

# TO BE perfectly QUEER

NEWS OF THE LGBT CENTER OF SE WISCONSIN

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## A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

### Our Time Is Now



Having just seen Stacy Abrams at the Pabst Theatre last month, I continue to be in awe of everything about her and her tenacity to defend one of the major tenants of Democracy, which is the right of citizens to vote. She is a prolific writer but in “Our Time is Now”, recently read in our Queer Book Club, she illustrates over and over how fragile our democracy is and how politics are so partisan that denying others their

right to vote is considered a legitimate strategy to win elections rather than being one of the biggest threats to Democracy.

Now may seem like a quiet time in our election cycles, but really it is a time when new candidates start to bubble up and courageously put their hat in the ring. And local elections are just as critical to democracy and the impact on our everyday lives as national races. Think about the impact of the school board, alders in your city and the role of county supervisors. Not happy with school’s impact on LGBTQ+ youth? Run for the School Board! Not happy with gender equality ordinances in your city? Run as an alder or city council member. Not happy with your county social services? Run for County Supervisor.

This could be one of the most direct ways to have an impact on your community and to make lasting change for the LGBTQ+ community, not to mention to continue to fight for the right of all votes to be counted.

Peace,  
Barb

## ADVOCACY

### Thanks to the Olympia Brown UU Church of Racine!

Thank you to members of Olympia Brown Unitarian Universalist Church in Racine who donated \$300 in gift cards to Piggly Wiggly this month to help members of our community who are struggling financially. We are so grateful for their continued support and gift cards are critical to giving direct assistance to someone.



If you know an LGBTQ+ person or ally who could benefit from a gift card, please have them contact us or come by the Center during drop-in hours: Tuesday-Thursday 1:00 – 4:00 PM. Or call 262-664-4100.



## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

### Rainbow Readers Book Club

Back in May, Sarah Moskonas, Corrections Program Supervisor at Robert E. Ellsworth Correctional Center which is a minimum custody correctional facility for women, reached out to the Center. She was tasked with improving the correctional facilities' diversity and inclusion initiatives and building more options in the

Ellsworth library including resources for their LGBTQIA section. The Center made a donation of approximately 50 lesbian fiction novels.

Discussions about future collaborations between the Center and Ellsworth led to Shelley Hickman who leads the Queer Book Club. Sarah was eager to bring a curated book club to the correctional center and that is how the Rainbow Readers was formed. Shelley completed an intense orientation and is excited to “work with folx who embrace social progress and strive to be better humans.” This month Shelley facilitated the book “In My Skin” the autobiography of WNBA great, Brittney Griner, to a small and engaged group at the Robert E. Ellsworth facility. A huge thanks to [Rosanthorn Herbs & Acupuncture](#) for sponsoring our inaugural discussion, as it was a highlight for those who attended.

As a thank you for the book donation, residents donated 2 beautifully crafted rainbow quilts they made from within the facility. The Center will be auctioning those off in the near future.

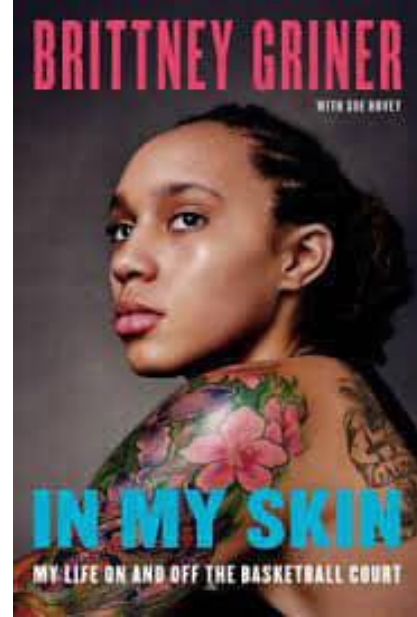
## QUEER BOOK CLUB

### September's Read: In My Skin by Brittney Griner

Brittney Griner, the No. 1 pick in the 2013 WNBA Draft, is a once-in-a-generation player, possessing a combination of size and athleticism

never before seen in the women's game. But "the sport's most transformative figure" (Sports Illustrated) is equally famous for making headlines off the court, for speaking out on issues of gender, sexuality, body image and self-esteem.

In her heartfelt memoir, she reflects on painful episodes in her life and describes how she came to celebrate what makes her unique—inspiring lessons she now shares. Filled with all the humor and personality Griner has become known for, *In My Skin* is more than a glimpse into one of the most original personalities in sports; it's also a powerful call to readers to be true to themselves, to love who they are on the inside and out.



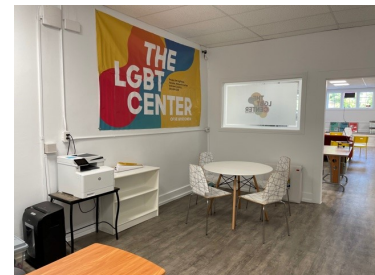
**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6th, 2021,  
3:00 – 6:00 PM CST**

## **LGBT Center Open House - Family Reunion**

Since March 2020 the LGBT Center has been closed for the pandemic and providing critical services virtually. But now...it's time to open our doors and let the light in.

Please join us Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> for a homecoming. Visitors are welcome at any time, but due to COVID, we are

limiting entrance to 20 at a time. If you currently attend a virtual support group we encourage you to attend with your peers. See Facebook for the schedule.



**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2021,  
5:00 - 7:00 PM CST**

## **Queer Youth Arts Night**

This Thursday is our Queer Youth Arts Night! We'll be making Halloween masks, and will be working together on an art project for the LGBT Center. We invite all queer teenagers to come to the Center for this night of fun! (Plenty of early Halloween candy provided.)



**MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 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 on the last Monday of every month and they are FREE to attend!

Click [here](#) to register.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 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](mailto:queerbookclubwi@gmail.com) to join!

October's Readers Choice is *No Ashes In The Fire: Coming of Age Black & Free in America* by Darnell Moore.



## Virtual Support Groups

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



Carl Hubbard has been on the Board of Directors since 2018 and since 2019 he has been the Center's Board President which this month is ending due to term limits. He will remain on the Board of Directors.

Carl is a local icon having lived in Racine for 52 years, he has history of not only local people and places, but astonishing depth in topics like LGBTQ+ history, the civil rights movement, fine art and porcelain, astrology, politics, and pop culture. He is a lover of animals and children and the LGBTQ+ community, especially those typically underrepresented like transgender black and brown folx.

Carl's work at the Center has not only been inspirational but essential for the day-to-day operations of the Center. He is a gifted writer and orator that represents the voice of the Center and always those without a voice. He was a founding Safe Zone presenter and continues to speak at public forums and City Council meetings.

## What does the LGBTQ+ Community Mean to You?

Everything. The community is reflective of my life and my identity and because I am a part of the community, I am motivated to work on its behalf. I will continue and encourage everybody else to work towards a more equitable community.

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

To self-identify, if you can do so safely. To acknowledge that you are part of a vibrant and loving community and that you are willing to work on its behalf. There is solidarity in social justice. To quote Maya Angelo, "Prejudice is a burden that confuses the past, threatens the future, and renders the present inaccessible."



Tom Boycks and husband Barry Luce opened the [Fargo Mission Inn](#) in 1987 and brought this condemned property back to life. "We moved to Lake Mills Wisconsin, a town of 3,800 people, and raised our 2 children. Everyone knows we are a couple." At our bed and breakfast, everyone comes downstairs, gay and straight, to have breakfast together and to have great conversations. It's just what we do...

we are who we are and it's never been a problem. "We believe in treating everyone the same, regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, and everyone is welcome."

Tom and Barry have been generous supporters of the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin by donating a room for our Valentine's Day auction as well as supporting our Pride Drive this summer.



**The LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin**

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