



PFLAG

GENEVA/TRI-CITIES



MARCH 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 is Women's History Month! This month and every month, we honor and celebrate the powerful LGBTQ+ women who led movements, broke barriers, and advocated for a just and equitable world. 🌈 🏳️‍⚧️

Frida Kahlo

Passionately bisexual painter Frida Kahlo explored Mexican identity through surrealist-inspired self-portraits. She was fearless in her expression of identity and sexuality. She remains an icon of feminism and the LGBTQ+ community.

Discover more about Frida Kahlo at <https://www.fridakahlo.org>

March 31st marks **International Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV)**, a day dedicated to celebrating the accomplishments and victories of transgender people while raising awareness of the work still needed to end the continued discrimination, harassment, and harm against the trans community and their families.

While PFLAG members are vocal and active allies year-round, TDOV offers another opportunity to show your loud, proud support.

March Meeting

3/9 Monthly Meeting from 6 - 8pm

Guest Speaker JJ Celli Author, Poetry, Memoir. JJ holds a BS, BA, and MA in Forensic Psychology and recently retired as a Patrol and Detective Sergeant after nearly 23 years in law enforcement. As a published author, her work highlights the system's failure to recognize same-sex intimate partner violence. Her book, "In Love Letters and Pocket Knives," features autobiographical poems that explore trauma, intimacy, love, and resilience, providing an unfiltered look into her life. *She will have copies of her work available to purchase.*



[PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Website](https://www.pflag.org/geneva-tri-cities)





PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Upcoming Events



PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Events

- **3/9 Monthly Meeting with Guest Speaker JJ Celli**
- **3/14 PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Volunteer Event 10-1 @ Baker Memoria United Methodist Church, 307 Cedar Avenue, St. Charles, IL**
 - Join us for replenishing button inventory, assembling pride swag bags, brainstorming, and much more! Everyone is welcome, regardless of chapter membership or meeting attendance.
 - **For more information and to sign up, click here: [Volunteer Event](#)**
 - *****Update***** Just an FYI, the St. Charles St. Patrick's Day parade is on the 14th and begins 2. Parking availability should be accessible around the church.
- **4/11 Geneva Public Library Volunteer + Community Connection Fair (We'll have a table!)**
 - "Geneva is home to a wealth of local non-profits, making a world of difference. GPLD's Volunteer + Community Connection Fair combines a volunteer fair, community blood drive, and networking event. Join us to connect with nonprofits, learn about volunteer opportunities, and local resources. Drop in any time between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.!"
- **4/12 Our second Quarterly Sunday Meeting from 2:30-4:30 via Zoom**
- Our guest speakers will be Curtis Lopez-Galloway, Founder and President of the Conversion Therapy Survivor Network, and Samuel Nieves, who serves on the board.
 - Curtis grew up in a small town in Southern Illinois and was subjected to conversion therapy at age 16—an experience he later helped turn into action by working to ban conversion therapy in his home state. He has since become a leading figure in LGBTQ+ organizations across the Midwest and now continues his advocacy work in California.
 - Samuel is a passionate advocate and outspoken opponent of conversion therapy. Through social media and community engagement, he raises awareness, holds practitioners accountable, and shares his lived experience as a survivor. Join us to learn how they are bringing survivors together in community and solidarity—supporting healing while advocating for meaningful change. Learn more about their work here: <https://www.conversionsurvivor.org/>

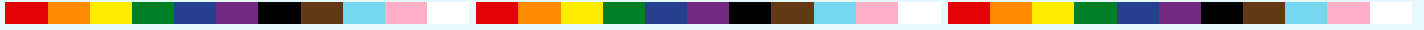
Our monthly meetings take place on the second Monday of each month from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

If you have not joined us before, 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



Upcoming Events Continued



- **Monday, April 13th from 6 - 8 pm join us for our April monthly meeting**
 - Our guest speaker is an Attorney from [Illinois Pride Connect](#). We will find out about the services available through IL Pride Connect, the advocacy work they do and share a “Know Your Rights” overview. There will be plenty of time for a Q & A. If anyone would like to send their questions ahead of time, please send them to: pflaggenevaticities@gmail.com.
- **Tuesday, April 21st from 6:30 - 8pm at the [Saint Charles Public Library](#).** Join us as we partner with the Saint Charles Public Library to host a discussion with [Nico Lang](#), award-winning journalist and the author of [American Teenager: How Trans Kids Are Surviving Hate and Finding Joy in A Turbulent Era](#). Their moving work celebrates the resilience, courage, and joy of trans youth navigating today’s challenging world. Together, we’ll explore ways our community can uplift and support queer and trans kids — and leave with tangible ideas for creating a safer, more joyful future for all youth. Nico will be signing books!
 - [Please register here!](#)

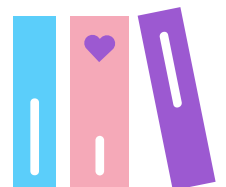


About the Author

Nico Lang (they/them) is a nonbinary award-winning journalist with over a decade of experience covering the transgender community’s fight for equality. Their work has appeared in major publications, including Rolling Stone, Esquire, The New York Times, Vox, The Wall Street Journal, Salon, Harper’s Bazaar, Time, The Washington Post, and the Los Angeles Times. Lang is the creator of Queer News Daily and previously served as the deputy editor for Out magazine, the news editor for Them, the LGBTQ+ correspondent for VICE, and the editor and cofounder of the literary journal In Our Words.

Their industry-leading contributions to queer media have resulted in a GLAAD Media Award, 10 awards from the National Association of LGBTQ Journalists (NLGJA), and three awards from the Los Angeles Press Club, including the 2023 Online Journalist of the Year.

Lang is also the first-ever recipient of the Visibility Award from the Transgender Legal Defense and Education Fund (TLDEF), an honor created to recognize their impactful contributions to reporting on the lives of LGBTQ+ people.



PFLAG

TINLEY PARK

2026 Pride Event List

Updated 3/2



- April 25 Bond County PrideFest
- May 1-2 Leather Pride Weekend
- May 16 Springfield PrideFest
- May 30 Jacksonville Pride
- May 30 Waukegan Pride Festival
- June 5 Highwood Pride
- June 5 Pride in Park Ridge
- June 5 Rochelle Pride Night
- June 5 & 6 Quad Cities Pride Festival
- June 6 Downers Grove Pridefest
- June 6 Elgin Pride Parade
- June 6 Logan County Pride Fest
- June 6 Lombard PrideFest
- June 6 Macomb Pridefest
- June 6 Niles Pride
- June 6 Rockford Pride Alley Party
- June 6 & 7 NWI PrideFest
- June 7 Buffalo Grove Pride
- June 7 Kankakee Pride Picnic
- June 12-14 Andersonville Midsommarfest
- June 13 Aurora Pride at the Plaza
- June 13 Dixon Pride
- June 13 Michigan City Pride
- June 13 Pride Richland County
- June 13 Ottawa Family Pride Festival
- June 13 & 14 Woodstock PrideFest
- June 14 Aurora Pride Parade
- June 20 All My Relations Pride Event
- June 20 Des Plaines Community Pride Celebration
- June 20 Elmhurst Family Pride Fest
- June 20 Lake County (IL) Pridefest
- June 20 Whiting Pride
- June 20 & 21 Chicago Pride Fest
- June 26 & 27 Pride Metal Fest
- June 27 Pride at Navy Pier
- June 27 Yorkville Pride
- June 28 Chicago Pride Parade
- July 3-5 Chicago Black Pride
- July 11 Belong Fox Valley Pride in the Park
- July 19 Peoria River City Pride Festival
- August 7-9 Northalsted Market Days
- September 12 Decatur Pride
- September 12 Naper Pride
- September 19 Joliet Pride
- October 11 Skokie Pride

More dates will be added as we learn of them!

Email your event information to pflagtinleypark@gmail.com

Big thank you to Kathy from PFLAG Tinley Park for always creating & updating the IL Pride list! She will continue to update it periodically. We will share it, but you can also follow [PFLAG Tinley Park](https://www.facebook.com/PFLAGTinleyPark) <https://www.facebook.com/PFLAGTinleyPark> or go to their website <https://tinleypark.pflag.org/upcoming-events/> If you know of an event, please email them at the address on the flier.



June 7th 11am-3pm is **Saint Charles Pride** from 11am -3pm at Mt. Saint Mary's Park. If you'd like to have a table at Saint Charles Pride, please contact Samantha at samanthawnewman@gmail.com





Vote

IL Primary Election

Tuesday, March 17, 2026



Vote

**“Someone struggled for your right to vote. Use it.”
— Susan B. Anthony, women’s rights activist**

VOTE

VOTE

VOTE

**STAY INFORMED
STAY INVOLVED**

[Vote.org](https://www.vote.org)

- [League of Women Voters Illinois](#)
 - [Voting Basics](#)
 - [What’s on Your Ballot](#)
 - [Vote 411 - Illinois](#)

VOTE



- [Illinois State Board of Elections](#)
 - [Information for Voters](#)
 - [Find Your Jurisdiction](#)
 - **This will lead you to your candidate list**



VOTE

Click on the links for more information on where you vote, what’s on the ballot, etc.

VOTE

VOTE

VOTE

LEADING WITH LOVE.



Volunteer with PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities

May 10th - PCNI's - Unconditional Love from PFLAG Parents, Mother's Day Fundraiser (more info on the next page)
Our chapter is a part of PCNI.

This is a huge fundraiser for the PFLAG Chapters. Last year each in total they collected a near record number of nearly \$4,500.

To register as a volunteer:

Shifts are as follows

- 1st 3:00-4:30 pm
- 2nd 4:30-6:00 pm
- 3rd 6:00-8:00 pm

Register by emailing casey971@att.net or call 630-936-1660.

Please provide: your name(s), your chapter name (PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities, your email address, contact telephone number, and choice of shift.



PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities sign up dates:

6/6 Elgin Pride Parade

6/7 Saint Charles Pride

6/13 Aurora Pride on the Plaza

6/14 Aurora Pride Parade

6/ 28 Chicago Pride Parade

7/11 Belong Fox Valley Pride in the Park

I couldn't say it any better than how our PCNI **President, Andrew Zanevsky** did. This excerpt is taken from this month's [OPEN DOORS](#), page 1.

I encourage you to read the rest.

“There is one force that powers PFLAG. It is not a building. It is not a budget. It is not a logo or a brand. **It is our volunteers.**

Without volunteers, PFLAG would not exist. Not locally. Not nationally. Not anywhere.

Volunteers open the doors at chapter meetings and make sure the lights are on. They welcome new parents who arrive anxious and unsure, and they help them leave with hope.

They staff tables at community events and art festivals. They answer hard questions.

They **educate gently**. They **advocate firmly**.

They show up – again and again – even when it's raining, even when it's uncomfortable, even when the work feels heavy.” - Andrew Zanevsky

Upcoming PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Volunteer Sign-Ups

We've started our volunteer signups for the spring and summer events. We will continue to add to events as they are announced.

Click on the link to register to volunteer with PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities.

<https://signup.com/go/JBcZGFj>

Thank you for showing up!

- Note - The PFLAG Council of Northern IL Mother's Day Fundraiser - The Unconditional Love from PFLAG Parents, is not listed under our signups. Please sign up through the listed contact information.



Local PFLAG Chapter Events



We have wonderful PFLAG Chapters in IL. There are no two chapters the same, but you will feel welcome and loved by each one!

Subscribe to [OPEN DOORS](#), PCNI's free monthly newsletter! It brings you chapter reports, news from PFLAG National, information about local events, interviews with artists, writers and other interesting people, book excerpts, and useful resources.



This is not an exhaustive list of Local Chapter Events. Explore our PFLAG Council Chapters and stay up to date on everything happening across IL PFLAG. <https://pflagillinois.org/chapters/>

March 12th - 7 - 9 pm PTI Chicago gathers via Zoom

If you or someone you know has a transgender, nonbinary, or gender-nonconforming loved one and would like to join us for the first time, please contact us at Franceyo101@gmail.com. Participants will be sent an email with a confidential meeting link and passcode a few days before the meeting.

March 29 - PFLAG Deerfield, Trans Day of Visibility (March 31)

Event, Deerfield, will celebrate the lives, contributions, & resilience of the transgender community. Venue Location TBA. Contact PFLAG Deerfield at: pflagdeerfield@gmail.com

May 10th - PCNI's Unconditional Love from PFLAG Parents, Mother's Day Fundraiser

Deb Smollen from the PFLAG Hinsdale chapter is back for her fourth year coordinating the Mother's Day fundraiser.

Sidetrack, a favorite Chicago LGBTQIA bar, graciously welcomes PFLAG. As we solicit for donations on the sidewalk outside, we exchange Tootsie Rolls (tagged with PFLAG contact info) and REAL hugs from PFLAG parents (and other supportive allies).

It is a great opportunity to feel the amazing outpouring of love and appreciation for the work we do in support of our own LGBTQIA loved ones. This fun and emotionally gratifying event is also rewarding financially.

Proceeds from the fundraiser are split, with 50% going to Council and the remaining 50% divided evenly amongst the participating chapters.

The event will run from 3:00-8:00 P.M. and will be broken into 3 shifts. We are looking for 7 people per shift. Shifts are as follows:

1st 3:00-4:30 pm, 2nd 4:30-6:00 pm, 3rd 6:00-8:00 pm

Anyone wishing to volunteer for a shift should contact me via email at: casey971@att.net or cell phone 630-936-1660.

Please provide: your name(s), your chapter name (PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities), your email address, contact telephone number, and choice of shift. Please make a commitment to be there if you sign up, as some people are turned away each year due to the limited number of slots per shift.

Local Organizations and Community Events



2026 Future Outlook Conference:

Strengthening Our
Community of Care

April 16th & 17th, 2026

Naperville, Illinois



For more information head to: <https://youth-outlook.org/events-fundraisers/future-outlook-conference/>

PFLAG DuPage & Hinsdale will be co-hosting a table at Youth Outlook's 2026 Future Outlook Conference. The event runs 2 days - Thursday, April 16 to Friday, April 17, in Naperville. (Youth Outlook will disclose the exact location prior to the conference.) ***They have invited our chapter to help as well. Elaine will be volunteering on the second day of the event.*** If you are interested in volunteering to help, sign up here: <https://signup.com/go/UWCuKma>



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](#)
- [Aurora Pride](#)
- [Elgin Pride Events](#)
- [Youth Outlook](#)
- [Naper Pride](#)
- [DeKalb Pride](#)







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!](#)
- [Fighting For Our Pride](#)
- [Advocacy at All Levels: Making Your PFLAG Voice Heard](#)



Resources

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 Pride Connect](#)
- [Illinois State Board of Elections](#)
- [Find My Elected Officials](#)
- [Illinois Department of Human Rights](#)
- [Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul](#)
 - *Civil Rights Immigration Rights*
- [LambdaLegal](#)
- [Queering the Burbs](#)
- [Sage Advocacy Services for LGBTQ+ Elders](#)
- [TJLP](#) - Name & Gender change resource
- [Transgender Law Center](#)
- [The Trevor Project](#)
- [Trans Youth for Equality Foundation \(TYEF\)](#)

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Click on the Icons to Connect



Public



Private



pflaggenevaticities@gmail.com



Please note we have a public Facebook page and a private group.