

**Artwork: Simeon Solomon, Sappho and Erinna in a Garden at Mytilene, 1864**

*Watercolor on paper, Tate Britain*



June 2021 | PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois Newsletter

[opendoors@pflagillinois.org](mailto:opendoors@pflagillinois.org)

# Monthly Open Doors

**SUBSCRIBE**



Pride Month 2-4 & 6, PFLAG National 4-5, Chapter Reports 8-13, Scholarship, Books, Poetry, Conferences, Paid Studies

# PRIDE MONTH

We have so much of which to be proud! Are we sure a month is enough?

First and foremost, we are proud of who we are, the LGBTQ+ family and its allies -- unabashedly proud of what makes each one of us an individual. We are proud of what we stand for, how we present, what we contribute to the world we hold close and the world at large. We are proud of who and how we love! And that alone is worthy of personal celebration every day of the year!

We pause this month, though, to celebrate the collective pride that the LGBTQ+ community at large, and its allies, so well deserve, not just for who we are, but how we have bettered the world for all. We celebrate the way we have stepped up to earn respect as leaders, change agents, mentors, contributors to the greater good in countless areas. Whether it be education, finance, entertainment, sports ... we are showing up out front and making a difference!

For example, the Human Rights Campaign recently reported that “The number of openly LGBT+ elected officials in the United States grew by more than a fifth in the past year, with a record high of some 840 gay, lesbian, bi and trans people in office across the country.”

Already in 2021, as further evidence of LGBTQ+ community leaders paving the way for all Americans, Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg became the first openly gay Cabinet member confirmed by the Senate. As well, we saw Dr. Rachel Levine assume the role of assistant

secretary for health in the Department of Health and Human Services, the Senate’s first confirmation of an out transgender federal official.

And this past year, as the globe struggled physically and emotionally to grapple with the unprecedented medical challenges of the pandemic, countless LGBTQ+ health care workers led the way. Here in Chicagoland, the heroic contributions of these talented individuals are made possible because they work for organizations that affirm and celebrate them. In the past year, the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, after rigorous review and testing, awarded the coveted LGBTQ Healthcare Equity Leader award to 26 of Northern Illinois’ healthcare systems who achieved a perfect 100 score in its assessment of their “policies and procedures related to the equity and inclusion of their LGBTQ patients, visitors and employees.” With this kind of commitment, LGBTQ+ health care workers have been able to give their very best, tirelessly providing life giving support to their patients. In so doing, they have provided to all of us an example of dedication, focus and love in service to others. Is there a loftier achievement of which to be proud?

So, this month ... Pride month ... OUR month ... Let’s step out and take a bow!

*Don Donahue*

Vice-President,  
PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois





Pride season is almost upon us, but as any PFLAGer knows, whether we are showing up for a Pride march or a PFLAG Connects virtual meeting, we are #PFLAGProud all year long.

That's our Pride theme — **#PFLAGProud all year long** — and we've got 2021 PFLAG Pride Packs to help you show it, and to share with your friends and family. With so many people still celebrating Pride in virtual spaces, we've got great digital materials to help you show your PFLAG Pride, starting now, right through Pride season, and throughout the year.

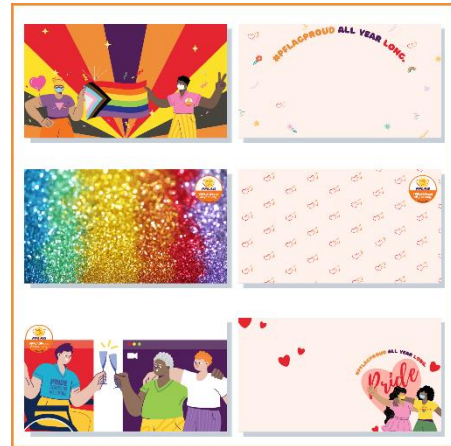
## Facebook Frames



With people spending more and more time on social media, one great way to show that you're #PFLAGProud is with frames that show up on your profile pictures on both Facebook and Instagram. Here's how to get your own!

1. Visit <https://www.facebook.com/profilepicframes>.
2. Use the search term **#PFLAGProud All Year Long** to find our collection of inspiring and inclusive frames, in a variety of Pride flag options.
3. Size it for your profile picture using the easy-to-use sizing tool.
4. Share it on your profile and encourage others to do the same.

## Virtual Backgrounds



These fun, #PFLAGProud all year long Pride-themed backgrounds work with Zoom, BlueJeans, or any virtual platform.

1. Access the backgrounds at [pflagnation.al/ppaylbg](http://pflagnation.al/ppaylbg).
2. Download your favorite or download the entire package of backgrounds via Zip file.
3. Follow the instructions from [Zoom](#), [BlueJeans](#), [Microsoft Teams](#), or your favorite meeting space for uploading virtual backgrounds. \*Note: Images with text might be mirrored to you, but they will be visible to meeting attendees accurately.
4. Share these with your friends and family, so they can also show they are #PFLAGProud all year long.

## GIFs and Stickers



We have great #PFLAGProud animated GIFs and stickers, now available for use on social media, on your photos, and also accessible directly through Instagram.

1. Visit [giphy.com/pflag/pflagproud-all-year-long](https://giphy.com/pflag/pflagproud-all-year-long) and download stickers to your PC or phone. Add them to social media posts, text them to your friends, and more.
2. On Instagram, when creating a story, select “sticker,” search for PFLAG, and add your favorite.

## **PFLAG Tees**



If you're planning to safely attend an in-person celebration — or want to show your PFLAG Pride during a virtual parade — our store is full of great new merchandise, including our #PFLAGPride all year long themed shirt!

Visit <https://inspire.pflag.org/product/pflag-proud-all-year-classic-tee-fem/> (for the fem cut) or <https://inspire.pflag.org/product/pflag-proud-all-year-classic-tee/> for the classic cut — and then be sure to [check out all of the great and inclusive designs at inspire.pflag.org](#), including PFLAG-inspired wear, sure to make your Pride celebrations special, no matter where you hold them.

As a member or supporter of PFLAG National, use the code PFLAGPROUD10 for 10% off of your order. (Note: If you'd like to order in bulk to resell shirts to support your PFLAG chapter, please contact Kevin Halfhill via email for direct, one-on-one support.)



# **From PFLAG National**

## **TAKE ACTION**

Want to help get the Equality Act passed? [Phone bank with us!](#) PFLAG National, in partnership with the NEAT, is providing an opportunity for our members and supporters 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 a quick training 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 for equality!](#)

You can also make a big impact in the fight for the Equality Act by calling your Senators. [Just click and call!](#)

## **FEDERAL**

[President Biden issues a proclamation on International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia \(IDAHOBIT\).](#) The statement notes global progress on LGBTQ+ rights and includes the effects of COVID-19 that widen economic, social, and safety gaps for LGBTQI+ people — and that an epidemic of violence still rages for trans people, especially women of color. It also notes gaps in nondiscrimination protections in many U.S. states.

[President Biden announces reinstatement of Obama-era rule prohibiting healthcare discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.](#) Under the new policy, the Department of Health and Human Services will once again prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity by health care organizations that receive federal funding. This reverses the previous administration's policy that said anti-discrimination provisions of the Affordable Care Act of 2010 did not apply to transgender people.

[Biden administration grants authorization to fly Pride flag at embassies:](#) The move by Sec. of State Anthony Blinken overturns the Trump administration's effective ban on Pride flags.

# From PFLAG National

## COURT

[ACLU of D.C. and public defender's office sue D.C. Dept. of Corrections for housing trans woman in men's unit of D.C. jail.](#) Sunday Hinton has been housed in the men's unit since April 26th, according to the lawsuit. "I would like to be housed in a general population women's unit because I am a transgender woman and identify as a woman," Hinton said in a statement.

[Federal judge dismisses lawsuit against the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference.](#) The suit alleged that Connecticut's trans-inclusive student athletic policies were harmful to cis-women and girls. Andraya Yearwood and Terry Miller, two transgender student athletes who were named in the lawsuit, were allowed to join the lawsuit in defense of Connecticut's inclusive policies. The decision noted that "courts across the country have consistently held that Title IX requires schools to treat transgender students consistent with their gender identity."

## GLOBAL

[Japan - President of Tokyo 2020 Olympics calls for greater LGBTQ+ awareness in Japan.](#) The Olympics President, Seiko Hashimoto, said "When we look back on Tokyo 2020, I want people to think that it was a turning point for diversity, unity, and understanding LGBTQ, so we need to take action now. And that is Tokyo 2020's responsibility."

## MEDIA

[Study shows LGBTQ+-friendly companies more profitable.](#) Academics at two universities in Finland assessed the financial performance of 657 publicly-traded U.S. companies between 2003 and 2016, and found that firms with LGBTQ+-friendly policies tend to enjoy both higher profitability and higher stock market valuations.

[At least eight openly transgender athletes competing in Tokyo Olympic Games this summer.](#) Until this point, an openly trans athlete has never competed in the Olympics, and Tokyo is set to change that. The hopefuls hail from five different countries and include Olympic vets who weren't previously out, as well as promising young competitors. PFLAG New Hampshire is proud to support track and field athlete CeCé Telfer,

who was the first openly trans woman to win an NCAA championship when she won the Division II 400m hurdles in 2019.

[2021 breaks record for most anti-LGBTQ+ legislation passed in one calendar year.](#) 17 anti-LGBTQ+ bills have been signed into law this year, breaking the previous record of 15 set in 2015. An additional 11 anti-LGBT+ bills are sitting on governors' desks waiting to be signed into law or vetoed while dozens more are moving through state legislatures across the country.

[Top platforms are unsafe for LGBTQ community, new GLAAD report says.](#) The report comes a few months after those surveyed in a Pew Research Center study in January said about 68% of lesbian, gay or bisexual adults who said they have been harassed online think it occurred because of their sexual orientation. [Check out the May 13th episode of Something to Talk About Live](#), where we discussed the report and its ramifications for our LGBTQ+ loved ones.

[Trans teen who testified in favor of the Equality Act guest of First Lady at President Biden's joint address.](#) Stella Keating, 16, was chosen to have a conversation with Dr. Jill Biden during a virtual session ahead of the President's address, where she spoke on her advocacy surrounding transgender and non-binary youth, such as the **GenderCool** project. This follows her testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee last month on behalf of the Equality Act.

[More than 400 businesses back the LGBTQ Equality Act.](#) More than 400 companies — including Tesla, Pfizer, Delta Air Lines and Amazon — have signed on to support the Equality Act that is moving through Congress.

[The Best LGBTQ Series on HBO Max, From 'Veneno' to 'It's a Sin':](#) A list of HBO shows that are eminently binge-able and delightfully queer.

[Transgender and Nonbinary Teens Share Their Stories in New Book Series.](#) Part of the **GenderCool Project**, and written by four teenagers, the books aim to open up conversations about young people who are transgender or nonbinary.



## Buffalo Grove 2021 Pride Drive



Same as last year, [BG Pride Drive](#) invites you to drive around Buffalo Grove and admire Pride decorations on participating homes. [Click here to view a map](#)



PFLAG will be represented by Jim and Barbara Levie on Pinehurst Lane. Please stop by to support them.



## Chicago Pride Parade 2021 is planned for Sunday, October 3rd

For more details, [click here](#).



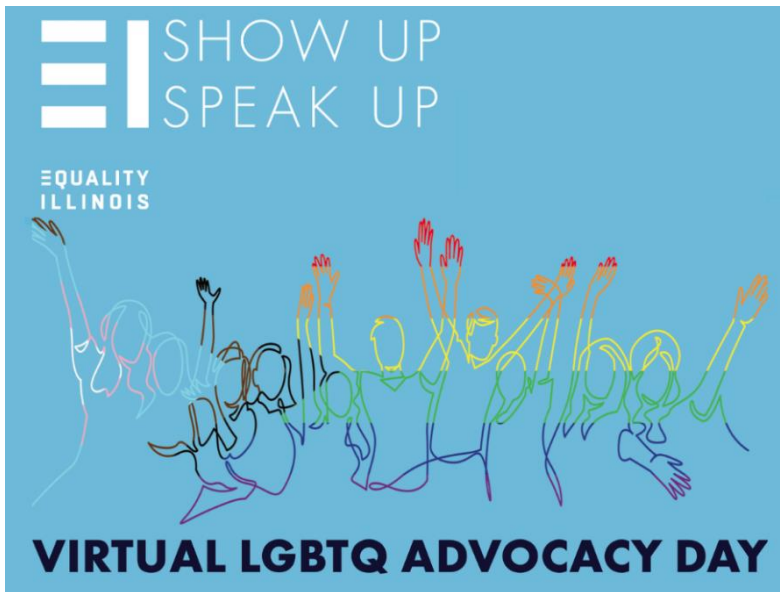
See a calendar of Pride Month events in Chicago [here](#).

## Pride Poetry

[Subscribe to the Queer Poem-a-Day](#) special daily podcast series for Pride Month, featuring a recording of a poem written and read by a contemporary LGBTQIA+ poet for each day of June 2021. This unique, limited-run series will be released on the [Deerfield Public Library Podcast](#) feed, which normally hosts interviews with authors of all genres and other notable people from Chicagoland and around the world.



# From Equality Illinois



If you have missed the 2021 Virtual LGBTQ Advocacy Day on May 12, which was organized by Equality Illinois in coalition with other LGBTQ+ support organizations, here are a few links for your convenience:

- [Email Your State Legislator to support the Keeping Youth Safe and Healthy Act \(weareplannedparenthoodaction.org\)](https://weareplannedparenthoodaction.org)
- Decriminalize HIV in Illinois (HB 1063): <http://bit.ly/yes4repeal>
- Modernize the state's birth certificate law (HB 9): <https://secure.everyaction.com/7C-GxDFKQoqVVeGjD4hSFA2>
- Ensure inclusive business leadership in Illinois (SB 1730): <https://secure.everyaction.com/3kDM64k13E6FFMbftJnzng2>
- Allow for gender-inclusive multi-occupancy restrooms (HB 3195): <https://secure.everyaction.com/nVDlzhFyFoyj1xofPpwOGw2>

SB 818, the Keeping Youth Safe & Healthy Act, passed out of the Illinois House with 60 voting “yes”, 48 voting “no”, and 10 not voting. The bill is on its way to the Governor’s desk. PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois thanks House sponsors of the bill Rep. Camille Lilly and Rep. Kathleen Willis.

**KEEP YOUTH**

**SAFE & HEALTHY**

**ACT**

**PASSED!**



## News from PTI Chicago

by Christine Peters

PTI Chicago hosted our second Book Club during our monthly meeting on Thursday, 5/13/2021 with 19 participants. We enjoyed a lively discussion of the excellent memoir by Senator Sarah McBride entitled *Tomorrow Will Be Different: Love, Loss, and the Fight for Trans Equality*, with the foreword written by Joe Biden. She is currently Delaware's state senator, making her the highest-ranking transgender official in the US. PTI Chicago paid for and sent copies to interested members. It's a fascinating, inspiring read.



As parents, many of us appreciate the patience McBride showed as her mother and father experienced a range of emotions when she came out to them. They supported her work as a trans advocate, even as they struggled to fully affirm her as their daughter. Sarah needed her parents to see and love her as her true self: "Each of us has a deep and profound desire to be seen, to be acknowledged, and to be respected in our totality. There is a unique kind of pain in being unseen. It's a pain that cuts deep by diminishing and disempowering, and whether done intentionally or unintentionally, it's an experience that leaves real scars." (p.35) McBride describes her family as they rally around her, explains the complexities of politics and legislation, and shares her heart-breaking love story. Throughout, she demonstrates remarkable persistence and determination, which have made her a success despite the odds. Currently, Senator McBride serves as chair

of the Health & Social Service Committee, working to make Delaware the 10th state to ensure paid family medical leave. Read more about her work here:

<https://www.health.com/mind-body/lgbtq-health/sarah-mcbride>

Our next Zoom meeting will be on Thursday, June 10, 2021 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. We encourage you to wear your Pride swag! 🏳️‍🌈 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](mailto:bill.guilfoile@gmail.com).

## News from PTI McHenry

by Andrew Zanevsky

10 people attended our May meeting. New co-leaders of PTI McHenry Mary Genzler and Courtney Milligan joined the Zoom call. We welcomed new members as well as regulars and friends from our sister group PTI Chicago.

All parents and other family members of transgender, non-binary, and gender diverse individuals are welcome to join our Zoom meetings on the **4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month, at 7-9 pm.** If you are *not* on the PTI McHenry mailing list, please email [opendoors@pflagillinois.org](mailto:opendoors@pflagillinois.org) to receive a meeting link and password.

Now that CDC guidelines suggest that vaccinated people may return to normal social interactions without masks, we must start planning to reopen face-to-face meetings. I hope that we will be able to implement a hybrid format, allowing remote Zoom connections as well as in-person attendance. However, our reopening depends on the host providing our meeting space - Tree of Life Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Toni Weaver, the leader of PFLAG McHenry chapter which uses the same space, has communicated with TOLUUC and shared their response with us. In short, the church will start gradually reopening some activities, but we have to wait longer. We will keep you updated.



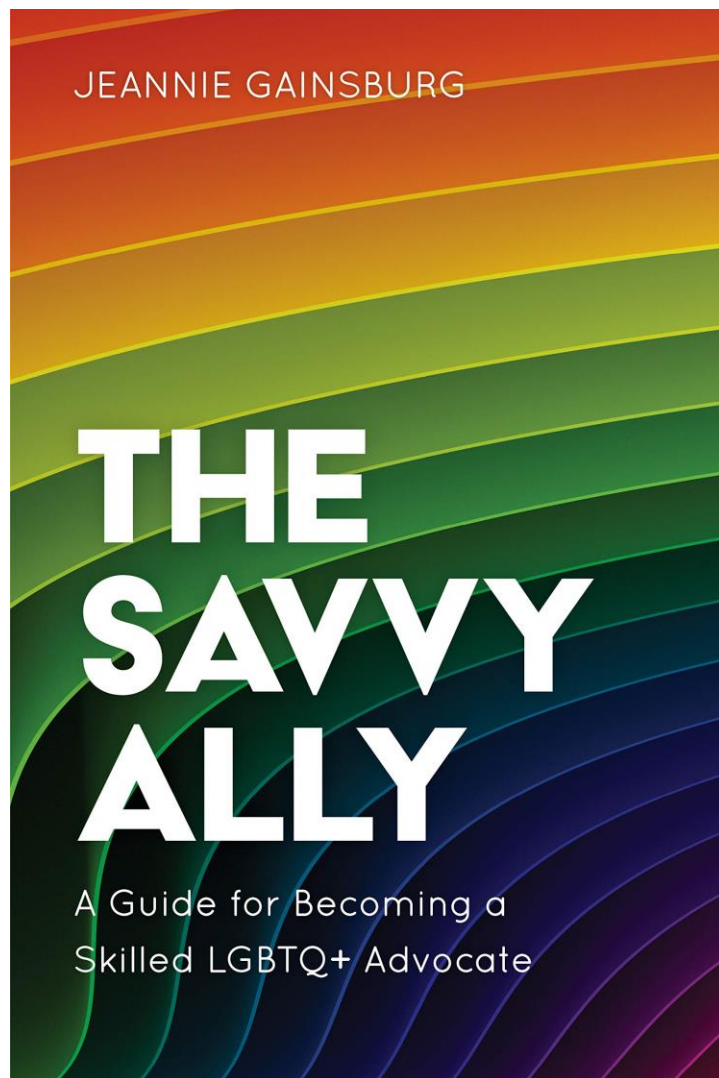


## ***News from PFLAG McHenry***

by **Toni Weaver**

We are going to have a guest at our June 8 meeting:

Jeannie Gainsburg is an award-winning educational trainer and consultant in the field of LGBTQ+ inclusion and effective allyship. She is the founder of Savvy Ally Action and author of the book, *The Savvy Ally*, which was recently featured as Teaching Tolerance magazine's professional development staff pick for spring 2021. Jeannie has a BA in psychology from Brown University and an MA in social work and social research from Bryn Mawr College. She was under the impression that a citation was the result of driving too fast until January of 2019, when she received one from the New York State Assembly for Distinguished Educational & Human Rights Services for her work in promoting LGBTQ+ rights and inclusion. Her encouraging, passionate, and warm-hearted approach will surely jumpstart even the most tentative ally. Visit her website and download free ally goodies at: [www.savvyallyaction.com](http://www.savvyallyaction.com).



Jeannie has shared two free handouts:

- [Savvy Ally Action Parenting Handout](#)
- [Savvy Ally Action LGBTQ+ Inclusive Schools](#)

**Join our Zoom call on June 8<sup>th</sup>, at 7-9 PM.**

If you have not received a Zoom call invitation, please email [pflagmchenry@pflagillinois.org](mailto:pflagmchenry@pflagillinois.org)



## News from PFLAG Oak Park

by Nancy Johnson

We had a good ZOOM meeting on May 23rd. Our speaker was John D'Emilio who is the chairman of the board at Gerber-Hart Library. He is retired now from UIC, where he was a professor of history and gender studies. He has written several books in his field. He has made extensive use of the library archives for research.

He told us about the history of Gerber-Hart which started as a library where people could check out books on LGBT subjects that were not readily available from bookstores, or from other libraries. It gradually collected all sorts of LGBT magazines, newspapers, articles. It is an amazing resource for anyone researching topics in LGBT history. His book, *Queer Legacies: Stories from Chicago's LGBTQ Archives* [see next page] sounds like an amazing collection ferreted out by John from the archives at Gerber-Hart. (<https://www.gerberhart.org/>)

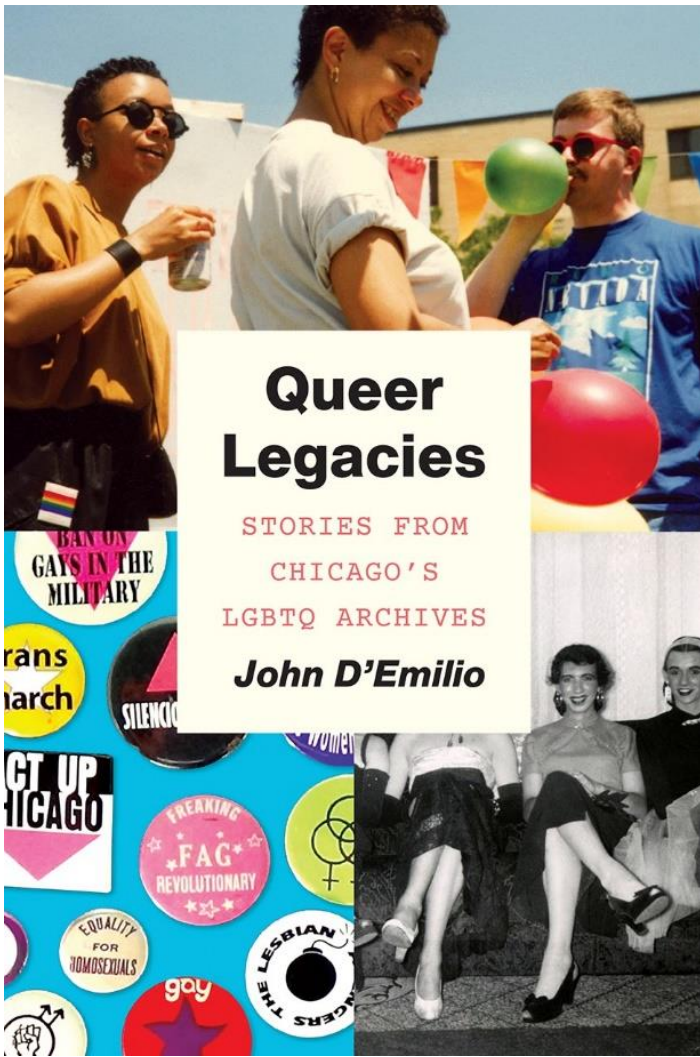
We highly recommend him as a speaker. His email address is: [demiliojohnny@gmail.com](mailto:demiliojohnny@gmail.com)

**For our June 27 ZOOM meeting our guest speaker will be author Kim Oclon.**

Kim Oclon's debut young adult novel, *MAN UP*, was released in April 2020. It centers around a talented baseball player, his (secret) boyfriend, and the acceptance and support everyone searches for and needs. Join Kim as she discusses starting a GSA at the high school where she worked, what inspired her to write *MAN UP*, and learn about the novels featuring LGBTQ characters she read while writing. Kim will also share some recently published titles, from pictured books to novels, featuring a diverse cast of characters.

Having a meeting in June is quite unusual for us. We don't meet because our meeting is usually on Pride Parade Day. Maybe in July we'll be able to meet in person!





[Barnes and Noble](#)   [Amazon](#)

## News from DuPage

by Kristin Shulman & Margaret Donahue

In May, PFLAG DuPage continued holding its chapter meetings via Zoom. It was a beautiful spring afternoon, and our attendance was slightly down but we still had twenty-five people join us. We always start our meeting with general information about events, recommended books and/or movies and what might be going on at both the state and national level legislatively. This month we reiterated that the 2021 Philadelphia Trans Wellness Conference (PTWC) to be held on July 22-24 is going to be virtual and is free to attend. The

mission of the PTWC, which is the largest conference of its type, is 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. We shared the link to the conference center website and encouraged interested people to register

<https://www.mazzonicenter.org/blog/announcing-2021-philadelphia-trans-wellness-conference>.

In May, we also recommended the 2019 documentary, **Born to Be**, which follows the work of Dr. Jess Ting of the Mount Sinai Center for Transgender Medicine and Surgery in New York. This documentary provides an intimate look at how one doctor impacts his patients and how they in turn have impacted him. *Born to Be* can be found free on Kanopy (provided by many library systems) and for a small fee on other streaming platforms.

The highlight of our May chapter meeting was our guest speakers a transgender man and his wife presenting “Being Trans; A Tadpole’s Journey.” For their privacy, we are not sharing their names. Our speakers shared their transition process, reactions from friends, family and co-workers and what it is like to be seen as a cisgender straight couple by those who are not aware of their private situation. They graciously answered our questions and spoke about the difference between privacy and secrecy. When asked how parents can support their transgender children, they mentioned giving the child agency; ask questions like “How do you want me to discuss your previous life?”, “How do you want me to share older pictures of you?” and “How do you want me to correct people who mis-gender you or call you by the wrong name?” In other words, don't assume, ask. Both of our speakers were amazing, and we want to thank them again for joining us.

We will meet again, virtually in June. Our meeting is on Father’s Day, June 20th so we will not have a speaker but instead, spend more time supporting each other on our journeys.



## News from PFLAG Deerfield

by Jodi

We welcomed Lizzy Appleby to our May meeting. Lizzy is the Youth Program Director of Youth Services in Glenview/Northbrook. (But you do not have to be a resident of these suburbs to take part. As Lizzy says, “If you can get there, we welcome you.”) She manages several programs including the Pride Youth Programs. Youth Services also provides individual and group therapy services. Lizzy spoke to us about Pride Youth, parental support and affirming communications.

Pride Youth Program offers social, support and leadership programming for more than 250 LGBTQ+ youth, ages 4-24. There are no geographical restrictions and all services are free. Pride Youth consists of prideConnect, prideSupport and prideLead.

- **prideConnect** offers social and community events including a Trans Youth and Family Summit, movie nights, game nights and bonfires.
- **prideSupport** provides weekly peer groups for grades 2-4, grades 5-7, grade 8 and high school.
- **prideLead** offers youth leadership programming for high schoolers and Action Camp, a 5 day sleepover camp for grades 8-12.

Youth Services also provides parental support through resources and referrals. Lizzy noted how often she refers parents to PFLAG and reminded us that parental support is the #1 predictor of positive outcomes for LGBTQ youth.

Lizzy also spoke about affirming communication and what that sounds like. She asked us to “keep the door open” for our children even when their doors are closed! The door opening techniques

mentioned:

- Be available and willing to talk
- Avoid shame and judgement
- Validate and empathize
- Be curious
- Wonder aloud

Use “SOY”, as in saying: “Some people...; Other people....You might...”

Get support and education for yourself, don't rely on your child.

We are so fortunate to have Youth Services and Lizzy Appleby available to us and our children. In a perfect world, everyone would have such access. Her contact information:

[Lizzy.appleby@ysgn.org](mailto:Lizzy.appleby@ysgn.org)

Youth Services: 847-724-2620 x121 office

Following Lizzy's presentation, we divided into small groups for our own peer to peer support. Sue shared her experience as she attended Equality Illinois' LGBTQ Advocacy Day. There are several bills in the General Assembly that could use your support. Call your senators and representatives. To find out what these bills are, contact Equality Illinois. We will keep zooming for as long as necessary. You are always welcome to join us. Happy Spring!

**GET PUBLISHED!**

**Share your thoughts, stories, art,  
photography with OpenDoors:  
[opendoors@pflagillinois.org](mailto:opendoors@pflagillinois.org)**



## **News from PFLAG Hinsdale**

**by Barb Medley**

Our May 2nd speaker was Steve Andersson, who until recently was a member of the Illinois Human Rights Commission. He talked about the Illinois non-discrimination laws as they apply to LGBTQ people. Steve is a knowledgeable and interesting speaker, who is also a compassionate and accepting professional. We enjoyed listening to and exchanging ideas with him. As an LGBTQ ally, Steve strongly believes in equal rights.

Before his term on the Illinois Human Rights Commission, Steve was a Republican state representative and was a co-sponsor of the Illinois LGBTQ+ educational curriculum bill. Following his term, Gov. Pritzker asked him to become a member of the Illinois Human Rights Commission. There are 7 full time commissioners. Steve recently resigned when his term was up. He was asked to stay on but prefers the advocacy portion of working for equal rights. He now works with the GOP for the ERA and is a governmental lobbyist in Springfield. Steve feels that LGBTQ+ rights benefit more than their community. He said he is an empathetic, sensitive person and these values are important to him.

Every person who makes a state claim of discrimination has their case heard within a year. The filing is free. The hearings for the Commission are not court-oriented in Illinois. There is one Act in Illinois – the Illinois Human Rights Act – and

there are two agencies - the Human Rights Commission and the Illinois Department of Human Rights. The Department investigates, while the Commission judges cases brought before it. If the Department does not take a claimant's case, they can then appeal to the Human Rights Commission.

One recent case of note was *Sommerville v. Hobby Lobby*, a complaint brought by a trans woman who was forbidden from using the women's restroom. Hobby Lobby refused but was willing to create a restroom for her use. Hobby Lobby argued this accommodated her. The Commission decided this was an adverse action and she was entitled to monetary damages, because she was not allowed to exercise her rights and was treated differently than other women.

Steve understands that people have a fear of filing a complaint, and of retaliation, but he encourages filing because it is the only way to promote change. He told one more story that reflected his compassion. He took a one-week vacation in Florida, where he rented a house and put his Pride flag up the flagpole. He received many looks, and then the police showed up and told him there was a rule in the community that only American flags can be displayed. Steve said to us, "We can all fight in different ways. If there is one kid who walked by in that rich community and was helped and needed that message, it was worth it."

**Our June speaker is Ghirlandi Guidetti, who works at the ACLU, and will talk about their LGBTQ and HIV project.**

**People have a fear of filing an [Illinois state claim of discrimination], and of retaliation, but [Steve Andersson] encourages filing because it is the only way to promote change.**



# The Elena M. Zavos Isotita Endowed Scholarship Fund

The College of Applied Health Sciences at the University of Illinois at Chicago is grateful for the generosity of PFLAG Deerfield Chapter members Jodi and Tom Zavos who established the Elena M. Zavos Isotita Endowed Scholarship Fund for students with financial need who are committed to serving the transgender identifying community and LGBTQI+ populations.

Help make education more affordable for students of all gender identities and sexual orientations by donating to the Elena M. Zavos Isotita Endowed Scholarship Fund.



Visit [ahs.uic.edu/alumni/give-to-ahs](https://ahs.uic.edu/alumni/give-to-ahs) or contact Keenan Cutsforth at 312-996-1339 or [keenan@uic.edu](mailto:keenan@uic.edu) to make your donation.

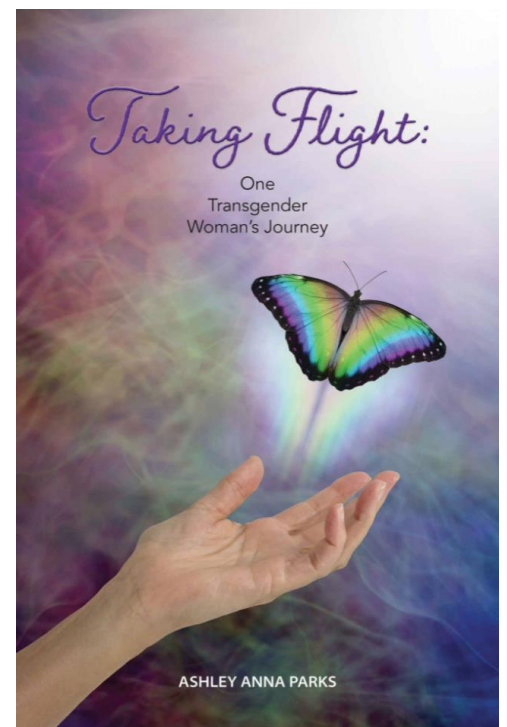
<https://ahs.uic.edu/alumni/give-to-ahs>

## NEW BOOK: TAKING FLIGHT

**Taking Flight: One Transgender Woman's Journey** is a lifetime look at love, work, relationships, and dreams, peppered with wit and wisdom. It is the story about the author transitioning at the age of 65 as a "Blended Spirit" who accepts both her male and female life experiences but still chooses to affirm her gender. Unlike many transgender individuals, Ashley has never felt that she was born into the wrong body. In addition to her own transgender experience, Ashley was an assistant facilitator of transition support groups for two years with the LGBTQIA+ Center in Las Vegas, NV. Prior to that, she retired twice from a 35-year career in public service, winning eight innovation awards during that time.

Written for a broad audience, this book helps readers better understand what life is like as a transgender person, whether readers are transitioning themselves; are family members, friends, or coworkers; or are employers, health professionals, or community leaders seeking first-person equity and inclusion training. The stories are colorful and deeply honest—sometimes painfully raw—but always heartfelt. Wherever you describe yourself on the gender spectrum, this book will give you an opportunity to expand your own perspective.

[butterflydiscoveries.com/books](https://butterflydiscoveries.com/books)



When lawmakers attack trans youth...



# HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS SPEAK OUT

Sign the letter: [bit.ly/NoMedicalBans](https://bit.ly/NoMedicalBans)



Dear friends,

This year we have seen a slew of atrocious bills introduced in states that target and criminalize health care providers for providing evidence-based gender-affirming health care services to trans youths. As a community, we understand that for many trans kids, these services are not only essential, they are life-saving.

It is comforting to know that health and behavioral health care providers also understand this. That's why with the collaboration of GLMA, we were able to send an open letter to the National Governors Association signed by over 1600 health and behavior health care providers opposing these discriminatory and dangerous bills. A clear indication that health care experts are on our side.

If you work in health care services as a provider or a trainee, it is not too late to [sign on to our open letter](#)! Please share this with your networks so that

we can continue to show up for all trans youths across the country.

Like always, I have nothing but gratitude for our resiliency. Together we will fight so that every trans kid can live a full and authentic life.

In solidarity,



[D Ojeda \(they/them\)](#)

Policy Advocate

National Center for Transgender Equality





\* The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Barrington Area is now creating a NAMI Connection Recovery Support Group specifically for the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/ Questioning, + (LGBTQ+) community for the first time ever in Illinois!

LGBTQ+ NAMI Connection Recovery Support Group is a free, peer-led support group designed for any adult (18+) in the LGBTQ+ community who has a mental health condition. Members of the LGBTQ+ population face a set of challenges unique to us as a group specifically, which is why this particular NAMI Connection group demographic is being formed.

You will gain insight from hearing the challenges and successes of others, and the groups are led by trained leaders who've been there. All meetings are 90 minutes long and are confidential. By sharing your experiences in a safe and confidential setting, you can gain hope and feel a sense of connection. The group encourages empathy, productive discussion and a sense of community. You'll benefit from other's experiences, discover your inner strength and empower yourself by sharing your own experiences in a non-judgmental space.

**Tuesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m.**

**Zoom Online — Must register in advance**

Register at <https://namillinois.org/online-support-group-registration-information/>

Or for more information, contact [info@namiba.org](mailto:info@namiba.org)





**Summit** is the **largest LGBTQ conference in the world**, with more than 5,000 attendees every year. It brings together executives, ERG leaders and members, and HR and DEI professionals and experts – all working for LGBTQ equality. Over more than 20 years, Summit has grown to become the preferred place to network and to share strategies that create inclusive workplaces where everyone belongs and where LGBTQ employees can be out and thrive.

This year, Summit will be held as a virtual event during the week of October 4th.

[Click here to watch a video with highlights from the 2020 Summit.](#)



Northwestern University

**Your voice matters!  
Join a paid online  
interview study  
about sexual health  
campaigns for  
LGBTQ+ teens.**

**Earn \$50**



[tinyurl.com/  
prep4teens](https://tinyurl.com/prep4teens)



The Sexual Health Inclusivity during Family Talks Study  
**Help SHIFT the conversation...**

Want to improve discussions at home about health and sexuality between parents and lesbian, bisexual or queer adolescent girls? You may be eligible if you are a parent of a lesbian, bisexual, or queer daughter who is between 12 and 20 years old; speak English or Spanish; and can remember having the talk with you daughter about sexuality and health. If eligible, you will earn a \$50 Amazon gift card for you participation.

For more information, please call (215) 573-8253 or email [familyhealthstudies@gmail.com](mailto:familyhealthstudies@gmail.com). All inquiries are private and confidential.



The Gender-Inclusive Sexuality Talks Program  
**Here's the GIST...**

Want to improve communication about health and sexuality between parents and transgender and gender nonbinary adolescents? You may be eligible if you are a parent of a transgender or gender nonbinary youth who is between 12 and 20 years old; speak English or Spanish; and can remember having the talk with your transgender or gender nonbinary child about sexuality and health. If eligible, you will earn a \$50 Amazon gift card for your participation.

For more information, please call (215) 573-8253 or email [familyhealthstudies@gmail.com](mailto:familyhealthstudies@gmail.com). All inquiries are private and confidential.



# PFLAG Northern Illinois Chapters

**PFLAG McHenry** Meetings held 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday – 6:30 p.m.  
Star Homes  
783 Barron Blvd.  
Grayslake, IL 60030  
pflaggrayslake@pflagillinois.org

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

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

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

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

**PFLAG Bolingbrook** Meetings held 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. 163<sup>rd</sup>, Homer Glen, IL  
pflaghgl@pflagillinois.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**PFLAG Oak Lawn** Meetings held 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – 2 p.m.  
Pilgrim Faith UCC  
9411 S 51<sup>st</sup> 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

