



Where All Families Matter.



www.PFLAGPgh.org

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The Pittsburgh PFLAGer

PFLAG Pittsburgh's Monthly Newsletter

Volume 18, Number 11

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- July 26, 2016 Board Meeting
- Chapter Website Updates!
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- **AND MORE!**

Our Next Meeting:

Sunday, August 14, 2016

Meeting Information:

2:00PM Meeting Begins
2:15-3:30PM Small Group
Sessions
3:45-4:30PM Educational
Program

Third Presbyterian Church
5701 Fifth Ave.
Fifth & Negley Aves. 15232

Educational Program:

Devin Browne,

Founder of the GSA at
Brashear High School of the
Pittsburgh Public
School District

PFLAG VISION:

PFLAG envisions a world where diversity is celebrated and all people are respected, valued, and affirmed inclusive of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

PFLAG MISSION:

By meeting people where they are and collaborating with others, PFLAG realizes its vision through:

- Support for families, allies and people who are LGBTQ
- Education for ourselves and others about the unique issues and challenges facing people who are LGBTQ
- Advocacy in our communities to change attitudes and create policies and laws that achieve full equality for people who are LGBTQ

Contact Info:

Website:

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(412)833-4556

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P.O. Box 5406
Pittsburgh, PA 15206



Chapter Officials:

President:

Kelley Moten

Past President:

Liz de Jesus

Treasurer:

Jim Tomson

Secretary, Newsletter and Web:

Mitch Hortert

Advocacy Chairpersons:

Mardie and Pat

Support Chairperson:

Allen Wolk

Education Chairperson:

Brandon Harper

Speaker's Bureau

Dianne Tomson

Chapter Librarian:

Kathy Paschke

At-Large:

Norman Brown and Donni Smith

Snacks

One simple way to help out at PFLAG Pgh is to bring a snack! It doesn't have to be a four-course dinner, just a snack that you'd like to share with the group! Any contributions are greatly appreciated.

Contributions?

Have a suggestion for the newsletter? Please respond to one of our emails with your ideas! We are always looking to provide the latest information to our chapter members and look forward to serving your needs in the future!

A Letter from Us to You...

Dear PFLAG Pittsburgh Friends:

Each year on August 2, organizations around the world participate in a day of giving called, "Give Out Day." This day is characterized as a 24-hour online fundraising event that unites the LGBTQ community nationally to raise critically needed funds to support hundreds of nonprofits serving and advocating for the LGBTQ community.

PFLAG Pittsburgh was not an official participant in the efforts this year; however, the paperwork is in the process to be an official charity next year. The reason for this explanation is twofold. First, it is to inform our chapter members and newsletter readers that as a non-profit organization, PFLAG Pittsburgh relies on the contributions of its members and donors. On August 1, 2016 many of you received a letter from us requesting donations. The reason for this is because as the letter states, we are only in business because of people like you. For those of you who generously donated: "THANK YOU!"

Which brings us to the second reason for this letter: If it wasn't for you, it would not have been possible for our chapter to celebrate 25 years strong last fall. If it wasn't for you, we would not be able to provide our monthly support group meetings where we have welcomed and supported over thousands of people in the Pittsburgh community. If it wasn't for you, we would not have a library of resources available to meeting attendees to utilize. If it wasn't for you, we would not have been able to collaborate and help establish the medical and spiritual directories that are listed on our website. Needless to say, if it wasn't for you- we wouldn't be here and we cannot thank you enough for all that YOU do!

Here at PFLAG Pittsburgh, we want to take a moment to THANK YOU for your support, help and contributions to our chapter over the last almost 26 years and we look forward to serving our community for another 25 years and more!
From the bottom of our hearts, Thank you.

Sincerely,
PFLAG Pittsburgh



PFLAG Board Membership/Officers

Although PFLAG Pittsburgh's board officer elections are approximately one month away, it's never too early to think about serving on the board of PFLAG Pittsburgh. There are numerous opportunities and we're always looking for new faces and different perspectives! Every two years, PFLAG Pittsburgh membership elects a President, Executive Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary as well as members-at-large.



Below are several other positions on our board. If you are interested in more information about a particular position, please ask one of the current board members. Their names can be found on page 2 of this newsletter

- Advocacy Chairperson
- Support Chairperson
- Education Chairperson
- Chapter Librarian
- At-Large Board Members



About PFLAG Academy Online:

PFLAG Academy Online brings free, monthly, PFLAG members-only training opportunities with core educational programs right to your computer screen. Benefit from PFLAG's great learning options, informed staff, and input from other participants without leaving home. All you'll need is a computer (or mobile device) and the drive to move equality forward!

In the coming months, be on the lookout for brand new sessions, including one on conflict resolution as well as core-skill building sessions on creating a thriving chapter, support group facilitation, and more! You may also email info@pflag.org or your [Field Manager](#) for more details about how to access past sessions on-demand so you can use PFLAG Academy Online as a resource for developing the leadership pipeline for your chapter.

Additional Information:

- [ReadyTalk Registration Information](#)
- [How do I know that my computer will be able to connect?](#)
- [Other Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) about webinars.](#)

Western Pennsylvania PFLAG Chapters

The Western Pennsylvania PFLAG chapters met for the first in three years to discuss a variety of topics and plan to meet again in October 2016! Representatives from Butler, Greensburg, Meadville, and Pittsburgh PFLAG Chapters were present for the two-hour long meeting.

Since the last meeting in 2013, Western Pennsylvania has seen two chapters close (Erie, New Castle) and there is a group working to start a chapter (Meadville). It is important to note that you do not have to be a chapter leader to attend these meetings. If you would like to be involved, please email our chapter secretary, Mitch at MRHortert@gmail.com.



PFLAG Pittsburgh's July 25, 2016 Board Mtg. Agenda

In an attempt to continue with our organization's transparency, below is the outline from our July 27, 2016 board meeting. If you have questions about the items or would like to get involved with a project, please contact one of the above listed board members for more information.

- **Meeting Commenced at 7:30pm**
- **Attendance:**
 - Present: Kelley Moten (President), Jim Tomson (Treasurer), Mitch Hortert (Secretary), Allen Wolk (Support Chair), Diane Tomson (Speaker's Bureau), Liz de Jesus (Past President), Mardie and Pat (Advocacy Chairpersons) Brandon Harper (Education Chairperson), Donni Smith (At-large)
 - Absent: Mardie and Pat (Advocacy Chairpersons) Kathy Paschke (Librarian), Norman Brown (At-large)
- **Reports:**
 - **Treasurer:**
 - **Support:** Distributed via email.
 - **Education:**
 - August – Devin Browne, founder of GSA at Brashear High School
 - September – OPEN
 - October – Arlene Bratz, on Intersex
 - November and December – OPEN
 - Checking with Ito Aya see if he can get someone from Dreams of Hope into one of the OPEN spots
 - Kelley got contact information for the following organizations willing to come do a program for us:
 - Dress for Success
 - Family Links
 - Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
 - **Speakers Bureau:**
 - **Advocacy:**
 - **Library:**
- **Old Business:**
 - Sales tax exemption: Kelley still working on this.
 - "Care with Pride" campaign.
 - Shepherd Wellness dinner July 15th, Mardie, Kelley, Kelley's daughter Haru, Ron & Aurora volunteered from PFLAG. Liz, DJ & Kelley's son Aiden signed up but had to cancel.
 - Board member & officer nominations!
- **New Business:**
 - Start thinking about the 2016/2017 budget.
 - Do we want to fund attendance at a conference (PFLAG National Conference, LGBT Leadership Conference)
 - Continue accepting nominations for officers & talking to individuals.
 - Kelley suggests no board meeting in August.
 - Mitch able to run the chapter meeting in August?
 - September church picnic. Rain may make us have to relocate within the church.
 - Give Out Day August 2nd
 - Email & website update
 - Vanessa from Thrive will attend our September Board Meeting.
- **Anything else?**
- **Meeting Adjourned**

****As a note: There will not be a August 2016 Board Meeting****

WWW.PFLAGPGH.ORG

Have you visited the PFLAG Pittsburgh website lately? Our website is updated on a regular basis and provides a large number of resources that can be downloaded and printed right from the comfort of your own home. We have resources that answer basic questions about our meetings, how to be an ally, and has frequently used terminology to help provide insight into the vernacular of the LGBTQ+ community. We also have a spiritual directory that has a listing of LGBTQ supportive churches, synagogues, and meetings. Please visit our website today at: www.pflagpgh.org to take advantage of these great resources. If you have any suggestions, please send us an email at info@pflagpgh.org. We are always looking for new ideas and resources!



Accepting
Donations for
Proud Haven
for LGBTQ youth homelessness
in Western PA



Personal Hygiene Items
Such as
Soap, Shampoo, Toothpaste,
Toothbrushes, Combs, Feminine
hygiene, Cotton Swabs, etc.



PRIDE in the Park PICNIC



**Bring
a Dish!**
Last Names
A - M Sides
N - Z Desserts

(We'll Provide
the Main Dishes!)

Sunday August 21
Hempfield Park
Pavilion E • 2-6 pm

**Games
Raffle
Music
Food!**

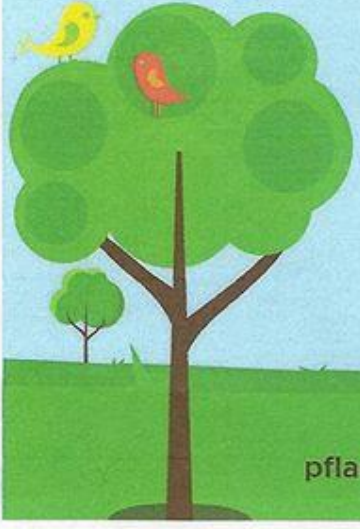
Food, Fun & Friends
FOR ALL AGES

Event Details at:
[facebook/PFLAG-Greensburg](https://www.facebook.com/PFLAG-Greensburg)

hosted by:



& Community Safe Zone Project
Persad Center, Inc.



NEED MORE INFO? CONTACT US
pflaggbg@gmail.com • 724.610.9388

LGBTQ+ Stories:

From Across the Globe to Around the Corner

Coming Out as **LGBTQ**: It's Not One Moment, but Several

By Julia Carpenter of [The Washington Post](#)

It can feel like “coming out” is everywhere — people talk about coming as every letter of the LGBTQ acronym, [coming out with mental illness](#). The New York Times has noted that [the Orlando massacre has inspired more people to come out as gay](#).

But coming out usually isn't a singular pronouncement — an Ellen DeGeneres moment or a “Glee” moment. Instead, it's a series of moments.

For Tia Bryan, a 30-year-old bisexual woman in Dallas, coming out is a process that happens every day. She and her fiancée feel supported by an accepting community, but she still finds herself explaining the ring on her finger to co-workers, strangers and friends. Leading up to their wedding next April, Bryan and her fiancée are experiencing a variety of coming-out moments — big conversations with family members as well as quiet public displays of affection.

“It's definitely a lot more than some proclamation,” she says. “Even something as small as holding someone's hand or kissing someone's cheek or brushing their hair out of their face can speak volumes when done in public. It's saying ‘I'm not afraid to be who I am.’”

Bonnie Jo Morris, a professor of women's studies at Georgetown University, has collected her own coming-out experiences in a one-woman show, celebrating the big and awkward to the small and easy. She points out that, for many people in the LGBTQ community, coming out isn't an option in many situations — it's not safe.

“I've come out to people in hot tubs and on airplanes,” she says. “But in some places I've traveled and it's been dangerous, and I have lied. Do you lie about a dead boyfriend just to be safe for 10 minutes? ... You're never off the hook for the rest of your life.”

Pablo Ben, a history professor at San Diego State University, has researched the political history of coming out, tracing the movement to the Stonewall Riots in 1969, and even earlier to some groups in 1860s Germany, when activists were coming out as gay to their communities. Ben came out to his own family more than 20 years ago, but he still found himself “coming out” to a waiter at a coffee shop in Buenos Aires who assumed he was straight.

“There's always a certain degree and areas of life in which you come out and areas of life in which you don't,” he says. “And there's always some areas of life in which you don't. I work at San Diego State University and I'm open over there, and I'm open to my family since my 20s. All my family in Argentina, I present at a lecture and everyone knows.”

“But ... I go to a cafe and a waiter assumes I am straight,” he says. “And I don't know — it's not about not being out, it's just like, I don't know if I don't have the energy to make it a topic. Sometimes, you don't want that interaction. You just want a coffee.”

We collected stories from our followers on Tumblr, asking them to leave us a voicemail explaining what coming out means to them — when they've done it, how and what it felt like. Some talked about the first conversation; some discussed a single moment; others described an ongoing process. One caller, Gary Gates, summed it up pretty neatly: “I've never come out, and I'm always coming out.”

To read more, please visit: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/soloish/wp/2016/06/30/coming-out-as-lgbtq-its-not-one-moment-but-several/?wpisrc=nl_headlines&wpm=1



After Pulse Shooting, LGBT Folks Of Color Worry About Increased Police Attention

By Nicole Pasulka of [National Public Radio](#)

After 49 people were killed at the Pulse nightclub in Florida in June, gay pride marches [across the country](#) saw [amped-up](#) police presence. Law enforcement agencies [shared support](#) for LGBT people on social media and [in the press](#). The NYPD rolled out a cop car [decorated with rainbows](#). Safety and security for LGBT people became a political talking point. Donald Trump [decried violence against LGBT communities](#) in his "Law and Order" Republican National Convention speech. Calling the victims, who were mostly LGBT and Latino, "wonderful Americans," Trump promised "to protect our LGBT citizens."

Though some have [questioned the sincerity](#) of Trump's pledge, others have welcomed increased security at LGBT events and spaces. Still, some activists worry that more police presence won't protect them from vigilante violence — and might actually make these events less safe for the communities they serve.

In recent weeks, activists associated with the Black Lives Matter movement and organizations of LGBT people of color have [protested greater law enforcement participation](#) in gay pride parades around the country and have called on others to consider the needs of those vulnerable to police violence and harassment.

These activists say that while police pledge to protect some in LGBT communities, there are patterns of victimization toward others, especially those who aren't cisgender and white.

"The only way politicians can think to show solidarity with a community that's grieving and feeling deeply vulnerable is to have more of the people who make us feel deeply vulnerable and cause us to grieve," says Andrea Ritchie, a civil rights lawyer who is researching profiling and policing women of color as a [Soros Justice Fellow](#) and is the author of *Queer (In)justice: The Criminalization of LGBT People in the United States*.

To read more, please visit: <http://www.npr.org/sections/codeswitch/2016/08/03/487610257/after-pulse-shooting-lgbt-folks-of-color-worry-about-increased-police-attention>



Supreme Court blocks Transgender Victory on Bathrooms

By Richard Wolf of [USA Today](#)

The Supreme Court sided Wednesday with a Virginia school board opposed to the Obama administration's directive that transgender students be allowed their choice of public bathrooms.

The justices blocked a federal appeals court ruling against the Gloucester County School Board while they consider whether to hear the case. If they do, it would mark the high court's first foray into the issue of transgender rights.

The case was brought by a transgender student, Gavin Grimm, who contested the school district's refusal to let him use the boys' bathroom. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit ruled in his favor in April but put its ruling on hold so the school board could appeal. The Supreme Court's order keeps the old rules in place.

The court's four conservative justices were joined by Justice Stephen Breyer in blocking the transgender student's earlier victory. The three other liberal justices said they would have denied the school board's request. The battle over so-called bathroom bills has played out in many states as Republican lawmakers seek to force students to use facilities that correspond to their gender at birth, and transgender students fight for the right to follow their gender identity.

Just last week, more than 100 pastors in the Midwest sent a letter to Ohio elected officials and school districts, calling for schools to ignore a May mandate from the U.S. Department of Education allowing transgender students to use bathrooms and locker rooms consistent with their gender identity.

The letter states the pastors believe "there is no authority except from God" and the U.S. Department of Education's directive to school districts "defies objectivity and logic." It also "jeopardizes the privacy and safety of vulnerable women and children," the pastors said.

In early July, 10 states sued the federal government over rules requiring public schools to allow transgender students to use restrooms conforming to their gender identity, joining a dozen other states in the latest fight over LGBT rights.

The July lawsuit was filed in federal court in Nebraska and included nine other states: Arkansas, Kansas, Michigan, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

The filing comes after 11 states sued in May over the same Obama administration directive. North Carolina officials also sued the federal government in May over the same issue. Vast sums of federal funding are at stake: Money could be withheld from public schools that refuse to comply with the federal directive.

To read more, please visit: <http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2016/08/03/supreme-court-transgender-bathrooms-virginia/88037966/>

NBA Pulls 2017 All-Star Game Out of Charlotte, North Carolina, Over 'Anti-LGBT' Law

By Avianne Tan & Paul Blake of [ABC News](#)

The [NBA](#) has pulled its 2017 All-Star Game out of Charlotte, North Carolina in the wake of the passage of a controversial measure that has been criticized as anti-LGBT.

"The NBA has decided to relocate the 2017 All-Star Game from Charlotte," the NBA told ABC News today in a statement, adding that it would "make an announcement on the new location of the 2017 NBA All-Star Game in the coming weeks."

"Since March, when North Carolina enacted HB2 and the issue of legal protections for the LGBT community in Charlotte became prominent, the NBA and the Charlotte Hornets have been working diligently to foster constructive dialogue and try to effect positive change," the NBA said. "While we recognize that the NBA cannot choose the law in every city, state, and country in which we do business, we do not believe we can successfully host our All-Star festivities in Charlotte in the climate created by HB2."

The NBA's decision comes after North Carolina's General Assembly failed to repeal HB2 during its last session of the year earlier this month.

HB2 prohibits most transgender people from accessing bathrooms in government offices and schools that correspond to the gender with which they identify. It also bars local municipalities from creating their own rules prohibiting discrimination in public places based on sexual orientation and [gender identity](#).

Since lawmakers weren't scheduled to reconvene until January of next year -- and the All-Star Game was scheduled to happen in February -- the NBA faced increasing pressure over the past few weeks to officially move the game.

Two weeks ago, technology industry leaders sent a letter to NBA Commission Adam Silver and urged him to move the upcoming game out of North Carolina, according to The Associated Press. The letter was signed by executives from famous companies including [Google](#), Reddit, PayPal, Lyft and Pinterest.

"If the NBA holds events in North Carolina while HB2 remains law, players, employees, and fans will be at risk of discrimination — and that's wrong," read the letter obtained by the AP. "The NBA has nothing to lose by taking a stand alongside hundreds of other companies and showing support for its LGBTQ players, employees, and fans."

To read more, please visit: <http://abcnews.go.com/US/nba-pulls-2017-star-game-charlotte-north-carolina/story?id=40775120>

Jerusalem Pride marches forward one year after fatal parade stabbing

By Erin Rook of [LGBTQ Nation](#)

A record 25,000 people attended this year's [Jerusalem Pride Parade](#) amid heightened security following last year's fatal stabbing, [the Jerusalem Post reports](#).

No injuries were reported during the Jerusalem March for Pride and Tolerance, though [heavily armed police officers](#) arrested 30 protestors and confiscated two knives. During the 2015 parade, a radical ultra-Orthodox Israeli Jew stabbed 16-year-old Shira Banki to death and attempted to kill seven others.

Yishai Schlissel was convicted of [murder](#) and attempted murder and sentenced last month to life in prison plus 31 years. But even from prison, Schlissel allegedly asked others to carry out attacks on the LGBTQ community on his behalf. [The Jerusalem Post reports](#):

Hours before the parade began at Liberty Bell Park, police announced that Schlissel – who stabbed Banki, 16, and six others, days after being released from prison for committing a similar crime 10 years earlier – was rearrested for conspiring with his brother to carry out more attacks from prison.

Last year's tragedy brought new people to the parade, ranging from straight seniors to LGBTQ and straight teens and a gay Jewish couple from [New York](#) who showed up at the behest of LGBTQ Israelis.

"As an Orthodox person, I should be supporting this parade and supporting the rights of gay people and equality in Israel – especially after the horrible murder of Shira Banki," Yoav, a 19-year-old straight Orthodox Jew told the Jerusalem Post while wearing a yalmuka and [gay pride](#) T-shirt. "I see it as my religious duty to be here and support the [LBGT] community....As a religious person, I think it's your duty to support every minority group, and to help them get equality."

To read more, please visit: <http://www.lgbtqnation.com/2016/07/jerusalem-pride-marches-forward-one-year-fatal-parade-stabbing/>

