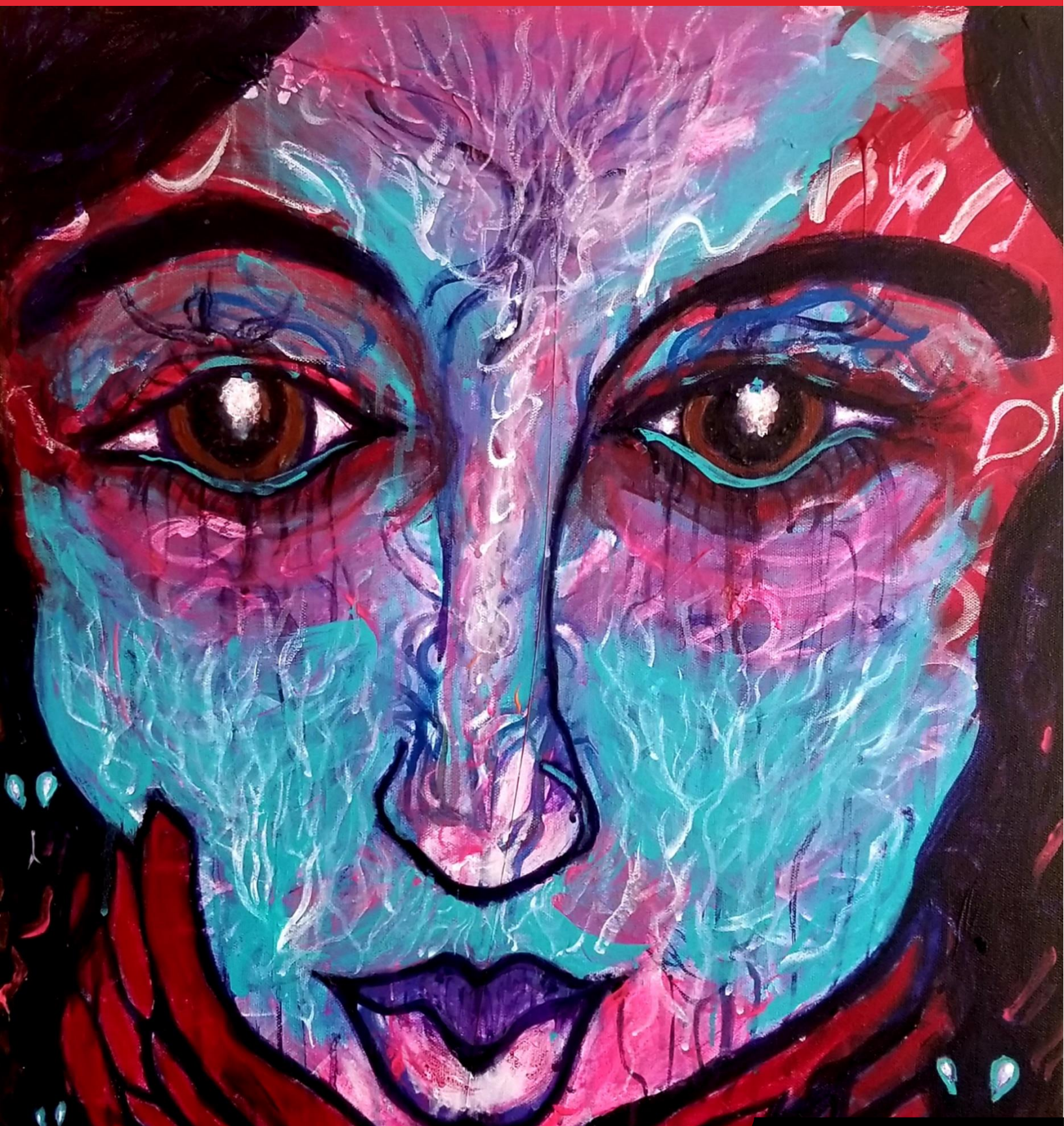


Join us for The Power of Advocacy one-day conference! – pages 3-5



Open Doors

↑ *The Offering* by Jennifer Spektor
See Cover Art on page 3 for links to more works

...Now More Than Ever

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter, I find it hard to be optimistic. Mike Ziri, of Equality Illinois, recently offered:

- More than 300 anti-LGBTQ+ bills have been introduced in state capitols across the country this year.
- The Dobbs decision strikes at the heart of reproductive rights and LGBTQ+ rights.
- Anti-LGBTQ+ harassment and discrimination are on the rise.

Like I said, sometimes it's hard to be optimistic.

But I'm a positive person by nature. I want to feel hopeful. So, I think about the people and organizations working to build a better tomorrow. I think about PFLAG. It's easy to feel good about PFLAG. It's committed to the protection and affirmation of the LGBTQ+ community. It never loses its drive or its determination. PFLAG has its eyes and ears on current events. It pays attention when I cannot. When I'm fatigued, frightened, and overwhelmed. When the news is too much to handle. PFLAG is there. Watching. Resisting. Working.

I went to my first PFLAG meeting over 10 years ago. Thanks to PFLAG, I'm stronger and wiser now than I was back then. But I still need PFLAG, and PFLAG needs me. PFLAG needs me at its meetings. PFLAG needs me as a member. And PFLAG needs you too.

You are always welcome at PFLAG regardless of membership status. But paid membership is important. Especially today. When the news is dire. The climate hostile. The hate apparent. **We need the love and support of PFLAG now perhaps more than ever.** Please consider a paid membership to support PFLAG's work. PFLAG needs you!

Your tax-deductible membership payment to PFLAG

- Supports PFLAG's legislative advocacy at the state and national level
- Supports community and national outreach efforts in schools, libraries, businesses, et al.
- Supports participation in community PRIDE events including the Chicago Pride Parade
- Operates and supports our help line
- Maintains our website and the publication of our Open Doors newsletter
- Covers the printing costs of brochures and educational materials
- Supports the establishment and growth of strong PFLAG chapters in our area
- Provides liability insurance to the chapters supported by PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois

Membership dues are shared by

- Your local chapter
- PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois
- PFLAG National Office

Membership Levels

- Household Membership \$45
- Supporting Membership \$60
- PFLAG Flag Waver \$100
- PFLAG Hero \$250
- PFLAG Superhero \$500

Please go to www.pflagillinois.org to complete an enrollment form and to join online or by mail.

PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois
P.O. Box 734
Elmhurst IL 60126

THANK YOU!

Jodi Zavos
Secretary, PCNI



PCNI Board Elections

The PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois has elected the Board of Directors for the new two-year term starting on October 1:

- President – Andrew Zanevsky
- Vice President – Ann McAuliffe
- Treasurer – Jim Levie
- Secretary – Jodi Zavos

We enthusiastically welcome Ann, who has been an active leader in the PFLAG Deerfield chapter and has already made exceptional contributions to PCNI projects, including the Fall Conference.

We thank Don Donahue who has stepped down after serving for several years as VP and President of PCNI. His dedication to PFLAG causes and his kind, graceful, and inspirational coordination of PCNI work have set a high standard for the incoming officers.

Andrew, Jim, and Jodi will continue serving as officers.

The elected Board is ready to take on the challenges facing PFLAG and further support the LGBTQIA+ community and its allies.

We are grateful to all volunteers leading PFLAG chapters, participating in our projects, and advancing the PFLAG mission.

Cover Art

The artwork on the cover of this issue has been published with permission of the artist/DJ/musician **Jennifer Spektor**. Enjoy her creations here:

Instagram: [@jenniferspektor](https://www.instagram.com/jenniferspektor)

[facebook.com/jenniferspektor1](https://www.facebook.com/jenniferspektor1)

jenniferspektor.bandcamp.com

soundcloud.com/jenniferspektor



**JOIN US for the
PCNI Conference**

THE POWER OF ADVOCACY

October 8th, 2022

Water Tower Place, Chicago

The PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois (PCNI) partners with Howard Brown Health and FashionBar for an educational conference and fashion show **The Power of Advocacy**

WHERE: Water Tower Place, Chicago, Level 3

WHEN: Saturday, October 8, 9:30 am - 4:15 pm
Cost is \$10 and includes conference, fashion show, continental breakfast, and lunch.

The Power of Advocacy will include several speakers, a panel discussion, informational tables, networking opportunities, and a fashion show presented by FashionBar. The panel consists of people of various ages and experiences, and representatives of various organizations. The fashion show celebrates identity and self-expression.

Register At:

pflagil2022chicago.rsvpify.com

Conference Committee: opendoors@pflagillinois.org

See the next page for the Conference Schedule →





PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois 2022 Conference

The Power of Advocacy

Schedule

9:30am-10:00am	Registration/Breakfast
10:00am-10:10am	Welcome
10:10am-11:10am	Keynote Speaker, Shui Sherard <i>The Power of and the Need for Advocacy in an Age of Rising Intolerance</i>
11:10am-11:30am	Break
11:30am-12:15pm	Presentation Julio Flores from Howard Brown Health <i>Broadway Youth Center – Advocacy as a Framework</i>
12:15pm-1:00pm	Lunch
1:00pm-1:40pm	Fashion Show by FashionBar, featuring trans and non-binary models
1:40pm-2:00pm	Break
2:00pm-2:45pm	Presentation by Mike Ziri from Equality Illinois <i>Advancing LGBTQ+ Equality and Inclusion in Illinois in 2022 and Beyond</i>
2:45pm-3:00pm	Break
3:00pm-4:15pm	Panel Discussion 8 Perspectives that Change Lives: Connector, Wavemaker, Grass Roots Activist, Parenting Coach, Renaissance Woman, Inspiration, Resilience, Hopeful
4:15pm	Conference Closes
5:00pm-8:00pm	<i>FashionBar Chicago cordially invites Conference attendees to stay for a fashion show event “Designer Reveal” to be held in the same space.</i>



PCNI Conference: The Power of Advocacy, October 8

PANEL DISCUSSION

8 Perspectives that Change Lives

Connector

Andi Voinovich

Associate Pastor at Downers Grove First United Methodist Church

Renaissance Woman

Stefanie Clark

Activist, Philanthropist, Howard Brown Health

Wavemaker

Nancy Mullen

Youth Outlook Executive Director

Inspiration

Jay Diaz

Manager of VOICES Team at Broadway Youth Center, Howard Brown Health

Grass Roots Activist

Carolyn Pinta

Director of The Pinta Pride Project, and BG Pride

Resilience

Khyare Stevens

Broadway Youth Center, Howard Brown Health

Parenting Coach

Heather Hester

Founder of Chrysalis Mama

Hopeful

Marco Floreani

AbbVie, Inc.

Parking and Directions to the Conference

The conference will be held at **FashionBar LLC** located on **Level 3** in Water Tower Place at **835 Michigan Ave, Chicago**.

The location is accessible by public transportation. Parking at Water Tower is expensive, so we recommend using either SpotHero or ParkWhiz smartphone app to find more affordable parking nearby.

The main entrance of Water Tower Place does not open until 11 am, so you will need to enter the building through the **Curbside Pickup entrance**, which is located on a drive that passes through the middle of the building from Pearson St on the south side of the building to Chestnut St on the north side. If driving, enter the Curbside Pickup entrance from Pearson Street. If walking, you can enter from either Pearson or Chestnut. Once you enter the building, check in with security and proceed to Level 3 to FashionBar (on Level 3, follow the hallway on the left of MORPHE).



Preparations for the Conference Power of Advocacy that will take place on October 8th are in full swing!

Our devoted volunteers are packing “goody bags” and making buttons for attendees.



Volunteering is one of the core strengths of PFLAG. People donate their time and talents with joy and complete big projects on a minimal budget because they care about human rights, freedoms, and equality. They gift their Love to the community.

From PFLAG National

FEDERAL

Passage of Respect for Marriage Act (RMA) delayed until after election. Senators Baldwin (D-WI), Collins (R-ME), Portman (R-OH), Sinema (D-AZ), and Tillis (R-NC) released a statement saying they are "confident...we will have the bipartisan support to pass this bill" in the lame-duck session. From PFLAG National's Executive Director Brian K. Bond, "A vote for the Respect for Marriage Act is not about politics; it's about our families and our values as a community and as a nation. ...[I]t is disheartening that some Senators held back a vote because they are unwilling to publicly support something as fundamental as love."

COURT

Federal judge rules PrEP coverage mandate violates religious freedom. Two Christian-owned businesses sued the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), arguing that the Affordable Care Act's requirement that HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis, commonly known as PrEP, be covered by employer-based health insurance encouraged "homosexual behavior" and therefore violated their religious beliefs. District Judge Reed O'Connor agreed that the PrEP mandate violated the plaintiff's rights under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

LGBTQ+ advocacy groups sue Florida over Medicaid gender-affirming care ban. Florida's Agency for Health Care Administrators (AHCA) removed Medicaid coverage for puberty blockers, hormones, and gender-affirming surgeries for transgender Floridians last month. The plaintiffs, represented by four organizations including Lambda Legal, argue that the rule violates the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause and the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) protection against sex discrimination.

Federal Circuit Court rules Arkansas cannot enforce its gender-affirming care ban. The Circuit Court upheld a lower court ruling which enjoined enforcement of the 2021 law banning trans youth under 18 from accessing gender-affirming care, holding that the law discriminates on the basis of sex.

MEDIA

LGBTQ+ youth in military families have higher attempted suicide rates than those in civilian families. A Trevor Project study found that 23% of LGBTQ+ youth in military families attempted suicide in the previous year, compared to 14% of LGBTQ+ youth in civilian families. In addition to stress related to COVID, military families have additional stressors such as frequent moves and separation from loved ones. Having a supportive parent in their lives was shown to significantly reduce mental health issues in LGBTQ+ youth, however. We encourage military families to check out our publication "[At Ease: Support for Military Families with LGBTQ+ Children and Teens](#)," also [available in Spanish](#).

GLOBAL

Iran - Two LGBTQ+ activists sentenced to death. A human rights group reported that they were accused of promoting homosexuality, promoting Christianity, and communicating with media opposed to the Islamic Republic.

Singapore - Prime Minister announces repeal of sodomy law and announced that the government would take steps to prevent legal challenges to allowing legal recognition of same-sex marriages.

Vietnam - Health Ministry announces it will no longer recognize homosexuality as a "disease." The ministry also announced it would outlaw conversion therapy.

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 McHenry

by Cate Becker

Our Guest, Heather Cash, from Lake County LGBTQ Resource Center told us what is available through the center:

- Safe Zone training – create a safer more inclusive environment for your agency
- Q+ Youth Support Group
- Adult Support Group
- Parents Support Group
- Queer Happy Hours – Eat, drink and be gay

We talked about and had information available for the PCNI Fall Conference.

Several experienced Parents and an LGB adult were asked to share their stories about coming out and other anecdotes. They had words of wisdom, encouragement, and some laughs for us.

16 people attended. We welcomed 4 new people.

We are meeting in person.

Tree of Life no longer requires masks.



Toni Weaver, Karen Graham, and Carol Fetzner staffed a PFLAG resource table at the 2022 Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Recovery Conference held on 9/9 at McHenry County College. The PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois was one of the sponsors of this event. Outreach opportunities like this one help to inform the community of the resources that PFLAG can provide.



News from PFLAG DuPage

by Bonnie Clemens

Members of PFLAG DuPage enjoyed hosting a booth at the second annual **Naper Pride** event held September 10 at Naper Settlement. It was a gorgeous day, and we were pleased with the constant stream of visitors to our booth. The buttons and the beaded pins which we offer at the booth continue to be a major draw, particularly those items with the various LGBTQ+ colors and flags. It is heartwarming to watch someone's excitement as they choose a pin that validates themselves.



For our September chapter meeting, we heard from Jacquie Christen, Librarian and Public Services Assistant Manager for the Glenside library. Jacquie spoke about the work and consideration put into ensuring that libraries are for everyone, and that everyone feels welcome. She walked us through the selection process, collection audits, and the decisions

around how things are displayed. There's a long list of professional journals and external resources used for this. Jacquie walked us through the process by which resident challenges to material are handled. It was good to learn that one must provide their name and verify that they have read/watched the entire work before submitting a written challenge. The challenge must provide specific examples and show how the work as a whole causes the problem that they have described. As private citizens and PFLAG members there are several things that we can do to support our local libraries in ensuring that libraries continue to provide resources affirming to our LGBTQ+ loved ones:

- Show up at the public library, borrow and read books that have been challenged or banned in the last year.
- Request that your public library purchase books that are by or about queer people and people of color.
- Plan to attend and speak out your local school board meeting in support of books that are by or about queer people and people of color.
- Write a letter to your local newspaper.
- Participate in and attend your library and school board elections.
- Make donations to groups doing work on the ground.
- Write to your local lawmakers at the state and local level about defending intellectual freedom and the right to read for all.

Additional Resources provided by Jacquie:

- Library Bill of Rights:
www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill
- Freedom to Read Statement:
www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomreadstatement
- Brooklyn Public Library Books Unbanned:
www.bklynlibrary.org/books-unbanned
- Fighting book bans and challenges:
bookriot.com/how-to-fight-book-bans-and-challenges
- Action items for Banned Books Week:
bookriot.com/actions-for-banned-books-week

News from PFLAG Hinsdale

by Suellen Cook

At our September chapter meeting, PFLAG Hinsdale met remotely. We were happy to welcome Ann McAuliffe of the PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois (PCNI). Ann provided an update about the **Power of Advocacy: 2022 Conference** of the PCNI scheduled for October 8, 2022 at the Water Tower Place in Chicago. Ann shared exciting conference details and volunteer opportunities.

The chapter also discussed plans for the fall. To work at collaborating with other local LGBTQIA+ allies, chapter representatives attended the Equality Downers Grove (EQDG) meeting held on September 13 with the goal of supporting others in the LGBTQIA+ community. EQDG is an organization “creating an accepting and equitable environment for LGBTQIA+ people through education, support, social action and advocacy.” EQDG partners with allies to celebrate and support the LGBTQIA+ community.

Another planned PFLAG Hinsdale activity for the fall is decorating a **holiday tree** with PFLAG-themed ornaments and rainbow ribbons at Brookfield Zoo the weekend of November 12, 2022.

Our October meeting will be hybrid, and our speaker is **Kelly Mannion**. Kelly works for 360 Youth Services and will share about the important work this group is doing for homeless youth in our area, many of them LGBTQIA+. **Please join us either online via Zoom or at the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale on Sunday, October 2 at 2PM!**

News from PTI Chicago

by Francey Oscherwitz

PTI Chicago had a lively September ZOOM meeting with 22 in attendance (including 3 first-time members), with children aged 6 to 31 years old. During our two hours of sharing, members voiced concerns and generated poignant exchanges on all the big topics: the perils of solo travel in and through anti-LGBTQ+ countries; the need to set firm limits with disrespectful family members; and navigating our fears regarding the risks of gender-affirming medical procedures like hormones and surgery.

Even for the most openminded and supportive parents, it’s painful to imagine our children altering their precious bodies—whether or not we are the ones in charge of making that decision.

“Leading with love” often involves a radical leap of imagination and faith—believing a child is in earnest when they say that such procedures alone offer hope of a life—their life—being TRULY worth living. It can also mean, as one confused mom observed, showing love not by racing ahead of our child (too many mother-daughter manipedi’s) but by exercising restraint and following at a respectful distance as they forge their own path—full of stops, starts, switchbacks, and always surprises. Like children everywhere . . .

Our next meeting will be Thursday, October 13th, but we look forward to the festive gathering for the October 8th PCNI Conference.

News from PFLAG Deerfield

by Jodi Zavos

This month’s meeting featured Ben Greene. Ben is an openly transgender man, an educator, an activist, and a resource. While pursuing a degree in education, Ben gave a TEDX Talk entitled **Where Are You Sitting?** The success of that moment led to an unexpected career as an international public speaker and LGBTQ+ inclusion consultant. In February of 2022, Ben decided he had to do something to fight back against anti-transgender rhetoric and legislation. He reached out to every PFLAG chapter across the country to see if they’d like to do a free event to help educate members of their community. Ben expected to hear back from 10-15 chapters. But the response was huge and currently, Ben finds himself speaking at a PFLAG chapter 1-2x per month. Ben joined us via Zoom. He shared his knowledge and his story with us. Ben was engaging, candid, and funny. We learned, we laughed, and some of us cried a little. A perfect PFLAG meeting! Check out Ben’s TEDX Talk and/or his website www.bgtranstalks.com. Better yet, invite him to a meeting!



News from PFLAG Oak Park

by Tara Chavez

Hello from Oak Park! Our monthly meetings are HYBRID so members have the choice to join remotely or in person.

We had a busy month! On September 3rd, PFLAG Oak Park had another successful annual bake sale at the Oak Park Farmer's Market. We had baked goods that ranged from Tom Gull's award-winning Irish Soda Bread to rainbow cookies and rainbow rice krispie treats. We completely sold out of all baked goods!

Shortly afterward on the following Saturday, we had a great time hosting a table at the 2022 Barrie Fest at Barrie Park. The weather was perfect and we gave out hundreds of buttons. Finally, on September 21st, PFLAG and OPALGA hosted a table at Oak Park River Forest High School's Rainbow Celebration - a welcome back-to-school event for our LGBTQ+ students and families. It was a successful evening of networking with incredible people. There was a student and staff panel, games, giveaways, and a selfie station! It was wonderful to see all the supportive members of our community join in on the celebration!

Looking to the future, we have a couple of exciting events coming up including the return of the PCNI



Fall Conference! The PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois (PCNI) partners with Howard Brown Health and FashionBar for an educational conference and fashion show The Power of Advocacy will take place at FashionBar located in Water Tower Place, Chicago. The conference is Saturday, Oct 8, 2022, from 9:30 am to 4:15 pm. If you are interested in attending, visit the link here to register: <https://pflagil2022chicago.rsvpify.com>.

We are also looking forward to the 2022 OPALGA+ Scholarship Gala, which will be held on Saturday, October 22 at the 19th Century Club in Oak Park once again. This is the major fundraising event of the year for the OPALGA+ Scholarship Fund, which has provided over \$135,000 to 41 students entering colleges and universities since the inaugural academic year of 2015-16. It is always a lot of fun and for a very good cause.

We will once again offer the hybrid option at our next meeting, held every fourth Sunday at First United Church of Oak Park, 848 Lake St, Oak Park, IL 60301.

We meet every fourth Sunday Our next Hybrid (in person and via Zoom) meeting will be on September 25th from 3 - 5 pm. Mark your calendars!



Photos from PFLAG Oak Park



News from PFLAG Homer Glen Lockport

by Michelle Eckmayer

It has been a while since we submitted an update, we want to make sure we fill you in on the fun & exciting things our chapter has been busy doing.

June's **Pride in the Parking Lot** was a wonderful event, filled with music, food, fun & the wonderful Miss Loozie Foozi led us in Bingo!!!



News from PFLAG Homer Glen Lockport, continued

In July, we listened to our guest speaker, Phyllis Gallisath, founder of **The Liam Foundation**. Phyllis also started the Rockford PFLAG. She shared her story and how she came to be a fierce Mama Bear. She continues to be a pivotal part in supporting the LGBTQ+ community in Rockford.

The Liam Foundation's Mission: To encourage, assist, heal and empower our LGBTQIA+ community through respect, advocacy, and passionate hearts to promote thriving in society.

<https://youtu.be/AzGMNbb4kg0> this link will tell you more about her story.



August brought us Kelly Hemmer from **PFLAG DuPage**, she discussed the conference coming up in October, **The Power of Advocacy**. She filled us in on the agenda and encouraged our members to get their tickets for this amazing event. We then celebrated the end of summer with an ice cream social.

We were out and about in our community spreading the word about PFLAG at a **Family Field Day** event, **Joliet Pride**, a local UCC church's **Rainbow Family Picnic** and Lockport Township High School.



Get published in Open Doors!
Send your articles and photos to
opendoors@pflagillinois.org



RESEARCH STUDIES

If you or your LGBTQ+ loved ones are interested in participating in research studies, please use links below. Organizations conducting these studies are not affiliated with PFLAG. We have verified their legitimacy and are passing this information for those who are interested.

- [Wellness with Pride](#): COVID-19 and LGBTQ+ Communities – a study for LGBTQ+ adults of age 50-57, conducted by University of Washington
- [Queer Parents Study](#) by University of Nebraska–Lincoln to understand parent-infant (1-3 years old) relationships to primary and secondary caregivers in same-gender or gender-nonconforming couples.

Magazine

MIT Technology Review has published a special issue [Beyond the Binary](#). The site allows one complimentary article read without a subscription - www.technologyreview.com/magazines/the-binary-issue/#features



App

TRACE

[TRACE](#) is a Transgender and Non-binary gender affirming mobile app built by and for the Trans/NB community. TRACE helps to document transition and has a community engagement feature to connect the community and their allies.



3rd Annual TRANS EMPOWERMENT MONTH October 2022 (virtual and in-person)

Learn. Get inspired. Engage. Find community. Experience positivity. Participate. Thrive.

Sign Up Today.



Stand with Trans, a non-profit based in Michigan is hosting [Trans Empowerment: THRIVE 365](#) throughout the month of October. Most sessions are virtual or hybrid, so youth from across the country are able to join. It's free for folks 24 and younger.

Therapy Groups in Park Ridge

Two therapy groups are organized by Andrew Fishman at **The Juniper Center** in Park Ridge:

- for high school students who are both transgender/gender nonconforming and autistic <https://www.thejunipercenter.com/5345-2/>
- to help students make friends by playing games together in a therapeutic environment <https://www.thejunipercenter.com/social-gaming-group-for-high-school-students/>



Center on 3656 N. Halsted, Chicago

art GALLERY OPENING
 October 7th 6:30PM TO 8:30PM

CENTER ON 3656 N. HALSTED

FEATURING FIVE ARTISTS

Adolfo Santos
 Gene Skala
 Kent J. Smith
 Frank Connet
 Doug Stapleton

3656 N HALSTED 2ND & 3RD FLOOR \$5 SUGGESTED DONATION - CASH BAR centeronhalsted.com/art-gallery.html

THE CHARLIES SURVIVOR SEASON 9 REUNION

BACK FROM THE GRAVE

CENTER ON 3656 N. HALSTED
 15 YEARS OF PRIDE

A BENEFIT FOR CENTER ON HALSTED TESTING & PREVENTION PROGRAM

OCTOBER 13TH
\$5 COVER | 7:00 PM

CENTER ON HALSTED ROOFTOP 3656 N. HALSTED STREET \$5 ADMISSION

October 11th
 Performance 7 pm // Parents Panel 8 pm
 Center on Halsted Hoover-Leppen Theatre
 SUGGESTED DONATION \$20

CENTER ON 3656 N. HALSTED
 15 YEARS OF PRIDE

A one-woman show about a parent's journey with a trans child's coming out.

TRANS-PARENT Love
 DIRECTED BY MEGAN WELLS

The HUB
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We got you!

The HUB is your one-stop shop for:

- HIV/STI Testing Services & PrEP
- Housing & Food Assistance
- Medical & HIV Case Management
- MPV Education & Vaccination Information

Call 1-844-482-4040 Visit hivhub.org

CDPH Chicago Department of Public Health For up-to-date info about vaccine, treatment, FAQs, visit: chicago.gov/mpv



PFLAG Resources for Latino/a/x LGBTQ+ people and the people who love them

- **PFLAG publications.** All PFLAG publications are available in both English and Spanish, and can be downloaded for free--or hard copies ordered-- at pflag.org/publications.
- **Las Familias de PFLAG en Espanol.** This lovely short film, created by our longtime partner filmmaker Nick Oceano, shares the stories of the families who come together for PFLAG en Espanol meetings in Los Angeles. [Watch it on YouTube](#), and share it widely!
- **PFLAG Connects: Communities.** This program of PFLAG National provides a safe, moderated, virtual space for people of common experiences to come together for support and conversation. To learn more about our space for Latino families, visit pflag.org/connects/communities/latino.
- **Se hacen puentes al andar.** Created by our friends at NC State University, this is a culturally responsive resource informed by research on Latina/x/o youth's experiences of belonging within a familial context. Its aim is to create what lesbian poet Gloria Anzaldúa referred to as puentes (Spanish for bridges) of solidarity, connection, and understanding between Latina/x/o LGBTQ+ youth and their families. **This wonderful resource is available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).**

Art Exhibition



[Wrightwood 659](https://wrightwood659.org) (wrightwood659.org)

hosts two visionary exhibitions:

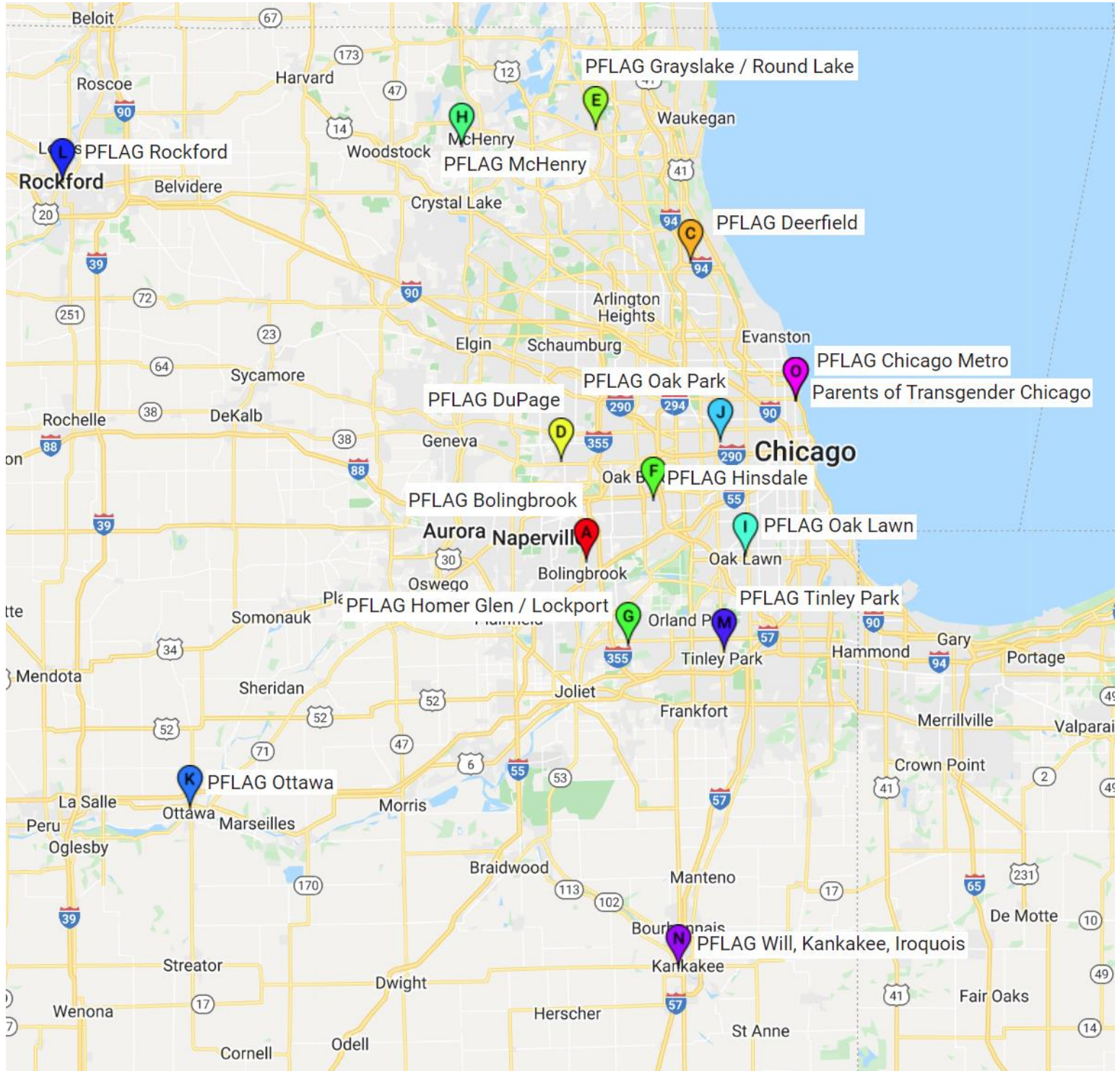
The First Homosexuals and Celestial Stage October 1-December 17

The First Homosexuals: Global Depictions of a New Identity, 1869-1930

This exhibition starts with the year 1869 when the word “homosexual” was first coined in Europe, inaugurating the idea of same-sex desire as the basis for a new identity category. On view will be more than 100 paintings, drawings, prints, photographs, and film clips drawn from public and private collections around the world including works which have never before been allowed to travel outside their countries. This groundbreaking exhibition is the first multi-medium survey of early, determinedly queer art which explored what the “first homosexuals” understood themselves to be—and how the dominant culture, in turn, understood them. This exhibition, part one of a two-part exhibition (the second planned for 2025 and featuring 250 masterworks), has been developed by a team of 23 international scholars led by distinguished art historian Jonathan D. Katz with associate curator Johnny Willis.

PLEASE NOTE: This exhibition contains sexually explicit content. For mature audiences only.

PFLAG Northern Illinois Chapters



Click/tap anywhere on the map to open it online and find meeting dates/times/locations. Some chapters are meeting online on Zoom, and some are returning to in-person meetings. Contact the chapter for details before your very first meeting and watch for chapter announcements if you are a member.

