



The Charity Issue

Local LGBTQ+ Charities to Donate this Holiday Season - Page 5

In The News:
The Controversy Over
Dave Chappelle's 'The
Closer' on Netflix
- Page 3

The Trevor Project:
How It All Began
and Its Impact
- Page 7

"Bosom Buddies" -
NOT Your Average
Drag Show
- Page 11





DAILY SPECIALS

HAPPY HOUR

2.4.1 RAILS & TAPS

3PM - 8PM 7 DAYS A WEEK

MONDAY

2.4.1 BOMBS & BEERS

8PM - CLOSE

TUESDAY

\$3 RAILS & TAPS

8PM - CLOSE

WEDNESDAY

\$1 OFF COOLER CLEARANCE

8PM - CLOSE

EVERYTHING IN THE COOLER IS \$1 OFF

THURSDAY

3.4.1 THIRSTY THURSDAY

8PM - CLOSE

ON RAILS AND TAPS

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

HAPPY HOUR

3PM - 8PM

2.4.1 ON RAILS AND TAPS

SUNDAY

\$15 BOTTOMLESS MIMOSAS

ALL DAY LONG

ALSO 2.4.1 ON RAILS AND TAPS ALL DAY

WISCONSIN'S LONGEST RUNNING QUEER BAR

418 E. WELLS STREET, MILWAUKEE



FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

Charity Begins At Home

CONTENTS

Up Front.....1
Charity Begins At Home

Editorial.....2
The PridetoberFest... That Wasn't

In The News.....3 & 4
The Controversy Over Dave Chappelle's 'The Closer' on Netflix

Pride Life Features.....5 & 6
Local LGBTQ+ Charities to Donate this Holiday Season

In The Spotlight.....7
The Trevor Project: How It All Began and Its Impact

Events & Happenings.....8
PridetoberFest Makes its Debut

Cordially Yours, Again!.....9 & 10
A Time To Be Thankful, Lets Fill That Cornucopia

Art Life.....11
"Bosom Buddies" - NOT Your Average Drag Show

Resource Guide.....12 & 13



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

It's the giving season, a time to say 'thank you' for all the good that has come into our lives this past year. It is a time to spread some of that goodness into others' lives who do not have it. Historically, however, as more heteronormative charities have had big corporations or religious institutions to carry their donation weight and fill their coffers, queer-focused charities have had a much more difficult time of securing funding. That is why many LGBTQ organizations rely on queer volunteers and dollars to help keep their organizations fluid.

What is the significance of supporting LGBTQ charities, one might ask? In recent years, it has come to light that many large charitable organizations such as the Salvation Army market themselves as entirely objective in their approach, while excluding the people of our community. In the Salvation Army's case, its crisis centers and homeless shelters have denied access to LGBTQ members, par-

ticularly transgender individuals. As our history has shown we have always helped our own. During the AIDS crisis, much of the funding for research, came from LGBTQ charities and individuals in the community. Those that were sick were predominately cared for by other LGBTQ volunteers.

This issue we talk about local charities that could really use your volunteer commitment or donation, as this year the COVID-19 pandemic has left many charities short on help and funds to bring aid to those in need. We also look at one of the biggest LGBTQ+ advocacy groups in the nation, the Trevor Project, which has raised millions of dollars since its founding in the late 90's to fight bullying and suicide among queer youth.

Finally, I'd like to thank our readers, advertisers and fans for their unwavering support since we started in June. This year what we at Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine are thankful for...is you!

- William S. Gooden

THE OPINION EDITORIAL

The PrideFest... That Wasn't

By David Todd, Reporter
Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine

It technically WASN'T PrideFest. It was PridetoberFest.

It wasn't the "world's" the largest festival celebrating the LGBTQ community (the largest 4-day festival on permanent festival grounds, to be technical). It WAS the celebration of pride that didn't happen the year before due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. It almost didn't happen in 2021... that's why it WASN'T PrideFest. It was PridetoberFest an abbreviated 2-day version of the festival held considerably later in the year and for a fraction of its regular budget, reportedly. It was a celebration nonetheless. (Have you ever known a homosexual to pass up a good celebration of life?!) And that it was... but different. This is probably a good enough place to acknowledge that this reporter used to serve on the Board of PrideFest – specifically the two years it was first on the "Summerfest" grounds. I may be a little biased, but I'll do my best to present a clear picture of this year's "celebration." If you hadn't attended PrideFest before, you would not have noticed a substantial difference in any other pride festival you had attended, save to say it was a little on the light side – both in attendance and presentation, not unlike this year's underwhelming Summerfest. I say that because this year's Summerfest was...different. It wasn't on the same schedule, nor was PridetoberFest, taking up only the first Friday and Saturday of October, rather than the first four days of June, as it normally does (Thursday – Sunday). It also didn't have the same density of attendance – it was a cooler weekend than we had been used to this year, and the requirements were as rigid as that of the less-attended Summerfest. That is to say, you required proof of COVID vaccination or a negative COVID test result within 72 hours of your entry – which at least PridetoberFest provided near the entry gates at this year's festival.

Inside it did look and feel different. The Miller Oasis/Stage was a little less active, but this is understandable due to budget constraints and not to lack of enthusiasm. What the organization DID do well was in filling out the area – offering the merchandising or "beer pods" to the entertainers on the stage at the time to sell their mer-



chandise, thus making the space feel more "filled out" and robust. That said, there was a noticeable lack of attendance in the Miller area not seen when it was PrideFest. Then again...that's when it WAS PrideFest! The Dance tent (stage) was, as ever, the place to be, featuring the best drag shows, fetish entertainment and DJs that PridetoberFest featured. It was the hub of the festival just inside the main gate as always. Someone did ask me if there was a similar abundance of food options and, to be honest, I did not notice a lack of variety or number of vendors. There were booths of pride gear and festival wear, a play area for families and a visible presence of Pride staffing on carts or near the entrances and offices (so no real difference there). The difference was that it was two days less and later in the year, and PrideFest, Inc. did what I would consider, as someone who knows what they have to work with, a decent job of trying to change expectations by re-branding the event and even the look of the posters/logo. Now, could they have done MORE to make it look and feel more like an OctoberFest event?

Yes. For instance, the leather show might have incorporated some leather *lederhosen* into the show. For that matter, there could have been a larger presence of craft beers or breweries or beer-centric events, but that's just grasping at ideas that may or may not have been available to them within the time frame they had to put the event together and its budget.

So, all in all, was it PrideFest? No, of course not. Was it a celebration of pride worthy of Milwaukee, the city of festivals? By all means...and, I'd add representative of the variety and diversity being shown in the LGBTQ community at this time.

My hope is that you enjoyed the festival more than this analysis of it, but if it helped you look at the event through a different light, then Happy Pride. It was for me and I hope for you.

MKE
Pride
LIFE
MAGAZINE



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In The News

LOCAL & NATIONAL LGBTQ+ NEWS



The Controversy Over Dave Chappelle's 'The Closer' on Netflix

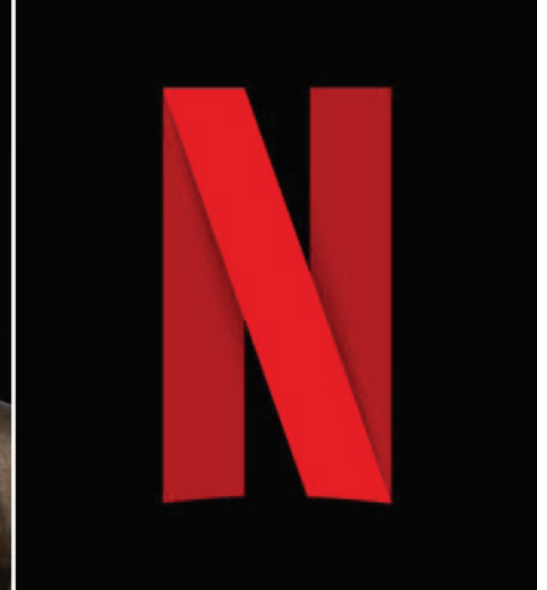
By: Nicole Lewis

Dave Chappelle is getting plenty of heat for his latest Netflix special, *The Closer*. Chappelle's 72-minute bit is squarely aimed at setting the record straight after being widely criticized for his previous specials in which he belittles trans people, gay people, and survivors of sexual violence. He says this is his intention right at the start. We should take him at his word. His routine—controversial as it is—accomplished exactly what he set out to do.

What that accomplishment reveals is not that he isn't funny (he is). It's not just that he is punching down (he is) or that his jokes haven't aged well (they haven't). His latest special confirms once and for all Chappelle was never the progressive darling many thought him to be. In 2019, when Chappelle won the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor, Jon Stewart called him the "Black Bourdain," a nod to the widely loved chef and documentarian whose work explored the intricacies of the human condition.

That characterization is somewhat understandable. The beauty, and ultimate demise, of Chappelle's Show was that he deftly and publicly explored the trials and tribulations of Black life. At the time, his comedy was provocative, novel, even revelatory. It makes sense we expected the same nuance with respect to other oppressed groups. But ultimately we were just projecting onto him something that wasn't actually reflected in his work. We expected an intersectional analysis where none existed.

The line that runs through all of Chappelle's comedy is that anti-Blackness is the Final Boss of all oppressions. Everyone else's pain and suffering isn't as bad by comparison, and therefore doesn't deserve the level of outrage and



attention it currently gets in progressive circles. Consider one of his opening jokes in *The Closer*. "I'd like to start by addressing the LGBTQ community directly," he says with a smirk. "I want every member in that community to know that I come in peace, and I hope to negotiate the release of DaBaby." Chappelle acknowledges that DaBaby made "a very egregious mistake" when he made disparaging comments about people living with HIV/AIDS while on-stage at a concert in Miami in July. But then the joke takes a turn.

"He once shot a n***a and killed him in Walmart. Oh, this is true. Google it. DaBaby shot and killed a n***a in Walmart in North Carolina and nothing bad happened to his career. Do you see where I am going with this? In our country, you can shoot and kill a n***a but you better not hurt a gay person's feelings. And this is precisely the disparity that I wish to discuss. You think I hate gay people, and what you're really seeing is that I am jealous of gay people. Oh, I'm jealous. And I am not the only Black person who feels this way. We Blacks, we look at the gay commu-

nity and we say: Goddamn it, look how well that movement is going. Look at how well you are doing, and we have been trapped in this predicament for hundreds of years. How the hell are you making that kind of progress?"

This so-called disparity has been at the heart of Chappelle's work for years. But he is finally making it unmistakably plain. On one side we have the Black community dealing with the daily trauma, exploitation, and indignity of living under white supremacy. And on the other, you have the LGBTQ community, which, in Chappelle's eyes, has overcome the worst of its oppression in record time. In this world, these two camps are separate and opposed, with no overlap. (LGBTQ Black people may beg to differ.)

As Chappelle describes it, overcoming oppression is a race, a competition that provokes jealousy, in which progress for one group comes at the expense of progress for another. But gay oppression is hardly a thing of the past. We are still

(Continued on pg. 4)

Dave Chappelle

(Continued from pg. 2)

debating whether conservative Christians have to bake cakes for same-sex weddings. Still trying to bar trans people from bathrooms and sports teams. LGBT teens are four times as likely as their hetero peers to consider and attempt suicide. And trans people of color face extraordinarily high rates of violence, unemployment, and housing insecurity. Do I need to go on?

But I also understand where Chappelle is coming from. He's not wrong that anti-Black racism is brutal and ever present. We are just over a year removed from millions of people pouring into the streets to protest state-sanctioned violence against Black people. The same violence we've been protesting against for decades. In myriad ways, Black people fare worse in this country than almost every other racial group. So when I stop and consider the source of Chappelle's supposed jealousy, I hear him saying: If this country truly cared about Black people, we would be outraged and in the streets every single day.

But I'm not writing this to give Dave Chappelle a pass for the comparisons he's making. I'm writing this to acknowledge that Chappelle has always been narrowly focused on Black pain, and that when he speaks of the Black community, he is mostly talking about Black men. He is talking about the experience he knows best, his own. But he fails again and again when his attention turns toward other marginalized groups. "I am not

indifferent to the suffering of someone else," he says, acknowledging the meanness of North Carolina's bathroom bill. The moment of insight is short-lived. In the next breath, he's making a set of crude jokes that reduce trans people to body parts.

Over the course of his career, Chappelle has been grappling with a very real victimhood and he has produced lasting art from it (he takes pains in *The Closer* to describe his work as art). What is unsettling for many of his fans and admirers is that the depth to which he understands his position in the world and the pain that comes with it has not necessarily led to greater empathy and generosity for the plight of others. Put another way, Chappelle was never actually on anyone else's side. His latest special isn't a betrayal, and can't be dismissed as the misguided musings of an out-of-touch and aging comedian. In fact, we're the ones who got him all wrong.

Take one early 2003 sketch from Chappelle's Show, a spoof of an R. Kelly music video in which Chappelle makes fun of Kelly's victims. (The song was called "Piss on You.") Or the "Ask a Gay Dude" segment in which straight men posed obnoxious questions to gay actor Mario Cantone. "Ay yo, I just got one question for you fruitypants out there: What is the rainbow about? I am not feeling the rainbow," asks one man. Have we forgotten the way women figured into many of his sketches? Or as Helen Lewis writes in the Atlantic, "Did none of the recent critics of *The Closer* notice the way Chappelle has always talked about bitches—sorry, women?"

His early work did not elicit the same ire as his recent specials. This is partially a reflection of the cultural progress Chappelle jealously points out. And his bitterness over this progress for others, and the continued backlash to his jokes, is detectable. He openly rejects the criticisms that he is punching down. And he clearly sees himself as a misunderstood victim. "The transgenders ... these n***s want me dead," he says.

So where does this leave us? Is Chappelle a bully? A victim? Can we still laugh at his jokes? Yes, also yes, and yes. He is clumsily and perhaps unknowingly inviting us to consider just how much work there is left to do in the pursuit of equality. And he is also reminding us that intersectionality is hard and complicated. His attempts at describing the power relationships within and between marginalized groups too often falls flat.

At the top of *The Closer*, Chappelle lays out his mission, nodding to the controversy over his comedy. "I came here tonight because this body of work that I've done on Netflix I am going to complete," he said. "All the questions you might have had about all these jokes I have said in the last few years I hope to answer tonight."

Those questions have been answered. Chappelle hasn't grown or learned from the past criticisms, but with *The Closer* he has left no confusion about his views. It is time we start believing him.

Source: <https://slate.com/culture/2021/10/dave-chappelle-the-closer-netflix-controversy.html>



DHS Approved 10/15/2020

For information on long term care options, call your local Aging and Disability Resource Center.

My Choice Wisconsin serves government-funded programs to frail seniors and adults with disabilities.

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800-963-0035 TTY: 711
www.mychoicewi.org/MPM



Pride Life Features

THE EVENTS AND PEOPLE THAT ARE SHAPING LGBTQ+ MILWAUKEE

Local LGBTQ+ Charities to Donate this Holiday Season

By William Gooden, Publisher,
Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine

When the holiday season puts you in a giving spirit, it's tempting to just drop some cash into one of those bell-ringers' red kettles. However, The Salvation Army has a troubled relationship with the LGBT community: The fourth-largest charity in the U.S., the Salvation Army is a faith-based organization whose official doctrine states that marriage is only valid between a man and woman. For decades, the Salvation Army explicitly condemned homosexuality, even linking to organizations offering conversion therapy from its website (a practice it didn't end until 2013).

In recent years, the organization has made a concerted effort to restore its reputation. According to a statement on the SA website, the group is now "open and inclusive to all people."

But in the not-so-distant past, it has also been accused of refusing to hire gay employees, turning away LGBT people in need and discriminating against trans patients at its drug rehab centers and homeless shelters.

When it comes to feeding and housing those in need, innumerable organizations are underfunded. Here are ten suggestions for local LGBT-affirming organizations into which to invest your hard earned this holiday season in lieu of the Salvation Army:

Milwaukee LGBT Community Center
315 W Court St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 410-9487
admin@mkelgbt.org
<https://www.mkelgbt.org>



The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center delivers educational, health promotion, and community-building services that meet the needs of LGBT youth, adults, and their allies in the Greater Milwaukee area from its primary facility and other sites. The Center programs are developed with a consideration of community need, diversity, and inclusivity, community development, availability of resources, and the Center's mission and vision.

Diverse and Resilient

2439 N Holton St,
Milwaukee WI 53212
414-390-0444
diverseandresilient.org

Diverse and Resilient, Inc. is a non-profit organization whose mission is the healthy development of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in Wisconsin by creating and sustaining groups and communities to take action. The organization's name is intended to serve as reminder that LGBT people are everywhere, engage in interesting and meaningful lives, and contribute to the welfare of each other and the broader community.

Courage MKE

270 East Highland Ave Suite I
Milwaukee, WI 53202

414-704-3856
info@CourageMKE.org
www.couragemke.org

Courage MKE is a charity raising funds and awareness for LGBTQ+ youth to ensure they have the skills, tools and resources needed to grow into successful leaders. While their main project Courage House has had some controversy this past year, they are in the process of addressing those issues and still need support for their cause.

Cream City Foundation

759 N Milwaukee St, Ste 212,
Milwaukee WI 53202
414-225-0244
info@creamcityfoundation.org
creamcityfoundation.org

Cream City Foundation serves as the leader in mobilizing philanthropic resources, fostering strategic collaboration, effecting positive change and the advancement of the quality, dignity, and health of LGBT people in Southeastern Wisconsin.

G/L Community Fund

P.O. BOX 1686
Milwaukee, WI 53201
414-643-1652
glcommunityfund@hotmail.com

The G/L Community Fund was established in 1995. The Community Fund serves for social change on behalf Gays and Lesbians in Southeastern Wisconsin. They help grass roots organizations and the underserved groups who do not have the resources to do major fundraising, or are unable to receive grants from large foundations.

(Continued on pg. 10)

Local Charities

(Continued from pg. 9)

Abbey Of Brew City Sisters Of Perpetual Indulgence

info@brewcitysisters.org
brewcitysisters.org

The Abbey of the Brew City Sisters is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing information to at-risk individuals and youth regarding critical health and community issues.

Through outreach, education, community fund-raising and entertainment, we provide funding and assistance to organizations in need of financial elevation and public acknowledgment throughout the state of Wisconsin.

Children's Service Society Of Wisconsin

8915 W. Connell Ct.
P.O. Box 1997
Milwaukee, WI 53226

414-266-2000
Toll free: 877-266-8989
TTY: 414-266-2465
www.chw.org

Children's Service Society of Wisconsin, a member of Children's Hospital and Health System, is the state's largest private, not-for-profit provider of child welfare services. Our offices are located throughout the state of Wisconsin.

LGBT CENTER OF SE WISCONSIN

1456 Junction Ave,
Racine WI 53403
262-664-4100
lgbtsewi.org

The LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin is an open affirming environment for people of all sexual orientations and gender identity expressions. We provide support, education, resources, and advocacy to achieve a stronger and healthier world for all LGBTQ+ people and allies. With collaborative networking in Racine, Kenosha, Walworth County and

Northern Illinois we will empower our community to provide a safe space to support and celebrate LGBTQ+ diversity, equity, visibility and community building.

Fair Wisconsin

122 East Olin Avenue, Suite 100
Madison, Wisconsin 53713
Phone: 608-441-0143
info@fairwisconsin.com
http://fairwisconsin.com

Fair Wisconsin envisions a fair, safe, and inclusive society in which lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people are treated with dignity and respect.

Fair Wisconsin Inc. works to build a fair, safe, and inclusive Wisconsin for all lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people by advancing, achieving, and protecting LGBT civil rights through lobbying, legislative advocacy, grassroots organizing, coalition building and electoral involvement.

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In The Spotlight

SPOTLIGHTING MILWAUKEE'S AMAZING PRIDE COMMUNITY

The Trevor Project: How It All Began and Its Impact

A twenty-three-minute short-subject film entitled “Trevor” debuted in 1994. It was the autobiographical brainchild of off-Broadway performer James (now Celeste) Lecesne. The short focused on the quirky title adolescent’s dynamic with his clueless parents and crush on classmate Pinky. The incessant bullying which ensues leads Trevor to overdose on aspirin and ultimately befriend a mature and understanding nurse. Lauded for its darkly comic and bittersweet approach, “Trevor” was awarded the Oscar for Best Live-Action Short Film the following spring.

Nearly three years later, the short was honored in a special presentation on HBO. The revival featured commentary by countless celebrities and introduced The Trevor Project, providing a nationwide contact number for immediate counseling for LGBTQ+ youth contemplating suicide. Just prior, writer Lecesne, filmmaker and academic Peggy Rajski and producer Randy Stone had co-founded the nonprofit organization.

Over the course of the next 23 years, the project has become both a full-on movement and an invaluable resource across all channels of communication for gay and lesbian teens facing torturous peer pressure. Its counseling service’s reach includes phone (via The Trevor Lifeline and TrevorText) and web (via TrevorChat and TrevorSpace). The global platform TrevorSpace has



Pictured (left photo) “Trevor” film director and co-founder of The Trevor Project Peggy M. Rajski; (right) a promotional still from the 1994 Academy-Award winning short.

about 300,000 users.

On August 5, 2011, the White House honored the project as a partner in the “Champions of Change” initiative. The Trevor Project has raised millions of dollars to directly benefit LGBTQ+ teens across America that have been bullied due to their identity.

The project’s focus has expanded over the past decade to include research-based nationwide advocacy. In 2019, The Trevor Project tirelessly allied with the state governments of Virginia and Utah to outlaw conversion therapy, a practice proven to be remarkably harmful to LGBTQ+ teens. The project has also inspired other lesser-known organizations to launch their own suicide-prevention centers. On October 17, 2020, The Trevor Project celebrated a monumental legislative victory with The National Suicide Hotline Designation Act. Congress passed an

LGBTQ-inclusive bill wherein callers needed only dial “988” to reach a counselor.

The Lifeline’s well-trained counselors accept about 20,000 crisis calls coast-to-coast every year, subsequently helping to save the lives of innumerable gay youth struggling for acceptance and battling senseless hatred. More than half of its callers have come out to counselors *before* their parents. The project also conducts an annual national survey on the mental health of LGBTQ+ youth to hone their ability to comfort distressed callers.

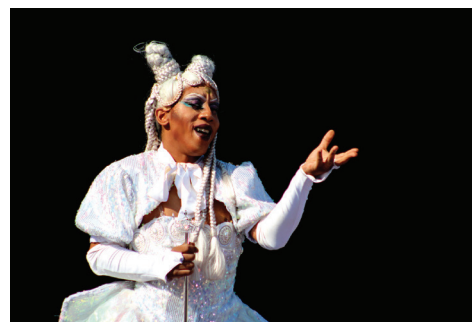
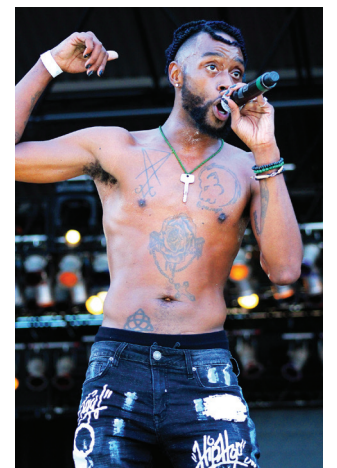
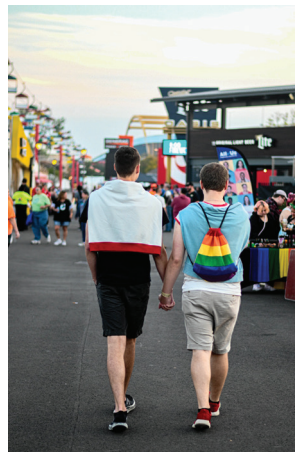
The Trevor Project has become one of the most recognizable, reputable, and impactful charities in the country. If you are LGBTQ+, under the age of 24 and need to talk, you can contact the Lifeline anytime at **1-866-488-7386** or open an online chat at **www.thetrevorproject.org**. Their site also features a screening tool for potential counseling volunteers.

THE **TREVOR** PROJECT
Saving Young LGBTQ Lives

Events & Happenings

PHOTOS OF EVENTS • NIGHTLIFE • MILESTONES

PridetoberFest Makes its Debut



On Friday, October 8 and Saturday, October 9, 2021, Milwaukee Pride presented the first ever PridetoberFest at the Henry Maier Festival Park. The two-day event featured live performances from Jada Essence Hall, Big Freedia, Got Milk, DJ Chomper, GGOOLLDD and more. The event was hosted by legendary comedian Bruce Vilanch.

Cordially Yours, Again!

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



A Time To Be Thankful, Lets Fill that Cornucopia

Stephanie J. Block one of Broadway's brightest lights will be bringing all her luster to the Cream City on Saturday, November 6, 2021! Her considerable talents will be in saluting **The Skylight Music Theatre** and their Annual Gala. Ms. Block does have a Tony Award, a Helen Hayes Award, a Drama Desk Award – all the credentials to have all of us turn out to see her, right here!

She was “Cher”, the “Wicked” Elphaba, Reno “Anything Goes” Sweeney, she went with “The Boy from Oz” (Hugh Jackman), figured out the “Mystery of Edmund Drood”, with a “Falsettos”, all “9 to 5, The Musical” You haven't seen Theater until You've seen Ms. Block's Broadway!

One Night Only! **Woman's Club of Wisconsin** 813 East Kilbourn Avenue.

Contact Kathryn Hausman at 414-299-4953/kathrynH@skylightmusictheatre.org

Instead of putting up that old Christmas tree, this year decorate with Audrey from “Little Shop of Horrors” Friday, November 19 – Sunday, January 02, 2022. This will be the hip and happening Downtown look! Real Third Ward, **Skylight Music Theatre** will be the location.

On the topic foliage everyone loves “Steel Magnolias” which pops up Tuesday, November 9, 2021 through Sunday, December 5. **Pride Night** is Opening Night at **The Rep**, offering \$25 tickets. B.J. Daniels, Dear Ruthie Keester, and Karen Valentine will be your Milwaukee Blossoms, Hostess-ing, and welcoming you all! Next Spring, “The Milwaukee Blossoms”, B.J., Ruthie, and K.V., return for “Titanic”! So, bring your life preservers!

From Halloween to the New Year, it seems it's just one big party! Weekends come and go and free time disappears.

“Bosom Buddies” Saturday, November 20, at **La Cage**, 5 pm Show Time, Doors Open at 4 pm.

Rest assured, Karen Valentine will be back with the Cast. Valentine excused



Michael Johnston

herself from the October edition of “BB” for a much-needed vacation.

Sunday, December 5, I'll be appearing in the *La Cage Holiday Show*. The Show will be taking place at 6 pm in the Show Lounge formerly known as Montage. Recently, it was rechristened! I was thrilled to raise a glass of bubbly as it will now be known as **The Jackie Roberts Theatre**. Jackie was kind of like the Shirley MacLaine of La Cage. He started coming to the cabaret underage, seduced by the glamor and the glitter. He worked his way up the ranks, wherever needed. From Door, to Chorus, to Back Up, to Star! Jackie made his dream come true! Unfortunately, like real life, not everything lasts as long as we would like it to. But his memory, contributions, reputation, will live on, in this performing space. And an incredible portrait of Jackie will grace the room, so he will hold court into the next decade.

The party around the unveiling was phenomenal – take Truman Capote's Black & White Ball and move it to Studio 54! I was thrilled to perform with David Rogers and Goldie Adams from the Original Holly Brown Revue, Lizzie Bordeaux, Chastity Belt, and Diana Jones, frequent Holly Guests, Parker

Christian and Laura Monagle, among others gathering to do a “Turn Back 80's Show” and Celebrating Dennis' 60th Birthday! Food, Drink, Champagne, Cake, Flowers, an extravaganza to the level I haven't seen since the days of my Australian Idol Ms. Holly Brown.

Dennis & Michael, George & Corey, Del, even Lady Gail and so many memorable faces, figures – to quote Karen Carpenter – it really was Yesterday Once More!

Maple Veneer and Karen Valentine will have their “**Bosom Buddies**” *Holi-Gay Stuffing Stocking Show* on Saturday, December 11, Doors open at 4 pm, Show starts promptly at 5 pm.

Rev. Tory Topjian and **The Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church** presents “*The 6th Annual A Night of A Cabaret*” Celebrating 50 years in Milwaukee on Saturday, November 20: **Sky Lounge at American Family Field** (1 Brewers Way, Milwaukee) Doors open at 6:00 pm, Silent Auction, Cash Bar, Show featuring: Maple Veneer, Dita Von, and Karen Valentine. This Event is Open to the Public and All are Welcome.

The talk of the town is their new digs, **The Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra (mso.org)**. The Warner Theater in a word is amazing! I haven't taken in a Symphony Concert yet...but I saw an Award-Winning film/documentary that You will be hearing so much about “*Finding Loren*”. This opus has Milwaukee roots as Wisconsin writer extraordinaire Martin Hintz searches Italy for his war hero father Loren Hintz. The story took place and was going to be filmed to be shared for all Soldiers, Heroes, Family's who made sacrifices, there was so much story to tell, from so many voices. Unfortunately, Marty wasn't to see this mission completed cancer took him, too soon. But as an ultimate gift of love and

(Continued on pg 10)

A Time To Be Thankful

(Continued from pg. 9)

memorial, his widow, love of life, Pam Percy took all the pieces of the puzzle and neatly arranged it all into a tribute bouquet.

Saluting her husband, her father-in-law, family, heroes, history, honor, and love. Pam had never made a movie before, isn't it fascinating how we rise to the occasion, in completing all dreams, ours and others. Marty Hintz and Pam Percy forever covered this hamlet with their super popular bi-weekly column *Boris & Doris About Town* in *The Shepherd Express*. Nothing has warmed my heart as much as this story on and off screen.

Thanks to the Milwaukee Gay Sports Network (MGSN) I was invited to enjoy **The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's Annual Gala Big Night Out - 2021!** "Growing Stronger Together" at Discovery World. Sitting with Cindy O. & Debi Vance is always a treat, add the magical Mona Garcia, and ChiChi and it's a party! It was a "renaissance" seeing everyone out and about dressed and socializing and returning to the "norm". Dinner was divine, and the young speaker who took to the stage had such an impassionate message. So true - that a child will lead them... Amy Orta the Executive Director of The Center announced her departure after 3.5 years. Her Staff joined her on stage as she bid farewell. Natalie Zaroni will also be leaving the Agency and her contributions can not go unaddressed. The Agency has returned to their old neighborhood on Court Street, and I understand have taken over the entire second floor. Wishing the remaining Staff: Deidra Williams, Alex Corona, Christie Carter, Sandra Zapata, Karl Hooyman, Jerry Wilcenski, Tiodolo De La Garza, and Tami Schlickman continued success, while successors are being sought for Orta and Zaroni's roles.

The Board of Directors of The Center has this task, headed by new Board President, Marco Briceno, Deshanda Williams, Vice President, Kevin Flaherty, Treasurer, Chris Hayden Sec-



Dita Von and Maple Veneer in the "Bosom Buddies" show at LaCage.

retary, my dear friend Liz Charewicz, Elena Domiguez, Katherine Georgeson, Rachel Guthbrod, Steve McArthur, Richie Martin, Jr., Manny Munoz, and Tony Snell Rodriguez. Shout Out to the incredible generosity of Chris and Jennifer Abele and their personal contribution of: \$10K to **The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center**.

Now through Sunday, December 19, **Grohmann Art Museum** is offering up "The Railroad and the Art of Place: Photographs by David Kahler". Msoe.edu/grohmann-museum. The Grohmann is one of Milwaukee's best kept secrets. Such a marvelous jewel hidden in the Milwaukee School of Engineering Campus area at 1000 North Broadway.

Continuing your Art enrichment, visit **The Hagerty Museum of Art at Marquette University**, 1234 West Tory Hill Street. Currently until Sunday, December 19 for viewing pleasure *Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons: Sea and Self Double Vision: Art from Jesuit University Collections*, Marquette.edu/hagerty-museum

The holidays are coming whether we are ready for them or not! One Show that I stumbled upon a few years back and attend out of conviction is "Black Nativity (2021)". Written by Langston Hughes and brought to life/directed by Dimonte Henning running Thursday, December 9 - Sunday, December 12. **The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts**, 414-273-7206. Make it a holiday Tradition for your household.

Milwaukee Art Museum (MAM) always has something to feed your imagi-

nation, creativity, and soul with and this month is no different. All these shows/exhibits are waiting for you!

"The Quilts of Pauline Parker" through Sunday, December 5th "First Impressions: Early Printed Books in Europe" through Sunday, December 12th "American Memory: Commemoration, Nostalgia and Revision" through Sunday, January 16th.

Where to go for that fabulous Friday Fish Fry, Prime Rib on Saturday, and ½ Priced Appetizers Monday thru Thursday **Victor's on Van Buren**, 1230 North Van Buren Street. You will never find a better deal, quality, quantity and "Old School" Supper Club at it's very best! Victor Jones opened this neighborhood lounge in 1968. Throughout the decades, additions have taken place, the restaurant, the Dance floor, parking lots, making this a family-run, east-side institution the place to be. And don't forget Susie's home-made desserts, i.e., carrot cake, the size of your head!

Are you in need of little lift or boost in stopping the clock? Beautifying yourself on the outside as well as the inside? I love a visit to **Salon Nova**, 2581 North Downer Avenue. Nova and Michael roll out the red carpet, who needs Elizabeth Arden? This month, it was a visit with Nurse Michelle. I had a very relaxing consultation about a line that has gone across my forehead that just drove me crazy! Also, I didn't care for the "intersection" between my eyebrows, which I spent a lifetime knitting, as in knitting one's brow. What would I look like without it? Well now I know! Just a couple painless injections of Botox, my eyebrow has gotten an interesting curve as a bonus. Botox may not be for everyone, I'm not sure how much more I'll do, but I enjoyed and am incredibly pleased with the results. I like and trust Nurse Michelle - and have another Medical Process, I'm contemplating for next month. Are You looking to do a little something? Give Nurse Michelle a call, 414-273-6682 make an appointment, and go from there. This time a year, anyone can use a lift!

In closing, a Special Thank You and I Love You to so many of You, who dried so many of my tears and held my hand through a rather difficult time. And please remember, it's the glamour, not the grammar as I remain Still Cordially Yours, Again!

Art Life

MUSIC • ART • BOOKS • MOVIES • THEATER



"Bosom Buddies" - NOT Your Average Drag Show

By David Todd, Reporter
Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine

While it might be done in drag (mostly), neither of the two stars of the Revue would describe their monthly "Bosom Buddies" show as "drag."

"It's something left of center," says Michael Johnston aka Karen Valentine. "A salute to old show biz, reminiscent of a forgotten time." While her foil, Maple Veneer (the talented Jim Strange) says it's "two old broads making fools of themselves but hopefully to the audience's enjoyment."

It's Karen, though, that really tries to paint a picture of what they're shooting for. "Remember in old movies or imagine you're attending a party at Judy Garland's apartment with a bunch of old Hollywood types milling around, and the hostess just spontaneously bursts into song? A cocktail party where everyone lifts a glass and starts singing a song together knowing every word. That's what I envision." Quite the aspiration.

But that's what makes *Bosom Buddies* (Karen and Maple... and guests) a different act altogether. In the simplest of terms, it's more *Cabaret* than it is *Drag Race*. You won't see any flying drop kicks; these ladies are "classy"...to a point. What you will see is a salute to traditional show tunes, camp, comedy – dare I say *schtick* and a variety you just don't see in a drag show anymore. *Bosom Buddies* has rotating monthly guests who sing live, are well-known drag queens (and some not-so-well-known drag queens) who share the stage. And did we mention *schtick*? They've welcomed some notable guests including Doug Clemons from Sky-light Opera, Singer Laura Monagle, drag queens Dita Von and Judi Bownz, who will be taking to the *Buddies* stage for her third time, this month, Saturday, November 20th at 5 p.m.

The Revue celebrated its two year anniversary in September at LaCage's third floor showhouse, Montage. The two of them have been "bosom buddies" for nearly two decades depending on which one of them you ask. And as such they have a certain rapport.

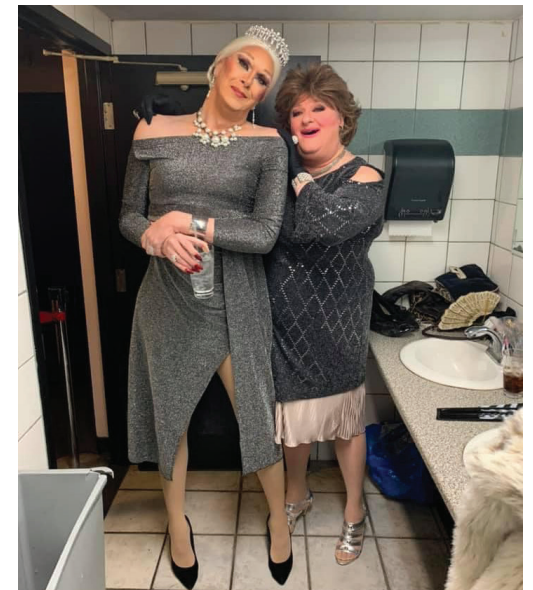


"I couldn't do it without Maple," says Karen. "I wouldn't want to do it with anybody else," Maple says similarly. The name of the Revue is no coincidence either. The two of them fancy themselves the modern Mame Dennis and Vera Charles from the musical "Mame," in which the two sing a song extolling how they, despite their differences, will ALWAYS be "Bosom Buddies." Now, if you're wondering which of them is more Mame and which is more Vera – so were we. "Mame is more well-rounded, demure, the hostess," says Karen. While Maple goes right for the punchline, "Probably more Vera, a lot more Vera. She's kinda crass and a little more sarcastic." They both nailed their roles on the head. And as your hosts during the Revue, expect Karen to wax poetic about the guests and patrons she knows, while Maple throws back-handed compliments at the crowd and at Karen. "We do have fun," says Karen. "I hope everyone else does too!" Such the hostess.

Speed Round! Consider this the old television show, *Tattle Tales*, where we separate the couple and ask them the same question to see if we get similar answers:

- 1) **How long have you known each other (been "Bosom Buddies")?** Maple: "18 years. We met at the M&M Club and began to talk." Karen: "The truth is we met through Jim's lover when he was bartending at TITS, it might have been BOOM. I don't know, we were both performing separately, and someone suggested we start doing it together and *Bosom Buddies*'-style gigs started happening." (Very Vera and Mame.)
- 2) **Are you sober during the act?** Maple: "Hell no! Unless there a particularly difficult costume change? Not sober." Karen: "Well, generally. I kinda drive the bus so Maple can have some fun."
- 3) **When people walk away, they'd be saying... "this reminds me of..."** Karen: Last Time! We try to keep upping our game every show." Maple: "Like nothing I've ever seen before."

Maple will most likely get her wish. *Bosom Buddies* IS like nothing you've seen before in Milwaukee. It's full of music, live and lived out, comedy, *schtick*, cursing and cocktails... and hopefully, a whole lot of fun. **Catch *Bosom Buddies*, monthly at LaCage. Doors open at 4 p.m.; the show begins at 5 p.m.**



Maple Veneer with Karen Valentine



Resource Guide

A SHORT GUIDE TO LGBTQ + MILWAUKEE

Advocacy

Cream City Foundation

Not-for-profit that funds LGBTQ+ outreach organizations

759 N. Milwaukee St. Suite 522,
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>



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://huntypmke.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/woody.s.mke>

Zócolo Food Park ♦

Bar with food trucks, gay friendly

636 S. 6th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
(414) 433-9747

<https://www.zocalomke.com>

Resource Guide

A SHORT GUIDE TO LGBTQ + MILWAUKEE



Businesses

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>

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/>



Health

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>

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 (formerly 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>

KEY:

♦ Distribution point for Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine

Next Issue

December 2021: The Year In Review

- 2021's Biggest Stories in the LGBTQ+ Community
- Holiday Survival Tips
- Holiday Gift Guide
- And much more!



NOVEMBER 7

DISCOVERING THE URBAN FOREST

NOVEMBER 13

**CULTURAL PLANT WALK WITH
ANGELA KINGSAWAN**

NOVEMBER 14

BIRDING WITH POET CHUCK STEBELTON

NOVEMBER 27

DOG DAY

LYNDENSCULPTUREGARDEN.ORG

2145 W BROWN DEER RD, MILWAUKEE, WI 53217