



# PFLAG

GENEVA/TRI-CITIES



# MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER

*"Being a volunteer has taught me the true strength of empathy, compassion, and community." - Anonymous*

## April Photos

Snapshots from our presentation with Saint Charles Equity & Inclusion Commission and from the Geneva Public Library Volunteer fair.

**"It takes no compromise to give people their rights. It takes no money to respect the individual. It takes no political deal to give people freedom. It takes no survey to remove repression."**

— Harvey Milk

"Silence is golden. Unless you have kids. Then silence is just suspicious." - Anonymous

*Happy Mother's Day to all our mothering friends this month!*



## Welcome!

Hello PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities!

Welcome to our new friends, we are so glad you've joined us!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in our April volunteer event! We had the chance to meet new friends (and members), create more buttons, and assemble over 300 parade swag bags. Your support means the world to us as we gear up for Pride!

We also had the pleasure of taking part in the Geneva Public Library Volunteer Fair in April. It was a fun event where we connected with wonderful individuals who we hope are now enjoying our newsletter!

We extend our gratitude to the City of Saint Charles Equity and Inclusion Commission for inviting us to speak alongside Dr. Jessica Lapinski and Belong Fox Valley. The focus of the event was on LGBTQ+ education.

Exciting news! We are participating in another educational presentation this month. You can find the details of our upcoming speaking opportunity on page 2.

We encourage you to visit our website, where we are continually working to enhance access to resources and information.

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[PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Website](https://www.pflaggeneva.org/)

# UPCOMING EVENTS & CHAPTER NEWS!

## PRIDE EVENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, SIGN UP TODAY!

PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities is looking for volunteers to join in our parades, assist at resource tables and help out with event preparation.

These roles include providing food and crafts, staffing resource tables, participating in pride parades, and more!

If you are unable to volunteer for a role, but still wish to contribute, in-kind donations would be greatly appreciated to help offset the cost of events.

**Sign up through the link here:**

**Spring/Summer Volunteer Opportunities** We will also have sign-ups available at our meetings!

## Illinois & Northwest Indiana Pride Event List

Thanks to PFLAG Tinley Park we can all stay informed on all the Spring, Summer & Fall Pride Events! Mark your calendars to support & join the fun celebrations supporting our LGBTQ+ friends & loved ones!

**2025 Pride Events**  **Click on the link!**

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES & COOPORATE MATCHING

We are sharing that we have created **Sponsorship opportunities**. If your business or company are interested in sponsoring our chapter, please find the details attached. While memberships are important, those are split between National, PCNI and our Chapter. Sponsorships are a way we can all benefit from helping each other.

**We are also now set up in Benevity for corporate matching.** Questions? Ideas? We'd love to hear from you!

 **Any text that is underlined is linked, allowing you to click and discover more information!** 

## Upcoming PFLAG Events & Community Activities

**PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Events** (meetings on pg 5)

- **5/12 PFLAG Geneva Monthly Meeting 6-8 pm**
  - **Featuring Caleb Anderson**
- **5/14 From Allies to Action Presentation 6:30-8:30 pm** *click the link to register to attend.*
- **5/25 The Barrington Art Festival 10 am - 5 pm**
- **6/4 Queerly Beloved Resource Fair 6-8 pm**  
Heritage Ballroom, Centre of Elgin.
  - **RSVP Queerly Beloved by scanning QR code**
- **6/7 Elgin Pride Parade & Festival Begins at 11 am** 132 S Grove Ave, Elgin
- **6/7 Aurora Pride on the Plaza 6-10pm**  
Millennium Plaza, 21 S. Stolp Ave. Aurora
- **6/8 Aurora Pride Parade**
- **6/9 PFLAG Geneva Monthly Meeting 6-8 pm**
- *Featuring Friends who are part of the LGBTQ+ community sharing their Story*
- **6/21 Dekalb Pride Parade and Festival 1-4 pm**  
Van Buer Plaza & on 2nd St. in downtown Dekalb
- **6/29 Chicago Pride Parade**
- **7/12 Belong Fox Valley & PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Family Pride Picnic.** Details coming soon.
  - Entertainment featuring **School of Rock**

**Discover Belong Fox Valley's Monthly Events Here**

- Rainbow Roundup
- The Belong Hangout
- Cheers Queers
- Pride Playgroup
- Weekly Teen Drop-In

**IL West Suburbs LGBT Community** social media

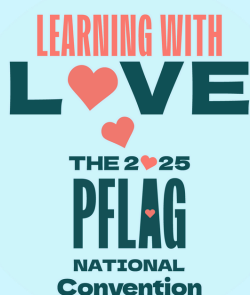
Dedicated to spreading the word about LGBT events, news, & resources in the NW, western, and SW suburbs of Chicago.

**Aurora LGBTQ+ Advisory Board's Events on social media**

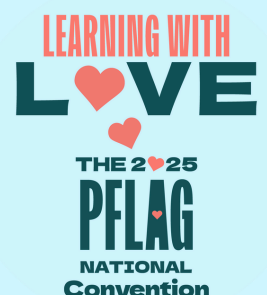
- Prism
- Coffee & CommuniTEA

**Elgin Pride Events**

- LGBTQ+ Book Club
- Game Night
- Chat & Caffe
- Community Conversation



**Save the Date!**  
**COURAGEOUS LOVE,  
IN COMMUNITY TOGETHER**  
**2025 PFLAG NATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
**Friday, October 10 - Sunday, October 12, 2025**  
**Chicago, IL**  
*Details and registration information coming soon.*



# MAY PFLAG GENEVA/TRI-CITIES SUPPORT MEETING

Join us Monday, May 12th from 6 - 8 PM

## PFLAG GENEVA/TRI-CITIES MAY GUEST SPEAKER

**Caleb Anderson**



**"Being curious when working with queer youth."**



Join us in welcoming back Caleb Anderson.

Caleb is the Co-Chairperson for Belong: Fox Valley and a queer youth advocate committed to creating safe and affirming spaces for folks in the community. With his experience working with youth, he has firsthand insight into what the youth may be facing right now. Caleb's goal with this discussion is to not only share those insights but to help adults better understand how they can support their youth in this climate, while also reflecting on the concepts of "accepting vs. affirming" and how curiosity can be the bridge to providing meaningful support.

For our in-person location or to get the Zoom link for the hybrid option, drop us an email at [pflaggenevatricities@gmail.com](mailto:pflaggenevatricities@gmail.com)

**PFLAG**

GENEVA/TRI-CITIES



**Discover Belong: Fox Valley  
and all they have to offer!**



**Our monthly meetings are  
held the second Monday of  
the month.**

**If this is your first time  
joining us, please contact  
us by Sunday, May 11th for  
our location and if you're  
interested in joining us via  
Zoom.**

**[pflaggenevatricities@gmail.com](mailto:pflaggenevatricities@gmail.com)**

**We are excited to welcome back Caleb Anderson from Belong: Fox Valley as our May guest speaker. Caleb radiates a relaxed vibe, bringing invaluable firsthand experience in working with LGBTQ+ youth. He creates an atmosphere that makes you feel like you've known him for a long time, encouraging curiosity and questions to enhance learning and support for the LGBTQ+ community.**

**He'll be sharing a presentation on "Being curious when working with queer youth."**

## JULY PFLAG MEETING TOPIC OPTIONS

**We have two intriguing topics to consider for our July meeting, and we'd love to hear your thoughts! Please [email](#) us with your preference.**

1. Having 2-4 Dads of LGBTQ+ kids to speak about their experience.
  - a. We need 2-3 more Dads to volunteer
  - b. No experience necessary in speaking, we would give you some guidance
2. Watch the documentary **[1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture](#)**
  - a. PFLAG National and PFLAG chapters are non-sectarian, non-denominational, and not affiliated with any particular religious institution.
  - b. Please discover more on **[PFLAG and Faith Community Relationships](#)**
  - c. The option to watch this film, is to provide a resource, as some have found it useful; however we do not formally endorse it.

# The Lens of Curiosity

May is a month filled with significant observances, [Mental Health Awareness Month](#), [National Honor Our LGBT Elders Day](#), [International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia](#), [Agender Pride Day](#), [Pansexual and Panromantic Awareness and Visibility Day](#), [National Teacher's Day](#), [Mother's Day](#) and countless others—too many to mention! *Click on the highlighted links and expand your knowledge.*

## International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia

Since 2004, May 17 has served as a crucial day for grassroots activists, organizations, institutions, families and friends of LGBTQIA+ individuals to come together. It aims to raise awareness about violence and discrimination faced by LGBTQIA+ people while advocating for change. This date marks the 1990 removal of homosexuality from the World Health Organization's Classification of Diseases.

We need to use our voices (and privilege) to educate on homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia, countering misinformation with facts and personal stories. By sharing the truth and listening, we can dismantle ignorance and fear. Engage in respectful dialogues, amplify marginalized voices, and challenge stereotypes. Education is key in breaking down prejudices, and every conversation can build empathy and understanding. We need you NOW!

Resources: [may17.org/](http://may17.org/) [idahobit.org.au/news/the-history-of-IDAHOBIT-may-17](http://idahobit.org.au/news/the-history-of-IDAHOBIT-may-17)

## Honoring Our LGBT Elders Day

Honor Our LGBT Elders Day pays tribute to the lives and contributions of older LGBTQ+ individuals.

These trailblazers encountered considerable challenges, yet they remained resilient, paving the way for the rights and acceptance many enjoy today. Their tales of bravery and authenticity serve as an inspiration, reminding us of the progress made through their dedication.

Recognizing our LGBT elders highlights the significance of community and intergenerational bonds. It provides a chance to listen to their stories, learn from their journeys, and express appreciation for their sacrifices. This day encourages us to celebrate those who have paved the way toward equality and inclusion.

## National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ Peoples

MMIWG2S is an acronym for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirits. This movement recognizes that not only is this racialized violence, but gendered violence, mainly against feminized bodies, but also extending to men and Two-spirits whose genders do not conform to the colonial, binary gender system.

May 5th has become recognized as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ Peoples. Indigenous women, girls, and 2 spirits (as well as other LGBTQ+ indigenous people) in the United States and Canada experience a higher rate of violence than other groups. Among native women, 84 percent have experienced violence. In 2020 Savanna's Act became law to recognize this and address the responsibilities of various law enforcement agencies with regard to violence against indigenous women, girls, and 2 spirit people. Some ways to recognize MMIWG2S on May 5th include:

- Wear red
- Host a community event
- Contact elected representative to request that they draw attention to the issue and support legislation to combat violence against affected groups
- Share information about the issue

Written by Ellie,  
PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Member



**PFLAG Connects: Communities (PCC)** provide a safe, virtual, moderated space where people with shared experiences can connect each month.

This month we'd like to highlight [the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, & Pacific Islander Community](#) that meets on the second Sunday of the month at 6pm ET / 3pm PT. Next meeting: May 11th, 2025



## Education Resources for Further Learning

[Jeanne Manford Mother of the ally movement for LGBTQ+ equality](#)

[Harvey Milk Day](#)

[Pansexual and Panromantic Awareness and Visibility Day](#)

[Coming Out: Living Authentically as LGBTQ+ Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders](#)

[Exploring Identity for Jewish American Heritage Month](#)

[Teaching While Queer](#)

[Teaching While Queer Social Media](#)

# What's Happening?!

## In Case You Missed It...

### Guidance on Gender-Related Protections in Illinois

All individuals in Illinois have a right to be free from discrimination on the basis of their gender identity. As outlined in this non-regulatory guidance, issued March 2025, IDHR will enforce Illinois law that protects persons of all gender identities from discrimination, harassment, and retaliation.

Click the title for the link to the Illinois Department of Human Rights.

Here is the full document:

**NON-REGULATORY GUIDANCE**  
**Protections for Transgender, Nonbinary, and Gender Nonconforming Persons Under the Illinois Human Rights Act March 2025**

**“Hope will never be silent.” – Harvey Milk**

## PFLAG Resources:

### Community:

- [Find a PFLAG Chapter](#)
- [Find a virtual meeting](#)
- [PFLAG Connects: Communities](#)
- [The PFLAG National Online Community](#) (Facebook)

[PFLAG v Trump: Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Advocacy in 10 Minutes or Less!](#)

## Illinois Resources

- [Check out Local Resource on our Website!](#)
- [Illinois State Board of Elections](#)
  - [Illinois Sample Ballots](#)
- [Find My Elected Officials](#)
- [Illinois Department of Human Rights](#)
- [Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul](#)
  - [Civil Rights Immigration Rights](#)

# What's New?

Our website isn't brand new, but we're committed to updating it to improve access to our resources. Explore the latest enhancements!

[PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Resources](#)

## We Need Your Help!

### WEBSITE RESOURCES

If there's a resource you believe we should include on our website, let us know. We can't guarantee its addition, but if it aligns with our mission, we're eager to share it.

### BOOKS/MOVIES/PODCASTS

Do you have a fantastic LGBTQ+ movie, podcast, or book to recommend? Whether it's educational, fiction, or nonfiction—suitable for adults or children—we would love to hear your suggestions!

## Facts & Accurate Information

**There is a significant amount of misinformation circulating. Here are some linked resources to help you navigate through the confusion:**

- [Executive Order Explainers and Resources](#)
- [Movement Advancement Project Equality Maps](#)
- [ACLU Anti-LGBTQ+ Legislation Tracker](#)
- [A4TE Identity Documents](#)
- [Equality IL](#)
  - [Equality IL Action Updates](#)
- [Lambda Legal](#)
- [Media/Bias Fact Check](#)

## PFLAG GENEVA/TRI-CITIES SUPPORT MEETINGS

**THE 2ND MONDAY EVERY MONTH**  
**6:00-8:00 PM**

All are welcome!

You do not need to be a PFLAG member to attend our meetings or events and our meetings are always free.

- **May 12th**
- **June 9th**
- **July 14th**
- **August 11th**
- **September 8th**
- **October 13th**

You are welcome to join us at 6:00 or 6:30

- **Typically, our support and connecting time begins at 6:00**
- **The educational segment of our meeting usually begins at 6:30**



*If you wish to invite a friend to the meeting, that's wonderful! Please ask them to reach out to us via email so we can share the details!*

*For safety, the doors will remain locked during our meetings.*

*Our contact number is 630-492-0032*

*If you know you are going to be late try to call by 6:30.*

*After 6:40, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to take your call due to the meeting in progress.*

*Thank you for your understanding!*



Believing that you are unworthy of love and belonging or that who you are authentically is a sin or is wrong, is deadly.  
Laverne Cox

# Advocacy & Resources

## Advocate

Figure Out What Works For You  
Where Do We Start?

Calls to Action -

- **Show Up - Get Involved**
  - School Board Meetings
  - Library Board Meetings
- **Mobilize - There's Power in Numbers**
- **Organize & Strategize**
- **Brainstorm**
- **Make Your Voice Heard**
  - Lobbying
  - 5 Calls - Make your voice heard
- **Share Your Story**
  - Sharing personal experiences can shift perspectives and touch hearts.
- **Join Rallies**
- **Protest** Safely
- **Reach out to your State & Federal Representatives**
  - Email
  - Call
  - Go in Person
- **Action Steps**

## Advocacy Resources

- **PFLAG National Advocacy Tools: Join the fight!**
- **Advocacy Video Training Series: Advocacy in 10 minutes or less!**
- **Advocacy at All Levels: Making Your PFLAG Voice Heard**



## Resources

Get Connected  
Discover New Resources

- **PFLAG National Newsletter**
- **PFLAG Connects Communities**
- **A4TE** - Trans Resource
- **ACLU**
  - Take Action
- **Chase Strangio**
  - Co-Director of the ACLU's LGBT & HIV Project
- **Equality IL**
- **Erin In The Morning**
  - Erin Reed, Trans Reporter - Excellent Resource
- **GLESEN**
- **HRC**
- **Illinois State Board of Elections**
- **Find My Elected Officials**
- **Illinois Department of Human Rights**
- **Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul**
  - *Civil Rights Immigration Rights*
- **LambdaLegal**
- **Sage Advocacy Services for LGBTQ+ Elders**
- **TJLP** - Name & Gender change resource
- **Transgender Law Center**
- **The Trevor Project**
- **Trans Youth for Equality Foundation (TYEF)**
- **Heather Cox Richardson**
  - *Professor of American history-she explains daily how the political landscape affects lives*



## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

CLICK ON THE ICONS TO CONNECT



PublicPage

@PFLAGgenevaticities



Private Group

pflaggenevaticities@gmail.com



@pflaggenevaticit.bsky.social



@PFLAGgenevaticities

Please note we have a public Facebook page and a private group.  
To join the private group, click the blue Facebook icon & answer the membership questions.