

TO BE
perfectly QUEER
NEWS OF THE LGBT CENTER OF SE WISCONSIN

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What Do You Need?

Hello friends,

Soon we will be rolling out our first major Community Needs Assessment. With the assistance of Payne & Frazier Consultants, we will be gathering information from up to 1,000 people in SE Wisconsin and beyond.



What is a Needs Assessment? **"A needs assessment is the process of identifying and determining how to fill in the gaps between an organization's current and desired state."**

Our community is always changing and growing and the Center wants to know what you need today and to anticipate the needs of tomorrow. With a small staff and budget, how can we be most effective and impactful?

That's where you come in. Check your email and social media and be ready to share your thoughts, experiences, needs, and wish lists for the Center. Think big and tell us where are gaps are. Help us get better so we can better support you every day.

And don't forget to marvel at Wisconsin's majestic fall trees as they are bursting with color this week!

Peace,
Barb



Event

We Had A Ball!



Colorful and Connected's Pleasure Ball was an epic event for Racine. "Houses" from Chicago and Milwaukee graced the dance floor at The Branch at 1501 in Uptown. Over 100 dancers came to "walk" categories and competed for trophies and cash prizes. [Video from the Pleasure Ball](#)

Ballroom Culture is alive and well and brings trans/queer black and brown folx to celebrate its long history of drag and dance.

[To learn more...](#)

Kudos to Colorful and Connected's Coordinator, Venus Randall Saunders, Event Coordinators Sevyn Lockett and Ricardo Wynn, and De-escalation Coordinator, Yante Turner, Sunseekers Mke, and the many volunteers who helped make this an amazing event!

Youth Program

Videos for RUSD

Youth Coordinator, Patricia Castillo Venegas has been working with Racine Unified School District (RUSD) to create six 3-5 minute videos to be shown to staff to bring awareness of the LGBTQ+ experience. The videos will help provide tools for staff to better understand and support LGBTQ+ youth in schools.

The Highschool Experience for LGBT+ Students at RUSD

The LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin in collaboration with Racine Unified School District

The mini docu-series *From Surviving to Thriving* is a heavy yet necessary insight into the lived experiences of queer youth growing up in Racine. This first video, "The Highschool Experience for LGBT+ Students at RUSD," was envisioned to give a glimpse of the struggles LGBT+ highschoolers at RUSD face compared to the struggles of their cisgender straight peers using RUSD's 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey data.

"On Memorial Day of 2023, I started at the Windpoint Lighthouse and took b-roll footage of well-known places that make up the City of Racine. All of these locations might seem mundane or even hold happy memories for many, but for many queer youth, these locations are places where they've gone and processed very heavy mental and emotional struggles." says Castillo Venegas.

Castillo Venegas's family came to the US in 1999 and they attended RUSD. "Our experiences as queer people growing up in SE Wisconsin are unique and deserve a platform. I hope this series helps people understand the severity of the issues LGBT+ youth face, inspires them to learn more, and motivates them to take action so our kids don't have to constantly be surviving."

[You can watch Episode 1: From Striving to Thriving Here](#)

YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Sketching at Wingspread

Racine Arts Council's
Executive Director Kathi
Wilson created scholarships



for LGBTQ+ youth to participate in a full day of urban sketching at Wingspread, one of architect Frank Lloyd Wright's local treasures. A special thank you to the Johnson Foundation at Wingspread for welcoming youth to this special event.

"It was beautiful to see kiddos experiencing everything their creative hearts deserve." says Youth

Coordinator, Patricia Castillo Venegas.

"Spaces like the Sketch Event at Wingspread are important and necessary to cultivate joy and creativity for the younger generation now. Kids will save the world, the least we can do to support them is give them access to safe spaces to express themselves."

FUNDRAISING

Every Little Bit Counts

We are seeking 10 new sustaining donors in the month of October - 10 in 10! When you sign up to give an amount that is meaningful to you each month, it makes donating easy and affordable. We count on the generosity of our sustaining donors each month because we can rely on your donation all year round. Can you help us meet this goal? [Donate Here](#)

10 IN 10

SEEKING 10 NEW SUSTAINING DONORS IN OCTOBER!



Help us stock our library with LGBTQIA+ affirming books.

\$10/Month



Support youth activities, equality prom, and parenting programs.

\$25/Month



Support trans groups, awareness, and a gender affirming space.

\$50/Month



Uplift and support LGBTQIA+ communities of color.

\$75/Month



Advocate for LGBTQIA+ rights and fight to end discrimination.

\$100/Month

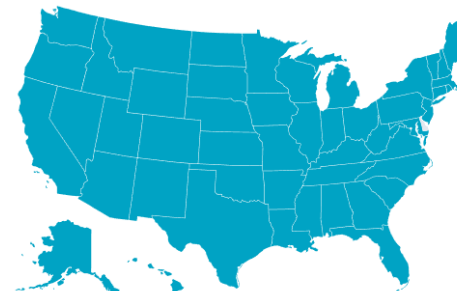


Make the most meaningful monthly gift to you.

Your Choice



ADVOCACY RAISE Action



Click on a state to see bills



RAISE

LGBTQ+ ADVOCACY
SE WI

[Join the RAISE group](#)

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

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

Since January 1st, 2023...

583 bills

49 states

85 passed 373 active

125 failed



OUTlook
UPCOMING EVENTS

LOOKING AHEAD

Transgender Day of Remembrance

November 20th, 5:45 - 8:00 PM

The LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin will be hosting an event for **Transgender Day of Remembrance** at the Center. The purpose of this event is to commemorate and celebrate the lives of members of the trans community who have lost their lives due to violence, bigotry, and systemic oppression while also focusing on resilience and empowerment within the trans community.

The intent of the event is to create an environment in which people are able to freely and respectfully express their grief, hope, and any other emotions that come up as well as provide support and a sense of community to each other. To ensure the event is as accessible as possible, the event will be hybrid so those who cannot attend in person can join over Zoom.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend, but the event will be centered around members of the trans community as well as family, "chosen" family, and friends who have experienced the loss of someone in the trans community due to violence.

Below are links to submit art pieces related to this day or the trans experience, whatever that might represent to you. The other link is to acknowledge a loved one at the event.

[Art Submission Form:](#)

[Acknowledgment of Loved One Form:](#)

Transgender Day of Remembrance



To commemorate, honor and celebrate the lives of members within the trans community who have lost their lives due to violence and bigotry this past year



Date: November 20th

Time: 6:00-8:00 pm

Location: LGBT Center of SE Wisconsin
(May attend over zoom or in person)



QUEER BOOK CLUB

January's Read:
Heartstopper by Alice

Oseman

"Charlie, a highly-strung, openly gay over-thinker, and Nick, a cheerful, soft-hearted rugby player, meet at a British all-boys grammar school. Friendship blooms quickly, but could there be something more...?"

"Charlie Spring is in Year 10 at Truham Grammar School for Boys. Nick Nelson is in Year 11 and on the school rugby team. He's heard a little about Charlie - the kid who was outed last year and bullied for a few months - but he's never had the opportunity to talk to him."

"They quickly become friends, and soon Charlie is falling hard for Nick, even though he doesn't think he has a chance. But sometimes good things are waiting just around the corner..." *Goodreads*

See the Netflix adaptation of this graphic novel series, [Heartstopper](#).

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, January 30th on Zoom.**



EVENT
Movie Night

THE WIZ (1978)

Viewing & Talkback

Sat. NOV 18th | 6:30-9 pm | 1456 Junction Ave



For the upcoming holiday season, we are traveling over the rainbow once again to the Land of Oz, but this time...we are coming from Harlem. That's right, for November we are showcasing the 1978 classic THE WIZ!!

Adapted from the 1974 musical, this re-imagining of the classic tale of Dorothy and her colorful friends from Oz has music legends like Diana Ross, Michael Jackson, and Lena Horne embodying the storied characters!! Warning though, this is NOT the Judy Garland version we showed in June. We are talking about new songs, costumes, and an all-black cast!!!

Join us as we partake in the retelling of this classic story, as we learn about how this retelling evolved from stage to screen, what makes Diana Ross (Miss Ross) a gay icon & why the story of The Wizard Of Oz & its adaptations relate to the queer community. So, as the song goes, "C'mon & ease on down, ease on down the road..."

Saturday, November 18th at 6:30 PM at the Center

GROUPS

Colorful and Connected

We would like to thank Venus Randall Saunders for their work bringing the SE

Wisconsin queer BIPOC community together as our first full-time Equity Coordinator. Colorful and Connected will wind down on October 31st until we can secure additional funding in 2024. Venus, we wish you all the best!



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

2nd Monday each month
5PM-6PM

Parenting with Pride

Tuesdays 5PM-6PM
Wednesdays 6:30-8PM

Queer Social Group

Wednesdays 10AM-11AM

Trans & Nonbinary

Wednesdays 5PM-6PM

Colorful & Connected

Thursdays 8PM-9PM thru Oct.

Be You: Youth Group

Thursdays 5PM-6PM

Fifty & Up

1st & 3rd Saturday
1-2:30PM

Queer Book Club

Last Tuesday of the month
Every 2 months



LGBTSEWI.ORG/PROGRAMS

Queer Movie Night

2nd Saturday of the
month @ 6:30PM



Youth Art Night

3rd Thursday of the
month @5:30PM



BALL



SPONSOR

Gilead Sciences

We are thrilled to announce a sponsorship from Gilead Sciences for their support of the Pleasure Ball. The incredible reduction in HIV transmission would not be possible without Gilead Sciences and their live-changing drugs.

"At Gilead, we set – and achieve – bold ambitions to create a healthier world for all people. From our pioneering virology medicines to our growing impact in oncology, we're delivering innovations once thought impossible in medicine."

"Our focus goes beyond medicines, and we also strive to remedy health inequities and break down barriers to care. We empower our people to tackle these challenges, and we're all united in our commitment to help millions of people live healthier lives."



BALL SPONSOR The Branch At 1501

A huge "thank you" to our friends at The Branch at 1501 for their generous support of the Pleasure Ball and the donation of their space. We know donations like this are hard for small businesses which makes this all the more special.

The space was perfect and their hospitality was felt across state lines. Thank you, Kristina, Joanna, and Kelsey for being such amazing

advocates (and bartenders...) for the LGBTQ+ community! AND...thanks for all you do to make the Uptown business district a thriving part of Racine.



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