

TO BE perfectly **QUEER**

NEWS OF THE LGBT CENTER OF SE WISCONSIN

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR **Plans for 2023!**

Happy New Year!

2023 is going to be an amazing year for the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin for many reasons.

Thanks to the United Way of Racine County's Equity Innovation Fund, we are hiring our first Equity Coordinator to provide social events, support groups, mentorships, and leadership development to our LGBTQ communities of color. We want people in SE Wisconsin to know they don't have to go to Chicago or Milwaukee to find a supportive and engaging network.



We are also hiring a Youth Coordinator to help strengthen our relationships with youth to provide support, activities, and friendships with other LGBTQ+ youth. We will work with our schools to provide training and collaboration on awareness initiatives. This position will give us more capacity to have a positive impact on young people and their families.

Lastly, we are creating an Operations Manager position to help manage our day-to-day lives at the Center. This is a leadership position that helps us manage the details and oversee our new programs.

And no...money hasn't fallen from the sky! We continue to manage our budget effectively and be creative in the many ways in which we find resources to do the work that is needed.

On a more somber note, we will need everyone to fight back on our state's wave of potential conservative bills and actions that target trans youth, trans athletes, and a resurgence of parental rights legal cases that override the rights of young LGBTQ+ people.

This will be a busy year for all of us...AND...we are determined to stay strong and protect the rights of our community.



Events

Donor Appreciation Breakfast



Thank you to some of our key donors and funders for joining us for our first Donor Appreciation Breakfast held at the LGBT Center. It was a time to recognize and acknowledge those who believe in our mission and support us.

We shared our 2023 direction and some of the key contributions and achievements in 2022. We wrapped up some queer trivia, where everyone was a winner!



Just last week, the Wisconsin Legislative Rules Committee overturned the Wisconsin licensing rules that prohibit LGBTQ+ conversion therapy which Governor Tony Ever's put in place back in 2021. Conversion therapy is not therapy. It is a series of techniques to coerce LGBTQ+ youth to be straight and cisgender, which is detrimental and ineffective for LGBTQ+ youth. Conversion therapy has devastating and life-long negative outcomes.

Action: Please share this recent [article on Conversion Therapy from WPR](#) to raise awareness about the repeal of the ban on conversion therapy licensing.

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

QUEER BOOK CLUB

January'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, January 31st.**



QUEER BOOK CLUB

Radical Change Through Real Talk

IT'S ALL ABOUT CREDIT!

Learn about the benefits of credit, what to consider before applying for credit, methods to establish and re-establish credit, and the real cost of different types of loans!

25 January 2023

After Trans & Nonbinary Group -

6:30 PM



Achieving more together.



Learning Event

What you need to know about credit...

Listen to our friend Victor Frasher from Educator's Credit Union share how to manage your credit or how to get it back on track with tips for the queer community.

All are welcome to this free event.

Wednesday, January 25th, 6:30 - 7:30 PM at the LGBT Center!

Youth Programming

Youth Art Night

Youth Art night this Thursday will be led by Kathi Wilson, Executive Director of the Racine Arts Council. She will lead us down the path of drawing our urban surroundings. There are no such things as mistakes...it's part of the process.

Youth ages 14 to 18 and their parents or guardians are welcome to join! All materials will be provided thanks to a grant from the Eldon Murray Foundation.

Thursday, January 19th 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.



Youth Art Night

RACINE ARTS COUNCIL PRESENTS:

Urban Sketching Edition PT. II

Supplies provided!



19 January 2023
5:30 - 7 PM
LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin



Event

Valentine's Event! Save the date...

Friday, February 17th

Add this to your Valentine's Day extravaganza list!

And in true LGBT Center fashion...no date is required. Come to dance, mingle and enjoy some winter libations and chill out with us!

Red Onion Cafe, 555 Main Street in downtown Racine.

Tickets and more details will be available next week.

All proceeds from this event benefit The LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin.

2023 VALENTINE'S DAY EVENT

SAVE THE DATE

THE
LGBT
CENTER
OF SE WISCONSIN

FRIDAY,
FEBRUARY
17TH

Music,
Dancing,
Hors d'Oeuvres,
Auction
&...Love.

Red Onion Cafe | 555 Main Street, Racine WI

Details to come...

Support Groups

50+ Group, 1st and 3rd Saturdays

We welcome new members to the 50+ group. Join us for story telling, laughs, speakers and topics of the day.

Attend either in-person or virtual on Saturdays 1:00 - 2:30 PM Get the zoom link [here](#).



Join our *hybrid* Fifty and Up Group!

Connect with LGBT peers on the first and third Saturday of each month.

We meet in person at the Center or via Zoom.

This Saturday - 1:00 - 2:30 PM

[Join on Zoom](#)

You can also join with the Zoom Meeting ID 873-3491-6832 or call in by phone at [312-626-6799](tel:312-626-6799).

The LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin

1456 Junction Ave. Racine, WI 53403
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LOOKING AHEAD Scholarships Available

The PFund Foundation's scholarship fund is used to provide scholarships to LGBTQ+ learners from the upper Midwest at all stages of their education. In 2022, PFund Foundation distributed a record \$124,500 to 51 queer students from across the upper Midwest.



The 2023 PFund Scholarship Application is now open! Scholarships are available for learners from many disciplines and practices. If you know any person, organization, or school who would benefit from learning about our scholarships, please share our link: <https://www.pfundfoundation.org/scholarship-fund>

United Way of Racine County, Equity Grant - Colorful and Connected

The United Way of Racine County's Equity Innovation Fund supports projects, programs and solutions that use innovative strategies to reduce disparities, improve outcomes and empower members of historically marginalized populations.

The fund is made possible through the generosity of novelist and philanthropist MacKenzie Scott, and through support from Racine County. For more information go to their [website](#).

The LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin recently received a significant award to fund our Equity Program, Colorful and Connected. The grant supports a new Equity Coordinator position that will help bring LGBTQ+ Communities of Color create social events, support, advocacy, and leadership development. The grant also supports a mentorship program that will help guide the program as well as work with our community.

We are actively hiring an Equity Coordinator and identifying interested mentors to help develop future LGBTQ+ leaders of color.

Below Barb Farrar, Executive Director, LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin and Jessica Safransky Schacht, Chief Operating Officer, United Way of Racine County at the first Donor Breakfast at the Center last week.





Racine, WI 53403
(262) 644-4100

