

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 Youth in Action!



One of the beautiful things about working with youth is when you can help them capture their own voice and point them in a direction they are already passionate about. In December we got a call from Lilyan who wanted to do her required volunteer hours for school at the Center because she believes that LGBTQ+ persons should have the same rights under the law as straight cis people.

She came to the Center with her mom and was excited about the space, the calmness, and the artwork. She couldn't wait to come back after this recent COVID surge to attend a youth event. We discussed a virtual assignment that would require her to do some investigation and put her natural advocacy to use.

Her assignment was to research the Equality Act and to write a letter to a Wisconsin Senator voicing her opinion on how he should vote and why.

Last week we received her completed project: her [letter](#) to Senator Ron Johnson which she sent to his office and a [summary](#) of her volunteer experience at the Center.

Anyone who questions the potential of the youth of today just needs to open their eyes and see how many Lilyans there are in the world. It will help you sleep better at night.

Peace,
Barb

ADVOCACY

Next steps - Equality Act

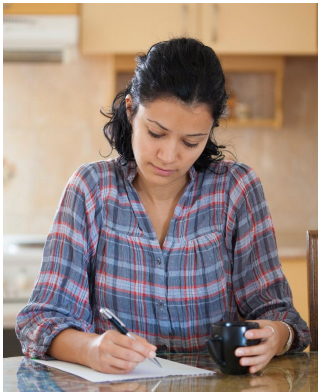
Discrimination is still commonplace for LGBTQ+ Americans. Opponents of LGBTQ+ equality continue to file discriminatory bills in states across the country in an attempt to undermine existing protections in adoption, marriage, and access to basic public services and businesses. Full federal nondiscrimination protections like the ones outlined in the Equality Act would ensure that all LGBTQ+ Americans can live, work, and access public spaces free from discrimination, no matter what state they call home.



The nonpartisan Public Religion Research Institute recently found that national support for the Equality Act is around 83 percent. This is the strongest level of support the bill has ever seen. [We must tell lawmakers that now is the time to pass this legislation.](#)

SUPPORT GROUPS

Parenting Pen Pals



It's hard to maintain a weekly support group during the holidays, so this year we found new ways to stay connected. Our Parenting with Pride group started an email chain for its active members, and they sent over a dozen emails to each other two weeks to check in on their times with family, how their LGBTQ+ kids were feeling, and any support they needed as parents. The parents wrote and replied to each other, creating meaningful connections in the absence of regular meetings.

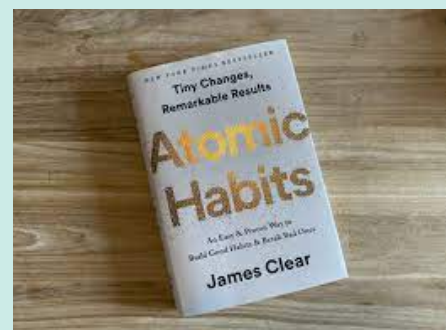
Meanwhile, our Queer Social Group and Transgender & Nonbinary Support groups combined in a joint virtual meeting on the week of Christmas. This allowed everyone a chance to check in who could make it and helped members of one group make friends in the other.

QUEER BOOK CLUB

October's Read: Atomic Habits by James Clear

Atomic Habits is the most comprehensive and practical guide on how to create good habits, break bad ones, and get 1% better every day. If you're having trouble changing your habits, the problem isn't you. The problem is your system.

Bad habits repeat themselves not because you don't want to change but because you have



the wrong system for change. This is one of the core philosophies of Atomic Habits: ***You do not rise to the level of your goals. You fall to the level of your systems.***

James Clear, one of the world's leading experts on habit formation, is known for his ability to distill complex topics into simple behaviors that can be easily applied to daily life and work. Here, he draws on the most proven ideas from biology, psychology, and neuroscience to create an easy-to-understand guide for making good habits inevitable and bad habits impossible.

Atomic Habits will reshape the way you think about progress and success and give you the tools and strategies you need to transform your habits—whether you are a team looking to win a championship, an organization hoping to redefine an industry, or simply an individual who wishes to quit smoking, lose weight, reduce stress, and achieve success that lasts.



LOOKING AHEAD

Community Safe Zone Training

MONDAY, February 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](#).

Queer Virtual Happy Hour

Thursday, January 27th from 5:30-8:00 pm.



Join the LGBTQ Center of Lake County and the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin in a virtual Happy Hour and Trivia! All ages are welcome on this virtual call. Meet new folks and join the fun.

[Zoom Link](#) for the Happy Hour!

Learn more about the [LGBTQ+ Center of Lake County](#)

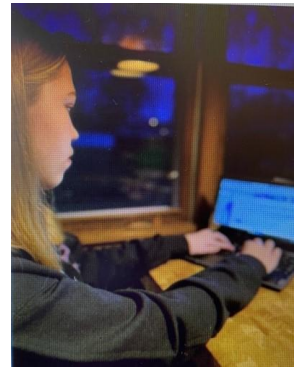
Youth Advocacy Event

Tuesday, January 25, 6:00-7:00 PM

Human Rights Commission, Fair Wisconsin, GSAFE, and a wonderful youth activist, Amira Pierotti, are hosting a virtual roundtable with young people.

It is a discussion about how young people in states like Wisconsin, where they don't have full protections for LGBTQ people, will benefit from passing the Equality Act.

Here is the link to [RSVP](#)



Queer Book Club: Radical Change Through Real Talk

TUESDAY, January 25th, 2022
6:00 – 7:30 PM

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 to join!

January's Readers Choice is Good Talk by Mira Jacob. [Reviews](#)

Virtual Support Groups

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



Kristina Campbell is the owner of The Branch, event space and cafe located at 1501 Washington Avenue in Racine. Kristina is also an active member of the Uptown Business Improvement District (BID) and a huge supporter of the Center. As an ally, she markets her event space for [LGBTQ+ weddings](#) and celebrations.



What does the LGBTQ+ community mean to you?

Building a community and environment where everyone is accepted and can feel comfortable being who they are is really important to me. Having the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin so close gives us the opportunity to collaborate, grow and work together to make sure we are a good support system for all of Racine, Kenosha, and surrounding areas.

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

One thing I am really passionate about is bringing more art into our community. By creating murals, we can express our love and support through vibrant and colorful works of art that are accessible to all of our community. I hope that we can continue painting murals that bring awareness, happiness, and positive energy to our already beautiful neighborhood. I can't wait to see what we can accomplish together in the years to come!



Justin Kasdorf, Milwaukee, is a former Board member of the Center, a donor, and attends many of our social events.

"The Center is a safe place where meaningful friendships are formed with people who care. It provides a safe place to express yourself and to find support. Their care and compassion go beyond the mortar and brick building. They spread love, knowledge, and

acceptance throughout SE WI. Through a dedicated board that invests their hearts, minds, time, resources, and passion into the center to the beautiful people who work and volunteer there; there is always something special taking place that touches the souls of those in the community.

I support the center because of the positivity taking place there. Sometimes the world seems like a very dark place and when I see an entity like the center shining out into the world like a bright light, I gravitate towards that energy."

Justin Kasdorf (left) with partner Pedro Antonio Ocasio Andino (right)



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