

What is the True Meaning of Community?

In the field of social work, community refers to a group of people who share a common characteristic, interest, or geographic area—people linked by social ties, shared perspectives, and a commitment to joint action. A community might be defined by location, such as a neighborhood, or by identity and interest, such as cultural, spiritual, or LGBTQ+ groups.

At West of 50, we are committed to building and nurturing our community. That doesn't mean we can always meet every request or desire, but it does mean we are not—and will never be—intentionally trying to exclude or hold anyone back. Everyone deserves space here.

If we ever cancel a program, please know it's not an act of discrimination. It might be due to a holiday, pride, a request from leadership, or because Bryant and I (the only two West of 50 staff members) have earned a break.

Since the beginning of this year, we've hosted 251 programs, had 2,737 duplicate check-ins, and welcomed 398 new people into our community. We are working. We are creating. We are laughing and connecting. And most importantly, we are showing up.

So if something doesn't feel right—please ask. Ask with curiosity, not assumption. We can build a stronger community if we stay rooted in compassion, understanding, and conversation. Let's keep showing up for each other.

-Jason

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WOF - A FIELD TRIP TO THE DENVER ART MUSEUM



Let's go see the **Kent Monkman: History is Panted by the Victors** exhibition at the Denver Art Museum. Kent Monkman is known for his provocative interventions into Western European and American art history. Through his paintings, Monkman pushes forward an understanding of the lived experiences of Indigenous people today while confronting colonial injustices.

Date: Thursday, Aug. 7th

Time: 1p

RSVP Required -
space is limited to 20 attendees

Location: 100 W 14th Ave
Pwy. Denver, CO 80204



Agenda:

Fall Bus Trip

Thankful 4U planning

Pride Compass

Emergency Preparedness
program

Date: Wednesday, Aug. 6th.

Time: 1p

Lunch

Burch



Champagne Tiger is a high energy French American diner located on East Colfax Ave where guests come to celebrate everyday. Comfortable to be in, easy to enjoy and focused on making everyday a celebration, this queer-owned Colfax gem welcomes all to their table.

Date: Friday, Aug. 22nd

Time: 12:30p

Address: 601 E. Colfax Ave Denver, CO

Farewell, Sweet Terri

Do I need to be doing this? I'm still grieving the loss of my Wife, Paula. My efforts to 'live on' and assuage the excruciating loneliness, has left me grieving the love and loss of two more beautiful women.

Now Terri. Dear Terri, friend and neighbor of 28 years. After I saw the ambulance take her twice, I asked her, "You don't have any family in town?"

"Let me be your family."

I just realized, that was a prayer, a prayer that was answered.

Terri answered, "Yes." and I began to see her daily, taking her to appointments, running errands, and doing things around the house.

On 6.24.25. I met Terri's doctor and Terri gave me a form naming me her Power of Attorney.

"I'm strong." Terri reminded me, when this terrible dance with cancer began. Strong she was, to the end, an end that Terri was able to consciously choose.

Long ago, it seems, I told Terri,

"You are DE - LIGHT - FUL "

Everyone who knows her agrees.

Love, Avis

(Did I need to be doing this? It was an honor and I will continue to heal.)



Lesbian Lounge Picnic

Date: August 11th

Time: 11:00am - 1:00pm

Location: City park Picnic area #2 (Use Google maps to find location)

If you'd like to contribute food or utensils for the event, please contact **Mary** to sign up. mspeegle415@gmail.com



West of 50's Tea Dance

For years, The Center's older adult program has hosted the Tea Dance—a beloved tradition that has taken many forms over time. From bar dance floors to the Center's lobby, and even attempts to turn it into a fundraiser, the Tea Dance has always been a space for connection and celebration.

Rooted in LGBTQ+ history, Tea Dances originated in New York in the 1950s and 60s, often held on Sunday afternoons. These gatherings provided a safe space for queer people to meet, socialize, and enjoy tea service—at a time when such public expressions of identity were rare and risky.

Before the pandemic, the future of our Tea Dance was uncertain. Attendance had declined, and there were conversations about letting it go. But in 2022, we brought it back—refreshed and reimagined. This year, we welcomed 96 attendees to a joyful afternoon filled with dancing, laughter, and community. We extended the dance time, and continued our tradition of offering free drinks and pizza.

I am incredibly proud of this program. Bryant did a fantastic job hosting the drag show, and I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our amazing volunteers and the dedicated Center staff. The Tea Dance is a major lift during Pride Week—but it's a labor of love. It's an opportunity to honor our community's history, and to provide a vibrant, affirming space for older LGBTQ+ adults to come together and show off their pride.

WOF Pride Vibes



Rooftop PRIDE party with DPL
- Let's VOGUE



DJ Blaque Gurl - give us those
Tea Dance Beats



Rooftop PRIDE party with DPL - line
dancing taught by Christinal



An Orgasmic Tea Dance



Steve Anne and Cow Poke Avi at
Denver PRIDE Fest

West of 50 at Denver PRIDE Fest

West of 50 continues to push the envelope and challenge the status quo. Since Denver PRIDE Fest returned in 2022, our program has redefined what it means to show up at Pride. Gone are the days of just another info booth. Instead, we've created something bold, fun, and unforgettable. With the help of Steve-Anne and CowPoke Avi, we kicked off with Homosexual BINGO, bringing laughter and levity to the festival.

In 2023, we introduced the now-infamous erotic yard games: Cock Ring and the Magic Wand Toss. And in 2024, we turned it up another notch with Pin the Tale on the Top and Tits and Clit—equal parts cheeky and empowering.

But we're more than just a spectacle. Between the games and glitter, we've hosted educational moments that invite deeper reflection and conversation. Our booth has become a Pride Fest staple—a place of curiosity, connection, and unapologetic joy.

What truly makes this work impactful is how we center aging and celebrate intergenerational connection. We create a space that challenges ageism and uplifts the wisdom, humor, and resilience of our older LGBTQ+ community. This continued growth and success wouldn't be possible without the power of community. For 2025, we added water sales to our space and improved our donation strategy. To Steve-Anne and CowPoke Avi: thank you. West of 50 simply wouldn't be what it is without your fierce creativity and commitment. To every single community member who stood with us in the summer sun, cheering us on and helping make the magic happen—you are essential.

Here's to more glitter, more joy, and more radically inclusive spaces. See you next year!

2025 Pride participation numbers:

Amount the program raised from games: \$1,478.40

Saturday WOF attendance:

- Games: 186
- BINGO: 302
- Info Booth: 208
- Pup Mosh: 44
- Educational sessions: 98

Sunday WOF participation:

- Games: 211
- BINGO: 316
- Info Booth: 167
- Pup Mosh: 92
- Education sessions: 86

WOT's
going to

CINEMA Q

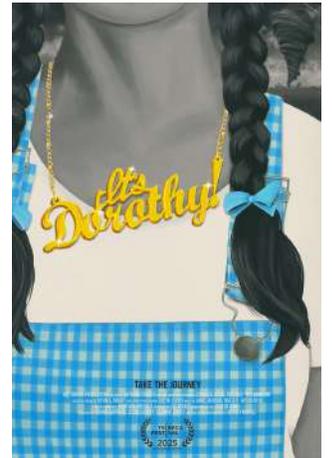
Denver's only LGBTQ+ film festival celebrates the community's vibrant and diverse stories through a captivating selection of curated movies, panel discussions, and iconic events. Tickets can be purchased online at <https://cinemaq.eventive.org> or in-person at the box office or by calling The Sie Film Center Box Office at 720-381-0813.

Date: Friday, August 8th

3:00p Happy Hour

4:00p Enjoy the screening of *IT's DOROTHY!* an enduring documentary on the legacy of Dorothy Gale and *The Wizard of Oz* s a a touchpoint of American culture worldwide.

Ticket Cost: \$5.00 this includes happy hour.



Date: Sunday, August 10th

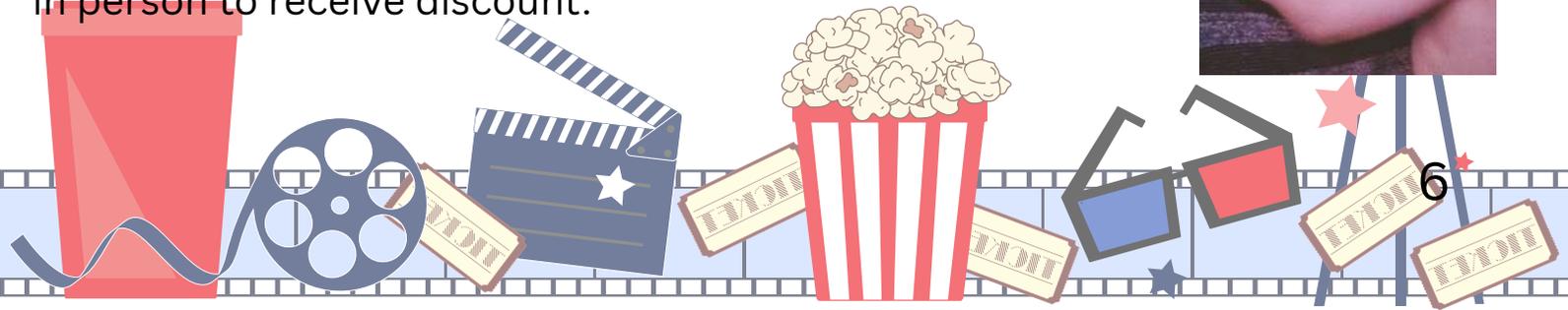
10:00 am

Queer Elder Storytime: Oral histories on the evolution of queerness and queer culture. **Free** to attend! Featuring members our our community.

Date: Sunday, August 10th

5:00pm

This drama follows a woman named Hannah (Olivia Colman) as she takes her teenager Frances to visit their gay grandfather Jim (John Lithgow), lovingly known as **JIMPA**, in Amsterdam, as Hannah is forced to reconsider her beliefs about parenting and finally confront old stories about the past. **Cost \$13.00** Use promo code JIMPA on their website or in person to receive discount.



Volunteering at PRIDE FEST West of 50 Style

by Mary Speegle

This year's Pride was one of my favorites. There was one thing I did differently. I volunteered to help out for the weekend. This allowed me to get directly involved with our community. I was assigned to the West of 50 area. They had lawn games, homosexual bingo, and a variety of vendors. No one had to prove they were older than 50 to participate, creating a welcoming area for all.

I had a different assignment each day. On Saturday, I was a greeter and answered questions about The Center's programming. Most of the older women that I talked to were from other states. However, I was able to invite the local women to the Lesbian Lounge. What a great reward to see them join our group. The young women under 50, I told them to check out our Pride area. They needed to know that after 50, we are not a boring lot.

On Sunday, I made it to the lawn games. I chased after bean bag boobs and suction cup dildos. One of the games, no one ever won. I warned the attendees to increase their chances of winning, they might want to pick another game. To my surprise, they stuck to the harder game. They wanted the challenge. Did they win? No, but it didn't matter. They didn't avoid the tougher game. They leaned into it and gave it their best.

Being a Pride volunteer is the way to go. I met all sorts of people creating great memories!

*Steve Anne
BINGO calling*



A toss of the dildo



*Linda Helping
out at the game tent*



The Greatest Gift of All – Advance Directives

It's hard to imagine that the greatest gift we can give our loved ones is advance directive paperwork and an honest conversation about our wishes, but it's absolutely true!

Sharing our end-of-life wishes is one of the best ways we can express our love and compassion for the grief that our family and friends will be facing both before and after we die.

Let's not hesitate to ask ourselves ...

- In their time of greatest anguish, why leave them alone to deal with the onslaught of decisions that must be made during sickness and death when we can ease that burden now?
- And why leave them to guess or feel guilty about what we would have wanted, when we can make it so much easier by speaking up, just as we always have, and saying what we want?

The good news is that we can bring them peace of mind now by preparing the following things:

- Medical Power of Attorney and how to make the best choice
- Living Wills
- Medical Orders for Scope of Treatment (MOST) when the time is right
- Values and Priorities Directives

We'll go over each of these and more, including how to get the conversation started ...because sticking the paperwork in a drawer and forgetting about it is absolutely not enough!

Trust me, I've seen it happen over and over again, if you do all these things, your loved ones will be so grateful they were prepared for the tough times that come with sickness and dying.

And the even sweeter icing on the cake is that you'll be an example for when it's their turn to fill out documents and have uncomfortable conversations with their circle of loved ones.

Advance directives are truly a gift that keeps on giving! Presented by Karen from Golden Heart Transition.

Date: Wednesday, Aug. 13th

Time: 1pm

LUNCH & LEARN Good sex!

It turns out an active sex life increases longevity! A study conducted at Duke University found the more sex we have the longer we live. In this conversation, we will explore how sex improves one's health and unpack how sex can change, not decline, as we age. We will address the following topics:

- How sex improves health
- Does the concept of “great sex” apply to older individuals
- Does sex mean only intercourse

Date: Wednesday, August 27th

Time: 11:45 to 1:30p

RSVP: required to attend, lunch is provided.



Pride Playwrights Needs You!

In honor of National Coming Out Day on October 11th, the **Pride Playwrights** are seeking authentic, powerful, and creative coming out stories to help shape a series of short theatrical presentations.

We're looking for submissions that can be transformed into 1-2 minute performances. Your story can be submitted in any of the following forms:

- Written narrative
- Oral storytelling
- Interpretive dance

Let your truth inspire others!

 **Submission Deadline: September 13th**

 **Submit your concept to: mlvd1953@q.com**

 **Or share in person:** Join a Pride Playwrights meeting on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month.

Your story matters. Let's bring it to the stage



Emergency? *Don't know her*

Make emergencies as unfamiliar as your ex.

Disasters don't discriminate – they impact us all, whether natural or man-made. In this lively two-hour workshop, we'll dive into the latest disaster trends, help you assess your personal preparedness needs, and equip you with practical tools to conquer chaos like a pro. Can't make the August date or the group fills up fast? Don't stress, we'll be offering the group again in September and October.

Complete the program and receive your very own fire safety box to kick start your emergency readiness!

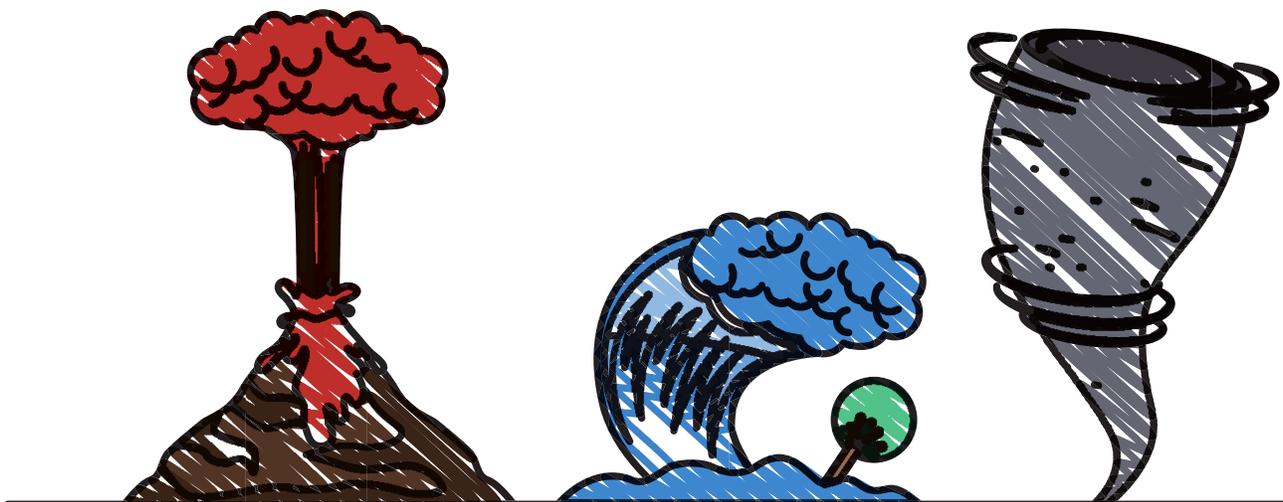
Space is limited to 10 attendees per session.
Participants must be 50 and better.

Dates

Thursday, August 14th 1:00p - 3:00p

Saturday, September 20th 1:00p - 3:00p

Thursday, October 9th 1:00p - 3:00p



Welcome Hannah!



We are excited to introduce our new MSW intern, Hannah! She will be starting in mid-August and will be with us through mid-May. Be sure to say hello!

I am a social work grad student at MSU Denver completing my first internship at The Center! I am so excited to spend the year working with the West of 50 crew and can't wait to learn and contribute. In my spare time, I love watching movies, hiking, eating good food, and traveling!

I recently returned from a 7-month trip around the globe with my partner, volunteering and experiencing different cultures and customs. I am fairly new to the queer community and look forward to spending more time learning alongside you all.



Q: A doctor and a bus driver are both in love with the same women, an attractive girl named Sarah. The bus driver had to go on a long bus trip that would last a week. Before she left, she gave Sarah seven apples. Why?

Q: I left my campsite and hiked south for 3 miles. Then, I turned east and hiked for 3 miles. I then turned north and hiked for 3 miles, and which time I came upon a bear inside my tent eating my food! What color was the bear?

Q: What has cities, but no houses; forests, but no trees; and water, but no fish?

IQ: In my hand, I have two coins that are newly minted. Together, they total 30 cents. One isn't a nickel. What are the coins?

Answers on the next page.

2025

August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 10:30 Move. 11:45 Med.	2 10:30 Pride Playwright
3 10 Lesbian 1:30 Story 6:15 Stitch	4 10 Men's Coffee 2 Sex	5 10:30 SS Yoga 1 Club50	6 10 Open Art 1p DAM trip	7 10:30 Move. 3p CinemaQ	8 10:30 Pride Playwright	9 10:30 Move. 11:45 Med.
10 Elder Story Time at CinemaQ	10 10 Lesbian Picnic 1:30 Story 6:15 Stitch	11 10 Men's Coffee 2 Sex	12 10:30 SS Yoga 1 Push'n P	13 10 Open Art 1p Emergency 1:30 DPSG	14 10:30 Move.	15 10:30 Pride Playwright
17 10 Lesbian 1:30 Story 6:15 Stitch	18 10 Men's Coffee 2 Sex	19 10:30 SS Yoga	20 10 Open Art	21 10:30 Move. 12:30 Lunch Bunch	22 10:30 Pride Playwright	23 10:30 Move. 11:45 Med.
24 10 Lesbian 1:30 Story 6:15 Stitch	25 10 Men's Coffee 2 Sex	26 10:30 SS Yoga 11:45 Lunch & Learn	27 10 Open Art 1:30 DPSG	28 10:30 Move.	29 10:30 Pride Playwright	30 10:30 Move. 11:45 Med.
31 Lesbian - Lesbian Lounge Story- Telling Your Story Stitch- Stitch & Bitch Sex- Older Wiser Sexually Smarter						

HEADS UP

- The Center will be closing at 1p every **Friday** for the month of Aug.
- The Center will be closed **Monday, Sep 1st**

A: A apple a day keeps the doctor away!

A: White, since the only place you can do that is the North Pole,

A: Map

A: A quarter and a nickel