



OPEN DOORS

The Newsletter of the Northern Illinois PFLAG Chapters

President's Column

Our Work Must Continue!

Now that marriage equality is the law of the land, it's time for PFLAG to declare itself no longer needed, to shutter up its doors and windows, and to fade into oblivion. NOT!

We are not even remotely finished yet! As long as there's even one parent left who doesn't accept their LGBTQ child, our work must continue. As long as there is still even one church that turns its back on our LGBTQ family, our work must continue. As long as there's even one senator or legislator who wants to write discrimination into law, our work must continue. PFLAG has come a long way, Baby, but it has an even longer road ahead. Our work must continue.

Which brings me to the focus of this month's column...*the Fall Membership Drive*.

We need money to do our work. We have to buy booklets, have brochures printed, pay for the help line, website, and post office box. We have to pay for liability insurance for all the chapters, pay the entrance fee for the Chicago Pride Parade, and pay for the float we ride on. We have to send part of the dues to the national office so that their work can continue, for we rely upon them for training, support, and printed materials. Our chapters need money to cover the cost of the outreach they do. In short, we need YOU to renew your membership or become a member for the very first time.

The basic membership is \$45, and the money is divided like this: \$15 to national, \$10 to council, and \$20 to your chapter. Other possibilities are these:

PFLAG Superhero \$500+
 PFLAG Hero \$250
 Parents Flag Waver \$100
 Supporting Membership \$60

Any amount over \$45 is divided up evenly between the member's chapter and the Council.

It's fast and easy. Simply go to www.pflagillinois.org and click on "GIVE." Select a chapter and then a level of membership. The website will walk you through the process step by step. Another way to join or renew is by filling out the form found in this edition of Open Doors and mailing it to PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois, P.O. Box 734, Elmhurst, IL 60126.

Please don't sit on the sidelines any longer. We need your involvement; we need your commitment to equality; we need your money because...

OUR WORK MUST CONTINUE!

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:

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www.pflagillinois.org
www.pflag.org

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on

facebook

WELCOME New Chapters

The PFLAG Council of Northern IL is pleased to announce that two new Chapters have started in the Chicagoland area. Reaching out into our communities is such an important part of being PFLAG. Please reach out to these new folks and show them what a great community we are!

PFLAG DOWNERS GROVE

First Congregational UCC
1047 Curtiss
Downers Grove, IL 60515

First meeting with be on Wednesday, September 9th at 7 p.m.

PFLAG TINLEY PARK

Zion Lutheran Church
17100 69th Ave.
Tinley Park, IL 60477

2nd Sunday of each month, 2-4 p.m.



AUGUST

What's Happening in Our Chapters?

HINSDALE CHAPTER

By Barb Medley

At our August meeting, we watched "Straight-laced; How Gender's Got Us All Tied Up," a documentary released in 2009 about the lives of 50 different teens and young adults as seen through the gender lens. These individuals discuss their own perceptions, as well as society's ideas and ideals of gender through clothes, sexuality, sports, dance, safety, emotion and more. The film addressed the conceptions of masculinity and femininity of that particular Generation Z. It was fascinating.

The members talked about upcoming events, including the Youth Outlook/LGBTQ picnic on August 22nd, AIDS Walk/Run on September 26, and volunteering for our monthly breakfast service at the Crib. Our September speaker will be Lisa Marco Kouba, who will talk about Tracy Baim's 750 Club and LGBTQ homelessness.



My thanks to Lisa and Jackie for providing this report. I missed the meeting because we attended, along with our son, the "Momosa Brunch" given by Equality Illinois at Sidetrack. It was a fun event; to be honest not a brunch but more like a cocktail party/celebration of the Supreme Court decision on gay marriage. We had mimosas (of course!), Art Smith's fried chicken (delicious) and some great desserts. The guest of honor was Catherine DeOrio, host of channel 11's "Check, Please," along with her mom. She is just lovely and I had a chance to talk with her, and also Charlie Rice Minoso, who attended with his mom. We talked about Equality Illinois and my White Sox idol, his late dad, Minnie Minoso. Charlie told me they hope to make this an annual event.

MCHENRY CHAPTER

By Toni Weaver

Dr. Michael Newcomb from IMPACT at Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine was our featured speaker for August. By providing educational presentations to our membership we find that we're able to draw in faculty and staff from our local high schools, providing them with tools and information that will assist them in working with their LGBTQ students.

While Crystal Lake South High School does not have a GSA, per se, they do have a club, AEVIDUM, which helps to foster a positive and accepting atmosphere on their campus, and our chapter is supporting their endeavors.

Aavidum's goal is to create positive mental health environments where all students feel accepted, appreciated, acknowledged, and cared for in schools and communities across the nation. The word Aavidum, which means, "I've got your back," was created by students in 2004 after one of their classmates died by suicide. The Aavidum message is delivered creatively through a series of student-generated materials, interactive displays, high-energy assemblies, community events, music, artwork, stories, PSAs, etc. At the core of Aavidum is an educational philosophy that empowers students to take responsibility to make a difference. Aavidum students are encouraged to use their gifts and talents and to recognize the gifts and talents of their peers to create cultures of care in advocacy in their schools and communities. In 2009, Aavidum received SADD's National Activity of the Year award, selected from more than 10,000 schools from across the nation. Aavidum has also been recognized by the Pennsylvania Senate, Pennsylvania House, the nation's top mental health experts, the mental health directors of New York and Ohio, and professors at Penn State University, Florida State University, and the University of Maryland.



OAK PARK CHAPTER

By Nancy Johnson

The Oak Park chapter had its combination meeting and potluck at our August meeting. We did have two new visitors for our support meeting.

I know everyone's heard of the BLT, but have you ever had the LGBT? Kate and Phil made sandwiches of lettuce, guacamole, bacon and tomato, and they were delicious. In attendance was an old friend, Fred; originally from the De Kalb chapter years ago, then in our Oak Park chapter till he moved to Chicago.

We're gearing up for our annual Bake Sale at the Farmers Market on September 5. We set up about 6:30 am (groan) but it's worth it for the people we meet and the money we make!

On September 12 we'll have a table at Barrie Fest (<http://www.seopco.org>) a southeast Oak Park community event at Barrie Park. It's always fun, and we get to visit with neighbors we don't usually see.

Our planning is underway for our October 11 screening of **The Year We Thought About Love** at the Oak Park Public Library. A volunteer with HRC Illinois plans to send out a letter asking for donations to help us pay for bringing in 1 or 2 people involved in creating the film.

I now have the DVDs of **A Place in the Middle** (aplaceinthemiddle.org), the Educator's Guide, and handout postcards to be distributed at the October Council meeting.



PTI CHICAGO CHAPTER

By Arlene Collins

The Chicago chapter of Parents of Transgender Individuals met at the Center on Halsted on August 13 for an educational and insightful evening of discussion. Jae Puckett and Kinton Rossman who have been conducting a trans health research study at Northwestern University joined us. The study, entitled "Impact", has collected research on the LGBTQ community for over nine years and disseminates findings to the public through its website (www.impactprogram.org). Of particular note to our discussion about the website are the "Family" section and the results of the trans health study.

Jae and Kinton informed us about the Family section of the Impact website, which offers helpful topics such as a family blog, information on how to be an effective trans ally, and an educational gender identity map. Jae and Kinton then spoke about the findings from Impact's trans health study, which polled 206 respondents of various gender identities

from ages 16-73 years old. The effects of various types of stigma were studied and correlated to mental health outcomes; it was found that experiences of verbal harassment, threats of physical harm, familial rejection and discrimination in access to the appropriate bathroom were connected with higher rates of depression and anxiety among the respondents. Predictors of poor mental health outcomes included high rates of stigma, gender dysphoria and incongruence, internalized transphobia and lack of family support. Generally speaking, the study confirmed that family support is one of the most important buffers against anxiety and depression. Jae and Kinton's presentation led to a group discussion about how parents and families can be strong supports and buffers against stigma for our transgender children.

Our upcoming Sept. 10th PTI meeting at the Center on Halsted, 3656 N. Halsted Ave will start at 7pm. Our guest for the evening will be John Knight of American Civil Liberties Union(ACLU), who will discuss with us the legal rights of our transgender "kids". There will be a question and answer period and then our regular meeting will be held.

John Knight, an attorney with the ACLU, directs litigation in states in the Midwest designed to confront bias and discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons and those affected by HIV and AIDS. He successfully challenged a one of a kind Wisconsin law restricting transgender inmates access to necessary medical care, restrictions on obtaining accurate birth certificates for transgender persons born in Illinois, barriers to gay and transgender persons' ability to preserve their parental rights, among other cases. Mr. Knight speaks frequently in public about LGBT and HIV issues and helps the ACLU with outreach to local, state and federal legislators about issues affecting the LGBT community.

Hope you can attend.

Joelle Spiegel
Arlene Collins



DEERFIELD CHAPTER

By Sue Ginsburg

First, allow me to apologize for neglecting to send in my chapter notes from July! We had a

wonderful speaker, Steven Sondheimer, who is currently a Senior Compliance Analyst for the Chicago Housing Authority in the Housing Rights and Non-Discrimination Dept. Steven has been a board member for Angles, a wonderful organization which supports LGBT youth <http://angles.org>. Steven spoke to us about the differences between the baby boomer "gays" and the "millennial gays." At times it was funny, at times it was eye opening and it was all very informational and interesting. I think we all agreed that 2015 has been a much easier time to "come out."

While we didn't have a speaker in August, we welcomed a new family and devoted our whole meeting to information of upcoming events: The 750 Club, The AIDS Ride and Ally Week <http://www.glsen.org/allyweek/about/>, which is in October.

The interns who worked for Northern Illinois Council from Adler were able to compile a list of the schools, their GSA directors/social workers. It will be our goal this year to contact as many of these schools as possible, to let them know we at PFLAG are here for their support, education and advocacy. Of course, having the extended time to talk to one another, and give support is the cornerstone of what we do and we were happy to have the extended time to do so.

We do have speakers lined up for the next few months, so we'll look forward to seeing you then. Also, please remember that September is Membership month. If you are thinking of joining or want to renew your membership, September will be the month to do so!



DuPage CHAPTER

By John Hickey

As summer draws to a close, our focus moves to the start of a new school year. In that spirit, the program for our August meeting was provided by Owen Daniel McCarter esquire from the [Illinois Safe School Alliance](#) (ISSA). Owen provided us with an insightful presentation on the work done by ISSA

and helped us all to better understand how to create a more transgender inclusive environment. ISSA is a great organization providing support to our youth through work with school Gay Straight Alliance groups (GSA's) throughout the state.

In addition, we had a great summer celebration picnic on August 22 in Naperville with our friends from PFLAG Hinsdale, PFLAG DuPage and Youth Outlook. Special thanks to Carolyn and the team that coordinated this great event!

Looking forward to our meeting on September 20, we are happy to have our friends at the Open Door Clinic come talk with us about the great work and services provided by their organization. Open Door Clinic supports a broad area with locations in Aurora and Elgin. Check out their website at www.OpenDoorClinic.org – including their HIV/AIDS 101 training video.

In addition to our meeting program, please consider joining us in supporting the fight against HIV/AIDS by participating on the Open Door team or donating to the Chicago AIDS walk/run on Sept 26. Register or donate for the Open Door Clinic team at: http://events.aidschicago.org/site/TR/RW/RW15/756599069?pg=team&fr_id=1250&team_id=2332 Use discount code "AIDSRUNWALK2015" for \$10 off registration.

Last, but not least, I hope you are as happy as I am to see the recent surge of information and programming to help the world better understand our transgender loved ones. I expect that this should go a long way to help make this a familiar and comfortable topic for everyone and create truly more inclusive environments in our homes, schools, at work, in places of worship and our communities in general. Please take the time to get more familiar with some of these programs and continue the conversation on why equality and inclusion are so essential to us all.

There is a new movie out now entitled *About Ray* where a teenager transitions from female to male, and his family must come to terms with that fact. The film stars Naomi Watts, Elle Fanning, Susan Sarandon. Get more info or check out the trailer at <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4158624/>

Recently PBS broadcast a new Frontline program entitled *Growing Up Trans* (1:24:12). While the program was originally aired June 30, 2015, you can view it in its entirety at the link below. <http://video.pbs.org/video/2365520005>

In addition, there are a number of other television programs that may be of interest including:

I Am Jazz – On TLC Wednesdays at 9
<http://www.tlc.com/tv-shows/i-am-jazz/>

I am Cait – On E Sundays at 7
http://www.eonline.com/shows/i_am_cait

Becoming Us - On ABC Family Mondays at 9
<http://abcfamily.go.com/shows/becoming-us>

I hope to see you at the PFLAG DuPage meeting on 9/20 or at the AIDS Walk / Run on 9/26.



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

Stay current with PFLAG National: [PFLAG national](http://www.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>.

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

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.