



NEWS FROM THE MARGINS

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

Pride Preview



- **MAY 21 - HEIGHTENED SCRUTINY FILM SCREENING AT O.P> PUBLIC LIBRARY**
 - **OUT WITH PURPOSE AND PFLAG CO-SPONSERED EVENT [REGISTER HERE](#)**
- **MAY 31 - PRIDE IN THE PRESERVES: FLAG RAISING & CELEBRATION**
 - **SUN, 12PM TO 2PM AT TRAILSIDE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY**
- **JUNE 2 - RIVER FOREST PRIDE WALK**
 - **MONDAY 6 PM, RIVER FOREST VILLAGE HALL - 400 PARK AVENUE, RIVER FOREST**
- **JUNE 5 FOREST PARK PRIDE CONSTITUTION COURT**
- **JUNE 7 DAY IN OUR VILLAGE**
 - **MANY LGBTQ+ GROUPS, SCOVILLE PARK 11AM TO 4PM**
- **JUNE 11 THURSDAY NIGHT OUT PRIDE EVENT ON MARION ST.**
 - **OAK PARK'S PRIDE CELEBRATION WITH THURSDAY NIGHT OUT**
- **JUNE 27 BERWYN PRIDE WALK IN DEPOT DISTRICT**
 - **12 TO 2PM START: HARLEM & WINDSOR - END: WINDSOR & EAST AVE**
- **JUNE 28 CHICAGO PRIDE PARADE**
 - **11 AM MORE DETAILS AT [PRIDECHICAGO.ORG](https://pridechicago.org)**

SCAN ME FOR
PREVIOUS EDITIONS!



PDF WITH CLICKABLE LINKS

Pride Preview Edition!

"A TINY REVOLUTION" A SHORT DOCUMENTARY BY ASHA DAHYA

She designed a test. They called it a threat. In 1967, 25 year old designer Meg Crane defied a system and invented the first home pregnancy test. Push back was intense, including the belief that women couldn't follow instructions! At a time when a small plastic device could change your life - or ignite a culture war - A Tiny Revolution tells the story of how she challenged the patriarchy and the medical establishment with a single, radical idea: trust women

Watch the trailer here <https://www.ashadahya.com/film-tv-media-projects> as well as trailers for other documentary shorts by Asha Dahya on important topics like abortion, banned books, and one person's story about autism.



LGBTQ+

On May 21, 2026, LGBTQ+ Illinoisans and our allies will come together in Springfield to advance LGBTQ+ equality. We are excited that you can join us! Please take a moment to complete the registration link [Click Here](#)

GENDER NNC

Women and girls represent half of the world's population and, therefore, also half of its potential. Gender equality, is essential to achieve peaceful societies, with full human potential and sustainable development. [Read More](#)

REPRODUCTIVE

The DOJ has fired four U.S. Attorneys who prosecuted anti-abortion extremists for attacking clinics. The FACE Act addressed increased violence against abortion clinics. The DOJ also announced it would no longer enforce the FACE Act. [Read More](#)

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Monthly LGBTQ+/Gender & Reproductive Leadership Team Meetings:

2nd Monday of every month at 7:00pm

March 9th & April 13th

Zoom Link:



THE PRIDE FLAG IS FLYING PROUDLY AGAIN AT STONEWALL

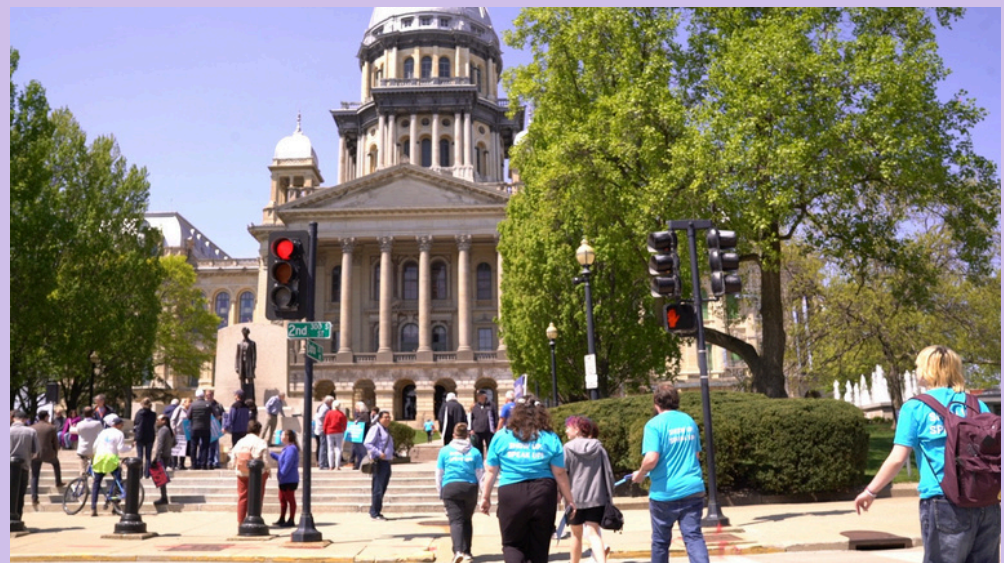
In April the Trump administration agreed to resume flying a rainbow Pride flag on a federal flagpole at the Stonewall National Monument in New York City, reversing course two months after removing the banner from the first national monument commemorating LGBTQ+ history.

The government revealed the decision in court papers as it agreed to settle a lawsuit filed by advocacy and historic preservation groups who had sought to block the Feb. 9 removal. A judge approved the deal.

[Read More](#)



2026 LGBTQ+ ADVOCACY DAY



EQUALITY ILLINOIS' LGBTQ+ ADVOCACY DAY IS ON MAY 21, 2025

in Springfield, Illinois at the State Capitol. At a time when our LGBTQ+ rights are being rolled back all across the country, it is crucial that we double down, and continue the fight for our rights here in Illinois, and let our legislators know that LGBTQ+ voices matter!

See the legislative agenda here: [Agenda](#)

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

Have a comment, idea, or suggestion?

Email us at: LGBTQGenderReproductive@UnityTemple.org

NEW MOMS CELEBRATED BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK

Black Maternal Health Week

(April 11-17, 2026)

Centering Black Mothers. Advancing Equity. Strengthening Families.



New Moms Participant and daughter.

Each year, Black Maternal Health Week, held April 11-17, is a national campaign founded by the **Black Mamas Matter Alliance** to build awareness, amplify lived experiences, and **mobilize action** to improve outcomes for Black mothers and birthing people.

It's a time to listen more closely, **elevate real stories**, and **push for meaningful change** in how care and support are delivered. At its core, this week is about recognizing persistent gaps in maternal health and **lifting up solutions grounded in community, dignity, and care.**

For New Moms, this work is deeply connected to what we do every day. This week offers a chance to reflect and recommit, with a clear understanding of how much the systems surrounding families shape their health and wellbeing.

The Reality in the United States

While there have been slight improvements in overall maternal health outcomes in recent years, the bigger picture has not changed enough, especially when it comes to racial disparities in healthcare.

In 2024, the U.S. maternal mortality rate was 17.9 deaths per 100,000 live births. For Black women, the rate was 44.8, more than three times higher than for white women at 14.2. This pattern is not new. Across years of data and research, Black women have consistently been two to three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes.



Melani and son.



Desiyah and daughter.

These numbers are hard to ignore. They reflect more than individual health conditions. They point to long-standing inequities that continue to shape outcomes.

UPCOMING EVENTS NNC

Brown Elephant HIV/STI Screening

5404 N Clark Street; Andersonville
Wednesdays 1-5pm
773-271-9382

Heightened Scrutiny film screening

May 21, 7pm
Oak Park Public Library Main Branch
Veteran's Room - Register Below



Rainbow Connections

May 21, 7-8:30pm
June 18, 7-8:30pm
Email rainbow@unitytemple.org

A day in Our Village

June 7, 11am - 4pm
<https://www.oak-park.us/Community/Events-and-Activities/A-Day-in-Our-Village>

Juneteenth Flag Raising and Cookout

June 10, 1pm - Flag Raising
June 13, -Cookout
Federal Plaza, Chicago
<https://www.oak-park.us/Community/Events-and-Activities/Juneteenth-Celebration>

LGBTQ, GENDER AND REPRODUCTIVE AWARENESS DAYS

May

- First Sunday In May: Int. Family Equality Day
- May 17: Int. Day Against Homo, Trans, and Biphobia
- May 19: Nat. Asian & Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
- May 22: Harvey Milk Day
- May 24: Pansexual and Panromantic Awareness and Visibility Day

June

- LGBTQ Pride Month
- June 1: LGBTQ Families Day
- June 12: Pulse Remembrance
- June 15: Anniversary of Supreme Court Bostock decision
- June 26: Anniversary of legalizing marriage equality
- June 27: National HIV Testing Day
- June 28: Stonewall Day
- June 30: Queer Youth of Faith Day

UNITARIAN PERSON OF INTEREST NNC



Zr. Alex Kapitan Transgender activist, trainer, and editor who co-founded the Transforming Hearts Collective and is a member of TRUUSt

Alex is a community minister, educator, consultant, and anti-oppression activist. A trans and queer lifelong Unitarian Universalist, Alex has been working for two decades helping people expand their understandings, open their hearts, and practice solidarity across lines of gender, sexuality, race, class, dis/ability, age, and more, along with helping congregations engage in culture shift.

Alex previously worked at the national headquarters of the Unitarian Universalist Association supporting Welcoming Congregation, anti-racism, and social justice programming, and has served on numerous faith-based LGBTQ leadership bodies, including the steering committee of TRUUSt, an organization of trans Unitarian Universalist religious professionals. In addition to Alex's work with the Transforming Hearts Collective, ze has a "word nerd ministry" via the project [Radical Copyeditor](https://www.transformingheartscollective.org/).

<https://www.transformingheartscollective.org/>

JESUS AT THE PARADE BY BOB JANIS-DILLON

Later there were mutterings
at the bar, and throughout the law courts,
that Jesus only showed at the gay pride parade
to love the jewel, but not the quality,
to love the potluck, but not the food,
to love the vessel, but not the wine,
to love the hot rod, but not the driver,
to love the baby, but not the drool,
to love the rock, but not the cathedral,
to love time, but not history.

To which I say:

if you saw him on the float,
his arm cradling the jubilant and the grave,
his head thrown back in ecstasy,
harboring kisses without restraint,
if you had heard the songs
which rose among us to possess
the city's tender hearts in common,
if you had desired as we had,
ached in the body's soul places,
you would not so easily doubt
the divine, particular, gushing joy
that told us we were his own.

