

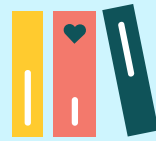


# PFLAG

GENEVA/TRI-CITIES



# SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER



## Welcome!

### Greetings PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities!

We extend a heartfelt welcome to our new friends—it's wonderful to have you with us!

During our August meeting, we explored ***Back to School Support for LGBTQIA+ youth and faculty***, igniting a crucial conversation that we are eager to continue.

A special thank you to our speakers, Maggie, Samantha, and Ezra, along with all attendees who shared their experiences navigating the education system for their LGBTQ+ loved ones.

### School Outreach Committee

In response to the ongoing challenges faced by LGBTQ+ youth, we are excited to announce the formation of a ***School Outreach Committee***. Our first meeting will take place on ***\*\*Zoom\*\* on Tuesday, September 2nd, from 5:30 to 7:00 PM.*** If you are interested in participating in this vital initiative, please reach out to us at [\*\*\*pflaggenevatricities@gmail.com\*\*\*](mailto:pflaggenevatricities@gmail.com).

*We encourage you to contact us even if you cannot join the first meeting; let us know which evenings might work for you to attend a future Zoom session.*

***“People in this country who are in positions of privilege must learn to find ways of fighting for the just treatment of others, not by centering and platforming themselves, but by holding up the ones who are suffering.”***

**— Brandi Carlile**



**“ALL YOUNG PEOPLE, REGARDLESS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR IDENTITY, DESERVE A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH TO ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.”**

—HARVEY MILK

TEACHFORAMERICA



### For Our LGBTQ+ Youth

**“There’s nothing wrong with you. There’s a lot wrong with the world you live in.”**

**— Chris Colfer**



[\*\*PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Website\*\*](https://www.pflaggenevatricities.com)

# Thank you to our Pride Partners!



**THANK YOU TO**  
 **SCHOOL OF ROCK**  
 GENEVA

**Thank you for including us in your Pride Night Celebration, for your generous donation and for your steadfast support of the LGBTQIA+ community!**

**We look forward to our continued collaboration with you!**

 **PFLAG**  
 GENEVA/TRI-CITIES

**63rd Street Apothecary**  
 10 E WILSON ST. BATAVIA, IL

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## 63rd Street Apothecary

**Thank You For Your Generous Donation!**

**Thank you 63rd Street Apothecary!**

*In honor of Pride Month, Lucy donated 10% of their sales to PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities in the month of June!*

*Discover the essence of 63rd Street Apothecary, where every product is crafted with love and intention.*

**PFLAG**  
 GENEVA/TRI-CITIES



63rd Street Apothecary located at 10 E. Wilson Street, Unit 1, Batavia, IL

## CREATE & CONNECT

### Creating & Community

Each month, a portion of every ticket sold through **Create & Connect** is donated to a featured nonprofit. This gives students an opportunity to not only create something meaningful—but to be part of something meaningful.



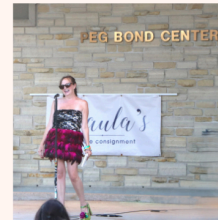
In honor of Pride Month, in June of this year, **PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities** was the first nonprofit partner under this new program. Through colorful art events like our rainbow-themed painting classes, we were able to raise funds and bring people together in a space that celebrated identity, creativity, and support.

**PFLAG**  
 GENEVA/TRI-CITIES

Discover upcoming classes at The Artistic Edge and connect with Kayla at [www.theartisticedge.co](http://www.theartisticedge.co)



## Thank you to our Pride Partners!



Paula's 4 1/2 W Wilson St. in Batavia

We deeply appreciate Katie from Katie O'Brien Photography for her generous contribution to our chapter. We're grateful for the support of community-minded businesses!

10 E Wilson St, Batavia  
[www.shootwithkatie.com](http://www.shootwithkatie.com)

Please visit **Paula's Couture Consignment** and **Katie O'Brien Photography**, both in Batavia!

**Paula's**  
 couture consignment

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Paula from Paula's Couture Consignment for inviting us to the Express Yourself Fashion Show. We truly appreciate her unwavering support and her continuous promotion of our chapter!



**PFLAG**  
 GENEVA/TRI-CITIES

## Sponsorship Spotlight

**Michele Westmaas (she/her)**  
**Thrivent, Financial Advisor**



Michele is proud to support PFLAG and Pride in the Park! As a long-time disability advocate—and mom to an amazing nonbinary young adult, she is passionate about providing affirming, respectful financial guidance to the LGBTQ+ community.

She chose to partner with Thrivent because of their strong ethics, focus on generosity, and commitment to helping people live with purpose. She helps individuals and families align their finances with what matters most—creating clarity, confidence, and a legacy of love.

It's not just about building wealth—it's about building a life that reflects your values.

**thrivent**

Michele Westmaas  
 Financial Advisor  
 630-333-4848 |  
[michele.westmaas@thrivent.com](mailto:michele.westmaas@thrivent.com)



**PFLAG**  
 GENEVA/TRI-CITIES



# UPCOMING EVENTS & CHAPTER NEWS!

## School Outreach Committee

We are in the process of establishing a committee to:

1. Evaluate the support, education, and advocacy needs of LGBTQ+ students, parents, and staff within local districts.
2. Investigate potential initiatives for schools.
3. Identify resources that can help meet these needs.

This is a preliminary outline to kick things off.

Our first Committee Meeting is scheduled for

Tuesday, September 2nd, via Zoom from 5:30 to 7:00

PM. Please reach out to us if you're interested in

joining the committee.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, SIGN UP TODAY!

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

*Anonymous*

Join us for our October Volunteer Event!

**When:** Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 10am - 12:45 pm

**Where:** Baker Memorial United Methodist Church

307 Cedar Avenue in St. Charles

Join us as we create buttons, fold brochures, put together outreach packets and brainstorm together.

Sign up today through the following link: [October](#)

[Volunteer Event](#)

*Bring a drink & yourself and we'll provide the snacks & the fun!*

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

## Upcoming PFLAG Events & Community Organizations

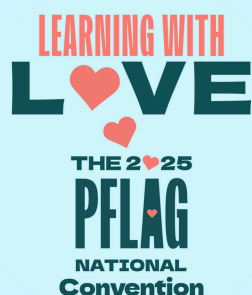
### [PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Events](#)

- 9/2 PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities School Outreach Committee meeting via Zoom
- 9/6 [Art on the Fox Algonquin](#) 10-5 Resource table
- 9/8 PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Monthly Meeting 6-8 pm
  - Featuring Stephanie Dewinski from SPSA (see meeting info on pg 3)
- 10/10-10/12 [Learning with Love: The 2025 PFLAG National Convention](#) Chicago, IL
- 10/13 PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Monthly Support Meeting 6-8 pm
- 10/25 PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Volunteer Event 10 - 1 held at Baker Memorial Methodist Church Saint Charles
- 10/27 PFLAG Quarterly Board Meeting held on Zoom
- 11/10 PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Monthly Meeting 6-8 pm
- 12/8 PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Monthly Meeting 6-8 pm

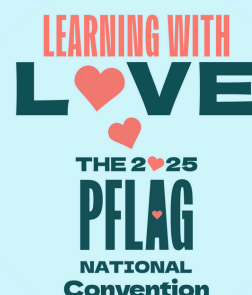
### Local LGBTQ+ Organizations

Discover some of our local LGBTQ+ organizations and their monthly activities below. For a more comprehensive list of local organizations, please visit the [Resources](#) section on our website.

- [Belong Fox Valley's Monthly Events Here](#)
- [IL West Suburbs LGBT Community](#)
- [Aurora LGBTQ+ Advisory Board's Events on social media](#)
- [Elgin Pride Events](#)
- [West Suburban Community Network by Youth Outlook](#)



**Save the Date!**  
COURAGEOUS LOVE,  
IN COMMUNITY TOGETHER  
**2025 PFLAG NATIONAL CONFERENCE**  
Friday, October 10 - Sunday, October 12, 2025  
*Chicago, IL*

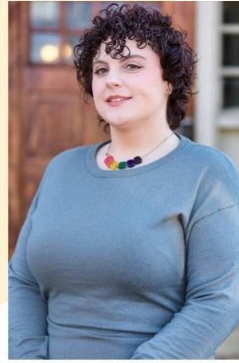




# SEPTEMBER PFLAG GENEVA/TRI-CITIES SUPPORT MEETING

## PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities September 8<sup>th</sup> Guest Speaker

**Stephanie M. Dewinski, Associate Executive  
Director of Suicide Prevention Services of  
America**



*Join us on September 8<sup>th</sup> from 6 - 8pm  
for a discussion on mental health and crisis safety planning.*

Join us on September 8th from 6 - 8 p.m. for an important discussion on mental health and crisis safety planning. Stephanie will cover common myths about suicide, share warning signs, risk factors, and guide us on supporting those in crisis. Learn about safety plans and how they can offer support during difficult times.

***Together, we can build a safer, more compassionate community.***

Our presenter Stephanie Dewinski, MSW, LCSW, joined Suicide Prevention Services of America (SPSA) in 2016 as an intern at Aurora University during her Master of Social Work program. Before her master's program, she earned her Bachelor's in psychology with a minor in women, gender, and sexuality studies from NIU in 2014.

*If this is your first visit with us, feel free to contact us  
for our location or to join via Zoom at  
[pflaggenevatricities@gmail.com](mailto:pflaggenevatricities@gmail.com).*



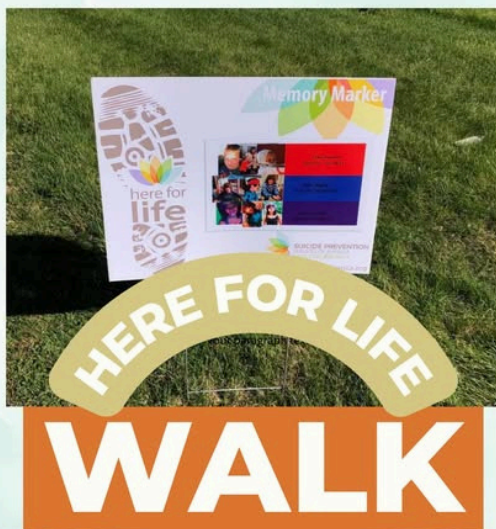
**Discover Suicide  
Prevention Services of  
America and the services  
they provide.**

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

**If this is your first time  
joining us, please contact  
us by the Sunday  
before our meeting for our  
location or if you're  
interested in joining us via  
Zoom.**

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

**PFLAG**  
GENEVA/TRI-CITIES



**SEPTEMBER 13, 2025 | 9AM**  
POTTAWATOMIE PARK, ST. CHARLES, IL

@suicidepreventionservices



**SUICIDE PREVENTION  
SERVICES OF AMERICA  
HERE FOR LIFE.**

**Interested in joining the Here for Life Walk  
with SPSA?**

***Find more information here:***

**The Here for Life Walk** began in 2006 as a way for the individuals to come together to walk with friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers to support each other and in memory of those who have died by suicide. Please join us for our 20th annual Here for Life Walk. The funds raised will support vital Suicide Prevention Services in the Illinois Fox River Valley.

# PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Membership

## *Chapter Member Benefits*

It's that time of year again to renew your PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Membership or to join us for the first time!

Memberships and donations are tax-deductible. Your membership dollars support PFLAG being a presence in the community for everyone that comes next. Whether it be future parents, LGBTQ+ people and families who need support, or other organizations that will benefit from PFLAG's presence and education, keeping PFLAG active and funded is critical.

For more information on membership, please follow this link [PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Membership Benefits](#) or contact us today about becoming a member of our chapter.

*Attendance at PFLAG meetings and events is always open to everyone—membership is not required. However, your contributions through membership ensure PFLAG continues its essential work.*

Unsure about joining? Your presence and volunteer efforts are invaluable to PFLAG's mission. Join us at our meeting, events, and consider volunteering with us. You can also support us by engaging with our social media—share and like our posts to help others connect with us!



## New Illinois Resource!!!!

**Have you heard the news? The State of Illinois created the following new resources!**

**[IL Pride Connect](#) And**

**[IL PRIDE CONNECT LEGAL HOTLINE](#)**

***Need Legal Help? Call the IL Pride Connect Legal Hotline***

***Call: 855-805-9200***

***Hours: Monday – Thursday, 9 AM to 4 PM***

***Languages: English and Spanish - Free and confidential***

***Discover the IL Pride Connect Resources Today!***



## PFLAG Connects Communities

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

**PFLAG National's current communities gather people of [Latino](#), [Black/African American](#), [Asian American and Pacific Islander](#) backgrounds—as well as [Military Families](#), [Families with Gender-Diverse Loved Ones](#), [Grandparents](#) and [Dads](#)—to gain support, ask questions, and learn from others who have been through similar experiences.**

**These meetings cater primarily to family members of LGBTQ+ people, and also welcome members of the LGBTQ+ community.**

**Click on the links to register for an upcoming meeting.**

# 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.