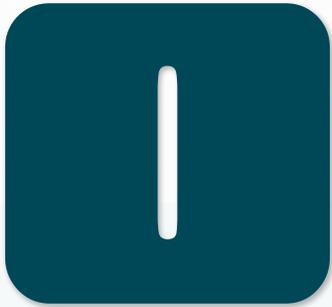


our lives



22



68



18



YOUTH & FAMILIES

Resources for Creating and Supporting Our Families

Madison's LGBT&XYZ Magazine



MADISON
AREA TECHNICAL
COLLEGE

LIFE'S LESSONS

Turina Bakken

MADISON COLLEGE
VICE PROVOST

November
December
2015

EVERYONE
worth caring about
is worth insuring

Dean Health Plan has health insurance options to help everyone live their best life. It's why so many people count on Dean.

Learn more, shop for health insurance, and get help at
deancare.com/sign-me-up

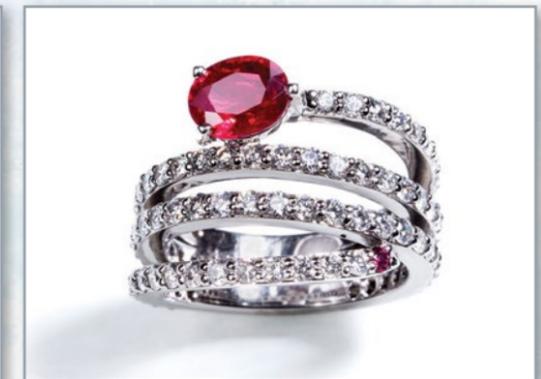


Not everyone dreams of a White Christmas.

Behold the *Custom Rare Gemstone Collection*
exclusively from Chalmers Jewelers.

Made in Wisconsin, these ethically sourced and meticulously crafted one-of-a-kind pieces won't be found at any other jeweler.

Let us create one for you, or choose from a vast assortment that are ready to take home today.




Chalmers Jewelers

(608) 233-4700 | 6202 University Avenue | chalmersjewelers.com



22

“The pressures on gay teens can be overwhelming—to keep secrets, tell lies, deny who you are, and try to be who you’re not. Remember: you are special and worth being cared about, loved, and accepted just as you are. Never, ever let anyone convince you otherwise.”

—Alex Sánchez, Mexican-American author of award-winning novels for teens and adults

TABLE OF CONTENTS **YOUTH & FAMILIES** NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2015

DEPARTMENTS

- 6 **EDITOR'S NOTE**
- 8 **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**
- 9 **CONTRIBUTORS**
- 9 **DANE BUY LOCAL SPOTLIGHT**

FEATURES

- 36 **SCHOOL OF LIFE**
Madison College Vice Provost Turina Bakken.
- 37 **TIPS & TRENDS: YOUTH & FAMILIES**
Local leaders talk what's new.
- 42 **PATH OF THORNS**
Briarpatch Youth Services looks at the needs of local homeless and at-risk LGBTQ youth.
- 48 **PROUD MAMA**
Madison PFLAG founder Jane LaFlash.
- 52 **PRESERVING THE QUEER PAST**
Dick Wagner on a new historical preservation group.

CONNECT

- 11 **GOOD MEDICINE**
ARCW's new full-service pharmacy in Madison.
- 12 **OUR ORGANIZATIONS**
LGBTQ service organizations.
- 18 **OUR ADVOCATES**
Sheltreese McCoy.
- 20 **OUR PAGES**
QDA: A new anthology on experiences of queer, disabled authors, storytellers and poets.
- 22 **OUR ADVOCATES**
Donald Haar on Willma's Fund.
- 26 **OUR ENTERTAINERS**
Violist Diedre Buckley.
- 28 **OUR ORGANIZERS**
ArtWrite Collective's Alaura Seidl.
- 30 **OUR ORGANIZERS**
Rollers: Retired Older Lesbians' Lunch.
- 34 **OUR SPONSORED EVENTS**
GSAFE's Walk/Run/Eat; OutReach Banquet.

IMPROVE

- 54 **OUR PETS**
Readers & their fur babies.
- 56 **OUR INTERSECTIONS**
Eradicating state violence against transgender people.
- 58 **OUR INTERSECTIONS**
Madison Urban Ministry's Linda Ketchum.
- 60 **OUR RIGHTS**
A marital presumption for same-sex parents.
- 62 **OUR RELATIONSHIPS**
Support for LGBTQ survivors of domestic abuse.
- 64 **OUR HEALTH**
Transition care.
- 66 **OUR ISSUES**
Get beyond "image policing."
- 68 **OUR TASTE**
The Makery in Waunakee.
- 70 **OUR FUTURE LEADERS**
Haruka Yukioka.

Cover photo by Max Wendt
Hair by Daisy Quintal-Lepinski, Union Hair Parlor

our lives

Madison's LGBT&XYZ Magazine

Patrick Farabaugh
Publisher / Editor-in-Chief

Emily Mills
Editor

Virginia Harrison
Copy Editor

Johanna Lepro-Green
Intern

Contributing Writers

Jeanne Moe Benink
Diedre Buckley
Turina Bakken
Emily Faeth
Kathy Flores
Donald Haar
Alex Hanna
Linda Ketchum
Christopher Krimmer
Jane LaFlash
Owen Karcher
Sheltreese McCoy
Dick Wagner
Haruka Yukioka

Contributing Artists

Eric Baillies
Samantha Dutcher
Ian DeGraff
Maggie Gosselar
Beth McConnell
Spencer Micka
Max Wendt

Account Manager
Sedrick Huppert

Business Manager
Matt Jelinek

National Advertising Sales
Rivendell Media Inc.

**Subscribers in
400+ Wisconsin
cities & towns**

©2015 All Rights Reserved.

Nov. / Dec. 2015, Volume 9, Issue 3
Life in the Middle Publishing, LLC
Patrick Farabaugh & Joseph Patane,
Publishers. 215 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd.,
Box 1202, Madison, WI 53701

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



The spirit of Madison, the choice of Capitol Lakes. Melissa and Ingrid are looking forward to their life and lifestyle right here, at the only continuing care retirement community in downtown Madison. Real peace of mind, all levels of healthcare, housekeeping, and an expanding host of services and amenities make their future new address a brilliant decision. After all, Ingrid attended graduate school (economics) at UW, so she's pretty sure the move has penciled out nicely. Want to know more? We'd thought you'd never ask. Just email madison@retirement.org or call 608-283-2046.



333 W. Main Street, Madison, WI 53703 • retirement.org/madison

**Madison's Premier
Cloud Service Provider**



enjoy cloud technology
solutions for business

5NINES.com
608-512-1027

Proud Sponsor of
MCHA
MADISON GAY HOCKEY ASSOCIATION



MOMENTUM
Floral and Décor

WEDDINGS • INTERIOR DESIGN • UNIQUE GIFTS

1821 PARMENTER ST., MIDDLETON WI 53562 • 608.824.1121
MOMENTUMFLORALANDDECOR.COM



"Thanks for the great work on our bathroom. It looks fabulous and we're very pleased!" **MARK POCAN**




Looking to **finish your basement** to create more living space?

Looks like it's...
TIME 2 REMODEL
time2remodel.com



EDITOR'S NOTE  EMILY MILLS



FAMILY TIES

AS WE HEAD INTO THE HOLIDAY season our culture turns a lot of its attention to the concept of "family." This can be an especially difficult time for those of us who have, for one reason or another, found ourselves away from or without our blood relatives.

The concept of a "chosen" family, however, is particularly strong within the LGBTQ community, and we're happy to feature several examples of the diverse ways in which we build relationships that nurture and sustain us even when the people who society says are supposed to support us fall short.

Everything from queer youth organizations formed in smaller communities to the Retired Older Lesbians (aka **Rollers**) lunch group right here in Madison are important ways that we build community and provide spaces for supportive human interaction for LGBTQ people of all ages and backgrounds.

For those most vulnerable members of our community, too, I'm heartened to see and read about the important work being done by organizations like **Briarpatch**, which just opened a brand new facility on the city's south side and works with various other civil and state organizations to provide much-needed support for homeless and at-risk LGBTQ youth. I'm especially proud to include a story from a young transgender woman, who has been working with Briarpatch to beat difficult odds and build a better future for herself.

Our families extend to the most marginalized within our LGBTQ community, too. The open letter from members of the **Wisconsin Trans Health Coalition** calling for more humane treatment of transgender prison inmates provides an important call-to-action for and window into the world of those left behind by more mainstream civil rights victories like marriage equality. It's an important reminder that we have much work to do in order to ensure a just and equitable playing field for all our LGBTQ family members.

Education plays a large role in all of this: We all do better when we all have access to quality information and training. **Turina Bakken**, Vice Provost at the ever-innovating Madison College, writes about her personal journey and how good leadership comes from a belief in the power of hard work, dedication and collaboration.

All of our work must come from understanding that our families are not limited to people with whom we share DNA or even households, but that we share commonalities simply by being human. Our communities thrive when they are made whole—which means not overlooking those who are struggling, or about whom we don't have as great an understanding. It's long-lasting and often difficult work, but it's incredibly gratifying to see so many people—represented in these pages and beyond—putting their time, effort and money where their hearts are. That's what family does for each other, after all. ■



**Dedicated to
natural results.**

Meriter – UnityPoint Health® offers a full spectrum of surgical and non-surgical cosmetic treatments. Applying the most advanced treatments and proven techniques, we can help you achieve the results you desire. Let us tailor a plan perfectly to you.

**The point of everything
we do is you.**

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery
6408 Copsps Avenue
Monona, WI 53716
(608) 417-6175

meriter.com/cosmetic



THE BEST KIND OF CAUSE & EFFECT

ISSUE: JULY 2015 **THANK YOU, PATRICK AND EMILY**, for allowing me to speak my truth for the first time EVER through *Our Lives* magazine (July/August 2015). This allowed me to be seen, deeply seen, vulnerably seen. I'm beyond grateful, because to feel this vulnerable means I'm alive. The truth I shared for the first time has put a stop to the screaming memories of discrimination and rejection and has allowed me to be kinder and gentler to the people around me, and I have become gentler and kinder to myself through this process.



The process of putting my story on paper was a painful one; bringing to life memories that only surfaced in night terrors or flashbacks triggered by a memory, smell or sound. What my story didn't share were the times I contemplated suicide, or getting in my car and just driving away, wondering if I

would return. I found ways to connect to life by listening to the Indigo Girls, finding messages of comfort in their lyrics, finding safe (hidden) gathering places for the gay and lesbian communities I sought out.

My wish in sharing my story was to let others who may be having similar experiences to know, things get better. I knew there are way too many people living in a pitch-black closet all alone, who feel so very alone, who are peering out through the keyholes in fear. Through my story I wanted people to feel hope and to bust open the door and

show their community and world that the closet is no place for a person to truly live.

After the magazine had been in the stands and delivered to subscribers' homes, I began to receive feedback that was way beyond touching. I received phone calls from people close in my life who wanted to apologize for not being a voice for me when I had no voice. I received letters via email and snail mail sharing stories and thanking me for sharing my story. I had strangers contact me with kind words and great gratitude.

The outpouring of support I received gave me hope that society is making strides. Madison and the surrounding area gave back to me a sense of pride, confidence and love I had lost hope in. This opportunity has been therapeutic and life changing. Thank you *Our Lives* and the Madison community for the outpouring of love and kindness.

MARGARET KUCERA, Madison

HAPPILY ALONG FOR THE RIDE WITH US

ISSUE: SEPTEMBER 2015 **HAVING JUST FINISHED READING** the Sep/Oct issue cover to cover (including, unusually, the ads), I am so impressed with the magazine's steady growth in scope, production values, writing quality and outreach. It's a very moving experience that in a relatively short time *Our Lives* has grown into something really fine. Bravo tutti!

JESS ANDERSON, Madison



KATHY FLORES leads the Fox Valley LGBTQ Anti-Violence Project and is the City of Appleton's full-time Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator. Kathy also serves on the Governance Committee of National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs working to prevent, respond to and end all forms of violence against and within LGBTQ Communities. Kathy advocates on a variety of issues both in her role with the City and the Fox Valley AVP helping address the intersections of homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, racism, sexism and all forms of oppression.

MAX WENDT is a Madison-based photographer, with an emphasis on artists and headshots. Max has photographed jazz festivals, opera performances and chamber music ensembles. He is also proud to provide photography for charitable organizations, including Flashes of Hope, Help Portrait and the ACT Ride. When he's not shooting, Max plays the bass, designs science projects for his two daughters, and builds Lego creations. Max is honored to be collaborating with *Our Lives*.

EMILY FAETH is an ally, advocate, and freelance writer living along the shores of the Yahara River with her cats, Pablo and Tallulah. She earned her BA in English Rhetoric and Writing from U.W.-La Crosse in 2011. She originally hails from La Crescent, Minnesota. When not writing, Emily focuses her energy on social justice and artistic pursuits.



FORWARD FERTILITY

FORWARDFERTILITY.COM

Christie Olsen
Nurse Practitioner/Founder

Why is buying local important to you and your business?

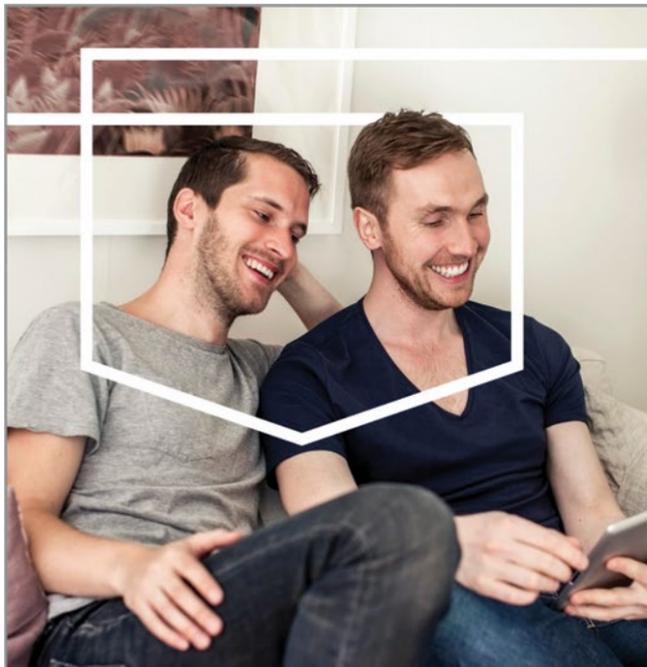
Nationwide, in the last few years, parents-to-be via surrogacy have increasingly been from other countries. Some surrogacy agencies have focused on these clients, particularly from France and increasingly from China. Forward Fertility focuses on domestic parents-to-be and surrogates from the upper Midwest. Forward Fertility is a local expert in guiding people through egg donation and surrogacy. For such an intimate, personal, and profound experience, it's not something most surrogates and parents want to do at a great distance from each other.

What is your connection to the LGBT community?

About 50% of the Forward Fertility clients are men wanting to become dads via egg donation and surrogacy or women in search of information and support as they conceive through donor sperm. Forward Fertility specializes in guiding people through the medical, legal, and emotional aspects of forming their family. It's an honor to be a part of the process.

Do you or your business do anything charitable in the local community?

Education and awareness about fertility treatments and options are a central tenet to the mission of Forward Fertility. We have provided over 20 free, open-to-the-public sessions about various fertility topics in Dane County over the last two years.



If you call a contractor yourself, that still counts as DIY.

Look to a U.S. Bank Home Equity Line of Credit for your next major project. You'll be greeted with competitive rates, flexible payment options and people who genuinely care.

HOME EQUITY LINE OF CREDIT

Introductory Rate for 5 months
Rates as low as

1.50% APR*

Rate available 9/12/15 - 11/20/15.
Rates are subject to change.

Variable rate after
Introductory period

3.99% APR*

Actual rates may vary.
Visit your local branch or usbank.com.



usbank.com/dreambig | 800.209.BANK (2265)

*1.50% Introductory Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is available on Home Equity Lines of Credit with an 80% loan-to-value (LTV) or less. The Introductory Interest Rate will be fixed at 1.50% during the five-month Introductory Period. A higher introductory rate will apply for an LTV above 80%. Offer is available for new applications submitted from September 12, 2015–November 20, 2015. After the five-month introductory period: the APR is variable and is based upon an index plus a margin. The APR will vary with Prime Rate (the index) as published in the Wall Street Journal. As of September 11, 2015, the variable rate for Home Equity Lines of Credit ranged from 2.99% APR to 8.25% APR. Higher rates may apply due to an increase in the Prime Rate, a credit limit below \$125,000, an LTV at or above 80%, a low credit score and/or not having a U.S. Bank personal Package Checking account. A U.S. Bank personal package checking account is required to receive the lowest rate, but is not required for loan approval. The rate will not vary above 18% APR, or applicable state law, or below 1.50% APR. Choosing an interest-only repayment may cause your monthly payment to increase, possibly substantially, once your credit line transitions into the repayment period. Repayment options may vary based on credit qualifications. Interest only repayment may be unavailable. Loan approval is subject to credit approval and program guidelines. Not all loan programs are available in all states for all loan amounts. Interest rates and program terms are subject to change without notice. Property insurance is required. U.S. Bank and its representatives do not provide tax or legal advice. Your tax and financial situation is unique. You should consult your tax and/or legal advisor for advice and information concerning your particular situation. Other restrictions may apply. Customer pays no closing costs, except escrow-related funding costs. An annual fee of up to \$90 may apply after the first year and is waived with a U.S. Bank personal Platinum Checking Package. See the Consumer Pricing Information brochure for terms and conditions that apply to U.S. Bank Package Checking accounts. Mortgage and Home Equity products offered by U.S. Bank National Association. Deposit Products are offered through U.S. Bank National Association. EQUAL HOUSING LENDER Member FDIC ©2015 U.S. Bank. All rights reserved. 150859 9/15

MOTOR IN THE MOMENT



At **MINI of Madison**, our team of dedicated professionals is not only here to sell you a new or used MINI; we are also prepared to help you service your vehicle, regardless of the make or model.

Call us today or stop in and check us out.

310 W. Beltline Hwy Madison, WI 53713 • 608-729-MINI (6464) • MiniofMadison.com • Check us out on Facebook: MINIoMadison



Devin Waniger
MINI Motoring Advisor
608-729-6462

Mon, Thurs 8:30 AM to 8:00 PM
Tues, Wed, Fri 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM
Sat 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM



Alicia Stevenson
MINI Motoring Advisor
608-729-6442

Mon 8:30 AM to 8:00 PM
Tues, Wed, Fri 8:30 AM to 6:00 PM,
Thurs 8:30 AM to 7:00 PM
Fri 9:30 to 6:00, Sat 8:30 to 4:00



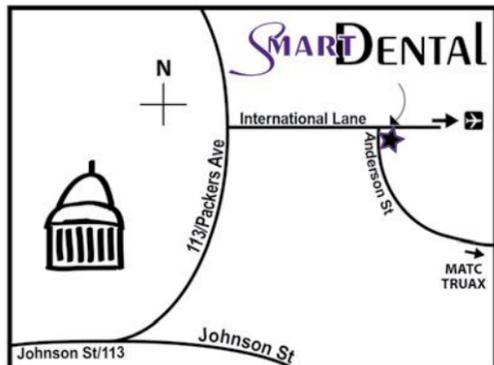
Phil Keller
MINI Service Manager
608-729-6421

Mon - Fri 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM

SMART DENTAL

Take a smart step towards a healthier smile!

- Voted one of Madison's Favorite Dentists!
- General, Cosmetic and Implant Dentistry
 - Children Welcome!
 - Evening Appointments
- Most insurance accepted



**Reserve your appointment.
Call Today!
608-241-8782**



Tamim Sifri, DDS

www.smartdentalmadison.com • 2317 International Ln, Suite 101 • Madison, WI 53704



“Wherever the art of medicine is loved, there is also a love of humanity.”

—Hippocrates



Good Medicine

AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin opens new full-service pharmacy in Madison.

THE NEW ARCW PHARMACY is co-located with their health clinics and social services in the renovated facility at 600 Williamson Street.

The opening of the pharmacy, along with the addition of the medical clinic, will complete the ARCW Health Home in Madison. Madison will be the first city of its size in the United States to have a comprehensive health home specifically for people with HIV. Hours will be Monday–Friday, 9:00–5:30.

According to ARCW Vice President Bill Keeton, “In addition to having prescriptions filled, pharmacists and



other health professionals will be on hand to answer questions patients may have about their medications, how to mitigate any side effects

they may be experiencing and how to make sure they are following their treatment plan. For HIV patients, closely following their drug regimen is one of the most critical aspects of their treatment and is key to achieving viral suppression—the best possible clinical outcome for people with HIV disease.”

Keeton goes on to explain that the ARCW Pharmacy is open to all HIV patients, regardless of where they



get their health care services. In addition to filling prescriptions and treatment adherence counseling, ARCW staff are “always available to help patients enroll in pharmaceutical assistance programs and health insurance programs to minimize their costs. At the ARCW Pharmacy, all patients can get their HIV medications, even if they are uninsured and unable to pay.”

Among plans for the future, ARCW is working to offer pre-exposure prophylaxis—also known as PrEP—to HIV-negative individuals as a way for individuals to stay HIV-negative.

“There are a lot of great pharmacies in Madison,” Keeton says. “However, currently there isn’t a pharmacy that is designed for and

specially tailored to the needs of people living with HIV. The addition of the ARCW Pharmacy in Madison means that patients who receive their health care and social services from ARCW will have the additional convenience of being able to pick up their medications the same day they come for a doctor’s appointment, to speak with their case manager or see their dentist.”

Further, ARCW says that revenue generated by its Pharmacy will be reinvested in the HIV prevention, care and treatment services the organization provides to the community, thereby “further strengthening our community’s response to the HIV epidemic.” ■



Bill Keeton



Organizations Update

Stay up-to-date with everything that’s happening with your local LGBTQ organizations and groups.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Plan ahead to join in.

MILWAUKEE LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER

On November 6 the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center will be holding a reception and opening celebration for Shall Not Be Recognized, an exhibit of photo and text portraits of 30 same-sex couples by Jeff Percy and Will Fellows. The exhibit, which first opened in 2006, will revisit the intimate portraits of the couples featured in the original exhibition. The reception will include the opportunity to meet the couples featured in the portraits and the artists. The event is free, and will take

place November 6–December 31, 2015 at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, located at 1110 Market Street in Milwaukee. For more information, visit their Facebook page at facebook.com/MKELGBTCenter.

GSAFE

On Saturday, November 14, GSAFE will be holding the fall Gay Straight Alliance conference at Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ, located at 1501 Gilbert Road in Madison. This conference is open to Wisconsin middle school and high school students. For more information, visit gsafewi.org.

FORGE

Each month, Forge holds monthly webinars for victim service providers. Every

fourth Saturday of every month, Forge holds trans-focused, themed meetings. These meetings are held on the second floor of 1110 N. Market Street in Milwaukee. For more information, visit forge-forward.org.

MADISON MINOTAURS RUGBY

The Minotaurs will begin to hold indoor practice in January or early February. These training sessions are open to all new and returning players. During these practices, Minotaur Rugby coaches will be addressing fitness and basic rugby techniques. All skill and fitness levels are welcome. Check out madisonminotaurs.com for more information and practice locations.

DIVERSE & RESILIENT AND THE FAIR WISCONSIN EDUCATION FUND

The fifth annual Wisconsin LGBT Leadership Conference, entitled “Connecting Community, Building the Movement,” will be held at the Hyatt Regency in Downtown Milwaukee February 20–22, 2016. The conference is an exciting and innovative program that provides LGBTQ and allied people with the skills to be leaders in their own communities through workshops and networking opportunities, and by highlighting the strengths that emerge within various intersections in the LGBTQ community. For more information and updates on the event, visit wilgbtleadership.org.

FAIR WISCONSIN EDUCATION FUND

The Milwaukee Leadership Awards Gala Dinner will be held at the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee on February 20, 2016.

PHOTO OF SKYLAR LEE BY STEENA CIRVES

IN REMEMBRANCE OF YOUTH ACTIVIST SKYLAR LEE



Madison and the greater LGBTQ community lost a passionate young activist with the death of Madison West High junior Skylar Lee on September 28. Skylar took his own life, having “succumbed to a quiet killer that some may already be familiar with: depression,” according to his obituary. Skylar was an active member of West’s GSA, Proud Theater, and also participated in advanced ballroom dancing as well as being an activist for LGBTQ and intersecting identities. “He loved the world and the people inside it, trying to fix it every day of his life.”

Skylar contributed a moving piece for the “Our Future Leaders” column of *Our Lives*’ January 2015 issue in which he talked about his personal journey as a queer, transgender person of color, as well as the work he was engaged in to more fully integrate intersectionality into the LGBTQ community.

Skylar was born in Madison on November 28, 1998 and is survived by his parents, James and Joanne Lee, his brother Avi Z., his grandmother Ok Park, and his dog Nugget. He is deeply missed by his family, friends and community. Rest in power, Skylar.

FAIR WISCONSIN EDUCATION FUND The Madison Brunch will be held at the Concourse Hotel on April 10, 2016.

LGBT CAMPUS CENTER On Wednesday, November 18th, The UW-Madison LGBT Campus Center will be hosting Trans Monologues at the Madison Central Library, located at 201 West Mifflin Street. The event will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. Come join the entire Madison community for a night of honest expression about the joys and trials of being trans, genderqueer, MtF, FtM, butch, nelly, queenie, drag and anywhere on or off the gender-variant spectrum.

PERFECT HARMONY MEN’S CHORUS On December 18 and 20, the Perfect Harmony Men’s Chorus will be hosting their annual winter concert. “Transcending Tradition” will be at 3:00 on the 18th and 7:30 on the 20th at the First United Methodist Church at 203 Wisconsin Ave in Madison. For updates, please visit perfectharmonychorus.org.

PROUD THEATER On March 12, 2016, Proud Theater will be hosting “Connections: Building LGBT Relationships.” Connections is a conference that is designed to promote inter-generational relationships within the LGBTQ

Community. The event will be held at the First United Methodist Church at 203 Wisconsin Avenue in Madison. For more information on attending, becoming a sponsoring partner, or submitting a workshop proposal, call 608-222-9086 or email info@proudtheater.org.

OUTREACH The OutReach LGBT Community Center is sponsoring a Thanksgiving feast in partnership with OutThere and LGBT Senior Alliance in Madison on November 29. Turkey, ham, cornbread dressing and drinks are provided. This event is open to all ages and no alcohol will be served. If attending, please bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share or a suggested donation of \$5.00. For more information, call OutReach at 255-8582 and ask for Steve or Angie, or email angier@lgbtoutreach.org.

ACCOLADES

Lifting up our dedicated community members.

OUTREACH Rich Fluechtling, the former President and current Board Member of the Perfect Harmony Men’s Chorus, received the Courage Award at the 23rd Annual Award Banquet hosted by the OutReach LGBT Community Center. Rich received the award

NO ONE PROTECTS DREAMS LIKE FAMILY.

Colleen Frentzel Agency
4407 Milton Ave Ste 110
Janesville, WI 53546
cfrentze@amfam.com
(608) 302-4101




American Family Mutual Insurance Company and its Subsidiaries
American Family Insurance Company
Home Office – Madison, WI 53783
©2013 007250 - 5/2013

QUIGLEY

Decks&Fence

608.577.4277 | quigleydecks.com

QUALITY CRAFTSMANSHIP + QUALITY MATERIALS = LASTING BEAUTY

Locally owned. Community focused.

We stand for fairness, inclusivity and personalized financial solutions for everyone in your family.



DANE COUNTY CREDIT UNION

www.dccu.us
608 256-5665 • 800 593-3228



Proud Sponsor

We stand for you



MADISON'S WEST HIGH SCHOOL GOES GENDER NEUTRAL FOR HOMECOMING COURT

Making it just one of a handful of schools across the country, and possibly the first in Wisconsin, to make the move, West High recently announced that it would make its Homecoming court gender neutral.

The move was prompted by a petition from students, who argued that the change would "create a safer and more inclusive environment for all students." Instead of having spots for 10 girls and 10 boys, the court will simply include the top 20 vote getters of any (or no) gender identity. The top two vote getters may choose to call themselves "King" or "Queen" but are not required to do so.

West High is the largest of the school district's four main high schools, with 2,065 students. Nearly 1,000 of them signed the petition to make the change.

for his advocacy within the church community, and the Madison LGBT community as a whole.

OUTREACH Everett Mitchell was named the LGBT Ally of the Year at the 23rd Annual Award Banquet hosted by the OutReach LGBT Community Center. He was the first black Baptist pastor to marry a same-gender couple in his church. Everett currently serves as the Director of Community Relations at U.W.-Madison and as the Senior Pastor of

Christ at the Solid Rock Baptist Church. He has served as an associate director with the Madison Area Urban Ministry where he worked extensively with restorative justice programs for ex-offenders. He has been involved with a number of community service groups, including the 100 Black Men of Madison, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated, United Way of Dane County Community Impact Chair, Agrace Hospice, Goodman Community Center, Thanksgiving Basket Family Giveaway Chair, U.W.-Madison Chancellor's Scholar Mentor, and member of the African American Council of Churches.

OUTREACH Julie Woods received the Harry Straetz Memorial Award for Volunteer of the Year at the 23rd Annual Award Banquet hosted by the OutReach LGBT Community Center. Julie began as a front desk volunteer in 2012 at OutReach. She now serves on the Speakers Bureau at OutReach, speaking to schools, businesses and community groups about LGBTQ issues. She also serves as the co-facilitator for OutReach volunteer training and recently became certified as a peer support specialist. Steve Starkey, the Executive Director of OutReach, describes Julie as a volunteer with a "strong capacity for un-

derstanding, patience and compassion," with an "amazing energy and positive outlook that makes all who meet her confident that they are not alone."

OUTREACH Dave Eick received the Board of Directors Special Recognition Award at the 23rd Annual Award Banquet hosted by the OutReach LGBT Community Center. Dave is the owner of FIVE, a bar and club serving the LGBTQ community in Madison since 1998. Dave served on the OutReach Pride Parade planning committee, and recently competed in the Gay Softball world series. Dave has been a supporter of OutReach for many years, and has hosted countless fundraiser for organizations in the Madison area at FIVE.

OUTREACH Z! Haukeness received the LGBTQ Advocate of the Year award at the 23rd Annual Award Banquet hosted by the OutReach LGBT Community Center. Z! has been in Madison for the past 15 years, and is a well known gender non-conformist and trans activist. They have been committed to social justice work that is centered in racial justice, as well as other systems of oppression and liberation. They have worked with a number of local and national organizations working for housing, food, land, gender, trans, queer and economic justice. They have been closely involved with Young Gifted and Black, and deeply inspired by the work of the Black Lives Matter Movement nationally. They currently work with and are in close support of multiple social justice organizations, including Groundwork, Operation Welcome Home, Sankofa Behavioral & Community Health, GSAFE, the Dane County Trans Health Group, the Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice, Freedom Inc., and Showing Up for Racial Justice. Z! describes their work as spiritually based, and rooted in love for new possibilities of getting free.

NEWS

Important notes about area LGBTQ groups.

MADISON MINOTAURS RUGBY The club will be sending a team to participate in the 2016 Bingham Cup in Nashville, Tennessee. Also called the "Gay Rugby World Cup," the tournament is the largest non-professional rugby event in the world. For more information, visit binghamcup.com.

PROUD THEATER Proud Theater will be holding open enrollment sessions through November at various Wisconsin locations. The Madison enrollment sessions take place on Thursdays at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1123 Vilas Avenue, 5:30-9:00 p.m. The Milwaukee enrollment sessions take place on Saturdays at the LGBT Community Center, 1110 North Market St, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. The Sun Prairie enrollment sessions take place on Mondays at the Sun Prairie United Methodist Church, 702 North Street, 6:00-8:30 p.m. For open enrollment in areas not listed, please call 608-222-9086 or email info@proudtheater.org.

NEW HARVEST FOUNDATION During its last two grant cycles, the New Harvest Foundation awarded 11 grants totaling \$41,000. Organizations receiving grants include OutReach (Pride Parade), Young Auditorium at U.W.-Whitewater (Sean Dorsey Dance), Stage Q, LGBT Campus Center at U.W.-Madison (Queer People of Color Conference), Madison Queer History Project, Madison Area Transgender Association, TAPIT/new works Ensemble Theater, Doyle Center for Gender and Sexuality & Wright Center for Veterans and Non-Traditional Students at U.W.-Platteville, Encore Studio for the Performing Arts, Holton Street Clinic, and AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.

STAFF / BOARD CHANGES

Who's moving on or moving into org leadership.

DIVERSE & RESILIENT In August 2015, Gerald (Gerry) Coon was hired as the President/CEO. Prior to coming to Diverse & Resilient, Gerry worked with children and adults with mental health, physical and cognitive disabilities in Milwaukee and Madison.

DIVERSE & RESILIENT In August 2015, Anthony Harris was promoted from TUI Coordinator to the Statewide Program Manager. Prior to his time at Diverse & Resilient, Anthony worked as an AmeriCorps Volunteer in La Crosse, WI, and has experience in LGBT youth development, volunteer recruitment, and financial awareness training. As a student at U.W.-Milwaukee, Anthony was a dedicated advocate for LGBT issues in Student Government and Student Life at the LGBT Resource Center.

DIVERSE & RESILIENT In August 2015, Nicole Fumo was promoted from Statewide Program Manager to Data and Compliance Manager. Nicole began her work with Diverse &

Resilient as an intern in 2012, and returned as a staff member after receiving her master's degree in public health at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana.

DIVERSE & RESILIENT In August 2015, Cina Chang was promoted from Executive Assistant to Development & Communications coordinator. Prior to joining Diverse & Resilient, Cina worked with organizations, including Amnesty International and the Hmong National Development Organization.

MADISON GAY HOCKEY ASSOCIATION After four years of service, Todd Streicher is leaving the board. Christina Libs joins the board as vice president. Kate Walton and Dave Esparza join the board, and are co-chairing the member relations committee.

NEW HARVEST FOUNDATION Sandra Janagold and Ben Monty became the new co-chairs earlier this year. Donna Schmitt and Tim Lom moved into the vice co-chair positions.

FAIR WISCONSIN Sheri Swokowski and Jody Rendall recently joined the board.

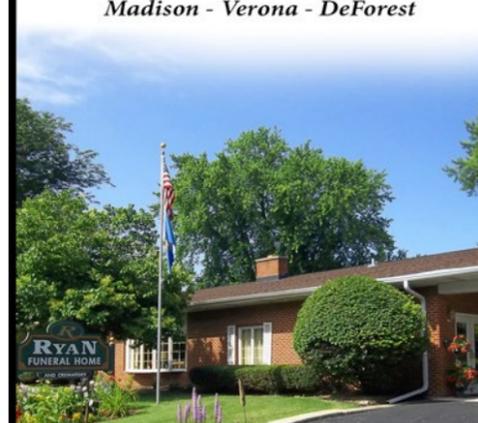
FAIR WISCONSIN EDUCATION FUND

Kay Hartinger and Rebecca Ramsey recently joined the board of directors.

RYAN & JOYCE-RYAN
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICES
SINCE 1938

Since 1938, we have guided families through the process of grieving with neighborly concern and professional care. As a family owned and operated Funeral Home, we treat all families with the compassion, dignity, and professionalism that you will not find anywhere else.

Personalized Burial & Cremation Services
Pre-Arrangements - Monuments
Madison - Verona - DeForest



608-249-8257
www.ryanfuneralservice.com

Korner Blue
Candle & Supply



"Healthy Candles"
Classes
Parties
Handmade Gifts
Candle Making
Supplies

1915 Monroe St * Madison, WI
608* 258 *2558



Anthology
Cards for many occasions • Also onesies, t-shirts, pint glasses & other fine paper goods

218 State Street • anthology.typepad.com • (608) 204-2644

Achieve the dream of home ownership

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

- Buyer's Edge® – first-time homebuyers program
- Fixed- and adjustable-rate mortgages
- New construction loans
- Refinancing
- Providing statewide support to the community



Michael Fumelle
4402 East Towne Blvd.
608-259-4263
Michael.Fumelle@AssociatedBank.com
NMLS ID: 523546



Subject to credit approval. Equal Housing Lender. Associated Bank, N.A. is a Member FDIC and Associated Banc-Corp. (4/12) 1336

 AssociatedBank.com

THANK YOU TO OUR 2015 SPONSORS

PRESENTING



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE



FIND US ONLINE AT
OPENMADISON.ORG

CONNECT → OUR ORGANIZATIONS

RECOGNITION

Special thanks for those who do good.

NEW HARVEST FOUNDATION Long-time board members Mark Porter and Lisa Hart (former co-chairs) and Andrew Irving (current secretary) will be leaving the New Harvest Foundation Board in 2016 due to term limits. The rest of the NHF would like to thank these three great board members for their commitment to NHF. They will be missed!

FAIR WISCONSIN Fair would like to recognize our longest serving volunteer, Susie Earley. Susie is retiring from her role as Fair Wisconsin's development volunteer after 10 years. Susie has dedicated her life to working to better her communities. She has been an

invaluable asset at Fair Wisconsin and a passionate advocate for many progressive causes.

CALLS TO ACTION

Where and how you can help.

PROUD THEATER Proud Theater is looking for people and organizations interested in developing and implementing "Connections," a conference for all members of the LGBT community designed to build strong partnerships, respect and relationships between generations in the LGBT community. The conference is March 12, but the group is currently looking for people to help plan the event in the hopes of eventually making this an annual statewide event. If interested, call 608-222-9086 or email info@proudtheater.org.

Opening the Door

LGBT Door County builds a more inclusive community on the peninsula.

LGBT DOOR COUNTY STARTED from a desire to seek out equality-friendly experiences and find community in a great area of Wisconsin. The plan was that businesses would receive inclusion training and go onto a map of LGBT-friendly businesses in the Door County area. People who believe in equality would know where to spend their money and be treated well.

What happened next was far more awesome.

Four months later LGBT Door County has become an active Facebook and online community, with 225,000 people checking in during our first quarter alone.

LGBT Door County was the brainchild of Denise Cawley of Milwaukee and Barb Luhring of Sister Bay. Luhring knew Door County and Cawley had been a tourist there for over 20 years. Cawley's wife, Anne Hefter, had practically grown up on Clark Lake and they sought to create what was missing from their travels to the area—a network of community while traveling.

"Every time we host a training we also host parties and networking events for the community. About 83% of our visitors are 25-54 years old," says Cawley.

"People want to know what places welcome LGBT people and their money, and what to do while in the Door. We offer insider tips. Our training events let us get to know our client's values, thus we can make recommendations about experiences that others cannot," says Luhring.

"We regularly get calls where people ask us if we have a party or gathering set up. In the beginning, we thought we would train businesses in inclusion and that would be it. Instead the community grew out of mutual desire. If someone takes the time to learn about LGBT issues and people, they will serve them better than someone who just wants LGBT dollars," says Cawley.

"People who visit LGBTDoorCounty.com and our Facebook page want the inside scoop, and we give it to them with travel tips and more," adds Luhring.

"People like checking to see if a business has actually taken the time to attend our trainings and get to know the LGBT community and all the intersections it touches. By offering trainings, everyone knows how much has been invested in becoming inclusive and trying to be the best. That effort does not go unnoticed. Our goal is that those experiences make for more pleasant experiences for the entire community," says Cawley. ■



LGBT BOOKS TO PRISONERS LGBT Books to Prisoners needs help restocking their bookshelves! The organization has sent over 2,000 packages of books to incarcerated LGBTQ people in 45 states since the beginning of 2015. That means our shelves have 10,000 fewer books, but the requests for reading materials keep coming in. Help us restock and meet the reading interests of our LGBTQ family in prison. To help, consider donating:

- dictionaries (English, other languages)
- thesauruses
- world almanacs and fact books
- drawing, music, and knitting books (how-to books)
- yoga, fitness, and strength-training books
- gay fiction and non-fiction
- bisexual fiction and non-fiction
- trans fiction and non-fiction
- urban fiction
- crime/mystery/thriller fiction
- African American fiction and non-fiction
- Latin@ fiction and non-fiction
- Native American fiction and non-fiction
- Spanish-language fiction and non-fiction
- books on starting your own business, writing resumes, etc.
- composition books (not spiral bound)

Books should be in good condition and, if possible, softcover. They can be dropped off at Rainbow Bookstore Cooperative (426 W. Gilman Street) during our evening volunteer hours, every Monday and Tuesday, 5:30-7:00 p.m. We can also arrange pickups through e-mail: lgbtbookstoprisoners@gmail.com. Make sure to check out this book drive on Facebook by searching "LGBT Books to Prisoners 2015 Book Drive!" and thanks in advance for your support.

FAIR WISCONSIN Fair Wisconsin notes that, in October, two state lawmakers began circulating a bill for co-sponsors, prohibiting transgender students from using the re-

MADISONALTERNATIVEREALTORS.COM
MADISONALTERNATIVE@GMAIL.COM



Susan Oshman

206.1440

237.2306



U.W. SCIENTIST'S STUDY CLAIMS TO DEBUNK "GAYDAR"

A new paper published in the Journal of Sex Research on the validity of "gaydar"—the idea that a person can infer whether or not someone else is gay based on looks and intuition—lays out findings that seem to debunk the notion.



Assistant scientist and lead study author William Cox says "gaydar" isn't accurate and is actually a harmful form of stereotyping.

"Most people think of stereotyping as inappropriate," Cox says. "But if you're not calling it 'stereotyping,' if you're giving it this other label and camouflaging it as 'gaydar,' it appears to be more socially and personally acceptable."

Part of the problem with the concept, Cox explains, is that gay people make up a much smaller portion of the general population. If then, say, 100% of gay men wear pink shirts all the time, and 10% of straight men wear them, too, there would still be twice as many straight men wearing pink shirts as gay men.

Concepts like "gaydar" that rely heavily on stereotypes can be deeply harmful in that they limit opportunities for the stereotyped groups, and can lead to oppression and even aggression toward them by others. "Recognizing when a stereotype is activated can help you overcome it and make sure that it doesn't influence your actions," Cox says.

rooms and changing rooms that correspond with their gender identity. The bill also requires school boards to designate facilities exclusively for one physical sex or the other. Megin McDonell, interim Executive Director of Fair Wisconsin, issued the following statement in response to the proposed legislation: "This bill is an unnecessary solution in search of a problem that does not exist. It singles out, isolates and stigmatizes transgender

students, who often already face harassment and exclusion at school. It also undermines the advances many school districts across Wisconsin, and the nation, have made allowing students to use facilities and participate in sports and activities consistent with their gender identity. Fair Wisconsin is unequivocally opposed to this bill."

Be ready to contact your elected officials, and be ready to testify against this bill. ■

Wear Your Story marry who you love in what you love



301 N. Sherman Ave

jewelersworkshop.com

608.251.7705



At the Crossroads

Sheltreese McCoy, Crossroads Coordinator at the LGBT Campus Center & Multicultural Student Center at U.W.-Madison, muses on life at the intersections of multiple identities, and her work to build bridges between them for herself and others.



I KNOW WHAT INTERSECTIONAL LIFE IS:

As a Black woman who is Queer-identified and disabled there is no shortage of vantage points from which I live my life. It is my insider/outsider status that enables me to move through so many different spaces and to work for justice authentically.

Coming from Brooklyn to Madison was a huge transition, and changing the scope of the work I used to do from national and international for youth and justice to colleges and universities that are predominantly white was tough. I learned a lot about how racism and white privilege operated in higher education. That re-sparked and fueled my love and dedication for higher education. I knew I wanted to study and work towards equity and justice in those spaces.

As I pursue my advanced degree I have been given a tremendous opportunity to do LGBTQ student of color work locally and nationally at the University of Wisconsin-Madison through the Crossroads Initiative. We have many types of events and programs including discussion groups, workshops, speakers, and social events. This work changes from day to day but is always centered in LGBTQ student of color needs and issues. It allows for Queer and Trans Students of Color (QTSOC) to voice how their needs are unique from the majority LGBTQ student population and create opportunities to address those differences. The other side to that creativity and innovation is the demand for accountability and growth from majority LGBTQ students. Having a Crossroads Initiative at our university casts a light on the simple fact that we need an initiative and pushes us to work for justice and equity so something like this would no longer be necessary.

A major national incident that put in high relief the need for QTPOC-directed initiatives was the Rachel Dolezal/Caitlyn Jenner conversation that took place on national television. While some people felt that if Caitlyn was to be “accepted” as a woman, then Rachel should be able to claim being black. What this entire argument missed was that being trans-identified is not

equivalent to being Black-identified, and it erased that trans people of color exist. I saw my students in person and on social media feel erased, silenced, and aggressed in their own intersectional identities throughout this scandal. I had to remind them that transphobia and anti-blackness is something we will always have to fight against.

I have had a passion for justice and education since I was a child in Cleveland, Ohio. I remember vividly loving school and always being excited about learning new things. At the age of 14 I committed my first overtly political act by writing a letter to the mayor. I was extremely upset that the city was going to spend lots of money on a sports stadium instead of schools. The junior high school I attended was so severely out of date that we didn't have a functioning computer lab, up-to-date books, or air conditioning in the building. I still did not know how to type, so I enlisted the help of my English teacher, who took dictation from me, corrected my grammar and structure,

My hope is, through the development of understanding, campuses and organizations will recognize that (1) our campuses are growing by leaps and bounds with queer and trans students of color who deserve outstanding educational experiences, and (2) marginalizing, regulating, and making invisible QTSOC will render my colleagues' work less creative, inequitable, and stuck in reactionary mode, going from crisis to crisis instead of being proactive and forward-looking.

and mailed the letter. I got a response back from the mayor's office. It was a form letter that made reference to a rainy day fund. I reminded the mayor in a second letter that Cleveland Public Schools had been in a hurricane since, at that time, we had not passed a school levy to get extra tax revenue in over 25 years.

It was the first time I recognized I could speak out against injustice even if and when the powers that be try to pacify or ignore you. I learned that fighting for equity and justice was a lifelong commitment. I took that passion with me to college at Bowling Green State University and moved into larger issues around people of color and queer visibility, workers' rights, and anti war campaigns. Justice and equity is at the core of who I am, and as I grow older and come to understand my own identities, I take advantage of and create opportunities to expand my reach to change the world around me.

QTSOC work is not only my professional work but also built into my scholarship. I am currently pursuing my PhD in Higher

PHOTO BY ERIC BAILLIES



Education with a focus on LGBTQ People of Color in colleges and universities. It is this dedication and drive that pushed me to start my own national consulting company called Change the Field, LLC. I specialize in trainings, workshops, keynote speaking, and long term strategic planning to improve services for QTSOC.

Through my work as a higher education scholar, student affairs professional and consulting firm owner, I hope to transform our collective understandings of the complex lives of queer and trans students of color. My

hope is, through the development of understanding, campuses and organizations will recognize that (1) our campuses are growing by leaps and bounds with queer and trans students of color who deserve outstanding educational experiences, and (2) marginalizing, regulating, and making invisible QTSOC will render my colleagues' work less creative, inequitable, and stuck in reactionary mode, going from crisis to crisis instead of being proactive and forward-looking.

This work is not only important because it demands that campuses do better for their queer and trans students of color but also because it is the crux of who I am. It is my identity that is so intimately tied into my work—there is no beginning and end. And while some see this as a problem, I see it as a gift. A gift that allows me to always be humble, compassionate, and determined to make a change in higher education. It gives me the ability to sympathize and empathize when students come to discuss challenges with me. I can honestly say to them I know, and what can I do to help? Because I have been there. ■



Sustainable Renovations Since 1992



If You Value...

- **Accurate Pricing**
- **Professional Design Assistance**
- **Empowering Project Development**
- **Comfort and Durability**
- **A Respectful and Communicative Team...**

Then contact Chads Design Build for your next home improvement!

ChadsDesignBuild.com

(608) 221-1799



One Remodeled Home at a Time



Visibility in Disability

A new anthology aims to lift up and shine a spotlight on the voices and experiences of queer, disabled authors, storytellers, and poets.

IT CAN BE DIFFICULT ENOUGH for queer voices to be heard in a hetero-normative society. Couple that silencing with the societal stigma of living with a disability, though, and the silence can be deafening. But a small Minneapolis press, along with those who have lived the experience, are creating an opportunity for those voices to not only be heard, but to shine.

Raymond Luczak, editor of the forthcoming *QDA: A Queer Disability Anthology*, is a Minneapolis writer, editor, and queer activist who became deaf at eight months old. Luczak had the singular experience of growing up among a large hearing family and attending a mainstream school while deaf.

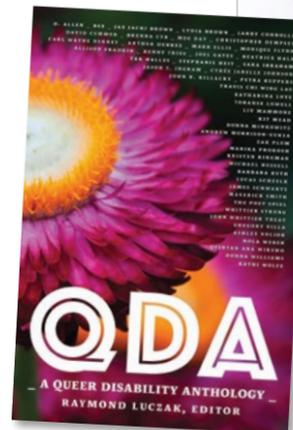
"I've always felt like an outsider looking into the lives of other people," says Luczak. "When I got involved with the Deaf LGBT community during my college years, I felt comfortable. They, too, had been outsiders

looking in, and all of a sudden, we were all insiders within our own community. That was a fantastic feeling. But going out into the hearing LGBT community was a bit different because they had experienced discrimination and oppression as gay people. I think that's why they were more willing to accommodate me."

Despite the welcoming atmosphere of the LGBT community, however, Luczak zeroes in on what is too often the experience for individuals with disabilities: "Many disabled folks, gay or straight or in-between, are often made to feel asexual," he says. "They are simply not seen as sexual beings; they are often ignored as part of the scenery."



Raymond Luczak



That many of the essays, stories, and poems featured in *QDA* expand upon this theme of desexualization of individuals with disabilities is no accident. As Luczak says, "It's my hope that [the anthology] will break down, at least for the able-bodied community, that initial fear and stigma of associating with those who

aren't 'normal.' Personally, I think the concept of 'normal' is a very dangerous one because it is at the root of homophobia, ableism, racism, and so on. If we try to rid ourselves of the expectation of 'normal,' we will find a better acceptance of anyone who doesn't adhere to

our currently unhealthy standards of physical beauty. Being different is a beautiful thing."

QDA isn't only intended for readers who fall under the admittedly broad umbrellas of either disabled or queer, though. It's a testament to the contributors' abilities that the works contained within the tome deal with such wide-ranging issues as religion, as in James Schwartz's poem, Fellowship, and romantic love, self-acceptance, violence, and existential questioning. The work contained in the anthology transcend any social labels and instead remind us of our shared experiences as emotional and physical beings.

"Many disabled folks, gay or straight or in-between, are often made to feel asexual," he says. "They are simply not seen as sexual beings; they are often ignored as part of the scenery"

Says Luczak, "Of all the many communities within the LGBT spectrum, the disabled are probably the most marginalized. We are not seen as sexy or desirable; we often have to speak up for our accessibility needs. The ironic thing is that anyone can become instantly a member of the disability community in a mere second from an accident, a stroke, a disease, and so on. The able-bodied should really pay more attention to those who are disabled because they themselves could one day unexpectedly join that community, and if they do, they'd want to be in a society that will be more aware and accommodating of their needs instead of having to fight and educate as much. Not only that, approximately 20% of Americans have one kind of disability or another, so it becomes imperative that we include disability in our national dialogue on what it means to be queer in America (and elsewhere, for that matter)."

QDA: A Queer Disability Anthology will be released for publication by Squares and Rebels Press on November 12. The book can be ordered online at squaresandrebels.com and will also be available as an e-book. Squares and Rebels Press offers many publications emphasizing the experience of LGBT individuals and those with disabilities, particularly those in the Midwest. ■

Emily Faeth is an ally, advocate and freelance writer living along the shores of the Yahara with her cats, Pablo and Tallulah. She earned her BA in English Rhetoric and Writing from UW-La Crosse in 2011. When not writing, Emily focuses her energy on social justice and artistic pursuits.



Your financial needs *are unique.*

Whether you want to provide for your loved ones, support the organizations that are important to you, or plan for your own comfortable retirement, I can help you plan for your goals. I'll look at all aspects of your finances, then find solutions that are right for your unique needs. And as your goals and needs change, I'll be there to adjust your plan and help put your dreams within reach.

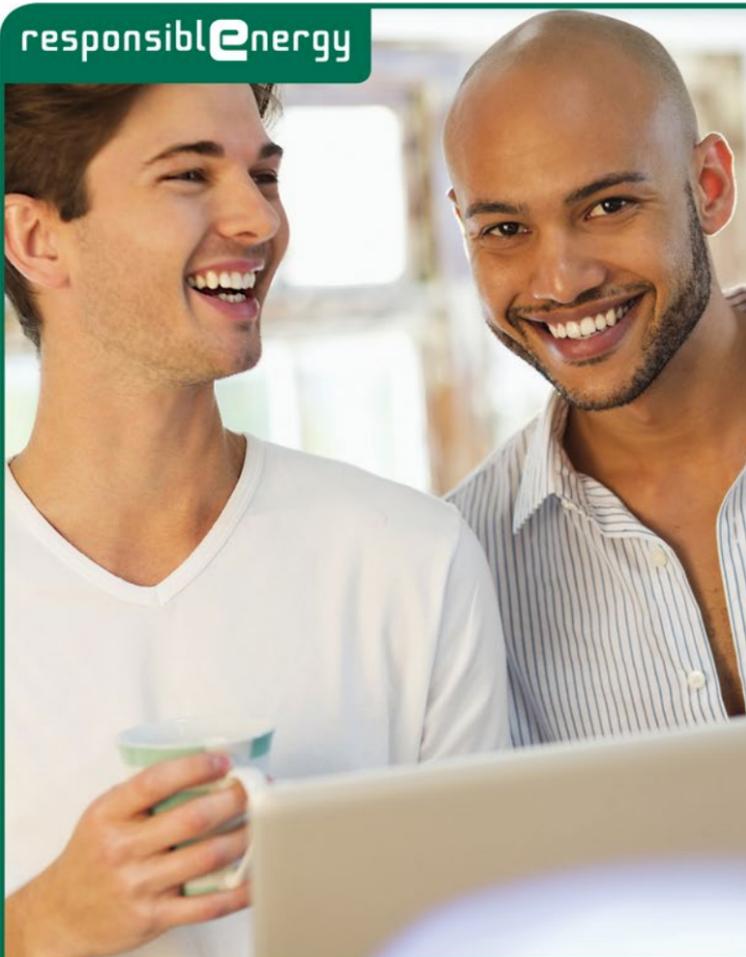
Call me today at 608.819.0520 to get started.



Shannon M. Anderson, CFP®, ADPA®
Financial Advisor
Eventus Wealth Advisors
A financial advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.
2501 West Beltline Hwy, Ste 301 • Madison, WI 53713
608.819.0520
shannon.m.anderson@ampf.com
ameripriseadvisors.com/shannon.m.anderson



Investment advisory products and services are made available through Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc., a registered investment adviser. Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. Member FINRA and SIPC. © 2014 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved. (7/14)



responsibleEnergy

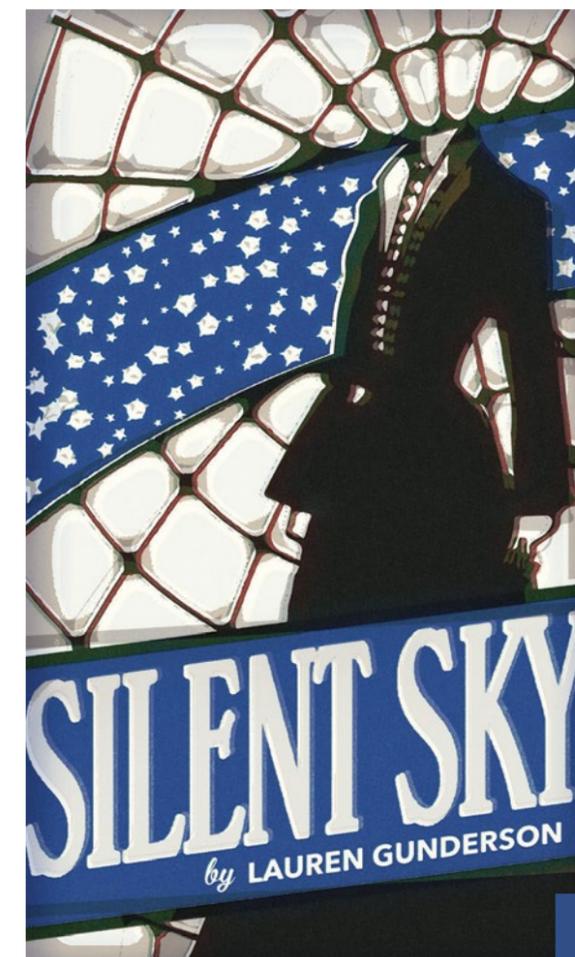
Want to save energy?

Make *mge.com* your first stop

- Get easy, low-cost ways to save energy
- Use calculators to estimate your savings
- Download your past energy use
- View energy-saving brochures
- Learn about Focus on Energy



GS1645 06/05/2015



NOVEMBER 05 - 22, 2015

for tickets
OVERTURECENTER.org
or call
608.258.4141

follow us
f t

www.FORWARDTHEATER.com



Willma's Way

Donald Haar describes his journey from personal struggle to becoming the helping hand that prevents our most vulnerable citizens from falling through the cracks of LGBTQ life.

I WAS BORN IN 1961, number 10 of 11 children. My father died when I was four, when at least eight of us were still at home. To this day I feel the most alone and unwanted when around the family. I had, however, been having an otherwise pretty normal childhood until we moved to Jackson, Minnesota when I was about 12. It was when my life became a living hell.

I was constantly bullied and eventually started smoking pot, drinking, and skipping class at least four times a day as a means of escape. By the time I was 15 I had become an alcoholic: I would have to drink a pint of Sloe Gin before facing school every day and lots of beer and whiskey at night before I could sleep. No one asked me what was going on or why I was doing these things, they just labeled me a bad kid and mostly ignored me—until I screwed up big. Then I had their attention.

I have come very close to dying three times, twice due to dehydration caused by too much methamphetamine use and once due to my liver failing from HEPB. The second time was in January of 2004, and by March of 2004, only 10% of my liver was functioning.

THE ARMY

At 18 I joined the Army to get away from all the pain and to hopefully avoid jail. The Army then proceeded to kick me out for being gay. It was bad enough that I wasn't good enough for what felt like everyone else in my life, including my family. Then to have my country say the same thing was heartbreaking. I should mention here that going into the barracks in full drag (it was the very first time I did it) probably was not a good idea, though.

ADDICTION

From 1981 to 2002 my life was spent being addicted to—well, let's just say I have quit more drugs than most people have tried. I started doing drag at 19 and found it to be a great way to escape some of the pain in my life. I have had to prostitute myself for food, money and shelter on several occasions. I have lived in my truck. But now I have found a way to turn all that pain and anger into something good.



I started doing drag at 19 and found it to be a great way to escape some of the pain in my life. I have had to prostitute myself for food, money and shelter on several occasions. I have lived in my truck. But now I have found a way to turn all that pain and anger into something good.

FOUNDING WILLMA'S FUND

When I turned 50, I founded Willma's Fund (through OutReach) to hopefully help other LGBT people that have gone through similar problems avoid having to do what I did to survive.

I now work for The Salvation Army of Dane County. The case workers often comment on how difficult it is to find help for LGBT people, especially transgender people. The shelters here are divided by gender, so transgender people may not be safe in the current shelter system. Shelter staff may be supportive, but often the other clients discriminate against them. Most homeless LGBT people tell me they feel safer on the streets than in the shelters because they do not feel safe around other clients.

I rekindled my passion for performing in drag in December of 2010, and I wanted to use my talents to help the LGBT community and raise awareness about the important issue of LGBT homelessness. I talked to my husband Steve Starkey, who is the Executive Director of OutReach, and he said the organization would serve as the fiscal sponsor for Willma's Fund. Our first drag show was for my 50th birthday in April 2011, and we raised \$1,500 from sponsors, cover charges and donated performers' tips.

WILLMA'S MISSION

Since then, we've raised over \$50,000 dollars and helped more than 60 LGBT clients in south central Wisconsin with hotel stays, rent and security deposits, utility and phone bills, gift cards for gas and food, and more.

SUCCESS STORIES

One early success story was Austin Jones, a young African-American transwoman. She was fleeing from verbal and racial abuse from her landlord when I met her, but always had a positive outlook on life.

Willma's Fund and The Salvation Army of Dane County were able to provide her with two months of hotel stays while she found her dream job. She was able to find housing and now supports herself. She wrote a poem for me, entitled *Along Came Willma*.





In October 2014, a gay client contacted OutReach. He was filing for Social Asylum from Pakistan and needed support. He was habitually persecuted and abused for being gay in his country before he came to the U.S. for school. After his student visa expired, he told the immigration board if they tried to send him back he would kill himself, so at least he would die free.

I connected him to former State Rep. David Clarenbach, who knew people who could help. U.S. Representative Mark Pocan also wrote a letter of support. In January 2015, I took the client to Chicago for three days of immigration meetings, all costs paid by Willma's Fund. He has since acquired a work visa and works a part time job in Madison.

LGBT youth are at heightened risk of homelessness when they come out to their families, and this can happen at a very young age. National research estimates 35% to 50% of homeless youth under 24 identify as LGBT. They are preyed upon and sexually abused while trying to just survive.

When people say homelessness is solved with a house, that's true, but what they fail to see is homeless teens may not know how to shop for groceries, clean a house, maintain a budget, schedule their time, make healthy life choices or work a full-time job.

Life skills are important components of success. It is very intimidating for someone to come off the streets or couch surfing and be able to maintain an apartment. I have experienced that overwhelming feeling myself, often feeling more at home on the streets than in a shelter.

However, we don't just help LGBT youth. We have helped people of all ages, including seniors. It is Willma's Fund's hope to offer some stability in peoples' lives, creating an environment where people thrive. ■

Working Together for Your Financial Future



Cherie A Gon
Financial Advisor

7780 Elmwood Ave Ste 206
Middleton, WI 53562
608-827-6769
www.edwardjones.com

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Member SIPC



Along Came Willma

By Austin Jones

I remember fleeing from a damaged place.
And I arrived at OutReach with worry and tears on my face.
Telling my story in exchange for resources and guidance.
Along came Willma to break the silence.
She was sassy, a cheeky Madame indeed.
But her heart was never out of line to help those in need.
When I was left out of money, shelter, or even food to eat.
Along came Willma to divert me away from defeat.
As long as I did my part to endure my grind,
Willma's Fund was always in mind.
The vision of Willma is so vast beyond her reality.
It's beauty of providing many in need
regardless of identity and or sexuality.
I've learned that once misfortune hits in one's life.
Never be too prideful to ask for help during times of strife.
Darkness and light coexist for a reason.
To change and shape ourselves like weather in each season.

Thanks to Steve Starkey and Angie Rehling for editing help.

ACCEPTING
NEW PATIENTS

Please Welcome Our New Doctors. We are DHA.

Dr. Cate Brumm, Dentist
Downtown & East Clinics

Dr. Amjad Nazzal, Peridontist
East & South Clinics

Dr. Matt Oboikowitz, Dentist
University Clinic



We are dental health professionals who put your best interests first. We offer a large variety of dental services, including the specialties of orthodontics and periodontics. We want to ensure that your smile reflects all of the reasons to visit Dental Health Associates – great dental care from trusted professionals, compassionate service and an all-around pleasant experience.

Call for an appointment today: 608.284.5400

MADISON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

John DeMain | Music Director

French Fantastique

Nov. 20, 21, 22
OVERTURE HALL

A trio of sublime French masterpieces, featuring one of the world's most virtuosic cellists

MAURICE RAVEL

Valses Nobles et Sentimentales

CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS

Cello Concerto No. 1

HECTOR BERLIOZ

Symphonie Fantastique

John DeMain, Conductor
Sara Sant'Ambrogio, Cello

Be Moved

Buy Tickets Now!

madisonsymphony.org,
the Overture Center Box Office
or (608) 258-4141.

MAJOR FUNDING PROVIDED BY:

Barbara Ryder
DeEtte Beiffuss-Eager and Leonard P. Eager, Jr.,
in memory of Karen "Lovey" Johnson
Rosemarie Blancke

ADDITIONAL FUNDING PROVIDED BY:

Martha and Charles Casey
Sunseed Research, LLC • Wisconsin Arts Board



CONNECT → OUR ENTERTAINERS

OURLIVESMADISON.COM



Heart Strings

In spite of being warned to find something more practical to pursue, violist **Diedre Buckley** followed her passion for music to great opportunities and a fulfilling career.

I AM A VIOLIST—a member of both the Madison Symphony Orchestra and the Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra. I live in Madison with Cathy Cullen, my partner of 18 years, and our “furdids;” and I spend my time teaching, practicing and performing great music. I am so grateful for the life that I have today, the life that I dreamed of when I was 17 years old.

When I was a very little girl, I loved to sing and dance. A relative who was a music teacher suggested to my parents that they should get me lessons, but my parents paid no attention. When I had the opportunity to learn violin in 4th grade, my parents discouraged me, thinking that I wouldn't practice and would drop it after a few weeks (as my sister had). I begged and pleaded and finally convinced them to let me try, and I practiced so much that by the middle of the year I was moved to the 5th grade orchestra. I continued to make rapid progress, becoming a soloist—both at my school in 8th and 9th grade, and with our

local municipal band—and concertmaster of the all-district orchestra; by age 15, I was a member of two college-level orchestras.

As it became time to think about college and what I wanted to do with my life, I thought deeply and decided that I would be happy if I was playing music, even if I wasn't making a lot of money. I decided that if I was not making music, I would not be happy, even if I was making a lot of money. The adults in my life were quick to point out how naïve I was, that I just didn't understand how the world works, and they pressured me to choose a more practical career path.

I am so grateful today that I managed to follow my heart and pursue a career in music. I earned a master's degree at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and my doctorate at U.W.-Madison. Along the way I was trained by world-class musicians and teachers and have had many unforgettable experiences. I have made many sacrifices, too: being a musician means working evenings and weekends, when everyone else

is relaxing. I have lost count of how many birthdays, anniversaries, family reunions, etc. that I have missed. Still, the few times in my life that I have tried to find another kind of work besides music only taught me that I was right when I was 17: I am not a happy person if I am not playing music.

My life in music has taken me across the U.S. to Alaska, Asia, and Europe. I have played chamber music for Steven Spielberg

I have played chamber music for Steven Spielberg at his house. I have played string quartets for George Harrison, Gary Wright and Elton John, and I have been in the band for Liberace, Tony Bennett, Debbie Reynolds and Donald O'Connor, to name just a few.

at his house. I have played string quartets for George Harrison, Gary Wright and Elton John, and I have been in the band for Liberace, Tony Bennett, Debbie Reynolds and Donald O'Connor, to name just a few. When I lived in the San Francisco Bay Area, I played chamber music for events in Napa and Sonoma Valleys. I was even on Studs Terkel's radio show in Chicago.

In Madison, I have the honor of performing at the beautiful Overture Center and sharing the stage with some of the greatest artists in the world. I also have the opportu-

nity to pass on my training to young musicians coming up: in addition to teaching my private students, I coach chamber music for the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestras and teach for UW-Madison Summer Music Clinic. I am so grateful for the invaluable education I have been given, and I am happy to be able to mentor the next generation. In fact, I am now working with musicians whom I coached when they were students.

In the end, my family was very proud of me and my accomplishments, and I am grateful to them for ultimately giving me the support I needed to achieve my goals. My only regret is that I didn't start sooner. While I never encourage my students to pursue a career in music, my advice to anyone is this: know yourself, know who you are and who and/or what you want to be. Then devote yourself completely to realizing your dreams, regardless what anyone else says. Have the courage to be who you are, and live your dreams! ■

Heirloom Tomato
By Staub



From France comes the unique 3 Quart Tomato Cocotte, an inspired design in enameled cast iron. Cooks love it for slow-cooking delectable stews, soups and casseroles. Bring French artwork to your table... savor and share the good taste!



ORANGE TREE IMPORTS

1721 MONROE ST. • 255.8211

OPEN DAILY • ORANGETREEIMPORTS.COM

MADISON OPERA



by Giacomo Puccini

Friday, November 13, 2015 | 8:00pm
Sunday, November 15, 2015 | 2:30pm
Overture Hall

Sung in Italian with projected English translations

COME FALL IN LOVE
ALL OVER AGAIN.

The greatest love story in opera, *La Bohème* remains eternally young. Set to a ravishing score, Puccini's classic opera tells of the lives, loves, and losses of a group of young artists in a Bohemian quarter of Paris.

La Bohème simply has no equal.

Don't miss your chance to see why audiences have acclaimed this moving work for over a century.

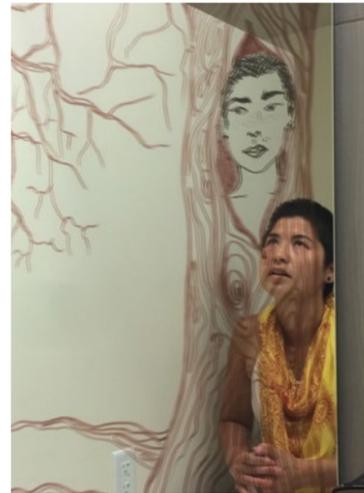
Tickets start at just \$18!

Thank you to our sponsors

Helen Wineke Marvin Levy Patricia & Stephen Lucas
Thomas Terry Fran Klos



madisonopera.org | tickets: 608.258.4141 | f t i b y



Do the Write Thing

ArtWrite Collective director **Alaura Seidl** explains the origins of the city's bold new organization and its mission to lift up traditionally marginalized people through art.

WHAT IS THE ARTWRITE COLLECTIVE, AND WHAT IS ITS MISSION?

The ArtWrite Collective uses art as a tool for equity and for justice, cultivating a resilient community through creative youth development, activist artist development, and public aesthetic diversification. We are a pro-LGBTQIA+, pro-womyn, pro-POC crew of artists, educators, social workers,

and activists passionate about the arts' role in ending food and housing insecurity, health disparities, and other trauma among the historically marginalized communities with which we identify.

WHAT WAS THE MOTIVATION/INSPIRATION TO START THE COLLECTIVE?

ArtWrite began as a series of conversations with my peers and with leaders all over Madison, and those conversations were laced with an obvious urgency to take creative action for positive change in our community. Outside of academia, artists and other creatives weren't sure where or how to find a community of artists, how to find creative labor, and how to organize creative activism. Including the term "collective" in our organization's title was an important move to describe how our work is born out of the minds of many and that it must be collaborative in order to create change.

TALK ABOUT SOME OF THE PROJECTS AW HAS ALREADY UNDERTAKEN AND WHY, AND THEN WHAT'S COMING UP?

We embraced that there are many potential approaches for cultivating a resilient community and that there are endless pathways for disrupting oppressive systems. For us, supporting youth, developing artists, and re-visioning public spaces have been the anchors to our work. For youth-centered projects we've partnered with Briarpatch Youth Services, local GSAs, Transition Education Program, GSAFE, Lussier Community Center, and other groups to develop authentic relationships, build life skills, and foster creative expression as a vital component to overall well being. To support artists, we hold retreats aimed at strategically plotting our creative activism, offer workshops for artists and writers by artists and writers, publish zines, and connect community-based creative folks to paid and socially conscious

work. In our pursuit to diversify public aesthetics, we coordinate public art such as a recent Madison Arts Commission (MAC) installation that involved artists drawing their self portraits on public mirrors as an unapologetic effort to raise stories that might otherwise remain overlooked; this project was possible thanks to thoughtful collabora-

We care about centering those most impacted by systemic oppression, together nurturing our voices, and changing the landscape of our community to better represent everyone who lives here.

tion with local social service agencies, local public libraries, and MAC.

Looking ahead, keep an eye out for a poster campaign sponsored by WCA-SA (Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault) and End Abuse Wisconsin, where our artists aim to prevent domestic violence and sexual assault within the queer community and promote access to services among survivors. A traveling mural on youth homelessness, produced in partnership with a program of Briarpatch Youth Services, is another major youth-led public campaign to listen up for in the coming months.

WHY IS A GROUP LIKE THIS IMPORTANT TO THE COMMUNITY? WHAT CHALLENGES DOES IT SEEK TO ADDRESS AND HOW?

We know from statistics and from experience that LGBTQIA+ folks, people of color, and womyn are at disproportionate risk for food and housing insecurity, sexual violence, and other trauma. We aren't okay with this, and we aren't okay with these facts dictating our life stories. We care about centering those most impacted by systemic oppression, together nurturing our voices, and changing the landscape of our community to better represent everyone who lives here. Between publications, art shows, education, and campaigns, we work to flip our stories to narratives of power.

HOW CAN PEOPLE GET INVOLVED?

Reach out! Between monthly published zines, regular youth groups, and special campaigns, we're always on the lookout for talented artists to participate in or facilitate our programs and projects. For peer organizations looking to partner on a project, know that we operate from a foundation of collaboration and would love to hear from you. Find more from us at facebook.com/theartwritecollective and theartwritecollective.org; reach us directly at theartwritecollective@gmail.com to plug in. ■



Looking for your new tranquil bathroom?

Looks like it's...

TIME 2 REMODEL
time2remodel.com



- PANORAMIC SUNROOF
- BLIND SPOT DETECTION
- HEATED AND VENTILATED SEATS
- HEATED REAR SEATS
- LANE DEPARTURE WARNING

THE 2016 HYUNDAI TUCSON



Proud to be a member of your family



HYUNDAI | NEW THINKING NEW POSSIBILITIES



ALEX STENSLIEN
SALES
(608) 729-6456

ZIMBRICK HYUNDAI WEST
320 W BELTLINE HWY, MADISON, WI 53713
ZIMBRICKHYUNDAIWEST.COM

Best of Madison 2015: FOOD & DRINK CHOCOLATE Madison magazine

CHOCOLATERIAN

EVERYDAY. CHOCOLATE.

2004 Atwood Ave
Madison, Wisconsin 53704

Madison Public Library
201 West Mifflin St

chocolateriancafe.com

Wisconsin Alliance of Artists and Craftspeople, Inc., presents

Winter Art Fair OFF THE SQUARE

NOVEMBER 14 & 15

Sat. 9:00-5:00
& Sun. 10:00-4:00

www.artcraftwis.org
Wisconsin Artists and Craftspeople

Monona Terrace Convention Center

Presented by the Wisconsin Alliance of Artists and Craftspeople, Inc. and sponsored in part by Isthmus, WiscTV, and Wisconsin Public Radio.



Lesbians Who Lunch

Rollers co-organizer **Liz Dannenbaum** shares the group's history and why having a gathering place for older lesbians is so crucial—and fun.

TELL US A BIT ABOUT ROLLERS—WHAT'S THE GROUP ALL ABOUT, HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN AROUND, AND HOW/BY WHOM WAS IT STARTED?

Rollers is an acronym for Retired Older Lesbian Lunch. It was started at least 10 years ago by Susan Agee and a few others. About seven years ago my partner, Donna Winter, took over organizing and promoting the group. Currently there are over 60 women on the group email list. Generally, about 25 women attend the monthly lunch—and every lunch seems to bring one or two new faces. I think it's always hard to walk into a room hardly knowing a soul or even no one at all, but I think our group helps eliminate this natural anxiety. We are very welcoming and always pleased to have new women join us. Every lunch includes an introduction session where we go around the table and share a very brief bio.

WHAT SORTS OF FOLKS COME TO THE LUNCHESES, AND WHY?

When people retire it allows them the time and opportunity to meet new friends and try new activities. I suspect lots of women come to expand their circle of friends and just get more connected to the wider lesbian community. Some women are newly out as lesbians and some have

just relocated in Dane County. This is also an opportunity to reconnect with friends on a monthly basis that you might not see otherwise.

HAVE ANY UNEXPECTED (OR EXPECTED) THINGS COME OF THE GROUP AND THE FRIENDSHIPS/RELATIONSHIPS FORMED THERE?

I know close friendships have formed or rekindled because of the lunch. Peggy, who commutes between Chicago and Cambridge, is one of Donna's and my new, close friends, and someone we never would have met if she hadn't braved coming into the lunch knowing no one. At least one romantic partnership began when two women met at the lunch. A Rollers monthly book group has also arisen because of a shared love of reading among some of the women who attend.

WHY IS A GROUP LIKE THIS IMPORTANT TO YOU, TO THE COMMUNITY?

I think there aren't many venues for older lesbians to meet and mingle. Lesbians can find each other in other places: church, working for candidates and causes, online with groups like Meet Up. But some older lesbians aren't comfortable with computers, aren't at all religious, and don't have the famous "gaydar" we always hear about. When you come to the Rollers lunch you know that everyone there is a lesbian near your age. That's special.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES FOR THE GROUP'S FUTURE?

We hope the group continues so that older lesbians can continue to connect and share and laugh together.

ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO SHARE?

Donna and I want to be sure to give a shout out to Elie's in the Lake Edge Shopping Center. The food is great, the prices are extremely reasonable, and we are given a private room. But much more importantly, we want to thank Elie and her terrific staff for being entirely welcoming. Waitress Dawn treats us all like the princesses we are (ha!). How she and the cooks get lunch to so many people so quickly is a mystery.

If you'd like more info about joining the Rollers email list or stopping in for lunch, call Liz and Donna at 608-221-3997. ■

A Room of One's Own

NEW & USED BOOKS IN DOWNTOWN MADISON

Serving the LGBT community for over 35 years. Visit us at our new, expanded location just off State Street, next to Community Pharmacy.

315 W. Gorham St. Madison, WI ■ (608) 257-7888
Mon.-Sat. 10-8, Sun. 12-5 ■ www.roomofonesown.com

INDEPENDENT LIVING, INC.

Offering services for seniors and adults with disabilities

- Personal care, home chores, home safety changes, Evening Meals on Wheels, more
- Home health care including PT/OT/Speech
- Retirement communities in Madison, Fitchburg and Sun Prairie

Your local connection to an independent life

Call 274-7900 today www.IndependentLivingInc.org

BETHKE

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING, INC.

251.2222
Emergency Service 24/7

Furnaces • Boilers • Air Conditioners
Humidifiers • Duct Cleaning
Preventative Maintenance Plans

Prompt, Professional Service For All Brands Since 1989
Free Estimates On All New Installs

BETHKEHEATING.COM
521 Half Mile Road, Verona, WI 53593

NEW ORLEANS TAKE-OUT

"EAT MO' BETTAH!"

Serving Authentic Creole Cuisine Since 1985

JED
EAST - 1920 Fordem Ave.
608-241-6655

KEN
WEST - 1517 Monroe St.
608-280-8000

Monday - Saturday 11:00 am - 9:00 pm / Closed Sundays
eatmobettah.com



NOVEMBER

18

**TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE VIGIL
HOSTED BY THE MAD CITY SISTERS**

Mifflin & Carroll St., Madison

Observed in late November in recognition of the 1998 murder of Rita Hester.

In 1999 advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith coordinated a vigil in Rita's honor. The vigil commemorates all who have been tragically lost to anti-transgender violence.

madcitysisters.com



Ann Powell

NOVEMBER

20-22

HOLIDAY ART FAIR

Madison Museum of Contemporary Art

The Holiday Art Fair will present fine art and craft, as well as local and gourmet treats, a silent auction, performances by local art organizations, and the Rediscovered Arts & Treasures Sale.

mmoca.org

NOVEMBER

6

**"SHALL NOT BE RECOGNIZED"
EXHIBIT OPENING**

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center

Jeff Percy and Will Fellows revisit the intimate portraits of the original couples featured in the 2006 exhibit. See new photos and stories of where the couples are now. Meet the couples and the artists and view the new exhibit.

mkelgbt.org



5-22

**FORWARD THEATER'S
"SILENT SKY"**

Overture Center for the Arts

Catch the Midwestern premiere of this play about a brilliant, headstrong pioneer at the dawn of modern astronomy. Henrietta Leavitt must leave her Wisconsin home to pursue her dream of studying the night sky, but she soon discovers that the distance

to the stars is less than the distance to acceptance in the man's world of turn-of-the-century science. Family, music, love and history come alive beneath a blanket of stars in this magical story of a scientist's quest for the heavens in a society determined to keep a woman in her place.

forwardtheater.com

13-28

**STAGEQ'S "FINDING HUMAN"
Bartell Theatre**

StageQ presents an original work by Madisonian Dan Myers, who premiered the show earlier this year at Broom Street Theater: 10 years ago, James was sentenced to Florida's death row for the brutal murder of a priest. He never provided a reason for his actions, but rather accepted his guilt in silence. This is the story of the last week of this man's life and some of the people that share his immediate world. Each of them trying their best to answer the question: Why? Advisory note: This show deals with issues of sexual abuse as well as issues of physical abuse. Recommended for mature audiences only.

stageq.com

13 & 15

**MADISON OPERA'S "LA BOHÈME"
Overture Hall**

The greatest love story in opera, La Bohème remains eternally young. Set to a ravishing score, Puccini's classic opera tells of the lives, loves and losses of a group of young artists in a Bohemian quarter of Paris. If you are new to opera, don't miss the chance to see why audiences have acclaimed this moving work for over a century. If you are an opera omnivore, revel in Puccini's lush lyricism, brought to life by a dynamic cast.

www.madisonopera.org

14

**GSAFEE'S FALL GSA CONFERENCE
Orchard Ridge UCC, Madison**

GSAFEE's annual Fall GSA Conference is open to Wisconsin middle school and high school students, as well as to GSA advisors and other school professionals who are supporting GSAs and similar clubs.

gsafevi.org

18

**THE TRANS MONOLOGUES
Madison Central Library**

UW-Madison LGBT Campus Center hosts this annual festival. Join the entire Madison community for a night of honest expression about the joys and trials of being trans, genderqueer, MtF, FtM, butch, nelly, queenie, drag, and anywhere on or off the gender-variant spectrum.

lgbt.wisc.edu

20-22

**MADISON SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA'S FRENCH
FANTASTIQUE**

Overture Center for the Arts
MSO presents a trio of sublime French masterpieces, featuring one of the world's most virtuosic cellists, Sara Sant'Ambrogio, for their French Fantastique.

madisonsymphony.org



29

**OUTREACH
THANKSGIVING DINNER**

Madison

The Outreach LGBT Community Center is sponsoring a Thanksgiving feast in partnership with OutThere and LGBT Senior Alliance in Madison. Turkey, ham, cornbread, dressing, and drinks are provided. This event is open to all ages and no alcohol will be served. If attending, please bring a side dish, salad or dessert to share or a suggested donation of \$5. For more information call Outreach at 255-8582 and ask for Steve or Angie, or email angier@lgbtoutreach.org.

DECEMBER

4-6

**MADISON SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA'S CHRISTMAS
CONCERT**

Overture Center for the Arts
MSO presents their annual Madison Symphony Christmas, featuring mezzo-soprano Emily Fons and bass-baritone David Goversen.

madisonsymphony.org

5

**MAD ROLLIN' DOLLS ROLLER
DERBY SEASON OPENER**

Alliant Energy Center
Hold onto your skates as Madison's premier flat track roller derby league blasts off its 12th season of hard hitting action! All four home teams (Reservoir Dolls, Quad Squad, Unholy Rollers and Vaudeville Vixens) will face off over the course of two games at the Alliant Energy Center's Exhibition Hall. Doors at 5 p.m., action at 6.

madrollindolls.com



14 & 15

**WINTER ART FAIR
OFF THE SQUARE**

Monona Terrace

The annual indoor art festival features 144 Wisconsin exhibitors with a wonderful selection of pottery, paintings, fiber, glass art, wood, photography, jewelry, graphics, sculpture and more. In addition, on Saturday the art festival features a very successful Silent Auction of artwork contributed by our exhibitors. Part of the proceeds benefit their Youth Scholarship Fund.

artcraftwis.org

**PERFECT HARMONY
HOLIDAY CONCERT**

First United Methodist, Madison
The gay men's chorus presents their annual holiday concert. "Transcending Tradition" will be at 3:00 on the 18th and 7:30 on the 20th.

perfectharmonychorus.org

12-27

**MADISON BALLET'S
"THE NUTCRACKER"**

Overture Hall

Madison Ballet's dazzling classic lights up Overture Hall for the holiday season. Follow Clara and her Nutcracker as they travel through swirling snowflakes to a colorful garden filled with characters to delight the young and young-at-heart.

madisonballet.org

**Miss Gay Wisconsin USofA 2016
crowned in Milwaukee**

The dairy state crowned its new Miss Gay Wisconsin USofA for 2016 in a pageant star-studded weekend of festivities and competitions this past October.

Held at La Cage and featuring 13 contestants, the Miss Gay Wisconsin USofA title ultimately went to Felicia Ashton, who becomes the 27th queen to wear the crown since the competition's inception. First alternate went to Kendra Banx\$.

A series of other awards were also handed out:

- Sage LaRue Congeniality Award:** Jojo Jubilee (Nick Hesse)
- Rudi Di'Angelo Most Beautiful Award:** Felicia Ashton
- Kitanah Kim Most Improved Award:** Kendra Banx\$
- James T. King Award for Exceptional Dedication to the WI-USofA System:** Michelle Prince
- Talent:** Felicia Ashton
- Evening Gown:** Kendra Banx\$
- Interview:** Symphony Alexander Love

Felicia Ashton and Kendra Banx\$ will both go on to represent Wisconsin at the 2016 Miss Gay USofA pageant in Dallas, Texas next summer.



MISS GAY WISCONSIN PHOTOS BY MIKE HILLER

TICKETS STARTING AT \$14

madisonballet
W. Earle Smith, Artistic Director

The Nutcracker

BRILLIANT. BEAUTIFUL. BALLET.

December 12-27, 2015 | Overture Center
Call 608.258.4141 or visit madisonballet.org

StageQ Proudly Presents

FINDING HUMAN

Written & Directed by dan myers

November 13th - 28th

The Bartell Theatre

608 • 661 • 9696
113 East Mifflin Street
Madison, WI 53703

stageq.com
bartelltheatre.org

CONNECT → OUR SPONSORED EVENTS

OCTOBER 11 GSAFE's Walk/Run/Eat for Safe Schools

OCTOBER 2 OutReach 23rd Annual Awards Banquet

ON SALE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12!

Disney PRESENTS

THE LION KING

THE WORLD'S #1 MUSICAL

May 10 – June 5, 2016

overturecenter.org | 608-258-4141 | Groups (10+): 608-258-4159

TICKETS MAKE A GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT!

School of Life

Madison College Vice Provost **Turina Bakken** brings a wealth of life experiences, travel, sports and a commitment to lifting others up to her leadership role at the innovative campus.



My commitment is to enhancing an academic culture that invites all students to find their voices and their stride about their studies, ideas, values, identities and future.

IN ONE OF MY SEVERAL journeys to Northern Ireland with students from Madison College, we attended a presentation by Billy Dixon, an image consultant for the British Broadcast Corporation (BBC). He recounted stories of how to portray confidence, even when your knees are shaking. One of his leadership lessons is to “take yourself off the stage and put the spotlight on other people.” It’s a mantra that struck a familiar chord for me, as it is always how I have lived and led.

So, to be asked to write about my own life is a daunting task. Ask me to write about anything else, anyone else, and the words come easily. But, me? Would anyone want to read my story? In my 50 years I have never held political office or marched in a parade or done any-

thing worthy of being interviewed by Robin Roberts on *Good Morning America*. Upon reflection, though, I have lived an interesting, adventurous and blessed life.

I have traveled the globe, experienced the love of friends and family and celebrated the thrill of victory and accomplishment. In equal measure, I have been humbled by losses and reminded that serving others is more rewarding than serving yourself. I have the good fortune of being loved and in love with my partner and best friend of 25 years, Marcia Christiansen, and of having fun while tiptoeing on the brink of excess, and—except for bad knees—enjoying the providence of good health. I’ve lived relatively quietly, seeking to be a positive role model for change and inclusion, rather than an outspoken advocate.

In his novel, *One*, author Richard Bach explores the mythical metaphor of a pattern representing the paths we have taken and the choices we have made throughout our entire life. He intersects that pattern with every other possible path we could have taken to show how our infinite choices, even those which seem most mundane, are woven together to take us to the very point we are in at the current moment.

In short, our choices are infinite and lead to the experiences that shape the person we are today. As I look back on the pattern of my choices, choices that have gained me wisdom, friends, experiences and character, I am proud and blessed to be at this very point in my life. So, at the gracious invitation of *Our Lives*, I humbly share that journey with you.

COMMUNITY BEGINNINGS

I was born in Fargo-Moorhead and lived my pre-college life in Minnesota. Much to the dismay of my Viking fan relatives, I now say I am from Madison, and yes, I am a diehard Packer and Badger fan. My parents are from a small town called Lake Bronson, up by the Canadian border. It’s the doppelganger of Keillor’s Lake Wobegone—“the little town that time forgot and the decades cannot improve,” the kind of town where the word “community” really means something. It was there, as a kid, that I learned how to look out for neighbors, how to greet people on the street even if I didn’t know their names, and the value of a hard day’s work. While those days are long since past, I never lost the northern Minnesota brogue (especially after a few pints) nor the love of community. It was also that Minnesota youth that led me to participate in just about every team sport imaginable—fastpitch softball, hockey, basketball, tennis, soccer, flag football and even broomball.

Growing up an athlete introduced me early on to the ideas that individuals can be stars, but victories come as a team; the ability to bounce back and learn from losses was the only way to win in the future; central to leadership was the ability to rally the team to better their performance; and that good teammates had your back no matter what. These were lessons that would serve me well as a future leader, teacher and coach. Sports led me early to these lessons and led me to first loves.

GLOBAL JOURNEYS

Author Margaret Wheatley writes that “we see the world as we are, not as it is.” But my perspectives on life, love, country and inclusion have been deepened by seeing the world, experiencing other cultures and eating foods I can’t pronounce. My global adventures began as a U.W.-Madison student when I lived in a small town in Southern France for nearly two years. I attended a Political Science institute and a Letters college, and ultimately earned a certificate from Université de Provence in International Studies and French. While studying in France, I also joined a women’s soccer team in the small town of Éguilles. It was the first time in my life as an athlete that I was the outsider, the last one in.

It was daunting, and scary, but it built character and courage. By the end of two seasons, we had won the Coupe de Provence championship, and I had made friends for life. I also traveled to Italy, Hungary, Austria, Yugoslavia, Germany and other European countries. That experience, in addition to earning a French degree, introduced me to the value and fun of global travel—experiences that continue to shape how I see the world and deepen my appreciation of the concept of “other.” Since that time, I have been to amazing places such as Nepal, Costa Rica, Bonaire, Corsica, Malta, Spain, Singapore, Norway, Sweden and Denmark, among others. I have participated in teaching exchanges to Northern Ireland and Belgium and led study

HAIR AND MAKEUP BY DAISY QUINTAL-LEPINSKI, UNION HAIR PARLOR.

Restoring Community-based Justice



JAY KIEFER, PROGRAM DIRECTOR
BRIARPATCH YOUTH SERVICES

As an alternative to the roughly 800+ municipal court citations given to youth ages 12–16 in 2014, the YWCA Madison, Dane County Timebank and Briarpatch Youth Services will be utilizing Restorative Justice Circles and Peer Court services to help find more equitable solutions for everyone involved. Restorative Justice solves problems through understanding why it happened, whom it impacted and what needs to happen to make it right. We repair the harm, restore justice for all sides, and all agree on a plan to make changes for the future. Restorative Justice is an alternative to municipal court and is a concept found throughout the justice system and within our society. Its roots are found in history in the Native American culture.

Through the Restorative Justice Circles, trained youth and adult community members facilitate peacekeeping circles. In the circle, everyone has an equal voice, including the youth, the person harmed, and other community members. In the end, they use consensus decision-making to come to an agreement to repair the harm as a community.

Through Peer Court, trained youth peer jurors hear cases and issue restorative sentences, such as helping youth build employment skills and repair the harm that was caused. Sentences can include access resources through the Dane County TimeBank or Briarpatch Youth Services.



Powerful Results.
Real People.



7841 Brule St
Well-Maintained & Priced to Sell
Large deck & wooded yard!
4 beds | 2 baths
1,993 SqFt | 2 car garage
\$249,900

Choose the Realtors® who know Madison.

Maintaining a supreme level of service, while helping our Madison neighborhoods flourish.

1802 Steven St
Classic Sun Prairie Two-Story
Spacious Master Suite!
3 beds | 1.5 baths
1,5008 SqFt | 2 car garage
\$179,900



www.LauerRealtyGroup.com
608.444.5725

Fighting for Full-spectrum Equality



**KIM SIMES, MIDWEST REGIONAL MANAGER
FAMILY EQUALITY COUNCIL**

One area where we are continuing to focus our time, education and energy is helping people understand that we may have achieved legal equality with the passage of marriage equality in all 50 states, but we still have a long way to go until our families experience lived equality on a daily basis. Now more than ever, we need comprehensive federal protections that are clear and consistent, like the recently introduced Equality Act. Some may ask why we are taking this “new” approach to protections for the LGBTQ community when, for years, we have supported and advocated for stand-alone bills that would provide the same kinds of protections that we are now seeking with the Equality Act. Along with all of the progress that the LGBTQ movement has seen over the last handful of years has come a dramatic rise in support for LGBTQ equality by the general public. This public support has provided us with great momentum—but it has also energized our opponents. We have seen a striking increase in the introduction of anti-LGBTQ legislation at both the state and federal levels as well as an increase in anti-LGBTQ litigation, most of which uses religion to justify discrimination against our community. It has become clear that the only way to ensure that LGBTQ people and our families are afforded the exact same protections as other covered groups is simply to add sexual orientation and gender identity into existing federal laws.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Teaching around 2003, UW hockey broadcast with Jay Wilson and Coach Mark Johnson, Spain soccer match with Madison College colleagues and students in 2013, with the Stanley Cup in 2010, in Norway with her partner Marcia, Madison College graduation in 2007.

abroad trips to Germany, Northern Ireland and Ireland. As much as I love to travel, as my grandma always said in Norwegian, “Å gå er bra, hjemme er best” (to go is good, home is best).

FOR THE LOVE OF HOCKEY

When I was about six years old, my dad signed me up for figure skating lessons at a park near our house. On the very first night of practice, I was coming up the slippery wooden ramp to the warming house when a hockey player came through the door and knocked me down. In bracing my fall, I slammed three fingers in the door and ended the night in a cast. Goodbye figure skating career!

My cousins lived on a lake and we would skate all winter long. I could still participate in the ice games with a broken hand. They propped me up in front of the net wearing an old pair of my cousin’s hockey skates and his goalie equipment. The next season when my dad was signing my brother up for hockey, he asked, “Do you want to do figure skating or hockey?” A pretty progressive question for the early 1970s, when there were as many girls who played hockey as boys who were on the pom-pom squad. Without pause, I screamed, “Hockey!”

From there, my brother and I played on the same team for the next several years—all the way until high school. I was small but fast. Whenever the boys discovered I was a girl and decided to come after me, I would simply out-skate them and step out of the way for my much bigger brother to take care of things! I remember so many games on outdoor ice in Minnesota, frigid temperatures that drove us into the warming house between periods to warm up. Dad would hold my feet until the feeling returned. It was either that or 6 o’clock games on indoor ice on Sunday mornings. Despite the weather and schedule, both of which were equally brutal, I fell in love with the game. I played with the boys through age 16, and gave it up to focus on high school basketball, soccer and softball. But I never stopped skating.

Shortly after I began classes at U.W.-Madison a poster caught my eye at the Natatorium—an invitation to skate with the University Club A team. After a few calls, I found myself at practice with bor-



rowed equipment. Word on the ice was that a hotshot young kid from Minnesota was in town.

Well, maybe not such a hotshot, but I held my own with women from around Madison who were literally the pioneers of women’s hockey. I played with the Club A team throughout my undergraduate years and for several years thereafter as it transitioned to a private team and the expansion of women’s and girl’s hockey skyrocketed. My teammates became my Madison family, were a positive force both on and off the ice (well, closing down Jingles at bar time on a weekend was not all that positive for a college student, but still), and are a part of some incredible life memories. Legendary skaters like Masher, Jonesy, Voich, Kate the Great, the Blair Twins, Jill, Marley, Susie and so many more were hockey warriors who played at the Shell at 11 p.m., road-tripped to Minnesota to play three games in a weekend, then traveled to Brampton, Ontario for Canadian tournaments, one time with only seven skaters.

There were victories and losses, injuries and celebrations, practical jokes and deep conversation—but in the end, it was the most inclusive group of women I had ever been around. Gay, straight, married, single, parents, students, teachers, all sharing a common bond: hockey.

My 30-year hockey career ended with my second major knee injury. When the surgeon told me, “If you want to golf when you are 40, you need to quit playing hockey,” I decided the risk of injury was too great. I took to coaching instead—a natural extension of my love for teaching. For a few seasons, I coached a USA Hockey B-level team in town with the same energetic spirit and love of the game that I had experienced over so many years. Coaching ended when I started my doctoral studies. Something had to give, so picking my studies seemed like the most logical, but not preferred, decision.

Since 1998, I’ve also been involved in broadcasting for the national champion University of Wisconsin Badger women’s hockey team. I was asked to provide color commentary for the first-ever varsity game at the Kohl Center, a game that pitted the Badgers against University of Minnesota-Duluth and included interviews with Olympian Cami Granato and USA hockey coach Ben Smith. I had no prior broadcasting experience, but it was a lot of fun and I realized that after so many years in hockey, it was pretty easy to just talk about the game. I have continued to be a part of hockey broadcasting over the years in both radio and television whenever public television calls and invites me back. And when I’m not calling a game, I’m usually in the LaBahn arena stands watching. I still love the game as much as I did when I was a kid in Minnesota. My only regret is that I was born too soon and missed the incredible opportunities that young female hockey players now have to earn college scholarships and compete in the Olympics.

PROFESSIONAL STARS ALIGN

I entered the education arena in a sort of cosmic way. After years in the private and public sectors working in product development and marketing, I worked for five years at a local nonprofit that focused on community building, organizational learning strategies and quality



306west
living, elevated

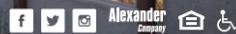
**Live downtown for
the dining & events.
Not the noise.**

**1 & 2 bedroom luxury apartments
2 blocks west of capitol square**

- // striking lake, city and capitol views
- // pet friendly: no breed or weight limits
- // 2 luxurious condo-style finish collections

view floor plans & new pricing:
306west.com
info@306west.com | 608.279.0174

open house: mon 9-5 | tue-fri 9-7 | sat 10-4 | or by apt | 306 W. Main St.



Attorney Christopher Krimmer



- **Divorce**
- **Estate Planning**
- **Step-Parent Adoptions**

**Proudly
Serving Clients
Statewide**

BALISLE & ROBERSON, S.C.

*Lead Author of the book:
Sexual Orientation and the Law in Wisconsin
Adjunct Professor of Law at Marquette Law School*



improvement. As I saw the evolution of that nonprofit, I began to think about what might be next for me. With an undergraduate degree in Marketing and International Business/French and an MBA, I was looking back toward the private sector and a possible move from Madison. It was then that I met Warren, a now-retired leader from Madison Area Technical College who asked if I had considered teaching.

Despite experience in executive education and consulting, the answer was “not really.” He mentioned that he had a marketing faculty position open and that I should consider it. I threw my hat in the ring and passed through to the final interview round. Within a week, the nonprofit I was working for laid off 90% of its staff. And on the same day I learned that news, I was offered a faculty position at Madison College. I was unemployed for exactly four hours.

Since that serendipitous day, I can proudly say that I am the only person in the 103-year history of the college to have served as a faculty member, program director, associate dean, dean, associate vice president and now, vice provost. I was awarded Distinguished Teacher and Outstanding Employee by our students and my peers. I have worked and continue to work alongside the smartest and most dedicated faculty anywhere, the most creative and supportive staff, and academic leaders who truly believe in the mission of the college and the power of individual transformation—and a community that demonstrates this commitment through their actions every day.

I still love the game as much as I did when I was a kid in Minnesota. My only regret is that I was born too soon and missed the incredible opportunities that young female hockey players now have to earn college scholarships and compete in the Olympics.

My continued interest in higher education has been nurtured and expanded over nearly three decades, first as an undergraduate, master’s and Ph.D. student; as a college instructor and now, as a senior leader. Through that journey, I have come to appreciate the role that higher education plays as a pathway to life and career enhancement for a wide range of populations. In an era of skills gaps and worker shortages, education is the key to individual opportunity and economic vitality. That means access to quality education credentials and experiences must be open to all. Nearly 70% of all jobs by the year 2020 will require at least an associate degree—and many of those jobs don’t exist yet. So, to provide a flexible skills base, a belief in oneself and a resiliency that will allow all to contribute in a meaningful way to the community of the future is a challenge worth relentless pursuit.

In other words, to borrow a metaphor from hockey great Wayne Gretzky, preparing students with the skills they need to succeed in an



ever-changing job market requires educators to “skate to where the puck is going to be, not where it has been.”

In my current role, I oversee teams that create powerful and relevant programming and curriculum that prepares students to be change agents. My commitment is to enhancing an academic culture that invites all students to find their voices and their stride about their studies, ideas, values, identities and future.

A SAFE PLACE TO LEARN

Madison College is an amazing place to learn and to work. Specifically, it lives out its values of excellence, respect and integrity in many ways relative to the affirmation and inclusion of LGBTQ students and staff. We as educators are well aware of Maslow’s hierarchy of needs, a pyramid of needs that reminds us that safety and belonging are critical components that must be met first if students and staff are to find their way to success and self-actualization.

Consider these examples: The student organization, Gender and Sexuality Alliance, is overseen by two of our committed faculty members. The group focuses on outreach, social events, film screenings, learning events related to inclusion and sexual health, and key leaders travel to Washington D.C. to attend policy briefings on LGBTQ issues that matter to our students and community. Recent projects include working with the Student Senate to attain gender-neutral bathrooms in the new Truax Gateway, and strategies to more fully recognize transgender names in official college records. There are software limitations but the importance of choice of preferred name and gender pronouns and the need to collect aggregate data on sexual orientation and gender identity of students and staff is evident.

There are also ongoing efforts to expand the Safe Zone spaces to the entire campus and broaden Safe Zone Training to all staff and students. A safe zone or a safe space is a place where all people feel safe, welcome and included. Working alongside the Gay Alliance, the Safe Zone program aims to increase the awareness, knowledge and skills for individuals and address the challenges that exist when one wants to advocate for their LGBTQ peers, family members, friends, coworkers and for themselves. Creating safe zones is a proactive step Madison College has taken to create welcoming, inclusive spaces so that all people are empowered to reach their full potential.

In addition, with the leadership of Madison College President Jack E. Daniels III, the College is hiring a Vice President of Diversity, Inclusion and Equity to further identify and coordinate high-leverage strategies to advance our college as a place of welcome, where all are positioned to perform their best work without regard to their sexual identity, race, ethnicity or gender. In the college’s Shared Governance

Madison Physical Therapy

Working Towards A Better You.



Did you suffer a work related injury?
Were you involved in an auto accident?
Are you tired of long waits to access PT?

- Your Physical Therapist is YOUR choice!
- Faster care=Better results!



Tiffany Virag

PT, OCS
ORTHOPEDIC
SPECIALIST

system, a primary focus of one of the councils is projects that emphasize diversity and inclusion strategies and data analysis. The Library and Student Development teams have created guides that consolidate LGBTQ resources in a one-stop web location.

Much has changed during my 18 years here. Though Madison College has faced many of the same challenges as other public institutions of higher education, including incredible economic, social and political change and upheaval, one thing remains the same: People matter at Madison College. All people. I’ve seen big and small miracles every day from committed faculty and staff who protect and affirm the dignity and rights of all, and who work as tireless advocates in pursuit of equity and inclusion. It’s a shared commitment that is taken seriously at every level of the college, at each of the nine campuses in our 12-county district. We’re a team. And that, quite simply, is why I stay.

THE VALUE OF TEACHERS

One of the questions I always dreaded in job interviews is, “Where do you see yourself in 10 years?” I always thought, “Who really knows?” and would respond with a rather generic-yet-positive answer. The reality is that I have positioned myself for advancement at every stage of my professional and academic life. While by nature I am very goal-oriented, a deliberate planner and a driven, forward-thinking person, my belief has always been to focus on doing the very best in the present moment, no matter the job.

The credibility earned by doing the right things right, having a good work ethic and maintaining authenticity leads to the next point of decision and advancement, just as Richard Bach emphasized in his book. Had somebody told me 20 years ago while I was working in the business arena, having completed a Master’s in Business Administration, that I would end up in higher education, first as faculty and eventually as a senior leader with a Ph.D., I would probably have asked him what color the sky is in his world. My journey wasn’t part of a specific plan or goal. But, as I focused on excellence at the current step, the doors kept opening and I confidently walked through each one, accepting the next challenge at every level.

Having the courage to walk through those doors into new and often unnerving challenges is when I learned the most about myself. When the job, degree, team, country or task was new and daunting, it was then that I was most open to advice from others, the most humble, and the most intentional about what I needed to learn to make it to the next day. I think it was that “edge” mixed with a bit of fear and self-doubt that motivated me to work harder, do more and, as a result of applying the wisdom gained in difficult times, gain confidence and the courage to move forward. It has been said that you can’t be brave unless you’re afraid. I believe it!

From Mrs. Bates in third grade who told me, “Yes, girls can become construction crane operators” in response to my stated career choice, to Mrs. Stanoch in high school who through her true love of France inspired me to live abroad, play international soccer and pick up a French major to complement my marketing undergraduate degree, to my many mentors at Madison College, I have been abundantly blessed with influencers, each who in their own way has shaped the person I’ve become: Coaches who taught me how to lead, to understand the value of collaboration and teamwork, and how to win and how to lose; incredible parents who instilled a strong Norwegian work ethic, humility and who modeled respect for others at every turn; Grandma, who became a mayor in her 70s and taught me perspective, gratitude and how to smile at the world around you since “it is better than the alternative;” and Marcia, who reminds me daily how easy it is to be kind and generous, and who has been a constant source

of encouragement, support and good humor, and without whom my path and choices would have been dramatically altered.

AUTHENTIC LEADERSHIP

Once a teacher, always a teacher I think, but I try each day to link what I have learned on my path to be a leader of faculty and staff, a maintainer of tradition, a role model for future leaders, and a champion of change and innovation in higher education. Just as identity and integrity of the teacher leads to good teaching, it is integrity and authenticity as a leader that drive the value I bring to all aspects of my life, at Madison College and elsewhere. My approach to leadership has emerged from my experience throughout the course of my life, and my leadership style and beliefs have emerged in alignment with my core values of inclusion, respect, good humor and genuineness. Over the years, I have learned to simplify things, ask better questions, drop pretenses, and be true to myself and kind to others at work, at home and with friends. I believe in leading by knowing people, knowing their names and learning what matters to them, for only then can we make authentic connections that position us to inspire, to lead, to transform.

A broad and deep base of business, educational and life experience combined with a rich network of colleagues, friends and family has led me to this point today. Given the opportunity, would I do anything differently? Perhaps I would be gentler with myself, let go of over-doing it and spend more time just sitting on the deck. But substantive changes? No. I am proud of the person I have become and deeply cherish the path, people and choices that have led me here today. The pillars that ground me include a life of love and friendship with Marcia, the valuable role that Madison College plays for so many in our community, fun and amazing family and friends, and the opportunity to make a life in the coolest city anywhere. ■

TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR BODY



- Personalized Fitness
- State of the Art Studio
- All Fitness Levels
- Therapeutic Massage
- On the Capitol Square

10 South Carroll St. 608.204.0727

SEPTI@SEPTIFIT.COM



Madison's Premier Running Specialty Store



Proud Sponsor of
**GSafe's
WALK/RUN/EAT**

berkeleyrunningcompany.com

2852 University Ave • 608-395-BERK

Weekdays 10am - 8pm • Sat 10am - 7pm • Sun 10am - 6pm

Path of Thorns

How are area organizations like **Briarpatch Youth Services** helping meet the needs of homeless and at-risk LGBTQ youth in Dane County?



Intro by Briarpatch's **June Paul**

LGBTQ youth are: disproportionately at higher risk of becoming homeless after leaving foster care; 7.4 times more likely to experience sexual violence than other homeless youth; and are twice as likely to commit suicide. To make matters worse, LGBTQ homeless youth often experience difficulties finding shelters and services that accept and respect them.

Although this paints a dismal picture nationally, one might assume that LGBTQ homeless youth in Dane County do not face such adversity—sadly this is not the case. Local LGBTQ homeless youth are often unaware of the resources available in Dane County. Briarpatch Youth Services has served runaway and homeless youth since 1971 and during the last 10 years has been providing street outreach services in an effort to educate homeless and runaway youth about the resources available to them. In addition, Briarpatch recently opened the first shelter in Dane County dedicated to serving runaway and homeless youth ages 13–17.

Other organizations and individuals in Dane County are also trying to help. The following are various perspectives on the issues at hand, including adults doing the work and a youth currently getting services from Briarpatch.

IN THE LEGAL SYSTEM



Judge Shelley Gaylord was elected to the Dane County Circuit Court in 2003, 2009 and 2015. Currently she serves in the juvenile, family and civil rotation. Shelley also maintains a private practice with concentrations in family, juvenile, LGBTQ, real estate, personal injury, and wills and previously served on Gov. Earl's Task Force on LGBT issues.

PROFESSIONALLY, I see a wide range of situations: Homeless youth accompanied by competent adults face a different set of problems than those without that resource. But survival often trumps other issues, like paying attention in school. Some LGBTQ youth have the added stress of less than sympathetic or abusive parents. Transgender youth face this somewhat more commonly than LGBQ. Some youth are causing physical harm to themselves or others in the family, repeatedly. There is no single reason for this. Some parents have reached out for services, with or without success. The critical element to success is finding a person who “connects” with that family and can find resources.

Other LGBTQ youth are the victims of bullying, physical, sexual or terrible verbal abuse, from inside or outside the home. Some families ask the court for help. While youth at least age 12 could petition for help, it would take tremendous savvy and courage. Alcohol and drug abuse in the family, family isolation, poverty and lack of parenting skills loom large for cases filed in court. Some youth are kicked out and others leave looking for anything that is safer. Others commit delinquent acts and come to the attention of various systems that way.

Truancy is often the “canary in the coalmine.” Youth may stay with family, friends or on the streets to survive. Sex trafficking or being in the sex “trade” is particularly difficult to unearth, especially when compounded with LGBTQ, alcohol/drug issues or other mental or cognitive issues.

Meanwhile, the mental health, run-away, abuse and neglect systems in Dane County are over-taxed. Often, waiting lists are too long and length of treatment too short. In-patient or long-term treatment is limited. Access to readily available and longer-term respite from home is not easy to find. I recognize there are many who work hard to provide services within existing limits and many have succeeded. There are some terrific stories of success with the help of talented foster parents and relatives. Briarpatch, multi-dimensional family therapy, Rainbow Project, NIP, and Journey Mental Health are a few of the services providing informal and court success stories. Not all service providers have contracts that connect with the courts. The

While youth at least age 12 could petition for help, it would take tremendous savvy and courage. Alcohol and drug abuse in the family, family isolation, poverty and lack of parenting skills loom large for cases filed in court.

courts and related stakeholders are working as a system to bridge that with non-court system providers. Strengthening access and connections among them could lead to swifter, more comprehensive and informal resolutions.

However, many families will take advantage of less than perfect services, once motivated and engaged. Swift access to respite while other services are provided may (re)habilitate the home environment. At times, services can strengthen youth self-care capacities to launch into a healthier life.

School may provide food, shelter and a temporary safer alternative to the streets or exploitative adults. That’s important, even if the student isn’t passing. School personnel can be alert to youth in need and reach out early and often. Extracurricular activities can prolong the safe school day and result in positive connections. Maybe one relationship will “stick.” Courts, social workers and service providers in the system can (and do) encourage young people to take small steps.

However, some youth are reluctant to disclose as LGBTQ, homeless or what their sources of money are. Building trust with one competent person can make all the difference in the world. Try to be or find that person.

IN THE SCHOOLS



Sherie Hohs is a community activist, believer in inclusion and an advocate for LGBTQ+ youth. She's been a School Social Worker in the Madison Metropolitan School District for the last 12 years. In her second year as the LGBTQ+ Social Worker for MMSD, she has the vital role of training educators on inclusive practices, building meaningful community partnerships, advancing youth leadership, and protecting the rights of LGBTQ+ students and their families.

AS THE LGBTQ+ SOCIAL WORKER for the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD), I support LGBTQ+ students, their families and their school staff, hoping to create healthy, inclusive learning envi-

Lifting Up Intersectional Identities



**GABE JAVIER, ASSISTANT DEAN/DIRECTOR
LGBT CAMPUS CENTER**

LGBTQ+ students expect the adults in their lives—teachers, advisors, mentors, and coaches—to affirm and celebrate their intersectional identities. The delicate balance of centering their LGBTQ+ identities while still integrating other social identities can be a challenging one. The trend, then, becomes looking at ally behaviors as cross-movement and intersectional. The actions of being an ally apply across identities and allow us to connect movements and build coalitions. The LGBT Campus Center is also working hard alongside UW Athletics to ensure that transgender student-athletes have safe and inclusive spaces. This has included conversations about facilities, team dynamics, and coaching staff.

Holistic Approaches to Animal Companions



**SUE HUNTER, CO-OWNER
BAD DOG FRIDA**

More people are doing it all for their animal companions. That means traveling abroad with them, or car traveling with their dogs—and cats, too. We also see people doing it all medically: animal massage, chiropractic, acupuncture, natural supplements and quality food, and even chemotherapy. People care deeply for their dogs and cats and show it by giving their all whether that be experiencing a fun trip together or walking down the difficult path of an aging or sick pet. It’s heart-warming and wonderful.

ADVISING LGBT FAMILIES POST-WOLF AND WINDSOR

ESTATE PLANNING · TAXES
PRE-NUPTIAL AGREEMENTS
IMMIGRATION · DIVORCE

FORMING AND PROTECTING FAMILIES

PARENTAGE · ADOPTION
ASSISTED REPRODUCTION
FOSTER PARENTING
GUARDIANSHIPS · APPEALS



the LAW CENTER for
**CHILDREN
& FAMILIES**

WWW.LAW4KIDS.COM · 608-821-8200
450 S. YELLOWSTONE DRIVE, MADISON, WI 53719

ronments where all students can feel affirmed and represented.

Speaking from my experience working with LGBTQ+ youth in Madison, most became homeless because of family rejection and conflict over their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Some youth leave their homes hoping to find a safer, more accepting environment; others are thrown out of their residences, facing verbal and physical abuse in regard to their identity. Before they finally leave, they have

With research showing that 75% of homeless youth have already or will drop out of school, we can and must do better. We need to reconnect them with school to prevent them from developing a long-term pattern of homelessness.

usually been through countless arguments, physical and mental health stressors and traumatic events. We know that a disproportionate number of LGBTQ+ youth are homeless; LGBTQ+ youth of color and youth in poverty are at an even greater risk. While homeless, we know that many of these young people are at a high risk for victimization, often do not have their basic needs met, are not able to be fully present to learn and are struggling with significant mental health issues.

In collaboration with MMSD's Transitional Education Program (TEP), we work to provide personal resources, safety planning, community referrals and emotional support to youth who are homeless. In addition to ensuring that homeless students can access school, our TEP program trains Student Services staff in every school building as to the rights, signs and needs of homeless youth. Still, identifying unaccompanied youth is a challenge, and I presume many

homeless LGBTQ+ youth go uncounted. Older students tend to find informal supports to keep them safe in a crisis. Many want to avoid the stigma of being homeless. Some get by, couch surfing from friend to friend until they wear out their welcome. Others worry that if someone finds out, they will be taken away by police or put in the foster care system.

There are things that we can do, as a community and as a school district, both proactively and reactively, to keep our LGBTQ+ kids safe.

INCLUSIVE CURRICULUM: From preschool through high school, all students and families should be represented in curriculum. It is important for students to see their families and identities reflected in the world around them. Youth who see positive models of their identity will grow up feeling more confident and affirmed. Students who are engaged in discussions about difference will learn to appreciate diversity. Programs like HRC's Welcoming Schools offer educators and families the language, lessons and resources to create safe and welcoming schools for all students and families.

FAMILY & COMMUNITY EDUCATION: In conjunction with inclusive curriculum in classrooms, we need to reach out to families and engage them in dialogue around family diversity, gender-expansiveness and bias-based bullying. We need to provide proactive family and community education around LGBTQ+ youth and the positive impact of family acceptance. Research and materials from the Family Acceptance Project can illuminate the devastating consequences of family rejection on LGBTQ+ youth and help families move toward greater acceptance. Schools and communities who involve families in dialogue around these topics can help prevent family conflict and LGBTQ+ youth homelessness.

AWARENESS AND STUDENT VOICE: We need to have posters, workshops and e-communications to inform youth, educators, families and communities about the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, the rights and benefits for homeless students, and the people at their school who can help. Incorporating student voices will help identify more unaccompanied youth and give us better perspective on what they want and need. With students, schools and communities working together in a culturally competent and affirming way, we can find creative ways to keep unaccompanied LGBTQ+ youth safe and supported.

IN THE GOVERNMENT



Rep. Melissa Sargent is a small business owner from Madison who currently serves in the Wisconsin State Assembly. A Democrat, Sargent represents the 48th Assembly District, which includes the City of Madison's east and north sides, and Maple Bluff.

WHEN YOU THINK OF homelessness, do you think of a 14-year-old sleeping on a friend's couch, living in an abandoned car during a Wisconsin winter, or staying with strangers? This is a reality that far too many young people in our state face every day.

I was first made aware of the issue of homeless and unaccompanied youth during my time on the Dane County Board. I was fortunate to meet several community leaders who are passionate about this cause. Together we formed the grassroots organization Make Room for Youth, a coalition of service providers, local leaders and volunteers who continue to advocate for the needs of unaccompanied homeless youth.

After I was elected to the State Assembly in 2012, I knew I wanted to work on this issue at the state level. Knowing this would be an uphill battle, during my first term my goal was simply to raise awareness about homeless and runaway youth. Along with some of my legislative colleagues, we put on a symposium at the capitol that hundreds of people attended. Senators and Representatives from all over Wisconsin left with their hearts and minds open to helping these youth who live in every community in our state.

Thanks to the symposium's momentum, I was able to pass a Joint Resolution honoring November 2013 as Runaway Prevention Month. The Assembly and Senate both unanimously supported this resolution.

Now that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle are more familiar with the issue of youth homelessness, I hope to bring together a bi-partisan coalition to take action to address some of the pressing needs.

Based on my conversations with advocates, school staff and other interested parties, I know that the legislature can truly help with some basic, common-sense measures. Among those:

- Access to their birth certificate
- Ability to receive a state identification card and/or driver's license
- Access to health care

While the political climate in Wisconsin is challenging, I am confident that we can get these common-sense measures passed.

No longer can we as a society accept vulnerable youth sleeping in cars or stealing food just to survive. We have a duty to provide these people with a future, and a place to call home. With research showing that 75% of homeless youth have already or will drop out of school, we can and must do better. We need to reconnect them with school to prevent them from developing a long-term pattern of homelessness.

Too often these unaccompanied youths are invisible. I know we can bring them out of the shadows and into a compassionate society.



Jim Hartman Ins Agcy Inc
Jim Hartman, Agent
5706 US Highway 51
Bus: 608-838-4171
Cell: 608-345-4885
jim@jimhartman.com

Love, hope,
success,
family,
security.

Some things we all have in common.

There's nobody like me to protect the things we all value.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

CALL ME TODAY.



1101022.1

State Farm, Home Office, Bloomington, IL

RENT ~~OR~~ GROCERIES

1 in 10 Dane County Residents are living in poverty, and face tough choices like this every day.

Give today to help United Way of Dane County to eliminate these choices and put more people on pathways out of poverty.

UNITEDWAYDANECOUNTY.ORG



BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



National Guardian
Life Insurance Company



A Delta Dental PPO & Delta Dental Premier network provider



Caring For Your Whole Family



PREVENTIVE • RESTORATIVE • COSMETIC
Exceptional Quality, Compassionate Care

The Constellation Building | 10 N. Livingston St., # 301 | 608.467.8022

artisantentalmadison.com

Paige, photographed for *Our Lives* in October, 2015.



IN THE WORLD



My name is Tyler Schueffner, I am the Coordinator of the Street Outreach Program at Briarpatch Youth Services. As one might imagine, many of the youth we serve are vulnerable, at-risk for exploitation, substance abuse, mental illness and various forms of abuse. Three years ago, while conducting outreach,

I made my way to an encampment of homeless teens. After conducting my regular check-in, consisting of assessing needs, providing hygiene items, food, condoms and resources, I turned to a new face in the group and asked if they needed any help. Following a nervous pause, they began to tell me about their situation below:

MY NAME IS PAIGE. I had been in the Foster Care system, aging out on my 18th birthday. When I aged out, I knew housing was going to be a challenge. I had part-time jobs but never got paid enough to cover all my expenses. I was 18 and didn't have a co-signer for an apartment.

Eventually, I exhausted my options. I was literally homeless. With nowhere to go, I found myself at the Men's Homeless Shelter. As a transitioning 18-year-old, the shelter did not feel safe, and I lasted one night.

My family, while at times supportive, was not prepared or eager to have me live with them. My family and I don't exactly see eye-to-eye and they struggled with some of my "characteristics." In my late teens, I began to acknowledge and express my true gender identity. Challenging gender was not something easily understood. The stigma of being "different" had an impact on my options for support. Without a supportive outlet, my anxiety and depression kind of took over.

Being on my own brought many challenges: I spent a lot of time trying to identify where I might stay for a night. Eventually, I exhausted my options. Family and friends could not accommodate me anymore. I was literally homeless. With nowhere to go, I found myself at the Men's Homeless Shelter. As a transitioning 18-year-old, the shelter did not feel safe, and I lasted one night. Out of options, I decided to join a group of friends staying in a wooded area on the east side of Madison.

Living on the streets is tough. You are vulnerable and exposed. You rely on those around you to help keep you safe. I was fortunate to be a part of the protective and welcoming LGBTQ community. Unfortunately, many in the LGBTQ community are targets of abuse and violence. I was also lucky to have a tent and basic camping equipment. Many folks are left with few options when it rains or snows. Even with the camping equipment, other basic needs are difficult to access; showers, bathrooms, keeping and cooking food. We would try to have a campfire and cook when possible. Living in a wooded area in the middle of town, we had to make sure the fire was not visible. We couldn't afford to draw attention from neighbors or police. Believe it or not, most of us are trying to get by and not cause problems.

Unfortunately, we were "discovered" and given 24 hours to vacate. The irony of moving a homeless encampment is that it doesn't change the fact that you are still homeless, it only forces a new location, with new variables, and new concerns.

I met Tyler from Briarpatch around the time we were forced to move encampments. Tyler and a volunteer with Friends of the State Street Family helped us identify and move to a new location. I began working with Tyler and Briarpatch, identifying resources to help me

get on my feet. Even with help, I continued to struggle with mental health, housing, and stable employment. I was moving from place to place, couch surfing, and obtaining hotel vouchers through the Salvation Army. Eventually I made my way into transitional housing, and with help from organizations such as Tellurian, the Salvation Army, and Briarpatch, I eventually secured an apartment and a full-time job.

Even with help, I continued to struggle with mental health, housing and stable employment. I was moving from place to place, couch surfing and obtaining hotel vouchers through the Salvation Army.

It has been nearly three years since I became homeless. There were many lows; times when dying seemed like the only option. With help, I made it to the other side. I am no longer homeless, and I can focus on being well, mentally and emotionally. It was not easy, but I found that in my struggle I learned who I was and what I am capable of.

CALL TO ACTION

Despite adversity and discrimination, local LGBTQ homeless youth are extremely resilient. But these youth need our help now. As adult members of the LGBTQ community, we have a unique opportunity (and responsibility) to offer a voice on behalf of these youth, and when necessary, to push our community to listen. To do this, we must increase our awareness of the needs of local LGBTQ homeless youth and increase our community's capacity to provide them with safe, supportive, and culturally competent services. Supporting Briarpatch

and their new Youth Shelter is one such opportunity to do this. The younger members of our community can scarcely afford to wait. ■

ABOUT OUR EDITORIAL FACILITATOR



June Paul is a doctoral student at the U.W.-Madison studying intersectionality and disproportionality among dimensions of race, class, sexual orientation and gender identity in child welfare; strategies for providing effective services to LGBTQ young people involved in social service systems; and policy and program evaluation. Her recent work focuses on the effective public programming and policies directed at LGBTQ youth aging out of foster care. Prior to returning to school, June obtained a master's degree in Social Work from U.W.-Madison in 1997, and worked in the field of human service within the State of Wisconsin for approximately 15 years. Most recently, June was the Director of School Nutrition Programs at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction where she provided direction and leadership for all state and federally funded school nutrition programs. From 2003 to 2009, June was a Section Manager for the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, where she was responsible for overseeing statewide child welfare programs, including foster care, kinship care, and services directed at youth transitioning from foster care to independent living. Prior to her positions with the State, June worked as the Program Director at Briarpatch, as a School Social Worker for the Verona Area School District, and as an on-going Child Protective Services Caseworker. She currently facilitates Teens Like Us, a drop-in group that provides a safe space for lesbian, gay, bisexual, pansexual, transgender, gender nonconforming, questioning and allied youth.



2039 WINNEBAGO ST • 608/467-8007
UNIONHAIRPARLOR.COM

Transcending Tradition

perfect harmony
MEN'S CHORUS • MADISON, WI
Winter 2015 Concert

\$20

December 18th • 7:30pm
December 20th • 3:00pm

First United Methodist Church

www.PerfectHarmonyChorus.org

PHOTOGRAPHED BY SPENCER MICKA

GAY, LESBIAN, BI,
TRANS, STRAIGHT.
Honestly, the only label we care about is
FAMILY.

The Wisconsin Fertility Institute is proud to help gay and lesbian couples create the family of their dreams. Schedule your private consultation today, 608.824.0075.

wisc^onsin fertility
INSTITUTE

wisconsinfertility.com
3146 Deming Way, Middleton

photo: bornarchivalco.com



Photographed by Beth McConnell.

Proud Mama

Jane LaFlash never intended to become a crusader for LGBTQ rights, but when her son came out to her at 16, she sprung into action to make sure he had the support needed—and ended up helping to found Madison's chapter of PFLAG.

IN MADISON, there were two organizations dedicated to supporting the LGB community—the United and the Gay Center. When Jane LaFlash's 16-year-old son came out to her that spring, she went right to the phone book and looked under "gay."

"I was completely ignorant," she says frankly. "Knowing me, though, within days I went to do as much research as I could." That work, and flipping open the phone book, are what brought the Gay Center to her attention. She called them up.

"I was apparently the first parent to call asking for help," Jane notes.

It was through the GC that Jane was put in touch with Adele Starr, who, in 1976, had founded the Los Angeles chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, a gay rights and acceptance organization known then as Parent FLAG, now as PFLAG. Over the next year and a half, as Jane tried to get a Madison PFLAG chapter running, Adele "would call me every month just to see how things were going," offering help and advice.

Between 1987, when the group moved into the Friends Meeting House, and 1989, when they participated in Madison's first Pride Parade, the local PFLAG had about 50 people on its mailing list and a rotating group that attended meetings at any given time.

Every month, too, Jane would set up shop for meetings...and wait. Sometimes, she was the only person there. Other weeks, one or two gay men would show up. Once in a while, a parent would shyly arrive as well. She stuck it out because, as she explains, it was too important not to do. "I was a young mother. I was 19 when Chad was born, and I was worried about him. But I knew—I have a gay son, that's a fact over which I have no control. So what can I control? Me."

Jane's younger brother, Tom, came out as gay some time after her son did. She grew up in Middleton as the oldest of six kids. It was a pretty standard Midwestern upbringing, nothing that might have indicated the eventual path her life would take. She ended up working as a microbiologist at the State Lab of Hygiene and retired 10 years ago, and has long since been an avid gardener as well. But Jane's professional experience only tells some of her story.

In 1985, the nascent PFLAG group got a major boost when she applied for and received a startup grant from the New Harvest Foundation. Working with the Gay Center, then, PFLAG Madison began holding workshops and attracting more interest from fellow parents looking for help understanding and supporting their gay and lesbian children. Around that time, too, Jane met Joann Elder and her husband Joe through their gay son. Joann quickly took on a leadership role within the organization, "which made all the difference in the world," Jane explains.

There was, understandably, a lot of enthusiasm in the gay commu-

Tech for Reducing Elder Isolation



SUE BERG, MARKETING DIRECTOR
INDEPENDENT LIVING, INC.

The family home can difficult to leave when adults become elders. Isolation and loneliness can result, especially if relatives are remote. Having in-home help matters, and so does technology. Skype can be a lifeline, keeping family connected. Facebook is another means. Specialty groups are becoming online trends—think of meet-ups. Now there is ElderTreeWisconsin.com, a new networking site for seniors. A pilot project launched by UW Center for Health Systems Studies, this safe, secure, free and easy-to-use site maximizes senior connections, thereby reducing isolation. For details, contact Scott Gatzke at 608-262-0624.

The Future of IVF



DR. DAVID OLIVE, MD
WISCONSIN FERTILITY INSTITUTE

There is a rapid rise in pre-implantation genetic screening and diagnosis with in vitro fertilization (IVF). We have long had the capacity to biopsy embryos created via IVF and diagnose whether or not the embryo harbored a genetic disease, but the price was steep. Recently the analysis has become quite affordable. Advances in genetic analysis and freezing technology have made the possibility of ruling out many genetic disorders, decreasing the rate of miscarriage, and even determining the sex of the baby a real consideration for anyone being treated with IVF.

MADISON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
John DeMain | Music Director

A Madison Symphony Christmas

December 4, 5, 6
OVERTURE HALL

John DeMain, Conductor

MADISON SYMPHONY CHORUS

Beverly Taylor, Director

MADISON YOUTH CHOIRS

Michael Ross, Artistic Director

MT. ZION GOSPEL CHOIR

Tamera and Leotha Stanley,
Directors

Buy Tickets Now!

Concerts sell out.

madisonsymphony.org,
the Overture Center Box Office
or (608) 258-4141.

MAJOR FUNDING PROVIDED BY:
American Printing • Nedrebo's Formalwear
John W. Thompson and Jane A. Bartell
BMO Private Bank
Maurice and Arlene Reese Family Foundation
Hooper Foundation/General Heating & Air Conditioning
Two Anonymous Friends

ADDITIONAL FUNDING PROVIDED BY:
National Guardian Life Insurance Company
Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c.
Hans and Mary Lang Sollinger
Wisconsin Arts Board

Perfect Companions
deserve the best

ORDER WISCONSIN CHEESE
ARTISAN BOXES FOR ANY OCCASION

fromagination™
WWW.FROMAGINATION.COM ARTISANAL CHEESES & PERFECT COMPANIONS™

OPEN 24/7 • FROMAGINATION.COM • SHIPPING NATIONWIDE

Madison's Favorite Happy Hour



Under new ownership

shamrock bar & grille

- Proudly supporting Madison's LGBT community
- Serving Lunch Monday through Friday 11-2
- Serving Brunch Saturday and Sunday from 10-3pm
- Grille open until 10 pm everyday
- No cover deejay Thursday through Saturday



facebook.com/ShamrockBG

117 W Main St, Madison, WI

Teach Your Child to **Save Share Spend** and get up to **\$10.00** from Homer

Open a new Homer's Club Savings Account and Homer will match up to \$10 of your opening deposit when you bring in this coupon.¹

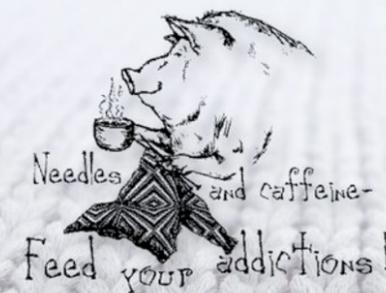
home-savings.com | 608.282.6000

Member FDIC

Homer's Club accounts may be opened for children from 0-12 years old. To open an account, a parent or guardian must accompany the child. Accounts can also be opened by the parent or guardian without the child present. Accounts can be opened with a minimum of \$1.00. The parent should also bring a driver's license or photo ID, and will need to furnish the child's social security number.

¹Bonus will be given at account opening. Coupon must be present. Offer expires 12/31/15.

The Sow's Ear



CAFE/BAKERY | Fresh, Daily Lunch Menu Items

COFFEE | Featuring artisan coffees from Ancora, Kickapoo, Ruby, Anadyne & many more!

SMOOTHIES | Fresh Fruit, Chocolate & Espresso

KNITTING | Yarns, Accessories & Classes

We use local produce and cheese

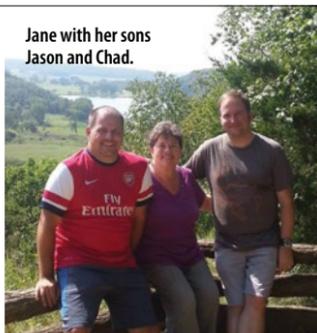
608-848-2755 125 S. Main Street, Verona, WI knitandsip.com

nity around Jane's PFLAG work and general willingness to support gay youth. The staff at the GC eventually encouraged her to start a support group for gay teens, too. As a straight mom she was seen as a "safe" choice to lead such an organization—no one else at the time wanted to touch it. That group ran for over 3.5 years, every Saturday afternoon at the Memorial Union on the U.W. campus, with facilitation help from a gay man and a lesbian woman. "Volunteers can do things that professionals can't," Jane says. They had the flexibility to just start meeting without having to go through committees or bureaucracies first, and Jane frequently took phone calls from distraught youth and simply dropped everything to go meet with them and make sure they were cared for.

Eventually, though, Briarpatch Youth Services stepped in to create the more formal Teens Like Us (which still exists) as the first group petered out. Jane stayed with PFLAG, however, as that organization continued to expand and adapt to the changing times.

The Madison PFLAG chapter is now one of the longest running in the nation. Kay Heggestad, another longtime member and leader, set up their table at the Dane County Farmers' Market and has helped keep it there for 20 years.

Jane with her sons Jason and Chad.



Between 1987, when the group moved into the Friends Meeting House, and 1989, when they participated in Madison's first Pride Parade, the local PFLAG had about 50 people on its mailing list and a rotating group that attended meetings at any given time. There were a wide variety of needs and attitudes with the parents who came—those much like Jane and the Elders, wanted to get educated to help their kids as much as they could, others came looking for support as they struggled with acceptance. In one case, Jane relates wryly, a parent ended up leaving the group, complaining that "you guys are too happy about having gay kids."

For a long time, the group's entire yearly budget came from shared profits they earned by volunteering at the annual Magic Picnics sponsored by the Hotel Washington and held at Brittingham Park.

Her work with PFLAG and gay rights in general earned Jane attention from other corners, too. In 1989 she was asked to be on the Wisconsin Conference of Church's Taskforce on Sexual Orientation, where they drafted a letter to churches across the state about supporting the parents of lesbian and gay children who were members of their congregations.

The Madison PFLAG chapter is now one of the longest running in the nation. Kay Heggestad, another longtime member and leader, set up their table at the Dane County Farmers' Market and has helped keep it there for 20 years. Generations of new U.W. students have likely stumbled across the smiling faces of PFLAG parents there, where they might have shyly taken one of the rainbow ribbons to pin to their backpacks.

"Of course this has changed me as a person," Jane muses. "How could it not? We're glad we have gay kids. We've learned so much about them and about ourselves especially, things we wouldn't have known before or otherwise." —Emily Mills

SEPTEMBER 20 PFLAG Celebration of Leadership



TIPS & TRENDS

Aftershocks of Marriage Equality



LINDA BALISLE, ATTORNEY
BALISLE & ROBERSON, S.C.

Some of the expected complications related to same-sex marriage have begun showing up in attorneys' offices. Some who had married where it was legal, but then moved to Wisconsin when it wasn't, didn't get divorces (because they couldn't). Subsequently they married an opposite-sex person. Once same-sex marriage became legal, the issue of potential bigamy had to be addressed. Also the first divorces of same-sex marriages are being faced. Courts have to determine the length of the marriage. In a same-sex marriage the court has to decide whether it was when they had a civil union... Or did it begin on the day same-sex marriage was legal? Who said marriage was easy, right?

Pain Relief for Our Furry Family Members



LINDSEY SNYDER, CLINICAL INSTRUCTOR
UW VETERINARY CARE

Animals feel pain, too. Thankfully, there are multiple modalities to reduce pain. Once thought for humans only, acupuncture, physical rehabilitation, and LASER therapy have all proven beneficial in our veterinary patients as well. Animals may benefit from acupuncture for the treatment of pain and other medical conditions. Physical rehabilitation can get a companion back in action following an injury or surgery. LASER therapy can be used for any condition that causes inflammation, pain or decreased healing.

DeWitt

Ross & Stevens s.c. Law Firm

"A great thought begins by seeing something differently, with a shift of the mind's eye."

—ALBERT EINSTEIN

DeWitt attorneys see things differently while exploring and creating solutions to our clients' needs. At DeWitt, we utilize our creativity to offer proactive and effective legal advice in more than 30 areas of law while serving publicly and privately held companies, individual clients, family-owned businesses, municipalities and more. With more than 100 attorneys practicing in Wisconsin and Minnesota, our firm handles matters for clients nationwide.

When you need a trusted, full-service law firm, please visit our website at dewittross.com or email info@dewittross.com for more information.

dewittross.com



MADISON : GREATER MILWAUKEE : MINNEAPOLIS



Preserving the Queer Past

A new historical preservation group aims to protect and share Madison's LGBTQ past through oral histories and other collected materials. **Dick Wagner** relays one woman's story of early lesbian life in the city.

GROWING UP IN DANE, WISCONSIN—a small community of 250 people northwest of Madison—a then young girl of 11 was “struggling with my sexuality.” The oldest of 11 children, she recalled, “I knew I liked girls the way boys liked girls, and I didn’t understand why.” Drawing on rural imagery, she would say, “I didn’t know what a lesbian was from a pumpkin.”

On New Year’s Day of 1963, just before her 18th birthday, the young woman moved to Madison. Her grandfather, who she described as “my mentor and my trusted adviser,” had told her she “didn’t need to worry, that if I got to a larger city, there was other people who were like me, and that I wasn’t the only one.” Her grandfather was in a band and knew musicians who were gay.

Thus opens the remarkable oral history of DJ Wipperfurth, one of those rare breeds of Madison area native. Her story is part of 80 LGBT oral histories amassed by the UW Madison Archives as part of their overall oral history program documenting both the campus and the environment of its city. The Wipperfurth story is rich with early vignettes of the area’s LGBT past.

To find community she went to the gay bars, except they weren’t really gay. She recalls the Three Bells on University Avenue across the street from where the George Mosse Humanities Building now stands. There gay men, especially the “fly boy” servicemen from Truax, were off to one side and the women congregated in the back around the pool tables and pinball machines. Straight college students were the predominant crowd. The older lesbians would be “chasing us like crazy” but they also would “take us under their wing, kind of let us know what was going on, where to go and stuff.”

Wipperfurth remembered leaving the Three Bells with another woman and holding hands when three punks started heckling them. She knew they were going to hurt them so she told her friend to run back to the Three Bells for help while she started “just flailing everywhere” against her attackers. Wipperfurth knew how to stand up for herself. She recalled, “They had all they could do just to keep track of me.” When her friend told the doorman at the bar, he snapped his fingers and the straight boys “came out of the bar and kicked the living daylight out of [her attackers].”

She also recalled the Stop Lite, a bar at the corner of Wilson and

HOW TO SAVE OUR HISTORY

Items of interest to the project are unpublished materials such as letters, diaries, and scrapbooks that document lives; records of community organizations, businesses, and political campaigns; images and ephemera such as posters and flyers; and film, audio, or video recordings on local LGBT issues. If you have materials contact the LGBTQ Archives Project at UW-Madison Archives, (608) 262-5629, uwarchive@library.wisc.edu.



ABOVE: Bar manager Penny Caruso (seated) and bartender Meika Alberici behind the bar in the restaurant Lysistrata. LEFT: An ad for The Back Door bar that ran in January of 1974.



Butler Streets owned by Jack McManus which was popular with lawyers at lunch and right after work but was otherwise dead in the evenings. Then the female bartender would invite “us gals down to the bar” for the evenings. When McManus was kidded by the lawyers about “all them girls hanging around down there, but they ain’t our kind of girls,” Jack’s reply was, “Oh, the girls got to have someplace to go.” But he did complain that the bar was now making so much money it wasn’t a tax write-off anymore.

Wipperfurth remembers early politics and the Clarenbach family, too. Kay Clarenbach had been appointed in 1964 by Governor John Reynolds to chair the Governor’s Commission on the Status of Women and she later became the first chairperson of the National Organization for Women (NOW). Kay helped shape a lot of local progressive discussions about women. Her son David became an early gay rights advocate. Wipperfurth also recalls the first Take Back the Night marches, and how the “Her Infinite Variety” women’s radio show on WORT was also an early influence. She recalls going to A Room of One’s Own bookstore to sit in the lesbian section and read.

Fond memories included “huge lesbian Thanksgiving dinners at my house. About 75, 80 women would show up.” One time a person came in and said two men were sitting down the street in a car watching the house. Because she drove a cab she recognized it as an unmarked squad car. Wipperfurth went up to car and told the men to roll down the window. “And they said ‘what?’ I said shut off the car. ‘Who are you?’ I said, you know who I am. That’s my house you’re watching. Shut the car off. I pay taxes and I don’t want you wasting my gas money. I went back to the house and they left.” She presumed they may have been writing down license plate numbers as that was known to happen in town in the old days. It’s a great example of how DJ could be fearless.

WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

She recalls the “wonderfully lovely Catherine Rouse” who was the main mover behind Lysistrata. A tremendous experiment in a woman-owned and woman-operated space, it was a bar and restaurant. Kay Clarenbach was also one of the board members. Termed “the nicest place we’ve ever had in town, as far as I’m concerned,” its eventual destruction due to fire, possibly by the building owner for real estate purposes, caused great sadness in the community.

Wipperfurth’s work experience included a stint as a manger for the Cardinal Bar with Ricardo Gonzalez. But her main career was 31 years driving a cab, 21 of them with Union Cab. While there she was also able to urge others to help the Women’s Transit Authority on campus in providing safe night-time rides for women.

For a time, she also tended bar at the Back Door, Rodney Scheel’s first foray into a locally owned gay bar. Across the street was a bar where, when the students got liquored up, they would come over to beat up the queers. She remembers them yelling obscenities and throwing ashtrays. A small, 100-pound woman would grab a pool cue and watch her back in these confrontations. One time she remembered a tall, slender drag queen being slammed into one of the students and saying, “There’s nothing worse than an angry queen. Have you ever been hit with a high heel?” She recalled her own reaction, “Not afraid like scared, but afraid like one of these days, one of these jackasses is going to hurt me, stupidly.”

Wipperfurth participated in many of the community’s institutions. When asked about being on a softball team she said she was the pitcher. “Fast pitch, yeah, I don’t play slow pitch,” but this was in her Dane days. In Madison, she recalled one softball game where the “shirts off” movement struck, “so all the fans in the stands and the ballplayers took off their shirts.” Another time she was umpire between a Madison lesbian team and a team of women from Taycheedah—the women’s prison.

Wipperfurth is recorded saying, “Yeah. I’m very proud to be a lesbian... The other thing I really want young people to understand is that they do have people they can look to for guidance... Because I went through a lot of torture, mental torture that I inflicted on myself, because I couldn’t figure out what the hell was going on with me.”

DJ Wipperfurth’s story (and there’s more) is preserved because of the oral history interview by Pat Calchina, who has done a lot of work to preserve and present lesbian history. Now, an ad-hoc group interested in the Preservation of Madison Queer History has taken up the challenge to preserve even more of it. Cooperation has been secured from the UW-Madison Archives to supplement their extensive oral history material with written documents and other archival material. The New Harvest Foundation and the university’s George L. Mosse Program in History have both agreed to help fund a part-time archivist to collect and organize material. Outreach is administering part of the effort.

Because of the trailblazing and productive history of Madison’s LGBTQ community its history is both locally and nationally important. Since part of the lives of early gay and lesbian residents was subject to historical erasure due to the closet, we want to save the parts of our history that do exist.

Look for future information coming in *Our Lives* about materials collected and how to help this effort. So, especially when cleaning out the closets, DO NOT THROW OUR HISTORY AWAY! ■



DICK WAGNER (rrdickwagner@gmail.com), openly gay former Dane County Board Chair and co-chair of Governor Earl’s Commission on Lesbian and Gay Issues, is working on gay Wisconsin history and welcomes topics and sources.

TIPS & TRENDS

Happier Felines, Happier Homes



**GAYLE VINEY, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT
DANE COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY**

We recently moved our Adoption Center to 680 Grand Canyon Road in Madison. In moving, we built community cat rooms where cats live cage free while waiting for new homes. Our cats now have the opportunity to act naturally as they perch high, sit in a window, or use a hide hole for some time out. Visitors now have fun peering in through the huge viewing windows or sitting inside with the cats. Choosing the right cat(s) to adopt is much easier as you observe them acting normal rather than trapped in a cage.

Active Family Support for LGBTQ Youth



**ALEX EINSMAN, LICENSED MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPIST
ATLAS COUNSELING, LLC**

Families come in a variety of types, but they all share a common theme: resistance to change. For parents and families tasked with accepting a child with an LGBTQ identity, sometimes the resistance to that acceptance is a covert attempt to try to protect their children and themselves from change. The Family Acceptance Project (familyproject.sfsu.edu) provides groundbreaking research on the positive effects of family acceptance, as well as guides on how parents and families can support LGBTQ youth in their families. Parents now have another lens to look past their own biases and protectiveness and learn that accepting a child’s LGBTQ identity is the most powerful way to express safety, love and acceptance.

Congratulations
Theresa!



This proud dental hygienist has been serving the community for 10 years!

We are accepting new patients at our LGBT-friendly dental office.

Call 608-227-7000 or visit MadSmiles.com to learn more!



5602 ODANA ROAD, MADISON, WI 53719

MODERN FAMILY,
REDEFINED



Our mission is to find truly permanent homes for animals in need, and to enrich lives by strengthening the connection between animals and people through community outreach. underdogpetrescue.org

Providing the best care for your best friend



DEER-GROVE
Veterinary Clinics LLC.

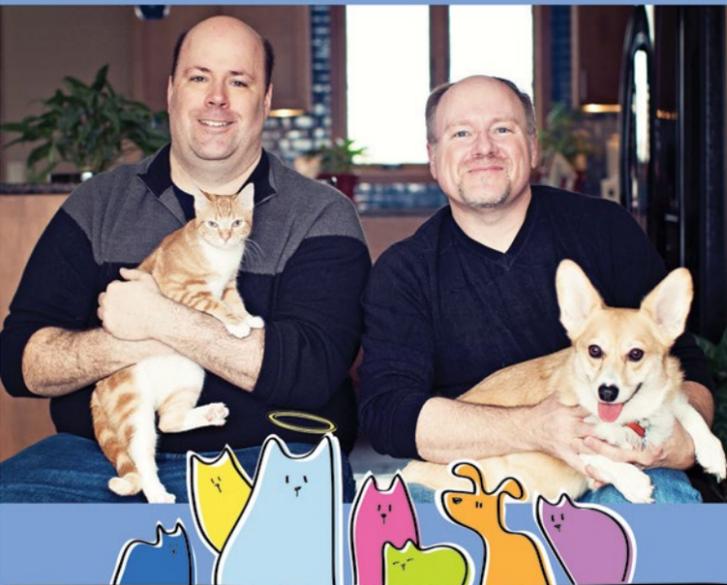
535 Southing Grange
Cottage Grove, WI 53527

608-839-5323

www.deergrovetvet.com
deergrovetvet@deergrovetvet.com

A Full Service Small Animal Clinic

purrrrrsonal matchmaking for every family!



Angel's Wish

WWW.ANGELSWISH.ORG

Pet Adoption • Microchipping • Retail Store
Educational Resources • Volunteer Opportunities

IMPROVE → OUR PETS



NAME Louis
OWNERS Spencer Micka & Ed Rector
HOW DID YOU FIND YOUR PET? Found abandoned by feral mother at one week old
AGE 3
SEX Male
BREED Orange Tabby
BIRTHPLACE Coralville, Iowa
OCCUPATION Hall Monitor
FAVORITE TOYS Orange cat stuffed animal
FAVORITE LEISURE ACTIVITIES Cuddling
FAVORITE FOODS Chicken
PET PEEVES Closed doors
IF PETS COULD TALK, WHAT WOULD YOURS SAY? It's hard being this cute!



NAME Augustus (Gus)
OWNERS Samantha Thompson & Savanna Strennen
HOW DID YOU FIND YOUR PET? Adopted through the Wisconsin chapter of Greyhound Pets of America
AGE 2
SEX Male
BREED Greyhound
BIRTHPLACE Arkansas
RESIDENCE Apartment
OCCUPATION Retired racer
FAVORITE TOYS A large bone-shaped squeaky plushie
FAVORITE LEISURE ACTIVITIES Napping, cuddling
FAVORITE FOODS Chicken, peanut butter, pears
PET PEEVES People who think he's too skinny
LEAST FAVORITE PHRASE Get out of the kitchen!
IF PETS COULD TALK, WHAT WOULD YOURS SAY? I hated being a racer. All of that running was way too much work. Retirement is the best thing ever!



NAME Stewie
OWNERS Dino Maniaci & Jason Hoke
HOW DID YOU FIND YOUR PET? Breeder friend/line fan
AGE 6
SEX Male
BREED Whippet
BIRTHPLACE Pennsylvania
OCCUPATION Pillow rearranger, shoe organizer
FAVORITE TOYS Varied stuffed bunnies, squirrels, mustache, etc
FAVORITE LEISURE ACTIVITIES Sunning around the house, staying in bed late with dad
FAVORITE FOODS Bacon drippings, ice cream, yogurt
PET PEEVES Made beds, aligned throw pillows
LEAST FAVORITE PHRASE STEWART!
IF PETS COULD TALK, WHAT WOULD YOURS SAY? Turn the fire on dad...please?!

OURLIVESMADISON.COM

Gifts for the good (and bad) dogs in your life

Stop by this holiday season to find the perfect toys & treats for all your canine & feline friends, whether they've been naughty or nice.

bad dog frida

(open 7 days a week, parking in back) 2094 atwood ave. 442.6868

Experience Our State-Of-The-Art 12,000 sq ft Salon!

Over 500 Bridal Gowns • Over 1000 Bridesmaids
Just 20-25 minutes from Madison in New Glarus
(608) 527-4436 • brandisbridal.com

Brandi's
BRIDAL GALLERIA, ETC.

WISCONSIN BRIDE MAGAZINE BEST 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013

jennifer brindley photography

outUgo!
AWESOME PET CARE.

DOG WALKING • DOG & CAT SITTING
HOUSE SITTING • BELLY RUBS

Call us today for a complimentary meet & greet!
608.268.9161

www.madison.outugo.com

serapdog 100% guarantee bonded & insured



For more than 40 years, Briarpatch Youth Services has served at-risk and homeless youth and their families.

Did you know?

- Approximately 40% of homeless youth identify as LGBTQ.
- It is estimated that 5,000 unaccompanied youth in the U.S. die each year as a result of assault, illness, or suicide.
- 849 high school students reported being kicked out by their parents in the last 12 months.
- Homeless teens are more likely to become homeless adults.

Visit briarpatch.org to learn more about our services and a project to open Dane County's first shelter dedicated to homeless youth.



24 HOUR HELP-LINE:
1-800-798-1126
briarpatch.org • 608-251-1126
2720 Rimrock Road



IMPROVE → OUR INTERSECTIONS

OURLIVESMADISON.COM



Lisa Mitchell

Black Trans Lives Matter: Health Care for All

An open letter from the **Wisconsin Trans Health Coalition** on the necessity of community efforts to eradicate state violence against transgender people.

BRYNA GODAR'S RECENT ARTICLE in the *Capital Times*, "They Wanted to Keep this Quiet," about Lisa Mitchell, a Black trans woman suing Dane County Jail for mistreatment, thoroughly depicts Lisa's activism and life struggles. Lisa's story touches on issues that unfortunately are too common for Black transgender women across the United States.

One in two Black trans women are incarcerated or have been incarcerated in their lifetime. Most have experienced sexual violence, poverty, unemployment, homelessness, and sometimes survival sex work. Lisa is no exception.

With the overwhelming violence of police brutality toward Black cisgender men being brought to the foreground, the state violence toward Black cisgender women and trans people is often overlooked. This violence contributes to early death, suicide and health problems for trans women of color and black trans women in particular.

The violence that Lisa has experienced should be seen as both a racial justice issue and an LGBTQ issue. This includes being

criminalized for surviving poverty, being forced into gender segregated jails and homeless shelters, experiencing sexual assault, and being denied medically necessary care while incarcerated at various jails and prisons in Wisconsin, including currently at the Dane County jail.

Lisa has filed a federal case against Medicaid after being denied transition care from Badgercare (WI Medicaid). She won her appeal, but wants to make sure trans exclusions are removed from the Badgercare and Medicaid policies as are currently written.

When a person experiences multiple forms of oppression such as Lisa, it has a dramatic impact on their health. This is only further exacerbated when they go to find support or seek medical or mental health care, and are often met with further barriers. Systems of care often provide inadequate treatment or refuse to care for transgender people of color. In fact, over half of transgender people reported needing to educate their providers on how to treat them, as found in the National Transgender Discrimination Survey.

Contributing Wisconsin Trans Health Coalition Members



ALEX HANNA, ZI HAUKENESS, GABE JAVIER, OWEN KARCHER, SHOR SALKAS, AND ANDERS ZANICKOWSKY ALL CONTRIBUTED TO THIS STORY.

WORK IN OUR COMMUNITY

The Wisconsin Transgender Health Coalition recognizes the many factors that impact a person's ability to access health, and is working on multiple levels to create an environment and conditions in Wisconsin that provide equitable access to health care for transgender and gender non-conforming people. The coalition understands the need for, and is working to ensure that, transgender people have: access to resources that help navigate systems of care, protection from lo-

One in two Black trans women are incarcerated or have been incarcerated in their lifetime.

cal and statewide nondiscrimination policies that explicitly state gender identity as a protected category, and care from providers who have received training and education on how to treat transgender people with respect and quality service. The coalition also sees racial justice as a necessary piece of accessing full health for transgender people.

The Dane County Trans Health Group is a partner of the WI Trans Health Coalition and is working for full access to trans health care and for health care to be a human right. Starting with Dane County employees, this

group is advocating to remove exclusionary policies for transgender people's access to medically necessary care. The strategy of starting with one of the largest group of employees in the county will ideally encourage local health care providers to develop plans that are inclusive of transgender needs. People who are incarcerated have the same needs and rights. Lisa and anyone else who is in jail or prison needs to be able to access full transition care including mental health, hormone replacement therapy, various types of surgery and all other care that will support their transition needs.

Locally and nationally the Black Lives Matter movement has been clear to say that All Black Lives Matter. This includes a focus on Black immigrants, Black people with disabilities, and Black queer and trans people. When Young Gifted and Black Coalition fights to "Free the 350" to eliminate racial disparities in the Dane County jail, they are intentionally including a focus on people like Lisa.

Similarly, the national and local LGBTQ movement needs to centralize stories like Lisa's. With the passage of national marriage equality, there is an opening for racial, economic and trans justice issues to take center stage. When people most impacted such as Lisa Mitchell get free, we all will be free. ■



Sedrick Huppert

licensed massage therapist
license #12960-146

715.495.9865

sedrickhuppertlmt@gmail.com

25% OFF YOUR FIRST THREE MESSAGES

SHOULD HAVE STRETCHED BEFORE THAT RUN



Brad Plunkett, RPh

MADISON PHARMACY

OPENING in DECEMBER

Full service HIV and PrEP specialty pharmacy



Call Brad today at
608.316.8612

arcw.org/arcw-pharmacy

THE CAPITAL TIMES ARCHIVES

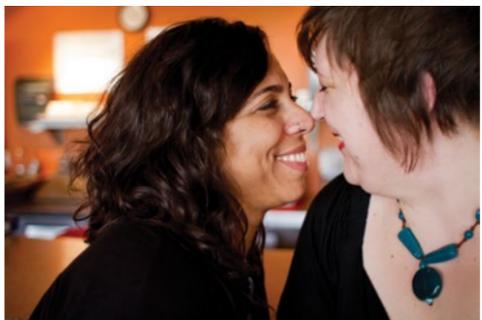
GIVE CREATIVITY
Creative gifts for all ages

LYNN'S

art supplies, stitchery, framing, gifts,
gift certificates for creative people
5928 odana road, madison
m-th 10-7, f 10-6, sat 10-5
608.274.1442 or lynnsfmadison.com



GOODMAN'S Jewelers
ARCW 220 State Street, Madison, WI - 608.257.3644
www.goodmansjewelers.com



DUTCHER photography
Weddings, Portraits, Pets and Events
robandsamphoto.com



IMPROVE → OUR INTERSECTIONS

OURLIVESMADISON.COM

Hope Springs Up

Madison Urban Ministry's **Linda Ketchum** muses on what has changed—and what hasn't—since the death of Tony Robinson in Madison, and where hope for the future of the community comes from the ground up.

A LOT HAS HAPPENED in Madison since my last column in January of 2015. The question is, has anything changed? I'd like to think that the answer to that is "yes," the killing of Tony Robinson has changed us, but I'm not convinced. Not convinced that in a community where there is an 11:1 arrest ratio for my Black brothers and sisters, and an even higher rate for Black youth, that the past six months have significantly changed predominantly white Madison. Not convinced that—in a community that has significant racial disparities in unemployment, poverty and homelessness, a community where the City-County Liaison Committee on August 31 voted to begin handing out \$429 trespassing tickets to homeless men, women and youth sleeping at the City County Building, a disproportionate number of whom are Black—I am not convinced that things have changed.

It sounds pretty pessimistic and it would be if it weren't for the organizations in our community who are working with our youth, youth of color, LGBT youth of color, working to empower them, to strengthen their leadership skills. That's where my hope lies.

In the heat of anguish and rage, standing on Willy Street where Tony Robinson was killed, the protests were not violent. In fact, that night I witnessed leaders of the Young, Gifted and Black Coalition keep the crowd peaceful even as they gave voice to the rage.

Much has been written about the Madison Police Department's response to the protests that erupted after Tony was killed, self-congratulatory articles and blogs praising the police for behaving differently than Ferguson Police. The protestors, too, responded differently, but not much praise was directed toward them. Instead the focus was on their expressions of anger and rage, signaling white Madison's underlying fear that the protestors would become violent. On the night of March 6, in the heat of anguish



Young, Gifted and Black Coalition on Williamson St. the night Tony Robinson was killed.



Young, Gifted and Black hosting a community meeting about the killing of Tony Robinson.

JAMEL WARE

and rage, standing on Willy Street where Tony Robinson was killed, the protests were not violent. In fact, that night I witnessed leaders of the Young, Gifted and Black Coalition keep the crowd peaceful even as they gave voice to the rage. I believe that it was the members of the Young, Gifted and Black Coalition and Robinson's family that maintained the peace in the aftermath of Tony Robinson's killing, not the established power structure. YGB leaders are people of color, straight and LGBT, and is building a movement that connects the dots related to oppression and equity.

On May 12, when the District Attorney issued his opinion that the officer that killed Tony Robinson exerted a lawful use of force, I was in front of the apartment where Tony was killed, along with dozens of other area clergy. We organized to be a witness for justice, a witness to the despair, anguish and rage that came with the killing of another unarmed youth of color. As the afternoon wore on, friends of Tony's found their way to the demonstration. Individuals from other organizations found their way there. The youth, grief stricken, demonstrated their leadership by peacefully taking

over the street. They then led the procession of clergy and others down Williamson Street to the Courthouse, around the square and finally to the steps of Grace Episcopal Church.

Studs Terkel wrote, "Hope has never trickled down. It has always sprung up." And that's where I see hope today: not trickling down from the established power structures but rather springing up from small, local, grassroots organizations that are working with our LGBT youth and youth of color, helping them see and embrace the power of their voice, learning the skills they need to lift their voice and demand change. Organizations like Freedom Inc., which hopes to offer a Queer Youth Freedom School, a 12-week program for Hmong and Black queer youth aged 18–25, many who are homeless, living in poverty, survivors of abuse, formerly incarcerated. These youth are socially isolated, and the Freedom School will build community leaders and the capacity of queer youth of color to become advocates for themselves and their communities.

If we want Madison to become the community we like to think it is, please support some of the perhaps not-so-mainstream grassroots organizations that have sprung up and are challenging white privilege and racism, that are working with our youth, listening to their voices, teaching them the skills to engage and lead, showing us what it means to work collaboratively in a movement for justice and equity. Check out some of these organizations, they are all on Facebook (and I know most of you reading this are, too, so no excuses):

- Freedom Inc.
- YGB Ferguson to Madison
- Groundwork
- Operation Welcome Home
- Alianza Latina

Please consider a donation to these groups; they are doing hard, challenging, grassroots organizing with few resources.

Finally, in a city where local media is dominated by white reporters, opinion writers, etc., check out news sources that include the voices of men, women and youth of color:

- Madison365
- Capital City Hues
- Madison Times
- WORT



LINDA KETCHUM 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.



#44 Live your life with theirs in mind.



Together let's start planning for your family's future.

Margaret M. Kucera
Agent
New York Life Insurance Company
999 Fourier Drive, Suite 300
Madison, WI 53717
(608) 233-7351
mkucera@ft.newyorklife.com

SMRU1614160(Exp.08.07.2016)
© 2015 New York Life Insurance Company
51 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10010

Keep Good Going™ is a trademark of New York Life Insurance Company, all rights reserved.

Life Insurance. Retirement. Long-Term Care.

KEEP

GOOD

GOING



- OPEN 24 HOURS
- Locally owned since 1983
- Shop Online 24/7
- Free delivery available!

PROUD TO SUPPORT AIDS RESOURCE CENTER OF WISCONSIN COMMUNITY SHARES

111 N. BROOM ST. • CAPCENTREMARKET.COM • 608-255-2616



Remember that tie you gave dad for Christmas last year?

Neither does he.

CANDINAS
CHOCOLATIER

608.845.1545
www.candinas.com

2435 Old PB
Verona, WI 53593

11 West Main Street
Madison, WI 53703



IMPROVE → OUR RIGHTS

OURLIVESMADISON.COM

And Baby Makes Three: Marital Children of Same-Sex Spouses

Attorney **Christopher Krimmer** explains the present status and future fight to establish a marital presumption for same-sex parents.

CHILDREN WERE THE PARAMOUNT concern of both sides of the debate on whether to allow same-sex couples to marry. Opponents of same-sex marriage argued that procreation is the sole purpose of marriage and that marriage provides a family structure for heterosexual people who may accidentally and irresponsibly procreate. The argument follows that since gay men and lesbians cannot accidentally conceive children, they do not need the protections of

The married couple still should strongly consider seeking an adoption or parentage order for the protection of the child's relationship with the non-biological parent.

marriage for their children. If you are having a difficult time following this logic, you are not alone. In the 65 court cases involving same-sex marriage in the past two years, only four courts even remotely hinted at accepting this rationale behind the purpose of marriage. In the other 61 cases, and most importantly the U.S. Supreme Court, this rationale was rejected as being nonsensical.

STABILITY & PREDICTABILITY OF MARRIAGE

In the U.S. Supreme Court's decision this past summer recognizing the nationwide right to marry for same-sex couples, the Court acknowledged that hundreds of thousands of children are being raised by gay and lesbian parents who provide loving, supporting homes. The Court

expressly rejected the opponents' argument that children should be protected from same-sex marriage and determined, in part, that the welfare of the children is exactly why gay men and lesbians must have the right to marry. The Court concluded that to deny same-sex couples the stability and predictability of marriage would cause their children to suffer the stigma of believing their families are somehow lesser.

Although the U.S. Supreme Court's decision provides finality and certainty that gay men and lesbians can marry, some states, including Wisconsin, continue to argue that the decision did not encompass all of the benefits, rights, and obligations associated with marriage. This is most evident when it comes to children.

BIRTH CERTIFICATE STATUTE

As one example, when a married opposite-sex couple has a child, the husband is automatically listed as the father on the child's birth certificate. Specifically, state law states, "[i]f a mother...was married at any time from the conception to the birth of the [child], the name of the husband of the mother shall be entered on the birth certificate as the legal father of the [child]." Now that lesbian couples can marry, why should a wife of a mother who gives birth be denied the right to be listed on their

child's birth certificate as the other parent? If we are to treat same-sex couples equally as to marriage, then presumably this statute should be read to now include lesbian spouses, yet there has been resistance from the state of Wisconsin and other states throughout the country. A birth



certificate does not establish any custodial and placement rights of the child, but it is the document most often relied upon when determining a child's parents, provides the parents with a sense of equality between them, and gives the child a certain security and legitimacy that the child is part of an intact family.

MARITAL PRESUMPTION STATUTE

Unlike the birth certificate statute, the "marital presumption" does indeed grant a spouse the legal status of a parent in all respects. In an opposite-sex marriage, the husband of a wife who gives birth is not only listed on the birth certificate but is presumed to be the child's legal father. This "marital presumption" is defined by statute to read "[A] man is presumed to be a natural father of a child if he was married to the natural mother when the child was conceived or born, or if he subsequently married the natural mother after the birth of the child and he had a relationship with the mother during the conceptive period of time and no other man has been adjudicated or presumed to be the father." Here, again, the statute relies on gender-specific terminology. A wife of a mother who gives birth during the marriage should enjoy the same parental rights of a husband under this statute now that we have marriage equality.

The application of the "marital presumption" as applied to lesbian spouses has been litigated in recent years with differing outcomes. Some state courts, like New York, have held that the marital presumption is not based on the marriage itself but the biological reality that the husband and wife likely conceived the child together. Other state courts have determined that the marital presumption is not genetically based, but provides legitimacy to the children.

We have no definitive answer yet on how Wisconsin will apply the marital presumption or the birth certificate statute with respect to children born during the marriage of a same-sex couple. There is pending litigation on these issues. In determining that gays and lesbians have the right to marry, the U.S. Supreme Court stated that marriage provides safeguards for children and families "and thus draws meaning from related rights of childrearing, procreation, and education." A fair reading of this language would indicate that the Court intended not only to allow gay men and lesbians the right to access marriage but to also enjoy all the rights



CHRISTOPHER KRIMMER teaches Sexual Orientation and the Law at Marquette Law School. His law practice focuses on nontraditional-family protections.

of marriage, including parenthood.

Even if Wisconsin should start to apply these parentage statutes to same-sex spouses, the couple should not rely exclusively on these statutes to protect the relationship of the non-biological parent with the child. These are presumptions under the law which means that the presumption can be rebutted. Historically, the marital presumption has been rebutted by DNA that the husband could not be the father of the child. In most cases, but not all, the same-sex spouse will not be genetically related to the child and could be vulnerable to having this marital presumption rebutted by the spouse at the time of a divorce, or even possibly by a third party like a state agency. In addition, the "marital presumption" may not "travel" to other states if the family relocates. In other words, just because Wisconsin may presume the same-sex spouse to be the child's other parent, this does not mean Tennessee or Texas will give deference to Wisconsin's marital presumption law.

ADOPTION OR PARENTAGE ORDER

The married couple still should strongly consider seeking an adoption or parentage order for the protection of the child's relationship with the non-biological parent. Unlike the marital presumption, an adoption or parentage order is generally given Full Faith and Credit and will

be recognized as a valid order in every state. The non-biological parent can petition for a step-parent adoption which is far less intrusive, expensive, and time consuming than an independent adoption. A step-parent adoption generally does not require a home study nor the appointment of a guardian ad litem. In most cases, the adoption is granted after a very brief hearing in which the majority of the time consists of the judge taking photographs with the family. It can be a joyous and celebratory occasion. Granted, this additional legal step of an adoption should not be necessary since opposite-sex couples do not have adopt their own children. The same-sex spouse is not a "step-parent" but an actual parent of the child, yet, until we have full parental equality, this process can provide more legal security for the family.

Although gay men and lesbians now have the right to marry, it is not full marriage equality yet. People and state governments that oppose marriage equality will continue to parse out statutes and laws that are gender-specific and exclude those protections for same-sex spouses. This is no more evident than with the laws pertaining to children. The U.S. Supreme Court decision recognizing the right to marry for gays and lesbians understood that we were not fighting for the right for "same-sex marriage," but the right to "marriage." ■

whatever brings you [insert whatever you want here].

[nature] [family] [friends] [joy]

rutabaga paddlesports
220 w broadway, madison (wi) 53716

Find us on Facebook
rutabagapaddlesports

Find us on Yelp



Safer Harbors

Fox Valley LGBTQ Anti-Violence Project and Governance Committee member

Kathy Flores interviews **Domestic Abuse Intervention Services** Executive Director **Shannon Barry** about the work they're doing to support LGBTQ survivors of domestic abuse.

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV) within the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) community is an issue that often remains in the closet. Among the many barriers for LGBTQ survivors, a common one is lack of access to services. There is also a lack of awareness within the LGBTQ community itself about IPV. And sometimes there is fear of bringing negative attention to the LGBTQ community when there is already so much hatred and vitriol toward its people. This fear is multiplied when LGBTQ friends minimize or downplay intimate partner violence or discourage an individual from seeking help.

DAIS' new emergency shelter, which opened in August 2014, accommodates more private spaces and includes single bedrooms as well as single user bathrooms.

However, we experience violence in our relationships at similar rates to the heterosexual community, yet there are fewer services designed to support us when we have been hurt by IPV.

As this article goes to press, we will be receiving the newest national report on LGBTQ Intimate Partner Violence from the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP), which can be found at ncavp.org. Last year, NCAVP reported 76% of IPV LGBTQ homicide victims were gay



Shannon Barry



men. Gay men, LGBTQ and HIV-affected communities of color, LGBTQ and HIV-affected youth and young adults, bisexual survivors, and transgender individuals were most impacted by IPV within the LGBTQ community. LGBTQ and HIV-affected survivors of violence rarely go to the police, the courts, or domestic violence shelters for support.

Many Domestic Violence/Intimate Partner Violence programs are hoping to provide safe spaces for LGBTQ survivors seeking services.

In September, I interviewed Shannon Barry from Domestic Abuse Intervention Services (DAIS) in Madison to ask about the services and outreach they offer. Shannon has been with DAIS since 1999, serving as its executive director since 2007.

HOW IS YOUR ORGANIZATION SERVING LGBTQ SURVIVORS?

Everyone who experiences IPV deserves a safe space for reporting and receiving needed services. With any survivor who reaches out to DAIS, we tailor all services, including safety planning, support, and community resource referrals to each individual's specific needs and circumstances. If an individual chooses to disclose how they identify themselves, we will tailor our support services accordingly, while keeping in mind some of the unique barriers that LGBTQ survivors may face.

DID DAIS HAVE TO GO THROUGH ANY CHANGES TO SERVE LGBTQ PEOPLE?

DAIS strives to be as inclusive as possible when it comes to accessing services. Last April, DAIS held a mandatory, daylong staff in-service on the topic of inclusivity of services for LGBTQ survivors. Additionally, DAIS directors and all staff who have client contact were required to participate in three LGBTQ-focused webinars sponsored by the State Department of Children and Families to be more mindful of how we can tailor our services to be more inclusive. In addition to the in-service and webinar based trainings, all DAIS staff and advocate volunteers are also required to complete a training session tailored to supporting those impacted by domestic violence in the LGBT community during their New Advocate Training. As a result, DAIS has made the following adjustments:

- DAIS reminds ourselves that when collecting demographics, we should always ask an individual how they identify their gender identity and sexual orientation rather than assume their identity or limiting their answers. DAIS thinks this question should remain open-ended so that we are leaving the decision to share

- and self-define in the survivor's hands.
- DAIS' new emergency shelter, which opened in August 2014, accommodates more private spaces and includes single bedrooms as well as single user bathrooms.
- DAIS changed its assessment/screening language for support groups.
- Help Line Advocates are trained to talk with callers about the violence they may be experiencing by their partners rather than assuming the caller is in a heterosexual relationship.

WHAT LOCAL RESOURCES CAN LGBTQ SURVIVORS REACH OUT TO FOR SUPPORT?

DAIS offers a wide array of crisis intervention including a 24-hour Help Line, programming for children from violent homes, legal advocacy, support groups, emergency safety planning, and the only domestic violence shelter for all of Dane County. DAIS also partners with a wide variety of other organizations throughout the community. Additional resources can be found at:

- **OutReach LGBT Community Center:** lgbtoutreach.org/.
- **Briarpatch Youth Services, Inc. has a weekly group called Teens Like Us, which provides support and education for LGBTQ youth (13-18 years old):** youthsos.org/programs/teens-like-us.
- **The Salvation Army also has some funding for transgender individuals seeking shelter who may not feel comfortable residing in the Salvation Army shelter as it currently stands.**

WHAT INPUT/ADVICE CAN YOU GIVE FRIENDS OF LGBTQ SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE WHO WANT TO HELP?

Each of us has the power to reach out to someone we love or care about and tell them that abuse is not their fault. Be open, listen, don't judge or give advice. Provide support to this person and let them know that you are there for them. Be mindful of how identifying as LGBTQ may increase their barriers and/or impact their safety.

- **The DAIS Help Line is available to you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Help Line can be reached at 608-251-4445 or 800-747-4045. We receive many calls each year from concerned friends and family members seeking information about strategies to be an effective support person to a survivor in their life.**

WHAT SERVICES CAN YOU OFFER MALE SURVIVORS?

We offer all of our services to male survivors. Male victims are sheltered through the use of hotel vouchers. They are assigned a case manager to meet with them and help advocate for and with them. We also work with OutReach who facilitates the local survivor support group for men. We provide technical assistance for that group and have a memorandum of understanding between our agencies.

DO YOU ACTIVELY RECRUIT BOARD MEMBERS WHO IDENTIFY AS PART OF THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY?

It is very important to us to recruit board, volunteers, and staff who represent diverse experiences including sexual orientation and gender identity. It is important to DAIS to reflect the victims and survivors in the community that we serve. A member of our DAIS executive team identifies as part of the LGBTQ community and works very hard to ensure our services are inclusive by keeping these issues at the forefront for all of us.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR PROGRAMS SEEKING TO BE MORE INCLUSIVE?

Be very open to having a conversation, but more importantly, be open to listening. Sometimes I think it can be scary because we want to do things correctly for any survivor of domestic violence, especially LGBTQ survivors. We won't always do things perfectly, but being open to feedback, listening, and evolving are key to our work.

As advocates, we are trained on these skills already. We already know that being present and following the lead of the survivor means that we really need to listen to their stories. It's not different for LGBTQ survivors. Let's challenge ourselves to be present and to listen. Each person has an individual story and should have an individual safety plan created for their needs. ■



KATHY FLORES leads the Fox Valley LGBTQ Anti-Violence Project and is the City of Appleton's full-time Diversity & Inclusion Coordinator. Kathy also serves on the Governance Committee of National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs.

"I want to support my LGBT friends. I'm just not sure how or where to do it."



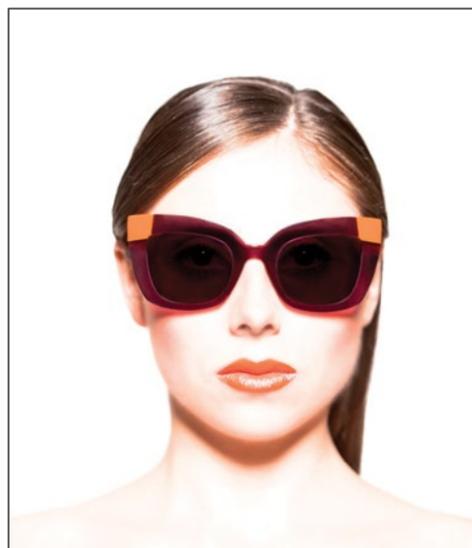
pflag-madison.org • pflagmadison@yahoo.com
608-848-2333 PFLAG Madison

Shaping, Strengthening and Engaging Our Faith.

Join us to help realize a more loving and just world.



First United Methodist Church
DOWNTOWN FOR GOOD
203 Wisconsin Avenue • Madison, WI 53703
608-256-9061 • www.fumc.org



FACE A FACE
PARIS
www.faceaface-paris.com

ULLA
EYEWEAR

local. independent. hand-crafted eyewear.

Hilldale 608.231.3937 www.ullaeyewear.com

Looking for a new kitchen with more counter top space and storage?

Looks like it's... **TIME 2 REMODEL**

time2remodel.com

New Harvest Foundation

is the only foundation in South Central Wisconsin that channels charitable contributions exclusively to organizations working to promote lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) rights, services, culture and community development. Founded in 1984, New Harvest Foundation is operated by a Board of Directors, along with other volunteers. It pools contributions of hundreds of donors each year to provide grant money to LGBT causes. We raise money to give back!

Fall Grant Cycle Has Begun!

Grant Applications Due November 31st

Are you working for social service, social change, public education, health care, arts and culture, and/or development of LGBTQA communities? We currently are accepting innovative grant proposals for our Fall Grant Cycle.

**Funding priorities include:
LGBTQA Youth & LGBT Seniors**

The grant application, and information about past grantees, is available online. Allow us to help you be an instrument of empowerment and change in our LGBTQ communities!

Support Us

You can make a secure donation on our website or contact us for information about planned giving. Please consider joining one of our committees, volunteering at an event, or becoming a member of our board.



newharvestfoundation.org
Find us on Facebook!



Care in Transition

Alex Hanna explains how access to the various pieces of necessary health care can be extremely limited or nonexistent for many transgender people seeking transition care.

CHARLES, A TRANSGENDER MAN, and his spouse have been trying to have a baby using his eggs. He's been on testosterone for six years but has been off hormones at the suggestion of his insurance company. They won't cover the procedure to harvest his eggs but suggested he even begin taking estrogen to have a better chance of doing so.

"I have to do what they want me to do," Charles (not his real name) says, otherwise his chances of getting the procedure covered will become slimmer. Being off testosterone for so long has had adverse consequences for him.

Charles also suffers from endometriosis, which causes him constant pain. His primary care doctor is friendly to transgender patients like himself, but couldn't care for him in her facility. He was referred to a women's clinic, where he felt very uncomfortable and had to explain his body to the providers.

This kind of experience is all too common for most transgender people. Getting proper health care as a transgender person is difficult in Wisconsin, as it is in most of the U.S. Most employer health insurance plans don't cover transition care. In addition, when insurance does cover care, there is a paucity of providers who know how to provide adequately for transgender patients. Even something as simple as allowing for preferred names and pronouns is not a standard feature of health software.

DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES IN NEEDS

By transition care, we mean many different things: The World Professional Association for Transgender Health's (WPATH) Standards of Care prescribe a range of procedures. There are procedures that cisgender people receive which aren't accessible to transgender patients. For instance, the estrogen easily accessible to a cisgender woman going through menopause is necessary for transgender women to maintain sufficiently high levels of estrogen. However, there are also procedures which may be considered elective or cosmetic, such as breast augmentation, bi-lateral mastectomy, and facial hair removal. This does not include procedures which do not have an equivalent for cisgender people, such as phalloplasty and vaginoplasty. In addition, transition care includes mental



Wisconsin's state insurance board has this exclusion written into its guidelines, which means that Wisconsin state employees cannot access these benefits.

health, counseling, therapy, and medication.

All elements of transition care—including those which are considered elective or have no equivalent within the cisgender population—are considered medically necessary, not only by WPATH but the American Medical Association and American Psychological Association.

The cost to employers for providing these benefits has been shown to be minimal. One reason is that utilization of these benefits is so low that they cost very little compared to total premiums collected. A 2013 study, published by the Williams Institute at UCLA, found that most employers who provided this benefit reported no cost to adding them. They actually argued the reverse, that the benefit of providing necessary care increased employer health and happiness. Although insurers typically add modest charges to cover projected additional expenses, the experience to date has been that actual incurred costs are far lower than these projections and are essentially negligible when averaged across large insured populations. San

Francisco insurers initially imposed a modest surcharge when for transgender care; insurance company surcharges took in \$5.3 million in additional revenue 2001–2006 while the actual costs incurred were \$386,417 or only 7% of the revenue collected on the basis of initial actuarial estimates. Based on this experience, San Francisco insurers stopped charging separately for transgender care.

UNFAIR BARRIERS

However, most states have explicit exclusions written into their insurance guidelines prohibiting coverage for transition care. Wisconsin's state insurance board has this exclusion written into its guidelines, which means that Wisconsin state employees cannot access these benefits. To date, insurance commissioners in eight states (California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, Oregon, Vermont and Washington) and the District of Columbia have, by regulations or guidance, interpreted state laws prohibiting gender identity discrimination to prohibit transgender exclusions. Four states (Illinois, Massachusetts, Vermont and Washington) have also cited state and federal bans on sex discrimination in adopting these rules. Federal courts have also agreed, in the context of tax deductions and prison healthcare, that categorical trans exclusions are arbitrary and unlawful.

Transition-related exclusions are discriminatory because 100% of the people affected are members of the same group: transgender people. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Departmental Appeals Board recently invalidated Medicare's long-standing transgender exclusion, concluding that sex reassignment surgery is effective, safe, and medically necessary in appropriate cases and that there is no medical basis for such an exclusion. Recently, the Department of Health and Human Services has issued rules under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which would ban discrimination based on gender identity.

Open Enrollment Time for Health Insurance

People can enroll in a health insurance plan through the Health Insurance Marketplace November 1, 2015 through January 31, 2016. People may qualify for Special Enrollment Periods allowing them to enroll outside of Open Enrollment if they have certain life events, like getting married, having a baby, or losing other coverage.

Under the ACA, no one can be denied preventive coverage because of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, which are historic new protections. Lifetime and annual caps on coverage are now also prohibited—which is good news for everyone, but especially for people living with HIV. What's more, people can no longer be denied coverage due to a pre-existing condition like cancer or HIV.

In addition, insurance companies can't deny transgender people free preventive services, regardless of their sex assigned at birth, gender identity or recorded gender. Find out more at out2enroll.org.

The proposed rules would apply to any insurer working with Medicare, Medicaid, or the ACA Health Insurance Marketplace. While this could be a huge victory, these rules could be interpreted very narrowly by insurers and providers, meaning it may exclude medically necessary services which are considered elective or do not have a cisgender equivalent.

Dane County, which recently passed an ordinance designating gender identity as a protected class, also has an exclusion written into coverage guidelines for county employees. Even though Madison and Dane County like to pride themselves on being a place where LGBTQ people can exercise freedom of expression and from discrimination, this exclusion amounts to explicit de jure piece of discrimination.

ALLIES FOR INCLUSIVE CARE

Two groups have been working toward removing these exclusions in Wisconsin and Dane County. The Wisconsin Transgender Health Coalition (witranshealth.wordpress.com) is a network of organizations dedicated to collecting data, sharing resources, creating educational materials and opportunities, and advocating for policy change for transgender folks across the state.

A second group, the Dane County Trans Health Group, has been advocating for removing the restriction from Dane County policy and building support for full coverage of transition care for county employees. You can join these groups to move this work forward by helping them work for policy changes that provide more inclusive healthcare for transgender people, and your first action to support transgender inclusive health care is right here—add your name to this petition stating that you support inclusive coverage in Dane County: tinyurl.com/dane-trans-health.

Three counties in the U.S.—San Francisco, Multnomah (Portland), and Macomb (Detroit)—provide these benefits to their employ-

ees. Dane County has another chance to lead in equality and justice by providing this benefit to their employees.

Charles manages his endometriosis pain rather than be treated like a second-class citizen at the women's clinic. He laments that he knows more about negotiating health insurance than any non-insurance professional should. And all that so that he has the privilege of buying a \$130 vial of testosterone. He asks himself, "Do you want groceries, or do you want T?"

Dane County and Wisconsin need to do better. That chance is opening up, and our lawmakers need to seize this opportunity to make the lives of transgender people in the U.S. that much better. ■

Additional members of the Wisconsin Trans Health Coalition who helped contribute to this piece: Alex Hanna, Z! Haukeness, Gabe Javier, Owen Karcher, shor salkas, and Anders Zanichkowsky



ALEX HANNA is a PhD candidate at UW-Madison, with an interest in social movements, political sociology, media, and the Middle East. She has taught workshops on computer programming and data analysis.

Happy starts with healthy.

When you choose Unity, not only do you get guaranteed access to all of the doctors, hospitals and clinics of UW Health – you also get access to wellness programs that help pay for participating health clubs and CSAs. And that's sure to make you smile. Choose Unity Health Insurance. Be Well.

Unity
Health Insurance
Affiliated with UW Health

UnityHealth.com

Unity Health Insurance is a Qualified Health Plan Issuer in the Health Insurance Marketplace

UH01601 (0915) Unity Health Plans Insurance Corporation

do you dream of a



but you only have



Christie Olsen, MSN, NP
forwardfertility.com • christie@forwardfertility.com
608-217-7511 • Madison, Wis.

EGG DONATION AND SURROGACY
PROVEN RESULTS IN THIRD-PARTY FERTILITY



IMPROVE → OUR ISSUES

OURLIVESMADISON.COM

You Are Enough

Owen Karcher digs into the “image policing” done even within our own LGBTQ communities, and how and why we must work to get beyond it.

HOW TO EXPEL the belief that you are not enough:

There is a common theme I am seeing amongst clients, friends, and in conversations with many people in our various LGBTQ communities. This theme is one of doubt, questioning, and policing our identities and authentic expression. I often hear questions like, what does it mean to be _____ identity? Am I _____ enough? What does it mean to be _____ enough? Can I really embody this thing that feels authentic and real to me, or should I do what is seen as more respectable, suitable, professional, etc.?

There are multiple sources for these questions and fears. Some of the doubts come from the many industries that benefit from our insecurities and that attempt to sell us images of ourselves we can't possibly reach. The things our families tell us about who we are, what values our family should espouse, and how we are expected to operate in the world also inherently influence these questions. These questions and their answers are deeply connected to race, class, gender, cultural background, religion, ability, language, and many other indicators that influence our views of the world and of ourselves.

Unfortunately, the mainstream LGBTQ movement has often also perpetuated a limited narrative of what it means to be _____ identity in an effort to appear more “professional,” “palatable,” “acceptable,” and other aims that minimize the creativity and subversive nature of many of our identities and actions. This even shows up in support groups where members with one identity facilitate the group and expect everyone who attends to have the same trajectory or desire for expression that they have. There are many places we hear we are not enough, and it is time we stop perpetuating this sentiment within our communities.

As we engage in learning more about our identities as LGBTQ individuals, and continue to push against societal expectations, we have an opportunity to create our own stories and our own answers to these questions in a way that is liberatory, rather than oppressive. This will take some



As we engage in learning more about our identities as LGBTQ individuals, we have an opportunity to create our own stories and our own answers to these questions in a way that is liberatory, rather than oppressive.

work on an individual level as well as a collective level. We will need to be able to hold bravery, vulnerability, and forgiveness for ourselves for being who we are and will have to do some uncoupling of the stories we want to tell about ourselves from the messages we hear from outside.

One suggestion I have for working through this is to start by explicitly naming all of the beliefs, doubts, fears, and expectations held that came from the source of conflict. So, for example, if I were to have some long-held beliefs about how I can behave and express my gender or sexuality that came from my family values and messages growing up, I would start there. As an art therapist, I tend to favor physical expressions of things like this, so I would recommend writing down, drawing, sketching, painting, or creating 3D representations of the many ways I learned that I was not _____ enough. I could even use different media or colors to reflect the ways different family members conveyed their values and enforced those beliefs. Chances are they had great intentions, but if they are not queer or trans there is a good possibility they

held some heterosexist or cissexist beliefs and unconsciously taught them to me.

This process of “downloading” or externalizing the many messages can be used for any source of negative feelings like images in the media, our mainstream LGBTQ movement’s portrayal of others like us, our fellow community members, or folks we went to school with when we were growing up. Make this list as exhaustive as possible. When you feel like you’ve gotten all the messages out, write a few more.

Once you have this list of negative beliefs, write down what you know to be true. I’ll list some examples to jog your brainstorm in case this part is hard. You are beautiful, fierce, worthy of love, deserving of freedom, you are _____ enough just by being you, no one’s definition of _____ needs to fit for you, you can define that for yourself, you are loved...etc. Keep going. Write down what your body wants, the ways you feel authentic and real, the things you want to embody but have been afraid to because of those negative messages. Once you have that list, put it up where you can see it. Look at it daily until you have internalized the reality that your authentic self is _____ enough. Share it with those close to you.

Burn the list of negative messages that held you back. Transform it into another

piece of artwork that doesn’t feel so limiting. Or revisit it when you start to doubt yourself again. This practice can be repeated as much as necessary for as many sources of doubt/judgment/fear as you are experiencing. The more we can make explicit the things we are holding that are not serving us, the more we can actively challenge them and change our capacity to give ourselves permission to live the ways we want to.

I am hopeful we can practice things like this individually, but also in community. I believe our LGBTQ movements can work to stop oppressing members of our community by policing each other. We can challenge what it means to be whatever our identities are, and should honor and respect each other when we have the bravery to do so. Good luck with this process. Hold compassion for yourself because this can be a challenge. Hold compassion for each other as you struggle to figure out what it means to be _____, and how to authentically and deeply express that truth. ■



OWEN KARCHER is an art therapist and social justice consultant who has worked as a care provider and educator in the fields of mental health, violence prevention and intervention, child sexual abuse, HIV/AIDS, and building healthy relationships.

Martha Kauppi, LMFT
AASECT Certified Sex Therapist

- Relationships
- Sexuality & Alt Sex
- Identity
- Creativity
- Health & Wellness
- Joyous Living



(608) 698-4171

111 S. 1st Street, Suite 120, Madison, WI, 53704
www.marthakauppi.com • LGBTQAI Affirming

Atlas
Counseling^{llc}
608.535.9285



Alexander Einsman
MS MFT

- Mind + Body Focus
- Relationship Therapy
- Hypnosis • EMDR
- LGBTQ Affirming



AtlasMadison.com

LGBTQ-Affirming & Experienced

David
Lacocque,
Psy.D.
Licensed
Psychologist



I can help you:

Live authentically

Overcome depression, anxiety,
low self-esteem

Improve your relationship

Thrive in life

Free initial phone consultation:

www.drjacocque.com

(608) 358-6868

702 N. Blackhawk Ave. Free Parking

Treating the whole you...

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.

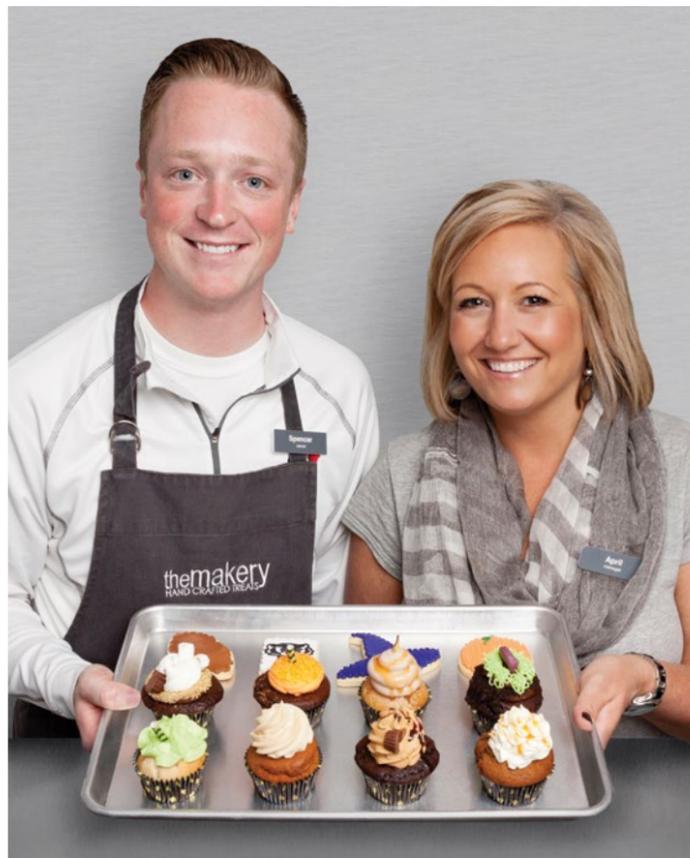


**WILDWOOD
FAMILY CLINIC, S.C.**

“HEALTHCARE FOR ALL AGES”
www.wildwoodclinic.com



Since 1978 | Independently Owned | Individualized Care



Midas Touch

At **The Makery** in Waunakee, **Spencer Porter** and his team turn everything they touch into gold—after about 15 minutes and at 350 degrees.

WHO DOESN'T HAVE fond memories of fresh sugar cookies, still warm, golden brown with a tender crust? Mmm. Makes my mouth water just thinking about it. Now think of those cookies and add the perfect amount of delicious icing. Getting even better, right?

That, in a nutshell, is what Spencer Porter brings to the world each and every day. Spencer is the owner of a relatively new cookie shop in Waunakee called The Makery. He and his dedicated staff work hard every day to make our world a slightly more delicious place. But they don't make just any old frosted sugar cookie. These are very delicate cookies and they are hand decorated to order by Spencer and his baking team. So, for instance, if you own a business and are having an event, The Makery will add your logo to their cookies to create a memorable, one-of-a-kind sweet treat for patrons. It is a very cool idea, and is very artfully done.

HOLIDAY COOKIES

As bakery manager April Ripp points out, though, their bread and butter (sorry, but I do love a good pun) is most certainly their holiday cookies. In fact, the holiday cookie is what got Spencer into the cookie business to begin with. In the Fall of 2014, Spencer and his sister decided that a fun project would be to make up a bunch of Christmas cookies and give them to family and friends. These cookies were so stunning and so delicious that people began to ask him if they could buy these cookies for their own holiday gatherings. From there, the cookie business just continued to roll out.

From that humble beginning in his apartment, he now has a staff of four people (Ripp, baking assistant Nancy Maly, and pastry chef Katie Bateman) and a lovely shop to help keep our community's cookie cravings in check. He's left behind his former career at Meriter Hospital, but he certainly is putting his business degree to good use.

"I had no idea my life was going to be in cookies, but sometimes you just have to go where life takes you," says Porter. Clearly, this leap of faith is working for not only him, but for his staff as well. His business model is certainly sound—he's hired great people and

they all work hard because they absolutely love their work. It definitely shows in their products.

PLANS TO GROW

Porter has plans to keep growing the business; he would like to see at least one more shop in another community. The Makery also has a stand at U.W.-Madison home football games, so you can try one of their awesome sweet treats while cheering on Bucky.

If you own a business and are having an event, The Makery will add your logo to their cookies to create a memorable, one-of-a-kind sweet treat for patrons. It is a very cool idea, and is very artfully done.

A final note: if you think you may want to order holiday cookies from The Makery, call now. They fill up very quickly (since there are only four people on staff and they do have a limit on how many cookies they can make). I would also encourage anyone in the Waunakee area to go to the shop. It's a fun place, and now they've also started making dreamy cupcakes. I had a chocolate cupcake with a whipped peanut butter frosting that was absolute decadence: very moist, very chocolaty and certainly of a higher quality than a couple of other cupcake joints I've tried in Madison (just sayin'). ■



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.

GREENBUSH BAR

914 Regent St.,
Madison

608-257-2874

BUYING
FRESH

BUYING
LOCAL



Sicilian Cuisine in the Heart of Madison's
Old Greenbush Neighborhood

Breakfast
and Lunch
served daily
Dinner served
Tuesdays
through
Saturdays



Creative
Cupcakes
baked
in-house
daily.



2827 Atwood Ave
(608) 241-2200

info@daisycafeandcupcakery.com

willy street co-op

Fresh. Local. Organic. Yours!

Join for as little as \$10 for the first
year, or a one-time payment of \$58.



www.willystreet.coop





Be the Change

Haruka Yukioka didn't see faer truth reflected in faer childhood in Fond du Lac, but a trip to GSAFE's leadership camp motivated faer to build a more inclusive community at home.

QUEER. ASIAN. FEMME. AFAB. NON-BINARY.

For the first 13 years of my life, these identities served as restraints holding me back from being myself. But during the past three years I have met and worked with incredible people who've helped me to embrace all of my queer, Japanese-American, femme, non-binary glory.

UNWELCOME IN FOND DU LAC

I was born and live in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, a city with a population of less than 50,000, of which the majority are white and conservative. My brother and I were the only Asian students in our elementary school, a fact I realized only after my freshman year of high school. My childhood was happy, albeit tinged with ignorance. I remember praying for blonde hair and blue eyes every night so that I might look a little more like my classmates, and I remember seeing a disappointed reflection the next morning in the mirror. My parents would speak about being refused service at local grocery stores or being told that the "Japs should've all been nuked," but I thought that these instances of discrimination were isolated, perpetrated by a few hateful people. It was impossible to comprehend that the place where I had grown up could hate me so much. But as you grow older, you gain perspective.

SELF-DENIAL

I started off in middle school as the cliché Overly Invested Straight Ally, writing papers about marriage equality and holding a Day of Silence as the lone participant. Whenever confronted about the fact that I seemed to care an awful lot about LGBTQ+ rights for someone who wasn't queer, I would launch into a tirade about how straight allies were ever so important to the fight, all while proclaiming my extreme heterosexuality. I see now that my 12-year-old self knew, deep down, that I wasn't as straight as I claimed. But I was terrified to admit to myself that possibility, because I had associated being queer with certain unhappiness. I had only ever heard about queer and trans youth from their obituaries. I knew no



The messages I have heard for my entire life about how my identities and my happiness cannot coexist have not ceased, but the call of self-love and liberation is stronger.

out LGBTQ+ adults; and I drew the conclusion that to be queer meant a life of loneliness and despair. It is no wonder that I had vehemently denied what I knew to be true.

GSAFE'S LEADERSHIP TRAINING INSTITUTE (LTI)

The summer after my first year of high school I attended LTI, GSAFE's camp for youth leaders. I hold those four days dear to my heart and firmly believe that they were instrumental in transforming my life. LTI gave me many things—the skills I needed to lead a club, facts about HIV/AIDS that I hadn't gotten during my school sex ed classes, and incredible food cooked by everyone's favorite chef, DJ. But the most important thing I took away from LTI was the knowledge that I was not alone. I met other queer youth from all over Wisconsin. I met another Asian queer for the first time. I left LTI feeling empowered and brave. I left LTI not only wanting to survive, but wanting to thrive.

FOX VALLEY ALLIANCE

After spending so much time working with folks from Madison, I became frustrated at the lack of resources for youth in the Fond du Lac area. By the time that I had started high school, there were no active youth LGBTQ+ organizations within the Fox Valley, which only helped to perpetuate the illusion that we were alone. By my senior year, I had had enough. Along

with a group of highly motivated and inspirational youth, I started a LGBTQ+ youth group called the Fox Valley Alliance. I had learned from LTI that youth had the power to make the change we wanted to see in the world, and I used that knowledge to make life better for people like me in the Fox Valley.

While our group is relatively new, we have plans to increase our community outreach efforts through monthly meetings and other LGBTQ+ centered events. The only requirement to join this group is holding the passion to change the lives of queer/trans youth in the Fox Valley for the better, and I am grateful and proud to say that we have gathered more people than I ever thought possible.

SELF-LOVE THROUGH COMMUNITY

I cannot stress the importance of community. I firmly believe that one of the worst weapons in the battle against the LGBTQ+ community is the image of isolation. It is so very important for queer and trans youth to find each other and band together, and I cannot thank organizations like GSAFE enough for making that possible. Through GSAFE, I was able to meet and work with people that shared my identities and helped me on my journey to self-love and acceptance. The community I am lucky enough to be part of has been instrumental in helping me heal from the hurt of oppression and loss, and I know that had I continued to be alone that I would never be here today.

I was lucky enough to go back to LTI two more times, once as a peer mentor and once more as a senior mentor. I discovered there that my true joy and passion lies in building community and sharing knowledge—the youth that I have met continue to amaze and inspire me, and I know that I will never forget them. My goal during college is to achieve a double major in Music Education and Social Work, with a minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies. To work with an organization like GSAFE that empowers and saves so many young queer youth is my dream—I was lucky enough to be one of those youth, and I can only hope that I will someday be able to repay the favor.

Today, I see my reflection in the mirror and I wouldn't change a thing. I hold my queerness as a gift, a precious part of me that I wouldn't give up for the world. The messages I have heard for my entire life about how my identities and my happiness cannot coexist have not ceased, but the call of self love and liberation is stronger. I am proud to be part of a community that is working to change the world for the better, and I invite you to join us. ■



Bank On Your Terms

Our checking accounts come with cutting edge technology so you can access your accounts anytime, anywhere, on any device. Plus, you'll have access to thousands of surcharge-free ATMs nationwide and our 13 convenient Madison-area locations.

Open an account at uwcu.org or stop by any branch.



Your best interest always comes first.®

FEDERALLY INSURED BY NCUA



HOTEL
METRO
 MILWAUKEE

411 EAST MASON STREET
 (877) 638-7620 | (414) 272-1937
 INFO@HOTELMETRO.COM
 HOTELMETRO.COM



*How Will You
 Tell Your Love Story?*

CREATE AN UNFORGETTABLE GATHERING AT
 OUR LANDMARK HOTEL

PROUD PARTNER

Wisconsin LGBT
 Chamber of Commerce

ARCW

BESTD
 C-L-INT-C

