



# PFLAG

## GENEVA/TRI-CITIES



# NOVEMBER 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!

### **November Meeting**

Our meeting this month is scheduled for Monday,  
November 10th.

Guest Speaker Karissa Tobey, Founder & Owner of Prism  
Point Counseling will be presenting on: Navigating  
Holidays and Family Gatherings. Karissa will explore  
common stressors—such as family rejection, conflict, and  
microaggressions.

She will offer practical strategies for fostering affirming  
holiday traditions.

You will leave with tools to both support yourself and loved  
ones during this emotionally complex time.

### **PCNI Newsletter - [Open Doors](#)**

November 2025 issue of Open Doors, the newsletter of the PFLAG Council of  
Northern Illinois, is here:

<https://tinyurl.com/pcni2511>

*If you are opening this link on a mobile device and One Drive asks for permission to  
access all your photos, click "Later" to escape that, and then click "Open in  
Browser" (don't Sign In).*

#### ***In this issue:***

- 2025 PFLAG National Convention recap
  - SAVE THE DATE: 2026 PCNI Conference
  - Chapter news, Training to help immigrant families, Events, research, book
- To find all Open Doors issues, please visit <https://pflagil.org/newsletter>



### **November is Transgender Awareness Month**

*We share trans awareness  
every month: Trans people  
deserve equity, justice,  
healthcare, safety, respect,  
joy, liberation, bodily  
autonomy, legal protection,  
safety, housing, employment,  
education, and above all, a  
loving and affirming world.*

***Please join us in honoring  
them and fighting for them!***



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

# UPCOMING EVENTS & CHAPTER NEWS!

## School Outreach Committee

The School Outreach Committee has come together, and we're inspired by the incredible ideas and achievable goals. If you're passionate about making a difference, join us today!

## TRANS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE WITH AURORA LGBTQ BOARD

**Trans Day of Remembrance - November 22, 2025**

**In partnership with HOPE United Church of Christ**

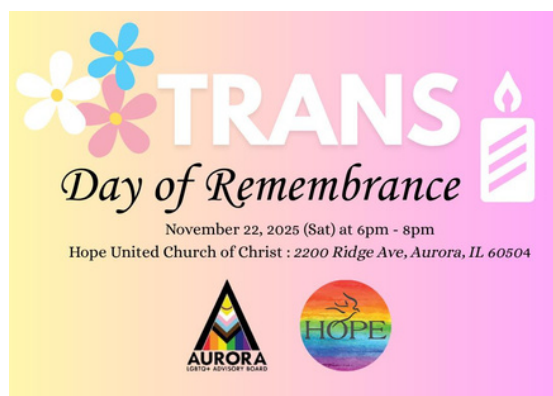
✨ Seeking Volunteers ✨

🎤 Be a Speaker - share a story, poem or a testimony that will commemorate the trans community

🎵 Share your talent - do a performance to celebrate our trans siblings

🎨 Get involved in the technical side - in creating a symbolic artwork that will honor the ones who have departed, assist during the event making sure the audio and visual presentations, ushering and other tasks for the event

**If you are interested send them a message here or email them at [auroralgbtqboard@gmail.com](mailto:auroralgbtqboard@gmail.com)**



## Upcoming PFLAG Events & Community Organizations

### PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Events

- **12/8 PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Monthly Meeting 6-8 pm**
- **1/11 First Sunday Quarterly Meeting 2:30-4:30 In Person Only - Same place, Different space**
- **1/12 Monthly Meeting Guest Speaker Dr. Jessica Lapinski LGBTQIA+ Healthcare for ALL ages**
- **1/23 Movie Night - 1946: *The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture* 1946 *The Mistranslation that Shifted a Culture* Co-Hosting with Baker Memorial United Methodist Church @ Baker.**

### 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](#)
  - 11/22 Trans Day of Remembrance Aurora LGBTQ Advisory Board and HOPE United Church of Christ 6-9PM
- [Elgin Pride Events](#)
- [West Suburban Community Network by Youth Outlook](#)



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



## Resources to be a Better Ally to Transgender & Nonbinary People

[Our Trans Loved Ones & Straight for Equality: Guide to Being An Ally to Trans and Nonbinary People](#)

- [Straight for Equality](#) -
- [Leading With Love... Actions for Allies](#)
  - [People Who Are Trans or Nonbinary](#)



# MEETING UPDATES



## Chapter Sharing and Connecting Time

**Beginning in November**, our meetings will wrap up with our designated sharing and connecting time, which has been taking place from 6 - 6:30 pm.

## Safety and Meeting Arrival

**Beginning in November**, we will no longer have a greeter stationed at the entry doors at 6:30 PM.

If you need to arrive after 6:10, please notify us in advance so we can ensure that a greeter is available to welcome you.

Please keep in mind that we cannot check emails or messages after 5 PM on meeting nights, so it's best to reach out to us earlier.

A greeter will be present from 5:45 to 6:10 PM, after which the doors will be locked for safety.

## Adding a new Meeting Time Quarterly

1/11 First Sunday Quarterly Meeting 2:30-4:30

- ***In Person Only - Same place, Different space***
- The other Quarterly Sunday Meetings will take place on the following dates: **April 12<sup>th</sup>, July 12<sup>th</sup> & October 11<sup>th</sup>.**

*If anyone has a suggestion of a different space for the quarterly Sunday meetings and is interested in securing a space (or spaces) please let us know.*

## Meeting Facilitators



If you're interested in training to become a PFLAG meeting facilitator, please reach out to us via email. To introduce new days to our meeting schedule, we need volunteers to help guide the discussions.



**Our monthly meetings are held the second Monday of the month from 6 - 8pm.**

**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)

### ***Future Speakers and Events*** **Interested in Guest Speaking Opportunities?**

- Are you interested to become a guest speaker, or do you have suggestions for potential speakers? Don't hesitate to get in touch today!

### ***2026 Events & Speakers***

- **January 23rd** - Friday night movie with Baker Memorial United Methodist Church.
- **February 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting** - **\*\* No In-person Meeting, it will be Virtual only.\*\***
- **March 9th, Guest speaker, Author Jennifer Marcellis (JJ Celli)**, a retired Sergeant with a rich career in law enforcement. Her story stares straight into the shortcomings of our system in its failure to recognize same-sex intimate partner violence.

# PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Board Update

We are thrilled to welcome Samantha Newman to our board! She joins us as our new **Outreach and Program Coordinator!**

If you're interested in becoming a part of our board or joining a committee, please don't hesitate to contact us! We are always looking for passionate and dedicated volunteers who can contribute anywhere from just a few hours a year to a monthly commitment.

We are already in the process of planning our next volunteer event, our monthly speaker/topics for the next year and our summer events.

## Fighting for Our Pride



If you weren't able to attend the webinar on Fighting for Our Pride, you can catch it here: <https://pflag.org/fightingforourpride/>. You'll also find valuable tools to take action.

The political landscape is changing rapidly, but so are we. Together, we'll organize, adapt, and ensure that lawmakers hear our message loud and clear: attacks on LGBTQ+ individuals do not represent our values, our families, or our future.

### **Focus on Local Advocacy**

**Advocacy**

Fighting For Our Pride emphasizes advocacy at the state and local levels, where many of the most harmful policies are being introduced and enacted.

We aim to share information that matters in your community – but we need your assistance! Where do you stay informed about local happenings? Please share the grassroots organizations and local groups you rely on for community information, which helps keep your local officials accountable. Follow local activists' groups, start looking at who who is on the ballot for the elections in 2026... Just a few ideas We need our community to know we are here to support our LGBTQ+ friends and loved ones. We need to be visible.

**Examples:** Being visible at local school board, City, and County Board meetings. .



### PFLAG Connects Communities

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

We are highlighting our Families with Gender-Diverse Loved Ones PFLAG Connects Community this month in honor of **Transgender Awareness Month.**

The next meeting falls on November 17th, 2025.

*Click on the link 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.