



East Haven Pride
Meeting Agenda
Hagaman Library
February 25, 2025 6:30 pm

- I. Call to Order - 6:33pm
- II. President/Vice President/Co-Founders' Report:
 - A. -Cindy shared testimony in support of CT Senate Joint Resolution No. 35 (SJ35), the legislative proposal to enshrine anti-discrimination protections in the state constitution. Cindy was #250, and stayed long enough to speak at 1:15am. If passed with 75% of the vote, it will go to a ballot initiative this year. Video link on our FB page [here](#)
-Cindy shared that the 501c3 paperwork for the IRS is in progress.
-Cindy shared that Spruce Coffee Shop in New Haven has craft nights the first Monday of every month, and is a welcoming space. www.sprucecoffeenhv.com/
 - B. Purchased! Two copies of *Finding My Way Out of the Darkness: How I Found Self-Love & Acceptance* by Tony Ferriaiolo, to be donated to the library. Tony is also having an Author Talk and Book signing event on March 15th, 1-3pm at the Blackstone Library in Branford. Event link: [Fireside Chat with Local Authors: Tony Ferraiolo](#) Proceeds to support ALEX.org
 - C. -Karen shared some of her expertise on Legislative Happenings. Karen shared testimony on House Bill No. 6913 (HB6913), An Act Concerning LGBTQ+ Discrimination in Long-term Care Facilities. 36 people shared testimony and it was well received.
-Karen shared that there are many anti-queer bills active in CT. Here is a bill tracker with more information: [OAP Bill Tracker](#)
-5Calls.org is a website/phone app that makes contacting your reps SUPER easy! It provides a wide range of topics, and provides the contact info for your reps, it even includes a sample script for your call. The idea is that 5 calls a day on your priority topics will make a difference. When you call, be polite, calls are logged and stats are shared with reps daily.
Cindy- Don't forget to call in both support AND opposition!
- III. Speaker: Johnathan Marquis - East Shore Health- Harm Reduction. Cindy shared that Johnathan's job was cut due to recent federal funding cuts, and we lost contact through his work contacts. Did not attend tonight. Please keep him in your thoughts.

Mission Statement: East Haven Pride fosters a vibrant and Inclusive community for LGBTQ+ individuals and allies in East Haven, CT. We celebrate our diversity, advocate for equality and empower all members to live authentically.

IV. New Business:

A. Events at the Library! Please support these fun events

Prism Book Club -

Select dates | 6:30 – 8pm

Registration is required. To sign up, please call (203) 468-3891 or email

cgwiazda@hagamanlibrary.org

- February 26: Broken People by Sam Lansky (POSTPONED)

- April 22: I Hope We Choose Love: A Trans Girl's Notes from the End of the World by Kai Cheng Thom

- June 12: The Darkness Outside Us by Elliot Schrefer

The Trans Experience with Jillian Celentano March 6, 2025 | 6 – 8pm

Members of the LGBTQ community & allies are invited to a talk presented by counselor, educator & author Jillian Celentano LMSW, a transgender woman who transitioned at the age of 55, about her life's mission of helping those in the transgender/diverse community. No need to sign up, respectful drop-ins welcome.

LGBTQ Coffee & Conversations

Thursdays, March 13 | 6 – 7:30 pm

Members of the LGBTQ community & allies are invited to enjoy coffee, conversation & light crafts in a comfortable atmosphere, hosted by some of your favorite librarians & a clinician from Prism Counseling. Share your own experiences or just listen. Open to all ages; drop-ins welcome.

B. Kindness Rocks - This Thursday, February 27, 5-7pm at the library, all welcome

C. Sarah- **Greater New Haven St. Patrick's Day Parade:** opportunity for East Haven Pride to march in the parade if there is interest. This is an EXCELLENT opportunity for visibility and a fun day overall. The New Haven Pride Center is also marching. Sarah will apply to march, looking into a banner to march with. All are welcome! **If you want to march let Sarah Parlato know!**

D. June Event? General discussion about an event in June. An event at the beach pavilion would be limited by parking during peak beach season.

Flag raising? Concerns about potential drama if done at the library, ask about town hall. Definitely putting up the pride flag banner and keeping it up the entire month (on a light pole at Margaret Tucker Park)

Space at senior center for daytime event might work, also look into a picnic or smaller celebration compared to a large "fest"

Attend local events this year: **North Haven Pride is Saturday June 14th**

E. Committee Updates:

Outreach Committee - Darleen, Heather, Jessica

-Heather would like to invite EHHS Drama teacher Kerry Connors to come to a meeting. Drama club is de facto GSA (no formal club active currently) upcoming show "The Prom" April 3-5, 2025. EHP can support with a program book ad

-Heather: possible connection with Witch Bitch Thrift in New Haven!

a). Guest: Bob Genzano from [East Haven Arts Commission](#): Bob has been a community organizer for over 50 years. EHAC has over 100 kids in summer programs, and employs 20+ interns. Schools should be happy and safe places. Drama club is de facto GSA at the high school (no formal club active currently). Would love to see school staff training requirements that relate to LGBTQ+ issues and sensitivity, there are existing trainings available, would need to go through BOE to get it added. There is a need for a PFLAG group in this area, Bob would be interested in helping to create one. (<https://pflag.org/> is national LGBTQ+ org- website has a LOT of info/resources) We need strong advocates for our children, these are hard times, and time to stand up. Interested in EHAC working with EHP, and other groups in town. Can support EHAC and EHHS Drama club by volunteering, build sets, program ads, advertise shows (July&August). (Also there is one EHAC commissioner opening if anyone is interested)

1. Fundraising - Carmine, Darleen

a) Ride with Pride event is GREENLIT! Sunday May 4th from 12-3pm, \$50/person Ticket sales will open March 1st, **SHARE THE FLYER!!!** Seats are limited, we hope to sell out and see lots of new faces. EHP members are welcome to hang out at the museum the day of, let the general public buy tickets for our fundraiser.

2. Teen Programming/Social Events- Shannon, Phillip

a) Kindness Rocks - This Thursday, February 27, 5-7pm at the library, all welcome

b) Medium event: Shannon is in contact with Holly to host a medium event at [Volume 2: Neverending Bookstore](#) in New Haven as a fundraiser Sat. March 22, 1-6pm. Stay tuned for details.

3. Website/Social Media- Phillip, Mary

-Mary is moving out of state- good luck!

-Mary set up a SLACK channel for our group, encrypted messaging site, please sign up! [East Haven Pride Slack Channel Link](#)

-Thank you Phillip for setting up our website!!! <https://easthavenpride.org/>

4. Education - Mikey, Heather - No report

V. Community Calendar

North Haven Pride: Teen Game Night every 2nd Friday of the month, Craft Night every 4th Friday

Q+: New Haven Game Space every 1st Saturday

Hagaman Library (lots of events):Hagaman Teen Advisory Group (HTAG) every Friday afternoon

VI. Rainbows/ Other Business (Member can share any news or happenings-)

VII. Next Meeting: 6:30pm Tuesday, March 25, 2025 - Hagaman Library

VIII. Adjournment 7:35pm

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Parlato, secretary