

CAN'T CONTROL THIS

As the world swirls in chaotic currents, we often find our gaze fixed upon the shadows that loom over us. Thoughts may spiral towards the uncertain future, clouding our judgment with the specters of potential misfortune and we may tumble down a rabbit hole of despair, grief, and frustration. Whenever I feel the weight of negativity creeping in, I summon clarity by reflecting on these four questions:

1. What is weighing on my mind?
2. What is within my grasp to influence?
3. What holds the greatest significance for me?
4. What actions can I take?

By anchoring our thoughts on what we can control, we ignite a spark of empowerment that fuels positive emotions. This newfound focus propels us forward, enabling us to inspire change. Such transformation need not be grand; even the smallest acts can ripple outward. I recall a day when a stranger paid for my coffee—a simple act of kindness that illuminated my spirit and inspired me to pass the warmth forward. I hope my gestures of kindness weave joy into another's tapestry.

This does not imply I turn a blind eye to the world around me. I consciously choose to concentrate on the aspects I can influence, striving to cultivate meaningful change within my daily realm. As we navigate through spaces that may feel unfamiliar and unwelcoming, I remind myself to embrace tranquility, often practicing the art of waiting. In those moments, I reflect on the souls who inspire me and endeavor to embody strategic patience. - Jason

IN THIS ISSUE

COMMUNITY!

- Can't Control This pg. 1
- Earth Day 2025! pg. 2
- Denver Pride: 2025 pg. 2
- WOF Vibe Check pg. 2
- Memories of an Old Man pg. 6-7
- Talent Show Auditions pg. 7
- Spiritual Page by Mary Silk pg. 8
- The Knock by Larry Wheeler pg. 9
- 10 February 2022 by Avis B. pg. 9

EVENTS!

- WOF Movie Night Pg. 3
- Lunch & Learn Pg. 3
- Club50 pg. 4
- Older Wiser & Sexually Smarter pg. 4
- Push'n Pansies pg. 4
- Pride Job Fair pg. 5
- Lunch Bunch pg. 5
- Calendar pg. 10

Director: Jason

303.951.5222

jeatonlynch@lgbtqcolorado.org

Manager: Bryant

303.951.5228

bmehay@lgbtqcolorado.org



April 22nd, 2025 marks the 55th year of celebrating Earth Day! I love our mother Earth and feel so lucky to live in Colorado where I get to see her beauty every day. The beauty of our Earth is everywhere you look, from the snow-capped mountains in the west, stunning sunrises, yellow aspens in the fall, even the nutty squirrels in Cheesman park make me smile! Here are some ways to get involved in Earth Day activities around Denver. Go hug a tree for me on Tuesday, April 22nd!

1. Volunteer with Groundworks Denver to help plant trees!
2. City of Lakewood Earth Day Celebrations (April 26th) at Heritage Lakewood Belmar Park
3. Volunteer with Friends of Red Rocks for monthly trail clean-ups (Every last Sunday of the month-meets at the upper north lot at 9:30am).
4. Volunteer to help clean the parks of Denver with Denver Park Trust (sign-up online)
5. Free day at Denver Botanical Gardens on Earth Day!
6. Volunteer to help clean up Cherry Creek River (April 23rd, 2 PM. Meet near the Cherry Creek Trail across from Fleet Feet. E 1st Ave & University Boulevard, Denver, CO, USA)

-Helena Juntunen

Denver Pride: 2025 logo & theme! This year, we ignite a call to action with Hearts on Fire, a theme that represents our community's heart; unified in resilience and burning with the desire to overcome adversity and rise above hate.

The fire inspired visuals are tangible representation of our raw inner strength and fire within that fuels us to create a better world of equality and love.



WOF
Vibe
check



NAMA-STAY IN SHAPE!



Richard
Kill'n it at the front desk!



Mindful?
-or-
Mind-Full?

MOVIE NIGHT THE WIZARD OF OZ!

Join West of 50 somewhere over that darn rainbow as we dive into the 1939 classic film *The Wizard of Oz*. Live in beautiful technicolor, this film has such a rich history of importance to the queer community. So, whether you're a 'friend of Dorothy' or wicked to the bone, come watch a film that has been delighting and enchanting audiences for almost 90 years. Enjoy snacks, sodas, comfortable seating, and good company as we follow the Yellow Brick Road to the Emerald City.

Date: Friday, April 4th

Time: Doors open @ 5:30, movie starts at 6 pm

LUNCH & LEARN SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW

The Land of Oz has been inspiring the hearts and minds of the world ever since it was first created by L. Frank Baum in 1900. From gravity defying musicals to wild and dark movies, for over a hundred years artists have interpreted and re-imagined Oz. In this Lunch & Learn, hosted by Bryant Mehay, we will be traveling down the Yellow Brick Road to explore the history of child-like imagination and dark dirty realism that found a home in the wonderful world of Oz. Food will be provided and registration is required to reserve your space.

Date: Thursday, April 24th @ 11:45 pm

Club 50

Wednesday, April 2nd at 1:30p

Agenda:

Talent Show recap
Pride updates
Tea Dance
Bus Trip
Volunteer work
Housing updates

OLDER WISER *Sexually Smarter*

OWSS is going to the **Sexploratorium** on Tuesday, April 8th from 2 - 3:30pm for a free presentation on, "Love at Any Age: Overcoming Dating Anxiety!"

Address:

1800 S. Broadway, Denver

Facing the Fear – Pain at the End of Life

Wednesday, April 9th, 1:00 p

As we're approaching that final bookend of our lives, there are so many things that can worry or even frighten us... saying goodbye to loved ones ...losing control of our body ... being dependent on others for support ...and the list goes on.

Some of these we can prepare for emotionally, financially, or both. But some we can't, and we just have to face whatever comes, as it comes. Then there's that one really scary thing that causes so many of us to wish for a fast death ...a death that would skip over the whole dying process if we could.

What is it that would push us to give up precious time, just so we could avoid it? Yep! You probably guessed it! It's the pain! For many, if not most of us, pain and suffering are synonymous with the dying process. But here's the thing ...it ain't necessarily so! Pain is a part of only some diseases. And when it does show its ugly face, pain can be managed and tamed to give us back more precious time with those we love. So, in this session, we're going to bust up some of the scariest pain and dying myths and provide real answers to these big questions:

- Is dying inherently painful?
- Are pain meds addictive and to be avoided at all costs?
- Do pain meds actually cause death?

We'll answer those questions and more ...while also exploring what medications are in the hospice e-kit and why they're there. If you can make it, you'll want to catch this jam-packed session, full of information!





pride
job fair
in partnership with 

An inclusive, free event where out of the box talent and employers connect.

THURSDAY, APRIL 10 , 2024

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

McNichols Civic Center Building

144 W COLFAX AVE, DENVER, CO 80202

Lunch Bunch!

East Colfax has a new Restaurant! ***Uptown Banh Mi & Grill!*** This new Vietnamese restaurant has a diverse menu full of tasty bites! Let's welcome them to the community and give them a try!

Date: Thursday, April 17th

Time: 12:30 p

Address: 1201 E Colfax Ave, Denver CO 80218

Participants are responsible for purchasing their own food.

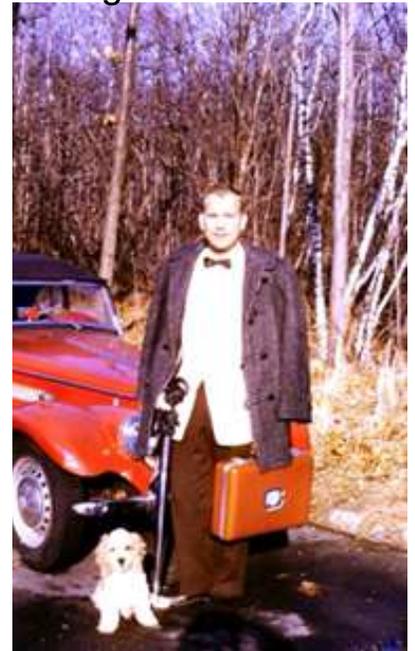
The LGBTQIA+ Infighting is Exhausting! Working at The Center is difficult... this medium sized community center is one of the oldest in the country. It's understandable that organizations with a vast history struggle with public perception. Over the past year I feel like the community has become fucking mean. From protests, to posts about who funds the parade and pride, to negativity around our Black History collaborations. What if the Center could not withstand the vicious attacks and had to close? Who would organize the largest festival in the state? Who would support the thousands of individuals who come to The Center to find community and support? Today we need community more than ever! New generations are now the subject of discrimination, people are losing their jobs, the cost of living is astronomical. In place of eating our own, why not come together to support each other? We can take all the anger and shift it to the entities that truly are trying to hurt the community.

X- Memories of An Old Man

Ken Felts

I was shaken to the core and tried to keep things as they had been, but guilt was eating away at me. About a month later, I resigned my job, packed my things, and leaving Phillip at the curb, I returned to the safety of my old hometown, Dodge City. I went into business with my brother, and we operated Midtown Conoco Service. He was an excellent mechanic, and I handled the front-end business. Phillip wrote several letters, all of which I ignored. In his last note he said if I did not reply, he would bother me no longer. I did not reply and thought that chapter of my life had ended. But I longed for him. I was doing some photography and frequented a local photo supply store, Southwest Photo Supply. The owner was somewhat older than me and we became friends. He had been wanting to expand his business to a nearby town; I borrowed money and bought a partnership and before long was manager of our new store in Liberal, Kansas, about 85 miles from Dodge City. Having little funds, I used some of the storeroom space for living quarters. New town, new life, still straight. My store was next door to a small family restaurant and that became my source of meals. I regularly attended the Protestant church and later converted to another, but I always straight. A waitress in the café next door and I started dating and one night she took me to her home.

After a few weeks, I was now 31 or 32, she got me in bed with her, where I had my first sexual experience with a woman. Two or three times later, during one of our encounters, she saw me looking at my watch – it was such a ho-hum experience. She told me she had never been so humiliated in her life and asked me to leave. Work at the camera shop occupied much of my time, but six days in the store with customers and then spending the rest of the time in my “living quarters” soon became disheartening and church attendance no longer held joy. Finally, I decided to return to college for my master’s degree. Proper arrangements were made, a new manager was hired for our store, and I was soon enrolled at Fort Hays, Kansas State College, in Hays, Kansas.



Univ. Of Connecticut w/Gai Luron

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

I moved into an apartment near campus and enrolled in a course of liberal arts. I received my master's degree on August 10, 1963. While there, I dated the daughter of the farmer I had worked for the previous summer, but was never attracted to her.



Leaving home for Ft. Hays (KS) College

Upon graduation, one of my classmate friends had been accepted to the University of Connecticut for the coming fall, and having no other plans, I decided to follow him there. We got a small apartment near the campus of the University and settled in. I was accepted into a course of anthropology and was able to get a teaching assistant position to help pay my tuition, which supplemented the G.I. Bill provided after my military service. We were strictly roommates and had no romantic interest in each other. Weekends in New England were filled with short trips to nearby historic sites including Olde Mystic Village and Old Saybrook. Particularly enjoyable was spending the fall in New England as the leaves turned color. At the end of the school year, Spring 1964, I was faced with the reality of having to go to work to support myself, and further courses in anthropology did not offer much in career choices. Thus ended my endeavors to achieve a PhD. Again, I packed my possessions and returned to Dodge City.

**THE CENTER'S
GOT
TALENT
AUDITIONS**

This past February and March, Club50's Talent Show Committee hosted several auditions for the March 29th talent show. The group had a great time watching and learning from individuals who auditioned.



Spiritual Page

An Irish Blessing

May love and laughter light your days
And warm your heart and home
Wherever you may roam,
May peace and plenty bless your world
With joy that long endures,
May all life's passing seasons
Bring the best to you and yours.

St. Patrick and I wish you a wonderful Spring!
Enough Prayers . . . Let's get to shenanigans and
Malarkey! The art of Irish Diplomacy:
The ability to tell someone to go to hell so that
They look forward to the trip.

Irish advice:

As you slide down the banister of life
May the splinters never point the wrong way.
God blesses us all, Be good to one another, and
Beware of Green Beer! Cead Mile Faulte

by Sweet Rosie O'Grady (aka Mary Silk)

The Knock

Speaker: Open Up we want to see your papers! (Loud Knocking)

First they came for the trans. I did not speak up because I was not Trans.

Then they came for the immigrants, I did not speak up because I was not an immigrant

Then they came for the Muslims, I did not speak up because I was not a Muslim.

Then they came for those in a same sex marriage, I did not speak up because I had never been married.

Then they came for the queers. I could not speak up because I was already in hiding.

I do not wish to speak with you, answer your questions, sign or hand you any documents based on the 5th amendment rights. (Loud Knocking)

I do not give you permission to enter my home based on my 4th amendment rights unless you have a warrant to enter, signed by a judge or magistrate, with my name on it that you slide under the door. (Loud Knocking)

I do not give you permission to search any of my property or my belongings based on my 4th amendment rights. (Loud Knocking)

I choose to exercise my constitutional rights. (Loud Pounding)

Speaker: What constitutional rights? The King suspended the constitution yesterday.

-Larry Wheeler

10 February 2022

I give thanks to the UNI-VERSE,
For driving me to The Center,
And for always allowing me to enter.
It is with my KIND that I can nourish,
Rest easy, and begin to flourish . . .

Avis Blankenship
10 February 2025
3rd anniversary at The Center

APRIL

MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
	1 10 Men's Coffee 2 Sex	2 10:30 SS Yoga 1:30 Club 50	3 10 Open Art	4 10:30 Movement 1:30 DPSG 5:30 Movie night	5	6
7 10 Lesbian Lounge 1:30 Story 6:15 Stitch	8 10 Men's Coffee 2 Sex	9 10:30 SS Yoga 1 Push'n Pansies	10 10 Open Art 11 Job Fair	11 10:30 Movement 1:30 DPSG	12 10:30 Pride Playwrights	13
14 10 Lesbian Lounge 1:30 Story 6:15 Stitch	15 10 Men's Coffee 2 Sex	16 10:30 SS Yoga	17 10 Open Art 12:30 Lunch Bunch	18 10:30 Movement 1:30 DPSG	19	20
21 10 Lesbian Lounge 1:30 Story 6:15 Stitch	22 10 Men's Coffee 2 Sex	23 10:30 SS Yoga	24 10 Open Art 11:45 Lunch & Learn	25 10:30 Movement 1:30 DPSG	26 10:30 Pride Playwrights	27
28	29 10 Men's Coffee 2 Sex	30 10:30 SS Yoga		<p>Key: Lesbian: Lesbian Lounge Move: Movement Story: Telling Your Story Stitch: Stitch & Bitch Sex: Older Wiser Sexually Smarter DSPG: Disability Peer Support Group</p>		