

YOUR NAMES ARE IN OUR HEARTS



Graphic design
project by
Andrew Zanevsky
see pp. 12-15

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Passing the Baton

Greetings PFLAG Friends!

I am sorry to report that, for personal health reasons, I have decided that I need to step down as President of the PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois (PCNI / Council). Serving on the Council for these past years has truly been an honor and a privilege. Any of you who have volunteered at an event or for any volunteer position are sure to understand the great feeling of community and satisfaction from giving back. Working on Council with all of the officers, and Chapter representatives has been gratifying, enlightening and inspiring. PFLAG continues to be an enriching and joyful part of my life. I am especially grateful for the friendship and leadership of our current PCNI Officers, Don Donahue (VP and Membership Chair), Jim Levie (Treasurer) and Andrew Zanevsky (Secretary, Open Doors Editor and Web Manager). We are blessed to have such a great team of selfless, dedicated and talented individuals.

While I am sad to be stepping down, it gives me great pleasure to announce that our PCNI VP and Membership Chair, Don Donahue, has agreed to serve out the remainder of my term. I have known Don for over 10 years now working with him at our home Chapter in DuPage and on the



Council. We could not ask for a better leader. Don is an amazing individual. He is compassionate, an astute listener, and has exceptional collaboration and communication skills. Personally, I am extremely grateful for Don's friendship and service to PFLAG. With any luck, the cloud of this pandemic will begin to lift and we will be able to resume more of the activities we so enjoy. Please join me in welcoming Don to this new role as we all work together in the spirit of Support, Education and Advocacy as we seek harmony, enlightenment and equity.

In love and solidarity,

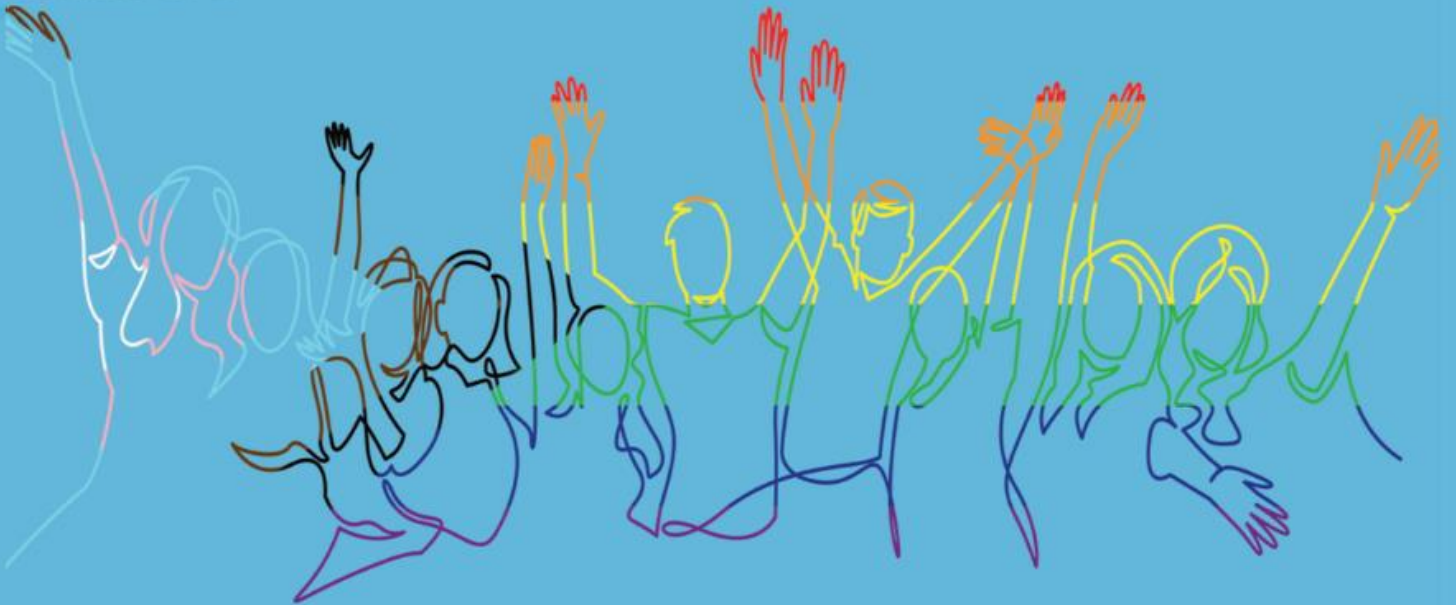
John

John Hickey
Past President,
PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois



 SHOW UP
SPEAK UP

EQUALITY
ILLINOIS



VIRTUAL LGBTQ ADVOCACY DAY WEDNESDAY MAY 12, 2021

While LGBTQ Advocacy Day will look different this year, we must still SHOW UP! and SPEAK UP! to make sure that our state continues to demonstrate its values of being fully equal and inclusive. This is a great opportunity to virtually engage with fellow supporters of LGBTQ equality and let your voice be heard on issues that affect us all.

Individuals who register will participate in a virtual lunch program and virtual early evening reception and be asked to take

5-6 civic actions throughout the day (30 seconds each).

Register for the 2021 Virtual LGBTQ Advocacy Day TODAY!

[REGISTER](#)

We hope to see you there,

Mike Ziri
Director of Public Policy
Equality Illinois



At least 20 states have taken unprecedented steps this year to legalize discrimination against LGBTQ+ people, banning transgender healthcare services, banning participation of transgender athletes in organized sports, banning textbooks and curriculums mentioning the LGBTQ+ community, restricting sex education.

This coordinated attack on human rights is an organized assault by conservative groups implemented with the help of legislators and governors in some states.

Read the STATES section excerpts from the PFLAG National publication *Policy Matters* for more details on what is happening in each state in this sad group.



What can we do to help fight this discrimination?

Nancy Johnson of the PFLAG Oak Park chapter has contacted PFLAG Austin with this question. Texas Senate has approved trans athletes ban and is considering trans medical ban, so can we do anything to help local PFLAG in the state to fight this legislation?

Anna Nguyen, President of PFLAG Austin has replied:

“One of the more direct ways is to participate in phone banking: to drive support for specific queer-friendly legislations; to help campaigns of legislators and candidates for other elected positions who are allies. ...sign up for updates from organizations such as the Human Rights Campaign and the ACLU.

Since this is a challenge with national scope, increasing awareness of anti-trans legislation will help to gather support for our positions everywhere. Inform whenever you can on lesser known or more nuanced information and viewpoints. E.g. the crop of legislations mandating student athletes compete according to the birth on their birth certificate completely ignore trans masculine athletes. For instance, Mack Beggs is a Texas trans man wrestler who, while in high school, had to compete in the girls' division despite having been on testosterone. He ultimately won the championship in the girl's division. It was a situation nobody wanted, especially, obviously, Mack Beggs himself. (Mack is now enrolled in college and wrestling on its men's team.)”

From PFLAG National

Phone bank for the Equality Act! PFLAG, in partnership with NEAT, is providing an opportunity for our members to talk to voters in target states and patch them through to their Senators' offices to urge them to vote YES on the Equality Act. Never phone banked before? No worries! Our partner organization, The NEAT, provides in-depth training videos to get you comfortable with using the phone bank tool. You can sign up any time and phonebank whenever is convenient for you. [Register here and make some calls!](#)

STATES

Alabama - Alabama legislature approves trans sports ban. The bill, HB391, passed the state House and Senate on April 15th and would prohibit trans girls and women competing on sports teams that match their gender identity. The bill now goes to Gov. Kay Ivey for her signature.

Arizona - Arizona legislature passes sex education bill requiring parents to sign off on their children learning about LGBT issues. The bill "requires the school governing board to develop procedures by which parents will be notified in advance, and given the opportunity to opt their children into, any instruction regarding sexuality, gender identity or gender expression." Schools may also not teach students about AIDS or HIV without parental consent.

Arkansas - Arkansas becomes the first state to enact a trans healthcare ban. Arkansas will prohibit doctors from providing gender-affirming treatment for trans people under age 18 after the General Assembly overrode Governor Hutchinson's veto on April 6th. Gov. Hutchinson called the bill a "vast government overreach" after meeting with families with trans youth.

Florida - Anti-LGBTQ+ protesters demonstrate outside the home of Brevard County School Board member. The protesters oppose new accommodations for LGBTQ+ students adopted by the school district, including allowing bathroom use by students according to their gender identity.

Florida House approves athlete ban. The bill, HB1475, passed on a party line 77-40 vote. The companion bill in the state Senate still has to pass before the athlete ban legislation goes to Gov. Ron DeSantis for his signature.

Montana - Montana Legislature considering amendments to trans athlete ban. The House rejected a Senate amendment on April 12th that would have voided the athlete ban if the federal government would withhold education funding in response to the law. The bill will go to a conference committee, where members of the House and Senate will discuss the proposed amendment.



From PFLAG National (continued)

STATES (continued)

Legislature advances “religious freedom,” license to discriminate bill. Passed on March 31st and now headed to the governor’s desk for signature, once enacted the law would enable service providers to deny queer residents goods and aid, from ordering a cake at a bakery to accessing PrEP. It comes just days after Montana’s Senate inched closer to banning trans athletes from taking part in high school and college sports, [AP](#) reported.

North Carolina - North Carolina lawmakers introduce trans healthcare ban bill. The bill would prevent doctors from providing gender affirming care for trans youth under 21. Doctors who defy the law could have their license revoked and face fines of up to \$1,000 per occurrence.

North Dakota - North Dakota legislature approves athlete ban. The bill, HB1298, bars public elementary and secondary schools from “knowingly” permitting trans students to compete on sports teams conforming with their gender identity, but allows cis girls to play on boys’ teams. The measure now goes to Gov. Doug Burgum.

South Dakota - Gov. Noem issues two executive orders to ban trans athletes from participating on women’s and girls’ school sports teams. Earlier this month, state lawmakers passed a trans athlete ban bill, but Gov. Noem declined to sign it over concerns the law would not survive legal challenges and asked lawmakers to revise the legislation’s language. The legislature rejected the proposed changes and the Governor’s authority to issue such “style and form” recommendations. Following this, the Governor announced the executive orders.

Tennessee - Tennessee lawmakers consider banning any textbooks or curriculum that contain LGBTQ+ content from schools. HB 800 would prohibit public schools and teachers from using materials that “promote, normalize, support, or address lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, or transgender (LGBT) issues or lifestyles.”

Nashville LGBT Chamber of Commerce pens open letter to Governor in response to anti-trans bills. The letter is signed by dozens of major corporations and small businesses. The businesses are emphasizing their opposition to anti-transgender legislation Tennessee lawmakers are considering, including HB 1182, which would force businesses to post anti-trans signage outside of bathrooms.

Tennessee passes bill allowing parents to waive LGBTQ-related curriculum for their children. The bill passed the state House 64-23 on April 14th and now goes to Gov. Bill Lee’s desk for his signature.

Texas - Texas lawmakers considering trans youth medical ban. Senate Bill 1646, filed by State Sen. Charles Perry, would define allowing a child to receive gender affirming care as child abuse on the part of the parents. Texas’s House and Senate committees are simultaneously considering a slate of anti-trans bills that advocates, including PFLAG members, are fighting every day.

Texas Senate approves trans athlete ban. Senate Bill 29 bans trans athletes from participating in sports teams that conform with their gender identity and would require students to show their original, unchanged birth certificate to prove their “biological sex.” The measure now heads to the Texas House of Representatives, which is currently considering its own version of the same bill.

West Virginia - Governor Jim Justice announces he will sign trans athlete ban. The Gov. said in his weekly coronavirus briefing “Personally I feel that absolutely, I just can’t get through my head that it is the right thing for us at a middle school level or a high school level in our state for me not to support the bill.” The bill would ban middle and high school trans athletes from competing with a team conforming with their gender identity.

FEDERAL

President Biden issues the first-ever presidential proclamation recognizing Transgender Day of Visibility. In his proclamation, President Biden recognizes the work that still needs to be done for trans equality, saying trans people “still face systemic barriers to freedom and equality,” such as higher rates of violence, harassment and discrimination. [Read and share the full proclamation](#), which came not from the White House, but from the President himself.

U.S. Department of Defense announces new regulations for trans inclusion. The new rules allow transgender people who meet military standards to enlist and serve openly in their self-identified gender, as well as get medically necessary transition-related care authorized by law. The regulations come after a two-month Pentagon review aimed at implementing the repeal of the trans military ban, which President Biden announced just days after he took office in January.

Dr. Rachel Levine becomes first openly transgender federal official to be confirmed by the Senate. The Senate voted on March 24th to confirm Dr. Levine as Assistant Secretary for Health in the Department of Health and Human Services. The bipartisan vote was 52-48.



From PFLAG National (continued)

State Department reverses previous Administration's human rights policies. The previous policies sidelined reproductive healthcare and LGBTQ+ rights. Secretary of State Antony Blinken called that approach “unbalanced,” saying “All people are entitled to these rights, no matter where they're born, what they believe, whom they love, or any other characteristic. Human rights are also co-equal. There is no hierarchy that makes some rights more important than others.”

MEDIA

DC and Marvel Comics to publish anthologies celebrating queer characters and talent for Pride month. “DC Pride” will include queer characters Batwoman, Aqualad, Midnighter, Apollo, Harley Quinn, and John Constantine in stories written by LGBTQ+ and ally creators. Marvel Comics will release an LGBTQ+ special in June as well, “Marvel’s Voices: Pride,” which will highlight minority characters and talent.

A PRRI poll finds support for anti-discrimination laws and marriage equality for LGBTQ+ people is at an all-time high. According to a report released on March 23rd 76% of Americans, and strong majorities of Americans of every gender, religion, race, age, and geographic location support anti-discrimination laws. The survey also found, for the first time, that a majority of Republicans endorse same-sex marriage.

Two Catholic bishops and other church officials publicly condemn discrimination against transgender people. Archbishop John Wester of Santa Fe, New Mexico, Bishop John Stowe of Lexington, Kentucky, and the Association of U.S. Catholic Priests, as well as the presidents of two Jesuit organizations called for an end to “the epidemic of violence against transgender individuals.”

NCAA releases statement on trans athlete bans but does not commit to moving championships. On April 12th, the NCAA said that it was “committed to ensuring that NCAA championships are open for all who earn the right to compete in them” but made no specific commitments to pulling championship games from states considering or enacting trans athlete bans, despite pressure from LGBTQ+ advocates.

National LGBT Media Association (NGMA) Bans Meetings in Georgia. NGMA approved a resolution banning meetings in Georgia in response to the state’s voter suppression law, which is expected to limit voter access — especially in communities of color.

KINGS AND QUEENS short film wins numerous awards at film festivals. Director Elmer J. Howard shot the film in Portland, Maine. The movie centers on Lucy, a newly single young lesbian who finds herself at a new job with a drag scene.

RESOURCES, ARTICLES

- Association of Latino/as Motivating Action – <https://www.almachicago.org/>
- Article with video by ABC7 Chicago: [Kristal Larson wins Avon Township clerk seat, one of Illinois' first non-judicial trans candidates to be elected](#) Kristal is a member of PFLAG Grayslake/Round Lake



- Article in Chicago Tribune: [New transgender studies center in Chicago aims to combat misinformation and lack of trans-led research](#)
TJ Billard, an assistant professor at Northwestern University and two co-founders have launched the Chicago-based Center for Applied Transgender Studies, a nonprofit research organization that brings together transgender scholars.
- Article from LGBTQNation - [4 Pro Tips for being the best trans ally possible](#)
- Article from newwaysministry.org - [Catholic Universities Pressed to Resist Vatican Ban on Blessing Same-Gender Couples](#)



News from PFLAG Hinsdale

by Marcia Prichason

On Sunday, April 4, 2021, Hinsdale PFLAG welcomed Mady Greene as she presented her family's Coming Out story via Zoom. Mady, who lives in Madison, Wisconsin, holds a Ph. D. in Nursing and is a Nurse Researcher who specializes in LGBTQ healthcare and the inherent disparities in the systems that serve those populations.

Mady identifies as Queer and uses she/her pronouns. She stated that both her coming out and her younger sister coming out as Queer was a non-event in her family. There was no drama; in fact, her parents seemed almost blasé about it. She stated that she felt they had "done their homework" and that they were well informed, accepting, and supportive.

Mady also has an older, cisgender sister; so, the identity surrounding being female was part of the family's intrinsic character. As a result, when her younger sister, identifying first as Queer, then later coming out as transgender/non-binary, made her parents extremely uncomfortable as this represented a dramatic shift in the fundamental identity of the family. What ensued were hurtful conversations and many questions that, Mady believes, were borne out of fear.

It took some time to overcome the initial, overwhelming discomfort, and the family had to find new ways to help each other and be supportive. There came, over time, a big shift in family dynamics as they all learned to do better. She believes that, like anything else, accepting change in sexual identity is a process. She also stated that after several years, her family has found new space to keep evolving and changing, and that this has been a positive aspect of the change in family dynamics.

Going through this transition process has been a humbling experience for everyone in her family; questioning is done with greater care, the sense of being in control has shifted to stepping back to better understand how best to love and support each other, and they have all learned to respond less as if being attacked. In Mady's family, words are being chosen more deliberately so they can better care for each other.

The stress that the family first experienced when her younger sibling came out as transgender/non-binary has evolved, and Mady feels that this progress has enabled them all to free up the mental space to deal with other important issues in life. And, they have also learned that love is not a gender.

Our speaker for May 2 is Steve Andersson. He's a member of the Illinois Human Rights Commission and will talk about the Illinois non-discrimination laws as they apply to LGBTQ people.

News from PFLAG Deerfield

by Sue Ginsburg

We continued with our desire to concentrate on support and advocacy this month, allotting the entire 2 hours to discussion. Since we are still on zoom, we had one breakout room devoted to parents of transgender children and our original group of parents of gay and bisexual children.

What was discovered in our breakout room was that, when attending their first PFLAG meeting, a couple thought they were the only ones to experience what their family was going through. Now, thankfully, they see that other families are going through similar experiences and they are able to share what they did, how they reacted, what worked, what didn't....and now the newer members benefit from what the more experienced members have lived. And that is what PFLAG is all about! A number of topics were discussed including summer camps for teens and gender therapists and the penchant for pushing medication. All in all, there was an excellent exchange of information and ideas on how to cope with existing challenges.

We shared advocacy opportunities that were offered by PFLAG National and explained again that all could be made aware of these with correspondence from National when one becomes a paid member!!

“The sense of being in control has shifted to stepping back to better understand how best to love and support each other.”



News from PFLAG McHenry

by Toni Weaver

We had quite the meeting in April! Our presenter, Maryknoll Father Joe Veneroso, was calling in from New York. Friends from all over the country (NJ, DEL, FL, OH, and WI) and local NI PFLAG members (Jackie and Dann Frett from Hinsdale and Sue Ginsburg from Deerfield) joined members of PFLAG McHenry for a fascinating and very intense discussion of the latest hurtful words coming out of the Vatican: “God does not bless sin.”

Several people in on the call had a chance to express the rage and deep hurt they’ve experienced from a Church that refuses to recognize the reality of their lives. All of us on the call were deeply distressed at the words coming out of the Vatican on March 15. Fr. Joe reminded us that the Vatican is not the pope, yet couldn’t he (Pope Francis) have refused to sign on to the wording that came out of the Congregation for the Defense of the Faith? Even if he were totally distracted by his preparations for his upcoming trip to Iran, couldn’t he have revisited it upon his return? Different explanations have been offered as to why Pope Francis signed on to those disturbing and hurtful words, but until we hear Francis actually address it himself, we’re left in limbo.

Fr. Joe recommended two books: [Same-sex Unions in Medieval Europe](#) by John Boswell and [Queer Religion](#), edited by Donald Boisvert and Jay E. Johnson. He called our attention to two early saints, Ss. Sergius and Bacchus, same-sex lovers, who were martyred for their refusal to attend sacrifices offered in honor of Jupiter. How attitudes have changed!

In May we’ll be introducing (re-introducing) Mary Genzler and Courtney Milligan who will be assuming leadership of the McHenry PTI once in-person meetings resume. Andrew Zanevsky has led the group during this time of Covid-restricted meetings using the Zoom platform. Thank you, Andrew! To participate in this meeting, please email me, Toni Weaver, at twweaver@earthlink.net.

News from PFLAG DuPage

by Kristin Shulman & Margaret Donahue

PFLAG DuPage continues to hold monthly chapter meetings via Zoom. In April, thirty people attended our meeting and heard our speaker from Mutual Ground speak to us about recognizing domestic violence and what we, as family and friends can do if someone tells us they are being abused. She also provided some statistics that were specific to the LGBTQ+ community. Mutual Ground's mission is to empower individuals, families, and communities to eliminate domestic and sexual violence and the harms of substance use through education, awareness, and life-changing services. Information about Mutual Ground can be found at <https://mutualground.org>

At each of our meetings, we share book, film and event recommendations. This month we highlighted a new book *Sweeter Voices Still: An LGBTQ Anthology* from Middle America edited by Ryan Schuessler and Kevin Whiteneir, Jr. a nonfiction collection about queer life in the Midwest. While we had not yet read the book, it has been getting excellent reviews. We also shared information about the upcoming Philadelphia Trans Wellness Conference (PTWC) that will be held virtually from July 22 to 24. PTWC is the largest transgender health conference in the world with the mission to educate and empower trans individuals on issues of health and wellness, recognizing the need for expertise surrounding trans health & wellness to rise from within the community. PTWC is free!! Find out more at <https://www.mazzonicenter.org/blog/announcing-2021-philadelphia-trans-wellness-conference>

While Zoom doesn’t allow us to be as individually supportive as we would like, everyone who attended the meeting participated in our support circle. A number of new people attended in April and felt comfortable enough to share their stories. It is always wonderful to see the support that longer term members support people just beginning their journeys. It is definitely true that when you no longer need PFLAG, PFLAG needs you the most.

All of us at PFLAG DuPage are deeply saddened by the passing of Paul Hanson. Paul and Gail have been long time, active members of our chapter and our hearts go out to Gail. Anyone who encountered Paul, quickly learned how deeply he loved his daughter Brittany. At our April meeting, many people remembered Paul’s support when they first attended a PFLAG meeting. We will miss the joy that Paul brought to our meetings.



News from PTI Chicago

by Christine Peters

PTI Chicago enjoyed a full two hour discussion on Thursday, 4/8/2021. 13 people attended via Zoom including several first-time participants. We welcomed newcomers, long-time members, and even a parent from out of state!

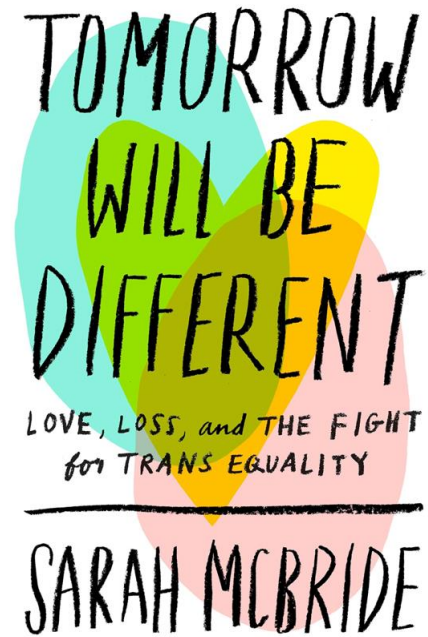
We've had several interesting programs recently, but it was good to have adequate time to share updates and hear from new folks. There was a focus on the mental health needs of our youth and experiences with hospitalizations and students' special needs. We all know the statistics about trans individuals and the stressors of exploring and expressing their identities in a society that is less than understanding.

Parent support and access to resources is essential.

It's amazing how quickly families are seeking information and support after their child comes out to them. Parents are so much more knowledgeable and proactive in comparison to ten years ago. One person shared that the initial "coming out" conversation was less than ideal for all involved; they later requested, "Can we have a do-over?" and they did successfully! These shared lessons benefit us all.

Our next Zoom meeting will be on Thursday, May, 2021 from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. We will host our second Book Club, discussing the excellent memoir by Senator Sarah McBride entitled *Tomorrow Will Be Different: Love, Loss, and the Fight for Trans Equality*. She is the first transgender state senator in the country, making her the highest-ranking transgender official in the US. The foreword is written by Joe Biden, also from Delaware. PTI Chicago paid for and sent copies to interested

“It's amazing how quickly families are seeking information and support after their child comes out to them.”



members. It's a fascinating, inspiring read. We hope you'll join us!

Members will receive an e-mail the weekend before the meeting with the Zoom link and password to enter the meeting. Parent/s, guardians, or family members of transgender, non-binary or gender non-conforming individuals who would like to join us for the first time should e-mail PTI Chicago President Bill Guilfoile at bill.guilfoile@gmail.com

News from PTI McHenry

by Andrew Zanevsky

Our March meeting on Zoom was hosted by Bob Chikos. He wrote: *"The meeting went very well. I was reminded of how much I got out of them!"*

We welcome all parents and other family members of transgender, non-binary, and gender diverse individuals to join our Zoom meetings on the 4th Wednesday of every month, at 7-9 pm.

If you are *not* on the PTI McHenry mailing list, please email opendoors@pflagillinois.org to receive a meeting link and password.



News from PFLAG

Homer Glen, Lockport

by Michelle Eckmayer

We seem to have an overall feeling of hope, excitement and anticipation of slowly getting involved in the community again.

We heard from Nancy Mullen from Youth Outlook in March. We wanted to learn more about how Youth Outlook got started and how we can take baby steps in getting support for our youth in the Southwest Suburbs. It was great to hear about the history and we are hopeful that we can move in various directions in making this happen.

In April, we wanted to get more information on how we can grow our advocacy portion of our Support, Educate and Advocate statement.

Mike Ziri from Equality IL visited and gave us a plethora of information and education. Some of us are looking forward to attending Advocacy Day on May 12th.

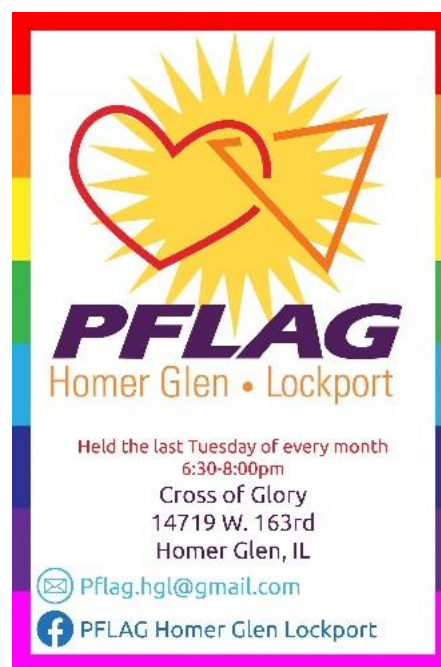
We have also gone to a hybrid style meeting two months ago. Some folks were on zoom and some, socially distanced and masked people, in person.

We hope to continue to keep growing our chapter and making us accessible to everyone in having our meeting this way.

Lastly, we are planning a family friendly event called “Pride in the Parking Lot” on

Sunday, June 27th from 1:00pm-5:00pm.

We are excited to celebrate in ways that are fun and most importantly, safe.



News from PFLAG Ottawa

by Ken Brown

Greetings from PFLAG Ottawa. Because of Covid-19, our chapter continues to meet via Zoom. In February, our guest speaker was Nicole Farley. Nicole is a founding member, and the current president, of the PFLAG Grayslake/Round Lake chapter. Nicole spoke to us about **Partners of Trans Folx**, a group she has started which currently meets virtually. Nicole shared her personal journey and her work with PTF. Nicole has also started to write poetry, and she read a couple of her poems for our enjoyment. Her presentation was very informative and was much appreciated by our chapter. You can find one of

Nicole’s poems, entitled “curves,” in the February issue of Open Doors. Thank you so much Nicole!

In March and April, we have been exploring what it means to be intersex. We have watched several video presentations by persons who were born intersex, followed by in-depth discussions of what we are learning. The videos and discussions have helped to increase our awareness and understanding of the challenges that intersex individuals face.

As always, we at PFLAG Ottawa hope you all are staying safe and healthy, and that you are appreciating life as we hopefully move closer to the end of this pandemic.



News from PFLAG Oak Park

by Nancy Johnson

At our meeting on April 25, our speakers were from the Cook County Health Department at the Adolescent & Young Adult Clinic (AYAC.) They were Amy McManus, Rachel Jackson and Raymond McPherson. The Clinic is diverse inclusive and welcomes LGBTQ patients. They provide HIV medication and management services among their duties.

PrEP is medication to prevent HIV infections. It reduces the exposure from someone with HIV who takes it to someone who doesn't have HIV. It also prevents exposure to someone who takes it from someone with HIV. The medication is either in pills or injection. The study is comparing the two ways to use PrEP.

Currently they are part of a new HIV prevention study for teens. They are looking for teens to participate in the study. Specifically, the study is "examining whether injectable CAB for PrEP is safe and acceptable for adolescents assigned male at birth." More information is available at inject2protect.org.

Also in our meeting, a question was raised about how we could help people in other states who have trans children and state legislations and governors who are passing terrible laws about trans children. Someone asked if a family wanted to relocate to a better state, is there any way to help them? What are some other ways we can help in the fight? I got an email from the president of the Austin TX PFLAG chapter about that. To see her ideas, see a separate article.

**Share your thoughts, stories, art,
photography with OpenDoors:
opendoors@pflagillinois.org**



PARENTS OF TRANSGENDER AND GENDER DIVERSE YOUTH NEEDED!

OVERVIEW

Participate in a study about the experience of parenting your transgender or gender diverse child

Enter a raffle to win one of twenty \$25 gift cards for participating!

ELIGIBILITY

You must be over 19

Your transgender or gender diverse child must be between 4 - 19 years old

Must reside in the United States

CONTACT

Katie Meidlinger, M.A.
katie.meidlinger@huskers.unl.edu

David Hansen
Email: dhansen1@unl.edu

Meet the researcher:
<https://use.vg/I57HtC>

Take the survey here:
https://ssp.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_vCIDqianOvIY6



Are you a parental figure of a child who identifies as trans or nonbinary?



The Parent Support Program is an online evidence-based resource for parents of trans youth developed by a psychologist. The program is currently being researched for its effectiveness. To participate in the research study and access the program, please use the QR code or check out the study Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/parentsupportpsp>

For more information, please contact Dr. Em Matsuno at parentsupportprogram@paloaltou.edu. This study involves research, not treatment and has been approved by the Palo Alto University Institutional Review Board.

YOUR NAMES ARE IN OUR HEARTS

Graphic design project by Andrew Zanevsky

Choosing a new name is a very important step for many transgender and nonbinary people affirming their true gender identity. No matter how much sentimental value or family history the “deadname” (the old name given at birth) carries for their parents, it usually does not fit and often emotionally hurts the transgender or nonbinary person.

My graphic design project, YOUR NAMES ARE IN OUR HEARTS, celebrates **new** names chosen by our children. It is composed of real new names of real people submitted to me by their loving parents. Most have also given me their kids’ color preferences, which I have followed in this work as closely as possible.

We love our kids, and we wholeheartedly affirm their identity, honor their names, their pronouns, and their style!

The artistic method used in this work is called *tessellation*. It involves covering a flat surface (a heart shape in this case) with geometric shapes called tiles, with no overlaps or gaps. In this work, I am using different fonts to spell out names, arranging letters in a tessellated heart shape.

The full work is presented on the cover page of this issue of Open Doors, but it may be difficult to see the detail without zooming in. The original has a very large digital canvas. Individual names included in the work appear on the following pages in three separate fragments, to show the details of each tessellation at higher magnification. If you want to use any of the images to print on T-shirts, posters, or other products, please follow the link below to project files. They include the full project image and separate files for each name:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Lmf9-kF3KR1D7mD3ZzU-MvX7OArVyEQN>

I grant Open Doors readers permission to use images from this project for personal non-commercial use.

If you would like to make a donation to support our organization, please donate to the PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois here: <https://www.pflagillinois.org/product/pflag-council-of-northern-illinois-donation/>

Your donations will help to support LGBTQ+ individuals and their families, advocate for their rights, and educate the public.



YOUR NAMES ARE IN OUR HEARTS

CONTINUED



RYAN



MASON



KIR



ALEXA



COLE



MARTY



AMELIA



MILES



YONI



DAVID SARAH



WILLOW

YOUR NAMES ARE IN OUR HEARTS

CONTINUED



NASH



JUSTINE



ELLERY



RAE



JADE



WILLIAM



AUROORA



ELLA



KEITH



MONICA



DAVID



SAM

YOUR NAMES ARE IN OUR HEARTS

CONTINUED



DASHIELL



ANNIE



ELIZA



KYLE



FOX



PEYTON



AUDREY



ROE



ZOE



DANIELLE



CAMPBELL

ILLINOIS PFLAG HISTORY

Photos on this and the next page are courtesy of **Tracy Baim** from the **Windy City Times/Outlines** newspaper archives who shared them with Nancy Johnson of PFLAG Oak Park who has also helped with captions



PFLAGers from the original Chicago Chapter (possibly called Chicago Lakeview) in the late 1980's. Left-to-right: Mike Channon, unknown, Mike's wife, Annette Brenner, Nancy Johnson, unknown. Mike and his wife were each Presidents of the Chapter at different times. Annette edited the newsletter. Nancy Johnson served as Secretary.

Do you have old photos documenting PFLAG or other aspects of LGBTQ+ history in Illinois? Share them with Open Doors readers! If possible, list people appearing in the photo, the event, the date (or year) when it was taken, and any other details that you remember.



Courtesy of Tracy Baim from the Windy City Times/Outlines newspaper archives

Above: **PFLAG Glenview, 1996.** Nancy Johnson remembers Jerry Keller (top row, 2nd from the right) and his wife Ann Keller standing next to him (both have passed away) as great PFLAGers who gave unrelenting support to both their children.



Courtesy of Tracy Baim from the Windy City Times/Outlines newspaper archives

PFLAG at the Chicago Pride Parade, 1995 (most likely)





Queer Women's Group

Tuesdays at 6 pm,
begins May 11

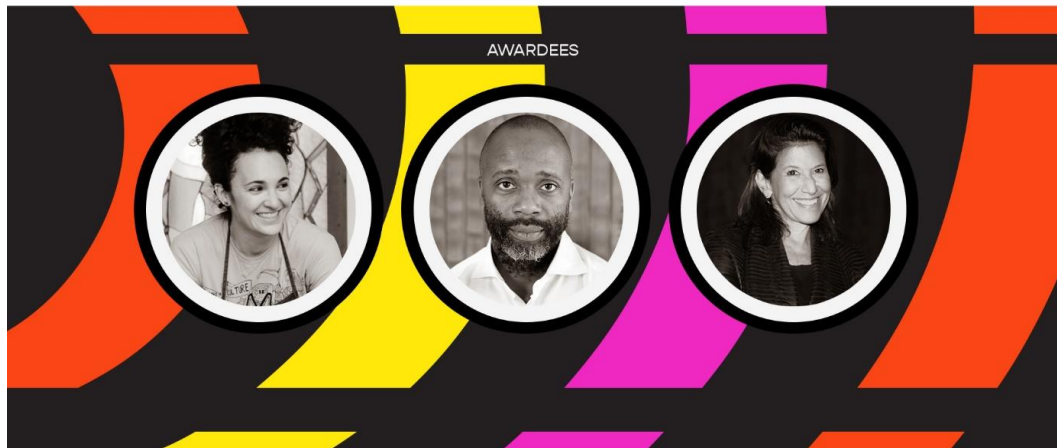
A space for queer (trans, non-binary, and cis) women to honestly and openly engage in therapeutic work around topics important to them. This group is for women who are interested in developing greater insight about themselves, exploring patterns of relating with others, and giving and receiving support.

Sign up ☎ 773-472.6469 ext. 460 ✉ behavioralhealth@centeronhalsted.org



Center on Halsted Human First Virtual Un*Gala

May 6, 2021 • 5 PM



Complimentary Admission: bit.ly/Human-First-UnGala

[REGISTER TODAY >](#)



📅 Friday, May 7 ⌚ 9 am - 3 pm

Mental Health First AID **Online Virtual Training**

MHFA teaches you how to identify, understand & respond to signs of mental illness & substance use disorders. Acquire skills you need to reach out & provide initial support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem.

📍 Virtual Class

[RSVP HERE >](#)

PFLAG Northern Illinois Chapters

PFLAG McHenry Meetings held 2nd Tuesday – 7 pm
Tree of Life Unitarian Church
5603 W Bull Valley Rd
McHenry 60050
pflagmchenry@pflagillinois.org

Parents of Transgender (McHenry) Meetings are held the 4th Wednesday – 7 p.m.
Tree of Life Unitarian Church
5603 W Bull Valley Rd, McHenry 60050
pflagptimchenry@pflagillinois.org

PFLAG Grayslake/Round Lake Meetings held the 2nd Wednesday – 6:30 p.m.
Star Homes
783 Barron Blvd.
Grayslake, IL 60030
pflaggrayslake@pflagillinois.org

PFLAG Rockford Meetings are held the 1st Monday – 6 p.m.
Rockford Public Library's Montague Branch
1238 S Winnebago St
Rockford, IL 61102
pflagrockford@pflagillinois.org

PFLAG Deerfield Meetings held 2nd Thursday – 7:15 pm
Congregation BJBE
1201 Lake Cook Rd, Deerfield 60015
pflagdeerfield@pflagillinois.org

PFLAG DuPage Meetings held 3rd Sunday – 2 pm
St Paul Lutheran Church
515 S Wheaton Ave, Wheaton 60187
pflagdupage@pflagillinois.org

PFLAG Aurora/Fox Valley Meetings held 2nd Sunday – 2 pm
New England Congregational Church
406 W Galena Blvd, Aurora 60506
pflagaurorafoxvalley@pflagillinois.com

PFLAG Bolingbrook Meetings held 2nd Sunday – 2 pm
305 E. Boughton Road, Bolingbrook, IL 60440
pflagbolingbrook@pflagillinois.org

PFLAG Homer Glen / Lockport Meetings held Last Tuesday, 6:30–8 pm
Cross of Glory
14719 W. 163rd, Homer Glen, IL
pflaghgl@pflagillinois.org

PFLAG Hinsdale Meetings held 1st Sunday – 2 pm
Unitarian Church Hinsdale
11 W Maple, Hinsdale 60521
pflaghinsdale@pflagillinois.org

PFLAG Tinley Park Meetings held 2nd Sunday – 2-4 pm
Zion Lutheran Church
17100 69th Ave.
Tinley Park, IL 60477
pflagtinleypark@pflagillinois.org

PFLAG Ottawa Meetings held 4th Sunday - 2:30 pm
Open Table United Church of Christ
910 Columbus St., Ottawa, IL 61350
pflagottawa@pflagillinois.org

PFLAG Will, Kankakee, Iroquois
Contact Rev. Barbara Lohrbach
revlohnbach@gmail.com
plagkankakee@pflagillinois.org

Parents of Transgender (North Shore) Meetings are held the 3rd Sunday – 6 p.m.
Winnetka Presbyterian Church
1255 Willow Rd, Winnetka, IL
pflagptnorthshore@pflagillinois.org

Parents of Transgender (Chicago) Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday – 7 pm
Center on Halsted
3656 N Halsted, Chicago 60613
pflagptchicago@pflagillinois.org

PFLAG Metro Chicago Meetings held 3rd Sunday – 2 pm
Center on Halsted (Senior Room)
3656 N Halsted, Chicago 60613
pflagchicagometro@pflagillinois.org

PFLAG Oak Park Meetings held 4th Sunday – 3 pm
First United Church
848 Lake St, Oak Park 60304
pflagoakpark@pflagillinois.org

PFLAG Oak Lawn Meetings held 3rd Sunday – 2 p.m.
Pilgrim Faith UCC
9411 S 51st Ave
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
pflagoaklawn@pflagillinois.org

meetings suspended

meeting in-person outside

- online meetings

Click anywhere on the map to open it online

