

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 April 4th - VOTE!

Hello friends,

If you want to make a difference this year, you will cast your ballot in the April 4th election. No, it's not a presidential election, but it will have a lasting impact on our cities and the state of Wisconsin for years to come. Local Mayoral races will determine what programs and initiatives the city prioritizes and the Wisconsin Supreme Court race will have opportunities to make legal decisions on topics such as protections for the LGBTQ+ community.



At risk for our LGBTQ+ community is access to health care for trans folx, especially trans youth who need access to affirming health services. Also at risk is the right of supportive parents to advocate for the health services of their trans youth. We do not want to follow the path of states like Iowa, Missouri, Utah, and others. We have all been watching other states take away the rights of teachers, doctors, parents, and libraries that are supportive of not just the LGBTQ+ community, but social justice and human rights.

Also at risk is Wisconsin's access to abortion rights pending the State Supreme Court judge's seat which could be legalized by the court. Also at stake is party gerrymandering which could make decisions about how our voting districts are drawn to ensure fairness and equal representation, especially in urban districts with higher numbers of Black/brown voters.

On Sunday, March 26th at 3:00, the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin will hold a listening session from Fair Wisconsin to talk about the critical issues at stake in this election. (See more information in the newsletter). This event is for the community.

If you are not registered to vote, please go to myVote.wi.gov.

Watch this space.

Peace,
Barb



Center Update Fully staffed!

Welcome, **Venus Randall Saunders** as our Equity Coordinator! Thanks to the United Way of Racine County Equity Innovation Grant for supporting our Colorful and Connected program serving communities of color in SE Wisconsin.

"My name is Venus and pronouns they/them/theirs. I'm your new Equity Coordinator @ the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin. I am Chicago born & raised. So stepping, Harold's and the south side runs through me. As a Milwaukee resident you can catch me @ This Is It or getting some bomb tacos. I cannot wait to show Y'all everything that I have planned for the Racine & Kenosha LGBTQ+ community!"
Venus



Welcome, **Patricia Castillo Venegas** as our Youth Coordinator serving youth in SE Wisconsin with support groups, activities, and education for parents and schools.

"Hola! My name is Patricia Castillo Venegas and I am the new Youth Coordinator for the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin. I was born in Toluca Mexico, but my family is all from Sahuayo and San Pedro, Michoacan. I came to the US with my family when I was 2, so I grew up in Racine and was in RUSD schools K-12. I ended up going to UW-Madison for undergrad where I studied Conservation Biology and Global Health and also got involved in student activism and community organizing. In

my free time, you can catch me tending to my plants, cooking, dancing, or playing with my rambunctious pandemic cat named Petunia!"

Patricia

Events

Equality Prom

We are ***thrilled*** to host our 13th annual Equality Prom at Meadowbrook Country Club. We are expecting at least 125 youths from around the state. The event is free for youth and the dress code is BeYou...

Stay tuned for information about our costume closet, makeup, and hair services the day of, as well as ways for youth to help with decorations. Also, we are actively seeking ways to provide transportation for Kenoshians and west of I-94 youth.



LGBT CENTER OF SE WISCONSIN PRESENTS:



For Equality, Freedom, Empowerment, Love

EQUALITY PROM

for teens

Meadowbrook Country Club

2149 N Green Bay Rd
Mt Pleasant, WI 53405

OK

FREE ENTRY!
WITH VALID MIDDLE OR HIGH SCHOOL ID

22 APRIL 2023
[6 PM - 10 PM]



Registration:



Support Equality Prom

We are looking for sponsors to help support our Equity Prom! If you would like to sponsor a youth or sponsor parts of the event - like our Taco bar, please click here to support Prom and youth programs throughout the year!

SPONSOR A YOUTH FOR EQUALITY PROM 2023

\$25 EQUALITY PROM SPONSOR 2023

[Send a youth to prom!](#)

[Sponsor Prom!](#)

ADVOCACY

Election Roundtable

Fair Wisconsin will lead a discussion on the impact of the April 4th election on the statewide LGBTQ+ community. Join us at the Center this Sunday!

RACINE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY ROUNDTABLE

WHAT'S AT STAKE IN WISCONSIN'S SUPREME
COURT ELECTION ON APRIL 4TH?

SUNDAY, MARCH 26TH | 3:00PM
1456 JUNCTION AVE, RACINE WI



ADVOCACY

Equality Agenda Listening Session

Equality Agenda Listening Session
(in partnership with Fair Wisconsin and our Wisconsin legislators)

"As LGBTQ+ legislators, we want to hear from the LGBTQ+ community about your priorities in the 2023-24 legislative session. Over the next two years, we will have the opportunity as legislators to introduce bills and to continue to work with Governor Evers on both symbolic and substantive policy proposals to advance LGBTQ+ equality in Wisconsin."

"During the listening session, we hope to give a brief overview of Equality Agenda legislation we have introduced in the past, and open up for a discussion on priorities for this legislative session and any new legislation that should be introduced." [Facebook event](#), and [Zoom registration link](#)

LGBTQ+ Caucus Listening Session

March 30th | 6-7:30pm

Join Wisconsin's Legislative LGBTQ+ Caucus to discuss your LGBTQ+ policy priorities for the 2023-24 legislative session!

[Click Here to Register](#)

ADVOCACY

RAISE Action



ACTION:

Make sure your friends and family know what is at stake for the April 4th election and encourage them to VOTE!

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



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

Since January 1st, 2023...

487 bills

46 states

36 passed 425 active

43 failed

QUEER BOOK CLUB

March's Read: Gender Queer by Maia Kobabe

"Author Maia Kobabe explores gender identity in the 2019 graphic memoir Gender Queer, which is centered on coming out to friends and family."

"I wrote it sort of towards an audience who I

knew, like, loved me and supported me and knew me and was very sympathetic to me," Kobabe told NPR. "And I think that let me write without any, really, fear."

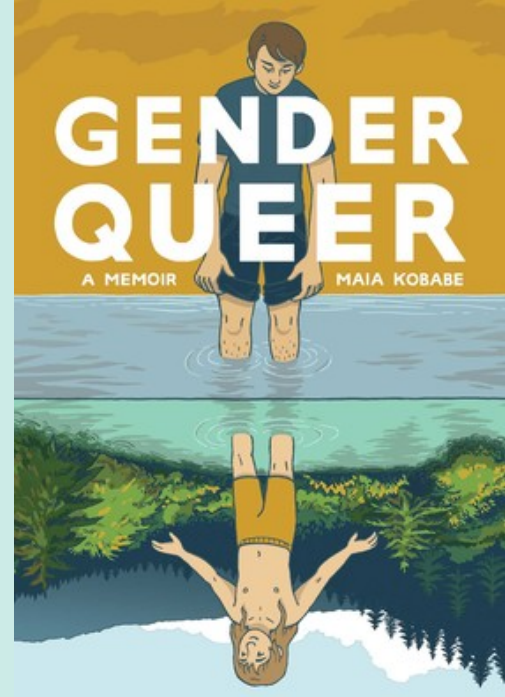
"Kobabe grew up in Northern California. In illustrated panels in the book, readers learn about Kobabe feeling physically different from a young age but unable to openly express it. The book has been praised in some circles for how it talks about identity — but it's also drawn a lot of rebuke from people who cite its sexually explicit nature and the illustrations."

"Gender Queer has been banned from library shelves in more states than any other book."

Go [here](#) to listen to the 7-minute radio show with author Maia Kobabe on NPR's series *Banned and Challenged*.

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, March 28th on zoom.**



Youth Programming Youth Art Night

Our next Youth Art Night is **Thursday, April 20th from 5:30 - 7:00 pm** at 1456 Junction Ave, Racine. 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!

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

Below are pictures from our button-making Youth Art Night in February.



LOOKING AHEAD
Support Groups
2023 Calendar 0323

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](#).

Starbucks Community Partnership Award

This week, 6 Starbucks managers from Kenosha and Racine arrived at the Center to announce we received a \$1000 community service award! They also brought a cake, balloons, and their smiling faces. We were nominated by Racine Store Manager (5658 Washington Ave.), Evan Guttormsen for the award. He is the one holding the cake.



The relationship between the Center and Starbucks goes much deeper than just cake and checks...we encourage LGBTQ+ people to apply for jobs at Starbucks because of their inclusive hiring practices, health insurance, and tuition reimbursement but also because they welcome people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. It is a safe place to work without bias and homo/transphobia.

Thank you, Starbucks for all YOU do for our community!



