



# NEWS FROM THE MARGINS

LGBTQ+/GENDER & REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE NEWSLETTER



*Pictured left to right are leadership committee members: Terry Kinsey, Jennifer Evans and Charles Mark Maynard.*

## REPRESENTING UNITY TEMPLE AT TRAILSIDE PRIDE EVENT JUNE 21

Unity Temple was well represented at the Trailside PRIDE event. We had plenty of great swag: buttons, stickers, flags, cold water (it was hot y'all), and of course, candy! Ours was the only booth with Skittles, so you could even "taste the rainbow!" Our youngest visitors loved the PRIDE temporary tattoos and flags. Just behind our booth was a turtle enclosure with an intersex turtle, gender diversity galore. This event on June 21<sup>st</sup> was our third PRIDE event this month.

The first was A Day in Our Village on June 1st and the second was the River Forest PRIDE Walk on June 2nd.

But wait, there's more! We will also be at the OPALGA+ family-friendly PRIDE picnic at Taylor Park on July 19 from 11am to 2pm with activities and swag at our booth. Be sure to stop by and say hi! For more photos from this month's PRIDE events, [see page 5](#).

### LGBTQ+

Sidetrack, one of Chicago's largest and most popular gay bars, has applied to open a location at O'Hare Airport. Representation matters, and this would be the first gay bar in a United States airport. [Read More](#)

### GENDER

The SAVE Act (Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act) has passed the House. If passed by the Senate, it could disenfranchise tens of millions of voters, including those who have changed their names. [Read More](#)

### REPRODUCTIVE

In *Medina v. Planned Parenthood* the Supreme Court ruled in a 6-3 opinion that states can block Medicaid money for health services such as contraception and cancer screening. [Read More](#)

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

**Meet Us In-Person Events** (All are welcome): Do you want to get involved with the LGBTQ+, Gender and Reproductive Justice team and just don't know where to start? Or do you just want to know how we ended up with such a long name? Please join us for an informal virtual coffee hour on Zoom Wed July 16<sup>th</sup> at 6PM  
[Click Here to Join](#)

**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).

**Monthly Leadership Committee Meetings:** Next Zoom committee PLANNING MEETINGS are July 8 & August 12 at 4pm. Zoom link: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81436939452?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81436939452?pwd=dHZvZXRsN1hlZkZuR2d1OFp1NzZPd09)  
[pwd=dHZvZXRsN1hlZkZuR2d1OFp1NzZPd09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81436939452?pwd=dHZvZXRsN1hlZkZuR2d1OFp1NzZPd09)

### For more information

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

## THE BECHDEL TEST

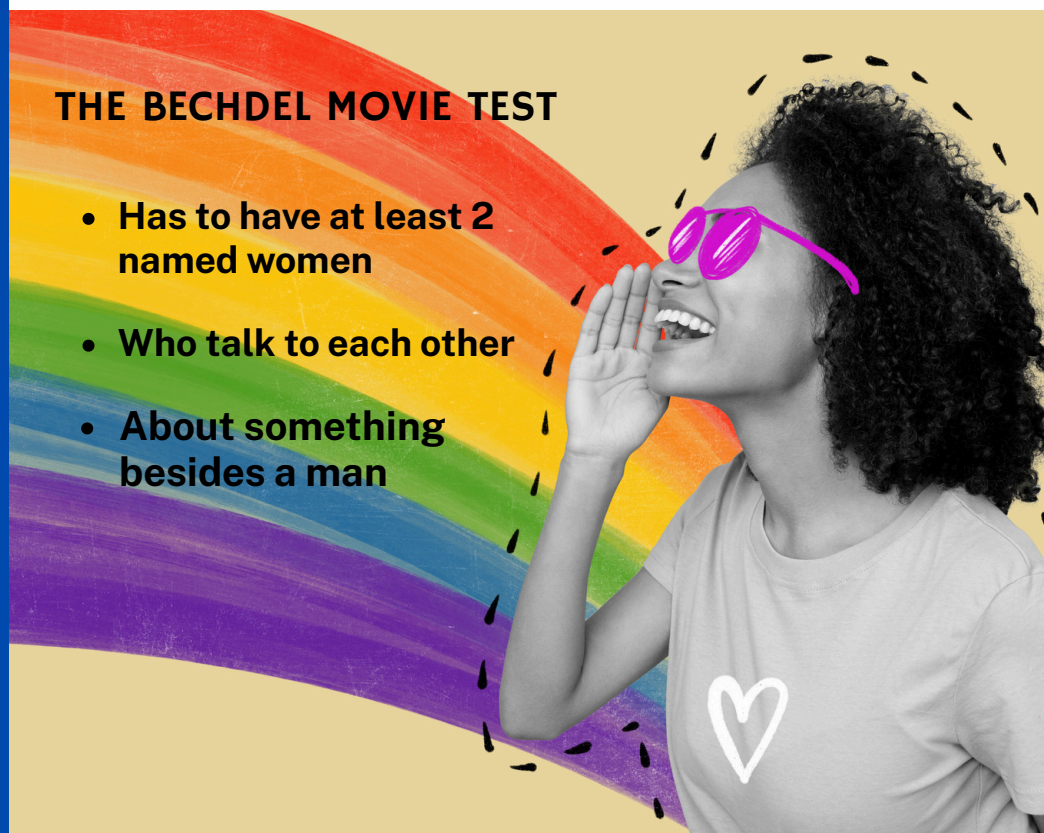
The Bechdel Test, while deceptively simple, has become a powerful tool for raising awareness about the representation of women in film. At its core, the test asks whether a film includes at least two women who talk to each other about something other than a man. Though it sets a low bar, it's striking how many films still fail to meet this basic criterion. By spotlighting this shortcoming, the Bechdel Test pushes to the front the broader issue of how women are often marginalized in storytelling — relegated to side roles, romantic interests, or one-dimensional archetypes that orbit male protagonists.

Using the Bechdel Test as a lens brings visibility to the systemic erasure of women's voices and experiences on screen. It encourages creators and audiences alike to pay attention not just to the presence of women in a film, but to the substance of their characters and interactions. While passing the test doesn't guarantee feminist or fully developed portrayals, it does open a conversation about whose stories are being told and whose are being overlooked. In this way, the Bechdel Test serves as a starting point — not an end — for deepening awareness and advocacy for more authentic, nuanced, and equitable representation of women in film.

Learn more at <https://bechdeltest.com/>

## THE BECHDEL MOVIE TEST

- Has to have at least 2 named women
- Who talk to each other
- About something besides a man



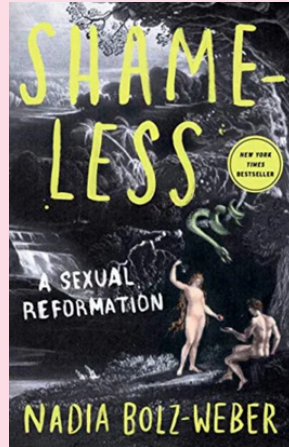




## BOOKS IN THE MARGINS

August 28, 7-8pm

Every other 4th Thursday  
Unity Temple Community Center  
1019 South Blvd  
Shameless: A Sexual Reformation  
by Nadia Bolz-Weber



## PFLAG QUEER CLOTHING SWAP - FREE!

Saturday, Sept. 27, 12-3pm  
First United Church of Oak Park  
Email [pflagoakpark@gmail.com](mailto:pflagoakpark@gmail.com) for info

This social event is where people exchange gently used clothing they no longer want and can choose items brought by others. It's a sustainable way to refresh wardrobes, reduce textile waste, and connect with others. Items will be arranged by size and include pants, tops, dresses, jewelry, and more! Please arrive a little before noon to drop off your donated items for the swap. THIS IS A FREE EVENT FOR ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS! Please help spread the word!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Brown Elephant HIV/STI Screening**  
5404 N Clark Street; Andersonville  
Wednesdays 1-5pm  
773-271-9382

**Rainbow Connections**  
July 17, 7-8:30pm  
Email [rainbow@unitytemple.org](mailto:rainbow@unitytemple.org)

**Oak Park PRIDE Picnic**  
July 19, 11am-2pm  
Taylor Park  
Sponsored by OPALGA+

**Oak Park Pflag**  
July 27, 3-5pm  
848 Lake Street  
Email [pflagoakpark@pflagillinois.org](mailto:pflagoakpark@pflagillinois.org)

**Brown Elephant HIV/STI Screening**  
4th Thursdays, 2-6pm  
217 Harrison Street; Oak Park

**Brown Elephant HIV/STI Screening**  
Wednesdays 1-5pm  
5404 N Clark Street; Andersonville  
Call 708-445-0612

**Rainbow Connections**  
August 21, 7-8:30pm  
Email [rainbow@unitytemple.org](mailto:rainbow@unitytemple.org)

**Oak Park Pflag**  
August 24, 3-5,  
848 Lake Street  
Email [pflagoakpark@pflagillinois.org](mailto:pflagoakpark@pflagillinois.org)

## LGBTQ, GENDER AND REPRODUCTIVE AWARENESS DAYS

### JULY

National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month  
Week of July 14: Nonbinary Awareness Week  
July 14-International Nonbinary People's Day  
July 16-International Drag Day

### AUGUST

National Breastfeeding Month  
National Immunization Month  
August 14-Gay Uncles Day  
August 20-Southern HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

## UNITARIAN PERSON OF INTEREST



Rev. Barbara Pescan. Photo courtesy of Pescan

### Have you ever wondered why Room #3 at 1019 South Boulevard is named after Barbara Pescan?

The Rev. Barbara Pescan earned a Master of Divinity degree from the Thomas Starr King School for the Ministry in 1981. She and her partner, Ann Tyndall, were both ordained as Unitarian Universalist ministers 1982. They searched for work both singly and together as a co-ministry for over two years before Pescan was called for a half-time position in Oak Park, Ill., in 1984. As far as she knows, she was the first out lesbian called by a congregation in the UUA. According to Pescan, “That was a big deal; it has been a big deal for me. It wasn’t that easy to get a church in the 80s even if you were Unitarian Universalist.” She served at Beacon Unitarian Church in Oak Park, Ill from 1984 through 1988. “

Read more in the Windy City Times at:

<https://windycitytimes.com/2011/06/22/lesbian-looks-back-at-life-of-ministry/>

## In-betweenness

By Michelle LeGrave

We — you and I — are in-between right now:

In-between what was and what will be.  
In-between who we were and who we will become.  
In-between letting go and embracing.  
In-between saying hello and saying goodbye.

In-betweenness, it’s a thing.  
In-betweenness is a time of fullness.

A time of anticipation.  
A time of hope.  
A time of worry.  
A time of sadness.

In-betweenness is a time of waiting.

Waiting for news.  
Waiting for departure.  
Waiting for arrival.  
Waiting for death.  
Waiting for life.

In-betweenness is a time of transformation.

A time of reflection.  
A time of action.  
A time of growing.  
A time of becoming.

During this time of in-betweenness, of knowing and not knowing, let us enter into the silence together...

Amen and Blessed Be



UNITY TEMPLE LGBTQ+/GENDER & REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE AT 3 JUNE PRIDE EVENTS



1, 2, 3 – River Forest PRIDE Walk – June 2  
4 – A Day in Our Village June 1  
5, 6, 7 – TrailsidePRIDE June 21