

our lives



SPECIAL: FOOD & DINING

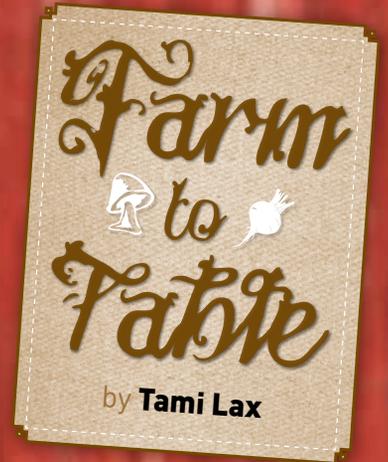
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May/June
2013

SUPREME COURT OUTCOMES

Attorney **Michele Perreault** examines what the **Prop 8** and **DOMA** rulings could mean for equality in Wisconsin.

Madison's LGBT&XYZ Magazine



Tami Lax
Owner, Harvest &
The Old Fashioned

plus



Linda Ketcham on how
educational justice
and LGBT equality are
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publisher

Thank You! ... And a New Voice



Last month I saw a community snap to action unlike anything I'd even seen before. A HyVee manager had made the decision to remove this publication from their East Washington store after our January/February Love issue. We had been distributing there for two years. He claimed he'd gotten complaints, but never given any details on what they were about. When the news hit Facebook, I saw floodgates open with e-mails and posts to HyVee Corporate. The Facebook status reporting the news was shared a couple hundred times. Because of your action, HyVee very quickly reversed course and store management contacted me to welcome the magazine back.

I am also thrilled to report that beginning in our next issue Congressman Mark Pocan has accepted our offer to write an occasional column about LGBTQ issues when they come before him both locally and in Washington. I've known our congressman both professionally and as a friend since starting the Madison Gay Hockey Association in 2006. I couldn't be more honored to welcome his leadership and voice to our pages. Both he and Senator Baldwin are two of my personal heroes that I often look to for vision and leadership. I'm proud to be able to help him bring his voice on issues that affect our community directly to you, our readers.

One of the critical roles I consider this magazine playing in the lives of our readers is to elevate a vision for LGBTQ leadership—and to make those leaders accessible. I believe we've done that here. This issue features a strong focus on people from our community who are leaders in the Greater Madison food community. Connecting with them and learning more about their work and values have certainly helped educate and diversify my own understanding of—and connection to—what Madison has to offer. My wish is that through this we are able to do the same for you.

With Love,
Patrick Farabaugh
 Publisher



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Cover photographed by **Lois Bielefeld** at **West Star Farm**.
 Hair and makeup by **Daisy Quintal-Lepinski**, KODE salon. Clothing and prop styling by **Yvonne Lopez**.

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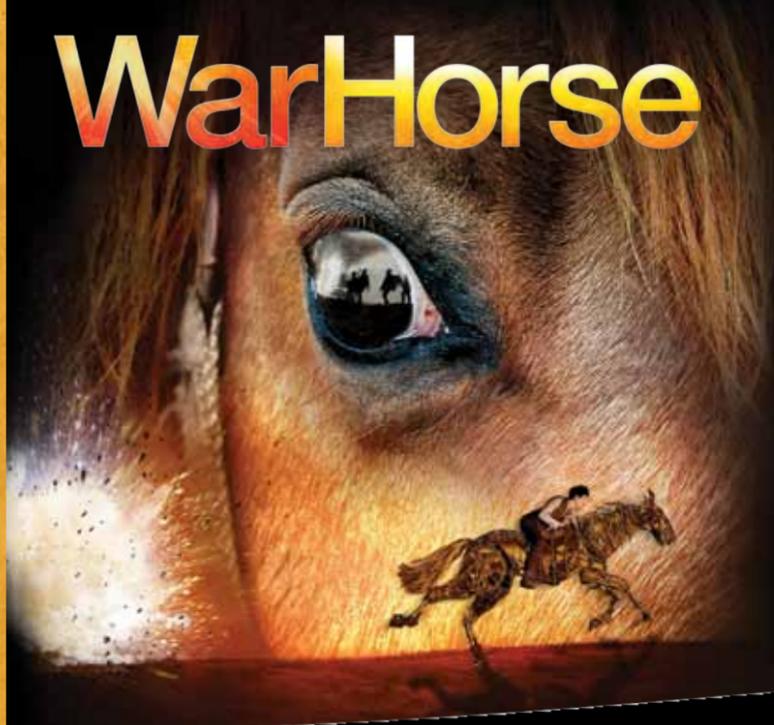
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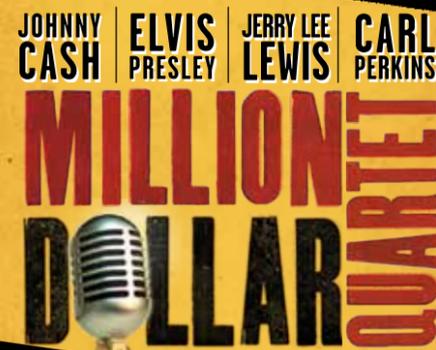
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Exploring Mars: Rovers of the Red Planet, Kobie Boykins
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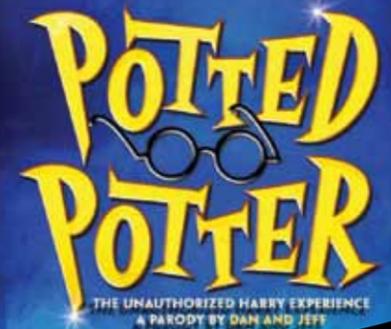
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contributors



Marcelle Richards has been a contributor to *Our Lives* magazine and *Isthmus* since 2009. She believes in the transformative power of stories – and damn strong coffee. She lives in Madison with Claire, a 9-year-old bull terrier who teaches her that enjoying life really can be as simple as plopping down in the one spot of sunshine in a room. This summer, Marcelle and Claire will make like tumbleweeds and ramble out west, to the wild and wonderful unknown.



Lois Bielefeld grew up in Milwaukee, WI. She graduated from Rochester Institute of Technology in 2002, receiving her BFA in Advertising Photography. Soon after that she migrated to Brooklyn, NY, which became home for seven years. Recently she returned to Milwaukee with her daughter where Lois shoots commercial, editorial and fine art work. She is currently a Nohl fellow recipient and is working on Conceal Carry portraits in Wisconsin as well as a documentary film on *Ladies Night Out*.



Daisy Quintal-Lepinski has been a fixture on the Madison hair scene for the last 10 years and now owns her own eco-friendly, customer service, and community-focused salon with KODE. Additionally, throughout her career she's taken many classes by top-notch, global educators and is a certified Redken Colorist after passing the 'hardest exam ever' in New York City. Daisy lives in Madison with her partner, Jocelyn, and their two boys, Lane and Keaton.

departments

The Importance of Giving Back

Featuring businesses that give back to the communities they serve

Shannon Anderson

Financial Advisor & Certified Financial Planner professional with the practice of Sharon Brantmeier, CRPC.

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One of my goals in life is to attempt to make a difference in the world. That mission compelled me to change careers from cost accountant to financial advisor and motivated me to get involved in the LGBTQ community and volunteer with LGBTQ nonprofits.

My work with the LGBTQ community started when I lived in Buffalo, NY, and was involved with Pride Buffalo and Empire State Pride Agenda. In my move home to Madison, I jumped right in here and worked on the boards of **OutReach** and **OPEN**. I currently serve as board treasurer for **Fair Wisconsin**.

My career allows me to help LGBTQ clients with financial-planning topics. In my volunteer work, I am able to use my financial skills to help strengthen LGBTQ organizations. My hope is that the work in both areas plays a small role in improving the lives of LGBTQ individuals.

I love the work I do as a financial advisor. I also love being involved in the community in which I live, and I think giving back to Madison and the LGBTQ community is just as important as growing my business!

OUR KITCHEN by Leanne Cordisco

Celebrating what's in season at our local farmers' market



Individual Molten Lava Chocolate Cake

There are so many things to celebrate at this time of year, so why not include chocolate in the celebration? This elegant cake wows people, but it is surprisingly easy to prepare. Once baked, it can be finished with a sprinkle of cocoa powder, or your favorite ice cream, chocolate sauce, or fruit puree. The molten center comes from removing the cake from the oven just before it has a chance to set. To melt the chocolate, cut it into small pieces and microwave it for 15 second bursts until it just melts, stirring often.

- 12 oz melted dark chocolate
- 3 Tbls unsalted butter
- 2/3 C sugar
- 1/8 tsp salt
- 4 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1/2 C flour

Watch Leanne make this recipe on [ourlivesmadison.com!](http://ourlivesmadison.com/)

- 1 Preheat oven to 400 degrees
- 2 Grease and sugar four 6-oz ramekins
- 3 In a stand mixer, cream the butter and sugar.
- 4 Add the eggs and salt and continue mixing on high until it reaches the ribbon stage, or when the batter is pale yellow and fluffy, about 5 minutes
- 5 Add the flour and blend
- 6 Add vanilla and chocolate
- 7 Pour into ramekin
- 8 Bake for 15 minutes
- 9 Cool for 5 min
- 10 Turn the cake out onto a plate and serve.

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LGBT Campus Center

The LGBT Campus Center at University of Wisconsin-Madison is featuring UW alumni making a difference in the LGBTQ community. Each of these proud Badgers have reinvested their UW educations and experiences towards making the world a better place for LGBTQ people to live, work, and learn. To learn how you can be involved with the LGBT Campus Center and reinvest in your community, visit lgbt.wisc.edu.

Alumni Spotlight



Mark Porter
BS Ag Economics '84

How have you stayed connected to the LGBTQ community in Madison as a UW Alumni?

I joined UW's Ten Percent society right when it was formed and I've continued to watch the campus presence grow through that organization and to the present LGBT Campus Center; something I never have dreamed of as an undergrad!

I currently serve as Co-Chair of the New Harvest Foundation, another organization I joined soon after it was formed and then rejoined several years ago. New Harvest Foundation is the only foundation in Dane County that channels charitable contributions exclusively to organizations working to promote lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) rights, services, culture and community development. My involvement helps keep me close to the needs and goals of our local LGBTQ community.

What is one piece of advice for graduating LGBTQ Badgers?

Buy low. Sell high.
On a serious note: be true to yourself; your integrity is what makes you who you are. But don't be too serious; life is short, laugh a lot!



Celebrating LGBTQ and ally graduates
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community

OUR ORGANIZERS



One Fruity Day

FruitFest Festival organizers **Corey Gresen, Rico Sabatini, and Liz Tymus** talk about Madison's newest queer Pride celebration.

Four years ago Rico Sabatini and Corey Gresen, the co-owners of queer nightclub Plan B, decided to join forces with local event producer Liz Tymus to throw an outdoor Pride festival in the heart of the city's near east side. The occasion has brought some serious queer flavor to the Madison festival scene and continues to expand its offerings year by year. Below, the trio explains the origin of the idea for Fruit Fest, and what the day has meant to them and the community as a whole.

Who are you (each) and where are you from/how long have you been in Madison? **COREY GRESEN:** I was born in Wausau, and then went to the DePaul School of Music in Chicago, followed by Los Angeles to work for Interscope Records. I came back to Madison in 2007. **RICO SABATINI:** I have lived in Madison for almost my entire life. I didn't fall far from the tree. **LIZ TYMUS:** I'm from Racine County, and came to Madison in 2000 for undergrad. Upon graduating from UW in 2005, I made one attempt to leave, moving to the Czech Republic to accept a full-time position with Artel Glass. After three months of living as an expatriate, I found my way home to Madison and have not left since.

When and how did the idea for Fruit Fest initially form? What was the motivation to see it happen?

COREY: My motivation to see it happen came from hailing from Chicago and LA where the Pride weekends are huge, and I was surprised to not see a bigger LGBT celebration in Madison, especially since there is such a huge queer presence here. **RICO:** Liz, Corey, and I were sitting around talking over a few beers after a long night (the same way the idea of Plan B came about), about the idea of having some sort of rooftop or parking-lot party. Liz wanted to do an iQ (indieQueer) type event, and it morphed into a bigger idea that continues to bear more fruit every year. **LIZ:** I've always had an interest in event production, specifically queer music and club life. I quickly took to Rico and Corey, throwing out over-the-top party ideas. Inspired by the rooftop idea, Rico, Corey, and I seemed to have simultaneously decided on a summer festival to be the joint efforts of Plan B and iQ and the Williamson Street neighborhood. The name "Fruit Fest" took over as we planned for our first year.

How do you think the event supports/serves the LGBTQ community in Madison? **COREY:** I think it's helped many LGBTQ members of southern Wisconsin celebrate their diversity; people who don't usually get to go to other celebrations around Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Illinois. **RICO:** It has filled a void in the Madison

LGBTQ community that was lacking a traditional, well-put-together Pride festival. Madison Pride has been hit or miss from year to year, and we wanted to create a free festival, in June, that would allow people to display their pride in the heart of the Willy Street neighborhood. **LIZ:** The first year of Fruit Fest was greatly inspired by reading a news bulletin that the organization of Capitol Pride had encountered a great financial setback. We wanted to create a sustainable festival, reliant on sponsors and not attendants to carry the financial burden. This way we can keep it FREE to the public. Fruit Fest is a place to celebrate our queer community. Simple as that.

How has the event made a difference in your life and/or the lives of people you know? **COREY:** It has become a part of Madison's

queer community. Many have started to look forward to the event each year. My father, who lives in Wausau and is a gay man, looks forward to Fruit Fest all year long. He has told me that it's his only celebration of who he truly

is, and that he super enjoys the community of queer people he meets at Fruit Fest each year. **RICO:** When I first started planning Fruit Fest, I had no idea it was going to be as challenging as it was, so it forced my disheveled self to get a lot more organized. I am proud of what Fruit Fest has come to embrace as not LGBT-specific, but a festival that embraces our allies and the families and neighborhood we live in. A man came up to me last year who was disabled and in a wheelchair. He said he has been out for 35 years and lives on Jenifer St. He has not been able to come to a festival to celebrate due to his disability, and Fruit Fest changed that. To me that made the entire work to make Fruit Fest happen worth every drop of sweat. **LIZ:** I have a five-year-



- Fruit Loop 5k
- AIDS Network's Summer Camp Bingo
- LGBT Group Tables
- Food Vendors
- Drag Performances
- Live Bands
- Starfruit Karaoke Competition
- Family Play Area

old daughter who spends the majority of the festival day in the kiddie pools or watching the drag queens strut their stuff. For her, she has never not had this day where her moms and her chosen aunties and uncles come together to celebrate our community.

Where can people go to find out more about this year's event, either just to attend or to participate/support/volunteer in some way? Facebook has the most current and up-to-date information. Also www.fruitfestmadison.org. There, people can sign up to volunteer and ask us questions about the day. ■

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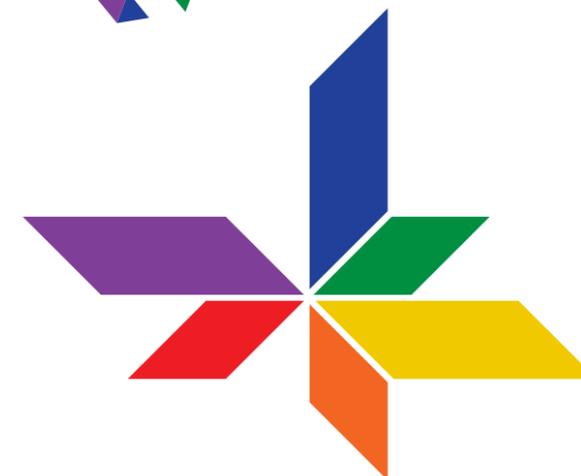
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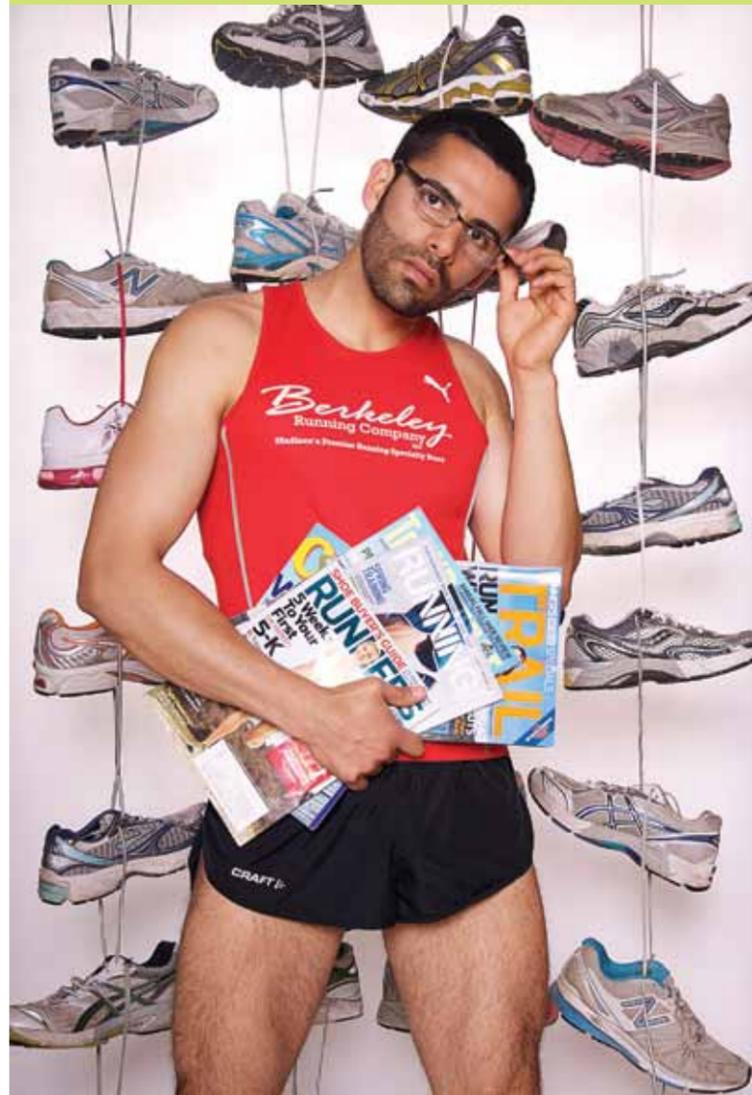


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OUR ATHLETES



Running Man

From Mexico to America, **Rolando Cruz** found passion and purpose in a pair of running shoes.

morning dew coats the trails of the Kettle Moraine Forest as the challenge to push my body, mind, and spirit to the breaking point and beyond begins. It's six in the morning and 218 runners toe the starting line, not knowing what to expect or how the next 36 hours will test their mental and physical endurance. One hundred miles of nonstop trail running, by most standards, usually causes one to question one's sanity.

I would beg to differ.

In the next 25 hours of my journey I will see the sun rise and set and rise again. I will push the boundaries of what is humanly possible and bare my soul and emotions to the wind. I will hold on to my adventurous spirit and remind myself to stay humble and reach deep within.

I will start from the beginning: As a child, I relied on my imagination and dreams to take me to the edge of the world and venture into the unexplored. I grew up in a remote mountainous village on the Pacific South-

west coast of Mexico. Enormous pine-covered mountains surrounded me, but once I was able to run, they were unable to cage my immense desire to discover the worlds that lay beyond.

My relationship with nature began when I was very young. Growing up in a traditional Roman Catholic home, church on Sunday was, for many, a way to cleanse their souls of whatever sins they might have committed throughout the week. For me it wasn't. I was there to try to link the god I saw manifested along my runs in the water and leaves, clouds and wind, to the god I had come to know from Bible studies. My mother used to take me with her on her long evening walks along the flower-painted prairies and through the picturesque cobblestone streets of our town as she reminisced about the events of the day as if they were legends from the past.

It is Madison where I found my first love and I ran my first marathon. It is Madison where I trained to run the Boston Marathon and played with the idea of running my first 50-mile race, and then accomplished both.

These walks eventually turned into runs as I got older. I remember, at age six, "running" errands for my mother and finding motivation in reducing the time necessary to complete these tasks, much to the approval and surprise of my mother. Her smile became the fuel needed for my determination and her happiness my love for the sport. As the years passed, my parents became my biggest fans. In time, my skills improved, and I won state three years in a row for the 100-meter dash and finished my Telesecundaria (high school) career undefeated.

At the age of 16, I came to this country for educational opportunities, only to find myself once again faced with what would become my greatest challenge; not mountains this time, but something greater: coming to terms with my sexuality. In addition, I was challenged by my limited ability to communicate in English and the daunting test of integrating into a new culture. Without the support and guidance of my biggest fans and heroes, my parents, I felt lost and on my own. It was then that I knew, though it seemed like I had nothing, I had everything: my feet, my health, and a head full of dreams. I had to foster my passion for running even more. The simple act of movement linked me to home. It gave me roots and purpose in a foreign environment, and provided—without judgment—a much-needed release.

I decided to go out for track with the hope that somewhere on that rubber surface I would find my place not only as a runner, but also as a member of a team and ultimately of society. My participation in track and cross-country earned me many awards, including Most Valuable Player, overall first and second finishes, a varsity letter, and eventually a scholarship. All this landed me in the pages of the local newspaper, which provided me with much-needed social interaction with my peers. This allowed me to break through my personal obstacles and eventually helped me achieve my dreams of graduating and getting my high school diploma.

After my graduation, I found myself at a crossroads. In August of 1999, I made the decision to move to Madison. I didn't know anyone here, but I knew the move couldn't be harder than the one I had made when I had first come to this country. At least by then I knew my way around the language and had learned the rules of my place within American society. And so, my new chapter in life began in a new city and without a place to live. But that didn't matter. I had myself and a new pair of running shoes, what else could I possibly need?

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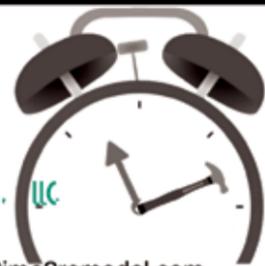
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Sat. June 22nd vs Minnesota Vixen - 5:00pm

Sat. June 29th vs Rockford Riveters - 5:00pm

Independent Women's Football League www.madisonblazefootball.com

community

The first week in Madison wasn't easy. The feeling of isolation came knocking on a door I did not have; I was homeless. Luckily I had a job, working the morning shift at Highland Transitional Care. My afternoons were spent running through the city, looking for a place to live, and getting to know my new surroundings. After a week I got an apartment. I enrolled in photography classes at MATC and worked various jobs. I eventually quit one job and decided to dedicate more time to my other passions: art and photography. This paid off. I was featured on different TV stations for volunteering to help the orderlies at St. Mary's Care Center feel better about themselves with a photography project I called "Bella."

This city I call home and hold dear has not only nurtured me as an individual, artist, and athlete, but it also has embraced me as one of its own.

It is Madison where I found my first love and I ran my first marathon. It is Madison where I trained to run the Boston Marathon and played with the idea of running my first 50-mile race, and then accomplished both. It is here that I have celebrated with friends and our community many of my accomplishments in my running career. Many of the streets and trails of this city have witnessed my dreams come true and have been the inspiration for many more to come. My most recent dream was to complete the Kettle 100-mile trail race. This was truly a monumental task, but moreover, the most rewarding running event I have experienced to date.

CONNECT: LGBTQ SPORTS LEAGUES

MADISON GAY HOCKEY ASSOCIATION MADISONGAYHOCKEY.ORG/JOINING

RECRUITING, Plays WEDNESDAY nights Summer scrimmages run through June at Madison Ice Arena. Tabelling at FruitFest for fall/winter season.

BADGERLAND LGBT SOFTBALL LEAGUE BADGERLANDSOFTBALL.COM

Plays MONDAY nights Registration for 2013 is closed. Open rec league games Monday nights, Women's Competitive League games Tuesday nights, co-ed rec league games on Sundays. See website for full listings.

MADISON GAY VOLLEYBALL MADISONGAYVOLLEYBALL.COM

RECRUITING, Plays FRIDAY nights All games at the Coliseum Bar.

May 17 & 24: Open Play

May 31-August 23: Season Games

August 24: Season Tournament and Party

MADISON MINOTAURS GAY RUGBY MADISONMINOTAURS.COM

Practices open to everyone: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30 p.m. until dark at the Crossroads Pitch behind the Crossroads Bar at the intersection of Hwy 12/18 and Cty. AB.

May 11 Columbus/Mayhem 3-way at the Cottage Grove Sports Complex

May 18 Joliet Shamrocks at the Cottage Grove Sports Complex

HONEYMOONERS LGBT BOWLING LEAGUE

RECRUITING, Plays MONDAY nights We pride ourselves on having a fun no matter your walk of life or skills. We bowl at Village Lanes (8 p.m. to 10 p.m.), starting in October, for approximately 25 weeks. Stop by if you're interested.

MADISON BLAZE WOMEN'S FOOTBALL MADISONBLAZEFOOTBALL.COM

May 4 vs. Iowa Crush - 5 p.m. at Lussier Stadium, LaFollette High School

June 8 vs. Wisconsin Warriors - 5 p.m., Madison Memorial High School

June 22 vs. Minnesota Vixen - 5 p.m., Madison Memorial High School

June 29 vs. Rockford Riveters - 5 p.m., Madison Memorial High School

MAD ROLLIN' DOLLS ROLLER DERBY MADROLLINDOLLS.COM

May 11: 2013 Home Season Finals at the Veterans Memorial Coliseum

June 15: Dairyland Dolls Interleague bout vs. Grand Raggidy at the Hartmeyer Ice Arena, 6pm

June 29: Dairyland Dolls Interleague bout vs. Cincinnati Rollergirls at the Hartmeyer Ice Arena, 6pm

FRONTRUNNERS/FRONTWALKERS

RECRUITING, Meets SATURDAY mornings Diverse and friendly running/walking group meets every Saturday at 9 a.m. in the parking lot at Wingra Park for a 3-6 mile circuit around the Arboretum. Free and open to all!

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OUR ATHLETES



The road has not been easy, but if I had the chance I would do it all over again. Life for me will always be my most important race and my best ultra marathon. It would never be about how long it takes me to get to the finish line, but instead about the experiences, the friendships, and the lessons I learned along the way.

These days you'll find me working as the manager of Berkeley Running Company on University Avenue, passing out knowledge about running, shoes, apparel, health, and the lessons this primal urge for running has taught me about life.

So lace 'em up and don't think twice about it. ■



Tim Lom is Our Athletes editorial facilitator and a member of the Madison Minotaurs rugby club, Wisconsin's only International Gay Rugby Association and Board team. He's excited to help various members of the sports community have their voices heard and their stories told.

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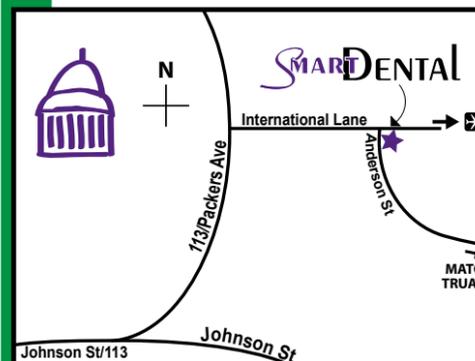
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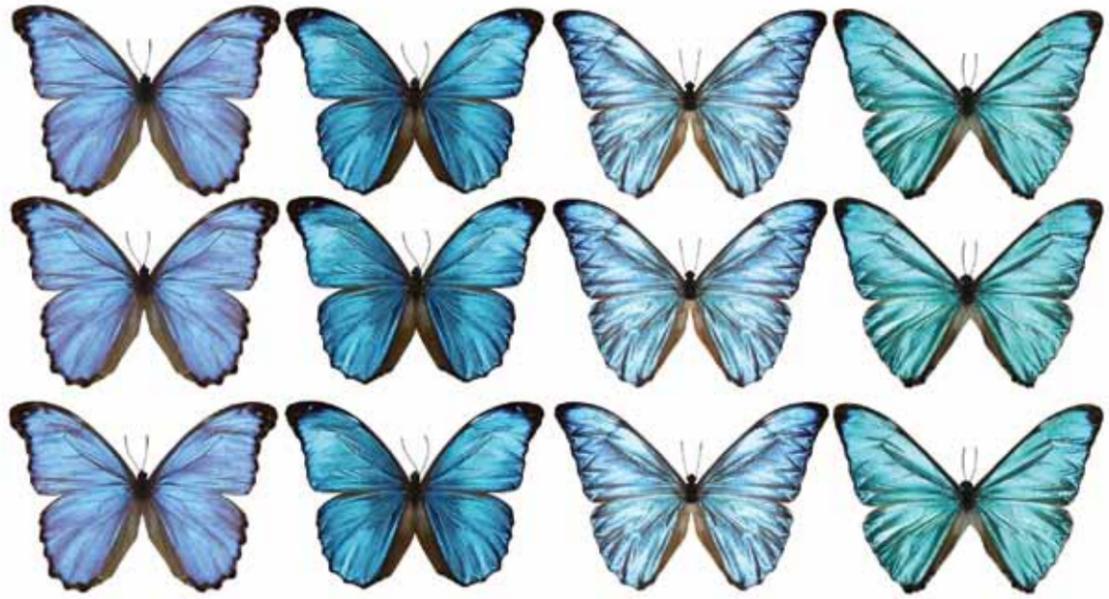
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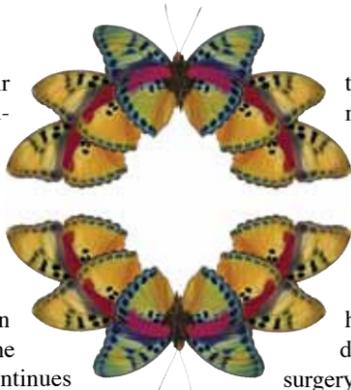


Metamorphosis An accident challenges a nature photographer to adapt and find beauty in a new life and a new lens.

butterflies fascinate him. The way their wings look under ultraviolet light, their diversity, the fact that they are pollinators, their extraordinary and unique power of metamorphosis. Those, he tells me, are only a few of the reasons why his nature photography is dominated with their images.

Butterflies have been around for 50 million years. Nothing to sneeze at compared to our brief human history of a mere 5 million. I imagine that once the first humans opened their eyes, with vision that continues to be limited to colors beneath the frequency of violet, they were wooed by the beauty of the butterfly. We are perhaps equally impressed by their four-stage lifetime and the fact that they live two very distinct lives. There is a caterpillar crawling along the earth eating leaves, and then, snap, a slight nap, a minor breakthrough, and a beautiful winged being emerges, flying from flower to flower drinking sweet nectar.

When I caught up with Thomas Elliot to ask him why butterflies,

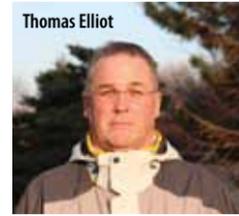


the 50-year-old photographer was in the gym, in the midst of a long and painful recovery. Sadly, he is trying to bring on his own metamorphosis, after a devastating biking accident last October in which he was broadsided by an SUV.

By most definitions, it is miraculous he is doing as well as he is. He spent four days in the intensive-care unit in critical condition, followed by a three-hour-long surgery. He suffered internal injuries and damage to his skull. He's gone through reconstructive surgery on his face that left him with numbness in some places, but that numbness does not spare him an annoying jolt of pain every time the steel plate in his skull pokes him in the eye. His efforts at the gym are to help him strengthen muscles that atrophied during the long months of recovery. There are more physical challenges, but he remains hopeful his hours of rehabilitation will help him regain his balance.

His injuries have left him with other consequences as well. His partner of 20 years can attest to many other challenging aspects of their "new normal," complete with impaired executive functions, post-traumatic stress disorder, sleep disruption, shortened attention span, memory loss, auditory processing deficits, and the loss of other innate skills we all take for granted until we lose them, or they are taken from us. His partner is gracious and patient, but the stress they must be going through is almost unbearable to imagine. They are working and adjusting.

Thomas moved to Madison about 10 years ago when his partner got a job in the area. That is when he took the time to stop and smell the roses, or in his case, photograph the fungi. A quick glance at his Flickr photostream evinces his patience, his appreciation of nature, his skill as a photographer. Some of the captions explain the fragility



Thomas Elliot

of certain species with phrases like, "North American fritillaries are disappearing."

It is only recently that he has been able to begin taking photographs again, but the process that was once an effortless joy is now another hurdle in his comeback. His memory is sketchy, and that means it is harder to nail down the correct settings for proper light exposure and shutter speed—all processes that were automatic before, enabling him the needed fluidity to capture the precise second when a butterfly dipped into a flower for a drink or opened its wings before flight.

He recently took his first post-injury nature walk in the Arboretum. He is sorting through disjointed memories, and trying to move beyond the anger and frustration that cripples as forcefully as the physical injuries have.

It is obvious that he has the determination to get well. He also has the love and support of a long-term partner standing by his side. It is my hope that his complete recuperation comes quickly and that he is soon walking through tall Wisconsin prairie grass, camera around his neck, attempting to capture the image of a near-extinct fritillary. These images may serve to remind all of us to see life through the lens of another, and to appreciate what we have before it is gone. ■



Karin Wolf is the arts program administrator for the City of Madison Department of Planning and Community and Economic Development and the Madison Arts Commission. Her freelance arts writing has appeared in *Sculpture Magazine*, *Public Art Review*, and the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*.

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Theoretical Physicist, Priest, Gay

Michael Ramsey-Musolf shows how he built a beautiful life in a paradox.

challenging others to reach deeper levels of self-awareness. I want to shatter the lavender ceiling and encourage others struggling to integrate their sexual, spiritual, and scientific aspirations. Our LGBTQ+ youth should know that a career in science, math, or engineering is as viable as a career in the arts, entertainment, or humanities. All can love God. Openly. Successfully. In Wisconsin.

Seeking an Honest Path

My father was an atheist political scientist and my mother was a lapsed Methodist musician. Being liberals, they sent me to the Unitarian church for religious exposure. I remember a young minister declaring that he only called on God when he needed a parking spot. It didn't feel right to me, and I wanted to spend my Sundays with others who believed in God. Eventually, I found the Episcopal Church and fell in love with God through the sounds and visual beauty of the liturgy, and through the communion of the intellectually open-minded people I found there.

I may have been destined for the Church, but certainly not for science. On the first day of 8th grade science class we observed a candle burn for an hour. What could be duller? That attitude lasted until 11th grade, when I reluctantly enrolled in physics, where I fell in love again, this time with quantum theory and Einstein's theory of special relativity. Physics was so mysterious, beautiful, and compelling.

Meanwhile, I already had a secret third love: the beauty of men. It was as powerful as the other two, but scarier by far. I feared it meant abandoning both God and physics. My parents suggested therapy. I tried dating women. I "acted straight" while channeling my frustrated gay identity into academic achievement.

By grad school, the tension between my three loves was roiling. I didn't fit into any one of the boxes. During

the Eucharist at Princeton's Trinity Church, as I reflected on my experiences at a Catholic Worker soup kitchen and of poverty in Mexico, I experienced a vision of Jesus healing a broken and hurting world. Like St. Paul, scales fell from my eyes and the first box collapsed. I knew that God wanted me to be a priest.

After consultation with New Jersey's bishop, I completed my master's in physics and then began seminary. On the day I was supposed to leave physics behind, though, I couldn't do it. It was as central to my DNA as was my love for God. I decided to complete my PhD and simultaneously enroll in divinity school to begin post-doc work at MIT.

It was through prayer that another box crumbled. I realized that

God created and loved me as a gay man, budding physicist, and future priest. My identity was between God and me, not the boxes.

Twenty years later I am married to a wonderfully compelling man. I'm a UW-Madison professor of theoretical physics, a soon-to-be director of UMass/Amherst's center for theoretical physics, an assisting priest at Madison's St. Dunstan's Church, and a part-time priest at Los Angeles's All Saints Church. By the grace of God, I have followed my three loves.

Hard work Remains

In my journey, I have found that homophobia, heterosexism, and prejudice are alive and well in science, the church, and the gay community.

Over the course of my career—and most recently at UW-Madison—I have experienced that the physics community is not fully prepared for an openly gay man in a position of power. A significant reason why I shall lead a physics center in Massachusetts and not Wisconsin is the continued hostility I receive from my UW-Madison colleagues in theoretical high-energy physics and the silence from those who enable them. Hitting the lavender ceiling at this university has been painfully disappointing.

Yet, I have been sustained through my friendships with departmental colleagues and allies at other institutions. I am encouraged not only by the vision of colleagues and administrators at UMass who are

Meanwhile, I already had a secret third love: the beauty of men. It was as powerful as the other two, but scarier by far. I feared it meant abandoning both God and physics.

not threatened by a box-breaking professor, but also by the American Physical Society, where I recently spoke at its first session on Gender and Sexual Diversity Issues in Physics.

The Episcopal Church is still on a journey toward full inclusivity. While we've made progress by authorizing the blessing of same-sex unions and consecrating two openly gay bishops, the Diocese of Milwaukee remains far behind the national church, the Diocese of Los Angeles (my "official" home), and my future home in Massachusetts. Still, I find hope in the prayerful advocacy of St. Dunstan's parishioners, its rector Miranda Hassett, and other Wisconsin Episcopalians.

Finding Balance

Do science and faith conflict, or are they separate but equal? For me, theoretical physics is a deeply spiritual discipline. The laws of nature that describe the universe's visible matter are a work of art, yet so much of the cosmos remains mysteriously dark and energetic. Do a Christian faith and a gay identity conflict? Only a superficial understanding of Jesus could lead one to think so. Can a gay person "come out" as a scientist? If you skim mainstream gay media, one might not think so.

With my faith, a wonderful husband, supportive friends, mentors, and allies in the church, the world of physics, and my therapist's office, I have integrated the seemingly conflicting aspects of my identity. If that can happen for me, then it can happen for anyone else in our community. We define the categories, not them.

It is, after all, about *our* lives. ■

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New Harvest Foundation

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

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Abbie Hill has been a member of Madison's LGBTQ community for 40 years. In 1977, with three business partners, she opened Going My Way, a downtown gay nightclub. Abbie was a founding member of Flaming Dykasaurus, currently works for the Wisconsin Department of Tourism, and has been attending the LGBTQ Narratives group for about a year and a half.

Our Lives is accepting submissions of original, previously unpublished prose, poetry, essays, and graphic stories (cartoons and comics) by Madison-area writers from the LGBTQ+XYZ community. We invite contributions that represent all facets of our diversity. Please e-mail your submissions and questions to storytellers@ourlivesmadison.com for consideration.



"On Wings, Waves, and Quivers"

I stood on the cliffs of Santorini, gazing upon the blue waters of the Mediterranean. Mounds of green pushed up out of the sea, and slowly these islands formed themselves into the shape of a woman. From my vantage point, the two closest islands looked like breasts. Farther out, crescent-shaped islands made her thighs. In the center, a circular island became her belly. The view was so beautiful it carried me away. Waves of foam washed over the woman below; Aphrodite's presence was powerful. Her voice whispered in my ear like a kiss. "See how much joy she gets from her lover, the sky. Those frothy waves are the juices of her pleasure and from them I was born."

"Wow," I thought, "the Goddess of love," as I both heard and sensed her offer. My heart leaped through my head. Aphrodite herself wanted to take over my body, and I let her. Immediately, I felt like the most beautiful woman in the world. My fears disappeared. Energy charged within me; intentions so powerful, they lifted me above mortality.

Aphrodite transformed me into a white bird with a beak of pure gold and sapphire eyes. Lovely fringed wings sailed me into clouds and floated me down over the earth. I felt currents of pleasure as the sky blew warm winds across the lush green islands. It turned into a game where I beat my wings against the wind but then slowed to feel its force take hold of my ruffled body and push me down hard. Ascending again to soaring, above curly green forests, passion burned within me. I wove my way through the tops of the trees and rested for a while on a cool branch.

Down below, Artemis was hunting in the woods. She caught a glimpse of something spectacular in the canopy above. Her arrow shot upward through the treetops and struck my breast.

I fell all the way to the forest floor and settled on a soft bed of moss. Artemis rushed over to the spot where she thought her bird had landed. What she saw amazed her, for there lay the Goddess Aphrodite. Artemis reached to retrieve her arrow, and I slapped her hand away. "You nocuous crommyonian sow!" I spat at her.

Silently, Artemis reached into her quiver and grabbed a flask from its side pocket. She uncorked the bottle and held the flask out to me, her sharp features rearranged in apology. I nodded, allowing her to dribble the ambrosia through my parched lips. The liquor's effects dulled the pain when Artemis extracted the arrow from my bosom.

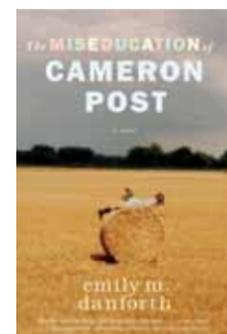
Awakening slowly, feeling the cool metal railing in my grip, I sighed. "Oh, sweetheart, I can see why the virgins worship you." A laugh bubbled up behind me. Its originator pressed against my back and arms encircled my waist. "I was having a daydream," I explained, embarrassed.

"If you only knew how many women have told me that," she whispered in my ear, hugging me tighter, as I struggled to remove myself from her embrace. In spite of all our high ideals, no woman wants to hear about the other ones. "You're the one that I want, though. I've stopped hunting." So I turned to kiss her throat, breathed in the salty, sunny smell of that beautiful place. She took my hand and we began to walk toward Oia. ■

From the Bookshelf of a BWF
(Bi White Female)

Q: What does a Tennessee Williams play from 1955 have in common with a 21st-century young-adult novel?

A: They both got me thinking about bisexuality (but then again, so do a lot of things).



After seeing the excellent Strollers Theater production of *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, I had to go back and read the text. There seemed to be a great deal I'd forgotten since high school; namely, Brick's loathing of his wife, Maggie, comes from her failed attempt to seduce his best friend, Skipper. The failure convinces Skipper that he is gay, and after confessing as much to an unresponsive Brick, Skipper drinks himself to death (if that doesn't sound familiar, it's probably because the film version removed almost all the homosexual content from the story).

In the other book on my nightstand, *The Miseducation of Cameron Post* by Emily M. Danforth, a young queer girl is sent to an ultra-Christian reform school designed to reprogram teens from "the sin of homosexuality." It's a thick book with a lot in it, and (after a slightly stilted opening chapter) it's quite a good read. And yes, we've come a long way, baby: Today's teens have a lot more reading material to choose from, including portrayals of healthy, happy queer folk of all ages.

I'm preoccupied by the girls with whom Cameron "sins." Both the characters of Irene and Coley end up with boyfriends, although Cameron speculates that for Coley, as an adult, "... it's the thing she'll obsess over after she gets the two point five kids and the mortgage. She'll ask herself as she's trying to sleep at night: Why didn't I make it with that chick when I had the chance?"

So, what would that make Coley—a repressed lesbian who's never true to herself? Or perhaps a bisexual woman whose life partner is a man? If a bisexual tree falls in the forest when there's no one around to hear, does she still get to be called queer?

I'm certainly not trying to say that being bi is harder than being queer. But it is different. When you still like the opposite sex, your fellow queers might call you a selfish, fickle experimenter. A fake. So you know you're not straight, but you're told you aren't gay either—at least not yet. "Maybe it's a stage," people say.

Now I'm thinking about Brick again, about how he described the purity of his friendship with Skipper: something "clean and decent," higher than lust, closer than brothers. In shared hotel rooms as pro football players, they used to "reach across the space between the two beds and shake hands to say goodnight, yeah, one or two times we—"

But Big Daddy interrupts him right there, and we never learn what they did, one or two times. We are left to wonder whether Brick is as straight as he wants to think he is.

The portrayal of choices is so often limited to the two extremes, the absolutes. But what happens to those who are not ever going to land on one side or the other? Is there a role model for the person who spends her whole life knowing she could go either way? —Alison Kennedy



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Milwaukee PrideFest
June 7-9, Milwaukee
 This year's festival will celebrate the strength and pride of families. Both families of birth and of choice are invited to come together as one proud community. Featuring the Indigo Girls, Andy Bell of Erasure, Sophie B. Hawkins, God-des and She, Amanda Palmer, and more. pridefest.com



Fruit Fest
June 22, Plan B parking lot
 An all-ages, free event, Fruit Fest is in its fourth year and is organized to celebrate Madison's LGBTQ community through a day of music, performance and celebration. This year will feature headliner Debbie Gibson, the Fruit-Loop 5k, Camp Bingo, and a whole lot more! fruitfestmadison.org

ORGANIZATIONS

A representative sampling

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

Alianza Latina
facebook.com/alianzalatinamadison

Bowling Out Loud
beckwith.matt@yahoo.com

Dairyland Cowboys & Cowgirls
dcandc.org

Fair Wisconsin
 203 S. Paterson Street, Madison (608) 441-0143
fairwisconsin.com

Frontrunners/Frontwalkers
personalpages.tds.net/~tmcdurg

Gay/Straight Alliance for Safe Schools (GSAFE)
 122 E. Olin Ave., Madison (608) 661-4141
gsafe.org

Gay Softball League
badgerlandsoftball.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

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

March 2 | New Harvest Foundation dinner at the Concourse Hotel



did you hear?



County Board urges Boy Scouts to Embrace Equality



The Dane County Board in April passed a resolution urging the Boy Scouts of America to "embrace equality" and eliminate "policies that discriminate against gay and/or transgender youth and parents and adopt an inclusive non-discrimination policy that would apply to all troops and packs when they review the membership policy in May." Supervisor Jenni Dye introduced the measure, which passed by a voice vote with no one speaking or voting against it. The resolution will now be forwarded the national BSA, "so that our community goes on record with them as supporting equality," says Dye. The national BSA meeting in May will likely include a vote on whether to drop the longstanding ban on openly gay scouts and troop leaders.

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- May 21: OPEN Breakfast Networking Event
- June 7-9: PrideFest Milwaukee
- June 7: AIDS Network Red Ribbon Affair
- June 11: OPEN Betty Lou Cruise
- August 1 - 4: Wisconsin AIDS Ride
- Aug 14-18: GSAFE Leadership Training
- August 18: Wisconsin Capitol Pride
- August 18: OPEN Pride brunch
- Sept 19: OPEN Networking Event
- September 20: OutReach Banquet
- October (date TBD): OPEN Career Fair
- November 13: OPEN Networking Event

Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce launch, May 14, Plan B, Madison
 Mark your calendars for their Madison area launch celebration from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. All are welcome. RSVPs are appreciated to info@wislgbtchamber.com. wislgbtchamber.com

OutReach 5th Annual Garden Party, May 16, Home of William Wartmann, Edgerton
 William Wartmann and the Board of Directors of OutReach LGBT Community Center invite you to our 5th Annual Garden Party. Help celebrate spring and support OutReach! In addition to the beautiful lawn, gardens and prairie, the event will feature a hot and cold buffet, beverages, mingling, and a brief program. At our host's request alcohol will not be served. lgbtoutreach.org

Queer Shorts 8, June 6 - 15, Bartell Theater, Madison
 StateQ presents the eighth installment of an audience favorite: Sit back and enjoy 10-12 short plays about queer life. Performances are Thursday-Sunday, June 6-9, and Thursday-Saturday, June 13-15. stageq.com

Red Ribbon & White Shoes Affair, June 7, Mariner's Inn, Madison
 AIDS Network's summer lawn party lakeside at the Mariner's Inn with appetizers and hors d'oeuvres by Lombardino's, desserts by Chocolaterian Cafe, complimentary soft drinks and cash bar, entertainment, our famous silent auction. 6 p.m. aidsnetwork.org/red-ribbon-affair

Mad City Vegan Fest, June 8, Goodman Community Center, Madison
 This event brings in over a thousand local and out-of-town vegan and vegan-curious visitors. Features renowned speakers, various vegan treats, cooking demonstrations, and a raffle. veganfest.org

Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus Concert: "On the Road to Marriage Equality", June 15, First United Methodist Church, Madison, perfectharmonychorus.org

Drag Down Cancer Comedy Benefit, June 15, High Noon Saloon, Madison
 This showcases drag queens and kings, live singers, comedians and more! Every penny is donated to the American Cancer Society. dragdowncancer.webs.com

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 GINGER DOSS BAND
 VOICES OF AFRICA
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 LAURA LOVE
 SHARON KATZ & THE PEACE TRAIN
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- SATURDAY**
 CRIS WILLIAMSON
 JUNE & JEAN MILLINGTON
 MELISSA FERRICK
 ALL FESTIVAL JAM
- SUNDAY**
 WIA'S GOT TALENT
 GINA YASHERE
 ELVIRA KURT

- DAY STAGE SCHEDULE**
- FRIDAY**
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Photo by Greg Anderson

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March 24 | AIDS Network "Nerd" Camp Bingo at the Sheraton



did you hear?



Madison Gay Hockey Association's
Blades Against AIDS raises over \$2,100 for AIDS Network



This year's Blades Against AIDS fundraiser, hosted by the Madison Gay Hockey Association and with the help of local sponsors and the community at large, raised \$2,500 to help support AIDS Network. "Throughout the event, I saw smiling faces on and off the ice as people really enjoyed the opportunity to skate, socialize, and support a great organization that does so much for so many," says MGHA president David Hafner. "For the MGHA, it's just a joy

to bring our friends and families together and have a party where all are welcome and everyone has a great time. We look forward to next year's event and hope even more people can join us in the fun as we give back to a community we feel so strongly about."

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JUNE 7, 2013

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For more information see our website:
WWW.AIDSNETWORK.ORG



March 8 | OPEN event at Madison Ballet's *Dracula*



did you hear?



GSA Conference Attracts Record Numbers

On Friday, March 15, more than 175 Gay-Straight Alliance students and advisors attended GSAFE's Spring GSA Conference at First Baptist Church in Madison. Students came from as far away as Pulaski, Union Grove, Lake Geneva, and Sheboygan. This was officially GSAFE's biggest GSA conference ever. The theme of the conference was "all about gender," and workshop topics included "Trans 101," "Female Body Health," "An Introduction to Gender Inclusive Language," "Identity, Justice, and Gender 101," and many more.

GSAFE would like to thank all the workshop presenters, kitchen volunteers, and their tireless GSAFE Student Planning team for pulling this together.

And thank you to First Baptist Church for being such a great host! First Baptist Church has been letting GSAFE use their building free of charge for GSA Conferences since 2002, so if you're a member there, please make sure to say "thank you!" to them for supporting GSAFE and LGBTQ youth in Wisconsin.

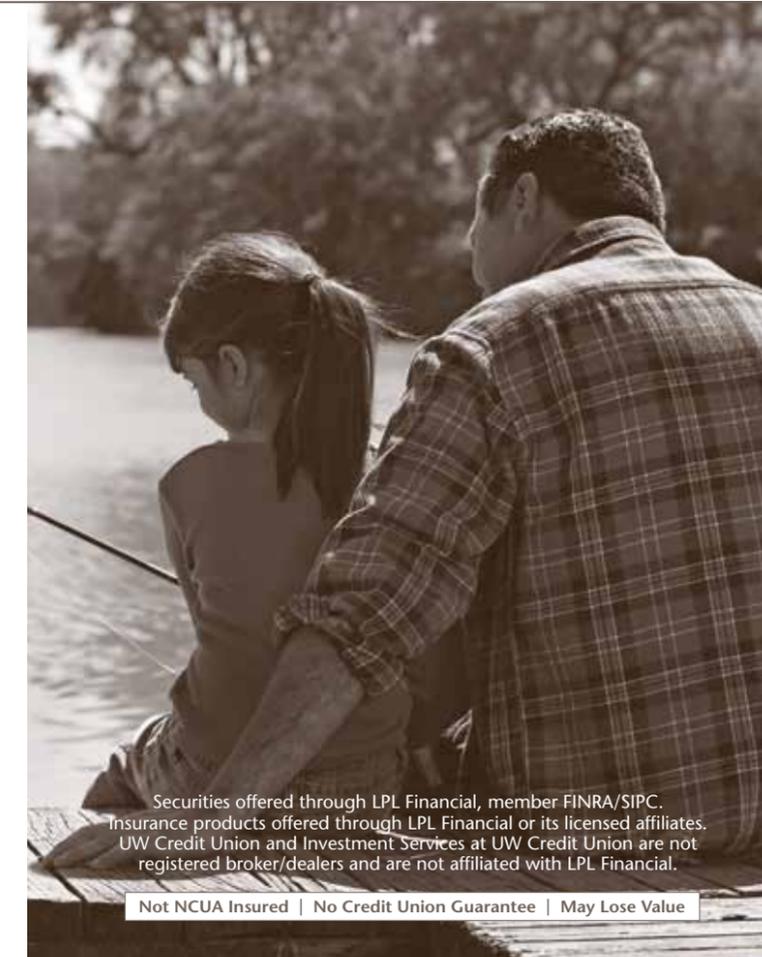
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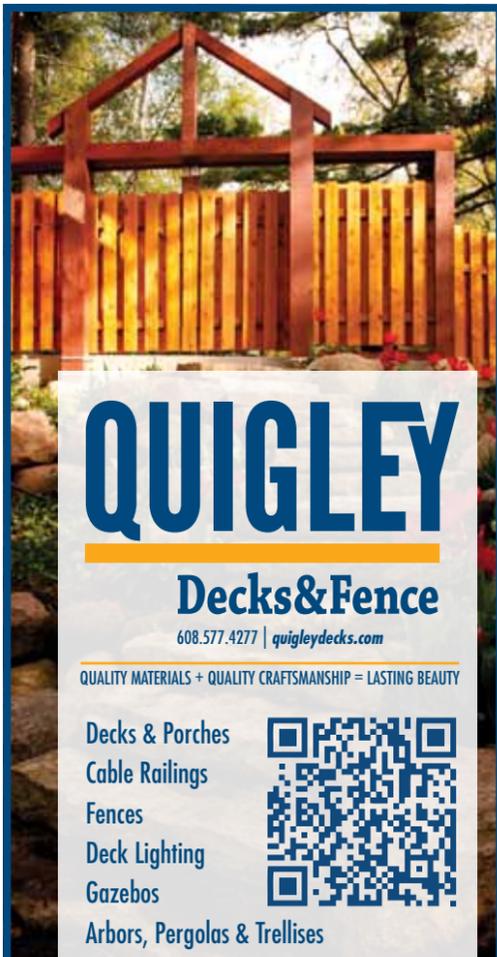
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9a-12p: KATIE KRUZ
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04p-08p:
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soil & soul

Owner of Harvest and The Old Fashioned, **Tami Lax** brings her passion and a family farm tradition to Madison tables.

When we opened Harvest in the fall of 2000, we were still hanging pictures on the walls minutes before we unlocked the doors. I don't think I took a day off for the first three years. Many nights, I would find myself on my front porch, not even remembering the walk home.

A few years later, the space next to Harvest became available. The idea for a more casual concept had always been in the back of my mind, and The Old Fashioned opened in December 2005.

Being a part of the Madison restaurant community is a rewarding and humbling experience on a daily basis, and these feelings have been amplified by the accolades we've received from both local and national press throughout the years. The success of these restaurants comes from the people with whom I have the great fortune to work. We employ more than 150 people between Harvest and The Old Fashioned, and each one plays his or her own important role in our success.

As I reflect, I thank my lucky stars that I have a career I love, and that I love going to work

HAIR AND MAKEUP BY DASTY QUINTAL-LEPINSKI, KODE SALON. CLOTHING AND PROP STYLING BY YVONNE LOPEZ. PHOTOGRAPHED AT WEST STAR FARM

every day. From my years on the line at L'Etoile to opening these two restaurants, my career was molded by the strong influence of my family's farms and the farm-to-table culture that I grew up in.

Growing Up on the Farm

My connection with food came to me at a very early age. My earliest memories are of my Grandma LaPlant's cooking wafting from the basement kitchen of her Cape Cod-style home, where she raised my mom and seven of my aunts and uncles. I remember her Hungarian goulash, her Jell-O molds with preserved pears or grated carrots, and her coleslaw that no one to this day can replicate. Sundays were spent with my family at her home, where I absorbed the importance of a strong connection to food and its role in bringing people to the table.

During the harvest time of summer and fall, my mom and aunts would pack us all up in the car and make our yearly pilgrimage to Door County to harvest fruit. Early summer would be strawberries, followed by cherries around the 4th of July. Fall brought my favorites: peaches and pears. All were brought back to my grandmother's for cleaning and processing. These were not everyday foods; rather, they were only brought out to savor during special occasions and holidays. Of course, with 22 grandchildren, special occasions seemed to happen on a bi-weekly basis! Whether for birthdays, baptisms, or first communions, my grandma, aunts, and mom were always preparing a feast.

My father grew up on a dairy farm just outside of Green Bay. My grandparents were still farming the property until I was in high school. Their home and this farm were my playground as a child. The yard full of fruit trees, brambles, and grapevines; the fields full of vegetables. In fall, the perfect rectangular bales of hay towered to the roof of the barn. The air was dusty and thin as we would climb to the top, seeing who could get there first. Climbing to the top of the milk house to reach the plump purple mulberries of summer was truly an epic achievement, in no small part because I thought this mulberry tree was the only one in existence, having been brought from Europe and planted by an earlier relative.

The opening of Harvest was a blur. Every night was busier than the last. We were on a roll, and then 9/11 happened on our one-year anniversary.

Hidden under the ground of this dairy farm, my Grandmother Alice kept the most elaborate root cellar. Large heads of cabbage with their dried outer leaves hung from the ceiling. Carrots were carefully placed in square wooden boxes of sand. Onions hung by their necks on hooks from the rafters. Barrels of potatoes and apples had to be tended to daily to make sure nothing was rotting. Green tomatoes were individually wrapped in thin tissue paper and left to ripen around Christmas. The shelves that lined the walls were filled with jars of canned and pickled fruits and vegetables.

I was always struck by how it seemed that my Grandmother Alice was always baking or preparing a meal. Bread, Belgian pies, or kolache always seemed to be on the kitchen counter, just out of the oven. Concord grapes would be stewing in a giant stockpot on the stovetop for grape jelly. I even have pictures of her as a young mother, hunting rabbits for her family's dinner!

When I was a young child, she would take me to the creek on the farm to catch crawfish. A simple stick with kitchen twine and bologna as the bait would entice them from under a river rock. I remember eating them for the first time and thinking how exotic the whole experience was.

My parents purchased vacation property in northern Wisconsin just



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WHAT'S TRENDING [FOOD]

Food trends becoming a way of life



FROMMAGINATION
KEN MONTELEONE, OWNER

For the past eight years, Madison's food scene has come alive and is setting the stage for the country by crafting everything from chocolate, preserves, bread, crackers, and charcuterie to, of course, cheese and beer. This craze is becoming a lifestyle, and you can count on it building momentum. The farmer is finally getting to shine as we are becoming more and more interested in supporting local in everything we buy. At Fromagination, we see our guests eager to learn about the whole food cycle: when, how, by whom, and with what the food is made. Our chefs set the stage and take great pride in supporting local, whether it's the honey they use, the fruits and veggies they buy, or the beer and cheese they offer. Bottom line: it tastes better, it's healthier, it has fewer food miles, and the money stays in our community. It all makes good food sense!

Curating and educating



WILLY STREET CO-OP
BRENDON SMITH, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

We've been getting a lot more requests for fresh juices at our juice bars—everything from simple blends off of our menu to custom blends requested by customers. Local, organic, and gluten-free continue to build in popularity. Grocery store ready-to-eat and dine-in food, when restaurant-quality, is increasingly popular, and we're seeing that trend reflected in our delis. Customers are being bombarded with



I needed to be doing something that would feed my soul. So I decided to do something most people would advise you never to do: I made my hobby into my profession. My hobby, my true passion, is cooking.

after I was born. It's funny to call it vacation property, because I can honestly say none of us have a vacation bone in our bodies when we are there. We always have a project going while dreaming of the next. My four siblings and I spent every day during summer school breaks and weekends the rest of the year at our cabin. My parents would make a game of us gathering wild edibles for our meals. My father would fish for rainbow trout while the rest of us would pick wild berries, mushrooms, and apples from 100-year-old trees planted by the prior owners. The property is rich with wintergreen, raspberries, chokecherries, pin cherries, gooseberries, blackcaps, blackberries, wild hazelnuts, mushrooms, and blueberries. My internal clock still gets a rush in spring waiting for the arrival of morels. This is where my foraging bug was born!

My father kept a large garden on my grandparents' farm. His specialty was pumpkins and large Spanish onions that he sold wholesale to the locally owned grocery stores in Green Bay. My siblings and I played a big part in this business by helping tend to the garden: planting, weeding, hoeing, harvesting, and delivering. The yearly celebration of the



The view from Harvest

onion harvest was my mom's Onion Ring Festival. All of the neighbors would bring their picnic tables and coolers to our yard for an afternoon of eating onion rings and drinking beer. My mom would spend the entire day beer battering thick-cut slices of onions and frying them for all the guests in her makeshift garage kitchen.

From Vinyl to CDs, from Farms to Tables

After college, I worked for a local music-store chain for 12 years, in management and as the music buyer. When I entered the profession, the vinyl album was KING. But as time went by, the CD took over and my passion for music turned into being a security guard. My professional career needed a serious shake-up. By this time, my family's farms were no longer in operation, and I saw many others not being passed on to their family members. I wanted to be involved in a business that could

[FOOD] WHAT'S TRENDING

food claims, multiple labels, and alarming stories about recalls, food production exposés, GMOs, livestock antibiotics, and more; they are looking for guidance, or a store that can "curate" options for them. Every product on our shelves is there for a reason—because it's locally made, or organic, or fair-trade, or it just tastes phenomenal. Our staff is happy to talk to you about them.

All local, all the time



MADISON ORIGINALS MAGAZINE
AMY JOHNSON, EDITOR

Locally grown. Locally produced. Locally sourced. It is no longer a trend, but a way of life, and it continues to grow stronger in Madison, Dane County, and nationwide. Individuals and families now think about not only what food they put into their mouths, but also where it comes from. Fortunately, choices are increasing as grocers and restaurants have keyed in on their customer's preference and are making purchasing decisions based upon it. They are turning to local farmers and producers to fulfill their customers' wishes. In turn, their support strengthens the farmers and producers, increases production, and encourages more to enter the field.

Getting to know producers



THE OLD FASHIONED
JENNIFER DEBOLT, GENERAL MANAGER

More than ever, consumers are asking questions about the Wisconsin farmers who produce the items on our menu and how to obtain them on a consumer level. Due to the demand, we are currently putting together an

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WHAT'S TRENDING [FOOD]

informational product booklet as a resource guide for customers.

Gluten-free is on the rise. We're adding another gluten-free beer and the option for gluten-free bread on our sandwiches.

Wisconsin craft beer keeps growing stronger every year. Currently we have products from 46 different great Wisconsin breweries, and we are hoping to hit the 50 mark within the year.

The rebirth of Schenk's Corners



CHOCOLATERIAN & CHRISTINE'S GOURMET TOFFEE
LEANNE CORDISCO, OWNER

The intersection of Atwood and Winnebago has a long and storied past and has played an important role in the history of Madison, and it is currently enjoying a rebirth. My food trend is a walking tour of the Schenk's Corners food scene. There are nine restaurants and bars within 100 yards of each other, as well as a growing list of businesses. Some of names you may know: Alchemy, Chocolaterian, Tex Tubb's Taco Palace, One Barrel Brewing. And with the Barrymore Theatre one short block away, you can expand the walking tour to catch a show at one of Madison's most venerable venues.

Homegrown and foraged



LIL CHOCOLATES LLC
LISA NELSON, OWNER

Mediterranean influences will gain more popularity. This includes spices such as cinnamon and fennel seed, along with bold, imaginative flavor combinations. While customers enjoy the exotic, nostalgic flavors are still high on the list, including peanut butter, honey, cherry, and

help turn that tide. I also needed to be doing something that would feed my soul. So I decided to do something most people would advise you never to do: I made my hobby into my profession. My hobby, my true passion, is cooking.

I knew that if I wanted to learn about cooking great food in a sustainable way, Odessa Piper's L'Etoile was the place. I contacted Odessa and asked if she would consider hiring me for an internship or apprentice position. After meeting several times, she hired me for a line position in her kitchen. My tenure with Odessa was invaluable, not only from

Another crucial piece that fell into place was my partner, Jen De Bolt. Jen made the choice to stay on as a member of our management team and to forego law school. My business partners and I will be forever grateful for her decision.

what she taught me, but what I learned from all the other amazing staff members who worked there. A sustainable restaurant is not only one that buys locally, but is also one that runs its business sustainably.

My intention was to work with Odessa for two years, move to New York to attend the Culinary Institute of America (at the time, you had to have two years of practical restaurant experience to enter their program), and finally, return to open my own restaurant in Madison. But time flies, especially in the restaurant business. So after five-plus years at L'Etoile, I felt pulled to open my own restaurant.

The summer between leaving L'Etoile and the construction and opening of Harvest, I started a small business called Wisconsin Wild Edibles. I would spend my days foraging wild edibles and selling them to restaurants around the country. Meanwhile, I was reading about an organization in Italy called The Slow Food Movement. At the time there was not a contact in the U.S., but plans were in the making for a New York office. I contacted the office in Italy and expressed my interest in starting a Wisconsin Slow Food Convivium. With my friend Leah Caplan, we founded one of the first Conviviums in the U.S.! Until three years ago, I was a member on the Slow Food US Ark and Presidia Committee, helping to identify and save traditional and endangered foods from extinction.

The opening of Harvest was a blur. Every night was busier than the last. We were on a roll, and then 9/11 happened on our one-year anniversary. We as a country fell to our knees, and so did the fine-dining restaurant business. It took a couple of years for things to get back on track. Shortly after we got back on our feet, the space next to Harvest became available, and the time was right to open a second restaurant. It was a concept I'd been mulling over for years.

After five years of learning firsthand what it takes to run a successful restaurant, I knew I didn't want to do this alone. I wanted exciting people whom I respect to partner with me in this new project. I contacted Bob Miller, now living in Boston, whom I had met working at L'Etoile, and asked if he would consider moving back to join me in the venture. I was a huge fan of Lombardino's and had become friends with Marcia Castro (one of the owners) through Madison Originals. Talking one evening, I asked if she would consider partnering with us as well.

Another crucial piece that fell into place was my partner, Jen De Bolt. We met through mutual friends, and she was in an entirely different field of work and was contemplating law school. She and I have similar spirits, where we were raised to believe nothing was out of reach or was gender-specific. So picking up a hammer or crowbar was very natural. At the time of opening the new restaurant I had been diagnosed with a rare case of endometriosis and was out of commission after surgery



The taps at The Old Fashioned

for several months. Jen took charge of not only physically helping with the demolition of the space but also coordinating the initial construction through my partners and me. Being so intimately involved in its physical beginnings, Jen made the choice to stay on as a member of our management team and to forego law school. My business partners and I will be forever grateful for her decision.

The Old Fashioned turns eight in December, and Harvest will celebrate its 13-year anniversary this September. In my short time, I have seen the downtown area grow from a couple of restaurants to dozens, making Madison's Capitol Square an exciting destination for diners. With every new innovative restaurant that opens and thrives, it just sends the message that Madisonians are serious about their food, and will continue to support farm-to-table restaurants. It is a great honor to be a part of Madison's restaurant community. ■

[FOOD] WHAT'S TRENDING

blends of traditional flavors.

At Lil chocolates, we draw inspiration from the fresh herbs and fruits we grow and the foraged wild edibles we gather to build flavor profiles. We believe people love products made with farm-crafted ingredients and we continue to plant new herbs and fruit trees to experiment with unexpected combinations.

Moving on from our pork obsession



L'ETOILE RESTAURANT
TORY MILLER, HEAD CHEF

I'm looking forward to the end of the Pork Revolution. Could we possibly find a new animal to cook a million ways? Perhaps not, but I think that we all know that everything pork is delicious, and it's time to move on.

Something I've seen a lot of is coq au vin; it's appearing all over menus in different forms. Asian food and flavor are still everywhere, as well as the "local/locavore" movement. Fine dining is going to have a renaissance. Food critic Ruth Reichl wrote a story about it recently, so it must be true.

Right now I am into noodle bowls, and making pastrami out of everything: duck, veal, pig face, and sausage. Basically everything except brisket.

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THE WISE AT HOTELRED
JOHN BAUER, EXECUTIVE CHEF

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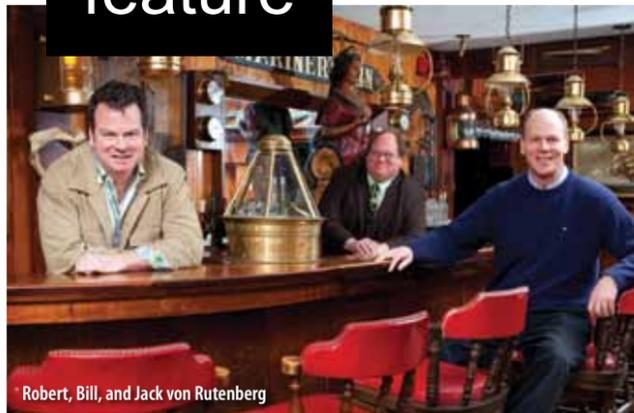
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feature



Robert, Bill, and Jack von Rutenberg



Ken Monteleone



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culinary

CROSSROADS

Marcelle Richards looks back at lessons learned and relationships built exploring the Madison food community.



Mary Celley



Tory Miller



Rashid Ouebel & Theresa Pullara-Oubel

VON RUTENBERGS PHOTOGRAPHED BY ERIC BAILLIES. KEN MONTELEONE PHOTOGRAPHED BY SHARON VANORNY. TORY MILLER PHOTOGRAPHED BY JESSICA HORN. LEANNE CORDISCO, MARY CELLEY, RASHID OUEBEL & THERESA PULLARA-OUBEL PHOTOGRAPHED BY ROBERTO AMEZCUA. ANNA ALBERICI PHOTOGRAPHED BY MELODY HANSON

When people ask me where I'm from, I say "California, but Madison is home."

It's the first time I've ever given a place that designation. I've been here for ten years as of May—longer than any other place I've lived. I come from a long line of runners. Mostly runners headed away, rather than to something. Blind fight or flight. I've done both.

I landed in Madison, where I came into myself and paused long enough to learn a third option: take home with you, but you must build it first.

As I prepare to move in August, it is different this time: intentional and expectant. I realize I've built something that will last, and that I can take with me. Madison has taught me what I need to know at this juncture and something else awaits to be had. The knowing requires trust.

Madison has taught me to trust. I have learned to trust myself, and in something greater, because I have been able to affirm lessons in the seemingly mundane. For me that means seeing that we are all connected—us two-legged folks—LGBTQA&XYZ and whatever else, and rooted ones, and flying ones, and crawling ones, within the great space that holds us. It's a web of connectivity, and a safety net if we tune into our relationship with it. We cross here, even, as you read. Each crossing can be a lesson, and if we acknowledge its potential, it acts like a homing device that moves us away from that which doesn't serve, and toward that which does.

Food has been a compass for me. To eat is one of the most primary tenets of survival. It's a lens through which I explored the lessons of the sensual world in which we live.

I've established myself as a food writer, but it was never just about food. Food was a means to experience, in its most ecstatic and fully expressed form, essence. Being a food critic taught me discernment; story gathering taught me connection; cooking taught me manifestation. Writing teaches me the process of gleaning essence; I'm an essence writer.

[FOOD] WHAT'S TRENDING

to our ears. When guests start demanding things that don't come from a can, it's easy to see who sinks and who rises to the top.

At The Wise, we work directly with our farmers to plan the crops that we will be receiving in the upcoming seasons. In our case, we met with Teri and Franco Parisi of Parisi Family Farms back in November to discuss what seeds they would plant and how well they expected the harvest to go for certain things in the coming season. I've been to that farm. I've touched the soil and breathed in the clean air. For me, there is nothing more reassuring than seeing the way they organically grow their produce.

It's amazing how many distillers are in the area now. We meet directly with them and assemble our experts to come up with seasonal drink menus that reflect our brand as well as our neighborhood. Yahara Bay, Death's Door, Old Sugar Distillery...they do a fantastic job, and they're right here!

Collaboration and cooperation



ARTISAN GALLERY & CREAMERY CAFÉ
THERESA ABEL, OWNER

I have noticed restaurants collaborating with other talented small businesses to improve what they do, share expertise, and host special events.

As one example, I've seen local restaurants partnering with local breweries and wineries for special-event dinners. Last year we partnered with Vom Fass for a special-event dinner where our chef, Phil Rodriguez, created a fabulous menu using Vom Fass ingredients. We're also members of Madison Originals, a non-profit group where locally owned restaurants pool their resources to help promote dining local.

*"To eat is a necessity,
but to eat intelligently is an art."*
[*La Rochefoucauld*]



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MARKUS CANDINAS, OWNER

I see foods continuing to trend to more and more all-natural and increasing pressure to eliminate ingredients that may still be natural but that don't belong in foods, such as stabilizers. I think we will also see more subcategories to familiar foods such as yogurt. A great many of these new products will be surrounded by lots of hoopla but with very little substance. On the other hand, I anticipate that a select group of products brought to market by primarily smaller companies will continue to challenge the predefined norms.

Gluten-free and vegan paradise



BUNKY'S CAFÉ
TERESA PULLARA OUBEL, OWNER

The "local" food movement gets better each year. We are so fortunate to have help with local partners like REAP; Dane Buy Local; and Buy Fresh, Buy Local to help connect us to local farmers. Ethnic cuisine is always hot! We serve both Mediterranean/Moroccan and Italian. We're seeing more restaurants serving Mediterranean because it so heart-healthy: minimal fats, oils, vegan, and vegetarian.

Another trend is serving guests with "special dietary needs." Bunky's has been a pioneer in Madison's gluten-free movement. We started with pasta and pizza eight years ago. Now we can serve our whole menu. We are currently baking several gluten-free desserts, and gluten-free vegan in-house.

A wise friend told me, "You'll meet who you need to know." These are some of the people and places in the community that taught me more than how to find a good meal.

CHEF TORY MILLER, L'ETOILE RESTAURANT AND GRAZE GASTROPUB: Chef Tory and I met through an interview I pitched for *Our Lives*. I wanted to tell his story, but also I went in recognizing him as someone who could be a valuable teacher, and he certainly was. But I had to make the ask. When the story ran, I hand-delivered a copy of *Our Lives* with my resume. That spring, I began my culinary internship. I was told L'Etoile was different from any other place I'd ever worked, or would work. There was magic; the place where vision meets will and creation is possible. Play. Make your first impression your best. Get a little weird sometimes. Ask.

ANNE TOPHAM, FANTOME FARM: She and Judy Borree started making French-style farmstead goat cheese in the 1980s, i.e., before goat cheese was cool. Some of her equipment is even custom-made because so few models and mentors existed when they began. Judy still helps with the business and with tasting and milking. It started with a passion for re-creating a piece of chevre a friend brought back from France. Then came a goat. Anne left academia, and the rest is history. It's special to see her cheese anywhere, but we are lucky to have her in person at the Dane County Farmers' Market. Anne can't see herself retiring, because she doesn't want to. Give life to the passion that never grows old. Work for beauty.

LEANNE CORDISCO, CHOCOLATERIAN CAFÉ: I first met Leanne pre-Chocolaterian, just as Christine's Toffee was getting stuffed into swag bags for the Emmys. Her candy-business path started off with a fortuitous rejection of a wine-accessory idea she pitched to her would-be angel investor, and to which he said no. But he saw her gusto and asked her to start up a candy company instead. She said yes. Popular Snacks now has a retail home in Chocolaterian, an unofficial queer hotspot and neighborhood darling where Leanne comfortably fits the part in or out of the kitchen. Leanne taught me to say yes. Take the leap and land beyond where you imagined.

ANNA ALBERICI, GREENBUSH BAR: Sometimes you just want pizza to taste like pizza. It takes all types, and we need those who keep the past awake. She is a bit of a Lorax to me, one who bears witness to the cautionary tale of what once was. The Greenbush neighborhood appeals to my empathy for those communities that once called it home before they found themselves uprooted. In the context of the queer community, there's something to be had from that. Take care of one another. Every "other."

TERESA PULLARA-OUBEL AND RASHID OUBEL, BUNKY'S CAFÉ: There's something so damn good about plain ol' spaghetti and meatballs here, though the Mediterranean picks are great, too (the falafel is a favorite). It's homey and warm, and the food is a part of that, but the staff completes the picture: good vibes beget good vibes. Put out what you want back.

KEN MONTELEONE, FROMAGINATION: In retail, floor space is money, and as a former Lands' End executive, Ken of all people knows that. That's why I so admire his decision to use so much floor space for a community table designed to bring strangers together with cheese and companions. Take a risk and go out of your comfort zone. Put your dollars behind your beliefs.

MARY CELLEY, THE BEE CHARMER: Not everyone believes in something higher, but when she described a beehive as a "golden city" I felt tingles. They all manage to get along, she said. Our models for community can stretch beyond those of our own devising if we let them, and we might be better for it. Find her bottles of liquid gold at the Dane County Farmers' Market.

PLAKA TAVERNA: When I want to cater to my inner old man—and believe me, he is alive and well and set in his ways—I go here. Taking a solo early morning journey to this lake-facing cafe is my favorite way to enjoy the peace of aloneness, usually with a paper, the Rock the Casbah special, and an ever-filling cup of coffee. One thing I've learned is to give myself what I give to others. Treat yourself to a date, and remember why you fell in love in the first place.

MACHA TEAHOUSE AND GALLERY: This is my favorite place to seek quiet, which is perhaps my biggest craving these days. Don't miss the homemade pork buns, which I believe to be the path to world peace. Food is an excellent way to practice presence. The richness of our worlds is created within, and really can start with something as simple as showing gratitude and enjoyment for what is on your tongue, right here, right now.

ROBERT VON RUTENBERG, VON RUTENBERG VENTURES: Robert and his brothers Bill and Jack own NauTiGal, Captain Bill's, Mariner's Inn, and Betty Lou Cruises. I first happened upon NauTiGal during an ACT 6 event; I was newly out and still getting my bearings, but I will always associate those waterfront lawns with my fledging period in the queer community. I later came to know Robert better when we were on the American Culinary Federation student competition team at Madison College. While I respected the charitable involvement of his and his brothers' businesses, I came to see part of the spirit behind it. I looked to Robert as our team's mother hen—he was one of the busiest people I knew, but he always made time to be kind, a lesson I need reminding of. Be kind, no matter what life throws at you.

Thank you for bringing me home, Madison. Regardless of how we stay or scatter, we are home because we take it with us. Welcome home. ■

Restaurants are also expanding to catering and wholesale. We are currently selling our hummus, falafel, grape leaves, and gluten-free cakes in several local grocery stores. I was excited to see the Green Owl's hot sauce, Batch Bakery, and others on shelves.

We are blessed to be a part of the Atwood/Williamson Street neighborhood. It's a beautiful thing to work together to promote each other! We are also blessed to have Madison Originals and REAP's several local events, as well as the ability to access several local food blogs such as Locavore Roar and Credible Consulting.

Customization in catering



SHERATON HOTEL
ERIC BORCHERT, DIRECTOR OF CATERING

Meeting planners are always met with the challenge of selecting food that will appeal to a large and varied audience. Most remain cautious with their selections while still wanting to make a memorable impact. To add meaning to a meal, many meeting planners request locally sourced ingredients and sustainable products.

Often both of these trends will intersect with a meal of free-range chicken and locally acquired produce accompanied by flavorful lower-fat sauces. In customizing entrees, we have seen vegetables taking the center of the plate with the protein minimized. Awareness of food sensitivity and allergies has also increased. Vegan and gluten-free meals are regular requests. Meeting planners also incorporate local flavor with a healthy twist, serving local cheeses and vegetable crudités on breaks in place of cookies and brownies. Trends that are on the cusp of becoming commonplace are ancient grains and smoke-infused flavors.

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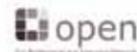
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feature

Our History by Richard Wagner

A History of Love

Same-sex unions are as newfangled as the chariot or butter churn.



I don't know about you, but I spent part of this spring shouting back at the television in response to Supreme Court justices, lawyers, and conservative commentators defending second-class citizenship status for lesbians and gays. What was most boneheaded, to my mind, was the presumption that so-called "gay marriage," or same-sex marriage, is an institution that is so experimental and new, it has less than a decade of history. This just reminded me of how totally our LGBTQ history has been hidden.

Gay people have been forming loving couples and committing themselves to each other for a very long time. What is recent is that official recognition is now being belatedly provided. The sacramental discussions about marriage in my Catholic upbringing were that marriage was conducted by the two parties pledging their love, and the priest or minister was providing a blessing but not doing the work of the sacrament.

Yale scholar John Boswell in his *Same Sex Unions in Premodern Europe* showed that there was even an Eastern Church blessing for same-sex couples. He cites ten ancient texts in Greek, Old Church Slavonic, Italo-Greek, and Serbian Slavonic that include references to the holy, paired saints Serge and Bacchus. One such blessing included the language, "that the Lord God grant them unashamed faithfulness and sincere love."

Some of our justices should recall that in ancient Athens—millennia ago, not just years—the first public statue erected in the city was a joint one to the lovers Harmodius and Aristogeiton. These male lovers slew a member of the tyrannical Peisistratus family, thus helping to bring Athenian democracy into being. Plato's *Symposium*, his dialogue on love, discusses male lovers "who spend their whole lives together..." The Greeks knew of Thebes Sacred Band, a whole military unit made up of male paired lovers.

When Alexander the Great crossed into Asia centuries before the Common Era, he paused near Troy where the nearby tombs of Achilles and his lover Patroclus were said to be located. Seeing himself as a new Achilles, Alexander reputedly ran naked to the tomb of Achilles and laid a wreath there, while his own lover Hephaestion performed

similar rituals at the tomb of Patroclus.

Lest we think that same-sex commitment is all ancient or medieval history, though, think again. Rodger Streitmatter in his book *Outlaw Marriages: The Hidden Histories of Fifteen Extraordinary Same-Sex Couples* surveys *de facto* American unions that cover 30, 40 and even 50 years. His examples are all relatively high-profile couples like Walt Whitman and Peter Doyle, Alice B. Toklas and Gertrude Stein, Greta Garbo and Mercedes de Acosta, and Robert Rauschenberg and Jasper Johns.

A great Midwestern couple that this book features is Jane Addams and Mary Rozet Smith. Smith was a very early volunteer at Hull House in Chicago. Streitmatter notes that by 1891, the relationship was a romantic one. He records that when they traveled together, which they did frequently, they would write ahead to assure that a double bed—not two single ones—was provided. They became joint owners of a home in Maine and had intertwined finances. Addams was active in several causes, helping to found the American Civil Liberties Union and the Women's International League of Peace and Freedom. The two women had 43 years together.

Wisconsin is not without its own examples of same-sex marriages from the past. *The Wisconsin Magazine of History* just ran a story by Matthew J. Prigge about "The Girl-Man of Milwaukee." Cora Anderson had assumed a male identity as Ralphero E. Kerwineo, and she was supposedly "married" to Mamie White Kerwineo. They came to Milwaukee in 1906 and were known as a model couple and shared a domicile for eight years. Their domestic bliss ended, like many, when another woman entered the scene. "Ralph" left Mamie in 1914 and with a city-issued license, formally married before a justice of the peace Dorothy Kleinosky. Jealously between the wives would lead to exposure of this amazing story.

The Cora Anderson incident was not the first of its kind in Wisconsin. Jonathan Katz in *Gay American History: Lesbians and Gay Men in the USA* records an earlier item. In 1894, the *Badger State Banner* of Black River Falls reported that an Anna Morris, alias Frank Blunt, was sentenced to one year in the state penitentiary by Judge Gilson of Fond du Lac. Anna, arrested for stealing \$175, was unmasked from her masculine clothing. At the trial, Gertrude Field, who claimed to have married Blunt in Eau Claire, fell upon Anna's neck and wept for half an hour. Field paid for the defense attorney for her "husband."

Another couple, with one member from Wisconsin, would establish a life partnership. The University of Wisconsin Press published Jerry Rosco's book *Glenway Wescott Personally: A Biography*. Rosco tells the story of this Wisconsin farm boy born in 1901 near Kewaskum, Wisconsin. Wescott, who attended West Bend High School, recalled losing his virginity in that community in 1914 to a fifteen-year-old boy named Earl. Later, Glenway

Wescott met his life partner, Monroe Wheeler, while both were at university in Chicago in 1919. Wescott was a world-renowned author, with his *Apartment in Athens* a book-of-the-month club selection. He would be a gay source for Alfred Kinsey's sexuality studies, and the couple helped bring the manuscript to America for E. M. Forester's posthumously published gay novel, *Maurice*. Wheeler and Wescott were still together in 1987 when Wescott died at 86.

Cora Anderson had assumed a male identity as Ralphero E. Kerwineo, and she was supposedly "married" to Mamie White Kerwineo. They came to Milwaukee in 1906 and were known as a model couple and shared a domicile for eight years.

Another extraordinary couple was Robert Neal and Edgar Hellum of Mineral Point. Will Fellows' book *A Passion to Preserve: Gay Men as Keepers of Culture* documents their partnership, which began in the mid-1930s and continued for decades. They help saved Cornish culture in this early Wisconsin town and boosted historic preservation efforts statewide.

Keith McCutcheon and Joe Koberstein, a Madison couple who also met in the 1930s, began a lively social circle on Jenifer Street that would last into the 1960s. Keith was a published poet whose verses from the 1920s began his exploration of same-sex love.

Following Stonewall, gay activism brought a new dimension to the struggles for same-sex love here in Wisconsin. In 1971, Donna Burkett and Manonia Evan applied for a marriage license at the Milwaukee County clerk's office. The clerk, Thomas Zablocki, denied the application, and they filed a lawsuit but subsequently withdrew it. On Christmas Day, Father Joe Flederhausen of the Holy Eastern Orthodox Church married them. *GPU News of Milwaukee* reported two years later in 1973 another gay wedding between James Riski and Nick Gagalaio in Green Bay conducted by Father Bob, a Catholic priest, at a private residence. The happy couple wore matching outfits of gold shirts and white slacks, and each had a double rose corsage.

More recently, the Republican-controlled legislature in two successive sessions passed a proposed Wisconsin constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage in the state. It was part of a strategy to prevent the re-election of Democratic Governor James Doyle in 2006. Fair Wisconsin, an alliance of earlier gay-rights organizations, was formed to wage a vigorous fight against the amendment. Unfortunately, the amendment won with 52 percent of the vote. But Doyle was re-elected, and Republicans, because of the turnout of the student vote against the amendment, lost one house of the legislature.

In 2009, Gov. Doyle, working with Fair Wisconsin, proposed state recognition of domestic partnerships and health benefits for same-sex couples employed by the state and university. With both houses of the legislature now back in Democratic hands, the measure had good chances of success. The effort was guided by out gay State Rep. Mark Pocan as co-chair of the Joint Finance Committee. Pocan had previously wed his partner, Phil, in Canada. With enactment of the domestic-partnership law, some 2,000 couples all across Wisconsin have sought to gain even this "skim milk" level of legal recognition for their loving commitments.

Gay love stories, gay couples supporting each other, and even gay marriages are not new. I cited the many published sources above to show that gay marriage without the official sanction has existed for a long time, and that such knowledge is in the public realm, if not within the heads of certain justices. What is new is just the collapse of the universal bigotry denying legal recognition to same-sex marriage. We will see how far this collapse goes and how much further it has to go when the Supreme Court makes its rulings in June. I say both history and time are on our side.

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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The Judge Among Us
One Madison man's road to Westminster.

At five years old, Jason Hoke was barely as tall as his family's German shepherd. Yet every weekend, rain or shine, he'd don an awkward suit and tie and head out to one of the American Kennel Club-sanctioned dog shows that were held across the country. Falling into "junior handling" seemed to the young Jason like a natural progression—his mother had enjoyed success as one of the nation's top breeders and groomers of Great Danes. Whether he knew it or not, Jason was taking his first steps toward walking onto that famous green carpet at New York's Madison Square Garden for the world's most prestigious sporting event, the Westminster Kennel Club dog show.

What a fitting role for a man who had begun his career as a junior handler. And what a pleasure it was for him to award prizes and scholarships to four talented young-adult dog handlers

For the next 25 years, Jason showed breeds in a range of sizes, temperaments, and styles—from Pekingese to Great Danes to terriers—and won hundreds of awards, including more than 50 best-in-show ribbons. He worked as a handler, groomer, and assistant to some of the most noted dog-world celebrities.

After finding a new life partner, Jason moved to Madison in 2007, where he and I opened Madison's first dog spa. The creation of SPAWOOF gave Jason the opportunity to start working with dogs again after a six-year hiatus, and he began to focus on honing his judging skills through extensive exams and applications with the American Kennel Club, which oversees all judge selections and appointments.

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Applying for a judge's position for a specific breed with the AKC requires a combination of experience, skill, knowledge, and fieldwork. After all these criteria are met, the applicant faces an extensive application and interview process that requires a precise and exhaustive knowledge of breed standards, as well as canine personality traits and idiosyncrasies. Size, shape, coat type, color, stance, disposition, and demeanor must all be analyzed, mastered, and described.

Armed with an initial representation of eight breeds, Jason was invited to submit his AKC application for expertise with 25 breeds. Some 72 pages of essays documenting his experiences and expertise with each of the breeds was submitted, followed by a three-day interview with a registered AKC representative. Jason succeeded in the grueling verbal test for each breed and ultimately qualified for judging all of the 25 breeds in dog shows nationwide.

As word of Jason's re-entry in the world of dogs and his qualification with the AKC spread, Thomas H. Bradley III, show chairman of the Westminster Kennel Club, invited him to become one of only 32 judges at New York's 2013 Westminster Kennel Club dog show.

So it was that Jason and I found ourselves boarding a plane on a snowy February weekend bound for New York. At 42, Jason was one of the youngest judges for the AKC. He suited up to view five breeds: Yorkshire terriers, Great Danes, Chinese crested, Pekingese, and pointers.

The highlight of his 2013 Westminster participation came as Jason served as the judge for the important junior-showmanship finals, where junior handlers were judged on their handling abilities instead of on the merits of their dogs. What a fitting role for a man who had begun his career as a junior handler. And what a pleasure it was for him to award prizes and scholarships to four talented young-adult dog handlers.

As the final moment arrived, the television coverage began, the cameras rolled, and a tuxedoed Judge Jason Hoke made his way to the center ring, ushering in a group of eight young handlers and their dogs. Filled with pride of place, he not only relived his early days of showing at Westminster, but also put his knowledge and experience into action as he invited each entrant to "proceed around the ring." The scene was electric, with dogs, junior handlers, and judge all proudly participating in and experiencing the pleasure and the privilege of being part of Westminster's great sporting tradition.

To learn more about the American Kennel Club and the Westminster Kennel Club dog show, or to view video coverage of Jason Hoke's 2013 junior showmanship finals, go to westminsterkennelclub.org. —Dino Maniaci

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NAME:
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TITLE:
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EMPLOYER:
Tech Madison

Joshua Meyers is proud to be the new President of OPEN. He is the owner of Tech Madison, a Madison-based information technology consulting firm. With 10 years of industry experience, he now focuses on helping local businesses grow through the use of technology. He's an active member in the LGBT community and is proud of the connections he's made as a result of his involvement with the Out Professional and Executive Network.

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Building Together, Not Apart

Linda Ketcham looks at how ensuring better educational opportunities for everyone also improves support for LGBTQ issues.

Recently, the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in two cases that have a significant impact on the LGBTQ community, California's Proposition 8 and the federal Defense of Marriage Act. On April 2, school board elections were held around the state. It would seem, based on the 14 percent voter turnout in Dane County, that liberal Madison paid much more attention to the Supreme Court cases than it did to the school board races. That lack of attention is unfortu-



After Florida passed a ban on gay marriage, a University of Florida study also found that voters' education level, not their race, was the more important factor in determining whether they supported legalizing gay marriage.

nate given the apparent relationship between LGBTQ rights and educational levels.

After the passage of Prop 8, supporters of marriage equality were angry, and many blamed people of color and people of faith for the measure's passage. However, a study released by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force refuted the exit poll numbers that put African American support for Prop 8 at 70 percent, suggesting that age and religiosity were better indicators of opposition to gay marriage.

The Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) conducted a study of the Prop 8 campaign, also finding that African American voters were considerably less supportive of

Prop 8 than had been reported. PPIC's report found "the most crucial divide between those voting against the ballot initiative, known as Proposition 8, is one of education and income."

According to the study, "57 percent of voters with a college degree opposed the amendment, while 69 percent of voters whose education had stopped after graduating high school cast their vote in favor of rescinding marriage equality." The trend was consistent among whites and people of color, among college graduates and among upper-income voters. Mark Baldassare, PPIC president, said, "It seems to me that some of what we attributed to race and ethnic differences really had to do with a socioeconomic divide in regard to same-sex marriage."

After Florida passed a ban on gay marriage, a University of Florida study also found that voters' education level, not their race, was the more important factor in determining whether they supported legalizing gay marriage. The University of Florida study found that for each additional one percent of a county's population with a bachelor's degree, there was nearly a one percent drop in support for the gay marriage ban.

When looking at the states that have legalized same-sex marriage, it would seem that the relationship between education and support of marriage equality is real. Of the nine states that have approved full gay marriage rights, only one, Maine, has a college attainment rate below 41%, according to the U.S. Dept. of Education. Among states that have passed civil unions, only one, Delaware, has a college attainment rate below 41%.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force also reported that religiosity, as measured solely by frequency of church attendance (without regard for tradition or denomination) was also a predicting factor in support of Prop 8. However, here too education may have an effect. A 2011 study by the University of Nebraska - Lincoln suggests that education level affects religious beliefs.

According to Philip Schwadel, an associate professor of sociology at UNL and the author of the study, "Education influences strategies of action, and these strategies of action are

relevant to some religious beliefs and activities, but not others. ... The effects of education on religion are not simple increases or decreases. In many ways, effects will vary, based on how you define religion."

The study found that people of faith with higher education levels were less likely to see their specific religion as the one true faith, and were less likely to believe that the Bible was the literal word of God. The study also found that "having a greater level of education was associated most often with

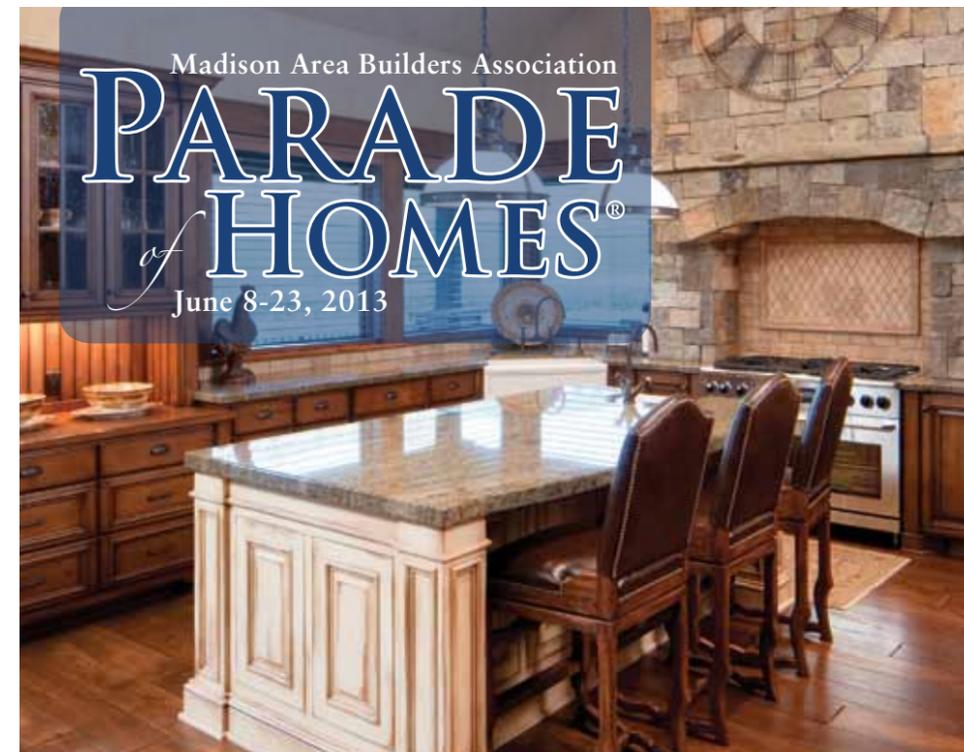
We know education is a pathway out of poverty, and now there's research suggesting that improved educational outcomes for students of all races leads to more acceptance of LGBTQ rights.

converting to a mainline, non-evangelical Protestant denomination," many of which support marriage equality.

The LGBTQ community sees our struggle for equality as an extension of the civil rights movement. We become frustrated by what we believe is a lack of support from the black community and faith communities. We sometimes fail to recognize that our struggle is inextricably linked to the ongoing struggle for civil rights within communities of color. Just as in the 1950s and '60s, education is still a significant challenge in the struggle for civil rights among students of color. In Dane County, nearly 50 percent of African American kids aren't graduating from high school, and our district has for years failed to successfully address this achievement gap. We know education is a pathway out of poverty, and now there's research suggesting that improved educational outcomes for students of all races leads to more acceptance of LGBTQ rights.

We in the LGBTQ community must make a strong public educational system a major focus of our struggle. Our movement needs to be inclusive, working to ensure that all of our children are achieving in school, that we are increasing access to higher education for all students. In short, we need to pay as much attention to public education as we do to marriage equality. That means more than 14% of us need to vote in school board elections. ■

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OUR ISSUES

Focusing on the Positives

Dr. Sue Gill reminds us that "Where you put your energy, that's what grows."

I am anxiously awaiting the Supreme Court decisions about California's Proposition 8 and the constitutionality of DOMA. I am hopeful that we will soon be experiencing a real shift in the legal environment that parallels the changes that have been happening societally in the past few years.

As I watched Edith Windsor, the 83-year-old plaintiff in the DOMA case, speak after the oral arguments, I couldn't



I am coming to understand that most of my own suffering is caused by focusing my mental energy on things that are out of my control at the moment, and by focusing on the negative aspects of any circumstance.

help but wonder about the changes she has seen in her life. Edith summed it up this way, "To be honest, I never could have imagined that this day would come—the day that I would be 'out' as an 83-year-old lesbian suing the federal government. My late wife, Thea Spyer, was, and is, the love of my life. Although we couldn't live openly for much of our relationship, we became engaged in 1967 with a circular diamond brooch that symbolized the rings we weren't able to wear on our fingers. And we stayed engaged for the next 40 years, caring for each other, sharing all the joys and sorrows that came our way." And now at least four justices of the Supreme Court actively supported her right to federal recognition of her marriage.

On a more personal level, I was genuinely moved to see my Facebook feed flooded with the red marriage-equality banner. Although I generally feel supported and accepted by the allies in my life, it does my heart good to be actively reminded of that support. I was especially moved when my childhood friend posted this on Facebook: "This Christian supports marriage equality." I expect support from my queer and politically liberal friends, but when I find it in unexpected places, I feel like I can relax just a little more deeply.

On the other side, I was saddened to read a relative's Facebook post, "standing firm on God's word for marriage" between only a man and a woman. It hurt to read as some people tore into my Christian friend for her support of marriage equality. Apparently some people fervently believe that marriage between gays will lead to legalized incest. It's hard for me to know that such attitudes exist. I was saddened to read about the terrible insensitivity of United for Marriage when staffers asked the transgender activist and the person advocating for immigration reform to be silent during the rally outside of the Supreme Court.

What are we to do when one set of messages fills us with hope, affirmation, and support, while another set of very loud messages continues to support intolerance, misunderstanding, and ignorance?

A very wise person recently reminded me that "where you put your energy, that's what grows." So that's what I am going to do.

I carry the knowledge that most of my relatives will be deeply upset if the Supreme Court overturns DOMA, and I experience their genuine kindness toward me and my partner at family gatherings. I am going to remember their kindness. People are complex and flawed, and I am going to allow them room for that.

My partner and I recently went to Door County for a long weekend and noticed that people stared at us at most restaurants. Since there was no broccoli in our teeth and we weren't acting strange, I have to believe we were being stared at because of our apparent queerness. I can get pissed off about

"Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms—to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way."

that, or I can shrug it off. People stare when they don't understand what they are seeing. I am going to focus on the joy of eating a delicious meal with my partner.

I have been deeply alienated by members of conservative Christian churches, but I have also been profoundly moved by people like my friend who boldly say, "This Christian supports marriage equality." Some of my deepest spiritual healing has come from Mark Clinger at the conservative First Baptist Church in Madison. I choose to focus on the Mark Clingers of the world instead of those who spread hate in the name of God. I get to focus on whom-ever I choose.

United for Marriage and the Human Rights Campaign really screwed up in how they handled the transgender- and immigration-focused activists at the Supreme Court rally, and these organizations have done incredible work for queer causes. I am going to allow them room to make errors and appreciate the fact that the folks work-

ing for these organizations have done a lot more than I have in promoting equality.

I am coming to understand that most of my own suffering is caused by focusing my mental energy on things that are out of my control at the moment, and by focusing on the negative aspects of any circumstance. So today I am choosing to be grateful for the abundant privileges and freedoms that I do have. I am going to remember the many acts of kindness people have shown me this week. I am going to put my energy toward cultivating inner peace no matter the external circumstances.

"Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms—to choose one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's own way." ■

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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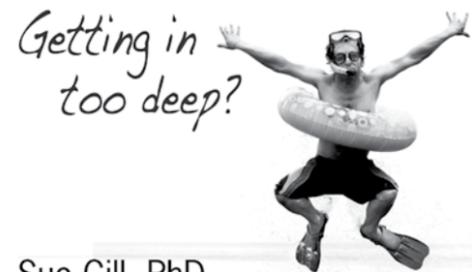
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OUR RIGHTS

Balancing the Scales of Justice

Michele Perreault forecasts how two big marriage equality lawsuits could play out before the Supreme Court in June.

The U.S. Supreme Court recently heard oral arguments in two cases that greatly affect our families. The first case, *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, is an appeal from a court decision that found California's Proposition 8 (ban on gay marriages) unconstitutional. The second case, *United States v. Windsor*, is a challenge to the so-called Defense of Marriage Act, or DOMA, which prohibits the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriages even when such marriages are lawful in the state in which the marriage is made.



The lead plaintiff, Edith Windsor, legally married her partner of more than 40 years, but upon the death of her wife was required to pay \$363,000 in federal taxes. No such taxes are imposed on heterosexual married couples.

In each case the Supreme Court has several options: **1)** uphold the lower courts' decisions; **2)** reverse the lower courts' decisions; **3)** find a "middle ground" that would not apply to all states, or that would more narrowly interpret the law; **4)** decide not to decide at all. Accordingly, we could see any result from sweeping decisions that affect couples throughout the United States all the way down to "wait and see what happens state-by-state and then come back and see us in a few years if necessary." I believe that the Court will likely not make a pronouncement that lesbians and gays have a

fundamental or constitutional right to marry in all states, but that the Supreme Court will strike down DOMA.

The Prop 8 case presents an opportunity for the Court to make a broad determination that under the U.S. Constitution, same-sex couples have the same constitutional right to marry as do heterosexual couples. If the Court were to make that sweeping a decision, not only would couples in California have the right to marry, but such a decision would also result in lawsuits challenging constitutional amendments barring same-sex marriage such as the one in Wisconsin, or statutory restrictions found in other states. Those suits would likely successfully overturn the constitutional amendments or statutory restrictions in all states.

However, the Supreme Court is more likely to avoid such a sweeping decision, and instead either dismiss the case or uphold the decision of the lower courts on grounds that will not have an impact on people outside of California. The Court could dismiss the case by determining that the parties appealing the Prop 8 decision have no "standing," or right to bring the case before the Court. The original party defending Prop 8 was the State of California (represented by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger—a paragon of family values). After the lower court overturned Prop 8, California abandoned its defense of Prop 8, but proponents of the ban were allowed to step in and act as new parties to defend it. If the Supreme Court decides that the third parties have no legal right to defend Prop 8, then the lower court's decision remains in effect. That means Californians would have marriage equality, but it would not affect people in other states.

The second case, challenging DOMA, will have a great impact on same-sex couples who have legally married in the United States and elsewhere. DOMA prohibits the federal government from recognizing anything other than heterosexual marriages, even if such marriages are perfectly legal. There are well over 1,000 rights and obligations of spouses under federal laws, including estate taxes, social security, health

care, federal pensions, and even rights related to spouses of members of our military who are killed while on active duty.

The lead plaintiff, Edith Windsor, legally married her partner of more than 40 years, but upon the death of her wife was required to pay \$363,000 in federal taxes. No such taxes are imposed on heterosexual married couples. Another example of the inequities under DOMA is the horrific mistreatment of Tracy Dice, whose lawful spouse, Sgt. Donna Johnson, was killed alongside two other married soldiers in Afghanistan. Citing DOMA, the military refused to acknowledge their relationship in official announcements about the death, failed to send an officer to Dice's residence to inform her of the death, and refused to accord her military honors at Johnson's funeral; and Ms. Dice is ineligible for the financial and other support freely given to the two spouses of the men who died. There are other parties with equally compelling examples of mistreatment and inequality imposed because of DOMA.

In my view, the Court is likely to overturn DOMA. It could do so one of two ways: first, it could apply an equal protection and due process analysis determining that same-sex couples must be treated equally to their heterosexual counterparts (which could have a substantial impact on couples in all states); second, it could instead determine that DOMA unlawfully interferes with states' rights with regard to definition of marriage, in essence resulting in a situation where couples lawfully wed in any state would have the same federal benefits and obligations as those in heterosexual marriages.

If the cases turn out as I believe they will, legally married same-sex couples will experience equal treatment under state and federal law, but for now, definition of marriage will be left to a state-by-state determination (through lawsuits or legislative enactments). Marriage equality would not be a question of "if," but rather a question of "when," in each state, as polls show increasing support for marriage equality in almost every state, and overwhelming support from younger voters across the board. Politicians have begun to take notice, and it is only a matter of time before we have full marriage equality in the United States. ■

Michele Perreault is an attorney for DeWitt Ross & Stevens (www.dewittross.com). Her practice covers three primary areas: family law, litigation, and city prosecutor.

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Farmers like to be "Liked," too.

a few weeks ago, I was logged into my business page on Facebook to make certain that I had linked to a recent blog post that I'd written on my Simply Served website. From out of nowhere, I received a message from my friend Mary Celley, asking me to "Like" her new Facebook page. What?!

For those of you who don't know Mary, she is the owner of Bee Charmer Honey. You will find her faithfully working at the Dane County Farmers' Market on Saturday mornings, selling her delicious honey, sweet corn, heirloom squash, tomatoes, and other remarkable produce from the farm that she and her partner own in Brooklyn, WI.

Mary, like many farmers, believes in actual, honest-to-goodness, face-to-face relationships. Her business has, for many years, relied on word of mouth and the meeting and greeting that occur between customer and producer at the market. And her business has done very well. In fact, all of her businesses (honey producer, natural and organic heirloom vegetable producer, natural pest remover, horse boarder, and stone engraver) have been successful over the years. But lately, Mary had begun to hear the buzz of more than just bees in her ears. She was tuning in to customers, friends, and family talking about social media and how cool it was.

In fact, all of her businesses (honey producer, natural and organic heirloom vegetable producer, natural pest remover, horse boarder, and stone engraver) have been successful over the years.

And then, one day, the unheard-of came from Mary's own lips: "I don't want to get left in the dust, and I don't want to become a dinosaur." A new day began to dawn on their farm.

Mary is a risk-taker by nature. She possesses verve for her farm and her work. "I have to have that passion," she says, "or this big, old farm would just fall apart." And that approach to life, and to farming, is what will carry her through the learning curve of social media. She is working with a friend and consultant to get the social media ball rolling. And she is taking to it like a bee to honey. Which is why, a week or so ago,

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I received her invitation to "Like" her new Facebook business page.

Farming is a business, and the business of farming is tricky. It's an intricate dance involving sustainable land practices, pest management, weed control, sales, image creation, branding, and too many other things to list in this story. Nowadays, too, we have to add social media to that list. Like it or not, social media is here to stay, and farms that fail to recognize this risk missing out on a massive market share.

As we end our interview, I take out my smartphone and show Mary how easy it is to tweet so that she can also add Twitter to her list of new tools to master this year. At this, she laughs (and laughs, and laughs). She then pulls out her own flip phone, circa 2001. "I can't see the characters, and my fingers are too big to make it work," she says. So, given that response, you may not be receiving any tweets in the near future from Bee Charmer Honey. On the other hand, I did show her how big the keyboard was on my smartphone, and how by touching just one key, she could turn on the "talk to text" feature. And maybe it was the strong sunlight pouring in through her kitchen window, or maybe it was just my imagination, but in that moment, I think I may have seen a little twinkle in Mary's eye. —**Jeanne Benink**

Photo by **Roberto Amezcua**



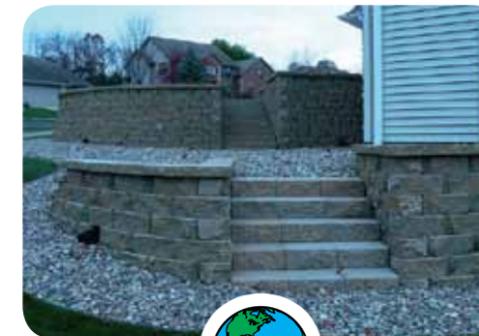
Jeanne Benink is a Madison chef and the sole owner of Simply Served Personal Chef Service. Her friends often call her the soup guru, and she truly does have passion for exploring soups and stews from all over the world. You can find her online at simplyservedpersonalchef.com

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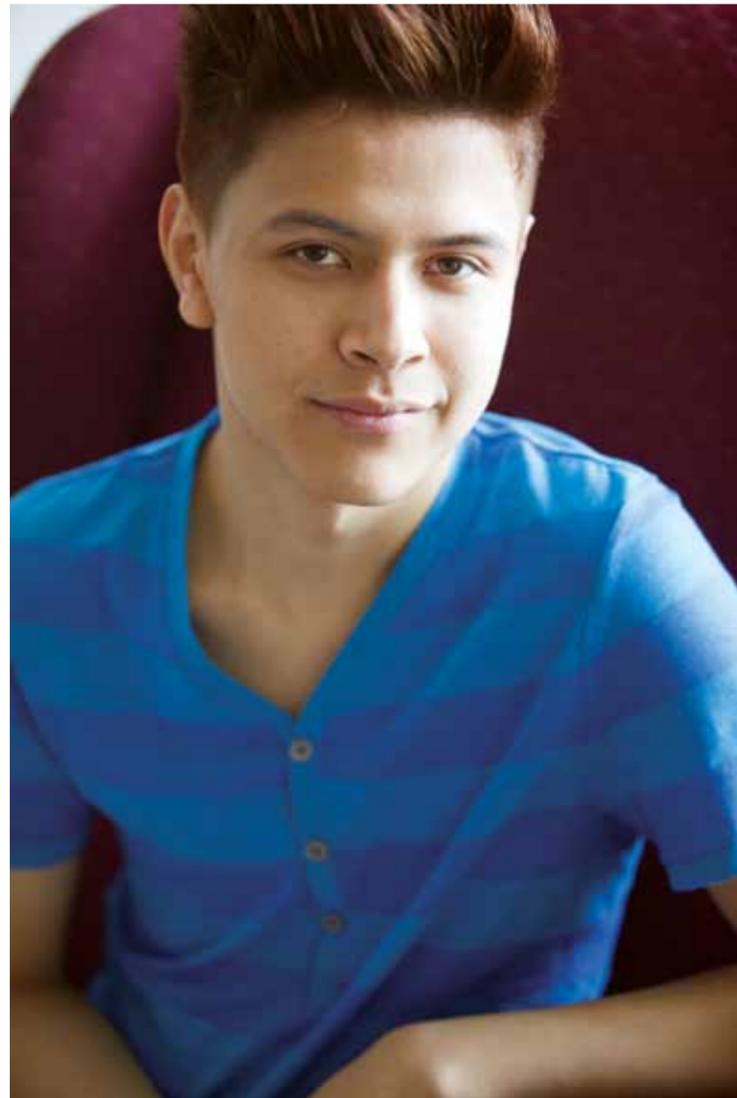
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Young, Gay, and Latino in America

Alianza Latina's **Christian Alejandro Real Merino** is working to bridge a cultural divide and build up a community along the way.

mi nombre es Christian Alejandro Real Merino. Soy de Ixtacuixtla, Tlaxcala, México, y llevo viviendo en los Estados Unidos por casi cinco años. Cuando llegué a Madison, Wisconsin, hace cinco años, nunca me imaginé que mi vida iba a cambiar tanto. Yo era una persona que tenía temor de salir del closet, como muchos decimos, porque cuando yo estaba en México, era muy peligroso si alguien sabía que eras gay porque muchas veces te acosaban o te pegaban por ser diferente.

En mi primer año en una escuela estadounidense, tenía mucho miedo porque era una nueva cultura la que tendría que enfrentar. Sin saber inglés y sin tener a nadie más que a mi hermano y a mi mamá, hice lo más que pude para aprender inglés y tener amigos. Aunque tenía buenos amigos, no me sentía completamente lleno; sentía que algo en mí estaba vacío, pero no sabía qué era. Cuando pasé al bachillerato, aprendí que el vacío que tenía era que no me identificaba con las personas a mí alrededor. Yo era diferente a todos los demás, y no en el sentido de que yo era mexicano y ellos eran americanos; sino en la manera de que yo era gay. Por mucho tiempo había negado mi sexualidad y me sentía mal de mí mismo. Le rogaba a Dios que me hiciera normal.

En mi segundo año de bachillerato, acepté mi identidad y me acepté a mí mismo. Para ese entonces mi hermano ya me había comentado que él también era gay, y mi mamá ya se había enterado. Traté de encontrar un grupo en donde yo pudiera encajar y sentirme a salvo. Acudí a un grupo que era para gays en mi escuela, sin embargo, aunque los miembros del grupo eran muy amables y amistosos, yo sentía que no encajaba. Me sentía como antes—vacío. Eso cambió cuando mi mamá, hermano, Baltazar, y yo formamos un grupo llamado Alianza Latina.

Alianza Latina es un grupo para Latinos en donde podemos expresarnos tal cual somos sin temor a ser discriminados o ser acosados. También es un lugar donde podemos hablar acerca de

nuestras experiencias en nuestras vidas como gente gay. Es un lugar en donde ayudamos a personas que están confundidas con su sexualidad, o simplemente quieren personas que las escuchen y las ayuden a entender cosas que no entienden. Alianza Latina también es un lugar para adultos en donde pueden contestar las preguntas que tienen de qué significa ser diferente o gay.

Como nuestra comunidad es muy cerrada y no aceptamos fácilmente a las personas que son diferentes a nosotros, y les tachamos como el bichito raro, decidí ayudar a los demás y educar a mi comunidad Latina, y al tomar el papel de coordinador de jóvenes. Sabía que podría tener un mejor impacto en los jóvenes porque yo no sería una persona adulta que les hablaría, sino un joven hablando con otros jóvenes. Una de mis esperanzas es que nuestra comunidad hermosa Latina sea más abierta y acepte que todos somos individuales, que muchos somos diferentes y que está bien serlo, porque al fin del día todos somos iguales. Todos somos humanos.

Mi meta es luchar por la justicia y proteger a los demás. Yo sé que esta meta es muy larga y que es un camino muy duro que tengo que caminar. Sin embargo, es una meta que estoy muy orgulloso en tener, porque yo sé que algún día nuestra comunidad romperá esa idea prehistórica que una persona tiene que ser "normal" y no diferente. ■

Alianza Latina es un grupo para Latinos en donde podemos expresarnos tal cual somos sin temor a ser discriminados o ser acosados. También es un lugar donde podemos hablar acerca de nuestras experiencias en nuestras vidas como gente gay.

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