

TO BE perfectly **QUEER**

NEWS OF THE LGBT CENTER OF SE WISCONSIN

Inside the Issue | Monkeypox! | Marriage Act | Youth on the Runway

[Make A Donation](#)

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Monkeypox: Educate Yourself!

One of the key responsibilities of the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin is to share information that affects our community. For those of you who remember the 80s and 90s and the HIV/AIDS epidemic, you probably experienced trauma when you first heard about Monkeypox. That response is natural, so take a deep breath, take care of yourself, and know the facts!



We know that viruses can spread to anyone. In the past 2 weeks, we are fortunately seeing a shift in the state and federal language used to describe who is in the high-risk category from being ONLY the LGBTQ+ community to those who engage in behavior that is linked to the known ways of transmission. Using language that does not stigmatize the LGBTQ+ community is critical and hopefully a lesson we are starting to learn.

We know it is transmitted by close contact, direct contact with scabs or lesions, sharing bedding or clothing, or prolonged exposure to respiratory secretions from an infected person. It can also be transmitted to people from animals through bites, scratches, preparation of meat, or other products from an infected animal. *CDC Communications: August 2022.*

The Center has been working with both the Kenosha and Racine Public Health Departments so we can educate the community about the virus and ways to prevent its spread. We will also communicate with the LGBTQIA+ community as information changes or as additional resources become available.

Here are critical links to continue to educate yourself about Monkeypox.

[Monkeypox Virus Factsheet](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)

Peace,
Barb



ADVOCACY

Road to Advocacy: Respect for Marriage Act



On July 19th the House of Representatives passed the Respect for Marriage Act (H.R.8494) by a vote of 267 to 157 making it the most pro-LGBTQ vote in Congressional history. The bill would create statutory authority for same-sex and interracial marriages.

Now, the bill's fate is in the Senate. We know Tammy Baldwin will champion the bill, but we need your help in contacting Ron Johnson's office to get his vote. You can [email](#) or call him at (202) 224-5323.

The Respect for Marriage Act would formally repeal the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which defined marriage as between a man and woman. Although that definition was struck down in the courts, DOMA was never removed from the books. The new bill would also require state governments to recognize marriages legally performed in other states, and would give the attorney general the authority to bring civil action against figures who do not. It was written to encompass both same-sex marriage and interracial marriage.

Washington Post

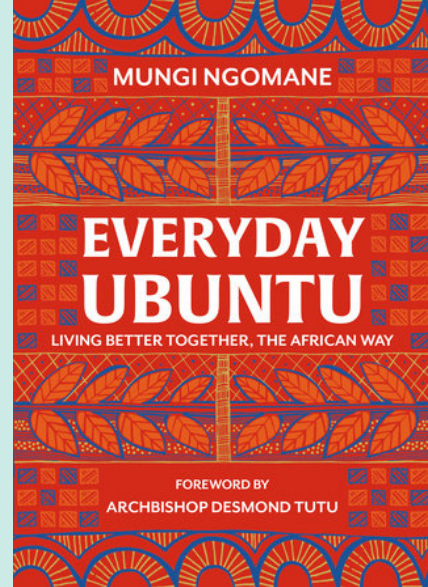
QUEER BOOK CLUB

August's Read: Everyday Ubuntu: Living Better Together, the African Way by Nompumelelo Mungi Ngomane

This book will open your eyes, mind, and heart to a way of being in the world that will make our world a better and more caring one.

--Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Ubuntu is a Xhosa word originating from a South African philosophy that encapsulates all our aspirations about how to live life well, together. It is the belief in a universal human bond: I am only because you are. And it means that if you are able to see everyone as fully human, connected to you by their humanity, you will never be able to treat others as disposable or without worth. By embracing the philosophy of Ubuntu and living it out in daily life it's possible to overcome division and be stronger together in a world where the wise build bridges, not walls.



These 14 lessons from the Rainbow Nation are an essential toolkit to helping us all to live better, together. In stories that recognize our common humanity, our connectedness, and interdependence, *Everyday Ubuntu* helps to make sense of the world and our place in it. Exploring ideas of kindness and forgiveness, tolerance, and the power of listening, it shows how we can all benefit from embracing others. Including practical applications and mindful exercises, it is an inspirational guide to a more fulfilling life as part of the large family to which we all belong. *Goodreads*

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!

Join us on **Tuesday, August 30th.**

ADVOCACY

Join RAISE

Feeling frustrated or scared about the future? Join RAISE and join forces with other like-minded activists. We can't stand on the sidelines!

RAISE is a project that is growing from the ground up. We want to identify people in the

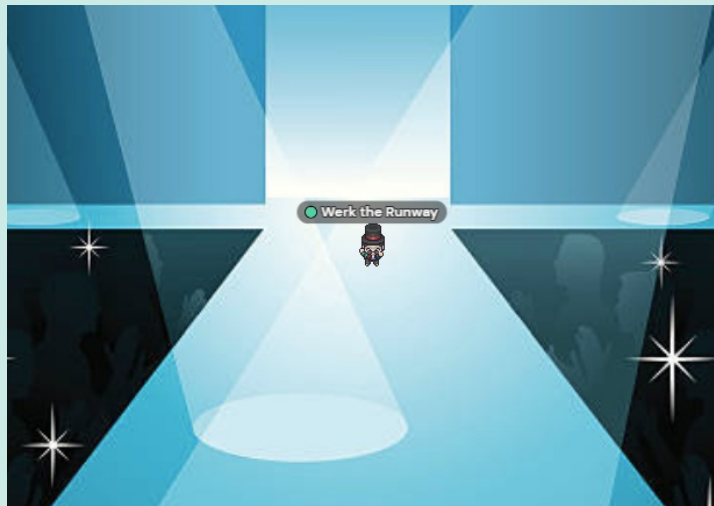
community that are ready to help advocate for our rights whether that is publicly or privately. RAISE is a group of people who have the inside knowledge of what is happening in the LGBTQ+ community and are ready to take action when needed. We are over 60 strong!

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.



Youth Programming Youth on the Runway

This summer, we've had 60 characters strut across a digital runway, each played by the LGBTQIA+ youth in our online meetings. Each week, the youth vote on a runway theme and create custom avatars to fit the assignment. Then we turn up the music and walk. And each meeting ends with a winner being crowned.



Why not [join us](#) at our next meeting?



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of **HEALTH SERVICES**

Save the Date - Monkeypox Virtual Town Hall for Wisconsinites

MONDAY, August 22nd, 2022

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is hosting a virtual monkeypox town hall on Monday, August 22 from 7-8 p.m. Wisconsinites are invited to join health officials to learn more about monkeypox, how to stay protected, and Wisconsin's response. The event will be recorded and available on the [DHS monkeypox website](#).

Topics for this town hall include:

- Monkeypox 101

- Monkeypox vaccine
- Current status of monkeypox
- Health equity and resources
- Live question and answer session
-

When: Monday, August 22, 7 p.m.

Join confidentially by [Zoom](#) or dial: +1 669 254 5252

Presenters:

- Paula Tran, Wisconsin State Health Officer
- Dr. Ryan Westergaard, Chief Medical Officer and State Epidemiologist
- Dr. Stephanie Schauer, Immunization Program Manager
- Jacob Dougherty, HIV Prevention Supervisor
- Lexy Richardson, Health Equity Strategist

Virtual Support Groups

 SPIRITUALITY GROUP Mondays, 7-8 pm	 PARENTING WITH PRIDE Tuesdays, 5-6 pm	 QUEER SOCIAL GROUP Wednesdays, 10-11 am	 TRANS & NONBINARY SUPPORT Wednesdays, 5-6 pm	 QUEER YOUTH GROUP Thursdays, 5-6 pm
 FIFTY & UP 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 1-2:30 pm	 MOVIE NIGHT & BOOK CLUB Movies: 2nd Sat, 6-9 pm, Books: Last Tues, 6-7:30 pm	 QUEER SPOT MEETUP 1st Fridays, 6-8 pm	<i>Join our community! :-)</i> 	

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](#)

LOOKING AHEAD

NEW! Community Safe Zone Training: Tools for Allies

MONDAY, September 13th, 5:30 – 7:00 PM CST

Our new Community Safe Zone has additional tools on how to improve your allyship!

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.](#)

SAFE ZONE

Inclusion training for LGBTQIA+ allies



Shay King President, Board of Directors

I've been coming out for 10 years now and have been trying to find ways to make my work, hobbies, relationships, and life, in general, a little more queer every day. When I'm not working with the incredibly cool board of the LGBT Center or at my day job at the Racine Public Library, I'm spending time with my fiancée, budgies, and cat, making art, playing piano, knitting scarves, and reading lots of nonfiction.

What does the LGBTQ+ community mean to you?

For me, the queer community is an invitation to unfold and bloom into who you are and whomever you are becoming. It's also a validation that love is always beautiful, no matter if it fits into the slot of the normative society or not. And it's the courage to explore and uplift yourself even if that transformation terrifies you.

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

Find small ways to center change-work in your life, whether it's by saying "yes" to projects that heal your community, stepping back to give yourself a stronger self-care foundation that will ripple out to the rest of your life, remembering to treat each other gently, etc. Don't be fooled into thinking it doesn't matter just because it starts small - we can only change what we can influence, and you can only build up to bigger forms of influence by starting with the people and things you're closest to.

Perennial Soaps (Erin Manders) and Longshot Vinyl (Jada Pfarr)

Both longtime small business owners, Erin of Perennial Soaps and Jada of Longshot Vinyl combined their Downtown Racine storefronts in 2020 due to the onset of the pandemic. They are both exceptional allies and make shopping or hanging out an ultra cool and queer-friendly experience.

Longshot offers a curated selection of new and used vinyl, turntables, and accessories.

Perennial Soaps is a storefront/studio offering bar soap, liquid soap, tattoo balm, and more, all made in-house. The shop also features handmade gifts by local artisans.

"We both feel strongly about donating to our local LGBT center and are proud to have completed their Safe Zone training program. The center is a valuable resource for everyone in our community and will always have our support."



The LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin
1456 Junction Avenue
Racine, WI 53403
(262) 644-4100

Subscribe!

