

LGBT News

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

October 2011

Rosanne's Ramblings

October is a time of transformation for the beautiful scenery that influenced many of us to call this area home. Not only are the trees bursting in to golden, red, orange, and brown psychedelic orbs of color littering down onto us, but the Center is transforming, too. We have grown from our humble beginnings to a flourishing Center with more recognition in the community and continuous increasing visibility, which has led us to our next move. As of October 15, we will be in our new space located at 309 Pearl Street, right next door to our current home. Potential, spacious, welcoming, and comfortable are some of the words that describe our Center's new home.

As with all families, we as a Center family have a beautiful story to tell; the new space already holds treasured memories for many of us where we made friends, strengthened our bodies, rejuvenated our spirits, and appreciated the unknowns of our world. The space has served as a welcoming space for persons of all abilities to come learn yoga at the Yoga Place and as a place for people to learn about chakras, spirits, and aromatherapy at the Violet Flame--it has been a place to honor all people and encourage self-awareness and growth. The Center will continue this legacy. If it has been awhile since your last visit, stop down and see our new space, come leave some of your positive energy, and help create a welcoming atmosphere where all people will be honored.

October serves as a time to remember the reason centers such as ours are fundamental to the well-being of communities. Thirteen years ago, Matthew Shepard lay in a coma waiting for healing or release from the injuries he received as a result of a hate-inspired beating in Wyoming. Matthew died on October 12, 1998; I choose to believe he found peace after his body succumbed to the hate that riddled his body but could not break his spirit. Many of us remember Matthew, the national call of attention, and the request for privacy of his parents as they grieved. His death inspired some to be visible, to challenge homophobia head on and to speak out about their own fears in their communities. Others chose to be even more invisible as the best option for them. No matter how we responded, Matthew's murder did bring to national light the deadly impact of unchallenged homophobia. Remember him, the many others who we have lost to hate, suicide, and

AIDS. We all matter, we deserve safe communities, adequate healthcare and prevention measures that meet our diverse needs, and to live our lives as openly as we choose. Love freely, deeply, and purposefully, for love is a human miracle to be shared not hidden.

October 11, is National Coming Out Day and to celebrate this day we are hosting two events on Saturday, October 15. We will start the celebrations with our 4th Annual Silent Rally for Equality. We will meet at Cameron Park at 11:30 a.m. and walk in unity to span the Cass Street Blue Bridge from noon to 12:30 or so. Afterwards, we will be a beautiful human rainbow walking through downtown with our flags held high, our signs visible, and our colors dancing across the sidewalk as we return to 309 Pearl Street, where we will have snow cones (\$1.00 donations appreciated per snow cone). We will conclude our celebratory day with our Annual Coming Out for Equality Gala event, held at Seven Bridges Restaurant, 910 2nd Avenue North, Onalaska, WI. The Gala starts with a social hour at 5:30 p.m., featuring the musical talent of Paul Martin, Gabby Krueger, and Az Gilbertson; our dinner program speakers will be June Kjome and Tara Johnson; a silent auction with an eclectic array of items; and we will complete the evening with dancing. Tickets are \$35 per person or tables of 8 are available for \$240. To reserve your spot call Rosanne at 608-784-0452.

Belief,
Rosanne



Come Out and VOTE!!!

Tuesday, October 11, 2011.

Special Primary Election Assembly 95, to fill Jennifer Shilling's vacant seat. There are four Democratic Candidates and one Republican vying for the seat. Get informed and VOTE!!!



New Group: HIV/AIDS Get-together

Meets every fourth Saturday, 11:00 a.m. at 309 Pearl Street. All persons living with HIV/AIDS are welcome to attend. Our first meeting will be on Saturday, October 22, 2011. Feel free to bring your lunch.

Please share this information with others.



New Group: Gay Friendly Professional Network

The 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center is excited to announce the first La Crosse area Gay Friendly Professional Network (GFPN) *Monthly Meet Up* on

Thursday November 3 from 4:30 - 6:30 pm.

Nell's City Grill, which is typically closed on Thursdays, has agreed to host the **GFPN** November and December meet-ups! Thanks Nell! The purpose of this group is to network with area gay friendly professionals and business owners.

Come join us and let's have a gay 'ole time together! Cash bar. Hors d'oeuvres sponsored by Catherine Tryon Consulting.

For more information call Catherine @ (608) 843-2345.

Nicolette's Introduction



My name is Nicolette and I am a 21 year old senior at UW-La Crosse. My major is interpersonal communications with an emphasis on gender communication and my minors are WGSS and psychology. I eventually want to be a marriage and family counselor, but we'll see where my life path takes me. I am very passionate about life and try to live it as positively, optimistically, genuinely, and peacefully as possible. I am very social, genuine, and open and love meeting people and learning about them and their unique journey. In my free time, I enjoy reading (especially my favorite blogs online), listening to music of all kinds, and being with my best friends playing Apples to Apples and watching movies. I am extremely passionate about LGBT rights and equal rights for everyone and am so honored to have this opportunity to work with GALAXY. Human rights are something I love to advocate for and I am truly inspired by the LGBT community and will continue to fight for equality in whatever way I can. I identify as bisexual but in many aspects I am still questioning and figuring out my sexuality as I go along. I still have a lot to learn and am really grateful to do so through this new group of friends.

Heterosexuality is not normal, it's just common.

—Dorothy Parker (1893—1967)

Upcoming Events

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

Saturday, October 15, 2011

In recognition of National Coming Out Day, please join the LGBT Resource Center for the Seven Rivers Region for the Silent Rally for Equality and Coming Out For Equality Gala. Both events will take place on Saturday, October 15, 2011.

Silent Rally for Equality

Join us at Cameron Park, corners of 5th and King Streets, La Crosse, at 11:30 a.m. Bring signs, rainbow flags, and more equality-supportive rally items. We will walk in unity to the blue bridge on Cass Street at noon and span the bridge in silence with our messages promoting equality and a more inclusive community for all members, including LGBTQ people. We will remain on the bridge for approximately 30 minutes and then walk back as a beautiful human rainbow. This event will happen regardless of weather conditions so come prepared.

Coming Out For Equality Gala

Our annual Gala event will be held at Seven Bridges Restaurant, Onalaska, WI, starting with a social hour at 5:30 p.m. and silent auction. Tickets for the dinner are \$35.00 each. Tables are available to sponsor for businesses, non profits, and others; tables are for 8 people and cost \$240.00. The evening consists of silent auction, dinner, program featuring June Kjome, Tara Johnson, and more, and ends with dancing.

For more information on these events please contact Rosanne St. Sauver, 608-784-0452 or r.st.sauver@7riverslgbt.org.



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.

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.