



December 2020 | PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois Newsletter

opendoors@pflagillinois.org

Monthly Open Doors

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Wishing You Happy Holidays and a Bright New Year!

As we enter the holiday season, I want to acknowledge how very grateful I am for the many blessings in my life- especially my family and my extended PFLAG family. Thank you for being a part of our PFLAG Family! While we could not physically be together for much of this year, I still find our connections to be a source of perspective and inspiration, and I count each interaction a blessing in my life.

Please continue to participate in as many meetings as you can. In this era of Zoom meetings, you can even consider participating in meetings far and wide. Email chapters of interest to find out if they are meeting via Zoom and to be added to their email distribution. Thank you to all who have volunteered your time and talents in service to PFLAG. Your contributions have amazing transformative power in the world. Your stories open hearts and minds starting a heartwarming ripple effect.

I also know that this time of the year can be

especially difficult and stressful for folks. This is even more true in this time of social distancing and increased isolation. It helps me to remember that the key to having everything you want in life is not in receiving everything one could ever wish for, but in wanting and appreciating the blessings that we do have in our lives. I try to remember to be deliberate in my thoughts and intentions and endeavor - to be strong when times are tough; to fully enjoy life when things are good; and to always be grateful. Because gratitude is what turns what we have into more than enough.

Often the most precious gifts are the random acts of kindness that cost us nothing, but, in truth, are priceless. I find my PFLAG friends are always a source of inspiration with their stories of kindness. Have fun spreading your holiday cheer. May your kindness, joy and gratitude be contagious this season. Stay connected, but, of course, please be mindful and stay safe.

This holiday season, may you find yourself recognizing all of the blessings in your life that make you grateful. And endeavor to spread kindness every day, forging a beautiful future.

I wish you a safe, healthy and happy holiday season and an especially joyous and prosperous new year!

Warmest wishes,

John Hickey

President, PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois

**“Kindness
is like snow.
It beautifies
everything
it covers”**

-KAHLIL GIBRAN



From PFLAG National

ELECTIONS

[Over 290 LGBTQ+ candidates celebrate election wins in record-setting 2020 results.](#)

Many victors are first-time and history-making seatholders, and 44 elections are still undecided. Some federal and state victories include PFLAG National friend Sarah McBride, the first openly transgender person to be elected to a state senate (Delaware); Richie Torres, the first openly gay member of Congress (New York); and Mauree Turner, the first non-binary Muslim Oklahoma state lawmaker. Though a tense election, results show increased representation for BiPOC LGBTQ+ people elected to positions of power. [LGBTQ+ people of color also keep breaking election barriers.](#) Several state legislatures will see their first LGBTQ+ members of color, and Congress will have its first gay Black members. [Overall, the 117th Congress will have a record number of LGBTQ lawmakers.](#)

GLOBAL

[European Union - EU unveils first plan to address LGBT rights, discrimination.](#)

The European Union unveiled its first strategy for improving the rights of LGBTQ+ people, amid deep concern about widespread discrimination, notably in Poland.

MEDIA

[Pope Francis issues support for same-sex civil unions.](#) While the statement made news, it was not new. [Similar remarks were previously made in 2019 but cut from a broadcast by the Vatican at that time.](#)

[PFLAG National proudly partners on HBO's TRANSHOOD.](#) Filmed over the course of five years in Kansas City, TRANSHOOD is an inspiring chronicle of the lives of four young people and their families as they each navigate growing up transgender in America's heartland. The documentary offers a long-range insight into the unique journeys of four transgender youths (ages 4, 7, 12 and 15 at the start of filming) as they redefine "coming of age" and share personal realities of how gender expression is reshaping their American families.

[World-class soccer champions Megan Rapinoe and Sue Bird get engaged.](#) They met at the 2016 Summer Olympic Games and started dating shortly thereafter.



LINKS:

- Resource: [Creating an Inclusive Classroom for LGBTQ+ students](#)
- Lynn Conway was one of IBM's most promising young computer engineers, but after confiding to supervisors in 1968 that she was transgender, they fired her. [Last month, Ms. Conway was given a lifetime achievement award for her "pioneering work" in computers.](#)
- Season 1, Episode 8 of the [FreedHearts Podcast](#): "Holidays or Helladays? When you can't, or don't want to go home." How to navigate difficult family situations, and also about options for when you can't, or don't want to go home for the holidays. Available on Apple, Google, Spotify, and all podcast platforms.



News from PFLAG Tinley Park

In 2015 a youth group pastor at the Zion Lutheran Church saw the need for a support group for parents and friends of people in the south suburbs who identify in the LGBTQ spectrum. PFLAG (Parents and Friends of LGBTQ+) was just such an organization, and there was no chapter in the south suburbs. The closest one to Tinley Park was Hinsdale, 23 miles away.

The PFLAG Chapter Network – with over 400 chapters across the country – provides confidential peer support, education, and advocacy to LGBTQ+ people, their parents and families, and allies. PFLAG has been saving lives, strengthening families, and changing hearts, minds and laws since 1972. It is the first and largest organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) people, their parents and families, and allies. PFLAG is committed to creating a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued, and affirmed.

We began having PFLAG Tinley Park meetings in the fall of 2015, first with a group of charter members, and then with other parents from the area. Over the last five years there have been a number of guest speakers, including representatives from Equality Illinois, other PFLAG chapters and locals in the

LGBTQ+ community.

We are always looking for way to be involved in the Tinley Park community. We've decorated a tree for two years at the train station. We participated in Tinley Expo and handed out safe space cards and "PFLAG Tinley Park" stickers. There have been pride events in Mokena, Homewood, and Flossmoor that we've had tables at.

Recently, PFLAG Tinley Park sent a letter to the government protesting a proposed sister city relationship with Nowy Sacz Poland, a city intolerant of LGBT citizens. They have a Law and Justice party there that distributed stickers and wrote in a newspaper about a "LGBTQ Free Zone". PFLAG Tinley Park feels strongly that a city that intolerant is not worthy of sister city status.

Our meetings are open to parents, friends, and allies of – and members of – the LGBTQ community. Everyone is welcome all the time and we'd love to see you. Meetings are the 2nd Sunday of every month and are held at either the parking lot or inside the Zion Center at the Zion Lutheran Church, 17100 69th Ave., Tinley Park, IL.

pflagtinleypark@gmail.com

<https://pflagtinleypark.wordpress.com/>



News from PFLAG Deerfield

by Jodi Zavos

We were honored to welcome finn schneider and their mother, Sharon (a member of PFLAG Ottawa) to our November meeting. finn and Sharon gave us an up close and personal story of finn's journey from being a lesbian to becoming a trans, non-binary (a-gender) person. Their mother/child relationship has been central to this journey! While we all have our own stories of acceptance, finn and Sharon's sharing of an incredible amount of information helped so many of us understand their journey, and helped us to understand our journey as well. Their individual perspectives were invaluable. The love and support finn and Sharon have for each other was palpable to all in the meeting; the wisdom imparted by finn was life changing. There are no words to describe how wonderful their presentation was. It was one of the best meetings we've ever had. PFLAG Deerfield will continue on Zoom until it is safe to gather in person. Please join us!

Our December meeting, which is usually a "meet and eat", will, in this time of Covid, be a celebration of Pride on Zoom of course. Since we weren't able to have our Pride Parade in June, we invite you to wear your Pride best and join us in December.

News from PTI McHenry

by Andrew Zanevsky

We will have our next monthly meetings over Zoom on Wednesday, December 23rd, at 7-9 pm. Parents and other family members of transgender, non-binary, and gender diverse individuals are welcome to join. If you are not on the PTI McHenry mailing list, please email opendoors@pflagillinois.org to receive a meeting link and password.

When it will be safe to resume face-to-face meetings, the group will be led by our new co-leaders Mary Genzler and Courtney Milligan.

News from PFLAG DuPage

by Margaret Donahue
and Kristin Shulman

PFLAG DuPage has been meeting for eight months now on Zoom. We all agree it is second best but still pretty darn good to see everyone in the safest possible way.

In September we had Becky Simon from The League of Women Voters join us for a discussion. We recommend that every chapter engage with their local LWV chapter as a way of increasing voter education. This year we had 4 or 5 members train and serve as election judges. The League was especially interested in hearing from PFLAG about what our community might need to be more engaged in the process. We discussed the use of pronouns and possible name change issues that may come up in voter registration. For those unfamiliar with the LWV, it is a nonpartisan organization so connections and programs with them are within the regulations for PFLAG's non-profit status.

In November we had Nancy Mullen join us on Zoom. Nancy has been involved with Youth Outlook for 20 years and had lots of information about the branches of her organization that serve youth in the suburbs. Nancy is nearing release of a new book about her life. Information about **Urban Tidepool** will be on our FB page as soon as we have it. Be sure to follow PFLAG DuPage of Wheaton, IL on Facebook.

A few of our members were able to participate in Amazon Screenings early showing of the movie [Uncle Frank](#). Catch it this week on Amazon Prime if you are looking for a touching film.

Stay well everyone. Don't hesitate to call your fellow members between meetings if you need to. It will be a long winter for us all and this community was built for just such a crisis.



News from PFLAG Hinsdale

by Barb Medley

Our November speaker was Ray Marie from the Howard Brown Health Center, who presented part of the education module they give to caregivers, “Health Education About LGBTQ Elders (HEALE)”. It was a good overview for us, and it spurred questions and dialogue for a valuable hour-long visit together.

We were educated about primary care best practices; most importantly, that caregivers should recognize lived experiences and meet patients “where they are.” Older LGBTQ patients may be reluctant to disclose and slow to trust providers for fear of poor treatment, based on previous experiences. To affirm them when they seek health care treatment, caregivers should introduce themselves with their names and pronouns, interact respectfully and establish common language for a productive, thorough visit.

Caregivers need to ask about sexual health and allow time for discussion and performing testing and screening. Vital care practices include maintaining confidentiality, using gender-neutral language, and being aware of judgement and non-verbal cues. They should discuss HIV, including the importance of safe-sex practices.

Socially, 54% of all LGBTQ elders have experienced intimate partner violence, and, in a smaller study, 40% have engaged in substance abuse. Social barriers include lack of aging services, community support and employment opportunities, and housing discrimination. Sadly, among trans women of color, the average life expectancy is under 40, and the suicide rate is very high.

On the plus side, financial and legal protections for LGBTQ elders have improved their quality of life. The ACA has been very important and helped many get health insurance coverage for the first time. Other protections include marriage and state inheritance laws and other non-discrimination laws, especially in housing and long-term care.

Our scheduled speaker for December is finn schneider, whose mom is a member of PFLAG Ottawa. They will discuss life as a non-binary individual, their transition and their unconditional support from their mom.

News from PFLAG McHenry

by Toni Weaver

November, of course, is the month in which the Transgender Day of Remembrance is honored. In years past, we’ve acknowledged the day with solemn ritual – the reading of names, the lighting of candles, the silent recollecting of the stories of human lives snuffed out by violence. This year, however, we focused on “What gives you hope?” Carol Fetzner, a licensed professional mental health provider and member of our chapter, spoke on the transgender teen support group she facilitates and the hope it brings to these young people. We find hope in the fact that more parents are willing to educate themselves when a child comes out to them as transgender. We find hope that a new administration in Washington will protect the rights and dignity of transgender persons.

In past years we have been very proactive in organizing workshops for school personnel and mental health providers, providing best practices for working with their LGBTQ+ student population. Of course, in person workshops like this are on hold due to the pandemic. However, through the magic of Zoom, we organized a networking meeting of GSA advisers with Nat Duran of Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, a part of the Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago. We were joined by Laurie Crain who works out of the Regional Office of Education. Laurie has been the key to all of the educational programs we’ve sponsored. The beauty of the meeting of GSA advisers is that it allowed them to exchange ideas on how they’re handling their GSA meetings virtually, and how they’re overcoming issues like privacy and confidentiality, using predetermined signals or code when it’s no longer safe for a student to speak... just so many good ideas!

Nat provided a plethora of resources for the GSA advisers, and I’d encourage anyone working with schools to contact Nat (nat.duran@phimc.org) for these valuable resources.

Happy Holidays! We WILL get through this! Stay safe and well.



News from PTI Chicago

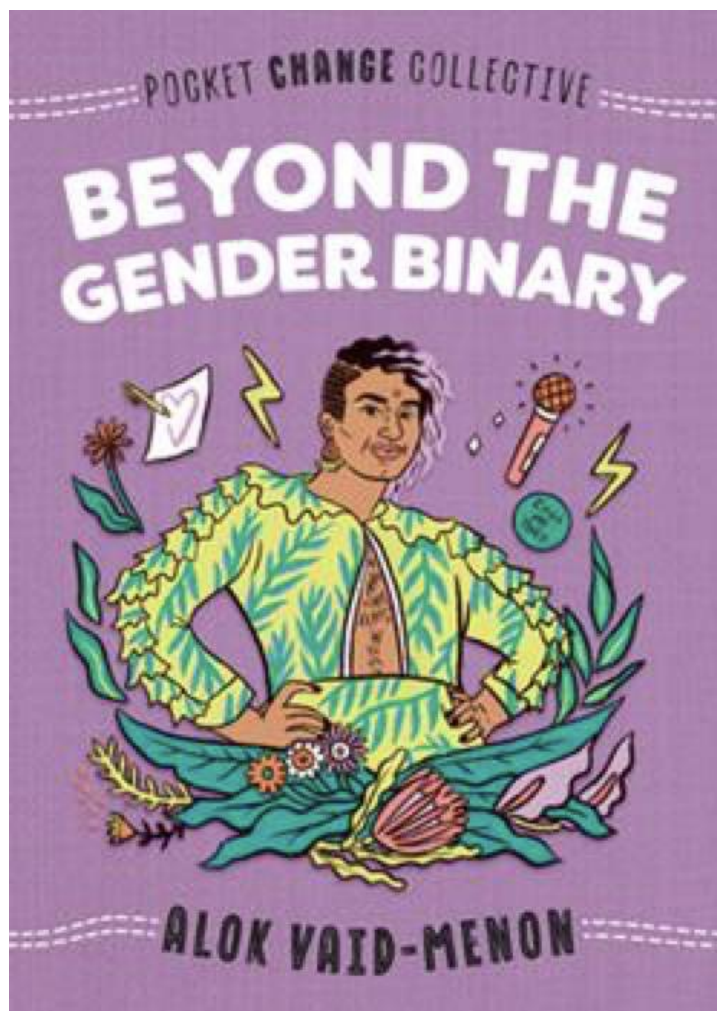
by Christine Peters

PTI Chicago held their November monthly meeting on Thursday 11/12/20 using Zoom once again. We also invited the members of PTI North Shore and PTI McHenry to participate.

This month we started our meeting with an icebreaker to add a bit of life. Eight parents attended, including one new member who joined us. We especially welcome newcomers and are glad when they find us. It's extra challenging to parent a gender diverse child when so many of us are isolated from family and friends. We continue to offer Zoom invitations to people who in the past were not able to attend PTI Chicago because of their distance from Center on Halsted.

Our Board would like to extend our deep gratitude to Jo Peer-haas as she steps down from serving as our Board Librarian and Historian. Jo has been active in PTI for 8 years and has been steadfast and dedicated. She built up a valuable loaning library for our members and even transported the collection on a monthly basis. For her many contributions, we are grateful. Jo describes herself as a "chronic volunteer," and indeed she can be seen serving many organizations in the Chicagoland community. Thank you for all the support you've given other parents over the years, Jo, and we wish you all the best. There will be an election to fill this vacancy on the Board.

In order to engage and educate ourselves, our group is planning to pilot a book club on occasion as part of our meetings. We will provide a copy of the book to interested parties by mail and then devote a portion of the next meeting to discussion. Our first selection is [*Beyond the Gender Binary*](#) by Alok Vaid-Menon. We encourage you to read this slim volume and join our discussion. You might also want to check out Alok's Instagram account; they have quite a following!



Our next Zoom meeting will be on Thursday, December 10, 2020 from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. Our ice-breaker this month encourages you to "Wear Something Festive!" Members will receive an e-mail the weekend before the meeting with the Zoom link and password to enter the meeting. Parent/s or family members of transgender, non-binary or gender non-conforming individuals who would like to join us for the first time should e-mail PTI Chicago President Bill Guilfoile at bill.guilfoile@gmail.com

Email Open Doors your comments, articles, poems, photos, artworks: opendoors@pflagillinois.org



News from PFLAG Oak Park

by Nancy Johnson

We have been meeting by ZOOM the last few months. We're gradually getting the hang of it and have been helped a lot by our newest member, Tara Chavez. At our last meeting on Sunday, November 22, we decided to send Christmas cards to each other. We're not having a December meeting, so this is a way of keeping in touch.

For our January meeting we're having a speaker from ACLU-IL, Ghirlandi Guidetti who works with their LGBTQ & HIV project. Now that we've got a new President, it'll be interesting to hear what the new challenges and opportunities for LGBTQ people will be.

At our Sunday meeting, we also talked briefly about films we've seen recently: Sandy mentioned "Cloudburst" about an older lesbian couple who decide to get married in Canada. The grand-daughter of one of them wants to put her grandmother in a care facility from which she's rescued by her lover played by Olympia Dukakis. The film is sad, funny, and satisfying! It's available on Netflix.

The other film is a new one, "Uncle Frank," from Amazon opening on November 25. [Click here for the trailer](#). Jimmie and I got to see the film early however because we are "friends" of the Queer Film Society ([http://www.queerfilmsociety.org/.](http://www.queerfilmsociety.org/)) To become a friend, you sign up on their website, with your email address and name. You get emails from time to time, telling about upcoming queer films. And the good part is they often have free passes to early screenings of new films. Up till the pandemic the passes were to films showing somewhere on the north side at night, and we never went to any. But, now the passes are a link to the internet screening! What's not to love about a free screening of the latest queer film from time to time! I recommend becoming a friend.

As I mentioned before we will not be meeting in December

Letter from the Adlai E. Stevenson High School's Catalyst Club

We are students of Adlai E. Stevenson High School representing Catalyst's Cultural Connections subcommittee for Equity and Diversity. This committee focuses on working with local cultural and other affinity groups. Through our club, Catalyst, we work to prevent underage substance use through education in our school, as well as in the surrounding communities. As avid activists against substance misuse, we are focusing on reaching out to different cultural groups, specifically to spread our message against substance abuse and misuse by educating youth and adults who may not be aware of the local pressures or events that may put youth at risk for substance misuse. To promote equity and diversity in our education, we hope to work with all groups, not just locally in our area.

We find that educational presentations on the effects of strategies to prevent substance abuse is particularly impactful for our youth and community members. These events allow us to not only share about substance misuse, but also discuss the influences of the many local social norms that surround children and teens today. The underlying social norms or standards are often overlooked due to the lack of education, which is why we aim to empower others to recognize and understand the ways these norms can negatively or positively impact a person's lifestyle. We are reaching out to you to see if your organization would be interested in giving us the opportunity to educate parents/adults about the risks of underage substance use, as well as some prevention strategies to reduce these risks. Please feel free to ask any questions.

We are hoping for an opportunity to do outreach to LGBTQ+ groups in Illinois in order to help educate and spread our message. It would be very helpful if you could relay our message in the monthly newsletter in order to allow groups to take advantage of this opportunity and contact me if interested. If relaying the information in the newsletter or in other ways is not possible, that is okay. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions. Thank you for your time.

Mary Fouani
mfouani22@students.d125.org





RAE SENARIGHI – TRANSPainter

Rae Senarighi (he/they), is a transgender, non-binary artist who described himself as “*Your average non-binary cancer survivor inspiring self-compassion, activism & gender resilience via unapologetic portraiture of vibrant transgender / non-binary power*”.

Find more at: transpainter.com

Shop: transpainter.com/shop

FB: facebook.com/transpainter

IG: instagram.com/Transpainter

Video: [First Time I Saw Me](#) | [Trans Voices](#)

Rae has graciously shared some of his artworks and answered interview questions for our readers. To better convey the actual size of his portraits, we have placed one image per page and added detail for some of them.

What is your happiest place in the world?

I have more than one... 9 My art studio is definitely my happy place. It’s where I go to be restored. Making art has always been the place where I feel fully alive and happy. However, now that I’m a happily married parent, hikes with my wife and two small kiddos is the best. We try to get out into nature every weekend and it is such a wonderful time of connection and exploration that I wouldn’t miss for the world.

Continued on page 17





RAE SENARIGHI

TRANSCEND

“Malik”

London, United Kingdom

Acrylic on canvas.

36” x 36”. 2018

@marikiscrycrycry





Malik, detail



RAE SENARIGHI
TRANSCEND

“ALOK”
New York City, NY, USA
Acrylic on canvas.
36” x 60”. 2017

[@alokvmenon](https://www.instagram.com/alokvmenon)



Alok, detail



RAE SENARIGHI
TRANSCEND

“Nitzan”
Tel Aviv, Israel
Acrylic on canvas.
36” x 60”. 2017

[@nitzan_krimsky](#)



Nitzan, detail



RAE SENARIGHI
We Have Always Been Here

“Blessitt Shawn”
Washington D.C., USA
Acrylic on canvas.
48” x 60”. 2019

[@blessittshawnb](https://www.instagram.com/blessittshawnb)

“To be creative is to understand and be comfortable with failure”

What do you think stimulates creativity more – adversity and challenges or peace and happiness?

I believe that adversity and challenges directly inspire creativity. It is important to find and create happiness and peace in one's life. But in my experience, the most compassionate and creative individuals I know have been through incredible hardships and challenges. Not every person who lives through challenging times becomes an artist or considers themselves a creative. But nearly every truly inspired creative that I can think of has been through difficult things. To be creative is to understand and be comfortable with failure. One can't be truly creative without trying and failing and trying again. The creative process itself is one of continual risk. It's how we grow. It's how we come up with new ideas. Failure is part of the process. And people who are comfortable with that have most often been through really hard things in their lives and know just how strong they are. They know that they can survive hard things. And they are willing to think and act differently in order to express themselves.

What can allies do better in their support of LGBTQ+ people?

I think there are many ways to show up as a "good ally". The most important element (to me) is to be in a state of constant learning. As a white, able-bodied, masculine of center person, I am trying to be an ally to those in my community who are Black, Indigenous, immigrants, disabled, etc. and the thing I am constantly doing is following (on social media and news) and listening to those voices in my community. I am constantly trying to learn and keep my eyes and ears open. Language is constantly evolving. Communities are constantly changing the

culture. So to say that there is one specific thing to do I think is short-sighted. Yes, respect people's pronouns. Yes, speak up about LGBTQ rights. Yes, vote for legislators who recognize and respect our humanity. But beyond that, just please listen to people. Read their words. Support their art. Share their perspective. Don't talk for people, but rather listen to and lift up those folks you are trying to be an ally to. The goal posts will continue to move. And that's okay. That is part of what showing up is all about.

Do you feel that you have found your artistic style or do you see it as fluid and changing, possibly moving to something completely new with different materials, form, subjects, genres?

It took me some time to come into my style and feel comfortable here, but I knew when I had found it. I rather stumbled into it, through a series of what I thought were mistakes. But then I connected the dots and began working in this way and the artwork just flowed out of me in such a strong, exhilarating way that I knew I was on to it. I knew I had finally found my thing. I spent the majority of my late teens through my early thirties knowing that I was supposed to be doing something with my art but not knowing what that was. Once I began painting portraiture of trans / non-binary people and came up with the idea to paint the blue sky background (an homage to reclaiming space for this community) and their skin with bright rainbow pallet (a celebration of the diversity of this community) and their clothing in black and white (to not distract from the human being portrayed), that's when I knew. All of the pieces had finally come together. I still hone my craft and strive to get better every time I paint. This process has so many layers of meaning and is creatively challenging as well as emotionally fulfilling.

Continued on page 22

“Don't talk for people, but rather listen to and lift up those folks you are trying to be an ally to.”





RAE SENARIGHI
TRANSCEND

“Ceraun”
Washington, D.C., USA
Acrylic on canvas.
48” x 48”. 2017

@ceraunthedivanun



RAE SENARIGHI
TRANSCEND

“Mara”
Annapolis, MD, USA
Acrylic on canvas.
36” x 36”. 2017

[@mara.pansy](https://www.instagram.com/mara.pansy)



RAE SENARIGHI
We Have Always Been Here

**“Shane
Ken'nikaweren'a
Ortega”**
*Raleigh, NC, born Patuxent
River Military Base, MD, USA
Acrylic on canvas.
48” x 60”. 2020*

@ndnthunder

***“My community’s very existence is a
radical act of love.”***



RAE SENARIGHI
TRANSCEND

“Aodhàn”
Boise, ID, USA
Acrylic on canvas.
48” x 60”. 2019

@thecraftycrawford

“My community’s very existence is a radical act of love.”

“I create larger than life paintings of transgender and nonbinary people from all over the world”

What do you see as your artistic mission?

I see a huge lack of representation of the trans and gender non-binary community in the fine art world, particularly in painted portraiture. I create larger than life paintings of transgender and nonbinary people from all over the world because I love going to art museums and galleries, seeing giant artworks taking up bold space, and I see a huge lack of representation of my community in the fine art world.

I’m working to build reflections of my community and our diverse truths to help fill the gap. I see in my community, a group of people who have something to teach. These are all individuals who have looked inside themselves and said, “this is who I am and I am going to live with integrity. No matter what the world around me says, I am going to live in truth.” My community’s very existence is a radical act of love. I believe that telling stories is how we humans relate to each other. It’s how we begin to understand each other and empathize with one another. My storytelling is through my art. I want to help generate respect for the trans / non-binary community and I believe that respect comes through understanding.

How does it feel to be a role model for young artists?

Honestly, it took me a little bit to adjust to that realization and to feel comfortable in this role. I used to really shy away from public speaking or even artist receptions. But now, I actually relish the opportunity to connect with my

community and with the broader public. I love getting to speak with young artists and LGBTQ folks. It is something that brings me immense joy and gratitude. One of my most memorable moments was at an art opening at a university in a smaller town. I met a family and they took some photos. The parent later reached out to me via email and sent me photos she took, explaining that her 4 year old had just come out as trans and that his older brother (age 7) was helping coach the rest of the family on pronouns. In one of the photos, he is standing in front of his favorite portrait of mine... and the smile on his face is just about as big as it can get. He’s standing tall and his face is just beaming with pride. That image will stick with me for the rest of my life and it’s why I do this work. Our community deserves to see accurate and celebratory images of ourselves in revered and honored places like art museums and galleries.



What new projects are you working on?

I'm working on a new series of portraits now and have plans for a few more. I have a feeling I will be doing this particular work for a long time. I think I could spend the rest of my life painting portraits of the trans + community and barely make a dent in the giant hole that exists. So, I have my mission. And it's a joyous one. 9

See Rae's typography work at transpainter.com/shop.

Find messaging that is supportive of the trans community, a gift for Christmas for a loved one, and support Rae's work.



Neurodiversity Affirming Mental Health Practices

📅 Friday, Dec. 11 ⌚ 10 am - 12 pm

Neurodiversity Affirming Mental Health Practices

In partnership with Upswing Advocates and Howard Brown Health, join us for a multi-objective session on how to be more accessible and knowledgeable around neurodiversity.

📍 Virtual Class

[MORE INFO HERE >](#)



📅 Monday, Dec. 14 ⌚ 6 - 8 pm

WERQ! Free Virtual Werqshops Writing a Resume, Cover Letter, and Searching for a Job

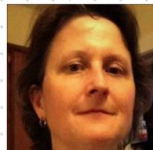
Please join us virtually for a FREE workshop series called "Getting Ready for Work". This series will cover a range of topics to help with job hunting, readiness, networking, growth, and more.

📍 Virtual Zoom Session

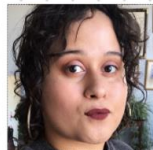
[RSVP HERE >](#)



Joey McDonald



Jill Dispenza



Carmen Corredor

Passing the Torch to a New HIV Workforce
Virtual Discussion
December 2nd, 12:30-1:00 pm
Zoom Event and Facebook Live

[RSVP HERE](#)



Erica Gafford

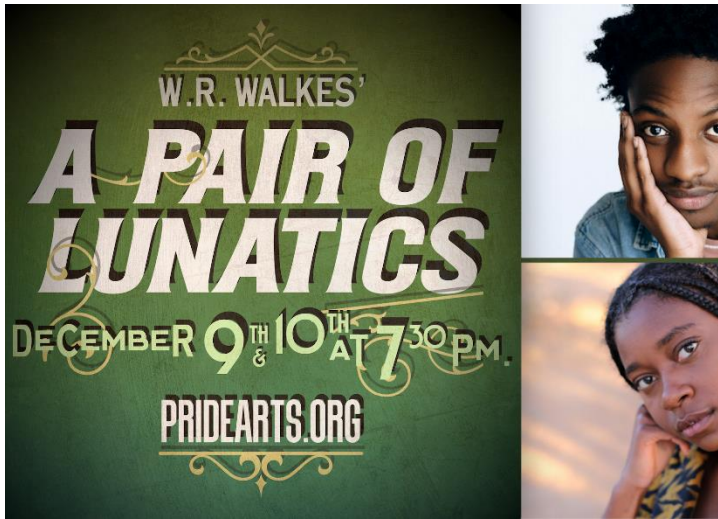


Summer Moon

Scratching That Itch: Sex and Dating During COVID-19
Virtual Discussion
December 2nd, 1:00-1:45 pm
Zoom Event and Facebook Live

[RSVP HERE](#)

THEATER



Directed by Zoe Lesser

DECEMBER 9th & 10th at 7:30pm CST

In this one-act company, He (Jayson Lee) and She (Kya Brickhouse) meet for the first time in an asylum and each mistakes the other for an inmate. This story forces us to question, what is funny about mistaking someone for a "lunatic"? What even is a "lunatic"? In a time when many are isolated and our stability is on the brink, this staged adaptation with two actors grasping at the straws of their own sanity, explores how the stories we tell ourselves somehow persevere.

[CLICK HERE FOR TICKETS](#)



DECEMBER 15th at 7pm CST

For all of you who will miss singing around the family piano this holiday, we are excited to present the film A Not So Silent Night. This recording of a 2009 concert features Rufus & Martha Wainwright, Emmylou Harris, Debbie Harry, Lou Reed and several other stars performing all of your holiday favorites.

[CLICK HERE FOR TICKETS](#)

Tickets for the film are \$10 for one, or \$15 for a household of two or more.

LGBTQ Holiday Movies



[The Christmas House](#)

Hallmark Channel



[Happiest Season](#)

Hulu



[Friendsgiving](#)

YouTube



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

PFLAG Deerfield Meetings held 2nd Thursday – 7:15 pm
Congregation BJBE
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 Aurora/Fox Valley Meetings held 2nd Sunday – 2 pm
New England Congregational Church
406 W Galena Blvd, Aurora 60506
pflagaurorafoxvalley@pflagillinois.com

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

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

meetings suspended

meeting in-person outside

- online meetings

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