

Open Doors



Photo from the Buffalo Grove Pride Drive 2021 by Katrin Zanevsky

ADVOCACY

PFLAG's mission is a lofty one – to Support, to Educate, to Advocate.

Sometimes being an advocate may seem the hardest, entail the most courage, require the most impactful words, put ourselves in the most uncomfortable space. Not necessarily.

What really does it mean to be an advocate?

Webster submits an advocate is “one who pleads the cause of another; one who supports or promotes the interests of a cause or group” – and this can look so many ways.

How can each of us be an effective advocate for causes that affirm and celebrate the LGBTQ+ community. Explore PFLAG's Advocacy tab on www.pflag.org to get started.

I offer three ways:

1. **Be at the ready for that one-on-one conversation**, for that moment when you realize you can make a difference. Educate yourself. Being informed, being able to separate fact from fiction and knowing someone has your back builds confidence when that moment presents itself. And when you have the chance to vote!! *Let PFLAG help.* Their Policy Statements on issues critical to the LGBTQ+ community help us stand on solid ground.

2. **Put yourself in front of those that can make a difference** for those of you gifted with that ability and opportunity. Fine tune your presentation skills and your ability to put forth a compelling position or stand firm on one that is being challenged. *Let PFLAG help.* Years ago, I participated in one of PFLAG's webinar offerings on how best to approach your school board or your community leaders, how to find those best able to effect change, on whose ears your message best lands, how to stay on point, etc. It has helped me to this day in any number of forums. PFLAG offers

numerous webinars on various topics of interest, providing opportunities not only to learn but to test your delivery skills. Explore PFLAG's academy on-line, and their training tool kits. Legislative and advocacy one-pagers help provide that message and Resources are available to help with the mechanics. PFLAG's Training Toolkits within their Academy On-line are there to further help.

3. **Support the activists among us**, those organizations and individuals with a well-trained voice, a well-prepared message, an impactful delivery, an accomplished support staff. Give them legs through your financial contribution to their work. Embolden them with your presence, involvement, encouragement. Identify those organizations advocating for the LGBTQ+ community that you most respect or whose message or focus or priorities most align with yours. For me, Equality Illinois comes to my mind, as does The Trevor Project ... there are countless others. And of course, *let PFLAG help.* This is PFLAG's forte!

I am convinced there is a powerful advocate in each one of us.

Janet Mock, a transgender rights activist, author, and TY Host offered the following words: “I believe that telling our stories first to ourselves and then to one another and the world, is a revolutionary act.” Never underestimate the power of sharing those stories ... and your impact as an advocate when you do!

Your interest in and subscription to Open Doors is a statement of your advocacy!

And I thank you for that!

Don Donahue

President,
PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois



CHICAGO PRIDE PARADE

OCTOBER 3, 2021



Dear PFLAG Families and Friends,

The PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois is once again participating in the Chicago Pride Parade! This year's parade will be held **October 3, 2021**. It is a one-time change of date due to Covid-19. The route remains the same as in years past. Please plan to join us as we show our pride! Pick your outfit, put on your best walking shoes and prepare for lots of love and excitement. Masks and social distancing are required for those not fully vaccinated.

This year we will again have a trolley. For maximum engagement, we selected the most open design we could find and expect it to be a great option for those who want to participate but are unable to walk the parade route.

The trolley holds 40 people and seats are available on a "first come first served" basis. To reserve a spot on the trolley and/or to ask any questions, please email info@pflagillinois.org. Preference will be given to PFLAG leaders, volunteers and members based on needs. So, please get your requests in ASAP to secure a seat. If you are not a PFLAG member or have not renewed your membership, it is easy to renew online at <https://www.pflagillinois.org/membership-and-donation/>

Since trolley space is limited, most of us will need to

arrange to meet at our designated parade staging area prior to the parade start. We will not have the specific staging location until the week of the parade. Another email will be sent to Chapter leaders to share when we know our assigned staging location.

The parade kicks off at 12 noon sharp. Please plan to arrive early. We plan to take a group photo at 11:00 am. Public transportation is usually a good option for travel that day. The trolley is currently planned to be in place by 10 am. The parade route is close to the Red Line train and many people take the train and walk the final block or so to our staging location.

You may want to make posters for the event or decorate shirts highlighting your family or chapter. When making your posters, please keep in mind that PFLAG is a 501C3 non-profit, and as such we are prohibited from promoting any particular political party or candidate. Make it a fun day! Remember your hat or umbrella and sunscreen (and mask, if not vaccinated). We will provide water and snacks to sustain us for the event.

For additional information about the Parade, check the Parade website at <http://www.chicagopridecalendar.org/>

Thanks!

PCNI Executive Board



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 phone bank whenever is convenient for you.

FEDERAL

[Secretary of State Tony Blinken announces a third gender option on U.S. Passports and Consular reports of births abroad.](#) The State Department [announced](#) that nonbinary, intersex, and gender-nonconforming Americans will be able to choose a gender "X" option other than "male" or "female" when applying for a U.S. passport and consular reports of births abroad. [The timeline for the implementation of this policy is not yet available](#), and Sec. Blinken noted that adding a gender option "is technologically complex and will take time." [Updates on the process to change gender markers to X will be posted here.](#)

[President Biden issues executive order to "advance diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility across the Federal Government."](#) [The order](#) is designed to "take a systematic approach to embedding" diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility in federal hiring and employment based on race, gender, immigration status, disability, LGBTQ+ identity, religion, and other factors.

On July 19th, the Federal Government issued guidance that [PrEP must be covered by almost all insurance plans](#) with no additional costs or fees. Clinic visits and lab tests are also included in the new coverage.



GLOBAL

China - [LGBT accounts deleted on WeChat](#) - Dozens of accounts on WeChat were deleted for being associated with or promoting the LGBT community. The LGBTQ+ community faces discrimination and many fear it is increasing.

E.U. - [E.U. Takes Action Against Anti-LGBTQ+ Laws](#) - The European Commission is taking action against Poland's and Hungary's discriminatory anti-LGBTQ+ bills that closely link gender identity and sexual orientation with pedophilia, launched with towns proclaiming they are "LGBTQ+-free and unwelcoming to queer people."

New Zealand - [Laurel Hubbard to be First Openly Trans Athlete in Olympics](#) - The International Olympics Committee supports New Zealand's transgender weightlifting athlete to participate in the women's event. She will be the first openly transgender athlete to ever compete in the Olympic Games, although allowed since 2004.

MEDIA

[Chicago-based trans activist publishes memoir.](#) Precious Brady-Davis and her transmasculine husband were the first trans couple to be correctly gendered on an Illinois birth certificate following the birth of their biological daughter, Zayn.

[Queer Representation in Movies Increases](#) - Despite fewer movie releases due to the pandemic, queer representation in film increased. 23% of movies released in 2020 featured a queer character. This has a 4.2% increase from 2019's LGBT representation of 18.6%.

These articles are excerpted from [Policy Matters](#), an email publication of PFLAG National. Become a PFLAG member to receive the full newsletter:

<https://pflagil.org/membership-and-donation/>

News from PFLAG
Homer Glen / Lockport
by Michelle Eckmayer

We are happy to say our Pride in the Parking Lot Celebration was a success. The weather cooperated and we were able to be both inside and outside. We had 200+ friends join us for music, food, games, crafts, face painting, an OUTrageous game of Bingo with Miss Lucy Foozi and Mr. D's Magic and illusion show.

A fun-filled day for families and friends, many new faces and an overall feeling of love & celebration.



PFLAG Homer Glen / Lockport (continued)

Pride in the Parking Lot Celebration photos



News from PFLAG Deerfield

by Jodi

PFLAG Deerfield met on Zoom in July. We are excited to announce **we plan to return to in person meetings come September!** Our plan is to have a hybrid meeting in order to accommodate those not yet comfortable returning; and also to allow us to continue to welcome our long distance participants. Masks and social distancing will be required for those not fully vaccinated.

Our July meeting began with Sue informing us of the PFLAG National Convention in October; Moving Equality Forward in July; and the return of the Chicago Pride Parade on October 3. We then welcomed the incredibly talented **Lex Barberio** as our guest speaker.

Lex is a multidisciplinary award-winning creative photographer. Lex's journey with art began in high school and eventually led to a career in advertising. Lex shared that she came out as queer at 15 years old and "found herself through photography". Lex took photographs of people she admired, used them as a sounding board for her own personal thoughts, and then figured out how to share that with the world.

Lex discussed her works [Hydrophilic](#); [The Ambisexuals](#); and [Understanding Me](#). [Hydrophilic](#) was Lex's first exhibit. It was taken on the rooftop of the Miami Ad School and was a visual coming out to her family and friends.

[The Ambisexuals](#) was Lex's second big series and the first to make an impact. It was created in Brooklyn with her New York community and debuted as part of Stonewall 50 -WorldPride NYC 2019. [The Ambisexuals](#) speaks to gender fluidity. Each model is photographed as masculine, androgenous, and feminine. Lex credited the team of artists including the hairdresser and makeup artist who worked tirelessly on this amazing series.

[Understanding Me](#) is a photo series paired with a short film that explores the journey of twelve

LGBTQIA+ people and their relationships with their gender and pronouns. This series was created in order to bridge the knowledge gap within and outside the LGBTQIA+ community. [Understanding Me](#) was at the Museum of Contemporary Art Long Island from May 8, 2021 to June 27, 2021. I think I speak for all of us present that this is an immensely powerful creative project.

Lex' future plans include a comprehensive sex education book where all is explored, and all are informed. Undoubtedly, this will be also an important piece of work. Please check out Lex at [LexBarberio.com](#). Better yet- invite her to your next meeting and experience her incredible talent for yourself. *[Editor: see Lex's works and read our interview in the [November 2020 issue of Open Doors](#) on the cover page and pages 11-15.]*

Our meeting concluded with discussion, conversation and support. Happy Summer Everyone!

News from PFLAG Hinsdale

by Barb Medley

Since our PFLAG monthly meeting fell on July 4th, we hoped to meet the following Sunday at a park in Elmhurst – our first in-person gathering since the COVID pandemic lockdown.

Unfortunately, it was rainy, and the gathering in Elmhurst was cancelled. Instead, we met on Zoom. Hopefully, for the August meeting we'll be back in the Hinsdale Church from 2-4 p.m.

Our scheduled speaker on August 1st is Brigid Leahy from Planned Parenthood. She'll speak about the REACH (Responsible Education for Adolescent and Children's Health) Act, which was developed based on input from people across Illinois, including youth, educators, social workers, sexual and interpersonal violence prevention experts, health care providers, and advocates. It requires updated sex education standards in Illinois public schools.



News from PTI Chicago

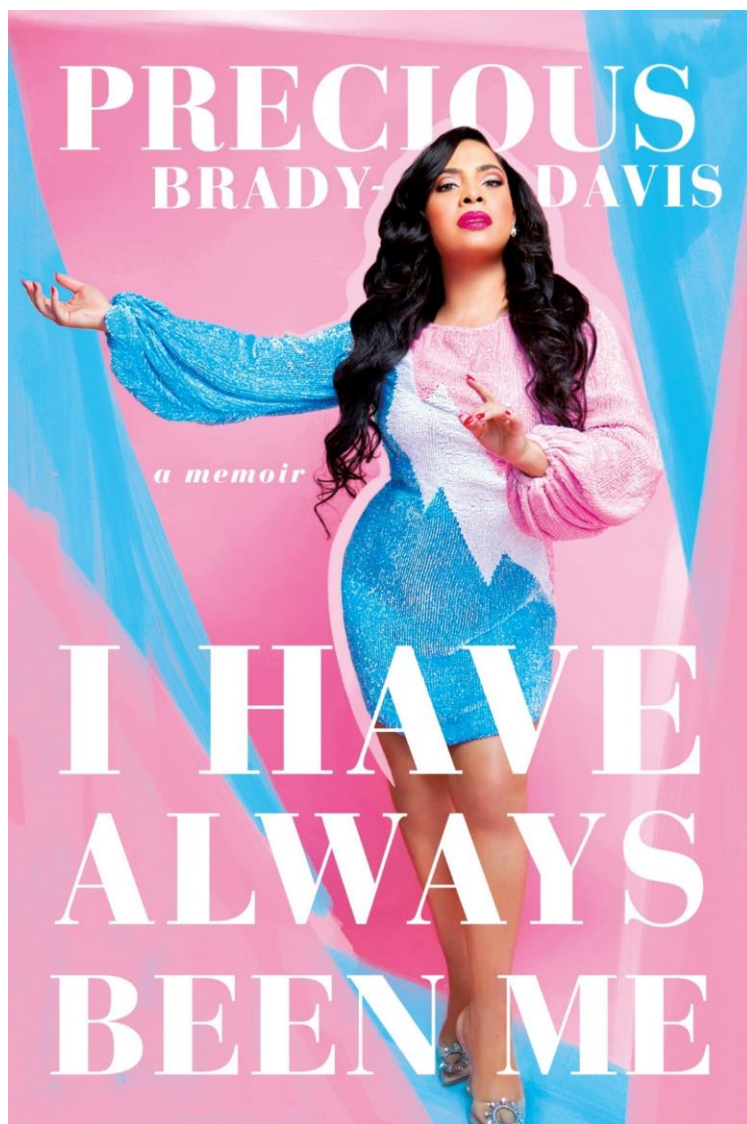
by Christine Peters

PTI Chicago welcomed 17 participants during our July meeting, as we continue to host many first-time participants, including some loving grandparents. We are all enriched by the range of experiences shared by parents who have a parallel journey to their child's identity journey. We recognize the diversity of our experiences and the "danger of a single story" as first described by novelist Chimamanda Adichie. We occasionally hear parents express that their young child behaved in ways that fit their gender assigned at birth. How can they be trans or non-binary? They have heard stories of very small children resisting their assigned gender and think this is "the way" children who are trans behave. In fact, each story of gender exploration and coming out is unique. Our group has heard from parents who wonder if their child's expression is real or a fad, or parents who are hesitant about medical intervention. I wonder if cisgender people, no matter how well-meaning, can ever truly understand the dysphoria or societal struggles experienced by trans folx? Our group certainly tries to provide empathy and support to questioning parents while remaining aware that our fears and anxieties can trigger others.

Ariel Groner, creator of "The List" (<http://www.thelistforus.com/> is a collection of resources for the Trans and Gender Nonconforming community and their allies) and therapist at the Juniper Center, will be our guest speaker in August.

Our September plan is to hold another book discussion, this time on *I Have Always Been Me: A Memoir* by Precious Brady-Davis, an award-winning trans advocate and former outreach coordinator at Center on Halsted. You will receive an email on how to receive a copy of the book courtesy of PTI Chicago. Please plan on joining us!

We gather via Zoom on the second Thursday of each month. Next meeting is Thursday, August 12, 2021 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. 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

All parents and other family members of transgender, non-binary, and gender diverse individuals are welcome to join our Zoom meetings on the **4th Wednesday of every month, at 7-9 pm**. The next meeting date is July 28th. If you are *not* on the PTI McHenry mailing list, please email opendoors@pflagillinois.org to receive a meeting link and password several days before each meeting.

Get published! Email your essays, photography, artworks to Open Doors: opendoors@pflagillinois.org



by Margaret Donahue

PFLAG DuPage is still meeting on Zoom. Our numbers are down a bit this summer but after a year of isolation people are catching up with family and rescheduled events from last year. We had 22 people join us on 7/18 for a wonderful talk by Andi Voinovich. Andi serves as the Associate Pastor of Downers Grove First United Methodist Church. Previously Andi shared their story as part of one of the Outward Journey programs. They are passionate about the intersection of faith and social justice. Many people come to PFLAG conflicted about how allyship affects their participation in their faith tradition. Andi's experiences opened the floor to much discussion about how various institutions reconcile or don't when challenged about policies of inclusion. During our discussion we learned that Youth Outlook is planning to host a drop-in center in Downers Grove at Andi's church. This will be a tremendous asset to the community.

PFLAG DuPage will have an executive committee meeting on Saturday with discussion about leadership succession planning and how we move to meeting again as the pandemic ends, if it in fact is ending or just morphing. Naper Pride in Naperville will be holding, for the first time, a Pride Fest on September 11 and 12. Our group will host a table at the Naper Settlement venue. **Members are encouraged to attend and volunteer beyond our table set-up as a way of getting back out in the world at least locally.**

Please follow our Facebook Page; PFLAG DuPage of Wheaton and message if you would like to be on our meeting distribution list.



ARTICLES, LINKS

Wired: Prisoners, Doctors, and the Battle Over Trans Medical Care –

<https://www.wired.com/story/inmates-doctors-battle-over-transgender-medical-care/>

Advocacy opportunity: The Human Rights Campaign in Michigan is looking for people who are able to make calls on Tuesday, Aug 31, 2021. Use this link to sign up:

<https://www.mobilize.us/hrc/event/400000/>

IT GETS BETTER PROJECT. 10

New Web Series: **“Passion Power Performance”**
Join four out LGBTQ+ athletes as they prepare – mentally, physically, and emotionally – for the Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020. “Passion Power Performance” is a co-production between Procter & Gamble and the It Gets Better Project.
<https://itgetsbetter.org/passion-power-performance/>



Here to Support LGBTQ Families

Howard Brown Health provides safe and affirming spaces to access support and explore the beauty of parenting for queer, trans and nonbinary people. This July, we have many opportunities to connect with others and find information about our [Alternative Insemination program](#).



YOUTH HOUSING PROGRAM

Housing

Apartment-style housing with rent and utilities covered. Roommates are LGBTQ+ identified or allies. Youth will be housed in a safe and inclusive environment.

Support

Center on Halsted trained staff will work with the youths' goals and emphasize a welcoming community.

Success

Youth who are ready to work on their goals with guidance for their next step in life are encouraged to participate.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH VIRTUAL PROVIDER TRAINING

CLINICAL WORK WITH LGBTQ+ CLIENTS

VARIOUS DATES • 10 AM - 12 PM
CENTERONHALSTED.ORG/CLINICAL-TRAINING



4TH QUARTER OF LIFE FOR AGES 55+

RESOURCE FAIR

AUGUST 17 • 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM

CENTER
ON 806 W.
ADDISON





📅 Wed. Aug. 11

🕒 7:00 pm

Work In Progress: A Comedic Showcase of Chicago

*Celebrate Chicago's reopening by celebrating Chicago comedy with Chihumanities + SHOWTIME Original Series WORK IN Progress creator **Abby McEnany** curates a lineup of local talent for an evening of laughter on 8/11.*

📍 Navy Pier Lake Stage

[RSVP HERE >](#)



📅 August 15

🕒 Varied Times

Lakeside Pride March the Pride Parade

Join Chicago's LGBTQ + Ally marching band! Percussion, winds, and colorguard of all skill levels are encouraged to join, even if it's been years since you've performed. Rehearsals begin August 15th

📍 Center on Halsted

[RSVP HERE >](#)



📅 Wed. Aug. 18

🕒 6:30 pm

Chicago: Queer Home CookOUT Tour

Wednesday, Aug. 18th celebrate the release of the anthology, Chicago: Queer Home CookOUT Tour, touring the United States with a series of special events by local queer artists in each city. The next city in the final leg of our tour is Chicago! Free + NO RSVP required.

📍 3656 N. Halsted

[LEARN MORE HERE >](#)

Dear LGBTQIA+ Community,

Are you 18 years or older and identify as transgender, gender nonbinary, gender fluid, genderqueer, agender or gender non-conforming?

We at Case Western Reserve want to better understand **YOUR** daily stressors, anxiety and factors that contribute to your resilience in this 45-60 min research study.

We hope to use the results to increase understanding and reduce stigma and gender discrimination. As a thank you, each participant will be entered into a raffle for a giftcard.



If you have questions, please contact:

Amy Przeworski, Ph.D.: axp335@case.edu

Alex Piedra, B.A.: aap145@case.edu

<https://bit.ly/3IBxL8s>



LURIE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF CHICAGO

THE GENDER JOURNEY PROJECT -A RESEARCH STUDY-

Is your child:

- Gender diverse or transgender?
- At least 6 years old?
- Not yet in puberty?

*Help us learn more about growing up as a
gender diverse youth!*

YOU & YOUR CHILD WILL GET PAID TO PARTICIPATE!

For more information:

Call or Email Ada (she/her):

312-227-0157 (ext. 70157)

312-857-4872

GenderJourneyProject@LurieChildrens.org

Text Ada by snapping a
picture of this QR code



Lurie Children's IRB #2020-3925

A Longitudinal Study of Gender Nonconformity in
Prepubescent Children - The Gender Journey Project

PI: Diane Chen, PhD

The content of this flier has been approved by the Lurie Children's IRB



THEATER/FILM

[Pride Arts \(pridearts.org\)](http://pridearts.org)

brings you the international **Summer Film Festival** which includes 29 films from eight countries that will stream online in four separate programs, each available online for one week.

Streaming Online Only

Tickets: \$12.00. Admission allows unlimited viewing through the end of the week of release for the shorts program or feature film purchased.



This incredibly diverse selection of films was chosen by an esteemed LGBTQ+ panel that reviewed hundreds of submissions. The films are hilarious and heartbreaking focusing on topics specific to queer life ranging from Zoom dating, Star Trek fandom, and modern dance.

The films will be shown over three separate programs and a feature film, approximately two hours per program, with each program streaming for a one-week time frame.



Summer Film Festival – Feature Film: BOY MEETS BOY



Summer Film Festival – Program C
Streaming Online -August 1-7, 2021



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

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

meetings suspended

meeting in-person outside

- online meetings

Click anywhere on the map to open it online

