



First Friday News & Views



Iowa's LGBTQ+ Newsletter of the First Friday Breakfast Club

March 2026 | Volume 31 | Issue 3

Next Meeting

**Friday,
March 6
7:00 a.m.**



Location

**Hoyt Sherman
15th & Woodland
Des Moines**



Speaker

Kelly Baum

**Director of the
Des Moines
Art Center**



Website

ffbc Iowa.org



The Des Moines Art Center: A Work in Progress

by Byron Huff, Board President



I hope you can join us Friday, March 6, to hear our esteemed speaker Kelly Baum, who is John and Mary Pappajohn Director and CEO of the Des Moines Art Center.

The Des Moines Art Center stands as one of the region's most significant cultural institutions, with a history rooted in community vision and artistic ambition. Although the Art Center was formally established in 1948, its origins stretch back several decades earlier to the Des Moines Association of Fine Arts, which began hosting exhibitions and building a permanent collection in 1916 at the downtown public library which planted the seeds for a future museum dedicated to visual art.

The transformation from an association to a full-fledged art museum gained momentum in the 1930s when local attorney and philanthropist James D. Edmundson left a generous bequest to support the construction of an art museum. Planning was delayed through the Great Depression and World War II, but by 1943 a site in Greenwood Park along Grand Avenue had been selected. The original museum building, designed by acclaimed architect Eliel Saarinen, opened in 1948, making the Art Center one of the first art museums to open in the United States after the war.

Over the following decades the institution expanded physically and conceptually. In 1968, a new wing by I. M. Pei was added to accommodate larger works and broaden exhibition space, followed by a third addition by Richard Meier in 1985, each contributing to a campus that is architecturally notable as well as artistically rich.

The Art Center's collection has grown to include an international range of paintings, sculpture, and media which spans from the 16th century to contemporary art, and features works by major artists such as Edward Hopper, Henri Matisse, Andy Warhol, and Claude Monet, among many others.



In 2009, the institution extended its reach into the public realm by taking on stewardship of the John and Mary Pappajohn Sculpture Park in the Western Gateway Park, further cementing its role in the cultural life of the city.

Today, the Des Moines Art Center remains a free-admission museum, art school, and cultural hub, committed to presenting world-class art and fostering creative engagement for all visitors.





CAPITAL CITY IOWA PRIDE

WELCOME TO WONDERLAND

PRIDE GALA & AWARDS

THE MEADOWS EVENT CENTER

don't be late!
SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 6-9 p.m.



CAPITAL CITY IOWA PRIDE & DATE ME DSM

A QUEER SPEED DATING EVENT

THE ROYAL MILE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 6-9 P.M.
210 4TH STREET, DES MOINES.

TICKETS REQUIRED



We are OPEN!

The Des Moines Pride Center, largest LGBTQ+ Library & Historical Archives in Iowa, is open!

Step into a space dedicated to preserving LGBTQ+ history and amplifying queer voices: past, present, and future.



- Check out books
- View archival materials of our community's history
- Enjoy a welcoming, inclusive space

Open every Sunday
from 2:00-5:00 p.m.!



Briefs & Shorts

We are grateful to **C.J. Petersen** for introducing our February speaker, **Tom Vilsack**. Vilsack is the current Director of the World Food Prize Foundation and is a former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and former Governor of Iowa.

As always, thanks to **David Wilfahrt** for doing an incredible job in managing FFBC's finances. We are also grateful to **Nicholas Williams** for overseeing FFBC's Microsoft IT infrastructure. Finally, thanks to **Wade Petersen** for his work as our newsletter and website editor. *Thank you to all our newsletter contributors!*

The **deadline** for the **April newsletter** will be **March 23**.



If you have something of interest that you would like to share, just type it up and email it to Wade (wadecpetersen@gmail.com) by the deadline.

Fundraising efforts are ongoing to fund our 2026 scholarship program. Since 1997, we have awarded **\$555,000** for **223** scholarships to Iowa high school seniors who have done remarkable, courageous things to reduce homophobia and teach about LGBTQ+ issues in their schools and local communities. Please consider a tax-deductible **contribution** online or by sending a check.

A **special thank-you** to FFBC members and donors who have generously chosen to designate First Friday Breakfast Club as a beneficiary through the **Donor Direct** program of **United Way**. Contributions made through the United Way are tax deductible since FFBC is an eligible 501(c)(3) nonprofit recipient of such funding designations.



United Way

March Speaker



Kelly Baum

Dr. Kelly Baum has served as the John and Mary Pappajohn Director since 2023. Dr. Baum leads the Art Center in furthering its mission to provide opportunities for transformational art experiences through its collections, exhibitions, and educational programming. Dr. Baum came to Des Moines from The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York where she served in multiple roles.

With a focus on art, education, and scholarship, Dr. Baum has worked as a curator of modern and contemporary art for 25 years, holding positions at four civic and university art museums: The Metropolitan Museum of Art (The Met), Princeton University of Art Museum, the Blanton Museum of Art at the University of Texas at Austin, and the Museum of Fine Arts in Houston. Dr. Baum holds a Ph.D. in Art History and an M.A. in Art History, both from the University of Delaware. She was a Class of 2018 Fellow at the Center for Curatorial Leadership. She has long embraced her role as an educator, helping pave the way for the next generation of curators and art historians through mentorship and teaching.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

SWING FLING

MARCH 28 • BASH DSM • 6-10 PM
IOWA PRIDE ENSEMBLES
JAZZ ORCHESTRA PREMIERE PERFORMANCE
WWW.IOWAPRIDEENSEMBLES.ORG

Have you donated yet to FFBC's 2026 Scholarship Program?

Contact us by April 30 at info@ffbc Iowa.org to truly make a difference in the life of a young LGBTQ+ Iowa student.

“If I cannot do great things, I can do SMALL things in a great way.”

Martin Luther King Jr.

**6TH ANNUAL
CENTRAL IOWA TRANS
LIVES FESTIVAL**

POSTPONED TO 6/6/2026

**DUE TO MAJOR REMODELING CONSTRUCTION DELAYS
IN A LARGE SECTION OF OUR BUILDING AT FIRST
UNITARIAN CHURCH. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ON 6/6/26
AT THE OPENING OF PRIDE MONTH INSTEAD!**

**TRANSGENDER
DAY OF
VISIBILITY**

March 31, 2026

**LINE
UP**

2026

1.19 CLOTHING DRIVE
3:00 - 6:00 PM

2.14 POP UP
1:00 - 3:00 PM

3.14 POP UP
1:00 - 3:00 PM

4.11 POP UP
1:00 - 3:00 PM

5.09 POP UP
1:00 - 3:00 PM

@ PARK FAIR MALL

Common Love Clothing Pop-Up

Join us at Park Fair Mall Suite 107 for a joyful community space offering free clothing and gender affirming care. The clothing available is donated by the community – come grab what you need/want to express who you are. If you don't find the gender affirming product you're looking for we can purchase something for you! We often have community members offering supportive care – such as binder fittings, makeup consults, clothing alternations, and more.

We always enthusiastically welcome trans, non-binary, queer folks and our affirming friends of all races, sizes, and abilities to find adult clothing that is gender-affirming and brings joy. Join us in creating a fun, loving, and judgment-free shopping space. This is a mutual aid project, it is not charity. Everything at the pop up is free for folks to take as much or as little as you want. If you've got access to money and would like to donate, all financial donations go back into purchasing items for folks. Please note we cannot accept clothing donations on pop up days. **We are community-led, by the people for the people. Our joy is resistance.**



Join us for an exhilarating evening of hockey and pride at the **Iowa Wild Pride Night** on **March 21** at 5:00 PM at the Casey's Center (Wells Fargo Arena). Celebrate diversity and community with **First Friday Breakfast Club**, while enjoying an action-packed game. A portion of the proceeds from this offer will benefit FFBC, supporting their ongoing efforts.

Stop by the in-game Pride Meet-Up at "**The Fort**," the bar located on the suite level during the first intermission (sponsored by Capital City Pride in partnership with The Project of Primary Health Care and the Polk County Health Department). Let's create a welcoming space to connect and celebrate together during the game. Bring your friends, family, and allies to make the arena a place where everyone feels welcome! **CCP will give all guests a super cute rainbow arm sweatband!**

Get your tickets today [[Click this link](#)] and be part of an unforgettable night!



30 Years of Board Officers



1996
President: Jonathan Wilson
Vice President: John Brentnall
Secretary: Jonathan Wilson
Treasurer: David Teachout

1997
President: Jonathan Wilson
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Secretary: Jonathan Wilson
Treasurer: David Teachout
Assistant Treasurer:
 Bruce Gillaspie

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President: Jonathan Wilson
Vice President: Curt Stamp
Secretary: Jonathan Wilson
Treasurer: David Teachout
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 Bruce Gillaspie

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President: Jonathan Wilson
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 Bruce Gillaspie

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President: Jonathan Wilson
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Secretary: Jonathan Wilson
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President: Jonathan Wilson
Vice President: Steve Person
Secretary: Jonathan Wilson
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Treasurer: David Teachout

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Vice President:
 Allen Vander Linden
Secretary: Jonathan Wilson
Treasurer: David Teachout

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President: Jonathan Wilson
Vice President: Allen Vander Linden / Byron Huff
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Treasurer: David Teachout

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President: Jonathan Wilson
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Secretary: Jonathan Wilson
Treasurer: David Teachout

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Vice President: Byron Huff
Secretary: Jonathan Wilson
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President: Jonathan Wilson
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Secretary: Jonathan Wilson
Treasurer: Kent Donaldson

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President: Jonathan Wilson
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Secretary: Jonathan Wilson
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Vice President: Byron Huff
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Treasurer: Kent Donaldson

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Vice President: Byron Huff
Secretary: Rick Miller
Treasurer: Kent Donaldson

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Vice President: Byron Huff
Secretary: Brad Holland
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Vice President: Ryan Crane
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President: Byron Huff
Vice President: David Cotton
Secretary: Joe Raetz
Treasurer: David Wilfahrt

2024
President: Byron Huff
Vice President: David Cotton
Secretary: Joe Raetz
Treasurer: David Wilfahrt

2025
President: Byron Huff
Vice Presidents: David Cotton / Ken Hanson
Secretary: Joe Raetz
Treasurer: David Wilfahrt





Breaking the “I.C.E.”

by Jonathan Wilson

If empathy is WOKE – and I think that it is, I need to work on mine.

Recently, an Ankeny High School student reported spotting an ICE agent in Ankeny, Iowa – perhaps one of the whitest cities in the country. I’m not well-informed, but even I can identify LOTS of other locations where “illegal aliens” would be easier to racially profile and arrest; start with any city/town in Texas. That might have happened if the governor of Texas were a Democrat.

The student’s parent had to give the modern-day “talk.” In happier days gone by, the “talk” had to do with sex sometime before puberty. It then evolved into something more for parents of color: “If you’re pulled over by the cops, keep your hands off the steering wheel after opening all of the windows, and comply with whatever is requested by the officer. I want you to come home alive, and I don’t want to have to bail you out of jail.”

After the killing of Renée Good and Alex Pretti in Minneapolis, there’s a pretty good reason for the “talk” to evolve further. Actually, two reasons. In this case, the parent, in 2026, advised the white student that she should never



First Friday Breakfast Club
Founder **Jonathan Wilson**

engage with a masked person purporting to be in law enforcement; if they engage you, do not run way, and always keep your hands in the air.

Here’s where the empathy deficiency comes in. While I have not liked the repeated civil rights violations committed by ICE agents, I really didn’t fully internalize that, and the anxiety it engenders, until the rumored presence of one or more ICE agents in Ankeny. The reason? I have a daughter and son-in-law living there who have two mixed-race children. The father is in the United States legally and always carries his green card with him; regardless, he and the kids stick out like sore thumbs in Ankeny, Iowa. Green card and birthright citizenship be damned, all three are vulnerable to being swept up in an ICE operation just because they don’t present as “white,” which they are not.

If that were to happen, it would send their family, me, and my extended family into utter chaos. If one or more of them were in custody, how would we figure out WHERE they are being held? How would we figure out where their custody can be challenged with due process? Also, who is going to find, retain, and pay for competent legal counsel to help?

This scenario – this chaos – is being visited upon people in the United States, daily. Our nation is in a truly dark place, be it L.A., Chicago, Minneapolis, or even Ankeny, Iowa.



**May God give
you, for every storm,
a rainbow, for every
tear, a smile.**

Irish Blessing





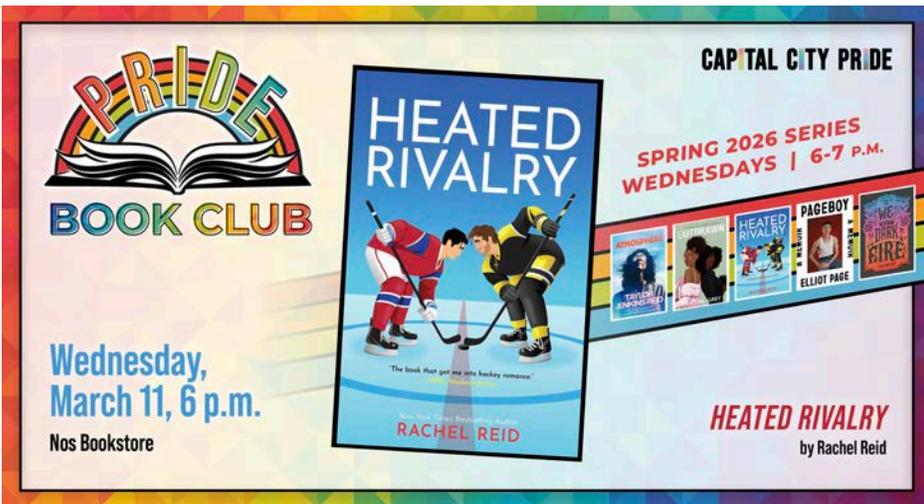
CAPITAL CITY PRIDE IOWA

SPONSORED BY
FG ANNUITIES & LIFE
PRairie Meadows

BRANDON WOLF
SPEAKER SERIES

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 6 PM | TEMPLE THEATER | \$5 TICKETS

PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED



PRIDE BOOK CLUB

HEATED RIVALRY

“The book that got me into hockey romance.”

RACHEL REID

HEATED RIVALRY by Rachel Reid

CAPITAL CITY PRIDE

SPRING 2026 SERIES
 WEDNESDAYS | 6-7 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 6 P.M.
 Nos Bookstore

National LGBTQ+ Calendar

glad

- **March:** Bisexual Health Awareness Month
- **Week varies in March:** National LGBT Health Awareness Week
- **March 10:** National Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
- **March 20:** National Native HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
- **March 31:** International Transgender Day of Visibility

FFBC Membership

FFBC membership is open to all members of the LGBTQ+ community and their allies.

We welcome **EVERYONE**, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Meetings are held the first Friday of every month at Hoyt Sherman Place in Des Moines.

Membership Rates

The following rates help us to cover food and facility costs:

Annual Rate: \$180
 (12 consecutive meetings)

Quarterly Rate: \$48
 (3 consecutive meetings)

Month-by-Month: \$18

First-Time or One-Time Attendee: \$15

Full-Time Student: \$8

No charge to attend via Zoom

Payment Options

We accept cash, checks, or **credit cards** at the meeting.



Meeting Schedule

6:30 a.m. - Doors open
 6:45 a.m. - Breakfast service begins
 7:00 a.m. - Meeting begins



Glossary of Terms

How Well Do You Know LGBTQ+ Vocabulary?

source: thesafezoneproject.com/resources/vocabulary/



PART 2

drag king – noun: someone who performs (hyper-) masculinity theatrically.

drag queen – noun: someone who performs (hyper-) femininity theatrically.

dyke – noun: referring to a masculine presenting lesbian. While often used derogatorily, it is also reclaimed affirmatively by some lesbians and gay women as a positive self identity term.

emotional attraction – noun: a capacity that evokes the want to engage in emotionally intimate behavior (e.g., sharing, confiding, trusting, inter-depending), experienced in varying degrees (from little-to-none to intense). Often conflated with sexual attraction, romantic attraction, and/or spiritual attraction.

fag(got) – noun: derogatory term referring to a gay person, or someone perceived as queer. While often used derogatorily, it is also used reclaimed by some gay people (often gay men) as a positive in-group term.

feminine-of-center; masculine-of-center – adj.: a phrase that indicates a range in terms of gender identity and expression for people who present, understand themselves, and/or relate to others in a generally more feminine/masculine way, but don't necessarily identify as women or men. Feminine-of-center individuals may also identify as "femme," "submissive," "transfeminine," etc.; masculine-of-center individuals may also often identify as "butch," "stud," "aggressive," "boi," "transmasculine," etc.

feminine-presenting; masculine-presenting – adj.: a way to describe someone who expresses gender in a more feminine/masculine way. Often confused with feminine-of-center/masculine-of-center, which generally include a focus on identity as well as expression.

femme – noun & adj.: someone who identifies themselves as feminine, whether it be physically, mentally, or emotionally. Often used to refer to a feminine-presenting queer woman or people.

fluid(ity) – adj.: generally with another term attached, like gender-fluid or fluid-sexuality, fluid(ity) describes an identity that may change or shift over time between or within the mix of the options available (e.g., man and woman, bi and straight).

FtM/F2M; MtF/M2F – abbr.: female-to-male transgender/transsexual person; male-to-female transgender/transsexual person.

gay – 1 adj.: experiencing attraction solely (or primarily) to some members of the same gender. Can be used to refer to men who are attracted to other men and women who are attracted to women. 2 adj.: an umbrella term used to refer to the queer community as a whole, or as an individual identity label for anyone who is not straight.

gender binary – noun: the idea that there are only two genders and that every person is one of those two.

gender expression – noun: the external display of one's gender, through a combination of clothing, grooming, demeanor, social behavior, and other factors, generally made sense of on scales of masculinity and femininity.

gender fluid – adj.: a gender identity best described as a dynamic mix of boy and girl. A person who is gender fluid may always feel like a mix of the two traditional genders, but may feel more man some days, and more woman other days.

gender identity – noun: internal perception of one's gender, and how they label themselves, based on how much they align or don't align with what they understand their options for gender to be. Often conflated with biological sex, or sex assigned at birth.

gender non-conforming – 1 adj.: a gender expression descriptor that indicates a non-traditional gender presentation (masculine woman or feminine man). 2 adj.: a gender identity label that indicates a person who identifies outside of the gender binary. Often abbreviated as "GNC."

gender normative / gender straight – adj.: someone whose gender presentation, whether by nature or by choice, aligns with society's gender-based expectations.

genderqueer – 1 adj.: a gender identity label often used by people who do not identify with the binary of man/woman. 2 adj.: an umbrella term for many gender non-conforming or non-binary identities (e.g., agender, bigender, genderfluid).

gender variant – adj.: someone who either by nature or by choice does not conform to gender-based expectations of society (e.g. transgender, transsexual, intersex, genderqueer, cross-dresser, etc).

gynesexual ("guy-nuh-seks-shu-uhl") / **gynephilic** / – adj.: being primarily sexually, romantically and/or emotionally attracted to woman, females, and/or femininity.

hermaphrodite – noun: an outdated medical term previously used to refer to someone who was born with some combination of typically-male and typically-female sex characteristics. It's considered stigmatizing and inaccurate. See intersex.

heteronormativity – noun: the assumption, in individuals and/or in institutions, that everyone is heterosexual and that heterosexuality is superior to all other sexualities. Leads to invisibility and stigmatizing of other sexualities: when learning a woman is married, asking her what her husband's name is. Heteronormativity also leads us to assume that only masculine men and feminine women are straight.





The Iowa Trans Mutual Aid Fund financially supports Trans, Nonbinary, and Gender Diverse Iowans as they access gender-affirming care.

March Dates:

March 1 – March 8: Applications Open

March 9 – 15: Phone Calls

March 16 – 22: Application Review

March 23 – 29: Dispersal



Help make a bigger difference! Donate at:

www.iowatransmutualaidfund.org

Future Speakers



April 3:

Kimberly Graham

Polk County Attorney

May 1:

Dave Busiek

Retired KCCI News Director

June 5:

Scholarship Ceremony

TBA

July 11:

Member/Donor

Summer Party



“To succeed in life, you need three things: a wishbone, a backbone, and a funny bone.”

*** Reba McEntire**



25TH SEASON ANNIVERSARY

IN COLLABORATION WITH



SILVER LININGS

A CONCERT CELEBRATING MOMENTS OF HOPE AND JOY IN OTHERWISE DARK TIMES

MARCH 20 & 21
URBANDALE HIGH SCHOOL



MEET OUR NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Chase Shoemaker



Secretary Tom Vilsack Addresses FFBC

by Gary Moore

The First Friday Breakfast Club warmly greeted Iowa's former Governor and America's longest serving Secretary of Agriculture, **Tom Vilsack**, as their February speaker. This writer has had the opportunity to hear Secretary Vilsack speak several different times and in different venues. Each time I have been duly impressed with his command of history and agriculture's place in it. So much of this article is just quoting the words Secretary Vilsack used. They seem so much more poignant than a chatbot summary.

This is Tom Vilsack's fourth time addressing FFBC in our 30-year history, having done so once when running for Governor, once as Governor, and also in 2018. His wife, Christie, has spoken twice at FFBC and attended our July donor recognition parties at John Schmacker's gardens. The Secretary thanked FFBC for our efforts and support of the much-needed understanding of diversity and the contributions diversity brings to our communities.

Secretary Vilsack started his address by saying, "We are a state and a country that has lost its way when it comes to issues of diversity.... We need to have and make sure that folks understand and appreciate that the great strength of this country is in its diversity. It is a lesson that I've learned over the course of the last 40 years in public life."

"Let me just tell you that I think the state has a serious set of decisions it needs to make. And indeed, I think this is the most important governor election in 70 years."

He shared a sobering comparison of regional growth: while Iowa grew by 9.4% over the last 40 years, neighboring states grew at double or even triple that rate. What do you think the state of Iowa's growth has been? "And you'd all kind of go, oh, well.... That's better than I thought; let's take a tour around the neighborhood and see what our neighbors' growth has been: South Dakota 29% growth, Nebraska 26%, Missouri 25%, Illinois 11-12%, Wisconsin 25%, and Minnesota 40%. With the exception of Illinois, states surrounding Iowa, in the last 40 years, have grown at twice, nearly three or four times the rate of Iowa.

"So if you want to know why we don't have adequate resources for our public schools; why it's more difficult for those who need healthcare to access it; if you want to know why it's tough to make the case to your sons and daughters and your grandchildren and your nieces and nephews and the kids next door, that you've grown accustomed to to stay here. It's because something's going on in other states that's not going on here. There are a lot of reasons and much could be said, but I am here as CEO of the World Food Prize.

"There's a reason to be here, and there's a reason to shape Iowa's future. We've gotta make the case. Make sure that folks understand it is a pretty significant thing we do here in Iowa.

"The fact is that we are confronting a very important and pivotal moment in our state's history and it requires all of us to be engaged. We need to understand how providing nutrition involves so many other jobs than just the farm and growing it." He explained that food security is at the heart of international stability and noted that the industry involves far more than farming; it encompasses processing, transportation, science, and manufacturing.

"Nutrition and or its lack of it, is a significant part of every hot spot of turmoil in the world and Iowa is at the heart of feeding the world. We need to be pressing candidates for answers to why we haven't grown at the same rate as our neighbors. What are they doing that we are not doing? What are we doing we shouldn't be doing?

"The people who have the best answers are those deserving the opportunity to be in charge.

"So, I'm here today asking for your support for the World Food Prize. I'm asking you to tell your friends and neighbors about it. But let me end where I began, which is with a thank you.

"It is not easy to educate folks about things that they may not be fully ready to be educated about. But it is really important."



**CEO of the
World Food Prize Foundation**

Tom Vilsack



February Meeting Photo Gallery



FEBRUARY



Byron Huff

conducts
the
February
FFBC
meeting.



C.J. Petersen

introduces
the February
speaker,
Tom Vilsack.



February Meeting Photo Gallery



JOIN US

Welcome



**February
Attendance:**

74 Fabulous Friends!



CENTRAL IOWA
RAINBOW FAMILIES

St Patrick's Day Party

Rainbow families are invited to a St. Patrick's Day-themed family event hosted by the LCS Living Pride ERG. We'll have crafts, cookie decorating, and hands-on activities where kids can make festive decorations to brighten the day for senior residents in LCS communities.

Date: Sunday, March 8; 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Location: Capital Square | Capital Community Room
400 Locust Street, Des Moines, IA 50309

**"I am no longer accepting
the things I cannot change.
I am changing the things
I cannot accept."**

▪ **Angela Davis**

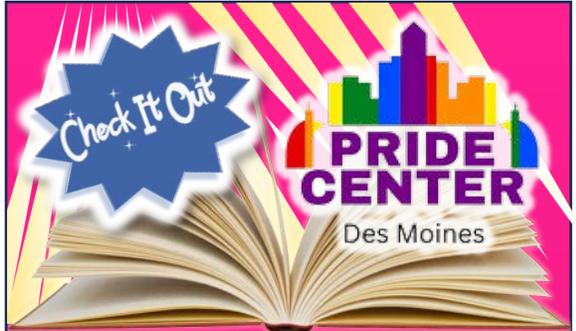


Color Guard Beginner's Clinic

All skill levels welcome!
Beginners encouraged!

When? Sunday, March 8th,
12:00pm - 2:00pm

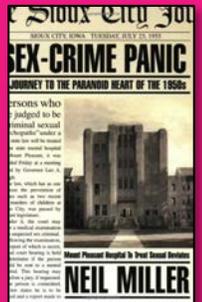
Where? Indian Hills Junior High
School



The Des Moines Pride Center houses the Rick Miller LGBTQ Library. The Pride Center is fighting to maintain a vibrant Queer future by connecting people to LGBTQ+ literature, information, and creativity.

Book of the Month

Following the brutal murders of two children in Sioux City, Iowa, in 1954, police, in an attempt to quell public hysteria, arrested 20 men whom the authorities never claimed had anything to do with the crimes. Labeled as sexual psychopaths under an Iowa law that lumped homosexuals together with child molesters and murderers, the men were sentenced to a mental institution until cured. Their shocking story is brought to light for the first time in *Sex-Crime Panic* by award-winning journalist Neil Miller, author of *Out of the Past: Gay and Lesbian History from 1869 to the Present*.



Miller's account shows how the paranoia of the McCarthy era destroyed the lives of gay men in the American heartland. Interviews provide a vivid and disturbing glimpse of a town that betrayed its own sons and a mental institution where patients provided cheap labor and shock treatment was the therapy of choice.

**1620 Pleasant Street, Des Moines
(515) 518-0530**

www.desmoinespridecenter.org

**Full Searchable Catalog:
www.librarycat.org/lib/DSMPC**



The Rick Miller LGBTQ Library is constantly changing, if you would like to donate material or provide support, they are always looking for community connections and support.



Spotlight on National LGBTQ+ Organizations



OUTRIGHT
ACTION INTERNATIONAL

We amplify a global cause, advocate and carry the voices of activists. We support a growing global movement and celebrate LGBTIQ lives everywhere.

Outright International is dedicated to working with partners around the globe to strengthen the capacity of the LGBTIQ human rights movement, document and amplify human rights violations against LGBTIQ people, and advocate for inclusion and equality.

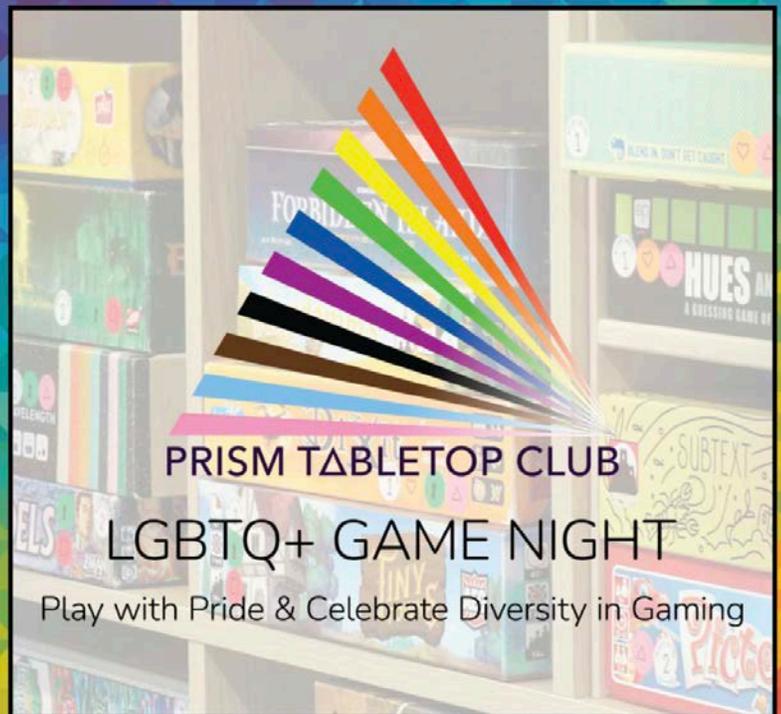
Founded in 1990, with staff in over a dozen countries, Outright International works with the United Nations, regional human rights monitoring bodies and civil society partners. Outright holds consultative status at the United Nations, where it serves as the secretariat of the UN LGBTI Core Group.

Lesbians of Iowa

lesbiansofiowa.org

#loia

open. affirming. queer.
gender nonconforming.
nonbinary. trans.
women. womyn.



SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 5-10 PM, ROOK ROOM GAME LOUNGE & CAFE

Capital City Pride is excited to partner with the Rook Room Game Lounge & Cafe for their LGBTQ+ game nights. Grab a \$5 PlayPass and dive into their full game library while enjoying great food, drinks, and a dedicated space to meet fellow LGBTQ+ gamers.

Hosted by the LGBTQ-owned Rook Room, this monthly meetup is all about building community through games. Whether you're solving puzzles, battling dragons, or just making new friends, we hope you'll join in the fun! All ages welcome!

Pride Crafttopia!
FRIDAY, MARCH 13 | 10 AM-12 PM
CENTRAL LIBRARY

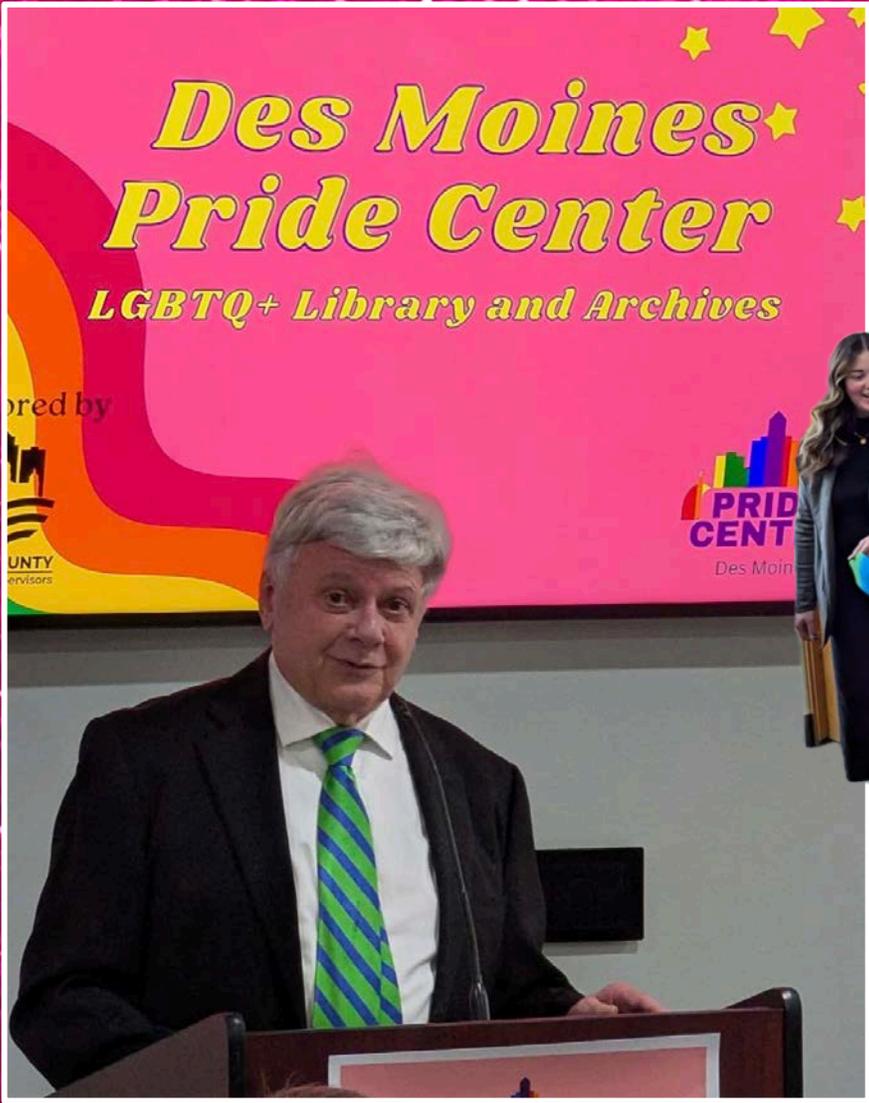
ALL AGES

DES MOINES PUBLIC LIBRARY

CENTRAL IOWA RAINBOW FAMILIES



The Des Moines Pride Center Relaunches Its Library as the "Rick Miller LGBTQ Library"



On February 1, 2026, the Des Moines Pride Center launched its latest chapter! With a new name, a revitalized space, and a newly catalogued inventory, the [Rick Miller LGBTQ Library](#) will be open on Sundays from 2 – 5 PM for access to over 4,000 LGBTQ+ themed books.




Rick Miller LGBTQ Library

Dedicated to Preserving Our Stories

The Des Moines Pride Center proudly honors Rick Miller for his decades of advocacy, community leadership, and unwavering commitment to protecting, sharing, and uplifting the history of LGBTQIA+ Iowans.

"Equality means more than passing laws. The struggle is really won in the hearts and minds of the community, where it really counts."

-Barbara Gittings

Established in 2014
Honoring in 2026

DES MOINES PRIDE CENTER



From Heroes to Heels (Actors Edition)

A Movie Spotlight by Mark Turnage



For this month, I'm highlighting some of my favorite underrated performances of heroes turned heels, where an actor notable for their protagonist roles plays against type.

Vincent (Tom Cruise) "Collateral" (2006)

For those who might find Cruise insufferable as a protagonist, experience his role in "Collateral" as a jaded jazz-aficionado hitman as burnt-out as he is deadly. False charm, misdirection, and brutal physicality meshed with philosophical and cynical rants about jazz, improvisation, and human nature make Vincent cut from the same cloth as classic Western black-hat gunslingers. Vincent's assured personality and cynical worldview dynamically contrast with Jamie Foxx's timid cab driver hostage Max and his career pipe dreams. Often, when Vincent is oozing charm, calm, and ease is when he's most dangerous. When Vincent starts to lose the upper hand in controlling an increasingly unpredictable Max, Cruise leans into the character's rage and viciousness to become a ruthless and intimidating hunter in the concrete jungle.

"Collateral" is streaming on Paramount+.



Forge Fitzwilliam (Hugh Grant) "Dungeons & Dragons" (2023)

Most know Hugh Grant from romantic comedies as a charismatic fop, and Forge plays into character expectation here, even earning endearment as a father figure and benevolent ruler. Where Grant excels as Forge is with his narcissism, selfishness, and emotional manipulation—delivering all with a dry wit that makes both character and audience chuckle at his dastardly (and dumb) schemes. Using his kingdom's wealth to self-aggrandize with terrible marketing, spin messaging to his own benefit, and financially back an evil (but sadly personality-deprived) wizard, Forge easily steals the scene and makes an excellent comedic foil to Chris Pine's bard main character.

"Dungeons & Dragons" is streaming on Paramount+.

The Traveler (Jason Bateman) "Carry-On" (2025)

Bateman has had a string of "affable, long-suffering family man" roles, but in "Carry-On," he transforms his glib, folksy personality into something more menacing. Like Cruise's Vincent, Bateman's "Traveler" is a chatty hitman posing as a commuter. Unlike Vincent, the Traveler eerily never raises his voice when taunting Taron Egerton's TSA service agent during his airport operation, but his barbs and threats become far more savage. Bateman has fun with the parallels between being stuck with an overly chatty travel mate and being controlled by a voice on the phone. His character's "seen it all" attitude adds an undertone of banal horror to his "just another paycheck" callousness. When we

meet Bateman's character, his world-weary eyes, calm yet unhinged "Karen"-esque escalations, and dour expression match anyone who's been in an airport too long—the perfect cover, and the Traveler's personality.

"Carry-On" is streaming on Netflix.

Tybalt (John Leguizamo) "Romeo + Juliet" (1996)

Fresh from "To Wong Foo, Thanks For Everything! Julie Newmar," John Leguizamo's gender non-conforming Tybalt—vicious and violent as ever—is an unforgettably flamboyant scene presence in a movie filled with flamboyant performances and scenery. Leguizamo's Tybalt elaborates the classic character's fiery personality into unhinged, grinning mania, unpredictable acrobatics, and psychological menace—someone you could see jumping into a fight to revel in its violence, or enjoy rage-baiting for fun. He's justifiably reviled as the killer of Harold Perrinau's Mercutio, and when he meets his end, you almost believe the worst is over for all the trouble he's caused.

"Romeo + Juliet" is streaming on Netflix.



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Contact Us: info@ffbciaowa.org

The McCoy Report

by Supervisor Matt McCoy
Polk County, 1st District

With Taylor Van De Krol



Centered on Progress: Our Citizen-Centric Path to the Future of Polk County

As we're well on our way into 2026, we have much to look forward to in Polk County in the year ahead – a time of progress and positive community impact. Every day, Polk County serves nearly 700,000 residents, businesses, and visitors. All of our 1,400 employees believe the work we do is vital to keep our local government running smoothly and responsive to citizen need.

This year, we will take deliberate steps to highlight our contributions to the community to show the value and citizen-centric impact of the services we provide. We want to demonstrate how Polk County is far more than a place to go for license plates and marriage licenses. Our priorities include key initiatives such as affordable housing, water quality, and quality of life.

In addition, you will soon see continued progress on projects supported by Polk County including the Des Moines International Airport, Blank Park Zoo, ICON Water Trails, and Sleepy Hollow Sports Park – just to name a few.

Our county also remains committed to critical investments such as senior centers, food pantries, homeless shelters, local schools, non-profits, and numerous community festivals. These important initiatives happen as other vital services such as the Sheriff's Office, Emergency Management, and our criminal courts help to keep our communities safe and secure.

The nature of the plans we will continue to unveil are “**Centered on Progress,**” a public campaign that is a cornerstone of our vision for Polk County. This program reflects our commitment to expanding community support, strengthening public services, and driving economic growth. We are building on a strong foundation of success to create new opportunities and initiatives that move us forward together.

As we move forward, I want to be clear that YOU are at the heart of this progress – the residents of Polk County. Your input and feedback are essential for government operations to help create lasting positive change and will help shape a future we can all be proud of.

We ask you to join us in this effort. Participate, share ideas, and let us know how we can do better. Just one way your voice can be heard is by taking the [Strategic Planning Survey](#) (click link), which is our effort to include a wide array of individuals in creating a shared vision for the future of Polk County.

The Board of Supervisors and I are committed to making Polk County a great place to work, live, and visit. Together, we will accomplish great things in 2026.

Officers

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Ken Hanson
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