

LGBT News

The LGBT Resource Center for the 7 Rivers Region, Inc.
December 2010

Rosanne's Ramblings

Happy Hanukkah! Merry Christmas! Happy Kwanzaa! Bah hum bug!

As the big, fluffy snow flakes fell from the sky last Friday, I was reminded of the miracle of childhood wonder. The bluish gray night sky with cloudy white drifts of snow dancing in unison to fall upon the ground was a spectacular sight. It was amazing and served as a gentle reassurance of the many blessings out there for all of us, if we simply believe. The timing could not have been better as we face a time of year that stirs emotions from deep within and can leave many feeling desolate and keenly aware of what is not harmonious in our lives.

In the spirit of the holiday season and in alliance with the grace inherent in many of our members, Center participants, GALAXY youth, and throughout our community in our neighbors, I ask that you consider supporting the following donation drives sponsored by the Center this holiday season. The donation drives are:

Warm For the Holidays 3

We are collecting donations of toiletries, laundry soap, toothpaste, personal care items, diapers, household cleaning products, and fuzzy socks for the 61 families served by the ARCW-La Crosse. Drop off donations by December 17th.

Adopt-a-family for the ARCW & Center

We have five families from the ARCW that are in need of some holiday cheer. If you are interested in helping by purchasing a gift or two, please contact Rosanne.

In addition to the five families mentioned above, I received a call from four families looking for help with the holidays so their children can have a gift for Christmas, there are 11 children.

Together we can make holiday magic happen and light up the face of children across the Seven Rivers Region.

Thanks for your thoughtful consideration and assistance with making holiday wishes come true.

It is truly a magical time of year and I am blessed to work at the Center. I wish you all a warm holiday filled with magical moments to cherish for years to come. Be well, enjoy all the season has to offer, and celebrate your blessings.

With appreciation,
Rosanne



From the Board President

Happy Holidays to all~

During this time of long nights, cold, and snow, let us be warmed by a sense of community that has been fostered here in La Crosse and the surrounding areas! Come enjoy a hot breakfast with your LGBT and allied community at the Commodore Restaurant in La Crescent on Saturday, January 15th, 2011 from 10 a.m.-noon. Bring along a friend or meet a new one as we share highlights of this past year, our annual report to membership, and goals for our future. We will also be voting in and welcoming new board members. So, come enjoy the camaraderie and join in expanding the Center as we venture across the Mississippi River for the first of our many events planned for 2011! (Breakfast ordered and paid by each person attending--215 S. Chestnut St. in La Crescent).


Kathryn Hietbrink
Board President



Lesbian & Bisexual Women's Focus Group

Related to our Statewide Collaboration regarding Interpersonal Violence

As you may know the LGBT Resource Center for the Seven Rivers Region is partnering with Diverse and Resilient on an LGBT intimate partner violence reduction project. As a part of this project, a project coordinator will be doing focus groups about how to provide messages to the LGBT community about healthy and unhealthy relationships as well as about gaps in services to the LGBT community. While they would like to talk to members of our community, you are not required to be in the focus groups; however, if you are interested in finding out more information or would like to participate in the focus groups you can call the project coordinator, Melissa Lemke, at 414-219-5113 or email melissa.lemke@aurora.org.



12 days of my Financial Planning Christmas

By Christina Mae Olson, CFP



Please feel free to sing along....

♪ On the first day of Christmas, my true love gave to me -

- An emergency fund equal to 3-6 months of after-tax income to meet emergencies, unexpected layoffs, etc. Oh, how romantic.

♪ On the second day of Christmas, my true love gave to me -

- Life insurance coverage equal to six times her annual income. Be still my heart.

♪ On the third day of Christmas, my true love gave to me -

- A valid legal *last will and testament* AND an “*ethical will*” that details her wishes and desires for what should happen if and when she dies. We also covered these things during a heart-to-heart discussion. It’s important to speak out loud your wishes!

♪ On the fourth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me -

- “Durable Powers of Attorney,” for health care and financial matters giving me the authority to make medical and/or financial decisions for her in case she cannot do it for herself.

♪ On the fifth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me -

- A “living will” indicating actions to be taken (or withheld) in the event of a debilitating illness, accident, etc. Since we can’t legally marry in Wisconsin - this should give me the ability to carry out her “final” wishes while at her side in the hospital.

♪ On the sixth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me -

- An organ donor card and “Authorization for Disposition of Final Remains.”

♪ On the seventh day of Christmas, my true love gave to me -

- A safe deposit box to hold valuable papers such as home mortgages, life insurance policies, wills, etc.

♪ On the eighth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me -

- A list of email addresses, computer IDs, passwords, and other computer-related information.

♪ On the ninth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me -

- A list of pre-authorized payments and other monthly debit transactions that automatically occur in her (and our) bank or brokerage accounts.

♪ *On the tenth day of Christmas,
my true love gave to me -*

- **Long-term care and disability insurance coverage.**

♪ *On the eleventh day of Christmas,
my true love gave to me -*

- **Updated beneficiary designations on her retirement plans, IRAs, ROTH IRA's, a 403(b), 401(k), SEP, pension and other tax-qualified savings programs.**

Chris Olson is a licensed financial planner with a fee only practice. You can contact her at CMoney@centurytel.net or (608) 525-9818.

♪ *On the twelfth day of Christmas,
my true love gave to me -*

- **A partnership agreement - drafted by our attorney (who knows and respects our 28 ½ year relationship). This makes us more “legal” than our domestic partner registration or Iowa marriage license.**

Isn't my true love a dream? I haven't decided yet what I will be giving her, but it won't be a scarf!

Introduction by Michael Linse, Financial Advisor

Addressing money management concerns such as budgeting household finances, allocating spending and savings, and considering family needs are important to every couple. However, when it comes to building wealth and achieving long-term financial goals, domestic partners face unique challenges. Domestic partners' financial goals--securing a comfortable retirement life together, perhaps raising and educating children, passing assets to heirs--are the same as the life goals of other clients. Although wealth management, retirement, and legacy planning are challenges for everyone, your circumstances probably require a different and more thoughtful approach to those goals.

My name is Michael Linse and I am a Financial Advisor with Wells Fargo Advisors in La Crosse. I am prepared to help you make important informed choices. I hold certifications from the College of Financial Planning as a Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor and as an Accredited Domestic Partnership Advisor. Advisors who hold the ADPASM designation have completed an extensive course of study encompassing wealth transfers, federal taxation, retirement planning, and planning for financial and medical end-of-life needs for domestic partners. I have the expertise to assist domestic partners with wealth accumulation, asset management, education funding, retirement and estate planning, and more. I can help you determine specific strategies for achieving your most important goals, so you can confidently answer “yes” to the question, “Will we be okay?”

To schedule a time to meet for a no-cost, no-obligation, and confidential discussion, please call (608) 788-9800. If you are my client, the level of service you receive will not be any different from the comprehensive service I provide to my other clients, but the strategies I use to achieve your goals might. My goal is simple, I help my clients plan their money around their lives, not their lives around their money. I welcome the opportunity to earn your trust. At Wells Fargo Advisors, our firm proudly provides domestic partnership benefits and bans job discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. In addition, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) has given Wells Fargo a perfect 100% mark for five years for our fair-minded corporate policies and equal treatment shown to all our LGBT employees.

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GALAXY Perkins Pie Sale

Love pie, but just can't whip out pastry like grandma? Let GALAXY help you! Just order a pie from the list below and pick it up in time for the holidays. You still get to enjoy pie, but with no mess in the kitchen. Help GALAXY raise a little money for upcoming travel to conferences that inspire, educate, and enrich lives!

Pie Choices:

\$10.99: Pumpkin, Homestyle Apple

\$11.99: Pumpkin with Whipped Cream, Cherry

\$12.99: Pecan, Caramel Apple, Lemon Meringue, Coconut cream, Wildberry (no sugar added), Banana Cream

\$13.99: Chocolate French Silk, Peanut Butter Silk, Holiday French Silk

Other Holiday Treat Options:

Muffin-Go-Round Tin with frolicking penguins and filled with 24 mini muffins \$9.99

Elves Delight Tin with winter birds and filled with 36 mini cookies \$9.99

Holiday Gift Basket filled with mini muffins, cookies and brownies! \$15.99

Pies can be picked up between now and January 1st at the Perkins on Rose Street!

To order a pie, email: r.st.sauver@7riverslgbt.org or call: (608) 784-0452.

Thanks for your thoughtful consideration and support!



Upcoming Events

Check the Center's [calendar](#) for more information about upcoming and monthly events.

Out & About and GNO

Please join us Thursday, December 16th, 5-8:30 p.m. for the Rainbow Holiday Appetizer Potluck. Please bring a wrapped gift for prizes for our rousing game of Holiday B*I*N*G*O! We will receive a visit from Ms. Rue Claus and special treats too!

This is an all age event, families welcome. Just bring a dish to share and a good singing voice; we will do a little caroling.

Address: 2121 Sims Place, La Crosse, WI, buzzer #8. Need help; call (608) 797-4663.

Warm for the Holidays

Please support our 3rd Annual Warm for the Holiday donation drive to benefit the families served by the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin-La Crosse. We will be collecting toiletries, laundry soap, toilet paper, cleaning products, personal care items, and more. Please drop off your donation by December 15th.

This is a collaborative effort of the Center and GALAXY.

Movie Week, December 27-30th

Join us at the Center every day at 2 p.m. for an afternoon movie and treats. We will provide snacks and a great movie; just bring yourself and a friend.

Drag for All Ages Variety Show

Join us Friday, December 31st, to ring in 2011! Illusions will be hosting this fantabulous fun night of drag, music, and mayhem! 6 p.m.--midnight.

6 p.m. Social hour and Seating

7 p.m. Drag For All Ages Show

The Drag for All Ages Show will be 90 minutes and will include local favorites, new performers, and even audience members wishing to try drag. If you are interested in trying Drag for the first time, please contact Rosanne at r.st.sauver@7riverslgbt.org or (608) 784-0452 to sign up and get your music in!

8:30-11 p.m. Dancing, music, games, and mayhem! And of course delec-

table treats and munchies to enjoy as you celebrate.

11 p.m. Illusions Show to Rock in 2011 in true cabaret fashion!!
Tickets are \$10.

LGBT Resource Center for the Seven Rivers Region, Annual Meeting

Saturday, January 15th, 2011

10:00-Noon

Join us for our annual business meeting and 2010 highlights of the year.

We will be meeting across the river in La Crescent, MN, at the American Legion, 509 North Chestnut Street. BYOB, Buy your own breakfast. Invite friends, family, colleagues, and more to check out the Center and help build community.

Second Annual For the Love of Art

Friday, February 4th, 2011

5:30-9:30 p.m.

Concordia Ballroom, 1129 La Crosse Street. La Crosse, WI

Tickets \$10



Ongoing Center Activities

Weekly Activities

GALAXY, a group for youth ages 13-20

When: Every Tuesday 4-6 p.m. and every Saturday 2-4 p.m.

Where: 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center, 303 Pearl Street, La Crosse

LGBTQ Parents Group

When: Not currently meeting. Call the Center to restart this group.

Where: 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center, 303 Pearl Street, La Crosse

Drop-in Group

When: Every Thursday 6-8 p.m.

Where: 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center, 303 Pearl Street, La Crosse

Bi-weekly Activities

GLENDAA/AA Group

When: First and third Friday at 7 p.m.

Where: 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center, 303 Pearl Street, La Crosse

Just as Glenda was Dorothy's support in OZ this group is the equivalent for LGBT people struggling with drug & alcohol addictions and issues. If you are

looking for support and a safe place to be yourself as you deal with your drug & alcohol issues- please join us. For more information please contact Aaron at (608) 788-1508.

Monthly Activities

PGLAG

For more information call the Seven Rivers LGBT Resource Center at (608) 784-0452, or Lori at (608) 790-5052.

Gender Queer/Transgender Gathering

When: First Wednesday 7-8 p.m.

Where: 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center, 303 Pearl Street, La Crosse

Do you identify as gender queer? How about Transgender? Do you ever feel like you don't fit in because of your gender identity or expression? Then come to a monthly discussion group at the 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center.

Genderqueer - A gender variant person whose gender identity is neither male nor female, is between or beyond genders, or is some combination of genders. This person may want to challenge gender stereotypes and the gender binary system.

Transgender - A person who lives as a member of a gender other than that expected based on anatomical sex.

GNO (Guy's Night Out)

GNO will meet the fourth Friday of every month at the Center from 6-8 p.m. All male identified persons are welcome.



In Closing

Thanks for reading! If you have any comments or anything you'd like to add to an upcoming newsletter, please e-mail us at:

7riverslgbtnewsletter@gmail.com.

DRAG FOR ALL AGES NEW YEAR'S SHOW



Ring in the new year with the LGBT
Resource Center for the 7 Rivers Region
and the crew from Illusions!



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2010

CONCORDIA BALLROOM

1129 LA CROSSE ST.



\$10

6:00 p.m. - MIDNIGHT

6:00 - Social Hour/Seating

7:00 - Drag for All Ages

8:30 - Dancing, Music, Games, Treats

11:00 - Illusions Drag Show



If you are interesting in performing
for the all ages show, please contact

Rosanne at 608.784.0452

or r.st.sauver@7riverslgbt.org

For tickets, go to

303 Pearl Street, La Crosse

608.784.0452

r.st.sauver@7riverslgbt.org