

Art by Brian Hofmeister
pp 19-22



September 2019 | PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois Newsletter

opendoors@pflagillinois.org

Monthly Open Doors

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President's Column

Affirming Places Matter... Your Advocacy Makes the Difference!

It's back to school and I am happy to see that there are more and more high schools and middle schools in the area that have clubs supporting LGBTQIA+ students and allies. This is great news for our children. These clubs, often called GSA's (for gay / straight alliance or gender / sexuality alliance) are great ways for schools to provide students with a safe, affirming place to find community, learn and grow. Studies have shown that just having a GSA in the school makes our kids feel safer, even if they don't personally participate. I was thrilled to learn that as of this year, all the high schools and middle schools in my district have a GSA. GSAs started in high schools. But we are finding there is a very real need to engage our students sooner and there is great value in having GSAs in middle school. Does your HS and middle school have a GSA?

Does your school have a GSA?

I want to urge you to take a few minutes over the next week to find out. A quick google search of the schools in your area will yield the contact information you need to find out. It may take a few searches and a few calls to connect with someone who can help. But it will be worth it. Some key words to consider in your search might include: school name, district and the number, GSA, directory, councilor, social worker, diversity, inclusion, liaison, advisor... Ask if the school has



a GSA for LGBTQ+ students and allies. If they do, be sure to congratulate and thank them for creating a safe and affirming environment for our students. If you want to get further engaged, just ask for the contact information of the GSA advisor. It is nice to talk with the advisor, but even better to support the students by being part of a future meeting. Consider offering to visit and tell them about your story and PFLAG. If the school does not have a GSA, consider asking if there is someone in charge of the student clubs or if the school has anyone responsible for diversity and inclusion. These would be the folks to talk to about their plans to support a GSA and whether they know about resources that might help them. Encourage them to take action for form a GSA. Let them know why it is important to you. For more information about Safe Schools and GSAs, check out these great resources: [PFLAG Safe Schools](#), [GLSEN](#), [Illinois Safe Schools Alliance](#), [HRC Welcoming Schools](#). Please let us know about your experience at info@pflagillinois.org

Having GSAs in our schools doesn't just help our students to better fit in and have a more engaging and productive educational experience. I am sure you know, affirming places help to save lives. At PFLAG, we are first focused on creating affirming home and family environment, and this is most vital. But, the need for affirming space also extends to our schools, workplaces, places of worship, and to our communities.



So, in addition to contacting your school, there are lots of little things we can do to subtly (or not so subtly) identify ourselves as an ally. It can be something as simple as a safety pin or a button on your bag, backpack, shirt or hat.... It can be a t-shirt you wear or a poster in your home or office with an affirming message. It can be an HRC "[Love Is Love](#)" or PFLAG coffee mug or tumbler you use. There are lots of ways to be visible as an ally. Please know that we also understand that not everyone is out in their life. It is a process and we are all at different points on the [ally spectrum](#). So, do what is comfortable to you. Be kind to yourself and take the time you need along your ally journey. Gay or straight, cis-gender or

transgender, we can all be allies for equality together!

Don't forget, take a few minutes to call your local high school and middle school.

In Love and Solidarity,

John

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

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.



Find Community and Support at *PFLAG!* Supporting LGBTQIA+ People and their Families & Friends

Affirming Families Matter - Make a Difference with *PFLAG*

Join us for a *PFLAG* information meeting
Saturday September 7th, 2019 2 – 4 pm
Garfield Park Behavioral Hospital
520 N. Ridgeway Ave, Chicago, IL 60624

Learn

- About PFLAG
- Why affirming families and places are important
- How to start a PFLAG Chapter near you

Sign up on Eventbrite (optional)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pflag-information-meeting-tickets-70340726005>



SUPPORT

EDUCATION

ADVOCACY





Registration is still 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.

Make a Difference Today: Help Feed Hungry LGBTQ Youth!

Homeless LGBTQ young adults who find shelter at the CRIB in Chicago count on PFLAG members to serve up a hot breakfast and a hearty helping of unconditional love and support on the first Sunday of every month. The CRIB, a partnership between The Night Ministry and the Lakeview Lutheran Church, provides 18 - 24 year-olds with a good night's sleep, healthy meals, shower and laundry facilities, and a shared and affirming space. It is a gratifying experience to help our community members who struggle to meet the challenges of daily living. PFLAG's involvement in this important program has become so popular that additional volunteers are now needed. Please contact Coordinator Peggi Nasti today at 630-983-8511 or peggynastitdo@gmail.com for an opportunity to reach out and make a real difference in our LGBTQ community!

PFLAG Chapter Opportunities!

Congratulations to the newest PFLAG Chapter in Northern Illinois - PFLAG Bolingbrook will be meeting on the second Sunday of the month at 2 pm starting from October 13th at [Friendship United Methodist Church 305 E. Boughton Road, Bolingbrook, IL 60440](#). If you are interested in helping out or being added to their email list, please send an email to PFLAGbolingbrook@pflagillinois.org

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 West Dundee - Plans are also moving forward with plans to start a West Dundee PFLAG chapter. They plan to meet at St James' Episcopal Church, located at 516 Washington St, West Dundee, IL 60118. Planning meetings are on the first Saturday at 1:30 pm. Thank you Sharon for leading this initiative. If you have interest in helping form this chapter or want to be added to their email distribution list, please contact Sharon Fu at PFLAGwestdundee@pflagillinois.org

Inquiries have also been made regarding starting Chapters in: **Mt. Prospect, Evanston, Waukegan and Edgebrook in Chicago**. Email info@pflagillinois.org to be connected with the folks who are looking into starting these chapters.

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



PFLAG Supports Fahrenheit Chicago

On Sunday August 25th PFLAG volunteers hosted a PFLAG informational table at Fahrenheit Chicago, a south-side pride event organized by our friends at Equality Illinois at the [DuSable Museum of African American History](#). It is a beautiful museum and an educational experience.

In addition to our table with other community organizations, we hosted a quick workshop letting folks understand what a PFLAG meeting is like and talking about how interested volunteers can start a chapter in their community.

It was a gorgeous day filled with fun, making buttons and connecting with the community. We met lots of



enthusiastic and energetic folks and hope see these connections blossom into more. It would be great to see even more new PFLAG Chapters, making support accessible to more communities in Northern Illinois.

From PFLAG National

FEDERAL MATTERS

[Students who said they were discriminated against because of their sexual orientation or gender identity were significantly less likely to get any relief from the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights under the current administration than they were under the past administration, according to a report released Monday. The report](#), released by the Center for American Progress and based on the Department of Education's own data, provided the first analysis of how students who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer have fared in the first half of the Trump administration.

[Doctors are calling for the end of so-called conversion therapy, falsely sold as a way to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity.](#) An estimated 20,000 LGBTQ+ adolescents will be subjected to conversion therapy with a licensed health care professional by the time they reach the age of 18, according to physicians writing in the New England Journal of Medicine. PFLAG National endorses [H.R. 3570, the Therapeutic Fraud Prevention Act of 2019](#) introduced by Rep. Ted Lieu. [This bill would ban so called conversion therapy for youth and adults under federal law.](#)

[The Department of Justice urges the EEOC to change its position and tell SCOTUS to rule that businesses can discriminate against transgender employees without violating the law.](#) The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has maintained its Obama-era position that businesses are banned from discriminating against LGBTQ+ workers because it's a form of sex bias.

[The Department of Labor proposed a rule allowing "religion-exercising organizations" with federal contracts to raise religious exemptions if accused of bias in their hiring practices.](#) "The DOL proposed a rule that aims to let government contractors fire workers who are LGBTQ+, HIV positive, or who are pregnant and unmarried, based on the employers' religious views," the PFLAG National opposes taxpayer-funded discrimination and using the freedom of religion as a license to discriminate. Public comments will be accepted until September 16th.

ILLINOIS STATE MATTERS

[Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed legislation ensuring state schools teach the role and contributions of LGBTQ+ people in American history.](#) Pritzker signed House Bill 346, which passed earlier this year. The law requires all schools in the state include "the role and contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in the history of this country and this state" in official textbooks.



COURT MATTERS

[A federal judge ruled in favor of Gavin Grimm, determining that a Virginia school district's policy barring a male transgender student from using the boys' bathrooms violates the United States Constitution, an important victory for transgender rights advocates in a closely watched case.](#) Judge Arenda L. Wright Allen of the United States District Court in Norfolk, Va., made this ruling on August 16th.

[A group of 80 philosophers have written an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in support of the LGBTQ+ employees in three discrimination cases that will be heard on October 8th.](#) The amicus brief was co-authored by philosopher [Robin Dembroff](#) (Yale) and law professor [Issa Kohler-Hausmann](#) (Yale), and concerns the Supreme Court's review of [Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia](#), and [Altitude Express, Inc. v. Zarda](#), and [R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Homes v. EEOC](#) on whether Title VII's protections apply to LGBTQ+ employees.

MEDIA MATTERS

[A true PFLAG show if there ever was one, the Netflix series No Good Nick](#) features Melissa Joan Hart and Sean Astin--and recently included a coming-out episode which has gone viral online. [Catch the tear-jerking coming-out scene here](#) (TISSUE ALERT!) and then [watch the whole first season of the series on Netflix](#). We're already fans!

[Victoria's Secret has cast an openly transgender woman for the first time, hiring the Brazilian model Valentina Sampaio for a catalog photo shoot, her agent said.](#) Her agent, Erio Zanon, said on Monday that Ms. Sampaio, 22, had been hired for catalog work for VS Pink, the company's athletic line.

[BBC soap opera series "East Enders" announces its first Muslim lesbian character.](#) Introduced in February and to be disclosed in August, actress Priya Davdra plays Iqra Ahmed.

[Netflix's "Queer Eye" Jonathan Van Ness meets with his high school alma mater's GSA and discusses being bullied there.](#) Quincy, Mass. had no GSA when he attended, and Van Ness said that he came out in his 6th grade talent show in a "lyrical interpretive dance" to a song by Jewel. He said that queer students then were their own support system and family, because the school provided no support for LGBTQ+ students or against bullying.

[Wilson Cruz, a co-star in the new Hulu animated children's series "The Bravest Knight," describes the show's dad couple this way: "We're not explaining homosexuality, or same-gender sexuality. We're talking about the love of a family."](#) His words and those of his fellow Hulu father, T.R. Knight, speak loudly about the state of LGBTQ representation in TV fare for kids, a segment of media that has been broadening storylines over the last several years to include a range of non-binary characters.

[Tinder will start to warn its LGBTQ users when they're in a country where it could be risky to swipe.](#) The dating app announced a new safety feature called Traveler Alert that will inform LGBTQ users when they've entered a part of the world that criminalizes same-sex consensual activity and hide their profiles by default.

[Mattachine Society creates website that captures achievements and narrative of lesbian pioneer Lilli Vincenz and invites all to visit it.](#) Thanks to the dedication of legendary LGBTQ+ champions Charles Francis and Pate Felts, [this important piece of the community's history is preserved and available.](#) Lilli's archival papers and films are preserved at the Library of Congress. We learned about this from PFLAG friend and LGBTQ+ hero Bob Witeck.

Get published in Open Doors!

Send art, photos, essays, personal stories, poetry, movie or book reviews, and anything else newsletter-worthy *by, for, or about* our LGBTQ+ loved ones to opendoors@pflagillinois.org

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Editor: Andrew Zanevsky



News from PFLAG Ottawa

by Ken Brown

PFLAG Ottawa is looking forward to its meetings in August and September. We have some informative and inspiring programs planned.

In August, we plan to watch an episode of [Gaycation](#), a series on Viceland hosted by openly gay actress Ellen Page and her best friend, Ian Daniel. In the series, Ellen and Ian set off on journeys to explore LGBTQ cultures around the world. We plan to watch an episode entitled *Deep South*. In the episode, Ian sets out on a road trip to explore the culture of LGBTQ communities in the southern United States as well as the issues and stigmas they still face.

In September, we are excited to have a very special guest speaker, Brian Johnson.



Brian serves as the CEO of *Equality Illinois*, the statewide LGBTQ civil rights organization. Brian will be speaking about the role of Equality Illinois in building a better Illinois by advancing equal treatment and full acceptance of the LGBTQ community. We are honored that Brian is coming to Ottawa to visit with us!

News from PFLAG Hinsdale

by Barb Medley

Our August 4th speaker was **Sandra Wagner**, a transgender woman who presented a workshop called *Transgender 101 – Trans Information for the Non-Trans Community*. Sandra is also the author of the book, [Bobby the Aardvark](#).

Sandra's presentation was almost like a classroom lecture, very educational, and Sandra's an excellent speaker. While didactic, it was also mixed with heartfelt personal sentiments. Some basics included the following facts and definitions: Transgender fundamentally means the mind does not agree with the body. It encompasses any individual who crosses over or challenges their society's traditional gender roles or experiences.

Sandra talked about the importance of therapy for transgender individuals and the issues therapists work with them to resolve when deciding what steps to take to embrace their gender: 1) Medical discussions related to hormone therapy are critical to avoid liver and other serious health problems. 2) Support with societal experiences – real life experiences – is necessary as individuals integrate into society. 3) There is a 1-2 year period of therapy before a therapist will recommend surgery.

Transitioning is expensive, both legally and medically. Legal steps need to be taken when changing gender. Laws regarding birth certificate changes vary state by state, which can cause problems with employment.

Despite all the challenges, Sandra said transitioning improved quality of life 100%.

Sandra recommended the following resources: The website, www.thegenderbook.com, and the book, *Redefining Realness* by Janet Mock.

We do have a speaker for September 1st despite it being the Labor Day weekend – Amy Orwig. The title of her talk is *Evolution of a Mama Bear: A Story of a Mom Who Found Strength in the Kindness of Strangers – and Became Stronger in the Process*.



News from PFLAG Oak Park

by Nancy Johnson and Phil Kroker

At our meeting today we had a visitor. She is a teacher at a middle school and is starting a gay/straight alliance. She has received a lot of positive response from a number of students who are happy that they'll have a safe space to talk about themselves. We asked to help get their parents interested in coming to PFLAG and gave her brochures to pass out to the students.

We also discussed our Bake Sale on August 31. We've managed to recruit a number of bakers from neighbors, relatives, and also from the *Oak Park Area Lesbian and Gay Association*.

Then, on September 7, is the annual *Barrie Fest* in Barrie Park. We plan on making and handing out buttons there. That's always a big hit with the kids. Also on September 7, the OPRF high school has invited us to attend an welcome dinner event at the high school. Unfortunately, we don't have enough folks to do both events. We will take brochures there and leave them, but it's much better to be there in person to talk to people.



A Day in Our Village



Our chapter helped OPALGA make 7,000 donuts at the Oak Park farmers market in June.

Earlier in June we had a booth at a Village-wide event and gave out over 500 buttons. The kids love helping with that.. Mickey Mouse was very popular.

News from PFLAG Deerfield

by Sue Ginsburg

Well, it happened again this month! Our speaker cancelled at the last minute. Fortunately, as we have found before, having two hours to talk to one another giving support, sharing experiences, laughing and crying is often a good thing and one we need to do more. Having this extended time, we have found that some of our members can be speakers as well and we are looking forward to tapping into the expertise of our members very soon. Watch this space!

We were very lucky to welcome two new families this month, and the extra time for support was really worth not having a speaker.

News from PFLAG Aurora/Fox Valley

by Carmi Frankovich

Hi folks!

This is your monthly reminder that our Aurora/Fox Valley PFLAG meeting is Sunday, September 8th which is the weekend following Labor Day from 2 to 4 pm at 406 W. Galena in Aurora. Our presenter is the co-founder of the Bisexual Queer Alliance of Chicago as well as a retired monk who will be sharing about the sexual orientation continuum, educating us about bisexuality and celebrating bisexuality awareness month. Can someone volunteer to leave the PFLAG meeting 20 min early to drop him off at the Aurora train station? Please keep in mind that those of you with loved ones who identify as transgender or gender non conforming also have their own unique sexual orientation:)

If you are interested in marching with PFLAG in the Naperville Labor Day parade, please contact me for

more info. We are rather new to the Naperville parade so the turnout is smaller and less enthusiastic LOL.

Lastly, please read below for an event being held at Metea High School in Aurora. PFLAG will host a table and the speaker is said to be fabulous. We can discuss at the meeting if those who attend want to sit together or separately. Feel free to pass on the following info from the event organizers if you feel comfortable doing so:

Thank you also for being willing to promote this event through your social media and community networks throughout the rest of August and September. I believe that this event has the potential to make a powerful impact on our community, and my hope is that we will fill Metea's 800 person capacity auditorium!

I have some promotional materials available:

We have created a [Facebook Event](#) that is ready to be shared and an [Eventcombo link](#) through which people can reserve free tickets to the event.

See you in two weeks if not sooner!

COMING TO METEA VALLEY

SCHUYLER BAILAR

SEPTEMBER 24, 2019
METEA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
1801 N EOLA ROAD
AURORA, IL 60502
7:00 PM

PDAC
IPSD 204
Parent Diversity Advisory Council

*INTERNATIONALLY RENOWNED SPEAKER *INCLUSION ADVOCATE
*FIRST TRANSGENDER ATHLETE ON ANY NCAA D1 MEN'S TEAM
*AS SEEN ON THE ELLEN SHOW AND THE OLYMPIC CHANNEL

SWIMMING & DIVING

News from PFLAG McHenry

by Toni Weaver

Our August meeting focused on the educational aspect of PFLAG's three-fold mission of support, education, and advocacy. PFLAG McHenry/McHenry PTI member and high school instructor, **Bob Chikos**, shared with us a presentation he made to a class of future school administrators at Northeastern Illinois University that covered a wide range of topics focusing on the transgender population. As a high school teacher Bob knows the importance of a safe and accepting school environment, and as a parent of a transgender child, knows the value of a good home environment that fosters the growth of their child. Justly proud, Bob shared with us that his son, after completing high school in just three years, was starting college the very next day – a true success story!

I think the most important idea I took away from the evening was the importance of correct vocabulary/terminology, itself very fluid and ever changing. FTM and MTF are slowly being phased out, and “assigned male at birth” or “assigned female at birth” are becoming the preferred way to describe a person whose gender identity doesn't match their sex assigned at birth.

How often do we encounter the gender binary when filling out forms such as new patient forms in doctors' offices? I've made it a mission to bring the issue to the attention of providers and have naturally encountered some kick-back. Most recently, a member of a doctor's staff said that it was really important to know what “parts” a person has since it may factor into what exams a doctor performs. This is where the “assigned male at birth” or “assigned female at birth” might be really useful, especially as a springboard to further discussion with the healthcare provider.

If all of us took it upon ourselves to bring this type of awareness and education into the communities in which we live, we might really begin to effect change.



News from PFLAG DuPage

by Bernadette and Ron Whitfield

We had a wonderful turnout (August 2019) to welcome Claire Liu and her cast from Naperville North High School! More than 50 people attended. It was the first PFLAG meeting for some of them.

Before getting into that, we have several important announcements:

1. Sunday, August 25th, Equality Illinois Fahrenheit Chicago event -- Please contact John Hickey at jthickey1@gmail.com if you are interested in participating.
2. We are marching in the Naperville Labor Day Parade again this year! Steve Rothmund again is in charge. More information will follow. Contact Steve Rothmund at SteveR592@gmail.com if you have any questions. All PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois members, families, and friends are invited to join us!
3. DuPage's next meeting is September 15. Gail Hanson will be leading a back-to-school-themed meeting! For answers to questions, you can contact Gail at gahanson14@yahoo.com.
4. Jo Ann Larson announced that: (1) Sunday Sept. 15, 2019. 10:30 AM in the room where we meet for PFLAG, otherwise known as Fellowship Hall, Victor Salvo will speak about the Legacy Project. (2) Sunday Nov.3, 2019 at the same time and location, a panel of PFLAG members will speak about PFLAG. each person will have about 10-15 minutes depending on how many people are on the panel. They can share their story. However, I would like them to include what PFLAG means to them, why attend, how it has helped them, why they are advocates if applicable. etc, For more information or to express interest in being a panelist, contact Jo Ann at PinkApril428@gmail.com.
5. OUTspoken is coming to the 'burbs! OUTspoken (the usual venue is Sidetrack in Chicago) decided to bring its regular storytelling event to the suburbs on Thursday, September 12, 2019 at Ballydoyle in Downers Grove from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Our friends, Nancy Mullen, Ken Mejia-Beal, and Emma Vosicky are going to be three of the storytellers. Contact John Hickey at jthickey1@gmail.com for more information.

PFLAG DuPage - continued

Regarding Sunday's meeting, we were thrilled to have Claire Liu and her cast perform Claire's one-act play "Memories from the Up Stairs Lounge." The play is about a group of friends celebrating a birthday during the 70's in New Orleans. Despite being outcast and attacked by the majority of society at the time, they find solace with each other. The play incorporates a poignant twist that was inspirational and gut-wrenching. The catalyst for the play is the book *Tinderbox: The Untold Story of the Up Stairs Lounge Fire and the Rise of Gay Liberation* by Robert Fieseler, who grew up in Naperville and visited us about a year ago.



↑ The Youth Outlook Picnic

↓ Scenes from Claire Liu's play about the Up Stairs Lounge



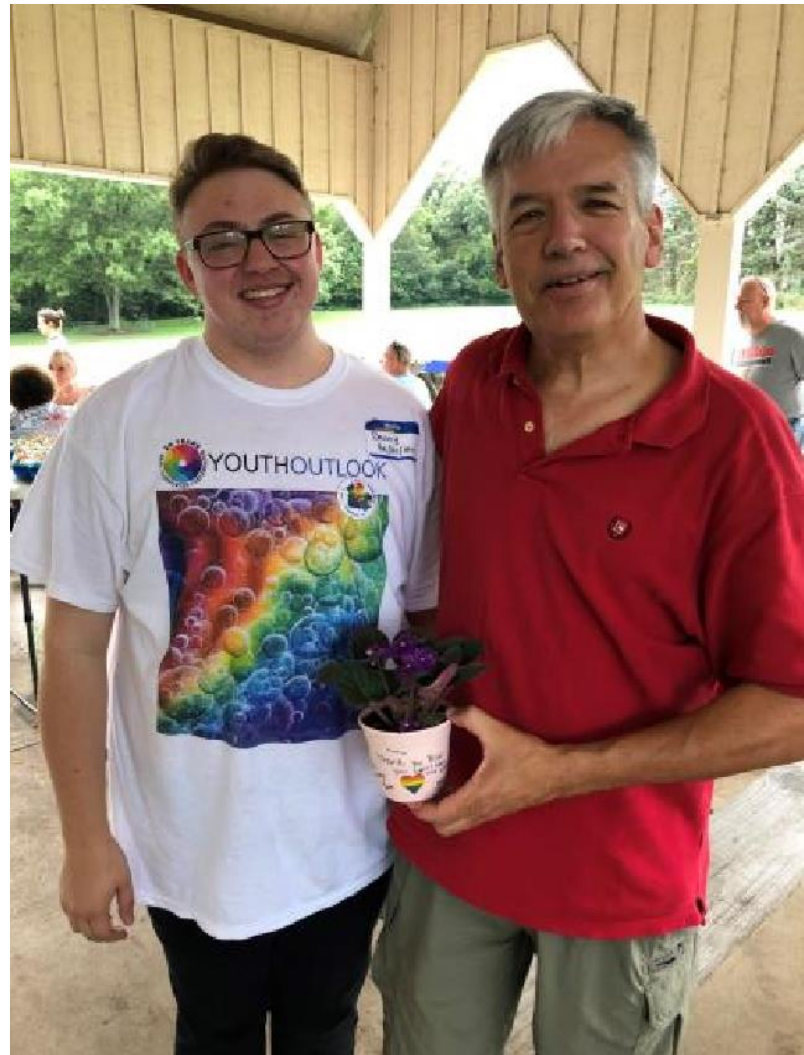


↑ The Youth Outlook Picnic

Pictures taken by Chris Saviano on his recent visit to New York City! Chris said visitors to NYC should not pass up the opportunity to experience the peace and hope that he felt at the Stonewall National Monument.
↓



Danny Julius of Youth Outlook presented PFLAG DuPage with a plant, accepted by Don Donahue (who did so much for the event). Don will entrust Will with the task of keeping it alive! ↓





Trans Karaoke hosted by T-MAC

Center on Halsted • Sat., Sept. 7 • 6 - 9 pm

Join us at the Center on Halsted for our very first Transgender/GNC Karaoke Party! Karaoke will be hosted by Nikk Selik of T-MAC: Transmasculine Alliance Chicago. This will be a safe space for the trans community to meet, mingle, and have fun singing your favorite tunes in a non-judgmental environment. Additionally, this event is open to allies of the trans community.

[RSVP HERE >](#)



Counter Balance The Power of Integrated Dance

Center on Halsted • Sat., Sept. 7 • 7:30 pm and
Sun., Sept. 8 • 3:30 pm

A unique dance showcase featuring "integrated" dance choreography and performances by accomplished artists with and without disabilities-returns to Chicago for the ninth consecutive year.

[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 >](#)



Center on Halsted + Brave Space Alliance present WERQ! Chicago LGBTQ Job Fair

Center on Halsted • Fri., Sept. 27 • 10 am - 2 pm

SAVE the DATE! Our annual LGBTQ Job Fair is back on Sept. 27th! Last year, more than 30 major corporations, small businesses, government agencies and non-profits participated in the WERQ Job Fair here at Center on Halsted.

[RSVP HERE >](#)



Fall Season Therapy Groups

Center on Halsted • Begins week of Sept. 9th

Groups running this fall:

- ¡VOCES! Grupo En Español
- Coming Out Group
- HIV+ Group
- LGBTQ POC Group
- Trans, GNC, NB Group
- Queer Womens Group

[To Learn More or Sign Up >](#)

CENTER ON 3656 N. HALSTED

LGBTQ

Family Playdate

FUN ACTIVITIES WITH LGBTQ FAMILIES

Saturday, September 14 • 9:30 - 11:30 am • 3656 N. Halsted

Curated by the LGBTQ Family Council at Center on Halsted



Burlesque & Variety Show "Eroticism Has No Age Limit"

Center on Halsted • Th., Sept. 26 • 5 - 8 pm

We are thrilled to announce our upcoming fundraising event for Center on Addison, the social and residential center for LGBTQ seniors at Center on Halsted

The "Ooh La La Burlesque & Variety Show: Eroticism Has No Age Limit" aims to support Center on Addison's mission to eliminate isolation by building community with an array of innovative programming, serving more than 500 seniors a year.

[TICKETS HERE >](#)

LANDMARK

THE LEGACY PROJECT [UN]GALA

October 10, 2019
Chez Event Space
247 E Ontario
5:30 - 8:30 P.M.



Open Bar | Heavy Hors d'oeuvres | LGBTQ History
Tickets: \$150 | Sponsorships available

Honoring: Lori Cannon, Paul Highfield,
Owen Keehnen and Carrie Maxwell

After years promoting LGBTQ contributions to world history and culture, **the Legacy Walk Rainbow Pylon Streetscape was officially designated the largest LGBTQ Historic Landmark on Earth.** A few short weeks later, **the LGBTQ-Inclusive Curriculum Bill (HB246), co-written by the Legacy Project, became Illinois law.** These two groundbreaking achievements have **catapulted the Legacy Project** – a small, volunteer-driven charity – **into the pantheon of LGBTQ Historic achievements...**

IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE!!

LANDMARK: The Legacy Project [un]Gala

OCTOBER 10, 2019 | 5:30P – 8:30P

CHEZ EVENT SPACE

247 E. ONTARIO STREET, CHICAGO, IL

OPEN BAR | HEAVY HORS D'OEUVRES | MUSIC

LGBTQ HISTORY

PURCHASE TICKETS





Please join us for an evening of socializing with NCTE's Executive Director **Mara Keisling** and other NCTE staff over beverages and light fare. Mara will be providing remarks on the current state of transgender rights in this Federal administration, including the Equality Act, our work to stop the undermining of the Health Care Rights Law and NCTE's vision for the future of transgender equality.

With attacks on our community from the current administration, we need to make sure that NCTE and the NCTE Action Fund is on the ground, standing up for trans and non-binary folks, and fighting back against discrimination. Learn more about issues impacting trans individuals, meet old and new friends, and support NCTE and our work to end discrimination. [Get your tickets today!](#)

Monday, September 9th, 6 PM - 8 PM

Join us to learn more about issues impacting trans individuals and support NCTE and our work to end discrimination against our community.

ALL GUESTS WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO MAKE A GIFT THAT IS MEANINGFUL TO YOU. DONATIONS CAN BE MADE PRIOR TO THE EVENT [easily by clicking here.](#)

In Solidarity,

Mara Keisling, Executive Director
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Center for Transgender Equality Action Fund



[Pride Action Tank](#) applauds Gov. JB Pritzker for signing [SB1319](#). The new law, which takes effect July 1, 2020, helps ensure that the needs of LGBTQ older adults and people living with HIV are recognized and supported across Illinois.

Through our OUTAging Committee, we have been uplifting the voices and concerns of LGBTQ older adults. The committee organized OUTAging: Summit on Our Possibilities in 2017 to hear what LGBTQ older adults want and want others to know about them. We heard over and over again about the fear of LGBTQ older adults becoming invisible in mainstream care facilities and the need for LGBTQ cultural competency in facilities that care for older adults.

SB1319 amends the Illinois Act on Aging to add LGBTQ and HIV status to the definition of communities of "greatest social need." Illinois is the first state to include HIV status and only the third to include LGBTQ in the definition. The new law will also protect Illinoisans from discrimination in assisted living and shared housing facilities. The governor's signature on the bill paves the way for requiring facilities to demonstrate their LGBTQ cultural competency.

We also send thanks to the bill sponsors, State Sen. Ram Villivalam and State Rep. Theresa Mah, to Equality Illinois for shepherding the bill through the Illinois General Assembly, and to SAGE for working across the country to ensure that state laws recognize and address the needs of LGBTQ older adults.

The OUTAging Committee includes LGBTQ older adults and representatives from AARP, Affinity Community Services, Center on Halsted, Howard Brown Health and SAGE, the national leader in advocacy and service for LGBTQ older adults. The committee is a working group of Pride Action Tank, a project of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.





OUTSpoken in Downers Grove on 9/12

In Chicago, on the first Tuesday of every month, there is an event called OUTspoken, which takes place at Sidetrack in Chicago, usually to pretty large crowds. It is an LGBTQ storytelling event with usually five or six storytellers over a 2-hour period. It's kind of like an all-LGBTQ themed Moth Radio Hour on NPR, except that there is no radio. The stories can range from the humorous, to the sweet, to the ones that go right to the heart.

OUTspoken decided to bring its storytelling event to the suburbs on Thursday, September 12, 2019 at Ballydoyle in Downers Grove from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Our friends, Nancy Mullen, Ken Mejia-Beal, and Emma Vosicky are going to be three of the storytellers.

This is a great opportunity to get to hear some additional stories and perspectives. Please consider attending and be sure to share this information with others who may be interested.



LGBTQI Book Review

Recommendations for your Rainbow Library
by Jackie Frett

[A GUIDE TO GENDER - The Social Justice Advocate's Handbook](#) by Sam Killermann

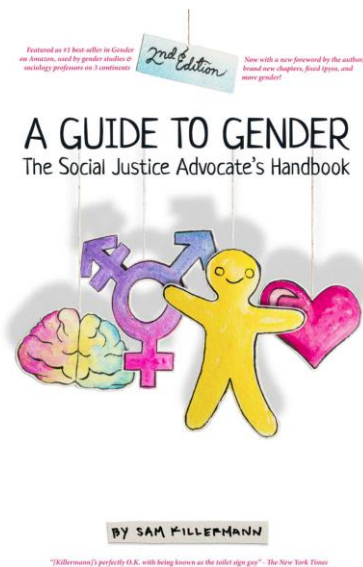
This is the second edition of Sam Killermann's *A GUIDE TO GENDER* and I think you will find it a worthwhile read.

You will find that Killermann wears many hats. Besides being an author and social justice advocate he is a comedian. That means this book is peppered with doodles, quips, and anecdotes that make this a pleasant read.

A GUIDE TO GENDER is a kind of textbook that takes us beyond the binary. The Guide defines social justice, explains privilege, and stereotypes, and clues us into the well-intentioned misogynist. Useful, practical information about making forms more gender inclusive is also included. Killermann gives us many freebies for educational purposes, including an updated Genderbread Person, and Killermann's All-Gender Restroom cutout. Free downloads are provided, all without copyright restrictions.

As much as I found *A GUIDE TO GENDER* educational, entertaining, and just plain useful my favorite take from this book is Killermann's Platinum Rule. "*Do unto other as **they** would have done unto them.*"

It takes the Golden Rule up a notch and I like it.



Do unto other as they would have done unto them

Gerber/Hart Library and Archives Annual Benefit

Saturday, September 21, 2019, 7-10 pm
6500 N. Clark St., Clark St., Chicago, IL 60626

Come into the library and archives on September 21 for an evening of food and drink, lots of lively socializing, and a wealth of LGBTQ history on display. Tickets at: gerberhart.org.

Exhibit: Out of the Closets & into the Streets

Power, Pride & resistance in Chicago's Gay Liberation Movement

Coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots, this exhibit traces the Gay Liberation Movement's presence in Chicago from its beginnings in the late 1960s to the city's first large gay rights protest in 1977 at the historic Medinah Temple in downtown River North. As new organizations and events sprouted up on college campuses and a rising number of lesbian and gay publications emerged, the voice of the movement and the LGBTQ community grew louder and more visible, producing a rich portrait of gay liberation in Chicago that survives today. The exhibit is in the Norman Sandfield Gallery and runs through September 2019.

Exhibit: The City That Werqs: A History of Chicago's Drag Revolutionaries

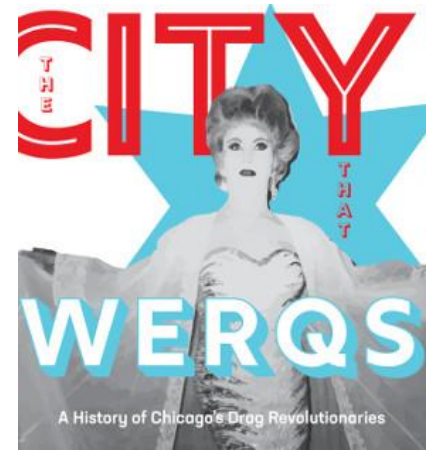
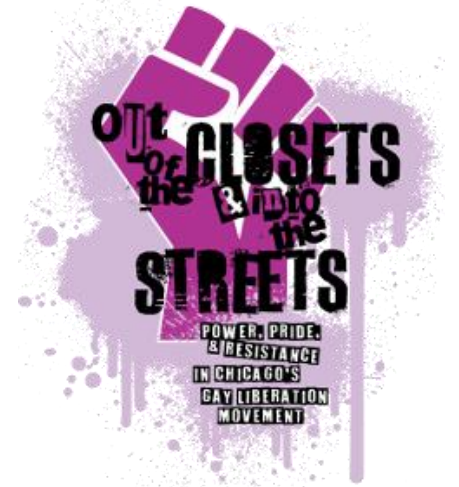
While Chicago has the reputation as one of the most segregated cities in the country, the drag scene in Chicago has always held within it a diversity of performance and style. From anarchists and vaudeville queens at the Dil Pickle Club and the legendary Finnie's Balls to the racially integrated club scenes of the 1960's to the rise of the Miss Continental competition in the 1980's and into the vibrant scene of today. The exhibit chronicles the drag scene through photographs, newspaper articles and performance attire. The exhibit runs through October 2019 in the Howard Brown Health Clark Waiting Room.

Exhibit: Queer Zines

The exhibit highlights a selection of zines. The exhibit runs through October 2019 in the library reading room

Exhibit: LGBTQ Slogan and Pride Parade Pins

On display in the Walgreens Pharmacy waiting room a selection of pins that include lesbian-themed, political issues and general slogans pins. The exhibit run through November 2019.



Art by Brian

Hofmeister

Brian Hofmeister is an American artist and designer currently living in Suzhou, China.

Click on Facebook and Instagram logos below to visit Brian's pages for more of his works:



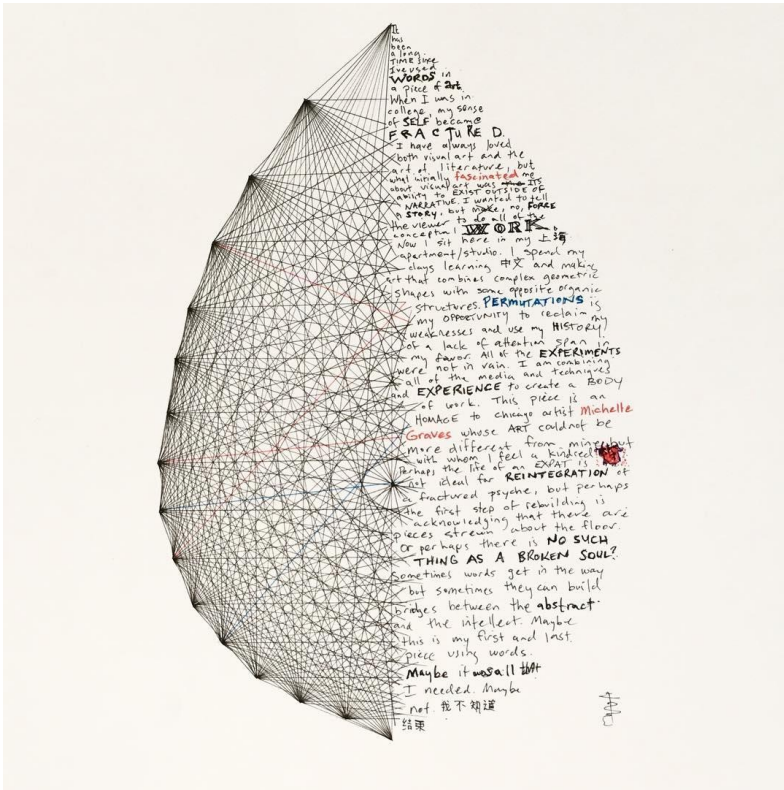
Brian has graciously answered some questions for Open Doors' readers – see next page.



Interview with the Artist

OD: Does the shape that dominates your Permutations series have a name? I think of it as a "guitar pick" Does it have special significance to you?

BH: I've been told by an engineer that the water droplet is the most aerodynamic shape. Some people call it an egg shape. The truth is that my use of the shape has more to do with geometry than it does with meaning. All of the Permutations series is based on the same 30 sided polygon in the shape of a tear drop. A version of this geometric form has appeared in my work for many years, but usually as a circle. When I moved to China back in 2017, I took the opportunity to begin a new project, which ended up being Permutations. It evolved from a lot of exploration of simple geometry, and I discovered that the tear drop shape was more dynamic and interesting.



Interview (continued)

OD: Why does geometry play such an important role in your work?

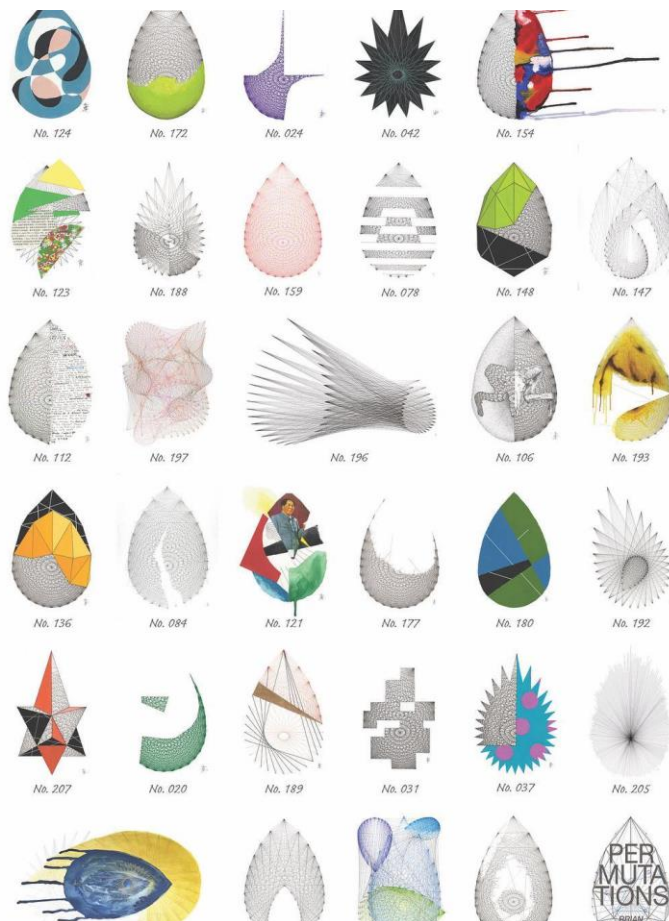
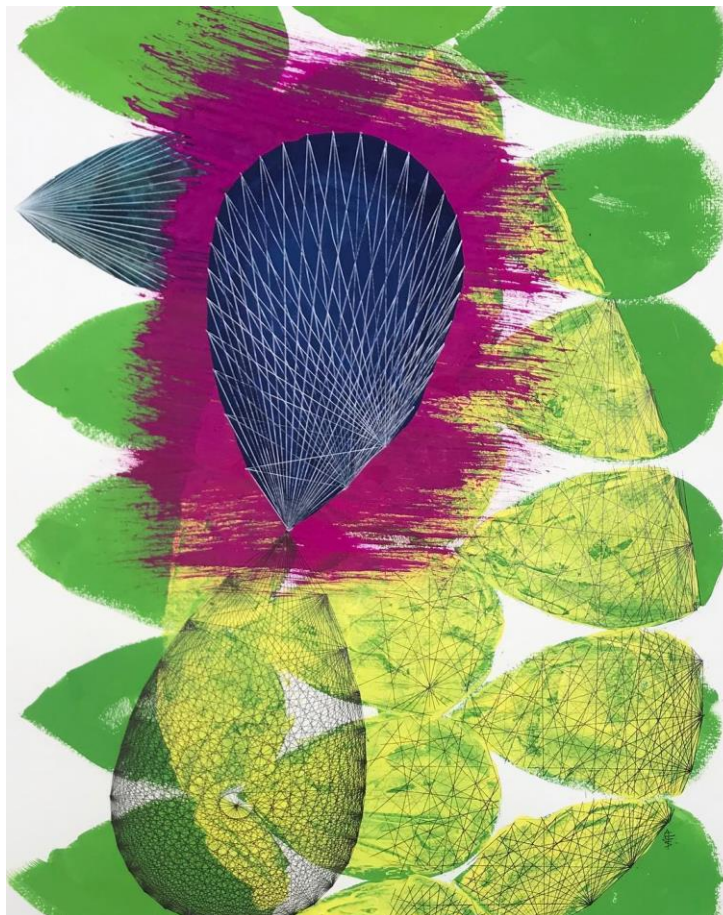
BH: I was terrible at math in high school, and I have often felt that it was partly due to the way it is taught. My adult exploration of geometry and mathematics has only reaffirmed this theory. I hope that my treatment of geometric forms can inspire others like me to be more interested in math, because I fundamentally think it's important as well as fascinating.

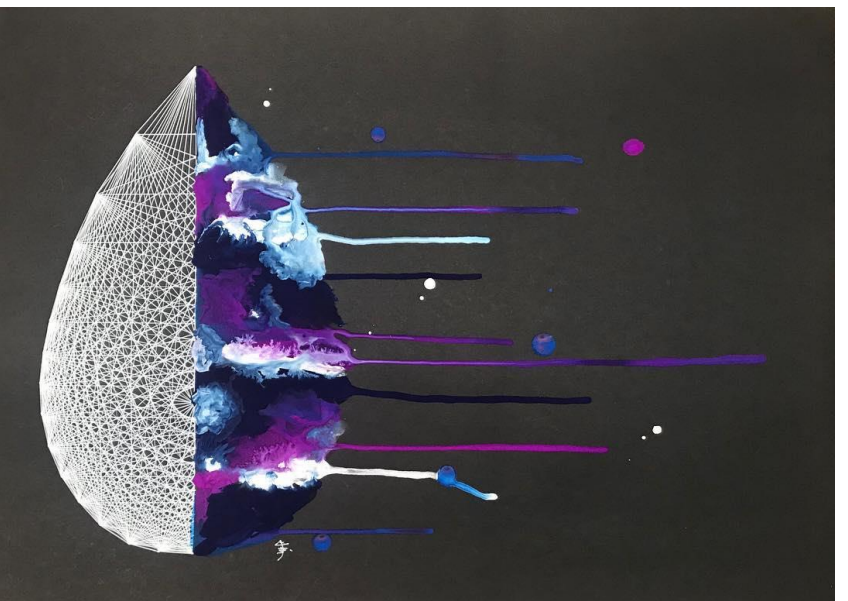
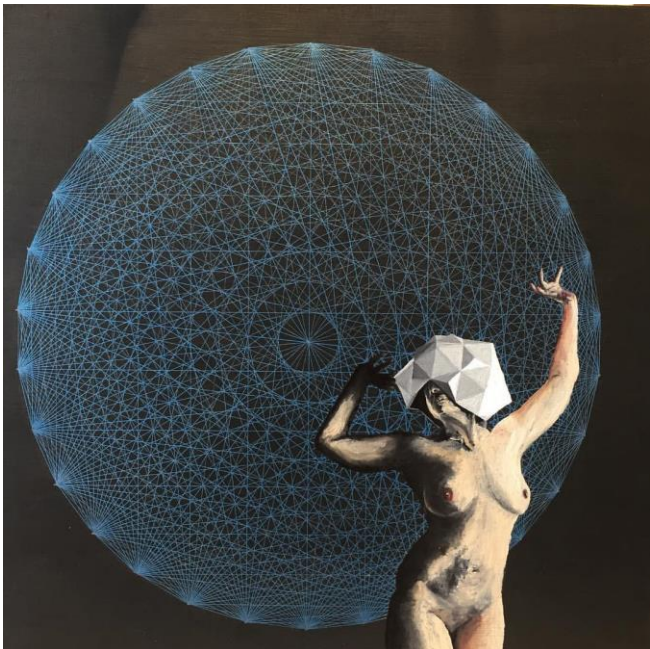
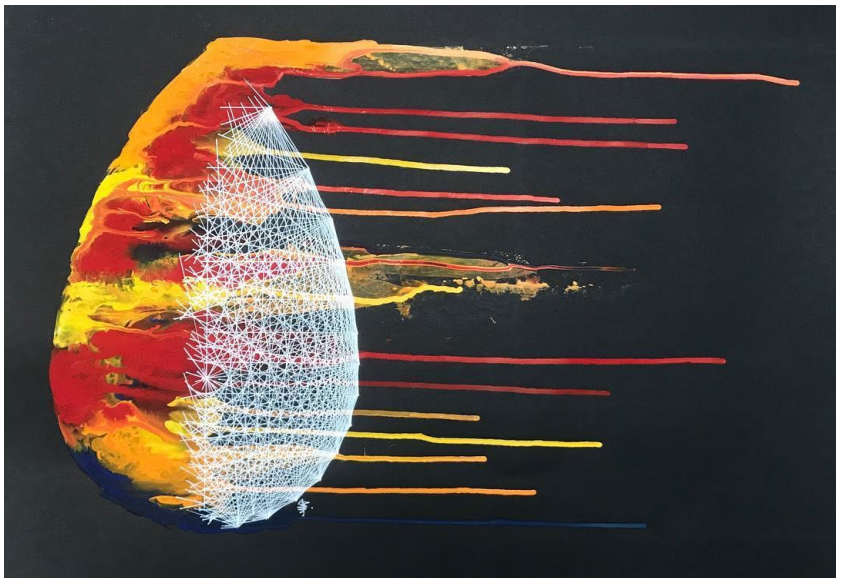
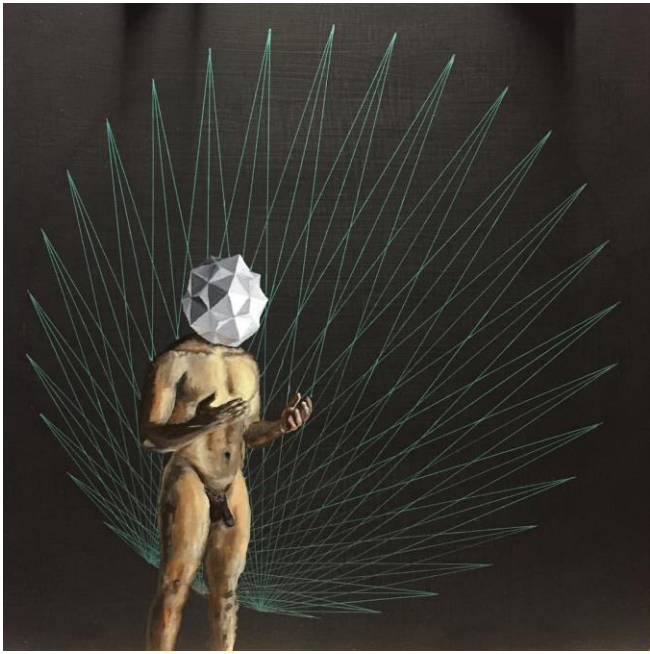
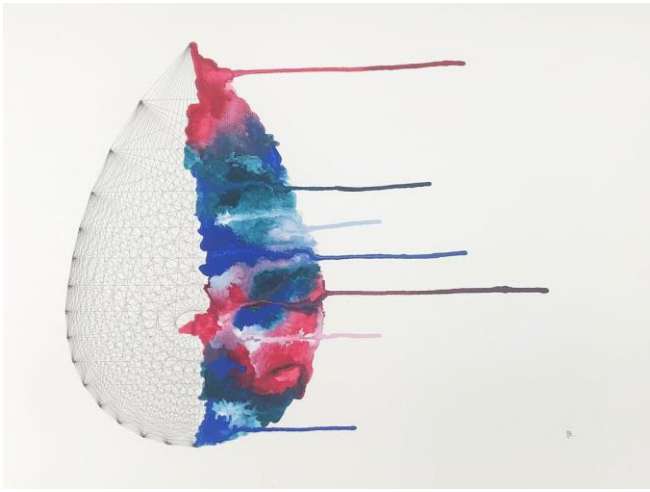
OD: Do you want to evoke certain thoughts or emotions in people who look at your art or anticipate what these thoughts and emotions may be?

BH: I've always felt that my art doesn't "happen" until a viewer looks at a piece of work. It's the dialogue between the work and the viewer. Speaking specifically about the Permutations project, there are certain times when I begin a piece that I have a theme in mind, but more often than not, the inspiration is aesthetic or a result of a mathematic or material experimentation. I occasionally develop my own ideas on meaning after a piece is finished, but I don't try to force that meaning on other people. I am delighted to hear what the viewer sees and feels.

OD: Do you listen to music when you draw? If yes, then what kind?

BH: Music has always played a big part in my life. I played bass in a couple bands in high school and college and used to go to live shows all the time. I have over 20,000 songs on my computer from punk to new wave to disco to classical, and I typically listen to them on shuffle. I enjoy the surprise and often hearing a specific song triggers a sense memory of the first time I saw a band play or had an experience tied to the music. Lately I most like instrumental music. I guess it most reflects my idea about having art being open to interpretation. Songs without lyrics give the most power to the listener's imagination.





Theater News

by David Zak, Executive Director

[Pride Film & Plays](#)

pridefilmsandplays.com. 866 811 4111.

PRIDE
FILMS&PLAYS

ALL THAT HE WAS is the 1993 AIDS-themed musical. With music by Cindy O'Connor and book and lyrics by Larry Todd (Johnson) Cousineau, this winner of the National Playwright's Award and the ACTF Musical Theatre Award is a moving and surprisingly funny account of one man's struggle with AIDS and the reverberations of his death. The deceased functions as host and narrator, invisible among the friends and family assembled to pay him final respects. Hoping for a day when the shattered pieces of his life can come together, he leads them on a journey of shared reminiscences.



The Buena at
4147 N Broadway

PRIDE
ARTS CENTER

1 866 811 4111
pridefilmsandplays.com

CASA VALENTINA is set in 1962, in an inconspicuous bungalow colony in New York's Catskill Mountains that caters to a very special clientele: cis-gender straight men who delight in dressing and acting as women while away on vacation. These white-collar professionals discreetly escape their regular routines to spend certain weekends safely inhabiting their chosen female alter-egos. But given the opportunity to share their secret lives with the world, the members of this hidden society must decide whether the freedom gained by openness is worth the risk of personal ruin.



The Broadway at
4139 N Broadway

PRIDE
ARTS CENTER

1 866 811 4111
pridefilmsandplays.com



REELING 2019

THE 37TH CHICAGO LGBTQ+ INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Reeling: The Chicago LGBTQ+ International Film Festival, founded in 1982, is the second longest-running film festival of its kind, and prides itself on showcasing the best LGBTQ+ films and videos each year. From award-winning international feature films to social documentaries to experimental shorts, Reeling has always presented a range of genres that demonstrate the rich diversity of work being produced. Not only has Reeling become one of the most important cultural events for Chicagoans, it also attracts LGBTQ+ people from throughout the Midwest who consider the festival to be the highlight of their cinematic year.

September 19-29

<https://reelingfilmfestival.org/2019/>

**Music Box
Lounge & Theater**
3733 N Southport Ave
Chicago, IL 60613

**Landmark's Century
Centre Cinema**
2828 N Clark St
Chicago, IL 60657

**Chicago
Filmmakers**
5720 N Ridge Ave
Chicago, IL 60660



Narrative Features
15 Years



Narrative Features
An Almost Ordinary Summer



Narrative Features
Bit



Narrative Features
Good Kisser



Narrative Features
Last Ferry



Narrative Features
Mom + Mom



Narrative Features
Bittersweet Waters



Narrative Features
The Blonde One



Narrative Features
Brief Story From The Green Planet



Narrative Features
More Beautiful For Having Been Broken



Narrative Features
Orpheus' Song



Narrative Features
Pageant Material



Narrative Features
Copa 181



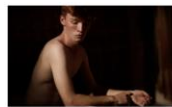
Narrative Features
Cousins



Narrative Features
Cubby



Narrative Features
Sell By



Narrative Features
Sequin In A Blue Room



Narrative Features
Opening Night Film: The Shiny Shrimps



Narrative Features
Darkroom - Drops of Death



Narrative Features
The Daughters of Fire



Narrative Features
Eastsiders 4



Narrative Features
Opening Night Film: The Shiny Shrimps + Pre-Party



Narrative Features
Steam Room Stories: The Movie



Narrative Features
Straight Up



Narrative Features
End of the Century



Narrative Features
From Zero to I Love You



Narrative Features
The Garden Left Behind



Narrative Features
The Sympathy Card



Narrative Features
Two in the Bush: A Love Story



Narrative Features
Where We Go From Here



Calling all parents of teens!

If you're a parent or guardian to a teen male living at home who identifies as Gay, Bi, or Queer, you might be eligible to participate in our project!

Build community

Through P3, you'll be able to interact with other parents who might share the same concerns or have the same questions as you do.

Get Paid

If you're eligible, and participate in both phases of the study, you could earn up to \$80.

Be Prepared

Get the tools and information you need to help your teen make the best decisions for them.

Interested? Find out if you're eligible by clicking on this link:

<http://j.mp/2WFCsIA>

P3 is a project created by researchers at Northwestern University's Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing to understand parental attitudes towards PrEP and learn more about the kind of information that parents want and need.



Approved by Northwestern University IRB #STU00209394

Northwestern



PFLAG Northern Illinois Chapters

PFLAG McHenry
Meetings held 2nd Tuesday – 7 pm
Tree of Life Unitarian Church
5603 W Bull Valley Rd
McHenry 60050
pflagmchenry@pflagillinois.org

Parents of Transgender (McHenry)
Meetings are held the 4th Wednesday – 7 p.m.
Tree of Life Unitarian Church
5603 W Bull Valley Rd, McHenry 60050
pflagptimchenry@pflagillinois.org

PFLAG Grayslake/Round Lake
Meetings held the 2nd Wednesday – 6:30 p.m.
Star Homes
783 Barron Blvd.
Grayslake, IL 60030
pflaggrayslake@pflagillinois.org

PFLAG Rockford
Meetings are held the 1st Monday – 6 p.m.
Rockford Public Library's Montague Branch
1238 S Winnebago St
Rockford, IL 61102
pflagrockford@pflagillinois.org

Parents of Transgender (North Shore)
Meetings are held the 3rd Sunday – 6 p.m.
Winnetka Presbyterian Church
1255 Willow Rd, Winnetka, IL
pflagptnorthshore@pflagillinois.org

Parents of Transgender (Chicago)
Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday – 7 pm
Center on Halsted
3656 N Halsted, Chicago 60613
pflagptchicago@pflagillinois.org

PFLAG Deerfield
Meetings held 2nd Thursday – 7:15 pm
Congregation BJE
1201 Lake Cook Rd, Deerfield 60015
pflagdeerfield@pflagillinois.org

PFLAG DuPage
Meetings held 3rd Sunday – 2 pm
St Paul Lutheran Church
515 S Wheaton Ave, Wheaton 60187
pflagdupage@pflagillinois.org

PFLAG Metro Chicago
Meetings held 3rd Sunday – 2 pm
Center on Halsted (Senior Room)
3656 N Halsted, Chicago 60613
pflagchicagometro@pflagillinois.org

PFLAG Aurora/Fox Valley
Meetings held 2nd Sunday – 2 pm
New England Congregational Church
406 W Galena Blvd, Aurora 60506
pflagaurorafoxvalley@pflagillinois.com

PFLAG Oak Park
Meetings held 4th Sunday – 3 pm
First United Church
848 Lake St, Oak Park 60304
pflagoakpark@pflagillinois.org

PFLAG Bolingbrook
Meetings held 2nd Sunday – 2 pm
305 E Boughton Road, Bolingbrook, IL 60440
pflagbolingbrook@pflagillinois.org

PFLAG Homer Glen / Lockport
Meetings held Last Tuesday, 6:30–8 pm
Cross of Glory
14719 W. 163rd, Homer Glen, IL
pflaghgl@pflagillinois.org

PFLAG Oak Lawn
Meetings held 3rd Sunday – 2 p.m.
Pilgrim Faith UCC
9411 S 51st Ave
Oak Lawn, IL 60453
pflagoaklawn@pflagillinois.org

PFLAG Hinsdale
Meetings held 1st Sunday – 2 pm
Unitarian Church Hinsdale
11 W Maple, Hinsdale 60521
pflaghinsdale@pflagillinois.org

PFLAG Tinley Park
Meetings held 2nd Sunday – 2-4 pm
Zion Lutheran Church
17100 69th Ave.
Tinley Park, IL 60477
pflagtinleypark@pflagillinois.org

PFLAG Ottawa
Meetings held 4th Sunday - 2:30 pm
Open Table United Church of Christ
910 Columbus St., Ottawa, IL 61350
pflagottawa@pflagillinois.org

PFLAG Will, Kankakee, Iroquois
Contact Rev. Barbara Lohrbach
revlohrbach@gmail.com
plagkankakee@pflagillinois.org

Click anywhere on the map to open it online

