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# LGBT News

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

**April 2007**

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## **Vote on April 3, 2007**

The vote for local judges and for the new state Supreme Court Justice will be important for all supporters of lgbt rights. Read the Fair Wisconsin survey that one Supreme Court candidate answered, [here](#). Visit the candidates' websites to see how they stand on the issues: [Linda Clifford](#) and [Annette Ziegler](#).

## **Celebrations**

We have no anniversary this month. (*Don't forget to attend Chris and Michelle's 25th anniversary on Sunday, April 15th, from 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm. In lieu of gifts, the couple asks for donations to be given to the 7 Rivers LGBT Center.*) Instead we feature a celebration of a first in the La Crosse area.

You're Invited to celebrate at the La Crosse area's first Queer Prom!

**What:** Queer Prom

**When:** April 20, 2007

**Where:** UW-L campus, Valhalla in Cartwright Center

**Time:** 8:00 to midnight

The first ever Queer Prom at the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse will be held at Valhalla Hall located in the Cartwright Center from 8:00 pm to midnight. The organizers are asking for two dollars at the door. Everyone from the age of 14 and up is encouraged to come. This is a non-alcoholic event, but there will be an after prom party at Rainbow's End for everyone 21 and over.

This is a chance for everyone to gather and celebrate being part of our community. It will also show that we do support the younger members of our community who may not feel safe enough to be themselves on an everyday basis.

Celebrate our diverse community by putting on your best, and dancing the night away! Let's make this a night to remember!

The organizers are also looking for any members of the community who want to put organizational information on display. If you will need a table or have any questions, please contact me at [janna\\_dziak@hotmail.com](mailto:janna_dziak@hotmail.com) or 608-385-4879.

To have the announcement of your celebration included in the Center newsletter, email: [admin@7riverslgbt.org](mailto:admin@7riverslgbt.org) We reserve the right to edit all submissions for length and grammar. We reserve the right to refuse inappropriate submissions.

## Center Activities for April 2007

### June Kjome Event Date is May 6, 2007

The Center sponsored June Kjome event is set for Sunday May 6th, 2007 in the late afternoon to evening. The exact time and location will be announced next week. It will be an open house with appetizers, cake, punch, coffee provided and a cash bar. There will be a program hosted by John Medinger.

The Center has raised \$625.00 for the event, but still needs to raise \$1500.00 more. People and organizations that June has been involved with/in are invited to donate money and/or time. Organizations that get involved will be invited to have their own donation form at the event and guests will be asked to donate to the organization of their choice in June's honor.

People who have interest in getting involved or have questions can call the Center and leave a message for Leslie. The next planning meeting is April 4, 2007 at 7:15 p.m. at Peaberry's.

### LGBT Movie Night at the Pearl Street Theatre, i.e. The 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center.

Mark your calendars for our Resource Center's monthly "Movie Night" being held on the 1st Saturday of April and May 2007. We will be showing lgbt movies at our Center, 303 Pearl Street. We're providing popcorn but feel free to bring other snacks and a non-alcoholic beverage. \$5.00 suggested donation to the Center.

April 7, 2007  
Desert Hearts (1985)

Uptight literature professor Vivian Bell (Helen Shaver) heads to Reno, Nevada in 1959 for a quickie divorce. While staying with Frances Parker (Audra Lindley) at her ranch to establish residency, Bell meets Parker's adopted daughter (Patricia Charbonneau), a casino worker 10 years her junior. Bell finds herself increasingly drawn to the open and self-assured lesbian, and their developing intimacy releases buried emotions Bell has never explored. Directed by Donna Deitch, 91 minutes

May 5, 2007  
Brokeback Mountain (2005)

Two shepherders - Jack Twist and Ennis Del Mar (Jake Gyllenhaal and Heath Ledger) - meet and fall in love while working together near Wyoming's Brokeback Mountain in 1963. Over the next 20 years, their lives take different courses: Jack becomes a rodeo cowboy while Ennis remains a ranch hand. Screenwriter Larry McMurtry's adaptation of a short story by E. Annie Proulx. Directed by Ang Lee, 134 minutes

## Ongoing Center Activities

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### Weekly Activities

#### **Coulee Region LGBT Group for Adults**

We have recently formed a group for persons over age 20 to connect with others in the LGBT community. We look forward to engaging in a variety of activities, from potlucks to topical discussions, to camping. Our primary purpose is to provide a safe space where people can meet and pursue activities that they find meaningful. The group meets every week, and welcomes anyone that is LGBT, questioning their identity, or is an ally. We currently meet on Tuesday's at 6:00 pm, at the Center on 303 Pearl St. If you have any questions or would like to be added to the group's listserv, please call Connie at (608) 784-0452.

#### **GALAXY**

GALAXY, a YWCA sponsored program for lgbt youth, meets every Thursday at 6:00 pm at the Center.

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### 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.

#### **Women's Book Group:**

The women's books group changed its schedule and will read **Eleanor Roosevelt volume II** by Blanche Wisen Cook, for April. The discussion will take place at 4:30 on Sunday, April 22, 2007. See the 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center website calendar for more details: [website calendar](#)

## Socially Responsible Investing by Christina Mae Olson, CFP®

LBGT clients are very interested in Socially Responsible Investing (SRI). SRI is a huge and growing industry. People want to know that their money is being invested in positive ways. Some investors, for example, would never own a mutual fund if they knew that Phillip Morris and Exxon Mobile were major holdings in the fund. There are some fantastic mutual funds out there that actually screen for such things like:

- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Gambling
- Defense/weapons
- Human rights
- Environment
- Labor relations
- Animal testing
- Community involvement
- LGBT employee relations

How do you find out if your mutual fund owns companies that are offensive to you? There are several ways to research a mutual fund. Morningstar is an independent rating company. Morningstar ([www.morningstar.com](http://www.morningstar.com)) has a free service for anyone who wants to evaluate their funds. I use Morningstar to find out how stellar a fund's investment return has been over the years. I stick to funds that have been in business for at least 10 years. Morningstar also reveals all the costs associated with a mutual fund. I never recommend funds with a sales load and I nearly always pick funds with annual expenses less than 1%. Morningstar will also tell you the actual underlying companies that are in a particular fund.

The Social Investment Forum ([www.socialinvest.org](http://www.socialinvest.org)) has excellent information on SRI mutual funds. They maintain a list of all SRI funds which currently numbers around 80. There are only 8 SRI mutual funds that meet my basic criteria for a good mutual fund. Here are my favorite SRI mutual funds - all of which are older than 10 years and have solid investment returns; all are no-load/no sales charge funds; all but one have annual expenses of less than 1%:

- PAX World Balanced Fund - [www.paxworld.com](http://www.paxworld.com)
- CRA Qualified Investment Fund - [www.ccmfixedincome.com](http://www.ccmfixedincome.com)
- Domini Social Bond Fund - [www.domini.com](http://www.domini.com) (annual expense ration of 1.15%)
- Parnassus Income Fund - [www.parnassus.com](http://www.parnassus.com)
- Domini Social Equity Fund - [www.domini.com](http://www.domini.com)
- Neuberger Berman Socially Responsible Fund - [www.nb.com](http://www.nb.com)
- Parnassus Equity Income Fund - [www.parnassus.com](http://www.parnassus.com)
- Parnassus Fund - [www.parnassus.com](http://www.parnassus.com)

It's interesting to note that one fund, Bridgeway Blue Chip 35 Index Fund, while appearing to meet my criteria for a perfect SRI mutual fund - actually holds several "offensive" companies (Exxon Mobile, Chevron Texaco, Walmart). It almost slipped through my screens, but I backed off

when I saw those names. Upon closer inspection - the Social Investment Forum includes this fund because it screens out tobacco companies.

Here are some more great resources to check out if you are interested in socially responsible investing:

- Co-op America - [www.coopamerica.org](http://www.coopamerica.org)
- Good Money - [www.goodmoney.com](http://www.goodmoney.com)
- The Green Money Journal - [www.greenmoney.com](http://www.greenmoney.com)
- Natural Investing - [www.naturalinvesting.com](http://www.naturalinvesting.com)

Please contact me if you would like more information on SRI mutual funds and/or ways to invest your money in a socially responsible way. If you are willing to do a little research you will be able to find suitable places for your money and also feel good about how they use your money.

Chris Olson is a Certified Financial Planner™ practitioner with a fee-only private practice. You can reach her at 608-525-9818 or [CMoney@centurytel.net](mailto:CMoney@centurytel.net).

## Wish List

The Center needs your help with some donations of time and items. If you can help, please contact Connie during our regularly scheduled hours or leave a message on the Center answering machine. We'll be happy to pick up any donations.

Here's what we need:

1. 4-5 card tables (for Euchre night and other activities)
2. some stacking or folding chairs
3. a dvd player and tv
4. coffee carafes
5. large coffee urn
6. sturdy computer desk
7. desktop scanner/copier
8. books and videos for our lending library
9. decorations for the center, i.e. pictures or poster that fit our theme and mission
10. bean bag chairs!

Here's what YOU can do:

1. Organize and lead a card night (maybe Euchre?)
2. Organize and lead a movie night
3. Suggest an activity that you would organize and lead!