

# TO BE perfectly **QUEER**

NEWS OF THE LGBT CENTER OF SE WISCONSIN

**Inside the Issue** | Time to Get Busy | Trans Protections | Community & Giving Spotlights

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Time to get busy!



As the midterm elections approach, we are seeing significant and divisive legislation against LGBTQIA+ persons for political gain. This is playing out all across the nation and several bills are currently in committee in the Wisconsin State Assembly.

One of which is [AB 562](#), also called the "Don't Say Gay" bill which requires school boards to give notice to parents or guardians an option to "opt-out" of any "program" (which is instruction, test, survey, or questionnaire) related to sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

Also in the Wisconsin Assembly is bill [AB 963](#), a parent's rights bill that establishes rights over a child's religion, medical care including mental health, and their education. For LGBTQIA+ youth this includes a parent's right to determine names and pronouns of their child, determine the religion of the child, the right to opt-out of class or instruction for reasons based on religion or personal conviction, and the right to bring a lawsuit against a government body or official on any violation of these rights.

Here is a [CNN article](#) on Biden's response to a "Don't Say Gay" bill in Florida. Although we don't know where these bills are going, the good news is Governor Tony Evers has historically opposed these types of bills and can exercise a veto.

These bills before us are one more reminder of how important our state and local elections are. Please make sure you do your [research](#) on the issues and vote on April 5th.

Peace,  
Barb

## ADVOCACY

# Protect Trans Rights

Diamond Wade, is a transgender person who was held in custody at the Racine County Jail for approximately 2 months. During that time, she was placed in a male pod/cell even though she identifies as female, was denied access to file a complaint including a Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) complaint, was unable to shower in a place that aligns with her gender, and ultimately was kept in isolation for 23 hours a day for her safety. The details of Ms. Wade's experience were first reported by the Racine Journal Times. She has now been relocated to a facility in Milwaukee.



The LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin in partnership with Kenosha Pride has been actively trying to bring awareness to this issue. We will be coordinating efforts to determine why this happened and to work with the County to assure this doesn't happen to another LGTQIA+ person. We are seeking transparency, revisions to the current jail policy, and assurance this won't happen again.

The ACLU has signed the letter and is calling for a "full, thorough, complete, and transparent investigation into the treatment of Diamond Wade while in custody at the Racine County Jail." Here are the [details of the report](#)

## SUPPORT GROUPS

# Trans and Enby

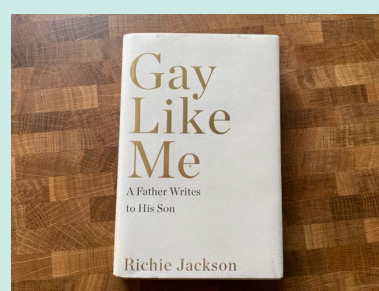


At one of our Transgender and Nonbinary Support meetings this month, we asked participants to wear their absolute favorite outfit to the Zoom call. Whatever made them feel most like themselves, or most beautiful, or most comfortable: show up wearing it and explain how it feels.

Everything from evening gowns and heels to gym clothes and hoodies made an appearance on the call, but the one thing each person had was a smile. There are a lot of shared experiences in the queer community, and many of them are negative, which makes it all the more important to uplift our shared joys.

## October's Read: *Gay Like Me: A Father Writes to His Son* by Richie Jackson

*Gay Like Me* is a celebration of gay identity and parenting, and a powerful warning for his son, other gay men and the world. Jackson looks back at his own journey as a gay man coming of age through decades of political and cultural turmoil.



When Jackson's 18-year old son born through surrogacy came out to him, the successful producer, now in his 50's, was compelled to reflect on his experiences and share wisdom on life for LGBTQ Americas over the past half-century. For more go to [goodreads](#).



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!



### LOOKING AHEAD

## Community Safe Zone Training

MONDAY, March 14th, 5:30 – 7:00 PM CST



Community Safe Zone Trainings are public events that help educate you on the LGBTQ+ community, the issues we face, and the resources available near you. These events are held over Zoom on the second Monday of every month. They are FREE to attend! Click [here](#) to register.

For customized training for your workplace or organization send inquiries to [David Ulrich](#).

## Reopening~ (Again)

Tuesday, March 1st, from 1:00- 4:00 PM

We are thrilled to open the Center again for our COVID hours starting next month. Tuesday-Thursday 1:00- 4:00 PM. Walk-ins welcome or call the Center

to make an appointment.  
(262) 664-4100



## Virtual Support Groups

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



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](#)



FORGE is a national nonprofit based in Milwaukee with expertise in transgender and antiviolenace resources. They provide training and services to help your organization be more inclusive. FORGE can create resources or refer you to others in order to support the transgender community, LGBTQ+ youth, and survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence, and trauma.



Shelley Gregory (they/them) has worked actively in the LGBTQI+ community for over 25 years as a civil rights lawyer and as an advocate for trans and non-binary folx. They also have expertise in drafting and revising local and state laws, policies, and ordinances to protect our community.

**What does the LGBTQ+ community mean to you?** For me, LGBTQ+ communities are as much about our diversity and difference as what binds us together. At the same time, many of us feel a sense of solidarity from shared experience or perspectives, and in that solidarity lies transformational power—the power to change individuals' lives with acceptance and support, and the power to drive the societal change that so many of us still need.

**What is one thing we can do that will have a positive impact on our community?** Wherever each of us is in relation to LGBTQ+ communities, including those of us who don't or can't engage actively, we can all be agents for change, whether it's treating ourselves with the kindness and self-compassion that each of us deserves, or extending those acts to our communities, or channeling them into influencing the world around us.



Planned Parenthood has been a supporter and an advocate for LGBTQ+ rights and policies for decades and has supported the Center since its founding in 2009. Our advocacy efforts are in lockstep with one another because we both fight for sexual health and gender equality regardless of race, ethnicity, disability, national origin, and sex assigned at birth. Planned Parenthood has sponsored events like our Equality Prom for Youth and our 10-year anniversary gala.

Planned Parenthood has recently launched Gender Affirming Hormone Therapy. These services can be accessed in SE Wisconsin via Planned Parenthood's telehealth platform. To learn [more](#) or to make an appointment for individuals 18 years or older. Planned Parenthood also provides STD testing and treatment, HIV testing, birth control, wellness exams and more, Planned Parenthood locations can be found in both [Racine](#) and [Kenosha](#). Appointments can be booked online at [ppwi.org](http://ppwi.org).



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