Milwaukee Pride Life

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FULTIES ISSUE

LGBTQX -The
Continued Fight for
Diversity! Equity!
Belonging!

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Ricky's Royale Ball in October just got spookier! The Queens of the Macabre join Ricky's Court - none other than the Boulet Brothers from Dragula! Yes...a full performance by the Brothers (free show, no cover), with meet and greet!

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FROM THE **PUBLISHER'S** DESK

BOO!



By William Gooden, Publisher Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine

BOO...

...Did I scare you?

There are plenty of scary things out there, one of which most can agree on is *politics*. Much like the 'final girl' in a horror flick, we as LGBTQ+ people have fought to the death for the rights we so rightly deserve. However, along our perilous journey we managed to find a vital ally in Senator Tammy Baldwin. We spoke with Senator Baldwin in an exclusive interview about her goals for Wisconsin as we try to move forward from real life horror that is the COVID-19 pandemic.

While Senator Baldwin was Wisconsin's first out LGBTQ+ politician, she has not been the state's last. In our Pride Life Features section, we list all 22 out elected officials representing our state.

Halloween is also the time to break out and watch all those old campy horror movies. There is no other individual associated more with campy horror then the 'Mistress of the Dark' herself, Elvira. Having a huge queer following over the years, Elvira reveals in her new autobiography that, for the past 19 years she has been in a relationship with a woman.

In this month's *Cordially Yours, Again!*, Michael Johnston has a frighteningly large list of all the cultural events coming to the city in the month of October.

Wisconsin autumn Sundays are known for two events: brunch and Packers games. Our intrepid photographer and writer David Todd snapped a few photos for us while out and about in our city.

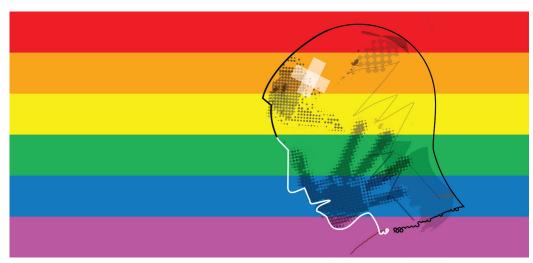
If the weather gets too cold for you, you and your "Boo" can always cuddle up in bed, and, in our exclusive interview with sexual wellness company Cake, they may have a few treats to help you have a good time.

Have a Happy Halloween Everyone!

- William G.

THE **OPINION** EDITORIAL

We Need To Talk About Domestic Violence in the LGBTQ⁺ Community



By William S. Gooden, Publisher Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. While the focus is usually placed on raising awareness of domestic violence or intimate partner violence (IPV) that takes place in heterosexual relationships, recent studies have found that there is an alarming rise in domestic abuse in the LGBTQ+ community. Data compiled by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence revels that 43.8 percent of lesbian women and 61.1 percent of bisexual women experience rape, physical violence, or stalking in their lifetime as opposed to 35 percent of heterosexual women. The same studies report that 26 percent of gay men and 37.3 percent of bisexual men will also experience rape, violence, and stalking at some point.1

Despite experiencing higher instances of physical and sexual violence compared to heterosexual individuals, LGBTQIA individuals are significantly less likely to seek support and shelter. In 2012, fewer than five percent of LGBTQIA survivors of intimate partner violence sought orders of protection.¹

Persistent discrimination and a public consensus that still sees domestic and sexual violence as an issue main-

ly affecting heterosexual women creates a sense of fear among those in the LGBTQIA community that no one will believe them. Prior experiences of bullying and hate crimes may dissuade LGBTQIA victims of domestic violence from seeking help if the abuser threatens to expose their orientation or identity.

Transgender individuals may suffer from an even greater burden of IPV than gay or lesbian individuals. Transgender victims of IPV are more likely to experience threats or intimidation, harassment, and police indifference within intimate partner violence.

As a community we need to have a much more open discourse on domestic violence – with each other and our community leaders.

If you or someone you love is an victim of abuse, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1.800.799.SAFE (7233) for someone to talk to and referrals to local services.

Source: ¹ https://www.nhla.org/blog/ Domestic-Violence-and-the-LGBTQIA-Community-Statistics-and-Helpful-Resources-entry-157



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LGBTQX - The Continued Fight for Diversity! Equity! Belonging!



By: Darrell L. Williams, Ph.D. Candidate for U.S. Senate

Across the nation, the fight for diversity, equity and belonging continues. These words are ever present in many school and business mission statements. These words are echoed by many politicians at the local, state and national levels. Diverse is who we are. Equity is having a seat and voice at the table. However, belonging is when that voice at the table is actually being heard and meaningful action takes place that improves the quality of life for everyone.

The struggle continues to be very 'real' for the LGBTQX community, especially in our schools. As a lifelong educator and former school administrator, I truly believe that our children are our most precious resource. While serving as the proud principal at Pulaski High School, I observed many brilliant students who were struggling with their identity and visibly uneasy in their own skin. Many students who were gay continued to live as straight because they were uncomfortable and lived in fear of coming out of the closet.

To address this issue, a meeting was held and a deep conversation took place with Naomi Villa and Louis Lopez of Violence Free Zone. At the conclusion of that meeting, we started the Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) at Pulaski High School in Milwaukee Public Schools. We believed that all students should be comfortable at the school and in the community. The response from the students, parents and staff was amazing and heartfelt. Our students were excited

that we had started a group that they felt comfortable being a part of and could actually feel a 'real' sense of belonging. Our parents were pleased and expressed that their children felt more comfortable and looked forward to coming to school. By the way, this increased student attendance and student achievement. Our staff members (Gay and Straight) were really supportive and many became advisors of the GSA. It also helped our staff members to better understand our students and to appreciate the diversity they brought to the table. On the other hand, it helped our students to develop a greater appreciation and understanding for our teachers. We had many teachers who were gay or lesbian. As the teachers expressed and shared their openness; it encouraged many students to come out of the closet and be themselves....unapologetically.

I was very pleased and it really melted my heart to see friendships and relationships grow between both gay and straight students. Many students expressed, "I don't care if he or she is gay! They are still my friends!" We also had many very popular students who were transexual and they began to comfortably express themselves in word and wear. Students throughout the school

were very understanding and accepting.

Over the years, the GSA grew to nearly 100 students. I was told that it was the largest GSA group in the state at the time. Many political officials, including Representative Tim Carpenter, visited the school to support our students. The GSA was recognized at the state GSAFE Conference. I was very proud to see one of our GSA students (Quin-tin Smith) recognized as a winner of one of the GSAFE Leadership Awards.

I have noticed in many schools and organizations, leaders do not take a stand to ad-dress such issues until forced to do so. Rarely are the voices, 'of those who have traditionally been hushed and marginalized,' lifted and given value. For years, I have stood as an advocate of the LGBTQX community. Although I am running for the U.S. Senate, 'as you can see,' I am not writing this just because I need your support and your vote. I write this because I truly believe. I believe in the human race and the LGBTQX community is part of it and will forever be weaved into the fabric of America.

Note: The preceding is a paid for advertorial by Williams Works For Wisconsin and is in no way an endorsement for any candidate.





In The News

LOCAL & NATIONAL LGBTQ+ NEWS

Elvira, 'Mistress Of The Dark,' Comes Out In New Memoir

Actress Cassandra Peterson, better known as horror hostess Elvira, reveals the secret she's kept for 19 years.

By Jo Yurcaba for ABCNews

The Queen of Halloween, Elvira, also known as actor Cassandra Peterson, revealed in her memoir that she's had a secret relationship with a woman for nearly two decades.

She described how she met her now-partner of 19 years, Teresa Wierson — whom she calls "T" — at Gold's Gym in Hollywood, according to the Advocate.

"Often, when I was doing my preworkout warm-up on the treadmill, I couldn't help noticing one particular trainer — tan, tattooed, and muscular — stalking across the gym floor, knit cap pulled so low over his long brown hair that it nearly covered his eyes," she wrote in her memoir, "Yours Cruelly, Elvira: Memories of the Mistress of the Dark," which debuted Tuesday, September 21, 2021. "Dark and brooding, he gave off such intense energy that when he crossed the enormous gym floor, the waters parted and people stopped in their tracks to stare."

She realized later, upon meeting Wierson in the locker room, that she was a woman, and they became friends, according to the Advocate.

When Wierson and her then-partner split up, she turned up on Peterson's doorstep with "no place to go," according to Entertainment Weekly. The two lived together as friends, and Peterson said she "began to feel happier" than she had in years.

She wrote that her feelings for Wierson changed when they went out to see a movie together one evening. When they returned home, Peterson wrote, "I told her goodnight and suddenly felt compelled to kiss her — on the mouth," according to Entertainment Weekly.

"I think I was even more surprised,"



Peterson wrote. "What the hell was I doing? I'd never been interested in women as anything other than friends. I felt so confused. This just wasn't me! I was stunned that I'd been friends with her for so many years and never noticed our chemistry. I soon discovered that we connected sexually in a way I'd never experienced."

They fell in love and have been together for the last 19 years. In an interview with The Orange County Register, Peterson described her sexuality as fluid and said that she's still attracted to men, too.

She wrote in the book that she kept their relationship a secret due to fears that it would affect her career and the Elvira brand, which is built largely on the character's sex appeal and attraction to men.

"So I worried that if I announced I was no longer living the 'straight life,' my fans would feel lied to, call me a hypocrite, and abandon me," she wrote,

according to Entertainment Weekly.

"Keeping a secret doesn't feel good," Peterson told The Orange County Register. "I'm glad to have it out there. I mean, it does worry me. I have moments where I go, 'Maybe people won't like me anymore' and 'Maybe I won't get work anymore.' It's ridiculous to think that, but I have friends who are gay and have come out of the closet and it affected their work, relationships and their life. So it's not so far-fetched to be worried. But on the other side of that, it's so draining keeping it a secret. It's not good for you, it's not good for us. It sucks the energy out of you."

Elvira has long been considered a gay icon, and Peterson is also know as an LGBTQ ally. She started her career as a drag queen in a nightclub in Colorado and was also the front-woman of an allgay male band, the South Florida Gay News reported in 2012. She was also a guest judge on "RuPaul's Drag Race" in 2019

Though Peterson didn't describe herself as bisexual, some fans have taken her sexual fluidity and attraction to men and women as a "win" for the bi community.

"Elvira coming out as bisexual *during bi week* is the representation we deserve," another fan wrote.

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"Elvira coming out as bisexual *during bi week* is the representation we deserve," another fan wrote.

Source: https://www.nbcnews.com/nbc-out/out-pop-culture/elvira-mistress-dark-comes-new-memoir-rcna2171

Senior Life

NEWS • HEALTH & LIFESTYLES FOR LGBTQ+ SENIORS



LGBTQ+ Elders Endured Decades Of Discrimination Now, The Stonewall Generation Needs Help

By Suzanne Bonamici and Michael Adam For Sage.com

Time is running out to make long-overdue investments in our country's growing community of LGBTQ+ elders, who have spent their lives breaking barriers and blazing the path toward equality for the generations who follow.

In our roles as a member of Congress who is passionate about addressing the needs of older LGBTQ+ Americans, and as the CEO of the nation's largest and oldest organization dedicated to improving the lives of LGBTQ+ older people, we know this moment is a rare opportunity.

As Congress considers the most pressing needs of our country, we are calling for an investment of \$50 million in the care infrastructure for older LGBTQ+ adults to support a series of initiatives grounded in the needs of these elders. With those resources, we can more equitably support this extraordinary generation.

By 2030, there will be approximately 7 million LGBTQ+ people in the United States who are 50 and older. Our nation is not meeting the needs of these Stonewall generation elders – the first generation to be out since the uprising by New York's LGBTQ communities in 1969 in response to the police raid of the Stonewall Inn.

Because of a lifetime of discrimination, many LGBTQ+ elders face profound challenges: They are aging in poor health, without adequate community support, and many are financially insecure.

Additionally, many LGBTQ+ elders are estranged from their families because of a lifetime of discrimination. Accord-



ing to SAGE, nearly 60% of LGBTQ+ elders feel a lack of companionship and more than 50% feel isolated from others. They're twice as likely to live alone, twice as likely to be single and several times more likely to not have children.

A lifetime of employment discrimination and other factors also contribute to disproportionately high poverty rates, with a third of LGBTQ+ elders living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.

COVID makes inequities worse

COVID-19 has exacerbated the inequities for LGBTQ+ older people, particularly Black and brown elders, leading to increased poverty levels, inadequate health care, poor living conditions and a lower quality of life

In addition to these challenges, there's a serious lack of equitable access to much-needed services and programs specific for LGBTQ+ elders. This includes welcoming senior centers and congregate meal sites, inclusive support groups, and other programs and services that empower people to age with dignity.

What's worse, many seniors feel it's necessary to go back into the closet to access the services and support they need to remain independent.

This generation is resilient. They fought for marriage equality, served in the military and survived two pandemics – AIDS and COVID. They've given so much and still have so much to offer.

Yet, too often, they feel invisible. The pioneers who made great sacrifices are continually at risk, and federal support is so modest that a small boost could make a world of difference.

Elders face profound challenges

An investment of \$50 million over eight years to bolster the care of LGBTQ+ elders would be a miniscule fraction of the funding proposed by President Joe Biden in his American Families Plan. With these funds, we can address the Stonewall generation's profound challenges by investing in targeted social services, technical assistance and training to the aging network, online programming and cyber education.

Our country cannot fully recover from the pandemic until we address the significant need for inclusive elder care. As Congress moves forward, the resources intended to help those most at risk must live up to that promise. And we must act quickly for LGBTQ+ elders of the Stonewall generation.

We are honored to come together at this unique opportunity in recognition and support of LGBTQ+-inclusive elder care as a critical part of our social infrastructure. We have a chance to deliver life-changing progress for elders in the LGBTQ+ community now and for years to come.

Source: https://www.sageusa.org/news-posts/lgbtq-elders-endured-decades-of-discrimination-now-the-stonewall-generation-needs-help/?fbclid=IwAR2ymY4PJ5k2t91o6UtbkwbyZG8SZHpUc6JA68HRGb5ysI4Bae_0Ho9xHX4

Pride Life Features

THE EVENTS AND PEOPLE THAT ARE SHAPING LGBTQ+ MILWAUKEE

How We Are Represented: A Comprehensive List of Wisconsin's "Out" Elected Officials

By Jaye Syc, Associate Editor, Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine

Wisconsin currently has twenty-two elected officials across all levels of government representing our demographic. Below is a full list of LGBTQ+ lawmakers currently serving in our state:



Name: **Lee Snodgrass**Party: Democrat
Level: State Government

Begin Office: Party Chair, Outagamie

County, 2017

Current Office: Wisconsin State Assembly

Term End: 2023



Name: **Tammy Baldwin** Party: Democrat

Level: U. S. Government

Begin Office: Madison Common Council,

1985

Current Office: U. S. Senator

Term End: 2025



Name: **Greta Neubauer** Party: Democrat

Level: State Government

Begin Office: Wisconsin State Assembly,

2018

Current Office: Wisconsin State Assembly

Term End: 2023



Name: **Mark Pocan**Party: Democrat
Level: U. S. Government

Begin Office: Wisconsin State Assembly,

1999

Current Office: U. S. House of Represen-

tatives

Term End: 2023



Name: Marisabel Cabrera

Party: Democrat

Level: State Government

Begin Office: Wisconsin State Assembly,

2019

Current Office: Wisconsin State Assembly

Term End: 2023



Name: Satya Rhodes-Conway

Party: Democrat

Level: Local Government, City of Madi-

son

Begin Office: Madison Common Council,

2007

Current Office: Mayor Term End: 2023



Name: **Todd Novak** Party: Republican

Level: State Government

Begin Office: Mayor, City of Dodgeville,

2012

Current Office: Wisconsin State Assembly

Term End: 2023



Name: Patrick Milliren

Party: Other

Level: Local Government, City of Durand

Begin Office: Mayor, 2020 Current Office: Mayor Term End: 2024



Name: **Mark Spreitzer**Party: Democrat

Level: State Government

Begin Office: Beloit City Council, 2011 Current Office: Wisconsin State Assembly

Term End: 2023



Name: **Timothy Carpenter**

Party: Democrat

Level: State Government

Begin Office: Wisconsin State Assembly,

1985

Current Office: State Senator

Term End: 2023



Name: **Israel Ramon** Party: Democrat

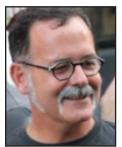
Level: Local Government

Begin Office: Register of Deeds, Milwau-

kee County, 2019

Current Office: Register of Deeds, Mil-

waukee County Term End: 2025



Name: Patrick Heck Party: Democrat

Level: Local Government

Begin Office: City of Madison Common

Council, 2019

Current Office: City of Madison Com-

mon Council Term End: 2023



Name: Andrew Schauer

Party: Democrat

Level: Local Government

Begin Office: Board of Supervisors, Dane

County, 2014

Current Office: Board of Supervisors,

Dane County Term End: 2022



Name: Shaun Murphy-Lopez

Party: Democrat

Level: Local Government

Begin Office: Board of Supervisors, Rich-

land County, 2018

Current Office: Board of Supervisors,

Richland County Term End: 2022



Name: **Vered Meltzer**

Party: Independent Level: Local Government

Begin Office: City of Appleton Common

Council, 2014

Current Office: City of Appleton Com-

mon Council Term End:2022



Name: Jerry Gulley

Party: Independent Level: Local Government

Begin Office: Board of Supervisors, Keno-

sha County, 2020

Current Office: Board of Supervisors,

Kenosha County Term End: 2022



Name: JoCasta Zamarripa

Party: Democrat

Level: Local Government

Begin Office: City of Milwaukee Com-

mon Council, 2020

Current Office: City of Milwaukee Com-

mon Council Term End:2024



Name: **Zoe Roberts**

Party: Independent

Level: Local Government

Begin Office: Board of Supervisors, Eau

Claire County, 2020

Current Office: Board of Supervisors, Eau

Claire County Term End: 2022



Name: Michael Verveer

Party: Democrat

Level: Local Government

Begin Office: City of Madison Common

Council, 1995

Current Office: City of Madison Com-

mon Council Term End: 2023

"Between June 2020 and June 2021: LGBTQ elected officials increased by 17 percent, with 986 currently serving." - victoryinstitute.org

(Continued on pg. 8)

WI "Out" Elected Officials

(Continued from pg 7)



Name: Larry Palm Party: Democrat

Level: Local Government

Begin Office: Board of Supervisors,

Dane County, 2020

Current Office: Board of Supervi-

sors, Dane County Term End: 2022



Name: Chuck Erickson

Party: Democrat

Level: Local Government

Begin Office: Board of Supervisors,

Dane County, 2002

Current Office: Board of Supervi-

sors, Dane County Term End:2022



Name: Rhonda Lanford

Party: Other

Level: Local Government

Begin Office: Circuit Court, Dane

County, 2013

Current Office: Circuit Court, Dane

County

Term End: 2025

The current number of LGBTQ+ elected officials nationwide stands at 986, an increase of 121% since 2017. Additionally, there has been a 71% increase in the number of trans women elected officials since June of last year. Regretfully, there remains just one state wholly unrepresented. Mississippi does not have a single LGBTQ+ leader at the municipal, county, state, or federal level.





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In The **Spotlight**

SPOTLIGHTING MILWAUKEE'S AMAZING PRIDE COMMUNITY

Senator Tammy Baldwin for the People

By David Todd, Writer Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine

Recently, Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine secured an exclusive interview with Wisconsin Senator Tammy Baldwin, the states first out LGBTQ legislator, days before the government was on the precipice of a shutdown. Baldwin took time out of her busy schedule to talk to MPLM about policy, partisanship, voting and vitriol...and how she copes with it all day-to-day.

Baldwin is the Junior Senator from the state of Wisconsin elected in 2012. She's the counterpart to Republican Ron Johnson, but notes she has more experience as a Wisconsin legislator serving as Wisconsin's 2nd District Representative from 1999 to 2013. They may be from opposite sides of the aisle but admit they do work together for the good of Wisconsin on such issues as dairy farming, land development and have served on bipartisan committees together. A UW Law School graduate, Baldwin comes across as your Everyday Neighbor, sharing the same concerns you and your family would discuss around the dinner table. However, as we all know there are some very pressing issues facing our country at the moment from a pandemic to trillion dollar-plus budgets and vicious divisiveness. In our discussion, Baldwin was straightforward about her priorities for Wisconsin and the nation, including LGBTQ leadership and what the future holds for the next generation.

First and foremost, Baldwin wants to see us out of this pandemic; COVID-19



must be eradicated. It is all our responsibilities to make sure that happens. "We all need to support this effort to put COVID in the rearview mirror. I supported the American Rescue Plan in March and that plan helped get shots into people's arms, helped struggling businesses stay afloat or reopen and provided dollars to schools so they could resume classes in the fall," said Baldwin. Hand in hand with that she notes that the bill passed the U.S. Senate without one Republican vote. She also notes that key to our nation's recovery is legislation known as the Build Back Better Plan, key for Wisconsinites to thrive again. Though still facing opposition in the House of Representatives, Baldwin notes all the benefit it will afford Americans of every walk of life. "The plan is directed at working families by cutting taxes on those most in need, offering a child tax credit to families, lowering healthcare costs and addressing climate change efforts and helps create jobs," said

Baldwin. "And it's paid for completely by the wealthiest of Americans who are only being asked to pay their fair share in taxes, like everyone else." Also key to America's future is infrastructure to create jobs, ensure safe travel and protect our homes, remove lead from drinking water and provide security to millions of Americans who lack resources like the growing importance of the Internet.

In a state of severe partisanship, Baldwin remains optimistic. "Even though during campaigns and public discourse, the country seems split, but its citizens don't want their representatives to fight. They want results to the challenges we all face." Again, she reinforces her ability to reach across the aisle and work with fellow Senators on committees that address the courts, business development and many issues key to our country's success.

As for the next generation, Baldwin points to the importance of the Build Back Better Plan. "It addresses key issues the Generation X and the sandwich generation will have to deal with in the future." Baldwin explains. "Plus, it addresses social issues important to our growing diverse population – climate control, equality and diversity that directly impact the LGBTQ community." She goes on to illustrate the changing face of our nation. "When I was first elected there were a handful of out legislators in the nation. Now there are hundreds in public service,

(Continued on pg 10)

Baldwin for the People

(Continued from pg. 9)

and they are changing the hearts and minds of this new progressive generation by taking office. "Even if they are running for office and not elected, these LGBTQ change-makers are an inspiration to a new progressive population, and we are going to see change."

As for the upcoming midterm elections, Baldwin is confident in the direction the country is going. "This election won't be based on promises and hopes but reflect the successes Democrats can point to with the American Rescue Plan and Build Back Better legislation. We can actually point to results that have rescued family businesses, the child tax credit, money that is being out back in their pockets," she says enthusiastically. "We've seen enormous change and those who are fighting against it are going to see their constituents realize who is actually delivering on their promises, getting work done and not just fighting the electorate."

When asked why there aren't more LGBTQ elected officials in Wisconsin, she answered quite frankly. "That's a tough question to answer. Wisconsin is pretty much a 50/50 state now." However, she points back to the days when she was the only out elected official that there was no Wisconsin Gay Caucus



In 1998, Tammy became the first out LGBTQ woman elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, and the first woman to represent Wisconsin in Congress. She served seven terms before making history again in 2012 as the first openly LGBTQ person elected to the U.S. Senate – a race where she received LPAC's very first endorsement. Tammy's 2018 reelection with an 11% margin sent her back to the Senate with a clear mandate and new opportunities for leadership.

and that now there are hundreds across the country making real change and inspiring other LGBTQ leaders to throw their hats into the ring.

With all that on her plate, MPLM had one final question for the Senator. "With all the work and stress your job entails, how do you relax? And, please, don't say exercise," asked MPLM. "No, it's not ex-

ercise, though my friends keep telling me will do me a world of good," Baldwin chuckles. "I have a lot of hobbies where I see quick results. I sew; I love sewing and wish I had more time for it. I do crafts and even minor carpentry projects. It does help me cope." It certainly does for many of our neighbors and friends.



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DHS Approved 10/15/2020

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Cordially Yours, Again!

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



And Now to Scare the Hell Out of You, it's October!

By Michael Johnston

Happy Autumn, here we are October already! Everything is up and running, the social world is spinning! Theater, fundraisers, parties, holidays, and Halloween is always a frighteningly festive way to usher in the season.

Of course, here in the Cream City we love Show Tunes, Broadway, and Theater. Monthly, mid-Saturdays, at La Cage at 5:00 pm there is a show "Bosom Buddies" which I'm quite fond of! Saturday, October 16th will be their very scary "Bosom Buddies" Revue!

So popular are these "boobettes", Maple Veneer and Karen Valentine, that they will be playing De Pere, WI. six times a year, bringing their "Entertainment Missionary Work" to The Green Room on Main Street. Surrender now Mike (The Green Room's Host/Owner)! Sir Eddie Candelaria provides the testosterone. The next fun and games Friday, October 29th 9:00 pm.

The same trio (Eddie, Maple, and KV) will once again be combing their considerable efforts and talents for "PrideToberFest" (PrideFest in October) Saturday, October 09th 4:00 pm. Milwaukee's 21st Leather/Fetish Gear Show in The Dance Tent.

Skylight Music Theatre has the ever revealing "Full Monty" running through Sunday, October 17th. You know you want to see – and see it all, and see what they will reveal... You may need a mask, but that's above the clavicles!

Please don't forget The Skylight Gala, no one knows how to light up the sky quite like our talented Friends at the Skylight Music Theatre. Saturday, November 6th the Award-Winning stunning Stephanie J. Block will be right here in the Dairyland in her One-Woman Show! And what a Woman! On Broadway from Reno Sweeney to Edwin Drood to Cher – talk about diversity! The Women's Club of Wisconsin will be the place to be! Ringing in the holidays with Skylight,



Friday, November 19 – Sunday, January 02, 2022 "Little Shop of Horrors". Suddenly Seymour always satisfies, don't believe me, just ask Craig from Club Charlies?

The Cream City foundation (CCF) hosted their State of Affairs meeting at the Broadway Theater Complex/home of the Skylight, thank you Kendall Judy. I had the pleasure of hosting the very capable D.J. Quam, the President of the Board of CCF. This gentleman is a born leader and a very impressive, capable individual. I encourage you to watch him, a person on the way up, truly one for the 40 Under 40 List!

The Milwaukee Repertory Theater is always guaranteeing, classic, sophisticated, engaged stage work. This season is no different, Friday, October 29th – Sunday, January 02, 2022 "Dad's Season Ticket's" for all the jocks, sports fans, athletes, and Packer fans. A great marriage of two art forms sports and the performing arts. And for the other end of the spectrum, "Steel Magnolias" opens Tuesday, November 09th - Sunday, December 05th, to add to the excitement of Opening Night, drum roll please, the return of B.J. Daniels, Dear Ruthie Keester, and Karen Valentine – all to-

gether, as Honorary Guests Hostesses adding just a little glitter to the steel! So, you know it will be a Gay old time!

The Broadway Series brings back by popular demand the theatrical wonder of this century "Hamilton". Wednesday, October 13 and Thursday, October 14 Uihlein Hall of **The Marcus Center** for the Performing Arts (marcuscenter. org). Seeing this landmark creation, will also give you the opportunity to tour the newly refurbished hall, and get a most entertaining, updated, civics lesson.

The talk of the town, and their NU digs – the **Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra** (mso.org) is offering up their "*Grand Opening*" October 01 – 03 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) and the 09th (Saturday)

The flawless "Frank Almond Plays Bruch" Friday, October 15th and Saturday, October 16th

Friday, October 22 – Saturday, October 23 "Dance & Delight"

"Prohibition" October 29 – 31 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) the idea of prohibition is so scary it's over Halloween weekend! Come to hear the Music, and to see the beautifully restored grand Hall.

Next Act Theatre (NextAct.Org) "Three Viewings" Starring Cream City treasure Carrie Hitchcock Thursday, September 23 – Sunday, October 17.

Present Music (presentmusic.org) is Celebrating Season 40! Congratulations!

October 14th – 15th "*Untimely*" Featuring Kristi Auznieks (Latvia) @ Jan Serr Studio

The Women of Renaissance Theaterworks (R-T-W. Com) present "*The Cake*" Friday, October 22nd – Sunday, November 14th. Offering You plenty of time to have your Cake and eat it too!

Danceworks Performance Company offers up "Fight or Flight" Saturday, October 30 – Sunday, November 07th – As they welcome their New Artistic Director Christal Wagner, her first

(Continued on pg. 12)

Scare the Hell Out of You

(Continued from pg. 11)

Concert, and her first season, welcome her!

The MKE LGBTQ Community Center's Annual Gay-la Big Night Out – 2021! "Growing Stronger Together" is taking place on Friday, October 08th at Discovery World. This is always a most enchanting evening – very fun, engaging, and enjoyable. Put this one on your social calendar.

Taylor's Art Pop! Rises to the occasion this fall on Sunday, October 17th 2:30 p.m. Come support Vivent (nee ARCW) purchase a fun piece of original Artwork, and party in Cathedral Square!

Dan, Jimmy, Sharon, and Co. – go way out of their way to make you feel welcomed, providing an afternoon you'll never forget! A terrific tradition, I never miss!

Then visit George, Zak, Mr. Raspberry, and Crew at **This Is It,** right across the street – Wisconsin Jewel – our oldest LGBTQ Bar, reigning in their 53rd year.

Speaking of fundraisers, a shout out to Oshkosh and the **Paine Museum.** Their current exhibit – *Stuart Weitzman Designer Shoes!* Lots of soul and no heals! "*Glam in the Garden*" with an invasion of Brew City Beauties from Hamburger Mary's: Dear Ruthie Keester, Dita Von, Shannon Dupree, Dominique DeGrant, and Marbella Sodi all dressed to the nines and it was 90 degrees!

Kicked up their designer heels, impressing one and all!

The amazing Aaron Sherer, curator of the Museum outdid himself! As did Zuppa's Café and Catering of Neenah, Peter Kuenzi, Hudson, and Corey, whose summer dinner was outstanding Bravo!

Loving hearing the dulcet tones of Carole Caine on 620 AM WTMJ Radio with Jane Matenaer! Could this experiment become a daily ritual? Mondays 8:30 a.m. – 12 Noon is just not enough for this valued Broadcasting Legend. We want our Carole Caine!

Where to go for that Breakfast/ Brunch/Lunch – You will never, ever forget? I have a delicious suggestion, **Sabrosa Café and Gallery** 3216 South Howell Avenue (312) 834-1929. In fact,

Sabrosa translated is delicious - what a fit. This restaurant, bar, gallery has it all, including live piano! Frank the owner goes beyond the bar, literally and figuratively making sure his patrons are beyond satisfied. Daniel, Nate, Tyler, Myra, and one of the most stunning Hostesses, I've ever been seated by add to this extraordinary dining experience. On Fridays, they do offer Dinner, a fish fry, you are in Milwaukee. I suggest Reservations, this eatery is uber-popular. A great vibe from the Owner, Staff, and Diners alike. Afterall, when your tastebuds are having an orgasm, all is right with the world.

Beautifying yourself? I love a visit to Salon Nova 2581 North Downer Avenue. Nova and Michael roll out the red carpet, who needs Elizabeth Arden? Love getting my eyebrows and lashes corrected here. And when you want to spoil yourself, see Anthony for a Hydro Facial. Anthony gives good face! I swear he takes years, ions off this mug! 414-273-6682.

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



Events & Happenings

PHOTOS OF EVENTS • NIGHTLIFE • MILESTONES



Sundays are for Brunch and the Packers



"Chanel" wants YOU! at Mary's



"Chanel Steps Out" at Mary's



Cory and George, owners of LaCage supporting Hamburger Mary's...with Brunch!



Jason and Joel serving up smiles at Hamburger Mary's



Louis, Cheryl & Brandon at Kruz



The Packers "The Pint" Way



Enjoying the Packers Game at Woodys



Christopher and Roy from Fluid

Photos by: David R. Todd



Sex Life

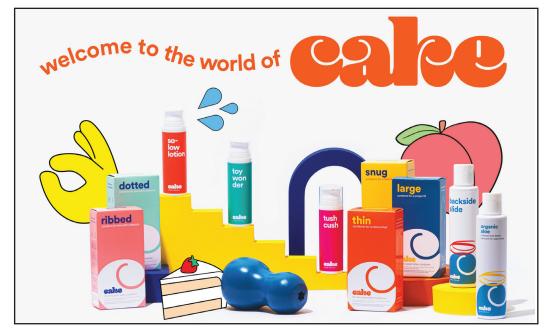
ADVICE • REVIEWS • NEWS • MORE!

Cake Wants To Help People Have More Fun

By William S. Gooden President and Publisher Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine

An older friend of mine used to tell a joke that went, "If you were in a gay man's house, and saw a can of Crisco in the bedroom, do not use it for baking!" Cheeky as that joke may be, it tells a sad truth: that LGBTQ+ folks have been left out of the equation in the personal lubricant market, even though much of the types of sex we engage in call for its use. Contrary to gay porn (where just a large glob of spit seems to suffice), a good lubricant can prevent a painful experience or damage to the rectum for gay men. Additionally, a torn condom can lead to exposure to a variety of STI's including HIV. Lube, for the most, part has been relegated to the heterosexual realm of vaginal sex.

Enter 'Cake'! Started in 2020 by co-founders Hunter Morris and Mitchell Orkis, Cake is a sexual wellness company that wants to do more than just make quality lubricant and condoms. The company wants to help people have better sex. The idea for Cake began back in 2018 when Orkis, who at the time was working at digital marketing firm Frank Collective, met Morris. They began working together on another idea of Morris' 'Wipe'. Wipe was a line of quality pre-moistened multipurpose wipes. Orkis suggested a wipe specifically marketed toward gay men that should be called "Bottoms." Morris liked the idea and developed the product to be test-marketed along with the line's other products. In one week "Bottoms" sold more then 2,000 units. "He (Hunter) called me back and said, 'Oh, this is a very real thing, if you talk about sex in a rather open non-awkward way it really resonates,' so that's when I got



involved, and Wipe turned into what is now Cake," said Cake CMO Mitchell Orkis, in an interview with Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine.

Since its official launch in 2020, Cake has grown exceptionally fast, outgrowing its web-only sales model and being picked up by such as Urban Outfitters. com and even Walmart. Despite its skyrocketing success, Cake has stayed true to its core values of helping people have fun. "I think the most important values, one thing that we hold kind of in high regard is the idea of fun, because I think everyone is very, very stressed out by life and the state of the world. And if we can give people the space, the how to, and the products to just fully enjoy themselves and their bodies or their partner's bodies, that's really important to us," said Orkis. "We just want you to be enjoying your life and your sexuality." It's that key component that's in everything that underpins everything Cake does.

Sexual health products for many years ignored the LGBTQ community, trying to find a lubricant that held up to the

rigors of toyplay, or anal sex seemed at times a difficult if not impossible a task. The few that directly dealt with those issues offered products that were expensive, hard to find, or had issues. For example they may have served their intended sexual purpose but degraded the performance of toys or condoms. Cake, on the other hand is different, "What we wanted to do is make the very best practice we possibly could based on anatomy, based on if a penis was going into a butt or if a penis is going to do a vagina. So that's where we started. And we mapped out all of the different ways anatomy can come together and that's what we base it on," said Orkis, who is gay and married. "What we wanted to do is make the very best products we possibly could based on anatomy...So being gay, I was very, I don't know, I guess I care'd more about gay products that my husband and I could use."

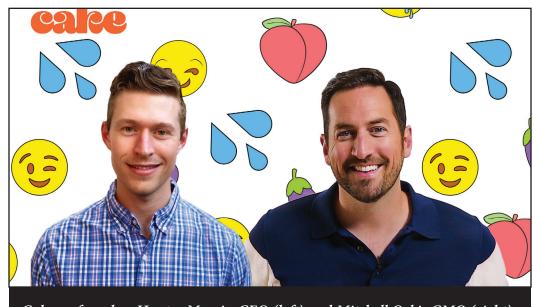
A select few of Cakes products are silicone-based. While silicone-based

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products are nothing new for its industry, Cake uses 100% premium silicone in those products, whereas their competition uses less silicone and more fillers to contain production costs. Working with the award-winning Carrie Smith, known as the "Lube Lady" in the industry. "When she joined the team, she expressed that she didn't want to sacrifice her quality formulas. I'm going to want the money and resources to make the very best products. And we said, great, we want to do that," said Mitchell.

It isn't just quality products that separate Cake from its competitors, it's their focus on sexual wellbeing and a main component of that, in turn, is sex education. Orkis explains, "I think a lot of this is based on what I wish I had known growing up and not knowing that information. So I think some brands come at saying, where are the experts? We're going to tell you how to do X, Y, or Z. We take kind of the opposite approach where we say, Hey, we're trying to have the best sex of our lives and enjoy ourselves the most. We don't know what we're doing, so we're going to go figure it out. And we're gonna go try to talk to people and ask them what their personal experiences are and what works and what doesn't work. And let's all try to learn from each other." It is this community-minded approach that has helped Cake to built a devout and diverse following of loyal customers.





Cake co-founders Hunter Morris, CEO (left) and Mitchell Orkis CMO (right).

This wasn't always the case.

As their product line was already so broad (based on anatomy) they didn't really focus on a target market as initially intended. Nevertheless, one soon emerged, thanks to Orkis, "My background is in brand strategy, so I really wanted to have one individual target market because of how we develop our products. Based on anatomy, we had products for straight couples. We have products for lesbians. We have products for gay men. We have products for everything kind of across the spectrum of how people identify. So we did not create a target market from our product line. I think we were young and didn't have any money. So I put a camera on myself and I started talking about Cake. I happened to be gay. So it did end up being a very gay male audience to begin with," said Orkis. It is evolving into, I would say, a pretty representative swath of the country, largely driven because we went into retail." Another significant contributor toward their success to date is online marketing campaigns on Facebook, Twitter and TikTok, which usually features Orkis and others talking about Cake's products. They collectively have made Orkis the 'Face of Cake.'

Besides it's expansive line of lubricants, condoms and wipes, Cake has added toys to their repertoire. As opposed toys like Flesh Jacks, which can be intimidating to some and an awfully

pricey investment for your collection.

Orkis adds, "We have not found a toy brand that is super approachable, and there's not really a high-quality entry point into toys. I think there's a lot of entry points into toys. The high quality piece seems to be missing. So what we wanted to do was create. I would call them entry-level toys to make people feel good based on their anatomy. And we wanted to do it in a hyper-approachable way." If you look at the box for their 'Stroker,' it clearly states it's a "double-sided toy for men." Nowhere on the packaging does it mention anything about penises or butts. Unlike the aforementioned Flesh Jacks (which have a butt, mouth or vagina on the front and might intimidate a novice), the 'Stroker' is very simple and well-designed.

"So I'd say they're more approachable. They're really high quality and they start analog and then go into power," stated Mitchell

From its inception Cake's goals have been to help people have more fun and enjoy themselves. It's something Orkis has set as a life goal as well. "I really like the idea of helping people re-connect with themselves and truly enjoy themselves. "I want to help as many people as I can before I die."

To learn more about Cake or to purchase one of their fine products, visit https://hellocake.com or your nearest Walmart.



Resource Guide

A SHORT GUIDE TO LGBTQ + MILWAUKEE



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://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

Resource Guide

A SHORT GUIDE TO LGBTQ + MILWAUKEE



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

Todo Postres LLC. •

Gay-owned and operated bakery and dessert shop. Specializes in unique cakes for quinceañeras, weddings and pride events.

958 W. Oklahoma Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53215

(414) 988-2149

https://www.facebook.com/ TodoPostresOfficial/



Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers

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

BESTD Clinic

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

Compassionate Clinical Services

Provides private therapy and counseling services by Ryan Larkey, LCSW, SAC 985 W. Oklahoma Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
Planned Parenthood (414) 839-1821
https://www.
compassionateclinicalservices.com

Vivent Health (formally ARCW)

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

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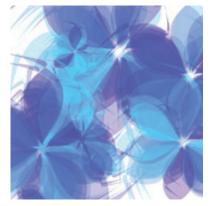
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Next Issue

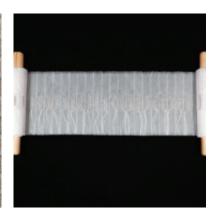


November 2021: The Charity Issue

- A listing of local LGBTQ+ charities
- How to make sure you donations are going to LGBT causes.
- •And much more!











KOREAN

KOMERICAN



October 2-December 22











What does it mean to be a Korean-in-Wisconsin artist at this time?

lyndensculpturegarden.org

2145 W Brown Deer Rd, Milwaukee, WI 53217