

TO BE perfectly QUEER

NEWS OF THE LGBT CENTER OF SE WISCONSIN

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Make A Donation

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR A Call To Action!



A Call to Action! Celebrate Black History Month with your friends, family, neighbors and co-workers. Celebrate the beauty of African Americans and blacks; but if you are white, please learn and imagine the struggle, the pain, the violence, the discrimination, the day to day microaggressions that unfortunately, live on today. Learn that white supremacy is not just about the KKK, but when whites feel entitled to a dominant place in society and are not willing to make room in our systems for others to have that power based on the color of their skin.

Learn, reflect, challenge, fail, change and do it all over again...for the rest of your life because it will likely take that long.

A Call to Action! Be prepared to support President Biden and Vice President Harris in making history. So far, Biden has initiated Executive Orders protecting LGBTQ+ rights globally, including protecting asylum seekers; combated discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation; allowed school aged trans youth to compete in sports; introduced the Equality Act; and rolled back the transgender military ban. Not bad for under 100 days! And yet, 12 states are quickly introducing and approving laws across the country prohibiting healthcare for transgender youth, creating religious exemptions, denying bathroom access...all in the past 2 months. [Read more.](#)

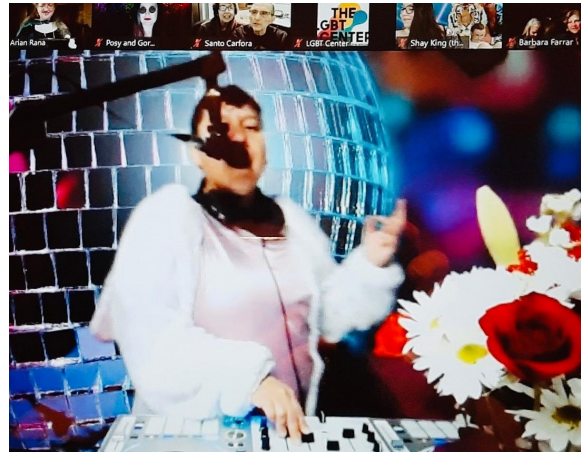
Your Call to Action is coming. Are you ready?

Let's get to work,
Barb

EVENT RECAP

Virtual Valentine's Day Fundraiser & Dance Party

Last Friday wrapped up our 4th annual Valentine's Event and it did not disappoint! The night "in" included a virtual dance party and silent auction, which served as the perfect combination for bringing the community together. DJ Omé delivered an amazing dance set of new and classic favorites and we had the pleasure of being entertained by drag queen Sophia Stone from Western Montana.



The silent auction, including a waterpark pass, rainbow afghan, hand-blown rainbow glasses and wine, and local art amongst other items all donated by community members and business partners helped us reach our fundraising goals. The love and generosity were present and, once again, demonstrated what makes this community so special. Thanks to everyone who attended and we look forward to seeing you at our virtual Equality Prom in March!

A special thank you to our event sponsor [Wisconsin Voices!](#)

ADVOCACY

Local Leaders Addressed LGBTQ+ Progress



Carthage College and the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin co-sponsored a virtual LGBTQ+ Community Forum on February 15th. Wisconsin State Assembly Member Greta Neubauer moderated a panel with Kenosha Mayor John Antaramian, Racine Mayor Cory Mason, Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Jason Rae, Carthage's Director of Equity and Inclusion Roger Moreano, and LGBT Center Executive Director Barb Farrar.

The panel discussed public policy, economic development, and inclusive communities. Mayor Antaramian and Mayor Mason highlighted the recent ban on conversion therapy in both Kenosha and Racine, as well as Racine's sharp increase in LGBTQ supportive ordinances and policies in 2019. Both Mayors agreed mental health is critical to the survival of our communities.

Carthage's Roger Moreano conveyed the college's commitment to engaging students in diversity and inclusion efforts on campus and in the community. The Chamber's Jason Rae shared examples of partnering with local municipalities to create inclusive policies and highlighted SC Johnson's successes in diversity and inclusion efforts. The LGBT Center's Barb Farrar highlighted virtual programming during COVID but commented that economic realities make LGBTQ+ persons twice as likely as cisgender persons to be in poverty.

The forum was recorded and will be available on Carthage's website.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Parenting With Pride Tuesday's 5:00 - 6:00 PM CST



Are you a proud parent of a LGBTQ+ youth who is seeking community? Meet others going through the same challenges you are, including parenting, mental health issues and the unique social and emotional needs of the LGBTQ parenting community. Join us on Wednesday evenings for support, camaraderie, and education.

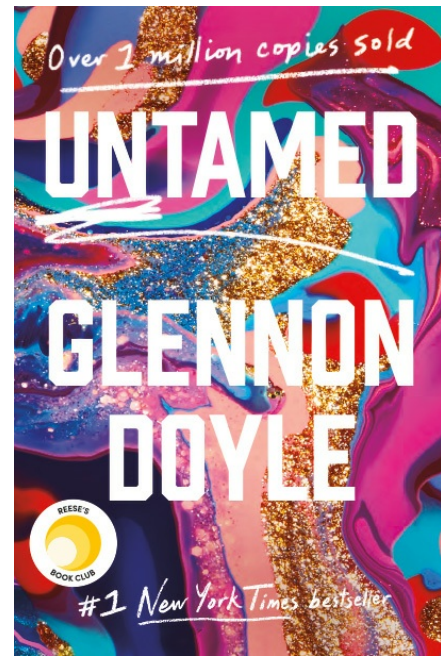
"Our lives are like a heart monitor, with peaks and valleys. We need to thoroughly enjoy the peaks so we're better prepared for the valleys. Although a straight line may seem more desirable, it would mean we were lifeless."

~Reflections from **Parenting with Pride**

QUEER BOOK CLUB

January's Read: Untamed by Glennon Doyle

Our kick-off discussion of the Queer Book Club (QBC) was awesome - full of great people, new connections, and real talk! With 28 in attendance, representing 6 states, Untamed by Glennon Doyle did not disappoint. Untamed opened the door to safely sharing personal accounts and learning from others experiences, bringing together a community that is in search of ways to unleash it's inner cheetah! January's QBC discussion was sponsored by Colette Broadway of First Weber Realtors.



FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2021 @ 7PM All-Ages Virtual Equality Prom

The LGBT Center of SE WI is



hosting the 2021 All-Ages Virtual Equality Prom virtually on Friday, March 12th @ 7PM! Register for free [here](#) to receive your Zoom participation link.

Folks of all ages are invited to celebrate one another, our youth, and our community. DJed by the incredible Omé Lopez, this is a party you won't want to miss! This event is intended for any youth from 14 to 19 years of age, from any school around the globe!

The evening will be DJed by Omé Lopez, a queer entertainer from Fresno California, and an expert at getting a crowd off the couch. It is our pleasure to provide a safe place and event for LGBTQ+ youth and allies to feel free, supported, safe, and to have fun! There will be awesome dance music, fun games, and a few surprises.



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 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 (recommendations appreciated) 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



MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2021, 5 PM – 6 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 resources available near you. These events are held over Zoom once a month and they are FREE to attend!

A participant shared the following after completing the training, “I feel like I have a much better understanding of gender identity and LGBTQ+ vocabulary. The trainers were

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!

February's Readers Choice is I'm Still Here: Black Dignity In A World Made For Whiteness by Austin Channing Brown.

very informative and knowledgeable and I loved the videos! Everyone in my office should see this presentation!"

Click [here](#) to register.

We hope to see you there!

Virtual Support Groups

support at your fingertips.

our (virtual) calendar of events

THE LGBT CENTER

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



Jason Rae (he/him) is President & CEO of the award-winning Wisconsin LGBT Chamber of Commerce, an organization of more than 600 LGBT owned and allied businesses from around the state.

What does the LGBTQ+ Community mean



to you?

The LGBTQ+ Community means wanting to support one another.

I remember coming out and what that felt like back in 2008. Growing up in rural Wisconsin, I wasn't ready but my hand was forced into it. And I remember finding a community that

was there ready to support me. A community that embraced me for who I was and said I was family.

The LGBTQ+ community to me now, more than 12 years later, is about continuing to support one another through everything. In this pandemic, I've seen first-hand how LGBTQ+ individuals want to do business with those that share their values and ensure that LGBTQ+ business owners can bounce back and make it through this pandemic. I know I go out of my way to make sure I am supporting LGBTQ+ owned and allied businesses. I want to make sure I'm supporting my community.

And what is one thing we can do to continue to make our community stronger?

I think one of the most important things we can do is to continue supporting LGBTQ+ owned, as well as allied-owned, businesses. We should be spending with businesses and organizations that believe in equality, advocate for inclusion. With that, businesses that are more than 51% LGBTQ owned businesses should also be getting certified as an LGBT Business Enterprise. I'm getting calls on a regular basis from corporations that want to do business with our community. Reach out to me if you want to learn more.



The Racine Community Foundation (RCF) has supported the Center for various projects since our inception in 2009. They provide financial support to the nonprofit organizations strengthening our Racine County community. Their mission is to forever provide this funding to support their essential projects and programs, and to always be a collaborative partner to these hardworking organizations.

RCF is very involved with community leaders to help solve the "big problems". They have always been supportive of the LGBTQ community and have believed in us since the beginning. Their operational support has been integral to our survival and success.

For more information or to support local nonprofits like ours go to [Racine Community Foundation](#).



The LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin

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