

TO BE perfectly **QUEER**

NEWS OF THE LGBT CENTER OF SE WISCONSIN

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR **Pride Month!**

Hello friends,

There is nothing more empowering than being in a room of LGBTQ+ activists working on improving protections for the queer community. This month our staff went to Madison to meet with other organizations to learn about what we can expect out of our legislature this session.

We learned there will likely be anti-trans bills regarding anti-trans athletes, gender-affirming care, and protections for parental rights that are likely to come to committees. Many bills won't make it to a vote, but we have Governor Evers as a veto which gives me peace of mind.

There are many organizations in our part of the state that do this work every day: Fair Wisconsin, Human Rights Campaign of Wisconsin, Diverse and Resilient, GSafe, the Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, Kenosha Pride, and the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin.

We need your help to significantly increase the MEI score for the City of Kenosha. Currently, its score is 51. Sadly, it is the lowest in the state of the largest cities in the State. If you live in Kenosha, start by contacting your alder and let them know how important it is to have more protections in the City of Kenosha. Then, do it again. Then reach out to the Mayor's office. Tell your elected officials your personal story and how the lack of protections impacts you. They need to know what's at risk without these protections.

We continue to follow, as I know you do, the hurtful anti-trans bills popping up daily across the country. This is not the new normal. This is a place in time where our society has "lost its way." Do what you need to do to take care of yourselves. Be kind and help one another. Show up and "Go High" as our friend Michelle would say. We will get through this.



Know that you are not alone. You always have a place at your local LGBT Center. We need you and we have a lot of work to do.

Enjoy Pride!

Peace,
Barb



Youth Events

98 attend Prom!

This year youths from all over SE Wisconsin attended our annual Equality Prom at Meadowbrook Country Club. This year's theme was cottage core (think fairyland, mushrooms, and hobbit houses). It was a space for everyone to be themselves, dance, and indulge in our taco bar and ice cream sundaes.



Thanks to our 20 chaperones for providing an amazing experience for our youth and a special thanks to [Esther Roberts from Advance Photography](#) for donating her time and equipment for prom!



Youth Programming **Family Gardening Days**

On May 13th, we partnered with Garden of Eatin' for the first of a three-part series focusing on different phases of the gardening process.

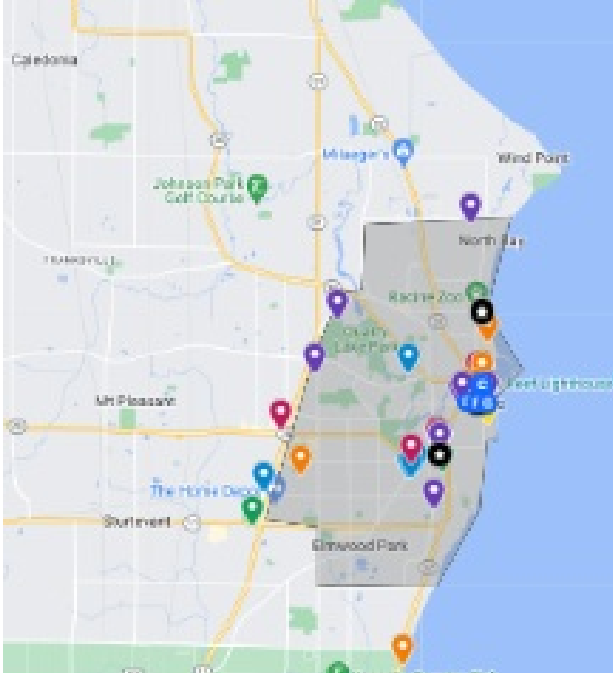
We had 9 attendees and we learned how to use power tools and learned about how to boost our immune system by just putting our hands in the dirt.

Join us in June and July (see flyer below)!



Event **RACINE ASSET MAP**

Join us Thursday, June 1st from 4:00 to 6:00 PM for the reveal of Racine's LGBTQ+ Asset Map at the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin. This project is a collaboration with the Racine Public Library, Anthony Cattani who is from Wisconsin Humanities



Community-Powered Coordinator, and the Center.

The asset map highlights the many resources, organizations, people, and events vital to Racine's queer community. This allows people who engage with the map to know where safe places are for community members and also see the pulse of the community established in Racine.

The Asset Map will be integrated into the Center's website and since it is a changing landscape will seek ongoing community input. Learn how it was created

and what are next steps!

ADVOCACY LGBTQ+ Equality Day

The Center's staff met LGBTQ+ leaders from across the state to learn about anti-LGBTQ+ legislation that likely will be introduced in the State Assembly this session.

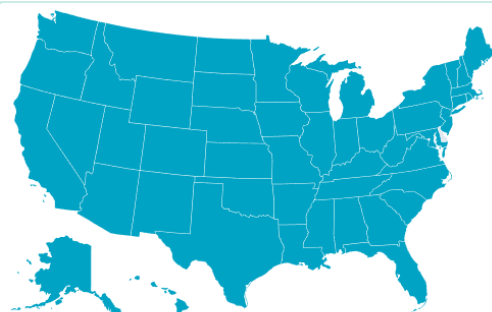
Thanks to Fair Wisconsin and Human Rights Campaign for hosting this event. The solidarity you feel when you meet people from all over the state who are doing similar work is incredibly powerful.



ADVOCACY RAISE Action



Representatives of the LGBT Center and Kenosha Pride were



Click on a state to see bills

in attendance at the Salem Library's Board Meeting to support access to LGBTQ+ books for youth.

The meeting got our attention when Moms for Liberty demanded the Library remove books they seemed unfit for youth on the premise of Parental Rights.

The majority of people who spoke supported the library's decision to allow access to books containing content around LGBTQ+ topics, and race.

[Translegislation.com](https://www.translegislation.com)

Since January 1st, 2023...

549 bills

49 states

73 passed 374 active

102 failed

[Join the RAISE group](#) to hear about local, state, and federal advocacy efforts.

QUEER BOOK CLUB

April's Read: *When the Emperor Was Divine*

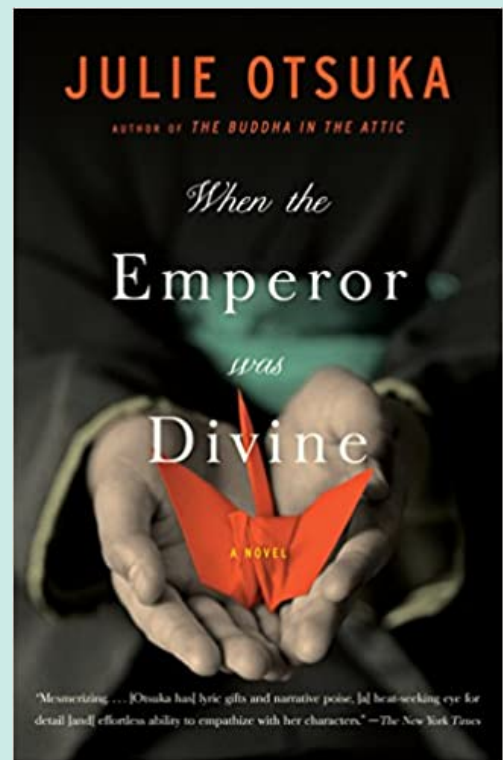
"Julie Otsuka's commanding debut novel paints a portrait of the Japanese internment camps unlike any we have ever seen. With crystalline intensity and precision, Otsuka uses a single family to evoke the deracination "both physical and emotional" of a generation of Japanese Americans."

"In five chapters, each flawlessly executed from a different point of view "the mother receiving the order to evacuate; the daughter on the long train ride to the camp; the son in the desert encampment; the family's return to their home; and the bitter release of the father after more than four years in captivity" she has created a small tour de force, a novel of the unrelenting economy and suppressed emotion."

"Spare, intimate, arrestingly understated, *When the Emperor Was Divine* is a haunting evocation of a family in wartime and an unmistakably resonant lesson for our times. It heralds the arrival of a singularly gifted new novelist."

The Queer Book Club will select a new book **every other month** and meet virtually on the last Tuesday of every month from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. for a facilitated discussion. Sign up [here!](#)

Join us on **Tuesday, June 26th on Zoom.**



LOOKING AHEAD
Colorful and Connected
Yoga Day

This is a space made by and for black and brown bodies. So please be mindful.

Let's take time to acknowledge our bodies and relax before/after our pride activities. Join us on June 4th for a C&C yoga day with Rev. Dr. Monica Cummings. This is a safe space for beginners so no worries... come as you are able.

Colorful & Connected
YOGA DAY

"Yoga is the perfect opportunity to be curious about who you are"

JUN 4TH

3PM

**@ NORTH BEACH
PARK IN RACINE**

**DRINKS AND
SNACKS
PROVIDED**

**BYOM BRING
YOUR OWN MAT**

**LOOK FOR THE
PURPLE BALLONS**

With Rev. Dr. Monica L. Cummings



Youth Programming
Youth Art Night

Join us this **Thursday, June 15th** from **5:30-7 PM** at the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin (1546 Junction Ave, Racine) to make Vision Boards! Our creative

leader is Advocate Aurora Health's own, Brittany Johnson-Suleiman.

Want to join our youth group? Sign up [here](#). It meets every Thursday from 5:00 - 6:00 PM both in-person and on Zoom.

Youth Art Night 6/15

The LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin Presents:

Vision Boards

with our bestie, Brittany!

1456 Junction Ave.
Racine, WI 53403

5:30 PM to
7:00 PM

Calling all LGBT+ youth, friends, and siblings for a vision board making night!

drink more water

GOALS

FREEDOM

SOUNDS CAY

I'M IN!

THE LGBT CENTER OF SE WISCONSIN

Have any questions or in need of disability accommodations? Please email our Youth Coordinator at patricia@lgbtsewi.org and we will get back to you ASAP.

Youth Programming Family Gardening Days

Don't miss the 2nd Gardening LGBT Family Day. Maintenance...the underrated key to an amazing harvest!



CALLING ALL LGBT+ YOUTH, SIBLINGS,
PARENTS, GUARDIANS, COUSINS, AND CHOSEN
FAMILY OF ALL AGES FOR...



FAMILY GARDENING DAYS!

JOIN US FOR DAYS 2 AND 3 OF OUR 3-PART SERIES OF FAMILY GARDEN DAYS! EACH DAY WILL FOCUS ON DIFFERENT STEPS OF THE GARDENING PROCESS. WE ALREADY PLANTED TOMATO, PEPPER, BASIL, AND ZUCCHINI SEEDLINGS ON DAY 1 (MAY 13TH), SO DAY 2 WILL BE DEDICATED TO MAINTENANCE & WEEDING WHILE DAY 3 IS WHERE WE WILL BE HARVESTING OUR VEGGIES TO DONATE TO A LOCAL FOOD BANK!

**SATURDAY
JUNE 17**

DAY 2: MAINTENANCE



12 PM

**SATURDAY
JULY 15**

DAY 3: HARVEST



12 PM

NO EXPERIENCE OR TOOLS ARE NECESSARY. DATES/TIMES MIGHT CHANGE DEPENDING ON WEATHER CONDITIONS. WEAR CLOTHES YOU CAN GET MUDDY IN!

QUESTIONS? CONTACT BECKY WERVE AT (312)203-6912

VISIT OUR WEBSITE WWW.LGBTSEW.ORG TO FIND OUR EVENTS CALENDAR FOR FUTURE EVENTS AND SUPPORT GROUPS!

Support Groups 2023 Calendar 05-23

We continue to provide Support Groups either in-person or on Zoom - your choice! To sign up for youth groups (14-18) click [here](#). For adult groups (18+) sign up [here](#).

Groups



Colorful & Connected

Sunday 11AM-12PM

Bisexual & Pansexual

Monday 5PM-6PM

Parenting with Pride

Tuesday 5PM-6PM

Queer Social Group

Wednesday 10AM-11AM

Trans & Nonbinary

Wednesday 5PM-6PM

Be You: Youth Group

Thursday 5PM-6PM

Fifty & Up

1st & 3rd Saturday

1-2:30PM

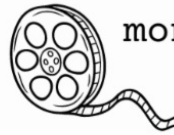
Queer Book Club

Last Tuesday of the month

Every 2 months-Nxt Mtg June @ 6PM

Queer Movie Night

2nd Saturday of the
month @ 6:30PM



Youth Art Night

3rd Thursday of the
month @ 5PM



SC Johnson
Grant Award - Safe Zone

New SC Johnson Grant Helps Support Safe
Zone Training!



We're pleased to announce a boost to our Safe Zone Program in the form of a grant from the consumer products company SC Johnson.

This \$7,000 grant will be used to provide Safe Zone training to the community and to continuously improve the content in order to be one of the best DEI training resources in Wisconsin on the LGBTQ+ experience. This grant will be used through 2023. This grant has already provided training for churches, nonprofits, and small groups to ensure they are learning about the LGBTQ+ community and how to be an advocate. Safe Zone is in its 5th year and continues to directly impact our community and make it a better place for all of us.

One attendee said "One thing I will take away (from Safe Zone Training) was the example of how people are already using they/them pronouns. I can't wait to use the example the next time I hear someone complaining about how it is "plural."

SC Johnson is a family company dedicated to innovative, high-quality products, excellence in the workplace and a long-term commitment to the environment and the communities in which it operates.

Based in the USA, the company is one of the world's leading manufacturers of household cleaning products and products for home storage, air care, pest control and shoe care, as well as professional products. It markets such well-known brands as GLADE®, KIWI®, OFF!®, PLEDGE®, RAID®, SCRUBBING BUBBLES®, SHOUT®, WINDEX® and ZIPLOC® in the U.S. and beyond, with brands marketed outside the U.S. including AUTAN®, BAYGON®, BRISE®, KABIKILLER®, KLEAR®, MR MUSCLE® and RIDSECT®. The 135-year-old company employs approximately 13,000 people globally and sells products in virtually every country around the world.
www.scjohnson.com

Watch this newsletter for updates about how the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin continues to make a difference to those we serve.



The LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin
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