

Gay Brick Road by Mary Furguele — see page 22 for more art



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Monthly Open Doors

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President's Column

Lots of Love and Celebration of Progress at the 50th Annual Chicago Pride Parade

PFLAG families from chapters across northern Illinois once again showed up in force to help celebrate the 50th Annual Chicago Pride Parade.

It was an especially warm day with threats of thunder showers in the afternoon that eventually lead to the early termination of the Parade. But, many of the entries, including PFLAG were able to complete the full parade route and enjoy the full, amazing Pride experience.

With an estimated 150+ PFLAGers participating, many were there for the first time, and many others continuing their multi-year streak of participating. But, all of us were there to show love and support for our community and to be energized by the love and appreciation we receive in return. It is truly a heart-warming experience unlike any other. Bearing witness to the reactions of the crowd as they read the signs and t-shirts is magical. Seeing a PFLAGer notice someone having such a moment and moving in for an affirming hug is a beautiful sight and is really what the day is all about.

Last year at this time I recall writing to encouraging folks to celebrate our progress, but to also please take action to support the Inclusive Curriculum Bill and use your voice to speak out for equality. Well, thanks to the efforts of Equality Illinois, other partner advocacy groups, and all of the folks who advocate for equality, we have had an amazing session of progress in Illinois! The Inclusive Curriculum bill has passed the IL House and Senate along with 10 other important bills (see the Equality Illinois 2019 Legislative Session



Pre-Parade group photo (see more on pp 16-17)

Update for more details). In addition, prior to the Parade, Governor Pritzker signed an Executive Order aimed at strengthening protections for transgender students.

I am also happy to report an increase in the number of GSA groups in place helping to make our middle schools more affirming places for our children. I recently learned that all five junior HS's in my hometown school district now have GSAs! So, while there is certainly still much work to be done to create and maintain welcoming and affirming environments, we truly have much to celebrate.

Thank You!

John

"We knew that we had to experience a pride parade to truly understand how wonderful an experience it is! ... being in the parade was great but what was life changing, touching beyond compare was the interactions with the millions on the other side of the barriers!"

- Sherry Powers, PFLAG Mom



PFLAG and Fermilab “Spectrum” Employee Resource Group Join Forces in Celebration of Pride and LGBT STEM Day

by John Hickey



In commemoration of Pride and [LGBT STEM Day](#) Fermilab, in Batavia, invited PFLAG to host an informational table and provide a panel discussion to help employees understand the importance of living an open and authentic life at home and at work. PFLAG volunteers (Mary Ann Hickey, Joann Larsen and Bernadette Whitfield) hosted an informational table complete with lots of different buttons to hand out to employees and visitors to wear and show their pride and support of the community. The buttons serve as excellent “safe space” markers and are a fun way for people to express their individuality and support.

In addition, a one-hour panel discussion was moderated by Ron Whitfield with panelists John Pierpoint, Linda Pierpoint, Amma Vosicky and John Hickey. Participants shared their personal stories and fielded thought-provoking questions from a very engaged audience. The power of personal stories and connections cannot be overstated. There was no doubt something for everyone in this diverse panel discussion.

Thank you to Fermilab for the invitation and a special thanks to all of the volunteers who made this an important and impactful event.



*Fermilab 1 July 2019
Bernadette Whitfield, Jo Ann Hanson, John & Mary Ann Hickey*

Dear Readers,

I'm happy to report that I'll have an opportunity to share my experience of editing and publishing *Open Doors* at the 2019 PFLAG National Convention *We Are the Change* in Kansas City, MO in October. I'll present a seminar about this amazing volunteer job that I've had since last October.

I'm grateful to all newsletter contributors for their dedication, talent, time, kindness, and love! We are creating something that others want to learn, so we must be doing it right!

Andrew Zanevsky, Editor

PFLAG Supports Navy Pier Pride for our 4th Year

by Joann Larsen and Ron Whitfield

Pride on the Pier. Saturday, July 29, 2019, hordes of people were present to celebrate Pride on the Pier, 50 years since Stonewall, and the 50th anniversary of the Pride Parade in Chicago. PCNI hosted a booth. PFLAGers in attendance to help at the booth were Susan Rusk (Hinsdale); and John Hickey, Jo Ann Larsen, Kristen & Peter Schulman, and Ron Whitfield (DuPage).

People started arriving at the booth while we were still setting up. We ran out of rainbow flags in the first hour. People congregated at our booth to make pins, gather information, choose buttons, and request various button patterns. We estimate that upwards of 800 buttons and 250 pins were given out. We met people from various parts of the US (coast to coast) and South America, had some great conversations, and received generous donations for our giveaways. The donations will help pay for supplies for future giveaways.

Many families and children stopped by and people were very positive and upbeat. No hecklers! We had requests for buttons across the gender spectrum. Several people wanted Stonewall remembrance buttons. The children really seemed to especially enjoy making the pins.

The weather cooperated -- no rain and it was not unbearably hot. The Pier provided a canopy, table, several chairs, and a large cooler of ice and water bottles. All of these really helped make the day extra pleasant

It was an awesome time meeting new people and sharing the love we have for PFLAG and our PFLAG family. A big thank you to the Pier and to our tireless helpers.



Advocacy Matters

Join Equality Illinois, the Illinois Safe School Alliance and other PFLAG members in supporting the Inclusive Curriculum Bill (SB 3249). 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/>

Stay Informed and Take Action / Be Heard

Below are links to great advocacy organizations that can help you stay informed and take action to help support equality. If you pick just one link click the Eq IL Take Action Link and help make a difference!

- **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
- **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)

New PFLAG Chapters!

We have had a great year in Northern Illinois so far with new chapters 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 John Hickey at info@pflagillinois.org or Carmi Frankovich at regionaldiva1@yahoo.com . Special thanks to Carmi for leading the charge.

PFLAG Chicago Español- There is preliminary discussion 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 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 .

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

News from PFLAG National

PFLAG National and Verizon's video [Love Calls Back](#), continues to be shared and we've now launched pflag.org/lovecallsback, which is a page that provides resources on reconnecting with LGBTQ+ loved ones. A number of cool "influencers," from [American Idol's Rayvon Owen](#), to [Bridegroom's Shane Bitney Crone](#), and more have now shared the video as well as their own personal stories of reconnection. [Visit Twitter to see them all!](#)

Janet Mock is making history. The "Pose" director, producer and writer has signed a sweeping deal at Netflix, making her the first out transgender woman empowered to call the creative shots at a major content company. The three-year multimillion-dollar pact gives the streaming giant exclusive rights to her TV series and a first-look option on feature film projects.

Nearly half of all LGBTQ+ employees aren't out at work, according to a survey from the Human Rights Campaign. A majority of respondents admitted they'd heard homophobic jokes at work, but most said they didn't report them, usually because they didn't believe their workplace would do anything to fix the issue.

Mastercard announced on June 17, its True Name™ card initiative, which will allow for chosen names to appear on the front of consumers' cards. Many members in the LGBTQ community, particularly trans and non-binary people, have run into issues purchasing items with a credit card and been faced with discrimination.

IT'S ABOUT PRIDE

Here's what Pride means to PFLAG National and our friends Ty Herndon, BenDeLaCreme, ARMEN RA, Fantastic Negrito, SHAED's Max Ernst, out rapper F. Virtue, Bethany C Meyers, Lex Allen, and A Fragile Tomorrow's Sean Kelly. **Watch now:**



Equality Illinois 2019 Legislative Session Update

by Mike Ziri

This legislative session was one of the most pro-LGBTQ sessions in Illinois history. Our champions in the Senate and House have sent to Governor Pritzker a suite of bills that places Illinois at the forefront of LGBTQ equality. The four bills we shouldered this session were:

- **The Inclusive Curriculum Bill** (Sen. Steans/Rep. Moeller) will require the teaching of LGBTQ contributions in US history in all Illinois public schools. Beginning the 2020-2021 school year, Illinois public school students will learn how important and impactful LGBTQ people have been throughout our country's history. Thank you to the Legacy Project, the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, and nearly 50 coalition partners who helped get this bill over the finish line.
- **The LGBTQ Elders Bill** (Sen. Villavalam/Rep. Mah) will require the inclusion of programming for LGBTQ seniors for state organizations that receive federal money for older adults. Thank you to our friends at SAGE and Pride Action Tank for their help on this effort.
- **The Equitable Restroom Access Bill** (Sen. Bush/Rep. Yingling) will require that all single occupancy restrooms in public accommodations and public buildings in the state be gender-neutral. This will provide transgender and gender non-confirming Illinoisans, parents of opposite gender children, seniors with opposite gender caregivers, and a safer and more affirming experience. Thank you to our partners at the Chicago Restroom Access Project for their leadership on this issue.
- **The Jury Service Non-discrimination Bill** (Sen. Hutchinson/Rep. Didech) extends protections to LGBTQ people from being denied the opportunity to serve on a jury due to our sexual orientation or gender identity.

We were also honored to support the work of our partners in advancing the many other bills to the Governor's desk including:



- **The Reproductive Health Act** (Sen. Bush/Rep. Cassidy) – spearheaded by our friends at Planned Parenthood and the ACLU, the RHA establishes the right to reproductive health as a fundamental right in Illinois.
- **Youth PrEP Access Bill** (Rep. Robinson/Sen. Peters) – led by our friends at the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, this initiative will allow minors to consent to critical preventative health care like PrEP for HIV prevention
- **Cannabis Regulation & Tax Act** (Sen. Steans/Rep. Cassidy) – legalizes the recreational use of cannabis for adults 21 and older.
- **\$15 Minimum Wage** (Sen. Lightford/Rep. Guzzardi) – led by our many friends in the labor movement, this law sets the bar for minimum wage at \$15/hour by 2024.
- **RISE ACT** (Sen. Aquino/Rep. E Hernandez) – driven by our partners at the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) and the West Suburban Action Project (PASO), this act ensures that students barred from applying for federal financial aid are not barred for applying for state financial aid.
- **Expanded Non-discrimination Protections** (Sen. Castro/Rep. Guzzardi) – Extends the state's protections against employment discrimination to all employers regardless of the number of employees. Thank you to LiUNA – Midwest Region for their leadership here.
- **Non-binary Gender Marker on State IDs** (Sen. Castro/Rep. Stava-Murray) – When the Secretary of State updates their technology, state IDs and driver's licenses will be required to have a non-binary gender marker option.

Thank you to the legislators, activists, and donors who made all this incredible work happen. We look forward to working with all our champions at Equality Illinois to continue our vigilance in pushing our state forward for LGBTQ and all Illinoisans!



Governor's Pride Reception

by Bob Chikos, PTI McHenry

On June 24th, I attended Governor Pritzker's Pride Reception at the Chicago History Museum. With a slate of speakers, we celebrated the successes of LGBTQ legislation (as highlighted in June's issue of Open Doors) which should be signed shortly by the governor.

While he made many heartwarming remarks, one I will always remember is that anyone who does not feel welcome in their own state because they are LGBTQ+ is most welcome to move to Illinois. As I communicate with parents throughout the country, I am constantly reminded of how true it is that Illinois is the Midwest's beacon of light.

While the governor did not mention specific agenda items for the next legislative session, he made it clear that we are not done. More needs to be done to fight the political and physical assaults our community is under, more needs to be done to protect our loved ones, and more needs to be done to strive for equality.

I was able to speak with the governor and thank him for his support. I added that we are already working on ideas for next year and that we look forward to Illinois continuing to be one of the leaders within our nation.



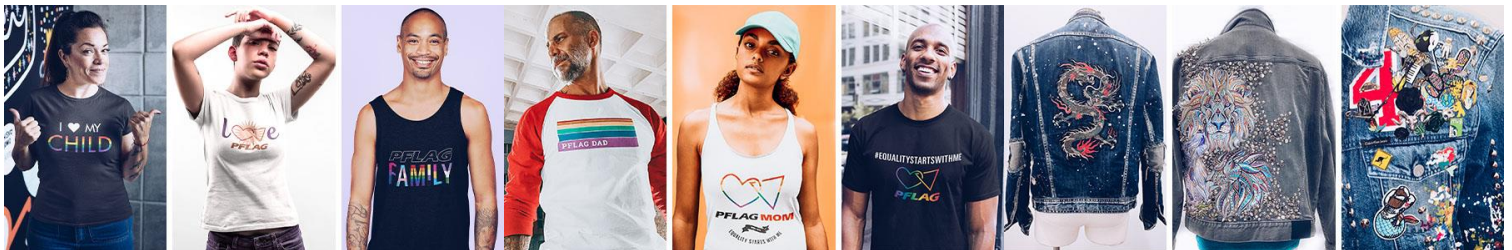
Bob Chikos and Governor J. B. Pritzker

Illinois isn't an LGBTQ+ friendly state by accident. It's the result of people voting, of people telling their stories, of people meeting with their legislators. In short, Illinois needs you to get involved to continue our push for equality.

PFLAG Pride Online Shop

PFLAG National has opened [a brand-new, beautiful, PFLAG Pride merchandise shop!](#)

Every shirt purchased helps fund crucial PFLAG programs: local chapter support, publications, advocacy.



News from PTI Chicago

The speaker at our June meeting was Myles Brady Davis from Equality Illinois. They are the press secretary and communications manager of EI. In 2015 they were mentioned as one of the Trans100, an international list of distinguished community members. They have also been a member of the Transformative Justice Law Project, Pride Action Tank, and Trans Lifeline. On a personal level, Myles - who identifies as trans masculine and two-spirit -- is expecting their first child. Myles stated discussed his journey into policy as a transgender person of color. With Equality IL, which is both a 501(c) 3 and 4, they have joined in the fight for positive LGBTQ laws and against the negative laws. EI does lobbying to pass these laws. Thanks in part to Myles' hard work, bills such as the one for LGBT history in schools, as well a bill for agender bathrooms, have been passed. On a personal level, Myles--who identifies as trans masculine and two-spirit--is expecting their first child. Myles answered a number of questions after their informative talk. For more info, go to www.equalityillinois.us.



More than 18 folks from McHenry, North Shore, and Chicago PTI joined the rest of the Northern Illinois chapters in the 2019 Chicago Pride Parade. We were met with applause, cheers, and tears as folks in the crowd reached out for high-fives and hugs. Everyone had a great time and we made it to the end before the rain started. One parent described the experience as 'euphoric'.



News from PFLAG McHenry

by Toni Weaver

The June chapter meeting was a good reminder to all of us that there are still parents who grapple with having an LGB son or daughter. So much of our growth has been with the parents who have transgender or gender non-conforming (GNC) children; we lose sight of the very real fact that some people are still struggling with the more basic issue of having a gay son, a lesbian daughter, or one who identifies as bi.

Our chapter community came together this month to support just such a parent. What overwhelmed me was the group speaking as if with a single voice, stressing the supremacy of love. No matter what – just love. Love your kid no matter what. That message resounded from our trans members, gay men, lesbian women, and parents. Each said the same – simply love.

Of course we celebrated the 50th anniversary of Stonewall with an hors d'oeuvres and dessert pot luck and the viewing of a seven minute YouTube video on Stonewall:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5l32ayh18Y>

The Stonewall Riots: How the gay rights movement began.

A relatively new group, Woodstock Pride, pulled off an amazing feat – a Pride festival that culminated with a parade and day-long docket of activities and programs on the historic Woodstock Square. In addition to marching in the parade (along with ten or twelve middle school GSA students and their adviser!), we staffed a resource table, and every single one of our PFLAG brochures was taken! That was at least 80!

We plan to support an event sponsored by the McHenry Public Library: a pride skate at Just for Fun, a roller rink, on June 26. The library makes our PFLAG brochures available, thus really supporting PFLAG and the work that we do.

Our next big event is our annual participation in the Crystal Lake Independence Day Parade on Sunday, July 7. If anyone is interested in marching with us, please shoot me an email: twweaver@earthlink.net.

What overwhelmed me was the group speaking as if with a single voice, stressing the supremacy of love. No matter what – just love. Love your kid no matter what.

PCNI has received a call for writers for a LGBTQ book project:

*Hello! My name is Kyle O'Daniel, and I'm one of the GSA sponsors at Mahomet-Seymour High School. I'd like to share a project I'm working on in collaboration with Dr. Erin Mikulec, a professor of education at ISU. We are publishing a book called **Writing Out of the Closet: LGBTQ Voices from High School**. It will be a collection showcasing the works of adolescent LGBTQ writers as they explore ideas of gender, sexuality, and youth through poetry, fiction, and personal narratives. We have just recently opened the call for submissions, and we would like to ask your help in announcing the opportunity via your Facebook and other social media and to any other groups you know of who work with LGBTQ youth. We hope to publish works from writers across the country and around the globe, but we need the help of well-known organizations like PFLAG to make that happen! I'll include a link to our Facebook page, on which I've posted a bit about the book and a link to the submission guidelines. Please let me know if you have any questions. We can be reached via Facebook or at writingoutofthecloset@gmail.com.*

Thank you so much!

Kyle



News from PFLAG DuPage

by Jo Ann Larson and Bernadette & Ron Whitfield

June has been extremely busy! Events included the a FUNdraiser at California Pizza Kitchen on the 5th; the Aurora Pride Parade on the 9th; a screening of the documentary 5B on the 11th; our monthly meeting on the 16th; a conversation with Robert Fiesler, author of *Tinderbox* at Anderson's Bookshop in Naperville on the 18th; Morton Arboretum Family Pride Night on the 20th; Pride on the Pier on the 29th; and the Chicago Pride Parade on the 30th. Since we were on a roll, we formed a panel to discuss coming out in the workplace at Fermilab's *Celebrate Pride* event on July 1st.

FUNdraiser at California Pizza Kitchen

This is our 3rd year for a fundraiser at CPK. Attendance was good and we had a great time with our friends and meeting new people.



Aurora Pride Parade. The 2nd annual parade was well attended by DuPage and other chapters. The weather was much cooler, the route was shorter, and the crowd was more enthusiastic than in 2018.



Screening of the documentary 5B. 5B is a 2019 American documentary film about the efforts of a group of nurses and caregivers who opened the first AIDS

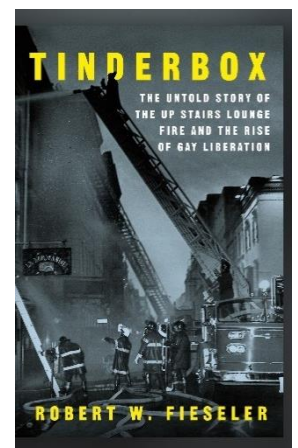
ward in the world at San Francisco General Hospital and changed the way patients were cared for in the 1980s AIDS epidemic. Three of the people in the film were in town for the screening: Steve Williams, Guy Vandenberg, and Cliff Morrison! We "ran into them" outside the theater after the showing.



Our June meeting. Our meeting -- on Father's Day -- featured a viewing of a portion of "American Experience: Stonewall Uprising." The showing commemorates June 28 -- the 50th anniversary of the "Stonewall Riots." We had a spirited and insightful discussion after the showing.

A conversation with Robert Fiesler.

Robert was joined in conversation by beloved local historian and author, Bryan Ogg!! Recounting an important moment in the Gay Rights Movement, author Fiesler's *Tinderbox* (now in paperback) explores the 1973 fire at the Upstairs Lounge in New Orleans. Thirty-two were lost in the inferno, which now is identified as an important civil rights catalyst. Winner of the 2019 Edgar Award for Best Fact Crime!



Morton Arboretum Family Pride Night. For the third year in a row, we entertained children with a wide selection of buttons. They reveled in the sight of



choosing a button design and watching as we stamped it out for them with our button maker. Unfortunately, we could not have the safety pin craft, which the children have always enjoyed, because our safety pin inventory was depleted!

Chicago Pride Parade. A strong contingency of DuPage members participated in the 50th annual parade! We estimate that we had at least 150 people (family, friends, allies, and LGBTQ persons) participate in the parade, which was organized by John Hickey, President of the PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois and PFLAG DuPage. Our PFLAG group enjoyed interacting with the crowd and basked in what surely were the loudest and warmest greetings. The trolley served as a welcome oasis and rest spot for water and snacks for marchers who needed a break from the 4 mile trek. Since PFLAG was positioned early in the lineup, we traversed the entire route before thunderstorms brought a quick and disappointing halt to the festivities. Fourteen DuPage members retreated to the Fat Duck Restaurant in River Forest for much needed rehydration and food! Plan on joining us next year!!



AIDS Foundation Fundraiser. On October 5, 2019, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago will host their annual AIDS Run & Walk Chicago fundraiser. This year, Jack Rothmund (PFLAG DuPage member, student, volleyball coach, and artist) will be participating and is partnering with Bottle & Bottega to host a fundraising BYOB painting party on Wednesday, July 17, 2019. Attendees will pay a \$40 ticket fee that covers all supplies, step-by-step instruction, a \$15 donation to the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, and a custom 10"x10" Keith Haring-inspired masterpiece painting to take home.

The event will take place from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM on Wednesday, July 17th at Bottle & Bottega's Lakeview location (2900 N. Lincoln Ave.). Attendees must be at least 18 years old to participate.

If you are interested in signing up to have a fun night of painting and to help a good cause, please register at:

<https://sites.cimplebox.com/events/registration.aspx?g=1&s=3291&c=1650&id=48090&r=0.9616559>

and use the password: aidsfundbottega .

If you have any questions regarding the event or registration, please reach out to Jack at jacksonrothmund@gmail.com.

PCNI Welcomes a New IL Chapter

PFLAG
Homer Glen • Lockport

Held the last Tuesday of every month
6:30-8:00pm
Cross of Glory
14719 W. 163rd
Homer Glen, IL

Pflag.hgl@gmail.com
 [PFLAG Homer Glen Lockport](https://www.facebook.com/PFLAGHomerGlenLockport)



News from PFLAG Hinsdale

by Barb Medley and Suellen Cook

Our May 5th speaker was Julie Dennis, who gave a presentation entitled, "Faith and Sexuality: the Bible and LGBTQ Inclusion." Julie gave a thoughtful presentation on being a committed Christian, including being affirming, looking to the Bible, and understanding what inclusion means. For those looking for answers or experiencing a personal crisis, she gave several helpful resources. Matthew Vines is the founder of the Reformation Project and author of God and the Gay Christian. He is a good resource and has much information available on the web. James Brownson is also a good resource; he's the author of Bible Gender Sexuality and has several You Tube presentations.

PFLAG Hinsdale's June speaker was Daphne Callen, who is a representative of the local peer support organization, Straight Spouse Network, for straight people who discover that their spouses, boyfriends, or girlfriends are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender. The organization has been in existence for over 30 years and is dedicated to helping straight people navigate through this complicated journey. Daphne and representatives from Straight Spouse Network explained they are a support group straight partners can turn to when they don't know how or who to reach out to for support and assistance. Meetings are held in different locations 2-4 times per month to provide easier accessibility.



Straight Spouse Network promotes acceptance about the LGBTQIA+ community so people do not have to be closeted and can live authentically. Daphne recommended the following resource: Unseen/Unheard: The Other Side of the Closet by Amity Buxton. Information about Straight Spouse Network can be located at the following website: StraightSpouse.org.

Pastor Liala at Lake View Lutheran Church
The Crib – a shelter for LGBT+ kids is housed here

Photo by Jackie Frett



Since our July meeting is the holiday weekend, we will not have a speaker but will meet as usual to catch up, support new guests, maybe watch a video and undoubtedly talk about the Pride Parade.

News from PFLAG Ottawa

By Ken Brown

At our meeting on June 23, we had planned to watch and discuss a PFLAG National video about the Equality Act, which is pending in the United States Congress. See the video at www.pflag.org/equality-act. Instead, we spent much of the meeting discussing matters concerning Pride Month, and how it has affected us. We talked about our experiences at the Pride parades and festivals we attended so far, and the pleasant realization that there are so many more events these days. We also discussed how far the movement for LGBTQ equality and acceptance has come, and how far it has yet to go. Views were shared about whether the younger generation understands and appreciates the work and sacrifice of those who struggled and fought for equality in the decades following Stonewall.

We also talked about the valuable information that is included in these Open Doors Newsletters. We focused on the information in the June issue concerning legislation that recently passed the Illinois House and Senate (Inclusive curriculum, Jury service, Gender neutral restrooms, Equity for older LGBTQ adults, and the Youth PrEP bill). Everyone in attendance was given information on how to subscribe to Open Doors.

We look forward to lively and supportive discussions at our meetings in July and August. We might even be able to fit in a viewing of the video on the Equality Act!



News from PFLAG Aurora/Fox Valley

by Carmi Frankovich

Instead of having our usual Aurora/Fox Valley chapter meeting in June, several of our members walked in the Aurora Pride parade on June 9th and were joined by numerous Dupage chapter members as well as Jackie Frett from the Hinsdale chapter for whose participation we are extremely grateful! Many parade participants commented on the healing energy they felt during their parade experience. I share with you a Facebook message from one of my dear friends about a young person in her life who attended the Aurora Pride parade. This is a beautiful illustration of why PFLAG participates in these events and why so many people donated their time and money to make sure the Aurora Pride parade did not stay cancelled. My friend wrote, "She went to the Aurora Pride Parade and LOVED IT. She came back a new person, feeling accepted and loved by the community. Thank you SO much for the recommendation. That was such a healthy experience for her. She has been a totally different person since. She has opened up and been more loving with her friends and family knowing that she's accepted. Her mom said she couldn't stop hugging everyone there! Which is a huge deal because she used to hate hugs and all the sudden she felt like she belonged and hugged everyone!"

Well that post motivates me even more to give out as many hugs as possible when I walk with PFLAG in the Chicago Pride parade!! Hope to see you there :)

“She went to the Aurora Pride Parade and LOVED IT. She came back a new person, feeling accepted and loved by the community.”

News from PFLAG Deerfield

by Sue Ginsburg

For the past 20 years, Cynthia Drey, a past member of Deerfield has awarded scholarship money to graduating LGBTQ students in the Northern Illinois area. Cynthia started a foundation in memory of her son, Jean Paul, who was bi-polar and took his own life. Not only does Cynthia provide these scholarships, the foundation also funds organizations who promote awareness and studies bi-polar disorder in children.

Cynthia flies in from Texas, gives out the awards and we spend the rest of the evening getting to know the winners and their friends and families. Each year we meet at least 5 award winners and this year was no different. These are students who were active in their community promoting equality, getting great grades and getting ready for their next step: college. We always order a big sheet cake with lots of rainbows to celebrate. Since this was the 20th year, Cynthia invited all the past winners of the Jean-Paul Ohadi Memorial Scholarship, to find so many of them now live all around the country but in other countries as well! We were lucky to have 3 past winners join us to let us know how much the scholarship meant to them. We congratulate all 2019 winners!!!! And we thank Cynthia again, for her dedication to our community and her tireless efforts to recognize LGBTQ youth!!



Cake at the scholarship celebration

News from PFLAG Rockford

by Phyllis Gallisath

We welcomed a few newcomers to our monthly meeting on June 3rd with 14 in attendance. After introductions, we had fun sharing what we are all looking forward to for Pride Month, like all the amazing events happening in our area, including Queer Prom, the Pride Picnic, and Chicago Pride Parade. We had a lot to talk about at this meeting. Please see some of the topics we touched on below:

What We've Been Up To and Meeting Discussions

Our Pride Month committee worked in collaboration with the City of Rockford and their student intern, Zachary Wallace, in an effort to engage local businesses in Pride month events. A taste of these events are: restaurants hosting pride drink specials, iBikeRockford's pride ride, GEM: Gather, Engage, Make hosting a Pride pop-up of artisan crafts and goods, and the Rockford Public Library is hosting a number of pride related events. There are many events you can find on the website: <http://rockfordpride.com/>

We received the \$1,023 Community Action Agency At-Risk Program Grant from the City of Rockford! This grant will be utilized to fund workshops, enrichment, and programming for our DiversCity youth-led group. Meg will be working on fine tuning DiversCity programming needs and wants for the coming year to allocate the grant funding. Phyllis and Meg will work on registering on the website to create an account. Curt has agreed to monitor finances and running the numbers for the budget.

Curt provided PFLAG Rockford's financial balance of \$2734.75. But this does not reflect the \$1,800 check from In Youth We Trust Grant being deposited soon.

PFLAG Rockford's Facebook page is getting a lot of new likes and more activity to our page. Kari is doing a great job promoting our events for free online.

PFLAG Rockford has been contacted and officially ASKED to be in the 4th of July Parade! This is great because we've had to ask for permission in the past, and this time they reached out to us! Amber has filled out the application for 4th of July Parade. Kari has made a Facebook Event page for the event. And Phyllis confirmed at least 5 people from our meeting who would like to attend.

Liam's name change fund is low on funds after having sponsored another individual. It's \$300 to do a name change. We've raised \$150 since 6/1/19. Another person has approached us about requesting a name change.

Our fundraising chair board position is open. Patrick has shown an interest in being involved with the board. Phyllis endorsed Patrick for this role, and the group agreed.

We are looking into creating a Paypal account for PFLAG Rockford instead of using our personal Paypal accounts. Patrick will look into how to set up a business account at for PFLAG.

After a quick online discussion between board members, it was decided that we should obtain a P.O. Box so we can stop using Phyllis' home address for organization mail, donations, etc. Curt acquired a P.O. Box at the Post Office on Windsor Road. Curt and Phyllis will assume the responsibility to check this P.O. Box. The address is:

PFLAG Rockford Area
P.O. Box 16181
Loves Park, IL 61132

We, as a group, have observed a lack of diversity at our meetings. For example, we have no people of color holding Board positions. As our discussion continued, we identified what we need new strategies to draw people of color to join our group. Phyllis offered a suggestion that was given by a social justice group - maybe we can offer a paid partnership for input. For example, offering \$25 for attending a meeting. Throughout our discussion, other ideas were offered. We should put together a "town hall" type of gathering to meet with folks from other organizations that focus on people of color in order to engage in conversations. Paige offered that UIC has an Urban Health Program group that hosts a bulletin board that we could advertise on. We could also do outreach to popular community events, such as "Live at Levings." Megan T. asked if we're ready to do trainings for diversity. She recommends Crossroads. We could look towards Illinois Safe School Alliance.

PFLAG Rockford has been contacted and officially ASKED to be in the 4th of July Parade! ... we've had to ask for permission in the past

A Yellow Brick Road (YBR) member visited our meeting to gain information and insight as to how we were able to start DiversCity, our safe space for LGBTQ+ youth and their allies ages 13-19. YBR would like to start their own



youth group. Phyllis suggested if they want to set up a safe space, a church may be difficult from our experiences in Rockford. Also, partnerships with a public entity, like a library so it can be hosted there. It helped to have the organizers get training on Adulthood from the Illinois Safe School Alliance.

A new visitor to PFLAG Meeting, Lien, is new at Rock Valley College. She is on the group PACE: Promoting And Inclusive Community. As a community college, they haven't been doing great on enrollment, retention and completion with black, Hispanic, and LGBT students. It's a very multifaceted and complex process. She needs support from our community. Phyllis offered advice that faculty needs to be the ones leading and identifying the group. People are interested, but no one is talking together. For example, they asked "Do we offer Safe Space training?" Yes, but the ones attending are familiar with the needs, so it's like "preaching to the choir." Making this training required could have more efficacy. They have a lot of work to do, but it looks like there's interest. It was suggested that they offer a scholarship for LGBTQ students.

Paige talked about going to Reproductive Health Act and asked a question about how it includes LGBTQ. They responded with that they left the language not gendered at all.

Meg attended the Strategic Planning Meeting for Family Peace Center in an effort to represent the unique considerations to the LGBTQ+ community as it pertains to relationship violence and assault.

Pride Month Events PFLAG has been present at:

On May 28th, Mayor Tom McNamara proclaimed June "Pride month" for the first time in history. Members, families, and community gathered to witness this event and Phyllis was presented with a copy of the Proclamation.

On June 1st, PFLAG was represented at The Office's Alley Party, which was followed by Pride Month Kick-Off event. Lots of media coverage to several news outlets covered the events, including the Sunday paper. It was great to talk to so many people and promote PFLAG. It was awesome to see the mayor there with his family.

On June 4th, Amber and Allison were at Olympic Tavern's PFLAG Fundraiser. They offered PFLAG Logo buttons, Pride Month Calendars, and high fives! The Mayor also joined the event.

On June 8th, DiversCity Youth Group hosted Queer Prom 2019. The "Over the Rainbow" theme was enjoyed by the 65 teens who attended. Three drag queen and one drag king performed and gave the teens a heart-stopping show. Thanks to the 20 volunteers who helped at various parts of the night, from set-up to chaperoning, and tear down.

On June 9th, Amber, Curt and Allison staffed a PFLAG table at the United Auto Workers hosted a Pride Picnic. It was a family-friendly event with bouncy houses, food trucks, and a dunk tank. Other LGBT+ groups were present, like Spectrum, Yellow Brick Road, and Prism (a Freeport group). We talked to about a hundred people to spread the word about PFLAG Rockford.

Mayor of Rockford proclaimed June "Pride month" for the first time in history

On June 11, Phyllis was a presenter at the event "Inclusiveness in Church & Community" where conversations were had about Pride Month and being a welcoming community to the LGBTQIA+ community.

On June 14th, Stephanie was the PFLAG representative for the IBikeRockford event.

Looking Ahead...

"Rock the Pride" on August 24th is being hosted by Yellow Brick Road organization. It is located at the Snappers stadium. It will include a drag Show, awarding a Mr. & Mrs. Pride, DJ, vendors, a beer garden, and more!

<https://www.facebook.com/events/837305173290819/>

As always thank you for your support!

If you don't receive *Open Doors* directly, **Subscribe Now**

Get published: Send art, photos, and writing *by, for, or about* our LGBTQ+ loved ones to opendoors@pflagillinois.org



Photos from the 50th Annual Chicago Pride Parade by Ron Whitfield and Phil Kroker



Photos from the 50th Annual Chicago Pride Parade (continued)



Photos from the Inaugural Buffalo Grove Pride Parade by Katrin & Andrew Zanevsky



Photos from the Aurora Pride Parade by Jackie Frett



Photos from the Woodstock Pride Fest by Carol Fetzner and Toni Weaver



Stonewall 50 – WorldPride NYC

2019 by Andrew Zanevsky

This year, New York City hosted **Stonewall 50 – WorldPride NYC 2019** - the largest international Pride celebration in history. I had the opportunity to spend a few days in NYC, see the overwhelming support of LGBTQ people by local community and businesses, and witness the largest ever Pride Parade.

Organizers estimate that 5 million people attended just in Manhattan and 115,000 marched in the Parade. The whole city was decorated with pride symbols not just on June 30th - the day of the Parade, but throughout the whole month of June. Pride colors were everywhere - on practically every restaurant, shop, hotel, and other places of business, on buildings and public transportation. Commercial advertisement was Pride-themed and event car trajectories in the Uber app were rainbow-colored (I don't know if it was localized to NYC).

On the day of the Parade midtown and downtown Manhattan was overflowing. It was quite warm, but tolerable, and the skies were clear. Despite the enormous crowds and some packed street corners and hot spots near the Parade route, I only saw smiles and joy everywhere. People were cheerful and respectful of others - it was a true celebration of Love and Equality. My only regret was missing the Chicago Pride Parade, which was held on the same day.



Art by Mary Furgiuele

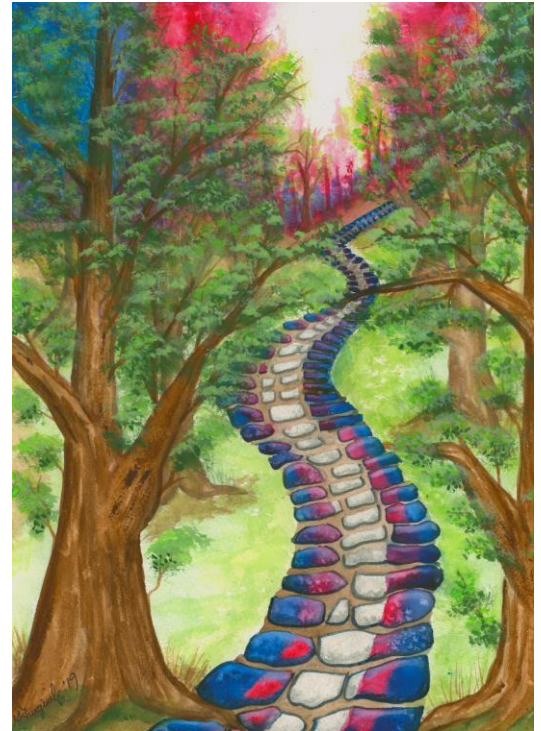


Artist of the month:
Mary Furgiuele

Mary Furgiuele is a life-long artist working in the business side of art (graphic arts and web design) until 2015 after she retired to paint full time. She fights passionately for equality among all people, one art piece at a time. She is especially interested in equality among the LGBT community, after having hidden her true self the majority of her life as well as fighting passionately for her LGBT children.

Mary is super friendly, kind of silly and most certainly a child at heart, which comes through in her vibrant paintings. You can find her art on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Pinterest @hueswithheart, the website www.hueswithheart.com, by phone at 630.888.4649 and by email at mary@hueswithheart.com.

Her website has many of her works, but not all. Commissions are currently being accepted.



Path to Acceptance

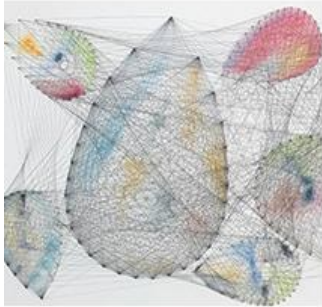


Mama Panda



We Are Many

Calendar at the Center on 3656 N. Halsted, Chicago



LGBTQ Artist Gallery Opening JD Johnson & Brian Hofmeister

Center on Halsted • Fri., July 19 • 6 - 8 pm

LGBTQ Artists Gallery Opening Exhibit launches on Friday, July 19, from 6:00-8:00 pm. The opening night event is the official premiere of the work by artists JD Johnson & Brian Hofmeister.

RSVP HERE >



HIV Lunch & Learn Older Populations with HIV



Center on Halsted • Fri., Sept. 27 • 2 - 3 pm

Janssen will host a lunch and learn with speaker Todd Davis, Senior Community Liaison. Considerations for the older patient population with HIV.

Open to all community members.
Complimentary lunch provided.

RSVP HERE >



AIDS Run & Walk Chicago

Soldier Field • Sat., October 5 • 9 am

We're back and hitting the ground running once more for 2019 AIDS Run & Walk Chicago, this year uniting our team for our 12th year of service to Chicago's LGBTQ community. Support of Center on Halsted's AIDS Run & Walk team ensures that we can continue to provide a high quality of service while reaching the greatest number of people possible, especially in a time of funding uncertainty for HIV/AIDS programming.

RSVP HERE >

Let's get to WERQ!

Compass and Center on Halsted are hosting a workshop series called "Getting Ready for WERQ" in the **Cyber Center**. This series will cover a range of topics to help with job hunting, readiness, and growth. We hope to see you there!

- July 11th | 6-8 PM
- July 25th | 6-8 PM
- August 8th | 6-8 PM
- August 22nd | 6-8 PM
- September 5th | 6-8 PM
- September 19th | 6-8 PM
- September 26th | 6-8 PM

- How and Where to Job Hunt
- How to Write a Resume
- How to Write a Cover Letter
- How to Prepare for an Interview
- How to Dress for Success
- How to Network
- Review

CENTER ON 3656 N. HALSTED

ABOUT FACE

STONEWALL, REVOLT AND NEW QUEER ART

"A massive survey of queer art"
— Claire Voon, Chicago Magazine



659 Wrightwood Ave. | Chicago
wrightwood659.org

THROUGH AUGUST 3

WRIGHTWOOD 659

Wrightwood 659's presentation of *About Face: Stonewall, Revolt and New Queer Art* is made possible by support from Alphawood Exhibitions.



IMAGE CREDIT | Nick Cave in collaboration with Bob Faust | *Spring Awakening* (detail) | 2019



Theater News

by David Zak, Executive Director

[Pride Film & Plays](#)

Pride Arts adds a fun and funny opera - GRINDR THE OPERA - to bring an end to a very exciting 2018-19 season! GRINDR by Erik Ransom recently won an Offie Award, in London, the equivalent of the Off-Broadway scene. GRINDR joins AFTERGLOW which has been running in the Buena theater since March, and DESIRE IN A TINIER HOUSE, a new play by Ryan Oliveira in the Pride repertory. AFTERGLOW and GRINDER will run together to the end of July, and it is possible to see both on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

For details call 1-773-332-0568 or visit pridefilmsandplays.com.



PRIDE
FILMS&PLAYS





POST-PRIDE

PAINTING PARTY

FUNDRAISER



COME OUT TO BOTTLE & BOTTEGA'S BYOB
POST-PRIDE PAINTING PARTY
TO FUNDRAISE FOR THE 2019 AIDS RUN & WALK

JOIN US FROM 6 PM – 8PM ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 17TH
AT BOTTLE & BOTTEGA: LAKEVIEW (2900 N. LINCOLN AVE.)



LEARN STEP-BY-STEP HOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN CUSTOM
KEITH HARING-INSPIRED MASTERPIECE
TAUGHT BY ARTIST JACK ROTHMUND

EACH TICKET COSTS \$40,
\$15 OF WHICH GO DIRECTLY TO THE AIDS FOUNDATION OF CHICAGO

YOUR TICKET PAYS FOR ALL SUPPLIES, STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTION, A DONATION TO THE
AIDS FOUNDATION OF CHICAGO, AND YOUR OWN TAKE-HOME MASTERPIECE

CONTACT JACK ROTHMUND AT jacksonrothmund@gmail.com TO REGISTER!

To register click on the flyer. Use the password: **aidsfundbottega**



PFLAG Northern Illinois Chapters

