Gearbits
Trans* Spurs of Action and Interest

March 2012

What is community?
(social support/information)

Saturday, March 24, 2012
7:30 - 9:30pm

Many people talk about the "trans community," but what does that phrase really mean? Are we a community by default - based on a shared identity, a set of lived experiences, or association to other people? Or do we consciously, deliberately create the community we wish to be part of?

March's social support meeting will begin with an experiential exercise that explores where and how Wisconsin trans* people and SOFFAs connect. We will discuss whether or not the concept/existence of "community" is important to us and how we each define its meaning in our lives. Discussion might lead to dialogue about where else in our lives we find (or seek) community or connection.

Location:
The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center
252 E. Highland Ave
Milwaukee, WI

Click here for a map.

Open discussion and support

March 24, 2012 (Saturday)
6:00 - 7:10pm

Do you crave connection with fellow Trans+ and SOFFA individuals? This gently facilitated time is especially devoted to exploring the issues you bring in - sharing your experiences and stories, asking questions, seeking referrals, gathering resources. We'll assure this hour+ will stay focused on your needs, and the discussion you generate.

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Film: We Who Are Sexy

Milwaukee LGBT Film Festival Presents:
We Who Are Sexy
Thursday, April 5, 7 PM
UWM Union Theater, 2200 E Kenwood Blvd, Milwaukee
Tickets $5 Each.

Meet film historian Jenni Olson in person!

We Who Are Sexy: The Whirlwind History of Transgender Images in Cinema is a whirlwind ride through the history of transgender images in film.

"A smart combination of on-stage conversation and film clips, this program showcases an amazing array of rarely seen tidbits ranging from the bad old days of guys in dresses and pathological trannies up through the empowered self-representations of the early '90s and into the hot transgender best of the 21st century.
Featuring clips from such rarely seen films as Summer Vacation: 1999, We Who Are Sexy and the Outfest Legacy Project restored gem, Queens at Heart to more recent favorites like By Hook or By Crook- this informative and entertaining exploration is not to be missed! Co-sponsored by the UWM LGBT Studies Certificate Program." [Description from the Milwaukee LGBT Film/Video Festival's website.]

For more information about the festival click here.

**Upcoming Trans Conferences**

Conferences are not always accessible to people in the trans*/SOFFA community due to cost, distance, time away from work, disability, or many other reasons. However, some conferences are working hard to become more affordable and enjoyable by a wide range of people. The Philadelphia Trans Health Conference is an annual FREE conference that is likely the largest trans* conference in the world, drawing well over a thousand participants in 2011.

This year's conference runs from May 31 to June 2, 2012. Learn more about this amazing conference that promotes transgender health and wellness in mind, body, spirit, and community at [http://www.trans-health.org/](http://www.trans-health.org/)

[A bit closer to home - if you live in Wisconsin or Illinois - is the Be All Conference, held in Chicago, Illinois the same weekend as the Philadelphia Trans Health Conference (May 31 - June 2, 2012). Check out their website at [http://www.be-all.org/](http://www.be-all.org/)]

**Trans Family on NPR**

NPR (National Public Radio) has aired many stories and news features about transgender people over the past
few years. On March 9, 2012, "Morning Edition" aired an uplifting story of a family that sticks together through gender transition. You can listen to or read the story at http://www.npr.org/2012/03/09/148178236/a-mom-becomes-a-man-and-a-family-sticks-together

Guide to Serving LGBT Older Adults

SAGE - the country's leading organization for LGBT elders and the providers who serve them - released their newly published guide for creating a welcoming service environment for LGBT older adults.  

Inclusive Services for LGBT Older Adults: A Practical Guide to Creating Welcoming Agencies

SAGE's contributions to improving the lives of LGBT older adults is unsurpassed. FORGE remains proud to be in partnership with SAGE and the National Resource Center on LGBT Aging.
Flying While Trans

Traveling by air since 9/11 can be frustrating, potentially irritating and possibly physically invasive - for anyone. Trans travelers may have additional layers of concern around their safety and privacy due to the more extensive screening methods used at airports.

The TSA (Transportation Security Administration) has been responsive to consumer needs - specifically, to transgender travelers. [Read their newly released information sheet for trans travelers.](http://www.lambdaliterary.org/foundation-

This website offers easy-to-understand definitions of screening procedures, informs travelers of their rights, and provides contact information about where trans travelers can ask questions or voice complaints.

Trans Books -- Lambda Literary Award Finalists

Finalists for the Lambda Literary Awards were announced on March 20, 2012. This year's line-up of nominated trans* books, is, once again, impressive. Transgender-themed or written books include:

- **Letters For My Brothers: Transitional Wisdom in Retrospect**, edited by Megan M. Rohrer and Zander Keig, Wilgefortis Press
- **Normal Life: Administrative Violence, Critical Trans Politics and the Limits of Law**, by Dean Spade, South End Press
- **I am J**, by Cris Beam, Little, Brown Books for Children
- **Tango: My Childhood, Backwards and in High Heels**, by Justin Vivian Bond, The Feminist Press at CUNY

For a complete list, visit [http://www.lambdaliterary.org/foundation-](http://www.lambdaliterary.org/foundation-)

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For more information, please visit [https://ui.constantcontact.com/visualeditor/visual_editor_preview.jsp?agent.uid=1109478170932&form...](https://ui.constantcontact.com/visualeditor/visual_editor_preview.jsp?agent.uid=1109478170932&form...)
About FORGE

FORGE is a progressive organization whose mission is to support, educate and advocate for the rights and lives of transgender individuals and SOFFAs (Significant Others, Friends, Family, and Allies). FORGE is dedicated to helping move fragmented communities beyond identity politics and forge a movement that embraces and empowers our diverse complexities.