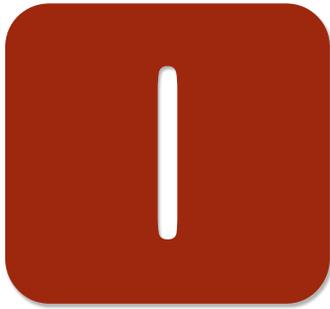


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Get to know **Tim Sauers** in his new role as
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Madison's LGBT&XYZ Magazine



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Cover photographed by: Timothy Hughes Hair: Scott Staples, I Du Hair



Madison's LGBT&XYZ Magazine

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Why This Issue Makes Me Smile



I was recently talking with some friends about how studies show that the more you smile, the better you feel—a sort of “fake it ’til you make it” technique that really does work. I was reminded of this effect as I was reading through this issue one more time before it went to the printer. I truly feel so good about the state of our community and the future we are building for our youth.

Happily, we have so many individuals and organizations in Madison and in Wisconsin working hard and feeding their passions by advocating for and/or serving LGBTQ families and youth. From Gay-Straight Alliances (GSAs) and Parents and Friends and Family of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) to fertility, law, and financial consultants and practitioners, the options for support, resources, and professional services are ever-growing.

So it is (literally!) with great pleasure that I send you off into the stories and reflections of people who have made it their life's work to make things better—or just simply normalized—for the youth and many types of families that make up our community.

Virginia Harrison
EDITOR

The Importance of Giving Back

Featuring businesses that give back to the communities they serve

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BADDOGFRIDA.COM The reason we give back is simple—this isn't a one-way street. The community is supportive of us, and therefore we want to support our community. It's what we believe all businesses should do. Many of the organizations that we give to rely on the generosity of all of us to sustain them.



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bad dog frida gives back in a number of ways—in-kind donations to fundraisers for animal rescue events, LGBTQ events, and the Atwood community are our primary recipients. The biggest program we have is something we call “Featured Rescue Group.” The rescue group or Humane Society changes quarterly. During the quarter we:

- * Devote a page on our website to their group—a chance for the group to highlight information they want people to know about them.
- * Keep a jar on our counter for customers to donate to. This typically raises \$200–\$400.
- * Devote one of our display windows for the group to decorate and promote themselves. This tends to generate a lot of awareness for the group.
- * At the end of the quarter, we provide a donation to the group—typically \$1,000–\$1,200.

This year we have featured the Friends of Noah Rescue Group, the Dane County Humane Society, and the SAAV Program (Sheltering Animals of Abuse Victims).

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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!

Fall Grant Cycle Has Begun!

Grant Applications Due November 30th

Are you working for social service, social change, public education, health care, arts and culture, and/or development of LGBTQA communities? We currently are accepting innovative grant proposals for our Fall Grant Cycle.

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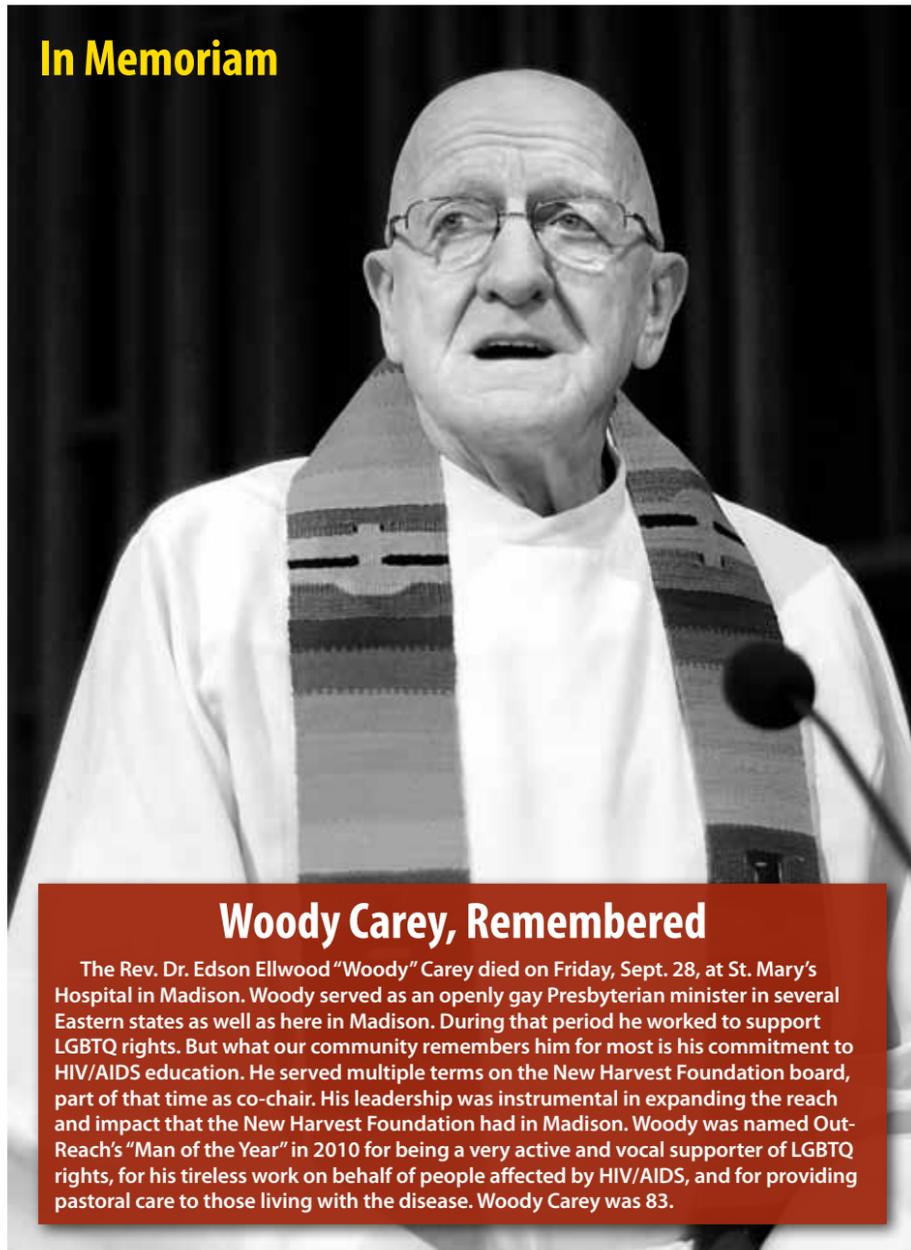
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In Memoriam



Woody Carey, Remembered

The Rev. Dr. Edson Ellwood "Woody" Carey died on Friday, Sept. 28, at St. Mary's Hospital in Madison. Woody served as an openly gay Presbyterian minister in several Eastern states as well as here in Madison. During that period he worked to support LGBT rights. But what our community remembers him for most is his commitment to HIV/AIDS education. He served multiple terms on the New Harvest Foundation board, part of that time as co-chair. His leadership was instrumental in expanding the reach and impact that the New Harvest Foundation had in Madison. Woody was named OutReach's "Man of the Year" in 2010 for being a very active and vocal supporter of LGBT rights, for his tireless work on behalf of people affected by HIV/AIDS, and for providing pastoral care to those living with the disease. Woody Carey was 83.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY PAUL BAKER PRINDLE

Co-Pay Raise

State, UW, City Workers to Pay More for HIV Meds

Due to changes in the Wisconsin state group health insurance program for 2013, state and University of Wisconsin employees and certain local government employees (including the City of Madison) will be paying more for antiretroviral medications used to treat HIV/AIDS. All HIV and other "specialty" drugs will be moved into a new category, with monthly co-pays more than tripling and a higher out-of-pocket maximum separate from that for other medications. The co-pay increase can be avoided by transferring affected prescriptions to the mail-order preferred specialty pharmacy. But the separation of the out-of-pocket maximums means that individuals with both HIV and non-HIV prescriptions will still pay more in 2013 than in 2012. Some drug manufacturers provide co-pay assistance programs for which any employee is eligible. — **Dan Ross, Senior Information Processing Consultant at the University of Wisconsin.**

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contributors

EDITOR'S NOTE: The contributors listed below are what we call "Editorial Facilitators," meaning they work behind-the-scenes to help identify, recruit, and support members of the community in expressing themselves through **PERSONAL NARRATIVE WRITING** in the pages of *Our Lives*. Thank you for all you do to help uphold our leaders, role models, creative talents, and unsung heroes and heroines.



Kristina "kiki" Kosnick (Our Poetry/Prose) identifies as a queer activist-writer-academic. As the founder and facilitator of LGBTQ Narratives Activist-Writers and the executive producer of Conceal & Carry: Queers Exposed, she is grateful for the abundance of queer love in her life. Kiki currently teaches literature at UW-Madison, where she is finishing a Ph.D. dissertation on contemporary queer women's writing in French. With Linda Lenzke, kiki edits the Our Prose/Our Poetry column and invites submissions. Send your poetry or prose for consideration to lgbtqnarratives@gmail.com.



Linda Lenzke (Our Poetry/Prose) is a founding member of LGBTQ Narratives Activist-Writers and a writer/producer of the Conceal & Carry: Queers Exposed monologue play. She is currently working on her second poetry chapbook, *Crush(ed)*, and a memoir entitled *Perfectly Flawed*. With Kristina "kiki" Kosnick, Linda edits the Our Prose/Our Poetry column and invites submissions. Send your poetry or prose for consideration to lgbtqnarratives@gmail.com.



Tim Lom (Our Athletes) is a member of the Madison Minotaurs rugby club, Wisconsin's only International Gay Rugby Association and Board team. He moved from Green Bay to Madison in 1998 for college and currently works as an R&D scientist. Tim is excited to be contributing to *Our Lives* and helping various members of the community have their voices heard and their stories told. When not playing rugby or helping run the team, he enjoys listening to pop music, playing video games, and getting involved in local theater.

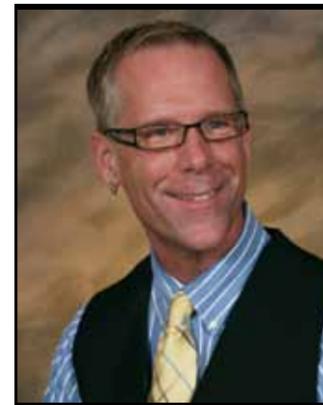


Tim Michael (What's Trending: GSAs) grew up in Wisconsin, and has not yet found a good reason to leave the state that he loves. He has spent the last five years at the Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools, where he serves as the manager of GSA outreach. Having started a GSA at his own high school back in the late '90s, Tim loves having the opportunity to connect with today's GSA activists and help them be as successful as they can be in achieving their goal of creating safer schools for all students.



Ryan Petty (Our Future Leaders) has been an editorial facilitator for *Our Lives* for nearly two years, and recruits LGBTQ-identified youth who exemplify leadership in their community. He is a longtime volunteer at OutReach LGBT Community Center and currently serves as its Board President as well as facilitator for OutThere, their social/support group for 18- to 24-year-olds. For nearly a decade, he has been competing, refereeing, and coaching Olympic-style fencing in Wisconsin. He is a graduate student in biochemistry at UW-Madison.

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They've Got Game—and Heart

Madison Blaze Women's Football Team members **Rebecca Havens** and **Jessica Lundgren** talk about their love of the game—and the team.

How did you get involved with the Blaze? What made you want to join? **JESSICA:** While I was in high school, I was a three-sport athlete. I have always enjoyed team sports. While in college at UW-River Falls, I played on the college softball team for four years. When I moved to Madison just over a year ago, I was looking for ways to meet new people. I knew there was a women's tackle football team in town, so I decided to try out. It was one of the greatest decisions I have made. I have met many wonderful people, and my best friends in Madison are my teammates! **REBECCA:** I had seen an article about the Madison Cougars in the *Wisconsin State Journal*, and a few of my coworkers encouraged me to try out. I looked up the website and sent an e-mail. I received a response within minutes. I had always wanted to play football since I was a child. In middle school, flag football was the first opportunity, but I was told that because I was a girl, I was not allowed to play. When high school began I asked again. I was told no, so my mother went to the school board and asked them to allow me to play. They again told her no, that girls were not allowed to play football. When I heard about the women's team in Madison, it raised the same excitement and the same fear of being let down.

What is the mission of the team? Our team, although under new management, is the same great team that we were last year: hardworking, determined, and focused. Our mission is to "promote and advance women's football in a professional manner while sustaining a positive identity in the community through leadership, guidance, and sound management."

What is the biggest challenge you faced when you started? **REBECCA:** There are a lot of challenges that I faced in the beginning. First and foremost is personal fear. Not letting myself hold me back. There has never been one thing in my life that I have done solely for myself. Every sport, function, or job I have worked at, I have known someone prior to being a part of it. This was

something I wanted to do for me. Another challenge I faced was my age. I was a rookie football player at 33, and people questioned whether I could start at that age. My physical condition was also a challenge. I had two-thirds of my right lung removed when I was 21. My limitations are very few, but also brought questions from family and friends if I could perform with everyone else. I might be slightly more winded than everyone else, but it doesn't hold me back. **JESSICA:** I guess the biggest challenge I faced was being so excited to have the opportunity to play, but we didn't officially start practice until January. Once I decided to play, I was super excited and just wanted to start working out and learning the game of football!

How would you describe the culture of women's football? Is it similar to that of other sports? **JESSICA:** Women's football is somewhat similar to other women's teams I have been on, but this group of 30 women has formed a bond that I have never experienced on another team before! When an organization goes through changes in ownership and experiences some difficulties, you would expect that players would lose interest and trust as teammates, but we stuck together like glue. The women who play for the Madison Blaze are not only teammates, but we have also become a family. **REBECCA:** The culture of women's football is unlike any other team or sport that I have ever experienced or been a part of. You join this team and this league for the love of the game and the chance to fulfill a lifelong dream, and come away with so much more. I have never been closer to a group of women and men. There is a respect among the players and coaches throughout the whole league and those who support us. We all know what we have sacrificed to play, coach, or own women's football. We always hold ourselves, our teammates, our coaches, and our owners to a higher standard, while trying to keep a positive image at all times on and off the field and letting people know that we are serious about the game of football.

Our team, although under new management, is the same great team that we were last year: hardworking, determined, and focused.

How do you perceive the role of the team in the greater LGBTQ community? **JESSICA:** I think the role of this team is to show the community that if you are a lesbian or not you can enjoy playing sports. The Madison Blaze organization wants to be known throughout the Madison area for being a winning team on the field, but also be an example of great leadership throughout the community. **REBECCA:** We definitely try to play a role in the LGBTQ community. We participate in Pride every year and hold fundraisers in predominately gay establishments, but we are also trying to make ourselves known in the straight community as well. There are some beliefs that we are purely a lesbian football team and cater only to the LGBTQ community. But the truth is, we don't carry any one title. We are women tackle football players, trying to pave a new road in the game of football and give back to all communities. ■



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

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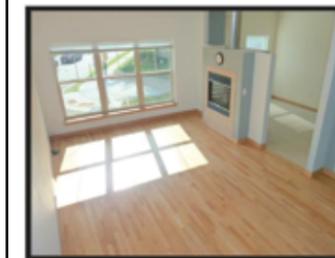
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Sauers quickly recognized the need to increase access to arts education in Madison. He leapt into community efforts such as the Madison Metropolitan Fine Arts Task Force, where he helped create a plan to increase equity in public-school arts programming. He orga-

The compiled reviewer critique that Mr. Sauers provides to each and every school reflects his high-caliber knowledge of theater, adolescent performers, and director/educators.

nized gatherings of area arts education and outreach programmers so they could communicate and collaborate about their offerings. He applied for and received Kennedy Center support to connect Overture's resident companies with the schools.

Public Access

Sauers saw another urgent need: to increase public opportunities to experience and enjoy Overture. He created Community Arts Access, a program that helps non-profit organizations present community performances and events with rental and equipment subsidies. Additionally, he hosted many worthy community groups, such as the Out Professional and Executive Network (OPEN), so they could enjoy the elegant spaces of Overture with member and networking events. Access, exposure, and openness to new ideas were hallmarks of Sauer's early impact on Overture and our community.

Tommy Awards

But three years ago, Sauers took his already fabulous outreach efforts to a new height with the development of the Tommy Awards. One might argue that a BA in communication and theater arts, a master's in theater direction, and a degree in interdisciplinary arts, combined with 11 years as a freelance theater critic, naturally led to Sauers getting his drama on by creating the Tommys.

The Tommy Awards showcase excellence in high school musical theater from 44 schools in 35 communities within a 75-mile radius of Overture Center. Though the primary benefits of the Tommy Awards are to encourage and recognize student excellence in musical theater productions, the program also underscores the importance of theater and dance education in high schools. The Tommys have been credited with everything from "discovering" the unbelievable talent of Wisconsin youth—Glee-style—to saving high school musical programs.

During the great Overture debates of 2011, Tim took on more for the institution. And then he took on more. And then even more. He picked up the extra work of marketing Overture. He simply let go of the fantasy of free time and the potential social life it offered, and friends became accustomed to hearing his daily rebuff of, "We have an event." And "I can't, I have to go see Urinetown in Oconomowoc" or "Oh, goodness no, Phantom is in Janesville tomorrow night."



The Gift that Keeps on Giving

The Overture Center's **Tim Sauers** has given of his talents and expertise to the betterment of Madison's premier arts center, arts education, and the community at large.

In May 2008, Tim Sauers moved to Madison from Chicago to take a new job as director of education and community engagement for Madison's state-of-the-art Overture Center. What's the ol' cowboy quote? "There were a helluva lot of things they didn't tell me when I hired on with this outfit." Though he surely did his research, it is doubtful that Sauers quite understood what he was getting into when he locked the back of his U-Haul and headed north.

In 2008, Overture was embroiled in turmoil, public debate, and an uncertain future. The trust fund to support operations and maintenance was liquidated, public perception was teetering, and the governance structure was more complex than this author's relationship history.

Arts Education

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The Face of Musical Theater

Laurie Fellenz, the fine arts teacher coordinator at the Madison Metropolitan School District, says Sauers is not only "the face of the Tommy Awards," but also, more importantly, he is becoming the face of musical theater. She continues, "The compiled reviewer critique that Mr. Sauers provides to each and every school reflects his high-caliber knowledge of theater, adolescent performers, and director/educators. It is the goal in every critique to celebrate the successes and to offer constructive feedback with useful suggestions in areas of growth. Mr. Sauers works tirelessly to assure that each critique is specific to each school and the unique aspects of their school theater program."

Vice President of Programming and Community Engagement

Sauers was recently hired as Overture's new vice president of programming and community engagement. The gears are undoubtedly turning already, as he looks to create new programming that will reach an even broader spectrum of our community. And now that he has only one job, albeit it a big one, Madison's most eligible arts bachelor might even be able to squeeze in a date or two. **-Karin Wolf**



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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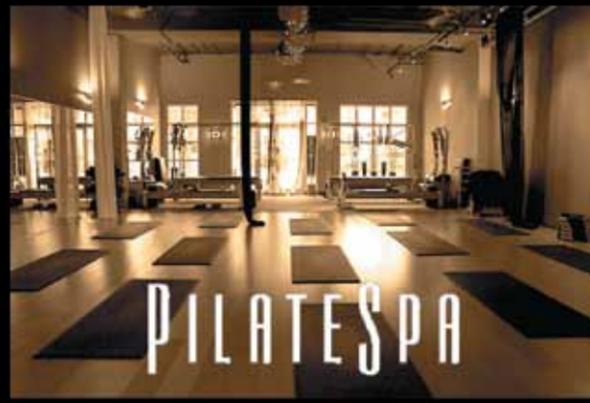
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EDITOR'S NOTE: The poetry and prose featured in this column is largely produced by members of the LGBTQ Narratives Group. LGBTQ Narratives is a queer activist-writers' group in which participants produce and share personal narratives and other creative works. For more information, contact lgbtqnarratives@gmail.com. Members of LGBTQ Narratives also host a monthly open mic for queers and allies. For more information about the open mic, contact queerspeakmadison@gmail.com.

How Buffalo Bill Became My Idol

The Physical Markings of a New Gay Man

The first time I saw *The Silence of the Lambs*, I sat in the dollar theater in Tallahassee with Dan. We'd cut our Modernist Novels class, resisted the chicken salad in the campus cafeteria, and smuggled a pack of wine coolers into the theater. Movies 8 was predictably slow, but it was a special night—Dan and I were fresh out of the closet, products of an upbringing in the Reagan-era Deep South.

We all remember the film's hideously queer psychopath Buffalo Bill, a lisper cavorting around his dungeon basement. In the pivotal scene that reveals his motivation for skinning his victims, the camera lingers on visual details that mark his body as abnormal. He has a pierced nipple and several tattoos (a little odd for the early '90s), and he painstakingly applies eye shadow and lipstick, narcissistically intoning, "I'd fuck me." At the ultimate moment, he dons a wig fashioned from a victim's scalp, tucks his penis between his legs, and poses for the camera, a killer characterized by the most enduring, deviant homosexual stereotypes. Bill's effeminacy marked him as grotesquely murderous.

It was during this scene that two guys behind us proposed that Buffalo Bill should just cut his dick off if he wanted to be a woman. I thought Dan would explode, so I leaned in and told him to never mind the future date-rapists. We weren't the privileged frat boys, the nostalgic Confederates on the outskirts of the city, or the models from Miami. We were proud, gay, goth English majors, and even though we

... a killer characterized by the most enduring, deviant homosexual stereotypes. Bill's effeminacy marked him as grotesquely murderous.

pitied him (and his victims), we thought Buffalo Bill was the coolest! In the Deep South, we were Buffalo Bill. And we clinked our bottles together and drained them of their Exotic Berry Bartles & Jaymes.

"Let's get something pierced after the movie," he suggested. We clinked bottles again.

It took a while for my beaten-up Dodge Colt to warm up during this chilly night, but we maneuvered our way to No Regrets Tattoo and Body Piercing, where a sign over the door read, "From the extreme to the normal, we can handle all of your body piercing needs." Needs? Did we need a piercing to show our solidarity, to unite with the other gay villains?

Of course we did! We were blank slates, new members of a hated and misunderstood population, and a needle driven through our flesh

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OUR PROSE



John Pruitt

would prove our aberration!

In a flash, a girl in a black tank top and flowing skirt and armed with a plastic blue piercing gun sat us in adjoining chairs. "Where?" she asked, as if bored by a couple of twinkies looking to make a lame social statement. I only pointed to my upper right ear. One dab of rubbing alcohol, one pair of long red fingernails holding my flap of tissue still, one click of the gun, one stud through my cartilage, and I was officially gay. "Twist it now and then so it heals. That's five bucks," she said.

I expected a spontaneous pride parade to escort us through the pending stares, taunts, and bashings on the way back to the dorm. But no; it was just a dark Tuesday night, and two gay goth English majors with new wounds had joined the ranks.

"What do we do next?" I asked.

"Let's twist each other's piercings," Dan suggested as he flicked my new stud. I emitted a war cry, grabbed him around the neck, and wrenched his ear. Gay male bonding as its best.

I no longer have that piercing, but I can still feel the scar, a lump of early nineties gay pride on my upper ear. Never mind the freedom rings and pink triangles, the rainbow paraphernalia and assorted hankies in the back pocket. I'd made a statement by mutilating my body. Even though I can't be buried in a Jewish cemetery alongside my relatives, I'll make it into heaven anyway with the rest of the villains. Buffalo Bill might have lodging in a different area, though—I'll have to pay him a visit and thank him. ■

Photographed by Amber Sowards

John Pruitt teaches English at the University of Wisconsin-Rock County. He's enthusiastically absorbing Christopher Bram's novels—he's on number five—and is looking forward to Bram Skyping with his students at the end of November when they read *Gossip*. John's a really nice guy—you'd like him.

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"I've been asked advice from people who want to be DJs," says Tim, "And the simplest advice I can give is to know your crowd, pick the right music, and—above all—be nice and have fun."

Please Don't Stop the Music

Disc jockey **Tim Walters** keeps the music—and his dreams—going on and on.

When you think about nightlife in Madison, a lot of different venues may come to mind. Some vary on themes and are aimed toward certain crowds, but one thing is a must: good music. Disc jockey Tim Walters knows how to keep crowds happy. This, in turn, makes him happy, too.

"What makes me the happiest is watching people dancing and having fun while I am DJ'ing," says Tim.

Growing up in Oregon, WI, Tim always wanted to be a DJ, and recalls having his own make-believe radio show as a child. Other kids his age were pretending to be astronauts or firemen and setting up lemonade stands. Tim would make tapes for his friends and family. As he got older, a lot in his life changed, but his desire to be a professional DJ never faltered.

Tim loved Oregon, but craved something bigger—something more diverse. He knew that if he wanted to pursue his dreams, he would need to relocate. In 1996, he relocated to Madison and took a part-time job at an LGBT coffee house/gift shop called We Are Family (now called Lakeside Deli), which was next to the old Maneuvers Bar (now called The Up North Bar). As luck would have it, DJ Tony Ritschard worked at both places and helped Tim get his foot in the door as a DJ

by giving him music, mixes, and tips.

After a lot of practice and trial and error, Tim's hard work began to pay off. He got his big chance to show what he could do when Ed Grunewald opened up Club 5 (now FIVE Nightclub). It was then that he began to DJ one night a week—and eventually several nights per week as he gained more experience.

Tim explains that he was never more proud or excited than when he fulfilled his childhood dream of becoming an air jockey a few years ago. He was on-air with Z104 The Hit Music Channel and 96.3 Star Country for a couple of successful years. Currently, Tim hosts a show Monday through Friday (6–11:00 p.m. Central) on ElectricFM.com, an Internet dance station broadcasting from New York City.

When he's not on-air, Tim DJs events such as Madison Pride, Fruit Fest, Woof's Pride, PrideFest in Milwaukee, and UW-Madison's 10% Society dances, and he guest DJs at Shamrock Bar, Plan B, SOTTO, LaCage in Milwaukee, The Office in Rockford, charity events, and of course FIVE Nightclub, where he got his start.

Tim considers himself lucky to have met some incredible people in his line of work, including national artists, singers, DJs, and many who have become friends.



Tim with his partner of almost six years, Bradley Tabor.

"I've been asked advice from people who want to be DJs," says Tim, "And the simplest advice I can give is to know your crowd, pick the right music, and—above all—be nice and have fun. It will show in your work!"

Tim and Bradley Tabor, his partner of almost six years, live with their cats Lola and Rocco.

"When you love what you do, you will find peace and harmony just happens in all the other areas of your life as well," Tim says. —Trina



Trina Avalon-Pirahna (Christopher Wilford) is a local drag entertainer who has performed in various nightclubs and charity events around Wisconsin. She is the current Miss FIVE Nightclub Plus and introduces *Our Lives* readers to other entertainers of interest to our local LGBTQ community.

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What's a Mother to Do?

For PFLAG's Karen Baker, Outreach Community Center's 2012 Ally of the Year, the answer was easy.

having been educated in the field of teaching, when I became a mother, I watched with great interest as my sons developed from babies to pre-adolescents. I accompanied a group of sixth graders to a "Problem Solving" event on the campus of Coe College in Iowa. While there and observing these six kids, I remember asking their coach how you would know if your child was gay. She said she had no idea. Seven years later, I received a letter from my son who was attending MIT in Boston. He had managed to get the words on paper stating that he was gay. As I sat on the edge of the bed with his letter in my hand, I recalled that earlier question to his teacher. What had I seen? How does a mother know?

One thing a mother knows is that she wants her children to grow up safe and happy. I was unaware of how to help make that happen for gay kids. I told my son that I wasn't a public speaker like Judy Shepherd, but asked him if there something else I could do. He told me to check out the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) and Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). I began attending PFLAG, and now I have served six years as the treasurer, four years as president-elect and president, and am now beginning my two-year term as past president. My main goal was to partner with schools, becoming a visual presence in the communities surrounding Madison.

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One Step Forward, One Step Back...

My favorite cartoon shows a gay couple walking down the aisle at their wedding, and one guest leans over to whisper to another, "I just love gay weddings, but the processional takes SO long, with two steps forward and then some back."

This year, we've experienced some great steps forward with the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and, for the first time ever, a major political party including marriage equality in their party platform. However, when PFLAG is required to cover up the words "gay" and "lesbian" on their banner in order to walk down the main street of a community 10 miles outside of Madison, we know we have work to do in our surrounding cities and towns.

...In Communities

Two years ago, PFLAG, in partnership with the Gay/Straight Alliance of Stoughton High School, entered a float in the community celebration of Syttende Mai. A step forward. The only way our application was found acceptable was if we would agree to cover the words "gay and lesbian" on our banner. So, to get our foot in the door, I reluctantly agreed to do this. For that parade, our banner just said "Parents and Friends," followed by a strip of rainbow paper. A step back.

This year, our high school students were not available to participate in this parade because of conflicting sporting events. I know in my heart, however, that this is also a way of covering the fact that many of them are still not comfortable in their own town as "out" individuals. PFLAG decided not to apply to be in the parade if the students could not participate. It is the Youth Parade, after all.

On Monday morning of the week of the parade, I received a call from the parade chair begging us to participate. A step forward. I explained the lack of students, but she really thought a walking entry would keep Stoughton moving forward. I scrambled at this late date to line up PFLAG members willing to march. When it is important, as always, eight members changed previously made plans so they could participate. When we arrived at the appointed parade entry, we were met with this same chair gasping for breath as she said, "You have not covered the words." I told her we were not covering them. A flurry of phone calls to the event chair confirmed that we would not be allowed to participate. A step back.

We stood proudly with our banner on the sidewalk among many young couples with children. This group was aghast at what they had observed and heard from the chair. They encouraged us to participate anyway. As the entries went by, I noticed one that had a banner proclaiming "Inclusive Dream Park," and I gave the signal to our members to join in behind this group. I spoke briefly with the leader as we jumped into the parade, and assured her we would not harm her efforts to raise funds. In fact, this project received hundreds of dollars of donations from supporters of PFLAG that they otherwise would not have received. A step forward.

The following week, I wrote a Letter to the Editor of the *Stoughton Hub* thanking the Inclusive Dream Park group for welcoming us when we had been bullied out of the parade. This letter generated a front-page article, photos, and many weeks of Letters to the Editor. What will next year bring? I spoke with the new event chair, and her committee is planning to develop a policy on parade participation. We're waiting to see what it says.

However, when PFLAG is required to cover up the words "gay" and "lesbian" on their banner in order to walk down the main street of a community 10 miles outside of Madison...

...In Places of Worship

We know we have work to do in our faith communities when an energetic young vice moderator of the General Assembly for the Presbyterian Church USA is pressured into resigning 36 hours after her election because she conducted ONE same-sex ceremony, in Washington, D.C., where it is legal. Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe said that she was offended at the "divisive" and "poisonous" blogs and tweets she had received since her election, and she recognized this situation would get in the way of the General Assembly completing the work they set out to do. And so, she submitted her resignation. A step back.

...In Schools

And finally, this summer, my son, who teaches at the University of Georgia, called to give me some news before it went out on Facebook. He had always assured me that as a gay man, he was quite safe as long as he was on a university campus, even while living in the south. However, on this summer day his office door had been vandalized! He had displayed a political cartoon

showing three flag-draped coffins, and the caption read, "Which one is the gay soldier?" The messages of hatred were clear. Someone had drawn an arrow pointing from the coffin to his nameplate.

This is when a mother's passion burns to make a difference. My work in PFLAG continues to energize my efforts, and after receiving the Ally of the Year award from OutReach this year, I am pumped full of confidence. I intend to keep working for the LGBTQ community so that together, we can keep taking steps forward. ■

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OPEN Networking Event
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Edgewood College Gallery

A reception for Loose Strife: an exhibit of the works of Michael Velliquette & Quan Barry as part of the BMO Harris Bank Gallery Series. Reception is at Edgewood's new gallery space and sponsored in part by OPEN.
openmadison.org



The Holiday Steps
November 29–December 15
The Bartell Theater

The ladies of the North American Lady Organists Guild are back! They are touring the country, uniting their differing faiths with their love of song. They will share new songs and traditional holiday music, too.
stageq.com



OUT @ The Ballet
December 15
Overture Hall

Madison Ballet's annual production of the holiday classic *The Nutcracker*, features the choreography of Artistic Director W. Earle Smith set to Tchaikovsky's famous score. Includes a reception and backstage tour.
madisonballet.org/out

ORGANIZATIONS

A representative sampling

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

Alianza Latina
facebook.com/alianzalatnamadison

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)
301 S. Bedford St., Madison (608) 661-4141
gsafei.org

Gay Softball League
ssblmadison.com

Gay Volleyball League
madisongayvolleyball.com

Hermanos Latinos
sneal@aidsnetwork.org

Lez In Color Yahoo Group
LezInColor@yahoo.com

Lez Talk Yahoo Group
leztalkmadison@yahoo.com

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

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save the date

- January 19 | Out at the Symphony
- January | AIDS Network Camp Bingo
- January 31 | OPEN Annual Dinner
- March | New Harvest Dinner
- April | AIDS Network's Red Ribbon Affair
- May | GSAFE Celebration of Leadership
- June | Milwaukee PrideFest
- June | OPEN Betty Lou Cruise
- June | FruitFest
- August | ACT 11: Wisconsin AIDS Ride
- August | Wisconsin Capitol Pride

Wisconsin Book Festival, November 7–11, Multiple Venues The Wisconsin Book Festival is a free five-day program of public events that takes place every fall in downtown Madison. It hosts authors of poetry, fiction, and non-fiction for readers of all ages; in addition, we stage plays, offer hands-on workshops, feature spoken-word performances, and more. wisconsinbookfestival.org

Winter Art Festival, November 10–11, Monona Terrace Our Winter Art Festival features 140 Wisconsin exhibitors with a wonderful selection of pottery, paintings, fiber, glass art, wood, photography, jewelry, graphics, sculpture, and more. In addition, on Saturday, the art festival features a very successful silent auction of artwork contributed by our exhibitors. artcraftwis.org

The Cradle Will Rock, November 16–December 8, Mitchell Theatre, Vilas Hall This satirical glimpse into "Steeltown, USA" offers a biting critique of corruption, commerce, and humanity's value in the face of unchecked capitalism—issues that continue to divide us 75 years later. utmadison.com

A Madison Symphony Christmas, November 30–December 2, Overture Center The annual Christmas Spectacular is just that, a stunning showcase of Madison talent with outstanding special guests. Carol in the lobby, sing along to classic Christmas favorites, and celebrate the spirit of the season with us! madisonsymphony.org/christmas

Fair Wisconsin Holiday Auction, December 5, The Madison Club This is a unique opportunity to celebrate the progress we've made together, build capacity for the year ahead, and maybe get a little holiday shopping done along the way! fairwisconsin.com/auction

Perfect Harmony Men's Chorus Winter Concerts, December 8–9, Madison Masonic Center This year's theme is "All We Want for Christmas." perfectharmonychorus.org

Children's Theater Of Madison's A Christmas Carol, December 14–23, Overture Center We bring this Charles Dickens classic to life in the elegantly adorned Capitol Theater. Our signature mainstage production features James Ridge of American Players Theater in the role of the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge. This show is rich in music and holiday spirit. ctmtheater.org

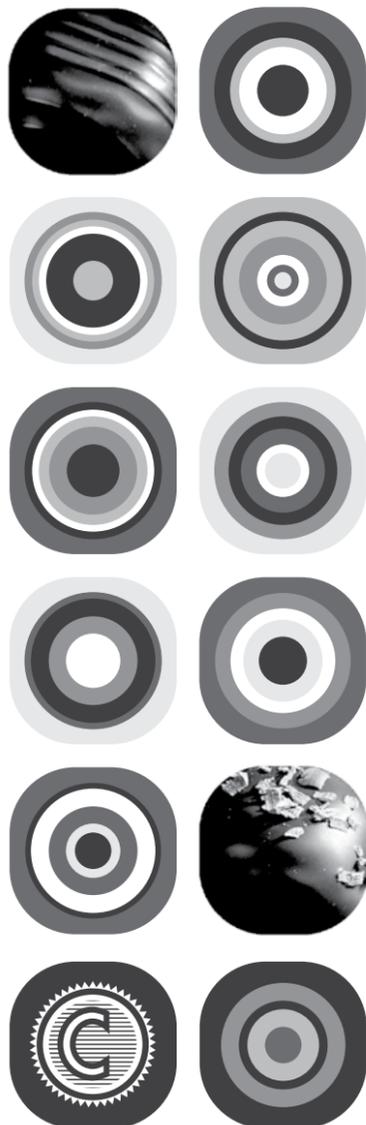
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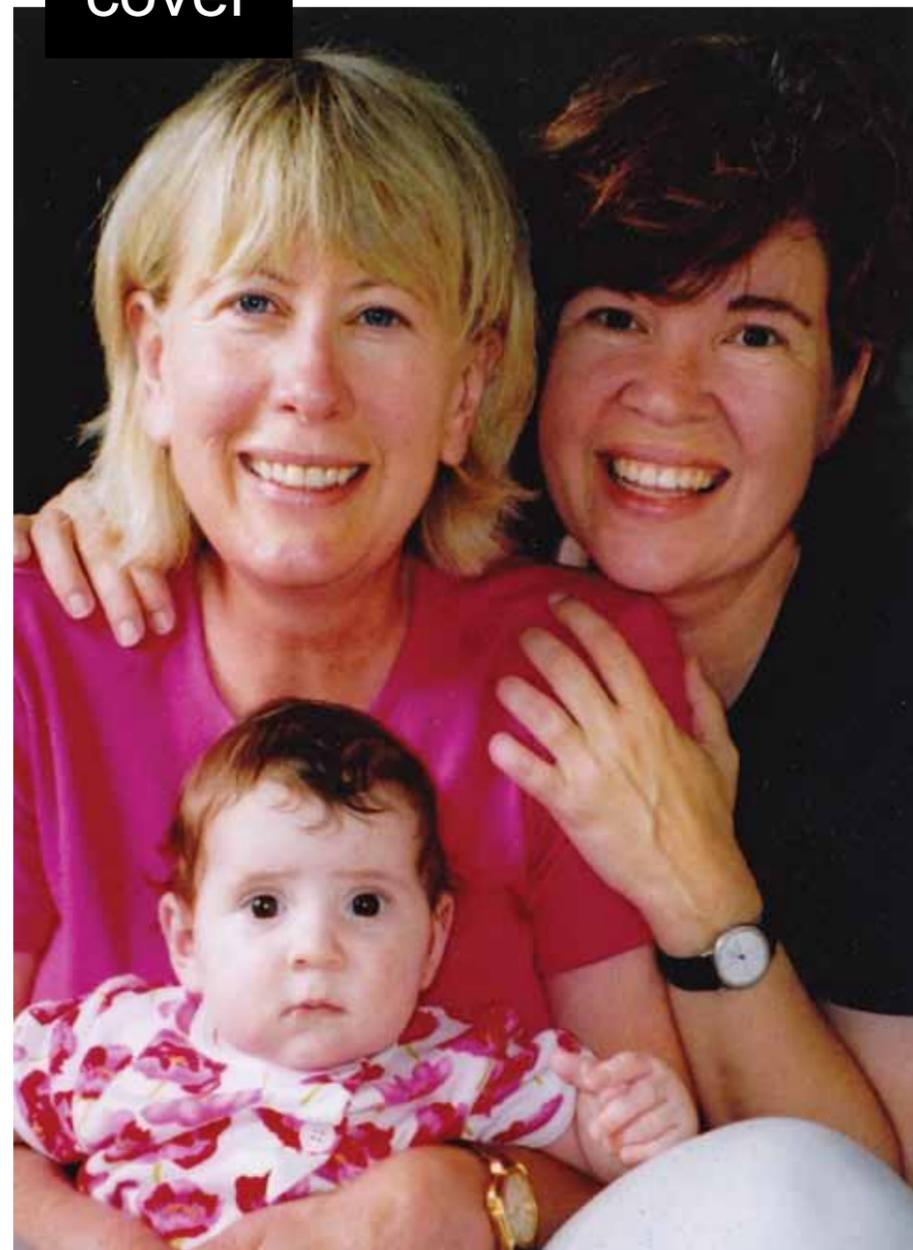


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FROM RUSSIA

With Love

Denise Matyka and Margaret McMurray found their
dream come true in the form of a little girl named Maria.

Our daughter, Maria, was born on December 29, 2002, in a maternity hospital in Yaroslavl, Russia—it was our 21st anniversary. We took it as a sign that this precious little girl born halfway around the world was meant for us.

The journey that brought Maria to us was a long, challenging, and joyful one. Our family, now complete, began when we fell in love during the equal rights amendment campaign in Oklahoma in 1981. We had both been hired to work as field organizers by the National Organization for Women. Margaret was from Iowa and had been working in California, and Denise was from Wisconsin. After the campaign ended, we moved to Madison to start our new life together. We had wanted a child for a long time and wondered if we should try artificial insemination with a known donor. But none of the potential donors seemed right, and we were concerned about potential legal issues.

We decided to adopt and began the process hoping to bring home a baby girl from China. At the time, many lesbians and single women had successfully adopted children from China. After a lengthy effort, our hopes were dashed when the Chinese government began placing limits on the number of single-parent adoptions. We couldn't openly adopt as a couple. We were devastated.

Then some friends recommended we talk to a lesbian couple they knew who had adopted two girls from Russia. We met them and heard about their experiences working with an international adoption agency that respected their relationship. We decided to try again and began a second application process to adopt a baby girl from Russia.

Several other parents with us said they had been grilled by Russian authorities about being suitable parents, but they didn't ask Denise one question. They just looked at her and smiled as she cried tears of joy.

Again, we had to remain in the closet to all Russian officials; only our American adoption agency and the Wisconsin social worker who conducted our home study knew of our relationship. International adoption was and still is a lengthy and costly process. We began again to compile and complete the numerous documents required by the Russian authorities.

Months later, our American adoption agency contact passed away. She was a wonderful, compassionate woman who promised to "take us under her wing" when she heard about our struggles. The sad news of her death devastated us, and we wondered what it meant for us. Would this sad news delay, defer, or end our dreams of being parents?

More time passed. We called our adoption agency to see if a referral for our baby girl would be coming soon. Agency staffers told us to be patient. We were anything but patient! Finally, around Memorial Day in 2003, we received a videotape of our baby girl. She was five months old, healthy, and beautiful, with big brown eyes and a winning smile. We cried when we saw the tape. She was so beautiful, and she was our daughter.

We couldn't decide on a name for our baby. The videotape was labeled "Maria from Yaroslavl." She was named by the social worker at the hospital. We loved her name and we decided it would be a wonderful connection to her hometown in Russia that she could carry forever. It also honored the people who cared for Maria during first the six months of her life.

We went to Russia twice within a month in the summer of 2003; the first time to see our new baby girl and the second time to go to

[FAMILIES] WHAT'S TRENDING

Families

Many families in the LGBTQ community are made up of two humans and their four-legged "children." We have asked service providers in the world of pet ownership as well as human families to weigh in on what they are seeing in their industries these days. The pet service providers are seeing much more broad and deep regard for pets. Tax preparers, attorneys, and therapists are glad to see more out LGBTQ clients and are more prepared than ever to serve their needs.

More Resources for Four-legged "Kids"



BAD DOG FRIDA
CARMEN ALCALDE AND SUE HUNTER, CO-OWNERS

More and more people have a need/desire for a sense of community in their life, and this includes with their animals. Many people want more than a store. They want a pleasant shopping experience and knowledgeable staff that can help answer questions, remedy problems, or help to keep their pets generally healthy, happy, comfortable, and even educated—yes, educated! People want to share more experiences with their animal companions. We notice an increasing number of people who want to talk about their experiences, find resources, and be smart consumers. Animal companions are a part of people's families, and therefore they want the same kind of support, information, and resources that they want and need for their human family members. No longer is it unusual to have people considering hospice care for pets, behavioral consultation recommendations, acupuncture, massage, or chiropractic care for their dog or cat.

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For more details or to RSPU online, visit
FAIRWISCONSIN.COM/AUCTION

Higher Levels of Pet Care and Treatment



DEER-GROVE VET
DR. STEVE FRAME, OWNER

I think we are moving into a time when we as individuals will own fewer pets, but be willing to provide them with a much higher level of care. I think pet owners are becoming more and more aware of how important "quality of life" is for their pet. The veterinary community continues to increase awareness of how a pet's quality of life suffers from the long-term effects of pain or obesity and how much we can do to help them. Every pet deserves to be as comfortable as possible. I see the veterinary community continuing to strive to attain this goal. The advances in pain relief, diagnostics, and dental care continue to grow at an amazing rate. The advances in anesthetic safety and monitoring are just as incredible.

Legal Decisions Favoring LGBTQ Families



DEWITT ROSS & STEVENS S.C.
MICHELE L. PERREAULT, PARTNER

In the next year, we will see potentially historic legal decisions regarding LGBTQ families on a national level and will continue to fight for protections for our families on a state and local level. The U.S. Supreme Court is likely to hear at least one of several major cases affecting our families. Four cases challenging the Defense of Marriage Act have made their way up the court system and could be heard by the Supreme Court in the coming year. In each of those cases, lower courts found DOMA unconstitutional. If the Supreme Court agrees, then thousands of legally married families and children will have equal federal protection immediately, and it could sound the end of constitutional and legal discrimination elsewhere, including here.

Statewide we continue to face significant legal challenges to establish basic legal protections for our families. The domestic partnership registry is under legal attack by the same people who assured Wisconsin voters it would be legal. I believe the registry will be upheld and we will continue to have at least minimal protections. Registering is not enough, however, and we must ensure that our families are protected through additional means, such as guardianships, wills, and powers of attorney.

Reaching Across Generations



MADISON CHILDREN'S MUSEUM
CEDRIC A. JOHNSON, ANNUAL GIVING COORDINATOR

Ever since our grand re-opening in August of 2010, Madison Children's Museum has continued to expand our programming and community reach, bringing in dozens of community partners to engage children with hands-on explorations of everything from classical music to composting. The overarching goal is to become "the museum that no one outgrows," and we have added new program collaborations for teens and adults to this end. A partnership with Madison Metropolitan School District's SAPAR Program (School-Age Parent Program) provides weekly museum visits and parenting programs for the district's teen parents and their children. MCM's popular "Adult Swim" events continue to draw the 21 and up crowd to the museum for unique programs on topics from science to film to Steampunk; and our new "Seniors Night" event and SPARK workshops for elders with memory loss provide older adults in our community with opportunities to be kids again, too. So we're more than just a place to play, we're an essential community resource where every family can learn and grow together.



This was an exciting and stressful time—we had less than 30 days to prepare to bring a baby home, and we had no experience as parents.

court to finalize the proceedings. This was an exciting and stressful time—we had less than 30 days to prepare to bring a baby home, and we had no experience as parents. We bought a book about baby care that provided simple, step-by-step instructions for changing a diaper, warming a bottle, preparing a bath, etc.

When we arrived in Russia, we met our English-speaking guide at the airport. She drove us to our first stop, a nice Radisson hotel overlooking the Moscow River. We were not alone at the hotel, as four other couples from Alabama, Texas, and Ohio were in Moscow too, hoping to adopt new sons and daughters. Two of the couples had previously adopted children from Russia, so we leaned on them for advice.

We caravanned from Moscow to Yaroslavl with our translators and drivers, all of whom were friendly and eager to help us. Our primary translator shared stories of the food shortages her family experienced in the early 1990s when the Soviet Union collapsed. She had to stand in line for bread for three hours each day and was so anxious about the declining political situation that she sent her three young children to the country to live with her mother. As we drove across the countryside, she told us about her 18-year-old son who was old enough to either go into the army or into the university—she worried she did not have enough money to bribe someone to keep him out of the army.

The Russian countryside reminded us of northern Wisconsin—beautiful evergreens and birch trees. Yaroslavl, Maria's birthplace, was a bustling big city the size of Milwaukee. It housed a Russian military academy and a terrific hockey team, as well as a McDonalds and a cyber café. It had been an important stop on the Volga River during the Middle Ages and was still a tourist destination for cruise ships traveling to Moscow. Many of the Russian orthodox churches in the city survived the Stalin era intact.

We climbed to the top of a bell tower in an old monastery and looked out over a beautiful cityscape of dozens of brightly painted onion domes decorating the churches. Nine years ago, tourism was

still struggling to gain a foothold in this part of Russia. Our hotel was considered modern and upscale. However, it still housed a woman on each floor whose primary purpose seemed to be tracking our comings and goings. This practice was a remnant of a bygone era when everyone spied on everyone else.

We finally got to see and hold Maria at the local maternity hospital. We met her social worker and the doctor who supervised the medical care for the new babies. We held her for the first time. Several other parents with us said they had been grilled by Russian authorities about being suitable parents, but they didn't ask Denise one question. They just looked at her and smiled as she cried tears of joy.

Maria had lived at the hospital for the first six months of her life. She lived in a room with a caretaker and three other babies. As a six-month-old, she was too young to transition to an orphanage.

After Denise went to court to finalize the adoption (Margaret could not participate, as we were closeted to the authorities), we returned to the hospital. The social worker fussed over Maria as we were dressing her to leave the hospital, admonishing us to put socks on her even though it was hot outside. The pediatrician who cared for Maria carried her down several flights of stairs before she handed Maria to Denise at the door to the van taking us back to Moscow. She touched Maria's head, and the interpreter told us she said, "Have a good life." She had tears in her eyes. So did we.

Back in Moscow, Maria's feet never touched the ground. We spent hours just looking at her. We woke up the first morning to see Maria staring at us from her crib. We were getting to know one another. Moscow is so far north, the sun shines until nearly 11 p.m. in July. We spent several magical nights gathered by the huge fountains in front of our hotel, watching local families and their children splash in the water and holding our precious daughter.

Healthy Families, Healthy Citizens



CHILD & FAMILY PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES CLINIC
DENNIS CHRISTOFFERSEN, PSY.D., LCSW, CSAC
NIRA SCHERZ-BUSCH, DIRECTOR/OWNER

We believe the promotion and empowerment of human rights, mental health, and educational and vocational goals makes a healthy society. In Israel, there is a clinic devoted solely to the treatment and wellbeing of LGBTQ people and their families. We are proud to contribute our over 31 years of expertise and experience to the cohesion and strength of the LGBTQ community and its supporters here in Madison and dream of one day opening such a clinic here.

Contracts, Court Orders, & Legislative Change



THE LAW CENTER FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES
EMILY DUDAK TAYLOR, ATTORNEY

In Wisconsin, laws affecting LGBTQ couples, families, and children seem to be regressing. At the same time, they are progressing around the country and at the federal level. More states have achieved marriage and adoption equality. More states have passed assisted reproductive technology (ART) and parentage laws making ART more available to all families. ART is also becoming more affordable, which allows for some very cool paths to parenthood, such as surrogacy for gay males and co-maternity (her egg, my uterus) for lesbians. In addition, there are several significant LGBTQ cases waiting for review by the U. S. Supreme Court: one challenges the

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PHOTOGRAPHED BY TIMOTHY HUGHES

WHAT'S TRENDING [FAMILIES]

federal component of the Defense of Marriage Act and another challenges marriage ban amendments to state constitutions ("the Prop 8 case"). Here in Wisconsin, we seem to be regressing. To be frank, it is a bit depressing to attend all the annual conferences for LGBTQ lawyers and listen to the attorneys from Washington and California complain about the complexities of joint state tax returns. I'm happy for the families in those states, but also envious. With the Walker administration, the protests, the battles in our Supreme Court, and a string of "bad bio mom" cases, our clients are disheartened and forced to become paranoid. More families are willing to complete preemptive planning, like Co-Parenting Agreements and Cohabitation Agreements. More parents want court orders for the non-legal parent. After watching all of this unfold, I have come to a conclusion: we cannot rely on one branch of government to change things. We need legislative change. We need to vote, and then push for legislative change. Push for simple stepparent adoption. Push for a parentage statute in ART cases. Push for simple paternity-like maternity procedures. Push for the repeal of our marriage ban amendment and our sickening criminal marriage evasion law.

Donor Egg Banks



GENERATIONS FERTILITY CARE
CHRISTINA BROADWELL, MD, OB-GYN

In recent years, methods of cryopreserving (otherwise referred to as 'freezing') human embryos and eggs have advanced to become a more effective means of assisting individuals and couples in building families. Recently, much like donor sperm banks, **(CONTINUED ON PAGE 40)**

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

MARK POCAN

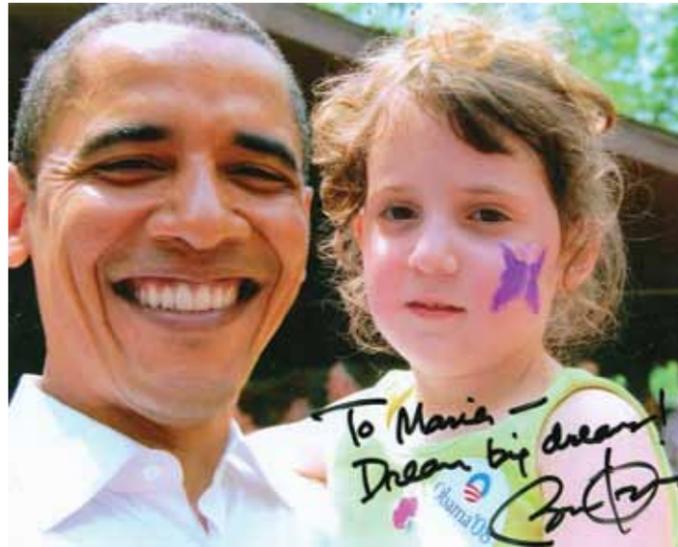
Looks like it's...

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Even though we became parents in our late 40s, we still feel young as Maria and her neighborhood friends run through the house singing and laughing.

We came home with our new baby in July 2003 to a wonderful welcome. Many friends met us at the airport with balloons and gifts, as they couldn't wait to see our little girl.

Since that time, everyone in Madison has been wonderful to our family. Our fabulous neighbors on Sidney Street, the teachers at the Big Oak daycare center and at Lapham and Marquette Elementary Schools have been completely supportive of Maria and us. We know we are lucky to live in a city where lesbian moms and their children enjoy widespread acceptance.

We have one more story to share about our family during this political season. We were visiting Maria's grandparents in Iowa for Father's Day in 2007. A young senator, Barack Obama, was campaigning for president in the local park. He posed for a picture holding Maria in his arms. Six months later, we were again visiting Maria's grandparents when Obama spoke to a huge crowd just before the Iowa primary. He autographed Maria's photo with him with these words: "Dream Big Dreams."

Later this year, we will celebrate our 31st anniversary and Maria will turn 10. We can't wait to see what the future holds for our bright and beautiful daughter. Even though we became parents in our late 40s, we still feel young as Maria and her neighborhood friends run through the house singing and laughing. As President Obama said, we hope Maria dreams big dreams. We know she is our dream come true. ■



Funding Priorities **LGBT Youth and Seniors**

New Harvest Foundation 2011 Annual Report



Our Mission

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.

What We Do: Raise Money

As a Foundation, we raise funds from the broad community through events and fund-raising campaigns. In 1996, the Foundation established an endowment to expand its financial base and to ensure a prosperous future. Contributors may designate their tax-deductible gifts to the grants program or to the endowment.

New Harvest Foundation enjoys support from every segment of the community. Most contributors are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, but we also receive support from straight but not narrow families and friends. We receive contributions through workplace giving from Community Shares of Wisconsin, as well as electronic funds transfers, and wills/estate plans. Many contributors find giving to New Harvest Foundation an ideal way to channel funds to a variety of organizations that serve LGBT people. Contributors appreciate that our Board of Directors and grant screening committee take the guesswork out of identifying and supporting quality projects and programs. You may remain anonymous. New Harvest Foundation does not share its lists with other organizations.

Why We Do It: To Give Back

New Harvest Foundation is the only organization in South Central Wisconsin dedicated to funding a spectrum of LGBT issues. Since New Harvest Foundation began, over 25 years ago, we have awarded more than \$400,000 to more than 200 projects, a wide range of established and fledgling organizations have received funds over the years. Additional information about the grant process, including an application and grant cycle timelines, is available at www.newharvestfoundation.org.

We raise money to give back!

Cover photos of
Laura Springman
and Ellwood
"Woody" Carey
courtesy of Eric
Baillies; Graphic
Design by Ingrid
Ankerson

2011 Annual Letter from our Co-Chairs

Thank you for supporting the New Harvest Foundation! New Harvest has continued our work—soliciting, evaluating, granting and tracking projects that benefit the LGBT communities in South Central Wisconsin. As you will see in this 2011 Annual Report, we continue to find innovative ways to support our community, your community!

New Harvest was fortunate to receive an amazingly generous gift from the estate of Dr. Mark Hansen, this gift enabled us to expand our grants, even in the face of the difficult economic period. We were able to provide grants for a number of projects, focusing on our grant priorities of LGBT youth and seniors. While some projects, such as the LGBT Teen Collection at the Monona Library, will potentially have a direct impact on the lives of many; others, such as the grant to support bringing Jamie Nabozny to speak to teens in the Fall River School District, help to create dialogue and understanding in some of our smaller, rural communities. We also provided support for projects that benefit our LGBT seniors, including an "LGBT Senior-Specific Sensitivity Training for Health Care Professionals".

We also have invested in new systems that allow us to efficiently deliver these grants and accurately account for our revenue. We implemented a new website that is more user-friendly, easier to maintain and update, and gives you quick access to information about New Harvest and our activities! It also allowed us to streamline our grant application process, making it nearly paperless, saving both our applicants time and making it easier for us to review and analyze the applications. We also moved from a creaky Excel-spreadsheet system to an online accounting system that allows us to accurately record your donations, provides you more options to give us your support and ensures that we meet our financial reporting requirements.

The Board of New Harvest continues to review our goals and objectives and strives to ensure we're using the money you've entrusted us with in the very best way possible. In the past several years, some long-time supporters of New Harvest left us with substantial bequests. Beginning with Henry Dudek, one of our founders, Bill Miller, a former board member, and Dr. Mark Hansen, these individuals are helping the New Harvest Foundation create a legacy by giving us a stable asset base that we can use to grow and expand our support for our LGBT communities!

As always, we are grateful both for your support as well as for your input. We welcome feedback on New Harvest Foundation and our work and hope you will continue your support as we move into the future!

*Lisa Hart
Mark Porter*

2011 Grant Recipients

Twice a year, New Harvest receives grant proposals from non-profit organizations which provide services that benefit the LGBT communities of South Central Wisconsin. Grants fall into several focus areas: social service, social change, public education, health care, arts and culture, and the development of LGBT communities. This year, we were particularly interested in funding projects that addressed the needs of LGBT youth and seniors. Thanks to the support of our donors, we awarded more than \$26,000 to fund 10 worthy projects. It is with great pride that we highlight our 2011 grant recipients.

MONONA LIBRARY LGBTQ COLLECTION

\$2,500 With funding from the New Harvest Foundation, the Monona Public Library—Wisconsin's 2010 Library of the Year—has established a multimedia, young adult/teen LGBTQ collection. This special collection includes fiction and nonfiction resources; biographies, health and wellness books, graphic novels, CDs and DVDs.

Toni Streckert, Information Services Coordinator for the Monona Public Library, says she is proud of the collection. Streckert says, "The materials are wide ranging— from anti-bullying guides to middle grade fiction with strong LGBTQ characters." More than 150 items are in the collection purchased with the New Harvest Foundation grant. "We have duplicates for a few titles that we thought would be high demand like *Letters From a Bullied Girl* and *It Gets Better*," says Streckert.

The Monona Library has established a regional reputation for consumer health issues, so securing a vital and healthy core LGTBQ collection for tweens and teens is a natural fit for the award-winning library. Streckert says the collection will be available across 7 counties among 52 LINKcat system libraries, "the potential impact and benefit of this initiative is far reaching." In order to make it easy for those interested in reviewing the collection, Streckert has provided a pre-defined search hotlink [<http://tinyurl.com/7bp86ps>], "...so you can get a feel for this wonderful resource New Harvest so generously funded," says Streckert.



Photos courtesy of Steve Wilcox

MONONA LIBRARY

INTERFAITH DIALOGUE ON SEXUALITY

\$2,025 OutReach LGBT Center coordinated with over 20 Madison-area congregations—representing Unitarian, Jewish, and a variety of Christian faiths—in organizing the Interfaith Dialog on Sexuality conference. Over 100 participants gathered as keynote speaker Rev. Scott Anderson set the tone for the day by delivering a powerful retelling of his personal journey for justice, as well as the larger dynamics between spirituality and sexuality. Throughout the afternoon, healthy engagement and interaction between LGBTQ community members and representatives from religious organizations in Madison occurred. It is not uncommon for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender folks to find themselves in a some way isolated in the context of their faith—either through their upbringing, or in a congregation that maintains a culture of silence. This conference provided an opportunity for a connection with one another over shared joys and sorrows, and to discuss strategies to transform congregations into actively open and affirming spaces. By bringing together affirming congregations and religious members of the gay community, we continue our work towards a more just society.

WISCONSIN BOOKS TO PRISONERS

\$625 New Harvest Foundation continues to financially support this worthy project. This is a project of the Rainbow Bookstore Cooperative that supports the educational and reading interests of the traditionally marginalized, often maltreated LGBT minority, in hopes of improving their condition while in prison. Books are sent to prisoners in the state of Wisconsin free of charge. Wisconsin Books to Prisoners believe that books are tools for learning and can help open minds to new ideas and fresh possibilities. By sending books to those in prison, this project hopes to foster a love of reading and encourage the pursuit of knowledge and self-improvement. Since their founding in the Fall of 2006, Wisconsin Books to Prisoners has sent books to thousands of prisoners across WI and in dozens of other states. Visit www.rainbowbookstore.coop/b2p for more information about this project.



WISCONSIN BOOKS TO PRISONERS

MADISON'S LGBT COMMUNITY, 1960s- PRESENT ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

\$2,290

The fifth collection in the UW-Madison Campus Voices series tells the story of the LGBT community on campus and in Madison from the 1960's through today (<http://archives.library.wisc.edu/oral-history/CampusVoices/LGBT/index.html>). Rather than one issue, one voice, one history, or one movement, the LGBT story encompasses many. We don't pretend to present a complete or comprehensive history—how could we when so many important stories are still waiting to be told? What you will hear instead are the voices of politicians, professors, students, and activists who comprise a small portion of our oral history collection and of the diverse stories not yet captured. All aspects of this project hold one thing in common: the story-tellers believe their anecdotes to be undeniably significant in the history of LGBT life at UW, Madison, the state, and country. Funding from New Harvest was utilized to create a more robust online presence for "Madison's LGBT Community, 1960's-Present" Oral History Project. This increased the visibility and accessibility of this project. The more robust web presence serves the dual purpose of making what has been collected more accessible and helping establish the vitality of a project worthy of support.

FIRST ANNUAL FAIR WISCONSIN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

\$5,000

In January of 2011, Fair Wisconsin launched the first annual Wisconsin Leadership Conference, a statewide leadership initiative for LGBT and allied activists, elected officials and community leaders. "Connecting Leaders, Advancing the Movement" was held at the Hilton in downtown Milwaukee and sought to build capacity among both established and emerging leaders in the LGBT movement through a series of workshops, panels and networking opportunities. Chaz Bono—national transgender activist, 2011 Dancing with the Stars contestant, and son of Cher and Sonny Bono—delivered the keynote address at the Saturday evening gala dinner! "We're very excited for this opportunity to bring together Wisconsin leaders in the LGBT and allied community and together strengthen the movement for equality," said Fair Wisconsin's Executive Director, Katie Belanger. "The addition of Mr. Bono, a nationally recognized leader in the LGBT community, highlights the importance of Wisconsin and our work to advance equality in our state."



Photos courtesy of Our Lives Magazine and Erin Baillies

FAIR WISCONSIN

6 We Raise Money to Give Back

"MAKING IT BETTER" FOR WISCONSIN YOUTH

Well-deserved attention has been given to the work of Dan Savage and others in developing the "It Gets Better" project. Conceived in response to the suicides of gay youth across the country who experienced bullying in their communities, video messages have been created by more than 10,000 individuals and/or groups in order to provide positive, encouraging messages to youth across the country to let them know that life does get better. Here in the Madison area, two events were developed to address the issue of bullying in our own backyard. TAPIT/new works, "Bullying: The Musical" and the University of Wisconsin LGBT Campus Center's "Break the Silence" were huge successes. New Harvest is proud to have been able to provide funding for these events:

\$3,500

Bullying: The Musical was a two-part project. The first part involved conducting "stop bullying" workshops with 1,500 students from elementary and middle schools in Madison and Sun Prairie. The words and stories of these students were then utilized to develop the play *Bullying: The Musical*, featuring eight young people, ranging in ages from 14-20. School audiences that attended the play were huge—nearly 1,500. The evening performance for the general population also was well-attended. The strength of this project is its timely and timeless message for people of any age. "Once you decide to help the bully inside you, you've got a direction. You can make new connections. You don't have to doubt there is a way out and through—straight to the real you." (lyric by Danielle Dresden). TAPIT/new works plans to produce a video of the production for distribution. They also plan to market their workshops and provide additional performances of the play to interested groups. For more information about *Bullying: The Musical*, go to www.tapitnewworks.org.

\$3,500

Break the Silence. The UW Foundation, in partnership with the University of Wisconsin's LGBT Campus Center, organized an event that sought to end bullying, stop the silence, and address the need for LGBTQ equality now. Although Mother Nature didn't prove to be an ally on April 15, over 600 people came out to take a stand against bullying, harassment, homophobia and transphobia in our schools and community. "Break the Silence", Wisconsin was a huge success and to see so many people gathering in the freezing rain and whipping winds was a clear indicator that there is a commitment in the state of Wisconsin to stop the silence that perpetuates violence and hatred. "Break the Silence" brought students together from across the state, not only for the day, but as part of a larger movement to address safety and climate issues in our schools.



Photos courtesy of Glenn Trudel

BULLYING: THE MUSICAL



Photo courtesy of Zhao Lim

BREAK THE SILENCE

We Raise Money to Give Back 7

OUT REACH LGBT SENIOR-SPECIFIC SENSITIVITY TRAINING FOR HEALTH CARE

\$1,500

Two lesbians (a retired social worker and a retired school administrator) led four very successful LGBT Senior-Specific Sensitivity trainings for health care professionals in Dane County through the OutReach LGBT Community Center. The coordinator (Caroline Werner) has experience working with Dane County seniors. At each training, several LGBT baby boomer and senior volunteers participated in the workshop presentations and a panel discussion.

The workshops (hosted at the Colonial Club Senior Center in Sun Prairie, the Madison Senior Center, HospiceCare in Fitchburg and at the Westside Club) drew 95 participants. They included case managers, counselors, care providers, nurses, ombudsmen, elder abuse personnel and agency heads. All participants received a certificate of attendance which could be used toward meeting their licensing requirements.

The majority of participants rated the trainings as very satisfactory, with comments such as: 1) "This is one of the best workshops I have ever been to!..." 2) Very interesting. Good information and statistics presented in a creative manner." 3) "Opened my eyes to look at things from a different perspective. Many take away points which will be put into action and increase service access for LGBT (clients)."

GAY STRAIGHT ALLIANCE FOR SAFE SCHOOLS (GSAFE) MAKE IT KNOWN PROJECT

\$3,500

In 2010, two new laws were passed in Wisconsin that had the potential to significantly improve the climate, curricula, and educational environment for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth in our public schools: The Healthy Youth Act, and an anti-bullying law that required the Department of Public Instruction to create a model anti-bullying policy for school districts to adopt or adapt. As with any new laws, these could only make change insofar as people knew they existed. The Make It Known project helped students, educators, and parents in Wisconsin see these new laws as tools they can use to create safer and more inclusive learning environments for LGBTQ students and their allies.



GSAFE



FALL RIVER SCHOOL DISTRICT'S OPERATION ACCEPTANCE

\$2,000

With a grant from New Harvest Foundation, the Fall River School District developed and implemented "Operation Acceptance". The district's Youth Against Drugs and Alcohol (YADAA) committee brought national safe schools advocate and public speaker Jamie Nabozny to speak to students about his experience growing up in small-town Wisconsin and his experiences being bullied as a gay youth. Prior to this project, emotional support for students that identified with the LGBTQ community was lacking and students felt misunderstood and alienated. YADAA is working to give these students the confidence to be themselves while educating the school community to appreciate other life choices and cultures. This is the beginning of what the Fall River School District hopes will be an ongoing effort to develop a supportive and accepting community for all students.

English and ATODA (Alcohol Tobacco and Other Drug Association) Coordinator Kim Biehl says "Operation Acceptance" reached beyond the Fall River School District. "We sent out e-mails to other area schools inviting their youth groups, student council, or even full grades of students. In addition to our 6-12th grade students, Rio, Columbus, Deerfield, Hustisford and Oregon brought students." In total, about 500 kids heard Jamie's anti-bullying, tolerance and diversity message.

Biehl says students were very well behaved and engaged. "During the question and answer portion, there was a steady stream of kids that wanted to talk to Jamie. After the official presentation, Jamie told the kids to brainstorm ways to implement his ideas in their schools."

Biehl also says, "Although there is no quantitative fashion to evaluate the success of Jamie's presentation as of yet, the students were talking about it for quite a few days after and there were several visits to the guidance office to get further information and to talk about personal problems. I believe that this is just the first step into changing the culture and giving kids the tools to be proud of their differences."



SENIOR-SPECIFIC HEALTHCARE TRAINING



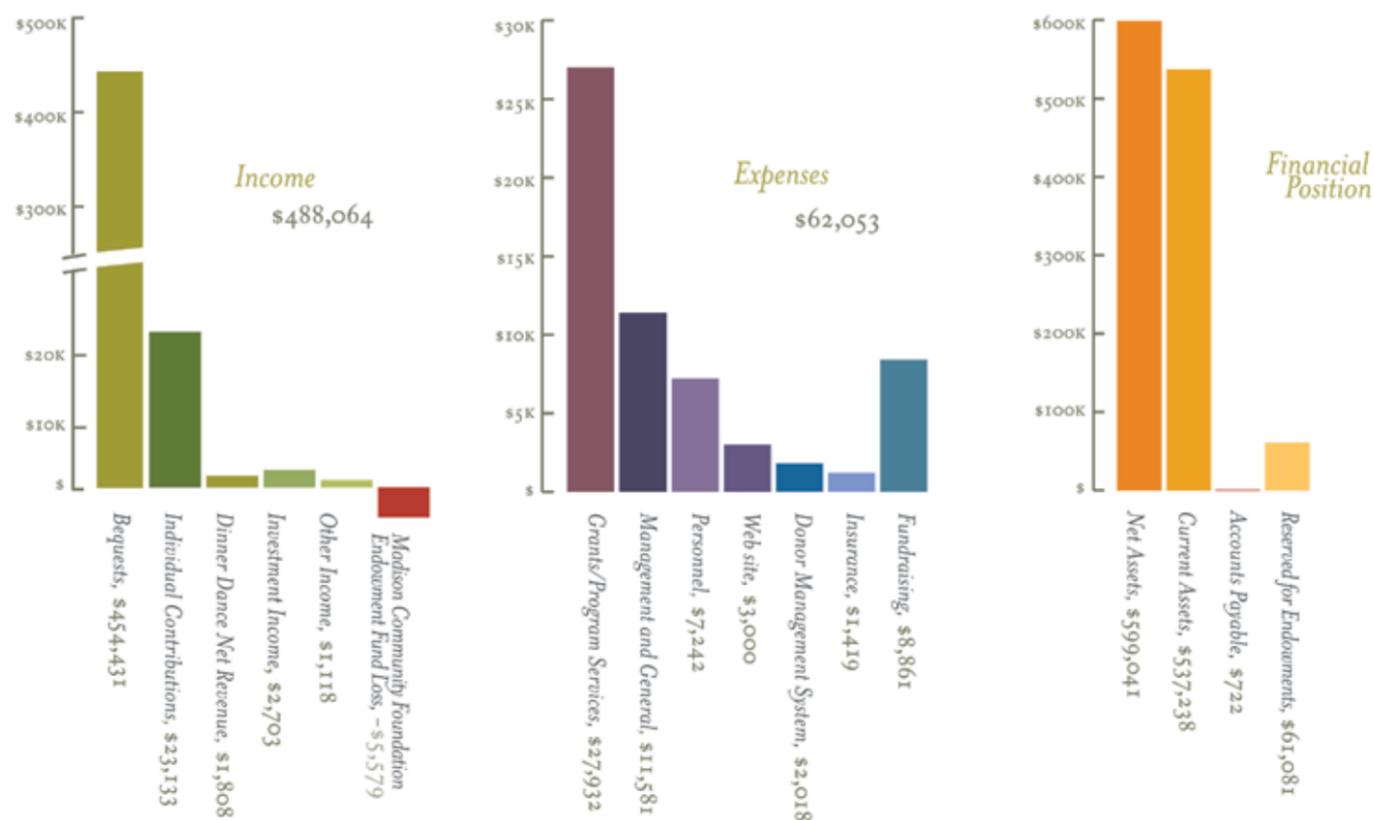
OPERATION ACCEPTANCE

Financials

Thanks to the generous support of our donors, New Harvest Foundation's financial position improved significantly during 2011. Certainly the contribution from the estate of Dr. Mark Hansen helped, but individual contributions increased 25% in 2011. With contributions up, the foundation was able to boost grant and program services 50%.

Management and general administrative expenses were up in 2011, due mostly to one-time expenses incurred to create a new web site and purchase new donor management software. The foundation continues to operate debt free and the endowment fund continues to grow. For more detailed information on New Harvest's financial position please find links to copies of our 990's on our web site (www.newharvestfoundation.org).

Thanks to your support, New Harvest's financial position is strong, allowing the foundation to fulfill its mission of supporting the LGBT communities of South Central Wisconsin for years to come.



Fundraising Initiatives

Events

The Annual Dinner Dance. This year's dinner dance theme—"Come to the Masquerade"—was well received. Dinner was great, the dance band was fantastic and everyone had a mask to fit the theme. An enthusiastic crowd created a flurry of bidding and socializing during the silent auction that occurred prior to dinner and the program. Both Mark Pocan & Tammy Baldwin attended this year's event and addressed the audience; both politicians provided a timely view of current LGBT issues on the local and national scenes. During cocktails and dinner, guests were treated to Terry Watters' lively piano renditions and after dinner, Lynette Margulies and Five Chairs No Waiting, had the Edgewater dining room rocking!

An Evening with Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society. For over 20 years, Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society has brought chamber music "with a bang" to the Madison area. This year, New Harvest joined Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society to provide a new fundraising event. Prior to the concert, former board member, John Beutel, hosted a pre-concert garden party with hors d'oeuvres and beverages to prepare attendees for the Friday evening concert at the spectacular Stoughton Opera House. New Harvest was pleased to partner with Bach Dancing & Dynamite Society to create an event that helped us raise money to fulfill our mission of supporting LGBT projects, initiatives and organizations in South Central Wisconsin.

Community Shares of Wisconsin

New Harvest Foundation is a member of Community Shares of Wisconsin (CSW)—your local connection with over 60 grassroots, nonprofit organizations that build social and economic equity and a healthy environment. CSW raises funds for its member agencies through workplace giving campaigns at over 100 private sector employers in the Madison area. Public sector employees can also contribute to Community Shares and its member groups through their Combined Campaign. When you designate New Harvest Foundation in your workplace giving campaign, we receive 100% of your contribution (none of it is kept for administrative purposes). By supporting Community Shares of Wisconsin, you join with other committed individuals who share your vision of a better world. For more information, please visit www.communityshares.com.

Planned Giving

Planned giving is an additional source of contributions. We are grateful for three benefactors who designated New Harvest in their wills. The first was Henry Dudek, who was one of the founders of New Harvest. The second was Bill Miller, who had served on the Board and offered his excellent photographic skills to the organization. In December of 2010, we were notified of a bequest from Dr. Mark Hansen which NHF received in 2011.

All of us are indebted to these persons who gave of themselves and whose commitment to justice continues beyond their life. New Harvest is willing to discuss with you arrangements for preparing a will that reflects your wishes to have your influence continue beyond your lifetime. Please contact us to help define your legacy of support for our LGBT communities, now and for the future.

GIVE TO NEW HARVEST

Donate

You can make a cash contribution, attend a New Harvest Foundation event, enroll in an electronic funds transfer program, and/or include us in your will.

Volunteer

Give the gift of your time! There are many opportunities to become involved with New Harvest—join a committee, help plan or volunteer at an event. Contact us to see how you can help!

Serve

We are currently looking for energetic people to join our Board of Directors. Contact us to find out how your skills and expertise can be utilized to empower and support the LGBT communities of South Central Wisconsin.

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feature



THIS

I believe

Glimpse the inner spirit of **GSAFE 2012 Educator of the Year** **Abra Bankendorf Vigna** to understand how she helps LGBTQ teens find their balance and embrace their strengths as group facilitator of Teens Like Us.

I believe in the power of our stories.

I believe that our stories of how and why structure our experiences of the world. Moreover, I believe that we each possess limitless power over our stories and thus our experiences of the world. If your story of how the world works and your place in it does not leave you excited to be a part of the world, then that story does not serve you. In that case, you owe it to yourself to explore alternative versions of the story of “why,” and to be open to revisions until you have a story that fills you with comfort, hope, wonder, and gratitude.



Out Professional and Executive Network

member profile



NAME:
Rhonda Lanford
TITLE:
Shareholder
EMPLOYER:
Habush Habush & Rottier S.C.

Rhonda Lanford is proud to be one of the newest board members of OPEN. She is a shareholder at Habush Habush & Rottier S.C., and has been representing injured people and their families in Wisconsin circuit courts for over 16 years. Rhonda has been active in the LGBT community for many years, and she is currently a candidate for Dane County Circuit Court Judge Branch 16, with an upcoming election on April 2, 2013.



NOVEMBER 15 - 5:30 - 7:30

Networking & Art at Edgewood's NEW Visual & Theatre Arts Center

JANUARY 31, 2013

OPEN's Annual Dinner at Union South. Keynote by **Craig Samitt**, President & CEO of Dean Health System

OPEN's VISION AND MISSION

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

Our mission is to connect and create LGBTQ leaders in the capital region.

We do this through:

- Professional development
- Corporate & community outreach
- Networking
- Mentoring programs

openmadison.org

WHAT'S TRENDING [FAMILIES]

donor egg banks have been established to improve access and minimize unexpected events that can occur with fresh egg donation as part of a synchronized egg donation cycle. We look forward to assisting couples and individuals interested in this exciting new technology in the near future.

Alternative & Preventive Care for Pets



RUFUS DUMONDE
LAURA ANDERSON

The role of pets in our lives has changed since the days of our parents and grandparents. Dogs and cats have become more than simply pets. They've become family. Alternative and preventive healthcare are becoming the choice of healthcare not only for people themselves, but also for their pets. Grooming has proven to be good for a pet's health. Regular visits can assure that your pet's coat stays clean and mat-free. Also, your groomers pay close attention to your pet's skin and fur and will point out anything worrisome that may suggest a trip to the veterinarian. A trip to the grooming salon has become an integral part of a healthful routine. The grooming tools and equipment are safer than ever, and there is a greater impetus to make your pet's visit a stress-free and even fun experience.

More Same-Sex Couples as Clients



WEGNER CPAS
MIKE SCHOLZ, CPA, MST, TAX DIRECTOR

CPAs and tax consultants have seen an increase in same-sex couples demanding tax preparation and consulting expertise. The current federal tax system provides certain tax advantages skewed in favor of traditional family households that are not available to same-sex couples and their families. Until the current definition of joint filers is expanded to include same-sex or other non-traditional unions, taxpayers should review existing tax return strategies that take advantage of the nuances in the tax laws. For instance, understanding which parent in a same-sex household may claim deductions and tax credits (child credit or adoption credits) can generate significant savings. Looking forward in the next five years, we expect same-sex couples and LGBTQ people to finally enjoy favorable equitable tax and property law changes that will impact the disposition of retirement assets and property ownership as federal and state laws are updated to recognize the needs of all citizens.

People of Faith Advocating for LGBTQ people



PFLAG
KAY HEGGSTAD, M.D., NATIONAL BOARD MEMBER, VOLUNTEER REGIONAL DIRECTOR, THE MADISON CHAPTER PAST PRESIDENT

I've been a member of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) for lots of years. Our 40-year-old organization has done some really special things in the past but they topped themselves this summer with the Straight for Equality in Faith Communities program. This program reaches out to the LGBTQ and straight church-going populations to enlist their help in changing attitudes towards LGBTQ youth and families. People want to be helpful, but they don't know how, and they are frequently not sure if their help is even wanted. The program tells them they are very wanted and needed, then gives them the tools to go to their clergy and lay leaders and help them on their journey to create welcoming and affirming places of worship—and eventually lead them into advocacy. The starter booklet and other materials may be viewed and downloaded from www.straightforequality.org/faith.

At around age 13, most brains begin developing the capacities for perspective-taking and life-story-writing that are considered hallmarks of adult functioning. The dawning of these developments is overwhelming. People struggle significantly with the enormous task of writing a new story and/or adapting the ones they are given—if and when they have access to sufficient resources/privileges that allow them to contend with these new capacities rather than remain absorbed with issues of basic survival.

It is both a privilege and an honor to be in a position to support and aid young people as they begin the hard work of engaging with their stories. Sometimes our stories are awesome, but more often, and particularly for LGBTQ youth, our stories are painful. I believe that many, if not most, of us try our best not to tell a story of shameful certainty that there is something inherently flawed inside of us. Sometimes the shameful storyline involves the belief that we are permanently damaged by our specific traumas. Sometimes it is an unshakable and unbearable conviction that we are simply not enough: not good enough, not smart enough, not talented enough, not attractive enough, etc.

Contrary to this commonly reinforced story, I believe that we are each sufficient unto our own joy. In other words, I believe we are each enough.

However, our consumer- and hierarchy-based power structures are reliant upon a populace that accepts and perpetuates stories of its own inadequacies, and one of the main stories that we use to police ourselves and others is about how we fall short of allegedly biologically and therefore divinely essentialized ideals of manhood and womanhood (and that those are the only possibilities).

The various context-specific details of one another's inadequacy create much despair within and denigration among those who balk at the very heart of gender norms: members of the LGBTQ community. I believe that, whatever your community, the less you conform to your community's expectations of what it means to be a man or a woman, the more your very existence calls into question the truth as your community tells it.

I believe that within most communities is a strong, pervasive, and very well-guarded story that to be feminine is to be weak, and that this is undesirable. This story is delimiting and destructive to all people, not just to those who are either dominantly feminine-identified or expressive. Al-

Supporting young people is an inherently challenging—and often frustrating—endeavor, which means it is also work that is brimming with immense possibility for healing, inspiration, and growth for everyone involved.

though the queer community resists owning this, I believe that such disdain for the feminine is a story that serves as a palpable organizing principle that structures power and possibility within this community as well.

Further, I believe that we oppress one another with stories of different identities' inherent limitations and inadequacies. These stories keep us caged and afraid and ultimately maintain the status quo of power differentials that are stratified by categories of race and class. This domination-based certainty that only the people who possess the desirable characteristics can or should have access to resources (such as power) is the cause of much individual suffering. These dynamics silently fragment our relationships with ourselves, and therefore each other. However, I believe that by changing the self, we produce change in the world.

I believe that it is wholly possible to integrate all parts of the self, and by proxy, to transform and transcend many experiences of suffering (at least for periods of time). In this pursuit, I believe in the healing power of: releasing judgment for the self and others, practicing gratitude and limit-



less curiosity in place of judgment, focusing on the breath and the present moment, and holding space for the entirety of each other's experiences.

I believe in holding space for one another.

Holding space for one another can take many forms. Sometimes it looks like listening with openness and acceptance for what the other has to say. Sometimes it looks like giving the topics to which we commonly assign shame a place of honor and therefore value and relevance in our daily lives. Topics like sex, sexual violence, gender identity, sexuality, and coping mechanisms punctuate transformative moments in almost everyone's life, and there are too few venues that welcome these topics in normalizing, inclusive, or life-affirming ways.

I believe that celebrating expressions of unfettered and unabashed silliness, joy, or grief is a profoundly transformative act. Recognizing and accepting one's own fallibilities in finding common humanity in those you enjoy the least and in extending compassion in every direction, but to the self first and foremost, are practices that offer the foundation for creating a more nourishing experience in the world.

I believe that every person needs at least one individual in their life story (preferably many people) who they believe sees them as they are and nonetheless holds them in unconditional positive regard*, and the best person for this job is yourself.

I believe the simple act of bearing witness to each other's lives without rejection is the core function of family.

If it is not part of your story to have this need met by members of your family of origin, you will be provided with opportunities to find it elsewhere. Youth groups are one possible place to seek and find community and/or chosen family to fulfill this function, and to learn how to provide this sort of unconditional positive regard for yourself. At the end of the

[YOUTH] WHAT'S TRENDING

Youth

LGBTQ youth and their families are fortunate these days to have access to a much broader range of support, resources, and services. More and more, organizations and institutions are specializing in serving LGBTQ clients, rather than having services to our community be an afterthought.

Restorative Approaches to Discipline



GSA FOR SAFE SCHOOLS (GSAFE)
BRIAN J., DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS

Oftentimes when we think about stopping the harassment of LGBTQ youth in schools, people jump to harsher discipline and zero-tolerance policies as a "solution." However, zero-tolerance policies are having negative effects on LGBTQ youth and youth of color. When schools don't effectively address harassment and violence directed at LGBTQ youth, targeted students can feel left with no other option but to resort to violence to protect themselves—and then face punishment. This leads to many LGBTQ youth and youth of color being pushed out of schools and fails to address the root of the problem. GSAFE would like to see schools adopt more restorative approaches to discipline. Additionally, we need "gender identity and expression" added to Wisconsin's Pupil Non-Discrimination Law. Our most frequent call is from parents or educators wondering how to create inclusive and safe schools for young transgender or gender non-conforming students. We want to see the passage of laws and the development of procedures to guide

Diverse and Resilient is committed to the healthy development of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in Wisconsin. We envision a state where we thrive & live satisfying lives.

Diverse and Resilient Youth Services

serves as a catalyst to help LGBT youth groups get started and continue to thrive by providing subcontracts to program partners, consultations, and leadership training and coaching. We promote health and prevent risks through several innovative programs and initiatives.



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WHAT'S TRENDING [YOUTH]

educators and administrators in creating schools where these young people can thrive.

Peer-based Education



ATLAS COUNSELING, LLC
ALEXANDER C. EINSMAN, MS MFT

LGBTQ youth are resilient seeds of change in our diverse community. As adults, we must cultivate their strengths during adolescence, as it is a pivotal point in human development. I have had the privilege of working with LGBTQ youth at Briarpatch and in the Teens Like Us youth group. This provided me with the opportunity to observe how an affirming atmosphere can foster growth, leading to an enhanced sense of personal identity and self-esteem. Peer-based education allows youth to build confidence by teaching other youth about important topics such as LGBTQ education, healthy relationships, and safety. More and more families are engaged in or completing the journey of acceptance for their LGBTQ members. When family and community encourage our youth to achieve, we are nourishing the future of the LGBTQ community.

Inclusion, Support, and Safety



MADISON METROPOLITAN SCHOOL DISTRICT
LIZ LUSK, GLBTQ PROGRAM SUPPORT

For some time now, our efforts to support LGBTQ youth have emphasized gay, lesbian, bisexual, and questioning youth with little view toward implications for queer youth who identify as transgender and gender non-conforming. Education around the country is now looking at

day, it is because of a desire to provide access to such connection that I have remained in the realm of youth work for as long as I have (nine years and counting). Supporting young people is an inherently challenging—and often frustrating—endeavor, which means it is also work that is brimming with immense possibility for healing, inspiration, and growth for everyone involved.

Working with young people means working with their life story in its current draft. It is a labor of infusing that life-story writing and revising with fearlessness, hope, determination, celebration, and humility. Although the role of the youth worker alternates among that of educator, coach, cheerleader, mentor, crisis worker, or babysitter, it is always ultimately that of possible life story role model.

I believe that my greatest impact on the lives of the youth I have served will be found not in the resonance of my words, but in the sharing of my life story.

My biggest impact will be in sharing a draft of my life story that integrates experiences of violence, hatred, and despair with experiences of forgiveness, generosity, and delight. My story and how I tell it in my movements through the world subvert the idea that people who strongly embody feminine energy are vapid, vain, uncritical, naïve, or powerless. I believe that through sharing the process of writing and revising my many stories in an open and reflective manner, I am validating an alternative definition of strength.

I believe there is no final draft, no certainty, and no one truth to uncover. I believe the quest to uncover the self has no end, because we are ever-changing and always true. Plotting your life course is not necessarily a process of following a map or a specific path. Rather, we are like comets, ever streaming forward, pulled in one direction and then another by the gravity of other celestial bodies we find ourselves drawn to on our journey.

More and more, I believe that the point of life is to revel in your own creation. I believe that we create our experiences of our lives through our stories and that when we feel free to self-determine, we feel the most capable, satisfied, and enchanted with life itself.

I believe that the draft we choose to share with the world at any given time is our offering, and that that this offering is at best a mirror of what we each are capable of. Or, at least, that is my story, and I am sticking to it (pending my next revision, that is).

* Note: Unconditional positive regard is not a state of boundarylessness or unaccountability. Rather, unconditional positive regard is the sentiment that no matter what you do or say to me or to the world, I believe you are deserving of love and connection. It means supporting one another when we make decisions others cannot fathom, trusting that others know what pain they need to cause themselves on their journey, and most of all, holding on to your kindness if and when it is necessary to dissolve or reformulate a relationship. HOWEVER, unconditional positive regard is not relevant in life-threatening situations/relationships. When someone's behavior threatens someone else's existence, this is called a crisis situation, and a totally different set of behaviors and responses to one another are appropriate in situations of survival.

About Teens Like Us

Abra Bankendorf Vigna is an LBGQT Youth Group Facilitator for Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin, Teens Like Us—Madison. Teens Like Us (TLU) is social, educational, and supportive youth group that has been providing safe spaces for Madison-area youth (ages 13–19) to feel safe, explore their identities, find similar others, and learn important life skills for over 20 years. Run by two dedicated group facilitators, adult volunteers, and Youth Health Promoters, TLU welcomes close to 100 new

youth to group each year, and provides both formal and informal outreach to upwards of 300 youth a year. TLU focuses on developing healthy interpersonal relationship skills, communication skills, and stress-management skills, and instilling safer-sex practices in their group members as well as in the larger Madison community.

Teens Like Us Alumni: Looking Back, Looking Forward



JAMES SCHOENEMANN The dedicated TLU group facilitators gave me the necessary tools to safely cope with the transphobia and homophobia that most queer youth experience on a regular basis. They also gave me the confidence, self-esteem, and life skills I needed to survive and to prepare me for adulthood. If it weren't for this group, I would have probably gotten into lots of trouble, dropped out of high school, or committed suicide.



KAT MILLER Being a part of TLU sustained a part of my soul that needed nourishment at such a crucial period of growth. I didn't go looking for anything in particular, but eventually I realized that I was surrounded by people who understood the unique problems and emotions that an LGBTQ youth has, and I felt valued for (and not despite) being the person I was. I never let go of that standard.



EMMA ZELDIN TLU helped me come out and feel confident in my sexuality. It also introduced me to struggles aside from my own (racism, transphobia, etc.). I was given many leadership positions that helped me get jobs in queer spaces later on in college.

[YOUTH] WHAT'S TRENDING

how to better include all LGBTQ youth and families. For example, a work group from schools that have taken leading roles with supportive policies and procedures is meeting this winter to discuss to how to share these policies more broadly throughout the country. Districts are also expanding curriculum to prevent gender bullying and discrimination at all age levels. Staff are being trained to respond to gendered bullying in a way that stops the negative behavior but also increases our youths' understanding of why this is important, rather than simply punishing and excluding students who bully.

All these efforts should provide much greater inclusion, support, and safety for all students and their families.

Flexible Learning Formats



MADISON COLLEGE
BERNIE HOES, CHAIR—ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

As the economy rebounds, now is the time to re-tool, and in some cases, rebuild your professional credentials for a changing workplace. At Madison College, displaced and dislocated workers, returning adults, recent college grads, and veterans are taking advantage of courses offered in an accelerated (six-week classes) format or taking courses completely online. Currently, learners are pursuing accelerated degrees and certificates in fields such as business management, marketing, and human resources, to name a few. Online learners are pursuing coursework in areas such as supervisory management, business software, and administrative professional. These flexible learning options provide you the opportunity to pursue a career change while balancing other day-to-day responsibilities.

1,055 Dane County children don't know where they'll sleep tonight



Dion and Jasmine
Madison

United Way's Housing First strategy stabilizes twice as many families as the traditional shelter system - at half the cost.

There's work to be done.

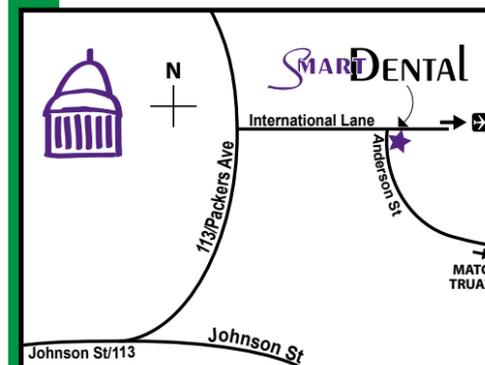
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Tamim Sifri, DDS

Layers of Experience



UW-MADISON LGBT CAMPUS CENTER
GABRIEL C. JAVIER, DIRECTOR, ASSISTANT DEAN OF STUDENTS

How and when students come out will continue to be a central part of the work of LGBT campus centers—but what is changing is the complexity of the stories and experiences. Students are finding support systems through Gay-Straight Alliances in high schools, and they often add layers to their experiences by exploring their multiple, intersecting identities in college. What this means is that we are constantly looking for role models and mentors for students who can speak to a spectrum of experiences and intersecting identities. Particularly when we are talking about LGBTQ people of color, people of faith, and people who identify across the gender identity/expression spectrum, we are constantly seeking models of success to show young people ways to thrive.



Gay-Straight Alliances and Similar Clubs

DANE COUNTY - A Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) is a club where students can talk about issues of sexual orientation and gender identity and work on projects to advocate for social change. The following information was provided by GSAFE, the Gay Straight Alliance for Safe Schools. GSAFE increases the capacity of LGBTQ youth and students, educational staff, and families to create school environments where all LGBTQ youth and students thrive. gsafewi.org

1. **Deerfield High School** – Tolerance, Respect, Equality, Education (TREE)
2. **DeForest High School** – Gay-Straight Alliance
3. **Madison Blackhawk Middle School** – Gay-Straight Alliance
4. **Madison Cherokee Middle School** – Gay-Straight Alliance
5. **Madison East High School** – Gay-Straight Alliance
6. **Madison La Follette High School** – Gay-Straight Alliance
7. **Madison Memorial High School** – Gay-Straight Alliance
8. **Madison O’Keeffe Middle School** – Gay-Straight Alliance
9. **Madison Sennett Middle School** – Gay-Straight Alliance
10. **Madison Sherman Middle School** – Gay-Straight Alliance
11. **Madison West High School** – Gay-Straight Alliance
12. **Madison Whitehorse Middle School** – Gay-Straight Alliance
13. **McFarland High School** – Gay-Straight Alliance
14. **McFarland Middle School** – Gay-Straight Alliance
15. **Middleton High School** – Alliance for LGBT Equality
16. **Monona Grove High School** – Gay-Straight Alliance
17. **Mount Horeb High School** – Straight And Gay Alliance (SAGA)
18. **Oregon High School** – Gay-Straight Alliance
19. **Sun Prairie High School** – Gay-Straight Alliance

On the Social-Support Aspect of GSAs...



SUN PRAIRIE HIGH SCHOOL
MONICA WAGNER, GSA ADVISOR

In my role as a school counselor, I see kids struggle with so many issues. One of the biggest struggles I see is coming out to friends and family.



play & learn

Steve Mendez is helping to change the lives of young people, one adventure at a time.

Steve's concept sketch (right) of the play area at East Towne Mall, and the finished project (above).



Play and Learn at East Towne

Leadership at East Towne Mall approached United Way in 2010 with interest in building a play area with a community-focused element. I worked with my team and East Towne to secure the annual sponsorship of Oscar Mayer, which is committed to promoting healthy lifestyles through play. With the additional support of CUNA Mutual Group and Alliant Energy, the site now hosts two formal Play and Learn sessions per month, led by initiative partner Children's Service Society of Wisconsin. Outside these sessions, however, the space needed to offer self-guided educational play for children and their parents. This is one feature where the area is really different from others.

I modeled the play area, which is open to children during regular mall hours, after our Born Learning Trails, which are outdoor self-guided play trails in local parks. They encourage parent-child interaction in the form of storytelling; imagination; identification of letters, numbers, and things in nature; and movement. I designed an actual "dirt" trail into the carpet and used the alphabet to guide kids and parents around the area. Familiar animals and letter blocks dot the trail, and a tree climber in the middle adds visual height. Interactive panels ask parents to engage their children in talk and movement. Hopscotch adds in numbers. By bringing the outdoors in, we created a space where kids can play and learn "outside," even when it's too cold in the winter or too hot in the summer.

To learn more, go to unitedwaydanecounty.org/born-learning. ■

PHOTOGRAPHED BY ERIC BAILLIES

Creating a space where students can be themselves and give back to others by advocating for anti-discrimination practices is an important part of this process. Even if students never set foot in a GSA meeting, I truly believe that its mere existence is comforting to those who might not yet have the courage to admit to themselves or others that they may be LGBTQ.

On the Educational Aspect of GSAs...



MCFARLAND HIGH SCHOOL
JEFF KUNKLE

Last year, our school's administrative team and the GSA met in order to discuss the implementation of transgender-inclusive instruction in the classroom. Our students, often a rather playful bunch, were extremely serious, focused, and professional, asking important questions and advocating effectively for the needs of our school's transgender students. As a result of our efforts, we are in the process of revising the health class curriculum to include transgender issues.

On the Advocacy Aspect of GSAs...



OREGON HIGH SCHOOL
JOAN KARLS

Our GSA does some amazing activities, including Day of Silence, Words Hurt Week, and hosting a movie night for local schools. We even adopted a section of the highway to clean up. So I believe they are spreading the word of tolerance and acceptance through their actions and involvement in school and community programs.

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Our History by Richard Wagner

Diversionsary Tactics

J. Edgar Hoover and the 1940s war on sex crimes in Wisconsin.



A recent biopic of J. Edgar Hoover, longtime director of the FBI, focused on his same-sex relationship with Clyde Tolson. The questions about Hoover's sexuality, however, go back to the 1930s and 1940s. Much of the questioning was in cod-

ed language noting he "dresses fastidiously" or his "mincing step." Charles E. Morris III, in an article in the *Quarterly Journal of Speech* 2009 entitled "Pink Herring & the Fourth Person: J. Edgar Hoover's Sex Crime Panic," argues that Hoover's attack on sex crimes was to distract attention from his homosexuality. If Hoover staged an attack on sex deviants, then it would follow that he was not one himself.

Hoover's first diverting attack occurred in 1937 in the *New York Herald Tribune* magazine section with a featured article that had the screaming headline "War On the Sex Criminal." Describing the enemy of this war as "the sex fiend," and as "the most loathsome member of the vast crime army," Hoover also called for a study to determine "to what extent the recently widespread use of marijuana, or American hashish, has been responsible for the sex crime." Hoover urged "a high state of public vigilance and indignation."

Yet, Hoover avoided explicit suggestion that homosexuals were part of this vast army. The concern was expressed mainly in terms of "a sinister threat to the safety of American childhood and womanhood." Americans dealing with the aftermath of the Depression and looming war clouds in Europe did not take up Hoover's proposed war.

In July 1947, Hoover relaunched his war with an article in *American Magazine*—this time entitled "How safe is your daughter?" Clearly, this time he was focusing attention on the heterosexual

sex criminal. Again inflammatory terms such as "sex maniacs," "sex fiend," "degenerates run wild," and "depraved human beings, more savage than beasts" were sprinkled around. His opening line was, "The most rapidly increasing type of crime is that perpetrated by degenerate sex offenders."

Hoover also started to use the language of the medical profession about sex criminals, noting some had "crystallized psychopathic traits." He also discussed withholding parole from sex offenders "until the members of a board of compe-



J. Edgar Hoover with his rumored lover, Clyde Tolson.

tent medical authorities are willing to certify that the wrongdoer had been under successful medical observation and treatment." He also indicated, "No judge should ever agree to letting them come to trial without first being subjected to medical and psychiatric examination."

The national effort to engage in a war on sex crimes was greatly furthered by an article with a cover lead, "What Can We Do About Sex Crimes?" in *The Saturday Evening Post* of December 11, 1948 by author David G. Wittels. Again, a feature was the "psychopathic personality, sometimes known as constitutional psychopathic inferior." An estimate of "these creatures" was that "tens of thousands of them" were loose in the country. Again the focus was on women and children being at risk.

Wittels was building an argument for "the scientific isolation of such people." He quoted a psychiatrist for the Municipal Court of Philadelphia, "When they are detected—and this usually can be done early in life—we should put them away for their own good and the good of society." Noting that some jurisdictions had laws dealing with "so called 'sexual psychopaths,'" Wittels faulted these laws for not allowing the commitment before they "committed overt crimes."

While Hoover might have focused on sex deviates as a deflecting strategy from homosexual

speculation, once the ball was rolling there was no telling where it would go. David K. Johnson in *The Lavender Scare: the Cold War Persecution of Gays and Lesbians in the Federal Government*, has noted, "'Sexual psychopath' was an ambiguous term, but one that frequently was conflated with 'homosexual,' since most observers assumed that homosexuals were sick, could not control themselves, and needed to recruit new members to their ranks."

In Wisconsin, this would be the case. The Wisconsin press covered Hoover's call for a war on sex crimes and joined in. *The Wisconsin State Journal* blared, "Hoover Asks Sex Crime War." The *Oshkosh Daily Northwestern* had an editorial entitled, "Drive on Sex Crimes." *The Sheboygan Press* would print a letter from State Senator Gus Buchen talking about, "The recent wave of so-called 'sex crimes' in Wisconsin and elsewhere..." *The Milwaukee Journal* that year editorialized that "sex crimes seem to be increasing in Wisconsin."

An earlier incident in the state had stoked the fires of sex-crime panic. On September 23, 1946, the *Milwaukee Sentinel* headlined, "Amnesty for Sex Convict Stirs Wrath of Law Here." The story was that the Milwaukee sheriff and the acting Milwaukee police chief were outspoken in their disapproval of an action by Acting Governor Walter Goodland. Goodland had reduced the sentence of a 50-year-old man from 25 years to 10 years. The man had been convicted in municipal court of two counts of taking indecent liberties with a minor and one count of sodomy. Contrary testimony threw doubt on one of the charges and was weighed by the governor. The sheriff noted the action would "give encouragement to other sex criminals." Presumably this was because 10 years would be thought of as nothing. The acting police chief wanted to emphasize that "sex crimes frequently account for a third of the total crime listed in the department's daily report." The sheriff noted that the Metropolitan Commission on Crime Prevention was preparing a bill for the next legislature for segregating sex criminals.

Wisconsin State Senator Bernhard Gettelman, a Republican from Milwaukee, not even waiting for Hoover, plunged ahead and introduced to the 1947 legislature a Wisconsin Sexual Psychopath Law on April 3: Senate Bill 486, which was referred to the Committee on Education and Public Welfare. The *Wisconsin Sheriff Magazine*, in reporting on the law, noted the sponsorship of the legislation by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Crime Prevention Commission. The Senate, composed of 22 Republicans, six Democrats, and five Progressives, passed its version on May 13 with no "nay" votes recorded. The Assembly passed a revised version June 19. After some more tinkering, the bill was signed by Acting Governor Goodland on July 30 and published August 1. The bill defined a sexual psychopath not by acts but by mental state. Such a person was one "suffering from condition of emotional instability or impulsiveness of behavior

... as to render a person irresponsible for his conduct with respect to sexual matters and thereby dangerous to himself and to other persons."

Under the law, one did not have to commit any sexual crime—an actual overt act—to fall under its purview. When facts were presented to a district attorney about a possible sexual psychopath, the district attorney could petition a court for a hearing. The accused could have defense counsel, and two doctors were to examine the accused. The court could then determine if the accused was a sexual psychopath. If found to be so, he was committed to an institution designated by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors. The legislature had been told during the consideration of the law that a Milwaukee institution could deal with such persons.

Senator Gettelman's purpose behind the law came to light in a story in the *Madison Capital Times* of February 7, 1945, with a similar bill he proposed in the previous session. The story was headlined, "Offer Bill Aimed at Homosexuals." The story noted that although the bill only mentioned psychopathic personalities, "Gettelmann said it was aimed at homosexuals who he claimed were prevalent in Milwaukee and other cities."

A hearing on the proposed 1945 bill before the Senate Committee on State and Local Government was reported by the *Capital Times* on February 22, 1945. The bill was noted as permitting confinement of "confirmed sodomists" for either treatment or permanent isolation. Speaking for the bill were Milwaukee Police Chief Kluchesky and Dane County District Attorney Maloney. The Milwaukee chief noted that in his jurisdiction "alone since 1938 a total of 871 men had been convicted of sodomy with the number increasing from 72 in 1938 to 198 in 1944." The chief said in Milwaukee "the sodomists hang around the theaters and make advances to high school youths as well as finding people of their own kind." Kluchesky said, "We want to take these confirmed sodomists out of circulation and either cure them or isolate them." The Dane County District Attorney was reported saying, "We have the same problem in Madison only here they congregate in the capitol park and not the theaters."

Maloney was noted as saying, "Progress had been made in treating such persons, especially by the army, and if the sodomist were institutionalized the state could follow through with the work started by the army." Police Chief McCormick of Madison registered in favor of the bill on behalf of the Wisconsin Police Chiefs' Association. Only one person opposed the bill at the hearing, citizen lobbyist Miss Gladly Walsh of Madison.

Some would later claim that confinement as a sex criminal without having committed a sex crime but merely because one was determined a sexual psychopath raised constitutional issues. But constitutional issues were not a strong point for Senator Gettelman. An example is the provi-

sion in the Constitution against cruel and unusual punishments. The *Milwaukee Journal* of November 18, 1947 carried a headline "Ask Whipping for Sex Crime." Sen. Gettelman was proposing the creation of state whipping posts for certain crimes. The *Wisconsin State Journal* story the next day characterized him as advocating "whipping-post justice." If the good senator had thought about S/M devotees, he may not have viewed the proposed punishment in the same light.

"The sodomists hang around the theaters and make advances to high school youths as well as finding people of their own kind." Kluchesky said, "We want to take these confirmed sodomists out of circulation and either cure them or isolate them."

One of the advocates for the sexual psychopath law of 1947 was *The Milwaukee Journal*. Over a period of several years, the paper carried dozens of editorials about the law and its implementation. The terms used included "slaves of lust" and "menace of sex perverts" which danced in its pages.

For *The Milwaukee Journal*, homosexuals were part of the problem as the paper proved in its editorial comments. In 1946, the *Journal* editorialized about "Sex Crimes in Milwaukee." The paper cited

Police Chief Polcyn on "the growing menace of the rapist and the sex pervert in the community." The editorial praised the efforts of the Milwaukee crime commission for its proposal, "which would make it possible to commit the overt homosexual to a special institution, not for a term but until cured." In March 1947, supporting the bill introduced by Sen. Gettelman, it editorialized, "It is the only hope for ending the vicious attacks on girls and young women and the corruption of boys and young men which are becoming an increasing problem." In another March editorial, it supported institutionalizing the sexual psychopath even if "the commitment might mean for life." In June, again pushing for the law, the paper illustrated the need by citing a mother whose son had been molested by a man still at large after having been reported.

Even after the law was passed, the *Journal* was hoping that homosexuals would be caught in its net of permanent isolation. The paper, in an editorial on "Wisconsin and 'Big Bill' Tilden" noted the unsatisfactory outcome of short sentences. Tilden, a famous tennis player of the 1920s, had been sentenced in 1949 to one year on a road gang for molesting a 16-year-old at a time when he was on parole for a similar moral offense from 1946.

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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Boo and His Dads

Breeds: English Springer Spaniel/American Blue Heeler
Age: 1.5 years
Family: Justin Krause & Scott Brown

Boo, where did you meet Scott and Justin? I met my dads at the Dane County Humane Society.

Boo, what kind of family member is Scott? Justin? **Scott:** He's a pushover. I can usually get whatever I want from him; he lets me sit on his lap (even though I'm a bit big to be a lap dog), and he takes me on long walks in the evening. **Justin:** He's the pack master; he keeps me in line (although sometimes he lets me roughhouse in the house), teaches me lots of tricks, and takes me running.

Scott and Justin, what kind of family member is Boo? He's a working dog! The schedule at our house it set by Boo: it revolves around mealtime, walk time, playtime, and nap time. Everything else is secondary. He is like an activities director in that way.

Boo, what is your favorite toy? Tennis balls (I LOVE TENNIS BALLS!) are my favorite, followed closely by American Antler Dog Chews.

Boo, what are your must-have treats? Any treat is my must-have treat. I must have treats! All my treats come from bad dog frida, unless one of my grandmas sneaks me something I'm not supposed to have.

Scott and Justin, how does Boo meet your needs? Boo is a great focus for our different energies. He's one of the most good-natured, friendly companions one could ask for. He's a constant source of unconditional love. Boo is such a character that he keeps us entertained and laughing. He's a great reminder of what is really important in life.

Boo, how do Scott and Justin meet your needs? They are my best friends; they keep me clean, fed, exercised, and looking good. They provide endless entertainment and make sure I'm happy and content!

If dogs could talk, what would you say? "Start each day with excitement and a wagging tail, celebrate mealtimes, and eat with gusto—having enough to eat is a blessing. Get out and explore your neighborhood, approach strangers as potential friends and playmates, and always leave your mark wherever you go so those who come after you know you were there."

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Parental Rights

Is a contract to create a family and exclude the birth mother enforceable?
Linda Balisle considers a case examining this question.

The only certainty for same-sex couples who want to create a family is that their children are not born “by accident.” Children of same-sex couples are deeply wanted, planned for, and sometimes contracted for. Whether these contracts can be enforced is a question Wisconsin’s Court of Appeals has recently asked our Supreme Court to answer.

In the current case before the court, two heterosexual couples contracted for one of the wives to have a child for her childhood



and threatened divorce. The surrogate mother states that she was concerned about the stability of their marriage. After the child’s birth, the surrogate mother allowed the child to live with the father, but refused to waive her parental rights.

The father and his wife remained married. Despite their continued marriage, the surrogate mother refused to honor her original agreement to waive her parental rights. In a court hearing, the surrogate mother was awarded limited placement with the child for a few hours every couple of weeks. The father and his wife appealed, requesting the court to enforce the contract. Everyone agreed the child, now about two years old, was doing well with the father and his wife.

Absent a written agreement, the law would be clear. The biological father and biological mother would be presumed to have equal custodial rights to the child, and the child would have rights to physical placement with both parents. The question is whether biological parents and “intended parents” can contract these rights away.

The intention of these parents was clear:

“WHEREAS, Carrier is a married adult resident of the State of Wisconsin, has five (5) children, does not desire nor intend to parent any additional children, and desires to take part in the insemination procedure in which Carrier will serve as a carrier for Parents in order to fulfill Parents’ desire to parent a child and their desire to retain full care, custody, and control of, and responsibility for, this child; and Parents will accept custody of and assert full parental rights and responsibilities to Child immediately upon Child’s birth, regardless of any impairment of Child ...

The parties will perform any and all acts and execute any and all documents deemed helpful to vest Child’s legal custody and physical placement in Parents and to ensure that Parents’ names are placed on Child’s birth certificate ... Parents will have physical placement of Child immediately upon Child’s birth and Child will be placed with Parents upon Child’s release from the hospital. Carrier and Husband waive any and all claims to parentage, custody, visitation, and physical

The question comes down to whether a birth mother can contract to “voluntarily” waive her parental rights before she gives birth and not be allowed to change her mind afterward.

friend who, for medical reasons, could not bear children. The woman who contracted to be the surrogate already had five children. Neither she nor her husband wanted more children for their family.

The couples, each represented by attorneys, executed a clear and well-crafted agreement where the surrogate mother would be artificially inseminated with the sperm of the “intended father” (the husband of the woman who could not bear children), and, upon giving birth, would waive all parental rights. The contract provided that the father and his wife would be the sole legal parents of the child.

The pregnancy was successful, but the relationship between the couples deteriorated. The father’s wife accused him and the surrogate mother of having an “emotional affair”



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not prohibited in Wisconsin. In fact, there is mention of “surrogate” in the statute related to birth certificates. It might surprise some that this statute requires that only the surrogate mother’s name be placed on the birth certificate until the parentage of the father is determined. Only then can a father’s name be included on the birth certificate. If the surrogate is married, her husband is presumed to be the father of any child she has. In the case of a surrogate, after the child is born, it is necessary to confirm who the father is.

This statute provides no guidance to whether the surrogate can change her mind about giving up her rights to the child. Historically, the fundamental rights of the

receiving a child, which is prohibited.

While the explanation of this case may seem complex to some, it actually is a relatively straightforward situation and is referred to as a “traditional” surrogate childbirth. Artificial insemination of a biological mother by a willing father establishes a baseline for legal decisions. If either the egg or sperm are donated by unknown persons, some courts have balanced the rights of the surrogate mother, the intended father, and the child differently in deciding whether to enforce the contract. From the child’s point of view, of course, the source of the egg and sperm is irrelevant. What matters to the child is the attachment to the parents who actually care

In fact, this trial court quoted that biblical story in support of its decision to grant the surrogate mother placement rights with the child resulting in this child being split between two families.

biological or adoptive parent outweigh what some might consider to be the best interests of the child. The case law from the United States Supreme Court provides that the rights of a parent are fundamental rights, and can be terminated only if a parent is found to be unfit. The surrogate in the current Wisconsin case is clearly not an unfit parent, and, in fact, was a mother of five children and a dear friend to the intended mother.

The question comes down to whether a birth mother can contract to “voluntarily” waive her parental rights before she gives birth and not be allowed to change her mind afterward. Is such a contract invalid because it is against public policy, or is it invalid because of the fundamental rights of a biological parent? Or do such contracts, when the parents are adequately represented and know exactly what they are agreeing to, supersede these legal considerations?

The question of money is part of the concern in this case. During the pregnancy, the father and intended mother paid for the medical and some living expenses of the surrogate. If the father were not the biological father, there might be a clear violation of Wisconsin law, which prohibits paying money to a pregnant woman in exchange for receiving sole custodial rights to a child. But it could be argued that this father, as a biological father, has financial obligations toward this child by law, and would be free to contribute to the mother’s expenses. The issue in this case is whether the payments of the mother’s expenses were in exchange for

for him or her.

Reproductive technology has long outstripped the ability of the courts to analyze the related rights of the parents and the children. In this case, the trial court acknowledged that the child was doing quite well at his “intended parents” home. The primary expert who advised the court recommended that the “intended parents” be awarded sole custody and placement to prevent the child from experiencing the negative effects of living with two families in conflict. Unlike a divorce of a child’s two parents who were married, it was argued that there was no reason to expose this child to that type of upbringing.

The trial court rejected the expert’s recommendation. The fundamental parental rights of the biological mother carried great weight. The trial court also considered the fact that this child has five half-siblings who might contribute positively to the child’s life.

Now the appellate courts have to decide whether a trial court should even consider what might be good for this child if the surrogate mother shares parenting when there is a contract that excludes the surrogate mother from the child’s life. While there are two biological parents involved in this case, the court’s decision must consider whether it would draw the same conclusion if neither the “intended parents” nor the surrogate mother were the biological parents of the child. Any rule regarding surrogate parents contracts would have to apply to all situations.

Such cases remind some of the biblical Solomon when confronted by two women



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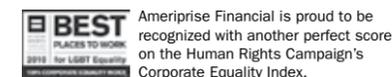
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We Are Young

What is the status of lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth in our state?
Molly Herrmann talks with **Anneke Mohr** about the biannual 2011 Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

Self-identified LGB youth and youth with same-sex sexual behaviors face several health disparities—particularly related to mental health and alcohol and drug use, including tobacco. As a public-health advocate for 15 years, I know we have to continue to look further upstream if we hope to prevent negative outcomes for health. And as an adult, I know these health issues that may have begun in our youth can linger as we become adults. It isn't "those kids"; it's us.



Youth with same-sex sexual contact appear to initiate risk behaviors sooner than youth with opposite-sex sexual contact only: 17 percent report having sex before age 13 compared to six percent of youth with opposite-sex sexual contact only.

For the issue focused on youth, I wanted to offer a baseline picture of health disparities experienced by Wisconsin's LGB youth. The best data available comes from the Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). I interviewed my colleague Anneke Mohr (MSW, MPH), who analyzed the data from the past few surveys. Anneke is a UW population health service fellow placed with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services AIDS/HIV Program and Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center in Lac du Flambeau.

How does the Youth Risk Behavior Survey capture risk behaviors of young LGB people?

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey is a nation-

wide survey that includes a core set of roughly 100 questions where youth self-report behaviors related to various health issues. Every other year, roughly 2,500 high school students across Wisconsin complete the survey. States can choose to add questions to learn more about certain issues, trends, or behaviors. Wisconsin added a sex-of-sex-partner question in 2007 and a sexual-orientation question in 2011.

Can you talk a bit about the potential for capturing transgender youth in the YRBS?

Currently, no state's YRBS asks about gender identity. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is testing different ways to capture gender identity and has not yet identified a recommended standard question. Through the Affordable Care Act, the US Department of Health and Human Services was charged with improving LGBT data collection. They are in the process of developing a standard gender-identity question, which will be ready by 2013. The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction could then choose to add a gender-identity question to the 2015 survey.

How many youth fit the definition of sexual minority, according to the YRBS?

About 10% of sexually active high school students statewide reported same-sex sexual contact between 2007 and 2011. About 9% identified as LGB, or unsure in 2011.

Why is it important to ask about both LGB identity and same-sex sexual behavior?

I think people see a more direct link between sexual behavior and health outcomes, but there has been increasing attention to the link between identity and health outcomes. Some people have same-sex sexual contact but don't identify as LGBQ, and some people identify as LGBQ but haven't had sexual contact.

We have only done a limited analysis of the 2011 data on LGBQ identity, but so far it appears that the risk behaviors are very similar for both youth with same-sex sexual behavior and youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or unsure. Youth who identify as bisexual appear to have even greater risk than youth who identify as lesbian, gay, or unsure.

What are areas of disparity for sexual minority youth?

Youth with same-sex sexual contact had five times greater odds of attempting suicide and getting injured in a fight at school, four times greater odds of methamphetamine use, and nearly three times greater odds of being a daily cigarette smoker compared to students with opposite-sex sexual contact only. Bisexual students had eight times greater odds of attempting suicide and five times greater odds of feeling depressed compared to heterosexual students.

Youth with same-sex sexual contact were less likely to report feeling loved by their family, feeling their teachers care, and feeling they belong at school. They were also less likely to report earning mostly A's and B's.

In addition to having higher rates of risk behaviors and lower rates of support, youth with same-sex sexual contact appear to initiate risk behaviors sooner than youth with opposite-sex sexual contact only: 17 percent report having sex before age 13 compared to six percent of youth with opposite-sex sexual contact only, and 29 percent report smoking a cigarette before age 13 compared to 12 percent of youth with opposite-sex sexual contact only.

How can health be improved for sexual minority youth?

Since a lot of sexual minority youth don't feel support at home or school, families and schools have some work to do to make sure all youth feel accepted, loved, and supported. The CDC recommends that agencies and schools adopt policies and practices to create a safe and supportive environment and train staff to understand the needs of sexual minority youth to effectively implement programs and services.

Agencies like GSAFE and Diverse and Resilient do a phenomenal job of providing services, but as they say in public health, health starts where you live, learn, work, play, and pray. There needs to be a culture of love and acceptance at home and in the community.

Is there anything else you would like LGBT communities to know about sexual minority youth in Wisconsin?

I think it's important to continue to expand visibility and services for LGBT youth, especially in rural areas. Growing up in Ripon, I wish I had had more positive LGBT role models and had access to a GSA. Even something as simple as a rainbow sticker on an office door can make a world of difference. ■

Molly Herrmann is an activist, researcher, trainer, and consultant on LGBT intimate partner violence (IPV) with Humble Pie Consulting. She also currently works as a health educator in the state AIDS/HIV Program.

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Holiday Cheer?

Dr. Sue Gill offers both a reflection and some helpful suggestions on recognizing and addressing family holiday stressors.

ahh...the holidays. Such a wonderful part of the year. A time to connect with family, sing carols around the piano, and eat meals lovingly prepared to perfection. It's the chance for relaxing travel filled with cheer and the excitement of seeing everybody again.

Oh wait, that may only happen in the movies. In real life, therapists are open extra hours to accommodate the stress that people carry through the holidays. For some people,



Most families (especially individuals within a family) have some room to change, become more understanding, and accept our chosen family. Try to remember that it took most of us years to accept ourselves, and we need to give our families the same consideration.

this is a time for reminders of unresolved issues with family that have been simmering all year, painful memories from contentious holidays of the past, and the loneliness that comes if family members are no longer present in our lives.

With another holiday season upon us, are you excited? Anxious? Happy? Sad? Some mixture of all of the above?

1. Stop stressing yourself out over expectations that you have put on yourself. I really find that much of holiday stress lies in this category. Examples are skipping sleep to bake all of the cookies that you have to bake, spending more

money than you should to ensure that everybody is happy, or running yourself ragged to get the house perfect for visitors.

Of course, straight people have plenty of experiences with stress and sadness during the holidays. However, queer folks often have all of the "regular" holiday stresses in addition to some that are unique to our lives.

I regularly witness beautiful resilience among members of the LGBTQ community. I especially love our ability to create a family during times when the families we grew up with fall short. I think this works remarkably well most of the year. However, if issues with family are unresolved, they often come to a head over the holidays. For example, I work with a lot of transgender people who accept themselves, have close friendships, and may even have immediate family who are trying to be accepting. However, they might get some resistance from family unless they agree to go to an extended family gathering presenting in their gender assigned at birth.

2. Have a clear sense of what things are your own responsibility and what really lies in the hands of others. You are not responsible for others' happiness, opinions, or acceptance of how you live your life. You are responsible for your own happiness, and to live your life in a way that is consistent with your values.

I find it heartbreaking to see how hard most people work to maintain family connections, only to have them severely challenged during family gatherings. For many years, my family knew that I was queer and did some kind of mental gymnastics to try and be accepting, but couldn't pull it off when it came recognizing my partner as my partner. It took years for them to realize that they needed to find a way to accept my partner as part of their lives if they wanted me in their lives.

I know that many of you have decided that it is easier to cut off contact with your family and focus on building your family of choice. I also know that many, many of you have been patient with your family, worked through many painful months or years to come to an understanding, and now have fulfilling relationships with the family you grew up with.

When possible, I believe that it's best

to try to work things out with family. I do understand that this is not possible for everybody. Some families are not willing to budge even a bit in their beliefs. Other families are so dysfunctional in other ways that it can be hard to find a point of positive connection. However, most families (especially individuals within a family) have some room to change, become more understanding, and accept our chosen family. This can take a lot of patience. Try to remember that it took most of us years to accept ourselves, and we need to give our families the same consideration.

3. Manage the expectations you have of others. While it's always important to remain patient and hopeful, don't set yourself up for disappointment by hoping that things will be radically different this year.

It is also important to be careful with your assumptions about how family members may react. For years, my partner and I just never bothered to go to some extended family gatherings because I assumed that we would be unwelcome as a gay couple. Recently we took a deep breath and went to a large family gathering. I was deeply moved when all of my aunts welcomed my partner openly. I almost cried when my 77-year-old Evangelical Christian aunt stood next to her Mitt Romney for President sign and hugged me. She whispered in my ear, "I am so glad that you brought Sheri. She is a real gem." "Yes," I thought, "Sheri is a gem. You are too, you elderly Evangelical, Republican aunt. You are too."

4. Figure out what factors negatively impact holiday visits and adjust accordingly. For example, if everything is nice during family get-togethers until people have a bit too much to drink, then arrive early and leave before that third round of drinks. Or if the first two days of a visit are fun, but you're ready to kill everybody days three to five, then by all means book those return tickets for early on day three.

As this holiday season approaches, I hope that you can find ways to connect with your loved ones. I hope that you can be brave but patient with those who don't fully know you or accept you. I hope that you can give your family a chance to accept you, and allow for the possibility that some who have made mistakes in the past might change. ■

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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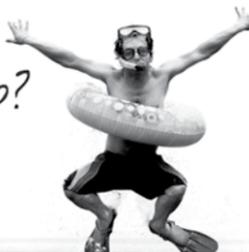
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Share the Care

Caroline Werner on the state of seniors and caregiving today.

With more than 77 million baby boomers turning 65 at a rate of 10,000 per day, the United States is experiencing historic growth in the 65-plus population. Communities are being pressed to think differently and more broadly about housing, transportation, social services, cultural offerings, and health and wellness programs.

Between May 10 and June 6, 2012, a nationally representative sample of 1,000 Americans ages 60 and older responded to the National Council on Aging's "United



"Share the Care" is a proven system that can organize your family, friends, neighbors, faith community, co-workers—anyone you can imagine—into a network of support at a time in your life when you need it most.

States of Aging Survey." For that, 2,250 telephone interviews were conducted with 250 respondents each in Dallas, TX; Orange County, CA; Miami, FL; Milwaukee, WI; and upstate New York.

While information on the respondents was divided into several categories, an LGBT category was not available. The survey reported that nationally, 43 percent of respondents prefer to be called "senior citizens" or "seniors." The third preference was "retirees;" fourth, "older Americans;" and fifth, "aging Americans."

Individual seniors were asked about their readiness for aging as well as their perceptions of their community's resources. To access national population and full Milwaukee findings, visit ncoa.org/UnitedStatesofAging.

Here I will very briefly consider the responses from Milwaukeeans compared with national responses in the areas of caregiving, community resources, and support. The majority of Milwaukee data is similar to the overall national data on caregiving. As in Milwaukee, nationally seniors are providing long-term care as well as receiving it.

Nationally, more than half (Milwaukee, 43 percent) of seniors ages 70+ have someone they consider a caregiver. Nationally, 87 percent (Milwaukee, 83 percent) indicated that their caregiver is a family member. In Milwaukee, 24 percent of seniors are a caregiver to someone else.

In Milwaukee, 43 percent (45 percent nationally) of respondents who serve as a caregiver for someone else reported that they would benefit from additional support services like respite care. While 65 percent (61 percent nationally) of these caregivers are aware that there is a service in their community that they could call to request assistance with everyday needs, only 14 percent of these Milwaukee caregivers say they have used that service. Nationally, an additional 22 percent of seniors are unsure if such services exist in their communities.

When seniors ages 70 and above were asked about the quality of programming and events at senior or community centers in their community, 39 percent said they don't visit enough to have an opinion.

In Milwaukee, 47 percent of seniors (56 percent nationally) believe that their community supports their ability to lead a happy and healthy life. A large majority of older Milwaukeeans give themselves high marks when it comes to maintaining their physical and mental health.

While nationally 56 percent of seniors are satisfied with the resources and services their community offers now, almost one quarter (23 percent) have little or no confidence that these resources will be available over the next five to 10 years.

Enter Madison's OutReach LGBT Community Center, which has been increasing their programming for seniors with a lot of grant writing, several generous donations, and many hours of volunteer work over the last few years—despite the economic downturn. (Optimism sustains OutReach's efforts

to be available for our community.)

In the last year, a concern for LGBT caregivers and those LGBT seniors and others who need care after a hospitalization, or who have a terminal or chronic illness, has led to the formation of a "Share the Care" Station at OutReach. A steering committee of six LGBT health professionals is molding a program to fit our community's needs. They have been diligently working to create a training program where volunteers will learn how "Share the Care" works and be trained to help others use the program effectively.

"Share the Care" is a proven system that can organize your family, friends, neighbors, faith community, co-workers—anyone you can imagine—into a network of support at a time in your life when you need it most. We can't fix the healthcare system, but we can fix the patient-care system by putting "Share the Care" in place so no one has to go it alone.

A large majority of older Milwaukeeans give themselves high marks when it comes to maintaining their physical and mental health.

This free program is based on a book entitled *Share the Care: How to Organize a Group to Care for Someone Who is Seriously Ill*. When the program starts in 2013, OutReach will be looking for volunteers who would like to be trained in this model. OutReach will also encourage people who want help forming their own "Share the Care" groups to contact OutReach.

Please check the OutReach e-newsletters to learn when this program becomes available in 2013. This is just one of many gifts that keep on giving through OutReach. To be added to the e-newsletter list, contact Angie at angier@lgbt Outreach.org or call (608) 255-8582.

Our "families of choice" are important during the holiday season, as well as throughout the year. There's a great deal of comfort in being around like-minded people who care for us emotionally and/or physically. This is especially important when national data on seniors still excludes us, even though we're beginning to be recognized in census data.

Caroline Werner has a Master's degree in Social Work and was a case manager working with seniors in Dane County before retiring. Now she is the Volunteer Senior Program Coordinator for OutReach.

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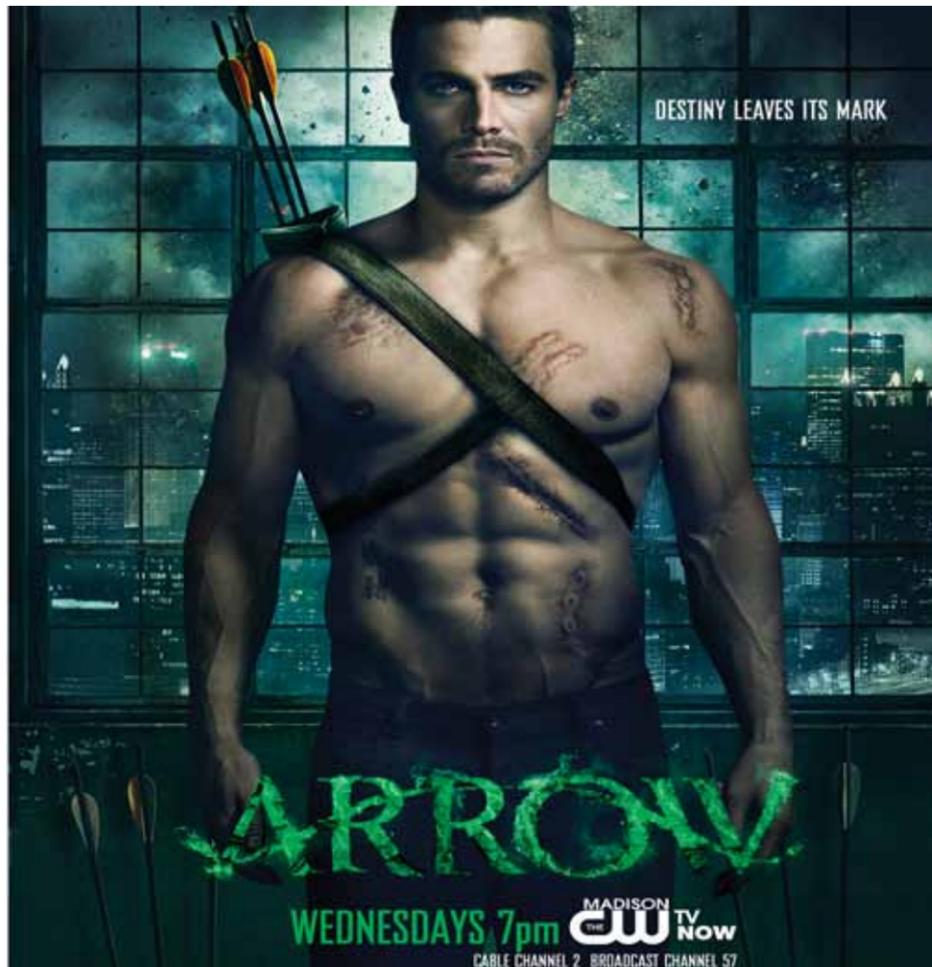
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Sustainably built **Badger Rock Middle School** teaches students how to live in harmony with the environment and each other.

Can you grow and nurture a more resilient life by growing and nurturing seedlings in a garden? If you ask my tour guide, Kate Stalker, project director for the Center for Resilient Cities, then the answer is a definite "yes." After touring Badger Rock Middle School, it's easy to understand why.

This fall, Badger Rock Middle School opened its doors to 100 middle school students in the Resilience Research Center (RRC) at the corner of Rimrock and Badger Roads. This charter school, part of phase one of the RRC project, is in a class all its own, utilizing cutting edge, sustainable, and green everything. For example, two massive tanks, each the size of a school bus, buried outside collect 45,000 gallons of rainwater runoff from the building, enough to water all of RRC's growing areas for a full year. The center also supports a sizeable greenhouse with two tanks for raising freshwater fish.

Inside, the overall design allows natural daylight to pour in, and there are skylight tubes throughout. These tubes give off so much light that a dimmer had to be installed on certain tubes upstairs so that the media screen could be viewed properly. The heating and cooling for the facility comes from a geothermal field system, and nearly all of the fixtures in the school were reclaimed from other unused facilities or donated by generous organizations and individuals.

In today's world of plastic-wrapped meats and pre-boxed everything, it's important that children learn where their food comes from and how much work it takes to bring the food from seed to plate.

What really excited me as a chef were the gardens where students, and eventually other organizations and neighborhood residents, will sustainably grow their own food. As a part of BRMS's philosophy of employing multidisciplinary, project-based learning, the students will have ownership for growing and preparing healthy food for one another.

Each class has its own garden where students will work in the growing medium (not soil—Growing Power provides a worm casting/compost blend), plant seeds, nurture plants, harvest the produce, and prepare it on site. There will eventually be rooftop gardens for more growing space.

In today's world of plastic-wrapped meats and pre-boxed everything, it's important that children learn where their food comes from and how much work it takes to bring the food from seed to plate. BRMS is helping students connect the dots between healthy food and healthy communities.

The Badger Rock Middle School is an inclusive environment, too. On the school's website, the following statement is posted under the "Highlights" section: "Every child is valued for their strengths—

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including their family culture." Wow—a philosophy of inclusiveness and intrinsic worth for every

child and person who comes to BRMS.

Phase two (the design is underway, but is dependent on fundraising) of the RRC includes more space for the neighborhood center, research labs for multiple sustainability and green projects, community gardens, orchards, a café, and more.

To learn more about the RRC, its lead partners (Center for Resilient Cities, Will Allen and Growing Power, etc.), community partners, or how you can financially keep this project moving ahead, visit www.resilientcities.org/Resilient_Cities/PROFILE.html. —**Jeanne Benink**

Photographed 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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Goodness rose from the ashes of my coming out. Without the disclosure of my queerness, I would never have thrown myself into my high school Gay Straight Alliance, nor discovered a home within UW-La Crosse's Pride Center, a magnet for beautiful and talented individuals. I would have missed out on a queer family. I never would have found my own power. "Vinegar Kisses" explains the sting of religion in coming out as queer.

Vinegar Kisses (excerpted)

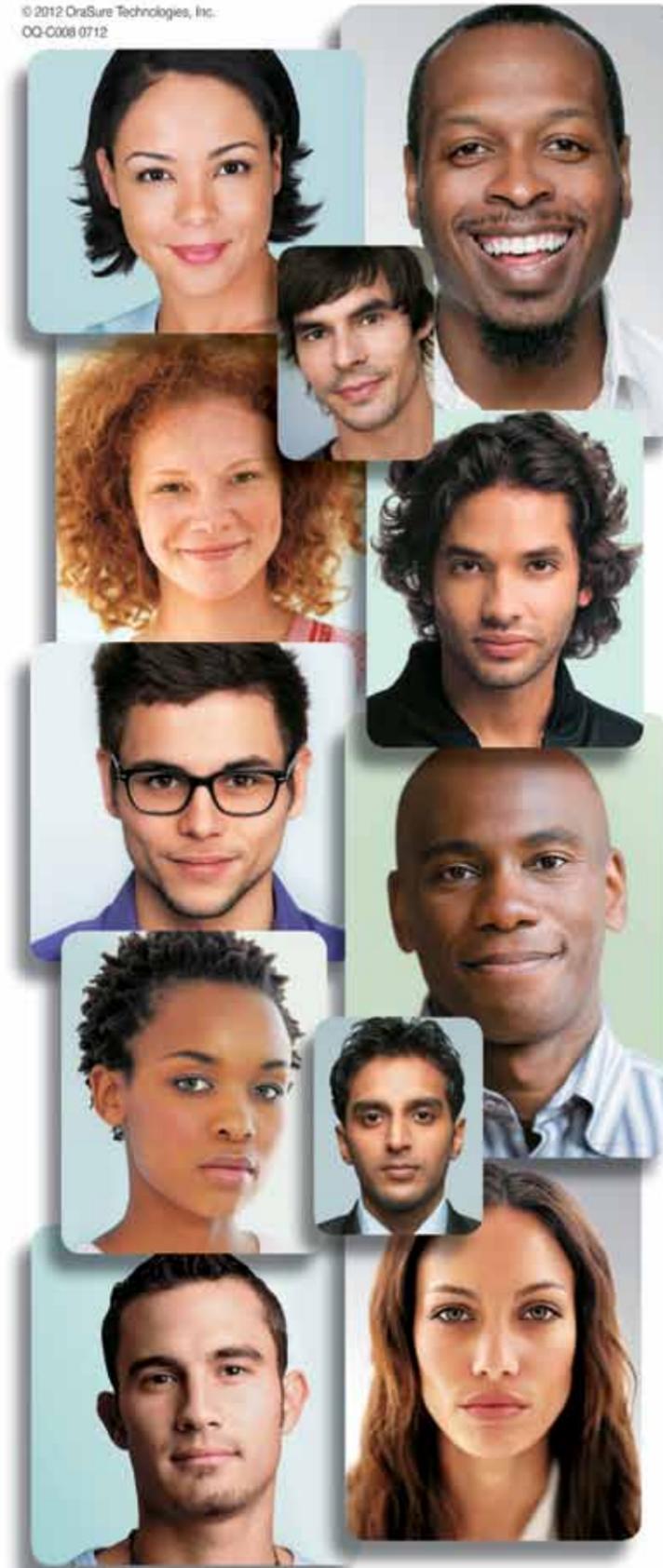
[Editor's Note: The ellipses (...) denote passages removed due to space limitations.]

Once, as a kid, I wore a crown of thorns nestled in my hair.
 "This is what Jesus felt," my mother announced, hands framing me and my shredded white robes.
 "They humiliated Jesus, taunted him, even forced him to drink vinegar."
 She handed me a chipped bowl shaky with vinegar. I took a sip.
 Nauseated, I sipped again.
 The other children, mouths gaped open, watched this phenomenon, their Sunday schoolmate as Jesus without a beard. At least I had the white skin to match our Bibles' illustrations.
 "This is what he sacrificed for us. Nailed to the cross, he endured great pain so we might be free of sin."
 The children clapped and dissipated, abandoning me and my crown for other booths—it was a science fair of sorts, with bowls of vinegar at the lips of children instead of bubbling brews and crackling electronics.
 Mom removed the crown from my head, took the bowl away, and kissed my forehead.
 "You did such a good job," she told me with bright eyes.
 ...

Once, as a teenager, my gut said come out! The closet was so quiet it was screaming. Come out! I knew I owed no one an announcement of who I loved and why, yet to keep it a secret felt like a lie of omission. My parents knew so little about me if they didn't know my queerness, the driving force of my passion. Come out!
 I told my dad over a PB+J sandwich. I chewed too much to keep from crying, and the sandwich grew gummy and stuck to the roof of my mouth. I couldn't swallow, but I kept chewing.
 I had thought, maybe, this would be okay.
 I had thought, maybe, my dad would tell me he still loved me, that he loved me no matter what. My father sorted out his Bible and killed those ideas. He flipped through the silver leafed pages, marked their places, and later jotted down those verses on notecards for my use.
 "You do understand," he told me, eyes firm and unblinking, "that this is Satan. This is not you. This is not my daughter. This is Satan messing with your head."
 ...
 I am the farthest thing from my family politically, religiously, romantically. I am what they don't understand, and thus choose to hate. But there are moments, as I sip vinegar, that they will kiss my forehead, eyes bright, and tell me I'm doing well, I'm doing so well. Jesus may not love all the (queer) little children, but my parents do, even as they page through the Bible to tell me of Sodom and Gomorrah. Even as they tell me I'm destined to burn in Hell. ■

**Vinegar Kisses:
A Poem**

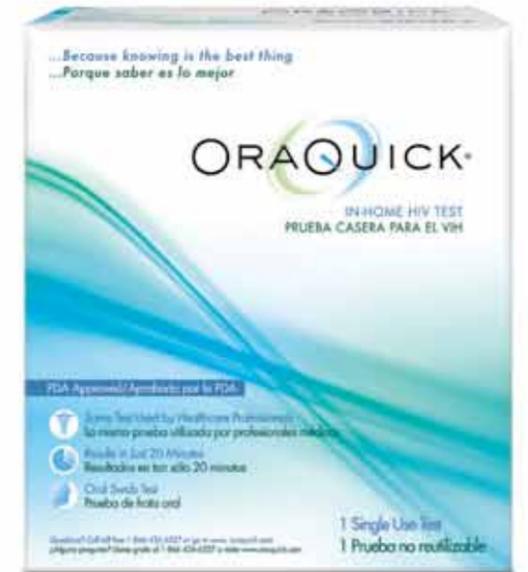
Nicholle Johnson,
 UW-La Crosse Pride Center peer educator, received a Seekardia Writing Award for her poem "Vinegar Kisses." We are pleased to reprint an excerpt of it here, accompanied by an introduction by the writer



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