
LGBT News

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

May 2007

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 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm, with a program hosted by John Medinger at 3:00 pm. It will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 420 West Avenue South.

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

Mark your calendars for our Resource Center's last monthly "Movie Night" being held on the 1st Saturday of May 2007. We're providing popcorn but feel free to bring other snacks and a non-alcoholic beverage. \$5.00 suggested donation to the Center.

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

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.

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 will **not** meet during the summer, but watch your newsletter for the new reading schedule which will begin in the fall. Group meeting dates will also be on the 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center website calendar for more details: [website calendar](#)

Thanks a Bunch!

Chris Olson and Michelle's Coen's 25th anniversary party raised \$1000.00, which they donated to the Center. Please consider having your own celebration at the Center with the suggestion that attendees donate money to the 7 Rivers LGBT Center in lieu of gifts. If there were just 12 such celebrations a year we could pay the rent and utilities! Chris and Michelle are the first to be listed as major donors on our Center Supporters page.

Financial Planning and Identity Theft Protection - Prepare for Death and After Death By Christina Mae Olson, CFP®

I must confess that for years I have been reading the AARP Bulletin. The Bulletin has a wealth of financial information for people of all ages. I have gotten so many valuable tips and resources for my practice from the Bulletin. I wrote and asked AARP if they would let me subscribe even though I'm not age 50 yet - the golden age of membership eligibility in AARP. They wouldn't do it. My mother used to save her copies for me. Now, I can read it courtesy of my partner who turns 50 this year and is a member. The Bulletin will give any adult child great insight into the financial world of their parents - in addition to help you plan for your own financial future.

For those of you who want to sneak a peek at the Bulletin you can do so for free at www.aarp.org - and follow the link to the AARP Bulletin. Every single issue is full of practical financial advice. Read the article entitled GRAVE ROBBERY from the March issue. It discusses how identity theft is happening to the dead; leaving heirs and survivors with huge debts to deal with while vulnerable from mourning the loss of a loved one.

Financial planning is all about being prepared. A good financial plan is a proactive one. The plan begins with a set of dreams or goals. When can you pay off your mortgage? When can you retire or scale back at work? How can you send your kids or grandchildren to college? You save, you spend wisely and you invest with caution. You buy insurance to insulate you from uncertain catastrophic loss. You review your status every few years to make sure you are on track to meeting your goals. Are you protecting your self against identity theft?

Financial planning is often about preparing for your death. Identity thieves are stealing social security numbers, credit and other information about recently dead people and using it to obtain social security numbers, duplicate driver's licenses and birth certificates. They apply for credit with this information and run up massive charges in the name of the decedent. The Identity Theft Resource Center reports that 400,000 checking accounts were opened in the names of recently deceased people in 2004. This number more than doubled to 905,000 in 2006!

If you are the executor or "personal representative" for someone's will or estate - here are ways to protect you and your parents or other dying (or dead!) family and friends from grave robbing identity theft:

- Don't include date of birth or other identifying information in the obituary.
- Have friends present at the house of the deceased and the homes of family members during the visitation and funeral. Theft happens to an empty house!
- Cancel credit cards and other charge accounts immediately after death.
- Request at least 25 certified copies of the death certificate as soon as possible after death.
- Send death certificates to the three credit reporting bureaus (Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion) with letters closing all credit accounts.
- For joint account holders - change account ownership to your name only immediately after death.
- Ask the Division of Motor Vehicles to cancel the decedent's driver's license and to refuse all requests for duplicates.

- Don't pay the final bills for the deceased unless you are sure the charges are valid. Caution family members to scrutinize their charges also.

Remember that gay and lesbian couples have to take extra steps to insure that their financial lives are protected. While living (and legally competent!) you must have a durable power of attorney naming your partner or someone you trust to handle your financial affairs if you cannot. PLEASE BE AWARE that the power of attorney dies with you when you die! The will (and to a lesser extent, joint ownership) is the only way you can name someone to handle your financial affairs after you die! You will be especially vulnerable to grave robbing identity theft if you die without a will. No one, not even your lover, will be able to act on the above suggestions unless you authorized them to do so in your will.

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.

Wish List

Annual Rummage Sale!

Time to clean out those closets and put aside items you don't need for the 3rd Annual 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center Rummage Sale. This has always been a successful fundraiser for our Center, thanks to all of your donations. We have set the dates for August 3rd and 4th, 2007. When you're ready to turn over your items call our Resource Center at (608) 784-0452 and leave your name and phone number. We will get back to you to make arrangements for pick up or drop off of the items.

Here's what we need for the Center:

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