

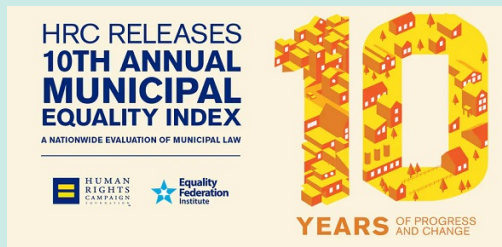
# TO BE perfectly QUEER

NEWS OF THE LGBT CENTER OF SE WISCONSIN

Inside the Issue | Call to Action | Support Groups | Community & Giving Spotlights

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR A Call to Action!



Periodically we ask our readers to take action and this month we need your help. This is one of those moments as we have watched the Human Rights Commission (HRC) unveil its 2021 Municipal Equality Index (MEI) that rates a city's efforts to be more inclusive of its LGBTQ+ residents. A

perfect score is 100 and both Madison and Milwaukee hold that honor. This year Kenosha's rating is 39. [Read more.](#)

The ongoing push to work with Kenosha's Leadership has come from [Kenosha Pride](#) with support from many other organizations like [CUSH](#) and [Leaders of Kenosha](#) and the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin to put in place protections and services for LGBTQ+ persons and increase the MEI score.

The work Racine did several years ago has been highlighted this month in the [Racine Journal Times](#) and an interview with [Wisconsin Public Radio](#).

If you live in Kenosha and want to voice your frustration with the lack of action to protect LGBTQ+ persons please contact the [Mayor](#).

Peace,  
Barb



ADVOCACY

**Affirmative Action/Human Rights Commissions**

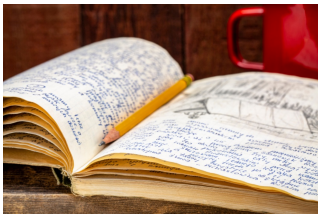
Cities in Wisconsin are encouraged to have an Affirmative Action/Human Rights Commissions which is a small group of diverse individuals that looks at the city's practices of hiring, promotions, and a fair housing report to review recent activity and to suggest diversity, equity, and inclusion practices. The committee often asks hard questions of the Mayor and city leaders regarding equity outcomes and helps marginalized populations be well represented and supported.



The city of Kenosha does not have an active Affirmative Action/Human Rights Commission. We encourage Kenoshians to voice their support to the Mayor in order to provide more transparency and input from citizens to make the city more equitable. Contact the [Mayor](#) today.

## SUPPORT GROUPS

### Trans & Nonbinary Group Engages in Story-Work



A recent night in our Trans & Nonbinary Support group had members exploring memories that were formative to discovering their gender identities, and we decided to explore the question further by having group members create art about it. Most members wrote short stories about the formative memory, one member painted their memory, and another gave a short speech about it. Moving from short, casual stories to deeper exploration was a great experience for our group members, and it's a concept we plan to explore in our other support groups.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### QBC: Connection through Content

We are in our final book of 2021 (Atomic Habits by James Clear) and as we prepare for our discussion, we are grateful for all of the connections we've made through our Queer Book Club. QBC was formed with three main objectives:

1. Create a safe place for our community to discuss and work through tough issues with courage and compassion.
2. Facilitate a culture of growth through self-awareness/reflection, which leads to positive change at the grassroots level.
3. Engage new community members.



Reading books that cover queer issues, social justice and advocacy work, and personal and community development, we have explored a wide range of content with a diverse group of people. Over the course of the year, 57 people

signed up for QBC and our monthly discussions ranged from 10 to 28 participants, averaging 17 folks per month across 6 states. Here is what participants have shared:

Following the discussion of **I'm Still Here** by Austin Channing Brown: *"This was the perfect combo of structure and open dialogue which led to a nice conversation. I feel like I normally leave a race conversation feeling icky, cringy, or angry because of how it's managed or what other white people say, but I left today grateful for the honesty, respect, and openness that I felt in that space."* ~ Lauren I.

After reading **In My Skin** by Brittney Griner: *"I just wanted to reach you to say that I am really enjoying the books provided through queer book club. I have not yet been able to attend a group meeting because of school and work, but I hope to soon. I finished the book by Brittney Griner last week and have been talking about it nonstop since. Thank you so much for putting this on. I really appreciate it."* — Lauren D.

If you're interested in joining QBC, please send an email to [queerbookclubwi@gmail.com](mailto:queerbookclubwi@gmail.com). Our last discussion of 2021 will be held on Tuesday, December 28th at 6PM. Part of that discussion will be used for reflection and for planning our books for 2022.

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

### Youth Art Night @ the Center



Fourteen LGBT youth painted miniatures at the Center this month as part of our Youth Arts series! We made everything from a realistic jaguar modeled after a housecat to the "mushroom moose" (a moose-shaped mushroom, naturally).

Next month's guest artist is a trans man who will teach us how to crochet. That will be January 27. Mark your calendars! Youth 14-18 are welcome (and parents too).



## LOOKING AHEAD

### Plan Your 2022 Safe Zone Training

In 2021 over 500 people, mostly allies, have been trained in Safe Zone (LGBTQ+ awareness). With the addition of Program and Events Coordinator, David Ulrich in June, we added new training modules and content. We conducted our first



training qualifying for Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) for a local Health Department and received outstanding feedback from attendees. To book a training for your church, business, department or organization complete the [Safe Zone inquiry](#). Scholarships are available for some organizations. *“Great training! Anyone working in social/human services should attend a safe zone training. Trainers were outstanding!” Anonymous*

**\*NEW DATE\***

**TUESDAY, December 28th, 2021,  
6:00 – 7:30 PM CST**

## **Queer Book Club: Radical Change Through Real Talk**

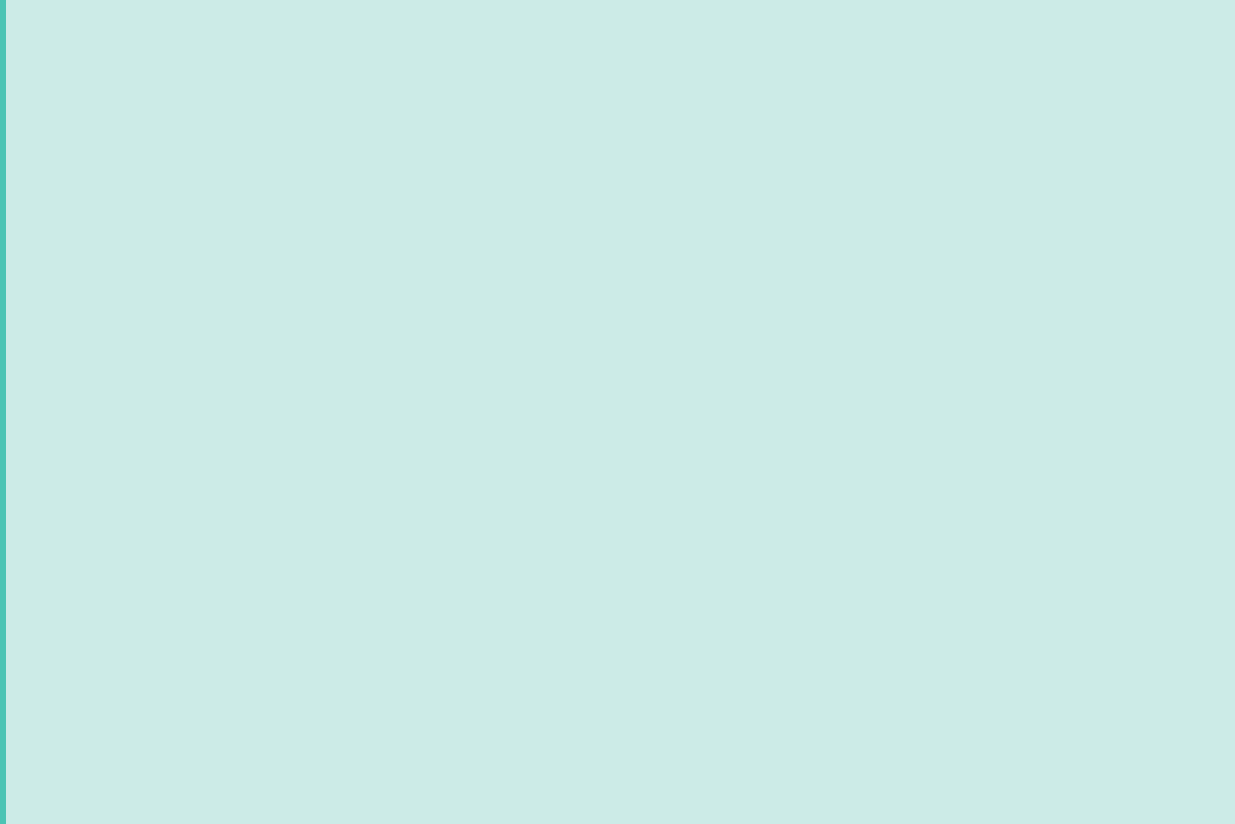


Looking for a safe place to grow, challenge the status quo, and expand your understanding of what is needed for positive change in our community? Grab the book of the month and join the discussion. We'll cover topics from social justice and advocacy to personal growth and community development.

The Queer Book Club will select a new book monthly and meet virtually the last Tuesday of every month from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. for a facilitated discussion. Email [queerbookclubwi@gmail.com](mailto:queerbookclubwi@gmail.com) to join!

December's Readers Choice is Atomic Habits by James Clear.

# **Virtual Support Groups**



<p><b>m</b>  <b>Spirituality Group</b>          7 to 8 p.m.</p>	<p><b>t</b>  <b>Parenting with Pride</b>          5 to 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>w</b>  <b>Queer Social Group</b>          10 to 11 a.m.  <b>Trans &amp; Enby Support</b>          5 to 6 p.m.</p>
<p><i>support at your fingertips.</i></p>		
<p><b>t</b>  <b>Youth Group</b>          4:30 to 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>f</b>          our (virtual) group calendar</p>	<p><b>sat</b>  <b>Seniors Group</b>          2 to 3 p.m.</p> 

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](#).



Our Center has been a proud recipient of 2 United Way of Racine County grants to facilitate partners' staff and board training as well as access to technology supporting organizational modernization.

**United Way of Racine County**

The training grant allowed us to provide training to our Board of Directors (\$1,000) and the Technology grant funded a software integration project. We hired a consultant to connect software and databases to create efficiencies, communicate better with our clients and partners, and most importantly to free up time to better serve the LGBTQ+ community (\$10,000).

Most people don't realize that behind most nonprofits are as many as 10 software packages that don't naturally talk to one another. Our nonprofit puzzle will soon be a well-oiled machine thanks to this grant and this project. It is the gift that keeps on giving.

The Training and Technology Fund was made possible through a generous gift from philanthropist and novelist MacKenzie Scott.

"Thank you" to the United Way for this rare gift to make us better!



**The LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin**

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