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 X-Spam-Checker-Version: SpamAssassin 3.2.4 (2008-01-01) on box96.bluehost.com
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 X-Spam-Status: No, score=-5.9 required=5.0 tests=AWL,BAYES_00,HTML_FONT_LOW_CONTRAST,HTML_FONT_SIZE_LARGE,HTML_MESSAGE,RCVD_SPF_NEUTRAL shortcircuit=no autolearn=ham version=3.2.4
 Date: Sat, 28 Jun 2008 12:15:16 -0400 (EDT)
 From: FORGE <tgwarrior@forge-forward.org>
 Reply-To: tgwarrior@forge-forward.org
 To: tgwarrior@forge-forward.org
 Subject: Gearbits - Summer 2008
 X-Mailer: Roving Constant Contact 0 (<http://www.constantcontact.com>)
 List-Unsubscribe: http://visitor.constantcontact.com/d.jsp?p=un&v=001ZaS58ajNOw0nO_7r76CZe0yf788ZJtMfBHFYhXhbXvJDrQMYJfPOCg==
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 X-user-local: {1188:box96.bluehost.com:forgefor:forge-forward.org} {sentby:program running on server}



Gearbits

Trans+ Spurs of Action and Interest

In This Issue

**Loving Through
Trauma**

Social Support Group

Loving Through Trauma:
A Day of Connection and Healing for Lovers

Summer 2008

Pridefest**Beyond Milwaukee****Key Dates**

- July 5, 2008 - Tricks of the Trade (social support)
- July 12, 2008 - Loving Through Trauma (all day retreat)
- July 19, 2008 - Rainbow Community Picnic
- August 2, 2008 - Living Long Term (social support)
- September 6, 2008 - Isms (social support)

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday afternoon, August 10, 2008. Mark it "FORGE'S Coming Out Party" and hold tight for more exciting details!

Get Involved!

- come to events
- tell your friends about FORGE events
- [distribute flyers](#)
- friend us on [facebook](#) or [myspace](#)
- [volunteer to help with project/offer to bring snacks to meetings](#)
- [buy a t-shirt](#)
- [make a donation of supplies or funds](#)

Join Our List

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

July 12, 2008 - 9:30am - 5:00pm

All too often, only direct survivors of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual violence, and hate crimes are offered support and services. This practice ignores what trauma-informed practitioners know: trauma deeply affects all the survivor's relationships, many times in ways that neither the victim nor significant other(s) recognize or understand. These effects can last a lifetime.

Although relationships can be negatively affected by past trauma, they also represent a very rich opportunity for healing trauma survivors and deepening their interpersonal connections. In this all day retreat, partners, lovers, and close friends will join together to gently and innovatively explore how trauma affects their relationship and how they can heal together.

In this unique, creative, and very practical workshop, trauma-informed facilitators will employ creative arts, movement, negotiated touch, partner and small-group discussions, communication exercises, and introspective techniques to give participants insights, tools, and skills they can use to promote deeper levels of understanding, compassion and healing in all of their relationships.

Although the workshop will address the ramifications of many types of trauma, it is designed for people who are past the acute phase of their recovery but whose relationships are still affected by intrusive thoughts, hypervigilance, lack of trust, and other long-term trauma consequences. Those who are in an actively abusive relationship are not appropriate for this workshop.

More information is available at:

<http://www.forge-forward.org/transviolence/lovingthroughtrauma.php>

Pre-registration is required. \$120/dyad (couple). Some scholarships are available. Print your registration form at: http://www.forge-forward.org/transviolence/docs/loving_through_trauma_registration2008.pdf



 Thank you to our generous donors to the scholarship fund.

This event is co-sponsored by:

- SAGE-Milwaukee (<http://www.sagemilwaukee.org/>)
- The Milwaukee LGBT Community Center (<http://www.mkelgbt.org>)
- A Woman's Touch (<http://www.awomanstouchonline.com/>)
- MMK Design (<http://www.mmkdesign.com>)
- No Safe Distance - Laura Young (<http://www.nosafedistance.com>)
- Lynne Edwards, Ph.D. - therapist

- Metropolitan Community Church
- Pat Walsh Communication Strategies (<http://www.walshcommunicationstrategies.com/>)
- Full Circle Counseling (<http://www.fullcirclemilwaukee.com/>)

Social Support Group (trans-masculine/SOFFA)

July 5, 2008 - 6:00 - 9:30pm

Join us at the next FORGE monthly trans-masculine and SOFFA social support group to learn more about Tricks of the Trade!!

Date: July 5, 2008

Time: 7:00 - 9:30pm

Place: Milwaukee's LGBT Community Center
315 West Court Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Topic: Tricks of the Trade

Topic Description: Does the concept of binding boggle your mind? Ever wonder how some pre- or non-op guys stand to pee? Do you ponder how get a nice, but realistic-looking, looking bulge in your pants? Maybe you are more interested in tips about how to successfully use a gendered locker room without causing a stir. Or how about how to stay cool in the summer and pass, even without multiple layers of clothes or a binder? Bring your favorite packing, binding, urinating devices to show and tell. This meeting will have a hands-on focus, offering suggestions, tips, techniques for the practicalities of binding, soft packing, hard packing, urinating, clothing styles, hair cuts, and more. Come share your knowledge and experience with others!

Guest speaker: Laura, the new owner of the Tool Shed (and partner of a FTM), will drop in with packies, dildos and harnesses. She'll discuss important information about phthalates (nontoxic toys) and answer questions about both the products she brings, and about other items of interest that Tool Shed carries.

General information about FORGE support meetings:

FORGE meetings provide a friendly, facilitated setting for transmasculine folks (FTM+s)/SOFFAs to network, share their personal experiences, become more informed, and gather resources.

Join us between 6:00 and 6:45pm if you are new to the exploration of gender, new to the Midwest, early in gender transition or have a pressing issue that won't fit into this month's topic (or just want to hang out with others and listen). In this smaller meeting, we can better address individual

concerns and help connect people to appropriate resources.

The "regular"/topic portion of the meeting will begin at 7:00pm. Following brief introductions and an icebreaker question, we will delve into that evening's topic. Discussion is free-flowing and loosely facilitated. Attendee can participate as much or as little as they feel comfortable

FORGE support group meetings are open to ALL people interested in FTM+/SOFFA issues. We support and honor the plethora of ways there are to be FTM+/masculine/butch/trans+ and the wide variety of people who fall under the broad category of SOFFA. FORGE tries to offer a little something for everyone. Join us if you are new to gender issues and want a supportive place to explore. If you are well-versed in trans issues, you are invited to share your experiences and help elevate discussion to a more complex, philosophical level. Partners, allies, friends and professionals are always encouraged to attend on their own, or with a trans loved one (or client).

Future FORGE Social Support Meetings:

August 2, 2008 -- Living Long Term

September 6, 2008 -- Isms (Racism, ablism, sexism, sizism and more!

October 4, 2008 - Dis/abilities

November 1, 2008 - Intimate Relationships: Finding and Sustaining

December 6, 2008 - Wellness: It does a body good

Pridefest Recap

Did you end up huddled in one of the Summerfest grounds' pavilions or bathrooms during the tornado watch or end up soaked from the intense rainfall?

If you were able to make it to Pridefest, we hope that you stopped by the FORGE booth at the first-ever Health and Wellness area, sponsored and organized by Diverse and Resilient, Milwaukee LGBT Community Center, BESTD Clinic, AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin, Cream City Foundation, Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, and Culligan Water.

We had several new publications and games at the booth, including one in which people made up new words. To learn more about the Word Weaver contest, please check out the top 10 words created at Pridefest by going to http://www.forge-forward.org/word_results.php

We also created 3 new handouts specifically for Pridefest, focusing on the health and wellness of transgender people. Download the flyers at:

Trans-masculine Guide to Wellness - http://www.forge-forward.org/docs/FTM_health.pdf

Trans-feminine Guide to Wellness - http://www.forge-forward.org/docs/MTF_health.pdf

General Trans+ Guide to Wellness - http://www.forge-forward.org/docs/general_trans_health.pdf

Thank you to all the volunteers to helped prepare for Pridefest, as well as those who braved the rain to help out on the grounds.

Beyond Milwaukee

FORGE is involved with many national initiatives, including presenting at several national conferences and contributing to key publications, including

- **American Psychological Association** - (Boston, MA) -- "Transgender Aging Special Topics: Sexuality, Sexual Violence, and Elder Abuse"
- **SAGE's Fourth National Conference on LGBT Aging** (New York, NY) - "Transgender Aging and Health Concerns," "Living and Healing From Trauma," and "Transgender Aging Roundtable"
- **SAGE-Net** (Milwaukee, WI) - "What's Up With that T?" University of California at San Diego - LGBT Aging Health Issues, an online course for health care professionals
- Chapter for Richard Juang's anthology, ***Transphobia: Critical Perspectives on Anti-Transgender Violence***, on violence and trauma affecting transgender elders
- **American Society on Aging** LGBT Aging Issues Network: Guest-e- OutWord devoted totally to transgender aging issues

About FORGE

FORGE is a progressive organization whose mission is to support, educate and advocate for the rights and lives of female-to-male transgender individuals and SOFFAs (Significant Others, Friends, Family, and Allies). FORGE is dedicated to helping move fragmented communities beyond identity politics and forge a movement that embraces and empowers our diverse complexities.

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