
LGBT News

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

January 2009

Annual Meeting

What: 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center Member's Annual Meeting

When: Saturday, January 17th, 10:00 am to Noon

Where: People's Food Coop Community Room, second floor

Cost: We will be ordering brunch from Hackberry's menu and members will pay for their own meal.

WIN: a random drawing door prize: Need to be present to win!
Julia Belle Swain "cruise for 2"
[DVD of short lesbian or gay films](#) (She Likes Girls 3 or He Likes Guys)

RSVP: call 784-0452 before January 10, 2009

The annual meeting is a time for the board to report to Center membership concerning the budget and activities of the past year. Come meet our new executive director, Rosanne St. Sauver, and help elect new board members joining in January.

Also, we want to make sure that we give our community members a voice about activities they would like to see take place in the coming year. You might also think of involvement at the LGBT Resource Center for the 7 Rivers Region as your personal service to continuing efforts to make this world a better place, especially for those without a voice or community. We are all potential resources for someone else out there. Offer your services as a volunteer, come to a social or political event, donate money or give something on our wish list. Let's network as a vibrant, diverse community and provide the leadership, generosity, courage and compassion so needed at this time. See and be seen at some event this year...why not this first one?

Please join us if you can. We would like to hear from you and get to know you. It is also a time to thank (in person if you can make the brunch meeting) the following outgoing board members: president Mary O'Sullivan, vice president Leslie Scheld, secretary Alice Benson, and Lisa Jackson for their years of service. Without this group of officers we would not have experienced the many successes this year, especially the hiring of an executive director!

Please RSVP if you are able to join us by calling the Center at 784-0452. Reserve space early and consider bringing along a potential new member! Membership forms and cards will be available at the meeting.

Kathryn Hietbrink
Board Member

Director's Column: A Look to 2009

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." Anne Frank. Writer (1929-1945)

It is the beginning of 2009! A new year- this offers each of us multiple chances for new beginnings, friendships, collaborations, and change. What will each of you do with your many chances to create the life, world, or society you have always wanted or dreamt to be possible? There are many ways we can as individuals become part of the larger good and help create a better world.

Not unlike other nonprofits, the LGBT Resource Center for the Seven Rivers Region depends on donations, individual memberships, corporate memberships, and volunteers to meet its mission and do the work we do. It is a true collaborative effort that comes from a diverse group of individuals that share collective vision- equality for all members of our community. It is an honor for the Center to work with each of you as we move forward in 2009.

We will continue to be a voice and strong advocate for our service area: Allamakee and Winneshiek Counties in Iowa; La Crosse, Jackson, Monroe, Trempealeau and Vernon Counties in Wisconsin; Houston, Fillmore, and Winona Counties in Minnesota. It is a goal for 2009, to reach out to communities throughout our service area to build our membership, expand our reach, and ensure that more people are aware of the Center and our services.

If you have never stopped in the Center please make it a personal goal to do so this year. We have a small cozy office that is a great place to come find resources, a great read, and two computers with internet access, Wi-Fi and more. We are your Center, come see what we have to offer you.

As it often happens with the start of a new year, resolutions are made, goals are set, and hope is reborn. So it is only fitting that the Center makes some resolutions, goals, and shares our hopes for 2009, here they are:

- We resolve to stand firm in our belief that all individuals deserve equal rights.
- We resolve to be a strong ally to those that are out and those that cannot be.
- It is our goal to become more visible in the community and welcome new allies.
- It is our goal to speak up, speak out, and demand discrimination stop based on sexual orientation and gender identity/expression.
- We hope for an inclusive ENDA (Employee Non Discrimination Act).
- We hope for the right to marry and have our relationships recognized.
- We hope to make the world a friendlier place for LGBT people so we can all live out and proud.

In solidarity and with hope for a phenomenal 2009!

Peace & belief,
Rosanne St. Sauver
Executive Director

Thoughts on the Center at Five, by Mary O'Sullivan, Board President

During 2008, the Center grew from a largely volunteer organization, to a full-fledged service agency for the 7 Rivers Region, LGBT people, and our allies. It was an incredible year for the Center with exponential growth of services provided and activities organized. This was due in large part because Rosanne St. Sauver was hired as our first Executive Director in August and immediately set about expanding the Center. Her work has made the Center more visible with many more people utilizing its services.

However, the Center has a longer history than might be generally known. This spring marks the 5 year anniversary of the inception of the 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center, when Kelly Teachout invited a group of us to meet and explore the possibility of how an LGBT Center might be used by the community. By August we had invited others and created an Advisory Board for the Center. Members of that first Advisory Board were: Beth Cherne, Susan Erlandson, Jeanne Fischer, Joy Holthaus, Cindy Killion, Ann Kramer, Dan Lintin, Mary O' Sullivan, Kelly Teachout, Pam Walhovd, and Will Van Roosenbeek.

During the fall of 2003 several meetings were held with the community to explore unmet needs for LGBT people in the area, and the mission for the Center was formed.

During 2004 that group wrote the bylaws (largely the work of Joy Holthaus) and began the work toward incorporating as a nonprofit organization. By June of 2004, the Center had its first office located in the Scenic Concepts Building. With the help of an AmeriCorp member, the Center had open hours beginning in September. Activities and programming increased each year since then and when the Center moved to Pearl Street in spring of 2006 it was well on the way to becoming an established part of the community. To see what was accomplished each year as the Center grew from 2003 until today, visit the [Accomplishments page](#) on our Center website.

Many people have supported the Center with their dollars and their labor over these past 5 years and I am grateful to have been a part of the development of an organization that I believe is positioned to become a significant resource in our community. Of course, we all need to continue to support the Center with our dollars and labor, but I know the Executive Director and board have the commitment and skills necessary to take the Center to its next steps.

My term on the board and as board president ends with our January 17, 2009 annual meeting. I intend to continue working for the Center as a volunteer, and I invite you to join me in supporting your 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center in all the ways that you can. Together we will celebrate this year's milestone of a 5th anniversary and together, we can look forward to celebrating the Center's 10th anniversary and those beyond as well.

Upcoming Center Activities

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

Steak Fry

When: January 10, 2009 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Eagles, 228 5th Avenue South

People Helping People Steak Fry 5:30-8:00 at Eagles Aerie 1254, 228 Fifth Avenue South, La Crosse. The Center benefits from the tips at this event.

House Concert with with LVNMUZIQ

When: January 16, 2009: doors open at 6:30, music starts at 7:00 p.m.

Where: RSVP to for the address of the house concert

Space is limited. Please RSVP by email: mbhuck1@centurytel.net House address will be e-mailed to you. [Read more here.](#)

"LVNMUZIQ released their 2nd studio CD, "Contemplating the Void" in March of 2008. "A cross between Tracy Chapman and Grant Lee Phillips, urban-folk singer-songwriter Liz Snavely, aka LVNMUZIQ, creates compelling, sometimes introspective, sometimes fiery acoustic nuggets on her second full-length CD. A powerful talent." (John Sinkevics - The Grand Rapids Press)

[Hear her here www.lvmuziq.com/music](http://www.lvmuziq.com/music)

Center Annual Meeting

When: January 17, 2009 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

Where: People's Food Coop, second floor community room

Come eat brunch with the Center board and Executive Director. Learn about Center activities and budget. Listen to the Executive Director's vision for the future of the Center. Give input on where you would like to see the Center go in the next year. Vote in new board members and thank those who have served. Your brunch will be ordered off Hackberry's menu and attendees pay for their own meal. There will be membership forms available, so that you can renew your membership at the meeting.

January Out & About

When: January 24, 2009: 12:45 p.m.

Where: Meet at the Center, 303 Pearl Street

After meeting at the Center we will head off to go sledding, then to ice skate, and return to the Center for cocoa when we are done playing in the wintery weather. RSVP 608-784-0452 or r.st.sauver@7riverslgbt.org For those that prefer to stay warm but still want to come out and about-come for the end of the outing, and have cocoa and treats at 3:30 at the Center.

Luncheon with a Dr. April Herndon speaking on The Intersex Rights Movement

When: Friday, February 13, 2009, 11:30 to 1:30; registration required by February 9, 2009

Where: Wisconsin Room 1 at the Radisson Hotel, 200 Harborview Plaza, La Crosse, WI.

Dr. Herndon served as the Director of Programming for the Intersex Society of North America from 2005-2006. During this presentation, she will provide a basic introduction to intersex conditions and explain how intersex conditions challenge dichotomous notions of sex and gender. Using writing by people with intersex conditions and activists in the field, the presentation will highlight the goals of the movement for intersex rights and the struggles people with intersex conditions face. [Register with this form.](#)

Ongoing Center Activities

Weekly Activities

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

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.

SOME TIPS ON HOW TO BUY A By Christina Mae Olson, CFP®

Happy New Year, everyone!

A few days ago, a client in Milwaukee asked me for some advice about buying a car. She asked me about how to negotiate the purchase price and she wanted to know the best way to finance the purchase. These are loaded questions. She had already decided to buy a new Prius and declared that the new ones didn't cost that much more than the used ones. This isn't exactly true, but at that point, it wasn't my job to argue with her about it. We had already discussed the financial hazards of buying a brand new car and I hadn't been able to dissuade her away from it. After all, a new one (even a Prius) will lose thousands of dollars in value the very minute it's driven off the lot. Why not let someone else take the depreciation on a new car - and you can buy it when it is two years old? In the case of a Prius - you'd pay roughly \$10,000 less for a 2007 in good condition compared to a brand new 2009. Here is the response I wrote to her about financing and purchase price (you'll see that I did attempt to slide in another plug for buying a used car).

"Ask your accountant if you are at risk for paying AMT tax this year. That's the "alternative minimum tax" that the IRS imposes on taxpayers with moderately high incomes and lots of deductions. If you won't be subject to the AMT then I'd definitely choose the HELOC option for your loan. This is the only way your interest will be deductible.

"Of course, you should pay as much from cash as possible for this car. Whatever you do borrow - make sure you can pay it off quickly (two years!). Any interest you pay on a loan over time just makes the car that much more expensive.

"When you negotiate for the purchase price, use the invoice price (for a new car) or the fair value (for a used car) as your starting point. I'm sure you've checked this out in your research - www.edmunds.com (Edmunds) will have that. So will www.kbb.com (Kelly Blue Book). You can get a very detailed report for \$12 - \$15 from Consumer Reports on the invoice/value of the car you want (plus invoice prices on the bells/whistles). I sure wouldn't buy from a dealer, but if you do, don't feel sorry for them "losing money" on a deal. I've bought cars from dealers in the past with 0% over invoice. They are getting paid in so many ways when they sell a car - not just from the money you pay for the car.

"If you buy a used Prius from a private party you can use the "private party value" from Kelly Blue Book (or Edmunds, for that matter). I did a search on the value of a 2006 Prius in good condition with 50,000 miles and got a private party sale value from \$13,900 - \$16,200. I did a search for this car in the Milwaukee area and found one (2006/46,883 miles) at a dealer - Safro - and they want \$20,920 for it. If you can find

the same car for private sale, you'd expect to pay no more than \$16,200 for it. It makes sense to stay away from the dealer, if possible. You know Safro probably gave \$10,000 in trade in for that car so they'll get nearly \$11,000 in profit if they sell it for \$20,920. Yikes! What a racket.

“If/when you are ready to make an offer (private party or dealer) you should get a vehicle history report from www.carfax.com. This will tell you if the vehicle has been in an accident or flooded and reconditioned, etc. You'll need the VIN for the report. If the seller won't give you the VIN before you buy the car then you don't want that car!

“Whatever you do, don't negotiate the purchase based on the monthly payments. The final purchase price is your objective. I would NOT get a loan from a dealer.

“I hope this helps. Have fun and let me know what happens.”

Note: Some details have been changed to protect the innocent. She did write me back and joked about how only I'd see the process of buying a car as “fun.” At least she knows that she can't just go into a dealership and pay the sticker price for her new car! Negotiating the price of a new car can be painful but it is like a game - and it happens to be a fun game for me!

Chris Olson is a certified financial planner™ with a fee-only practice. You can reach her at CMOney@centurytel.net or 608.525.9818.

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.

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.