



PFLAG

GENEVA/TRI-CITIES



JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



Welcome!



Greetings PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities!

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

We are also thankful for our continued friendships with all of our PFLAGers!

It's a NEW YEAR!

There is no challenge we cannot overcome. Come what may in 2026, PFLAG will continue to fight for our LGBTQ+ loved ones.

We continue to lean into hope.

Hope doesn't erase pain; it exists with it.

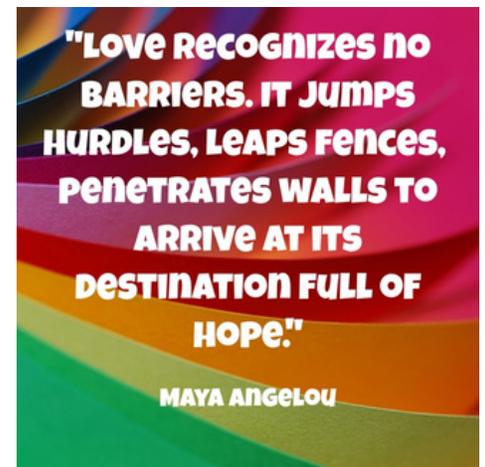
"Hope is not a luxury, it's oxygen. It is not the absence of struggle. It is the decision to believe, even inside the struggle, that something better is possible." - Muhammad Tuhin, Science News Today



January Meetings

This month we have 2 meetings!

- **Sunday 1/11 PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities FIRST Quarterly Sunday Meeting**
 - **Time & Location:** 2:30-4:30 at Sturdy Shelter Brewery - 10 S. Shumway Ave., Batavia
 - **Guest Speaker:** Joe Erbentraut will share on allyship, activism and advocacy
- **Monday 1/12 PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Monthly Support Meeting**
 - **Guest Speaker:** Dr. Jessica Lapinski from Outpatient Family Medicine Transformed will be sharing valuable healthcare education including LGBTQ+ healthcare, gender affirming healthcare, and more.
 - **Time & Location:** 6-8p.m. at our monthly location.



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



UPCOMING EVENTS & CHAPTER NEWS!

Upcoming PFLAG Events & Community Organizations

- 1/7 [Belong Fox Valley](#) & Geneva Public Library 6 p.m. Movie Screening:
 - [Heightened Scrutiny Screening](#) - (no registration required)

PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Events

- 1/11 First Sunday Quarterly Meeting 2:30-4:30 In Person Only. We will be meeting at the [Sturdy Shelter Brewery](#) @ 10 S. Shumway Ave in Batavia
 - Our Guest Speaker is [Joe Erbenbraut](#) who writes [Queering the Burbs](#)
- 1/12 Monthly Meeting Guest Speaker Dr. Jessica Lapinski from [Outpatient Family Medicine Transformed](#)
- 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.
- 1/28 PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities presenting [Building Community through Support, Education and Advocacy](#) at [Santori Library](#), 101 S. River Street Aurora. 7-8 PM, sponsored by [League of Women Voters](#)

Chapter Reminder - February Support Meeting Announcement

Our Support Meeting in February will be held exclusively online (Zoom) on February 9th, with no in-person attendance option available.

*If you are already registered to receive our monthly hybrid link, please note that you **** MUST **** sign up again for February's meeting in order to receive the link.*

[Zoom Registration Link](#) -

<https://forms.gle/8TrXk5FGRFWxa8z5>

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](#)



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



Our monthly meetings take place on the second Monday of each month from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

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.

pflaggenetrocities@gmail.com



NEW Quarterly Sunday Meetings



Join us Sunday, January 11th for our First Sunday Quarterly Meeting!

- **Time:** 2:30-4:30 p.m. *Sunday meetings are In-Person Only.*
- **Location of Sunday, January 11th Meeting:** Sturdy Shelter Brewery
<https://www.sturdyshelterbrewing.com/>
 - Located in beautiful Downtown Batavia, IL along the Fox River!
 - 10 S. Shumway Avenue | Batavia
 - With 18 taps there is something for everyone! Hungry? There are many local Batavia restaurants that offer to-go options and delivery.
- **Future Sunday Meeting Locations:** The location of our Sunday meetings will likely be different, so please double check our announcements.
- The remaining Quarterly Sunday Meetings will take place on the following dates: April 12th, July 12th & October 11th.

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.

Meet Joe Erbentraut

If you haven't met Joe Erbentraut, you're in for a treat!

We invite you to our inaugural Sunday meeting this month, featuring Joe as our guest speaker. Explore Joe's work and learn more about them through the links below:

Queering the Burbs:

<https://queeringtheburbs.substack.com/>

<https://queeringtheburbs.bigcartel.com/>

PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Guest Speaker for January

Joe Erbentraut (he/they)



Join us for our first Sunday Quarterly meeting on January 11th from 2:30-4:30.

We are thrilled to announce that Joe Erbentraut will be joining us as our guest speaker on January 11th, from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM.

We are grateful to Sturdy Shelter Brewery in Batavia for graciously hosting our event.

Joe (he/they) is a talented writer, editor, and content leader, recognized for their insightful writing on current events and pop culture. You can find their work featured in the Queering the Burbs newsletter and in a series of zines under the same title.

Joe will be sharing valuable insights on allyship, activism, and advocacy, along with their work on Queering in the Burbs.

We thank Sturdy Shelter Brewery, located at 10 S Shumway Ave in Batavia, who is donating their space for this event.

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Monday, January 12th PFLAG Monthly Support Meeting

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Monday, January 12th, Guest Speaker Dr. Jessica Lapinski

We are excited to welcome back Dr. Jessica Lapinski from

[Outpatient Family Medicine Transformed.](#)

Dr. Lapinski will be sharing valuable healthcare education including LGBTQ+ healthcare, gender affirming healthcare, and more.

This meeting will be hybrid; we will be meeting in person and have the option for you to sign up for our Zoom connection.

PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Guest Speaker for January

Dr. Jessica Lapinski



We are excited to welcome back Dr. Jessica Lapinski, as our guest speaker for our monthly January meeting.

Dr. Lapinski is the founder and sole physician of Outpatient Family Medicine Transformed. She embraces the opportunity to care for individuals across the entire spectrum of the population, regardless of age, sex, orientation, race, or socioeconomic status.

She firmly believes that family physicians have a vital role in delivering comprehensive, patient-centered care.

Outpatient Family Medicine Transformed (OPFMT) provides patient-centered, evidence-based care across various areas, including Primary Care, Gender Affirming Care, and Psychiatry.



Join us on Monday, January 12th from 6 - 8 PM for our support meeting.

If this is your first time joining us, please reach out to us at pflaggenevatricities@gmail.com for details.

PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities is Here to Support You!

Entering a meeting for the first time can be intimidating; we get it. Our goal is to foster a welcoming and safe space that meets you where you are.

Feel free to share your questions, concerns, and challenges.

Together we navigate through the tough times and celebrate the victories.

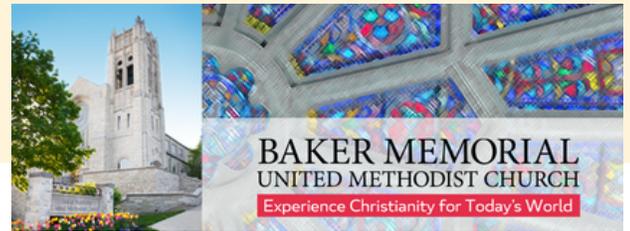
Our meetings typically feature a speaker or discussion topic for 45+ minutes, followed by 30+ minutes dedicated to connecting with and supporting one another.

Safety and Meeting Arrival for Monday Meetings

- A greeter will be present at the entrance from 5:45 to 6:10 PM, after which the doors will be locked for safety.
- If you need to arrive after 6:10 for our monthly Monday meetings, 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.

MOVIE NIGHT!

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We are excited for our partnership with Baker Memorial United Methodist Church to present a screening of the documentary **1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture.**

<https://www.1946themovie.com/>

1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture is a feature documentary that follows the story of tireless researchers who trace the origins of the anti-gay movement among Christians to a grave mistranslation of the Bible in 1946.

This is a complimentary event! We will provide lemonade, popcorn, and some sweets for your enjoyment during the movie.

Please sign up here: <https://forms.gle/yCrWDGcJwUCcAEt17> so we can prepare accordingly. *We will also send out a reminder email the day before the event.*

After the film, anyone interested is welcome to join a discussion with Pastor David Aslesen and board members from PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities.



Movie Night

Friday, January 23, 2026



Join PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities and Baker Memorial United Methodist Church for a free viewing of the documentary

1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture

1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture is a feature documentary that follows the story of tireless researchers who trace the origins of the anti-gay movement among Christians to a grave mistranslation of the Bible in 1946.

Event Details

- **Location:** Baker Memorial United Methodist Church
307 Cedar Ave, St Charles, IL
- **Date & Time:** January 23, 2026
Doors open at 6:45 PM and the movie begins at 7:00 PM

We'll have snacks available and will facilitate a discussion following the film. Please sign up for the event through the link we've provided.

PFLAG Resources:

- [Faith In Our Families](https://pflag.org/resource/fai-th-in-our-families/)
<https://pflag.org/resource/fai-th-in-our-families/>
- [Leading With Love... Actions for Allies](#)



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LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

PFLAG Academy Online

Brings free, monthly learning sessions right to your computer screen. Benefit from PFLAG National's diverse learning options, informed staff, great guests, and input from other participants...all without leaving home. All you need is a computer (or mobile device) and the drive to lead with love and move equality forward.

FIGHTING FOR OUR PRIDE IN THE 2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Wednesday, January 14 | 8:30pm ET / 5:30pm PT

Building on the momentum of our Fighting For Our Pride campaign, this workshop is designed to empower you to effectively advocate for LGBTQ+ issues at the local, state, and federal levels. Whether you are new to advocacy or have years of experience, this session will equip you with the tools and strategies needed to engage with lawmakers and amplify the voices of LGBTQ+ individuals and their families.



Calling all LGBTQ+ Allies!



Join PFLAG National's upcoming PFLAG Academy Online virtual learning session, "Fighting For Our Pride in the 2026 State Legislative Session", on Wednesday, January 14 at 8:30pm ET / 5:30pm PT.

As state legislative sessions begin, your voice is more important than ever. Building on the momentum of our Fighting For Our Pride campaign, this workshop is designed to empower you to effectively advocate for LGBTQ+ issues at the local, state, and federal levels. Whether you are new to advocacy or have years of experience, this session will equip you with the tools and strategies needed to engage with lawmakers and amplify the voices of LGBTQ+ individuals and their families.

Register today at pflag.org/onlineacademy

Future Speakers and Events Let's Collaborate!



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!

Meeting Topics and Event Ideas

- Do you have a topic in mind for a meeting or event for our chapter? Fantastic! Let's discuss it! Contact us today to delve deeper into your ideas.

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
- **Trangender 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*



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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.