

# Milwaukee **Pride** Life

VOL. 2 • ISSUE 1 • MKE'S LGBTQ+ NEWS SOURCE • FEB. 2022 • FREE



## *2022: The Journey Begins*

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Social Media,  
Everyone Loses**  
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2022

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FROM THE PUBLISHER'S DESK

A New Year, A New You!



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By William S. Gooden, Publisher  
 Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine

Well, it's finally 2022. A new year and a new opportunity. A time to look at yourself and your life and ask yourself, "What do you want to do with yourself in this coming year?" As we come into our third year of COVID-19, I realize it may be tough to find something new to accomplish in this new year, where we seem to be stuck in *lockdown limbo* yet again. So the old resolutions such as returning to school, hitting the gym, and career advancement may be more difficult than in previous years.

There seems to be no going back to the way things were. The only option remaining is to pursue the right path toward a new normal. I realize that phrase has been tossed around the last year or so, but there is a truth to it, for a new normal is a new start. This means growth is still possible even during a lockdown. Last year I started this magazine during the pandemic, and this year I am looking to expand on what was started with even more surprises and exciting ventures.

In this issue in our **Letter to the Editor**, Beth Stromberg gives us some *Hope for the New Year*.

In this month's **Opinion Editorial**, I look at a different type of epidemic, that of online bullying in *When Bullying Persists On Social Media, Everyone Loses*.

In **Main News**, we start the new year looking at some endings, as we recognize the passings of local gay rights leader Dick Wagner and Harbor Room proprietor Gregg Eddie Carver Fitzpatrick.

In our **Pride Life Feature**, writer David Todd explores some things you can do in *New Year...New Normal?* to help you find your new groove.

And in this month's **Spotlight**, we focus on the Latino Community, with a profile on Jose Salazar of the 16th Street Clinic, who is fighting a new war on an old epidemic, HIV.

Our very own Michael Johnston gives us the lowdown on all the great events and entertainment coming in the new year, in this month's **Cordially Yours, Again!**

Finally we have some photos from the *Winter Wonderland: A Holiday Celebration*, commencing a wintertime tradition with a party for LGBTQ who are 40-plus.

Have a Happy New Year!

- William Gooden

**THE OPINION EDITORIAL**

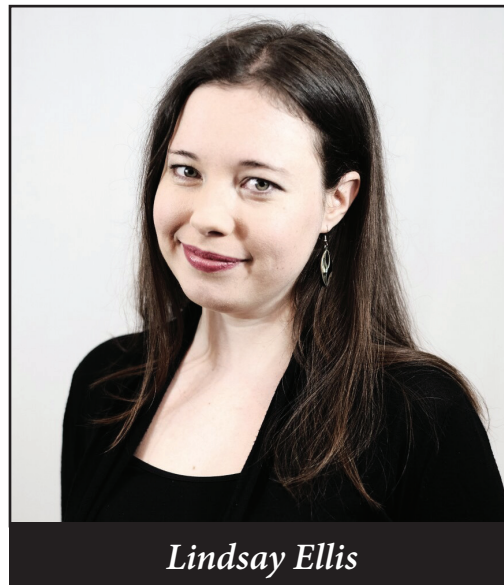
# When Bullying Persists On Social Media, Everyone Loses

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

Normally, I would prefer to start a new year with a positive piece of writing. However, on the evening of December 27, 2021, while perusing Twitter I saw a post that disturbed me. It was from one of my favorite YouTubers and author Lindsey Ellis. The tweet simply said "GOODBYE" and contained a link to a lengthy letter on her Patreon page announcing that she was leaving YouTube (and it appears most of social media for good). YouTubers stepping away from the forum that made them famous or has supported them financially is hardly earth-shattering and has become commonplace. However, in this particular case, there are two reasons I find this announcement upsetting.

The first reason is that Lindsey is a pioneer of YouTube, having been on the platform across channels since virtually its inception. She is also a pioneer of the video essay. While she wasn't the first person to post video essays on YouTube, she helped make the format popular and much more accessible. She would mostly post opinion and critique pieces on movies, television and popular culture. She went on to inspire others who would become YouTube stars, like Natalie Wynn of *Contrapoints*, who would post long-form and creative video essays on social, political and transgender issues. Ellis is also one of the first YouTubers who helped make the platform commercially lucrative, allowing herself and others to earn a living from the revenue generated by their advertisements shown during posting. This ushered in the era of "BreadTube."

Hearing of the retirement of someone so prolific on the platform was certainly upsetting. It is the foremost reason she gives for stepping away now that I find the most distressing.



*Lindsay Ellis*

Since the spring of 2021, Ellis has been under attack on social media at the hands of "Cancel Culture" over a tweet she posted. The offensive tweet in question: she compared the story lines of Disney's *Raya and the Last Dragon* to Nickelodeon's *The Legend of Korra*, and how there were very similar themes and plot points in their respective narratives. Almost immediately social media released an unrelenting assault of hate and vitriol against her as a consequence. I won't debate if the tweet was racist or insensitive to people of Asian descent - I will let you draw your own conclusions. What I found most disturbing was the intensity and ferocity of those that attacked her. Digging up old videos and tweets that were seemingly deleted or long thought gone and arranged in a "pin board" of Ellis' greatest offenses I find its own offense. In response, Ellis posted a "Mask Off" video on her YouTube channel addressing many of the tweets and videos that were being used against her.

Some of the subject posts were edited, misquoted, or taken completely out of context. Others she defended, and still

(Continued on pg. 3)

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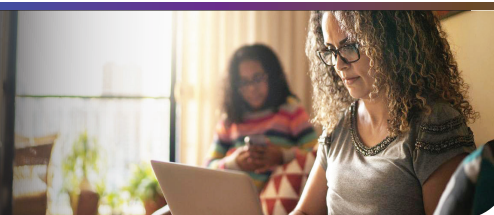
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# Letter to the Editor

NOTES AND COMMENTARY FROM OUR READERS



## Just Sayin': Hope for the New Year

By: Beth E. Stromberg

The new year has come with its new promises, new goals, and new hopes – both for the future and for each of us individually. I not only have hope for but believe in this country and the inherent goodness (however buried it may be) in humanity.

We are not a stupid people. We have examined the past and recognized that the old myths no longer hold true. The men and women in power can no longer dupe us into believing we are important by telling us that we are “better than” a different race, nation, lifestyle, or creed.

Many have come to a place in their lives where they know that those who have claimed to “have our backs” only had their own interests in mind. We



have become a stronger people – a people with the courage to say out loud what we all believe in our hearts. We now know and comprehend that we can only be divided by our willingness to accept less and pretend we did not see or hear what we know we did.

This year, let us refuse to be “used up”. Let us work together, for we cannot do it alone. We’ve all read history. We know that those whose power is ill-gotten only poison themselves.

We are infinitely powerful and can dig deep into the soil of hope, strengthening the roots of passion and hope. We can all access our inner herb, seek out the goodness, exhibit the heart of a warrior, and stand mighty. We can all learn to step outside ourselves and into the lives of others.

Let this be our quest for the new year: the discovery of each other – without prejudice, assumption, or separation. Let this year be the one in which our humanity claims center stage and we can speak truth without fear. A tall order? Yep. Just sayin’...

## Bullying On Social Media

(Continued from pg. 2)

others she owned and apologized when applicable. Hoping that this would be enough to satiate the angry mob, instead her responses only gave them fuel to redouble their attack and draw in others who simply wanted to join the dog pile when they saw Ellis' name trending.

Eventually, Ellis withdrew and began to suffer the effects of stress (she claims in her letter that she was literally s...ting blood) and PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder). Ellis' only option was to leave social media altogether in 2021, a year which should have been an enormous success for her. Last year MacMillan published her second novel, *Truth of the Divine*, and she even received a Hugo Nomination for Best New Author. Despite her achievements Lindsay states in her letter, “2021 will forever be the

worst year of my life.”

Ellis, who identifies as bisexual, was always a supporter of people of color and those in the LGBTQ community using social media to promote themselves and discuss their issues. If someone as successful and popular a creator as Ellis can be taken down by a social media mob, what is to stop someone from silencing the voice of one who is less well-known from shining the light on their community's issues or injustices?

I don't want to label Ellis a poster child for Internet bullying, it should be noted what was done to her constitutes just that. Ellis was simply bullied out of First Amendment right. The central argument for many of her detractors is that Ellis didn't think and act as they thought she should have, that she failed to “apologize in the right way” or “learn her lesson.” Ellis' worst crime was not a culturally insensitive tweet. It was the fact that she was a woman with an

opinion, who drew much attention for those opinions and was shunned for attempting civil discourse regarding that opinion.

As a society, when we lose our ability to express our thoughts and opinions in a open and healthy way, we all lose the opportunity to have our voices heard and to grow and change as a society to engage in that discourse. When we bully others into silence we lose that opportunity to have that discourse and thus we all lose. While I understand where “Cancel Culture” originates and comprehend its intended purpose, we need to admit that instead of using it to call out those actual big bad threats in our society. It has been hijacked and used to attack those that would help call out such threats. We need to learn to have a healthy discussion with one another. We must learn to listen to one another, so we can, for a change, win together.



**In The News**  
LOCAL & NATIONAL LGBTQ+ NEWS

## Dick Wagner, A Community Servant And Gay Rights Leader For Decades, Dies At Age 78

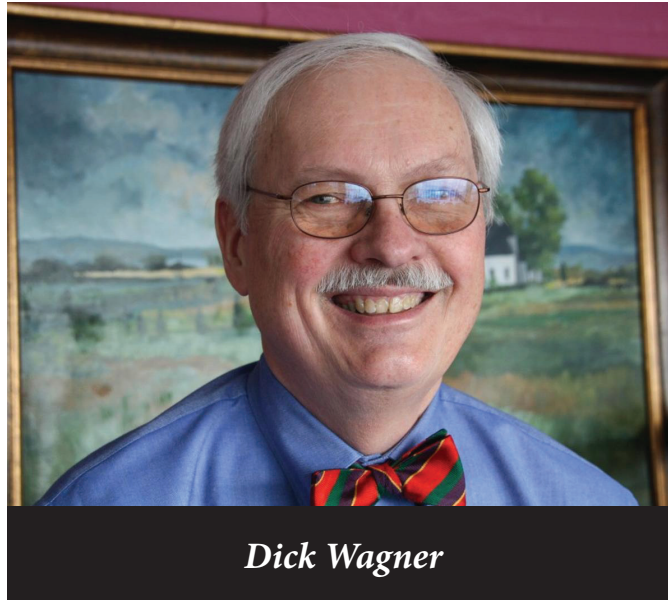
By: Dean Mosiman

R. Richard “Dick” Wagner, who was instrumental in establishing some of the state’s first anti-discrimination laws against gays and lesbians, and mentored local LGBT candidates throughout a half-century of civil service to the Madison area, died Monday. He was 78.

Wagner was found dead at about 1:30 p.m. Monday, December 13, 2021 at tiny Kerr-McGee Triangle Park, 728 Jenifer St., which he helped create in the late 1970s, as he was taking a bag of food that been mistakenly delivered to his Near East Side home to the correct address, a close friend said. The cause of death appeared to be a heart attack.

Wagner, who served as a leader in the gay community and local politics for decades, served on the Dane County Board from 1980 to 1994, including four years as chair, as well as numerous city and county committees and as a volunteer for other organizations. He was instrumental in endeavors ranging from the creation of Monona Terrace to recent improvements at Olbrich Botanical Gardens.

His work as a leader in the gay community helped lead to a city gay rights ordinance in 1974 and a county ordinance in 1980 prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation; co-founding UW-Madison’s LGBT Alumni association; and the New Harvest Foundation, the LGBT foundation for south-central Wisconsin. He men-



*Dick Wagner*

tored many political candidates and elected officials, including U.S. Sen. Tammy Baldwin, D-Madison, and U.S. Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Black Earth.

He was the first recipient of the city’s Jeffrey Clay Erlanger Civility in Public Discourse Award in 2007.

Wagner authored two groundbreaking books on the state’s gay history, “We’ve Been Here All Along” in 2019 and “Coming Out, Moving Forward: Wisconsin’s Recent Gay History” in mid-2020. He was known as a generous host of political and fundraising dinners and events at his home.

The news of his passing triggered an outpouring of tributes on social media.

“He was beloved,” longtime Ald. Mike Verveer, 4th District, one of Wagner’s closest friends, said in an interview. “Dick mentored a lot of LGBTQ candidates when it was unheard of. He couldn’t say no to public service. He just epitomized public service in the volun-

teer sense.”

A native of Dayton, Ohio, Wagner came to UW-Madison for graduate school in 1965, earning a master’s degree in American history the following year and a Ph.D in American history in 1971. He worked for the state in various budget, policy and management positions for 33 years.

Inspired by Harvey Milk, a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and the first openly gay elected official in California, who had been assassinated two years earlier, Wagner ran and was elected as the first openly gay member of the Dane County Board in 1980. Three years later, at the request of then-Gov. Tony Earl, he joined another board member on a fact-finding mission to meet with members of the gay community throughout the state. Based on their findings, Earl appointed the Governor’s Council on Lesbian and Gay Issues and asked Wagner to be co-chair.

“Dick Wagner was a deeply inspiring person in my life as a role model, mentor and lifelong friend,” Baldwin said. “I may not have entered public service if not for the guidance and encouragement he provided me to walk the path he paved. Dick lived a life that showed us all that history only moves in one direction: forward.”

Wagner also served on the Wisconsin Arts Board, Downtown Madison Inc., Historic Madison Inc., Madison Trust

**(Continued on pg.5)**

## Dick Wagner passes

(Continued from pg. 4)

for Historic Preservation, Olbrich Botanical Society, Friends of UW Libraries, Wisconsin Humanities Committee, and on Dane County Regional Planning and Airport commissions, where he championed the Starkweather Water Quality Plan and airport noise abatement efforts. He also chaired the city's Plan, Urban Design, and Landmarks commissions, and worked with other organizations. He lived in several landmark homes and helped create Period Garden Park, 110 E. Gorham St., in the historic Mansion Hill neighborhood.

"Dick Wagner served our community with passion and integrity," County Executive Joe Parisi said in a statement.

"Dick brought a unique perspective to the table, informed by his love and knowledge of history and public policy, and his experiences as an early, openly gay elected official. His courage and skill as a statesman and mentor helped countless people navigate their own difficult waters."

A strong supporter of ecumenical Christianity and social justice, he organized a rally in Dayton for civil rights after marchers were beaten in Selma, Alabama, and marched with the Rev. James Groppi for open housing in Milwaukee. He was a campus organizer for the Moratorium Against the War in Vietnam.

The city declared June 25, 2019, R. Richard Wagner Day, when Wagner published his first book during Pride Month that year. Verveer hopes to rename the city's Kerr-McGee Triangle

Park, which Wagner not only helped create but also tended to its gardens before dying there Monday, in his memory.

Q&A: Longtime Madison activist Dick Wagner writes book on gay history of Wisconsin

"Dick Wagner was a Madison icon, a true public servant and a pillar of our community," Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway said. "He was an outstanding leader in the LGBTQ community, and a personal inspiration for me. He was a trailblazer and a mentor for many.

"Most importantly he was a kind and generous man who treated everyone with respect and dignity," the mayor said. "His loss will be felt for many years."

Source: <https://lacrossetribune.com/news/local/govt-and-politics>

## Gregg Fitzpatrick, Owner Of The Harbor Room Bar, Passes

By: David Todd, Writer  
Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine

On December 12, 2021, we lost a vital member of our community. Gregg Howard Fitzpatrick (known to friends as Gregg Eddie Carver Fitzpatrick), owner of the Harbor Room Bar, passed away due to complications of COVID-19. He was 69 years-old.

Opened in 2000, is a staple of Milwaukee's gay community. The Harbor Room is a primarily a men's tavern serving the community, more specifically, the leather and bear communities. The popular tavern is a favorite to many in Milwaukee. Gregg was a supporter of many organizations and charities including ARCW (now Vivent Health), the Milwaukee Gay Sports Network, and many other sports and philanthropic endeavors. On June 3, 2021, Gregg's long-time partner, Eddie E. Carver, passed away. After that, Gregg had said, it was "one day at a time." Service and memorials were already held in December, but the



*Pictured (from left) friend Michael Davis with the late Eddie Carver and the late Gregg Eddie Carver Fitzpatrick.*

Harbor Room and Gregg wanted the community to know that in lieu of flowers sent to the bar, donations could be made to the **Holton Street Clinic** and **BESTD Clinic** in his name, another nonprofit supported by Gregg and the bar.

Gregg was preceded in death by his parents, Howard and Ruth and his sis-

ter, Sharon. He is survived by other relatives and countless friends.

The bar will remain open, continuing to be run under the same management as was requested by Gregg and his family. Maybe stop by and toast a drink to Gregg and Eddie – two steadfast supporters of our LGBTQ community now gone too soon.



# Pride Life Features

THE EVENTS AND PEOPLE THAT ARE SHAPING LGBTQ+ MILWAUKEE

## New Year...New Normal?

By: David Todd, Writer  
Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine

Chances are you cringe when you hear the term “normal” these days. I mean, really, what IS normal anymore? And “new normal,” - I apologize, but you understand where this article is going. What are some things that bring you back to the feeling of stability, familiarity and well, make you feel “normal”cy again? We surveyed a few dozen people to find out what it is that they have found works for them, and have even added a few. Maybe this can help make your 2022 the year of a New You! For example:

**Cooking:** Might as well start with a n essential. Everyone has to eat, and prices at the restaurants are skyrocketing, and the stores as well. I always encourage people to shop locally when able, even in on food assistance. Local butchers, farmers, dairy producers and bakeries all help the local economy, but can also help you in building new a lasting relationship. I love my butcher! So even if it’s one or two nights a week, take that time to buy the food, prep it, maybe put on some music, pour yourself something to drink and enjoy cooking – even if you are no cook. A grilled cheese counts, as do other a sandwich. Make it a habit.

**Gardening:** This sounds like a great idea. Indoor gardens have never been more popular. Seed beds and terrariums are easy to find at your local garden store (where you can get some advice if you’re a beginner), or you can always look on-line. From herbs to mushrooms or flowers and plants, they all kick off a routine of caring for them, nurturing them and getting your mind of off other things. In the end, you either have some tasty



treats to add to your cooking or some beautiful flowers or plants to bring you a sense of accomplishment.

**Travel:** Have you been somewhere on a plane during COVID-19? They're no longer the “friendly skies,” rather, the Great Unknown. Beginning with masking, then limited refreshments, then the risk of bodily harm from frustrated passengers, then you are left to guess if your flight will even leave the gate due to a last-minute staff shortage and/or a COVID outbreak. Instead jump in the car! There are great vacation destinations and points of interest within a short day's drive. There are the convenient destinations like Chicago and Minneapolis, but for the gay tourist there are resort towns like Saugatuck, MI just a four and half hour drive from Milwaukee, Boys Town on Chicago's North Side. Even Madison has a host of hotels and B&B's, with a number of gay bars available for your entertainment. You can even go international with a trip across the border to Canada (but first check their foreign traveler requirements for entry; no doubt it will require

proof of vaccination.)

**Book Clubs:** Read and socialize, whether this is in person or via Zoom (you don't even have to get out of your jammies). Book Clubs were a staple in the Oprah Winfrey days, and she's still suggesting offerings if that's your cup of tea. If not, find your own group with similar interests. Having from 6 to 12 members makes it easy to do one a month or every other month. You schedule regular meeting times. Socialize and maybe learn something. Or gossip. Try it – it's fun.

**Grooming:** Get a new haircut, color or refresh the one you have! One of the things we tend to neglect when we are confined to our home is personal grooming. C'mon – admit it! If you want to feel like your old self or even someone new – dress the part. Look good. Most salons are local, too, and you'd be supporting a local business, and they know how to style around a mask. So you're safe – and stylish!

(Continued on pg. 7)





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## New Year. New Normal?

(Continued from pg. 6)

**Get a Pet:** Someone suggested that her new puppy changed her world and focus. That couldn't be a more accurate statement. Pets, especially dogs and cats, take a lot of attention and care. Without knowing it you switch the burden of worrying about yourself and the world at large to running after Fluffy, training, feeding and grooming. And in return you get cuddles. Release those endorphins!

**Enjoy a Meal with a Friend:** Lastly, go out to eat. If you're leery about being in public, call that local establishment and ask them what their COVID safety procedures are – they would LOVE to host you. Local restaurants are struggling as much as you and I. Pick a favorite spot and go share a meal with just one friend. Mask to and from your table. Then sit and *kibbutz* for an hour or two. Reminisce about all those old times and make some new memories!

I'm sure there are many other things you can think of that are safe, minimally restrictive and can be done in a small group or the safety of your own home – like movie night on the phone! The point is to seek out those creature comforts and surround yourself with joyful activities. To you and 2022. Cheers!



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# In The Spotlight

SPOTLIGHTING MILWAUKEE'S AMAZING PRIDE COMMUNITY

## Spotlight on Latino Leaders: Jose Salazar - HIV Warrior

By David Todd, Writer  
Milwaukee Pride Life Magazine

HIV isn't exactly a hot topic anymore. With preventative drugs like Truvada (PreP) and HIV therapeutics, some may feel the epidemic is under control - and to some degree they may be right. However, HIV and AIDS affect diverse populations differently. "Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino people are disproportionately affected by HIV," says a Center for Disease Control (CDC) report published in 2021. Action is still a matter of life and death. And one of those leaders in Milwaukee is José Salazar.



*José Salazar, Director of HIV Services for the Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers*

The current Director of HIV Services for the Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers, Jose came to the United States as an immigrant and soon found a mission. Originally from Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, he settled in Milwaukee as a US citizen. Then something special happened in 2005: he discovered the Sixteenth Street Community

Health Center in the heart of Milwaukee's Hispanic/Latino community and started volunteering. His devotion to the community and dedication to HIV prevention and services soon elevated him from volunteer to staff member at SSCHC. In 2007 he officially joined the team. That same year he received accolades for his work in the community, receiving the Adult Community Leadership Award from Diverse and Resilient - a fitting start to what was to come.

Salazar was also awarded for Service Recognition in 2011 from the American Cancer Society. In 2012, he received recognition for joining the Wisconsin HIV Community Planning Network and State Action Planning Group as the Community Co-Chair. Nonetheless there was still more work to be done.

In 2014, he became Sixteenth Street's Director of Health Education and Community programs overseeing every aspect of how the organization works with the community to serve their needs. In May of 2020, he was proud to transition into the position of HIV Director.

He is a fixture in the HIV and Latino communities and has continued to earn recognition for his efforts to fight HIV. Alongside him is his husband of eight years, Earl Blair, the couple legally married in September of 2013. José is not only a role model but an effective advocate. He explained that, while the recognition for his work is very much appreciated, it is equally important to have role models in the community and to demonstrate that an immigrant can come to this country, dream big and succeed.

Salazar's work is vital to Milwaukee and our community, as Hispanic/Latino HIV affects 29% of the greater population (not including bisexual or DL men and their female partners). As we face escalating daily numbers of the COVID-19 pandemic, Salazar is keeping his eye on an epidemic that is far from over and still a deadly disease.



*José Salazar (right) with his husband of eight years Earl Blair (left).*

For more information, resources or to support their efforts, visit: <https://sschc.org/support-programs/hiv-care-prevention/>



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8PM - CLOSE

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# Cordially Yours, Again!

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

## Here's to 2022, Ready or Not!

As you read this column it's the New Year 2022, we've made it, Amen!

I never doubted it for a second for you, but me? LOL

I'm using the last few hours of the old year to pull this effort together. 2022 is the Year of the Tiger, per the Chinese Zodiac, Chinese New Year is observed Tuesday, February 1, 2022. The tiger is king of all beast, a symbol of strength, exorcising evils, and representing bravery. The animals are on a 12-year cycle, therefore the next year of the tiger will be, 2034.

Before we could bid adieu to the old year, we had some sad, significant adieus to make: **Gregg Fitzpatrick** made his exit, hopefully rejoining his beloved Eddie. Gregg will be forever remembered for giving the Community, The Harbor Room. Since the summer of 2000, for over 21 years the legendary leather/Levi lounge has kept the intersection of First and Greenfield a happening place. Friends and patrons have noticed since June, when his husband and business partner Eddie had died, Gregg had slowed down quite a bit. The glint was gone behind his eyes.

Gregg went through the motions, keeping the bar opened, and doing the best he could, day by day. Yes, the party kept going, I was thrilled to join Maple Veneer in doing The Harbor Room's Halloween Show and Contest 2021! What a time! Elbow to elbow, a great energy, everyone out, in costume (and very good to great costumes), and ready to have a good time! D.J. Kelly was on music, Glenn was manning the bar, with the help of a Newbie. And guests were drinking like the night before Prohibition! It was a "Saturday Night Fever", even though it was a Sunday. I have not seen this kind of a climate since the late 1970's - 80's. Such fervor!



*Michael Johnston*

The Halloween costumes were very impressive think Rio's Carnival meet's NOLA's Mardi Gras! Lights, Colors, Day of the Dead Tributes, First Place Award "Mary Poppers" a send up of "Mary Poppins" and just as magical. And to add to Mary's credibility, Mrs. Banks with her! Casper, Frank V. AKA "Francesca", Jamie and Andy, David, Jose as Cruella, and an array of leather, Levi's, plaids, flannels, boots, cowboy hats, riding crops, and Evita and these are a just a few of my favorite things.

Gregg was indeed present, but not center stage, as times past. He was sitting at table # 1, by the door, alone, in the dark, observing. Thrilled, but not participating. I sat with him for a bit.

Overwhelmed by the turn out and the feeling in the air. Gregg was pleased with the participation but satisfied with viewing from the sidelines. After thanking him for asking me to be on hand, it was on with the show and my duties, and off I went into the night.

The Evening really put me in mind of times past, all the Mr. Harbor Room Contest held in the heat of a mid-summer's night dream! The fun we had with that bacchanal!

Maple and I tried to do numbers, coordinate a Costume Parade, and add order to this Masquerade, but serendipity took over and fun and hang overs were had by all!

As of this typing, the party and The Harbor Room will continue! Bar Manager **Rob, Brian**, and dedicated Staff Members like **Glenn** will honor Gregg and Eddie's memory in the best way possible, with another 21 years of service and memories to be made! Lift your glasses!

Milwaukee's Energizer Bunny has taken his last bow as well. **Barney Brumm**, one of our Communities most colorful characters, who was positively ageless, with boundless energy and verve has finally napped. I first met him, while bar tending at Switch. He was all excited about skiing, tall, fit, but of a certain age where he should have been sipping Brandy from the chateau, yet he was still taking to the slopes! Barney always tipped with \$2 dollar bills.

He was a lawyer, a soldier, real estate agent, manager of the Ritz Theater, Owner/Manager of The Redwood Inn, City of Milwaukee employee, world traveler, Milwaukee Ballet enthusiast, runner, and ski bum!

To add to his fable, he was birthed on his parent's dining room table on February 10th, 1923. And he left us, for one more challenge, a few months shy of his 99th birthday.

To the Toast of The Bay View Terrace! **Mrs. Nita Gumbiner Soref** (1926 - 2021) of Milwaukee and Palm Springs. Socialite, Philanthropists, Wife, Mother, Friend, Neighbor, Community Activist, Patroness of the Arts and received The National Kipnis - Wilson/Friedland Award. Known for her integrity, generosity, and dignity. Nita's love and

commitment for the Milwaukee Ballet, the Florentine Opera, the Green Bay Packers, the Milwaukee Brewers, tennis, walking, and her vast generosity to ARCW (AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin) now Vivent Health was legendary. Every year, she was a Top Walker for AIDS Walk Wisconsin, having the great sense of humor of sporting the paper golden crown and wearing it as though it came from Tiffany's. Trust me, with Nita's carriage and demeanor it appeared to have!

I had the great pleasure to know Mrs. Soref, who quickly corrected me to call her Nita, through her dear, dear friends Robert Parrish and his late, beloved husband Richard Steele. They were quite a formidable trinity. And now Robert stands alone, but just as grand.

**Eric Phillips** death came fast and shocking to all, December 4th marked the funeral for a major friend of Milwaukee. A man whose death touched so many, so many feeling a major loss.

Eric was a true renaissance man: teacher, artist, chef, caterer, wherever there was a party – there was Eric! A whirlwind of fun, frivolity, and fabulousness. With all the remembrances I heard and witnessed first-hand... Eric will never really be gone, he'll live on, in so many.

The Milwaukee Repertory Theater's **Cara McMullin** has departed her role as Director of Marketing. She is an all-around fabulous person. I'm sad to say farewell. She is a dynamic, outgoing, and so forward thinking. Hoping The Rep will continue with her lead. Hoping Cara stays in the metro Milwaukee area, our Art scene needs her vision!

Another woman who is doing outstanding projects about town is **Carmen Murguia**. She and **Phantom Promotions**, **Sir Wayne Griffin**, Promoter, pulled their considerable efforts together for the First Annual "*Winter Wonderland – An LGBTQ+ Holiday Party*".

It was held at Freight 38, First and Washington, 838 South 1st Street, it's a real vogue venue. Adam, one of the owners, you may remember as a manager of the now defunct Hot Water/Where House now Boone & Crockett.

Turning on the party with the tunes – Broadcast legion, **D.J. Keli C** and **D.J. Tim Cole**.

What a thrill it was to work with the dapper **José Salazar**, happy to co-Host with him any time. I got to meet **Elizabeth Coggs**, such a lady, and so dedicated to our town!

**Kevin Turner**, the interim executive director at the Milwaukee LGBTQ + Community Center was on hand, it was great to meet him, it seems the Center is in good hands, as well. **April Calvert**, **Jay Reinke**, and many other revelers were out and about and getting into that old holiday feeling!

**KRUZ** had quite the Christmas Party despite COVID-19. I so love their fresh, real pine tree. Reminding me of my childhood. So fragrant, tall, and bright!

I met **Michael Andersen** of **Wisconsin Bike Federation**. He is the gentleman behind the *Nude Bike Ride*. He reported how popular and successful it was this past summer and they're hoping to do it again in 2022. And I'm hoping to be appointed to the Judge's Panel.

My Christmas wish this year was a visit from my "Piano Man", the love child of Liberace and Hildegard, **Gino DeLuca**. For five months he's been traveling the ocean blue, and was able to come home, ashore for a few weeks.

During his sabbatical, he did two Cabarets with me! We made our debut at **La Cage**, following a Green Bay Packers victory! And I so *verklemt* by our reunion, ended up with a voice that would make Stritch sound like an ingénue for the Met!

Our second performance a return to **This Is It!** George welcomed us back with open arms and Martini shaker, as we did our ever popular "*Hang Over Cabaret – New Year's Day*".

So fun, gathering friends, fans, patrons, and all around the 88 keys while ushering in a new year in song.

The **Bosom Buddies** show for this month, *Saturday, January 15th* with a 5 p.m. curtain at **La Cage**! Saluting the late, great Stephen Sondheim, all Sondheim

Show, in honor of **Maple Veneer's** Birthday! You don't want to miss this extravaganza! A cavalcade of performers, appearing live, and non-live all saluting Maple's birth, and Mr. Sondheim's legacy.

After our Bosom Buddies December edition, we were invited to **Jeff & Michele Green's** holiday affair. What a To-Do! A beautiful home, beautiful people, beautiful clothes, beautiful food, beautiful booze – Champagne!!!

Of course, Maple and I did a couple of numbers that brought the guests to their feet, and during our encore a new star was born! **Jody Michael Armata** made his "debut" a True "Sister"! She literally brought the house down! They now have a sky-light! LOL!

**Bill Johnston** did the Party - eat your heart out Martha Stewart! Babs was so fun! Great seeing **Terry**, **Mary Pat**, **Billy**, **Bradley**, **Everett**, and **Rick**, **Craig** the genius, **Jim**, **Pete** and **Larry**, **Christina**, **Barbara**, **Mike**, and **Kyle**, and a virtual Who's Who of The Midwest! Had to be torn away for yet another appearance. We did leave a trail of glitter to enhance North Lake Drive.

**Loving Soup Brothers**, 209 West Florida Street (414) 385-1532 this time of year. Monday – Friday 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m., Saturday 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Closed Sundays (and Saturdays in the summers). Flavorful homemade soup, hearty homemade bread, and very tasty, original sandwiches!

A very fresh, fun, friendly vibe and I have never been disappointed. Great customer service, very affordable, and nothing says comfort like hot, homemade soup, spoon for spoon a taste of love! And small business.

And now, it's time for me to close, the first column for 2022 Wishing You my treasured Readers A Happy New Year, hopefully making up for a less than stellar past year or so.

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



# Events & Happenings

PHOTOS OF EVENTS • NIGHTLIFE • MILESTONES

## Winter Wonderland: A Holiday Celebration



On Sunday, December 19, 2021, a first of its kind holiday event took place, "The First Annual Winter Wonderland: A LGBTQ+ Holiday Party," at Freight 38, 838 S. 1st Street. This party was unique in that it was thrown exclusively for LGBTQ+ individuals 40 and up. The creation of Milwaukee Pride Life's President of Marketing, Carmen A. Murguia and Phantom Promotions' "Sir Wayne" Griffin, the event was the perfect relaxed way to enjoy the holidays without all the rigmarole. The event included music by DJ Keli C and DJ Tim Cole, socializing, food, vendors, dancing and giveaways. The event was hosted by Karen Valentine and José Salazar.

Photos by Yvonne Kemp

# 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/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/woodysmke>

### 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>

### Outwards Books

Gifts & Coffee ♦  
LGBTQ+ books, movies and gifts  
2710 N. Murray Ave. #3645,  
Milwaukee, WI 53211  
(414) 963-9089  
<https://outwardsbooks.com>

### Purple Door Ice Cream ♦

LGBTQ-owned ice cream parlor with unique flavors and treats  
205 S. 2nd St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53204

(414) 988-2521  
<https://www.purpledooricecream.com>

### Todo Postres LLC. ♦

Gay-owned and operated bakery and dessert shop. Specializes in unique cakes for quinceañeras, weddings and pride events.  
958 W. Oklahoma Ave.  
Milwaukee, WI 53215  
(414) 988-2149  
<https://www.facebook.com/ToDoPostresOfficial/>

## HEALTH

### Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers

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

### BESTD Clinic

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

### Compassionate Clinical Services

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

### Vivent Health (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

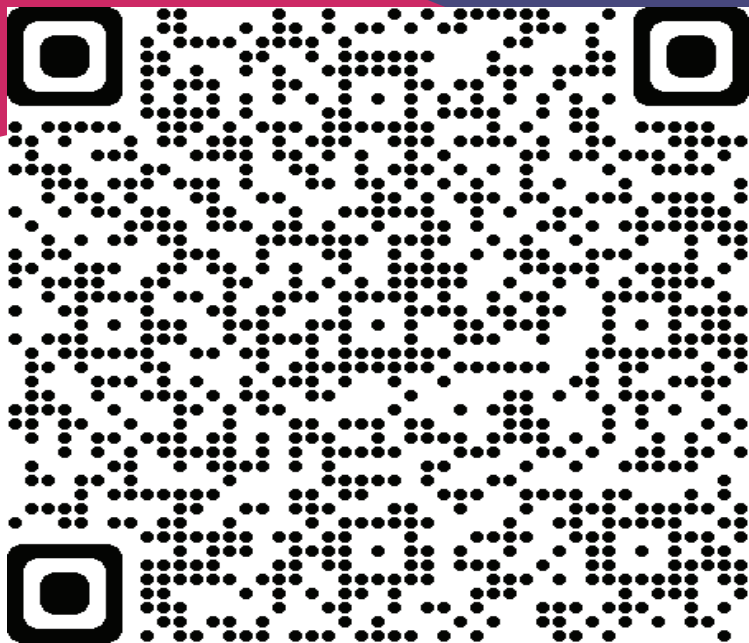
# FREE Testing Pruebas GRATIS

Come visit us for our services:

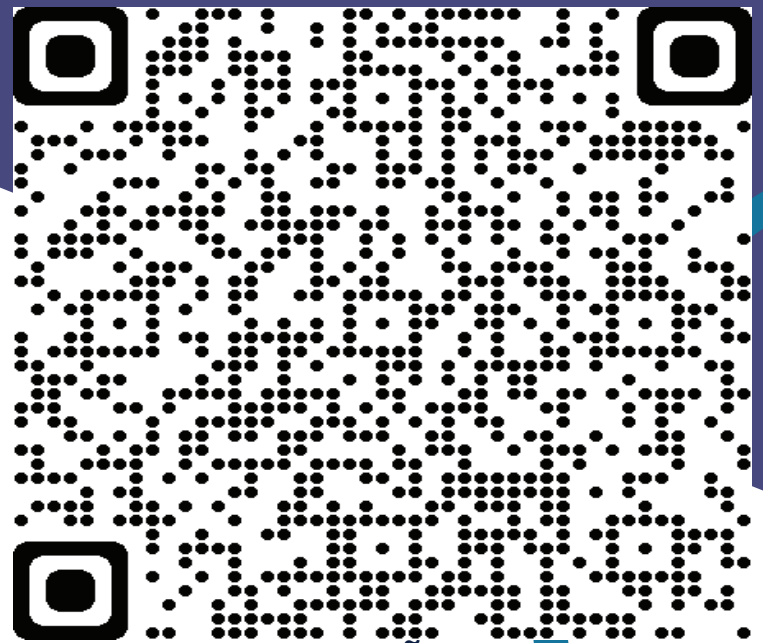
- Condoms and Safe Sex Kits - PrEP -
- Syringe Exchange - Narcan -

Ven a visitarnos por nuestros servicios:

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



ENGLISH



ESPAÑOL

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