

TO BE perfectly QUEER

NEWS OF THE LGBT CENTER OF SE WISCONSIN

Inside the Issue | Pleasure Ball | Beach Volleyball | Youth Programming

Make A Donation

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Let's have a BALL!

Hello friends,

We are thrilled to announce that our program Colorful and Connected will host a ball on **September 22nd at The Branch At 1501** in Uptown Racine.

What is Ball? Start [here](#) with the trailer for the award-winning 1990 documentary film called "Paris Is Burning." The film was selected for preservation in the film archives of the Library of Congress in 2016 as being culturally, historically, and aesthetically significant to our Country's history. The series "**Pose**" was based on Paris is Burning and ran from 2018-2021 on Netflix. Ball culture is one of the most important subculture phenomena for BIPOC LGBTQ+ folx.

Ball can be traced back to drag in the 1890s but acceptance of Black and Brown performers in typical white drag shows was not always accepted. Because of that exclusion, Black and Latine queer people created a space where free expression of their complete selves was not only possible but



celebrated. Ball as we know it took off in 1967 when Crystal LaBeija left a drag ball in protest of racial bias from the ball judges and started the first ballroom house - the House of LaBeija.

For some ball participants, "houses" or "families" serve as their only source of family. Many queer youth join balls at a young age and sometimes live in their houses if they cannot safely live with their biological family. Balls became a way for houses to raise money through competitions in order to survive. These safe and inclusive BIPOC spaces have sustained Ball culture and preserved its own unique and elaborate art form.

The Pleasure Ball in Racine will have categories for contestants to "walk" (perform a dance or strut down the runway) in order to win trophies and prizes in each competition. We have invited performers from "houses" across the Midwest but will be open to beginners as well. Please see the list of categories in order to plan your walk.

Join us as we honor this rich and unique tradition by hosting our ball, called the Pleasure Ball. Get all the details from our [**Get all the details from our social media.**](#)

The ball is open to everyone, but please be mindful of this Black and Brown space and the importance of its history.

Also, there is a youth ball from 11-3:00 PM as part of a Harm Reduction Clinic prior to the ball. [**Details here.**](#)

This ball is funded in full by the United Way of Racine County's Equity Innovation Fund.

Peace,
Barb



Upcoming
Racine's Pleasure Ball

Go to the [Pleasure Ball Event page to register](#) (the event is free, but registration is required) and to see the categories and prizes.

SEVYN GORGEOUS GUCCI & TEETEE MIZRAHI IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LGBT CENTER OF SE WISCONSIN PRESENTS

Pleasure BALL

SEPT 22ND 6-11 PM

OVER 2000.00 DOLLARS IN CASH & PRIZES
SOUNDS BY DJ FEMME NOIR

CATEGORIES
RUNWAY | SEX-SIREN | BODY
BEST DRESSED | STREETWEAR
LIP-SYNC | TWERK | FACE
ANDROGYNOUS-FASHION | BAZAAR
REALNESS | HAIR | FF | MF
BIG BOY RUNWAY
REALNESS AS A HOUSE
COMM VS COMM
SNEAKER VS SNEAKER
EYEWEAR VS EYEWEAR
HEEL VS PLATFORM BOOT
VOGUE PERFORMANCE
HAND PERFORMANCE
NEW CATEGORIES
FACE | VOGUE | RUNWAY
SEX-SIREN | REALNESS DUO
BAZAAR

LOCATION
1501 WASHINGTON
AVE, RACINE, WI
53403

COMMENTATOR
ICON KENTRELLE
GORGEOUS GUCCI

OUR SPONSORS
THE LGBT CENTER
United Way
United Way of Racine County

Upcoming Harm Reduction Market

Join us before the ball on September 22 at the Branch for this amazing community event with vendors and nonprofits sharing information as well as a runway for youth to walk prior to the 18+ Pleasure Ball event starting at 6:00 PM.

COMMUNITY HARM REDUCTION MARKET

Come and join The LGBT Center Of Southeast Wisconsin for a community market focused on harm reduction and health & wellness. This event will feature a variety of activities suitable for all ages, along with opportunities for cultural education. Additionally, there will be a range of community vendors and businesses present. We look forward to seeing you there!

Youth Activities

We Deserve Our Flowers Now -
Activity
Book Read W/ "Reading With The
Homies"
Mini Runway Walk
Youth V.I.P Interviews

Vendor Categories

Health & Wellness
Spirituality & Tarot
Jewelry & Clothing
Food & Drink

When: Sept 22nd

Time: 11:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Where: The Branch @ 1501



Event

Movie Night - Royal Rumble Night



Movie regulars perfected their wrestling moves and celebrated Pat Patterson, the openly gay wrestler who created the Royal Rumble tournament in WWE.

Of course, no wrestling match is complete without hotdogs and rainbow fans!

September's movie is "Death Becomes Her"

Date: TBD - stay on the lookout

on socials or our Upcoming Events calendar on website.

Growth

Building our Future

The LGBT Center staff have been selected to participate in a 10-week training led by Building our Future

(BOF), The Continuous Improvement cohort covers tools from Results Count™, a leadership framework from the Annie E. Casey Foundation that supports human service organizations to make positive, measurable change for children and families, as well as tools from our national network of partners at StriveTogether.

The BOF team is amazing and helps us every step of the way!



**BUILDING
OUR FUTURE**

COMMUNITY UNITES • STUDENTS SUCCEED • EVERYONE PROSPERS



Continuous Improvement Cohort

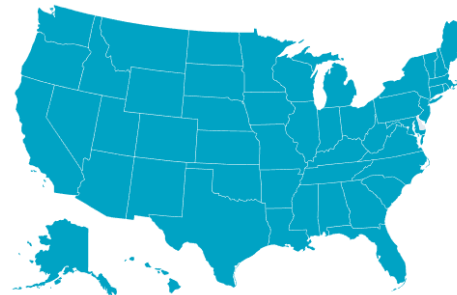
Make your results count!

ADVOCACY RAISE Action



[Join the RAISE group](#)

This is the place to learn about advocacy actions in SE Wisconsin to support social justice through action.



Click on a state to see bills

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

Since January 1st, 2023...

566 bills

49 states

80 passed 358 active

128 failed

QUEER BOOK CLUB

August's Read: *Journal of a Black Queer Nurse*

"In this searing, honest memoir, a Black queer emergency-room nurse works the front lines of care during COVID-19. Britney Daniels is a Black, masculine-presenting, tattooed lesbian from a working-class background. For the last five years, she has been working as an emergency-room nurse."

"She began *Journal of a Black Queer Nurse* as a personal diary, a tool to heal from the day-to-day traumas of seeing too much and caring too much. Hilarious, gut-wrenching, and infuriating by turns, these stories are told from the perspective of a deeply empathetic, no-nonsense young nurse, who highlights the way race, inequality, and a profit-driven healthcare system make the hospital a place where systemic racism is lived"...*Bookshop.org*

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, August 29th on Zoom.**

JOURNAL OF A
BLACK
QUEER
NURSE

BRITNEY DANIELS



QUEER BOOK CLUB

Radical Change Through Real Talk

OUTlook
UPCOMING EVENTS

LOOKING AHEAD

Casting Call

Our Youth Coordinator, Patricia Castillo is actively seeking young LGBTQ+ current high school students or graduates to be a part of a transformative video series designed for educators in SE Wisconsin and potentially beyond. The time commitment is low but the impact is high.

Please, share your voice to make a difference in the future of our youth! **Sign up here.** Email patricia@lgbtsewi.org for more information.

PLAY ▶

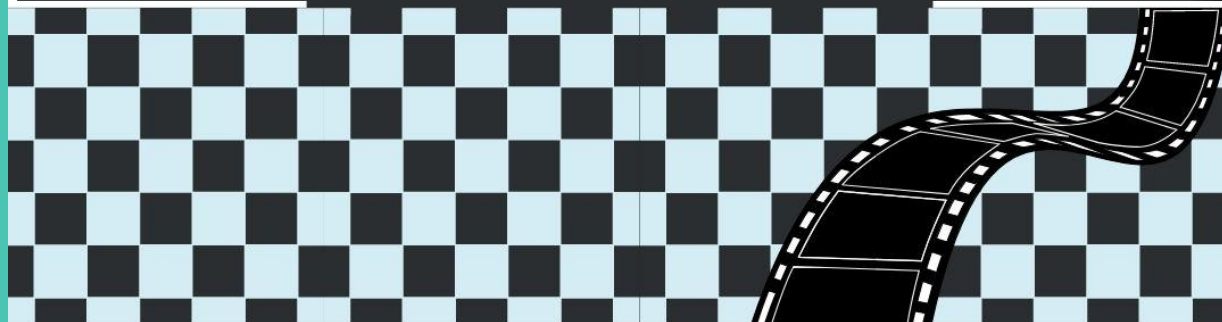


CASTING CALL!

**ARE YOU A RUSD GRADUATE OR CURRENT RUSD
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT THAT IS PART OF THE
LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY?**

**INTERESTED IN BEING INVOLVED IN A LOCAL
VIDEO PROJECT?**

Reach out to our youth coordinator Paty: patricia@lgbtsewi.org



Event

Beach Volleyball

Have you been looking for other queer Wisconsinites who are up for sporting activities? Join the Center & our community leader, Kez, for a morning full of fun. Make new connections with other LGBTQ+ friends & allies. Help us determine if we should provide more outdoor events for the community!

Don't forget your sunscreen, comfy clothes, hats, and shades! Volleyballs & water provided. (Feel free to bring your own ball). [Event link](#) Meet us on the shores of Noth Beach at the [volleyball courts](#) near the Oasis! Everyone is welcome.



SUMMER 2023 VOLLEYBALL HANG OUT

Sunday, 20 August 2023
10:00 AM
At North Beach | Racine, WI



Youth Programming Youth Art Night

Join us this **Thursday, August 17th** from **5:30-7:00 PM** at the LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin (1546 Junction Ave, Racine) to make your Ball outfit!

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 8/17

The LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin Presents:

Ball Outfit Design!

1456 Junction Ave.
Racine, WI 53403

5:30 PM to
7:00 PM

Join us for a design workshop led by our Youth Coordinator, Paty. We will go over 'ball' 101, where we will learn how ballroom culture is living ART and HISTORY, as well as go over design basics to design your own ball outfit!



SOUNDS

GAY

IPM

IN

Have questions or need disability accommodations? Email our Youth Coordinator Patricia at patricia@lgbtsewi.org

Youth Programming

Youth Healthy Relationships

In collaboration with BeLeaf Survivors, we are co-hosting a summer LGBTQ+ Healthy Relationship Peer Support Group.

Join us in person at the Racine Public Library, August 26th from 12:30-2:00 PM.

Middle & High School Students Wanted!

LGBTQ+ Healthy Relationship Peer Support Group

FREE Open Group for LGBTQ+ Youth & Allies

 community building 
 personal wellness 
 fun activities 
 group reads 
 refreshments & snacks 

Every 4th Saturday of the month

12:30-2:00 PM

Racine Public Library
75 7th St., Racine, WI
53403

July 22

August
26

Sept
23



Let us know you'll join us at lravenwolf@beleafsurvivors.org

Youth Programming Support Group

Join us **Thursday, August 24th** for a guest appearance by Zak will be joining to discuss his experience auditioning and will be sharing audition tips!

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.



WITH OUR BESTIE, ZAK!

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL EDITION OF YOUTH GROUP! ZAK IS THE CENTER'S HOST FOR QUEER MOVIE NIGHTS AND WAS IN LAST YEAR'S PRODUCTION OF THE LITTLE MERMAID AT THE RACINE THEATRE GUILD! HE WILL GO OVER HIS AUDITION, REHEARSAL, AND PERFORMANCE EXPERIENCES AND WILL HAVE A Q&A, SO PREP YOUR QUESTIONS!



**BE YOU:
YOUTH
GROUP**

**AUDITION
EDITION!**

**THURSDAY
8/24
5-6PM**



Support Groups 2023 Calendar

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



Bisexual & Pansexual

Monday 5PM-6PM

Parenting with Pride

Tuesday 5PM-6PM

Wednesday 6:30-8PM

Queer Social Group

Wednesday 10AM-11AM

Trans & Nonbinary

Wednesday 5PM-6PM

Colorful & Connected

Thursday 3PM-4PM

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



LGBTSEWI.ORG/PROGRAMS

Queer Movie Night

2nd Saturday of the
month @ 6:30PM



Youth Art Night

3rd Thursday of the
month @ 5:30PM



Support Group

Parenting with Pride West of the "I"

Join Parenting with Pride, West of the "I". The group is a collaboration with Jeanne Costanza (a proud parent of an LGBTQ+ young adult) and the Center's Youth Coordinator, Patricia Castillo, hosted at the Salem Library. Sign up using the QR code below and join other parents for these important conversations.

PARENTING WITH PRIDE - WEST OF THE 'I' WITH YOUR HOST, JEANNE!

THIS IS A FREE PEER SUPPORT GROUP FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF LGBTQIA+ KIDS AND ADULT CHILDREN. WE ARE LOOKING TO BUILD UP A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY OF PARENTS/GUARDIANS SO WE CAN NAVIGATE THE OVERWHELMING STUFF LIFE THROWS AT US.



EVERY 2ND AND 4TH WEDNESDAY
OF EACH MONTH 6:30-8:00 PM

SALEM COMMUNITY LIBRARY
24615 89TH ST, SALEM, WI 53168
OR VIA ZOOM!

THINGS YOU WILL GET OUT OF THIS GROUP:

MEET
FAMILIES LIKE
YOURS

SHARE AND
PROCESS
STORIES

RESOURCES

ADVOCACY



SCAN QR CODE FOR ZOOM LINK!

QUESTIONS/DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS?
EMAIL INFO@LGBTSEWI.ORG



The
United
Way of



United Way
of Kenosha County

Kenosha County

Youth Programs in Kenosha

We are thrilled to start offering LGBTQ+ youth programming for the 2023-2024 school year in Kenosha. This program is made possible in part by the United Way of Kenosha County.

Chief Executive Officer Carolynn Friesch, "We are delighted to support the LGBTQ+ Youth Program in Kenosha. This initiative perfectly aligns with our commitment to fostering a healthier and more interconnected community in Kenosha County."

It has been a goal of the Center to provide training to Kenosha and are thrilled to provide this service to our Kenosha families. Program dates and activity details will be available soon. This is the first grant the Center has received from the United Way of Kenosha County.



The LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin

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

Subscribe!

