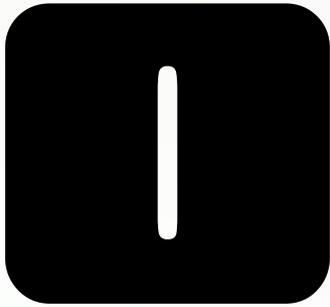


our lives



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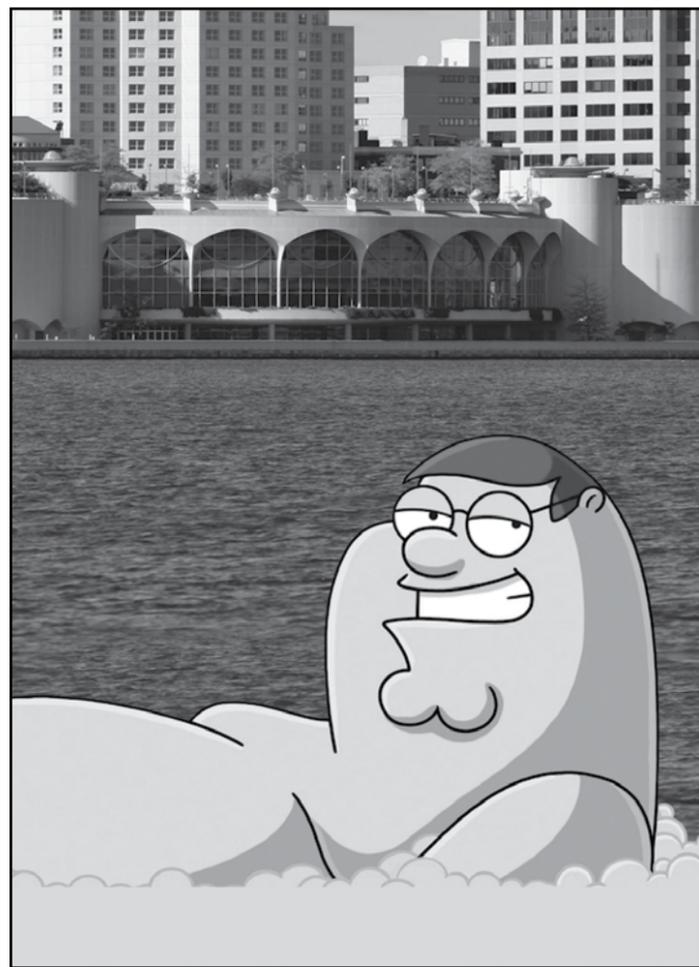
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Features

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2011



our lives **OL**

fair wisconsin

2011 LIST OF
CARING & COMMITTED
COUPLES



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Cover Photographed by: **Matthew Gordon Wisniewski**

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Madison's LGBT&XYZ Magazine

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Richard Wagner details how the press coverage of Wilde's trial illuminated public opinion on homosexuality in the 19th century.

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9a-01p: **hunter**
01p-04p: **ryan seacrest**
04p-07p: **ryan walker**
12a-530: **the kruze show**
12a-530: **dawson mcallister**

...:weekends:...

FRI 12a-6a: **jojo**
SAT 2a-6a: **boy toy jesse club z with kidd leow**

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Our Lives Demographics

To request a copy of our market research report (100+ pages), contact the publisher at pfarabaugh@ourlivesmadison.com. Please put **Our Lives Market Research** as the subject of your e-mail.

Total Respondents	566
Sample Demographics Include...	
Median age	42
In relationships and living together	55.3%
Have a bachelor's degree or higher	77.8%
Have children under age 18 living in home	10.8%
Approx. annual household income	\$75,000
Earns \$50,000 or more per year	61%
Is mid to senior level management at work	57.6%
Owns a single family home	59.0%
Rents an apartment	38.1%
Sample Key Findings Include...	
Probably/Definitely want to get married	64.6%
Already are married	15%
Will take a major vacation in 2011	28.7%
Will make a significant furniture purchase in 2011	18.1%
Will buy an automobile in 2011	15.5%
Will attend an LGBT political fundraiser	43%
Will spend at least \$100 per month on their pet	40.4%
Attend the Opera/Ballet/Symphony at least once a year	52.4%
Works out 3+ hours per week	54%
Cycles on a regular basis	41.2%
Spends \$20+ weekly in restaurants	83.8%
Spends \$50+ weekly in restaurants	47.8%
Consciously eats healthy daily	57.6%
Owns their car	85.8%
Took 1+ round trip flights in the past year	70.5%

editor

Love Is



Love exists in many forms, and it is expressed in exponentially more ways: each person has their own style or method of showing and receiving love.

In this third annual Love issue, you will glimpse into the lives of two couples who took great steps in order to proclaim their love and secure a life together. Additionally, you will read about artists whose very lives embody love as an artistic expression. You will read

poetry and prose from local writers, enjoy a photo collage of couples that found each other through country line dancing, and meet local organizers with a passion for connecting those in our community who may not otherwise have an outlet.

We hope this, our biggest issue to date, provides you with thought-provoking, heart-warming, engaging stories and serves as a conduit for your own expression of love and connection to our community.

Virginia Harrison
EDITOR
vharrison@ourlivesmadison.com



A Splash from Paul about Love

Ripples is a weekly inspirational email blast. Learn more at TheRipplesProject.org

The meaning of life is creative love. Not love as an inner feeling, as a private sentimental emotion, but love as a dynamic power moving out into the world and doing something original. **-Tom Morris**

We are, all of us, molded and remolded by those who have loved us. No love, no friendship, can cross the path or our destiny without leaving some mark upon it forever. **-Source unknown**

Your fear of love is the only thing holding you back right now. Trust that you are lovable, and the love offered you shall prove to be real. Accept the love of the universe, as well as the love of those around you. **-Dawn Williams**

Love does not consist of gazing at each other but in looking together in the same direction. **-Antoine de Saint-Exupery**

We all become more beautiful when we are loved, and if you have self-love then you are always beautiful. **-Alice Walker**

What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you will do in the evenings, how you will spend your weekends, what you read, who you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in love, stay in love, and it will decide everything. **-Pedro Arrupe**

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contributors



Matthew Wisniewski: I love telling stories. I've been infatuated with storytelling since I was a kid. I used to dream up superhero stories to draw for friends and family. When I got to high school I used writing to satisfy my storytelling need. And then I picked up a camera. Photography led me to photojournalism where I developed my style while interning with several publications in southern Wisconsin including the *Wisconsin State Journal*, the *Janesville Gazette*, and *Madison Magazine*.

I picked up photography to tell stories. I live for the personality, emotions, and moments I capture in photographs and video that would otherwise be quickly forgotten. I love love. I love being in love.

Bonnie Raimy moved to Madison in 2006. Her desire to be self-employed, coupled with her love of fashion, became the catalyst for her wardrobe consulting/personal shopping business. Bonnie caters to both men and women who find shopping intimidating, or who need help choosing clothing to fit their bodies as well as their lifestyle. She has a strong belief in individuality, and focuses on guiding clients in a direction where each can define his/her own personal style. See Bonnie's style blog at: citystylist.blogspot.com.



Kelly Doering is a Madison based photographer, web developer, and occasional tour director. As a photographer he specializes in portrait, event, and documentary photography, which he often combines with his love of international travel. He is a founding board member of Note Karacel, a Chicago-based nonprofit focused on educating girls and community development in Uganda. Kelly is also a Certified International Tour Director and directs motor coach tours for Badger Tour and Travel. He has recently launched a humorous greeting card line of men in drag called What A Drag Productions. For more information visit his websites at: StickPeopleProductions.com and WhatADragProductions.com.

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This program is funded by the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health's Wisconsin Partnership Program

community

Talking About a Revolution

LezInColor founder **Rita Adair's** idea has quickly developed into a popular gathering for lesbians of color.

Who are you and where are you from? I was born in Madison and lived here until I was five years old. Then I lived in New York City and Toronto. When I was in middle school, my family moved to the Williamson/Atwood area of Madison, and my siblings and I attended Marquette Middle and East High School. Those early years were full of travel, exciting places, diversity, and politics.

I have worked as a social worker for over 23 years in the Madison area. I am also a vocalist, a writer, and a theatrical performer. My parents were foster parents and were involved with community projects—setting an example for my six siblings, the community, and me. The arts have always been a big part of my life. I come by it naturally, as my mother is a professional costumer and my father



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OUR ORGANIZERS

was a WWF Wrestler. The combination gave me an appreciation for theatre and performance, along with family and giving back.

Please share how you came to form Lez in Color. What needs did you identify in the community when conceiving the group? Being a lesbian of color, I have always felt like the elephant in the room in Madison. It is not an unfamiliar place, as just being a black woman in Madison can often mean that there are only one or two persons of color at your job, on the board, on your street, in your classes, and in most places you frequent. Trying to socialize means assimilating to others and their comforts. This becomes part of survival within the Madison gay scene for persons of color.

A friend and I were having conversations about this and decided to have a party and invite women of color. We each put names on paper and realized that together we knew about 20 women to invite.

The party was at my house and wonderful, with 27 women in attendance. Everyone wanted to get together again, so I gave us a name: "LezInColor" and created a Yahoo site: LesInColor@yahoo.com, and things just went from there.

What was the first Lez in Color event like? What discoveries did you and others make as a result? Women were asking for another party, as our first

was the largest gathering of women of color anyone had experienced in Madison. I needed to find another venue for our next gathering. I approached a few places and was not received well until I went to Plan B. They were so welcoming to our group. It is a perfect match. LezInColor now has the First Friday of each month as an add-on to Cake Night (an evening for women) at Plan B. Our first night was November 5, with 39 women signing our guest book. It was wonderful!

It is a beginning; a desire to be in the company of others like us, an opportunity to be a larger part of things in the community, to be represented and have our voices heard.

How is the group progressing and growing?

Monica Adams has designed and is selling our t-shirts, we have a group caterer for events, we are working on a website, and we are planning a New Year's Eve event with a larger group in Chicago. It is a beginning; a desire to be in the company of others like us, an opportunity to be a larger part of things in the community, to be represented and have our voices heard.

How do you envision the future of your organization?

My first goal was to create an opportunity for lesbians of color to meet, then to define the group needs (ongoing), and next to become a larger part of the gay community in Madison. Examples of this expanded presences include attending social and political gatherings, doing community service projects, and organizing culturally-specific events. I am excited about our possibilities and eager to offer myself in any way I can.

What can people learn more?

Interested persons can get on the mailing list by going to LezInColor@yahoo.com or by calling 608-213-1200.

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Visible and Visceral

Callen Harty's autobiographical play, *Invisible Boy*, proves cathartic for him and many who saw it.



After my heart attack, I realized I had to confront something theatrically that I had not dealt with directly enough in my life, let alone in the theater, and so began the writing of *Invisible Boy*, my twentieth full-length play and a drama that examined autobiographically the issue of childhood sexual abuse. It was the most difficult thing I've ever done artistically, emotionally, or spiritually. I did it because in thinking about what was important in my life, I realized it was essential to share my story so that others might know they are not alone. The play achieved that, but also so much more.

I had no idea how much healing the play would bring to me. During the process of writing, directing, and then watching the play for 18 performances, I was forced to confront the horrors of my childhood abuse, to see them played out and reenacted over and over again, and to come to terms with the loss of my innocence and the effect of that on my life. The moment I completed the play in a hotel in Oshkosh, the very moment I

Every night of performance, sitting in the dark of the theater watching the events unfold again, my eyes teared up. But the tears were both a release of ancient pain and the washing over of joy.

put the last period on the last stage direction, I broke down and cried like a little child. After the last rehearsal, on my way home under the stars of an autumn sky, I cried again. Every night of performance, sitting in the dark of the theater watching the events unfold again, my eyes teared up. But the tears were both a release of ancient pain and the washing over of joy.

I always look for the positive in my life rather than dwell on the negative. With the play, with my tears, I was letting go of terrible incidents of abuse. I was letting go of long-held pain. What I suffered, starting at ten years old and lasting for almost eight years, made me a stronger person. It made me a more empathetic person. It helped me to help others heal. I became more fully honest and real. I became a survivor.

It took time and a great deal of hard work to get to this place, but because I did it I found that my work was able to help others as I had originally hoped. I cannot begin to count the stories of healing that came from the production of *Invisible Boy*. One after another, survivors whispered their stories, sent me e-mails thanking me for letting them know that they were not alone, shared difficult and honest stories of their own journeys in front of total strangers at talkbacks, cried or gave me a look of understanding that I knew meant that the story touched them in a very personal way. It proved cathartic for me and for many, many others.

I don't know that I could ask anything more of my art than that. The curtain has been drawn on the production, but I believe that the ripples of healing will continue. I believe that the Broom Street production of *Invisible Boy* was only the beginning. There are more stories to be told—by me and by other survivors. And I know that I have only started my work in trying to make sure this kind of thing never happens again, to anyone. Exposing the issue of child sexual abuse is just the beginning. It is my hope that others will hear the message and join the conversation. ■

my life and near-death have been in the theater. Almost 28 years ago I stepped onto the stage of Broom Street Theater for the first time, and I haven't stopped acting, writing, and directing since that time. About two years ago, I suffered a major heart attack during the opening of a play on that very same stage. Right in the middle of an intense scene I felt a sudden sharp pain in my chest. It was the most surreal drama of my adult life.

I think of that heart attack as a gift and such a gift tends to put one's life in perspective. When you face death and come out on this side of it, everything takes on new meaning. Petty arguments and little irritations become utterly insignificant and the things that do have meaning take on greater significance. Questions like, "What am I doing with my life?" resound in one's mind. The past, present, and future are examined and everything is reprioritized.

Hide/Seek: Difference and Desire in American Portraiture

Edited by Jonathan D. Katz and David C. Ward



Hide/Seek: Difference and Desire in American Portraiture is an entrancing narrative focused on the impact of gays, lesbians, and other sexual minorities in the world of American art. Introduced by the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, *Hide/Seek* is being released as the companion to the first museum exhibition in American history to focus on art and culture by esteemed members of the gay community.

Hide/Seek features over 150 colored illustrations, drawings, and portraits created by notable artists, musicians, architects, and writers including Georgia O'Keeffe, Jasper Johns, and Andy Warhol.

Throughout the book, *Hide/Seek* shows and tells the challenges that the gay community has faced in the art realm since the days of Eakins and the worst years of the AIDS crisis. Through quotes, descriptions, and historical facts, readers get a sense of what it means to be an under-appreciated gay artist struggling to make it in a critical American society. The book also reveals how modern American culture and art has paved the way for these artists to express themselves by using conceptualization of American art as their catalyst.

Hide/Seek is published by Smithsonian Books. ■

A SIMPLE LOVE POEM

Eleanor has piles of stuff, like I do. Piles of receipts, piles of notes on scraps of paper, piles of books, news—paper clippings. Stuff. Eleanor has hair like I do, curly and copious, the kind a lover can bury their fingers in, their nose, the kind you love to smell and feel and know how blessed you are to have this. Only mine is black, Eleanor's is white. She has a smile, a cockeyed one, like mine. It's engaging, fetching, makes you fall in love with her. We've both had our share. Eleanor likes to garden, cook, tell tall tales, travel to distant lands, hold naked brown babies in her lap. She takes them home with her in her heart. Like me. She takes me home. She takes me — my fingers — a baby's in her hair.



LOUISE MANCUSO, a native of Buffalo, NY, is a former cloistered nun, and worked for over 30 years as a companion-aide to support her writing habit. She is a member of the Mind's Eye Radio Collective, and the Wisconsin Regional Writers' Association.

Our Lives is **ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS** of original, previously unpublished poetry by Madison-area poets. We invite contributions that represent our diversity including: gender and gender identity, sexual preference, racial and ethnic heritage, allies, emerging voices, and poets—young and old. Poems should be no longer than 20 lines. When submitting, please indicate any special group(s) you may represent. This will assist us in selecting works that represent our diverse community.

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Rebecca Ryan
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community



Standing inside the tipi she made in Iowa City, Rae explains the five goddess figures on its inside liner in the late 80s. The first installation of this piece was in 1982.

The Art of Rae Atira-Soncea

Karin Wolf profiles the late artist who believed "making is living is transforming."

"as an artist I believe that art is of vast metaphysical importance in the world, and that the act of making is the first true act of magic, the act of transforming."

Rae Atira-Soncea (2/16/1953–3/1/2009) created art about women's history and lived experiences. She is known for turning traditional domestic objects such as brooms, ironing boards, pots, mirrors, and cabinets into sculptures that make powerful statements about women's agency and subjugation. Art making was, for Atira-Soncea, a magical and spiritual process.

She considered her sculptures to be healing love letters to the world. Sweeping Changes (1991), her master's thesis exhibition, was among the works recently exhibited at the Overture Center for the Arts (Home-made Magic and the Art of Domestic Objects, (9/22/2010–1/9/2011)) and includes a number of the intricate brooms Atira-Soncea created as symbols of both the common domestic chore of sweeping and as a tool of witchcraft.

The Overture exhibition demonstrated not only the breadth of her mastery of various artistic traditions (casting metal, glass work, carving wood, beading, embroidery, weaving, sculpting clay, mixed media assemblage, for example), but her depth of love for this planet and its people. "I believe if you send a love letter to somebody and they get it and it's in a language they can understand, it has made a difference." In honoring the anniversary of both her birth and her death, it seems appropriate to commemorate the way she spent her life manifesting greater understanding.

On February 16, 2011 we celebrate what would have been her 58th birthday. Atira-Soncea's obituary states she was a local "artist, activist, educator, coordinator, priestess, and inter-faith ambassador." To that, one might add a multiplicity of identities she proudly claimed at various points during her life: bisexual, feminist, disabled, ex-convict, fat, rural poor, hippie, vegetarian, student, Native American, survivor, friend, witch, partner in life, mother, and grandmother. Her path was as complicated and marvelous as the double helix—two spirals, twisting and

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OUR ARTISTS



turning, but always reaching upward; in Atira-Soncea's case, that upward movement was her pursuit of a higher consciousness.

In a 1998 interview, Atira-Soncea described herself as a young woman as "a naughty, outspoken girl. I was lewd, I was loose." At 18, after surviving a tumultuous childhood including poverty and sexual abuse, Atira-Soncea, the eldest of 13 children, moved out. The following year, she met and began a lifelong relationship with Math Heinzl. Their love was about friendship, partnership, and equality.

Atira-Soncea said, "I'm a bisexual even though I've been married to the same damn man for 26 years, and I love him to death. I don't want to be quiet about that stuff. Because I feel like we already are. We already put limits on people and say, 'Don't talk. Don't say anything. Don't admit anything. Be safe. Be surface.'"

Atira-Soncea was an incredible, complex woman who overcame unspeakable odds to be an accomplished artist, an educator, a spokesperson for our humanity, and an inspiration for living a full and authentic life. She lived as bravely and authentically as one can, claiming her bisexuality and her feminism.

She shared her story and her life with those around her, and by doing so she created social change. Her willingness and desire to connect with people in a meaningful way helped bridge and forge acceptance where it may not have otherwise existed. "You can't 'other' somebody if they are in your circle," she once said.

A memorial blog, online gallery of her work, interviews, quotes, and scholarly reviews are on her website (raeatirasoncea.com).

Note: Rae is quoted here courtesy of Amy Bethel's interview from July 1998. It can be found at raeatirasoncea.com/?page_id=15. ■

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Love Makes the World Go 'Round

—Or Makes the Lovers Go 'Round the World

Former Madison resident **Joey Johannsen** and her partner **Gabi Helfert** document their efforts to build a life together and the barriers that exist to doing so here in the U.S.

Our story is about love—the love between two people who met and knew right from the beginning that a future together would be the natural course of things. It is also a story about injustice—about an unfair legal system that prevents us from living together in the country we love. This particular story is about us: Gabi, a German woman living in Rotterdam, Netherlands, and Joey, an American woman who used to live in Madison, Wisconsin, but emigrated to the Netherlands.

How We Met

We met in the summer 2009 in Madison during a wedding of a mutual friend. Joey offered a guestroom for Gabi to stay during the weekend celebration. What was meant as a friendly gesture toward an out-of-town guest quickly turned into mutual attraction and budding love. Gabi was only in town for the weekend, but we knew we wanted to see each other again. Joey turned a pre-planned two-month work assignment in France into a one-month stay and spent the other month with Gabi in Rotterdam. Hundreds of hours of Google video chat filled the time in between. Gabi returned to Madison over the Christmas and New Year holidays and proposed to Joey on the second-to-last day of 2009.

Both of us have advanced academic degrees and had employment as senior university staff. While this rendered some freedom regarding vacation and remote work, personal leave was still limited. It is impossible to schedule weekend visits with a 17-hour, one-way, door-to-door commute with each trip costing over \$1000. To live together, we knew we had to marry.

Marriage

We married in April 2010 in Dubuque, Iowa. Joey was 52, with aging parents in Iowa, where she was born and raised. Her four siblings and their families also lived in the Midwest and in Texas. Joey owned a condo on Madison's eastside; she had two cats and a close-knit network of friends and neighbors. Gabi was 44 and had only migrated to the Netherlands two years earlier. Her parents were deceased, she had no pets, and most of her friends, as well as her only brother and family, lived in the southwest of Germany. Gabi rented a downtown apartment, had a temporary project management job at the university, and was in the process of building up a second career as a freelance photographer. She had already been through the process of reducing her belongings to a minimum in the move from Germany to the Netherlands. Being a state-approved English-German translator, Gabi's English was excellent, while Joey's Dutch was non-existent. Gabi has traveled to 27 U.S. states since 1991, has many friends all over the U.S., and has exhibited her photos around the U.S., while Joey first set her foot on European ground in 2009, when she came to visit Gabi and for her subsequent work assignment in France.

Weighing the pros and cons of these facts, the logical step for a future together would have been for Gabi to pack her bags and move to the U.S. Having been legally married by a U.S. magistrate, you would think that with our marriage certificate and the background of two respected citizens who pay taxes, support communities, have diverse talents, extensive and

highly qualified vocational experiences, and own real estate, we would be able to decide where in America we would prefer to live. Well, this is where the story gets dicey.

Our marriage, while recognized on the state level, has no recognition in federal law. Immigration is federal law. Joey, therefore, could not sponsor Gabi to move to America as her family because neither of us is a man.

U.S. Immigration System is Flawed

In practice, the U.S. immigration system is filled with obstacles. Any couple of bi-national status encounters bureaucratic barriers. For same-sex couples, however, it is practically impossible to apply for family-based immigration, because they are not recognized to be family at all.

By definition, bi-national same-sex couples are lesbian and gay couples where one partner is a U.S. citizen, the other a foreign national. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, there are an estimated 40,000 couples like us. Opposite-sex married couples where one partner is foreign and the other a U.S. citizen can lay claim to the right to enter the U.S. with a few strokes of a pen. They need not even marry. They need only show a U.S. consulate abroad that they intend to do so. Merely stating that they have met at least once before in their lives grants them access. Of course, there is a whole lot of paperwork to be filled out once in the U.S. before a permanent residence and work permit is granted, but their situation is still legal, from the beginning. Which is not the case for bi-national same-sex couples.

Nineteen nations currently allow their citizens to sponsor their same-sex partners for immigration. Unfortunately, the United States does not, because of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman. Our research has concluded that the current immigration system is a flawed and unfair system, which needs a rewrite. The Uniting American Families Act (UAFSA), S. 424/H.R. 1024, would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents to sponsor their foreign-born permanent partners for legal residence in the U.S. The first and last Senate Judiciary Committee hearing of UAFSA took place on June 3, 2009.

In America, the charge to oversee immigration laws is entrusted to Congress. We both have written letters to congressional leaders. We asked Congress to repeal DOMA, which mandates discriminatory treatment of gay and lesbian relationships by the federal government.

We do not know how long it will take to correct the unfair legal situation—or if it will ever happen. But standing at a TSA counter, kissing goodbye and waiting months before we would see each other again became increasingly difficult. In the middle age of our lives, we abhorred the idea of living on different continents until the legislators woke up and wrote sane immigration legislation. Being levelheaded and clear-minded women, we chose to obtain and complete the stack of paperwork necessary for Joey to obtain a Dutch Visa. She ended her employment, put her condo up for sale, took her two cats with her on a plane to Amsterdam, let go of a lifetime of “things,” and contracted with a mover to ship just the basic clothing and household items across the Atlantic Ocean.

Joey's Emigration to the Netherlands

In June 2010, Joey took another three-week trip to Rotterdam in order to provide legal proof of our marriage to the Dutch immigration authorities. We also had to produce our passports and birth certificates, a rental contract for Gabi's apartment, a declaration of Gabi's employer, and complete all required forms. Joey immediately received a temporary six-month visa. We celebrated when her five-year residence and work permit arrived in late October, after the authorities had checked the documentation provided and given their approval.

We've done our research. If you want to live with the person you

love, even if you're an EU citizen from another country, and even if your spouse has citizenship on another continent, this is all it takes in the Netherlands—no matter if you're a man and a woman, a woman and a woman, or a man and a man who are married to each other. We believe the Dutch example is how it should be everywhere in the world.

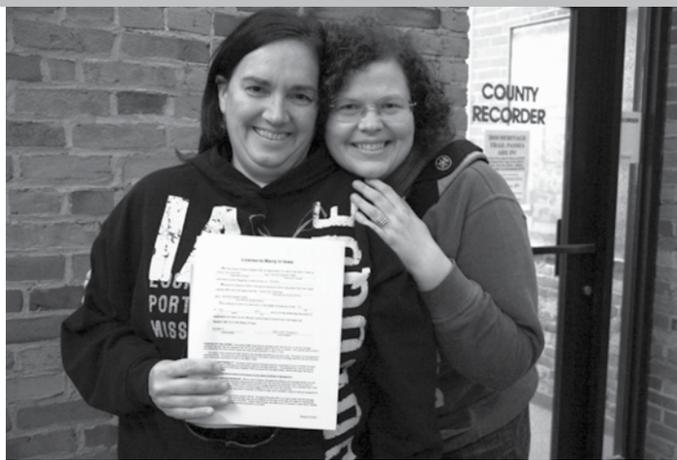
International Recognition of Same-Sex Couples

The Netherlands was the first country to legalize same-sex marriage. In December 2000, the Dutch parliament passed legislation that gave same-sex couples the right to marry and adopt children. On April 1, 2001, the mayor of Amsterdam officiated at the ceremonies of the first four gay couples to be married. More than 2,400 same-sex couples married in the Netherlands within nine months of the law going into effect, according to government figures. Since then, the annual number of same-sex marriages has declined from 1,838 in 2002 to 1,371 in 2007. It is no big deal.

Over a nine-year period, other countries followed the Netherlands' lead and legalized same-sex marriage: Belgium (2003), Canada (2005), Spain (2005), South Africa (2006), Norway (2008), Sweden (2009), Argentina (2010), Portugal (2010), Iceland (2010), and Ireland (2010). Eighteen more countries, including Germany, Hungary, Denmark, Finland, Uruguay, New Zealand, Colombia, and the United Kingdom, acknowledge civil unions and registered partnerships, which grant same-sex couples the same rights as mixed-sex couples.

Our desire is that DOMA will be repealed and in the near future we will return to America and live as a recognized legally-married couple with all the same rights and benefits that other couples receive. In the meantime, we will make the best of our situation here in Europe, where we have received all the support and equitable recognition we could possibly hope for.

If any other EU-U.S. couple is interested in exploring the situation of immigration to the Netherlands, the process starts here: www.ind.nl ■



TOP PHOTO BY GABI HELFERT, ROTTERDAM. MIDDLE PHOTO BY AMBER SOWARDS, MADISON. BOTTOM PHOTO BY CHRISTINE HOLCOMB, MADISON

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Standing at the Crossroads

An **Anonymous Reader** bravely
begins questioning where and how
she fits into a gendered identity.

Rachel Maddow recently said gender doesn't exist. Well actually, she said the judge who ruled on California's Prop 8 said gender didn't exist. This prompted me to write to *Our Lives* about how I've been thinking a lot about gender lately. I notice the feminine man, I notice the masculine woman. I notice how easily one could be the other. I notice how random it all is. After all, our genitals can change into one or the other depending on the chemical bath we get while we are in the womb.

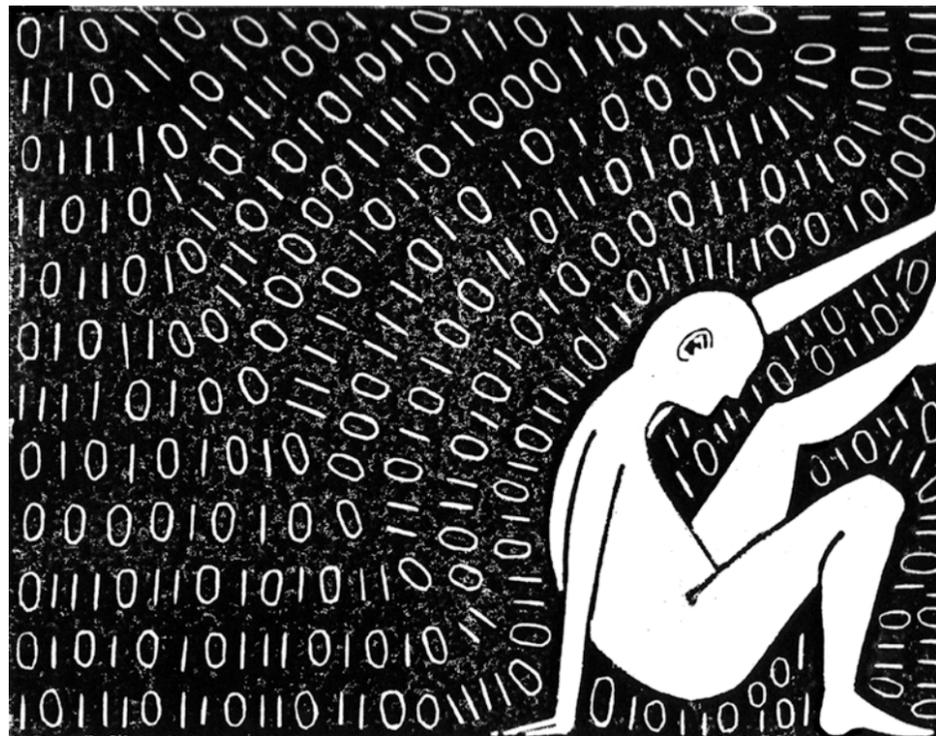
Aren't gay people all trans gender? We transcend gender because we choose to be sexual with a person of our same gender. We push gender boundaries with the way we dress and with the way we act.

Some Native Americans call us Two Spirits. I find this to be a beautiful description of who I am. Yet I've been thinking about gender and my gender identity. I don't really feel like a woman or a man. I feel somewhere in between and that gives me a sense of pain and sadness of not belonging. I am a girl and a woman because people tell me I am one, and they try to get me to behave like one. I am rewarded for acting more feminine and punished for acting too masculine. I have been battling this my entire life and at this stage I feel tired, angry, hurt and depressed. Should I just change into a man or is this giving in to the pressure to be one or the other? Why can't we just be who we are. why are people so intent on putting us in a box?

I have been an athletic person my entire life. I wanted to play everything with the boys. I wanted to play football, basketball and baseball. Once I tried on my older cousin's football uniform and I was in heaven. That was before puberty when it was cute. I used to pray to God to help me want to wear a dress. I began battling my mom in kindergarten not to wear a dress because the boys would look up our skirts. I mostly refused to wear dresses except on special occasions. When I did wear a dress or skirt everyone rewarded me and acted like this was so terrific.

Gender is fascinating to me and also confusing. If I landed on Earth and had to choose a gender I would think I was male. But, isn't this just ascribing to traditional roles? People always think I'm a man so why not change over? I'm a sensitive person. I feel oversensitive. I see the looks I get. I see the women looking at the door of the bathroom. I try to do the things that interest me and I am always having to fight. I'm tired of fighting.

I have been sober now almost 4 years - it has been a terribly painful journey and I have thought of suicide more than often. With my sobriety has come a feeling that I would rather be a man than a woman. As a feminist this is a hard pill to swallow. I currently don't have the strength to do anything except think about this. I attended the Michigan Womyns Music Festival most recently in 2006 and noticed a movement toward trans sexuality. I don't know where this is coming from. Some say it is because of technology. Some trans people say they were influenced by books about people who transitioned. I have seen television shows on trans people, and I have seen more trans people in the media and it seems like more and more women are transitioning.



I heard someone say once that gender in our culture is binary. You are a zero or you are a one. If I could just be an individual instead of a zero I would be happier.

Recently I saw an episode of Grey's anatomy in which a young girl found out she was a hermaphrodite. This story line really struck a chord with me. Ever since taking freshman psych I was sure everyone in the classroom would notice I was a hermaphrodite. I feel like a hermaphrodite. I am a hermaphrodite in spirit but not biologically.

I heard someone say once that gender in our culture is binary. You are a zero or you are a one. If I could just be an individual instead of a zero I would be happier. How often I have been stared at coming in or out of the ladies room. One time a little girl said, "we don't know if that is a boy or a girl right mommy?" Number one I am not a lady and number two I don't really care to be one. So I keep my head down and try to get in and out of there as quickly as possible. I am a sensitive person and this has taken its toll on me. I am merely trying to be myself and I feel I am constantly stared at and treated differently. It is a non verbal assault of a kind with no scars except on my psyche. I know lots of lesbians feel this way.

I always felt transexuality was a distortion of trying to change oneself instead of dealing with being gay. I no longer feel that way. I feel trans gender myself. I don't know if this is because it has been suggested to me and presented to me as an option through books media and gay/trans culture.

I wish someone had asked me when I was a prepubescent child - are you a boy or a girl? Then it would have been simple. I would have said. I'm a boy. Then, I could have received hormones to become a boy. But, perhaps this is feeding in to the binary nature of our gender culture.

All I know for now is that I am a two spirit. ■

Illustration by **Juliet Darken, darkenart.com**

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An Expressive Life

Charles Bauer and Charles Beckwith infuse everything they do—as a couple and within the community—with creativity, intentionality, and love.

to live our lives with a primary purpose of creating and appreciating beauty seems like a romantic fantasy from the 18th Century. However, creative expression is experiencing a kind of renaissance in our post-industrial, economically- and spiritually-challenged America as people are beginning to realize that our new economy depends on the inventive ideas of the “creative class.” We also know that our health, spiritual well-being, and overall quality of life are improved by living authentically and expressively. Beyond embracing art and culture, “expressive life,” a term peddled by former National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Bill Ivey, is meant to encompass the full spectrum of human activity, including everything from politics to philosophy, from home to craft, from the way we dress to the way we love.

In Madison, there is, perhaps, no greater example of two people living an expressive life than Charles Beckwith and Charles Bauer, affectionately known to friends as Chuck and Chuck. Pillars of our community, this team of creative individuals has walked the same path for over 40 years, in business, home, art, and love.

Best known for their iconic Madison store The Soap Opera, they began their business in 1972 by selling their wares from a blanket on Library Mall. They gradually moved their perfumery up State Street, renting small areas from storefronts and other business owners. Eventually, they purchased the building they currently occupy at 319 State Street. When asked the secret to their long-term success, they spoke not only of timing and circumstance, but also of their commitment to quality: they only sell those products that they appreciate themselves.

The couple is also well known for their unique residence. Designed by architect Val Dunis in 1986, Bauer and Beckwith jumped numerous hurdles to obtain the permissions needed to build their University Heights dream home. In fact, they learned so much about the city’s zoning code and design committees that Bauer became actively involved with the Landmarks Commission, serving as the commission’s chair for over a decade.

More than 25 years later, the two still live in their modern residence nestled compatibly between more traditional houses. Standing on the rooftop deck, one can imagine looking out over a balcony in Paris (substitute the Eiffel Tower for Camp Randall). Peering into the streets of their West Side neighborhood, the gentlemen describe the joys and challenges of building their home, business, and relationship, with beauty leading the way.

Rather than the horizontal swell of many suburban houses, the Bauer-Beckwith home extends vertically three stories high. Sleeping, dining, sharing, and—most importantly—creating occur throughout each of the levels. Art that they created, purchased, and commissioned fill the home and visually demonstrate a lifetime of love and beauty. Every room and hallway is blanketed with art that displays the values and aesthetics the couple embraces. Sunlight enters the space from every angle, naturally lighting their collections of paintings, sculptures, photographs, furniture, rich tapestries, embroidered pillows, and mosaic floors. The artfully decorated rooms are eminently livable and often bustling with guests from the many non-profits and other community organizations they support.

Chuck and Chuck each maintain a studio in the home. Bauer finishes oil paintings in his upstairs quarters. He is a plein air painter, meaning he creates most of his work “in the open air” through direct observation of

the natural world. Once he settles into the right location for his work, he spends hours observing and painting. It is an almost meditative practice wherein his understanding of nature deepens the longer he studies that which his eye sees. His works convey a restful, joyful relationship with our Midwestern landscape.

From another space in the home, Chuck Beckwith creates mosaics. His studio is packed with color-sorted pieces of ceramic bowls, plates, cups, and other remnants. From his collection of broken leftovers of bygone eras, Beckwith re-purposes the fragments into colorful mosaic artworks such as his signature big bowl, large-scale pieces like furniture, and smaller items like vases.

Peering into the streets of their West Side neighborhood, the gentlemen describe the joys and challenges of building their home, business, and relationship, with beauty leading the way.

AIDS Network recently selected Bauer’s paintings for the first exhibition on the walls of the new AIDS Network Dental Clinic at 600 Williamson Street (September 27–December 31, 2010). Bauer’s work may be seen at Milward Farrell Fine Art, 2701 Monroe Street in Madison and on his website, ctbauer.com. Beckwith’s work is frequently exhibited, and is available at the Tory Folliard Gallery, a contemporary art gallery in Milwaukee’s Historic Third Ward.

Both Beckwith and Bauer share their work quite liberally. Through their home, their business, their art, and their love, Chuck and Chuck are bestowing a gift, sharing the beauty they discern with others. Their generous spirit of civic engagement is interwoven with their philosophy of expressive living: a philosophy that, in business, art, and love, has served them both well. —Karin Wolf



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madcampbingo.org



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ORGANIZATIONS

A representative sampling

AIDS Network
600 Williamson St., Madison (608) 252-6540
aidsnetwork.org

Bowling Out Loud
beckwith.matt@yahoo.com

Dairyland Cowboys and Cowgirls
dcandc.org

Fair Wisconsin
122 State St., Madison (608) 441-0143
fairwisconsin.org

Frontrunners/Frontwalkers
personalpages.tds.net/~tmcclurg

Gay/Straight Alliance for Safe Schools (GSAFE)
301 S. Bedford St., Madison (608) 661-4141
gsaforsafeschools.org

Gay Softball League
ssblmadison.com

Gay Volleyball League
madisongayvolleyball.com

Hermanos Latinos
sneal@aidsnetwork.org

Lez In Color Yahoo Group
LezInColor@yahoo.com

Lez Talk Yahoo Group
leztalkmadison@yahoo.com

LGBT Business Alliance
madisonbusinessalliance.com

Madison Gay Hockey Association
madisongayhockey.org

Madison Minotaurs Gay Rugby
minotaursrugby.org

New Harvest Foundation
newharvestfoundation.org

Out Professional and Executive Network (O.P.E.N.)
openmadison.org

OutReach Community Center
600 Williamson St., Madison (608) 255-8582
lgbtoutreach.org

PFLAG - Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays
(608) 848-2333
pflag-madison.org

Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus
perfectharmonychorus.org

StageQ - Madison's Queer Theater
stageq.com

UW - Madison LGBT Campus Center
800 Langdon St., Madison (608) 265-3344
wisc.edu/lgbt

Wisconsin Rainbow Families
wirainbowfamilies.com

Excerpt from the LGBTQ Narratives Group

lgbtqnarratives.blogspot.com

Linda Lenzke lives in Madison, Wisconsin and has been writing poetry, comedy, spoken word performance, and personal narratives for the past 30 years. She is a member of the LGBTQ Narratives activist-writers group and is currently working on a memoir entitled, "Perfectly Flawed."



When Did I Know?

People often ask, "When did you know you were gay?" When I answer this question, I realize it has been a journey. I've navigated my life learning how I was different while seeking others who were like me.

The year was 1962. I was 12 years old and in the sixth grade, growing up in the Midwest, in Racine, Wisconsin. I had had crushes on boys: Don the paperboy, Tom in my class with the broad smile (who when I look back reminds me of a junior version of my father: wavy hair, sense of humor, and teasing affection). Back then, that was how you gauged how much a boy liked you by the degree of teasing and the number pranks at your expense. I liked Tom and he liked me, but we never touched. We only flirted in that innocent, high-anxiety, hormone-fueled, child's play way.

It was different with Barb, my blonde classmate with the newly visible breasts unsupported by any apparatus — breasts that moved with a slight hop and jiggle when she walked. I imagined they must feel like Jell-O, only warm and fleshy — a small handful of pure joy. I schemed and wondered how I could touch them. Did it require permission, a conversation first, followed by clandestine groping? I decided on a strategy of accidental touch. I knew the day arrived when Barb was waiting for the school bus after class. She was wearing a robin's egg blue angora sweater with a boat neck. The lack of a collar revealed the small valleys and ridgelines between her face and chest, a territory I wanted to explore with my tongue, her flesh like a peach. The soft angora filaments of her sweater moved in the wind as if alive. Her lips broke into a smile when she saw me, parting slightly as her eyes opened wide, one winking to greet me as she giggled and shook her head slightly causing her shoulder-length hair to dance.

In that moment I was fully aware. I had a heightened awareness, to be precise that this young friend, a girl on the verge of becoming a woman, was the first person I desired. I wanted her in a way I could not articulate in words only feel in my body. My heart beat faster, cheeks flushed, and throat constricted as a ball of heat formed at the base of my torso, expanding and contracting. Barb began to reach for the handle to board the bus. As she lifted her leg, but before her foot reached the step, I rushed up next to her, placing one hand above hers on the door handle as if I was racing her to board the bus. As I propelled myself in front of her, I pretended to lose balance, my body falling toward her, my free hand reaching her breast and cupping firmly as if I was breaking my fall to steady myself. Oh my, oh my.

LGBTQ Narratives is a queer activist-writers' group open to all LGBTQ people interested in creative expression and social justice. To get involved, visit lgbtqnarratives.blogspot.com, write to lgbtqnarratives@gmail.com, or contact OutReach, Madison's LGBT Community Center.

GET LISTED To see your event on this page, be sure to post it on our community calendar ourlivesmadison.com

Save the Date

**New Harvest Foundation's
27th Annual Dinner Dance**

March 5 | newharvestfoundation.org
Come to the masquerade! Festive attire encouraged but not required. Dancing will feature music by Lynette Margulies with Four Chairs No Waiting redux.

AIDS Network's Red Ribbon Affair
April 1 | aidsnetwork.org

Madison Opera's "Out at the Opera"
April 29 | details coming soon...

GSAFE Celebration of Leadership
May 14 | gsaforsafeschools.org

FruitFest
June 18 | planbmadison.com

Milwaukee Pridefest
June 10, 11 & 12 | pridefest.com

ACT 9: The Wisconsin AIDS Ride
August 4-7 | actride.org

**19th Annual OutReach
Awards Banquet**
September 23 | lgbtoutreach.org

GSAFE Walk/Run/Eat
October | gsaforsafeschools.org

Fair Wisconsin Art Auction
December 1 | fairwisconsin.com

Midwest Gay Ski Weekend, January 7-9, Granite Peak Ski Area, Wausau
There will be great skiing or snowboarding for all ability levels on more than 70 runs. The weekend includes bar nights, a welcome reception/dinner, a group dinner, and a Sunday morning brunch. The fifth annual ski event is a great way to meet guys from all over the Midwest.
skibudz.org

Madison Home Expo, January 7-9, Monona Terrace Convention Center, Madison
The Home Expo is a comprehensive three-day expo filled with informative and beautiful displays showcasing the latest trends in design and product offerings. You will have the opportunity to talk directly with local experts and get the advice you need to help you with your home improvement projects.
homeshowcenter.com

Ben Folds: Lonely Avenue Tour, January 27, Overture Hall
Fifteen years after the Ben Folds Five's self-titled debut, the man himself is still Rockin' the Suburbs. The Lonely Avenue Tour stops in Madison in support of the album of the same title, which Folds co-wrote with Nick Hornby, author of About a Boy and High Fidelity.
overturecenter.com

Mamma Mia!, January 28-30, Overture Hall, Madison
It's your turn to have the time of your life at this smash-hit musical that combines ABBA's greatest hits, including "Dancing Queen," "S.O.S.," "Super Trouper," "Take A Chance on Me" and "The Winner Takes It All," with an enchanting tale of love, laughter and friendship. Whether it's your first visit or your fourteenth, see the show that has the whole world coming back for more, because every time feels like the first time at MAMMA MIA!
overturecenter.com

Evening of Romance, February 12, Overture Center, Madison
Madison jazz legend Jan Wheaton accompanies the beauty and intimacy of dance while lighting your inner fire on a cold winter's night. Whether you make it part of an evening on the town with that special someone or you attend with a friend or family member, we'll set the stage for a night to remember.
madisonballet.org

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LEGAL OR NOT, HERE WE COME!

Wondering “why bother” to have a gay wedding where it isn’t legal?

Jay Edgar and **Joshua Feyen** chose to despite the fact, and were blown away by how significant it was—for them and everyone else.

We met in February 2007. In autumn 2009 we decided to get married, and on July 24, 2010, we celebrated our marriage. Specifically, we said our vows near a pond and celebrated under a huge tent at the bottom of a lush valley hidden behind the bends of narrow country roads in southwest Wisconsin. But we weren’t hiding—in fact, we were being very, very out.

We don’t believe marriage’s significance is due to paperwork or officials; for us it is about openly—publicly—celebrating and sharing our love with family and friends. And being that big, that open, and that loving had some unexpected outcomes.

This is our wedding story.

It’s good for our relationship

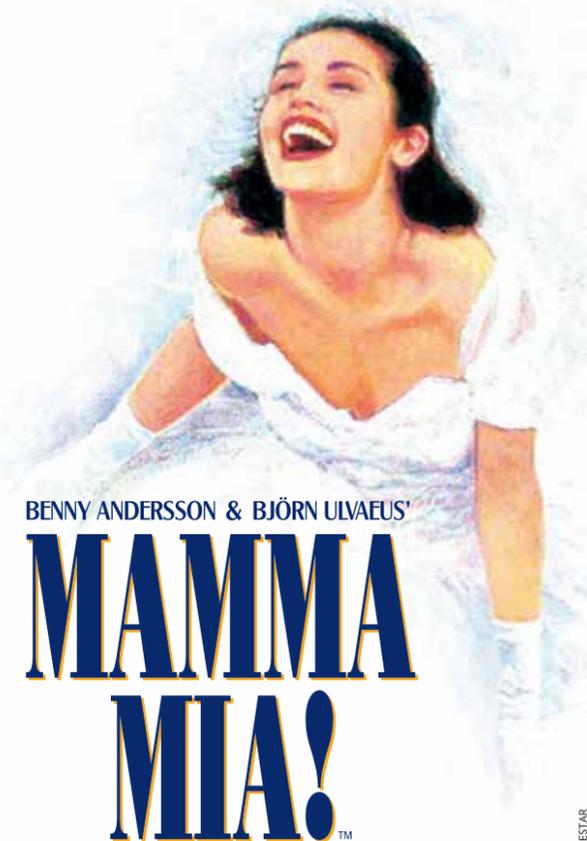
Want to test the strength of your relationship? Plan a wedding! We had some difficult conversations and made tough decisions. We were forced to look deep inside to see what was really important—issues we might never have faced otherwise. We found planning such an important event together strengthened our relationship.

For example, soon after we decided to marry, we discussed whether we would use the words “wedding” and “marriage” or some of the popular euphemisms instead. Josh disliked—even resented—the word “marriage” since it wasn’t legally available to us in Wisconsin. Jay very strongly wanted to use the word: our relationship deserved the same status as anyone else’s. Also, we were going through all the steps any other couple would, such as making announcements, planning, spending (lots of) money, and celebrating our love for and commitment to one another in front of a large group of family and friends. If it walks like a wedding and talks like a wedding—it’s a marriage. It took time and a lot of discussion, but we eventually agreed to use these words unequivocally. Or so we thought ...

We also had a lot of fun preparing for the big day: we worked well together and discovered each other’s strengths. Jay is a spreadsheet master and super organizer; Josh had a beautiful vision of how the day would look and feel; we both focused on our guests’ comfort, and turned the vision into reality. We also learned to let go of what was too much for our timeframe and budget. We now fully appreciate the value of planning and having a wedding—we confirmed that we have what it takes for a successful, life-long relationship.

It’s good for our relationships with family

“Let’s elope,” Josh suggested after a stressful night of planning with no end in sight. “So you want to go somewhere far away, where no one knows us, to do something that’s only legal in a few states anyway, so



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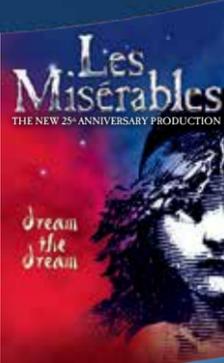


Mamma Mia!
FRI, JAN 28 – SUN, JAN 30, 2011

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Legally Blonde The Musical
TUE, APR 5 – SUN, APR 10, 2011

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New 25th Anniversary Production
TUE, MAY 10 – SUN, MAY 15, 2011



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that our marriage wouldn't really exist to anyone except ourselves? That's called a vacation," Jay responded. We had already decided that despite not having the same rights as straight couples, the one benefit of a wedding we *could* enjoy was the support and love of our families and friends.

We've both been out for years (Josh 16, Jay 23). While coming out to our families wasn't easy, we are both very blessed that our families love us and support our relationship. Because of this, we wanted to make a big deal announcing our engagement to them. During three Thanksgiving meals in 2009 we announced to 85 people our plans to marry, to much applause and cheering. Having experienced anti-gay bullying early in our lives, it was an amazing experience that started our eight-month journey to a wedding many of those same people later described as "magical."

Getting from announcement to the big day wasn't always easy with family. We asked our parents to review the final draft of the invitation, to see if we missed anything. We got some helpful suggestions from Jay's mom. Josh learned that when his parents read "... at the celebration of their marriage," they found themselves caught between wanting to celebrate our relationship and staying true to their Catholic faith. If we used

the word "marriage," they asked that we not open the invitation with, "Together with their parents ..." We felt disappointed, because *we* were then caught between our principles and honoring all four of our parents on the invitation the way we wanted.

We could have stubbornly stuck to our ideals and risked damaging our relationship with them. Instead, we chose the tougher path of attempting to appreciate their views and feelings. We drove to their home where the four of us had an uncomfortable, difficult conversation. While we don't share their beliefs, because love is more important to us than one word in print, we offered to remove it from the invitation. This may not seem like a big deal to anyone else; for us this was a huge—yet worthwhile—sacrifice.

Fast forward a couple of months to the day all four of our parents hosted the rehearsal dinner for 80 people at the Feyen family farm. Beneath the tent he'd built using saplings cut from the farm, Josh's father rang an old family dinner bell and made an elegant speech welcoming Jay to the family. He shared with guests how he and Josh's mom had crossed many bridges to get to this point, conceding, "It didn't hurt that much." We were weeping with joy and immense love for two people who refused to let

SIGN PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRISTINE LEMLEY



their beliefs get in the way of loving us. Through bleary eyes, we saw we weren't the only ones brought to tears with joy. This speech set the tone for the rest of the weekend, allowing our wedding to become a vessel for many to experience fearless emotion, audacious acceptance, and unbridled love.

It's good for the world

Our weddings (that's the big LGBT "our") require *everyone* to take risks. Guests risk facing fears and discomfort when we depart from familiar formulas of bride+groom and wedding/reception/dinner/dance/garter and bouquet toss. "What happens at a gay wedding?" "Are they going to kiss?" "Will it be uncomfortable?" "Will I be the only straight person there?" They may also have to come out as a guest attending a gay wedding. The more out we are in our lives, the more the people close to us have to make decisions about coming out themselves as a family member or friend of a gay person. For instance, we're not the only ones who have to decide how to respond when someone assumes the gender of the new spouse (in-law, etc.).

We take huge risks having a wedding, since this requires our being vulnerable in ways we trained ourselves when we were younger. Now, instead of hiding who we really are, we show it proudly to the world; instead of hiding who we love, we walk through life hand-in-hand; instead of hiding what we're feeling, we openly weep with joy and invite everyone in to share the joy and love with us. For us, our wedding became the single biggest contradiction to all those old hurts, which brought us deep and powerful healing.

What's the payoff of these risks for our guests? Our wedding ceremonies give straight *and* LGBT folks a unique opportunity to witness and experience love in new ways.

Have you ever arrived at a familiar destination and realized you didn't remember any part of the drive? You were on autopilot. We think people have been to so many weddings that one flows into the next, leading to "wedding autopilot." But when people received our invitation, they knew this drive would be different. While much of the route would be familiar, they didn't know where the detours would be, which supported keeping them present and aware the entire day.

Some of these detours included our groom+groom formula, one of us having a best man and two women standing with him, and the other having two best men and a groomsman. No one was "given away," we didn't toss a bouquet or garter, and there was no telling who would lead the first dance. Even with these few differences, most of the day was familiar, which allowed our guests to be comfortable: there was a minister in front, they were seated by ushers, and we exchanged vows and rings. The love we shared was so clear during the ceremony that by the end it would be *expected* for us to kiss. It no longer mattered that it was two grooms getting married.

Another benefit? People saw an example of two gay men who don't fit certain stereotypes when we committed ourselves to each other for life. The best way to destroy inaccurate stereotypes of gay folk is for people to see us and know who we really are.

One of our primary goals for the day was to be completely present. We freely shared our love, joy, and tears and it was contagious. In the days following, the comments and pictures that people posted on Facebook showed they felt it, too. Our photographer posted, "Attended my first gay wedding today. Needless to say, it was life-changing."

At a family reunion two weeks after the wedding we were touched deeply when Jay's aunt said, "You know, I've always understood intellectually how two men could love each other, but I never really *got it* until your wedding." We have heard repeatedly that

ours was the most beautiful wedding people had ever seen, and that it was "the social event of the summer!"

Josh's mom later described her experience: "We were in this deep valley, and your love rose into the sky, and then showered back down upon us. Then someone else felt this deep and powerful love, and sent their love up into the sky, and it fell back down and showered on other people. It was an endless cycle of sending love up and having it pour down on the rest of us."

Don't dismiss the idea of a wedding simply because it isn't condoned by church or state. If you want to commit your life to the one you love—GO FOR IT. The gifts you and your guests receive may be greater than you can imagine. ☺

Our wedding became a vessel for many to experience fearless emotion, audacious acceptance, and unbridled love



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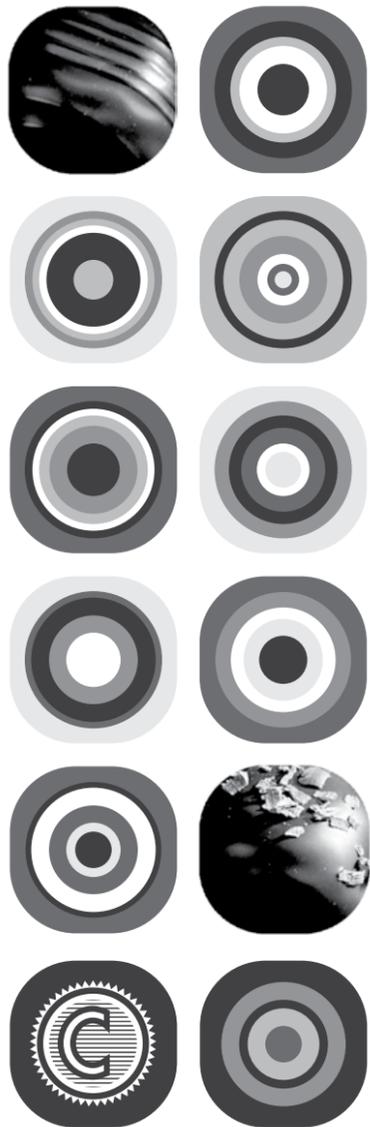
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Try telling that to the 265 LGBT couples from across our state who answered the call of *Our Lives* and Fair Wisconsin to stand up for love and fairness. We are sending a message—to our community, our youth, our allies and our opponents—that caring and committed LGBT couples are here to stay and deserve recognition and protection. From Madison to Milwaukee and Port Washington to Platteville, together we are building a fair Wisconsin.

Responses were collected through a collaborative survey e-mailed to both the Fair Wisconsin and Our Lives mailing lists. Sign up for either (or both!) at fairwisconsin.com and ourlivesmadison.com.

Bold text indicates couples who have registered under Wisconsin's 2009 Domestic Partnership Registry. For more information about registering or the protections available to same-sex couples, visit fairwisconsin.com.

ALGOMA

9 Robyn Mulhaney & Susan Connor

APPLETON

15 Chad & Andrew Wege

14 Michael Nitz & Jerry Koleske

12 Rose Hammond & Brenda Rivet

12 Helen Boyd Kramer & Rachel Crowl

11 Sandie Brown & Nicole Casamassa

10 Colleen & Amber Krueger

7.5 Christine Smith & Julie Konik

7 Heather & Natalie Starr

4.5 Kathy Flores & Ann Kendzierski

4 Chuck Erickson & E-Ben Grisby

BAILEYS HARBOR

11 Doug Smith & Mike Meulemans

BARABOO

16 Maria R. & Felipe Brito

BARRON

5.5 Brandon Litwiller & Daniel Djubenski

BELOIT

8 Joanne Mandt & Tina Lenz

BOZEMAN

4.5 Melanie Rider & Jennifer Lawrence

CAMBRIDGE

32 George Gay & Brian Soper

DALLAS

10 T. Dodge & Sara Vennie

DELANAV

5 Gaia Lenz & Laura Lenz-Perkins

DICKYEVILLE

6 Heather & Zoe Coys

EAU CLAIRE

35 Carol Schumacher & Virginia Wolf

13 Christopher Iannone & Thomas Murphy

12 Gretchen & Jo Lindoo

10 Travis Welke & Chuck Schwie

9 Erin Rosenberger & Libby Smith

.16 Brenda & Lori Gochee

EDGAR

21 Tom Hvizdak & Don Rogalla

FITCHBURG

22 Anne Hecht & Diane Olsen

16 Michele Perreault & Stephanie Spoehr

13 Catherine Briggs & Marthea A. Fox

1 Erica McCorkindale & Karissa Grunden

FOUNTAIN CITY

14 Cindy Killion & Beth Cherne

FOX POINT

40 Robert Starshak & Ross Draegert

FRANKLIN

33 John Flynn & Michael

FREDONIA

26 Dean Wiegert & Chris Hewitt

GAYS MILLS

10 Sarah Mertz & Christine

GERMANTOWN

9 Dennis Kohler & Pat Brown

GLENDALE

2 Gina Lisko & Julie Taylor

GORDON

31 Kathleen Gates & Katherine S.

GREEN BAY

31 John Rome & M

15 Christopher Coshenet & Kevin

9 Angela Pierce & Deanne

13 Steve Thomson & Jay Bero

10 Lucas Long & John Paul

5 Andrew DeBaker & Scott Vanidestine

5 Steven Doers & Aaron

3 Shawn O'Neil & Eric

2 Mary Kay Vande Logt & Angela Kasten

GREENFIELD

3 Rod & James Rasch-Claussen

Gail Grzybowski & Donna Skiba

HARTLAND

10 Jenny Jones & Sarah Smith

HOLLANDALE

37 Lauretta D. Doyle & Barry M. Frechette

HORTONVILLE

22 Karla & Steve Zirbes

HUBERTUS

18 Nancy Maas & Tammy Thorlakson

JANESVILLE

13 Kelley Richardt & Maria Parker

10 Becky Leahy & Lora Whitten

8 Michael Piette & Robert (Bob) Crandall

JEFFERSON

17 Paul & Karen Glasser

KENOSHA

2 Christine Juliani & Rebecca

22 Bill Hetland & Phillip F. Anderson

KIEL

17 Kevin Heling & Steven Mantia

LA CROSSE

18 Allan Beatty & Michael Ross

16 Rebecca Angle & Tracie Blumentritt

27 Mary O'Sullivan & Francie Bal

LA POINTE

19 Glenn Carlson & Michael Childers

LAKE MILLS

28 Roger Packard & David Musolf

MADISON

41 Chuck Bauer & Chuck Beckwith

35 Thomas McGhee & Raphael Kadushin

33 Sunshine Jones & Joann Kelley

30 Crystal Hyslop & Janice Czyncon

30 Louie Phillips & Brian Schultz

29 Sheryl Jones & Pamela Hill

29 Donna Peckett & Danielle Dresden

29 Nancy Buckwalter & Sue Hughes

28 Tom & Paul Gibler

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24 Rob Latousek & Brian McCormick

23 Grace Cooper and Leslie Bernstein

23 Jacquelyn Strahl & P. Weiss

22 Chad LaFlash & Dale Decker

21 Cris Derrick & Nikki Baumbblatt

20 Andrew & Giso Broman

19 Maggie Dugan & Melanie Witte

18 Mary Kay Radtke & Donna M Miller

18 Dan Ross & Charlie Squires

17 Judy Seymour & Mary Sykes

17 Carolyn Virginia & Karen Bennett

16 Burt Tower & Scott Lundberg

15 Kate Schultz & Gretchen Zahorik

15 Judy Howard & Amy Scarr

15 Linda Novinger & Deborah Daniel

15 John Nondorf & Bryn Scriver

13 Diedre Buckley & Catherine L. Cullen

13 Linda Ketcham & Kim Fisher

12 Darren Kittleson & Devery Cash

12 Bob Klebba & David Waugh

12 Sarah Gaskell & Andy Larson

11 Cecilia Ford & Donna Dallos

11 Sheila & Deb Gaines

11 Nancy Speir & Carol Nelson

11 Patrick Hoeth & Keith Lupien

11 Rick Bristol & Eric Appleton

11 Ted Haglund & Charles Munch

10.5 Carolyn Bell & Elisa Welch

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10 Terry Heiliger & James Moe

10 Brett Butzman & Bernie Parish

10 Julie & John Meister

10 Jenn Rotman & Loni Broesch

10 Shahla Werner & Andy Weidert

9 Tamara Packard & Renee Herber

9 Sandra Janagold & Mary Muellenbach

9 Kevin Hubbard & David Casey

8 Desiree D. Alva & Kelly M. Ocasio

8 Susan Frikken & Deb Hanrahan

8 Regan Jacobsen & Dylan

8 Marcia Ferrone & Bonnie Friis

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4.5 Petrovnia & Chris McIntosh

4.5 Lisa Haase & Becky Carvin

4 Dawn Siebert & Amanda Evenstone

4 Phillip Keller & Steven Sievert

4 Elizabeth Lange & Mandi Hildebrandt

4 Erich Pitcher & Bailey Garvin

4 Lori Steckervetz & Danielle Langdon

4 Amanda Splan & Angie Markowsky

4 Jeffrey Clark & Tim Hagen

4 Gigi Vail & Teri Kahel

3.5 Melissa Dittmer & Molly Herrmann

3.5 Leonie Dolch & Katy Conley

3 Sara Hesse & Yvette Robinson

3 Jay Edgar & Joshua Feyen

3 Benji Sudolcan & Nick John

3 Jason Kivela & Paul Waller

3 Lisa M. Becher & Lynn L. Etnier

3 Jason Holder & Cameron Earley

3 Harmony Fitzsimons & Kristina Zins

3 Mel Freitag & Amber Sowards

3 Jenny Green & Kenn

3 Kristen Petroshius & Tonya

Due to a **SOLD OUT** attendance at the last seminar...

The seminar is being presented **AGAIN** in Madison and now Milwaukee!

LGBT Relationships Forum

The Keys to a Successful Long Term Relationship

This practical three hour forum will provide you with the tools to protect and maintain a healthy, happy relationship with your partner. Learn how to legally protect your relationship, how to effectively communicate with one another, and how to manage your finances together to assure your financial security.

Attorney Christopher Krimmer, BALISLE & ROBERSON, S.C.



A legal advocate for the LGBT community for over 13 years and an adjunct professor of Sexual Orientation and the Law at Marquette Law School, Attorney Krimmer will address:

- The **five essential legal documents** that every couple should consider and leave the seminar with four of them!
- What are **Partnership Agreements** and who needs them?
- **And Baby Makes Three:** Protecting the Children of LGBT Families

David Lacocque, PsyD, Psychologist

Stephanie Graham, PhD, Psychologist



Leading therapists specializing in LGBT dynamics, Dr. Lacocque and Dr. Graham will address:

- **Success Strategies** for LGBT relationships
- Are LGBT Relationships Truly **Different from Straight Relationships?**
- An Internet Check-Up: **Pitfalls and Possibilities** in Your Relationship

Shannon Anderson, Financial Advisor



As a financial advisor for over ten years and a board member of the Out Professional and Executive Network (O.P.E.N.), Shannon is well versed in the unique financial issues facing LGBT couples. Shannon measures success not only on your financial well-being but how confident you are with your future together. Shannon will address:

- How to **address financial concerns** with your partner
- Planning for **financial security together**
- How to make your money work for you **no matter your income**

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February 12, 2011

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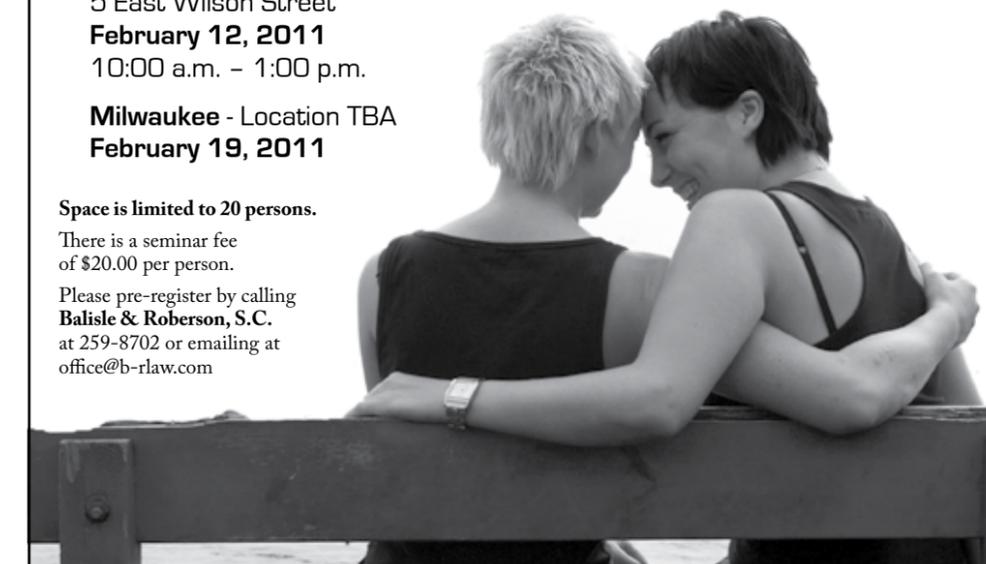
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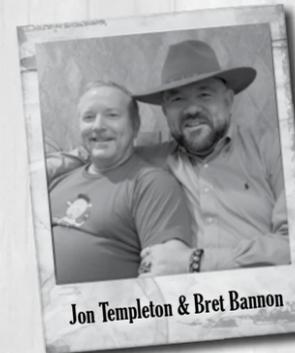
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2.5 **Bonnie Schulte & Sarah Schulte**
2.5 Shawnee Parsil & Jen Sutherland
2.5 Chris McKinley & Kasey Dewitt
2 Jane Peckham & Minal Hager
2 Rachel Strauch-Nelson & Mercedes Reed
2 Donald Steffes & Iqbal Tafader
2 Kari Rongstad & Ally Nicol
2 Casey Kenney & Sarah Groeneveld
2 Marcelle Richards & Sid Heezen
2 Luke Wolfram & David Rhode
1.5 Ellen Hebron & Mel Marcum
1.2 Marlo Dobrient & Juliet Darken
1 **James Elliott & Ian Gray**
1 Brad Ryland & Tom Beck
.67 Karen Dilday & Antoinette Coles
.5 Amy Barker & Sophia Ott
- MANITOWOC
15 Erica Strauss & William Kirkpatrick
- MARINETTE
9 **Amy Reddinger & Rhonda Mellinger**
1 Jennifer & Adriene Schiavo
1 Joe Gustin & Jon
- MARSHFIELD
2 Autumn & Jessie
- MAZOMANIE
20 Jazzi & Susie Gaafe
4 **Jackie & Debbie**
4 Liz Tymus & Minta Dwyer
- MC FARLAND
1 Jason Rush & Troy Theis
- MENOMONEE FALLS
5 Danielle & Tiffany McAttee
- MEQUON
10 **Brian Le Starge & Dale Mueller**
7 Beth Hoff & Am Middleton
- MIDDLETON
8 **Alícia Stevenson & Lindsay Raftis**
- MILTON
11.5 **Keith Steinbeck & Brad Yarmark**
- MILWAUKEE
36 Randy Schoedler & Tom
34 **Roy Badger & Garth**
30 **Steven J. Sanders & Rand C. Schmidt**
30 C. Kay Hinchliffe & Michael Lowrey
27 Paul Mandracchia & Gary Hollander
27 Raymond & Gregory Konz-Krzyszinski
24 **Brenda Coley & Sandra Jones**
22 Sheldon Schur & Rick Finger
14 Josh Harmon & Karter Harmon-Wilkening
13 **Debbie Knepe & Candice Hackbarth**
12 **Anne & Michelle**
12 Karen Green & Lynne Archbald
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10 **Steven Miller & James Balistreri**
9 **Will & Jake Hartmann**
8.5 Ed Mullins & Mark Janetski
8 Laura Maker & Susie Seidelman
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7.5 Daniel Ziebell & Tad Gospodarek
6 Jennifer Morales & Tina Owen
3 **Katie & Cylest Andaloro-Brooks**
3 **Lisa Hager & Lorra Ross**
2.5 Michael Burmesch & Brad West
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2 Rebecca Larson & Beth Brown
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.5 Jerry Johnson & Michael Riley
- MINERAL POINT
9 **Frederick Vaughn & John Greenwood**
- MONONA
46 **Michael Sweet & Leonard Zwilling**
6 **Julie and Dorrie Carskadon**
- MONROE
29 **Judy Price & Mary Pandow**
- MOUNT HOREB
2 **Jill Muenich & Laura Webster**

- NEENAH
1 Sam & Jordan Wiltzius
2 Nichole Shier & Heidi Boelk
- NEW GLARUS
14 Scott Rippe & Scott Shaver
12 Lori Stern & LeAnn Powers
- OAK CREEK
5.5 Melissa Mader & Beverly Lee
- ONALASKA
23 **Melani Fay & Alma Noll**
- OSHKOSH
22 Michael Kahl & Michael Poklasny
12 **Aaron Sherer & Paul Smith**
5 **Kay Springstroh & Robin Lutz**
- PEWAUKEE
11 **John Sheaffer & Tim Baack**
- PLAINFIELD
22 **Wendy Billington & Connie Norton**
- PLATTEVILLE
18 **Colleen McCabe & Maureen Vorwald**
18 **Robin Timm & Jayne Dunnum**
- PORT WASHINGTON
6.5 Scott Lone & Joseph Maddalena
- PRAIRIE DU SAC
3 **Dee Dee & Jill Sorg**
- RANDOM LAKE
33 **Jeffrey Taylor & Terry Marvel**
- RIVER FALLS
4 **Ashley Olson & Karen Edlebeck**
2.5 **Renee & Amber**
- ROYALTON
1.5 **Ashley Wade & Sheraden Bobot**
- SHOREWOOD
27 Jane Earle & Anne Brower
5.5 **John Becker & Michael Knaapen**
3 Sean Fure & Bee Hang
- SOUTH MILWAUKEE
33 Art & Bruce
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- STOUGHTON
37 Judy Captain & Kate Stormer
23 **Pat Plaisted & Bonnie Augusta**
8 Tammy & Angie Whitiken
1.5 **Gina Leerek & Lyn Monroe**
- SUN PRAIRIE
16 **Dawn Anderson & Sue Nelson**
5 Jennifer Jones & June Paul
- THIENSVILLE
12 **Jenny Elsner & Amber Miller**
- TOMAH
8 **Erica & Brenda Falk-Huzar**
- VERONA
6 **Charles Philyaw & James Mulder-Philyaw**
- VIROQUA
33 **Kevin & Robert R. Gross**
5 Cassandra Torgerson & Kaitlyn Karasek
- WATERLOO
24 **Kim Brunner & Cris Schirmer**
1 Sheri Castellani & Tisha Traut
- WAUKESHA
10 Vance Skinner & Brendan Barrett
- WAUNAKEE
2 Holly Ellickson & Corissa Miller
- WAUSAU
19 **Jeff M Sigetich & David Hoffman**
2 **Paul & BJ**
- WAUWATOSA
11 Brian Doebereiner & Jack Eigel
10.5 **Lisa Rouskey & Lynn Carlson**
- WHITEFISH BAY
20 BJ Gruling & Rick Clark
- WISCONSIN DELLS
6 **Tom Scharbach & Michael Scott Dodd**
4.5 Edward Lunney & Michael T. Bolton
- WISCONSIN RAPIDS
4 Jennifer Dolan & William Hascall
3.5 Kristopher Gasch & Shane Burkart

feature

The Country 2 Step

Nine Dairyland Cowboys and Cowgirls couples recount
how the group brought them together.



Jon Templeton & Bret Bannon

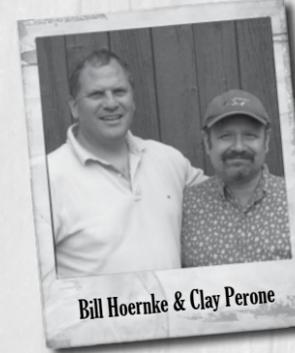
Jon & Bret have been partners for more than five years. They met at the local Minneapolis Country & Western dances held at the Uptown VFW in June 2005. Bret had been dancing for many years, but Jon was just starting to learn. Bret is a chef/teacher in the Twin Cities, and they lead culinary tours in France.

Jill zipped out onto the dance floor for the last Dairyland song, which got Jen's attention. She approached Jill afterward to see if she line danced elsewhere. Jill asked Jen to teach her how to two-step just as the music switched over from country to house. Jen grabbed Jill up and whirled her around the floor, and they are still dancing today ...



Jen Mjenzi & Jill Hansen

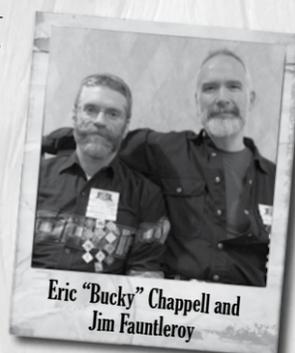
Jill & Jen met on the Club 5 dance floor in September 2009, just as Jen was about to leave. Jill happened to be in Madison with her softball team for a tournament, and they stopped in to dance.



Bill Hoerke & Clay Perone

Bill & Clay both attended Dairyland Cowboys and Cowgirls dances since the group's inception, but only knew each other by sight for some time. They each volunteered to help with fundraising to cover costs and to generate new dance venue ideas. After attending several dances together, Bill and Clay started dating. Bill became the DJ and primary dance instructor while they danced at Ray's bar. Clay is excellent at welcoming new dancers to the group. They have been together over 15 years and continue to dance with Dairyland at Club 5 and other venues.

Bucky & Jim's courtship and history together has revolved around dancing. They met in 1996 at a contra dance that was having an English country dance night. They volunteer for their country/Western dancing community in Boston that does two-step, line dancing, waltz, and swing. For their wedding in 2004, they had country western dancing at their reception and then brought everyone across town for a contra dance night they sponsored at the same church hall where they met. They feel exceptionally fortunate to have the opportunity to dance and share as much as they do with their local groups.



Eric "Bucky" Chappell and Jim Fauntleroy



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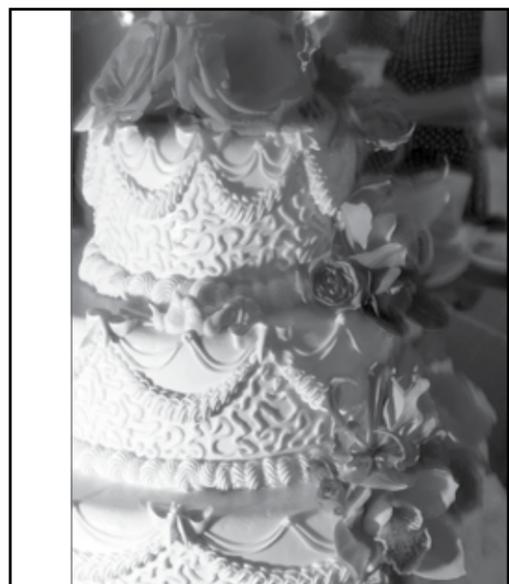
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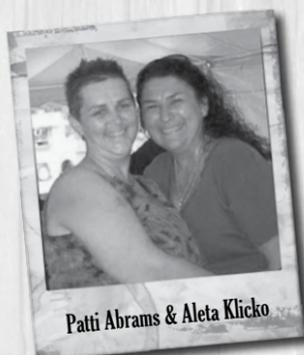
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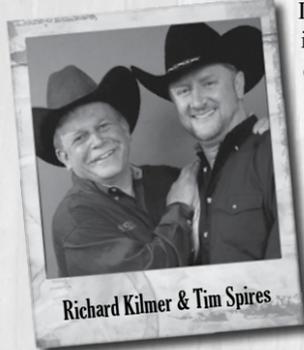


Patti Abrams & Aleta Klicko

Aleta & Patti met at country line dancing in 2008 and started dating in 2009. They live together and plan on becoming registered partners. Aleta became an instant mom and grandmom. They share many pets and mutual friends within and outside of line dancing. They also enjoy camping, motorcycling, gardening, and just being together. This picture was taken during Wisconsin Capitol Pride 2009 at the country line dancing event.

Kathy & Kelly were friends from the time that Kelly moved to Madison in 2005. The night of May 18, 2007 Kelly decided to stay after the country line dance to see what happens at Club 5 on a Saturday night after line dancing. Kathy had come to the dance with a friend, and when she found out Kelly was staying later, she asked if she could have a ride home if she stayed. They ended up dancing, and as they danced, it was easy to get closer and closer and then, they were kissing. It was glorious! That was about three-and-a-half years ago, and come to find out, they really are more than just friends.

Richard & Tim met at a Dairyland Cowboys and Cowgirls dance on Labor Day weekend in 2003. It was also Richard's birthday party. Tim wasn't aware of Dairyland dancing on Monday nights, and it wasn't country music night at Club 5. Tim wasn't dressed for dancing, so the first thing Richard said presumptuously to Tim was, "You can't dance in sandals." It is amazing that Tim eventually asked Richard out on a date! They have been dancing together ever since. Tim also enjoys country music and sings in a country band, "Roadhouse Drifters." Tim and Richard share a home in Madison with their bulldog, Winnie, and have a farm in the upper Baraboo Valley where they host barn dances every summer.



Richard Kilmer & Tim Spires

At the tender ages of 58 and 60, **Lana & Louise** met through a mutual friend. They two-stepped their way to love while dancing with Dairyland Cowboys and Cowgirls. Their motto is "Who'da thunk it?" which means, "Who would have imagined that we could find love at our age?" They even have a special song, "If I Had a Million Dollars." It is usually played for them at each dance. Even though they don't have a \$1,000,000 they feel rich because they have each other!



Gigi Vail & Teri Kahel

Gigi saw Teri across the room and did a Patrick Swayze—dirty dancing across the dance floor—and introduced herself to Teri. This was the beginning of a beautiful thing. Gigi was looking for a stable dance partner and they soon signed a one-year contract to be dance partners. Four years later, they are still dancing and teaching together. Gigi popped the question while on vacation in Washington D.C. at the First Lady's Water Garden, and Teri said yes. Being partners in dance makes their relationship even stronger because they need to communicate, on and off the dance floor. ■



Lana Lawrence & Louise Stout



ACT Love: Sarah Van Horn Schulte & Bonnie Schulte



MAY 29, 2010 | Bonnie and Sarah first met in 2007 when they were introduced by a mutual friend, Paula Orton. Sarah had participated in the ACT 5 Ride as a rider and as a crew member in ACT 4. She surprised even herself when she completed 255 of the 300 miles, and believed that if she could anyone could. Bonnie was toying with the idea of riding in ACT 6. An inspirational conversation ensued and

email addresses were exchanged with promises of future mentoring. However, they would not communicate again until the following spring. Sarah was looking for motivation to start training for ACT 6 when Bonnie walked back into her life. They promised to meet for a training ride. Bonnie decided she couldn't wait to see Sarah again and suggested they get together later that night. By the end of the weekend the first and only official date was planned. The remainder of the courtship was spent on country roads riding bikes, with post training ride meals and conversation. This allowed Sarah and Bonnie to see each other at their best and worst, which built a strong foundation from which their relationship grew.

Bonnie proposed to Sarah in March of 2009 and they were married in Connecticut on May 29, 2010 and registered as Domestic Partners in Wisconsin on June 18, 2010. They look forward to the day when the values and ideals that are the ACT Community (Compassion-Commitment-Courage) can find a permanent place in the hearts of all people. ■

In Loving Memory

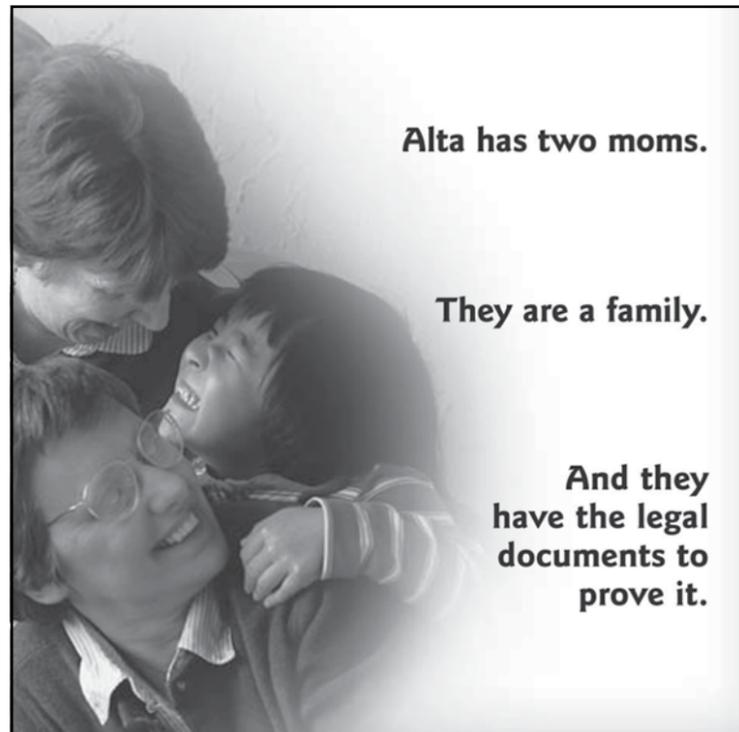
Joanne McGibbon: 68 Enchanted Years

*She was carried away by fairies on October 9, 2010—
an absolutely perfect day in St. Paul, Minnesota.*

Before she left her family and friends, Joanne had wanted to thank the many, many wonderful women who generously volunteered to help her operate the Inn at Pine Ridge in Northfield, Wisconsin, 140 miles NW of Madison. Joanne operated the Inn at Pine Ridge for 11 years (1988–1999). It was



her true destiny to be an innkeeper. She wanted—and succeeded!—in creating a place where women could go to relax and feel safe in their surroundings. She was fortunate to create a lifetime of friends from this adventure—many of whom were from Madison. Joanne is survived by 3 children, 9 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, her mother, and many siblings, relatives, and friends. Memorials can be sent to The Smooch! Project (www.thesmoochproject.com) in Joanne's name.



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Our History by Richard Wagner

The Trial of Oscar Wilde

Wisconsin press coverage of the trial became a 19th-century state opinion poll on homosexuality.



The modern concept of homosexuality—or a gay identity that could be talked about—stems from the late 19th century. Certainly same-sex acts have occurred for centuries, but identifying the acts with a class or group of people gains traction as ideas emerge about “inverts,” or a third sex, or other creative conceptualizations from the 1880s on.

Here in Wisconsin, one of the earliest dialogues about this concept of sexual identity occurs during Wisconsin’s press coverage of one of the great bookmarks of the emerging gay world, some would say its kickoff event: the trial of Oscar Wilde.

“Nothing shows the strength of feeling against Oscar Wilde in England better than the action of the British Museum, which has withdrawn his books from circulation” —*Milwaukee Sentinel*

While some might think the London trial of Oscar Wilde an event foreign to Wisconsin, the editors of Wisconsin’s daily papers in April and May of 1895 judged differently. The judicial proceedings lasted over a month. With contemporary wire services, Wisconsin editors were able to report on the trial if they so chose.

And choose they did. Three papers: the *Superior Evening Telegram*, the *Oshkosh Northwestern*, and the German-language *Milwaukee Abend/Sonntags Post* each carried 30 or more stories about the trial. Two major English dailies in Milwaukee, a Green Bay paper, and a Madison paper each ran over a dozen stories. Many other dailies also carried multiple stories. Indeed, the papers with 30 stories were as frequent in their coverage as the New York dailies like *The New York Sun* and the *New York World*.

And while the stories were written and by-lined from London, the headlines (often four to a story in those days) were written by Wisconsin editors. Some even provided direct editorial comment, providing us with a very early public discourse about homosexuality and a collective sampling of opinions about gay folks. Thousands of words in ink from 1895 reveal many concepts about how homosexuality

was viewed in Wisconsin. They were not necessarily unique or new ideas, but they were a benchmark of a group of opinion leaders who shaped the state’s intellectual and political climates.

As a sample, the group would fail any latter-day Gallup poll sampling technique, for they were all male (but remember, generally only males could vote) and they were fairly well-educated and prosperous, even though a couple papers purported to be the voices of labor. They were at least geographically diverse from around the state, and they spread through its three major political divisions of Republicans (both gold and silver advocates), Democrats, and Socialists. Both English- and German-language papers have been studied since the German-language press based in Milwaukee often out-ranked the English papers in the state’s largest city.

The language of the day did not actually use the words gay or homosexual but the discussions about Wilde included by the editors made it clear enough the trial was about man-on-man sex. The concepts were more general and veiled especially in the early coverage and in fact the Milwaukee-based *Socialist Wisconsin Vorwärts* noted the subject was “unnatural, here not reproducible crimes against young men.” Yet many accounts talked of sodomy, and the phrases “crime against nature” and “unnatural acts” were known as the shorthand of the day for sodomy.

The *Wisconsin State Journal* of April 3 got right to the nub of the matter when its editor said, “Wilde had for some time been in the habit of soliciting male persons to commit indecent offense with him...” The story further noted that opposition lawyers read from Wilde’s *Dorian Gray* “to show the author upheld sodomy.” The *Milwaukee Journal* story of April 4 reported on cross-examination about “relations with various boys and men.”

Gay identity of a separate type popped up in the *Racine Evening Times*, which ran nine stories and editorialized about “men of the Wilde school, who are neither men or women.” Note them referring not just to Wilde but to a class of men who would seem to be of a third sex.

Several major themes emerged in both the stories selected for coverage, the actual headlines written in Wisconsin, and in the editorial comment by Wisconsin editors.

Theme 1: Homosexuality is Criminal

The first major theme was that the criminal system of arrest, trial, and imprisonment was the correct context with which to view homosexual persons. Stories were featured and headlines filled with words on his arrest, imprisonment, trial, and sentencing.

When the indictment hearing was just getting underway, the *Superior Evening Telegram* made its own editorial judgment, “The conviction of Oscar Wilde is almost a certainty and the minimum punishment is ten years in prison, though the heinousness of his offense against society justifies a longer if not life term.”

The *Appleton Post* on May 30th editorialized on the swift and certain British criminal justice system, “It is less than two months since Oscar Wilde was arraigned before the court for gross immoralities, and yet within this period he had two trials and on Saturday the prison door closed behind him.”

The *Milwaukee Daily News*, which saw itself as a pro-labor paper, seemed delighted to run a headline about the presumed English aristocrat sentenced to two years of hard labor as, “Wilde Must Work Now.” The presumption was that authors did not work.

Theme 2: Homosexuality Brings Financial Ruin

A second theme that emerges from what editors chose to print was the financial ruin of Wilde as an outcome of his actions. Stories reported the Sheriff’s sale of his possessions, and the *Green Bay Gazette* headlined his bankruptcy. The *Milwaukee Daily News*, after reporting that bookings of his London plays had fallen off and that he had saved nothing from his large income, editorialized, “He seems to have received a complete knock-out...”

Theme 3: Homosexuality is Shameful and Scandalous

A third theme was that scandal, shame, and ridicule await homosexuals. Wisconsin editors freely wrote headlines that used words like “bestial case,” “disgrace,” “revolting,” “shame,” “unsavory,” “unspeakable vileness,” “horrible,” “tabboed(sic),” “celebrated fool,” and “abominable.” The *Superior Evening Telegram* was projecting onto the defendant when it wrote its April 11 headline, “Wilde is Much Subdued and Feels His Disgrace Very Keenly.” Later, after expressing a false belief he would be acquitted, the same paper wrote, “A few weeks ago his life was in danger from angry crowds that wanted to drive him from England.”

Theme 4: Homosexuality Causes Physical and Mental Illness

A fourth theme was that both physical and mental illness and even suicide are outcomes of homosexuality. On April 8, the *Milwaukee Sentinel* headlined, “Unable to Eat or Sleep, He May Commit Suicide.” The *Wisconsin State Journal* of the same day went one better, headlining, “Oscar Wilde Not Yet A Suicide.” The latter headline shows that local editors wrote their headlines with a slant toward expressing their views rather than the hard news of the wire stories they received. The actual story carried in the day’s *Wisconsin State Journal* was “London, April 8 – There is not the slightest ground for the report that Oscar Wilde has suicided.” The *Milwaukee Herald* had it correct with their headline, “Wilde not suicidal.” This shows the broad range that editors could take on a wire story in expressing their personal views.

Theme 5: Homosexuals Should be Suppressed

A fifth theme was that cultural suppression is a social good when dealing with homosexuals. The *Green Bay Gazette*, early in the matter, headlined, “Oscar Wilde’s Sun Has Set; Famous Advocate of Estheticism

Relegated to Oblivion,” with a further headline “Wilde’s Career at an End.” On April 9, the *Milwaukee Sentinel* editorialized, “They have taken his name from the advertisements and playbills. This action costs nothing. They have not withdrawn his plays. That would be too expensive a virtue.” On April 12, the *Sentinel* editorialized, “Nothing shows the strength of feeling against Oscar Wilde in England better than the action of the British Museum, which has withdrawn his books from circulation.” The *Racine Times*, on April 13, ran a long supportive editorial on “Banishing Wilde’s Books.” Regarding his teaching, the paper noted, “... maybe the means of destroying them [is] in the fierce flame of public contempt that will envelope those who still seek to maintain and propagate them.” Thus the paper was aware that Wilde was not a singular instance.

Theme 6: No One in Their Right Mind Admires Homosexuals

A sixth theme was that wise Americans had not been duped by the likes of Wilde who had toured America, including Wisconsin, in the prior decade. The *Madison Democrat* on April 6 editorialized, “Oscar Wilde would probably not be lionized if he should now visit the United States...he has lost estate with American anglomaniacs.” The *Wisconsin State Journal* joined in with an editorial on April 8, “The Americans who made so much of Oscar Wilde on his tour—and he was a guest of honor at many a seat of learning and in homes of prominence—no doubt feel ashamed of themselves. He was asinine then but has since become vicious, as his plays indicated to healthy minds.” The *Oshkosh Northwestern* settled the matter with the editorial note, “The affected aristocracy in this country which was so carried away by Oscar Wilde’s sunflower aestheticism will now address all communications to their chief idol in care of the warden, and enclose a stamp for reply.”

The Wilde trial famously made the expression from Wilde’s own work of “the love that dare not speak its name,” one of the catch phrases for homosexuality. The press coverage of the trial in Wisconsin broke the silence about same-sex love, but the silence was broken with a resounding shout of shame on the part of the editors as Wisconsin opinion-makers. From such attitudes and public discussion as displayed in the late 19th-century opinions, much would have to change for Wisconsin. ■

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

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OUR ISSUES

How to Have a Happy Relationship

Dr. Sue Gill shares the secrets to success over the long haul.

In the last issue I wrote about the “Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse,” which are sure signs of danger in a relationship. This issue, I’d like to discuss ways to preserve, enhance, or rescue your relationship.

John Gottman is a researcher who wrote an excellent book with a terrible title: “The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work.” In it, he summarizes the characteristics he’s noticed in couples who report long-term satisfaction in their primary relationship. Although heterosexual assumptions are rampant in the book, the principles apply to same-sex relationships too.



It’s important to create customs, rituals, and stories that foster a subculture that is unique to your relationship. It’s what makes you more than committed roommates.



In fact, with the extra social pressures faced by queer couples, it is particularly important to foster traits within the relationship that will lead to long-term satisfaction and stability. So here are seven principles for making your queer relationship work, adapted from John Gottman.

Enhance your love maps. Be intimately familiar with one another’s world. We are so good at this when early in a dating relationship, and often so bad at this as the relationship progresses! Create and keep updating your detailed knowl-

edge of your partner’s life, interests, challenges, and dreams. Don’t assume that what was true for them five years ago is true now.

Nurture your fondness and admiration. This is critical for a relationship to succeed, and it is the path to reducing any lethal resentment or contempt that may be growing. Actively cultivate compassion toward your partner. Consciously remember that your partner is just a living being, trying to find happiness. List characteristics that you find endearing about your partner, remember one good time you’ve had together, remember one romantic time you’ve had together, think of one physical attribute you like about your partner, think of one characteristic that makes you proud of your partner, think of one thing you both have in common, describe one belief that you share. The idea is to actively remind yourself about what is uniquely good and positive about your partner as a way to crowd out the negative thoughts that come so easily when a relationship is in trouble.

Turn toward each other instead of away. This is my favorite one. Has it ever ticked you off when you say, “Dinner’s ready,” and nobody answers? Have you ever felt hurt when you asked, “Do we need bread from the store?” and the response is a half-hearted shrug? These are examples of your partner turning away from you, and on some fundamental level it communicates the message, “You don’t exist.”

We humans crave connection with one another on some fundamental level. We make bids for connection all day long when we make eye contact and smile, when we say, “Nice day out, isn’t it?” and even when we say something as unromantic as, “Are we out of orange juice?” A key to maintaining a successful relationship is to notice one another’s bids for connection and turn toward those bids instead of ignoring them or responding with hostility. This is much more important to the long-term health of the relationship than any romantic getaway. So if you really want to fan the flames of your relationship, get really good at noticing and responding to those bids for connection. The next time you hear “Are we out of orange juice?” try saying, “I’m not sure, but I will check the next time I’m in the kitchen.” It will do wonders!

Let your partner influence you. It’s important to honor the opinions and feelings of your partner. Really value their perspective and take it into account when you are making decisions. Share the decision-making process as much as possible. Value one another’s point of view. Treat your partner like a trusted advisor, especially when their opinion is different from yours.

Solve your solvable problems. Here’s how: Be polite, use some tact, use “I” statements instead of “you” statements, be clear, and be appreciative. Learn to make and receive repair attempts when a conversation is getting off track. Some of these are quite direct, such as “Please say that more gently,” or “Can I take that back?” While others are more subtle attempts to bring the conversation back to a positive course such as, “Can I have a kiss?” or “Give me a moment.” Soothe yourself and each other. If one person is feeling physiologically or emotionally flooded, then the communication can’t get through. For that reason, it’s important to help keep your heart rates low and bring them down when they get too high. Compromise; it’s not about winning! Be tolerant of each other’s faults.

Overcome gridlock. Any relationship will encounter some truly unsolvable problems. The strategy here is to learn to talk about these without hurting one another so you can both learn to live with these differences. A good

place to start is to understand that both of you probably have some dreams that aren’t being expressed or respected, and these are fueling the unsolvable problem. Instead of arguing endlessly and unsuccessfully about the problem, start to express your dreams and listen deeply to your partner’s dreams that underlie the area of conflict. If you really are in gridlock about whether to have a weedless lawn or a more natural look—or whether to have children—it’s time to change the conversation and focus on deeply understanding what dreams drive your and your partner’s sides of the conversation.

Create shared meaning. It’s important to create customs, rituals, and stories that foster a subculture that is unique to your relationship. It’s what makes you more than committed roommates.

If you both can get really good at applying these principles, you will feel positive and excited about your relationship. If you are wondering where to start, just pick one principle that you think you are doing okay with and make it better. With commitment to do the work from both people in the relationship, you can have a happy, stable, and long-term relationship. ■

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

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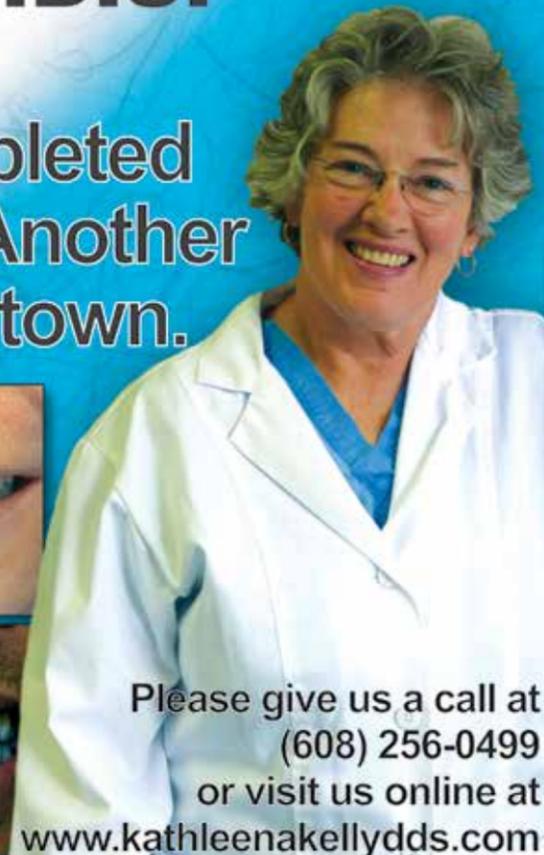
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A Marriage by Any Other Name

Tamara Packard looks ahead to the judicial review of the challenge to the Domestic Partnership Registry brought by Julaine Appling.

The Wisconsin Domestic Partner Registry went into effect on August 1, 2009. It affords a number of important but limited legal rights to same-sex couples who register. More than 1500 couples have registered statewide. This summer, gay rights foe Julaine Appling filed a lawsuit claiming that the Registry violates the 2006 Marriage Amendment to the Wisconsin Constitution. The challenge requires a Dane County judge to determine what the legislature and voters intended to prohibit and allow when enacting the Amendment. In doing so, he will review the historical context of the



"Could a legislator put together a pack of 50 specific things they would like to give to gay couples? Yeah, they could." [2]



Amendment as well as what the proponents for the Amendment said it meant. This column presents some highlights of what I expect the judge will consider.

Vermont & Massachusetts

In 1999, the Vermont Supreme Court found that under Vermont's Constitution, same-sex couples must be provided an alternative legal status to marriage, with similar formal requirements and limitations, a parallel registration scheme, and the same rights and obligations provided by law to married partners. In response, the Vermont Legislature enacted civil unions. By entering into a civil union under Vermont's laws, a same-sex couple gained all

of the rights, responsibilities, and obligations of marriage conferred by Vermont law, though not marriage itself. Structures like this have come to be known as "Vermont-style civil unions."

In 2004, following the November 2003 Massachusetts Supreme Court's decision in Goodridge, same-sex couples began marrying for the first time in the United States. In reaction to the Massachusetts and Vermont developments, legislators and voters began amending their constitutions to prevent such occurrences in their states. On February 9, 2004, the Wisconsin Assembly took the first steps to create Wisconsin's Marriage Amendment, and on November 7, 2006, Wisconsin voters adopted it.

As demonstrated by the debates around the Amendment, Wisconsin legislators and voters were aware of and disapproved of marriage equality as it existed in Massachusetts, as well as of "marriage by another name" civil unions in Vermont. It was these structures they intended to ban. In contrast, however, it is also clear from the debates that they did not intend to ban Domestic Partnerships as they have been formulated under Wisconsin law.

The Wisconsin Debates

The chief Legislative sponsors of the Amendment were Senator Scott Fitzgerald and Representative Mark Gundrum. They took pains to assure their colleagues and the voters that the Amendment was not intended to prohibit arrangements like Wisconsin Domestic Partnerships, but instead was aimed at preventing in Wisconsin what had occurred in Massachusetts and Vermont. For instance, Senator Fitzgerald said:

The amendment prevents "judges or the state from creating marriage in another name and granting identical benefits" to unmarried couples. [1]

He even agreed that a legislative package just like Wisconsin's Domestic Partner Registry would not run afoul of the Amendment:

Fitzgerald said the proposed amendment's second sentence was necessary to clarify what kind of marriage would be recognized in Wisconsin. He said the amendment leaves open the possi-

bility that the Legislature could someday define civil unions.

"The second clause sets the parameters for civil unions," Fitzgerald said. "Could a legislator put together a pack of 50 specific things they would like to give to gay couples? Yeah, they could." [2]

Rep. Gundrum agreed with Sen. Fitzgerald on what the Amendment **would ban** ...:

Gundrum ... maintained the comprehensive ban is intended to protect the entire concept of marriage, not simply the eight-letter word.

"[SJR 53] will prevent them from doing what the [state] Supreme Court in Vermont did which is legalizing same-sex marriage from the bench [and] allowing for it to be called a civil union or civil covenant or whatever creative term that the Legislature in that case might come up with," he said. [3]

... as well as on what it **would not ban**:

Gundrum said the amendment would allow the Legislature at some point to create a civil union that includes a limited number of benefits, as long as it wasn't "substantially similar" to what's granted to a married couple ... [4]

Even Ms. Appling herself, who led the campaign for voter ratification of the Amendment, agreed with these legislative leaders when she was campaigning to get the Amendment approved:

The first phrase protects the word "marriage," while the second protects marriage from being undermined by "look-alike marriages," or marriage by another name, such as Vermont-style civil unions. Without the second phrase, the first one is meaningless and leaves the institution unprotected.

... the second phrase does not "ban civil unions." It does appropriately prohibit civil unions that are marriage by another name. However, it does not preclude the state legislature from considering some legal construct—call it what you will—that would give select benefits to cohabiting adults. [5]

In her challenge to the Registry, Ms. Appling sings a different tune. But the trial judge, and ultimately the Wisconsin Supreme Court, will consider what she and others promised when asking voters to adopt the Amendment. They should hold them to their words and find that the Registry is constitutional.

Tamara Packard is a Madison civil rights lawyer, activist and partner in the law firm of Cullen Weston Pines & Bach LLP, www.cwpb.com.

[1] J. R. Ross, Associated Press, "Senate Approves Amendment to Ban Gay Marriage, Civil Unions," December 7, 2005. [2] Stacy Forster, "Referendum Closer on Gay Marriage Ban, State Senate Passes Amendment," December 8, 2005. [3] Ann Babe, "Wisconsin Residents to Decide on Gay Marriage Ban," Badger Herald (University Wire), March 1, 2006. [4] Stacy Forster, "Same-Sex Ban, Different Interpretations," Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, July 30, 2006. [5] Julaine Appling (op-ed), "Amendment a Generational Necessity," The Daily Cardinal, December 13, 2005.



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quality of life

Like a Rolling Scone

Lazy Jane's and Mickey's Tavern legend Janie Capito is ready for what's next. Marcelle Richards talked with her about her iconic restaurants and more.

Janie Capito, owner of Lazy Jane's and Mickey's Tavern, has turned a few sows' ears into silk purses in her day. A nurturer by nature, she's determined to make her customers feel right at home.

"I love taking care of people," she said.

By day, Lazy Jane's draws a steady crowd with hearty café fare and bakery for which people line up out the door on weekends for brunch or for one of her famous scones. By night, Mickey's Tavern hums with the flow of chatter, good beer, and good food in a charmingly quirky parlor-like setting with everything from a child's artwork on the wall to the enigmatic red neon dog head light behind the bar. In the summer, their patio is right up there among some of the best spots in the city for outdoor mingling.

Imagine Williamson Street without Capito's establishments, and you're not in the same place anymore.

To meet the demand for Lazy Jane's baked goods, Capito expects to open an extended bakery by mid-February, just two doors down, which will feature longstanding favorites as well as new desserts and baked goods.

Standing a head above most, in multi-colored striped socks and bright red shoes, her presence is unmistakable; she has a contagious feel-good energy that you can feel in the homey surroundings of her near-eastside establishments. Just as some owners resemble their dogs or vice-versa, I can't help but make a similar comparison in my head about Capito and her life's work—step inside one of her creations and you'll see that you've stumbled across someplace built by a visionary.

She's known since she was a high schooler spending lots of time drinking coffee, eating ice cream and smoking at a San Francisco café that someday she would open a similar place. She always just knew it.

After entering the restaurant business 36 years ago as a waitress, Capito also knew she'd be a natural. She was and, naturally, people followed.

"I have just loved my work, waking up in the morning and feeling I can't wait to do what I do. That is changing for me," she said.

At 66 years old, she's slowing down and starting to hand over many of her duties as she dreams up what retirement may look like.

"I just love having my employees. I have long-term people that have worked for me and that's been very satisfying. I also have customers that I have known through the years, and that's been nice too. But I'm getting to where I am thinking about what's the next step," Capito said.

Whether Capito buys a camper and takes an unmapped road trip with her sister or simply takes more time to read the New York Times, her legacy will remain. Her life's work could perhaps receive no higher compliment than an appropriately quirky pledge by regulars to come



"One of our regulars was saying, 'You know Janie, if the end of the world came I would come to Mickey's,' ... and the other people were saying, 'Yeah, we'd all come here.'"



Lazy Jane's Café & Bakery

1358 Williamson St., Madison, WI (608) 257-5263
Hours: Hours 7 a.m.–3 p.m. Mon.–Fri.; 8 a.m.–2 p.m. Sat. and Sun.

Mickey's Tavern

1524 Williamson St., Madison, WI (608) 251-9964
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Owner: Janie Capito

back to her watering hole during an impending apocalypse.

"It was funny the other day, one of our regulars was saying, 'You know Janie, if the end of the world came I would come to Mickey's,' ... and the other people were saying, 'Yeah, we'd all come here,'" Capito said.

She said, "We could make a t-shirt that says, 'I'm in the Mickey's End-of-Days Club' and we could open the door and hand out these t-shirts then all go down to the basement and drink all of the liquor. We laughed, but I think that it's true that people who come here have made friends and feel like it is a community spot."

Now that's staying power. ■

Photographed by Roberto Amezcua

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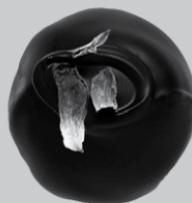
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A Labor of Love

OutThere's **Ryan Petty** has found a place working with LGBTQA youth—helping to build a future for our local community and beyond.

I was 18 years old when I told my close friends and family that I was gay. My mom and I were driving home from seeing "Rent" in Madison and I decided to come clean about the source of my anxiety, for which I had been seeing a psychologist a month prior. But this is not my coming out story.

Two years later, in May 2008, I walked into OutReach. I was looking for a way to meet more people like me, while at the same time volunteer my time as I had done at my church back in Baraboo (our priest actually served as a reference when I applied to volunteer at OutReach). I had two first impressions when I entered for my "interview." The first was of the space itself: it felt crowded. The walls were littered with books, and there were bookshelves cutting right into the middle of the space. This feeling, however, was quickly overcome the moment I began speaking with the people there: Brian's friendliness, Steve's composure, and Harry's energy. I instantly felt the warmth that these people and so many more brought to this place.

I worked the front desk shift for about six months before Josh, knowing my background as a scientist and linguist, asked me to review a grant he was also reviewing for Steve, our Executive Director. He put me on the path that led me to where I am now nearly two years later.

I started by co-facilitating OutReach's program for 18–24ish (as we say) LGBTQA youth. Josh had formed the group as part of his MSW internship at OutReach about a year prior. I was once again astonished at the energy that people like Jasmine brought to this group and was glad to contribute however I could. We've had amazing leaders and participants over the years who have each left their mark.

The work can be trying, the hours long, the effort immense; however, there are so many moments which make it all worth it for me.

I remember when I was working the front desk shift and a person came in requesting information about our transgender support groups. It was a fulfilling experience seeing this person transition over the next year into the woman she truly was.

I remember seeing one of our youth come in wearing different clothes than before, asking to be called a different name, and seeing the happiness that had been bottled up inside for too long.

I remember a friend referring me to a friend because he was Catholic and so am I. I had a two-hour conversation with him that night and would see him over the next few years found the first GSA at my old high school.

What I barely remember is the week when I told my closest friends and family that I was gay. It seemed so inconsequential at the time, and I have come to better understand why.

I grew up in a supportive atmosphere: I have a close and loving relationship with my parents, I surrounded myself with a core group of friends who liked me for who I was, and I was never really dishonest with myself. At the same time, I know that's not the case for so many others in this world and I have done the best that I can to help provide to others that with which I was so fortunate to be graced.

I am glad to see how OutReach has made such great strides these past years, from pushing those looming bookshelves against the wall and making the entire space more open and welcoming, to the advances of our Diversity Committee and OutThere in reaching out to communities which have been underserved for many years. I am also glad that I have been able to be a part of that growth and foresee so many amazing things yet to come.

My coming out story is still being written as I discover new things about me and the future I make for myself and others.

"Amor vincit omnia." ■

I had a two-hour conversation with him that night and would see him over the next few years found the first GSA at my old high school.

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