

our lives



Sandy Eichel

22



Our Trans Family

24



Joey Jadryev

70

# LOVE & MARRIAGE

The Love List: Celebrating Wisconsin's LGBTQ Relationships

Madison's LGBT&XYZ Magazine



SPECIAL 2017 WEDDING PLANNER



Jah / Feb  
2017

ADVICE FROM LGBTQ NEWLYWEDS

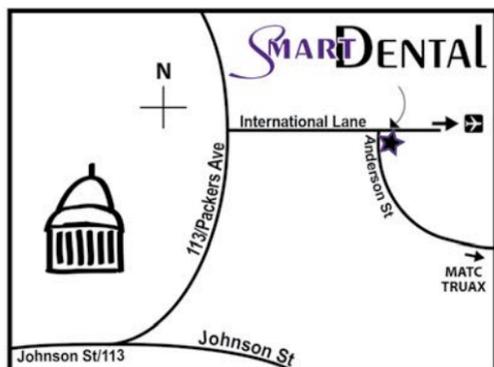
**LOVE  
TRUMPS  
HATE**



# 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

# OUT at the SYMPHONY



MADISON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

## ULTIMATE TCHAIKOVSKY: *the last symphony*

STEPHEN HOUGH, *piano*

SAT., FEB 18, 8:00 PM | OVERTURE HALL

Enjoy classical music, then connect with members and friends of Madison's LGBTQ community at an exclusive after-party!

**TICKETS** Prices range from \$40-\$60 and include concert, after-party admission and a drink ticket

**BUY TICKETS AND LEARN MORE:**  
[madisonsymphony.org/out](http://madisonsymphony.org/out)

Sponsors:



# MADISON OPERA

## Charlie Parker's YARDBIRD



MUSIC BY DANIEL SCHNYDER  
LIBRETTO BY BRIDGETTE A. WIMBERLY

FEBRUARY 10 & 12, 2017

CAPITOL THEATER AT OVERTURE CENTER

*Sung in English with projected text*

*Music is my soul.*

New York City, 1955. As his body lies unclaimed in the morgue, saxophone great Charlie Parker returns in spirit to the jazz club Birdland, determined to compose a final masterpiece. Family and friends blend in and out of his memories in an acclaimed new opera that tells of his tortured, brilliant life "with a pulsing, jazz-infused score" (*The New York Times*).

Charlie Parker's *Yardbird* was widely praised following its 2015 premiere. Madison Opera will be only the second company to perform this theatrical tour de force that melds jazz and opera – don't miss it!

Tickets start at only \$25!

Sponsored by



Richard B. Anderson  
Family Foundation

Sally & Mike  
Miley

madisonopera.org | tickets: 608.258.4141 |

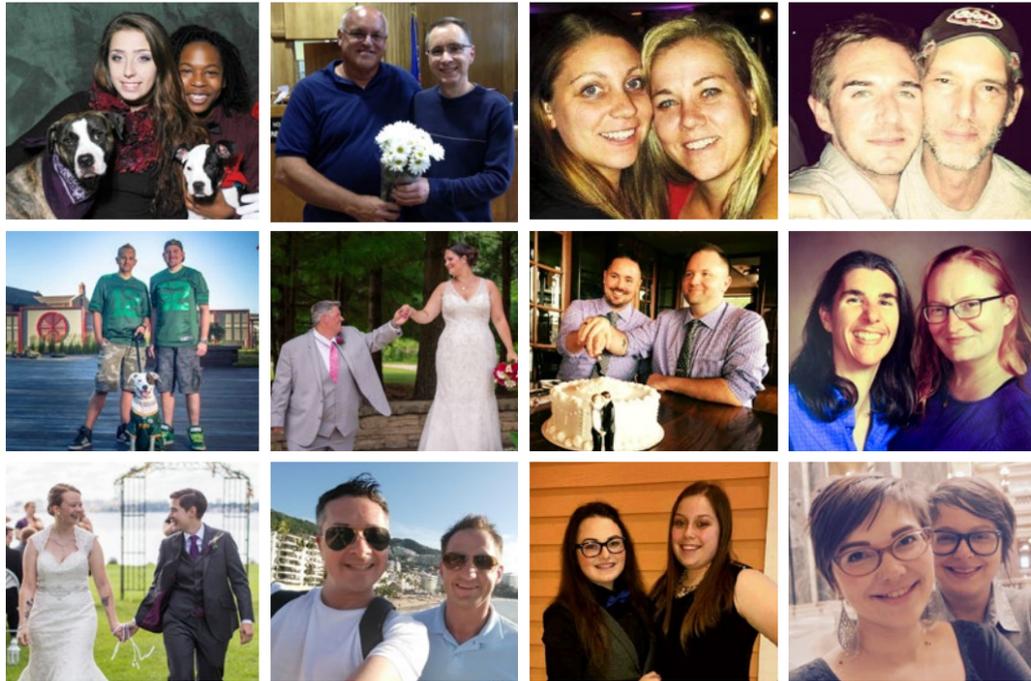


TABLE OF CONTENTS **LOVE & MARRIAGE** JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2017

DEPARTMENTS

- 6 EDITOR'S NOTE
- 7 CONTRIBUTORS & DANE BUY LOCAL SPOTLIGHT
- 8 10-YEAR RETROSPECTIVE

FEATURES

- 32 PLANNING YOUR WEDDING  
Advice from LGBTQ newlyweds.
- 42 THE LOVE LIST  
Wisconsin's LGBTQ relationships.
- 47 TIPS & TRENDS: LOVE & MARRIAGE  
Local leaders talk what's new.
- 58 OUR HISTORY  
Dick Wagner on the pendulum in LGBTQ rights and activism.

CONNECT

- 13 BATTENING THE HATCHES  
A looming Trump presidency.
- 14 OUR ORGANIZATIONS  
LGBTQ organization updates.
- 22 OUR ADVOCATES  
Sandy Eichel.
- 24 OUR ORGANIZERS  
Our Trans Family's Jeff Pearcy and Meredith Watts.
- 26 OUR ENTERTAINERS  
WI Male Burlesque Festival.
- 28 OUR CALENDAR
- 30 OUR SPONSORED EVENTS  
Fair Wisconsin's Honoring Our Veterans Luncheon.
- 31 OUR PAGES

IMPROVE

- 60 OUR ISSUES  
Sue Gill offers ways to acknowledge and manage fears.
- 62 OUR RIGHTS  
Attorney Emily Dudak Taylor on some of the realistic legal concerns for the LGBTQ community in the wake of Donald Trump's victory.
- 65 OUR REPRESENTATIVE  
Rep. Mark Pocan on the election of Donald Trump.
- 66 OUR HEALTH  
Kathy Flores of Diverse & Resilient interviews an intimate partner violence survivor.
- 68 OUR TASTE  
Unifying memories of good food shared.
- 70 OUR FUTURE LEADERS  
Joey Jadryev.



Madison's LGBT&XYZ Magazine

Patrick Farabaugh  
Publisher / Editor-in-Chief

Emily Mills  
Editor

Virginia Harrison  
Copy Editor

Contributing Writers  
Jeanne Moe Benink  
Emily Dudak Taylor  
Kathy Flores  
Sue Gill  
Joey Jadryev  
Mark Pocan  
Dick Wagner

Contributing Artists  
Rachal Duggan  
Samantha Dutcher  
Daniella Echeverria  
Spencer Micka

Business Manager  
Matt Jelinek

National Advertising Sales  
Rivendell Media Inc.

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

©2017 All Rights Reserved.  
Jan./Feb. 2017, Volume 10, Issue 5  
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.

responsiblEnergy



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 12/21/2016

**puppy love**

**bad dog frida**

442.6868 [baddogfrida.com](http://baddogfrida.com) 2094 atwood ave. m-f 10-7, sa-su 9-5

**parking in back**



**INVENTURE**  
REALTY GROUP



Let us help you **Sell Your Home**

**Inventure is:**

- **Honest**
- **Experienced in the local market**
- **Excellent negotiators**
- **Readily available**
- **Free Staging & Seller Concierge Service**
- **Quick to return calls or emails**
- **Successful in getting results**
- **LGBT-owned & operated**



Inventure Realty 608-729-0246  
www.inventurerealty.com 701 E. Washington Ave, Madison

OAK PARK  
DENTAL



“You deserve a dentist that takes the time to get to know you.”

— Dr. Jana Gyurina

EXCEPTIONAL DENTISTRY. PERSONALIZED ATTENTION.  
SCHEDULE YOUR COMPLIMENTARY CONSULTATION TODAY.  
DR. JANA GYURINA | OAKPARKDENTALMADISON.COM | 608.709.0845

**EDITOR'S NOTE** EMILY MILLS



**HOPE AND LOVE LAST LONGER**

We live through times when hate and fear seem stronger  
We rise and fall and light from dying embers,  
Remembrances that hope and love last longer.  
And love is love,  
cannot be killed or swept aside.

**IT SEEMS INCREDIBLY FITTING** to open our love-themed issue with this excerpt from Lin-Manuel Miranda's sonnet, recited as he accepted Tony awards for "Hamilton" shortly after the mass shooting at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando. The past year has been very dark in many ways, perhaps especially so for the LGBTQ community. Looking ahead to 2017, things continue to feel heavy and dire.



And yet, here we are, stronger and more resilient than ever. Hundreds of couples (and a few brave triads!) are represented in our annual list that highlights the many ways LGBTQ people love and support one another. There are so many stories, in these pages alone, that show our resolve, innovation, compassion, and hope as a community. Now more than ever I really feel the deep responsibility to do whatever we can to continue to hold all of you up and show the world that we're not only not going back into the closet, but that the door is forever closed and grown over with fabulous flowers in a riot of colors.

I believe it's important to present, as honestly as possible, the full spectrum of the LGBTQ human experience—which means doing our best to highlight and face the very real challenges and problems still faced by so many of us, and showing off and celebrating where we create progress and success. That balance is key to sustaining ourselves for the fight ahead. And so we include beautiful reflections of love and commitment in the Love List and wedding planning features, the subversive beauty of Wisconsin's first male burlesque festival, memories of favorite foods shared with friends and family, and a wonderful photo project featuring our transgender community.

We also include notes on what legal challenges we'll likely face under the incoming Trump Administration, stories of LGBTQ intimate partner violence, and how to support survivors.

There's much to be hopeful and optimistic about—we have come so very far as a community, and often against terrible odds. Looking back at 10 years of this magazine shows just a sliver of that great progress. It also shows where we still lack, where there are fights still to be won, where we can and must do better by one another. It is my hope that this love-focused issue plays even a small role in nourishing our spirits for the journey ahead, and that we can look back in another 10 years time and say again, hope and love last longer. ■

**DANE BUY LOCAL** MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



**ANTHOLOGY**

218 State Street

ANTHOLOGY.TYPEPAD.COM

Sachi Komai, co-owner



**Why is buying local important to you and your business?**

When we all buy local our money is re-circulated within the community several times, so not only are we supporting the card shop but we are contributing to the bookstore, coffee shop, public library, public school, credit union, local nonprofit and a number of other places that make the area unique and thriving.

**What is your connection to the LGBTQ community?**

Our connection to the LGBTQ community is through our customers, artists, coworkers, family, and friends. We are proud to carry cards for same-sex couples getting married or having a baby and more recently congratulating someone on a "new wardrobe, new pronouns, new name."

**How do you or your organization give back to the local community?**

Our mission is to encourage creativity, so much of our focus is on paying forward the many ways Madison fostered our artistic lives as we grew up. Our donations center mostly around youth arts organizations such as the Art Cart, Monroe Street Fine Arts Center, Overture Center and Madison Children's Museum, as well as the Boys and Girls Club of Dane County, Lussier and Goodman Community Centers.

**CONTRIBUTORS**



**RACHAL DUGGAN**, RADillustrates, is an Illustrator in the Midwest. Her clients include the *Chicago Reader*, *The Pitchfork Review*, *Newcity* and *Tom Tom Magazine*. She also teaches illustration workshops; most notably Portrait Illustration. Rachal's work has been exhibited internationally, and she regularly collaborates with other illustrators and artists. www.rachalduggan.com.

**HELEN BUSH** is a freelance writer and recent graduate of Beloit College, where she earned her B.A. in Anthropology, Creative Writing, and Russian. Last year, she moved to Madison in search of good stories and stumbled into burlesque. Through time as a stagehand, audience member, and reporter she has come to see local burlesque as an art form of inclusivity and unabashed self-confidence. Helen enjoys the challenges of covering shows in real time, "on the ground," so to speak, and evaluating a subject from multiple points of view. In the next few years, she hopes to attend graduate school as well as live abroad.

**SAMANTHA DUTCHER** has been capturing souls as a co-owner of Dutcher Photography for more than 14 years. She loves photographing those perfectly imperfect little moments that make up a life well lived. Samantha and co-owner Rob currently photograph weddings, portraits of all kinds, events, and the fine sport of roller derby. www.robandsamphoto.com.



"I'm **happy** because I don't have to hide **who I am.**"

- Jamesetta, retention advisor

At Madison College, **embracing diversity** in its many forms is not only a commitment – inclusiveness is a top priority!

Apply today!



madisoncollege.edu

**Madison College. Find your Happy Place.**

Madison College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs or activities. Inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies are handled by the Affirmative Action Officer, 1701 Wright Street, Madison, WI 53706, phone (608) 263-4137.

**MADISON'S BEST IN-HOME PERSONAL TRAINING SERVICE**



PERSONAL TRAINING

BOOTCAMP NUTRITION

- Save time and money! Skip the commute. Enjoy the comfort of your own home or gym. Avoid the New Years gym rush.
- Learn about food, fitness, and all around better health, for less than you'll pay at any big box gym. Change your life in ways you never thought possible!



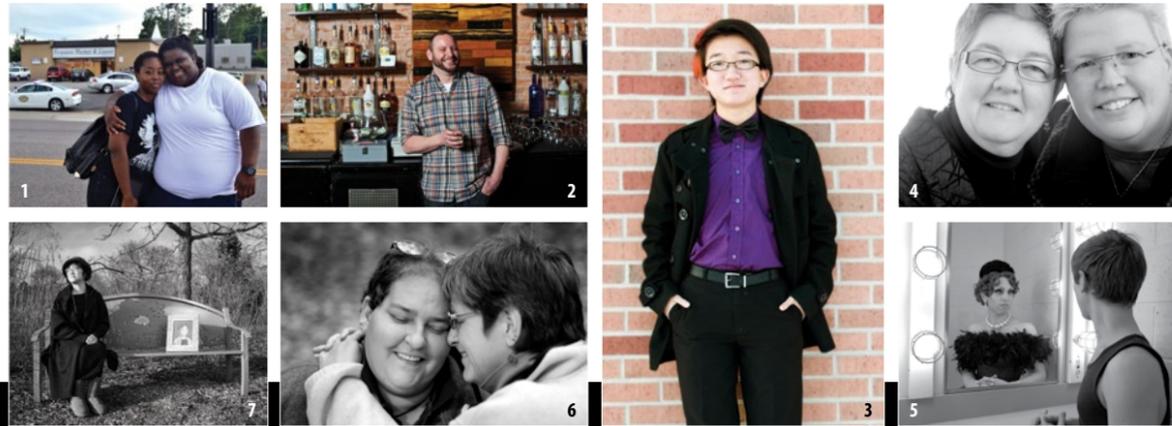
**CONTACT PETER**

Worthpt@gmail.com  
worthpersonaltraining.com  
608-334-8216

Owned by former **Top Ten Trainer** (TimeOut Magazine, Chicago) and **Training Manager of the Year** (Anytime Fitness, Wisconsin),  
**Peter Kraus, CPT, DT.**



**BECAUSE YOUR HEALTH, YOUR GOALS, AND YOU ARE WORTH IT!**



# 10 Years of Our Lives

*Our Lives* turns 10 years old this July, and this issue marks the start of our year-long retrospective.

We take a look back at some of the people, stories, and changes that have marked the past decade of the LGBTQ community here in Madison, the state, and beyond.

**A LOT CAN CHANGE IN A YEAR**, let alone an entire decade. In an era when print publications are struggling to remain relevant and solvent, it's no small thing that an independent, LGBTQ community-focused magazine has managed not only to survive for the past 10 years, but post impressive growth. We owe that, in large part, to the incredible support of the community, our partners, advertisers, and to all of our readers.

Our first issue landed in Madison in July 2007. In looking back at the past 10 years worth of issues, one begins to really get a sense of the monumental shifts in LGBTQ life that have happened—from the small scale on up to major victories (and setbacks) for our rights. Over the course of 2017, we'll be taking a regular look back at the stories that have shaped our lives, starting with our first 10 January issues.

## January 2008



**BEFORE THE LOVE LIST** (or the "Caring and Committed Couples List," as it was originally branded), our January issue began as the place where we focused on youth and families. In particular,

we were proud to feature an incredible piece on LGBT youth homelessness written by Patrick Erwin. It focused the story of one young gay man in particular, who eventually found help through the Teens Like Us program at Briarpatch. The article helped

highlight a very real (and ongoing) issue faced by young queer people in particular, while also lifting up the people working to change things for the better.

Our cover story was by then-U.W. freshman Teddi Hereid about her work to create the first GSA at Mount Horeb High School while a student there. We also looked at the idea of "delayed adolescence" brought on by coming out later in life, with some ideas from writer Dale Decker about how to approach the issue. And finally, we included a profile of Dr. Tamim Sifri, who took over Smart Dental that year and has since thrived in the practice, especially in terms of providing a comfortable space for LGBTQ patients.

## January 2009



**THAT WAS THE YEAR OF** fallout from the Prop 8 decision in California, but fortunately we had (and still have) attorney Tamara Packard to help unpack the legal and social implications of the ruling that briefly undid early progress toward marriage equality. We also included our first-ever anonymous article, about a reader's late-in-life embrace of her sexual identity.

We were proud to include a tribute written by the late Nikki Baumblatt [6] (former Out-Reach Development Director) to her partner, Cris Derrick, looking back and thanking her for the enormous support shown during Nikki's struggles with her health. Sadly, it was to be her final contribution, as Nikki passed away in May 2011. We're forever grateful to her contributions not just to the magazine, but to the community as a whole.

 Read every previous issue online: [ourlivesmadison.com/magazine](http://ourlivesmadison.com/magazine)

1. M. ADAMS 2. ERIC BAILLIES 3. SAMANTHA DUTCHER 4. ROBERTO AMEZCUA 5. JESS HORN 6. JESS HORN 7. IAN DEGRAFF

## January 2010



**OUR LIVES PUBLISHER** Patrick Farabaugh wrote his deeply personal narrative about finding his first love as a deeply closeted rural teenager, and about the pain, grief and isolation that fol-

lowed after losing him. We also featured a coming out story by Jake Abely [5], who had only just begun his journey as drag queen Davina DeVille. Jake has since moved to NYC and does makeup and makeup effects professionally. This was the first issue that mentioned the new women's football team, then called the Wisconsin Wolves but since renamed the Blaze!

## January 2011



**WE DEBUTED THE** "Caring and Committed Couples List" as a joint effort with Fair Wisconsin, part of the campaign to win marriage equality in Wisconsin. Some

265 couples submitted their names to the list in that first year, in a show of love and pride. It has since nearly tripled in size and we've grown it to include the myriad ways LGBTQ people form romantic relationships. We published another anonymous piece, this time on transgender homeless youth. Rita Adair wrote about her efforts to create a LezTalk-style listserv for queer women of color, and we profiled the owners of the Soap Opera (who have been together for 45+ years!). Also in this issue, First Congregational Church took out a full-page ad on the back cover that featured same-sex members of their congregation. They would go on to use that ad in the Wisconsin State Journal, bringing the message of inclusion to an even wider audience.



MATT WISNIEWSKI



## 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



Ameriprise Financial is proud to be recognized with another perfect score on the Human Rights Campaign's Corporate Equality Index.  
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)

(formerly known as the Wisconsin LGBTQ Leadership Conference)



- Deepen your understanding LGBTQ issues in Wisconsin
- Network with others from across the state
- Learn what others are doing to advance health, safety, fairness, and inclusion
- Join efforts to ensure LGBTQ protections in Wisconsin

**COMMUNITY - EQUITY - COLLECTIVE ACTION**

More information & registration online [wiLGBTQsummit.org](http://wiLGBTQsummit.org) **Save the Date!** **February 25th, 2017**  
Milwaukee location to be announced



A PARTNERSHIP OF:  
 fair wisconsin EDUCATION FUND



PRESENTING SPONSOR:  
**Northwestern Mutual**



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

January 2012



**TAMARA PACKARD** wrote on the importance of electing Tammy Baldwin to the Senate, and Mark Pocan to Congress. Looks like she was pretty right-on. We also featured a story about

Methodist Rev. Amy DeLong [4], who was put on public trial by the church for marrying two women. It offers a glimpse into the (still ongoing) struggle of pro-LGBTQ clergy serving within denominations or religions that don't fully embrace LGBTQ people and their rights. Our "Caring and Committed Couples List" grew to include features on some of the people included, something we're happy to continue to this day.

January 2013



**OUR OWN CHAPTER** of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence [10] emerged and we included a fun feature on them. Dutch's Auto [9], which provides top-notch service on the east side, was profiled

for being a rare instance of a female-owned and operated auto shop. Longtime arts writer (and Madison Arts Commission head) Karin Wolf penned a great feature about Clarence Cameron and Bob Lockheart—Cameron being the co-founder of Art Fair Off the Square and a founder of the Wisconsin Alliance of Artists & Craftspeople. They're also one of the longest-lasting queer male couples in the area! Finally, we were thrilled to include Danez Smith's [8] musings on learning to love his whole self—and even more thrilled to have since seen Danez go on to national prominence for his poetry and other work.



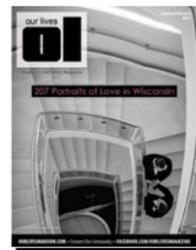
January 2014



**BOB MAHR [2] TALKED** about taking over ownership of beloved Madison institution the Shamrock Bar, as well as the outpouring of support it took to make the transition possible. Caroline Werner took

a look at ways to access LGBTQ-friendly co-housing, specifically what was then being planned for the Union Corners development. That project is finally underway, but without the cohousing model (it will instead include units aimed at "grandfamilies," or grandparents raising grandchildren). Instead, the cohousing group is focused on a new site on Winnebago Street.

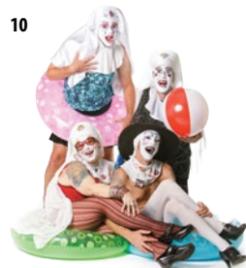
January 2015



**THAT YEAR WE INTRODUCED** photos on the couples list, in an effort to reduce bi- and trans-erasure, and to just everyone lift up. We included a fabulously colorful profile of Trixie Mattel, who

was about to compete on RuPaul's Drag Race (and become a fan favorite). M Adams [1] wrote about traveling to Ferguson, MO to be part of protests there, and how the Black Lives Matter movement connects directly with queer liberation. Virginia Harrison reported on the Wisconsin Trans Youth Research Project, which was the first qualitative research on local trans youth.

Our final page featured activist [3] Skylar Lee, and their journey and struggles as a trans-identified Asian American youth. It was a powerful piece by a bright and promising human being that we were heartbroken to lose to suicide just a short while later.



8. PAUL BAKER PRINDLES; 9. BETH MCCONNELL TO KELLY DOERING

January 2016



**LITTLE DID WE KNOW** when we put this issue to bed just what an intense year 2016 would end up being. There was plenty of both optimism and ongoing struggle within the pages, and it turns out

that was just the beginning: In light of same-sex marriage being legalized the year before, we introduced the LGBTQ wedding planner feature along with our Couples List. The list itself continued to grow and become more diverse/inclusive, with an average of 500+ relationships now represented.

The issue also included a moving piece on life as an LGBTQ widow/widower, with memories of and tributes to loved ones since passed on. Joanne Lee [7], the mother of Skylar Lee, also penned a gut-wrenching testimonial to her relationship with her child and grief over Skylar's death—but also her determination to step up and do work to support LGBTQ youth and suicide prevention. We also talked about the introduction of Wisconsin's own anti-transgender bathroom bill (AB469), which, while ultimately left behind in the last legislative session, looks posed to make a comeback in the new year and under a re-emboldened, Republican-controlled government.

January 2017



**YOU'RE HOLDING THE** newest issue of the magazine in your hands right now, and we hope you take the time to read through its pages and the stories and people represented within. It's been

a hard year, to say the least, and things look to be even more bumpy in the coming days and months. But if one thing has remained wonderfully consistent throughout all of our ups and downs, it's the strength, love, and resiliency of the LGBTQ community.

Now more than ever we will need to rely on one another to continue to fight the good fight, to live as authentically as possible, and to ensure that our lives are always recognized and celebrated. —Emily Mills



Wisconsin's premier surrogacy agency since 2002

[www.surrogacycenter.com](http://www.surrogacycenter.com)  
Madison, Wisconsin



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

# 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

## willy street co-op

WILLY EAST - 1221 Williamson St., Madison • WILLY NORTH - 2817 N Sherman Ave., Madison • WILLY WEST - 6825 University Ave., Middleton

# CATERING

Vegan & gluten-free options available.

Check out our menu at  
Customer Service or go to  
[willystreet.coop/catering](http://willystreet.coop/catering)



Everyone welcome!



[www.willystreet.coop](http://www.willystreet.coop)

OURLIVESMADISON.COM



BRINGING US TOGETHER TO CREATE A SPACE THAT ELEVATES ALL OF OUR SHARED COMMUNITY INTERSECTIONS.



## Battening Down the Hatches

2016 turned out to be a difficult year, and with a looming Trump presidency the coming year looks to be perhaps even more treacherous. We take a look at some of the ways the community is coming together to fight back, support one another, and get through these turbulent times.

**AFTER THE TURBULENCE** and strangeness of the past year, a lot of people in our community (and country) are rightly feeling more than a little apprehensive and stressed. There's a lot to be worried about in a Trump presidency and all the ripple effects that will likely stem from it. Now more than ever, though, it's important to find ways to both make space and care for your own mental and physical well being, and then to seek ways you can help do that for others.

Later in this issue we have attorney Emily Duda Taylor explaining what's possible and what's just misplaced hyperbole in terms of what the incoming Trump Administration can and can't do when it comes to marriage equality, same-sex

parenting, and same-sex estate planning. We also have therapist Sue Gill offering suggestions for how to care for your own mental well-being.

Of course, there are very real things to be concerned about and to fight on behalf of going forward: transgender health care and civil rights, protections for LGBTQ federal workers and contractors, treatment of immigrants, voting rights, worsening disparities based on income level, race, gender, and more.

There are lots of ways to get involved in helping to improve the world for ourselves and our community, though, from small everyday actions to larger involvement. Giving monetary support to businesses that do right by CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



their employees and communities is one way (and handy phone apps like Buycott make it easier than ever to see which companies are using their money in ways you like or don't). You can also make a point of subscribing to media organizations doing the more-important-than-ever work of comprehensive and hard-hitting journalism. We need to make sure to support the members of the fourth estate still doing their duty to hold accountable those who hold power.

Donating money or just your time to charitable groups that work on crucial issues, especially right here in Wisconsin, is another great way to help. GSAFE (gsafe-wi.org) continues to do fantastic work with and for our LGBTQ youth and youth of color statewide, especially in our schools. Freedom Inc. (freedom-inc.org) engages low- to no-income communities of color in Dane County, working to end violence against people of color, women, gender nonconforming people, youth, and elders, and to promote a healthy lifestyle. OutReach (lgbtoutreach.org) has numerous programs that assist and support the LGBTQ community here in Madison. Diverse & Resilient (diverseandresilient.org) works out of Milwaukee to help promote healthy relationships and provide support to LGBTQ people, particularly people of color.

For non-partisan election and voting

advocacy, it's hard to beat the League of Women Voters (lwvwi.org), which has been tirelessly doing voter education for decades and is always seeking volunteers. Briarpatch (youthsos.org) and their Teens Like Us group do incredibly important work to support homeless and at-risk youth. New Harvest Foundation (newharvestfoundation.org) is the only foundation in Dane County that channels charitable contributions exclusively to organizations working to promote LGBTQ rights, services, culture, and community development.

Read through our Organizational Updates for even more information about various area groups that do essential work in the community, and reach out to see how you can get involved in an area that means something to you or where your particular skills might be needed.

Just as important is our willingness to stand up for those people who are more vulnerable than us, are being targeted by hate, or singled out for bullying. There are lots of good strategies for being better allies, some as simple as being willing to step in and introduce yourself to someone being verbally attacked and making it clear that you stand with them.

Now more than ever we need to reach out to one another to offer support and encouragement for the work ahead. ■



## LGBTQ Organizations Update

Events | Accolades | News | Staff & Board Changes  
Recognition | Calls to Action

Reported by **Emily Mills**

### NEWS

#### Important notes about area LGBTQ groups

**GSAFE** Close to 200 students gathered at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for a Youth Unity Summit hosted by GSAFE. The summit was a combination of the fall GSA conference and the LGBTQ Youth of Color Leadership Conference held in the past. Workshop topics included consent, self-care, leadership development, and racial justice.

**WISCONSIN LGBT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** The Green Bay Packers joined the Chamber as a Gold Founding Member in December.

As a gold member, the Green Bay Packers will receive a listing in the online business directory, opportunity to post open positions on the Chamber's job board, and a seat on the Chamber's Leadership Advisory Council. "We're proud to join the award-winning Wisconsin LGBT Chamber as their newest gold founding member," said Packers President/CEO Mark Murphy. "The Green Bay Packers are deeply committed to building an inclusive fan experience that engages all of our fans. We look forward to a strong partnership with the Wisconsin LGBT Chamber over the years to come."



## UWM Chancellor called out for inaction on transphobic campus speaker

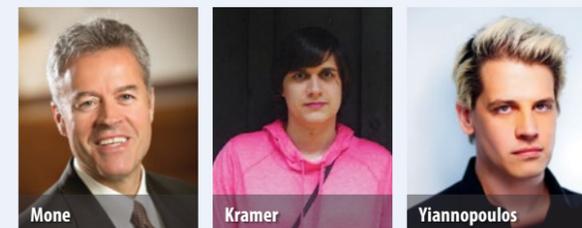
A **U.W.-MILWAUKEE** transgender student has dropped out of the school and sent an angry open letter to Chancellor Mark Mone after a controversial speaker publicly outed and harassed her at a campus event.

"GO F-CK YOURSELF," Adelaide Karen Kramer – whose photo Milo Yiannopoulos projected onto a screen during his speech – started the email, which she sent to the chancellor and 458 members of the university community on December 14, the morning after Breitbart editor Yiannopoulos spoke to a sold-out crowd in the Wisconsin Room at the UWM Student Union. Kramer was responding to an email that Mone sent to all students and faculty after Yiannopoulos' incendiary speech, in which he mocked Kramer and referenced whether he would want to have sex with her.

Kramer went on to call out Mone for the email he sent to the campus in response to Yiannopoulos' speech, wherein Mone insisted that while he condemned the content of the talk it was still covered by the school's commitment to protecting free speech. Mone urged students to use a hashtag to voice their support for the UWM community being an inclusive place. Kramer pointed out that Yiannopoulos has a long and documented history of bigoted, transphobic, and otherwise harassing speech and that students had urged the school to cancel his appearance well in advance of the event. Further, his talk outed the transgender student and put her in danger.

Kramer had been involved in the protest of UWM's locker room policy for transgender students, after she was asked to leave the women's locker room at a fitness center there. When she filed a complaint, UW-Milwaukee's provost said she was welcome to use the locker room, but only if she covered up her "non-conforming genitalia." UWM still lacks a clear formal public policy on locker rooms.

Fallout from the event has brought up issues of what constitutes free speech, and the nature of a university's role in protecting the safety and well being of its students. In the meantime, Kramer has transferred to St. Cloud, Minnesota to finish her engineering degree. Cambridge University dropout and Twitter-banned British "journalist" Yiannopoulos continues his speaking tour across the U.S., with stops at colleges and universities in Washington, Colorado, and California. ■



**LGBT BOOKS TO PRISONERS** 2016 was a busy year for LGBT Books to Prisoners. We said thank you to Rainbow Bookstore Co-op for providing support for many years, and moved into our new space in the basement of the Social Justice Center. After all their hard work moving books and shelves, our volunteers got right to work sending packages of books to LGBTQ+ people in prisons and jails across the country. In the first 11 months of 2016, we sent 2246 packages of books to 367 different detention facilities in 48 states. We couldn't do this without our volunteers and donors: during our annual fall fundraiser, at least one new sustainer signed up each day of our campaign. We now have continued monthly support to be able to mail packages containing identity-affirming books, educational resources, and reading materials to individuals who ask for them. Our fundraising efforts were also supported by a campaign by singer Laura Jane Grace and Gender is Over! They raised \$3000 for LGBT Books to Prisoners

and provided copies of Laura's new book *Tranny*, all while giving donors the chance to win their own signed copy of the book.

Post-election, we also saw an influx of support: gay and lesbian book clubs on both sides of the country wrote about donating, volunteers from groups at the University of Wisconsin and MATC wrapped packages, and donors and volunteers reached out with books, money, and their time. We are taking

**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, American Family Insurance Company, American Family Life Insurance Company, American Standard Insurance Company of Ohio, American Standard Insurance Company of Wisconsin, 6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53763 ©2015 008748 - Rev. 04/15



**etnia** BARCELONA  
Eyewear Culture

**ULLA**  
EYEWEAR

Hilldale | www.ullaeyewear.com  
LOCAL INDEPENDENT HAND-CRAFTED

StageQ Proudly Presents

# Queer Shorts 2.1

## Queer Love

February 10-18, 2017 Various Artists

The Bartell Theatre

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

stageq.com  
bartelltheatre.org








Forever Begins Here.



the results of the election seriously, fearing for our Black, Brown, queer, trans, immigrant, undocumented, Muslim, Latinx, and disabled family. Our work connecting with queer and trans folks behind bars is more important than ever. To that end, we are drafting a new resource package for trans people in prison with the support of legal groups.

With all that's going on, we need more volunteers to help send packages of books to queer and trans people in prison. Feel free to stop by to any of the volunteer sessions listed on our website: [lgbtbookstoprisoners.org](http://lgbtbookstoprisoners.org).

**LGBT CENTER OF CHIPPEWA VALLEY** We are proud to announce that we have a new office space located at 800 Wisconsin St., Suite 409, Eau Claire, WI 54703. Our phone number remains the same at 715.552.(lgbt) or 5428. We will announce more info as we move forward. It has been a three-year struggle, but we made it, and it feels great to have our own space once again.

**ORGULLO LATINX LGBT** We are in the planning steps of our first-ever conference. This Orgullo Latinx LGBT+ led conference has been scheduled for Fall of 2017. More details to come.

**PERFECT HARMONY MEN'S CHORUS** The chorus performed at UW Health's World AIDS Day event at the Urban League. The chorus's winter concert, "Winter Memories," was held December 9 and 11—the song "Let it Snow" being very relevant that weekend—and included a very successful cookie sale at the event.

**AWARDS / RECOGNITION / GRANTS**

*Special thanks for those who do good.*

**ORGULLO LATINX LGBT** Orgullo Latinx was able to raise a total of \$6,125 dollars as part of its fundraising in partnership with Commu-

nity Shares and MG&E. We are grateful for this financial support.

**GSAFE** We would like to thank **Andy Wallman**, **Ian Huntley**, and the whole team at Knupp & Watson & Wallman. GSAFE was one of a dozen nonprofits selected for the Goodstock 2016 challenge, which gifted thousands of dollars in media services in the Madison community. KW2 created a commercial for GSAFE featuring several student leaders that has been running on WISC-TV, WMSN, and WKOW.

**STAGEQ** StageQ, Inc. would like to offer sincere appreciation to **Michael Bruno** for his years of service on the StageQ board as an at-large member and as President for the past two years.



Bruno

**DIVERSE & RESILIENT** D&R would like to congratulate our board chair, **Tanya Atkinson**, on her recent Empowering Women Award presented by the YWCA of Southeast Wisconsin. Lead Coordinator for HIV & STI Prevention, **Ronnie Grace**, was honored for his work supporting transgender rights and equality by the Sixteenth Street Community Health Center in Milwaukee. D&R would also like to congratulate Milwaukee Public Schools for their thoughtful gender inclusion guidance document to help ensure implementation of their recently adopted trans-inclusive non-discrimination policy.

**ORGULLO LATINX LGBT** **Karen** is a member of Orgullo Latinx who has the passion to fight to protect her dignity and the dignity of all the LGBT+ community. Karen's journey has not been easy. Her coming out has not been easy, yet she stays strong. She is a very dedicated volunteer and member of the organization, and we thank her for it.

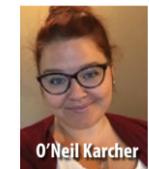
**OUTREACH LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER** In December, OutReach was awarded a \$10,000 Connect Wisconsin grant through U.W.-Madison. With this grant, we will be able to expand our transgender health program. With the assistance from OutReach staff, our Transgender Health Consultant, **Darla Lannert**, will be able to expand her efforts in reaching local businesses and organizations about offering health care for transgender people. Our work has involved having much-needed conversations with local health care providers on the importance of providing full health care insurance for people who identify as transgender.

OutReach would also like to thank all of our volunteers for their dedicated and passionate work with our clients and services. We would not be able to do what we do without them. We are thankful to have over 75 people with various backgrounds, experiences, and voices.

**STAFF / BOARD CHANGES**

*Who's moving on or moving into org leadership*

**GSAFE** Due to internal restructuring, **Chelsea O'Neil Karcher** is stepping down from her role as Executive Director. She will continue to be a vocal supporter of the organization as it moves into its next phase. **Beatrice Hadidian**, Development/Program Director at Wil-Mar Neighborhood Center, was recently elected secretary of the GSAFE Board of Directors. **Gilbert Villalpando**, the previous secretary, has accepted a position in Seattle. A big thank you to Gilbert for all of his work over the years and congrats to Beatrice on this new chapter!



O'Neil Karcher



Villalpando

**FIRSTWEBER REALTORS™**

**Julia & Cindy**  
*Putting the Pieces together for You!*

[juliaandcindy@firstweber.com](mailto:juliaandcindy@firstweber.com)  
(608) 241-8356 • [www.athomeinwisconsin.com](http://www.athomeinwisconsin.com)  
4706 Cottage Grove Rd., Madison

**PROUD MILITARY SUPPORTER**



**DO SOMETHING NEW**  
We're happy to help!

**LYNN'S**

**art and stitchery classes, supplies and framing for creative people**  
5928 odana road, madison  
m-th 10-7, f 10-6, sat 10-5  
608.274.1442 or [lynnsfmadison.com](http://lynnsfmadison.com)

## Community Shares of Wisconsin announces Cheri Dubiel as new Executive Director

**COMMUNITY SHARES OF WISCONSIN** announced in late December the hiring of Cheri Dubiel as Executive Director. She will start January 9. Dubiel has served as CSW Associate Director for six years, where she's led the organization's fundraising efforts for social and environmental justice causes in Wisconsin. In addition to her work with CSW, she brings extensive experience with local advocacy movements through past leadership roles with the Dane County Rape Crisis Center, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault.



Dubiel

"Equity and justice are the core values of Community Shares of Wisconsin and unite our coalition of 66 member nonprofits," said Emily Dickmann, CSW Board President. "Cheri not only shares these values, she has dedicated her career to advancing them in our community. She brings unparalleled knowledge, creativity, and passion to this role and we are thrilled to have her leading our organization."

For over 45 years, Community Shares of Wisconsin's members have been on the forefront of the social and environmental justice movement in Wisconsin, and as the oldest social justice fund in the country, CSW fuels their efforts through fundraising, training, and collaboration. As CSW Associate Director, Dubiel has been instrumental to the success of The Big Share, CSW's online giving day, which raised over \$500,000 over the past two years.

"Philanthropy is a joyful experience that allows people to make a difference for the causes they care about. And Community Shares makes giving accessible to all—regardless of their capacity," said Dubiel. "It's an honor to lead an organization that helps connect so many people to the hopes and dreams they have for their community."

Dubiel takes over for longtime CSW Executive Director Crystel Anders, who earlier this year announced she would be stepping away from the organization to pursue new opportunities.

"Cheri has demonstrated incredible leadership over her many years with CSW," said Anders. "Her innovative ideas and ability to build strong partnerships will be a huge asset to CSW and our members as they look to the future. There is much to be done, but together our members and donors show that real change is possible." ■

*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](http://rutabagapaddlesports)

Find us on **Yelp**




*Forever Begins Here.*



## 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!

**Applying for a grant just got easier. The entire process can be completed online.**

Three times a year, New Harvest accepts – from individuals, groups and/or organizations – innovative and compelling project proposals that seek to address the unmet or undermet needs of LGBT individuals and groups in our communities, striving to create positive change in the areas of social service, social change, public education, health care, arts and culture, and development of LGBT communities. These projects empower and support our lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender 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](http://newharvestfoundation.org)  
Find us on Facebook!



## CONNECT → OUR ORGANIZATIONS

**DIVERSE & RESILIENT** D&R is pleased to announce the addition of two new board members: **Denise Crumble**, a manager with the City of Milwaukee Health Department, and **Warren Scherer** of the UWM Inclusive Excellence Center.

**FAIR WISCONSIN** We welcome new board members **Ali Muldrow** (Madison) and, **Brett Blomme** (Monona), and **Candice Cole** (Milwaukee).



**FORGE** We are pleased to announce **Ashley Altadonna** as FORGE's new Project Coordinator. Ashley is a transgender filmmaker, author, and activist living in Milwaukee. She's been an advocate for the trans/gender non-conforming community for more than a decade. In 2008, she formed her own film/video production company, Tall Lady Pictures LLC. Her films have been used to educate individuals about trans issues both nationally and internationally through festivals, high schools, universities, and various organizations. In addition to film, Altadonna also spent more than eight years as a health and sexuality educator. She is also contributor to several local online magazines as well as being featured in Morty Diamond's anthology *Trans/Love: Radical Sex, Love & Relationships Beyond the Gender Binary*.

**OUTREACH LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER** **Elisabeth Cousin** is the new Board Vice-President. Elisabeth is originally from France, and she

moved to Madison in 2014. She works as a senior financial analyst at Mattel. **Michael Ruiz** is the new Board Secretary. Michael and his partner, Eric, moved to Fitchburg from Phoenix in 2014. He works for Bank of America as a Vice President in Operations. In his spare time he enjoys playing volleyball. The board also elected **Laurie Merrell**. Laurie is originally from Chicago and moved to Madison after getting her B.S. in Math from Haverford College in Pennsylvania. She currently works in Quality Assurance at Epic, and has been a member of the OutReach board since October 2016.



**STAGEQ** Your local LGBTQ theater company welcomes new board members and officers: President, **Donnovan Moen**; Vice President, **Aaron Schliem**; Secretary, **Cooper Talbot**; Board Member, **Burt Tower**; Board Member, **Brianna Mueller**; Board Member, **Zak Stowe**.



**PERFECT HARMONY MEN'S CHORUS** New individuals have joined the board of directors this fall, bringing a variety of talents: **Charlie Squires, Jr.**; **David Fischer**; and **Burt Tower**.

**UW HEALTH** **Shiva Bidar-Sielaff** has been named as UW Health's first chief diversity officer, effective immediately.

## Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin Announces Leadership Transition

**PPWI PRESIDENT AND CEO** Teri Huyck announced her retirement in December after nine years leading Wisconsin's largest non-profit healthcare organization. The PPWI board appointed Tanya Atkinson, current Chief External Affairs Officer, to serve as the incoming President and Chief Executive Officer. Huyck's retirement and Atkinson's appointment are effective February 3.



Atkinson, in her current role at PPWI, leads the teams responsible for government relations, community organizing, and external communication initiatives; and Embody—PPWI's statewide educational programs. Tanya began her career with PPWI in 2004, giving her a deep understanding of PPWI's business, organizational partners, and patient needs.

An accomplished leader, Atkinson has experience in management, leadership, administration, and teaching. Atkinson has served as an adjunct professor at both Carroll University and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Atkinson received her MSSW at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and B.S. at Carroll University. ■

## LARGEST EVER SURVEY OF TRANSGENDER PEOPLE IN U.S. REVEALS STARTLING DISPARITIES AND CHALLENGES

(Reuters) Almost 60 percent of transgender Americans have avoided using public restrooms for fear of confrontation, saying they have been harassed and assaulted, according to the largest survey taken of transgender people in the United States.

The survey of 27,715 respondents reached an estimated 2 percent of the adult transgender population in 2015, seeking to fill a gap in data about a severely understudied group whose experiences and challenges from medicine to law to economics and family relations are poorly understood.

The findings by the National Center for Transgender Equality on public restrooms counter the message of mainly conservative politicians and religious leaders that transgender people are the antagonists preying on others. It found that 12 percent of transgender people were verbally harassed in public restrooms within the previous year, 1 percent were physically attacked, and 1 percent were sexually assaulted. Nine percent said someone denied them access to a bathroom.

To view the survey, go to [tmsnr.rs/2gmGxsP](http://tmsnr.rs/2gmGxsP).

Besides the restroom data, the survey turned up new findings, including that 29 percent of transgender people were living in poverty compared to 14 percent for the U.S. population at large, and that 39 percent experienced serious psychological distress within the previous month, nearly eight times the rate for the general population.

The study will also provide a data set to satisfy researchers for years to come, the center's experts said. Researchers have been forced to rely on the National Transgender Discrimination Survey taken in 2008 and 2009 and published in 2011. For years, that survey has been the only one of its kind, and academics have been repeatedly picking through its findings because there were few other resources available.

The new survey was tailored to match other national surveys, enabling like-for-like comparisons to the population at large on issues such as poverty rates or psychological distress.

In her role as the first CDO for UW Health, Shiva will provide vision, coordination, and strategic leadership for the design and implementation of UW Health's initiatives related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Upon joining UW Health in May 2016, UW Health CEO Dr. Alan Kaplan identified the need to advance this work at UW Health.



"I am honored to be named chief diversity officer. Equity and inclusion are essential to the health and well-being of the communities we serve," Bidar-Sielaff said. "I look forward to leading UW Health's intentional, deliberate strategic work and investment to advance equity."

Bidar-Sielaff has an extensive background in the areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion. During her tenure at UW Health, she has developed a model interpreter-services program and served as an organization-wide resource on cultural competency and diversity issues. Bidar-Sielaff has made significant contributions to our community holding many key roles, including co-chair of the Latino Health Council of Dane County, member of the Madison College Board of Trustees, Madison Community Foun-



**UN POEMA PARA TODA MI GENTE**  
a poem for all my people!

An unprecedented collection of poetry by **CARMEN ALICIA MURGUIA**  
& illustrations by **GABRIELA RIVEROS**

To Arrange Readings & Gallery Openings, please call **414-534-0701** or write: [imcarmenmurguia@gmail.com](mailto:imcarmenmurguia@gmail.com)

**Celebrating 25 Years as a Poet!**




## save the date

**LEADERSHIP AWARDS & GALA DINNER**  
**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2017 @ 6:30 PM**  
**MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN**



## keynote speaker SARAH MCBRIDE

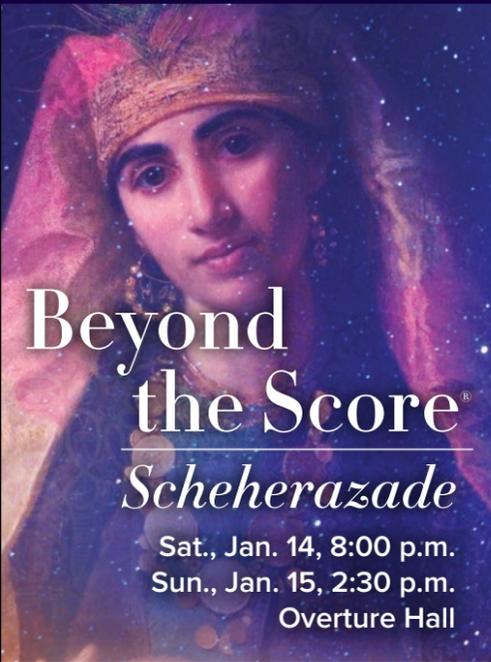
*National Press Secretary for the Human Rights Campaign*  
In 2012, Sarah made national headlines when she came out as transgender while student body president at American University. A native of Wilmington, Sarah serves on the Board of Equality Delaware, and in that capacity, helped lead the successful effort to add gender identity & expression to her state's nondiscrimination and hate-crimes laws. Prior to HRC, Sarah worked on LGBTQ equality at the Center for American Progress and interned at the White House, the first out trans woman to do so. Sarah became the first openly transgender person to address a major party political convention when she spoke at the 2016 Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia.

presented by



details & rsvp

[WWW.FAIRWISCONSIN.COM](http://WWW.FAIRWISCONSIN.COM)



# Beyond the Score<sup>®</sup> Scheherazade

Sat., Jan. 14, 8:00 p.m.  
Sun., Jan. 15, 2:30 p.m.  
Overture Hall

NIKOLAI RIMSKY-KORSAKOV  
Scheherazade  
John DeMain, *Conductor*

Beyond the Score explores what's behind one of the most popular orchestral works ever written—Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's colorful and exotic *Scheherazade*—with:

- Video and photos
- Actor and narrator
- Musical examples and a full performance of *Scheherazade*.

Featuring *APT Stars*



James DeVita\*  
as Nikolai  
Rimsky-Korsakov



Brenda DeVita\*  
as the Storyteller

EXCLUSIVE SPONSOR:  
A Good Friend of the Symphony

Beyond the Score<sup>®</sup> is a production of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Gerard McBurney, *Creative Director* for Beyond the Score<sup>®</sup>

**buy tickets now!**  
madisonsymphony.org,  
the Overture Center Box Office  
or (608) 258-4141.



CONNECT → OUR ORGANIZATIONS

dation board member and United Way of Dane County Vision Council member. She has been recognized for her work with the YWCA Woman of Distinction Award, the City of Madison/Dane County Martin Luther King Jr. Humanitarian Award, and the Athena Leadership Award and was named one of the “15 of Madison’s Most Influential People” by *In Business Magazine* in July 2016.

“When I began my tenure at UW Health just over six months ago, I identified diversity, equity, and inclusion as essential work that needed greater structure and support,” said Dr. Kaplan. “We are fortunate that we had someone with Shiva’s background already on staff who is prepared to take this work to the next level.”

### CALLS TO ACTION

Where and how you can help

### FAIR WISCONSIN

Stay tuned for more information about our LGBTQ Equality Day at the Capitol, to kick off the new legislative session, tentatively scheduled for March 23. Sign up for updates at [fairwisconsin.com](http://fairwisconsin.com).

### LGBT BOOKS TO PRISONERS

Volunteers needed! Training sessions are held every Monday and Tuesday 6:00–8:00 p.m. and every other Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the basement of the Social Justice Center (1202 Williamson Street). Please see the calendar for

exact dates at <https://lgbtbookstoprisoners.org/calendar>.

### ORGULLO LATINX LGBT

Orgullo Latinx will start a scholarship program in 2017. Orgullo Latinx will give out two \$1000 scholarships. These two scholarships will recognize the work LGBT+ members and allies have done in the community. One scholarship will be awarded to an LGBT+ member, and the other will be awarded to an ally. Orgullo Latinx will be accepting scholarship nominations in the month of February. Awards will be granted to winners during our April 12 meeting. More information about this to come.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Plan ahead to join in

### DIVERSE & RESILIENT

D&R and Fair Wisconsin will be presenting the **2017 Wisconsin LGBTQ Summit** on **Saturday, February 25**, at the Milwaukee Marriott Downtown. Formerly called the WI LGBTQ Leadership Conference, this year we will meet for a single day with a focus on policy/advocacy, trans issues, health, and more. With the changing political landscape, now more than ever we need to work collectively to ensure that we keep the gains we have made and continue our quest for full LGBTQ inclusion and equality. For more information go to: [www.wilgbtqsummit.org](http://www.wilgbtqsummit.org).

## Pocan, LGBT Equality Caucus Co-Chairs Call on DOD to Extend Phase Out Period for Same-Sex Domestic Partner Benefits Program

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI) and the LGBT Equality Caucus Co-Chairs sent a letter to the Department of Defense (DOD) calling for an extension of the phase out period for the Same-Sex Domestic Partner program. On November 2 the DOD announced that benefits for same-sex couples would be phased out by December 31. While couples can now receive benefits thanks to the marriage equality decision by the Supreme Court, the Department’s phase out period of less than two months provides them little to no flexibility to either get married or adjust to the loss of their benefits.

“This adjustment period of less than two months is grossly inadequate and stands in contrast to the nearly three-year window implemented by the State Department to phase out their domestic partner benefit program,” the Members write. “The rushed timing of this process is not necessary and will likely result in a gap in benefits that will be detrimental to many families. For these reasons, we urge the Department to extend the phase out period and ensure same-sex couples have the flexibility to adjust to this significant policy change.” ■



Pocan

## Madison historian, activist, and *Our Lives* contributor Dick Wagner working on book about gay history of Wisconsin

**LONGTIME MADISON ACTIVIST** and gay historian (not to mention regular *Our Lives* contributor) Dick Wagner was recently profiled in *The Capital Times* for his work on a new book to chronicle the state’s gay history.

Wagner was the first openly gay member of the Dane County Board of Supervisors, where he served for 14 years, including four years as the chair. He also helped create the Period Garden Park in downtown Madison, and pushed along the Monona Terrace and Olbrich Gardens projects. He’s currently the secretary of the Botanical Society and chair of Madison’s Urban Design Commission.

For much of his life and work, Wagner has focused on LGBT community activism, and now historical preservation. He was instrumental in creating a 1980 county nondiscrimination ordinance protecting gay and lesbian individuals, which helped build support for a later statewide nondiscrimination bill. He was co-chair of the Governor’s Council on Lesbian and Gay Issues in 1983 and one of the co-founders of U.W.-Madison’s LGBT Alumni Association and the Harvest Foundation, the LGBT foundation for southern Wisconsin. He served on the board for Madison AIDS Support Network, and he’s currently on the committee to form an LGBT archive at U.W.-Madison.

Now Wagner is tackling the book, which he’s finishing up this winter, with the hope of completing the project in time for the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots.

“Much like our lives have been hidden, our history has been hidden,” Wagner said in the profile. “That’s the other reason for writing: to have our history come out of the closet as well as ourselves.” ■



Wagner

### FAIR WISCONSIN

The **Fair Wisconsin Gala** will be on **Saturday, Feb. 25**. The event will feature a keynote by Sarah McBride, National Press Secretary for the Human Rights Campaign. In 2012, Sarah made national headlines when she came out as transgender while student body president at American University. Prior to HRC, Sarah worked on LGBTQ equality at the Center for American Progress and interned at the White House, the first out trans woman to do so. Sarah became the first openly transgender person to address a major party convention when she spoke at the 2016 Democratic National Convention.

### ORGULLO LATINX LGBT

Meetings will be the second Wednesday of each month 5:30–7:30 p.m. at UNIDOS Against Domestic Violence, 2875 Fish Hatchery Rd. Dates and topics: **January 11**, LGBT+ Experiences and **February 8**, Bullying and Suicide.

### STAGEQ

The annual festival of short plays, **Queer Shorts**, moves to February with the theme of Queer Love, featuring plays written by local and national playwrights. Show dates will be: **Feb. 10, 11, 16**, and **17** at 8:00 p.m., and **Feb. 12 & 18** at 2:00 p.m. at the Bartell Theatre in Madison. ■

Looking for your  
new tranquil bathroom?

Looks like it's...  
**TIME 2 REMODEL**  
[time2remodel.com](http://time2remodel.com)

# This is Unity Health Insurance.

► **Choose Unity and have guaranteed access to the doctors, nurses and health care professionals of UW Health.**

Unity is access to UW Health’s American Family Children’s Hospital and to University Hospital, which is Wisconsin’s #1 rated hospital\*. Unity is fast, friendly and exceptional customer service. Unity is wellness programs and having the backing of 1,400 primary care physicians and specialists at UW Health. Unity is all of these things and more – which is why Unity should be your insurance provider. **Choose Unity. Be Well.**

Learn more. Visit [UnityHealth.com](http://UnityHealth.com)





# The Unexpected Path

**Sandy Eichel** followed the road laid out for her by others, until she found her calling—and her own path—in a new place and a new career.



Photographed by Samantha Dutcher

**WHEN I WAS A KID,** I wanted to be Pat Benatar. I mean, didn't everyone? I spent hours standing on the orange mushroom-shaped crushed velvet ottoman singing my guts out into a hairbrush.

Music was an important part of my life even at a young age. My father took me to auditions for community musicals starting when I was seven years old. I loved the shows and the attention. After my parents divorced when I was five, I didn't see much of my father. He was busy with his new wife and step-kids, and I would have done anything to get his attention and approval.

When I was 13, my dad wanted me to have classical voice lessons, to learn how to sing "real music." The idea of lessons sounded awesome but classical music wasn't really my jam. He brought me a copy of *Rolling Stone* that featured Pat Benatar and pointed out that she had studied classical voice at Julliard. Well, if it's good enough for Pat, I thought, I guess it's good enough for me. My real motivation to take lessons, though, was to please my dad. Taking classical lessons would not only afford me an opportunity to see my dad regularly but also do something he approved of. It was one of the many things I did in my life to get affirmation and approval from other people.

After winning a classical voice competition in high school and scoring a top scholarship to a major university to study classical singing, I found myself on the conveyor belt headed squarely toward a career in opera. When I went off to college and even when I was cast in a major operatic role as a freshman in college, though, I still hadn't actually seen an opera. This wasn't my dream, it was what others around me wanted me to do, so I did it. I received so much praise, and it was something really challenging, both things I did like.

### LIVING FOR ME

Why then, after years of being a full-time musician, singing opera professionally, and teaching voice lessons, did I suddenly switch careers? I made several realizations and admissions to myself as I approached age 40. First, that I wasn't happy or fulfilled in my life or my career. I had spent my entire life being what others wanted me to be, in the work I did, the way I dressed, everything. I was miserable and I was tired of it. Secondly, I hadn't been true to myself. I was in the closet, I hadn't dealt with trauma from my childhood, and I wasn't living my authentic life.

Finally, I realized that you only get one wild and precious life and that the next 40 years were going to be different. I wanted to play by my own rules, and I wanted to make a bigger impact on the world around me.

I moved to Wisconsin in 2010 and changed careers. I started working in financial services and, when I moved to Madison in 2011, I started getting involved with OPEN (the Out Professional Engagement Network). At the first networking event I went to, I met my now dear friend Jill Muenich. With her support and encouragement, I began my financial practice and became a financial advisor.

### FINDING MY PEOPLE AND MY PLACE

I had always felt that my tribe was in Madison, I just didn't know them yet. This community embraced me and supported me, and I wouldn't have the life I have now if it wasn't for all the wonderful people that I have met here. My work is fulfilling and satisfying, I feel like I make an impact on a daily basis, and I am now working to help change financial services to be more inclusive to women, people of color, and the LGBTQ community. I am a professional speaker and share my story of how I found my authentic self with various groups including the *Brava Magazine* Thrive Luncheon Series, Wisconsin Public Broadcasting, and at national conventions and chambers of commerce.

Not to mention, I also finally get to be Pat Benatar—but even better, I get to be me. Four years ago, my friend Hillary Barnes and I started our band, One Note and the Rhino, where we raise money for local charities. In 2017, I will be starting an initiative to benefit the scholars of Mendota Elementary School here in Madison called Joyful Futures through Music. Mendota is the poorest school in

In 2017, I will be starting an initiative to benefit the scholars of Mendota Elementary School here in Madison called Joyful Futures through Music. Mendota is the poorest school in our system; 80% of the students live below the poverty line, and 30 families that have kids there are homeless.

our system; 80% of the students live below the poverty line, and 30 families that have kids there are homeless. My mom grew up below the poverty line and credits a program similar to this one for saving her life, so I am dedicating this initiative to her. We will be partnering with the Foundation for Madison's Public Schools to provide funding, volunteers, and materials to help the kids not only have what they need to make music, but also provide for their basic needs so that they can focus on being kids.

I could never have imagined in the dark days of my life that I would be living the life I have now. I am so grateful for all that surrounds me—the people, the opportunities, and the amazing community we share. I feel it is my responsibility to pay all that has been given to me forward and do what I can for this awesome place we call home. I took a very circuitous path to find my truth, but I can say that nothing in my life was wasted. Everything I have experienced prepared me to do what I am doing now. ■



Sandy with her fiancée, Nancy Noet.



Powerful Results. Real People.

## STARLINER CONDOMINIUMS

Newest Downtown Condo Development!

1-2 beds | 1-2 baths | Townhouse Work/Live Units | Garden Units

The Starliner will feature 43 Garden and Townhouse work/live designs with garage facade doors, 10ft and 11ft ceilings with sleek, modern kitchens opening to great room living! With 25% of the units currently reserved, the time is now to plan for your occupancy for summer of 2017!



www.LauerRealtyGroup.com 608.444.5725

LOCALLY OWNED. COMMUNITY FOCUSED.

608.577.4277 | quigleydecks.com

# QUIGLEY Decks



**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





## Photographing Our Trans Family

We talked to “For Good” Photography, Inc. partners **Jeff Pearcy** and **Meredith Watts** about their project that aims to lift up diverse transgender people and fight back against the multiple inequalities faced by the community.

### PLEASE TELL US A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOURSELVES: WHO ARE YOU, WHAT DO YOU DO, AND WHAT DREW YOU TO WORKING ON THIS PROJECT?

**Meredith:** I am a retired political scientist from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. My 30+ year career in academics was always combined with photography. With retirement, photography is my main career, with social science always in the background. In my last teaching years, I worked under a Fulbright grant to do a book on neo-Nazi youth in the process of German unification. When I returned to the United States, I developed an internet-based course on racism, homophobia, and hate crimes.

The Our Trans Family project is an extension of these interests, made possible by the conjunction of sponsorship from the Cream City Foundation and the assistance of many LGBTQ groups and individuals. The Milwaukee-based organization Diverse & Resilient, working with the Mary Nohl Foundation (and the Greater Milwaukee Foundation), made it possible to give special attention to African-American trans women in D&R’s SHEBA program. This added an important dimension to the project, and called attention to the multiple inequalities that affect trans persons.

During the early stages of the discussion leading up to the Our Trans Family project, I participated electronically from Brazil. My wife, a choreographer and UWM dance professor, and I were researching Brazilian popular celebration and Afro-Brazilian spiritual practice. An important part of that research had become the visual documentation of gender diversity in folk and spiritual practice. I

have an extensive documentation from Northeast Brazil that was put aside so I could work on Our Trans Family. In fact, Jeff and I did our first joint interviews and photo sessions within a couple of weeks of my arriving back in the U.S.

**Jeff:** I am a partner in Lambert-Pearcy, LLC. We were completing a project for Cream City Foundation (CCF) doing interviews with 27 organizations in Southeastern Wisconsin to determine unmet needs in the LGBTQ community. I was approached by several of these interviewees who were familiar with my past photography work to determine if I was interested in doing a project to bring awareness and understanding of issues faced by the transgender community.

I was the Chief Photographer for the *Oshkosh Northwestern* in the late 80s. In my retirement I have poured my energies into my documentary photography. I have completed assignments for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee photographing the recovery efforts after a typhoon in the Philippines, the detention in Texas of families seeking legal refugee status, and the water crisis in Michigan. I also completed a major work 10 years ago on marriage equality in Wisconsin. It is that work that created familiarity in the LGBTQ community. On retirement I was part of the group of photographers who formed “For Good” Photography, Inc. We work with non-profit organizations to tell their story in photographs. Our work is primarily with organizations that work with marginalized populations.

CCF became our major sponsor for the project and our most significant partner. We received a second grant from Diverse & Resil-

ient and the Mary Nohl Fund of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation and were named “Artists in Residence.” The project could not have been completed without the assistance and support of FORGE and their leadership.

### WHAT ARE YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCES WITH THE TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY?

**Meredith:** The Brazilian research was an important introduction to an intercultural aspect of gender diversity, including gay, trans, and intersex expression. My past work and teaching on hate crime had included trans issues; however, the problems of violence against trans people became much clearer to me when I lived for a time in San Francisco after retirement and sought out people who were active in the LGBTQ anti-violence community. The Brazil research was a continuation of some of these themes. It was also meaningful that part of my extended family of affection was actively engaged in the transition process. All these factors made me anxious to engage with this issue in Milwaukee.

**Jeff:** I have been aware of many of the issues in the trans community since doing “Shall Not Be Recognized.” We included a trans couple in that project. My awareness was heightened in doing the research interviews for CCF. There was not a single organization interviewed that did not stress the discrimination in the trans community.

### WHY DO YOU THINK A PROJECT LIKE THIS IS IMPORTANT, AND WHAT DO YOU HOPE IT WILL HELP TO ACHIEVE—BOTH WITH THE VIEWING PUBLIC AND THE PEOPLE IT FEATURES?

**Meredith and Jeff:** There has been some brilliant photographic work in the last few years on trans persons. Much of it was understandably highly personal and deeply insightful about the experience of transition. The element of family, relationships, and social support was always present to some degree, but we wanted to focus primarily on families (by birth or affection) that provided a network of support for the transition process—thus, the title, Our Trans Family. Since beginning the project we were delighted to learn of other projects dealing with seniors, grandparents, and persons who expressed their gender identities later in life. In our study, we wanted a broad spectrum of age and experience. Our participants vary in age from eight years old to the mid-to-late 60s. We hope our approach to the family and social network will add a dimension to the already wonderful photo and documentary work that is available.

We meant this approach to emphasize the universality of the ties of family and friends, and to show trans individuals living in the company of people who support them. Each story is different, but the linking element is family and affection.

The goal of the project is not primarily an “artistic” one. It came from a desire to enter the cultural and political discussion about the rights and protections of trans persons and their families. A photo project can only be a small part, but it can be multiplied many times over if others can use it in their discussions and public education.

Because of our interest in engaging in public discussion, we are making the images widely available, and encourage interested organizations and groups to contact us about showing the Our Trans Family exhibition. We want very much to provide support to organizations and educational institutions that will use the material for public discussion and events that focus on trans rights.

It would also be a wonderful outcome if a diverse group of photographers and videographers would elaborate the “trans family” idea into a broader visual documentation movement. Here we could imagine a social media effort that brought together thousands of photos and narratives about families and supportive networks.

### HAVE YOU LEARNED ANYTHING NEW FROM TAKING ON THIS PROJECT?

We have learned more than we can possibly express. In no sense could we think of ourselves as having any expertise as a spokesperson, but we believe our understanding has become deeper and more nuanced. This is entirely the result of support and mentoring by trans groups and persons who trusted us enough to share their experience with us. We did not just pop in for a photo and leave—we spent as long as they would allow with an interview and discussion. We only did photos after they began to know us and understand the goals of the project. That these brave individuals and families would invite us into their homes and share their lives was a lesson far beyond the trans issues involved—it was a lesson in the inherent dignity of all persons and the courage it takes to be oneself in circumstances that are often daunting. The most important lessons for us were human, social, and spiritual. Photography became the tool for our own education, and we hope the photos and narratives can be that for others.

### FINALLY, WHERE CAN PEOPLE FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR TRANS FAMILY AND/OR VIEW IT FOR THEMSELVES?

Images of all of our projects can be viewed at [www.forgoodphotography.com](http://www.forgoodphotography.com). We are currently scheduling exhibits and educational institutions, churches, schools, and galleries are encouraged to contact us at [jeffpearcy@outlook.com](mailto:jeffpearcy@outlook.com). Both Meredith and Jeff are available to speak at gallery openings regarding the project.

The show is currently scheduled at Lawrence University in Appleton. We are in discussion with UWM, U.W.-Parkside, Fontbonne University in St. Louis, and Keystone College in Pennsylvania.

We also have a Powerpoint presentation available on request for groups that would like to use the project in class or discussion groups. ■

**YOUR REAL ALTERNATIVE**  
Professional • Polite • Progressive • Effective • Trans\*



**VIVIENNE ANDERSEN**  
Anything but Ordinary™

(608) 425-0929 • Negotiation Ninja  
[Vivienne.A@EXPrealty.com](mailto:Vivienne.A@EXPrealty.com) • [VivienneAndersen.com](http://VivienneAndersen.com)






**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](http://www.roomofonesown.com)

Not your grandmother's BINGO!

CAMP BINGO

benefitting ARCW

JANUARY 29, 2017

Candyland BINGO

FEBRUARY 26, 2017

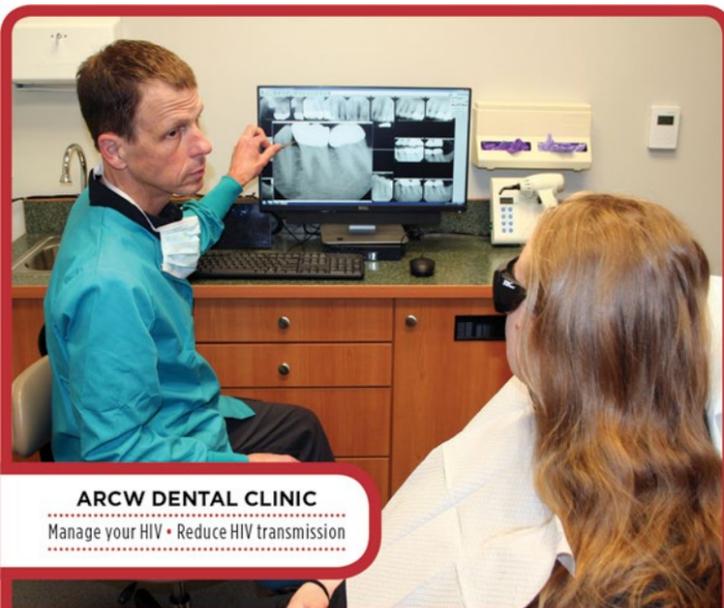
Lucky Charms BINGO

MARCH 26, 2017

Wizard & Witches BINGO

BUY TICKETS at madcampbingo.org

PRESENTING SPONSOR SMART DENTAL



ARCW DENTAL CLINIC

Manage your HIV • Reduce HIV transmission

GET 2 UNDETECTABLE

Wisconsin's only HIV patient-centered medical home, offering medical, dental, mental health, pharmacy and social services. Appointments are available now.

ARCW AIDS RESOURCE CENTER OF WISCONSIN Excellence in HIV Health Care

ARCW.org 1.800.486.6276



CONNECT → OUR ENTERTAINERS



## Male Call

The first-ever **Wisconsin Male Burlesque Festival** teased and titillated, all while lifting up the women who pioneered the art form, and queering and challenging standard definitions of masculinity.

**IN A FIRST FOR THE STATE**, the Wisconsin Burlesque Association in November hosted the inaugural Wisconsin Male Burlesque Festival at FIVE Nightclub. Over the course of two nights the event showcased top-notch performances, brought in packed houses, and raised \$1,300 for the LGBTQ OutReach Center of Madison.

Mercury Stardust, Madison-based performer and producer, founded The Wisconsin Burlesque Association (WIBA) in 2015 in order to provide organizational support for local burlesque performers and producers. The Male Burlesque Festival was the second large-scale event coordinated by WIBA, the first being the Wisconsin Burlesque Festival at the Bartell Theatre last April.

The Male Burlesque Festival featured sensual and comic male performers, drag kings, magicians, and all queer kinds of gender blending. There were Wisconsin staples OD Kimani, Baby Bear, and Anthony Savage, the Manscape troupe from the Quad Cities and many more. Headlining performer Waxie Moon stunned the crowd with two flamboyant acts he performed at the Burlesque Hall of Fame in Las Vegas. The two nights at FIVE were heavily attended and ran smoothly thanks to the work of volunteer stage managers, stagehands, ushers, ticket takers, and tip collectors.

Despite WIBA's preparation the success of the festival was not always certain. From a production point of view, an all-male show was a risky choice: it went against the popular idea of burlesque and was harder to market. So the festival was two years in the making. WIBA had to become more established before taking on the project and in that time the concept expanded: "I think at first Mercury had the intention of opening it to men only," said Baby Bear, the one of the festival's MCs. "I thought 'that's bullshit: It's not fair to do a show that excludes the women who built the ground that we get to perform on.' So that's when the whole idea of a 'male centric' [show] came about."

Despite this decision, WIBA had to contend with seemingly exclusionary language of "Male Burlesque Festival" and the need to focus on masculinity. Mercury was quick to clarify both points: "masculinity is a wide, varied spectrum but we don't necessarily embrace that side of our society. The reason why we opened [the festival] to all gender

OURLIVESMADISON.COM



identifications...is that we wanted to showcase all the various types of performers even though they're inside the [show's] masculine theme."

Mercury's catch phrase is that men are guests in the burlesque art form, which was built by women in the late 19th century and sustained by women till the 1970s. Male performers did grace the stage from time to time and male drag was a frequent choice for burlesque divas. But in historical studies most men are relegated to the comedians who entertained between acts, the audience members, or the producers and theatre owners who ran life behind the stage.

This lack of firm history is both destabilizing and liberating for today's male performers. While their numbers are growing men are still an industry minority, which carries certain advantages. "I go onstage and I'm absolutely different," Mercury said. "And because we're different we're going to get booked a lot even if, or in spite of, being mediocre. [Men can] not wear pasties, not [have show-ready costumes], not do the things that women need to do to get into the industry, and get ahead. That undercuts women's performances. So that means that we must be advocates for women." This advocacy appeared in the festival in an unmistakable form: all male performers wore pasties to show solidarity with female performers, who must wear pasties in most venues.

While there may be a tendency towards mediocrity in among male performers, that was not the case with the Wisconsin Male Burlesque Festival. The 33 acts showcased performers for whom burlesque is a means of clever and whimsical expression. For Waxie Moon, a former actor, that expression is cathartic: "With the [persona of Waxie] I can be unapologetically gay. As an actor I felt like I was only gay if I was playing a gay role. So that is extremely liberating, to be this unapologetically queer character that celebrates gay pride everyday."

Such celebration of the variety of masculinity was a key part of the festival's success. According to Waxie, burlesque requires "a kind of healthy audacity and audiences respond to anyone and everyone who does it. It's defiantly a celebration of possibility and redefining what we've been told is sexy. When you combine sex and humor, my god, it's so yummy. And when you go to a burlesque show it's a guaranteed good time: who doesn't love theatrical striptease?" —Helen Bush

MURRAY & PETER PRESENT SEASON 8 THE QUEENS. LIVE ACROSS AMERICA.



JAN 18 @ 8PM • ORPHEUM THEATER 216 State St | Madison, WI 53703

ON SALE NOW ticketmaster 608-250-2600

All Ages Welcome @mppresent



PrEP YOURSELF

PREVENTION FOR YOUR LIFE

This blue pill is 92% effective at preventing HIV infection, when taken every day. Learn how PrEP can become part of your personal HIV prevention strategy. Visit us at arcw.org/prep today!

ARCW AIDS RESOURCE CENTER OF WISCONSIN Excellence in HIV Health Care

Madison: 800.486.6276 Milwaukee: 800.359.9272



# Jan. & Feb.

Baby, it's really, really cold outside—but there's plenty to keep you warm and jolly, whether it's a live show, community gathering, or events to get you ready for spring. Don't hide under a blanket, come join the fun!

For more LGBTQ-specific events, see our Organization Updates on page 20.

JANUARY

## 12

**PATTI LABELLE**  
*Overture Center*

The living legend will fill the Overture Center with the powerful sounds of her classic rhythm and blues renditions, pop standards, and spiritual sonnets, with a repertoire spanning over 50 years.  
[overturecenter.org](http://overturecenter.org)



JANUARY

## 14-15

**BEYOND THE SCORE: SCHEHERAZADE**

*Overture Center for the Arts*  
Madison Symphony Orchestra presents a multimedia examination of the music in the first of the performance, featuring acclaimed American Players Theatre actors James and Brenda DeVita. In the second half the MSO presents a full performance of Rimsky-Korsakov's captivating Scheherazade.  
[madisonsymphony.org](http://madisonsymphony.org)



## 21

**FROSTIBALL**

*Overture Center for the Arts*  
Dance to live music, sip signature craft cocktails, and rub elbows with Madison's best-dressed social butterflies at this annual event to support the state's largest nonprofit arts organization.  
[overture.org/events/frostiball](http://overture.org/events/frostiball)

## 26

(THROUGH FEBRUARY 12)

**FORWARD THEATER'S "OUTSIDE MULLINGAR"**

*Overture Center for the Arts*  
Anthony and Rosemary are facing down middle age from neighboring farms in rural Ireland. Only a strip of land separates these eccentric souls, but with a feud simmering between their families, these introverted misfits will need to overcome a childhood grudge and years of pride to find happiness. Flinty humor and poetic passion highlight this poignant play about taking a chance on love.  
[forwardtheater.com](http://forwardtheater.com)

## 29

**CAMP BINGO**

*Concourse Hotel & Governor's Club*  
The campiest bingo fundraiser around returns with "Candyland Bingo," featuring Z104's Aaron Rogers and Katie Kruz as celebrity ball callers. Money raised benefits the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin.  
[madcampbingo.org](http://madcampbingo.org)

FEBRUARY

## 10-18

**STAGEQ'S QUEER SHORTS 2.1**

*Bartell Theatre*  
The local LGBTQ theater company's run of original short plays continues with their "Queer Love" themed installment and featuring both acting and writing talent from Madison and beyond.  
[stageq.com](http://stageq.com)

## 28

**FIRE BALL MASQUERADE**

*Majestic Theater*  
The hottest night of the year returns for its ninth installment, featuring acts from some of the top performers in country, including acrobats, burlesque, drag, fire dancing, and more.  
[fireballmadison.com](http://fireballmadison.com)

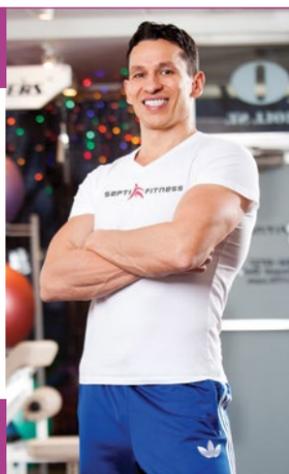
### TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR BODY



- 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



## 10 & 12

**MADISON OPERA PRESENTS "CHARLIE PARKER'S YARDBIRD"**

*Capitol Theater*

A theatrical tour de force that melds jazz and opera, the show was widely praised following its 2015 premiere for its pulsing, jazz-infused score and story. Madison Opera will be only the second company to perform the show.  
[madisonopera.org](http://madisonopera.org)

## 18

**OUT AT THE SYMPHONY**

*Overture Center for the Arts*  
The Madison Symphony hosts a performance of "Ultimate Tchaikovsky: The Last Symphony", featuring pianist Stephen Hough. Enjoy classical music, then connect with members and friends of Madison's LGBTQ community at an exclusive after-party.  
[madisonsymphony.org/out](http://madisonsymphony.org/out)

## 23

**PILOBOLUS' "SHADOWLAND"**

*Wisconsin Union Theater*  
Created by the famed dance company, "Shadowland" is a first-of-its-kind performance combining legendary modern dance with high-energy, fast-paced multimedia, merging front-of-screen choreography with projected images and moving screens of different sizes and shapes.  
[union.wisc.edu](http://union.wisc.edu)

## 25

**WISCONSIN LGBTQ SUMMIT**

*Milwaukee Marriott Downtown*  
Formerly known as the Fair Wisconsin Leadership Conference, this day-long conference has transformed to include direct partnership

with Diverse & Resilient. The statewide LGBTQ event will focus on policy/advocacy, trans issues, health, and more.  
[wlgbtqsummit.org](http://wlgbtqsummit.org)

**FAIR WISCONSIN LEADERSHIP AWARDS & GALA**

*Milwaukee Marriott Downtown*  
Gala and dinner to recognize and support the work being done by statewide LGBTQ rights movers and shakers, featuring keynote by Sarah McBride, National Press Secretary for the Human Rights Campaign.  
[fairwisconsin.com](http://fairwisconsin.com)



## 26

**CAMP BINGO**

*Madison Sheraton Hotel*  
Another installment of this campy bingo fundraiser hits with a "Luck Charms Bingo" theme and celebrity ball caller Christine Bellport from NBC15.  
[madcampbingo.org](http://madcampbingo.org)

SAVE THE DATE

**MARCH 9:** "Rise Up & Sing!" with the Heritage Blues Orchestra at Wisconsin Union Theater

**MARCH 10-12:** Canoeopia, world's largest paddlesport expo at Alliant Energy Center

**MARCH 10:** OPEN Annual Dinner

**MARCH 26:** Camp Bingo "Wizards & Witches Bingo" at the Madison Sheraton

**MARCH 30:** Diverse & Resilient's Reviving the Dream at the InterContinental Milwaukee Hotel

SAT, JAN 21, 2017  
GALA 8:30-11 PM | \$125

ISTHMUS AFTER PARTY  
11PM-2AM | \$75

UPBEAT ORCHESTRA  
MOVING VISUAL ART

SILENT AUCTION  
RAFFLE \* CABARET  
LOCAL MUSIC

WINE \* BEER \* DESSERTS  
& MORE SURPRISES

SPECIALTY COCKTAILS  
HORS D'OEUVRES \* CHAMPAGNE

# OVERTURE'S Frostiball TWENTY SEVENTEEN

GALA SPONSORS: AFTER PARTY SPONSOR: VIP LOUNGE SPONSOR:

Frostiball is made possible in part by generous support from



Additional support from Ron & Deborah Krantz, Susan and Jonathan Lipp, Tom Berenz, Rare Steakhouse & Trek Bicycle Corporation.



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES STILL AVAILABLE!

Carol Sun | 608.258.4447 | [csun@overture.org](mailto:csun@overture.org)

# OUTSIDE MULLINGAR

FORWARD THEATER Co.

# OUTSIDE MULLINGAR

A PLAY BY JOHN PATRICK SHANLEY

JANUARY 26 – FEBRUARY 12, 2017

GET TICKETS AT  
FORWARDTHEATER.COM  
OR 608-258-4141



CONNECT → OUR SPONSORED EVENTS

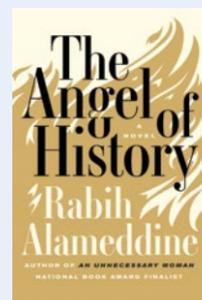
NOV. 10 Fair Wisconsin's Honoring Our Veterans Luncheon



SPENCER MICKA PHOTOGRAPHY

## LGBTQ Reading List

A current LGBTQ reading list at the Madison Public Library, compiled by Madison librarians Ed Graves and Beth McIntyre.



**The Angel of History, by Rabih Alameddine.** Atlantic Monthly, 2016.

Let's not forget AIDS, mental illness, and the struggles of immigrants, here is a novel that takes place in the mind of a gay Arab writer after a meltdown, sitting in the waiting room of a psych ward. In an internal dialogue vacillating between remembering and grief, our narrator memorializes his journey as an immigrant to the loss of friends and lovers to the AIDS crisis.

**As I Descended by Robin Talley.** Harper Teen, 2016.

This book was billed as a bloody boarding school retelling of Macbeth, and it did not disappoint. Perfect to curl up with if you're looking to nurture the edges of frost in your soul this winter.

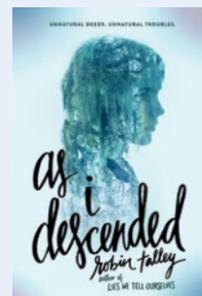


**Been Here All Along, by Sandy Hall.** Swoon Reads, 2016.

The publisher is called Swoon Reads and that should tell you all you need to know about this sweet, sweet novel. Two high school boys that are navigating coming out are too busy supporting each other to realize they're falling for each other. Young love wins the day.

**Boy Erased, by Garrard Conley.** Riverhead, 2016.

A nineteen-year-old is forced out of the closet and faces losing his faith and family if he doesn't undergo conversion therapy. The real-life, 12-step, ex-gay ministry Love in Action is the subject of this memoir, but also a compassionate treatment of the author's Arkansas roots and his loving mother.



**Girl Mans Up, by ME Girard.** HarperCollins, 2016.

A queer, first-generation Portuguese-American teen isn't interested in labeling herself, but her boisterous family and the rough pack of guys she runs with are making it difficult to just be. Bright and galloping, Girard offers a stellar genderqueer perspective to teen fiction.

**My Son Wears Heels, by Julie Tarney.** University of Wisconsin, 2016.

A mother from Milwaukee, Julie Tarney knew from a young age her child was special and took the initiative to educate herself on raising gender-creative kids. Such an excellent parenting book about unconditional love.



**A Thin Bright Line, by Lucy Jane Bledsoe.** University of Wisconsin, 2016.

A novel that reconstructs the life of the author's aunt through an entry in a biographical dictionary of women in science. Living openly and quietly as a lesbian scientist in New York City, this is a loving depiction of a woman pushing boundaries.

**Tranny, by Laura Jane Grace.** Hachette, 2016.

When the singer of one of punk's most successful and controversial acts Against Me! came out as trans in Rolling Stone magazine in her 30s, it was a bombshell. Condemned for years by fans for selfishness and narcissism, this is much more than her rock bio, it's an honest explanation of gender dysphoria and beginning a very public transition.

**We Are Okay, by Nina LaCour.** Dutton, 2017.

In this poetic exploration of grief and family, a young woman isolates herself in her empty dorm over winter break as a storm rages outside. Her best friend visits, trying to convince her to come home, and the tender shift in their relationship unfolds along with the family secrets that sent her into hiding.

**INVENTURE REALTY GROUP**

Let us help you **Buy A Home**

**Inventure is:**

- **Honest**
- **Neighborhood-knowledgeable**
- **Agents with a track record of getting offers accepted**
- **Skilled in many price ranges**
- **Quick to return calls or emails**
- **Connected to a team of brokers, home inspectors, and contractors**
- **LGBT-owned & operated**

Inventure Realty 608-729-0246  
www.inventurerealty.com 701 E. Washington Ave, Madison

**WISCONSIN UNION THEATER**

**"SHADOWLAND" BY PILOBOLUS**  
Feb. 23, 2017

**RISE UP AND SING!**  
feat. The Heritage Blues Orchestra and Ruthie Foster  
Mar. 30, 2017

UNIONTHEATER.WISC.EDU 608.265.ARTS



CELEBRATING THE PAST YEAR'S LGBTQ MARRIAGES

# Planning Your Own Wedding

Wisconsin's LGBTQ newlyweds share their wedding experience and advice.



## Wisconsin Rustic Chic

DANAE VERHASSELT & AMY KAMINSKI

**MARRIED ON JUNE 25, 2016** in Freedom, Wisconsin: Amy and I met several years ago but neither of us was single at the time. We had lost touch for a couple of years and then one (what I consider magical) day she walked into the same place where I was. Her eyes sparkled when she smiled as bright as Christmas lights. Both now being single, we started talking and after many different challenges and even more fun we realized the connection that we had was real and amazing. We both love music, concerts, pictures, family, adventures, traveling and much, much more. Anytime that we're some place and there is a photo booth, we are in it! To put it simply, we both love to have fun and live for today realizing that life is way too short not to.

In January 2015 we had planned to go to New Orleans on vacation to see some friends. Amy didn't know that I had been planning to ask her to marry me while we were there. I had the engagement ring made for her and had to sneak it in my carry-on bag without her finding it. On our second day of vacation, on the riverfront overlook, I asked her to marry me and to my delight, she said YES!

Once back in Wisconsin, our wedding planning began. We chose a vintage/rustic chic theme to complement both our styles. We wanted our wedding to be beautiful yet simple, fun, and memorable. We went to a wedding show in Appleton, ended up selecting a newly remodeled barn as our venue, found the perfect photographers, booked our photo booth and found our flower person. All of the other details started falling into place! When our big day came neither of us, surprisingly, was nervous.

CRYSTAL AND LUCAS PHOTOGRAPHY



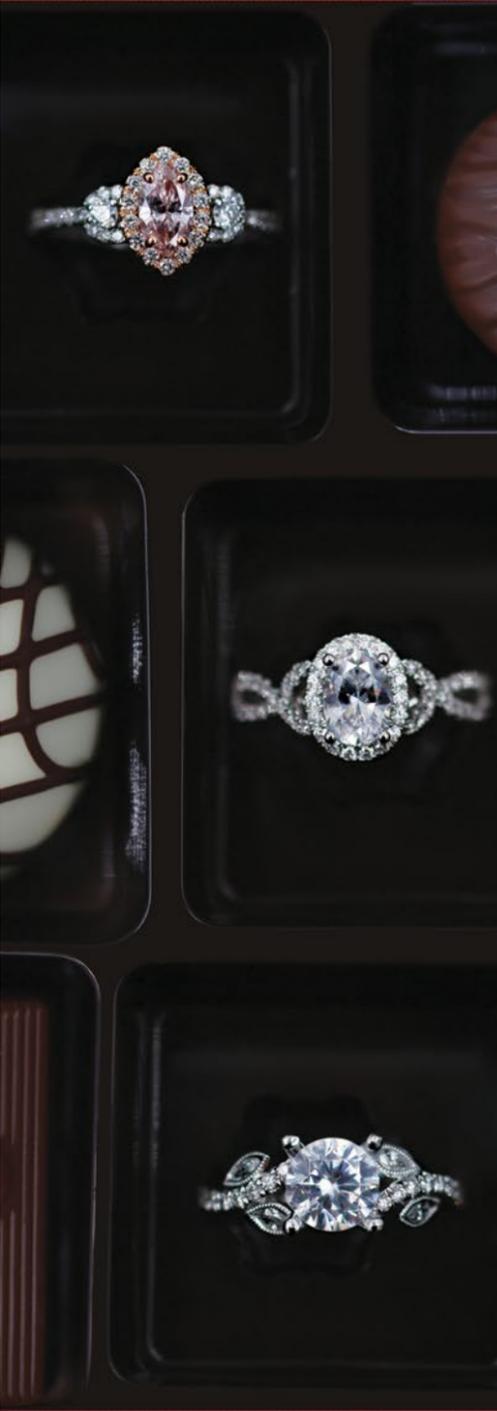
Our day was filled with personal and special touches, such as an angel figurine along with a blue rose next to the picture of my mom that we had placed at the front of the aisle in remembrance of her. We had asked our guests to give us a photo of their wedding day, too, which were displayed to remind them of their special day as we were celebrating ours! We asked Amy's cousin, Erin, to marry us. We didn't care for the title of bridal party so we had an "I DO CREW" which was awesome, the song "Eagle When She Flies" was played in remembrance of my mom, and a special reading from a close friend were some parts of our ceremony. As our symbol of absolute love, we chose to have a Love Letter Box that we'll open on our first anniversary and read the letters that we wrote to each other. We danced back down the aisle to "Walking On Sunshine." The fun continued to our reception, which was the best party that we could've thrown for our family and friends. We had selfie sticks in lieu of the tapping on



## JEWELER'S WORKSHOP

You see yourselves in each other,  
**WEAR YOUR STORY**





## Sweet & Simple

STEVEN SIEVERT & PHILIP KELLER

**MARRIED ON JUNE 4, 2016** in their backyard: Though we were engaged for many years and knew we wanted our wedding to be a celebration of love and life, it was hard to get started on planning. Then, in 2015, we bought a new home on Madison's east side. Our realtor, Rico Sabatini, joked with us that we could have the wedding in our backyard. That set the wheels in motion and from there it was full steam ahead.

As we were inviting 125 people to our yard, we met with our neighbors to share our plans. Their support was overwhelming. Our ceremony was simple, each writing our own vows and we had our friend, Eric Peterson, perform it for us. He spoke to not only the meaning of marriage, but to the progress made in marriage equality. In addition to vows and exchanging of rings, our two best men signed the license in front of all attendees, bearing witness that our marriage was not only a verbal commitment, but also a legal one.

For both of us, the day was more emotional than either could have foreseen. Our neighbors surprised us with a giant flag bearing our names waving on their flagpole. Since Steven's parents were not supportive and did not attend, Philip's godmother and aunt joined Steven as we both entered together to Queen's "You're My Best Friend." The biggest surprise was that after all the planning and formality, the actual ceremony became an intimate gathering with five men (two grooms, two best men, and our officiant) standing around a whiskey barrel with the sun at our backs surrounded by 120 friends, family, and neighbors. There were more tears than we could have imagined and more laughs than we could have predicted.

Looking back, our marriage did not change who we are or our commitment to each other. But it did change so very much. To call each other husband, to have shared the most intimate and moving moment of our life with others, and to know that the hard work of others pushing for marriage equality allowed our wedding to happen are things that we will always celebrate.

**VENDOR RECOMMENDATIONS** **Heidi Hodges Photography**, Sturgeon Bay: Heidi was amazing and captured the magic of the day. **A La Crate Vintage Rentals**, Madison: We opted for mismatched china and a multitude of other vintage pieces for the look. **Cranberry Creek Catering**, Madison: From the moment we met Jim, we knew that CC was a great fit. Jim and his crew went out of their way to make sure our guests were well fed and threw in some special touches for "the guys." **Two Bears and a Cupcake**, Deerfield: We've known Tom and Kevin for years and when asked to create custom flavors for cupcakes and a special cake, they delivered. And they cut out 750 tiny fondant stars for a special look! **Sunborn Flower Farm**, Mt. Horeb: Simple and beautiful flowers delivered with a smile and congratulations.

**PLANNING TIP** **1.** Hire a planner/coordinator. Our friend, Rebecca Jaworski, is an event planner and she took our ideas and brought them to life. **2.** Listen to each other. We each had visions of what our wedding would be like but if we did not take the time to listen to each other, small things that were important to each of us may have been overlooked. **3.** Don't sweat the little things. We opted for an outdoor wedding and worried about the weather as expected. But the other little things really did not matter. We were surrounded by friends, family, and neighbors, and we got married!

glasses, and instead of a traditional cake we had a dessert table with homemade desserts made by Auntie Margie and a cutting cake made by our close friend Anita. We had lots of fun in our photo booth and a DJ with karaoke (Amy is a wonderful singer) to dance and sing the night away! We ended our completely wonderful day/night with our photographer noticing lightning in the sky and asked us to go dance in the middle of the road, where they took the most spectacular photo of us. It's a symbol, which to us is of the excitement and love that we will have for many years to come!

**VENDOR RECOMMENDATIONS** **Chrystal and Lucas Photography**. Our photographers, Chrystal and Lucas, were absolutely amazing, to say the least! We cannot thank them enough for the hundreds of beautiful photos that they took and the laughs we all had together. We are still continually re-looking at our photos and can feel the emotion and love and fun through every one of the photos taken! We also met Chrystal in Milwaukee to have our engagement pictures taken which were also beautiful. These two are so much fun and are truly down to earth, all around great people.

**Simply Country Barn**. Jim and Carrie were wonderful to work with and did a great job making sure our day would be wonderful. Anagen11 Salon Stylists Jessica Wheeler and Jenn Mullard were phenomenal for hair and airbrush make-up! We had so much fun getting ready! KP Jewelers Karen is one of the best jewelers we've ever met. She can make you something personal and unique, or you can choose from her amazing selection of beautiful jewelry.

**Van Abel's of Hollandtown**. We had them cater our wedding, and they did an exceptional job. They customized the menu to our liking and even made special food for me due to a food allergy I have. PhotoMe-Fun Tina & Roger were very fun, professional, helpful and the price was great. My Beautiful Flowerz Tina took the time to make sure that what we wanted to have for our flowers were exactly that and within our budget. She met with us several times to be sure everything would be perfect. She also did an amazing job setting everything up the day of our wedding.

**PLANNING TIP** Start your day early! Make sure when planning out your budget that you remember to include taxes and tips. On your special day, make sure to take a few moments to STOP and look around: It flies by so fast that it's almost like a blur. Don't stress over the small stuff. If something doesn't go right or as planned, there's a 99.9% chance you will be the only one that knows. At the end of your day, you'll realize that no matter what, your day was amazing!

## Our Big, Queer Wedding

ABBY CHURCHILL & CHRIS SWOMLEY

**MARRIED ON OCTOBER 15, 2016** at Tenney Park, Madison: From the moment we began our planning, we knew we were going to have a big queer wedding. Our wedding was the perfect combination of both of our personalities: fun with a twist of serious, youthful with some

- Extraordinary historic landmark at the heart of the UW campus
- Simply elegant chapel seating up to 250 guests
- Close proximity to many downtown reception venues
- Charming hall with fireplace for intimate rehearsal dinner up to 70
- Newly renovated dining hall accommodating 114 for rehearsal dinners

**PRES HOUSE CHAPEL**  
 731 State Street, Madison, WI 53703  
 608.216.7319 • [preshouse.org](http://preshouse.org) • email: [wedding@preshouse.org](mailto:wedding@preshouse.org)

HEIDI HODGES PHOTOGRAPHY



**Ditcher**  
PHOTOGRAPHY  
SINCE 2002

robandsamphoto.com



## The Ultimate Surprise Party

NICK BAILLIES & CRAIG KRAMER

**SEPTEMBER 24, 2016** at the Opus Lounge, Madison: Though Craig popped the question on New Year's Eve 2009, it took seven years of considering locations, food, and décor for us to decide that the best way to plan our wedding...was to not plan a wedding at all. Craig and I followed a less-traditional path for our nuptials, hosting a surprise wedding ceremony in the middle of my 30th birthday party at the Opus Lounge in Madison. After all, we'd been together 11 years, had a long engagement (most of which was spent at Opus), and our commitment to each other was no surprise to those who know us. So we decided the right way for us to make it unexpected and special was to invite all our favorite people to celebrate my milestone birthday, and as I thanked everyone mid-way through for coming, we informed them there was one surprise left in store. Craig joined me in front of the crowd and we announced that not only is this my birthday celebration, but also our wedding. Our friend Rhiannon (one of only three individuals in on the secret) officiated. Craig's vows included things like "I pledge to listen to your advice and occasionally take it" and "I pledge to grab your butt even when we're wrinkly and old." Desserts were served promptly after the "I dos," as "This Is How We Do" by Katy Perry played as the first dance. We plan to spend the rest of our relationship honeymooning frequently, and not having kids.

**VENDOR RECOMMENDATIONS** Mandy Arnold at **Opus Lounge** did a fantastic job of accommodating all of our requests, including food, drinks, and the need to keep the wedding secret until the last minute, which you can guess included a vow of silence for the well-trained wait staff. **Guilty Pleasure Desserts** supplied delicious, decadent, and sweet treats infused with alcohol. **Spencer Micka Photography** captured the moment beautifully, and **FurMama's Kitchen** provided gourmet dog food samples to those guests with four-legged friends who couldn't attend.

**PLANNING TIP** As with any event, it was tough to find the right date that worked for everyone's schedules. Making sure to communicate the importance of the event was doubly challenging for us, given it was a secret. All in all, we were able to convince 95% of our guests to make attending a priority, and now we have a good excuse to spend a special time with those who couldn't attend but wanted to.

SPENCER MICKA PHOTOGRAPHY

"adulting" overtones, and loud/energetic with moments of quiet and serene. We incorporated some traditional elements into our wedding, such as having an ordained pastor conduct the ceremony and doing parents' dances. Even in these traditional elements, we added our own twist. We wanted to give our wedding party members the option of wearing either a suit or a dress, whichever was most comfortable for them. We decided to have two aisles for our ceremony, and rather than being escorted up by our fathers, we danced our own way up and down the two aisles. For us, it was important that the ceremony was not religious and our pastor, to her credit, abstained from any religious language. For our "guest book," we wanted to choose something practical and reusable. So rather than a book, we made our own giant Jenga pieces and asked folks to leave us a message on one of the blocks. We both love craft beer, so we gave each of our guests a pint glass with a design on it that we created ourselves. It was the outline of Wisconsin with a heart over Madison, which was my contribution, and our names and the date in Harry Potter font, which was Chris' contribution. All in all, we simply could not have made this wedding a more authentic expression of our own selves loving each other in our own unique ways.

Chris was brought up in a big Italian Catholic family. One special consideration we had to deal with prior to the wedding was how Chris was going to invite some of his family members without having previously come out to them as transgender. He decided to send each of them a handwritten letter informing them of his journey over the past six years. To our surprise, nearly all of them responded with resounding support and an outpouring of love, and enthusiastically booked their flights for the wedding shortly after receiving the letter. Although he did encounter some misgendering and a few other incidents, for the most part, the day was full of love and support for him, for me, and for our relationship together.

A good friend told me once that, as long as both Chris and I were still planning on showing up the day of the wedding, everything else didn't really matter. Wedding planning is super-stressful; it is easy to get so caught up that you don't see the forest beyond the trees. Once the day finally arrived, I was finally able to relax and let all of the plans we had put in place come together. Although I wouldn't dream of doing a big wedding again (and hopefully won't need to), I do not regret a single thing. Because at the end of the day, Chris and I had shown up, we had fun, and we threw a kick-ass party that will be remembered for years to come.



HANSON PHOTOGRAPHY



MODERN 608.258.4177  
events@overture.org  
LOVE



**Overture**  
CENTER

AN EXQUISITE EXPERIENCE  
FOR YOU AND YOUR GUESTS  
JUST STEPS FROM THE CAPITOL

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  
2014  
2015  
2016



jennifer brindley photography



Puts the "oh!"  
in hohoho

**CANDINAS**  
CHOCOLATIER

608.845.1545  
www.candinas.com

2435 Old PB  
Verona, WI 53593

11 West Main Street  
Madison, WI 53703



## Destination: Wedding

HILLARY & KATHERINE HUTCHESON

**MARRIED ON JANUARY 23, 2016** in Brandon, Florida: Our wedding day came way faster than we could have anticipated, but we remained calm throughout the entire morning leading up to the ceremony. We decided not to see each other from the time our rehearsal dinner ended until we came face to face at the ceremony. It made everything worth it when we saw the love in each other's eyes. We wrote our own vows and didn't share with each other what we had written. It caught us by surprise that we had touched on most of the same subjects in our vows. Things like the zombie apocalypse, socks in the bed, and peanut butter for low blood sugars (Katherine has been a Type 1 diabetic for 22 years) are some things we both put in our vows. It reaffirmed we really were made for each other.

For our unity ceremony we did something more unique to our relationship. Hillary has always loved working on cars, so she gifted me (Katherine) a Swiss Army pocket tool to represent the hard work that goes into a marriage, much like the hard work that goes into an old car. I gifted Hillary a jar of honey, as it represents the strength we have together to fight my diabetes. To make the day feel more important to us as a couple, we made almost all the decorations for the reception. We spent hours together making wooden signs for the bar, cake table, ceremony site, and card signing table. We also made a sign to use as a guest book. It made the day more intimate not only for us, but also for our guests.

When it came to music, we made sure to pick songs that meant something to us and not just something that would make our guests happy. We walked down the aisle to Mary Lambert's "She Keeps Me Warm," a song we've sung to each other numerous times while driving in the car.

The day flew by in the blink of an eye, something everyone said would happen but something we never believed. You spend months and months planning such an important day, and in a short few hours it is all gone. But looking back, we can remember every detail of the day like it was yesterday.

**VENDOR RECOMMENDATIONS** **Casa Lantana** of Brandon, FL. Casa Lantana was an all-inclusive venue. The owner of the venue, Giselle, doubled as our wedding planner. She was beyond amazing. She made sure every single detail was dealt with and handled without putting any stress on us. She welcomed us with open arms, a feeling we did not get with other venues we toured. We were told by many couples after our wedding that it was the most beautiful wedding they had been to. We have to give all our thanks to Giselle and her team.

**PLANNING TIP** Don't sweat the small stuff—seriously! As long as the major planning is done, have fun with the rest. Don't let your big day cause you stress. It is seriously not worth it. Everything will work itself out in the end. This is a day to soak in the love of your new spouse and all the friends and family surrounding you. Putting yourself in a bad mood because your napkins are the wrong shade of blue is not worth the few hours of immense joy you are giving up, on a day you will never get back. Let it all go!

**VENDOR RECOMMENDATIONS** **Hanson Photography!** Please see our "Planning Tip" for our glowing review of Hanson Photography.

**DJ Steel:** Adam Steele was an absolute delight to work with. Like most of our vendors, our first question to him was, "This is going to be a very queer wedding. What's your experience working with the LGBT community?" His response: "I am LGBT friendly, and am appalled by all forms of hate, prejudice, and discrimination." He was quite attuned with the mood on the dance floor, was very generous with his time and his equipment, and allowed us to steer the music selections while he seamlessly added his own flavor. Thanks, DJ Steel!

Finally, **Scott Staples with Du Hair.** Scott is genuine and kind. He was flexible, professional, and a calming presence when I was trying to keep the anxiety at bay. He is very talented, and I look forward to returning to his studio for many years to come.

**PLANNING TIP** Take the time to make sure your photographer is not only LGBTQ-friendly, but actively supporting the LGBTQ community. We went to one of the yearly bridal expos in Madison and spent three hours asking about this at each photography table. Although most photographers were open to "shooting a same-sex wedding" (their words, not mine), most had no experience with it and one outright informed us that she "just doesn't do those things." We almost gave up after that, but thank goodness we did not. The very last table we went to was Hanson Photography. When I asked my question, the person at the booth jumped up and shouted, "I've been waiting for someone to ask me that question all day!" From then on, our photographer Elizabeth was our greatest advocate. I simply could not recommend them any more highly; Elizabeth and Alex are some of the best photographers and most wonderful people we have ever had the pleasure of working with.

## State(s) of the Union

MERCURY & MAC STARDUST-DEVILLE

**MARRIED ON OCTOBER 7, 2016** in Eagle Point Park, Dubuque, IA: Mac and I have a long-distance, bisexual, poly relationship and it's built off of a lot of communication and honesty. Our wedding day was a representation of how our love is all we truly need. We didn't



BRITNEY NEIS PHOTOGRAPHY



## Lead by Life, Surrounded by Light

MICHAEL DIX & SERGIO DE LA O

**DECEMBER 31, 2015** in Mount Horeb: At 7 p.m. of the last day of December 1,750 votive candles illuminated our country home. They lay upon our windowsills, layered in bookcases, light seeping from every room. One thousand long stem white and red roses filled the room with gentle scents of love. As our guests entered the illumination of our loving home they were met with glowing roses. We kept it simple and yet it turned out so perfect.

I'd met Sergio just three months earlier on a random gay dating app and now we were planning a wedding. There were so many unanswered questions we had for each other, not really knowing who the other person really is. Up to that point we only had a few dates, since Sergio was working two jobs, 16-hour days with little time off. Does he fold his underwear, or is he like me, just throwing them in the drawer? We were committed to compromising where we could and holding ground when it felt right.

I asked my mentor Mary Olson from the Magnificent Living Institute if she could marry the both of us. She said yes, but then discovered that she had a conflict on that day and would not be available. I then called my dear friend Mary Elizabeth Allen who I have known since I landed in Madison. Liz said she would find a way to help us on our journey. We met with her, and she came well prepared to make sure we were both committed to making this matrimonial bond last. Being an open vessel and believing in a greater good, I received a call from Mary Olson that she would change her plans and yes she would be there on New Year's Eve. That left us with two Marys bonding our love for each other on that bountiful day. How many times in life does this happen? Being open for the possibilities of Divine intervention, that special moment in time, the world opens up. As my mother would say, "It gives me goose shivers."

The one thing I learned during all of this is that when you marry a Latino, the wedding party never stops—even if you do. Our loving illuminated home turned from wedding chapel to a banquet facility to a dance hall. With one fell swoop, our 80 guests transformed our home from one thing to the next. We dined on authentic Mexican cuisine, drank margaritas that flowed from a challis, and danced until five in the morning.

We awoke to a houseful of guests that spent the night. It was like a big slumber party. Life always has a way of working out. Just two short years ago I wrote an article for this magazine, "A Custard Kind of Guy," revealing my often-tumultuous journey toward self-love. I then went on to write and publish a book, *This Soul's Journey* about my path to enlightenment. We never know who we are going to meet, or when. Being truly open with ourselves opens the door to immense illumination and love.

**VENDOR RECOMMENDATIONS** **Aztlan Mexican Grill** catered and was oh, so good. Our guests loved the food.

**BEST PLANNING PROTIP** I proposed to Sergio on Thanksgiving Day in front of dear friends and family. After the proposal, I asked him when he would like to get married. He responded with December 31st and I asked, "This year?" That left us just 36 days to prepare for our wedding. There were four

need the crowds of unfamiliar faces, or high-priced venue, or all of the reception headaches. All we focused on were the 90 minutes of our wedding. We got married in Dubuque, but we were in a park that overlooked the Wisconsin tree line. It was a lovely way to represent our backgrounds, since I was born and raised in Wisconsin and Mac lives in Iowa.

It was as if the weather stayed clear just for us. The temperature was perfect and the lighting was ideal for our photos. To top it all off, we stayed at the historic Hotel Julian in Dubuque and spent our evening ordering room service and sitting in our hot tub watching the rain hitting the hill tops. It was a beautiful end to a beautiful first day as husband and wife.

**VENDOR RECOMMENDATIONS** **Britney Neis Photography.**

**PLANNING TIP** Plan far ahead of time, because everything gets more expensive and way more stressful the closer you get to the date.

things we wanted: Flowers, candles, deep love from those we invited, and getting married in the evening. With little time to prepare, we left the small details to the ones we love. The big items we took care of, the rest we called family and friends to handle. There is no perfect wedding, and once you let go it will all be perfect.

## Get a Theme, Get a Clue

DANIEL DAVIS & SETH MILLER

**MARRIED ON NOVEMBER 12, 2016** in Olbrich Gardens, Madison: We wanted our wedding to be relaxed and fun, and not at all traditional, as we are not traditional. Neither of us harbored dreams of grand weddings with an expansive guest list. We have a small, close group of family and friends who are very important to us, and we thought of our wedding as being as much for them as for us. That we kept the wedding small also made it more intimate, so that we were able to have conversations with all of our guests, rather than having time for only brief congratulations.

The way we approached our wedding was organic, as in first we found the venue. Once we secured Bolz Conservatory, we thought of the Clue theme, which is among Seth's favorite games and movies. Our guests loved the idea of dressing as characters, and the theme of the wedding grew from there.

In order for our wedding to come together the way we wanted, it took a lot of creativity from not just our friends and family, but also all of our vendors who were so readily enthusiastic and up to the task. It was a joy to be with people who were so committed to the wedding theme, and had fun doing it. Noticing that we've used the word "fun" twice already, that we and our guests have fun was paramount on our list of what we wanted for our wedding day. We love to laugh and enjoy life, and that was what we wanted and got for our wedding.

The day of the wedding was not without its unforeseen snafus, and despite the small amount of stress associated with the unexpected, we did our best to be flexible and roll with it. We like to say that 95% of what we planned came together without any hiccups, and with the 5% that didn't, we just changed plans. There were no groomzillas—well, not that we'll admit to, anyway.

What was probably most surprising about the wedding was the emotional impact it had on us. Seth and I have been together for 10 years and had always said that we would never get married. A year ago, quite spontaneously, we changed our minds and decided to

forge ahead with our marriage commitment. With all of the planning we put into the wedding, the luck of finding the awesome people we did in our vendors, and our emphasis that our wedding was to be an unforgettable party, we didn't anticipate the emotional overwhelm of actually speaking our vows to each other, for the first time, in front of our closest family and friends. We're not really sure of the word or words to describe it, but the feeling was incredibly powerful, shook our voices, and moved our guests.

**VENDOR RECOMMENDATIONS** The horror-themed wedding cake was done by Lindsay at **Gigi's Cupcakes**. We highly recommend them especially if you are going for an original, unique cake. Our cake was exactly what we wanted, and we had high expectations.

**Olbrich Gardens** was a fantastic place to have our wedding. The conservancy fit the Clue theme very well, and it was also great to have such a large space for our guests to walk around in. The atmosphere inside the conservancy definitely added to the wedding experience.

**Louisanne's Etc.** in Middleton was a great location for our guests to enjoy dinner. The restaurant owner, Gwen, was very accommodating and joined us in our festivities. In fact, we ended up making a late night with the staff, whom were all gracious and a delight. Our friends and family raved about the food.

We highly recommend our photographers Samantha and Rob from **Dutcher Photography**. They were incredibly professional and flexible, and all-around great people. Because our wedding had a theme, they dressed to join in. Also, they turned around our photographs much sooner than expected and agreed upon, allowing our friends and family to enjoy the photos much sooner.

**PLANNING TIP** One of Seth's favorite sayings is, "It's better to be lucky than good."

Our best planning tip is to be lucky. We were incredibly lucky. We went to several wedding shows and expos and were underwhelmed with a lot of what we saw. We can't say for certain whether we actually encountered any of the vendors we chose at any of these wedding shows, we certainly don't remember it if we did.

We found Dutcher Photography in an *Our Lives* Wedding Featurette, went to their website, and loved what we saw. Other than that, we did Google searches, went to venues early and multiple times, and spoke with people in charge. In all but one instance, after meeting with the people in charge, we went with our first choice because we liked them so much right out of the gate. ■



DUTCHER PHOTOGRAPHY



- ARLINGTON**  
1 Randy Anhalt & Nicholas Rich
- ASHLAND**  
13 David & Teege Mettill
- BARABOO**  
16 David & Ryan Berahn ✓  
4 John Shumaker & Clint Zurbuchen ♥  
2 Casy Netzloff & Jennifer Severson ♥
- BEAVER DAM**  
2.5 Julie & Nikki Tesch  
1 Rick Breselow & Casey McIntyre
- BELLEVILLE**  
5 Ashley & Kari Oscar  
3 Andrea & Sheena Hirschfield ✓

- BELOIT**  
14 Joanne & Tina Lenz-Mandt ✓  
3 Ami & Jaimie Christophersen ✓
- BLACK EARTH**  
14 Philip Frank & Mark Pohan
- BOSCOBEL**  
41 T.J. Meehan & Larry Ortt ✓
- BROOKLYN**  
21 Cheryl Hack & Myrna Peterson ✓
- CAMBRIDGE**  
43 Mim Jacobson & Marian Korth  
19 Huck Gent & Courtney Jenkins ★
- CASCADE**  
5 Vincent Guell & Dylan Wright

- CHETEK**  
7 Kristine Gotch & Jennifer Holm
- CLINTONVILLE**  
3 Katie Harder & Heidi Boelk
- COLUMBUS**  
6 Ben Bisbach & Cody Egan  
5.5 Bonnie Gutsch & Heidi Hershberger ✓
- COTTAGE GROVE**  
17 Jennifer Frisch & Tina Rogers Frisch ✓  
10 Michelle Melsby & Loti Van Himbergen ✓  
6 Carlos & Perry Edge-Gross ✓
- CROSS PLAINS**  
8 Holly Ellickson & Corissa Miller

**Bold**  
Couples who are married.

♥  
Couples who are engaged.

✓  
Couples on WI's Domestic Partnership Registry.

★  
Straight couples identified as allies.

# Love Trumps Hate.

## 2017 LOVE LIST: CELEBRATING WISCONSIN'S LGBTQ RELATIONSHIPS



By being a part of the Love List, almost 500 LGBTQ couples from across Wisconsin are helping us recognize and celebrate our relationships while also creating connections and visibility for our entire community. This is one of our annual ways to lift up *Our Lives* readers from across the state while creating a portrait of love that reflects our diverse community.

**PUBLISHER'S NOTE:** To protect against trans\* and bi invisibility, **only LGBTQ-identified relationships** are represented in photos. Allies appear in the list text.

- ALTOONA**  
2.5 Logan & Shann Krukowski ✓
- APPLETON**  
25 Elizabeth Miller & Maureen O'Gara ✓  
18 Helen Boyd & Rachel Crowl  
13 Sam & Sara Rabideau ✓  
10 Chuck Erickson & E-Ben Grisby ✓  
10 Kathy Flores & Ann Kendzierski ✓  
8 Patrick & Ryan Platta ✓  
4.5 Gail & Juke Cardo ♥  
3 Bethany & Catherine Johnson ✓

**DANE COUNTY CREDIT UNION**  
www.dccu.us  
608 256-5665 • 800 593-3228  
We stand for you

**COMMUNITY SHARES OF WISCONSIN**  
Proud Supporter



**Bold**  
Couples who are married.

♥  
Couples who are engaged.

✓  
Couples on WI's Domestic Partnership Registry.

★  
Straight couples identified as allies.

- DEFOREST**
- 6 Kim Pavlat & Tina Spahn ♥
  - 4 Annie Getsinger & Andi Weinstock ♥
- DENMARK**
- 1 Megan Goodlet & Lee Werner ♥
- DODGEVILLE**
- 1.5 Ashley & Rebecca Radue M
- EAU CLAIRE**
- 14 Kim Dahlstrom & Christina Milton ✓
  - 11 Daniel Djubenski & Brandon Litwiller ✓
  - 9 Chad & Brad Knelson
- EDGERTON**
- 13 Amy Kongsli & Michelle Paulman
  - 10 Brian Rennard & Patrick Zimmerman
  - 9 Mandy Ingram & Sarah Korpi ✓
  - 4.5 Jori Conca & EJ Sommerfeld

- EGG HARBOR**
- 8 Moises & Ryan Zahler ✓
- EVANSVILLE**
- 11 Linda Arrowood & Gwen Goos ✓
  - 9.5 Mary Luchsinger & Taylor Robbins
  - 4 Carol & Kim Foglestad
- FITCHBURG**
- 24 Sam Gauger & Karen Stampfli
  - 23 Michele Perreault & Stephanie Spoehr
  - 17 Devery Cash & Darren Kittleson ✓
  - 16 Cory & Dereck Barr-Pulliam ✓
  - 12 Lisa Koenecke & Angela Prestil ♥ ✓
  - 7 Jill Muenich & Laura Webster
  - 6.5 Rodney Lewis & Kyle Myers
  - 6 Ryan Crose & Steven Heller
  - 4 Eric Ignarski & Michael Ruiz
  - 4.5 Bertha Cruz & Katrina Johnson ♥
  - 4.5 David Ryan-Sukup & Justin Sukup
  - 3.5 Alicia Fitzgerald & Deborah Hamill

- 3 Tina Hallmark & Caitlyn Lee
  - 3 Sam Rettke & Brittany Simler
  - 2.5 De Bavery & Danielle Worzalla
  - 2 Aaron Carreno & Ryan Piaskowy
  - 1 Ginny Hesness & Marissa Landgraf
  - 1 Dustin Miller & Travis Rickert
- FOND DU LAC**
- 5 Nate Sipe & Lance Canoe ♥
  - 4 Lissa & Tricia Carr-Lembcke
- FORT ATKINSON**
- 16 Amy & Stephanie Rappold
- GLENDALE**
- 18 Cindy & Jennifer Mangan-Moore ✓
  - 5 Gary & Jeremy Cooper-Sperber ✓
- GRANTSBURG**
- 4 Dawn & Sarah Goodman
- GREEN BAY**
- 25 Todd Crasper & Gregory Diring ✓



- 21 Christophe Coshenet & Jean-Baptiste Serrant ♥
  - 15 Angie & Deanne Kowalzek-Adrians ✓
  - 5 Natalie & Paul Rose
  - 3 Allison & Natasha Wolf ✓
  - 0.5 Tim Holl & Bryan Lipke
- GREENFIELD**
- 15 Steven Negrete & Migel Sendejo
  - 4 Valen Meeks & Elizabeth Ramirez-Soto ✓
- HILLSBORO**
- 6.5 Brandon Larson & Albert Wood ✓
- HOLMEN**
- 10 Aaron & Scott Klawiter-Grosskopf

- HULL**
- 15 Lorie Dobrzynski & Melanie Kuolt ✓
- JANESVILLE**
- 16 Alexis & Jennifer Cloute
  - 14 Jay Schleker & Josh Siedschlag ✓
  - 11 Kimberly Blanchette & Colleen Frentzel
  - 6 Jenna Lazzaroni & Casandra Robbins ♥
  - 4 Daniel & David Malchow-Davis ✓
- JEFFERSON**
- 3 Hillary & Katherine Hutcheson
- KAUKAUNA**
- 11 Karen & Stephanie Anderson ✓
  - 7.5 Robert Gulig & Scott Webber ✓
  - 6 Jana & Susan Richards ✓

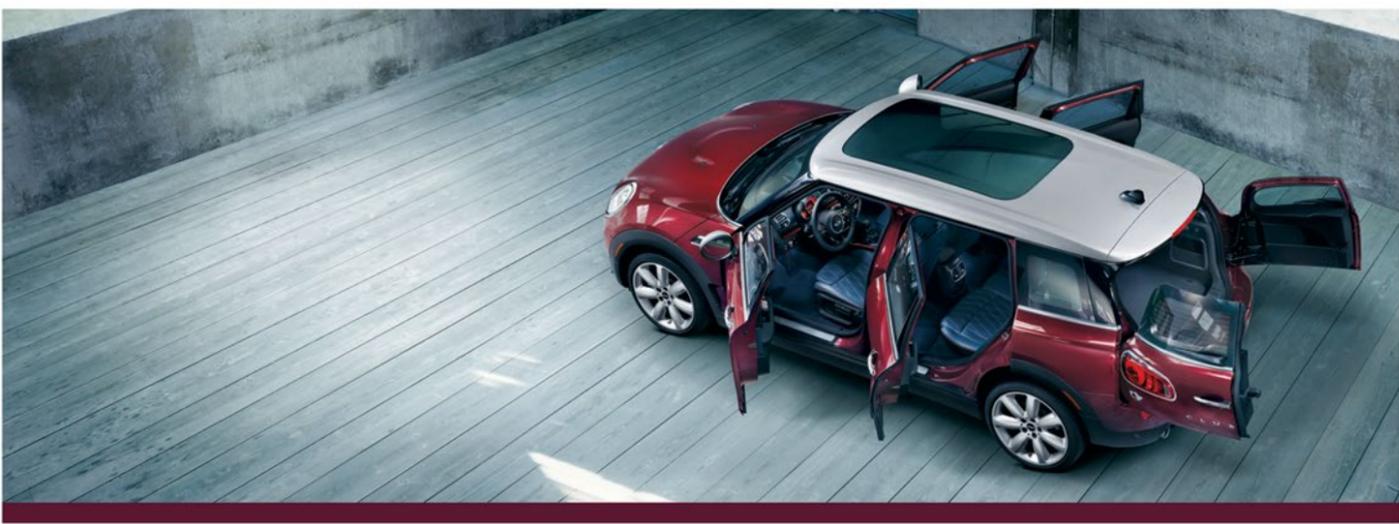
- 4.5 Amy Kaminski & Danae Verhasselt
- KENOSHA**
- 2.5 Jenna Balek & Mandy Stephens ♥
  - 1.5 Johnice Miller & Whitney Owen ♥
  - 1 Daniel Hess & Tyler Arentz ♥
- LA CROSSE**
- 25 Tara DeLong & Willem Van Roosenbeek
- LA FARGE**
- 25 David & Joseph Rogan-Nordstrom
- LA POINTE**
- 25 Glenn Carlson & Michael Childers ✓
- LAKE GENEVA**
- 42 Beth & Jody Rendall
  - 6.5 Andrea Hurd & Sandra Olson

**Bold**  
Couples who are married.

♥  
Couples who are engaged.

✓  
Couples on WI's Domestic Partnership Registry.

★  
Straight couples identified as allies.



**THOSE WHO DEFY LABELS,  
DEFINE THEMSELVES**



**MINI of Madison**  
310 West Beltline Highway  
Madison, WI 53713

608-729-MINI (6464)  
MINIOFMADISON.COM



**Alicia Stevenson**  
MINI Motoring Advisor  
608-729-6442  
Mon 8:30 AM to 8:00 PM  
Tues 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

© 2016 MINI USA, a division of BMW of North America, LLC.  
The MINI name, model names and logo are registered trademarks.

### Bold

Couples who are married.



Couples who are engaged.



Couples on WI's Domestic Partnership Registry.



Straight couples identified as allies.

### LANNON

11 Juan Anzaldúa & Edward Anzaldúa-Buth ✓

### LONE ROCK

16 Ted Haglund & Charles Munch

### MADISON

55 Clarence Cameron & Robert Lockhart

48 Chuck Bauer & Chuck Beckwith ✓

41 Raphael Kadushin & Thomas McGhee

40 Paul Grossberg & Dean Ziemke

40 Sunshine Jones & Joann Kelley

39 Betty Harris & J. Corkey Custer ★

37 Janice Czynson & Crystal Hyslop

37 Lee Melahn & Rick Shaver

36 Louie Phillips & Brian Schultz

35 Nancy Buckwalter & Sue Hughes ✓

35 Danielle Dresden & Donna Peckett

35 Larry Seeman & Keith Stephens ✓

34 Melissa Keyes & Ingrid Rothe ✓

34 Sue Currier &

Janis Nussbaum Senungetuk ✓

34 John Cannon & John Fritsch

33 Darren & Stephanie Bush ★

33 Tom DeChant & Paul Gibling

32 Val Hodgson & MC Reisdorf

32 Michael Bemis & Duane Hansen

31 Deb & Ocean Meir ✓

31 Karen Milner & Elizabeth Petty ✓

29 Lois Bradley & Pat Framke

28 Mare Chapman & Pam Porter

28 Dale Decker & Chad LaFlash ✓

28 Jim Chiolino & David Heuer

27 Sondra Dalton & Brenda Swenson ✓

26 Patricia Blair & Pamela Stangl ✓

24 Kenneth Kaiser & Richard Schober

23 Franck Meunier & John Strasser ✓

23 Susan Oshman & Tamara Seeker ✓

23 Richard Butler & Charles Klauer ✓

22 Michael McFadden & Steven Scholze ✓

22 Judy Seymour & Mary Sykes ✓

22 Liz Lauer & Nina Lewohl

22 Eldonna Hazen & Cathy Noth

21 Judith Howard & Amy Scarr ✓

21 Deborah Daniel & Linda Novinger ✓✓

21 Rene Christesen & Karen Larson ✓

21 Carrie Beitlich & Amy Clements

20 Kimberly Fisher & Linda Ketcham

20 Catherine Briggs & Marty Fox

20 Peter Barden & Kirk Williams

19 Jennifer Wagner & Rebecca Wennlund

19 Martin Christopher & David Landre ✓

19 Thomas Gillen & Brian Widder

19 Liz Dannenbaum & Donna Winter ✓

18 Roberto Amezcua & Dennis Sokolik

18 Mary Hitchcock & Michelle Sawyer ✓

18 Cessely Block & Lu Wichlacz ✓

18 Keith Borden & Johannes Wallmann

17 Jordan Bingham & Heather Stouder ✓

17 Eric Appleton & Rick Bristol ✓

17 Robert Klebba & David Waugh

17 Carol Nelson & Nancy Speir

17 Scott Bennett & Landon Petersen

16 Carolyn Bell & Elisa Welch ✓

16 Jen Ferstl & Jamesetta Fousek ✓

16 Patrick Hoeth & Keith Lupien

16 Brett Butzman & Bernie Parish ✓

16 Terry Heiliger & James Moe ✓

16 Joanna Fenner & Choua Her



# Touchdown



Whether on the field of cheering from the stands, football helped bring **Stefanie** and **Natalie Brettingen-Nash** together from across a country to build a family together.

**STEFANIE:** We met doing what we love; playing football. It was the 2011 IWFL Playoffs and my Wisconsin Warriors were set to play her Portland Shockwave, with a chance to play in the Western Conference Championship on the line. Well, we won and it wasn't until several weeks later that we formally met at the All Star game in Texas. I'd been named to the team and she snuck on—luckily for me. I got a concussion in the game and she made fun of me for getting hurt, and after that I couldn't stop thinking about her. We became Facebook friends and talked there, until I so bravely asked for her number. That's a lie, I told her I was going on a Facebook break and gave her my number. We started texting. Since she lived on the west coast, it was hard to strike up a relationship, but then came the bet. I made a bet that if her Baltimore Ravens beat the Washington Redskins in a preseason game, I would fly her out to visit me. The Ravens won and she came out to see me, I took her to Navy Pier for our first official date. It's been five years strong, and we were married December 23, 2013 in Washington and currently live in Kewaskum, Wisconsin. On March 24, 2015 we welcomed a beautiful son named Deakon to our family and hope to add a brother or sister soon.

**NATALIE:** I remember leaving Texas thinking what another great football weekend, nothing more. Then I remember telling my friends about how the Warrior's QB had started messaging me. I remember my friends and I deciding to Facebook creep on her. Her status said something about lunch with an ex-boyfriend, so then I assumed she was only talking to me to have someone else to talk football with. Then came the bet.

It wasn't until right before I flew out that I realized she liked me. We hit it off and I had a great time, but I didn't have any intentions of seeing her again. I was supposed to go to Vegas with friends, but they flaked on me. I asked Stefanie if she wanted me to change my flight to visit again. She said yes, and we had another great weekend. I liked her, but had just gotten out of a long-distance relationship and didn't another. She told me it was either we dated or she didn't want to talk anymore. I didn't want to date her, but I didn't want to stop talking either. She felt so natural to be with and was so easy to talk to. I didn't want to give that up.

We began to date, and were engaged seven months later. I moved to Wisconsin five months after that. We were legally married in Washington because it wasn't legal here yet. Just over a year later we drove to Iowa, during a snowstorm, while I was in labor to have our first child. That way we both would be on the birth certificate and his legal parents. In the next couple of months we are going to start trying for baby number two. We've had lots of challenges and many obstacles in our relationship but everything continues to be so easy and natural with us. It feels like we were truly meant to be and she is my soul mate. Five years later we are going strong and I can't wait to spend the rest of my life with her and our family! ■

## TIPS & TRENDS

### A reflection of individual style



GOODMAN'S JEWELERS  
JOHN HAYES, PRESIDENT

We're seeing an increase in yellow gold and rose gold. This gives people more choices for unique designs. Combining two or more colors or all yellow or all rose gold can make for more unique jewelry. We are helping people with engagement rings and wedding rings to reflect their own individual style. Also trending is the use of color gemstones for engagement rings. We've made rings with a range of colored Sapphires, Alexandrite, Opal, Emerald, Morganite, and Ruby. Your ring should be what you want it to be, and we will help you make it just right.

### Joining forces in the fight for equality



FAIR WISCONSIN  
MEGIN MCDONNELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Nonprofit and social justice organizations have always been good at working together to maximize limited resources. In the past year the Wisconsin Transgender Health Coalition, a diverse statewide coalition of individuals and organizations, stands out. The WTHC has organized our collective efforts to end discrimination against the transgender and gender non-conforming community. We've come together around public policy and legislation, violence prevention, public health, research, and community building. I am so excited to work together, and I expect great things to happen in the year to come.



At the OutReach LGBT Pride Parade we invited attendees to have their picture taken at our booth. This is what Madison pride looks like.

Learn more at [designcraftadvertising.com](http://designcraftadvertising.com)



### Bold

Couples who are married.



Couples who are engaged.



Couples on WI's Domestic Partnership Registry.



Straight couples identified as allies.

- 15 Chris Meyer & Heather Wentler ★
- 15 Lindsay Raftis & Alicia Stevenson ✓
- 15 Cynthia & Jessica Bachhuber ✓
- 14 Jocelyn Lepinski & Daisy Quintal
- 14 Olwen & Shelley Hansen-Blake ✓
- 14 Amanda Berg & Becca Schmitz ✓
- 14 Renee & Shari Roll-Currie ✓
- 14 Carla Babiarz & Marilyn Hanold
- 13 Joey Broyles & Danny Atwater
- 13 Megin & Scott McDonell ★
- 13 Lesley & Kris Glodoski Wolf ✓
- 13 Randy Cornell & Jess Salek
- 13 Judy & Lizette Shaffer-Altamirano
- 12 Jennifer Cox & Lela Cunningham ✓
- 12 Scott Burfield & Trevin Gay
- 12 Nick Drake & Emily Mills
- 12 Dean Nett & Alan Strozak
- 12 Karen Darcy & Beth McConnell ✓
- 12 Virginia Harrison & Melissa Peyton ✓
- 12 Nick Baillies & Craig Kramer
- 11 Robin Bechhofer & Pat Lambert ✓
- 11 Eric Borchert & Timmo Dugdale
- 11 Julie & Monika Nischik

- 11 Nathan Mathis-Vargas & Steven Vargas-Mathis
- 11 Donald Haar & Steven Starkey ✓
- 10 Andrew & Noah Carrillo
- 10 Amanda & Dawn Siebert-Evenstone ✓
- 10 Jen & Kelly Yates ✓
- 10 Tony Jamieson & Rob Van Nevel
- 10 Bradley Tabor & Tim Walters ✓
- 10 Jeff Clark & Tim Hagen ✓♥
- 10 Ryan Parkos & Chris Sina ♥
- 10 Judith Davidoff & Rhonda Lanford ✓
- 10 Jay Edgar & Joshua Feyen ✓
- 10 Carolyn & Ruth Barker-Bowman ✓
- 10 Rebecca & Summer Laird ✓
- 10 Philip Keller & Steven Sievert ✓
- 10 Tina Dorschel & Andrea Wipperfurth
- 10 Kim Erickson & Katie Kuehl
- 10 Lisa Buchanan & Shawna Kollath
- 10 Philip Renner & Marco Torrez-Miranda
- 9.5 Beth Hanson & Kandis Severin
- 9.5 Robin Goldman & Kemllen Lee
- 9 Andrea Bill & Chops Seggerman
- 9 Bonnie & Sarah Schulte

- 9 Laura Jeske & Erin Todd ✓
- 9 Katy Conley & Leonie Dolch
- 9 Mel Freitag & Amber Sowards
- 9 Melissa Dittmer-Herrmann & Molly Herrmann
- 9 Jeanine Hutcherson & Tricia Johnson
- 9 Donna Schmitt & Jennifer Vance
- 9 Lana Lawrence & Louise Stout ✓
- 9 Lee Kampa & Eric Sedelmaier
- 9 Toni Hale & Tess Kramer-Gaie
- 8 Kayla Pollock & Jess Weber ♥
- 8 Chrystal & Heather Seeley-Schreck ✓
- 8 James & Shawnee Parens
- 8 Ellen Hebron & Melvyn Marcum
- 8 Elisa Derickson & Dan Krueger
- 8 Dana Crumpton & Ronald Lee ♥
- 7 Hillary & Sarah Barnes
- 7 Jamie Degrazio & Holly Hieronim ♥
- 7 Joshua Reilly & Michael Westbury ♥
- 7 Juliet & Marlo Darken ✓
- 7 David Groth & Michael Watton
- 7 Laura Steig & Jackie Summerton ✓
- 6.5 Heather Abney & Paula Orton ✓♥



## Unexpected Optimism



Love when they least expected it, and most needed it, brought **Minta Dwyer** and **Camden Hargrove** together and put life's important things into joyful perspective.

**MINTA:** I love loving him. My best friend was quick to remind me one afternoon when I was irritated about something completely inconsequential that I totally and completely love loving Camden. Camden is sweet and giving, kind and goofy, and he holds this incredible optimism in his heart and his voice that I had long given up on, trading it in for an overarching cynicism and an anger at all things and people too eager or overly excitable. Then, the darling "manny" of my baby girl for the previous three years moved into my upstairs, needing a temporary shelter and friend to relax with. As a single mom living alone and working full time while attempting to date, the arrangement worked in my favor. Camden went from annoyingly chatty and overbearing in his sweetness, to someone I could not stop dreaming about. I fell hard.

Falling for someone I had known in the capacity of a caregiver and a young queer in the community was shocking, to say the least. His smile, his bad jokes, and his love for my daughter were overwhelming. We were not together very long before his 10-years dormant epilepsy and my then 5-year-old's latent Chiari (a brain malformation) became central issues in our lives. Camden was so loving and solid and present. We had a lot on our plates, to say the least, and I never doubted his commitment to us for one second. My life and his became comfortably intertwined, and I no longer wanted to picture a life without him as a central piece. I had fallen for the manny. His optimism has continued to amaze me, his eagerness to change the world endearing and honorable, and his bad jokes have become a favorite part of my days. I am wild about this guy. I simply love loving him.

**CAMDEN:** Minta is the love of my life. She makes me happy everyday and I feel lucky to be her partner. I've loved Minta since I walked into her living room one morning while she was breast feeding Joella and the sun was shining on them and I knew those were my lifetime loves. From then on I tried (unsuccessfully for many years) to get her to love me back. Eventually, she gave me a chance and I couldn't be happier that she did. Minta always makes me smile and laugh and remember to enjoy all the little things. She knows me better than anyone else and always knows how to make me smile when I'm upset, she always knows how to bring down my anxiety and always loves me for who I am. She is the best mom to our two daughters and she inspires me to be a better parent when I watch her with our kids. I lovingly call her my "good wife, good life" because she is always there for me and always does little things so I know she is always thinking about me and taking care of me. Since I travel for work all the time she always packs me little things in my bag that I didn't even know I needed until I find them. I could not love her any more; she's truly amazing!

## TIPS & TRENDS

### Legal means less rush, more customization



JEWELER'S WORKSHOP  
JASON BRADEN, PRESIDENT & DESIGNER

A couple of years ago we had LGBTQ couples who had been together for decades needing rings in a couple of days. These days it is far less rushed. We get to take more time in the design process. We have seen many couples continue to use sapphires instead of diamonds in engagement rings, but also a dramatic rise in people requesting lab-grown diamonds which are identical to mined diamonds both visually and on a molecular level. Lab-grown diamonds are less expensive, 100% conflict-free and considered by many to be a greener alternative to mined diamonds.

Vintage inspired rings with halos in either white gold or platinum have been all the rage for some time. But that seems to be changing quickly. Every month, we see more and more couples going with yellow gold and/or more modern designs. As artists we are happy to see a greater diversity of design requests.

### Tailor-made ceremonies



KORU CEREMONY  
REV. PAT WERK, OFFICIANT

Many couples spend a tremendous amount of time searching for new ideas and trends in order to make their wedding unique. They want to be intimately involved in all aspects of their wedding day. Gone are the days when couples are given a ceremony script and their names are added in the blanks.

*purrersonal matchmaking for every family!*



Angel's Wish

WWW.ANGELSWISH.ORG

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

### Bold

Couples who are married.



Couples who are engaged.



Couples on WI's Domestic Partnership Registry.



Straight couples identified as allies.

- 6.5 Zach Gillis & Colin McMullen ♥
- 6.5 **Jon Dean & Larry Palm**
- 6.5 Jason Rush & Troy Theis ✓
- 6.5 Toni Baker & Stephanie Graham
- 6 **Jennifer Justice & Stormy-Kito Justice**
- 6 Jami Degrazio & Holly Hieronim ♥
- 6 **Chelsea & Dana Rowe** ✓
- 6 **Dawn & Jacqui Scott-Papke** ✓
- 6 **Victoria Echeverria & Natalie Hinckley**
- 6 **Meghan & Nujemi Champion** ✓
- 6 **Michele Dickinson & Josie Montanez-Tyler** ✓
- 6 **Thomas Beckwith-Thompson & Casey Thompson** ✓
- 6 Frank Long & Joe Schraven
- 6 Kris Kalb & Robert Von Rutenberg ♥
- 5.5 **Michael Bergemann & Nick Pichette**
- 5 **Shor & Trisha Salkas** ✓
- 5 **Katie & Staci Jayce** ✓
- 5 Lukas Dietz & Jordan Siegler
- 5 **Amber & Brenda Ward**
- 5 **Cassie Immel & Taryn Lindemann**
- 5 **Beth & Naomi Zaccard**

- 5 **David Groth & Michael Watton**
- 5 **Talia Frolkis & Abigail Huber**
- 5 **Alyssa Brinkman & Kate Schultz**
- 5 Louis Loeffler & Gabriel Schroeder
- 5 Shawn Ramsey & Kelly Staerzl
- 5 JoEllen Medina & Mauri Rodriguez
- 5 **KelsyAnne & Lisa Schoenhaar**
- 5 **Owen Karcher & Chelsea O'Neil**
- 5 Emily Groth & Robyn Rauman
- 4.5 Julia Eyers & Cassie Getz ♥
- 4.5 Roz Klaas & Käri Rongstad ♥
- 4.5 **Abby Churchill & Chris Swomley**
- 4 Nicholas Johnson & Jacob Siudzinski ♥
- 4 Milo Dickerson & Emma Zeldin
- 4 **Minta Dwyer & Camden Hargrove**
- 4 **Ali & Lorrie Hurckes Dwyer**
- 4 **Casper & Cris Soluna**
- 4 **Jill Hovden & Emily Jenkins**
- 4 **Sophia & Tanya Robish**
- 4 **Karen & Margaret Hamm**
- 4 Robert Kobuch & Mark Sannito ♥
- 4 Brittany Cudaback & Lydia Scofield
- 4 Audrey Lauren & Sarah Reilly

- 4 Martin Batchelor & Jeremiah Kasdorf
- 3.5 Leah Clark & Terry McLaren
- 3.5 **Samantha & Savanna Strennen** ✓
- 3.5 **Chelsea & Stef Whitson**
- 3.5 **Patrick Farabaugh & Sedrick Huppert**
- 3 Shawn Newby & Nathan Wlodarchak ♥
- 3 Angel, Gretchen & Jen
- 3 Mandi Hildebrant & Leora Mirkin ♥
- 3 **Allison & Jess Simm**
- 3 **Dawn & Jessica Gardner-Paul**
- 3 **Stef Johnson & Chelsea White**
- 3 **Jennifer & Melissa Fish**
- 3 **Nadine & Mandy Mobley**
- 3 Christa Cass & Scarlett Russell
- 2.5 Krista Szubert & Sara Whitworth
- 2.5 Shari Henning & Laura Lenz-Perkins ♥
- 2.5 J. Belmont, Alexander Garcia & Nicholas Juris
- 2.5 **Kathy & Maria Parker-Witzke**
- 2.5 **Dawn & Kayla Latter**
- 2.5 Robert Carr & Derrick Harris
- 2.5 Sarah Chernohorsky & Gabbi Hicks
- 2 Sandy Eichel & Nancy Noet



## Musical Heart



One fateful nightclub meeting set the scene for a romance and partnership that has helped both **Adam Giebtrock** and **Josh Hayes** build a relationship—and write a musical!

It was a hot summer night in July of 2008 when we met. Josh was performing in productions of “Footloose,” “The Wizard of Oz,” and rehearsing for “The Best of Broadway” at the Broadway Dinner Theater in the Dells (which is now the Palace Theater). Adam had just relocated to Madison after finishing college in La Crosse and was an aspiring photographer working at the Sears Portrait Studio in Madison. One fateful night, their friends convinced them both to go out to Club 5 (now Five Nightclub). They saw each other on the dance floor and by the time last call came they were both looking to get one last drink. Seeing each other, they started up a conversation and realized they had a lot in common and everything just clicked. They couldn’t go more than one day without seeing each other, like two magnets being drawn together by a mystical force.

After being in multiple shows, Josh took a short break from theater. Seeing how down Josh was from not being on stage, Adam suggested writing a musical, donating time, giving back to the community, or something else fun to occupy his time, so Josh decided to do all of those things. They wrote a Christmas play called “Where is Santa?” They both wrote the script, the set ideas, and found the venue. Adam was sound/lighting director, and Josh was the director/choreographer. Adam and Josh chose the East Madison Community Center for the venue because it has a fabulous stage and is in a great location. While producing this amazing show, they decided to do a food drive in exchange for tickets. They decided to call the Marines to see if we could help with their toy drive for Toys For Tots. “Where is Santa?” was a hit, the bins for Toys for Tots were filled to the top, the EMCC had more food than they knew what to do with, and Adam and Josh got to put on a show!

A while later, Adam talked Josh into performing in *RENT* with the Four Seasons Theater. The cast was so amazing and filled with love that Adam and Josh were inspired by the seasons of love. It was Valentine’s weekend and they both had something special planned. Adam had plans to propose to Josh on Valentine’s Day at the portrait studio but Josh beat him to the punch! Josh took Adam out to the Vintage for karaoke with the *RENT* cast. Josh got up to sing “Just the Way You Are” by Bruno Mars and, after the song, called Adam up. Adam was shocked as Josh got down on his knee and proposed. Later that night, Josh wanted to see Adam’s ring on his finger. Adam came around the corner and said, “This ring?” pulling out the ring he was going to give to Josh just two days later! They spent the next two years planning their dream wedding and got legally married on June 13, 2013 in Iowa, where it was legal at the time, and had an amazing “reception” for family and friends in Madison. From that fateful day they met, it’s been nearly 10 amazing years they’ve have been together. ■

## TIPS & TRENDS

As an officiant, I like to encourage this level of involvement because the ceremony is the heart of what the wedding is all about. When couples have a hand in picking the words, music, and readings, we can co-create a ceremony that is a true reflection of their relationship. Couples are more relaxed and thus can be present during the ceremony. Their guests pick up on the love they are feeling for one another and this carries over into a fantastic party after the ceremony.

### Pendulum swings in LGBTQ rights



DEWITT ROSS & STEVENS, SC  
MICHELE PERREAULT, ATTORNEY & SHAREHOLDER

Given the new political climate, I anticipate renewed efforts to establish legal discrimination against LGBTQ individuals and families. The current climate and recent court decisions have left some prior forms of legal protections—such as “parentage orders”—in flux or at risk. On the other hand, other recent decisions in Wisconsin have established some additional legal rights for members of our community, especially married couples who used donor insemination to have children. Now both parents will be named on their child’s birth certificate. However, that case has limited application to many other families, including those who did not use donor insemination, those who used surrogacy, and those who have children in one-parent adoption. I anticipate we will challenge legal standards to work to establish equality for these families throughout 2017. We will also continue to protect individuals and families through careful estate planning to ensure that we receive the full benefits and protection of the laws designed to keep our assets where we choose to leave them, rather than to the government.



FRED ASTAIRE  
FRANCHISED DANCE STUDIOS

FIRST DANCE TO ‘YOUR SONG’

FATHER/DAUGHTER DANCE

MOTHER/SON DANCE

WEDDING PARTY ROUTINE

BASIC STEPS TO ANY MUSIC!

Need inspiration? Check out our  
Wedding Playlist on YouTube for ideas!  
[youtube.com/fadsmadisonwest](https://www.youtube.com/fadsmadisonwest)

MADISON'S *Choice*  
WEDDING DANCE STUDIO

RATED ‘BEST IN MADISON’ SINCE 2009!

Madison West  
7701 Mineral Point Road  
Madison, WI 53717  
(608) 833-2623  
FREDASTAIRE.COM/MADISON-WEST

Madison East  
1714 Eagan Road  
Madison, WI 53704  
(608) 204-0404  
FREDASTAIRE.COM/MADISON-EAST

# Campus Crush

**Chris Sina and Ryan Parkos met while undergrads at the UW and, before they knew it, added coming out and falling in love to their mutual college experience.**

**CHRIS:** I was a small town kid, so I knew enrolling at the U.W. and moving to the “big city” of Madison would bring many changes for me. I wasn’t out to my friends, family, or even really to myself at that point, but I did know that I felt a little different. I also knew college was an opportunity for me to figure out exactly what that feeling meant. But I would have never guessed that on the very first day I would meet a boy who would change my life. I met Ryan at an orientation program, before classes even started. He was cute. Blonde hair, blue eyes, dimples, the whole package. He was also energetic and friendly and for some reason I was drawn to him in a way that I had never been drawn to anyone before. We started talking and discovered we had a lot in common and similar backgrounds. We

quickly became friends. We shared a major and lived in the same dorm building, so we spent a lot of time together. It didn’t take long to figure out there was something more between us. Five months after meeting, we began dating. First I told my friends, then my brothers, and over the course of several years the rest of my family. I am fortunate to have been shown nothing but support and acceptance from both our families. Now, ten years down the road, I am only weeks away from calling this man my husband. We’ve done so much in the past decade; I cannot wait to see what the next 10, 20, 30 years has in store!

**RYAN:** I came to school at U.W.-Madison with no expectations other than that I would work extremely hard to achieve my academic and professional goals. I was surprised to find that right away I would meet my best friend and future partner. Fate somehow brought us together from our small towns to study the same degree in college. We had so much in common and loved spending time together but neither

of us knew that the other was gay, much less that we were both romantically interested in the other. After having a very honest conversation with each other, we began dating. We supported each other in coming out to family and friends over time and were lucky to have the most supportive people in our lives. Fast forward to now, and I will actually get to marry my best friend in January on the tenth anniversary of when we began dating. I’m so happy to have somebody that supports my goals, interests, and ambitions. Every day I’m excited to come home to the same great guy and can’t wait to do it for the rest of my life. ■



- 2 Stephanie Budge & Megan McDonald ♥
- 2 Rachel Lehmann & Peg Zizzo ♥
- 2 Angela Baerwolf & Abigail Swetz ♥
- 2 Fredrick Barnhart & Andrew Wanek ♥
- 2 Harley Lemkuil III & Chad Long
- 2 Jessie Ackman & Jazmin LaPlante
- 2 Darcy Pinasco & Joshua Stoppie
- 2 Johanna Heineman-Pieper & Shawna Lutzow
- 2 Luke Andersen & Lucas Zigler
- 2 Rudy Duarte & Luke Metropulos
- 1.5 Sarah Hemmerich & Kristen 'Trixie' Maples ♥
- 1.5 **Angelica & Chloe Bybee**
- 1.5 **Jess Barnes & Becky Guelig**
- 1.5 **Eric & Gavin Logan**
- 1.5 Michael Bruno & Jim Smith
- 1.5 Lisa Ablar & Sara Colopy
- 1.5 Maggie Gosselar & Kris Rago
- 1 Christine Pasinski & Elaine Thomas ♥
- 1 Jillian Cleven & Katy Werginz ♥
- 1 **Jason & Trevor Otis-Bull** ♥
- 1 Tracy Fitch & Helen Hazelmare

- 1 Libby Hallanger-Bernstein & Hannah Hankins
- 1 Shayna Faherty & Auna Kaufmann-Schwartz
- MANITOWOC**
- 2 Karey Roberts & Denise Thomas ♥
- MARATHON**
- 36 **Mark Blume & Thomas Voss** ♥
- MARINETTE**
- 15 **Rhonda Mellinger & Amy Reddinger** ♥
- MARSHALL**
- 11 Deborah Chinn & Mary O'Connor ♥
- MAZOMANIE**
- 12 **Carolyn Antonie & Minda Engel**
- MCFARLAND**
- 25 Chuck Mocco & Thomas Scheid ♥ ♥
- 11 **Hélène & Jeanne Benink**
- MENASHA**
- 14 **Julie Berglund & Judy Harshman** ♥

- 5 **Levi & Yolanda Young** ♥
- 1.5 Ashley Henry & Angela Mykel
- MENOMONEE FALLS**
- 15 **Grace Howard & Nina Jones**
- 8 Kristin Kaschel & Emily Monfre ♥
- MEQUON**
- 41 Mike Plambeck & Harry Sutton
- MERRILL**
- 4 **Carissa & Shawna Weber**
- MERRIMAC**
- 15 **Sondra Benson & Sabrina Osowski** ♥
- MIDDLETON**
- 46 **Bill Diederich & Jim Green** ♥
- 21 Ron Meerhoff & Michael Rhoads
- 19 **Joyce & Leilani Robertson-Hoyt** ♥
- 14 Sharon Cromer & Lori Martinelli ♥
- 9 **Erica & Leslie Gittings** ♥
- 6 **Edwin & Jeffrey Roman-Carney**
- 4.5 Patrick Bass & Ray Hestres ♥
- 4 Spencer Micka & Ed Rector
- 4 Anne & Monica Cupelli

**Bold**  
Couples who are married.

♥  
Couples who are engaged.

✓  
Couples on WI's Domestic Partnership Registry.

★  
Straight couples identified as allies.



**Bold**

Couples who are married.



Couples who are engaged.



Couples on WI's Domestic Partnership Registry.



Straight couples identified as allies.

3.5 Vivienne Andersen & Kye Richards ✓

1 Ashley Krueger & Karen Perez-Wilson

**MILTON**

1 Sam & Tessa Krohn

**MILWAUKEE**

13 Jason Erickson & Justin Singleton

1 Katie Beth & Kimberlenn Peterson ♥

60 Erv Uecker & Ross Walker ✓

41 Ron Coleman & Tom Thresher

40 Garth & Roy Badger ✓

36 Donny & Keith Gray-Dozal

33 Gregory & Raymond Konz-Krzyszynski

25 Marie Johnson & Laura Kraemer ✓

23 Craig Cook & Marshall Draper

20 Ernesto & Scott Valdes

17 Tim Baack & John Sheaffer ✓

15 Mark Janetski & Ed Mullins

14 Edwin E. Carver & Gregg Fitzpatrick

12 Joanna Cheney & Julie Fliss

12 Scott Jones & Thomas Zigan ✓

10 Tramaine Lewis & Vanessa Petty

10 Abigael & Elizabeth Collier ✓

8 Elizabeth Brown & Rebecca Larson ✓♥

8 Shaina Bushek & Amy Tillmann

7 Kelsey Frederickson & Sophia Gau ♥

7 Dana & Jessica Langill ✓

7 Holly & Nicole Dalsing

6 Joseph & Ryan Imperiale

5 Jennifer & Natalie Zanoni

5 Phillip Bailey & Jason Rae

5 Ethan & Faith Parnell

5 Jim Lautenbach & Chris Wisniewski

4.5 Christopher & Tori Freund

4 Valarie Armstead & Tamika Chapman ♥

4 Lisa Hochschild & Nicky Vaaler

4 Matthew Bowe & Kevin Woodard ♥

4 Kellymarie & Leslie Perez Schwartz

4 Jessica Estrada & Jennifer Finch

3.5 Sara Lind & Shelly Perkins ✓

3.5 Alyssa & Nicole Anderson ✓

2.5 Vee Bell & Amber "Hazel" Ybarra ♥

2.5 Shannon Wilder & Arhiana Wright

2 Shayla P. & Norka Rodriguez ♥

2 Michael Espinoza & Shane Stricker

1.5 Devin Bauer & Jose Ortiz

1.5 Ryan Westermeyer & David Zeinert

1 Jackie Albrecht & Kathryn Moore

1 Lukas Baker & Collin Falvey

1 Santiago Barajas & Alex Laabs ♥

1 Valerie Cardona & Sandra Torres

1 Alan Mendoza & Justin Peters

**MONONA**

14 Ruddy & John Bohman

5.5 Brittyn & Rowan Calyx

1.5 Maggie Augustin & Ames Barker

1 Jaime Niedermeier & Tulin Waters

**MONROE**

3 Kate Campbell & Emily Spangler

2 Skylar Carlino & Nicole Rabotski

**MONTFORT**

5 Aaron & Christopher Schnulle-Simons

**MUKWONAGO**

16 Adam Beyerl & Patric Trusty

**MUSKEGO**

2 Vicky Belter & Basia Rompa ♥

**NEENAH**

35 David Bluma & Brad Morrison ✓

12 Laura & Tracy Kading-Nohr

5 Tori Severin & Alice Zarda

1 Brent Mecikalski & Jordan Renkens

**NEW AUBURN**

20 Scott McCracken & Abe Zeman ✓

**NEW BERLIN**

12 Nancy Biker & McGee Steffes

7 Brittany & Katie Newbery

**NEW FRANKEN**

3 Aaron & Ben Alexander-Wolf

**NEW GLARUS**

20 Scott Rippe & Scott Shaver

**OAK CREEK**

22 Patricia Cline & Patricia McKenzie ✓

**OREGON**

16 Walt Jackson & Dennis Outhouse ✓

10 Susan Mosel & Brenda Onken ✓♥

**OSCEOLA**

5.5 Carrie & Heidi Huston Meese

**OSHKOSH**

23 Daniel & Tracie Lautenschlager

12 Angela & Kiersten Bloechl-Karlsen ✓

# Long-haul love



The surprise and joy of falling in love has lasted **Marty Fox** and **Catherine Briggs** two decades already, through challenges and triumphs and an ever-growing family.



We started out as friends. I had just moved to Madison and was introduced to Catherine by a co-worker (thank you, Jenny!) because we were about the same age and we both had young adult children. It turns out we also enjoyed the same books, movies, and music. We fell in love before either of us knew exactly what was happening. At first we were terrified: What is this? Will she waffle? Will my heart be broken? Will we lose this precious friendship?

In the last 20 years we have shared triumphs and tragedies and can now answer some of those questions with confidence. This is love, love that we can trust, love that builds us up and is central to who we are and what we value.

Catherine does not waffle! She would never break my heart and I would never break hers. And, so important, we still enjoy this precious friendship. In 2004, 18 friends and family members traveled to Vancouver where we were married on our seventh anniversary. We have been so blessed to enjoy the love and support of our families. We are honored whenever young people hold us up as an example of a healthy relationship.

We still enjoy many of the same books, movies, and music, but now, we also enjoy shared family, memories, and dreams. We are both parents to our five adult children and their wonderful spouses, we are both grandmothers (and Gaga) to five incredible granddaughters. We both spend time doing meaningful work and look forward to all the scrumptious surprises ahead. Here's to the next 20 years (and the 20 after that)! ■



A team of experienced lawyers committed to the rights of the **LGBTQ Community**.



ATTORNEY  
**Linda S. Balisle**

Wisconsin's only representative to the American College of Family Trial Lawyers, representing the top 100 family law trial attorneys in the United States.

**BALISLE FAMILY LAW**  
— LEGAL COUNSEL, S. C. —

DIVORCE  
POWERS OF ATTORNEY  
PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS  
WILLS

ADOPTION  
CHILD CUSTODY DISPUTES  
NON-TRADITIONAL FAMILIES  
MEDIATION

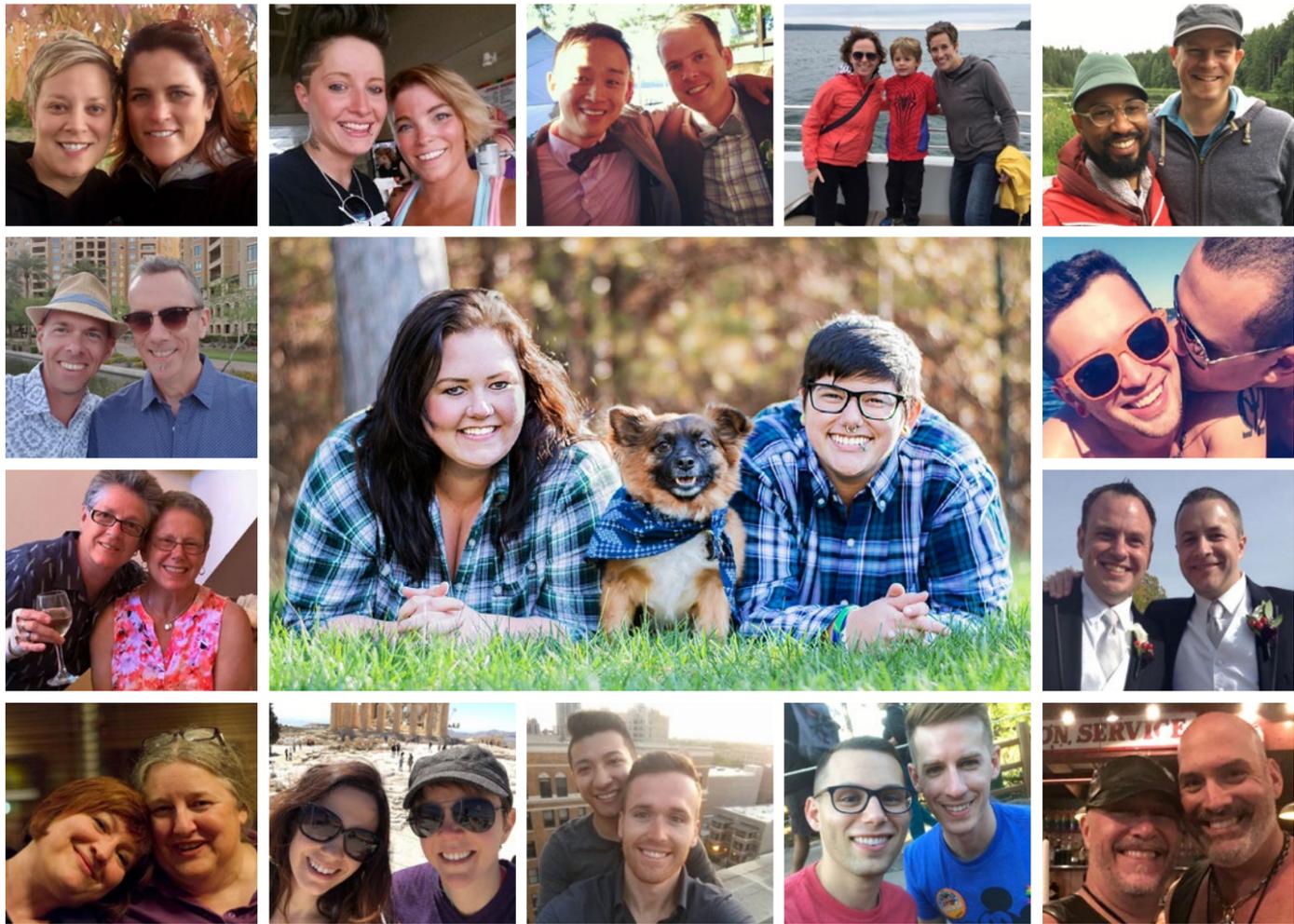
608-259-8702 | [www.balislefamilylaw.com](http://www.balislefamilylaw.com)  
131 West Wilson St., Madison, WI 53703

"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](http://time2remodel.com)



**Bold**  
Couples who are married.

♥  
Couples who are engaged.

✓  
Couples on WI's Domestic Partnership Registry.

★  
Straight couples identified as allies.

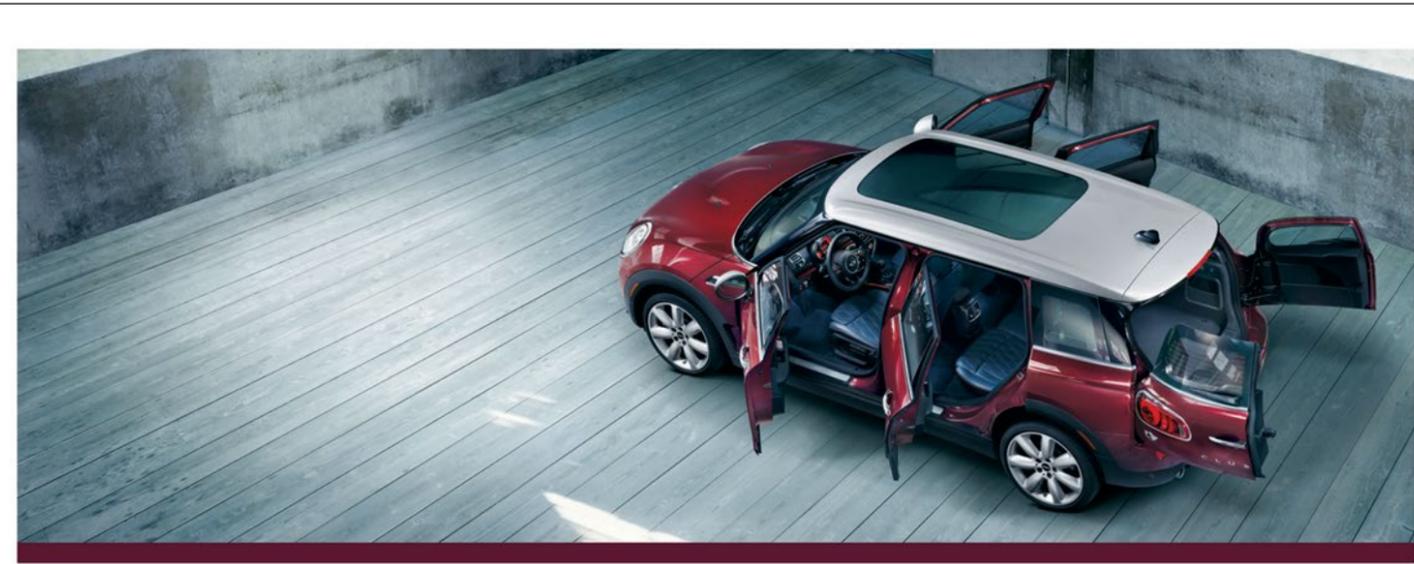
- PADDOCK LAKE**  
3 Heather Pflueger & Tracy Wienke
- PORT EDWARDS**  
9.5 Shane Burkart & Kristopher Gasch ✓♥
- POYNETTE**  
13 Joanne Weber & Sue Worthington ♥
- PRENTICE**  
3 Catherine & Jodi Barnhart ♥
- RACINE**  
16 John Smith & Michael Steinkopf  
12 Gilbert Larson & David Ortiz  
10 Ann Kelso & Sarah Mueller  
7 Paul Carboneau & Julio Villarreal ✓  
5 Gina & Julia Zarletti ✓  
2 Kevin Berry & Anthony Gano
- RICE LAKE**  
4 Kim Gotch & Jess Paulson ♥
- RIVER FALLS**  
1 Kenna Gallegos & Siobhan Larsen
- ROTHSCHILD**  
7 Rick Palmerton & Jeremy Schmidt
- SAUK CITY**  
20 Agnes Baldwin-Pierce & Ginger Pierce ✓♥  
3 Erika Cady & Stevie Venner ♥
- SCHOFIELD**  
10 Kelly & Tracy Ackley ✓

- SHEBOYGAN**  
11 David Hein & Sam Watson ♥  
8 Jennifer & Rebecca Campbell  
4 Sue Czekala & Krystal Matamoros
- SHEBOYGAN FALLS**  
28 Teresa Dziak & Mary Willard ✓  
5 Denice Doying & Tandis Schneider ♥
- SHOREWOOD**  
13 Laura Maker & Susie Seideman
- SOUTH MILWAUKEE**  
11 Crystal & Stacey Victory ✓  
5 Jeighsen Christiansen & Aaron Mayo  
5 Callie Talatzko & Elyse Yumang
- SPOONER**  
30 Daniel Clements & Joseph Melton ✓
- ST FRANCIS**  
8 Laura DeLain & Chris Hutchinson ✓  
5 Gracie & Trevor Murbach
- STEVENS POINT**  
2.5 Laurie Spieker & Logan Wojcik ♥
- STOUGHTON**  
15 Carmen Alcalde & Sue Hunter  
14 Angie & Tammy Whitken  
11 Gay & Heather Simmons  
3 Laura Aylesworth & Josh Brown ★  
1.5 Sam Eifert & Jason Whitley

- SUN PRAIRIE**  
40 Ann Jakel Stormoen & Peggy Stormoen ✓  
20 Emily Comstock & Jill Kullmann  
12 Brittany & Kristen Brazzel ✓  
10 Alisha & Keelyn Henning ✓  
8.5 Bruce Gladstone & Brian Wilkes ✓  
7 Gjna Leerek & Lyn Monroe ✓  
7 Jean Gabriel & Matt Starika-Jolivet  
7 Timothy Lom & Steven Noll  
5 Molly Censky & Maggie O'Leary ✓  
4 Rhonda Grote & Jodi Schoenemann  
2.5 Thomas Hesse & Travis Teigen
- VERONA**  
27 William Mason & Duane Yahn  
10 Derek Aimonetto & Glenn Rowe ✓  
9 Amanda & Kathy Ferwerda ✓  
2 Dante Chambers & Kevin Galster  
1.5 Tom McCarthy & Jesse Westerman  
1 Kelly Bass & Amy Galabinski
- VIROQUA**  
11 Cassandra & Kaitlyn Torgerson-Guinn
- WAUKESHA**  
13 Brandon & Kyle Anderson  
8 Brandy & Kari Konkol ✓  
8 Brit Blankenheim & Kate Klein ✓  
6 Ryan Merkel & Jake Tulogesi
- WAUNAKEE**  
14 Linda Aumann & Deb Nies



- 7 Michelle Rosaleigh & Stacy Lee Anderson ✓
- WAUSAU**  
3 Blake & Brett Opal-Wahoske  
1 Jaime Ames & Chantil Varese ♥
- WAUWATOSA**  
6 Vilayvan Angkham & Peter McGann  
5 Brad & Nick Schlaikowski
- WEST ALLIS**  
0.5 Calesta Ahola & Elizabeth Klak
- WEST MILWAUKEE**  
20 Denise Cawley & Anne Hefter ✓
- WESTBY**  
2 Ellen Forde & Anney Tripp
- WHITEWATER**  
20 Robin Fox & Kim Simes  
19 Virgil Miller & Michael Van Eimeren  
4.5 Rick Oehling & Marty Verburt
- WILLARD**  
8 Becky & Samantha Pierce ✓
- WINDSOR**  
4 Paul Fritsch & James Hartman ✓  
1 Kelsey Gilkison & Emma Sweet ♥
- WINNECONNE**  
7 Jenn & Nathaniel Fores ✓



**THOSE WHO DEFY LABELS,  
DEFINE THEMSELVES**



**MINI of Madison**  
310 West Beltline Highway  
Madison, WI 53713  
608-729-MINI (6464)  
MINIOFMADISON.COM



**Alicia Stevenson**  
MINI Motoring Advisor  
608-729-6442  
Mon 8:30 AM to 8:00 PM  
Tues 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

© 2016 MINI USA, a division of BMW of North America, LLC.  
The MINI name, model names and logo are registered trademarks.



# We Did Not Surrender

Historian **Dick Wagner** looks back to previous swings of the pendulum in LGBTQ rights and activism to provide encouragement for the fight ahead.

**ON NOVEMBER 11** *The New York Times* carried the story, “Trump Win Seen as ‘Devastating Loss’ for Gay and Transgender People.” A wonderful column from Jennifer Finney Boylan, a transgender professor at Barnard College, followed. It was called “Don’t Blame Me.” The stories expressed what many of us had hoped the election might witness. To use Churchill’s phrase, we hoped this election marked “the end of beginning” in the cultural wars and would validate the fact that America has many faces.

It was not to be. To help us sort this out, I want to turn to a local example when a gay rights champion was defeated in Wisconsin in 1986.

In the 1982 Wisconsin gubernatorial election, Democrat Tony Earl was the first candidate ever to actively campaign for the gay vote. He did a lengthy interview with Brooks Edgerton for the newspaper *Gay Madison*. He promised to appoint a gay liaison. Edgerton and Earl also discussed lesbian and gay health issues. Earl observed that in the field of education it was important to not bring “children up with the idea that a different sexual orientation is a perversion.” This was at a time when homosexual acts were still a felony in Wisconsin under the old sex-

ual perversion law. Crystal Hyslop, of Lesbian Mothers, writing before the election in *OUT!* noted, “Anthony Earl has taken a liberal stand and formally addressed the lesbian/gay community issues and concerns.”

After his victory, Governor Earl was true in trying to build an inclusive administration, though the liaison promise would be delayed until his second budget when Earl Bricker was selected. Appointing known gay activists like Ron McCrea as his press secretary and Dick Flintrop to head the Council on Criminal Justice resulted in front page stories, as if their orientation were a stigma. McCrea was famously labeled an “avowed homosexual” in the headlines. He joked, “I used to ask my friends if I really had to put my job on the line as often as I did to make the world safe for disco.” Powerful lesbians, though less visibly out, were also among Earl’s appointments.

In the first months of his administration in 1983, Tony Earl asked Kathleen Nichols and me to serve as co-chairs of a new Governor’s Council on Lesbian and Gay issues. While a couple other states had Governor’s groups on sexual minorities and privacy, none used the identity-affirming terms “lesbian” and “gay” in their title. State Rep. David Clarenbach (D-Madison) told the group’s first meeting, “Take the struggle for acceptance and gay rights to the village square.” The Council travelled the state in its four years meeting in 22 Wisconsin communities. These were catalyzing occasions for local officials to be asked what they were doing for their gay and lesbian citizens, who of course paid taxes but got little recognition in services.

The Council’s early work on the AIDS crisis was important in shaping the state’s response. The Council co-sponsored the Great Lakes Lesbian/



Governor Tony Earl.

# Madison LGBTQ Archives

Andrew Shaffer gives us a glimpse of the growing collection of Madison queer history memorabilia now on display.

Over the last year the Madison LGBTQ Archive has grown to encompass more than 50 individual collections spanning 75 years of local LGBTQ history. We are still actively seeking donations, but we want to let you know about some of the rich history we have collected so far and how you can learn more about Madison’s vast queer past.

Interested in the local lesbian music scene? The archive contains performance posters, files, and correspondence from the Fallen Woman collective and nearly a decade of Cowgirl Sweethearts files and memorabilia in the Beverly Buhr collection.

Or maybe you want to know about the queer newspapers that predated *Our Lives*. Explore the Brooks Egerton collection and its wealth of information about *OUT!*, *Gay Madison*, and Egerton’s other jour-

nalistic endeavors. Or browse old issues of the Hag Rag, Wisconsin’s lesbian feminist magazine, in the Lance Link Collection and a whole host of regional and national LGBTQ periodicals in the Sue Goldwom collection.

Frustrated with politics in 2016 and want to explore the queer political landscape of yesteryear? Dive into Judy Greenspan’s 1973 candidacy for Madison School Board, or campaign files from Dick Wagner’s political career. The Outreach and Integrity/Dignity collections contain



On the back patio at Rod’s.

Gay Health Conference in 1984 that focused on AIDS, alcoholism, and domestic violence. Keynote Karla Dobinski said, “We bring some of our toughest problems out of the closet.” The Council worked closely with the Division of Health under Kathryn Morrison and the State Medical Society to structure a non-homophobic response to AIDS.

When the liaison position was requested in 1985, the Democratically controlled Joint Finance Committee voted it down, fearing it went too far. Earl bluntly told them, “Don’t try to protect me from myself.”

Earl said, “The day will come when gay support will be a political plus. It will be a much healthier society when that day arrives. I hope it arrives soon.” For Earl, and his profile in fabulous courage, it was not to be soon enough.

When Earl first ran in 1982, his interview in *Gay Madison* had been circulated in some northern rural counties to mobilize votes against him. However, he beat the Republican candidate Terry Kohler, winning 57% of the vote. After the election, Kohler would criticize Earl for his “queer” appointments and characterize homosexuals as “aberrant.” In the 2016 election, no surprise, Kohler, who recently passed away, contributed to a PAC that attacked Clinton for her pro-LGBT stance.

For the 1986 election the battle lines were clear. Republican Tommy Thompson planned to kill the Governor’s Council. “I don’t think government should be promoting an alternative lifestyle,” he said. Critics of the Earl administration had called it a granola administration composed of “Fruits, flakes, and a few nuts.” Of course, we were the fruits. The *Dodgeville Chronicle* hit Earl as he “has lent his endorsement to a group that carry AIDS.”

Tony Earl was not unaware of the attacks on his pro-gay policies.

information about the work these organizations have engaged in for decades to promote the rights and perspectives of queer people in Madison and around the country.

Madison’s queer community has long been involved in local schools and we have a growing collection from teachers and administrators about queer life in education. Pat Calchina’s collection contains fascinating accounts from her career as an educator, and the PFLAG collection holds two decades of information about the organization’s work with young people. To learn about college life, try the Joe Elder collection, which includes course syllabi and readings from his LGBTQ courses, or the George Mosse collection for more about this iconic figure and his role in the university.

Finally, you can learn about important queer spaces by diving into the Lewis Bosworth and Robert Haman collections, where you’ll find pictures, newsletters, holiday cards, and letters from patrons to Rod’s and the New Bar. Michele Besant’s files include original signs and menus from Lysistrata as well as news clippings about the fiery destruction of this space that was important for so many local queer women.

This is just a small sampling of the stories contained in the archive, which are now permanently preserved for future researchers and community members. We invite you to come by the archives, located in Steenbock Memorial Library, to browse the collection and see where you fit in. Visit us online at [go.wisc.edu/LGBTQ60s](http://go.wisc.edu/LGBTQ60s) to learn more about the archive and to find out how you can contribute to this growing collection of local queer history. ■

Speaking in Milwaukee to the gay Cream City Business Association, he said, “It was intolerable that homosexuals were still subject to harassment and beatings.” With an eye toward re-election, “The day will come when gay support will be a political plus. It will be a much healthier society when that day arrives. I hope it arrives soon.” For Earl, and his profile in fabulous courage, it was not to be soon enough.

Election post-mortems included that Earl “had worried too much about minorities, women, gays and big business and not enough about regular people who work and vote.” It was held that the gay appointments had contributed to 1986 voters perceiving an “otherness” about him, whereas his 1982 profile had been that he was guy you wanted to have a beer with in the corner tavern. Reviewing matters afterwards, Earl said, “One of the things I discovered was that homophobia runs deep and strong here.”

The *Milwaukee Journal* summed Earl up as having “a rare degree of competence, courage, and imagination in leading Wisconsin.” The governor had tried to engage the citizens of Wisconsin in an inclusive dialogue, but clearly there was more work to do. Upon the demise of the Governor’s Council, Co-chair Kathleen Nichols drew on the legacy of union organizer Joe Hill. She said, “It’s important that we not slide backwards in time. Don’t mourn, organize.” After the 1986 defeat we did not go back into closets, we did not change our lives to mold them back to pre-Stonewall models. And we are not going to do so now. In 1986 we did not surrender the battle. We did not give up. Our lives depended on it. ■



**DICK WAGNER** ([rrdickwagner@gmail.com](mailto: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.

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](http://www.deergrovetvet.com)  
[deergrovetvet@deergrovetvet.com](mailto:deergrovetvet@deergrovetvet.com)

A Full Service Small Animal Clinic

**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.

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

**State Farm**™

1101022.1 State Farm, Home Office, Bloomington, IL

LOOKING FOR A  
**PROFESSIONAL**  
TO HELP YOU  
GET THROUGH IT?

I CAN HELP INDIVIDUALS AND COUPLES:

- Live authentically
- Overcome depression, anxiety, low self-esteem
- Improve relationships

David Lacocque, Psy.D.  
LICENSED PSYCHOLOGIST



Free phone consultation  
608-358-6868 drlacocque.com

702 N. BLACKHAWK AVE.

do you dream of a



but you only have

**FORWARD**  
FERTILITY

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

## Managing Fear In Uncertain Times

Sue Gill offers ways to acknowledge our very real fears without feeding into them or allowing our own hearts to turn to hate in times of struggle.

ON JANUARY 20, 2017, Donald Trump will be inaugurated as the President of the United States. For the roughly 60 million people who voted for him, this will be a happy day. For the roughly 62 million people who voted for Hillary Clinton, this will be an unhappy day. I imagine it's a mixture of responses among the 200 million who could not or did not vote, or who voted for a third party candidate.

Some who did not vote for Trump will respond with disappointment and then will just get on with their lives. I actually suspect that may be the majority of non-Trump voters. This is personally how I have responded about half of my life when my chosen candidate did not win. It was also the strongly worded sentiment someone posted on Facebook the day after the election: "EVERYONE; SHUT THE HELL UP ABOUT THE ELECTION. It's done. You can't change anything. There's no point in crying on Facebook about it." For everyone who is in this camp about the election, I challenge you to become deeply curious about why some people are so afraid. Try to understand where their fear is coming from.

Those of you who are actually crying about the election—and are feeling afraid, and are feeling even less safe in your skin, and might lose your health insurance, and are afraid that you or a family member may be deported, and are afraid that your marriage might be taken away—for all of you, I want to talk about how to continue living with some peace despite the shifts that we fear may be ahead.

### DOING

Give the person who just cut you off in traffic a wave instead of giving them the finger. You might be saying, "But the actual Klan endorsed this president. And I now feel less safe." Yes this is true. Also true is that the only thing you have control over in this moment is how you react to this very moment. And this moment, if someone's cut you off in traffic, they probably were simply distracted and the best reaction is to spread some kindness.

Carefully find a good balance for you between engaging vs. disengaging. During fearful times, many of us are drawn to spend extra time online reading news, blogs, and social



This is called Feeding the Story, and I encourage you to try and avoid it. It always leads to more suffering. Instead, try to keep acknowledging the feelings that are happening right here and right now.

media posts so that we can stay on top of all the terrible things that are happening. While that can certainly be empowering, it can also keep us stuck in a cycle of fear and despair. This may be especially true since most of us get our information from sources that affirm our preexisting view of the world. So please ask yourself periodically if it is time to take a break from information. Go for a walk, read a fluffy but engrossing novel, clean out your junk drawer. I promise that doing those kinds of things is extra important during hard times.

Fear has a lot of energy. It is the same physiological response as the fight response. In your fear and anger, do not let hate grow in your heart. That will not change anything for the better, and we need to not become the worst that we fear in others. If you wish to protest or lobby to change the Electoral College or get really involved with local politics, please do! Others may do better by channeling their energy in other ways. Volunteer to walk dogs at the local shelter, be a volunteer ELL tutor, go out of your way to check in with friends who are having a harder time than you.

This election might be extra hard on those young people who have known an African-American president much of their lives, just seen a woman win the popular vote, and

seen some great progress in LGB rights in the past few years. There has been less progress in transgender rights, but still some there as well. With those of you for whom this is your first experience living in a country that you feel is moving backward, you have my empathy. I am sorry that we might lose some of the social gains we have made in your lifetime, and sorry for the shock you must feel about those losses. Please try to keep your enthusiasm, hope, and dreams for a better world. Great progress often has phases of moving backward, and we are entering one of those. But keep heart. Keep involved in ways that you can. Be kind.

### HEARING YOUR HEART WHILE NOT FEEDING THOUGHTS

In addition to fears about changing laws and policies, some people are feeling afraid for their physical safety. This election has given people with thinly veiled -isms more freedom to overtly express their hate. Acknowledge your heart as it sometimes feels shaky with fear, and be sure to not feed that fear. It might go something like this: "Hello heart and chest and stomach, I feel your shakiness. I know you are afraid that you might get beat up today or fired because of who you are. I see and feel and hear you, and I know that you are afraid." And your heart might respond, "Yes, and let me tell you about the many future possible things that might happen that scare me, and how those things are going to have terrible consequences." This is called Feeding the Story, and I encourage you to try and avoid it. It always leads to more suffering. Instead, try to keep acknowledging the feelings that are happening right here and right now. And later, when the scared part of yourself has calmed down, then you can make clear-headed plans to protect your safety.

### TRY TO AVOID "US VS. THEM" THINKING

Although some actual legal and policy changes will be coming that will impact people, I think that the strongest current emotion is coming from a feeling that most of the country and our soon-to-be president hates you. And from the feeling that most of the U.S. is populated by racist, homophobic, transphobic, violent, terrible people. I want to gently suggest that this is not true. Something like 260 million people did not vote for Trump. And of the roughly 60 million people who did vote for him, most of them are not racist, homophobic, terrible people. Some absolutely are, but not most.

I have gone out of my way to really listen to why some people voted for Trump, and I found it very enlightening. People who just want their good factory job back. People who

honestly thought that another candidate would be an unethical choice for them. People who are really scared of terrorist acts, and think that this candidate will keep them safer. I can understand and respect those motivations. I feel badly because I do not think people are going to get what they wanted, but those voters aren't terrible people. To think so would be to perpetuate the lack of tolerance that we find so distasteful in others.

We are facing some legal changes over the next few years that are scary. And we are scared that the tone set by this election has given permission for some people to more frequently act on their hate. I hear you. This is scary stuff. Go ask someone for a hug right now. Or better yet, find someone who seems scared and offer them a hug. Find out if there are some actual steps you can take over the next few months that might insulate you against any possible legal changes. You might want to follow HRC.org and Lambda-Legal.org for steps to take. And finally, while acknowledging your fear, don't feed it. ■



SUE GILL and her partner, Sheri, have lived in Madison since 2000. They keep busy with their two dogs, Frankie and Maslow. Sue is a psychologist in private practice and can be found at madisontherapy.com.

ALEXANDER EINSMAN  
MS LMFT



Mind +  
Body Focus  
LGBTQ-  
Affirming  
Relationship  
Therapy  
EMDR  
Hypnosis



ATLASMADISON.COM  
608.535.9285

Karner Blue  
Candle & Supply



"Healthy Candles"  
Classes  
Parties  
Handmade Gifts  
Candle Making  
Supplies

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



- 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



# Your LGBTQ Rights Under Trump

Attorney **Emily Dudak Taylor** walks us through some of the realistic legal concerns for the LGBTQ community—as well as what’s just rhetoric and rumor—in the wake of Donald Trump’s presidential victory.

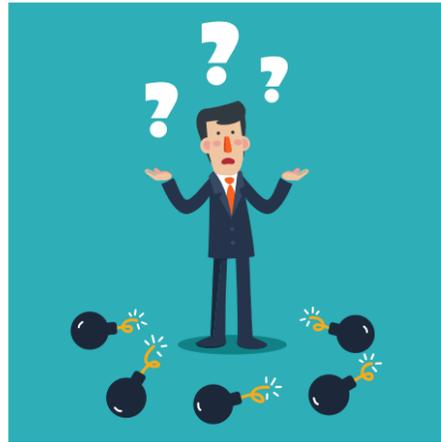
**ON NOVEMBER 8, 2016**—Election Day—I volunteered at a polling place in Madison as a Voter Protection attorney. We dealt with a fire alarm, an injunction, the media, the new voter ID law, an aggressive poll monitor from the Republican Party, and full-on attempted voter suppression. It was exhausting. And that was before I heard the election results. When I did, I decided to take the next day off work, went to yoga, quieted my mind, and raked my yard. I turned off my phone. That Wednesday had such a strange and somber feel to it.

When I got into my office on Thursday morning, it was chaos. We were overwhelmed with panicked emails and voice messages. Everyone was frantic to know what a Trump administration will mean for their family and what they can be doing to protect themselves right this moment and before inauguration in January. I was a bit shocked at the chaos.

Complacency had been slowly building in my clients since 2014 and 2015 (after the marriage equality cases, *Wolf v. Walker* and *Obergefell v. Hodges*). Over the last year or so, we have had several clients opt to do nothing more than marry to protect their families. They did not feel court orders or layered estate plans were necessary anymore. But that complacency and optimism had burst and was now gone, in just one day of raking. I was surprised and so sad to hear how quickly the optimism of marriage equality could turn back to fear. And there was real fear in people’s voices.

### WHAT COULD HAPPEN?

The first thing you can do to prepare for the Trump presidency is to arm yourself with knowledge. Understand the probabilities of what could happen. This might help to manage your fear and anxiety of what is to come. Weeks later, my Facebook feed is still all doomsday scenarios. Yes, they make me anxious, but my anxiety is tempered by my knowledge of the law. I stop my emotional mind and think: What can he actually do? What is legally and politically realistic, and what is just rhetoric aimed at voters who don’t know better? I think the LGBTQ community might take comfort in some of the details.



This is where the real threat to the LGBT community exists from President-elect Trump. He cannot overturn the right to marry, but he can make our federal lives very unpleasant, starting on his first day in office.

### 1. COUPLES DO NOT NEED TO RUSH TO MARRY BEFORE JANUARY.

President-elect Trump cannot easily “overturn” marriage equality. It is next to impossible, in fact. *Obergefell v. Hodges* is a U.S. Supreme Court case based on federal constitutional principles. That means there are only two ways to overturn it: by federal constitutional amendment; or by another U.S. Supreme Court case. It cannot be overturned by federal or state legislation or executive action (like a memo or regulation issued by the Trump administration).

The federal constitutional amendment possibility is so unlikely it barely merits discussion. To pass a constitutional amendment, Congress must pass it by a two-thirds majority vote in both the House and the Senate. Then the amendment must be sent to all 50 governors of the States. To pass, the amendment must be voted on and ratified by three-fourths of the States (38 of 50). The last amendment to pass was the 27th, which provides that if Congress votes upon its own compensation, the new compensation cannot take effect until the next session.

That amendment was proposed in 1789 and it passed in 1992. Before that, the 26th amendment gave 18-year-olds the right to vote in 1972. Amendments are rare and very hard to pass, intentionally so.

The path to overturn marriage equality by another U.S. Supreme Court case is almost as unlikely, and it would also take a very long time. President-elect Trump would have to replace at least two justices, find a case, work it through the lower courts, and then overcome the long-established principle of law called *stare decisis*. That’s Latin for “to stand by things decided.” According to Black’s Law Dictionary, it is “the doctrine of precedent, under which it is necessary for a court to follow earlier judicial decisions when the same points arise again in litigation.” Sure, there are examples of the U.S. Supreme Court overturning its own precedent—for example, *Lawrence v. Texas* in 2003 overturned *Bowers v. Hardwick* from 1986, finding that anti-sodomy laws are unconstitutional—but those examples are usually to vindicate obvious principles of law and remedy continued injustice.

It is highly improbable that President-elect Trump would be able to overcome these legal and political hurdles, to turn back the clock on marriage equality. Couples, therefore, do not need to rush to marry before January. The fundamental right to marry for all is not going anywhere, much less anytime soon. Any other assertion is uneducated rhetoric.

### 2. MARRIED COUPLES SHOULD NOT WORRY THAT THEIR MARRIAGES WILL BE INVALIDATED.

First, marriage equality would have to be overturned (see above). Second, that overturning of marriage equality would have to be applied retroactively, and precedent is strong that if a marriage is valid when entered, it will remain valid and must be recognized and respected despite future changes in the law. This is the principle of law that created that window of valid marriages in California in 2008 before Proposition 8 passed. Threats that your marriages will be invalidated are, therefore, hollow and uninformed: in other words, again, silly rhetoric.

### 3. UNDER THE SAME PRINCIPLES, PARENTS SHOULD NOT WORRY THAT THEIR ADOPTIONS AND PARENTAGE ORDERS MIGHT BE INVALIDATED.

These are state court orders, concerning state laws. President-elect Trump, in his federal position, has very little access to affect such state issues. The new administration cannot

undo the recent birth certificate decision in Wisconsin (*Torres v. Seemeyer*) or affect our parentage or step-parent adoption laws. On the other hand, I do fear that a parentage equality case could make its way up to the U.S. Supreme Court, after President-elect Trump has been able to skew the composition even further to the right. And no precedent has been established at this level on the parentage issue, so the Court would not have its hands tied, as it does with marriage equality. As most know, Supreme Court appointments are a real threat to the continued evolution of civil rights. This one is not hollow or silly.

### 4. BY FAR, MY BIGGEST AND MOST REALISTIC FEAR I HAVE IS WHAT THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION WILL DO TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY AT THE FEDERAL AGENCY LEVEL.

Having practiced LGBT law for the last 11 years, I have watched with admiration and a bit of cynical surprise at how quickly and smoothly President Obama implemented marriage equality. Besides steering our economy, conducting our foreign affairs, and protecting our country, the U.S. President is the CEO of an entire branch of government: the Executive Branch, a vast bureaucracy made up of the Department of Homeland Security, the State Department, the Department of Justice, the IRS, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Social Security Administration, Health and Human Services, etc. And this authority is unilateral. The President gets to write memos that are binding on all these agencies. That is how President Obama implemented marriage equality so quickly and fairly. He didn’t have to answer to anyone. That is also how President-elect Trump will be able to undo all of it, on day one, with one stroke of his pen.

A Trump administration could, on day one, withdraw executive guidance and revise Department of Justice policies on discrimination: in the workplace, in health care, and in housing; for federal employees and contractors; and especially for transgender workers and students. He could, as Commander-in-Chief, reinstate the ban on transgender persons and gays in the military.

His effect on immigration could be catastrophic, for the LGBT community and beyond. As Commander-in-Chief, he has the right to ban groups of people from entering the country, for example, Muslims from certain countries, immigrants with HIV, etc. He could end President Obama’s “Dreamer” program for undocumented children, and seems poised to on day one. He could issue a nasty memo regarding marriage-based immigration for same-sex couples and LGBT asylum issues.

This is where the real threat to the LGBT community exists from President-elect Trump. He cannot overturn the right to marry, but he can make our federal lives very unpleasant, starting on his first day in office.

### 5. I ALSO FEAR WHAT TYPE OF FEDERAL LEGISLATION PRESIDENT-ELECT TRUMP AND A REPUBLICAN-CONTROLLED CONGRESS MIGHT PASS TO IMPLEMENT THEIR IDEA OF THE “RELIGIOUS OBJECTION” TO MARRIAGE EQUALITY.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Those are the facts of the threats we face. Other practical things you can do to prepare for January include the following:

As we’ve always recommended, **obtain an adoption or parentage order for your child**. Do not rely on a two-parent birth certificate alone. Birth certificates are not entitled to full faith and credit across state lines. To get that “portability of judgment,” you must obtain a court order. We also recommend adoption or parentage orders because we want to freeze the parental rights in time, in case of changes in the law. We recommend court orders to secure portability of judgment in geography and in time. So-called “step-parent” adoption is not the only means to this end. Expanding upon the new *Torres* decision, and using arguments

we have been making in surrogacy and other ART cases for years, parentage through the marital artificial insemination statute is now a reality for a lot of couples. You should speak with an experienced attorney to determine which option is best for you.

Even if you are married, and even if you don’t think you have significant assets, **get a thorough life and estate plan in place with an attorney experienced in LGBT law**. The estate plan should provide safety nets to the marriage and to any child-related court orders, adding different layers of protection. Health Care Powers of Attorney, HIPAA releases, and health care facility visitation authorizations may become important again under the new administration, even if you are married.

**Update your child’s Social Security number record to list both parents as the child’s legal parents**. Try to accomplish this before inauguration. You should not need a court order to do this, versus just a Parent/Parent (or even Mother/Father) birth certificate.

**If your child is a U.S. citizen, seek a U.S. passport for the child now and make sure that State Department records list both parents as the child’s legal parents**. Try to accomplish this before inauguration. Seek an expedited passport and pay the fee.

**If you are transgender, consider seeking gender marker corrections on your federal documents immediately and before inauguration**: your U.S.

You Are Invited...

**OPEN’s Annual Dinner**

March 10 | 5:30pm  
The Monona Terrace

\$100 Non-Member | \$65 Member  
\$50 Student/Retiree Member

**openmadison.org**

membership  
sponsorship  
tickets

presented by **MGoe ENERGY 2030**

Out Professional Engagement Network

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

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

time2remodel.com

passport if you are a citizen; your immigration documents if you are an immigrant; and your Social Security number record in any event. For the passport or immigration documents, note that you do not need to obtain a state court order first. A letter from a physician (surgery is not required) can be sufficient. For the Social Security number record, use the passport or immigration document with the corrected gender. President-elect Trump can change these requirements very easily, on his own, on day one, as they come from regulations and memos written by President Obama's administration and Secretary Clinton.

**If you are eligible to apply for Social Security benefits based on a same-sex marriage or a non-biological child**, you should speak with an attorney who specializes in Social Security to determine whether you should file quickly, within this presidency and therefore while the current regulations on spousal survivorship and dependent benefits remain in place.

If you've been considering filing an immigration petition for your spouse or step-child, or filing an asylum petition based on LGBT persecution, talk to an immigration attorney immediately about filing immediately (or not at all during the new administration,

depending on the type of filing).

**If you have applied for DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, the "Dreamer" program), or you are considering it**, call an immigration attorney immediately.

A Trump administration could, on day one, withdraw executive guidance and revise Department of Justice policies on discrimination: in the workplace, in health care, and in housing; for federal employees and contractors; and especially for transgender workers and students.

**Donate regularly to Lambda Legal, GLAD, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, the ACLU, and the Family Equality Council.** They are the ones who bear the enormous financial and psychological burden of our high-impact cases like *Wolf v. Walker*, *Obergefell v. Hodges*, and *Torres v. Seemeyer*. Small monthly EFTs go a long way. These organizations will have a lot of lawsuits to file in the next few years, lawsuits that have the potential to directly affect you, your marriage, and your children.

**Vote in all elections, especially in two years.** We

must establish a congressional check on the Trump administration. For two years, he will have a Republican-led Congress. Get others to vote in these "smaller" elections. As an Amy Schumer public service announcement suggested, shame your friends and family into voting, by pointing out that everyone can look online to see whether you voted.

**Finally, do more than just vote. Voting is easy. Volunteer.** Work at a poll. If you are an attorney or law student, join a voter protection program. Canvas for a candidate you support. Show gratitude for the democracy you are lucky enough to live in.

*The reading of this article does not establish an attorney-client relationship with Emily or constitute legal advice from Emily to the reader or the public. Before relying on any general legal information contained herein, please consult legal counsel as to your particular situation.* ■



**EMILY DUDAK TAYLOR** is an attorney and partner at The Law Center for Children & Families in Madison. She's also a co-author of the Wisconsin State Bar book entitled *Sexual Orientation and the Law*.

## What Trump's presidency means for LGBT Americans

**Rep. Mark Pocan** pens a special response to the election of Donald Trump and stresses the need to stand up and work together for equality, now more than ever.

**WHILE THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY** has made great strides under President Obama, the incoming Trump Administration's radically conservative advisers and the Republican party's anti-LGBTQ platform pose a real threat to the progress made over the last eight years. During his campaign, Trump claimed to be a supporter of LGBTQ rights, but his virulently anti-LGBTQ senior cabinet appointees and Vice President show his true colors.

Vice President-elect Mike Pence signed a bill into law that allowed businesses to refuse service to LGBTQ people as governor of Indiana in 2015. When he ran for Congress in

A few months ago, I laid out some of the policies that the next president must enact to further advance equality. I won't sugarcoat it. Donald Trump's election threatens much of this progress.

that allows transgender students to use the bathroom according to their gender identity. Trump has also previously pledged to sign the First Amendment Defense Act (FADA) into law, which would allow health care providers, businesses, landlords, and others the right to legally discriminate against LGBTQ people

under the guise of religious freedom. And while Trump can't single handedly overturn *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the Supreme Court decision which guaranteed marriage equality, he does have the potential to appoint Supreme Court Justices that could impact the civil rights and liberties of the LGBTQ community.

A few months ago, I laid out some of the policies that the next president must enact to further advance equality. I won't sugarcoat it. Donald Trump's election threatens much of this progress, but amongst all this uncertainty, it is imperative that we band together. We must stand up and fight for what is right.

We can't wait another four years to have a different president or different legislative bodies—the time to come together around our shared values is now. We must stay engaged, organize, and fight against any attempts to make our country less inclusive. I will continue to advocate every day for my constituents and I hope you will join me to help ensure we continue moving our country forward. ■



**CONGRESSMAN MARK POCAN** is the U.S. Representative for Wisconsin's second district, which includes Dane, Green, Iowa, LaFayette, Sauk, and portions of Rock and Richland counties.



### ADVISING LGBT FAMILIES POST-WOLF AND OBERGEFELL

### FORMING AND PROTECTING FAMILIES

- ESTATE PLANNING
- TAXES
- PRE-NUPTIAL AGREEMENTS
- IMMIGRATION
- DIVORCE

- PARENTAGE ▸ ADOPTION
- ASSISTED REPRODUCTION
- FOSTER PARENTING
- GUARDIANSHIPS
- APPEALS



the LAW CENTER for  
**CHILDREN  
& FAMILIES**

### ATTORNEYS FIGHTING FOR LGBT FAMILIES FOR OVER 20 YEARS

[WWW.LAW4KIDS.COM](http://WWW.LAW4KIDS.COM) • 608-821-8200  
450 S. YELLOWSTONE DRIVE, MADISON, WI 53719



**Susan Oshman**

206.1440  
237.2306



First Church affirms and celebrates  
**LOVE** of Self.  
of Partner.  
of God.

We are a fully inclusive spiritual community joining together 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](http://www.fumc.org)

**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](http://www.ryanfuneralservice.com)

MADISON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

John DeMain | Music Director

Ultimate Tchaikovsky: The Last Symphony

FEB. 17, 18, 19 | Overture Hall

SAMUEL BARBER  
Second Essay

CAMILLE SAINT-SAËNS  
Piano Concerto No. 5 (The Egyptian)

PETER ILYICH TCHAIKOVSKY  
Symphony No. 6 (Pathétique)

John DeMain, Conductor  
Stephen Hough, Piano



MAJOR FUNDING PROVIDED BY  
Irving and Dorothy Levy Family Foundation, Inc.  
Stephen Morton | BMO Wealth Management

ADDITIONAL FUNDING PROVIDED BY  
Boardman & Clark LLP | Forte Research Systems & Nimblify  
James and Joan Johnston | Wisconsin Arts Board

buy tickets now!

MADISONSYMPHONY.ORG,  
the Overture Center Box Office  
or (608) 258-4141



THE ORGAN  
IN ORATORIO & OPERA  
Organist Samuel Hutchison with Tenor  
David Portillo and Bass Kyle Ketelsen

Feb. 21, 2017 | 7:30 p.m. | Overture Hall

Sponsored by Pleasant T. Rowland Foundation



IMPROVE → OUR HEALTH

OURLIVESMADISON.COM

A Survivor Finds Community

Intimate Partner Violence is an often ignored but, still serious issue, within the LGBTQ community in particular. Kathy Flores of Diverse & Resilient interviews a survivor who is part of efforts to educate, support, and create better resources for those impacted by IPV.

“THE LACK OF KNOWLEDGE of specific examples of abusive relationships in the LGBTQ community was one of the reasons I could not even think about my relationship as abusive,” Nick told me as I sat with him in a local café in Appleton. I first met Nick as a freshman in high school over a decade ago. Nick was a soft-spoken, shy kid with a mop of hair that fell easily over his eyes. Nick’s passion for activism started to grow while in high school, and I followed him on and off over the years as he went to college and became an adult.

About 12 years after high school, I met up with Nick again. He was battered and bruised after surviving a violent attack by his boyfriend at the time. After the attack, I worked with Nick, along with local LGBTQ advocates Amber and Tracy from Harbor House Domestic Abuse Programs in Appleton.

Nick said that the abuse in his 10-month relationship started within the first month when he was beaten and then thrown out of a dorm room with no jacket, no shoes, and forced to walk home across town in cold Wisconsin weather. Within the following months, Nick experienced physical assault by his then boyfriend so many times that he lost track. He blames a mix of “toxic masculinity and internalized homophobia” from preventing his ability to even recognize it. When he did experience feelings about the relationship, he told me, “I just ended up feeling more guilt and shame for not being able to handle my emotions.”

Nick talked openly with me about many incidents of violence, especially verbal abuse, within that relationship. When I asked Nick why he wanted to share his story now, he said, “It is now my personal mission in life to live as fully authentic as possible. I really want my insides to match my outsides. Hopefully by being vulnerable I can serve as a positive example for others.”

Eventually Nick got out with the help of friends and advocates. Nick swears he would



The thing that got me was how many abuse tactics I was highlighting on that wheel. It didn’t matter the gender of my relationship. This tool was used with heterosexual women and now it was speaking to me.

have gone back again had he not sat down with intimate partner violence advocate Tracy who first showed him the Power and Control Wheel, a tool to name the violence used within intimate partner violence advocacy circles.

“The thing that got me was how many abuse tactics I was highlighting on that wheel. It didn’t matter the gender of my relationship. This tool was used with heterosexual women, and now it was speaking to me. Hearing another queer person tell me that it wasn’t my fault helped me focus on the actions of my abuser and helped me realize I needed to get out,” Nick said. He continued, “As a queer man, I just thought that the intensity to which this man loved me was all part of our ‘crazy love’ and that it was normal for queer relationships. If I had learned about this sooner, I would have gotten help sooner.”

Today Nick is working through letting go of the past guilt and shame connected to the relationship with his abuser. Nick

wanted people to know that there is healing and growth after abuse: “I’m experiencing a fantastic ‘full circle’ moment.” Nick continued, “As a youth I was fortunate to have a strong support network that encouraged me to develop my passions for social justice and queer activism. For me, learning to heal has meant learning to uncover those passions buried under the negativity and isolation of abuse and addiction. My community has welcomed me back into the fold with loving, open arms, and I now serve as a facilitator for the LGBT Partnership—the same youth development program that gave me so much strength and support. I am also a co-leader with Kathy for Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Appleton.”

Most survivors do not know LGBTQ advocates who can help. In the “2015 Report on Intimate Partner Violence in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and HIV-Affected Communities in the U.S.” report published in November 2015 by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, we learned that 44% of survivors attempting to access emergency shelter were denied and 71% reported being denied because of their gender identity. This report found that while resources might exist for LGBTQ survivors, many have no way of knowing about them or accessing services, especially when it comes to accessing LGBTQ advocates.

To address disparities in access for LGBTQ survivors, in January 2017 Diverse & Resilient will launch the state’s first ever LGBTQ Survivor Resource Line to help connect survivors of Intimate Partner Violence to advocates and resources across the state. If you or a friend need help accessing services or want to talk through a safety plan about your own relationship, please call the Resource Line at 414-856-LGBT (5428). This is not a hotline, so it is not staffed 24 hours daily, but an advocate will get back to you within a short time and help direct you to services or develop a safety plan with you whether you plan to stay in the relationship, leave or seek other services. You can also visit our website to find out more information about Intimate Partner Violence within the LGBTQ community at [www.roomtobesafe.org](http://www.roomtobesafe.org).

Even being a part of this article has been cathartic for Nick, who said, “I feel grateful every day that I’m able to use my past struggles as tools to fight for justice and spread the message of love and self-acceptance.” ■



KATHY FLORES is the statewide coordinator addressing Intimate Partner and Community Violence with Diverse & Resilient. She also founded the Fox Valley LGBTQ Anti-Violence project.



Abuse is NOT your fault. Safety is possible.

Call DAIS for support.

24 Hour Help Line:

608-251-4445

Text “HOPE” to 20121

[www.abuseintervention.org](http://www.abuseintervention.org)

Support Groups—Shelter—  
Safety Planning—  
Legal Advocacy—Crisis Response

DAIS  
DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION SERVICES

PrideFest  
MILWAUKEE 2017

#LiveProud  
JUNE 9, 10 & 11

Tickets now on sale at [www.pridefest.com](http://www.pridefest.com)

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

# 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



IMPROVE → OUR TASTE



## Love, Food, and Memories

Personal chef **Jeanne Benink** celebrates love of friends and family through our unifying memories of good food shared.

**THERE IS ABUNDANT LITERATURE** out there in our big, wide world that supports the fact that humans, when recalling their earliest memories of love, often have a special person or special food (or both) wrapped up in that memory. For me, this is so true.

I can recall being a little girl, certainly under five years old, accompanying my mom on a walking trip up the road to visit my grandma. Upon arrival, my grandma would always have a pot of coffee on the stove and usually some type of homemade cookie (my most beloved were her date-stuffed sugar cookies). We three would sit at her kitchen table, drinking coffee (lest you modern parents jump to judgment, this was very common among farm folk, and us kiddies drank a mixture of 1/3 coffee, 1/3 sugar and 1/3 cream, and we all turned out just fine), munching cookies and discussing everything that was happening with everyone in the county.

I can still smell grandma's kitchen and recall how special I felt to be included in their grown-up time together. I can feel her tablecloth under my fingers, picture the cat that was ever-present on her lap, and hear their low, lady's talk. The love in that tiny room was palpable.

I tell this little tale because the love edition of any magazine, especially around St. Valentine's Day, can be depressing, off-putting, or simply not read by people who aren't themselves currently in a relationship. I hope to put a positive spin on love for everyone who reads this article. Let's celebrate love in all of forms—love of dear friends, love of family (both biological and of choice), love of home and all of the memories that we possess that recall love (and food) in some positive way!

In preparing for this article, I went online and asked for people's input on the foods that they absolutely love and why they feel that way. To say that I was tickled to read everyone's responses would be quite an understatement. The responses made me realize once again that we are all so different, and all so the same. Mark L. is Brazilian and he described his parents making fejuada (black beans, pork, onions, garlic and spices, slow cooked and served over rice) and how that transported him back to boyhood. Shelley G. extolled the virtue of matzo ball soup.

ILLUSTRATION BY DANIELLA ECHEVERRIA.

Kathleen R. loved her neighbor's pulled pork nachos because they signify that it's Sunday and time for some R&R in front of the football game. Dawn H. seems to have a real appreciation for pierogies, her grandma's meatloaf, and pot roast, all of which are family favorites.

Jay talked about collard greens being a part of every holiday celebration that she can remember. Jean loves Julegrot, which is a Swedish rice pudding at Christmas time. Kellie loves a family favorite called Crube/Krube/Krub, a baseball-sized potato dumpling that you stuff with either ham or bacon and then boil and serve cut in half with butter, salt, and pepper. Laura told me about her grandma (whom I'd met many moons ago) and her amazing chocolate torte that she made for special occasions. Stevie (and several other readers polled) has a soft spot for chicken potpie. And for my wife, it's basmati rice because they moved around a lot when she was little and her mom always made a pot of basmati rice with the first dinner in each new home they moved to.

What was so amazing in reading all of these was how all of them were related to family, friends, and great occasions. As I thought, foods transport us to another place and time that seems to hold happy memories for us. I hope that in reading this article, you've also recalled some of your own memories that hold a special place in your heart. Remember those times, remember the joy, and remember that love comes in many forms and we need to celebrate the beauty that's in each of them. I'll leave you with a little piece of love, from my kitchen to yours:

### GRANDMA'S DATE-FILLED SUGAR COOKIES

- 1 c sugar
- 2 sticks butter (softened)
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1 Tbs milk
- 2 tsp baking powder
- 2 c all purpose flour
- 1/4 tsp salt

Cream together the sugar and the butter, then add the beaten eggs and milk. In a separate bowl, sift together the dry ingredients, then slowly mix the dry ingredients into the creamed butter mixture. Once the dough has come together, wrap it in cellophane wrap and refrigerate it for an hour. While this is happening, make the date filling; I put mine in our small food processor to get the mixture really paste-like.

- 1 c dates, finely chopped
- 1/2 c sugar
- 2-3 tsp flour
- 1/2 cup water

This mixture should be quite thick.

Preheat your oven to 375 degrees. Remove the cookie dough from the refrigerator and roll it out to about 1/4 inch. Cut 3- or 4-inch rounds from the dough. Place a tablespoon or a bit more of the date mixture into the center of a round, place another round on top, the crimp the edges with a fork. Place these onto a cookie sheet and bake until the cookies are a golden brown.

Enjoy with a cup of coffee and someone you love. ■



**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](http://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

## The Sow's Ear



125 S. Main Street • Verona • [knitandsip.com](http://knitandsip.com)

608-848-2755

### CAFE & BAKERY

Fresh, Daily Lunch  
Menu Items

### ARTISAN COFFEE

From Ancora and  
Kickapoo

### SMOOTHIES

Fresh Fruit,  
Chocolate & Espresso

### KNITTING

Yarns, Accessories  
& Classes

We use local produce  
and cheese

## Champagne? Caviar? It's 2017. Cheese = ♥



fromag | nation

artisanal cheeses & perfect companions

Valentines gift baskets  
and other lovely items

608-255-2430 • [www.fromagination.com](http://www.fromagination.com)



## Find Your Rhythm

Joey Jadryev looks back on coming to terms with his sexuality, and how dance and drag both helped him fully embrace his whole identity—and what he would tell his high school self now.

**GROWING UP I DIDN'T KNOW** what “gay” meant. I knew boys and girls grow up and got married. That was just how it was.

I did have a curiosity about men. They made me nervous but were so intriguing. I never thought I might be “gay,” whatever that was.

In high school my mind played tricks on me. I'd started puberty. People would ask me, “Are you gay?” and naturally I would say, “No?” Nobody wants to be different growing up. But the more I became attracted to guys the more nervous it made me. It wasn't until I was about to graduate that I accepted and admitted it. Maybe it was because I knew I'd never see most of those people again, like a fresh start.

### SKATING, DANCING

I'd been competitively figure skating for 10 years before I found myself in a dance workshop hosted by one of the university's dance organizations, UW Hypnotiq. I tried

out for fun, and ended up being involved for several years. It was the first time I ever played with the idea of dance training, let alone an “8-count.” One thing led to another, and now I make a living teaching competitive dance.

### GAY NIGHTLIFE

With this new path, my curiosity about LGBTQ nightlife was unleashed. I was 18 when I first experienced a gay bar. The first time, I went alone. At this point I still hadn't had the “talk” with my mom. Instead of asking to go it obviously made more sense to sneak out with her car, right? The next day I told one of my closest friends. After that it was both of us who ventured out every week. It became a ritual: sneak out, take mom's car, pick her up, and we were off to the races.

### DRAG

My friend would climb out of her window, and together we would go to FIVE Nightclub, for their Tuesday 18+ nights. It was there that I witnessed my first drag show—and I was fascinated! I started helping out with monthly shows and slowly got involved in the community. These people were fearless, and I admired that. I wanted it for myself. Right before I turned 21 I ran in a small contest at the club and qualified for Mr. Wisconsin USofA. A few months later I competed and was crowned for 2011, then placed fourth at the national contest. It was the highest placement Wisconsin had ever reached in this system. It was definitely an unexpected experience, but a great one. This and UW Hypnotiq brought my desire for dance and choreography to life.

Today I dabble with drag. I decided to keep my name because it's not an alter ego for me. It's not a new persona, I'm still Joey. Who knows where this will go, but already it's opened up other opportunities and new connections. It's exciting and has done a good job filling the void of a creative outlet. Even though



PHOTOS BY (L TO R): MARK MARIUCCI, ANDREW HOLM, SPENCER MICKA.

I'm brand new in a way, I'm a perfectionist. I treat it like a job and, to quote my boss and mentor, “The way you do one thing is the way you do everything.”

### PERFORMING ARTIST

With all of these experiences I've developed a huge passion for performing arts. I'm so happy I went to that dance workshop years ago at U.W.-Madison. It completely moved my path in another direction. I have a dream of being a world-renowned performing artist and choreographer. It will become a reality, I'm certain. I have a notebook specifically for ideas I come up with, and once I put it down on paper I see it all unfold, almost like it's magic.

### FORTUNATE

I am a very lucky kid. I say “kid” because, in my eyes, I'll always be mom's kid no matter how old I get. My mother has been there for just about everything. She may have raised an eyebrow once or twice, but has always been right behind me and embraced who I am. Growing up, I took that for granted. I thought, that's just how it's supposed to be. It wasn't until I met other people in the community and heard their stories that I finally realized how lucky I am. I am blessed, truly, and almost feel guilt for how I didn't see that before. She really is an iconic woman in my community. I have, on more than one occasion, told friends to reach out to her when they needed advice about sharing their sexuality with their family, or even just to have someone to talk to about it.

If I had the opportunity to speak to myself in high school I'd say, “Keep focused and let time do what it needs to do. Time is the secret ingredient for anything, and you don't need to be a cool kid to be a good person. You don't need to be a cool kid to inspire someone to help someone else. It might sound ‘cliché,’ but be Joey. Take Joey and run with it. Nobody else will do that as well as you.” ■



# Make Your Project Happen

Customize your space and start the project you've always wanted. Our options make payments easy and affordable.

RATES AS LOW AS

**3.99% APR\***  
Variable Rate Line of Credit<sup>1</sup>

Stop by your neighborhood branch or apply at [uwcu.org/heloc](http://uwcu.org/heloc).

\*APR is annual percentage rate. Rates are subject to change. The minimum loan amount is \$5,000. Rates shown are for up to 70% loan-to-value. (Use the Custom Rate Quote Calculator to determine your home's loan-to-value ratio.) Home equity lines of credit have a \$149 processing fee due at closing. Closed-end home equity products have a processing fee due at closing that can range from \$75 to \$200. Appraisal costs or title insurance may be required. Appraisal costs range from \$400 to \$600. Property insurance is required. <sup>1</sup>During the 5-year draw period, the minimum monthly payment for HELOC 70%, HELOC 80% and HELOC 90% will be (a) \$50 or (b) the accrued interest on the outstanding balance under the agreement as of the close of the billing cycle, whichever is greater. The minimum monthly payment for HELOC 100% will be (a) \$100 or (b) 1.5% of the outstanding balance, whichever is greater. However, if you exceed the maximum principal loan balance allowed under your agreement, you will also be required to pay an amount sufficient to reduce your principal loan balance to the maximum principal loan balance allowed under the agreement. Balances of less than \$100.00 must be paid in full. Late payment fee: \$10 or 5% of your monthly payment, whichever is less. Processing fee: A one-time charge of \$149 applies to newly booked HELOCs due at closing. Rate indexed to *The Wall Street Journal* Prime. APR is subject to change monthly but cannot exceed 18%. The APR will never fall below 3.99% for HELOC 70%, 4.49% for HELOC 80%, 4.99% for HELOC 90% or 7.99% for HELOC 100% except during the initial discounted rate period, if applicable. No annual fees. A renewable draw period of 5 years and renewal fee of \$100 applies to all HELOCs. Renewal fee is waived with Value or Premium Checking. After the end of the final draw period, the remaining balance will be amortized over 15 years. Your payment will be adjusted each time the interest rate increases or decreases to repay the balance within the number of months remaining in the repayment period.



**UW**  
Credit Union

Your best interest always comes first.®

# Deep Roots, New Branches.

What's in a name? For us, it's being compassionate, courageous, creative, and community-focused. From Cullen Weston Pines & Bach to **Pines Bach**, our priorities haven't changed. They're in our roots.

Personal service. Positive outcomes.

**B** PINES BACH

608.251.0101 | [PinesBach.com](https://PinesBach.com)

Attorneys at Law

