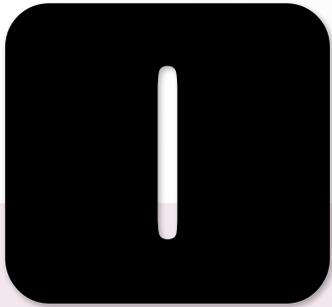


our lives



Anna Alberici 44



Ben Bisbach & Cody Egan 48



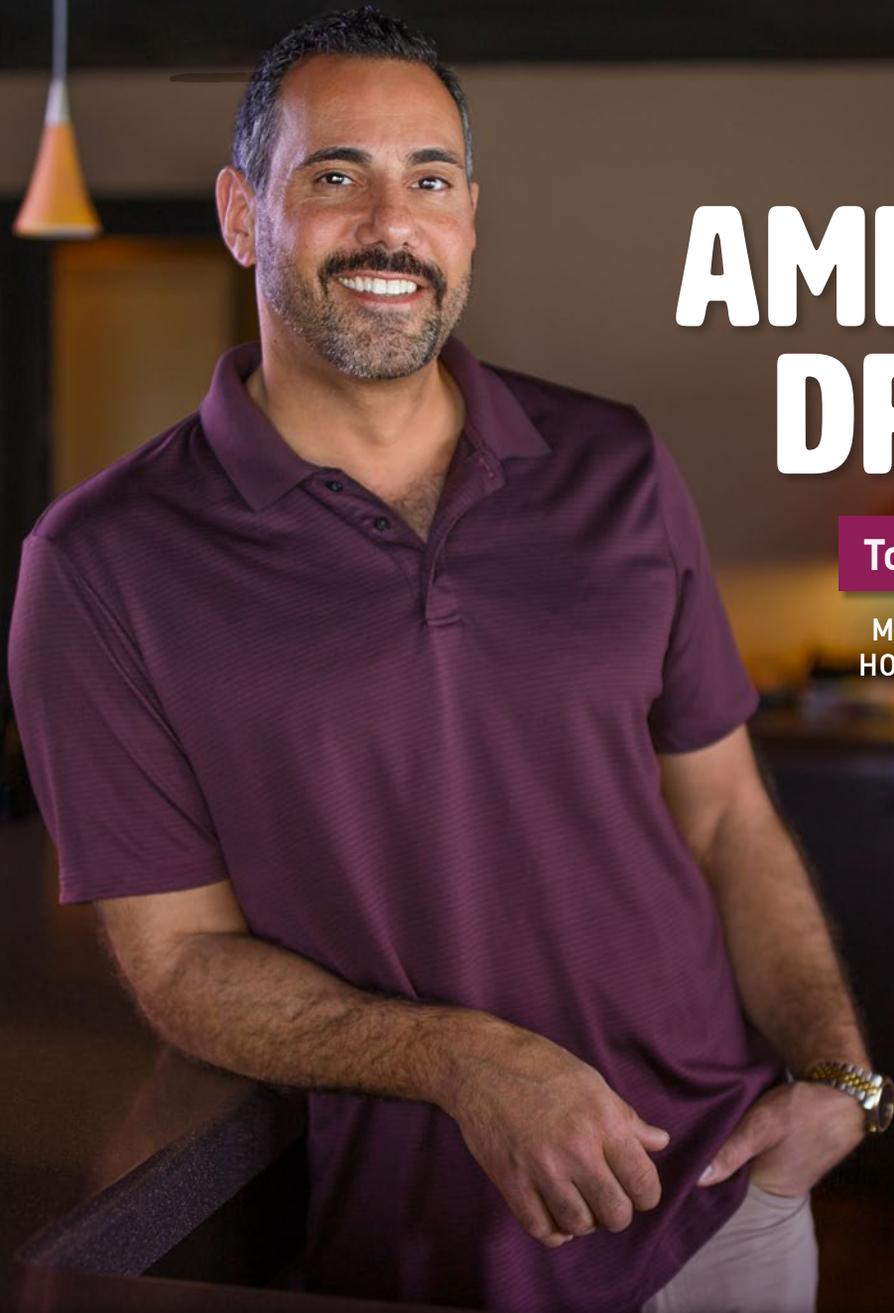
OD Kimani 24

Madison's LGBT&XYZ Magazine

FOOD & DINING

A Community Look at Tips, Trends, and Local Leaders

May / June 2017



THE AMERICAN DREAM

Tommy Hanna

MEDITERRANEAN
HOOKAH LOUNGE &
CAFÉ



OVERTURE

announcing the 2017/18 season

SUBSCRIBE!
SUBSCRIBE!
SUBSCRIBE!
SUBSCRIBE!
SUBSCRIBE & SAVE!

BROADWAY

SERIES PARTNER PRESENTED BY BROADWAY ACROSS AMERICA SPONSORED BY LEXUS | LEXUS OF MADISON

- OCT 3 - 8** A Gentleman's Guide to Love & Murder
- NOV 21 - 26** How the Grinch Stole Christmas
- JAN 2 - 7** RENT
- FEB 27 - MAR 4** An American in Paris
- APR 3 - 8** Les Misérables
- MAY 15 - 20** On Your Feet!
- JUL 24 - 29** Waitress

FAMILY

SERIES SPONSOR

- OCT 22** My Father's Dragon
- JAN 7** Mr. Popper's Penguins
- MAY 5** Arch8's Tetris

SPECIAL FEATURES

- OCT 8** Peter Yarrow & Noel Paul Stookey
- JAN 27** Frostiball 2018

PUPPET FESTIVAL

SPONSORED BY

- MAR 9 & 10** CIRCUS 1903
- MAR 10** Shh! We Have A Plan
- MAR 11** Guess How Much I Love You
- MAR 3** PostSecret: The Show
- MAR 15** The Pirates of Penzance
- APR 27 & 28** Disenchanted!

CABARET

- NOV 2** Jeremy Stolle
- JAN 11** Ken Page
- APR 5** Brandon Uranowitz

DANCE

SERIES SPONSOR

- OCT 20** Symphonie Dramatique
- FEB 6** MOMIX Opus Cactus
- MAY 8** Dance Theatre of Harlem

MUSIC

- SEP 28** Straight No Chaser
- OCT 6** La Santa Cecilia
- NOV 12** A Night with Janis Joplin
- FEB 8** GOBSMACKED!
- FEB 14** Natalie MacMaster & Donnell Leahy
- MAR 7** RAIN - A Tribute to the Beatles
- APR 26** Scrap Arts Music
- MAY 3** Black Violin

JAZZ

- SEP 23** Wynton Marsalis & JLCO
- OCT 26** Bumper Jacksons
- NOV 16** Gregory Porter

CELEBRITY

- OCT 25** David Sedaris
- NOV 10** Bernadette Peters

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC LIVE!

PRESENTED BY GREAT COURSES plus SERIES SPONSOR exact sciences

- NOV 14** Coral Kingdoms
- JAN 23** Point of No Return
- FEB 27** Big Cats
- APR 10** North Korea to Cuba

COMEDY

SERIES SPONSOR MIRE34909

- MAR 10** Puppet Up! - Uncensored
- APR 14** Reduced Shakespeare
- JUN 1** The Second City

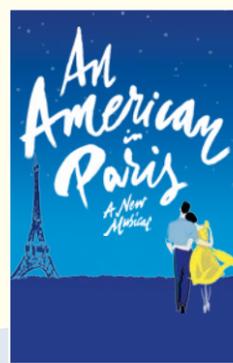
DUCK SOUP CINEMA

SERIES SPONSOR GODMAN'S Jewelers

- OCT 7** The Freshman
- NOV 4** The Flying Ace
- FEB 17** Mantrap
- MAR 17** Sunrise
- APR 7** Sherlock Jr.

PROUD TO BE A LEADER

UW Health is honored to be among only 302 facilities in the U.S. that have earned this designation.



2017/18
your entertainment destination
OVERTURE.ORG | 608.258.4141 | GROUPS: 608.258.4159



our lives
01

Madison's LGBT&XYZ Magazine

Patrick Farabaugh
Publisher / Editor-in-Chief
Emily Mills
Editor

Virginia Harrison
Copy Editor

Contributing Writers
Anna Alberici
Vivienne Andersen
Shiva Bidar
Ben Bisbach
Cody Egan
Tommy Hanna
OD Kimani
Beth McIntyre
Mark Pocan
Nayeli Portillo
Dan Ruge
Andrew Shaffer
Akshat Woodhouse Sharma
Alaura Seidel
Dick Wagner
Caroline Werner

Contributing Artists
Eric Baillies
Lois Bielefeld
Steena Cirves
Samantha Dutcher
Ian DeGraff
Mike Hiller
Spencer Micka
Sarah Maughan
Max Wendt

Business Manager
Matt Jelinek

Webmaster
Genesis Keefer

National Advertising Sales
Rivendell Media Inc.

Subscribers in
400+ Wisconsin
cities & towns

©2017 All Rights Reserved.
May / June 2017, Volume 10, Issue 6
Life in the Middle Publishing, LLC
Patrick Farabaugh & Joseph Patane,
Publishers. PO Box 1202, Madison, WI 53703

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.

“One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well.”

—Virginia Woolf

TABLE OF CONTENTS **FOOD & DINING** MAY / JUNE 2017

DEPARTMENTS

- 6 EDITOR'S NOTE
- 7 CONTRIBUTORS & DANE BUY LOCAL SPOTLIGHT
- 8 OUR READERS
- 12 10-YEAR RETROSPECTIVE

FEATURES

- 40 CULTURE CONNECTION
Tommy Hanna, of the Mediterranean Hookah Lounge & Café.
- 41 TIPS & TRENDS: FOOD & DINING
Local leaders talk what's new.
- 44 HOLDING ON TO THE 'HOOD
Anna Alberici grew of the Greenbush Bar.
- 48 ROOTED TOGETHER
Organic farmers Ben Bisbach and Cody Egan.
- 52 WISCONSIN ACTS UP
Historian Dick Wagner on ACT-UP.
PLUS: LGBT Archives Project.

CONNECT

- 17 PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
Milwaukee's PrideFest.
- 18 OUR ORGANIZATIONS
LGBTQ service organizations.
- 24 OUR ENTERTAINERS
OD Kimani.
- 26 OUR INTERSECTIONS
Akshat Woodhouse Sharma.
- 30 OUR ORGANIZERS
TransLiberation Art Coalition founder Kaci Sullivan.
- 31 OUR READING LIST
- 32 OUR ORGANIZERS
Teens Like Us hosts its annual Pride Prom.
- 34 OUR ARTISTS
Alaura Seidel.
- 36 OUR CALENDAR & SPONSORED EVENTS

IMPROVE

- 56 OUR ELDER'S
The Area Agency on Aging.
- 58 OUR REPRESENTATIVE
Congressman Mark Pocan on transgender rights.
- 58 OUR INTERSECTIONS
Alder Shiva Bidar on her chosen family of fellow immigrants.
- 60 OUR HEALTH
Dr. Kathy Oriel on HIV prevention.
- 62 HEALTH
Barriers faced by young MSM of color in the Milwaukee area.
- 64 OUR TASTE
Casey Thompson and Thomas Beckwith-Thompson of Fair Trade Coffee.
- 66 OUR FUTURE LEADERS
Nayeli Portillo.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

NOMINATE QUEER PEOPLE OF COLOR to be recognized in our July QPOC Pride List at ourlivesmadison.com/qpocpride

Cover photo by Spencer Micka



BETTY WHO
STEVE GRAND
10,000 MANIACS
RANDY RAINBOW
GAREK
AND MANY,
MANY MORE!

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS
PRIDEFEST
MILWAUKEE

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF TRIUMPH
JUNE 9, 10, & 11 2017
TICKETS NOW ON SALE WWW.PRIDEFEST.COM



Love, hope, success, family, security.

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

Some things we all have in common.

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

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

CALL ME TODAY.



1101022.1

State Farm, Home Office, Bloomington, IL

EDITOR'S NOTE EMILY MILLS

BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER

FOOD, I THINK IT'S FAIR TO SAY, is a great uniter. Every human on earth needs to eat to survive, and food, cooking, cuisine, is something that every culture has its own unique take on—something we take pride in, and bring with us when we travel to live in new places even when everything else has to stay behind. Sitting down to break bread with strangers is a great way to open doors, ease tensions, make new friends, and build community.



Perhaps it's no accident that our Food & Dining issue this year has a heavy immigrant theme as well. Especially in the current, tense social climate around the topic, I feel it's more important than ever to offer personal insights and experiences around this idea—to hopefully help dispel harmful myths and stereotypes, and further humanize ourselves to one another.



Hanna

Our cover story features Mediterranean Hookah Lounge & Café owner **Tommy Hanna**, who talks about his Lebanese heritage, surviving the civil war, and learning both the culinary business and entrepreneurial determination from his family.

Akshat Woodhouse Sharma opens up about his own journey from New Delhi to Dubai to Madison, and his struggle to reconcile a vision of authentic living with a socially conservative family that would rather his sexuality remain mostly hidden. **Anna Alberici** paints a vivid picture of the old Italian immigrant community in the Greenbush neighborhood of Madison, and tells how her upbringing there shaped her life and running of one of the few businesses in that area that still represents that heritage. **Shiva Bidar** also talks about coming to America from



Alberici

another country and building chosen family among fellow immigrants.

We're proud to introduce what we hope will be a new, ongoing photojournalism series focused on our readers from all across the state, with small insights into your daily lives, challenges, triumphs, and more. With the help of stellar photographer **Lois Bielefeld**, we start the journey with a couple—two transgender activists who are helping change hearts and minds right here in the Madison area.

That's where we all need to start: locally, personally, one-on-one, in an effort to build a more welcoming and supportive world for everyone. In the midst of what can feel like an overwhelming tide of negativity and impossible odds, it's crucial to seek out these types of positive personal connections. Step by step, bit by bit, shared meal by shared meal, this is how we nourish and sustain ourselves for the long, human journey ahead. ■

CORRECTION

In our **March/April** edition we printed a story about Café Social and its owners, incorrectly spelling the name of co-owner Omar Lopez's home country as "Columbia." The correct spelling is Colombia. We regret the error.

CONTRIBUTORS



DAN RUGE, MA, joined *Diverse & Resilient* in 2014 as the director of programs with a wealth of project management experience, focused heavily on international development, human rights, and community development. Dan has significant experience in creating and delivering cultural competency trainings to assist organizations and individuals learn how to better provide services to the LGBTQ community. Dan holds a bachelor's degree from Wabash College and a master's degree from the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver.

SHIVA BIDAR is the Chief Diversity Officer at UW Health, an integrated health system serving 618,000 patients each year with 1,400 physicians, six hospitals, and 80 outpatient sites. In this capacity, she provides vision, coordination, and strategic leadership for the design and implementation of UW Health's initiatives related to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Shiva has held many key roles in the community, including co-chair of the Latino Health Council of Dane County, member of the Madison College Board of Trustees, Madison Community Foundation board member, and United Way of Dane County Vision Council member. Shiva is a founding member and co-chair of the Madison Area Diversity Roundtable, a coalition of employers committed to diversity and inclusionary practices.

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

DANE BUY LOCAL MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



CREATIVE ENERGY DESIGNS, INC.

125 S. DICKINSON STREET

CREATIVEENERGYDESIGNSINC.COM

Carla Mason, President

Why is buying local important to you and your business?

I believe local business is what keeps our local economy moving. For every dollar spent with a local business more than 80% stays in the area. I feel very strongly about that mutual support.

What is your connection to the LGBTQ community?

We do work with many folks in the LGBTQ community, helping them to create the space they call home.

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

We participate in various fundraisers by donating unique items for raffles and auctions across the city. I personally give back by sitting on the board of Wil-Mar, our neighborhood center, and by heading up the breakfast at Fete de Marquette, our biggest fundraiser for the center. Who wouldn't love a sit-down French breakfast for 350 people?

MADISON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
John DeMain | Music Director

Brahms' Requiem

MAY 5, 6, 7 | Overture Hall

CHARLES STANFORD
Concert Piece for Organ and Orchestra

JOHANNES BRAHMS
A German Requiem

John DeMain, *Conductor*
Beverly Taylor, *Chorus Director*
Nathan Laube, *Organ*
Devon Guthrie, *Soprano*
Timothy Jones, *Bass-Baritone*
Madison Symphony Chorus

buy tickets now!
MADISONSYPHONY.ORG,
the Overture Center Box Office,
or (608) 258-4141.

MAJOR FUNDING PROVIDED BY
Kenneth A. Lattman Foundation, Inc.
Larry and Jan Phelps
University Research Park
BMO Wealth Management

ADDITIONAL FUNDING PROVIDED BY
WPS Health Solutions
Carla and Fernando Alvarado
Wisconsin Arts Board

LISTEN with all your HEART

2017/2018 season

The stage is set for the Madison Symphony Orchestra's 92nd season. Subscriptions available now.

NEW SUBSCRIBERS SAVE UP TO 50%

SEPTEMBER 15, 16, 17 Orchestral Brilliance Chris Dozoryst, <i>Viola</i> BACH/STOKOWSKI MENDELSSOHN BERLIOZ	DECEMBER 1, 2, 3 A Madison Symphony Christmas Emily Pogorelc, <i>Soprano</i> Eric Barry, <i>Tenor</i>	APRIL 13, 14, 15 String Fever Augustin Hadelich, <i>Violin</i> BRITTEN DVOŘÁK SCHUMANN
OCTOBER 20, 21, 22 From the New World Olga Kern, <i>Piano</i> RAVEL BARBER DVOŘÁK	JANUARY 19, 20, 21 Gil Shaham Plays Tchaikovsky Gil Shaham, <i>Violin</i> PROKOFIEV TCHAIKOVSKY RACHMANINOFF	MAY 4, 5, 6 Mass Appeal Christopher O'Riley, <i>Piano</i> Madison Symphony Chorus MOZART JANÁČEK
NOVEMBER 17, 18, 19 Troubadour: Two Faces of the Classical Guitar Sharon Isbin, <i>Guitar</i> COPLAND BRUBECK RODRIGO FALLA	FEBRUARY 16, 17, 18 Richly Romantic Alban Gerhardt, <i>Cello</i> ROSSINI WALTON BRAHMS	MARCH 18 One performance only Beyond the Score® Elgar: Enigma Variations <i>This special concert may be added to your subscription order.</i>

SUBSCRIBE ONLINE NOW: MADISONSYPHONY.ORG/17-18

LAUER REALTY GROUP Powerful Results. Real People.

2557 Upham St

Beautiful Bungalow!
2 beds | 1 baths | 920 SqFt | \$184,900

Located in one of Madison's hottest neighborhoods and featuring the old character mixed with some newer additions.

www.LauerRealtyGroup.com 608.444.5725

MONONA, WI

Brittyn Calyx

I am a queer, trans woman. Most of the time, I “pass” as both cisgender and straight. I have what is called “passing privilege.” I have a smaller frame, delicate features, embrace a binary gender (female), and adopt a rather femme expression of that gender. People often assume

I am a woman, and they are correct.

However, people also make assumptions about my life that are inaccurate. My husband is a trans man and identifies as pansexual.

We met six years ago when we were both presenting in the genders we were assigned at birth, and we supported each other through our respective transitions. My queer identity is important. I own it and have a desire to be out and recognized in my queerness. This requires a repetitive coming out process.

Nearly every time I come out as a transgender woman voluntarily or out of necessity, people start going through a process of “ungendering” me. I am a woman who happens to be trans, though when I come out, people focus on my transness more than my womanhood. This bothers me. I wish people understood that I am a woman (noun), but the adjective of transgender still means a lot to me in sharing my story of who I am and how I came to be.

When I come out as queer, people question how I can be so if I’m married to a man.

That’s when it usually comes out that I’m polyamorous and have another “significant other” who happens to be a woman, though, even if I was monogamous and married to a man, my queer identity would be just as valid.

I wish being queer, transgender, polyamorous, and leather-oriented in my sexuality were more accepted, understood, and respected.

When it comes down to it though, I’m Brittyn. I’m a wife, lover, educator, friend, and professional. My queerness and transness are important, but they are not all of me.



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





MONONA, WI

Rowan Calyx

I'm a trans guy people believe to be cisgender 99% of the time. Thus, I have the dubious distinction of "passing privilege." With the new administration and the hostile political landscape, I struggle with dual desires to remain openly transgender and to hide this hearthstone of my identity that I fully embrace. Though I've created happiness in my life and myself, I've simultaneously never been more anxious.

With the stroke of a pen or the back of a hand, my meager rights or my lovely little life could be threatened. Last July, through a decision by the Government Insurance Board (GIB), ETF removed transgender exclusions on healthcare for state employees, effective 2017. On December 30, 2016, this same board was pressured to reinstate the exclusions if (when) several criteria were met. In January, they were readily met. On February 1, the exclusions were back in place.

Today I went to the doctor for pain, numbness, and textural change in my chest skin. I still have breasts that I bind daily since, as a state employee, I'm unable to access medically necessary top surgery to remove them.

The binder—while properly fitted—is uncomfortably, purposefully, restrictive and I've experienced shortness of breath, back and shoulder pain, headaches, and overheating in warm weather. Though a poor tradeoff, I'd rather experience this pain than forego wearing one, which could leave me open to public hostility and ridicule. I don't have the \$8,500–\$10,000 on hand to pay out-of-pocket surgical fees, and I continually have to prioritize savings for life emergencies and a car over surgery.

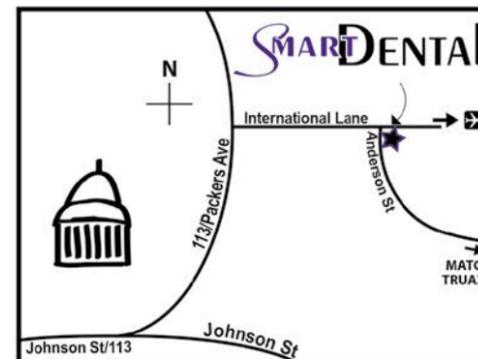
Essentially, my main challenges center around discrimination toward my identity as a transgender person. While there is an increase of support for transgender issues, a rise in anti-transgender sentiment attempts to keep pace.



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



You May Remember

Our Lives turns 10 years old this July, and we're celebrating with our own 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.

OUR YEAR-LONG RETROSPECTIVE of the past 10 years of the magazine continues with a rundown of past May/June issues, when the LGBTQ community (like the rest of Wisconsin) begins to fully emerge from winter hibernation and prepare for summer celebrations. We've centered this issue around food and dining for several years, and it feels appropriate as part of the joy of the season of plenty: warmer days, growing crops, festivals, and of course, Pride. But as with every season, these issues have also featured news and deeply personal stories that highlight our community's setbacks and struggles, as well as our triumphs and perseverance.

May 2008



BEFORE THE FOOD and dining theme, we centered the first May/June issue around the intersection of faith and sexuality, with a moving cover story by Rev. Eldonna Hazen.

In it, she explored the challenge of her decision to go into ministry, and the journey to finding a denomination and congregation that was not only tolerant of her identity, but that celebrated it.

We also featured the excellent reporting of Patrick Erwin, who compiled a list of open and affirming congregations in the Madison area. Attorney Tamara Packard

penned a legal column exploring where the line falls between our First Amendment rights and our faiths. On a more personal note, *Our Lives* Publisher Patrick Farabaugh's mother, Brenda, wrote an incredibly moving and difficult piece about her struggles on the way to accepting her son's sexuality. It's a journey that still rings true for many parents, even in light of the enormous social progress since made.



Our Lives Publisher Patrick Farabaugh with his mother, Brenda.

May 2009



WE TURNED OUR EYES to the Madison music scene, and were honored to have legendary folk musician Tret Fure grace the cover. She talked about the challenges of finding music industry success

as an out performer, and the fascinating journey from piano lessons to Billboard charts. The issue also included the first contribution from now-editor Emily Mills, who did a survey of the out queer musicians then gracing stages around the city.

Rico Sabitini and Corey Gresen made their first appearances in our pages, as we introduced the new Plan B nightclub. Tamara Packard wrote about the marriage equality victory in Iowa, breaking down the state Supreme Court's unanimous decision.

In the history column, Dick Wagner told the story of George Segal's iconic "Gay Liberation" art piece and how it was first installed at Orton Park long before making its way to New York City—largely because, socially, New York was not yet ready for

ROBERTO AMEZCUA, BETH MCCONNELL, IAN DEGRAFF, MELODY HARRISON HANSON, AMBER SOWARDS

its presence there. Notably, the 1989 photo accompanying the piece featured all of Madison's out local politicians from that time, including a young Dane County Supervisor by the name of Tammy Baldwin.

May 2010



WE MADE THE PIVOT to food as the theme, and kicked things off with an excellent piece by Robert Von Rutenberg, who found support and purpose after serious personal struggles with the help of his brothers and the family business. Dick Wagner told us about the Ten Dollar House in Mineral Point, Wisconsin's nationally recognized LGBTQ historical site that was the home of Edgar Hellum and Bob Neal. Their story inspired a play by the same name.

Marty Fox spelled out the ABCs of ERGs (Employee Resource Groups), laying the groundwork for how to grow such an organization within area businesses as a means of doing workplace LGBTQ advocacy. We also saw the first reporting on the new Fruit Fest event at Plan B, as the club kicked off their still-running Pride community festival.

May 2011



THE INTERSECTION OF personal life and work life was painted into a vivid picture by Old Fashioned manager Jen DeBolt, who wrote about running a business that evokes classic Wisconsin

roots and has helped shape the Madison dining scene since its inception. Therapist Sue Gill tackled the tricky and sadly timeless topic of coping with the constant, low-level stress of being a member of a marginalized community, offering methods of finding joy



Dave Eick announcing to the crowd on April 26, 2015 that FIVE nightclub had been saved.

BLAIR
Lawn & Landscape, Inc.
(608) 255-1920
blairlandscape.com
Creative Landscapes Since 1984



- Woman Owned • Full Service Landscape & Maintenance
- Professional Design • Creative Lighting for Your Special Event



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



BEST 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)



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

and purpose even when the world would otherwise wear you down.

May 2012



WE WOULDN'T BE A Wisconsin-based magazine without at least one cover featuring a huge pile of cheese! Fromagination's Ken Monteleone gave that to us, as well as the engaging story of growing up in Colorado (in a town once known as the "sex change capitol of the world," interestingly enough), his background in the shoe business, and how he ended up finding his passion in artisan foods and cheese.

Linda Balisle gave us rare access to then candidate for governor Kathleen Falk, and the Rev. Scott D. Anderson penned a compelling story about becoming the world's first out ordained Presbyterian clergy.

This was around the time the national conversation around and awareness of transgender people really began, but the LGBTQ community had been talking about it more intently for a few years already. Nyle Biondi wrote to that, specifically addressing the issue of outing trans people without asking for permission, and how it causes harm even when that's not the intent.

On a fun note, our Future Leader was Colton Bocher, a U.W. student at the time who made a highly choreographed music video to Lady Gaga's "Hair" that went viral after the pop singer commented on and shared it with her audience.

May 2013



IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT Tami Lax has had a big influence on the Madison restaurant scene, with both Harvest and the Old Fashioned helping set the tone and trend for locally sourced ingredients and quality. She shared the story of her family's relationship with food and how it shaped her own outlook and life and led her to a career in the industry. Meanwhile, we addressed a small controversy that arose when the magazine was removed from racks

at the new HyVee store, something that was brought to our attention by diligent readers and that we were eventually able to get an apology and correction from the store for. We took a slightly different tack with the Pets column, with Dino Maniaci writing a lovely tribute to his partner, Jason Hoke, for becoming a Westminster level dog show judge. The issue also represented the second time ever that we published a piece entirely in Spanish, with Christian Merino's Future Leaders column about struggles coming out and his work with Alianza Latina.

May 2014



LOCAL FROZEN CUSTARD crusader Michael Dix graced our cover that year, and opened his heart and his life to readers with an incredibly raw, powerful narrative about his relationship trials, personal struggles, and his hard work to build a life and a business that is more whole. We reported on OutReach assuming ownership of Madison's Pride parade, and it's been a pleasure to see the event thrive under that organization's leadership the past few years.

Alex Einsman dove into the turbulent waters of digital relationship apps and used the Issues column to talk about how to handle hook-ups and heartaches in the Grindr era, something that's still relevant. Once again, Tamara Packard continued to track the progress (and setbacks) toward marriage equality in the U.S., with a look at all of the cases nationally that were then wending their way toward the Supreme Court, including the then-recently filed Wisconsin ACLU suit that eventually helped bring equality to the state.

MAY 2015 **WE SAT DOWN WITH** local purveyor of sweets and cafe owner Leanne Cordisco of Chocolaterian and interviewed her about her life and work. Readers were treated to a story of caretaking, travel, health scares, and unexpected business connections and success. This issue



also first introduced the Connect Opener feature, as we highlighted the campaign to save Five Nightclub. We've since continued to use this space to address more time-sensitive community news deserving of a bit more space than a mention, and hope it's been something of value to our readers.

The issue featured Rev. Everett Mitchell for his work as an ally and advocate, specifically within the Black church, and it's been gratifying to see the work he's continued to do both in that realm and now as an elected Dane County Judge. Molly Herrmann interviewed e. shor salkas on the importance of the Trans Community Health Assessment, a pioneering data collection effort that helped spur the creation of the Wisconsin Transgender Health Coalition.

T. Banks of Young, Gifted and Black (and of Freedom Inc) wrote about the importance of queer solidarity with the racial justice and Black Lives Matter movement, where many of the leaders are also LGBTQ identified. Well after the issue went to press, jubilation spread quickly as marriage equality won nationally after two landmark Supreme Court cases were decided in June.

May 2016



VISITORS TO THE DANE County Farmers' Market surely recognized our cover person by her purple shirt alone, as we were pleased to feature Tricia Bross of Luna Circle Farm (which sports a purple awning at its market booth). She wrote about her decades of experience in organic farming and it was fascinating to note the changes that have happened within that community over time, as well as her own journey that involved following girlfriends, broken-down cars, women-only and off-the-grid farming.

Ja'Mel Ware invited us to learn about his new social networking group, Intellectual Ratchet, which is centered around people of color living in the Madison area. Cargo Coffee owner and east side community stalwart Lynn Lee shared his moving story of loving and loss, unexpected single parenthood, and

being a mentor to young queer kids who come to work at his businesses. Related, attorney Emily Dudak Taylor wrote a piece looking at the legal implications of cross-state recognition of LGBT adoptions. Rep. Mark Pocan contributed a detailed look back at the progress and work that went toward LGBTQ equality in the past 10 years alone, especially in terms of how much people in Wisconsin's attitudes had changed since even the 2006 vote to ban same-sex marriage.

Read every previous issue online: ourlivesmadison.com/magazine

today's atmosphere. Mediterranean Hookah Lounge & Café owner Tommy Hanna gets the cover with his fascinating tale of the gay immigrant experience, Akshat Woodhouse Sharma opens up about his own journey from India to Dubai to Madison, Shiva Bidar talks about the immigrant chosen family she's built in Madison, and Anna Alberici paints a vivid picture of the old Italian immigrant community in the Greenbush neighborhood of Madison. It seems food is and always has been something that roots us to our forebears, helps us build community, and opens doors to new connections.

May 2017



THE ISSUE YOU NOW hold in your hands represents further adaptation and expansion of the food and dining theme, as we look for new and better ways to more fully represent the LGBTQ community experience. If there's another sub-theme to this issue, it's the immigrant experience, something that feels especially pertinent in

There is also plenty of news, updates, and insights in the issue, as we continue to strive toward being a platform for the many and varied voices and experiences of the LGBTQ community not just in Madison, but more and more throughout the entire state of Wisconsin. Look for a special 10th anniversary edition of the magazine in July, full of our colorful stories, important information, retrospectives on progress and challenges that remain, and a whole lot more. ■

whatever brings you [insert whatever you want here].

rutabaga paddlesports
220 w broadway, madison (wi) 53716

Find us on Facebook rutabagapaddlesports

Find us on Yelp

SATURDAY  JUNE 3



BRIAN JUSTIN CRUM

FROM *America's Got Talent*

FRUITFEST

PERFORMANCES BY

V05  IMAGINARY WATERMELON  SAILOR JAKE  DRAG SHOWCASE

SPONSORED BY

PLAN B



willy street co-op



Fresh. Local. Organic. Yours!

WILLY EAST
1221 Williamson St.
Madison, WI

WILLY NORTH
2817 N Sherman Ave.
Madison, WI

WILLY WEST
6825 University Ave.
Middleton, WI

Everyone welcome!



www.willystreet.coop

OURLIVESMADISON.COM



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



Pride and Prejudice

Several cities across the country are turning their parades back into marches of resistance, in a return to the roots of Pride.

EVERY YEAR IN JUNE, hundreds of cities across the U.S. celebrate LGBTQ Pride with parades and festivals. One of the largest, drawing on average of half a million people, is held in the West Hollywood part of Los Angeles.

This year, in light of the Trump Administration's increasingly hostile attitude and actions toward the LGBTQ+ community, organizers

have announced that the celebration will be replaced with a protest action, dubbed the Resist March.

"Christopher Street West (CSW), the non-profit organization responsible for producing the annual LA Pride Parade and Festival in West Hollywood, has taken its New Year's resolutions seriously," a post on the L.A. Pride



website noted in March. "Today, the CSW Board of Directors is excited to announce a number of important changes to LA Pride in 2017...Given the current political climate where divisiveness and discrimination continue to be part of mainstream dialogue, CSW is determined to make the LA Pride brand a unifying force for the LGBTQ+ community and its allies across all of Los Angeles. To accomplish this goal, the organization is introducing several community-focused initiatives to continue LA Pride's long-standing history as a voice of and for the entire LGBTQ+ community."

"We want to see this year's Pride Parade changed to a protest march!" the Facebook page for the event notes. "Floats and marching bands are nice when we are not at war. Now is the time we shake things up and take to the streets."

An independently organized resistance march is planned for Madison on the same day (June 11). The event is to show solidarity with similar marches nationwide, including a major action in Washington, DC called the Equality March for Unity and Pride. This could mark the first large-scale

LGBTQ march on the nation's capitol since the National Equality March in 2009. The largest such action happened in 1993, with the March on Washington for Lesbian, Gay, and Bi Equal Rights and Liberation, which drew an estimated one million people. The first such demonstration, the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, took place in 1979 and drew around

125,000.

According to the Madison organizers, "Pride March on Madison is the collective voice of all Wisconsin advocates for equality and inclusion. We are committed to fighting for the safety, health, and success of our communities. Let no voice go unheard. Let no one live in fear. Let all of us rise up for equal rights." ■



LGBTQ Organizations Update

News | Awards | Staff & Board Changes
Calls to Action | Events

Reported by **Emily Mills**

NEWS

Important notes about area LGBTQ groups

BADGERLAND SOFTBALL LEAGUE The 2017 season begins with open recreational league, Mondays starting May 15 at Bowman Park, and the Women's Competitive League on Tuesdays starting May 16 at Olbrich Park. More at badgerlandsoftball.com.

DIVERSE & RESILIENT D&R is excited to partner with the Holton Street Clinic to provide free and confidential STI treatment at D&R's Holton Street Milwaukee location. This new treatment service is in addition to our usual HIV / STI testing. Diverse & Resilient can be your one-stop shop for free HIV / STI testing and free and confidential treatment. We are excited to provide these services with such a trusted partner in our effort to make Milwaukee safe and healthy for everyone. A big thank you to the City of Milwaukee Health Department for their support of this project.

MADISON GAY HOCKEY ASSOCIATION The local league reports a successful 11th season, with 150 skaters, 10 teams, and 48 active members. They've also grown their infrastructure to include Hockey Operations, Social Squad, and Sponsor Manager roles, launched a new website (madisongayhockey.org), and raised over \$1,000 at their annual Blades Against AIDS fundraiser for the ARCW.

Recently, the MGHA also penned a letter to USA Hockey voicing strong support for the US Women's National Team and their decision to boycott the world championships later this year over unequal pay and

treatment by the governing body. USWNT won that battle after a landmark decision by US Hockey in late March to finally give the athletes a long overdue raise. According to ESPN, "Until this deal was struck, USA Hockey only paid them for training leading into the Olympics, and that was only \$6,000 for the six-month residency. This deal could mean six figures for the players if they win Olympic gold. By the final year of the four-year agreement, \$950,000 will be allocated in a compensation pool for the players."

MILWAUKEE LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER The center begins its Healthy Sexuality Course for individuals 18+. This workshop focuses on gay/lesbian/bi-/hetero-/trans and gender-nonconforming sexual health and the group meets for six weeks, March 27 through May 1. Free with registration.

OUTREACH LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER Madison's LGBT community center is partnering with several community organizations on some of their social/support groups. NAMI will now help to offer Rainbow Connections, a mental health support group, meeting the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 4:30 p.m. at United Way (2059 Atwood Ave.). For more information email lgbrainbowconnections@gmail.com. OutReach is also partnering with Domestic Abuse Intervention Services and Rape Crisis Center on Men Moving Forward, a support group for men who experience all types of abuse. Men Moving Forward is an inclusive group for everyone who identifies as male or non-binary. For more information email menmovingforwardwi@gmail.com.

Proposed state budget would harm LGBTQ people suing for discrimination



GOV. SCOTT WALKER'S PROPOSED state budget would strip crucial elements of the Wisconsin Fair Employment Act, making it far more difficult for people to sue over LGBTQ-related discrimination.

Wisconsin became the first state to pass a law prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation 1981. State law provides for back pay, reinstatement, cease and desist orders, and attorney fees as remedies for discrimination. The proposed budget bill would take away the ability to make claims for attorney fees where employees receive no actual damages. For example, where an employee has been harassed on the basis of his sexual orientation, no attorney fees would be available for prosecution of the claim against the employer, leaving the employee without legal representation, or financially worse off than he was when he had to tolerate the harassment. This will discourage employees from making claims and vindicating their rights.

In addition, the proposed budget bill contains a provision that would require that the employee pay the employer's attorney fees in the event that s/he was provided an offer of settlement early in the case that was more than the damages awarded at the end. The change would also force claimants who lost their cases to pay the attorney fees of the employer.

The budget bill also proposes the same changes to the Wisconsin Family and Medical Leave Act, which provides leave protections for the unmarried partners of LGBT individuals—something the federal Family and Medical Leave Act does not do.

"Because there is no parallel protection in federal law for sexual orientation discrimination," notes employment attorney Barbara Quindel, "this is particularly devastating to LGBT rights."

WI LGBT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE For the last few months, the Chamber has been working with Milwaukee Public Schools to add in LGBT Business Enterprises (LGBTBEs) as one of the certifications that the district will accept in their Historically Underutilized Business Program.

As of mid-March, Milwaukee Public Schools are now officially accepting the LGBTBE certification in the HUB Program. MPS joins a number of the Chamber's corporate partners that actively work to include LGBT-owned and certified businesses in their supply chain. The MPS Contract Compliance Services supplier diversity initiative strives to increase the number of diverse business enterprises that supply goods and services to the District.

AWARDS / RECOGNITION / GRANTS

Special thanks for those who do good.

ARCW Each year at the Make A Promise gala, ARCW honors individuals, organizations or companies who have made a significant contribution to the fight against AIDS. We are pleased to announce our 2017 award recipients:

Courage Award, **Carlton Wilborn** and **Salim Gauwloos**: We honor two of the dancers made famous by Madonna's Blond Ambition Tour in 1990, both of whom are long-term survi-

vors with HIV. Subjects of the award winning documentary *Strike A Pose*, Carlton and Salim now shine a spotlight on HIV. As na-



Julia & Cindy
Putting the Pieces together for You!



juliaandcindy@firstweber.com
(608) 241-8356 • www.athomeinwisconsin.com
4706 Cottage Grove Rd., Madison

PROUD MILITARY SUPPORTER

GET READY TO SUMMER
CREATIVELY
ART CLASSES AND SUPPLIES TO PUT YOU IN A CREATIVE GROOVE



LYNN'S
ART SUPPLIES, NEEDLEWORK,
CUSTOM FRAMING, CLASSES
5928 Odana Road, Madison
m-th 10-7, f 10-6, sat 10-5
608.274.1442 or lynnsfmadison.com

RYAN & JOYCE-RYAN

FUNERAL HOMES & CREMATION SERVICES



WE CARE FOR ALL FAMILIES WITH COMPASSION, DIGNITY AND PROFESSIONALISM. AS A FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED FUNERAL SINCE 1938, WE HAVE GUIDED FAMILIES THROUGH THE PROCESS OF GRIEVING WITH NEIGHBORLY CONCERN AND PROFESSIONAL CARE. PLEASE CALL ON US IF WE CAN BE OF SERVICE TO YOU.

608-249-8257 RYANFUNERALSERVICE.COM



Looking for your new tranquil bathroom?

Looks like it's...

TIME 2 REMODEL
time2remodel.com



Vandalism at LGBTQ organization offices

AS WITH SOME OTHER LGBTQ-serving organizations across the country, **Diverse & Resilient** was hit with a series of vandalism and graffiti attacks in December and February. The first consisted of a smashed window on the office's front door in December, followed by another smashed window a week later. At the time we were not sure if these were random acts since we are located in a neighborhood where vandalism and graffiti happen, and this is just part of the neighborhood dynamics we are part of. We gladly accept that as part of the work we do.



We posted pictures on Facebook but did not make the claim that these were anti-LGBTQ incidents—we simply did not know and did not wish to make a claim we could not back. We did, however, want to inform others, knowing there was increased violence directed at marginalized communities around the country.

Then in February the entire front of our building was covered with spray paint and the word "FAG" was painted next to our front door. This felt different, and it was more clearly an anti-LGBTQ incident. At about the same time, we received several threatening phone calls and learned of threatening Facebook posts directed at individual staff and the agency. To say this was all unnerving would be an understatement. We felt attacked and threatened and were at a loss for how to ensure everyone's safety.

We felt an obligation to make people aware of what had happened, so we again posted pictures of the vandalism and graffiti on Facebook. We did not ask for money, but people from all over the country offered their support—both financial and emotional. The news media in Milwaukee covered the story and I was contacted by NBC in Los Angeles because their local LGBT Center was hit with anti-LGBT graffiti the day after us. It became a full-time job to keep up with the Facebook postings of support and requests by the media for comment.

We had already been researching a surveillance system for the building due to the December vandalism. With the money that came in following the graffiti Facebook posting (about \$7,000) we were able to purchase a system to meet our needs, and we made it a priority to get it installed as quickly as possible. Within a week of installation we were once again tagged with spray-paint and the word "FAG," similar to the incident a week earlier, but this time we had the perpetrator on camera.

When these types of incidents occur, one response is to try to put pieces of the puzzle together to find anything linking the incidents to each other or with anyone we know who has an issue with us. We know that, while there are random incidents, there are also connected incidents. With the camera footage, we were able to quickly identify the individual with help from the police and others in the community.

The suspect has been arrested and has admitted to all the acts of vandalism back to the first smashed front door window in December. The process is now working its way through the legal system and we are working closely with the District Attorney's office to monitor it.

The suspect is not someone previously affiliated with D&R, but is known in the community we serve. We believe the individual was not fully in control of their actions when these incidents were committed. Our goal is to ensure that the individual gets any appropriate care needed while also ensuring the safety and security of the D&R staff and the people we serve.

This experience has been more exhausting, time consuming, and unnerving than I could have imagined. On the other hand, the outpouring of support from so many is what helped me, the staff, and our supporters get through this difficult time, and we will always be grateful.

Our vandalism experience is not ending with a clear victory of exposing and convicting a homophobic coward. Instead it is ending as one more lived experience knowing that others will have our back when we need them. While we were victims, we never sought vengeance. We only wanted to go about our days peacefully, doing the important work we do, and now we are able to do that again. —Gerry Coon, D&R President & CEO

tional advocates and sources of inspiration, they encourage others confronting this disease to pursue their health and live full lives while bringing HIV to the forefront of public conversation.

Philanthropist of the Year, **Michael Bersch**: More than 126,000 people have registered over the years for AIDS Walk Wisconsin & 5K Run, however, Michael Bersch is only the second participant to reach the milestone of raising more than \$100,000 in pledges. We honor Michael as a tireless champion of the fight against AIDS in Wisconsin.



Leadership Award, **Gilead Sciences**: This year's Leadership Award Winner is Gilead Sciences. Gilead is a leading developer and manufacturer of advanced medicines used to help HIV patients live long, healthy lives and is the first company to offer the medication used in pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)—one of the most significant innovations in HIV prevention. Gilead also plays a leading role in supporting HIV patients, health care providers, and clinics through their robust philanthropy, technical assistance, and patient assistance programs. More than 600 people already have pre-reserved their places at this event. Have you? Watch for invitations arriving soon or call Melanie Stagg at 414-225-1570.

DIVERSE & RESILIENT **Kathy Flores**, D&R's Statewide LGBTQ Anti Violence Program Coordinator, was recently elected to the Board of Directors of Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin. D&R values and supports their staff who lead by example and generously give back to the community.



MILWAUKEE LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER **Syd Robinson** (LGBTQ Advocate) received the Gary Hollander Adult Leadership Award at Diverse & Resilient's annual Reviving the Dream Celebration in March.



UW PRESS The novel *A Thin Bright Line* by **Lucy Jane Bledsoe**, published by the University of Wisconsin Press, is a finalist for the Ferro-Grumley Award for LGBT Fiction (winner announced in April) and a finalist for the Lambda Award for Lesbian Fiction (winner to be announced in June).

Mineral Point's historic preservation weekend to focus on contributions of gay men who saved the Ten Dollar House

ROBERT NEAL AND EDGAR HELLUM were a couple who became famous among historical preservation circles when they bought and restored the Pendarvis House in Mineral Point during the Great Depression. Their story, including a gay "marriage" hiding in plain sight in small town Wisconsin, was brought to the stage with the play *Ten Dollar House*, which will be performed during a weekend-long celebration of all things historic preservation.



The festivities also include talks by author Will Fellows, who will present the story of the two men and their commitment to preservation, as well as the revitalization of the entire town. The events run from Thursday, May 4 through Sunday, May 7, with the play staged Saturday evening at 7:00 p.m. at the Mineral Point Opera House. More information can be found at mineralpoint.com.

STAFF / BOARD CHANGES

Who's moving on or moving into org leadership

ARCW Two staff in leadership roles are extending their expertise to better serve Wisconsin. **Bill Keeton**, ARCW Vice President of Government and Public Relations, continues to serve as Chair of the Wisconsin Public Health Council. The council recently helped

to lead the state's Wisconsin Health Improvement Planning Process and has been intimately involved in the development of the state's response to public health threats. The Public Health Council was created in 2003, and by statutory authority the Council's purpose is to advise the Department of Health Services, the Governor, the Legislature, and the public on progress in implementing the state's 10-year public health plan and coordination of

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



MADISONALTERNATIVEREALTORS.COM

MADISONALTERNATIVE@GMAIL.COM



Susan Oshman

206.1440
237.2306



GAY, LESBIAN, BI, TRANS, STRAIGHT.

Honestly, the only label we care about is

FAMILY.

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



wisconsinfertility.com
3146 Deming Way, Middleton



responses to public health emergencies.

Brett Blomme, Director of Major Gifts, was recently elected to serve on the Finance and Strategic Planning committees of Fair Wisconsin. The ARCW congratulates both Bill and Brett on their appointments, and thanks them for their service.

DIVERSE & RESILIENT D&R welcomes **Lian Markovich** as the program coordinator for their statewide Safe Dates program. Prior to joining D&R, Lian presented workshops on direct-action response to sexual violence, and provided education on sex toys and pleasure at The Tool Shed in Milwaukee.

Kailee Evans has joined D&R as a social media intern for their statewide Thinking Under the Influence alcohol harm reduction program. Kailee started as a D&R community health promoter and then joined the D&R Youth Advisory Board.

MADISON MINOTAURS RUGBY The Minotaurs admin board would like to thank outgoing board members **Jacob Wingert**, **Ben Coblentz**, **Dennis Geiselman**, and **Anders Zanichkowsky** for their service to the team. New Directors **Eric Fabian** and **Drew Briski** are joined by our new treasurer **Tim Tousey** and Secretary **Jason Gullet**.

MILWAUKEE LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER **Nayeli Portillo** recently joined as the Youth Advocate, **Reggie Thirus** joined in LPC-IT, SAC-IT and as a Youth Advocate, **Shelley Gregory** came on as the Transgender Resource Specialist, and **Syd Robinson** joins as an LGBTQ Advocate.

OUTREACH LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER Madison's LGBT community center hired **Michal Osier** as their new LGBT Senior Advocate. She was one of the co-founders of Lavender in Wisconsin and brings a great deal of experience in the mental health field as well as experience working with LGBTQ people.

UW Health earns "Leader in LGBTQ Healthcare Equality" designation

MADISON-BASED UW HEALTH has been designated a "Leader in LGBTQ Healthcare Equality" by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation (HRC), the educational arm of the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) civil rights organization. The designation was reported in the 10th edition of the Healthcare Equality Index (HEI), reflecting on a decade of progress in LGBTQ healthcare. Only 302 health care facilities earned the designation. A record 590 health care facilities actively participated in the HEI 2017 survey. The HRC Foundation also proactively researched key policies at more than 900 non-participating hospitals.

"UW Health is committed to be a national leader in diversity and inclusion," said UW Health CEO Dr. Alan Kaplan. "I'm happy to say that our organization has met the standards for this honor for several years, even as those standards have become more stringent."

"All three UW Health locations were granted leader status," said Shiva Bidar-Sielaff, chief diversity officer for UW Health. "We are honored by the recognition. We strive every day to provide inclusive care for our LGBTQ patients and families."

The 10th edition of the HEI implements new criteria that raise the bar on what it takes to earn HRC's "Leader in LGBTQ Healthcare Equality" designation. For the first time, HEI participants are given scores in four criteria that represent how many policies and best practices from each section they have implemented:

- Foundational elements of LGBTQ patient-centered care,
- LGBTQ patient services and support,
- Employee benefits and policies,
- LGBTQ patient and community engagement.

Participants that receive the maximum score in each section for a total score of 100 points earn the coveted status of "2017 Leader in LGBTQ Healthcare Equality."

STAGEQ **Brian Belz** has joined the staff as Bookkeeper.

CALLS TO ACTION

Where and how you can help

FORGE The organization is recruiting volunteers for Milwaukee's PrideFest. Write to them at askFORGE@forge-forward.org if you are interested.

OUTREACH LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER In partnership with Groundwork and Ethnic Studies Association-Edgewood College, the Center has started a new discussion group for a deep conversation about race, privilege, and racism within the queer community. This will highlight how queer people can perpetuate racism and white supremacy with or without realizing it. Learn how to recognize these instances and how to interrupt them within ourselves and within our spheres of influence. Folks will be challenged to recognize their own privilege and will leave with action steps. It will be ongoing on the fourth Saturday of the month from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at Outreach. This is intended for people who identify as queer. For information email shawnalutzow@gmail.com.

STAGEQ The LGBTQ theater company has updated their mission statement: "StageQ's mission is to celebrate queer diversity through quality theater written by and about LGBTQ people, building an inclusive community and affecting positive social change."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Plan ahead to join in

ARCW The annual Red Ribbon Affair fundraiser will be held **MAY 5** at the Madison Concourse Hotel. On **JUNE 8**, the group holds its Big Gay 5k run/walk in Milwaukee. **JULY 28-30** the annual AIDS Ride Wisconsin takes to the highways and byways of southern Wisconsin (more info at arcw.org). Things heat up on **AUGUST 20** for the second annual Red Hot and Leather event at the Hot Water Warehouse in Milwaukee, hosted by a local volunteer with help from the Brew City Sisters and featuring food, music, a 50/50 raffle, and entertainment. Finally, on **OCTOBER 7** the AIDS Walk Wisconsin returns to the Milwaukee lakeshore.

BADGERLAND SOFTBALL LEAGUE Save the Date: Miss Gay Softball fundraiser will be held Saturday, **JULY 15** at FIVE Nightclub. The league will also welcome teams from around the country for the Badgerland Classic Softball Tournament, **JULY 1 and 2** at McGaw Park in Fitchburg. More info at badgerlandclassic.com.

FORGE Looking for a therapist? The transgender support group urges you to come meet and talk with several on Saturday, **JUNE 17** at 2:00 p.m. at the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, 1110 N Market St #2 in Milwaukee. All are welcome.

GSAFE The Celebration of Leadership Youth Scholarships Awards will be on, **MAY 13**, 6:00-8:30 p.m. at the Monona Terrace, and the theme is "Onward. Always!" Despite threats at the state and national level, GSAFE will be not be deterred in supporting Wisconsin's LGBTQ+ youth. During the event we'll hear from LGBTQ+ youth leaders, as well as two adults committed to supporting LGBTQ+ youth. The event is critical to GSAFE's ability to raise funds necessary to provide the advocacy and support programs that reach thousands of LGBTQ+ youth across Wisconsin each year. \$75 per person. \$30 for middle/high school students. Reduced-cost tickets are available. For information: info@gsafe-wi.org or visit: gsafe.auction-bid.org.

MADISON MINOTAURS RUGBY On **MAY 6** there will be a home match at the Wisconsin Rugby Sports Complex (4064 Vilas Rd. in Cottage Grove) against the Sheboygan Silverbacks and Minneapolis Mayhem. Attendance is free. For kickoff time, check facebook.com/madisonminotaurs.

MILWAUKEE LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER On **APRIL 19** the City of Milwaukee Equal Rights Commission (ERC) will hold a listening session on transgender issues at the center. Open to the community and allies. 5:30-7:30 p.m.

OUTREACH LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER You are invited to the 10th Annual Garden Party on **MAY 18** at Rotary Gardens in Janesville from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The event will feature a hot and cold buffet, beverages, mingling, and a brief program. Suggested donation of \$30.

The Center will hold a summer party to benefit the 2017 OutReach Pride Parade on **JUNE 22** from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the home of Susan Eichhorn (215 Forest St. in Madison). The event will feature a hot and cold buffet, beverages, mingling, and a brief program. Suggested donation of \$30. For information contact OutReach by calling 608-255-8582.

STAGEQ "Die! Mommie! Die!" by Charles Busch runs **JUNE 16 - JULY 1**. The year is 1967 and Angela Arden is a washed-up pop singer who's married to Sol, but involved with an unemployed actor named Tony. When Sol turns up dead, all fingers point to Angela. Leading the charge is Angela's daughter Edith, who's eager to get even by killing her mother. Edith's brother, however, is not so sure that mom is to blame. ■



ULLA EYEWEAR

local independent hand-crafted

HILLDALE | ULLAEYEWEAR.COM



- 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

StageQ Proudly Presents

Die Mommie, Die!

by Charles Busch directed by Michael Bruno

June 16th - July 01st

The Bartell Theatre 113 E Mifflin St, Madison
 Tickets - stageq.com or 608-661-9696

Le Dame GO STUDIO WEB State Farm shamrock PLAN B



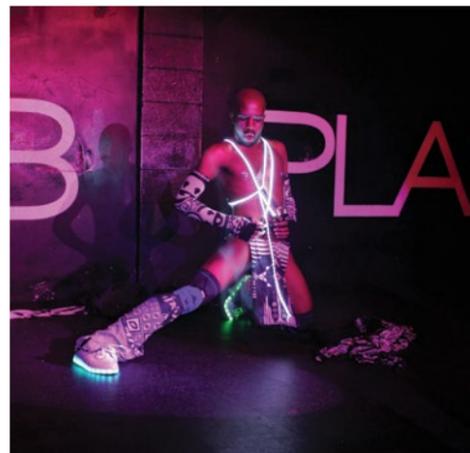
Change Agent

OD Kimani found a platform for personal expression, empowerment, and social change in the world of neo-burlesque.

I'M AN INTERNATIONAL BURLESQUE performer, and I am beyond humbled to have a platform to creatively express and affect change in our ever-changing society. I strive to move audiences when I perform and enjoy being able to truly share and create on stage. I have always had a love for the performing arts, including 20 years as an actor and time spent studying theatre at Edgewood College in Madison.

I was first drawn to performing because of the amazing people and community that it promoted. When I was younger, I was diagnosed with ADD and had a lot of difficulties in school (including being kicked out of preschool), and performing was a true outlet for me. It helped me to be able to focus my energy in a positive way, and to feel like I finally was part of something bigger and affecting those around me. Meeting so many people who inspired me along the way continues to make me feel lucky every day for the beauty that is sharing something I've created with a live audience.

I have always enjoyed entertaining an audience, and I truly appreciated my time in theatre. My time in that discipline was very rewarding, but I always wanted another avenue to express myself in the creative arts. Because of this, I began to explore the world of dance



a bit more, and I had the honor of joining Chez Bouché, a comedic and provocative cabaret troupe. Touring the U.S. with this group was an opportunity that I was so truly thankful to experience. I learned a lot about my abilities and found a whole new love for the way dance can move an audience. I went back to doing theatre and just never felt like I was satisfied. I knew I loved performing, but I also knew I wanted to do more and empower others. Shortly thereafter, my best friend Mercury Stardust-Deville introduced me to the world of burlesque, and I fell in love with performing all over again.

I have only been burlesque dancing for about a year and half, but there is no better feeling than seeing a picture in my head come to fruition on a stage. In this wonderful art form, I am able to express my true self. I feel like I can bare my soul and give everything I have every single time I perform.

Once I started doing burlesque, everything else in my life seemed to fall into place. I have never felt more at home than I do in the burlesque community. I am lucky to have had so many before me pave the way for the amazing opportunities I have today. It may have taken me a little while, but I finally found my niche and I couldn't be happier.

While burlesque is a perfect fit for me, it is important to mention that I am a guest in this community as a male performer. Burlesque was created by and for women as a means to be able to express themselves and not feel that they had to conform to society's rules about their bodies. I am a guest here, and I am so beyond grateful.

I have had a lot of success recently and it has really boosted my confidence. Life has not always been the easiest on me as a performer of color, and I am so thankful to have found a safe place where I finally feel fully accepted and loved. I recently performed in Switzerland at the Geneva Burlesque Festival and recently won the Judges' Choice Award at the Great Burlesque Expo in Boston. Last year I had the opportunity to represent Wisconsin nationally as the 2016 WI Burlypicks Master of Amazement. I will be attending two festivals in Canada, and competing for titles at the Hebden Bridge Festival in the UK as well as at the Hollywood Burlesque Festival in May.

As I reflect on my journey, I am truly humbled by the highlights of my short career in burlesque so far. I have found my home in an art form that helps to empower performers and audience members alike, hopefully affecting change in people's lives. I have never felt freer, and I could not be happier. I will be forever grateful for the way burlesque has changed me and soothed my soul. I now fully accept myself as a black man in this community, and that is priceless. ■

PERFORMANCE PHOTOS BY JONATHAN POPP




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

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](https://FredAstaire.com/Madison-West)

Madison East
1714 Eagan Road
Madison, WI 53704
(608) 204-0404
[FREDASTAIRE.COM/MADISON-EAST](https://FredAstaire.com/Madison-East)



I—a Dubai-raised North Indian Brahmin (or, NIB, as I say; similar to American WASPs, just in burnt caramel)—had first moved to the U.S. in 2008. There are Facebook and Instagram pictures detailing the extroverted, debauched adventures of “Drunkshat” in Fargo, North Dakota (where I did my undergrad) and even, to a certain extent, in Madison.

WAYS OF COPING

Something changed in me after I came out to my parents. There was such strife that followed the declaration that I felt like someone with a chronic, dull ache in their jaw, like the kind you feel for a few hours after a punch lands. At first, I attempted to dull the pain with booze and boys, but that only made the pain more acute. Instead, I’ve become very solitary. Primarily, it was because I don’t think anyone really understood why I was so distraught—or why I’m still so distraught—about coming out, and being met with an unhappy response. I think it’s because a lot of my Madison friends have a different value system, one that differs so much from that of Orthodox Hindu families made even more prudish by Colonialism. So, I stay alone. It’s easier. It’s quieter. I hate myself less.

It occurred to me that I couldn’t be alone in this. New Delhi has queer folk, certainly. I tried to get this question answered via New Delhi Tinder. Now, let me tell you, New Delhi Tinder is so different from Madison Tinder.

Back to the angry-cry-inducing data-set, though. When I showed this to my boss, she knew exactly what the problem was: “I know you said something about visiting your parents. When are you planning to do that?” Given that there was angry-crying, I knew it was time for me to step away from the lab bench, from my stentorian diet, and from discipline in general. The time away from structure would do me good. Moreover, regardless of the tensions, I missed my Ma and Daddy! I think that’s a sentiment anyone can identify with, regardless of whether one is dark chocolate or white.

RUNNING AWAY

The last time I was in New Delhi—2007—the air was less opaque. But the smog that holds court over the ancient city these days is oppressive. It was early on a January weekday that I went for a run in the vast park near my cousin’s sprawling old house. I was on vacation and felt like such a piece of shit, spending my days eating, reading trashy fiction all afternoon, and then spending the evenings shopping or just hanging out in plush South Delhi cafes. This run was significant. This is how I sometimes begin my days here in Madison: cardio and then off to the lab to Get Shit Done.

I didn’t last very long: the smog filled my lungs, and I had to stop barely a mile in. Wheezing and unable to speak, I stalked my way home. Everyone had an opinion: it was too cold (it was 65°F), the smog was too much for my “Americanized” lungs, I was “out-of-shape” for having not run for the past five days.

I will remember that feeling of suffocation forever because it is what I felt whenever, inevitably, someone—an aunt, a cousin, a great-uncle, a friend of the family—would almost accusingly ask my mother why I wasn’t married. These conversations would usually

An Experiment in Pride

From New Dehli to Dubai to Madison, **Akshat Woodhouse Sharma** grapples with what it means to live an authentic life when family and cultures clash.

I AM NOT USUALLY an angry crier, but I found myself coming close to weeping molten iron as I looked over the newest data set. It was generated from a series of experiments I’d been running in service of a long-suffering yet provocative study about a rare population of immune cells.

This is what I do: I am an immunologist working on my PhD at U.W.-Madison. Truth be told, the lab and, by extension, immunology, is all I have. The biology of the cells I work with is a precise kind of music I seem to not find with people anymore. People are dissonant, unclear about what they want. It used to be different when



1 Waiting out a 15-hour layover at the Indira Gandhi Airport in 2016. 2 Akshat’s old diaries found in Dubai in 2016. 3 A view from Dubai in 2011. 4 Ubering around New Delhi in 2016.

happen over meals or the millionth cup of ginger-infused chai of the day. “It is amazing!” they’d say to my mother. “Amazing that he isn’t married yet. Educated, handsome, and fair-skinned—by boy standards, anyway, so it is amazing! What’s the problem?”

My mother would smile tightly and provide some iteration of, “His PhD is his main priority right now.” I didn’t speak. My mother has a certain smile which says, “Keep it together.” I’d still seethe, but under the auspices of that smile, I’d keep my mouth shut.

The inquiries would sometimes bypass my mother: “What’s wrong?” they’d ask me. “Why is there no special girl in your life?” Or, “Is there someone, and are you afraid of talking about it? You mustn’t! We’re open-minded. It’s fine if she’s white. These things happen. The heart wants what the heart wants!” Tittering would follow, and I’d feel my lungs fill with that oppressive smog as I’d choke out the agreed upon line about my research being a priority. What I really wanted, deep down, was to offer a sharp riposte, saying

“If you’re so open-minded, how about if she was a he?” Instead, I’d remember my mother’s particular smile, I’d keep it together, and I’d scream into my pillow at night.

YOU CAN’T GO HOME AGAIN

It occurred to me that I couldn’t be alone in this. New Delhi has queer folk, certainly. I tried to get this question answered via New Delhi Tinder. Now, let me tell you, New Delhi Tinder is so different from Madison Tinder. The guys were more forthcoming with pictures, clear about what they were looking for, and really wanted you to know that they had jobs/were in school/their lives were going somewhere.

Karan (not his real name), whom I met via New Delhi Tinder, was a student studying economics at Delhi University. He and I hung out at a local gym once, lifting and chatting. Karan liberated my formal, clipped-tones-of-a-Colonial-courtesan Hindi to the Punjabi-infused,

Locally Raised

FLY LOCAL from MSN and get there on the spot! From cattle class to first class, our homegrown hospitality is second to none.

Visit our **FLY LOCAL** booth at the Dane County Farmer’s Market on 5/13 & 6/3 for the chance to **win \$1,000** in tickets on Delta!

DANE COUNTY REGIONAL AIRPORT
MADISON

MSNAirport.com/FlyLocal



1 Living in North Dakota in 2009. 2 In Boston in 2012. 3 Running up Bascom Hill in 2016. 4 Akshat's Madison neighborhood in spring of 2016.

rapid fire Hindi of New Delhi proper. It was fabulous! He, like me, was upper-middle-class, and out to some friends, his sister and a few close cousins. When I asked him if he'd ever tell his parents, he looked irritated. "Kya, yaar..." ("What the hell, dude!") he muttered.

"Why are you mad at me?" I asked.

"This is such a downer of a subject!"

"But, I told my parents and..." I stuttered.

"It fucking sucks for you. It's awkward. At my place, it's not awkward. Why make it awkward?"

"What about acceptance? Being authentic?" I pressed.

"I am authentic," he said, suddenly serious. "I love my parents, but I don't need their approval to be authentic. I don't need to cause them pain to be authentic."

"Idealistic rubbish, my man!" he exclaimed. "You've lived in America too long. This whole Norman Rockwell idea of coming out with tears of love and acceptance...it's, like, so cinematic. Those aren't our values."

"So, what will life look like? What if you have a boyfriend and you guys fall in love, and..."

He shrugged: "Ki farq painda hai?" ("What difference does it make?") This, I've learned, is a conversation ender in New Delhi.

As I walked home from the gym, I allowed myself to imagine what it would be like being Karan's boyfriend. We'd be inseparable. We'd work out together. Our couplings would occur surreptitiously on trips to nearby holiday spots with a group of understanding friends who'd feel hella progressive in our company. His parents would call me their "second son," as BFFs in New Delhi often become. And that would be it. A lifetime of being BFFs. Maybe someday I'd ask him if he loved me, and he'd shrug and say "Ki farq painda hai?"

CHASING NORMAN ROCKWELL

As final as Karan's pronouncement sounded, I had the time to explore a different shade of it as I moved onto the Dubai half of my vacation. To me, Dubai was more of a homecoming than New Delhi: Dubai is where I was raised. In some ways, going back to one's parents' house is an exercise in time travel. At 27 years old I felt suddenly 17 again, sleeping on the familiar, hard, orthopedic mattress of my childhood bed, asking my parents' permission to do things I wouldn't even think twice about were I in Madison, being hesitant about drinking liquor, swearing, and generally calling attention to the big gay elephant in the room.

However, I did find that Dubai Tinder was as vibrant and diverse as the city itself. I matched with Noah, a Yale-educated British lawyer who teased me mercilessly about my Jane Austen affinity, but at one point did begrudgingly admit to enjoying Emma as much as I do. Then, there was Derek, a rakish South African PR manager who had me at "CrossFit and then chill?" Finally, Vivek, an Indian doctor who, like me, had gone to similar snooty private schools in Dubai and then gone abroad (England, in his case) to study. He returned to Dubai, and lived happily with his partner of many years in an airy apartment in an upscale area of the city.

I was charmed by Vivek's wit. I was charmed by how fast the jokes and zingers flew between us as we lazed about on chaises longue at a café called Shakespeare & Co: zingers as brisk as the Earl Grey we were sipping. At one point I straight-up asked him if he was out to his parents.

"Not officially," he said. "But, I think they know. We just haven't said it out loud."

"What about your partner? What do they think of him?" I pressed.

"Oh, they love him. But, he's my 'roommate.'"

"Aren't you offended? I'd be horribly offended! Oh, my God!"

I said.

Vivek laughed. "Akshat, they leave me alone. No one's pushing marriage on me, and no one is being weird about what I have going on. What does it matter if they acknowledged it or not?"

"It's so dehumanizing, Vivek!"

"Idealistic rubbish, my man!" he exclaimed. "You've lived in America too long. This whole Norman Rockwell idea of coming out with tears of love and acceptance...it's, like, so cinematic. Those aren't our values."

"So, there are no happy endings to be had for brown queer boys?" I asked.

Vivek, at this point in time, was incredulous.

"Who says?" he countered. "I have a job I love, a man I love, and a bitchin' apartment. That's a happy ending, Akshat. C'mon. What else matters?"

SEEKING AUTHENTICITY

Dubai cabbies are known to be a chatty lot but, thankfully, the chap who picked me up wasn't. I needed the time for self-reflection after the conversation with Vivek. Was my idea of a Happy Ending influenced by my adoptive America? Were Karan and Vivek right? Was the only acceptance one needed was that of the self?

I thought about Karan again, and how adamant he was about his authenticity. Never once had I asked myself if I was being authentic, or what that even meant. The question, "What do you want?" is a devastatingly powerful one, even more so when one doesn't quite have an answer. Who was I to talk about being authentic when I wouldn't exactly tell my parents that I was going to meet these men? In fact, I'd squeeze in my Tinder dates between actual group hangs with old high-school friends just so that when I told my parents that I was "going out with friends," I wasn't entirely lying.

"You're a grown-ass man, dude!" my brother exclaimed from Minneapolis via WhatsApp when I told him about it. A grown-ass man, indeed, who didn't know what he wanted.

I did find authenticity, eventually. I found it back in Madison. It seemed to hit me right in the face. Every grad student can attest to One of Those Days when you're spinning about 18 plates. It's one of those 16-20 hour days of work with no end in sight, but somehow your enthusiasm is boundless and your skills have never been better. I had one of those days: it was awash in tumors, cytokines, mice, and who knows what else, and I managed to make it to the gym, too. There was no anxiety, no catastrophizing, just me working carefully, methodically. I only feel this in the lab. The lab—to borrow a dated expression—makes me feel like a whole man.

To be authentic is to be at equilibrium with oneself, and the lab is the only place I get that feeling—not the bars where I find myself playing at Something Desirable. Not house parties which make me feel old. The lab: Pure and simple.

Maybe that is the answer for queer brown boys in my situation: to be authentic is to strive to be excellent. From excellence comes pride: a little extra pride to make up for what was lost when you came out. ■

MADISON'S BEST IN-HOME PERSONAL TRAINING SERVICE

WORTH

PERSONAL TRAINING

BOOTCAMP NUTRITION

- Save time and money! Skip the commute. Enjoy the comfort of your own home or gym.
- 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

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!

INVENTURE REALTY GROUP



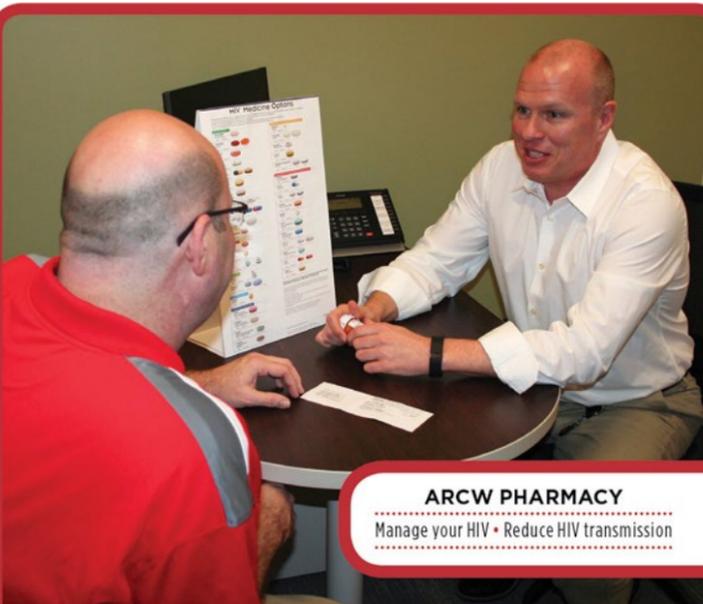
Let us help you Buy A Home

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



ARCW PHARMACY

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. Fill your prescriptions with us today.



ARCW.org
1.800.486.6276



TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT YOURSELF—WHO ARE YOU?

I am a passionate artist and activist. In 2013, I earned my first degree in game design and animation, and I'm currently back in school working toward a business degree. I am the proud parent of an autistic almost-five-year old, and I'm currently six weeks pregnant with my second child. I consider myself to be an inclusive, intersectional feminist.

WHAT IS THE TRANSLIBERATION ART COALITION? WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO START IT/GET INVOLVED?

The TransLiberation Art Coalition was created to generate visibility, and to empower and elevate the lives of our trans*, gender-fluid, gender nonconforming, and non-binary community. We fight erasure, hateful law making, media misconceptions, and cisgender appropriation of our narratives by reclaiming our own power and voices. We use an online community, pop-up events, and two art shows a year to endeavor toward those goals.

I created the coalition to achieve all of the above, but also to give my community space and encouragement to celebrate themselves. So often, we only get together to protest and grieve. I believe it's critical that we realize how skilled and talented we are, that we realize how capable our community is of taking care of each other. It's easy to feel helpless, alone, and isolated, but the truth is, we are very capable and tenacious. I want to encourage both groups and individuals to network with each other. I want to build a stronger foundation that doesn't let anyone in our community fall through the cracks.

WHY IS THIS PROJECT IMPORTANT AND, PERHAPS, UNIQUE? WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH WITH IT, AND WHAT DO YOU HOPE PEOPLE GET FROM IT?

I have yet to find anything else like the TransLiberation Art Coalition that currently exists. The coalition definitely identifies and fulfills very real needs of our community. We need to be seen, heard, and validated. Safe spaces and platforms must exist. We need to be able to reach out to each other and communicate with each other and support each other. We need to know we are never alone.

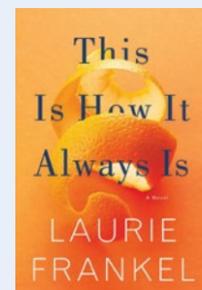
I want this coalition and these events to build the confidence, esteem, and personal power of every community member who participates in a show, comes to an event, or visits the website/online community. I want artists, performers, writers, musicians, etc. from my community to have the opportunity to be heard, seen, and truly listened to. I want to continue to fill the website/online community with resources, content, and tools that may mean the difference between life and death.

The website is really exciting because of how much we can do with it. Not only can we reach out on a national and international level, but we can incorporate so many elements and develop them over time. For instance, the website has a marketplace where transgender, non-binary, and gender nonconforming people have the opportunity to purchase goods and services from their own community. We also have an idea incubator, and eventually we want to lead our own product development. We should be the ones benefiting from the products our community consumes. We are also building a library of poems, stories, interviews, and research papers about trans* people by trans* people. It shouldn't be so hard for us to access our culture and community—that's exactly the type of erasure I'm so dedicated to fighting.

PHOTO BY JESSICA MUNDT.

LGBTQ Reading List

A current LGBTQ reading list at the Madison Public Library, compiled by Madison librarians **Tyler Furo** and **Beth McIntyre**.



This Is How It Always Is, by Laurie Frankel. Flat Iron, 2017.
A domestic drama about parents raising a transgender girl—and fleeing Madison for Seattle in an effort to protect her, with unfortunate results—is written by an IRL mother of a transgender girl.

Giovanni's Room, by James Baldwin. Vintage, 1956.
Did you see *I Am Not Your Negro* and crave more? Baldwin's masterpiece illuminates how homophobia and self-loathing derail our relationships and ourselves. Relevant and heartbreaking.

In Full Velvet, by Jenny Johnson. Sarabande Books, 2017.
Romantic, conversational, and ethereal, these poems lyrically evoke the natural world, lesbian love, and queer artistic touchstones of yore.

It's Not Like It's a Secret, by Misa Sugiura. Harper Teen, 2017.
A charming coming of age story about what to keep to yourself and what to share, and how it's sometimes hard to judge which secrets are going to burn the whole house down.

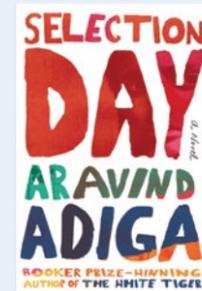
LGBTQ Stats: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer People By the Numbers, by David Deschamps & Bennett Singer. New Press, 2017.

Well-sourced and comprehensive, this compilation is a generous grab bag for the list and data obsessed.

Selection Day, by Aravind Adiga. Scribner, 2016.
Competitive cricket-playing teen brothers foreground Booker prizewinner Adiga's exploration of masculinities, class, faith, and the perilous life facing gay men in 1980s Mumbai.

Love Interest, by Cale Dietrich. Feiwel & Friends, 2017.
The sweetest of literary brain candy, this sharp teenage spy story has two teen agents, a Nice Guy and a Bad Boy, trying to woo secrets out of their targets—which is getting increasingly difficult as their attraction for each other grows. Pure fun.

Ramona Blue, by Julie Murphy. Balzer & Bray, 2017.
Pragmatic Ramona, who has been living in a FEMA trailer with her father since Hurricane Katrina, came out to her tiny Mississippi town when she was a freshman. As she considers her future after graduation she begins to re-examine the identity she's worked so hard to protect.



WHAT ARE THE FUTURE PLANS FOR THE PROJECT, AND WHERE CAN PEOPLE FIND OUT MORE?

You can follow us on Facebook or at transliberation.space. We will have a second show in the fall. All details are yet to be announced, so keep your eyes peeled!

More immediately, we will continue to build our online space and post new content. Additionally, I am going to be documenting every week of my pregnancy via blog (alternating written and video content). I'm going to discuss everything: physical changes, emotional states, how I'm feeling, how society treats me, how my healthcare providers treat me, whether I'll opt for a home birth or not, how I'll go about building a breast milk network (I don't want to use formula), absolutely everything.

I'm also inviting journalists to document the journey with me. There is virtually nothing available that discusses (in depth or at length) the experience of trans* and gender nonconforming people who are with child. ■

Offering services for seniors and adults with disabilities

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

Your local connection to an independent life

Call 274-7900 today www.IndependentLivingInc.org

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

**HANDMADE
IN MADISON**

JEWELERS WORKSHOP

301 N. SHERMAN AVE 608.251.7795 JEWELERSWORKSHOP.COM

Artistic License

TransLiberation Art Coalition founder **Kaci Sullivan** talks creating community and the importance of carving out space for trans and gender non-conforming people to express and support themselves.

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

VIVIENNE ANDERSEN
Anything but Ordinary™

(608) 425-0929 • Negotiation Ninja
Vivienne.A@EXPrealty.com • VivienneAndersen.com



Get to Know Your Banker

TIM SHELTON Assistant Branch Manager
tshelton@home-savings.com

HOME SAVINGS BANK
home-savings.com

You matter more to a local, independent bank. We're here to serve your personal and business banking needs.

Call Tim at 608.282.6312

Equal Housing Lender | Member FDIC | NMLS# 457895

treat your dog with pride

Your dog will love these delicious cookies made with peanut butter and organic ingredients.




parking in back

442.6868 baddogfrida.com 2094 atwood ave. m-f 10-7, sa-su 9-5



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

CONNECT → OUR ORGANIZERS



Over 450 youth attended TLU's Pride Prom in April. Faces have been blurred to protect the identity of the youth. BELOW: Organizers at the event.



Prom for All

Teens Like Us hosts its annual **Pride Prom** as part of its regular efforts to provide a welcoming environment for LGBTQ+ youth and their allies, work that is now more important than ever.

TELL US A BIT ABOUT PRIDE PROM. HOW AND WHEN WAS IT STARTED AND WHO ORGANIZES IT?

Teens Like Us (TLU), an LGBTQ+ youth drop-in group at Briarpatch Youth Services, organizes Pride Prom annually. The event has been going on since at least 2003, and while we aren't entirely sure who started it, we think it was Johanna Golden, a former facilitator of the group in the late '90s and early 2000s. The event has consistently served as a safe space for LGBTQ+ teens to feel safe and comfortable being their true selves no matter their sexual orientation or gender identity. While the majority of attendees do identify as LGBTQ+ we also see a growing number of allies who come out to support their peers and enjoy the event with them. We are so grateful that the Madison Children's Museum donates space to us each year to host the event and are also fortunate enough to have a handful of donors, including individuals, local businesses, foundations, and corporations.

WHO COMES TO THE EVENT? IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU GET YOUNG PEOPLE FROM WELL OUTSIDE MADISON WHO MAKE THE TRIP—WHOM DOES IT SERVE?

While the event mainly brings out teens from Madison and the surrounding towns, it attracts teens from as far as Appleton, Oshkosh, and Milwaukee as well. For teens in more rural areas there tends to be a lack of opportunities to engage with LGBTQ+ peers and many of them do not have as much access to resources and support services in their area. A 2012GLSEN study on rural and small town LGBTQ+

youth highlights that these students are more likely to have a hostile school environment: "Compared to students in urban and suburban areas, LGBT students in rural schools are more likely to hear negative comments about gender expression and sexual orientation; feel unsafe at their schools due to their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression; and experience verbal and physical harassment and assault due to these characteristics. In addition, the more hostile climates experienced by students in rural and small town schools may be further exacerbated by the lack LGBT-related resources relative to their suburban and urban counterparts, including a lower prevalence of GSAs, supportive staff, inclusive curricula, and comprehensive anti-bullying policies."

WHY IS PRIDE PROM IMPORTANT TODAY? WHAT NEEDS DOES IT MEET?

This event is an opportunity to provide LGBTQ+ teens (13-19 years old) in and around the Madison area with a safe space to be their true selves and to celebrate their prom in the ways that they are most comfortable, as they often do not have the opportunity to do so at their school proms. As we know, many LGBTQ+ community members are struggling with what to do with our new political reality and are having a difficult time putting anger and concern into action. We know that LGBTQ+ youth are struggling with the election results and there is a lot of fear running through the community in terms of safety and protection. An event like Pride Prom is an opportunity to provide LGBTQ+ teens a space where they can be amongst like-minded peers without as much uncertainty or fear.

How does the evening generally go? What kind of feedback do you get from those who attend and those who support the event?

The evening is always so much fun. The first floor of the Children's Museum is full of food and treats and is a space for the teens to be a bit more relaxed, with tables and chairs to sit at and different exhibits to check out. A good portion of the upstairs transforms into a dance space where we have DJ Lizzy T spinning, and it's where the majority of the teens find themselves. Most of the exhibits are also open on the second floor, including an art area, and we create a "quiet room" for teens who are feeling overwhelmed and need a bit of a break from the action.

WHERE CAN PEOPLE GO TO FIND OUT MORE / SUPPORT PRIDE PROM AND TEENS LIKE US?

Teens Like Us meets every Tuesday from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Briarpatch Youth Services and provides a safe and supportive environment for LGBTQ+ youth. The group is dedicated to decreasing isolation among sexual and gender minority youth, and bringing a voice to their experiences. Meetings provide a non-judgmental place for youth to explore issues related to sexual orientation, gender identity/gender expression, culture, racism, and sexism, as well as opportunities to exchange information, build community, and get support from others that are going through the same unique social and emotional challenges. TLU also offers youth access to sexuality education, positive adult role models, and activities that help them to develop their social and emotional competencies.

Teens Like Us runs on a very small annual budget and we try to offer activities for the teens (beyond our weekly group meeting) multiple times throughout the year. We are always looking for donors, especially for events like Pride Prom. The event continues to grow and we want to be able to accommodate all of the youth who attend and provide them with a wonderful experience.

You can contact us at: June Paul june.paul@briarpatch.org and Robin Matthies robinmatthies@gmail.com (co-facilitators). ■



"I'm **happy** because I'm **saving money** while I hone my **craft**."

—Rachel, future actress

Save nearly \$13,000 per year by starting your **bachelor's degree** with us. Explore more than **150 transfer options!**

Apply today!  madisoncollege.edu

Madison College. Find your Happy Place.

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



Seeking New Questions

Alaura Seidel reflects on using art as a means to seek answers—or better yet, start new conversations—around everything from gender to sexuality to chronic pain and memory.



OFF THE BINARY

I rediscovered the portrait, slightly crumpled, at the back of my closet around middle school. I'd put two and two together by that time and realized that the lashes were the artist's final attempt to tell us "This subject is a girl! A real life girl! Pay no attention to the dinosaurs, for I have given the child eyelashes!" Putting just enough pieces of the puzzle together to frustrate me (without really understanding why I was frustrated), I ripped up the portrait and threw it away. I would have burned it if my mother had let me.

My understanding of this childhood portrait came in waves. Not until I'd graduated with an art degree, come out as queer, come out again years later as nonbinary, flopped around sloppily in non-art jobs, and finally returned to my creative practice did I begin to explore the indicators we might give or interpret in visual art to represent or contemplate gender and sexuality. What clues can a work give you about experiences or

identities that are, at times, seemingly intangible? Where one person might observe a dinosaur t-shirt, another might observe a marker of gender, and where an artist might add eyelashes, for instance, they might also be offering critical information about their own worldview. Around the time of this revelation, I stopped drawing eyes (preferring to avoid such commonly gendered territory as eyelashes) in my own self portraits.

QUESTIONS & REFLECTIONS

As a transdisciplinary artist exploring gender and sexuality, chronic pain, memory, mental health, and accountability, my creative practice today is not bound by any particular process. Typically, I start with questions and use any means necessary to find answers—or, more likely, new questions. In major works, my artwork is highly relational and performative, designing experiences that complicate the position of an audience and, sometimes, implicate viewers in experiences for which they may not otherwise feel responsibility.

My critical work is social and participatory, where an audience helps make sense of the world right along with me. When I can't get around to these kinds of expensive or planning-heavy projects, I toil away on found plates, mirrors, scraps of cardboard, and other discarded items, working out ideas in small studies. Self-portraits on mirrors hold glasses framing blank spaces, where one might expect eyes to be. In this way, I both avoid giving information regarding gender and hope to heighten our subconscious questions about gender (I once positioned myself within earshot of my mirror portraits,



I WORE MY FAVORITE dinosaur t-shirt and corduroy overalls. My great aunt Gail hummed along in her scooter while I skipped to keep up, my feathery bowl cut slipping through the breeze of the boardwalk. A creative creature herself, she'd decided to take me on one of the greatest adventures my eight-year-old brain could dream up; we'd visited a gallery and an art supply store that morning, where I got my first kneaded eraser and a few bits of charcoal. Now we were off to find a portrait artist she'd seen around town. After a short skip/scoot, we stumbled upon the artist and I settled in to have my portrait drawn. I'd get to see a real artist at work!

We edited these recorded performances to project larger-than-life mouths on the walls of the gallery, those mouths speaking memories into open air, sharing the weight of the words with me.

My little wooden chair was trembling; I was so excited that I could hardly keep still. After ten minutes or so and despite all my wiggling, the artist leaned back (tada!) and my aunt asked, all smiles, "Isn't my niece beautiful?" The artist looked at her, confusion briefly flashing. Then: a few furtive marks on the portrait, a quick sealant on the work with a spritz, a turning easel for me to take a look.

With shining bowl cut and hint of tooth I hadn't quite grown into yet, the portrait was a perfect rendering. I couldn't believe it! I knew in a moment that being a real artist, whatever that meant to my child brain, would be hard work. There was one detail, though, that caught me off guard: daddy-long-leg-longs, Minnie Mouse homage eyelashes. I'd never seen such large specimens, most especially on my own face. How could the artist have made such a huge mistake?

stealthily listening to audience members' responses to the drawings. Comments like, "Who's that guy?" or "I think I know that girl!" really excite me, as they raise up our assumptions in ways we might not realize at first).

I often use mirrors as a resource in lectures and workshops, telling the dinosaur t-shirt story and reflecting with participants on how we choose to tell our own stories, why we need space to explore and control our own images, and maybe even if or how we do gender. While my drawings act as income for dry spells between exhibitions, they also serve as raw material for educational outreach and proactive studies for major works.

PARTICIPATORY ART

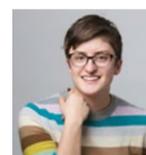
Toast was one of those major works, on view from April 1 through April 23, 2016 at the Arts + Literature Laboratory. *Toast* lived first as an installation and video-based work, reconciling the tension between private confrontations and public spectacles, contemplating both what people do spontaneously and what people perform consciously. One week before the opening, I'd invited guests to join me in the gallery to read from a script while we filmed them. This script contained one-liners that have been said to or about me over the course of my life. These memories (like "Hey faggot! Shave

I'm eager to use this rich new language of shadows alongside my community to better understand our individual and collective experiences, whether they pertain to our social locations or to intertwined experiences and identities.

your legs! or "I'll just assume you're a lesbian because you say you are" and "I hope you don't give my grandbaby AIDS") introduced guests to the core themes of the exhibition, inviting early participant/co-authors to help shape, through their performances, what the exhibition *Toast* would become.

With the help of Midwest Story Lab, we edited these recorded performances to project larger-than-life mouths on the walls of the gallery, those mouths speaking memories into open air, sharing the weight of the words with me. The memories bounced around a room full of my belongings, the gallery set up to look like my living space (including such knick knacks as bowl cut childhood versions of myself in little frames on shelves), and ultimately fueled conversations around gender and sexuality for the near-month of the exhibition

About six months after the close of the exhibition, I self-published a 64-page book reflecting on *Toast*. This was an important extension of the show, not merely documentation of it, and included short stories explaining the exhibition's script, interviews with my partner that help flesh out memories I can't quite put shape to on my own, essays describing those theories of socially engaged art that undergird my practice, and detailed recollections of the making of *Toast*. This book was my first major writing project as a working artist and taught me a lot about my own practice. I look forward to engaging writing as a medium for meaning-making in future projects.



ALaura Seidel is the Executive Director of the ArtWrite Collective and a teaching artist at the Monroe Street Arts Center. To learn more about Alaura's work, check out their website at alauramegan.com. To explore collaborations, book a workshop, or purchase a copy of *Toast*, contact them at alauramegan@gmail.com.

SHADOWS & LIGHT

Moving forward, I'm eager to explore a new aesthetic language around shadows to try to understand my experience as a nonbinary queer person with chronic pain. Like I've used mirrors as a tool to convey information, I will research and leverage the lore, dimensions, ephemerality, performative potential, and overall form of shadows to guide my work as an educator and socially engaged artist. This new chapter of my work has blossomed from a few moments converging—both the excitement of seeing visitors' shadows cast on those projected mouths of *Toast*, and the discomfiting sensation that to be a nonbinary trans person (that is to say, no longer understanding myself as dino t-shirt niece but placed somewhere off the binary of gender altogether, where they/them pronouns feel good and the ambiguity of queerness gives me comfort) is to somehow be a thing that's not here but not quite there, to declare what I'm not instead of what I am, to be a shifting, shadowy thing.

See, like those images I cast under streetlights, my understanding of my own gender shifts by the moment, sometimes slipping so far beyond my comprehension that I can't see it—let alone feel it—any more, sometimes becoming so clear and in focus that it would be difficult to have any questions at all. I'm eager to use this rich new language of shadows alongside my community to better understand our individual and collective experiences, whether they pertain to our social locations or to intertwined experiences and identities.

This work doesn't exist in a vacuum. My understanding of what it means to be an artist (and to be nonbinary!) is absolutely shaped by the work of organizers, creatives, activists, and youth in our community—and only barely by that boardwalk artist. I'm grateful to have found a voice in the arts and to be continuously learning alongside peer queers and allies. ■

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



May & June

We're officially headed into outdoor festival season, and thank goodness for it. We could all use the sunshine, and the opportunity to connect with our communities is more than just an added bonus.

For more LGBTQ-specific events, see our Organization Events on page 23.

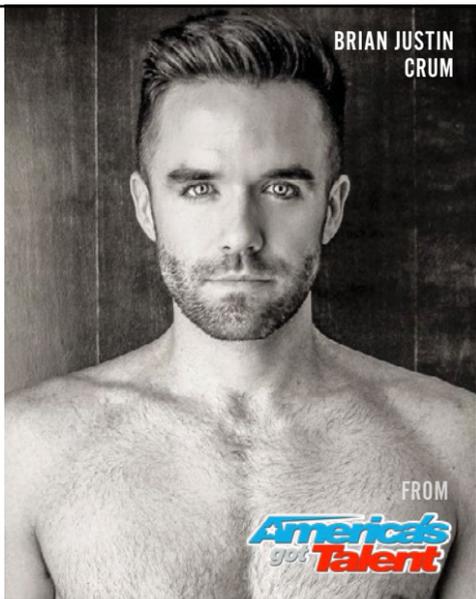


JUNE

3

FRUIT FEST *Plan B*

Madison's unofficial Pride month festival returns to the Plan B parking lot with a family friendly day of both local and national live music acts, food, and goods for sale from area vendors, games, contests, and more. fruitfestmadison.org



BRIAN JUSTIN CRUM

FROM **America's got Talent**

MAY

9-14

THE BOOK OF MORMON

Overture Center for the Arts
The outrageous (and nine-time Tony award winning) musical follows the misadventures of a mismatched pair of missionaries sent halfway across the world to spread the Good Word. overture.org



13

GSAFE'S CELEBRATION OF LEADERSHIP

Monona Terrace
"Onwards. Always!" The annual youth scholarship awards ceremony and celebration will be held from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Monona Terrace in Madison. Hear from youth leaders in the LGBTQ+ community as well as two adults committed to supporting LGBTQ+ youth, all while raising funds for GSAFE's critical work throughout Wisconsin. gsafe.auction-bid.org

18

OUTREACH GARDEN PARTY

Rotary Botanical Gardens, Janesville
Madison's LGBT Community Center holds its annual fundraiser garden party in a beautiful new location, with a hot and cold buffet and beverages, mingling, and a brief program. This is a sober event. lgbtoutreach.org



27

GEEKESQUE BURLESQUE III

High Noon Saloon
A Madison underground standout returns! A bevy of burlesque, drag, and performance talent from across the Midwest take the stage for an evening of sexy homages to some of your geeky/nerdy pop culture favorites. facebook.com/geekesqueburlesque

JUNE

8

BIG GAY 5K RUN/WALK

Milwaukee Lakeshore
ARCW holds its annual fundraiser run/walk event all along the beautiful Brew City lakeshore path. arcw.org



21

20TH ANNUAL WORT BLOCK PARTY

200 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Celebrate Madison's community radio with a day packed full of live music, kids' activities, and beer on tap from over 20 local breweries. wort.org

STEVE GRAND



24 & 25

"HARRY POTTER & THE SORCERER'S STONE" IN CONCERT

Overture Center for the Arts
Madison Symphony Orchestra
Overture Center for the Arts
The Harry Potter film series is one of those once-in-a-lifetime cultural phenomena that continues to delight millions of fans around the world. The concert will feature The Madison Symphony Orchestra performing every note from "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone." Audiences will be able to relive the magic of the film in high-definition on a giant screen while hearing the orchestra perform John Williams' unforgettable score. overture.org

9-11

PRIDEFEST MILWAUKEE

Summerfest Grounds
Betty Who headlines the world's largest Pride festival on the sprawling Summerfest Grounds, with three days of live music, DJs, vendors, dancing, and a whole lot more. pridefest.com

11

EQUALITY MARCH FOR UNITY AND PRIDE

UW Library Mall
As Pride celebrations across the country return to their protest roots this year, Madison joins the trend with its own, independent event. facebook.com/events/1245692508849124

16

(THROUGH JULY 1)

"DIE! MOMMIE! DIE!"

Bartell Theatre
StageQ presents its take on this Charles Busch play set in the seedy underbelly of '60s entertainers, including washed-up singers, out-of-work actors, murder, plots, and intrigue. stageq.com

25

HER MADISON HALF MARATHON

Madison, WI
This new event benefits Girls on the Run of South Central Wisconsin, and aims to provide a welcoming and all-encompassing race weekend experience for women and girls, including 5k and half marathon options. hermadisonhalf.com

SAVE THE DATE

JULY 6-9: National Women's Music Festival at Marriott West

JULY 28-30: WI AIDS Ride

AUGUST 20: OutReach Pride Parade, downtown Madison

OCTOBER 6: OutReach Awards Banquet at Monona Terrace

OCTOBER 7: AIDS Walk Wisconsin on the Milwaukee lakeshore



2017 SEASON
JUNE 10 - NOVEMBER 19



RECEIVE
20% OFF
EVERY SINGLE TICKET
WHEN YOU ORDER BY
JUNE 9.

devotion commitment perfect harmony MEN'S CHORUS • MADISON, WI Spring Concert

World Premiere of "20 years" by Margaret Cornils Luke

Friday, June 2, 2017, 7:30pm
First United Methodist Church
\$15 advanced purchase / \$20 at the door

20 years
www.PerfectHarmonyChorus.org

2017 **Art Fair Off the Square**
MADISON, WISCONSIN

artcraftwis.org
facebook.com/ArtFairOfftheSquare
Art by WAAC Artist Laura Meddaugh

Between the Capitol and Monona Terrace
Saturday, July 8 & Sunday, July 9
9 to 6 | 10 to 5

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS
Showing the talents and creativity of the Wisconsin Alliance of Artists and Craftspeople, Inc.

The most fun you'll have doing good.



JULY 28-30 • REGISTER TODAY
aidsridewis.org

Choose from short routes, one-day,
 weekend ride, or three-day options.

Madison • Milwaukee • Madison

42nd National Women's Music Festival

July 6-9
 2017

Marriott Madison West Hotel
 and Conference Center
 1313 John Q. Hammons Dr
 Middleton WI 53562

Ferron ♦ Suzanne Westenhoefer ♦ Zrazy
 Mimi Gonzalez ♦ Pura Fé ♦ Barbara Higbie
 Linda Tillery & the Womanly Ways Band
 MazzMuse The Band
 Violet & the Undercurrents ♦ Jorian Oxygen
 Women of the Harlem Renaissance
 Renée Janski ♦ Irene Tu ♦ HEAR in NOW
 Chelsey Danielle ♦ Carole Walker

New this year! Friday Night DJ Dance with Ellen Bonjorno

Emerging Artists Contest hosted by Summer Osborne • Drum Chorus with Wahu •
 Festival Chorus with Renee Janski • Workshops • Marketplace
 Folk Orchestra with Kiya Heartwood • Live & Silent Auctions • Open Mic



WIAonline.org
BrownPaperTickets.com



CONNECT → OUR SPONSORED EVENTS

MARCH 26 ARCW Camp Bingo: Witches & Wizards



PHOTOS BY SPENCER MICKA

MARCH 10 OPEN Annual Dinner at Monona Terrace



PHOTOS BY ERIC BAILLIES.

Introducing the New 2017 MINI Countryman



**THOSE WHO DEFY LABELS,
 DEFINE THEMSELVES**



MINI of Madison

310 West Beltline Highway Madison, WI 53713
 608-729-MINI (6464)
 MINI OF MADISON.COM

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



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



Tommy in the Hookah Lounge side of his restaurant and bar at 77 Sirloin Strip in Madison.

Culture Connection

Tommy Hanna, owner of the Mediterranean Hookah Lounge & Café, recalls his journey through family kitchens, civil wars, coming out, and becoming whole.

I HAVE BEEN NO STRANGER to chasing the American dream. My father and mother were both immigrants from Lebanon with entrepreneurial spirits. My memories of my father helping the neighborhood customers at his store, the Park Avenue Grocery in Janesville, begin around the age of four. Business was always a family endeavor. My parents were always proud of the culture from which they had come, while also embracing the America that they were now a part of.

Most of all I remember the smells and the tastes of my mother's kitchen. The culinary experience is a large part of Lebanese culture. If I jump ahead in my story it really should not have been a big surprise that my brother and I would decide to open a restaurant that would expose the community to the taste of Lebanon.

TRIALS BY FIRE

I was born in Janesville, the youngest of four. I remember my mother always cooking. She would take a few quality ingredients and make them into a masterpiece. While my mother spent most of her time in the kitchen, my father was busy dreaming and building a life for his family.

As you can imagine, to a family so rooted in culture, there are three words that do not work well together: gay, Christian, and Lebanese.

In 1978 flames incinerated our apartment and my father was burned from head to toe. Sometimes we learn more from how people deal with tragedy than from the tragedy itself. My father not only recovered, he returned to his dreams with a vengeance.

Part of those dreams involved my parents' wish that their family learn about their roots, and so I went to live in Lebanon at the age of seven. We'd just begun to settle into life there, making friends, and learning to read and write—and then, in 1982, civil war broke out.

A bomb erupted in the front of the home that I was living in and shrapnel pierced my body. I was sent to a makeshift hospital and left for dead for over a week. Faith, prayer, and hope prevailed as I was relocated to a better hospital, one equipped to handle a trauma of this magnitude. Eventually, I recovered and my family and I returned home to America. Looking back on the events of my life now, I can't help but draw the parallel lines between that of my father's life and my own. If he was able to persevere through his tragedy, then so could I.

PERSEVERANCE

Even though I am Lebanese I have always thought of myself as American. Being that I was born in this country I have never had to be concerned about immigration or being deported. However, with the new political climate, I worry about being judged just on being Middle Eastern and not on my character.

My heritage has never stopped my entrepreneurial spirit, though, but rather helped strengthen it. I watched as my father pressed forward, opening several small businesses—everything from a farm operator to a real estate owner. I would witness his business dealings and help where I could while also finishing my education. After graduation, having the same drive as my father, it was clear that I was going to venture out into some type of business. It was at that time that my family decided to purchase a restaurant in Madison.

Gourmet burgers for better living



MICHAEL'S FROZEN CUSTARD
MICHAEL DIX, OWNER

The burger chains offering the cheapest burgers available and thinking that's what their customers want, are dead wrong. At Michael's we saw the trend toward gourmet burgers coming. Our new blue cheese burger topped with Thousand Island, crisp leaf lettuce, tomato, fried onions, provolone, and blue cheese crumbles will surely meet today's customers' needs. We also give you a choice of patties, from 100% pure local ground beef, to all-white meat turkey patty, or even a veggie patty. If that weren't enough choice, how about an all-white meat chicken breast? They say the secret is in the sauce, and our new Tropical Aloha burger with a balsamic reduction glaze, grilled pineapple, crisp leaf lettuce, grilled onions, mayo, and pepper jack cheese proves it.

Regional cuisine and the taste of home



HOTELRED
MICHAEL MAGEE, EXECUTIVE CHEF

Ethnic and regional cuisine are trending in culinary industry. To embrace that trend The Wise is launching a New Orleans Brunch every Saturday and Sunday from 8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Cooking food from my home is really nostalgic, like bringing a small peace on The Big Easy to Madison. "Laissez les bon temps rouler," let the good times roll! We hope to see y'all soon at the Wise!

HR HotelRED	The W ise	WEEKENDS 8 AM - 2 PM
• NEW ORLEANS STYLE •		
BRUNCH		
1501 MONROE STREET, MADISON (In HotelRED) WITH FREE PARKING!		
“LAGNIAPPE”	spanish creole	
“a little something extra”		
– THEWISERESTAURANT.COM –		
NOLA BRUNCH CLASSICS with some unexpected twists		



1 In the hookah lounge side of his restaurant at 77 Sirloin Strip. 2 With his father. 3 The apartment where he lived in Lebanon. 4 With his family in Janesville. 5 Celebrating Christmas as a boy. 6 Playing in Madison's Badgerland LGBT Softball League.

A DOUBLE LIFE

Now would be a good time to digress: It is a right of passage to grow up, get married, and have children. Lebanese people expect that once you are of age and have begun a career that you will fall in line with the custom of raising a family of your own. One-by-one, all of my siblings were buying rings, setting dates, and planning families. The pressure was on and rising.

"When will you be married and have kids of your own?" was a question that would regularly hit my ears. With me not being out to anyone in my family yet, relocating to Madison, a bigger city, to run a restaurant could have just been the escape that I was looking for.

The restaurant was an existing steak house when we purchased it. I became married to the business. I worked there night and day and would think about it when I was not there. We would constantly work to reinvent the business, too, keeping what worked and redoing what didn't. The restaurant went through three major changes before finally settling into what was the best fit: the food and ambience of Lebanon.

A bomb erupted in the front of the home that I was living in and shrapnel pierced my body. I was sent to a makeshift hospital and left for dead for over a week.

Even with all of the successes, though, there was still something missing. I never felt that I was being true to myself or that I could truly be who I was.

After living in Madison for seven years, I made the decision that it was time to come out to my friends and, most of all, my family. As you can imagine, to a family so rooted in culture, there are three words that do not work well together: gay, Christian, and Lebanese. When I was around 25 years old, I went on vacation to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. It was in this city that I went to my first gay bar. I was nervous, excited, and scared. I had been so uncomfortable in my skin for so long that seeing other guys like me was very overwhelming. When I returned home wearing some silver jewelry that I had purchased, my sister made the comment to me, "That's the kind of jewelry gay people wear."

That said, I decided to tell my sister the truth: "I am gay!" That was just the beginning. Within a short period I had come out to my siblings and my mother. My coming out was not welcome news, but regardless how my family initially responded I knew there was, and is, a lot of love in my family. Their love for me never wavered.

BECOMING WHOLE

Twenty-three years, countless tears, moments of forgiveness, and many loving memories later, the Mediterranean Hookah Lounge & Café is owned solely by my brother Simon and me with the blessing of my family. It was not an easy road to get to where I am now, either professionally or personally. When I stand behind the bar and I look at people smiling and sharing a moment in a place that we have created, whether sharing a hookah or eating a meal that we have prepared, I can't help but think that somehow they are connecting with my culture, my journey, and me.

I have learned that if you take the good of where you come from, look ahead with a dream while keeping centered in your faith, anything is possible. ■

TIPS & TRENDS

Sanctuary restaurants



MANNA CAFÉ AND BAKERY
BARB PRATZEL, CO-OWNER

The restaurant as sanctuary (safe space for immigrants and others) is a concept that should give us all pause. Food is not only a means of survival, but a magnet for social and political conversation. It is also a source of considerable comfort; people derive great joy and goodwill from sharing a meal with a companion. Many restaurants (and cities) have signed on for moral or ethical reasons. If the state of our country were more sane, less hate-filled, this trend would likely not have arisen. But here we are, defending our employees or our coworkers or patrons for no better reason than the remarkably misguided and aggressive values of the people who call themselves our leaders. It is noteworthy that restaurants have taken such a stand, and I believe it will be interesting to watch its impact on the industry itself, and on the joy of eating out.

Know your sources



ROOTS CHOCOLATES
LISA NELSON, OWNER

People continue to be interested in where their food comes from, and this includes their chocolate! If it's important to you, make sure you ask questions so you know where a chocolate business sources its chocolate and ingredients from. Here at our farm, we grow as many of the sustainable, value-added ingredients that we add to our chocolates as we can.

TURN YOUR BACKYARD INTO A DINING EXPERIENCE.

QUIGLEY
Decks

Locally owned.
Community focused.

5% Discount
for OL Readers!



DECKS, PERGOLAS, PORCHES AND CABLE RAIL
QUIGLEYDECKS.COM TIM@QUIGLEYDECKS.COM // (608) 577-4277

Proudly helping the LGBT community • Over 25 million Sold!

Buy·Sell·Better



Top Agent **Rico Sabatini**

REAL ESTATE CONSULTANT

608.692.1900 Rico@buysellbetter.com

"Rookie of the Year" RE/MAX Wisconsin 2014



Open for weekday breakfast
weekend brunch, lunch, dinner
and late night

23 North Pinckney Street
On the Capitol Square
608.310.4545

"Where Wisconsin is King"

www.theoldfashioned.com



HARVEST

A modern interpretation of
Italian, American, and
French cuisines

Serving dinner Monday - Saturday
Private dining available

21 North Pinckney Street
On the Capitol Square
608.255.6075

www.harvest-restaurant.com



Holding On to the 'Hood

Anna Alberici grew up in Madison's storied
Greenbush neighborhood and continues to cultivate its tastes,
smells, and community ethic at the Greenbush Bar.

I WAS BORN IN THE GREENBUSH NEIGHBORHOOD and lived there until it was razed in the 1960s. My parents were both children of Sicilian and Italian immigrants. My mother's parents were Sicilians, which was the dominant culinary influence in our family. My father was from St. Louis and tragically lost both his parents at a relatively young age, so I never knew them. My mother, meanwhile, was born in the "Bush."

I am number five of nine siblings, and we all grew up in a house where both Sicilian and English were spoken. It was always a challenge trying to figure out what the adults' conversations were about. I regret that I wasn't interested in learning the language as a child. I keep trying even now, but as we all know it gets more difficult as we age.

COLORFUL FAMILY HISTORY

My mother worked in every Italian restaurant in the neighborhood. She was a great cook and at home we enjoyed the traditional Sicilian food of our heritage. It was what eventually led me to want to run my own restaurant. It's in my blood.

Also apparently in my blood is a little mischief, as I discovered that my grandfather, known as Little Pete, was a bootlegger and sold liquor that was supplied to him through Al Capone's men. Little Pete owned a bar/restaurant in the 1940s on West Washington Ave. called the Venus Café. My mom's story was that they served great food, and everyone came there to eat. She said her older sister Frances worked there, but mom just had to clean it every morning during the summer. I'm not so sure mom really knew what was going on there.

The neighborhood was considered a ghetto by many but it wasn't. It was a wonderful, small, colorful community where we all looked after one another and, like most people who experienced it, I still miss it.

I came across a newspaper story from 1943 about the café. To make a long story short, the city attorney asked that the Venus Café be enjoined from continued operation on the grounds that it was a nuisance.

Fifteen women, 32 soldiers, and 5 civilian men were taken into custody in various vice raids. Little Pete was often arrested for bootlegging but frequently got off because the judge owed him money (the judge was eventually charged for it). My mom thought her dad was a hoot. She said when the feds would come they would hide booze bottles wherever they could. According to my mom's sister, Little Pete was dragged by a horse through Vilas Park by the mob in an attempt to get money from him. Whether or not it was a true story I may never know. I heard a whole lot of stories about my grandpa and his adventures—from being a stowaway to going back to Sicily only to come back again with my grandma and their first child.

NEIGHBORHOOD CHARMS

Being a kid in the Greenbush I remember all the little groceries around the neighborhood. My favorite, J. A. Aiello's (or Mr. Joe's as we called it), was right across the way on Regent Street from where we're located now. It's a parking lot now, but back then it had the best smells in the world. The place was filled with warped wood floors, wooden barrels filled with olives and live snails, hanging cheese, and cured meats. The aromas were heaven. I haven't smelled anything like that since. It's where we would buy our semenzas (roasted pumpkin

Better bubbles are grower bubbles



SQUARE WINE CO.
ANDREA HILLSEY, OWNER / OPERATOR

We are huge champagne fans at the shoppe, but we are tired of the big label marketing. Nothing has more brand recognition than champagne. You all know that specific champagne with the yellow label, but do you think anyone drinking these fancy labels knows what's in it? Is it Chardonnay, Pinot Noir or Pinot Meunier dominant? What village in Champagne is the wine from? These champagnes are typically made from purchased grapes, which are generally not grown in the most responsible way. So, if I hate corporate America but want to drink champagne, what's a girl to do? Grower champagne is the answer. These wines are made from grapes tended by the producer. Ask your local wine merchant/sommelier for grower bubbles. If they look at you crazy, RUN!

Drinking to your health



NESSALLA KOMBUCHA
VANESSA TORTOLANO, CO-OWNER

What was once a weird hippie drink has made its way onto mainstream shelves and health-conscious venues. Kombucha can be found in many accessible forms, and recently has been put on tap alongside beer and cold pressed coffee. The demand has increased business to many small entrepreneurs. We're working on amazing flavor concoctions and seasonal specialties that can only be found at local farmers markets and on tap. Nazdarovya!

Great Food, Good Friends!



611 N. Sherman Ave.
in Lakewood Plaza
(608) 663-5500

- Breakfast, Lunch and Brunch
- From-Scratch Bakery
- Quality Coffees and Teas
- Now Serving Beer and Wine

Manna, nourishing your soul

Mon-Fri 6am to 6pm, Sat & Sun 7am to 2pm

www.mannacafe.com

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



BALISLE FAMILY LAW

LEGAL COUNSEL, S. C.

Linda S. Balisle, Attorney
Lindsey E. Cobbe, Attorney Nicholas O. Yurk, Attorney

Our mission is to ensure that your rights and best interests are protected as you navigate the complexities of the legal system.

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Divorce | Adoption |
| Power of Attorneys | Child Custody Disputes |
| Partnership Agreements | Non-traditional Families |
| Wills | Mediation |

608-259-8702 | balislefamilylaw.com
131 West Wilson St., Madison, WI 53703

OutReach LGBT Community Center Presents

The 10th Annual

Garden Party

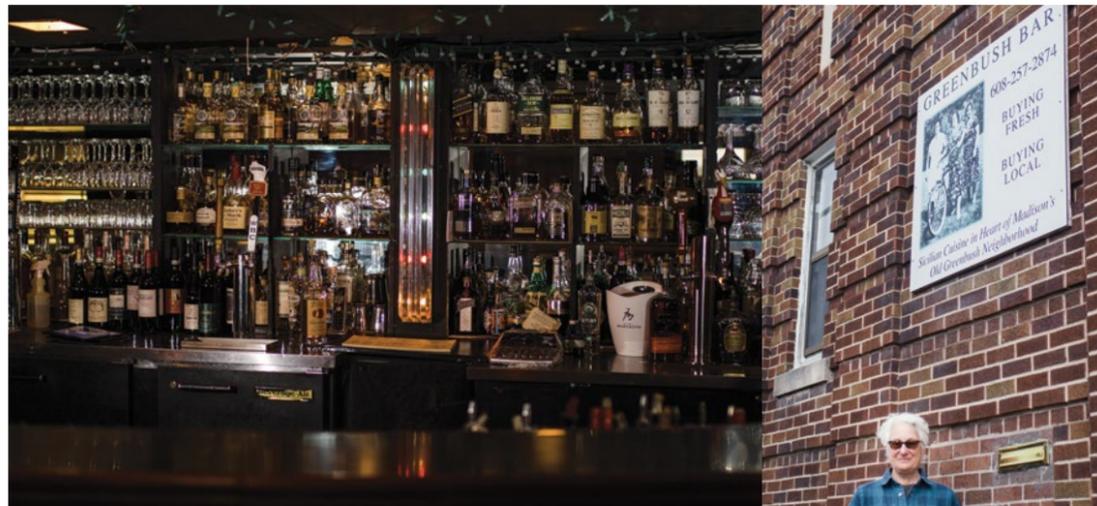


Rotary Botanical Gardens

1455 Palmer Dr,
Janesville, WI
53545

Thursday
May 18th 2017
6-7pm

For more information go to www.lgbtoutreach.org



seeds). We could sit on a porch stoop for hours eating them. We also had a favorite store around the corner from our house called Mr. Frank Vitale's. My dad would often send me there to get sliced salami and bologna.

There were probably four or five small deli-type grocery stores in the neighborhood. All the neighbors knew each other and looked after one another. The street blocks were, in general, short and tree lined. The houses were old but well kept. There were a lot of fruit trees, grape vines, and gardens. We had a big garden that my dad tended. Every spring he would gather the kids and get us to turn over the garden with the promise of all the worms we could want for fishing. We all loved to fish and would go to a low brick wall at Brittingham Park to toss our lines in the water, back when the lakes were still blue.

Little Pete was often arrested for bootlegging but frequently got off because the judge owed him money. My mom thought her dad was a hoot. She said when the feds would come they would hide booze bottles wherever they could.

At Christmas time my mom showed off the best of her cooking skills. She made tons of Sicilian cookies, homemade pasta noodles, ravioli, meatballs, sausage, and speidini along with a pile of cannolis, including the shells, and several other traditional treats. I get tired just thinking of the work that went into it all. Of course they didn't have food processors then, it was all done by hand. I had no choice but to learn to cook her food if I wanted to continue enjoying it as an adult.

The neighborhood was considered a ghetto by many but it wasn't. It was a wonderful, small, colorful community where we all looked after one another and, like most people who experienced it, I still miss it. It was a very sad day for everyone when the city condemned the neighborhood and we were forced to move.

KEEPING A TASTE OF THE 'HOOD ALIVE

Before the Greenbush Bar, I owned and operated another restaurant on Regent Street, The Wild Iris Café. I opened Greenbush Bar three years into running the Wild Iris, when I found out that what was then called The Cellar Bar was for rent. Wild Iris went well for several years, but eventually the lack of parking and the restaurant boom in downtown Madison helped lead to the death of that business.

My life partner (of 25 years!), Gretchen, and I took up the task of opening the Greenbush. It started out as a small bar with mostly appetizers for food. Business was okay, but not great, and we knew we needed to keep tweaking both the food and the bar. One day we decided to try serving three different sizes of pizza with "your choice" of toppings instead of us picking. That proved to be the ticket. Along with that, my partner and I worked on turning the bar up several notches. We always served good wine and beer but we added a great selection of not only Scotch and Grappa but also a great selection of Bourbon! Over the

years we have expanded the bar menu with more beer and more specialty cocktails. It also hasn't hurt to have the Kohl Center in the neighborhood.

I have never been a comfortable front-of-house person. My place from day one has been the back of the house. Although I have occasionally hosted, it's just not my comfort zone. I prefer to work in the kitchen, making bread or pizza dough from scratch and even tackling dishes when it's needed. Gretchen, on the other hand, is the best with our customers. She manages to make them not only feel welcome but also a part of the family.

We listen to our customers, too. They would hate it if we tried to change and become something we're not. We're not fancy and they don't want us to be. I think people enjoy being able to get a good old fashioned plate of spaghetti and meatballs. We serve simple food with great ingredients, including meat from our favorite farmers at Pecatonica Valley Farm, whom we've worked with for years. We buy imported products from Italy whenever possible, too. You can't beat imported Prosciutto or Pecorino Romano or Parmigiano Reggiano.

We also find it important to have a really good wine list with reasonable prices. If a glass of wine is \$9 it's a \$9 glass of wine. I'm afraid too many establishments charge way too much for a glass these days and it upsets me because customers aren't getting a clear idea of what a good glass of wine tastes like.

WHY I WORK

All in all, this business is as rewarding in as many ways as it is challenging, and there are big challenges associated with it. As we all know, the cost of everything goes up and never down. We try our best to keep prices down without compromising quality. These days we sometimes struggle to find help, which I suspect has to do with how many restaurants there are in Madison now. We've been lucky, though, in that we're able to frequently hire students due to our location near campus.

It's an exhausting business, both mentally and physically, but as I age I find that the physical work is good for the body—even if mentally it sometimes makes me a little crazier. The only other issue I have is that it is very hard for us take vacations!

In the end, I enjoy what I do and feel lucky and fortunate to have a successful business. Being a part of the old Greenbush Neighborhood is the best part for me. It was a great residential area and it's a shame that the city decided to strip Madison of the most diverse community in its day. We do our best to keep its memory alive. ■

TIPS & TRENDS

Everyone welcome



DAISY CAFE & CUPCAKERY
DARYL SISSON, OWNER

We are paying attention to immigration policies, especially with regard to Latinos. I worry that too many politicians lead people to think that Latinos are mostly "illegal" U.S. citizens. At our restaurant, Latinos are documented with paperwork that we have on file, they are given checks through our payroll company, and—most important to those who don't understand this—they pay employee taxes. Meanwhile, we as a restaurant happily pay our own employer portion of taxes for these employees. Any national immigration policies that indiscriminately clamp down on Latinos concern us. Our Latino staff have been outstanding, and they have been essential to our ability to be a successful restaurant.

An embarrassment of sweet riches



GAIL AMBROSIUS CHOCOLATIER
GAIL AMBROSIUS, OWNER

One of the really exciting things is the emergence of new chocolatiers in the area. I think it is great that we have so much talent in Madison and that the awareness of fine chocolate is really coming to the fore. CocoVaa is new on Sherman Ave., opened by chocolatier Syovata Edari. Megan Hile of Madison Chocolate Co. is opening a brick and mortar shop on Monroe St., and WM Chocolate, by Will Marx, is making bars on the eastside. With so much talent and great product there is no reason not to treat yourself!

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

Rooted Together

Ben Bisbach and **Cody Egan** felt driftless until they found organic farming, a life-work journey that's taken them across the country and back again.



Once we got to the farm and started working, it didn't take long: there was no single moment, but rather a gradual understanding of *this is it*. This is what I want to continue doing.

FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS I have traveled the country with my partner, Cody, working on organic farms. Organic agriculture is our career and our passion, but we didn't start out that way. In fact, when we met as undergraduates at U.W.-Madison, farming was nowhere on our radars.

I was studying Forestry, and Cody studied History and International Studies. It was 2008. A mutual friend was having a birthday party, and she introduced us to each other with this kind of implication like, "You are the two gay people I know, you should be friends." We actually hit it off and ended up hanging out quite a bit that summer, but things fizzled after a few months and we went our separate ways.

class with his best friend and we were assigned to work on a semester-long group project together. As a result, I ended up seeing a lot more of him again and we started to fall into more of a friendship. I don't really know what was different this time around but things started to click—we spent more and more time together and, by September or October of that year, we were inseparable. A few days before Christmas 2010, I woke up to a rambling, adorable voicemail from Cody saying he liked me and asking if I wanted to be his boyfriend.

Over the next couple years we would occasionally run into each other but things always felt pretty awkward. Then, in the final semester of my senior year, I had a

INCUBATION OF AN IDEA

We had each other, but that was about the only thing we knew for sure. We were both freshly graduated into the depths of the Great Recession, and like so many others we found ourselves floating along, doing whatever odd jobs we could find. Cody was working as a nanny for a family in Maple Bluff, and I was a "chocolatier" at the Godiva store in West Towne Mall. We were anxious about the future, and often struggled with depression.

In those times, during winter, we were in the habit of taking long walks around Madison that we called the "walk-venture drink-tacular." We would pack a water bottle full of booze and go out at night and walk miles and miles around the city. It was a way of coping with the bleak cabin fever conditions of the season. On one such walk, Cody was reminiscing about a trip he had taken to Costa Rica as part of a summer class. On this trip they had spent time working on an organic farm. As he talked, it sounded so appealing—to work outside, to care for plants, to do something meaningful by producing food. A thought gradually occurred to us: why not do that now?

Neither of us had ever had an interest in agriculture before, and we weren't particularly tuned into local/organic food issues, either. Feeling like I was wading into uncharted waters, the next day I went to the Ground Zero coffee shop on Williamson Street with my laptop and searched "organic farm jobs" online. I quickly found the website attra.org, which maintains a database of positions at organic farms all over the country. Apparently our idea was already a real thing! There were more opportunities available than I could have imagined. I discovered that many farms offered formal apprenticeships, where you are not just a laborer but are actually there to learn, too.

COUPLES JOB SEARCH

Applying for a job as a couple is unconventional enough, though some farms actively recruit couples. For us as two gay men, though, we really had no idea what to expect. When we emailed different farmers we were always very clear in the beginning that we were together. There was always the chance that, when someone didn't respond back, that was why. I can honestly say, though, that in all my years doing this work I have never once experienced overt homophobia within the organic farming community. We were simply treated like people, which, in my mind, is exactly the world I want to live in.

As our search progressed we began to feel that, while there were many farms in the Madison area, it might be much more interesting to go somewhere else. Grasping the opportunity, we started to think in terms of "where do we want to live?" and then looked for farms in that region. I can't remember exactly why, but we began to focus our efforts on the Puget Sound area of western Washington. In the end we were offered positions at Persephone Farm, a small CSA and market farm across the sound from Seattle. Just a little over a month after we got this crazy idea, we packed up our little Chevy Cavalier and drove across the country.

GREEN THUMBS

Once we got to the farm and started working, it didn't take long: there was no single moment, but rather a gradual understanding of *this is it*. This is what I want to continue doing with myself. Here is something where I can work with my hands, as well as my head, where I get to use every part of my brain. Farming requires knowledge of biology, chemistry, economics, marketing, mechanics, ecology, carpentry, finance, botany, meteorology—you have to know a little of everything. It's working outside in nature, doing something tangible and real and

Creating culinary community



HARVEST & THE OLD FASHIONED
TAMI LAX, PROPRIETOR & CHEF

I want to spread the word on a newly created group in Madison called Culinary Ladies Collective. In an industry dominated by men we want to give women a voice in our local culinary community, and to work on like-minded causes. Our goal is to be involved in community events that raise awareness and make donations for various causes. We're in the beginning stages, so please help spread the word. Contact me at tami@harvest-restaurant.com to receive information regarding our events and gatherings.

Locally, I've been glad to see growing awareness of food waste and being more intentional limiting that. At Harvest we create items and use them in our staff meal prior to service. Also, more restaurants and taverns are featuring non-alcoholic beverages, putting as much thought and energy into those as we do for craft cocktails.

Curated meals to cut waste



FROMAGINATION
KEN MONTELEON, OWNER

Curated meals delivered to your door reduce food waste by providing the exact ingredients for a meal, reduce shopping time, and provide easy, step-by-step recipes resulting in saved time and home-cooked meals.

As part of this trend, we are partnering with local farmers and cheesemakers to provide a curated box of farm fresh, local produce,

Celebrate
Wisconsin
Style!



fromagination

artisanal cheeses & perfect companions
(608) 665-3363 • www.fromagination.com
On the Capitol Square



GAINING PERSPECTIVE

As our apprenticeship at Persephone Farm drew to a close, it was time to move on. Migrating across the country to explore a completely new environment, where we had never been and knew no one, had been an extraordinary experience. Why not do it again? This time, with a year under our belts, we were able to seek out farms that offered a bit more responsibility. This time we focused our efforts on the northeast and ended up at another little CSA farm outside of Ithaca, New York. It would be another year of exploring a new landscape and meeting new people. We also gained a radically different perspective on growing techniques and practices. No two organic farms are alike, and no two organic farmers are alike—each has their own systems and philosophy, their own techniques, and their own strengths and weakness. By moving each year, we were able to take the best of each farm with us, while also gaining invaluable insight into what not to do.

After New York, we set our sights on the mountains, specifically Colorado, taking positions at a farm located at 6700 feet above sea level. It was year three of the journey for us, though, and there was an element of ambivalence beginning to creep in. We began to anticipate what was to come: just when we had started to forge genuine friendships and become really attached to a community and sense of place, it would be time to leave. We also began to realize that, by having to start over every year, we were holding ourselves back. We made the decision that it was time to come home and begin the long-term process of building something here.

BUILDING A HOME

In early 2016 we moved back to Wisconsin and were hired as managers at Emerald Meadows Family Farm in Columbus, just northeast of Madison. We grow certified organic vegetables and cut flowers, as well as corn, soybeans, and oats. We are making connections, and becoming deeply embedded in a thriving local food movement we barely knew existed before we left. You can find Cody and me at the Eastside Farmers' Market (Tuesdays from 4 to 7 p.m. in Central Park in Madison) and our CSA still has shares available for 2017 (facebook.com/emeraldmeadowfamilyfarm for more info).

Together, Cody and I hope to build a sustainable life and work in the soil we've always called home. ■

within the small, local economy, and that helps people and the planet.

The work is never the same; from day-to-day, week-to-week, your life changes with the seasons. That Cody felt essentially exactly the same way was nothing short of a miracle. We found our strengths actually complement each other extremely well—I tend to think in terms of the big picture and how everything fits together, while Cody is excellent with organization, management, and details. Within a few months we had resolved to learn all we could about organic agriculture and work towards starting a farm of our own.

Applying for a job as a couple is unconventional enough, though some farms actively recruit couples. For us as two gay men, though, we really had no idea what to expect.

And working with Cody—while I'd be lying if I said there weren't challenges, or that every day is easy breezy, it is actually kind of astonishing to me how seamlessly it has gone. I think for many couples doing what we do would be unfathomable. We are together pretty much 24/7. All the frustrations and challenges and unpleasantness that comes with any job are things we share together and deal with within the context of our relationship. On the flip side, all the inevitable challenges of a relationship, we deal with in the context of our jobs. There is nothing worse than a day we get into a fight and then have to pack 130 CSA shares together, but we also share all the satisfaction and meaning and rewards. For so many people, work is a place you go out of necessity, where the rest of your life is put on hold. For us, our "work" and our "life" are the same thing.

TIPS & TRENDS

Wisconsin cheese, and everything else you need to make a side dish at home. We will provide the recipe and instructions, as well as all the ingredients that you need to make a delicious, market fresh dish in exactly the right proportions.

Farm to culturally diverse tables



MADISON ESSENTIALS
AMY JOHNSON, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Working with independently-owned restaurants editorially or honing their branding puts magazine publishers in a unique position to see changes from year to year. Farm to Table has moved from a trend to being de rigueur. If you're not doing it, you're missing the mark of what diners now expect.

Madison has always been lucky to have a variety of high-quality, authentic ethnic restaurants. These restaurants once considered occasional culinary adventures, are now diners' favorites.

Cutting down on sweeteners



WILLY ST. CO-OP
MELISSA REISS, PURCHASING ASSISTANT

Many plant-based milks are focusing on shorter ingredient lists, particularly fewer sweeteners and thickeners. By 2018 food manufacturers will have to update their nutritional labels to include the amount of added sugars. Some are getting out in front of this by reducing the amount of added sugars. By the end of this year, Stonyfield is aiming to reduce added sugar by 25% or more in their yogurts while preserving the flavor.

Give us a call... then sit back and enjoy the view!

Full-Service Design and Installation
Registered Landscape Architects & Designers
Certified Landscape Professionals

Tour our project gallery at
www.ganshert.com

Ganshert Nursery & Landscapes LLC

274-2443

Over 60 years of serving the Madison area

5284 E. Lacy Road
Fitchburg

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



Wisconsin Acts Up

Historian **Dick Wagner** recounts the efforts by Wisconsin's chapter of the radical AIDS activism organization to force lawmakers to stop ignoring and stigmatizing people with HIV/AIDS.

AFTER OBSERVING the national actions of ACT-UP (the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power), especially its moving die-ins, the editors of *Wisconsin Light* in August 1989 urged the formation in Wisconsin of a Milwaukee chapter. The paper wrote, "Admittedly, confrontational strategies are not for everyone, but we believe that there is a place for those who protest and demonstrate and are not silent."

Earlier the same year there had been a candlelight vigil at the Federal Building in Milwaukee "to protest the lack of action by the Federal Government in the fight against AIDS." The nascent Milwaukee chapter was aided in its inception by a visit that same month from two members of ACT-UP New York's Outreach Committee. Milwaukee organizers and new local president Dan Trzebiatowski were told the ACT-UP organization "fills the gap between AIDS service organizations and the public." Their advice was to "Forget about good taste. Forget about being nice. You don't get anything by saying 'Please.'" Most dramatically, as reported in the *Wisconsin Light*, "If you're going to die, die with a bullet hole through your open mouth."

On the timeliness of Milwaukee's organizing, they said, "You cannot wait. You can't deal with something only when it becomes a disaster." The New York and local organizers visited gay and lesbian bars to recruit support. In its heyday, the Milwaukee chapter had 25 active members.

THE KIDS AREN'T ALL RIGHT

Milwaukee's main Catholic University, Marquette, was a special target for the group. In February 1990, during the distribution of Lenten ashes by Gesu Church on campus, 300 condoms and 800 non-combative pamphlets on AIDS information were distributed. Earlier, ACT-UP had tried to open a dialogue on the campus response to the AIDS crisis. The vice-president of religious affairs stated that "the university would not compromise the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church." This was understood to mean that there was no possibility of the administration sanctioning safe-sex education on campus, the most effective way, after celibacy, of avoiding HIV infection.



Dan Savage at one Madison's ACT-UP protests.

Savage proclaimed, "The only way we can get our issues addressed is by acting radical, lying down on sidewalks, screaming and yelling and making radical demands and saying extreme things, and then when we do that—which is the only way we can get press—we're dismissed for our extremism."

Next, ACT-UP Milwaukee in October 1990 staged a demonstration at a dance held at Marquette University High School to distribute condoms and AIDS information from the State Department of Health. School administrators had security guards physically come between the protestors and the students coming to the dance. Five ACT-UP members were arrested for disorderly conduct. The condoms were a touchy issue for the Catholic school. Subsequent high school demonstrations at Bay View and Whitefish Bay did not result in arrests. A spokesperson for Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) said, "While MPS may not like ACT UP's actions outside the dances, the group was within its constitutional rights of speech and assembly. Students' reaction to the condoms ranged from 'thanks' or 'eeew.'" Some brochures were found discarded afterwards, but no condoms were found on the ground.

Activist Christopher Fons argued, "If parents and teachers will not teach teenagers about condoms and will not allow us to teach them, not only are they denying us our rights to free speech and assembly, but they are kill-

ing their children." *Wisconsin Light* proudly saluted Milwaukee ACT-UP for reaching out to high school students. "Sexual abstinence is a nice ideal," it wrote, "but while we hate to be cynical, for some, especially high school students as well as both younger and older, that's all it is, an ideal. Asking young people to be chaste and expecting all of them to practice it, is kind of like asking the moon not to rise."

NATIONAL ACTIONS

ACT-UP Milwaukee joined in national actions, too. In January 1990, they helped deluge corporate offices and order desks of Galaxy Carpet Mills over discriminatory insurance policies on AIDS coverage. Two Milwaukee ACT-UP members, Jay Hanson and Karyn Teufel, were arrested

and charged with "mob action" when they joined 1,000 protestors from around the nation in Chicago to protest insurance company policies. However, ACT-UP Milwaukee declined to boycott local brewing giant Miller Beer, part of the Philip Morris companies.

The issue arose because of large donations from Philip Morris to Jesse Helms, the viciously homophobic senator from the tobacco state of North Carolina. Corporate donations had been made to the Jesse Helms Library and PAC donations to his campaign. The Milwaukee group decided its priority was to focus on Philip Morris tobacco products and thus "to endorse and encourage the growing Marlboro boycott in Milwaukee." A letter was sent to lesbian and gay bar owners in Milwaukee urging them to pull Marlboro products because the company was "too willing to deny us our freedom and our humanity." The letter urged, "Teach Philip Morris the price of doing business with our communities." ACT-UP Milwaukee continued these efforts by demonstrating in October of that same year at the Art Fest reception at the Milwaukee Museum—sponsored by Philip Morris.

DISCRIMINATION IN HEALTH CARE

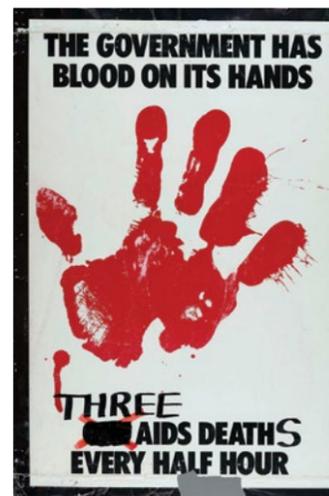
ACT-UP Milwaukee conducted an informational action at a local dental clinic. The group had conducted a phone survey of 200 dentists. The results indicated one-third of respondents were or would discriminate against providing care to people with HIV. Representatives met with the Executive Director of the Wisconsin Dental Association and with the

Marquette Dental School.

The action at the clinic was criticized by ultraconservative talk radio host Mark Belling on WISN-AM, who asked, "Should dentists be required to treat AIDS patients?" Belling "repeatedly stated that the majority of AIDS victims are responsible for their condition; that 95% of people with HIV are personally responsible for their infection and should not complain." ACT-UP complained to the station manager that Belling, "spread dangerous misinformation about AIDS to the public." Regarding dentists, the activists observed most HIV-infected people were unaware of their status, and "dentists must use full precautions with every patient, every time and that when such precautions are used, 'the status of both dentist and patients becomes irrelevant.'"

THOMPSON V. QUEERS

Governor Tommy Thompson was a target for ACT-UP in the state. Much of the controversy stemmed over the Department of Corrections. In 1990 Thompson's own advisory panel made 28 recommendations on AIDS/HIV in state prisons. De-



spite administrators claiming 17 had been implemented, critics, including Doug Nelson of the Milwaukee AIDS Project, denounced this as a falsehood. Adding to the tension was the death in September 1990 of HIV-positive Waupun inmate Donald Woods who, when being transferred between cells, asphyxiated on a towel put over his mouth by prison guards who feared contamination from his spit through their full riot gear. Another inmate with AIDS, Roger Hillman, sought compassionate release. Hillman, allergic to AZT, had been prescribed a high calorie diet to help, but it was claimed Waupun only provided daily peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Dan Savage, one of the activists (and a future national advice columnist), noted that Wisconsin didn't (and does not) have the death penalty, saying, "Roger Hillman was not sentenced to death. He is dying. And nobody cares."

On April 16, 1991, twenty ACT-UP Madison protestors delivered dozens of towels and peanut butter sandwiches to Gov. Thompson's office. Activists said, "Because of the examples of Donald Woods and Roger Hillman, other inmates with AIDS won't come forward." Doug Nelson echoed the lack of support and fear of discrimination by guards

and other prisoners. In September 1991, on the one-year anniversary of Wood's death, accusatory "wanted" style posters went up with the Governor's face describing him above his picture in block letters as "Public Health Menace" with "Known to Spread AIDS" under it. A particular issue mentioned on the poster was "not following through on his advisory panel's recommendation for humane treatment of state prison inmates with AIDS." Milwaukee ACT-UP activist Chris Fons was arrested for disrupting a state Building Commission meeting when he tried to deliver a peanut butter sandwich to Thompson. Fons would later die from AIDS.

RADICAL MEASURES FOR RADICAL TIMES

Isthmus ascribed the local efforts to a new "combativeness" within the Madison ACT-UP chapter. Wisconsinites were described as "looking to still more confrontational tactics used by gays and lesbians in cities like New York and Washington." Some ACT-UP members from around the country flew in for the main demonstration on the prison

issue. Some 150 protestors blew whistles and chanted shame at the Capitol. After marching to the Department of Corrections, 15 people were arrested. The DOC appointed a new panel to review progress on the prison recommendations and included Doug Nelson plus Madison AIDS Support Network coordinator Carole Ahrens. Madison ACT-UP activist Dan Savage said the committee would be closely watched. "If it's bullshit, we'll shut them down." Savage

strongly believed in the need to be "radical" to hold public officials accountable. He told the press what he acknowledged was a "horrible thing." Savage said, "I hope a lot of straight people get AIDS."

Savage further said, "These are extreme times; gays and lesbian are under assault." A news story noted, "Madison hasn't been immune to the nationwide leap in assaults—physical and governmental—against gays and lesbians. Nor has the community been spared the impact of the AIDS crisis."

Savage proclaimed, "The only way we can get our issues addressed is by acting radical, lying down on sidewalks, screaming and yelling and making radical demands and saying extreme things, and then when we do that—which is the only way we can get



OPEN FOR BREAKFAST

MAY 24

HOW TO COMMUNICATE DIVERSITY & INCLUSION IN THE WORKPLACE

Learn and practice communication skills that affirm positive inclusion, counteract negative communication practices and inform the uninformed about inclusion in the workplace.



Jordan Bingham

Health Equity Coordinator at Public Health Madison & Dane County

7:30am

Registration & Networking

8-9:00am

Keynote Speaker & Breakfast



Goodman Community Center

→ NIGHT OUT WITH OPEN & MADISON MALLARDS!

Date: June 7th, 2017
Networking: 5:30pm-6:30pm
Game: 6:35pm

Network with OPEN Members in the Great Dane Duck Blind while you enjoy a ballpark feast. Then kick back and watch the Mallards take on the Rockford Riverts.

Supported in part by:

OPEN VISION

Our vision is a vibrant community where LGBTQ leaders are a significant catalyst for strengthening the economy of the capital region.

OPENMADISON.ORG



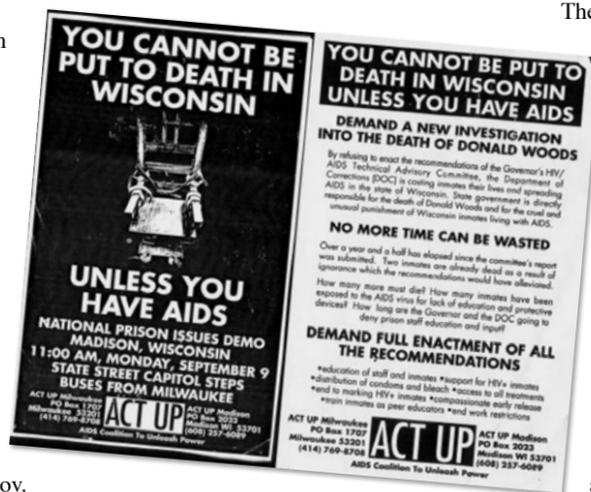
press—we're dismissed for our extremism." Savage also became a proponent of outing gay public figures. He and I even debated the outing issue for our local gay cable TV show "Nothing To Hide." A new group also briefly making its presence known at the demonstrations was the Queer Liberation Front of Madison. Jari Junikka, a graduate student from Finland, got involved with the Front after he was assaulted by two men who wanted to "do some gay bashing." Hate crime charges did not stick. Junikka stated, "I want to walk hand-in hand with my lover down State Street." Junikka, also active in Madison ACT-UP, claimed, "The government has blood on its hands because of its negligence."

TURNING POINTS

In 1992, some 15 members of Madison ACT-UP awarded a "Slammie" to Gov. Thompson. The mock award was created for a protest action in the State Capitol that was also denouncing the controversial film "Basic Instinct" for its depiction of bisexual women "as psycho-killers." The Governor's award again was for his "baffling practice of ignoring his own advisers' recommendation for AIDS edu-

cation and materials distribution in Wisconsin prisons." Chants included, "Suck my dick, lick my clit, Tommy Thompson's full of shit."

The head of Corrections was once more "under fire for inadequate prison guard train-



ing." Perhaps because of the strong voice of the prison guards' union, Thompson had taken a harsher line in the past. In 1987 he voiced support for "severe penalties" for knowingly transmitting the disease. And at one point he was for mandatory HIV testing for inmates in the state's correctional insti-

tutions. Later this was changed to assaultive inmates. The issue had arisen over a prison guard who was scratched and bitten by an HIV-positive inmate. ACT-UP also called for the DOC to distribute condoms in prisons.

The Governor's 1992-93 budget instead had a \$150,000 reduction for the AIDS drug trial program. Dale Tegman, an ACT-UP spokesperson, said, "To be frank, I don't care if Tommy Thompson accepts me as long as he doesn't kill me." Among the protesters was Heather Rhoads from Les/bi/femmes, a Madison lesbian bisexual action group.

Unlike gay issues where Assemblyman Tommy Thompson had a very negative voting record, as Governor he was generally better when it came to AIDS. Marc Hauptert of the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin noted, "There was certainly more of a sensitivity in the [Tony] Earl administration on gay concern as it relates to AIDS." Thompson, however, knew there was concern growing in the general population. Hauptert acknowledged that Thompson, after meeting AIDS service people, "remarked that the state is a leader in other things and it should be a leader in fighting AIDS."

MEASURABLE SUCCESS

Thompson supported state financial resources to continue the fight. Most importantly, in October 1987 he established a 34-member Governor's HIV Infection Advisory Council by executive order. Among the members were Grid Hall, longtime gay activist and board member of the Madison AIDS Support Network, and Jay Hatheway, publisher of the gay magazine *Among Friends*. Staff included the hard-working state epidemiologist Dr. Jeff Davis. Later, as Secretary of Health and Human Services, Thompson would play a national role on AIDS. His connections would help place Scott Evertz to serve as Director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy for President George W. Bush.

The state report's dedication was to those "Wisconsin citizens who have been, are now and will be affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic." At the time of the group's report in July 1989, Wisconsin had 465 cases, with



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

Driving Change

Andrew Shaffer offers us a glimpse at one of the many stories that make up the history of Madison's LGBTQ community, as preserved by the LGBT Archives Project.

In the mid-1970s, Madison's buses became the site for a battle over gay visibility. David Smith, a local activist, had learned that many of the advertisements on the buses were posted on behalf of nonprofit causes at no charge. Wanting to draw attention and attendance to the Madison Gay Center, he investigated the posting process with the city and meticulously followed the steps to ensure his petition would be approved. The Center, one of Madison's earliest LGBTQ organizations, offered peer counseling services, dances, and a social place primarily for gay men to gather. These ads, which Smith designed and printed, were created to help the Center achieve greater visibility and reach more people who needed the services they offered but didn't know where to look.

With the paperwork and about 100 ads in tow, Smith made his way to Metro Transit to hand them over for installation throughout the city's bus fleet. The director of Metro Transit quickly refused the request, fearing the ads were too controversial and riders would object. Smith was upset at being excluded despite having done everything the city required, and reached out to Mayor Paul Soglin's office for support. Soglin was sympathetic, and ordered the cards to be posted. The ads were seen on city buses, but there were reports of the cards being destroyed by disapproving bus drivers.

This battle may have been small and short-lived—barely a blip on the local radar—but it helped to set a precedent for acknowledging and supporting Madison's gay community at City Hall. Our history is full of these moments when we rise to demand visibility, access, and a place to belong. The Madison LGBTQ Archive works to document this history, from mundane stories of everyday life to epic moments of triumph and loss, and everything in between. This archive is for all of us—to create a permanent statement that we are here, that our stories are important, and that our lives belong in the pages of history. Find out more about the archive and how you can get involved online at go.wisc.edu/LGBTQ60s or on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram at @MadisonLGBTQ. ■

Funding for this project has been generously provided by the New Harvest Foundation, Inc. and the George L. Mosse Program in History.

ADVISING LGBT FAMILIES POST-WOLF AND OBERGEFELL

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

FORMING AND PROTECTING FAMILIES

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



the LAW CENTER for
**CHILDREN
& FAMILIES**

ATTORNEYS FIGHTING FOR
LGBT FAMILIES FOR OVER 20 YEARS

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



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

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



New Harvest Foundation

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

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

Find us on Facebook!



Expectant Caregiving

Caroline Werner talks to Jane De Broux of the Area Agency on Aging about resources available in Dane County.

THERE ARE MANY REASONS one might end up providing support to another person, and in the LGBTQ community it's all the more likely that chosen family will be called on to care for an aging and/or ailing loved one. Whether our birth families have cut us out, the health care system has failed us, or simply because it's the right decision, it's not uncommon to find ourselves in the caregiver role for partners, a spouse, a relative, or a close friend.

In 2015, of an estimated 34.2 million adults in the U.S. providing unpaid care to an adult aged 50 or older, nine percent identified as LGBT. If you haven't already had the experience of caring for anyone, you may yet.

A fact sheet on LGBT caregiving put together by SAGE's National Resource Center on Aging lists several important things for LGBT caregivers to know:

- **LGBT caregivers are more likely to be caring in isolation and are more likely to be within the age cohort as the people they're caring for. For both of these reasons, finding others who can assist, including professional service providers, is an important way to make sure a loved one's care won't lapse due to caregiver burnout or health problems.**
- **LGBT people become caregivers more often: LGBT baby boomers and Millennials tend to take on the care of their aging parents at a disproportionate rate. Even if partnered, families often see LGBT adults as single and rely on them for caregiving.**

According to the Family Caregiver Alliance, "Government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and the media have focused increasing attention on the needs of seniors and those who provide them with support, assistance or care. Less attention has been focused on the needs of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender older adults and in particular, their caregivers, whether partners, friends or other family members. The support that a caregiver receives from friends and family is often critical in relieving some of the stress of providing assistance to someone who has a chronic illness. ...developing a support



LGBT baby boomers and Millennials tend to take on the care of their aging parents at a disproportionate rate. Even if partnered, families often see LGBT adults as single and rely on them for caregiving.

system comprised of trusted friends and sensitive community services and programs will be especially important."

The Share the Care program that OutReach began a few years ago with a focus on this had a few success stories before shutting down due to insufficient volunteer numbers.

Where do we and caregivers go for help?

Jane De Broux is the Caregiver Program Coordinator for the Area Agency on Aging of Dane County. Her office is located with the Aging and Disabilities Resource Center in the Northside TownCenter shopping mall.



Jane is a member of our community and recently married her partner of 23 years. In her own role, she is an "expectant" and "long-distance" caregiver for her parents, both in their early 80s and who reside in the Northeastern part of the state. She also cares for older adult friends and neighbors.

The National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP) began in 2000 and is funded by the Older Americans Act (OAA), which was enacted in 1965. The goal of the program is to keep older adults in their own homes for as long as possible. This is often less expensive than paying for nursing home care. Also,

the existing long-term care system is not able to handle the increasing numbers of seniors and those with differing abilities who need care.

Sadly, Jane reports OAA is underfunded. This means we have to become more community-based and multigenerational to support each other. For example, through certain programs, youth can help out in elders' homes, providing basic care and company often in exchange for reduced or free room and board. Everyone gets old if we're lucky, so this is a way to "pay it forward."

Jane's position is multi-dimensional. She administers the NFCSP grant, holds educational sessions, manages a support group list, refers caregivers to appropriate resources, and writes and distributes the monthly Caregiver Chronicles newsletter (contact her at jane.debroux@countyofdane.com to receive it).

The NFCSP grant program provides financial assistance for respite care and/or supplemental services such as grab bars, Personal Emergency Response Systems, or transportation to and from medical appointments. There are no income requirements to qualify. The one-time grants are set at a maximum of \$750 to serve more people in Dane County. The application comes through the lens of the caregiver who is attached to the qualifying person. What does the caregiver need? If meditation for the caregiver would help the caregiver continue to provide better care, they can request money to pay for classes and for alternative care to come while the caregiver is in class.

Outreach presentations to caregivers and employers are available. Information sessions are held at community spaces and workplaces. Contact Jane (608-261-5679) for specifics.

Classes for caregivers include "Meditation for Caregivers" and "Powerful Tools for Caregivers" and are offered through the Caregiver Program. Free Telephone Learning Sessions are available through caregiverconnection.org (866-390-6491). Statewide caregiver information is available at: wisconsin caregiver.org.

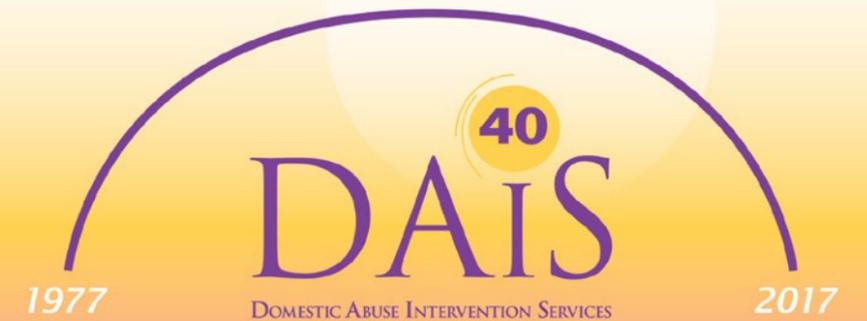
The hardest part of Jane's job is locating caregivers who could use support. Some people doing the work don't consider themselves caregivers in the first place. They may not live with the person, so they travel in and out of the elder's life depending on the need.

If you're providing care for someone, please contact Jane. She wants to make life a little easier for you and who you're caring for. ■



CAROLINE WERNER is a lesbian with a Masters Degree in Social Work. She has several years of experience working in the aging field in several capacities.

EMPOWERING THOSE AFFECTED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TO ACHIEVE HOPE AND SAFETY



JOIN US JUNE 20, 2017 FOR THE DAIS CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE LUNCHEON

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.ABUSEINTERVENTION.ORG/CELEBRATE-INDEPENDENCE



- 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

Fighting for Transgender Rights

Congressman Mark Pocan details the work being done to support transgender people in light of the Trump Administration's dangerous rollbacks.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP claimed on the campaign trail that he would be a friend and ally to the LGBT community. However, after just a few months in office, he has proven these words were only campaign rhetoric.

In February, Trump rolled back the guidance President Obama issued to help safeguard transgender students under Title IX, the law that prohibits sex discrimination in education. The Trump Administration took this hateful action in spite of the numerous calls from school districts, educators, and parents across the country to keep these guidelines in place.

By revoking protections of transgender students at the federal level, President Trump has left these protections in the hands of state legislatures. In the past, states like North Carolina have been all too eager to enact discriminatory policies against transgender youth.

Of all of the murders of transgender people between 2013 and 2015, not a single one was prosecuted or reported as a hate crime, despite evidence in multiple cases.

Being able to express oneself with the gender that they identify is one of the most basic principles of dignity and must be protected. The Trump Administration should not be pushing an agenda that puts transgender people at greater risk. This is why I signed a bipartisan letter along with 121 Members of Congress to President Trump, urging him to reinstate the guidance allowing transgender students to use facilities according to their gender identity.

We further urged that the President take the time to sit down with transgender students and their families to listen to their stories and to learn from their experiences. With an estimated 350,000 transgender students in our schools, and with instances of crimes against the transgender community on the rise, it is vital that we work to protect these vulnerable individuals from further grievances.

An important takeaway from the first sev-

eral months of Trump's Presidency is that we are standing united in our advocacy for the LGBT community. We cannot assume Trump will keep his word on any promises he has made in the past and we must continue to raise awareness of issues that affect the great strides we have made in the name of equality.

One issue that is receiving far too little coverage is the violence against transgender Americans. More than one in four transgender people has faced a bias-driven assault, and rates are even higher for transgender women and transgender people of color. As of March, at least seven transgender women of color have been murdered this year. Furthermore, of all of the murders of transgender people between 2013 and 2015, not a single one was prosecuted or reported as a hate crime, despite evidence in multiple cases that assailants were motivated by the victim's gender identity.

Earlier this year, I sent a letter to Attorney General Jeff Sessions urging the Department of Justice to investigate the murders of transgender women of color. There is significant room to grow to combat these hate crimes and protect transgender people. The lack of accountability from the Trump Administration is disturbing, and their inaction to take proper measures to combat these horrific crimes cannot be normalized.

We cannot allow President Trump to derail the march towards equality. By rolling back guidelines for transgender students, Trump is putting the health and safety of our youth at risk and making lack of concern for the LGBT community crystal clear. At a time when many members of the LGBT community are fearful for their safety, I hope we will all continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder and fight for equal rights under the law. ■



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.

An American Tale

Alder Shiva Bidar found a chosen family of fellow immigrants to the U.S. that represents a wide range of intersections, but one dream: to live and love freely.

LIFE IS A JOURNEY. It sounds like such a cliché, but for us immigrants it is not. It is a journey, physically, emotionally, socially, and spiritually. There is not a day that goes by when we are not fully conscious that we will always be seen by some as not belonging, the "foreigners," the "aliens."

There are also the many who embrace us. We form a new family in our new country. I have dubbed it "friendmily," a diverse group of people, representing 10 countries of birth (yes, U.S. included). Together, over the past 15+ years, we have laughed, cried, and grown. Our stories have been intertwined with our immigration status. We have supported each other when one of us was about to lose his work permit. We have celebrated when one of us finally received the coveted green card after the legalization of same-sex marriage. We have stood by our undocumented friendmily, always worried that we will receive a dreaded phone call.

The most challenging part of being an immigrant is that we just get labeled and lumped into one broad category. There is this need to try to simplify our backgrounds and life experiences. It often ignores the importance of race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, and immigration status. I have been lucky to have found a friendmily that represents all these intersections. They teach me every day about my own privilege.

Our American experience over the past nine years has been intertwined with the election of President Obama. After his election I finally felt like I was part of the American fabric. I enthusiastically saw the country speak about equity and inclusion. After all, as many immigrants before us, I left behind a conservative patriarchal society and came to the U.S., fully believing that here we all have the freedom to be who we are. Hope comes from knowing that you can live in a democracy and that you can influence change by working

hard, hands-on, to make it happen. The U.S. represents that hope.

I was born in Iran. At a young age my life changed overnight. We became one of the many Iranian families who left the country due to political unrest. We moved to Valencia, Spain, where I spent my formative years. At the age of 22, I packed my suitcases again and came to the U.S. to attend graduate school, the start of my American journey.

The most challenging part of being an immigrant is that we just get labeled and lumped into one broad category. It often ignores the importance of race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, and immigration status.

I quickly immersed myself in understanding and joining the struggle against the many isms that intersect: racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia. I know as a member of one marginalized group that we need to fight against injustice against any marginalized group if we want real change. I ran

for the Madison city council to do my best representing our voices. I cannot imagine how much richness I would have missed in my life if my path had not crossed that of my incredibly brave Latinx gay friendmily. We have created safe spaces. We are each other's refuge. Now we find ourselves in a state of siege. We crossed borders, left love ones behind, we learned a new language to become Americans. We are fighters and survivors and this is our country. We will not surrender. We will not give in or give up.

My journey continues. I became the first Chief Diversity Officer at UW Health in November. I cannot think of a more meaningful way to channel my passion for equity and inclusion. My friendmily inspires me to keep going and from far away my family cheers on their daughter and sister who came to America to be embraced and to embrace. ■



SHIVA BIDAR is Madison's District 5 alder, and the Chief Diversity Officer at UW Health. She provides vision and strategic leadership for the design and implementation diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.

Celebrating Mothers and Fathers and All Kinds of Families

We are a fully inclusive spiritual community joining together to help realize a more loving and just world.



203 Wisconsin Avenue • Madison, WI 53703
608-256-9061 • www.fumc.org

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

Celebrating 25 Years as a Poet!



DANE COUNTY CREDIT UNION

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

COMMUNITY SHARES OF WISCONSIN Proud Supporter

We stand for you

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 HEALTH

OURLIVESMADISON.COM



Let's Talk About PrEP

Dr. Kathy Oriel explains
the importance and mechanics
of medicines that can help
prevent HIV infection.

THOUGH IT'S BEEN DECADES since HIV and AIDS were considered “a gay disease,” our community continues to be affected by HIV and AIDS to a greater extent than others. As such, I wanted to provide information regarding medication now widely recommended to prevent HIV infection in certain instances: PrEP stands for pre-exposure prophylaxis, or medication taken to prevent HIV infections before a possible exposure. PEP stands for post-exposure prophylaxis or medication taken to prevent HIV infection after exposure to the virus.

When I first used this tool with a patient, I was impressed that it could capture gender identity. Though ridiculously overdue, mainstream medicine has not acknowledged trans people in any real capacity.

First, a small caveat: Writing about this proved to be more complicated than I initially thought it would be. In discussing such issues in the office, I can look at the person before me for cues about whether my explanations make sense or have left them completely befuddled. In the office, I use medical terminology such as “receptive anal intercourse” or reflect back language the individual uses, such as top, bottom, or “getting f***ed.” The concepts of risk are complex, and having an informed discussion based on each individual’s perspective make writing an article to meet the needs of a broad audience seem daunting, but I’ll do my best.

Antiretroviral therapies (ART) are medications that inhibit the HIV virus’ ability to multiply, so decrease the levels of HIV (viral load) in the bloodstream. This, in turn, keeps the immune system healthy and, in people with HIV infection, slows or prevents progression to AIDS (acquired immunodeficiency syndrome) where the body’s immune system can no longer fight off infection.

Antiretroviral medications are grouped into six sub-types based on how each medication blocks the virus from replicating. When treating HIV, a combination of three medications from different sub-groups are used to block the virus most effectively and to prevent resistance to the medication. PrEP is a combination of emtricitabine and tenofovir, known by the brand name of Truvada®.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that medical providers discuss daily medication to prevent HIV transmission in persons most at risk for contracting HIV:

- Men who have sex with men (MSM) who have had anal sex without a condom or had a sexually transmitted infection within the past six months,
- Heterosexual men or women who do not regularly use condoms during sex with partners at higher risk of HIV,
- People who have injected illicit drugs in past six months and shared injection equipment,
- Couples in which one partner is HIV-positive and the other is HIV-negative.

According to the CDC almost 25% of MSM qualify for use of PrEP. The CDC cites studies that show HIV transmission decreased

by 90% for HIV negative persons taking PrEP.

The CDC has a terrific HIV risk calculator for those interested: cdc.gov/hiv/risk/estimator.html.

This tool initially allows you to specify your sex at birth, gender identity, and HIV status. Based on that, you may then specify the risk of different sexual activities with or without a condom, with or without one partner taking HIV medications.

When I first used this tool with a patient, I was impressed that it could capture gender identity. Though ridiculously overdue, mainstream medicine has not acknowledged trans people in any real capacity. The risk reduction tool shows the chance that HIV transmission could occur with anal intercourse to either partner or vaginal intercourse to either partner. The CDC’s calculator does not include the risk for oral sex because the risk of HIV transmission is extremely low, though it is difficult to estimate exactly. Of course, the safest sex is to be in a mutually monogamous relationship with a partner who is HIV negative, and if intercourse with a penis occurs, a condom is worn every time.

The calculator also shows the number of times HIV will be transmitted for every 10,000 sexual acts. In the example above, the risk for the person who is HIV negative and having receptive anal intercourse without a condom is 138 out of 10,000 sexual acts. For each time, the risk of transmission is less than 1/10 of 1%. That’s a very small risk, but needs to be multiplied by the number of times an individual might be sexually active in one day, week, month, or year.

In order for PrEP to be effective, it should be taken every day. Even if doses are missed, it does reduce the risk of HIV transmission. PrEP is extremely safe and tends to have few side effects. The most common side effects are stomach upset and headache, but these tend to fade after the first weeks. The medication is cleared by the kidneys, and can cause issues for people with serious kidney disease.

The major downside to PrEP is price. Truvada® costs approximately \$1,800 per month, and cost is essentially unchanged if the two medications are prescribed separately. Sadly, individuals without health care coverage may be the people who need PrEP the most, yet it is unavailable to them because of prohibitive cost. There are medication assistance pro-



KATHY ORIEL, MD is a family physician in Madison who identifies as a middle-aged, frumpy, lesbian mom. She has been caring and advocating for LGBTQ people within medical settings for over 25 years.

grams for PrEP. My experience is that most health plans in the greater Madison area will cover PrEP with a prior authorization.

If you believe PrEP might be a good idea for you, contact your physician to discuss it. It’s important that you tell them about your sexual behavior or use of intravenous drugs. Your provider will want to obtain laboratory tests, including a rapid HIV test, blood chemistries, testing for sexually transmitted infections including hepatitis, a urine test, and pregnancy test if appropriate. Initially, your doctor will want you to come back frequently, at first a month, then every three months, to see how you are doing on the medication.

WHAT IS PEP?

PEP stands for post-exposure prophylaxis, or using HIV medications after a possible exposure to prevent HIV. PEP can be used after a healthcare provider has been exposed to HIV, after a high-risk sexual encounter, after sharing injection equipment, or after sexual assault.

The CDC recommends PEP be considered in the following situations:

- Receptive and insertive vaginal or anal intercourse with a person known to be HIV-infected or whose HIV status is unknown,
- Needle sharing with a source known to be

HIV-infected or HIV status is unknown,

- Injuries with exposure to blood or other potentially infected fluids from a source known to be HIV-infected or HIV status is unknown (including needlesticks with a hollow-bore needle, human bites, accidents).

The most important facts to know about PEP is that it should be used as soon as possible after a possible exposure to HIV and must be used within 72 hours. Physicians will prescribe a combination of three antiretroviral medications to be taken for 28 days. The laboratory tests performed before starting PEP are the same as those with PrEP. You may obtain PEP from your regular physician, an urgent care, the emergency room, or an HIV clinic.

If your provider is not experienced in prescribing PrEP or PEP, there are many resources that may help guide them:

- cdc.gov/hiv/guidelines/preventing.html
- hivguidelines.org/prep-for-prevention/guideline/#tab_6
- hivguidelines.org/pep-for-hiv-prevention/

Talk to your friends, your partners, and your healthcare providers. The more people understand about HIV prevention in regard to safer behaviors, medications for prevention, and are able to discuss sensitive topics, the healthier we will all remain. ■

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

**Associated
Bank**

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

f t YouTube AssociatedBank.com

Because you love each other
and you love nature...



ALEXANDER EINSMAN
MS LMFT



Mind +
Body Focus
LGBTQ-
Affirming
Relationship
Therapy
EMDR
Hypnosis

ATLAS
COUNSELING

ATLASMADISON.COM
608.535.9285



Dutcher
PHOTOGRAPHY
SINCE 2002

robandsamphoto.com



IMPROVE → OUR HEALTH

OURLIVESMADISON.COM



Whole Care

Efforts to build a holistic approach to support the health of young MSM of color in the Milwaukee area wrangle with a complicated set of barriers.

“Summerfest embodies Milwaukee. A big smiley face and nothing is wrong, but that is not the majority.”

HEALTH CARE ORGANIZATIONS and experts have promoted safe sex and offered tools to prevent the spread of HIV and STIs for decades. Even with the recent introduction of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) as a tool to prevent the spread of HIV, in 2015, there were 225 new cases of HIV diagnosed in Wisconsin. Young men who have sex with men (MSM) accounted for 40% of these

Young MSM of color may be afraid to visit agencies that are associated with HIV prevention and LGBT communities. Some people feel that HIV is a result of bad choices and people deserve it.

new diagnoses. Compared to 4% of White MSM, 36% of Black MSM and 10% of Hispanic MSM are estimated to be living with HIV. MSM of color are at the highest risk for HIV transmission and face social, structural, and individual factors in accessing prevention programs and care.

Diverse & Resilient was recently awarded a grant to support the reduction in HIV and viral hepatitis (VH) transmission by

addressing the intersections of substance use and HIV/VH prevention risk factors. We will be providing direct support to young MSM of color, while also partnering with other agencies in Milwaukee to bridge the gaps in current efforts and build a culturally competent system to address the needs of young MSM of color.

As part of a larger assessment to identify incident rates of HIV and VH, D&R conducted a Community Readiness Assessment with local health workers, elected officials, members of the community, and individuals in their social networks. The results were compelling and identified six key barriers to preventing HIV and VH transmission between young MSM of color.

STIGMA

Stigma and fear of stigmatization prevent sexual orientation, sexual behavior, and HIV from being discussed in the community. Young MSM of color may be afraid to visit agencies that are associated with HIV prevention and LGBT communities. Some people feel that HIV is a result of bad choices and people deserve it. Furthermore, there are perceived implications of being viewed negatively through a moral lens by religious family members or from some Black churches.

STRUCTURAL RACISM & VIOLENCE IN MILWAUKEE

Structural racism in Milwaukee prevents HIV or VH prevention from being a priority. Young MSM of color in Milwaukee face systemic racism and segregation, poverty, homelessness due to a lack of affordable housing, high unemployment or underemployment, and a lack of adequate transportation resources which result in prevention

Milwaukee elected officials and leadership are not talking about HIV or making prevention efforts a priority. Young MSM of color are such a small portion of the population and voting bloc that they often feel like they are treated as a throwaway population.

efforts being secondary to meeting basic life needs. Many young MSM of color live in constant survival mode.

PASSIVE LEADERSHIP

Milwaukee elected officials and leadership are not talking about HIV or making prevention efforts a priority. Young MSM of color are such a small portion of the population and voting bloc that they often feel like they are treated as a throwaway population.

Many young MSM of color feel that local leaders believe the young men themselves should be responsible for addressing the high HIV rates within their community despite the lack of allocated resources.

TARGET POPULATION PERCEPTIONS AND MISCONCEPTIONS

Misconceptions and perceptions about HIV, substance abuse, and needle exchange are widespread with beliefs that HIV is either a death sentence or an inevitability. Attitudes range between feelings of invincibility to contracting HIV being an inevitability. Alcohol and marijuana use are not viewed negatively within the community. Substance abuse is viewed as an older generation or white person's problem and injecting drugs is viewed as taboo.

GAPS WITH CURRENT EFFORTS

Current efforts within the prevention community are not reaching new people or younger MSM of color, and are focused heavily on PrEP and treatment. Testing is driven heavily by incentives, and there are perceptions that agencies are not collaborating in a meaningful manner to address the intersections of HIV prevention, substance abuse, or viral hepatitis.

LACK OF AWARENESS

There is a lack of awareness of how substance use, including alcohol and marijuana, impacts HIV or VH transmission. Knowledge and awareness of risk are siloed, and the intersection between substance use and HIV and VH prevention is not recognized by young MSM of color or the community at large. Some community members see a lack of awareness or concern among those without a personal connection to these issues.

HIV isn't new. There seems to be plenty of information available to equip individuals with the tools they need to prevent HIV. However, HIV diagnoses continue and prevention efforts are not effective where they are needed most. At D&R, we are committed to utilizing a holistic approach and building systems with our partners to address these intersections and barriers. We will carry forward the lessons learned from this study to better inform our efforts over the next five years and reduce HIV and VH transmission in Milwaukee. ■



DAN RUGE, MA, is Diverse & Resilient's Director of Programs and brings a wealth of project management experience, focused on international development, human rights, and community development.

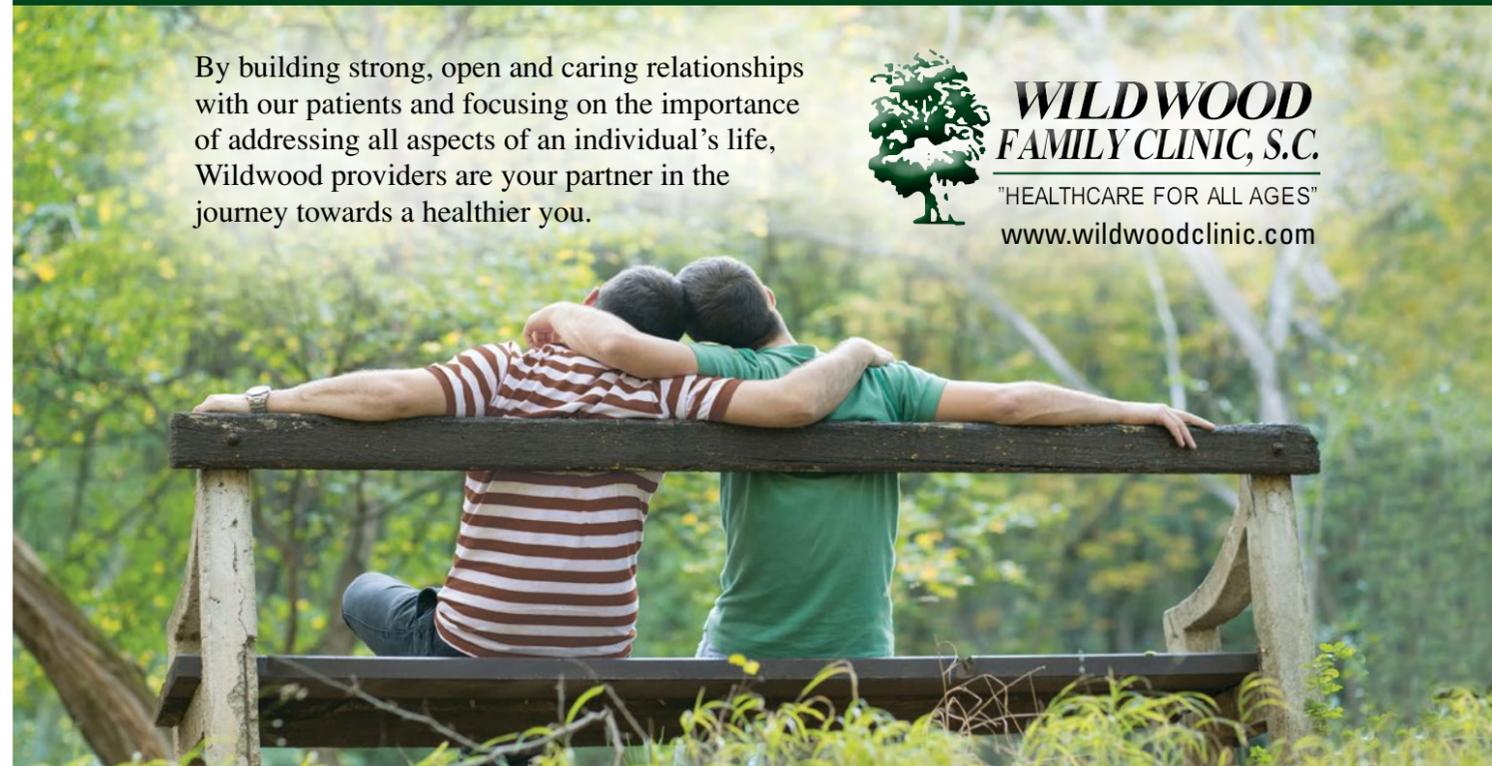
Treating the whole you...

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

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

scrapdog
100% guarantee

bonded & insured



Find Your Happy Place!



Daisy Cafe (608) 241-2200 • 2827 Atwood Ave.
daisycafeandcupcakery.com

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner, Cupcakes, Coffee & More!

purrrrrsonal matchmaking for every family!



Angel's Wish
WWW.ANGELSWISH.ORG

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

IMPROVE → OUR TASTE OURLIVESMADISON.COM

A Fair Trade

Casey Thompson and Thomas Beckwith-Thompson
embark on a new phase of their relationship, expanding it to include ownership of longtime State Street institution Fair Trade Coffee.

I AM SITTING IN THE BACK office of Fair Trade Coffee on State Street with the new owners, Casey Thompson and Thomas Beckwith-Thompson, when Thomas' phone chimes with a distinctive ring tone. "The cafe is my baby—family members—and the cafe always gets picked up within one ring," Thomas tells me after checking the screen.

Tom and Casey took over ownership of the business at the beginning of March and so far have no intention of changing anything significant. "Why mess with something that works?" Casey says. However, they do plan to experiment with more breakfast options and cold brewed coffee in the summer, as well as a back porch area that Tom is particularly excited about. "Mostly we are just cleaning and organizing," Tom adds.

Tom was surprised when he heard from one of his vendors that they were considering buying the shop, which hadn't been on the market at the time. When a few months passed and the vendor's plans changed, Tom and Casey decided to put in an unsolicited offer.

They each have very different reasons for purchasing the cafe. Tom fondly remembers hanging out on State Street as a high school student, dreaming of one day owning a coffee shop like the ones he had spent time in. For Tom, this was an opportunity to create a place where everyone feels welcomed and comfortable, a place that is inclusive. He points out that the cafe has specifically sought out vegan and vegetarian food options, and that their art is local (and for sale). Tom spent his time after high school striving to make his dream come true by working in coffee shops around town, most recently managing a place in Fitchburg.

Casey, who describes himself as the business-minded and less emotional of the two, just wanted to own a business. "The only opportunity for advancement for Tom is ownership," Casey explains.

The opportunity to own the shop presented itself unexpectedly, and wasn't a smooth process by any means. Tom was surprised when he heard from one of his vendors that they were considering buying the shop, which hadn't been on the market at the time. When a few months passed and the vendor's plans changed, Tom and Casey decided to put in an unsolicited offer on the cafe, which was still not advertised as being for sale. To their shock and delight, their offer was accepted. "It was important to the owners that the right people bought the business," Tom says. "They didn't want to sell it to someone corporate, or someone from out of town."

Casey described the process of securing the sale, transferring titles and licenses, and securing lending for the business as "task heavy." "It was an emotional rollercoaster. It felt like walking a tightrope, where one day we were elated, and then we would hit



PHOTO BY STEENA GRIVES.

some seemingly insurmountable bump and be devastated," Casey explains. "I wasn't comfortable that we would be able to buy the business until we were at the closing table." For his part, Tom says he was confident through the entire process.

"It was important to the owners that the right people bought the business," Tom says. "They didn't want to sell it to someone corporate, or someone from out of town."

The two men who have known each other since fifth grade and went to the same high school were not friends until they bumped into each other at a reunion a few years ago. "We took things slowly," Tom says. They have been together as a couple for six years, and on December 14, 2014 they were married in their living room. "It wasn't a big deal," Casey says, ever the business-minded one.

It is clear that the guys are off to a great start. "Every night the previous owner stops in to check on us, to see if we need help, to see if things are going well," Casey tells me.

Adds Tom, "This place screams Madison. It IS Madison." ■



VIVIENNE ANDERSEN, who's first word was "eat," is a full-time REALTOR® with eXp Realty in Madison. She grew up in California, but is not at all what the Beach Boys had in mind. She serves on the Cultural Diversity in Housing Committee at the WRA, and blogs about the Madison Real Estate Market at VivienneAndersen.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



Needles and caffeine—
Feed your addictions!

125 S. Main Street • Verona • 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

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



BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS
NARI NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS MEMBER
Buy Local

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

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





Living in Code

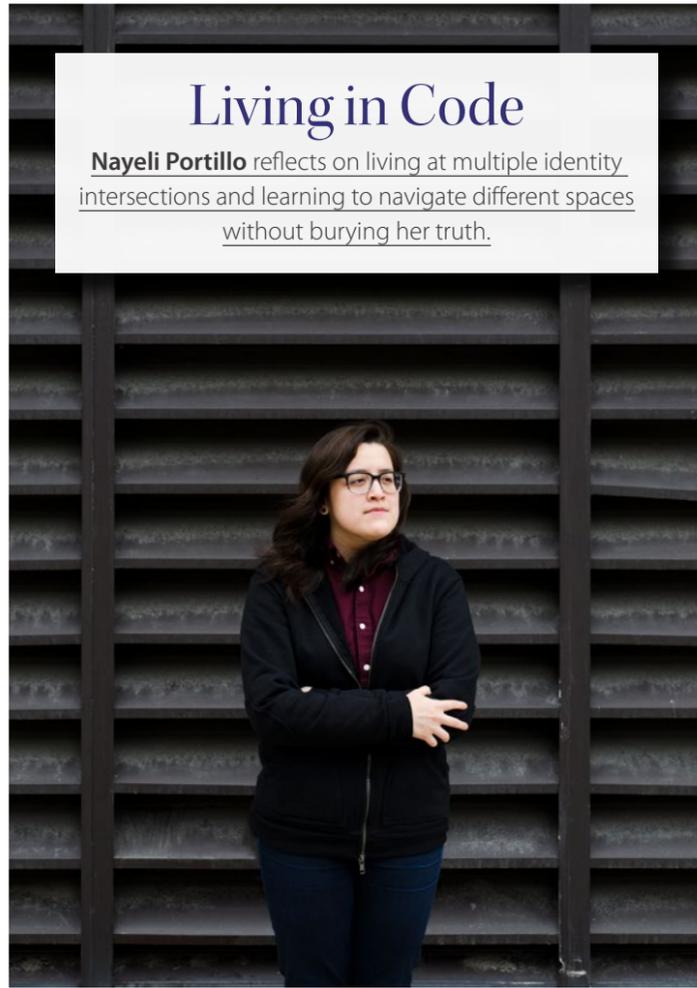
Nayeli Portillo reflects on living at multiple identity intersections and learning to navigate different spaces without burying her truth.

I'M A QUEER LATINX born in Houston, Texas, raised in Milwaukee, with roots in both. As a teenager, I felt like I was always code switching from one setting to another (geographically and otherwise). Growing up, I had always been marked as "different"—for being shy, for being too "Americanized," for dressing a certain way.

I knew deep down inside, coming out would be much more difficult than trying to talk my mom into letting me dye my hair green or getting a nose ring. I knew that something else was different about me, because I had already realized that I liked girls when I was about nine years old. I wasn't ashamed of my queerness or my sexuality once I "came out" to myself at 16. Instead, the dread of being confronted by my family members who called the Bible Belt home always simmered in my head, and being marked as different for so long was wearing me

down. I figured that blending in, at least until I finished high school, was the better option, rather than telling everyone I was gay and having that be one more thing about myself that I had to defend or explain away.

I was 19 when that moment finally came, and it certainly wasn't the teary-eyed sitcom scene anyone would've wished for. I fumbled the opportunity I had been waiting for for the longest time, and it was only because my mom kept pressing for answers that the subject even came up (her suspicions were at an all-time high). It got quiet and super



awkward for the next couple of days any time the subject came up.

Once the initial surprise wore off, though, my parents ended the spell with a hug and an "I love you." They didn't reject me, and I still had a place to call home—which I know are two of the biggest things at stake when a queer youth decides to tell a caretaker, guardian, or parent who they are. The reality is also that we never just "come out" once—it's repeated over and over as time goes on and as people come in and out of our lives.

From then on, I knew I never wanted to

hide any part of my identity ever again. A lot of the times, code switching can translate to self-preservation or can mean safety from harassment or violence, but the work that I do as an LGBT Youth Advocate and as an openly queer adult consists of creating an affirming space that celebrates all the facets and intersections of everyone's identities. It also means creating a support system for queer, trans, gender non-conforming people of color and people of all abilities and backgrounds, whom I know may not have that at home, at school, or in their day-to-day lives.

Our work as advocates and as adults who have the opportunity to work with and meet LGBTQ youth is all the more crucial now, considering the administration that we live under and how it actively works to deny trans and queer youth, low-income, immigrant and undocumented communities, and disabled folks any agency or justice. And while

we live in an increasingly dangerous political climate, I know that the messages we send as adults who work with LGBTQ youth become all the more important in order to create spaces for long-term change in a world that works to silence us and erase us.

I moved back to Milwaukee last fall after having been in New York for four years, and I was determined to take what I had learned from my mentors and friends to continue the work here in the Midwest, especially after the attack in Orlando last summer.

I came across the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center and was set on working with a team of like-minded folks dedicated to working with and advocating for the LGBTQ community. My long-term goal is to ensure that LGBTQ youth feel empowered enough to make a difference in their own communities and break down the borders in our society—whether that means starting a GSA at their school, organizing and challenging anti-LGBTQ policies, or fighting for all-gender restrooms on campus. ■

PHOTO BY MIKE HILLER.



Start Your Project

Make Your Project Happen with Reduced Rates and No Closing Costs*

Visit uwcu.org or stop by a branch today.

Home Equity Offers

INTRO RATE FOR 12 MONTHS

1.99% APR*
Variable Rate Line of Credit¹

RATES AS LOW AS

3.99% APR*
Variable Rate after Intro Period¹

¹APR is annual percentage rate. Rates are subject to change. The minimum loan amount is \$5,000. The one-time charge of \$149 that applies to newly booked HELOCs due at closing is waived through September 30, 2017, except appraisal costs or title insurance, if required. Member is responsible for appraisal costs ranging from \$400 to \$600, if required. Refinancing of existing UW Credit Union HELOCs does not qualify for the closing costs offer. Property insurance is required. Promotional rates are for fixed home equity loan segments and new home equity line requests received between 3/1/17 – 9/30/17 and closed within 30 days of request. Rates shown are for homeowners with 70% loan-to-value. The introductory rate of 1.99% APR is valid for new UW Credit Union home equity line of credit requests received between 3/1/17 – 9/30/17 and closed within 30 days of request and is valid for homeowners with up to 70% loan-to-value (LTV). Intro rate is 2.49% APR for up to 80% LTV, 2.99% for 90% LTV and 5.99% for up to 100% LTV. APR will be fixed at the introductory rate during the 12-month introductory period. No annual fees. Offer is subject to normal credit qualifications. Rates are subject to change but cannot exceed 18%. Some restrictions may apply. After the twelve-month introductory period, the rate is indexed to *The Wall Street Journal* Prime. APR is subject to change monthly but cannot exceed 18%, and 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%. During the introductory and 5-year draw periods, 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.



Your best interest always comes first.®

LIFE IS
in the moments we share.



What's not to love about Door County's 19 welcoming communities? Filled with thousands of acres of cherry orchards, surrounded by 300 miles of shoreline and rooted in deep maritime history, there's so much to see, taste and experience together on your trip. Fall in love with Door County.

1 (800) 52-RELAX (73529) | DOORCOUNTY.COM



live life well

