

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

Politics as usual??!

Hello friends,

Governor Tony Evers actively supports the LGTQ+ community, communities of color, and youth. Other states are not as fortunate. It's hard to keep up with the hateful legislation being introduced, but we recommend that you regularly check and share this website translegislation.com, and others like it.

Last year [174 anti-lgbtq+ bills were introduced](#). So far this year, [353 have been introduced](#). Sit on that for a second. It's February 16th.

In Wisconsin, we have WI SB4 which suspended the rule that prevented therapists and counselors from trying to change youth's sexual orientation or gender identity. Also known as conversion therapy. This bill has not passed. If it does, it could make conversion therapy an acceptable practice again. The American Psychological Association has been opposed to conversion therapy for years.

Recently in South Dakota, a bill was passed to prevent doctors from administering hormones, puberty blockers, or surgery to youth. We heard from LGBTQ+ organizations in the state who say some youth will have to flee to other states to find the services they need.

In other news...Oklahoma has a bill saying that if a physician or other healthcare professional is found to have knowingly referred a patient or provided gender transition procedures to an individual under twenty-six (26) years of age...they will lose their license to practice.

In Arizona...a bill was introduced saying a drag performance will be reclassified as someone who exhibits a gender identity that is different from the performer's gender assigned at birth...Sings, lip-synchs, dances, or otherwise performs before an audience of at least two (2) persons for entertainment, whether performed for payment or not; ...will require the venue to be reclassified as an adult-oriented venue.

Most of these bills will not pass despite conservative majorities in the states, but many will pass. The hate has been fueled. The political agenda is clear. It's

time to make your opinions heard. You can [contact our state assembly leaders and state senators.](#)

Watch this space.

Peace,
Barb



Center Update

Welcome, Jasmine!

Jasmine is our first Operations Manager and will help us be a better organization in this role. In so many ways, we can't list them, but as an example, they designed all of the graphics for our recent social media and this newsletter!

Here they are in their own words...

"Hi! My name is Jasmine Alvarez (she/they/Ella) and I'm so delighted to be part of the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin's team as Operations Manager. I am just shy of 27y/o, a SoCal (California) native who has lived in various parts of the country, and am ready to use my lived experience to continue uplifting Black, brown, and queer communities in Wisconsin. I enjoy trying new or funky things, traveling, and drinking cafecito. Looking forward to meeting more of the Center's allies :) "



Events

XOXO Valentine's Day Event

Join us this Friday as we transform the Red Onion into a wonderful night of music, dancing, and fine food and drinks. Get your tickets [here!](#) All tickets will be refunded if the event is canceled or changed due to weather.

Xoxo, Valentine's Event



Whether you're looking for love or just an amazing time come to the LGBT Center's Valentine's Day Event on...

FEBRUARY 17TH | 7-10 PM

Red Onion Cafe
555 Main Street, Racine WI



Advance Tickets \$20

After 2/14 \$25



paybee.io/@lgbtsewi@25

Music by Benjamin Rose

ADVOCACY
RAISE Action

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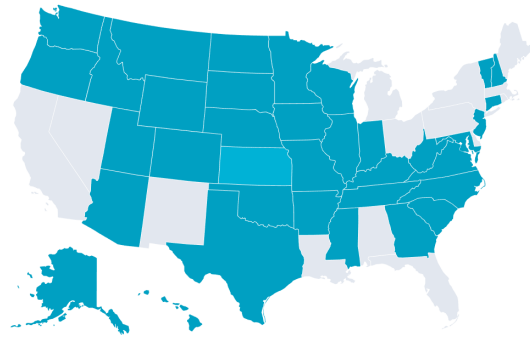
RAISE

LGBTQ+ ADVOCACY
SE WI

ACTION:

Follow [Translegislation.com](https://www.translegislation.com) to keep up with the bills across the country that hurt and erase trans people.

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



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

Since January 1st, 2023...

351 bills

36 states

3 passed 321 active

29 failed

QUEER BOOK CLUB

February's Read: *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas

"Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter moves between two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends.

The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed.

Soon afterward, his death is a national headline. Some are calling him a thug, maybe even a drug dealer and a gangbanger. Protesters are taking to the streets in Khalil's name.

What **really** went down that night? And the only person alive who can answer that is Starr.

The Queer Book Club will select a new book monthly 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, February 28th**. * **Last month this was postponed due to technical**



issues.



QUEER BOOK CLUB

Radical Change Through Real Talk



Youth Programming

Youth Art Night

Tonight's Youth Art Night has been postponed due to a weather cancellation.

Youth ages 14 to 18 and their parents or guardians are welcome to join! Bring your favorite quote, or art piece, or draw your own!

New date! Thursday, March 2nd from 5:30 - 7:00 pm at 1456 Junction Ave, Racine.

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

BUTTON MAKING YOUTH ART NIGHT



BRING YOUR
FAVORITE QUOTE,
ART PIECE, OR DRAW
YOUR OWN!



NEW DATE! →

2 MARCH 2023

5:30-7 PM



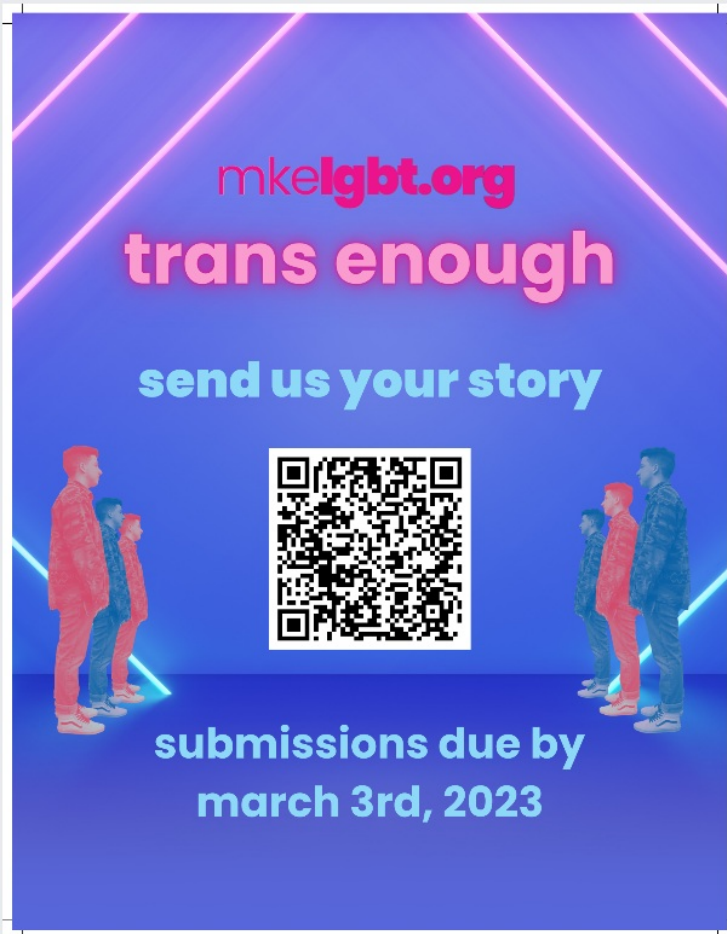
LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin

Events

Trans Enough!

You have until March 3rd to participate in a project by the Milwaukee LGBT Center to share your story as a trans or gender non-conforming person in Wisconsin.

This is an exhibition of stories in the form of written, audio, video, and other media collected from Trans and Gender Non-Conforming members of the greater Milwaukee Area. There will be a collection of Trans stories from people



of all different Trans identities, stages in their journeys, and backgrounds with the goal of empowering everyone with the confidence that they are Trans Enough!

The exhibit will be shown from **March 31st to April 3rd** at the Milwaukee LGBT Center! 315 West Court Street, Milwaukee

LOOKING AHEAD

Youth Equality Prom 2023

Save the date

Mark your calendar for our flagship event of the year as we host youth from all over the state to enjoy the LGBTQ+ Equality Prom of a lifetime.

Admission is free but registration is requested. Ages 14-18 with student id. More details on Equality Prom registration or ways to sponsor the event coming soon...

Saturday, April 22 from 6:00 - 10:00 PM

Meadowbrook Country Club, 2149 N Green Bay Rd, Racine



Support Groups

2023 Calendar

LGBT CENTER OF SE WISCONSIN'S

Current Groups



Bi/Pan Support Group | 5-6 PM



Parenting with Pride | 5-6 PM

Queer Book Club | 6-7:30 PM

(Last Tuesday of the Month)



Queer Social Group | 10 - 11 AM

Trans & Nonbinary Group | 5- 6 PM



Be You: LGBT Youth Group | 5 - 6 PM

Youth Art Nights | 5:30 - 7 PM



Fifty & Up | 1-2:30 PM

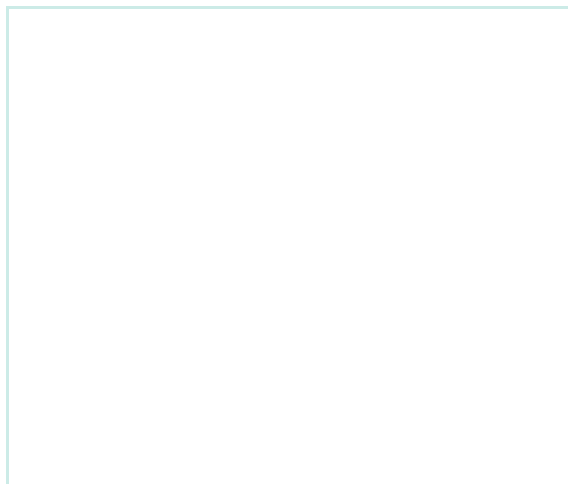
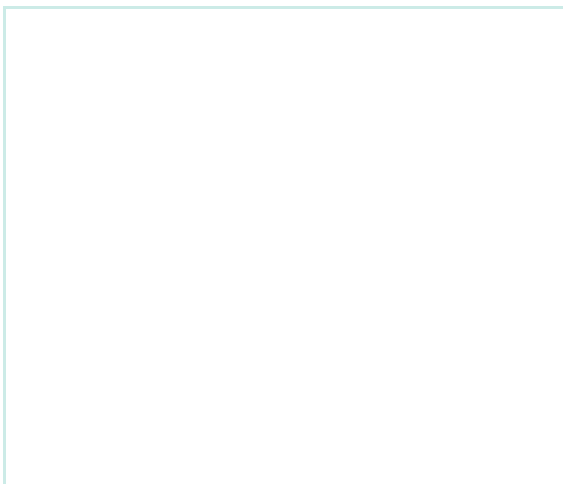
We continue to provide Support Groups either in-person or on zoom - your choice!

To sign up for youth groups (14-18) click [here](#). For adult groups (18+) sign up [here](#).

Aurora Health Care in Racine

LGBTQ+ Informed Medical Team

2621 S Green Bay Rd Racine, WI 53406 (262) 504-6100





Meet Dr. Steven Wipijewski

I am a family medicine physician and have recently begun accepting patients at Aurora Healthcare in Racine. I completed my residency training at Aurora St. Luke's in Milwaukee, and took a primary care position out of residency to work for Fenway Health in Boston, MA providing care for the HIV+ and LGBTQ+ communities.

I provide gender-affirming care to patients with various gender identities, PrEP, PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis), STI screening, contraception, and all of the primary care things you can think of! I also am credentialed with the American Academy of HIV Medicine and can treat and manage HIV-positive patients.

I take care of children and adults, and am excited to be working in the area to provide the community with a safe space to receive their healthcare!



Meet Dr. Elizabeth King

I am a family physician/MD and have been with Aurora for the last 5 years but previously practiced in Iowa, San Francisco, and Illinois. I became involved with LGBTQ+ health in my residency and the University of Iowa and have continued ever since.

I provide gender-affirming hormone therapy with informed consent, PrEP, contraception, Pap smears, STI screening, initial treatment for depression and anxiety, and refer folks for gender-affirming surgery. We also focus on preventive care including screening labs, vaccines, and cancer screening (mammograms, colon cancer screening, etc).

I see both children and adults and truly enjoy caring for families of all kinds (chosen and biological). I am kink aware/friendly.



Avery Project

The Avery Project, offers financial assistance for any LGBTQ+ person seeking assistance with the legal name change process.

Named after Patton Law's own staff member Avery Abbot (right) it is one way the firm's founder, David Patton has chosen to support the LGBTQ+ community and civil rights cases.

"The Avery Project hopes to build an accessible bridge for trans and nonbinary folks to access resources to assist with the arduous process of a legal name change. For many, this can be just the first step to validating a life-long struggle with their authentic selves. It gives them the ability to have their true selves recognized legally, which is a small comfort that has a massive reach." says Abbott.

The firm provides criminal law and public defender services to Kenosha and Racine County residents as well as legal services in civil rights, family law, custody, juvenile justice, and adoption cases with expertise in the LGBTQ+ community.

To donate to the Avery Project ...





PATTON LAW OFFICE, S.C.

FERCE ADVOCACY. PERSONAL SERVICE. CREATIVE SOLUTIONS.

YOU CAN SUPPORT **THE AVERY PROJECT BY
SPONSORING A NAME CHANGE**

PAYPAL QR CODE:



PAYPAL ONLINE:

<https://bit.ly/AveryProject>

CHECK OR CASH:

Make checks payable to By Your Side Family Support

MAIL CHECKS ONLY TO:

Patton Law Office, SC
Attn: Tamara Patton
1636 Taylor Avenue, Racine, WI 53403



The LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin

1456 Junction Avenue
Racine, WI 53403
(262) 644-4100

Subscribe!

