



Rainbow Unicorn
by Peter Thaddeus
see pages 14-16

April 2019 | PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois Newsletter

opendoors@pflagillinois.org

Monthly Open Doors



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President's Column

Support LGBTQ+ Youth

Having a safe, inclusive and affirming learning environment is vital to the success of all students and remains a key PFLAG initiative. My wife and I recently attended a GSA meeting at Crone Middle School in Naperville where the students are planning to raise awareness by participating in the "Day of Silence". Every April on the Day of Silence, students across the country engage in silent protest to call attention to the silencing and erasure of LGBTQ people in schools. I applaud the actions of these students and those who support them. There are a growing number of [GSAs](#) in our schools making a difference. This week, along with PFLAG leaders from DuPage and Oak Park, I plan to attend an LGBTQ+ resource fair at Dominican University that is organized by their LGBTQ and ally student club "Common Ground". These students inspire me and remind me that there are things we can all do to support building more inclusive and affirming schools. We can all seek to do the doable things that contribute to a positive impact.

Here are some items for your consideration...

Adopt inclusive and affirming language.

Use inclusive and gender neutral language. Read [Inclusive Language in Four Easy Steps](#) or [Gender-Inclusive Guidelines](#) or [Gender-neutral language isn't new, so why the fuss over using 'they'?](#)

Encourage youth engagement in the community including:

- Join or start a [GSA](#) at school
- Support [Day of Silence](#) - **April 12th 2019** and [Ally Week](#) in the Fall.
- Participate in [youth organizing](#) and leadership development.



- College students can attend the [MBLGTACC College Conference](#)- Feb 14-15, 2020 Kalamazoo Michigan.

Volunteer

Contact your local school GSA advisors and offer to talk and share your story at a school event. Help host a PFLAG informational table. We could use volunteers to help host a table at Oakton Community College's Pride College and Resource Fair April 17 5-8 pm. Contact John at info@pflagillinois.org to volunteer. https://www.oakton.edu/newsevents/events/pride_college_fair.php

Continue to learn and grow.

Attend a local [PFLAG meeting](#). Attend the [PFLAG National Convention](#) October 25-27, 2019 in Kansas City, MO

Donate / Support organizations who support our children: [PFLAG National](#) , [PFLAG Northern Illinois Council](#) or your local Chapter, [Illinois Safe Schools Alliance](#), [GLSEN](#), [360 Youth Services](#), [Youth Outlook](#) or another organization that appeals to you.

Of course, there is much, much more. Share your ideas.

Supporting our youth is supporting our future.

In Love and Solidarity,

John



WE ARE THE CHANGE 2019 PFLAG NATIONAL CONVENTION

October 25 - 27, 2019
Kansas City, Missouri
#wearethechange19

Registration is now open for the 2019 PFLAG National Convention! Join PFLAG members and supporters from across the country at the Kansas City Marriott Downtown from October 25 – 27, 2019 for two full days of skill building, networking, and preparing for 2020.

Visit <https://pflag.org/2019nationalconvention> to register and to learn more.

PFLAG Council offers Scholarships for the National Convention

Deadline for scholarship application extended to April 18, 2019.

In an effort to encourage participation, The PFLAG Council is offering scholarships of \$225 each to up to 5 members of PCNI chapters in good standing who will attend the 2019 PFLAG National Convention in Kansas City, MO in

October 2019. Recipients must register for the conference by April 18th and must commit to write about their convention experience for publication in Open Doors.

[Click here to register at Eventbrite](#) to apply for the scholarship.

If more than 5 people apply for scholarships, then 5 recipients will be determined by a random drawing. All members can apply. However, the scholarship awards are limited to one per PFLAG family membership.

If you are not already a PFLAG member, be sure to [join PFLAG now](#) to be eligible for the scholarship and to get the member discount pricing.

Shop using Amazon Smile and support The PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois
Click [here](#).

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.



PFLAG Chapter Opportunities!

We start 2019 with some positive initiatives for growth in Northern Illinois. If you or someone you know is interested in getting more involved, please reach out to one of the folks listed below.

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 PFLAGaurorafoxvalley@pflagillinois.org. 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

PFLAG Chicago / Hyde Park- There are preliminary discussions about interest in starting a PFLAG Chapter in the Hyde Park area. If you have interest in helping form this chapter, please contact John Hickey at info@pflagillinois.org

PFLAG Romeoville- Kris and Peter Shulman are looking for interested parties to help start a new in Romeoville to help serve Will County. They are currently in search of a facility for their meetings. If you are interested in helping out please send an email to PFLAGromeoville@pflagillinois.org .

PFLAG West Dundee- There is a small core of folks looking to add volunteers to help start a PFLAG chapter to meet at St James' Episcopal Church, located at 516 Washington St, West Dundee, IL 60118. Thank you Sharon for leading this initiative. If you have interest in helping form this chapter, please contact Sharon Fu at PFLAGwestdundee@pflagillinois.org or attend the planning meetings being held on the second Sunday each month at 1:30 pm.

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

Get Involved / Upcoming events

- Mother's Day Fundraiser- See the write up in this edition of Open Doors and Contact Marcia to volunteer.
- Oakton Community College Pride College and Resource Fair- April 17 5-8 pm. Contact John at info@pflagillinois.org to volunteer to host our PFLAG information table.

From PFLAG National

TAKE ACTION

Right now, there is no more important piece of advocacy action than [the Equality Act](#). From the PFLAG National board issuing a resolution in support (both in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)), to leaders from every chapter being asked to endorse this life-saving legislation, PFLAG is ALL IN for equality.

Now we need YOU to step up and say **#EqualityStartsWithMe**. Here's how:

- **Sign on to endorse the Equality Act.** Visit pflag.org/equalitystartswithme, right now, to sign on to personally endorse the Equality Act, and also share your story of why the Equality Act is crucial for you and your family.
- **Get ready to Advocate...and advocate.** Whether Big A Advocacy lobbying legislators or small a advocacy talking to friends and neighbors, sharing your story and why the Equality Act will help protect your LGBTQ+ loved ones is crucial. We have [a set of FAQs](#) and [Talking Points](#) ready to help guide you!
- **Follow us on social media.** Make sure you [like us on Facebook](#), [follow us on Twitter](#), and [follow us on Instagram](#). Over the weeks and months ahead we'll be sharing up-to-date news, as well as creating Equality Act materials to share with the hashtag, **#EqualityStartsWithMe**.



From PFLAG National (continued)

Court Matters

Federal judge in DC upholds injunction that prohibits trans military ban. U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly in Washington, DC ruled on March 19th that the federal government cannot implement the policy to ban transgender servicemembers and that her ruling would remain in effect at least until March 29th. Stay tuned to PFLAG media channels as this progresses.

Illinois State Matters

Illinois House votes to require LGBT history course. Lawmakers in the House of Representatives voted on March 20th to approve a curriculum requiring primary school textbooks (K-12) to include LGBTQ people in U.S and state history.

Media Matters

The nation's second-biggest Protestant denomination threatens to divide over sex and marriage. United Methodists have gathered more than 850 delegates from around the world to try to resolve a fundamental debate that could lead to a split within the United States' second-biggest Protestant denomination: whether to accept same-sex marriage and LGBTQ clergy. [Read this statement from PFLAG National, from Aya Yabe, a PFLAG mom who is also a longtime member of the UMC church.](#)

'Rafiki', a movie premised on a love story between two women may be banned in Kenya, but it is receiving accolades from movie lovers abroad.

Kenyan actress Samantha Mugatsia was named the best actress at Africa's biggest film festival for her lead role in the movie. Mugatsia, who played the lesbian character Kena, won the award at the Fespaco Film Festival in Burkina Faso.

One of India's first LGBTI-themed feature-length films, Evening Shadows, is now streaming on Netflix. Evening Shadows tells the story of a young man coming out to his mother in a small town in southern India. Directed by Sridhar Rangayan, Evening Shadows" became the first LGBTI-themed movie released in theaters following decriminalization of same-sex relations.

Deaf, genderqueer actor Chella Man lands role on DC's 'Titans'. Jericho is the son of villain Deathstroke, played by Esai Morales in the series. After Jericho's vocal cords are severed during his kidnapping, he communicates through sign language and can control people's bodies and voices through eye contact.

A group of wonderful filmmakers are making their content available on a sliding scale to PFLAG chapters for their Transgender Day of Visibility activities this year:

The Most Dangerous Year: Washington state-based filmmaker--and PFLAGer--Vlada Knowlton has created a much-awarded and must-see documentary about a small group of families with transgender kids who embarked on an uncharted journey of fighting for their children's lives and futures. Watch the trailer--and schedule your own screening--at the link.

America In Transition: Recently highlighted in the January 31st issue of The PFLAG Voice, this is a trans-led documentary series exploring relationships, family, and social issues with trans people of color. Watch the trailer--and schedule your own screening--at the link.

Becoming More Visible: Filmmaker Pamela French shines a humanizing light on the stories of four fearless transgender young adults, showcasing the crucial importance of having a steady support system--like PFLAG. Watch the trailer--and schedule your own screening--at the link.



News from PFLAG McHenry

by Raina Hodgson and Toni Weaver

Our March meeting was all **fun and games**. Three teams competed in a family-feud style game with categories ranging from “Things you see at a same-sex wedding” (top answer - friends) to “favorite candy bars of LGBTQ+ people” (top answer - Snickers) and “most LGBTQ+ friendly cities in the US.” (top answer Sweden) Interesting response...!

The categories and survey responses were created by Tree of Life’s LGBTQ+ teen social group that meets at the same time as the McHenry County PTI group.

Among the new attendees of the evening were 2 people from Woodstock Pride, a relatively new LGBTQ+ group. They shared some information about events and activities they are planning to celebrate Pride on the Woodstock Square in June. Several members of our chapter are planning to participate.

We ended the evening with snacks and conversation.

We are all very excited as we anticipate the April meeting of PFLAG McHenry. **Shelley Fisher, Ph.D.**, will be discussing the research she did for her dissertation, the title of which is **"What about the parents? Exploring the experiences of parents of transgender adolescents regarding their interactions with their child's school: A qualitative, phenomenological study."**

Dr. Fisher, a social worker at Cary Grove High School, recently completed all degree requirements for her Ph.D. We'd like to invite all interested persons to attend our chapter meeting on Tuesday, April 9, 7-9 PM, at Tree of Life UUC, 5603 Bull Valley Rd., in McHenry.

Other April events:

- 4/4 Lake Forest College Annual Drag Show, 7-10 PM at the Mohr Student Center
- 4/12 Dundee Crown HS Activism Fair, 7:30 AM-12:45 PM. We will staff a resource table.
- 4/26 McHenry County College's Annual Drag Show Doors open at 6:30 PM; show begins at 7

News from PFLAG Oak Park

by Nancy Johnson

We had expected Kate Reading of Scout for All to be our speaker in February. Unfortunately, she got the flu and was unable to be there. She's been rescheduled for April.

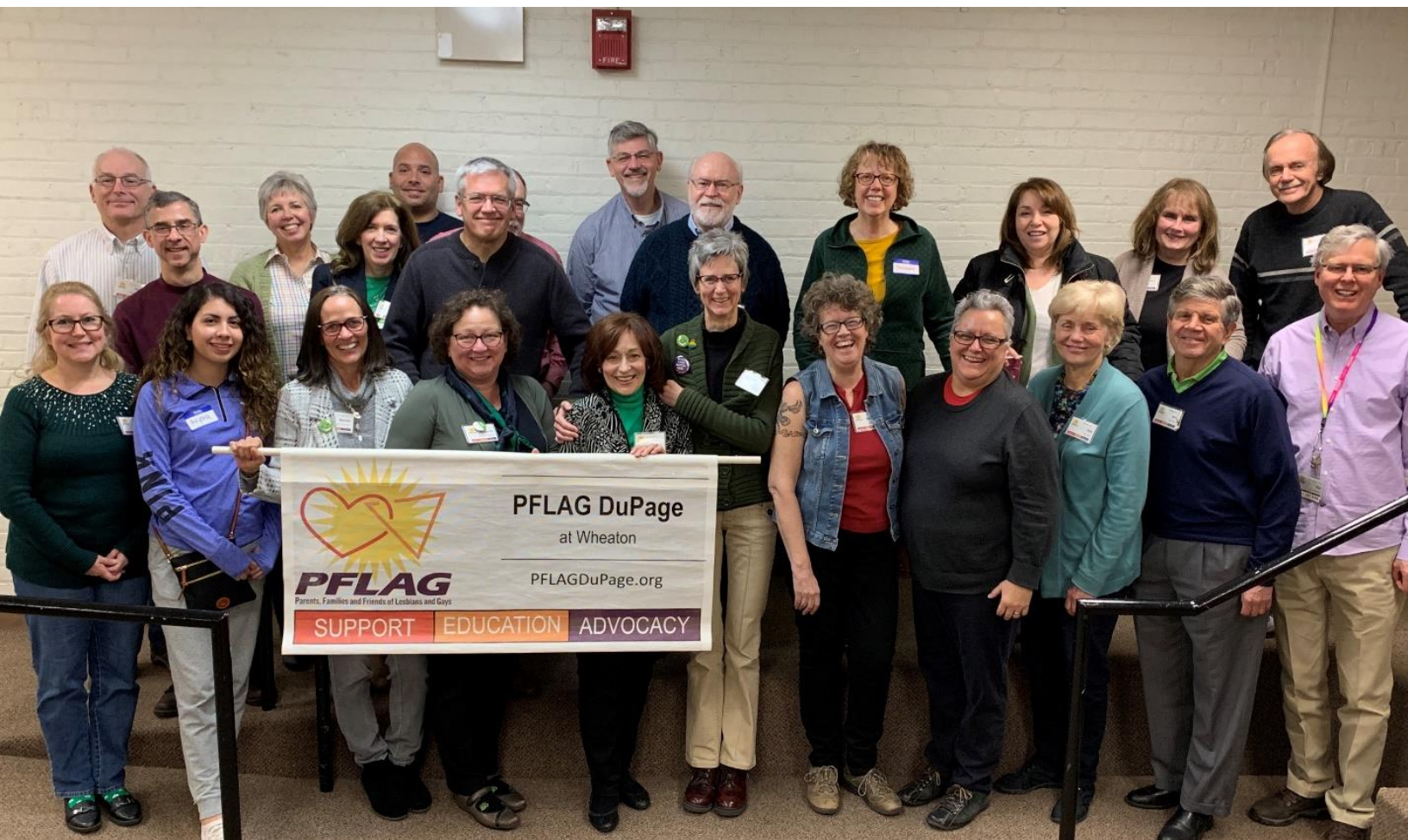
At our March meeting yesterday, we had Nick Heap from Oak Park **Our Whole Lives** (OWL) as our speaker. OWL is a sex education curriculum which originated with the Unitarian church and the United Church of Christ. There are 3 curricula: K-2nd grade, 4-6th, and 7-9. Nick explained the philosophy of OWL. "The program gives clear messages about the following key sexuality issues: self-worth, sexual health, responsibility, justice and inclusivity. Touching on all the issues is values. Currently Nick is a facilitator for the 7-9th grade students.

The parents are introduced to OWL pretty much the same way Nick presented the program to us. He included an activity in which we each drew slip of paper with something written on each one. For example: circumcision, man wearing a dress and high heels, holding hands. We discussed for each one where they fit on the curriculum (some in multiple categories.)

The students may write an anonymous question on an index card, and the facilitators will answer each question at the next meeting. They are encouraged to ask questions and the facilitators give them the best most accurate answer they can, using appropriate terms for acts and body parts. One example of a question: "If 2 guys cum in a girl, can she get pregnant by both guys?"

OWL is a 100% volunteer organization. Their website is www.opowl.org. Nick's email address is neheap@gmail.com. We really enjoyed his presentation. We urge you to contact him to speak at your chapters.





PFLAG DuPage group photo with Cec Hardacker of Howard Brown Health in Chicago

News from PFLAG DuPage

by Bernadette & Ron Whitfield

We had another wonderful meeting in March! A large number of enthusiastic attendees welcomed our guest speaker Cec Hardacker of Howard Brown Health in Chicago. Cec is Director of Education, Nurses' Health Education About LGBT Elders (HEALE). There is a critical shortage of gerontological nurses who specialize in LGBTQ aging issues. Accredited schools of nursing have no requirement to explore LGBTQ health disparities. But, Howard Brown once again is leading the field and Cec told us all about it.

Howard Brown Health is a lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer organization based in Chicago. It was founded as a healthcare provider, and now provides health and social services in several locations in the Chicago area. You can learn more about Howard Brown and its services at <https://howardbrown.org/>.

We also gave a warm PFLAG DuPage welcome to 6 new families (10 people).

Important dates coming up in the near future:

Sunday, March 31 at 2 PM, St. Paul Lutheran Church -- A free showing of "Becoming More Visible"; for more information and to register, see <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/becoming-more-visible-free-film-screening-tickets-57232377582>.

Sunday, May 5 at 11 AM -- International Family Equality Day at the Chicago Children's Museum. This is a fun event. Due to scheduling conflicts, we would really welcome a few extra hands to talk with visitors and help children with our safety pin craft. Please let us know if you can join us! Just email us at BandR.PFLAG@gmail.com.



News from PFLAG Hinsdale

by Suellen Cook

The PFLAG Hinsdale Chapter appreciated the presentation by Rev. Michael Jones of St. Johns United Church of Christ (UCC) of Arlington Heights, IL at the March 2019 Chapter meeting. Rev. Jones shared his perspective on how to create a welcoming space for the LGBTQIA+ community with a faith-based organization and also how to reconcile with friends and family who may express religious objections. He explained the UCC church is a progressive denomination. Each congregation is made up of people from different walks of life and viewpoints; thus, there is a spectrum of acceptance towards the LGBTQIA+ community by UCC churches in the Chicagoland area. The UCC church structure is congregational, and he explained the first openly gay minister was ordained by the UCC in the 1970s.

Rev. Jones provided some of the following examples on how religious communities can be more open and affirming to the LGBTQIA+ community:

- Study and choose to make the statement that your congregation is open and affirming, and place a rainbow banner or rainbow symbol on the building and/or in your online presence to be clear about who the church is and who is welcomed. Remember, just putting out a rainbow flag or saying you are open and affirming can be hurtful if it's not reflected in who you really are as a congregation.
- Welcome all people!
- Be mindful in using inclusive language in sermons, children's sermons, communication via bulletins and your online presence.
- Treat people equally.
- Seek out resources from denominations and ask for those resources.
- Realize family and friends may have different viewpoints. Be discerning and in tune with where your family members are on their personal journey.
- Appreciate the best way to change minds and hearts is to be in relationship with others.

- Grasp the need to break with a religious community if others in that community are hurting you, your partner and/or loved ones.

Our April speaker is LaSaia Wade. She's the founder and executive director of **Brave Space Alliance**. She does advocacy work for this organization, which is the first Black-led, trans-led LGBTQ center located on the South Side of Chicago. Its purpose is to create and provide affirming and culturally competent services for the entire LGBTQ community of Chicago.

News from PFLAG Deerfield

by Sue Ginsburg

Unfortunately, there are times when speakers call to cancel. That's what happened this month when Myles Brady Davis and Anthony Galloway of Equality Illinois called to cancel. We were so disappointed, but we know we'll get to hear them in the near future.

Fortunately, having no speaker allows us to have some real quality time as we break into smaller as we share and give support.

We welcomed three new future members and were able to take that extra time to welcome them and share our stories. We'll be looking forward to our April meeting when Gearah Goldstein is scheduled to come to our meeting. We can't wait!

News from PTI McHenry

by Marya Flynn

Toni Weaver has invited us to the PFLAG McHenry April meeting on Tuesday April 9th from 7:00 - 9:00 pm at The Tree of Life UUC . The same place that we have our PTI meetings.

They are having a guest speaker who might be of interest. Her name is Dr. Shelly Fisher and she is a social worker at Cary-Grove High School and she recently completed her PhD. Dr. Fisher will be discussing her research and dissertation the title of which is "What about the parents? Exploring the experiences of parents of transgender adolescents regarding their interactions with their child's school: A qualitative, phenomenological study."

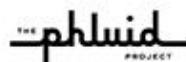




Trans Day of Visibility Performance Art + Repurposing Fashion Show

Center on Halsted • 3656 N. Halsted
Sun., March 31 • 1:30 - 4:30 pm

Join us for this TDOV with an exciting array of performance art featuring community members and a repurposing fashion show in collaboration with donations from Howard Brown Health and The Phluid Project.



[RSVP HERE >](#)



Leelah's Highway Documentary Film Screening

with Special Guest,
Director Elizabeth Littlejohn

Center on Halsted • Sat., April 6 • 2 - 4 pm

Join us for a special screening of "Leelah's Highway", a 24-minute HD documentary focusing on trans youth Leelah Alcorn. Isolated by her parents in their basement and forced to go through six months of conversion therapy, Leelah took her life on the highway near her house in Kings Mills, Ohio. She was 17.

[RSVP HERE >](#)



BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDER TRAINING Clinical Work with LGBTQ+ Clients


Center on Halsted • Fri., April 19 • 10 am - 12 pm

Increase your cultural humility working with LGBTQ+ clients.

[TO LEARN MORE OR RSVP >](#)

Daughters of (at least) two of our members have been selected to participate in this fashion show in Chicago on April 4th. Open Doors will publish a report next month.

IDENTITY DAY 4

THE SHOW: TRANS, MEDIA AND FASHION
THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2019
DOORS OPEN 5:30P
SHOW 7P
WATER TOWER PLACE (LEVEL 2)
835 N MICHIGAN AVE
CHICAGO, IL, 60611
FOR TICKETS WWW.FBCTHESHOWS.COM
IN SUPPORT OF  Howard Brown Health
PRESS AND MEDIA PLEASE CONTACT
FASHIONWEEK@FASHIONBARCHICAGO.COM FOR ALL ACCESS PASSES TO

THE
SHOWS



Event Description:

We believe that fashion is form and function at its most beautiful expression. We believe that form, function and fashion blend beautifully in perfect harmony to help us express who we are as individuals in today's society. To bring awareness and the importance to the lives of Trans and Gender Non-conforming youth, FashionBar Chicago, in a partnership with Howard Brown Health Clinic, to present nation's first fashion show featuring all Trans Models. Women's collections from various leading designers will celebrate the Trans youth community, beautifully showing us their stories and their voice in today's society. This groundbreaking show, powered by FashionBar Chicago, will take residence at the famous Water Tower Place on

Chicago's Magificent Mile. Walk the Red Carpet, strike a pose and tell us who you are wearing at our signature Red Carpet

Interview before the show. Mingle and connect with fashion influencers at our VIP Cocktail Reception featuring delicious drinks and complimentary hors d'oeuvres an hour before the show begins.

Powered by FashionBar Chicago, this event is part of a week-long lineup of fantastic Fashion Week events as we present The Shows and The Marketplace, a Chicago fashion experience which showcases amazing designers, apparel, and products, giving you fashion, wellness and beauty in uniquely Chicago venues. Love the Fashion. Raise the Bar!

Nation's first fashion show featuring all Trans Models



PFLAG Gives Away “Kisses”

Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12th, is only a short time away, and with that comes our annual ***“Kisses from Mom” Mother's Day fundraiser.***

Sidetrack, a favorite LGBTQ gathering place, graciously welcomes PFLAG for the afternoon/evening. As we solicit for donations on the sidewalk outside, we exchange chocolate Hershey's Kisses (tagged with PFLAG contact info) and REAL hugs from PFLAG moms (and other members).

It is a great opportunity to feel the amazing outpouring of love and appreciation for the work we do in support of our own LGBTQ loved ones. It also allows volunteers from different chapters to meet and spend time together.

This fun and emotionally gratifying event is also rewarding financially. Proceeds from the fundraiser are split, with 50% going to Council and the remaining 50% divided amongst the participating chapters.

The event will run from 3:00 – 8:30 P.M. and will be broken into 4 shifts

Shifts are as follows:

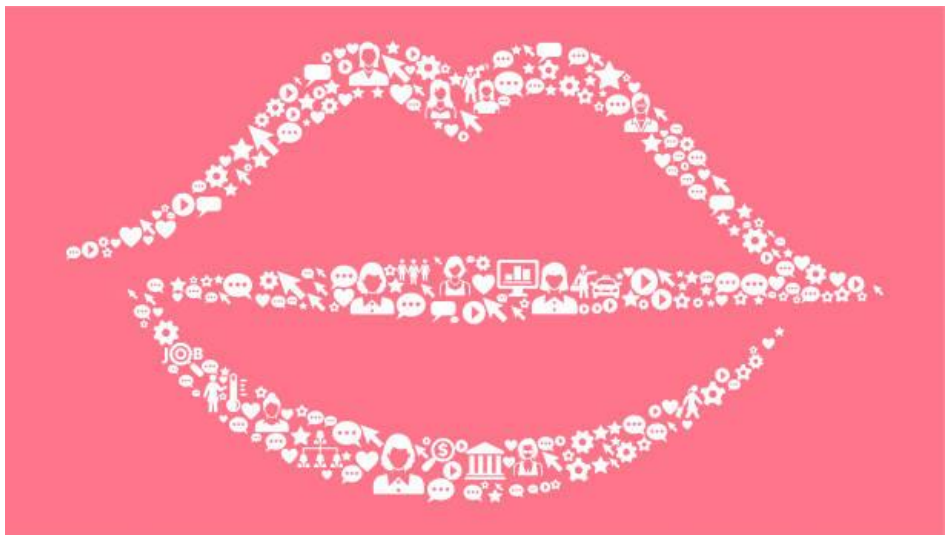
- 1st 3:00 – 4:30pm
- 2nd 4:30 - 6:00pm
- 3rd 6:00 - 7:30pm
- 4th 7:30 – 8:30 pm

Anyone wishing to volunteer for a shift should **contact Coordinator Marcia Prichason via e-mail at: mprichas@gmail.com or telephone: 708-602-4543**

Please provide your name(s), how many people will be participating, your chapter, email address, contact telephone#, and choice for shift.

Please make a commitment to be there if you sign up, as some people are turned away each year due to the limited number of slots per shift.

Sidetrack
3349 North Halsted
Chicago, IL 60657

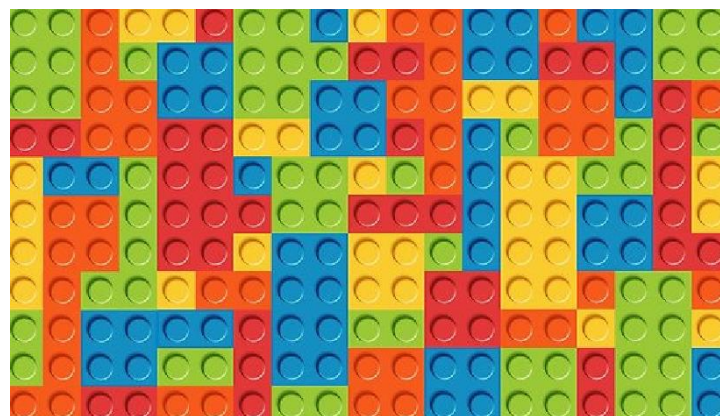


Youth Services of Glenview/Northbrook

prideCONNECT – Weekly LGBTQ+ High School Group

Tuesdays, 6:30-8:00, new session begins April 9th, 2019, Youth Services of Glenview/Northbrook

This support group for **LGBTQ+ youth in grades 9-12** is an opportunity to build relationships and get support related to sexual and gender identities. Facilitated by August Hupp, group includes a check-in, discussion topic, and opportunities to socialize with other participants (with pizza!). **Those who wish to join this group should reach out to Lizzy Appleby, Youth Program Manager, at Lizzy.Appleby@ysgn.org to schedule an intake.**



FROM YOUTH SERVICES' PRIDE PROGRAM...

PRIDE CONNECT

A weekly group for LGBTQ+ high school aged youth to receive support, connect with new friends, and build community.

TUESDAYS 6:30 - 8:00 PM
@ YOUTH SERVICES
3080 W LAKE AVE. GLENVIEW. IL

Interested?
Lizzy.Appleby@ysgn.org or 847.724.2620



prideLEAD: LGBTQ+ Youth Leaders NOW RECRUITING FOR 2019-2020!!

prideLEAD is a group of 18 **LGBTQ+ youth ages 14-19** who provide leadership for all Pride programs. Youth Leaders apply in the spring to commit to participating during the school year. They meet regularly to brainstorm new projects, plan events, and create additional resources for LGBTQ+ youth in the suburbs, building valuable skills for college and career. Leaders act as a voice for LGBTQ+ youth in the community, providing education to youth and adults about sexual and gender identity. **Applications for rising 9th-12 graders for 2019-2020 are out now: <http://bit.ly/prideleadapp20>**



Apply to be a prideLEAD youth leader!

2019-2020



Now recruiting LGBTQ+ youth 14-19 who are passionate and interested in creating events for LGBTQ+ youth, contributing to service projects, and educating others about sexuality, gender, and other LGBTQ+ topics!

apply at <http://bit.ly/prideleadapp20>
application due April 2nd, 2019

Contact lizzy.appleby@ysgn.org for more info



**Youth Services of
Glenview/Northbrook
(continued)**

Night of Noise Open Mic and Celebration

Saturday, April 13th, Open Mic 6:30-8:00,
Celebration 8:00-10:00, Youth Services

Join us for our annual Night of Noise event to break the silence after Day of Silence! We'll start with an open mic from 6:30-8:00, then transition into a celebration party, including games, activities, and music. **LGBTQ+ youth and allies grades 8-12 are welcome to RSVP**

here: <http://bit.ly/nightofnoise19> prideLEAD is currently collecting donations for the Transformative Justice Law Project Name Change Mobilization, and all contributions are welcome!



Other Events



**PRIDE
College and Resource Fair
Wednesday, April 17, 2019**

5-8 p.m., Student Street, Des Plaines

Meet representatives from LGBTQIA-friendly colleges:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Columbia College Chicago | University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire |
| Northeastern Illinois University | University of Wisconsin - Green Bay |
| Northern Illinois University | University of Wisconsin - Madison |
| Oakland University | University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee |
| Southern Illinois University | University of Wisconsin - Parkside |
| University of Nebraska at Omaha | |

Free Workshops

- Services and Resources at Oakton • SafeZone Training • What's Your Name? Navigating College Records
- LGBTQ Resources and Communities at Four-year Colleges and Universities

Free Food and Giveaways!

Open to everyone. Registration not required.

For a chance to win a giveaway and find additional details, visit <https://tinyurl.com/yxqez39b> or scan here:

Sponsored by Career and Transfer Center | Oakton Pride Club | Women's and Gender Studies



For more information, contact Brian Bacon at bbacon@oakton.edu or Amy Finkenbein at afinken@oakton.edu, or call 847.635.1735.
1600 East Golf Road, Des Plaines • www.oakton.edu



***Art by Peter Thaddeus
and his students at Youth Outlook***

For more art by
Peter Thaddeus visit
www.thaddeusart.com/pride





Peter Thaddeus, *Common Threads : The Birth of Pride (a celebration of 50 years since the Stonewall Riots)*

Artist Peter Thaddeus and his students at [Youth Outlook](#) in Naperville are painting a backdrop for the Sterling Youth Outlook Prom coming up in May (Steampunk Theme).



Send
images of
art works
created by
young
LGBTQ+
artists
to

[opendoors@
pflagillinois.org](mailto:opendoors@pflagillinois.org)

We want to
publish
them to
celebrate
and support
budding
talents!

The youth group curated by Peter Thaddeus created this "Gayborhood" which includes all kinds of LGBTQ-specific shops and facilities. They use it as decor in the room.



Theatre News

by David Zak, Executive Director
[Pride Film & Plays](#)

Is it true Barbra Streisand has a mall in her basement? Stranger things happen, and Buyer & Cellar is a delightful comedy which imagines exactly that! Scott Gryder stars as a struggling actor who is hired to take care of the place, and his performance is remarkable! Make time now for Buyer & Cellar, at The Broadway, 4139 N Broadway, Chicago. 866 811 4111

www.pridefilmsandplays.com.

SOUTHERN COMFORT, the remarkable musical about a chosen family of trans people, closes on Sunday, March 31.

AFTERGLOW, an off Broadway hit about a gay throuple, has been sold out every single preview.

On Sundays March 31 and April 7 cabaret star [Joan Curto](#) sings **SONDHEIM ON SUNDAYS**.

Pride Arts is for everyone!

[PFP events calendar](#)

[Donate to PFP](#)

PRIDE
FILMS&PLAYS

PRIDE ARTS PRESENTS
WICKEDLY FUNNY
- NEW YORK TIMES
STARRING
EMMY AWARD WINNER
SCOTT GRYDER
DIRECTED BY
DONTERRIO JOHNSON
PERFORMANCES
APR 11 TO MAY 19
THE BROADWAY
PRIDE ARTS CENTER
4139 N. BROADWAY
TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE NOW AT PRIDEFILMSANDPLAYS.COM
OR BY PHONE AT 866-811-4111

PRIDE ARTS PRESENTS
AFTERGLOW
BY S. ASHER GELMAN DIRECTED BY DAVID ZAK
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DANIEL WASHELESKY • STAGE MANAGER MICHAEL STARCHER
INTIMACY CHOREOGRAPHER REED BENTLEY • COSTUME DESIGNER SHAWN QUINLAN
SCENIC DESIGNER KAILIE TOMASIC • LIGHTING DESIGNER DAN LEWIS • ORIGINAL SCORE JARED SUTTON
**PLEASE NOTE THIS PERFORMANCE CONTAINS NUDITY AND GRAPHIC SITUATIONS.
RECOMMENDED FOR AUDIENCES 18 AND OVER.
PERFORMANCES
MAR 28
THE BUENA
PRIDE ARTS CENTER
4147 N. BROADWAY
TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE NOW AT PRIDEFILMSANDPLAYS.COM OR BY PHONE AT 866-811-4111

JOAN CURTO
Sondheim on Sundays
PRIDE ARTS CENTER



Helga and the advent of cabbage

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Editor: *If you have missed the first story – Helga and the advent of cabbage – you may read it in the [February issue of Open Doors](#) (pages 17-18).*

And so it happened that there was a penguin named Awahooo. Which isn't true. Because no one names penguins. But, he made a sound that sounded sort of like "Awahooo". Which also isn't true. Because there is no way to type anything that sounds anything like any kind of sounds that penguins make. But this is a story tale. And so it was that there was a penguin named Awahooo. He was a kind and gentle penguin, as most penguins are. Difficult as it is to describe the sounds that they make. As opposed to bobwhites. Whose calls don't really sound anything like "Bob White". But, hey, we humans are quick to anthropomorphize. And, as I say, this is a story tale, and birdsong really doesn't enter into it. Much as the story is, to this point, much about how much it isn't about it. What was I writing about? Oh, yes, Awahooo. What a grand fellow he was. You'd want him to live on Oahu, wouldn't you? I would. Awahooo from Oahu. In fact, since I'm writing this story, and as it bears absolutely no resemblance whatsoever to reality

Once upon a time, there was a penguin named Awahooo who lived on the tropical island of Oahu. There were, of course, not many penguins for Awahooo to play with growing up, and so, for quite some time, he thought of himself as a black-necked stilt. A very large black-necked stilt. With a speech impediment. You'd be amazed how much research I put into these little stories, by the way. Hours of listening to penguin noises. Really. It's driving my dogs insane. And, do you really want to know that emperor penguins can weigh as much as 83.6 lbs, whereas black-necked stilts weigh 6.6 ounces, on a good day, soaking wet? But, this is the kind of detail that makes a story worth reading. Because, of course, penguins are not indigenous to Oahu, and black-necked stilts wouldn't do well at the South Pole, but, how else am I going to evolve this unlikely love story? Right? I mean, RIGHT?

As it happens, the black-necked stilt in question was named Ralph.

Which, of course, isn't true either, as no one names black-necked stilts, any more than they name penguins. Penguins, being much heavier, and having far more complicated calls. But, calling plans don't matter in times of love. You just pay the AT&T love tax, and you go from



The author and her dog Cody. We don't know if Cody has contributed any writing to this story, but he has certainly contributed his love.

there. Which is what Awahooo and Ralph did, during their short but intense relationship. By the way, you can't ascertain genders from names, and trying to do so does everyone a disservice. Love is love, and that's what Ralph and Awahooo had.

In the beginning.

Before the Great Nene Goose Incident of 2014.

And you think I make this stuff up. Really. Does "The Great Nene Goose Incident of 2014" sound like something that someone would have made up? No. No, it does not. It does not. IT DOES N... you in the back, go back to your physics class... no one needs your kind of negativity here. Go, prove that the Earth rotates around the Sun, and come back here in time for recess.

Sheesh. Everyone's a critic.

Evidently, no one had seen nene geese on Oahu since the 1700s, until one day, in early 2014, someone did. And told

Google about it. But all he said was that he had seen one. No word on where or when or the circumstances around the “sighting”, which you put into quotes, just to get the conspiracy theorists talking. “Incident”. See? It works every time. Here. “Moon Landing”. See? “Watergate”. It doesn’t matter. Take a noun, put quotes around it, and say it with a lilt, and people will raise their eyebrows.

I mean. Really? REALLY? No one had seen a nene goose on Oahu since the 1700s? HOW THE FUCK DOES ANYONE KNOW THAT? Like how do we know that someone in 1814 didn’t leave his cell phone on the beach and, therefore, couldn’t take a picture of several nene geese having a picnic, and he went home and said, “HEY! I just saw a bunch of nene geese on the beach having a picnic” and everyone was like “pix or it didnt happen, dude”, and, well, no pix, ergo and all that.

But, yeah, so anyway.

And upon the Thursday in which all of this happened, there was a picnic of nene geese on the beach on Oahu and

you down the beach, it would be a bad day to be you. Especially a “Giant” “nene goose”. Which this was. I mean, this was one giant bastard. And mean. And not nearly as invisible as something that hadn’t been seen in 300 years would ordinarily be. And, wow. The noises that sucker makes. Oh yeah. Go to Youtube. Tell em I sent you. They’ll know from your search history anyway. I make a buck every time someone searches the words in my story. “Moon Landing”. There. Another dollar.

Where was I?

Oh yes, well, poor Awahooo just doesn’t run as fast as a giant nene goose does and fell over, and rolled. And rolled. And rolled. And, a penguin’s feathers being rawther sand-friendly (who knew?), Awahooo collected over 48 cubic meters of sand before he hit the ocean with a thump causing sand to be thrown into the air hundreds of feet and blackening the skies. I mean really. Shut out the sun for 9 days. No sun in Hawaii.

Which is why the cats called for Helga.

“how do we know that someone in 1814 didn’t leave his cell phone on the beach and, therefore, couldn’t take a picture of several nene geese having a picnic”

Awahooo and Ralph happened by with their cell phones just playing a friendly game of guess-the-birdie, and the nene geese were like “Quick! Everybody hide!”, because, you know, they have this reputation of not being seen and all of that, and, there just aren’t a whole lot of places to hide on a beach, you know, except, if you’re a sand crab. Which, obviously, you’re not. Because, well, sand crabs don’t have access to the internet. Any more. Damned ISPs. Fuckers.

So, rather than hide, this one nene goose decided to eat one of the sorta-penguins-sorta-black-necked-stilts that were just walking down the beach, holding wings, and generally, just being adorable, with their “don’t judge me” t-shirts and their SPF30 sun tan lotion. Which made them look remarkably alike. Despite their rather obvious weight differential. Stop judging. Yes you. I saw that. You think I don’t see? I see just fine, thank you very much.

So anyway, the nene goose, being near sighted, and not nearly as intelligent as you would hope that a character in a story like this would be, the nene stood up, spread out his wings, and ran, pell-mell, right for Awahooo! Now, you might not have recently researched nene geese, but, let me tell you that if someone who was nearly 4 feet long chased

Because, really, ONLY cats can call for Helga. It’s just part of the rules of the universe I created. Cats, Helga. Helga, Cats. That’s how it works.

Well, Betsy and Rhonda, both Maine coons from, well, Maine, had saved their pennies for a Hawaiian vacation. Well, and their vowels. Because, other than that N there, pretty much every “letter” in Hawaii can be used as a vowel. Think about it. No really. Think. Uh huh. I told you. Conspiracy. Also. “Moon Landing”. But, 9 days into a 10 day vacation with no sun because of the “Incident”, they called Helga. And what’s a girl to do, really?

So, Helga mounted her Great Blue Heron (really. don’t judge. it doesn’t suit you), and flew straight to Hawaii, where she rescued Awahooo from the “Giant” nene goose, and, with nothing else to do, took Awahooo and Ralph back with her to her planet, where they ate sushi, and stayed away from “Giant” geese.

“Giant”. Uh huh.

The end.



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