Milwaukee Pride Life

VOL. 2 • ISSUE 2 • MKE'S LGBTQ+ NEWS SOURCE • FEB. 2022 • FREE

Set Gour Meart Un!

Five Ways To Celebrate Valentine's Day As A Queer Person
And Feel Good About It - Page 5

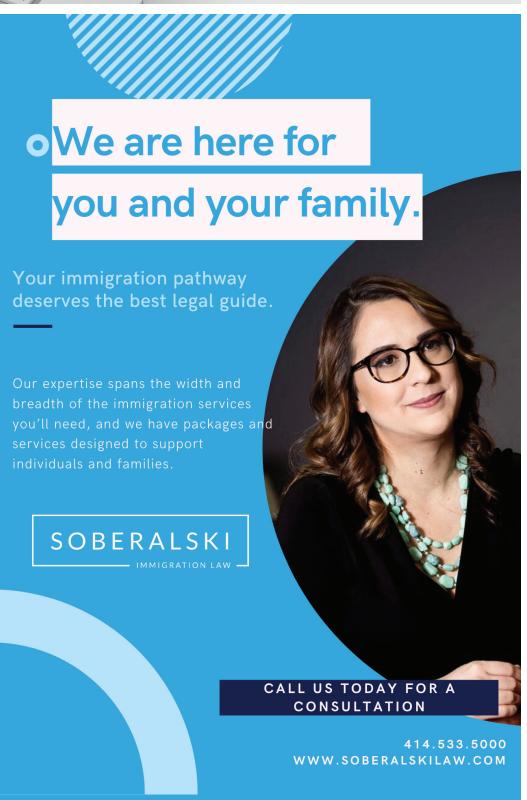
A New Chapter for Milwaukee's LGBT Community Center - Page 3

BLACKHISTORY MONTH

- A Look at Diverse and Resilient Page 7
- Sixteen Queer Black Pioneers Who Made History - Page 8

Lights... Cameras... Queens! - Page 14







ide **CONTENTS** Up Front.....1 Love Is In The Air Opinion Editorial.....2 For Your Inspirational Consideration: William, Will You Be My Valentine? In The News......3 & 4 A New Chapter For Milwaukee's LGBT Community Center Pride Life Feature.....5 & 6 Five Ways To Celebrate Valentine's Day As A Queer Person And Feel Good About It In The Spotlight......7 Diverse and Resilient: Healthy Living Through Community Our Queer History.....8-10 Sixteen Queer Black Pioneers Who

FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

Love Is In The Air



By: William Gooden, Publisher Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine

Though the shortest month of the year, February is jam-packed with holidays and special events. Groundhog Day, President's Day and Valentine's Day fill the tiny winter month. Traditionally, LGBTQ+ people do not celebrate Valentine's Day, as it tends to cater to primarily the heterosexual lifestyle. Personally, I prefer to celebrate with Dan Savage's concept of "A Steak and A Blowjob Day" (which can really be celebrated any time during the year). This month in "Five Ways To Celebrate Valentine's Day As A Oueer Person And Feel Good About It," we examine various ways to honor our partners in life and love (in case you need some last-minute ideas). In this month's opinion editorial by my partner Jaye Syc, he talks about our relationship and how through patience, understanding and tradition, you can enjoy a lasting relationship.

Speaking of love, who doesn't love a drag queen? This month David Todd gives us a preview of a new book that

spotlights "queens of a certain age," featuring Milwaukee's own dearest heart Karen Valentine!

February is also Black History Month, and our queer sisters and brothers of color are often overlooked in our community. This month we recognize the work of Diverse and Resilient right here in Milwaukee's Black queer and transgender communities. We also take a look at some notable LGBTQ+ people of color who have helped shape history in our inaugural Our Queer History section. In our news section, we profile some new faces of color in our community who are helping the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center start a new chapter.

It's a new year for the arts scene here in Milwaukee, and Micheal Johnston has a rundown of all that is coming in the next few months.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank you for taking the time to read our issue this month.

- William Gooden 👀

Made History

Cordially Yours, Again!.....11-13

"To: The Month of Love!"

Art Life.....14

Lights... Camera... Queens!

Resource Guide......16

THE **OPINION** EDITORIAL

For Your Inspirational Consideration: William, Will You Be My Valentine?

By Jaye Syc, Associate Editor Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine

Since its origins as an ancient Roman feast and subsequent 14th-century traditions involving courtly love, Valentine's Day has been, by turns, a thorny jab to the uncoupled cynic and a surefire way for spouses to get a little sum-sum. I've decided to speak my peace about this day, because quite simply...I'm in love.

After nearly thirteen years with my partner, I've at last learned what love is: it is acceptance. And I'd like to share how I've come to my conclusion with those folks twenty years or so my junior.

I've learned to see myself as a sort of journeyman set on collection: that of knowledge, wisdom, and experience. And as I tread on, I learn from my mistakes and begin to appreciate the sources of stability in my life. Most importantly, I have the luxury of coming home each day to a man that accepts and appreciates me.

I truly hope the generations Millennial-And-Younger can do the same. Put yourselves out there, kids (no offense intended) and open your heart just enough to let someone in, giving you a person with whom to share that journey. I did, and it has made me remarkably happy.

I've deliberately left no descriptive caption to the photo above. The cuddly gentleman on the left in pink is William. I'm the slightly less adorable guy in black seated. Bill took me out for a superior dinner two blocks from our home for Valentine's Day in 2021. This year, I'm taking him to the same place... and praying for better lighting in the new photo.

As is often the case, our relationship has ebbed and flowed with both exuberance and difficulty. Nevertheless, the investment has been well worth it



for me. We've endured the deaths of both mothers. We've navigated the paycheck-to-paycheck struggle for sustenance. We have adopted pets and visited museums. We have attended weddings, traveled, and cooked for thirty people. We've built a life together and now I cannot imagine growing old alongside anyone else on earth.

I cannot stress this enough to our youth: Be patient and the right one will come along. You never really know how it'll happen (and just might have to kiss a lion's share of frogs in the meantime). I met My Honey in, of all places, a bathhouse – the sort of place where the average relationship lasts about 30 minutes (depending on stamina level). But...

It happened.

And I find that, as I mature, I become increasingly hooked on our rituals – both romantic and goofy. It is a remarkable antidote to cynicism. Aside from my own father, I can think of no one that has impacted my life in such a kinetic and beneficial way than William.

I want the world to know it: I'm immeasurably grateful to you, William. Thank you for sharing your Every Day with me. You've made sacrifices I never thought possible to ensure my happiness. Most vitally, you've opened your heart to me, even when I've made it difficult for you. I find I love you more each and every year I ask you this:

William...

Will you be my valentine?



STAFF

Founder, Publisher & Editor-in-Chief: William S. Gooden

Associate EditorJaye Syc

President of Advertising & Marketing:

Carmen Murguia

Writer, Sales & Distribution:
David Todd

Notice of Publication:
Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine
published monthly by
A Little Bit Different Media LLC
in Milwaukee, WI 53207

Contact Us:

Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine Milwaukee, WI 53207 Phone: (414) 587-4977 E-Mail: mkepridelife@gmail.com Web:

www.mkepridelife.com

Copyright/Fair Use Disclaimer: Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine may contain content not authorized for use by its owner. This content is used for

news and information purposes only and constitutes a fair-use of any copy-written materials as provided for in Section 107 of the Copyright Act.

In The News

LOCAL & NATIONAL LGBTQ+ NEWS



A New Chapter for Milwaukee's LGBT Community Center

New faces help start a new year and new direction

By: William Gooden, Publisher Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine with assistance from Jerry Wilcensk of the MKE LGBT Community Center

The new year has seen a lot of new beginnings, but nowhere in Milwaukee is that more true than the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center. The changes there began last June when the center moved from its previous space at 1110 N. Market Street to its new (and original location) at 315 W. Court Street. The move also marked the return to in-person meetings after a year of programs run virtually (though some programs still are virtual due to COVID-19). Another major adjustment at the center is a change in leadership. In October, the previous Executive Director stepped down. While the board of directors searches for a new permanent executive director, it appointed Kevin Turner as interim director. He along with other new and current staff are helping the Center into a new year a new direction. Here is a bit of brief information about them.

Kevin J. Turner (he/him)

Interim Executive Director

Kevin joins the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center with over 25 years of active involvement with local non-profit and for-profit sectors within the Milwaukee Metro Area. Having a focused area working with nonprofits on Milwaukee's near southside, Mr. Turner brings his expertise in organizational management, administration, and business practices to the center.





Mr. Turner has also built his career as a Trauma-Informed Care facilitator and holds several certifications national/international that have proven techniques to help individuals decrease stress and increase performance. Mr. Turner is an experienced public speaker and presenter with proven leadership skills gained from various programs at Cardinal Stritch University such as strategic planning, financial planning, and project management.

Deidra Williams (she/her)

Youth Program Coordinator and CCAR Trainer

Deidra has over 20 years of experience working with youth in Milwaukee. She has worked with youth who have been placed out of the home and are experiencing mental health, substance use, and trauma related issues. Deidra has extensive knowledge and experience in developing youth-centered, trauma informed programming. Deidra has a love of sharing knowledge, training and developing, and supervising young adults looking to work with youth. As one of the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's CCAR Trainers, Deidra trains in-



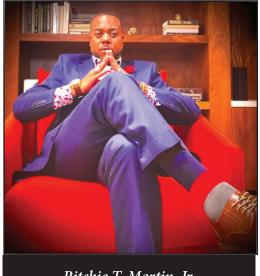
dividuals to become Recovery Coaches. Recovery Coaching trains individuals to provide Peer Support Services to those in or seeking recovery from an addiction to alcohol and/or other drugs, or anyone who just simply wants to understand more about the recovery process. In her free time, Deidra enjoys spending time with her family and friends, traveling, journaling and reading.

Ritchie T. Martin, Jr. (he/him)

Board Member,

External Affairs Co-Chair

Ritchie has worked in Nonprofit for 20 years and currently serves as the Director of Health Promotion at Vivent Health. Ritchie Started his professional career journey as a student specialist in the Harambee neighborhood, where he was instrumental in the development of the KIDS of NIA Mentoring Program funded by Rockwell Automation International. As a first-generation student himself, Ritchie has worked in multiple capacities in Nonprofit and Public Health. A first-generation graduate, Ritchie obtained his higher education at Morehouse College with a Master of Public Health and a bachelors in theol-

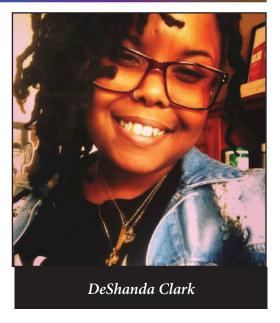


Ritchie T. Martin, Jr.

ogy from Moody Bible Institute. Ritchie is a graduate of the ASPPH/EPA Environmental Health Fellowship Program, CRIBB Fellowship Program, past presenter at NAESM African American MSM Leadership Conference on Health Disparities and Social Justice. Ritchie is most noted for his work in Public Health as the author and principal developer of Wisconsin's first Gay/Bisexual Fellowship and Institute which was funded by the Wisconsin Department AIDS/HIV Program and National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors, with the purpose and intent to identify, enlist, and train opinion leaders to encourage safer sexual norms and behaviors within their Social networks of friends and acquaintances through risk reduction conversations and strategies. Ritchie has served as a former Milwaukee County Commissioner, appointed by the late Chairman Lee Holloway from 2006-2010, a former Director of PrideFest Milwaukee where he oversaw the Health and Wellness Area operations and fiscal management. In Ritchie's spare time, he is engaged with mentoring over 15 young aspiring public health and nonprofit leaders across the country.

DeShanda Clark (she,her)

Vice Chair, Board of Directors



DeShanda Clark is the Sr. VP of Programs & Services for Pathfinders Mke. and the Vice Chair for the MKE LGBT Community Center Board of Directors. Certified in trauma informed care, and a Licensed Professional Counselor in Training; DeShanda holds a MS in Community Psychology from Alverno College and a BS in Social Work from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Her passion is in supporting and uplifting youth and young adults, especially those dealing with overlapping social identities. DeShanda has been a trailblazer in visioning non-traditional mental health services for Milwaukee youth, and has demonstrated a deep commitment to keeping young people's voices at the center of care.

The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center delivers educational, health promotion, and community-building services that meet the needs of LGBT youth, adults, and their allies in the Greater Milwaukee area from its primary facility and other sites. For more information visit their website at https://www.mkelgbt.org or call 414-271-2656.

In The **Spotlight**

SPOTLIGHTING MILWAUKEE'S AMAZING PRIDE COMMUNITY

Five Ways To Celebrate Valentine's Day As A Queer Person And Feel Good About It

By: Anni Irish

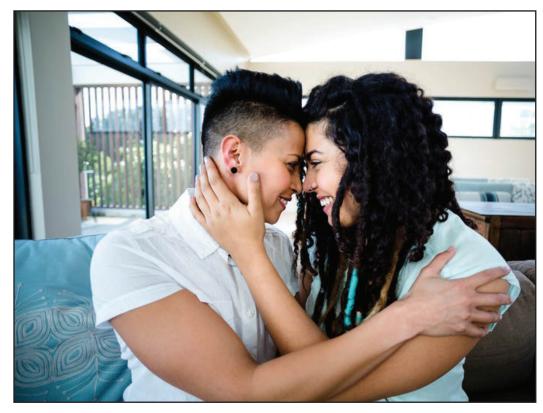
Valentine's Day can be a complicated holiday to navigate for the LGBT community. Societally, there is still an outsized emphasis on heteronormative standards of relationships, sex, and romantic love. For people in the LGBT community, Valentine's Day and the larger representation of it are often made to feel at odds with mainstream society.

Due to the larger lack of representation of the queer community, this time of year can be frustrating, isolating, awkward, and even sad for queer people — it's just another instance where they are not being represented.

There are serious issues that queer people still face today. Those within the LGBT community are more than two times likely to have a mental health condition than straight people. They are also at a higher risk of experiencing suicidal thoughts than the general population — and queer youth are five times more likely to attempt suicide than their straight counterparts due to bullying, harassing, and other forms of discrimination they face. On the whole, Valentine's Day does not help in fighting the day-to-day inequalities.

The commercialization of Valentine's Day over the last several decades has continually focused on straight couples and their relationships. GLAAD's 2018 film survey found that only 12.8% of 109 films surveyed included an LGBT character — down from 18% the previous year.

In the US alone, the sales of Valentine's Day-related items brought in a whop-



ping \$20.7 billion last year, according to the National Retail Federation. This is up by 6% from last year. This commercialization does not make a lot of space for queer individuals: Hallmark currently makes a significantly lower number of cards geared towards queer couples versus the hundreds of other options for heterosexual folks.

Recently, alternatives to the day have become popular — like Galentine's Day, meant to celebrate female friendships. There is even Palentine's Day, which puts more emphasis on pals/friends than gender.

With Valentine's Day right around the corner, there is even more of a reason to practice self-care. Taking care of yourself and checking in with how you feel — as well as your partner, if you are in

a relationship — and communicating your emotions is important. Here are five things you can do to make yourself feel better as a queer person on this holiday — and how straight allies can support their queer friends.

1. Volunteer at an LGBT center in your area

One way to give back to your local LGBT community — and to show a little love to those who may be experiencing a hard time — is volunteering at a queer center in your area. To locate a site in your state go here.

From there, it's as simple as a quick phone call or email to see what their volunteering process is like and signing up. It is a wonderful way to help out, donate your time to a great cause, and hopefully make others — including yourself —

feel better in the process.

2. Making Valentines or small gifts for the people in your life who matter the most candy hearts valentine's day

Another way to avoid the commercialization of the holiday and heteronormative standards of Valentine's Day is to make your own Valentines or small handmade gifts and present them to the people in your life who matter. This isn't always just a lover or partner — this can be members of your own family or your chosen queer family, friends, etc.

This activity will allow your creativity to shine through and make the people in your life you care about also feel special. There is no one right way to make a Valentine or a gift — it is the thought that counts. It could be anything from baking cookies or other treats to crafting to simply making a card.

3. Practicing self-care

Practicing self-care is essential and takes on many forms. On Valentine's Day — which can sometimes be triggering for people depending on their dating history — taking care of yourself is even more vital. If you were in a bad relationship or experienced trauma because of dating, Valentine's Day can feel even more overwhelming.

If you are able to take the day off and get a hotel or just have a staycation, this is one way to celebrate. This can allow



you to recharge and focus on yourself and what matters most to you. It lets you do the things you might not normally do. Valentine's Day is about love in general, so remember to love yourself because the relationship you have with yourself is one of the most important ones there is.

Whatever way you choose to practice self-care should be done for yourself every day — and not just on Valentine's Day. Being kind to yourself and taking the time to feel good about who you are and where you are at in life is everything.

4. Shop at queer-owned businesses

Shopping at queer-owned businesses is one way to directly support the community as well. TransisBeautiful, Otherwild, LoveandPride, and Fluide are just

a few stores that offer queer-centric products. Whether you're after sports apparel or the leisure wear that TransisBeautiful offers, cool home goods from Otherwild, or the empowering jewelery of LoveandPride, you can find a little something to bring some joy to you (and maybe someone else special) in your life.

5. Buy toys from a feminist-owned sex shop

Sex toys come with the territory of Valentine's Day, so embracing it and picking up a little something for just you — or maybe you and your partner — is always fun. More times than not feminist sex-toy shops have more options for queer identified folks and offer

a more inclusive space. Shops such as Babeland, Unbound, Good Vibrations, and Lelo offer a range of options for whatever you might be looking for.

There are also things heterosexual people can do to support the queer community on this day. You can donate to a cause that helps LGBT youth and the community at large such as G.L.A.A.D., the National Youth Advocacy Coalition, the Human Rights Campaign, and GLSEN. Volunteering at an organization that benefits the community is a great way to demonstrate your support.

Simply trying to show up for those in your life who are queer-identified and making them feel heard and acknowledged is important. Show your support for your queer friends by making them



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

We care for the whole person and well-being of all by offering services that promote independence, value diversity, and inspire self-advocacy.

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



DHS Approved 10/15/2020

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

Pride Life Features

THE EVENTS AND PEOPLE THAT ARE SHAPING LGBTQ+ MILWAUKEE

Diverse and Resilient: Healthy Living Through Community

By: David Todd, Writer Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine

For over 25 years, one organization has been investing in Milwaukee's diversity, focused on the strengths of individuals it serves, their differing needs and their evolving attributes. Its name says it all – **Diverse and Resilient**. Since 1996, this nonprofit has been reaching into the black and brown communities to help people of color improve their lives by better navigating the healthcare system here in the state of Wisconsin. We sat down with Director of HIV Services Justin Roby, MS, to discuss how that investment is paying off for our city and our state.

"When you look at our country, Milwaukee and Wisconsin are uniquely positioned with resources to take on this epidemic and eradicate it long before other communities our size," said Justin Roby, referring to HIV in our communities and how it affects same-loving individuals in the black and brown community. "We have an amazing and robust health care system. We have the resources here in the city and have seen people who move here surprised that we have as many robust services as we do." From healthcare system navigators to mental health counselors to emotional support groups, Diverse and Resilient takes care of the whole person, breaks down any barriers they may find to accessing the great care that is out there for them, and ensures each person has the support they need specific to them. Not only to survive health challenges like HIV but to thrive and contribute to the health of their greater community.



"Data currently says that disparities in healthcare effect same-loving people of color disproportionately and Diverse and Resilient aims to level the playing field through a number of programs and services," said Roby. Those services are as diverse as their clientele. The basics from housing to transportation are taken into consideration, even an individual's ability to take their medication in a way that best suits their needs. For example, D&R builds relationships with pharmaceutical companies that offer daily oral medications for people living with HIV, in addition to a twice-monthly injectable therapeutic recently offered on the market. As stated earlier, special attention is paid to navigating a healthcare system that may not be as user-friendly to some as it is to others. The organization helps community members understand the system as a whole and how to make better healthcare choices for themselves.

Another strength of Diverse and Resilient is the leaders they employ. "Our advantage is that we have black queer men in leadership. D&R has been known to empower the community and creates by-in, not using our staff, but more as community champions," says Roby. "Our approach and ability to connect are unique - strategically making decisions for the organization and our clients alongside our queer brothers and sisters." Diverse and Resilient has several support programs in place to uplift people and better their emotional and mental health. Intersectionality Among Men (I AM) is a community-based HIV prevention project, providing same-gender-loving (SGL) Black & Latino men with knowledge and tools to enhance the interpersonal skills needed to maintain healthy and lasting relationships with their peers. Another area of service is developing leaders, like they do with SHEBA (Sisters Helping Each Other Battle Adversity), a group of powerful Black women. The group meets bi-weekly to support and empower transgender women in a space solely for them. The program called Room to Be Safe is an online resource providing support for survivors of violence. The website offers information for survivors, family and friends, LGBTQ+ organizations, and service providers at roomstobesafe.org.

"Our focus is the health of the LGBTQ community and the people we serve, no matter what that entails," says Roby, "and we have a talented group of men and women to support that mission and vision."



Our **Queer** History

OUR HISTORY & THOSE THAT SHAPED IT

Sixteen Queer Black Pioneers Who Made History

By Gwen Aviles and Ariel Jao

From 1960s civil rights activist Bayard Rustin to Chicago's first black female and lesbian mayor, Lori Lightfoot, black LGBTQ Americans have long made history with innumerable contributions to politics, art, medicine and a host of other fields.

"As long as there have been black people, there have been black LGBTQ and same-gender-loving people," David J. Johns, executive director of the National Black Justice Coalition, told NBC News. "Racism combined with the forces of stigma, phobia, discrimination and bias associated with gender and sexuality have too often erased the contributions of members of our community."



Gladys Bentley (1907-1960)

Bentley was a gender-bending performer during the Harlem Renaissance. Donning a top hat and tuxedo, Bentley would sing the blues in Harlem establishments like the Clam House and the Ubangi Club. According to a belated obituary published in 2019, The New York Times said Bentley, who died in 1960 at the age of 52, was "Harlem's most famous lesbian" in the 1930s and "among the best-known black entertainers in the United States."



Bayard Rustin (1912-1987)

Rustin was an LGBTQ and civil rights activist best known for being a key adviser to Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. He organized the 1963 March on Washington and was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, in 2013 for his activism. In 2020, Gov. Gavin Newsom pardoned Rustin for his arrest in 1953 when he was found having sex with two men in a parked car in Pasadena. Rustin served 50 days in Los Angeles County jail and had to register as a sex offender. In pardoning Rustin, Newsom noted how LGBTQ people were unjustly punished for their sexuality by U.S. law enforcement at the time Rustin's arrest.

Stormé DeLarverie (1920-2014)

A biracial, butch lesbian, DeLarverie was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, and was always a performer. As a teenager, she joined the Ringling Brothers Circus where she rode jumping horses. Then from 1955 to 1969, DeLarverie toured the black theater circuit as the MC — and only drag king — of the Jewel Box Revue, the first racially integrated drag revue in North America. She worked as a bouncer for several les-



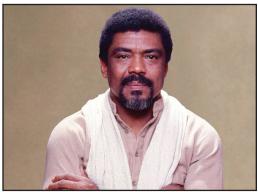
bian bars in New York City in the '80s and '90s, and held a number of leader-ship positions in the Stonewall Veterans Association. DeLarverie also served the community as a volunteer street patrol worker, and as a result, was called the "guardian of lesbians in the Village." Beyond her LGBTQ activism, DeLarverie also organized and performed at fundraisers for women who suffered from domestic violence and their children.



James Baldwin (1924-1987)

A writer and social critic, Baldwin is perhaps best known for his 1955 collection of essays, "Notes of a Native Son," and his groundbreaking 1956 novel, "Giovanni's Room," which depicts themes of homosexuality and bisexuality. The novel stood out among literary critics because it features all white characters, unlike the civil rights activist's other novels which center the experiences of black people. Baldwin spent

a majority of his literary and activist career educating others about black and queer identity, as he did during his famous lecture titled "Race, Racism, and the Gay Community" at a meeting of the New York chapter of Black and White Men Together (now known as Men of All Colors Together) in 1982.



Alvin Ailey (1931-1989)

Ailey was a choreographer who founded the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, one of the most prominent dance companies globally, in 1958. His signature work, including "Cry" and "Revelations," continue to be performed all over the world. In 2014, Ailey was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his influential work in bringing dance to underserved communities.



Audre Lorde (1934-1992)

Lorde, a self-described "black, lesbian, feminist, mother, poet, warrior," made lasting contributions in the fields of feminist theory, critical race studies and queer theory through her pedagogy and writing. Among her most notable works are "Coal" (1976), "The Black Unicorn" (1978), "The Cancer Journals" (1980) and "Zami: A New Spelling of My Name" (1982). "I write for those women

who do not speak, for those who do not have a voice because they were so terrified, because we are taught to respect fear more than ourselves. We've been taught that silence would save us, but it won't," Lorde once said.



Ernestine Eckstein (1941-1992)

Eckstein was a leader in the New York chapter of Daughters of Bilitis, the first lesbian civil and political rights organization in the United States. She attended "Annual Reminder" picket protests and was frequently one of the only women — and the only black woman — present at early LGBTQ rights protests. Eckstein was also an early activist in the black feminist movement of the 1970s and was involved with the organization Black Women Organized for Action. According to historians, she viewed the fight for civil rights and LGBTQ rights as intrinsically linked.



Barbara Jordan (1936-1996)

Jordan, a civil rights leader and attorney, became the first African American elected to the Texas Senate in 1966, and the first woman and first African American elected to Congress from Texas in 1972. Jordan was awarded the Presiden-

tial Medal of Freedom by Bill Clinton in 1994 for her work as a political trail-blazer. While Jordan never explicitly acknowledged her sexual orientation in public, she was open about her life partner of nearly 30 years, Nancy Earl.



Marsha P. Johnson (1945-1992)

Marsha P. Johnson — who would cheekily tell people the "P" stood for "pay it no mind" - was an outspoken transgender rights activist and is reported to be one of the central figures of the historic Stonewall uprising of 1969. Along with fellow trans activist Sylvia Rivera, Johnson helped form Street Transgender Action Revolutionaries (STAR), a radical political organization that provided housing and other forms of support to homeless queer youth and sex workers in Manhattan. She also performed with the drag performance troupe Hot Peaches from 1972 through the '90s and was an AIDS activist with AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT UP).



Miss Major Griffin-Gracy (Born 1940)

Miss Major is black transgender woman and activist at the forefront of the fight for trans rights. She faced many hurdles during her life — including homelessness and incarceration — and it's these challenges that fueled her activism. In 2005, Miss Major joined San Francis-

co-based Trans Gender Variant and Intersex Justice Project (TGIJP) as a staff organizer, and later as executive director, to lead the group's efforts advocating for incarcerated trans women. She has often spoken out against the prison system, which she says contributes to the incarceration of transgender individuals, particularly trans people of color and those with low incomes. Now 79, Miss Major, known to many simply as "Mama," resides in Little Rock, Arkansas, where she continues to be a vocal activist.



Ron Oden (Born 1950)

When Oden was elected mayor of Palm Springs, California in 2003, he made history by becoming the first openly gay African American man elected mayor of an American city. Following Oden's historic election 17 years ago, the Palm Spring City Council made history once again: In December 2017, it became America's first all-LGBTQ city council.

Phill Wilson (Born 1956)

A prominent African American HIV/AIDS activist, Wilson founded the Black AIDS Institute in 1999, in part inspired by the death of his partner from an HIV-related illness and his own HIV diagnosis. In 2010, Wilson was appointed to President Obama's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. Wilson also served as a World AIDS Summit delegate and advocated for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention to provide additional funding to black groups so they would have the resources to educate



and mobilize their community around HIV/AIDS issues. His work resulted in the "Act Against AIDS" campaign, now known as the "Let's Stop HIV Together" campaign, which promotes HIV testing, prevention and treatment.



Andrea Jenkins (Born 1961)

Jenkins made history in November 2017 by becoming the first openly transgender black woman elected to public office in the U.S., according to LGBTQ advocacy groups and researchers. Jenkins, a Democrat, was one of two openly trans people to win a seat on the Minneapolis City Council in 2017. She is also a published poet and an oral historian at the University of Minnesota.



Willi Ninja (1961-2006)

Ninja was a dancer, choreographer and the "Grandfather of Vogue," the dance style that he helped propel to the national stage. Vogueing, characterized by angular body movements and exaggerated runway poses, was introduced to the public in the award-winning 1990 documentary "Paris Is Burning," which Ninja appeared in, and was popularized by Madonna's 1990 hit song "Vogue."



Lori Lightfoot (Born 1962)

A former prosecutor with no experience in elected office, Lightfoot swept all 50 of Chicago's wards in the 2019 mayoral runoff election after promising to end the city's famed backroom dealing. She is the city's first ever black female mayor and its first openly LGBTQ mayor.



Alphonso David (Born 1970)

In 2019, David became the first person of color to lead the Human Rights Campaign, the largest LGBTQ advocacy group in the U.S., in the organization's nearly 40-year history. A graduate of the Temple University School of Law, David served as an attorney for Lambda Legal, working on LGBTQ cases around the country, and as the first openly gay counsel to New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

Source: https://www.nbcnews.com/feature/nbc-out.

Yours, Again!

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



"To: The Month of Love!"

a reminder if during these COVID times you're a bit foggy Valentine's Day is coming our way! As always there are many ways to celebrate, commemorate, or in some cases, even avoid this Holiday. I always find it easier to escape into, than from the obvious. Monday, February 14, will come and with it, the one day out of the year, we let those special people in our lives, know how special they are.

Here are just a few suggestions, to kick start what maybe a fit for you:

New York's very own Michel Feinstein will be in the Cream City making the weekend even dreamier. He'll be appearing with The Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra (MSO) Friday, February 11, 7:30 p.m., Saturday, February 12, 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, February 13, 2:30 p.m. You can be puttin' on the Ritz, by dancing cheek to cheek, reminding us, there's no business like show business. The Bradley Symphony Center at The Warner Grand Theater, 212 West Wisconsin Avenue, (414) 291-6010, is where you can see/hear Mr. Feinstein work those 88 keys of ivory, playing the American Song Book, like few can in today's world. This is an ideal opportunity to see this outstanding, refurbished concert hall, with a sound system like no other. And the talents of Mr. Feinstein -I had the chance to see him eons ago at The Pabst Theatre with Rosemary Clooney, an evening I shall never forget. And even earlier than that, while in Chicago, at The Gentry on Halsted, I met him and got his autograph, that I treasure to this very day! Michael was in the audience enjoying the works of the unforgettable, wacky Rudy De Lamor, Hats, and all! Rudy did surrender the keyboard to Michael, and such a joyous sound! Now this was 1985, a lot has happened in 37 years including Michael now being the Headliner!



Michael Johnston

On Saturday, February 12 5:00 p.m. This Is It has "A Valentine Cabaret" starring Just Gino and Karen Valentine returning for a live, two-hour song, piano, conversation, and banter, with Special Guest Rai Hudson who will take the Show into the night. No cover charge come early to avoid parking and/or seating shortage. George has purchased a new power cord, and it's a very long one, so there won't be any last-minute drama. Last month's Hang Over Cabaret was a so much fun by one and all! We can only hope for good weather...

Then comes Sunday, that would be Sunday, February 13 in some circles, "Super Bowl Sunday 2022". We were so close, only three teeny, tiny points away from victory. No place for us this year on the turf... but, it was an amazing season, or so they told me!

Monday, February 14 is St. Valentine's Day (V.D.) this year, so in my opinion, lets stretch out the entire weekend in celebration! Thursday through Monday, lots of restaurants, lounges, and bars will be in full operation. Opened and offering romantic meals, beverages, and opportunities. Including my new favorite, jewel of a find, The White

House - Bay View 2900 South Kinnickinnic Avenue 414-897-0495, whitehousebayview.com dine-in or curbside pick-up. Hours: Wednesday through Saturday 5:00 p.m. - 9:00p.m., except for V.D., Allison Meinhardt (a Lady Ga Ga clone, I swear) is the picture-perfect owner, host, server, you're a guest in her home, when dining at the W.H. Bar tender James, Server Thomas, and Will, the Chef all bring their considerable talents together to provide royal repasts at The White House, making it righteously rejoiceful!

Speaking of Valentine's - Karen Valentine AKA K.V. and Maple Veneer's popular monthly romp of music, Drag, banter, and fun "Bosom Buddies" will celebrate and/or bemoan love or lack thereof, Saturday, February 19th 5:00 p.m. at La Cage. Doors open at 4:00 p.m., no cover charge, and as always unpredictable pandemonium!

It seems every column I pen as of late includes a "Farewell to Friend". Let this effort sadly not be an exception. Brian Williams, popularly known throughout the Community as "Kitty" is the latest causality to "2022 - the Year of Death". Kitty was an uber popular bar tender through out Walkers Point for the present century. I met Brian, when he first popped up on the scene, he was a Server at a restaurant across the street from The Hi Hat Garage, now known as Balzac. His "stardom" as Kitty began at Fluid, where he worked forever. Again, our paths crossed, I was a patron, and was one of the original Bingo Host. Then his career took him to The Triangle for a bit, then onto Hamburger Mary's where he was ensconced as I'm guessing as one of their longest continuing employees. Again, fate connected us as he continued his mixology career, and I spun the Bingo wheel. Kitty also took on shifts at La Cage, behind their bar, crocheting all the way. When I think of Kitty, I see a cigarette dangling out of the side of his mouth and him preparing drinks, and of course a Shot for himself. Rather like a fleshed out, "Mad Maxine" with the usual, expect acerbic comment. If one ever took umbrage, no one could apologize or do damage control quicker than Kitty. This cat's coat was one of steel, not fur and I think self-preservation was his mantra. They say felines have nine lives, here is hoping, he was far too young to put down the shot glass, permanently ... Tchin, Tchin!

Good pal Don Johnson and his roommate Birdie have coordinated a "Celebration of this Life – Kitty/ Brian Williams" Sunday, February 20 Hamburger Mary's/Hunty Club 2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. The Public is Welcome, to come out and say goodbye. As I understand it, there was a private family burial in Illinois.

The Skylight Music Theatre has a very the rarely produced "Raisin", up next. The musical based on Lorraine Hansberry's powerful classic "Raisin in the Sun" running February 11 thru February 27 (February is Black History Month). This show has a Grammy-winning Score, that combines Jazz, Gospel, and the sound of the 1970's Soul.

Described as "Powerful and Uplifting"! The message is, as old as time, how important a house, making it into a home is, to all of us. Call now and see this 414-291-7800 "Antonio's Song, I was Dreaming of a Son" is headlining at The Milwaukee Repertory Theatre now through March 6th. And for all you delightful readers who enjoyed Pride Night at The Rep when "Steel Magnolias" warmed your hearts with the touching tales of Louisiana's finest ladies. There are two more coming up, so call now and get your tickets! "As You Like It" (February 5th - March 20th), yes that one from High School, by Bill Shakespeare is being brought to the stage once more! But with a unique twist, accent on twist. The music of The Beatles will be incorporated! Yep, you read it right!



This production started in Canada, so popular, well-received that Mark Clements is bringing the marriage of two of the most popular exports from across the pond right here to the Brew City. As You Like It, as they say, seeing and hearing is believing! B.J. Daniels, Dear Ruthie, and Karen Valentine return with The Wisconsin LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce in Celebration of the Arts, with Pride Night at The Rep. Thursday, February 17th 7:30 p.m. curtain. When purchasing tickets use the Code Word PRIDE for the significant discount! This too, would work as a marvelous Valentine Gift to each and every one of your Valentines! There will be one more Pride Night this Season, taking place on Friday, April 8th with "Titanic, the Musical" (April 5th – May 15th) 8:00 p.m. and your cruise crew will be the returning Dear Ruthie, B.J. Daniels, and Karen Valentine. While you're engaging your tickets for "As You Like It", you can also, secure your accommodations for "Titanic, the Musical" – using the Code Word PRIDE, will insure your major discount!

My lady pals of Renaissance Theaterworks – Theater by Women for Everyone, will be springing this spring, with bringing "Actually" by Anna Ziegler, to the boards. Friday, March 11 – Sunday, April 3. Check out the magic these women make, at their new "home" Next Act Theatre. For 24 years Renaissance has been dedicated to promoting the work of women theater artists onstage and off.

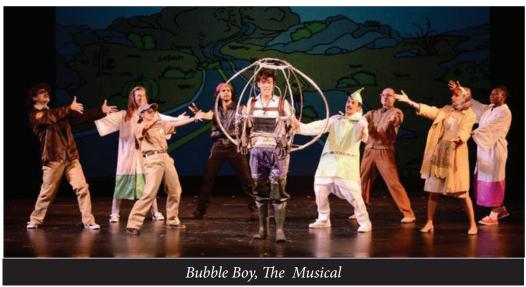
Our Friends of The Florentine **Opera Company** have been very busy despite COVID-19 and all. What these musical genius' have created to satisfy your need and urge for the best in formal, old school, grand Opera is: Viardot's "Cinderella" and Ravel's "The Child and the Enchantments". The Wilson Theater at Vogel Hall, Marcus Center for the Performing Arts will host this not to be missed evening of song. March11, 13, 18, and 20. Go and check out the new costuming/ wardrobe that Milwaukee's very own Wm. Ivy Long, Bobby Sharon, is doing with The Florentine – it will

astound you!

Last month, I was fortunate enough to see the final dress of "Funny Girl". This rarely, if ever Broadway bio on Miss Fanny Brice was brought to life by, the new kid on the block: Bombshell Theatre Co. Bryanna VanCaster impressed the audience as a triple threat -plus! Singing, dancing, acting, timing, humor. And she made Fanny her own - meaning it was not a Streisand fan, that o.d. on the movie, and aped Barbra Streisand, playing Fanny Brice. Not as easy as you may think! The dashing, evil Nicky Arnstein, was capably portrayed by Eric Welch. Eric also was the Director and a Partner in Bombshell. His finance, Tim Albrechtson is also his Partner in Bombshell, played Eddie Ryan and was the Producer. Tim is quite the hoofer and complemented Bryanna and others with keen comic sense. My pal, Marcee Doherty-Elst was bought in as Intimacy Consultant, and played Franny's mother. Once again Marcee was able to erase the Kay Medford version and make the role her own! The next vehicle that will get the Bombshell treatment "Bubble Boy, The Musical" March 30th - April 9th (not familiar with this one? The show is based on then teen heart throb John Travolta's "Boy in the Bubble" Movie of the Week - but with I.V.s of Camp and Humor STAT!) "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang" a tribute to the late Sally Ann Howes will be their Summer show June 24 - 25. Closing out their First Season "Bed-Knobs & Broomsticks – In Concert" August 26 – 28th. I hear on good authority, We will all be thrilled with next season's opening show. I will say, they are very ambitious, sweet youth! For more information about Bombshell Theatre Co. and to hear the fine tones of Producer/Bombshell Partner/Actor/Singer/Dancer Tim Albrechtson, tune into the Pod Cast, "So a Drag Queen and a Leather Man Go In a Bar" January 2022 Edition.

Shelby Keefe one of Wisconsin's most accomplished artist has approximately 50 original paintings on display, for sale, framed, and ready to enhance your home or office at **The Art Bar in River West**. Even if your budget or wall space doesn't allow, a tour of her current exhibit provides a fascinating, fulfilling Artistic experience.

Looking for a good meal, be it lunch or dinner? Might I suggest in the heart of Walker's Point, **Fixture**. Noted for their delicious pizza, their salads, sandwiches, soups, and Italian entrees really



satisfy, as well. Fixture is owned by Jake Taylor, a super Server named Johnny, turns his job into Performance Art! Fixture, is the building that housed Boom! For I think 13 years, then the little bar connected next door was christened The Room – that is where the eating takes place, today. In my continuous visits I've made these past few years, I've never been not impressed. You can visit

by yourself, or bring a group, you're in for a tasty, affordable time! Plus, if you have any history of Boom/The Room, it's fun to dine there and remember!

And once again all my Valentines, it's time for me to close. Wishing You all the priceless gift of Love this month and Always! Please remember, it's the glamour, not the grammar as I remain *Still Cordially Yours, Again!*



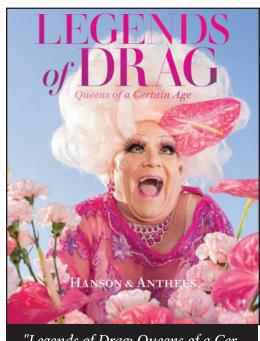


Arts Life

MUSIC • ART • BOOKS • MOVIES • THEATER

Lights...Camera...Queens!

By: David Todd, Writer Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine



"Legends of Drag: Queens of a Certain Age." by Harry James Hanson and Devin Antheus Photo by: Harry James Hanson

The Queens are coming! Well... "queens of a certain age." That's the title of the new photo book - "Legends of Drag: Queens of a Certain Age," a living history of drag honoring the queens who have persevered through the early days and supported and nurtured the next generation, all while keeping their craft at a fine-tuned, performance level. Authors Harry James Hanson and Devin Antheus traveled across the country visiting sixteen cities, including Milwaukee, and snapped 80 queens along the way. Each photo taken by Hanson features a diva styled alongside stunning floral creations arranged by

Harry James Hanson is an artist, cre-

ative director, and lifelong drag performer out of Brooklyn, New York. Their work spans the fine art, commercial, and editorial worlds and has been featured in the *New York Times*, *Vogue*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Dazed*, *PAPER*, *New York Magazine*, and *Rolling Stone*. Devin Antheus is a floral stylist, spirit worker, and writer in San Francisco.

The team photographed **eight** Wisconsin-based drag queens including a few familiar names and faces. "I liked the collaboration of the artists," BJ Daniels says. "While one was setting up the photos, the other was paying rapt attention to your personal story. Then they would hand you a lovely bouquet specifically designed for each artist being documented," Daniels explains, who has her own book on drag life coming out later this year.

Another Milwaukee icon, Karen Valentine, hosted the authors and crew at her home in Riverwest (pictured). "I loved the meeting of art forms - Applied and Performing Arts," Valentine teases, "I've had a few bird's eye peaks and trust me, you too will be impressed with what these former Milwaukeeans have created."

"Whenever I start a photo shoot with a photography team I don't know, there's a moment of hesitancy where I wonder if we'll all click creatively. I never really felt that with Harry and Devin and their team," says Ruthie Keester. Whether she's pulling balls for the Charity Bingo Game Show at Hamburger Mary's or taking to the stage herself, Dear Ruthie is a YouTube star and Milwaukee staple. "The shoot was smooth and fun... We were having such a good time that jog-



Authors Harry James Hanson and Devin Antheus. Photo by: Ken Hanson

gers and dog-walkers were stopping to watch us and join in on the laughs."

The book drops on May 22, 2022, at a bookstore near you, with a celebration later at Saint Kate, the Arts Hotel, set for Friday, June 10, 2022. Further information on the event is still coming in.

You can pre-order yours today through the book's publisher abrams-books.com or online stores like Amazon – pick your poison. Then slap on your tiara and enjoy!



Milwaukee's own Karen Valentine.



A Little Bit Different Media is Proud to Present

Midwest LEATHER

A new quarterly e-publication that focuses on sex-positive lifestyles.

Coming in February 2022!
AVAILABLE ON ISSUU.COM • JUST \$2.00



THE HARLET REINESARCE AS GRI AS IT WAS DELACE

THE HARLET REINESARCE REPORT AS IT WAS DELACE

THE HARLET REPORT AS IT WAS DELACED RE

FEB 10TH @ 5:30PM VIRTUAL EXHIBIT

The Harlem of the 1920s, which produced an explosion of art, music and writing, was indisputably queer. Join the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center for a virtual exhibit and Q&A. The cost is free.

Visit
www.mkelgbt.org
to register





Resource Guide

A SHORT GUIDE TO LGBTQ + MILWAUKEE

TAVERNS

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

BUSINESS

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.

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

ADVOCACY

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



KEY:

• Distribution point for Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine



For updates, policies, and complete information on in-person and virtual programs, visit: lyndensculpturegarden.org



414.446.8794 2145 W BROWN DEER RD, MILWAUKEE, WI 53217

FEBRUARY 13
Birding with Poet Chuck Stebelton

FEBRUARY 19 Dog Day

FREE SOCIAL DISTANCE WALKING

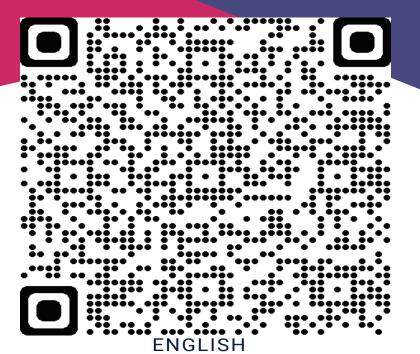
FREE Testing Pruebas GRATIS

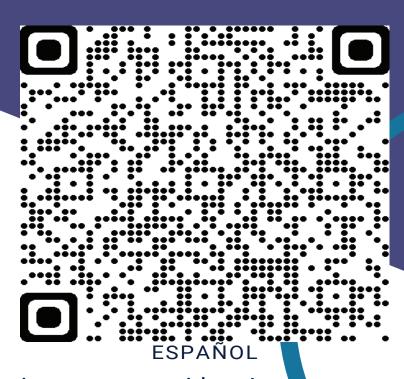
Come visit us for our services:

- Condoms and Safe Sex Kits PrEP -
 - Syringe Exchange Narcan -

Ven a visitarnos por nuestros servicios:

- Condones y kits de sexo seguro PrEP -
 - Cambio de Jeringas Narcan -





Scan the QR code to set a time to meet with us! ¡Escanee el código QR para hacer su cita con nosotros!

