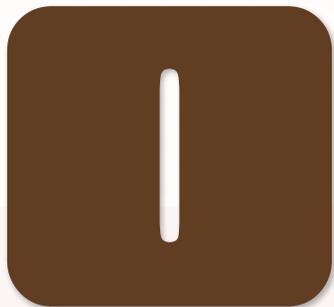


our lives



# HOME & GARDEN

Tips, Trends & Creative Solutions from Area Experts

Madison's LGBT&XYZ Magazine

March/April 2018

# MAKING HISTORY

## The Clarenbach House

The quest to create Madison's first LGBTQ landmark

### WATER JUSTICE

Milwaukee Water Commons is queering the environmental movement

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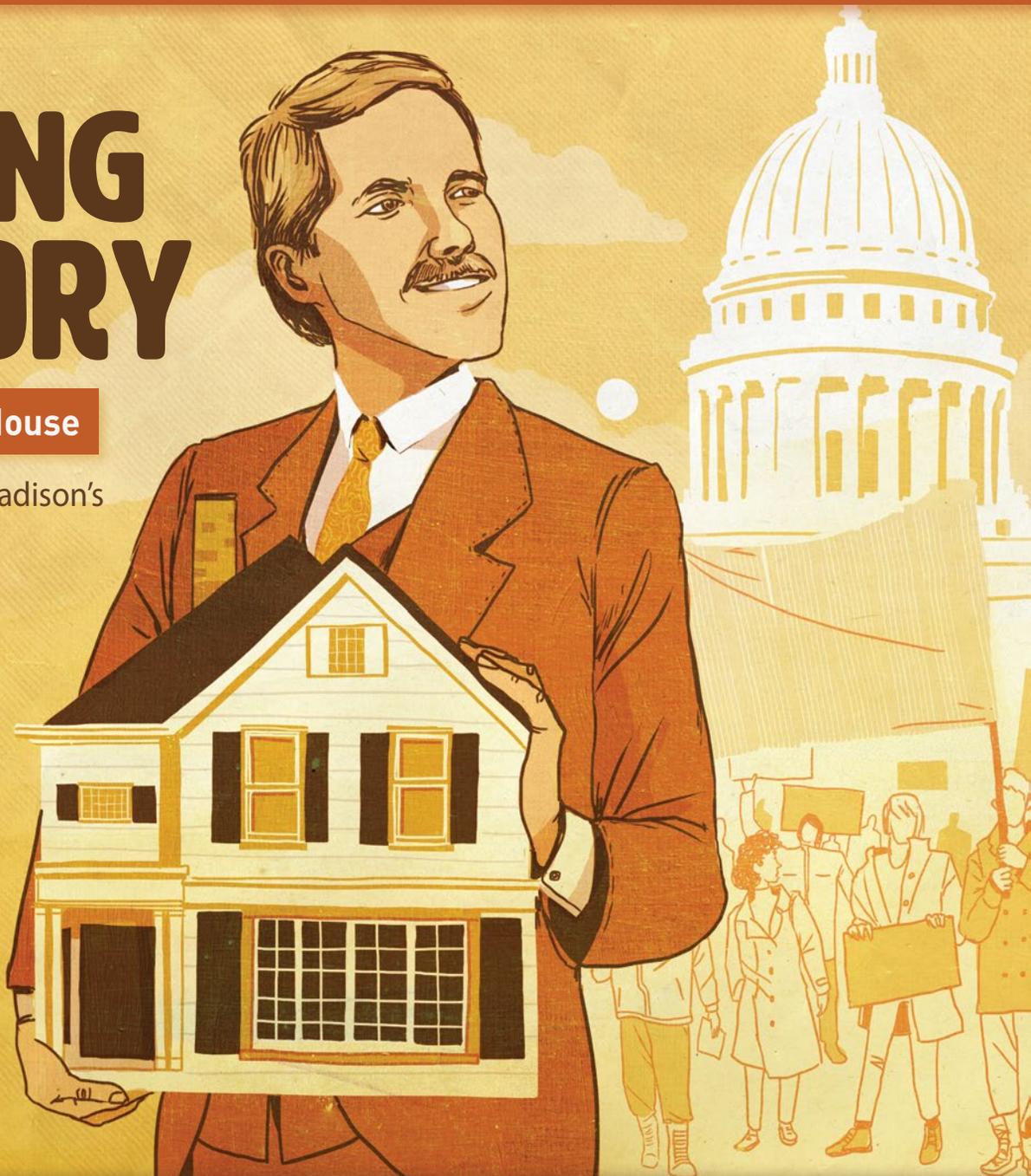
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New legislation threatens to undo local protections for LGBTQ employees

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MADISON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
John DeMain | Music Director

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AT THE SYMPHONY  
CONCERT & AFTER-PARTY

Christopher O'Riley  
piano

## Appeal

Friday, May 4 | 7:30 p.m. Concert | Overture Hall

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Experience the Madison Symphony Orchestra, Chorus and star of NPR's "From the Top," Christopher O'Riley as guest artist performing Mozart's twenty-second piano concerto. Then "mass"—as in massive—is the monumental *Glagolitic Mass* of Czech composer Leos Janáček, a powerful setting of ancient Slavic texts.

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“I think we should make the best of where we live and we all should be able to come home to a place that is welcoming and represents who we are.”

- David Bromstad (openly gay HGTV designer/host)

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Madison's LGBT&XYZ Magazine

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Fever

There is no better time of year to catch the spirit of music, than when John DeMain captures the essence of the budding season with Shumann's *Spring Symphony*. Joining him is Grammy Award-winner Augustin Hadelich in a scintillating performance of the Dvořák *Violin Concerto*, long overdue for a hearing at these concerts.

John DeMain, *Conductor*  
Augustin Hadelich, *Violin*

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mass Appeal

may 4, 5, 6

Mozart is high on everyone's list, and Christopher O'Riley, star of NPR's "From the Top," is featured performing the prolific composer's twenty-second piano concerto. Then "mass"—as in massive—is the monumental *Glagolitic Mass* of Czech composer Leos Janáček, a powerful setting of ancient Slavic texts.

John DeMain, *Conductor*  
Christopher O'Riley, *Piano*

Mozart | *Overture to Don Giovanni*

Mozart | *Piano Concerto No. 22*

Janáček | *Glagolitic Mass*

Rebecca Wilson, *Soprano*

Julie Miller, *Mezzo-Soprano*

Roger Honeywell, *Tenor*

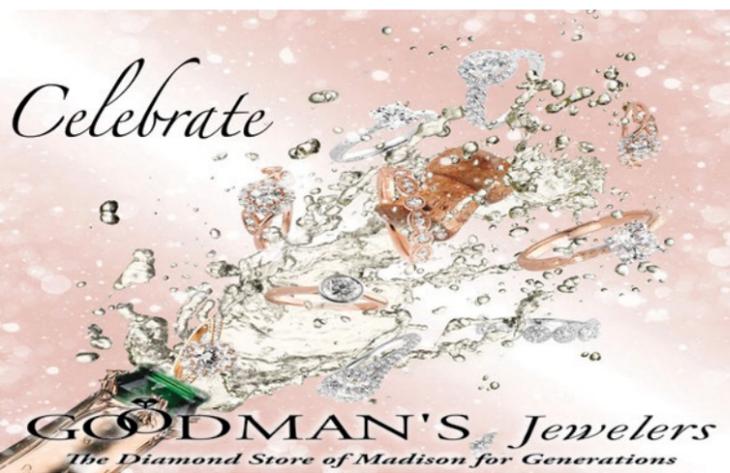
Benjamin Sieverding, *Bass*

Madison Symphony Chorus

Beverly Taylor, *Chorus Director*

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EDITOR'S NOTE EMILY MILLS

HOME IS WHERE  
THE HEART IS

*A safe place to call home is a fundamental human need. Finding and creating those spaces comes in many different forms, and can lead to incredible community and change.*



WE'RE JUST A FEW MONTHS into 2018 and already it feels like a whirlwind. The weather seems to change daily, and so does the news from around the country. Some of it is tragic: the mass murder of students and faculty at Marjory Stoneman High School in Florida on Valentine's Day was an all-too-common but still gut-wrenching example of our national failure to take meaningful action when it comes not just to common sense gun control laws, but an overall need to tackle cultural issues around toxic masculinity and white privilege.

The shining silver lining is the upswell of youth activism and engagement around the issue, with young survivors of the shooting taking the lead. I take enormous comfort in the work of these courageous kids, and I know that our future is brighter for them—but I also know that we, as the adults in the room, owe it to them to do a lot better than we currently are.

Right here in Madison, we have many good examples to turn to, starting in our own homes. In fact, taking a wider view of the Home & Garden theme for this issue, I'm proud to include the stories of



how an individual house can provide crucial support and fertile soil for the growing of communities that had or have traditionally struggled to find such space. With the **Clarenbach House** in particular, we have a great example of the ways in which simply opening your doors for marginalized people can lead to enormous, positive change.

City planner **Heather Stouder** offers unique insight into the many variables that go into the development of healthy and diverse communities, and the challenges that Madison faces in particular. Our city is at a point where decisions made now will have long-lasting impacts on what we become. As the population grows and the very fabric of life here evolves to accommodate more people with a wider range of needs and experiences, do we strive to better include everyone, or do some attempt to put up walls?

Home can mean different things to different people, and it can certainly change over a lifetime. **Babette Wainwright** offers a painful and poignant reflection of her journey to America as a Haitian immigrant, and the ways in which her identity has meant dealing with the violent colonization not just of her culture, but of her body.

I'm always fascinated and enriched by learning how different folks create and nurture their own sense of home, whether it is through literal cultivation (gardening, farming), unique interior design, or the people with whom they choose to share their lives. All of that and more is represented within these pages, and I hope you'll find it just as interesting and inspiring as I do. ■

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS



OUR LIVES is once again working to compile a list of influential queer people of color in the greater Madison and Milwaukee areas, and we need your help!

Last year we were blown away by the response to our inaugural QPOC Pride List and the reception that followed. We're proud to have reporter Amber Walker working on the creation of the list again, and this year, the list will be compiled and **organized by a fantastic group of QPOC leaders**. They will be spearheading the effort to further expand and diversify the list and the networking reception.

You can submit recommendations to us via online form at [ourlivesmadison.com/qpocpride](http://ourlivesmadison.com/qpocpride). We will be leaving the form open indefinitely, but for this year's list, please make sure to submit nominations by April 15. Thank you! ■

CONTRIBUTORS



After a nomadic childhood spent doodling, eating, sleeping, and growing, **MICHAEL HIRSHON** ended up in Madison as an illustrator for magazines, newspapers, and books. He holds an MFA in Illustration as Visual Essay from the School of Visual Arts and teaches illustration and design courses at MATC and Mt. Mary University. Michael's work has been recognized by the Society of Illustrators, *3x3*, *American Illustration*, and *Creative Quarterly*. His clients include *The New York Times*, Google, Harper Collins, *The Village Voice*, Amazon, and *Isthmus*. He is constantly filling up his many sketchbooks, drawing outside whenever it's warm enough for his hands to endure (which isn't often enough in Wisconsin). You can see more of his work on his website, [hirshon.net](http://hirshon.net).

**ALAUORA BOREALIS** is a queer artist working across multiple community spaces. Borealis directs educational programming for ArtWrite Collective and Arts + Literature Laboratory; Bo also teaches art at Monroe Street Arts Center. Bo creates editorial illustrations for publishers they care about (*Our Lives!* Rethinking Schools!) and tends to focus their studio-social-writing practice on queerness, chronic pain, and storytelling for change. Find a piece of Bo's ongoing project, *Season of Shadows*, at Overture Center for the Arts March 13–June 3; Bo has worked from their experience as a non-binary trans person to interview peer queers about gender, translating recurring themes and metaphors into performances, installations, and workshops around Wisconsin. Check out the Overture show for transcript excerpts, photographic documentation, and other artifacts from the *Shadows* project to date. Find more from Bo at [alauraborealisart.com](http://alauraborealisart.com).

**AMBER C. WALKER** is a Black, queer journalist. She enjoys writing about issues that are important to people of color and LGBTQ+ folks. Walker graduated from Oberlin College in 2011 with a B.A. in Africana Studies and Gender/Sexuality/Feminist studies. She is a proud southside of Chicago native. You can find her spoiling your favorite TV shows on Twitter @ACWalker620.



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## WISCONSIN RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION



Food Fight Restaurant Group Hi [redacted], thanks for contacting us and providing your thoughts on this issue. Yes, our restaurants are members of the WRA, and Food Fight is represented on the board of directors. A small part of what the WRA does is advocacy; mostly the WRA focuses on education and information, like most trade organizations. As with any group, we may not agree with every point on every position, but feel it is important to be a part of the conversation and make our opinions heard. In this case, with the legislation mentioned, we do feel Standardizing some regulations makes sense. Food Fight has restaurants in Madison, Middleton, and Sun Prairie; three different municipalities. We are, and have explored opportunities in other communities in the state.

Food Fight offers a minimum starting wage much higher than required by law and provides benefits in excess of industry standards, including: paid parental leave, paid time off for full and part-time staff, tuition reimbursement, a confidential employee assistance program, subsidized bus passes and many more. We are committed to providing fair opportunity to everyone and do not discriminate based on race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, where you live, or where you came from. We promote from within and provide opportunities to invest in our restaurants. Food Fight cares about and gives back to the community, providing hundreds of thousands of dollars in support to local organizations annually.

We will not compromise the standards to which we hold ourselves and will continue to provide a safe, open and positive environment to our employees and the public alike.

Like · Reply

Ishnala Supper Club's Robert Prosser

## Food Fights

Bills working their way through the **Wisconsin Legislature** aim to undo **local employee non-discrimination protections**, as well as other basic rights, and are backed by several area restaurant owners.

**WISCONSIN LEAD THE WAY** for LGBTQ rights with its historic passage of the 1982 law that protected gays and lesbians from discrimination in employment and housing. It has not kept pace for transgender or gender non-conforming people. Some local municipalities, like Madison, have stepped in to fill those gaps with ordinances to ensure fair and equal treatment for a wider spectrum of people.

A new bill introduced in the Wisconsin Legislature seeks to undo all of that.

Early in February, at a public hearing to discuss Assembly Bill 748, Fair Wisconsin Executive Director Megin McDonnell noted the presence of Robert Prosser, a Wisconsin Restaurant Association (WRA) board member and the owner of the iconic Ishnala Supper Club near the Wisconsin Dells. Prosser and the WRA

### WRA's Madison Connections

Other Madison-area board members include **Erin Vranas** of Parthenon Gyros, **W.B. von Rutenberg** of the Nau-ti-gal and Betty Lou Cruises, and **John Kavanaugh** of the Esquire Club. A full list of WRA board members can be found at [wirestaurant.org/info/boards.php](http://wirestaurant.org/info/boards.php).

# ANNUAL DINNER

March 9, 2018

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are pushing for the new Republican-backed legislation, arguing that it's necessary to support food industry employers and create a simpler business environment statewide.

What's in AB748 (and its Senate version, SB634), however, is a little more complicated—and potentially disastrous for workers, especially those in already vulnerable groups. The bill would completely preempt all local control over rules related to employment discrimination, as well as minimum wages, hours and overtime, scheduling, wage claims and collections, an employer's right to solicit salary information of prospective employees, and professions regulated by the state.

The law represents a particularly pointed attack on Madison's ordinances that prohibit employer discrimination based on gender identity, non-religion, homelessness, income source, social security number, physical appearance, political beliefs, student status, domestic partnership, citizenship, unemployment status, and credit history.

The argument against such local ordinances, and the one being echoed by groups like the WRA and Wisconsin Manufacturer's and Commerce, is that they create a patchwork of laws across the state and create unnecessary complications for business owners.

Democratic Governor Jim Doyle passed a statewide minimum wage preemption in 2006 as a compromise to convince the Republican-controlled Legislature to support a one-time minimum wage increase. That raise was wiped out a year later when the federal minimum wage was upped, and yet Wisconsin is still stuck with the rule for private sector workers.

### The PRAWN:

A liberal-leaning professional organization has sprung up as an alternative to the WRA: "The PRAWN (**Progressive Restaurants and Activists of Wisconsin Network**) follows in the success and tradition of national organizations such as RAISE and ROC United who advocate for the rights of restaurant employees. By focusing on both restaurants and consumers in Wisconsin, we hope to benefit both Wisconsin's more than 200,000 restaurant employees by undoing some of the damage that the Wisconsin Restaurant Association has done to both our employees and industry." Find out more at [prawnorg.weebly.com](http://prawnorg.weebly.com).

Republicans appear poised to go further, completely taking away the ability of local governments to pass their own protections and ordinances when the state fails to act.

In discussions online it's also been revealed that several beloved Madison-area food institutions are represented on the WRA's board, including Food Fight Restaurant Group, which owns Monty's Blue Plate Diner and Tex Tubb's, among many others. Confronted with their support of the bill, the business posted a statement to Facebook defending their labor practices and commitment to "providing fair opportunity to everyone" without

discriminating "based on race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, where you live, or where you came from." Food Fight listed "standardizing some regulations" as the reason for their support of the bill. There was no mention of discrimination based on gender identity, which the bill would specifically gut.

The potentially positive news is that the Assembly

version of the bill passed with an amendment that stripped out the provisions related to employment non-discrimination ordinances. The bill now heads to the Senate, however, where it will need to be reconciled with the version that still includes that provision. The Assembly also voted to exempt Foxconn after officials from Racine expressed concern that it might hamper their ability to enforce a "hire local" ordinance on the company.

Both bills still significantly impact the ability of local governments to provide worker rights and protections that go above and beyond what's available at the state level.

—Emily Mills

### Take Action

Contacting your state representatives directly is always the best way to make your opinions known and help support or block legislation. Constituent feedback is one of our strongest tools to effect change and maintain local control of ordinances intended to protect vulnerable populations.

Find out who your state representative is and how to contact them by visiting [legis.wisconsin.gov](http://legis.wisconsin.gov). At the right side of the page, enter your address or use the map to look up your specific legislators and find their contact information. **Phone calls work best.**

## LGBTQ Organizations Update

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

Reported by **Emily Mills**

*Stay up-to-date with area LGBTQ+ and allied organizations and non-profits, be informed, and get involved.*

### NEWS

#### Important notes about area LGBTQ groups

**ARCW** The recent Holiday Food Basket appeal far exceeded its \$50,000 goal thanks to the generous support of 310 donors and community partners. The campaign ended 2017 raising \$61,374. Over 20,000 meals were distributed to people living with HIV and their families throughout Wisconsin during the holiday season. The appeal's success was due largely to 12 members of the ARCW Junior Board who effectively used text messaging (sending over 2,642 messages) on #GivingTuesday to raise \$5,570 toward our year-end goal.

Longtime donor, **Joseph Pabst**, pushed the campaign over the top when he stepped forward

with a special \$10,000 gift, including dollar-for-dollar matches to the Junior Board #GivingTuesday campaign. Joe's gift helped inspire \$13,820 in new and increased gifts.

**DIVERSE & RESILIENT** The organization was well represented at the Women's March Wisconsin on January 21 with **Kailee Evans** speaking at the Milwaukee rally, and **Kathy Flores** conducting a workshop at the Green Bay rally. Women of color leading the way!

**FREEDOM, INC** The non-profit celebrates its 15-year anniversary in 2018, and has a lot of development planned to help celebrate the occasion. In honor of the achievement, they will launch their "15 for 15" campaign with a goal of raising \$15,000 from supporters. This cam-

## All-gender bathrooms coming to every Madison public school this year

**IN A VICTORY FOR LGBTQ ADVOCATES** and students, all 48 Madison public schools will have a specially designated all-gender bathroom, as will the rented or owned space where alternative education programs are based and district headquarters.

School operations chief Karen Kepler noted to the Wisconsin State Journal that only a "handful" of projects remain to be completed, after the project was begun last year. Staff training and a student video are also being created to supplement the effort to establish a more inclusive and supportive school environment for transgender and gender non-conforming students.

Similar to family or all-access bathrooms at a store, the all-gender bathrooms can be used by any students, visitors or family groups, such as a parent with small children.

"We're just trying to normalize it," said Sherie Hohs, the district's LGBTQ liaison. "It's like going to a coffee shop, but we're being very intentional with the language around it, that this is for all genders."

District policy already lets trans and non-binary students use the bathroom that aligns with their gender identity, but not all are comfortable doing that. Providing a secure, private alternative enables better learning, too, Hohs said.

Officials began the project by surveying each school about their existing accommodations. Many already had single-stall options that were open to anyone. Consistent signage, safe access, and locks, however, were lacking. This project aimed to fix that, and to add all-gender restrooms where there were none previously. ■



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campaign will kick off with their participation in The Big Share on March 6, a statewide day of online giving.

With the hiring of staff whom are specifically focused on civic engagement, in 2018 they will also be working to increase the numbers of Black, Hmong, and Khmer voters throughout the state. Alongside years of work in political education and leadership development, Freedom, Inc hopes to help people know their rights around voting and keep people accountable.

They are already starting to make plans for their 15 Year Celebration at Freedom Health Day. This annual BBQ, 5K, and sports tournament held in September will be bigger and better, in honor of all the work they've accomplished in the past 15 years. This fall they are also honored to be the hosts of the Hmong Courage Banquet, which celebrates Hmong women in their fight against domestic and sexual violence.

**GSAFE** Nominations are currently being sought for both the 2018 Judi Devereux Community Activist Award and the 2018 Educator of the Year Award. The award will be presented to outstanding individuals or groups at the 22nd annual Celebration of Leadership on Saturday, May 12 at Monona Terrace in Madison. The recipients of these awards will have demonstrated a commitment to promoting just and respectful schools for all, with an emphasis on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning students and topics (LGBTQ+).

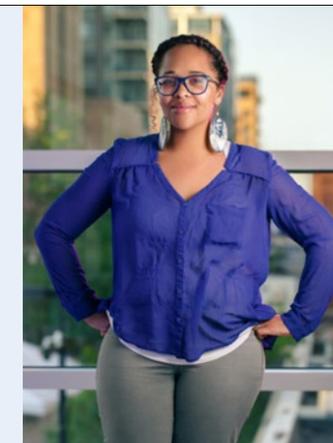
In 2017, GSAFE's Youth Leadership Board received a grant from United Way's By Youth for Youth Program to host several clothing closet events for transgender and gender non-conforming youth, and hosted another successful event on January 25. YLB also has set aside funds to provide binders, gaffs, and other transitional wear for free to Wisconsin K-12 stu-

dents. So far the project has provided needed transitional wear to over 30 individuals.

**MKE GAY VOLLEYBALL ASSOCIATION** The Spring Season will be a 12-week session that begins Sunday, March 4 and will continue through Sunday, May 20. Matches are played indoors at Beulah Brinton Community Center, 2555 S. Bay Street in Bay View. There are divisions for players who want to play more competitively (Gold), moderately competitively (Silver), and just for fun/recreationally (Bronze). MGVA is a safe place for people of all backgrounds, gender and sexual expression; everyone is welcome! MGVA offers three seasons each year: two indoor seasons in the fall and spring and an outdoor season in the summer. If you have any questions, please e-mail [mgvamembership@gmail.com](mailto:mgvamembership@gmail.com) or visit the MGVA website at [milwaukeegayvolleyball.com](http://milwaukeegayvolleyball.com).

**OUTREACH LGBT CENTER** Announcing a new group starting in March: Madison Gaymers is a group of LGBTQIA individuals who enjoy various types of games, including but not limited to video games, tabletop games, RPGs, board games, and card games. "We pride ourselves on being an inclusive, hate-free, safe space for everyone to enjoy themselves, play games, socialize, and generally support each other." The group will meet every second Saturday of the

## GSAFE's Ali Muldrow named as Humanitarian Award Winner



**WINNERS OF THIS YEARS'** combined city-county Humanitarian Award honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. included GSAFE director of youth programming **Ali Muldrow**.

The annual award is given to individuals who have made outstanding contributions and exemplified Dr. King's non-violent philosophy. Muldrow has worked tirelessly in her capacities as a parent, writer, instructor, educational advocate, and doula, with a strong focus on racial justice, prison reform, and support of LGBTQ youth and youth of color. As a queer, Black woman, Muldrow has dedicated her adult life to giving voices to those who are marginalized.

"I am profoundly grateful for this award...this is where I've spent all 30 years of my life. I love this city enough to be honest about what it means to be Black, and young, and live here," Muldrow said during her remarks at the awards ceremony, part of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration in Madison. "When I asked my father about the hypocrisy of this liberal community, my dad said everyone is liberal when it comes to themselves. Everyone knows that slavery isn't right for them or their children. Everyone knows that a cage isn't the answer when they make a mistake. It is whether or not you think those things are right for other people that determines whether or not you are liberal."

"At GSAFE we are trying to end harassment at schools," Muldrow went on. "We are trying to make places where LGBTQ youth can be recognized and celebrated for their leadership. I am here tonight because we are determined to end the incarceration of children, and I am just getting started." ■

## Kenosha school district settles with former student Ash Whitaker



**THE KENOSHA UNIFIED SCHOOL BOARD** has settled a lawsuit with a transgender former student who said the district discriminated against him, including monitoring trips to the boys restroom.

The board voted 5-2 in favor of a \$800,000 settlement in the case of Ash Whitaker, a former Tremper High School student who graduated in June. Whitaker filed the suit alleging staff had monitored him, making him wear wristbands singling him out from other students.

The district had filed a petition in August with the U.S. Supreme Court, asking that it overturn a 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in May, which had upheld U.S. District Court Judge Pamela Pepper's injunction allowing Whitaker to use male-only restrooms at Tremper. While he was attending the school, the injunction allowed him to use boys restrooms throughout his senior year. The settlement withdraws the district's petition to the Supreme Court.

"I am deeply relieved that this long, traumatic part of my life is finally over and I can focus on my future and simply being a college student," said Whitaker via a statement through his attorneys. Whitaker is currently a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he plans to major in biomedical engineering. "Winning this case was so empowering and made me feel like I can actually do something to help other trans youths live authentically. My message to other trans kids is to respect themselves and accept themselves and love themselves. If someone's telling you that you don't deserve that, prove them wrong."

The settlement also permits Whitaker to use the men's restroom when returning to the Kenosha Unified campus as an "alumnus or a community member, which the district had done while he was a student." ■



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### Women's Leadership Luncheon

March 27 - 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Johnny Delmonico's Steakhouse  
\$30 for members, \$40 for non-members

### Madison Area Chamber on Tap

April 11 - 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.  
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month, starting March 10, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at OutReach. For more information, email Victor or David at info@madisongaymers.com.

**TRANS LAW HELP WISCONSIN** Trans Law Help Wisconsin is a pro bono legal project sponsored by Community Justice, Inc. that provides assistance to the transgender community and other gender-transitioning individuals by helping to obtain corrected identity documents (birth certificates, driver's licenses, passports, etc.) reflecting one's authentic name and gender. We host free name and gender change clinics where participants receive necessary information about the process for obtaining a name and a gender marker change, as well as hands-on assistance from volunteer attorneys with completing the required forms. In addition, we are establishing a list of trans-friendly attorneys around the state of Wisconsin and, in partnership with OutReach, we are developing a Wisconsin-specific name and gender change guide. Find them online at [translaw.communityjusticeinc.org](http://translaw.communityjusticeinc.org) or on Facebook at [facebook.com/translawhelpwi](https://www.facebook.com/translawhelpwi). They can be reached directly at [translawhelpwi@gmail.com](mailto:translawhelpwi@gmail.com).

### STAFF / BOARD CHANGES

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

**ACLU OF WISCONSIN** Kara Coates has joined as Finance and Administration Manager.

**BADGERLAND SOFTBALL LEAGUE** Current board members are David Ryan-Sukup (Secretary), Isaac O'Malley-Laursen (Open Competitive Rep), Ames Barker (Member at Large), and Earnest "Teddy" Perkins (Tournament Director).

**MADISON MINOTAURS RUGBY CLUB** The team held its yearly Board of Directors elections at their year-end banquet. The incoming board is Tim Lom (president), Andy Best, Eric Fabian, and Phillip Vinson (directors), Tim Tousey (treasurer), and Greg Faber (secretary).

**OUTREACH LGBTQ CENTER** The center is looking for passionate, energetic, hardworking people to grow their board of directors. LGBTQ people of color, people who are disabled, women, people who are transgender and/or gender non-conforming, people of varying faiths and

## Cream City Foundation Awards Grant to Fund Trans Cultural Competency Training for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Professionals

**CREAM CITY FOUNDATION** recently announced a grant awarded to support assessment, training, technical assistance, and consultation efforts between FORGE and Milwaukee County Community Access to Recovery Services (CARS). The program specifically supports a year-long, thorough assessment and training effort that will enable and empower CARS providers to feel confident in their ability to reach out to and serve transgender and non-binary individuals.

"FORGE is a national leader in providing dynamic trainings for providers who work with transgender survivors and loved ones who have experienced sexual and domestic violence. This grant allows FORGE to bring this assessment and training expertise to Southeastern Wisconsin," said Cream City Foundation President & CEO, Brett Blomme. "A special thank you to the Milwaukee Gay Sports Network for helping to underwrite this partnership grant."

"We, at FORGE, are excited about the opportunity to more intensively work with CARS to support their network of providers to better serve trans/non-binary individuals and loved ones in the Milwaukee area. Trans community members in Milwaukee have limited options for culturally competent and cost-accessible mental health/substance abuse services," noted Michael Munson, FORGE's Executive Director.

CARS coordinates 73 agencies providing services to Milwaukee County residents with severe and persistent mental health and/or alcohol or other drug abuse issues. "The combined assessment, training, outreach, and evaluation within this project will result in measurably increased access to mental health and substance use/abuse services for trans/non-binary community members who often feel they have nowhere to turn. Our goal is to leave no one behind and help every trans community member feel they are valued and deserve to receive competent and respectful mental health services," Munson added. ■

backgrounds are welcomed and encouraged to apply. Anyone who is interested should reach out to Steve Starkey at [steves@lgbt Outreach.org](mailto:steves@lgbt Outreach.org) or by phone at 608-255-8582.

**PRIDE IN HEALTHCARE** The U.W.-based group welcomes new leadership for the 2018 term: Angela Ai and Adam Awe are the new co-medical presidents, and Alexa Deboth is the MPH president. Angela and Adam are both thrilled to be a part of the organization and to work with the leaders from the other schools. They are interested in hearing any ideas for events that people would want to see in the spring or fall.

### AWARDS / RECOGNITION / GRANTS

*Special thanks for those who do good.*

**CREAM CITY FOUNDATION** The foundation was awarded Best LGBTQ Advocate for the Shepherd Express 2017 Best of Milwaukee Awards. They are very grateful for the recognition, and thank everyone who voted and supported their program work throughout the year.

**DIVERSE & RESILIENT** D&R congratulates their board member, Warren Scherer, on his new role as the assistant dean/director of the LGBT Campus Center at U.W.-Madison.

**MADISON MINOTAURS RUGBY CLUB** At the year-end banquet the team voted Jason Radziszewski for Rookie of the Year, Eric Fabian for the Spirit Award, and Phillip Vinson for Man of the Year. Congrats to all.

### DEVELOPMENT

*New programs, outreach, or changes in mission.*

**ARCW** In 2017 the open enrollment period for the Affordable Care Act was cut in half, running from November 1 to December 15, 2017. Funding from the federal government for advertising and marketing for this period was also reduced significantly, making it much harder for ARCW and RMC patients to know when to enroll in health insurance for 2018.

In response, ARCW and RMC expanded efforts to help as many patients as possible enroll in health insurance. Staff in Wisconsin and Denver encouraged all patients and clients to make an appointment with a staff member to ensure their current Affordable Care Act plan was still right for them (some plans were no longer available) and/or to determine which plan may best suit them.

The enrollment period in Wisconsin was reduced from 12 to six weeks, but thanks to a grant, ARCW had staff available for appoint-

ments during regular business hours, evenings, and Saturdays. The grant allowed ARCW to hire four limited-term employees specifically for enrollment assistance and outreach. State-wide staff were able to directly enroll 221 patients and clients in care for 2018.

**FORGE** In honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April and the #metoo / Time's Up! campaigns, FORGE has launched two new Facebook-based survivors' resources: [facebook.com/groups/TransToo](https://www.facebook.com/groups/TransToo) is a closed group where members can tell their stories and discuss other issues, and [facebook.com/transurvivors](https://www.facebook.com/transurvivors)

provides daily inspiration and connection. They are also running a new version of their annual #SAAM coloring page contest with the theme of #TransToo. Check out one or more of their pages: [facebook.com/forge.wi](https://www.facebook.com/forge.wi), [facebook.com/forge.trans](https://www.facebook.com/forge.trans), or [forge-forward.org](http://forge-forward.org) for details.

**GSAFE** In January, GSAFE partnered with WEA Academy to offer a day-long training of trainers for WEAC members interested in creating welcoming schools and bringing and facilitating Safe Zone trainings for staff in their home districts. This was the first of two collaborations between GSAFE and WEAC, with the sec-



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## Two progressive candidates vie for Dane County Board seat

**AFTER THE FEBRUARY 20 PRIMARY** narrowed the field, two candidates will face off in the April 3 election for Dane County's District 6 board seat.

**Pam Porter**, 57, works as a research manager for the U.W. Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems with a focus on sustainable farming and food systems. Porter helped start the Social Justice Center, and works as a consultant (since 2012) to the city of Madison's food waste diversion program. She is currently a Dane County Lakes and Watershed commissioner and serves on the board of the Design Coalition Institute, a nonprofit that focuses on affordable housing. Porter has served as a board member for the Madison Audubon Society, One Wisconsin Now, The United (currently OutReach), Community Shares of Wisconsin, Wisconsin Citizen Action, and Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters.



Porter

Porter previously served as executive director for Clean Wisconsin, executive assistant to County Executive Kathleen Falk, outreach director for Gov. Jim Doyle, and special assistant to state Superintendent Libby Burmaster. She is married to author and psychotherapist Mare Chapman.

Asked by the *Wisconsin State Journal* what her priorities would be if elected, Porter answered: "In these shocking, challenging times, we can pull together and make a difference locally, working for things that matter. My policy priorities will be: fighting for clean lakes and sustainable agriculture, protecting those in need by providing quality human services, reforming our criminal justice system by keeping more people out of jail, and promoting race equity and social justice."



Chawla

**Yogesh Chawla**, 41, is a public safety software architect and former co-chair of the Progressive Dane Steering Committee. Chawla has also served as a volunteer and canvasser for the Democratic Party, been part of the Schenk-Atwood-Starkweather-Yahara (SASY) Neighborhood Association, is a Legacy Solar Co-op member, and co-founder of the Premiere Generation Ink (PGI) poetry publishing company. He is married to Jodi Vander Molen, and they have a daughter together.

Asked by the *Wisconsin State Journal* what his priorities would be if elected, Chawla answered: "I've outlined a detailed policy agenda (voteyogesh.com): ensure affordable housing for all, clean up our lakes, invest in a mental health crisis center, and provide public access to public processes. Most importantly, we must reduce racial disparities in our criminal justice system by tapping my expertise as an open source public safety software developer to collect, share, and analyze data." ■

ond training slated for June 28. Contact WEA Academy for more information and to sign up. [weacademy.org](http://weacademy.org)

**OPEN** In 2018 the group will be incorporating a free networking series called "Mix & Mingle," which will be held monthly and at new locations. For these meet-ups there will be "no official program, just networking plain and simple." Drop in when you can, and leave when you need to. OPEN is actively searching for food and drink sponsors. Reach out at [info@open-madison.org](mailto:info@open-madison.org). #OPENNoHassleNetworking



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**DIVERSE & RESILIENT** Milwaukee Pride has selected the organization as the 2018 PrideFest Plus One beneficiary. When purchasing your PrideFest ticket, guests are invited to donate a tax-deductible gift of \$1.00—or any dollar amount—to support D&R. In return, Milwaukee Pride will identify a sponsor who will match all donated funds to increase the impact of the Plus One program.

**MADISON MINOTAURS RUGBY CLUB** A new initiative seeks to help Madison United Rugby with raising money for a new clubhouse in 2020. The new clubhouse will have locker rooms, showers, a banquet area and bar, a museum to recognize all of the contributions made by the rugby community in Madison, and act as a multi-purpose community space. If anyone wants to donate, there is a Kindful link established at [mur.kindful.com](http://mur.kindful.com).

**MENTORING CONNECTIONS** Mentoring Connections is a program of Madison-area Urban Ministry and provides one-on-one mentoring to youth impacted by parental incarceration. Do you have one hour a week to help make a difference in the life of a youth? Matches are made through a thoughtful screening process, taking into consideration both the mentor's preferences and the youth/family's preferences. We are always looking for responsible adults over the age of 21 and who have a car. Youth between the ages of 4–17 who have a parent currently or formerly incarcerated qualify. At the request of one of our youth, we are especially looking for a femme-identified person to be matched with a 12-year-old boy who is questioning his gender identity. Contact [Shawna@emum.org](mailto:Shawna@emum.org) or visit [emum.org](http://emum.org) for more information.

**OUTREACH LGBTQ CENTER** The center will be participating in Community Share's The Big Share on March 6. Please consider donating to OutReach to support their efforts. Email Steve Starkey at [steves@lgbtoutreach.org](mailto:steves@lgbtoutreach.org) or check out [thebigshare.com](http://thebigshare.com) for more information.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

*Plan ahead to join in.*

**CREAM CITY FOUNDATION** The Milwaukee-based LGBTQ philanthropic organization will hold its "State of the Foundation" event on **March 7** from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Marquette Alumni Memorial Union (1442 West Wisconsin Ave. in Milwaukee). All are welcome to attend and learn more about the accomplishments and future work being done by the foundation. Please RSVP by contacting Brett Blomme at 414-225-0244 or [bblomme@creamcityfoundation.org](mailto:bblomme@creamcityfoundation.org).

**GSAFE** The annual spring GSA Leadership Conference will be held on Friday, **March 9** in Madison. The conference brings together around 200 middle school and high school students and adult advocates to build community and to share and gain ideas to create a more inclusive school environment. Contact GSAFE for more information at [gsafe.org](http://gsafe.org).

**TRANSLIBERATION ART COALITION** On Saturday, **April 14**, the organization will hold its spring artists showcase from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Badger Rock Neighborhood Center (501 E. Badger Rd. in Madison), featuring art, vendors, live music, poetry, and comedy by and for transgender, non-binary, and gender non-conforming artists and makers.

The TransLiberation Art Coalition was created to empower and elevate the lives of our transgender and gender nonconforming community. The coalition fights erasure, bigotry, and media misconceptions by focusing on the art, music, and writing of transgender people themselves. The TransLiberation Art Coalition is led by Kaci Sullivan, TK Morton, T Banks, and Rhea Ewing. These activists and artists are dedicated to creating change and connection in our community.

This year the TransLiberation Art Coalition has partnered with the New Harvest Foundation and the ArtWrite Collective to make the



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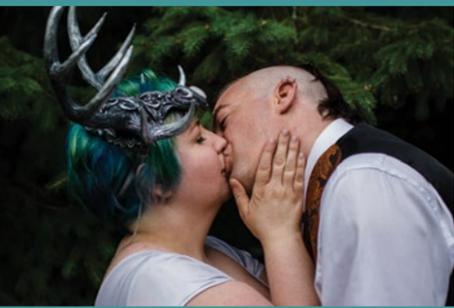
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## Susan Crawford and Marilyn Townsend to face off for Dane County judicial seat

**MUNICIPAL JUDGE MARILYN TOWNSEND** and Madison attorney **Susan Crawford** are vying for an open judicial seat in the Dane County Circuit Court in the April 3 election.

The Branch 1 seat is open after Gov. Walker appointee Timothy Samuelson announced he would not run for reelection. Terms for circuit court judge run for six years.

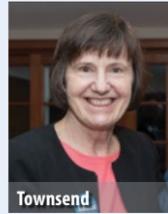
Townsend is a current municipal judge for Shorewood Hills, and has served there since 2012. She has more than 30 years' experience as an attorney as well, including a successful case before the Wisconsin State Supreme Court that restored unemployment benefits to a woman who had been fired by Walgreens and then denied those benefits. Townsend was also a member of the Shorewood Village Board from 1999 to 2012. She lists addressing Dane County's racial disparities as one of her main focuses.



Crawford

"Municipal Courts are on the front lines of our justice system," Townsend told the Teaching Assistants' Association in a candidate interview. "We see the root causes of crime, often at the beginning of a potentially negative trajectory. As a Municipal Court Judge, when appropriate, I offer defendants the opportunity to avoid a record, by postponing sentencing to allow them to receive drug and alcohol assessment and treatment, or by offering community service as an alternative to a conviction and a record."

Townsend claims to be the only candidate voluntarily limiting campaign contributions, as a pushback against monetary influence in judicial races.



Townsend

Crawford served as chief legal counsel to former Gov. Jim Doyle, where her work included ensuring that the domestic partnership law withstood a legal challenge from opponents of same-sex marriage. She was also an assistant attorney general for the state Department of Justice, and later as the chief of staff to the department head of the Department of Corrections. She attributes that time, among other experiences, to her commitment to combatting racial disparities in the justice system.

"While visiting prisons across the state, I was struck by the disproportionate representation of Black men and women in the prison population and the high level of treatment needs," Crawford noted. "I worked on policy reforms to reduce racial disparities, expand treatment resources in the community, and improve reentry into the community. My first-hand observations of the mass incarceration of Black men and women and knowledge of the limited resources of the corrections system will influence my decision-making as a judge."

Crawford has been with the law firm Pines Bach since 2011, where she worked on efforts to fight Act 10, argued and won a constitutional challenge to the state's restrictive voter ID law in Dane County Circuit Court in 2012, and won a ruling for Planned Parenthood that protected health care providers from an ambiguous law threatening felony penalties for providing medication abortions.

Find voter registration and polling place information at [myvote.wi.gov](http://myvote.wi.gov). ■

event bigger and better than ever before by providing professional development workshops to all creative contributors and scholarships for transgender and gender nonconforming artists of color who require financial assistance to participate in the show.

There is no cost for this event, admission is free, please visit [transliberationartcoalition.com](http://transliberationartcoalition.com) for more information.

**MADISON GAY HOCKEY ASSOCIATION** The annual Blades Against AIDS fundraiser will be held on Sunday, **April 15** from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Hartmeyer Ice Arena. The MGHA Classic Tournament is to be held Friday, **April 27** through Sunday, **April 29** at the Sun Prairie Ice Arena. All skill levels welcome, sign up at [madisongay-hockey.org/tournament](http://madisongay-hockey.org/tournament).



**METHODOLOGY** | Our Lives reaches out to area LGBTQ+ organizations to seek information for inclusion in this section. We also gather information from newsletters and social media put out by the various organizations. If your LGBTQ+ organization would like to be included in these updates, please reach out to us directly at [contact@ourlivesmadison.com](mailto:contact@ourlivesmadison.com).

**MADISON MINOTAURS RUGBY CLUB** Home games will be **April 21** (vs. the Minneapolis Mayhem) and **April 28** (vs. the VOMITS) at the Wisconsin Rugby Club Sports Complex in Cottage Grove. On **May 12** the Minotaurs are excited to announce their first Madtown Scrumdown, a tournament featuring six teams: the Madison Minotaurs, the Columbus Kodiaks, the Columbus Coyotes, the Milwaukee Beer Barons, the Minneapolis Mayhem, and the St. Louis Crusaders. This will take place at the WRC Sports Complex in Cottage Grove.

**OUTREACH LGBT+ COMMUNITY CENTER** The LGBT Senior Alliance is hosting their Spring Social on **April 19** from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Madison Senior Center, 330 West Mifflin Street. There is a suggested donation of \$10 for a full dinner and program—to be announced.

**PERFECT HARMONY MEN'S CHORUS** The Chorus is busy rehearsing full chorus, small ensemble, and solo acts for its annual Cabaret Fundraiser, "Songs through the Decades," **March 16-17**. Last year's event sold out both nights, so reservations are required.

**PRIDE IN HEALTHCARE** Semester Meeting Dates: **February 15** at 5:00 p.m., **March 13** at 7:00 p.m., and **April 13** at 12:00 p.m., all at Enroth Hall inside Cooper Hall on the U.W. Campus. Coffee Talks are open to all interested in health issues for LGBTQ people and will be held at Enroth Hall inside Cooper Hall on the U.W. Campus on the following dates/times: **March 15** at 10:30 a.m., **April 10** at 12:00 p.m., and **April 25** at 1:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEALTH MADISON & DANE COUNTY** Public Health Madison and Dane County & City of Madison Human Resources Department are offering four LGBTQ+ Health Equity trainings. The first of these trainings will be Thursday, **March 15** from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Madison Central Library. Light snacks will be provided and the registration fee is \$35. Find out more about how to better reach and serve the LGBTQ+ community at [cityofmadison.com/human-resources/professional-development](http://cityofmadison.com/human-resources/professional-development).

**TRANS LAW HELP WISCONSIN** Upcoming free name and gender change clinics for transgender and non-binary people will be held **April 14**, **July 21**, and **October 20** in Madison. Participants receive necessary information about the process for obtaining a name and a gender marker change, as well as hands-on assistance from volunteer attorneys with completing the required forms. For more information visit [translaw.community-justiceinc.org](http://translaw.community-justiceinc.org) or [facebook.com/translawhelpwi](http://facebook.com/translawhelpwi). They can be reached directly at [translawhelpwi@gmail.com](mailto:translawhelpwi@gmail.com). ■

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ENVIRONMENT RACIAL JUSTICE QPOC

## Watering the Community

Connecting racial and environmental justice is all part of bringing their full selves to the table for **Brenda Coley, Ann Brummitt**, and the rest of the diverse crew at the **Milwaukee Water Commons**.

**EVERY CULTURE HAS A WATER STORY**, and Ann Brummitt and Brenda Coley are on a mission to rewrite Milwaukee's narrative.

The two women are co-directors of the Milwaukee Water Commons, a non-profit with a vision to create a "model water city" by fostering a sense of connection to and shared responsibility for Milwaukee's lakes, rivers, and other watersheds.

Brummitt and Alexa Bradley co-founded Milwaukee Water Commons in 2012 when they learned that local business leaders were touting Milwaukee as a "global water city." In the late 2000s, leaders claimed that the number of firms dedicated to water technology in Milwaukee and its proximity to Lake Michigan could turn the city into "The Silicon Valley of Water." This declaration sparked anxiety in local environmental circles.

"We are not really a water city because we've got pollution. We've got invasive (species) and all of these problems," Brummitt said.

Brummitt and Bradley interviewed 1,500 people to answer the question of what it would truly mean for Milwaukee to live up to the "global water city" moniker.

"If we are going to be a model water city, then we need to have clean water. We can't be a city where our children have never been to Lake Michigan and don't know how to swim. We should be a leader in green infrastructure and employing people in the water sector," Brummitt said.

"They come from an African-American neighborhood and a white neighborhood, but they realized they were part of the same watershed. This is an example of one of these mantras that we say, 'We heal the water, the water can heal us.'"

### REDISCOVERING OUR WATERS

Since its founding, Milwaukee Water Commons has grown into a citywide network. The organization's six-point "Water City" agenda focuses on improving the quality of the city's waterways and drinking water, strengthening community ties to water through education, arts, and recreation, and tackling Milwaukee's high unemployment rate by encouraging employers, city officials, and other community partners to hire local people to update Milwaukee's aging water infrastructure.

Neither Brummitt nor Coley, who joined MWC in 2015, started their careers in environmental justice. However, both realized a disconnect between people and the planet. The disconnect is pronounced in Milwaukee, where lack of access and faith in the city's leadership create barriers for Black people to develop strong connections to their water.

"We don't have to convince anyone that water needs protection because we are water," Coley said. "People are disengaged from it through no fault of their own. Access is limited. You can't get into the water. These spaces are usually seen as white spaces."

"We can't expect people to take care of the water if they only use it as a resource. You want people to engage in the spiritual...we engage people in those water stories."

### REBUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE...AND TRUST

A cryptosporidiosis outbreak in Milwaukee in 1993 was the largest documented waterborne disease crisis in the nation's history. This past January, Milwaukee's health commissioner resigned after his office failed to notify thousands of families that their young children had elevated levels of lead in their blood.

"People don't have a lot of faith in the government. We've been drinking bottled water for a long time," Coley said.

"These lead laterals are in old housing stock. People of color, and disadvantaged and vulnerable populations are affected. We have 70,000 lead laterals to replace, and at the pace (the city) is going, it will take 50 to 100 years. MWC thinks it can be done in a generation. In the meantime, we need water filters. We can't afford for our young people, pregnant women—any of us, really—to be poisoned by lead."

MWC is working to build community-based power by creating a diverse movement of water leaders in the city. Brummitt said she takes pride in focusing MWC's work exclusively on environmental justice and bringing together people from all corners of the city.

"We've got to do things differently. The first step is to have different people at the table," Brummitt said.

The commitment to diversity is what prompted Coley to join the staff as MWC's community engagement coordinator. She was promoted to co-director a few months later when Bradley stepped down.

"I was surprised to walk into the room and see these people around the table. There were people of color. It was all women. I knew when I walked into that room that this was something special."



LEFT: The 2017 class of Milwaukee Water Commons' Water School. RIGHT: All People's Church at Water School in Milwaukee.



### CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

When she started, Coley managed one of MWC's flagship programs, Water School, where community members learn about issues affecting their watershed and organize a project to mitigate them.

One hundred people have gone through Water School, with over 500 community members benefiting from their projects. Groups have gone on to reclaim rainwater for community gardens, build irrigation and aquaponics systems, and organize public awareness campaigns around reducing consumption of bottled water.

"We have a Commons Philosophy. We are trying to engage all people in all aspects of water, not just education and recreation, but green infrastructure, arts, and advocacy," Coley said.

"We want to engage different voices in policy, education, and culture around water. For us, in a way, we're really trying to do some racial healing, and that's what the water can do."

Water School was a venue for healing between Lake Edge Lutheran Church, near Lake Michigan on Milwaukee's east side, and Alice's Garden in the city's center. Although five miles can mean a world of difference in one of America's most segregated cities, the two communities bonded over their shared water source.

"They come from an African-American neighborhood and a white neighborhood, but they realized they were part of the same watershed. This is an example of one of these mantras that we say, 'We heal the water, the water can heal us,'" Brummitt said.

Alice's Garden and Lake Edge Lutheran organized a "watershed walk." The two communities traversed the five miles dividing them, including a trip to the Milwaukee River, where they get their water.

"For a lot of people, it was the first time they'd ever seen the Milwaukee River. That is just one way we can bring people together around the water," Brummitt said.

"We like to teach people about watersheds. Watersheds don't observe political or ethnic boundaries. It's kind of a metaphor that people can grab onto for ways to heal the city."

### THE ECONOMIC IMPACT

MWC's commitment to diversity and inclusion in the environmental sector is garnering national recognition. In 2017, they received a \$50,000 grant from the Joyce Foundation. They also partner with other water advocacy groups throughout the Great Lakes region.

MWC is in partnership with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and the U.S. Water Alliance to facilitate a water equity task force. Currently, MWC is commissioning the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to complete an assessment of "blue green job" needs in the city. The task force will bring together workforce development, city officials, and community organizations to collaborate on "blue green" jobs creation. The team will work to define what the "blue green" job sector looks like in Milwaukee.

PHOTOS BY MELANIE ARIENS.

"The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District's goal is to capture 740 million gallons of rainfall. That's a half inch for every rain event. To do that, they are going to have to transform what Milwaukee looks like. We need green infrastructure. That is more than just pipes. We need bioswales, we need porous pavement, we need rain barrels, we need rooftop gardens. Those are all jobs," Brummitt said.

"We can make some institutional change," Coley said.

"We can transform the way unemployed, underemployed, and people of color get these water jobs that we know are on the horizon. If we can transform how that happens and make sure that it's fair and equitable, then that's our job."

### MORE VOICES AT THE TABLE

For Coley, an African-American bisexual woman, and Brummitt, a white lesbian, being LGBTQ+ cannot be removed from the social justice aspects of their work.

"I don't really like identity politics. It's a slippery slope. But because of discrimination that is visited upon people, because that discrimination goes so far as to cause health disparities, it's important to our survival to step fully into ourselves," Coley said.

"We are often asked to fragment our identity, choose one over the other, minimize one part of ourselves to lift up another. But for me there is no fragmentation. I am 100% a woman, 100% bisexual, and 100% African American."

Brummitt challenged the rest of the environmental movement to see diversity as an asset.

"I agree that our LGBTQ+ identity is important in that we (LGBTQ+) be seen in the fullness of our lives," Brummitt said.

"Likewise, it is time for the environmental movement to embrace that fullness to the extent that we welcome everyone to the table—straight, gay, rich, poor, white, black, brown. When we do that, we will wind up with better solutions."

Learn more about the Milwaukee Water Commons, and what you can do to get involved, at [milwaukeewatercommons.org](http://milwaukeewatercommons.org). ■

## What's important to you? Let's talk.



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CITIZENSHIP QPOC IMMIGRANT SEXUAL ABUSE LGBTQ HEALTH

## Speaking for Ourselves

Artist **Babette Wainwright** offers an intensely personal (and oftentimes gut-wrenching) reflection on a history of sexual abuse and calls for greater unity and willingness to fight our culture's more toxic elements.



*(Trigger Warning: Contains some-what graphic descriptions of sexual harassment and assault.)*

**I WAS ONCE AN UNDOCUMENTED** refugee. I came from a country where those who disagreed with the regime risked being arrested, exiled, or summarily executed.

We escaped to America to find safety, dignity, and most of all, the right to express ourselves openly without fear. The day I held my hand to my heart and swore my allegiance to the United States America, I vowed to speak out when confronting threat or an assault to my hard-earned American pride.

Like most U.S. citizens, I was filled with shame and disgust at who was elected president. I have held my breath since November 2016, and now I need to exhale. We have a commander-in-chief who openly expresses bigotry, and particularly shows disdain for women. The President of the United States has effectively given license to predators worldwide to crawl out of their burrows and carry out violent acts in his name. I feel threatened; as a woman, as a person of color, as an elder, and as a lesbian.

I feel nauseated, and I need to speak out as I did in the '70s when women joined together in the struggle to claim our dignity and our lawful safe place in society. We knew then that very few of us, straight or gay, had been spared from sexual harassment, and so we marched to take back the night. This time we march on every available platform, to raise a million women's voices.

Contrary to much of what we are seeing in the news, men do not exclusively harass glamorous heterosexual women. There are countless women and lesbians like me, with unshaven legs and armpits, who have been subjected to such dehumanizing treatment, too. We are often derided and our complaints dismissed as wishful thinking. "Who would want to touch someone fat and unattractive like you?"

Although I find it sickening to write these memories, I am convinced that, once we all document our stories of sexual harassment, we will bring about a mass catharsis that might inspire an honest assessment of our laws and social standards.

The Southern University professor who invited himself to my humble studio apartment under false pretenses, only to grab me inappropriately and beg me to accept his offer of a lavish life in exchange for "maybe once a week?"

Although I find it sickening to write these memories, I am convinced that, once we all document our stories of sexual harassment, we will bring about a mass catharsis that might inspire an honest assessment of our laws and social standards.

### BREAKING THE SILENCE

I want to encourage women like me to add their own stories to the larger narrative. Now is our time to join together like fire ants and confront the misogynistic elements of our society. Trump removed

### RELIVING TRAUMA

The prevailing atmosphere has brought back to many a flood of memories of sexual harassment, and time does not alleviate our disgust. Here is a partial list of the pain stirred up by this president and his supporters:

The taste of a man's blood whose tongue I bit when he pulled me down and stuck it in my mouth.

The engorged genitals of a sixteen-year-old white boy who crept into my maid's room and attempted to rape me, not knowing that I, too, was sixteen, a virgin, and not the 21-year-old mother I pretended to be. I had lied to his family in order to get a live-in job and hide from the INS.

The disgusting erection of a family man caught one night, standing by my bed, naked and holding a porno magazine. My mother had rented a room for me in his house to hide me from INS while I finished high school.

The blood-curdling scream of Aunt Marie's friend when I banged his private parts with a can of Ajax. He crept in and pushed himself on me from behind while I was cleaning the bathtub.

The Southern University profes-

the protection Obama had set in place to help female students on campuses. Now when a woman is sexually assaulted, she is required to provide witnesses and other proof "in order to be fair" to her perpetrator.

The problem with this proposition is that sexual crimes are rarely, if ever, committed in front of an audience. Women and girls are often victimized in private, or with the tacit awareness of accomplices. Secrecy is the key element to this crime. How will a student provide evidence of a sexual assault? So far, Trump's own victims have little recourse in "proving" he assaulted them, even after he openly admitted to it—on tape.

When I was 13 years old my mother confessed to me that she did not trust any men around her daughters, "not even your father." He was barely ever around, so this was a disturbing revelation which took me years to understand. She shared this sentiment after revealing that when she was a young clerk, her boss's father cornered her in his office and fondled her. Mom was tall and strong and could have easily overpowered the old man. Still, she chose to do nothing; not from shame, but from fear of losing her job, and hence her self-reliance.

She kept this incident to herself but vowed to tear up the next man who tried to lay his hands on her. Her secret was a powerful inheritance that I passed on to my own daughter and to anyone who wants to hear: Speak out, raise hell, and carry no blame for a perpetrator's actions. America is, still, a country of laws.

### FAMILIES HELP, FAMILIES HURT

My earliest memory of sexual harassment was in primary school when an older boy followed me after school two days in a row taunting me and pinching my breast. My slaps and threats failed to stop him, so I told my mother. The next afternoon she waited at a short distance. As he approached me, there she was, her huge hand smashing his face. Bam, girls are not for you to molest, bam, I want you to go home and tell your mother what you have been doing, bam bam bam until he begged for mercy. I felt protected and proud of being the daughter of such a fierce woman.

A few years ago, my sister forced me to meet a new boyfriend she had just found online. I felt awkward in his proximity, particularly after my sister shared with me his disgusting family history. When my sister left the room, as if choreographed, the man slithered to my end of the couch and put his hand under my dress. I jumped up with fire in my veins, showering him with verbal poison arrows.

He was my sister's third such partner. She had blamed me when her first husband sexually harassed me when I was a student. I was sure she would dismiss me again. She later brought her man to apologize to me, but allowed him to further insult me by expressing shock at my reaction: "Your sister described you as the most refined in the family, but your stream of profanities proved the contrary." My sister



A piece Wainwright created titled "What Women Carry."

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had again picked her side: “There you go again being dramatic! After all, he barely touched you.”

My mother married twice. Her second husband was a tall body builder who carried a revolver. My mother believed the presence of a strong husband would protect her daughters. It did not. Some molesters were mauled by my mother, others I handled alone. On a couple occasions mom simply advised me to avoid them—the neighbor who grabbed me during a ride to school, and the much-respected minister of tourism whose fingers always found their way into the panties of the neighborhood girls.

**IF YOU CAN SPEAK OUT, YOU MUST**

Because sexual molestation has numerous tentacles, our stories differ from each other. Some women and girls are deeply scarred and struggle alone with their shame. Some experience a lingering guilt for tolerating the indignities of sexual molestation in order to secure their financial survival. Some keep it secret to protect a perpetrator who is a member of the family, perhaps even their own father.

We need to talk for ourselves and for those unwilling or unable to do so; talk until we exhaust the topic. In the ‘70s, many in my community of lesbians joined the separatist movement in an attempt at protecting themselves from harassment and attack. This is no longer an option. Even back then, it left anyone not in the movement vulnerable. We will not succeed at dismantling misogyny unless we do it together.

Now is our opportunity to unite once again. The woman’s movement of the past was compartmentalized as it did not embrace the LGBTQ cause strongly enough. We can no longer afford to be

marginalized; it should be all for one and one for all.

We are all, for the most part, a reflection of the parenting we receive. American presidents in recent history have had parents with strong ethical standards, particularly—God bless her—Obama’s mother, Stanley Ann Dunham. She was the classic example of a nurturing and powerful parent.

We have a saying in Kreyol: “I ap pran pòz moun fou pou l pa peye dw”—he is acting like a crazy person to avoid paying his dues. His obsessive tweets redirect the public discourse the way the killdeer fakes a broken wing to lure predators away from her nest.

Why don’t we hear much about the people who raised Donald Trump? Can anyone explain this feral creature? How in God’s name did he miss the basic human values everyone is supposed to learn at a parent’s knee? Apparently, all he received was money, which gave him the delusion of omnipotence that has lead him to dehumanize just about everyone, women in particular.

Trump is neither crazy nor a fool. We have a saying in Kreyol: “I ap pran pòz moun fou pou l pa peye dw”—he is acting like a crazy person to avoid paying his dues. His obsessive tweets redirect the public discourse the way the killdeer fakes a broken wing to lure predators away from her nest. This man is more sinister than we



A piece Wainwright created titled “Refugee Boat.”

imagine. But, I must nod to him in something like gratitude for waking us up from our blind complacency. Indeed, to every action there is a reaction.

I invite the lesbian community to add its distinctive lesbian voice to the collective indignation and to keep the focus on the toxic misogyny of the Trump regime. After all, if we don’t speak out for ourselves and our daughters, who will? ■



**BABETTE WAINWRIGHT** is an artist, originally from Haiti, now living in Madison. Her work largely focuses on the use of the female image as a vehicle for conveying her sense of being uprooted, and of her spirituality, and has been shown across the country and in many venues across Wisconsin as well.

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TRANSGENDER NONBINARY PRISONS & POLICE

# A Human Dignity

Milwaukee resident **James Katherine Carnell** offers a personal look at the struggles of transgender and nonbinary people navigating the prison system, and offers ideas for a more humane way forward.



**THERE ARE CERTAIN** people with whom I feel a sense of belonging. My friend Livia is one such person. Her company eases my heartaches and exhaustions. However, strangers can intrude on our sense of safety, usually by challenging our human rights.

In early September, Livia told me the Milwaukee Police Department wanted to solve the problem of where we belonged. We didn't fit their system, and I felt dangerously out of place. It felt like a continuation of something that began long ago.

When I was a child, I knew I would be a man: all the embodiments in which I recognized myself were those of men. I would be like the men in my day-to-day life and the men I saw in movies: flexed muscles, rugged clothes, and beards shaved with straight razors.

I remember watching my father and telling him I would never have to shave like him. I remember his indulgent smile fading when I explained it was because I'd shave the way Clint Eastwood did. He wanted me to grow into womanhood, and in fact I did, repressing my first sense of gender to develop my second.

I remember his raw fear when I came out to him as a man, having lived as a woman for 39 years. I started testosterone therapy and my body slowly became more comfortable: the muscles, the hard planes in my face, the masculine hairline in a sharp "M" shape above my darkening eyebrows. Even my breasts firmed over my supporting pecs, and I liked them much more. I made plans to remove them: it was what a man would do next.

OFF THE BINARY

I haven't had that surgery; I have never changed my legal name. I've decided that, after more thought, I will make this body right in my own way. Now I gaze in the mirror and have a rough happiness. I'm on the way to something right.

I am not a binary man, who is exclusively male in his identity. There is a continuum of gender, and I have traversed enough of womanhood to come into experiences of manhood. I left nothing behind: I am nonbinary, bringing my womanhood into my life as a transmasculine person.

Not all of what I brought, and not all of what I have, is painless. I've been hurt as a woman and as a trans person. My whiteness has privileged me. However, it did not protect me from physical and

sexual assault during my queer girlhood. I retreated from coming out as trans for many years, internalizing my father's fear for his weird child.

Embracing my transness pushed me into the world of cisgender men and boys. I don't express my gender in a femme way, so I'm not targeted as a feminine man. I am not a black trans male, so I haven't found myself excluded by white, female queer culture, and approached with new fear, anger, and distrust by cops. I no longer resemble a butch lesbian, so misogynists don't take quick offense at my masculinity.

However, I am still not safe. I'm now read as a queer, small man. When my anatomy is made visible, by someone noticing my breasts, by a medical provider reading my chart, I'm seen as a strange woman. I receive the disrespect shown to non-conforming females. When I confess I am nonbinary to a binary person, I am told I don't understand myself. I endure transphobia, and still, sexism.

PROBLEMATIC POLICY

As a nonbinary person, I don't fit into all the systems made for binary folks. There's no simple solution—but as Livia told me, the Milwaukee Police Department wanted to proceed as if there was one.

Livia Rowell-Ortiz is a board member of Genderqueer MKE and an effective advocate for our community. A year ago, Livia discovered that the MPD's standard operating procedure endangered trans folks. Livia formed a coalition of community organizations, and the MPD came willingly to the table.

Together, they corrected many issues in a new draft policy. Of-

icers would no longer search us to determine our sex, or ask what genitals we have. Our gender would be recognized, and our chosen names respected. Finally, officers would no longer place us in male or female detention areas on the basis of genitalia. This last success, however, led to further problems.

The MPD proposed another dangerous approach to detention. Officers would place trans people on the basis of gender identity. Some transgender men and women would find the policy safe and affirming. However, it could endanger trans folks like me, assigned female at birth, and pre-surgical.

The policy recognizes only one axis of oppression, which is gender identity. On this basis, women are targeted for violence and sexual abuse. However, the policy erases two other axes of oppression: female-associated anatomy, and gender expression. Somehow, the MPD had failed to see the similarity in how trans female, femme, nonbinary, and many trans male bodies are sexualized and targeted for violence.

Shelley Gregory, of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, pressed the MPD contact person to reconsider. In response, the MPD claimed that all people designated as male are equally, and adequately, safeguarded by the same conditions of detention.

Over the next week, Livia and I investigated what the policy meant for trans male and nonbinary folks. We learned the MPD generally holds detainees in a single cellblock with a central aisle. Women are placed on one end, and men on the other. In the proposed policy, nonbinary folks might be placed in the center, as though we were a single gender. In truth, we have a range of gender experienc-

Our gender would be recognized, and our chosen names respected. Finally, officers would no longer place us in male or female detention areas on the basis of genitalia. This last success, however, led to further problems.



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## OutReach LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER

UPCOMING EVENTS



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[www.lgbtoutreach.org](http://www.lgbtoutreach.org) || [www.lgbtdirectory.org](http://www.lgbtdirectory.org)

es. They can blend into male and female identities, or be fully outside gendered self-concepts. There is nothing appropriate in consolidating all of us in one place.

More worrying is the question of MPD's solution if the facility becomes crowded. Then, we might be moved to one of the binary-gender sections. In effect, the state would impose its own perception of our gender on us. However, they would make no accommodation for our differences.

**CLEAR AND PRESENT DANGER**

In the male section, trans people would have no privacy: cells are visible across the central aisle. There, I would have to struggle in and out of a breast binder, assuming I were allowed to keep mine. It can be a laborious process, but it's necessary: wearing one for more than eight hours can permanently injure ribs. I would also have to relieve myself, while trying to cover my genitals.

It's likely I would be a captive subject for sexual harassment. I wouldn't be the only one: binary trans men at an early stage in transition may not have begun testosterone therapy, and they may be pre-surgical. Other inmates may sexualize them as women. For those with intense gender dysphoria, this would be especially traumatic.

As Livia and I considered all possible harms, our thoughts went beyond the cell blocks. MPD policy could influence detention at the county or state level.

Finally, we have seen a revision that adopts the Milwaukee Trans Coalition's position on detainment. The preferences of trans, intersex, and GNC people will be prioritized in placing detainees.

Currently, transgender people are confined in solitary cells in the special needs section of the Milwaukee County Jail. The placement stigmatizes trans people, and can worsen their mental health. More seriously, the area is the site of abuses, and even horrors: the death by dehydration of Terrill Thomas, and the death of the infant child of Shadé Swayzer.

The county must develop a policy for placing trans people where they have the best chance of integration. Here again, placement by gender identity would not work. Neither would placement by gender expression (having an appearance associated with a binary gender).

My gender expression is consistent with maleness; overall, I look like a binary man. I also have breasts and a vagina; I weigh 120 pounds; I am not even in the upper percentile of female height or strength. In a male carceral facility, a person with these traits would be targeted for rape. Under threat of this violence, many transmasculine people would be forced back into the special needs section.

**A BETTER WAY FORWARD**

Safety is our priority in any carceral situation. Therefore, any placement policy should respect the trans person's self-assessed needs. As required by the national Prison Rape Elimination Act, our human rights should not be compromised.

The PREA requires that: "In deciding whether to assign a transgender or intersex inmate to a facility for male or female inmates,



and in making other housing and programming assignments, the agency shall consider on a case-by-case basis whether a placement would ensure the inmate's health and safety, and whether the placement would present management or security problems...

"A transgender or intersex inmate's own views with respect to his or her own safety shall be given serious consideration."

The PREA supports our positions and states them strongly. No trans person should be treated as a security or management problem, nor a threat to other detainees, on the sole basis of gender identity or expression. Additionally, detainment centers must recognize that cisgender detainees may target trans people for a number of reasons. This can include gender identity, gender expression, and perceived sex on the basis of anatomy. Finally, every facility must respect the right of trans folks to choose a placement that best accommodates their dysphoria, identity, and safety.

In support of a PREA-compliant policy, Livia and I appeared before the Milwaukee Equal Rights Commission, and the Milwaukee Fire & Police Commission. I have spoken more publicly of my body, and my pain, than I ever wished. A local news channel broadcast my frank discussion of my anatomy. A neighbor of my father saw the footage, and felt my father should see it, too. I am angry and sad: to fight for our human rights, I can't nurture my human dignity.

However, we have been heard. MPD staff, the Milwaukee Equal Rights Commission, and the Fire and Police Commission have recognized our concerns. The MPD shared a new draft policy with Livia days before the submission of this article. Finally, we have seen a revision that adopts the Milwaukee Trans Coalition's position on detainment. The preferences of trans, intersex, and GNC people will be prioritized in placing detainees.

Once the policy has been approved, MPD personnel will need training to apply it. Community-based consultants must be co-leaders of the training. Only this approach will ensure both physical and psychological safety for all transgender inmates.

The response of the MPD is encouraging, but now we wait for a final approval. Meanwhile, dangerous policies exist at facilities throughout Wisconsin, including the Milwaukee County Jail. Trans people remain at risk. They are not where they belong, having been removed from community, family, and friends. Instead, like too many trans and nonbinary people generally, they are in precarious and dangerous placements. We can, and must, do better. ■



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FAMILIES PARENTING LGBTQ

# We Are Family

**Joseph Brooks**, co-founder of **Miltown LGBT Families**, talks about the group's origins and why creating a space for LGBTQ parents and kids to come together and share friendship and resources is crucial.



## WHO ARE YOU, AND HOW DID YOU GET INVOLVED IN MILTOWN LGBT FAMILIES?

My name is Joseph Brooks. My husband, Bradley Ewerdt, and I adopted our son at birth five years ago when we were living in Appleton. We relocated to Milwaukee about four years ago and realized just how many LGBT couples and individuals had children or wanted children. My friend Laurie Marks and I got together to start Miltown LGBT Families. What started as a Facebook group two years ago has blossomed into a growing community of families who meet regularly for events large and small. We also maintain our online community as a way to network with new families, share resources, and provide support.

## WHAT KINDS OF EVENTS AND RESOURCES DOES THE GROUP OFFER?

We provide many online resources, including recommendations for LGBT-friendly services that families often require. Just this past fall we launched an LGBT family resource tool that many of our families shared with their teachers on the first day of school. More than anything, our greatest resource is the large community of LGBT



**BRETT BLOMME**, PRESIDENT & CEO OF  
CREAM CITY FOUNDATION IN MILWAUKEE

"Cream City Foundation is proud to support the great work of Miltown LGBT Families. This group has filled a massive void in our community. Many LGBTQ+ parents have expressed feelings of isolation and lack of support. Miltown LGBT Families provides resources and a support system that are critical to the success of families today.

"My husband, Chris and I are active participants of Miltown LGBT Families with our two children. Cream City Foundation is committed to doing whatever we can to assist this group to ensure that it flourishes for many years to come." ■

# LGBTQ Reading List

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



**All Out: The No-Longer-Secret Stories of Queer Teens Through the Ages**, ed. **Saundra Mitchell**. Harlequin Teen, 2018.

A diverse collection of stories spanning time periods and identities.

**Call Me by Your Name**, by **André Aciman**. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007.

Check out this sensual love story, the source material for the Oscar-nominated film.

**Don't Call Us Dead: Poems**, by **Danez Smith**. Graywolf Press, 2017.

This National Book Award finalist is powerful, multifaceted, and completely of the moment.

**Jews Queers Germans: A Novel/History**, by **Martin B. Duberman**. Seven Stories Press, 2017.

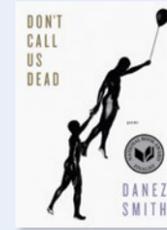
Duberman blurs historical scholarship and storytelling in this winding tale of Germany on the precipice.

**The Merry Spinster: Tales of Everyday Horror**, by **Mallory Ortberg**. Holt, 2018.

Ortberg, the queer internet's literary darling, is back with a collection of wry and mischievous retellings.

**Speak No Evil**, by **Uzodinma Iweala**. Harper, 2018.

The long-awaited new novel by the acclaimed author of *Beasts of No Nation*.



families who are willing to share their experiences with others.

We hold a number of events over the course of the year that welcome all of our families, including our Wisconsin Dells weekend coming up in March. We are able to host these events, along with our other programming, at no cost (or minimal cost) thanks to the generosity of our donors and the Cream City Foundation. Many of our families have also started smaller get-togethers including gatherings for those with babies, a regular dads' night out, and more!

What's some feedback you've gotten from kids and/or families about the group? Why do they join, and why do they come back?

We have received very positive feedback. Many of our families don't have other LGBT families in their neighborhoods or schools. Some of our kids have never met another kid with two moms or two dads before joining the group. The sense of community and friendships among our families is strong! We are starting to see more couples who are trying to start families join our group as well. There are many ways to start a family, and we have families who have been through the process that are willing to share their experiences.

## WHY DO YOU THINK A GROUP LIKE THIS IS STILL IMPORTANT? WHAT NEED DOES IT FULFILL IN THE COMMUNITY?

While more and more LGBT couples are starting families, the learning curve is steep—and raising children often presents all sorts of unique challenges. We have families with children in their 20s, we have families who are expecting, and we have families with kids in between. More than anything, our families are looking for the sense of community with others who are facing these challenges and experiencing the joys of raising kids.

## HOW CAN FOLKS FIND OUT MORE OR GET INVOLVED?

You can learn more about our group by going to [miltownfamilies.org](http://miltownfamilies.org) or joining our Facebook group. ■



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# March & April

Spring is nearly sprung, and there are lots of opportunities to splash in the puddles and hang out with friends new and old, get informed, get active, and more. Check out some of the highlights below!

For more LGBTQ-specific events, see our Organization Events on page 17.

MARCH

9

**ANDREA GIBSON**  
*Barrymore Theater*

The deeply evocative spoken word artist and poet returns to Madison and an appropriately larger stage (they performed once at Johnson Public House, to an understandably packed house) in support of their new album, *Hey Galaxy*. Turning toward the political in response to the 2016 elections, Gibson still manages to be deeply personal, turning from grief over the massacre at Pulse Nightclub to the pain of coming out, as well as combating white privilege during the rise of Black Lives Matter.  
[barrymorelive.com](http://barrymorelive.com)



MARCH

10

**JANESVILLE AMFAM AGENCY TO HOST LGBTQ FUNDRAISER**

*4407 Milton Ave., Janesville*

American Family Insurance agent Colleen Frentzel opened her agency in Janesville nearly four years ago with an idea to further support her community and local artists while she was at it: "We invite a different artist once or twice a year to display their art and list their pieces for sale if they want to," Frentzel explains. "Each time we bring in a new artist, we host an artist reception and fundraising event and allow the artist to choose which non-profit they want us to contribute to."



On March 10 the agency will host artist Kimberly A. Blanchette (Frentzel's wife) and her show, "A Journey Through Color and Light," with proceeds of a special, auctioned piece of art being donated to OutReach LGBT Community Center. A number of other raffle items will also be available.

The event will run from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Colleen Frentzel Agency, 4407 Milton Ave., Suite 110 in Janesville, and will feature live music and complimentary refreshments.

**May 21:** OutReach Garden Party

**June 2:** Plan B's Fruit Fest

**June 8-10:** Milwaukee Pride

**July 24:** Cream City Foundation Summer Social

**July 27-29:** Wisconsin AIDS Ride

**August 19:** OutReach Pride Parade

**October 19:** Cream City Foundation Business Equality Luncheon

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH

9

**OPEN ANNUAL DINNER**

*Monona Terrace*

The professional networking group for LGBTQ+ people and allies meets for its 9th annual dinner, featuring a keynote by JoAnn Kelley of MG&E, and emceed by comedian Dina Nina Martinez.  
[openmadison.org](http://openmadison.org)

10

**LGBTQ+ INTERGENERATIONAL CONFERENCE**

*First United Methodist Church*

Proud Theater, Wisconsin's premier LGBTQ+ Youth Theater organization, in collaboration with Trinity United Methodist Church, PFLAG-Madison, and the First United Methodist Church of Madison, holds its third annual LGBTQ+ intergenerational conference, "Connections III: Portraits of Us."  
[proudtheater.org](http://proudtheater.org)

16 & 17

**PERFECT HARMONY'S ANNUAL CABARET FUNDRAISER**

*The Brink Lounge*

Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus presents its annual cabaret, this year entitled "Songs Through the Decades," which will include full chorus performances, as well as small ensemble and solo acts. Reserve your tickets!  
[perfectharmonychorus.org](http://perfectharmonychorus.org)

23

(THROUGH APRIL 7)

**STAGEQ'S "SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER"**

*The Bartell Theatre*

In one of Tennessee Williams' most haunting and poetic pieces of writing, set in New Orleans in 1936, the play finds a mother searching desperately to find out the truth behind her son's tragic and brutal death and the chilling lengths to which she will go to to hide who he really was.  
[bartelltheatre.org/2018/suddenly-last-summer](http://bartelltheatre.org/2018/suddenly-last-summer)

25

**ARCW'S CAMP BINGO**

*Madison Concourse Hotel*

A FUNdraising event to help people living with HIV/AIDS, Camp Bingo returns for another raucous installment, featuring host Cass Marie and emcee Karizma Mirage. Seven games of bingo—each with a cash prize—a costume contest, trivia game, 50-50 raffle, with food and beverages for purchase. Doors open at 1:00 p.m. First ball called at 2:30 p.m.  
[arcw.org](http://arcw.org)

27

**MADISON WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON**

*Johnny Delmonico's Steakhouse*

The Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce hosts this social and networking lunch with keynote speaker Ashley Brundage, Inclusion Consultant and Vice President at PNC Financial Services Group out of Tampa, Florida.  
[wislightchamber.com](http://wislightchamber.com)

APRIL

5-12

**WISCONSIN FILM FESTIVAL**

*Various locations in Madison*

The annual celebration of all things cinema takes over screens across the city. Tickets go on sale March 10. A "first look" event will be held on March 7 at the AMC Madison 6 for cinephiles who can't wait to see this year's line-up.  
[wifilmfest.org](http://wifilmfest.org)

7 & 28

**MAD ROLLIN' DOLLS ROLLER DERBY**

*Alliant Energy Center*

Madison's derby league features hard hits; great entertainment; and a strong, athletic sport. The home teams face off April 7 in the semi-finals, followed by the championship on April 28. Cheer on your favorite skaters and teams while enjoying the empowering, world of derby.  
[madisonrollerderby.org](http://madisonrollerderby.org)

Tennessee Williams's

**SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER**

directed by Jim Chiolino

March 23rd – April 7th

How far would a mother go to preserve her son's reputation?

Tickets at [www.BartellTheatre.com](http://www.BartellTheatre.com)

Toasting Tennessee Williams

Mendota Lake House B&B

March 17 @ 6:30PM

Talk by Professor Tom Mitchell of University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Exclusive Preview of StageQ's "Suddenly Last Summer"

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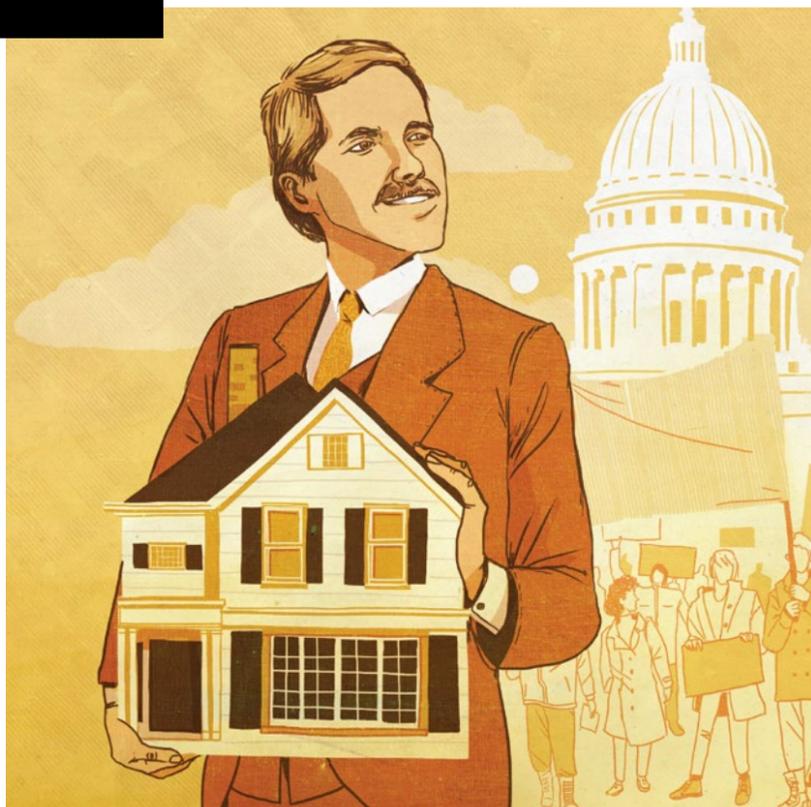
Mar. 17, 2018

**THE KING'S SINGERS**

*Virtuosic a cappella group*

Apr. 14, 2018

[UNIONTHEATER.WISC.EDU](http://UNIONTHEATER.WISC.EDU)



“Madison is fortunate to have a progressive tradition that is tied to important social movements and legislative developments. Thanks to the efforts and success of David Clarenbach and others, this structure is a great symbol of that leadership.”

- Kurt Stege, president of Madison Trust for Historic Preservation, Inc.



# Making History

**Gary Tipler** explains the vital LGBTQ history of the **Wuennenberg-Clarenbach House**, where some of the city's and state's pioneering LGBTQ lawmakers and movements made their home.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION | LGBTQ HISTORY | POLITICS | HOMES

A SEEMINGLY ORDINARY late-19th century house, just a short walk from the Capitol and State Street, holds a particularly notable place in history. It was that house that served as a nexus of political activities over nearly 14 years, from 1973 to 1987. Its inhabitants, young people who were self-identified as gay, lesbian or bisexual, were involved in progressive social movement politics and community activism, particularly in planning the advancement of civil liberties. That included the landmark Wisconsin gay rights bill, the first statewide law of its kind in the United States.

The house on West Gilman Street was also home to the Wuennenberg family, Martha Crawford, Steve LaVake, Jim Yeadon, David Clarenbach, Lynn Haanen, Earl Bricker, and many others. Its residents developed and ran political campaigns from the house, including Tammy Baldwin's first run for Dane County Board supervisor. Simply known as 123 (one-two-three), its street address, the house's important histories have only recently begun to be more widely known.

## THE WUENNENBERG FAMILY, 1973-1977

It all began when Carol and Rudi Wuennenberg bought the house in July 1973 for their college-age children and set into motion the development of a creative home environment of political activism.

A few years earlier, Carol and Rudi had moved to Madison from Wausau to be close to three of their five children who were to be enrolled at the University of Wisconsin. They wanted to live near the university and found a large Queen Anne-styled house at 504 Wisconsin Avenue, once the home of a Madison mayor and a Wisconsin governor.

Carol quickly became involved in the community: She worked on the James Madison Park masterplan, helped found the Fourth District Neighborhood Association, served as the Fourth District alder on the Madison Common Council (1974-1977) during Mayor Paul Soglin's first admin-



AMERICA'S FIRST GAY RIGHTS LAW: On February 25, 1982, Republican Governor Lee Dreyfus signs AB70 into law with Leon Rouse and David Clarenbach at his side. The law added "sexual orientation" to the list of non-discrimination categories in Wisconsin.

istration, and served on the boards of Methodist Hospital and the Brooks Street YMCA. As a venue for her community work, the Wuennenberg home served as a salon for politically liberal progressives, as well as a refuge for young gay and lesbian folks finding their way, including two of their own daughters. Friends were free to come and go, and the doors were never locked.

Within two years, the social scene outgrew the house and the couple bought a new home at 123 West Gilman, with daughter Lora and her girlfriend Martha Crawford in mind. The young women established their own free-form salon and the house quickly became a hotbed of political activism for progressive, gay, lesbian, and other politically active friends. Martha and Lora supported the fledgling Women's Transit Authority (WTA), a free nighttime rape prevention transit service for women, by holding volunteer meetings at the house. Lora was its first work-study student employee.

During the time they lived at the Gilman Street house, volunteer ranks grew from about 30 to 150 women. Sara Bringman, who lived with them, recalled, "The house was a scene of great activity in the emerging gay and lesbian scene in which we were all directly involved."

Yeadon won the vote. At the age of 26 he became the first openly gay person elected in Wisconsin and the fourth in the United States. San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk was the fifth.

The following year, Martha, and Lora's new husband Steve LaVake, followed Carol's lead and took on the tasks of reorganizing the Brooks Street YMCA to become locally controlled and free from the restrictions of the national charter. Renamed the University Y, it was used for housing and became home to the Women's Transit Authority, the Lesbian Switchboard (a peer counseling group), the first public lesbian collective in Madison, and the collectively run vegetarian Main Course restaurant.

## JIM YEADON, 1976-1977

In September 1976 Carol encouraged her daughter Lisa's friend Jim Yeadon to move in to 123, and shortly afterward, to join the Equal Opportunities Commission and to run for alder.

In 1975, along with the U.W. Gay Law Students Association and others, Yeadon had helped the Madison Equal Opportunities Commission rewrite its ordinance to include sexual orientation as a protected class,

## Innovative lighting to recreate natural rhythms



BILL BEAUDREAU, INTERIOR DESIGNER  
CRB INTERIORS

The evolution of LED lighting has now moved beyond simple light bulbs into a new realm. The art of lighting combined with technology is now moving toward a system that can manage quality, color, intensity, and mood of illumination through smart controls. Imagine mimicking circadian rhythms of the day at the office and at home or color tuning your lighting to alter your mood and perceptions of the people around you.

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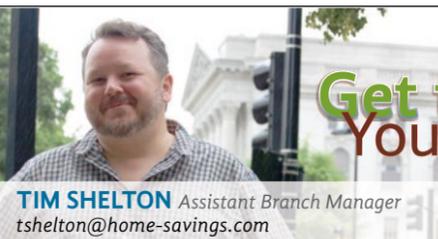
In this time of uncertainty we've cut back on our floral budget. I get it. Most don't even have a floral budget, but if you find yourself hosting a party or just needing the lift flowers can give you, here's our tip for the Trump Era of Financial Insecurity: Don't buy cut flowers. A dozen roses can run you \$20 or more and you're lucky if they last more than a couple of days. Instead go to one of your local grocery chains. Most now have their own floral sections where you can pick up an orchid for around \$15. The trick is to drop two ice cubes in the pot once a week and these orchids will last for months. Amortize the cost of an orchid versus the cost of a dozen roses over the time you'll be able to enjoy each and you'll see what a bargain orchids are.



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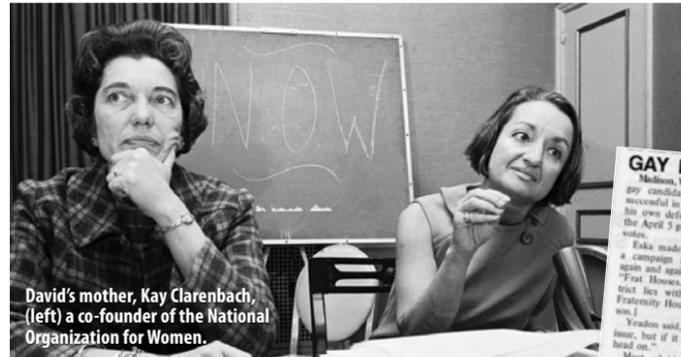
Vertical gardening is becoming an exciting trend in landscaping. By building vertical using manufactured systems such as LiveWall, or constructing smaller containment systems from pallets or wood structures, clients have the ability to create soft screening to add privacy, color, and even edible plantings to have a convenient vegetable garden. With this system, they can enjoy flowers and vegetables at eye level. Most plants do have to be removed and new plants installed in spring, but a few more hardy perennials can survive our winters.

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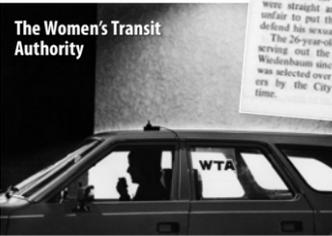
Consumer influences have had a significant impact on interior design today. There is no denying that the economy and what consumers are willing to pay for great design has changed over the past 10 years. Even affluent clients want more value for their money and seem to be spending less than in the past. Also, clients and potential clients wanting to do part or all of their design themselves has made a big impact. We as designers have to focus on solutions that are creative and offer exciting visions. Our skill, knowledge, and expertise allow us to craft interior solutions that come to life in our projects.



David's mother, Kay Clarenbach, (left) a co-founder of the National Organization for Women.



Jim Yeadon



The Women's Transit Authority



after the special council election, ran for the seat in the general election in April 1977 as an out gay candidate, and easily won. At the age of 26 he became the first openly gay person elected in Wisconsin and the fourth in the United States. San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk was the fifth.

Yeadon lived at 123 until September 1977. While on the Madison Common Council in 1978, Yeadon quashed a repeal of the Madison non-discrimination ordinance he'd helped forge. He became known as one of the most knowledgeable people in the country on municipal gay rights laws. A few weeks before his term was up, he resigned from the common council position to pursue other endeavors.

Jim Yeadon met David Clarenbach at one of the Wuennenberg parties at 123, though knew of him in political circles previously. They became companions over a couple of years and shared stories of their individual work in each of their political realms. They collaborated several times in joint appearances in media on civil rights and gay rights issues and developed a personal relationship.

In September 1977, Yeadon learned that the Wuennenbergs wished to sell 123 and told David, who bought it without hesitation.

**DAVID CLARENBACH, 1977-1982**

David Clarenbach lived at 123 West Gilman Street from September 1977 and until June 1982. During his time there, as the 78th District State Assembly Representative he was primarily responsible for the passage of the first state law in the country (1982) prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations on the basis of sexual

orientation. It was Assembly Bill 70, dubbed the Wisconsin Gay Rights bill. While living there he also undertook the majority of the legislative work that culminated in the signing into law of the Wisconsin Consenting Adults bill, in May 1983. He worked to further legislation while at home, particularly evenings and weekends, when most of his constituents would contact him with a phone line forwarded from his office.

Born in St. Louis, Missouri in 1953 and raised in Madison, David came from a family of political activism. A principal influence on his life was his mother, Kathryn (Kay) Clarenbach, a nationally prominent figure in the women's movement and a co-founder of the National Organization for Women (NOW). David's father Henry Clarenbach had been a Eugene McCarthy delegate to the 1968 Democratic Convention.

Early among the friends who influenced the political work of David Clarenbach was Dick Wagner. While Clarenbach was in high school they met while participating in anti-Vietnam war meetings on campus. In the early 1970s, Wagner was involved in many historic preservation projects in the Mansion Hill neighborhood, from developing Period Garden Park to securing the location for Gates of Heaven Synagogue, and planning for James Madison Park, where Clarenbach worked with him again. Wagner was a model of civic leadership and they became fast friends.

David Clarenbach lived at 123 West Gilman Street from September 1977 and until June 1982. During his time there, as the 78th District State Assembly Representative he was primarily responsible for the passage of the first state law in the country (1982) prohibiting discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations on the basis of sexual orientation.

In 1973-74, Clarenbach shared Wagner's apartment in the brick coach house at 136 E. Gorham. Wagner became a mentor for Clarenbach, who ran for re-election to the County Board in the spring of 1974 and months later ran for the State Assembly. That fall Wagner moved to Jenifer Street.

**CLARENBACH'S POLITICAL CAREER**

In 1971, when David Clarenbach first moved downtown and sought elected office, Fourth District Alderman Dennis McGilligan advised him to chair the neighborhood park planning committee. He then suggested that David run for the County Board of Supervisors. David announced his candidacy in the winter of 1972 and won the primary and the general elections. He became the first 18-year-old in the state to be elected following the passage of the 26th Amendment to the Constitution that permitted 18-year-olds to vote and to hold public office.

In 1974 at age 21, concurrent with his position on the Dane County Board, he also became an interim City of Madison alder for a short time. Not satisfied with county work alone, in the fall of 1974, he ran for the 78th Wisconsin State Assembly seat. He won the election and began what was to be the first of nine terms as a Wisconsin State Representative.

During his early years in politics, Dick Wagner wrote David's first campaign materials that stated positions on expanding civil rights including sexual preference (later, appropriately called sexual orientation) and abolishing laws that regulated victimless crimes and private morality. These positions were patterned after those that Wagner used in his own 1974 aldermanic campaign for the 2nd District.

Beginning 1975, Clarenbach collaborated with Lloyd Barbee of Milwaukee, an important civil rights leader, and, at the time, the only Afri-

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LEFT TO RIGHT: A young Dick Wagner with Clarenbach. Clarenbach with Ricardo Gonzalez. Jim Steakley, Gerry Wagner, Jess Anderson, Lloyd Schloen, David Bryant, Steve Rades, David Cervantes, Jake Stockinger.

can-American representative in the Assembly (1965–1977). Previously, Barbee had authored legislation on sexuality to repeal obscenity, abortion, and prostitution laws, and to allow same-sex marriage. Barbee didn't have success in their passage, but succeeded in pushing the boundaries in an effort to educate legislators and the public. Barbee had written and promoted ending sexual criminalization and discrimination since 1967. He saw in Clarenbach a young firebrand with whom he could further the cause. Clarenbach accepted Barbee as a mentor and, following Barbee's departure from the Assembly in 1977, David sought to continue the work they had planned—to undertake parallel efforts of decriminalizing consensual sexual behaviors and end discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Soon after Clarenbach moved into 123, he planned to move a consenting adults bill first, since it seemed to be more easily supportable. It would decriminalize cohabitation, sex outside of marriage, and homo-

sexual behavior. To promote his efforts in 1977, he employed the terms “consenting adults,” “sexual privacy” and “victimless crimes” to bring legislators and the public to support broad reforms that would affect many people while pairing them with related non-discrimination reforms that would affect fewer people.

In his introduction of the Consenting Adults legislation in the Assembly Session of 1979, David stated, “The change this bill presents is one of the most basic principles of our country—the right of protection against unwarranted interference by the government in our private lives.” As the prime sponsor, he reintroduced legislation to decriminalize private behavior between consenting adults. The effort gained essential ground and growing support of Republicans and Democrats alike.

David found an enthusiastic collaborator in Leon Rouse, a University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee student who helped coordinate the support of religious leaders for the non-discrimination bill as a human rights issue, rather than as a gay rights issue. Rouse garnered the support of Catholic Archbishop Rembert Weakland of the Milwaukee Archdiocese, who influenced the decisions of Catholic leaders, congregants, and legislators throughout the state and facilitated passage of a similar Milwaukee ordinance.

David used the Consenting Adults bill to count the votes he felt would be similar for the non-discrimination bill, AB70, and knew there might be only one opportunity to vote on it. In the fall of 1981, it passed the Assembly; it passed in the Senate on February 16, 1982, and the Assembly concurred; and on February 25, 1982, Republican Governor Lee Dreyfus signed AB70 into law as Chapter 112 of Wisconsin laws with Rouse and Clarenbach at his side. As a result, “sexual orientation” was added to the list of non-discrimination categories in Wisconsin's laws: political or religious opinion, or affiliation, age, sex, handicap, race, color, national origin, and ancestry.

“The question wasn't whether homosexuality was right or wrong,” David said. “The question was whether bigotry or discrimination could be tolerated against any group in our society. And when that was posed, the answer was no.” It would be another seven years before the second state in the nation, Massachusetts, would enact a similar non-discrimination law. Presently, there are 22 states that have similar non-discrimination laws based on sexual orientation.

The Consenting Adults bill was next. Twenty-five other states had such laws. The bill had taken much heat over the issues surrounding legislating morality. Initially authored by Clarenbach and Barbee in 1975, it was reintroduced and modified in five legislative sessions. The Consenting Adults bill made its way through the 1983–1984 session as AB250. With Democrats in the majority, the bill passed in the Assembly on April 21, 1983, in the Senate on May 3, 1983, and was signed into law by Governor Anthony Earl on May 6, 1983. “I think it reaffirms the willingness of the Legislature to endorse privacy rights,” David stated.

He noted that two later bills owed their passage to the bipartisan support of the 1982 non-discrimination bill. In 1985, David lead the effort to pass a State Bill of Rights for people with AIDS and HIV infection to protect people from being denied insurance coverage and medical treatment and to protect privacy against stigmatization. In 1988, he lead the effort to pass the Wisconsin's Hate Crimes Act, partly as a preventative measure and to better respond to crimes that were often ignored or not prosecuted.

Months later, redistricting forced David to move from 123 and, for the next five years, leased it to Eighth District Dane County Supervisor Lynn Haanen and friends. He believed that Lynn would continue the same kind of synergy in the house with her political activities.

#### THE IMPORTANCE OF PLACE

“Wisconsin was at the forefront all along in advancing not just the political protections and legal protections, but the social movement which has resulted today in some reforms and some advancements that none of us thought would be possible even within our lifetime,” David noted.

He attributes the physical space afforded to the movement at the house as a crucial factor in its successes. “I am convinced that those would not have happened if we hadn't had the physical environment, the place in time, to congregate a community of interest and a wide range of communities of interest,” he said. “Not just people who were gay or lesbian, but people who were committed to the cause, the civil libertarians, the religious leaders, even Republicans in the Legislature all contributed to success.

“There's no magic wand, but I have to say that without 123 West Gilman, these things would not have been accomplished, and that right there in my view qualifies for a special designation for 123 West Gilman,” David added.

Clarenbach collaborated with Lloyd Barbee of Milwaukee, an important civil rights leader, and, at the time, the only African-American representative in the Assembly (1965–1977). Previously, Barbee had authored legislation on sexuality to repeal obscenity, abortion, and prostitution laws, and to allow same-sex marriage.

#### 123: A Home for Civil Rights Activists, 1982–1987

**LYNN HAANEN, 1982–1986** Lynn Haanen was raised in Chippewa Falls, came to Madison to study journalism, then switched to political science. She got a job as a page in the Capitol, then worked in Washington, D.C. for U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson. She returned to Madison in 1977 and worked in the Capitol as an aid before taking a job with the Women's Transit Authority. She considered herself a socialist and began her public service when she was drafted by friends for the Eighth District seat on the Dane County Board of Supervisors in 1979, and was appointed by Mary Louise Symon. The youngest of the 41-member board, she easily won election in 1980, 1982, and 1984. She earned the respect of conservatives and liberals alike in her work on the County Board's Finance Committee and as Chair of the Board of Public Welfare that oversaw the work of Dane County Social Services.

In August 1980, prior to living at 123, Haanen participated in the Dane County Board of Supervisors passage of a change in the county's Affirmative Action Ordinance to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, along with supervisors Judith Blank, Dick Wagner, and Larry Gleason.

## TIPS & TRENDS

### Active families require tougher floor coverings

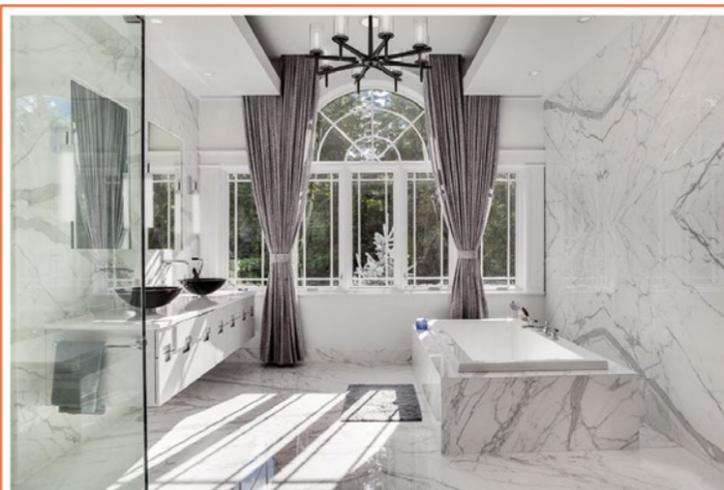


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Gone are fields of wall-to-wall carpeting. Exciting new trends in luxury vinyl tile that look and perform like stone and wood are great for entryways, mud rooms, and family rooms that require easy clean-up and durability. Hardwood flooring, as well as manufactured floors like bamboo, are beautiful but require a bit more care. Ceramic, porcelain, and slate tiles are now available in an array of colors, textures, shapes, and sizes—some emulating plank wood flooring for a classic, durable look without the upkeep.

Set the tone with the hard surface in your main living areas and then pair with a customized rug to add warmth, color, pattern, and texture. Use similar materials to create traffic flow from your front door through your house, changing floor coverings and treatments to establish different areas. Smaller bedrooms can hold their own with carpeting that fits their purpose. Linear striation, subtle patterns, and textures add warmth and visual interest and can create the illusion of spaces appearing larger than they actually are.

Large bedrooms with hardwood flooring and lush area rugs help to define the space and but can appear formal and cold. Layering rugs on lower nap carpet combine fashion and function. For splashes of color and pattern in accent pillows, upholstery fabrics, and furnishings look to deep burnt orange, cinnamon, ripe fig, iron ore, and chartreuse. Select a piece of furniture, antique, or art piece, that defines your style and use that as a springboard to create a pallet and energy that envelops your furnishings and accents the way you live.



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Haanen felt Baldwin was a perfect match for the district, so hosted her first fundraiser at 123 in December 1985. Baldwin was readily elected to the Dane County Board of Supervisors in April 1986.

In late 1983, County Supervisors Haanen, Wagner, and Kathleen Nichols co-sponsored a resolution supporting a grant application for the study of the impact of AIDS for the University of Wisconsin Medical School and shepherded it through the Dane County Board of Health, an early measure in Wisconsin. At the time, there were 1,000 cases nationwide, and none yet reported in Wisconsin.

During Lynn Haanen's time at 123, she hosted San Francisco gay rights activist Harry Britt, and worked in constituent relations in Gov. Tony Earl's office and met Earl Bricker and Tammy Baldwin. Lynn also hosted myriad campaign efforts, including her own and those of David Clarenbach, Bob Kastenmeier, Eighth District Alder Anne Monks, Governor Tony Earl's re-election, and Tammy Baldwin's first run for Dane County Board supervisor. Political meetings and discussions were often held throughout the house, frequently in the "bull pen," the living room where ideas became campaign strategies, according to Clarenbach.

**EARL BRICKER** In late 1983, Earl Bricker joined Haanen at 123. He moved to Madison in 1978, worked for the Democratic Party and was an executive board member of The United. In August, 1985, mid-way into Governor Tony Earl's administration, Bricker was appointed to a position in the Constituent Relations section of the governor's office where he staffed the Governor's Council on Lesbian and Gay Issues. The volunteer council's task was to assist and advise the governor and state agencies "on measures to eliminate discrimination against and victimization of lesbians and gays in Wisconsin." Bricker also recruited gays and lesbians for gubernatorial appointments to some of the 156 governmental bodies. He was sometimes assisted in the office by Lynn Haanen. In about 1986, Bricker moved from 123. He was elected in 1988 to the Ninth District seat of the County Board of Supervisors and when he stepped down mid-term in 1991, he helped launch Mark Pocan's career in politics as a Dane County Supervisor.

**ANNE MONKS** While working in 1978-80 as a community planner in the City of Madison Plan Department, Anne Monks completed her master's degree from the School of Business of the University of Wisconsin-Madison under Professor James Graaskamp. During that time, Anne met Lynn Haanen and they became fast friends, developed a personal relationship—a partnership followed by a life-long friendship. As a resident of the neighborhood, Anne helped establish the Langdon Area Neighborhood Association, was an organizer of the Madison Mutual Housing Association, and served on the board of the Madison Community Development Corporation. She was elected alder of the Eighth District in November 1980 in a special election, and elected again the following April. During her nearly three-term tenure she served on the Board of Estimates and as Council President for a year. She pushed to get the Langdon area listed on the National Register of Historic Places. She left in mid-1986, when she took a job in Washington, D.C.

**TAMMY BALDWIN** In the fall of 1985, when Lynn Haanen decided not to run again for the county board, Tammy Baldwin approached her to run for her seat. They had met while Tammy was serving an internship in the office of Governor Anthony Earl, under the supervision of Roberta Gassman in 1984-85. Haanen felt Baldwin was a perfect match for the district, so hosted her first fundraiser at 123 in December 1985. Baldwin was readily elected to the Dane County Board of Supervisors in April 1986. Baldwin was drafted by Alder Ann Monks to replace her on the council that summer and was appointed by the Madison Common Council to fill the vacancy until the general election in November 1986. In 1992, Baldwin ran for and won David Clarenbach's former seat in the 78th State Assembly District when Clarenbach opted out of an Assembly race to run for Congress. Baldwin became the first openly LGBTQ member to be elected and to serve in the Wisconsin state legislature. In 1998, she became Wisconsin's first woman and the nation's the first out LGBTQ non-incumbent to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. She was elected to the United States Senate in 2012, becoming Wisconsin's first female U.S. Senator and that body's first openly gay member.

### The Local Community Impact Due To LGBTQ Civil Rights Achievements

"There was an elation" shared by gay and lesbian activists at the time of AB70, the Gay Rights Bill's passage. "It just really gave people a sense we could be part of this society in a larger way," according to Dick Wagner. As a result, volunteerism and support of gay organizations flourished. The sense of community health and wellbeing grew beyond what could have only been imagined just a few years earlier.

The subsequent election of Governor Tony Earl and his support for LGBTQ communities emboldened a groundswell of change. The flurry of political and community interaction among the residents of 123 was indicative of the new optimism manifested in political activity and in the development of new community institutions such as the founding of *OUT!* newspaper and several LGBTQ social and service organizations.

The extraordinary setting that was 123 came to a quiet end in June 1987, when David Clarenbach sold the house. During the prior 14 years, the house had been home to several politically engaged people who helped set the tone for the future of the gay and lesbian community locally, the progressive community and civil rights statewide and nationally. ■

- Follow along online:**
- Follow the developing story of the State Legislature's actions as reported by Kurt Stege: [madisonpreservation.org/blog](http://madisonpreservation.org/blog)
  - On Facebook: [facebook.com/TheClarenbachHouseProject](https://facebook.com/TheClarenbachHouseProject)
  - To request a program, contact Leslie Schroeder, Chair of the Clarenbach House Project: 608-220-2011 or [clarenbachhouseproject@gmail.com](mailto:clarenbachhouseproject@gmail.com).
  - To contribute to the Clarenbach House Project, contact OutReach, Inc. at (608) 255-8582, ([lgbtoutreach.org](http://lgbtoutreach.org)).

### Making a landmark, hitting a wall

A nomination of the Clarenbach House as a potential Landmark designation by the Madison Landmarks Commission was submitted in early November 2017 by Gary Tipler. A staff review is underway, according to Madison historic preservation planner Amy Scanlon. A Landmarks Commission public hearing is scheduled for March 19. The commission's recommendation will then be submitted to the Madison Common Council for a decision.

Margaret Watson, the CEO for Steve Brown Apartments which owns the Clarenbach House, in December stated that the company hadn't taken an official position. However, Watson called for a legislative committee to address "owners' consent" for designation of historic properties as part of a law being considered in January. On January 3, Watson testified before the Housing and Real Estate Committee Hearing that "owner consent" for the landmark designation of historic properties was necessary and needed to be addressed, while commenting on a proposed bill on rental properties and tenant law. Madison and numerous other municipalities presently do not require owner consent for designation, nor for other aspects of planning administration.

A new proposed "owners' consent" legislative hearing for Senate Bill 800 was announced the morning of February 13 and held on the afternoon of February 14 before the Committee on Insurance, Financial Services, Constitution and Federalism. If passed, the new language could prevent the local designation of the Clarenbach House and innumerable other buildings. ■

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Heather and a fellow AmeriCorps employee building a garden in Portland, OR, circa 2000.



Stouder, with her wife, Jordan Bingham, and their son.

# Building Community

Madison Planning Division's new director, **Heather Stouder**, found a passion for building more equitable and sustainable cities through travel, starting a family of her own, and Madison's unique needs and opportunities.

URBAN PLANNING CAREER HOUSING SUSTAINABILITY

**I WAS BORN IN INDIANAPOLIS** and grew up on a cul-de-sac in a central Indiana town with one high school. As the oldest of three girls involved in sports, music, and other activities, I had a comfortable, stable, and busy childhood with loving parents. Our family was fairly apolitical at the time, but we attended church regularly—even multiple times per week.

Like so many people in that time, place, and situation, I learned to suppress early inklings that I might be gay, because I just couldn't imagine it as a viable way to be. In most ways, my middle school, high school, and early college years were wonderful, and I developed strong and lasting friendships during each chapter of my young life.

That said, the inner tension I faced regarding my sexuality, my safe and homogeneous surroundings, and a near obsession with sports led to very self-absorbed teenage years without too much thought about other people or the world around me (my sister nailed it many years later in a toast at my commitment ceremony, recounting how much she admired my "cool indifference" to boyfriends as a sign of strength).

While many people thrive, grow, and evolve close to home, my recollection is that I only began thinking critically about the world and my place in it as I was exposed to new places. I certainly recognize the privilege behind many of my most impactful experiences. A few distinct ones during my twenties gradually led me to the field of Urban Planning, primarily through the lens of sustainability, and later, racial and environmental justice. I saw different ways of living, and developed a better understanding of how our surroundings impact our choices and vice versa.

## EXPANDING HORIZONS

I stayed close to home to go to college at Butler University. While I was only a half-hour drive from home, living in the heart of Indianapolis offered new perspectives and opportunities. I worked a few part-time jobs and focused on coursework as a biology major hoping to attend Physical Therapy school in the future. My thinking and goals began to change during a semester in Sydney, Australia, where I enjoyed walkable urban living outside of a college campus for the first

time. I regularly walked to small shops for convenience purchases and took the bus (with a ridiculously giant hiking backpack) to stock up on staple foods every couple of weeks. At age 20, this was literally my first experience with public transit, and I really grew to appreciate the somewhat ironic freedom and simplicity of life without a car.

I landed a babysitting job for elementary-aged kids whose parents were environmental lawyers with a personal focus on sustainable urban living. I—someone for whom recycling was a relatively new concept, being driven everywhere as a kid was expected, and "Minute Rice" was the only grain I could pull off—was suddenly responsible for walking two kids back to their solar-powered remodeled town-home after school, cooking dinners with fresh ingredients, and composting. I only once exploded a glass dish not meant for the oven.

Within a month after college graduation, my first girlfriend broke up with me, I came out to my parents, and decided I would volunteer for AmeriCorps before likely heading to graduate school for Physical Therapy. Coming out was rocky at first, but my family dealt with it in the best ways they possibly could, and fairly quickly became strong supporters of this element of my life that was so new to them. I moved across the country to Portland, Oregon, ended up staying for three years, and completely changed my mind a few times about what to do next.

## PACIFIC AWAKENINGS

During my time in Oregon, I spent a year doing outdoor environmental restoration work and trail-building in the Portland metro area, exposed to a good mix of rainy weather and new perspectives from the many other recent transplants in the same program. I then spent a season working on a small community-supported-agriculture farm, and finally a third year with a non-profit organization focused on garden education and garden-building in some of Portland's lower-income neighborhoods at the time.

Even though it was so incredibly different from where and how I grew up (think "Portlandia" on a shoestring budget) I felt at home in the Pacific Northwest and created wonderful memories with remarkable people. I soaked it in—literally and figuratively—as I began to consider ways to get more deeply involved in pushing for better cities and sustainable food systems.

While it is important to continue listening to all people who care passionately about their neighborhoods, we need to continue efforts in Madison to listen and act on a broader set of voices—renters, people of color, people with lower incomes—and to bring a citywide perspective to neighborhood discussions

In 1999, during my first year in Portland, I met my amazing wife, Jordan, when she came to visit for a week with a mutual friend. Within several months, we were making occasional back and forth visits, and about a year later, she moved in "temporarily" with me and my two male housemates (at the time, we certainly weren't expecting a long-term relationship, but nearly twenty years later, here we are, thanks to patience and the ability to evolve well together).

By then I had decided I would be moving to Madison in late 2001 to start a Master's program in Environmental Studies (I quickly added Urban and Regional Planning, and emerged after three years with a Joint Master's degree). As much as I loved the Pacific Northwest, I was a Midwesterner at heart, and thought Madison would be a great

## Don't neglect the underside of your deck



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## Madison's buyer's market continues



LIZ LAUER, BROKER/OWNER  
LAUER REALTY GROUP

Madison real estate will continue to see a shortage of available homes for buyers and a strong sellers market in 2018, which means increasing prices. The expectation of rising interest rates may have some effect on the strong buyer pool, but Madison still shows signs of being insulated from suffering major corrections if we face a national decline: growth of population, increasing middle class jobs, and a highly rated quality of life for many.

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## TIPS & TRENDS

### Using local wood saves the rainforest



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### Increasing accessibility to add value



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The "aging in place" movement is one of the best ideas impacting remodeling projects right now. The basic idea is to make a house easier to live in, and to get around safely in, for people of all abilities. I prefer to call it "living in place." As we get older, safety and accessibility are even more important, but safety and accessibility are great for people of all ages and abilities! Doors and hardware should never be hard to operate. Good design allows people to get around and enjoy their homes without obstacles and hardships.

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place to spend a few years. Jordan, who would be staying in Portland for a while, drove with me to Madison through Canada and helped me settle in for a couple of days before heading back. I distinctly remember driving in on East Washington Avenue and noticing the underutilized property that is now almost an extension of the downtown!

Fast forward through several moves, trips, and jobs, and we're both here, working in Planning (me) and Public Health and Racial Equity (Jordan). We're raising our son who has grown from infancy to kindergarten in a flash and keeps us both on our toes. We both highly value our work, family time, and friendships, and like many, we constantly strive to find a good work-life balance.

#### THE COMPLEXITIES OF GOOD PLANNING

I came into the Planning field with the simple perspective that urban living is a great and sustainable way to live. Cities—with the density of people, events, and places—typically have a variety of choices for housing, jobs, and transportation. Good planning is important to ensure that cities work well for all people.

Planning was fascinating because of its complexity and the many overlapping systems it involves—natural, legal, political, financial. I was drawn to it because I felt I could make a difference in the way cities impact people's lives, and help make them more attractive, efficient, and functional places to live and thrive in. Historically, cities have been the source of a lot of environmental and public health problems, but I've long seen them as the best place for solutions, and wanted to be a small part of that. As I moved through school and into my professional career, of course things became more complex.

Each planning and development decision in Madison involves power and politics, people and place. Often, my colleagues and I are right in the middle of tension among residents, developers, and city decision-makers. As planners, we need to always keep the broad public interest in mind, and maintain objectivity as we do our best to provide information and recommendations on planning and development issues.

Often, the most prominent voices working to influence decisions about change are from people with the time, resources, and energy to organize, attend public meetings, and make points that they feel protect their interests. We attend occasional meetings where hyperbolic and sometimes painful things are said about how a development—particularly much-needed affordable housing and sometimes apartment buildings in general—might impact the immediate surroundings. Much of the time, this is not the case.

Many across the city understand and embrace changing neighborhoods, desire more affordable housing options, and simply care a lot about getting the details right. In any case, these are often the voices of white homeowners. While it is important to continue listening to all people who care passionately about their neighborhoods, we need to continue efforts in Madison to listen and act on a broader set of voices—renters, people of color, people with lower incomes—and to bring a citywide perspective to neighborhood discussions.

#### A CHANGING CITYSCAPE

Madison is steadily growing, and at this time, over 90% of all new Madison residents arrive as renters. We're anticipating 40,000 new households (70,000 new people) over the next 20 years, and where and how that growth happens will impact the city's fiscal, environmental, and social health in the decades to come.

Madison is a great place to live for most people, but like many other cities on similar lists, we must listen and work hard to ensure that people of all races and backgrounds can thrive here. At a basic level, we need housing choices affordable for all income levels, we need to

foster places where employers can locate and grow, and we need to maintain and improve our multi-modal transportation system.

To accommodate growth in a sustainable and equitable way, we're taking the long view and working on many fronts, including the following:

**Continue to work for great infill.** As evident from the many cranes on the skyline over the past several years, the market is very strong for infill redevelopment in central Madison. In many ways, infill is what we strive for, since it occurs in places already well served by transit and other amenities and uses public infrastructure efficiently. We know that our central neighborhoods are evolving, and continually work to balance input from current nearby residents and historic preservation goals with citywide needs and the perspectives of new residents who may only be able to live in a neighborhood once additional housing opportunities are constructed. With each decision, we need to try to ensure that infill and redevelopment in the central city is inclusive for all types of households and that the neighborhoods it is part of remain great places to live.

**Get growth right the first time.** As we continue to push the edges of city limits, we're working to create more "complete" and vibrant future neighborhoods with good street connections, a mix of housing types, and places people can walk to (very different from the car-centric, homogenous neighborhood I grew up in). As the city expands, the land on our periphery is finite, and since we really only have one opportunity to get it right, we need to ensure that it is used as carefully and efficiently as possible in the long term.

Many of Madison's late 20th century neighborhoods and commercial areas are still pretty car-dependent. While evolution of these areas may happen more slowly, they present a lot of opportunity for incremental and equitable growth over time.

**Support complete neighborhoods.** To the extent possible, we need to use planning and economic development tools to attract more investment in areas where residents don't currently have many options for how to get around, different housing types, or convenient places to walk to. Many of Madison's late 20th century neighborhoods and commercial areas are still pretty car-dependent. While evolution of these areas may happen more slowly, they present a lot of opportunity for incremental and equitable growth over time.

#### CHOOSING HOME

While I don't attribute my education and career choices to being queer, it certainly was a major factor in my decision to broaden my horizons in my twenties, leaving central Indiana to live in and experience new places. Further, many life decisions Jordan and I have made together have been heavily influenced by it.

Most importantly, we carefully chose central Madison as a place to live, strengthen friendships, and raise a child. Very different than either of the places where we were raised, we know Madison is a great place grow up as a kid with two moms, attend strong and diverse public schools, and connect and be shaped by a wide variety of people and perspectives.

We're privileged to have this choice to make, and quite happy here. Wherever life may lead us in the future, we'll continue to work toward equitable, inclusive, and sustainable cities—places where all people have access to options to live well and fully. ■

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HISTORY LGBTQ HISTORY LGBTQ PUBLISHING

## Publishing Pioneers

Historian **Dick Wagner** looks back at the history of the early lesbian magazine, *The Ladder*, and its many connections to Wisconsin.

**FOR THE UNITED STATES**, *The Ladder*, published monthly from 1956 until 1972, was the first nationally distributed lesbian publication. It was sponsored by the Daughters of Bilitis (DOB), the lesbian organization founded in San Francisco.

DOB founders Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin had experience in journalism. In the 1950s, during the height of McCarthyism, they used pseudonyms for publishing. Soon, however, they switched to real names in an effort to encourage their readers not to hide. Early issues were created by mimeograph and hand stapled. Women were assured the names on the mailing list were secret and held safely. Circulation was limited to 400 brave subscribers in 1957, and it grew to a list of 3,800 in 1970. One of the subscribers who wrote in was the black playwright Lorraine Hansberry, author of *A Raisin in the Sun*.

Barbara Grier, under several names including her own, contributed much material, especially as a book reviewer. *The Ladder* wanted to make its readers aware of "lesbiana," or material published with lesbian content. Grier was later the publisher for Naiad Press, which put out many lesbian volumes, and is someone whom I've had the pleasure to hear speak. She would write in 1975, when a reissue of the magazine occurred, that the editors "believed that they were moving the world with their labors, and I believe that they were right."

Lesbian historian Lilian Faderman, in *Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers: A History of Lesbian Life in Twentieth-Century America*, is a bit critical of DOB for its narrow appeal to

middle class lesbians. The organization had in the 1950s advocated a "mode of behavior and dress acceptable to society."

### A MIGHTY LITTLE MAGAZINE

The lesbian magazine maintained friendly relations with *ONE Magazine*, the primary gay male publication from Los Angeles. *The Ladder* was also connected with Frank Kameny of the D.C. Mattachine Society. *The Ladder* was delighted to report to its readers in December of 1963 that Felix Pollack, Curator of Rare Books for the U.W. Madison Memorial Library, had recognized the magazine as a valid "Little Magazine," a category on which he was the national expert. Pollack wrote an article in

The magazine, which had printed articles on homosexual marriage, was probably delighted to present to its readers this news bit that, "Two Black Women Seek Marriage License" in Milwaukee.

the September 1960 issue of *Library Journal* that such a journal was unthinkable 30 or even 20 years prior.

He wrote, "We are today witnessing the emergence of publications like *ONE*, *Mattachine Review*, and *The Ladder*, presenting with candor and fortitude the position of male and female homosexuals in our society." He felt they were "a variant manifestation of the time-honored little magazine concern with the outsiders of society, the outcasts, the deviators from majority-sanctioned 'norms' with minority

rights, problems, and aspirations." He detected a different aspect, too, for he wrote, "Even though the minorities in this case have to be their own spokesmen and defenders."

### NOTABLE CONTRIBUTORS AND SUBJECTS

Among the contributors to *The Ladder* were Jeannette Howard Foster, whose 1956 book *Sex Variant Women in Literature: A Historical and Quantitative Survey* was one of the earliest and comprehensive works of lesbian scholarship. Her self-published pioneer work in lesbian studies languished on obscure library shelves. The Diana Press and the Naiad Press reissued editions in 1975 and 1985.

Feature articles were on famous lesbians such as English author Radclyffe Hall and Swedish Queen Christina. Fiction and poetry populated its pages. *The Ladder* carried stories on the homosexual vote, the homosexual minority in America, the history of S.F. homophile groups, and it featured several articles on the homosexual picketing in the nation's capital including a picture of the picket on the cover of the October 1965 issue.

While *The Ladder* did not have many news items, some were scattered among its pages. In the August/September 1970 issue they told readers that Dr. Albee, from the faculty of Case-Western Reserve, who was president of the American Psychological Association, spoke

to the Wisconsin Psychiatric Association on June 17 of that year. He branded "repressive forces as patrists," criticizing exaggerated masculine values and cutthroat competition. About these patrists he asserted, "Women are accorded in this group low status: men use them rather than accept them as equals. At the same time the importance of chastity is stressed and strict controls are imposed on the freedom of women." Presumably he felt his Wisconsin audience would be receptive to such a critique.

The magazine, which had printed articles on homosexual marriage, was probably delighted to present to its readers this news bit that, "Two Black Women Seek Marriage License" in Milwaukee. The brief notice told the story of Donna Burkett, 25, and Manonia Evans, 21, who had been denied a license by county officials. They then filed suit in the Federal District Court. The couple were quoted that they were "being deprived of martial benefits such as inheritance rights and the filing of a joint income tax return." They would lose their court case but were married in a church ceremony.

### A BEACON FOR THE ISOLATED

Lesbians from Wisconsin would find further connection to *The Ladder*. In November 1958 J.W. D. from Mauston wrote that she was pleased with her recent subscription and commended the editors "most highly." She was



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moved to send along a small donation. From her small city of 3,200 in Juneau County she proclaimed herself “isolated here” and that it was refreshing “to read about those that I have things in common.” J.W.D. was “greatly interested in the books listed on page 15, Lesbiana.” She hoped she might be able to order them through the magazine’s office. In May 1960, after “many requests from friends and readers,” the magazine announced “Beginning DOB Book Service.” It was small selection of lesbian titles and *The Ladder* struggled to maintain its book subscription service. It never did have many correspondents. In fact, in July 1959 the editors noted, “Letters from our readers commenting on articles and stories appearing in *The Ladder* are becoming fewer and fewer.

For the June/July 1971 edition the magazine published a letter from Donna Martin of Milwaukee. Since this was post-Stonewall, a seeming real name and not initials, as was usual in the past, might seem like a step forward. But it was a pseudonym sometimes used by Donna Utke. Just the year before Utke had been one of five brave people to be signed on as founding members of Milwaukee’s Gay People’s Union with her real name. Utke had attended U.W.-Madison graduate school in English,

where she befriended fellow student and later Madison activist Barbara Lightner in the 1960s when both were closeted. A librarian with the Milwaukee Public Library, Utke also was an active member of Grapevine, a feminist writers’ guild, and in 1989 would help found the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (LAMM).

To *The Ladder* she wrote she had been an eager reader for months. She praised the efforts to relate to women’s liberation, since she also proclaimed herself a member of NOW. Donna claimed she found “camaraderie and relaxation” with her sisters at the local gay bar but intellectual excitement with her sisters at NOW. She noted that at the time Milwaukee had “the only Lesbian bar in the state.”

Donna advanced a theory of “sexual timidity” about lesbians, observing that lesbian bars were “everywhere far outnumbered by male gay bars.” She believed this led to a false theory there were less lesbians than male homosexuals. As she believed “suppressed” women were told to accept second best and not develop their vocational potential, so woman “is discouraged from developing her sexual potentialities.” Donna denounced that women should accept “the bleak joys of celibacy” for the unmarried woman after 30 who supposedly was presumed to lose sexual desire. Her tag was, “In short, in our society, women, like the spring ephemerals, seem doomed to a brief and fragile flowering.”

For her, women with “deviant proclivities” were subject to the same mechanisms that oppressed women in general. For her this meant, “the chances that the latent Lesbian will break out of her cocoon are, it seems to me much less than that the male homosexual will come to see himself as such.” She claimed at the time to be an unwilling celibate, not finding attractive and interesting women at the bar scene. She would later, however, find a life partner of many years.

Over the years, the volunteers who published the magazine had written about their growing pains and noted that the issues were often shaped by “funds available and labor willing.” When *The Ladder* ceased publication with the August/September 1972 issue, Barbara Grier, writing as Gene Damon, said, “Many women reading this will be upset, many will be sorry. None of you will be as sorry as we are to have to take this step.” ■



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.

## Early HIV/AIDS Outreach

Scott Seyforth gives us a glimpse of another story from the LGBT History Archives.

Tim Tillotson (1947–2013) was an early and tireless local leader in HIV/AIDS prevention and education. A medic in the U.S. Army in Korea in the 1960s, Tillotson began working at U.W.-Madison in 1970, hired as the manager of the Blue Bus Clinic, the University Health Service’s newly established sexually transmitted infections clinic. Tillotson loved the interactive, direct nature of outreach work, and dedicated his career to promoting community health.

When the AIDS crisis began, Tillotson was well positioned to respond, and engaged in a crusade to provide education and support for those that needed it. He considered himself an “evangelist for those at-risk.” For more than a decade, Tillotson worked for the university during the day, gave safer sex presentations in the early evening, and offered HIV screening, with dignity and respect, at bars, clubs, Ten Percent Society dances, and from the back of a van in Olin Park. Because of his work on the frontlines, more than half of all people in Dane County that tested positive for HIV from 1985–1995 heard the news directly from Tillotson.

Tillotson could be spotted all around Madison distributing information about sexual health and condoms from his black leather fanny pack. Known as “Tim the Condom Man” on the U.W. campus, he prided himself on making safer sex education fun and exciting. Tillotson developed the skill to carefully and safely put a condom over his head to show how far a condom could stretch. He created a contraption, which he referred to as a “condomographer,” to help normalize condom use and educate about safer sex, by demonstrating the various strengths, sizes, colors, and textures of condoms available. Iconoclastic, he loved mixing fun with facts, which he believed helped learners gain confidence so they became eager to teach their friends, and thus practice safer sex themselves.

*OutReach LGBT Community Center is the fiscal sponsor of the Madison LGBTQ Archive. Funding for this project has been generously provided by the New Harvest Foundation, Inc., the George L. Mosse Program in History, and from Bill Wartmann.*



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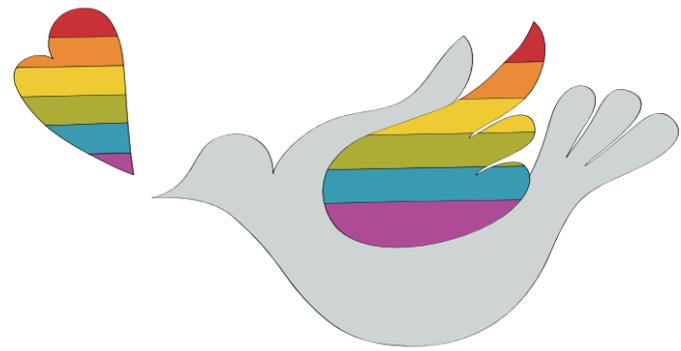


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## Recovery from Teachings of Evangelical Fundamentalism

Diverse & Resilient's Kathy Flores examines the ways in which religion is still used to harm LGBTQ+ people, and offers methods for undoing the damage.

**"WE CAN FORGIVE** almost anything from you, Kathy—divorce, drug use, etc.—but if you ever tell us you are gay, we will disown you."

These were words my Baptist preacher father told me as an adult as he suspected something about me that I could not yet tell. What he told me about gay people as a child came through the pulpit of our church where he preached of the forgiveness of God for everything from murder to adultery, but not for the "sin of homosexuality." That was, according to my father and so many like him, so egregious that it was the only sin to

Last week I read about a conservative Christian school just outside of Madison that is proudly advertising their conversion therapy practices.

be deemed an abomination.

I took these homophobic teachings to heart and, upon experiencing my first kiss with a girl as a pre-teen, I promptly ran to the makeshift alter at our summer revival tent to pray my heart out asking for forgiveness and begging for a change of heart. I didn't tell anyone my secret at that time and hid it for decades while I experienced more damaging messages and experiences about my identity. I experienced failed marriages, bouts of depression, self-hatred, and even a suicide attempt.

I started to overcome this trauma by finally living my truth in my 30s and beginning the road to self-acceptance. I eventually denounced that faith and found other faith communities that promoted LGBTQ acceptance and love. At this point in my life, I am what is considered a "none," a growing group of individuals who do not identify with any religion. This, too, has been a part of my healing.

### INSIDIOUS ATTACKS

Last week I read about a conservative Christian school just outside of Madison that is proudly advertising their conversion therapy practices. Conversion therapy is the dangerous practice of trying to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity using damaging psychological or spiritual interventions. Through these violence-promoting beliefs, countless LGBTQ youth in schools like this one will experience the same rejection I have known. Many of them won't make it out of their youth alive. Suicide rates for LGBTQ teens continue to grow right alongside community and hate violence directed toward us.

As an LGBTQ anti-violence advocate, I work with survivors of violence of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, and hate violence. Working with other advocates across the country we are having a hard time keeping up with the rise in violence and homicides. According to the report "A

Crisis of Hate," released in January 2018 by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, 52 anti-LGBTQ homicides were reported to anti-violence agencies across the country last year, more doubling from the year before. Sadly, we know the actual number is higher due to some anti-LGBTQ hate violence homicides not being reported to agencies.

In addition to the work of responding to these acts of violence, LGBTQ advocates like myself are also figuring out ways to prevent it. The national rhetoric of hate continues to make our homes, workplaces,

If you are experiencing violence or are at risk of experiencing violence within your home or community, call or text Diverse & Resilient's Room to Be Safe program line at 414-856-LGBT.

places of worship, and neighborhoods unsafe for LGBTQ individuals. Sadly, we see that rhetoric being deeply internalized by some LGBTQ individuals as well. Some of the anti-LGBTQ homicides we are responding to have been committed by someone within the LGBTQ community who is so filled with self-hatred that they have lashed out at other LGBTQ individuals. And, suicides of LGBTQ individuals often come after a life of not being accepted or being part of a religious community focused on conversation.

### RECLAIMING OUR STRENGTH

At Diverse & Resilient we see a future in which lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer people in Wisconsin thrive, living healthy, satisfying lives in safe, supportive communities. Partnering with End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin, we are launching our "Colors in Bloom" campaign to promote self-love and acceptance. We are developing plans to spread this messaging through music, advertisements, and an outdoor media campaign.

Religious intolerance and damaging messages for the LGBTQ community need to be challenged. Activists and lawmakers have tried to challenge this by passing laws to ban harmful therapy practices, but those laws will never impact things that happen within



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

churches. Therefore, we must find ways to heal our community within our LGBTQ circles.

### HERE ARE A FEW TIPS FOR RECOVERING FROM HARMFUL ANTI-LGBTQ MESSAGING:

1. **RECOGNIZE THE INTERNALIZED HOMOPHOBIA** and transphobia within yourself.
2. **PRACTICE DAILY AFFIRMATIONS** of love and acceptance. This may feel difficult or uncomfortable to do but you can start doing this by recognizing the damaging messages you tell yourself and starting to replace them with affirming messages.
3. **IF YOU WANT TO REMAIN CONNECTED** to a religion, find an LGBTQ-affirming church or fellowship. For Christian churches, you can visit [gaychurch.org](http://gaychurch.org) or [believeoutloud.com](http://believeoutloud.com) for other denominations in Wisconsin.
4. **SEEK THERAPY FROM AN LGBTQ-AFFIRMING** therapist. Sometimes we need the extra help of a therapist or counselor to overcome a lifetime of negative messages. Be sure to research your therapist and find one that advertises openly about LGBTQ acceptance.
5. **ELIMINATE SOURCES OF EXTERNAL HOMOPHOBIA** where you can. For some that means distancing from family members. You don't have to stay stuck with your family of origin if they don't accept you. If you start to remove yourself from family, replace them with loving and affirming family of choice.
6. **SET HEALTHY BOUNDARIES** with those who remain in your life. This can come through a conversation you have with them or with a shift in how you internally approach them. If these people remain in your lives, consider hiding their newsfeeds from your social media interactions. Limit conversations to short ones.
7. **CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING** with an LGBTQ organization close to you. If there isn't one, consider taking the time each summer to volunteer at the closest Pridefest. This will help you find others with similar experiences.
8. **REACH OUT FOR HELP.** If you are experiencing violence or are at risk of experiencing violence within your home or community, call or text Diverse & Resilient's Room to Be Safe program line at 414-856-LGBT. If you are experiencing thoughts of suicide or self-harm, call the Trevor hotline at 866-488-7386 or text them at 202-304-1200 or the Trans Lifeline if you are in crisis at 877-565-8860.

We can heal ourselves from a lifetime of damaging messages. It takes dedication and focus to start to repair the pain, but it is worth it. This is your reminder that... you are beautiful, loved, and worthy. Just as you are. ■

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## Citizen In Limbo

Attorneys **Michele Perreault** and **Raluca Vais-Ottosen** explain two lawsuits making their way through U.S. courts regarding citizenship and immigration rights for children of same-sex parents.

**DID YOU EVER IMAGINE** that a child can be a U.S. citizen at birth, but his twin brother cannot? That's what the U.S. Department of State told Andrew Mason Dvash-Banks and his husband, Elad Dvash-Banks when they tried to register their twin sons' U.S. citizenship at the U.S. Consulate in Toronto, Canada.

Andrew is an American citizen, born and raised in the U.S., and Elad is Israeli. The couple moved to Canada where they could legally marry. By the time of their marriage in 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court had not yet declared the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) unconstitutional.

In 2015, Andrew and Elad used their own sperm and eggs from one anonymous donor. The pregnancy was carried to term by a surro-

gate and the twins, Ethan and Aiden, were born minutes apart in 2016, in Canada. Andrew and Elad are the only parents listed on the children's birth certificates. They are the children's legal parents for all legal reasons...except one.

When it came to citizenship laws, they hit a roadblock. Andrew and Elad applied for a Consular Report of Birth Abroad for both children, a document that confirms children born abroad acquired U.S. citizenship through one of the parents. Before making its decision, the consular officer subjected Andrew and Elad to countless questions about their private life, how the children were conceived, which spouse provided the sperm for which child, etc. The officer then required DNA testing.

Upon confirming Aiden to be Andrew's biological son, the U.S. Consulate granted U.S. citizenship to him, but denied it to Ethan, who is Elad's biological son. The Consulate stated its decision was based on the Immigration and Nationality Act which, the Consulate claimed, requires a blood relationship between the child and the U.S. parent in order for the child to acquire citizenship at birth. This decision literally made one of the infant twins—Ethan—as the only member of the family not eligible to permanently reside in the United States.

Another couple, Alisson Blixt, a U.S. citizen, and her wife, Stefania Zaccari, an Italian citizen, had the same problem for their two sons. Alison gave birth to Massi and Stefania gave birth to Lucas. The couple was married at the time the boys were born, and they are the only parents listed on the birth certificates. Massi was granted citizenship at birth, but Lucas was not. Just like the Dvash-Banks family, Lucas is literally the only family member who may not permanently reside in the United States.

Both couples have brought lawsuits against the federal government seeking to obtain automatic citizenship for Ethan and Lucas, respectively.



Andrew Mason Dvash-Banks and his husband, Elad Dvash-Banks, with their twins Aiden and Ethan.

This decision literally made one of the infant twins—Ethan—as the only member of the family not eligible to permanently reside in the United States.

The Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) is the core immigration law in the U.S. It was enacted in 1952 and it has seen various amendments throughout the years. Unfortunately, most amendments have failed to keep up with the advancement in technology. Therefore, the current version of the INA has many grey areas because it is currently applied to fact patterns that were not possible more than 60 years ago. However, Andrew and Elad, as well as Alisson and Stefania, argue that their cases are not grey areas at all.

Immigration law is implemented by different federal agencies through various instruments. In the end, each instrument must stay true to the original law. In the cases of Ethan and Lucas, respectively, their parents argue that the instruments used to implement the law deviated from what the law had intended.

Section 301(g) of the INA states that a person born outside of the U.S. of a parent who is a U.S. citizen and one who is not, automatically derives citizenship at birth if the U.S. citizen parent was physically present in the U.S. for at least five years prior to the child's birth, at least two of which being after the parent's fourteenth birthday. It defines the term "parent" as a relationship that exists when a child is born in wedlock, among other situations.

Both families seemed to fit the bill. In each case, one of the parents is a U.S. citizen who had lived in the U.S. most of their life. After the U.S. Supreme Court declared DOMA

unconstitutional in 2013, the U.S. federal government began recognizing same-sex marriage for immigration purposes if the marriage was legal at the time and place where it occurred. By the time Ethan and Lucas were born, their respective parents' marriages were recognized by the federal government. Therefore, they were born in wedlock.

However, the U.S. Consulate treated Ethan and Lucas as born out of wedlock and applied a different section of the INA that does require establishing a biological relationship with the child. Section 301 does not require the same for children born in wedlock.

The consular official informed the Dvash-Banks' family that she had the discretion to order DNA testing, and she chose to apply it in their case. Notably, when heterosexual couples provide marriage and birth certificates for purposes of establishing citizenship, they are not routinely grilled about their private lives nor are they routinely subjected to DNA testing to establish a biological connection.

The FAM is not subject to usual enacting procedures such as Congressional debate, Senate, or House of Representatives votes, or even public comment. It is not a law. It is merely a "user manual" designed by the U.S. Department of State. Yet it rules the U.S. Consulates' policy regarding surrogacy abroad. Now it is up to the Courts to determine whether U.S. Immigration policy is going to catch up to technology and provide equal rights for all children born to same-sex couples with international roots. In the meantime, Ethan was allowed into the United States with his family, but only under a temporary tourist status, which has since expired.

The two cases are *Dvash-Banks v. Tillerson* in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California (Case No. 18-CV-523), and *Blixt v. Tillerson* in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia (Case No. 18-CV-124). ■

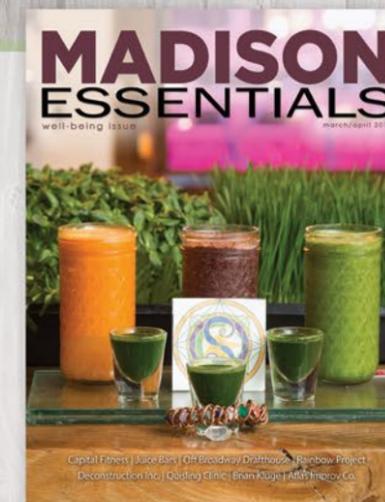


**MICHELE PERREAULT** is a shareholder and Chair of the Family Law department of DeWitt Ross & Stevens, SC. Her statewide practice includes representing families and individuals in all family matters ranging from adoption, to prenuptial agreements, divorce, and estate planning. She is also a former Board member of Fair Wisconsin.



**RALUCA (LUCA) VAIS-OTTOSEN** is an attorney at DeWitt Ross & Stevens S.C. Her nationwide practice includes U.S. citizenship, permanent residence, and other family and employment-based immigration matters, representing individuals and employers before the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), U.S. Department of State through its Consulates abroad, and the U.S. Department of Justice.

# YOUR Local COMMUNITY PUBLICATIONS



### Madison Essentials (bimonthly)

Madison Essentials serves as your guide to local restaurants, shops, and sights in the Greater Madison area with in-depth business tours and the stories of the people behind them. Whether this is your home or your home-away-from-home, we'll help you discover the essentials of Madison.

[madisonessentials.com](http://madisonessentials.com)



### Home Elements & Concepts (quarterly)

Home Elements & Concepts helps you think about great ideas that can transform your home before you knock out a wall or dig up your backyard. You'll receive professional perspectives in each article, connecting you with the designers, contractors, and tradespeople who have been turning houses into homes for years.

[homeelementsandconcepts.com](http://homeelementsandconcepts.com)



### Journey of Aging (biannual)

Whether you're a senior in life school or know someone who is, this magazine and resource guide provides more than just information on doctors and living facilities. From helping you explore your inner artist to preparing you for changes in lifestyle, our contributors provide their perspective and expertise in engaging articles.

[journeyofaging.com](http://journeyofaging.com)



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AGING SOCIALIZING LGBTQ COMMUNITY GROUPS

## A Group of Your Peers

Michal Osier surveys some of the area social groups aimed specifically at LGBTQ elders and providing needed alternatives to isolation.

**IT HAS BEEN SAID** that there is no loneliness like the loneliness of age. Humans are deeply social animals, yet we tend to form our social groups only at certain times and venues over a lifespan. We may not think of school, college, and our workplaces as the structures of our social worlds, yet they are the places where we spend time with people whom we otherwise might not meet, and whom we see every day.

Shared proximity often leads to friendships with those whose company we enjoy. But for seniors, especially those who are coping with limitations on health, mobility, and energy, such social opportunities are no longer built into life's daily fabric. Long-time friends may move away, or pass away. Extended family

*"For me, this group was my salvation from loneliness. After moving here in late 2013, I desperately wanted to connect with community."*

is likely to be scattered all over. There may seem to be less and less to say to younger adults, whose lives are taking place in an era different in so many ways from their own, and whose priorities and interests are unfamiliar and perhaps alienating.

For LGBTQ seniors, these barriers may be only the beginning. Many of us have few, or no, biological family members in our lives. Close friends are aging at the same rate we are, with the same struggles. LGBTQ people are more likely to live in poverty than heterosexual peers, as a result of lifelong discrimination in education and jobs, resulting poorer health, and—until extremely recently—lack of access to the financial benefits and safety nets that come with marriage.

On top of this, most, if not all, LGBTQ seniors have spent part (or all) of their lives in the closet. Persecution of LGBTQ people—while by no means a thing of the past—is no longer a universal social reality; but for many of us who are 50 and older, it was universal

back when, and it remains one of the most formative aspects of our identities.

Yet despite all these obstacles, LGBTQ people have always created and maintained our communities. Now, as a large cohort of us is aging, community becomes important in new ways, and we are building alternatives to the isolation and loneliness that age can bring.

OutReach has long partnered with our allies at the Madison Senior Center to house and maintain groups and activities specifically for LGBTQ seniors. In addition, there are groups that have nothing to do with either organization, and are organized by LGBTQ individuals throughout the community. Group activities range from general discussions, to focused, planned topics, to plain old socializing and getting to know new people and catching up on everyone's news.

Most of these groups have been in existence for many years. All of the groups listed below welcome new people. With isolation a significant problem among LGBTQ elders, these groups offer a way to make connections with peers, learn from others, offer ideas, thoughts, and stories, and build new friendships.

The two groups that are offspring of the LGBT Senior Alliance, a decades-long partnership between OutReach and the Madison Senior Center, are the Gay, Gray and Beyond Discussion Group, and the Exploring Spirituality group. Both welcome all LGBTQ-identified elders. Two more are longtime social groups for lesbian and gay retirees that are not connected with OutReach: ROLLers (Retired Older Lesbians Lunch) and the Retired Gay Men's Lunch Group.

During December, I asked members of each of the groups if they'd share their thoughts about the value of the group in their lives. Here are some of the responses I received:

From ROLLers' members: "For me, this group was my salvation from loneliness. After moving here in late 2013, I desperately wanted to connect with community." "It's great to have a regular time to see old friends and make new ones. The hour goes fast, with laughs, conversations, and commentary. Elie's Restaurant is so welcoming to us!" "I find out about what's happening in our community and where the fun times are!"

The Retired Gay Men's Lunch Group said: "I get social interaction, friendship, and information." "I enjoy making new friends." "I enjoy meeting with other retired gay men."

Gay, Gray, and Beyond attendees responded, "When you're retired, you have more down-time. I enjoy spending time with people, and I enjoy the opportunity for self-expression in a nonjudgmental group." "It's good to learn from others' ideas."

The value of feeling free to explore different ideas was strongly upheld: "Everyone has the right to their opinion." "We don't have to convince each other—we get to express our thoughts, concerns, and ideas." "I enjoy being with peers, in a shared age group. We've all been through a lot of things; we have some shared experiences. Also, I enjoy the differences in our backgrounds." "It's nice to meet with other mature, older people." "The group helps our mental health. We can talk and share (or not share). It fulfills a need in the community."

Exploring Spirituality group members offered, "The group is a wonderful gathering of nonjudgmental LGBTQ people seeking to learn more about different religions and to share ideas and feelings about each of our spiritual backgrounds, journeys, and current sense of life's meanings and mysteries." "The group presents not only an opportunity to meet others with similar interests, but an opportunity to know more about faith traditions other than one's own."

As one member put it, "As members of the GLBT community, we are a community often on the fringes. Hearing people tell the stories of their life's journey has helped deepen my own spirituality as a gay male. We have become kindred spirits on that journey."

### THINKING OF ATTENDING A GROUP? HERE ARE THE DETAILS:

- **ROLLERS** meets the third Tuesday of each month at Noon at Elie's Family Restaurant (4102 Monona Drive) in Madison.
- **THE RETIRED GAY MEN'S LUNCH GROUP** meets on the third Wednesday of each month, also at Noon and at Elie's Family Restaurant.
- **THE GAY, GREY & BEYOND DISCUSSION GROUP** meets bimonthly on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Madison Senior Center, 330 W. Mifflin St., Madison, in the Crafts Room on the 2nd floor.
- **EXPLORING SPIRITUALITY** meets bimonthly on the first and third Thursdays of each month, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at OutReach, 2701 International Lane, Suite 101, Madison. Although OutReach is no longer downtown, the Number 20 bus stops right in front of the driveway to the new building. ■



MICHAL OSIER, MA, LPC, is the LGBT Senior Advocate for OutReach. She's a newly retired psychotherapist and a lifelong writer who lives with her beloved wife, Nancy Hutson, and their excellent dog, Rosie.

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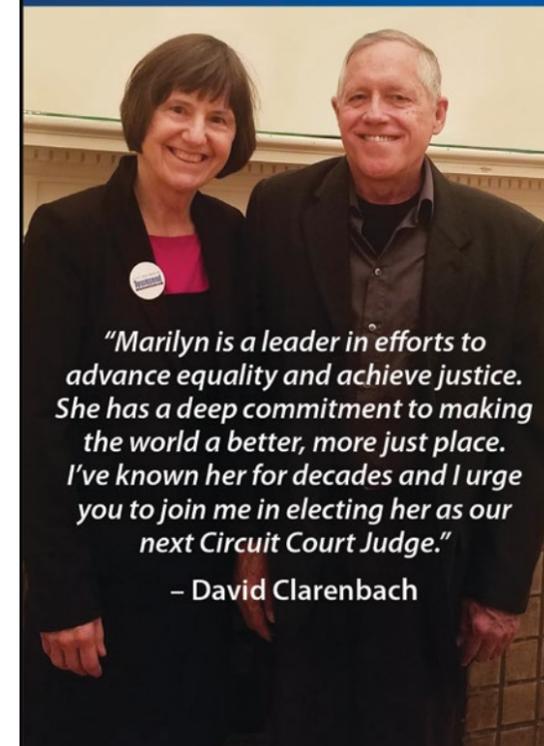


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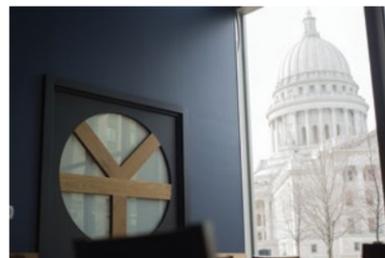
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FOOD NIGHTLIFE CONSENT INCLUSION

## A Place for Everyone

**Tavernakaya** has become a restaurant and a nightclub dedicated to radical hospitality and inclusivity, using tasty food, diverse entertainment options, and an “ask first” policy of consent to get there.

**SOMETHING UNIQUE IS HAPPENING** at Tavernakaya that goes beyond its after-hours night life. Affectionately called “TK” by staff, its culture is making radical hospitality a priority.

It started with Mike Ding and Kai Kuo’s vision of fusing an open, urbane New York style with a Japanese tavern that would fit as a neighborhood joint in downtown Madison. But it was after Ding hired event promoter and general manager Lili Luxe that the late-night scene at Tavernakaya began to grow as a welcoming space on the Capitol Square.

“I love the space, I love the positivity,” said Luxe. “I’ve wanted to do something on the square for a long time, and this was the right fit.”

Luxe worked as a promoter for events in Madison for years at venues like The Cardinal and the Inferno. No matter what the theme—from DJ events to burlesque shows and fetish nights—Luxe put consent culture first. It’s a non-negotiable approach that is baked into all of her work.

She doesn’t believe that problems at a late-night event with alcohol are inevitable. Luxe sets expectations of consent and dialogue up front. In fact, signs at the door in Tavernakaya say “Ask First,” like the nation-



Mike Ding

al campaign, and even feature the Japanese symbol for “consent.”

“I want every single person who walks in the door to have a good time and follow the Golden Rule Principle,” says Luxe. “It’s about setting expectations, having people rise to them, and being proactive about it versus dealing with a situation when it goes south. Before buying someone a drink or dancing with them or touching them...just ask.”

She has seen how making consent and proactive expectations of “ask first” are key to what makes their late nights safe places that are radically welcoming to the whole community.

Tavernakaya owners and staff buy into this approach to building a safe and welcoming night life, even though it might take more time and communication to build what Luxe calls an investment in caring. TK Culture is a part of hiring and training. Employees and managers are open to a conversation about pronouns and how to identify and eliminate nonconsensual conflict, no matter the gender or size of the bar tab of the people involved.

“When we started, we definitely wanted to have some kind of night-life,” said Ding. “We asked ‘how can we be a bar and restaurant for the neighborhood...but for EVERYBODY? We weren’t sure we were doing it properly. When Lili first came on, she was an in-house promoter for us and worked to really bring the nightlife to the level we wanted. She understood what the restaurant was about and the values we believed in.”

“What makes me happy as a minority business owner is that I can be here on any given night and there are all types of people here and we roll out the red carpet for everybody. Our customers interact with each other. It opens up minds and gets people of different backgrounds to interact with each other and creates a better environment for each other.



Whoever you are, you walk in the door, and you feel welcome,” added Ding.

Intellectual Ratchet, for instance, has found something of a home in TK. The networking and social group focused on people of color holds regular dance nights in the space. It also helps that TK doesn’t impose any kind of dress code, which Luxe noted has inherently racist implications.

Tavernakaya opened in December 2015, and Ding persisted through hiccups of HVAC improvements, dealing with a flood that delayed its opening, being tenacious in getting an entertainment license from the Alcohol License Review Committee, and eventually buying out Food Fight’s share in August 2017 to

become a truly independent local restaurant.

Many of the same staff still work there as when Tavernakaya opened two years ago—and the restaurant gets consistently positive food reviews. They recently welcomed a new Executive Chef, Bee Khang, who is a Madison native and spent 10 years in the business at Murimoto. Restaurant week this past January was a test run for Bee’s new menu items, but fan favorites won’t change. The emphasis will remain on cross-Asian cuisine, cocktails, and even Japanese craft brews.

“There is definitely something special going on here,” Luxe added. ■

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FOOD YOUTH SAFETY LGBTQ RIGHTS ADVOCACY

## Lighting the Spark

High school student **Zoë Wyse** discovered her passion for social advocacy and fighting for LGBTQ+ rights during a pivotal writing workshop at the U.W. Her **#IFeelSaferWhen** campaign is just the start.



**I'VE BEEN ONE OF THE LUCKY ONES.** I haven't been called hateful slurs, like "dyke" or "fag." I haven't been physically or emotionally bullied. I haven't felt excluded or limited within my school or home environment. I don't have to live a life of pretending or in misery.

I was able to come out at a young age and without experiencing any backlash. My friends and family were very accepting and loving, and my peers and teachers continued to treat me with kindness and respect. Although I have yet to face much adversity as a LGBTQ+ person, there are many people who haven't been as lucky. I can't just stand by and let them suffer. I have to find ways to help and protect them.

My name is Zoë and I am a high school junior at Clark Street Community School (CSCS). I am also one part of the L in LGBTQ+, and the founder of the #IFeelSaferWhen campaign, a public advocacy campaign devoted to creating safer spaces for everyone.

### RISE UP & WRITE

I founded the campaign last summer during my time at a U.W.-Madison teen advocacy writing camp called Rise Up & Write. I went into the camp prepared to learn and write about

LGBTQ+ issues, and came out of it with a passion for advocacy and a way to use that passion to begin making positive change.

During my time at Rise Up & Write, I realized that safety is necessary to progress, as an individual and as a society. We cannot grow, learn, inspire and innovate if we don't feel safe. Safety is crucial to our person, our community, and our entire world. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs recognizes that people must achieve a feeling of safety and belonging before they can even begin to work on personal development and growth.

These concepts resonated with me because I waited to come out until I felt comfortable and safe enough to do so, and now that I'm out, I feel much happier. I am able to better show my support and passion for the LGBTQ+ community. I am able to discuss and fight for LGBTQ+ issues more openly, including connecting with people that share my interests. Now that I know how freeing it feels to just be your true self, I want to do whatever I can to help give others that opportunity.

### A SIMPLE BUTTON CAMPAIGN

Sparked with a passion for advocacy and safety, I created #IFeelSaferWhen. I set out to ask what little things make people feel safer, and then to do those things. By making one person feel safer, you can create a less harmful environment for everyone. It's an infinitely scalable approach. #IFeelSaferWhen started with a simple button campaign. I designed a button with a rainbow as the background, and then wrote "#IFeelSaferWhen" in the middle. I came up with the hashtag in the hopes of offering a simple tactic that people could use

to share what makes them feel safer. My initial idea for the campaign was that people would take a button for themselves, but also give one to someone else, and then post a picture of the button and an #IFeelSaferWhen message on social media. These small actions would help spark a conversation about safety, while offering up suggestions for people to implement.

While most of my Rise Up & Write peers moved on from their campaigns, I stuck with mine. I wrote an op-ed in *The Capital Times*, addressing the issue and importance of safety, and explained how my campaign could help initiate needed change. I wrote to influential LGBTQ+ YouTubers, asking if they could give it a shoutout on their channels or social media. In the simple, seemingly insignificant button campaign assignment, I had found a seed to grow with the potential for something amazing.

### TRAINING KITS FOR COMMUNITIES

After the writing workshop I have continued to work on #IFeelSaferWhen. Soon after I founded my campaign, several people requested buttons and posted #IFeelSaferWhen messages on social media. Although #IFeelSaferWhen still has yet to gain major traction, I am determined to continue trying to grow and develop it. I thought back to the initial stages of my campaign and realized that I could develop a training kit that communities could use to make their environment safer for everyone. I could create activities, curriculum, and materials that could be packaged and distributed in classrooms and workplaces. I envisioned these being used as tools for community building, which would lead to safer environments for all. I'm now actively seeking partnerships and funding to turn this idea into a reality.

My story as an activist began at Rise Up & Write, and has continued with my #IFeelSaferWhen campaign. I've discovered what social justice issues matter to me. I realized that I am an activist and have the power to make a difference. Once again, I'm one of the lucky ones. I've had the opportunity to rise up and fight for social change. And I know this luck, this privilege, is my obligation to be tenacious and continue with such meaningful work. ■

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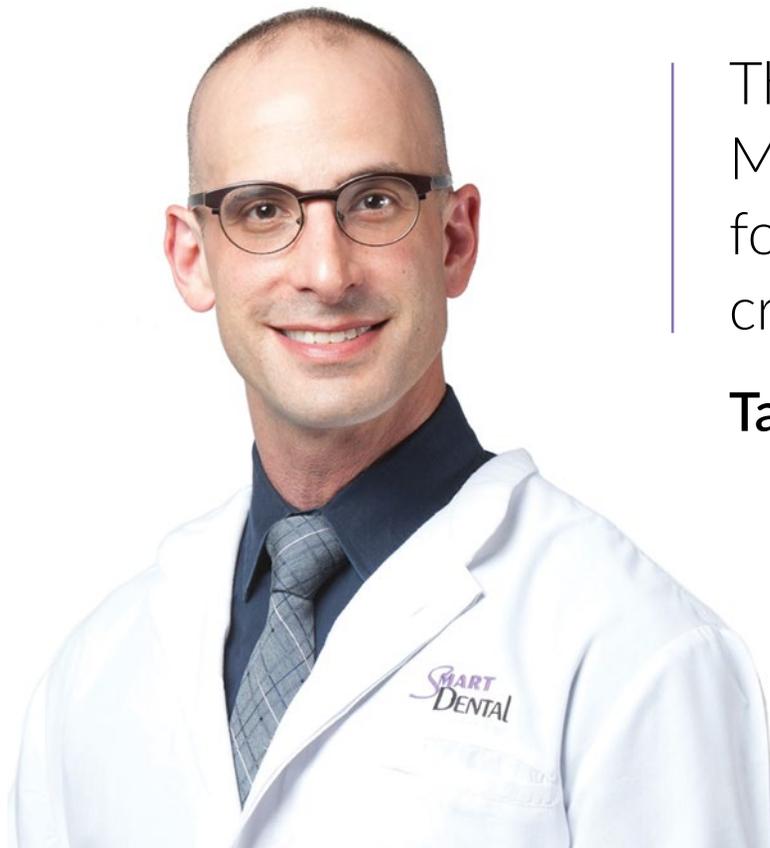


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