples featured in media reports, I find it difficult to impose a stay on the event that is responsible for eliciting that emotion, even if the stay is only temporary," Crabb wrote in her order. "Same-sex couples have waited many years to receive equal treatment under the law, so it is understandable that they do not want to wait any longer."

form of marriage has not been between one man and one woman, but between one man and multiple women." She also pointed to some of the "darker" traditions which later generations have rejected as a denial of equality, including slavery, anti-miscegenation, segregation, and denial of women's right to vote.

The next argument by the State was that one of the primary purposes of marriage was to encourage "responsible procreation." In rejecting that argument (one used and rejected in many similar lawsuits), Judge Crabb wrote, "One problem with the procreation rationale is that defendants do not identify any reason why denying marriage to same-sex couples will encourage opposite-sex couples to have children, either 'responsibly' or 'irresponsibly.'"

In response to an inference that opposite-sex couples "need" marriage more than same-sex couples do (because of straight people's irresponsibility with regard to procreation?) Judge Crabb replied, "Treating such a



Judge Barbara Crabb

fundamental right [the right to marry] as just another government benefit that can be offered or withheld at the whim of the state is an indicator either that defendants fail to appreciate the implications for equal citizenship that the right to marry has or that they do not see same-sex couples as equal citizens." She also pointed out that if the point of denying same-sex

marriage is because we "can't" procreate, then why aren't opposite-sex couples who cannot or will not procreate allowed to marry? She identified George and Martha Washington as one such couple.

As in many prior cases, the State contended that heterosexual marriage is the optimal structure in which to raise children. However, social science data simply does not support the State's position. Moreover, there are no tests required for heterosexual parenting; heterosexuals who seek to be married do not have to prove they will be good parents or financially responsible. Marriage licenses are issued to heterosexual felons, deadbeat parents, irresponsible 18-year-olds, and even convicted child abusers. Ultimately, Judge Crabb found that "neither defendants nor amici cite any evidence or even develop a cogent argument to support their belief that allowing same-sex couples to marry somehow will lead to the de-valuing of children in marriage or have some other adverse effect on the marriages of heterosexual couples."

Judge Crabb rejected additional arguments such as the "slippery slope" argument (not one state that has had marriage equality has had anyone propose polygamy) and the "gee, since the majority of Wisconsinites now support marriage equality, just wait for them to reverse the amendment" argument (in itself, a desire to make a class of people wait to exercise constitutional rights is not a legitimate interest).

Judge Crabb ended her decision with a simple statement: "Because my review of the law convinces me that plaintiffs are entitled to the same treatment as any heterosexual couple, I conclude that the Wisconsin laws banning marriage between same-sex couples are unconstitutional." The implications of this decision go well beyond marriage and will impact legal issues such as adoption (e.g., making stepparent adoptions legal), raising children (married couples who have children would each have parental rights and obligations), taxes, health insurance, and more.

HOWEVER, late in the afternoon on Friday, June 13, 2014, Judge Crabb issued an order staying her injunctions and declaratory relief pending an appeal to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals (the court



Michele Perreault is a family law attorney for DeWitt Ross & Stevens. She's also an adjunct professor at the University of Wisconsin Law School. Recently, she's presented "Protecting Children of Gay and Lesbian Families: Challenges, Opportunities, and Where We go From Here."

immediately "above" Judge Crabb's court in the pecking order). In essence, the impact of her decision has been put on hold, and clerks will not be issuing new licenses until further order of the Court. Still to be determined, though, will be the legal impact on couples who were lawfully married before a stay was issued and the legal impact on those of us who married in another state.

Despite the stay, this was a landmark decision and, in my opinion, will ultimately lead to full marriage equality in Wisconsin. Because other courts have made similar decisions that are already winding their way up the legal ladder to the U.S. Supreme Court, it is possible that the U.S. Supreme Court will take on related cases in its next term, which begins in October. Given the tide of decisions and the groundswell of support by ordinary citizens, I believe that unless there is some unexpected turn of events in the makeup of the Supreme Court, we will see full marriage equality become the law of the land—and soon. ■

FIRSTS:
THE FIRST LEGAL
WEDDINGS IN DANE
COUNTY.



- 1. Renee Currie & Shari Roll:** The Madison couple has been together for nearly 10 years. Their ceremony was performed by Mike Quieto in front of a crowd of media and cheering onlookers.
- 2. Burke Tyer & Wesley Radtke (pictured):** The Sun Prairie couple have been together for four and a half years and had already scheduled a wedding in Iowa when the opportunity arose to get hitched closer to home.
- 3. Beth & Jamie Kernan:** The couple, both 27, met at UW Madison six years ago and were the second couple in line on Friday.

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CONGRATULATES

Attorney Christopher Krimmer



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FRONT LINE FORCE: First-person accounts from the public officials who led the way when marriage equality came to Wisconsin.



Scott McDonell, Dane County Clerk

The afternoon of Friday, June 6th was pretty dramatic. I had a detailed plan in place that included volunteers who had been trained to help issue marriage licenses and judges and court commissioners who would perform marriage ceremonies on call, but the uncertainty created by an unusual ruling was something I did not anticipate. The ruling clearly struck down the marriage ban but gave no instruction on what that meant to people like me on the front line. What was the purpose of the ruling if same sex couples couldn't get married? What law prevented them from doing so since Judge Crabb's ruling clearly overturned the marriage ban and declared it discriminatory? In the end I simply concluded that if the laws denying the freedom to marry were unconstitutional, that meant they were unenforceable. Marriages could begin immediately.

The phone tree was activated. Judge Ellen Berz and Tamara Packard were in charge of the officiants and the weddings. John Smallwood from Fair Wisconsin was in charge of helping check couples' legal documents and getting the couples to the right officiants. Dane County Clerk of Courts Carlo Esqueda was in charge of helping couples obtain missing court documents (such as divorce decrees) during the weekend hours. So many amazing volunteers came down to help me process the growing line that at times, I didn't even have enough work for everyone.

As the night went on, all the stories the couples shared were the greatest part. How they had been together for decades and never thought they would be able to get married. Kids who could tell how excited their parents were but weren't entirely sure why. Parents and friends who hovered and got in the way, but no one cared. Friends and complete strangers alike who came down to the City-County building with flowers, rice, music, champagne, and of course, cake. It was a weekend that I will never forget.



Judge Ellen K. Berz, Dane County Circuit Court

Weeks before June 6th, I was honored to help Dane County Clerk Scott McDonnell ready our county for same-sex marriages. I organized many of our Dane County judges and court commissioners to be marriage officiants. On decision day, everyone jumped into action. I was teaching a judicial seminar in Milwaukee and rushed back to Madison. Judge Rhonda Lanford quickly took the lead and brought volunteer officiants, in their judicial robes, to the City-County Building.

Having officiated weddings, I knew that being so close to a couple who were vowing lifelong love and commitment is a special experience. That experience was heightened by same-sex couples having their many prior years of dedication legally recognized and validated. Overwhelming exhilaration, joy, and love were palpable. That weekend, I married people of various ages, races, and occupations. With the lighted Capitol in the background, I married a couple who had been together for over 40 years. Another couple, whose relationship spanned 51 years, had previously questioned whether they would ever see the day when they would be equal citizens in Wisconsin. That wonderful, historic day proved, yet again, that "equal protection of the law" and "justice for all" are not empty words.



Judge Rhonda L. Lanford, Dane County Circuit Court

It was about 4:30 on Friday afternoon. I was in my judicial chambers talking with Court Commissioner Tony Jamieson about some cases when I received an alert on my phone announcing that Judge Barbara Crabb had found Wisconsin's same-sex marriage ban unconstitutional. We had been waiting for this decision and were prepared for it. We walked over to the City-County Building where couples were already in line waiting to apply for their marriage licenses. The gathering crowd was jubilant, and the mood was electric. Over the course of two days I married 28 couples. Most had been together for years, if not decades, and had been waiting a long time for this day. The most touching moment was when one of the witnesses to a ceremony hugged me tight and said in my ear, "My partner of 26 years died last year. I know she is watching in heaven." At that point I had to choke back my tears.

There were so many stories that day—stories of people who had been together decades, raised families, and were thrilled finally to have their relationships legally recognized. I look forward to the day when I can perform marriage ceremonies without labels. We won't have "gay" marriages—we'll just have marriages.



Standing On Many Strong Shoulders

Fair Wisconsin executive director **Katie Belanger** gives thanks to some of the many individuals and groups that led the way on marriage equality and have helped shape the state's and nation's progress on LGBTQ rights.

Achieving marriage equality in Wisconsin did not happen overnight, alone, or in a vacuum. It has been a multilayered process spanning more than a decade and has resulted in not just the extension of marriage to same-sex couples but also a fundamental change in our society.

Equality, after all, is not just about "rights" but about the way we are all able to live our lives: free from harm, with dignity and respect.

Since 1994, Fair Wisconsin (then Action Wisconsin) has been at the forefront of the LGBT equality movement, particularly around marriage equality. We've been fortunate to work with some of the brightest minds, legal experts, and movement strategists. To name them all would fill this magazine. This is not an exhaustive list of those who deserve special recognition in light of the recent marriage equality victory, but it includes a few of the individuals and organizations without whom marriage equality would not have been achieved:

- **Governor Lee Dreyfus** and **Rep. David Clarenbach**, who, along with a bipartisan group of legislators, passed the first law in the country that protected LGB people from discrimination in 1982.
- **Senator Tammy Baldwin**, whose vision for equality created a movement and whose bold leadership created a path for openly LGBT individuals to run for higher office.
- **Tamara Packard** and **Lester Pines**, who are the brilliant attorneys who have shaped so much of the legislative and legal strategies, both behind the scenes and in the public eye.
- **Dan Ross** and **Charlie Squires**, whose living room was the first Action Wisconsin "office."
- **Mike Fitzpatrick**, who has served on the Fair Wisconsin Board of Directors since our founding and has ensured we have a truly statewide presence.
- The **hundreds of activists** who traveled to remote parts of Wisconsin in 1997 to testify against Assembly Bill 104, the anti-marriage equality legislation predecessor to the constitutional ban.
- **Chris Ott** and the countless Fair Wisconsin staff over the years, whose passion and commitment have fueled the movement.
- **Governor Doyle** and the legislative champions who were fearless in their opposition to the constitutional amendment in 2004 and 2005, a time when it was not politically advantageous to stand on the side of equality.
- **Mike Tate, Heather Colburn**, and the entire 2006 campaign team whose tireless efforts paved the way for future victories.
- The more than **14,000 volunteers** who called and knocked on the doors of tens of thousands of voters in 2006, sharing their personal stories and reasons for standing up for equality.
- **Glenn Carlson**, without whom Fair Wisconsin would not have survived following the 2006 amendment campaign.



Katie Belanger has been Fair Wisconsin's Executive Director since 2009 and was their legislative director before then. She also currently serves as the Board Co-Chair for the Equality Federation, the national alliance of state-based LGBT advocacy organizations.

- **Attorney Ruth Irvings**, who crafted the limited set of legal protections included in the statewide domestic partnership registry.
- **Congressman Mark Pocan**, whose legislative skills were critical to preserving the domestic partnership registry included in Governor Doyle's 2009–11 budget, marking the first pro-fairness victory in Wisconsin since our 1982 nondiscrimination law and an important step forward just three years after our marriage ban was ratified.
- **Lambda Legal** and the **five couples** who joined Fair Wisconsin in defending the statewide domestic partnership registry from Wisconsin Family Action's attempt to use the 2006 amendment to strip even the most basic of legal protections from same-sex couples.
- The **local elected officials** and advocates in communities across the state who passed equal employment benefits and nondiscrimination ordinances to protect their LGBT constituents when our state legislature would not.
- The **ACLU of Wisconsin** and their plaintiff couples for filing their successful lawsuit challenging Wisconsin's ban on marriage equality.
- **County Clerks Scott McDonell** (Dane) and **Joe Czarnecki** (Milwaukee) for immediately issuing marriage licenses following Judge Crabb's decision and their staff and deputized volunteers for making the first same-sex marriages in Wisconsin so special.

At Fair Wisconsin, we've been honored to work with so many leaders and activists for the past 20 years, and we look forward to continuing our work together to advance LGBT equality in the years ahead. ■

**FIRSTS:
MARRIAGE EQUALITY PIONEER
DONNA BURKETT**

Top photo by Roberto Amezcua

On October 1, 1971, just two years after Stonewall, Donna Burkett and her partner walked into the Office of the Milwaukee County Clerk to apply for a marriage license.

Burkett recalls all the reporters when the couple came out of the clerk's office, "They were out there snapping and talking and I didn't know where they came from or how they found out. They were making a big thing out of it and I didn't think a thing of it," she says. "I just thought that was what you do when you love someone."

Burkett got angry when the clerk refused their application. "I was kind of militant," she remembers, "They aren't going to tell me that because we're two women, I couldn't marry."

The two filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Wisconsin. They argued that the clerk's refusal deprived them of due process and equal protection of the law under the U.S. Constitution.

Burkett used the same argument in her 1972 lawsuit that was used when Judge Barbara Crabb declared Wisconsin's ban on same-sex marriage unconstitutional. But it was a different time then. Her case was dismissed after their attorney failed to submit a brief further detailing the argument.

The backlash that the couple went through afterwards was very different than the celebrations we see today. "We kinda went through the pits," Burkett recalls. "She was working and going to school. I was just going to school. She lost her job after we showed our face and gave our names."

Their relationship continued on, and they went forward to marry a few months later on Christmas Day, surrounded by about 250 friends and family members. But the stress from all the negative attention took its toll on the couple. "There was so much mess going on and we were just trying to survive. That might have been what broke us apart. There was so much attention on us and we weren't trying to do all that."



CELEBRATING OUR READERS WHO ARE

Just Married

June 7



Liz Doan & Donna Long,
Milwaukee

June 15

Lori & Renee Filla,
Eleva



June 7

Cessely Block & Lu Wichlacz,
Madison



June 9

Lisa & Berri West,
Green Bay



LOVE WINS



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Out at Work

A past cover couple are finally able to make it legal.



Joshua Feyen shared with us this post that he made to his workplace's internal network.

Four years ago right about now during Pride Month, the Communications Division helped my partner Jay and me celebrate our July 2010 religious wedding ceremony. We all knew it was slightly bittersweet because the 2006 anti-same sex marriage amendment was still a blemish on our state's

constitution, denying us a legal wedding and all the rights that come with it.

Last Friday U.S. District Judge Crabb struck down the amendment, writing that same-sex couples "are entitled to the same treatment as any heterosexual couple."

Saturday morning we went to the Dane County courthouse and got married. It was important to do it quickly because the Wisconsin attorney general announced he would appeal the decision, which would (for now) close the door on further same-sex marriages.

We had a brief but sweet ceremony. Our friend Dane County Judge Rhonda Lanford presided, and Jay's sister came to witness it. A volunteer photographer took pictures, people brought flowers from the neighboring farmers market, and the Solidarity Singers band played music throughout the morning. It was a festive atmosphere, with cheers and then clapping across the courthouse steps for each couple as they concluded their ceremonies.

I wanted to share this great news with the company I work for. My colleagues in Communications then, and in Marketing now, have made this a safe place to work, to be myself, and to share celebrations such as this with you. You have no idea how important that has been to me.

Love Warriors

Meet the eight plaintiff couples in the [ACLU's lawsuit](#) to bring marriage equality to Wisconsin.

1. Judi Trampf and Katy Henying, Madison

Judi, 53, and Katy, 51, met in college at the Girl Scout National Center in Wyoming. In July, they'll celebrate their 25th anniversary. Both work at the University of Wisconsin – Whitewater, where Judi is Director of Human Resources and Diversity and Katy is Dean of the College of Education and Professional Studies.

2. Johannes Wallmann and Keith Borden, Madison

Johannes, 39, and Keith, 40, have been together for 15 years. Johannes is a music professor at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. Keith is a classically trained singer and yoga instructor. They met in New York City in 1998. Johannes says, "Keith is incredibly kind. He inspires me to try to be a kinder, better person."

3. Salud Garcia and Pam Kleiss, Madison

Salud, 50, and Pam, 49, were both working for the American Association of Retired Persons—Pam in Seattle and Salud in California—when they met. Pam recalls, "The moment I met her, I was totally smitten." They have now been together for 18 years.

4. Carol Schumacher and Virginia Wolf, Eau Claire

Carol, 60, and Virginia, 74, have been together 38 years, since their very first date in 1975. They were the first couple to join the Eau Claire domestic partner registry in 2009 and got married on their anniversary in December by a judge in Minnesota. As Virginia puts it, "We've been inching towards matrimony for 38 years!"

5. Roy Badger and Garth Wangemann, Milwaukee

Roy, 56, and Garth, 58, have been together 37 years. Roy, who's lived in Wisconsin since age 12, has worked as an editor at UWM for 32 years. Garth, a native Wisconsinite, was laid off last spring from his customer service position but is temping for his old employer as he looks for a new job. The couple attends a United Church of Christ church and has two dogs, Daisy and Winston.

6. Charvonne Kemp and Marie Carlson, Milwaukee

Charvonne, 43, and Marie, 48, have been partners more than seven years and raised two sons together. Together they've raised Alexander, 21, and Christopher, 11. Charvonne and Marie were active in the PTA at Christopher's school, holding offices and Charvonne serving twice on search committees to pick new principals.

7. Kami Young and Karina Willes, West Milwaukee

Kami, 36, and Karina, 44, have been together for 13 years. They registered as domestic partners in 2009 and were legally married in 2013 in Minnesota. Karina surprised herself when she cried through the entire ceremony. "You get so used to being a second-class citizen that when you're not anymore, it's overwhelming."

8. Bill Hurtubise and Dean Palmer, Racine

Bill and Dean, both 40, live in Racine with their children, ages 5, 4, and 2. Bill grew up in Racine, and commutes to Chicago so that he, Dean, and their kids can live near family, friends, and their church. Dean lived in St. Louis when they met, and moved to Racine a few months after their first visit. Shortly after he arrived, he proposed.



CELEBRATING OUR READERS WHO ARE

Just Married

June 6



Kelly Murray & Patty Sandoval, Middleton

June 7



Rose Grindrod & Meghan Hamilton, Madison

June 6



Dan Ross & Charlie Squires, Madison

June 7



Becky Burton & Sue Robinson, Milwaukee

June 11



Sam Gauger & Karen Stampfli, Lone Rock

June 10



Bevo Buhr & Carin Bringelson, Madison

June 11



Kari George & Joan Fecteau, Milwaukee

June 9



Hillary Barnes & Sarah Listug, Madison

June 6



Lindsay Raftis & Alicia Stevenson, Fitchburg

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Compiled by Attorney **Tamara B. Packard**, partner at Cullen Weston Pines & Bach LLP, with updating assistance from **A.J. Grund**, third year law student at University of Wisconsin Law School and summer associate with CWPB.

ALABAMA Constitutional amendment restricting marriage. Full challenges underway in federal court; state court challenge to non-recognition of marriages formed elsewhere.

ALASKA Constitutional amendment restricting marriage. Full challenge underway.

ARIZONA Constitutional amendment restricting marriage. Full challenges underway.

ARKANSAS Constitutional amendment restricting marriage. State court found unconstitutional, ruling stayed pending appeal (Arkansas Supreme Court). Full challenge in federal court as well.

✓ **CALIFORNIA** Marriage Equality (through federal court ruling).

COLORADO Constitutional amendment restricting marriage but civil unions available by statute. Full challenges underway in state court.

✓ **CONNECTICUT** Marriage Equality (through state court ruling).

✓ **DELAWARE** Marriage Equality (through legislation).

✓ **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA** Marriage Equality (through legislation).

FLORIDA Constitutional amendment restricting marriage. Challenges underway: one is to non-recognition of marriages formed elsewhere in federal court, several others are full or partial challenges in state courts.

GEORGIA Constitutional amendment restricting marriage. Full challenge underway.

✓ **HAWAII** Marriage Equality (through legislation).

IDAHO Constitutional amendment restricting marriage. Federal magistrate judge found unconstitutional, ruling stayed pending appeal (9th Circuit).

✓ **ILLINOIS** Marriage Equality (through legislation).

INDIANA Statute restricting marriage ruled unconstitutional by US District Court June 25, 2014. No stay issued. State has indicated it will appeal.

✓ **IOWA** Marriage Equality (through state court ruling).

KANSAS Constitutional amendment restricting marriage. Challenge underway to non-recognition of marriages formed elsewhere.

KENTUCKY Constitutional amendment restricting marriage. Federal district court ruled that state must recognize out of state marriages, ruling stayed pending appeal (6th Circuit). AG will not defend. Full challenge underway in federal court.

LOUISIANA Constitutional amendment restricting marriage. Challenges underway to non-recognition of marriages formed elsewhere in federal and state court.

✓ **MAINE** Marriage Equality (through popular referendum).

✓ **MARYLAND** Marriage Equality (through legislation, upheld in popular referendum).

✓ **MASSACHUSETTS** Marriage Equality (through state court ruling).

MICHIGAN Constitutional amendment restricting marriage. Federal district court found unconstitutional, ruling stayed pending appeal (6th Circuit). Challenge underway to non-recognition of marriages formed elsewhere.

✓ **MINNESOTA** Marriage Equality (through legislation).

MISSISSIPPI Constitutional amendment restricting marriage. Challenge underway to non-recognition of marriages formed elsewhere in state court.

MISSOURI Constitutional amendment restricting marriage. Challenges underway in state court to non-recognition of marriages formed elsewhere.

MONTANA Constitutional amendment restricting marriage. Full challenge underway as of May 21, 2014.

NEBRASKA Constitutional amendment restricting marriage. Challenge to non-recognition of marriages formed recently dismissed by state supreme court without deciding constitutional issue.

NEVADA Constitutional amendment restricting marriage. Federal district court in 2012 upheld amendment; on appeal to 9th Circuit, state withdrew its brief opposing. Legislative process ongoing to repeal constitutional amendment and institute marriage equality.

✓ **NEW HAMPSHIRE** Marriage Equality (through legislation).

✓ **NEW JERSEY** Marriage Equality (through state court ruling).

✓ **NEW MEXICO** Marriage Equality (through state court ruling).

✓ **NEW YORK** Marriage Equality (through legislation).

NORTH CAROLINA Constitutional amendment restricting marriage. Full challenge, a challenge to marriage restriction, and two challenges to non-recognition of marriages formed elsewhere underway.

NORTH DAKOTA Constitutional amendment restricting marriage. Full challenge underway as of June 6, 2014.

OHIO Constitutional amendment restricting marriage. Federal district courts ruled that state must recognize out of state marriages in connection with death certificates and out of state marriages in general, rulings stayed pending appeal (6th Circuit). Challenge to marriage restriction underway.

OKLAHOMA Constitutional amendment restricting marriage. Federal district court found unconstitutional, ruling stayed pending appeal (10th Circuit).

✓ **OREGON** Marriage Equality as of federal district court ruling on May 19, 2014.

✓ **PENNSYLVANIA** Marriage Equality as of federal district court ruling on May 20, 2014.

✓ **RHODE ISLAND** Marriage Equality (through legislation).

SOUTH CAROLINA Constitutional amendment restricting marriage. Challenge to non-recognition of marriages formed elsewhere stayed pending outcome of the Virginia Bostic appeal (4th Circuit).

SOUTH DAKOTA Constitutional amendment restricting marriage. Full challenge underway as of May 22, 2014.

TENNESSEE Constitutional amendment restricting marriage. Federal district court ruled that state must recognize out of state marriages, ruling stayed pending appeal (6th Circuit).

TEXAS Constitutional amendment restricting marriage. Federal district court found unconstitutional, ruling stayed pending appeal (5th Circuit). Several other federal and state challenges underway, some potentially stayed until 5th Circuit ruling.

UTAH Constitutional amendment restricting marriage found unconstitutional by Tenth US Circuit Court of Appeals on June 25, 2014. Ruling stayed pending further appeal.

✓ **VERMONT** Marriage Equality (through legislation).

VIRGINIA Constitutional amendment restricting marriage. Federal district court found unconstitutional, ruling stayed pending appeal (4th Circuit). Additional full challenge stayed pending 4th Circuit ruling.

✓ **WASHINGTON** Marriage Equality (through legislation, upheld in popular referendum).

WEST VIRGINIA Statute restricting marriage. Challenge to non-recognition of out of state marriages dismissed due to lack of standing. Challenge to marriage ban stayed pending outcome of the Virginia Bostic appeal (4th Circuit).

WISCONSIN Constitutional amendment restricting marriage. Federal district court found unconstitutional, ruling stayed pending appeal (7th Circuit). Domestic Partnerships available. Wisconsin Supreme Court refused to hear challenge to non-recognition of out of state marriages on May 27, 2014.

WYOMING Statute restricting marriage. Full challenge underway in state court.

For a detailed summary of all litigation, including information about the plaintiffs, who is representing them, and the status of each case, go to: freedomtomarry.org/litigation. Lambda Legal has an even more detailed summary of all litigation. Go to lambdalegal.org and search for the "pending marriage equality cases" page.

CELEBRATING OUR READERS WHO ARE

Just Married



June 6

Orry & Gregory León,
Milwaukee



June 11

Holly Anderson &
Colleen Marsden, De Forest



June 10

Holly Scheuren &
Margaret Kucera, Evansville



June 6

Pat Cline & Patty McKenzie,
Oak Creek



June 9

Jennifer & Nicole Welch,
Green Bay



June 7

Bill & Ron Strelow-Dunn,
De Forest



June 9

Lani Urbas &
Shirely Wickersham, Waterloo



June 7

Scott Jones & Thomas Zigan,
Milwaukee



June 6

Brenna Dee &
Sarah Hoogerhyde, Milwaukee

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Photo by Narella Studio

Maggie Tucker

Water RHYTHMS

As the **Mendota Rowing Club** approaches its 40th anniversary in Madison, rowers reflect on their time on the water and what the sport means to them.

Chances are you've caught a glimpse of the low-slung, long, narrow boats gliding across Lake Mendota. If they're not piloted by the college-aged, it's likely these are members of the Mendota Rowing Club, a stalwart presence on the waters around Madison since 1975.

The club has been bringing a wide range of Madison-area people to the sport of rowing and providing a place for athletic and social development for nearly 40 years now. They meet at Bernard's Boathouse, at the east end of James Madison Park, itself an officially designated Historic Landmark.

The group takes pride in providing rowing opportunities to the public as well as to all its diverse members. Public programs include community-oriented Learn to Row instruction, which take place May through August. Indoor rowing and weekly yoga sessions are also now available.

2014 marks the second year of MRC's collaboration with the Wisconsin Chapter of

It is so cool when, after hours of practice with the same group of rowers, everything clicks at race time and the boat flies down the course. When it does, a 50+ women's four can beat collegiate crews, as mine did several times, reminding all of us of how powerful we can be when we work together.

the American Parkinson Disease Association (APDA). Rowing instruction and supervised workouts for Parkinson's patients and their caregivers take place throughout summer 2014 at Mendota Rowing Club.

Whether members are there to learn to race competitively or just to improve technique and fitness, the MRC has a long history of supporting a diverse membership. That has, over time, included many members of our LGBTQ community, two of whom give their rowing stories to us now.

Cindy Poe

MADISON, WI – 56 YEARS OLD

When I was in high school (before the 1970s boom in jogging), my father wanted me to play tennis rather than run track because tennis was a lifetime sport and running was just conditioning for other activities. Unfortunately today I can't play tennis or do any of the other weight-bearing sports I used to do—basketball and soccer as well as running—because my knees are shot from years of pounding on streets, sidewalks, courts, and hardwood. What I haven't lost, though, is my desire for a vigorous workout, good competition, and the camaraderie of teammates. So today, I row.

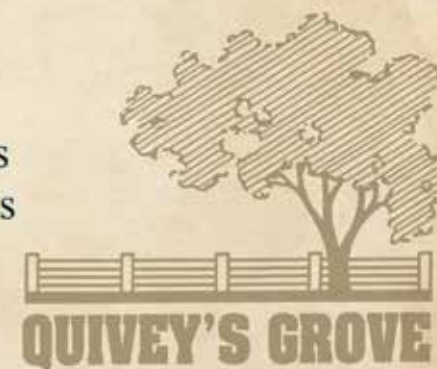
My rowing story begins in 1995, at the end of my first year of graduate school in Madison. I took a learn-to-row class through the Mendota Rowing Club, not because I was looking for a lifetime sport, which rowing is, but because I wanted to be on the water. It was that simple. And I have been on the water, rowing and teaching others to row, ever since.

For me, rowing is a meditative activity. The stroke is fairly simple, which is why beginning rowers can get on the water so quickly. Moving the boat comes from doing that simple activity over and over, not with great fury, but rhythmically, like a dance. Yet rowing is also highly technical: you move parts of your body—your hands, your legs, your torso—in very precise ways at particular moments in the stroke. And everyone in the boat has to do the same thing at the same time. This requires a concentrated mindfulness that has the same effect on me that running once did and that I suspect meditation or yoga has on others.

But there is more to why I row than that. When asked "why," some rowers will tell you about the pleasure of seeing the sun rise in the morning or the energy boost that comes from starting off the day with an invigorating workout. That's all nice, but I talk about regattas. It is so cool when, after hours of practice with the same group of rowers, everything clicks at race time and the boat flies down the course. This near-perfect synchronization doesn't happen at every race—in fact, not even most of them. But when it does, a 50+ women's four can beat collegiate crews, as mine did several times, reminding all of us of how powerful we can be when we work together.

More important, though, is at regattas we create community. Not only do MRC rowers help each other get on and off the water and cheer for each club boat as it comes to the finish line, but also we hang out together. I still have very vivid memories of the 15–20 people who sat around the campfire circle at the fish-

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WHAT'S TRENDING [HEALTH & FITNESS]

Healthy Minds



LIVES UNLIMITED
MARE CHAPMAN, PSYCHOTHERAPIST, MINDFULNESS TEACHER

The Huffington Post named mindfulness as one of the top 10 trends in 2014, helping to further propel the practice into the mainstream. Research continues to show the practice not only helps us be happier and more compassionate but also with more ability to live in the reality of the present moment rather than up in our heads, lost in our minds' stories, it helps us be more productive workers. So if you're already practicing mindfulness take delight in knowing you're in the mainstream now. And if you're not familiar with this ancient practice in waking up and cultivating sustainable happiness, get with it my friend!

Accountability Buddies



ORANGE SHOE PERSONAL FITNESS
LAUREN BIRKEL, OWNER & PERSONAL TRAINER/COACH

Trends in the fitness industry come and go, but one trend that I believe has some serious staying power is Small Group Training: one fitness professional working with 4-8 clients. In this arrangement, the group is small enough that clients experience the personalized attention, specific coaching, and expertise of a degreed and certified fitness professional but, by sharing the session with other group members, are able to take advantage of a lower price point than one-on-one personal training. For many clients that we see this means they're able to stretch their fitness budget to train more frequently, which leads to achieving results more quickly and consistently—and who doesn't want that? The best part: group members build great relationships that add extra layers of accountability and motivation. The camaraderie and friendships that form while everyone is working hard together = more energy and more fun.

ing lodge we stayed in during the 2002 Canadian Masters Championships in Kenora, Ontario. I remember the joy of walking in the opening ceremonies at the 2006 World OutGames in Montreal. I look forward to dinner with my teammates in Milwaukee after the head race there in the fall. And while every Head of the Charles regatta in Boston is special, my first one was especially so. I rowed on Saturday morning, had dinner with current and former MRC rowers on Saturday night, and spent a beautiful Sunday afternoon in October sitting on the dock near the finish line with two boat mates, talking for hours while we watched the races. Many of my closest friends are or have been rowers, and some of my best memories come from rowing with them; for that I am forever grateful.

Maggie Tucker

CROSS PLAINS, WI – 30 YEARS OLD

I wasn't a sporty kid. With the exception of one season each of bowling, soccer, and softball, I mainly tended toward extracurricular activities that involved music. When I went to college, though, I tended to mix things up. I opted out of French and instead took up Russian. I studied a lot of math—previously not my strong suit. And instead of joining orchestra, I decided to try out for the crew team.

I had always spent a lot of time on the water. Sailing, canoeing, chasing frogs in a little row boat on an even littler lake in Northern Wisconsin. Crew seemed like a logical choice. Rowing had always looked so serene—a slender boat coasting on a placid, glass-like body of water. As is true with most things, that serene image is only one part of the picture. It was in the gym, during my first week of college, that I learned what the sport of rowing is really all about: intensity and technique.

First the upperclasswomen taught us some technique—specifically, they taught us to erg (rowing machine). It wasn't just a matter of pulling on a handle with a chain attached to it, they informed us. There was an order to the body movements and positions.

After they ran through the basics, it was time for our tryouts. It was then that I became familiar with the other hallmark of rowing: intensity. All we had to do was row 1000 meters in as little time as possible. I remember we were all lined up on our ergs, not sure what to expect. Then the test began and the room erupted in noise. Every team member was encouraging, shouting, helping us along. Later I would find out they were basically coxing us all through the test, but at the time it was just noise. But that noise had one, perceptible effect: it made us go fast.

Everything that followed went along with those themes. I loved being on the water, pushing the limits of what I could make my body do, and finding out just how exhausting a race can be when you've given it all you have.



Cindy Poe

Over the years, though, I have experienced another hallmark of rowing: community. My fellow rowers in college were my family. And that tradition continues at Mendota Rowing Club.

Mendota is a rich mix of individuals. The rowers represent a range of ages and occupations outside of rowing. Everyone comes to the club with different backgrounds. Some people have been rowing for years and some people are just beginning. Some left the sport for decades and came back, while others never left. It's a group of people who want to come together to hone rowing skills, be on the water, and work together to make a boat go fast (preferably very fast on race days). The coaches do a wonderful job maintaining those original elements—intensity and technique—but everyone works together to make Mendota a wonderful community—and an awesome way to start the day. ■

[HEALTH & FITNESS] WHAT'S TRENDING

Wearable Tech for Health



GROUP HEALTH COOPERATIVE
DEBRA LAFLER

Wearables devices are one of the newest trends in the health industry. They are supplementing the era of online health trackers, mobile apps, and social networking, and linking them all together. Many of our members are already wearing them and find they help motivate them to move more.

A "wearable" is a device that's worn on the body and tracks data on body movements. A commonly-known wearable is the pedometer that tracks steps taken each day. Products like FitBit are going further to track distance traveled, calories burned, floors climbed, and even quality of sleep. Data can then be synched wirelessly to mobile apps, web portals, social networking sites, computers, and even health records. Healthcare companies like GHC are working on ways to integrate FitBit and other tracked data into their own online portals keeping doctors and patients in sync with health goals and progress.

Strong Focus



FARRELL'S EXTREME BODYSHAPING
STEPHANIE EAST, OWNER/MANAGER

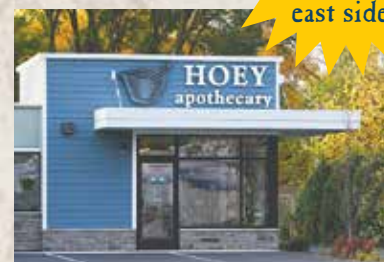
It has been really exciting to see so many people looking to be healthy and fit. People really want to be healthy inside and out. Our program at Farrell's really looks at the whole picture and assists our clients beyond their workout...we are a training camp for healthy living. The shift has really changed from being "skinny" to being STRONG. We embrace clients of all fitness levels at Farrell's and help them all succeed.

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did you hear?

Just Coffee supporting LGBTQ rights in Uganda

When a customer came to Just Coffee upset that they were selling beans from Uganda, the local roasting cooperative decided to do something about it. The response? Ugandan Pride. Ten percent of the revenue generated from sales of the beans will go to the Civil Society on Human Rights and Constitutional Law in Uganda, which fights for the rights of LGBTQ citizens in a country that passed a now notorious anti-gay law in 2009.



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ILLUSTRATION BY DANIELLA ECHEVERRIA

THE Right TO CARE

Dylan Bryne recounts her privileges and struggles within a health care system that too often falls dangerously short for transpeople.

Fortunate One

I've been fortunate. That's the easiest way to sum it up to someone who asks, "Has your transition been difficult?" That isn't to say it has been easy; Lord knows I've struggled. I've spent time on couches—both mine and my therapist's—crying from stress over how slow the process felt, how much emotional and physical pain it involved, how above all a single question haunted me and encouraged a turn toward despair through most of the process: Will it have been worth all of this in the end?

But I've been fortunate because I had the opportunity and the means to struggle and to, ultimately, discover that it has been worth it. Many don't get this chance. Many don't have these means. Time, money, opportunity, support: I've had all of these things. I write this not to boast—if you take one thing from this, please let it be that my accomplishments are borne on the backs of many others—but to illustrate one image in order to articulate the reverse. My experience is not the experience of most transgender women.

Everyone welcome.

AKANISHTA KADAMPA BUDDHIST CENTER
1216 SOUTH PARK STREET
608-661-3211
www.meditationinmadison.org

Who do you know? That question can create a smooth path or prevent you from taking that first (second, third) step. I know a therapist in Brookfield who specializes in These Sorts of Things. She knew an endocrinologist in Madison who had a long waiting list for new patients but was eventually able to see me thanks to my therapist's referral. That endocrinologist knew the only surgeon in the state of Wisconsin who could take care of business when I decided it was time to go under the knife.

Funding, Family, and Follicles

Then there's the question of money—and the matter of hair. My partner and I have some money, not from our work but from inheritance. That money made possible the bi-annual trips to Dallas to have hair removed from my face in all-day, marathon sessions. It got me to Vancouver to have hair moved around on my scalp—at the cost of a small new car. I've had an experience that, without spent inheritance, would have taken years and most likely yielded unsatisfactory results. Circumstance has made this an easier journey than expected thanks to, above all, a supportive partner. My family has come along for the ride after varying degrees of hesitation. My workplaces have supported me, though I should be clear that the lion's share of travel,



Dylan Bryne has lived on Madison's near-east side since 2002. She is married to her partner of almost a decade, writer/teacher Miriam Hall. When not working at the Willy St Grocery Co-op she enjoys making music and skateboarding. Find her at dylandigits.com.

procedures, and recovery occurred during a year of chosen unemployment. I have slowly drained savings accounts while paying for my own medication, surgery, therapy, and any other transition-related care because I have known all along that health insurance regards all of this as unnecessary and won't willingly or wittingly offer a cent.

Has this become clear? Has the series of elements that had to organize themselves in my favor become apparent? I take the long and wide view, and I am in awe. In awe and truly grateful. I have had to open doors, but they were there for me to open, and I knew how to find them.

And yet.

While my therapist in Brookfield has been good for connections, I have found her to be severely lacking in regard to reliability and communication. I have found that in addition to having a lousy bedside manner, my surgeon wrote a post-surgery letter which is needlessly ambiguous; it might not allow me to change gender markers at the ultimate levels of Social Security and my birth certificate. I have found that my progressive East Side workplace offers me less vacation and discretionary time than I need to tie up several loose ends in my transition. My partner and I have found that our financial resources have dipped below a level of comfort, and we're unsure of how we'll afford to take the last few steps.

All this, and I've had it easier than most.

I've had an experience that, without spent inheritance, would have taken years and most likely yielded unsatisfactory results.

One For All, All For One

It is for this reason that I advocate for a form of universal healthcare that honors the reality and needs of transgender clients. I dream of a system that doesn't require minor deceptions by doctors and patients to gain coverage for hormones. I hope for a day when, regardless of ability to pay, a transgender person can arrive at a local clinic knowing that the necessity of their care will not be questioned by insurance company accountants. Furthermore, I believe that divorcing employment status from health coverage through universalized healthcare will help give poor and unemployed transgender individuals the chance to access the care they need.

This is hard enough as it is for all of us. When I see my endocrinologist I try to remember to tell her how much I appreciate her support, as I told her yesterday between sobs over the stress of it all. As I walked the three miles home from the clinic afterward I marveled at how good I have it and how much I dearly want to find ways the make it better—for all of us. ■

did you hear?

Appleton passes inclusive non-discrimination ordinance

On June 18 Appleton became the third city in the state to pass an ordinance aimed at preventing workplace discrimination, including language to protect gender identity and expression. The ordinance also goes further than state and federal law for gender non-conforming individuals' employment. Madison and Milwaukee are the only other municipalities with similar language on the books. The ordinance passed by a 12-2 margin.

[HEALTH & FITNESS] WHAT'S TRENDING

Big Is In!



WISCONSIN BIKE FED
DAVE CIESLEWICZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Fat bikes have really taken off. People use them on off-road trails and to ride on gravel or sand, but they've really become popular during this last long, cold winter for commuting. A big problem with cycling in the Upper Midwest is that folks lose momentum in the winter. Fat bikes have the potential to keep a lot more of us out there having fun through the colder months, making the transition to skinnier tires when the weather warms up even easier.

Major Advances in Prevention Medication



AIDS NETWORK
DANIEL GUINN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

At AIDS Network a primary part of our mission is preventing HIV/AIDS. We are closely monitoring the evolution of the HIV "prevention pill," called PrEP or Truvada. In May 2014, the CDC issued clinical guidelines for PrEP usage. Taking PrEP daily is now considered an additional, viable prevention option for some HIV-negative people, including sexually active men who have sex with men, injection drug users, and HIV-negative people in HIV-discordant relationships. PrEP is not an HIV/AIDS vaccine nor is it readily available without a prescription. PrEP is prescribed by medical clinicians to HIV-negative people at substantial risk for HIV who meet strict CDC-defined clinical guidelines and who are able to visit their medical provider at least every three months. Using condoms and other safer sex practices remain important as PrEP is not 100 percent effective and doesn't prevent other STDs.

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- Michelle Thomas, MD
GHC-SCW Family Medicine Provider

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Group Health Cooperative
of South Central Wisconsin

WHAT'S TRENDING [HEALTH & FITNESS]

Stand Up for Fun



RUTABAGA PADDLESORTS
DARREN BUSH, CHIEF PADDLING EVANGELIST

Kayaks are still pointy at both ends, but the materials and designs make kayaks more efficient and light-weight. The paddlesports industry has seen amazing growth in stand-up paddleboards (SUP), with great designs that are much more suitable for our Midwestern waters. They're light and they look awesome on your car.

Care for All



DIVERSE & RESILIENT
GARY HOLLANDER, PRESIDENT & CEO

The Affordable Care Act has been an exciting opportunity for LGBT people in Wisconsin in many ways. The ACA expands access to health care coverage to tens of thousands of LGBT people. This is important to our communities because we have been shown to be half as likely to have health insurance as our heterosexual peers. This burden of limited access has contributed to poorer health outcomes in cancer and heart disease.

But the ACA has also set new standards of coverage and care that benefit transgender people, young people, and older adults—all vulnerable populations within our LGBT communities. Fair Wisconsin, ARCW, Cream City Foundation, and Diverse and Resilient have partnered to increase ACA enrollments and information about ACA. We have been invited by health system administrators to discuss what is needed to improve culturally competent care among providers less familiar with our needs and our interests.

Trans Health 411 from FORGE

Trans* bodies come in a wonderfully wide range of sizes, shapes, colors, configurations, abilities, and body parts. They all deserve to be cared for.

What's Up, Doc?

Find and regularly visit a health care provider you feel good about, someone you're willing to tell the truth to. You may know more about trans* health than they do; that's OK if they're willing to meet you where you are. To see FORGE's list of Wisconsin/Illinois trans*-friendly medical providers, go to forge-forward.org.

Know Your Numbers.

For FTM: Get regular blood tests and preventative screenings. If you use testosterone, common routine blood tests include: complete blood count, total testosterone (= 300-1100 ng/dL), lipid profile (total cholesterol = <200mg/dL), liver function panel (ALT = 21-72 UL), and blood glucose (<100mg/dL). Your medical history, length of time on T, and current medical conditions will determine the frequency of these tests.

For MTFs: Get regular blood tests and preventative screenings. If you use estrogen or progesterone, common routine blood tests include: complete blood count, hormone levels, lipid profile (total = <200mg/dL), liver function panel (ALT = 21-72 UL), and blood glucose (<100mg/dL). Your medical history, length of time on estrogen/progesterone, and current medical conditions will determine the frequency of these tests.

Don't Let the Pressure Build.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in U.S. adults. Don't become a statistic. Keep your blood pressure and cholesterol counts down through routine checks, regular exercise, stress reduction techniques, and a diverse, low-fat, high-nutrition diet.

Kick the Habit.

Testosterone / estrogen and smoking aren't a health pair. Together, they increase your risk of heart disease more than either one alone.

Keep It Flowing.

MTFs who use estrogen are at a significantly higher risk than cisgender women of developing blood clots—which can lead to strokes and heart attacks. Smoking and being sedentary raise the risks even higher, so put one butt out and get the other one moving! Talk to your healthcare practitioner about estradiol valerate and stop hormones 2-4 weeks before surgery.

FTMs: Polycythemia (an overabundance of red blood cells) frequently occurs in trans-masculine people using testosterone. If or when your hematocrit (40-54%), hemoglobin (12-16gm/dL), or red blood cell (4.2-6.8M/uL) counts get high, discuss options with your provider. Lowering your testosterone dose, increasing the frequency of testosterone doses, using topical forms of testosterone, stopping smoking, donating blood, and taking a daily aspirin might be recommended.

Keep It Loving.

Learn about healthy relationships. If you suspect yours isn't healthy or is even abusive, seek help in changing the pattern or getting out.

Share the Love, but Not the Fluids!

HIV and sexually transmitted infections don't discriminate. Be prepared when you're going to be sexual with others. Have and use barriers (dental dams, condoms, gloves) to keep body fluids safely confined to their original owners.

June 1 | Fair Wisconsin Education Fund Madison Leadership Awards



[HEALTH & FITNESS] WHAT'S TRENDING

De-Stress for Success



AKANISHTA KADAMPA BUDDHIST CENTER
SUMMER LAIRD, EDUCATION PROGRAMS COORDINATOR

It's common knowledge that meditation can help reduce stress and increase concentration, but what is less well-known is that it can actually help you stop negative mental habits from destroying your happiness. We all know that the health of our bodies is important, but we don't focus enough on what is going on in our minds that makes us sick—mentally and physically. Understanding your mind can empower you to be a completely healthy person, not just a person who seems healthy on the outside. Not only are these techniques ancient and time-tested, but also they are applicable to everyone. You don't have to be a Buddhist to benefit from Buddhist philosophy. Meditation benefits everyone.

The Art of Movement



BERKELEY RUNNING COMPANY
ROLANDO CRUZ, GENERAL MANAGER

Running and walking programs are always popular sharing ideas that are exchanged inside our store on a daily basis. However, in addition to the obvious running and walking programs, more personalized functional training has also been on the rise. These are seen with increased Cross Fit, boot-camp, and training-camp-inspired classes becoming available throughout the area. In addition, here at the Berkeley we are seeing the mastery of movement becoming the ideal—elevating the standards of fitness to include not only great athletic achievements and body composition but also overall mastery of the art of human movement.

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▲ Photos courtesy of Dr. Christy Matter, North Texas Dermatology, Plano, TX

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Treating the whole you...



With one of our founders, Dr. Paul Wertsch, being the past (and first) Chairman of the AMA Advisory Committee on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender issues, access to quality health care for the LGBT community has always been a priority at the Wildwood Family Clinic.

By building strong, open and caring relationships with our patients and focusing on the importance of addressing all aspects of an individual's life, Wildwood providers are your partner in the journey towards a healthier you.



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Jurist Prudes from the Past

Historian Dick Wagner illustrates how far we've come and compiles some of the less-than-friendly court rulings regarding LGBT people in the state's past.



Today, when a Pennsylvania judge wants to consign marriage inequality to "the ash heap of history" as he strikes down that state's laws barring same sex couples from marriage, we want to cheer. However, as one who rummages in the ash heap of history, I would recall that judges have not always been our great friends.

Over the last century many Wisconsin judges have ruled on cases involving LGBT people. Some of what they have said is quite revealing of attitudes towards homosexuality. Many cases arise due to criminal proceedings because the sexual activities of gay persons were criminal in Wisconsin until 1983, thus the most likely place they were to appear in official records was in the criminal record, as you will see.

In 1905, in the first sodomy case to reach the Wisconsin Supreme Court (*Means v. State*), outrage and broad disdain were the judicial themes. "We are unwilling to soil the pages of our Reports with lengthened discussion of the loathsome subject. There is sufficient authority to sustain a conviction in such a case, and, if there were none, we should feel no hesitancy in placing an authority on the books."

In 1916, in *Abaly v. State* the case involved a complaint of sodomy by the individual upon whom the act was committed in Richland Center, and that supposedly happened on March 13, 1915. The defense was based on the fact that Abaly was not present in Richland Center on that day. The defendant was asked during the trial "whether he did not have improper relations

with a certain person, naming him, other than the complaining witness." This clearly was a prosecution focused on his status as a homosexual, not whether he had performed the said criminal act on said day. The Wisconsin Supreme Court, Justice Kerwin writing, found this "improper." It was noted that the trial record also included unwarranted testimony: "A doctor was also permitted to testify that the reputation of defendant was bad, basing his opinion of defendant's reputation upon stories and talk which he had heard after the prosecution of this case had been commenced." The conviction was reversed. Since law regarded homosexuality as a criminal act, the court correctly ruled a criminal act must be proved—not a reputation as a homosexual.

In 1927, the Wisconsin Supreme Court gave a break to heterosexuals and lesbians by ruling that oral sex on females did not constitute a sodomy violation in *Garrad v. State*. "Sodomy, the crime against nature, has from earliest times been considered as involving the use of the male organ of generation." Later the legislature would remedy this in 1955 by changing the crime to "sexual perversion" and making it inclusive. Furthering the penalties against sexual perversion, the 1959 legislature prohibited the granting of a driver's license of anyone so convicted.

In 1927, the Wisconsin Supreme Court gave a break to heterosexuals and lesbians by ruling that oral sex on females did not constitute a sodomy violation.

In 1928, the state Supreme Court upheld a conviction for sodomy in *Verhaalen v. State*. Despite the defense's friends and neighbors testifying to the accused's good character, the matter went beyond the particulars of the case. Justice Crownhart wrote, "The crime itself is so repulsive and detestable that one is loath to believe in defendant's guilt, yet we must recognize the offense existed in ancient times, and recent legislation broadening the common-law definition indicates that modern culture has not succeeded in abolishing the crime. Prosecuting officers and criminal courts recognize it as too prevalent to be ignored."

In June 1948, a group of students from UW in Madison had been charged with moral offenses for participating in abnormal sexual activities. Dane County Superior Court Judge Proctor placed them on one year's probation, with what the paper called "a stern warning." They had pleaded guilty. Judge Proctor seemed to be aware of the new research into human sexual behavior by Dr. Alfred Kinsey, for he observed, "Some would have us believe that abnormal sexual behavior is natural and normal biologically, but until our law-making bodies see fit to change the statutes, such behavior is unlawful and violators must be punished." To show he was not personally into the new thinking, Proctor continued, "Each and all of you should feel deeply ashamed. You have embarrassed your friends and relatives, none of whom I am sure had the slightest idea you ever could or would become involved as you have. Each of you has caused an indelible mark to be placed against you."

Also in 1965, the Court had the case of *State ex rel. Stroetz v. Burke*, which had its origins in 1954 when Stroetz, then 25 and employed by Marathon Paper as a pressman, was convicted in the municipal court of Outagamie County on a guilty plea of sodomy. Then he was examined under the sexual psychopath law and "found to need specialized treatment for his mental aberration; and thereafter on September 17, 1954, he was committed to the department of public welfare." The order was extended in 1959, and again in 1964. Stroetz was not represented by counsel at his trial or at the first commitment order or its initial extension. The issue was raised whether a psychiatrist should be appointed to determine the question of whether in 1954 he was "capable of knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily waiving his rights to counsel." Stroetz lost. Among the court's reasoning was, "The evidence establishes that petitioner appreciated the revolting nature of his offense, was embarrassed and remorseful, and wanted the matter of the plea and sentence over with as quickly and quietly as possible."

In 1972, while upholding the conviction for oral sex in *Jones v. State*, the court rejected Jones' claim that the law was unfair, noting the sexual pervers-

sion law was not enforced against married persons. The court found it "beyond reasonable argument" that the law was enacted to control or prohibit the consensual and private sexual intimacies of married persons. Justice Beilfuss, writing for the court about the criminality of oral sex, felt that "We cannot believe this statute can or will be used to threaten or prosecute married couples in violation of their rights of privacy." No concern for homosexuals or unmarried heterosexuals here.

In 1973, Judge Jackman of the Dane County Circuit Court was reviewing the state's firing of a gay man who was an early activist in the Milwaukee gay community from the Southern Colony near Racine. Jackman upheld the firing and made some startling statements: "Plaintiff asserts a constitutional right to be a homosexual and we have no quarrel with his right, so long as he confines his talk and activity to other than working hours and with some semblance of privacy." Thus his free speech was limited, and he may not "proclaim his deviant conduct at work."

In 1974, the Wisconsin Supreme Court heard the case on appeal, Justice Hanley writing for the court. Among the statements in the decision was, "The appellant claims that his off-duty association with other homosexuals is constitutionally protected. While such may be the case, this court need not herein determine whether mere association with other homosexuals during off-duty hours is constitutionally guaranteed." Today who could doubt whether it "may" be protected. The basis for upholding the firing was "One specific aspect of the responsibilities of the houseparent was to direct the patients to a proper understanding of human sexuality. Such an understanding required the projection of the orthodoxy of male homosexuality. Consistent with the projection of the normalcy of heterosexuality by the houseparent was the requirement to project the unorthodoxy of male homosexuality...." No normal status for homosexuals in this decision.

In 1976, a man dressed in women's clothes was entrapped by an undercover cop when he offered to perform oral sex. Rather than being charged with solicitation for prostitution, as a woman likely would have been, he was charged with soliciting for sexual perversion. The other charge common for gay men soliciting for sex was disorderly conduct, which usually resulted in a fine. The prostitution charge could result in a maximum of one year in prison while the sexual perversion charge carried a maximum of five years. In *Sears v. State* the plaintiff lost when he appealed the five-year sentence.

Thus for most of the twentieth century Wisconsin judges donned their black robes and put on their stern faces and spoke disapprovingly of homosexuality. Occasionally, though, judicial fairness gave a small measure of relief. None, however, could be termed friendly to the cause of civil rights for homosexual citizens.

In all these matters there was no acknowledgement of gay people as a class that was discriminated against in society. The more favorable court rulings of recent times have often relied on a judicial requirement of heightened scrutiny when there is a history of discrimination against a particular class. Judge Barbara Crabb's ruling in the Federal Court for the Western District of Wisconsin on behalf of marriage equality used this heightened scrutiny doctrine, which was really set up by Wisconsin's 1982 first-in-the-nation law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. This fundamental shift in our legal status to group or class from just a bunch of criminals created the basis for the modern rulings by the jurists of our own era. ■



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READER SPOTLIGHT

PARENTS: Victoria Echeverria & Natalie Hinckley
NAME: Sandwich
AGE: 2, male
BREED: male springer/blue heeler mix
OCCUPATION: Friend Beast
FAVORITE TOYS: Logs, large blocks of wood
FAVORITE LEISURE ACTIVITIES: Licking his junk...or where it used to be
FAVORITE FOODS: Everything, seriously. But especially...yeah, everything
PET PEEVES: Putting his harness on
LEAST FAVORITE PHRASE: Off!
IF PETS COULD TALK, WHAT WOULD YOURS SAY? Hey! Hey! Hey! There's a ball over here. Hey! Hey!

READER SPOTLIGHT



PARENTS: Elizabeth Hagen & Kayla
NAME: Prince George
AGE: 1, male
BREED: Orange tabby
OCCUPATION: Chasing his sisters Peanut & Butters
FAVORITE TOYS: Scrunchy balls
FAVORITE LEISURE ACTIVITIES: Meowing at the birds and bunnies
FAVORITE FOODS: Holistic canned treats
PET PEEVES: Waiting outside his Mommies' bedroom door and meowing for his morning treat (at 4 am)
IF PETS COULD TALK, WHAT WOULD YOURS SAY? Mom...I missed you all day when you both were at work! Come play or feed ME!

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OUR PETS


READER SPOTLIGHT

PARENT: Sandy Thistle
NAME: Norma
HOW DID YOU FIND YOUR PET? Adopted through Petfinder and Shelter From the Storm
AGE: 5.5, female
BREED: Boxer/Bulldog
OCCUPATION: Being a dog, kidding, I'm a carpenter
FAVORITE TOYS: Food, chasing cats, squirrels, and bunnies
FAVORITE LEISURE ACTIVITIES: Cuddling with my mom while she reads
FAVORITE FOODS: Raspberries
PET PEEVES: Drivers who don't use blinkers
IF PETS COULD TALK, WHAT WOULD YOURS SAY? I'm in love




READER SPOTLIGHT

PARENT: Jason Harwood
NAME: Frieda
HOW DID YOU FIND YOUR PET? She was the puppy of a friend's dog
AGE: 4, female
BREED: Boston Terrier
FAVORITE TOYS: Any number of chew toys strewn throughout the place
FAVORITE LEISURE ACTIVITIES: Sleep, followed by short bouts of immeasurable cuteness, licking, gazing with sad wet eyes, ending the busy day with sleep
PET PEEVES: Homophobia, and having her tail touched
LEAST FAVORITE PHRASE: NO! (Yeah right, like anyone tells her "no!")
IF PETS COULD TALK, WHAT WOULD YOURS SAY? Turn the tv off, and get over here so you c—SQUIRREL!



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June 6

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June 9

Helen Hazelmare & Daun Johnstone, Madison

June 9

Ami & Jaimie Christophersen, Beloit

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June 11

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June 6

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member profile



NAME:
Meghan Roed

TITLE:
Associate Attorney

EMPLOYER:
The Law Center for Children & Families

Meghan recently joined OPEN's internal committee, and is looking forward to being part of the group's leadership as well as meeting other LGBT professionals in the Madison area. Before returning to school to earn her law degree, Meghan served as an AmeriCorps VISTA, working for two years in fundraising and development for a Chicago homeless services provider. After that, she made her way to Seoul, where she taught English and developed a love of Korean food and culture. In returning to school, Meghan was active in several student organizations, including QLaw, the UW Law School's LGBTQ student group. Meghan was drawn to her position at The Law Center for Children & Families because the firm has been a pioneer in LGBT family law, both in Wisconsin and nationwide, and because of the firm's commitment to protecting Wisconsin's LGBT families.

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OUR REPRESENTATIVE

Our Stamp on History

Rep. Mark Pocan draws inspiration from the life and work of the LGBTQ pioneers who helped bring us to a time when progress is made every day.

Harvey Milk has always had a big impact on my life and the lives of other LGBT elected officials, but on May 22 that impact grew when the U.S. Post Office dedicated a forever stamp to Harvey Milk at a White House ceremony. This marked the first time an openly gay elected official was featured on a U.S. stamp. Since his death a little over 35 years ago, Harvey Milk has been an inspiration to the equality movement and aspiring LGBT elected officials across the country.

His legacy opened the door for former Rep. Barney Frank and Senator Tammy Baldwin to break down barriers and forge new frontiers for the LGBT community. I was honored to follow in Senator Baldwin's footsteps when, for the first time, a congressional district elected back-to-back openly gay citizens to Congress.

As a small business owner and elected official, Harvey Milk has proved to be an inspiration to my personal journeys in business and public service. Whether operating a small print shop with my husband or serving the people of Wisconsin in Congress, Harvey Milk's legacy of hope and tolerance has been central to my efforts in both my personal and public life.

Hope and tolerance have never been more at the forefront of the equality movement. Together we have reached many historic milestones over the past 12 months. Barriers to equality continue to be broken down almost weekly as marriage equality is now recognized in 19 states and the District of Columbia. On May 19th, a federal judge struck down an anti-marriage constitutional amendment in Oregon that restricted marriage to different-sex couples. One day later a federal judge appointed by President George W. Bush ruled in favor of the freedom to marry in Pennsylvania, striking down the state's ban on marriage for same-sex couples. It has become unmistakable that supporters of marriage equality have the country and the Constitution on our side.

Additionally, the Senate made progress when they passed the Employment Nondiscrimination Act (ENDA) for the first time and included LGBT language in the Violence Against Women Act. As a co-chair of the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus and member



of the Education and the Workforce Committee, which has jurisdiction over ENDA, I called on Speaker John Boehner to honor the equality deserved by all Americans. ENDA has bipartisan support in the House and must be a top priority in the coming months to stop the discrimination one in every five LGBT employees faces in their work environment because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Furthermore, Senators Brian Schatz (D-HI) and Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) introduced my "Restore Honor to Service Members Act" to the Senate in January. The bill, which I introduced in the House, would close the book on "Don't Ask Don't Tell." It ensures that gay and lesbian veterans who were discharged because of their sexual orientation receive the honor and recognition they deserve. We owe it to these veterans to provide them with dignity and support.

But in a year of milestones for the equality movement, including the one-year anniversary of the Supreme Court striking down the Defense of Marriage Act, we know we have more to do. The next generation of LGBT leaders must continue to honor Harvey Milk's legacy and build upon the successes of the past year. For instance, Michael Sam, the first openly gay football player to be drafted by an NFL team, could still be fired from a job in Wisconsin simply because of his sexual orientation.

As we celebrated what would have been Harvey Milk's 84th birthday on May 22nd, his message of hope and tolerance still resonates with Americans across the country. I look forward to carrying on his legacy with the new generation of LGBT activists and elected officials as we fight for equality for all. ■



Congressman Mark Pocan is the U.S. Representative for Wisconsin's second district, which includes Dane, Green, Iowa, LaFayette, Sauk, and portions of Rock and Richland counties.

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he increasing number of older LGBT adults who refuse to go back into the closet is having a profound effect on our nation’s health care system. At the federal level, LGBT seniors are recognized as a vulnerable population. The American Medical Association is preparing to gather data on LGBT health concerns and treatment.

Locally, senior-serving agencies in Dane County are being educated and influenced by my role as the LGBT Senior Advocate, which is funded by the City of Madison and Dane County through the OutReach LGBT Community Center. OutReach is training human service and medical students by hosting panel discussions at Madison College and the UW – Madison. PRIDE in HealthCare is a student and professional group helping to educate their cohort at University Hospitals and elsewhere.

Health care for LGBT seniors begins when we’re younger, so training at all levels of health care is important. What are the biggest concerns for older LGBT adults? Isolation, stress around life-long discrimination, HIV/AIDS as a chronic illness, a lifetime of inadequate health insurance, inadequate or neglected health care,

some of us are rightfully fearful of being refused care by the medical establishment and the insurance industry. When some of us have fallen through the cracks of the medical system, how do we trust that we’ll receive the care we deserve now?

As a population, we are focusing on preventive health care and alternatives to keep ourselves out of the health care establishment for as long as possible. The LGBT population is becoming known for its resilience and accessing alternative health care.

OutReach has established a Share the Care program as a means to support each other when a major medical emergency arises or when there is a need for either short– or long-term care. Volunteers who operate this program are available to help you set up a group of friendly people you and/or your partner can trust. All you have to do is call (608) 255-8582 or click on Share the Care at OutReach’s website: www.lgbtoutreach.org.

Through my LGBT Senior Advocate role, OutReach is expanding its collaboration with other agencies. The Alzheimer’s/Dementia Alliance received funding recently from the New Harvest Foundation to set up LGBT-specific support groups. They are always looking for volunteer drivers to transport Dane County residents to medical appointments.

In addition to opening The Gardens retirement housing to LGBT seniors, our recent contact with Independent Living, Inc. (ILI) is focused on their Home Share program, which matches those in need with a roommate. This is an exceptional option for adults who are not comfortable living alone anymore and adults who would like an affordable place to live.




After a small application fee, two prospective parties go through a background screening and then participate in an interview with each other. ILI provides ongoing support to assure success.

We are considering if the program could be reversed: a middle-aged individual or couple could take in a senior and provide care or support on a short-term basis after a surgery procedure or while a senior is in a housing transition. We also think this program might be helpful for LGBT people who are temporarily homeless.

ILI provides a variety of services and is always looking for volunteers. They provide background checks and training for all volunteers. Volunteer services include telephone reassurance, friendly visiting, and Kibble on Wheels. Volunteers with Kibble on Wheels deliver free pet food and supplies to low-income pet owners.

If you’re a senior or a young adult interested in participating in the Home Share program or in other volunteer opportunities through Independent Living, Inc., you can email Margo Fochs at mfochs@independentlivinginc.org. Because this is a joint program, I would appreciate it if you would contact me as well and indicate to Margo that you are LGBT or an ally and are volunteering to support LGBT individuals as well as anyone else working with their program. My email address is: carolw@lgbtoutreach.org or call (608) 255-8582. ■

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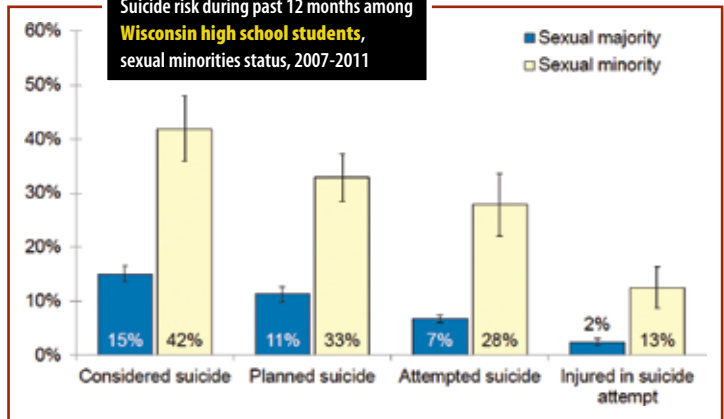


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OUR HEALTH

Stand and Be Counted

Molly Herrmann explains why the new state health report on LGB people matters, and why surveys of the LGBTQ community are crucial to its well being.



Category	Sexual majority	Sexual minority
Considered suicide	15%	42%
Planned suicide	11%	33%
Attempted suicide	7%	28%
Injured in suicide attempt	2%	13%

environment. The Federal Department of Health and Human Services is committed to gathering data on LGBT individuals to help researchers, policy makers, health care providers, and advocates identify and address health disparities affecting the LGBT population.


I'd like to highlight a few significant findings. Sexual minority youth (includes LGB identified and those with same sex sexual partners) experience earlier initiation of smoking, sex, and alcohol use. They experience higher rates of cocaine and inhalant use, intimate partner violence, and mental health issues such as depression and suicide attempts. Compared to their peers, sexual minority youth feel less like they belong in and are safe at school and less like they are loved and supported by parents.

For adults who identify as LGB, there are significant differences in access to health coverage (25% vs. 13%), experiencing poor health at least one day of the month (49% vs. 35%), and not visiting the dentist (40% vs. 26%).

Maybe like me you are wondering, does our health get better? We'll need more years of data and/or different, larger data sets.

This brings me to my first look forward: adding sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex of sex partner to the fields in electronic medical records would be a huge leap forward. Yes, this means we'd be out in our medical records. And again, a gentle nudge: we need to be counted to be counted.

This is what happens when you collect data on LGBT people. You find out a lot about our communities—a lot to improve and a lot of resilience. I suggest a three-step approach to the question “What do we do now?”



Molly Herrmann is an activist, researcher, trainer, and consultant on LGBT intimate partner violence (IPV) with Humble Pie Consulting. She also currently works as a health educator in the state AIDS/HIV Program.

SOURCE: WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, YOUTH RISK BEHAVIOR SURVEY (YRBS); 2007, 2009, 2011 COMBINED DATASET

- 1. Pay attention to the data, even if you don't like it.** I've worked in HIV prevention for over 15 years and LGBT intimate partner violence for over 10. I understand that these and other issues feel like constant strikes against us. I know there are a lot of other battles to fight in our communities, so pointing out these disparities might seem counter to those goals. However, we must pay attention to the health issues—our lives depend on it, and they weave through the fabric of all of our other battles.
- 2. Ask about it.** In other words, hey can we get some help over here? I know it is hard to bring up these issues with our friends, family, and providers. However, we need emotional and financial support for these issues if we are to reduce disparities.
- 3. Do it.** If you experience these disparities, talk about them with your support systems and providers. Start noticing where providers could do better to include and serve us.

There is no lack of work to be done. But, in the words of Jack McFarland (yes, I am dating myself by quoting Will & Grace), “The more you know...and shooting star.” We can only address these issues if we recognize them, ask questions, and talk them up. ■

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Annual Dinner Fundraising Event

July 18, 2014

Goodman Community Center

6pm Cocktails and Silent auction
7pm Summer Inspired Dinner

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quality of life

OUR INTERSECTIONS

Flip the System

In order to really address racial disparities in our communities, **Linda Ketcham** explains why it's crucial to change the systems that enforce monochrome workplaces.

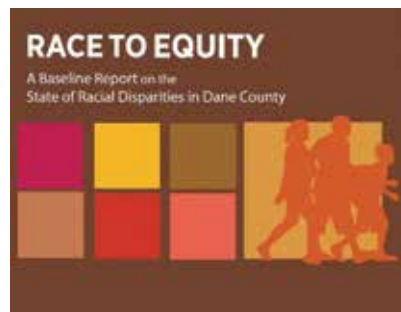
In their "Race to Equity Report," the Wisconsin Council on Children and Families (WCCF) examines the outrageous state of racial disparities in education, employment, poverty, and our neighborhoods in Dane County. We need Dane County to respond to the disparities in ways that are more effective and inclusive—and that hold us accountable for the growing disparities and inequities (and when I say "us" I am primarily talking about those of us who identify as "white").

According to the Report and 2010 Census data, African Americans comprised 6.5 percent of the population in Dane County. The 2007 Dane County unemployment rate for non-Hispanic whites was percent and for blacks it was 20 percent. By 2011, the unemployment rate for non-Hispanic whites had increased to 4.8 percent and for blacks to 25.2 percent. In 2011, the Census's American Community Survey reported that over 54 percent of African Americans living in Dane County lived below the federal poverty line compared to 8.7 percent of whites. Nationally, African Americans are 2.5 times as likely to live in poverty as

What if we started by looking at the skill set needed for each position within our organizations and then determined whether a degree or professional certification was necessary?

whites; in Dane County African Americans are 6 times as likely to live in poverty as whites. Looking only at children, the numbers are even worse: 75 percent of African American children in Dane County live in poverty compared to 5 percent of white children. These numbers only scratch the surface of the disparities. In education and graduation rates, in the number of children who take the ACT exam, in juvenile arrest and adult arrest and convictions, the disparities persist.

Each year United Way of Dane County partner agencies complete a year-end report that includes demographics for the agencies' board members, staff, volunteers, and program participants. In 2013, the United



Way found that, of 884 board members in their 70 Partner agencies, 89 (10.1 percent) of those board members were African Americans and that 37 Partner agencies had no African American members on their boards. Of 4,774 staff members in the 70 agencies, there were 449 (9.4 percent) African American staff in 41 of the 70 agencies, meaning 29 agencies have no African American staff. Of the 84,532 program participants, 22,428 (26.5 percent) were African American. What these numbers don't tell us is how many of the African American staff in those agencies are full or part-time, how many of them are in management or supervisory positions vs. entry level, etc.

In the Race to Equity Report, the WCCF suggests that "among the first changes we need to pursue is to increase the diversity of the professionals and staff who work in our schools and our major counseling, recreational, job training, and social service institutions. African Americans are almost 8 percent of the county's total population and almost 20 percent of Madison's public school enrollment." But how do we do that? That's the question I've heard many colleagues ask. Given the disparities in academic achievement, graduation rates, and college attendance rates, how do we, as employers, hire the most qualified, best educated candidates and create a more representative work force? What I sometimes wonder is whether asking these questions is a rationalization for the personnel and human resources systems that we have put in place as employers.

In his article "Decoding Modern Racial Discourse: A System Justification Theory Approach," educator Robin Parker posits that system justification theory holds answers to why white people often don't want to "see color." He explains that "people are motivated

to justify and rationalize the way things are, so that existing social, economic, and political arrangements tend to be perceived as fair and legitimate" even if they are not (reminding me of the old argument against "special rights" for the LGBT community). According to Parker, system justification theory explains that the preservation of the status quo "may be a more salient motive for action than self-interest, domination or out-group prejudice... white people may say, 'Racism isn't a problem in our society,' not because they have a conscious, personal dislike for black people or are unable to understand the contemporary struggles with racism black people endure. Instead...the dismissive remark arises from a strong psychological need to maintain the current social order even when doing so is contrary to cogent evidence or espoused values of fairness."

Looking only at children, the numbers are even worse: 75 percent of African American children in Dane County live in poverty compared to 5 percent of white children.

The WCCF is correct; we need to increase diversity in our social services agencies. To do this we also must acknowledge that the status quo of focusing on degrees and formal educational credentials may be nothing more than a system justification approach. What if we started by looking at the skill set needed for each position within our organizations and then determined whether a degree or professional certification was necessary? What if we developed personnel policies that were flexible, giving current employees flex schedules to pursue classes? And what if we counted some of those classes as work time? What if we focused on professional development plans for employees in entry level positions, investing in them the same way we might invest in a management trainee? It would challenge the status quo, it would open more career pathways, and it would result in a workforce that is more representative of both our community and the individuals with whom we work. ■



Linda Ketcham is the Executive Director of Madison-Area Urban Ministry (emum.org), an interfaith social justice organization that has spurred social change in and around Dane County.





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Living Truth

Connie North explores the work of author and teacher **Helen Boyd** and what it means to love a trans* person.



I am a woman, but I can’t guarantee I feel like one; I suppose I don’t, or that I feel similar only to a subset of women who are a little bit more like me—bookish, practical, direct, and not into shoes. I’m supposed to be into shoes,” read Helen Boyd from her book *She’s Not the Man I Married: My Life with a Transgender Husband* (Seal Press, 2007). As a longtime activist for LGBTQ issues and gender equity, Boyd was a welcome presenter at FORGE’s April meeting. FORGE is a Milwaukee-based organization that provides peer support to transgender communities, including significant others, friends, family, and allies (SOFFAs) of trans* people.

For those not familiar with Boyd or her writing, she first published *My Husband Betty* (Seal Press, 2003), described by S. Bear Bergman as “a comprehensive and engaging overview of the world of the male crossdresser.” At that time, her partner Betty (a pseudonym) was engaging in what Boyd calls “cross-gender expression,” honoring Betty’s dislike of the “crossdresser” label. By 2007, when Boyd published *She’s Not the Man I Married*, which she calls “a memoir by someone who reads a lot of gender theory,” Betty identified as trans*. Boyd shared significant ambivalence in that book about the possibility of her partner transitioning. Thus several audience members at the FORGE meeting wondered what had happened to her and Betty’s relationship in the last seven years.

Now a gender studies professor at Lawrence University, Boyd emphasized that print lasts forever and the only thing consistent about her own gender is that it changes. In 2007, she and Betty “transitioned together” and are about to celebrate their eleventh wedding anniversary. In her words, “Relationships last as long as the people in them wake up and decide to be in the

relationship that day.”

Boyd remains an ardent advocate for partners of trans* individuals, who she emphasizes do not have access to legal, medical, and social guides created for them. She finds the “get on board or decide to go” message that partners frequently hear to be overly simplistic given how significantly someone’s transition affects those closest to them. Boyd asserts that when their partners transition, many partners must grieve the loss of the person with whom they first entered into the relationship, noting that a partner does not necessarily share the sense of inauthenticity a trans* individual may experience before transitioning. She also shares her own process of working through profound anger when Betty transitioned. Calling this “spiritual/psychological work,” Boyd speaks of learning not to blame Betty for her transition since it is not something people choose to

Female partners of trans* men, for example, do not necessarily identify as straight but often are read that way when entering into queer spaces with their partners. She also described going into an LGBT center and encountering staff who did not know what to do with her identities.

do. Instead, she could be mad at the transness when she needed to be and embrace her partner throughout the process. “Things are more complicated than liking everything all the time,” Boyd asserted, revealing that she is still in love with the guy she first met and that, at times, Betty misses being him too. To offer more support for partners, she runs an online group and message boards specifically for them.

That Boyd welcomes all partners of trans* people in the groups she moderates signals her commitment to more inclusivity and less gatekeeping within LGBTQ communities. While acknowledging the need for safe spaces for marginalized social groups, and trans* individuals in particular, Boyd objected to the frequent exclusions that occur within LGBTQ communities due to misguided assumptions



and someone not wearing their queerness on their sleeve. Female partners of trans* men, for example, do not necessarily identify as straight but often are read that way when entering into queer spaces with their partners. She also described going into an LGBT center and encountering staff who did not know what to do with her identities. As Boyd wrote in her second book,

When I was seen as the wife of a crossdresser, most of the expectations people had about me were also all wrong: that my husband's crossdressing made me unhappy, or that I didn't find it erotic, or after I'd cleared up that actually both of those things were untrue, that I was really a lesbian. And often the assumption was confirmed in some people's minds by the way that I acted or dressed. It was a revolving door of expectations I couldn't fulfill and got tired of explaining.

I appreciate Boyd’s attention to the intense hurt that exists in trans* communities—communities that she insists include the people who love trans* individuals. Instead of converting that hurt to horizontal anger that we take out on each other, she asked us to focus on changing external factors, like institutionalized discrimination, which cause great harm to trans* people and their allies and put a lot of pressure on the relationships that include trans* partners. She also reminded us that service and compassion are the heart of social justice activism. To give her the final word (from *She’s Not the Man I Married*), “I’ve had more than one person tell me how courageous and strong I am, how brave and cutting-edge. I’m not any of those things. I’m just another person living my life and trying to make my way in the world, a person who has found out that love is complicated and life is difficult, but that companionship is worth all the king’s ransom.” ■



Connie North has an MS in marriage and family therapy and a PhD in education. She uses a mindfulness-based, justice-oriented approach and has taught and written about LGBTQI, equity, and diversity issues.

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Sharing the Bounty

Local food options expand with the new CSA Market Share program.

Our *Lives* readers know that I’m a big supporter of CSA shares. For those of you not familiar with the CSA model, in broad terms, it’s a way to support local farmers by buying a “share” of their farm up front. For the cost of your share, you get fresh veggies and fruit—and sometimes cheeses or meat—each week throughout their appointed production season.

Your CSA box gets delivered to an arranged drop-off site each week where you swing by to pick it up. The benefits to the consumer are obvious: fresh, local food delivered each week. The benefit to the farmer is that they receive the CSA payments up front, giving them a windfall of cash to buy the seeds for the year, compost, potting soil, etc. (Spring is a spendy time on the farm).

One downside for many consumers was that they were really at the mercy of the farmer in that you “got what you got” in your box. Even in our own family, we have vegetables that are in the “like” column and a few in the “dislike” column. So when we’d get two pounds of spinach (our “dislike”), we always gave it away or composted it. What a waste!

With a Market Share you still buy into the farm up front (your share), but instead of getting the weekly box of produce delivered to your area for you to pick up, you simply show up at the farmer’s stand at the farmer’s market and choose what you want.

Now there’s another option: it’s called the CSA “Market Share,” and it’s brilliant! With a Market Share you still buy into the farm up front (your share), but instead of getting the weekly box of produce delivered to your area for you to pick up, you simply show up at the farmer’s stand at the farmer’s market and choose what you want. This will be a game changer for many people who shied away from a CSA share in the past. According to Tricia Bross, Owner of Luna Circle Farms, “The Market Share option is really amazing for both the consumer and for me too. They only pay for food that they’ll use, and I get to have a relationship with my CSA members because I see them at market each week.”

Another benefit for the farmer, according to Jake Hoeksema, Farm

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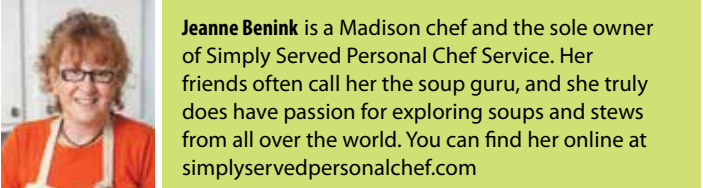
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Director at the Troy Community Farm, is that the market share is a lot less work overall (less bagging, weighing, packing boxes, and so on). He also explains that a market share incentivizes their CSA members to shop frequently since they’ve already paid for their produce. Shirley Young, co-owner of Young Earth Farms, also loves the market share option because it reduces the stress on the farmer to grow massive varieties of produce to please all palates. “It allows me to grow the vegetables that produce best in our soil,” Young says.

Of course, there are some downsides to this option as well, and I’d be remiss not to share those too. For one, according to Claire Strader, Grower Program Coordinator at Fair Share CSA Coalition, it requires the consumer to actually go to the farmer’s market to get their market share food. “Not everyone has the time or desire to make another trip to go and pick up their market share food,” she explains. And then there is also the fact that you can only choose from the produce that is being offered that week by your farm. And for the farmer, the Market Share dance can be tricky. Strader says that, as a farmer, you have to be careful not to oversell the market share, otherwise you may not have enough produce to cover the standard CSA member’s boxes.

Overall, I think it’s an amazing partner offering to the standard CSA share, and I hope more people will consider buying local. For more information on farms that are offering CSAs in both formats, go to csacoalition.org to see what’s available in your area. ■



Jeanne Benink is a Madison chef and the sole owner of Simply Served Personal Chef Service. Her friends often call her the soup guru, and she truly does have passion for exploring soups and stews from all over the world. You can find her online at simplyservedpersonalchef.com

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A Strong Alliance

The **Indian Mound Middle School GSA** provides a safe space for students to provide support for each other and explore their own personalities.

We are the Indian Mound Middle School Gay Straight Alliance! We have been meeting twice a month for four years. We include sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students among our members. We always start with food. Our advisors, Mr. Kinnaman and Mrs. Colle, make sure to have great treats for us. Ice cream, fruit, cookies, water, and juice are a few of the snacks we have started our meetings with. As we eat, we goof around a bit, say hello to GSA members who we do not see in class every day, and just be ourselves. Alanah says, “GSA is a place where I can be myself without being judged.” Kynaeda adds, “GSA is a place that I can feel accepted, no matter my orientation.” After dancing around a bit and eating our snack, Mrs. Colle or Mr. Kinnaman often start the meeting with some current events that relate to the LGBTQ community. We have great

discussions and help each other out if someone is not familiar with a topic or has not kept up with the news. The rest of the meeting is spent getting ready for events or helping our advisors plan new events. We spent many meetings working to change our annual Day of Silence event to what we now call Stand Up Week. We made a YouTube video that explained why we changed the Day of Silence to Stand Up Week. The video was shown to all students as part of our morning announcements. We wanted students to stand up and speak out for what they feel is right rather than be quiet all day. We handed out 370 rainbow ribbons to students and staff to wear during Stand Up Week along with sharing some sad facts from the Dane County Youth Survey about bullying and the increase of suicide among LGBTQ students when compared to heterosexual students.

Why do we like the GSA? The members say:
“Because they send off a great message that people should be heard.” “GSA is a place where I can be myself without being judged.” “Because it is awesome!”

Why the GSA is important to me:
“GSA is a place where you get support,” and “Because I want to change the law.”

What I hope to help change at our school:
“I would like it to be a place where I can open up without being judged,” and “I want people to stop calling each other ‘faggot’ and making ‘gay’ into something bad.”

Why do you come to the GSA?
“Food, support, entertainment, friends, fun,” and “An every other weekly dose of hilarity, the supportive people, the T-shirts!”

What we do?
“We try to spread the word that people are people no matter their orientation.”

This year we sponsored a Hat Day at school when students could pay a dollar to wear a hat at school the day before winter break. We raised 90 dollars—half of the money went to the McFarland Food Pantry and the other half went toward buying ribbons for Stand Up Week. In April, we took our money from Hat Day to the McFarland Food Pantry, where the director gave us a tour and explained how a food pantry helps local families. We wish we could have stayed longer, but we were only able to spend half an hour. We really enjoyed the food pantry and hope to go back next year and volunteer. In the spring we had two more events. We made root beer floats after school as a fundraiser. Our local Culver’s donated frozen custard, cups, and spoons. In May, six of us attended the GSAFE banquet in Madison. ■

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