

Queercraft Hosts Needed

Use your social skills and crafting interest to host a fun crafting group! SPECTRUM'S Queercraft group works on portable crafts like knitting and beading, but also any other craft that can be carried to the meeting. Visit us on [Facebook](#).

Help the LGBTQ community come together, and meet new people with a similar love for making crafts!

This is a time commitment of 2 hours on Tuesday evenings from 6 – 8 PM. Contact volunteer@ourspectrum.com

On the Orlando Tragedy

Comment by Lyn McGinnis

Before the massacre on Sunday morning, June 12, in Orlando, Florida, I was a happy and secure gender variant polysexual queer. After these events I am slightly less secure. Perhaps my sense of safety was always an illusion. We may see positive incremental change in ninety-nine out of one hundred people, but what if that one extra person has a gun? We cannot live for them. We must live for the other ninety-nine.

We are seeing an unprecedented dialogue between Queers and Muslims. After Orlando, LGBTIQ persons warned against any retaliation on the Muslim

community. Queers defending Muslims? When does that happen? When both communities see they are subjected to the same hostility. All oppressions are linked. By working together we may discover the root causes of this fear and ignorance and address them.

I have been transparently denied housing. I have experienced abuse at work, I have been yelled at in the street. When I was young I was bashed in situations where I had no power. Worse, I suffered from an internalized condemning voice. Now, I never leave the house without pencilling in my eyebrows and checking my lipstick. I was born male but under no circumstances may anyone call me a 'man.' For some time now no one does. People automatically switch to feminine pronouns when they meet me for the first time. I am still looking for new pronouns beyond the gender binary.

Most people respond positively to those who are at home in their own skin. I have seen check out cashiers who used to scowl at me giving me warm smiles. Just by my existence I have triggered a process leading to their acceptance. Pockets of individual and institutional hatred and intolerance remain. We must continue to remove these roadblocks to acceptance and understanding.

We have known setbacks and, yes, tragedies. The Orlando massacre will stand out as one of the worst of this generation. This is because we have already come so far. Let us honour those who have fallen and support each other every step of the way.

SPECTRUM

Rainbow Community Calendar

The *Rainbow Community Calendar (RCC)* is a monthly publication serving the LGBTQ community of Waterloo Region. It is named in tribute to the *Pink Triangle Community Calendar* created in 1989 by community activist Lisa Simkins. The *RCC* is issued by the **Rainbow Community Calendar Collective**, an action group of **SPECTRUM–Waterloo Region's Rainbow Community Space**. Print copies are available at SPECTRUM, ACKWA, and various bars, clubs, cafes, etc. in Waterloo Region. Online at <http://www.grandriver-rainbowhistory.ca/RainbowCommunityCalendar.html> Send events to info@ourspectrum.com by the **20th of each month**.

SPECTRUM'S **Resource Centre and Drop-In Space** is in Unit 210 at 283 Duke St. W., Kitchener, N2H 3X7 (corner of Duke St W and Breithaupt). Park on Breithaupt St side of building, near the loading dock. Go in the Duke St entrance, up the stairs, through the door, down the hallway to Unit 210.

Website: <http://ourspectrum.com/> **NEW!** (with hours of opening & much more)
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/SpectrumCommunitySpace>
Twitter: @our_SPECTRUM Email: info@ourspectrum.com Phone: 226 779-9695

July Events

AIDS Awareness Drop-In. 5—8 PM. 4th Thursday of the month. **July 28.** Sponsored by ACKWA. In SPECTRUM, 283 Duke St W, Unit 210.

day5games. 7—11 PM Fridays: **July 1, July 8, July 15, July 22 & July 29.** @ SPECTRUM. Join us as we gather at our space to play board-games & card games, to assemble jigsaw puzzles, and to fiddle with constructions, in an informal atmosphere.

Good Laughs. 7 PM till closing, last Tuesday evening of the month: **July 26.**

A safe space for trans people to explore their identity in the community; open to allies as well. @ Symposium Café, Waterloo (corner of King and Erb)—back room. goodlaughs81@gmail.com

Nonviolence Festival. Noon—5 PM, Saturday, **July 9** on the Island, Victoria Park, Kitchener. This is a festival to raise awareness about the power of nonviolence. SPECTRUM will be there.

OK2BME Youth Group. 6—7:30 PM. Alternate Tuesdays—**July 5** (ACKWA - Sex and Tech), **July 19** (Dairy Queen). More information: <http://ok2bme.ca/>

Older Adults Group. 7—9 PM, 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month—**July 6 & July 20.** We see things differently as we age. Priorities shift. Social circles change. Join us in a **new** discussion and social group for older LGBTQ adults. And if you're concerned about whether the group is a fit for you, then try it out to see. Our first order of business will be choosing a suitable name for our group. We will also do some thinking about what kinds of discussions and activities we might like to have. We hope that this will be a step in the direction of creating a community support for us as we age. @ SPECTRUM.

ORG—SPECTRUM'S Outdoor Recreation Group. Sundays. Events alternate between Lite and Regular:

July 3—'Lite' 2—4 PM. **Uptown Stroll.** Meet at 2 PM, Honey Bake Shop, Waterloo.

July 10—'Regular' 1—5 PM. **Hespeler Reunion.** Meet at 1 PM at Tim Horton's, Tri-City Centre near SAIL.

July 17—'Lite' 2—4 PM. **The 'Hood.** Meet at 2 PM at SPECTRUM.

July 24—'Regular' 1—5 PM. **Homer Watson Park.** Meet at 1 PM at Tim Horton's, Fairway at Courtland, Kitchener.

July 31—'Lite', 2—4 PM. **St. Jacobs.** Meet at 2 PM at the picnic area of the sports-field at the Parkside Dr. cul-de-sac; accessible by foot along the staircase from King street, north bank of the Conestogo River, at Eby, in St. Jacobs.

Queercraft—a Queer Crafting Group. 6—8 PM, Tuesdays: **July 5, July 12, July 19, & July 26.** Bring your portable craft! @SPECTRUM.

Rainbow Connections—Kitchener meetings. 7—9 PM, 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month: **July 7 & July 21.** LGBTQ & Mental Health Group. Main floor, Self Help Alliance, 67 King St E. Kitchener. If you will be late, please contact us in advance so we know when to let you in. Also note that there is a 15 minute time-period that we can let you in, otherwise it becomes disruptive to group. We will be in the downstairs room, so ring the downstairs doorbell to be let in. Call (519) 570-4595 to speak with either Jasmina Ext. 4052 or Brenda Ext. 4061 to verify meeting date and time, or for more information.

Rainbow Newcomers. 7—9 PM, 2nd Thursday of the month: **July 14** & 4th Wednesday: **July 27.** A place for LGBTQ-identified immigrants and refugees to socialize with each other and with LGBTQ people who have been in town for a while, and discuss issues related to being a newcomer to Canada. @ SPECTRUM.

SPECTRUM Reading Circle. 6:30—8 PM, 4th Thursday of the month: **July 28.** In our Reading Circle we read short stories and articles aloud on the spot; no prior reading is required. Then we reflect on what we have read. We often spend longer discussing the literature than we do reading it. Participants are encouraged to bring readings. Join us for this exploration of LGBTQ literature

and what it means to us personally! @ SPECTRUM.

SPECTRUM Saturday Symposium (new) 2—5 PM, Saturdays: **July 2, July 9, July 16, July 23 & July 30.** We meet Saturday afternoons to discuss a topic of interest to our community. Ideas for topics will usually come from participants and be posted here ahead of time. Our inaugural meeting was held Saturday, 2016 June 18 at 2 PM. The group dynamic is expected to change weekly as each topic will likely attract a different crowd, though one is not expected to be of a particular bent to attend. All are welcome every Saturday. Attendees are free to participate or not in the discussion according to their own temperament. You need not be an expert on anything to contribute as we are all here to learn from each other. We emphasise speaking about our own experiences. Come with an open mind. The group is mildly moderated. @ SPECTRUM.

Trans Peer Support Group. 7—9 PM, 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month: **July 7 & July 21.** New Day—New Time—New Facilitators. A safe and normalizing environment for anyone identifying in the trans/gender variant umbrella. @ SPECTRUM

Transgender Peer Support Group (new). 7 - 9 PM, 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month: **July 13 & July 27.** For individuals who identify as transgender or are questioning. Self Help Alliance, 67 King St E. Kitchener. Call (519) 570-4595 to speak with either Jasmina Ext.

4052 or Brenda Ext. 4061 to verify meeting date and time, or for more information.

Waterloo-Wellington-Perth PFLAG. Parents, Family & Friends Peer-Support Group. 7—9 PM, 3rd Tuesday of the month: **July 19.** Are you having difficulty coming to terms with the sexuality, gender identity or gender expression of someone close to you? Join us in a warm, welcoming, and safe place for all family and friends of people of the LGBTQ community. @ Pre-School Room, Downtown Community Center, 35-B Weber St W, Kitchener.

September Events

SPECTRUM Annual General Meeting, 7 PM, September 27 (Tuesday). Join us to learn more about SPECTRUM and its operations, and how you can give back to the community. Multipurpose Room, 2nd floor, Downtown Community Centre, 35-B Weber St W, Kitchener.

October Events

Secrett Mystery Bus Tour 2016. 8 AM—9 PM, **October 15** (Saturday). This tour has had 2 successful journeys with passengers asking for more! Departure location and exact time will be determined soon. Approximate travel time is 2 hours to the destination; we will take a short break. Cost \$35. Ideas of what to bring : Water bottle, snacks, spending money, comfortable shoes, camera, umbrella, ID.