



PFLAG Ann Arbor

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Newsletter, July 2022 Volume 39 Issue 6

WE HAVE A NEW PHONE NUMBER: (734) 265-0094

Leave us a message; we'd love to hear from you



President's message:

Now that Pride Month is mostly over (June is when most of the Pride events take place), we're back to work on building our reorganized PFLAG Ann Arbor Chapter. We're moving banks, and beginning to anticipate fundraising and membership renewals (due by October 1st). We've been listening to participants in our meetings, reading comments at our Facebook page, and taking our lead from those of you who have been calling and emailing us. As an all-volunteer chapter, we depend on you, our readers and followers, to tell us what we're doing right, and what we can do to continue to attract your support and participation. For now, rest up, enjoy the sunny days of summer, and get ready to help pitch in with your support this fall, as we work to become better allies with our fellow LGBTQ+ loved ones. I'll see you at our support meetings, and at Ann Arbor Pride on September 11th.

Kathy Kosobud, President

EVENTS:



(Photo by Jiroe (Matia Rengel) on unsplash.com)

Support Meeting July 21 at 6:30 PM over Zoom

At our July meeting, we will watch and discuss [this episode of Something To Talk About Live](#) with Laura and Jane Noury, whose story was recently featured in the Prime Video docuseries [Always Jane](#) about a transgender teen from rural New Jersey and her family. The episode provides clear and concise advice for parents wondering how to best support their child while navigating the difficult questions that come from family and friends, and speaks powerfully to the need to center your child's happiness while advocating and navigating school, healthcare, and other systems.

We'll be using this as our jumping-off point for a discussion of family and acceptance. The link to Something to Talk About Live includes articles and some other short clips of the lives of other trans and non-binary youth and their families.

To register: email PFLAG.AnnArbor@gmail.com

Virtual meeting via Zoom.



Face-to-Face Support Meeting: First since 2020 held at Ozone House

Thanks to the families who came to our first in-person meeting since the pandemic forced us to come up with creative ways to keep in touch. As a start to our collaboration with Ozone House and PrideZone, PFLAG Ann Arbor hosted its first quarterly in-person meeting. The plan is for these

meetings to coincide with a meeting of PrideZone, the Ozone group for youth and young adults. This way, family members of PrideZone attendees can meet other families and share their experiences and knowledge. We shared information about PFLAG Ann Arbor's recent reorganization and hopes for future growth with three new participants. Our hope is that these face-to-face meetings will allow us to be more personal. Then, when we meet again over Zoom, we'd like to continue the connections we started "in real life" at Ozone House.

Highlights from our discussion included talking about ways to include our young people in experiences where they meet older LGBTQ+ people. Several people at the meeting commented that it helped our family members feel less alone in their journey. They also commented that knowing an "elder" helped them see beyond the uncertainties of "coming out" and the worries about whether they would be okay as they grew into adulthood. We also talked about the positive benefits of participation in events like PRIDE-picnics, parades, galas, etc. These lead to the development of positive identities.

While the PrideZone youth support group is being held downstairs, adult allies, supporters and caregivers are invited to join PFLAG Ann Arbor and Ozone House facilitators for an informal support meeting in the upstairs meeting space. Come prepared to tell us what you need. Contact us at PFLAG.AnnArbor@gmail.com to let us know you're coming. We'll send you details and updates. Light refreshments will be served. **MASKS REQUIRED.**

Ozone House is located at 1600 N. Huron River Drive; Ypsilanti, MI 48197. The building is located in between Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti near the campus of St. Joseph Mercy Hospital and Trinity Health. **Ozone Meetings are scheduled for the 3rd Thursday of March, June, September, and December at 6 p.m.** Ozone House is ADA compliant for accessibility; an elevator is available for those who need it. Note that the starting time is 30 minutes earlier than our Zoom meetings. ***We hope to see you in September!!***

Meetings Continue on Zoom

We're still meeting on Zoom on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30

p.m. (except March, June, September and December) until further notice, but we have started quarterly meetings in person at Ozone House. Due to the pandemic, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church is only allowing parishoners to enter the building on church business. They will be re-evaluating this decision in the fall. Until then we will continue to meet over Zoom. For more personalized conversations, please call our voice number, (734) 265-0094, leave your name, number, and a brief message and we will make sure that you are connected with one of our members for peer support.



If you need a “**Pride fix**” and can’t wait until September for **Ann Arbor Pride**, here are a few things to do:

- **July 16, 1 p.m.** [Women's & LGBTQ+: A March on the UM Diag](#), Contact the organizers for information. Peacefully protest with PRIDE.
- **August 13, 1 p.m. to 10 p.m.** [Lansing Pride](#)
- **September 11, 12-5 p.m.** [Ann Arbor Pride in the Park](#) Contact the organizers ([Jim Toy Center](#)) for vendor, food, donations, sponsorships, or other support; entertainment is being organized by [Jadein Black](#)
- **NOW** [Apply to be on the Steering Committee](#) for [Ypsi Pride](#) 2023. If you are a local 2SLGBTQIA+ (two-spirited, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, queer, intersex, asexual +) person who loves Ypsi, shares their collective values, has program ideas and initiative, and who is ready to step up and help continue the celebration and protection of queer life in the Ypsi community, then please apply!



NON-BINARY AWARENESS WEEK JULY 10-16



Nonbinary flag



Transgender flag

Non-Binary Awareness Week is coming, July 10-16,
with **International Non-Binary People's Day** on July 14th.

Not sure where to start your learning? Here are some good ideas:

- Personal stories:
 - [Personal Stories from Trans Allies | Straight for Equality](#)
- Basics:
 - [Breaking Through the Binary, by Sam Killermann;](#)
 - [Genderbread Person 4.0,](#)
 - [Allyship Beyond the Basics: Personal Pronouns and Why They Matter](#)
- Books
 - [Non-Binary and Genderqueer Characters in YA Fiction \(99 books\)](#)
 - [Picture Books for Gender Non-Conforming Children](#)
 - [Non-Binary \(Genderqueer, Genderfluid, Gender-Unspecified, etc\) Fiction and Memoirs \(276 books\)](#)



Be Safe, Be Aware

There was an incident at Ann Arbor Summerfest where Jadein Black's drag

queen storytime was interrupted by a group of Proud Boys and a megaphone. Here's the story about proposed legislation:
<https://www.facebook.com/chanel.hunter3/videos/1188221438639835>

Here's what [JadeinBlack](#) posted on her facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/jadein.black/videos/1259720574565485>

Safety at in-person events

(loosely adapted from guidance provided by [PFLAG.org](#))

There have been stories in the media of late regarding negative incidents at Pride-related events. Here are some brief tips to keep you and others safe at events which you plan, or plan to participate in as a group:

- Have a written event safety plan including designated points of contact, a backup emergency plan and a list of emergency contact people.
- Details: Consider the physical spaces, including barriers to a safe exit. Be aware of the needs of further marginalized groups:
 - People with disabilities: take note of physical accessibility and of possibly adverse environmental stimuli (noise, crowds, strobes, smoke or scent).
 - Youth: minimize exposure to unsafe situations, protect from unwanted identity exposure (“outing”), ensure parental involvement to the extent that it does not place youth at further risk.
 - BIPOC: engage in safe practice of bystander intervention for people who are being subjected to unwanted attention or harassment.
 - Trans/nonbinary/queer folks: maintain safety from unwanted attention of law enforcement (even if well-intentioned), practice safe bystander intervention for unwanted attention or harassment, protect from “outing” if this places them at risk of loss of livelihood, housing or other access
- Be intentional about a police presence at events. Consider alternatives:
 - No formal or informal security at an event;
 - Have an informal “Parasol Brigade” of unarmed security;
 - Locate uniformed police away from the center of activity (be

- present but not imposing);
- Have police attend in plainclothes, as private citizens, as exhibitors for community connections, and offer Pride buttons to LGBTQ+ officers;
- COVID is still a danger to many, continue to observe guidelines. Consider a COVID safety checklist.

Training and Information on Bystander Intervention:

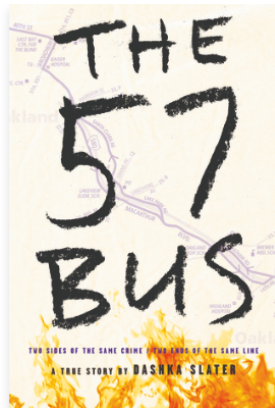
Bystander intervention steps:

<https://righttobe.org/guides/bystander-intervention-training/?fbclid=IwAR17EafK7akoASMMUoMVM4g1Zkk1K4Awxk-aUieAywiJoipWfQ9djbBuaUs>

Bystander intervention children's videos:

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL3wdAcMaXQVqFKg4IKvN3NqTBqz4tsscM>

ON AND AROUND THE MEDIA



BIG GAY READ Ann Arbor District Library's (AADL's) 2nd annual **BIG GAY READ** is coming in July. This year's book selection is [The 57 Bus](#), by Dashka Slater. This is an expansion of Slater's article for the NYTimes Magazine about an encounter that alters the lives of two teens who cross paths as they ride the 57 bus to their respective homes in Oakland, California. The **BGR** events at the AADL are expected to include a book discussion, and other related events and activities. PFLAG Ann Arbor plans

to support this series of events through participation in some of the scheduled activities. More will follow on our Facebook page and on the AADL.org website.

Book Review: Tell Me How to Be by Neel Patel (Flatiron Books, 2021)

In this coming-out, coming-of-age novel, Neel Patel explores the intersectional intricacies of life as a gay, second-generation Indian-American. As he approaches 30, Akash Amin lives a mostly-out life in Los Angeles, supported by his boyfriend while trying to make it as a song-writer. But the walls of the mental closet that originated in his Illinois hometown are slowly suffocating him.

Akash is tormented by memories of the school bullying he endured; plagued by regrets about his first, unrequited love; fearful of being outed to his widowed mom, older brother, and Hindu-American community; and unable to stop the binge-drinking that has become his major coping mechanism. Akash's untenable situation reaches a crisis point when he goes home to his family in Illinois for a commemoration ceremony marking the first anniversary of his father's sudden death. When his mother announces she's selling the house the boys grew up in and moving to London, it feels like all of Akash's problems are served up to him at once on a big, unappetizing platter.

The story is told in alternating chapters by Akash and his mother Renu, whose picture-perfect life turns out to be almost as confused and guilt-ridden as her younger son's. While the family cleans out its house together, Patel skillfully peels back the layers to show us how things got this way. With painful accuracy, the author illuminates how everyone in the family has tried to find a way to be which will meet the others' expectations, only to alienate each other--and stifle themselves--by hiding their true thoughts and feelings. And since being gay is even more unacceptable in traditional Hindu culture than in mainstream modern America, it is Akash

who has paid the highest price in his attempts to survive and fit in.

Tell Me How to Be could be subtitled "How It Gets Better." Dark and depressing at times, it becomes uplifting and joyful as we accompany Akash and Renu to a better resolution. Emptying out the closets of his once-familiar home provides a powerful metaphor for Akash's struggles to discard what isn't working and find a more authentic, satisfying way to live in his own skin and with his family. In this debut novel, Neel Patel paints a complex, realistic, moving depiction of one family's difficult journey from shame and blame to openness and mutual support.

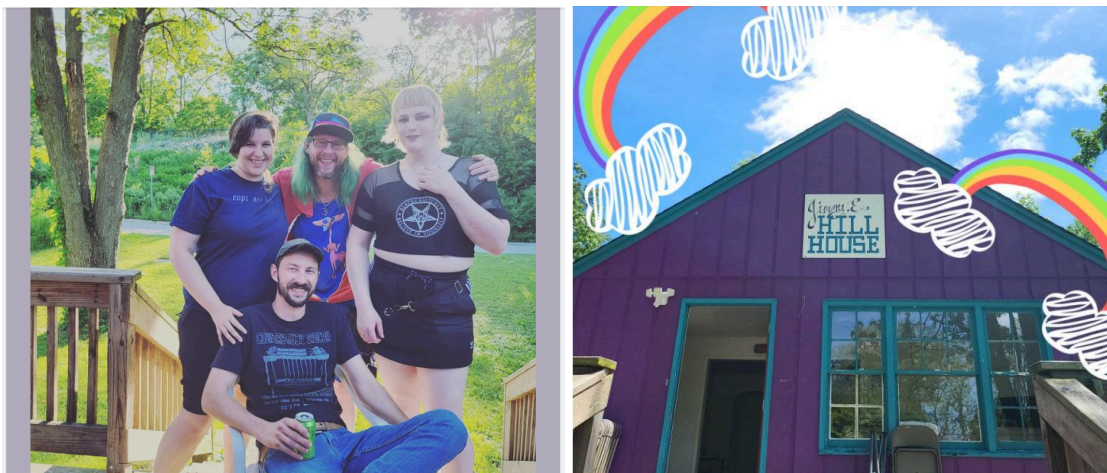
--N. Burks

Read with Love: Read any good books lately? Share your favorite LGBTQ+ picks with others by buying books as gifts, donating to your local libraries (school and public), holding book club discussions of books, sponsoring story hours, etc. PFLAG.org has other suggestions to overcome some of the latest unsupportive legislation around the nation to ban books about "controversial subjects." Read more [here](#).

Local News of Note

LAVENDER PROGRAM PILOTED FOR PEOPLE OF MARGINALIZED GENDER

The [Lavender Program](#) at Purple House (a shelter in Ann Arbor) located at 3501 Stone School Rd, is a pilot project that is a short-term summer program providing emergency housing for people of marginalized gender in Ann Arbor. *That means cis women, trans women and other trans people as well as queer people.* The program currently is able to house up to 7 individuals along with volunteers, though others are able to come during open hours for showers, phone charging, and food. The goal is to attract unhoused people that are generally underserved and people that are at a high risk of sexual violence.



Purple House is owned by [Mission](#) who has approved space for this program this summer, though funding for it is mostly non-existent. Peatmoss Catesbaei, founder of the Lavender Program, is concerned about running out and not being able to support their housemates. Mostly relying on donations from the community along with tangible items included on their [wishlist](#), Peatmoss says that prepared meals are a welcome addition and monetary donations are encouraged and can be sent via Cashapp: \$peatmossss or Venmo: @peatmossss. Volunteers are also needed, to hang out, help clean, cook a meal, etc. You can email Peatmoss at lavenderprogramatpurplehouse@gmail.com



Opportunities to Participate!

Volunteers needed (Channel your creative side!)

- **Program and Host Committee:** Keep it varied, diverse, and relevant for our participants! Plan for speakers, videos, projects, or other content for each monthly Zoom meeting.
- **Facebook curators:** Keep connecting with the rest of the social media world. Make daily posts of local and Chapter events and items of interest. Respond to our readers and get rid of the trash! (We get very

little spam, but it's always a concern). Forward messages to Information and Referral folks.

- **Website maintenance:** Make us beautiful and informative! Help develop content for our website at its new home! Get in touch with us and we'll tell you what we have in mind!
- **Communications, Information, and Referral:** Be the supportive and affirmative voice of PFLAG Ann Arbor. Respond to Voicemail, FB, and email contacts with useful information and a warm heart. Record contacts in Information and Referral (I&R) log for reference or repeat contacts.
- **Newsletter:** CONTENT: Create a summary of Chapter activities and events for the month. Contact other local LGBTQ+ organizations for items of interest to our members. Share links to articles (local, state, and national) and other media (radio, TV, film, podcasts) of interest. DESIGN: Work with templates from Google workspace to create an eye-catching and informative newsletter!
- **Booklists/Filmographies:** Used as a resource for planning future programs, recommend resources to community member inquiries, offer reviews in future newsletters. Add to our spreadsheets list of recommended books and films for different age groups and audiences.
- **Resource lists/links:** Used as reference for inquiries requesting information or referrals. Create or add to our files and sub-folders for therapy, medical care, shelter, food assistance, employment, transportation, clothing, other organizations, etc.

Contact PFLAG.AnnArbor@gmail.com for more information on volunteer opportunities.

Contact our Executive Committee

Reach out to us for information, to volunteer, or to support us with a small donation:

President: Kathy Kosobud (*president AT pflagaa DOT org*)

Secretary: Lisa Borgsdorf (*secretary AT pflagaa DOT org*)

Co-Treasurers: Ellen Urda and Curt Powell (*info AT pflagaa DOT org*)
Member of the Board: Nancy Burks (*info AT pflagaa DOT org*)

Support PFLAG Ann Arbor!

Become a Member

Do you want a say in the plans for our Chapter's future? Join PFLAG Ann Arbor as paying member. Our fiscal year runs from October 1st to September 30th of the next year.

Even better, add a donation to help pay the bills or fund future projects!

Membership Application	Mail To:
(Please Print)	PFLAG Ann Arbor
Name _____	PO Box 7471
Address _____	Ann Arbor MI 48107
City _____ St _____ Zip Code _____	Make checks payable to PFLAG Ann Arbor
E-mail _____	\$ 35.00 Individual _____
Put me on your E-mail Notification System _____	\$ 45.00 Household _____
Telephone Numbers _____	\$ 55.00 Supporting _____
New _____ Renewal _____ Change of Address _____	\$ 105.00 Contributing _____
\$15 of this donation will be sent to PFLAG National	\$ 1000.00 Lifetime _____
	Donation of Support _____

WEB: www.pflagaa.org FB: <https://www.facebook.com/PFLAGannarbor> PH: (734) 265-0094

PFLAG is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and is not affiliated with any religious or political group. All donations are tax-exempt.

