



THE HOLI-GAY ISSUE

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FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

The Holi-gays Are Here Again!



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Yes, its that time of year for hot coco, decorated evergreens, shopping for gifts, Jesus's birthday and Santa's on everything! This year has been rather a trying one for our community and of course The Club Q shooting on Saturday, November 19, 2022, have only made finding holiday cheer much more difficult. Now across the country drag queens are requesting extra security and metal detectors at events and many events for the transgender community have been canceled and bars shut down fearing more shootings. The shooting many consider the culmination of the heavy anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric from religious conservatives and the far right.

But the news has not been all bad lately Congress and passed and President Biden signed the Same-Sex Marriage Bill protecting same-sex and interracial marriages. In local news Milwaukee's drag community lost a bight shining light with the loss of Dixie Kuppe a.k.a Jeremy Hanson but gained a new leader

in Christopher Allen as the new President/CEO of Diverse and Resilient!

As queer individuals the holidays can be hard on us and in our *Pride Life Features* section we have an article about *Six Things to Remember this Holiday Season If You Are LGBTQ+*. And of course no December magazine issue would be complete with out a list article looking back at all the major news events. So in our Pride Life Spotlight section we present our *Year In Queer 2022* review. As always we have the wonderful Michael Johnston who has a all the things hap- ping in Milwaukee this holiday season.

On behalf of the staff of *Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine*, we hope you have a happy and safe holiday season.

- William S. Gooden
Publisher, Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine

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In The News

LOCAL & NATIONAL LGBTQ+ NEWS



Gunman Kills 5 at Gay Club, is Subdued by Patrons

By Thomas Peipert and Jesse Bedayn

A 22-year-old gunman opened fire with a semiautomatic rifle inside a gay nightclub in Colorado Springs on Saturday, November 19, 2022, killing five people and leaving 25 injured before he was subdued by “heroic” patrons and arrested by police who arrived within minutes, authorities said Sunday.

The suspect in the Saturday night shooting at Club Q used an AR-15-style semiautomatic weapon, a law enforcement official said. A handgun and additional ammunition magazines also were recovered, according to the official, who could not discuss details of the investigation publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

The attack ended when a patron grabbed a handgun from the suspect and hit him with it, Colorado Springs Mayor John Suthers told The Associated Press. The person who hit the gunman had him pinned down when police arrived, Suthers said.

“Had that individual not intervened this could have been exponentially more tragic,” Suthers said.

On its Facebook page, the club called it a “hate attack.” Investigators were still determining a motive and whether to prosecute it as a hate crime, said El Paso County District Attorney Michael Allen. Charges against the suspect will likely include first-degree murder, he said.



Police identified the alleged gunman as Anderson Lee Aldrich, who was in custody and being treated for injuries.

Aldrich was arrested in 2021 after his mother reported he threatened her with a homemade bomb and other weapons, authorities said. They declined to elaborate on that arrest. No explosives were found, authorities said at the time, and The Gazette in Colorado Springs reported that prosecutors did not pursue any charges and that records were sealed.

Of the 25 injured, at least seven were in critical condition, authorities said. Some were hurt trying to flee, and it was unclear if all of the victims were shot, a police spokesperson said.

Suthers said there was “reason to hope” that all of those hospitalized would recover.

The shooting rekindled memories of the 2016 massacre at the Pulse gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, that killed 49 people. Colorado has experienced several mass killings, including at Columbine High School in 1999, a movie theater in suburban Denver in 2012 and at a Boulder supermarket last year.

It was the sixth mass killing this month and came in a year when the nation was shaken by the deaths of 21 in a school shooting in Uvalde, Texas.

Authorities were called to Club Q at 11:57 p.m. Saturday with a report of a shooting, and the first officer arrived at midnight.

Joshua Thurman said he was in the club with about two dozen other people and was dancing when the shots began.

He initially thought it was part of the music, until he heard another shot and said he saw the flash of a gun muzzle.

Thurman, 34, said he ran with another person to a dressing room where someone already was hiding. They locked the door, turned off the lights and got on the floor but could hear the violence unfolding, including the gunman getting beaten up, he added.

“I could have lost my life — over what? What was the purpose?” he said as tears ran down his cheeks. “We were just enjoying ourselves. We weren’t out harming anyone. We were in our space, our community, our home, enjoying ourselves like everybody else does.”

Detectives also were examining whether anyone had helped Aldrich before the attack, Police Chief Adrian Vasquez said. He said patrons who intervened during the attack were “heroic” and owed a debt of gratitude for preventing more deaths.

Club Q is a gay and lesbian nightclub that features a drag show on Saturdays, according to its website. Club Q’s Facebook page said planned entertainment included a “punk and alternative show” preceding a birthday dance party, with a Sunday all-ages drag brunch.

Suthers noted that the club had operated for 21 years and had not reported any threats before Saturday’s attack.

Drag events have become a focus of anti-LGBTQ rhetoric and protests recently as opponents, including politicians, have proposed banning children from them, falsely claiming they’re used to “groom” children.

Attorney General Merrick Garland was briefed on the shooting and the FBI was assisting police with the investiga-



tion.

To substantiate a hate-crime charge against Aldrich, prosecutors would have to prove he was motivated by the victims’ actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity. So far, the suspect has not been cooperative in interviews with investigators and has not given them clear insight yet about the motivation for the attack, according to the official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

President Joe Biden said that while the motive for the shootings was not yet clear, “we know that the LGBTQI+ community has been subjected to horrific hate violence in recent years.”

“Places that are supposed to be safe spaces of acceptance and celebration should never be turned into places of terror and violence,” he said. “We cannot and must not tolerate hate.”

Colorado Gov. Jared Polis, who became the first openly gay man in the United States to be elected governor in 2018, called the shooting “sickening.”

“My heart breaks for the family and

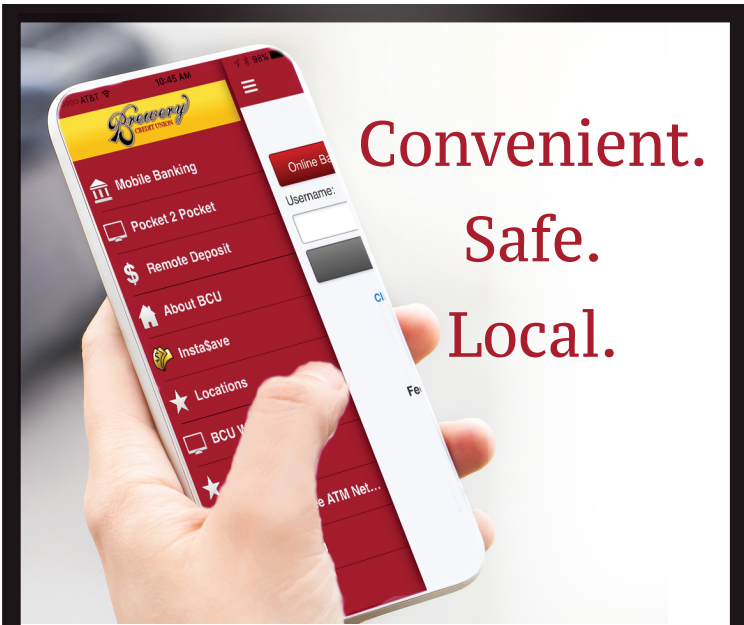
friends of those lost, injured and traumatized,” Polis said. “Colorado stands with our LGBTQ community and everyone impacted by this tragedy as we mourn.”

A makeshift memorial sprang up Sunday near the club, with flowers, a stuffed animal and candles and a sign saying “Love over hate” next to a rainbow-colored heart.

Seth Stang was buying flowers for the memorial when he was told that two of the dead were his friends. The 34-year-old transgender man said it was like having “a bucket of hot water getting dumped on you. ... I’m just tired of running out of places where we can exist safely.”

Ryan Johnson, who lives near the club and was there last month, said it was one of only two nightspots for the LGBTQ community in conservative-leaning Colorado Springs. “It’s kind of the go-to for pride,” the 26-year-old said of the club, which is tucked behind other businesses, including a bowling alley and a sandwich shop.

Colorado Springs, a city of about 480,000 located 70 miles (112 kilometers) south of Denver, is home to the U.S. Air Force Academy, the U.S. Olympic



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Training Center, as well as Focus on the Family, a prominent evangelical Christian ministry that lobbies against LGBTQ rights. The group condemned the shooting and said it “exposes the evil and wickedness inside the human heart.”

In November 2015, three people were killed and eight wounded at a Planned Parenthood clinic in the city when authorities say a gunman targeted the clinic because it performed abortions.

“Club Q is devastated by the senseless attack on our community,” the club posted on Facebook. “We thank the quick reactions of heroic customers that subdued the gunman and ended this hate attack.”

The CEO of a national LGBTQ-rights organization, Kevin Jennings of Lambda Legal, pleaded for tighter restrictions on guns.

“America’s toxic mix of bigotry and absurdly easy access to firearms means that such events are all too common and LGBTQ+ people, BIPOC communities, the Jewish community and other vulnerable populations pay the price

again and again for our political leadership’s failure to act,” he said in a statement.

The shooting came during Transgender Awareness Week and just at the start of Sunday’s International Transgender Day of Remembrance, when events around the world are held to mourn and remember transgender people lost to violence.

In June, 31 members of the neo-Nazi group Patriot Front were arrested in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, and charged with conspiracy to riot at a Pride event. Experts warned that extremist groups could see anti-gay rhetoric as a call to action.

The previous month, a fundamentalist Idaho pastor told his small Boise congregation that gay, lesbian and transgender people should be executed by the government, which lined up with similar sermons from a Texas fundamentalist pastor.

Since 2006, there have been 523 mass killings and 2,727 deaths as of Nov. 19, according to The Associated Press/USA Today database on mass killings in the U.S.



Richard Fierro, with his brother Ed (left) by his side, describes how he took the shooter down the night of the shooting at Club Q while outside of his home on November 21, 2022 in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Biden Signs Same-Sex Marriage Bill At White House Ceremony

The president signed legislation Congress passed last week ensuring federal protections for same-sex and interracial marriages.

By Summer Concepcion and Mike Memoli

President Joe Biden signed legislation Tuesday, December 13, 2022, to codify federal protections for same-sex and interracial marriages in a ceremony at the White House.

Vice President Kamala Harris, first lady Jill Biden and second gentleman Doug Emhoff also attended.

"Today is a good day, a day America takes a vital step toward equality, toward liberty and justice, not just for some, but for everyone," Biden said.

Biden emphasized bipartisan support for the legislation, passed by Congress last week while calling for more to be done, including a renewed push for a bill to prohibit discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation or gender identity.

Biden also quoted directly from a 2012 interview on NBC News' "Meet the Press" in which he came out in public support of same-sex marriage ahead of then-President Barack Obama. Biden's words from that interview were featured on a program for the event.

The legislation Biden signed was drafted by a bipartisan group led by Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Wis., the first openly gay person elected to the Senate. It will ensure that the federal government recognizes marriages and guarantee full benefits "regardless of the couple's sex, race, ethnicity, or national origin." The law will not, however, require states to issue marriage licenses contrary to state laws.



President Joe Biden signs the Respect for Marriage Act on the South Lawn of the White House on Tuesday.

The House voted 258-169 to pass the Respect for Marriage Act last week, sending it to the president. The Senate had already passed it late last month by a vote of 61-36.

Democrats unanimously voted to support the legislation, while most Republicans in both chambers opposed it.

Hundreds attended the bill signing on the South Lawn, including Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, I-Ariz., her office confirmed — an appearance with Biden that comes just days after she left the Democratic Party and registered as an independent. Sinema was a lead co-sponsor of the bill, along with Baldwin and Republican Sens. Susan Collins of Maine, Thom Tillis of North Carolina and Rob Portman of Ohio. She helped broker a compromise amendment about religious freedom protections that secured GOP votes for the underlying legislation.

The amendment included language saying that religious organizations would not be required to perform same-sex marriages and that the federal government would not be required to protect polygamous marriages.

A White House official said other attendees at the signing included Matthew Haynes, a co-owner of Club Q, the LGBTQ nightclub in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where five people were killed last month, and shooting survivors James Slaugh and Michael Anderson. Cyndi Lauper, the singer and longtime advocate for LGBTQ rights, performed the song "True Colors."

Other attendees included plaintiffs in Obergefell v. Hodges, the Supreme Court's ruling in 2015 that guaranteed the right to same-sex marriage; Judy Kasen-Windsor, the widow of gay rights activist Edith Windsor; Philip Hirschkop, a co-counsel in Loving v. Virginia, the landmark 1967 Supreme Court ruling that protected interracial marriage; photographer Hunter Abrams; and Brandon Wolf, a survivor of the Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida.

The law comes after Democratic leaders expressed concern that the Supreme Court could follow its June decision to overturn Roe v. Wade with a ruling to rescind the right of same-sex couples to marry. Democrats pointed to Justice Clarence Thomas' concurring opinion in the Supreme Court's ruling on Roe, in which he called on the conservative-majority court to also revisit landmark decisions that legalized the right to contraception and same-sex marriage.

The Respect for Marriage Act also comes as state legislators have proposed a record number of bills that would limit the rights of LGBTQ people in recent years. And amid widespread

(Continued on pg. 7)

Jeremy Hanson A.K.A. Dixie Kuppe and Active Member Of Milwaukee Pride Has Sadly Passes Away

By: William S. Gooden, Publisher
Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine

Jeremy Hanson, better known by his drag name Dixie Kuppe, passed away on Friday, December, 9, 2022. He had been battling cancer since 2019. Jeremy as Dixie was known throughout Milwaukee's drag community as "Milwaukee's Premier Handicap Camp Queen." During his drag career he had been a Host/Hostess at D.I.X. Milwaukee, a Mary at Hamburger Mary's MKE, and a Showgirl/Dancer at Triangle Bar. He was known by such local drag superstars like Trixie Mattel and Jaymes Mansfield.

However Jeremy wasn't just known for his drag but his work within the community as well. Particluay with Milwaukee Pride. The following is what Wes Shaver, President and Chief Executive Officer of Milwaukee Pride, has to say about the effect that Jeremy has had on our neighborhood:

"Jeremy's capacity for inclusiveness, unconditional love, and the acceptance that people should share space in this world were at the very core of his being as a human being. Jeremy's capacity for inclusiveness, unconditional love, and the acceptance that people should share

space in this world.

If there's one thing he taught me, it's that the world has enough room for everyone, and the most important thing is for people to respect one another. He taught me that there's enough space in the world for everyone. His capacity to welcome young people and to ensure that everyone feels as though they belong, in addition to his ability to make me laugh until I cry, has not only made an indelible impression on me but also inspired me to live my life to the fullest for the rest of my days. For both of these things, I shall be grateful to him for the rest of my life.

The news of his departure came as a total surprise to me, and I am well aware that it will leave a sizable void not just in our physical environment, but also in our emotions. I am well aware that this will have a significant impact on both of these aspects of our lives."

As of this writing a memorial will take place on Saturday, December 17, 2022 at



11 a.m. at the First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee. 1342 N. Astor Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

The GoFundMe account that was set up to help Jeremy raise money to pay his medical expenses is still up. Jeremy's friends would ask that you give some thought to the possibility of making a contribution to the GoFundMe page that Jeremy had established. His struggle with cancer has had a significant impact on his family, particularly on his husband Shannon.

TheGoFundMe can be found at https://www.gofundme.com/f/fabulous-jeremys-healing-fund-to-fight-cancer?utm_campaign=m_pd+share-sheet&utm_content=undefined&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter&utm_term=undefined.

Jeremy gave much to his community and he will be greatly missed.

Biden signs marriage bill

(Continued from pg. 6)

anti-LGBTQ rhetoric led by right-wing conservatives and a string of attacks on the community, including the deadly shooting at Club Q.

Biden signed the bill Tuesday a decade after he came out in public support of same-sex marriage, a change for Biden, who had voted against recognition of same-sex marriages when he was a sen-

ator.

"The good news is that, as more and more Americans become to understand, what this is all about is a simple proposition: Who do you love? Who do you love, and will you be loyal to the person you love? And that's what people are finding out is what all marriages, at their root, are about, whether they're marriages of lesbians or gay men or heterosexuals," Biden said in the "Meet the Press" interview in 2012.

"I am absolutely comfortable with the fact that men marrying men, women marrying women and heterosexual men and women marrying another are entitled to the same exact rights, all the civil rights, all the civil liberties," he added. "And quite frankly, I don't see much of a distinction beyond that."

Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/politics-news/biden-set-sign-sex-marriage-bill-white-house-ceremony-rcna61423>

Diverse and Resilient Names Christopher Allen as new President/CEO

Diverse and Resilient (D&R) is pleased to announce its Board of Directors has selected Christopher Allen as the new President/CEO effective December 5, 2022. Mr. Allen replaces Gerald Coon who will continue as a technical advisor during the transition.

Board Chair Everett Marshburn stated:

"Chris has over two decades of experience addressing health disparities within marginalized communities; creating and implementing effective and engaging programming, and capacity building.

Chris grew up in Milwaukee and personally experienced many of the challenges that exist for LGBTQ+ individuals. He joined Diverse & Resilient as a Youth Advisor in his sophomore year of high school.

His association with Diverse & Resilient culminated with becoming Program Manager of Milwaukee Programs in 2015.



Professional development opportunities took Chris to Texas where he served as a member of UT Austin's Health Innovation and Evaluation Team and collaborated with the Texas Department of State Health Services where he focused on HIV prevention and care. Chris most recently served as the Manager of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Engagement for Goodwill of Central Texas.

We are pleased to welcome Chris back to Milwaukee!"

Christopher Allen stated:

"I am honored to be able to return to Milwaukee and serve my community in a new capacity. Our mission has been a guiding force in my life since joining Diverse and Resilient as a Youth Advisor in 2002. I am determined to work towards a future where LGBTQ+ individuals are able to thrive, free of the systemic barriers that can prevent us from being able to realize our full potential. I look forward to working with and for our community to create opportunities that allow us to not just feel included but be included and affirmed in every space we inhabit."

Diverse and Resilient is a statewide LGBTQ public health agency with offices in Milwaukee and Appleton. Mr. Allen will be the third President/CEO in the organization's history, following D&R founder, Gary Hollander, from 2002 – 2015, and Gerald Coon from 2015 – 2022.

Go to www.diverseandresilient.org to learn more.



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Pride Life Features

THE EVENTS AND PEOPLE THAT ARE SHAPING LGBTQ+ MILWAUKEE

Six Things to Remember this Holiday Season If You Are LGBTQ

The holidays are upon us and many different traditions abound. While it is important to recognize and appreciate joy during the holiday season, we must also take time to be mindful of the struggles and stress that many LGBTQ people experience this time of year. Sometimes it might take a little creativity, but it is especially important for LGBTQ people to find ways to tap into the spirit of the holiday season.

The story of Hanukkah reminds us how every person can be a light amidst the darkness, offering an opportunity to remind ourselves that resilience is a powerful force.

As Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas, they remember the joy of welcoming and creating family and drawing nearer to God's love and promise.

Kwanzaa is about remembering, reaffirming and reinforcing the bonds that connect African Americans to all people of African descent, reminding us that, with faith in ourselves and in a larger vision of freedom, we will find the strength to persevere.

No matter how you celebrate, HRC offers tips to not only help you celebrate, but also get you through a time that can be difficult for LGBTQ people:

1. Don't let anyone steal your joy.

Whether or not you consider yourself spiritual, this is a time for you to find joy on your own terms. If things get difficult, have strategies for holding on to your joy. This could be a friend on speed



dial or getting outside for fresh air. Whatever brings you life, choose that. You are stronger than you think.

2. Remember who you are and your values.

If you're dreading going home for the holidays, before you pack your sword and shield, remember that the holidays are temporary. Remain steadfast in your own beliefs and know that you are a loving person who deserves to live unapologetically as your unique, wonderful self, regardless of what anyone has to say about it.

3. Family is still family, just like love is still love.

Family life is constantly changing, and it can mean so many things to so many people. While for some, blood may be thicker than water, unconditional love takes hard work and a lot more strength

than just being sticky enough to keep relatives together. So many LGBTQ people build chosen families who accept, affirm and love us as we are. Whether you're choosing to spend your holidays with your family of origin or your family of choice, remember that unconditional love is what makes a family.

4. Don't force someone to enjoy the holidays.

In 2019, at least 24 transgender people and gender non-conforming people have been killed. The total number of deadly mass shootings in the U.S. comes out to an average of one every 15 days this year. Grieving this time of year can be harder than other times. Supporting someone who is coping with tragedy or loss during the holiday season doesn't mean trying to make them feel full of holiday cheer. Instead, your goal should be to accept whatever holiday experi-



ence they want. No menorah lighting? Fine. Do they want to skip midnight mass this year? OK. The best thing you can do is follow your loved one's lead.

5. The holidays are a reminder that God loves YOU.

Whether you're celebrating Hanukkah, Christmas or Kwanzaa, each holiday is filled with a story of a miracle.

It reminds us of God's steadfast love for each and every one of us, including LGBTQ people. Remember that you are perfectly created and remind people that God lives in all of us and loves each and every one of their creations.

6. 'Tis the season of giving.

Many of us are particularly driven to be charitable, especially around the hol-

idays. If you feel inclined to direct some of your holiday-season away from the malls and into the pockets of a community that could certainly use it, consider donating to incredible causes and organizations helping LGBTQ people. Visit shop.hrc.org for a holiday gift that will help power the fight for LGBTQ equality. You can also help kids learn to be proud of themselves and show them you will love them just as they are by giving them books from Welcoming Schools' list of inclusive books.

These tips aren't just for Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, but for all holidays and time spent with family, whether it be during Ramadan, Easter or Passover.

Please remember that you are loved and your community is here to support you. From all of us at Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine, we wish you a joyous holiday season.

If you need other resources do not hesitate to call The Trevor Project's hotline at (866) 488-7386. You can also contact the National Suicide Prevention Hotline at (800) 273-8255 or the Trans Lifeline at (877) 565-8860.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM
THE STAFF OF**

**MKE
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Magazine**

In The Spotlight

SPOTLIGHTING MILWAUKEE'S AMAZING PRIDE COMMUNITY

The Year In Queer 2022

By William S. Gooden, Publisher
Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine

Twenty Twenty-two has been a rather hectic year for LGBTQ+ news and issues. From highs like the 'Blue Wave' during the mid-term elections, to lows like the rise in anti-LGBTQ+ legislation. Here our 10 of the biggest news stories in the LGBTQ community this past year:



10. LGBTQ representation in queer media:

This past year was one of the biggest in queer representation in media. In television many of the top show featured LGBTQ+ characters or story lines. *Heartstopper* and *Dahmer – Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story* were some of the top rated shows on Netflix, as was *Euphoria*, *The White Lotus* and *Our Flag Means Death* on HBOMax, *A League Of Their Own* on Amazon Prime and *Interview with the Vampire* on AMC, all received high rating or rave reviews. We also had out black comedian Jerrod Carmichael hosting Saturday Night Live and Milwaukee's own Trixie Mattel renovate a hotel on *Trixie Motel* on Discovery+.

In music there were a number of queer acts that topped the charts. Lil' Nas X continued to pop out hits, Kim

Petras gave us *SlutPop* just in times for Valentines Day, masked country singer Orville Peck released his sophomore album *Bronco*; and Sam Smith along with Kim Petras gave us *Unholy* to top of the year.

The year in queer movies was a bit more of a mixed bag. While there were plenty of smaller films that gave us queer storyline and characters major releases were a little bit more harder to come by. while we had great queer characters in *Everything Everywhere and All at Once*, and *Fire Island* (on Hulu), we also had films that for one reason or another just preformed bad like *Bros* or *My Policeman*.



9. Same-sex households in the U.S. surpass 1 million for the first time:

According to the American Community Survey, a companion to the decennial census that is produced every year, there were about 1.2 million same-sex couple households in 2021. About 710,000 of them — nearly 60 percent — were married and about 500,000 were unmarried. This marked for the first time in US history that the number of same-sex couple households in the United States surpassed one million.

The number of same-sex couples has grown steadily. In 2008, the survey re-

corded about 550,000 same-sex couple households; by 2018, it was about one million. The number of married same-sex households began to outpace unmarried same-sex couple households in 2016, a year after the U.S. Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage.

8. LGBTQ+ candidates on ballot in every state:

In a historic first, voters in all 50 states will see an openly LGBTQ candidate this election.

Tom Temprano, the political director for Equality California, says it's a tangible significance for the LGBTQ+ community. "It does matter. It does feel really tangible," he told KPIX 5 in California. "I think there's reasons for optimism but I think a lot of us are really concerned and are voting like we're concerned."

This year at least 1,065 out LGBTQ people are running for office, according to the Victory Fund.

7. Return of Pride and other LGBTQ+ events:

With COVID-19 numbers and hospitalization on the decline do to vaccinations, social distancing and mask wearing. Many states and countries saw the full lifting of COVID-19 restrictions which led to the return of many events including New Year's celebrations, Pride festivals and parades, circuit parties, international events, and Leather events like International Mr. Leather. Here in Milwaukee we saw the return of our own Pridefest which had one of its largest turnouts in years. However the return of these celebrations in the queer community lead to our #6 event of the year.



6. The Monkey Pox outbreak

Hot on the heels of COVID-19, The LGBTQ+ community was hit with and outbreak of Monkey Pox, now referred to as MPox. As far back as January, there were reports trickling in of MPox cases coming in around the globe. As COVID-19 restrictions were lifted and a number of LGBTQ+ events took place, surges of MPox began popping up through out the country. Particularly in gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and non-binary men, who were engaging in sexual activities during these events.

While the US and local governments were slow to take action. Many in the queer community took the initiative, as we have had plenty of experience with HIV/AIDs epidemic, and set up vaccination centers at community health clinics.

5. SCOTUS strikes down Row v. Wade and targets Gay Marriage:

In June, in a historic and far-reaching decision, the U.S. Supreme Court officially reversed Roe v. Wade declaring that the constitutional right to abortion, upheld for nearly a half century, no longer exists.

The decision, most of which was leaked in early May, means that abortion rights will be rolled back in nearly half of the states immediately, with more restrictions likely to follow. For all practical purposes, abortion will not be available in large swaths of the country. How does this effect the LGBTQ+ community? Lesbian, bi, queer and non-binary women and transgender men

would not be able to get abortions even in instances of rape or life threatening situations. Also the Supreme Court also indicated that other previous decisions including gay marriage would be on the table to overturn as well. Which leads to event #4.

4. Congress Codifies Same Sex Marriage Act:

With the overturning of Roe v Wade, the U.S. Congress took action to codify same sex marriage into law, so even if the Supreme Court tried to overturn it, it would be near impossible to do so. For the full story on this see page 6.

3. Death of Queer Icons:

Starting with the last day of 2021 with the loss of T.V. legend Betty White, Death seemed to work overtime claiming a number of big names in Hollywood of both queer entertainers and alls including; actress Anne Heche, singer Aaron Carter, actress Nichelle Nichols, actor Kevin Conroy, country singer Patrick Haggerty a.k.a. Lavender Country, Cher's mother Georgia Holt, and actor Leslie Jordan, just to name a few.

2. Don't Say Gay Bill in Florida and other Anti-LGBTQ+ legislation:

In March *NBCNews.com* reported that State lawmakers have proposed a record 238 bills that would limit the rights of LGBTQ Americans this year — or more than three per day — with about half of them targeting transgender people specifically.

Nearly 670 anti-LGBTQ bills have been filed since 2018, according to an *NBC News* analysis of data from the American Civil Liberties Union and LGBTQ advocacy group Freedom for All Americans, with nearly all of the country's 50 state legislatures all having weighed at least one bill.

Throughout that time, the annual number of anti-LGBTQ bills filed has skyrocketed from 41 bills in 2018 to 238

bills in less than three months of 2022. of course all of these anti-LGBTQ bill and rhetoric have a consequence which is our number 1.



1. The Club Q shootings and rise in violence:

The tragic shooting at Club Q, an LGBTQ club in Colorado, is the latest event to transpire in a year marked with a jump in anti-LGBTQ legislation and sentiment, according to LGBTQ advocates.

The shooting, the deadliest attack on LGBTQ people in the U.S. since the Pulse shooting in 2016, occurred on the eve of this year's Transgender Day of Remembrance. Just days earlier, the National Center for Transgender Equality released a report finding that at least 47 transgender people were killed in the past year.

“We’ve seen that hate crimes continue to rise for the Black community, the LGBTQ+ community, and especially Black trans women,” said Victoria Kirby York, deputy executive director from the National Black Justice Coalition. “As it’s happening across this country, dozens of Black trans women are murdered with no accountability ... These crimes against our community happen with no accountability, no justice. It sends the message that ‘You can pick on the queers and the trans folks and nonbinary folks, they’re disposable. I can do this crime and get away with it, even in New York.’”

Cordially Yours, Again!

YOUR MONTHLY DOSE OF WHO'S WHO AND WHAT'S HAPPENING

And to All Greetings of the Season

Since I fell back this Fall, it seems as though the time is going at a much quicker pace! C'est la vie, here we are once again, the final column of 2022. To quote Dickens "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times". I'm so relieved the Election is over for now. At least in our neck of the woods, things seem rather settled. We were fortunate enough to enjoy a beautiful, colorful autumn. And now it's time to wrap up 2022, place a ribbon on it and file it away.

Before my farewell to this year and pointing out what future fun awaits us, I want to briefly recap Halloween. October was "boo-licious"! Had a gay old time judging two Costume Contests. A tip of the wig to the creative out there! My favorite? Two studs, who started dating this summer, dressed as "the boys of summer" - baseball uniforms, homemade, very crisp, with Catcher and Pitcher on their backs! But the smiles on their faces and glint in their eyes said it all! La Cage was wild! So fun, kudos to Dave Wolz, The Cage's new owner. Our beverage consultants Brandon and Tony were costumed themselves, ever so adorable. The first holiday and the people turned out and dressed to impress! It was a thrill to Judge Loretta Love Lee's Contest with Randi Lee Richards, Montell Infiniti Ross, and Maple Veneer. What fun we shared. Then I had the pleasure to appear at KRUZ and help select their Halloween Winners! What a kick sitting with KRUZ's co-judges - Ginger and Donny Johnson - and Maple Veneer hosted. Jerry & Serge are always the quintessential hosts - with the most! I feel as though,



By: Michael Johnston

I'm a guest in their home! Loved having Young Joe and Aldo as my bartenders. I ended the evening at Club Charlies for Scary-o-kee with Dan Walsh!!! Craig had a bar full, even on a Monday night, and he and Amy were busy!

Skylight Music Theatre had a Halloween Special a Live Performance of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show". This allowed many marvelous singers treating us to tasteful tuneage into Tuesday. A bit of Broadway, off Broadway in the Historic Third Ward.

"Drag Out the Vote" was a really fun and fulfilling sub-Gig. We did two of them, one at La Cage and the other at The Art Bar. Both went over remarkably well! We didn't take a political stand, or endorse anyone, just promoted the Act of Voting! Very pep rally like; the bandwagon approach.

HallowQueen IV, 2022 at The University of Wisconsin Green Bay was a

lovefest, a true Fantasy-fest. The Weidner Center, which was as grand as Uihlein Hall, The Pabst Theater, and The Riverside, was the setting, and a long, luxurious lavender carpet of welcome was rolled out for us. Goldie Adams, Madame Tuck of Sheboygan, Freddy Fahrenheit of the Green Bay area, the fiercest Drag King, and Maple Veneer joined me in an evening none of us will ever forget! Nicole Kurth, The PRIDE Center's star coordinator, was the genius who envisioned and invited. Truly a time I will never forget, and I so look forward to next year! (Yes, before we left, we were invited back!)

Apologies to Rev. Tory V. Topjian of The Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church and his Parish. Due to circumstances beyond my control, I was unable to appear this year at their annual Cabaret. Needless to share, I felt terrible. I've co-hosted everyone, and I hate to promise and not appear. The next day, people were so kind, telling me how much I was missed. I have every confidence in Maple, and a special thank you to Judi Bownz, who Max Factor-ed up and with Miss Dita Von, the velvet tones of Mr. Corky Morgan, and Miss Peachez Dior Benezova carried on with the Show, who would miss me?

That was also the night of Woody's Silver Anniversary! Yes 25 years of a very fun, warm, and welcoming bar! Bravo Alan! And before him, Toby and Kurt, and before him Steve! Goldie Adams pulled together a dazzling show that the town is still talking about! I had to miss that Spectacular as well!

I received a special invitation from Bill Wardlow for Special Event at Fluid to take part during a Green Bay Packer Game. Bill is so sweet and dear and asks so little ... so there I was at a Sunday afternoon football game at Fluid. It was history in the making! The very First Drag Show during the intermission! How wild, creative, and imaginative is this? Shannon Duprey, Miss Fluid was the Star with former Miss Fluid, Dita Von, and Lady Gia. A Trinity of tantalizing talent to tease the testosterone. Each entertainer did two numbers, and it's my observation that the football fans were more into the high caliber, mini-Drag Show than they were the televised sporting fete. The Packers must have felt the heat, because after five weeks of continuous defeats, they finally had a reversal of fortunes and won against The Dallas Cowboys!



- **Tuesday, December 20, Club Charlies** “Christmas Customer Appreciation Party” 5:00 p.m.

Trying to keep fit this time of the year? You can twist the calories away at “Beehive: The 60’s Musical” at The Stackner Cabaret of The Milwaukee Repertory Theatre, last dance is Thursday, December 15th. Now – Sunday, December 11th “The Nativity Variations” is being performed in The Quadracci Power House, humor at it’s timely best. A Community Theater Troop experiments with different spins on the Greatest Story Ever Told. Pride Night is Tuesday, November 29. A Special discounted rate of \$30 per seat. When making your reservation use the Code Word: Pride Night.

It wouldn’t be Christmas without “A Christmas Carol” the Dickens classic at The Pabst Theater Tuesday, November 29 – Saturday, December 24th. The tradition carries on.

The two other Shows included in this season’s Pride Night Package will be: Friday, January 20, 2023 Shakespeare’s “Much Ado About Nothing”, and Wednesday, April 19th, 2023 “God of Carnage” and/or “The Greatest Love of All – The Whitney Houston Story”. When ordering Tickets for these three shows, you will receive a significant discount when You use the code words “Pride Night”. B.J. Daniels, Dear Ruth-

ie Keester, and Karen Valentine (K.V.) will all be on hand on these specific evenings (Pride Night, as Pride Hostesses) to welcome you and to pre party with you! What fun, we’ll have! Remember last year?

Santa is not the only one to be jolly this month, you can be too! One suggestion is taking in The Skylight Music Theatre’s “A Jolly Holiday” Celebrating Disney’s Broadway Hits until the end of the year (Sunday, December 31st, New Year’s Eve). 30 of your all-time favorite hits to get you into that Holiday mood. You know if it’s Disney, it is family friendly, and ideal for the entire household.

A thin line between jolly and misery? Or a wall between theaters as the Black Box Theatre of The Broadway Center (where The Skylight is housed, and hosting “A Jolly Holiday”) and The Milwaukee Chamber Theater proudly presents “Misery” adapted by William Goldman, from the novel by Stephen King Friday, November 18th – Sunday, December 18th A Midwest Premiere! Put a little fear in your life, it’ll scare the “Dickens” out of You!

The Milwaukee Ballet Company, under the direction of Michael Pink, offers a “Season of Inspiration”. The place to be, as always, is Uihlein Hall of The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. “The Nutcracker” comes alive Saturday, December 10th – through Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24th, Ballet isn’t your thing, you think? Visually, the sets, costumes, and lighting all so pretty. It’s a seasonal card come to life! And so athletic, what these bodies can accomplish!

In a quandary as to what to get that impossible person that you want to remember with a present they will never forget? I have the solution: Cameron

I will be doing some glorious gigs this Holiday Season, so if you care to toast in the Season with me, I will celebrate your presence!

- **Friday, December 2nd, Club Charlies** “Light Up The Ward” 5:00 p.m.
- **Saturday, December 10th, La Cage** “Bosom Buddies – The Holiday” 5:00 p.m.
- **Sunday, December 11th, La Cage** Castaways December Beer Bust “Toys for Tots” Santa/Christmas Theme and Show with Maple Veneer & Karen Valentine 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- **Sunday, December 11th,** Walker's Pint, Carmen Murguia’s “The 2nd Annual Winter Wonderland Holiday Party” LGBTQ +, Dance, Socialize, Network, DJ Kel C and DJ Tim Cole, 7:00-11:00 p.m.
- **Thursday, December 15, This Is It!** “Christmas Customer Appreciation Party” Show 8:00 p.m.

Mackintosh's Classic "Les Miserables". The Tony Award Winning Creation returns to The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, Uihlein Hall. Tuesday, November 29th - Sunday, December 04th. A true modern-day classic, suitable for all. A perfect way to introduce theater to one and all.

The Mitchell Park Domes have been donned with gay apparel and are in full bloom to take us into the New Year with the 2022 Holiday Floral Show. Their blossoms can be observed until Monday, January 03, 2023.

"The Golden Girls Holiday Show" at Hamburger Mary's will be up and running to raving reviews. It's on my must-do, to-do list every year. The show, acting, writing, sets, costumes, and details - never disappoint!

Making beautiful music, "Come For The Fruit Cake, Stay For The Song", Our Voice Milwaukee, Chorus for Gay Men & Allies December Concerts. Plymouth Church, 2717 East Hampshire Street, Saturday, December 10th 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, December 11th 3:00 p.m. Advanced tickets: \$20. At the Door: \$25. Website: ourvoicemke.org

Congratz Jamie Beauchamp-Reid of Jamiers Floral for decorating The Wisconsin Club, second year in a row. Though it takes nine days to make all the magic... the results are well worth the investment of time, blood, sweat, and tears. Do yourself the favor, and observe Jamie's work, for yourself.


Someone brightened my day and household with a gorgeous floral arrangement from Flowers for Dreams. With a tag line, every bouquet benefits an amazing local charity. This Floral

Studio, established in 2012, a decade ago, is located behind where The Ball Game reigned for many years. Drew Hawley is the festive Proprietor.

As I say good bye with this column, it's my good bye to yet another year. This provides me the opportunity to offer my most sincere wishes for the happiest and most satisfying season of wonderment to you and yours. Whether it's religious, social, family, friends, professional, personal, in whatever manner you choose to observe and celebrate, may it be monumental and live within you throughout the coming New Year.

Remember, it's the glamour, not the grammar as I remain Still Cordially Yours, again!



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SUN 2:30PM	JAN	01

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Resource Guide

A SHORT GUIDE TO LGBTQ + MILWAUKEE



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722 E. Burleigh St.

Milwaukee, WI 53212

(414) 372-7880

<https://www.facebook.com/artbarmke>

DIX Milwaukee ♦

Southern Style Video/Dance Bar

739 S. 1st St.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

(414) 231-9085

<https://dixmke.com>

Fluid Milwaukee ♦

Gay Bar

819 S. 2nd St.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

414-Oh-Fluid/(414) 643-5843

<https://fluidmke.com>

Harbor Room ♦

Levis' & Leather Bar

117 E. Greenfield Ave.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

(414) 672-7988

[https://www.facebook.com/Harbor-Room-117-E-Greenfield-Ave-](https://www.facebook.com/Harbor-Room-117-E-Greenfield-Ave-Milwaukee-WI-151982704821436/)

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Hunty's Social Club ♦

Drag Bar inside

Hamburger Marys

734 S. 5th St.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

(414) 488-2555

<https://huntysmke.com>

Kruz ♦

Levis' & Leather Bar

354 E. National Ave.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

(414) 272-5789

<https://www.facebook.com/kruz.kruzbar>

[kruzbar](https://www.facebook.com/kruz.kruzbar)

La Cage Niteclub ♦

Gay Dance Club

801 S. 2nd St.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

(414) 383-8330

<https://www.facebook.com/LaCageNiteclub>

[LaCageNiteclub](https://www.facebook.com/LaCageNiteclub)

This Is It! ♦

Gay Bar with Drag Shows

418 E. Wells St.

Milwaukee, WI 53202

(414) 278-9192

<https://www.thisisitbar.com>

Walker's Pint ♦

Lesbian Bar

818 S. 2nd St.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

(414) 643-7468

<https://walkerspint.com>

Woody's Sports Bar ♦

Gay Sports Bar

1579 S. 2nd St.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

(414) 672-0806

<https://www.facebook.com/woodys.mke>

[mke](https://www.facebook.com/woodys.mke)

Zócolo Food Park ♦

Bar with food trucks, gay friendly

636 S. 6th St.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

(414) 433-9747

<https://www.zocalomke.com>

C 3 Designs ♦

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2110 10th Ave.

South Milwaukee, WI 53172

(414) 764-3892

<http://c3designs.rocks/>

Oun Kine Grindz ♦

Hawaiian Cafe, caterer and store

7215 W. North Ave.

Wauwatosa, WI 53213

(414) 778-0727

<http://www.okgrindz.com>

Kilwins Milwaukee

LGBTQ-owned candy and ice cream shop in Bayshore Mall

5756 N. Bayshore Dr., Q101

Glendale, WI 53217

(414) 967-4803

<https://www.kilwins.com/stores/kilwins-milwaukee-bayshore>

[kilwins-milwaukee-bayshore](https://www.kilwins.com/stores/kilwins-milwaukee-bayshore)

Outwords Books

Gifts & Coffee ♦

LGBTQ+ books, movies and gifts

2710 N. Murray Ave. #3645,

Milwaukee, WI 53211

(414) 963-9089

<https://outwordsbooks.com>

Purple Door Ice Cream ♦

LGBTQ-owned ice cream parlor with unique flavors and treats

205 S. 2nd St.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

(414) 988-2521

<https://www.purpledooricecream.com>

Sherman Perk Cafe ♦

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Resource Guide

A SHORT GUIDE TO LGBTQ + MILWAUKEE

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<https://shermanperkcoffeeshop.com/>

La Finca Coffeeshop ♦
Women owned coffee shop with unique coffees and eats.
3558 E Sivyer Ave.
St Francis, WI 53235
(414) 394-0722
<https://www.lafinca.cafe>

Todo Postres LLC. ♦
Gay-owned and operated bakery and dessert shop. Specializes in unique cakes for quinceañeras, weddings and pride events.
958 W. Oklahoma Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53215
(414) 988-2149
<https://www.facebook.com/ToDoPostresOfficial/>



Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers
Community health center provides discounted or free health programs
2906 S. 20th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53215
(414) 672-1353
<https://sschc.org>

BESTD Clinic
Free STI testing Clinic
1240 E. Brady St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 272-2144
<https://www.bestd.org>

Community Health Systems, Inc. ♦
A federally qualified Health Center that operates a medical, dental, and behavioral health clinic in Beloit, Wisconsin
74 Eclipse Center,
Beloit, WI 53511
tel: (608) 361-0311
www.chsofwi.org

Compassionate Clinical Services
Provides private therapy and counseling services by Ryan Larkey, LCSW, SAC
985 W. Oklahoma Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53204

Planned Parenthood
(414) 839-1821
<https://www.compassionateclinicalservices.com>

Vivent Health (formally ARCW)
HIV/AIDS health center that provides medical, dental, counseling and social service help
820 N. Plankinton Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53203
(414) 273-1991
<https://viventhealth.org>



Cream City Foundation
Not-for-profit that funds LGBTQ+ outreach organizations
PO Box 511099
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 225-0244
<https://creamcityfoundation.org>

Diverse & Resilient ♦

LGBTQ+ health and advocacy group
2439 N. Holton St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 390-0444
<https://www.diverseandresilient.org>

LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin
Community center with many programs for LGBTQ+ groups
1456 Junction Ave.
Racine, WI 53403
(262) 664-4100
<https://www.lgbtsewi.org>

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center ♦
Community center with many programs for LGBTQ+ groups
315 W. Court St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 271-2656
<https://www.mkelgbt.org>

Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce
Networking and resources for LGBTQ+ business
5027 W. North Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53208
(414) 678-9275
<https://wislgbtchamber.com>



Central Library ♦
The main branch of The Milwaukee County Library system has books, movies, periodicals available for lending.
814 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53233
(414) 286-3000

KEY: ♦ Distribution point for *Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine*



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