



READER FAVORITE

Love List: Celebrating Wisconsin's LGBTQ Relationships





















OutReach LGBTQ+ Community Center

is teaming up with

Safe Communities

Public Health of Madison and Dane County

and the

Dane County Department of Human Services



to prevent OPIOID overdose deaths in the LGBTQ community.















ROLL OUT YOUR PERSONAL STYLE.



Whether you choose the iconic MINI Hardtop, the sporty MINI Convertible, the sophisticated MINI Clubman or the adventurous MINI Countryman Sports Activity Vehicle, you'll discover exhilarating performance, premium features and unique accessories that express your personal style. #MINIPRIDE

MINI of Madison

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

© 2021 MINI USA, a division of BMW of North America, LLC. The MINI name, model names and logo are registered trademarks.



Karl Barton **Mini Motoring** Advisor 608-729-6444

HYBRID COURSES WITH ON CAMPUS CLASSES **EVERY OTHER SATURDAY**

UW-MADISON PART-TIME MSW PROGRAM

- Small class sizes lead to strong cohort bonds
- Build connections with your instructors & classmates that last beyond graduation
- Field placements in your home community
- Many admission scholarships available
- Apply by April 1 (prior BSW) or May 1 (no BSW)
- For more information, visit:

socwork.wisc.edu/parttimeinfo or call 608.263.3576











TABLE OF CONTENTS LOVE & MARRIAGE JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023

14 OUR ATHLETES

Whryne Rasheed, Black Lives of

36 THE LOVE LIST

Wisconsin's LGBTQ relationships.

Wisconsin's LGBTQ newlyweds.

24 CELEBRATING YOUR SPECIAL DAY.

48 OUR HISTORY

East Madisor

Holly Brown & Ginger Spice.

DEPARTMENTS

EDITOR'S NOTE &

CONTRIBUTORS

DONE YOUR WAY

7 OBITUARY

FEATURES

CONNECT

9 2022 YEAR IN REVIEW

10 NEWS BRIEFS

Team Inferno's Cooper Kemnitz.

16 OUR FAITH

Unitarian Universalism.

20 OUR EDUCATORS

www.innerfireyoga.com

Madison East High School Teacher April van Buren.

couples.

Mel Freitag on the need and

Dave Heide rebrands and

58 OUR YEAR

A look back at what Our Lives looked like in 2022.

IMPROVE

50 OUR CULTURE

Jilip Nagler on LGBTQ mistreatment & marginalization.

52 OUR RIGHTS

What the Respect for Marriage Act really does for LGBTQ

54 OUR ALLIES

56 OUR TASTE

relaunches Ollie's.

ADVERTISER DIRECTORY





Our Lives is a 100% ad-supported publication. partners. To help us thank them for their support of LGBTQ people and our stories, check out their businesses whenever you need them—and specifically thank them for advertising with us. A little bit of love goes a long way!

- p. 34 Forward Theater
- p. 6 Madison Opera
- p. 19 Madison Symphony Orchestra
- p. 11 Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra

ART / ARTISTS / ART SUPPLIES

- p. 33 Monroe Street Framing
- p. 7 Bruce Seeds

ATTORNEYS

p. 31 Balisle Family Law

AUTOMOBILES

p. 3 MINI of Madison

BANKING / FINANCIAL ADVISING

- p. 53 Shannon M. Anderson Ameriprise Financial
- p. 15 Mike Fumelle, Associated Bank
- p. 35 Summit Credit Union
- p. 59 UW Credit Union

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

- p. 52 New Harvest Foundation p. 54 OPEN
- p. 2 OutReach
- p. 13 StageQ

COUNSELING / SUPPORT

p. 18 Alexander Einsman, MS MFT Atlas Counseling

FASHION

- p. 56 Madison Optical Center
- p. 49 Ulla Eyewear

FOOD & BEVERAGE

- p. 17 Capitol Centre Market
- p. 17 Delta Beer Lab p. 56 D'Vino
- p. 56 The Sow's Ear
- p. 57 Willy Street Co-op

HEALTH/WELLNESS

- p. 55 Dental Health Associates
- p. 53 Forward Fertility, LLC
- p. 4 Inner Fire Yoga
- p. 15 New Health Chiropractic
- p. 23 Smart Dental
- p. 43 Vivent Health
- p. 44 Wildwood Family Clinic, SC
- p. 29 Wisconsin Fertility Institute

HIGHER EDUCATION

- p. 43 Madison College
- p. 3 UW-Madison

School of Social Work

INSURANCE

- p. 5 Colleen Frentzel Agency American Family Insurance
- p. 5 David Ryan-Sukup American Family Insurance
- p. 39 Jim Hartman, State Farm

INTERIOR DESIGN / HOME

- p. 47 Bethke Heating & Air Conditioning Inc.
- p. 13 Chad's Design Build
- p. 22 Kool View
- p. 31 MaraLee Olson Design Studio
- p. 41 Quigley Decks & Cable Rails
- p. 18 Time 2 Remodel

- p. 12 Goodman's Jewelers
- p. 25 Jewelers Workshop

OUTDOOR RECREATION

p. 7 Rutabaga

PAPER SUPPLIES & CARDS

p. 22 Anthology

PETS

- p. 41 Angel's Wish
- p. 21 Bad Dog Frida
- p. 22 Dane County Humane Society
- p. 21 EarthWise Pet Supply

PHOTOGRAPHY

- p. 12 Melanie Renee Photogrpahy
- p. 19 Dutcher Photography

REALTY

- p. 21 Vivienne Anderson
 - p. 45 Lauer Realty Group

SENIOR LIVING

p. 60 Capitol Lakes

SPIRITUAL p. 27 Holy Wisdom Monastery

UTILITIES

p. 8 Madison Gas & Electric WEDDINGS

p. 27 Brandi's Bridal

AS YOUR DREAMS EVOLVE, WE'RE HERE TO SUPPORT YOU.

Whether you're buying your first car or your retirement home. American Family Insurance is with you every step of the way, ensuring that your dreams are always protected.



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



David Ryan-Sukup, Agent 514 Grand Canyon Dr Madison, WI 53719 dryansu1@amfam.com (608) 833-1717



American Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I. & its Operating Companies, American Family Insurance Company, 6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783 008747 - Rev. 12/15 @2015 - 15616751



West Madison

INNER FIRE YEGA

cities & towns reality of queer(ing) providers. ©2023 All Rights Reserved.

Jan. / Feb. 2023, Volume 16, Issue 4 Life in the Middle Publishing, LLC Patrick Farabaugh, Publisher. PO Box 1202, Madison, WI 53701

Subscribers in

450+ Wisconsin

our lives

Madison's LGBT&XYZ Magazine

Patrick Farabaugh

Contributing Writers

Stacy Harbaugh

Cooper Kemnitz

Melanie Jones

Michele Perreault Doug Rowe

Vica-Etta Steel

Michail Takach

Ian DeGraff

iilip nagler

Doug Rowe

Webmasters

design.garden

Melanie Jones

Contributing Artists

Samantha Rae Waldron

National Advertising Sales

Rivendell Media Inc.

Social Media Curators

Mel Freitag

jilip nagler

Publisher / Editor-in-Chief Virginia Harrison **Copy Editor** Doug Rowe **Editorial Curator Online Jobs & Events Curator**

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

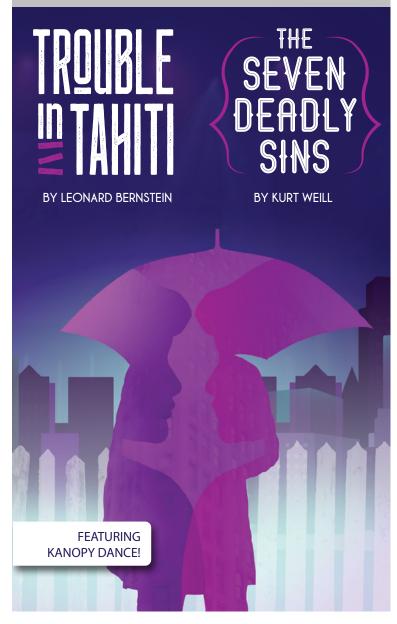
JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023

5



Don't miss this jazz-tinged double-bill of longing and connection by two extraordinary theatrical composers.



FEBRUARY 3 & 5, 2023 CAPITOL THEATER

Sung in English with projected text

608.258.4141 | madisonopera.org/**TahitiSins**



I RECENTLY SAW A MEME that pointed out how the movie To Wong Foo came out 28 years ago. The meme said that if it came out today, we'd be worrying about bomb threats in the theater. That was a sober truth for me that encapsulated where we are at, and



how perennial our fight for the right to live and love freely will likely always be. As if we needed other examples, the overturning of Roe has shown us how battles won in the past doesn't mean the fight is over. The recent passage of the Respect for Marriage Act is another poignant example of how perpetually at risk even the rights we've established are. But somehow, we are making progress. And we need to not let go of that awareness.

I look forward to this issue every year as a reminder that no matter the chaos around us, our community is resilient and strong and loving. It recharges my hope to see faces return every year in a bit of a virtual family reunion. Our Love List has been around for over a decade now, and through it you've

offered a connection to me and other readers; inviting us into your lives, and letting us grow with you and your family. It's really an affirming gift. Thank you for the support you offer through your regular participation!

Here's to 2023, and another year of growing our lives, together. ■



CONTRIBUTORS **STATE**



MELANIE JONES (she/her) is a writer and photographer living on the Northside of Madison with her spouse and 6 fur children and working out of her Atwood Avenue studio, where she runs Melanie Renee Photography and Dulcy Dog Photography. She is an avid reader of fiction and memoirs, a passionate gardener, and is a big advocate for rescue dogs.

OBITUARY



JEREMY HANSON was born in Neenah, lived in the Appleton area until college at UW-Fox Campus, then transitioned to the Milwaukee campus in

Jeremy was a key figure in bringing back the huge fundraiser Big Night Out back to the LGBT Center.

He helped book all the entertainment for the fundraiser and for Milwaukee's PrideFest at the Harley Davidson stage.

Jeremy loved to laugh and make others laugh in and out of drag. As Dixie Kuppe, he understood the art and magic of drag. He mentored, assisted, and collaborated with drag artists from Trixie Mattel to James Mansfield, Divine Trash, Ester Flonaze, Dear Ruthie, B.J. Daniels, Baby Jane Hudson, and many more.

In 2019 during performances as his character, Jeremy started to have extreme back pain, later diagnosed as lymphoma. He was treated with surgery and chemotherapy. He went into remission in 2020, but cancer returned and he passed away on December 8, 2022.

Jeremy's husband Shannon Wallace is left with many medical bills and financial hardships. If you can donate, go to **gofund.me/c7b1d242**. ■



Nature looks dead in winter because her life is gathered into her heart.

She withers the plant down to the root that she may grow it up again fairer and stronger.



2620 Rimrock Road Madison, WI 53713 www.rutabagashop.com

COME SEE OUR NEW SHOP!









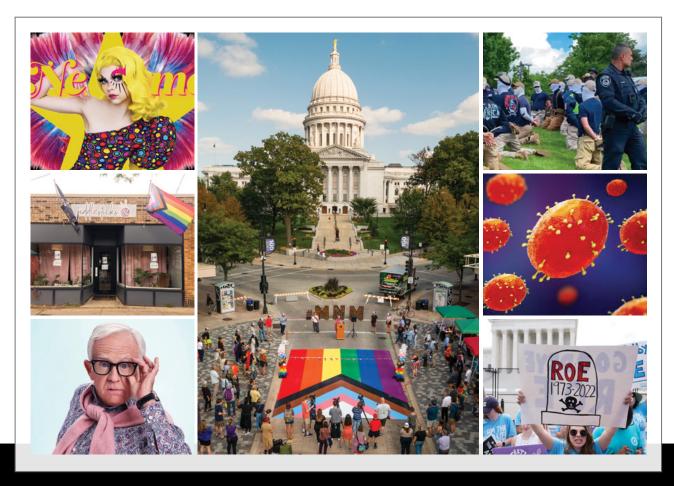


OURLIVESWISCONSIN.COM

CONNECT

OUR NEWS

Leading News & Local Stories



One Step Forward...

We take a look back at some of the **local**, **national**, and **international events**

and **people** that made headlines throughout 2022.

2022 REMINDED US of just how far we have to go. We saw the right to bodily autonomy be stripped away by a radically conservative U.S. Supreme Court, and at the same time had marriage equality threatened by Justice Thomas, who's own interracial marriage is protected by the Loving vs. Virginia ruling. We saw erosion in racial equity and books being banned for featuring queer characters,

we saw laws banning trans girls from sports, and laws banning life-saving gender affirmation care for kids in Texas. Meanwhile, teachers in Florida have been subjected to the "Don't Say Gay" law, and school districts within Wisconsin fought over whether kids have the right to use different pronouns at school than the ones they use with their families. Five people lost their lives in a mass shooting at Club Q nightclub in Colorado Springs, and drag



performers across the country were accosted and assaulted while trying to perform.

But it wasn't all bad.

An enormous public health effort kept Monkeypox from becoming its own pandemic. Madison installed a rainbow crosswalk in clear view of the state legislature, and later, Tammy Baldwin would spearhead a bill to save marriage equality on the

federal level, resulting in a new law, the Respect for Marriage Act.

As we move into 2023, we have to acknowledge the losses, and recognize that our community will not back down from the fights at hand. We will work to protect the kids in our community, and the trans people who face legal obstacles to the very basic gender-affirming care. Last year taught us what we have to lose; 2023 is the year to fight back. ■

March **February** January

11 18 **I** André Leon Talley,

Amy Schneider, who is transgender, becomes the first woman to surpass \$1 million in Jeopardy.





writer and former

Arnie Kantrowitz, pioneer of gay rights and literature professor, dies at 81.



24 I U.S.

Veterans Affairs add: gender identity to medical

Human Rights Campaign releases its 2022 Corporate Equality Index report which includes 36 Wisconsin LGBT Chamber members and Wisconsin-based companies including top-scoring American Family Insurance and UW Credit Union.

Madison's Fiddlesticks knit shop's progress flag is torn down.



Emira D'Spain becomes the first Black transgender model to work with



Betty Davis, funk singer and fashion icon, dies at 77.



Senior-care organization Agrace earns SAGECare Platinum Certification after completing competency

17 **I**

Apayauq Reitan becomes the first transgender woman to compete in the Iditarod long-distance mushing





WISCONSIN

CHAMBER

CONNECT → OUR NEWS

OURLIVESWISCONSIN.COM



NEWS BRIEFS

WRITTEN BY MELANIE JONES & JILIP NAGLER

LOCAL ACTIVIST REVEALED TO HAVE FABRICATED THEIR RACIAL AND ETHNIC IDENTITIES

IN LATE DECEMBER Kay LeClaire, also known as nibiiwakamigkwe, a prominent arts and activist figure in Madison was revealed to



have fabricated their Métis, Oneida, Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Cuban and Jewish heritage, and two-spirit identity. This revelation was made through research done by an anonymous self-described "hobbyist genealogist" and made public through the forum newagefraud. org. The detailed forum showed LeClaire's maternal and paternal ancestry to

be German, Swedish, and French Canadian, with no ancestral ties to the Native American Indian tribes they claimed. Additionally, it was uncovered that they were fraudulently passing artwork made by other artists as their own, including selling and displaying some Indigenous art that was bought off of Etsy.

LeClaire had been one of the co-founders of giige—an Indigenous and queer-led tattooing and arts collective - and has since been legally removed. LeClaire has also been removed from their arts residency with the UW-Madison School of Human Ecology. This story is still developing as LeClaire faces community consequences, as well as potential legal consequences due to their receiving grants and opportunities under a fraudulent

Native identity, as well as misrepresenting the art they were selling.

BIPARTISAN COALITION IN THE SENATE & HOUSE ADVANCE THE RESPECT FOR MARRIAGE ACT. **BIDEN SIGNS INTO LAW**

ON NOVEMBER 29, the Senate passed legislation known as the Respect for Marriage Act in a bipartisan vote of 61–36, nine days after a mass shooting at an LGBTQ club in Colorado and almost exactly five months since the Dobbs decision called into question



other decisions from the court, including Obergefell. All of the Democrats in the Senate were joined by Republican senators Roy Blunt of Missouri; Richard M. Burr and Thom Tillis, both of North Carolina;

Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia; Ms. Collins; Joni Ernst of Iowa; Ms. Lummis; Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, both of Alaska; Rob Portman of Ohio; Mitt Romney of Utah; and Todd Young of Indiana, according to the New York Times. These same Republican senators helped the act bypass the filibuster on November 16.

The bill then easily passed the House, where 39 Republicans joined all of the Democrats, and was signed by President Biden on December 13, 2022. According to the New York Times, "In an elaborate signing ceremony on the South Lawn, complete with musical performances from Cyndi Lauper and Sam Smith, Mr. Biden told thousands of



supporters and lawmakers that the new law represents a rare moment of bipartisanship when Democrats and Republicans came together. 'My fellow Americans, the road to this moment has been long, but those who believe in equality and justice, you never gave up,' Mr. Biden told the crowd, which White House officials later said had 5,300 people, before signing the bill to loud cheers. He added: 'We got it done. We're going to continue the work ahead. I promise you."

The Respect for Marriage Act officially repeals the Defense of Marriage Act, an act that denied federal benefits to same-sex couples. According to the New York Times, "It prohibits states from denying the validity of an out-of-state marriage based on sex, race, or ethnicity. But in a condition that Republican backers insisted upon, it guarantees that religious organizations would not be required to provide any goods or services for the celebration of any marriage, and could not lose tax-exempt status or other benefits for refusing to recognize same-sex unions." It also doesn't require that states themselves

allow the marriages, just that those that are already married or who are married out of state will be recognized as such both by the federal government and by all states, regardless of whether they individually allow the marriages to be performed in them.

What is most surprising and encouraging about the RFMA vote is that it was supported by some Republicans, many of whom are "deeply conservative and libertarian-leaning ones," according to the New York Times. Mitt Romney, R from Utah, was quoted by CNN as saying, "This legislation provides certainty to many LGBTQ Americans, and it signals that Congress—and I—esteem and love all of our fellow Americans equally.'

Chuck Schumer, Democrat and Senate Majority Leader, for his part, was emotional and "audibly choked back tears on the Senate floor as he described how his daughter, who is married to a woman and expecting a baby with her wife, had lived in fear that their union could be reversed," according to the New York Times. He wore the same purple tie on the day it passed the Senate that he wore at his daughter's wedding.

DANE COUNTY JUDGE DISMISSES FAR-RIGHT **CASE AGAINST MADISON METROPOLITAN SCHOOL** DISTRICT GENDER IDENTITY DISCLOSURE POLICY

ON NOVEMBER 23 a judge with the Dane County Circuit Court dismissed a case that would have changed the policy of Madison Metropolitan School District to one that forces teachers and staff to disclose a student's change in pronouns or names to their families without their consent, similar



to the change that happened on October 10 in Rice Lake. Right now, MMSD's policy is that teachers and administrators do not disclose this

information to parents, instead leaving that information up to the student themselves to disclose or not.

According to the ACLU Wisconsin news brief, "The guidance, which advises school officials not to disclose a student's change in pronouns or names without the student's consent, was challenged in 2020 by several anonymous parents. The one remaining plaintiff in the case, represented by conservative legal groups Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty and Alliance Defending Freedom, admitted she had no reason to think her child was likely to change their name or pronouns."

Policy changes like the one proposed are a danger to trans and queer youth, who disproportionally face abuse, homelessness, and suicide, according to an amicus brief filed by a group of psychologists. According to them, "approximately one-third of transgender youth are rejected by their families after disclosing their identity."

Larry Dupuis, legal director of the ACLU in Wisconsin continues, "MMSD's guidance protects the safety and emotional wellbeing of transgender and gender-expansive students by respecting their decision to not immediately share their use of different names or pronouns with parents who may be hostile toward the LGBTO+ community. Given the disturbing rise in animosity and bigotry explicitly directed at transgender and other LGBTQIA+ youth, preserving MMSD's guidance against forced outings is more vital than ever."

MADISON MAYOR SATYA RHODES-CONWAY ANNOUNCES REELECTION BID

MADISON MAYOR Satya Rhodes-Conway, the first out mayor in the city's history and only the second woman to ever hold the office, announced on November 20, 2022, that she is running for a second term. Her reelection campaign will highlight her response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which broke out within

The Four Seasons

January 27 at 7:30 PM **Alexander Sitkovetsky** violin

A winning combination. Vivaldi's iconic Four Seasons alongside a unique pairing of The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires by Astor Piazzolla shines in this all-string lineup.

Sound The Trumpet

• • •

February 24 at 7:30 PM

Andrew Balio trumpet

Subscribe & Save

See three for as little as \$31 per concert!

wcoconcerts.org/subscribe

Single Tickets 608.251.4141 overture.org/wco

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023 JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023 11

The Wisconsin State Assembly and Senate approve AB 963, a bill that would allow lawsuits to be filed against school districts or school officials over the use of students' chosen names or pronouns.

Lambda Legal wins in court: federal court has ordered the DoD to end policies that forbid military service members living with HIV from being commissioned as officers, and allowed them to be banned from deployment or discharged from service based on their HIV status.

15 **I**

Middleton High School teacher Matthew Kashdan is subject to right-wing critics after a drag performance in the school's talent show.



TERF activists vandalize Our Lives magazine boxes in

downtown Madison.

Celebrate Trans Joy event held at Olbrich Park hosted by the Madison Area Transgender Association (MATA), Gender and Sexuality Center of UW-Madison, and SASY Neighborhood Association

25 I

District Board of

its President Tim

Nordin, among

other equality

advocacy groups.

Education and

Urvashi Vaid, LGBTQ California man arrested for activist and feminist issuing violent theorist, dies at 63. threats to Eau Claire Area School

May

13



Baraboo Acts Coalition, the Carnegie-Schadde Memorial Public Library of Baraboo, and UW-Platteville Baraboo Sauk County



LGBTQ public health agency with offices

in Milwaukee and Appleton. Their website

outlines their objective as one to "eliminate

Middleton's Nemo is one of five drag kids featured in an upcoming Discovery+ television series, Generation Drag.

LGBT MilWALKee launches an app with guided. interactive, and multimedia walking tours through generations of local LGBTQ history.



June

Mennonite Church shifts stance on LGBT inclusion and apologizes for past harms.

In addition to a new leader, Reiko Ramos

(they/them) has been promoted to co-director

of the Anti-Violence Program within the

to part-time to "focus on my health and

learning to live more sustainably with my

advancing disability," according to a post

written by Flores and posted on the Diverse

& Resilient Instagram page. Flores continues

"in their new role, Reiko will be focusing on

the program side of things including leading

our youth program." The organization will

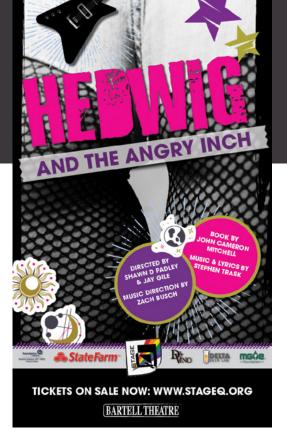
Youth & Young Adult Advocate in January,

be announcing who will replace Reiko as

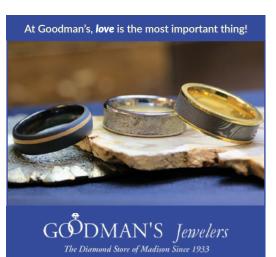
according to the same Instagram post.

organization, joining Kathy Flores, who is

the other co-director but will be transitioning



MARCH 10-25, 2023



CONNECT → OUR NEWS

vaccination hub at the Alliant Energy Center

continued, "Other crises of the last four years

and provided grants to struggling small

businesses." The Wisconsin State Journal

have challenged Rhodes-Conway's term,

specifically Republican-led questioning of

OURLIVESWISCONSIN.COM

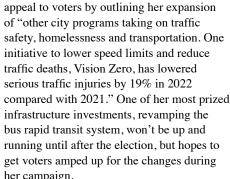
along with other efforts she outlined in her



the first year she was in office. According the 2020 election, the loss of abortion rights to the Wisconsin State Journal, "Not even in Wisconsin with the overturning of Roe v. a year into her term, the virus disrupted Wade, and the demonstrations of 2020." city services ranging from trash pick-up to During her tenure in office, Rhodespolling places. In response, the city set up Conway has overseen the city expansion ballot drop boxes, established a testing and of CARES, the crisis response program,



speech that have dealt with such hot button issues as "gun violence, car thefts, violence prevention and racial disparities in the to the Wisconsin State



Her focus in the coming months will turn

AS THEIR NEW PRESIDENT AND CEO

Christopher Allen will be their new President



justice system," according Journal. She continued her

compared with 2021." One of her most prized her campaign.

to housing, violence prevention, and youth programs. Referencing the city's newly passed budget, Rhodes-Conway is quoted by the Wisconsin State Journal as saying, "We are focused on programs that are going to help us produce housing units, and particularly programs that are going to produce affordable housing units." The new budget will allocate millions in housing efforts alone.

DIVERSE & RESILIENT NAMES CHRISTOPHER ALLEN

DIVERSE & RESILIENT announced that











Melanie Renee





and CEO, effective December 5, replacing Gerald Coon, who they said would "continue as a technical advisor during the transition." Diverse & Resilient is a statewide

> health disparities between LGBTQ people and the general population, as measured by commonly accepted indicators of physical and mental health. These health disparities occur in four areas: Mental Health, Sexual Health, Partner

& Community Violence, [and] Substance Use. The key social determinant of these health disparities is anti-LGBTO discrimination. To that end, our work also includes efforts to increase acceptance, end discrimination, and build leadership skills and confidence among LGBTO



In a statement included in the press release, Christopher is quoted as saying, "I am honored to be able to return to Milwaukee and serve my community in a new capacity. Our mission has been a guiding force in my life since joining Diverse

& Resilient as a Youth Advisor in 2002. I am determined to work towards a future where LGBTQ+ individuals are able to thrive, free of the systemic barriers that can prevent us from being able to realize our full potential I look forward to working with and for our community to create opportunities that allow us to not just feel included but be included and affirmed in every space we inhabit."

people."





conversion therapy for

13 Police in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho arrest 31 men believed to be linked to a White nationalist group who had plans to riot



Milwaukee's La Cage nightclub sold by George Prentice and Corey Grubb to longtime patron Dave Wolz.

President Biden signs an executive order to offer protections for transgender students. The order directs federal health and education agencies to expand access to gender-affirming care and advance LGBTQ-inclusive learning environments at public schools.

U.S. Supreme Court overturns The first case of the Roe v. Wade. Justice Clarence rare but potentially Thomas' concurring opinion serious mpox includes a note that the court (formerly known should "reconsider" other as monkeypox) rulings on contraception, virus is reported in same-sex relationships, and same-sex marriage.



Our Lives receives formal recognition by Governor Evers and the Wisconsin Legislative LGBTQ Caucus for its 15 years of publications and community service.



The U.S. House of Representatives approves the Respect for Marriage Act which would offer some protections to same-sex or

ı 19 ı



16 I

The Kettle Moraine School District approves a policy that forbids district employees, including teachers, from displaying any political or religious messages despite strong criticism from the public.





We can help you achieve better health

or neuropathy?



MLS Laser Therapy, ARPwave Therapy, & Regenerative Medicine

608-273-2222

2690 Research Park Dr., Ste A Fitchburg newhealthmadison.com

CONNECT → OUR ATHLETES

OURLIVESWISCONSIN.COM



SPORTS VOLLEYBALL COMMUNITY

Point of Service

Team Inferno's **Cooper Kemnitz** pours his energy into volleyball as well as building the kind of inclusive community that he sought when he was young.

I GREW UP IN PLATTE, South Dakota; a very small town along the Missouri River. As you can imagine, my hometown did not have any LGBTQ+ representation or men's volleyball,



so my journey into the sport has been a bit atypical compared to a lot of the athletes I coach and compete with. While I have always been an incredibly competitive person, and a bit of a perfectionist, most of this energy was placed in music during my high school years. I didn't begin playing and coaching volleyball until I was in my sophomore year of college. That year I founded the men's club volleyball program at South Dakota State University.

OME AWAY FROM HOME

Growing up in a hostile environment as a queer person can take quite a toll on an individual. Playing volleyball was the first moment I really considered my life as worthwhile. Within volleyball, I even found a home and a community: something I was not familiar with in South Dakota. Even if competitors or teammates didn't like me for being gay, they couldn't deny that I was one of the best. And honestly, at some point in my progress as an athlete, people stopped caring.

Volleyball gave me an opportunity to show people that I was just another athlete on the court. They got to see my humanity and realize that their homophobic notions and ideologies weren't appropriate or allowed. Even more, elite athletics are cut-throat. Other athletes and coaches weren't concerned about my sexuality because I worked the hardest, fought like hell, and had a passion and yearning to be the best.

You could describe my relationship with volleyball during this time as obsessive. I spent all my time on volleyball. I was eating, sleeping, breathing, and loving volleyball. The expectations I created for myself and the athletes around me were monumental, and this level of play earned me a place among some of the top talent in the country. Volleyball even introduced me to a national network of other LGBTQ+ athletes through one of the largest queer sporting organizations called NAGVA, the North American Gay Volleyball Association.

SPORT FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

My commitment to excellence in volleyball awarded me the opportunity to build an inclusive environment so that other queer athletes have a place to express themselves and compete. Team Inferno is an adult professional team in the Volleyball League of America. I am the head coach and one of the liberos (a back-row specialist) for our team and we compete in the central division. Team Inferno is heading into our second season and is hoping to make quite a bit more noise this year as we've expanded our roster to nearly double from last year.

Madison Inferno Volleyball Club is the youth team created to grow the sport of boys volleyball in Wisconsin. They are a national-level volleyball club for ages 18 and under. They compete across the country from No-







My commitment to excellence in volleyball awarded me the opportunity to build an inclusive environment so that other queer athletes have a place to express themselves and compete.

vember to June before attending the National Championship over the July 4 holiday. The club was built to provide an avenue for youth athletes to compete at the national level while also focusing on their development as individuals. Working with them has allowed me an opportunity to be the coach or mentor that I never had when I was young. While assisting athletes in accomplishing their volleyball goals, we can also shape their overall growth into terrific people.

"The VLA [Volleyball League of America] is an effort to further develop adult volleyball in the United States. The teams feature former NCAA/NAIA Collegiate standouts and domestic as well as international professional players that have previously been competing overseas." -volleyballleagueofamerica.com

Feel free to keep up with us on our Instagram (@MadisonInferno_VLA), YouTube (@ MadisonInfernoVBC), and website (infernovbc.com/vla). ■

Achieve the dream of home ownership

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

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



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



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



AssociatedBank.com

The City of Madison hosts a ribbor cutting ceremony for its painted progress flag crosswalk at the top of State Street.



Angelica Ross of Kenosha becomes the first



24 actor and



Patrick Haggerty, gay country singer and songwriter, dies at 78.

ı 31 ı





ı 8 ı

19 I

A shooter attacks the Club Q nightclub in Colorado Springs, CO, killing five and wounding at least 19.

Dane County Judge dismisses lawsuit brought against Madison School District by anonymous parents and the conservative law groups Wisconsin Institute for Law & Liberty and Alliance Defending Freedom that would force public school staff to disclose a student's pronouns or names to their families without the student's consent.

CONNECT → OUR FAITH

OURLIVESWISCONSIN.COM





HAVE YOU BEEN SLEEPING IN, as so many of us have done-asleep in the face of the oppressions in this world, asleep while racism continues to fester, while queerphobias and especially transphobias rot our foundations?

When I spoke with Whryne Rasheed (they/ MamaNe) about their faith journey, culminating in joining and taking leadership in Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU), they started with, "So when I became aware of the world—you know how you wake up, and you start having memories?" I realized that their story truly is about remembering, waking up.

QUEERLY BEGINNING IN COMMUNITY

Whryne remembers growing up in an evangelical Pentecostal denomination, The Church of God in Christ (COGIC). Whryne speaks of being surrounded in the warm community of women, and of their own call to faith leadership. But in their church, women could not be pastors, deacons, trustees, or any other positions of authority in church leadership. They said, "If you were a woman, you could be a missionary, you could be a church mother, and, at best you could be a prophetess." For those of us outside of this church, we may not know what the specific terms mean, but we can understand them to be helper roles, not leadership.

Whryne names this patriarchal church as being structured in "more than a little bit of misogyny" in which youth are surrounded "like as a cult." Then young adults are heavily encouraged to get married and have babies.

REMEMBERING ROOTS, QUEERLY

Whryne's bedrock is their great-grandmother, grandmother, and mother. Those three were sharecroppers in Little Rock, Arkansas. Their great-grandmother moved her seven [surviving] children to Northern Indiana during the great migration. Each of their foremothers

were born 15 years apart, having babies young, but fully supported in generational family structure and love. Whryne's great-grandmother marshaled the family into a new community and into a new faith.

Family love surrounded Whryne. They had a huge, extended family and felt safe living having all those people watching out for their welfare. Their family was deeply involved with the Church of God in Christ.

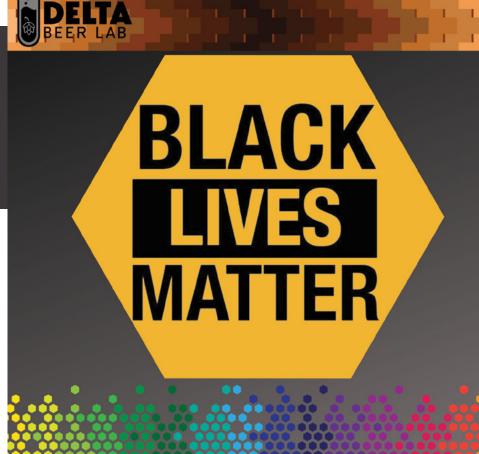
But, when Whrvne's mother left the church. Whryne and their brother were blocked from leadership withing the church because the leaders said they wouldn't have support at home. Whryne also had lots of questions about inconsistencies in the Bible and ultimately was dismissed from church. They told Whryne, "You don't have enough faith." This dismissal made no sense to Whryne, a self-described "Jesus cheerleader," back then, sharing that they had cheers like, "Give me a long Jesus! [Jeeeesssuuuusss!] Give me a short Jesus! [Jesus!] Don't give me no words. [No words.] Don't give me no phrase. [No phrase.] Just give me that name, that precious name!" Whryne even won the "Long Jesus" contest at nationals.

Breaking off from a space this fundamental doesn't come simply. Whryne said, "I left church for maybe a year or two, and then I came back for a year or two until I finally escaped to college." They added, "What I really missed about church was the community. But, between "the sexism and the misogyny and just top-down energy," Whryne knew they were done with that church.

OUEERLY BEGINNING, ANEW

Whryne stayed far from religion after that. But they missed and needed community. They said, "I was a single mom with five kids, and to have a community that wrapped around us was very important." They were introduced to a Unitarian Universalist church where they went to college in Indiana.

It took time for Whryne to begin attending.





Free delivery available!

26 I

Kay LeClaire, a co-founder of the queer Indigenous artists' collective giige in Madison is revlealed as a white woman pretending to be Native American and two-spirit by an anonymous



documenting their true heritage on newagefraud.org. **129** I The U.S. Senate

approves the Respect for Marriage Act which would offer some protections to same-sex or interracial couples and would repeal the Defense of Marriage Act.

30 ı

Human Rights Campaign issues its 2022 Municipal Equality Index. In ratings for measures of non-discrimination laws and employment, Madison, Milwaukee, Racine score 100; Appleton, 93; Green Bav. 90: Oshkosh. 78.

10 🛮

Madison Roller Derby hosts its first bout after the beginning of the Bureau's American COVID crisis.



President Joe

Biden signed the bipartisan Respect for Marriage Act, codifying into law protections for same-sex and interracial couples.

ALEXANDER EINSMAN



ATLASMADISON.COM 608.535.9285



"We loved working with Curt and Janean. The results are enjoyed aesthetically and functionally every day!" PAULA & ANN



CONNECT → OUR FAITH

They had to overcome the discord of seeing

women preach—even just wearing pants. They

said, "I just couldn't deal with it!" But Whryne

got past this because, they said, "White people

such as love the earth, take care of trees,

and help our neighbors. They took joy in the

Universalists gave their children. In COGIC,

coming of age was about being saved and

Coming of Age celebrations that the Unitarian

going to Hell if children did wrong. In the UU

congregation, children were celebrated in the

which meant you can figure out for yourself

what is right and wrong. Their daughter went

through Coming of Age with the UU church,

and they thought it was absolutely splendid.

focused on keeping their children safe. But

culture. "I wasn't intentional about things,"

they realized in their singular focus, they did

not give their children the full beauty of Black

they said. They saw in UUism this "larger enti-

For a while, it was enough. Whryne was

"Age of Reason" ceremony for learning to read,

They appreciated the teachings of the church

do weird things."

ı 1 ı

The Advocate

reports that

Community

Survey

States.

the U.S. Census

documented ove

sex couples living

1 million same-

in the United

OURLIVESWISCONSIN.COM



'The circle is round,' or are you actually principles of your faith?"

UEERLY BRINGING

It was 2015, Whryne was "drifting away from my local church because my children were grown, and they were making their own choices." But they became aware of a new movement. In 2015, a group of Black members of UUism came together to form Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU).

what that was like, they said, "For me it was truly amazing, because there were 100 other Black UU people who felt the same way I did. I agree with the tenets of the UU church, I don't agree with UUs "holding this wealth above people. There was just a whole bunch be a community for Black people to connect to each other as Unitarians, and let's also use this opportunity to change the way Unitarian

WAKING, QUEERLY

"If you strip me down to my bare bones,

ty that has all this money and resources." And they thought, "Are you just being smug saying, enacting any of the changes that are the seven

Whryne went to their first convening in 2017 with their youngest child. Remembering but—first—I don't agree with how dry it is up in here, like, 'Get some rhythm, please,'" and of stuff that I had issues with in Unitarian Universalism. But the people in BLUU said, 'Let's Universalism is holding us as a container."

In BLUU, Whryne found a family that they understand and that understands them. Equity and justice weren't just words said lightly, but the foundation. They said, "We don't need to say we welcome queer and trans people because we are queer and trans people, and we center Black people. We center women. We center queer folks."

who I care about the most, are the children that

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023

I gave birth to. I want them to be safe, and I want them to be free. And in order to do that, I have to be a person who is willing to go and enact the change that I want to see," they said.

Whryne names themself as the sum of an "order of operations" rooted in their Blackness. They said, "I had a Black mother, and I had a Black father, which means that before I was ever born you knew I was going to be Black." They add, "I am a Black woman who is queer. I'm a Black woman who is a mother. I am gonna wake up every day fighting for Black folks."

Whryne is awake to their full, complicated truth, Black, femme, non-binary, abolitionist. They said, "So I really do drill these identities down because we only have this one life to live." Whryne brings their advocacy home with, "I say, bring in Black, disabled, transgender women, and let me fight that fight with them, because that is a person who is more marginalized than I am, and it is my privilege to fight that fight."

Whryne is driven by justice. They said, "What can we do in the wider world? What can we do to end white supremacy, patriarchy, capitalism? What can we do to make these changes? In that sense, BLUU and I found each other at the same time." For them, there is a

"spirituality component of having an all-Black space where I can be free to be me, to worship the way that I would worship. To be loud. To say 'Amen!' To have these cultural references, to be at home, but also to be connected to an even larger entity which is damn rich."

Whryne, rooted in family and faith, tells a truth that wakes to fundamental, abolitionist change growing from deep relationship, "Let's love on our kids for longer. Let's hold them longer. Let's support them for longer," they said.

Whryne offers up these gifts to the world: Family. Community. Abolition. Radical justice, lifting the most marginalized. And if we are united, then we must live into Black Lives Mattering, fully. We must wake up. ■



VICA-ETTA STEEL is a Vicar at St. John's Lutheran where she preaches and does outreach. She also serves as a public chaplain at the Madison Farmers' Market, at coffee shops, and on Tik-Tok. It is her joy to work with people across the spiritual spectrum who have returned to their queer family, Jewish, Pagan, Christian, to name a few, and the many atheist and agnostic people who taught her how to believe deeply in love, in community.



MADISON SYMPHONYOR CHESTRA JOHN DEMAIN | MUSIC DIRECTOR

22 | 23 SEASON



towering piano & virtuosity

Yefim Bronfman could clearly climb any mountain of piano literature on his own, but being his climbing partners on this Mt. Everest of concertos will make for an incomparable performance of Rachmaninoff's towering opus. A first MSO performance of Schubert's exuberant third symphony, and a first performance of Bartók's suite from his ballet will challenge our fine orchestra to a fiery display of orchestral virtuosity.

– John DeMain

John DeMain, Conducting Yefim Bronfman, Piano

PROGRAM Franz Schubert, Symphony No. 3 in D major Béla Bartók,

The Miraculous Mandarin Sergei Rachmaninoff, Piano Concerto No. 3 in D minor MAJOR SPONSORS

Irving and Dorothy Levy Family Foundation, Inc. Boardman & Clark LLP Fred Mohs University Research Park

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

John A. Johnson Foundation, Inc., a component fund of the Madison Community Foundation Wisconsin Arts Board

> Programs, dates, and artists subject to change Take note: Overture Center fees apply to online and phone orders

Buy single tickets (\$20-\$98) in-person at the Overture Center Box Office, 201 State Street, by phone (608) 258-4141, or online.

Love great music. Find it here.







OVER HER 20 YEAR CAREER April van Buren has worked in several schools teaching English, journalism, and technology courses as well as serving as a librarian. No matter her role at a school, she has had a primary focus-providing students with as many opportunities as possible for growth and success. Outside of class, she sponsors the Newspaper & Photography and Digital Art clubs. She has also been working with the Madison School District to develop new courses and explore the possibility of a journalism sequence through the district's Personalized Pathways program. She says, however, that at the end of the day, she is not trying to grow journalists. She wants her students to show up for class to gain confidence in their writing and communication skills.

Outside of school, she has also served on the boards of several education- and journalism-related organizations. Her commitment to journalism education outside of her teaching duties led to a Pioneer Award from the National Scholastic Press Association in October (the highest honor the organization awards to journalism educators). Shortly after receiving that award, the yearbook she oversees, Tower Tales, was awarded a First Place designation by the Kettle Moraine Press Association. When we reached out to her for an interview about her awards, she saw it as an opportunity to serve her students and community through representation by sharing who she is.

WHO IS SHE?

April describes growing up as being fairly typical to her demographic (aside from a freak car accident senior year that left her in a neck brace for the school dance à la Regina George). She was never disowned or kicked out of the house. Her parents are retired teachers (kindergarten and orchestra) who are still married

and live in a midsized Missouri town. She describes not practicing her violin and dropping orchestra as the height of her childhood rebellion, but maybe music just wasn't for her.

"I remember when I was five, my dad had me taking piano lessons and the teacher said, 'Maybe wait a few years and try again.' In other words, she's terrible, and I don't think she's teachable. Ballet and piano-I have had similar commentary from the instructors, like, 'Just wait a couple of years.' I never found my way back to either (and I am not upset about it), but as an adult, I love being around music and musi-

"I can't read music and don't know how to play an instrument. In college, my dad gave me an instrument so I could start my all-girl punk band

after going to a show in someone's basement. I was like, I can totally do that. Let's go," she said. "Of course, I had the concept and marketing scheme ready to go, but I also couldn't play an instrument, so I was going to learn one or two chords. I didn't get there. It is a damn shame because Tamponderosa would have been an amazing all girl band."

A LATE BLOOMER

Coming out happens differently for all of us. April describes herself as a late bloomer in general. She jokes that everyone knew she was gay, but nobody told her (except for a couple of bullies). When she became interested in dating at 15, she had a feeling that she might be attracted to people of various genders, but it was the mid-90s, and no one at her school was out (in fact, many of her friends would not even come out in college). She also recalls her Girl Scout camp friends who were gay being a certian type of stereotype that she didn't see herself in.

There wasn't any particular person she was avoiding dating out of fear, and doing what was expected came easier. "It was like there is this book that I am interested in reading, but I am not ready to read it, so I'm just going to put it on the shelf. And I honestly didn't think about it," she said. She continued, "I mean, you can be queer without having acted on it, but I just really didn't get it—and I have always felt very self-aware and very confident, except for this one huge part of my self-identity that I just didn't get." At 19, she met her husband and left questions about her sexuality on the shelf to gather dust.

I'M A HOMOSEXUAL

April protests that she doesn't like the "Roller Derby Made Me Gay" trope but also admits that there is something to be said for an environment where you are surrounded by strong, intelligent, confident women. Ultimately, it was while sharing that women's space that she began to examine her own sexuality more closely and come to terms with how embracing it would change her life.

"I remember being on the Beltline driving to roller derby practice and saying out loud to myself in the car, 'I'm gay,' and crying a little bit... Because that is a huge thing to go from being a straight, married woman in a fairly conservative family to like: Oh, no. I am going to do this," she said.

"I remember being on the Beltline driving to roller derby practice and saying out loud to myself in the car, 'I'm gay,' and crying a little bit... Because that is a huge thing to go from being a straight, married woman in a fairly conservative family to like: Oh, no. I am going to do this," she said. "I am going to change who I thought I am and what I thought my life was going to look like and how I had planned out my future."

While she was exploring her metaphorical closet, April's new principal was considering moving April's office into an actual closet because the librarian's office had been "previously underutilized." She didn't want to tell her new boss 'no,' so she considered the option, but in the end found the parallel to be deeply depressing. She was nervous about what being out would mean professionally.

"I wasn't worried about how the kids would respond (if anything I felt guilty for not being out sooner, because I do think representation matters)," she said. "Was I hiding, or was I just trying to get my feet under me and figure out who I am? How does being queer impact my identity or change it or make it full? Do I get a haircut? Do I need to have an asymmetrical haircut? An undercut? Well, I did for like a decade because I liked it, and it looked good on me. But then I was like, 'I'm in my 40's. I don't want to look like Skrillex the librarian anymore."





EARTHWISE Det

SUPPLY • GROOMING • WASH LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

SHOP OUR TWO MADISON LOCATIONS

MADISON EAST 6071 GEMINI DRIVE MADISON, WI 53718 (608) 230-6210

MADISON WEST 3260 UNIVERSITY AVE MADISON, WI 53705 (608) 284-9007

EarthWisePetMadison.com



VIVIENNE ANDERSEN REALTOR®

V@VIVIENNEANDERSEN.COM 608 425 0929



COMING OUT EDUCATION JOURNALISM TEACHER

Never Would Have Pictured

Madison East High School Teacher April van Buren is the type of person who prefers being behind the scenes, but back-to-back awards had her in the news last fall. We spoke with her about her work and what wasn't covered previously her experience of gueerness and coming out later in life.







Call today for a free consultation!

Showroom Hours: MON - FRI 8-4 SAT BY APPOINTMENT

Sunrooms - Pergolas - Screen Rooms - Porch Enclosures
Get a New View from

Kool View

608-222-7777 | KoolView.com 4701 Triangle St. McFarland



CONNECT → OUR EDUCATORS





FLYING UNDER THE GAYDAR

Of her personal presentation April said, "I don't really like to call myself fem. I am just a tomboy who is trying to look professional at school." When starting out in her career, her mother helped her to put together a professional wardrobe that consisted mostly of practical items from Kohl's department store clearance. In her personal life, she prefers a louder and more playful aesthetic, but she started out teaching at a school with rigid expectations about women's clothing and grooming.

Even though she has experienced erasure herself, stereotypes about what being gay looks like are so prevalent that they become internalized. She is sometimes initially surprised to find out which students are in same-gender relationships, but she still hopes to offer to those students an opportunity to see a queer adult who reflects their own experience. "I'm not trying to be the fem mascot," she said. "I'm just trying to be me, but I'm hoping that me being me can show kids that there are lots of ways to be queer and to identify as female. There are lots of ways to hold all of these identities. I am just one of them, and maybe I'm just adding one more example of something that they can see themselves in."

EXCEPTIONALLY MEDIOCRE

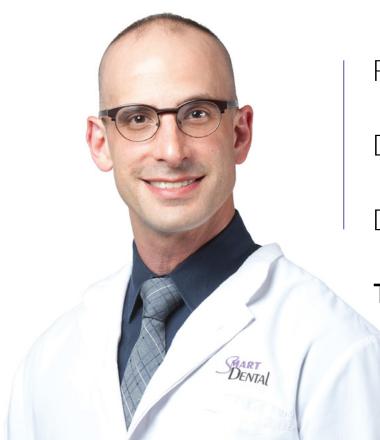
While April has been recognized recently as an exceptional educator, she doesn't have any desire to sit in the spotlight (unless, of course, it is to the benefit of her students). She often encourages them to push past discomfort until challenging tasks become routine. Now, she is taking her own advice. She said, "I don't need my story to be amplified necessarily, but if you are going to interview me, then maybe I can talk about representation, and maybe I can talk about safe spaces, and maybe I can talk about how journalism really does something special for kids that regular English classes just can't do. I am going to force myself to be uncomfortable."

Later she joked, "You can have a normal, boring life just like me with your mom's dresses from Kohl's and not knowing how to do your winged eyeliner!" The tone was light, but the gravity of the comment is undeniable. In a community where we don't all make it, and many scrape to get by, we come out and live our lives in defiance of oppressive powers. Throughout our conversation, we touched repeatedly on the idea of queer people being allowed to live authentic, ordinary, and joyful lives. April seems determined to do just that when she says, smiling, "There are times I think, 'I can't believe that this is my life,' and not in a bad way," she said. "I never would have pictured it this way, and I am so happy."

TAKE A SMART STEP TO A HEALTHY SMILE

SMART DENTAL

CALLTODAY (608) 241-8782



Recruiting Top Talent!

Dental Hygienist

Dental Assistant

Tamim Sifri, DDS

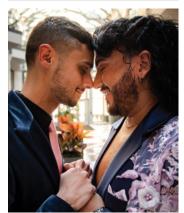
Learn more at smartdentalmadison.com







Christina Calcese & Kera Ellingson



George Giannaras & Ron Rivera

LGBTQ MARRIAGES

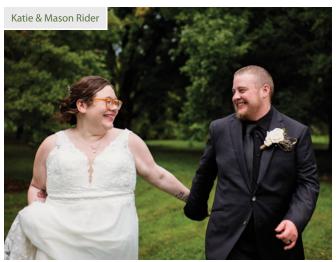
Celebrating Your Special Day, Done Your Way

Wisconsin's LGBTQ newlyweds share their wedding day experiences.

Lachele Fisher & Rachel Strauch-Nelson









24 JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023

Blown Away // Brad Kish & Brian Larson

February 2 // Engaged December 21, 2020 // Palm Springs, California

WHEN PLANNING our wedding, it was important to us that it be a unique and intimate day surrounded by our nearest and dearest. A small guest-list that included our immediate family and best friends allowed us to turn a one-day celebration into a week-long experience in Palm Springs.

We leased a 9-room compound and spent our wedding week enjoying the warm weather. Extending our nuptials over several days also allowed us to show our guests our favorite restaurants and shops in one of the most LGBTQ+ friendly cities in the country. Another unique thing that happened was that during our ceremony in Joshua Tree National Park, the winds were gusting at nearly 40 mph, although you'd never know by looking at our photos. **Photographer:** Candice Marie Photography

Stronger Than Ever // Andrew & Matthew Prenli

May 7 // Engaged January 23, 2021 // The Madison Club, Madison

WE HAD BOTH been from very hard pasts and somehow found each other. We built our relationship up during COVID, have fought through sickness, family grief with the recent loss of my beloved grandma (97 and was a mother to me), etc. We somehow still remain stronger than ever. Photographer: Dutcher Photography

Got My Vans On // Amy & Brit Eddy

May 22, 2022 // Engaged April 10, 2022 // Baraboo Arts Center, Baraboo

WE HAD A SMALL and intimate legal ceremony at Burke Park in Madison. We had our "big" wedding on September 10 at Baraboo Arts. Our wedding ceremony was written by Amy. We both wore checkered Vans with our formalwear. Instead of cake, we had a variety of our favorite donuts from Kwik Trip. Photographer: Roots to Wings Photography

A Small Box // Adam Erdmann & Shawn Langel

June 4, 2022 // Engaged December 6, 2019 // Lakeview Park, Middleton

THE MORNING of our wedding, two unexpected things happened. The first was Adam getting a phone call from the Middleton Police Department. The moment you hear, "This is the Middleton Police Department calling," your stomach drops out, and you're just waiting for all your wedding planning to start unraveling. Someone had set up a tent in the park without a permit, but it was gone well before our wedding started.

The second unexpected thing was Shawn's two sisters showing up that morning. They gave him a small box to open. Inside was an ivory silk hanky that was made from a piece of Shawn's mom's wedding dress. Shawn's mom passed away in 2001, so this thoughtful gift brought both of us to tears immediately. **Photographer:** Michelle Martin

A Tinder Triumph // Jazzmine Haygood & Anna Landry

June 4, 2022 // Engaged April 10, 2021 // Warner Park, Madison

JAZZMINE AND ANNA met the old-fashioned way: They matched on tinder and talked for a month before finally meeting up in Madison for their first date, which lasted approximately 7 hours. They were both in their final semesters of undergrad; Jazz at Marquette and Anna at UW-Madison. Although their individual futures felt uncertain, they found themselves naturally building a new future together.

They spent the summer traveling back and forth between Madison and Milwaukee for dates until Jazz moved to Madison in the fall. One pandemic, three cats, and countless adventures later, Anna proposed at the Memorial Union Terrace overlooking Lake Mendota (the same spot they shared their first kiss). They were married in a lovely, simple ceremony at Warner Park officiated by Dominique Zube.

Photographer: Alyssa Lentz













Gina & Kez Cesarz



June 11 // Engaged January 1, 2021 // Our home in rural Wisconsin

WE WERE LUCKY enough to be able to have our ceremony in the woods on the property we live on. All morning it was lightly misty. We came out of the forest and greeted guests in our yard. During our first dance, the sun came out, shined directly onto us, and we heard someone shout that there was a rainbow. Sure enough, we both looked into the sky and there was a beautiful rainbow. It was unbelievable. And absolutely perfect. Photographer: Andy Quint

Wives // Lachele Fisher & Rachel Strauch-Nelson

June 18 // Engaged September 4, 2020 // Door County

Chadwick & Scott Solamita-Stirling

OUR WEDDING ceremony was about us, of course, but it was ultimately an amazing celebration centered on community, love, and family. Our kids were part of every moment—our first look, the ceremony, our dinner table, and our first dance. The crowd of 170 amazing humans somehow seemed small and intimate as we celebrated the joy our community provides through community vows, the intersection of faith and law, and our journey to this amazing day.

We both wear rings from our grandmothers; between that and Rachel's vows to our kids, there was not a human around who had dry eyes. What made it all memorable? Our elation at the announcement of us as "wives" and the incredible community around us, for which we are forever grateful. **Photographer:** Sharon Vanorny, SV Photography

Queering the Church // Christina Calcese & Kera Ellingson

June 25 // Engaged November 30, 2020 // The Players Club, Madison
WHEN WE BOOKED the venue 18 months in advance, we were assured

all the construction and remodeling would be finished well before our wedding; in some ways it was, but the golf course was a mess. For wedding party photos, my mom called the nearby Catholic church to ask permission for us to take photos on their beautiful grounds, and they readily agreed.

We all had a good laugh about our queer photos at the Catholic church. We did first look photos at the church, and my dad drove me so Kera wouldn't see me. My parents announced they were leaving around 10 pm. At 11, they came back in to talk to our staff since one of their vehicles had clearly been stolen. The whole wedding of 170 people became involved in the alleged theft. Turns out that vehicle was still at the church. **Photographer:** Brooke Meyer - Midwest Photo Company

$A \, Roast \, Was \, Served \, \, {\it //} \,\,$ Destiny & Lisa Beaugrand

July 2 // Engaged May 15, 2021 // Rib Mountain State Park, Wausau

OUR SISTERS served as our maids-of-honor on both sides. When it came to giving the speeches, Lisa's sister turned her speech into a roast. Everyone learned that she had been engaged three times prior to this, and that she won a beer chugging contest at a festival. It was probably one of the most amazing speeches we have ever heard. It was literally the only thing anyone could talk about.

We chose to get married on the Fourth of July weekend for multiple reasons. One of them is that July 4 was the birthday of Lisa's late maternal grandmother, and another one is that Destiny's favorite holiday is Fourth of July. The date 7-2-22 also holds meaning. 72 was the jersey number that Lisa wore while playing football for the Madison Blaze and 22 was Destiny's longtime softball number.

Photographer: Christina Vedder

No Drama // Adam & Mick Schneider-Price

August 6 // Engaged November 28, 2019 // The Lageret, Stoughton

WE BOTH HAVE very large families (25 cousins each, and all married). We also both have worked for the same employers for almost 10 years, so we have developed tremendous relationships with many coworkers. We see these people every day and they just meant so much to us. We had 230 family members, friends, and co-workers attend all together.

We were very fortunate to have an absolutely phenomenal wedding coordinator (Chastity of Copper Feather Events). She was a positive and bright personality who was always there but left a lot of the creativity and planning to us. At the same time, she had all of the logistics taken care of. We felt nothing but love at our wedding. The wedding party was mostly gay/lesbian, but we are just so fortunate to have so many great family and friends who were supportive of our relationship. No drama. Everyone was there we loved and cherished. It was just absolutely incredible. **Photographer:** Alicia with Copper Antler Photography

Past, Present, & Future // Kara & Stacey Christenson

August 12 // Engaged November 20, 2019 // Green Bay

WE GOT MARRIED in our hometown. Our sisters have been best friends since elementary school; Kara's sister helped set us up, and she also married us! We got married in Kara's brother's memorial garden.

My mom was battling Alzhiemer's and was not able to attend but my niece and nephew carried balloons (after the book Remember Balloons) to honor her. My mom passed this September. I also almost lost my dad in May. We were not sure he would be able to walk me down the aisle. It was a gift that he recovered enough to walk me down on crutches!

Kara's three amazing children stood up in the wedding and we made our couple's dance at the reception and also did a dance with the kids. Our vows we found at a craft fair on a framed picture. We knew when we read them and both got tears in our eyes that those would be the vows we would share with one another. We had our rings made at Chalmers Jewelers. We wanted matching rings and our rings have three intertwined strands that represent our three children and the past, present, and future of our lives together. **Photographer:** FMC Photography (Franchesca Carley)

Say Cheese // Ashley & Brooke McKelvey

August 20 // Engaged April 21, 2018 // Green Bay

MOST OF OUR wedding for June 2020 was planned before the pandemic hit. So, we had a small ceremony on June 7 with our immediate family. We spent the rest of that summer in our marriage bubble with our dogs, which really helped our mental health. After many date changes, we finally had our large celebration this past August.

We can now laugh at the fact that my train got run over right before the ceremony and had a large black tire mark across it. Overall, our day was perfect, and we spent it laughing and dancing surrounded by loved ones and our dogs. **Photographer:** Ally Corinne Photography

Love Rain // Valeria GuzmanLuna & Rae Sowards

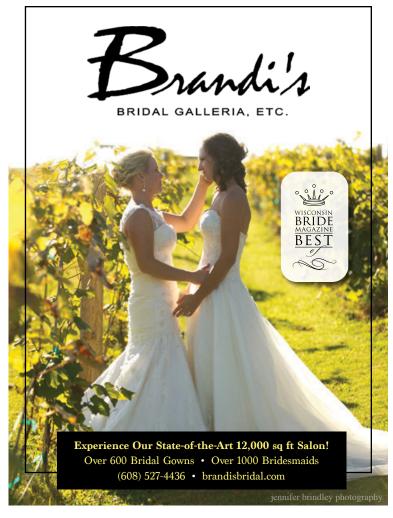
August 27 // Engaged June 17, 2022 // Yahara Place Park, Madison

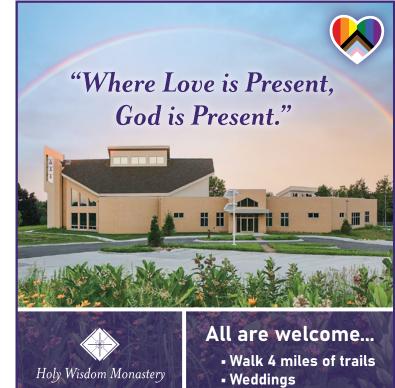
WE WERE MARRIED by the lake at Yahara Place Park. It was 2:30 in the afternoon in late summer, and a downpour took place right before the wedding was to start. We decided not to wait and took the rain as a blessing from the Universe. With only a small handful of close friends, and the rain as our witness, we took our vows.

Everyone Else Disappears // Ryan & Shaun LeCloux

August 27 // Engaged October 15, 2020 // Madison Club, Madison

THERE IS NOTHING that can prepare you for the flow of sudden emotions when you lock eyes on one another for the first time during the ceremo-





Find us on Social Media

Middleton, WI

Baptisms

Retreats

- Prayer & worship

Meetings & events

HolyWisdomMonastery.org

26 JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023 JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023

ny. Time slows down as you walk down the aisle and everyone disappears except for one person, your person. That rush of pure love, pure joy, fills your heart and tears fill your eyes. Then moments later, you realize you are in a room full of people who support you as a couple and you can just feel all the warmth from their love. It is one of the most magical feelings in the world. **Photographer:** Larissa Marie Photography

Best Laid Plans // Cori & Joy Link

August 27 // Engaged October 16, 2021 // High Cliff State Park, Sherwood **WE THOUGHT WE** had everything planned and organized, since our venue was several hours from where we lived. However, there were plenty of last minute obstacles, like Cori's suit not being ready when it was supposed to be, which delayed our travel plans, forcing us to rearrange our plans for set-up at the venue. Luckily our family jumped in, without hesitation, and helped make sure everything came together perfectly.

One major reason we picked High Cliff State Park was the beautiful outdoor space. The day of, it rained all afternoon, rearranging the plans once again. We had a back-up ceremony option though, and it still went very well. We embraced the rain and clouds, and still got a lot of amaz-

ing outdoor photos. We laughed about it all, though, and made beautiful memories. **Photographer:** Elizabeth at Birchwood Studio

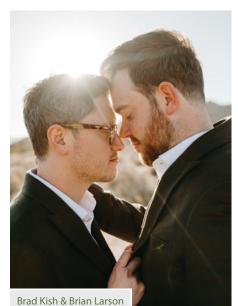
Good Fortune // Ace & Scarlett Rodgers-Smith

August 28 // Engaged March 15, 2020 // Mitchell Park Domes, Milwaukee **WE BOTH WANTED** an indoor wedding to avoid any weather, so we chose the Domes as a good in-between. The day of our wedding, it stormed for a short time, but it was during our ceremony.

The rain made its way indoors during the ceremony and leaked through the ceiling. We had a plant that we used for a unity ceremony, and while rain didn't get on our guests, rain was pouring onto our plant throughout the ceremony. Then, afterwards, there was a double rainbow. Everyone has heard the saying that rain on your wedding day is good luck, but we felt like the universe really showered us with good fortune! **Photographer:** GM.Creative (Glenda Mitchell)

Serious & Silly // Katie & Mason Rider

September 3 // Engaged January 23, 2022 // Wisconsin State Capitol, Madison **OUR WEDDING DAY** was beautiful and filled with love. We had a cozy













ceremony surrounded by our closest family and friends. Our best friend, Brooke, was the officiant, and we asked her to channel Moira Rose from Schitt's Creek. She did not disappoint! Our niece gave a speech that had us in tears and fits of laughter. Our nephew was the cutest ring bearer. We both wrote our own vows that were both serious and silly.

We held our reception at the Great Dane in Fitchburg. All of our friends and family were invited, and we partied the night away. We wish time could have stopped so we could be in that moment forever. When the reception ended, we went down the street to Club 5 in our wedding attire and danced until the doors closed for the night. It was magical. **Photographer:** Melanie Renee Photography

The Time Seemed Right // Andre Glass & Ron Gratz September 4 // Engaged December 31, 2018 // Orchard Lawn, Mineral Point

WE BOTH MOVED to Madison in 2013. We met on a dating app, and in the Fall of 2014, we moved in together. On New Years Eve, 2018, after a pickleball tournament at Hitter's Sports Plex, Ron popped the question. We were never in a hurry to get married but knew that it would

happen when the time seemed right.

The rehearsal party was at Ron's dad's place in Mineral Point. It was the first time most of our family met, and they got along great. Our unification piece was a painting that we painted at the rehearsal party using volleyball, tennis balls, baseballs, and golf balls. Sports are pretty big in our lives, so Andre had the idea of creating a masterpiece using

We were overwhelmed by the support, love, and excitement from our friends and family. The speeches at the ceremony were amazing and represented to both of us how much love we have from those closest in our lives—I really wish everyone could have heard the speech

each of our favorite sports.

from Andre's grandma. Our venue was the Gundry House at Orchard Lawn in Ron's hometown. The house was a mansion when it was built in 1868 and made an absolutely beautiful setting. Our hostess from Orchard Lawn, Noreen Doney, was absolutely amazing in every way!

Photographer: Kelsey Siegel

All the Small Things // Jess & Zoe Whorrall

September 10 // Engaged November 3, 2019 // Nourish Farms, Sheboygan **AFTER ALL OF** the preparation and hoopla surrounding our special day, my wife and I later concluded that our favorite part of the event was sitting outside, just enjoying each other's company, while our family and friends decorated our beautiful space. Altogether we have 7 people who we consider parents, and we were able to involve them all in some special way. We are so grateful to friends and family who attended from near and far. **Photographer:** Paisley Raye Rose Photography

Joy & Happiness // Andrew Goldsby & Jeremy Pagel

September 21 // Engaged June 9, 2021 // Our Home—Queer Acres, Madison **WE DIDN'T PLAN** on a September wedding, but life does not always go as planned. We executed our wedding in 2 ½ weeks. It was the best day of our lives; memories of that day filled our hearts with joy and happiness. We drew strength from them as we traversed the tough times ahead.

We thought we would be spending the summer planning our wedding, however, Jeremy's health abruptly declined. As weeks turned to months, countless tests and doctor visits finally determined that Jeremy had septicemia that damaged his mitral valve beyond repair requiring imminent open-heart surgery. Through the help of family, friends, and some wonderful community members, our wedding happened on the eve of the Autumn Equinox in our backyard on Madison's far east side, surrounded by love. **Photographer:** Astoria Goldsby



It Don't Get No Better // Aaron Glanz & Nichollis Wall

September 23 // Engaged September 19, 2022 // Runway Dog Park, Oak Creek IT WAS AN EASY answer when Aaron asked if I'd like to get married at the dog park with all four of our fur babies attending! This has been the simplest, purest moment in our lives together: Our loved ones supporting us by showing out on a glum, grey day to brighten it up in support of our love and queer energy.

Just being there with the dogs felt normal, to throw a wedding on top of it felt even more normal for us. Our vows included sentiments of our passed grandparents including the watering of a propagation from our grandmother's hindu vine, an upholstered bench & the jingling of tootsie pops in the air. It was a very intimate, special-but-normal moment, and we will cherish it always, as well as those who shared the moment with us. So much love, happiness, and hugs—it don't get no better!

Photographer: GM.Creative (Glenda Mitchell)

D(andy) Celebration // Andy Overshiner & David Woolf **September 24** // Engaged February 14, 2021 // Lake Farm County Park

OUR CELEBRATION was over the equinox weekend Friday-Sunday, with the ceremony on Saturday. We rented the group campsite in Lake Farm County Park (which was next to where we had our first date/picnic at shelter #3 2.5 years earlier). The weekend included camping, Friday night fish fry at Green Lantern, Saturday wedding, gratitude reception with a "wedding march" around the park with guests, and we newlyweds serving campers a pancake and sausage breakfast on Sunday. We kept the celebration relaxed and light-hearted. Our theme was flannel and plaid attire for everyone. It was a beautiful and emotional weekend. **Photographer:** Joseph Pearcy

Vows All Around // Erin & Katelyn Danielson

October 1 // Engaged October 24, 2020 // Peninsula State Park, Fish Creek

WE WERE PREPARED for lots of love and celebration, but we did not expect that our small ceremony and casual reception would make us feel so enveloped by the love and awe of our close friends and family. It really felt like magic. We learned that even if we are low-key and don't like to be the center of attention, we deserved to celebrate our love in a way that felt right to us, and that's all that matters.













Olivia Biller & Alex Dudek

Our ceremony felt unique and special because we wrote vows to each other, and we each wrote vows to Erin's 9-year-old child (Evey). We had our friend marry us, and they did a wonderful job making it interactive with guests (heck, yeah!), mixing in aspects of our relationship, queer history, and poetry. Photographer: Dutcher Photography

The Happiest Day // Chadwick & Scott Solamita-Stirling

October 1 // Engaged December 25, 2021 // Grafton

WE WANTED to have a vineyard wedding, however at the time we were looking, our top vineyards were not booking weddings yet due to Covid. So being the designer I am, I brought that feeling/atmosphere to us! We wanted our wedding to bring people together, get closer, renew old relationships, and enhance current ones. We succeeded. It truly was the happiest day of each of our lives. We have a unique love story.

Photographer: Robyn Nichols, Distinctive Memories

Dinner & Dancing // Cindy Crane & Judy Mills

October 8 // Engaged February 4, 2022 // Madison

CINDY AND JUDY met at the beginning of the pandemic. Dating began with long hikes, dining outside, and kayaking. As we built trust, we formed our own bubble and gradually got to know each other's friends and family, including Judy's three children. A couple of years later, we got married at Judy's church, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Madison, with Cindy's ELCA bishop co-officiating.

Judy is a dedicated Episcopalian who struggled with her faith while coming to terms with her sexual orientation. Cindy is a Lutheran pastor, who left the ministry for several years after she came out. In Judy's tradition, marriage is a sacrament. From being perceived as sinful to celebrating a sacramental union—who knew? And then on to dinner and dancing at Lakeside St. Coffee House! Photographer: Jolene Wochenske, Simply So Photography.

Our Community Rose Up // Chris Nania & Jared Pierce

October 8 // Engaged June 5, 2021 // Hayward

WE WERE TAKEN ashore on pontoon boats piloted by our father and brother while our good friends performed a beautiful rendition of one of our favorite songs. Surrounded by family who made the trip to the northwoods from far and wide, both biological and chosen, Chris's lifelong friend gave a truly unique ceremony that only a doctor in theater and performance could give. Our siblings stood at our sides and helped send us off into the world officially hitched.

From growing our flowers, to baking our cakes, to hand-lettering our signs, to constructing beverage stations dedicated to best dog friends who couldn't be there, to the thriving 90's dance floor, our community rose up around us to build a dream wedding that could not have been more perfect and would have been been impossible to do without them.

Photographer: Melanie Renee Photography

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023

100% Worth It // Elyse & Nashla Yumang

October 14 // Engaged March 6, 2021 // The Ivy House, Milwaukee

A CAREER CHANGE at the start of the pandemic unknowingly led me to my future wife, Nashla! Our attraction was instant, and though I tried to keep our relationship strictly professional, we couldn't help but allow our hearts to connect.

Our wedding day was an absolute dream, complete with all the little touches that truly spoke to who we are and what we love! There wasn't a dry eye in the venue during our exchange of vows, and even more so when our best friend and officiant touched on Nashla's endless love and support of me during my first round of treatment for Multiple Sclerosis.

It will remain the most unforgettable day of our lives, and it's true

- Make Room for Love Mara Lee Olson

- maraleeolsondesignstudio.com -

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



Linda S. Balisle, Attorney Lindsey E. Cobbe, Attorney | Ashleigh M. Hacker, Attorney

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

Divorce Power of Attorneys Partnership Agreements

31

Marital Property Agreements Child Custody Disputes Non-traditional Families Mediation

608-765-1001 | balislefamilylaw.com

11 E. Main St., Suite 403 Madison, WI 53703















what they say: Your wedding day flies by so quickly! At the end of the evening, all of our guests huddled together for one last dance. In that moment, we knew that every ounce of energy and every penny we put into this day was worth it! **Photographer:** Thrive Photography & Films

Three Cords // Olivia Biller & Alex Dudek

October 15 // Engaged February 11, 2021 // Monona Terrace, Madison

WE CELEBRATED OUR marriage with a personalized handfasting ceremony. We "tied the knot" with three cords: one presented by each of our moms to represent our two families coming together, and a third cord to represent us and our chosen family. Now we have the cords we tied together as a physical reminder of the commitments we made to each other in front of our loved ones that day. **Photographer:** Alyssa Lentz

Who's Kev, Batman? // Gina & Kez Cesarz

November 11 // Engaged November 11, 2021 // Las Vegas, NV

32

WE HAD BEEN DATING seven years before we were engaged. Someone (Kez) was dragging their feet! After realizing we would have well over 300 people to invite to a local wedding, we decided to elope in Vegas with our closest family and friends. The intimate venue and small guest list allowed us to truly embrace every moment of our big day and spend quality time with each other & those closest to us.

Even though the officiant called Kez "Kev," we couldn't be upset with him because his name was Bruce Wayne. Yup. We were married by Batman! As expected, some things went wrong, but it's amazing how all that extra stuff just fades into the background when you're looking into the eyes of your best friend and love of your life on your wedding day. Photographer: Vegas Weddings

Winter Wonderland // Giordi & Sylvester Carmichael

November 19 // Engaged August 23, 2020 // Abloom Farm Resort, Saukville

SOMETHING UNEXPECTED that happened leading up to our wedding was the weather being in the upper 50s in November. On our wedding day, mother nature decided to drop the temperature to 24 degrees, and gave us a perfect dusting of snow that filled the cathedral pine trees and our walkway path to our outside altar. It created a true magical winter wonderland. Luckily we had hot chocolate, warm blankets, and hand warmers for our guests.

What made our wedding day unique was the mix of friends and family. We had multiple vendors approach us and say that they've never worked a wedding where everyone was so friendly and welcoming. **Photographer:** Katy Rowe Photography

Rooted Together // George Giannaras & Ron Rivera

November 20 // Engaged July 23, 2021 // The Saint Kate Arts Hotel, Milwaukee WE'RE BOTH VERY rooted in our cultures and connected to our families, so incorporating those closest to us as well as our Puerto Rican, Mexican, and Greek backgrounds was important. We were ecstatic to have our siblings comprise our wedding party and our "flower Grandmas" lead our procession down the aisle.

Our officiant incorporated Spanish, Greek, and English language in the ceremony, we were presented with Stefana crowns in the Greek Orthodox tradition, and danced bachata as our first dance as husbands. The planning process helped us grow as a couple, and the wedding day itself offered us the gift of gratitude. To future queer couples looking to wed, find time in your day just for you, and mix it up to make the day your own. Photographer: Renee Rose Media

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023















YOU MAKE THE MEMORIES. WE'LL MAKE THEM LAST.

Our shop features an extensive selection of frames, mats, and glazing, as well as a custom workshop to create designs inspired by your wildest ideas.

> OPEN Tues - Sat, 10am - 5pm

Schedule an appointment or drop by

MONROE STREET <u>FRAMING</u>

1901 Monroe St Madison, WI | 608.255.7330 | monroestreetframing.com







Kara & Stacey Christenson



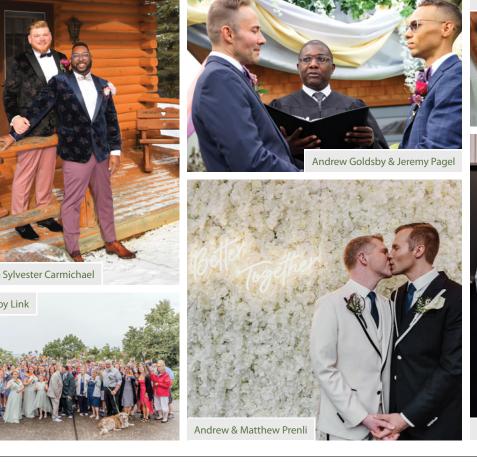








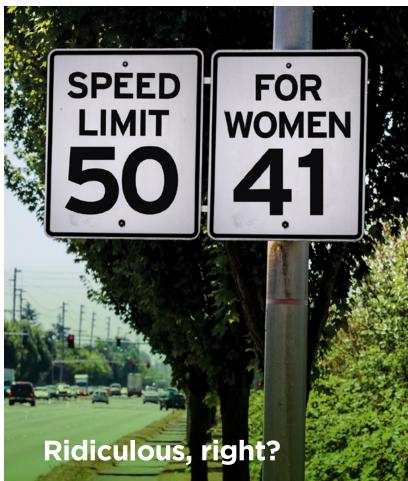








Ryan & Shaun LeCloux



Inequity makes zero sense.

Women earn only 83% of what men earn*, with the gap often being worse for women of color. That's more than just frustrating. It prevents women from achieving the success they are capable of. That's why, at Summit, we're championing pay equity, starting within our walls, and even publishing our own pay equity data on our website. When women reach their goals, it's not just women who benefit from more stability, less uncertainty and a better quality of life - we all do.

Join us in creating a new financial future at SummitCreditUnion.com/Equity



* Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2022



In the Name of Love

2023 LOVE LIST: CELEBRATING WISCONSIN'S LGBTQ RELATIONSHIPS

By being a part of the Love List, hundreds of LGBTQ relationships from across Wisconsin are helping us recognize and celebrate LGBTQ love while also creating connections and visibility for our entire community. We hope this helps to create a portrait of love that reflects our diverse community.

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

31 Shelley Anderson & Nancy Burzell

40 Robert Haigler & Roald Henderson

- 31 Lizz Miller & Maureen O'Gara
- 23 Jennifer Arndt & Ann Lux
- 23 Helen Boyd & Rachel Crowl
- 16 Kathy Flores & Zephyr Kendzierski
- 14 Charles Erickson & E-Ben Grisby
- 14 Russ Casperson & Jeffrey Jansen

- 13 Patrick Platta & Ryan Platta
- 13 Ryan Merkel & Jake Tulogeski ♥
- Kaceylynn Lampron & Tiffany Williams
- 1.5 Anji Ramsey & Bethany Ramsey

22 Steve Engles & Richard Johnson

7 Randy Anhalt & Nicholas Rich

12 Travis Christie & Preston Weiler

























- 22 David Berahn & Ryan Berahn
- 10 John Shumaker & Clint Zurbuchen
- 8 Basia Rompa & Vicky Rompa 6 Michael Royer & Wilk Royer ♥

BEAVER DAM

3 Destiny Beaugrand & Lisa Beaugrand

- 33 Ken Cameron & Brian Thompson
- 8 Andrea & Sheena Hirschfield
- 5 Cindy Jorenby & Stephanie Jorenby

- 20 Joanne & Tina Lenz-Mandt
- 5 Philip Gorman & Mark Spreitzer

- 7 Angela Merry & Rachael Merry
- 47 T.J. Meehan & Larry Ortt
- 22 Lynn Carlson & Lisa Rouskey

11 Ethan Parnell & Faith Parnell

13 Kristine Gotch & Jennifer Holm

9 Heidi Boelk & Katie Harder ♥

Jordy Egli & Shalene Wilke

COTTAGE GROVE



123

23 Deb Fruit-Gaines & Sheila Jacobson-Gaines

21 Holly Anderson & Colleen Marsden

MADISON SYMPHONYOR CHESTRA JOHN DEMAIN | MUSIC DIRECTOR

22 | 23 SEASON

heroic piano & premiere

I can't wait to experience one of the piano world's newest stars as Benjamin Grosvenor plays the Beethoven third piano concerto. And we get to hear for the first time a work by Jessie Montgomery, who has taken the symphonic world by storm. We close the concert with one of my favorite composers, Antonín Dvořák, and the magnificent work that brought him international acclaim. — John DeMain

John DeMain, Conducting Benjamin Grosvenor, Piano

PROGRAM

Jessie Montgomery, Coincident Dances

Ludwig van Beethoven, Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor

Antonín Dvořák, Symphony No. 6 in D major

PRESENTING SPONSOR Myrna Larson

MAJOR SPONSORS

Madison Concourse Hotel & Governor's Club Madison Gas & Electric Foundation, Inc. Elaine and Nicholas Mischler Stephen D. Morton

ADDITINAL SPONSORS

DeWitt LLP

Ronald J. and Janet E. Johnson Wisconsin Arts Board

Programs, dates, and artists subject to change. Benjamin Grosvenor photo: Andrej Gril. Take note: Overture Center fees apply to online and phone orders (no fee for in-person purchases at the Box Office).

Buy single tickets (\$20-\$98) in-person at the Overture Center Box Office, 201 State Street, by phone (608) 258-4141, or online.

17 FRI. 7:30 PM 18 SAT. 8:00 PM 19 SUN. 2:30 PM Benjamin Grosvenor

Love great music. Find it here.



madisonsymphony.org/grosvenor











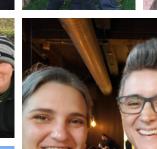


























12 Elizabeth Dabel & Nicholas Dabel

18 Terry Cowles & Timothy Zimmer LA CROSSE

32 Tara DeLong & Willem Van Roosenbeek

16 Nicholas & Reegan Jensen-Shafer

Katrina Armstrong & Sara Walters ♥

12 Kelly Kopish & Maks Kopish

Juan Anzaldua

LITTLE CHUTE

2.5 Tonja Mason & Jan Scoville ♥

LYNDON STATION

15 Jay Fenton & Erick Reigada 🛨

61 Clarence Cameron & Robert Lockhart

46 Sunshine Jones & Joann Kelley

123

10 Andrea Getsinger & Annie Getsinger

17 Karen & Stephanie Anderson

EAU CLAIRE

21 Lisa Herrmann & Jane Schley

12 Jazmine Brennan & Nicole Tourville 3.5 Claire Durgan & Sarah Ovsak ♥

18 Amy Kongslie & Michelle Paulman M 3 Wendi Kent & Liv Von Blomberg M

6 Mariah Barr & Madelon Smith

- 17 Brian James & Wade Richardson
- 16 Ryan Parkos & Chris Sina
- 13 Jill Meunich & Laura Webster
- 12 Ryan Crose & Steven Heller
- 10 Rebecca Bender & Sarah Bender 10 Daniel Beechler & Michael Lynn ♥
- 8.5 Michael Meland & Phillip Meland
- 4 Christina Calcese & Kera Ellingson

FORT ATKINSON

16 Cheryl Stinson & Jennifer Stinson

46 Ann Jakel Stormoen & **Peggy Stormoen**

GLENDALE

9 Phillip Bailey & Jason Rae

Chad Solamita-Stirling & **Scott Stirling-Solamita**

- 31 Todd Crapser & Gregory Diring +
- Teresa Ninneman & Jamie Shiner

8 Morris & Roland Dittus-Plath

1 Katie Rider & Mason Rider

9 Nichole Rose & Rebecca Rose

JANESVILLE

- 33 Eilene Coulter & Lisa Coulter
- 17 Kimberly Blanchette & Colleen Frentzel
- 10 Daniel & David Malchow-Davis
- Michalea Moore & Casandra Robbins ♥
- 2 Cori Link & Joy Link

- 15 Sheryl Spooner & Tarrah Spooner
- 4 Sarah Harebo & Amanda Kidwell

JOHNSON CREEK

10 Beth Zaccard & Naomi Zaccard

- 10 Alex & JC Wagner-Romero
- Andrew & Bill Ives

16 Edward Anzaldua Buth &

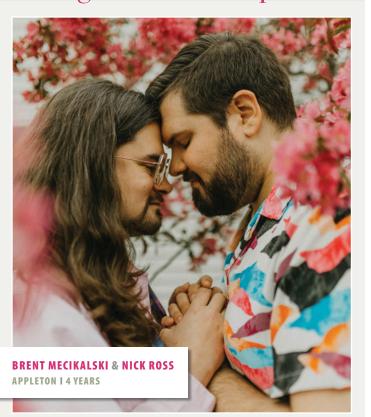
0.5 Dawn Dotzler & Carrie Lisa Penrod

LUXEMBURG

45 Betty Harris Custer & J.Corkey Custer ★

Submissions were requested at ourliveswisconsin.com/lovelist via open calls in our November issue, and through our newsletter, Facebook, and Instagram.

Lifting Each Other Up



BRENT: A sensitive boy from rural Wisconsin, I searched for a community anywhere I'd be welcomed. For years, I was deeply rooted in Christian organizations, where I heard the message: "You are welcome here... as long as you're not queer." In college, a mentor told me that I'd never find love if I "acted on that sin," yet in 2012, I came out as bisexual with the encouragement from my mom, costing me most of my Christian "friends." My queerness brought new confidence, though, and I built new and genuine

In 2018, I met a sassy little queerdo whose intelligence and charm were unforgettable. A month later, while snowshoeing during a snowstorm, Nick and I made our relationship official! Together, we've built a family with our three cats, and I understand what it feels like to be loved unconditionally. Nick creates space for me to be myself and has taught me more about being a good person than Christianity ever did. Nick's work as an advocate continues to inspire my own work as an educator. It has been one of the greatest honors of this lifetime to be able to love and be loved by Nick, and I'm excited to tie the knot next year!

NICK: I am a survivor of intimate partner violence, and I was celibate for five years after my abusive relationship ended. My ex is a Gemini, and I vowed to never be in a relationship with a Gemini ever again. Then I met Brent, the sweetest, kindest, and sexiest Gemini I've ever known! Healing from domestic violence is not linear, and we as an LGBTQ+ community have few models of healthy relationships to look to for guidance, so it took me a while to feel like I deserved love from someone like Brent.

But I do. We all do, whether it's from a romantic partner or partners or friends and family. Brent is an amazing elementary school teacher, but he's also taught me so much—how to communicate in healthy ways, how to compromise, and literally how to drive a car! In college, I was a radical queer who thought marriage was assimilating to the racist heteropatriarchy and wanted no part of it. I haven't totally sloughed off that radicalism, but now I'm looking forward to celebrating our wedding with friends and family in the summer of 2024. Oh, how love can change a person...

Your Personal Price Plan™ is here

Call, click or stop by.





Jim Hartman Ins Agcy Inc Jim Hartman, Agent 5706 US Highway 51 Bus: 608-838-4171 www.jimhartman.com

Prices vary by state. Options selected by customer; availability and eligibility may vary.

State Farm Bloomington, IL

2209481

38 JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023 JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023 Photo by Alyssa Lentz.



123

- 45 Paul Grossberg & Dean Ziemke
- 42 Louie Phillips & Brian Schultz
- 40 Sue Currier &

- 37 Stella Rae Steel & Vica-Etta Steel

- 33 Phil Schleicher & Steve Schumacher

- 28 Michele Perreault & Stephanie Spoehr
- 27 Rigoberto Gallegos & David Wahlberg
- 27 Deborah Daniel & Linda Novinger
- 26 Catherine Briggs & Marty Fox
- 26 AnnMarie Rutledge & Robin Rutledge
- 25 Jennifer Wagner & Rebecca Wennlund
- 24 Keith Borden & Johannes Wallmann
- 24 Thomas Gillen & Brian Widder

- 40 John Cannon & John Fritsch
- Janis Nussbaum Senungetuk
- 40 Melissa Keyes & Ingrid Rothe
- 38 Phil Biebl & Kevin Grohskopf
- 38 Darren Bush & Stephanie Bush ★
- 36 Rob Latousek & Brian McCormick
- 34 Dale Decker & Chad LaFlash
- 32 Kathy Brugman & Sheila McGraw
- 30 Dale Daulo & Christopher Walters
- 29 Michael Austin & Bob Stindt 29 Callie Bell & Beth Thigpen
- 29 Karen Bennett & Carolyn Virginia
- 28 Michael McFadden & Steven Scholze
- 28 Peter Hoff & Paul Patenaude

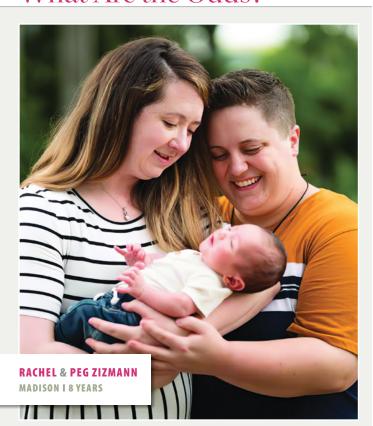
- 26 Vicki Clark & Lynn Lemberger
- 25 Denise King & Nancy Smider

- 24 Bob Klebba & David Waugh
- 24 Amber Lefers & Rachel Veltman 23 Patrick Hoeth & Keith Lupien
- 23 Eric Appleton & Rick Bristol 23 Scott Bennett & Landon Petersen
- 23 Jordan Bingham & Heather Stouder
- 23 Diane & Monique Brockley-Drinkman
- 23 Lee Johnsen & Rex Piercy
- 22 Daniel Lippit & Glenn Mitroff
- 22 Jane Bettner & Joan Jung
- 22 Jen Ferstl & Jamesetta Fousek
- 22 Terry Heiliger & James Moe
- 21 Barb Arnett & Ellen Sullivan
- 21 Cynthia Bachhuber & Jess Bachhuber
- 20 Allison Foxborn & Ashley Foxborn 20 Olwen & Shelley Hansen-Blake
- 19 Amanda Berg & Becca Schmitz
- 19 Randy Cornell & Jess Salek
- 19 Nate Mathis-Vargas & **Steven Vargas-Mathis**
- 19 Jacinda Tessmann & Teri Weiland
- 18 Jennifer Cox & Lela Ann Cunningham +
- 18 Karen Darcy & Beth McConnell
- 18 DaddyDean Nett-Strozak & Alan Strozak
- 18 Michael Velliquette & Tehshik Yoon
- 17 Robin Bechhofer & Pat Lambert
- 17 Eric Borchert & Timmo Dugdale 17 Nick Drake, Chez Dickson & Emily Mills

- 17 Donald Haar & Steve Starkey +
- 17 Philip Renner & Marco Torrez-Miranda
- 16 Carolyn & Ruth Barker-Bowman
- 16 Jeff Clark & Tim Hagen
- 16 Judith Davidoff & Rhonda Lanford
- 16 Cindy Desch & Lynn Olson
- 16 Lauren Lebwohl & Katie Wilkin
- 16 Bradley Tabor & Tim Walters
- 15 Missy Dittmer-Herrmann & **Molly Herrmann**
- 15 Beth Hanson & Kandis Severin
- 15 Katy Conley & Leonie Dolch
- 15 Jeanine Hutcherson & Tricia Johnson
- 15 Lana Lawrence & Louise Stout +
- 14 Julie Beauchamp & Brenda Stanley
- 14 Jay Edgar & Joshua Feyen
- 14 Christopher Peguero & **Anthony Potter**
- 14 Tonya Shaver & Valerie Shaver
- 13 Anna Celaya & Sherry Holly
- 13 Juliet Darken & Marlo Darken
- 13 David Groth & Michael Groth
- 13 Lavender Knight & Tanya Mudrick
- 13 Jilip Nagler & Joey Nagler 12 Bryon Hobbs & Mike Hoelzel ♥
- 12 Andy Altmann & Geoff Staub
- 12 Angie Bickelhaupt & Monica Vasquez
- 12 Jami Degrazio & Holly Hieronim 12 Kris Kalb & Robert Von Rutenberg

Submissions were requested at ourliveswisconsin.com/lovelist via open calls in our November issue, and through our newsletter, Facebook, and Instagram.

What Are the Odds?



Rachel was too curious not to test the dating site's algorithm. It was October of 2014, and Rachel wanted to know who OkCupid might suggest for her if she did a national search, filtering for all of her ideal qualities in a partner, and ordering search results so that profiles with the highest compatibility percentages were listed first. There, at the top of her search results, was a profile with a 99% match. The only trouble was that Rachel was living in southern Georgia, and this match was located in Madison, Wisconsin. Rachel perused the match's profile and decided to shoot her shot. She sent a flirty message.

Peg, the match in Madison, received the message but balked. Rachel lived too far away for anything to come of that exchange, she thought. She didn't like the odds of long distance romance ever working out. So Peg read the message but ignored it with no intent to respond. As the days passed, Peg could not stop thinking about the woman in southern Georgia. She seemed an undeniably good match, despite the distance. Finally, after a week of contemplating, Peg decided to test the odds of long distance romance against a mathematical algorithm of romantic compatibility.

She messaged Rachel back, and from there the connection was instant. The two messaged through the dating website, but quickly transitioned to exchanging cell numbers and texting. Within a week, they arranged a Skype date. And by the following night, they made a habit of keeping Skype on at all hours of the day, even overnight, to keep one another's company. Their relationship was built on a foundation of communication and a shared playful sense of humor. Two months later, Rachel drove across the country to meet Peg in person in Madison. The connection in person was even better than online.

In 2016, after nearly two years of long distance dating, Rachel took a job in Madison, and the two moved in together. Peg and Rachel have now been married for six years, and welcomed their first child, Bennett, over the summer. Eight years since Rachel and Peg tested the accuracy of a dating website's algorithm, they can confirm they are a match! ■

Photo by Dr. Rob.

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023

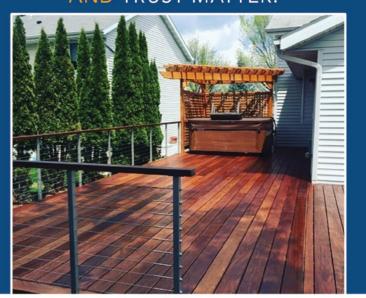
purrrrsonal matchmaking for every family!



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

WWW.ANGELSWISH.ORG

WHEN CLEANLINESS, POLITENESS AND TRUST MATTER.





QUIGLEY FREE
Onsite Consultation to readers of OL Magazine!

All quotes guaranteed in writing, no unwelcome surprises at the end of your project.

QuigleyDecks.com // Tim@QuigleyDecks.com // 608.577.4277





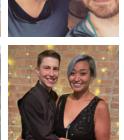






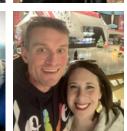






























123

- 12 Chelsea Rowe & Doug Rowe
- 11 Michael Bergemann & Nick Pichette
- 11 Mabel Carr & Sarah Carr
- 11 Nome Cross & Meredith Foss 11 Shawn Ramsev & Kelly Staerzl
- 10 Leah Clark & Terry McLaren
- 10 Martin Batchelor & Jeremiah Kasdorf
- 10 Alyssa Brinkman & Kate Schultz
- 10 Brigid Downey & Josie Russo
- 10 Kelsey Franklin & Quocan Vo
- 10 Melanie Jones & Chris Lester
- 10 Roz Klaas & Käri Rongstad
- 10 Stephanie Ricketts & Kelly Schultz
- 9 TeKema Balentine & Megan Bentley ♥
- 9 Jen Blazier & Lacey Blazier
- 9 Patrick Farabaugh & Sedrick Huppert
- 9 Jenny Fish & Mel Fish
- 9 Elizabeth & Krista Hagermoser-Bayley
- 9 Robert Kobuch & Mark Sannito
- 9 Amanda Mobley & Nadine Mobley
- Christa Russell & Scarlett Russell
- 9 Ashley Wenten & Sara Wenten
- 8.5 Sandy Eichel & Nancy Noet 8.5 Ashley McKelvey & Brooke McKelvey
- 8 Angela Baerwolf & Abigail Swetz
- 8 Stephanie Budge & Megan McDonald
- 8 Anne Cupelli & Monica Cupelli
- 8 Tracy Fitch & Helen Hazelmare
- 8 Lucas Garner & Michael Garner

- 8 Laura (LHP) Henning & Shari Henning
 - 8 Jazmin & Jessie LaPlante-Ackman
 - Abbey Scott & Haley Scott
 - 8 Peg Zizmann & Rachel Zizmann
 - 7.5 Ashlev Radue & Rebecca Radue
 - 7 Pam Brandt & Amy Spangler
 - 7 Michael Bruno & Jim Smith
 - 7 Libby Hallanger-Bernstein &
 - Hannah Hankins ♥ 7 Ashley Krueger & Karen Perez-Wilson
 - 7 Claire Lind & Kurt Nicholson
 - Diana Miller & Emily Peffer
 - 6 Becky Barnes & Jess Barnes
 - Andrew Carlson & Rikuma Nozaki

 - Erin Danielson & Katelyn Danielson 6 Zack Henderson & Riley Willman
 - Andrew Keller & Blaise Keller
 - Brian & Ryan Maulana-Ponce
 - **Christine & Elaine Pasinski Thomas**
 - Angie Alcorta & Mel Paugel
 - Olivia Biller & Alex Dudek
 - York Chow & James McMaster ♥
 - David & Matt Clark-Sally

 - Samantha Garlock & Jessi Mirick
 - 5 Andrew Goldsby & Jeremy Pagel
 - Drew & Matt Prenli
 - 4.5 Danny Atwater & Sid Richards 4.5 Lachele Fisher & Rachel Strauch-Nelson

- 4.5 Dannee & Rene Livingston-DeTienne
- 4.5 Lynn Mayer & Gigi Vail
- 4 Mady Greene & Robin Matthies
- 4 Em Hoggatt & Alex Nelson
- Lucas & Mark Long
- **Andy & Audrey Standish**
- Sarah Airozo & Chelsea Cornelius ♥ Sarah (Brick) Birkholz & Abby Churchill +
- Stacev Garbarski & Rachel Seizer
- Em Martinez & Zander Schultz ♥
- 3 Star Merchant & Rowan Strange
- 3 Andy Overshiner & David Woolf +
- 2.5 Kenzie Burns & Christina Segar
- 2.5 Cindy Crane & Judy Mills
- 2.5 Beth Feeney & Sharlene Merline 2 Ames Barker & Desiree Smith ♥
- 2 Ryan Gourlie & Mike Moulton
- 1.5 Gideon Elliott & Amelia Speight
- 1.5 Patrick Sisson & Steve Wright
- 1 Breanne Cyr & Lori Prechel
- 1 Valeria GuzmanLuna & Rae Sowards
- .75 J Lantz & Drew Silver
- .75 Fernando Perez & Susan Sox
- .5 Miles Medina & Noah R.

3 Ashley Brown & Karey Roberts MAZOMANIE 18 Carolyn Antonie & Minda Engel

Submissions were requested at ourliveswisconsin.com/lovelist via open calls in our November issue, and through our newsletter, Facebook, and Instagram.

Complimentary Qs



Our love story began in Southwest Arkansas, where we are both from. We were in high school. The two of us came from completely different upbringings, yet we had a lot in common. We met online through a mutual friend and talked just about every day and night for months. Eventually, our friendship flourished into something beautiful and different.

During the summer of 2008, after Que's highschool graduation, we finally met in person for our first date to see a play in the neighboring town. Funny enough, neither of us can even remember the name of the play! From that moment on, we've been almost inseparable. We grew up together, learning about ourselves and each other. We built a genuine friendship and took our time. We attended the same colleges and even studied the same subjects. Now, we share interests and hobbies like showing off our beautiful plant babies on Instagram (@BlackGuys_GreenThumbs).

Being from small towns in Arkansas and, at the time, living in the Bible Belt, it was difficult for us to live in our truth. As two young Black gay men, we both had our fair share of run ins with adversity and ignorance. A search for a breath of fresh air brought us to Wisconsin. Once we moved to Milwaukee in 2020, we realized we were missing out on a life where we could be freer, uninhibited, and love out loud.

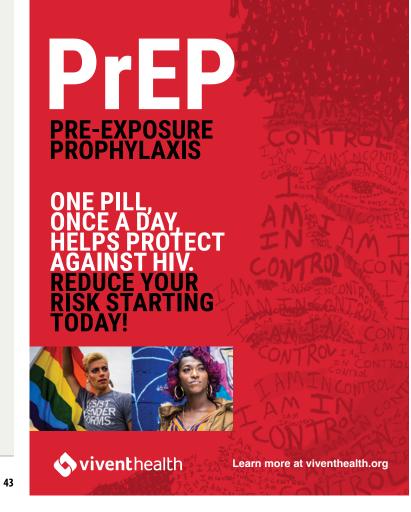
Quinton is the organizer, the one who keeps the house from burning down when Que wants to try some absurd project or cook some strange new food. We are both lovers of art, traveling, fashion, music, and all forms of creativity. We hope to use our skills one day and find a way to give back to communities that represent where we come from. We want to be a beacon of light to young gay men and young men of color to show them not to fear adversity but to face it.

Our advice to anyone struggling to come out is to remember that it is at your own pace and your own narrative. The most important thing to remember is that you deserve to be happy by being YOU.

Needless to say, 15 years later, we are still having the time of our lives, together.

DARE TO BE YOUR TRUEST SELF! RESPECTED PROGRAMS APPLY YOUR SELF AT GOODMAN SOUTH CAMPUS Join the diverse, tightly knit community on our newest campus and find support for what matters most to you. Apply today. Visit GetSmartAtMC.com or have your questions

> answered at 608.243.4200



42 JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023 JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023 Photo by Glenda Mitchell.































- 14 Kristin & Nikki Ellis
- 1 Cheryl & Michelle McCarty

- 9 Minta Dwyer & Camden Hargrove
- 22 Brian Le Starge & Dale Mueller
- 28 Ronald Meerhoff & Michael Rhoads
- 17 Lisa Koenecke & Angela Prestil
- 14 Erica Gittings & Leslie Gittings
- .5 Alisha Fox & Sarah Hedgcock

- 1.5 Mark Albright & Rick Ehredt
- 66 Erv Uecker & Ross Walker
- 42 Cindy Olsheske & Debi Vance
- 42 Steven Sanders & Rand Schmidt
- 36 Gerald Coon & Stewart Dempsey
- 33 Becky Burton & Sue Robinson
- 26 John Harmon & Karter Wilkening
- 26 Ernesto Valdes & Scott Valdes
- 21 Mark Janetski & Ed Mullins
- 17 Scott Jones & Thomas Zigan
- 13 Dana Langill & Jessica Langill 10 Gatlin Dresidan & Gerald Hyler
- 7 Jamie Ivanov & Anna Stevens

- **Aaron Glanz & Nichollis Wall**
- Bruce Seeds & Jason Seeds
- Lisa Mendez & Shay Mendez
- Jess Whorrall & Zoe Whorrall
- Giordi & Sylvester Carmichael
- Carrie Elmore & Aniali Menon
- 2 Elyse Yumang & Nashla Yumang

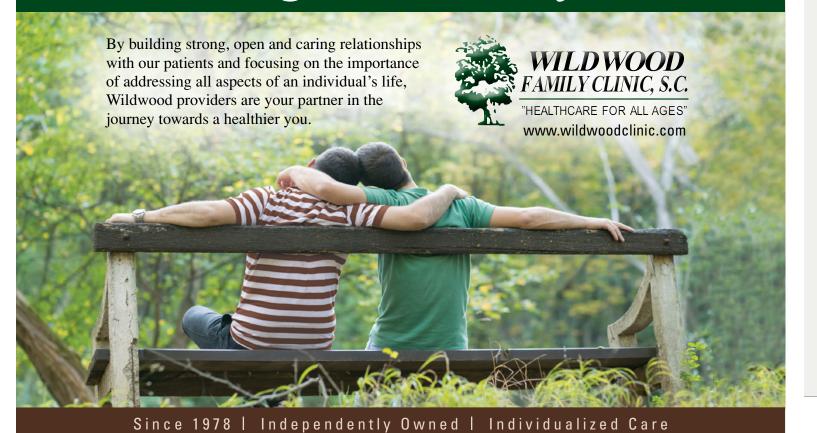
MINERAL POINT

7 Nicole Lopez Purkapile & **Kristine Purkapile**

.5 Nicole Kerti & Mandy Adams

20 Heidi & Jeremy Duss & Jess Blanchard

Treating the whole you...



All you need is Cupcakes



Everyone's heard the saying, "You find love when you are not looking for it." It all started 16 summers ago when Amanda smashed a birthday cupcake on Dawn's face! Dawn, in turn, tackled Amanda. She quickly realized they were on cement, and moved to catch Amanda's head before it hit the ground, landing on top of her like some cheesy movie scene.

Dawn and Amanda Siebert-Evenstone met in 2006 playing softball in Madison. Neither were looking to date, and neither were looking to find their forever. Both stubbornly tried not to fall for the other. Luckily for them, they each failed in their own way.

The thing that Dawn didn't know was that Amanda maybe failed more than she knew. Secretly, Amanda kept the plastic ring from that cupcake. The plastic ring was hidden for five years and three moves until Amanda used it to propose. In 2011, they held a ceremony with their friends and family. Just a few short years later, Dawn gave birth to Camden in 2013. His infectious laugh, witty sense of humor, and caring personality filled their families with joy.

In 2015 when the Supreme Court ruled against the Wisconsin same-sex marriage ban, the Siebert-Evenstones rushed downtown and were the 16th couple to be legally married in Wisconsin, on the steps of the Dane County Courthouse. This marriage was extra-special as their son, Camden, was able to join them and can be seen in their family wedding photo hanging in the halls of the courthouse. Next came Ella, the Covid baby. Amanda gave birth to Ella in 2020 in the middle of lockdown. They joke that there has not been a quiet day at their house since.

Today, a wedding ceremony, a legal wedding, two kids, four dogs, and houses later, it is pretty clear that trying not to date has been the only failure in their relationship. Camden, now 9, has his Mom's quick wit and Ama's fire for debate. Ella, who is a tenacious two, has a strong personality that fills the room. You can still find Dawn and Amanda on the softball field in the summer, but the majority of their time now centers around the kids. They alternate coaching duties, with Amanda coaching flag football and Dawn coaching basketball and soccer

That plastic ring with the softball picture that started it all, hangs in their room. A reminder of that summer in 2006, the love they found while not looking, and the life they have built since.

2016 National & Regional award winner NARI basement under 30k 2017 Regional award winner NARI kitchen under 50k

2016 Angie's List Super service award



"It has been great to know that I could refer to my husband without fearing that weird look people get on their faces when they aren't expecting that." CHAD & DALE



In these times, having the right home for you and your

family to stay safer at home is our priority. We are all in

this together, we are here and we care. Be well.

Powerful Results. Real People.











123



18 Nicholas Baillies & Craig Kramer

9.5 Vivienne Andersen & Kye Richards

6 Brittany Tijerina & Janet Tijerina

17 Sue Fichtel & Sherry Ravenscroft

41 David Bluma & Brad Morrison

7.5 Emily Schmidt & Sami Schmidt

25 Scott McCracken & Abe Zeman

15 Thomas Darrow & Michael Houle

30 Daniel & Tracie Lautenschlager ★

13 Michelle Rosaleigh Anderson &

15 Shane Burkart & Kristopher Gasch

18 Scott Lone & Joseph Maddalena

16 Ann Kelso & Sarah Mueller

2 Rachel Buckham & Jae Reuter

2 Bradey Engen & George Hege ♥

7.5 Gina Cesarz & Kez Cesarz

5 Dale Estes & Tim Reigel

RICHLAND CENTER

24 Mark Koch & Robert Manion

7 Tim Tender & Paul Weber

8 Eli & Jess Rittenhouse

Stacy Lee Anderson

PORT EDWARDS

PORT WASHINGTON

15 Trent Gabler & Justin Miller

16 Charlie Nash & JR Witt

NEW AUBURN

NEW GLARUS

OREGON

ORFORDVILLE

14 Beth Kernan & Jamie Kernan















9 Tom Hessey & Travis Teigen SHEBOYGAN

19 Julie Konik & Christine Smith

19 Laura Maker & Susie Seidelman

22 Thomas Mashak & William Ziegelmeier ♥

ST FRANCIS

3 Gracie Limbach & Sydney Martinez

22 Lorie Dobrzynski & Melanie Kuolt +

STOUGHTON

49 Judy Captain & Kate Stormer

- 23 Jill Hauk & Jean Ligocki
- 20 Todd Cieslak & Brent Eastabrooks
- 20 Angie Whitiken & Tammy Whitiken
- 19 Kitty Gilbert & Lila Tesch
- 7 Sam Eifert & Jason Whitley BriAnna Storey & Katlynn Storey

SUN PRAIRIE

- 24 James Candler & Paul Lorentz
- 18 Brittany Brazzel & Kristen Brazzel
- 13 Kim Joshua & Molly Joshua
- 13 Aleta Klicko & Patti Klicko
- 13 Timothy Lom & Steve Noll
- 12 Bonnie Gutsch & Heidi Hershberger
- 11 Bobbie Krenz & Karen Weidner 🛨
- 10 Maggie Censky & Molly Censky
- 6.5 Kat Kosmaule & Steph Kosmaule
- Kara Christenson & Stacey Christenson
- Mackenzie Miller & Erin Rausch
- 4 Emer & Kim Bursaw
- 3.5 Deb Holland & Jane Kahl
- 2.5 Amy Eddy & Brittany Eddy
- 3 Mike & Rob Goodlet-Meiier

- 12 Dawn & Jacqui Regenbogen
- 10 John W. Duncan & Rev. Tim Schaefer

5 Sara Freedman & Carol Nikolaus

WATERFORD

Barbie Murray-Charging Crow & Brandy Reding ♥

4.5 April Chandler & Charity Chandler

20 Linda Aumann & Deb Nies

5.5 Mick Price & Adam Schneider

20 Shannon Duskey & Tammy Hamsing

- 4.5 Monica Cook & Cindy Hogan ♥

WAUWATOSA

- 39 Gordon Reistad & Eric Rentz
- 10 Brad Schlaikowski & Nick Schlaikowski
- 6 Jake Christian & Dave Connell

46 Roy Badger & Garth Wangemann

- 2 Corrin Lackey & Starlecia Washington ♥

5 Sarah Zarenana & Sofia Zarenana

WHITEFISH BAY

13 Anne Marie Arroyo & Tamela Greene

WHITEWATER

25 Robin Fox & Kim Simes

WINDSOR

- 10 Paul Fritsch & Jim Hartman
- 7 Bethany Trafton & Shannon Trafton

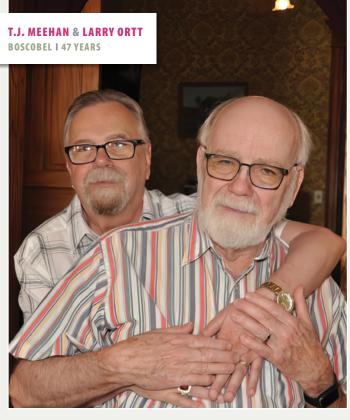
13 Jenn Fores & Nathaniel Fores

WISCONSIN DELLS

15 Annie Helmer & Stephanie Helmer

Submissions were requested at ourliveswisconsin.com/lovelist via open calls in our November issue, and through our newsletter, Facebook, and Instagram.

One Night Stand



We thought it was only a one night stand but we dated for 6 nights following and moved in together on the 7th day. It has now been 47 years. We had a Blessed Union performed in 1977 and were married in Canada in 2006. It was illegal for us to live together in our first home according to the village ordinance (we needed to be married or related by blood). We lived our first 35 years together in the Chicago area, and in 2007 we retired to Boscobel. It is T.J.'s hometown, and Larry says it's like living in Mayberry.

Retirement didn't last long as T.J. went to work for the local Free Clinic almost immediately. It is challenging to live as an out senior couple in a small farm town of 3000 people. You must be constantly aware of your surroundings, and you choose your local friends very carefully. We still enjoy spending time together and go antiquing together at least two times a week. We collect Depression-era elegant glass. Everyday at 4:30, we both stop whatever we are doing and come together to watch Jeopardy. This is a tradition we cherish.

In 47 years, we have both lost parents and siblings. We also lost many jobs over the years but never been out of work before we retired. However, there was a two-week period in 1999 when we were completely broke. We got through it and started over again. There have been days we didn't like each other very much but not many. We just ask ourselves, "Would I be better off with him or without him." The answer is always the same. And life goes on. In 1991, T.J. created a men's lunch group called Ladies Who Lunch [Think of Elaine Striche's song in Company]. They met for more than 20 years, never missing a month.

For our 45th anniversary, we planned a big celebration. Since our anniversary is in February and the weather in Wisconsin can be nasty then, we decided to schedule the party for August. We thought this was a great idea. Wrong! Our little town was hit by a huge tornado the night before, and there was a great amount of damage. We considered canceling the party, but lots of friends had driven through the tornado to get to the party the next day.

ALL CAUSES HAVE ADVOCATES. BUT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIV ONLY A CHAMPION WILL DO.

Vivent Health is steadfastly dedicated to serving anyone and everyone affected by HIV through our comprehensive prevention, care and treatment programs. Learn more at ViventHealth.org





JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023 JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023



DRAG HISTORY MILWAUKEE

Remembering Milwaukee's Most Dynamic Drag Divas

Holly Brown (1946–1991) and Ginger Spice (1960–1991)

HOLLY BROWN (aka Holly Brown Tongue) and Ginger Spice (aka Richard Wyatt) were legendary drag performers in 1980s Milwaukee. Originally roommates and Club 219 castmates, the girls went their separate ways in 1988 when Holly Brown landed her own show at La Cage.

Soon, La Cage and Club 219 were deadlocked in competition to produce the fiercest drag shows Milwaukee had ever seen. A Golden Age of Drag was in full effect. Competition raged so hard that employees and customers had to choose their loyalties to one venue over another. Performers were so highly regarded that they became Milwaukee royalty. Under such intense friction, production standards sky-rocketed as Vegas-level productions attracted crossover crowds several nights a week.

Yet only three years later, the Golden Age was over. What happened?

ORIGINS

Holly Brown was born in Dubbo, a small town in the Australian outback. She started her stage career at 15 and was famous for her costume design. She moved to Sydney to begin modeling, acting, and working as a female impersonator. With the full support of her family, Holly made a name for herself throughout Australia. Soon, Holly began appearing in Europe and around the United States: Provincetown. Miami, New York, San Francisco, Denver, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Milwaukee.

During an American tour, Holly Brown and Ginger Spice met in Chicago. They were briefly roommates in Libertyville, Illinois before Holly moved to Milwaukee in May 1986.

Richard Wyatt grew up in northern Illinois, where he worked at his family's business before moving to Milwaukee in 1978. While working as a waiter at The Factory (158 N. Broadway,) he was discovered by Tiger Rose. Soon, "Ginger Spice" was appearing in The Factory's drag show. Tiger became his drag mother and taught him the ways of female illusion. Richard returned to Illinois and worked in the family business by day, while building







out a massive Milwaukee drag following as Ginger Spice by night.

"It wasn't unusual to find Ginger in the garage, under the hood, half in drag, to fix an engine problem for his dad," remembered a History Project contributor. "She would sometimes forget to take off her nail polish while pumping gas or cleaning windshields." His family convinced him to move back home, but the performance bug had bitten, and Ginger soon landed a new job at Final Approach in

Ginger became friends with Jim Flint of the Baton Show Lounge, who nominated Ginger to run the Miss Continental Wisconsin pageant. Over the years, Ginger would claim the titles of Miss Gay Wisconsin and Miss Chicago Continental. She performed with some of the

WHO'S WHO in Wisconsin LGBTQ History

biggest names in Chicago drag, including her idol Chili Pepper.

And then she returned to Milwaukee at exactly the right moment.

THE GOLDEN AGE OF DRAG

In spring 1981, Club 219 opened with grand plans to elevate the art of drag to new heights in Milwaukee. Under a 20-foot ceiling, the new stage soared 10 feet over the bar floor and four feet above the dance floor. Performers had to earn their right to walk onstage. Club 219 paid a salary—the first venue in Milwaukee to do so—and this encouraged artists to upgrade their wardrobe and their act. Lip-synching was strictly not allowed.

The lure of the great stage at Club 219 brought many performers from Greater Chicagoland, including Mimi Marks, Alexandra Billings, and Candi Stratton, who went on to become enormously famous. Each represented Wisconsin as Queen following pageant victories in Milwaukee.

With a new cabaret in town, there was a tremendous need for fresh talent. Samantha Stevens, showrunner at Club 219, knew exactly where to find it. "Ginger Spice was living about a block away from me," said Sam. "We were all neighbors, and we got to be good friends, and eventually started talking business. And that's how the Who's No Lady Revue got started."

"The Who's No Lady Revue was a powerhouse cast," said Sam. "We always had a cast of four-to-five girls, and we traveled all over doing shows." Who's No Lady was a superstar drag factory that launched some of the biggest names of the 1980s: Abby Rhodes, Coco Lopez, Josie Blake, Gloria P. Hole, Miss B.J. Daniels, and now, Ginger Spice.

"There was nothing tacky or cheap about our shows," said B.J. Daniels, "That was Sam's claim to fame: She started a new trend for a new era, with a new cast of fresh faces, steeped in feminine glamor. She raised expectations

and elevated the art of drag to new levels. People were so taken in by our performances, they would be surprised we weren't women."

Three years later, Samantha left Club 219 for La Cage, and Ginger became the showrunner. "She produced beautiful, enchanting, heart-stopping shows with B.J and the Club 219 Girls," said Sam. "I would still go to the shows and visit her upstairs afterwards. But I was just done."

CHANGING TIMES

La Cage Aux Folles (801 S. 2nd Street) opened in Milwaukee on March 6, 1984.

"By the mid-1980s, the drag scene was fueled by the need to raise money for the AIDS crisis," said owner George Prentice. "By the late 1980s, our crossover crowd was 30-40% straight on Saturday nights. They'd come for the show, stay to dance, and have the night of their lives. And then they'd come back and do it all over the next weekend."

During an American tour, Holly Brown and Ginger Spice met in Chicago. They were briefly roommates in Libertyville, Illinois before Holly moved to Milwaukee in May 1986. Holly joined the Club 219 Girls, where Ginger was both the showrunner and an original cast member. In January 1988, she moved to La Cage with "Claim to Fame" talent shows on Wednesday and "Holly & Company" variety shows on Sundays, following an afternoon tea

Who's No Lady was a superstar drag factory that launched some of the biggest names of the 1980s: Abby Rhodes, Coco Lopez, Josie Blake, Gloria P. Hole, Miss B.J. Daniels, and now, Ginger Spice.

dance and evening buffet that made La Cage an all-day destination.

Soon, the Holly Brown shows expanded to Saturday and filled seats three nights a week. The increasingly elaborate show featured male, female, and drag performers, delivering a full range of entertainment: dance, comedy, theatrical renditions, solo vocals, and more.

Holly embraced her fine arts roots in Milwaukee. She operated "Holly Art," a commercial art business in Australia, and always brought an artistic lens to her stage work. In November 1987, she hosted an art exhibition at the Leo Feldman Galleries. Her artwork graced the covers of *InStep* and other local magazines. She designed the murals that decorated the short-lived Mother's Kitchen. She appeared in filmmaker Cathy Cook's project, Bust Up. She had a love of classic films that inspired many

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023





of her performances and productions.

After five years in Milwaukee, Holly decided it was time to go home. She bid an emotional farewell to Milwaukee in April 1990 with a gala performance at La Cage. In several moving performances, Brown thanked the people she had known: "the ones who made all this possible." And then, she was gone.

Holly planned to reunite with a group of Milwaukeeans in Europe in spring 1992, and then return to Wisconsin together afterward. However, Holly became seriously ill in fall 1991 with pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP.) She was discharged from Gold Coast Hospital in Miami, Queensland in late September, only to reenter the hospital a few weeks later. She died there on November 16, 1991.

"She made people happy, even though her life was sometimes a little rough," said *InStep* magazine. "Her accent, her smile, her love and her bawdiness will be remembered and cherished by many."

Sadly, Ginger Spice passed away only 10 days later on November 26, 1991. She was only 31. She was survived by her lover of six years, Chris Gorski. Soon, the Golden Age of Drag would come to a slow and quiet end. "Ginger had bounced back from so many infections over the past four years that friends thought of him as invincible," wrote Ron Geiman, InStep publisher. "His unexpected death sent shock waves through Milwaukee and Chicago."

Ginger was remembered as a kind, loving, and generous performer. Over the years, she had become quite skilled at sewing and dress design. Many Milwaukee performers of that era still own a Ginger Spice original outfit. In January 1992, Club 219 hosted "I Remember You," a 15-star memorial show to benefit the Ginger Spice Trust, a special fund of the Milwaukee AIDS Project.

"Several people commented, 'We'll never see another show like this!' The emotional level was at a crescendo before the show even started. People clapped and stomped their feet like they always did while Ginger was onstage, but it was just memories," wrote InStep magazine. "The show was the largest bar fundraiser in Milwaukee AIDS Project history—and more shows are in the works. I hear her voice from above, saying thank you."

"It's always sad when our friends succumb to AIDS, but it hurts even more when they were vivacious entertainers, who brought smiles to our faces every time they performed," said Ron Geiman. "We'd like to imagine Holly and Ginger are throwing a Reunion Special in heaven."

Learn more about Holly Brown, Ginger Spice, and seven generations of Milwaukee drag at the Wisconsin LGBTQ History Project website: wislgbthistory.com.

"I love working at Ulla because I get to be part of an amazing team that is passionate about what they do. I have so much fun meeting members of our community and styling them with unique eyewear."





HILLDALE SHOPPING CENTER 562 N Midvale Blvd MON-SAT 10a-7p : SUN 11a-5p www.ullaeyewear.com



RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ANTI-LGBTQ+ VIOLENCE LAW & POLITICS

Keeping Each Other Safe

Jilip Nagler lays out the ways in which the LGBTQ community continues to face mistreatment and marginalization, despite progress, and what we can do to address it within our own spheres of influence.

THERE HAVE BEEN NUMEROUS wins within the LGBTO+ community, including marriage equality, legal precedences that have affirmed that sexual orientation and gender identity are protected classes under the Civil Rights Act, as well as greater visibility and representation in media, politics, and the business world. Additionally, many of the slurs that were once used against our community have been reclaimed and/or for the most part have become taboo, disappearing from most popular media. However, these wins have not eliminated nor overwritten systemic and systematic mistreatment of and discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community, nor have they resulted in a reduction in religious, social, and political marginalization.

Despite evidence of greater social acceptance of same-sex marriage, marriage equality has been a point of political contention since it was written into law, even being mentioned in the *Dobbs* opinion (overturning *Roe v. Wade*) as being a possible target for the Supreme Court to reconsider (along with interracial marriage and other amendments that protect the legal rights of marginalized folks).

This has led to the passing of the Respect for Marriage Act, a law that claims to protect our constitutional rights to same-sex marriage as well as interracial marriage. And while this law is a good measure to protect the rights we already have, the Act includes some extremely harmful clauses that allow for legal discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community by non-profit religious organizations, or nonprofits that are "religious in nature," based on "religious freedom"—a term that has been thrown around by religious conservatives to deny equal access to goods, services, medical access, family planning/adoption, and marriage access.

A SLIPPERY SLOPE

Legal discrimination of one kind against the LGBTQ+ community provides an opportunity for religious conservatives to further demonize, alienate, and criminalize the LGBTO+ community, namely our most vulnerable, and



orial to the live

These bills are not protecting children, they are weaponizing conservative religious values to justify violence against transgender children and adults for political gain.

at the Club Q shoot

specifically our transgender community, who are denied access to safety, medical care, education opportunities, and non-profit services that may only be available through religious organizations in some areas of the country.

Transgender folks, and particularly transgender youth, have been the target of much of the hate and misinformation campaigns from religious conservatives and conservative politicos, with literally hundreds of bills proposed that seek to create insurmountable barriers to access affirming and informed medical health care, as well as limiting access to safe social transition. This includes bills containing measures that could force current transgender people under the age of 25 who currently have access to hormone replacement therapy to effectively detransition by limiting access to transgender affirming medicine to adults over age 25, and thus creating additional age barriers for transgender folks to receive affirming medical care. Several studies have shown that affirming medical care and acceptance for transgender people is lifesaving.

Although many of these bills and an-

ti-LGBTQ+ initiatives have not passed or gone into effect, the damage is done, and continues to impact the transgender community, especially transgender kids. We know these attacks result in increased violence in the form of bullying, harassment, and assault. We know that social violence and lack of access to affirming medical care leads to mental health struggles,

> an increase in suicidal ideation, suicide attempts, and death by suicide. These bills claim to be an attempt to "protect children," but it is important that we name what they are actually trying to do, which is to create such hostile and impossible conditions for transgender kids and adults that we cease to exist.

These bills are not protecting children, they are weaponizing conservative

religious values to justify violence against transgender children and adults for political gain. This is not hyperbole, as recent studies have shown an increase in suicidality among transgender, nonbinary, and gender expansive youth, especially transgender youth of color, and last year there were reports of at least 50 transgender people murdered in the U.S. (up from 37 murders in 2020), many of those murdered were also Black women.

ESCALATING VIOLENCE

Recently, our community experienced another mass shooting targeting an LGBTQ+ nightclub (Club Q in Colorado Springs), as well as several instances of armed militias showing up to intimidate and disrupt family friendly drag shows and drag queen story hours, as well as a targeted attack on substations in Moore County North Carolina that occurred during protests aimed at shutting down a local drag show in Southern Pines North Carolina.

These attacks are not new, but there has been an increase in gun violence targeting events held by the LGBTQ+ community since June 2022. Additionally, there has been an increase in threats made against healthcare providers who treat transgender kids, including death threats and bomb scares made against Boston Children's Hospital and Pittsburgh Children's Hospital (as well as other hospitals across the country). These hospitals were targeted by some of the same far-right social media sites

that have targeted drag performers, gay bars, sports teams, and healthcare providers in Wisconsin with death threats and bomb scares.

TIRED TROPES

Those who commit violence against our community repeat the same anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric that conservative politicos use to villainize the LGBTQ+ community—that the violence is justified because they are "protecting children." They are justifying violence against children under the guise of protection while committing violence against children.

This is by design as politicos and religious conservatives have taken every opportunity to villainize the queer and transgender community, including reinvigorating the myth that our community is predatory towards children with accusations of the LGBTQ+ community being "groomers"—a myth that has no basis in reality according to several studies, including studies that date back to the early 1990's when there was significantly less support and acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community.

In order to combat anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric, we need to recognize and name anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric (and all oppressive rhetoric) for what it is, politically motivated violence. We also need to acknowledge the similarities between the current anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric and the anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric embraced by fascism; that anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric justifies violence by convincing people that it is for their own good.

HATE IS NOT DISCERNING

Much of the dialogue since the Club Q mass shooting has focused on safety, amplified by the announcement by the Department of Homeland Security that the LGBTQ+ community was added to the list of groups that are being targeted by violent domestic terrorists. This is not surprising given the steady increase in attacks, both personal and political, both ideological and physical, leveraged at all disenfranchised groups.

It has however been surprising to see and hear folks in the LGBTQ+ community comment on how they suddenly don't feel safe even in queer spaces, as the Pulse nightclub massacre occurred merely six years ago, and studies since have shown that the LGBTQ+ community is four times more likely to be victims of violence crime by strangers and friends/family/acquaintances, and as many of us are still healing from the cruelty of being tormented or seeing others be tormented with anti-LGBTQ+ violence that we've survived.

While anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric may not explicitly impact everyone within the LGBTQ+ community, there is a dangerous and sometimes deadly impact that cannot be overlooked. We are all impacted by anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric

and attacks because they rationalize discrimination and violence that is usually aimed at the most vulnerable in our community. It could be easy for some of our queer community whom have achieved success, stability, and financial privilege to forget that an aggressive and unkind world exists outside their bubbles of safety, but there are still so many of us who regularly experience violence, some of which comes from our loved ones and some of which comes from within our own community.

The transgender community regularly experiences violence in nearly every realm of existence, with some of the most harmful violence coming from the lesbian and gay community through social separation and exclusion, as well as those who proudly and loudly align with the far-right's rhetoric. But hate leveraged against the LGBTQ+ community is not discerning, it impacts the entire LGBTQ+ community. We need to do better as a community in keeping each other safe. We must consider that those who are perpetuating criminalizing rhetoric about our community have political power, and that given the unpredictable nature of these attacks on our community, we cannot rely on institutions to protect us or keep us safe.

MANY BOATS SAME STORM

We also need to do better to recognize that violence against the LGBTQ+ community is connected to violence against all oppressed peoples, as there are many overlaps and intersections of marginalization with the LGBTQ+ community. We need to build cross-community coalitions. We need to be naming the violence that is occurring for what it is, and we need to be consistently pushing back against the deadly rhetoric targeting our entire community. We need to prioritize intra-community safety despite political and ideological differences.

Creating stronger communities and deepening our intra-community relationships will help keep us all safe. But what does safety mean for our community? What does safety look like to others? This is important as we do not get to decide for others what is safe for them. What are practical ways to keep us safe? What does it mean to center the most vulnerable in our community? Where are opportunities to support queer resistance to political, ideological, and physical threats against our community?



JILIP NAGLER is serving their second term as President of the Board of Directors at OutReach where ze has brought a focus to issues of racial justice and representation in the LGBTQ+ community, including co-founding and facilitating Reading Antiracism: An OutReach Book Club.

And how can you support the work of local/ regional/national organizations, coalitions, and collectives that are doing the work of supporting the LGBTQ+ community every day? Can we find enough common ground to keep each other safe? Can we learn to acknowledge the diversity of experiences in our communities and prioritize those who are most vulnerable?

Creating stronger communities and deepening our intra-community relationships will help keep us all safe. But what does safety mean for our community?

I have hope that we can, and I know that there are so many among us who are already building strong intra-community bonds to increase our collective safety. We owe it to the LGBTQ+ children in our community who deserve the safety and comfort that many of us did not have access to when we were growing up. We owe it to those who have lost their lives to anti-LGBTQ+ violence, including those who did not survive the HIV/AIDS epidemic, as well as those we've lost due to addiction and suicide. And we owe it to ourselves and the legacy of the LGBTQ+ community.

I hope you join me and many others in working toward creating the conditions that we need to feel safe and loved. ■



"We loved working with Curt and Janean. The results are enjoyed aesthetically and functionally every day!" PAULA & ANN



JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023 JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2023



funding wisconsin's LGBTQ+ communities since 1984

RAISING MONEY

tax-deductible donations, community fundraising events, workplace contributions, and planned giving

GIVING BACK

awarded over \$375,000 to organizations promoting LGBTQ+ rights, services, culture and community development in Wisconsin

contact us to learn how you can make a difference

info@newharvestfoundation.org www.newharvestfoundation.org

> PO Box 1786 Madison, WI 53701-1786



CONNECT → OUR RIGHTS





LAW & POLITICS MARRIAGE EQUALITY SCOTUS

Respect for Marriage Act? Well, Sort of...

Wondering what the Respect for Marriage Act really does for LGBTQ couples? Attorney **Michele Perreault** breaks it down for us.

"IT'S A LANDMARK BILL that protects marriage equality!" "It's a garbage bill that does nothing!" Social media, as always, weighs in as extremes in response to the recently passed "Respect for Marriage Act." So which side is right? Well, both.

In light of the US Supreme
Court's recent decision to reverse
Roe v. Wade, the public's attention
turned to questioning whether SCOTUS will also overturn their decision
in Obergefell (the case essentially
establishing marriage equality) next.
Given the current makeup of the
SCOTUS, we are rightfully concerned that
they will take an opportunity in the near future
to address marriage equality, and not favorably.
In response to those concerns, members of
Congress worked to create H.R. 8404, known
as "The Respect for Marriage Act," which has
subsequently been both praised and panned.

WHAT IT ISN'T

Let's start with what this new law does not do. To our disappointment, it does not protect marriage equality across the nation. States are not required (by this law) to recognize same-sex marriages, as they were required to do in response to *Obergefell*. It does not create full protection should the U.S. Supreme Court decide to overturn *Obergefell*. To be clear: At present, marriage equality is still the law of the land, and will continue to be the law unless SCOTUS overturns *Obergefell*.

Despite the frustrating limitations of the law, I don't think it is meaningless. First, in many respects it is a landmark bill. Keep in mind that in 1996, Democrats and Republicans alike overwhelmingly passed the so-called Defense of Marriage Act, which explicitly rejected marriage equality, holding that marriage was between one man and one woman. That law was part of a huge wave of discriminatory laws, constitutional amendments and the like, all designed to batter LGBTQ+ citizens solely



The Act requires the federal government to recognize marriages that are lawful in the state where they were performed. It also requires other states to give "full faith and credit" to valid same-sex marriages conducted in other states.

for the purposes of political gain. Wisconsin passed an amendment to our state Constitution defining marriage as between one man and one woman. That amendment remains in our Constitution.

In the 26 years since DOMA was passed with bipartisan support, there has been a revolutionary change in how the public views marriage equality. Recent polls suggest that 71% of Americans favor marriage equality. The fact that the Respect for Marriage Act was passed with bipartisan—though not universal—support is actually a big deal, but... In reality, much of the final version of this Act placates the 29% of Americans who do not support marriage equality.

If SCOTUS overturns *Obergefell*, then this Act comes into play.

WHAT IT IS

So given that it does not establish marriage equality, what does it actually do? The Respect

No doubt overturning *Obergefell* would result in much more litigation to define how the Respect for Marriage Act interplays with Constitutional Amendments such as the one passed in Wisconsin

for Marriage Act requires the federal government to recognize marriages that are lawful in the state where they were performed. It also requires other states to give "full faith and credit" to valid same-sex marriages conducted in other states. And it establishes exemptions for religious entities so that they are not required to recognize same-sex marriages.

These protections may be important if Obergefell is overturned. Citizens with valid marriages now should be able to count on those marriages being valid going forward. I say "should," because no doubt overturning Obergefell would result in much more litigation to define how this Act interplays with Constitutional Amendments such as the one passed in Wisconsin. Unless the law is changed in Wisconsin; however, marriage equality for future marriages is at substantial risk. We need to address this risk by pushing our elected officials to once and for all truly stand up for full marriage equality.

A WINNING ISSUE

I do think the tide is turning and have some hope that SCOTUS does not want to create the legal chaos that would ensue by overturning Obergefell. I also have hope that if SCOTUS does in fact overturn Obergefell, we will see more laws passed in favor of marriage equality. In the relatively short time since DOMA was passed, the tide has turned substantially in public opinion, and politicians and courts are taking notice. Despite the fact that marriage equality is not under a current threat, it is crucial to continue to be vigilant and to have our voices heard so that elected officials of all parties start to view marriage equality as a winning issue rather than a risk to re-election.



MICHELE PERREAULT is a partner in, and the Managing Partner of,
DeWitt LLP's Madison office. She assists clients with matters related to Family Law, Appellate, Labor & Employment Relations, Litigation, and Trust & Estates. She earned a J.D., magna cum laude, from the University of Wisconsin Law School, an M.A. from UW-Oshkosh and a B.A., magna cum laude, from Lawrence University. She practices state-wide and has represented thousands of clients in circuit and appellate courts, including the Wisconsin Supreme Court.





Your financial needs are unique.

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

Not FDIC or NCUA Insured | No Financial Institution Guarantee | May Lose Value

CA Insurance #0G04178
Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc. owns the certification marks
CFP®, CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ and CFP (with plaque design) in the U.S.
Investment advisory products and services are made available through
Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC, a registered investment adviser.

© 2022 Ameriprise Financial, Inc. All rights reserved.

Shannon M. Anderson, CFP®, APMA®, ADPA® Financial Advisor

Eventus Wealth Advisors

A private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC

608.819.0520

2916 Marketplace Dr, Ste 104, Fitchburg, WI 53719 shannon.m.anderson@ampf.com ameripriseadvisors.com/shannon.m.anderson



OPEN welcomes diverse LGBTQ+ and allied professionals to share perspectives and experiences in connecting, developing, and building a vibrant community.

VISION

OPEN believes in demonstrating personal and professional leadership as stewards of an inclusive community where all are equal and valued.

Career Resources

Exclusive Events

Discussion Boards

Job Board

Featured Members

Networking

OPEN provides education and information resources regarding issues of gender and sexual diversity and other issues of professional concern to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBTQ) individuals who live in the Madison and Dane County, Wisconsin area.

LEARN MORE AT

OPENMADISON.ORG



IMPROVE → OUR ALLIES





ALLYSHIP HEALTHCARE REPRESENTATION

A Rainbow Sticker Isn't Enough: The Limitations of Allyship

Mel Freitag on the need and reality of queer(ing) providers.

"YOU MEAN YOU HAVE NEVER been on birth control?!" My provider looked at me almost flabbergasted by my response to the canned question on her health assessment form. I was a 24-year-old cis white lesbian who was coming in for a pap smear. She asked the same question about 2-3 times to confirm. She then went into another question about sexual history and didn't understand how to proceed with information about sexual and reproductive health without talking about what medication to take. It didn't line up with the training she had as a provider.

PRONOUNS ARE JUST THE BEGINNING

Even if that provider had went to a one-hour LGBTQ+ ally training and used my pronouns correctly, she still didn't understand how to have a basic conversation with me about what she means by "sex," how I want to engage in "family planning" without birth control, and so on. And I'm a cis white woman with many privileges. Although I am part of the LGBTQ+ community, I can understand how people (even those from our community) can get lost in terminology, in saying the right thing, in identifying accurate anatomy, in understanding how the queer community builds families and lives and bodies.

Recently there is more pressure for health providers to wear, for example, pronoun pins or rainbows on ID badges. It is trendy to use terms like "queer" correctly, and the LGBTQ+ community has become more mainstream in pop culture and media representation. However, performative allyship is also on the rise.

"Virtue signaling" is a term used when an ally will name drop or word drop to show that they "know" the queer community, but they still have major gaps in their knowledge and skills related to LGBQT+ patients. Or they may have had one trans patient or attended a training or even a course so they can put "LGBTQ+ friendly" on their profile. There is an urge amid mainstream providers to want to be well versed, and their healthcare systems and hospitals may even require it.

PROGRESS NOT PERFECTION

There have been important strides to integrate LGBTQ+ Health into the health sciences curricula, into the clinical experiences, into the hospital accreditation. There are awards that healthcare organizations can receive that index their commitment to LGBTQ+ Equality, and there are more clinics that explicitly serve LGBTQ+ folks. Because of these exemplars, now many other "unusual suspects"-individuals and healthcare systems - are motivated to educate themselves and participate in training



There is still a need for gueer providers. Providers that don't just state they are LGBTQ+ friendly, but are actually a part of the community. And it's becoming harder and more frustrating to differentiate between them.

This is an exciting, hopeful time for allies who now know they are invited to the party of social justice, and we need them. That is all good. I have pronoun pins that I give to providers; I lead trainings for LGBTQ+ Health; I consult with providers who want to do better by the LGBTQ+ community.

There is still a need for queer providers. Providers that don't just state they are LGBTQ+ friendly, but are actually a part of the community. And it's becoming harder and more frustrating to differentiate between them. When I want a therapist or primary provider, I want to

know if that person is from the queer community-I want to know they have had similar lived experiences—including having their own queer relationships and queer families and histories.

RAINBOW WASHING

The clueless, rainbow sticker-using, cis white hetero people are willing and needing more information about communities that are not their own, but they need to be aware of their own limitations. For example, they don't need to be in every space and every conversation. Sometimes I just want a queer provider, and it's getting harder to find them amid the sea of rainbow stickers everyone is wearing.

Don't get me wrong: I love the clueless cis white hetero person who approaches me and wants a book club or training to make the world better for queer people and BIPOC people and Queer POC people and people who don't look and love like they do. There is still a conversation when a new queer person moves to a community where they are looking for queer-identified people not only to socialize with, but as providers.

And yes, there are now full national directories where providers can state their skill sets, including serving LGBTQ+ populations. The directories are usually dependent on who fills it out, how they self identity (or don't) and what boxes they check. However, as a queer person, I just sometimes want to know if the person

identifies as queer, and many profiles still do not have that option. The best way, still, to find queer providers is to ask the queer community for queer providers.

This happens in the more informal queer spaces—on the queer email lists I have been on it is one of the most popular questions over the years. "Where can I find a queer therapist or queer primary provider?" Now that everyone knows they are supposed to say they are LGBTQ+ friendly, it is losing the queer provider category and distinction. We have to make sure these provider directories are well vetted, and that the identifiers are authentic. Otherwise, if a queer person chooses a provider that simply checked a box but does not identify with that community, harm can still be done.

HARM IS STILL DONE

Providers can have a blank stare still when I say, "No I have never been on birth control AND I'm sexually active." Therapists can still not understand how division of household labor and communication and family systems work in queer communities. These well-intentioned providers could all have rainbow stickers and pronoun pins and attended all the educational trainings, and there is a place for them still in caring for and with queer populations, but not all queer populations.

Sometimes a queer patient needs a queer person to talk to. It reminds me though, of the

tension between allyship and representation. I had a panel once about disability in health care, and someone on the panel identified as deaf. A health sciences student in the audience asked, what can we DO? And her response was, "Get more deaf providers." It's not the response I expected because usually panelists talk about more training and education.

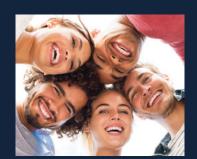
And yes, training matters, but it is not enough. We need more out, proud queer providers in health care that we can easily find and utilize. It is not our job to educate all the clueless providers out there, so that responsibility can now depend on cis, white hetero providers who are active allies, co-conspirators, and know their limits. Know they will make mistakes. There is still a need for authenticity, candor, and representation in the queer community, and however much we expand our identities, we still need our own spaces where we can thrive with each other.



DR. MEL FREITAG (she/her) is the Assistant Dean of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Training and Innovation in the College of Letters and Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Freitag serves as a leader and consultant in curriculum development, programming, strategic planning, and engaging in recruitment, retention, and advising initiatives to create equitable and inclusive organizational practices and policies.

Dental Insurance You Can Smile About

Momentum



Personalized and Affordable for Individuals & Families.

Enroll Online Today! MomentumPlans.com

608.729.6500 Locally owned and operated in Madison **LOCAL CLINICS. OUTSTANDING CARE.**



7 Convenient Locations

Sun Prairie • Fitchburg • University East • Gammon • Old Sauk • Downtown







658 W. Washington Ave Madison, WI 53703 608.251.2020

With over 500 unique frame styles we are here to help you find the perfect compliment to your own personal style.



116 KING STREET • RESERVATIONS @OPENTABLE



125 S. Main Street • Verona • knitandsip.com

608-848-2755

CAFE & BAKERY Fresh, Daily Lunch

ARTISAN COFFEE From Ancora and

SMOOTHIES

Fresh Fruit, Chocolate & Espresso

KNITTING & Classes

We use local produce and cheese

IMPROVE → OURTASTE



FAMILY BUSINESS TRANSGENDER FOOD & DINING

A Restaurant Reborn

Dave Heide rebrands and relaunches Ollie's, the popular restaurant he named after his son who transitioned over the past

WHEN DAVE HEIDE announced the closure of his popular creole restaurant in Fitchburg in April 2022, many were surprised. Heide seemed to be hitting his stride again, despite the closure of Charlie's on Main in Oregon the year prior, with launching Little John's, a community kitchen with the mission of "transforming food excess into accessible, chef-quality meals for anyone, regardless of their means," according to the organization's website. But the restaurant no longer fit the needs of either the consumer, whose dining habits have rapidly changed, or those of Dave and his family.

Ollie, Dave's trans son and the namesake of the new restaurant, said that the old restaurant, named for Ollie's deadname, didn't reflect who he was, and that the new concept was much more in line with who Ollie has become as a young man growing up in a world that is much different than it was even three years ago. The new restaurant, Ollie's, will be located in the same location as the former restaurant, and is aimed at a new consumer: those who are savvy on environmental issues, who want to feel respected and welcomed, and who might not want to drink. Ollie described the old restaurant as stuffy, fancy, requiring dressing up, and while amazing, never a reflection of him.

Once Ollie expressed discomfort about the old restaurant's name, Dave immediately changed direction and let go of his award-winning place and rebuilt.

The new restaurant, whose decoration, menu, and ethos have been heavily influenced by the teenaged Ollie, will bring back the popular speakeasy concept from Charlie's, with a renewed interest in being accessible to the younger crowd with an expanded non-alcoholic menu. He said it was important to both him and his dad that teenagers know that they are welcome, and not causing an issue by being there. Ollie also emphasized their move in this new restaurant to make it as zero-waste and environmentally friendly as possible, getting rid of disposable plastic whenever possible and having an expansive vegan

Dave, who outlined three main reasons for the change, emphasized that first and foremost was the wellbeing and emotional safety of his trans son. Once Ollie expressed discomfort about the old restaurant's name, Dave immediately changed direction and let go of his award-winning place and rebuilt. Even now, despite the buzz around the change, teachers and peers still ask Ollie about the old place, and in doing so, deadname him frequently, if not intentionally. But his dad has made him a safe place, and Ollie said that in doing so, Dave is setting a good example of how trans people shouldn't be a burden but need to be

The second reason Dave outlined was less personal and more of a shared experience with all other restaurants: restaurants and the people

who eat in them are very different than they were in 2019. COVID-19 has caused an almost complete upheaval to the way that the food industry does business, and the old restaurant just wasn't really up to the task as it was. The old restaurant catered to an older clientele, who largely stopped eating out during the pandemic, and many of the food items on the menu did not translate well to takeout. Dave specified scallops as something that doesn't hold well for the 20-plus minutes it takes for someone to pick the meal up, get home, and sit down to eat. While special food holidays like Thanksgiving were popular, the old business model just wasn't up to the new challenges and changes. Ollie's not only caters to a younger crowd who are more comfortable with eating inside a restaurant, their offerings hold up better to transportation and reheating on the whole. While there will be a higher end restaurant right next door, Ollie's solves the problem of change by embracing it and becoming something totally new.

The third reason was that because of a series of recessions and pivots, the menu was a mismatch of lower-ticket items like cheese curds and po boys, and higher-ticket items like steak and seafood. When customers looked at the menu, they would see \$11 items alongside \$40 items, and more often than not were choosing the less expensive options. Heide described it as "fine dining on low mark items," and that the overall message was confusing for customers who might have been looking for an upscale place to celebrate a special occasion, and seeing menu items all over the board. "We were too fancy, but not fancy enough," Dave explained. So he took all of the food that his family likes to eat, and that younger people would want, and made them into their own restaurant, with a higher-end restaurant to come. By separating the two, Dave and Ollie are making a brand that is consistent and clear, is flexible enough to withstand the changes that may come—and is kind and welcoming to anyone who might need a place to come and fit in. All are welcome at Ollie's.







Find Your Wellness

at Willy Street Co-op

You'll find fresh, nutritious, natural foods in our three stores, even if you're on a special diet!



PEOPLE'S CHOICE and #2 Grocery Store!

www.willystreet.coop 👔 🗾 🔞 Everyone welcome!



willy street COLOP













COMMUNITY MEDIA

Another Year in the Books

A look back at what Our Lives looked like in 2022.



































Get A Rate You'll Love Coming Home To.

At UW Credit Union, we work hard to make homebuying easy. Our intuitive online application process, fast preapprovals and trusted team of experienced mortgage loan officers help keep the process simple and stress-free, so you can spend more time focusing on the important things. Find out what a top Wisconsin lender can do for you by applying online today.

Mortgages For Every You. | uwcu.org 800-533-6773





UW Credit Union is ranked among the top ten home loan lenders in the state based on information from county Register of Deeds offices, CoreLogic.



THE SPIRIT OF MADISON, THE CHOICE OF CAPITOL LAKES

Melissa and Ingrid love their life right here, at the only continuing care retirement community in downtown Madison. Real peace of mind, all levels of healthcare, housekeeping, and an expanding host of services and amenities make their move one of their best decisions yet. After all, Ingrid attended graduate school for economics at UW, so she's pretty sure the move has penciled out nicely.

Want to know more? We thought you'd never ask.



Call 608-283-2046 retirement.org/madison