

February 25

Queer Slow Dance with DJ M'Damn D, hosted by the Rainbow Chorus of Waterloo-Wellington, at the Art Gallery of Guelph at 358 Gordon St., Guelph, from 8:00 p.m. -1:00 a.m. **February 25** This event is 19+ and a cash bar. The Guelph Queer Slow Dance is a fully accessible event and a consent positive space. This event is a fundraiser to help members of the Rainbow Chorus participate in a mass choir performance at the Lincoln Center in New York City in June 2017. Tickets are available on a sliding scale from \$10-\$25 and can be purchased

at our Eventbrite site: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/queer-slow-dance-tickets-31199095334>.

February 28

Good Laughs. 7 PM until closing, last Tuesday evening of the month: **February 28.** A safe space for trans people to explore their identity in the community; open to allies as well at Symposium Café, Waterloo (corner of King and Erb) - back room. More information: goodlaughs81@gmail.com <https://www.facebook.com/goodlaughs81/?fref=ts>

Emotion 'trumps' rationality

by Lyn McGinnis

Democracy fails when emotion 'trumps' rationality and contempt 'trumps' respect. Democracy can only function when the public has a strong grasp on the many aspects of the issues of the day. There is a genuine difference between having an opinion and having an informed opinion. To this end society must make education, at all levels, its highest priority. I am not talking about work force training, but a thorough and comprehensive preparation for intelligent participation in society. Part and parcel of this process would be exposure to human diversity in background, culture and perspective along with a basic grounding in science, history and how society functions. Democratic institutions are only as

good as the citizenry employing them. Critical thinking based on historical fact and scientific evidence should be fundamental in every child's schooling, along with cultivating a healthy ease in their own skins so as to not be threatened by diversity. Perhaps democracy has not failed. It has succeeded in revealing the current state of Western society at its worst. The 'will of the people' is riddled by ignorance and fractured by class divisions. These shocking levels of paranoia, credulity and gullibility make these poorly prepared populations easy prey for demagogues. This toxic brew not only leads to failures in democracy, but all forms of civil society. lynmc@rogers.com



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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, ACCKWA, libraries, community centres, government and social services agencies in Waterloo Region.

Online at: <http://ourspectrum.com/rainbow-community-calendar/>

Please e-mail calendar editor Lyn McGinnis with corrections or new information by the 20th of each month to: lynmc@rogers.com please put **RAINBOW CALENDAR in the subject line.**

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

Website: <http://ourspectrum.com/> **NEW!** (with hours of opening and much more)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SpectrumCommunitySpace/>

Twitter: [@our_SPECTRUM](https://twitter.com/our_SPECTRUM) **E-mail:** info@ourspectrum.com **Phone:** 226-779-9695

February Events

Starting February 1

SPECTRUM Prime. 7-9 PM, first and third Wednesdays of the month - **February 1** and **15** at SPECTRUM. We see things differently as we age. Priorities shift. Social circles change. Join us in a **new** discussion and social group for maturing LGBTQ adults. And if you are concerned about whether the group is a fit for you, then try it out to see. Lately, we have been sharing stories about our lives. We will also continue to think about what kinds of discussions

and activities we might like to have in future. We hope that this will be a step in the direction of creating a community support for us as we age. <http://ourspectrum.com/older-adults-group/>

Rainbow Chorus Spring Term! We are a non-auditioned community choir for LGBTQ+ folks and allies. We meet every Wednesday night in Guelph to join together in song and build a safe space for our members to be their true selves. Registration is from 7:00-7:30 p.m. on **February 1** and **8**. Rehearsals are 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Harcourt United Church at 87 Dean Ave., Guelph. <http://rainbowchorus.ca>

Starting February 2

Trans Peer Support Group. 7-9 PM on the first and third Thursday of the month. **February 2** and **16**. New day - new time - new facilitators. A safe and normalizing environment for anyone identifying in the trans/gender variant umbrella at SPECTRUM.

Rainbow Connections - Kitchener meetings, 7-9 PM first and third Thursdays of the month: **February 2, 16**. LGBTQ and 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 now a 15 minutes 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: <http://cmhawwselfhelp.ca/events/>

Queer & Trans Yoga A class for folks who self-identify as LGBTQ+ and want to be part of a positive community space. All abilities, ages, bodies, and sizes are welcome and celebrated in this beginner-friendly class. Every Thursday starting at 6:00 p.m. \$5 donation, with no one turned away for lack of funds. Join us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/qsyaqy>

Starting February 3

day5games. 7-11 PM **February 3, 10, 17, 24** at SPECTRUM. Join us as we gather at our space to play board and card games, assemble jigsaw puzzles and fiddle with constructions in an informal atmosphere.

Starting February 4

SPECTRUM Saturday Symposium 2-5 PM Saturdays, **February 4, 11, 18, 25**. This social drop-in event is a great opportunity to meet other people, to talk

about whatever you currently have on your mind, and to make new friends! Come and hang out with us in a casual, relaxing atmosphere where you can just be yourself! This event is ideal for you if you just want to socialize in an LGBTQ-friendly setting. We typically talk about anything that comes to mind, from tv shows to languages to fairy tales to technology to music - and occasionally LGBTQ issues. We also have cookies and other (sometimes healthier) snacks to share. Feel free to drop in at any time between 2-5 pm. Everyone is welcome!

Starting February 5

Friends of Dorothy Bowling League Event. 1:15pm practice; 1:30 - 4pm bowling, Sundays: **February 5, 12, 19, 26**. at Brunswick Frederick Lanes, 385 Frederick Plaza, Kitchener.

ORG-SPECTRUM's Outdoor Recreation Group. Sundays. Events alternate between Lite and Regular:

February 5 - 2- 4 PM, "Lite": RIM Park, 2001 University Ave E, Waterloo, ON N2K 4K4. Meet in the foyer/food court of the Manulife Sportsplex. We plan to walk the trails around the Grey Silo Golf Course. This is Super Bowl Sunday, so the trail may be mostly vacated - we hope

February 12 - 1- 5 PM, "Regular": Meet at SPECTRUM Community Space, Unit 210, 283 Duke Street West, Kitchener. We hope to make this the most strenuous and wintriest hike of the season, with rewarding snacks & beverages at SPECTRUM afterwards..

February 19 - 2-4 PM, "Lite": Meet at the GRT Ainslie Terminal, Galt, Cambridge. Note: this is the Sunday of the Family Day long weekend and the first weekend of reading week for the universities.

February 26 - 1-5 PM, "Waterloo's Winterloo Festival": meet under the skylight inside the Waterloo Towne Square, the Uptown mall. We'll first partake of the

festival, and then who knows? William Pensaert, General Manager, SPECTRUM, office: 226-779-9695, mobile: 519-503-9313.

Trans Fams Event. 4:00 p.m., **February 5** (Sunday). Are you interested in meeting other families with Trans and Gender Independent Kids? Want to join our family and others for some fun activities? Contact Holly for more info at: hbmathers@gmail.com

February 6

Rainbow bereavement support group **Monday, February 6** 1:30-3:30 PM. All LGBTQ caregivers, spouses, friends suffering loss. 298 Lawrence Ave. Kitchener. Call 519-743-4114 ext. 117. barb@hospicewaterloo.ca

Starting February 7

Queercraft - a Queer Crafting Group. 6-8 PM, Tuesdays: **February 7, 14, 21, 28**. Bring your portable craft to SPECTRUM!

Starting February 8

Transgender Peer Support Group. 7-9 PM on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month. **February 8** and **22**. For individuals who identify as transgender and questioning. Self Help Alliance, 67 King Street East, 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.

Starting February 9

Rainbow Newcomers Thursday, **February 9, 23** 7-9 PM at SPECTRUM. 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. More information: RainbowNewcomers@gmail.com

Starting February 14

OK2BME Youth Group. 6-7:30 PM Alternate Tuesdays-**February 14, 28** More information: <http://ok2bme.ca/>

Good Laughs Makeup Class. This class will be a basic introduction class; you will learn how to properly apply your makeup as well as learn the techniques to achieve the different looks you want. This will be a two-hour class taught by Gabriella **February 14**. Estimated cost: \$10 - \$20 per person. For details check the Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1913818902183313/>

February 21

Waterloo - Wellington - Perth PFLAG, Parents Family and Friends Peer-Support Group 7-9 PM on the third Tuesday of the month. **February 21**. 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 at Pre-School Room, Downtown Community Centre, 35-B Weber Street West, Kitchener. More Information: <https://www.facebook.com/PFLAG.WWP>

February 23

SPECTRUM Reading Circle 6:30-8 PM on the fourth Thursday of the month. **February 23**. 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 at SPECTRUM.

Sexual Health Awareness Drop in 5-8 PM on the fourth Thursday of the month. **February 23**. Sponsored by ACCKWA at SPECTRUM, 283 Duke Street West, Unit 210.