
LGBT News

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

March 2009

Director's Column

It is definitely an exciting time here at the Center! All I can do is smile from ear to ear and feel so fortunate to be part of this great community and work. What a wonderful time of year with spring just around the corner, the earth reclaiming her prideful colors, and the realization of change everywhere.

Here are some new things, important dates, and just spectacular information for you:

- March 5th- GALAXY 12.75 Reunion & Open House check the Center website for more information
- Governor Doyle's Budget has Domestic Partner Protections! Go to http://www.quest-online.com/NewFiles/Quest_Newsroom_221.html for more information.
- GALAXY, a group for youth ages 14-19, will begin meeting March 10th
 - Every Tuesday 4-6 p.m. at the Center
 - Every Saturday 2-4 p.m. at the Center
- March 13th-People Helping People Fish Fry at the Eagles, 228 5th Avenue South Proceeds from this Fish Fry, donations, and tips collected this night will go toward the GALAXY Ball. So come hungry, tip well, and make a donation for a great Ball!
- March 18th Viroqua Diversity Day 2009! The Center will be participating and I will be offering the keynote address.
- *Justice Not Just Us: June Kjome and the Making of An Old Lady Activist* books are available for purchase here at the Center, \$16.00 each. The great thing is-if you purchase your book at the Center a portion of the proceeds stays here
- April 10, Good Friday, People Helping People Fish Fry all proceeds to benefit the programming at the Center
- GALAXY Ball will be held on Saturday, April 18th more details will be coming.

- In recognition of March being Fine Arts Month and Women's History Month we will be showing movies every Saturday.
 - March 7- Leonardo da Vinci: Renaissance Master
 - March 14- Fried Green Tomatoes
 - March 21- Wilde
 - March 28- Dreamgirls
- Stop in and visit our Christa Matter Memorial Library. We recently added music.
- Check out this website <http://www.rm2breathe.org> we are a part of this great project.

As you can see there is much going on and we are committed to being the Center you need us to be. Stop in, check us out, and let us know how we are doing.

Enjoy the beautiful changes all around and celebrate your uniqueness each and every day!

Belief,
Rosanne

Celebrate GALAXY 12.75

The evening of Thursday, March 5, 2009 will focus on celebrating GALAXY's past and future. The evening will begin with an open house with punch and goodies at the 7 Rivers LGBT Resource Center. Please join us as we come together to honor the work of the YWCA, past leaders of GALAXY, past and present youth, and program supporters.

For those that wish to continue to spend time reminiscing and catching up feel free to grab something to eat and meet at the Ward Room prior to 7:00 p.m. for the GALAXY 12.75 Reunion, with special guest Marilyn Levin, the spectacular visionary who created the program. We will celebrate GALAXY and honor the program's vibrant past and look collectively forward to its vivacious future with the LGBT Resource Center for the Seven Rivers Region with a brief program and open mic sharing.

For more information please call 608-784-0452.

Be a La Crosse Gay/Lesbian History Project Contributor

The Gay/Lesbian oral history project of the La Crosse area is seeking additional interviewees as part of an on-going project. These interviews, which last about an hour, are recorded and become part of the oral history collection at the Area Resource Center. Although a release must be signed, anonymity can be maintained. The project would like to conduct interviews with individuals who have some knowledge of the following subjects as they relate to the Gay/Lesbian history of this area: bars and the bar scene, churches and their work with/against issues of sexual orientation, PFLAG, GALAXY, life in the rural La Crosse area, and Gay and Lesbian families. Other topics are also possible.

If you are interested in participating in an interview or know of someone who might be able to provide useful information and insights, please contact: John Magerus at jmagerus@aol.com or 608-788-9574.

Upcoming Center Activities

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

Celebrate GALAXY 12.75 with an Open House and Reunion on March 5, 2009

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For more information please call 608-784-0452.

GALAXY 12.75: Open House

When: Thursday, March 5, 2009 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Where: 303 Pearl Street

GALAXY 12.75: Reunion and Dessert Reception

When: Thursday, March 5, 2009, 7:00 to 9:00

Where: UW-L Ward Room in the Cartwright Center

People Helping People Fish Fry

When: Friday, March 13, 2009 AND April 10, 2009, 5:30 to 8:30

Where: Eagles, 228 5th Avenue South

In recognition of Fine Arts Month and Women's History Month the Center will show the following videos:

When: Saturday, March 7, Leonardo da Vinci: Renaissance Master

When: Saturday, March 14, Fried Green Tomatoes

When: Saturday, March 21, Wilde

When: Saturday, March 28, Dreamgirls

Where: 303 Pearl Street

GALAXY Ball

When: April 18th, 2009

Where: TBA

Ongoing Center Activities

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

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.

A billion here.....a billion there.....what's just a few bucks in a bad economy? By Christina Mae Olson, CFP®

- TARP - (Troubled Asset Relief Program) - \$750,000,000,000 for banks and brokerages
- ARRA - (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) - \$787,200,000,000 for stimulus and jobs
- Auto Industry Bailout - \$55,000,000,000 and growing - to keep them in business
- Bank Rescue Plan - \$100,000,000,000 and growing - more for the banks
- AIG bailout - \$150,000,000,000 and growing - the largest insurance company in the world
- TALF (Term Asset Backed Securities Loan Funding) - \$200,000,000,000 - more for the banks

I'm just saying - that is a lot of money. I mean wow, a lot of money! And, the programs listed above represent just a portion of the federal government's attempts to throw money at our troubled economy. President Obama is about to unveil his trillion dollar plan for health care reform. As of today (2/26/09) - the outstanding federal debt is \$10,850,000,000,000 (that's \$10.85 trillion for those of you who are "zero's impaired.") We are adding \$1.75 trillion to the federal debt in 2009 alone. Things are really bad...so let's keep spending and going deeper into debt???

I cringe when I hear our respected and bold government leaders (I voted for them) announce so vehemently that "credit is what moves this country." They think that fixing the credit industry will fix our economy. When banks feel like they can trust borrowers again - they will lend money. What does that mean, "trust borrowers?" What about us trusting the banks? When banks are lending - we are spending and so goes a healthy economy. Can't a healthy economy include a little restraint? As a rather conservative and prudent financial planner - I must say that credit is what hurts us the most. We get into more trouble when we borrow money. We usually borrow money when we want something we can't afford. The government says we must spend all this money even though we really can't afford it. Why? Do we really need 7500 banks when 3500 will do?

Skip to the last paragraph if you are getting glassy eyed over all of these details:

The "stimulus" package (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act or ARRA) that finally passed in Congress is about to work its way into the hands of the American public. Sort of. Here are some resources and basic facts that I've been able to glean. First, President Obama has created a website that is supposed to track the money (\$787.2 billion +/-). <http://www.recovery.gov> will eventually provide specific details on where

the ARRA money is going and if it is being spent as intended. This website is not very detailed. For example, you can see that \$90 billion is going directly to states but you can't tell how much is coming to Wisconsin. Senator Feingold has set up a website that is a little more detailed: <http://feingold.senate.gov/recovery>. He says Wisconsin will add 70,000 jobs as a result of the ARRA. Wisconsin's website: <http://www.recovery.wisconsin.gov> says we are getting \$3.7 billion. Governor Doyle wants to use \$2.1 billion of the ARRA funds to balance our budget (and not on economic stimulus - although balancing the budget will keep lots people employed). \$700,000 will come to our area for Hwy 16 repairs. Another federal web resource is: <http://www.cbo.gov>. This is the official website of the Congressional Budget Office. There are links from this site that lead to more details about the ARRA and all the other federal spending plans.

The ARRA will not be as immediate as we've been led to believe. The entire amount will not be distributed until 2019 - a full 10 years from our current and emergent economic crisis. In fact, appropriations totaling just \$185 billion are expected for the remainder of 2009. Actually, the "appropriations" don't exactly amount to a grand total of \$787.2 billion. This number represents the NET DIFFERENCE between expenses and revenues. Revenues? If you dig deep enough you can see phrases like "net effect" and "net impact" which implies that some money is also coming back to the government as a part of this plan. The ARRA will increase the federal deficit by \$787.2 billion (they'll be spending much more). The majority of this money will be in the form of grants and give-aways. Some of the stimulus money, however, will be in the form of loans. These loans will generate interest income when they are repaid (we hope). Some of the "revenues" will be in the form of payroll and income tax generated when people go back to work as a result of the ARRA. Certainly, we have to offset the cost of this stimulus spending with the monetary advantages it creates. New jobs means more than additional tax revenue. It'll mean buying cars and dishwashers and solar panels. Working people build and install these things. This and other spending/borrowing is supposed to uplift our economy. The CBO estimates that a whopping \$211.8 billion in "revenue" will be generated by the ARRA. If this doesn't happen then this "stimulus package" could end up costing us \$1 trillion (that's \$1,000,000,000,000). That seems like a gamble, doesn't it? Spend \$1 and hope for a return of 21 cents

What can we do as individuals? Be prudent. Save a little more than you usually do. Don't stop spending - just spend wisely. You may be faced with losing your job and you want to be ready if that happens. Watch and see if the federal programs I've addressed in this column provide the relief we need. Hunker down and wait it out. Things will get better. I'm not sure how or when but I do believe they will get better.

Chris Olson is a licensed financial planner with a fee-only practice. You can reach her at 608-525-9818 or CMoney@centurytel.net.



If you have comments on this article, please send them to Chris at the email address above, NOT to the LGBT Newsletter.

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.