

Monthly  
**Open Doors**

October 2018 | PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois Newsletter



Art by Peter Thaddeus

***PFLAG Conference  
November 10  
Arlington Heights***

***The Power of Positivity: Time to Thrive!***

Don't miss this opportunity for learning, networking and fun! See details on page 3.

Register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-power-of-positivity-time-to-thrive-tickets-50202326510>

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## From the President

### October is LGBTQ+ History Month

Happy [LGBTQ+ History month](#)! October is a great month for reflection, learning and action.

Consider making time to explore LGBT History this month. There are lots of fun ways to learn. Just pick a few to incorporate into your plans for the month.

- Schedule time to visit Boystown in Chicago and experience the Legacy Walk, developed by [The Legacy Project](#), created by [Victor Salvo](#) and his team. As described on their website, The Legacy Project is “The world’s only outdoor museum walk, traveling installation, and youth education program dedicated to combating anti-gay bullying by celebrating LGBT contributions to history.”
- Watch the PBS documentary *Out & Proud in Chicago* (2013- 2:15). Learn about Chicago’s LGBTQ history with host Jane Lynch. Click [here](#) to view the movie on the PBS website. PBS also provides access to many of the [LGBT films and shorts](#) that they showed during Pride month in June.
- There are also many other interesting LGBT documentaries including: [The Out List](#), [Gayby Baby](#), [The New Black](#), and many more available on Netflix. Other streaming services like Amazon Prime provide access to documentaries like [Before Stonewall](#). Of course, many others like [After Stonewall](#) may also be available at your local library to borrow or online for purchase.
- Consider a self-guided tour of some of Chicago’s LGBTQ historic residences and landmarks. Check out the Chicago Welcome Home- [Explore Gay Chicago History](#) website for information on [places to visit](#)- like the Settlement House dedicated to Jane Addams and the women of Hull House, or the home of Henry Gerber, who founded the Society of Human Rights in 1924, the first known gay rights organization in the US.
- Illinois is also home to the first federal monument dedicated to LGBTQ veterans at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood. The Chicago chapter of American Veterans for Equal Rights (AVER) spearheaded the effort which was officially dedicated on Memorial Day in 2015.
- Until I began searching for items to share, I didn’t know that there is a [Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame](#). You may want to check it out.

*Continued on page 3*

## From the New Editor

Dear PFLAG families!

It will be my honor serving as the new Editor of *Open Doors* and keeping it informative, useful, and fun! We owe a debt of gratitude to the outgoing Editor Maureen Goldin for her great work creating this vibrant newsletter over the last six years.

How can a monthly volunteer-produced publication command readers’ attention in the age of social networks and streaming media? *Open Doors* publishes reports about our chapter meetings that keep you informed and engaged even if you can’t attend in person. It aggregates information about local events, calls to action, and other news for our community. I’m planning to enhance our coverage of creative works and accomplishments by local LGBTQ individuals. You will notice more visual content starting with this issue.

Please send me your feedback and anything that you would like to share through *Open Doors*!

**Encourage your LGBTQ family members and friends to email me publication-ready images of artwork, photography, short original stories, essays, poems, and any other creative contents.**

With much optimism,

Andrew Zanevsky  
Editor  
[opendoors@pflagillinois.org](mailto:opendoors@pflagillinois.org)

*Submit art,  
photos, writing,  
poems, reviews!*



## From the President

Continued from page 2

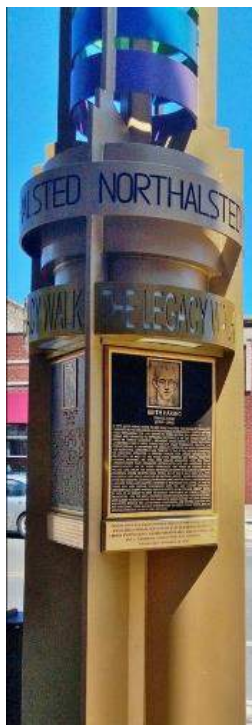
- Consider reading one of the many books written on LGBT or Queer history like [The Right Side of History: 1000 Years of LGBT Activism](#) or the children's books [Gay and Lesbian History for Kids](#).

Remember to also help make LGBT History a routine part of Education. Learn more about the [Inclusive Curriculum](#) bill (SB 3249), initiated by Equality Illinois. The Bill has passed the IL Senate and with your support, may pass the IL House in the Fall session. Click this link to contact your [representative](#) to let them know that you support Inclusive Curriculum.

Last, but not least, October 11<sup>th</sup> is [National Coming Out Day](#). Consider how you might honor or celebrate the day and help increase LGBT awareness and inclusion.

In Love and Solidarity,

John



USING LGBT CONTRIBUTIONS TO WORLD HISTORY AND CULTURE TO COMBAT THE IGNORANCE WHICH FUELS ANTI-GAY BULLYING IN OUR SCHOOLS

Scan this QR code to reach the registration page for the conference or use this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-power-of-positivity-time-to-thrive-tickets-50202326510>



Council of Northern Illinois (PCNI)

# The Power of Positivity Time to Thrive!

2018 PCNI FALL CONFERENCE  
November 10, 2018  
8am-4pm

\$5.00 Registration Fee  
Includes Continental Breakfast & Lunch

Keynote  
"LGBTQIA+ Positivity-  
Moving beyond  
surviving to thriving!"  
Gearah Goldstein  
Founder, Gender Cool Project

Workshop  
"Advocacy & Policy-How  
to Create Change"  
Mike Ziri,  
Director of Policy  
Equality Illinois

Workshop  
"Create Thriving Chapters"  
Jame Curtis  
PFLAG National Director  
of Chapter Engagement

Workshop  
"Impactful Public Speaking"  
Conducted by  
Gearah Goldstein

Panel Discussion  
"Creating Inclusive Middle Schools"

SUPPORT

EDUCATION

ADVOCACY



# Advocacy Matters- Do the Doable Things!

**Commit To Vote on November 6th**



Sign on to the Equality Illinois Commit to Vote initiative. There is so much at stake for LGBTQ Illinoisans on Nov. 6 at the general election. That's why Equality Illinois and our partners are teaming up to **demonstrate the electoral power of LGBTQ equality voters.**

Through the Commit to Vote initiative, we aim to engage LGBTQ equality voters to vote on Nov. 6. Commit to vote today. We won't go back when we vote.

<https://www.equalityillinois.us/2018/08/commit-to-vote-2018/>

## Support Inclusive Curriculum

The Inclusive Curriculum Bill (SB 3249) in Illinois is expected to be brought to vote in the next session this fall. To help ensure we have the support, please join Equality Illinois, the Illinois Safe School Alliance and other PFLAG members in supporting this legislation. Inclusion is essential. All our children deserve to be educated in an environment in which they are seen, affirmed and valued so that they may see a world in which they can thrive.

Let your legislators know how you feel.

Follow this link to send them a note:

<https://www.equalityillinois.us/category/get-involved/find-your-legislator/>

Check the Equality Illinois website for other calls to action:



<https://www.equalityillinois.us/category/get-involved/take-action/>



## Upcoming Events

**October 11<sup>th</sup>, National Coming Out Day- PFLAG Fundraiser** at local California Pizza Kitchen Locations throughout the area. Mention you came to support the PFLAG Fundraiser and a portion of the proceeds will go to support your local PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois Chapters.

*Use the coupon on page 13*



*Look for opportunities to join in a community outreach activity.*

## Pride Films and Plays

Pride Film and Plays turns its attention to Broadway giant Terrence McNally in October, with a full production of IT'S ONLY A PLAY, a staged reading of one of his works never seen in Chicago before DEDICATION OR THE STUFF OF DREAMS, and a staged reading of his classic MOTHERS AND SONS. To complete the series, we are thrilled to present the Chicago premiere of a new feature length documentary TERRENCE McNALLY: Every Stage of Life. The film includes interviews and recollections from man of the Broadway greats who helped sew the quilt of his theatrical masterpieces: Nathan Lane, Edward Albee, Angela Lansbury, F. Murray Abraham, Larry Kramer, Audra McDonald, Edie Falco, Christine Baranski, Patrick Wilson, Billy Porter, and more. His musicals include KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN, RAGTIME, and THE FULL MONTY, and classic plays include MASTER CLASS, CORPUS CHRISTI, and SOME MEN. The McNally Series runs Oct 11 to Nov 11. Find showtimes and information at [www.pridefilmsandplays.com](http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com), or call 773 857 0222.

# Stay Informed, Take Action, Be Heard

These great advocacy organizations that can help you stay informed and take action to help support equality

**PFLAG** <http://www.pflag.org/>

Where we stand: <http://www.pflag.org/wherewestand>

Sign up for Action Alerts: <http://www.pflag.org/stay-informed>

**Equality Illinois** <https://www.equalityillinois.us/>

Sign up to stay informed about issues and special events <https://act.myngp.com/Forms/1071801728988547840>

**Take Action-** This page makes it simple to send your elected officials your feedback <https://www.equalityillinois.us/category/get-involved/take-action/>

**Follow this link and be heard!**

**Thank you, Mike Ziri, and Eq IL**

**HRC** <http://www.hrc.org/>

Local Issues-Illinois <http://www.hrc.org/local-issues/illinois>

Take Action Page [https://takeaction.hrc.org/?\\_ga=2.21348027.1892320809.1530155937-1225694022.1529549016](https://takeaction.hrc.org/?_ga=2.21348027.1892320809.1530155937-1225694022.1529549016)

**ACLU** <https://www.aclu.org/>

LGBTQ+ Rights <https://www.aclu.org/issues/lgbt-rights>  
(enter your email address to stay informed and join their newsletter)

**Southern Poverty Law Center**  
<https://www.splcenter.org/year-i-pledge-be-informed>

The Southern Poverty Law Center is dedicated to fighting hate and bigotry and to seeking justice for the most vulnerable members of our society.



# PFLAG Chapter Opportunities!

We have had a great year in Northern Illinois so far with new chapters starting in Ottawa, Oak Lawn and Grayslake/Round Lake.

**PFLAG Aurora/Fox Valley-** is looking for folks who want to help strengthen the chapter and build on their proud legacy of support for the LGBTQ community and allies in Aurora / Fox Valley. If you are interested in helping make a difference, please contact Carmi Frankovich at [regionaldiva1@yahoo.com](mailto:regionaldiva1@yahoo.com). Special thanks to Carmi for leading the charge with her positive energy.

**PFLAG Chicago Español-** There are preliminary discussions about interest in starting a PFLAG Chapter to primarily support Spanish speaking members. If you have interest in helping form this chapter in Chicago, please contact John Hickey at [info@pflagillinois.org](mailto:info@pflagillinois.org)

**(NEW) PFLAG Chicago / Hyde Park-** There are preliminary discussions about interest in starting a PFLAG Chapter in the Hyde Park area. An informational / planning meeting will be scheduled for the fall. If you have interest in helping form this chapter, please contact John Hickey at [info@pflagillinois.org](mailto:info@pflagillinois.org)

**PFLAG Downers Grove-** Held their final meeting in September with a briefing from Mike Ziri from Equality Illinois. We are grateful to Gloria and her team for their leadership in Downers Grove and all of the support they provided to our community! We look forward to seeing folks from Downers Grove at other local PFLAG Chapter meetings and events!

**PFLAG Romeoville-** Kris and Peter Shulman are looking for interested parties to help start a new in Romeoville to help serve Will County. If you are interested in helping out, please send an email to [PFLAGRomeoville@pflagillinois.org](mailto:PFLAGRomeoville@pflagillinois.org).

Continued on page 6



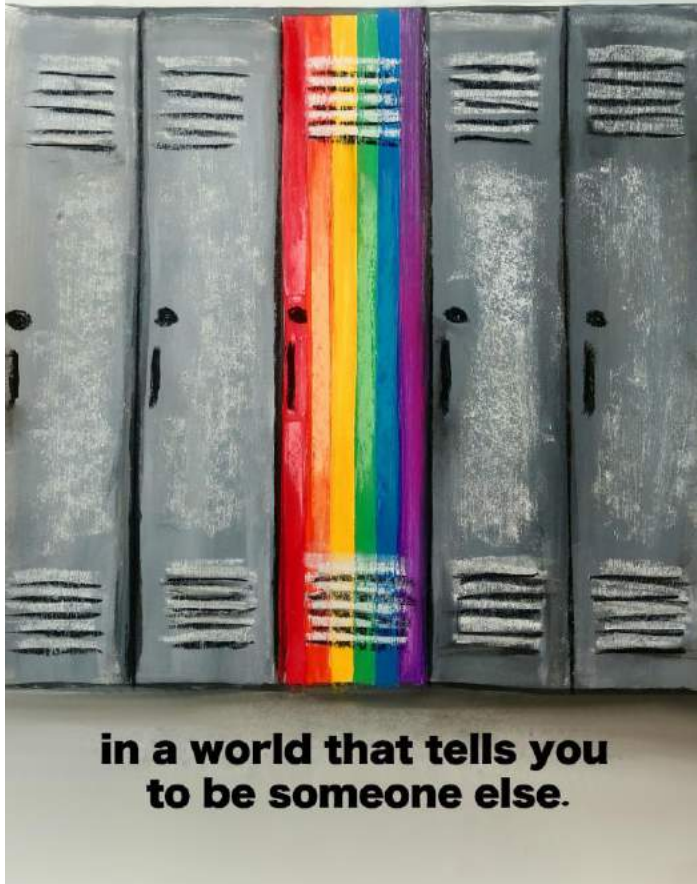
## **PFLAG Chapter Opportunities!**

*Continued from page 5*

**(NEW) PFLAG West Dundee-** There are preliminary discussions about interest in starting a PFLAG Chapter in the West Dundee area. An informational / planning meeting is scheduled for 2 pm on Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at St James' Episcopal Church, located at 516 Washington St, West Dundee, IL 60118. A special thank you for the support of Reverend Donald Frye and Gerry Miles. If you have interest in helping form this chapter, please contact John Hickey at [info@pflagillinois.org](mailto:info@pflagillinois.org)

It is really great to see PFLAG chapters becoming accessible to more families. We would love to see PFLAG more accessible to ALL families. If there is not a PFLAG chapter near you, and you are interested in forming a chapter in your community, please contact John Hickey at [info@PFLAGillinois.com](mailto:info@PFLAGillinois.com)

**Courage  
is being yourself**



*Poster by Peter Thaddeus*

## **News from PFLAG Downers Grove – final meeting**

by Gloria Walsh-Rock

At our September meeting we welcomed Mike Ziri, Director of Public Policy of Equality Illinois. Mike spoke about the Inclusive Curriculum bill currently being debated in the Illinois legislature (SB 3249/HB 5596). He encouraged everyone to reach out to their Illinois representatives to share their stories and the positive impact that the Inclusive Curriculum bill would make on the lives of kids and families like ours. His tips were to think ahead and be prepared to share 2 -3 minutes of our own stories, share the many groups and agencies that support the bill, highlight the bill's bipartisan support, and encourage the rep to vote in favor of the bill in this session. He also encouraged everyone to vote in the upcoming mid-term elections and talked about Equality Illinois' "Commit to Vote" initiative.

Our September meeting was the final meeting of the Downers Grove PFLAG chapter. We have enjoyed meeting together, getting to know one another, and supporting each other over these past three years. Thank you to everyone who has supported our chapter by coming to meetings, giving time, talents, thoughts, and loving support to the families who walked through our doors needing to be heard and understood. We are indebted to you all. Special thanks go out to John Hickey and Toni Weaver, president and past president of PFLAG's Northern Illinois Council, who showed us so much care and support, and to Suellen and Bill Cook, and Eli Bryant, for their constant support of our DG chapter. While the Downers Grove chapter will be closing its doors, we are so grateful that there are many PFLAG chapters nearby, brimming with people ready and waiting to support those who need the love, empathy, and understanding that PFLAG brings.



*Poster by Kaiden*



*Poster by Meagan*



## News from PFLAG McHenry

by Toni Weaver

Mike Ziri, Direct of Public Policy for Equality Illinois, made the arduous journey to McHenry (McHenry – the point just beyond which the earth drops off) to discuss with our membership the Inclusive Curriculum Bill which would provide our LGBTQ+ students in Illinois classrooms the opportunity to learn about people like themselves who have made major contributions to the world in the fields of art, music, science, technology, political science, and on and on and on. If these students are exposed to role models, perhaps their lives will be a little less isolated. The bill has passed in the Illinois Senate but not yet the house.

Equality Illinois is also working hard to get out the vote. Mike brought Equality Illinois' "Commit to Vote" cards for us to sign. If you wish to make this commitment, please visit their website [www.eqil.org](http://www.eqil.org) and click on "Commit to Vote."

Mary Genzler and Julie Suter staffed a PFLAG information table at the "Rainbow Families Storytime" at the Gale Borden Library in Elgin on September 22. From the pictures I'd say they had a great time and were very well received by parents and children alike! Thanks, Mary and Julie!

We'll have another opportunity in October to represent PFLAG. The Cary-Grove High School Theater Department will be presenting The Laramie Project October 11-13. On the 12th, the 20th anniversary of Matthew Shepard's death, the cast will engage the audience in conversation about hate and the effects of hate in our communities.

The focus of our October meeting will be Matthew Shepard and his legacy: where we've been, where we are, and where we hope to be.



**Pictures from the Rainbow Families Storytime event:**

Julie Suter and her dog Coty



Mary Genzler and Julie Suter

*[Editor: Toni's second submission this month isn't chapter news. I have been looking for the right category here and decided that it's educational, as it concerns **Marine Biology**.]*

Tom and I have just returned from a most incredible trip to the Galapagos Islands which are located 600 miles off shore of Ecuador. Since the trip was a NatGeo/Linblad one, there were many researchers and educators on board. One of the researchers just sent me a link to an article in the Yale Scientific Magazine on homosexuality in the animal kingdom: <http://www.yalescientific.org/2012/03/do-animals-exhibit-homosexuality/>

We visited the Charles Darwin Research Station and on exhibit was a now-deceased giant tortoise named Lonesome George. George is on display in a glass case in a darkened room. Only small groups of people are admitted at any one time. Well, our naturalist was explaining to our small group that no matter what anyone did, George would not mate. Female after female was brought to him in captivity, but he wouldn't have any of it. So, in a quiet pause in the presentation, I said, "**Enrique, isn't it obvious? Lonesome George was GAY.**" Our group burst out laughing while poor Enrique just stood there, turning every color of blush you can imagine. (Don't worry. I made up with him later...)

Well, the story got around, so then one of the researchers, Francisco, sent me this article...



## News from PFLAG DuPage

by Bernadette & Ron Whitfield

At our September meeting we were pleased to welcome Robert Fiesler to present his book talk on *Tinderbox: The Untold Story of The Upstairs Lounge Fire and the Rise of Gay Liberation*. Robert took us back to 1973 describing the institutional norms that led to the horrific handling of this tragedy. His presentation was stirring and well received.

While this was an emotionally difficult topic and conversation, it is important to understand our history. Fiesler is a Naperville native so be on the lookout for future appearances at other venues! Interviews are available from news sources online. Most importantly read the book!

An excerpt from the book is here:

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/robertwfiesler/pulse-massacre-upstairs-lounge-lgbt-movement>

A video of a presentation he made in New Orleans is here:

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?447122-1/tinderbox>

Election of officers for 2018-2019 was held. We are grateful for the services of Jo Ann Larsen (Vice-President), Bob Lied (Treasurer), and Lisa Garber (Secretary). They will make our 4th term as Co-Presidents very efficient and enjoyable!

Click [here](#) to tell us that you plan to attend *Love Simon*.

Click [here](#) to sign up for a dish to share!



## News from PFLAG Hinsdale

By Barb Medley

Our September meeting fell on Labor Day weekend, so we viewed the second hour of the PBS program, "Out and Proud in Chicago," followed up by discussion. Our next meeting is October 7<sup>th</sup>. Todd Arkenberg will attend with his partner, Jim. Todd is an award-winning author, and he'll talk about his memoir, *Two Towers*.

We are also beginning our collection for our holiday collection drive to benefit The Crib. We collect travel-size toiletries, gloves, socks and hats, and gift cards, and we'll fill our gift stockings at our holiday pot luck.

### RESOURCES:

Straight Spouse Network (<http://www.straightspouse.org/>) Whether you're married, engaged or dating, when you discover or suspect that your partner isn't straight, this is a good place for help.

The Illinois HIV Integrated Planning Council's (IHIPC) Quarterly Newsletter will be posted on the IDPH IHIPC webpage (<http://dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/hiv-aids/hpg>) shortly

*Conversations With Gay Elders: Kerby Lauderdale*; Legacy Project Hosts Reeling Documentary; Sunday September 23 | 3:15 | Landmark Century Theater;

<https://reelingfilmfestival.tix.com/Event.aspx?EventCode=109091>.

Note: this is only one of many films to be shown during the festival.



### PFLAG DuPage

Movie Night

October 5th

6:30 gathering

7:00 showing

Pot luck

Bring a dish to share

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Fellowship Room

515 S. Wheaton Ave.  
Wheaton, IL 60187





## News from PTI Chicago

by Betty Guilfoile

PTI Chicago hosted speaker LaSaia Wade, Founder and Executive Director of Brave Space Alliance at their September meeting on Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at Center on Halsted in Chicago. Fifteen people were in attendance and had the opportunity to ask questions and learn the advocacy work LaSaia Wade does through her organization. Brave Space Alliance is the first Black-led, trans-led LGBTQ Center located on the South Side of Chicago and designed to create and provide affirming and culturally competent services for the entire LGBTQ community of Chicago.

LaSaia Wade is an open Afro-Puerto Rican indigenous Trans Woman, founder of TNTJ Tennessee Trans Journey Project, and member of Chicago Trans Gender Nonconforming Collective and the Trans Liberation Collective, and Director of Brave Space Alliance. Recently, she was honored at the Chicago LGBTQ Black History Recognitions ceremony and is the first Trans woman in Illinois History to be honored in Women's History month for the work she's doing not limited to community organizing. Her role in organizing ranges between and beyond as a central organizer for the Trans Liberation Protest Chicago, the largest march for trans rights in Midwestern history and being the Chicago chapter Mother for the House of Lauren. LaSaia graduated in 2010 with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Business Management from Murfreesboro Tennessee State University, has 10+ years of experience in organizing and advocacy work with black, indigenous, trans and gender nonconforming people around the world. She is the business owner of Mystical Bee Hive, and facilitates training across the U.S.



Graphic design by Bob Chikos, PTI McHenry



## MOVIE REVIEW

### Ms. Swan & New Horror Film *Extremity*

by Shelly Van Derveer

As a longtime fan of scary movies, I would already be looking forward to watching a film about an 'extreme haunt' this season (think October haunted houses but underground and likely that a movie character might not survive till the end). But then my excitement was further enhanced by my favorite YouTube horror movie reviewer (Spooky Astronauts) posting the trailer and saying, "I like the look of this one!!" in reference to this movie, called *Extremity*. Then, even more exciting, add that I met the author of the source material and associate producer, Rebecca Swan, on social media awhile back.

Instagram has offered a wealth of support for members of the LGBTQ+ community, particularly for transgender individuals such as both my son and my wife-- and Rebecca Swan. Rebecca is a transgender woman sharing her journey. She posts moments of her life ranging from lovely photos of her authentic self to those times all trans people struggle with, to making light of challenges: "Took my daughter to dinner tonight. Got called 'sir'. Felt like crying. Pulled myself together. Ate too much food. The end."

It is so extra-special to be able to watch successes of the people I've gotten to know in our LGBTQ+ community. I admire individuals like my wife and Rebecca Swan who went through the challenge of transitioning in adulthood and mid-career. They persevere and keep doing what they love despite the added challenges they face compared to their peers.

*Extremity* was released in select theaters late September and on Video On Demand and BluRay starting October 2nd. Rebecca has been in the film industry for a number of years, and this is her first theatrical feature. It is directed by Anthony DiBlasi, who made the much-respected horror movie *Last Shift*.

"Took my daughter to  
dinner tonight. Got called  
'sir'. Felt like crying.  
Pulled myself together.  
Ate too much food.  
The end."

## News from PFLAG Deerfield

by Jim Levie

PFLAG Deerfield had its September meeting on Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. It was a very interesting and well attended meeting, with around 35 participants. This month our speaker, or rather speakers, were from the story-telling group Outspoken. They normally tell their stories once a month at Sidetrack, a popular bar in Boystown, and we were very appreciative that they made the 23-mile trek to Deerfield. In addition to the five speakers, who each spoke for around ten minutes, they brought a large contingent of friends and supporters. Here is a summary of the very interesting and poignant stories that they told:

Kim Hunt told us about her very long coming out story. She has three children from her 10-year marriage to a man. She had a wonderful life, but over many years and some random encounters with other women, she came to the realization that the attraction she had felt to women in her younger years was real. She eventually got divorced and is now married to a wonderful woman.

Robert Klein talked about body image, an LGBT issue that we were not really aware of. It is apparently common to refer to someone's body image as that of an animal. Robert joked that he has been referred to as a platypus. He told us of his inspirational journey from being a lonely, friendless, 500-pound teenager to a good-looking, confident adult, all because of a simple act of kindness.

Lindsay Eanet also spoke about body image and the issues she faced due to her struggle with psoriasis, which is a skin disease that can be treated but not cured. She felt better about herself after finding out that Kim Kardashian has psoriasis.

Mitch Hagan told us of his heartbreaking and very inspiring struggle with being bipolar (or as he likes to put it, "he has bipolar"). He lost his 30s to mind-numbing medication, and eventually decided to get off the medication. He is now able to manage himself when he feels a large mood swing coming on. He

spoke of a nasty person who used to say "dude, don't go bipolar on me", and how the person apologized when they encountered each other many years later when he told Mitch that his wife was bipolar.

Steve Goldberg spoke of gay life in the 1980s, when many of his friends died of AIDS, and it was nearly impossible to go on a gay-friendly trip. He is now a travel agent, and the

LGBT community has come so far since the 1980s that there is no problem in organizing gay-friendly trips.



*From left to right: Ron Elkius, Steve Goldberg, Kim Hunt, Mitch Hagan, Lindsay Eanet, Robert Klein, and curator David Fink.*

### Other news:

Barbara discussed our upcoming annual membership drive, and the importance of being a member for both supporting our activities and to show strength in numbers in order to provide PFLAG a strong voice for our advocacy efforts.

Buffalo Grove, one of the villages bordering on Deerfield, will be having its first ever pride parade next summer. Contact BG Pride at [thepintaprideproject@gmail.com](mailto:thepintaprideproject@gmail.com) or find them at "BG Pride 2019" on Facebook for more information.



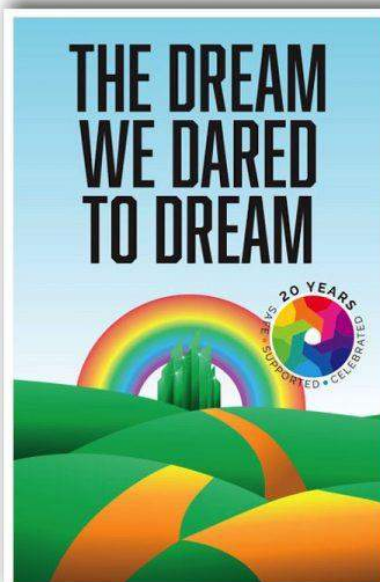


## ***Peter Thaddeus***

Peter Thaddeus is a professional artist who is running the Naperville Tuesday night program at [Youth Outlook](#). He supplements discussions with art/creative projects to add fun and interaction to group. The youth are creating something meaningful out of clay, paint, paper, sand, markers, or a variety of other fun vehicles of artistic expression.

Enjoy Peter's works above and on pages 1 and 6. Two anti-bullying posters by his Youth Outlook students are also on page 6.

Find other Peter's works at [www.thaddeusart.com](http://www.thaddeusart.com) or Instagram @thaddeus\_art. He has a "Pride" page devoted to the community.



***Dare to Dream: the youth are making Emerald City centerpieces for the event!***



## ***Death to Pronouns***

by Jen May, from her book *Battle Cry* (available on Amazon)

August heat. My child tried to die.  
She took a bottleful of pills to sleep forever, but I found him.  
It's so hot in here. Hospital blankets fleece or cotton?  
Blue or pink stocking hat?  
When we found her. When I found him.

Little girl, we had hoped to dress you for prom and braid your hair,  
we tried to make you cut papery hearts and glue glitter surprises.  
Maybe someday she'll even ring her finger like little chime bells  
and blush powder will dust the sinktop.

Instead, you relished lining up  
plastic animals in epic battles on the rug  
and they fought  
bloody soaking  
wrenching wars. Slashing violence of claw and tooth.

My HES and SHES -- so jumbled together, but  
they are as distinctly separate  
as His and Hers public restrooms.  
Or shoes. Heels or wingtips?

Warmer. Warmer. This was no hide-and-seek.  
But it's life or death.

I found him. And her pulse had cooled.  
When I found her  
she wouldn't wake up and  
I drove to the ER, feeling long ago  
birthpains.

Close sweaty, hot smelly summer night. She did not die.  
But he was born.

I watch his posture -- now,  
he's walking manlike.  
His voice deep.  
His chin angles  
strong and hard.

Laugh mighty big and lumber. Come, let me look closer.

There is no great change here.  
Only an establishment of truth.  
Like storm-front cold wind flushing  
the medicines and blowing freedom.

I love your form and soul and self, my boy.  
I found you. Now we live.

## ***Theatre***

In October 1998 Matthew Shepard, an openly gay college student, was kidnapped, severely beaten, tied to a fence, and left to die on the outskirts of Laramie, Wyoming. Five weeks later, Moisés Kaufman and fellow members of the Tectonic Theater Project went to Laramie, and over the course of the next year, conducted more than 200 interviews with people of the town. From these interviews they wrote the play “**The Laramie Project**”, a chronicle of the life of the town of Laramie in the year after the murder. The North Central College (Naperville) Theatre Department produced this play on the 10th anniversary of Matt’s death, and this October will mark the 20th Anniversary. The department will continue producing this play every 10 years until we no longer have to. The performance runs October 4-7. Tickets can be reserved at [https://northcentral.vbotickets.com/event/The\\_Laramie\\_Project/28213](https://northcentral.vbotickets.com/event/The_Laramie_Project/28213)

## ***Trans cartoonists in Chicago : Ash Barker and Sophie Labelle!***

Monday, October 1, 2018 at 7 PM – 9 PM

Early to Bed  
5044 N Clark St  
Chicago, IL 60640

Sophie Labelle is the author of **Assigned Male** comics:  
<https://www.facebook.com/assignedmale/>

Ash Barker is the author of **Fake Gamer Girl** comics: <http://fakegamergirlcomics.com/>



# Pizza with a purpose

Bring in this flyer, present it to your server and we'll donate 20% of your check to the organization listed below. Purchases include dine-in, takeout, catering and all beverages.

**Fundraiser in support of:  
Northern Illinois PFLAG**  
Thursday, October 11, 2018  
(All Day)

**Valid at the following locations:  
California Pizza Kitchen**

**Arlington Heights**  
3 S. Evergreen Avenue  
Arlington Town Square

**Chicago**  
52 E. Ohio Street  
River North

**Deer Park**  
20502 N. Rand Road  
Deer Park Town Center

**Geneva**  
1202 Commons Drive  
Geneva Commons

**Warrenville**  
28258 Diehl Road  
Cantera

**Northbrook**  
1515 Lake Cook Road  
Northbrook Court

**Oak Brook**  
551 Oakbrook Center  
Oakbrook Center

**Schaumburg**  
1550 E. Golf Road  
Woodfield Village Green

**Skokie**  
4999 Old Orchard Road, Ste. G-2  
Old Orchard Mall



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Fundraiser offer valid only on the date(s) and at the CPK location identified on the flyer. Only 501c organizations and non-profit schools are eligible to participate in CPK's fundraiser program. CPK will donate 20% (twenty percent) of all food and beverage sales to the organization. Tax, gratuity, gift card and retail sales are excluded from the donation. Offer valid for dine-in, takeout, online, catering, curbside or delivery orders placed directly with CPK. Not valid for third-party delivery. Offer void if flyer is distributed in or near restaurant. For more information about the 501c organization participating in the fundraiser, please contact the organization directly.



# PFLAG Northern Illinois Chapters

