



OPEN DOORS

The Newsletter of the Northern Illinois PFLAG Chapters

President's Column

I had two marvelous PFLAG opportunities in October. The first was actually visiting the national offices of PFLAG while in Washington, DC. The second was attending PFLAG's national convention in Nashville. On the former, it's tempting to say that I visited the heart of our organization, but I know that's not where the heart of PFLAG is – the heart of PFLAG resides in every person who is an active member (PS: Have you renewed your membership yet?) and advocates for equality and justice for all LGBTQ persons. However, the glue that holds us all together, the staff that provide us with training and materials and form important partnerships in corporate America, is located in a modest suite of offices in the Northwest sector of the city. What fun it was to meet many of the staff that I hadn't met in person before but had communicated with via many an e-mail exchange. These were the very same people who were hard at work preparing for the Nashville convention... that leads me to the second great event of the month.

"We are the Change" was the theme, and the convention gave us the tools and inspiration to be that change. Michelangelo Signorile's keynote address reminded us forcefully that "It's NOT Over," coincidentally the title of his latest book. We cannot afford to rest on our laurels just because marriage equality is the law of the land. We won by such a slim majority; it's theoretically possible to lose those gains if the ultraconservatives come to power in the next election.

IT'S NOT OVER, PFLAG!

We must support the Equality Act, a piece of legislation that is much more far-reaching than the Employment Non-discrimination Act (ENDA) which covers only what its name implies – employment. The Equality Act would protect LGBTQ persons in all areas of their lives as American citizens. One of the breakout sessions covered how to be a powerful advocate by lobbying our members of Congress. We were reminded of the importance of being polite and keeping a cool head, of being thoroughly prepared to discuss the issue that prompted the call or visit, and of being aware that it is our ZIP CODE that carries weight. A member of Congress needs to know that we are his/her constituents with the power to vote for or against him or her in the next election. So...remember the POWER OF THE ZIP CODE!

The experience of coming together with PFLAGers from all over the United States and other countries was so powerful and gave an incredible sense of belonging to something greater than our individual chapters and ourselves. The energy generated in Nashville will continue to empower us and our chapters so that we can truly BE THE CHANGE!

Together, let's move equality forward!

Toni Weaver
President - PFLAG Council of NI

BECOME A PFLAG MEMBER!

Sign up today!
It's not too late!

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; 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 A CHAPTER:

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

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

Check enclosed payable to PFLAG

Please charge my credit card (Visa MasterCard Amex Discover)

(Credit Card #) _____

(Exp Date DD/MM) _____ (CVV - V/MC/D 3 digits on the back - AX 4 digits on the front) _____

(Name on Card) _____



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

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

PFLAG is a non-profit, tax-exempt, all volunteer, local community-based organization of parents, relatives and friends of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered 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.

Send submissions, comments and photos to:

OPEN DOORS Editor
og4equality@gmail.com

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief:

Maureen Goldin

Newsletter Team:

Arlene Collins *and*

Jackie Frett

Database: Tony Dornacher

Website Guru: Bonnie Clemens

www.pflagillinois.org
www.pflag.org

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PFLAG Council of Northern IL
on

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October 2015 - NI COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

At the quarterly PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois' meeting this month, THREE new groups were welcomed:

PFLAG Tinley Park • PFLAG Downers Grove • North Shore PTI

The PFLAG presence is growing, and we're excited to have them on board. On behalf of all the NI chapters, WELCOME to the family!

Jim Levie (Treasurer) and Don Donahue (Membership Chair) noted that only 27 individuals/families throughout all of Northern Illinois have renewed their memberships as of 10/24. . 27 – that's all. Please take a moment NOW to renew or begin a membership in PFLAG through the PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois. Any renewals made on the national website will not come back to us here in IL, whereas a membership through us will make you a member of National as well as of council and of your local chapter. A membership letter and form are included in this newsletter.

Please stand with us so that our unified voice in Northern Illinois may be stronger. When speaking with public officials, numbers are important. To say that we have 27 members in this entire geographical region is not very impressive...Numbers matter in politics. If PFLAG is important to you, please support it with your time and with your treasure.

As a council we congratulated Tony Dornacher (former Treasurer, Membership Chair, website master, and doer of all things techy) upon the occasion of his marriage to Michael Coy on the 3rd of October. We give him our heartiest *congratulations* and wishes for a long and loving life together.

Director of Field Operations EQUALITY ILLINOIS - Patti Dillon

The impasse between the Illinois General Assembly and Governor Rauner over the FY16 state budget has been on-going for five months, which is unprecedented in Illinois history. Advocates, including Equality Illinois, continue to call upon the governor and legislature to protect the most vulnerable Illinoisans, ensure adequate revenue, and pass a fair budget as soon as possible. For many, a state budget is vital to receiving the services they find most valuable.

While about 80% of programs are being funded currently (thanks to court orders, consent decrees, and administrative actions), widespread harm to Illinoisans, especially children, homeless people, seniors, individuals with disabilities, and people living with HIV/AIDS is pervasive. For example, 75,000 survivors of domestic violence are at risk of losing support services and 91% of domestic violence shelters aren't being funded. For HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention services, approved federal funding only covers 70% of program needs. For sexual assault services and prevention, available federal funding only covers 60% of program costs. FY16 contracts were issued for homeless youth services, but no state payments are being made without a budget. The state's nonprofit infrastructure is under immense pressure. Some service providers are at serious risk of laying off staff or closing, while several agencies have already gone beyond that point.

We urge everyone to call their legislator and Governor Rauner today and ask them to pass a budget that protects all Illinoisans!

(pdillon@eqil.org)



in Our Chapters?

HINSDALE CHAPTER

By Barb Medley

Our October guest speaker was Nat Brown, a youth organizer for the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance. *The Alliance* works to make schools safer in several ways. The first is through education, training and professional development for teachers and school staff. Secondly, they focus their efforts on policy and advocacy. Requests are being received more frequently to help schools and school districts become more proactive in their efforts to be supportive of LGBTQ students. Requests have increased particularly for transgender youth. Effectively addressing bullying involves digging deeply into preconceived notions about gender/sexual identity. Many issues at school education sessions revolve around making bathroom use safe and distinguishing between students' comfort, as opposed to safety.

We had a diverse discussion about identity issues, pronoun use, stereotyping and the evolution of students' thinking in relation to differences and freedom to express sexual orientation and gender identity. If you or someone you know is interested in the finding out more or scheduling a training, their email is training@illinoissafeschools.org or at (312) 533-2624.

Our November speaker will be Arlene Collins from PTI PFLAG. She will talk about what is happening in the transgender community.



MCHENRY CHAPTER

By Toni Weaver

PFLAG McHenry's October meeting focused on expressing our appreciation for the hard work and dedicated service given by GSA advisers in our area. They shared with us the activities of their clubs and the climates in their schools toward LGBTQ students, and we were amazed and heartened by the work that they do. We want to partner with them by providing opportunities for the advisers to attend conferences and workshops that will provide them with the tools they need to do their work with the students, and we support their clubs with printed resources and Pride flags. Nat Duran from

Illinois Safe Schools spoke about the work of the organization and explained how it can support the work of the GSAA and their advisers as well. It was an evening of learning, sharing, and gratitude.



OAK PARK CHAPTER

By Nancy Johnson

Our September bake sale went well. We had fun as usual, and sold all our baked goods; even with a competing bake sale by the High School wrestling team! Our 10th Anniversary potluck was also a lot of fun. Our screening of *The Year We Thought About Love* went well, but the attendance was a bit low. We were unable to afford to bring in any filmmakers or cast, which always draws more people. It is an excellent film, and the young people in the Boston LGBT Theater group are engaging and varied.

At our October meeting our speaker was Owen Daniel-McCarter (owen@illinoissafeschools.org) from the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance. If you haven't booked him yet, please do. He is an attorney, and his current job is trying to help Illinois schools create a policy for handling transgender students. He will be talking soon to Oak Park/River Forest High School administrators about developing a policy here. He's especially interested in this since he graduated from OPRFHS in 2000, and this will be his first visit to his old high school. He has asked our help if needed in educating, and advocating with the school administration.

The Oak Park Public Library and PFLAG are co-presenting an exciting event at the library on November 6. It is a screening of the documentary, *Mr. Angel*, about the life of Buck Angel. Buck is a trans-man and excellent activist and advocate for transgender people.

"This feature length documentary chronicles the extraordinary life of transgender activist, educator and porn pioneer, Buck Angel. His in-your-face style of activism has audiences outraged by his insistence that he is 'a man... who happens to have a vagina.' Buck faced relentless opposition his entire life yet managed to survive addiction, prostitution, and suicide. It is a moving story of one man's search for self-love and acceptance from his

family and the world. MR ANGEL is an inspirational story of rare perseverance and an unlikely hero."

The library is bringing in Buck Angel for the screening, and I think this is his first public appearance in the Chicago area. The screening of *Mr. Angel* is the first public screening in the Chicago area. The film is unrated, and the library decided to make it adults only. It will be from 8-11 pm on Friday November 6. We will have a table there with some transgender literature.

November we will have one of the leaders of Oak Park's Scouting for Equality. Our fifth Sunday potluck will be at Phil and Kate's home. There will be a December meeting, but no speaker.

EXPLORING OUR HUMANITY **humanity 101**

All Humanity 101 events take place at the Main Library, are free and open to everyone, and do not require registration. For more information visit opfl.org/events. To learn more about Humanity 101 and Project Humanities, visit humanities.asu.edu

MR. ANGEL
A DOCUMENTARY BY DAN HUNT
HE'S A MAN LIKE NO OTHER
BUCK ANGEL

FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION WITH BUCK ANGEL

FRIDAY, NOV. 6, 8-11 PM, MAIN LIBRARY VETERANS ROOM

Join renowned transgender activist Buck Angel for a screening and discussion of his documentary film *Mr. Angel* (NR, 2013, 68 minutes), which details his experiences as a female-to-male transgender man. Buck Angel's commitment to living an authentic life, even when faced with significant challenges, inspires self-reflection, compassion, and respect.

This event is for ages 21+. Light refreshments and a cash bar will be available.

This event is presented in partnership with Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays Oak Park.

PFLAG

MAIN LIBRARY
834 Lake St.
Oak Park, IL 60301
708.383.8200

DOLE BRANCH LIBRARY
255 Augusta St.
Oak Park, IL 60302
708.386.9032

HAZE BRANCH LIBRARY
845 Gunderson Ave.
Oak Park, IL 60304
708.386.4751

OAK PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY



PTI CHICAGO CHAPTER

By Arlene Collins

Parents of Transgender Individuals (PTI) have much going on these days. The exposure to transgender/gender non-conforming issues is all around us, especially in the media. Our group members keep on growing and the love

and support and yearning for education on the issues of TGNC issues is heartening. We were very fortunate to have as our guest in October, Dr. Karen Wicklund, a speech therapist, teacher, singer and author of "Singing Voice Rehabilitation: A Guide for the Voice Teacher and Speech Language Pathologist". She encouraged our parents and kids and assured them that it is possible to alter their voice to more reflect their gender expression. It was a very informative meeting. We then shared with one another our concerns but also our gratitude for how amazing our children are doing in their journey. Our speaker for the Nov. 12th meeting will be Representative Jan Schakowsky, (IL- D) the U.S. Representative for Illinois's 9th congressional district. We are hopeful to hear about legislation affecting the LGBTQ community in a positive manner. All are welcome to attend.

PTI Chicago is pleased to announce that some members of PTI with younger children have launched a new support group on the North Shore. We wish them the best and offer them any assistance with resources. When I started the first PTI Chicago group in 2009, my wish at that time was to see other PTI's created for the benefit of parents, families and friends. Since then PTI McHenry was created and now PTI North Shore. North Shore will help meet the demand for parents and families of younger children and fill the void in that area.

Some other encouraging news is a request we received from the Ethics Committee at Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove. Earlier this year two psychologists, a trans woman and myself presented a program to the Psyche Dept. staff to aid them in their interaction with trans patients in the psychiatric unit of the hospital. This program was so well received that we were invited to return to speak to the Ethics Committee. The goal of the Committee is provide education, deliver the best practice medical care and deal with any staff prejudices. Hopefully, we can enlighten them and open up opportunities for other hospitals and institutions to initiate education and training for their staffs.



DuPage CHAPTER

By John Hickey

Our October 18 meeting, featured a facilitated discussion of current events including Discussion primarily centered around the situation at Palatine-Schaumburg School District 211 where the district is refusing to allow a

transgender student, who identifies as female, full access to the girls' locker room. Instead the district has offered a separate room for changing and cited privacy concerns as the reason.

The ACLU is representing the student in a complaint saying the school violated Title IX gender equality law. District officials do not seem fazed by the controversy and are staying firm with their position that the student should not be allowed locker room access.

If you are not familiar with the story, here are some links to related news reports for reference.

PALATINE TRANSGENDER STUDENT FILES FEDERAL COMPLAINT OVER LOCKER ROOMS:

<http://abc7chicago.com/education/transgender-student-files-federal-complaint-over-locker-rooms/1029919/>

Feds reject school district's plan for transgender student, locker room:
<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-transgender-student-locker-room-palatine-met-20151012-story.html>

Advocacy Starts with You...

It is so important that all of our children are able to attend school as their true authentic self, free from bullying and harassment, and fully embraced and included as equals regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. So, it is vital that we all continue to keep positive conversations going forward to promote understanding and respect and help create inclusive environments by sharing our stories and raising awareness and familiarity.

Recognizing and Model Excellence....

I applaud our friends at the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance for the work that they do and schools like Berwyn South SD 100. Check out this 6 minute video for an example of a school with the right intent, taking the right steps:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSr300zUWUk&feature=youtu.be>

Get Inspired....

If you are inspired to learn more, here is a link to a 15 minute video featuring Jazz Jennings at the 2015 HRC Foundation's Time to THRIVE Conference.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m7i4zXdEoVI>

Familiarity Breeds Comfort.... Get Familiar, Get Comfortable....

For your reference, and to better equip us all to be supportive allies, there are also many helpful resources for understanding how to create more inclusive schools. Here are a few links from a variety of organizations promoting equality:

PFLAG
 Cultivating Respect: Safe Schools for All
<http://community.pflag.org/safeschoolsforall>

Guide to Being a Trans Ally
<http://community.pflag.org/document.doc?id=904>

National Center for Transgender Equality:
 52 Things You Can Do for Transgender Equality
<http://www.transequality.org/issues/resources/52-things-you-can-do-transgender-equality>

Welcoming Schools <http://www.welcomingschools.org/>
Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN):
<http://www.glsen.org/article/educators-support-trans-and-gnc-students>

MODEL DISTRICT POLICY ON TRANSGENDER AND GENDER NOCONFORMING STUDENTS
http://www.glsen.org/sites/default/files/Trans_ModelPolicy_2014.pdf

October has been host to a number of conferences and the PFLAG DuPage November 15 meeting will feature sharing of the experiences of folks who participated in recent conference events. We meet the 3rd Sunday of each month at St Paul Lutheran Church in Wheaton. Please consider joining us for a meeting and feel free to bring a friend or family member.

Speaking of conferences, if you know any college age students, you may want to look into MBLGTACC.... Registration is open for the Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Ally College Conference (MBLGTACC) is the largest student-led LGBTQIA college conference in the nation! MBLGTACC 2016 is hosted by Purdue University, in West Lafayette, Indiana **February 19th-21st, 2016.**
<http://www.cvent.com/events/midwest-bisexual-lesbian-gay-transgender-ally-college-conference/event-summary-ce291bcbd5fe42ef8854b97735f037a3.aspx>



Tinley Park CHAPTER (NEW!!)

By Diane Kaffka



New chapter of the Northern Illinois Council of PFLAG for Chicago's South Suburbs

Meetings are 2 p.m. the 2nd Sunday of every month

**at Zion Lutheran Church
17100 South 69th Ave.
Enter through the south doors and go left to the day care room**

email us at pflagtinleypark@gmail.com

A new voice in the South Suburbs for anyone in the LGBT community and their families and friends.

Our Vision: PFLAG (Parents, families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) celebrates diversity and envisions a society that embraces everyone, including those of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. Only with respect, dignity and equality for all will we reach our full potential as human beings, individually and collectively.

Our Mission: PFLAG promotes the well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten the ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. PFLAG provides an opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity to create a society that respects human diversity.

If you need help please contact us or attend our meetings.



Deerfield CHAPTER

By Susan Ginsburg

What a terrific meeting we had in October! We hosted the founders of "Silk Road Rising", an award winning, Chicago based live theatre company which creates plays and on line videos that tell stories through primarily Asian American and Middle Eastern American lenses. 'In representing communities that intersect and overlap, they hope to advance a polycultural worldview.'

Jamil Khoury and Malik Gillani previewed a part of their play that will be premiering in March called "A Mosque Alert."

They showed a video called the "Imam and the Homosexual." The Imam was meeting a young journalist who had written a piece supporting the Muslim community and they were meeting to discuss how to progress. Unfortunately, when the Imam realizes that the

journalist is gay, the discomfort on the part of the Imam is palpable and the conversation breaks down as the journalist talks about the concept of God evolving over time, while the Imam supports an archaic, literal and rigid interpretation of God's word.

I urge you to go to silkroadrising.org to learn more about this wonderful theatre and the productions that are in progress. We were all so impressed with the writing, acting and direction of this short film. We are hoping to go to the premiere of this performance in March as a group!!! We hope other chapters will do the same!

We welcomed three new families in October as well!!!

We have made it our goal to reach out to the high schools and middle schools that make up our northern Illinois suburbs near Deerfield. I handed out a list of schools to those members who volunteered. With the help of our interns last year, we were able to compile a list of schools and GSA advisors to contact. We plan to phone them, tell them about PFLAG and offer our services to come visit if desired. The important part is that they know we exist and we can be of support if needed.

We reminded everyone, once again, to send in our membership dues to PFLAG for the New Year!



Downers Grove CHAPTER (NEW!!)

By Gloria Walsh-Rock

At our October meeting, Mike Ziri, Director of Public Policy for Equality Illinois, spoke about the many ways Equality Illinois advocates for LGBT rights. He talked about EQIL's current work on various Illinois laws, and their advocacy for a federal Equality Act that will secure equal freedoms nationally in the domains of housing, employment, credit, public accommodations, jury duty, and access to federal funding, and more. Equality Illinois is a vigilant advocate for LGBT rights, and it was great to learn more about what they do.

The next Downers Grove chapter meeting will be Wednesday, November 11 at 7:00 p.m. at First Congregational UCC, 1047 Curtiss St. Downers Grove. I hope you can join us.

Siblings of Trans Individuals Support Group*

Facilitated by Joelle Spiegel, LSW
Tuesday Evenings 7-8pm
November 3, 2015 – January 26, 2016
Location: 3139 N. Lincoln, Chicago IL
\$300 for 10 weeks

This 10-week support group is aimed at children and teens who are adapting to the news that a sibling is Trans*. Resulting feelings may include fear, confusion, anger and isolation around the change in family dynamics and the sibling's identity. This program will help children and teens cope with changes in relationships and examine feelings that they may not understand or know how to deal with.

At group sessions we will create a safe and welcoming space to meet others who share similar feelings, build community and relationships, and provide support for one another.

TO REGISTER: Contact Joelle Spiegel, LSW
Joelle227@gmail.com
312-919-9932

Visiting PFLAG NATIONAL, Washington D.C.



Diego Sanchez, Jamie Henkel, Brooke Senter, Joellen Shifmann, Toni Weaver, Jamie Curtis, Elizabeth Kohm, Jody Huckaby (in front)



Keynote speaker – Michaelangelo Signorile



Jean Hodges – National Prez.



Diego Sanchez, Jamie Henkel, Brooke Senter (in front), Joellen Shifmann, Toni Weaver, Jamie Curtis, Elizabeth Kohm



Mary Beth Hickey and Betty DeGeneres

NASHVILLE CONVENTION
We Are The Change



Representatives of PFLAG DuPage, McHenry, Oak Park and Sauk Valley



To stay updated on what is going on with PFLAG National, check out these links...

Stay current with PFLAG National: [PFLAG national](http://pflag.org/national)

Follow PFLAG national on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pflag>

See what PFLAG National is tweeting about: <http://twitter.com/#!/PFLAG>

Check out recent posts on PFLAG National's blog: <http://blog.pflag.org/>

Watch PFLAG national on their YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/pflagnational>

ALSO

PTI Chicago has a new Facebook page. Please check it out and LIKE it: [PTI Chicago Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/PTIChicago)

Support the PFLAG Council of Northern IL when you shop on Amazon: <http://www.smile.amazon.com>.

READ
WATCH
LISTEN
LEARN

LGBTQ BOOKS YOU NEED TO READ

Thank you for Jackie Frett for recommending these publications. These books are some new finds and cover broad range of LGBT topics.

George is the coming out story of a transgender child and is appropriate for middle school age children but it will also be helpful for their parents.

Fairyland took me back to the 1970's and 80's when LGBT issues were not even on my radar. Two books tackle being gay and Christian. **No House on the Couch** and **Trans Bodies, Trans Selves** give us a wealth of reader friendly information on transgender issues.

So see if you have room on your PFLAG book shelves for ...

George by Alex Gino ; " When people look at George ,they think they see a boy. But she knows she's a girl. George thinks she will have to keep this secret forever." Her middle school play is going to be Charlotte's Web. George really wants to play Charlotte but the teacher says no because she is a boy. Her best friend Kelly helps with a plan so everyone gets to know the real George.

On The Couch With Dr. Angello- A Guide to Raising & Supporting Transgender Youth by Dr. Michele Angello ; " When a single child comes out, their entire family will transition, along with the community."

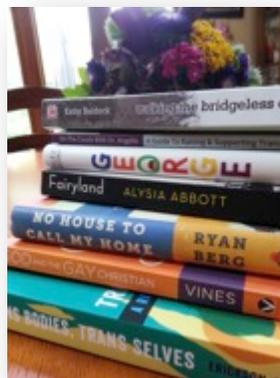
Fairyland- A Memoir of My Father by Alysia Abbott ; " A vibrant memoir recounts growing up in the 1970's in San Francisco with Steve Abbott , a gay, single father during an era when that was rare."

Walking the Bridgeless Canyon-Repairing the Breach Between the Church and the LGBT Community By Kathy Baldock; " In 2001, Kathy Baldock, a straight conservative evangelical Christian, met Netto Montoya, a lesbian Native American, on the local hiking trails near her home in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Their friendship challenged Beldock's cultural and religious beliefs about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people."

God and the Gay Christian by Matthew Vines ; "The Landmark book exploring what the Bible actually says-and doesn't say-about same-sex relationships."

No House To Call My Home by Ryan Berg ; "Ryan Berg immerses readers in the gritty, dangerous, and shockingly underreported world of homeless LGBTQ teens in New York. As a caseworker in a group home for disowned LGBTQ teenagers, Berg witnessed the struggles, fears, and ambitions of these disconnected youth as they resisted the pull of the street tottering between destruction and survival."

Trans Bodies, Trans Selves –A Resource for the Transgender Community. Edited by Laura Erickson-Schroth; " There is no one way to be transgender. While trans people share many common experiences, there is immense diversity within trans communities. Trans Bodies, Trans Selves is a revolutionary resource- a comprehensive, reader-friendly guide for transgender people, with each chapter written by transgender or genderqueer authors."



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
 Federated Church of Sycamore
 612 W State St
 Sycamore, IL 60178
 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

PFLAG Tinley Park - NEW

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

PFLAG Downers Grove - NEW

First meeting is Wednesday Sept 9 @ 7 pm
 First Congregational UCC
 1047 Curtiss
 Downers Grove, IL 60515

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

Contact Deirdre O'Connell
 herself68@yahoo.com

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.**