
LGBT News

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

September 2007

August Garage Sale and Challenge Grant

The Garage Sale was a Huge Success

The 2007 LGBT Resource Center third annual garage sale ended up being the BEST EVER! We made \$1742.50 for the Center. Despite the rainy Saturday, people continued to arrive and check out the items and make their purchases.

Thank you to all who made donations. We could not have had such a great sale without the variety and quantity. We really appreciate your efforts.

And speaking of efforts let me take this opportunity to thank the following people who put their time and energy into collecting, marking and selling. Dan (who is our garage sale guru), Ellen and Mary (for letting us have the sale at your house), and the following people who marked and sold and cleaned up - Sharon, Judy, Alice, Ellen, Dan, Leslie, Linda, Mary, Sarah, Denis, Lisa, Daina and Ann, Apologies if I left anyone out.

Thanks again for helping the Center continue to provide services to our community.

Ann Kramer

Challenge Grant Update: A letter from the President of the Board.

Greetings everyone !

I have some very exciting news to share with you, but before I do that, I want to make sure that none of our LGBT community members/allies/families or friends are in need of anything after the recent flooding. I hope everyone is safe and no one suffered heavy losses. If you are needing anything, please call the center and tell us about your needs so we can work with you to help make sure your needs are met.

On another note, it is with great pleasure that I can tell you that all of the center's board members as well as many of our members and friends in the community answered the challenge to raise \$2,500 to match the total contribution from John Magerus, Everett McKinney, Dick

Record and myself. So far, the challenge has brought in nearly \$6000.00, which will allow the Center to continue and expand its programming for the lgbt and larger community!

Thank you. You're awesome!

Another news item that I want to pass on to you involves our annual meeting, which will be Friday, Jan. 11, at City Brewery (put it on your calendar! Details to come), and the fact that we're in the process of seeking people who want to become a member of the center's Board of Directors. I would encourage each of you to consider becoming a board member and contact me if you're interested! You may reach me personally by calling 507-457-5098 during the day; 608-687-8294 during the evenings; or by emailing me at ckillion@winona.edu

Cindy
President
7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center Board

Killion

Center Activities

Lots of new events have been added to the Center calendar on our website, including the dates for our annual open house and our annual meeting. Check out everything [here](#).

Thanks for a Successful Pride

We did it! We made it through a stormy day to make 2007 La Crosse Pride a success! Despite the weather, we were able to surpass last year's attendance! Pride goers were able to enjoy the vendor tables while their kids played games, got their faces painted, tossed ping pong balls to win fish and jumped on the Jump and Slide. The day was filled with non-stop entertainment! There were musical performances by Leeza, Ginger Presley and Char Engen. Our Hypnotist Al Kaytraz, had participants wondering what happened to their belly button, driving jeeps on bumpy roads and looking for, (ahem) various "missing" body parts.

Just before our finale, we had Comedian Tracy Schroeder prime our audience with humor and wit. During the Finale Show, local performers Jaqu'e Monet', Scotty and Holiday Rose rocked the crowd along with Reggie, Kellie Jo Klien, Suga Brown; Brandy Merlot, Raven Zlair, Venus Love and our Co-MC's for the evening Ms. Ti'nea and Ms. Dee Dee Winters. All of these performers gave their all and provided an outstanding show for our festers despite all of the thunder, lightening and rain; as true performers do, they all used it to their advantage and worked it into their individual performances to the delight of the crowd. In the final number of the show, a skit was performed which included a guest performance by one of our own PRIDE Committee members along with approximately half-a-dozen audience members. In the end, the performers inducted Suga Brown and Venus Love as the 2007 PRIDE King and Queen. A special thank you to all of the Pride goers who stayed to watch the show while wading in 2 inches of water!

The Pride Committee would like to thank the major sponsors of La Crosse Pride 2007 - Bridging Diversity: The LGBT Resource Center for the 7 Rivers Region, P-fund and La Crosse Family Radio Group. Without your support, we wouldn't have had La Crosse Pride 2007!

Watch for upcoming fundraisers for next year's Pride - **August 23, 2008**

Daina Skrove

Ongoing Center Activities

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.will@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](#)

What's Up at the Center?

The Sunshine Report

What does it take to keep a Resource Center running? I had pondered this very question until I asked Connie what it takes to keep the place going. The Center is always looking for donations to keep the place running in the most efficient manner. A gift of about \$30 is enough to sustain the Center for a full day. I would love to see more offerings come in so that we can maintain the daily operations. More importantly, contributions will enable the 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center Board Members to invest in more diverse and supportive materials for everyone to use. It may also make it possible for new groups or fun nights to be held at the center. We now have a television with a DVD/VCR, and I am working on collecting DVDs and VHS movies and other programs for all to enjoy. Can you provide appropriate DVDs or VHS movies or programs? Please drop them off at our center at 303 Pearl Street in downtown La Crosse. Fortunately, the LGBT Resource Center did not suffer the same fate as many other businesses and homes in the coulee region due to the major flooding that has occurred.

I want to add that the caring and giving nature of LGBTs and the community in general is desperately needed at this crucial time for the entire area. Hundreds of homes throughout the Coulee Region have been severely damaged or destroyed in the wake of the massive flooding that we have endured. This has personally affected me, yet I plan on making a donation to the Red Cross La Crosse Chapter in order to help out those who have it much worse off than my partner and I. I hope that you will consider making a monetary contribution or pitch in and help your fellow neighbors during this time of crisis. The selfless act of giving aid to those less fortunate is truly a rewarding gift that can be cherished by everyone.

Supporting the La Crosse area and the 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center is vital. Any aid, great or small, is always genuinely appreciated, and we warmly welcome new volunteers to assist us with running the center.

Best Regards,
Johnnie L. Schmeckpeper
7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center volunteer

Celebrate National Coming Out Day, October 11, 2007

Visit the HRC site to read more about the event

The [HRC](#) has lots of information about the history of Coming Out Day and ways to celebrate it.

Attend UW-L's Pride Center Activities

UW-L's Pride Center is sponsoring a concert by Coyote Grace and two presentations on gender identity. Times, places and dates are [here](#).

Watch Presidential Candidates

The Center has a DVD of the LOGO/HRC Presidential forum. Watch it to see who is more out in speaking for our rights. Stop by the Center to borrow it.

Seven Straight Nights for Equal Rights

Atticus Circle and Soulforce are sponsoring Seven Straight Nights for Equal Rights, a national event that will provide straight Americans with opportunities to do justice and motivate new allies to stand up and be counted for equal rights.

Seven Straight Nights is a coordinated campaign of overnight vigils led by straight allies. It will sweep across cities throughout the nation during the Coming Out week of October 7-13, 2007, gaining momentum as more states participate in the event.

The vigils will be led by families, individuals, or groups, and focus on their personal decision to speak out on behalf of LGBT equality. Depending on the state, the leaders will either offer thanks for the state's positive policy record or issue a call to action on pertinent issues such as hate crimes, employment discrimination, and marriage equality.

For more information on the event and on organizing a Wisconsin effort, go to the [Seven Straight Nights website](#).

Supporting Lesbian, Gay, and Transgendered Elders

“Twenty-seven percent of LGBT people report great concern about discrimination as they age, and less than half expressed strong confidence that they will be treated with “dignity and respect” by healthcare professionals.” (Out and Aging: The MetLife Study of Lesbian and Gay Baby Boomers, ASA, 2006)

This program will explore the unique concerns of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered elders as they age. Using the landmark study, “Out and Aging,” participants will examine the relationship, care-giving, financial, housing and end-of-life issues that are specific to LGBT elders. This workshop will assist LGBT people in identifying resources and strategies for their aging journey. Providers of services will acquire insights needed to extend culturally competent care to this large and under-recognized group of elders.

Instructors: Sara Sullivan, Ph.D., UW-La Crosse Department of Psychology and Mary Faherty, M.S., consultant on aging and public policy, and former Director of La Crosse County's Long Term Care/Care Management Organization.

WHEN: Oct. 12, 9:00 a.m. to 100 p.m.
WHERE: 165 Morris Hall, UW-La Crosse
COST: \$75.00
EARN: .4 CEUs

10 STEPS TO FINANCIAL FREEDOM By Christina Mae Olson, CFP®

People ask me for ideas and general guidelines to help them meet their financial goals. These 10 Steps to Financial Freedom will introduce you to some of the very basic tools to building a secure financial plan.

10 STEPS TO FINANCIAL FREEDOM

1. Live beneath your means (spend less than you earn).
 - If you don't have it - you can't spend it.
 - Don't go into long term debt - you can't afford it if you can't pay cash for it.
2. Pay off your debt in full.
 - Own/use only two credit cards.
 - Pay off your credit cards in full each month.
 - You can't afford to buy it if you can't pay it off when your bill comes.
 - Never finance a car for more than 3 years.
3. Accumulate 6 months of living expenses - keep in a cash account.
 - This is your emergency fund.
4. Contribute to your employer retirement plan.
 - Start by saving 10% of each paycheck.
 - Increase until you are saving the full amount allowed every year.
 - Invest in low cost stock mutual funds - for long term growth.
5. Fund a ROTH IRA.
 - ROTH IRA's are the only retirement income that will be tax-free.
 - Contribute the full amount allowed every year.
 - Invest in low cost stock mutual funds - for long term growth.
6. Save for your children's college in a Section 529 College Savings Plan.
 - No kids or grand kids? Put this extra money into paying off your mortgage.
7. Pay down/off your mortgage and student loans.
8. Make charitable contributions - to the cause/s of your choice.
 - Giving away your money will help you accumulate more for yourself.
9. The rest is yours - for the rest of your life!
 - Short term savings (less than 5 years) - in cash accounts.
 - Long term savings (more than 5 years) - invest in stock mutual funds.
 - Do the math - are you confident you can attain all of your goals?
10. Enjoy your financial security and freedom!

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.