

Where All Families Matter.



**PFLAG
Pittsburgh**

www.PFLAGPgh.org

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The Pittsburgh PFLAGer

PFLAG Pittsburgh's Monthly Newsletter

Volume 19, Number 06

Inside Our March 2017 Edition of the Pittsburgh PFLAGer:

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- About PFLAG Academy
Webinar
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- **AND MORE!**

Our Next Meeting:

Sunday, March 12th

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:

Rev. Dr. Janet Edwards

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: www.PFLAGPgh.org

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www.facebook.com/PFLAGPgh

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Chapter Officials:

President:

Mitchell Hortert

Treasurer:

Kelley Moten

Secretary

Jason Lucarelli

Advocacy Chairperson:

Moira Myers

Support Chairperson:

Norman Brown

Education Chairperson:

Brandon Harper

At-Large:

Allen Wolk & Elaine Cummings,

Ann Aya

Speaker's Bureau

Donni Smith

Chapter Librarian:

Steve Stewart

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 Minute with Mitch:

A Letter from the President....

Dear PFLAG Pittsburgh Friends,

Merriam-Webster defines the word "determination" as firm or fixed intention to achieve a desired end. PFLAG Pittsburgh is determined to support, advocate, and fight for the rights of the transgender community. In the last few days, we have seen the human rights of transgender people and specifically, transgender youth, assaulted and attacked. The actions by our government have placed youth in a dangerous and unsafe situation.



As stated by Interim Executive Director for PFLAG National, Beth Kohm, "PFLAG hearts everywhere are with the worried parents who will be kept awake tonight, and the kids who will be scared to go to school in the morning. Tomorrow we will fight even harder for the protections that Title IX still affords all transgender youth across the country."

PFLAG Pittsburgh condemns President Trump's callous action when he showed disregard to transgender students by rescinding the Title IX guidance issued by the Obama Administration for accommodating transgender students in K-12 schools. President Obama gave specific rules on how to support transgender students by providing restroom access according to one's gender identity. This guideline provided a safe space for transgender students. Here at PFLAG Pittsburgh, we are deeply troubled and concerned about this decision.

We at PFLAG Pittsburgh will fight for a safe and inclusive environment for all students. Now is not the time to give up. Now is the time to turn our attention towards advocating not only at the federal level, but also to our state legislators. President Trump stated that he believes this is a state-to-state issue. We must advocate to our state legislators that we are a state that will protect our trans students. Now is the time to be a constant presence at our schools, telling them that our students deserve to be respected. Now is the time to have earnest conversations with our neighbors and tell them that transgender people are still people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M Hortert". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mitchell

President of PFLAG Pittsburgh

LGBTQ+ Stories:

From Across the Globe to Around the Corner



PFLAG Academy Online

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.](#)

Amazon Smile

Do you shop on [Amazon.com](#)? PFLAG Pgh is registered with AmazonSmile where they donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to PFLAG Pgh. AmazonSmile is the **same** Amazon you know. You can get the **same** products, **same** prices, **same** service, **same** Amazon everything. The only difference is that Amazon will donate to PFLAG Pgh each time you shop! Visit [smile.amazon.com](#) for more details and search PFLAG Pittsburgh.



Don't forget to...



SPRING FORWARD!

In the USA, at 2 a.m. on 12 March 2017, clocks will be forwarded one hour, marking the beginning of Daylight Saving Time

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday, March 11th. Our PFLAG general meeting is the following Sunday morning and we don't want you to miss it or be one hour late due to the beginning of Daylight Savings Time!

FAQs: Rescission of U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and Department of Education (DOE) Title IX Guidance for Transgender Students

Question: If I hear about a student in crisis, or facing immediate violence or self-harm, where should I refer them? What should I do?

- For immediate threats of violence, encourage students to call 911.
- For immediate concerns regarding self-harming behaviors, please [reach out to The Trevor Project](#) or call their 24/7 helpline at 1-866-488-7386.

Question: As the parent of a trans kid in a school district that has followed the best practices as represented in the Obama Administration's guidance regarding transgender students, what does this mean for me? What should I do?

- Contact your child's school, and let them know how your child and other trans children are given the same safety and treatment at school is important to you and their parents.
- Use the opportunity to find out if they plan to continue to provide equal respect to all students.
- Regardless of your connection to a school-age child, remember the power of your zip code, and connect with your two U.S Senators and one Representative. Tell them clearly this endangerment is not acceptable, and you expect them to prioritize the urgency of protecting the safety of vulnerable LGBTQ children.
- Call your local media to share your story; write a letter to the editor, and attend your next school board meeting.
- PFLAG National and GLSEN have re-launched the [#ClaimYourRights campaign and program](#), calling on the Office for Civil Rights to do its job and protect trans students. Be familiar with this program, and [visit the page](#) for complete, easy-to-follow steps on filing a claim.
- Tell your network what you are doing and why on social media using the @PFLAG handle, and hashtags #PFLAGsHere, #ClaimYourRights, #TitleIX, and #DearBetsy

Question: As a parent of a trans kid in a school district that has not followed the best practices as represented in the Obama Administration's guidance regarding transgender students, what does this mean for me? What should I do?

- Check on vulnerable youth who will hear these rumors and be scared for what it means for them. Send the message that you are in their corner, that the law is still on their side, and you and PFLAG will fight for their dignity, safety and rights.
- Connect with school administrators and remind them that Title IX is still federal law, and they have a legal obligation to protect transgender students to ensure the best school environment outcomes for youth.
- Regardless of your connection to a school-age child, remember the power of your zip code, and connect with your two U.S Senators and one Representative. Tell them clearly this endangerment is not acceptable, and you expect them to prioritize the urgency of protecting the safety of vulnerable LGBTQ children.
- PFLAG National and GLSEN have re-launched the [#ClaimYourRights campaign and program](#), calling on the Office for Civil Rights to do its job and protect trans students. Be familiar with this program, and [visit the page](#) for complete, easy-to-follow steps on filing a claim.
- [Find your local Office of Civil Rights \(OCR\) in the U.S. Department of Education enforcement office to report discrimination.](#) Call your local media to share your story; write a letter to the editor, and attend your next school board meeting. For chapter guidance on working with media, crafting messages, and more, re-visit [One Voice Can Change the World: The PFLAG National Policy Guide and Advocacy Toolkit](#) for guidance.
- [To see the numbers, look at GLSEN's latest National School Climate Survey](#) which punctuates the real preventable dangers that so many vulnerable transgender youth face at school every day; the Title IX guidance is life-saving to them.
- Tell your network what you are doing and why on social media using the @PFLAG handle, and hashtags #PFLAGsHere, #ClaimYourRights, #TitleIX, and #DearBetsy

Question: What resources are available for students in schools?

- Claim Your Rights, a program from PFLAG National and GLSEN
- [Know Your Rights: A Guide for Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students](#) from GLSEN and the ACLU
- [Be an Ally to Trans and Gender Nonconforming Students from GLSEN](#)
- [Our Trans Loved Ones](#) from PFLAG National
- [guide to being a trans ally](#) from PFLAG National's Straight for Equality program
- Misc. [Trans and Gender Nonconforming Resources](#) available from GLSEN

Question: What can I do proactively to help youth in schools?

- Check on vulnerable youth who will be scared for what the rescission of this guidance means for them. Send the absolute message that you are in their corner, that the law is still on their side, and you and PFLAG will fight for their dignity, safety and rights.
- Connect with school administrators and remind them that Title IX is still federal law, and they have a legal obligation to protect transgender students to ensure the best school environment outcomes for youth.
- Regardless of your connection to a school-age child, remember the power of your zip code, and connect with your two U.S Senators and one Representative. Tell them clearly this endangerment is not acceptable, and you expect them to prioritize the urgency of protecting the safety of vulnerable LGBTQ children.
- Contact your local school board to find whether your school district has trans-inclusive policies in place. If not, refer to GLSEN's and National Center for Transgender Equality's [Model Policy on Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students](#) to advocate for such a policy.
- To see the numbers, look at GLSEN's latest [National School Climate Survey](#) which punctuates the real preventable dangers that so many vulnerable transgender youth face at school every day; the Title IX guidance is life-saving to them.
- Read and use [Claim Your Rights](#) from GLSEN and PFLAG National
- Tell your network what you are doing and why on social media using the @PFLAG handle, and hashtags #PFLAGIsHere, #ClaimYourRights, #TitleIX, and #DearBetsy

**PFLAG Pittsburgh's Chair of Advocacy, Moira Myers
Letter to the Editor**

PFLAG Pittsburgh condemns President Donald Trump's callous action when he showed disregard to transgender students by rescinding the Title IX guidance issued by the Obama administration for accommodating transgender students in K-12 schools.

President Barack Obama gave specific rules on how to support transgender students by providing restroom access according to one's gender identity. This guideline provided a safe space for transgender students.

Here at PFLAG Pittsburgh, we are deeply troubled and concerned about this decision. We will fight for a safe and inclusive environment for all students. Now is not the time to give up. Now is the time to turn our attention towards advocating not only at the federal level, but also to our state legislators.

President Trump stated that he believes this is a state-to-state issue. We must advocate to our state legislators that we are a state that will protect our trans students. Now is the time to be a constant presence at our schools, telling them that our students deserve to be respected. Now is the time to have earnest conversations with our neighbors and tell them that transgender people are still people.

We support transgender students. We support the parents trying to navigate the challenging new reality. We support you.

[Moira J. Myers](#)

Chair of Advocacy, PFLAG Pittsburgh

Link: http://www.timesonline.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/pflag-condemns-action-on-transgender-students/article_c380d4f6-fd0a-11e6-9269-db4a5aec7c75.html

ABC Miniseries: When We Rise

This miniseries from Academy Award-winner Dustin Lance Black was recently awarded the Audience Award at the Palm Springs International Film Festival.

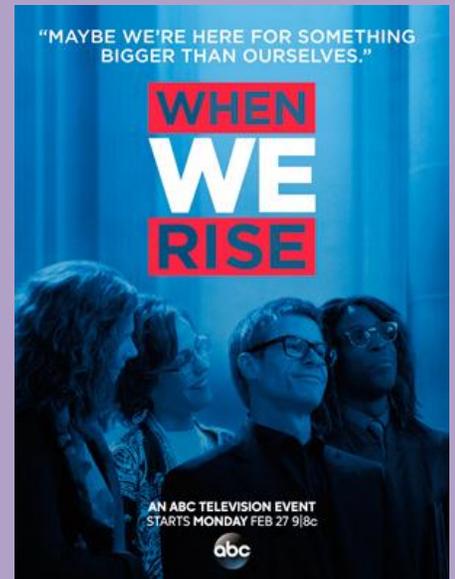
[When We Rise](#) chronicles the real-life personal and political struggles, set-backs and triumphs of a diverse family of LGBT men and women, who helped pioneer one of the last legs of the U.S. Civil Rights movement from its turbulent infancy in the 20th century to the once unfathomable successes of today.

Starring in the miniseries are Guy Pearce (*Memento*, *L.A. Confidential*) as LGBT activist Cleve Jones, Mary-Louise Parker (*Weeds*, *Angels in America*) as women's rights leader Roma Guy, Rachel Griffiths ([Brothers and Sisters](#), *Six Feet Under*) as her wife, social justice activist Diane, Michael K. Williams (*Boardwalk Empire*, *The Wire*) as African American community organizer Ken Jones and Ivory Aquino as transgender activist Cecilia Chung.

Joining them are Austin McKenzie (*Spring Awakening*) as Younger Cleve Jones, Emily Skeggs (*Fun Home*) as Younger Roma Guy, newcomer Jonathan Majors as Younger Ken Jones, and Fiona Dourif (*The Master*) as Younger Diane.

When We Rise is executive produced by the Dustin Lance Black (*Milk*, *Big Love*, *J. Edgar*), Gus Van Sant (*Milk*, *Elephant*, *Good Will Hunting*) Laurence Mark (*Julie & Julia*, *Dreamgirls*, *I, Robot*, *Jerry Maguire*), and Bruce Cohen (*American Beauty*, *Milk*, *Silver Linings Playbook*). Van Sant directs the two-hour premiere of the eight-hour mini-series event. *When We Rise* is produced by ABC Studios.

To read more, please visit: <http://abc.go.com/shows/when-we-rise>



Jackie Evancho's Transgender Sister Wins Lawsuit Against School Board

By Daniel Kreps of *The Rolling Stones*

A federal judge has ruled in favor of permitting three transgender students, including Jackie Evancho's sister Juliet, to use the school restroom that aligns with their gender identity.

Jackie Evancho [sang the National Anthem at Donald Trump's inauguration](#); Juliet missed the performance because of "prior engagements" relating to [her lawsuit](#) against a Pittsburgh-area school board over her right to use women's bathrooms.

In his temporary injunction, US District Court Judge Mark R. Hornak wrote that the students –Evancho, Elissa Ridenour and a minor with the initials A.S. – "appear to the Court to be young people seeking to do what young people try to do every day-go to school, obtain an education, and interact as equals with their peers."

Hornak continued, "The District's enforcement of Resolution 2 as to their use of common school restrooms does not afford [the students] equal protection of the law as guaranteed to them by the Fourteenth Amendment," [Billboard reports](#).

In September 2016, the Pine-Richland High School board passed a policy that required all students to use the bathroom for the gender found on their birth certificate. Lambda Legal, an organization fighting for LGBTQT rights, sought for an injunction halting the policy, which Hornak delivered, [CBS Pittsburgh writes](#).

"Notwithstanding the Trump Administration's misguided and cruel actions last week, the court today found that the school's policy barring transgender students from the restroom that matches who they are violates the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution.

To read more, please visit: <http://www.rollingstone.com/music/news/jackie-evancho-s-transgender-sister-wins-suit-against-school-w469548>



Transgender advocates rally for rights

By Andrew Goldstein of the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

About 200 people attended a Downtown rally Friday evening in response to the Trump administration's recent action regarding rights of transgender students.

A joint letter from the departments of Education and Justice rejected the Obama administration's position that nondiscrimination laws require schools to allow transgender students to use the bathrooms of their choice.

Individual schools will remain free to let transgender students use the bathrooms of their choice. And the effect of the administration's decision will not be immediate because a federal court had already issued a nationwide injunction barring enforcement of the Obama order.

"There are bigger issues out there and you want to toy with the trans community? We're not having it," Dena Stanley, of Trans YOUniting, told the sign-holding, flag-waving crowd that gathered at 5:30 p.m. at the City-County Building on Grant Street.

Ms. Stanley, who organized the rally, said she fears the rollback of protections for transgender students will only be a first step.

"That's just the beginning, like a domino effect," she said. "It's the beginning of what's going to be many things that they're going to take away from us. What's next?"

Ciora Thomas, a trans-rights activist, said the administration was attacking not only transgender students, but all transgender people.

"They're testing our will," she said. "It's time for us to show them our will and our power and our strength in numbers."

Mayor Bill Peduto and Councilman Dan Gilman, as well as a representative from U.S. Sen. Bob Casey's office, attended the rally and promised to protect the rights of transgender people. Mr. Peduto compared the treatment of transgender people in America today with segregation.

"The fight for this country, the fight to have every person be given equal rights ... will continue," Mr. Peduto said. "It was never about the water fountains, and it's not about the bathrooms."

The group eventually marched down Grant Street with a police escort toward the William S. Moorhead Federal Building, closing the street for about an hour.

Ms. Stanley called the march a "civil rights movement" for transgender people.

"We've been fighting too hard and too diligently for these rights," she said. "And you're not going to do this to us."

To read more, please visit: <http://www.post-gazette.com/local/city/2017/02/25/Transgender-advocates-rally-for-rights/stories/201702250102>



Transgender Rights Rally in Greensburg!

When: Wednesday, March 8 at 3pm-5pm

Where: Westmoreland County Courthouse

Address: 2 N. Main St, Greensburg, PA 15601

Info: Rally to support Transgender rights. Trump's administration withdrew federal protections on transgender bathrooms in schools. This violates federal laws under the Constitution like Title VII and Title IX that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex.

Transgender Rights are Human Rights.
Bring your signs and support.

Link: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1867902006791243/>

