
LGBT News

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

August 2008

Director's Column

Brat Sale: August 9, 2008

Come one, come all to the Brat Hut at Onalaska Festival Foods on Saturday, August 9th from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm and introduce yourself to me as I will be preparing the brats. Come enjoy a brat and/or burger and Coke. All proceeds will benefit the Center and those we serve. As well I encourage you to take the time to share your vision for the Center with me and how you would like to help make it happen while enjoying your brat. So come out, come out and support our great work and much needed Center. Together we can make our communities more safe for all individuals.

See you at the brat stand on Saturday, August 9th!

Shop For A Cause: September 20, 2008

The LGBT Center for the 7 Rivers Region is participating in Macy's Shop For A Cause fundraiser and community event on Saturday, September 20, 2008. This is our first time and we want it to be a huge success and YOU can help make that happen!

We are selling \$5.00 shopping passes that entitle the bearer to:

1. special sale merchandise
2. 20% off regular, sale, and clearance clothing for men, women, and kids, jewelry, bed & bath items, housewares, frames, luggage, china, crystal & silver, all kitchen & personal care electronics & technology items
3. 10% off regular & sale furniture, mattresses and rugs
4. A chance to sign up to win a \$500 Gift Card
5. Plus anyone who opens a Macy's account receives an additional 20% off!

For every \$5.00 shopping pass we sell we make \$5.00 to help us do the great work we do!

Let me know how many shopping passes you would like and consider buying a few and sharing with your friends, family, and coworkers. These shopping passes are good nationwide on

Saturday, September 20, 2008. Your \$5 contribution will help us have a successful first Shop For A Cause-thanks again for your support

Peace & belief,
Rosanne St. Sauver
Executive Director

Rainbow Meter: August Update on Executive Director Fund Drive

Our fund has reached \$4550! Our goal is \$10,000 by the end of the summer - we can do it! Thanks to those who have sent their economic stimulus checks to the Center!

The center is truly entering a new phase with the hire of our new Executive Director, Rosanne St. Sauver! Show her our support and encouragement with a donation to the center.

Please send checks to:
Executive Director Fund
LGBT Resource Center for the 7 Rivers Region
PO Box 3313
303 Pearl Street
La Crosse, WI 546023313

I know we can reach our goal! Thanks for your support and dedication to LGBT issues in the 7 Rivers Region.

Trish Harvey
Development Committee, Chair

Speed Dating and a new Singles Group

Jared, a Center volunteer, has organized a speed dating event. Read about it and plans for upcoming events, [here](#).

Pride on August 23, 2008

Read about the [entertainment for this year's Pride](#), including Goddess and She! Check the Center calendar for other upcoming events. [Read more here](#).

Upcoming Activities

Check the Center [website calendar](#) for all events.

Center Activities

Meet and Greet, July 12 14, 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Light refreshments will be served. Spend time with new and old friends at the Center.

The Center is working a Festival Foods Brat Sale fundraiser on July 19 and August 9 at the Onalaska store. We need volunteers to help staff the Brat Hut and lots of people to come eat brats as the proceeds will go to the Center.

Pride Activities

Volunteers are wanted for the fun and important job of organizing Pride 2008. Meet with the committee at the 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center, 303 Pearl Street, at 7:15 pm every other Monday. Everyone is welcome to help! For upcoming meeting dates, check the Center [website calendar](#)

This year's Pride ride is July 19. See above.

Pride is August 23. See above.

Ongoing Center Activities

Weekly Activities

AA Group

An LGBT AA Group meets weekly on Fridays, 7:00 pm, at the Center. Questions? Call 608.784.0452.

Monthly Activities

Gender Queer/Transgender Gathering at the Center:

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. The group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00. For more information contact: vanroose.kath@uwlax.edu. For upcoming meeting dates, check the Center [website calendar](#)

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.

SHOP WISELY - PUT YOUR MONEY TO LGBT USE By Christina Mae Olson, CFP®

Have you received your federal stimulus check yet? You should have. They've all been deposited (or mailed) by the time you read this article. Economists report that they did little to stimulate the economy. A short boost, maybe, but not what George W. had hoped for. Wal-Mart did see a brief increase in sales in late May/early June - right after the first wave of checks hit our wallets. Apparently, most of us used that money to pay down our credit cards and other debt. I'm happy about that. The national savings rate is at the lowest in history. Back in 1981 - Americans were saving 12% of our income - that's \$12 of every \$100 earned. Now, according to the US Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis, we are saving a whopping .30 (30 cents) of every \$100 earned. That's pitiful. The number moves into negative territory if you take taxes and inflation into account.

Still, we all need to spend money from time to time. We have to eat, clothe ourselves, heat our houses and get to work. One of my mottos in my financial planning practice is this: "It's not so important how much you earn - what's important is how much you save." It's also important to know how much you spend - and it is even more important to pay attention to how you spend it. Are you giving money to businesses that are supportive of LGBT rights? How do you know?

The Human Rights Campaign, www.hrc.org, publishes a buying guide every year. The guide BUYING FOR EQUALITY 2008 is currently out of print but you can download it for free at the HRC website. They are working on the 2009 guide now. The 2008 guide lists 195 companies that received a perfect score of 100% on the HRC's "corporate equality index." Businesses are rated from 0 - 100 based on whether or not they have policies that support the LGBT community. They use screens like anti-discrimination policies, domestic partner benefits, diversity training and advertising practices. They investigated over 1800 US companies but won't rate a business until they have verified all the information. 519 companies are included in the 2008 guide.

Where should you spend your money if you want to support a company or business that supports you? Here are some of the 195 companies with a perfect score:

Best Buy	BP
Walgreens	Chevron
Herman Miller	Anhueser-Busch
Whirlpool	Clorox
American Express	Coca-Cola
Bank of America	Coors
Citigroup	General Mills
Master Card Merrill Lynch	Johnson & Johnson
Northern Trust	Kraft
Visa	Pepsi
Wells Fargo	Microsoft
Gap	Chrysler
Macy's	Ford

Sears Starbucks TGI Fridays	General Motors Subaru Toyota Volkswagen Glaxo SmithKline Merck Pfizer Time Warner UPS AT&T Dell IBM Motorola SPRINT
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Here are the companies in the guide that received a very low score:

Wal-Mart
Radio Shack
Harry & David
Toys R Us
John Deere (uh oh)
Exxon Mobil
Cracker Barrel
Dole
Kellogg
Hain Celestial
Nestle Purina
Dow Jones
Aegon
Humana
AIG

We need to patronize businesses that are supportive of LGBT people. I also believe we need to spend our money locally. I would love to write about gay owned and/or gay friendly businesses in the 7-Rivers region. Please send your experiences to me at CMoney@centurytel.net. If you are a LGBTIQQA business owner and would like a little plug - please contact me. I'll profile you in a future article. In the meantime, please pay attention to where your money is being spent. You may be, inadvertently, supporting a company that discriminates against you.

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

Special Thanks for Wish List Items

Thanks a bunch to SorobaJo Pfeiffer for donating a fax/copier/printer to the Center, and to Amanda Eckhardt for purchasing a brand new desk for our new Executive Director! The Board and Director really appreciate your generosity.

Wanted: 30 Women Interested in Playing Basketball

Some local women are interested in starting a women's basketball league in the area. If you are interested, contact Rita: ritaw20@gmail.com or 608-792-0784.

Member Contribution

A Request from Thomas Harris

Hello,

Some of you know that I have been on the waiting list to receive a kidney transplant for about four years. Well, another blessing has come my way with the transplant scheduled for Wednesday, August 6th at Mayo Clinic located in Rochester, MN. A good friend, Marilyn Levin will be giving me one of her kidneys. Many of you know much of the great community work Marilyn did when she was the former Director of the Social Justice Programs and GALAXY Coordinator for the La Crosse YWCA. Soon Marilyn will travel from Texas to help me to continue to live a longer productive life. The website below has been established to fill everyone in. If you wish to make a small contribution to help with the uncovered insurance expenses, it would be greatly appreciated. Go ahead and feel free to forward this email to any relatives, friends, colleagues and other organizations. Send it to those you think might be interested. Thanks and take care.

The website is up and ready to go at <http://kidney4thomas.com>

Thomas

Reminder: Become a member!

Your membership in the 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center makes it possible for LGBT folks to have a presence in our community and to support the collaborative work we do with other organizations in the 7 Rivers Region. Your membership supports LGBT visibility! Please join us now by filling out [the membership form](#) and mailing it to the Center. Membership also comes with goodies from our Community Partners.