

QUEST

MAGAZINE

Volume 23, #8

August 2016

Brad Jan
from the latest Book
BOYSTOWN
Season 5

By Jake Biondi

Photography by
James Franklin
JamesFranklin.net



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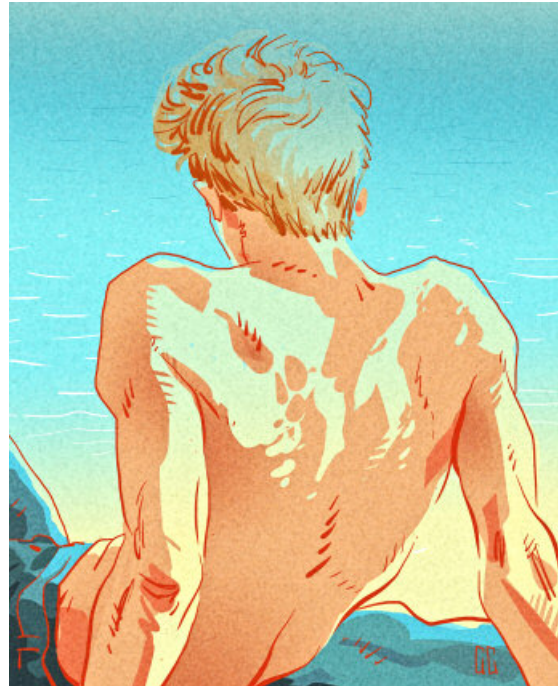


THE ART OF GABRIEL GARBOW

by Paul Masterson



Gabriel (pictured right) and his friend/sales person in their Marketplace booth at PrideFest 2016



If you attended this year's PrideFest and wandered the Market Place you may have met freelance artist and illustrator Gabriel Garbow. There, among the jewelry, Tee-shirt and home improvement vendors, Garbow's unique artwork stood out. The subject matter alone is eye-catching. Garbow says his aim is to engage the viewers' imaginations and that he does. The images fall into five main categories: Face, Body, Love, Lust and Kink. As Garbow accurately puts it, they range from "tasteful to tawdry". And so they do. There are handsome boy next-door types, sculpted physiques, guys sleeping in the secure comfort of a lover's arms, guys in the ecstasy of a orgasm and guys in leather masks.

But Garbow's technique brings the images to a level beyond typical erotic art. He works with a very personal consciousness of line and shadow which not only adds depth but also an energetic vibrancy and life. His colors tend to be soft in contrast to the bold lines (and the in-your-face content) of each piece.

His stylist fluidity is another aspect of his work that the viewer will notice immediately, although perhaps subconsciously because the flow is so natural. That comes from the artist's decades' long experience with his craft. "I've been drawing since I could hold a crayon. Today, I create digital art, traditional drawings and watercolors that resonate with an audience hungry for

depictions of modern gay sex, love and male beauty that are honest and artistic," says Garbow.

Garbow cites a broad range of influences. Having studied illustration at Pratt Institute and grown up in the Star Wars era, his inspiration is drawn from a full spectrum of styles from classical art to comic books, pulp fiction covers, advertising art, illustration and anime. He particularly liked artists who work on paper with strong line like Toulouse Lautrec, and similarly graphically bold art movements like Art Nouveau. In some work, dotted fields are reminiscent of Ro Lichtenstein, while the moody color palette give a nod to David Hockney. There is also an apparent anime influence as well



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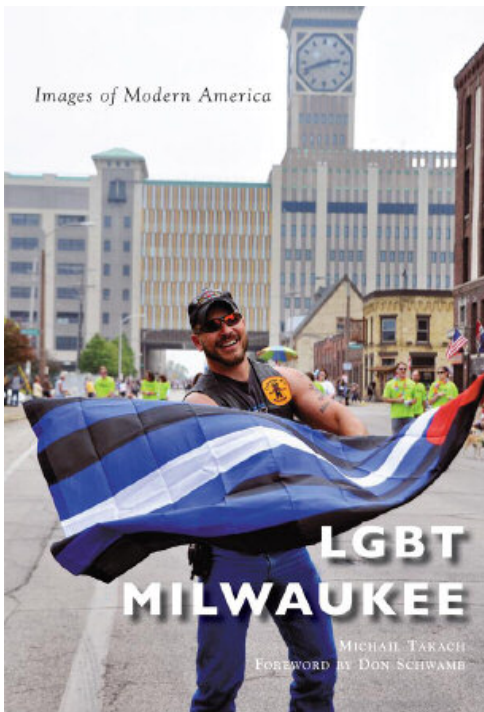
as style references to comic book artists Mike Mignola and Marc Silvestri. "Today," he explains, "my inspirations are wide-ranging: from pornography and pop culture to the art of antiquity." He also lists contemporary male nude photographer and artist Douglas Simonson among his many favorites..

Working with a Wacom digital tablet, each piece is hand drawn. Drawing are done using a stylus instead of a pencil. Garbow draws on a laptop to sketch or make the under drawing until he is happy with line work. He then adds shadows and color in Photoshop, adding treatments that give drawings quality and depth. He also works with traditional graphite pencil and watercolor for commission works. Depending on the patron's preference, he can create a scene or illustration simply by working off his imagination and photo references, or anatomy studies, to get the desired result. Portraits can be in various media, like watercolor or pencil. He prefers to do the commission work in person rather than from photographs.

His work is reasonably priced as well. Prints are available in various sizes (5x7 to 16x20") with the small editions starting at \$35 and the larger format pieces ranging up to \$175. Commission work costs depend on the size and medium but are also very affordable, around \$200 – 500.

Gabriel Garbow is based in St. Paul, MN. He may be reached through his website <http://www.gabrielgarbow.com>

NEW BOOK EXPLORES MILWAUKEE'S LGBT HISTORY



Gay history didn't start at Stonewall. By the time of the riots at that famous LGBT landmark, 36 known gay bars had already opened in Milwaukee – a number matched only by New York and San Francisco. A new book, **LGBT Milwaukee** by author Michail Takach, with a foreword by Don Schwamb, chronicles Cream City's bar and Pride history and is set to release on August 22, 2016. Its pages include more than 150 colorful images, some previ-

ously unpublished, and the first published social history of Milwaukee's LGBT community from mid-century to today. It is the latest addition to Arcadia Publishing's newest series, *Images of Modern America*. For a medium-size Rust Belt city with German Protestant roots, Milwaukee was an unlikely place for gay and lesbian culture to bloom before the Stonewall Riots. However, Milwaukee eventually had as many—if not more—known LGBTQ gather-

ing places as Minneapolis or Chicago, ranging from the back rooms of the 1960s to the video bars of the 1980s to the guerrilla gay bars of today. Over the past 75 years, gays and lesbians have experienced tremendous social change in America. Gay and lesbian culture, once considered a twilight world that could not be spoken of in daylight, has become today's rainbow families, marriage equality victories, and record-breaking pride celebrations. At a young age author Michail Takach, a lifelong Milwaukeean, became fascinated with its nightlife culture, venues, and neighborhoods. He has committed himself to researching and documenting those stories not told in history books. Currently the communications director for Milwaukee Pride, Inc., Takach has supported the ongoing celebration of LGBTQ culture and community through education, outreach, and advocacy since 2010. In partnership with award-winning historian Don Schwamb of the Wis-

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consin LGBT History Project, Takach seeks to make the story of LGBT Milwaukee accessible, visible, and portable for future generations—before it is too late. All proceeds from the sale of the book directly benefit Milwaukee Pride, a 501c3 non-profit organization, with the goal of establishing year-round local

LGBTQ history education programs. **LGBT Milwaukee** will be available at area bookstores, independent and online retailers, or through Arcadia Publishing at (888)-313-2665 or online at www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9781467117289

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OUTWORDS BOOKS WELCOMES GREGG SHAPIRO, HOW TO WHISTLE

MILWAUKEE – Outwords Books will welcome back to Milwaukee acclaimed writer, Gregg Shapiro Wednesday, August 24. Mr Shapiro has just released his second collection of short stories, entitled “How to Whistle.”

Whistling has long been used to entertain and to communicate; the short stories of Gregg Shapiro also entertain and convey his skilled recollections of the past. Nostalgia and literature combined. The gay men found in these pages are unrepentantly sardonic: they drink, they indulge, they offer wry comments on friends, family and life. In other words, they are a joy to read.

Gregg Shapiro is a 1999 inductee into Chicago's Gay and Lesbian Hall of Fame has published “Lincoln Ave.: Chicago Stories” as well as two previous collection of poetry: “Protection” and “GREGG SHAPIRO:77.”

Gregg Shapiro will read from “How to Whistle” beginning at 7:00pm on Wednesday, August 24, 2016 at Outwords Books.

This is a free event and all are welcome. Please arrive early since seating is limited. Outwords Books is located at 2710 N. Murray Ave. in Milwaukee. For further information,



please call (414) 963-9089 or go to www.outwordsbooks.com.

CfA RELEASES REPORT SHOWING STATE ANTI-LGBT LAWS COORDINATED AT NATIONAL LEVEL

Documents obtained by CfA reveal state legislators work at behest of national organizations

WASHINGTON D.C. – Campaign for Accountability (CfA) released a new report, Documenting Discrimination, uncovering how national right wing religious groups – working through smaller local groups – are spearheading the movement to legalize discrimination against LGBT individuals through Religious Freedom Restoration Act (“RFRAs”) legislation.

CfA Executive Director, Anne Weismann, said, “The religious right continues to advance an agenda of hate and intolerance. Contrary to the way supporters portray them, state RFRAs are not enacted to alleviate public anxiety over the loss of religious liberty; they’re passed because well-financed national anti-LGBT groups demand it.”

In the fall of 2015, CfA filed open record requests in Arizona, Texas, and Kentucky to identify the national groups behind state efforts to pass RFRAs. Documents reveal that local groups often work under the direction of national groups like Alliance Defending Freedom and Family Research Council to secure passage of anti-LGBT bills in state legislatures.

In Arizona, CfA uncovered a close working relationship between state legislators, the Center for Arizona Policy, Alliance Defending Freedom, and the Family Research Council. Emails show that national groups helped write anti-LGBT bills and then testified in support of them.

One email chain reveals how the religious right groups directed the Arizona Legislature to pass a resolution honoring the Boy Scouts’ “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” policy, which was nevertheless terminated six weeks after they passed the resolution.

In Texas, emails from a top staffer in the governor’s office reveal how First Liberty, working hand-in-glove with a Texas group, Texas Values, was behind the state’s RFRA bill.

In Kentucky, a national religious right group, Liberty Counsel, intervened on behalf of Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis to prevent any documents from the clerk’s office from being released to CfA, drawing a rebuke from the state’s attorney general.

Ms. Weismann continued, “No one should be fooled into thinking these laws reflect the values of the vast majority of Americans. Rather, these anti-LGBT policies embody the hatred and intolerance of a vocal few.”

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ONE BEAD AT A TIME

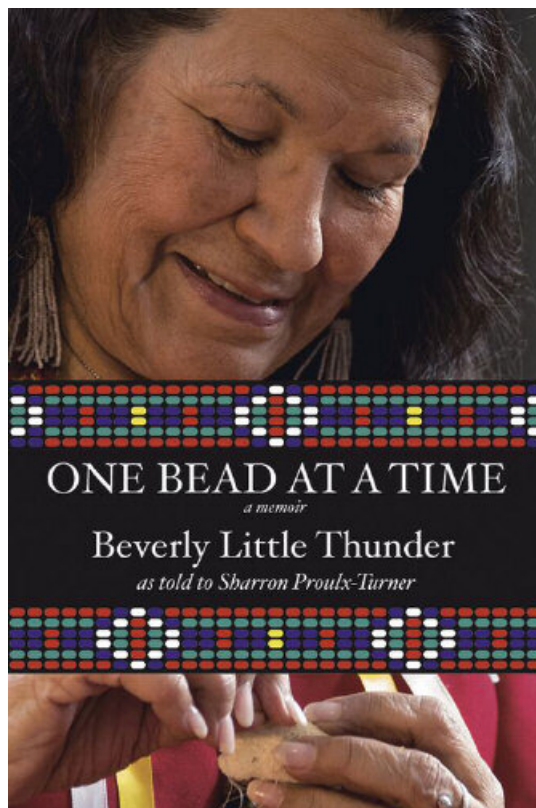
Native American Lesbian Author Beverly Little Thunder Presents Her Memoir

On Friday, August 19 at 7pm join Beverly Little Thunder for a reading, presentation, and book signing at Milwaukee's Boswell Book Company, 2559 N. Downer Avenue

One Bead at a Time is the oral memoir of Beverly Little Thunder, a two-spirit Lakota Elder from Standing Rock, who has lived most of her life in service to Indigenous and non-Indigenous women in vast areas of both the United States and Canada. Transcribed and edited by two-spirit Métis writer Sharron Proulx-Turner, Little Thunder's narrative is told verbatim, her melodious voice and keen sense of humor almost audible overtop of the text on the page. Early in her story, Little Thunder recounts a dream from her early adulthood, "I stared at these lily pads for the longest time and I decided that there was one part of the pond that had lots of lily pads and no frogs. I said, 'I want to go there because there's lots of lily pads but no frogs and I like creating community.'" And create community she does. Little Thunder established the first and today, the only all-

women's Sundance in the world, securing a land base in the Green Mountains of Vermont for future generations of Indigenous women's ceremony. She was active in the A.I.M. movement and she continues to practice and promote political and spiritual awareness for Indigenous women around the world.

Beverly Little Thunder, Lakota Elder and women's activist, is a member of the Standing Rock Lakota Band from North Dakota. Over 20 years ago, when she was forced to leave her Spiritual community because she was a lesbian, Beverly founded the Women's Sundance to continue teaching the traditions and ceremonies of her heritage. She currently works with women and children from her Vermont home, teaching leadership skills through the Lakota Sundance ceremony, the sweat lodge ceremony, awareness of and respect for the animal and natural worlds, community talking circles, communication workshops, personal retreats, vision quests and spiritual counseling.



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THIS IS IT!

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Convincing Glenn's monthly cinema circle to choose an AIDS drama remains as ever, a daunting task. Surely it was no coincidence that the night the cinema circle chose to screen HBO's **The Normal Heart**, the long overdue cinematic adaptation of Larry Kramer's seminal 1985 Off-Broadway production, there was an unusually large number of the usual rank and file missing.

Still, with a dwindling stack of LGBT DVDs to choose from, at least until the always fabulous Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival comes to town, Neil Armfield's **Holding the Man** proved to be the best choice for July's hot-summer selection.

Much like Larry Kramer's **The Normal Heart**, Armfield's **Holding the Man** too is a docudrama, here based upon Australian writer and activist Timothy Conigrave's highly acclaimed 1995 memoir. Playwright Tommy Murphy adapted **Holding the Man** for the stage back in 2006 and would subsequently write the film's screenplay.

As it happens, several members of the cinema circle recall participating in a discussion of Conigrave's **Holding the Man** with one of the local Gay Book Clubs a few years past.

Holding the Man begins as many Young Adult and New Adult romances are wont to do these days: pairing up two star-crossed lovers, dissimilar in every way.

Tim (Ryan Corr), a would-be actor, is introduced rehearsing a dramatic scene from **Romeo and Juliet**. The director is rather less than impressed with Tim's performance, — "You've lost your fiancée, not your bus pass." Tim is able to generate some impressive dramatic fireworks when instead of Juliet's cold, pale flesh Tim uses as inspiration his football-star crush John Caleo (Craig Stott).

From rehearsal, Tim heads off to the playing field where he can watch and cheer John on during a game of Australian football, the lads donning just the cutest short shorts. On the playing field John proves a natural leader and a fearless sportsman, so much so that John is seriously hurt during the match, landing him in the hospital. John is clearly puzzled finding Tim's smiling, only vaguely familiar face looking down on him as he comes to.

Despite the fact that John doesn't make it to **Romeo and Juliet**, Tim and John are soon well on their way to falling truly, madly, deeply in love. In contrast to his fierce on-the-field persona, John

"Holding The Man"

By Glenn Bishop



is actually rather shy, particularly when Tim finally, boldly takes his chances and grabs hold of John's equipment.

This is a step John just isn't quite ready for and, to his credit, Tim proves okay with the disappointment. Tim goes so far as to write John a heartfelt letter further apologizing. This deeply incriminating letter, as often the case in stories such as this, travels far and wide, first to John's school desk where is it immediately gobbled up by the instructor. Before they know it, John, Tim and the letter are all facing the Jesuit school administrator, a surprisingly understanding individual.

Just how the letter ends up with John's father's stack of mail is really anyone's guess but suffice to say that John's father (Anthony LaPaglia) is not similarly inclined to be understanding about his son's relationship with another lad. Tim's father (Guy Pearce) is equally disinclined.



Buy it, Rent it, or forget it...

The journey Tim and John's story has taken is nothing short of remarkable, from Tim finishing the memoir just days before his death to **Holding the Man** winning the United Nations Human Rights Award for Non-Fiction in 1995 to a stage adaption in 2006 and now as a feature film.

Boasting a deeply compelling story, strong performances from an exceptional cast plus a literate and poignant screenplay by Tommy Murphy, **Holding the Man** is indeed one of the strongest gay films Glenn has shared with the gentlemen of the monthly cinema circle in some time.

Just the facts...

Holding the Man runs 127 minutes and is in English. **Holding the Man** is due out on DVD 8/2 with a SRP of \$24.99. Guy Pearce, who plays Tim's father, is famous for his role as Felicia in **The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert**. DVD extras include interviews with cast and crew plus the original theatrical trailer.

ON OUR COVER: Jake Biondi releases fifth 'BOYSTOWN' book



"It's finally here," author Jake Biondi said of his fifth BOYSTOWN book, which he released this past June. "The wait is over and fans can now discover what happened to their favorite BOYSTOWN characters whose lives were hanging in the balance at the end of the fourth book."

The BOYSTOWN series began as an online story released in installments, each ending with a cliffhanger that left readers wondering what would happen to their favorite characters. Enthusiastic BOYSTOWN fans from all over the world petitioned Biondi to release the installments more quickly. Overwhelmed by the fans' responses to the series, Biondi began to write more quickly and also began to publish the series in book format.

Biondi also has a new partnership with photographer James Franklin, who will be responsible for photography and design of BOYSTOWN book covers and promotional materials. "Working with James is a dream come true," Biondi explained. "He is not only a phenomenal photographer, but he has an incredible vision for taking the BOYSTOWN brand to the next level. James is a pleasure to work with because he has a great heart and generous spirit; he believes in the BOYSTOWN series and is working to bring it to an even wider, more diverse audience. I think the fans are going to be very impressed by the new 'look' James has created," Biondi said. "It's fresh and exciting."

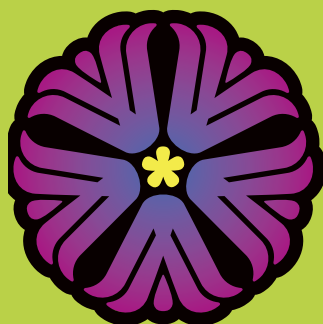
When asked about the fifth BOYSTOWN book, Biondi said, "I think the word I'd use to describe the new book is 'more.' It's the longest book in the series so far, so there's more for readers to enjoy — more romance, more friendship, more suspense, more drama, and certainly more twists and turns. I think readers will be surprised and excited with each turn of a page."

Announces new partnership with James Franklin Photography and a sexy new look for the entire series

Like the first four books, BOYSTOWN Season Five is available at bookstores across the country as well as online at amazon.com, bn.com, and iTunes. The series is available in paperback, audio book, and all e-book formats. Readers may order autographed paperback copies of the books directly from

BoystownTheSeries.com.

Biondi is working with two television producers who are interested in bringing the BOYSTOWN series to television. Biondi remains optimistic that fans all over the world will soon be able to watch their favorite BOYSTOWN characters in action on television.



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KENOSHA PRIDE

KENOSHA PRIDE was held on Sunday, July 17, 2016. This year's events ran for a total of 10 hours starting with sign making and community gathering at Library Park in downtown Kenosha. Shortly after 12:00 PM a welcome was done, introducing present elected officials, organizations, religious groups and the Grand Marshall Ash Whitaker.

At 12:30 PM the 4th Annual Kenosha Pride March stepped off from Library Park and made its way through downtown Kenosha and the lakefront, ending at Harbor Park Parcel A where the Kenosha Pride Party began at 1:00 PM. This year's events had several highlights:

- Over 500 people attended the day's events, more than double the amount of any previous year
- Over 7 hours of Comedians, Stage Performers, and music kept the event goers entertained throughout the day
- Audience participation in entertainment and an outlet for new Stage Performers to showcase their talents and gain experience
- The Kenosha Police Department and trucks from Kenosha Fire Department Station 3 attended the event to show their support
- Face Painting and other crafts available for younger children and families
- Tributes to lives lost at Pulse Nightclub were made throughout the day in various ways, including a moment of silence before the march and a banner that will be sent to Pulse Nightclub with signatures and messages from event goers.

Kenosha Pride was made possible by the generous support of local businesses and organizations who donated to the cause, including:

Trolley Dogs Restaurant, LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin, Amazon, Educators Credit Union, The Brat Stop, Club ICON, Lou Perrines, Birchwood Foods, and many more.



BOUND MAGAZINE

Volume 15 #8 August 2016



Milwaukee Metro Tennis Club at Play Photos by Paul Masterson



Cordially Yours by Michael Johnston

Rabbit, Rabbit (an English custom to say the first day of every month to bring you prosperity) and so starts the month of August, 2016! I don't know about you but it seems I was just unfurling the grand old flag for Memorial Day and here we are!

The Wisconsin State Fair is soon upon us Thursday, August 4 – Sunday, August 14. Always a fun time and a great way to close out the summer fun and don't forget the people watching!

During that same time period the Milwaukee Comedy Festival will be taking place in Downtown Milwaukee – Thursday, August 4 – Sunday, August 7 and these days we can all use a laugh or two!

Karen Valentine and Brian Reinkober co-host Sunday Fun Day Show Tunes at Club Charlies 320 East Menomonee Street Sunday, August 7 and 21 2:00 – 7:00 pm. Come on down and sing-a-long, trust me you'll never know what will happen, truly anything can happen experience!

Thursday, August 11 5:30 – 8:30 pm is The Shepherd Express 2016 Progress Awards. Presented by the Cream City Foundation and held at Paul Mueller's popular night club Hot Water/The Wherehouse 818 South Water Street. Among the Honorees this year: Karen Gotzler, Dear Ruthie Keester, Dr. Jeff Kelly, Joe Pabst, Saturday Softball Beer League (SSBL/Eric Peterson), Bob Schmidt, and Si Smits. Come and toast these mavericks and advocates of the LGBT Commu-

nity. Our local heroes!

Jean Paul Sartre's "No Exit" will heat up your August at Dale Gutzman's Off The Wall Theatre 127 East Wells Street running August 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, and 21. All seats \$25 – to make a reservation please call 414-484-8874 or visit www.offthewalltheatre.com. This production will showcase the talents of Patrick McCann – and this is bittersweet, because this will be Patrick's final show with OTWT. This fall he goes abroad to study at The Bristol Old Vic – one of the world's most prestigious theater schools.

Manuel Lupian will be hosting a benefit for ARCW (AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin) "Red Dress Ball" through his commitment as a Novice Sister Masquerade da Ballz Novice Project for The Abbey of The Brew City Sisters. This must go-to event is on Sunday, August 14th 5 – 9 pm Hot Water/The Wherehouse 818 South Water Street. Maple Veneer will fem-cee an award winning line up of flawless performers: Goldie Adams, Travis Hard, Shawna Love, Myami Richards, and Dita Von – what a cast! Please wear Red!

The Northern Lights Theater of Potawatomi Hotel and Casino 1721 West Canal Street is bringing "Mr. Warmth" back to warm up our Midwest summer... Don Rickels returns for two nights only – Tuesday, August 16 and Wednesday, August 17. A true comedy legend and at his advanced years it may be his last pilgrimage to the Brewtown.

Potawatomi Hotel and Casino has updated their Hotel Lobby restaurant, it now The Canal Street Café. I can't wait to sample their menu and get back to you with my findings.

The Ethnic Festivals are always a perennial hit in sizzling our summer. This month a little of the blarney is available at the Lakefront with IrishFest Thursday, August 18 – Sunday, August 21. This is a very successful weekend of the Green! And one of the few that still does four days!

From Henry W. Maier Festival Park you can go west and enjoy our legendary Milwaukee County Zoo. Milwaukee ALA Carte will be happening at the Zoo once again August 18 – 21. A great way to sample restaurants fare and different cuisines and items you might not normally order.

Saturday, August 20 is IndiaFest at Humboldt Park. An opportunity to par take in the exotic ways of the far East, an interesting option using another locale.

Wednesday, August 24 is the Pink Hat Party at This Is It! Once a month, This Is It goes into fundraising mode and a local charity enjoys the generosity of all in attendance. Raffle tickets are sold, 50/50 chances, drink specials, Pink Hat Sale – You just never know what is going to take place. Therefore you must attend! August's Honoree will be All In Production a local Theater Group. We'll be "PinkHat-ing" 8:00 – 11:00 pm. Karen Valentine will return as Hostess.

FYI – All-In-Production's latest show will be "The Wild Party" and I have a feeling that is what we will have in store for us!

In the mood for a little "Drag Race – All Star" – Thursday, August 25 This Is It will have an All-Star Viewing Party!

Closing out the month of August, Friday the 26 – Sunday the 28 Mexican Fiesta at the Summerfest Grounds – ole!

August 2016 Bucket List

Thursday, August 4 – Sunday, August 14
Wisconsin State Fair
640 South 84th Street West Allis

Thursday, August 4 – Sunday, August 7
Milwaukee Comedy Festival
Downtown Milwaukee

Sun., August 7 Sunday Fun Day Show Tunes
Club Charlies 320 East Menomonee Street

Thursday, August 11
Shepherd Express 2016 Progress Awards
The Wherehouse 818 South Water Street

August 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 20, 21
"No Exit"
Off The Wall Theatre 127 East Wells Street

Sunday, August 14
Red Dress Party to Benefit ARCW
The Wherehouse 818 South Water Street

Tuesday, August 16 & Wednesday, August 17
Don Rickels at The Northern Lights Theater
Potawatomi Hotel and Casino
1721 West Canal Street

Thursday, August 18 – Sunday, August 21
IrishFest
Summerfest Grounds 200 North Harbor Drive

Thursday, August 18 – Sunday, August 21
Milwaukee ALA Carte
Milwaukee County Zoo 10001 Bluemound Rd

Saturday, August 20 IndiaFest
Humboldt Park 3000 South Howell Avenue

Sun., August 21 Sunday Fun Day Show Tunes
Club Charlies 320 East Menomonee Street

Wednesday, August 24
Pink Hat Party for All In Productions Theater Company
This Is It 418 East Wells Street

Thursday, August 25 Drag Race – All Stars
This Is It 418 East Wells Street

Friday, August 26 – Sunday, August 28
Mexican Fiesta
Summerfest Grounds 200 North Harbor Drive

September 2,3, 7 – 10, 14 -17
"The Wild Party"
Next Act Theatre 255 South Water Street

Friday, September 2
The Wild "After" Party – 1920's Party
This Is It 418 East Wells Street

So as promised lots of activities to do and to be in the Sun and the fun of a Milwaukee Summer!

Something to look forward to The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center has a new batch of "Really Good Fridays – Unique People & Places". Friday, September 9 Wild Guy's Backyard Bonfire BBQ 5253 North 31st Street Kendall Polster shares his Studio and art! You may remember Kendall from HGTV and other high profile articles on him. Lex Allen will be on hand to entertain. All that is missing from this marvelous adventure is You – so join now! Other "RGFs" will be Friday, November 18 "A Parisian Moulin Rouge Holiday Soiree" at Dr. Mark Hackbarth & Eric Nelson's beautifully restored Murray Hill home. A perfect location to celebrate Gay Paree!

The final affair in this package will be "A Carnevale Affair" Friday, January 13, 2017, held on Milwaukee's toniest part of the fashionable east-side. The majestic manor of Andy Nunemaker is where all will gather and Mardi Gras. All proceeds will help the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center help Milwaukee and Wisconsin's LGBT. I have had the pleasure of attending these Fridays and Really Good is an understatement. To purchase tickets : www.mkelgbt.org/events/really-grand-fridays. Packages also available.

In the I can't believe it is finally open department – Fixture, a Pizzeria has finally opened their doors to business. In the location that was known as Boom/The Room for over 14 years — from November of 2014 until now major construction, work,

updating has taken place. I wonder if we'll even recognize the halls we once haunted. The only thing that will remain is the address! I haven't been yet, but it is on my must-do list. On the topic of Boom/The Room trivia question does anyone know whatever happened to the baby grand piano? It started at the original M&M Club, then David bought it and brought to The Room and now that The Room is history just wondering whatever became of the mighty piano. If you know please advise.

On the topic of facelifts – Fixtures, not mine – This is It has a new Top! I knew I would get your attention with that line. After 20 years or so George has contracted a new bar surface to update the Grand Lady of Gay Bars. So come on in and see it! How about a Friday? That is when I tend bar 5 – 8:30 pm. We do offer 3-4-1 on Rail Drinks and Tappers.

Friday, September 2 "The Wild After Party" will happen at "TITs"(an Opening night Cast Party). "The Wild Party" is the latest production of All-In-Production the theater group saluted in the August Pink Hat Party. A Speak Easy will emerge, as will the Roaring Twenties with lots of Flappers, Fringe and G-Men! Talk about The Untouchables! 8 pm – Close and the thoroughly modern Chanel D'Vine will be your luscious Hostess, she is the bee's knees! To attend "The Wild Party" Next Act Theatre 255 South Water Street is where the party is being held Friday, September 2, 3, 7 -10, 14 -17 www.AllIn-MKE.com

Rumor has it Chanel and her gal pal Esther

Flonaze will be bouncing their balls on Thursday in the not too distant future....

Speaking of bee's knees Miss Joan Crawford and Motherhood will be celebrated at TITs this month with a special screening of "Mommie Dearest". Get your wire hangers and thick dark eyebrows ready! And better yet – bring your own Mommie and celebrate!

From Joan to Baby Jane Hudson who shares that after over 20 year's she'll be leaving her lair high above La Perla. Seems the once popular "Taco Palace" has been sold! Lots of fun had been made at La Perla throughout the years. Jane is planning a "Farewell Show" as well as a huge Rummage Sale – keep your eyes and ears open! Who knows what restaurant or show will move in??

Happy 15th Anniversary of successful business to Bet-z Boenning and the Crew at Walker's Pint 818 South 2nd Street! Stop by and toast their success!

Congratulations and Happy 23rd Anniversary Outwords Books 2710 North Murray Avenue .

In this transitional time we live in – it is good to know there is still a neighborhood bookstore, coffee shop, magazine and card emporium where you can find that perfect gift or what-not. Thanks Carl for keeping this intuition in our midst!

On another celebratory note Congratulations and my very best wishes to Tom Zelinski and Scott Mahuta on their recent summer wedding, long may you love!

Our handsome Harbor Room Hosts Gregg Fitz-

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Congratulations Mr Harbor Room 2016

KV (left) pictured with Mr. Harbor Room 2016 - Chad Barr (middle) and Mr. Harbor Room 2015 D. J. (right)



patrick & Edwin (Eddie) Carver made their long-term union legal with a church service and reception. Due to a conflict of schedule, I had to throw rice from a distance. Wishing you continued happiness!

Also Greg Gowdy & Jack Balzer tied the knot in the fastest (and most stylish) wedding ceremony Palm Springs has ever seen!

It was great fun catching up with R&R – with mentioning of Palm Springs – the return recently of Richard Steele & Robert Parrish comes to mind. They had quite the colorful Holiday Cocktail Party – everything but fireworks! Jan & TJ, Jan & Leon, Nita Soref – a shining beacon at a youthful 90, Honeymooners Jack Balzer & Greg Gowdy, Scott Coleman & Jeff Gadberry, Anne Catalane, Collen Henry, Margie, Mark Kohler, Jerry Gin & Tonic, Fred Stewart & Keith and so

many others turned out to turn the Astor Hotel red, white and blue!

Sending good vibes and get well wishes to the legendary Jamie Gays who is in sick bay, please keep this Brew City Beauty in your thoughts. Food time – even though my dear friend, Karen Valentine, works there – I must give a shout out to Club Charlies in The Historic Third Ward for the continuing great chow they provide in their ever-popular pub. Be it a sandwich, burger, soup, or one of their tasty specials, a casseroles or fish fry – if you're out and about and need a little nosh and sip – I highly suggest the continuing quality and good flavor at Club Charlies.

And so ends another effort – thanks for enjoying the sun and the fun with me as I remind – it's the glamor, not the grammar – as I remain, ever so steamy, Still Cordially Yours,.



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Well it's August again, time for even hotter weather and of course the Wisconsin State fair. Make sure you head out to check things out over there and stuff your holes with as much as the fair will give you! Food that is.....unless your in the special port-o-potties. Remember to keep it classy it is west allis after all! But enough of that, let's get on with the real reason your here, PIERCINGS!

As I sit here in the sun I can't help but think about the perfect topic for this months column, How piercings are affected by the sun and summer weather!

The biggest effect is obviously the sun, and by association sunscreen! Sunscreen can cloud your jewelry and make it look dull over time so make sure to clean your jewelry with a mild soap after it is exposed to any sunscreen, and be especially careful with plastic jewelry and sunscreen as strange reactions can and do occur!

For healing piercings I would recommend keeping them free of sunscreen and other lotions as these can lead to clogging of the piercing as it heals. Also beaches with healing piercings can be a real killer as sand can get stuck on sweaty skin and work it's way into your piercing leading to a painful experience to say the least.

Swimming is another great summer time activity. Swimming with a healing piercing however isn't. Ideally you should wait until your piercings are fully healed be-

fore swimming but let's be real here, it's Wisconsin and summer is short! Try to avoid swimming for at least 2 weeks but if you can't manage that even 24-48hrs will be greatly beneficial. For heralded piercings there is nothing to worry about, just keep them generally clean like you always do.

Well it seems I have run out of room again, I want to thank you all for reading and don't forget if you have any questions that you want answer email me at avantgarde@voyager.net. Until next month, have a great time in the sun because are Summers are short - don't blink or you'll miss it!

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(608)277-9700
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