

# TO BE perfectly QUEER

NEWS OF THE LGBT CENTER OF SE WISCONSIN

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Pride Prom...Almost Here!



By now you are well aware that June 11th is Pride Prom. But what you haven't heard is what we are hearing from you about Pride Prom...

One parent said, "My kid spent way more time shopping for the Pride Prom than their school prom. They're really excited!"

"I've never been to prom before and I'm 60."

"I'm going to wear a suit! No, wait... a gown!"

"I wanted to go with my boyfriend in the 90s but you just couldn't do that then."

Whether you are 14 or 94, gay or straight, you are welcome to join us at Pride Prom and dance under the stars.

The youth prom is one of the most important events we do every year. For youth to feel accepted, to have a safe space, and to have fun being themselves is what it is all about. We know that having events like this can make all the difference in a sometimes hard climate at school and at home for LGBTQ+ youth.

And for many adults and elders, we have never had a prom for you. To see the beauty of a queer prom, take 10 minutes and watch this PBS short documentary [Senior Prom: LGBTQ+ Seniors Get the Prom of Their Dreams](#).

The Board, staff, and volunteers are working overtime to make sure this event is incredible. [Get your ticket](#)...you won't be disappointed.

It has been a really tough few years and we hope you, for one night, can put all that aside and enjoy yourself...celebrate our youth, meet some new people, and above all...be you.

Peace,  
Barb



## ADVOCACY

### Join RAISE

We are going to have to mobilize in the next couple of years. Here's how...

RAISE is a project that is growing from the ground up. We want to identify people in the community that are ready to help advocate for our rights whether that is publicly or privately. RAISE will be a group of people who have the inside knowledge of what is happening in the LGBTQ+ community and are ready to take action when needed.



If you are interested in any type of LGBTQ+ advocacy work, whether short-term, ongoing or just for one or two events. Go [here](#) to signup.

## QUEER BOOK CLUB

### May's Read: *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett

The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults, it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. Many years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other secretly passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined. What will happen to the next generation, when their own daughters' storylines intersect?



To read more about the [Vanishing Half](#).

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!

Join us on May 31st.



## ADVOCACY

# Road to Advocacy: Spotlight on Michelle Morris



Michelle Morris, Parenting with Pride Member and Aspen's Mom (Aspen by the mural).

"I became aware of the Parenting with Pride group while doing some website work for Our Lives Magazine about a year and a half ago or more. It's been so helpful connecting with other parents of LGBTQ+ kids. When Aspen came out it didn't come as much of a surprise. Aspen had begun presenting more masculine and honestly, as a parent, I could tell as early as age 4 or 5 that something was different and I was ready to embrace whatever that ended up looking like." says Michelle.

"I've learned so much from Aspen and through my own research after he came out. I've done a couple of speeches as a student who returned to finish college and participated in a couple of Queery podcasts for WORT radio to spread awareness." **[Listen to the podcast here.](#)**

"Most recently Aspen and I did a podcast about a call my boyfriend Mark set up for us with Rep Scott Allen about the anti-trans legislation he's been a leader in pushing for in Wisconsin which is similar to what's going on around the country blocking gender-affirming care and restricting educators on what they are allowed to teach in school."

"Our family, as many others, firmly believes not only that gender-affirming care is absolutely necessary and often lifesaving, but also that education needs to be fully inclusive from day one. Anything outside the heteronormative is currently missing or a brief mention in the curriculum."

"LGBTQ+ historical figures, facts, and science about gender and biological sex should be integrated as "normal" curriculum in every subject, not a taboo topic. It's important for all parents, whether they have LGBTQ+ children or not, to speak up and oppose these legislative efforts & promote equality, inclusion, and visibility. If my 11-year-old Sophie can pick up a pen and write to local representatives and even President Biden, we can do our part too."

From Aspen:

"I'm Aspen, my pronouns are he/they, and I'm 16, nonbinary and gay. I love animals, video games, cooking, art, photography, skateboarding, and hiking as well as going to my weekly LGBTQ+ teen group in Appleton. My family has 2 guinea pigs, Charlie and Finley."



Mason, Mark, Michelle, Sophie, Aspen (left to right)



Sophie gets a letter from the White House!

## Experience Survey with RUSD A Soapbox for Youth Voices

We need 20 more middle and high school youth to complete our Youth Soapbox Survey by May 23! **Please share this link** with young people in your life. It takes about 10 minutes, and the results will help us create a report for a local school district about queer youth wellbeing.

[tinyurl.com/youthsoapbox2022](https://tinyurl.com/youthsoapbox2022)

**LGBTQIA+  
YOUTH  
SOAPBOX**  
20 MORE RESPONSES NEEDED!

NAMI  
RACINE COLLABORATIVE  
FOR CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

RACINE UNIFIED

THE  
LGBT  
CENTER



LOOKING AHEAD  
**Community Safe Zone Training**  
MONDAY, June 13th, 5:30 – 7:00 PM CST

Community Safe Zone Trainings are public events that help educate you on the

# SAFE ZONE

Inclusion training for LGBTQIA+ allies



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

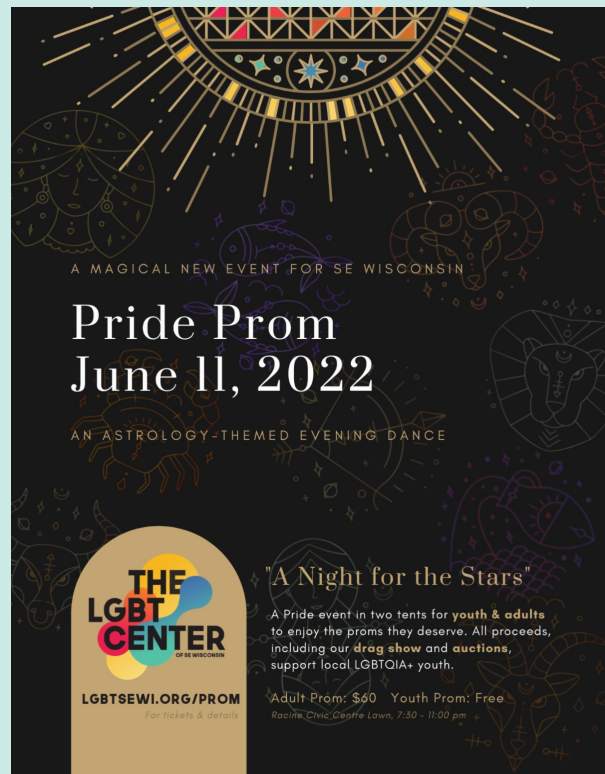
Sip mocktails while you dance with other queer youth. Enter raffles to win binders, makeup, queer books, and more. Receive guidance from a tarot reader. Take pictures with your prom date.

### 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...

### Get your [Tickets](#)

Other ways to help support Pride Prom! [Sponsorship Donate](#)



## 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](#)



## Katie Kelso Board of Directors

I joined the board of the LGBT Center at the end of 2021 and have been working on organizing and developing policies & procedures for the Center's work. There are some pretty spectacular people on the board and I feel very fortunate that I get to be part of this organization.

If there's one thing I hope people say about me when I'm gone, it's that I saw, included, and served them. The Center sees, includes, and serves the LGBTQ community - a community that is close to my heart. We're working to make southeastern Wisconsin safer and more inclusive for everyone. Those are the biggest reasons I support the Center.



## What does the LGBTQ+ community mean to you?

People I love are part of the LGBTQ+ community, and I want to help create spaces that are safe and affirming. I also want **everyone** to be able to move through the world without fear.

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

Creating safe and affirming spaces - because so many times public spaces are not safe and affirming - is so important. The Center provides the physical space and, in educating and creating circles of community members and allies, also cultivates the emotional and social spaces for the community to thrive.



### Gari Green Former Board of Directors

I started on the Board just after the Center opened. I was on the Board until I retired, which was in 2020.

During my time I served as a Board Member, Secretary, and Vice President. I also wrote grants along with Linda Ring Weber, Clarice Sevegney, Len Iaquinta, and others. I helped plan events and sought gifts from various donors. I also helped put on the Equality Prom.

Back then, we went through a lot of stuff, including drama, but we survived. I suppose one might say that we did more than survive, we thrived.

I am pleased and proud of my service on the Board. I believe the Center fills an important niche in our community, and I'm glad to have played a part in it.

The Rev G Green



**The LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin**

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