

Zanele Muholi  
*Phila I, Parktown, 2016*  
See more art on pp 16-17



October 2019 | PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois Newsletter

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

# Monthly Open Doors

**SUBSCRIBE**



Membership 2, Illinois 3, National 4, Allies 4, Chapter News 5-11, Events 12-15, Art 16-17, Theater 18, Book 18

# ***With PFLAG by our side***

For those of us who have come to know PFLAG, it is hard to put in words the warmth of support, the treasured resource and friend, the tireless advocate that it represents for each of us. With PFLAG by our side, we stand taller, stronger, more confident and better informed and are all better prepared to create a brighter tomorrow for our LGBTQ+ family.

And with your help ---

## **The talented team of advocates in the national office**

- can **fight for justice and equality**, for anti-discrimination in healthcare and employment, for safe schools, for legislation at the national and state level that affirms, protects and respects the LGBTQ+ community. And fight they must against those who are trying very hard to take away their rights!
- can **educate and support** us through their extensive publications, on-line university, hot lines and numerous forums.
- can **provide guidance and counsel** ... on demonstrating support and acceptance when someone comes out, on being an advocate in your community, on grappling with issues of faith ... and in so many more ways.

**Your PFLAG chapter can extend peer-to-peer support** and confidential dialogue and a commitment at a local level to a safe community and a **diverse and inclusive world** – a world where every member of the

LGBTQ+ community is valued by society and each member takes pride in and values themselves.

**The PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois** can **bring together news, insights, and ideas from across the area**, sharing them in the engaging Open Doors publication. This **strong network of PFLAG chapters** and their collective work with local supportive organizations ensures that you are well informed of advocacy initiatives, of community forums and events in the arts that advance and celebrate the LGBTQ+ community.

As a PFLAG member, your membership dollar advances PFLAG's mission to **Support, Educate and Advocate** in each of these ways.

Will you stand at PFLAG's side, proud and tall, as they continue to make a real difference in the lives of our LGBTQ+ family?

Will you enable PFLAG to continue its legacy of "Saving Lives, Strengthening Families, Changing Hearts and Laws?"

Please **say yes and join me as a PFLAG member** this year by visiting [www.pflagil.org](http://www.pflagil.org) today and clicking on [Memberships and Donations](#).

With PFLAG by my side ... I thank you!

*Don Donahue  
VP and Membership Chairperson  
PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois*





Join PFLAG members and supporters from across the country for the 2019 PFLAG National Convention 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.

## ***TED Talk on Trans Equality***

Click [here](#) to listen to a short history of trans people's long fight for equality | Samy Nour Younes from TED Talks Daily in Podcasts.

## ***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](mailto:opendoors@pflagillinois.org)

## ***SUBSCRIBE to Open Doors***

*Editor: Andrew Zanevsky*

## ***Illinois State News***

As of 9/3, you no longer need to provide medical documentation in order to correct the gender marker on a driver's license or state ID. Equality Illinois worked on this modernized policy with the National Center for Transgender Equality and the Illinois Secretary of State's Office.

Click [here](#) for the new Gender Designation Change Form.

## ***D211 (Palatine) Considering New Locker Room Policy***

by Carolyn Wahlskog

On September 19<sup>th</sup>, the District 211 Board of Education (Palatine) held a well-attended public meeting to introduce a proposed policy in the district that allows all students – including students who are transgender – full and equal use of all facilities, including locker rooms. After four long years of controversy and battles, this is an incredible moment.

Hundreds of supporters of transgender rights – and the group D211 Parents for Privacy – attended the meeting, with many signing up for the opportunity to speak and share their views with the Board. The remarks of supporters were inspiring and engaging – while opponents relied largely on the tired, old arguments we have heard in the past.

At the end of the evening, some Board members expressed an interest in understanding more fully how the policy will be implemented. **While we hoped the policy would be adopted in October, it now appears that the final vote may not take place until November. But we will not relent, and we will continue to show up and speak out for all students.**

We will let you know the details of the next meeting when they become public. In the interim, thank you for your support.

With appreciation,  
The Trans Ally Coalition

[Chicago Tribune article summarizing the night](#)



## From PFLAG National

### COURT MATTERS

[U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals upholds ruling that state of Kentucky must pay four same-sex couples' legal fees and costs for refusing to issue them marriage licenses in 2015 after the Obergefell ruling by SCOTUS.](#) The Appeals ruling upheld the federal district court's ruling from 2017 that former Rowan County clerk Kim Davis rightfully could be sued for her actions not to issue marriage licenses to the four couples.

[SCOTUS to hear oral arguments on Title VII cases on October 8th.](#) The day of oral arguments will include a rally at SCOTUS featuring comments from organizations who submitted amicus briefs, including PFLAG National, and other civil rights leaders. The ruling would be on whether Title VII's protections apply to LGBTQ+ employees. PFLAG National's position is that Title VII protections, as affirmed in prior court rulings and in guidance by the EEOC, do include gender identity and expression as well as sexual orientation under the protections regarding sex and sex stereotyping.

### MEDIA MATTERS

[Transgender individuals subjected to conversion therapy more at risk of psychological distress than their non-trans peers, study finds.](#) A new study published in monthly, peer-reviewed JAMA Psychiatry by the American Medical Association, analyzed more than 27,000 transgender adults.

[New study reported in journal of Science finds there is no single "gay gene."](#) The study analyzed the DNA of nearly a half a million people and found that, while genetic differences play a significant role in sexual behavior, there's no single "gay gene," calls into question such sexual orientation frameworks as the Kinsey scale, and hints at the complex factors that influence human sexuality, including society and the environment. [You can read the study's abstract here.](#)

[PFLAG National's Latinx Heritage Month video makes the news.](#) The video features members of PFLAG En Espanol in Los Angeles and is directed by award-winning filmmaker Nick Oceano, whose feature directorial debut "Pedro," the MTV biopic about AIDS activist Pedro Zamora (a cast-member of MTV's "The Real World") was nominated for several awards.

## PFLAG at Abbvie Ally Week

On September 24<sup>th</sup>, PFLAG was invited to organize a discussion panel at the Abbvie Ally Week. PFLAG volunteers were joined by allies working at Abbvie, forming a diverse team of ten panelists. Toni Weaver moderated the discussion, which Abbvie videotaped and broadcast to other corporate locations. The event was well-received by the audience.



Marco Floreani who organized the event and invited PFLAG to Abbvie has sent Toni this email:

*Just a quick note of thanks for all that you and the panel did for us today. I am composing a proper note of thanks to the group.*

*In the meantime, I just wanted to let you know that a very nice Pride impact was made today at Abbvie.*

*I am seeing notes of thanks and how amazing today's event was.*



## **News from PFLAG Hinsdale**

**by Nina Carley and Eileen Matthies**

Our speaker on September 1<sup>st</sup> was Amy Orwig and her husband Doug. Amy's presentation, *Evolution of a Mama Bear* was about a mom who found strength in the kindness of strangers, and became stronger in the process."

Amy's journey into the LGBTQIA community began 3 years ago when their youngest son Ryan came out at age 17. He told his father he was bisexual. When Doug told Amy what their son had said, she thought Ryan must be confused. After all, he had been home schooled and active in Boy Scouts.

Amy searched Google to look for answers as to what a Christian parent should do if their child comes out as gay. Some of the answers she found, including one that said you should kick your child out of your home, were not helpful.

Amy had an uncle who came out as gay back in the late 1970s. Her grandmother, who was a Christian conservative, had a hard time accepting her son's "choices". There were few resources available to parents of gay children at that time. Her grandmother did not kick her uncle out of the house, but he did turn to drugs as a way of dealing with his situation. Amy also had a half-brother who came out as gay in the mid-1980s during the AIDs epidemic.

One of Amy's search results for answers was a Facebook site, "Just Because They Breathe," founded by Christian parents, Linda Mueller Robertson and her husband Robert. The Robertson's 17 year old son came out as gay in a text he sent to his parents. The Robertson's tried prayer as a way to work through this. When their son, turned 18, he moved out of the house. He did return home, but sadly he passed away from an accidental drug overdose. The Robertson's wanted to use their tragedy to create something beautiful for other parents who were trying to understand their gay children.

Amy was hesitant to join a Facebook group because

she feared everyone would find out about Ryan being gay.

She spent several weeks reading posts from thousands of women from all over the world. Finally, she decided to join the group and introduce herself.

As time went on, Amy became more comfortable with, Ryan's bisexuality. The encouragement and insights she gained from other mother's experiences with their gay children helped Amy better understand her child.

Four to five months later, on Ryan's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, he sent his parents a text telling them that he was transgender. Ryan's chosen name became Chloe. Over time, Amy and Doug adjusted to Chloe's transition and learned to love and accept Chloe as she is.

In 3 short years, Amy has gone from joining 3 LGBTQIA groups to now being part of 6 groups. She started *Q Collective*, a teen group in her area, as a way for Chloe to meet more people like herself. She has also formed a parents' support group and a PFLAG chapter in Peoria where she is the president, helped bring Pride Fest back to Peoria after a 5-year hiatus, and had been co-chair of *Free Mom Hugs Illinois*.

**Our scheduled speaker for Oct. 6<sup>th</sup> is Lorena Cory, who organized a play group for transgender children called *Pinwheels*.**

## **News from PTI McHenry**

The Youth Group that meets during PTI McHenry meeting is on a temporary hiatus. It might come back after the holidays.



## **News from PFLAG Deerfield**

by Sue Ginsburg

We had an outstanding speaker this month: Scout Bratt (pronoun: they), the Outreach and Education Director from the Chicago Women's Health Center.

CWHC has served Chicago communities with pride for more than four decades. In 1975, a group of health care providers, counselors and health educators, troubled by unjust gynecological care disparities in Chicago, joined together to create CWHC. Emphasizing self-knowledge and a peer approach to health care, these early collective members believed that health care was a right, not a privilege, and that gender inequality was a serious barrier to respectful health care. This history and perspective lends CWHC strength and perspective as a leader in reproductive justice and compassionate, collaborative and comprehensive health care.

The CWHC found what needs were not being met from mainstream health providers. They started with gynecology, realizing that time spent one on one doctor to patient was about 7 minutes. They expanded to include queer affirming, trans inclusive "clients", not patients, to one hour long appointments. With the CWHC you can expect: collaboration of care providers, no government funding, no identification needed, sliding scale payment, no proof of income, no insurance needed, private insurance accepted, client created payment plans. CWHC believes all deserve health care services, no matter what their gender identity! Their funding comes from individual donations and foundations. No one is turned away because of lack of ability to pay.

Some of the services provided are basic gynecology, alternative insemination, feminist therapy, (how gender and sexuality play a role in family life), primary care, outreach and education, acupuncture and massage, trans greater access project and sex education.

Scout was an amazing presenter. You can find them at CWHC: 1025 W. Sunnyside Ave, Suite 201, Chicago, IL 60640; 773-935-6126



## **News from PFLAG Oak Lawn**

by Chris Raap

Michael Ziri, director of public policy for *Equality Illinois*, will be the featured speaker at the October meeting of PFLAG Oak Lawn. Ziri will discuss the new LGBTQ-affirming laws in Illinois, including the Inclusive Curriculum Law. The law, which goes into effect for the 2020-21 school year, will require all Illinois public schools to teach history that includes the contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

PFLAG Oak Lawn will meet Sunday, Oct. 20, from 2-4 p.m. at Pilgrim Faith United Church of Christ, 9411 S. 51 Ave., Oak Lawn. Please use the courtyard entrance. For more information, email PFLAG Oak Lawn President Chris Raap at [shoehouses@yahoo.com](mailto:shoehouses@yahoo.com).

## **News from PFLAG Bolingbrook**

by Peter Shulman

We are happy to announce that PFLAG Bolingbrook will be holding its **first official meeting** on **October 13th at 2 PM** at the **Friendship United Methodist Church, 305 E Boughton Rd. in Bolingbrook**. All future meetings will be on the second Sunday of the month at the same time.

October's meeting will have a guest speaker, Carolyn Wahlskog, Executive Director of Housing at *360 Youth Services*. Her responsibilities include the Transitional Housing Program for LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness. Carolyn has a vast knowledge and understanding of all things LGBTQ; she will speak to us, and answer questions, about LGBTQ terminology and pronouns, her experiences with the transitional housing program and the needs of local LGBTQ youth. The presentation will be followed by a brief break and an open go around where we'll introduce ourselves to each other and to talk about the things that matter to us and our LGBTQ families and friends.

**We welcome you to join us on October 13th and the coming months.**

## News from PFLAG Oak Park

by Nancy Johnson

Wow! September was truly a busy month for us. And it's not over yet!

Our annual bake sale on August 31 was an amazing success! We thought by ourselves, we would not be able to bake enough to make a good sale. So, we enlisted various friends and relatives to bake something for the sale. We also asked our long-time ally, *Oak Park Area Gay and Lesbian Association+ (OPALGA+)* for their help. They really came through for us: Oatmeal chocolate chippers, award-winning soda bread, fabulous brownies, Rice Krispy treats that kids love, and more! Sylvia's son helped with her popular multi-grain fresh baked bread. (He mixed ingredients the night before, and she got up at 4am to start baking.) And we sold out of everything! We're still patting ourselves on the back it was so great.



*Annual Bake Sale, photo by Blair Barbour*

*We sold out by 11:45 AM. Soda bread was very popular. All 6 loaves of my blue cornbread sold (though not like hotcakes.)*

But we hardly got to have a breather because on the following Saturday, September 7, we had a table at *Barrie Fest*. The button machine was a big hit with the kids. Many of them liked the rainbow flag with the US flag and we ran out of blanks for it. We got several folks signing up for our mailing list. It was a great day for an outdoor event: not too hot, not too cold, and not windy at all!



*Barrie Fest on September 7<sup>th</sup> at Barrie Park, Oak Park*



*Sandy Johnson making buttons at Barrie Fest*

Phil was extra busy that day. After helping set up, he went to an event at Garfield Park Hospital. The hospital provides inpatient psychiatric and partial hospitalization treatment for children and teens, ages 3 to 17 in the Chicago, Illinois, area. It provides affirming care for LGBTQ+ children and teens who need their services.

On this past Thursday evening, our local high school, OPRFHS, held a dinner for students in A Place for All (gay/straight alliance) as well as their parents. We were invited to have a table at the event. Phil represented us and shared a table with OPALGA+. He got several parents to sign up for our email list. We're hopeful that some of them will be interested in joining up!

## News from PFLAG Oak Park - continued



Rainbow Dinner at OPRFHS for members and the parents of A Place for All, the gay/straight alliance at the high school



Rainbow Dinner, well... literally! :)

Our September meeting was good. We didn't have a speaker, but we did have a new visitor and a returning visitor who will probably be joining. She started a gay/straight alliance at the school she teaches at this year. The response from the students has been excellent! She's excited about how well it's going.

And, our final event this month is our Fifth Sunday Potluck. It will be at Kate and Phil's. Everyone is invited. Contact Phil for the address at [plkrocker@gmail.com](mailto:plkrocker@gmail.com). It runs from 5pm till 7pm.

## News from PFLAG McHenry

by Toni Weaver

**“It’s when you no longer need PFLAG that PFLAG needs you the most.”**

What’s this mean? To me it simply means that once people have moved beyond the place of needing support, they’re now in a position to help others, and the chapter needs them to provide support for the new folks coming in.

I rely on the “old timers” to faithfully attend monthly meetings because I never know from month to month who will be walking through our doors seeking support and a listening ear. If I don’t have the people to match up with the newcomers, I feel that we can’t be as effective as we otherwise could be.

For example, at our September meeting and after we opened the meeting, we split three ways with each group addressing a particular need. Never underestimate your importance as a seasoned PFLAG member!

Four of us from PFLAG McHenry and one former regular were among the panelists who participated in the ABBVIE Ally Week event on September 24 [see page 4]. One of the leaders of ABBVIE’s LGBTQ Employee Resource Group reached out to PFLAG to make a presentation at their corporate headquarters in Mettawa. Panelists also came from PFLAG Deerfield, PFLAG Hinsdale, the NI Council board, and ABBVIE itself.

On October 4 100 mental health care providers will be attending an all-day workshop *Somewhere over the Rainbow – Counseling Transgender Individuals and Those who defy the Gender Binary* that is being cosponsored by the Regional Office of Education, the McHenry County Mental Health Board, and PFLAG McHenry. A repeat of the training is scheduled for February 5 since demand exceeded supply in terms of space! Initially our focus was on providing LGBTQ+ training to school personnel; now we are branching out into other segments of the community.

Exciting times out here in McHenry County!



## News from PFLAG Rockford

by Phyllis Gallisath, She/Her/Hers

We welcomed a few newcomers to our monthly meeting with 14 in attendance. After introductions, we had fun sharing what we are passionate about, with examples like: self-care, mental health awareness, LGBTQ+ rights in the workplace, public speaking in high schools, healing the divide with LGBTQ+ rights in the medical field, elderly LGBTQ+ rights, crafting, and giving back to the community.

### What We've Been Up To

Meg was interviewed by WREX on August 12th in regard to Governor Pritzker's order for inclusive curriculum in schools. Much was said in the interview, but little was aired. Regardless, we are grateful for the supportive momentum our State's politicians are demonstrating.

I have been working with State Legislators regarding the school inclusive curriculum. This work will protect transgender students, so they have equality in all public schools. One local example is how Harlem School District has incorporated them. There will be a task force created to focus on this initiative. We can't wait to see the results.

The DiversCITY queer youth group facilitators have been scheduling dates for special activities for the teens, including: pumpkin carving (pumpkins being donated by Schnucks), a Drag 101 workshop, a Sip and Paint night, a museum tour, and a field trip to RAD and GEM for Jan. 2020. Meg acquired a DUNS number and registered us with SAM in order to gain the grant money we were awarded.

School Presentation Requests: Harlem High School reached out and requested a PFLAG presentation in their Women's Study class on October 28th. Amber, Brit and myself will share education and advocacy related to the LGBTQ+ population. Durand Schools would like a presentation at their Parent/Teacher Conference days. Amber and myself will fill this request on Nov. 7th.

### PFLAG Rockford President Updates:

- I have been working on getting the website back up and running since it expired, and we did not have access to our account due to it being registered to a former board member. Thankfully, the domain name has been saved for us. But unfortunately, our information was lost. We need to re-make our website from scratch. If you have any interest in website building, please get a hold of me.
- PFLAG National Convention is coming up. I did not get a scholarship this time to attend. I asked for money to be allocated to fund my attendance. The PFLAG Board voted yes to allow me to use PFLAG funds of \$285 for conference attendance. I am registered and excited to attend Kansas City for my second national conference.
- I presented the group with a new PFLAG Rockford position, the *Transition Support Coordinator*. I would like to fulfill this position. The position includes things I have already been doing in the community: taking people to Howard Brown, taking them to court for name changes, accompanying to appointments, helping answers questions about changing documents get them information pamphlets, etc. The group agreed this would be a great addition.
- I also discussed my attendance at the Philadelphia Trans Wellness Conference (held from Jul 25, 2019 – Jul 27, 2019) I will be furthering a discussion with the Trevor Project on how to encourage parents/caregivers not to "grieve" someone who is transitioning because it assigns a negativity to the transition. We need to have more neutral words while talking about this.
- I discussed fundraising efforts for Liam's Name Change Fund. I have decided I would like to start a separate organization for this effort and not officially run it through our chapter.
- Illinois Safe School Alliance is partnering with another organization to help fund their initiative, so I wrote a letter of support to ISSA on behalf of our chapter.

We are exploring ways to connect with other local organizations in hopes to identify how our organization intersects with theirs and how we can work together.

- At this meeting, Meg relayed that she's reached out to Eliminate Racism 815. Eliminate racism invited us to their meetings but have not yet confirmed whether or not they are available to be guest speakers or attend our meetings. Paige, a new Board Member, has agreed to attend their October meeting in hopes to bridge that communication.



## ***PFLAG Rockford - continued***

- Meg also reached out to Just Breathe 815, but has not heard back. Curt will try to get a hold of the organizer.
- Meg also reached out to Xavier Whitford and she will be joining us for October's meeting to speak about Mental Health Awareness.
- Amber reached out to Children's Home + Aid and NAMI and they will be giving a Trauma Presentation at November's PFLAG Meeting.
- It was suggested by Curt, that we add the Junior League and League of Women's Voters to our connection efforts.

Curt provided our financial updates, with our current balance at \$4231.29 Curt and Amber discussed the finishing touches on deducting Queer Prom expenses for the grant's Final Report.

At this meeting, Meg presented on Suicide Awareness Week. She shared with us about suicide myths and facts, symptoms and warning signs, behavioral clues, and tips for asking the suicide question.

### **Other Updates**

Our PFLAG Adult Peer Support Group needs a new facilitator. Paige has agreed to fill this role and became

a new PFLAG Rockford Board Member! YAY! She'll use this survey to find out what are the best days/times for a support group. Please use [this link](#) to access the survey.

Paige also updated us on UIC happenings. Paige wants help from us to find transgender women of color for her schools Medical Colloquium.

Lien reported her progress at RVC. RVC is tweaking the technology to add in "Preferred Names" in their student identifications but the gender is still the same. The PAIC group (Promoting an Inclusive Community) is still meeting and a November event is in the works. They're hoping to hold an LGBTQ two-week event from Nov 11-22. One display will be a photography exhibit titled "Love Makes a Family" that highlights LGBTQ families. Lien would welcome PFLAG Rockford to run workshops for PFLAG.

**DiversCity Youth Group:** Our monthly session will be held on **October 9th, 6:00pm-8:00pm at the Nordlof**. We will be carving pumpkins. DiversCity is a safe space for LGBTQ+ youth and their allies ages 13-19.

**Next Meeting: Monday, October 6, 2019  
6:00pm-8:00pm at Montague Library**

As always, thank you all for your support!

## ***News from PTI Chicago***

by Jo Peer-Haas

This month we had as our speaker Kyle Bullock, MSW, a licensed social worker who heads the year-old *Polaris* program at Garfield Park Behavioral Hospital. Kyle brings much experience to the program, including as the author of a transgender student guidebook for educators. Polaris' motto is "A guiding light for youth" and they work specifically with LGBTQ+ teens (ages 12-17) on a short-term inpatient basis. Any teen in this category with mental health challenges can be part of Polaris, which--as Kyle described it--is "genderless". Pronouns are not only adhered to, but honored. Staff can even be reached 24/7. For more info, contact the hospital at 773-265-3720 and say you're interested in the Polaris program.

## ***Letter from a University of Chicago student:***

Hello, my name is Seychelle Mikofsky and I am an undergraduate student studying Sociology at the University of Chicago. For my BA thesis project (IRB19-0857), I am exploring the experiences of LGBTQ+ undergraduates at religious institutions. If you are interested in participating in a 30-45 minute interview, please contact me via email at [smikofsky@uchicago.edu](mailto:smikofsky@uchicago.edu) to find out more and schedule a time to talk. Interviews will take place via video chat (WebEx). Additionally, if you know of anyone who fits the criteria and might be interested in speaking with me, please share my contact information with them.

Seychelle Mikofsky  
The University of Chicago, Class of 2020  
[smikofsky@uchicago.edu](mailto:smikofsky@uchicago.edu)



## **News from PFLAG DuPage**

by Bernadette & Ron Whitfield

Because we were out of town for the September meeting, Gail Hanson graciously volunteered to lead the meeting. Her presentation recognized the start of a new school year by focusing on education. In our continuing effort to insure safe learning spaces for ALL students, she showed two films produced by Welcoming Schools.

The first video viewed, titled [What Do You Know?](#), was produced for elementary school educators and parents/caregivers. This video featured students discussing what they know and hear about LGBTQ people and how teachers can help them learn correct information about these topics.

The second video, titled [What Can We Do?](#), is a training film that features experienced teachers engaging students using lesson plans to address the topics of bias, bullying, and how to stand up for each other.

As a reminder to all that October is the beginning of a new fiscal year for PFLAG. Don Donahue reminded all current members of the importance of renewing their memberships and encouraged all new attendees to give consideration to becoming members. He explained the purpose and focus of the National PFLAG office and the benefits and purpose of our chapter's participation in the PFLAG Northern Illinois Council.

Gail expressed thanks to Steve Rothmond for being our point person in the Naperville Labor Day parade and for all who participated in representing PFLAG at this annual event.

Peter and Kristin Shulman announced that October 13th will be the first official meeting of the new Bolingbrook chapter and invited all to attend. We greatly appreciate the effort they have devoted to making this new chapter a reality and providing support to the communities in the Bolingbrook area.

Information was shared regarding the 9/19/19 meeting of the District 211 school board at which there would be consideration given to adopting a new policy that affords full and equal access to locker rooms for students who are transgender. Carolyn Wahlskog, Executive Director of Housing at 360 Youth Network encouraged as many as possible to attend the meeting and show support for this policy. This district has

experienced 4 years of stubborn resistance and it was expected that P4P planned to have a large number of supporters at the meeting in opposition to this new policy.

The recent passage of HB0246 was recognized and celebrated. This bill now requires the history of LGBTQ people in history be included in Illinois public school curriculum.

Finally, Gail reminded everyone that elections will take place at the October meeting (on the 20th) and that only those present who are actual members will be able to vote. This then opened an opportunity for Don to discuss membership.

## **News from PFLAG Aurora/Fox Valley**

by Tom Purl

The presenter at this month's meeting was Br. Michael Oboza, the co-founder of the Bisexual Queer Alliance of Chicago as well as a retired monk. He educated us about numerous topics including the sexual orientation continuum, Bisexual erasure and bisexuality awareness while sharing many fascinating stories.

We discussed Schuyler Bailar's upcoming presentation at Matea Valley high school. Schuyler is a swimmer at Harvard and the first openly transgender athlete to compete in any sport on an NCAA Division I men's team.

With school starting we also spent a good amount of time discussing how our younger LGBTQ+ children are navigating school and how we are supporting them.



*picture of the group with our speaker*





**Latinx Art Gallery Opening**  
*Jaqui Arte, Taly Inkz, Mike Gonzalez*  
*Center on Halsted • Fri., Sept. 27 • 6 - 8 pm*



A special LGBTQ Artists Gallery Opening Exhibit celebrating Latinx Heritage Month launches on Friday, September 27 from 6:00-8:00 pm. The opening night event is the official premiere of the work by artists Jaqui Arte, Taly Inkz, and Mike Gonzalez. Opening night reception will include a cash bar.

[RSVP HERE >](#)

*The exhibit is open through November 13th*



**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.

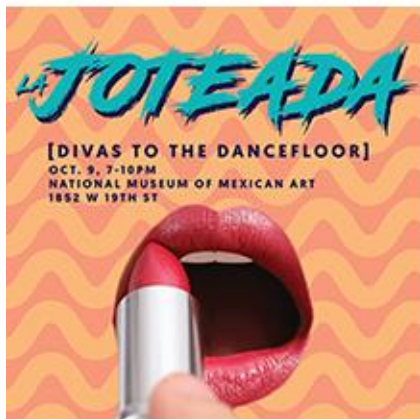
[RSVP HERE >](#)



**Women's Events: Lip Sync Battle 2**  
*Center on Halsted • Sat., Oct. 5 • 6 - 10 pm*

Back by Popular Demand, please join Center on Halsted for another Women's Event Lip Sync Battle 2! Four teams will battle it out for the Championship Belt and bragging rights. Lip Sync Battle pits two teams against each other in an epic song-for-song lip sync showdown each round. The audience is the judge, deciding which team does the best lip sync performance.

[RSVP HERE >](#)



## La Joteada 2: Divas to the Dancefloor

NMMA • Wed., Oct. 9 • 7 - 10 pm

Through drag and musical performances of icons of our communities, this event will provide a space to network, dance, mingle, and celebrate our intersectionality. Local artisans and health educators will have space to display and share information.

[RSVP HERE >](#)



## Am I Man Enough?

with Ada Cheng

Center on Halsted • Thurs., Oct. 17 • 7 - 8:30 pm

Integrating personal narrative and social critique, Am I Man Enough? is a show where people tell personal stories to critically examine the culture of toxic masculinity and the construction of masculinity and manhood.

[RSVP HERE >](#)



## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROVIDER TRAINING

### Clinical Work with LGBTQ+ Clients

Center on Halsted • Fri., Oct. 18 • 10 am - 12 pm

*Increase your cultural humility working with LGBTQ+ clients.*

[TO LEARN MORE OR RSVP >](#)



## A Conversation with Kiera Hogan

Center on Halsted • Sun., Oct. 20 • 11 am - 1 pm

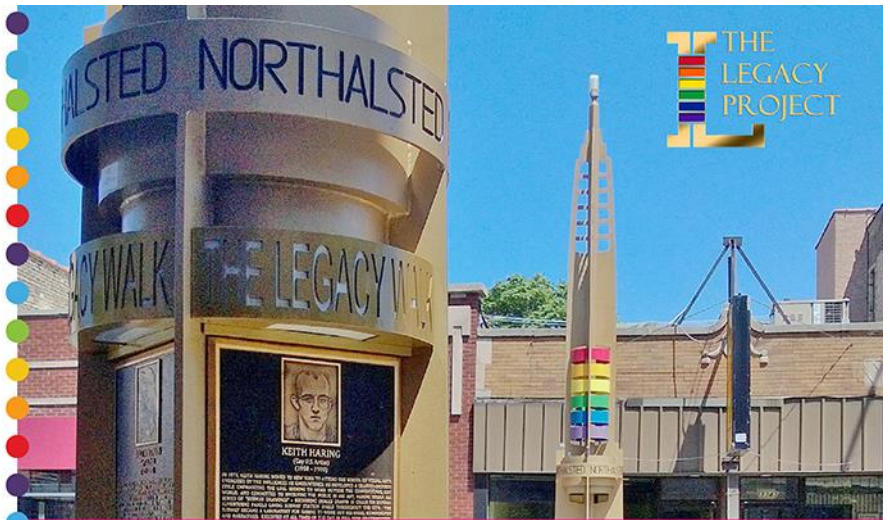
The Women's Collaboratory invites you to join us for a detailed discussion with Kiera Hogan, to learn more about her and her experiences as an intersectional, talented and determined wrestler and her coming out in the world of sports.

[RSVP 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**

Comedienne Gwen  
La Roka will be  
our Emcee!



**PURCHASE TICKETS**



JOIN US IN CELEBRATING  
NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY  
WITH THE GRAND OPENING OF

# OUT IN RECOVERY

GATEWAY'S NEW ADDICTION TREATMENT  
PROGRAM FOR THE LGBTQ+ POPULATION

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11 | 2:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Gateway Foundation Lake Villa 25480 W. Cedarcrest Ln. GatewayFoundation.org

In attendance will be special guests, community partners, as well as Gateway staff and leadership.  
Refreshments, raffles, tours and much more will be provided!

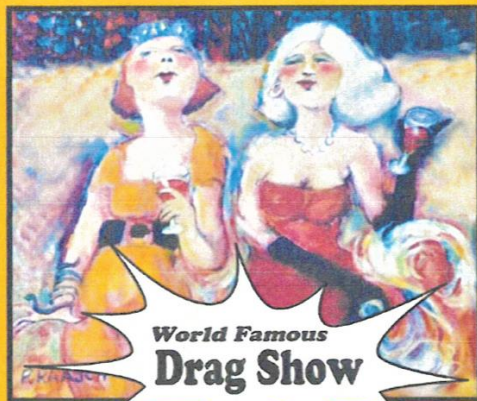
To RSVP, Visit or Call:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/out-in-recovery-open-house-tickets-73005959791>  
312.859.7341

You are invited to attend  
**A Rainbow Railroad Fundraiser**



**The Baton Show Lounge**  
4713 N. Broadway, Chicago  
Saturday, October 12th, 2019  
3 - 6:30pm



**World Famous  
Drag Show**

Rainbow Railroad saves lives across the globe, providing emergency travel assistance to individuals fleeing anti-LGBTQ violence and torture.

Sponsored by the Waukegan Friends of Rainbow Railroad  
Find us on Facebook: Rainbow Railroad Waukegan IL Fundraiser

For tickets, go to [waukeganfriends.eventbrite.ca](http://waukeganfriends.eventbrite.ca)

presents:

The Pinta  
Pride Project



**Family-friendly  
NATIONAL  
COMING  
OUT DAY  
celebration!**

**OCTOBER 11, 2019**

**6-10PM**

**VIPER ALLEY, LINCONSHIRE**



Music by  
**Elevated Entertainment**

plus:

**Food • Face Painting & Balloon Animals  
Drag Queen Bingo • Vendors  
Rainbow Raffle • Art for the kids  
Rainbow Buffalo Souvenir  
Rainbow Keepsake Photos & much more!**

Before 10/4: \$25 adult / \$15 kids <12 (<3 free)  
After 10/4 & @ the door: \$35 adult/\$25 kids <12 (<3 free)  
Tickets Available @ [pintaprideproject.com](http://pintaprideproject.com)



# About Face Art Expo

by Katrin and Andrew Zanevsky

In May-August of this year, **Wrightwood 659**, a Chicago gallery, organized an exhibition called *About Face: Stonewall, Revolt and New Queer Art*. The gallery described it as follows: “A state-of-the-field survey of queer art today, *About Face* features works by a diverse group of artists from Colombia, India, Cuba, the UK, Sweden, South Africa, China, France, Indonesia, the United States, and Canada. The artists are trans, female, male, and intersex, as well as African or of African descent, Indigenous, Asian, White, and Latinx, and/or some combination of all of these.”

If you were unable to attend the exhibition, please enjoy some of the artworks that we have photographed for you – on the cover and the following pages.



Deborah Kass, *Daddy, I Would Love to Dance*, 1998

“The traditional view, that Stonewall represents the birth of a gay and lesbian movement, couldn’t be further from the truth on at least two counts: it hardly represents the beginning and it was never just gay and lesbian.”

*Jonathan D. Katz, PhD, Exhibition Curator*



Patricia Cronin, *Memorial to a Marriage*, 2002



Sophia Wallace, *Untitled (Truer, No, 11)*, 2008







↑ ↑ ↑

left: Harmony Hammond, *Endangered*, 1999  
 top: Greer Lankton, *Princess Muffin in the Cage*, 1995  
 right: Greer Lankton, *The Junkies*, 1985

Greer Lankton's family hostile to her gender and sexual differences threw these dolls out after the artist's death in Chicago in 1996 from an overdose, but they were rescued from a dumpster and lovingly preserved.

Wrightwood 659 is a new exhibition space conceived for the presentation of exhibitions of architecture and of socially engaged art. Located at 659 W. Wrightwood Avenue, in Chicago's Lincoln Park neighborhood, it is a private, non-commercial initiative envisioned as an integral part of the cultural and civic fabric of Chicago, as well as a new kind of arts space and cultural resource. Entrance is free. Online reservations required.



↑ Jerome Caja, *Death of a Bozo*, 1985-1995



Lyle Ashton Harris, *Untitled (Red Handcuffs)*, 2017



## Theater News

by David Zak, Executive Director

[Pride Film & Plays](#)

[pridefilmsandplays.com](http://pridefilmsandplays.com). 866 811 4111.

**PRIDE**  
FILMS & PLAYS

Pride Arts invites you to travel with us to Dublin - in 1963. **A MAN OF NO IMPORTANCE** is a beautiful, rarely seen musical by the team that brought you **KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMEN**, **RAGTIME**, and many others. It is a beautiful story about a bus driver, his motley group of passengers, and his belief in Oscar Wilde who guides their community theater production of 'Salome.' It is funny, big hearted, and moving. Donterrio Johnson (Buy & Cellar) directs, with Robert Ollis (Southern Comfort) as music director. 1 866 811 4111 or [www.pridefilmsandplays.com](http://www.pridefilmsandplays.com).



The Broadway at  
4139 N Broadway

**PRIDE**  
ARTS CENTER

1 866 811 4111  
[pridefilmsandplays.com](http://pridefilmsandplays.com)

## LGBTQI Book Review

Recommendations for your Rainbow Library  
by Jackie Frett

**THE WITCH BOY** by Molly Knox Ostertag

*The Witch Boy* is the debut graphic novel by Molly Knox Ostertag. The genre is fantasy.

"Everyone in Asters family is born with magic. The boys grow up to be shapeshifters; girls into witches. No exceptions."

But in life there are always exceptions. What are the unintended consequences of strict gender rules on the individual and the community as a whole? What happens when rules are broken?

We are a better society when people are free to be who they are and their contributions are accepted and valued. That is the message of *The Witch Boy*.

[mollyostertag.com](http://mollyostertag.com)

[Amazon](#)

[GoodReads](#)

This book is recommended for 8 to 12 year old's which makes it perfect for middle school libraries and GSA's. It would however be good for parents to share with even younger children.



Graphic novels may not be your thing, but this beautifully illustrated graphic novel conveys the message to all ages that diversity is essential for a healthy community. And as always, a picture is worth a thousand words.



# PFLAG Northern Illinois Chapters

**PFLAG McHenry**  
Meetings held 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – 6 p.m.  
Winnetka Presbyterian Church  
1255 Willow Rd, Winnetka, IL  
pflagptnorthshore@pflagillinois.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

**PFLAG Bolingbrook**  
Meetings held 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. 163<sup>rd</sup>, Homer Glen, IL  
pflaghgl@pflagillinois.org

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

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

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

**PFLAG Ottawa**  
Meetings held 4<sup>th</sup> 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

