



**PFLAG**  
GENEVA/TRI-CITIES



**October  
2026  
Newsletter**



# Welcome!

**Greetings PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities!**

**October 2026 issue of Open Doors is here:**

<https://tinyurl.com/pcni2610>

For anyone new, Open Doors is the monthly publication from PCNI, the council our chapter is a part of.

If you open this link on a mobile device and OneDrive asks for permission to access all your photos, select "Later" to escape that request, and then select "Open in Browser." Do not sign in.

**In this issue:**

- **Register for the PCNI Conference**
- PCNI Board elected
- PCNY x Synchrony Scholarship
- Recap of Amdur Art Festivals
- Chapter news
- PFLAG History articles by Nancy Johnson
- Art by Jim Carey
- Books, film

To find all Open Doors issues, please visit

[pflagil.org/newsletter](http://pflagil.org/newsletter)

Become a PFLAG member, renew your membership, or donate at [pflagil.org/membership-and-donations](http://pflagil.org/membership-and-donations).



## The Power of PFLAG Conference

**There is still time to register!**

**Register Here:** [TINYURL.COM/PFLAGIL26](https://tinyurl.com/PFLAGIL26)

[Click here for the schedule of workshops](#) or view them in the Whova app once you register. There are so many great workshops to choose from!

Our biennial conference, Power of PFLAG, is a full-day event featuring educational presentations and workshops, community building, and fun. It is organized by the PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois, a coalition of 18 PFLAG chapters.



**2026 Conference**

**Power of PFLAG**

**October 10, 2026  
Naperville, IL**

**Where: NIU Naperville Conference Center**

**1120 E. Diehl Road**

**Naperville, IL 60563**

**When: Saturday, October 10, 2026, from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm**

The Power of PFLAG Conference brings together LGBTQ+ people, families, allies, educators, advocates, service providers, and community organizations from across Illinois and beyond.

Its workshops offer practical information, varied perspectives, and opportunities to learn together. Education, however, is only part of what makes the conference special.

It will be a full-day event with many educational presentations and panels, plenty of time for networking and making new friends, and breakfast and lunch is included! Register now - \$20 per person!

Come for the learning, resources, and connection. Leave with a sense of belonging, renewed hope, and the power of community.

<https://pflagil.org/conference>

*If you plan on attending, let us know so we can keep an eye out for you!*

[PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Website](http://PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Website)



# PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities October Meeting

**PFLAG**

GENEVA/TRI-CITIES

## Wait...

**Did You Really Just Ask Me That?**



**Join us October 12<sup>th</sup> from 6 - 8 pm for our Monthly Meeting**

**We'll be discussing intrusive questions and inappropriate comments, the microaggressions they can disguise, and how to unlearn these behaviors or respond to them.**

**We'll share examples of surprising and inappropriate questions and comments LGBTQ+ people, and their loved ones have encountered.**

**Then we will explore how to respond and discuss how these moments can become opportunities for education.**

**Because no one owes everyone an explanation, but when we choose to engage, our responses can help create understanding, challenge misconceptions, and make a difference.**

**Following our discussion, we'll have time to share, connect, and support one another.**

## Meeting Details

- Our monthly meetings are held on the second Monday of each month from 6:00–8:00 p.m. in Geneva
- Meetings are hybrid, so you can join us either in person or via Zoom.
- If you haven't joined us before, please contact us for meeting details



**When we talk about respect, we often think about equal rights, access, and the freedom to be ourselves. But respect also shows up in everyday interactions—in the words we choose, the questions we ask, and how we treat one another.**

**LGBTQ+ people deserve communication that is respectful, safe, and free from prejudice. Yet intrusive questions, inappropriate comments, and hurtful assumptions still happen—sometimes even from the people who love them most.**

# PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities Membership

## We are still promoting Our Membership Drive and Renewal Campaign!

Whether you're renewing your membership or considering joining for the first time, your support helps PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities provide support, education, and advocacy for LGBTQ+ people and those who love them.

### Interested in Membership but Want to Learn More?

- PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities membership follows PFLAG's fiscal year, which runs from October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027.
- ***Thinking about joining? Anyone who signs up or renews their membership in August or September will be counted for the October 2026 to September 30, 2027 membership year.***
- You may join at any time during the year; however, all memberships expire on September 30, regardless of the date you join. **For example, if you join January 1, 2027, your membership expires on September 30, 2027.**

Learn more about the benefits of membership here:

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

PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities is a nonprofit, volunteer-led, nonpartisan organization. Membership dues and donations support our programs, meetings, education, advocacy, and community outreach. We welcome everyone who shares our mission of creating a caring, just, and affirming world for LGBTQ+ people and those who love them.

***Everyone is always welcome at our PFLAG meetings, whether you're a member or not.***

Questions? Please don't hesitate to contact us.

***For those who have recently joined or renewed their membership, or chose to send a donation, we are so grateful for your support.***

***"We need, in every community, a group of angelic troublemakers." — Bayard Rustin***



### [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](#), [Dads](#) and the newest group - [Two-Spirit & Indigenous Circle](#) 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.

# PFLAG Votes 2026: Turning Pride Into Power!

PFLAG National has launched its 2026 voting campaign - **GET OUT THE VOTE**  
[PFLAG Votes: Turning Pride into Power.](#)



## A Word of Encouragement from PFLAG National

“Across the country, LGBTQ+ people and their loved ones are navigating challenging and often harmful policies. Decisions made by elected leaders shape our schools, our communities, our access to health care, and our rights and freedoms.

Our 2026 PFLAG Votes campaign—Turning Pride Into Power—reminds everyone that advocacy does not stop in Congress, at the statehouse, or at the school board. It continues in our neighborhoods, in our conversations, and at the ballot box. And that work is OURS to do.

Because when we vote, we protect our families. When we educate, we empower our communities.

When we organize, we build power.”

**“And when we show up together, we shape the future.”**



## Illinois ACLU - Know Your Voting Rights

- [Know Your Rights](#)

## MORE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

### - Illinois ACLU

- [Know your rights to vote with a disability](#)
- [Know your rights to vote if you are non-binary or transgender](#)
- [Know your rights to vote if you have a criminal record](#)
- [Know your rights to vote if you are houseless](#)
- [Know your rights to vote for non-English speakers](#)
- [Printable know your rights card](#)

## Links from PFLAG Voter Information

- [Voting While Trans/Nonbinary](#)
- [Voting With a Disability](#)
- [Voting as a New Citizen](#)
- [Election Protection Hotline](#)

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

## Resources to use and Share!

### [PFLAG National Vote411 Resource Page](#)

#### PFLAG National - We Educate

- [Voting Education by State](#)
- [vote411.org/pflag](#)
- [Get Out the Vote in Illinois](#) *Important dates*

#### [PFLAG National - We Organize](#) *Take Action*

- Watch the [PFLAG Votes 2026: Turning Pride Into Power launch event, on demand](#)

#### Partner Opportunities

- Sign up with [Power the Polls to be a pollworker](#)

#### Toolkits

- Download the [Attend A Candidate Town Hall Toolkit](#)
- Download the [PFLAG Votes Together Toolkit](#)

**“Someone struggled for your right to vote. Use it.”**

— Susan B. Anthony

# October is LGBTQ+ History Month!



For a more comprehensive list of local organizations, please visit the [Resources](#) section on our website.

## Local LGBTQ+ Organizations

- [Belong Fox Valley's Monthly Events Here](#)
- [IL West Suburbs LGBT Community](#)
- [Aurora LGBTQ+ Advisory Board's Events on social media](#)
- [Elgin Pride Events](#)
- [Youth Outlook](#)
- [Naper Pride](#)
- [DeKalb Pride](#)
- [Joe Erbantraut "queering the burbs"](#)

Explore [LGBTQ+ history](#) through PFLAG's collection of resources, including PFLAG Academy Online learning sessions, podcasts, websites, books, essays, and more.



## Community, Culture, & Conversations with Sonido Reyes

**Join us this Friday! 10/2**  
**PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities will be part of the Resource Fair!**

*Sharing from Waubonsee Community College*

Join us for an evening celebrating stories, culture, and connection with award-winning author Sonido Reyes! Community Resource Fair – Connect with local organizations and discover community resources.

- 5:30-6:30 p.m. | Book Talk: The Lesbiana's Guide to Catholic School – Hear from Sonido Reyes about the novel and its themes of identity, culture, family, belonging, and finding the courage to be yourself.
- 7-8 p.m. | Book Signing & Meet the Author – Meet Sonido Reyes and have your book signed.

**Friday, October 2, 2026**

**Aurora First Friday: 5:00–8:00 PM**

**Waubonsee Community College – Downtown Aurora**  
**Campus 18 S. River St. Aurora, IL 60506-4134**

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

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Click on the Icons to Connect



Public



Private



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



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

# Advocacy & Resources

## Advocacy

### Where Do We Start?

*Figure Out What Works for You*

### 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 Rally's
- [Protest Safely](#)



HRC - *Tips for Preparedness, Peaceful Protesting, and Safety*

- Reach out to your State & Federal Representatives
  - Email
  - Call
  - Go in Person



- [Action Steps](#)
- [PFLAG Votes](#)

## 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](#)



### [PFLAG Geneva/Tri-Cities National and Local Resources and Organizations](#)

*Click on the links to take you to the websites*

## Resources



### [IL Pride Connect](#)

#### [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**

### More 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](#)
- [Red Wine & Blue](#)
- [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

