# Milwaukee Pride Life

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Cordially Yours,
Again!: The Month of
Giving Thanks
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### FROM THE **PUBLISHER'S** DESK

### What Am I Thankful For This Year?



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

Well its November and everyone's favorite culinary holiday Thanksgiving is just about here. Its a time to give thanks for what we have and what we have gained this past year. I know I am very grateful to have had so much support in the publication of this magazine, from the staff, to our advertisers and to our readers, you have been monumental in the continuation of this publication through this year's up and downs. You have truly given us a reason to do what we do.

Speaking of giving, this month is our "Giving Issue," for it is that time of year that many seek out charities to volunteer with or make monetary donations. In our "Features Section" (page 8) we list a number of local LGBTQ+ charities right here in Milwaukee that could use your support.

The end of October was a very heavy news cycle. In this months "Main News" section we look at some of the bigger news stories both at home and abroad. There was good news in that Milwaukee is finally designating the site of the historic "Black Knight Brawl," as a historical landmark (page 3). There was also the unfortunate news of actor Leslie Jordan (page 4) and country singer Lavender Country passing (page 5). Finally we top our news section off with the story about 18 year-old actor Kit Conner who was forced to come out as bisexual on Twitter (page 7).

If you are looking for some things to do this month then our own Michael Johnston has all the happenings in Milwaukee this month in his "Cordially Yours, Again!" column (page 10).

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### THE **OPINION** EDITORIAL

### We Need To Talk About What Happened at Touché

On Tuesday, November 1, 2022 Chicago's legendary leather and fetish bar, Touché, celebrated its 45th anniversary. While any gay bar these days surviving for 45 years is notable, it is not the milestone that had Twitter abuzz the following day on November 2. It was how the bar chose to celebrate the event, particularly with their choice of entertainment for the event. Headlining the anniversary celebration was "Jerry Halliday and Company," a ventriloquist comedy act billed as "Las Vegas Comedy Stars." At the beginning of the act, Touché manager, David Boyer, asked audience members not to film any part of of the show. However, when Halliday took to the stage and brought out his featured puppet, "Sista Girl," one audience goer, who goes by crumb dumpster (or @CraftBeardMI) on Twitter, decided to pull out his phone and press record. Crumb dumpster posted clips from that performance the following morning and the post went viral. What is shown in those video clips are an outdated, raciest, Transphobic, and just poorly preformed "comedy" act. Though there were people in the audience who were "calling out" Halliday on the inappropriateness of his "act" there were far more people cheering him on. As Halliday continued to snap back at the audience the management of Touché did not stop the show. In fact at the end they ended up passing around a tip jar saying that all tips "would go feed Sista's five children."On staff member quite on the spot and many patrons left the bar early.

As word spread the next day via social media and people learned of the incident, the repercussions began. Titans of the Midwest announced that they would be removing their colors from the bar and would cancel any future events at Touche. Chicago Hellfire Club also canceled all future events at Touche as did Onyx Midwest, an African America Leather club in Chicago, who also listed a extensive list of what Touche would have to do to re-earn their business. International Mr. Rubber canceled all their events that were scheduled at



Touché for their event the following weekend.

Touché Manager, David Boyer responded on social media with a post stating, "We deeply regret not vetting the entertainer (Halliday) prior to the event. We apologize for not reacting and stopping the show. Racism and transphobia are wrong, we need to do better. Touche will continue to upgrade our awareness of and responses to racism, sexism and transphobia. We are currently exploring ways to address the harm was caused." The statement went on to say that Touche was planing on hosting a listening session at the Leather Archives & Museum on Wed., Nov. 9. Though many in the community said that this is not enough.

The LGBTQ+ community is unlike any other minority community, as our ranks include individuals from all genders, races, orientations and religions. Our bars, clubs, bookstores and bathhouses are safe spaces for our community and they need to be safe for everyone who considers themselves a part of that community. While I am well aware that there is a racism problem in our country and a national discussion on the topic is long overdue. We queer people know what it is like to be on the receiving end of hate and need to take the lead and began that discussion in our own community and soon. If we are divided as a community we are more susceptible to attacks of all types, be they political, social or physical. Standing in unity is our greatest strength, if we don't respect those members of our community that are different then we are defeated before we have it has begun.



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### Black Nite Uprising Officially Designated A Milwaukee County Landmark

now a physical marker along the Riverwalk is in the works

By; Drake Bentley

The Black Nite tavern, home to Wisconsin's first LGBTQ uprising and the site of a proposed taproom and distillery, officially received a Milwaukee County landmark designation this week. Now local LGBTQ leaders have formed a committee to design, develop and dedicate a physical landmark at the site of the old tavern, 400 N. Plankinton Ave.

At an October event, the Milwaukee County Historical Society
Landmarks Committee announced that the Black Nite would receive landmark designation. But, at the time, committee chairman Randy Bryant said that there might be a problem getting a physical landmark because someone would need to "grant the land."

The Black Nite Uprising happened on Aug. 5, 1961, when four servicemen went to the bar, but instead of signing a log and showing identification, the men fought the bouncer.

Josie Carter, a Black trans woman, forced the men away from the establishment. But, prior to leaving, the men vowed to return later that night to "clean up the Black Nite."

Carter then rallied the local LGBTQ community to come defend the Black Nite and when the men returned with friends they were met by more than 70 members of the LGBTQ community.



The Black Nite Tavern courtesy the Wisconsin LGBTQ History Project.

A brawl ensued, resulting in a number of arrests and hospitalizations.

The Milwaukee Journal wrote that nearly a dozen men were being sought by police after an "invasion of the Black Nite."

The event became the first LGBTQ uprising in Wisconsin history and happened roughly eight years prior to New York's Stonewall riots in 1969.

The bar was torn down in 1966 to make room for the freeway. The lot has been vacant for more than 55 years.

But, recently, Mequon-based Foxtown Brewing announced it has a plan in place to build a taproom, distillery and restaurant at the location. A parcel of the land is city-owned, at 406 N. Plankinton Ave., and that would be turned into a portion of Riverwalk.

"That parcel is proposed to be used for a new Riverwalk connection, as part of the Foxtown Landing development proposal," said Department of City Development spokesperson Jonathan Fera.

The city's Redevelopment Authority meets Thursday, when the board "will consider this land sale for the small parcel at 406 N. Plankinton for the overall development," Fera said.

The Riverwalk portion would need to be approved by the City Plan Commission.

Brice Smith was part of the team that submitted the Black Nite for county landmark designation. When he heard that getting a physical marker for the county landmark wasn't automatic, he wanted to gather a team and form a committee of local LGBTQ leaders.

The newly formed committee includes Ald. JoCasta Zamarripa and Milwaukee County Supervisor Peter Burgelis, and those who had a role in the submission of the Black Nite to receive a county landmark designation.

The committee members thought they should see their options for acquiring the land, but then Foxtown Landing beat them to the punch, announcing its plans on Nov. 2. According to Smith, developers with Foxtown Landing are in support of a physical landmark for the Black Nite within this newly formed portion of Riverwalk.

### Leslie Jordan, Beloved Actor And Social Media Star, Dead At 67

Leslie Jordan, beloved comedian and actor known for his work on "Will and Grace," has died, his agent announced on Monday, October 24, 2022.

He was 67.

"The world is definitely a much darker place today without the love and light of Leslie Jordan. Not only was he a mega talent and joy to work with, but he provided an emotional sanctuary to the nation at one of its most difficult times. What he lacked in height he made up for in generosity and greatness as a son, brother, artist, comedian, partner and human being. Knowing that he has left the world at the height of both his professional and personal life is the only solace one can have today," Sarabeth Schedeen, Jordan's talent agent, said in a statement to CNN.

"Beyond his talents, Leslie's gifts of bringing joy to those he touched, his ability to connect with people of all ages, his humility, kindness and his sweetness will be sorely missed by all," his attorney Eric Feig said in a statement.

Jordan was involved in a car accident on Monday morning in Hollywood and was pronounced dead at the scene, according to the LA County coroner, who identified Jordan, and a spokesperson for the LA Fire Department.

#### Jordan's move to Hollywood

In his 2009 book "My Trip Down the Pink Carpet," Jordan documented his move from Tennessee to Hollywood in 1982. He "boarded a Greyhound bus bound for LA with \$1,200 sewn into his underpants and never looked back," a publisher's description of the book read.

The actor found work on television in shows like "The Fall Guy," "Coach" and



"The People Next Door."

Jordan originated the role of Earl "Brother Boy" Ingram in the award-winning play "Sordid Lives," which he reprised in the 2000 independent film adaption.

He was a fan-favorite for his recurring role as Karen's friend Beverley Leslie on "Will & Grace." He also appeared in "American Horror Story" and "The Cool Kids."

His star shone even brighter during the height of the pandemic when his social media presence took off on Instagram, garnering him millions of followers.

The platform also became a place where Jordan shared about his struggles, memories and family stories (many about his beloved mama) through the prism of humor.

Jordan talked to CNN's Anderson Cooper about his past substance abuse and being sober for more than 20 years. "People say 'Well how do you get sober, what's the best way," Jordan said. "Yeah, well 120 days in the jailhouse in Los Angeles. That will sober you up."

In one post, Jordan recalled a guard who took pity on how much Jordan disliked incarceration and informed him that they had Robert Downey Jr. (who decades ago made headlines for a few brushes with the law) in custody and would be releasing Jordan and giving Downey Jr. his bed.

"Pod A, cell 13, top bunk," Jordan recalled. "I feel responsible for most of Robert Downey Jr.'s success. Honey, I gave him a bed."

His last posting on Instagram was him singing a hymn with artist Danny Myrick on Sunday, October 23, 2022.

Source: https://www.cnn. com/2022/10/24/entertainment/leslie-jordan-dead/index.html



Jordan with Will & Grace co-star Sean Hayes.

### Patrick Haggerty, Trailblazing Gay Country Star, Dies At 78

When Patrick Haggerty was gearing up to record his very first country music album, he had a choice to make.

He could be the industry-friendly country star and remain in the closet, or he could use music to make a statement about what it was like being a gay man in a deeply discriminatory world.

He chose the latter, and 1973's "Lavender Country," Haggerty's first album recorded under the same name, is now widely considered the first country album recorded by an out gay musician.

Haggerty, an unflappable activist for LGBTQ and socialist causes and mar-



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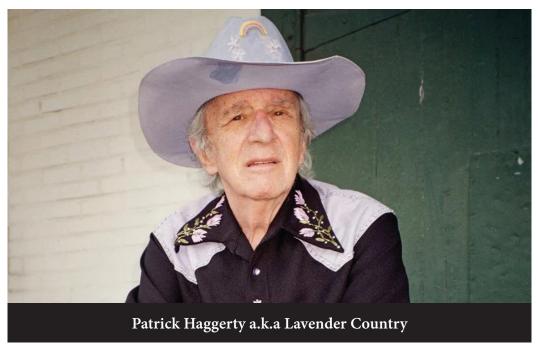
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ried father of two, for years was persona non grata in the music business. "Lavender Country" was a defiantly queer record, with songs like "Cryin' These C\*\*ksuckin' Tears," during a time when few musicians in any genre were comfortable coming out as gay.

So it was surprising, most of all to Haggerty, when he got his chance in 2014 to re-release that historic album and record another one, performing with other LGBTQ country musicians and sharing his story with millions. He became a country music star after all.

"The very thing that sank me in the first place is the very thing that jettisoned me into this position," he told CNN earlier this year.

Haggerty, the pioneering septuagenarian country crooner, died Monday, several weeks after he'd had a stroke, said Brendan Greaves, a close friend and record label executive. Haggerty was 78.

#### From obscurity to stardom

Haggerty never attempted to tamp down or hide his queerness. He was kicked out of the Peace Corps in the '60s for being gay, he told CNN earlier this year. He found family in Seattle's LGBTQ community, members of which helped convince Haggerty, a self-proclaimed "stage hog," to record an album. He told Pitchfork in 2014 that his gay

friends in Seattle were "who we made it for, and that's who we played it to."

Haggerty wrote "Lavender Country" as a statement to the music industry – he'd refuse to bend to the heteronormative standards of the times, and he certainly wouldn't attempt to mask his queerness. "Lavender Country" was a protest record. He assumed it would be his last.

"When we made 'Lavender Country,' we weren't stupid," he told CNN. "No genre was going to take stock of anything that I had to say."

### Meet the queer vanguard of country music

In the decades between his first and second albums, Haggerty devoted his life to activism. A staunch socialist – he often called himself a "screaming Marxist b\*tch" – he advocated for HIV/AIDS awareness, LGBTQ causes and the civil rights of Black Americans. He had two children with his husband and retired to a town across the Puget Sound, his musical dreams long dashed.

"I filled up my life with all kinds of interesting and engaging things that were meaningful to me that didn't have anything to do with music," he told CNN in March.

(Continued on pg. 6)

### **Haggerty Dies**

(Continued from pg. 5)

But in 2013, a record collector purchased Haggerty's record on eBay and shared it with Greaves, who "cold-called" Haggerty and discussed re-releasing the album on his label, Paradise of Bachelors. Haggerty was suspicious, Greaves remembered – Haggerty, as he told CNN earlier this year, was mostly performing for nursing home crowds for free at that time.

That call with Greaves was the first step to reintroducing Haggerty and Lavender Country to new listeners, many of whom had been hungry for an out gay country star. Paradise of Bachelors would go on to re-release Lavender Country's eponymous first album, which was once only available by mail order in the back of an alternative newspaper in Seattle.

Within a matter of months, Haggerty was thrust into an industry he long believed had shut him out.

"Finally, like 35 years of repressed grief about 'Lavender Country' burst forward and I'm just like in a puddle of tears," he told CNN about the day he got the call from Greaves. "My life changed completely and forever that day."

#### He became a country star his way

As more people heard "Lavender Country" and learned Haggerty's story, his contributions to country music were acknowledged and appreciated more widely. He even starred in a 2016 documentary short about his life and legacy, and his music soundtracked an original ballet performed by a company in San Francisco.

He performed the songs he'd written more than 40 years earlier with new gay country stars like Orville Peck and Trixie Mattel, who've both found considerable success for integrating their identities into their acts.

Peck remembered Haggerty as the "grandfather of queer country" in an Instagram post.

"One of the funniest, bravest and kindest souls I've ever known, he pioneered a movement and a message in Country that was practically unheard of," wrote Peck, along with photos of the two performing together. "A true singular legend."

Over the last year, Lavender Country played shows across the US in support of its second record, "Blackberry Rose," performing with other LGBTQ country acts like Paisley Fields, who remembered Haggerty as a "trailblazer, fearless

and outspoken."

Knowing Haggerty changed Greaves' life, he wrote on the social accounts of his label, and leagues of others. Even more than his music, Greaves told CNN, the memories of Haggerty rehearsing in his living room, playing with Greaves' son and teaching him how to make banana cream pie are precious to him.

"He taught me how to be a better father and a better person," Greaves told CNN. "As outspoken and loud as he was, and for all of his diva behavior, which was kind of legendary and difficult at times, he was also a very gentle, kind family man and friend and mentor."

Haggerty never aspired to country stardom in the traditional sense and had no regrets about the winding road it take to get him there. He still expressed disbelief that he could live his dream – performing music with a message – and do it his way.

"In secret, I wanted to be a hambone all along, I admit it," he previously told CNN. "But now I get to use my hambone-edness to foment social change and struggle for a better world."

Source: https://www.cnn. com/2022/11/01/entertainment/ patrick-haggerty-lavender-country-death-cec/index.html

Developers with Foxtown Landing were not able to be reached before publication.

Fera said the city will meet "in the days ahead" about its role in placing a physical marker on the Riverwalk, adding the city is in the "very early stages" of the process.

"(Department of City Development) is open to this idea and is looking forward to further conversations with LGBTQ+ community members and the development team on this topic," Fera said.

Smith's committee will meet in two



weeks to elect a chair and discuss fundraising and design for a proposed physical landmark. The group has received the support of the Downtown and Third Ward business improvement districts.

"We are proud of the history of our neighborhood and support this opportunity to memorialize the Black Nite tavern as a County Landmark and will continue to work with the appropriate parties for the placement of a physical marker," said Paul Schwartz, executive director of the Third Ward improvement district.

Source: https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/2022/11/17/black-nite-uprising-of-ficially-designated-a-milwaukee-county-landmark/69651980007/



### 'Heartstoper' Star Kit Conner Forced To Come Out As Bisexual

"Congrats for forcing an 18 year old to out himself," Connor wrote on Twitter after some fans accused him of queerbaiting by playing a bisexual character.

Heartstopper star Kit Connor said he was forced to come out as bisexual after fans accused him of queerbaiting.

In a tweet on Monday, October 31, the actor posted, "back for a minute. i'm bi. congrats for forcing an 18 year old to out himself. i think some of you missed the point of the show. Bye."

Connor plays Nick Nelson, a bisexual high school student, in Heartstopper, a show following a group of teenagers as they explore their relationships and identities.

While Connor's sexuality has been speculated about for months, online discussions intensified after photos circulated in September showing Connor holding hands with Maia Reficco, who's co-starring with Connor in A Cuban Girl's Guide to Tea and Tomorrow.

The photos set off increased accusations that Connor queerbaited with his role in "Heartstopper." In mid-September, Connor announced he was leaving Twitter, returning only to post his coming-out message.

Alice Oseman, who created the Heartstopper webcomics, denounced the way Connor was forced out of the closet on Twitter.

"I truly don't understand how people can watch Heartstopper and then gleefully spend their time speculating about sexualities and judging based on stereotypes," Oseman posted in a reply to Connor's tweet. "I hope all those people are embarrassed as FUCK. Kit you are amazing."



Multiple Heartstopper co-stars likewise chimed in with messages of support for Connor.

"You owe nothing to anyone. I'm so proud of you my friend," wrote Joe Locke, who plays Charlie Spring, Nick Nelson's love interest.

Some fans tweeted about an image of a scene from the "Heartstopper" comics where a teacher intervenes when students gossip about the sexuality of Nelson, Connor's character.

"You can't tell whether people are gay by what they look like," the teacher said. "And gay or straight aren't the only two options. Anyway, it's very rude to speculate about people's sexuality."

Other fans posted related sentiments, noting that queerbaiting is a term that should generally describe works of fiction that hint at but don't actually show LGBTQ characters and relationships.

"Real people cannot queerbait," wrote one person. "Harassing an 18yo kid until you force him to come out is AB-HORRENT."

n June, Connor spoke with W Magazine about online speculation around his sexuality. He understands the desire for authentic queer representation, he said, but his boundaries should still be respected.

"People can get a bit too comfortable on social media," he told the magazine. "If I haven't said anything, you shouldn't assume anything, but you also shouldn't pressure me to tell people. It's a very personal journey that people have to go on."

Source: https://www.metroweekly. com/2022/11/heartstopper-star-kit-connor-forced-to-come-out-as-bisexual/



back for a minute. i'm bi. congrats for forcing an 18 year old to out himself. i think some of you missed the point of the show. bye

23:02 · 31/10/2022 · Twitter for iPhone

## **Pride Life Features**

THE EVENTS AND PEOPLE THAT ARE SHAPING LGBTQ+ MILWAUKEE

### **Local LGBTQ+ Charities to Donate this Holiday Season**

By William Gooden, Publisher, Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine

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

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

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

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

#### Milwaukee LGBT Community Center

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



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

#### Diverse and Resilient

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

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

#### **Courage MKE**

270 East Highland Ave Suite I Milwaukee, WI 53202 414-704-3856 info@CourageMKE.org www.couragemke.org

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

#### **Cream City Foundation**

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

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

#### **G/L Community Fund**

P.O. BOX 1686 Milwaukee, WI 53201 414-643-1652

glcommunityfund@hotmail.com

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

#### Abbey Of Brew City Sisters Of Perpetual Indulgence

info@brewcitysisters.org brewcitysisters.org

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

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

#### Children's Service Society Of Wisconsin

8915 W. Connell Ct. P.O. Box 1997 Milwaukee, WI 53226 414-266-2000

Toll free: 877-266-8989 TTY: 414-266-2465

www.chw.org

Children's Service Society of Wisconsin, a member of Children's Hospital and Health System, is the state's largest

private, not-for-profit provider of child welfare services. Our offices are located throughout the state of Wisconsin.

#### LGBT CENTER OF SE WISCONSIN

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

The LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin is an open affirming environment for people of all sexual orientations and gender identity expressions. We provide support, education, resources, and advocacy to achieve a stronger and healthier world for all LGBTQ+ people and allies. With collaborative networking in Racine, Kenosha, Walworth County and Northern Illinois we will empower our community to provide a safe space to support and celebrate LGBTQ+ diversity, equity, visibility and community building.

#### Fair Wisconsin

122 East Olin Avenue, Suite 100 Madison, Wisconsin 53713 Phone: 608-441-0143

> info@fairwisconsin.com http://fairwisconsin.com

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

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

#### 16th Street Community Health Centers Chavez Clinic

1032 S. Cesar E. Chavez Drive Milwaukee, WI 53204 414-672-1353

#### National Ave. Clinic

1635 W. National Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53204 414-672-1353 Parkway Clinic 2906 S. 20th Street Milwaukee, WI 53215 414-672-1353 Layton Clinic 4570 S. 27th Street Milwaukee, WI 53221 414-672-1353

#### United Community Center Geriatric Clinic

730 W. Washington Avenue Milwaukee, WI 53204 414-672-1353

#### **Community Prevention Center**

1243 S. Cesar E. Chavez Drive Milwaukee, WI 53204 414-897-5645 https://sschc.org/

The Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers has proudly cared for the south side of Milwaukee and Waukesha for over 50 years. They provide the highest quality medical, behavioral health, social services, dental, urgent care and substance use care to every person who walks through their doors. Regardless of insurance status.







### The Month of Giving Thanks

Well, the Holiday Season is in full gallop. Fundraisers are being held, the Theatre Season and Performing Arts are doing their thing. And is it coincidence or just a warped sense of humor that as of this reading, Halloween and the Elections are both history? And Amen and Halleluiah - it is the end to all those hideous political commercials. I hope and trust, you all voted! This year, I got "drafted" into a campaign of promoting the Act of Voting: "Drag Out the Vote"! And that we did! Thank You Dave at La Cage and Don at The Art Bar for allowing us the format to remind in a hopefully entertaining manner the importance of the 2022 Vote. I maintain that I'm apolitical, fostering friendships with the Rockefellers, Hoovers, Alice Roosevelt Longworth, as well as FDR's clan, and the Kennedys of Hyannis Port. There is good, and not so good in each party. And I love a party! The people, the public, the voters have spoken by their act of voting, now we must graciously accept the results. Whether or not they were to your particular view and or liking be damned. And so we go on.

My what a hectic Halloween I had! And yes, I'm bragging! Quite flattering, indeed! Goldie Adams, Maple Veneer, Madame Tuck, and I had the thrill to appear at The Weidner Center of Green Bay. We were united in commemorating Halloween, with HallowQueen IV, 2022! The University of Green Bay is such a welcoming campus, truly giving me hope for our future. Thank You Nicole Kurth and crew for being extraordinary hosts! My "Bosom Buddy" Maple Veneer was busy getting us gigs all over town as costume judges. Have gavel, will travel! Eat your heart out, Judge



Judy! We had a blast Saturday evening at La Cage with D.J. Jamey. And then on Halloween night, we cruised over to Kruz at the invitation of Jerry and Serge, joining Donny AKA Viki Liberty, Mrs. Beasley and Kruz's very own Ginger to round out their panel of costume nodding. To make the weekend even sweeter, there was no trick, the treat of a Sunday Fun Day Show Tunes at Club Charlies, where patrons paraded in their "seasonal finery". Applause to all, what creativity, Green Bay, Milwaukee: La Cage, Club Charlies, Kruz, and everywhere in between! Bravo!

Nat "King" Cole is winding down his uber-popular gig at The Milwaukee Rep's Stackner Cabaret with the final performance, Sunday, 11/06. The first full day of Daylight-Saving Hour (Saturday, November 5, we fall back an hour before going to sleep that means turn back your clocks, watches and time pieces. If it's 12 midnight when you're off to slumber, in reality the new time will be 11:00 p.m.) "Wife of a Salesman" Concludes at The Rep. also on 11/06 at

The Stiemke Studio.

Fear not, with Shows closing, new Shows will be opening. "Beehive: The 60's Musical" will take over the Stackner Cabaret where Nat "King" Cole was headlining. The Twisting and Mash Potato-ing will begin Thursday, November 10th and the dancing and prancing will continue, until last call, Thursday, December 15th. Wednesday, November 16th - Sunday, December 11th "The Nativity Variations" is being performed in The Quadracci Power House, "A Christmas Carol" the Dickens classic at The Pabst Theater closes out the Season each year – a true tradition! On the topic of Tradition, no I'm not going to break into the infamous ditty from "Fiddler on the Roof" but will share that PRIDE Night at The Rep will continue this Season, once again with B.J. Daniels, Dear Ruthie Keister, and Karen Valentine (K.V.) Tuesday, November 29th "The Nativity Variations", Friday, January 20, 2023 Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing", and Wednesday, April 19th, 2023 "God of Carnage" and/or "The Greatest Love of All - The Whitney Houston Story". When ordering Tickets for these three Shows, You will receive a significant discount when You use the code word "PRIDE". B.J., Ruthie, and K.V. will all be on hand, on these specific evenings to welcome you and to pre party with you! What fun, we'll

Skylight Music Theatre tips its hat to the mighty mouse, Mickey, with "A Jolly Holiday" Celebrating Disney's Broadway Hits Friday, November 18th – Sunday, December 31st (New Year's Eve). 30 of your favorite hits to get you into that Holiday mood. For some folks, this time of the year isn't so enjoyable, perhaps it could be described as pure misery! Milwaukee Chamber Theater proudly presents "Misery" adapted by William Goldman, from the novel by Stephen King Friday, November 18th – Sunday, December 18th A Wisconsin Premiere!

Renaissance Theaterworks is offering up "The How and the Why" by Sarah Treem, Directed by Renaissance's very own and co-Founder of Renaissance, Suzan Fete. Described as Theater by Women, for Everybody! Gleefully celebrating 30 successful seasons! These Ladies work hard and are so dedicated and delightfully delicious! I sat on their board for 3 seasons, so I saw firsthand how hard they toil! You can catch this masterpiece through Sunday, November 13th.

The Milwaukee Ballet Company, under the direction of Michael Pink, offers a "Season of Inspiration". Thursday, November 03rd - Sunday, November 06th. The place to be is Uihlein Hall of The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts for "Swan Lake". And, if it's the Holiday Season, it's "The Nutcracker" Saturday, December 10th - through Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24th, also at The Uihlein. Ballet isn't your thing? Visually, the sets, costumes, and lighting all so pretty. It's a seasonal card come to life!

You can once again "Dream the Dream" – for Cameron Mackintosh's Classic "Les Miserables". The Tony Award Winning Creation returns to The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts, Uihlein Hall. Tuesday, November 29th - Sunday, December 04th. I can't think of a grander way to launch the Broadway Season. Please be mindful of what you're taking in. The last time "Les Mis" played here at intermission, I overheard someone whining about it being so sad ... The Miserable ? Was she expecting SNL?

Rev. Tory V. Topjian of The Milwaukee Metropolitan Community Church is extending an invitation to one and all to attend his parish's annual fundraiser. And like Tory and the Milwaukee MCC, this is not your Grandmother's Church. Not that there is anything wrong with her place of worship. Tory will host an evening you want to participate in! This year it's Saturday, November 12th at Potawatomi - the Serenity Room; doors will open at 6:00 p.m. Trust me, nothing will be serene! "A Night of Cabaret" starring Maple Veneer, Dita Von, and Karen Valentine. A No Host Bar, Hors D' Oeuvres, and Food Stations, and don't forget a priceless Silent Auction! This Auction always provides great options for Holiday gifts and giving. In the past, Dan Nelson's phenomenal stained glass art creations, an original Brian Buchberger painting (which is simply breath-taking) and restaurant gift certificates, to some of the best eateries in town, just to name a few things that have enriched my life through out the years. I also have a great time with all the folks who turn out: Dan Nelson, Brian Buchberger and Andy Schaidler, III, B.J. Gruling and Rick Clark, George Schneider and most of his Staff from This Is It, and so many more, all turning out in support.

Saturday, November 19th The Mitchell Park Domes will unveil their three kings or, in their case, Domes. They will don their new and gay apparel. In other words, it's the 2022 Holiday Floral Show. You can experience the blossoming of nature at it's very best, perfect for the entire family, from womb to tomb. In its full glory until Monday, January 03, 2023.

Maple Veneer and I truly appreciate the great feedback and reviews received from our Review "Bosom Buddies" monthly (mid-Saturdays) 5:00 p.m. La Cage. The month of November, it is slated for Saturday, November 19th with Special Guest Star Don Lobacz (Our Chairman of The Board) singing Live! Our salute to the Holidays or "Holidaze" gets unwrapped on Saturday, December

10 with crowd favorite packages Doug Clemons (who'll be free lancing as Director of "The Golden Girls Holiday Show" at Hamburger Mary's) and The Milwaukee Opera Theatre's very own Brett Sweeney caroling live! Of course, Maple and K.V. could never make the "magic" without You the Audience! Brandon Beaulieu and his bodacious behind will be behind the bar, the tantalizing Kelly Klawes, the First Woman of Lighting, Our Lady with the Lamp, and Mr. Sound, Mr. Music, Mr. Beat, D.J. Jamey Sewell. He sets the mood, does the ads, posters, photos, sounds, and the visuals. All Our Bosom Buddies.

If you're looking to add some art to your home or office, I had the pleasure of visiting Cynthia Henry's Gallery, in a word, Wow! AYZHA Fine Arts Gallery & Boutique 161 West Wisconsin Avenue Suite LL 300, in the Plankinton Arcade, right below T.J. Maxx in the newly, updated, upgraded, refined, got to visit Grand Avenue Mall. I'm sure this name is outdated, but that's how I know it. The "Voice of Milwaukee", the flawless Carole Caine, is on WTMJ 620 AM Radio Mondays 9:00 am - 12 Noon. This is where TMJ Radio City has relocated after a lifetime on Capitol Drive. The Capitol Drive Studios will exclusively be television, WTMJ Chanel 4. A major food court, a bar, different activities attracting tourists as well as residents of the Cream City all will go to gather at this revitalized Mecca once again.

Ascent Wellness hosted a fantastic fundraiser celebrating, commemorating, and remembering the life and times of Grant Heffelfinger. Grant left us, way too soon, but his memory and legacy will live on. Thanks to all who participated in the Grant Heffelfinger Memorial Big Gay 5 K Run & Walk and the fundraiser for Ascent Wellness, a gym dedicated in helping the disenfranchised, wheelchair bound or with mental/emotional problems, or even financially unfit to get in shape. Located at 440 West Vliet Street, Grant's Business Partner, Tony Lang-

timm and his wife Catia Figueiredo and colleagues will keep Ascent ascending. I was honored to be selected to "Host" both events. These events provided me the opportunity to meet his parents, John and Julie, as well as his business partners, Tony and Catia, as well as numerous colleagues from Ascent. Such devotion, such dedication, it truly filled my heart.

A great Big Thank You to Rev. Tory for inviting me to be his Guest at "Big Night Out 2022 Step Out Stand Up for The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center". Bravo to Kevin Turner-Espinoza, their relatively new Executive Director. He made a night that has lived with me. Kevin has achieved quite a bit in one fast year, including a major move of office location. Kudos also to Marco Briceno in his role as President of the Board of Directors and keeping our Community Center alive and viable! The Four Sections, The Center is concentrating

on these days: recovery and victim Services, aging and disabilities, transgender and gender non-conforming, and Project Q. These cornerstones cover our community needs. Dear Ruthie was pure magic as Mistress of Ceremonies, keeping the Show going with her outrageous humor, a heaping helping of true heart, and was letter perfect with every name! Always the Professional!

Cream City Foundation (CCF) held their annual Business Equality Luncheon at The Pfister Hotel – celebrating and promoting LGBTQ+ Inclusive Workplaces. Emcee Megan Orcholski, Keynote Address: Mayor Cavalier Johnson and Elle Halo provided food for thought that complimented the delicious Pfister salad. Commending D.J. Quam, the President of the Board and Logan Self, Administrative Assistant who have done a great job of growing and evolving CCF this past year. That memorable afternoon also had all the

students who were awarded scholarships in helping their education. I've been fortunate enough to grant a number of scholarships to candidates though The Valentine Fund to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (Art Studies) and the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design (MIAD) in helping their careers. So important to keep looking forward.

Can you believe it, it's November? Saturday, November 05th turn back Your clocks one hour, Tuesday, November 08th VOTE (as if your life depends on it, it just may!), Friday, November 11th Veteran's Day, and Thursday, November 24th Thanksgiving. I'm thankful for all of you dear readers and wish you all bountiful blessings.

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



## **Resource** Guide

A SHORT GUIDE TO LGBTQ + MILWAUKEE



#### Art Bar •

Mixed bar with college-age crowd 722 E. Burleigh St. Milwaukee, WI 53212 (414) 372-7880 https://www.facebook.com/artbarmke

#### DIX Milwaukee •

Southern Style Video/Dance Bar 739 S. 1st St. Milwaukee, WI 53204 (414) 231-9085 https://dixmke.com

#### Fluid Milwaukee •

Gay Bar 819 S. 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 53204 414-Oh-Fluid/(414) 643-5843 https://fluidmke.com

#### Harbor Room •

Levis' & Leather Bar 117 E. Greenfield Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53204 (414) 672-7988 https://www.facebook.com/Harbor-Room-117-E-Greenfield-Ave-Milwaukee-WI-151982704821436/

#### Hunty's Social Club •

Drag Bar inside
Hamburger Marys
734 S. 5th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53204
(414) 488-2555
https://huntysmke.com

#### Kruz •

Levis' & Leather Bar

354 E. National Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53204 (414) 272-5789 <a href="https://www.facebook.com/kruz.kruzbar">https://www.facebook.com/kruz.kruzbar</a>

#### La Cage Niteclub •

Gay Dance Club 801 S. 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 53204 (414) 383-8330 https://www.facebook.com/ LaCageNiteclub

#### This Is It! +

Gay Bar with Drag Shows 418 E. Wells St. Milwaukee, WI 53202 (414) 278-9192 https://www.thisisitbar.com

#### Walker's Pint •

Lesbian Bar 818 S. 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 53204 (414) 643-7468 https://walkerspint.com

#### Woody's Sports Bar •

Gay Sports Bar 1579 S. 2nd St. Milwaukee, WI 53204 (414) 672-0806 https://www.facebook.com/woodys. mke

#### Zócolo Food Park •

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

#### C 3 Designs •

Custom Jewelry designer in South



Milwaukee, Wisconsin 2110 10th Ave. South Milwaukee, WI 53172 (414) 764-3892 http://c3designs.rocks/

#### Oun Kine Grindz •

Hawaiian Cafe, caterer and store 7215 W. North Ave. Wauwatosa, WI 53213 (414) 778-0727 http://www.okgrindz.com

#### Kilwins Milwaukee

LGBTQ-owned candy and ice cream shop in Bayshore Mall 5756 N. Bayshore Dr., Q101 Glendale, WI 53217 (414) 967-4803 https://www.kilwins.com/stores/ kilwins-milwaukee-bayshore

### Outwords Books Gifts & Coffee •

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

#### Purple Door Ice Cream •

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

#### Sherman Perk Cafe •

Local coffee shop in the Sherman Park Neighborhood



## **Resource** Guide

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

#### La Finca Coffeehouse •

Women owned coffee shop with unique coffees and eats.
3558 E Sivyer Ave.
St Francis, WI 53235
(414) 394-0722
https://www.lafinca.cafe

#### **Todo Postres LLC. •**

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

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



### Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers

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

#### **BESTD Clinic**

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

### Community Health Systems, Inc. ◆

A federally qualified Health Center that operates a medical, dental, and behavioral health clinic in Beloit, Wisconsin 74 Eclipse Center, Beloit, WI 53511 tel: (608) 361-0311 www.chsofwi.org

#### **Compassionate Clinical Services**

Provides private therapy and counseling services by Ryan Larkey, LCSW, SAC 985 W. Oklahoma Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53204

#### **Planned Parenthood**

(414) 839-1821 https://www. compassionateclinicalservices.com

#### **Vivent Health (formally ARCW)**

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



#### **Cream City Foundation**

Not-for-profit that funds LGBTQ+ outreach organizations PO Box 511099 Milwaukee, WI 53202 (414) 225-0244 https://creamcityfoundation.org

Diverse & Resilient •

LGBTQ+ health and advocacy group 2439 N. Holton St. Milwaukee, WI 53212 (414) 390-0444 https://www.diverseandresilient.org

#### **LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin**

Community center with many programs for LGBTQ+ groups
1456 Junction Ave.
Racine, WI 53403
(262) 664-4100
https://www.lgbtsewi.org

### Milwaukee LGBT Community Center •

Community center with many programs for LGBTQ+ groups
315 W. Court St.
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 271-2656
https://www.mkelgbt.org

### Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce

Networking and resources for LGBTQ+ business 5027 W. North Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53208 (414) 678-9275 https://wislgbtchamber.com



#### Central Library •

The main branch of The Milwaukee County Library system has books, movies, periodicals available for lending. 814 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53233 414) 286-3000

**KEY:** ◆ Distribution point for *Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine* 



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