



## *The Voice of PFLAG Hartford*

# *Caring*

Volume 26, No. 6  
2017

November/December



### PFLAG Hartford Speakers

Thanks to Reverend Kari Nicewander, of Immanuel Congregational Church for your informative presentation at our October meeting.

## **PFLAG Hartford' New President, Laura Williams shares some thoughts:**

"Coming to PFLAG Hartford has been like joining a loving new family, one with a strong voice, and if you've ever been touched by this organization you know what I mean! Our family is strengthened by the sharing of our personal stories. And while that is especially true in a support group setting it is also an effective component of cultural change along the road to equality. As a parent, I can't think of a more powerful force than PFLAG as an advocate for the rights of our children, who risk being treated as second class citizens in conservative districts or under the laws of many other states.

What PFLAG does best is support the LGBTQ community in so many small ways, with 400 chapters nationwide and many around the world, that collectively add up to some very big changes overall. Anti-bullying efforts, testimony against so-called religious freedom acts, and bans on conversion therapy are but a few of the recent efforts where members of local PFLAG chapters in our state and across the country have used a strong voice.

I am honored to serve in the shadows of leaders in this movement and alongside a devoted board who dedicate a large chunk of their lives to supporting our expanding PFLAG Hartford family and who care so deeply about serving the needs within our community. As it has been said, 'when you no longer need PFLAG is when PFLAG needs you!' In the cycle of Support + Education + Advocacy there is an activist spirit awakening in me, and I hope this spark becomes a fire in all of you. I look forward to working with the PFLAG Hartford family." Laura

**Monthly Meeting Reminder**

Tuesday, Nov. 7th - 6:30 p.m.. Manchester  
 Tuesday, Dec.. 5th - 6:30 p.m. Manchester

Wednesday, Nov 15th - 7:30 p.m. Hartford  
 Wednesday, Dec. 20th - 7:30 p.m. Hartford

Hartford meetings are held at Immanuel Congregational Church, 10 Woodland St., Hartford  
 Manchester meetings are held at the Manchester Youth Services Bureau, 63 Linden St., Manchester



**Wear That Bracelet With Pride! The annual membership drive is still underway!**

Please consider renewing your membership, or becoming a member, to help us pay for all the things PFLAG Hartford does. Becoming a member is easy! You can download a form to pay by check, or pay online, at [pflaghartford.org](http://pflaghartford.org). You can even renew at our monthly meeting.

The membership levels are:

<b>PFLAG Superhero</b>	\$200.00	<b>PFLAG Hero</b>	\$160.00
<b>PFLAG Waver</b>	\$100.00	<b>Supporting Member</b>	\$ 80.00
<b>Basic Household</b>	\$ 50.00	<b>Basic Individual</b>	\$ 30.00
<b>Student/Limited Income</b>	\$18.00		

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PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning persons and their families and friends through:

- SUPPORT: To cope with an adverse society
- EDUCATION: To enlighten an ill-informed public
- ADVOCACY: To end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights.

PFLAG Hartford offers support groups, a lending library, help lines, speaking engagements, special events, and resources. For more information on what we do, or to become a member or to make a donation, go to [pflaghartford.org](http://pflaghartford.org), or contact us at [pflaghartford@gmail.com](mailto:pflaghartford@gmail.com).

## The Eight Trans Officials Who Made History Tuesday Night

by Cerys Beckwith and Jay Wu reprinted from Medium.com

In a groundbreaking round of state and local elections Tuesday, eight openly transgender candidates won their respective races for public office. Danica Roem, Phillippe Cunningham, Andrea Jenkins, Gerri Cannon, Stephe Koontz, Lisa Middleton, Raven Matherne and Tyler Titus have all taken their places in history in these political races across the United States.

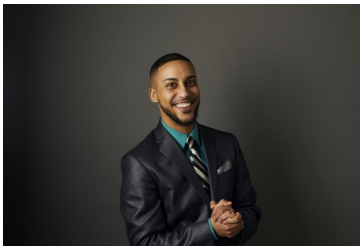
Here's what you need to know about each of these newly elected officials:

### Danica Roem

Fresh off of a campaign focused on improving public infrastructure and raising teacher salaries, Danica Roem will be the first openly transgender person to serve on a state legislature. This success is especially impactful given that her opponent, Bob Marshall, is a staunchly anti-LGBTQ politician.



The 26-year incumbent is well-known for calling himself Virginia's "chief homophobe" and introducing the state's discriminatory "bathroom ban" legislation this year.

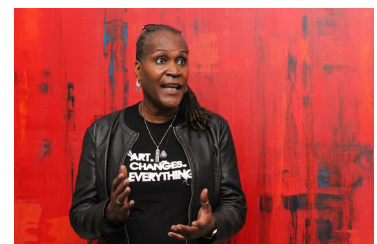


### Phillippe Cunningham

Because of Minneapolis' ranked-choice voting system, Phillippe Cunningham's victory was announced late in the afternoon of the day after Election Day. That makes his win no less momentous, as he has become the first Black transgender man to be elected to public office in the United States. He campaigned on his strong ties to the North Minneapolis community he will represent as the city council member from the city's 4th Ward and plans to focus on building community wealth.

### Andrea Jenkins

Policy aide, poet, employment specialist, oral historian, community organizer — Andrea Jenkins wears many hats, and the latest addition is her new role as city council member. As the new representative of Minneapolis' Ward 8, Jenkins has



become the first openly transgender Black woman to be elected to public office in the United States, making Minneapolis the only city to have two transgender city council members. Her campaign was built on her focuses on equity in public safety, transportation, the environment, and access to various aspects of society.

**Gerri Cannon**



During her campaign for school board in Somersworth, New Hampshire, Gerri Cannon emphasized funding schools through local business, industry, and community. On top of her work in education, Cannon is heavily involved in transgender and LGBTQ life in New Hampshire. She is the Chairperson of PFLAG New Hampshire and a member of the Freedom New Hampshire Steering Committee, advocating for equality in

both roles.

**Stephe Koontz**

A decades-long resident of Doraville, Georgia, Stephe Koontz won her race for the Ward 3 seat on Doraville’s city council. Positioning herself as a “catalyst for Doraville’s transformation,” Koontz’ platform rests on revitalizing the city’s town center, modernizing schools, and reinstating LEED certification requirements for all new buildings constructed in Doraville. A former church administrator and IT professional, Koontz is the first transgender person to be elected to public office in Georgia.



**Lisa Middleton**



With the election of Lisa Middleton and another candidate, Christy Holstege, Palm Springs, California is now the only city in the nation to have an entirely LGBTQ city council. Middleton is the first openly transgender person to be elected to a non-judicial office in California. She has previously served on the Advisory

Council of her neighborhood as an elected Chairperson, focusing on issues such as street repairs and pedestrian safety. Since then, her commitment to neighborhood development has grown to encompass advocating for solar energy and innovative use of desert landscapes around Palm Springs.

### Raven Matherne

At only 29, Raven Matherne is believed to Connecticut’s first transgender lawmaker, having won a seat on the Stamford Board of Representatives. A former martial arts instructor, Matherne ran on rising property taxes and fewer public services for residents in her district, even downplaying the historic significance of her candidacy.



### Tyler Titus

Another transgender school board candidate also won his election yesterday. Tyler Titus, a licensed professional counselor, youth advocate, and community leader in Erie, Pennsylvania, has worked to raise awareness around homelessness, especially as it impacts LGBTQ youth. With a vested interest in education and equal opportunity for LGBTQ youth, Titus’s win puts wind in the sails of the vital push for fair and equal education for youth of all identities and backgrounds.

These election results are nothing short of monumental, and are both reassuring and emboldening for the many transgender people out there who are potential candidates for elected office. For far too long, transgender people were not involved in the creation of policies or laws that affect all communities, including our own.

This is only the beginning of a new chapter for the trans movement.

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**GENDER DISCUSSION GROUP AT MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL** A monthly Gender Discussion Group, sponsored by Middlesex Hospital's Transgender Medicine Program. The focus is to connect transgender, gender non-conforming, and questioning individuals in the community with a safe, supportive space to openly discuss key issues. The group is facilitated by medical staff with special expertise in transgender care. Meets the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at Bengtson-Wood Conference Room, 28 Crescent St., Middletown. For more information contact Dr. Angel Rubin at (860) 358-3460 or [www.middlesexhospital.org](http://www.middlesexhospital.org) .

**THE HARBOR in GRANBY** A free Sunday night gathering for community members and LGBTQ members to come together and share community, dinner and a short service. Meetings are held at First Congregational Church of Granby. Dinner preparation starts at 4:45pm, service at 5:30pm and dinner at 5:45pm. For more information contact Elliot Altomare on Facebook [facebook.com/GranbyHarbor](https://www.facebook.com/GranbyHarbor) or via email at [GranbyHarbor@gmail.com](mailto:GranbyHarbor@gmail.com).

**TRUE COLORS** - Friday evenings events 6:30-8:30pm at 30 Arbor St., Suite 201A, Hartford, CT.

**1st Friday:** Pagan Discussion Group, **2nd Friday:** Movie Night, **3rd Friday:** Gayme Night **4th**

**Friday:** Craft Night (Mentoring Activity). For more information please email [Kamora@ourtruecolors.org](mailto:Kamora@ourtruecolors.org)

**Translation and TransPACT Support Groups (Tony Ferraiolo)** A support group for Transgender Youth and their Parents, Meetings are held in New Haven. Please contact Don at [imdonny@yahoo.com](mailto:imdonny@yahoo.com) for information.Æ

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**November 20th - Transgender Day of Remembrance** is an annual observance that honors the memory of those whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence. Event starts at 6:00pm at the Metropolitan Community Church of Hartford, 155 Wyllys St., Hartford. For more information go to [www.mcchartford.com](http://www.mcchartford.com).

**November-December - Gay Santa at Triangle Community Center** is a program that connects donors with and LGBTQ person in need to enable that individual to receive a gift this holiday season. Once an individual signs up as a donor TCC provides them with a letter from their LGBTQ person in need. The gifts can be dropped off at the TCC center or mailed to them. For more information go to [www.ctpridecenter.org/gay\\_santa\\_2017](http://www.ctpridecenter.org/gay_santa_2017).

**December 8th-10th - Hartford Gay Men's Chorus Holiday Concert: From Tinseltown to Times Square** Hear holiday songs from some of your favorite holiday films and Broadway smashes. This will be a wonderful way to kick off the holiday season! Go to [www.hgmc.org](http://www.hgmc.org) for more information and to purchase tickets.

### **The Final Edition of PFLAG Hartford's CARING Newsletter**

This is the final edition of PFLAG Hartford's Caring Newsletter. After careful consideration the board for PFLAG Hartford has decided to discontinue publication of the newsletter. Most of what is published here is available online and at [www.pflaghartfor.org](http://www.pflaghartfor.org) or on our Facebook page.

Many years ago PFLAG Hartford realized that there was a need to provide information to the PFLAG family. The Caring Newsletter was subsequently founded by Phil Wessler. After Phil had published the newsletter, Bob Calvin then took over as Editor. After Bob, Jean Cormier took over publishing the newsletter and was the Editor for 19 years!

I hope you have enjoyed reading our newsletter and I look forward to seeing you at a monthly meeting.

Tracy Martinez - Editor

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES DIRECTORY:** PFLAG Hartford would like to thank all of our advertisers that have placed ads with us over the years. It is because of these advertisers, that we were able to pay the costs of sending the *Caring* newsletter to you.

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Sunday - 8:00 A.M. Low Mass  
10:30 A.M. Sung Mass or Solemn High Mass  
Tuesday - 5:30 P.M. Low Mass or Healing Mass  
Wednesday - 7:15 A.M. Low Mass  
Thursday - 5:30 P.M. Low Mass  
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