

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 COVID Winter 2.0



As we “fell back” this year and set clocks back an hour, it seemed more difficult than usual. Perhaps it is this “thing” I’m calling COVID Winter 2.0. The days are darker, the masks are still an essential part of health (and wardrobe), no parties at friends' houses, and going out still leaves twinges of anxiety for many of us.

There may be an answer though...At the Center's Open House two weeks ago, our vision board was loaded with ideas for what our community wants for 2022. The decision was clear...41% of all participants wanted craft night! I believe this may be the answer we are looking for to combat COVID Winter 2.0.

A quick search brought me to [Pinterest](#) for inspiration! I like the rainbow thumbprint (above). Or perhaps make your new 2022 [wardrobe?](#) Or learn how to make a rainbow [cake?](#) Or knit a [rainbow beanie!](#)

We promise to build community through crafts this winter to put a rainbow sparkle on your gray!

Peace,
Barb



ADVOCACY
DEI Positions Created

The City of Racine and Kenosha County will each be adding a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Officer position to their 2022 personnel budgets. The positions will help examine perspectives on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and persons with disabilities to actively remove barriers and systemic issues for our diverse communities. Thank you, Racine and Kenosha for bringing these voices to your decision-making table, and thanks to all the citizens who passionately spoke publicly in support of these positions.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH We Are Family

Our sister Center, the [LGBTQ+ Center of Lake County](#), celebrated its first major fundraiser at Club Icon in Kenosha on Saturday, November 12th. The drag show featured Alfredo Isaac (Lola Madison), Angel Deverreoux, Brian Michael Diaz, Carmel Bliss, Dalton Biegler, Julia Alined Johnson, Mariela Duarte, and Mark Urban. With over 200 people in

attendance, the Center celebrated its first major fundraiser since getting its 501(c)3 in September.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH Open House Family Reunion

Our Open House was packed with old and new friends who are now part of our deep-rooted community. The celebration of our new space was shadowed only by the beautiful smiles of our visitors (and their cool hair). A special thanks to Esther Roberts who offered a professional photo booth for individuals, couples, and support groups. Group members met in person, often for the first time, people they zoom with weekly. Everyone took advantage of the in-person opportunity to spend time with one another, not to mention to see how tall everyone is!

The Center is open for drop-ins Tuesday to Thursday from 1:00-4:00 PM or by appointment.



Trans & Enby Support Group



Spirituality Support Group



Queer Book Club

YOUTH ACTIVITIES Queer Youth Arts Night



Both youth and pets showed up to our first Youth Arts night last month to make Halloween masks. We ate pizza and bedazzled masks and some other accessories, including a pair of shoes. These art nights are a great way for young people to make LGBTQIA+ friends at our Center, so mark your calendars for our next event on December 9th from 5:00 - 7:00 PM, with a hot chocolate bar and a cool project in store. To attend sign up [here](#).

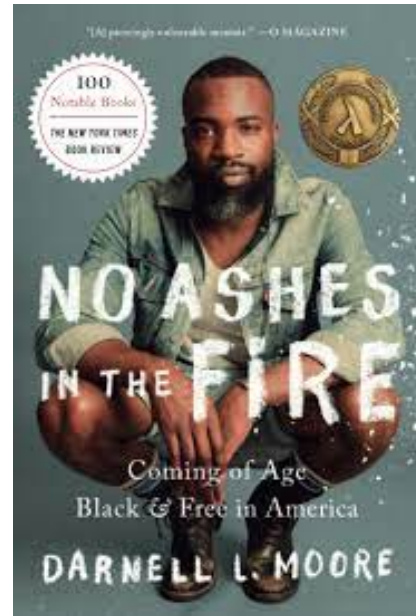
QUEER BOOK CLUB

October's Read: No Ashes In The Fire by Darnell L. Moore

When Darnell Moore was fourteen, three boys from his neighborhood tried to set him on fire. They cornered him while he was walking home from school, harassed him because they thought he was gay, and poured a jug of gasoline on him. He escaped, but just barely. It wasn't the last time he would face death.

Three decades later, Moore is an award-winning writer, a leading Black Lives Matter activist, and an advocate for justice and liberation. In *No Ashes in the Fire*, he shares the journey taken by that scared, bullied teenager who not only survived, but found his calling. Moore's transcendence over the myriad forces of repression that faced him is a testament to the grace and care of the people who loved him, and to his hometown, Camden, NJ, scarred and ignored but brimming with life. Moore reminds us that liberation is possible if we commit ourselves to fighting for it, and if we dream and create futures where those who survive on society's edges can thrive.

No Ashes in the Fire is a story of beauty and hope-and an honest reckoning with family, with place, and with what it means to be free.



**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2021,
3:00 – 5:00 PM CST
State Capitol, Madison, WI**

Transgender Day of Remembrance

Rally for the Trans Day of Remembrance

Demand justice. Take action.

November 20th, WI State
Capitol, State St. Entrance,
3-5pm



This year, again shows an increase in the number of transgender, non-binary and Gender Expansive (TNGE) persons in this country who lost their lives too early because of someone else's hatred and violence. And as before, 85% identify as black, indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC).

Show your anger, love and raise your voice at this empowering gathering of local activists demanding space to change our country's culture of transphobia and violence. Speakers include Elle Halo, Sunshine Raynebow, and Osha Towers. Join the protest from 3:00-4:00PM and the vigil from 4:00-5:00PM. Event details [here](#).



LAST SESSION OF 2021!

MONDAY, December 6th, 2021

5:00 – 6:30 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 the resources available near you. These events are held over Zoom usually on the last Monday of every month.

However, this last training of the year is December 6th, to avoid the holidays. They are FREE to attend!

Click [here](#) to register.

NEW DATE

TUESDAY, November 30th, 2021,

6:00 – 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 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 Thursday of every month from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. for a facilitated discussion. Email queerbookclubwi@gmail.com to join!

November's Readers Choice is Tomboyland by Melissa Faliveno.



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](#).



Nikki Michele is the Founder and Executive Director of the LGBTQ+ Center of Lake County based in Waukegan, IL. Forever part of the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin family, we are excited and honored to support such an amazing leader for our community.

My rainbow family and I moved to Lake County in September, 2020. I quickly realized that there were no centralized resources available to the LGBTQIA+ community in Lake County. The nearest Centers were 40 miles away in Boystown, or out of state. Having seen the enormous impact a local Center can have through my volunteer work at LGBT Center SE Wisconsin, I decided to do what I could to

establish a Lake County Center. We are living in unprecedented times as far as both civil rights rollbacks, and increasing numbers of LGBTQ+ people living out and proud. We need all the support we can get, and that is exactly what LGBTQ+ Center Lake County aims to provide.

What does the LGBTQ+ Community Mean to You?

When I came out five years ago I lost all my family and friends. I stumbled across the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin online and stopped in on a whim one day looking for resources for my oldest kiddo who was having a difficult time at school having their gender identity respected. I came into the Center looking for support and left with family. I immediately decided to volunteer and found myself part of a true community for the first time in the ten years I'd lived in Racine. For many queer folks like me, the choice to live authentically often means losing the people who are supposed to be our support network. By forming strong LGBTQ+ communities (I LOVE the term "chosen family!"), we can provide the love and support we all need, especially when relearning how to live in a society that has historically rejected us.

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

Now more than ever we need to band together. First, we need to join forces to push back against the rising tide of hate we've seen since 2016. It will take all of our voices to secure civil rights protections for LGBTQ+ folks. In addition, while COVID has certainly provided many challenges to our community, it also empowered unprecedented numbers of closeted folks to discover their true Selves. If there was ever an "all hands on deck" moment in LGBTQ+ history, I believe that time is now. Call the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin today and find out how you can volunteer your time or money to ensure equality for all!



Aliyah Jackson, a Kenosha native, is a model with the SCE Agency out of Chicago, IL and a constant presence for the LGBTQ community. From day-to-day support of Center activities to community events and advocacy, she always shows up.

Being an Ally to me, is much more than a title. It takes true hard work and dedication to not only unlearn my own antiqueer biases, but to take an active stand against it in my life when incidents of hate and intolerance occur. As a Cishet (Cisgender/heterosexual) Black Woman (The list of my privileges goes on), I recognize my privilege and I'd like to acknowledge that despite the struggles I face

being a Black Woman, there are so many groups that are marginalized in many more (and bigger) ways than I am. When we are unable to look past our own struggles and deeply feel and understand those who are also oppressed in different ways, we become a part of the problem. I try my hardest to not actively be a part of the problem. With that being said, I am not perfect, and I hope that this community believes in me enough to truly hold me accountable when I make mistakes so that I can educate myself and continue to be the best ally possible.



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