“IT IS SO ORDERED”

These four little words forever changed the face of America as marriage equality became the law of the land! *It is so ordered…*

Same-sex couples in all fifty states will receive the recognition for their relationships that they’ve fought so hard to attain. *It is so ordered…*

Children of same-sex couples can hold their heads a little higher now. *It is so ordered…*

Both parents can have their names on their children’s birth certificates. *It is so ordered…*

Surviving spouses can have their names on their beloveds’ death certificates. *It is so ordered…*

Survival benefits cannot be denied. *It is so ordered…*

Immigration can no longer force same-sex couples to fill out separate forms upon returning to the USA. *It is so ordered…*

Parents in all fifty states can now proudly and legally call their children’s spouses “son-in-law” and “daughter-in-law.” *It is so ordered…*

PFLAG parents can rejoice that, no matter the state, their children can enter into the same union that they enjoy. *It is so ordered…*

**Justice Kennedy:** The Court, in this decision, holds same-sex couples may exercise the fundamental right to marry in all States. It follows that the Court also must hold—and it now does hold—that there is no lawful basis for a State to refuse to recognize a lawful same-sex marriage performed in another State on the ground of its same-sex character.

No union is more profound than marriage, for it embodies the highest ideals of love, fidelity, devotion, sacrifice, and family. In forming a marital union, two people become something greater than once they were. As some of the petitioners in these cases demonstrate, marriage embodies a love that may endure even past death. It would misunderstand these men and women to say they disrespect the idea of marriage. Their plea is that they do respect it, respect it so deeply that they seek to find its fulfillment for themselves. Their hope is not to be condemned to live in loneliness, excluded from one of civilization’s oldest institutions. They ask for equal dignity in the eyes of the law. The Constitution grants them that right.

The judgment of the Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit is reversed.

*It is so ordered*

Toni Weaver
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.

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SHARE WITH US WHAT’S ON YOUR MIND

WHY WE SHOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE DUGGAR FAMILY

The reality TV show on TLC “19 Kids and Counting” has been in the news due to oldest son Josh Duggar having molested five young children (4 of which were his younger sisters) when he was 14-15 years old. At our June meeting I asked if others had been following the story.

“What’s that got to do with LGBTQ concerns?” another member asked.

I explained that Josh Duggar had been appointed Executive Director of the Family Research Council in Washington, D.C. (from which he immediately resigned after the story broke). The FRC is a major conservative Christian political lobbying group that works tirelessly to fight against equal rights for LGBTQ persons. Most, if not all, in our PFLAG circles would agree that many of the messages the FRC spreads are not true and very damaging to those we care about. Michelle Duggar, mother of Josh, made robocalls in Arkansas when the city of Fayetteville was to vote on anti-discrimination legislation for transgender persons, implementing fear tactics about risk of rape by trans women who would be able to use women’s bathrooms if the law passed. (The Duggars do not live within the city limits of Fayetteville.)

The Family Research Council has a Facebook page where you can check out some of their anti-gay posts and lobbying efforts against legislation to protect LGBTQ persons.

Josh Duggar attended a significant political gathering this spring where many GOP presidential candidates were present, and was photographed with many, if not all, of them. In addition to the Duggar family’s political connections, the beliefs and training they implement in their home schooling stem from the Institute of Basic Life Principles headquartered in Hinsdale IL on Ogden Avenue. Over 35 years of rumors about the founder of that group and its training materials culminated in the resignation of said founder, Bill Gothard, in 2014. He had been accused of inappropriate sexual behavior toward many of the young women in his charge some 30 plus years ago, but it was swept under the rug. His brother, however, was forced out for similar reasons many years ago.

A Facebook support group exists called “Recovering Grace” for those who believe they were harmed by the teachings of the IBLP. It is available on Facebook for anyone to view their posts. Their teachings have a not-so-subtle implication that females, no matter the age, are partly to blame for being molested or raped, or even causing men to think lustfully by being improperly dressed.

Because of the Duggar family’s political involvement that works to restrict or eliminate pro-equality legislation, I thought we should be aware of more background information about the Duggar story.

By Nina Carley
Nina is a member of the PFLAG Hinsdale group and is very knowledgeable about extreme religious groups and their activity.

I encourage others to share similar articles and stories.
HINSDALE CHAPTER
By Betsy Johnson

At their June meeting, the Hinsdale Chapter of PFLAG was delighted to experience the dramatic presentation of Bonsai Bermudez, Co-Founder and Executive Artistic Director of the Youth Empowerment Performance Project (YEPP). YEPP’s mission is to seek a safe environment for LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness to explore their history, investigate new ways to address their struggles and celebrate their strengths throughout the process of developing a theatrical performance piece. We viewed a documentary, “Out in the Open: A Story of Urban Triumph,” by April Knell, then Bonsai presented both the trauma and healing process of some of the Chicago-area young adults who have participated in the YEPP program since its birth in 2011.

Bermudez was both informative and inspiring, sharing startling stories and statistics of homeless youth along with the passion of hope and positive outcomes for the young LGBTQ performers. We learned about the many ways we can help sustain the creative and transforming work of YEPP through our attendance at a YEPP performance, through our financial and in-kind donations, and even an opportunity to prepare and share a Family Dinner and converse with the members of the leadership and emerging ensembles on a Tuesday or Friday.

It was a privilege to hear about this important LGBTQ movement, and our chapter would highly encourage other chapters to invite YEPP to present at meetings or participate in some way to support this program of courageous caring. To learn how, go to www.WeSayYEPP.com.

Our July speaker will be Dawn Marie Galtieri, who will speak about OneWheaton, composed of Wheaton College alumni. This group’s mission is the reassure LGBTQ students and their friends that it gets better.

DUPAGE CHAPTER
By John Hickey

Happy Pride Month! I am often reminded of the importance of Allies for any equality movement. I recently watched the powerful movie Selma and saw the brutality of a world without allies and then the power of allies standing in solidarity. We saw the film Milk at the May PFLAG DuPage movie night and saw the power of being out and building allies. This week I saw a short TED talk by teacher and poet Clint Smith entitled The Danger of Silence. I urge you to invest less than 5 minutes of your time to watch this insightful, passionate, poetic and moving piece. Click here: https://www.ted.com/talks/clint_smith_the_danger_of_silence?language=en#t-9059

If this video inspires you to be an ally and use your voice, but you are not sure where to start… consider these resources as a start:

• GLSEN resources http://www.glsen.org/educate/professional-development/toolkits
• HRC Resources http://www.hrc.org/resources/category/allies
• What to say to Homophobic slurs like “That’s so gay” http://gayteens.about.com/od/safetytips/a/thatssogay.htm

I look forward to celebrating Pride and showing support by marching in the Pride Parade and the Wheaton 4th of July parade.

In honor of Father’s Day, the June program for DuPage featured a viewing of “In My Shoes, Stories of Youth With LGBT Parents.” Five young people give us a chance to walk in their shoes - to hear their own views on marriage, making change, and what it means to be a family… If you missed the program, the video can be seen on YouTube at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9xHqT1HEY
Please consider joining us for an upcoming meeting. We welcome new visitors and hope to see you soon.

Our upcoming programs include:

- **July 19**: Viewing of *Silk Road Rising* “The Imam and The Homosexual” with discussion by Jamil Khoury Founding Artistic Director. This is a great example of using the arts to facilitate discussion regarding social issues.
- **Aug 16**: Owen Daniel McCarter esquire from the *Illinois Safe School Alliance* (ISSA). ISSA is a great organization providing support to our youth through their work with school Gay Straight Alliance groups (GSA’s) throughout the state.

**MCHENRY CHAPTER**

*By Toni Weaver*

**May**: Dr. Bonnie Estensen from Guided Path Psychological Services led a discussion leading to a better understanding of bisexuality at our May chapter meeting. Frequently a bisexual person is erroneously deemed to be “straight” when in a relationship with an opposite-sex partner. Another misconception is that bisexual people are “confused” and that, in time, they’ll figure it out. A third notion is that bisexuality is a way to ease the coming out process – an intermediate step in coming out as gay or lesbian. This last one may hold some truth for some people. However, bisexuality is a sexual orientation in its own right. The term is rejected by some who see it as a continuation of the notion that people are either entirely heterosexual or entirely homosexual, recognizing a strictly binary approach to sexual orientation. Those who see sexuality as a more fluid identity might prefer not to use the term bisexual. However, it remains a completely acceptable term and needs to be understood as such.

**June**: Fluidity as it relates to gender orientation was explored at the June chapter meeting. Raina Hodgson, member of both PFLAG McHenry and McHenry PTI, presented on the gender binary. Raina herself is the mother of a child who expresses fluidity, so she brought personal experience to bear upon the discussion. Raina, by the way, was interviewed by Steve Cochran of WGN Radio the Friday before the Chicago Pride Parade. Her interview can be found using this link, beginning at minute 58.


Raina also leads a youth group for transgender teens. It meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month, 7-9PM, at Tree of Life Unitarian Church in McHenry and coincides with the McHenry PTI meeting.

**July**: Antonia Clifford from Northwestern University’s IMPACT program will explain the program and their collaboration with Tree of Life to provide services out here in McHenry County.

PFLAG McHenry marched in the Harvard Milk Days Parade on June 6 and will also march in the Crystal Lake Gala Parade on July 5.

PFLAG McHenry and Tree of Life joined forces to throw a party on June 26 to celebrate the Supreme Court’s ruling on marriage equality. Over 40 people attended. Not bad for such short notice!

**PTI CHICAGO CHAPTER**

*By Arlene Collins/Joelle Speigel*

The Chicago chapter of Parents of Transgender Individuals met on Thursday, June 11 at The Center on Halsted. We were very pleased to welcome Josie Paul as our speaker for the evening. Josie is a licensed clinical social worker and the director of the TransLife Center, a division of the social service agency Chicago House. Josie explained the mission of the TransLife Center, which was established in 2012 to address the growing problem of homelessness among transgender and gender non-conforming individuals of color with HIV and AIDS. Chicago House’s TransLife Center is comprised of five social service initiatives, including housing, legal aid, “trans works”, “trans health”, and “trans safe”, and is the first and most comprehensive provider of trans-specific services in the U.S.

TransLife provides housing and case management.
services at a location in Edgewater for homeless individuals. Free legal aid services include help with name changes; changing the gender marker on identifying documents such as driver’s licenses, state ID’s and passports, and record expungements/sealing. “TransWorks” provides employment and resume coaching; “TransHealth” links clients to medical providers, and “TransSafe” is a drop-in program at The Center on Halsted for individuals needing resources. TransLife does not offer mental health services but can link clients to providers.

After a discussion about how we as parents can be effective allies for the transgender community, the members discussed our participation in the upcoming Pride Parade on June 28, the formation of a parent sub-committee focusing on the families with younger trans children, and the development of RAD Remedy (an online database connecting transgender, gender non-conforming, intersex and queer individuals to medical providers).

Chicago PTI is looking forward to our next meeting on July 9th. Our guest speaker will be Owen Daniel-McCarter, Chicago attorney and an active force in the LGBT community. He is the Policy and Advocacy Director of Illinois Safe Schools Alliance. He has been preparing a Model Policy for the Advocacy of K-12 Rights of Trans Students in Illinois and will talk about that policy.

I would also like to thank a group of parents of trans kids from PTI and elsewhere for creating a Gender Inclusive Schools Parent Group for the benefit of bringing all Illinois schools into alignment when it comes to school policy across the state for K-12 students. Owen Daniel-McCarter of Illinois Safe Schools will be working closely with them. I commend them all and as they work toward this challenging, significant and much needed policy, I know you will support them in their endeavor.

DEERFIELD CHAPTER
By Janet Svatos

Our June Meeting was a celebration of LGBT youth, thanks to the most generous scholarships awarded by Cynthia Drey, past member of PFLAG Deerfield, and President of the Jean Paul Ohadi Foundation, who honors the memory of her son, John Paul, by awarding college scholarships to LGBT seniors in our area who are singled out for their academic accomplishments, extra curricular activities and for volunteering and participating in community oriented activities. Cynthia travels all the way from Texas each year to support the chosen graduating seniors in our area.

There were seven honorees, each receiving $1,000! The schools they attended were Crystal Lake High School, Nobel Street College Preparatory High School, Ottawa Township High School, North Side College Preparatory High School, Mundelein High School, West Carroll High School, and the University of Illinois Chicago College Preparatory High School. We congratulate all seven of these outstanding students and wish them good luck in the future. And most of all we thank Cynthia Drey, once again, for making our June meeting such a warm, happy and joyful experience for all.

Our July meeting shall return to its regular format! See you on July 9th!
A PFLAG MEMBER YOU SHOULD KNOW….
By Marcia Prichason

It was the perfect storm for Lisa Guzman: ending a long-term relationship, graduating from a University where she had been a two-sport athlete, applying for Graduate school, and traveling abroad... everything she identified with as being who she was changed almost overnight. She was no longer student, athlete, or girlfriend, and she felt lost. She needed some real meaning in her life, and in her search, hit upon PFLAG. On a whim, she attended her first meeting in March 2011. It’s been a perfect match ever since.

Lisa relates that joining PFLAG has helped her become a lot more aware of her self-identity; through PFLAG, she has learned more and more about herself and gained self-confidence. She states that “participating in PFLAG has been a critical aspect of my evolution as a person.” But her insight into who she is and where she’s going didn’t happen overnight. As a regular attendee at chapter meetings, she became friends with some of the parents from her chapter, volunteered at the LGBTQ homeless shelter, The Crib, stood out in the rain and sun on Mother’s Day for the PFLAG “Kisses from Mom” event, introduced others to PFLAG, and participated in the Pride Parade. Lisa attributes much of her growth and development to PFLAG, which she enthusiastically calls her second family. But realistically, PFLAG can’t take ALL the credit; She is, after all, an insightful, reflective, and sincere individual who values the contributions of others, listens deeply, and cares about, well, she cares about just about everyone!

Besides being the current Hinsdale PFLAG Chapter President, Lisa, having been introduced to the Open Door Clinic at a PFLAG meeting, first completed her graduate internship with the organization and now works as a medical case manager. The connections she has made since she joined PFLAG have helped her immeasurably, and she is quick to contribute back to the organization with her dedication and positive attitude.

One area of concern for Lisa is that the road to full equality is still not realized. She believes that educating people who are not completely fluent in the importance of equality for all regardless of sexual orientation or identity, religion, race, or disability is critical to our society. She states that, “we must continue to strive in our understanding and acceptance of those who are “different” so that, as a culture, we can grow and move forward.” Both her professional life and her PFLAG life are a testament to how committed she is to achieving that goal.

But, there’s still time for fun in Lisa’s life. She enjoys going out for dinner and drinks, dancing, going to the movies, hanging out with friends and family, and taking road trips. When weather permits, she rides her bike or plays h-o-r-s-e. It’s hard for Lisa to describe what she is most proud of because she is, indeed, a truly humble person. Completing graduate school and becoming president of the Hinsdale PFLAG chapter are important to her. Yet, she states that “having a personal or emotional connection with someone on a more intimate, rather that surface level, is much more valuable to me. To really develop and maintain a bond with someone and be impactful in some way... that makes me feel proud... to know I may have changed someone’s life in a positive way just by being in it.”

If Lisa could change the world, she'd move people in some way that would allow them to become more accepting of and kind to others. She realizes that “that’s vague but purposeful at the same time because I think there’s a variety of ways to impact other people; it’s simply a process to get there.”

The world could definitely benefit from more people like Lisa and, at PFLAG, we count ourselves among those fortunate enough to have her as one of our own.

If you (or someone you know) would like to be featured in “A PFLAG Member You Should Know,” contact Marcia Prichason at mprichas@gmail.com or 708-602-4543.
PRIDE 2015

LOVE wins
To stay updated on what is going on with PFLAG National, check out these links…

Stay current with PFLAG 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

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

LGBTQ MOVIES YOU NEED TO SEE

1. **Out in the Silence** Available at the Oak Park Public Library and some others. We got our (free) copy from PFLAG National along with permission for any public free screening. (Coming out in a small town featuring pair of lesbians, and a gay teenager.)

2. **Dangerous Living** Available at the Oak Park Public Library and some others. (Dangerous to be gay in some other countries)

3. **Screaming Queens** Available at the Oak Park Public Library. (The pre-Stonewall riot in the Tenderloin of San Francisco by trans women and male prostitutes.)

4. **Anyone and Everyone** Available at the Oak Park Public Library. I got a free copy of this at a PFLAG National Convention. The film-maker emailed me that anyone can show it to any audience because she wants it to be seen by everyone. (Parents from a variety of cultures, religions, races speak about their LGBT children.)

5. **Gen Silent** Not at the public library. Go to the website to see how to get a copy to show. http://stumaddux.com/GEN_SILENT.html (About older LGBT people including a transwoman dying of lung cancer.)

6. **Bullied** Available from the Blue Island and Chicago Heights Public Libraries. I got our copy from the Southern Poverty Law Center. http://www.splcenter.org/?ref=logo Click on “Teaching Tolerance.” (Gay teen who was bullied right out of his home and town and his school.)

7. **Getting Out** Not available in the U.S. It was made in Uganda, and can only be played on a computer. (Gays, lesbians and trans people trying to escape the toxic living conditions in their home countries; some escape, some don’t)

8. **No Dumb Questions** Available from the Oak Park Public Library. Also available for purchase. http://www.nodumbquestions.com/ (Three young sisters with their parents ponder how their Uncle is becoming their Aunt)

9. **Just Call Me Kade** Available at the Oak Park Public Library (Trans FTM teen’s family and friends give him lots of love and support.)

10. **Trans** Available at Oak Park Public Library. (A variety of trans people speak of their lives, including a Trans female surgeon who performs sexual reassignment surgeries.)

11. **Brother Outsider** Available at Oak Park Public Library and some others. (Unknown architect of the civil rights movement, gay Bayard Rustin, a hero whose name should be on a street in every town in the U.S.)

12. **Inlaws and Outlaws** Available at the Oak Park Public Library. Kate got our copy for free at a PFLAG National Convention. (Couples of various genders, ethnicities talk about their relationships. A happy, hopeful film.)

13. **Love Free or Die** Available at the Oak Park Public Library and one other. (Gay Bishop Gene Robinson and his struggles with the Episcopal Church.)

Nancy Johnson has these movies in the Oak Park PFLAG collection. Contact her at njj0907@gmail.com
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.org

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.org

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.