

TO BE perfectly QUEER

NEWS OF THE LGBT CENTER OF SE WISCONSIN

Inside the Issue | Board Development | Pride Events | Community & Giving Spotlights

Make A Donation

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Trans Group is back!



Finally...last week we announced the return of the transgender and non-binary support group (details later in the newsletter). Although we won't ever replace Rae Antczak as our facilitator, we continue to find new leaders ready to bring much-needed support. The more we learn about the transgender youth experience, the more we need to provide support at home, in schools, and in the community. [American Association of Pediatrics article](#)

If you are transgender or non-binary, you know how important support is. If your gender identity/gender expression is outside societal norms, you know how critical to your well-being and mental health that circle of kindness is.

Support comes in many flavors: support groups, families that embrace new pronouns and name changes, allies that stand up for you at the workplace, finding a counselor who truly understands gender, friends that listen, and encouraging those who don't understand to seek education to be supportive of you.

Generation Z has the vocabulary to describe exactly who they are and that clarity threatens and confuses many older generations who haven't grown up swiping an iPad or learning their classmate is trans. For the most part, they understand and accept the LGBTQ+ experience. Youth today are a new kind of trailblazer, the gender generation. They follow other pioneers - like those who dared to be themselves in the roaring '20s, or those who fought the police raids at gay bars in the '50s, and the feminists of the '70s and those who fought for their lives against HIV/AIDS in the '80s/'90s and those who used the courts to get our right to marry in 2015.

That said, the history of transgender and non-binary people as leaders in our community is not commonly known. They have been around as early as 5000 BC, often holding prestigious religious or spiritual positions. As a starting point of this history, read the [Seven things about transgender people that you didn't know](#) from the Human Rights Commission (HRC) website.

Imagine... we may be just a few generations away from a time when your gender identity/expression and your sexual orientation, are just a part of who you are and it's no big deal.

Peace,
Barb



CENTER UPDATES

Welcome to the Board!

The LGBT Center is proud to announce three newly elected Directors to our Board; Jerry Gulley, Esther Roberts and James Stewart (JT). We are excited to bring them into our leadership team!



Jerry Gulley

"I'm incredibly impressed by the work the Center is already doing and the potential in front of us. I am honored to be a part of fulfilling the mission." Chief Content Officer at EdLogics and Kenosha County Supervisor. Lives in Mt. Pleasant, WI.



Esther Roberts

"The Center was pivotal in helping me to feel welcomed and affirmed." Manager of Neighborhood Enhancement Division of the Department of City Development, City of Racine. Lives in Kenosha, WI.



James Stewart

"I have a desire to continue to build safe spaces for LGBTQ+ individuals where they can live their best life and live up to their fullest potential." Prevention Supervisor at Vivent Health, Milwaukee, WI. Lives in Milwaukee, WI.

**trans&enby
support**

WEDNESDAYS ON ZOOM AT 5 PM



SUPPORT GROUPS

Trans&enby Support Group

In August we announced the launch of a new group! The trans&enby support group (enby is the phonetic pronunciation of the letters NB which stands for non-binary) meets Wednesday at 5:00 PM on zoom. The group is facilitated by staff member David Ulrich and it welcomes anyone exploring gender for a discussion around being gender non-conforming, queer and transgender.

QUEER BOOK CLUB

July's Read: Giovanni's Room by James Baldwin

July's book discussion featured the classic novel by James Baldwin, Giovanni's Room. No matter when you work your way through this book, the impact is always significant. As writer Gabrielle Bellot states, "Baldwin's book is less an affirmation of queerness than an exploration of how much it aches to deny who and what you are and the way we damage both ourselves and our relationships with others when we try to fit parochial societal norms that don't define us." July's QBC discussion was sponsored by [Uncorkt](#).



Save the Date for our GALA!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13TH

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 2021,
11 AM – 9 PM CST

Kenosha Pride 2021

Kenosha Pride 2021 will start with our annual March starting at Library Park (711 59th Place). Sign-making and gathering will begin at 11 a.m. then a welcome and acknowledgement of attendees will begin at noon. The march will step off following the welcoming and acknowledgement.



The Kenosha Pride Festival grounds at Veterans Memorial Park will open at 12:30 p.m. As the march approaches the grounds, attendees will be greeted with music and a myriad of vendors. Entertainment will begin on the two stages at 1 p.m. and continue throughout the day until 9 p.m. Click [here](#) for more information!



MONDAY, AUGUST 23rd, 2021

5 PM – 6:30 PM CST

Community Safe Zone Training

Community Safe Zone Trainings are public events that help to educate you on the LGBTQ+ community, the issues we face, and the resources available near you. These events are held over Zoom the 4th Monday of every month and they are FREE to attend!

Click [here](#) to register.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 26, 2021,

6 – 7:30 PM CST

Queer Book Club: Radical Change Through Real Talk

Looking for a safe place to grow, challenge the status quo, and expand your understanding of what is needed for positive change in our community? Grab the book of the month and join the discussion. We'll cover topics from social justice and advocacy to personal growth and community development.

The Queer Book Club will select a new book monthly and meet virtually the last Thursday of every month from 6 to 7:30 p.m. for a facilitated discussion. Email queerbookclubwi@gmail.com to join!

August's Readers Choice is *We Have Always Been Here: A Queer Muslim Memoir* by Samra Habib.



SEPTEMBER 19, 2021

11 AM - 2 PM

Annual Family Picnic

The LGBT Center is continuing our tradition of hosting the annual family picnic on Sunday, September 19th from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM. We will gather safely outside and masks are encouraged for all attendees. It's a great way to meet new people or invite friends, allies, and family (bio and chosen) together to enjoy the summertime. Bring a dish or a game to share.

Virtual Support Groups

m

Free to Be:
A Spiritual Journey
7:00PM

t

Parenting with Pride
5:00PM

w

Umbrella Group
10:00AM
Frans&Enby Group
5:00PM



support at your fingertips.

our (virtual) calendar of events

Be You: A Support
Group for Teens
4:30-5:30PM

t

f

Rockstar Legends
1:00PM
(every other Sat)

sat



Are you okay? Do you need anything? We're here to support you if you do—like through the support of our virtual groups. Sign up for groups [here](#).



Shelley Hickman is the owner of [Shelley Hickman State Farm](#), located in the heart of downtown Racine. As someone who is committed to giving back, her mission is unlocking change-makers who embrace social progress and build resilient communities in their quest to be better humans. Her volunteer work with the Center includes

facilitating the Queer Book Club, assisting with the monthly newsletter "to be Perfectly Queer" and quarterly publication "to be Outspoken", and pitching in whenever help is needed. Shelley also chairs the boards of the LGBTQ+ Center of Lake County and BeLEAF Survivors, Inc.

What does the LGBTQ+ Community Mean to You?

The LGBTQ+ community is my family; it's the place where I am accepted for who I am; I am encouraged and inspired to be my authentic self every day. Furthermore, the beauty, diversity, and resilience of this community are like none other. From community members to advocates, the commitment to our fight for equality is unbreakable. The best thing is we are everywhere and, given grassroots are the strongest, this community will always be part of moving the world forward.

What is one thing we can do that will have a positive impact our community?

As a Certified LGBT Business Enterprise with the [National LGBT Chamber of Commerce](#) and a member of the [Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce](#), engaging queer and queer-friendly owned businesses in Racine and Kenosha would have a tremendous impact on our community and the cities where we live and work. There are so many business and community leaders who are living the mission to provide a safe and inclusive place for LGBTQ+ folks and to leverage that would pay dividends for years to come.



[The Greater Milwaukee Foundation](#) was part of the first wave of community foundations and part of a movement that transformed



Greater Milwaukee
F O U N D A T I O N
greater together

philanthropy. By local citizens pooling together their assets in a local foundation, they were able to maximize their ability to address pressing local needs and plan for the future. Because of this long history of encouraging charitable donations and disbursing grants and funds to nonprofits in SE Wisconsin, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation is a local pillar of philanthropy. In fact, our Center is the recipient of support from family foundations and donor-advised funds held with the Foundation. Senior Director of Donor Services, Joseph Brooks, helps streamline this process by aligning donors with nonprofits who seek similar community outcomes. He is one of a team of philanthropic advisers that do this important work. [email Joseph](#)



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