

INTIMATE INVERTS, Zack and Lola Flash, London 1992

photo credit: Della Grace

see pp 9-18 for more

works and interview

A black and white photograph of two individuals, Zack and Lola Flash, from 1992. They are dressed in leather and fur. The person on the left is shirtless, wearing a large fur collar and a leather belt with a large buckle. The person on the right is wearing a leather vest with a small emblem on the chest, a leather belt with rings, and has a tattoo on their right shoulder. Both are looking directly at the camera with serious expressions.

Open Doors

Planning for Re-Opening

It has been a year since almost all our chapters have stopped meeting in-person, many have switched to online meetings, and some have suspended operation. Attendance at virtual meetings has been lower than pre-pandemic for several reasons. Some of our members prefer to meet in-person, because it creates a better feeling of community. Physical human connection – looking others in the eyes, a hug, a handshake – feels more “real” to most of us. Some people may not be comfortable with Zoom because they aren’t tech-savvy, or don’t have a reliable Internet connection, or a private space from which to join a call. Some are concerned about privacy and security risks associated with anything that is done online. And many people have reported “Zoom fatigue” (the term nobody heard of just a year ago) – they participate in so many video calls for work, study, connections with family and friends, hobbies, book clubs, doctor visits, etc. that yet another Zoom call for PFLAG feels like “more of the same”. Simply put, many people are tired of online life and want a real one.

On the bright side, PFLAG online calls have created participation opportunities for people who don’t usually attend in-person meetings due to long commute, scheduling conflicts, or because they are more comfortable socially in online settings than physical ones. Some of our chapters have enjoyed high attendance at Zoom calls. DuPage and Deerfield chapters have reported more than 30 and sometimes 40 participants. The elimination of travel and commute has made it easier to invite guests. Some of us have also visited far away chapters. For example, I participated in a PFLAG Los Angeles meeting last year to learn how chapters in other states conduct their meetings.

Despite these benefits of video calls, most PFLAG members want to resume in-person meetings when it’s safe. It may still be too early to go back to “normal”, and our definition of “normal” will probably never be the same, but it’s time to start planning for re-opening.

Of course, all chapters should follow CDC and Federal and State guidelines for public gatherings, to keep members and their families safe. These guidelines are changing as more people become vaccinated, and the overall population immunity increases. Each chapter should make its re-opening decision based on the expected number of attendees, their vaccination status, and individual comfort level with social gatherings. I think that it’s time for chapters to have the physical re-opening discussion. When enough people feel safe to hold a real-life meeting, the chapter should be ready to organize it.

There are a few logistical issues to resolve. Perhaps some chapters will decide to meet outdoors when weather permits, but then you must also have rainy day backup plans. Outdoor gatherings may call for a different meeting time and day of the week. Some chapters may need to reconfirm that their old meeting space is still available. Please also balance the needs of members who can only meet online against the needs of people who want to meet in-person. Perhaps some chapters would consider a hybrid solution: meet in-person, but also install a laptop in the meeting room and run a Zoom call for people who can only join online. It’s not ideal, but it works (speaking from experience of organizing a hybrid book club meeting with some participants meeting in-person and others joining over Zoom).

The PCNI Executive Board asks all chapters resuming in-person meetings to notify us as early as possible, because we have temporarily suspended our liability insurance (which covers all chapters in the Council) while there are no real-life meetings. We must reactivate that insurance before chapters resume in-person meetings.

I wish everyone a great spring!

Andrew Zanevsky

Secretary, Open Doors Editor



From PFLAG National

FEDERAL

[Tell your Senators: Vote YES in support of The Equality Act.](#) The Equality Act passed in the House, had a hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee [including PFLAG National Board member Dr. Edith Guffey, MSW](#), and now we need your help. **[Please contact your Senators now and tell them to vote in favor of this critical piece of legislation.](#)** Even if your Senators have committed to vote yes, call them, email them, and tweet them your thanks; they need to know that the majority of people in this country support protections from discrimination.

[Tell your Representative to co-sponsor the “Do No Harm Act.”](#) The bill, HR1378, [clarifies the intent of the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act \(RFRA\)](#) and prevents it from being used as a justification for discriminating against LGBTQ people, religious minorities, and others. PFLAG supports this bill.

[The Equality Act passes the House in a bipartisan 224-206 vote; attention centers on the Senate.](#) Three Republicans voted “Yes.” The Equality Act now moves to the Senate, where 60 votes are needed to overcome a filibuster of the bill. The President will sign the bill if it passes both chambers.

[Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough orders review of department policies to comply with President Biden’s executive order combatting anti-LGBTQ+ discrimination.](#) McDonough announced a department-wide policy review to ensure the VA is a “welcoming and inclusive environment for LGBT vets and employees.” HUD was the first agency to take this action, doing so last month.

COURT

[Biden Administration withdraws government support for anti-trans lawsuit.](#) The suit, which aimed to ban transgender athletes from girls’ high school sports, was filed a year ago by several cisgender runners from Connecticut who argue the state’s trans inclusive high school sports policy deprives them of athletic opportunities.

[Gloucester County School Board in Virginia petitions Supreme Court to hear trans bathroom case.](#) Lower courts have ruled in favor of Gavin Grimm, a transgender alumnus of Gloucester High School, who sued after being barred from the boys’ restroom.

GLOBAL

[Canada - LGBT activists accuse a Regina pastor of spreading hate against the gay and transgender communities.](#) Pastor Terry Murphy of Victory Church made multiple comments that many are calling hateful on a sermon broadcast on social media, including “We had the start of the cultural push to normalize homosexuality...Normalizing this behaviour that, before then, was not considered normal. (It) was considered abnormal...”

[EU - European Parliament declares the European Union an “LGBTQ Freedom Zone.”](#) The resolution passed in response to localities in Poland labelling themselves “LGBTQ ideology-free zones.” The Polish government announced a proposal to completely ban adoption for same-sex couples just hours before the European Parliament’s resolution passed. **[The French European Affairs Minister called on the European Commission to start legal proceedings against Poland](#)** saying, “We need to use every possible tool to sanction these behaviors that are against our values and our rules.”

[UK - UK Equalities Minister Liz Truss promises the government will ban gay conversion therapy “shortly.”](#) Prime Minister Boris Johnson said people should “be in no doubt we will deal with this issue.”

MEDIA

[Bethany Christian Services, the largest Christian adoption agency in the US announces it will place children with LGBTQ+ parents for foster care.](#)

[An art exhibition at a Brooklyn retirement home](#) features LGBTQ+ elders, many of whom fear having to go back into the closet when they enter retirement homes or other senior care facilities.

[Elliot Page featured on the cover of TIME Magazine.](#) Page opened up about their experience as a trans man and their struggle to come out in an interview with the magazine.

[The Vatican declares the Catholic Church won't bless same-sex unions.](#) The response distinguished between the church’s welcoming and blessing of gay people, which was upheld, and same sex marriages, which the Vatican rejected.

[LGBTQ+ people face disproportionate job loss and mental health issues during pandemic,](#) the Kaiser Family Foundation study found.



News from PFLAG Hinsdale

by Barb Medley

At our virtual meeting this month, we met Pete Cholewinski and Erica Snider. Both work at Fermi National Laboratory, and they talked about their setbacks and successes being out in the workplace.

Pete spoke about the cruelty he experienced growing up. He was finally able to be himself in college. He was very excited at his first professional job and was doing very well, and then he was outed as gay at work. He received no further training, and his boss no longer spoke with him. Despite good work and a great review, everything was canceled out by his gay identity. He ultimately decided to change jobs and was determined not to again be closeted in the workplace. Going forward, despite his visibility as a gay man he was very successful and ultimately rose to the level of vice president. He made the choice who he was out with. Pete sees diversity in the workplace as a positive. When passed up for a promotion at that first job, he felt he was not valued for who he was as a person. His advice - Be your authentic self. It is not about whether you can do something, but rather, who can stop you? For parents, he said it's important to see your child as their own person, not a repository for your hopes and dreams.

Erica then spoke about her experiences, She is a trans woman and from an early age wanted to play with girls and be a Girl Scout. Growing up, Erica didn't have the clarity to realize what this meant. During her first year in college when she met a transgender female, she realized for the first time who she was. For a long time she was afraid to admit it to herself and also was married. At that time, she was more than ten years into her career as a scientist at Fermi Lab. When she affirmed her identity she lost her marriage, but not her job, friends or family. Fermi Lab was very supportive. She didn't make a declaration at work during her transition. She did talk with whoever asked. Her mother had a hard time adjusting; being a mother of two sons was so central to her identity. Erica reassured her that she indeed was the mother of two sons but now she was the mother of a son and a daughter. Two acquaintances really got it. One, a politician, upon learning immediately said, "I'm so happy for you." He understood it was a moment of celebration. The other, her doctor, was very supportive and understood immediately.

Pete and Erica are working to help Fermi Lab become

to a more supportive organization. The Lab is working on changing forms from the binary choice of M/F. They've changed restrooms to remove the identification as M/F. Erica was a founding member of Spectrum. They got the name from Argonne and occasionally interact with Argonne's group.

There are challenges they're working to change. Participation in groups like Spectrum would be more robust if it was seen as part of their work. Both Pete and Erica would like people at Fermi Lab to be comfortable coming out. Spectrum's goal is to make the Lab visibly welcoming. HRC has a welcoming workplace list, and they'd like Fermi Lab to be included in that list. They are using the HRC survey as a roadmap.

Their final thoughts included these – For a company to become more successful in being affirming and accepting, effort needs to come from different areas – leadership, allies and employees. The first step a tough one. By excluding people you're excluding talent. And, it's the right thing to do.

Our April meeting, which falls on Easter, will feature one of our very own Hinsdale "family". Robin Matthies will talk about the Trevor Project, a very timely topic.

News from PTI McHenry

by Andrew Zanevsky

Our March Zoom call was hosted by Bob Chikos.

We will continue virtual monthly meetings until it is safe to gather in-person.

The chapter leaders will discuss re-opening options. **If you are ready to come to in-person meetings**, please email pflagptimchenry@pflagillinois.org and opendoors@pflagillinois.org and let us know. If possible, please indicate your COVID-19 vaccination status. It's not a requirement of attendance and we don't want to invade your privacy, but if you volunteer this information, it may help other members to make their decision about attendance in-person.

All family members of transgender, non-binary, and gender diverse individuals are welcome to join our next Zoom meeting on Wednesday, **April 28th, at 7-9 pm.** If you are *not* on the PTI McHenry mailing list, please email pflagptimchenry@pflagillinois.org.



News from PFLAG Deerfield

by Jodi

Deerfield held a board meeting after our regular monthly meeting. We were all feeling a bit of “zoom gloom” and felt that with a speaker, we weren’t fully attaining our goal of support, especially for those who were new to the group. While we had a wonderful speaker in February, the time left wasn’t enough to feel that we were meeting the needs of everyone present. Therefore, we chose to change our format a bit for March. We decided to concentrate on support and relationships this month; so instead of a speaker, we just chatted on Zoom.

We split into two groups and although everyone was free to bounce between groups; each group consisted of parents facing similar circumstances. It was a much-needed meeting of support, knowledge, tears, and laughter. It is what PFLAG does best. We ended our meeting the way we used to end it in person: going around and asking each person to use one word to describe how they were feeling after the meeting. For a moment, it felt like we were back to our old selves, in person. We all felt that our March meeting appeared to be a great success! We plan to hold the same kind of meeting for April but also plan to host more speakers in the future. Hopefully, we can all gather in person soon.

Happy Spring everyone!

It was a much-needed meeting of support, knowledge, tears, and laughter. It is what PFLAG does best.

PFLAG Deerfield participated in the Trans Youth and Family

Summit

by Sue Ginsburg

PFLAG Deerfield was asked to take part in Youth Services annual Trans Youth and Family Summit, which took place on February 28.

We held a one-hour PFLAG chapter meeting, the difference being that all present were parents of transgender youth. It was the first time many had ever heard of PFLAG, but everyone was eager to tell their stories and connect with those who had similar experiences. Many were on different parts of their journey to helping and supporting their children, but it was a great hour of learning, laughing and support!

Some of the other sessions that were held were: Trans Youth and Young Adult Panel (Grade 6 thru adult); Understanding and exploring gender

Grade 6 thru Adult); Medical care for trans and non-binary youth (Adult only); Education and Community Advocacy for Families (Grade 9 thru adult); Navigating Mental Health System (Adults only); Legal Rights of Trans Youth (Grade 9 through Adult); Community Building Activities.

As you can see there was something for everyone. We’ll look forward to next year’s program and hope we can participate in 2022!

A complete list of the program that day can be found at <https://bit.ly/tyfs21Program>

If you are interested in the programs at Youth Services, contact Lizzy Appleby, LCSW, Youth program manager, 847-724-2620 x121 Office

lizzy.appleby@ysgn.org

www.ysgn.org



News from PFLAG DuPage

by Kristin & Margaret

PFLAG DuPage continues to meet on Zoom on the third Sunday of the month. Our March attendance was a bit over 30 people. Though we prefer to meet in person we were able to have attendees from Arizona and Kansas, so Zoom has its perks.

Peter Thaddeus from Thaddeus Art was our speaker this month. He talked with us about his career as an artist as well as his work with Youth Outlook. Peter was able to speak with us from his home studio; rotating his work in the background as he told his story. His works are spectacular, bold colorful and with a special pride message. Highlights of his talk included a sharing of his earlier works and a discussion of how his style evolved. There was much interest from PFLAG meeting attendees and a lively question and answer period. Zoom presenters have really raised their game over the past year! If you would like to view his paintings which celebrate the LGBTQ+ community, follow him on Instagram @thaddeus_art. Hopefully, post pandemic you can catch his work at a Chicagoland art fair.

Peter was a participant in the Youth Outlook program in high school and enjoys being on staff currently as an adult leader. Occasional art projects are one of the bonuses for the youth in groups led by Peter! Since Peter went to a Naperville High School almost 20 years ago, he was asked what it was like before the progress that has been made to date. He commented that according to what his current students tell him, things have not changed much. It appears we at PFLAG have much work to do still!

<https://www.thaddeusart.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/peterthaddeusart>

News from PFLAG McHenry

by Toni Weaver

The March focus was on pronoun usage and why pronouns matter. Our speaker, **Dear Aunaetrakul** from Northeastern Illinois University, shared with us these two websites:

- <https://www.mypronouns.org/>
- https://nonbinary.wiki/wiki/Gender_neutral_language_in_English

All of the contact information for Dear as well as my essay on the importance of getting pronouns right was published in last month's Open Doors, so I won't repeat it here.

Now on to matters that weigh heavily on my heart. In mid-March the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (CDF) issued a response to a dubium, a question, put to them by a group of German bishops. (By way of explanation, this papal congregation is a department of the Roman Curia that oversees matters of faith and doctrine. If the pope were to have a cabinet, the head of these various congregations would be cabinet members. In the Middle Ages the CDF was known as the Inquisition.)

The question reads like this: Does the Church have the power to give the blessing to unions of persons of the same sex? The response: Negative.

This was not unexpected since nothing in Roman Catholic doctrine has formally changed. However, the current pope, Francis, has been very low key about people with a same-sex orientation which is why one phrase in the explanatory note that accompanied the response caught us all off guard, rubbing salt into an already festering wound: "But he (God) does not and cannot bless sin."

Maryknoll Father Joe Veneroso will be joining us at our April 13, 7PM, PFLAG Zoom meeting to discuss what might be behind the question and whether or not Pope Francis had even read the explanatory note where this disturbing phrase was found. Fr. Joe is a marvelous ally to the LGBTQ+ community and to us who love them.

Why should non-Catholics join the discussion? The actions of the pope have widespread consequences since many look up to him as a leader and person of faith. People listen to other major faith leaders and take their voices into account when forming their consciences on any given issue. The Roman Catholic Pontiff carries weight and influence. That's why it matters!

WE INVITE ALL TO JOIN US ON APRIL 13TH TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS CONVERSATION. If you're interested in attending, please email me, and I'll send you the link. twweaver@earthlink.net



News from PTI Chicago

by Christine Peters

PTI Chicago hosted a special presentation on Gender-Affirming Sex Ed for Parents provided by the Sexuality Education Program at Lurie Children's Hospital during our monthly meeting on Thursday, 3/11/2021. 22 people attended via Zoom including several first-time participants. We are always glad to welcome newcomers, long-time members, as well as folks from McHenry PTI and North Shore PTI.

The three presenters from Lurie's encouraged parents to have ongoing conversations with their transgender, non-binary, and gender-nonconforming youth about sex and sexual health. Participants watched several #NeverFearTalks videos that demonstrated how to engage with youth in a gender-affirming way. Topics included consent, communication regarding gender dysphoria, and information on anal sex, STIs, HIV & PrEP, and sex toy use and maintenance.

We offer special thanks to Molly Malone, our Vice President of Programming and Treasurer, for arranging such an informative and important presentation. Below are some of the many resources Lurie's shared with us.

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/>

- General Good Resources
 - Early 2 bed/ FTM Essentials
 - Scarleteen
 - Planned Parenthood
 - In Power: Howard Brown's Sexual Violence Response Program
 - Juno4me Sex, etc.
 - Teen Vogue- How to Have Sex if You're Queer
 - Healthline- LGBTQIA Safer Sex Guide
- For Trans People by Trans people
 - Them.us
 - Trans youth sexual health booklet
 - Healthy Bodies, Safer Sex

Our next Zoom meeting will be on **Thursday, April 8, 2021 from 7 pm - 9 pm**. Members will receive an e-mail the weekend before the meeting with the Zoom link and password to enter the meeting. Parent/s, guardians, 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

The image shows a Zoom meeting interface. On the left, a presentation slide titled "Tips for the Talks!" is displayed. The slide includes the logo of Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago and a rainbow flag icon. The slide lists three tips:

- ✓ **Model Consent & Be direct about any safety concerns;** avoid shame/judgment, explore harm reduction, keep lines of communication open. **Affirm boundaries.**
- ✓ **Maintain privacy** (including in mandated reporter situations). **Privacy vs. Secrecy.** Think carefully about who needs to know what for safety/ be transparent with child about who is being included.
- ✓ We don't learn math once, we need **practice**, the same applies to sexuality education topics!

On the right side of the Zoom window, there is a grid of four video thumbnails. The top thumbnail shows a man in a green shirt. The second thumbnail shows a woman with red hair. The third thumbnail shows a woman with long dark hair, with the name "Michelle Vallet (sh..." visible below it. The bottom thumbnail shows a man with glasses.

SHOW UP
SPEAK UP

EQUALITY
ILLINOIS



VIRTUAL LGBTQ ADVOCACY DAY
WEDNESDAY MAY 12, 2021

Register for the 2021 Virtual LGBTQ Advocacy Day TODAY!

<https://secure.everyaction.com/iClM4h8Lbke5-PHaSpWdFQ2>

In January, HRC Foundation's Parents for Transgender Equality Council released two new **resources on supporting transgender and gender non-conforming youth**. These resources provide information for parents on supporting gender non-conforming youth as well as guiding tips for parents navigating their child's gender transitions in school.

- [Supporting Your Young Gender Non-Conforming Child](#)
- [A Parent's Quick Guide for In-School Transitions: Empowering Families and Schools to Support Transgender and Non-Binary Students](#)



Del LaGrace Volcano

"I believe in crossing the line. Not just once, but as many times as it takes to build a bridge we can all cross together."

--Del LaGrace Volcano



Self Portrait With a BlueBeard, London 1995
Del LaGrace Volcano

Del LaGrace Volcano is a genderqueer photographer, artist, performer, and activist originally from California who lives in Sweden and is famous for their depiction of queer, trans, and intersex people. With their gracious permission, Open Doors presents their works and answers to interview questions.

- Visit the artist's web site www.dellagracevolcano.se to see more of their beautiful and powerful photography.
- An exclusive virtual art show and auction of selected works by Del LaGrace Volcano is on display through April 2021 at Center on Halsted. Email events@centeronhalsted.org to book your private showing.
- Register for a [virtual art show talk back](#) scheduled for 5:30 PM on April 1st.
- Participate in the [virtual art auction](#). This is a short-time opportunity to acquire Volcano's works in the US.
- IG: [@dellagracevolcano](#)
- FB: facebook.com/Del-LaGrace-Volcano

The image INTIMATE INVERTS on the cover of this Open Doors issue features Zack and Lola Flash (an amazing African American queer photographer). You may notice that it is credited to Della Grace. The artist has explained that they choose to use the name they went by at the time they made the photo. They used the name Della Grace when they created the image on the cover. Now they go by Del LaGrace Volcano and in some photos they signed DELLA DISGRACE. They said: *"It's basically about embracing all that I have been and all that I can be."*

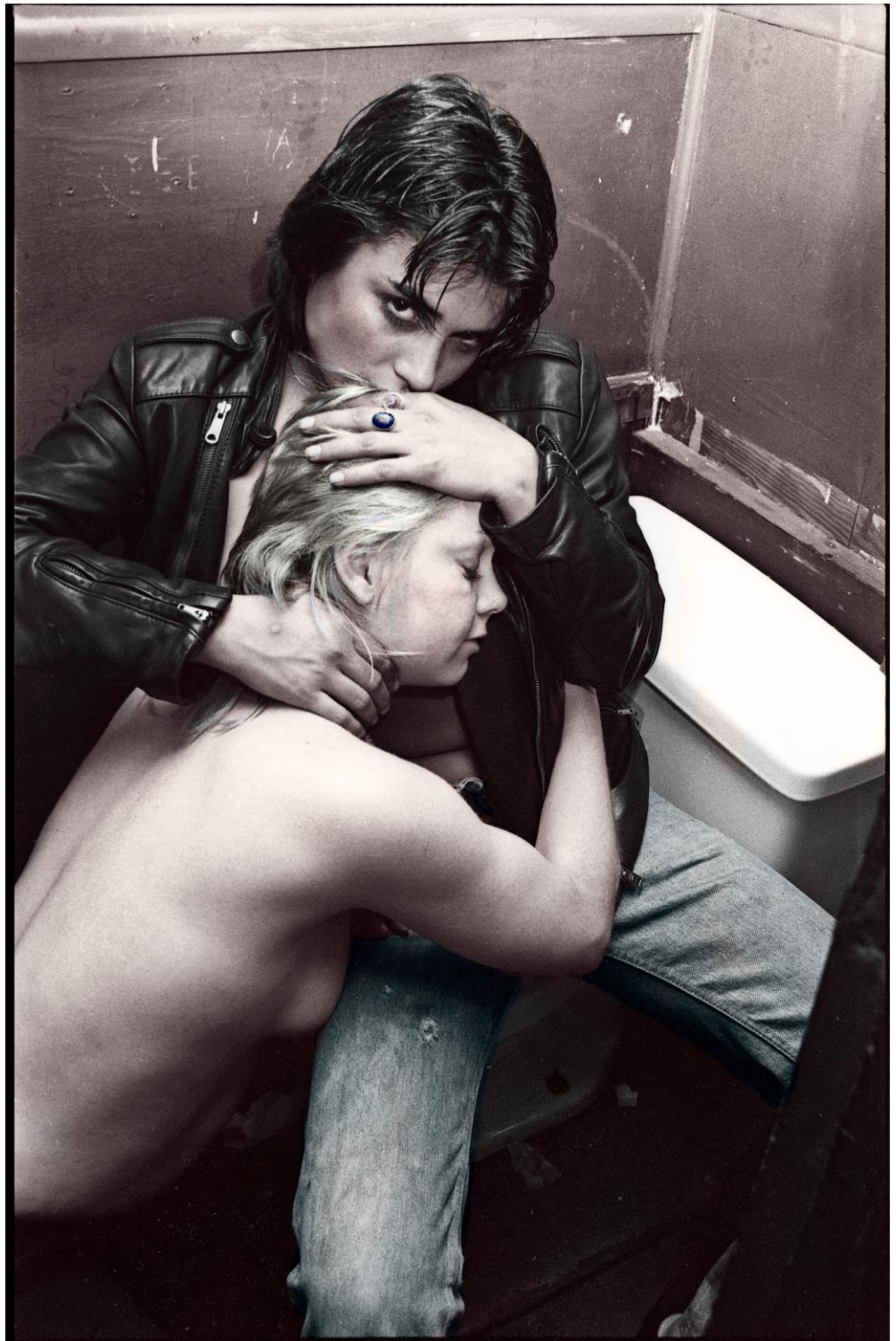
INTERVIEW →



INTERVIEW

Open Doors: “Crossing the line” and breaking the status quo has been your signature in art and personal life. As the society becomes better informed and “the line” moves towards fuller acceptance of LGBTQIA+ people, how does it impact your work?

Del LaGrace Volcano: Is it strange to quote oneself? If so, then I will own that I AM strange. I write, “I believe in crossing the line, not just once, but as many times as it takes for us to build a bridge we can all cross together.” Here’s the thing. I live in Sweden and I am white, sporadically educated and have access to what I will call ‘polite society’ for lack of a better term that others simply do not. You are right to point out that challenging the status quo is something I do in both art and life and part of the reason is not only because I CAN but because I am compelled to use my voice, heart and mind to make the world a place I can bear to live in. While there has been some progress in terms of acceptance towards LGBTQIA+ people, it is not linear progress and the lines are twisted, tangled and bent. I live in Sweden and being queer/non-binary/intersex and/or visibly non-conforming is relatively easy-for me and for my two young gender non-conforming children. But until this is the case for us all I will always have work to make.



Scott’s Bar: Charmaine & Velinda, San Francisco 1981

“While there has been some progress in terms of acceptance towards LGBTQIA+ people, it is not linear progress and the lines are twisted, tangled and bent.”

Q: Your whole life you've been challenging the cultural "establishment", perceptions and "norms". Today, you are famous and established as an artist. Do you feel like a part of the modern "establishment"?

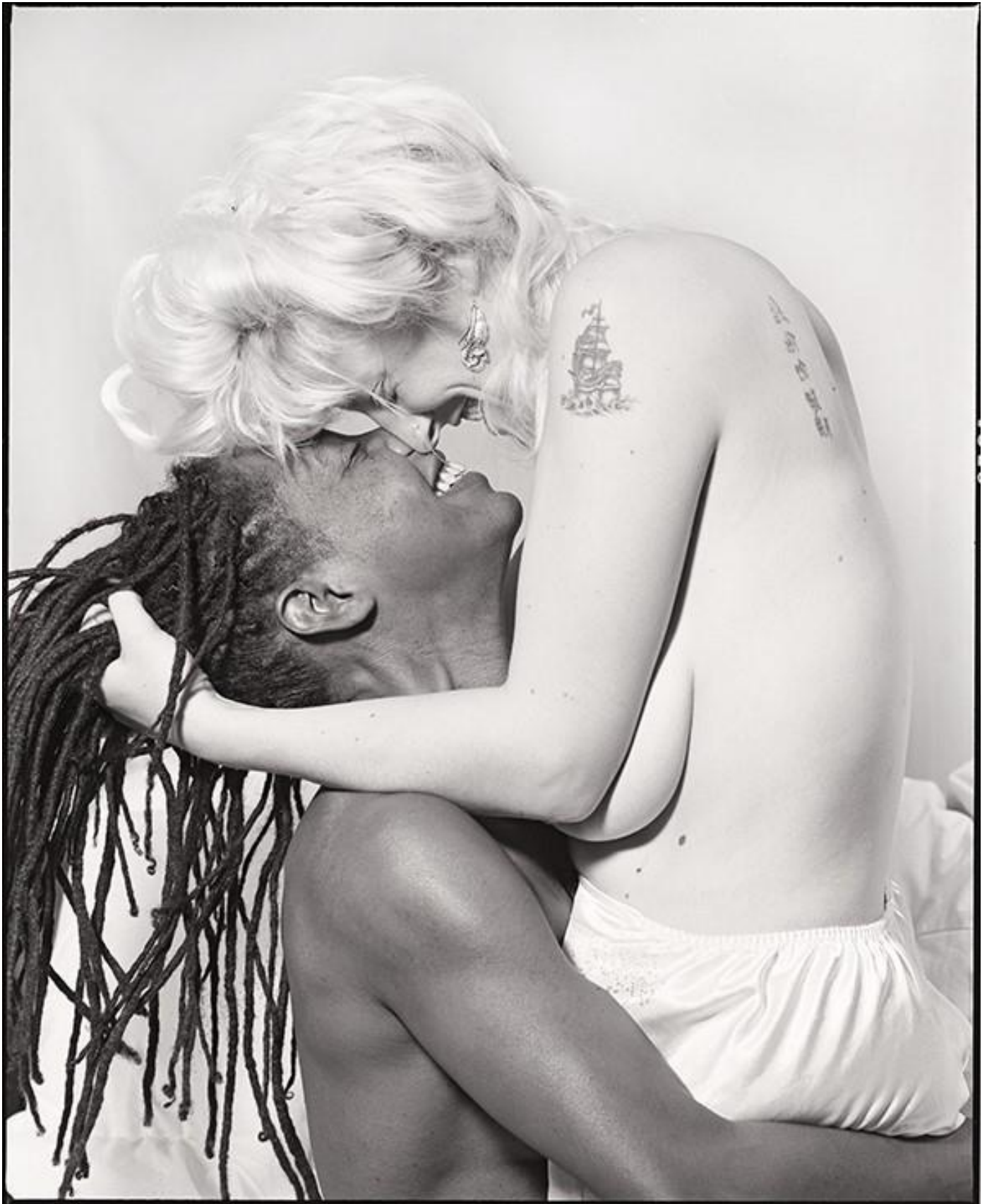
A: The short answer to your question is NO. AM I famous and established? Doesn't feel like this to me. It wasn't until the end of 2019 that I received any funding from an art's board. For more than 40 years I have made work with ancient equipment, literally by hook or by crook. Sure, my work gets published and I get paid but my actual living conditions are only slightly above the poverty line. I am frugal and not a consumer.

Through necessity I know how to live without a financial safety net and am a non-paying member of the precariat. The high art world has mostly ignored me, though they do come sniffing around once in a while or I get to be part of large group exhibitions on queer art where art writers write about artists who are considered 'blue chip'. I also live in Middle Sweden in a small city which is about as far from the queer centre of the universe as you can get. Once in a while I make an effort to engage with the art establishment but I don't have the personality to play their game-and maybe I am just a bit too...radically anti-capitalist and art elite?



The Ceremony: Robyn & Peri
London 1988





Isling & Jo, London 1992



Q: Proliferation of smartphones and technological advances in their cameras and photo-enhancing software has turned everyone into an amateur photographer. How does it impact professional photographers? What equipment do you use in your work?

A: I use whatever equipment is best for the occasion. That said I was not trained in digital technologies and so am entirely self-taught. I do have and use a Nikon digital SLR and an iPhone 12max Pro. My preferred camera is my old medium format camera a Mamiya RB67 and a Polaroid back. My preferred film is no longer produced and can only be found on eBay sometimes. It is always long past it's expiry date, unpredictable and precarious. It is a black and white positive/negative fine-grained film with an ASA of 50 or less. The big advantage is that one does not need a darkroom to process it. I also use a variety of roll films. My dream would be to have my own darkroom again and be able to make my own black and white papers and experiment with alternative photographic processes.

← *Robyn: Cold Store Romance, London 1989*

“Celebrity and fame are symptoms of cultural malaise in my opinion.”

Q: How soon do you think will the society fully accept that gender identity and sexual orientation are spectrums or fluid and normalize it legally and in everyday life? When will it stop being something to discuss, be concerned about, and fight for?

A: I have two young children who are both valued members of their social group. It's not an issue in their school environment that they have two gender queer trans-masculine parents. They correct their classmates who assume I am their father and try to explain what a MaPa is. We live in a binary heteronormative world but in our small Swedish city we do have a much easier time of it than most other places. We do a lot of media interventions because most of what you read and see is all doom and gloom. We show what life can and should be like for all kids who are gender non-conforming. NO BIG DEAL.

Q: What inspires you?

A: I was just part of a conference called MOVING TRANS HISTORY FORWARD and watched a youth panel yesterday that was very inspiring. There were kids on it from 11-18 and what I found most inspiring was the way in which they connected their neuro-diversity with their trans and non-binary identities. I was struck, again, by how lucky my co-parent and I are to live in a place where our children, particularly our 9 year old, are celebrated and respected not despite their difference but sometimes because of it. It is not always 100% problem free of course. When Mika's classmates want to play games and suggest dividing up into girls against the boys Mika feels sad and stays on the sidelines. I was proud that Mika felt strong enough to approach the teacher themselves to talk about it.

One of the things that really struck me about the panel I watched is that there are significant differences in how the subject is approached in Sweden vs the USA and Canada, as well as significant differences in the kinds of support



Linnea, Eila and Mika, Camp it Up Camp Out, Sweden 2018

“I have two young children ... they correct their classmates who assume I am their father and try to explain what a MaPa is.”

“I am compelled to use my voice, heart and mind to make the world a place I can bear to live in.”

available from the educational systems. There is also a presumption that non-binary and trans kids have the same issues and suffer from gender dysphoria. My firsthand experience from being part of Mika's process tells me that Mika understands that the problem is with the binary gender system and not with them. I have never seen any signs of dysphoria and Mika has never 'come out' as such because they have never identified as anything other than non-binary

Tusse, a young asylum seeker from the Congo who came to Sweden when they were 8 years old, has recently won The Melody Festival song contest and will represent Sweden at the Eurovision contest. Half of the points awarded come from other European countries and in most Tusse was also the winner there. Tusse is visually non-binary and the song VOICES is stunning. It's on You Tube and is an inspiration. Role models like this are important.



Nico, MaPa and Mika

From **MOJ OF THE ANTARCTIC**

A one woman show based on the true life story of Ellen Craft, a slave in 1840s Georgia who escaped by passing as both white and a man-produced, directed and starring Mojisola Adebayo

Antarctic Peninsula
2005

Photo: Del LaGrace Volcano



Mojisola Adebayo and the Relics of Slavery
Deception Island, Antarctica 2005



Q: Did you have role models when you started your career as an artist?

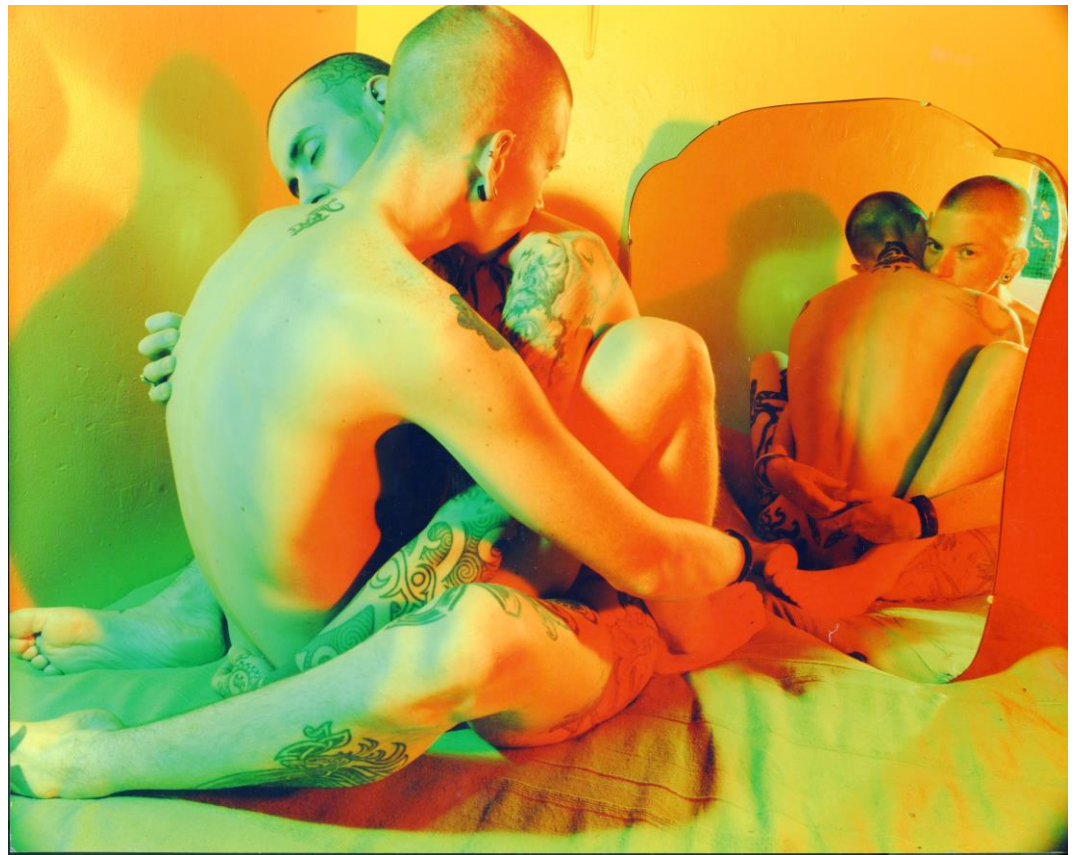
A: I couldn't say that I had role models, no. I was always interested in photographers who had come before me. JEB (Joan E Biren) was the first lesbian to have a book of lesbian photographs published in the USA that I know of and she was quite supportive of my work in the early 80s. I was blown away by the French surrealist, self portrait anti-fascist lesbian photographer Claude Cahun when I discovered her work in the early 90s. I studied the work of many famous women photographers and a few men too.

Q: What advice would you give to creative young LGBTQIA+ people? Should they tie their art to gender and sexual identity?

A: I am not into telling anyone what they SHOULD do. We all have different objectives and reasons for making work. Some people want to be famous just to be famous or to be rich AND famous. Celebrity and fame are symptoms of cultural malaise in my opinion. I want my star to shine and I want to be one of many stars in the sky... I have always trusted in my instincts and followed my heart. I make work that means something to me and that creates a space for those who are marginalised by the heteronormative status quo. I realise I may not get the kind of (economic) recognition I feel



*Bitte Andersson & Andy Candy, Queers on a Bike, Stockholm 2005
(Bitte Andersson is the director of DYKE HARD, a cult classic and Andy Candy is a well known Trans-Activist in Stockholm, Sweden)*



Shape Shifters: Harry & Simon, London 2000

I need and deserve but I have been able to get my work out there and I feel that it has made a positive difference in the world. That might just have to be enough.

Q: What are you working on now?

A: I have two main projects right now and a couple of ongoing long-term projects. There is GENDER OPTIONAL: PROFILES OF COURAGE which is a portrait series located in Sweden that is about the stories the subjects tell me about how they move in the world resisting obligatory gender norms. The other is waiting for a covid free world. It's called BYGGA BROAR/BUILDING BRIDGES and looks at residential racial segregation in Sweden. I will continue to catalog and digitise my archive of films, photographs, negatives and prints from my 40+ years of queer cultural production and add to VISIBLY INTERSEX an ongoing portrait series featuring intersex people from around the world.

My co-presenter, Chris Isperduli and I will be presenting our workshop, GENDER QUEER PARENTING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE at the upcoming Philly Trans Conference [Editor: Philadelphia Trans Wellness Conference is scheduled for July 22-24 – see www.transphl.org for more details].



Zanele Muholi, Stockholm 2008

“I want my star to shine and I want to be one of many stars in the sky.”



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.



 EQUALITY
ILLINOIS

Pride 2021

ILLINOIS' GOT TALENT






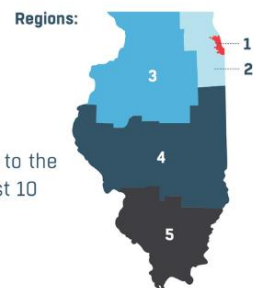
**VIRTUAL OPEN CALL:
LGBTQ+ ILLINOISANS SUBMIT YOUR FAMILY-
FRIENDLY TALENT
BY APRIL 25!**

\$500 GRAND PRIZE!

**Sing · Dance · Dramatic reading ·
Stand-Up · Drag performance ·
Visual art · Poetry reading · Cooking
or mixology class · Magic act ·
Whatever you feel passionate about, as
long as it's family-friendly!**



HOW TO APPLY

-  Submit your video to info@eqil.org.
-  Include your region in the subject line of your submission, or you can't be considered.
-  The first 10 submissions from each region will move to the semi-final round. Any content submitted after the first 10 is appreciated, but can't move on to the semi-finals!



PLEASE NOTE: If you are below the age of 18 years old, you will need permission of a parent or guardian to enter!

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

-  A panel of regional judges will choose ONE finalist to compete in the June 5 final.
-  Attendees of the June 5 virtual finals will vote LIVE for the winner.



Does someone you care about
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IDEA = Innovations in Dementia Empowerment and Action

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UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON





RESOURCE: GENDER AFFIRMING VOICE

Resource "[Finding a Voice: A Guide to Gender Affirming Voice and Communication Training](#)" published by Speech Pathology Master's Programs discusses what gender affirming voice training is and how it can be a valuable tool for transgender people, since the sound of one's voice can affect how someone sees themselves and how they are perceived by others. The resource provides information on what to expect from a voice therapy visit, how to access this type of therapy, and resources for further reading.

Click [HERE](#) to access the resource.

LINKS

- [Gallup: LGBT Identification Rises to 5.6% in Latest U.S. Estimate](#)
- [Wired: The Rise of Unapologetically Erotic LGBTQ+ Games](#)
- [Inverse: 'LAST OF US 2' Reveals Why the Worst Trope In Video Games Needs To Die In 2021](#)



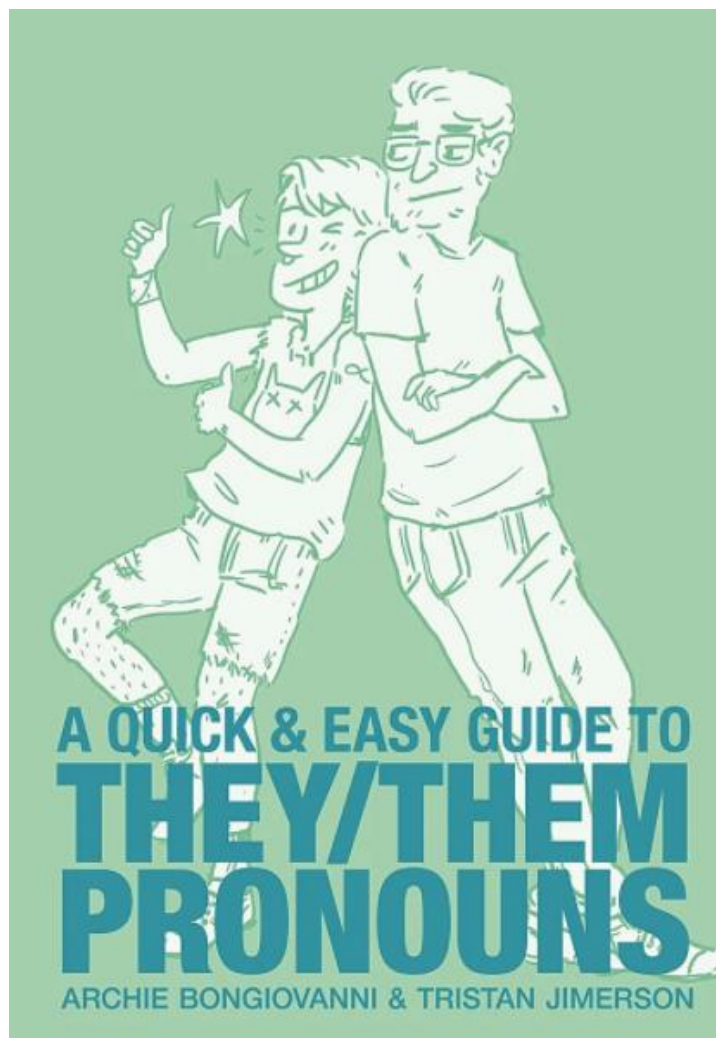
Virtual screening of the short documentary film 'Disappeared: Chicago's Lost Lesbian Bars' by Jacob Pieczynski, followed by a virtual panel discussion about the lesbian bar scene in Chicago in the 1970s and 1980s.

Saturday, April 3 at 1 PM. Register [HERE](#).



BOOK

A Quick and Easy Guide To They/Them Pronouns by Archie Bongiovanni & Tristan Jimerson



Archie, a snarky genderqueer artist, is tired of people not understanding gender neutral pronouns.

Tristan, a cisgender dude, is looking for an easy way to introduce gender neutral pronouns to his increasingly diverse workplace. The longtime best friends team up in this short and fun comic guide that explains what pronouns are, why they matter, and how to use them.

They also include what to do if you make a mistake, and some tips-and-tricks for those who identify outside of the binary to keep themselves safe in this binary-centric world.

Publisher: Limerence Press
Date of Publication: June 13, 2018
ISBN: 978-1620104996



Tuesday, April 6 5:00 - 6:00 pm

Join us for the next **Find Your Center: Program Updates**

What's happening at the Center? See for yourself at our next Find Your Center program updates on Tuesday, April 6th. Learn about our HIV/AIDS & STD Services with Erica Gafford, Dir. of HIV/STD Testing and Prevention.

Virtual Event

[RSVP HERE >](#)



Wednesday, April 28 7 - 9 pm

Am I Man Enough? *Stories on Toxic Masculinity Hosted by Ada Cheng*

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

Virtual Zoom

[RSVP HERE >](#)



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[LEARN MORE 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

