



February 2026



#### Spencer Pride General Meeting

**our mission**

At Spencer Pride, our mission is to improve the quality of life for rural LGBTQ+ people in South Central Indiana by:

- fostering allyship and understanding through education and advocacy,
- creating safe spaces that support both physical and mental well-being, and
- addressing social inequities that stem from the unique intersectionality of queer and rural identities

**our vision**

At Spencer Pride, our vision is to leverage our diversity and privilege in order to cultivate an inclusive community of compassion and celebration for rural LGBTQ+ people.

**JOIN US THIS SUNDAY**

**Volunteer Meeting**

4-6 PM

In-Person or Via Zoom

**SPENCER PRIDE**  
ESTABLISHED 2007

Spencer Pride commUnity center  
17 E. Franklin Street, Spencer

#### Support Lines

[The Trevor Project](#)  
Text **Start** to 678678  
1-866-488-7386

[National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#)  
Call or text 988

[SAGE LGBT Elder Hotline](#)  
1-877-360-5428

[Substance Abuse & Addiction Hotline](#)  
1-844-289-0879

[Trans Lifeline](#)  
1-877-565-8860

#### Staged Reading: POTUS

#### Monthly Programs



*A group for lovers of books - including those "banned" for controversial content.*

Meets at 5:30 pm on the 4th Thursday (also virtually). Contact [Julie@SpencerPride.org](mailto:Julie@SpencerPride.org) for more info. Join our [Facebook Group](#)!



**LGBT National Hotlines**  
National: 1-888-843-4564  
Youth: 1-800-246-7743  
Coming Out: 1-888-688-5428  
Seniors: 1-888-234-7243

**Middle Way House**  
1-812-336-0846

If you know of other support hotlines that should be included, please email [info@SpencerPride.org](mailto:info@SpencerPride.org). As always, if you are in immediate danger, 911 should be your first option.

#### Rainbow Cruisers to the Caribbean



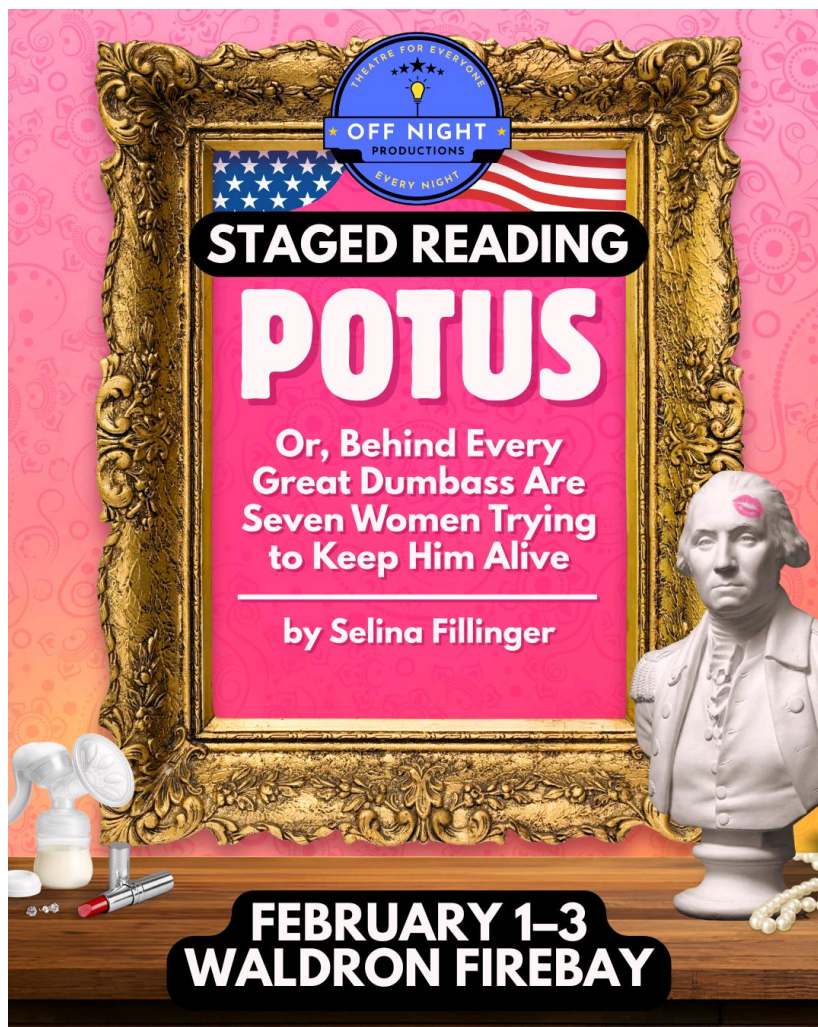
We are excited to announce Spencer Pride's next cruise! We will be sailing to the Caribbean on the Celebrity Beyond from June 14-21, 2026. The cruise is open to anyone who wants to support our work and experience Pride Month with us on the ocean! It is a family-friendly experience that is sure to offer something for everyone.

To register or get more details, scan the QR code or visit <https://spencerpride.johnheathtravel.com/>. For each stateroom reserved, Spencer Pride will receive a donation. Our 2024 cruise to Alaska helped us raise \$4,000, and we hope to exceed that amount in 2026.



Did you know that the first penny press (a.k.a. a penny smashing machine) debuted at the Chicago's World Fair in 1893? Since that time these unique machines have popped up around the world and are highly sought by tourists and collectors alike. What does a penny smashing machine do? Well, it should come as no surprise that it smashes pennies. It does so while also imprinting a special design into the coin. Children of all ages love to crank the handle and feel the pressure build as the penny is compressed and imprinted.

Spencer Pride is proud to host Owen County's only penny smashing machine, which has arrived just in time for the eclipse! The Spencer



Join Off Night Productions for a staged reading of POTUS Or, Behind Every Great Dumbass Are Seven Women Trying to Keep Him Alive - a riotous comedy about the women in charge of the man in charge of the free world.

One 4-letter word is about to rock 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. When the President unwittingly spins a PR nightmare into a global crisis, the seven brilliant and beleaguered women he relies upon most will risk life, liberty, and the pursuit of sanity to keep the Commander in Chief out of trouble. POTUS: Or, Behind Every Great Dumbass Are Seven Women Trying to Keep Him Alive is a bawdy and irreverent look at power, politics and the women in charge of the man in charge of the free world.

Performances are Sunday, February 1 at 2:00 P.M. and Monday & Tuesday, February 2 & 3 at 7:00 P.M. All performances take place in the Waldron Arts Center Firebay Theater (122 S Walnut Street, in Bloomington).

Tickets are only \$10.00! You can buy them online at [www.offnightproductions.org](http://www.offnightproductions.org).

AGE RECOMMENDATION: 18+. This comedy is classified for mature eyes only!

#### Rainbow Bowlers



Introducing RainBOWLERS  
A brand-new pilot program from Spencer Pride

We're rolling out something new—and you're invited to help us test the lanes.

RainBOWLERS is a social, low-pressure bowling meetup designed to bring LGBTQ+ folks and allies together for connection, community, and a little friendly competition (or zero competition—gutter balls welcome).

Wednesday, February 11  
5:00–6:30 PM  
Hoosier Alley, Bloomington  
Free event  
Wheelchair accessible

This is the inaugural event of our pilot program, and space is limited—so don't wait to sign up!



Meets on the 2nd Wednesday at 6:15 pm. Individuals bring their own mat, all abilities and level welcome. For more information, contact [Julie.M@SpencerPride.org](mailto:Julie.M@SpencerPride.org)



A group for people who quilt, scrapbook, paint, decoupage, or anything of the like.  
Meets on the 2nd and 4th Friday from 5 pm to 7 pm. Individuals bring their own supplies to work on a project while others do the same.  
For more information, contact [Cat@SpencerPride.org](mailto:Cat@SpencerPride.org).



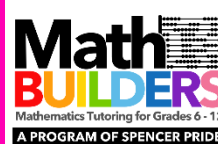
A group for people who love dancing and want to learn it and do it whenever they can.  
Meets at 6:15 pm on Thursdays.  
Contact [Jacob@SpencerPride.org](mailto:Jacob@SpencerPride.org) for more info. Join our [Facebook Group](#)!



A spousal grief support group for members of the LGBTQ+ community & allies.  
Meets at 5:30 pm on the 1st Wednesday. Contact [Grief.Haven@SpencerPride.org](mailto:Grief.Haven@SpencerPride.org) for more info. Join our [Facebook Group](#)!



A group for LGBTQ+ teens and allies (10-19) to connect, support each other, and have fun.  
Meets at 5 pm on the 2nd & 4th Wednesday. Contact [Joy@SpencerPride.org](mailto:Joy@SpencerPride.org) for more info. Follow us in Instagram!



A tutoring group for grades 6-12.  
Meets at 10 am on Saturdays. Visit our website for schedule. Contact [Andrew@SpencerPride.org](mailto:Andrew@SpencerPride.org) for more information.



A group for people who love birds and want to explore our natural world.  
Meets for outings on the 3rd Saturday, and special events.  
Contact [Rainbow.Birders@SpencerPride.org](mailto:Rainbow.Birders@SpencerPride.org) for more info. Join our [Facebook Group](#)!



A social group for families with LGBTQ+ members.  
Meets quarterly. Contact [Shea@SpencerPride.org](mailto:Shea@SpencerPride.org) for more info. Join our [Facebook Group](#)!



An inclusive Dungeons & Dragons RGP ang gaming group.  
RPG meets as scheduled. Open Game Night 3rd Saturday @ 4 pm. Contact [Rainbow.Rollers@SpencerPride.org](mailto:Rainbow.Rollers@SpencerPride.org) for more info. Join our [Facebook Group](#)!



A group for people who wish to live a more peaceful, joyful, and loving life.



Pride machine features 5 designs, each featuring a special place in Spencer. The penny smashing machine was sponsored in part by Babbs, the Historic Tivoli Theatre, McCormick's Creek State Park, and Sweet Owen Convention & Visitors Bureau. Each coin takes 4 quarters and one penny (just \$1.01 for an awesome souvenir!).

**The Owen News**

Come get the latest copy of [The Owen News](#) at the commUnity center! We are open Wednesday through Sunday 10 am until 7 pm. Support your local news organization!



Interested in participating or need additional info?  
[Lucie@SpencerPride.org](mailto:Lucie@SpencerPride.org)

Come as you are. Bowl how you bowl. We welcome everyone regardless of skillset.

**Collecting Silver**



Turn your unused silver into support for Spencer Pride!

Do you have an old box of silverware tucked away in the attic? A tarnished tea set that hasn't seen the light of day in decades? A broken necklace?

Don't let them gather dust—let them do some good!

Spencer Pride is collecting Sterling Silver as well as Silver Plate items for recycling/scrap. We are turning these items into funds that directly support our community center operations and building rehab work.

It doesn't matter if the pieces are broken, bent, or heavily tarnished—we can still use them!

- We are accepting items like:
- \* Flatware (forks, spoons, knives)
  - \* Serving pieces like platters or spoons
  - \* Tea sets and candlesticks
  - \* Picture frames or jewelry

Anything marked "Sterling," "925," or even silver plate items.

Dropoff Location/Hours:  
Spencer Pride commUnity center  
17 E. Franklin Street  
Spencer, IN 47460  
Wed - Sun 10a-7p

Contact:  
Jacob Balash: 812.821.1442

Clear your clutter and help us build a stronger community at the same time.

**Pi Day**

Pi Day Party at Spencer Pride!

Join Spencer Pride for a fun, all-ages Pi Day celebration on March 14 at the Spencer Pride commUnity Center!

We'll kick off the evening with a short, engaging presentation about Pi (3.14)—what it means, why it matters, and why it shows up in so many places in the world around us. No math anxiety required: it's designed to be fun and accessible for everyone.

After the presentation, we'll enjoy a full evening of:  
Pizza & pie  
Games  
Dancing  
Community time + good vibes

Date: March 14  
Time: 5:00–9:00 PM  
Location: Spencer Pride commUnity Center  
Cost: FREE  
All ages welcome

Come for the Pi. Stay for the Pride.  
Bring friends, bring family, and bring your appetite!

Meets at 4 pm on the third Sunday. Contact [Karen@SpencerPride.org](mailto:Karen@SpencerPride.org) for more info.

All monthly programs are free to participate and require no advanced registration.

We also host routine health & wellness services and monthly educational programming, in addition to annual events like the Spencer Pride Festival. For more information, ask a Spencer Pride volunteer or contact us at [info@SpencerPride.org](mailto:info@SpencerPride.org).





**Pi Day Party**

**Saturday 3.14**

**5-9 PM FREE**

Pizza | Pie | Games | Dancing | Brief Pi Presentation

In-person at Spencer Pride commUnity center Wheelchair-accessible; contact us for further information



**SPENCER PRIDE**  
for the LGBTQ+ community & allies  
*Volunteers*

## Open Shifts

Text or call Jacob at 812-821-1442, or watch our Facebook Volunteer group for posts announcing opportunities!



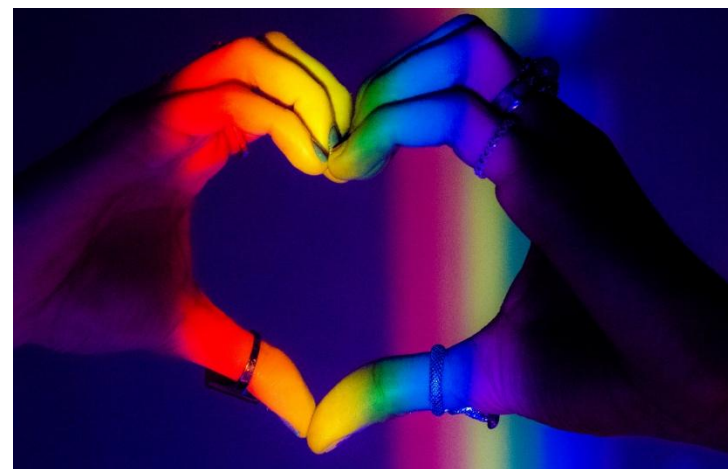
## Fundraising News

### Become A Sustainer

We are incredibly thankful for our sustainers! These amazing supporters give at a regular interval to cover 50% of the commUnity center's monthly operation costs.

Our goal for 2025 is to grow our Sustainer program to cover 100% of our center's operating costs.

To become a Sustainer, reach out to our Fundraising Director, Elisabeth Solchik, or you can start the process on our website:  
<https://spencerpride.org/donate/>



**BECOME A SPENCER PRIDE Sustainer**

[www.spencerpride.org/donate](https://spencerpride.org/donate)

Sign up today to join a special group of donors who are committed to making a difference in the lives of rural LGBTQ+ individuals in Indiana with reoccurring donations.

Did you know you could help support Spencer Pride while you are shopping?



**support spencer pride through corporate MATCHING**

EIN: 26-2197732  
ASK YOUR HR/BENEFITS REP FOR MORE INFORMATION!

Matching gift programs are just one of the many types of corporate philanthropy initiatives that companies have, but \$4 - \$7 BILLION in matching gift funds are unclaimed each year!

PHILANTHROPY 101: When an employee makes a donation, they'll request the matching gift from their employer, who then makes their own donation. Companies usually match donations at a 1:1 ratio.

These philanthropy programs allow us to maximize the impact of our donations - ask your employer today to help make an impact in the Spencer community.



**COMMUNITY REWARDS UPDATE FOR Q4 2025**

**YOU CAN HELP!**

1. Register your existing Kroger Plus card, or create a new digital card at: <https://www.kroger.com/signin>
2. Under your Kroger Profile > go to Community Rewards > Enroll:
3. Search **EU230** to find Spencer Pride.

**37 households**

**\$55 donated**

To learn more about linking your Kroger Rewards Card to Spencer Pride:  
<https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>



# SPENCER PRIDE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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he/him  
**President**  
Programming Director  
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he/him  
Communications Director  
Committee(s): D



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she/her  
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**Jacob Balash**

he/him  
commUnity center Director  
Committee(s): P



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Director  
Committee(s): P



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Committee(s): E, D, S



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Relationship Development  
Director  
Committee(s): D

COMMITTEE LEGEND: D = Development, E = Executive,  
F = Finance, P = Programming S = ED Selection

For more information about  
our Board, please scan here:



## A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

A commUnity center Sponsor provides much needed support to assist with our current programming as well as with our future building expansion and programming that supports the LGBTQ+ community.

If you or someone you know would like to be a Sponsor, click [here](#) for more details!

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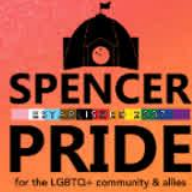
A Spencer Pride Sustainer is a donor who gives at a regular interval – monthly, quarterly, or annually – for as little as \$5/month.

We are incredibly thankful for our 2026 sustainers. These amazing supporters give at a regular interval to cover over 75% of the commUnity center's current monthly operation costs.

To become a Sustainer, reach out to our Vice President and Development Director, Elisabeth Solchik at [Elisabeth@spencerpride.org](mailto:Elisabeth@spencerpride.org), or you can start the process through our website: <https://spencerpride.org/donate/>

Check the box "Show my support by making this a recurring donation"  
And in the blank space that is a drop-down field for "My donation is for," select "Sustainer (Recurring)"





# 2026 Sustainers



Become a Sustainer

Ben Ale-Ebrahim	Patti Cowin	Christy Kelley	Lynne Shifriss
John* Angeline	Christy Crandall	Kathy Kessler	Casey Shively
Jonathan* Balash	Eric Crown	Matt Kirk	Kathryn Shumate
Jacob* Balash	Dave Debikey	Donna Lowe	Kathy Sideli
Truman Balash	Kelli Debikey	Ann Mahrdt	RJ Sliva
Kathy Balash	Tyler DeFord	Marissa Mallo	Jenny Smith
Fred Balash	Carl Deitchman	Bob Marshall	Elisabeth* Solchik
Marion Banzhaf	Chad Eppelheimer	Lucie Mathieu	Cat Spratt
Connie Barton	Kim* Fidler	Jody May	Anna Spears
Vic Bequeret	Shea Finnegan*	Felix McBeath	Marcia Steele
Glenda Breeden	Eric Flynn-McCormick	Cathy McFarland	Mitch Teplitsky
Bill Breeden	Jim Frohliger	David McFarland	Brayton Thompson
Jennifer Brown	David Friedel	Berta Medicus-Moore	Marci Tillison
Wren Brown	Darrell Frye	Debbie Messer	Terese Urban
Pam Browning	Cathy C. Gebhard	Martha* Nally	Nicole Vasconi
George Brinson	Kate Gehringer	Donna Nicholas	Karla Vedder
Jessica Brinson	John Grisham	Amanda Nixon	Erica Whichello
Dean Bruce	Cari Hale	Mark Parmenter	Karen Williams
Marcia Bruce	Jackie Hall	Julie Parmenter	Don Wooldridge
Linda Bucklin	Nicholas Heck	Ed O'Brien	Wendy* Wonderley
Alex Butrum-Griffith	Mary Heldt	Phillip O'Neil	Cathy Wyatt
Linda Campbell	Joy* Hellman	Jameson O'Neil	Dan Wyatt
John Cash	David Henk	Janet Rummel	Karen Zuber
Nathaniel Clawson	Ann Henk	Eric Sader	Tom Zuber
Beth Clawson	Rex* Hinkle	Bethany Satrom	Katie Zuber
Allie Cogan McHaley	Cindy Houston	Dorcilla Schoolman	
Claire Cogan McHaley	Melanie Keller	John Settle-Corbin	

\*Board of Directors

## PURPLE SPONSOR



OCTOBER 4  
SPENCER, IN

Thanks again for your support!

Our Contact Information  
\*{{Organization Name}}\*  
\*{{Organization Address}}\*  
\*{{Organization Phone}}\*  
\*{{Organization Website}}\*  
  
\*{{Unsubscribe}}\*

