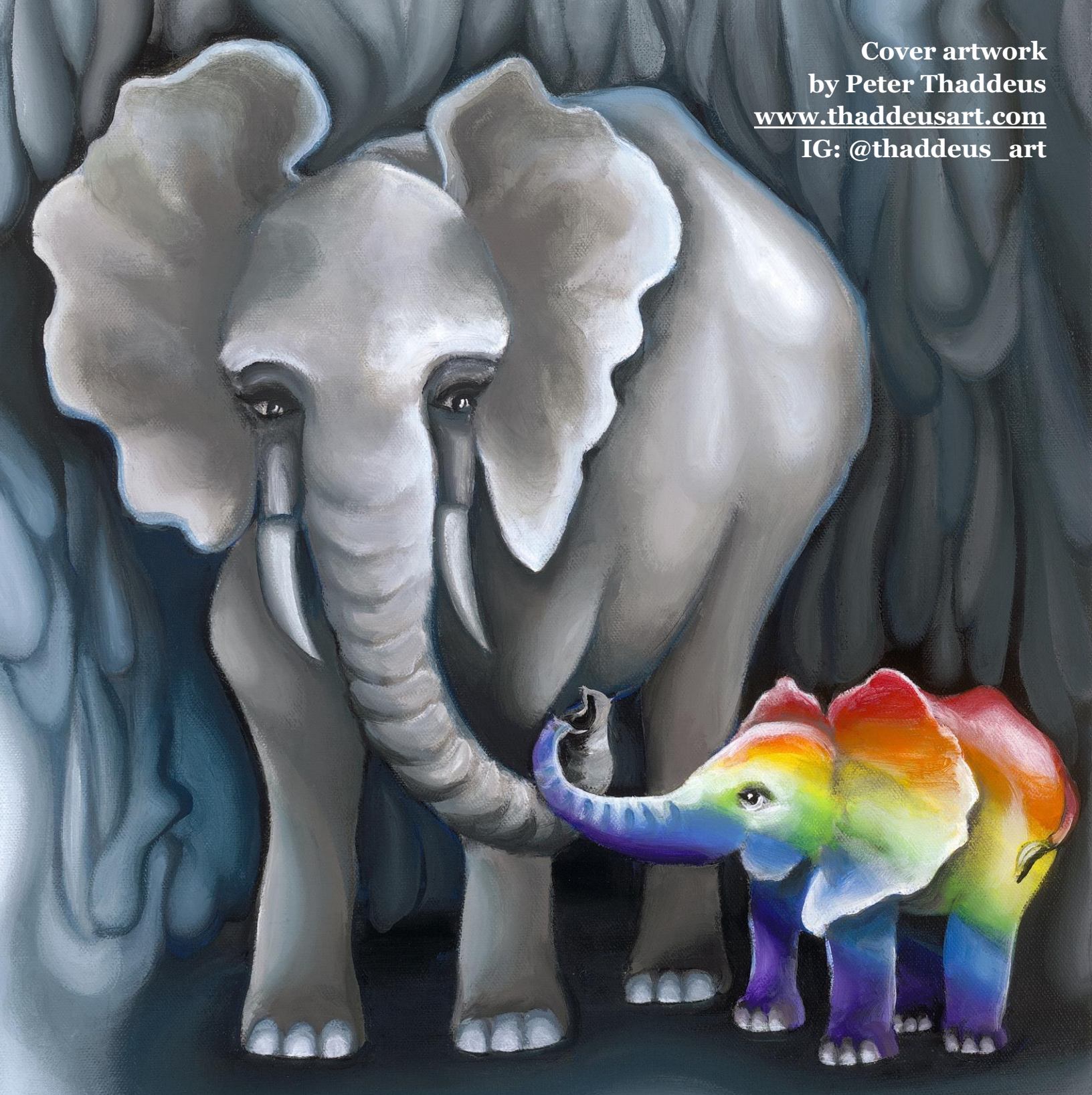


Cover artwork
by Peter Thaddeus
www.thaddeusart.com
IG: @thaddeus_art



March 2021 | PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois Newsletter

opendoors@pflagillinois.org

Monthly Open Doors

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Spring into Action

Greetings PFLAG Friends!

If you are like me, you're really ready for the start of Spring, which officially starts on March 20th. Yeah!

I also hope you are ready to Spring into Action. No matter where you are on the advocacy spectrum, we have an educational program for you.

I urge you Join PFLAG for a special Zoom meeting on March 15th at 7 p.m to engage with Equality Illinois Policy Director, [Mike Ziri](#) as we learn how to contact and communicate with our elected officials. Mike is an incredible advocate, invaluable resource, and engaging speaker!

As a member of PFLAG, you are part of a community advocating for equality. It is important for us to use our voice and let our elected officials know how we feel about key issues. Connecting with your representatives and sharing your personal stories makes a difference. Join us to learn some tips on how to have an effective meeting with your representatives.

The meeting will be hosted on Zoom and

will be limited to the first 100 participants. Zoom meeting links and information will be emailed to you ahead of the meeting on March 8th. Registration closes at noon 3/8.

Register here: <http://bit.ly/PFLAG-EQIL>
Email questions to info@pflagillinois.org.

This meeting is hosted by: Equality Illinois and the PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois.

Learn more about both organizations at:

- www.PFLAGIL.org
- www.equalityillinois.us



After the session, consider putting your new skills to work advocating on key issues like The Equality Act, at the National Level and The REACH Act at the Local level here in Illinois.

Learn more about the Equality Act at <https://www.hrc.org/resources/the-equality-act>

Learn more about the REACH Act on the next page.

Warmest wishes,

John

John Hickey
President,
PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois



Illinois Reach Act - We need your support!

Please join us in supporting the Illinois **REACH Act** Senate Bill 647 / House Bill 1736.

You can help by getting informed, signing the petition, sharing your story, and letting your legislators know that you support the REACH Act, The children of Illinois deserve comprehensive, inclusive health and safety education.

You can also sign up to stay informed via email from our partners Planned Parenthood of Illinois and Equality Illinois (click these links).

1. Check out the [Fact Sheet](#) for information on the Bill.
2. Join us for a special PFLAG educational session with Mike Ziri, Director of Policy at Eq and learn “How to Contact and Communicate with your Elected Officials” on Monday, March 15th at 7 pm (rescheduled from 3/8). Sign up here to participate: <http://bit.ly/PFLAG-EQIL>
3. Contact your legislators to ask for their support! Identify your state legislators: <https://www.illinoispolicy.org/maps/>
4. Sign the petition in support of this bill [HERE](#).
5. Do what PFLAG people do best, Tell Your Story. One thing that we have learned is that everyone has a story when it comes to how they learned sex ed. Some stories are funny, some people weren't given any kind of sex education, and some stories lead to long term harm. Whatever your story, wherever you live - you can help change the conversation on sex education and help us pass the Illinois REACH Act so that we can equip the next generation with the information that they need to have healthy relationships and to stay safe. Sign on [HERE](#) to tell your story.

Stay Informed - Join our Partner Email Lists at:

Planned Parenthood of Illinois- Click the link below and select “Sign Up for Email Alerts”:
<https://www.plannedparenthoodaction.org/planned-parenthood-illinois-action/take-action>

Equality Illinois- Click the link below and then “Get Involved”, and then “Stay Informed”:
<https://www.equalityillinois.us/category/get-involved/>

REACH Act Status Update

The next step is for committee hearings. We need to reach out to the members of the House Committees and urge them to vote yes on the bills.

- A list of the members of the Senate Education Committee are available [HERE](#). Click on the member’s name to get their contact information.
- A list of the members of the House Elementary & Secondary Education: School Curriculum & Policies Committee are available [HERE](#). Click on the member’s name to get their contact information.
- If a committee member has signed on as a co-sponsor, please thank them.
- If you are able to speak to a legislator, please let us know what they said by filling out the [REPORT FORM](#) and returning it to Rianne Hawkins, riannah@ppil.org.
- For talking points, review the [“Support the REACH Act” Fact Sheet](#) by Planned Parenthood of Illinois and Equality Illinois.



From PFLAG National

FEDERAL

[Tell your Representative to vote YES in support of The Equality Act.](#) The Equality Act has been introduced in the House, and we need you to contact your Representatives and tell them to vote in favor of passage.

Then, **please join us on March 24th for our [PFLAG Academy Online session, “The Equality Act: Taking Action to Advocate for Crucial Legislation.”](#)** Learn more about the Equality Act, why it's important now, and what we can expect as the bill moves through the 117th Congress. With a President who considers full inclusion a priority, we will discuss the many ways PFLAG members and supporters can take action to work for passage of the Equality Act. Register here to learn how to share your story with legislators, counter anti-equality arguments, effectively advocate for our LGBTQ+ families and loved ones, and more!

[Secretary Pete Buttigieg becomes first openly gay Senate-confirmed Cabinet member.](#) With a bipartisan 86-13 vote on Feb. 2nd, the U.S. Senate confirmed former South Bend mayor and presidential candidate Pete Buttigieg as Secretary of Transportation.

[President Biden signs executive order lifting the trans military ban.](#) PFLAG National has consistently fought to [establish open military service for Transgender people](#) and work with the Administration through [enactment and implementation](#) to protect trans service members and their dependents.

[WH Press Secretary Jen Psaki defends Executive Order allowing trans athletes to compete in school sports.](#) In her remarks, Jen Psaki said "the president's belief is that trans rights are human rights...[a]nd that's why he signed that executive order."

STATES

[State anti-transgender bills represent coordinated attack.](#) Bills in at least 20 states are targeting the transgender community—especially trans youth regarding sports and health—in an organized assault by conservative groups with Idaho being the only state to have such a law.

GLOBAL

U.S. Global Policy - [President Biden issues historic memorandum committing the US to promoting LGBTQ+ rights abroad.](#) The memo directs American agencies operating abroad “to ensure that United States diplomacy and foreign assistance promote and protect the human rights of LGBTQI+ persons,” and calls for agencies to combat criminalization of LGBTQ+ identity or conduct, protect LGBTQ+ refugees and asylum-seekers, and take other steps to protect LGBTQ+ rights internationally.

Europe - [Advocacy group says hate speech on the rise among European politicians.](#) The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association warned about a backlash against the rights of LGBTQ+ people across Europe, finding that politicians in 17 countries in Europe and Central Asia have verbally attacked LGBTQ+ people over the past year.

HEALTHCARE

[CDC finds that LGBTQ+ people are at greater risk of developing severe COVID-19 symptoms.](#) The CDC found LGBTQ+ people are more likely to have underlying health conditions that put them at an increased risk to contract COVID-19 and experience severe symptoms.

[COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately affects LGBTQ+ people of color.](#) The Williams Institute at UCLA's study's main finding is that the impact of the pandemic on LGBTQ+ communities cannot be fully understood without considering race and ethnicity as well as sexual orientation and gender identity.



News from PFLAG Hinsdale

by Marcia Prichason

Our virtual meeting this month featured Nancy Mullen and Carrie Noe from Youth Outlook. This local organization, which serves LGBTQ youths aged 12-20, began in the 1990's with a modest drop-in center housed at Hinsdale Unitarian Church, the same Church where PFLAG Hinsdale has met for years! A mission of creating a safe space that provides support for LGBTQ youth has grown exponentially from the yearnings of a group of devoted parents who wanted a safe space for their children to a network of supportive environments that serves LGBTQ throughout Northern Illinois and beyond. Youth Outlook has three comprehensive "buckets." The first is the drop-in center system. Pictures depicted cheerful, friendly spaces dedicated to young people where they can meet other kids like themselves, be themselves, and be listened to. Because of the Pandemic, the drop-in centers have moved to virtual drop-ins, but this move has allowed young people, who may not otherwise have access to a center, become participants. The second aspect of Youth Outlook involves Parent Support. As parents dropped off their kids at the drop-in centers, they began to talk. Those hanging-out-in-the-parking-lot informal conversations led to now-regular support meetings so parents, too, have a safe place to talk, be heard, and express their joys as well as their concerns. The third "bucket" of Youth Outlook is Community Education and Training. Through networking and other outreach efforts, Youth Outlook helps create more inclusive environments for LGBTQ individuals. Their efforts with educators, counselors, and social workers have helped change the nature of acceptance of LGBTQ youths in schools. Nothing speaks more strongly than the testimony of a former Youth Outlook participant turned volunteer and now Youth Outlook employee, and Ron Chernobrov did just that. He provided insight into how this vibrant, vital organization helped change and shape his life in a positive way. His discussion made it evident that Youth Outlook has a positive, powerful impact on our youth. Our hope is that Youth Outlook will continue to grow, reach even more young people, and continue to change the world for the better.

Our speakers for March 7th are Pete Cholewinski and Erica Snider. They work at Fermi Lab, and they'll talk about setbacks and successes in the workplace.

News from PFLAG Deerfield

by Jodi

We welcomed Cora Webb to our February Zoom meeting. Cora is the Program Director of We Are Family, located in North Charleston, South Carolina. We Are Family is a non-profit that provides affirming spaces for LGBTQ+ youth up to age 24 through direct support, leadership development and community engagement. Cora discussed the many programs We Are Family offers including peer discussion groups for LGBTQ+ youth, peer discussion groups for parents, GSA support, Queer Prom, and a fashion forward gender affirming clothing closet. Cora's enthusiasm for her work was palpable through Zoom. We welcomed and needed the energy she brought to the meeting! All are welcome to We Are Family's remote meetings regardless of your geographical area. You might want to check them out.

Although it is always so good to see each other and to meet new people, our overall energy seemed to be running a little low at our February meeting. We want everyone to feel comfortable sharing their stories, whether they are new to PFLAG or previous members. Perhaps winter, the snow, the pandemic is all catching up with us. We can't wait for Spring!

News from PTI McHenry

by Andrew Zanevsky

Attendance at our monthly Zoom calls this year has increased to 8-9 participants. It's not as high as in-person attendance before COVID, but we are fulfilling our mission. We have new parents joining every month and it's critical that the group continues to provide support.

All parents and other family members of transgender, non-binary, and gender diverse individuals are welcome to join our Zoom meetings on the **4th Wednesday of every month, at 7-9 pm.** If you are *not* on the PTI McHenry mailing list, please email opendoors@pflagillinois.org to receive a meeting link and password.

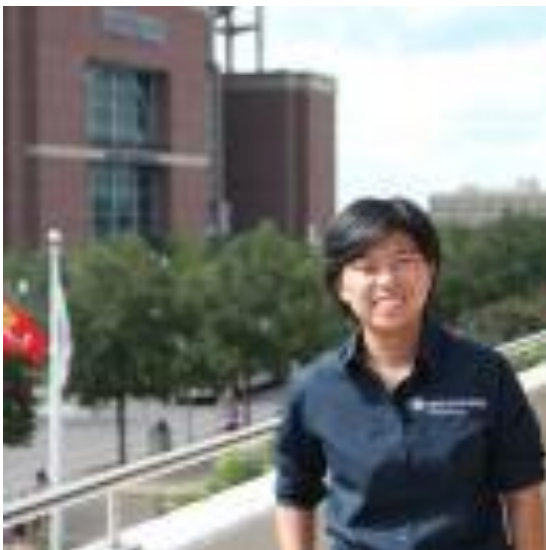


News from PFLAG McHenry

by Toni Weaver

Borrowing from PFLAG Oak Park, we invited Ghirlandi Guidetti, staff attorney for ACLU-IL, to discuss “What’s Next for the LGBTQ Community.” Rather than rehash his presentation, I’d refer the reader back to Nancy Johnson’s excellent recap of Ghirlandi’s talk in last month’s issue of Open Doors. I’d just like to add that so much of the information he laid out was a history of cases that were litigated in the courts. The current thrust of energy must now be the passage of the Equality Act which must be passed by Congress to give it solid standing; executive orders aren’t enough because actions taken by executive order are easily undone when a new administration takes over.

At our March meeting we’ll welcome Dear Aunaetrakul (OO-Nay-Ti-Tra-Koo) to discuss “Why Pronouns Matter.”



Dear Aunaetrakul
Assistant Director

Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity
and Intercultural Affairs
(773) 442-4841
v-aunaetrakul@neiu.edu

Invitations to our educational meetings are also sent to GSA advisers and school support staff.

Do Pronouns Matter?

by Toni Weaver

A presentation by Dear Aunaetrakul, Assistant Director of the Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs at Northeastern University in Chicago, on “Why Pronouns Matter” triggered my own thinking about pronouns.

Reaching way back in the annals of my mind to elementary school grammar, I recall certain definitions:

A noun is a person, place, thing, or idea.

A pronoun takes the place of a noun.

Pronouns can be masculine, feminine, or neuter; singular or plural.

Pronouns have case: nominative (subject), objective (direct/indirect objects/object of a preposition), and possessive (ownership).

So much for the grammar lesson. Now let’s look at the real-life implications.

A key insight I received when thinking about these simple definitions is that a pronoun represents ME which is why it’s so important to get it right!

A pronoun represents a real flesh and blood person with feelings, with a self-identity, with a desire to be recognized for who they are.

Unfortunately, the old definitions fail to recognize a new reality, that the two gendered pronouns (she and he) are no longer sufficient to describe persons with a non-binary identity.

So, what do we do? We work with what we have. We bend the rules to match our lived experience, hence using they/them/theirs even when referring to only one person. We already use they/them for objects as well as people. Ex: Where are the books? They are over there.

We also find ourselves using they/them to refer to only one person when the gender of that person is unknown. Ex. What’s wrong with that person whose back is to us? They look hurt.

So why can’t we just set aside the old hard and fast rules of grammar and recognize that a person is of more importance than a grammar rule? These rules will change over time anyway as they become a part of our common parlance or way of speaking.

By asking “What pronoun do you use,” I am implicitly affirming that person’s identity and self-worth. I’m saying that you’re too important for me to get this wrong.

Pronouns do matter.



News from PFLAG Oak Park

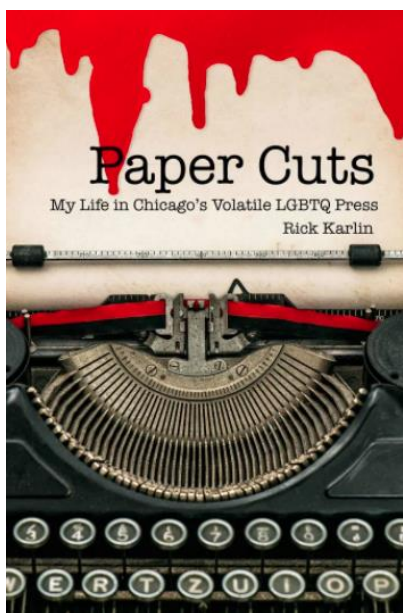
by Nancy Johnson

Our February speaker will be Kim Hunt, who works for Pride Action Tank, "working to improve the health, safety, and progress of the LGBTQIA community by inspiring, supporting and leading collaborative action."

We've known Kim for a while. She was the director of Affinity Community Services on the southside of Chicago. It provides services for LGBT people. Several years ago, the Illinois PFLAG Council and Affinity were working to establish a parents' group on the southside of Chicago. Unfortunately, we never got anything going. Then the Illinois budget tanked, so many nonprofits couldn't operate.

In March, we've already engaged a speaker: Rick Karlin. Rick has published a book: [Paper Cuts: My Life in Chicago's Volatile LGBTQ Press.](#)

Rick was born and grew up here in Chicago. He worked for several gay publications: Gay Chicago and GayLife. His book is about not only how he got into the newspaper business, but also his family and his involvement with them. He was married and divorced and has a son. He was also involved in a gay parents' group, in Horizons Community Services (for-runner of Center on Halsted.)



From his book, I get the feeling that he knew just about everybody who was anybody in the Chicago LGBTQ community! And I'm sure he knows more anecdotes than are in his book.

The publisher has offered a special discount
Coupon Code for PFLAG: **PFLAGMARCH2021**
Effective from 2/26/2021 to 3/31/2021
Applicability: All Rattling Good Yarn Press released titles. Preorder titles are excluded.
FREE shipping
No sales tax if shipped outside of California

So, we're looking forward to ZOOM on Feb 28 and ZOOM on March 28 as well. If anyone wants to attend our meetings, send your request to Tara: tara_n_chavez@yahoo.com

News from PFLAG Deerfield

by Jodi

We welcomed Cora Webb to our February Zoom meeting. Cora is the Program Director of We Are Family, located in North Charleston, South Carolina. We Are Family is a non-profit that provides affirming spaces for LGBTQ+ youth up to age 24 through direct support, leadership development and community engagement. Cora discussed the many programs We Are Family offers including peer discussion groups for LGBTQ+ youth, peer discussion groups for parents, GSA support, Queer Prom, and a fashion forward gender affirming clothing closet. Cora's enthusiasm for her work was palpable through Zoom. We welcomed and needed the energy she brought to the meeting! All are welcome to We Are Family's remote meetings regardless of your geographical area. You might want to check them out.

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News from PTI Chicago

by Molly Malone (she/her/hers)

PTI Chicago is very excited to announce a special program for our Thursday, March 11, 2021, 7:00 - 9:00 PM meeting:

Gender-affirming Sex Ed for Parents provided by the Sexuality Education Program at Lurie Children's Hospital

- This program will take up most of the meeting (90 minutes).
- This program is a paid service being offered for free to everyone in PTI Chicago, PTI McHenry, and PTI North Shore.
- **BONUS:** Your "kids", 16 years old or older, are welcome to join and get the gender-affirming sex ed they should have received when they were in school.
- **Please email to ptichicago1@gmail.com if you plan to have your offspring join so we can send them the Zoom link.**

Program Description:

- Curious about how to start conversations with transgender and non-binary youth about sex and sexual health?
- This presentation will offer parents an opportunity to learn how to have conversations at home with youth in a gender-affirming way and will cover sexual health topics specific to transgender and gender-nonconforming youth, including consent and communication around gender dysphoria, anal sex, HIV & PrEP, and sex toy safety.
- We will also briefly cover some of the ways that substance use factors into sexual health for transgender youth.

Presenters:

- Saleha (Sal) Salam (she/her) is the Program Coordinator for HIV and Sexual Health in the Division of Adolescent Medicine at Lurie Children's Hospital. Sal provides confidential HIV Testing & Counseling Services to interested clients. In addition, she is working to bolster the Center's community presence by establishing partnerships with local health and social service agencies. Sal also provides linked individuals who test positive for HIV to medical services.

- Adam Davies (they/them) is a Health Educator for both the Division of Adolescent Medicine and the Sex Development Program at Lurie Children's Hospital. In their role, they serve as a patient advocate for youth who identify as intersex or have differences of sex development. Adam assists with division efforts, including teaching sex education, substance use prevention, and facilitating gender inclusivity training. They have also created and facilitate tailored training on transgender & LGBTQ sexual health to students, community partners, and medical providers.
- Neil Dixit (he/him) is excited to be on the team as a health educator with AmeriCorps/SUD Allies. He has experience working as an educator and HIV tester and researcher, with an educational background in Gender and Sexuality Studies. Neil's role at Lurie includes facilitating LGBT+ inclusive sexual health and substance-use training for students and other educators. He is eager to engage more with healthcare justice and access by working alongside and learning from talented educators, healthcare providers, and community members.

For more information about the programs available from the Ann and Robert H. Lurie's Children's Hospital **Sexuality Education Program**, please visit their website:

<https://www.luriechildrens.org/en/specialties-conditions/sexuality-education-program/>

And check out their Never Fear talks (short videos):

<https://www.luriechildrens.org/en/specialties-conditions/sexuality-education-program/never-fear-talks/>

Detail Summary:

- **When: Thursday, March 11, 2021, 7:00 - 9:00 PM** (most likely done by 8:30 PM)
- **Where: Zoom link will be sent the Monday** prior to the meeting
- **Who: PTI Chicago, PTI McHenry, and PTI North Shore**
- Please reply and let Bill Guilfoile (he/him), PTI Chicago President, know if your kids will be joining so he can send them the Zoom link (ptichicago1@gmail.com)
- This program is **FREE**
- We can't wait to see you!



News from PFLAG DuPage

by Kristin Shulman

PFLAG DuPage meetings are going strong during the pandemic. We are delighted to have PFLAG Bolingbrook officially joining us while their meetings continue to be on hiatus through the pandemic. We were delighted to have 50 people join our February Zoom meeting. A number of new people joined in and we applaud their courage in joining their first PFLAG meeting via Zoom.

Our February program was exceptional. One of our chapter members, shared a presentation he had given to his company employees about the journey the family has been on since their transgender son came out. He was joined by his wife, who also talked about the journey from her perspective and answered questions. The family photos in the presentation were wonderful and brought their story to life. Their story was both brave and wonderful and we appreciate them being so vulnerable with the group. We can only imagine how much of an impact the presentation had on our member's company employees and beyond. We cannot thank them enough for sharing their story with us.

At our March 21st meeting, Peter from Thaddeus Art (www.thaddeusart.com) will be joining us to talk about himself and his art. [Editor: Peter's artwork is on the cover of this issue of *Open Doors* and several past issues]

If you would like to join us, please email PFLAGDuPage@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

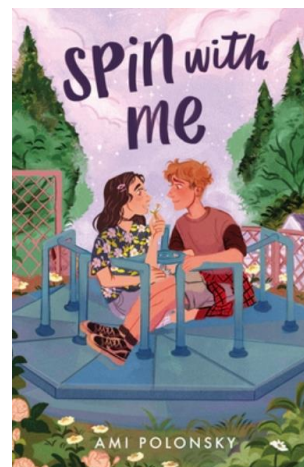
Share your thoughts, stories, art, photography with OpenDoors: opendoors@pflagillinois.org

NEW BOOK

***Spin with Me!* by Ami Polonsky**

published by The Book Stall

A New Middle-Grade Novel About Non-Binary Identity and First Love.



Order [HERE](#) from the publisher

From the author of the critically acclaimed *Gracefully Grayson* comes a thoughtful and sensitive middle-grade novel about non-binary identity and first love.

In this elegant dual narrative, Essie is a thirteen-year-old girl feeling glum about starting a new school after her professor dad takes a temporary teaching position in a different town. She has 110 days here and can't wait for them to end. Then she meets Ollie, who is nonbinary. Ollie has beautiful blue eyes and a confident smile. Soon, Essie isn't counting down the days until she can leave so much as she's dreading when her time with Ollie will come to an end.

Meanwhile, Ollie is experiencing a crush of their own . . . on Essie. As Ollie struggles to balance their passion for queer advocacy with their other interests, they slowly find themselves falling for a girl whose stay is about to come to an end. Can the two unwind their merry-go-round of feelings before it's too late?

About the Author: Ami Polonsky is the author of the critically acclaimed *Gracefully Grayson* and *Threads* - both Book Stall bestsellers! She is a middle school English teacher and a parent of two kids, one of whom exists happily beneath the trans umbrella.



Woodlawn Arts Academy & PFLAG Sauk Valley
Proudly Present Our Summer 2021 Art Exhibit

Beyond

UNICORNS

and

RAINBOWS

Meeting the Needs of the **LGBTQ+** Community

May 14 through August 13 at Woodlawn Arts Academy

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Cash prizes available in three age groups!

**ENTRY FORM AND ART
SUBMISSION DEADLINE**

FRIDAY, MAY 7, 2020

Be sure to include submission entries
as indicated inside this application.

EXHIBIT DATES

MAY 14 THROUGH
AUGUST 13, 2021

ARTWORK PICKUP

AUGUST 16-20, 2021

THEME

Beyond Unicorns and Rainbows:
Meeting the Needs of the LGBTQI+
community.

Artists may address one or more of
the following:

- Need for security
- Need to belong
- Need to know
- Need to love and be loved
- Need for change
- Need for self-actualization

CASH PRIZES!

Prizes will be awarded in three age
categories:

ADULT	TEEN	CHILDREN
1st: \$75	1st: \$50	1st: \$25
2nd: \$50	2nd: \$35	2nd: \$15
3rd: \$25	3rd: \$25	3rd: \$10

Prize money is being provided
by PFLAG Sauk Valley. There is
no entry fee for submissions.

**DETAILS & ENTRY FORM
ON THE NEXT PAGE** >



pflagsaukvalley.org

c/o First Presbyterian Church • 410 2nd Ave, Sterling, IL 61081
pflagsaukvalley@gmail.com • (815) 408-0604

[Please leave a voice message; calls will be returned as soon as possible.]

PFLAG envisions a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued,
and affirmed inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.



woodlawnartsacademy.com

3807 Woodlawn Road, Sterling, IL 61081 • (815) 626-4ART(4278)
WAA is proud to be a partner agency of United Way of Whiteside and
Lee Counties. This program is partially supported by grants from the
Illinois Arts Council Agency and The Chicago Community Trust.



ILLINOIS
ARTS
COUNCIL
AGENCY



THE CHICAGO
COMMUNITY TRUST



Woodlawn Arts Academy & PFLAG Sauk Valley 2021 Summer Art Show Artist Application

Please complete this form and deliver it with submission(s) to Woodlawn Arts Academy from Monday, May 3 through Friday, May 7. Artists may submit a bio, if desired. Please see below for eligibility and artwork guidelines.

Name: _____

Parent's Name (if under 18): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Age Group (circle one): 20+ 13-19 8-12

ENTRY 1

Title: _____

Medium: _____

Dimensions: _____

Price (if for sale): _____

ENTRY 2

Title: _____

Medium: _____

Dimensions: _____

Price (if for sale): _____

ENTRY 3

Title: _____

Medium: _____

Dimensions: _____

Price (if for sale): _____

Woodlawn Arts Academy must be in receipt of artwork, whether by mail or delivery, no later than May 7, 2021.
• 3807 Woodlawn Road, Sterling, IL 61081 •
Questions? Call 815-626-4278 or email
czepezauer@woodlawnartsacademy.com.

ELIGIBILITY

This Art Show will promote the interests and needs of LGBTQ+ persons. Submissions are welcome from all artists. Open to all mediums except photography.

Art will be judged in three categories:

- Adult (at least 20 years of age)
- Teen (13-19 years old)
- Child (8-12 years old)

ENTRY GUIDELINES/ PROCEDURE

COMPLETED APPLICATION FORM: Please submit the completed application form along with artwork by Friday, May 7.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY: A biography of the artist may accompany submission(S).

ORIGINAL WORK: All work must be original and may include mediums such as paint, drawing, book art, mixed media, decorative arts, sculpture, and illustrated quotes/poetry. Quotes and poetry must be accurately attributed if not the words of the artist. By entering, you represent and warrant that your entry is your original work and that your entry does not infringe the rights of any third party.

SPECIFICATIONS: The maximum size for two-dimensional and three-dimensional artwork is 48" in height, width, or depth, and 25 lbs in weight. Two-dimensional artwork must be suitably framed and/or matted, firmly wired, and ready for hanging. All entries must be clearly labeled on the back or bottom with artist name, title, medium, dimensions, and price (if applicable).

APPROPRIATE FOR ALL AUDIENCES:

Artwork must be suitable for family viewing, so artists must abstain from portrayal of violence, crude language, drug use, and sexual functions. Display of artwork will be at the discretion of PFLAG Sauk Valley and Woodlawn Arts Academy.

THEME: Beyond Unicorns and Rainbows: meeting the needs of the LGBTQ+ community. Artists may address one or more of the following with regard to the LGBTQ+ community:

- Need for security
- Need to belong
- Need to know
- Need to love and be loved
- Need for change
- Need for self-actualization

JUDGING DATE

Judging will occur on May 13, and winners will be announced during the exhibit opening on May 14.

ARTWORK DELIVERY/ PICK-UP

Artwork may be hand-delivered or shipped at the artist's expense with return shipping costs and label. Hand-delivered work must be dropped off by Friday, May 7 during regular business hours. We ask that all artwork be properly labeled and remain on exhibit through Friday, August 13. All artwork must be picked up August 16-20 during regular business hours.

LIABILITY

Artists accept responsibility for insurance of their work in transit to and from the Academy. The Academy does not assume liability for loss or damage to artwork; however, every effort will be made to assure safety and security.

AGREEMENT

Submission to the show constitutes an agreement with all conditions of this show. All artwork must remain on exhibit for the entirety of the show. PFLAG and the Academy reserve the right to photograph all work for publicity purposes. PFLAG and the Academy reserve the right to reject any work that is not ready to be shown according to the aforementioned specifications and guidelines.



LGBTQ+ History Spotlight

Marsha P. Johnson – Inductee 1945 - 1992

Information provided
by **The Legacy Project**
legacyprojectchicago.org



The Legacy Project illuminates and affirms the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) people to honor their experiences and accomplishments; to collect and preserve their contributions to world history and culture; to educate and inspire the public and young people; and to assure an inclusive and equitable future.

Malcolm Michaels, Jr. left his home in Elizabeth, New Jersey to transform into “Black Marsha” on the train into New York. Survival after a permanent move there in 1966 was difficult. At times she waitressed or panhandled, but mostly she worked the streets. Along the way Black Marsha became Marsha P. Johnson. When she was asked by a judge what the “P” stood for, she retorted “Pay it no mind” – which was the philosophy of her incandescent life. Marsha was memorably present at the Stonewall Riots in 1969 where any number of actions have been attributed to her legend – including shimmying up a lamppost to drop a heavy weight that shattered a police car’s windshield. In the early 1970s Marsha, along with her friend [Sylvia Rivera](#), co-founded Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (S.T.A.R.) – one of the first transgender rights organizations in the country. In spite of her influence and popularity, Marsha’s life was by no means easy. Breakdowns, religious visions, health scares, numerous threats by disgruntled johns, and run-ins with the law served as a dark counterpoint to her buoyant personality and unabashedly colorful attire. Naturally theatrical, she appeared regularly with the flamboyant performance group, the Hot Peaches Review, and was photographed by Andy Warhol as part of his “Ladies and Gentleman” Polaroid series in 1974. In spite of all she had endured, Marsha was a bright light of love and acceptance in a world that was anything but welcoming. She was a survivor. So when her body was found floating in the Hudson River after



the 1992 New York Pride Parade – a death the authorities hastily declared a suicide without any forensic evidence to support the claim – her family and friends were outraged. Subsequent private examinations of police reports, sealed records, and interviews have revealed clues that point to possible foul play and hints of a cover-up. A re-opened investigation changed the cause of her death to “undetermined.” The mystery of what – or who – took the life of Marsha P. Johnson remains unsolved.

Plaque Sponsor:
*Paul Highfield and
Ronald Puskarits; Paul
DeSousa and Patrick F.
Torres; Elizabeth Liechty;
Chris Pritchard; Laura
Angelucci and Jennifer
Baker*





Attention Teachers:

First, **thank you** for all that you do for our youth!

Second, since there is now a requirement for LGBTQ+ inclusive curriculum in Illinois schools, be sure to take advantage of the special resources made available by The Legacy Project and The Illinois Inclusive Curriculum Advisory Committee.

You can find Lesson Plan information at The Legacy Project: legacyprojectchicago.org/lesson-plans

In addition, check out the LGBTQ-Inclusive Curriculum information at icl.legacyprojectchicago.org. This portal uses curriculum content from The Legacy Project but makes it uniquely searchable for teachers to incorporate into their classrooms. The site also includes links to Guidance documents and Professional Development tools. This [video](#) explains how it is used.

IT GETS BETTER PROJECT. 10

Download the [EduGuide for Out in Front](#), a five-episode docuseries offering a glimpse into the lives of young LGBTQ+ activists doing their part to change the world.



Join Youth Services for our virtual Community of Pride event: Adventures in Candyland!

This special fundraising evening for our Pride programs will bring together the inspiring community of donors, friends, and families who make our unique programming accessible for all LGBTQ+ youth. Show your support for Youth Services and LGBTQ+ young people and families who look to the agency for support!

Our interactive, virtual team-based adventure will offer opportunities for you to work with your friends and family near and far to bring the magic of Pride to the residents of Candyland! Guests will play games and solve puzzles in various theme-based breakout rooms and celebrate this incredible community with drawings, character appearances and tons of FUN!

Registration deadline is Tuesday, March 9th at 10pm.

Tickets are available for \$25 and \$50 each and partnership opportunities are offered at \$100, \$250, \$500, 1,000, \$2,500, and \$5,000.

Visit www.ysgn.org/community-of-pride-event for more info.

LINKS:

- ['It's sheer! It's queer!': redesigning and diversifying beauty ads of the past](#)
- [Do We Still Need Labels to Define Our Sexual Preferences?](#)
- [This dad started a swimwear line with his transgender daughter](#)
- [How to Update Your Legal Name and Gender Marker in Illinois](#)



Calendar at the Center on 3656 N. Halsted, Chicago



THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 2021 • 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

**Please RSVP at
silverfork@centeronhalsted.org
to reserve a spot.**



Friday, Mar. 19 9 am - 3 pm

***Mental Health First Aid
Online Virtual Training***

MHFA teaches you how to identify, understand & respond to signs of mental illness & substance use disorders. Acquire skills you need to reach out & provide initial support to someone who may be developing a mental health or substance use problem.

Virtual Class

RSVP HERE >

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

Click anywhere on the map to open it online

