

PFLAG Madison

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Email: pflagmadison@yahoo.com

Website: <http://www.pflag-madison.org>

Meeting Place:

Friends Meeting House, 1704 Roberts Court, Madison, WI

Meeting: 2:00 to 4:00 PM, 3rd Sunday of the month, Sept. to May

National PFLAG Website: <http://www.pflag.org>



Parents, Families, Friends and Allies United with LGBTQ People to move equality forward

Support

Education

Advocacy

President: Lora Schmid-Dolan

President-Elect: Susie Murray

Past President: Jeanne Williams

Treasurer: Susie Murray

Board Members: Joanne Lee, Sandy Feria, Paul Wertsch, Nancy Jones, Ken Jones and Joann Elder

NEXT MEETING - Feb 18, 2018: Susie Murray

The speaker for Feb is James VanAbel from Briarpatch Youth Services & a few of the teenagers involved in Pride Prom planning. They will be talking about their Pride Proms & what has been successful and what & how they are doing planning for this spring...

[\(click here to see the article on James VanAbel in *Our Lives* magazine.\)](#)

January Meeting Summary - Lora Schmid-Dolan

Madison PFLAG Board member and transgender rights activist Joanne Lee shared her personal, heart wrenching story as January's guest speaker.

Joanne disclosed that when her two daughters came out as transgendered males her cultural and religious beliefs would not allow her to accept them in their new identities. Her son Skylar Lee was a well-known local activist for the LGBTQ+ community as well as for social justice, with particular concerns for the school-to-prison pipeline. In September of 2015 Skylar died by suicide after battling depression for many years. Joanne's other son urged her to take up Skylar's fight to help transgender youth be accepted among their families, schools, and communities, in particular among the Korean-American population and the various faith groups. The latter is of particular importance to Joanne and to build understanding between transgender youth and faith communities she organized the first TRANSforming Faith conference held in June of 2017. She is busy organizing for a second conference to be held later this year.

Proud Theater to Hold 3rd Annual LGBTQ+ Intergenerational Conference

This year's Connections conference explores personal and global milestones in the LGBTQ+ community.

Proud Theater, in collaboration with Trinity United Methodist Church, PFLAG-Madison, and the First United Methodist Church of Madison, will hold its Third annual LGBTQ+ intergenerational conference, 'Connections III: Portraits of Us'. The event is open to members and allies of the LGBTQ+ community, and will be held on **Saturday, March 10, 2018, at the First United Methodist Church, 203 Wisconsin Avenue, in Madison, Wisconsin, from 9am to 4:30pm.**

See the entire article as it is on the Proud Theater website [here](#).

Registration for 'Connections III: Portraits of Us' will begin on Monday, January 22, 2018, and registration forms can be requested by sending an email to reservations@proudtheater.org. Space is limited, and a donation between \$5 and \$20 dollars is suggested to attend. Parking is available at the Dayton/Pinckney Ramp across from the church; however, parking at the church is reserved for those with special mobility needs.

Event organizers are also looking for a diversity of volunteers to assist in the development of the conference, as well as to help out on the day of the event. If interested in volunteering or becoming part of the development team, send inquiries to info@proudtheater.org.

In World First Bermuda Repeals Same-sex Marriage Legislation - The Guardian

A bill that would replace same-sex marriage with domestic partnerships in Bermuda has been signed into law by the governor of the British island territory.

Gov. John Rankin says he sought to balance opposition to same-sex marriage on the island while complying with European court rulings that ensure legal protections for same-sex couples. Read the whole story [here](#).

Brian Soper has Died

Brian Soper, long-time PFLAG friend and member, died January 18th. Our sympathy to George Gay and to all of Brian's many friends (Wisconsin State Journal obituary [here](#)).



Call Me By Your Name: A PFLAG Story - The PFLAG Voice: January 2018

For those who haven't heard about it, *Call Me By Your Name* is taking the country--and possibly the Oscars--by storm. The visuals are lush, the love story moving and tender, but most moving of all? The PFLAG parents supporting the story's central character.

See the entire PFLAG Voice article [here](#).

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PLEASE NOTE: If you are viewing the printed version of this newsletter, check the on-line version at <http://www.pflag-madison.org/newsletters/2018/Feb18NL.pdf> to easily follow the links that are mentioned in the news items.

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I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality....

I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.

~Martin Luther King, Jr.