



Bob Faust
Ways and Means
Rootwork Gallery, Chicago
more works on pp 18-23

November 2019 | PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois Newsletter opendoors@pflagillinois.org

Monthly Open Doors

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Coming Out, PFLAG Convention Report, Trans Fashion, Designer&Artist Bob Faust, Books, Letter to D211

IN THIS ISSUE

From the PCNI President: **When Someone Comes Out... Love is all you need**

by John Hickey, pages 3-6

“We Are the Change” 2019 PFLAG National Convention Experience

by Andrew Zanevsky, pages 7-9

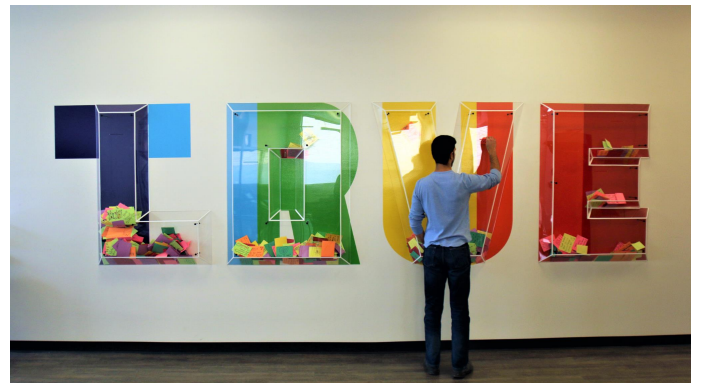


FashionBar Chicago: Trans Media Fashion Show

by Sam Nelson, pages 25-32



Designer and Artist Bob Faust - pages 18-23 and the cover



Chapter News – pages 11-17

Links, events, announcements

pages 10, 12, 17, 24, 33

Illinois Equitable Restroom Access Law

by Chicago Restroom Access Project, Equality Illinois, and Pride Action Tank, page 10

LGBTQI BOOK REVIEW

by Jackie Frett, page 34

PCNI Council letter to the D211 School Board

page 9



When Someone Comes Out... Love is all you need

So, a loved one has just come out to you... What next? Depending on your experiences in life, this may be a moment you are celebrating. However, if you are like many of us who have found PFLAG for support, you might see this as a pivotal turning point in your life. You may be filled with fear, confusion, sadness and have any number of thoughts, feelings and emotions swirling through your head and maybe even your stomach. Rest assured, this is a common reaction. Here is the good news: you won't always feel like this. Yes, there has been a major shift from what you thought you knew. But, as you embark on your new journey, I hope you will eventually see the world as a bigger and more beautiful place. You've reached out to PFLAG, so I know you are coming from a place of love. Start your journey with love in your heart.

As a parent, when my child came out, fear was my first reaction. My head was swirling with fears of bullying, and the difficulties my child might face. While these fears are not completely unfounded, there has been generational change and despite ripples along the way, the arc of change is toward

**you will eventually
see the world as a
bigger and more
beautiful place**



enlightenment, affirmation and inclusion. Gay or straight, cis or trans, we need to teach all our kids to be safe. We want them to make smart decisions and be cautious, but to move forward and not let fear become an obstacle.

I also had fears of employment... But I have found that today, most large employers are actually intentional about recruiting for diversity. The data is in and diversity is a strength. The large employers understand this fact and value diversity. They also value complete affirmation so that employees are fully engaged at work. If you can't bring your whole self to work, you cannot engage and perform to your fullest.

Many times, parents want to know: "Why is this happening?"; "Why are they choosing to do this?" First, let's dispel the myth that this is in any way a choice. As much as we want to believe we are in control of all aspects of our life, in my experience, people don't choose whether they are left or right-handed, the color of their eyes, their gender

identity or their sexual orientation. They simply are who they are. We are all multifaceted, individuals with many elements of our personal identities. I happen to be a straight, white, cisgender, male with blue eyes and brown (now mostly grey) hair. I hope these are the least interesting things about me. Sure, all of these are characteristics of my identity. None of these were chosen or earned. Sadly, in our society, these characteristics often come with privilege or unearned benefits. But, they shouldn't. They are all simply the luck of the draw. None of them tell you anything about my personality, my character, my beliefs, what I like, what I don't like, or who I am. If someone elects to come out to you, it is because they value their relationship with you. It is because they want to be able to be their own, unedited, unburdened, authentic self. They are at a point where they are ready to share. It is a gift they are giving to you. They are not "doing this to you" or your family. Also, try to put out of your mind the questions about why or how. Nothing you did or said has had any impact on forming their gender identity or sexual orientation. Don't make yourself crazy trying to answer the questions without answers. Other thoughts to purge from your mind are thoughts of sex. For some reason, when someone thinks about someone being gay, their mind goes there. The fact is who you are attracted to me is much more about relationships and having a life partner. Everyone deserves the opportunity for love and a supporting partner in their life. Please, try to put a stop to other thoughts. Gay or straight, it's about relationships and life partners.

Until recent years, most of us (straight / cisgender folks) have had very little insight or exposure into the lives of gay or transgender people. We live in a world of privilege and unconscious bias, and some not so unconscious bias. Having bias is part of the human condition. If you have a brain, you have bias. Bias is the countless unconscious decisions

If someone elects to come out to you, it is because they value their relationship with you. It is a gift they are giving to you.

and judgements we make throughout the day based on our experiences and ingrained habits. Our brain is designed to handle a massive load of judgement and decision making at an unconscious level. To be conscious and deliberate about every decision would be too much for us to process. This is in general a good thing. Unfortunately, it can also be a bad and hurtful thing. The accepted "norms" of our bias often serve to marginalize people. This is the problematic part. So, we all need to try to be more conscious of our personal and societal bias that can be harmful. It helps me to think of my bias as a box. The box that is the sum of my personal experiences, observations, opinions and beliefs. As we learn and grow, we add to the experiences. We often have a lot to unlearn as we replace uninformed opinions and beliefs with experiences. This process expands the box, making your world a bigger place. As helpful as it might be to think of this as a box, rigid walls on that box are the foundation of fear, ignorance and misinformation. The fact is that there is no box and we should all seek to embrace a growth mindset, to facilitate personal and professional growth throughout life.

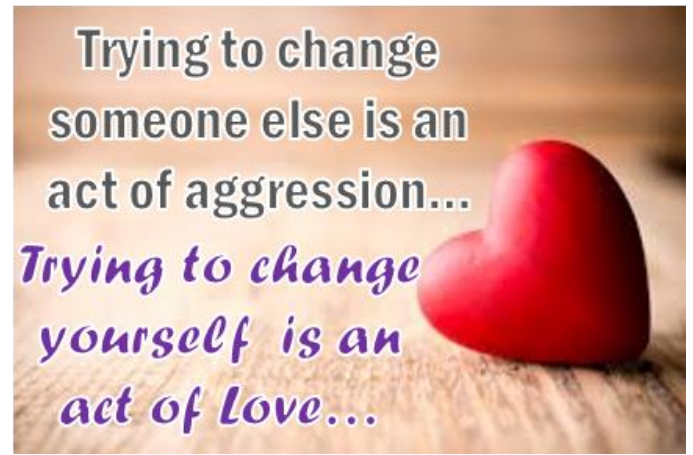


Sounds easy, right? For some, maybe. For most of us, it takes time and effort. It takes time to absorb, sort through and get comfortable. So, be kind and patient- to yourself and your loved ones. We all have our journeys of self-discovery, self-acceptance and self-love. You have found PFLAG, and you are not alone.

There are lots of resources available to you. Be sure to take advantage of those. If you have not already done so, find your PFLAG home. Find a meeting where you feel at home and comfortable. Open yourself to new experiences. Share your story - your joys and sorrows, your concerns and celebrations. Listen to the stories of others. Gaining new perspectives from others is interesting and beneficial. Keep learning not only at PFLAG meetings, but through reading, attending events and through the arts. [Subscribe](#) to our [Open Doors](#) newsletter for ideas and opportunities.

There are also a few things to know regarding language and labels. We all use language to label and categorize. It's another one of those darn human things we do instinctively to help our brains process and understand the world around us. But, keep in mind that most of us don't like to be labeled. Labels come with preconceived ideas (aka bias) we like to avoid. One of the most important lessons I have learned is also super simple... greet people from a place of respect and

My world is a bigger place and my life has been enriched with people, experiences and opportunities.



affirmation. Labels should not define the person; the person should define their identity. Use the name and pronouns that the person provides. Respect is the golden rule.

As I meet new PFLAGers, I am often reminded that this journey can feel like a real challenge. But I hope you can find solace knowing that many PFLAGers, get to a place in life where they celebrate having a gay or transgender loved one. Celebrating them for who they are, but also celebrating what it has meant to their journey in life. My world is a bigger place and my life has been enriched with people, experiences and opportunities. With an open mind and a loving heart, I wish the same for you.

Attend as many PFLAG meetings as you can. Find your supportive, affirming community. Tell your truth, hear the stories of others, share, learn and grow together. This is what empowers us to help create affirming families, workplaces, schools, communities and even places of worship.

In love and solidarity,

John Hickey

President, Council of Northern Illinois

For more resources check out:

www.pflagillinois.org

<https://pflag.org/publications>



PFLAG Chapters in the Making!

So far this year, we are happy to have added two new PFLAG Chapters serving Northern Illinois.

PFLAG Bolingbrook meets on the second Sunday at 2 pm at Friendship United Methodist Church 305 E. Boughton Road, Bolingbrook, IL 60440. To get involved or to be added to their email list, please email PFLAGbolingbrook@pflagillinois.org

PFLAG Homer Glen / Lockport meets on the last Tuesday of the month at Cross of Glory, 14719 W. 163rd, Homer Glen, IL. To get involved or to be added to their email list, please email PFLAGhgl@pflagillinois.org.

We are also hopeful that plans are progressing for two other new chapters to start in the near future:

PFLAG West Dundee- Plans are also moving forward with to start a West Dundee PFLAG chapter. They intend 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 and Adam, 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 or Adam at PFLAGwestdundee@pflagillinois.org

PFLAG Evanston- Planning meetings are being held to initiate a new chapter in Evanston. To get involved, please email PFLAGevanston@pflagillinois.org.

In addition, there have also been inquiries and preliminary discussions about interest in starting up a number of additional PFLAG Chapters in Northern Illinois.

Some of the areas of focus for a new chapter include:

- ❖ **Chicago Español**
- ❖ **Chicago / South**
- ❖ **Chicago / West**
- ❖ **Edgebrook**
- ❖ **Mt. Prospect**
- ❖ **Waukegan**

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 you have interest in being part of or helping to form a new chapter and build a supportive community near you, please contact us at info@pflagillinois.org

From PFLAG National

Court Matters

Justice Gorsuch emerges as possible ally of reason. Assessments following SCOTUS hearing oral arguments on the three Title VII cases on October 8th urge people to watch for an unexpected ally to emerge.

["Don't roll back our rights" rally co-occurs with SCOTUS consideration of Title VII cases.](#) On October 8th, while SCOTUS was hearing oral arguments inside, hundreds of LGBTQ+ people and their family members and allies conducted a rally outside.

Media Matters

[At 2019 Emmy Awards, Patricia Arquette dedicates her acceptance speech to plead for transgender rights, notes sadness at losing her openly transgender sister Alexis in 2016 at age 47.](#) The actress won for her supporting role as Dee Dee Blanchard in Hulu's true-crime limited series THE ACT.

[See 15 examples of LGBTQ+ characters on children's programming.](#) We know that the future belongs to our youth, so here's some of what they are getting to see in programs made especially for them.

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“We Are the Change” 2019 PFLAG National Convention Experience

by Andrew Zanevsky, Editor

This was the first PFLAG National Convention that I’ve attended, among at least 15 representatives of PCNI chapters. The most important lesson: There is so much to learn from others, so many ways in which we can make a difference in the society, to advocate for justice, to help others. Being among PFLAG volunteers is very uplifting for a simple reason that you are surrounded by kind, loving, and open-minded people. This has prompted me to think about larger – more strategic – goals for PFLAG. Let me share some of these ideas with you.

Long-term goals:

- **I want to live to the day when PFLAG will become unnecessary** – when all people will be allies and there will be no need for a special organization to protect LGBTQ equality and rights, and to teach others to be supportive, and when discrimination will become unheard of.
- **PFLAG conventions and local chapter meetings should be filled with positive news and personal and professional success stories of LGBTQ people.** One of the seminars that I attended was called “What Keeps Me Up Nights: Parents of Gender Expansive Kids”. The solemn subject line led to a solemn discussion. While I know firsthand that there are many reasons for parents of trans kids to worry, I want to come to a PFLAG Convention in two or four years and find a seminar called “What Makes Me Happy and Proud: Parents of Gender Expansive Kids”. A perfect example of that is the *Gender Cool Project* (see the [March 2019 issue](#) of Open Doors, p 15), which focuses on uplifting stories of transgender teens. We also made positivity the main theme of our one-day local conference “*The Power of Positivity*” last year.



PCNI delegation with our regional reps

- **We must find a way to make every major breakthrough in human rights permanent and not threatened by the next election and periodic reversals of political power.** A critical component of that is not just outvoting people opposed to LGBTQ freedom and equality, but educating them and persuading them to shift their position towards tolerance and acceptance. If we win in court or at the voting booth, but the opposition remains convinced that they are right, then we’ll have to keep on fighting new court battles and new elections. The only way to achieve long-term reliable equality of human rights is to persuade the opposition that it is the right thing. Most people – even the strongest allies – don’t want to educate homophobes and transphobes, and I don’t blame them. It’s a stressful and usually thankless experience. But it’s enormously more effective. Even if we can’t turn a bigot into an ally, sometimes it may be possible to persuade them to shift at least a bit – become neutral, stop re-sharing homophobic posts on social media, stop bullying and spreading misinformation. I’ll take this “half victory” as a success.
- Many of us came to PFLAG to help and support our child or another family member. For many of us that focus quickly grows from helping one person to helping other families in your chapter, and our Northern Illinois Council, and to the LGBTQ community as a whole. **Helping a wider community should be our goal.**

PFLAG gave several awards at the Convention. They demonstrate values that the organization considers important and accomplishments that it hopes to replicate:

- PFLAG Denver received an award for creating a support and outreach program not only in-person, but also online. It includes groups for Spanish speakers. I am going to learn more about their online and social media presence and look for ideas that may help our chapters. PFLAG Denver has also provided scholarship to young people who show promise and dedication to the LGBTQ+ community in Colorado.
- Greater Boston PFLAG is a regional organization similar in structure to our Council. It has 14 chapters, and four of them are specific to the needs of transgender and non-binary individuals and their families. They received an award for their safe school program has provided training to more than 5000 individuals this year and successfully campaigning on Massachusetts legislation initiatives, including a conversion therapy ban [assed in 2019.
- PFLAG Las Cruces in New Mexico received an award for creating The Rainbow Refugee Project in partnership with other community groups to provide housing, food, financial and legal assistance to LGBTQ+ asylum seekers.

These awards are well-deserved, and these stories are inspirational! They teach us that there are many ways to contribute to PFLAG and many projects that need our time, talents, skills, money, and – above all – our love. No act of kindness and generosity is too small and every action counts!

I think it is because love is not a finite resource that may be rationed, like food or other material resources. Love is not divided and reduced when it is shared with more people. It only grows and multiplies. So, when we find a way to change someone's life, to contribute to the beautiful vision of human rights and equality, we tap into this limitless power. Emotions and actions that we put into the world get reflected back. PFLAG is saving lives – literally saving human lives, as witnessed and reported by many convention attendees. Being a part of this community is humbling and invigorating at the same time.

One of the seminars that I attended was “Leadership Skills to Facilitate an Effective and Vibrant Support Meeting” presented by Tee Tyler, PhD, LCSW, Texas Christian University, based on his research with Henry W. Kronner, PhD, LCSW, Regis College. The speaker shared analysis of experiences reported by parents by transgender and gender non-confirming children. He demonstrated some leadership techniques for a successful support meeting. Attendees split into small groups to learn something positive about each other, which helps to establish trust. Everyone answered some personal questions posed by the speaker to the whole group, which helped to find others who share some of the same experiences. The presentation identified different support meeting themes: family focus, advocacy focus, and process focus (sharing, feedback, connections). It discussed the group process during a meeting, group dynamics, and interpersonal communications. It's important for efficient communication to recognize that people attribute different meaning to some words and symbols. Beneficial factors for a group are:

- hope (acknowledge members' positive experiences and events)
- universality (draw attention to useful similarities in the group)
- altruism (encourage members to provide support to other members)
- imitation (invite members to consider what worked for other members)

love is not a finite resource



I also attended two seminars dedicated to technical issues: designing and maintaining web sites, membership databases, mailing lists, and social media pages. While all chapters across the country have volunteers passionate about the cause and donating their time, not every chapter has technical skills necessary to operate the chapter, reach out to members, keep online presence, and for many other technical tasks. The PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois solves many of these problems by centralizing technical support for chapters and common functions. But many chapters are not a part of a regional coalition such as ours, don't have local expertise in information technology, and need more support. PFLAG National has formed a support group to facilitate technical initiatives and provide assistance to chapters that need it. I've joined that group and will volunteer my time for these efforts. Let me assure you that it will not detract from my commitment to our Council, Open Doors, and all our chapters!

I made a presentation about my experience of editing Open Doors for the past year. It gave me an opportunity to share information about all the work that our chapters have been doing in Illinois. Editing the newsletter, I feel that overwhelming love and support in monthly chapter reports, special articles, photos, and other materials. It's not only a chronicle of PFLAG events, but a celebration of our passion for the rights and well-being of LGBTQ individuals and their families. I tried to convey that in my workshop at the Convention. I also spoke about methods of gathering materials for the newsletter, a web site, or a social media page, about technical tools that I use to produce the newsletter and distribute it. The presentation was very well-received, judging by evaluation forms and comments.



PCNI Letter to D211

Dear D211 School Board Members,

On behalf of members of our organization living in your district, we are writing in support of the proposed changes to the locker room policy in D211, to treat transgender students equally.

PFLAG is a national organization of parents, families, and friends of LGBTQIA+ people. PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois is a coalition of local PFLAG chapters in our state. Many of our members live in your school district and some of them have transgender children. We are asking you to take a vote on the proposed locker room policy at your November 14th board meeting and pass the policy as proposed. You have held 3 public hearings, during which you allowed 60 members of the public to address the board. Everyone who wished to offer comments has had an opportunity to email or mail you. You have been very diligent in gathering public input and now it is time to act.

Under the current locker room policy in your district, transgender students are segregated from others and forced to use special privacy stalls. They are not given full and equal access to school facilities, as the Illinois Human Rights Act requires and as the Illinois Human Rights Commission has repeatedly affirmed. The current policy isolates transgender students and makes them more likely to be discriminated against and bullied. They do not pose any threat to other students, as evidenced by the experience of other school districts across the country that have adopted transgender-affirming policies. The new proposed policy would allow all students to use privacy stalls, which would accommodate anyone desiring more privacy, thus protecting the rights of all students.

The overwhelming consensus of professional scientists and doctors is that gender non-conformity is not a mental disorder and that gender dysphoria is distress caused by societal marginalization of gender-variant people. We ask that you follow the Illinois state law and pass the new policy to help reduce such marginalization of transgender students and thus create a safe environment for all students.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois Officers:

John Hickey, Don Donahue, Jim Levie, Andrew Zanevsky



EQUITABLE RESTROOM ACCESS

PFLAG can be a powerful partner in raising community awareness about the Illinois Equitable Restroom Access Law, which takes effect on January 1, 2020

by Chicago Restroom Access Project (a working group under Pride Action Tank), Equality Illinois, and Pride Action Tank

This new Illinois law requires **all single-occupancy restrooms in public buildings and places of public accommodation to be designated as gender neutral or all-gender** and for signage to indicate no specific gender. The law will provide convenience and comfort to trans and gender non-conforming people, parents with different-sex children, all families, and people who may need the assistance of a caregiver. The law was advanced during the 2019 legislative session by Equality Illinois (EI), Pride Action Tank (PAT), and the Chicago Restroom Access Project (CRAP), which is a working group under PAT.

Now, EI, PAT, and CRAP need PFLAG’s partnership to ensure the law is faithfully implemented, particularly in places of public accommodation (see

examples of such facilities below). An education and awareness campaign will include social media posts as well as handing out palm cards about the new law at businesses in your communities.

According to the Illinois Human Rights Act, a “place of public accommodation” refers to, but is not limited to, an inn, hotel, motel, restaurant, bar, theater, concert hall, stadium, auditorium, convention center, bakery, grocery store, clothing store, hardware store, shopping center, laundromat, dry-cleaner, bank, barber shop, beauty shop, travel service, shoe repair service, funeral parlor, gas station, office of a lawyer or accountant, pharmacy, insurance office, professional office of a health care provider, hospital, transportation terminal, museum, library, gallery, park, zoo, amusement park, non-sectarian nursery, day care center, K-12 schools, undergraduate institutions, postgraduate institutions, senior citizen center, homeless shelter, food bank, non-sectarian adoption agency, gymnasium, health spa, bowling alley, or golf course.

To support the education and awareness campaign for the Illinois Equitable Restroom Access Law, please send an e-mail to Kim Hunt, Executive Director at Pride Action Tank, at prideactiontank@aidschicago.org.

A study of Transgender Population Size in the United States

2017 LGBTQ Wedding Study

The history of same-sex relationships

TED Talk: Born Intersex: we are human!

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News from PFLAG Oak Park

by Nancy Johnson



1989 1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019

Several of us went to the OPALGALA to celebrate their 30th anniversary. In addition to the usual silent auction, there was a display of the past 30 years as well as a booklet of the memories of a number of people over the years. A part of that included Oak Park PFLAG. Our organizations have been partners and allies for many years. We hope to continue the partnership.

At our October meeting we will be voting for memberships on our board. The current incumbents are running again: Will Ksander, Sylvia Menninga, Sandy Jefferson, Phil Kroker and Nancy Johnson.

On October 30th, Phil and I will have a table at a panel discussion on transgender children sponsored by Irving School. The event will be at the Oak Park Public Library.

At our November meeting, we are expecting to have one of the librarians from Dole branch of the Oak Park Public Library speak to us about activities for transgender youngsters.



PFLAG Oak Park Area Chapter

We are one of 200 chapters of PFLAG in the U.S. Our chapter was founded in 2005. PFLAG's mission is to build on a foundation of loving families united with LGBTQ+ people and allies who support one another, and to educate ourselves and our communities to speak up as advocates until all hearts and minds respect, value and affirm LGBTQ+ people.

At the local level, this means we have monthly meetings for support and education. We speak privately and publicly to educate and advocate for all LGBTQ+ people. We are proud to have OPALGA+ as an enthusiastic partner in achieving our mission. Our work in Oak Park has been made easier by the work of OPALGA+ since their founding 1989 and we look forward to partnering with them in the future.

Nancy Johnson, Secretary of PFLAG Oak Park Area.



↑ PFLAG Oak Park poster at OPALGALA



Our chapter at OPALGALA



News from PFLAG Bolingbrook

by Peter Shulman

PFLAG Bolingbrook held its first chapter meeting on Sunday, October 13th. About twenty five people attended our first meeting including a few members of the PFLAG DuPage chapter who shared their experiences and modeled PFLAG hospitality. Pastor Anna Shin of our host site, the Friendship United Methodist Church of Bolingbrook, also helped greet everyone as they arrived for the meeting. The church's Inclusion and Diversity committee provided us with homemade cookies and hot drinks, too.

Carolyn Wahlskog, Executive Director of Housing at *360 Youth Services* was our inaugural speaker. She presented statistics about and causes of LGTBQ youth experiencing homelessness. Carolyn described the activities of *360 Youth Services* and its housing program for young people experiencing homelessness, especially including LGBTQ young adults. Carolyn then helped us understand the changing use of pronouns for those of us who do not identify with the traditional binary set. She showed us a short video about how to ask people about their pronouns, <https://youtu.be/r-al4liNLBU>. We couldn't have asked for a better way to jump start our chapter.

After a short break, we had our first PFLAG Bolingbrook "go around" where we introduced ourselves to each other and talked about what was on our minds. That's where PFLAG magic happens: fellowship grows and people see how just being present provides support for one another.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 10th at 2pm. Kathy Batistich, Community Outreach Coordinator, and two of her colleagues from the Valley View School District, will be speaking to us about the programs and progress the district has made in support of their LGBTQ+ students.

Video: how to ask people about their pronouns:



News from PFLAG Ottawa

by Ken Brown

At our September meeting, we had a very special guest speaker, Brian Johnson. Brian serves as the CEO of **Equality Illinois**, the statewide LGBTQ civil rights organization. Twenty-five people attended his presentation. Brian and some of the attendees are pictured here.



Brian spoke about the role of Equality Illinois in advancing and defending LGBTQ civil rights. Among other things, Brian discussed EI's work in bringing marriage equality to Illinois by pursuing state legislative action on the **Religious Freedom and Marriage Fairness Act**. He also discussed the successful passage of the **Inclusive Curriculum Bill**, which was an initiative of EI, the Illinois Safe School Alliance, and the Legacy Project. The bill ensures the inclusion of significant historical events and contributions by LGBTQ people in the US History curriculum taught in Illinois public schools. Those in attendance engaged with Brian in discussions about EI's achievements and the work that still needs to be done.

We look forward to our meetings in October and November for discussion and support, and some refreshments too!

News from PFLAG Deerfield

by Sue Ginsburg

We welcomed Kyle Bullock, MSW, LSW, who is the manager of LGBTQ Services at Garfield Park Behavioral Hospital, **Polaris**. Polaris is the first of its kind psychiatric inpatient unit specifically for LGBTQ adolescents, ages 12-17 who are in crisis. Since the landscape in this country is not good for providing affirmative care for this population. Kyle's background is extensive. He has worked with LGBTQ young people in several capacities including psychotherapist for transgender and gender non-conforming young people. He is the creator/author of a transgender student guidebook for a major southern California school district and was Grand Marshall of the Long Beach, CA Pride Parade in 2014.

Polaris offers help to those in our community with stays that average 7-10 days. It offers individual and family therapy from an affirmative model. It offers group therapy as well dealing with how to cope with discrimination, bullying, and trauma. It's been open for one year and the doors are open 24/7. There are 18 beds, and 9 bedrooms. Patients are roomed by gender identity and it does take insurance. If the patient has no insurance, they will set him/her up with medicaid. No one is turned away. There is always a follow up upon discharge, one week and one month after.

Another aspect of Polaris is the Worthy Project, for those sex trafficked adolescents. Research shows that in 10 years, sex trafficking will be more profitable than drug trafficking is today! Youths in this program receive therapy as to what a healthy relationship looks like. Sex trafficking is different than sex work. Sex work is a choice. In sex trafficking, one is coerced, forced and groomed. So the trauma of being victimized is addressed. Polaris is being looked at as a model of treatment in a landscape that is almost void of treating this young population.

You can contact Kyle at: Kyle.Bullock@uhsinc.com and check the website: www.garfieldparkhospital.com

PFLAG Evanston is Coming Out!



PFLAG is the first and largest organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) people, their parents and families, and allies.

Please join Jennifer Friedrich, Elizabeth Gallo, Molly Malone and Shannon Smith as we prepare to launch the Evanston chapter of PFLAG.

Those interested in learning more and joining this newly forming chapter, as well as those interested in leadership roles, should fill out [this quick form](#). We will be in touch in November with more info and future meeting dates.

PTI McHenry

will NOT have a meeting in November and December due to the proximity of the Holidays. We will resume monthly meetings in January.



News from PFLAG DuPage

by Bernadette & Ron Whitfield

We had a wonderful visit at our October Chapter meeting by Gearah Goldstein. She is an amazing advocate and ally who does so much for the LGBTQIA+ community. A summary of her visit with us is below.

Again this month we had several new attendees! We hope that they felt welcome and will return soon.

BUSINESS

- Officers elected for 2019-2020 (Season 17) are: Co-Presidents Kristen Shulman and Margaret Donahue; Vice President Jo Ann Larsen; Secretary Lisa Garber; and Treasurer Bob Lied. **Congratulations** to them and a **BIG thanks** for stepping up to continue the tradition of excellence at PFLAG DuPage!
- We discussed a marked-up copy of the current bylaws; and the proposed, revised (new) bylaws for PFLAG DuPage. There will be a vote at the November meeting to approve or not approve the new bylaws. Most of the changes are “editorial” in nature. However, some rewording better matches the spirit of the PFLAG National bylaws.

GEARAH GOLDSTEIN'S “MESSAGES”

Gearah, co-founder of the GenderCool Project (<https://gendercool.org/>) began by telling her story as it relates to her mission of making the world a better place for everyone — particularly LGBTQIA+ people. We were so impressed and encouraged when Gearah told us that a couple of weeks ago, in a 5 day period, she spoke to some 6,000 leaders of top corporations from the US and abroad about how to be more open, more inclusive, and more diverse — especially when it comes to attracting, hiring, and retaining LGBTQIA+ individuals. The message is clear. Corporations know that they need talented people of all races, creeds, ethnicities, sexual identities, sexual orientations, etc. to thrive. They are taking a long-term perspective, which is music to our ears!

Gearah's warm and engaging personality elicited many questions from those in attendance. Topics included: misinformation/disinformation; dishonesty vs privacy; privilege; late-in-life transitions; and religion. Regarding religion, Gearah's opinion is that belief is an opinion, and we couldn't agree more. She holds that an

individual has a right to their opinion — up to the point that it adversely affects her life and family. No religion promotes hurting people; and some opinions are hurtful. Rather than confront beliefs/opinions that are hurtful, Gearah prefers to call out the hurt and pain, and end discussion until the believer is willing to talk about love. She believes that fear is an illusion, a weakness, and an easy path to take. On the other hand, love is a reality based on experience, requires effort, and demands strength.

Gearah congratulated all of us because our children have come out to us. Each of us has done a great job. Now it's time to move on!!

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Facing the Bully Without & Within — St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Naperville; 7-9 PM — Jan. 21, 2020; and Apr. 20, 2020. (<http://www.stapostle.org/>)
2. Next month (November 17), our guests will be a group of Danny Julius' leaders at Youth Outlook!
3. <https://chicagoplays.com/event/big-fish/> — The son of John and Linda Pierpoint is a cast member! (Greenhouse Theater)
4. Sunday, Nov. 3; Panelists at St. Paul Lutheran Church will share their story and also include what PFLAG means to them and why they are involved. The panel is complete. PFLAG attendance for support is welcome.
5. The newly formed Bolingbrook PFLAG Chapter meets the 2nd Sunday of the month at 2 PM, Tree of Life Unitarian Church. Peter Shulman (still active in PFLAG DuPage!) is the Chapter president. See <http://www.pflagIL.org> for details.
6. November 22nd, OUTspoken LGBT Storytelling in Woodridge; 7 PM; Skeleton Key Brewery. See <https://www.facebook.com/events/1753292411472497/> for more information.

Corporations know that they need talented people of all races, creeds, ethnicities, sexual identities, sexual orientations to thrive



P.S. It has been a great honor and an amazing growth experience to have led PFLAG DuPage for the past 4 years. What began timidly as a 1-year commitment evolved into a second term, then a third term, and — why not?! — a fourth and final (limited by our bylaws) term. We were humbled by the suggestion that we change our bylaws to allow us to continue as co-presidents. But sanity prevailed. That would not have been in the best interests of the Chapter. It's time for new leadership, new styles, new directions, and new ideas. We thank each and every one of you for your indispensable and unwavering support, encouragement, and love. We could not have persisted without it. We encourage all of you to take an additional role in your Chapter. You will be glad that you did. Finally, we ask that you channel your support, encouragement, and love to Margaret, Kristin, Jo Ann, Lisa, and Bob as they lead DuPage in the next year and lay new foundations for the coming years.

We are also thrilled to say that our son, Jonathan and his now-husband Al Cortez were married on October 12 in Los Angeles! They were overwhelmed (as were we) with the love shown to them by the presence of friends and relatives from East Coast to West Coast and states in between! It was a monumental day in our family's journey.



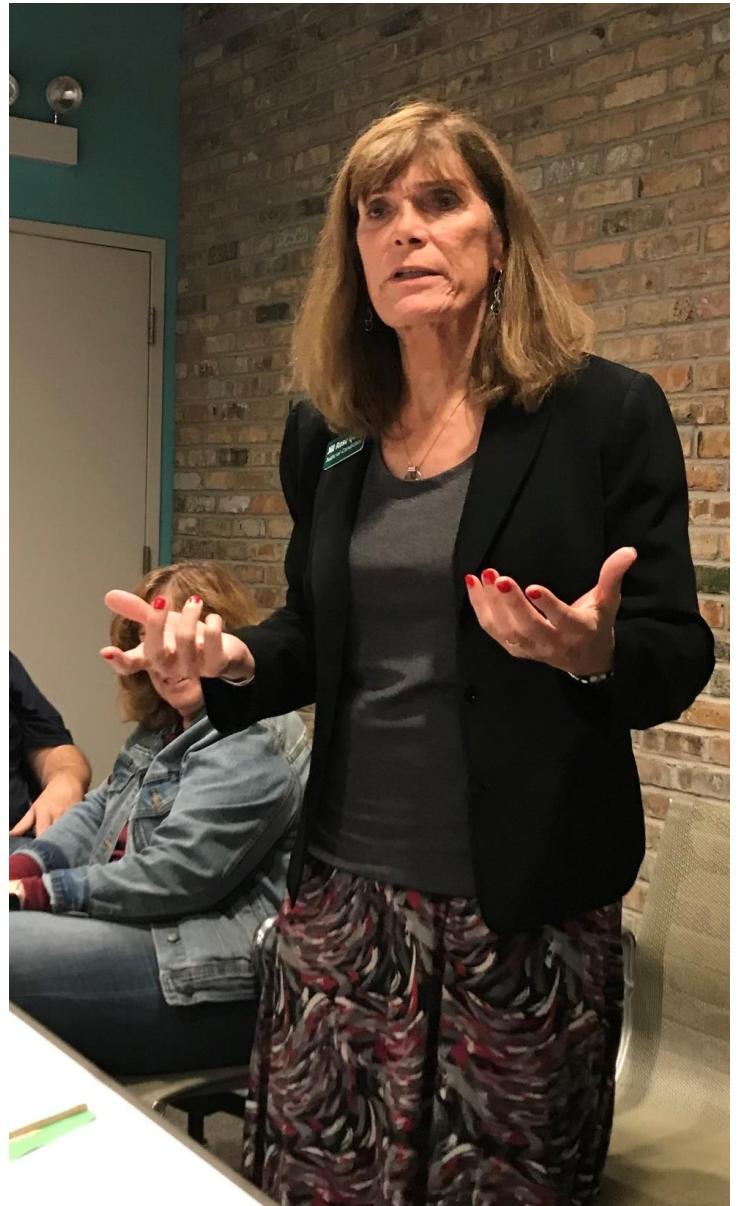
Our daughters Maribeth Hope Whitfield Paul and Melissa Whitfield Penn were the officiants at the wedding of Jonathan and Al (#AlAndJayInLA).

Editor: Congratulations, Bernadette and Ron! Open Doors, on behalf of all PFLAG members in our region, wishes your son and his husband a lifetime of happiness!

News from PTI Chicago

by Jo Peer-Haas

Jill Rose Quinn was our speaker this month. She is making history as the first openly transgender political candidate to run for office in Illinois, campaigning for circuit court judge in Cook County. The Democratic party has endorsed her in this endeavor. Jill is not only a lawyer but a seasoned marathon runner. She also has a daughter. Jill, 64, gave a compelling talk about her trans journey and it's easy to see how this could help make her a great judge. (Note: PFLAG does not endorse political candidates.)



News from PFLAG Hinsdale

by Barb Medley

Our speaker for October 6 was Lorena Cory, who organized a play group for transgender children called Pinwheels. Lorena, the parent of a transgender child, formed Pinwheels as a play group for trans children and support group for their parents. The group meets monthly, and the entire family is invited. Parents must attend with their child. Parents meet in one room. There are separate rooms for teens and younger children.

Lorena's child, now 16, was born a son in 2004. As soon as she was able to talk, she said, "mom, I'm a girl." (Lorena used the pronoun "she" to refer to her daughter.) At age 8, her daughter said, "mom, I'm the only one in the world like this." That's when she created Pinwheels, to provide a supportive space for trans children. It is a chance for each of them once a month to not feel like they're standing in a room with a spotlight on them. They can relax and just be comfortable playing and enjoying the time with friends.

Pinwheels is located in Arlington Heights. There are locations in Flossmoor and St. Louis now, too. Lorena was such a delight to meet. She is a very impressive speaker, woman and mom, who patiently answered all our questions. She was very generous sharing her family's journey with us. We learned a lot about medical intervention, both with hormones and surgery. There are many considerations, and what feels right for one individual may not for another. She is a true hero who went beyond supporting her child to becoming a champion for other families with trans members. It was a gift for all of us to be able to meet her and learn about Pinwheels and so much more.

On November 3rd our speaker is Sara Smollen, our member Deb's daughter, who will talk about her experiences as a transgender woman. Our December meeting is our traditional holiday potluck and collection of toiletries for The Crib.



Support for Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students

In February 2019, the Glenbard Board of Education updated language in Policy 7:10 Equal Educational Opportunities to indicate that students will be "treated and supported in a manner consistent with their gender identity." More recently (October 15, 2019), the Board of Education has considered language for an Administrative Procedure that supports the language in the Policy. Student supports and accommodations have been furthered described in the recently adopted Administrative Procedure for 7:10. A Frequently Asked Questions (F.A.Q.) have been developed to inform the community, and parents/guardians of these changes. Please see F.A.Q. [here](#) to learn more.

News from PFLAG McHenry

by Toni Weaver

I showed this short, 6 and a half minute [video](#) to those who attended our last PFLAG meeting, and I just wanted all of you who weren't there to have the opportunity to see it. It's a **TED Talk: How to talk (and listen) to transgender people**. It's both humorous and thought-provoking... Hope you find it valuable. Thank you to Carol Fetzner who used it at last Friday's workshop for mental health professionals...



COACHES' CLINIC

— free event —

Supporting LGBTQ+ Athletes

WHAT TO EXPECT

Schools throughout the country are becoming more familiar with supporting LGBTQ+ students in school settings. Many staff still seek additional education and resources to best support LGBTQ+ students involved in athletic activities.

The goals of this presentation include:

- LGBTQ+ overview
- Reviewing IHSA regulations
- Best Practices
- College Recruiting (NCAA and NAIA)

This event has been designed for coaches and athletic directors working with middle and high school age students. School staff, coaches, and athletic directors from public and private organizations are all welcome.

ISBE credits available!

REGISTER AT: ihpp.org/coaches-clinic-supporting-lgbtq-athletes/

THE DETAILS

- NOVEMBER 18
- 8:15 AM -12:30 PM
- DUPAGE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
111 N. County Farm Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60187

SCAN THE QR CODE TO REGISTER NOW!



Developed and funded in whole and in part, by the Illinois Department of Human Services and/or Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The views, opinions, and content of this publication are those of the authors and contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the views, opinions, or policies of DHS, SAMHSA, or HHS, and should not be construed as such.



LGBTQ+ Young Adult Center
meets every 2nd and 4th Monday from 6 PM to 8 PM

LGBTQ+ Teen Center
meets every 1st and 3rd Monday from 6 PM to 8 PM



The purpose of these centers is to create a connection with LGBTQ+ peers in a safe space and enjoy various activities.

Kenneth Young Center
650 E. Algonquin Road, Suite 104
Schaumburg, IL 60173

For more information contact Jordan White (He, Him, His) jordan@kennethyoung.org



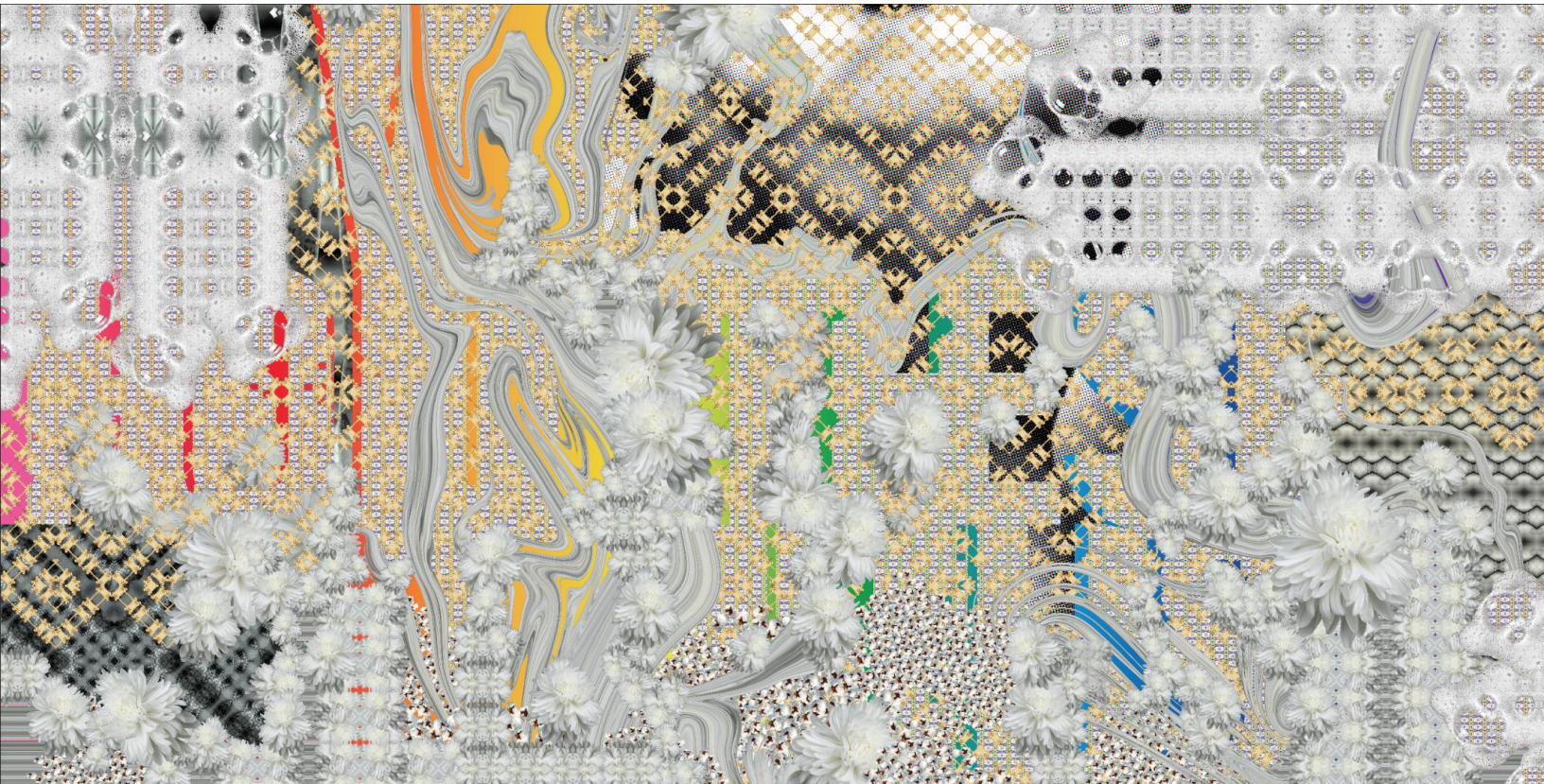
Bob Faust

Open Doors is proud to present works of Chicago artist and designer Bob Faust and share his answers to our interview questions.

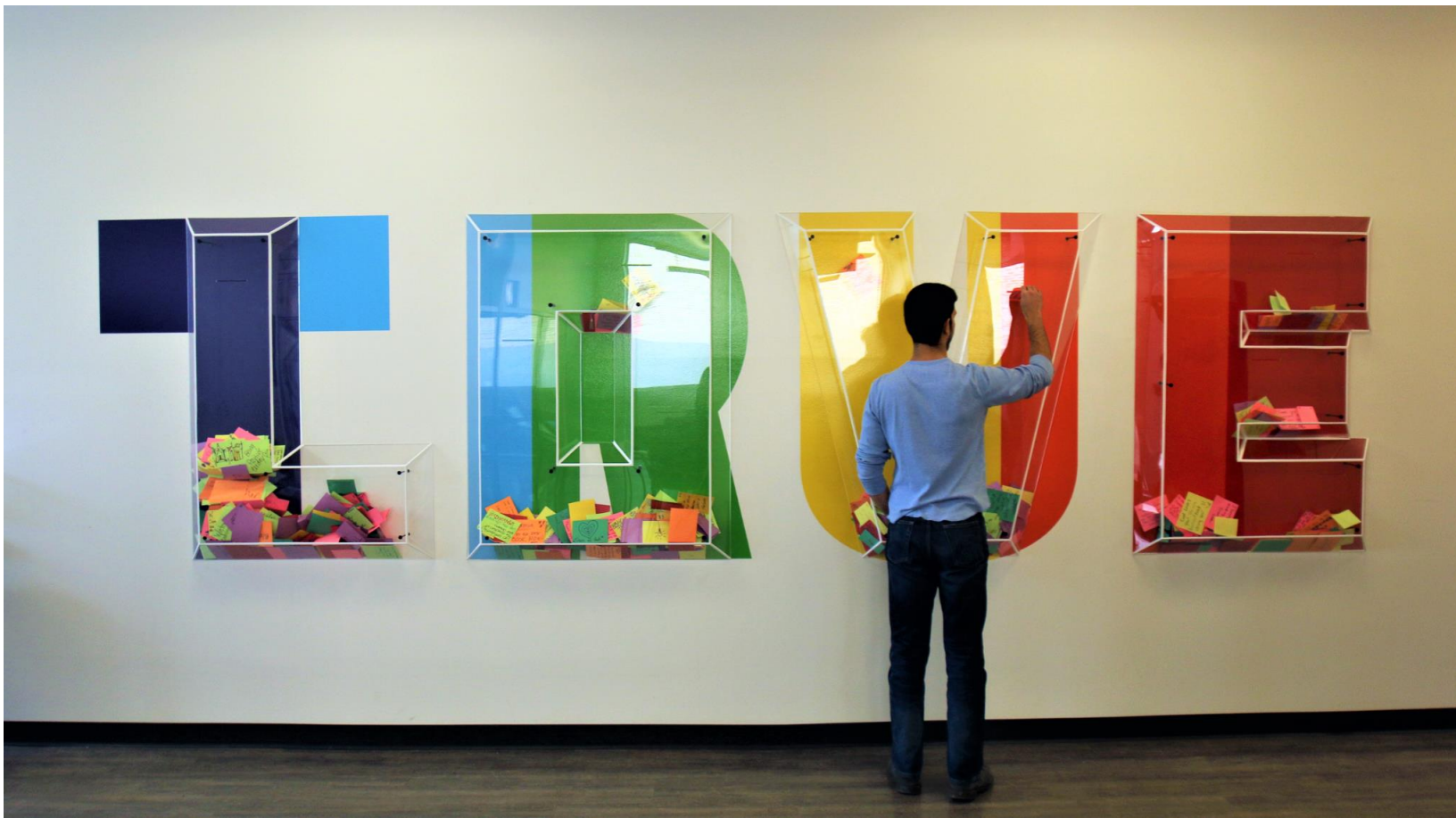
Bob Faust has described himself as "part artist, part designer, part mediator and therapist." He is the principal and creative director for *Faust*, a Chicago-based design studio with a focus on cultural branding. He is also the professional and personal partner of artist Nick Cave. Together, the two recently opened a dynamic, multiuse creative space in Chicago called *Facility*. As an entity, it believes that art and design can create peace, build power, and change the world ... that by fostering an environment and community built from your dreams you will wake up daily within your destiny. Facility is home to both Cave Studio, Faust Associates and also serves as a creative hub for other artists, artisans, designers and architects that additionally plays host to myriad pop-up special projects such as exhibitions, performances and retail experiences.



Continued →



Bob Faust, *We Hold These Truths*, 2019, Wallwork including key source photography by Doug McGoldrick
Kavi Gupta Gallery, Chicago EXPO 2019



↑ Bob Faust, *True Love*
Howard Brown Health, Rogers Park

Bob Faust, *Hope & Peace* →
Site specific installation
Landing Projects for Terrain Biennial 2019

Continued

In addition to the busy design practice that Faust operates from his studio, he also uses it as a base from which to create his unique brand of hybrid aesthetic phenomena, which function variously as visual art installations and frameworks for meditative experiences.

Faust has been recognized as a design leader nationally and internationally by publications and institutions such as Communication Arts, Print and How magazines, the Society of Typographic Arts the London Creative Competition and Under Consideration. He currently serves on the Chicago Dancemakers Forum Board of Directors as well as the School of the Art Institute's Fashion Council and recently sat on the board of directors for both AIGA Chicago and Riverside Arts Center.





Bob Faust, installation view of *Of Our background* and *Spring Awakening* done in collaboration with Nick Cave (foreground)
About Face: Stonewall, Revolt and New Queer Art, Wrightwood 659, Chicago

Interview with Bob Faust

Bob Faust, *OK, Betweens*, Riverside Arts Center

Open Doors: What triggers your creativity?

Bob Faust: You never know where the next idea will come from. Sometimes from the quiet I am constantly working to make happen. Sometimes it attaches to something happening in the moment—a tiny spark—what someone says to me, even how it is said. I live my life creatively, so there is not any one way or time. That said, I do find that if I need to work out a question or develop an idea that is plaguing my mind, the best situation to put myself in is a run, the longer, the sweatier I get, the better.



Interview (continued)

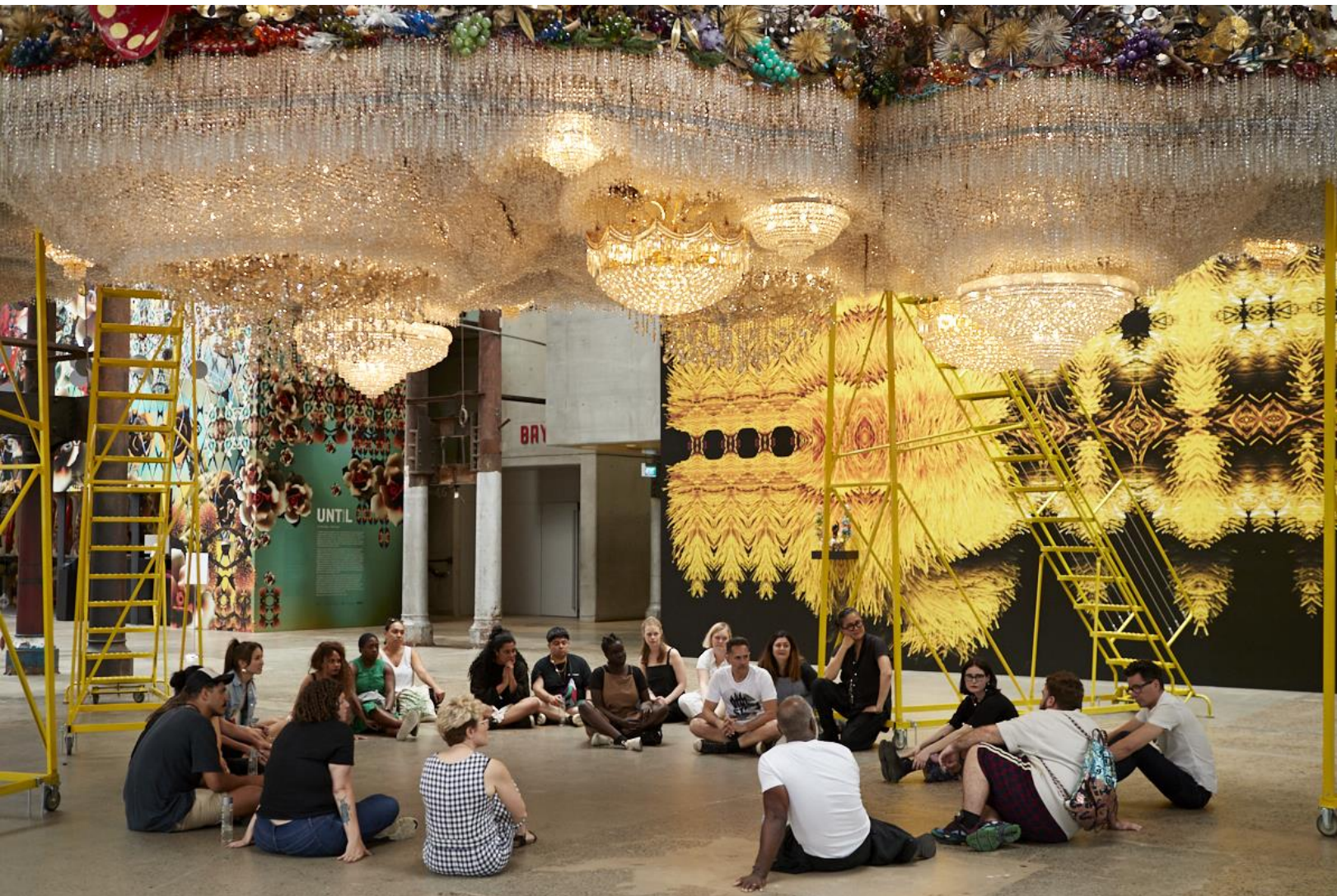
OD: Many of your works are done in collaboration with others and you invite other artists and creative people to work together at Facility, your creative space. How does working with partners enhance your work? How do you resolve conflicts of artistic vision?

BF: I love collaboration because it teaches you something along the way as you have to be more open for others than you do for yourself. I have an amazing partner, Nick Cave, who's artistic practice is beyond... I have and continue to learn so much from him, both in the way he approaches his work to how he lives with the practice. I also find collaborating with communities can really give you back so much incredible energy that the work ends up being important because of the work it DOES. So much more so than the work it IS. I hope that makes sense...



Bob Faust, *I'm Them*
Tarp Projects, Facility Chicago

Bob Faust, installation view of *Hy-Dyve* wallwork, done in collaboration with Nick Cave (background)
Nick Cave: *Until*, Carriage Works, Sydney



Interview (continued)

OD: What do you think is more likely to inspire an artist to create masterpieces: suffering or happiness?

BF: I think passion is the greatest energy source for great work.

OD: Do you envision and plan the final version before you start working on a new piece or is your process more improvisational?

BF: With a 20+ year background in design, I really do plan quite a bit for every project. A big part of my thought process is about solving problems. That can be conceptually, but also materially, production wise or whatever. Lots of planning, lots of word writing, trash cans full of sketches as they never meet what I see in my head. Then when I start making, I have to really open up. I begin with the plan and then hopefully get lost along the way and start making without thinking. This is where it loosens up and becomes more about communicating a feeling than simply the message.

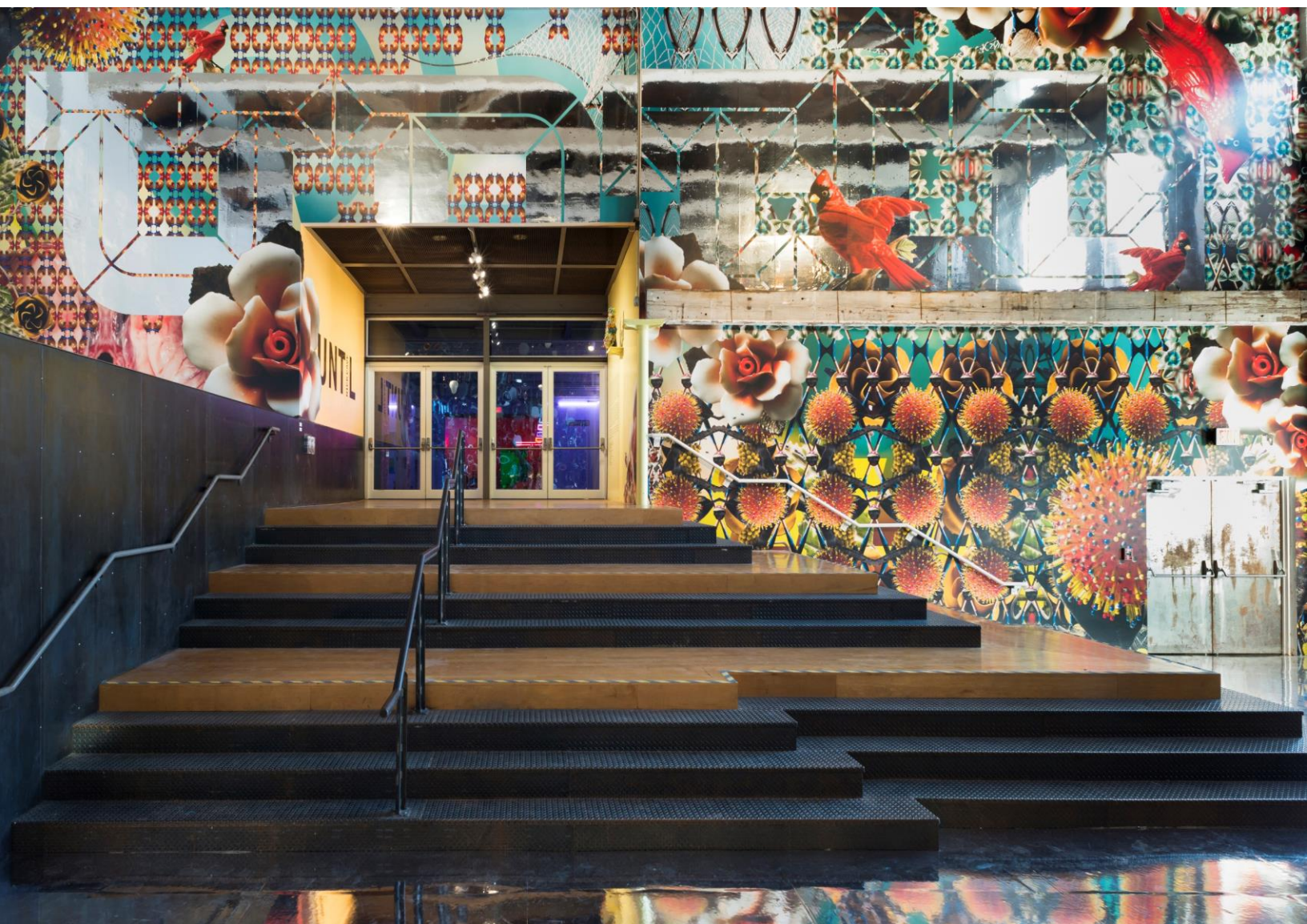


Bob Faust, installation view of *Between*
Riverside Arts Center

**“passion is the
greatest energy source
for great work”**

Bob Faust, *Gu_lty _nnocent*, Artist's response to Nick Cave: *Until*, Mass MoCA





Bob Faust, Wallwork done in collaboration with Nick Cave
 Nick Cave: *Until*, Mass MoCA

Interview (continued)

OD: Do you agree that form must follow function in design? What do you see as the most important function of your works?

BF: Sometimes yes and sometimes no. I guess it depends on the problem you are solving. Are you trying to make a situation as simple or as sublime as possible or are you trying to make someone feel?

We thank Bob on behalf of Open Doors readers for his contribution to this newsletter and for bringing his passion and artistic talent to the world.

Bob Faust, installation view of *Kaleidoscopic Playground* done in collaboration with Nick Cave, Mass MoCA





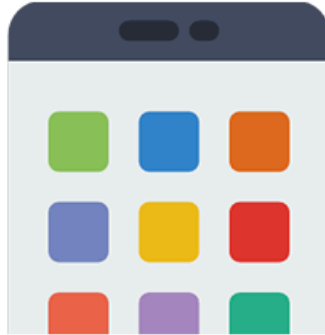
📅 Wednesday, Nov. 6 ⌚ 6:30 - 8 pm

Trans Military Appreciation Day

This will be our third annual Transgender Military Appreciation Day event. We will be honoring and paying respects to our transgender military personal who are currently serving, to our trans veterans, and to trans military families.

📍 Center on Halsted | 3656 N. Halsted

[RSVP HERE >](#)



📅 Nov 4, 11, 18 ⌚ Varied times

How to use Smartphones

Free classes for LGBTQ+ people and allies 55+. This is limited to Android phones. Topics include shopping for the right smartphone, managing email, and accessing internet. November 4 class will be Monday, 3:30 - 5:30 in the Cyber Center on the second floor.

📍 Center on Halsted | 3656 N. Halsted

[RSVP HERE >](#)



📅 Thursday, Nov. 7 ⌚ 6 - 8 pm

Women Related Fall Social

Join Women's Health at Howard Brown Health and Center on Halsted Women's Action Council as we as we join forces to create spaces for LGBTQ+ women.

Light bites and beverages/drinks will be available.

📍 Raygun | 5207 N. Clark St.

[RSVP HERE >](#)



📅 Friday, Nov. 15 ⌚ 10:30 am - 2 pm

Substance Use in the LGBTQ + T/GNC/NB Communities

A single-day training for clinicians (LCSW, LCPC, LMFT, Clinical Psychologist) looking to gain skills in working with LGBTQ clients. Continuing Education Credit (CEs to LCSW, LCPC and LMFT) and free to attendees.

📍 Center on Halsted | 3656 N. Halsted

[RSVP HERE >](#)

FashionBar Chicago: Trans Media Fashion Show

by Sam Nelson

On October 10th, FashionBar Chicago in partnership with Howard Brown's Broadway Youth Center Voices Team presented their Semi-Annual Trans Media Fashion show at the beautiful Water Tower place in the heart of downtown Chicago.

Twice a year in April and October, Fashion Bar's CEO & Founder Tony Long and Model Manager Zsa Zsa Quach work with the entire FashionBar team to organize a full week of fashion highlighting Chicago's diverse fashion culture. An important part of the shows is a day that celebrates the unique beauty of Chicago's transgender and gender non-conforming community.

The night kicked off with a powerful ceremony of remembrance honoring the trans women of color who were senselessly murdered in 2019. Organized by Alexis Abarca of the Voices team, as each name was spoken the models carried lit candles across the runway, eventually placing them on a table where they burned together the remainder of the show.





Emcees Fredy Roberts - Ramierez and Star Taylor introduced the Voices dance team who brought the dance style of voguing from Chicago's ball culture to the runway.



Next, came the runway portion of the fashion show where models for the brand, Everything Every Girl Needs wore beautiful formal wear. The photos on the left and next page are by Loren Calvert and various friends and family members.

FashionBar Chicago





As the show went on, the models literally Morphed their way down the runway in dresses that can be worn in over 20 ways along jumpsuits capes made by Morph clothing.







FashionBar Chicago

The evening closed with thanks for donations given by Corp sponsor WW Grainger and the presentation of the Model Certificate of Excellence. The well-deserved award was presented by Fashion Bar's Zsa Zsa Quach to Maliyah Londyn Arnold.

We asked Tony Long CEO of FashionBar why the Trans Media fashion show was special to him he said, "I love these kids and I'll do anything to protect them and have them be in a loving environment. We can change this society through awareness, education and most importantly love".

We asked models Maya, Amelia and Justine what their favorite part of being in the Trans Media Fashion Show was:

Maya said "**I loved being with MY people**"

Amelia said "**I love being with the young beautiful models**"

Justine said "**The thing I enjoy most is the opportunity to collectively experience and appreciate my community**"

I would like to thank Tony Long, Zsa Zsa Quach and all of the FashionBar staff who made the show possible. I would like to thank the Voices team Fredy Roberts- Ramirez, Alexis Abarca, Letoya Tinch, Monica Brown, Marne Lemons, Chris Huerta and all of the folks at Howard Brown for their help with the show, their performance and for the services they provide to the trans community. I would like to thank the designers Everything A Girl Needs and Morph Clothing. Photographer Loren Calvert and anyone else involved who I have failed to mention. Thank you for making our girls feel community, for making them feel special and for showing them they are beautiful!





Lavender Women & Killer Dykes Exhibit



[Gerber/Hart Library and Archives](#) has opened a new exhibit, Lavender Women & Killer Dykes: Lesbians, Feminism, and Community in Chicago, co-sponsored with the Chicago Women's History Center.

In the 1970s and 1980s, as the women's liberation movement was gaining momentum, lesbians worked both within and outside of the feminist movement to create a better, more inclusive world for all women. In Chicago, lesbians organized community centers, music festivals, bookstores, newsletters, publishing presses, and health centers that created spaces to benefit and centered women's issues. While conflicts arose over what both a feminist space and a lesbian space meant (and who would be included or excluded), the vast number of spaces in this period of Chicago's history reflects a truly diverse group of women fighting to create a better world.

Tickets and additional information at www.gerberhart.org.

LGBTQ-affirming scripture

Dear friends,

With the goal of providing an LGBTQ-positive answer to the query "what does the Bible say about homosexuality", St. Hugh of Lincoln Episcopal Church (in Elgin, IL) has developed a web page highlighting LGBTQ-affirming scripture. Much of what currently comes up online with this search criteria is negative and condemning, and could cause an LGBTQ person to despair.

I'm writing to let you know about this resource, so you can refer people to it if you know of a need. The website of this resource is <https://www.sthugh.net/lgbtq-affirming-scripture>.

We also have postcards available, if you would like to have something people could take with them. Just respond to this email with your mailing address and I will put some in the mail to you. The text of the cards reads:

GOD LOVES YOU. NO EXCEPTIONS.

What does the Bible really say about being LGBTQ?
Find LGBTQ-affirming scripture and an examination of the verses that have been (mis)used to condemn at <https://www.sthugh.net/lgbtq-affirming-scripture>

Here's a little background about why we are doing this: When my daughter realized she was gay, she confided in her best friend, who told her that the Bible said she was going to hell. As a life-long believer, my daughter was devastated. A dear friend of mine referred me to a (now-defunct) resource that rebutted the conservative interpretation of the "lobber passages", and it made all the difference for my daughter. Together with other parents at our parish who have had similar experiences, we are trying to do what we can to let LGBTQ people know that God loves them, despite what they may have heard to the contrary.

Our intent is not to evangelize, but to comfort and encourage LGBTQ Christians who have been made to feel that there is something wrong with them for being gay or trans. Much of the harm that has been done to LGBTQ people originates with the church and from the misuse of scripture to tell people that being gay is a sin. If this helps even one person avoid the depression and suicidal thoughts that are more common among LGBTQ youth than their straight/cis peers (no doubt due to the anti-gay rhetoric that is still so common), it will well be worth it.

You are welcome to share this site via social media or link to it from your website.

Wishing you peace,

Catherine Balassie



LGBTQI BOOK REVIEW

Recommendations for your Rainbow Library
by Jackie Frett, Hinsdale Chapter

BOOKS TO DONATE TO YOUR LOCAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

If you are interested in connecting with your local middle school and GSA as John Hickey recommended in his August letter, I have a few books you might like to bring along as a gift.

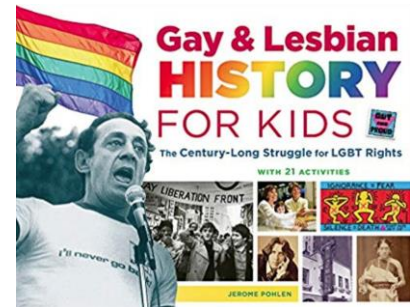
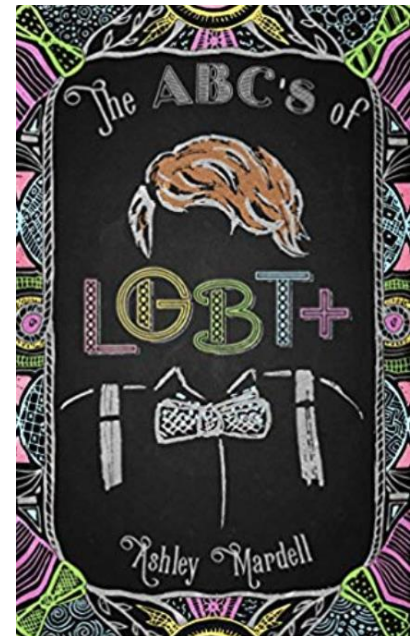
The first two are YA nonfiction.

[THE ABC'S OF LGBT+ by Ashley Mardell](#)

"Ashley Mardell's The ABC'S serves as a powerful tool for those that might be questioning their own identity, as well as for those seeking a deeper knowledge of the many, varied identities that exist."

[GAY & LESBIAN HISTORY FOR KIDS The Century Long Struggle for LGBT Rights by Jerome Pehlen](#)

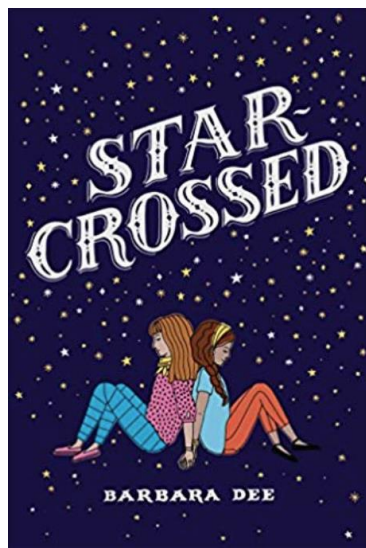
From Sappho in 570 BC to the landmark ruling of the Supreme Court in Obergefeld V. Hodges that legalized same sex marriage in 2015, this book brings to light gay history which has been ignored in classrooms. Teachers will find activities included that bring the history to life.



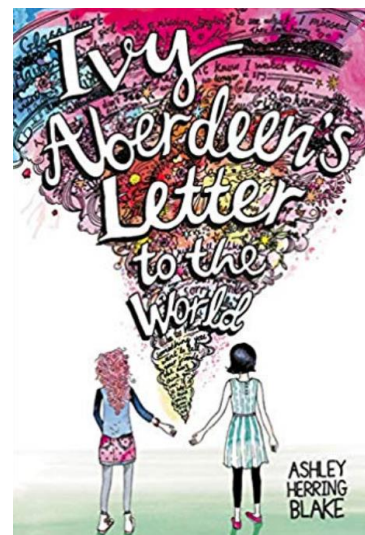
We have many more YA LGBT+ themed books to choose from than we did just a few years ago. Here are just three of the many wonderful novels available for young readers.

From the Romeo and Juliet theme of Star Crossed, the Caribbean folklore magic of Hurricane Child to the sweet coming out story of Ivy Aberdeen, each of these novels is special in its own way and would be not only age appropriate but a welcome addition to any middle school library or GSA.

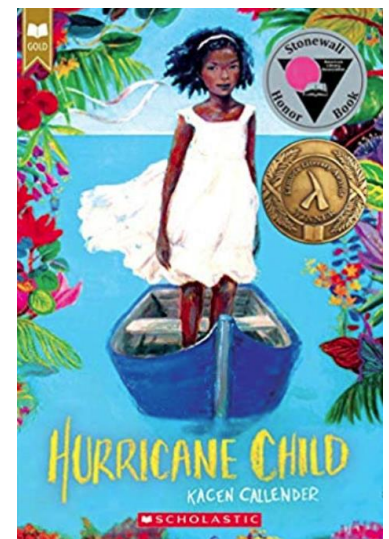
[STAR CROSSED by Barbara Dee](#)



[IVY ABERDEEN'S LETTER TO THE WORLD by Ashley Herring Blake](#)



[HURRICANE CHILD by Kheryn Callender](#)



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

