

TEMPLE EMANUEL'S KULANU COMMITTEE
PRIDE SERVICE RECAP
JUNE 2020



FEATURING:

THE CONFIRMATION CLASS OF
2020'S LGBTQUILT

INTRODUCTION FROM YOUTH
ADVISOR DEVORAH S.

ART/REFLECTIONS FROM TEMPLE
EMANUEL STUDENTS ELI H.,
QUINN S., KAYDEN R. + ACTIVIST
AUTUMN C.

REFLECTIONS FROM GUEST
SPEAKER NICOLLE CAMPA,
PRESIDENT, METRO DC CHAPTER
OF PFLAG

LGBTQuilt

2020 Confirmation Class

Victims

Activists

Closing

Activists

Stonewall
Riots

Harry Hay

Edith
Windsor

Michael
Sam

Ellen
DeGeneres

Alice
Nkom

Aimee
Stephens

Marsha P
Johnson

Laverne
Cox

Dan
Savage

Harvey
Milk

Sylvia
Rivera

Victims



Bailey
Reeves

Leslie
Cheung

Matthew
Shepard

Jordan
Cofer

Ellie Marie
Washtock

Justin
Aaberg

Ashton
O'hara

Mercedes
Williamson

LGBTQUILT

FROM THE CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2020

For their confirmation project, the class of 2020 created an interactive powerpoint called the LGBTQuilt. The LGBTQuilt highlights LGBT Activists who have paved the way for newfound LGBT+ freedoms as well as victims of hate crimes against LGBT+ people.

Shout out to Kayden, Ethan, Marissa, Alison, Maddy, Naomi, and Ben for their fantastic confirmation project!

Check out the LGBTQuilt [here!](#)



REFLECTIONS FROM SHABBAT

WHAT MAKES THIS PRIDE SERVICE DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHERS?

BY YOUTH ADVISOR DEVORAH STAVISKY

SHABBAT SHALOM
I KNOW I'M NOT ALONE
IN MOURNING THE BLACK FOLKS
WHOSE LAST BREATHS
TURNED TO DEATHS
AT THE HANDS OF WHITE SUPREMACY
SEE PRIDE STARTED WITH A
REVOLUTION A REBELLION
FOSTERED BY BLACK TRANS WOMEN
FRIENDS THIS YEAR WE
CELEBRATE PRIDE LIKE HE AND SHE AND THEY
WHO RIOTED WHO FOUGHT THEIR WAY
TO FREEDOM

OUR STUDENTS OUR POSTING
OUR STUDENTS ARE PROTESTING
NOT LEADERS OF TOMORROW
THEY LEAD US TODAY
IN THE FACE OF COLLECTIVE SORROW
THEY SHOW US THE WAY
TO JUSTICE BECAUSE
BLACK LIVES MATTER IS NOT A TREND
IT IS A MOVEMENT FOR AN END
TO RACIST BRUTALITY
A TOTALITY THAT INTERSECTS.

WE CANNOT DISCONNECT
VIOLENCE TOWARDS THE LBGT+ COMMUNITY
FROM VIOLENCE TOWARDS BLACK FOLKS, SEE
OUR CARING COMMUNITY
DOES NOT FACE IMMUNITY
FROM BIGOTRY
OUR YOUTH GROUP IS WELCOMING
A LITTLE WEIRD
SOME STUDENTS MIGHT SAY HELLA QUEER
AS WE SUPPORT IMPORT
THE IMPORTANCE OF EACH KESTY FACE
YET AMIDST OF OUR SAFE SPACE
WE HAVE YET TO EMBRACE
OUR STRUGGLES WITH CONVERSATION ON
RACE

SO AS SOME STUDENTS SHARE
HOW OUR TEMPLE HAS CARED
FOR THEM IN THEIR VULNERABILITY
I COMPEL ALL US TO SEE THE POSSIBILITY
TO BE AS AUDACIOUSLY HOSPITABLE
TOWARDS DIFFERENCES NOT JUST
IN GENDER AND SEXUALITY
BUT ALSO IN RACE AND ETHNICITY

BECAUSE YES, OUR STUDENTS CARE ABOUT GAY RIGHTS
GAY MARRIAGE IS NOW LEGAL
WHICH WAS A HARD FIGHT
BUT TRANS PEOPLE ARE STILL BEING MURDERED
AND OUR TEENS ALSO CARE ABOUT QUEER JUSTICE,
QUEER LIBERATION
FOR WHEN WE NO LONGER POUR LIBATIONS
FOR NINA POP
AND REM'MIE FELL'S
AND LAYLEEN POLANCO
AND TONY MCDADE
WHO MUST ALSO BE REMEMBERED EVERY DAY

BECAUSE I AM NOT FREE AND YOU ARE NOT FREE
AND THEY ARE NOT FREE AND WE ARE NOT FREE
UNTIL ALL OF US ARE FREE
UNTIL OUR BLACK SIBLINGS AND BROTHERS
AND SISTERS AND
NOT JUST CIS-TERS BY WHICH I MEAN C-I-S-TERS
I MEAN CIS AS IN NOT TRANS-STERS, SISTERS WITH
BODIES LIKE ME

WE WILL NOT HAVE JUSTICE UNTIL SIBLINGS OF ALL
BODIES AND COLORS ARE FREE

ALL THIS SAID OUR STUDENTS EMBODY
OUR VALUE OF TIKKUN OLAM
OF REPAIRING THE WORLD
AND BY THE END OF TONIGHT
YOU WILL HAVE ALL HEARD
THEIR HONEST REFLECTIONS AND TESTIMONIES

PLEASE LISTEN TO THEIR TRUTHS WITH AN OPEN HEART.
AND WITHOUT FURTHER ADO, IT'S TIME TO START!



GAY RIGHTS!

ARTWORK BY ELI HERMAN

The goals of the gay rights movement are to give LGBTQ+ people basic rights such as the right to get married.

There were protests upon protests, but the most well known one is the Stonewall

Riots in 1969

In 2015 we were given the right to get married in the united states. It was a big accomplishment even though it took nearly 50 years for this change.

As a member of the LGBTQ+ community I love everything we have accomplished over the years and I hope that in the future we can stomp out homophobia once and for all.

Eei



ON TEMPLE EMANUEL AND INTERSECTIONALITY

BY QUINN SPENCE

Shabbat Shalom, and happy pride! My name is Quinn Spence, I'm a rising senior in high school, and I use they/them pronouns.

When I was 12, the first person I came out to as nonbinary (which means I don't identify as male or female) was a friend from my youth group. She had figured it out on her own, and when I told her, she was nothing but supportive, and promised me that KESTY would always be a safe place for me.

Upper school and KESTY were some of the first places I started socially transitioning, using a new name and different pronouns. I never felt like I was a freak or doing anything wrong, and when I came to temple after days full of misgendering at school, where I remained in the closet for several years after initially coming out to close friends and family, temple was the place I felt most myself.

I know that it took a long time for us to get to the level of acceptance we have now, and I am so grateful for all of the people who fought to make the temple a safe place for people like me to explore our identities. Because of the people who had the first difficult conversations about LGBTQ inclusion, I am now able to be the openly queer figure that I always wanted to be for young gay kids. Because of the welcoming community we have, I am able to work with young children who are able to gain an understanding of what being queer is without it being stigmatized.

One of the most touching moments I've experienced was with one of the first graders I worked with. One day she turned to me and asked "are you one of those people who's half boy and half girl?" not having the word nonbinary in her vocabulary but understanding what it meant, and seeing it in me. I said "yes, I am" and she hugged me and said "that's cool. People think I'm like that, but I'm just a girl who likes to have short hair."



Her understanding and acceptance of gender nonconformity astonished me. When I was 7, I had no concept of anything but a rigid binary, and I was moved to see the difference 10 years makes in how kids are understanding gender.

We have a special community here, and love is so ingrained in our culture that I hardly even think about the temple as a place where people accept my identity, because it just feels like a place where I can be myself without having to think about my differences at all.

Of course, there have still been bumps in the road. People don't always understand what my identity is, or they mess up my pronouns, but it's never out of malice, just misunderstanding. We all still have work to do, whether that's learning how to properly use the singular they in conversation, or understanding intersectionality.

I'm lucky to be in a financially stable situation, and white, while navigating my queer identity. For black members of the LGBT community, they have to navigate the struggles of being black in America while also being oppressed for being gay, trans or both. Within the LGBT community, racism still exists, and people are quick to forget that our so-called liberation was sparked by the rioting of black and latinx queer people in 1969.

As oppressed people, the LGBT and Jewish communities have fought for our freedom against oppressive forces, and so I want to take a moment to remind everyone that we need to stand with the BLM movement as the black community fights for their freedom. We can't leave anyone behind, and if we uplift others who have intersecting identities with ours in our community, such as black jews, gay jews, and black gay jews, we show everyone around us that we care, we love one another, and we want to see one another thrive.

WHAT IS NONBINARY?

BY KAYDEN REFF

What does binary mean?

Binary refers to 'something that relates to or involves two things' and in terms of gender, this means the male and female genders.

So what does non-binary mean?

It is a term used to describe individuals who may identify as a gender that is neither exclusively female or male, in-between those genders, or beyond both genders. There are other ways people describe the term "non-binary" but those are the most common. Some people refer to non-binary as being transgender, and some don't.

Non-binary works as an umbrella term, as the subject header. (So) Imagine a box labeled 'sports.' Now in this box is "football, soccer, baseball," etc. In another box, this one labeled 'non-binary', in it we can see terms like "genderfluid, third gender, Androgyne, agender, demiboy, demigirl," and many more. These different gender names are like the different sports in the "sports" box, each of those individual sports are unique, just as each gender description is more specifically unique.

Here's some trivia that's good to know:

- Most commonly non-binary people use they/them pronouns (but not exclusively/limited to)
- Non-binary people all dress differently; there is nothing in the world's wardrobe of clothing that would explicitly signify someone as non-binary.
- Some people change their names or begin using a name that they feel they can better identify with. Some people do it informally, others, like myself, change their name legally.
- Instead of "Mr. Ms. or Mrs", the honorific "Mx." is available for use (in some places).



Did you know that the form to register a boat needs you to specify your gender? This is also the case for eye examination forms and other things where gender doesn't really seem to have much significance in being allowed these services. Maybe there are accountability precautions or something, but for the most part-- it's an inconvenience for those of us who want a gender neutral selection and can leave some of us feeling crushed unnoticed by the rest of society. Frankly most people won't notice these kinds of details until it matters to them personally or a loved one.

There are a vast array of forms and documents that require people to select a gender to be associated with. More examples include: school registration forms, government identification, the common application for college, registering for activities, and traveling on a plane. For some of those things, why would the gender matter? When my mom went to make an on-line donation to a local organization, she had to select a honorific to go with her name, and none of the options provided a gender neutral choice like "Mx".

Change is beginning to occur at least. Just last year Maryland joined approximately a dozen other states in allowing applicants for a driver's license to select "unspecified" as their gender. This shows as an "X" on their driver's license instead of a M or F. Since then additional states have passed similar legislation. Also last year, major US Airlines all announced that they would provide non-binary gender markers and honorifics to be chosen when making reservations.

Of course within the LGBTQ+ community, we still have a ways to go with educating and moving the general public, to be informed and view the community in a positive light without mockery. The progress that has been made so far, however, by courageous activists can be applauded and may we continue to go on and persevere in our efforts with work in our community. Thank you and Shabbat Shalom.



ON ACTIVISM

BY AUTUMN COOK

My name is Autumn Cook, and I am currently a rising senior at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. I am studying both Chemistry and Gender, Women's and Sexuality studies, and am hoping to go onto earn my PhD in material sciences (partially because I love the scientific process, but also I want that gender-neutral honorific of "Doctor").

It's really weird to be talking to yall today about LGBTQ+ and trans activism in the midst of a miasma of pain. Four years ago today, 49 people lost their lives at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando. The rate of homicides against trans people is increasing at horrifying rates. Earlier today, the current administration filed to finalize a new interpretation a section of the Affordable Care Act that officially strips LGBTQ+ people of non-discrimination protections.

I first came out as trans when I was 15 and in the throes of high school. High school as a queer kid sucked and I really do not envy the high schoolers listening to me now. College, while not perfect, is so much better as a queer activist. As some of you can attest, being a trans kid is not an easy path. The intersection of my queerness, my transness, and my Jewishness has led to some interesting results.

While I have not always been particularly close to my Jewish identity, the concept of Tikkun Olam has continued to be a guiding factor in my life. Making the world a better place for the queer people who come after me is the reason why I do not just endure the prejudice I face as a queer, nonbinary, trans woman. Instead of sitting on my hands and hoping that someone else will do the work for me, I work to exert pressure on the people who have the ability to change the systems of power that oppress our community.

Whether that be in high school where I fought for equitable restroom access and graduation robe equality or in college, where similar fights around restroom access, sexual assault survivorship rights, Title IX, and mandated faculty training are taking place.

Ever since the landmark passage of Maryland's Question Six and by extension Obergefell v. Hodges, which guaranteed same-sex marriage within Maryland, many people feel that "gay rights have been achieved." This is evident in the number of donations to LGBTQ+ advocacy decreased as the organizations shifted focus away from gay marriage onto other LGBTQ+ topics.

In my experience, the vast majority of people see the fight for LGBTQ+ equality and rights to be a linear path. Starting from a place where we had zero rights, we slowly inch forward to the place sometime in the future queers have the same access to the social safety net as cisnet people. I think it is extremely important to remember, especially in tumultuous times like these, that activists can never stop fighting as long as our rights are precariously placed on a pedestal, waiting to be taken away by a stroke of a pen. Activism, in that right, is very similar to coming out. Coming out is not a one-and-done thing, as queer people can attest to. Queer people have to constantly come out to people for the rest of their lives because we live in a heteronormalized and cisnormalized society. Our rights are not enshrined, and people want to take them away from us. Activism is part of the way we fight against that encroachment.

Activism is not a solo endeavor. We must acknowledge that we are standing on the shoulders of all of the activists that came before us and that we are building upon their work. We must also acknowledge that when we look to the left and to the right, we are amongst activists that share our goals. Furthermore, the activism work that we do now will be built upon and referenced by the activists of the future. Activism is hard, tiresome, and often thankless work. Burnout is a real thing. Burnout is a very dangerous thing that will probably affect, if it hasn't already, every activist you encounter.

The thing is, activism is more powerful when there are multiple people lending their voices to the cause. This has an amazing side-effect of reducing the rates of burnout throughout the entire group. Activism isn't a sprint. Unfortunately in the increasingly neoliberal state of the world, it seems like there is another hurdle in front of us after every turn. Activism is an ultramarathon, and the fight for queer rights is going to continue for the foreseeable future. However, despite the very long road ahead of us, I think even if we are even able to make a small difference, a small impact in the activism work that we do, we can make the world a better place for us, the people that surround us, and the people who will come after us. I think that makes the fight worth fighting.

REFLECTIONS FROM SHABBAT

THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY IN THE STRUGGLE FOR EQUAL RIGHTS AND COMMUNITY EMBRACE

BY NICOLLE CAMPA, PRESIDENT, METRO DC
CHAPTER OF PFLAG

Hello everyone. I am delighted to be here. When David asked me if I would be the guest speaker I didn't hesitate. My family is my everything.

I am the proud parent of a 15 year old daughter, who happens to be transgender. My daughter came out to me on Monday, June 5th, 2017. It's crazy how I remember that date so vividly, though her coming out happened in the evening. She didn't allow me to tell her dad, my husband, until two days later.

When my daughter came out to me, and after she gave me the ok to tell her dad, my husband and I cried for days. Not because we were upset or sad that she is transgender. We cried because we were worried about how others would treat her for being different. We knew full well we won't be able to protect her from every difficult experience.

My daughter struggled as she physically transitioned. Like many other transgender people, she dealt with social anxiety for fear of not passing as a girl. I cannot tell you the number of times we drove to the Fairfax Mall to have to turn right back because once we walked into H&M she had a panic attack so debilitating that we had to rush to the car and while driving back home I had to pull over so that I could embrace her. Reminding her that she was safe and that we would again try to shop for new clothes at another time.

The one thing that kept our sanity was the unconditional love we have for one another. The determination my husband and I had that we would do all we could to support our daughter guided us throughout. The unconditional love, in the darkest of times, kept us going.

I've been married for 17 years. We are a close family of four; I have a 24 year old step child. My husband and I have always supported each other. It was not easy dealing with a blended family, but we managed through it.



While I thought those were the toughest moments of our life as a couple, nothing prepared us for what we endured last year.

On May 2, 2019, I received a call and a text from my husband while I was on a business trip. I knew something was up. While I am at work, my husband rarely texts me and even fewer times he calls me. I scanned the text while in a meeting. My heart almost stopped. As soon as I could I called him. Our worst fear, the reason my husband and I cried for days when our daughter came out had turned reality. My daughter was falsely accused of making child pornography at her middle school. This is 7 months after she rightfully gained access to the girl's bathroom and locker room. It took us over a year to get the school to give her access to the facilities but through perseverance, education, and influencing we got there.

The adults in the room, the principal, the counselor and other school officials chose to believe the false allegations coming from the non-transgender students. They didn't want to believe the fact that my daughter could not have taken photos since the camera on her cell phone broke months before she started as a new student at that school (sometime in the summer of 2017). I will spare you the nightmare we lived over the course of three months, but things escalated quickly. Police, attorneys, school county officials were involved.

This event could have led to a broken family. A child that could have pursued life ending decisions to end the pain and suffering brought on to her for being different.

I firmly believe this was not the outcome because from the moment my husband received the call from the school and after I took a red eye flight back and landed on Friday May 3rd the papa bear and mama bear claws came out. We were not going to go down without a rightful fight.



We showed our daughter that we got her back. I would like to believe my daughter always knew we loved her unconditionally. At that moment we showed her we loved her unconditionally.

Our family survived this not without some bruises and deep wounds. But we survived it. We fought hard and though to my knowledge the kids who made the false accusations and even started a hateful online campaign against my daughter were not held accountable, We decided to focus our energy on bigger things... help drive legislation to protect transgender students at school, which I'm proud to say the Virginia governor signed into law on March 4th.

Last Friday, I was part of a parents' focus group to come up with language and actions to implement the transgender student protections law across all public schools in Virginia; that is 132 school boards. On Monday my daughter was part of the youth focus group. Today she was asked if she wanted to be the youth on the panel writing the actual guidelines for the Virginia Department of Education. After what she endured, she gets to help shape the policies that will support transgender students across Virginia. I am so proud of her!

For LGBTQ+ people, family love and support can make the difference between life and death. Advocacy as a family unit is the equivalent of shouting that love for everyone to hear it.

I am grateful that while my family dealt with this, we also had the ability of being able to call people for guidance. Making sure we were taking the right steps. We received that and more. We received an abundance of love. My family now extends through Virginia, DC, and Maryland.

These individuals that are now family I met through the Metro DC PFLAG Chapter. We joined the local community group in Prince William County about a month after my daughter came out. My experience as a parent attending monthly meetings grew. We joined PFLAG in the Capital Pride parade in 2018 and after striking an amazing conversation with the former president of the Metro DC PFLAG board he reached out to me and asked if I wanted to join the board. I jumped right in! A year later he nominated me to take the reins of this amazing Chapter.

I've had the privilege of leading this Chapter for 10 months now. We have focused a lot of our efforts on Advocacy. We have written letters to lawmakers supporting LGBTQ+ legislation in MD and VA. I personally drove to Richmond and met with my delegate and the chief of staff for my Senator demanding protections for LGBTQ+ individuals, demanding protections for transgender students. We engaged advocates across our community groups. We succeeded!

I am proud that Metro DC PFLAG had a strong presence. This year in Virginia a total of 9 LGBTQ+ related bills passed through the General Assembly and were signed into law by the Governor.

I want to also take this opportunity to thank someone very special, David Fishback. David, your love and support for me, my husband, and my daughter have meant the world. You saw a family in need and you did more than I could have ever imagined. You gave me piece of mind and helped me see things in a different light. Really, you helped me realize that there was a light at the end of that dark tunnel. You reminded me that I cannot sit on the sideline. Instead that I had to play and give it my all. And I did. We did.

Thank you so much for your time. It has been an honor being here with you and I am here for you if I can help or support any of you.

Thank you!

Happy Pride!