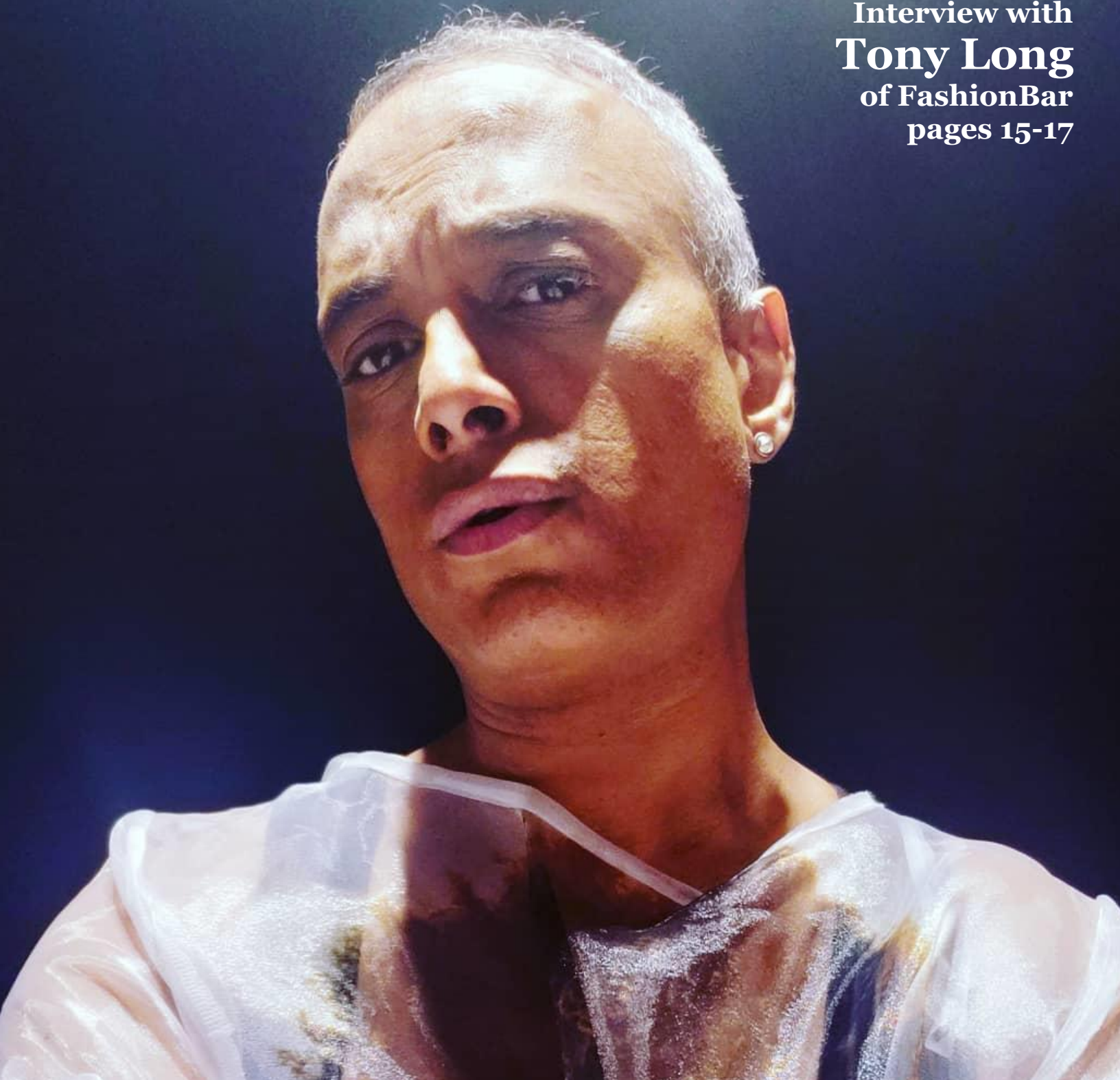


Interview with  
**Tony Long**  
of FashionBar  
pages 15-17



July 2020 | PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois Newsletter

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

# Monthly **Open Doors**

**SUBSCRIBE**

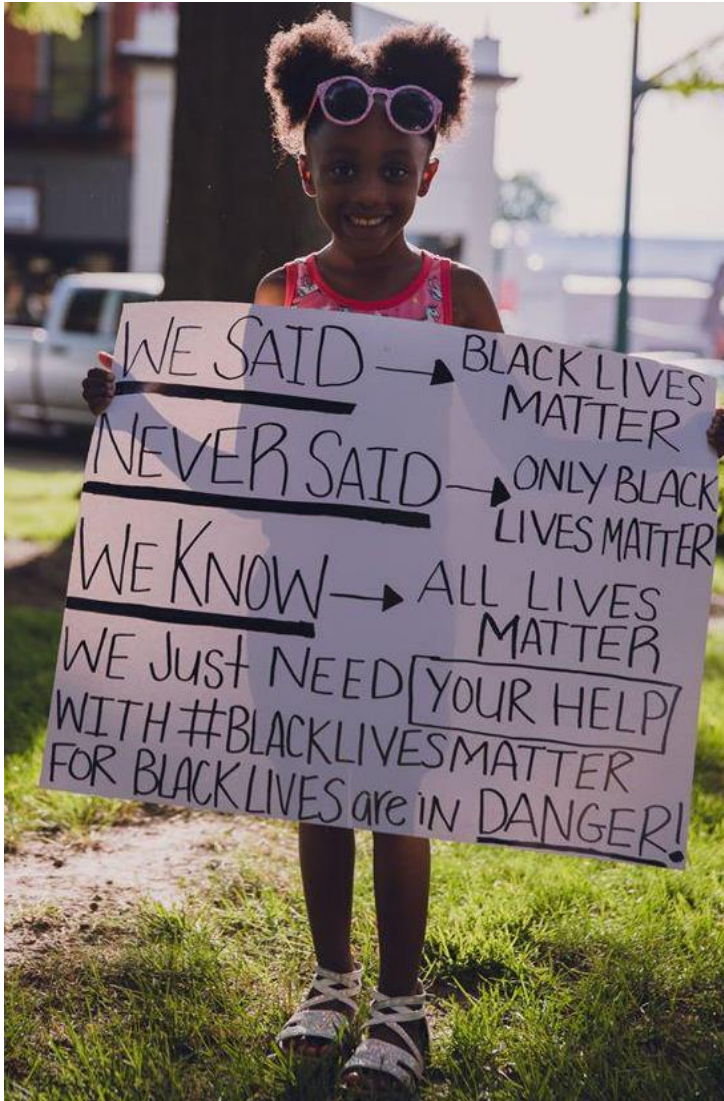


President 2, PFLAG National 5-6, Chapter Reports 7-11, Book 11, Game 11, BG Pride Drive 12-14, Fashion 15-17

# Hope Shines Through

At PFLAG, our hearts go out to all who are impacted physically, emotionally, or economically by these trying times. Now more than ever, we need to continue to show our determination, persistence, resilience, and take action for a brighter future. Call me an optimist, but I see the light of hope shining through.

My PFLAG family gives me hope. Your ability to continue to unite and lift spirits through pride drives, online programs, Zoom chapter meetings and more is amazing. Keep connecting, keep learning and keep advocating!



The Black Lives Matter movement gives me hope. As we wrap up Pride celebrations, I am reminded that those who started the LGBTQ+ movement, trans people of color like [Marsha P. Johnson](#) and many others, have benefited least. Check out this PBS News Hour Extra: [Black trans perspectives and the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots](#). While great challenges persist, I remain hopeful that the time for change has come. More and more people are beginning to embrace the transformative power of the [Black Lives Matter](#) movement, and beginning to understand why [The Black Lives Matter Movement Must Include Trans People](#). I am forever inspired by the words of Martin Luther King Jr. who said: “**the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice**”. Indeed, over time, the progress of social justice is undeniable. Sadly, however, it does not come without tremendous effort. As Barack Obama said, “**the arc of the moral universe bends toward justice, but it doesn’t bend on its own.**” So, we must soldier on and serve as champions for change toward a more inclusive and just world. Our voices are being heard.

SCOTUS gives me hope. Last month there were two landmark decisions that brought joy to my heart. [Supreme Court Ruled for DREAMers](#) to protect the rights given to immigrant youth. And in an amazing 6-3 opinion by a conservative court, written by Trump appointee, Justice Neil Gorsuch,







**"The arc of the moral universe may bend towards justice, but it doesn't bend on its own."  
Barack Obama**

[Supreme Court says federal law protects LGBTQ workers from discrimination](#). Gorsuch wrote: "An employer who fires an individual for being homosexual or transgender fires that person for traits or actions it would not have questioned in members of a different sex. Sex plays a necessary and undisguisable role in the decision, exactly what Title VII forbids,". This decision is sure to have sweeping ramifications and undergo lots of challenges. But, SCOTUS has ruled. Personally, I would have preferred that lawmakers set the standard and provide for marriage equality and employment non-discrimination inclusive of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. Unfortunately, our legislators are all too often incapable of keeping up with the demands of society and addressing critical issues. At election time, be sure to vote for those who speak to your views and your values.

Last, but not least, our youth give me hope for a kinder, more progressive and inclusive world. Love them, nurture them in their journey and growth. They will lead us to a brighter future. Be safe, be kind, and persevere.

In love and solidarity,  
-- John Hickey



<https://www.teemogulie.com/story/the-black-lives-matter-movement-must-include>

## Chapter Meetings

While face-to-face PFLAG chapter meetings have been suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most of our chapters have moved online and are conducting monthly meetings over Zoom. Look for announcements from your chapter leaders about Zoom meeting dates and times (they are usually the same as regular meetings, but please confirm that with your chapter) and for instructions on how to join.

If your chapter is not currently conducting online meetings and you need support of other PFLAG families, please contact [OpenDoors@PFLAGillinois.org](mailto:OpenDoors@PFLAGillinois.org). We will help you join meetings of another chapter.

## OBERGEFELL: 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*In June 2014, Justice Kennedy wrote the majority opinion of the Supreme Court in the landmark Obergefell v. Hodges decision:*

The Court, in this decision, holds same-sex couples may exercise the fundamental right to marry in all States. It follows that the Court also must hold – and it now does hold – that there is no lawful basis for a State to refuse to recognize a lawful same-sex marriage performed in another State on the ground of its same-sex character...

No union is more profound than marriage, for it embodies the highest ideals of love, fidelity, devotion, sacrifice, and family. In forming a marital union, two people become something greater than once they were. As some of the petitioners in these cases demonstrate, marriage embodies a love that may endure even to past death. It would misunderstand these men and women to say they disrespect the idea of marriage. Their plea is that they do respect it, respect it so deeply that they seek to find its fulfillment for themselves. Their hope is not to be condemned to live in loneliness, excluded from one of civilization's oldest institutions. They ask for equal dignity in the eyes of the law. The Constitution grants them that right.



# Equality Illinois

## Call to Action

The REACH Act is state legislation to ensure all youth in all grades in Illinois public schools are provided with LGBTQ-inclusive, comprehensive, medically accurate, and age appropriate personal health and safety education.

Please sign the petition in support of the REACH Act and share it with your networks:

<https://bit.ly/REACHActPetition>.



With the state's legislative session shortened in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we need to work hard to keep up the momentum so that we can come back strong to the General Assembly with this proposal next year.

Thank you for helping us spread the word, and let's keep the momentum going!

Until We're All Equal

Mike Ziri  
Director of Public Policy  
Equality Illinois



## IT GETS BETTER PROJECT.



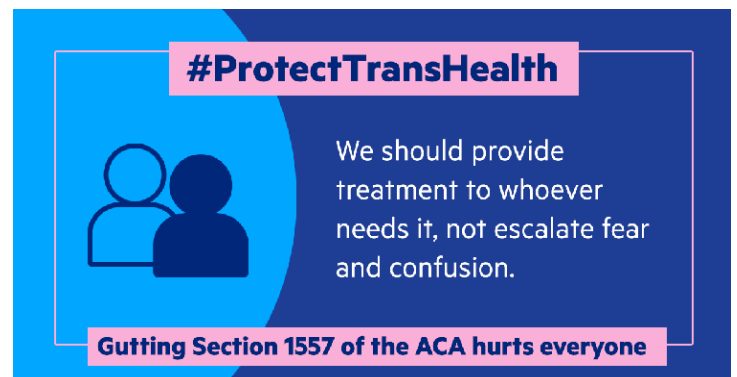
### [Resources for the Black LGBTQ+ Community](#)

Connect with national and local organizations actively working to provide information, resources, and/or services to the Black LGBTQ+ community. You are loved. *(Click the image)*



President Trump's administration has enacted a rule change that removes explicit protections for transgender people in health care by excluding protections from discrimination based on gender identity. While the Health Care Rights Law (a part of the Affordable Care Act) remains on the books, the new rule eliminates clear guidance that applies to anti-transgender bias. With the new rule erasing explicit instructions not to discriminate against transgender people, some health care providers and insurers may rely on this rule to deny care to transgender people.

[Will you stand with us as we call on insurers, starting with UnitedHealthcare, to reject this cruel move and publicly commit to protecting all patients?](#)



# From PFLAG National

## TAKE ACTION

[Tell us why you support the Equality Act](#). The Equality Act would amend the 1964 Civil Rights Act to protect LGBTQ+ people from discrimination in housing, education, health care, banking, voting, access to public spaces, adoption, and much more.

[We still need YOUR stories about why you oppose conversion therapy](#). Share your thoughts with us about the damaging and dangerous practice of so-called conversion therapy.

[Call your representatives and encourage them to support H.R. 306 to collect data on the use of deadly force by law enforcement](#). Support of this bill is one of PFLAG National's priorities, especially in the wake of [George Floyd](#)'s death. LGBTQ+ people, especially transgender people, have been historically subject to police violence and brutality. This bill aims to hold law enforcement agencies accountable for acts of violence and decrease that violence.

## COURT

[Supreme Court of the United States rules that workplace discrimination against LGBTQ+ people is prohibited under Title VII](#). In a 6-3 vote, SCOTUS ruled on June 15th that firing, failing to hire, or not promoting a person based upon their sexual orientation or gender identity is illegal under sex discrimination.

[Several states backed a suit against Title IX rule alterations](#). After the Secretary of Education's [May 6th announcement](#) of the altered Title IX rules, several state attorneys general, including those from [California](#), [New Jersey](#) and [Pennsylvania](#), [filed suit](#), viewing them as threats to the safety of sexual assault and harassment victims.

## ILLINOIS

[Chicago teen faces murder charges in the death of 37-year-old trans woman](#).

## FEDERAL

[US Department of Health and Human Services announces removal of protections for transgender people](#). These removals would eliminate the healthcare protections to safeguard transgender individuals from discrimination.

[The Library of Congress Recognizes LGBTQ+ Pride](#).

[PFLAG National and other leading national LGBTQ+ organizations issue a joint statement to combat racial violence](#).

[The U.S. Department of Education combats Connecticut law and practice of non discriminating against trans athletes from competition](#). Despite state law letting athletes compete on the teams that match their gender, the DOE has determined in a decision that could force the state to halt the practice in order to receive state funds. Connecticut is one of 18 states, plus DC, that allows transgender athletes to compete in schools without restrictions.

[USAID's top official defended two appointees with anti-LGBTQ+ records](#). Two recent appointees in the Trump Administration have garnered attention for their positions on LGBTQ+ issues: Merritt Corrigan, USAID's new White House liaison, wrote that the United States is in the midst of a "homo-empire" which pushes a "tyrannical LGBT agenda". Another appointee, Bethany Kozma, [wrote in 2016 that transgender girls were actually boys "claiming gender confusion"](#).

## GLOBAL

[United Nations - The United Nations releases statement denouncing conversion therapy](#).

[Poland - President of Poland vows to ban LGBTQ+ teaching in schools](#), while additionally stating he would not allow gay couples to marry or adopt.

[Russia - LGBTQ+ activist charged for posting 'disturbing' images on social media](#). Yulia Tsvetkova, 27, faces up to six years in jail after posting her artwork of embroidered vulvas on social media in efforts to spread messages of body positivity.

[SEE YULIA'S ARTWORK ON THE NEXT PAGE](#)

[Hungary - Legislation passes to reverse legal recognition of trans and intersex people](#). Prime Minister Viktor Orbán pushed to change "sex," which is the same as gender in Hungarian, to "sex assigned at birth." President Janos Ader has not signed this law, but the law will still go into effect due to the vote to [grant PM Orbán unlimited](#) power to stop COVID-19.

[France - Law fighting online hate speech passes French parliament on May 27th amidst controversy](#). Content that discriminates based on "the grounds of race, religion, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation or disability" must be removed within 24 hours.

→→→





## From PFLAG National (continued)

### MEDIA

[Disclosure: Trans Lives on Screen now out on Netflix.](#) The documentary explores the representation of transgender storylines in movies and TV.

[Openly trans secretary of health leads Pennsylvania through pandemic.](#)

[Gender nonconforming poet and performer Alok Vaid-Menon publishes Beyond the Gender Binary.](#) Their book details their experiences as a transfeminine child in an Indian-American community in a small town in Texas.

[Harry Potter stars defend trans people against J.K. Rowling.](#) On June 6, Rowling once again went on the attack against people of trans identity, this time mocking inclusive language for periods in a tweet; she later released a long essay trying to explain her position on trans identity. Daniel Radcliffe, who played Potter in the film series, [released a statement](#) expressing his disappointment in Rowling while affirming his support for trans people, and other stars from the film series followed suit.

[LGBTQ+ people observe the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia on May 17.](#) This year's IDAHOBIT theme was "Breaking the Silence."

[15 LGBTQ+ art shows can now be viewed virtually.](#) During the COVID-19 pandemic, many LGBTQ+- themed art exhibitions planned for 2020 have not been accessible; however, certain galleries have made some exhibits available online.

[Welcome to Chechnya to premiere on HBO, June 30th.](#) This is a powerful and eye-opening documentary about a group of activists risking their lives to confront the ongoing anti-LGBTQ persecution in the repressive and closed Russian republic of Chechnya.

[Nickelodeon tweets a photo of Spongebob Squarepants to celebrate Pride Month.](#) Many fans believe that the post confirms that Spongebob is asexual.

[Pixar Studio's first gay character featured in new short film, 'Out'.](#) Directed by Steven Clay Hunter, the nine-minute animated short covers the storyline of a gay man coming out to his parents and moving in with his partner, promoting messages of love and acceptance.

## Free Yulia Tsvetkova

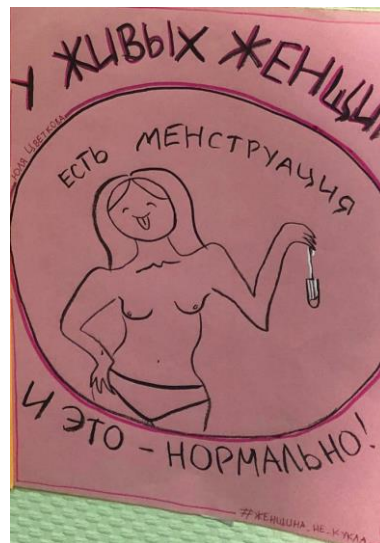
These are drawings by Yulia Tsvetkova, 27, from her project, **A Woman is Not a Doll**, in which she promoted body-positivity. She is facing 2-6 years in prison in Russia for "criminal distribution of pornography" based on these drawings.



Living Women have Fat:  
and it's Normal!



Living Women have Body  
Hair: and it's Normal!



Living Women Menstruate:  
and it's Normal!



Living Women Have  
Imperfect Breasts:  
and it's Normal!

See more drawings here: [A Woman is Not a Doll](#)

[Watch this video posted by Nicole Garneau on YouTube](#)

Sign the Petition to Free Yulia in the TAKE ACTION section of this site: [www.freesvet.net](http://www.freesvet.net)

## News from PFLAG DuPage

by Kristin Shulman  
and Margaret Donahue

Zoom Meetings continue for PFLAG DuPage. Our June meeting, held on Father's Day, was our third online meeting. While we would rather meet in person, meeting online does give people who cannot make the drive (or the flight) to Wheaton a chance to participate. We're getting the hang of sharing the screen, keeping our mics muted and using the chat. Besides the warm hugs, the only thing missing from our meetings is the snacks!

Our June speaker was Mike Ziri, Director of Public Policy for Equality Illinois. Mike shared a lot of excellent information including recent legislative wins such as the Inclusive Curriculum bill and the Equal Access Restroom bill. Mike also spoke about the Trump administration's ruling that would remove nondiscrimination protections for transgender people when it comes to health care and health insurance and the landmark Supreme Court decision affirming that the section of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 that outlaws employment discrimination on the basis of sex must be interpreted to also protect gay and transgender people. We had twenty eight people attend the meeting including a new person who immediately joined online after the meeting. We have to think Mike's excellent discussion contributed to that decision. We want to thank Mike and Equality Illinois for all that they do to improve the lives of the LGBTQ+ community.

We were pleasantly surprised that DuPage County councilman, Greg Hart, contacted us to help draft and support a DuPage County Pride month proclamation. Margaret went to the county board meeting and spoke on behalf of PFLAG Dupage and Naper Pride was also there in support. The proclamation was unanimously



Bernadette Whitfield

supported by the county board members. Additionally, the city of Wheaton also passed a proclamation declaring the week of June 22 – 28, Pride week in Wheaton. As the home of our chapter, we were delighted to see this.

PFLAG DuPage is missing all of the Pride parades, festivals and events this year. We love being in and at all the events sharing information about PFLAG and supporting the community. Last year, we made and handed out over 1,000 buttons at Pride on the Pier. It is just not the same this year. Not wanting to miss out on all of the parades, Bernadette and Ron Whitfield took PFLAG Dupage to the Buffalo Grove Pride drive. Bernadette wore her Pride gear in style!! Many of us are displaying Pride flags on our homes and attending lots of online events but we are hopeful that next year will allow us to march down Main street in Wheaton!



## ***News from PFLAG McHenry***

**by Toni Weaver**

The highlight of our June Zoom meeting was Skye Schoen's letter to family and friends, sharing his journey to becoming his authentic self. Read by his mom, Julie, the depth and meaning of the letter shone with such clarity and love.

Several members of our chapter participated in a BLM vigil held in the parking lot of Tree of Life UUC, the church in which our chapter regularly meets. It's good for the community to see PFLAG's involvement in civic endeavors.

The son of one of our members had a role in a short, 10 minute film, "Like It's Your Last." While not specifically LGBT+-related, it's a reminder to live, to really live each and every day. Here's the link:

<https://youtu.be/e9ikzBFO-CA>

I think we're getting the hang of these Zoom meetings, and we're loving the opportunity to welcome back past members who have moved away. Zoom definitely has its advantages! Lisa, it was so great to have you at the meeting!!!

## ***Letter by Skye Schoen, published with permission:***

Dear Friends & Family,

I hope you are all doing well and staying safe during these uncertain times. As most of you know, these past 12 months have been a troublesome and difficult time for me. I believe I am at an age now where I have come to a crossroads in terms of self-discovery. High school is a difficult time for most kids, but the difficulty of the high school and adolescent experience is exponentially more severe when one feels as if they are a stranger in their own skin. That is why I have made the decision to stop prioritizing the comfort of others and come out as being a transgender male. I understand that this is difficult for everyone to accept. I know that sometimes it can

be difficult to come to terms with change, especially when it's something as drastic as a gender change. That is why I don't expect everyone to process this realization with ease. I do not expect immediate embrace of my life choice, nor do I expect perfection from anyone. All I'm asking for is your respect and kindness. I have linked some resources at the bottom of this email that will hopefully answer some questions, but I am always open to a loving and healthy conversation.

I have been struggling with this weight on my shoulders for my entire life. Some of the most prevalent memories of my childhood involve struggling to come to terms with the fact that I have always known that I was born in the wrong body. This brain/body disconnect has been at the center of my problems throughout my whole life. I have grown up with such a hatred of my body that, after a while, these profound feelings have resulted in the manifestation of self-destructive behaviors in a painful effort to cope. I am done letting this problem destroy me. I need to accept my intuition and start transitioning to a point that I feel confident in my body and identity.

My plan for the future is to begin the physical transition into male presentation, beginning with hormone therapy and hopefully ending with gender reassignment surgery. I recognize this all sounds very scary and overwhelming right now, but it is the next step in my journey to recovery. From here on out, I would deeply appreciate it if everyone were to make an effort to adjust to using male pronouns (he/him) instead of female pronouns (she/her). As I mentioned previously, I acknowledge that this is a huge change for everyone, and I understand that mistakes are going to be made-that is totally fine, no big deal. I just ask that everyone is mature enough to approach this situation with respect and support. Thank you for taking the time to read this email, if you have any questions please don't be afraid to reach out! Have a great rest of your day and stay safe.

*-Skye Schoen*





## News from PFLAG Deerfield

by Jodi Zavos

Our June meeting is always so special. It is when we honor the recipients of the Jean Paul Ohadi Scholarship, established 21 years ago by Cynthia Drey, in memory of her loving son, Jean Paul. This meeting is typically a celebration of amazing students, the future leaders of the LGBTQ plus community! Although we weren't able to enjoy the usual cake and coffee, we did celebrate on Zoom. Cynthia (all the way from Texas) and her dear friend joined us, as did numerous scholarship winners. The winners were so gracious and spoke so eloquently; it was quite a celebration of Pride! Some winners even stayed for our meeting! Here are the names of our amazing, talented winners:

- Zoi Steele
- Gabriel Guzman
- Daniele Dynes
- Alayna Schweitzer
- Sheyla Adaya
- Dakota Portell
- LuAnn Bonilla

WE CONGRATULATE THEM ALL!

We also welcomed a new member who learned of us at this year's Buffalo Grove *Drive by Pride* when she saw a house decorated and celebrating PFLAG. This house belonged to members of our chapter!

Our Zoom meetings will continue, and we encourage you to join us! They are different than meeting face to face but still so warm and welcoming. Happy Pride from all of us at Deerfield!



Jim and Barbara Levie at the Buffalo Grove Pride Drive

## ***News from PFLAG Hinsdale***

**by Suellen Cook and Marcia Prichason**

PFLAG Hinsdale is still holding our monthly meetings via Zoom. We miss our face-to-face discussions; nonetheless, we will continue virtual meetings until it is again safe for all our members and our speakers to be together. Our June speaker was Logan Pierce. Logan works at the Potocsnak Family Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine within Lurie Children's Hospital. Logan spoke about the TransMentor, Sexuality Education, and Gender & Sex Development Programs at Lurie. As Logan introduced himself, he shared that his pronouns are "he, him, his." This opened the discussion about Gender 101. He explained that it is okay to ask people what pronouns they use, and it is also respectful to offer your pronoun first. He explained, "The guesswork is done."

When discussing the topic of individuals who identify as transgender, he explained there is no one way to be trans, to look trans, or to transition. He added that if you make a mistake with someone's pronoun, name, or how a person identifies, there are four steps to help you recover: 1) apologize, 2) correct yourself, 3) move on with the conversation, and 4) practice! When you do apologize, make it quick. Don't make it about you and make the other person sit in the error. Logan said that you may need practice with they, their, and theirs pronouns, and he encouraged our members to check out the [minus18.org.au](http://minus18.org.au) website to practice at pronouns and how to conjugate them in sentences.

Logan explained that as PFLAG members, each one of us can serve as a supportive adult to an LGBTQIA+ youth. A Trevor Project 2019 statistic shared that one supportive adult cuts the chance of an LGBTQIA+ youth suicide attempt by 40%! Logan teaches how to be a gender up stander to kindergartners through 8th graders. The K-8 youth learn that it is important to resist stereotypes and not put people "into a box." They also learn about sensitive topics such a gender, boundaries, culture,

and the right to say what does or does not happen to their bodies.

The Lurie Transmentor Program pairs gender non-conforming adults with transgender youth for positive mentorship. The program demonstrates to trans youth they can be successful adults and be transgender! Logan was the first mentor for this program and now runs the Lurie Transmentor Program.

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

**by Bill Guilfoile**

PTI Chicago held their June monthly meeting for the third time using Zoom because of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Thursday, 11-June-2020. We also invited the members of PTI North Shore and PTI McHenry to participate.

We had ten parents participate in the meeting. We again had participation from several people who normally are not able to attend because of the distance of travel to Center on Halsted in Chicago.

We supported one another with our individual needs as well as discussed ways we can actively support our LGBTQ+ community and People of Color during these turbulent times.

PTI Chicago will continue to hold our meetings by Zoom until the situation with the pandemic changes.

Our next Zoom meeting will be on Thursday 09-July-2020 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Members will receive an e-mail the weekend before the Zoom meeting with the Zoom link and password to enter the meeting.

Anyone, who is not a member and is the parent or family member of a transgender, non-binary or gender non-conforming individual, who wishes to participate should e-mail Bill Guilfoile at [bill.guilfoile@gmail.com](mailto:bill.guilfoile@gmail.com).





## **News from PFLAG Oak Park**

by Nancy Johnson

Summer is usually the time of practically nonstop events for our chapter: Day in Our Village, Fourth of July Parade, Bake Sale, Barrie Fest, and other things that pop up in the summer. These events have been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But we are increasing our internet savvy with our newest member, Tara Chavez. She's our media coordinator and master of our Zoom meetings! Our second one will be on Sunday. We have a speaker, Joanne Despotos, who will talk about her experiences during the AIDS crisis. We're looking forward to hearing her speak. In July, we're having Mike Ziri from Equality Illinois.

## **THE DEVIANT'S WAR:**

***The Homosexual vs. the United States of America***

*The Deviant's War* is a new book by the Award-winning LGBTQ+ historian and author Dr. ERIC CERVINI published by FSG on June 2.

The book follows the story of Frank Kameny, who in 1957, while working as an astronomer for the U.S. Defense Department in Hawaii, received a summons to report immediately to Washington, D.C. The Pentagon had reason to believe he was a homosexual, and after a series of humiliating interviews, Kameny, like countless gay men and women before him, was promptly dismissed from his government job. Unlike many others, however, Kameny fought back.

Based on firsthand accounts, recently declassified FBI records, and forty thousand personal documents, *The Deviant's War* unfolds over the course of the 1960s, as the Mattachine Society of Washington, the group Frank Kameny founded, became the first organization to protest the systematic persecution of gay federal employees. It traces the forgotten ties that bound gay rights to the Black Freedom Movement, the New Left, lesbian activism, and trans resistance. Above all, it is a story of America (and Washington) at a cultural and sexual crossroads; of shocking, byzantine public battles with Congress; of FBI informants; murder; betrayal; sex; love; and ultimately victory.

Order the book and find information about the virtual book tour here: <https://ericcervini.com/book/>

## **News from PTI McHenry**

by Andrew Zanevsky

PTI McHenry will continue holding monthly meetings over Zoom on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month, at 7-9 PM. Members of sister groups PTI Chicago and PTI North Shore and new families of transgender individuals are welcome to join.

If you are on the mailing list of one of the 3 PTI groups, then you should receive Zoom meeting invitations by email. If you are not on these mailing list of cannot locate invitations, then please email [opendoors@pflagillinois.org](mailto:opendoors@pflagillinois.org).

## **BUILDING BRIDGES**

**online LGBTQ+ game**

Graduate students at Columbia College Chicago have created an online, card-based conversation game called *Building Bridges*, which has been co-created with LGBTQ+ community members. As part of their capstone project, they are researching the impact that online spaces, particularly games like Building Bridges, have on LGBTQ+ communities, and are hoping you can help!

Work together to get across bridges, avoid storm clouds, and make it to the end without leaving anyone behind. The more you talk, the quicker you win!

**If you're interested in playing the game and sharing your insights, or just want to know more, please contact [sarena@colum.edu](mailto:sarena@colum.edu) and/or [dstrauss@colum.edu](mailto:dstrauss@colum.edu).**

<https://tabletopia.com/games/building-bridges>

Twitter: @BBridgesGame





# Buffalo Grove Pride Drive

On June 7<sup>th</sup> Buffalo Grove celebrated Pride with the *Drive by Pride* event, organized by 14-years-old bisexual activist Molly Pinta and her family. Approximately 100 families decorated their homes and celebrated the LGBTQ+ community. The map of participating homes was published on the Pinta Pride Project [website](#). Many people drove around the village, enjoying decorations. While this event wasn't in the Pride Parade "format", it had the Pride spirit! Many cars visiting the event were also decorated, and their passengers waved to each other and to participating house owners. Joy and love were in the air!



Pride Tree in front of the Pintas' house











# Tony Long

Founder and CEO of FashionBar LLC is a Chicago resident focused on a mission to help identify Chicago as a fashion destination. Tony acquired his Bachelor's degree in Marketing and Management from University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). He worked for various Fortune 100 companies for 20 years in Marketing, Management, Manufacturing and Distribution. In recent years, Tony launched FashionBar Chicago to pursue his dedication to the Fashion business.

In 2019, FashionBar Chicago and Howard Brown Health Clinic organized the first in the nation all-transgender models show in Chicago. Open Doors published a photo report of that event in the [May 2019 issue](#), which has been the most accessed Open Doors issue to date.



FashionBar: Trans, Media, Fashion Show, 2019



**FashionBar site:** [www.fashionbarchicago.com](http://www.fashionbarchicago.com)

FashionBar LLC services include:

- Event Management
- Fashion Consulting
- Fashion Law/Legal
- Fashion Manufacturing
- Public Relations and Promotions
- Modeling/Scouting/Booking
- Runway Execution
- Sales, Marketing and Distribution
- Styling

**Interview →→→**



## Interview with Tony Long

**Open Doors:** Inclusivity is a core value of your shows. It feels poetic, fun, celebratory when we see the final product, but how much work does it really take?

**Tony Long:** It took FashionBar 5-6 months of research, sourcing designers, marketing and production and execution of The Shows and The Marketplace.

**OD:** Would you share your own experience of discrimination in life and in business?

**TL:** When I worked in corporate, I experienced discrimination for being gay. I was told that people with my “feminine attributes” would not be able to advance within a corporate environment.

**OD:** COVID-19 has forced you to cancel fashion shows this spring and summer. How are you coping with that? What are your current plans for reopening?

**TL:** Since COVID19 has advanced into North America all sunniness has been on lock down. Here at FashionBar we've focusing on continuing business remotely and encouraging our followers to living a life of health and wellness and focusing on what keeps them engaged. We've been planning on reopening in October 2020, so we have not stopped working.

**OD:** COVID-19 has forced you to cancel fashion shows this spring and summer. How are you coping with that? What are your current plans for reopening?

**TL:** Since COVID19 has advanced into North America all sunniness has been on lock down. Here at FashionBar we've focusing on continuing business remotely and encouraging our followers to living a life





of health and wellness and focusing on what keeps them engaged. We've been planning on reopening in October 2020, so we have not stopped working.

**OD:** Your fashion store in Chicago has been recently looted. How did it make you feel? How are you dealing with the aftermath? How can PFLAG help?

**TL:** When FashionBar's Showroom was vandalized and looted on June 1st 2020, I was disappointed, and yet, we understood that it's about police brutality and inequality against Black Americans, People of Color and those marginalized within our communities. Therefore, with FashionBar's vision of Inclusion, Diversity and Culture, no one is left behind as fashion, beauty and wellness is critical to live our Identity with truth.

If PFLAG readers would like to help us continue bringing our inclusive platform, GoFundMe donations can be sent here:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/small-business-shattered-dreams>



**CHICAGO FASHION WEEK**  
POWERED BY FASHIONBAR

# THE SHOWS

★ ★ ★ ★

## DAY 4: TRANS, MEDIA FASHION SHOW

Thursday, October 8th  
6:00 pm to 9:00 pm  
Watertower Place Level 3  
835 North Michigan Ave  
Chicago IL 60611

Tickets can be purchased at  
[www.fashionbarchicago.com](http://www.fashionbarchicago.com)



#CombatCOVID19

## “the American people are conducting an intervention to move the pendulum of morality and ethics”

We've erected two murals at FashionBar's Showroom reading the following:

- Combat Racism with Inclusion, Diversity and Wellness
- I.D.E.N.T.I.T.Y. IS THE REASON FOR HEALTH, WELLNESS, BEAUTY AND FASHION

We will be using these two murals as the backdrop at Water Tower Place during Chicago Fashion Week powered by FashionBar LLC, and auctioning them off during The Shows scheduled from October 4th to October 11th 2020. [Tickets are available here: [www.fashionbarchicago.com](http://www.fashionbarchicago.com)]

**OD:** What is your reaction to the Supreme Court ruling that has decisively affirmed protections of LGBTQ+ employees from job discrimination?

**TL:** The Supreme Court ruling to protect of LGBTQ+ employees from job discrimination is critical for equality. I am grateful to be living in this lifetime.

**OD:** What can our society do to cure itself from injustice, inequality, and intolerance?

**TL:** Our society can best cure our own knowledge by engaging with people of all walks of life to understand we all need a positive and reinforced sense of self. Once we've accepted who we truly are and our intentions in this life, then we can deliver the truth we have to those in need. I believe we are dealing with America that's been in addiction for the past 30 years and now the American people are conducting an intervention to move the pendulum of morality and ethics. This intervention must lead to police reform, new policies and laws to protect all people from inequality.



# 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  
pflagkankakee@pflagillinois.org

Click anywhere on the map to open the list of chapters online

