

PEERS FOR PRIDE

# What Do Thriving Queer Communities Look Like?

FALL 2019 | SPRING 2020  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

We invite all to read and build space for conversation  
and accountability across LGBTQIA+ communities  
and with supporters of LGBTQIA+ communities.

# Introduction

## *What is Peers for Pride?*

Peers for Pride (PfP) is a peer facilitation program of the Gender and Sexuality Center. Students take two courses during the academic year in partnership with the Center for Women's and Gender Studies. During the program, student build applied theatre, critical analysis, and facilitation skills as they build the workshop. "What Do Thriving Queer Communities Look Like?" Students create message scenes and activating scenes in the workshop to share skills and build space for conversation and accountability across LGBTQIA+ communities and with supporters of LGBTQIA+ communities. The commitments of the workshops are to share skills related to thriving that is nonbinary, decolonial, trans feminist, accountable, intersectional, and loving. Students co-facilitate these workshops in classes, dorms, with student organizations, and in open workshops to build the capacity of LGBTQIA+ communities and connected communities to be accountable to each other. Through their facilitation and reflection after workshop facilitation, students continue to build knowledge of performance-based social justice facilitation in higher education and of intersectional LGBTQIA+ realities.

**Note:** Participants are required to make a two (2) semester commitment to the program. Students will receive **course flags** in Cultural Diversity in the United States and Ethics and Leadership for completing the class. Interested students **must** complete an application and an interview.

**Class Information:** Class meets on Wednesdays from 2:00pm – 5:00pm for both fall and Spring semesters. In the spring, students will learn about performance and rehearsal preparation.

**To Apply:** please fill out this [online application](#) or scan the QR code below. Someone will contact you in 1-3 business day. There will be a 30 – 60 minutes informal interview to learn more about you and your learning goals that can be scheduled in-person, Skype, or conference call.



**Application Deadline:** For priority consideration, submit application by **August 1** or prior to the first class of fall semester but there is **no firm deadline**.

**For More Information:** Email the [gsc@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:gsc@austin.utexas.edu)

## Trigger Warnings

Please be brave as you on this journey with us. We will be touching upon difficult topics and it can be triggering.

## Land Acknowledgement

In honor and recognition of the land PfP at the University of Texas at Austin as an organization has come together on, this land is traditionally inhabited by Comanche, Coahuiltecan, Apache, Tonkawa, Mexica, and all other tribes not explicitly stated. We honor Yana Wana, the water of the spirit and spirit of the water that flows through central Texas and all ancestors and guardians of this place. And we acknowledge that native peoples and their descendants are here with us today.

## Views

We would like to emphasize that the views expressed in our scenes are not the views of our members. Through our scenes, we strive to emphasize the real-life oppression and the difficulties people in the queer community endure.

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# What characteristics make up *our* thriving queer community?



<https://www.cio.com/article/3262704/diversity-and-inclusion-8-best-practices-for-changing-your-culture.html> , <https://builtin.com/diversity-inclusion>,  
<https://hewlett.org/committing-diversity-equity-inclusion/>,  
<https://builtin.com/diversity-inclusion/types-of-diversity-in-the-workplace>



a series about  
acceptance  
and growth





Perhaps the most radical aspect of queer politics was its claim not only to transcend the homo/hetero boundary but to do so in such a way as to challenge the sexual regulation and repression of hetero sexual desire above all female desire. Queer politics, it was claimed, had a lot to teach those accustomed to the narrow confines of male and female heterosexual roles in relationships, the re-working of notions of monogamy and the send-up of marriage through queer weddings, the greater sexual adventurism, the rejection of the concepts of gay men and lesbians as victims in favour of assertiveness and redefinition, and the emphasis on the creation of more egalitarian relationships in the domestic, sexual and social spheres, were all cited as examples of how queer could contribute to a new sexual agenda of empowerment.

Richard Davenport, Sexual Politics

## THRIVING IN THE DARK

Pain is cold  
In the dark  
Alone  
Desperately looking for answers  
When will she feel it?  
How can this be  
Tears fall free  
Remember who you are  
Why you are here  
Something bigger than you  
Dreams locked up  
Where is the key?  
Be still  
It will find her  
Solitude is necessary  
A reset  
Pause  
Lay your head on the pillow  
It will be okay  
For now just remember  
Thriving looks many different ways  
It is a little more still  
Maybe a little darker  
Not forever  
Let it lead  
What could possibly come?  
Only time  
Together



"Queer" by Shianne Forth



HOW WILL WE  
CARE FOR EACH OTHER  
IF WE CANNOT  
CARE FOR OURSELVES?



## 14 Years Old

By Michael Kalwick

I am Gay

I see my teammates  
I hear them talking  
I wonder if they like me  
I hear pansy  
I see them glaring  
I hear fruitcake  
I see them pointing  
I hear faggot  
I see them laughing  
I push away the tears  
I am Gay

I pretend they are my friends  
I feel their punches  
I hear boys will be boys  
I worry they will hurt me again  
I cry under my pillow  
I am Gay

I hear I need to change  
I try to change  
I realize I can't  
I am Gay

I dream of being accepted  
I try to ignore the pain  
I hope they stop hurting me  
I am Gay

## 21 Years Old

By Michael Kalwick

I am Gay

I see my boyfriend  
I hear him talking  
I wonder who he's with  
I hear my name  
I see them glance over  
I hear adorable  
I see them smiling  
I hear the love of my life  
I see them gleam  
I push away the tears  
I am Gay

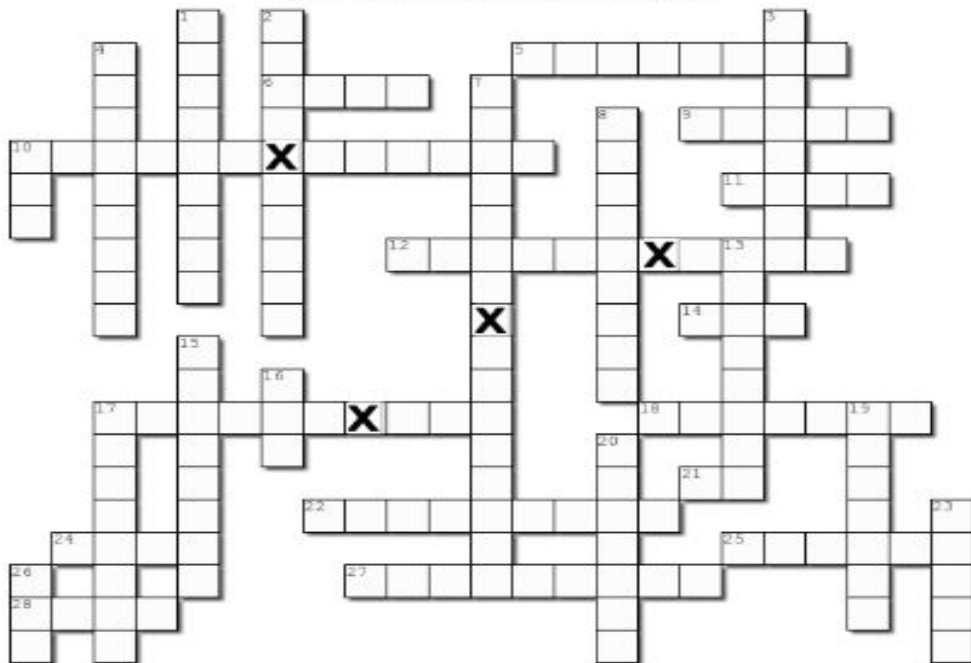
I pretend I wasn't listening  
I feel their hugs  
I hear y'all are cute  
I feel so happy  
I shed a tear  
I am Gay

I hear he may propose  
I act like it's no big deal  
I realize I'm beaming  
I am Gay

I dream of our life together  
I envision raising children  
I hope we are good fathers  
I am Gay

# QUEER

Complete the crossword puzzle below



## Across

5. A range of negative attitudes (e.g., fear, anger, intolerance, invisibility, resentment, erasure, or discomfort) that one may express toward bisexual individuals
6. A person who supports and respects members of the LGBTQ community
9. An umbrella term to describe individuals who don't identify as straight and/or cisgender
10. The idea that there are only two genders and that every person is one of those two
11. Month in 2015 when same-sex marriage became legal throughout the US
12. First openly gay person elected to public office, on the San Francisco City Council Board
14. Female to male trans
17. Process of telling others about one's sexual or gender identity
18. Women who are primarily attracted romantically, erotically, and/or emotionally to other women
21. Neutral honorific
22. Came out as a lesbian in 1997 on her tv-show
24. Abbreviation for little or no capacity to experience attraction until a strong connection is formed with someone
25. An undergarment used to alter or reduce the appearance of one's breasts
27. A person who experiences attraction for members of all gender identities/expressions
28. Genderneutral pronoun

Pictured below: #1 Down



Pictured above: #8 Down

## Down

1. The New York Daily News headline that announced her as the world's first out transgender woman
2. Someone who performs (hyper-) femininity theatrically
3. A person who experiences attraction to 2 genders
4. Riots against a police raid in 1969
7. Mother of LGBT Civil Rights movement
8. Founded the Mattachine Society in 1950, one of the modern world's first organizations for gay men
10. Experiencing attraction to members of the same gender
13. Term for a combination of chromosomes, gonads, hormones, internal sex organs, and genitals that differs from the two expected patterns of male or female
15. A capacity that evokes the want to engage in intimate behavior (e.g., dating, relationships, marriage)
16. Gender non-conforming
17. Not out
19. A person with no (or very little) connection to the traditional system of gender
20. Experiencing little or no sexual attraction to others
23. Short for a gender description for someone who has transitioned (or is transitioning) from living as one gender to another
26. Male-to-female transgender



**Key:**

- 1. JORGENSEN
- 2. DRAG QUEEN
- 3. BISEXUAL
- 4. STONEWALL
- 5. BIPHOBIA
- 6. ALLY
- 7. GITTINGS
- 8. HARRY HAY
- 9. QUEER
- 10. Across: GENDERBINARY, down: GAY
- 11. JUNE
- 12. HARVEY MILK
- 13. INTERSEX
- 14. FTM
- 15. ROMANTIC
- 16. GNC
- 17. Across: COMING OUT, down: CLOSETED
- 18. LESBIAN
- 19. AGENDER
- 20. ASEXUAL
- 21. MX
- 22. DEGENERES
- 23. TRANS
- 24. DEMI
- 25. BINDER
- 26. MTF
- 27. PANSEXUAL
- 28. THEY





### I think of love...

I think of love and I think of family. I think my grandmother's demanding hugs and my grandfather's scratchy beard. I think of too many hugs and feel the ruffling of my hair. I think of Thanksgiving Day parades loudly playing on the television and the overwhelming smells of ham, potatoes, and pie filling the house. I see too many people crammed into one table, elbows jabbing and food spilling. I hear the brilliant laughter of my cousins as my uncle makes silly faces at them, faces I recognize from my own childhood. I think of love and I know it is bright and warm.

I think of love and I think of myself. I think of times when the bright warmth of family was whittled down to a wisp of existence. I think of the realization that girls are *pretty*. And the bible verses shoved down my throat by men who didn't understand them. I think of self-hatred and doubt. I think of the demons of my own mind once again gnawing at every positive thought that passes through and I think of attraction, and the fear of it. I think of how crippling fear can be. And I now know that love is learning. Love is hearing the thoughts in my head, and stopping them from defining who I am. Love is healing.

I think of love and I think of my kids. My four younger siblings, most of whom were born after I had already become a teenager. I see their small toes and crinkled eyes. I hear their first laughs and remember their first steps. I feel embraces so big given by arms so small. I think of hours I spent playing games I hated and watching movies I loathed, because two hours of boredom means nothing compared to the joy in their eyes. I think of these kids, my kids, and I think of the pain of leaving them, of going to college and watching them wave in the distance.

I think of books read to me over the phone and memes sent over text. I think of the realization that love is not stagnant. Love is changing. Love is growth

I think of love and I think of pain. I think of a small girl who was told again and again that if she was just *better*, her life wouldn't be like this. I think of screaming and bruises and broken glass. I feel as though sadness surrounds and engulfs my soul making it burn in pain and shrink in numbness all at once. I think of my parents and understand it was never love.

I think of love and I think of a bright-eyed woman with a sheepish smile. I think of her hands holding a book the size of a brick as she stumbles over herself to explain what it means. I think of sitting in her passenger seat smiling as she still trips over her words, this time from pure excitement. I hear her terrible singing voice and her brilliant ideas and I know that nothing in my life has ever felt more right. I look at her and I see a future. I smell Saturday morning pancakes and feel the thrum of adventure as she takes me somewhere new. I see tears, both from sorrow and joy. I hear wedding bells and a baby's cries. I look at this woman and know I will stand by her side forever. I look at My Love know that love can be forever.

## **ACTIVATING SCENE - GRINDR**

**Opening Scene:** *This scene is going to talk about dating within the queer community and the problems that surround queer dating apps. Dating apps can give you the opportunity to connect with people. There are many dating profiles that allow you to learn about someone's favorite movies, astrological signs, hobbies, etc. Unfortunately, there are instances where people can list their preferences that can discriminate and be harmful to certain communities. In this scene, we are going to do a deep dive into what that could be like.*

### **Character's Information:**

- **Taylor** - A young, gay, cis-male that wants to start a new relationship and is trying out a gay dating app for the first time.
- **Adair** - An older, gay, cis-male who is friends of Taylor and is helping Taylor create their first dating profile.

### **- Beginning of Scene -**

**Taylor:** (RUNS UP TO ADAIR) Addy, guess what?

**Adair:** What now? [Laughing nervously]

**Taylor:** I think I'm finally ready to date again, I'm actually over Blair this time. [Jumping up and down]

**Adair:** What, really -

**Taylor:** How should I meet new guys besides like going to the bars? I tried to talk to some guys when I went out last night but it was sooo awkward.

**Adair:** Brov just make a dating profile like on Grindr, that's where I find all my DADDIES

**Taylor:** (PULLS OUT PHONE AND DOWNLOADS APP) Oh sweet, what should I make my bio?

**Adair:** Age, height, what you're into, etc.

**Taylor:** Oh ok so like, I can put that I'm only into tall guys?

**Adair:** Yeah!

**Taylor:** I'm not really interested in asian guys

**Adair:** Oh, well duh thats why you can filter by ethnicity on Grindr! You can also filter age, position, body type, etc. See here, (SHOWS TAYLOR HIS PHONE) I set it only to jocks. I hate stocky guys, I am definitely only into thinner guys that obviously care about their health!

**Taylor:** Oh perfect!

**Adair:** Yeah and you can also just write in your bio what you're looking for. Mine says ethnic daddies only. But no fat, femme, or trans! I don't want them messaging me.

**Taylor:** I'm glad grindr accommodates to everyone's preferences! SO inclusive. I hate having to see all these people that are SO not my type!

**Adair:** Yeah, everyone has their own cup of tea.

**Taylor:** Do you think this is like..... racist or anything like that...

## **MESSAGE SCENE - DOCTOR'S WAITING ROOM**

**Adair:** No no no no nooo, not at all. I mean it's just what you're into!

Don't be ashamed of it, be proud!

**Taylor:** Okay good, I don't want to step on anyone's toes - I don't wanna be that gay!

**-End of the Scene-**

### **Discussion Questions**

1. When do preferences become problematic/harmful? Are all preferences problematic?
2. Should dating apps like Grindr be allowed to use preferences that select for certain races, body types, etc?
3. If you were the third person in this conversation how could you discuss with Adair the harmful ramifications this insinuates in a productive manner to get him to not do this in the future?

\*Jennifer, sitting in waiting room\*

**Carly the Intern:** Jonah?..... Jonah Stevens?

**Jennifer:** Oh... uh.. hey.

[Walks with intern]

**Intern:** Hello sir how are you doing this morning!

**Jennifer:** Actually it's ma'am! I am okay.

**Intern:** Omg, I'm so sorry. Excuse me. Ma'am, could you follow me over here so I can get your height and weight real quick?

**Jennifer:** Sure.

**Intern:** Thank you, Jonah! You can wait here for Dr. Jenkins.

**Jennifer:** Thanks.

[Doctor enters]

**Doctor:** Ah, Jonah! It's been a while! How have you been?

**Jennifer:** Could be better

**Doctor:** What's wrong?

**Jennifer:** Well, I've been trying to stay really healthy this year, but this transition has been rough on my mental health.

**Doctor:** That's hard. What's going on?

**\*\*Continue to next page\*\***



**Jennifer:** Well, even though I feel more myself than ever, and I'm thrilled with how my body looks, others haven't responded well. Half of my family has stopped talking to me. Some of my friends from church cut me out. And even the well-intentioned people just make things hard. I'm still constantly being called by my dead name or the incorrect pronouns. Even by your nurse. I don't know. It's all been really challenging, and I've been pretty depressed at times, and always anxious about how people will respond to me.

**Doctor:** Wow, that does sound challenging. Thank you for sharing with me. I am glad to see you are here and looking after your own health. Although I can't help you with all of that, I can connect you to a lot of resources that can help, and also try to fix the situation with our staff. Here are some flyers for local programs. There is a support group close-by for trans youth. There are several LGBTQ meetups. You may even qualify for free group therapy, and I can also connect you to a counselor that will work with your insurance. Tell me more about your experience with our intern?

**Jennifer:** Ah, well, she just used my dead name and called me ma'am/sir multiple times. It was pretty uncomfortable for me. I get it though, it was an honest mistake.

**Doctor:** Well, even if it was a mistake, that shouldn't be happening. I am so sorry about your experience. We just hired them on as a student intern, and I'll definitely have a conversation with them.

**Jennifer:** Wow. Thank you. It is so nice to have an experience with a doctor that is actually positive.

[Intern, Carly, taking notes on a past patient visit. Doctor enters]

**Doctor:** Hi, Carly, I was hoping we could talk in my office? So I recently had a complaint from a patient saying that you misgendered them in the waiting room while calling them in.

**Carly the Intern:** oops

**Doctor:** We add stickers in their file that has their preferred name and pronouns. Please adhere to those when referring to patients.

**Carly the Intern:** I think I remember someone talking about that at orientation. But, I didn't realize that was really important to follow. I guess I'll do it next time. [Carly rolls her eyes]

**Doctor:** Thank you for being willing to adjust. Have a great day!

**Carly the Intern:** You too.

### **-End of the Scene-**

#### **Discussion:**

- Is this scene realistic? What may be the more common situation in the real world?
- What are small ways in which a space can be exclusive or inclusive?
- Are you familiar with the idea of heteronormativity/cisnormativity and how did this show up in the scene? How does this potentially show up in a professional setting?
- What are possible consequences of exclusivity in these spaces? (e.g. mental health, health in general & effective treatment)
- What is calling in and calling out? How did those play out or not in the scene?

## Message Scene - Ally

### Character's Information:

- **Liz** bisexual, demisexual, white, cis-female (two actors with similar appearances; only one of them will have a speaking role)
- **Beatrice** plays a character who has pre-made, generally incorrect assumptions on what Liz is telling her
- **Ginny** plays a character willing to listen to Liz and analyze her own reactions

**Opening Scene:** *LIZ stands center stage. A spotlight illuminates her, while the rest of the stage remains shadowed. Liz is obviously nervous, twisting her hands in front of her and glancing at the ground before looking back out at the audience. There is a period of silence before the show begins.*

**Liz:** Hey, can I tell you something? *(She pauses as if waiting for a response.)* Yeah? Great! *(Nervous laughter.)* So it's not a big deal. I mean, in a way it is, but it's not, like, bad or anything. I mean, *I* at least don't think it's bad, and I think you'll agree. I guess you might not, I just- huh? Oh yeah, I'm fine! I just...I want to tell you that I'm ace. Asexual, I mean. Well I guess technically I'm demisexual, but the main point is that it's not a big deal. It's just something I thought you should know. I honestly thought you did know, and then you made that joke earlier and I thought it was a weird thing to say, and then I realized you didn't know. So now I'm telling you. *(Pauses.)* So uh, what do you think?

*The spotlight on Liz fades. Liz steps towards the audience, hesitantly, and then the spotlight blacks out. After a brief pause two spotlights come up on stage left and stage right. The actress from before, along with another in the same clothing, are at the edge of their respective spotlights, facing the audience. In the left spotlight is BEATRICE, in the right, GINNY. Both have just listened to Liz's speech.*

*Beatrice and Ginny will talk in turns. As Beatrice speaks, Ginny will freeze, and vice versa. The same applies for their respective Liz's.*

**Beatrice:** Asexual? You can't be asexual; you had a boyfriend last semester!

**Ginny:** Oh shit, I'm sorry that joke made you uncomfortable. I didn't even realize it could make someone feel that way. I'll try to be more aware in the future.

**Beatrice:** I mean I understand. It's been a while since y'all broke up and dating's hard. I cannot tell you how many times I've wanted to give up on dating entirely, but that would just be the easy way out!

**Ginny:** I don't think I know enough about asexuality; would you be willing to share with me? I will also totally do my own research, but I know everyone's experience is different, you know? And I would like to know more about yours.

**Beatrice:** Besides, you can't honestly say you never want to have sex, right? *(Beatrice pauses, and her expression turns to one of shock as Liz shakes her head no.)* You've NEVER had sex? *(She laughs.)* Well, that's the problem! How can you know you don't want to?

*At this point it should be clear to the audience that Beatrice's Liz is desperately uncomfortable and is growing more so. In stark contrast, Ginny's Liz is becoming relaxed and happy.*

**Ginny:** Hey before I forget, I just want to say thank you for sharing this with me, and for being willing to answer my questions. It's really not your responsibility to educate me, and I appreciate you taking the time to answer questions that I'm sure you've heard a million times.

**Beatrice:** I have this friend, he's in the same org as me and he is so cute. I could set up a date for y'all that would totally fix all of this for you.

*(Beatrice pulls out a phone and begins texting.)*

**Ginny:** Is there anything else you wanted to tell me? *(Ginny pauses and Liz shakes her head no, smiling.)* Okay cool! If you think of anything let me know.

*(Ginny and Liz move closer together, and Liz fully relaxes. They both turn to the back, and Liz puts her arm around Ginny's shoulder.)*

**Beatrice:** *(Still texting.)* You don't want me to text him? What's your problem, I'm only trying to help you?

*(Beatrice takes a step towards Liz, and Liz steps back, until she's half out of the spotlight.)*

**Ginny:** *(Ginny and Liz take slow steps towards upstage. As Ginny continues speaking, her microphone grows softer.)* Soooo, have you caught up in the Mandalorian yet? *(She pauses)* Oo nice! That means I can show you a bunch of new memes.

**Beatrice:** Fine it doesn't matter. I'll see you later.

*(Beatrice turns and walks out of the spotlight, leaving Liz, head down, still in the shadows.)*

**Ginny:** Nice! *(Ginny continues talking about inane things until the sound fades out completely. A beat happens, and then Ginny's voice is heard again.)* Thanks again for sharing with me.

**Liz:** *(Softly.)* Thank you for listening.

*The Liz on the right and Ginny will stay in the spotlight until the curtain closes, while the Liz on the left remains in the shadows*

**-End of the Scene-**



# WELCOME

awesome people, places & spaces

family



brother

QUEER

ART

FOOD

BEAUTIFUL

DRINK

# ATX



ADVENTURE.

goals



Love

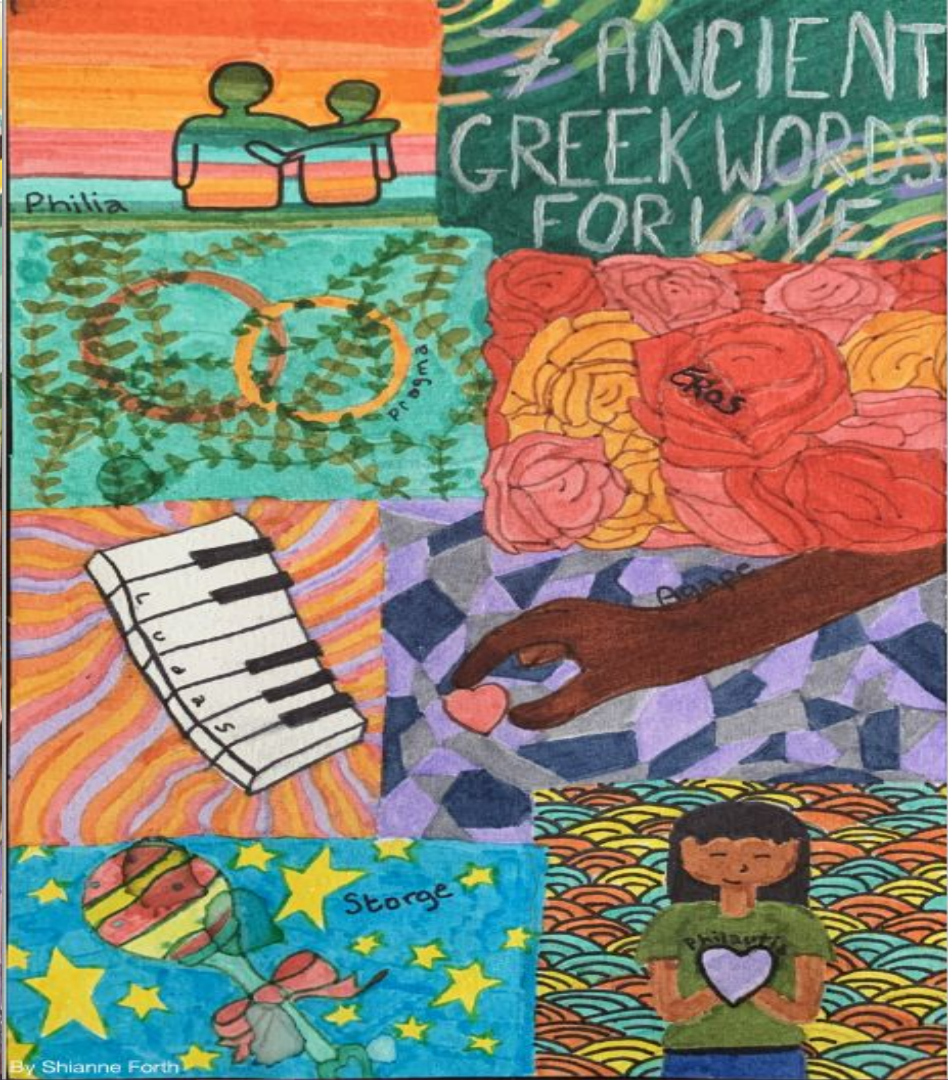


sibling

home



"Community" by Shianne Forth







## UNITED WE STAND

BY MICHAEL KALWICK

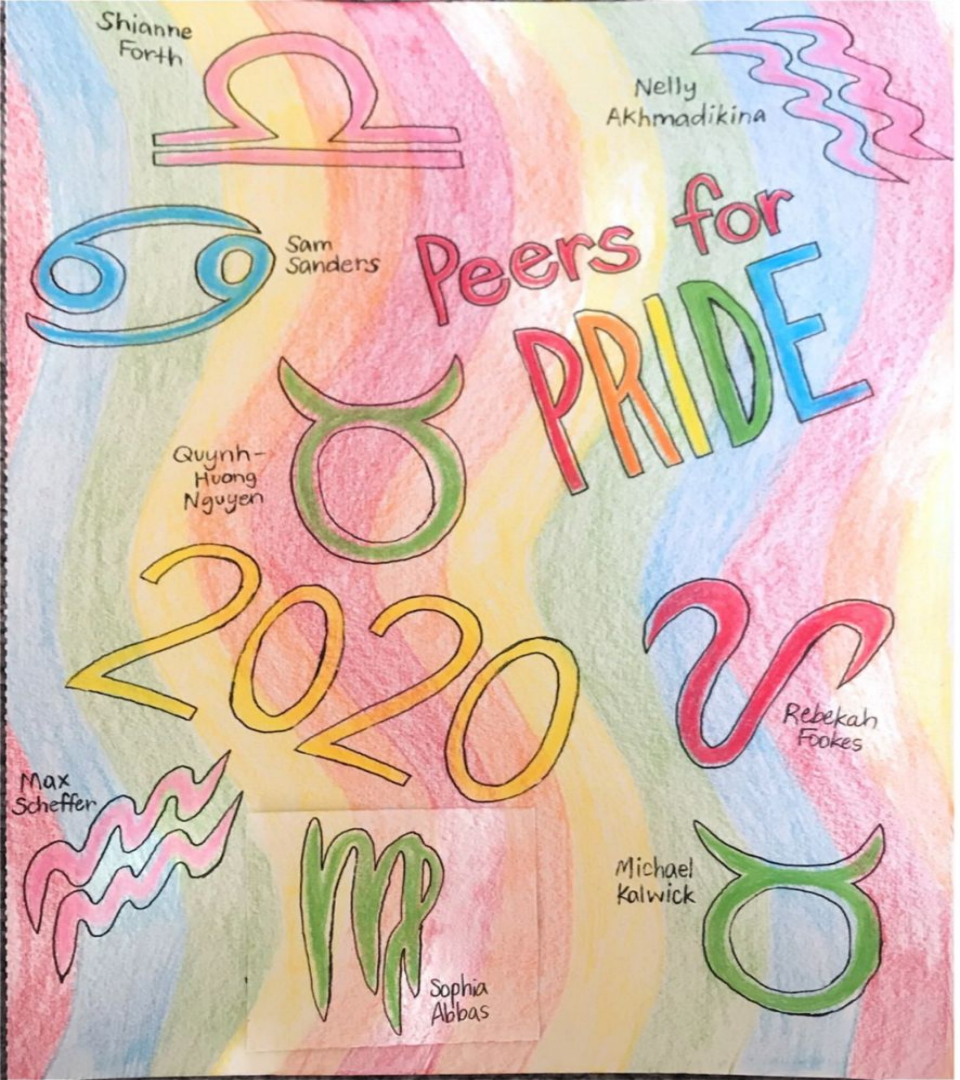
**Alicia Garza (1)** - The founder of Black Lives Matter, Garza identifies as a queer woman and has been an outspoken advocate against violence aimed at transgender and gender-nonconforming people of color.

**Gwen Araujo (2)** - Araujo was a transgender teen who was the victim of a brutal murder. Her attack brought national attention to the issue of violence against transgender people. In 2006 the Gwen Araujo Justice for Victims Act was created, allowing a judge to instruct jurors not to consider their anti-LGBT biases during deliberations.

**Anarag Nyamdorj (3)** - A self-described queer transgender man, Nyamdorj is a leading Mongolian LGBT civil rights activist. In 2007 he cofounded and served as executive director of the country's first LGBT Center.

**Keshav Suri (4)** - A prominent Indian activist and entrepreneur, he leads the Lalit Suri Hospitality Group and has founded India's only LGBTQ friendly clubs. In 2018 Suri petitioned the India's Supreme court which ended in a landmark decision that decriminalized homosexuality in the country.

**Jewelle Gomez (5)** - Gomez is an author and activist whose writing centers on the experiences of LGBTQ women of color. Her books include the double Lambda Award-winning novel "The Gilda Stories." Gomez was a founding member of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).



**"You dress like a boy."**

**"You act like a girl."**

**"Racism is over."**

**"Sexism is over."**

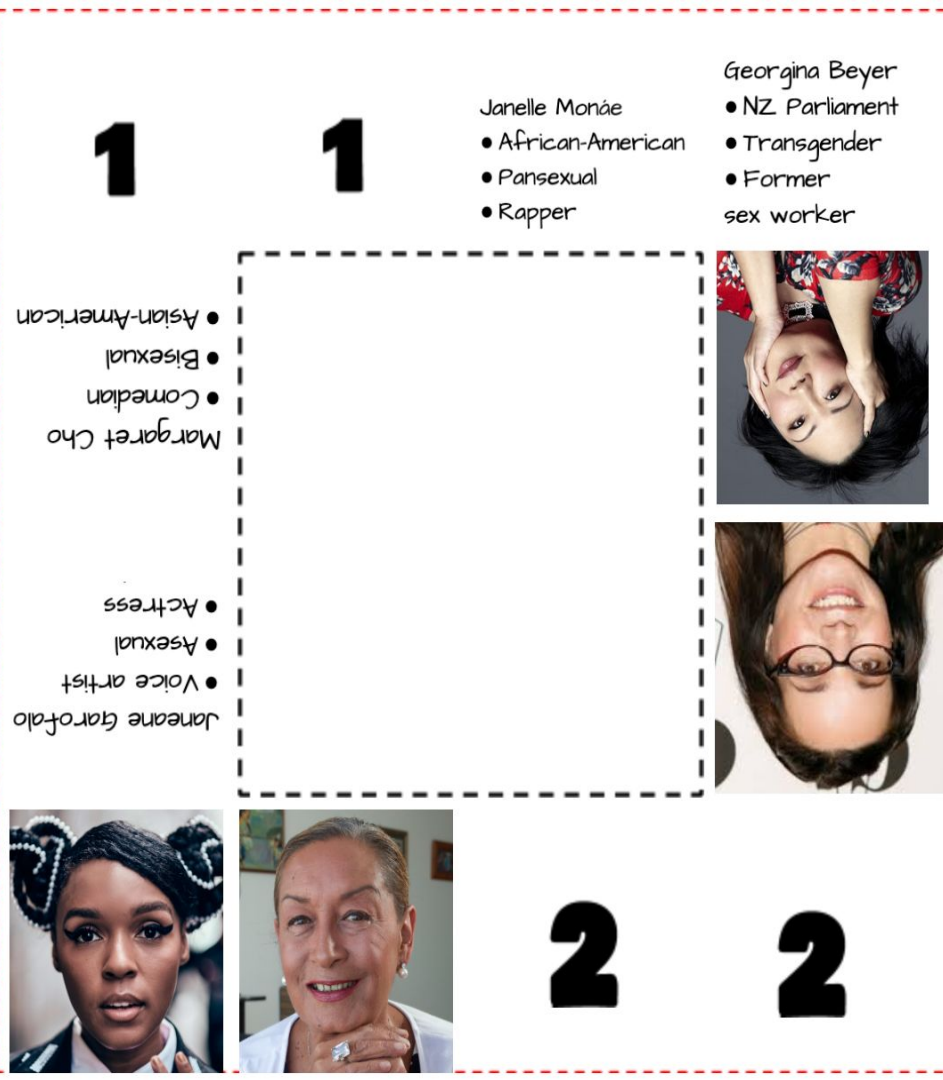
**"Homophobia is over."**



**MICROAGRESSIONS ADD UP**

# NEVER-ENDING CARD

1. Starting on the next page, cut along the outer red dotted lines
2. Fold in half vertically, then again horizontally (bringing two sides together)
3. Fold left & right sides to the middle fold, repeat with top&bottom
4. Fold in half and cut out the square in the middles (black dotted line)
5. Glue/double-sided tape the two of the 1s together, and the two of the 2s together.
6. Glue the 3s together and then the 4s.
7. Fold in half and then open with a new side, repeat to learn more.
8. I hope you enjoy learning about queer representation.







4

4

- Fallon Fox
- Transgender
- African-American
- Mixed Martial Arts

- Billy Porter
- gay
- Broadway
- Black



- Sally Ride
- Lesbian
- Astronaut
- First ♀ in space

- Raúl Esparza
- Actor
- Bisexual
- Cuban

3

3



Max Scheffer



Shianne Forth



Sophia Abbas



Nelly Akhmadikina



Rebekah Fookes



Michael Kalwick



Sam Sanders

Leave Meeting



Reactions



Record



Share Screen



Chat



Participants



Mute



Stop Video

## ZOOM GROUP CHAT

From **Nelly Akhmadikina (she/her)** to **Everyone**: A sophomore at UT, she identifies as pansexual. Hoping to become a pediatric surgeon, she is majoring in Biology and minoring in French Studies and LGBTQ+ studies. Her favorite activities include making LGBTQ friendship bracelets, playing board games, swing dancing, and synchronized swimming. She loves learning about people's different experiences in life and hopes to make sure that everyone, especially her queer peers feel included.

From **Rebekah Fookes (she/her)** to **Everyone**: Rebekah is a senior studying Youth & Community Studies with a minor in Social Work. When she's not at school or work, she's grabbing a margarita with friends or hanging out with horses at her therapy ranch internship. Her favorite food is gumbo or anything with cheese.

From **Sophia Abbas (she/her)** to **Everyone**: Sophia is a junior at The University of Texas at Austin who is pursuing a B.A in Women's and Gender Studies along with a Religious Studies Minor. She aspires to go to law school after finishing her undergraduate studies. Her favorite activities include playing board games, like Catan, and hanging out with friends. Sophia embraces her South Asian Nepali-Pakistani identity by staying involved in the Nepali Students Association at UT. Her favorite foods includes peanut butter and garlic cheesy bread, and you can catch her around campus in several organizations such as UT's The Project and BreadwinnHers.

From **Sam Sanders (they/them)** to **Everyone**: Sam is a senior pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and with a minor in LGBT studies at UT. After graduation their hopes are to get involved in the community by working with LGBT youth and later going into Graduate School for a Master's in Social Work. They enjoy hanging out with friends at poetry night and sitting in nature.

From **Michael Kalwick (he/him)** to **Everyone**: Michael is a junior Human Biology major looking to attend medical school to better push for more LGBTQIA+ health training and to address the community's disparities within the healthcare system. When Michael isn't working on school work he's running his organization Longhorn Advocates of Diversity in Medicine, fundraising to provide scholarships to minorities from south Texas so they can better afford a college education.

From **Max Scheffer (he/him)** to **Everyone**: Max is a senior English major who is going to work at Refugee Services of Texas after graduation. In his down time he enjoys reading and writing. He hopes to become a high school teacher in the future.

From **Shianne Forth (she/her)** to **Everyone**: Shianne is a 2nd year student majoring in Special Education. She hopes to enter the field of education with enough knowledge to alter the straight white cis dialogue perpetrated in the system. She dedicates most of her non class time to playing Quidditch, reading, and attempting to produce art. She loves stories in all forms, but especially those of real people who have grown up in completely different environments from herself.

To: **Everyone** ▾

Type message here...

# THANK YOU FOR READING!

WE HOPE THAT OUR ART AND STORIES WILL SPREAD SOME  
LIGHT AND HOPE DURING THIS UNPRECEDENTED TIME. BE  
GENTLE WITH YOURSELF. YOU ARE DOING THE BEST THAT  
YOU CAN.

WITH LOVE,  
PEERS FOR PRIDE 2020