



NEWS FROM THE MARGINS

LGBTQ+/GENDER & REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE NEWSLETTER



3-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE OVER-TURNING OF ROE V. WADE

June 24 marked the third anniversary of Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, the Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade and the constitutional right to abortion. It marked the first time in history that the Supreme Court took away a fundamental right. The Dobbs decision meant the right to abortion would be up to individual states. Currently, 13 states have total abortion bans, with very few exceptions. Twenty-eight additional states ban abortion somewhere between six weeks and "viability," according to a new report from the

Guttmacher Institute and the State Innovation Exchange. In the first six months of this year alone, 14 states have proposed legislation that would criminalize the sale, purchase, or distribution of medication abortion pills. And ten bills were also introduced bills to reclassify medication abortion drugs as controlled substances. Controlled substances are locked up making access difficult in life saving emergency situations. To find abortion care please visit: abortionwelcome.org

LGBTQ+

Ten years after the landmark [decision extending marriage rights to include same-sex couples](#), former Kentucky county clerk Kim Davis is petitioning the Supreme Court to overturn their decision. [Read More](#)

GENDER

[Over 2.8 Million Americans identify as transgender](#)

Roughly 1% of the U.S. population 13 or older identify as transgender. More than 75% of out transgender people are under 35. [Read More](#)

REPRODUCTIVE

[Zurawski V Texas](#)

Women denied abortions under Texas' ambiguous and unforgiving abortion bans band together with a fearless attorney to sue Texas. [Watch Here](#)

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Families with Gender Diverse Children:

During the school months September through May, this support group for all members of families with gender diverse kids meets the first Sunday 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.

Monthly Leadership Committee Meetings:

Want to join the team? Next Zoom committee PLANNING MEETINGS are Sept 6 & Oct 14 at 4pm. [Zoom link](#)

Woman's Connection BBQ:

All UTUUC women (members, friends and visitors) are invited to the annual Women's Barbecue on **Sunday September 7** in Jenny Earlandson's backyard. Come at 2pm for our meeting. We will discuss our annual retreat (February 27–March 1 at the Carmelite Spiritual Center) and other activities. At 3:30pm we will serve food. We provide grillables and some drinks. Please bring an appetizer, side or dessert to share if possible. For more information email: womensconnection@unitytemple.org

Reproductive Justice Spotlight

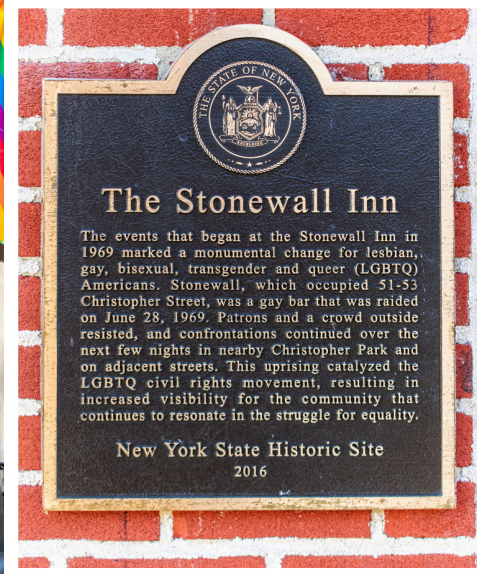
Oct. UTUUC will share the plate with Reproductive Justice, what causes would you like to see supported?

Email us at:

LGBTQGenderReproductive@UnityTemple.org

FIRST THEY CAME FOR THE T, THEN THEY CAME FOR THE B AT THE STONEWALL MONUMENTS

The Federal Government continues its march towards erasing queer folk from the history books. In February 2025 the National Parks Service remove the T from the LGBTQ acronym, erasing the pivotal role of trans women Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera from founding the Pride movement as it exists today. However, that was only the first step in the erasure of queer identities. As recently as May of this year there were still references to bisexual people. “Before the 1960s, almost everything about living openly as a lesbian, gay, bisexual (LGB) person was illegal. The Stonewall Uprising on June 28, 1969 is a milestone in the quest for LGB civil rights and provided momentum for a movement.” That section has now been updated to remove any reference to bisexuals. Only two letters left y’all!

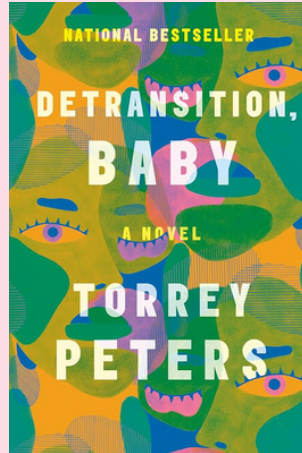




BOOKS IN THE MARGINS

October 23, 7-8pm

Every other 4th Thursday
Unity Temple Community Center
1019 South Blvd
Detransition Baby
by Torrey Peters



SEMI-ANNUAL OPALGA+/ UNITY TEMPLE'S LGBTQ+/GENDER & REPRODUCTIVE TEAM BLOOD DRIVE

Saturday
Sept. 27
12-3pm
Unity Temple
Community Center
1019 South Boulevard
Contact
LGBTQGebderReproductive@unitytempl.org
to volunteer to staff
this event!

SCAN HERE TO SCHEDULE



UPCOMING EVENTS

Brown Elephant HIV/STI Screening

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

LGBTQIA2S+ Playdate for Families with Kids

Sept 14, 10am-Noon
Rehm Park
Sponsored by OPALGA+

Rainbow Connections

Sept 18, 7-8:30pm
Email rainbow@unitytemple.org

Free Queer Clothing Swap

Sat Sept 27, 1-4pm
First United Church of Oak Park
848 Lake Street

Allyship Dialogue and Bystander Training with Dan Hemmer

Sat Sept 28, 3-5pm
Veterans Room,
Oak Park Public Library [RSVP](#)

Learning With Love: The 2025 PFLAG National Convention

Oct 10-12
Chicago – [Register Here](#)

Rainbow Connections

Oct 16, 7-8:30pm
Email rainbow@unitytemple.org

Save the date

UTUUC Women's Connection Annual Retreat
February 27- March 1, 2026

LGBTQ, GENDER AND REPRODUCTIVE AWARENESS DAYS

SEPTEMBER

September 18: National HIV/AIDS Aging Awareness Day
Sept 18: International Equal Pay Day
Week of Sept 23: Bisexual+ Awareness Week, with
Celebrate Bisexuality Day on September 23
Sept 27: National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

OCTOBER

October: LGBTQ History Month
October: Domestic Violence Awareness Month
October 8: International Lesbian Day
October 11: National Coming Out Day
October 26: Intersex Awareness Day

UNITARIAN PERSON OF INTEREST



It's back to school time and back to religious education (RE) for our young people at Unity Temple. We can thank Sophia Lyon Fahs for being a leader in modernizing religious education in Unitarian Universalism Sunday schools.

In the 1930s there was widespread dissatisfaction with Unitarian Sunday school programs and Fah's ideas were seen as a way forward. Starting in 1937, Fahs helped lead a Unitarian religious education revival. For more than 80 years as a professional educator, practical theologian, and author, Fahs strove to create a theology that restored human emotions and human experience to their rightful place as foundational building blocks for an enlightened liberal faith. To learn more, check out these articles:

<https://www.uua.org/lifespan/curricula/movesus/workshop6/282666.shtml>

<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/sophia-lyon-fahs-revolutionary-educator>

Through The Blood

By Busisiwe Mahlangu

At night, I hug my body to sleep
just to feel like it belongs to me.

Body has been dragged through mud
with a million hands grabbing their own pieces.
Body has been talked down into a hole
by a thousand mouths each taking a bite.
Body is exhausted of searching for ways to be
mine.

There are many ways I whisper I love you to it.
Sometimes the whisper is a loud bang of protest.
Other times the whisper is just silence.
In this ugly world,
any whispering Black woman is a danger to herself.

You should swallow the storm.
You should eat the wind.
Any way to lock the voice in your throat.

Somewhere, a law is written against my body.
Here, I give my body all the love I have.
I eat as much fried chips as I can.
I stay up all night watching movies.
I walk into a hospital and terminate a pregnancy
I don't need.

I don't explain to anyone why I did it.
There are only few words to say I did it for life.
I don't explain to anyone why I did it.

There isn't enough time for them to see
that the life I speak of is mine.

That I was alive before the abortion
and I am alive now —
That too is a life blessing.

When the world crumbles with their insults
again,
I whisper to the empty space in my womb,
This is love
This is love
This is love, too.