

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 What's happening?



By now you have likely heard the horrifying stories of the anti-LGBTQ directive enacted last week by Texas Governor, Greg Abbott. The bill would penalize parents who support their transgender and non-binary youth and could classify those parents as committing "child abuse." This bill is shocking and is being looked at by other states to see if it passes. [Read more on Texas.](#)

Texas is not alone. Almost half of the states across the country have had active bills in committees since January 2022 affecting LGBTQIA+ rights. Follow this ACLU site for weekly updates on [National LGBTQ Bills](#). These bills continue to polarize our country instead of uniting and protecting us.

The good news for Wisconsin is our State Senate is now on recess and it is unlikely (although not impossible) that our "Don't Say Gay" bill [AB-562](#) or the Parents Right's Bill [AB-963](#) will come to a vote for now.

On the global front, images of the invasion of the Ukraine are heartbreaking as we watch a country be destroyed. As many flee the bombing to neighboring countries, refugees and especially LGBTQIA+ refugees can have additional safety concerns. Some countries like Poland and Hungary have anti-gay laws that could be extreme. Imagine a transgender person with a passport name and gender marker that doesn't align with how they present at the border and you can see why these rights are so important. [More on this.](#) We have included a link to international agencies that are trying to [help](#).

So, what can we do? We can unite and work on each issue as it comes up whether it is a city ordinance, supporting a victim of hate crimes, or bringing awareness to an international crisis. In this newsletter, we are announcing our first community coordinated advocacy effort called **RAISE!** (keep reading below...) We hope you join us.

AND...please don't forget to vote on April 5th. Go [here](#) to research the issues.

Peace,
Barb

ADVOCACY

Introducing... RAISE

The LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin would like to introduce a new advocacy initiative we are calling **RAISE: Responsible Awareness, Intersectional Support, and Education.**

Responsible Awareness means making sure we are conducting advocacy in a healthy, ethical, intentional manner for those advocating as well as those being advocated for. We will RAISE ourselves and others up using the radical mindset of endorsing grassroots activism, necessary rest, and intentional protocol, with boundaries that will ensure the structure and longevity of our advocacy efforts.

Intersectional Support and Education means that there is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because not one of us lives single-issue lives. We will RAISE awareness of how multiple issues negatively impact the variegated facets of LGBTQ+ individuals. We will also educate on and support causes that fall within those parameters by upholding our fellow advocates in the community who are fighting against issues such as racism, ableism, sexism, and a lack of mental healthcare.

Information on how you can join the LGBT Center in the RAISE effort will be in the next newsletter and on our website in the near future. We are all connected. We are strongest when we prioritize each other's health, and we are the most powerful when we stand together.

Esther Roberts
Board Member
LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin



QUEER BOOK CLUB

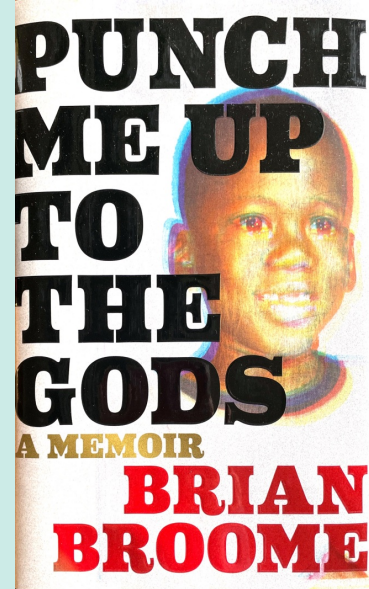
March's Read: **Punch Me Up to the Gods** by Brian Broome

A poetic and raw coming-of-age memoir in essays about blackness, masculinity, and addiction, *Punch Me Up to the Gods: A Memoir* introduces a powerful new talent in Brian Broome, whose early years growing up in Ohio as a dark-skinned Black boy harboring crushes on other boys propel forward this gorgeous, aching, and unforgettable debut. Brian's recounting of his experiences—in all their cringe-worthy, hilarious, and

heartbreaking glory—reveal a perpetual outsider awkwardly squirming to find his way in. Indiscriminate sex and escalating drug use help to soothe his hurt, young psyche, usually to uproarious and devastating effect. A no-nonsense mother and broken father play crucial roles in our misfit's origin story. But it is Brian's voice in the retelling that shows the true depth of vulnerability for young Black boys that is often quietly near to bursting at the seams.

Cleverly framed around Gwendolyn Brooks's poem "We Real Cool," the iconic and loving ode to Black boyhood, *Punch Me Up to the Gods* is at once playful, poignant, and wholly original. Broome's writing brims with swagger and sensitivity, bringing an exquisite and fresh voice to ongoing cultural conversations about Blackness in America. *Kirkus Reviews*

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!



LOOKING AHEAD

Community Safe Zone Training

MONDAY, April 11th, 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](#).

Save the Date - PRIDE PROM

SATURDAY, June 11th, 2022

A Night For the Stars!

An astrology-themed prom in support of LGBTQIA+ youth. Bring the date you want, wear the clothes you want. Featuring a drag show to crown our Prom Queen. Held on the lakefront in two Covid-safer tents, one for adults and one for grades 7-12.

For Youth

Sip mocktails while you dance with other queer youth. Enter raffles to win binders, makeup, queer books, and more. Receive guidance from a tarot reader. Take pictures with your prom date.

Adult Prom

Enjoy cocktails, small plates, and a dance floor. Give back to our community through auctions and drag tips. Consult the cards with a professional tarot reading. Take cheesy pictures with your prom date. It's the Prom you never had...



Virtual Support Groups

m

Spirituality Group
7 to 8 p.m.

t

Parenting with Pride
5 to 6 p.m.

w

Queer Social Group
10 to 11 a.m.
Trans & Enby Support
5 to 6 p.m.

support at your fingertips.

our (virtual) group calendar

Youth Group
4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

t

f

Seniors Group
2 to 3 p.m.

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](#)



The Jaworek Family: Sammy, Jace Jensen, Liz and Doug

"Liz is very active in the Queer Book Club and even ran the last meeting. Both Jace Jensen and Sammy have been to the book club when they have time to read the book or to help support mom. We as a family are always willing to sponsor book club.... There is nothing we love more than buying books, especially books with LGBTQIA+ representation.

Jace Jensen and Sammy love the trans support group. The topics each week are very interesting, and it is run very well.



We as a family are always willing to help financially. It is one of our favorite charities and Liz has suggested it to her extended family whenever they want to donate for her birthday or looking for a positive LGBTQIA+ cause. We are also so excited about the prom coming up and have helped with setting up for

the prom in the past, as well as going to fundraising events in the past."

What does the LGBTQ+ community mean to you? Our family feels most at home in the LGBTQIA+ community and it is where we can be our true selves. All the people we choose to have in our lives are part of the LGBTQIA+ or allies of this community.

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

We think you are already doing it by being there to offer support and to educate the community about the LGBTQIA+ community. We personally feel that a big way to be more positive is to use non-binary language as much as possible to be more inclusive and to listen.



Mark and Hilary Krejcha are 3rd generation owners of Miller's Flowers and have owned it since the mid-1980s. Since the founding of the LGBT Center in 2009, Miller's Flowers have

supported us with gift cards for raffles and flowers for our annual Equality Prom for youth ages 14-18.

The original flower store was founded by Hilary's grandmother in 1908 at the current location on 6th Ave in Racine. She wanted to run a business that allowed her to really get to know her clientele and to be a part of the major events in the lives of her customers like birthdays, anniversaries, and funerals. Mark and Hilary still hold those same values over 100 years later.

They like to support the Center in honor of the many friends in their lives that are in the LGBTQ+ community. "Our LGBTQ+ friends and acquaintances enrich our community. They are creative, talented, and make important contributions to the City of Racine."

Miller's Flowers hopes to continue to enrich our community through the relationships they have developed with their customers and friends over the years.



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