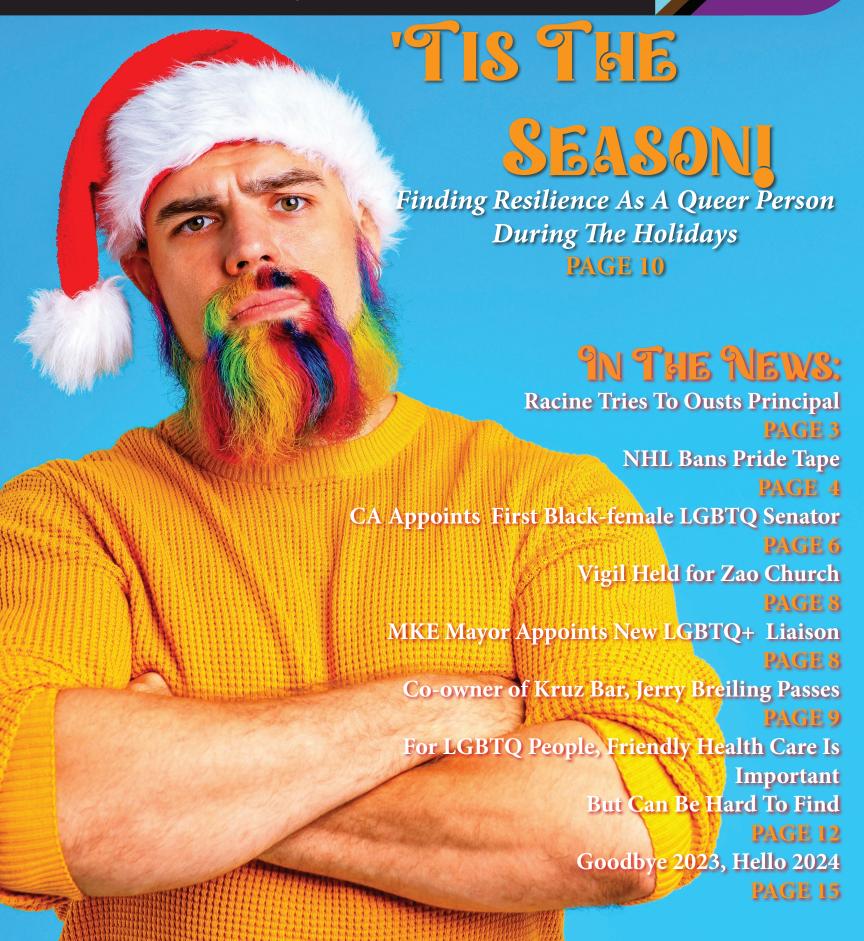
Milwaukee Pride Life

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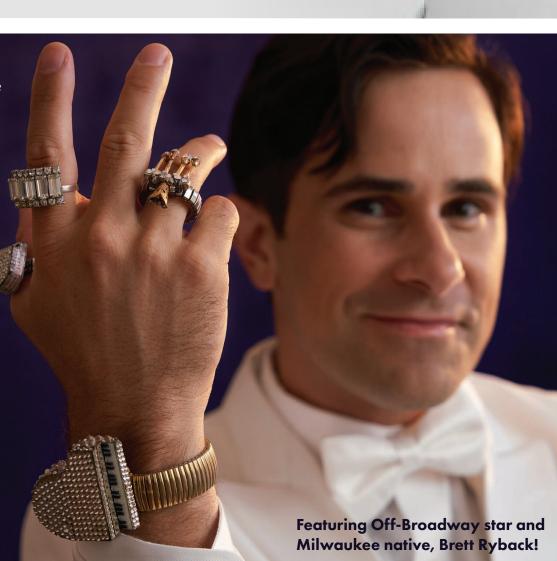
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FROM THE **PUBLISHER'S** DESK

'Tis the Season



By William Gooden Publisher

As we head toward the end of the year there is a lot happening in our world. In our **In The News** section we look at the very short NHL ban on Pride gear (page 4); and the late Dianne Feinstein's LGBTQ+ replacement (page 6). There is also a lot of news happening locally as well. Racine tries to outs a openly gay local high school principal (page 3); a vigil is held for local slain trans-woman Zoa Church (page 8), the Mayor appoints a new LGBTQ+ liaison (page 8); and Kruz Bar owner, *Jerry Breiling* passes (page 9).

The holiday season is upon us and this time of year can be hard for LGBTQ+people. In our **Pride Life Features** section we look at finding ways to cope as a queer person in "Finding Resilience As A Queer Person During the Holidays," (page 10).

The holidays of course can be stressful for everyone and that can take a toll on one's health, which makes having a queer friendly healthcare provider so important. In our **Healthy Living Section** you will find For LGBTQ People, Friendly Health Care Is Important But Can Be Hard To Find (page 12) where the American Heart Association talks about the how important it is and how to find a health provider that is right for you.

And finally, if you looking for something to do this holiday season our own Michael Johnston in **Cordially Yours**, **Again!** has got you covered. In *Goodbye* 2023, *Hello* 2024 (page 15) he takes a look at all the show ending the year and coming in the new year. Of course we always have our **Resource Guide** (page 18) for your handy-dandy reference.

Have a very happy holidays!

IN MY OPINIO

BY: WILLIAM S. GOODEN

My Wish For You, A Peaceful Holiday



This holiday season will mark the first without COVID-19 being a major threat and by all accounts this should be a happy one. However, that doesn't seem to be the case. With conservative politicians trying to pass laws that threaten our safety and very way of life. Even the very mention of being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or any of the non-hetronormative groups we may identify as, rains down vitriol from conservative groups, thus making our lives stressful to say the least. Ad to that wars in Ukraine and the Middle East and not to mention all the stuff we have to deal with on a daily basis, it is very easy to feel lost and over whelmed.

So, my wish for you this year is that you take sometime for yourself and carve out some peace for yourself this

holiday season. Treat yourself to a something you have always wanted to do like a spa day. Have a relaxed celebrations with your actual or chosen family who love and support you, no matter what, or just tune out by yourself and chill while watching *The Elite* on Netflix[™].

You don't have to be anything or everything for anybody this holiday season. It would be perfectly alright to just "do you" or celebrate quietly with a partner of friends and chosen family. I hope things will be better for us all in the new year, one can only hope.

Happy Holidays one and all,

- William Gooden Publisher



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In The News

LOCAL & NATIONAL LGBTQ+ NEWS



Racine County School Board Votes To Consider Ousting Principal

Principal Jeff Peterson's attorney alleges the district is discriminating against Peterson because he is gay

There is community uproar in the Racine County Village of Raymond over the future of the principal of their only school. The Raymond School Board voted 4-1 Wednesday to consider not renewing Principal Jeff Peterson's contract.

Four board members voted against Peterson. One, Amy Helvick, voted to keep him.

The discussion and decision-making Wednesday night happened in a meeting closed to the public. The board opened the meeting back up to announce their decision, where they explained they are considering Peterson's removal due to his "performance."

Jeff Peterson is the principal of the 431-student Raymond School. Peterson's attorney, Ben Hitchcock Cross, tells WISN 12 News that Peterson went to school at Raymond for many years, and always dreamed of being principal.

"This is the building that inspired me to do what I do for a career and a living," Peterson said after the vote. "And I have only continued to be motivated to come to work every day because I serve teachers and I serve students. And this community school should be the best place on Earth."

Hitchcock Cross told WISN 12 News that he and Peterson are considering suing the district if he is removed. They allege the school district is discriminating



against Peterson because he is gay.

Hitchcock Cross said the large show of support Wednesday night shows people in the community are "saying no to discrimination."

More than 100 people showed up at the meeting Wednesday to show Peterson their support — many wearing matching shirts and carrying signs. Lawn signs reading "Keep Peterson" with a yellow heart have popped up on lawns in recent days.

"We want to make sure it's known that we stand with him," said parent Mitchell Berman.

He said he believes Peterson is being targeted by the board. Berman, along with many other parents Wednesday night, said they think the board is bringing politics into the classrooms.

"The overall feeling is this board has

an agenda. And, Mr. Peterson unfortunately doesn't fit into that mold that they're pushing," Berman said.

Peterson's job was the only item up for debate during the closed session — "issuing preliminary notice of contract non-renewal of an administrator," according to the agenda.

"I was shocked," said Jennifer Hansen, who lives in the area and supports Peterson. "I went to the meeting to find out what was going on, and the scariest part to me is after attending all these meetings and talking to people in the community — still nobody knows why they want to get rid of him. It doesn't make any sense to me. Why would you want to get rid of an award-winning principal? One of the best principals we've ever had."

The special meeting notice indicated just how heated the issue had become, stating the meeting would be virtual "due to several written threats of violence received by School District Officials, including the Board President and Superintendent."

The school was placed on a "soft lock-down" Wednesday, whereby no visitors are allowed, but classes are held as usual. Superintendent Dr. Michael Garvey said in an email, "The lockdown (was) due to possible disruptions and not based on a threat to our students."

(Continued on pg. 7)

Nhl Bans All Theme-Night Gear, Including Pride Symbols, From Uniforms Then Reverses Decision

The move comes after a season when a handful of players objected to participating in Pride Night events staged by their clubs.

The NHL issued a sweeping ban against on-ice theme night gear, barring clubs from having players wear rainbow sweaters or use multicolored tape on sticks during Pride Night, for example, officials confirmed Tuesday, October 12, 2025.

The move, first reported Monday by the LGBTQ news site Outsports, followed a 2022-23 season when a handful of players — including Philadelphia Flyers defenseman Ivan Provorov and then-San Jose Sharks goaltender James Reimer — declined to participate in their clubs' Pride Night celebrations.

Outsports called the NHL's new directive "the most stifling, anti-LGBTQ policy any pro sports league in North America has ever issued."

Representatives for the NHL and the players union did not immediately respond to messages seeking comment.

Deputy NHL Commissioner Bill Daly confirmed to The Associated Press on Tuesday that the league sent a memo to all 32 clubs with updated guidance barring any on-ice uniform or gear used in warmups from including any theme night celebrations.

Kurt Weaver, the chief operations officer of the You Can Play Project, told NBC News that the leaguewide memo went to clubs Thursday. You Can Play is a partner of the NHL and its "Hockey Is for Everyone" campaign, aimed at stomping out homophobia and spreading the game to underrepresented groups.

Weaver said league officials confirmed to him that teams will be barred from having players wear Pride sweaters or have rainbow tape on their sticks.

"When you start to take away what is



Nick Foligno of the Toronto Maple Leafs warms up before a game in Toronto in 2021.Mark Blinch / NHLI

our most visible representations, what carries the most weight in messaging, is those heroes that you see on the ice standing up for they believe and what they believe is right," Weaver said. "And removing those from the ice is a tough one."

Weaver praised years of efforts by the NHL, teams and players to fight homophobia but admitted that last week's league memo was a bitter pill to swallow.

"It's hard to reconcile that right now, with decisions like this. But I see too many great things that the clubs do, that hockey in general does. It's success after success," he said. "But that right now is clouded by a really poor decision that's going to overtake all that good work."

Jeff McLean, a spokesperson for Pride

Tape, said the company is "extremely disappointed by the NHL's decision" to ban its product from on-ice activities this season. The company is looking forward to better days ahead.

"We hope the league — and teams — will again show commitment to this important symbol of combating homophobia," the company said. "Many of the players themselves have been exceptional advocates for the tape."

The recent NHL communication to clubs also left the door open for players to object to being in "close proximity" to people or groups whom they might consider to be "associated" with causes they don't support, Outsports reported.

"Players shall not be put in the position of having to demonstrate (or where they may be appearing to demonstrate) personal support for any Special Initiatives. A factor that may be considered in this regard includes, for example, whether a Player (or Players) is required to be in close proximity to any groups or individuals visibly or otherwise clearly associated with such Special Initiative(s)," the league allegedly told clubs, Outsports reported.

The potential "proximity" policy had Anaheim Ducks organist Lindsay Imber wondering out loud whether she could be, in theory, booted from her Honda Center nest over gender identity.

"At the executive level, we just don't have representation, and if we don't have representation up there, they don't know us," she said Tuesday. "So then the people formulating these decisions don't have this perspective, which leads to policies that are exclusionary."

However, almost two weeks latter on October 24, 2023, the NHL reversed their decision on the policy on the use of colored stick tape to represent causes during games and in practices, after much public criticism.

"After consultation with the NHL Players' Association and the NHL Player Inclusion Coalition, players will now have the option to voluntarily represent social causes with their stick tape throughout the season," the league said in a statement Tuesday.

The NHL announced in June that teams were no longer allowed to wear "specialty" jerseys during warmups, practices or games during nights that supported causes like Pride or military appreciation. The league further clarified that on-ice player uniforms and gear worn in warmups, official team practices and games could not be altered to reflect "specialty" theme nights.

That included the use of Pride tape, a rainbow-colored stick tape that's been used in support of the LGBTQIA+ community for several seasons. The league told ESPN that the ban on Pride tape was to prevent teams and players from using it as an "end-around" to violate



Mark Barberio of the Colorado Avalanche before a game against the Anaheim Ducks in Denver in 2020. Michael Martin / NHLI

the new uniform policy.

The Pride tape ban made international news and compelled NHL players, including reigning MVP Connor McDavid of the Edmonton Oilers, to openly question the policy.

"I've expressed disappointment in not being able to wear the various jersey or the tapes ... whether that's Pride tape or pink tape," McDavid said. "Is it something that I'd like to see back into place one day? Certainly."

On Saturday, October 28, 2023, Arizona Coyotes defenseman Travis Dermott became the first NHL player to use Pride tape on his stick in defiance of the NHL's ban, wrapping the top of his stick with the tape.

"It's not like I'm shutting up and going away," he told *PHNX*. "I know more questions are going to be coming. We're just going to be as prepared as we can be to just spread love. That's the thing. It's gay pride that we're talking about, but it could be men's health. It could be any war. It's just wanting world peace. Everyone's got to love each other a little bit more."

The NHL, NHLPA and the NHL player inclusion coalition met early last month about the Pride Tape issue following the outrage about the ban. There was another meeting involving the coalition on Monday. On Tuesday, word began to spread around the NHL that the policy was changing.

The reversal of the policy was met with a positive response from many fans and advocacy organizations.

"I'm a big believer in freedom of choice. While I might have been disappointed, I didn't criticize any players for not wearing a [Pride] jersey, because that's their right to choose. I think it should be a player's right to use the tape they want to, that's been sanctioned by the NHL for years. For me, this is a big win for freedom of choice," said Brock McGillis, a former pro hockey player and a founder of the Alphabet Sports Collective. "That said, we need to get back to a point where we're focused on informed decision making and recognizing impact."

Gov. Gavin Newsom chooses Laphonza Butler to fill Dianne Feinstein's Senate seat

Butler is the head of the group EMILY's List, which works to elect Democratic women. She will be the third Black woman in history to serve in the Senate.

By Adam Edelman and Amanda Terkel

California Gov. Gavin Newsom has chosen Laphonza Butler, the president of EMILY's List, to fill the seat of the late Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the governor's office confirmed to NBC News.

She will be the third Black woman to ever serve in the Senate, as well as the first openly LGBTQ person to represent California in the chamber. Politico first reported Newsom's choice of Butler.

Feinstein, the longest-serving woman in the Senate, died early on Friday, Sept. 29. Friday at age 90.

"I am honored to accept Gov. Newsom's nomination to be a U.S. Senator for a state I have long called home," Butler said in a statement Monday. "I am humbled by the Governor's trust. Sen. Dianne Feinstein's leadership and legacy are immeasurable. I will do my best to honor her by devoting my time and energy to serving the people of California and the people of this great nation."

In California, the governor has the power to appoint a senator to serve until the next regularly scheduled statewide general election. That means Butler will serve until the next senator, whom voters will choose in the November 2024 election, is sworn in.

Butler has led EMILY's List, which works to elect Democratic women who support abortion rights, since 2021, when she became the first Black woman to lead the organization. On Friday, she



Emily's List President Laphonza Butler address a Biden-Harris campaign rally June 23 in Washington, D.C.

posted a tribute to Feinstein on social media, calling her "a titan in the Senate" and "a legendary figure for women in politics and around the country."

Kelley Robinson, president of the Human Rights Campaign — the country's largest LGBTQ rights organization — called her appointment "a landmark moment in the fight for social, racial and economic justice."

"As the first Black lesbian to represent California in the United States Senate, Laphonza brings a compelling voice for abortion rights, the labor movement and civil rights into Congress. Her leadership is a testament to the legacy of Senator Dianne Feinstein's strong record of pro-LGBTQ+ support," Robinson said.

Butler's professional career has been rooted in California, where she led SEIU Local 2015, the largest union in the state. She has also been a longtime ally of Vice President Kamala Harris, a member of the University of California Board of Regents and the director of public policy and campaigns in North America for Airbnb.

Butler lives in Maryland, but Matthew Wing, a spokesman, said Monday that she has re-registered to vote in California.

Emily's List President Laphonza Butler address a Biden-Harris campaign rally on June 23, 2023 in Washington, D.C.

School Board Ousting Principal

Continued from pg. 3

Berman said his group has nothing to do with that, but said the board is out of touch with the community. "Once this board got elected, they began banning books, they began changing curriculum, and they have the ability to do that. However, none of them are educators or have any experience in that area, and they're unwilling to listen to stakeholders." Berman said. "The teachers are being shut out."

School Board President Audrey Kostuch said school board members couldn't comment based on legal advice. In the meeting, Kostuch said the board will not be talking to any parents, students, teachers or taxpayers about their decision. WISN 12 News reached out to Superintendent Garvey for comment on the decision but did not hear back.

Source: https://www.wisn.com/article/principals-future-brings-threats-of-vio-lence-raymond-wisconsin/45345288

Newsom, a Democrat, had provided substantial clues in recent months about how he'd choose Feinstein's replacement if her seat were to become vacant.

He had said that he would appoint a Black woman if either of California's Senate seats opened up. He also said on NBC News' "Meet the Press" last month that while he "didn't want to make another appointment," it knew it was his "responsibility."

Newsom also said that his choice would amount to an "interim" appointment and that he wouldn't appoint any of the candidates who had been running to succeed Feinstein in 2024. They include Reps. Barbara Lee, Adam Schiff and Katie Porter.

Choosing any of them, Newsom said, "would be completely unfair" to the candidates "who have worked their tails off" in their campaigns.

Butler, however, won't have any constraints on her plans and will be free to run for the seat if she chooses.

She will be sworn in when the Senate convenes on Tuesday at 3 p.m. ET, according to two sources.

Porter, Schiff and Lee all offered their congratulations to Butler and said they were looking forward to working closely with her.

Porter praised Butler's accomplishments, saying she "has spent her career standing up for women and working families."

Schiff said he was "glad" Newsom acted quickly in appointing someone, and Lee said she was still "singularly focused" on winning the Senate race.

The Congressional Black Caucus had urged Newsom to appoint Lee, saying she was the "only person with the courage, the vision, and the record to eradicate poverty, face down the fossil fuel industry, defend our democracy, and tirelessly advance the progressive agenda.

Newsom appointed then-California Secretary of State Alex Padilla to the Senate seat left vacant after Harris was elected vice president; the latest appointment means he will have chosen both senators in the state.

Aside from Harris and now Butler, Carol Moseley Braun of Illinois was the only other Black female senator.

Voters in the state will head to the polls in a March 5 Senate primary election. California uses a blanket primary, meaning all candidates from all parties appear on the same primary ballot, with the two top vote-getters advancing to

the general election in November, regardless of their political parties.

Feinstein, who had been the oldest member of the Senate, as well as the longest-serving female senator and the longest-serving senator from California, announced in February that she'd planned to retire at the end of 2024, when her term was up.

But she had faced repeated calls to resign over concerns about her health. After Feinstein missed votes in February, her spokesperson said days later that "the senator is in California this week dealing with a health matter" and "hopes to return to Washington soon."

Feinstein had also faced pressure in recent years to step down to make way for younger lawmakers. In April 2022, she pushed back against a news report in the San Francisco Chronicle citing multiple anonymous colleagues' expressing worries that she was mentally unfit to serve. "I remain committed to do what I said I would when I was re-elected in 2018: fight for Californians," she said then.

Source: https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2024-election/gavin-newsom-laphonza-butler-fill-dianne-feinsteinsenate-seat-rcna118052

Vigil held to honor transgender woman killed in deadly shooting

Chyna Long, along with other trans victims, remembered at Zao Church

On Wednesday, October 18, 2023, there were heavy hearts inside Zao Church in Milwaukee as people remember Chyna Long. The transgender woman was shot and killed Oct. 8 near 89th and Dogwood streets.

"Showed me a picture, and it was her, and it broke me," said Jonathan Long, Chyna's father.

Chyna's life was cut short at 30 years old. Her father said she was outgoing, a wonderful dancer and a hairstylist.

Dozens of people are grieving her loss and the loss of other transgender wom-



en. Chyna is the fourth Black transgender woman killed in Milwaukee since June 2022.

"People should have more compassion for trans issues and specifically trans murders," said Elle Halo of SHEBA, Sisters Helping Each Other Battle Adversity, a group that supports trans women. "More than pictures, more than just a sad story that you might see online."

This group with candles hopes to keep Chyna's light and legacy alive.

"No one should bury their kids, my kids should bury me," Long said.

Mayor Johnson appoints new LGBTQ+ liaison for city of Milwaukee

Luke Olson will fill the vacant position, serving as a link between city government and the LGBTQ+ community

Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson announced Wednesday the appointment of Luke Olson to the role of LGBTQ+ liaison for the city of Milwaukee.

"I look at this role as an opportunity for me to bring the needs of my community before the leaders at City Hall and make sure that our voices continue to be heard," Luke Olson told 12 News Wednesday, October 18, 2023.

Olson works with Milwaukee's Department of City Development and has advocated for LGBTQ+ rights for years.

As a member of the community himself, Olson serves as Vice President of the Milwaukee Pride Board and holds a leadership position with Pride Fest. He also served as a co-chair of the Chancellor's Advisory Committee for LGBTQ+ Advocacy during his time at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee and received a 2022 Dr. P.B. Poorman Award for Outstanding Achievement on Behalf of LGBTQ+ People from the UW-Sys-



tem.

The position has been around for years, but Olson hopes to bring a renewed focus to the role, starting with addressing ongoing violence against LGBTQ+ people in Milwaukee.

"The first thing I'd like to do is just look at what's going on in my commu-

nity. Right now, there's an epidemic of violence against trans people of color. Tonight, I am going to a candlelight vigil for a trans person of color who was murdered here in Milwaukee, so safety of my community is the highest priority right now," Olson said. The candlelight vigil is in memory of Chyna Long, a transgender woman of color who was murdered in Milwaukee last week.

Johnson says the positions serve as a crucial link between city government and LGBTQ+ residents.

"There's always more to learn. There's always new issues, and I think Luke is going to be a great go-between between my administration, between my office directly, and the issues affecting the LGBTQ+ community right here in the city of Milwaukee," Johnson said.

If you have a topic you want to LGBTQ+ Liaison to address you can reach out to the mayor's office at mayor@milwaukee.gov with your concerns.

Co-owner of Kruz Bar, Jerry Breiling, passes

By William S. Gooden

On Friday, October 20, 2023 a post on Kruz Bar's Facebook page announced the sudden passing of Kruz Bar co-owner Jerry Breiling. The post which was posted by Jerry's partner and Kruz co-owner, Serge Pellicelli,

The post stated the following:

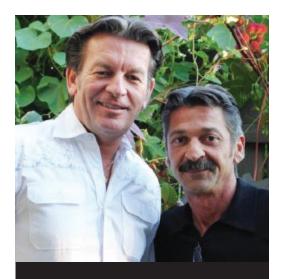
"Dear KRUZ family, Customers and Friends.

I never thought I would need to do this SAD announcement.

Last month Jerry was sick and became very very sick.

Today I lost my LOVE partner (after 24 years and 1 week), Business partner, and best friend.

This morning October 20 Jerry said Goodbye for the last time.



Serge Pellicelli and the late Jerry Breiling (right) owners of Kruz Bar

Jerry passed away at our house with Family and few friends.

This weekend (Friday Oct 20, Saturday Oct 21 and Sunday Oct 22) the bar will be open from 3 to 10.

That will be hard for employees (and you also) to perform as a normal day (but this is not a normal day)
Thank you for your support.
Future details will be posted soon for HIS CELEBRATION of LIFE.
With my broken heart.
Love
Serge."

Opened in November 2006 by Breiling and Pellicelli to be a "man's gay bar." Kruz, located at 354 E. National Ave., in the Harbor View area, Kruz's little corner of the city, surrounded by warehouses, old industry and a few boat yards. Before Wherehouse and Hot Water, 818 S. Water St.

As of this writing service details were not available.

Editor's Note:

An earlier version of this publication included and article entitled, " "Burgelis Running for Borkowski's Common Council Seat." The article had originally appeared on https://urbanmilwaukee.com.

This article was not indented to be in this publication but was accidentally left in the web version. But was never the less published here online and thus was used without permission. This was not done with any malice or ill intent but was sincerely an over-site on our part.

I sincerely, apologizes for this over-site and will work diligently in the future to make sure this doesn't happen again.

- With Sincerest Apologies William Gooden

Pride Life Features

THE EVENTS AND PEOPLE THAT ARE SHAPING LGBTQ+ MILWAUKEE

Finding Resilience As A Queer Person During The Holidays

By: Rev. Bertram Johnson

Despite the promised tidings of comfort and joy, twinkling lights, and gifts exchanged, the holiday season can be a great source of pain and loneliness for those of us in the LGBTQIA+ community. The reality of what many queer people experience during the holidays seldom lives up to the sense of wonder and community we were taught to believe in as children. After the experience of coming out—naming our sexual orientation, who we really are, and where we find love-too many of us face rejection, isolation, and shame from the ones who had previously claimed they cherished us.

My work as a seminary chaplain and psychotherapist have afforded me numerous opportunities over the past few weeks to speak with queer-identified individuals who hold great hesitations about heading home this December. The questions and doubts sometimes begin months in advance: Can I be my true self in my childhood home? Am I free to talk genuinely about my interests, friendships, and romantic relationships? Will I encounter pain or backlash if I express my gender identity in a way that feels authentic for me? When these questions are answered negatively, the notion of celebrating Christmas with our family or community of origin could mean putting ourselves at risk for physical abuse or worse.

I was an adult when I came out to my family. I had finished graduate school,



Members of Taylor Pride march in a Christmas parade on Saturday, Dec. 3, 2022 in Taylor, TX. This year the traditional parade split from their city counterparts who normally co-sponsor the parade after the inclusion of a LGBTQ float in 2021. Conservative members of the community objected to the presence of drag queens so the town elected to have two separate parades to try and avoid conflict. *Photo by: Sergio Flores—The Washington Post / Getty Images*

was living across the county, working in a church where my sexual orientation was known and celebrated. By the time I shared my whole truth with my family, I had spent years in therapy, worked through my theological uncertainties, and was blessed to have an amazing group of friends who affirmed daily that I was loved. Knowing this support network was just a call away empowered me to embrace the fullness of my life and believe that I could survive any potential rejection that the people who knew me since birth might offer.

My relationship with my family did get rocky. Going home that first Christmas I was cautious, but we were able to be together as one. It was not until I met the man who would become my husband when being gay and partnered made home feel more like a wish than a reality. Returning home with a male partner became too much truth to bear in my small religiously conservative community. My husband and I met in the fall of 2016. I have not been home for the holidays since then.

Living as your true self has a cost. This is not true just for queer people, but it is uniquely so. Each of us will be forced to make decisions, cut ties, or say no so that we can live life and blossom into the person and purpose that is uniquely ours. In my case, that meant losing the depth of connection once held and gaining a sense of separation from some of the people I love most. Like many of my queer siblings, I grieve the absence of loved ones

during the holidays. But in this community I have found resilience and a family of choice who surround and support my husband and me, not only during the holidays, but all year long.

Around 15 years ago, before I was ordained as a Presbyterian pastor, I built a relationship with two younger people who were also navigating being out in homophobic religious community. I hoped to support them through the obstacles of being queer and a person of faith in the way queer and straight elders had supported me. Over time, our connection, understanding, and trust grew and they invited me into a prized position in their lives. They have named each other siblings, and they now call me dad. We are family.

Just days before Thanksgiving, when the terror of the Colorado Springs shooting occurred, rattling again the



tenuous sense of security in the queer community, I reached out to my kids immediately. I wanted to remind them that regardless of the violence leveled against us, no matter what form hate might take, there is nothing that can separate us from the love we share. We belong to one another.

We have never spent Christmas together. We live in different time zones. Gratefully, they both have families of origin where they know they are welcomed, accepted, and loved. But whatever comes our way, we will always be family.

Just in time for Christmas, President Biden signed the Respect for Marriage Act which provides federal protection to same-sex and interracial marriages. This is outstanding news. It brings a degree of confidence that marriages like mine will remain legal and upheld by the government for the foreseeable future. On the other hand, it does nothing to stop the rise in dangerous and deadly anti-queer and anti-transgender bills on state legislature ballots in increasing number across the country. It does nothing to prevent the violence and murder of transgender women of color or our gender non-confirming siblings. Nor does it ensure that queer youth will be protected at school, or receive the appropriate academic, social, mental, or

medical health care they deserve without fear of discrimination.

This year, my husband and I will spend Christmas with his family. My in-laws have two beautifully joyful children under the age of five, and we are thrilled to experience the wonder of the season through their bright and sparkling eyes.

As for presents, personally there is nothing I need, but I do have a few wishes: This Christmas, I wish that each member of the queer community feel loved and cherished as many of us did as children. For each one to have a place around the tree, seat at the table, or wherever we find ourselves, and know that we are seen, known, and loved. I wish we all grow in confidence in the autonomy of our being—that we know our bodies are ours to love, manage, and enjoy.

Source: https://time.com/6242427/lgbtq-loneliness-resilience-holidays/



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

DHS Approved 8/16/2021 www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/adrc/



For Lgbtq People, Friendly Health Care Is Important But Can Be Hard To Find

By Michael Merschel, American Heart Association News

When Lindsey Huie arrived at the hospital that day in 2019, she had already hit peak stress.

The inside of her chest felt ripped apart. She was thinking about her four kids and who would care for them if her wife had to come help her.

But then, one of the first things Huie was asked in the emergency room was, "Can we contact your husband?" It wasn't even really a question, she said, but an expectation.

And it meant that, instead of focusing on treating what turned out to be a torn artery in her heart, she found herself having to explain, "Well, we have a whole different kind of life going on here, friend."

She survived. But Huie, a former professional soccer player who now works as a coach and consultant in Yorba Linda, California, said that such affronts have happened regularly when she's needed care.

Experts in LGBTQ health say that's a too-common experience that has serious consequences. But they also say that health care professionals can find easy ways to be welcoming to LGBTQ patients – and that patients have resources to lead them to welcoming professionals.

LGBTQ people face the same issues as



everyone else, including access to health insurance and a shortage of primary care doctors, said Dr. Carl Streed Jr., an assistant professor of medicine at the Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine, but with an extra burden of discrimination.

A 2020 American Heart Association scientific statement, which Streed helped write, said that more than half of sexual minority (a broad term for people who are not heterosexual) adults and 70% of gender minority (such as transgender) adults reported some form of discrimination from health care professionals.

Meanwhile, roughly 1 in 6 LGBTQ people say they have avoided medi-

cal care because they feared being discriminated against, according to a 2017 survey conducted for NPR, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

A 2020 report by the National Academies of Science and Engineering said that anti-LGBTQ discrimination has "direct negative consequences for health and well-being" and exacerbates disparities. Those disparities, according to the AHA statement, include growing evidence that LGBTQ adults experience worse cardiovascular health than their heterosexual peers.

The effects of such discrimination can range from demeaning to life-threatening. Streed said he has worked with patients who, after coming out, were turned away from doctors and had access to vital medications cut off. More common issues, he said, might involve a medical office worker who refuses to use a person's chosen name or asks questions that are irrelevant to medical care.

Huie, 40, came out publicly around age 35.

Non-LGBTQ people may think that the stress of coming out happens one time, she said. "But the reality is that you're coming out over and over and over and over and over and over and over again." For example, she's had to explain to many doctors why birth control is not a concern for her.

Dr. Cesar Gonzalez, clinical director of the Transgender and Intersex Specialty Care Clinic at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, said health care professionals can take many steps to be welcoming to LGBTQ patients.

It can begin with small cues, Gonzalez said, such as having statements on the office's website or in the lobby that say all individuals are welcome. Similarly, intake forms should ask about gender identity and preferred pronouns.

Gonzalez, a clinical health psychologist who uses both he and they pronouns, co-wrote a 2021 article in the journal Primary Care: Clinics in Office Practice that spelled out additional ways for health care teams to signal that they take LGBTQ patients seriously.

"In many regards, it's about trust," Gonzalez said.

Simple measures can have big benefits, said Gonzalez, who teaches medical residents and others about cultural competency. Students receive pins stating they understand LGBTQ health needs.

Attendees who wear the pins report back, "Gosh, that has been incredi-



Lindsey Huie (right) with her children (from left) Kinsley, Rylie, Kaia and Mimi at the University of Portland, where the soccer player was inducted into the school's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2022. (Photo courtesy of Lindsey Huie)

ble. People spontaneously tell me that they're trans, or they told me about their transgender child," Gonzalez said.

Streed emphasized that training on such issues shouldn't stop with the physician. "Front desk staff need to be trained up about being competent, asking questions appropriately and keeping confidentiality in mind," he said.

The benefits of being conscientious that not everybody's families or bodies are the same can help a wide variety of people go beyond LGBTQ patients themselves, Gonzalez said. The family member of a transgender child might need a safe space to discuss fatigue and depression from dealing with harassment. An adoptee might appreciate not having to explain that their family histo-

ry is not the same as their genetic background. A woman who has been treated for ovarian cancer might not want to be subjected to questions about parts of her anatomy that she no longer has.

A health care team that shows awareness of all that, Gonzalez said, tells a patient that "someone really has an understanding of what's going on with their health."

To find such care, both Gonzalez and Streed recommended starting with the LGBTQ+ Healthcare Directory. The free, searchable database lists LGBTQ-friendly doctors across the United States and Canada.

Streed said the Human Rights Campaign also offers a list of welcoming health systems by state. Many cities have LGBTQ-specific health care centers, he



said. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers a list of such centers.

Options can be limited in rural areas, Streed acknowledged, but some clinics offer telehealth services, which could be important in states that have passed laws targeting gender-affirming care.

Huie said her current doctor is "very LGBTQ embracive." She has several tactics for finding such care.

She looks at websites that grade physicians, asks questions in a social media group and checks with LGBTQ allies. "That, in my opinion, is a little bit better than just trying to do it on your own or showing up and then hoping for the best."

Huie, who is no longer married, thinks "we still have a pretty long ways to go" before LGBTQ people and their families are not consistently isolated and, inadvertently or not, made to feel unwelcome by health care staff and society at large.

She said the problem is often not maliciousness, but ignorance. People in general "are just so uneducated that there are things outside of our norm. And that's the part where I feel like we need to do a better job."

Source: American Heart Association of WI (https://www.heart.org/en/news/2023/10/17/for-lgbtq-people-friendly-health-care-is-important-but-can-be-hard-to-find)



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



Goodbye 2023, Hello 2024

As a child, I was warned that the older you get, the faster time goes ... My grandmother always said that after 50, breakfast is every 15 minutes! Can't believe that this is my final column for this year – yet here we are! If you can't beat it, embrace it!

I do so love my Theatre, and so very grateful our community has so much to offer.

- The Marcus Performing Arts Center (MPAC) and the Johnson Financial Group will have Uihlein Hall filled with Tony Award Winning and worthy entertainment. Leading the pack of perfected prize winners is Disney's "Aladdin". Now full disclosure, I'm not a Disney fan. However, Aladdin was so very impressive! The sets, costumes, bells and whistles no skimping. I was duly impressed with last season's "Frozen".
- The Marcus hosts the "Mr. and Miss Trans USA Pageant" Saturday, November 04th. Uihlein Hall will be festooned with glamour, glitter, and talent, galore!
- I am so eagerly awaiting Richard (The Walton's) Thomas starring in Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird" Tuesday, November 7th Sunday, November12th. I've seen the movie countless times, and in high school read the award-winning novel, before it became too controversial and banned in so many school districts. I urge you all to see this and see what is so questionable...
- The 40th Annual Revered Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, will be acknowledged Mon-



By: Michael Johnston

day, January 15th, 2024 Uihlein Hall

- "Forbidden Broadway: The Next Generation" debuts at The Marcus Thursday, January 25th – Saturday, January 27 th.
- February brings the fabulous selections of the Dance Theatre of Harlem on Valentine's evening, Wednesday, February 14th and the following night, the Man in Black," Johnny Cash The Official Concert Experience" graces the stage on Thursday, February 15th.
- With the New Year (2024) comes a show that hasn't played in decades, "Funny Girl". The opus that propelled Streisand to stardom! The fabled tale of long forgotten singer, actress, comedienne Fanny Brice! Lea (Glee) Michelle resuscitated her on Broadway. And now, a new life On tour! Katerina McCrimmon has the tiara on the road, and playing her mother, Miss Melissa Manchester! Yep, "Don't Cry Out Loud", a Bette Midler Harlette, and daughter of David Manchester of The New York Metropolitan Opera true pedigree.

- Some toe-tapping fun and singalong madness warms your Valentine month. "Mama Mia" dances into port Tuesday, February 20th Sunday, February 25th. And once again, you can be the winner and take it all!
- Between a family reunion and a murder mystery, one night only "On Your Feet! The Story of Emilio & Gloria Estefan cha-chas into Uihlein on Saturday, March 2nd – Not to be missed!
- Mystery, music, and gamesmanship takes center stage as "Clue, A New Comedy" debuts here Tuesday, March 12th thru St. Patrick's Day, Sunday, March 17th. An opportunity to catch up with Col. Mustard everyone relishes that!
- We may have lost her, but her music and this tribute will live on "Tina, The Tina Turner Musical". No reason to be a private dancer Tuesday, April 23 Sunday, April 28, and love is what it's got to do with it!
- Closing out this stellar selection of showstoppers "Moulin Rouge! The Musical". The windmill will be circling May 14th May 26th, and extended stay to make sure you all have a chance to marvel at this masterpiece.
- If it is Saturday, and the middle of the month, it's Bosom Buddies. La Cage, doors opening at 4:00 pm, Curtain up 5:00 pm, No cover charge, Second Level, Maple Veneer and Karen Valentine. November 18th and December 16th will close out this calendar year. Thrilled to share that Doug Clemons and Skylight Music Theatre's "Xanadu" Stars will be sharing the stage, for their Holiday Extravaganza.

Michael Unger and Susan Varela have put their heads together and have a 64th Season that is a potpourri of eclectic taste and interest for 2023/2024:

- So loved Leonard Bernstein's classic "Candide", with the current fascination on Ryan Gosling's Lenny biopic, tis high time for "Glitter and Be Gay". This show so fascinated me. I compared it to a "Twilight Zone" musical. The likes of which I had never seen.
- Last season audiences raved about and for Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Evita" this season, Webber's "School of Rock" should have them dancing in the aisles Friday, November 17 Sunday, December 30 (a happy holiday Show, and very family-friendly!)
- "Xanadu" skates in 2024, Friday, January 26th Sunday, February. This show combines, disco, dancing, music, skating, fantasy, time travel, and was Gene Kelly's last movie! It is fun, quirky, campy, and escape. If you've read the newspaper as of late this maybe the ideal bromide.
- "Spring Awakening" (with Special Hand Signage) Is appropriately Skylighting in the very merry month of March the First through Saint Patrick's Day (Friday, March 01st Sunday, March 17th).
- "From Here To Eternity" the motion picture that resurrected Frank Sinatra's career, was also a book a hit pop tune, and now, a theatrical musical play with lyrics and input by Tim Rice (Sir Elton John's Musical Business Partner). Mr. Rice will be here, on hand to make sure his vision is brought to fruition. Formation begins Friday, April 12th Sunday, May 05th.

Milwaukee Repertory Theatre is 70 years old, with this the 2023/2024 Season, 1953 – 2023. There are twelve terrific theater-pleasing productions not to



be missed:

- "Run Bambi Run", about the Brew City's favorite, dear Lawrencia (Laurie) Bembenek, our Dear One's saga, the new Rock Musical features songs/lyrics by Gordon Gano of the Violent Femmes. I so enjoyed this show, I saw it three times! And each performance stellar and I picked up on something new or different that I had missed. I truly see this show going to Broadway. Before it hit the great White Way, an editor will have to trim some time. Not sure the world outside the Brew City, would observe for three hours.
- "Nuncrackers", this blessed event takes place Friday, November 03rd Sunday, January 07th, 2024. Beware this production could be habit-forming!
- You may have to go to an antique shop, to find an old phone, and explain to anyone under 30 just how one "Dial M for Murder", by attending this suspense-filled terror Tuesday, November 14 - Sunday, December 17. A very popular property. A radio play, movie, and now in the trusted hands of The Milwaukee Rep. You'll want to answer this call! There will be a PRIDE Night Thursday, November 16th. 6:00 pm Reception, 7:30 pm Curtain (90-minute party beforehand). To receive the discounted rate of \$30. For your seat, use the Password PRIDENight when ordering your tickets. And watch for the PRIDE Night Hostesses!
- "A Christmas Carol", a tradition if there ever was one. The Pabst Theater Tuesday, November 28 Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24th. The same

story, true – But always a new, fresh vision!

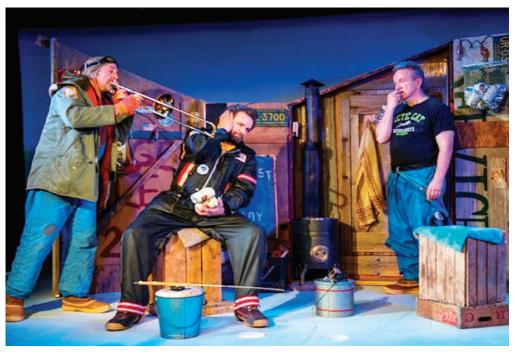
- "Guys on Ice" This slippery devil opens in the New Year of 2024, January, 12 – Sunday, March 17th – Saint Patrick's Day.
- Louisa Mae Alcott's classic "Little Women "adds their special touch to the New Year as well. The March Sisters march on in January 16th February 28th, 2024.
- In these days of governmental questions left and right on being left or right, The Rep helps their house with "What the Constitution Means to Me". By seeing this, perhaps it will assist you when voting take place. February 06th continuing through March 10th.
- "The Chosen", many are picked, and this is a must to see March 05th running the entire month through March 31st.
- "Piano Men 2" and the music of Billy Joel and making 88 keys sing ... March 22nd crescendoing through May 12th.
- And the finale, "Nina Simone: Four Women", closes the landmark 70th season out. Can you think of a better voice? A better message? April 16th (Tax Day) May 12th. This tantalizing tribute has the third PRIDE Night, Thursday, April 18th. With the same format Reception 6:00 pm, show to follow at 7:30 pm and the amazing Pride Hostesses. To be a part of this historic event, please call The Rep and/or subscribe to their sensational 70th Season at 414-224-9490/www.MilwaukeeRep.

com.

Bombshell Theatre Co. explodes with a new season of bombastic Broadway to brighten your world. And what better way to say bravo, than "Gentlemen with Blondes" Prefer With all the beauty and humor of both Carol Channing and Marilyn Monroe, Lorelei Lee will stun you with "Diamonds are a Girl's Best Friend" and many more me-

lodic, memorable tunes Friday, January 05th – Wednesday, January 24th, 2024, The Sunset Playhouse, Elm Gove. And springtime will bloom with "Music of the Night, a Tribute to Andrew Lloyd Webber". Friday, March 8th – Sunday, March 10th, a wonderful weekend of Webber, indeed! Happy Wedding to Bombshell's very own Eric & Tim – wishing you a long and successful run!

The Cream City Foundation (CCF) Valentine Fund, is a proud to be an investor and promoter of The Milwaukee Art Museum's current, riveting exhibition: Darrell Ellis: Regeneration. Darrell was a young (33 years old) artist, on the brink of fame and acclaim... and struck



down in 1991 by the plague that stole so much from the world of the arts. In honor of World AIDS Day, Friday, December 01st Darrell's works will be on display in his honor and memory. That same day, we will all take a moment to remember. celebrate, and wonder how different our world might have, could have been. This life-changing collection runs through January, 2024. I was fortunate enough to be invited to the unveiling, I had the distinct pleasure of meeting Laurie Ellis, Darrell's older sister. There was a post event dinner at Buckley's. What a feast! Carrie and Joe Cassidy (you knew and loved Lil Joe from his highly successful bar tending gig at Kruz. You can find him here with Aaron Ray Sutton ALA Butch Cassidy and The Sun Dance Kid.

He's also at Story Hill, BKC) were our servers, Tyler our host, and dinner was upstairs in their private dining room. I highly recommend, especially over this Holiday Season to put a bit of Buckley's in it! The lobster rolls, now lobster and pasta a masterpiece!

Ecstatic about the newest pub to pop into ... it is Pop! Marcus and Dan have invaded

the bar formerly known as Switch and has made it their very own! It is bright, colorful, fresh, original, and ever so creative. Open seven day a week, with a delicious and entertaining brunch on the weekend (Saturdays and Sundays). I've been a couple times and what a fun escape!

And now it's time for me to extend my very best wishes to you, for the happiest holiday season – ever!

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





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/woodys. mke

Zócolo Food Park •

Bar with food trucks, gay friendly 636 S. 6th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
(414) 433-9747
https://www.zocalomke.com



C 3 Designs •

Custom Jewelry designer in South 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

Outwords Books Gifts & Coffee •

LGBTQ+ books, movies and gifts 2710 N. Murray Ave. #3645, Milwaukee, WI 53211 (414) 963-9089 https://outwordsbooks.com

Purple Door Ice Cream •

LGBTQ-owned ice cream parlor with unique flavors and treats 205 S. 2nd St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204 (414) 988-2521 https://www.purpledooricecream.com

Sherman Perk Cafe •

Local coffee shop in the Sherman Park Neighborhood 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

Resource Guide

A SHORT GUIDE TO LGBTQ + MILWAUKEE

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958 W. Oklahoma Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53215 (414) 988-2149 https://www.facebook.com/ TodoPostresOfficial/



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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

Waukesha County Public Health Division

514 Riverview Ave., Waukesha, WI, 53188 262-896-8430 www.waukeshacounty.gov/publichealth

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

Wisconsin LGBTQ History Project, Inc.

Local organization dedicated to preserving and bringing light to LGBTQ+ historical events and people. (414) 324-9072 https://wislgbthistory.com

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