



# NEWS FROM THE MARGINS

UNITY TEMPLE'S LGBTQ+/GENDER & REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE TEAM NEWSLETTER



## SACReD

Spiritual Alliance of Communities  
for Reproductive Dignity

SCAN ME FOR  
PREVIOUS EDITIONS!



*Be informed and be a compassionate resource for those who seek to terminate their pregnancy.*

## ABORTION RIGHTS

Reproductive Justice is centered in community, human rights, and bodily autonomy, and connected to all other justice frameworks. Reproductive Justice centers racial justice and works to disrupt white Christian supremacy and centers gender justice and transgender liberation. When engaging in social justice conversations and actions practice curiosity and a learning mindset. Make space for others and yourself to learn and engage. Bring compassion for yourself and others into your work.

- Call or text the Miscarriage & Abortion Hotline at 1-833-246-2632
- Abortion pills by mail [www.PlanCPills.org](http://www.PlanCPills.org)
- Abortion service providers at [www.abortionfinder.org](http://www.abortionfinder.org)
- National Network of Abortion Funds <https://abortionfunds.org/>
- Faith Aloud <https://www.all-options.org/>
- Abortions Welcome Reproductive Choice: <https://abortionswelcome.org>
- SACReD: Spiritual Alliance of Communities for Reproductive Dignity: <https://www.sacreddignity.org/>

## LGBTQ+

In a Mid December press conference Health Secretary Robert F Kennedy Jr. announced changes to Medicaid and Medicare funding that would effectively ban care for Trans Youth. [Read More](#)

## GENDER

Women work longer and per hour earn a third of what men are paid, in figures that have changed little in 35 years, UN report shows. Earning roughly one third the income per hour worked internationally. [Read More](#)

## REPRODUCTIVE

The Trump Administration has confirmed it is no longer providing abortion care for veterans relying on VA health care even in instances of rape, incest, or to save the health of the pregnant person. [Read More](#)

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

### Monthly LGBTQ+/Gender & Reproductive Leadership Team Meetings:

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month at 7:00pm

January 12<sup>th</sup> & February 9<sup>th</sup>

Zoom Link:



### Families with Gender Diverse Children:

During the school months September through May, this support group for all members of families with gender diverse kids generally meets monthly in Oak Park. Format is informal conversations and connection. This is a family friendly event with nut free snacks and a playroom for children. For details about meetings, contact [familysupport@unitytemple.org](mailto:familysupport@unitytemple.org)

### Have a comment, idea, or suggestion?

Email us at: [LGBTQGenderReproductive@UnityTemple.org](mailto:LGBTQGenderReproductive@UnityTemple.org)

## PROTECTING OUR TRANS YOUTH

Given the attacks on healthcare for our trans congregants, in particular our vulnerable youth population and their access to gender affirming care, it is critical that we live our shared belief in the inherent worth and dignity of all beings. That belief in inherent worth includes being worthy of access to medical care.

### So how can you help?

- **Teach**
  - Fight fiction with **facts**, and challenge ignorance and hate
- **Respect**
  - Don't assume someone's pronouns or gender identity
- **Advocate**
  - Reach out to your elected officials (**find them here!**)
- **Nurture**
  - Don't be dismissive if a child express gender queerness
- **Safeguard**
  - Use your privileges as an adult to protect our youth

## SUPPORTING OUR LGBTQ+ FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS: AN INTRODUCTION TO ALLYSHIP

What do you want to know about LGBTQ+? Come learn about some important history, the evolving use of pronouns, how to be an ally to a gender expansive family member or friend and some of the current social and political perspectives.

Our presenters are from Youth Outlook, a non-profit organization that provides direct services to the LGBTQ+ community, provides education and resources, and creates connections for outreach and advocacy. <https://youth-outlook.org/about-us/>

In lieu of a fee for this program, we ask for a donation of non-perishable foods.

- bottled water
- individually wrapped snacks
- Meat sticks
- Fruit snacks
- Fruit by the Foot
- Chips
- Regular Rice Crispy Treats
- Mac and Cheese Cups
- Cup O'Noodles
- Please do not include any snacks with nuts.

**Wednesday, February 11, 2026**

**1:00 to 3:00 pm**

**Oak Park Public Library**

**Veterans Room**

Hosted by <https://www.arborwestneighbors.org/>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Trans Up Front:

#### Legal Council For health Justice

January 8<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm

<https://www.transupfrontil.com/supportgroups>

### Brown Elephant HIV/STI Screening

5404 N Clark Street; Andersonville

Wednesdays 1-5pm

773-271-9382

### Rainbow Connections

January 15, 7-8:30pm

February 19, 7-8:30pm

Email [rainbow@unitytemple.org](mailto:rainbow@unitytemple.org)

### OPLAGA+ Annual Meeting

January 11, 11am-1pm

Robert's Westside in Forest Park

Open to all members in good standing

### Oak Park Pflag

January 26, 3-5pm

February 23, 3-5pm

Email [pflagoakpark@pflagillinois.org](mailto:pflagoakpark@pflagillinois.org)

### An Introduction to Allyship

February 11<sup>th</sup>, 1pm-3pm

Oak Park Public Library, veterans Room

### Trans Up Front: Express Yourself Art Event

February 22, 1-5pm

[More Details](#)



Family Planning and Associates provides care for those seeking abortions and is overwhelmed serving so many people in need of medical care. Please consider supporting their wish list.



## LGBTQ, GENDER AND REPRODUCTIVE AWARENESS DAYS

### JANUARY

Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month

January 11<sup>th</sup>: Human Trafficking Awareness Day

January 15<sup>th</sup>: Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday

January 16<sup>th</sup>: National Religious Freedom Day

### FEBRUARY

Black History Month

LGBTQ History Month

February 6<sup>th</sup>: International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation

February 12<sup>th</sup>: National Freedom to Marry Day and International Day of Women's Health



## UNITARIAN PERSON OF INTEREST

**Greta Gerwig: A Notable Unitarian Universalist In Film**

Actress, playwright, screenwriter, and director Greta Gerwig grew up in the Unitarian Universalist tradition. She even included a cameo of her home congregation, Unitarian Universalist Society of Sacramento, in her 2013 movie *Frances Ha*. In an interview with UU World Magazine Gerwig said that the character goes home for Christmas, and it seemed natural to include a church scene. Gerwig talked about her faith in the interview by saying “I think religion has always been something that has occupied me as a person, and Unitarianism is the most complete expression of my multiple and, at times, contradictory thoughts about the spiritual life.” She went on to say, “There is a gentleness and equanimity that expresses itself through the church that I think is incredibly rare and should be the cornerstone of any spiritual or religious practice. I love how open the church is, but that it also provides the structure and community of religion. I think I keep returning to a UU church again and again because it resonates with something deep inside of me that feels that all I really know is that I don’t know. Unitarian Universalism is the best place for me to experience the fullness of that sentiment of not knowing.”

Some of Greta Gerwig’s films include: *Greenberg* (2010), *Frances Ha* (2012), for which she earned a Golden Globe nomination, and *Mistress America* (2015). Gerwig made her solo directorial debut with the critically acclaimed comedy-drama film *Lady Bird* (2017), which she also wrote.

<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/gerwig-uu-film-star>

## *New Year's* **RESOLUTIONS** *ideas*

*start a dream journal*  
*prioritize eco-friendly choices*  
*volunteer more*  
*adopt an attitude of gratitude*  
*spend 5 minutes a day cleaning*  
*wake up at the same time every day*  
*develop a skincare routine*  
*live simply, consume less*  
*perfect one recipe*  
*setup a monthly budget*  
*try something new*  
*take breaks more often*  
*practice intentional breathing*  
*ditch one bad habit*  
*create a bedtime routine*  
*make time for self-care*  
*embrace spontaneity*  
*clean out your inbox*  
*complete a no-spend month*  
*start a dream journal*  
*create a more balanced life*  
*do a little act of kindness weekly*  
*reduce your debt*



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