

PFLAG

GENEVA/TRI-CITIES



March 2025 Newsletter

*OUR LOVE IS COURAGEOUS AND
WE ARE UNITED IN RADICAL DEFIANCE*



Welcome!

We have some new friends to welcome. Welcome! The surge in interest towards PFLAG and other advocacy groups is palpable. We're thankful that you're here!

Join us on March 10th from 6-8 PM as we celebrate our 1 Year Anniversary as a PFLAG Chapter! We are excited to review our first year and outline goals for the future.

There will be time to connect with new friends and catch up with familiar faces. We'll revisit PFLAG essentials and introduce new resources from National. It's PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities 101 with a year of experience.

Encourage a friend or family member to join you at our next PFLAG meeting.

Advocacy can be as simple as bringing someone new to a meeting, providing the opportunity for friends and family to hear our stories.

This can help change hearts and minds by meeting real people and hearing lived experiences from the LGBTQ+ community. This is how we foster a more understanding and supportive community.

A photo capturing the PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Board during our very first meeting together.

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UPCOMING EVENTS & CHAPTER NEWS!

Next Support Meeting March 10th from 6-8 PM

Join us March 10th from 6:00-8:00 PM for our monthly support meeting!

Please Note, we will have our sharing/support time the second 1/2 of our meeting (starting around 6:45/7:00) and not the first 30 minutes.

We are eagerly anticipating our Support Meeting in March, where we will celebrate our 1-Year Anniversary as a PFLAG Chapter!

We are incredibly grateful to be part of this wonderful organization that creates a supportive community for all of us. There are so many "helpers" working diligently behind the scenes to help new chapters establish themselves; it truly takes a village, and what an extraordinary village PFLAG is!

We look forward to sharing our stories with our chapter and reflecting on our support, education, and advocacy efforts over the past year. We'll also discuss our future goals for the chapter and review some valuable PFLAG resources that can aid us on our journey.

Additionally, we are excited to spend a significant portion of our meeting connecting with friends who have been with us since the beginning, as well as welcoming new friends we'll meet that evening.

PFLAG is an incredible community for all of us, and we are deeply thankful for those who have paved the way over the past 50+ years.

Contact pflaggenetrices@gmail.com by Sunday, March 9th for our location and if you're interested in joining us via Zoom.

Upcoming PFLAG Events & Community Activities

3/3 Belong Fox Valley Cheers @ Alter Brewing & Kitchen 6:30-9

- **3/10 Monthly Support Meeting & 1 Year Anniversary Celebration!**

◦ We will have some messages to share from PFLAG National, Regional and our Northern IL Council. We'll also spend time connecting, sharing chapter news and what events we're planning.

- **4/5 Volunteer Resource Fair at Geneva Public Library 10-12**
- **6/7 Elgin Pride Resource Table & Parade**
- **6/8 Aurora Pride Parade**
- **6/29 Chicago Pride Parade**
- **7/12 Pride Picnic in the Park with Belong Fox Valley**

More Pride Events will be added



VOTE!

APRIL 1, 2025 LOCAL ELECTIONS

Our Vote is Our Power!

How The Local Elected Offices On Your 2025 Ballot Impact Civil Liberties

Find Your Sample Ballot

Illinois Voter Guide

Illinois State Board of Elections

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.



March

March is a month filled with significant observances, including Women's History Month, National Reading Month, Bisexual+ Health Awareness Month, and the 52nd Anniversary of PFLAG National (along with our own 1 Year Anniversary as a PFLAG Chapter). Additionally, we celebrate Two-Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQIA+ Awareness Day and Celebration Day, International Transgender Day of Visibility, and countless others—too many to mention!

Click on the underlined topics above to discover more information

[International Transgender Day of Visibility](#)

Click on title for more information

(TDOV) is observed annually on March 31 to raise awareness about the experiences of transgender individuals. It celebrates their contributions while addressing issues such as poverty, discrimination, and violence. Established in 2010 by trans advocate Rachel Crandall, TDOV was created to shift the focus from violence to celebrating trans lives, acknowledging that not all trans individuals can be visible due to discrimination.

“Trans people are extraordinary, strong, intelligent, persistent and resilient. We have to be. And we will not stand for the picking and choosing of rights. We still have hope.”- Sage Grace Dolan-Sandrino

Barbara Gittings was a fearless advocate. This legendary lesbian activist dedicated her life to improving conditions for the LGBTQ community during a time when being open and visible was a significant challenge. In 1965, she participated in the inaugural gay picket lines outside the White House and other notable locations, proudly holding a sign that read, “Sexual Preference is Irrelevant to Federal Employment,” which is now housed in the Smithsonian. From 1970 to 1973, she effectively campaigned with the American Psychiatric Association to have homosexuality removed from the list of mental disorders.

“It is revolutionary for any trans person to choose to be seen and visible in a world that tells us we should not exist.”
– Laverne Cox



[Women's History Month](#)

Women's History Month honors the struggles and achievements of American women, highlighting their fight for rights not only for themselves but also for other marginalized groups. It began with President Carter designating National Women's History Week in 1980, leading to Congress recognizing March as Women's History Month. You can find additional information on Women's History Month [here](#).

[Barbara Gittings](#)

1932 - 2007

Discover more about [Barbara here](#)



PFLAG CONNECTS GENDER SPECTRUM PARENT COMMUNITY

The Gender Spectrum virtual meetings are open to parents and caregivers of gender diverse children, of all ages, to create community, ask questions, and learn from others who have been through similar experiences. Each meeting will be led by skilled facilitators who support families raising gender-diverse and who will guide attendees in receiving support, giving support, and finding resources to help their loved ones, families, and communities.

This community meets
Every 3rd Monday of the Month
8PM ET/5 PM PT.

Register [Here](#) for the 3/17/25 [PFLAG Connects Gender Spectrum Parent Meeting](#).

PFLAG Connects: Communities (PCC) provide a safe, virtual, moderated space where people with shared experiences can connect each month. The meetings are free to the public and do not require PFLAG National or chapter affiliation.

[Explore all of PFLAG Connects Communities here](#)



Education Resources for Further Learning

[PFLAG Read With Love](#)

[Bisexual Resource Center](#)

[LGBTQ+ Women Who Made History](#)

[LGBTQ+ Women](#)

[Banned in the USA: Beyond the Shelves](#)

[Two-Spirit Reconciliation](#)

What's Happening?!

In Case You Missed It...

PASSPORTS

Lambda Legal **created a helpful video** (click underlined link) which explains the federal government's new passport and federal identity document policy. The video discusses commonly asked questions, and provides information on recent developments.

"Hope will never be silent." — Harvey Milk

Take Action

Tell your Senators to vote NO on the anti-trans athlete ban! The Senate will vote on S. 9, a federal anti-trans athlete ban, on MONDAY, March 3rd. We need everyone to **call** their Senators NOW and tell them to vote NO.

PFLAG Resources:

Community:

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

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

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

Illinois Resources

- [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](#)

PFLAG Online Academy On Demand

[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.

Be Kind, Not Just Nice: Transforming Your Conversations

We all know the phrase "if you're not going to say something nice, then don't say anything at all." But what do we do when being kind means not being so nice? Join the PFLAG team to learn some of the skills you need stand up for what you believe in without becoming unkind yourself so you can transform your conversations

Discover PFLAG Online Academy On Demand here: **[Be Kind, Not Just Nice: Transforming Your Conversations](#)**

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

- **March 10th**
- **April 14th**
- **May 12th**
- **June 9th**
- **July 14th**
- **August 11th**

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!



"The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any."

-Alice Walker

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



Private Group



@pflaggenevaticit.bsky.social



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.