



OPEN DOORS

The Newsletter of the Northern Illinois PFLAG Chapters

President's Column

"Building Relationships, Deepening Leadership, Igniting Passion"

The theme, developed by Gail Hanson, council member from PFLAG DuPage, was the glue that held the workshop together, guiding each activity and presentation. Education, while not explicitly stated in the theme, was nevertheless an underlying component of the day.

After preliminary remarks and introductions, the participants were treated to a thoroughly engaging keynote presentation by out-going National President, Rabbi David Horowitz. The next activity, "Getting to Know You," resembled a PFLAG meeting. Workshop attendees were encouraged to move out of their comfort zone to mix and mingle with folks from other chapters. People at each table, under the direction of table facilitators, introduced themselves and shared their stories of what brought them to PFLAG, much as is done at regular chapter meetings. Conversation was so intense that it proved difficult to wrap up this activity to move on to the next, "Building Faith Communities."

Rabbi Horowitz and Reverend Hilary Krivchenia (pastor of Countryside Unitarian Church in Palatine, the church facility in which we gathered) moved beyond the normal exegesis of biblical passages that are so frequently used to condemn LGBT people to a more personal approach of appealing to someone's experience of God as personified by love and a recognition of the inherent goodness of their LGBT loved ones. It is an approach that brings mind and heart together and helps to create shared experiences.

The afternoon sessions included a panel presentation by members of the two Parents of Transgendered Individuals (PTI) support groups and a hands-on seminar on how to tell one's story by PFLAG Executive Director, Jody Huckaby. The PTI panel's purpose was to discuss how to make individual PFLAG chapters more helpful to and supportive of parents whose offspring identify as transgender. While many of their issues are similar to those of parents of gay, lesbian, and bisexual children, their concerns move way beyond the concerns voiced by parents of LGB., and the information and support they need is so specific to their situation. Through the sharing of their personal journeys, the audience could, for a moment, walk in their shoes.

Jody enticed the audience with his own story, worked seamlessly into his presentation on "How to More Effectively Tell Your Story," the goal being to show how easily one's story can be woven into casual conversation. After some basic instruction, participants were encouraged to take the floor and practice their own stories.

By keeping people together for the entire day rather than dispersing into breakout sessions, we fostered a sense of togetherness and succeeded in building and strengthening the relationships among all PFLAG chapter members who attended. A sense of belonging to the greater PFLAG beyond the boundaries of one's individual chapter was one of the primary goals, one that was most definitely achieved.

The day would never have been possible without the blood, sweat, and tears of my dedicated team: Deirdre O'Connell, Tony Dornacher, Arlene Collins, John Hickey, and Gail Hanson. Other behind-the-scenes people included Carolann Dunn and Mary Ann Hickey. Table facilitators and set-up people, not to mention an awesome timekeeper, contributed to an absolutely incredible day.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I am very mindful of the gift that we are to each other, and I thank each and every one of you for being faithful to our PFLAG mission of support, education, and advocacy. Together we'll make our contribution to a world where all people are valued for whom they are, as we work to move equality forward.

Toni Weaver

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) is a non-profit, tax-exempt, all volunteer, local community-based organization of parents, relatives and friends of gay persons. PFLAG is not affiliated with any ethnic, religious, economic or political group.

OPEN DOORS is a publication of the Northern Illinois PFLAG chapters. Articles that appear do not necessarily reflect the opinions of PFLAG, its Board of Directors or members. We reserve the right to edit any submissions. Priority is given to original work by the membership.

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FROM THE DESK OF
JODY HUCKABY



The 2015 PFLAG National Convention may seem a long way off, but it is less than a year away! And when we convene in Nashville from October 16th–18th, PFLAG members from across the United States will celebrate their accomplishments, learn ways to be even more powerful in the life-changing work they do...and honor some of the outstanding individuals who have been part of the groundbreaking work that continues to move equality forward with an award from PFLAG National.

The nomination period is open for submissions of people to be considered for three awards that will be presented at the convention. We need your input on candidates for:

- **The Starr Award.** Honors a person who has done outstanding work as a member of PFLAG. This Award is named in honor of Adele Starr, founder and first president of PFLAG National, which was created to support and represent the chapter network and to advance PFLAG's mission and vision.
- **The Flag Bearer Award.** Honors a group or a non-celebrity for outstanding LGBTQ advocacy outside of the PFLAG framework.
- **The Betty DeGeneres Advocate Award.** Honors a person, or persons, who use their fame to advance the PFLAG mission.

As leaders in the work that is happening across the country, you know the names of people who deserve to be recognized and celebrated for the transformational work they're doing. Please help us honor them by taking just a few minutes to submit your nominations no later than February 1, 2015.

Wondering about who's won these awards before? Want to know more about the guidelines for submitting? We've made it easy for you. Simply visit us online at pflag.org/2015CnvnAwards to get full details.

Everyone deserves recognition for their contributions to moving equality forward. This is your chance to make that recognition a reality for someone today.

What's Happening in Our Chapters?

HINSDALE CHAPTER

By Marcia Prichason

Our November guest was Officer Jose R. Rios with the Chicago Police Department. Officer Rios related that he is the only liaison to the LGBT community in Chicago, and quite possibly in all of Illinois. Officer Rios explained that he not only serves the LGBT community directly by assisting them whenever and wherever he can, but that part of what he does is meet with community groups to spread the word that he is there to help. He began his discussion by telling us a little bit about his background and then discussed how the current law regarding transgender individuals impacts them. This law has recently been instituted in Chicago and states that transgender individuals be treated with respect, be called by the pronoun the individual identifies as, and if arrested, be sent to a central location where they are kept in individual cells rather than with the general population. Officer Rios works closely with the State's Attorney's office on behalf of LGBT individuals, but explained that with budget cuts, many programs that previously existed have been cut back or eliminated. He suggested that while the climate towards LGBT individuals may be improving, services to the community are lagging behind.

Members were reminded that we are continuing our service to the Crib, which is part of the Night Ministry. The Crib is the only homeless shelter in the greater Chicago area that is targeted specifically to homeless LGBT youth. At our December holiday potluck, we will enjoy a holiday meal and conversation and then stuff the holiday stockings with the items we have collected: travel size shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, first aid kits, full size deodorant, socks, warm gloves and caps, hard candy, gum, playing cards, hand lotion, pens and small note pads.

Additionally this year, expecting another brutal winter, we are also conducting a coat drive. Gently used coats and outerwear can be brought to the December meeting or contact Marcia Prichason at mprichas@gmail.com for additional information.

DEERFIELD CHAPTER

By Sue Ginsburg

On November 8th, PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois hosted a one-day workshop, "Building Relationships, Deepening Leadership, Igniting Passion." Proudly, there were 5 members of PFLAG Deerfield in attendance. Immediate Past President of PFLAG National, Rabbi David Horowitz, gave the keynote address, telling his child's 'coming out story' and Jody Huckaby, Executive Director of PFLAG National, gave us a lesson on how to tell our stories more effectively.

There were discussions of building bridges with Faith Communities and a Transgender panel presentation, which made us laugh and cry. It was a tremendous day!

One of the things discussed there that were brought up at our meeting in Deerfield was PFLAG National's decision to change the tagline of who we are. We will remain "PFLAG", but they are looking to make the tagline more inclusive than "Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays." Not only do they want to include Transgender and Bi-sexual, but they also want to invite all members of all communities to join. For the next 2 months, they are accepting ideas for new tag lines. If you would like to consider your idea, please give send it to Toni Weaver at PFLAGillinois.org.

One of our goals is to try to increase our numbers at our meetings and thus, increase membership. Our executive council thought it would be a good idea to contact high schools in the area and offer to attend one of their GSA meetings, offering information and support. Twenty-eight schools were notified via snail mail on October 30. As of this writing, we have not heard back from any of the 28 schools. Disappointing, but we'll keep trying.

At our November meeting, we were so lucky to host Lawrence Carter, GSA Manager for the State of Illinois' Illinois Safe Schools Alliance. Lawrence has a monumental job in that he travels all around the state, visiting high schools, empowering their students who take part in GSA's (Gay-Straight Alliance) by introducing ideas and opportunities that break down prejudices based on sexual orientation. The action taken by these students are always student driven. What Lawrence does is provide



the skills needed for these students to take a leading role in attaining their goals. Because his staff is so small, he wants to enlist our help in contacting the schools around the state to update their database. This is a volunteer project with which we, at PFLAG Deerfield, could easily help. More information can be found at www.illinoisafeschools.org.

Our own Reuben will be participating in a Holiday concert with the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus on Dec. 6th at the Northshore Center for the Performing Arts.

DON'T FORGET: YOU ARE ALL INVITED TO OUR HOLIDAY CELEBRATION AT OUR NEXT MEETING. WE WILL NOT HAVE A SPEAKER, BUT RATHER ENJOY GOOD CONVERSATION AND DELICIOUS SNACKS BROUGHT BY ALL THOSE WHO PLAN TO ATTEND.

PLEASE BRING A FINGER FOOD OR DESSERT. BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO CELEBRATE EACH OTHER AND ALL WE DO HERE AT PFLAG DEERFIELD.



OAK PARK CHAPTER

By Nancy Johnson

This has been a busy month with the West Suburban LGBT Health Fair at Triton, our PFLAG Conference in Palatine, monthly meetings, Thanksgiving. I also attended a talk at Roosevelt University by Marsha Aizumi, a PFLAG National Board member. Marsha spoke of her journey which began with her and her husband adopting two babies from Japan, a girl and then later a boy. She told of the struggles her daughter, Ashley went through, and Ashley's unhappiness, which at first seemed to be eased by her coming out as a lesbian. But Ashley's inner discontent was not resolved until she transitioned to male. Now Marsha has two sons. She is a tireless advocate for her son and for all transgender people. She has written a book, **Two Spirits, One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgender Son, and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance**. This book tells in more detail the ups and downs, joys and sorrows of loving a child throughout their struggles.

Marsha who is from California is planning to return to the Chicago area sometime next year. I hope more people are able to meet her and hear her speak.

At our November meeting, our guest was Patty Dillon

(pdillon@eqil.org), Field Director from Equality Illinois (<http://www.equalityillinois.us/>). She filled us in on what Equality Illinois is doing now that its legislative agenda is mostly accomplished. They are partnering with various other organizations to provide information such as: how marriage this year can affect Federal income tax filing next year, how the adoption process is changed, how the President's immigration changes affect LGBT couples. They also want to assist other organizations statewide in their efforts to educate the public about LGBT issues.

In December, we are partnering with the Oak Park Lesbian and Gay Association (OPALGA) and SAGE West Suburban Senior Services to cosponsor a film screening of **Scrooge and Marley**, a gay take on A Christmas Carol. That will be on December 14. More information on that later in the newsletter,

We will have a meeting on December 28, but will not have a speaker.



PTI CHICAGO CHAPTER

By Arlene Collins

PTI Chicago met on November 13, when we welcomed speaker Carolyn Wahlskog. Carolyn is a social worker with 360 Youth Services in Naperville. As an opening exercise before Carolyn spoke about her agency, the assembled members went around the table introducing themselves and indicating gender and preferred pronouns. Carolyn then outlined some of the work that 360 Youth Services is involved in.

The first is 360's transitional housing, which is aimed at homeless LGBTQ youth between the ages of 18-21. The program can house individuals for up to 18 months, and during that time the residents work toward earning their high school diploma or GED and gain support around life skills that will ready them for independent living, such as job skills, budgeting, and conflict resolution. Residents also receive support in conducting a job search. Because many of the program's residents struggle with mental health issues and substance abuse, 360 also provides counseling in these areas.

Additionally, Carolyn spoke about Youth Outlook, a branch of 360 Youth Services, which runs weekly, drop in centers for LGBTQ youth in Naperville, Aurora, DeKalb, Dixon, and Sterling. In addition to providing community,

socializing, and recreation, the drops in centers also provide psychoeducational programs and mental health referrals.

The second half of our meeting was devoted to a discussion about the upcoming holiday season and how that can impact our children's decisions about when/whether to come out to friends and the family at large. PTI Chicago plans to meet again at The Center on Halsted on Wednesday, December 10.



DUPAGE CHAPTER

By John Hickey

Wow. I am amazed at what incredible opportunities we have had over the past few months for learning and networking. Of course, work and other life commitments prevent us from attending every opportunity. But, I have to say, if you are passing on all of the opportunities available to us, you are really missing out.

Here are some of the recent events...

- The [Out & Equal](#) Workplace Summit was Nov 3-5 in San Francisco. Next year the conference is in Dallas. Maybe your employer would consider sponsoring you as part of their diversity or Employee Resource Group (ERG) initiatives. Consider being an active advocate for equality in your workplace. The conference was three days long, including 6 workshops (with over a hundred to select from), two plenary lunches and speakers including Olympia Dukakis, Billie Jean King and Lee Daniels and more. Then the event ends with a Gala dinner, fundraising auction, entertainment and awards. Over 3,000 participated in the largest conference yet.
- November 6 Triton College hosted the Suburban LGBT Resource fair, featuring a movie screening, panel discussions, seminars and more.
- November 8th The PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois hosted an outstanding full day workshop. Reviews indicate that this was an overwhelmingly positive experience for participants.
- The PFLAG DuPage November 16 meeting featured a viewing of Lisa Ling's Our America- Transgender Lives Revisited- 3 years later.

November was a month for focus on transgender education.

- Community Network- Professionals Supporting LGBTQ Youth also hosted a workshop **Addressing Challenges of Transgender and Gender Variant Youth Across Developmental Stages: Medical, Legal and Mental Health Advocacy** on Nov 21. Eight PFLAG members attended the workshop that featured four outstanding speakers covering a variety of topics including transgender health and legal concerns. Awesome presentations by: Nancy Mullen- Youth Outlook; Kimberly Lux- Howard Brown; Ani Castronova- Chicago House; Dr. Deb Wilke- Compassionate Counseling. Be sure to see this touching video... Alex's rep about Transgender acceptance: <http://m.youtube.com/watch?v=bWPEvmwG9Vw&feature=youtu.be>
- On November 21 PFLAG and Roosevelt University hosted cocktails and conversation. Providing an opportunity to meet and talk to leaders from many other support organizations. PFLAG also revealed a new Guide to Being a Trans Ally.
- November 21 was also Transgender Day Of Remembrance ([IDOR](#)) to raise awareness about transgender violence and to remember those Transgender individuals taken from us by senseless violence.

Other great events coming up to consider:

- December 1 is [World AIDS Day](#). Consider making a donation to the [Chicago AIDS Foundation](#). Advocate for testing and prevention. Watch a [movie](#): maybe [Dallas Buyers Club](#) or [The Normal Heart](#).
- December 6 Center on Halsted will be hosting an event, [Inspiring Our Community, Securing Our Health and Well-being](#), in acknowledgement of World AIDS Day. [Register](#) to attend
- Members of PFLAG DuPage plan to participate in free gift wrapping at Barnes and Noble in Naperville on 11/28 (Black Friday) from 10:00-2:00 and on Sunday 12/14 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

This is a great way to make PFLAG visible in the community while getting to know other PFLAG folks and having fun too! If you plan to be in the neighborhood or are considering buying any books for the holiday, please consider stopping by to see us on these days.

- On January 4, PFLAG will be presenting an introduction to PFLAG at the Elmhurst Public Library,
- The Midwestern, Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay Transgender Ally College Conference (MBLGTACC) 2015 is at ISU. We are participating with an exhibitor table Saturday Feb 14th with the Bloomington Chapter. If you have a college age child or friend, you may want to recommend that they check it out. Laverne Cox of Orange is the new Black is the Keynote Friday. Register at <https://saapps.illinoisstate.edu/dos/mblgtacc2015/> before 1/2/2015 cost is \$80.
- Chicago Gay Men's Chorus info at CGMC.org YouTube: Holiday Favorites from Television Dec 5, 6 & 20 Winter Cabaret Show Feb 24 and March

While the holidays can be a joyous time, this can also be a very difficult time for many of us. With that in mind, I offer the following references:

- [The Blue Book](http://www.pflagatl.org/2010/09/the-blue-book-a-great-resource-to-read-and-pass-on/#sthash.xUMqGWmU.dpuf) is a manual that was a gift to the congregation of The Presbyterian Church, Mt. Kisco, New York, in recognition of the love and support that its church members have given to individuals and families whose lives have been touched by the issue of homosexuality.
- <http://www.pflagatl.org/2010/09/the-blue-book-a-great-resource-to-read-and-pass-on/#sthash.xUMqGWmU.dpuf>
- [What the Bible Says... And Doesn't Say... about Homosexuality.](#) SoulForce publication by Rev. Dr. Mel White
- [Fortunate Families](#)

We welcome you to attend an upcoming PFLAG DuPage meeting. Guests are always welcomed. We meet at 2 pm on the 3rd Sunday of each month. Our December 21 meeting will be our holiday social meeting. Consider bringing a favorite finger food dish to share.

Happy Holidays!

MCHENRY CHAPTER

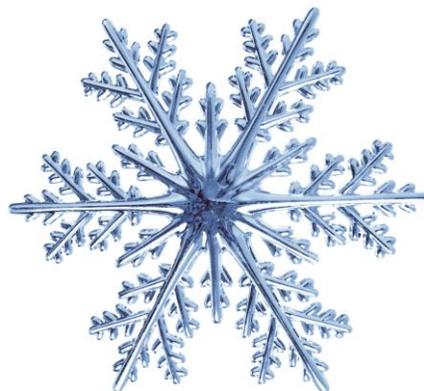
By Toni Weaver

A candle lit in memory of the seventy transgender individuals throughout the world, murdered solely for being who they are, with their names on sheets of paper surrounding the candle, served as a way of observing the Transgender Day of Remembrance for our chapter. The actual program was a showing of "I am Jazz" followed by discussion and refreshments.

The website www.transkidspurplerainbow describes the documentary this way:

The documentary special "I AM JAZZ: A Family in Transition," follows the life of an extraordinary family and their transgendered daughter. 11-year-old Jazz and her family face a life-altering decision as the ebullient tween approaches puberty. Through extensive archival family footage and first-person interviews, Jazz and her family share their powerful personal story as they grapple with the possibility of hormone blocking therapy and issues related to fertility, discrimination and identity. The special is directed by Jen Stocks and executive produced by Bill Hayes, Kirk Streb, Wayne Mahon and Mark Gottwald, Figure 8 Films.

The December meeting will celebrate the holiday season with potluck appetizers and desserts. We invite the members of other PFLAG chapters to come: Dec. 9, 7-9PM at the Tree of Life Unitarian Universalist Church, 5603 W. Bull Valley Rd., McHenry.



NOVEMBER 8TH MEETING A HUGE SUCCESS

The following article: PFLAG Council Meeting Heralds Change and High Emotion, was featured in The Windy City Times on 11/11/14. It was written by Gretchen Rachel Blickensderfer.

Please visit the link for this article and many others:

<http://www.windycitymediagroup.com/lgbt/PFLAG-Council-meeting-heralds-change-and-high-emotion/49632.html>

The PFLAG (formerly Parents Families and Friends of Lesbian and Gays) Council of Northern Illinois meeting held at the Countryside Unitarian Church in Palatine, Illinois, Nov. 8, was a day in which emotions ran the gamut from tears to laughter.

An audience composed of more than 80 people representing an estimated 14 Northern Illinois chapters shared stories about their LGBT children, their courage and the enduring love of family from which grew acceptance and support both private and public. In keeping with one of the principal aims of PFLAG, the atmosphere of the day was as inviting as it was safe.

It was also one of change.

Retiring from a four-year position as PFLAG's national president, Rabbi David Horowitz declared to the audience that his tenure was "the greatest gig I've ever had.

"Being on the board for 12 years was phenomenal. I cannot begin to tell you how exciting [the past four years] have been. But I have always been and will continue to always be a PFLAG dad. I know that the heart of PFLAG is in your chapters and that's where we make a difference."

Off-stage, Horowitz told Windy City Times that PFLAG was in a state of growth and evolution as a national organization. "We're seeing much more work in the areas of advocacy," he said. "We're adjusting to some new realities. More and more people are coming into our chapters who are not in agony over the news that they have an LGBT child but rather coming and saying 'how can I help my LGBT child?' They are coming much younger than they ever did. That's an enormous shift in culture."

He also noted major corporations—including names such as McDonalds, Walmart and Marriott—that have invited PFLAG to present programs to their employees. "The list is so long, I can barely keep up," Horowitz admitted. "We're invited because we're seen as an allied family voice."

However, Horowitz conceded that Republican victories in the election earlier this month was of great concern to him. "We have been involved in governmental work on a national level all the way through the Obama administration," he said. "If the strength of a party that isn't supportive comes forward, a lot of that is in danger."

Horowitz will be succeeded by Jean Hodges of the Boulder County, Colorado, chapter. Hodges previously served as the chair of the regional director's council.

Both the changes and challenges ahead have cause PFLAG to modify their name. While the acronym will remain, "Parents Families and Friends of Lesbian and Gays" will be dropped in favor of something more inclusive. "We realized that non-family members didn't even know they could become part of PFLAG," Horowitz explained. "There are people who don't know anybody who is LGBT who want to get involved. But a big part of the change was that the name does not include the trans* community."

The decision comes as PFLAG now maintains a definitive transgender presence on their National Board while welcoming an increasing number of parents of transgender children into their membership.

Four such mothers—each a member of the Parents of Transgender Individuals (PTI) group—presented a panel discussion focusing upon issues faced by transgender children, basic terminology and how PFLAG chapters could align themselves to better support parents of trans* and gender nonconforming kids.

Led by Arlene Collins, panelists included Raina Hudson, G.S. and Z.Z.—each parents of transgender boys and girls representing a wide range of ages. "The gender binary can be a tremendous obstacle," Collins said, holding back tears throughout her speech. "Some of the emotions that parents feel include guilt and that there is no one you can even talk to. But then you go to a PTI or a PFLAG meeting and there are other parents and they put their arms around you and say 'everything is going to be OK.' You may feel like you're losing a child but you're really gaining another child."

G.S. noted that, when her son came out, it was not a total surprise, but there were no nearby resources on hand to help. "My first reaction was sad," she said. "I was so sorry that my child had to suffer emotionally all these years and I didn't realize how hard it had been to go through puberty in the wrong body every day."

In terms of resources, Z.Z. was able to connect her child with staff at the Lurie Children's Hospital Gender & Sex Development Program. A portion of the extraordinary amount of research she and her husband completed on behalf of their young daughter was presented to the audience by way of a power-point demonstration.

Collins concluded her speech with a quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson: "To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment."

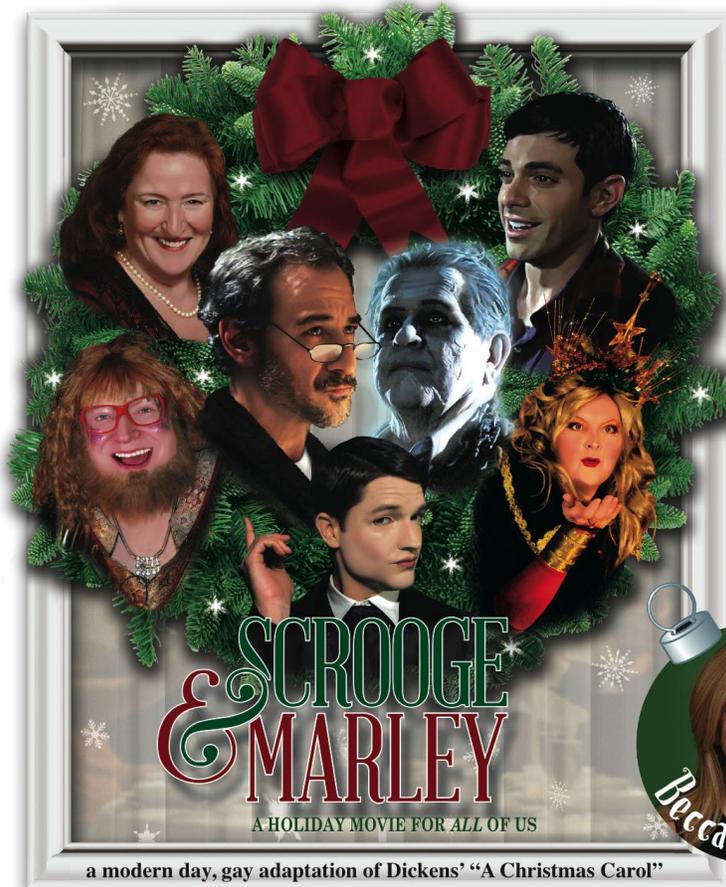
Other presentations included "Building Bridges with Faith Communities," led by Horowitz along with Countryside Unitarian Church Senior Minister Rev. Hilary Landau Krivchenia; and "How to More Effectively Tell Your Story," presented by PFLAG National Executive Director Jody Huckaby.



Gail Hanson, Deirdre O'Connell, Mary Ann Hickey, John Hickey, Toni Weaver, Jody Huckaby, Arlene Collins & Tony Dornacher

PFLAG OAK PARK, SAGE (WEST SUBURBAN SENIOR SERVICES) & OPALGA (OAK PARK AREA LESBIAN AND GAY ASSOCIATION)

present a complimentary, festive holiday screening of



**WHEN: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14
2:00 P.M.**

ADMISSION: FREE

WHERE: Oak Park Public Library
834 Lake Street
(708) 383-8200

**Cast members and filmmakers
in attendance!**

AFTER PARTY: 4:30 TO 6:00 P.M.

WHERE: First United Church
848 Lake Street (adjacent to the library)
(708) 386-5215

with refreshments and festive carol sing-a-long led by

BECCA KAUFMAN

**Scrooge & Marley merchandise will be
available at the after party**



scroogeamarleymovie.com | <http://opalga.org/>

Ready to get into the Holiday spirit??

The Palatine Chapter of PFLAG is wrapping Holiday presents at the Barnes & Noble in Arlington Heights on Sunday, December 7th. Please contact Carole Abrams for more information. 847-601-0804



WHAT PFLAG MEANS TO ME...

PFLAG members share their thoughts and feelings on why PFLAG is important to them.

"Safety, acceptance, information to help me through my journey with LGBT and to help others who are beginning their journey"

"A safe haven in which to learn, to advocate and be supported with LGBT stories and lives, in a world that isn't quite so bright, loving and welcoming"

"PFLAG has been a life saver! I am a parent who had absolutely no support. Arlene Collins is an excellent speaker and educator. I was truly alone until PTI came along" P.A

"A place to cope with a segment of my life that needs coping but with which not everybody wants to cope"

*"It's place where no one stands alone when their child(ren) come(s) out as LGBT. Having been on the journey of having a gay son for almost 9 years, PFLAG reminds me of the power of one person (in the case of PFLAG, one mom) stepping out in support of another person who is a minority, an oft-hated minority, to make a difference and work toward change. Power of **1**"*

"A place of acceptance. A source of strength. A commitment to change."

"Unconditional love and acceptance for me and my son." J. S., McHenry

"PFLAG is like an extended family to me. A safe place."

"PFLAG allows us to support our daughter and daughter-in-law. It also allows us to listen to parents who think they are alone and show them that they are not alone. PFLAG has opened doors to us that we didn't know even existed. It has enriched and enhanced our lives."

"I know what our participation in PFLAG means to our daughter and daughter-in-law, and I know what our participation means to us. It has expanded our lives in ways we never imagined and continues to do so."

"My supportive family that allows me to be me."

"Education/acceptance/brotherhood."

"A wonderful place to meet and network and hear stories from parents. Wonderful presentation on trans children and people, also lots of good resources."

"Open ears and big heart."



PFLAG NEEDS YOU!

PFLAG is an all-volunteer run, non-profit organization that relies on your support to help provide the materials and services that we offer LGBTQ people and their families. Please consider becoming a paid member; it's easy.

Sign up online at <http://www.pflagillinois.org/membership-and-donations/> or fill out the form below and mail in your check. Make sure to indicate what chapter you are affiliated with. Part of your membership goes back to that chapter!

Membership Form

By becoming a PFLAG member, you will help provide support, education and advocacy. All information we collect from you on this form will remain confidential, and we will only share it within PFLAG.

Membership runs from October 1 to September 30 of the following year; no partial-year membership is available.

Please check:

New Membership Renewal Membership Donation

 _____ (Name) (Date)
 _____ (Address)
 _____ (City) (State) (ZIP)
 _____ (Preferred Phone __ Home __ Cell)
 _____ (E-mail Address)
 _____ (Notes or In Memory of In Honor of)

Membership Level:

PFLAG Superhero \$500+ Parents Flag Waver \$100 Household/Individual Membership \$45

PFLAG Hero \$250 Supporting Membership \$60 Donation \$_____

SELECT CHAPTER

Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Hinsdale Aurora/Fox Valley Entre Familia McHenry County McHenry Parents of Transgendered Individuals Deerfield Chicago/Metro Chicago Parents of Transgendered Individuals Joliet Kankakee Palatine Oak Park DeKalb DuPage

Check enclosed payable to PFLAG Please charge my credit card (Visa MasterCard Amex Discover)

 _____ (Credit Card Number)
 _____ (Expiration DD/MM) (CVV – V/MC/D 3 digits
 on the back – AX 4 digits on the front)

 _____ (Name on the Card) (Signature)

Please return form to your chapter representative or mail form and to:

PFLAG Membership P.O. Box 734, Elmhurst, IL 60126



PFLAG Aurora/Fox Valley

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

PFLAG Metro Chicago

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

PFLAG Deerfield

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

PFLAG DeKalb County

Meetings held LAST Tuesday – 7 pm
 158 N 4th St
 DeKalb, IL 60115
 pflagdekalbcounty@pflagillinois.org

PFLAG DuPage

Meetings held 3rd Sunday – 2 pm
 St Paul Lutheran Church
 515 S Wheaton Ave, Wheaton 60187
 pflagdupage@yahoo.com
 www.pflagdupage.org

Entre Familia: PFLAG En Espanol

Meetings typically held 2nd Sunday – 1:30 pm
*Please contact us to confirm date,
 time and location*
 pflagenespanol@pflagillinois.org

PFLAG Hinsdale

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

PFLAG Joliet

Contact Lea Anne Stoughton
 lastoughton@gmail.com
 815-793-5138

PFLAG Kankakee

Contact Barbara Lohrbach
 815-932-2845

PFLAG McHenry

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

PFLAG Oak Park

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

PFLAG Palatine

Meetings held 3rd Monday – 7 p.m.
 Countryside Unitarian Church
 1025 N Smith Rd, Palatine 60067

Parents of Transgender (Chicago)

Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday – 7 pm
 Center on Halsted
 3656 N Halsted, Chicago 60613
 parentsoftransgender@pflagillinois.org

Parents of Transgender (McHenry)

Meetings are held the 4th Wednesday –
 7 p.m.
 (not in December)
 Tree of Life Unitarian Church
 5603 W Bull Valley Rd, McHenry 60050
 flynnmb12@gmail.com
 marygenzler@hotmail.com

**Please join us
 for any chapter meeting.**

If you are not comfortable meeting in a large
 group, arrangements can be made to meet
 one-on-one.

Contact any one of our chapters
 for more information.