

Milwaukee **Pride** Life

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The Social Issue 2022

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FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

The 'Dog Days' Have Just Begun

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By: William Gooden, Publisher Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine

August is known as the "Dog Days of Summer." A time when the weather heats up, a precursor to the changes in the season that are about to come. On the social/political scene, the climate has been heating up as well. For months anti-LGBTQ and anti-Transgender bills have been proposed by conservative politicians all over the country, including right here in Wisconsin. It's a sign things are definitely changing but will it be for better or worse it remains to be seen.

This month for our *Social Issue* we will be featuring stories that relate to some of our most pressing social issues. In our **News section** this month we talk about U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin's successful efforts to launch the new "988 Suicide And Crisis Prevention Hot-line" and Kettle Moraine School parents and students fight to keep the school from banning gay flags, pro-nouns, Black Lives Matter signs and safe spaces.

In our **Business News** a big issue for small LGBTQ+ restaurants and bars most recently, is their struggle to stay open during the pandemic. But help was

provided by the national LGBT Chamber of Commerce and the Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce with recovery grants provided by Grub Hub.

Our **Senior Life** section takes a look at the isolation and struggle as queer couples age and one partner face serious illness.

In our **Pride Life Feature** section we look at the nearly 240 anti-LGBTQ bills filed in 2022 so far and how this new "Conservative Backlash," may be our biggest fight for equality ever.

The weather isn't the only thing heating up. The theater season is getting ready to start-up with great new shows on the horizon this fall and our own, Micheal Johnston has low down for you in this month's **Cordially Yours, Again!** Coincidentally Michael Johnston, a.k.a. Milwaukee drag legend Karen Valentine, received an **LGBTQ+ Progress Awards** from the Shepherd Express in Arts and Culture category. We have photos from the event in our **Events & Happenings** page. There were some great honorees this year and I want to congratulate them and the Shepherd on a wonderful event.

I hope you enjoy the rest of your summer for fall is right around the corner.

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In The News

LOCAL & NATIONAL LGBTQ+ NEWS



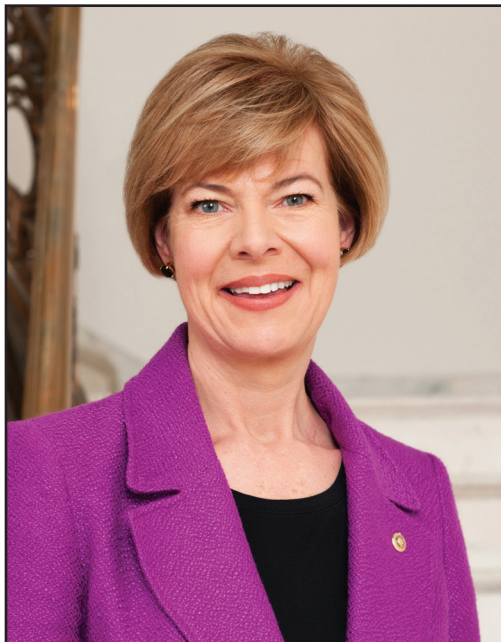
Senator Baldwin's 988 Suicide And Crisis Prevention Hotline Launches Nationwide

Baldwin helped deliver funding for 988 line through omnibus legislation and bipartisan 'Safer Communities Act'

On Friday, July 15, 2022, U.S. Senator Baldwin joined a press conference at TDS Telecom in Wisconsin to highlight the upcoming launch of the new 988 National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline on Saturday, July 16, 2022. The 988 Lifeline is made possible by U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin's National Suicide Hotline Designation Act, bipartisan legislation that passed Congress and became law in 2020.

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is a national network of local crisis centers that provides free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in the United States. The new calling code of 988 will allow people of all ages who are experiencing a crisis—whether that is thoughts of suicide, a mental health concern or substance use issue, or any other kind of emotional distress—to get help for themselves or a loved one by connecting them with a trained crisis counselor.

“We need to do everything we can to help those in mental health crises and prevent suicide, and that means improving the tools and resources they have when they are suffering,” said Senator Baldwin. “After working to get my bipartisan legislation signed into law and ensure funding for the implementation, I am so proud to see this quick and easy three-digit phone number launch so Americans in crisis can get the timely help and support they need. This will save lives.”



Senator Tammy Baldwin

“People in crisis need help right away. That's why we need resources like 988 to ensure a universal entry point to crisis services, similar to access to other emergency medical services through 911. We would like to thank Senator Baldwin for her leadership and thank all of our partners who have worked with us to ensure that Wisconsin is ready to provide this critical service for residents,” said Wisconsin Department of Health Services Secretary - designee Karen Timberlake.

“From veterans across the state of different backgrounds and generations, I hear a similar sentiment shared again and again—of the men and women who served with me, I've lost more to suicide than to combat,” said Wisconsin

Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Mary Kolar.

“For veterans, you can now call 988 and press 1 to access the Veterans Crisis Line and be connected to a real person qualified to support veterans.

Accessibility to effective resources is vital, especially for veterans experiencing a mental health crisis. I'm so grateful for the support and partnerships that made this possible, and I truly believe lives will be saved.”

As part of the Baldwin-supported Bipartisan Safer Communities Act that was signed into law this week, \$150 million is being invested to support implementation of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. Senator Baldwin also helped pass the 2022 fiscal year appropriations bill in March of this year that included more than \$101 million for the transition to 988 hotline and \$5 million for the new Behavioral Health Crisis and 988 Coordinating Office at the Department of Health and Human Services. In late 2021, the Biden administration committed more than \$280 million to fund both the Lifeline and 24/7 staff increases for states.

For more information on the 988 National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, visit <https://988lifeline.org/>.



Kettle Moraine School parents, students voice concern after ban of pride flags, pronoun use

Support for LGBTQ+ community at Kettle Moraine Schools

The Kettle Moraine High School library was filled wall to wall with people wanting their voices heard.

The school board meeting usually allows for 30 minutes of public comment but they extended the allotment to 60 minutes because of the large crowd.

In July, the superintendent told board members he's clarifying the employee code of conduct to ban pride flags in the classroom and pronouns in email signatures.

The support for Black Lives Matter, Back the Badge and Make America Great Again is also not allowed.

One student applauded the decision. She spoke publicly with her mom by her side.

"The fact is that the majority of students don't want or need this, so catering to the minority only encourages the envelope to be pushed further," the student said.

But most are against the policy saying when it comes to the LGBTQ community, it's about safety.



According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly a quarter of high school students identifying as gay, lesbian or bisexual reported attempting suicide.

That's nearly four times higher than the rate reported among heterosexual students. The Trevor Project says it's not because of sexual orientation, but because of how people in this group are mistreated and stigmatized in society.

"It's just not right," said Britain Farrar, 16. "It's disgusting to me. It's gross because they also said that it is a political

statement. It's not."

"I don't want my kids to grow up in a space and place where they don't see and respect all different types of people. That's against any value that I have and anything that our community is about," said parent Amy Toson. "It was beyond disappointing, it was gut-wrenching, it was concerning. It sets the tone for a direction that our board needs to not go in."

The school board president, after the meeting, said this policy is a done deal and will be in place when school starts in September.

MILWAUKEE Pride LIFE
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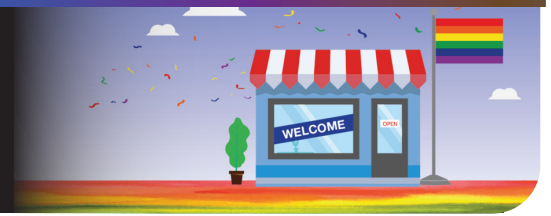
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Business Life

LOCAL & NATIONAL LGBTQ+ BUSINESS NEWS



LGBTQ Businesses Awarded COVID-19 Recovery Grants

National LGBT Chamber of Commerce awarded grants to Wisconsin businesses ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

By Sophie Bolich

The National LGBT Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC) closed out pride month in a generous way Thursday, June 30, 2022 afternoon, distributing more than \$100,000 in grants to Wisconsin LGBTQ-owned and ally-owned businesses.

In partnership with Grubhub, NGLCC presented 17 Wisconsin businesses with grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Milwaukee businesses, Company Brewing, Hamburger Mary's, Sabrosa Café and Gallery, Milwaukee Repertory Theater's Stackner Cabaret received \$10,000, and Cambria Hotel received \$5,000.

"It's quite an honor to be chosen for the grant," said BJ Gruling, co-owner at Glendale's Kilwins Milwaukee-Bayshore, which also received \$10,000. "And I felt that they realized there's lots of small businesses, LGBT owned businesses, that are still being affected by the pandemic, and everything else going on in the world, including inflation."

Gruling co-owns the Bayshore Kilwins location, part of a nationwide franchise, with Rick Clark. The business is a nationally certified LGBT-owned business through NGLCC and has been a member of the Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce since its 2014 opening.

The event, held at Hamburger Mary's, was one stop on NGLCC's multi-state tour to distribute grants and celebrate LGBTQ business resiliency, Nelson said.

NGLCC raised \$2.1 million last year. The organization is using \$1.5 million to



LGBT business grant recipients. Photo by Sophie Bolich.

fund grants for businesses hit hardest by the pandemic. Of the remaining funds, affiliate chambers received \$350,000.

In June 2021, NGLCC was the official partner of Grubhub's Donate the Change, which invites Grubhub and Seamless users to round up their total to the nearest dollar and donate the difference.

"As the world starts to return to a new normal, we know many businesses are rebuilding and reopening, especially LGBTQ+-owned restaurants that are often the pillars of their communities," said Jessica Burns, vice president of brand and creative at Grubhub, in a statement.

The national chamber has also allocated money to cover one year of Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce membership for businesses that aren't yet involved in the organization.

Justin Nelson, NGLCC co-founder

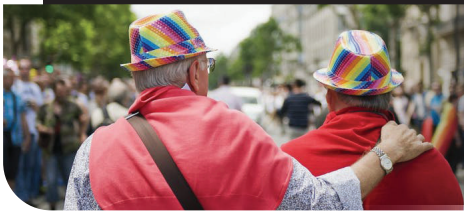
and president, urged business members to take the opportunity.

"You will find your tribe, your new customers, your returning customers, by being a part of this amazing organization," he said.

The grant program is renewed for at least a second year, and Nelson said business owners are encouraged to re-apply for the needs-based funding.

The Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce will hold its "Out in the Kitchen" event July 19 at Discovery World, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Chamber members including MOXIE Food & Drink, Kilwins Milwaukee-Bayshore and Company Brewing will be serving food and drinks. Tickets cover one drink and unlimited food samples. The price is \$25 until July 8 and \$35 from July 9 until the event.

Source: <https://urbanmilwaukee.com/2022/07/04/lgbtq-chamber-of-commerce>.



Senior Life

NEWS • HEALTH & LIFESTYLES FOR LGBTQ+ SENIORS

For Older LGBT Caretakers, Together Can Still Feel Alone Against Aging And Illness

About 75 percent of LGBT adults 45 and older are concerned about having enough support from family and friends. Severe illness and aging can worsen the sense of isolation

By: Elissa Lee

A gold band decorates Hermina Ban's left ring finger; her wife's hands are dotted with a garland of bruises from the chemotherapy.

The couple met in the San Fernando Valley in 1994, finding they both had a love for theater, activism and mentoring. Ellen Brunot daylighted as a history teacher and worked as a stage manager in the evenings, Ban was a social worker for adolescents and an avid theater patron.

But for the last 10 years they've been together, Ban has been Brunot's caregiver.

'Please take me home': The heartbreaking rubric of dementia and COVID

The aloneness of caregiving and the stress of decision-making, Ban shares, weighs on her. "If we had like aunts, uncles nearby, grandkids, and kids, that'd be a whole different story," said Ban.

About 75% of LGBT adults 45 and older reported concerns about having enough support from family and friends as they age, a 2018 AARP report found.

"Several of our LGBT seniors, who came out in an era when they weren't allowed to be open about their sexuality and gender identity, lost a lot of their important relationships, family systems," said Yelba Carrillo, the former



Hermina Ban (right), with wife Ellen Brunot at their Sherman Oaks home Tuesday, July 5, 2022. Ban cares for Brunot who is battling cancer. (Photo by Hans Gutknecht)

senior program manager of LA LGBT Center's Senior Services. "Many also don't have children to rely on. And so as they age, they don't have the supports that a typical heterosexual person may have."

While both Ban and Brunot's families have been supportive, Brunot's relatives are spread across the U.S., with no kin nearby. Ban, whose nuclear family immigrated from Israel, cared both for her mother until she died in 2020 and her brother who died in 2021.

"When my father passed away, I had my brother and mother and wife, and it wasn't so hard because of them," said Ban. "When my mother passed away, I had my brother and Ellen. When my brother passed away, Ellen was my rock."

I don't know how I would have handled it without her. Heaven forbid that Ellen passes... That's the biggest rock to carry, for me."

Coming out

Ban came out when she was 18, right into the counterculture movement of the '70s. "I never really felt vulnerable back then, because we were just tough, you know? I mean I was like 5 foot 5 and a half, and just had a demeanor that was kind of strong."

"We were infallible," Ban said with a grin. "Those were the fun days, oh my goodness. It was all about the counterculture, and going to love-ins."

In the 80s, the HIV/AIDS epidemic hit, and many of Brunot's male friends got sick and "just disappeared. There were the ones we took care of, just the whole slew of people."

Carillo says LGBT couples "have these important shared experiences of being closeted, coming out, having experiences of losing friends, family, loved ones, that strengthens their resilience and strengthens their relationship."

Brunot worries now that, despite all the victories, they are not safe. "To have lived through periods of time where being gay was illegal, you could lose your job — you would be beaten up. I mean, it still is not safe. And I think as I have gotten more disabled and the two

of us have gotten older, that has really begun to scare me more.”

‘Backs against the wall’

It started with Brunot’s sudden kidney failure in 2012. Brunot hung up the black clothes and quit her theater work to start peritoneal dialysis at home. “Everyday, I unplugged in the morning and went to school and taught, then came home in the afternoon and then plugged myself back in,” Brunot said.

After they married in 2016, Ban was showing her wedding ring to Andy Greene, a work acquaintance who asked her about honeymoon plans. Ban said travel wasn’t an option due to Brunot’s dialysis, and since Brunot had a rare blood type — O negative — the likelihood of getting a kidney donor was difficult, if not impossible.

Greene was also O negative.

“I asked her, ‘Well, would you be interested in donating a kidney?’ It was a throwaway statement,” Ban said. “I gave her the doctor’s information, but told her I wasn’t going to pressure (her) about it... but she kept coming back and giving me updates, that she had met with her doctor and learned about the different hoops she had to jump through.”

The woman donated one of her kidneys to Brunot. “I really thought, oh my god, we’re getting a second chance to have a life again,” said Ban.

Brunot recalls, “It all seemed like a

miracle, I was going to go back to work, and [Ban] was going to retire, and we were going to start traveling, and do all kinds of things.”

The nephrologist said the six months after the transplant were most critical. Ban cared for Brunot, who was largely bed-ridden. But six months after the transplant, Brunot was diagnosed with Stage IV cancer — a rare aggressive ovarian cancer. The doctors told them she had one year to live, two if the treatment worked.

Brunot opted for treatment, a hysterectomy followed by rounds of radiation and chemotherapy for five years, which impacted her precious donated kidney. “They’re playing a very delicate and dangerous game with my immune system,” Brunot said of her oncologist and nephrologist, who described her cancer as a Whack-A-Mole.

By December 2021, a second malignant tumor emerged on Brunot’s bladder that has nearly doubled in the last six months. In April 2022, her oncologist said the chemotherapy wasn’t working. They had burned through all the options, and chemotherapy was jeopardizing Brunot’s new kidney function, which had fallen to 23%.

She could choose to remove the bladder, but the cancer could come back. Or she could start immunotherapy, but that meant giving up the kidney and restarting dialysis.

“Our backs are up against the wall,” Ban said.

Fear and vulnerability

Although many LGBT older adults describe positive relationships with their healthcare provider after years of trial and error — over 50% many have concerns about discrimination or prejudice affecting their quality of care, per the AARP report.

“Whenever we go to the hospital, I want to dress more professional casual just because I want them to take me and us seriously and not pigeonhole us,” said Ban. “So I feel how we present ourselves is important and we’ve had, from my point of view, we’ve had nothing but really positive experiences, in terms of how they receive us or how they react to us.”

That fear is pervasive. “There has been a lifelong history of stigma, discrimination towards folks that oftentimes leaves us resistant to seek help,” said Sherrill Wayland, director of Special Initiatives at Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE). “If I reach out, how will I be treated? Will I be welcomed? Or will I face discrimination and stigma?”

Brunot says she wonders “if the fact that I am an older woman, or the fact that we are an older women couple, and older women are invisible — if some of that seeps into the calculation subconsciously. How much value do they put on our lives?”



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Pride Life Features

THE EVENTS AND PEOPLE THAT ARE SHAPING LGBTQ+ MILWAUKEE

Nearly 240 anti-LGBTQ bills filed in 2022 so far, most of them targeting trans people

The annual number of anti-LGBTQ bills to have been filed has skyrocketed over the past several years, from 41 in 2018 to 238 in less than three months of this year.

By Matt Lavietes and Elliott Ramos

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. And this year's historic tally quickly follows what some advocates had labeled the "worst year in recent history for LGBTQ state legislative attacks," when 191 bills were proposed last year.

The slate of legislation includes measures that would restrict LGBTQ issues in school curriculums, permit religious exemptions to discriminate against LGBTQ people and limit trans people's ability to play sports, use bathrooms that correspond with their gender identity and receive gender-affirming health care.

Proponents of these bills say they're



about protecting children, parental rights, religious freedom or a combination of these. Opponents, however, contend they're discriminatory and are more about scoring political points with conservative voters than protecting constituents.

"It's important for people to pause and think about what is happening — especially in the health care context — because what we're seeing is that the state should have the authority to declare a population of people so undesirable that their medical care that they need to survive becomes a crime," Chase Strangio, the deputy director for transgender justice at the ACLU LGBT & HIV Project, said. "What more terrifying intrusion of the state could there be?"

As the number of anti-LGBTQ bills hits record highs, research shows that so, too, has support for LGBTQ rights

and policies prohibiting discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people. Nearly 8 in 10 Americans, or 79 percent, support laws that protect LGBTQ people from discrimination in jobs, housing and public accommodations, according to a Public Religion Research Institute survey released Thursday. That same survey also found that nearly 70 percent of Americans support same-sex marriage, up

from 54 percent in 2014.

LGBTQ advocates and political experts say the uptick in state bills is less about public sentiment and more about lobbying on behalf of conservative and religious groups.

People rally March 6 at the Minnesota State Capitol in St. Paul to support trans youths. Michael Siluk / UCG/Universal Images Group via Getty Images file

Activists contend that the groups have pushed for the legislation in response to a string of progressive wins, including two landmark Supreme Court rulings — one that legalized same-sex marriage in 2015 and another that won LGBTQ people nationwide protection from workplace discrimination in 2020 — and the election of President Joe Biden in 2020.

They also reason that the bills are part

of a wider political strategy to use transgender people as a “wedge issue” to motivate right-wing voters.

“Conservative politicians, conservative religious leaders, religious organizations, and sometimes conservative scholars, often present themselves as defenders of traditional values and traditional institutions in society,” said Gabriele Magni, an assistant professor of political science at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. “LGBTQ rights have become a natural target because they go against one of the most traditional institutions of society, and that is the family.”

NBC News’ analysis of the ACLU and Freedom for All Americans data found that among anti-LGBTQ bills, measures targeting trans Americans have significantly increased in recent years. For example, 22 of 2019’s 60 anti-LGBTQ proposed bills, or 37 percent, were anti-trans bills, compared with 153, or 80 percent, of 2021’s 191 anti-LGBTQ bills. This year, about 65 percent of the anti-LGBTQ bills filed as of March 15 — 154 — were anti-trans bills.

“The authors of these bills and the dark money groups pushing for them do not want it to be possible to be a trans kid in this country,” said Gillian Branstetter, a longtime trans advocate and the press secretary for women’s advocacy group the National Women’s Law Center. “They’re responding to trans kids as if they were responding to a contagion.”

Anti-trans legislation — specifically, measures that would block trans students from competing on school sports teams that align with their gender identity — have been among the most successful of the anti-LGBTQ bills filed in recent years. Since the start of 2021, 11 states have written trans sports bans into law, according to tallies from the ACLU and the Human Rights Campaign, an LGBTQ advocacy group.

Advocates also point to the mental health risks plaguing trans youths and how anti-trans policies can exacerbate them.

A survey last year by The Trevor Project, an LGBTQ youth suicide prevention and crisis intervention orga-

nization, found that 42 percent of the nearly 35,000 LGBTQ youths who were surveyed — and over half of trans and nonbinary youths — seriously considered suicide within the prior year. Separately, two-thirds of LGBTQ youths said debates about anti-trans legislation have impacted their mental health negatively, according to a small survey The Trevor Project conducted in the fall.

Not only have the bills taken a toll on trans people themselves, but they have also reshaped the lives of their families.

While balancing work as a small-business owner, Arizona mom Lizette Trujillo has spent the last three years meeting with trans advocates, traveling back and forth to her state’s Capitol in Phoenix and “dropping everything” to fight on behalf of her 14-year-old transgender son, Daniel.

“It’s exhausting, it’s painful and it’s something that I have to prepare for every year, and I’m still in shock that I have to advocate for my child,” Trujillo said. “If they care about families in the way that they say they do, or if they care about kids in the way that they say they do, they would leave us alone and allow us the opportunity to take a breath to be the boring PTA parent who organizes a fundraiser and is able to attend after-school activities.”

While this moment in LGBTQ rights has been “very dark,” as Branstetter put it, advocates have also had several wins.

Last month, an Arizona Republican state senator broke with his party, blocking legislation that would have banned gender-affirming care for transgender youth. In neighboring Utah, Republican Gov. Spencer Cox vowed to veto legislation passed this month by the Legislature that would ban transgender student-athletes from competing in girls sports. And last week, Republicans in Idaho’s Senate stopped a bill that would have made it a criminal offense for parents to allow their minor children to receive gender-affirming care.

But a directive issued by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott last month has illustrated alternative avenues lawmakers can take to target LGBTQ Americans when they cannot pass anti-LGBTQ bills through

state legislatures.

Last year, the Texas Legislature failed to pass a bill that would have made it a felony alongside physical and sexual abuse to provide gender-affirming care to minors. But in the law’s place, last month, Abbott ordered “licensed professionals” and “members of the general public” to report the parents of transgender minors to state authorities if it appears that the minors are receiving gender-affirming medical care. Abbott’s mandate came shortly after Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton issued a nonbinding legal opinion stating that transition care for minors is child abuse under state law.

In his opinion, Paxton argued that certain transition-related medical care causes “physical injury” to children, but medical doctors say it is supported and considered medically necessary by relevant accredited medical associations.

“It’s important to look at the cruelty of the governor’s order in Texas, because these bills act as the on-ramp towards that level of cruelty against trans kids,” Branstetter said. “There is a bottomless hunger for the misery of trans kids.”

Trujillo said “this moment feels scarier” than years prior, but that hasn’t stopped her from fighting back against the slew of proposed policies in her state. Arizona has proposed the third-highest total of anti-LGBTQ bills so far this year, 17, behind Iowa and Tennessee.

“This takes up a lot of my life, but I do it in the hope that when my kid’s an adult, he won’t have to do it for himself, that he’ll be in a better place,” Trujillo said. “As much as I want to shrink away — to protect my family and my child — I also feel like this is the moment to speak up and say, ‘I will not allow you to erase my child.’”

Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/nbc-out/out-politics-and-policy/nearly-240-anti-lgbtq-bills-filed-2022-far-targeting-trans-people-rcna20418>



Cordially Yours, Again!

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

In the Good Old Summer Time ...

Well whatever your political leanings are, you must admit it's a most disturbing time. Even though it's the heat of the summer and we're all reconvening from Independence Day weekend celebrations, we must acknowledge the power of the Vote. Come November, exercise your Constitutional right while you still have it, and elect the person/people who will best represent you. Change is inevitable... it's the results that are judged positively or negatively.

In last month's effort, I shared with you the ultimate thrill of a book "Legends of Drag – Queens of a Certain Age". The book is now out and about. It was **SO POPULAR** that it was on back order! You can now go to Boswell Books on Downer Avenue, Barnes & Noble, Amazon, or The Saint Kate Hotel and buy your very own copy. This Collection of Portraits and Bios has gone beyond everyone's expectations, and it hasn't even been on the market two months! I was thrilled to receive a book review from the authors (Harry James Hanson and Devin Antheus) that appeared in full color of *The New York Times*, **Thursday, June 23, 2022!** And, yes – it was most complimentary! I can't encourage you enough to purchase your very own copy and feel the enthusiasm.

Another option is visiting **The Saint Kate Arts Hotel. MOWA (Museum of Wisconsin Art) Gallery** has portraits from the book blown up on exhibit through **Sunday, August 21st**. Come Monday, August 22nd – my portrait along with all the other dazzling dames will disappear as quick as we appeared. Kudos to MOWA's very own Alli Wilber who successfully curated this exhibit. And she is so fun! This original concept in commemorating Pride month – and keeping the Pride alive all summer!

A tip of the wig to The Marcus Corporation, The Saint Kate Arts Hotel and their entire Staff! I have had the pleasure of being a "VIP Guest", due to this publication, at the unveiling of the Exhibition, The Ultimate Drag Show,



By: Michael Johnston

and now, two Book Chat. Through each and every glittering event, The Saint Kate was grand, and they treated me, and everyone within eye and ear, grandly as well!

Our very own **B.J. Daniels** and **Michail Takach** have also been very successful taking pen to paper. Publishing a great read for this good old summertime – "A History of Milwaukee Drag – Seven Generations of Glamor. Legends of Drag." B.J. and Michail's book bring Drag home in grand style to Wisconsin, primarily, Milwaukee from the 1800 to today. Even my photo and interview are included, for which I'm so thrilled! It's fascinating to read about the attitudes and double standards of the art of Drag on and off the stage throughout the ages and throughout our country. The photos are a blast, and a great bonus. Some are professionally posed, and others are cherished candid taken in the dressing room. From my point of view the fun we had there, often times was more fulfilling than on stage or in the actual club! The personal stories, reminisces, memories, as well as profiles, interviews, and bios of the entertainers flesh out the rest of the book. All profits from this extraordinary, pop culture, history book will be donated to Courage Milwaukee. Just a reminder Courage Milwaukee

is the haven here, for all the homeless teens, who are runaways, or disowned by their parents due in part to their sexual orientation. Shameful to think in 2022 anyone can throw their off spring to the curb due to their genetic. Although read the daily newspaper, in so many ways it seems we are going backwards totally, blindly into the dark ages! Apologies, rant is over.

Shepherd Express now in their 40th year of successful publishing, have unanimously voted me the **LGBTQ+ Progress Award** presented by Northwestern Mutual. My "division" is The Arts, and my interest in the Performing/Applied Arts, the Humanities, and Culture, as well as my Valentine Fund for the Arts, Humanities, and Culture for/with the LGBTQ+ of South Eastern Wisconsin for over the past decade. So excited my new friend from **The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, Lory Bowman** presented me this treasured award. As of this deadline, the awards have not been given out yet. So, next time, I will be able to share in vivid detail my "Cinderella" evening. Right now, I'm fretting over what to wear, with an impending heat wave.

The Marcus Center for The Arts has engaged Lory Bowman in the newly established position of Vice President of Marketing and Communications as of June of this year. Another new asset to The Marcus, whom I've had the pleasure to meet is **Jennifer Han**. Her role is Senior Manager of Development and Media Relations.

On the topic of theater, **The Milwaukee Rep** does listen to their audiences, case in point, by popular demand the *Titanic* will be relaunched this autumn. "*Titanic, the Musical*" sails yet once more **09/20 – 10/23**. Same story, same cast, same set, same music, same ice burg, same must see! The Rep's *Titanic* had more of an issue with more of a contemporary ice burg, due to COVID, this production had to be halted prematurely. By offering this cruise, fans who missed the boat

this spring, can get on board.

Profiles of the sensational singers of yesterday have proven very successful and fascinating for Rep fans. One of the first shows out of COVID-19 was a terrific tribute to Ella Fitzgerald. I was fortunate enough to see it and thoroughly was entranced! My gratitude to Billy Greylake and Jody Armata for hosting an evening with Judy Garland. "Get Happy Angela Ingersoll Sings Judy Garland," so very convincing – all she needed was a long microphone cord. Ms. Ingersoll, the voice was so close to Garland's, I had to purchase the C.D. This September, Nat "King" Cole will return for an "Unforgettable" engagement at **The Stackner Cabaret, 09/09 – 11/06**. I love the face lift this venue received, and the food is quite tasty! Dean Martin, and everybody loves somebody, named Dean, will be "tributized" in tune come the New Year. "Dino, the King of Cool," **01/20 – 03/19**. The Rat Pack will never die! And a lady of our time, that I believe crossed all age barriers, Whitney Houston "The Greatest Love for Whitney." Powerful anthems, one signature voice for springtime in Milwaukee, **03/24 – 05/28**. The "Hit Parade" marches through our Rep this season a perfect suggestion for your parents or grandparents. And don't just buy them tickets, include them in your party and attend with them!

Milwaukee's Chamber Theatre has quite an intriguing Season in the offing. They are housed at **The Broadway Complex**, neighbors with The Skylight Music Theatre. Mostly utilizing the Black Box Theater, which is ideal for their Play sections. The five stellar productions they're offering: "Where Did We Sit on the Bus" by Brian Quijada, original music Klasik, at the **Studio Theatre, 09/30 – 10/23**. In loving Memory of James Caan, "Misery" from the novel by Stephen King, **11/18 – 12/18**, see a great film, live on stage, Starring Jonathan Wainwright and Kelly Doherty, two of the Cream City's favorites. Ms. Laura Gordon and Mr. James Ridge head the cast of Edward Albee's "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf" Studio Theatre ringing in the New Year, **01/20 - 02/12** a true 1960's Classic. "Hoops" adapted by Elaina Pipes, Music by B-Free, Studio Theatre **03/10 – 04/02**. Closing out the 2022 – 2023 Season, "The Mountain Top" **The Cabot Theatre 04/21/ - 05/07** in The Broadway Theatre Complex in The Historic Third Ward.



The Medical College of Wisconsin is still very busy working on so many research projects to make the world a better place. The current study that will have a major bearing in our community "Booty Call (Not that kind)" The study of Anal Cancer and the prevention of it, is taking place at The Medical College of Wisconsin. Because of the phenomenal Dr. Allan at the Medical College, Milwaukee is one of the three cities chosen to participate in this omni-important report. The other two towns taking part, Houston, and Chicago. For more information on this, and/or to volunteer, and to put your ass on the line for science please call 414-882-0036 or visit: www.MindYourBehind.org. This is how we beat Cancer!

Bombshell Theatre Company is hosting an original fund raiser "Let Me Entertain You" A musical diva revue – all female, Broadway Show Stoppers! **08/26 – 08/28** (Fri – Sun) Inspirational Studios West Allis www.bombshelltheatre.org

The Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM) has Jim and Susee Wiechmann's astounding French Poster Collection NOW apart of MAM's permanent collection (oui the Weichmann's have gifted MAM with these treasures) on view for all to see and enjoy through Sunday, October 16, "Always New, Paris, the 1800s and the works of Jules Cheret"

Jazz in the Park has returned and will play through Thursday, September 29th. By all the feedback I've heard, it's better than ever! The weekly tradition starts at

5:00 p.m., Music 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. And a far more relaxed attitude and environment is in the air. To get answers to any questions you may have feel free to use this phone number or email (414)897-8589 events@easttown.com

The Grant Heffelfinger Memorial Big Gay 5 K Walk/Run at Veteran's Park/Lake Front on Sunday, September 18th, Sign in and tee shirt pick up are at 10:00 a.m. The run starts, followed with the walk at 11:00 a.m. Please register at: www.milwaukeegayssports.com/events. Once again Karen Valentine will 'femcee' and root on all participants And in October, there will be a Major Fund Raiser in Grant's Memory. It is being planned and put on by his Friends/Coworkers where he was employed.

The next "Bosom Buddies" Show at **La Cage** will be Saturday, August 13th at 5 p.m. with Maple Veneer and Karen Valentine. "Girl, Boy, Girl, Girl, Girl" Starring: Don Lobacz, Laura Monagle, and Introducing Kitty Cattrall. Come to the Cabaret! No Cover!

The summer is here although my gardening, nature boys tell me that they feel that autumn is slowly, but surely creeping into our atmosphere. So now, cease the moment and enjoy the heat, sun, light, and brightness by seeing our city. A lot is missed driving or even riding in a conventional car. Be a tourist in your own town! Staycations are all the vogue. The hassle of airlines, the cost of gas, the fear of COVID, Monkey Pox, crowds, what have you. A solution take a City Tour MKE. City Tours, MKE. started back in 0213, and for the past nine years have perfected the best way to view our village, and it's easier, quicker, and faster than on foot! Call 414-209-4808 and choose between City Tours MKE.com or City Tours and Adventures MKE and See Wisconsin. Jump on a Cruiser (their specifically designed vehicle) and enjoy the sights in a more interactive style. The Driver/Tour Guide, has righteous routs, scintillating stories, and fascinating facts, to educate, enlighten, and entertain you. Milwaukee's very own Legs is one of their prized Tour Guides herself and really liking her new career – "it' quite a lark".

And so it goes! It's August the month of The State Fair! Please, remember, it's the glamour, not the grammar as I remain **Still Cordially Yours, Again!**



Events & Happenings

PHOTOS OF EVENTS • NIGHTLIFE • MILESTONES

Shepherd Express's 2022 LGBTQ+ Progress Awards



On Thursday, August 4, 2022, The Shepherd Express present their annual LGBTQ+ Progress Awards at the Saint Kate Arts Hotel in downtown Milwaukee. The event honors recognizes individuals, business and organizations that have contributed to Milwaukee's Progress towards equality, human rights and quality of LGBTQ+ life. This year's honorees were Gary Hollander (Pioneer of LGBTQ Progress); Robert Starshak and Ross Draeger (Philanthropy); Elle Halo (Activism); Greta Voit (Education); Holton Street Clinic (Health); Penzeys Spices (Business); and the Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee (Equality). The event was presented by Northwestern Mutual and hosted by local drag icons Ruthie Keester and B.J. Daniels.

Photos by William Gooden

Resource Guide

A SHORT GUIDE TO LGBTQ + MILWAUKEE



Art Bar ♦

Mixed bar with college-age crowd

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-Milwaukee-WI-151982704821436/>

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>

La Cage Niteclub ♦

Gay Dance Club

801 S. 2nd St.

Milwaukee, WI 53204

(414) 383-8330

<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/woodysmke>

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 ♦

Custom Jewelry designer in South

Businesses

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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>

Outwards Books

Gifts & Coffee ♦

LGBTQ+ books, movies and gifts

2710 N. Murray Ave. #3645,

Milwaukee, WI 53211

(414) 963-9089

<https://outwardsbooks.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 ♦

Local coffee shop in the Sherman Park Neighborhood



Resource Guide

A SHORT GUIDE TO LGBTQ + MILWAUKEE

4924 W Roosevelt Dr.
Milwaukee, WI 53216
(414) 875-7375
<https://shermanperkcoffeeshop.com/>

La Finca Coffeehouse ♦

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

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www.skylightmusictheatre.org

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