

LGBT News

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

December 2011

Rosanne's Ramblings

For many, December can be a time of reflection, regret, appreciation, and intense emotion. Some of us will be able to take a trip home, wherever it may be, and see our cherished loved ones; others will stay home or travel locally to their family of choice. We are diverse; some will light the menorah for Hanukkah, others will surround a tree of lights for Christmas, some will appreciate the bountiful gifts of Earth for Kwanzaa, some will “Bah Hum Bug” it in true Scrooge fashion, and for some these days are simply winter days full of snow, cold, and icicles. No matter how you spend the many holidays of December, be mindful of your importance and fabulousity--the world is truly a better place because you are in it. Be well, be strong, and simply be--you are one of the best “gifts” around.

I would like to take a moment and acknowledge Alan and Rosanne Schulz, who made a generous donation in honor of June Kjome at our Coming Out for Equality 2010. In addition to honoring a beautiful soul and true champion of social justice, they challenged others to donate to the Center. Allan Beatty answered the challenge by stepping forward to help launch our Visions of EQUALity Sustainer's Circle and sponsoring the brunch held on November 20, in honor of his parents. Allan shared how his parents, Edward and Doris, raised him during the Civil Rights movement and always welcomed everyone in their home; they led by example and have always accepted Allan and his life partner Michael and their children. With Allan's sponsorship for a delicious brunch, we collaboratively raised over \$12,500.00 for the Center, to be collected over the next three years. On behalf of Alan and Rosanne and Allan I would like to cast out the challenge again and see where it takes the Center. Thank you, Allan, for taking the challenge and helping to sustain the work of the Center.

Once again, the Center, along with our amazing youth of GALAXY, is collecting donations for the families/individuals served by the ARCW-La Crosse. We are looking for donations of toiletries (laundry soap, personal care items, and household cleaners). Please drop off your donation by December 19. In addition to the donation drive, we are sponsoring five families served by the ARCW, who need assistance from special elves to ensure they have the merriest of holidays. Look further down in the eNewsletter for the spe-

cific needs. If you are able to help make holiday dreams come true, please call me and let me know who you have selected.

We have been in our new space since mid-October and are fortunate to have been able to make it more comfortable with donations of furniture from the La Crosse Radisson Hotel's general manager, Tim Blaschke, and made possible by Mikel Hampel working to fill needs of the Center and the many people who spend time here. Our library continues to grow exponentially with grants from the La Crosse Community Foundation, Magerus/McKinney Fund, and an anonymous donor. We have expanded our transgender, teen, AODA, interpersonal violence, and spiritual areas in the library. Come check out some of our new materials and peruse our many worthwhile offerings in the Christa Matter Memorial Library.

Instead of hosting a Holiday Home Tour this year, the Center will be the focus of the Holiday Home Tour/Open House, on December 14, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Please join us for music, food, tours, and fellowship with other equality loving folk.

Here are some links to inspiration and are all worth watching or reading:

[Two Lesbians Raised a Baby and This is What They Got](#)

[Whats goin on....](#) (Response to Jonah Mowry) There are many responses to Jonah, enjoy them as they show the beauty of compassion and illustrate the strength of solidarity.

[Hillary Clinton's Speech to the UN](#)

Another link, but one that clearly shows why our Center and the others across Wisconsin are important in our fight for equality and positive regard of our inherent dignity as humans:

[Fair Wisconsin statement regarding Governor Walker's Administration's attempt to diminish protections for Lesbians and Gays](#)

It is fundamental to creating safe communities to continue to speak out against injustice, challenge heinous legislative agendas, and remain a united force against oppression in whatever form it comes. We are far from realizing full equality, but at least we have some rights, so let's keep them.

In solidarity and with heartfelt gratitude,

Rosanne



Please Remember the LGBT Resource Center in Your End of the Year Donations this Year!

We have a Center that is more spacious and professional looking, an executive director, programs, a presence, and a voice (many voices) that shares stories that range from tragic to celebratory, as we continue to promote understanding and build connections between the LGBT community and the larger community we are all a part of. As we end this year, we have much to be thankful for and we have much work to do. There are still those who suffer in silence and isolation and there are numerous inequities that those of us in the LGBT community face daily. Please be a part of moving our Center and our community forward through a donation of any amount. Our much-needed recent move increased our rent/utilities \$170 a month. Board members, who are asked to give 1% of their gross annual income, are sponsoring one month each (for those who can) to help with this increase. Right now we have 3 months covered. What are you able to do at this time? Again, any amount is very much appreciated!

Kathryn Hietbrink, Current Board President



Please join GALAXY for a Legislative Meet & Greet on Tuesday, December 27

We, the fabulous youth of GALAXY (Gay Alliance of La Crosse Area Youth), would like to extend an invitation to you to join us for a legislative Meet & Greet on December 27, 2011 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. The afternoon will start with a welcome social from 3:00-4:00; please join us when you can for the social. We look forward to talking with you and asking questions about your work on behalf of equality for all people in your role.

Some of the areas of interest to us are marriage equality, LGBTQ adoptions, women and LGBTQ people in politics, ending poverty, funding for LGBTQ centers, and bullying.

Please feel free to share this with others you feel should attend.

In solidarity,

The GALAXY Youth



Visions for Equality Sustainer's Circle Launched!

Thank you to Allan Beatty, who generously sponsored the brunch in honor of his parents Edward and Doris Beatty!

The first Visions for Equality Sustainers Circle brunch was held November 20th, 2011, at Pogreba's, located on the north side of La Crosse. This event was a success through the combined efforts of board members, Rosanne St. Sauver, the Center's executive director, and especially community members who stepped up to be a part of this new endeavor.

Many who attended accepted the call to become a sustaining donor of the Center one, two, or three years into the future. Thank you to all who attended, to those who made year-end donations, and to those who pledged to support our future. We honor you!

We plan on holding these brunches regularly to grow our Sustainer's Circle. If you are interested in participating and becoming a sustaining donor, please contact Rosanne. Pledge forms are also available now, if you would like to invest in the future of our Center and join our current sustaining donors.



Save the Date! Friday, December 9, 4-10 p.m.

GALAXY Youth Wrap-A-Thon: Bring your items in and we will wrap them up. We have adorable little "Because you matter..." kits to help you, those you love, and are perfect for Secret Santa, etc gifts. Only \$1.00 donation, per kit.

We also will have a Mary Kay consultant on site for fun, food, games, and holiday needs or your own personal care items, and she is donating **75% of her profit to the Center**, come out and help us have a great event!

From Angie Slate, Independent Beauty Consultant:

Looking for great exchange gifts or stocking stuffers? Get ready for my Mary Kay open house and help support the Seven Rivers LGBT Resource Center! **75% of the profit** will go to help the center!

Friday Dec. 9th, 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Join us for food, drinks, fun, facials, door prizes, gift basket drawing, gift ordering, skin care demonstrations, and games!

I have what women want, so shop with me to select gifts for Mom, Grandma, Aunt, Babysitter, Stylist, Teachers, Daughter, Sister, etc. I offer free delivery or shipping and free gift wrapping. We also have a great line of men's products and can find something for everyone on your list.

Order by email (slaterangi@marykay.com), online (www.marykay.com/slaterangi), and phone or text 608-304-5635.

If you online or call just mention the Center to ensure you get double the impact with your purchase!

This would also be a perfect time to bring in a toiletry item to support our Warm for the Holidays donation drive to benefit the families served by the ARCW-La Crosse.

We need laundry soap, household cleaning items, shampoo, feminine products, diapers, and more.

Please come out and show us love as we try to give back and relieve some of your holiday stress with our mad wrapping skills.



Holiday Home Tour 2011 featuring our new Center home!

Please join us Wednesday, December 14, 2011

4:00-7:00 p.m.

We will have holiday inspired treats and eats. GALAXY youth will be singing holiday themed music throughout the evening.



In NEED of elves to make holiday dreams come true, see below:

Contact Rosanne, 608-784-0452 or r.st.sauver@7riverslgbt.org to sign up to be an elf. Thanks for your thoughtful consideration.

Family #2:

6 Yr Old Girl: Play drums or piano, a multi-colored dress size 14

Dad: Sport Jacket size 44 short and/Pants 38/30

Mom: Dress size 24W

Family #3:

12 Yr Old Girl: Gift Card to Barnes & Noble

10 Yr Old Girl: Large drawing paper, colored charcoal, and easel

8 Yr Old Boy: Model Car, Cars 2 the Movie

4 Yr Old Boy: Thomas the Train, trains and accessories, loves to read, and

wants Winnie the Pooh books and/or movies-has Christopher Robin Goes to School

Family #4:

5 Yr Old Girl: Anything Princess, Monster High toys, Light Bright, Winter coat 6/7

9 Yr Old Boy: Twin Solid Yellow or Blue comforter, Winter Coat 9/10

Adult: Warm Comforter

In addition to the families listed above, the Center is in need of bus tokens for the MTU and gas cards for those who visit the Center-it will help us ensure accessibility for as many as we can.

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 -*

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

- 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.

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

- A partnership agreement - drafted by our attorney (who knows and respects our 29½ 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 wool socks!

2012 Memberships payable now!

Sign up and become a member today, all members receive discounts at local LGBTQ owned/friendly businesses!

Click [here](#) for form.

Annual Meeting

Saturday, January 14, 10:00-noon

Nell's City Grill, La Crosse, WI

RSVP 608-784-0452 or r.st.sauver@7riverslgbt.org.

BYOB (Buy your own brunch) and come enjoy a morning of highlights, progress, and next steps for the Center

Gay Friendly Professional Network a.k.a. GFPN

Consider joining us on Thursday, January 5, at Nell's City Grill for happy hour, 4:30-7:30. Come out meet new people; expand your professional network. Enjoy scrumptious food (provided) and treat yourself to delectable wines, mixed drinks, non-alcoholic beverages, and sip away as you enjoy a beautiful atmosphere and new friendships.

A huge thanks to Catherine Tryon Consulting for sponsoring the food in November and Ken Riley and Jay Lokken for doing the same in December. And it would not be possible without Nell and her staff at Nell's City Grill, who take such good care of us. Please come out in January and see what you think, it is a beautiful way to spend an evening, you will be glad you chose to come out.



SAVE the DATES 2012:

Annual Meeting and Board Elections January, 2012, specific date not set

For the Love of Art, Silent and Live Art Auction, Friday, February 10, at Days Inn, French Island

Pride Along the Mississippi, Saturday, August 25

Silent Rally for Equality, Saturday, October 20, Cameron Park, meet up at 11:30 a.m. then head off to span bridge from 12-12:30 p.m.

Coming Out For Equality Gala Dinner, Saturday, October 20, Days Inn Ballroom, French Island



Upcoming Events

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

Ongoing Center Activities

Weekly Activities

Coffee & Conversation

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

Where: 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center, 309 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, 309 Pearl Street, La Crosse

LGBTQ Parents Group

When: Not currently meeting. Call the Center to restart this group.
Where: 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center, 309 Pearl Street, La Crosse

Drop-in Group

When: Every Thursday 6-8 p.m.
Where: 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center, 309 Pearl Street, La Crosse

Bi-weekly Activities

GLENDAA/AA Group

When: Third Friday at 7 p.m.
Where: 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center, 309 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, 309 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, 309 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.

HIV/AIDS Get-Togethers

Meets every fourth Saturday, 11:00 a.m. at 309 Pearl Street. All persons living with HIV/AIDS are welcome to attend.

Gay Friendly Professional Network

Meets the first Thursday, 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Call the Center to find out where we will meet.



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.