

OPEN DOORS

The Newsletter of the Northern Illinois PFLAG Chapters

President's Column

In the LGBT yearly calendar, October signals a special time to consider or reconsider the coming out process, October 11 being National Coming Out Day.

I am firmly convinced that the profound progress in marriage equality has come about because of the courage of LGBT people to come out of the closet about their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. As more and more people come to see that LGBT people are their family members, friends, neighbors, colleagues, professors, medical providers, service providers, and clergy – the list is endless – the stereotypes and misconceptions melt away.

As parents and allies of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, gender queer, and gender non-conforming people, we, too, come out. We come out through the sharing of our own stories; we come out through our willingness to stand up for our kids, friends, neighbors, all those we know to be LGBT, gender queer, and gender non-conforming (GNC). We have a powerful voice, and we need to use it, loudly and clearly!

One feature of the November 8 Workshop Day is the opportunity to learn from PFLAG Executive Director, Jody Huckaby, how to effectively tell our stories. Even the most seasoned of us can still learn a new trick or two. Come be part of the action.

Early bird registration ends on Oct. 15. After that, the fee increases to \$15. Simply go to www.pflagillinois.org to sign up for what promises to be a fantastic day of camaraderie and learning.

Toni Weaver



Be a part of the action!

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.

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

www.pflagillinois.org www.pflag.org

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

It's that time of year – the Fall PFLAG membership drive! This is your opportunity to support an organization whose benefits go beyond the boundaries of our local communities. When you support PFLAG at the \$45 level, you'll be supporting PFLAG National (\$15), the PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois (\$10), and your own individual chapter (\$20). However, donations above and beyond the basic \$45 membership are warmly welcomed!

The National office advocates for LGBT people in the national arena and provides support for all 350 nationwide chapters through the publication of informative brochures, the development of programs such as Straight for Equality, and assistance in the ongoing maintenance of chapters.

The PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois, which is comprised of all the PFLAG chapters in the greater Chicago Land area, provides services to chapters including the following:

- Liability insurance for all chapters
- Website (www.pflagillinois.org)
- Helpline (630-415-0622)
- Post Office Box (P.O. Box 734, Elmhurst, IL 60126)
- Start-up funds for new chapters
- Brochures/business cards
- PFLAG literature
- Expenses related to participation in the annual Chicago Pride Parade

Individual chapters are involved in a variety of activities that require funding.

If you believe in PFLAG, if you've been helped by PFLAG, if you want to partner with an organization that is making a difference in Northern Illinois and beyond, please make a commitment/renew your commitment by mailing a check for \$45 (roughly the cost of ten specialty coffee drinks at Starbucks), payable to PFLAG, to

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

PFLAG needs you. Please become a member today!

Toni Weaver
PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois



What's Happening in Our Chapters?

HINSDALE CHAPTER

By Barb Medley

We had no speaker at our September meeting. We did have three newcomers and were able to devote a full hour of the meeting to helping them, after their private meeting with our greeter. For the first hour of our meeting we had a business discussion and reviewed different positions available to help run our Hinsdale chapter, including an open position for treasurer beginning in January, volunteers to help with meeting setup and clean up, and library cart management. We could use a second speaker coordinator to assist Eileen, who is doing a great job, but one that is time consuming.

We were given an update on 360 Transitions, an organization that is working to provide housing to homeless LGBT young adults. The apartments are located at a complex in Naperville; two apartments currently house four residents, and they are hoping to add another. There has been a great deal of support with an abundance of donations.

Our member, Kristin, had her first roller derby bout in August. She skates with the Aurora 88s! We will once again be filling Holiday Stockings for The Crib of the Night Ministry. We are looking for personal items, including travel size shampoo, soap, and 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. Please bring items to our next two meetings, October 5th and November 2nd. Items will be sorted and we will fill the stockings at our Holiday Pot Luck on December 7th. Our October speaker will be Dr. Bonnie Estensen, psychologist, with Guided Path Psychological Services, who works extensively with members of the GLBT community. She will talk about issues relevant to the community. (My thanks go to Kristin and Jackie for providing this month's report.)

DEERFIELD CHAPTER

By Sue Ginsburg

We were sad to hear that one of our members was moving downstate, especially since she planned for our speakers. We're sorry to see her go.

We were without a speaker for the second month in a row, but we were so very fortunate to welcome three new families to our meeting! Our numbers are growing, which is one of the main objectives of ours this year, and that is very exciting. We had lots of time to welcome these new families and to have really long discussions, especially in our small groups, that hopefully, lent support and answered any questions they might have had.

Another added by product of not having a speaker is that our "old" members have a chance to speak as well, letting us all know how things are going in their lives and the lives of their children. We don't always have that chance and it's not only interesting, but informative as well. For instance, I realized that another member calls her son, as I call my daughter, on the way home from our meeting, to tell her what went on and what's new! I really got a kick out of that. But almost down to the last person, we each believe that just coming to PFLAG has made a huge difference in the relationships we share with our children. And that's very special!

During this month, I had a chance to do some research on finding resources for playgroups for very young children who may be gender non-conforming.

While "Angles" serves junior high aged students, I thought Erschel DeLeon, at Angles might be of help and I was correct. She told me of "Pinwheels", a network of families supporting each other as they recognize their children's non-conformity. http://www.meetup.com/Pinwheels/

Toni Weaver, President of PFLAG N. Illinois Council also suggested Lurie Children's Hospital.

https://www.luriechildrens.org/en-us/careservices/conditions-treatments/genderdevelopment/Pages/index.aspx

We reminded all our members that our October meeting will not meet on the second Thursday, but the second

Wednesday, in October. This is only for October, due to the Jewish holiday of Sukkot and the fact that we meet in a beautiful synagogue. So please, if you are planning on attending, make sure you come on WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8TH, 7:15 pm.



OAK PARK CHAPTER

By Nancy Johnson

Our September speakers will be Dr. Michael Newcomb and Antonia Clifford of IMPACT LGBT Health & Development program at Northwestern University. IMPACT conducts translational research that directly improves the health and of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community, and increases understanding of the development of sexual orientation and gender identity. They develop innovative, evidence-based interventions, collaborating with the LGBT community, and disseminate their findings broadly and in ways that make sense to multiple audiences, including community organizations, parents, and youth.

We will also have nominations for election to the Oak Park PFLAG Board. The election will be held at our October meeting on October 26. Anyone who is currently a paid member of our chapter, **or** who joint during the month of October will be eligible to vote. You may vote in person, or absentee, but not by email. Contact me if you want to vote absentee.



PTI CHICAGOCHAPTER

By Joelle

The members of PTI Chicago Chapter met on Sept. 11 for an evening of conversation, support and sharing ideas. Several new members joined our group, and because we did not have a speaker scheduled, we were free to address questions and concerns that came up during the discussion. Several of the topics discussed included working with elementary school administrators when a transgender child begins attending school in

his/her affirmed gender and how and when some of the members' children first came out. President Arlene Collins informed the group of PFLAG's upcoming workshop on November 8 and has recruited several members to sit on a "Parents of Transgender Individuals" panel. The group discussed a future movie night and several television shows and movies of interest, including Lady Valor, The Out List, Transparent, and Transgender, The Movie.

Our meetings are open to all and we would love for you to join us. We meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7 pm at The Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted. Our next meeting is scheduled for October 9th and our guest speaker will be Antonia Clifford who represents the IMPACT Program whose main focus is the health disparities in Chicago's LGBT youth.



DUPAGE CHAPTER

By John Hickey

Recent Events / School & Community Outreach:

We had a beautiful day for the Chicago AIDS walk. Mary Ann and I walked with Jim and Barbara Levie (from the Deerfield Chapter).

Upcoming Events:

Bullied: Youth Gender and Homophobia Oct 22 4 p.m. \$10.

You are invited to join us as we celebrate West Suburban Senior Services launch as an affiliate of SAGE (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders) on Wednesday October 8th at the Bellwood Senior Center. The party will be from 3-6 PM with a ribbon cutting at 5 PM. Appetizers and refreshments will be served. Please RSVP by Friday October 3rd if you plan to attend. We would love to have you take part in this celebration. For over two years the WSSS LGBT Seniors Program has been working hard toward this goal. WSSS will be only the second SAGE affiliate in Illinois and the fourth in the Midwest, something we are very proud of. Our goal is for WSSS to be a welcoming and affirming space for all seniors regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. SAGE is the country's largest and oldest organization dedicated to improving the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender older adults. Founded in 1978 and headquartered in New York City, 4 SAGE is a national organization that offers supportive services and consumer resources to LGBT older adults and their caregivers, advocates for public policy changes that address the needs of LGBT older people, and provides training for aging providers and LGBT organizations. We are proud to join them.

Kim Calkins program coordinator at the Elmhurst public library is currently planning programs for their winter session and asked if PFALG would be interested in coming out and giving a talk to the community (adults and teens) about PFLAG. We will likely have a number of outreach opportunities.

This weekend marks the third year since the repeal of the military ruling Don't Ask, Don't Tell. The VA is hosting their 3rd annual Do Ask, Do Tell event on October 4th at the Hines VA Hospital. PFLAG will be hosting a table. This is a free event, ideal for Veterans or health care professionals to learn about VA services, LGBT health care, the impact of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" on Service Members, and benefits available to LGBT Veterans. Kristin Beck, author of Warrior Princess and the first Openly Transgender Navy Seal is the keynote speaker. 4 CEs available for CRCC, Social Work and Psychology/4 Contact Hours available for Nursing. Check Open Doors for the flier for this event. If you want to assist with the PFLAG table, please contact Toni Weaver at twweaver@earthlink.net

Youth Outlook is hosting their 7th Annual Dare to Dream Gala on October 10th. Tickets are \$150 per person. Supporting a vital organization in our community.

We plan to provide gift-wrapping at Barnes and Noble in Naperville again this year. It is a great way to increase awareness of PFLAG, get you better know your fellow PFLAG friends and raise a few dollars for the chapter. We have volunteered to cover the following shifts: 10-2 on 11/28 (Black Friday) and 10-2 on Saturday 12/20. Please contact me if you are interested in volunteering to help out. Jthickey1@gmail.com

West Suburban Call to action: Rachelle Hickey, and Margie Tarpey of Naperville formed West Suburban Call to Action last year to work for justice and inclusiveness in the Catholic Church. The group meets at Our Saviour's Evangelical Lutheran Church's Celebration! Community Life Center in Naperville. Roy Bourgeois, a priest who was expelled after participating in the ordination of a woman, will speak to a West Suburban Catholic reform group Sept. 21 in Naperville. 4-6 today. Also related to our July meeting on Faith topic is an upcoming event that Margaret shared with us. "Where there is injustice, silence is complicity" by Roy Bourgeois.

Upcoming Meetings:

October 19 – Antonia Clifford with the IMPACT LGBT Health & Development program at Northwestern University, where we conduct translational research that directly improves the health and of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community, and to increase understanding of the development of sexual orientation and gender identity. We develop innovative, evidence-based interventions, collaborating with the LGBT community, and disseminating our findings broadly and in ways that make sense to multiple audiences, including community organizations, parents, and youth.

November 16- Movie Transgender Lives- Three Years Later

MCHENRY CHAPTER

By Claire Buchanan



A returning member of our chapter graced us with her presence at this month's meeting! Some veteran members recognized the young girl with pleasant magnetism, and others were newly introduced. Katrina spent three years teaching English in Korea and had much to share about her experiences with the culture shock. Now that Katrina is back on U.S. soil, (I couldn't say "home" because I'm sure she is missing Seoul very much) we hope to continue seeing her at upcoming meetings.

Another member traveled to visit her son, her first face-to-face with him since he came out to her. Their time spent together was much needed and wonderful, it seemed as she told the group. She struggled coming to terms with it at first, going through a depression. Change can be astonishing in this world; love is love, no matter what form. Her acceptance is encouraging and authenticates that PFLAG makes a difference.

The majority of the meeting was catching up with our members and reviewing upcoming events. The McHenry chapter is joining in on the fun in Sycamore next month! The pumpkin festival has a wide range of fun activities for all ages and occurs October 22-26th. The parade will be on Sunday and participation is sought after! If you can attend and show your support of PFLAG and our mission, please join us!

LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING

TRANSGENDER DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

I STAND CORRECTED will be on Sunday October 19 at the Oak Park Public Library (www.oppl.org). Oak Park PFLAG and HRC-Chicago are presenting it. The film is about Jennifer Leitham, a transgender woman who is one of the best jazz bass players in the US. It is a wonderful film AND Jennifer will be at the film afterwards for Q&A, and to give us a musical performance! This is an exciting event and I hope everyone can come







Wednesday, Oct. 22, 2014 Noon-4 p.m. Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted

Sponsored by:
Windy City Times,
Chicago House TransWorks,
TransTech and Center on Halsted

Sign Up for the Job Fair Now!

This job fair is a followup event to the Windy City Times LGBTQ Homeless Youth Summit held in May 2014. Many of the youth said they had difficulty in finding jobs that are open to the full expression of their selves. Especially vulnerable are transgender people searching for work. We will invite all members of the community to attend, with a special focus on LGBTQ youth.

We are seeking businesses, nonprofits and schools to participate in this job fair, bringing with them a range of job offerings, from entry-level to more experienced individuals. The fair will run noon-4 p.m., with setup 10 a.m.-11:45 a.m. We will provide 6-foot table and two chairs per booth, plus a black linen.

Company, Nonprofit or School:						
Contac	t person:		Cell:			
Email:						
	_ Business table, \$75	or	_ Nonprofit or Schools table \$50			

Please fax this confirmation to: 773-871-7609, Attention Tracy Baim, or scan and email to: editor@windycitymediagroup.com
Please make checks payable to Chicago House, with JOB FAIR in the memo line. Mail the check to: Chicago House, 1925 N. Clybourn Ave., #401, Chicago, IL 60614, Attention James Henderson.

All money collected will go toward expenses of the job fair.

Any extra funds will be used for job training projects.

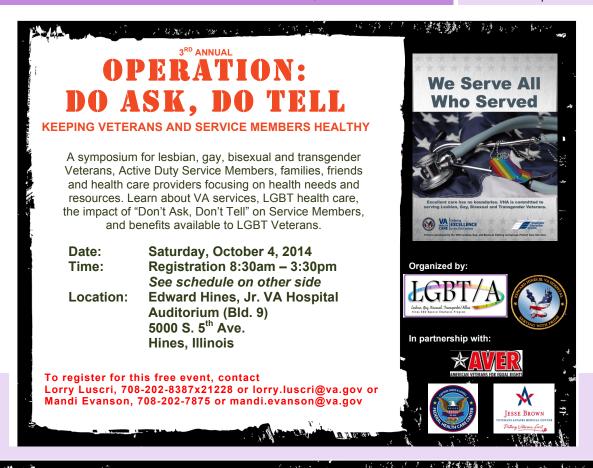


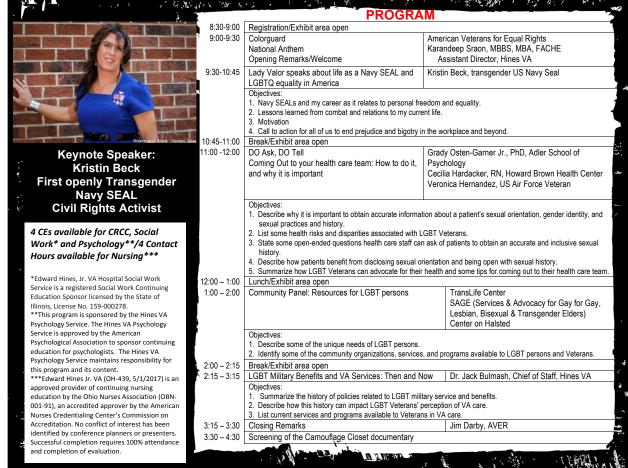














NORTHERN ILLINOIS PFLAG COUNCIL PRESENTS

Building Relationships, Deepening Leadership, and Igniting Passion

The PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois presents this educational forum to address topics of concern to our chapters: how to discuss faith issues, how to work within faith communities to foster conversations about LGBT issues, how to meet the needs of the growing number of parents of transgender individuals coming to our meetings, and how to effectively tell our stories in a way that encourages thoughtful dialogue.

DATE: Saturday, November 8, 2014

TIME: Registration 8:00AM; Program 8:30AM – 4PM; social hour 4-5:30PM

PLACE: Countryside Unitarian Church

1025 N. Smith Road Palatine, IL 60067

Guest Speakers:

Rabbí Davíd Horowitz, President, PFLAG National Jody Huckaby, Executive Director, PFLAG National Rev. Hílary Landau Krivchenia,

Pastor, Countryside Unitarian Church

Workshop cost: \$10 before Oct. 15;

\$15 Oct. 16-Nov. 1.

Deadline for reservations is Nov. 1.

To register on-line, please go to <u>www.pflagillinois.org</u> or complete the attached form and submit it with a check payable to the PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois to Tony Dornacher, 1000 W. Washington Blvd., #314, Chicago, IL 60607 or to your chapter leader.



PROGRAM

8:00-8:30 Check in / coffee / rolls

8:30-12:00

Welcome/Overview of Objectives (Toni Weaver, President, PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois)

Welcome to Countryside Unitarian Church: Pastor Hilary Krivchenia

Rev. Hilary has a unique story to share about growing up with a gay dad who was also a military man.

Getting to Know You! (Gail Hanson, PFLAG DuPage)

Get acquainted with fellow PFLAG members.

Presentation by Rabbi David Horowitz: His passion for PFLAG over his four-year service as National President –

Building Bridges with Faith Communities (Rabbi Horowitz and Rev. Hilary)

This workshop is not intended to be a verse by verse exegesis of the "clobber" passages in the Hebrew and Christian Scriptures but, rather, a presentation of how to work within faith communities to foster acceptance and how to move beyond these verses in a way that will speak to the heart. A list of resources will be provided that cover the scriptural passages most often quoted to condemn LGBT people.

12:00-1:00 Lunch with Discussion



PROGRAM Continued

1:00-4:00

Panel presentation (Chicago Parents of Transgender Individuals (PTI) group)

On what non-PTI PFLAG members need to know/should know about the concerns of parents of transgender, i.e. - how all chapters can welcome these parents and provide resources for them. By understanding how their issues are both the same as and different from the concerns of parents of LGB, we can better serve this growing demographic. Q&A to follow.

Sharing Your Story to Create Change (Jody Huckaby-PFLAG National Executive Director)

One of the core beliefs of PFLAG members everywhere is that when we share our personal stories, we transform discussions from being about abstract rights and laws to being about real people. And while everyone has a story to tell, the question of how to share this story effectively often goes unanswered. This training will help participants identify their personal stories and ways to highlight the most appropriate story for different parts of our lives (e.g., stories for the workplace). They'll learn about the building blocks of great stories, get powerful story-sharing and communications skills, and have an opportunity to try it out in a supportive setting.

Wrap-up

4:00-5:30: Social Hour for those who wish to continue the conversation.



NORTHERN ILLINOIS PFLAG COUNCIL

Workshop Registration Form

Name:			
Address:			
Phone Number:			
E-mail:			
Chapter:			
Dietary Restrictions:			
Will you be staying for the social hour?	Yes	No	

Complete the form and submit it with a check payable to the PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois to Tony Dornacher, 1000 W. Washington Blvd., #314, Chicago, IL 60607 or to your chapter leader.

PFLAG NEEDS YOU!

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

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
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)

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

__ (Name on the Card) (Signature)

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

PLEASE JOIN US AT 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.

PFLAG Hinsdale

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

PFLAG Joliet

Meetings held 3rd Sunday – 2 pm Good Shepard Church & Preschool 25 Alexander Circle, Romeoville pflagjoliet@pflagillinois.org

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