

# LGBT News

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

**August 2011**

## *Happy Pride La Crosse!*

It is finally our turn to show our colors and celebrate our diversity! Join us for us Pride Along the Mississippi on Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. The day starts at noon and finishes BIG at midnight! We will have musical and theatrical performances by talented, worldly, national performers and guarantee you will be entertained by the best at the best festival in the Seven Rivers Region, Pride Along the Mississippi 2011!

Our wonderful brilliant, bright GALAXY youth will grace the stage for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Talent Show. All performers aged 13-20 are welcome to perform and show their stellar skills to entertain our audience. All you need is gumption, talent, a big smile, and the \$10 entrance fee. The grand prize is \$50, second place takes \$25, and third gets \$15, with swag bags for all performers to help them celebrate Pride GALAXY style, BIG and fabulous!

Families can enjoy a fun day in the Kid Zone, enjoy some delicious Prideful food, and visit with LGBT friendly vendors. Our Pride is a family-friendly environment and all families are welcome. The Grand River Singers, Illusions, other local Drag Kings and Queens, T.U.G.G., Mouse Pocket, the talented and charming Paul Martin, a Karaoke contest, the fun Dunk Tank, and LGBTQ and allied community friendly service providers and businesses will all be here. It will definitely be a grand day focused on equality and honoring all gender identities and sexual orientations. Come out, be visible, and help create a safe space where others can feel inspired to be their authentic selves.

On a final note, Pride happens because many generous people volunteer to work a shift and help staff our volunteer-driven festival. We need people to help with the Kid Zone, button sales, tickets sales, stage help, food area, and more. If you'd rather celebrate all day Saturday, no worries, we need great folk to help set up on Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, and clean up/tear down on Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>! So, if you got some skills, muscle, time, and a can-do attitude please call the Center and sign up today, 608-784-0452 or e-mail [r.st.sauver@7riverslgbt.org](mailto:r.st.sauver@7riverslgbt.org).

With pride,  
Rosanne



## ***GALAXY Leader Kate Slisz's Reflection on Her Eight Months with the Program***

*Kate, good luck at graduate school and the Peace Corps! You will rock the world as a change-maker. Thanks for your positive attitude and beaming pearly white smile. I hope that no matter where you end up on your journey, you will always be able to find jelly beans.*

*Rosanne St. Sauver*

Hello fabulous members and supporters of the LGBT Resource Center! Some of you may or may not know me, but my name is Kate Slisz. Since graduating from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse this past December, I have had the privilege of facilitating GALAXY. Over the past eight months, I have grown to love this truly inspiring group of unique individuals. Now, as I prepare myself to start graduate school in the fall, the time has come to bid farewell to the center and to a group of people that has become like a second family to me. Therefore, I wanted to take some time and reflect back on what has turned out to be one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

I still vividly remember my first day working with the GALAXY youth. I was so nervous because I had absolutely no idea what to expect. After meeting the youth for the first time, I was left dumbfounded. There I was sitting amongst openly gay and proud thirteen to twenty-year olds. I was instantly inspired by their openness, courage, and adamant determination to remain true to themselves. It gave me so much hope. I remember thinking to myself, "Maybe society is changing for the better!!" I decided right then and there that this group was special and that I was beyond lucky to have been given the opportunity to work with these youth.

My time with GALAXY has been quite the rollercoaster ride. I have witnessed the youth go through so much over the past eight months. They have all had their bad days where they thought all was lost, they have dealt with the challenges of living in a heteronormative society, and they have not only faced adversity but have overcome it as well. However, not ONE of them had to deal with these hardships on their own. They have been there for each other through all the ups and downs. At one point or another, each of them has leaned on someone in the group when it seemed like there was no one else they could turn to. What I have come to realize during my short time with GALAXY is that this group is not only an amazing support system, but, rather, it is truly a family.

As I move on, I not only hope that I have left a positive impression on the lives of the youth I have worked with, but, more importantly, I hope that they know how much they have impacted MY life. Scott Adams said it best when he stated, “You don’t have to be a ‘person of influence’ to be influential. In fact, the most influential people in my life are probably not even aware of the things they’ve taught me.” These youth have helped me grow in ways that they will never truly know. I owe so much to them. When I started working at the center, I really had no idea what I wanted to do with my life. Now I know that my calling is to work with LGBT youth. This experience has not only given me a path to follow in life, but it has helped me to find my passion. For that, I am truly grateful.

We all take different paths in life, but no matter where we go, we take a little of each other everywhere. You can be certain that no matter where life takes me, GALAXY will always hold a special place in my heart. Thank you all for helping me find my way. I hope you all know that even though I’m moving, I will always be here for each of you as you find your way as well. I cannot wait to see the amazing impact you all will make in this world. I love you all!

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### ***An Invitation from GALAXY Leader Jess Anderson:***

As the seasons will soon begin to change, so will our GALAXY youth group. We are sadly saying “farewell” to Kate Slisz who has been a dedicated facilitator for the past seven months. Although she will be deeply missed by all members of GALAXY, I am excited to transition into the position of lead facilitator. For those of you who I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting, my name is Jess. I will be heading into my fifth year at UW-La Crosse and am excited to graduate with a Communication Studies degree and a Women’s Studies minor this December. I have been in a leadership role with GALAXY for the past year and have seen how the group has grown into its wonderful self. It has been truly rewarding to have gotten to know the youth members and I am excited to see many of them take an interest in leadership as well. The growth of our community thrives upon this drive, and I know that they can accomplish great things. I would also like to extend a warm invitation to all youth, ages 13-20, to stop in on one of our GALAXY groups every Tuesday from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Can’t wait to see you!



## ***Transitioning to SAVER is important for LGBTs***

By Christina Mae Olson, CFP®

The national fiscal “crisis” in Washington over raising the debt ceiling is driving me insane. Can we just come to some collaborative decisions and get back to running the country? Please? I don’t know about you, but I am ready to move on. All of the bantering about how expensive our entitlement programs are has got me to thinking: Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security (the Big 3) will most certainly morph into something different over our lifetimes. No matter where you place yourself on the political spectrum, it’s fair to say that the Big 3 will not be much of a safety net in future decades. I am definitely a progressive and usually vote for the Democrat. It’s no secret, however, that I also believe each and every one of us, if possible, should try to take care of ourselves. Every little bit we can do to help ourselves will leave that much more for the Big 3 to help those who really need it. I have no intention of relying on Social Security for my sole income when I can’t work anymore. I hope I can make that goal come true.

It’s nearly impossible to convince somebody to start saving money. Most of us are just not wired to save even a small portion of our income. If we have it - or when we get it - we spend it. I suspect that there is a “frugal gene” and that most of us are *not* born with it. It’s hard for a spender to be around a saver. It makes people uncomfortable to see a saver SAVE! Who wants to go shopping or out to eat with somebody who is perceived to be a tightwad? Resist the peer pressure, my friends. You may have been assigned “spender” status at birth but I want you to know that you have every right to become a “saver” if that’s who you need to be. It’s just harder to transition to saver if it doesn’t come naturally.

No matter who you are - you need to prepare for your retirement years. By 2030, 20% of Americans will be over age 65. By 2030, LGBT elders in America will number between 3 and 7 million. The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (<http://www.thetaskforce.org/>) reports that gay men earn as much as 27% *less* than straight men. All women, lesbians included, earn much less than men. Since Social Security benefits are based on wages, LGBT elders can expect to receive much less in retirement compared to straight elders. NOW (National Organization for Women) reports that women who reach age 65 can expect to live an average of 20 more years; men, 17.7 years. In 2008, women over 65 collected just \$11,377 in Social Security income (men collected \$14,822). 46% of all unmarried elder women (lesbians either partnered or single) relied on Social Security for 90% *or more* of their retirement income. That is a scary truth. Here’s the link to these stats: <http://www.now.org/issue/economic/social/BasicStatsOnSocSecAndWomen-2011May.pdf>

Think about it: What will you do if you don't have any money saved when you can't work any longer? Do you think that Social Security, as we know it, will be there when you retire? *Most people do not.* Do you think you can survive on an annual income of \$11,377 ("single" women) or \$14,822 ("single" men)? That is not a lot of money. The 2011 federal poverty level is just \$10,890! I don't want anybody to live in poverty during retirement if you can take steps now to avoid it. It is never too early to start your transition to SAVER! You must start saving money (IRA's, 401k's, 403b's, CD's, mutual funds) to supplement your retirement income. Over time you can save more than enough to give you a comfortable retirement.

I will be at PRIDE on Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>. This year, I am offering one free hour of financial planning services to anybody who signs up at PRIDE to become a member (or renews their membership) at the Center (the LBGT Resource Center for the 7 Rivers Region, Inc.). I can help you figure out how to transition to SAVER!

*Chris Olson is a licensed financial planner with a fee-only practice. She was born a SAVER. You can reach her at [CMoney@centurytel.net](mailto:CMoney@centurytel.net) or 608-525-9818.*



## ***August Hours at the Center at 303 Pearl Street***


August 1st-5th, and 8th: Open 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. daily.  
No Drop In Group August 4th, 11th, 18th

No GALAXY Saturdays in August, GALAXY Youth are encouraged to meet 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Root Note to check in, offer peer support, play games, and enjoy a beverage.

The CENTER will be CLOSED August 10th - 20th.

GALAXY will have a beach day on Tuesday, August 16th. If it is raining, meet at the Root Note from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

We will return to the usual hours on Monday, August 22nd.  
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
Thursday: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Saturday: 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday: CLOSED



## ***Pride Buttons***

\$7.00 in advance and \$10.00 day of festival

Pride buttons are available at My Place, Players, Chances R, and the Green Door.

Buttons are also available at the Center. We will be ready to sell, sell, sell the week of the August 22nd when regularly scheduled hours resume.



## ***GALAXY Talent Show***

12:30-2:30 p.m.

At Pride Along the Mississippi

We are looking for fantastically talented youth and groups of youth to perform in our talent show. Come one, come all; it will be a fun time. We have some awesomely talented youth that will make it big on Broadway, in the music industry, and more! Come see them so you can say, “I knew them when...”

All performers need to sign a participation form and pay a \$10 registration fee per act. It can be a solo or a group performance, only \$10 either way.



## ***L.I.F.E. (Love Is For Everyone)***

From Mitchy, the organizer and creator of this new group

Why does it matters to me to have L.I.F.E. group? It's important to me to have this group because not only do I want to broaden allies' horizons and knowledge and have a group for them but also to broaden the GBLTQs horizons and knowledge to help them visualize that not all “straight” people are narrow-minded. We have allies out there; we just need to have the foresight to reach out to them and show them we are just as supportive of their lifestyles as they are to ours. We often get confused and assume that all “straight” people are against the GBLTQ community, but that is not the case whatsoever. I created this group to unite and hopefully help get a stronger bond with the allies in the tri-state area and to let narrow-minded people know that we are not going anywhere, especially not anytime soon.

I also want to take the time to sincerely apologize to everyone for not holding meetings regularly throughout summer. Summer was a busy time for me with both school and work full-time. I also figured summer is a busy time for all our friends and allies as well, doing what we love to do best before football season takes up our Sundays, whether it's grilling, boating, or whatever. When fall semester for school starts up again, you can bet our

L.I.F.E. group will also be in full effect in September. The meetings will be held at the first Monday of every month.

Until next time,  
Mitchy



## ***New and Upcoming Drag show at Pride Along the Mississippi***

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Emceed by the Amazingly Witty and Talented John Unnasch, Co-Producer of Illusions

New and upcoming stars in the local drag arena: are you ready for some stage time and to get the attendees at Pride excited for a great celebratory day?

This is a great way to show everyone what you have got.

Champagne Beige posted the following on the Facebook event, “ILLUSIONS is always looking for new and upcoming talent. Now is the time to show what you have.....”

Not only will Illusions be represented but so will the La Crosse Girls, Rochester Girls, Ravyn Entertainment performers, and more. If you knock the socks off the audience you may very well find a new drag home!

All you need to do is send your drag name and musical selection to [r.st.sauver@7riverslgbt.org](mailto:r.st.sauver@7riverslgbt.org).

Space is limited, so sign up today!



## ***First Equality Ride***

Pride Along the Mississippi Weekend

Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>

Registration 11:00 a.m. at the La Crosse Southside Fest Grounds

Come early so others can vote for the best “prided up” vehicle (motorcycle, car, truck, etc.). Each registered vehicle gets one vote regardless of number of riders.

The ride starts at noon and ends approximately 1:30 p.m. at the Fest grounds.

A light lunch will be served from 1:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. for all registered vehicles.

\$25 to register and includes:

One t-shirt\*

One Vote

Stop Perks for Ride

One Lunch

Each extra t-shirt and lunch (for additional riders) is \$15.

Extra lunch only: \$3.00

Prize for Best Pride Ride!

\*Register early, limited number of t-shirts available.



### ***Pride Committee Meeting Schedule for August:***

Tuesday, August 9: 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 13: 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 20: 2:00 p.m.

Meetings are held at the Center @ 303 Pearl Street, La Crosse, WI.

We need everyone to help make Pride Along the Mississippi Fantabulous!



### ***Upcoming Events***

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

### **Save the Date**

Pride Along the Mississippi f.k.a. La Crosse Pride will be Saturday, August 27th at the Southside Oktoberfest Grounds!!!!

Featuring local talent by: T.U.G.G., Mouse Pocket, Paul Martin, Poet Adam Binash, Grand River Singers, Illusions, talented youth in the 3rd Annual GALAXY Talent Show, and much more!!!!

You won't want to miss out!

For more information, visit [www.7riverslgbt.org](http://www.7riverslgbt.org) and click the Pride tab.



## ***Ongoing Center Activities***

### **Weekly Activities**

#### *Coffee & Conversation*

When: Every Wednesday, 1-2 p.m.

Where: 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center, 303 Pearl Street, La Crosse  
Ages 18+. Folks looking to find community, connection, and support. No conversation is too big or too small; join us for an afternoon get together. You will be glad you did!

#### *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.

#### *L.I.F.E.*

When: First Monday, 6 p.m.

Where: 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center, 303 Pearl Street, La Crosse  
Ages 18+. Work with others to become stewards of change.

#### *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](mailto:7riverslgbtnewsletter@gmail.com).

# *Pride Along the Mississippi*

**Saturday, August 27, 2011**

**Southside Oktoberfest Grounds**

**La Crosse, WI**

## *Request for Sponsorship*

**July 29, 2011**

**Dear Local Business Owner & Supporter of Equality:**

**We are gearing up for Pride Along the Mississippi and are looking to our community to sponsor our family friendly, equality minded, and super fun event. This year we have all local talent for our entertainment including the Grand River singers, Illusions, T.U.G.G., Paul Martin, Mouse Pocket and more.**

**All sponsors will be listed on our website, [www.7riverslgbt.org](http://www.7riverslgbt.org), thanked in our September enewsletter that is sent out to over 500 subscribers, and be on posters posted at Pride Along the Mississippi during the fest, and as an added bonus will be listed on the back of the Pride t-shirts and Pride Ride t-shirts!**

**Sponsorship Levels and Additional Incentives at Sponsorship Levels:**

**\$500 Level:**

Large Picture Logo on back of t-shirts

Picture Logo on our website with hyperlink to your webpage

**\$250 Level:**

Name listed on back of t-shirt

Name listed on website with hyperlink to your webpage

**\$100 Level:**

Name listed on back of shirt in smaller font

Name listed on website, no hyperlink

**Other Level:**

Listed on Posters at Pride

Listed in September Enewsletter

**All sponsorships are greatly appreciated, thank you for your support. We look forward to collaborating with you to promote equality, celebrate diversity, and have a Happy Pride!**

**With Pride,**

**Dee Carpenter**

**Pride Chair**

To sponsor Pride Along the Mississippi, simply indicate Sponsorship Level and send in your payment today to:

Pride Along the Mississippi 2011 Sponsorships

303 Pearl Street

La Crosse, WI 54602

# **GALAXY Talent Show Registration Form**

**Calling all talented 13-20 year old youth for the GALAXY Talent Show!**

Saturday, August 27th, at Pride Along the Mississippi from 12:30-2:30 p.m.

Name of Performer or Group:

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Age of performer/group members:

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Type of performance:

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Technological needs:

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Contact Number or Email for Performer/Group:

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By completing this registration form and submitting the entrance fee of \$10-you are granting permission to Pride Along the Mississippi and the LGBT Resource Center for the Seven Rivers Region to take pictures, video, film, and utilize those for future events and promotion of the Center and fest.

For performers under 18, a parental signature is also required.

Parental Signature:

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Date

# First Equality Ride

Pride Along the Mississippi Weekend

Sunday, August 28th

Registration 11:00 a.m. at the Southside Fest Grounds

Come early so others can vote for the Best Pride Ride, all vehicles welcome (motorcycle, car, truck). Each registered vehicle gets one vote, no matter how many riders.

The ride starts at noon and ends approximately 1:30 p.m. at the fest grounds.

A light lunch will be served from 1:30-2:00 p.m. at the end of the ride.

## **\$25 to register and includes:**

One T-shirt\*

One Vote

Stop Perks for Ride

One Lunch

Extra Tshirts for additional riders: \$15 and include lunch

Extra Lunch: \$3.00

## **Prize for Best Pride Ride!**

\*Register early, limited t-shirts

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Pride Ride: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

T-Shirt Size preferred: S                      M      L      XL      XXL

**All registrants will need to sign a waiver of participation the day of the ride and show proof of insurance.**