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# LGBT News

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

**August 2009**

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## Pride! August 22

[Read more here.](#)

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## Planning to Register as Domestic Partners?

Chris Hubbuch, a reporter with the La Crosse Tribune, is looking for couples who are planning to sign up for the Domestic Partnership Registry in Wisconsin. If you are interested in speaking with him please call 608-791-8217 or email him at [chubbuch@lacrossetribune.com](mailto:chubbuch@lacrossetribune.com)

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## Director's Column: Thoughts on a year as Director

**“What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult for each other?” - George Eliot**

It is finally here-August- which means we get to celebrate Pride in La Crosse on Saturday, August 22nd. If you haven't stopped in to purchase your Pride button, stop into the Center and get one today-only \$5! There is an excellent day planned full of music, entertainment, information, kid's games, and more. A little something for everyone to come out and enjoy the day! Let us all come together and have the biggest Pride yet here in La Crosse. For one day come out and just be your wonderful unique selves at Pride. Invite your friends, family, favorite allies, and everyone to join in a day of true equality here in La Crosse.

The 4th of this month also marks my first year here at the Center. It has been exciting, challenging, and amazing! Over the past year we have hosted rallies and marches, spanned the blue bridge for equality, hosted our first Gala Event, presented at local trainings, given the keynote address at Viroqua Diversity Day, presented at Brookwood High School, organized and held fundraisers, served on the planning committee for the Transgender Health Care Conference,

started new groups to meet the needs of LGBT folk and allies, and more. Reflecting back on the past year, we have had a great first year together. With gratitude I extend deep appreciation for each and every one reading this column. Thank you for your support. I look forward to an even better 2nd year!

Since August 2008, we have seen progress achieved across the nation. When we consider Same Sex Marriage in California (even with Prop 8 in California), New Hampshire, Ohio, and Wisconsin's Domestic Partnership Registry starting August 3, 2009, it is apparent we are on the right path toward realizing equal rights. We will continue to be out of step with those that oppose our demand for equal rights and dance for our freedoms. As we move steadily toward equality our opposition will become more ruthless, determined, and focused on denying us our rights, but we must stay united in our vision and stay the course. There are many courageous marginalized groups that have marched before us that we can look to for strength and nerve.

To simply state, "I do not want to get married; it does not matter to me." is not enough anymore. It is not now, nor has it ever been about just one of us. It has always been about all of us! Even if some choose to never be married, it is really not a decision if we can't do it any way. So remember we aren't looking to marry off all the family-we simply want to be able to have a choice. In acknowledging and accepting our diversity we have the greatest strength to weather the storm of ignorance, fear, and heterosexual privilege.

I invite you to attend our last two Brat Barns of the season at the Onalaska Festival on Saturday, August 8th and Friday, August 21st. If you have not made it to one, please stop and show us your love and support. If every subscriber of the newsletter bought just one brat we would sell 363 brats which would raise \$907.50. Will you commit to help us achieve the best brat barn ever? Bring your family, friends, partner, and coworkers and let's finish with the best sales for the summer. Your support at our fundraisers is appreciated and needed.

We are committed to being a viable Center that helps promote equality, an atmosphere of openness, and assists in community dialogue to help all persons embrace each others uniqueness. In our diversity we are bound by our humanness. Here is to another year of good work to further the vision of the Center.

Peace & belief,  
Rosanne

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## Upcoming Center Activities

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

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## Rummage Sale and Drop Off Times

**Annual Rummage Sale:** Friday, August 7th and Saturday, August 8th.

**Drop times for the sale will be:**

Saturday, August 1st 9-noon

Tuesday, August 4th 4-7 pm

Wednesday, August 5th 4-7 pm

**NO Drop offs after August 5th, 4-7 pm**

**NO TVs, computers, or large appliances unless special arrangements are made in advance.**

Drop off items to 3215 East Fairchild Street, La Crosse  
Or call 608-784-0452 to arrange additional times

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## Brat Sale

**When:** Saturday, August 8, 2009, 10:00 to 6:00

**Where:** Festival Foods, Onalaska. Proceeds to benefit the LGBT Resource Center and our work to raise awareness and further dialogue to ensure a welcoming community for all its members including the LGBT community.

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## Family Out and About Group Activity: Noah's Ark, WI Dells

**When:** Sunday, August 9, 2009, Meet at the Center at 7:30 a.m. if you want to be part of the LGBT Convoy to the Dells. The park is open from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

**Where:** Noah's Ark WI Dells. Save by getting your tickets at Kwik Trip or local banks for only \$25.00. We will have window markers to Pride up our cars! Pack a cooler, bring sunscreen and a smile for summer fun! More information: Rosanne 608-784-0452

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## August Women's Potluck Group

**When:** Saturday, August 15, gathering at 12:30 pm

**Where:** For more information on the location, please contact Rosanne at 608-784-0452.

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### **Brat Sale**

**When:** Saturday, August 21, 2009, 10:00 to 6:00

**Where:** Festival Foods, Onalaska. Proceeds to benefit the LGBT Resource Center and our work to raise awareness and further dialogue to ensure a welcoming community for all its members including the LGBT community.

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### **Guy's Night Out: a monthly get together for all persons who identify as male.**

**When:** August 28, Friday, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Questions or to RSVP call Mike 608-385-5753 or Josh 608-790-7606**

## **Ongoing Center Activities**

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### **Weekly Activities**

#### **GALAXY, a group for youth ages 14-19**

**When:** Every Tuesday 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. AND every Saturday 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
**Where:** 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center, 303 Pearl Street, La Crosse

#### **LGBTQ Parents Group**

**When:** Every Wednesday 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.  
**Where:** 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center, 303 Pearl Street, La Crosse

#### **Drop-in Group**

**When:** Every Thursday 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
**Where:** 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center, 303 Pearl Street, La Crosse

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## Bi-weekly Activities

### AA Group

When: Every other Friday at 7:00 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

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## Monthly Activities

### PGLAG

When: First Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Where: 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center, 303 Pearl Street, La Crosse

### Gender Queer/Transgender Gathering at the Center:

When: First Wednesday 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 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. The group meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00. 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.

### GNO (Guy's Night Out)

GNO will meet the fourth Friday of every month at the Center from 6-8 pm. All male identified persons are welcome.

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## LGBT College Grants and Scholarships. By Christina Mae Olson, CFP®

This is the second article in a series about paying for college. In the first article I discussed the benefits of paying for college out of savings. If you are able to pay for tuition and other expenses from savings then you won't have to take out student loans. It is ALWAYS better to save a dollar than to borrow a dollar to pay for something. If you must borrow money - completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid - <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>) is the first step students and parents take in securing financial aid. It is already August and not too early to be thinking about this. Students entering their senior year of high school can start on their FAFSA now. You have until June 30th, 2010 to complete the FAFSA for your first year of college - the 2010 - 2011 academic year. (Note: If you are entering college this fall - you have until September 21st, 2009 to make corrections to your 2009 - 2010 FAFSA.)

This month's article is about finding LGBT grants and scholarships to help pay for college. Grants and scholarships don't have to be repaid. Some are based on financial need. Some are based on academic achievement. Some are "affinity" grants/scholarships - offered by unique organizations and directed at particular groups of students.

I found hundreds of links to LGBT grant programs when I did an internet search on "LGBT college grants and scholarships." One of the most comprehensive data bases available is at the Human Rights Campaign: [http://www.hrc.org/issues/youth\\_and\\_campus\\_activism/8644.htm](http://www.hrc.org/issues/youth_and_campus_activism/8644.htm). Here are some of the more prominent LGBT resources to check out if you are looking for grant/scholarship funds to help you pay for college:

**The Point Foundation - National LGBT Scholarship Fund** - [www.pointfoundation.org](http://www.pointfoundation.org). The Point Foundation awards grants from at least 20 funds each year. Point invested over \$1.1 million last year in their "Point Scholars." Average grant: \$13,600.

**Colin Higgins Foundation Youth Courage Award** - [info@colinhiggins.org](mailto:info@colinhiggins.org). \$10,000 to a youth who has demonstrated courage in the face of discrimination and adversity based on gender identity or sexual orientation.

**Davis Putter Scholarship Fund** - [www.davisputter.org](http://www.davisputter.org). Awards go to students working actively toward peace and justice. Amounts vary depending on the amount of their donations.

**Messinger-Anderson Journalism Scholarship and Internship Program** - [www.thetaskforce.org](http://www.thetaskforce.org) awards \$10,000 scholarships to LGBT journalism and communications students.

**National Women's Studies Association** - <http://www.nwsa.org/students/scholarships/lcguide.php>. \$500 from the Lesbian Caucus to graduate students in Lesbian Studies.

**Pride Foundation** - <http://www.pridefoundation.org/scholarships/>. Pride has awarded over \$1.8 million from more than 50 funds to LGBT students since 1993. Only one application to Pride will put you in the running for all 50+ scholarships. Funds include the APIQS (Asian and Pacific

Islander Queer Sisters Scholarship) for Asian/Pacific Islander lesbians, bisexual females, and transpeople (MTF and FTM).

**Wisconsin - GSAFE Youth Scholarship** - [http://www.gsaforsafeschools.org/students\\_gsa.html](http://www.gsaforsafeschools.org/students_gsa.html). \$1000 awarded to high school seniors active in their school's gay-straight alliance. For attendance at UW schools.

**UW Madison - GLBT Alumni Council** awards scholarships to students who have demonstrated dedication to the GLBT causes and the betterment of the GLBT community. Representative Tammy Baldwin is a past recipient. Inquire at: [gltac@uwalumni.com](mailto:gltac@uwalumni.com).

You should also know about some of the federal grant programs available to all students. Go to [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov) for more detailed information about these grants:

**PELL GRANTS.** Maximum amount for the 2009 - 2010 academic year is \$5350. These dovetail with other financial aid and scholarships. PELL grants are usually for undergraduate study but, in some cases, can also be awarded for graduate school.

**FSEOG** (Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant). The FSEOG awards up to \$4000 and is based on exceptional financial need.

**TEACH GRANT** (Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education). Up to \$4000 awarded each year for students who want to become teachers in elementary or secondary schools serving low income students. You won't have to pay back the money if you meet certain requirements while in college (GPA of 3.2 and specialized study in high need area like Math, Science or Special Ed.) or after you graduate. For each year of grant money you receive - you have to work four years teaching in a low income school. There were 1188 schools in Wisconsin that qualified for TEACH GRANT forgiveness in 2009.

**ACG** (Academic Competitiveness Grant). \$750 awarded in your first year and up to \$1300 in your second year. You must be enrolled in an ACG eligible programs meeting "rigorous secondary school program of study" requirements and maintain a 3.0 or higher GPA.

**SMART GRANT** (Science & Mathematics Access to Retain Talent). Up to \$4000 awarded in the third and fourth years of college to students majoring in science, computer science, math, technology, engineering or a "critical foreign language."

The states also offer grants and scholarships. Wisconsin will award up to \$2250 each year for the **Academic Excellence Scholarship**. This is based on academic merit. The **Higher Education Grant** awards up to \$2500 and is mostly based on financial need.

There are billions of dollars available to students who want to go to college but are short on funds. Start early and keep applying until you are awarded enough grants to help you fund your tuition and expenses. Good luck!

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## Pride Needs Volunteers

Pride needs volunteers on the following dates. Friday, August 21 for set up. Saturday, August 22 for button sales. beer ticket

sales, bartending, information booth staffing, food sales, children's games, and much more. Sunday, August 23 clean up. Please stop in the Center, 303 Pearl Street and sign up to volunteer! If you can't stop in but want to help-call 608-784-0452 to sign up.

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GALAXY Pride Talent Show Registration Form  
GALAXY youth will stage a talent show at Pride and the registration form is now available. [Read more here.](#)

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## Opportunities to Help Your Center

There are new items on our Wish List. Check here for the complete [Wish List](#). [Volunteer](#) for some fun, fundraising activities for the Center.

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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.