

## A Celebration of Chosen Family - December 25

by Jim Parrott

Many people in the local LGBTQ2+ community are able to be with their relatives in the time around December 25 (Wednesday). Others do not have this option - for a variety of reasons - including that they have neither the support nor the love of their relatives. And they may end up feeling lonely or isolated at this time of year, regardless of their religious affiliation.

This is one reason why we speak of "chosen families" - those we have gathered around us who care about

what is happening in our lives.

For the fourth year in a row, SPECTRUM will be hosting a community gathering with music, good company and plenty of food on December 25, 2019. We are planning to be open from Noon to 10:00 PM, as we were last year, regardless of the weather.

Last year, for the first time we had a hot meal; this year we will be doing so again. If you are able, join us for a celebration of chosen family!

An invitation card with a light green background and a sprig of holly with red berries on the right side. The text is centered and reads: "You're Invited! To Celebrate Chosen Family! SPECTRUM Rainbow Community Centre 283 Duke Street West, Unit 210 Good Company. Food. Games. Community. December 25, 2019 Doors open from noon-10 PM Hot meal served at 3 pm".

You're  
Invited!

To Celebrate Chosen Family!

SPECTRUM Rainbow  
Community Centre  
283 Duke Street West, Unit 210

Good Company. Food. Games. Community.

December 25, 2019

Doors open from noon-10 PM  
Hot meal served at 3 pm



## 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/>

Weekly email of upcoming LGBTQ+ events, join the Rainbow e-mail list: <https://da.gd/rnbw>

**Please e-mail calendar editor Lyn McGinnis with corrections or new information by the 20th of each month to: [lynmc@rogers.com](mailto: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/> (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](mailto:info@ourspectrum.com) **Phone:** 226-779-9695

### December Events

#### Starting December 1

#### ***Friends of Dorothy' Bowling League***

Brunswick Frederick Lanes, 385 Frederick Street, Kitchener 1:15 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. We meet **every Sunday** (except December 22) from September to Mid-May. All are welcome to participate. \$16 for three games, plus shoe rental (\$2.50).

#### **ACCKWA - World AIDS Day Vigil**

Sunday, December 1, 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Kitchener City Hall Rotunda <https://www.facebook.com/events/1413848452112526/>

**Youth Under the Rainbow** is a Drop-in for rainbow youth ages 13 through 18 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM at SPECTRUM **every Sunday** (except December 22 and 29) Hang out, bring friends, and make new ones in a casual, LGBTQ2S-friendly setting. Refreshments provided! <http://ourspectrum.com/youth-under-the-rainbow/>

#### Starting December 2

**SPECTRUM TransMasculine Peer Support Group.** 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. **Every second and fourth Monday.** A normalizing environment for anyone identifying in the TransMasculine variant umbrella at SPECTRUM. **18+** [trans@ourspectrum.com](mailto:trans@ourspectrum.com)

**Starting December 3**

**SPECTRUM Tuesday Drop-In** This social drop-in event **every Tuesday** afternoon is a great opportunity to meet other people, and to make new friends! We also have cookies and other (sometimes healthier) snacks to share. Feel free to drop in at any time on Tuesday between 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

**Starting December 4**

**SPECTRUM Prime.** 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., first and third Wednesdays of the month - **December 4** and **18** at SPECTRUM. We see things differently as we age. How can we deal with these challenges? As maturing members of the LGBTQ community, we gather together to create a welcoming environment where we can reduce isolation and expand our network of friends. Please join us for a casual discussion and social group for maturing adults.

**Starting December 5**

**SPECTRUM Thursday Drop-In** This social drop-in event **every Thursday** afternoon is a great opportunity to make new friends! We also have cookies and other (sometimes healthier) snacks. Feel free to drop in any Thursday between 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.

**SPECTRUM Transgender Peer Support Group.** 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Thursday **December 5** and **19** and Monday **December 9** and **23**. A normalizing environment for anyone identifying in the trans/gender variant umbrella at SPECTRUM. **18+**

**LGBTQ+ Experiences in Education Panel** WROTL Office, 470 Weber Street North Unit 202, Waterloo. <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/lgbtq-experiences-in-education-panel-tickets-83178287497>

**Starting December 6**

**day5games.** 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. **every Friday** 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 December 7**

**SPECTRUM Saturday Drop-In** 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. **every Saturday.** Join us in a relaxing atmosphere where you can just be yourself in an LGBTQ-friendly setting. We have refreshments.

**Script Workshop - There Are No Gays Here (\$)** 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery, 101 Queen Street North, Kitchener <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/there-are-no-gays-here-tickets-75300898013>

**December 8**

**Trans Fams Event.** 4:00 p.m. Meet 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](mailto:hbmathers@gmail.com)

**December 9**

**LGBTQ+ Drop-in for International Students,** at Conestoga College Waterloo Campus, 108 University Avenue, Waterloo, Library Collaborative Room 5 **second Monday of each month,** from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Supportive environment. Food, games, and bus tickets provided. For more info text or call 226-338-5695 or [promise@carizon.ca](mailto:promise@carizon.ca).

**December 11**

**Aging with Pride Committee Meeting** If you are interested in helping us improve life for older LGBTQ-identified people, please attend this monthly Committee meeting at SPECTRUM 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. <http://ourspectrum.com/projects/aging-with-pride/>

**December 11**

**Queerly Christian** 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Erb Street Mennonite Church, 131 Erb Street West, Waterloo **December 11.** This is a group of people who identify as LGBTQ+ and Christian. Allies are welcome, but please recognize that this is intended as a space for LGBTQ+ Christians to share their lived experience. <https://pastorsinexile.org/2017/03/03/queerly-christian/>

**December 12**

**Rainbow Multicultural Connect** 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at SPECTRUM. A gathering at SPECTRUM to discuss what it is like to be LGBTQ+ across the world. We only meet on the **second Thursday** of December.

**December 15**

**SPECTRUM Seven Shores Urban Market and Café Meeting Room** from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. (kitchen closes at 3:00 p.m.) on the **third Sunday of each month** 10 Regina Street North in Waterloo, 519-342-0916. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/%20SPECTRUMOutings/>

**December 17**

**SPECTRUM Legal Aid Clinic** The clinic covers matters of civil law, including those related to financial support (ODSP, OW, EI, CPP and OAS), housing (tenancy problems), transgender ID, and establishing immigration/refugee status. It usually operates on the **fourth Tuesday of the month** with the exception of December. For more information see: <http://ourspectrum.com/projects/spectrum-legal-aid-clinic/> To make an appointment, contact [legal-aid@ourspectrum.com](mailto:legal-aid@ourspectrum.com)

**Waterloo - Wellington - Perth PFLAG, Parents Family and Friends Peer-Support Group** 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on the

third Tuesday of the month. Join us in a warm, welcoming and safe place for all family and friends of people of the LGBTQ community at Multipurpose Room A in the Downtown Community Centre, 35-B Weber Street West, Kitchener. <https://www.facebook.com/PFLAG.WWP>

**December 18**

**A Chosen Family Holiday (\$)** \$15. 8:00pm - 10:30pm Patent Social, 17 Erb Street East, Waterloo <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/a-chosen-family-holiday-tickets-83422648387>

**December 19**

**Plan B Co-operative KW's monthly drop-in** 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Treehaus (79 Joseph St, Kitchener). **Third Thursday of each month** Plan B holds a drop-in space for LGBTQ+ community members to meet, learn about our programming and events, and just hang out!

We invite you to the **Seniors' Community Lunch** at Wesley United Cambridge (6 Cambridge Street) on the **third Thursday of every month.** Cost \$10. Please call 519-621-6060 so we know how many lunches to prepare. Meet and Greet for Rainbow Seniors in the Chapel, hosted by Rev. Roy Holton and Laura Wilson immediately following the lunch from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

**December 21**

**Rainbow Family Drop-In** 10:00 a.m. to noon. Join other LGBTQ2S+ Families from KW and surrounding areas for monthly drop-in programming geared to ages 0-6. E-mail [KWQueer-Families@gmail.com](mailto:KWQueer-Families@gmail.com)

**December 25**

**Celebration of Chosen Family** see ad on Page Four

**December 27**

**K-W Unity Mosque,** this is a progressive Muslim social and prayer group which is gender equal and LGBTQ affirmative. Join us 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. For more information: [ranpappertshannon@gmail.com](mailto:ranpappertshannon@gmail.com)