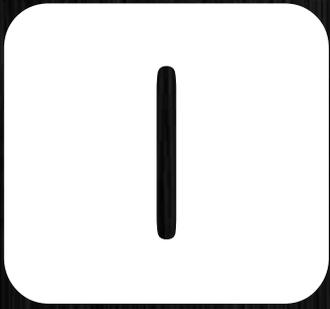


our lives



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LGBT IMMIGRATION RIGHTS

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on the issue's impact in both Washington and Wisconsin

March
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Madison's LGBT&XYZ Magazine



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MARCH / APRIL 2014

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Madison's LGBT&XYZ Magazine

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did you hear?



Stoughton trans* non-discrimination policy passes unanimously

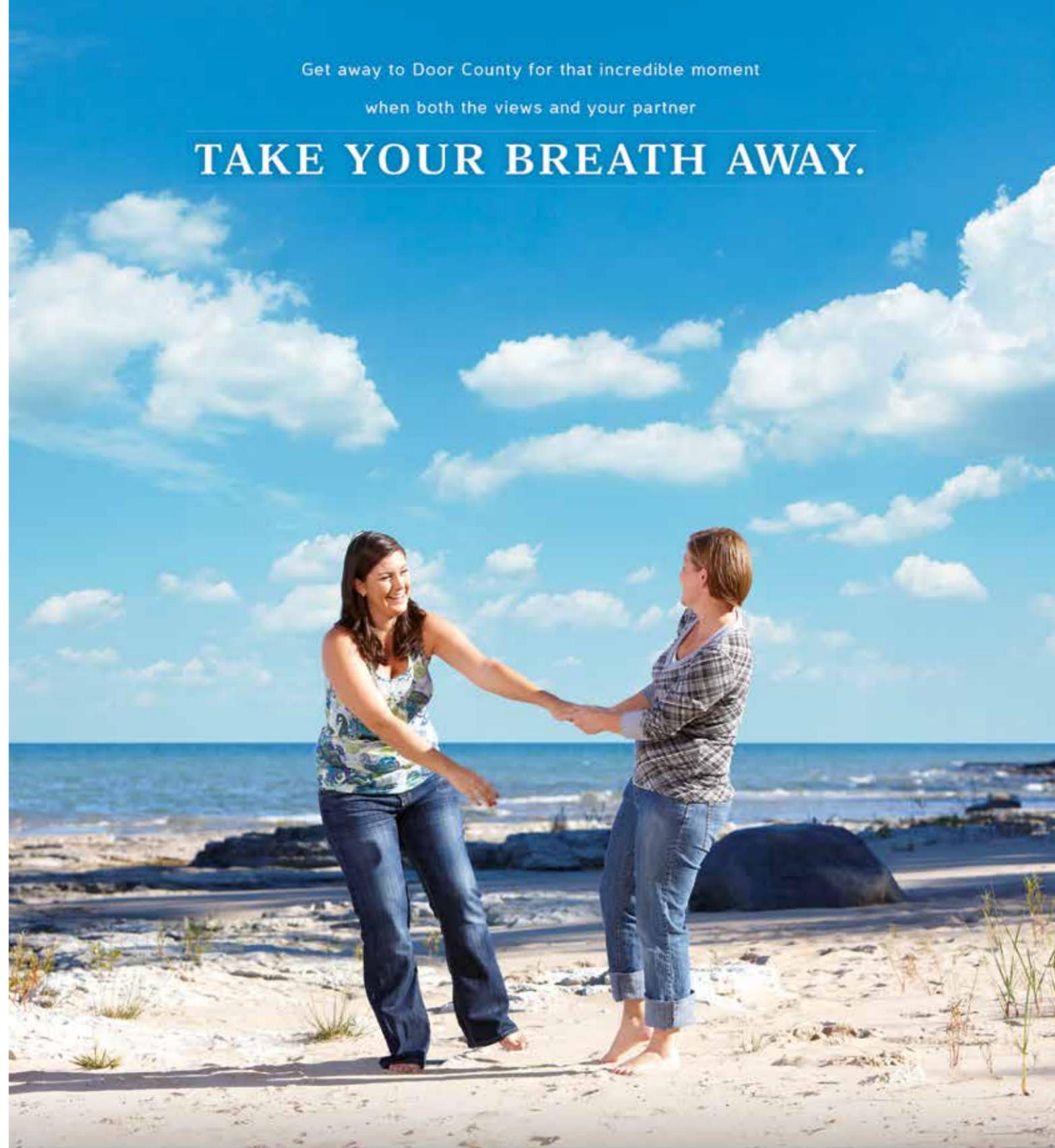
The Stoughton school board unanimously passed a trans*-inclusive non-discrimination policy in late January, joining the Oregon and McFarland school districts in doing so. The new language now prohibits discrimination "on the basis of transgender status including gender expression, gender identity, and gender non-conformity." GSAFE worked with local board members, parents, students, and staff to help pass it.

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editor

There's No Place Like Home...



Spring is finally, finally in the air and I can't think of a better way to kick off the season than with our Home & Garden-themed issue. The pages are full of inspiring ideas for ways to personalize your living spaces, both outdoors and in, and come from a wide variety of creative amateurs and professionals alike. It's yet more evidence that our community is a strong and colorful one!

Me? I'm a renter, so the idea of owning a home is still a fantasy I'm not sure I'll ever get to live, but I've still taken so many great ideas from our contributors about things I can do now and things I can explore in the future. Feeling comfortable—really at home—is something the vast majority of us want for ourselves. What form that takes, though, is different for everyone. Some of us define home in a physical space: a house, an apartment, a boat, a yurt! Some of us find a sense of place in other people, or in a particular community. Still others feel the pull of wanderlust and make the whole Earth their home.

What's important is that we all have the opportunity to make a place for ourselves in this world, whatever and wherever that might be. Those of us who identify as part of the LGBTQ spectrum too often have a far more difficult time of it, though. We're kicked out of houses, shunned by communities, chased from jobs.

Perhaps it is with the backdrop in mind that LGBTQ people seem to work extra hard to establish their own communities, their own homes, custom-designed and built to suit the needs that were ignored or trampled by the rest of the world. It's heartening to see less reliance on specific "gayborhoods" and more integration of queer spaces into the greater community, but I'm not sure we'll ever not need (or want) specific queer spaces to remain. It's important to hold onto our individual and shared culture and sense of history. And so we do, through making our homes truly our own.

For those of us fortunate enough to have a welcoming roof over our heads, too, it's crucial that we remember and act to help those members of our communities who are not so lucky—those still facing a day-to-day reality of transience and uncertainty. Supporting organizations like OutReach's Willma's Fund, Briarpatch, and other groups that strive to assist vulnerable young people should be a regular part of our efforts to build up and build better.

Emily Mills
Editor

Correction

Both **Kael Fry & Anne Toter** and **Erin Johansen & Jeff Zoerner** reached out to us to let us know they were misidentified in our **Caring & Committed Couples** list as allies to the LGBTQ community. Both wanted to let us know they are a part of our LGBTQ community. Next year we'll make the survey question on allies more clear!



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contributors



Michael Bruno – Our Entertainers

Michael Bruno is a native Madisonian who currently serves on the board of directors for Dane Arts and is the Vice President of StageQ's board of directors. He was the artistic director of WhoopDeDoo productions for the last 10 years and has produced, directed and acted in over 100 productions since

returning from the west coast in 2001. He can be seen every Friday on WISC-TV Channel 3's Live At Five, giving his weekly entertainment picks on Bruno's Best Bets. He is happily partnered to his fiancé of three years, Yannick.



Dr. Sue Gill – Our Issues

Sue is a psychologist in private practice in Madison, where she has lived and worked for the past 15 years. In Sue's spare time, she is dedicated to spreading the word about Lyme disease and other tick-borne illnesses. More people need to be aware that testing for Lyme is unreliable and treatment

can be difficult. Sue and her partner have two dogs named Pip and Maslow. Maslow comes to work with Sue on most days, and is an excellent office greeter. Pip the mini doxie has recently begun to learn agility which is fun to watch because she has the world's shortest legs.

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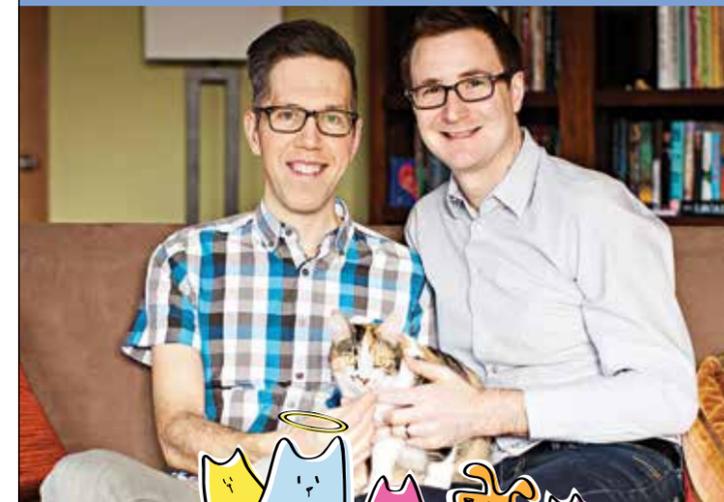
According to the talking heads that dominate the 24-hour news channels, we're all screwed. Yes, we live in a broken society, but despite that, I still believe I live in a beautiful world full of beautiful people.

One of them was Josh Kestleman. Josh was one of our youth instructors, taken from us by brain cancer at a tender age of 22. His passion was to teach some of these beautiful people how to paddle. In Josh's memory, Rutabaga Paddlesports created the **Josh Kestleman Scholarship Fund** that allows youth groups to have access to the wonderful world of paddling. It's well documented that poor and minority children are not well exposed to the natural world, and their poverty is not just financial.

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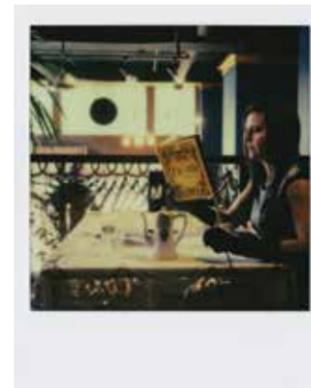
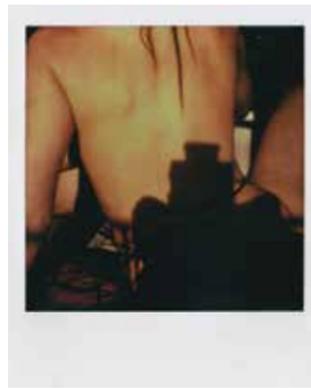
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QUEERED TIME

Karin Wolf speaks with artist and professor Jill H. Casid about her provocative work, theory as practice, and learning to live her dying.

formidable, dapper, captivating: these are just a few of the attributes that describe Jill Casid—without a dictionary.

Jill is professor of visual studies at the UW-Madison. She has degrees from Princeton, the University of London, and Harvard.

Setting her credentials aside, I found myself curious about her artistic practice of using photographic media in installations and her equally provocative performance art. So, I invited this brilliant art history scholar and artist for tea in exchange for a deeper understanding of her work.

We met on an inhumanly cold day and talked about everything from shame to death, digressing into conversations about her love life and her alluring perfume. I grilled her about her recent contribution to the 2013 Wisconsin Triennial at the Madison Museum of Contemporary Art.

Her piece, Shame's Glove, for example, is a mixed-media installation piece that includes twelve erotic Polaroids that provocatively pose her body for the camera. I wanted to know if she was trying to force the viewer to be a voyeur of queer female pleasure on her own terms. I also had a few questions about her performance piece Café La Petite Mort, which involved inviting people to, as she puts it, “come talk with me toward your own death.”

Which came first, theory or practice? I think I've long had a virulent case of “theory trouble,” but of the lightning-bolt variety. I describe queer theory as a love affair ignited in graduate school that's far from over. Queer's not just about bodies, loves, and lives; it's also about the time of our lives. The relation of theory and practice is to me one of queered time. Not a directional compass that takes us back to origins in a predictable sequence of cause and effect, queer theory enables us to navigate the frictional fold of theory as practice and practice as theory. Imagine here how what comes first isn't just some art-school wheel-spinning in the ditch of “how do I get started?” but is directly tied to living lives that don't conform to policed patterns of “development.”

Think also of the ways in which the marvelous complexity of gender performance troubles insidious notions that position femme and butch as failed copies of a fantasized, anatomically-anchored original. Just as daily acts in the everyday theater that is sex and gender plunge us into the disco-ball whirl of a world of copies without originals, the transformative frictional fold of theory as practice drags on enforced conventions about what should come first. For instance, I now take fast, improvised shots with that instant-developing Polaroid camera that was introduced to evade the darkroom. But I deploy these photographs as se-

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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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ductive propositions that alter the world they appear only to document.

What's queer got to do with it? Queering as a practice turns the tables to ask provocatively after the ways in which bodies and sex exceed our making sense—questions from which none of us is excluded. I'll never forget the sweaty-palms terror of coming out to one of my closest college friends who responded, “You've obviously

read too much feminist theory.” I never did have emblazoned on a T-shirt that controversial slogan: “Feminism is the theory; lesbianism is the practice,” and not least because theorizing is a pretty hot practice. Queer theory's radical promise still resonates for me as the glimmer of other worlds that shimmer in the here and now through the survival aesthetics of everyday camp—the fiercely fabulous actions of conjuring the bodies, intimacies, and worlds for which we long.

How did “Shame's Glove” create queer space in the Wisconsin Triennial? Set up as a folding field, the viewing space of the installation intensified the sensation of being inside the pleated bellows of the camera but also in front of its pointing lens in a room of both intimacy and exposure. Its solicitation to come close enough to stroke the surface emulsions of the Polaroids mounted without glass protection made the installation a rogue love shrine. However, the gambit of these exposing images that don't actually reveal anything besides some skin or lingerie is that they develop in encounter, demanding an intimacy that isn't easy, for it puts the viewer on display, asking that molten question: What do you want? As with knee-buckling sex, the photograph has the power not to confirm who we say we are but the radical, queering potential to undo us.

What did you learn about yourself during your Café La Petite Mort performance? These intense chats over coffee took the form of formal, anachronistic encounters. Picture an ornate lace tablecloth and upcycled Victorian china with skulls over which I urged us toward two questions: what's the death you don't want, and what might be the “good death” for you? What I learned about myself in these conversations I never wanted to end is that I want them to be the end. Conversations at the table with sex, death, and the ghosts of the dead I carry with me are the only way I know how to learn to live my dying.

What is that amazing perfume you are wearing? “Eau de Protection” after the thorns on its top note of roses. A fragrance in honor of the star of the camp melodramas of Pedro Almodovar, the cologne's a rose with a big prick, a high-femme homage to performing femininity not as passing—as if that ever promised protection—but the gesture that its tattoo packaging describes as “a warning and an invitation.” It's the perfume allegory of the tie I always wear to lecture and teach.

Visit her website: jillhcasid.net

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Acting Out

New *Our Lives* editorial facilitator and Madison entertainment guru **Michael Bruno** catches up with actor **Richard Ganoung**.

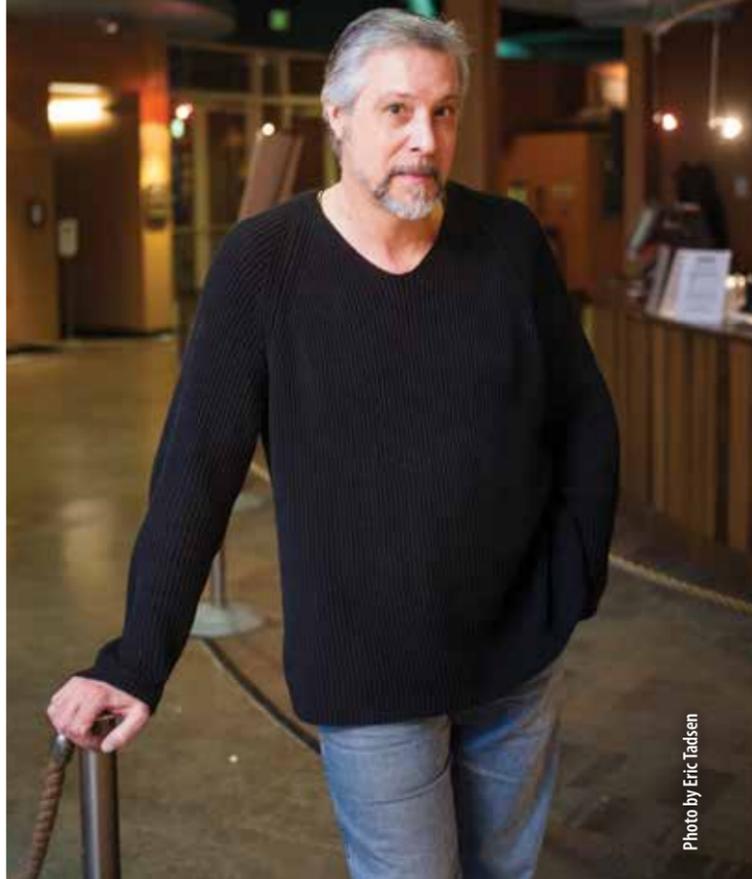


Photo by Eric Tadsen

many years ago, in another lifetime and place, I was writing an entertainment column for *NightLife Magazine* in West Hollywood, California. I was assigned to review a new movie called *Parting Glances* starring Steve Buscemi and a handsome Hollywood up-and-coming actor named Richard Ganoung. It was the late '80s and the subject matter was AIDS. The movie was groundbreaking and the performance by that young actor was wonderfully charming and heartbreaking.

During my research for the review, I discovered that Richard was from Madison. I never got the chance to meet or interview him and tell him how much his performance touched me and hundreds of other moviegoers. Ten years or so later, he returned to the silver screen in *Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss*, co-starring with Sean Hayes. Another opportunity missed to meet and interview this handsome and talented Madisonian.

Fast-forward to December 2013 and to the lobby of Sundance Cinemas on Madison's west side, where I'm finally getting my long-awaited interview with the man who is now my friend and colleague in the Madison theater community.

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OUR ENTERTAINERS

MICHAEL: When did you leave Madison for New York?

RICHARD: I graduated from the UW in 1981 and left in 1983. I was working with Circle In the Square when I got cast in *Parting Glances* in 1987, which got me to Los Angeles. I returned to Madison on Nov. 7, 1992, with my partner of 33 years, Norm Eberhardt.

MICHAEL: It's so odd that we knew so many of the same people and yet never worked together until recently. I left for LA in 1983 and came back in 2001.

RICHARD: And our first gig together was co-hosting the theater award presentation for AIDS Network of Madison's Red Ribbon Affair in 2011. That was my first time ever doing stand-up, and you turned me into a comedy whore that evening. What a rush it was to ad-lib with you and get all those laughs. It's a drug, really.

MICHAEL: You've done several projects that have taken you out of your comfort zone since returning to Madison—other than being my stand-up comedy partner.

RICHARD: That's right. I did my first musical-theater performance in *BIG* for First Stage Theater in Milwaukee in 2012. I had never been in a musical and never thought I would ever be singing and dancing onstage during my career in the theater. It turned out to be one of the hardest, yet most rewarding, things I've done so far. Also, I was thrilled to be in the Madison premiere of *8: The Gay Marriage Play* at the Bartell Theater, directed by...who was it? Michael Bruno? (laughs)

MICHAEL: Your performances in Stage Q's production of *The Dying Gaul* and your role in the movie *Scrooge & Marley* are such brilliant examples of your versatility as an actor. Is it getting easier or harder becoming an actor "of a certain age?"

RICHARD: (laughs) I like the fact that I can now audition for the "Anthony Hopkins" roles. When I look in the mirror I still see the 35-year-old Richard. That was my ideal age. Inside, I'm still that age.

MICHAEL: So what's on the theater horizon for you now, Richard?

RICHARD: I've got an upcoming staged reading of a trilogy about Edwin Booth in New York and I'm continuing my relationship with Forward Theater Company on their advisory company. (Richard is also a founding member of Forward Theater.)

MICHAEL: Madison is so very lucky to have you here enriching our community and bringing professional theater to our audiences. And I'm lucky that our paths have finally merged, back home in Madison.



Michael Bruno currently serves on the board of directors for Dane Arts and StageQ. He was the artistic director of WhoopDeDoo productions for 10 years and now can be seen every Friday on WISC-TV Channel 3's Live At Five, giving his weekly entertainment picks on Bruno's Best Bets.

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Searching for Home

Our *Lives* Publisher **Patrick Farabaugh** shares how he learned the meaning of "home is where the heart is."

What makes you from somewhere? Is it the place you were born? Is it where your parents live? Is it where you attended school? I've always struggled when asked this because I've never landed on a single place that I feel I can say with complete honesty.



Most often, the place I've said has been Merrillville, Indiana because that was where I was born and where I lived with my family. But it doesn't always feel right because growing up gay there limited my ability to attach myself to anything. As I became aware of my sexual orientation, the walls I began putting up to keep my secret safe also blocked me from building the relationships that would provide a "home" connection. I ran away as soon as I finished high school.

The next place that I often wonder if I could be from is New York City. For years it has had a magnetic pull in my life. I lived in NYC three separate times, for almost a decade total. I first arrived as a lost teenager looking for somewhere that valued people who felt different. I even spent a little time sleeping on the streets. But New York is also where I found my way into a career that brought strong and enlightening role models into my life. It is where I met Joe Patane, one of my best friends and life mentors. Joe helped connect me to a network of peers that became my first true friends—the first who had the chance to accept me as a whole person. I also met other out gay people for the first time, all because someone connected me to a gay ice hockey team. I did a significant amount of my growing in New York—professionally, personally and emotionally. Yet none of these things gave me a sense of belonging. Maybe that was never something I had learned how to see or feel to begin with.

Between my three times in New York came a string of other places: a few months in Boston, a few years in Seattle, a season on a fishing boat in Alaska, and even some time with a tribe in West Africa. But these were always just places I lived. It wasn't until I fell for a Russian and followed him to the edge of Siberia that I came to realize I was a chronic runaway. When life would feel too overwhelming, I would hit reset and start over somewhere else. I don't think this is uncommon for LGBT youth, especially youth from small towns where supportive people and resources are few and hard to find. In my case, it always felt like I was running towards something bigger and better. I never stopped to consider that there might be something I was running from, or that my shadow could also run just as fast as me. How do you remove a shadow? You shine a light on it.

After this realization about myself, I desperately wanted to heal and find a place to grow roots. I believed that for me to continue growing as a person I needed to learn how to settle down and move on to what comes next: experiencing what life without a reset button feels like. I chose Madison because it felt like a Midwestern intersection that was somewhere between my suburban and city lives. I also thought that part of breaking the cycle of running away would take owning who I am in the part of the world I originally left. I was finally out now and thanks to that gay hockey team, I was also on the road to feeling proud about my own gay identity. I saw Madison as a place where I could be all of those

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OUR STORYTELLERS

things at the same time and feel both normal and whole. All of the pieces of my identity that I had collected on this journey fit here, so it felt like it was time to go "home."

This next part might surprise you—it certainly did me. My early life in Wisconsin did not turn out to be the fairy tale that I imagined. I might go as far as say that my arrival and first few years here rate as some of the hardest of my life. A reality that I learned hard and fast when I arrived was that the life I imagined didn't exist here. I mean, all of the pieces where here, just none of the work to put them together had been done yet. In New York I had worked for LGBT media and that experience quickly became my foundation for how you connect to a community. There was no LGBT media here. Also in New York, that gay hockey team was a lifeline that saved me from isolation. There was no gay hockey team here either. I reached my stress threshold quickly. In the past this is where I would hit the reset button and just try moving somewhere else. However, this time I was committed to pushing through and making Madison work. On a deeper level I remember feeling desperate—like if I couldn't make it work here, then there was no hope for me. Those feelings turned out to be some of the darkest I've ever had in my life.

It always felt like I was running towards something bigger and better. I never stopped to consider that there might be something I was running from, or that my shadow could also run just as fast as me.

When we need something, our ability to problem solve is extraordinary. For me, breaking the cycle of running away is what I imagine going through a drug withdrawal would feel like. The urge to run was there daily, sometimes hourly. The solution I found was to create a kind of spiderweb—something so interconnected that the more I struggled to break free from it, the more stuck in it I would become. My spiderweb took the shape of the things I needed most—an LGBT hockey team and magazine. So I went to work building the Madison Gay Hockey Association and *Our Lives* magazine. Both required incredible amounts of personal honesty and local relationship building, and both helped to draw out my own authentic identity. Unexpectedly—it almost felt like magic—I discovered that once I had the strength and support to break the cycle of running away, what lied on the other side was happiness. I found a sense of place, of belonging, and ultimately I found in myself a person who is OK and open to loving who he is, and ready to be loved for who he is.

I bought my first home last year and dove right away into remodeling it and creating my nest. I fell in love with someone capable of loving me for me. And, as of this year, I've also now lived in Madison longer than I ever lived in New York. I take all of these things as signs that I've finally found my "home." ■

did you hear?

Local writer publishes "My Queer Life"

Monona-based writer, photographer, and community activist **Callen Harty** recently published his collection of essays, poems, journal notes, and more about life as a gay man in the Upper Midwest. With this book, he "builds from some initial hesitant coming-out steps and learning and moves through some difficult times toward a positive, strong, and proud gay man involved in a lot of ways with helping others and with self-growth. It also makes for a much easier read. A person can read a few pages or a couple of poems and find a natural stopping point and then come back to it tomorrow." Harty will be holding a reading of his new book at A Room Of One's Own on March 16 at 2 p.m.

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community

OUR ATHLETES

Striking Community Gold

David Rhode helps us get to know the **Honeymooners bowling league** and the appeal of a Monday night at the lanes.

Over the past several years, we have all seen a surge in the number of leagues and social groups organized by the LGBTQ community. And although bowling was one of the first formally organized in Madison, the sport has seen an overall decline in participation in the last 20 years. According to the United States Bowling Congress, the sport has seen a steady five percent drop in participation each year. However, the Honeymooners league is going strong!



Photo by Roberto Amezcua

Most recently in 2012-2013, the league experienced its sharpest decline in participation ever, dropping from 13 teams to seven. Perhaps it was participation in other leagues, or maybe money was tight for others. It could also be partly because the leagues have never had any sort of formal recruiting network other than word of mouth. Many of the people have been in it for years. Sometimes they drop off for a year, but then many resume the next year. Some choose to substitute in order to remain connected to the league yet have less of a time commitment.

After the sharp drop in numbers, a formal, although limited, recruitment effort was organized for the first time. The WOOF's Block Party proved to be a great event for us, as we were able to promote the league with attendees. For the first time, too, we entered into the world of Facebook (Honeymooners Bowling League). Through all of this, we discovered that bowling is still not exactly easy to promote. Word of mouth and recruitment of people who were formerly in one of the bowling leagues proved to be the most successful method.

Some people do not understand the appeal of going out bowling on a Monday night. But when you talk with the members, you quickly learn what the appeal is: It's not the drinks or the competition or even the actual sport. People are in the bowling league because they have fun, and many have made lifelong friends there. Many of the long-standing bowling league members continue to bowl only because the people who meet weekly through the bowling season are so amazing. They are inviting, friendly, and wonderfully diverse.

It is not shocking that the league consists of a diverse group of people: all ages; men and women; gay, straight, and otherwise. The league is not highly competitive in nature and represents all skill levels. Bowler averages range from 70 to over 200. While score is kept, the league is mostly focused on a fun social environment.

Bowling happens on Monday nights: machines are turned on at 7:45 p.m. for an optional 15-minute warm-up. Teams bowl three games weekly and are usually done by 9:45 p.m. **People interested in bowling are encouraged to visit the Facebook page for more information, or stop by Village Lanes in Monona on Monday nights.** You do not need to be a member of the league to support the league and socialize. ■



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

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LGBTQ SPORTS INFO

MADISON GAY HOCKEY ASSOCIATION
MADISONGAYHOCKEY.ORG

Plays **SUNDAY** nights Championship night is March 23, Blades Against AIDS public open skate on March 15 from 5-7 p.m.

BADGERLAND LGBT SOFTBALL LEAGUE
BADGERLANDSOFTBALL.COM

RECRUITING Plays **MONDAY & TUESDAY** nights Online registration now open to anyone 18+. All skill levels welcomed. Season starts in May.

MADISON MINOTAURS GAY RUGBY
MADISONMINOTAURS.COM

Indoor practices 6-8 p.m. at the East Madison Community Center every Sunday. New players welcome, no experience necessary. Spring matches: April 12 vs. Minneapolis (away), April 26 vs. Columbus (away)

HONEYMOONERS LGBT BOWLING LEAGUE

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MAD ROLLIN' DOLLS ROLLER DERBY
MADROLLINDOLLS.COM

Bouts on March 15, April 5, April 26. All bouts at Alliant Energy Center Coliseum. Doors at 5 p.m., action starts at 6 p.m.

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12p-04: RYAN SEACREST

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8p-12: BIG D

12a-5:00a: OLIVIA MORNAE

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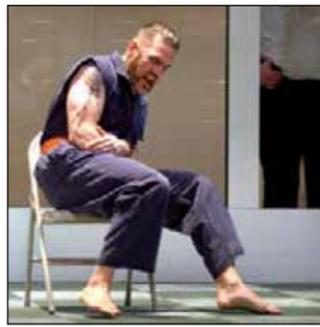
**Conference on LGBT Homelessness
April 8, First United Methodist**

OutReach & Willma's Fund host this conference on LGBT homelessness, which will explore the special challenges that LGBT homeless people face and work toward solutions to those challenges. Continental breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack will be provided. lgbtoutreach.com



**Janet Mock
April 16, Chazen Museum of Art**

Janet Mock is a writer, transgender activist, and author of *Redefining Realness: My Path to Womanhood, Identity, Love & So Much More*. Her visit will include a book signing, public talk, and a workshop exploring the navigation of corporate America as a person of color. janetmock.com



**Madison Opera's
"Dead Man Walking"
April 25 & 27, Overture Center**

"Dead Man Walking" is one of the most powerful operas ever written. It tells of a nun's journey as the spiritual advisor of a convicted murderer on death row. It is an skillful marriage of words and music to tell a story of love, suffering and spiritual redemption. madisonopera.org

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

17 PLAN YOUR YEAR

- May 2-4:** Family Equality Council's Families in the Midwest
- May 2:** OUT at the Symphony
- May 9:** AIDS Network Red Ribbon Affair
- May 10:** GSAFE Leadership Conference
- May:** GSAFE Celebration of Leadership
- June 1:** Fair Wisconsin Leadership Awards
- June 6-8:** Milwaukee PrideFest
- June 14:** FruitFest
- July 31-August 3:** Wisconsin AIDS Ride
- August 10:** OutReach Pride Parade
- August 10:** OutReach Pride Parade
- September 12:** OutReach Banquet
- October 12:** GSAFE's Walk/Run/Eat

Canoecopia, March 7-9, Alliant Energy Center Want to paddle local ponds? Considering an expedition? Want to fish from a kayak? Join over 20,000 paddling enthusiasts from beginners to experts to experience Canoecopia! Presented by Rutabaga Paddlesports. canoecopia.com

Blades Against AIDS, March 15, Hartmeyer Ice Arena The Madison Gay Hockey Association's open-skate fundraiser helps to raise awareness regarding HIV and its effects on the LGBTQ community. All proceeds benefit AIDS Network. Come mingle with the local community on and off the ice. Raffle prizes, entertainment, and more! aidsnetwork.org

Diverse & Resilient's Reviving the Dream Celebration, March 20, Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, Milwaukee Join D&R as they present their 2014 Leadership Awards, including the Bayard Rustin Leadership Award presented to Everett L. Marshburn. We will also hear remarks from Walter Naegle, longtime partner of Bayard Rustin. diverseandresilient.org

Camp Bingo: Pink Bingo, March 30, Sheraton Madison Join emcee Cass Marie and celebrity ball callers Aaron Rodgers and Katie Kruz for this riotous good time, all to benefit AIDS Network. Doors open at 1 p.m., and the first ball is called at 2:30 p.m. aidsnetwork.org/camp-bingo

Xanadu: The Broadway Musical Comedy!, March 28 - April 12, Bartell Theatre A spoof of the "classic" movie tells the tale of a Muse goddess sent to Earth to inspire a hunky mortal to follow his dream...build a roller-disco! Featuring "I'm Alive," "Magic," ELO's "Evil Woman," Olivia Newton-John's "Have You Never Been Mellow," and of course "Xanadu," this campy musical will have you singing in your seats! bartelltheatre.org

Five Lesbians Eating A Quiche, March 28 - April 12, Bartell Theatre In 1956, the widows of the Susan B. Anthony Society for the Sisters of Gertrude Stein meet for their annual breakfast. The sudden threat of an atomic bomb forces the women to begin sharing their deepest secrets, which lead to some not-so-shocking confessions from the society's leaders. stageq.com

ORGANIZATIONS

A representative sampling

- AIDS Network**
600 Williamson St., Madison (608) 252-6540
aidsnetwork.org
- Alianza Latina**
facebook.com/alianzalatinamadison
- Bowling Out Loud**
beckwith.matt@yahoo.com
- Dairyland Cowboys & Cowgirls**
dcandc.org
- Fair Wisconsin**
203 S. Paterson Street, Madison (608) 441-0143
fairwisconsin.com
- Frontrunners/Frontwalkers**
personalpages.tds.net/~tmcdurg
- Gay/Straight Alliance for Safe Schools (GSAFE)**
122 E. Olin Ave., Madison (608) 661-4141
gsafe.org
- Gay Softball League**
badgerlandsoftball.com
- Gay Volleyball League**
madisongayvolleyball.com
- Hermanos Latinos**
sneal@aidsnetwork.org
- Lez 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
- Proud Theater (LGBTQ Youth)**
proudtheater.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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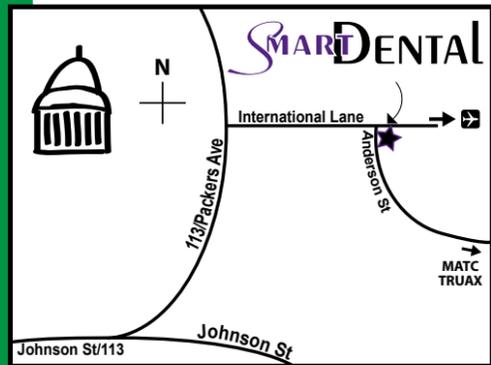
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did you hear?



Marriage-equality lawsuit filed in Wisconsin

The American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin in February filed a lawsuit in federal court seeking to overturn the state's ban on same-sex marriage, arguing that it violates the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of equal treatment under the law and denies basic rights to LGBT couples. The plaintiffs in the case are **Judi Trampf and Katy Heyning** of Madison (25 years together), **Roy Badger and Garth Wangemann** of Milwaukee (37 years together), **Charvonne Kemp and Marie Carlson** of Milwaukee (seven years together), and **Carol Schumacher and Virginia Wolf** of Eau Claire (38 years together).

State Attorney Gen. J.B. Van Hollen has said that he believes the constitutional amendment, passed by voters in 2006, is valid and will "vigorously defend it." The lawsuit also seeks to overturn the state's "marriage evasion" law, which makes it illegal for gay couples to go outside Wisconsin to obtain marriages.

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 Saturday, April 5, 8:00 pm
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January 26 | AIDS Network's "Red Carpet" Camp Bingo



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February 7-9 | Wisconsin LGBT Leadership Conference



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February 8 | Fair Wisconsin Milwaukee Leadership Awards



Photos by David Lauersdorf

did you hear?



Legislation to overturn Wisconsin's marriage-equality ban introduced



On another front to see Wisconsin brought up to speed with its neighbor states, **Sen. Tim Carpenter** and **Rep. JoCasta Zamarripa** joined with **Fair Wisconsin** to introduce legislation that would overturn the 2006 constitutional ban on marriage equality. Carpenter indicated that all 15 Democrats in

the Senate had signed on as co-sponsors of the bill, which would have to pass the Legislature in two consecutive sessions and then be approved via referendum by voters. So far, no Republicans have publicly stated that they would support the bill, though Carpenter said that he had been in private discussions with some GOP lawmakers but didn't want to "out" them as potential allies yet. With Republicans still in control of both branches of the Legislature, the bill is unlikely to pass in the near future. Gov. Scott Walker has said he believes the state's current gay-rights laws and marriage ban amount to a "healthy balance" and that he sees "no significant movement" toward marriage equality. The introduction of this bill, along with several lawsuits pending in state and federal court, may well prove otherwise.

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i was based in Wisconsin when, in 1988, I decided to split my time between New York's Greenwich Village and my home state's capital city, Madison. For my base in Wisconsin, I was looking for a loft space with urban style, not then the usual choice for those living in the Upper Midwest. I saw two properties that appealed to me: one was a mid-century modern ranch with a challenging interior space; the other was a smaller, single-story warehouse, located on the isthmus in Madison's bohemian near east side. I chose the warehouse;

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Looking Up for Inspiration



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We're looking up this year, literally. People are realizing that their ceilings are an element for consideration in their design plans. Looking skyward when you're inside this year might be more inspiring than the usual sea of standard white. Designers are using color in innovative ways. Coffered ceilings are making a comeback. Others are adding beams and rafters or cladding the ceiling in stained bead board. Where wallpaper has traditionally been a wall application, people are unafraid of using it on their ceilings as well. Michelangelo might have started the trend with the Sistine Chapel. It has only taken the rest of us designers a couple of centuries to catch on to a good idea.



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PURE+SIMPLE DESIGNS
NANCY HIGGS, OWNER & LEAD DESIGNER

We are seeing a trend toward dark and moody rooms. The fully committed version uses a dark paint on all the walls. If you prefer a neutral base, look to colors like charcoal gray or navy blue. If you'd rather go bold, try a deep turquoise or olive green. Either way, it is important to keep some lighter components. Consider lighter tones for upholstery and sheer curtains to allow as much natural light in as possible. These rooms tend to feel more formal, so don't forget to add a touch of luxe. We are also seeing traditional accents like tufting and nailhead trim. The addition of highly reflective metals like chrome, gold, or brass will bolster that formal feel while also distributing light throughout the room.

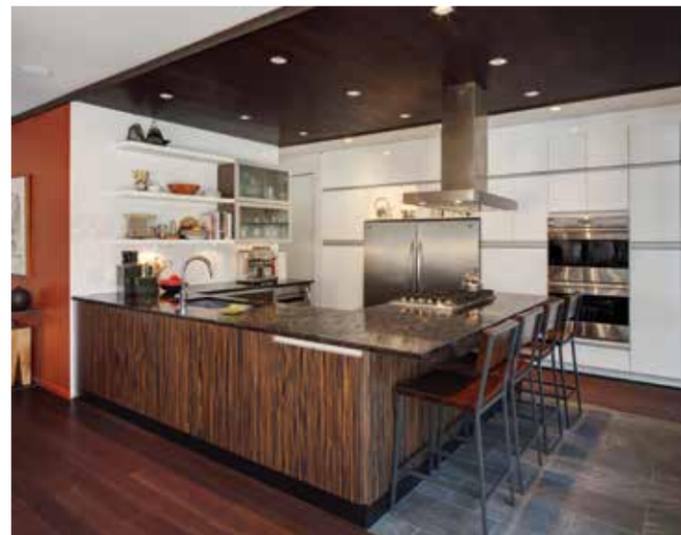
Simplicity and Elegance



EXQUISITE WINDOWS & DOORS
ANDREA HEDQUIST, OWNER

The key trends are simple, elegant, clean lines and layering. Custom-printed roller shades in light-filtering and blackout fabrics or roman shades in fun prints or woven materials handle light control with style. Pairing with bold patterned drapery panels or with edge and horizontal banding in contrasting fabrics continues to dominate in contemporary homes.

Motorized window fashions are now within everyone's reach and definitely a must-have item for your windows. Ease of operation using a remote control or smartphone or tablet app makes a once-mundane task effortless.



renovating, adapting, and eventually adding an additional master suite and large deck on its roof.

One day in 2012, after long enjoying the sleek urbanity of the re-designed warehouse, I learned that the unchanged mid-century dwelling—the house I'd been so tempted by 25 years earlier—was again on the market. I was eager to show the building to my partner, Jason, and so we raced across Madison to take a look. Our first visit reminded me of the many challenges the property presented. An early owner used a wheelchair, and her spouse had retrofitted the electrical, plumbing, and kitchen areas for a person facing challenges of mobility and access. The house boasted an open plan, with wide, racetrack-like corridors connecting the perimeter rooms to the main living area. At the heart of the building, a small interior courtyard allowed outside access through large sliding-glass doors. My dream had been to renovate the entire space, enlarging the courtyard and opening up the semi-enclosed kitchen.

The challenge was irresistible: Jason and I soon sought an architect who could take our ideas for the house to the next level—literally. We wanted an upstairs that would perch (tree house-like) atop the existing structure, but we were puzzled about how to reach it. Luckily, we found award-winning architect Stephen Bruns of Bruns Architecture in nearby Baraboo, who took our ideas and combined them with his own

did you hear?



Teen Pride Arts coming to Overture Center in April

Teen Pride Arts is an annual gathering of rainbow-spectrum teens, friends, and allies, coming together to celebrate their identities, enjoy performances, network, and make art. The event will bring teens from around the state, many of whom are involved in their Gay-Straight Alliances at home, but all teens 13 and up are welcome to join Teen Pride Arts on **Sunday, April 13**, from 6-8 p.m. at the Overture Center for the Arts' Rotunda Stage in Madison. Admission is free.

Explore the theme of "Giving Voice" as members of the teen theater community perform monologues and sketches, and visual artist **Michael Velliquette** leads an art-making workshop. Find out more at facebook.com/TeenPrideArts or contact co-organizer **Nicole Bresnick** at teenpridearts@gmail.com. Support the event by donating at power2give.org/go/p/2854.

What's Best for Your Guest



GINKGO HOUSE
ANDREW BRAMAN-WANEK, OWNER

I'm seeing a distinct trend for guest spaces or "in-law suites" to host friends and family for longer stays. Typically, these spaces are separate from a home's main bedrooms and activity centers and might be located in a basement or addition. They are often organized as an en suite (bedroom and bath directly connect), or at minimum, with a semi-private bath nearby.

The concept of having an "away space" is an enduring trend in home design. It's a room (or alcove, or corner) within one's home that serves as a sanctuary of sorts. Ultimately, the orientation of the room, view, lighting, colors, and textures are all part of the composition to facilitate tranquility.

The Modern Kitchen Is Tech Savvy



BELLA DOMICILE
DONDI SZOMBATFALVY, LEADER DESIGNER

Dimmable, low-profile LED under-cabinet and recessed lighting, touch-activated faucets, and ventilation that disappears into the ceiling are a few of the products being requested. Induction ranges and cooktops have also gained popularity due to their speed, efficiency, and safety.

A product that has revolutionized how we work in the kitchen is The Galley Sink. Even though "sink" is in its name, it's more of a flexible workstation. Imagine a three- to seven-foot workspace that allows you to prepare, serve, and clean up. With a 15-36-inch induction cooktop at hand, even the cooking is taken care of.



During separate business trips, (Jason and I) each happened upon the same magazine article featuring the work of a local architect. When we returned home, we both unfolded the torn pages of the article that featured work by Stephen.

impressive industrial prairie style to create the new 2,400-square foot mid-century oasis in the center of Madison.

Jason and my early connection to Bruns was serendipitous: During separate business trips, we each happened upon the same magazine article featuring the work of a local architect. When we returned home, we both unfolded the torn pages of the article that featured work by Stephen; we knew that he was the perfect choice for our project. When we met with him, Bruns asked us more about how we lived than about what we wanted in the renovation.

Together, we maintained the original footprint of the house, but raised ceiling heights in the main living spaces and added the 1,000-square-foot upstairs addition. Bruns studied sight lines, light, wind, and existing trees and vegetation—creating a concept that seamlessly envelopes the existing house, giving the owners the privacy of the upper master suite while separating the guest accommodations and office wing. The new design enlarges and repurposes the interior court, and reorients the main living area's focal points to feature the new gourmet kitchen, expansive living and dining areas, and redesigned fireplace wall with built-in buffet and library shelves.

The list of required elements was modest, but the plan required every design decision to be orchestrated with care. With no basement, storage was key. Existing closets were incorporated into the initial plan, modifying door locations while creating new space for my extensive library. Kitchen storage was maximized by designing a floor-to-ceiling cabinet wall that also includes space for large, commercial refrigerator and freezer units along with double wall ovens. Both Jason and I are accomplished chefs. The kitchen was where we wanted to focus our pragmatic design aesthetic, making sure it was functional first, visually striking second—an important element since it takes up a major part of the main living area.

Proposing a unique solution to the request for a mid-century modern look, Bruns created an organic and natural progression from the existing house to the redesigned dwelling. Maintaining the footprint



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WHAT'S TRENDING [HOME & GARDEN]

Trendy Tech Toys for Your Home



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LESLIE FIELDS, CO-OWNER

Tech fans are cheering because artificial intelligence is coming home, in the form of WiFi thermostats for our wired-in world. They let you control your home's indoor climate remotely by computer or smartphone, and give data freaks lots of real-time energy-use information.

New technology always raises questions. There is considerable debate about their usefulness in reducing energy consumption. Some observers warn of the potential for hacking, while others point to compatibility issues with HVAC equipment and other WiFi devices. Still, gadget gurus are excited that smart thermostats may be the device that ushers in a whole new world of robotics to control home climate, lighting, entertainment, and security.

Ductless air conditioners continue to be in hot demand. They are a great solution for vintage homes that lack ductwork, and they can be the best option for many remodeling projects. They are quiet and exceptionally energy efficient, and the outside lines can be hidden by painting a low-profile cover to match your home.

Making the Most of What You Have



CHAD'S CARPENTRY
CHAD SPEIGHT, OWNER

Homeowners are focused on making the most of their existing living spaces and amenities. Rather than building additions, many clients are considering how to finish lower levels and attics as a way to reduce cost and maximize re-



of the house, Bruns relocated the front entrance and created a dramatic stair hall. This addition also serves as the structure to support an expressive new roof line with cut-out skylights, which help create a series of private and semi-private courtyard areas—extending the living area and focusing the energy of the house away from the street and into its interior spaces.

Once the upper master bedroom and bathroom suite were positioned atop the front of the existing house, the roof line was established, and the stair hall addition imagined, the rest of the project fell into place. An expansive forecourt and carport extends the roof line. A captivating wood ceiling in the carport and exterior entry forecourt leads the eye through the cement block façade into the living area, visually uniting diverse areas and elements. A dramatic wood ceiling above the kitchen space is reflected in the espresso bamboo floor covering.

My long design career in the home fashion industry paired perfectly with Brun's design aesthetic—we collaborated on the choice of materials, finishes, and colors. Our choices include exposed cedar-plank exterior details, revisited mid-century-modern decorative cement blocks, a rich charcoal steel roof, and polished cement blocks. These elements became the face of the exterior, while warmer materials and bold accent colors define each of the interior living areas.

The completed residence, situated in the midst of towering trees and set well back from the street, shines during the daytime and positively glows at night. Exterior lighting and the warmth of reflections emanating from openings and from within creates a magical atmosphere that captures what it means to be both mid-century and modern. ■

Together, Dino and Jason own SPAWOOF, Madison's upscale dog daycare center, with its associated boarding and grooming salon. They are also the owners of WOOF's bar. "Stewie" is their two-year-old champion whippet and proud occupant of their new modern residence in Madison.

RESOURCES

ARCHITECT: Bruns Architecture, Stephen Bruns, Baraboo, Wisconsin
INTERIOR DESIGN: MANI & Company, Dino Maniaci, Madison, Wisconsin
FLOORCOVERINGS: Karastan Carpets, Mohawk Flooring, Dahl Tile
COUNTERTOPS: Nonn's Flooring, Madison, Wisconsin
CABINETS: Executive Cabinetry for Nonn's Flooring, Madison, Wisconsin
FINISH CARPENTRY, RAILINGS, AND DETAILS: Madison Design and Construction, Bradley Squire, Madison, Wisconsin



[HOME & GARDEN] WHAT'S TRENDING

turn on investment. A growing number of kitchen remodels involve finding ways to keep or repurpose existing cabinetry. Better skylight features have enticed many homeowners to improve natural light and address comfort concerns simultaneously. Lastly, removing walls to make smaller homes seem more expansive and the use of built-in storage remain popular as ways to transform older houses into bigger, brighter, and more inviting living spaces.

Plant Up to Save Space



BLAIR LAWN & LANDSCAPES
PAT BLAIR, OWNER

Outdoor rooms with grill packages and fire pits will still be popular, but there are several trends to check out:

Vertical planting in sections that anchor to walls or assemble as screening gives gardeners an opportunity to have herbs and vegetables at an easy height for picking and tending. These live walls are great for installing annuals and vines that can cover an unsightly wall or be installed on a caster frame and used for screening a patio or separating common areas in a commercial setting. They are built to withstand Midwest winters, although most of the plant material has to be removed beforehand.

Taking the place of ponds are water fountains that sit on a plastic basin that is dug into the ground and covered with decorative rock. What makes them nice is their size, low maintenance, and options for the top fountain.

Outdoor landscape lighting is taking on a whole new look with the addition of LED lamps that can be programmed (Fx Luminaire offers WiFi-ready fixtures) to go on and off in different zones or be dimmed to create a different mood.

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THE *Stir-Stick* RANCH

Build what you love...
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Laura Webster details the vision and journey that led her and partner **Jill Munich** to build their dream home in Madison.



Photographed by Eric Baillies

Madtown Love

I moved to Madison in 1991 to go to the University of Wisconsin. As an only child, leaving the security of my parents' home in the suburbs of Milwaukee was a little scary. I knew in my heart, however, that I would probably like it here. I was wrong. Turns out I didn't like Madison—I loved it.

I knew I wanted to stay in this area for a long time. This was to be my home. What I did not know is that my life would change significantly less than 10 years later when I would realize that I was gay. The trajectory of my life changed in that moment. I believe that everything happens for a reason and the journey I took in my career, life, and love all led me to today, where I have found my true home. As they say, home is where your heart is.

Jill first moved to Madison in 1988, but since then lived half of that time in the rural areas of Dane/Iowa/Green Counties. We met in 2009 while she was living in Mount Horeb. I immediately thought Mount Horeb was not a place I would choose on my own as home, but soon afterward, the stars lined up. We had an opportunity to sell my condo in Sun Prairie just as the market was falling and to embark on a joint project fixing up the 1950s ranch Jill had purchased a year prior. We soon felt that we might stay in Mount Horeb, as we both really liked the "atomic ranch" feel of the home. We quickly fell in love with the town and the wonderful neighbors that became part of our chosen family. However, the commute was long: I work for Kraft/Oscar Mayer as a senior manager of procurement innovation on the far east side, and Jill is the VP of marketing services for National Guardian Life on the Isthmus. We both knew in our hearts that we wanted to be closer to downtown Madison in a location that would facilitate the activities we both enjoy: UW Badgers, arts, culinary exploration, and entertaining our friends and families.

How would we entertain in that space?
How would the light look at each time of the day?
Would people ever leave the kitchen during a party?
(We have confirmed the answer is NO to that question!)

Distracted Driving

Jill and I share the same love of modern design. In my line of work, I spend a lot of time working with design principles for new product development, and Jill is in a creative space for her work all day long. Jill grew up in a family that, by the time she graduated from high school in Chippewa Falls, had built three new homes. It was in her blood. I knew she wanted to build again, and I was very excited to take that leap with her, especially knowing that she had a comfort level with the process.

On a sunny Sunday in October 2010, we drove the long way through town on our way to Hilldale Mall and started to explore some areas of Madison that neither of us had been to for a few years. We had talked about building, but weren't actively pursuing moving away from Mount Horeb as the projects at our current home were keeping us very busy. As I was driving, I found myself getting caught up in the individual design and expression of the houses around us.

"STOP!" Jill exclaimed.
I slammed on the brakes thinking I was about to run over something or drive off the road. I was so busy gawking at the houses that I didn't even notice the empty lot right in front of us. It was perfect: southern exposure, elevated lot, and central to nearly everything we did in Madison. Three hours later we put in an offer, and within 24 hours it had been accepted. It was that fast. When you know, you know.

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WHAT'S TRENDING [HOME & GARDEN]

Beautify Your Backyard



QUIGLEY DECKS & FENCE
TIM QUIGLEY, OWNER

Homeowners are looking for a backyard living space that is an extension of their home's interior; an area where they can relax or host large gatherings.

Today, families are giving more thought to incorporating such design features as larger square footage and multi-level decks to accommodate more outdoor furniture, and everything from stand-alone grills to fully functioning outdoor kitchens for large cookouts. Other trends I've noticed are stainless steel cable railings for a more sophisticated look and enhanced views; and LED deck lighting, which creates a beautiful ambiance and allows for prolonged entertaining into the warm summer nights.

Aging In Place, With Style



TIME 2 REMODEL
CURT DIMMIG, OWNER

Larger walk-in showers with decorative tile, taller toilets, and vanity cabinets have become the norm to help many people "age in place." Powder-room trends have

changed from a pedestal sink to a furniture style vanity with legs.

Although bathrooms are still the favorite room to begin a remodeling project, kitchens and basements are also catching up. Both spaces are where the family gathers and are very personal in what the user is looking for. Better organization and easier-to-maintain products such as quartz countertops are often what is asked for first in a kitchen. Basements are including entertainment centers, wet bars, and offices.

The Design Journey

Now that we had a lot, we started to look for modern house plans online and found two that really caught our eye as a starting point. Key design elements for us were an open floor plan, lots of natural light, and good flow throughout the space. We weren't in a rush, as we knew we wanted to give ourselves time to finish rehabbing the Mount Horeb house and let the market come back.

We started immersing ourselves in all things "building" to get as many ideas as possible. These included attending events such as open houses, checking out design showrooms, the Modern Home Tour, the Madison Home Expo, and the Madison Area Builders Association Parade of Homes. These places are where we ultimately met many of the subcontractors and individuals responsible for the final product. During the 2011 Parade of Homes, we met Wayne Acker (Acker Builders of Waunakee) at one of his parade homes. We were walking through the house with our original plan in hand, comparing the plan room sizes against their room sizes. Wayne walked up to me and started to ask about the plan. Three hours later we were still there with Wayne and knew he and his family would be the ones to build our dream home.

Over the next two-and-a-half years, we talked through our vision for each of the spaces in the home using the jumping-off point of our online plans with Acker Builders. We used their Draftsman to ultimately create the final version. Jill and I spent hours with each new draft of the plan and walking through in our heads how we planned to use each space. How would we entertain in that space? How would the light look at each time of the day? Would people ever leave the kitchen during a party? (We have confirmed the answer is NO to that question!)

We pored over even the small details such as the height of the cabinet shelves in the kitchen and the height of the outlets near the nightstands for our guests to plug in their phones. We also took inspiration from many of our favorite hotels—Hotel Red, Iron Horse, 21c Museum Hotel. We each put our own unique stamp on the house: Jill's passion was the Japanese soaking tub concept in the master bath, which we executed through Signature Hardware. My dream was the unique visual feel created by the massive Isis Ceiling Fan from Big Ass Fans.

Thirty-five plan revisions later, we knew we had our dream design. There were features that were never compromised throughout the process to keep us true to our original vision, such as clerestory windows, master shower, the proximity of the laundry to the master closet, outdoor living space, and radiant heat. Surprisingly, other unplanned design elements emerged out of some challenges we faced during the process and resulted in some of our favorite features, such as the front porch cantilever and the wide stairwell with a gated cable rail to the basement.

The Build

We spent quite a bit of time looking for the subcontractors that would breathe life to the project through Acker Builders. We quickly found out that modern design is not easy to execute. Through many field trips, we met amazing local subcontractors that were just as excited about our vision as we were and had a plan to help make it a reality. Special mention goes to **Sean Reimer** (Building Solutionz), **Rick Hoekstra** (Kitchen Idea Center), **Tim Wollen** (Tailored Living), **Courtney Brunker** (Floor 360), **Lisa Clarke** (Ferguson Lighting), **David Welsh** (Artisan Designs, Inc.), **Tim Quigley** (Quigley Decks and Fence), and the teams from Dave Jones Plumbing, Flanders Electric Inc (FEI), Fireside Hearth & Home, Brian Schmidt Enterprises, LLC., and Brunzell Lumber & Millwork.

It does not go without mention that the team at Acker Building was amazingly attentive to the details of our project and truly cared about not only the quality of the work, but also our experience with the build-



Jill's passion was the Japanese soaking tub concept in the master bath. My dream was the unique visual feel created by the massive Isis Ceiling Fan from Big Ass Fans.

ing process itself. Special thank-you to Wayne, Michelle, Matt, and the rest of the team at Acker. We are thrilled to call many of these individuals not only part of our building team, but now also our friends.

While the building process was very smooth, with only a few weather-related bumps, the trickiest part was the appraisal process (which is required to get the project moving). As we found out, much has changed in this low-interest-financing environment for mortgage lending. The government has taken a lot of control out of their hands, and that leads to more risk aversion from financial institutions. While we had no problem securing the loan, the project is always at risk until you can secure the appropriate appraisal. Tim Greene (Summit Credit Union) made the process painless, and we broke ground at 7 a.m. on May 24, 2013. Exactly 120 days later, we moved into our dream home.

BINGO

A week after we moved in, we realized we needed to come up with a name for our new home. We had always referred to it as "the ranch" during the building process, but knew it needed more character. We wanted it to reflect the "atomic ranch" feel we used in much of the design process and to reflect our plan for entertaining both large and small groups. After about 10 minutes of throwing out names, Jill hit it on the head and "The Stir-Stick Ranch" was born. ■



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A recent
client's
bathroom



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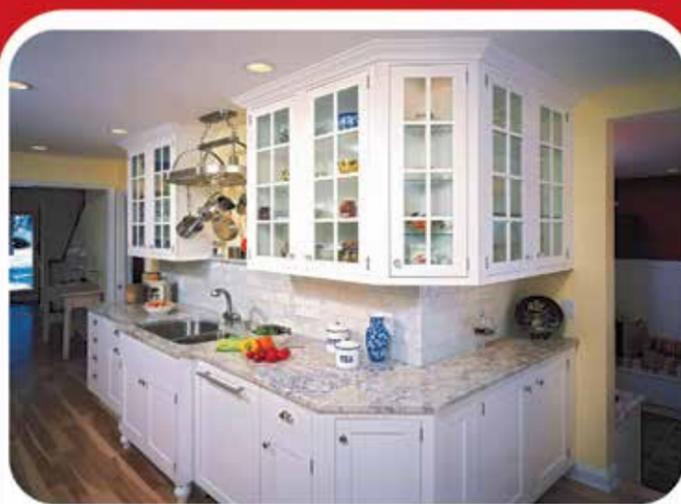
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Our History by Richard Wagner

A Wisconsin Fairy Tale

Dick Wagner shines a light on the story of bipartisanship that won early victories for LGBT rights in Wisconsin.



Once upon a time there were gay-friendly Republicans in Wisconsin. Yes, Virginia, you should believe that the Wisconsin gay victories of the early 1980s were possible only with Republican support.

All too often, our only nod to the bipartisan nature of those victories goes to Republican Governor Lee Sherman Dreyfus. He deserves huge kudos for signing the first-in-the-nation gay rights bill in 1982. Yet the document

would never have gotten to his desk if it had not been for gay-friendly votes by Republican legislators. This forgotten tale should be remembered.

The legislative agenda for the Wisconsin gay community was developed in the 1970s following Stonewall. First on the list was the consenting-adults bill that would decriminalize homosexual acts (and, it's worth noting, the same criminalized acts when performed by heterosexuals, whether married or not). As long as our official status was that of criminals when it came to who we loved, Wisconsin gays could never get much sympathy from mainstream folks. Rep. David Clarenbach, the chief legislative strategist for gay rights, felt that by pushing a bill that also gave sexual privacy to heterosexuals, it would "run interference" for a bill that would primarily effect homosexuals.

While most states still had laws criminalizing homosexual acts in this period, the Wisconsin public-relations strategy generally followed the national efforts for penal law reform. It sought to describe such acts as victimless crimes. That strategy had resulted in repeals elsewhere. That this "consenting adults" or "sexual privacy" bill was a felicitous naming choice in Wisconsin was shown by comparison with our neighboring state of Minnesota. They called their effort "sodomy repeal." Their victory was delayed until well after ours.

The second item on the legislative agenda here was nondiscrimination in employment and other areas such as housing and public accommodations. Both this gay-rights item and decriminalizing gay sex acts were legislative goals across the country where gay activists felt they could make a difference.

The well publicized firing of Paul Safransky from Southern Colony, a state institution near Racine, for being a homosexual in 1972 showed the need for this legislation. By 1980, the Wisconsin cities of Madison and Milwaukee, as well as Dane County, had already adopted nondiscrimination ordinances at the municipal level. And while these ordinances protected nearly a million Wisconsin citizens out of 4.7 million, most of the LGB individuals outside these jurisdictions in the state had no safeguards. And none then existed for trans persons anywhere in the state.

Bills on both topics had been introduced in successive sessions of the legislature since Lloyd Barbee's efforts in the early 1970s. It was the support of the Wisconsin Catholic Conference for the principle of nondiscrimination that persuaded Rep. David Clarenbach to push AB 70 for nondiscrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodations in the 1981-82 session.

The bill's cosponsors were fellow Democrats Reps. Steve Leopold, Marcia Coggis (who had replaced Barbee), Barbara Ulichny, and Dismas Becker (a former Catholic priest). All besides David were from Milwaukee, with Leopold and Ulichny representing parts of the east side with its gay community and Becker representing the area around Marquette University.

Clarenbach had good support from the Assembly's Democratic leadership, from Speaker Ed Jackamonis of Waukesha to Majority Leader Tom Lofus from Sun Prairie and Assistant Majority Leader Chet Gerlach from South Milwaukee, all of whom supported the bill. The problem for passage was that not all Democrats felt the same way. While there were 56 Democrats in the majority of the 99-member body, nine of them were what might be termed

the irreconcilables. They totally opposed to the bill.

The first roll call on the nondiscrimination bill was on a motion for indefinite postponement, which meant the Assembly would not even take up the matter. This motion lost when eight Republicans helped make up the majority of 55 voting not to postpone. At passage of the bill on the third reading the vote was closer, with only 49 in favor and 45 against. Of the 49 majority votes, six were Republicans. Without their support the bill would have failed to pass.

Before the bill would make it to Dreyfus's desk and into history as the first-in-the-nation gay-rights legislation, though, it had to pass the state Senate. There was only one Senate roll call on AB 70 on a motion by a Republican senator to non-concur, that is not agree with, the Assembly's passage. The motion was defeated. Voting against the motion were 15 Democrats and 4 Republicans to make the majority of 19 against the 13 in the minority. The majority vote required was 17.



On the consenting-adults bill the Republican supporters were eight women, one gay man (though not out at the time), and three straight men.

Once again, without Republican votes the measure would have been defeated in the Upper Chamber. The bill went on to Governor Dreyfus's desk for signature. This resulted in the strange Wisconsin anomaly that for a year homosexual acts were technically illegal but you could not discriminate against people for them.

The next session of the legislature in 1983-84 saw the final passage of the consenting-adults bill, introduced as AB 250. Again Democratic leadership in the majority, this time with Speaker Lotus, Majority Leader Gary Johnson of Beloit, and Assistant Majority Leader Richard Shoemaker, was supportive. But again there were at least ten Democrats who were Irreconcilables on de-

[HOME & GARDEN] WHAT'S TRENDING

Upcycle for Chic Urban Living



HABITAT RESTORE
JEN VOICHIK, DIRECTOR

Creativity abounds in the repurposing arena! Have you ever wondered what happens to those outdated entertainment centers?! How about converting one into a china hutch, a kids' play kitchen or desk, a funky closet system?

Consider an ADU for your property: Accessory Dwelling Units, otherwise known as "mother-in-law suites." Picture a tiny house replacing your garage, or in your backyard, for your aging parent, dear friend, or as a rental unit. This is an option now in Madison with support from the Design Coalition Institute.

Backyard Fire & Water



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WHAT'S TRENDING [HOME & GARDEN]

Rediscovering the Remodel



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In Madison, home values are steadily increasing and cost of financing has been steady. Many homeowners view this as a good time to jump back into the remodeling projects they had previously put on hold. In fact, this is being seen across the country. According to the National Association of the Remodeling Industry, equity of homes is getting back to normal and people are ready to invest in their homes again. Locally, the top remodeling trends continue to feature energy-efficiency improvements such as insulation, windows, and HVAC; Universal Design improvements that can extend living in your home; and projects that lower home maintenance such as siding, decking, and steel entry doors.

Focus On Energy Savings



AMERISPEC
REBECCA LAIRD, INSPECTOR

These days, when I'm inspecting a house for a client, I'm no longer hired to just analyze the house for potential structural issues or safety hazards. People are becoming increasingly concerned with how much houses can offer them in terms of energy savings. They're also quite curious about what exactly is in the attic in terms of insulation and how the house "breathes" through the attic space, as well as how to ratchet up energy efficiency even further after they buy.

Also, most everyone is keeping their home purchase within their financial comfort zone and opting not to buy the biggest house

criminalizing homosexual acts, and their numbers grew slightly as the bill progressed in the chamber. Republican Minority Leader Tommy Thompson was against the bill on all votes, as he had been against AB 70.

The bill was first attacked by amendments offered by Republicans. One would have made passage effective only with a statewide ratifying referendum. Another amendment would have made the referendum just advisory. Both amendments were defeated with Republican votes being 13 of 60 against the first and 12 of 61 against the second. Next were amendments to make consenting acts legal only for married people. These were defeated by smaller margins of 55 to 43 and 55 to 44. Again the eight and seven Republican votes provided the margins to defeat the amendments and ensure the consenting-adults legislation included homosexuals.

As more Democrats went on record against the bill at the second reading, 15 of the 55 votes in the majority for passage were Republicans. At the third reading 13 of the 53 votes in favor were Republicans.

For AB 250 on consenting adults, the Senate had a number of roll calls with even more Republican support. Once again they were needed, because there were six Democratic irreconcilables of the 19 majority-party members.

The first tactic by Republican Senator David Opitz, who had also been



The most prominent gay Republican in the state would be U. S. Congressman Steve Gunderson. He is one of three out gay members of Congress elected by Wisconsin, more out gay congress people than any other state.

against the nondiscrimination bill, was to lay the bill on the table—meaning it would not be considered. This was defeated by 13 Democrats and six Republicans voting not to table. An amendment for a referendum was also defeated.

The next vote was to not concur with the Assembly passage, which failed with 13 Democrats and six Republicans against. On the second reading, the bill passed 20 to 13. The majority was 13 Democrats and seven Republicans. The same vote passed the bill at its third reading.

Particular heroes among the Senate Republicans who were good on both bills were Sen. Susan Engleiter of Menominee Falls and Sen. Barbara Lorman of Ft. Atkinson. Both would go on to be re-elected to their offices. One Republican senator who did support AB 70, Rod Johnston, later lost his seat to a Democratic supporter of AB 70, Barb Ulichny, in a Milwaukee east-side district home to many gays.

In the Assembly, the good supporters of both bills were Republican Reps. Pat Goodrich of Berlin, Betty Jo Nelsen from Shorewood, and Lolita Schnieders of Menomonee Falls. Indeed, Republican women were more likely to support the bills than Republican men. On the consenting-adults bill the Republican supporters were eight women, one gay man (though not out at the time), and three straight men. Though it should be observed not all Republicans suspected of being closeted supported the measures.

David Clarenbach believes that the clergy and laity of the religious communities helped move the favorable Republican votes. Some of them also belonged to the New Republican Conference trying to support progressive views in the party. The NRC had been bolstered in the state by Governor Dreyfus's 1978 election win. There was some safety in numbers if you knew other Republicans would vote for the measures.

Nor were gay-friendly Republicans only to be found in the legislature. The first openly gay Republican office-holder in Wisconsin was Madison City Council member James McFarland, who served from 1986 to 1991. His partner at the time, Ric Villasenor, was active in the Madison campus effort to ban ROTC because of the military's discriminatory policies. McFarland would continue his activism after leaving Madison for Milwaukee through work with the Log Cabin Republicans. McFarland would be one of the two Wisconsinites of 12 gay Republicans to meet with then Governor George W. Bush in Austin in 2000. The other was Scott Evertz, a former president of the Wisconsin Log

Cabin Republicans, whom President Bush appointed as director of the Office of National AIDS Policy in 2001.

The most prominent gay Republican in the state would be U. S. Congressman Steve Gunderson of Osseo. While in the state legislature Gunderson, though not formally out, co-sponsored gay bills with Clarenbach of Madison and Dick Flintrop of Oshkosh, other gay members not yet formally out, though the last two were Democrats. While in Congress, Gunderson had become supportive of gay political efforts, speaking at a fundraising dinner of the Human Rights Campaign. Conservative members threatened to formally out Gunderson as gay, but he pre-empted them by coming out in the New York Times. He would go on to win re-election by Third District voters in Western Wisconsin in 1994 as an out gay congressman. He is one of three out gay members of Congress elected by Wisconsin (Baldwin and Pocan being the others), more out gay congress people than any other state.

Considering how some view the hard tinge of Republican platforms these days, it may be difficult to believe the strong Republican support for the gay agenda in Wisconsin. Going again back to the newspaper editor writing to Virginia O'Hanlon in 1897, he went beyond urging her to believe in uncommon wonders like Santa Claus. "Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies!" He wrote that just because you cannot see fairies dancing on the lawn does not prove they are not there. So it is with gay-friendly Republicans: just because you cannot always see them, does not prove they do not exist. At the end of the 20th century, not too long ago, Republicans, at least some, indeed were gay-friendly. They cooperated in efforts that gave Wisconsin an early reputation as then being in the forefront of the national movement for gay rights. As the 19th century editor put it, "Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world." ■

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.

[HOME & GARDEN] WHAT'S TRENDING

the bank will allow. We see people buying smaller spaces and then maybe renovating to suit their personal tastes. People are becoming aware that our living spaces are one of the most meaningful ways we can contribute to a better environment on a wider scale, as well as how keeping up with energy efficiency can increase their ability to be comfortable in the home, no matter the temperature outside.

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Décor from mother nature always hits home! Hives, feathers, nests, and branches from your urban or rural tromps add a nurturing effect to a space. I give my clients ideas and inspiration but make it known: "always stay in your own movie." Accenting your space with family heirlooms, vintage photos, grandmother's afghan, and something from your travels adds that personal touch.

Jamie Stanek, a fine woodworker and designer of residential and commercial spaces, has been working in the field for over 20 years. He has done work for *Merchant*, *Natt Spil*, *Nostrano*, and *Context*. He can be contacted at artisandesignandfabrication.com

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READER SPOTLIGHT

How **Audrey Wax** found a furry best friend, calm presence, and budding theater star in rescue pup **Madison May**.



Audrey is the artistic director of StageQ.

did you hear?

GSAFE hires new racial justice organizer

GSAFE is pleased to announce the addition of **Ali Muldrow** as the new racial justice youth organizer. In this new position, Ali is responsible for building and implementing GSAFE's new Racial Justice Program. This program is focused on building the leadership of LGBTQ and ally youth of color in Madison public high schools.

Born in May 1987 in Madison, Wisconsin, Ali Muldrow has an intimate understanding of the Madison Public School District. She is honored by the opportunity to empower young people as they address the issues of oppression that impact them and their communities while working with GSAFE. Ali has worked to create classes and workshops that celebrate the diversity of her community for the last seven years. She played a key role in creating Wisconsin's first Spoken Word English elective class at Madison's East High School. Ali considers her greatest strength to be her ability to listen, and she believes deeply in the power of music. Ali is a mother, partner, artist, and hardcore stand-up comedy fan. She also loves poetry, tea, shooting stars, good books, and made-up words.

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OUR PETS

Imagine being thrown out of a moving vehicle at the young age of six months, weighing under two pounds, being malnourished and scared of the world around you. Madison May entered my life in 2009 after being a victim of such circumstance. At the time, I wasn't looking for another pet. But what I found was a furry companion that has forever changed my life.

Her first few months in her new home with me, she struggled among all of the hand feedings, oral surgery, and getting acclimated to people and a daily routine. Within six months, she was like a brand-new pup, and I was hooked on her existence.

It's been almost six years since I opened my heart and home to my four-legged best friend. People often tell me she is very lucky that I rescued her, and my response to them is always the same: "It was she that rescued me." Nine months after I took Madison May in, I found myself in the middle of relocating for a job. She and I moved from Washington State to Madison for a teaching position at Edgewood College. Leaving behind my friends, artistic connections, and memories was difficult, but I felt at least I had part of home with me—and that home was Madison May. I've found that she helps me overcome my social anxieties and tags along with me to many social functions so that I feel safe and confident. She enjoys nothing more than getting to know new people and new faces.

Madison May enjoys accompanying me to my classroom at Edgewood, where she has touched the lives of all my students. They adore her presence, and I believe my students do their best work when she is around. She has a calmness about her that radiates. She's become a regular around our Theatre Arts Program.

In Madison's spare time, you can find her snacking on treats from Bad Dog Frida, taking weekend getaways at her "grandparents'" home in Rockford, Illinois, or visiting rehearsals at StageQ Inc., a theater company for which I recently became the artistic director. She has even tried her paws at acting, with her debut role as Toto in *The Wizard of Oz* for First Act Children's Theatre of Madison. Though she looked nothing like the stereotypical part, she melted hearts and stole scenes with her charming demeanor. As her owner, I hope to expand her acting resume within the Madison community and through film. Madison May will be appearing in *The Wedding Singer: The Musical* at Edgewood in November of 2014. And this is only the beginning for her!

I am thankful and proud to be Madison May's rescue mom and lap to sit on. ■

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member profile



NAME:
Sarah Listug
TITLE:
Assistant Director
of Community
Engagement
EMPLOYER:
United Way of Dane
County

Sarah is an active member of OPEN's external committee, planning upcoming networking and social events. After stints in alumni relations and retail management, she now manage the media and public relations need for United Way of Dane County. She is passionate about nonprofits and encourages everyone to go out and donate, volunteer or advocate for a cause. Outside of work she can be seen on the stage performing with Stage Q, singing her heart out at a local karaoke joint or spending time with her partner, Hillary, and their dog Gordon.

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OPEN is seeking talented individuals who would be interested in serving on a committee. If you are interested, please contact us at: info@OpenMadison.org

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OUR REPRESENTATIVES

Immigration Reform's LGBT Impact

Rep. Mark Pocan and State Rep. JoCasta Zamarripa make a joint call for immigration reform that includes LGBT-identified aspiring citizens.

Whether you live in urban cities like Milwaukee and Madison or in the rural corners of our state, immigration reform is an issue that affects all Wisconsinites. In the U.S. today, there are more than 11 million undocumented immigrants who reside in our communities and are fighting for the American Dream. In our time as elected representatives, we have worked to encourage a comprehensive and bipartisan approach to immigration reform that keeps families together, ensures all workers are treated fairly, and boosts Wisconsin's economy.



These are the estimated 267,000 aspiring citizens who identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual, and the 25,000 – 50,000 undocumented immigrants who identify as transgender members within our LGBT community.

Within this population of new immigrants, there is a smaller but equally important group of people fighting for another type of equality. These are the estimated 267,000 aspiring citizens who identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual, and the 25,000 – 50,000 undocumented immigrants who identify as transgender members within our LGBT community.

For these aspiring citizens who identify as LGBT, it is essential that comprehensive immigration reform take into account their unique needs.

On this front, 2013 represented strong progress — after the Supreme Court struck down Section 3 of the so-called Defense of Marriage Act, LGBT Americans can now sponsor their life partners for family-based immigration, just like opposite-sex spouses. But we have more work to do.

We need to increase the number of visas available to those who wish to sponsor relatives.

Access to quality health care is vitally important for all aspiring citizens currently residing in our country. For LGBT individuals, many of whom suffer from poorer health than their non-LGBT counterparts, access to affordable and culturally competent health care can be the difference between life and death.

There are many steps we can take to ensure that comprehensive immigration reform will fit the needs of our LGBT community. As an openly gay member of Congress and the only openly bisexual representative in the Wisconsin Assembly, we are joining together to advocate for the inclusion of the needs of these 267,000 LGBT undocumented immigrants. If comprehensive immigration reform is to be truly comprehensive, we must cover all those who aspire to be U.S. citizens, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

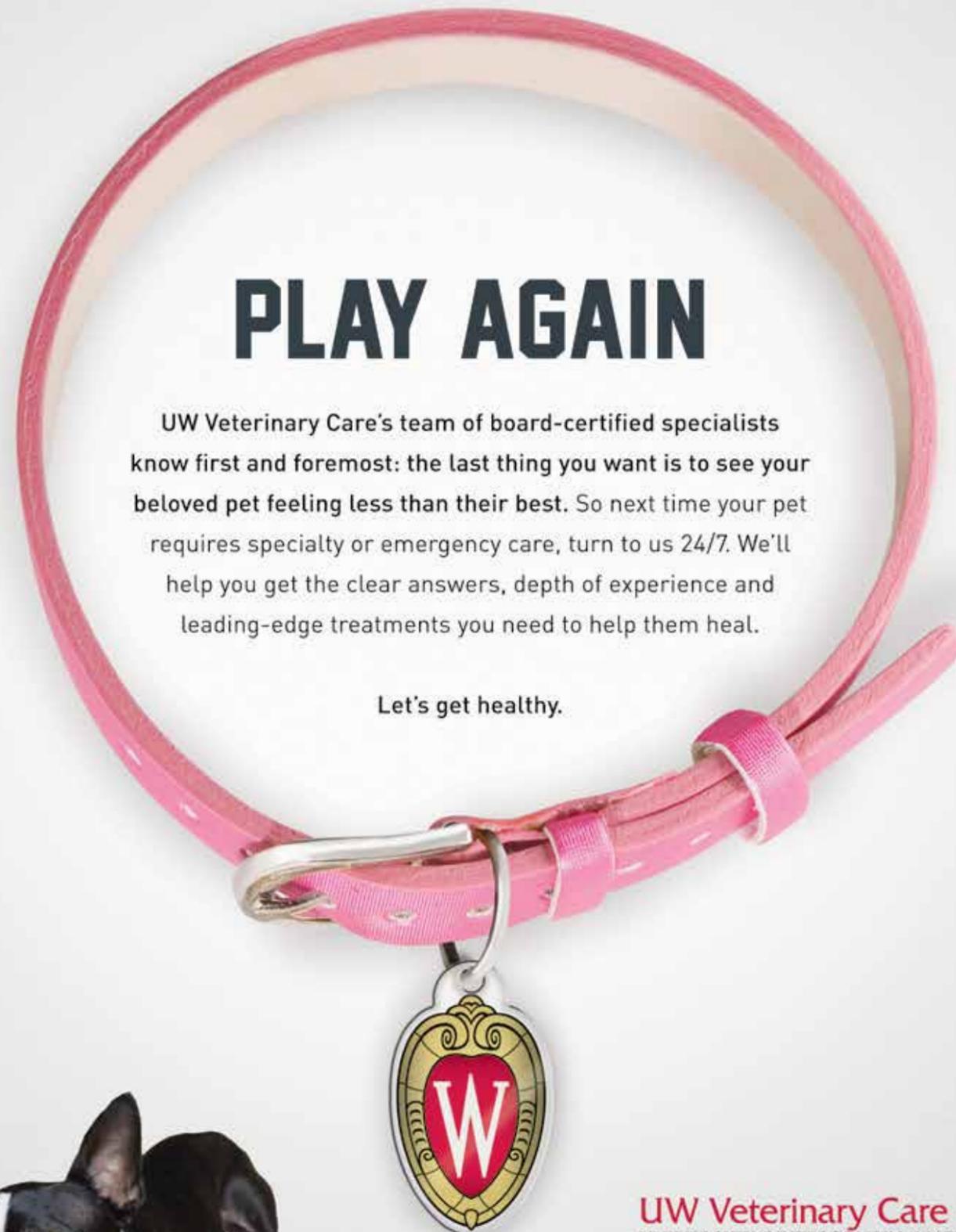
As representatives for the people of Wisconsin, we will continue to advocate for a common-sense approach to fixing our nation's broken immigration system and ensuring that all aspiring citizens are equally protected, including those who identify as LGBT. ■

Following 14 years in the Wisconsin State Assembly, Congressman Mark Pocan was sworn in on January 3, 2013, as the U.S. Representative for Wisconsin's second district, which includes Dane, Green, Iowa, LaFayette, Sauk, and portions of Rock and Richland counties.



Rep. JoCasta Zamarripa was elected to represent the 8th district in the Wisconsin State Assembly in 2010. She is one of two openly LGBT members of the Wisconsin Legislature, alongside Sen. Tim Carpenter.

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Our Uncomfortable Truths

Examining real issues of racial disparity in Dane County is tough but crucial work that everyone, LGBT progressives especially, needs to engage in.

I am writing this on January 15, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. This coming weekend, there will be myriad events celebrating Dr. King's work, his legacy, and his life. Many of us who identify as white and consider ourselves progressives will head downtown to celebrate, to trot out our liberal or progressive credentials, and then go back into hiding for another year believing that, when it comes to the real work of racial justice, we have done our part.

In December 2013, Rev. Alex Gee wrote an autobiographical piece for the *Capital Times* entitled "Justified Anger." His article scratched the surface of one man's experi-

space available to people and hope that people will write letters to the editor. We can help make that happen by participating in community meetings and conversations, by recognizing that there is a real urgency here for all of us to respond to the disparities, and we who identify as white have some internal work to do, too.

Those of us who are white cannot begin to understand the depths and effects of systemic racism in our community until those of us who are white understand the depths and effects of systemic white privilege. In a *Capital Times* op-ed, School Board member Ed Hughes summed it up well when he suggested that if you aren't buying the idea of white privilege, think about the disparities in housing, employment, poverty, graduation rates, and incarceration rates and then think about how many white Madison residents described the most pressing social justice issue of 2013 as the right to sing in the Capital without a permit. How can anyone look at the findings of the *Race to Equity Report* and not see that systemic racism continues to be the most pressing social justice issue facing Dane County? Ask the parents of a black child in the Madison schools if singing without a permit trumps the 50/50 chance that their child will not graduate from high school.

In his article, Rev. Gee described an interaction with a woman at a meeting. Rev. Gee had given a speech, and afterward the woman complimented him on not being an angry black man. The exchange reminded me of something Dr. King wrote in his Letter from Birmingham Jail: "...I have almost reached the regrettable conclusion that the Negro's greatest stumbling block in the stride toward freedom is not the White Citizen's Council or the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate who is more devoted to "order" than to justice; who prefers a negative peace which is the absence of justice; who constantly says, "I agree with you in the goal you seek, but I can't agree with your methods of direct action... Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewil-



Ask the parents of a black child in the Madison schools if singing without a permit trumps the 50/50 chance that their child will not graduate from high school.

dering than outright rejection."

In Madison, perhaps it is not the white moderate but the white liberal, the white progressive who is more comfortable with the "negative peace" Dr. King describes, the person who would rather not have the uncomfortable conversations about race and privilege. But for the sake of justice we must have those uncomfortable conversations, and we must be willing to hear, see, and feel the anger of our brothers and sisters who are regularly denied justice in our community.

I would like to suggest a place to start: the 15th White Privilege Conference, March 24-29 here in Madison. The agency I work for, MUM, is a conference co-host. Now, some of you may even be uncomfortable with the name—we've had calls at our office suggesting that it be changed, that it's too "in your face."

Since its inception in 1999, Dr. Eddie Moore Jr., founder of the conference, has persisted beyond misperceptions of the White Privilege Conference's (WPC) name to present a transformational experience based on three tenets: understanding, connecting, and respecting. The WPC has become a venue for fostering difficult and critical dialogues around white privilege, diversity, multicultural education and leadership, social and economic justice, and intersecting systems of privilege and oppression. It won't be easy, it won't be comfortable, but if you are open to the tenets of the conference it will be transformational. I hope to see you there. ■

Linda Ketchum is the Executive Director of Madison-Area Urban Ministry (emum.org).

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Dane County has the worst racial disparity rate in incarceration in the state of Wisconsin, which is among the worst in the United States.

ence in Madison, an experience that is representative of thousands of men and women in Dane County. His experience is similar to that of 80 percent of the men and women with whom we work at Madison Urban Ministry (MUM) who are returning from prison. Dane County has the worst racial disparity rate in incarceration in the state of Wisconsin, which is among the worst in the United States. In the *Race to Equity Report* of the Wisconsin Council of Children and Families, the disturbing realities of life in Dane County are clearly laid out. Here is your challenge: if you have not read either the *Race to Equity Report* or Rev. Gee's article, read them now.

The *Capital Times* is hoping to create a greater dialogue. They are making column

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Look for Silver Linings

Dr. Sue Gill personally explores how we deal with suffering, grief, betrayal, and hope.

I recently got to know a remarkable young woman through an online venue whom I will call Sarah. She was critically ill after being bitten by a tick, and her doctors were struggling to stop the infection that was damaging her heart and nervous system. This 19-year-old girl had quickly gone from healthy, active, and vibrant to paralyzed from the waist down, on a ventilator because of lung damage, and requiring 24-hour care in the ICU.



Because we often carry an invisible difference, there is a higher risk for thinking people are accepting when they are not, or assuming people may be rejecting when they are actually quite accepting.

As I corresponded with her, I really came to admire Sarah. She had a remarkable ability to hold off the fear and grief that I'd expect in someone so ill, along with this inspiring ability to find something positive in her situation. She told me, "Every day is Thanksgiving for me, because I have so

much to be grateful for. I have my family right here with me, I have the use of my arms, and I have good doctors who are helping me."

Sarah's attitude was especially inspiring to me because I was struggling at the time to find much to be positive about. I was struggling with some things physically, and I didn't know if I would get better. I felt isolated. So each time I got an e-mail from this girl in an ICU thousands of miles from me, filled with a beautiful mix of hope and realism, gratitude and grief, I felt inspired. I wished that I could somehow wear her attitude on my own heart, like a borrowed set of clothes. I wanted to be like her.

It was a very sad day when I opened my e-mail to find a message from Sarah's sister. Sarah died from sepsis. Help came too late for her. She was gone.

My grief was intense. Although I had never met this young woman, her approach to life was deeply inspiring to me. Her spirit so embodied the outlook I want to have, and she was able to do this in the midst of unbelievable suffering. I wanted Sarah's life to mean something, even though it was way too short. I decided to do my best to emulate her spirit, to find ways to be grateful in all situations, to find something, anything, to be grateful for every day. To avoid bitterness about the things in life that are unfair. To find ways to live, no matter what the circumstances.

Around the time I stopped crying every day about Sarah's death, I got another e-mail. A mutual acquaintance regretted to inform me that "Sarah" was a hoax. The whole story was a lie. There never was a Sarah. It was all crafted by a troubled college student who made up the whole sick-and-dying-sister story to get sympathy for herself.

I was left reeling after going from grief, inspiration, and empathy for "Sarah's" family to anger, outrage, and hurt. I felt completely untethered. To go from inspiration to betrayal by the same person was more than I could take in.

So here I sit, just a few days after learning that there never was a Sarah. I am facing

a choice. I can put a frame around this experience and hang it on the wall with the title: "Remember Always. People Cannot Be Trusted. They Will Betray You."

I have considered that option. But you know what? I really got to like the me I was when I was trying to be more like "Sarah." On days when I felt sick and in pain and exhausted, I really liked being able to genuinely say, "Wow, this is scary, and I am so grateful that I have the use of my arms and legs. And I can eat. And I can breathe."

In losing the myth of "Sarah," something remarkable is taking place in the online venue where "Sarah" was a member. People are expressing anger and compassion, outrage and empathy, and are seeking justice toward the perpetrator of the hoax. They are going out of their way to provide support toward those who were most taken in by the hoax. I see the spirit that I so admired in "Sarah" expressing itself through this group of people who were there all along. I just had not been open to it before the whole "Sarah" story blew up.

I think that people of the queer community are especially vulnerable to experiencing the kind of betrayal that is part of the "Sarah" story.

Because we often carry an invisible difference, there is a higher risk for thinking people are accepting when they are not, or assuming people may be rejecting when they are actually quite accepting.

I still feel shocked every time I am with a group of lesbians who make a transphobic comment. Really, people, do I have to do trans* 101 with you, too? I am also still shocked every time I'm with a religiously conservative person who is LGBTQ affirming. And I am still very confused by the people who are publicly anti-gay everything socially, but personally accepting.

People are not always who they appear to be in online relationships and in real life. The next time I am betrayed, and the next time you are betrayed, how do we want to respond? It is going to happen. For me, I want "Sarah's" story to help me to be brave enough to risk connection, to weather betrayal, and to choose to find something positive about every circumstance. ■

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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Retiring in Freedom

OutReach's **Caroline Werner** outlines her work as an LGBT senior advocate and new funding and opportunities in that role.

announcing two new major developments in my role as the LGBT senior advocate at the OutReach LGBT Community Center in Madison:

1) In 2014, Dane County joined the City of Madison to fund this position. This means I now serve all of Dane County and work 20 hours a week, between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Monday through Friday.

2) Trained in January, I am now an education advocate with SAGE (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders) through the National Resource Center on Aging in New York.



I realized that "outing" myself in the agencies where I was employed as a social worker doing case management for seniors might mean I would also "out" LGBT seniors.

My job description includes talking with senior-serving agency directors about serving LGBT seniors and arranging to give cultural sensitivity presentations to their staff and volunteers. A variety of one-hour PowerPoint presentations on LGBT topics have been prepared with the help of my UW-Madison social work student, Catherine Haberstroh. Seniors with OutReach's speakers bureau assist in the presentations. A brochure is distributed to senior centers and at senior resource fairs in Madison and Dane County. I meet with LGBT seniors around the county to learn their concerns and refer them to appropriate services. The best ways to reach me are at carolw@lgbt Outreach.org or (608) 255-8582.

I began advocating for LGBT seniors in the mid-1990s, after I realized that "outing" myself in the agencies where I was employed as a social worker doing case management for seniors might mean I would also "out" LGBT seniors, and that friendly services might not be available to LGBT seniors when they needed them.

The baby boomers (born between 1946 and 1964) were soon to burst into the age range for senior services. The agencies were starting to plan and prepare themselves, but the plans that I helped work on only marginally considered the LGBT population. The focus was on HIV/AIDS and precautions. Nothing was being considered to mandate training for staff to be culturally sensitive to LGBT seniors.

At the time, agencies believed they could serve this population as they did everyone else. They thought all they had to do was "be nice." How could staff avoid "outing" someone? Even I did not know exactly how the non-discrimination laws would be implemented if someone felt they were treated disrespectfully or inappropriately if the staff were "friendly" but insensitive. There were no special policies or procedures in place to ensure "friendliness." How does one define "friendly," anyway?

After retiring from social work, I maintained my senior agency contacts. In the community, my partner and I co-facilitated a workshop on finances at the Lesbian Aging Issues Forum held in Madison in 1993.

Then I learned about SAGE at a 1994 Milwaukee PrideFest event, and everything changed for me! I have now been advocating for LGBT seniors for over 20 years. As a lesbian and a senior myself, I continually use my personal experiences and perspective along with up-to-date research to advocate for other LGBT seniors.

In 2000, I got my foot in the door with both the Madison Senior Center and OutReach. An LGBT cultural sensitivity training sponsored by OutReach (under Debra Weil's direction) and Harmony Living Centers was held at the Madison Senior Center with some funding from the City of

Madison. In 2001, the Madison Senior Center and OutReach formed an alliance and held the first LGBT senior social.

Prior to that, it seemed to me we were in denial of our own aging process. We did not want to separate a senior from anyone else—at least not on paper—while in social settings some seniors were beginning to feel isolated and powerless to change that situation themselves. Some of us never thought we'd become seniors after HIV/AIDS devastated our population.

In 2001, the Madison Senior Center and OutReach formed an alliance and held the first LGBT senior social. Prior to that, it seemed to me we were in denial of our own aging process.

I put in many hours training, maintaining contact with SAGE to follow their national research. I kept contact with the Dane County Area Agency on Aging and their annual requests for proposals to apply for funding for some successful projects.

In 2010, I acquired funding from the Dane County Area Agency on Aging. Harry Straetz knew my history. He knew I'd been talking with agency directors who were coming to OutReach to ask about conducting workshops for our seniors or their caregivers. He told me he'd work with me because he knew I was a "troublemaker." And if I was going to "make trouble," he wanted to be on my side! So while he was battling cancer, he supported me with a lot of time and energy to hold a successful Senior Resource Information Project.

After that, we received funding again from many resources, including Dane County, the New Harvest Foundation, and several private donors for several other training sessions, both for senior service providers and for our community, over a two-year period.

Now I'm thankful for all the support I have from the City of Madison, Dane County, OutReach staff and board members, and our entire community of all ages who recognize how important our seniors are. Perhaps they support this LGBT senior advocate position knowing they, too, will eventually benefit. ■

Caroline Werner has a master's degree in social work. She did case management with Dane County seniors before retiring. Now she is a part-time LGBT senior advocate for the OutReach LGBT Community Center, funded by the City of Madison.

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OUR MONEY

In It for the Long Haul

Financial advisor **Carrie Waters Schmidt** explains why female couples in particular should consider long-term care insurance.

thinking about investing in long-term care insurance can often be daunting and bring fear to one's eyes, but if you are a lesbian couple it's incredibly important to consider your options.

First of all, let's address why I've specifically targeted female couples vs. male couples. For starters, studies show that women are ten times as likely to reach age 85 as men are. Let's think of a few typical ailments that affect people who are age 85 and above. Some issues might include dementia, hip or knee replacements as a result of a fall, arthritis, the aftermath of a



Women have a 60 percent greater chance than men of entering a nursing home.

stroke, or maybe just the need for mobility assistance with the use of a cane or walker. Now imagine being an 85-year-old woman trying to care for your age 85+ partner who is suffering from one or more of the ailments listed above. It sounds almost impossible, doesn't it? What's worse is that all of these ailments are normally not temporary, and therefore lead to a need for long-term care assistance.

A recent analysis of women as care providers and care recipients showed that women have a 60 percent greater chance than men of entering a nursing home. And according to the 2010 American Association for Long-Term Care Insurance, almost a quarter of all female nursing home claims last for at least 3 years.

Another crucial factor to consider is dementia. Do you have dementia in the family? If so, please do yourself and your loved ones a favor and consider purchasing a long-term care insurance policy. According to one of the most tenured long-term care insurance providers, Genworth Financial, the average long-term care claim is two to three years, but that is drastically increased to an average stay of eight years for those suffering from dementia. And with the average cost of facilities in Madison at \$93,440 per year for a private room or \$82,490 per year for a semi-private room, you can roughly figure for what will be left over for heirs after an eight-year stay.

One of the industry's leading long-term care insurance providers has caught on to this notion that women are more likely to use their benefits and they have implemented gender-based pricing as a result. This is not true of all providers, but you can bet that the other providers will begin implementing this same policy in the future. That's why it's important for you to give yourself the time now to weigh out the pros and cons of such a policy and make an informed decision.

Carrie Waters Schmidt is a registered representative of Lincoln Financial Advisors Corp., a broker/dealer (member SIPC) and registered investment advisor.

did you hear?



Rock County Board passes domestic-partner benefits

The Rock County Board passed a resolution to extend health-care benefits to same-sex domestic partners on a vote of 20 to 7 at their January meeting. Passage came after a tumultuous fight, with the original resolution having been defeated in previous sessions and then barely passing out of the County Board Finance Meeting the week prior. In the end, the Sheriff's Office attended in support, and Deputy **Mary Vukovich** was specifically credited with helping to change the minds of a few board members who had previously voted against the measure. She decided to speak up about not having been able to collect benefits for her domestic partner.

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Spirit of the North

Learning to love the community of ice fishing and shanty culture with **Tami Lax**.

Shanty culture is nothing new. It's a winter pastime shrouded in secrets and superstition, and it visually qualifies as American folk art. Ice fishing and shanty culture are part of many northern Wisconsinites' heritage. For many years—well, most of my life—I just didn't get it. Why would anyone sit for hours on end in freezing temperatures just to catch fish?

I'm no stranger to fishing. My father's taxidermy prize catches hung in my childhood home. His ice shanty has been parked at our cabin for as long as I can remember, just waiting for the ice to thicken so that it can be moved out onto Lake Noquebay. Not until a few years ago did this winter activity start to lure me in. This is one of many things in my life that have always been right in front of me but for some reason or another has taken me a lifetime to appreciate.

There is an art to ice fishing; this, my father has taught me. The lake with its varying depths and underwater topography is teeming with different species of fish: perch, bluegill, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, northern pike, trout, walleye, and muskellunge. The trick is to know where they are. To know where they are, you must know the lake and

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the habitat the fish prefer. It's not only the key to know what time of the day they are biting, but also what they are biting on.

This information has been gathered for years and recorded in a simple notebook hanging on a nail in my father's fishing shanty: The first day out, conditions, thickness of ice, and what was caught and the amount and length of each fish. Each day of the season follows with the same information until the ice starts to recede and it's time for the shanty to reclaim its spot on dry ground.

It is not just about catching fish—it is more about the camaraderie of those who enjoy being part of this winter community on ice.



My father is what I would consider an old-school ice fisherman. There's nothing fancy about his approach. Many of his fellow fishermen fish multiple lakes, racing from one to the next throughout the day using the latest technology to outsmart their catch. Some invest in electronic depth finders, sonar and handheld GPS, underwater fish cameras, specialty rods, reels, tip ups, tackle and accessories, and ATVs equipped with overhead lights for night fishing. My father is still using his original handmade 40+-year-old Beaver Dam Arctic Fisherman wooden tip ups. He stops for fresh minnows every morning. He then heads to his shanty to drill fresh holes, set the depth of his line using his florescent-orange \$1.49 depth-finder weights, set his tip ups, and then shoot the breeze with fellow fisherman while always keeping an eye out for a flag to go up.

There is a bit of romance attached to this culture. There is the solitude of patiently waiting for your tip ups to trip that signals you have a bite. There is an undercurrent of constant socializing. The mornings, afternoons, and evenings are peppered with fellow fishermen checking in to see how one another are doing. Staying for a time to visit and to enjoy what I've come to think of as the official beverage on the lake, Bud Light. There are conversations of weather, the Packers, and all things fishing. People are grilling burgers to share with those fishing around them. Grandchildren shoveling snow off the ice to make a circle around their grandfather's shanty so that they can spend the day ice skating. Only later to hear their grandfather halfheartedly complain that he didn't have a bite all day due to the racket his grandchildren were making.

What I have observed during my re-introduction to this pastime is that it is not just about catching fish—it is more about the camaraderie of those who enjoy being part of this winter community on ice. It's a legacy that is quietly being passed down from generation to generation. Ice fishing lures you to the outdoors even in the coldest of times. Friends and family all gathered in these tiny colorful ice shanties sharing stories and news of the day while always keeping an eye on their tip ups. I have fallen for shanty culture, so maybe it's time I build my own and join this iconic fishing village on the ice. —Tami Lax



When **Tami Lax** is not spending time at her two Madison restaurants, **Harvest** and **The Old Fashioned**, she can be found documenting her life through photography. Her passion for photography rivals her passion for cooking and her favorite subjects are family, food, and travel.

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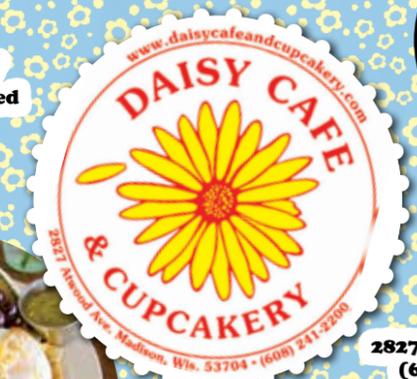
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Justice Crusader

La Follette High School teenager **Charlotte Detra** finds a voice and a cause through restorative justice programs at her school and with GSAFE.

I am a queer, biracial, teenage, cisgender female who has a voice in my community. Living in Albany, Wisconsin, and going to school in Madison, plus being an activist, can be a struggle—but I wouldn't stop for anything, because my voice needs to be heard.

I still love doing teenage things like going on Tumblr and hanging out with my friends. Working with the Gay-Straight Alliance for Safe Schools (GSAFE) gives me a chance to learn and be an activist, but the organization and the people in it also give me advice during the weird time that is being a teenager. It also is a place where I've found great friends, mentors, and memories that help make being an activist a fun job. GSAFE has the group Youth Leadership Board that does the work of creating GSA conferences, workshops, and panels and supporting the youth voice.

In particular, I focus on the "School-to-Prison Pipeline" as a concept that most kids my age don't know about. When I think of activism and how I use it in my community, I think of this stupid pipeline.

The School-to-Prison Pipeline came to be through "zero-tolerance" policies in schools in the hopes that they would help support marginalized students and keep them from being bullied. Yet it only made it so that schools with zero-tolerance or other similar policies force kids closer to prison through the use of suspensions, expulsions, and even making them feel like they don't belong. The types of kids in the pipeline are kids with "non-normal" identities, like a being a person of color, not being able-bodied, not identifying as the gender assigned at birth, or not being heterosexual.

When I first heard about this pipeline I didn't understand and just thought it was another academic thing. But then it was explained to me what it really is and how it affects everyone, especially kids like me who have identities that stray from "normal." As a queer, biracial, cisgender female who's also still teenager, I'm a prime target for the pipeline. Going to school at La Follette High School in Madison gave me a chance to fight against the pipeline because La Follette is one of the only high schools that has a restorative justice program. The



The types of kids in the pipeline are kids with "non-normal" identities, like a being a person of color, not being able-bodied, not identifying as the gender assigned at birth, or not being heterosexual.

Photo by Roberto Amezcua

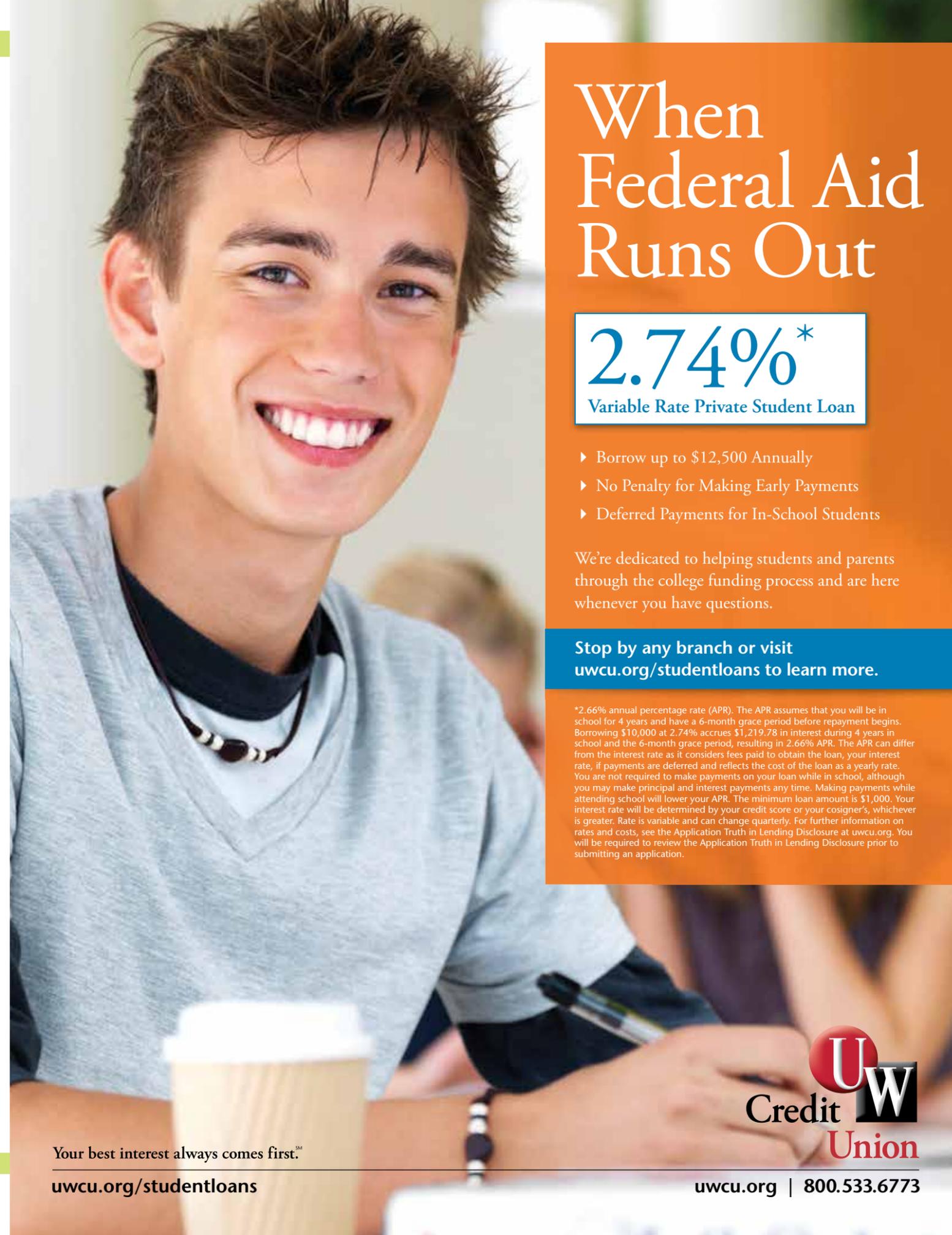
program gives teens a chance to tell their story instead of just getting suspended, expelled, and/or pushed further into the prison system. With restorative justice I was able to give myself a voice in my school.

I didn't want to drop out; I wanted more information and more chances. Through my work with GSAFE I've gotten all of that and a chance to keep doing work that I've really started to love. I hope to continue advocating for kids who need it, and help to eventually shut down the School-to-Prison Pipeline.

GSAFE has been trying to help in all parts of the community because they all intersect with one another. In the years I have been with GSAFE, I have been able to perform intersectional-identities workshops and even go on trips across the country to learn more about the School-to-Prison Pipeline. An intersectional-identities workshop includes information about the School-to-Prison Pipeline, but also shows you that every identity you have makes up who you are.

This horrible pipeline did at least help give me the chance to be a youth with a voice. And with this voice I hope to encourage other youth to find theirs and speak for a cause they believe in. ■

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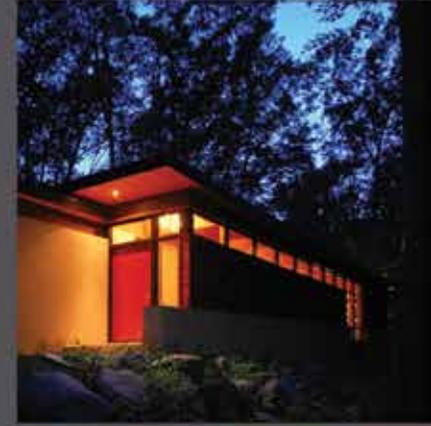
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