

PFLAG SPIRIT

March 2021



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Newsletter of Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Fort Worth Chapter, P.O. Box 8279, Fort Worth, TX 76124. Published monthly except January.

MISSION: *Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends through support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and secure equal civil rights. PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.*

PFLAG Fort Worth Meetings

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, and with your health and safety in mind, PFLAG Fort Worth has suspended all of its in person meetings/ events, until health experts determine it is safe to resume. **We are holding virtual Zoom meetings; please email farmsrock54@gmail.com if you would like to receive an invitation to attend.** As always, please stay safe, and keep in touch with us through our website, email, phone, Facebook, and Twitter.

February Dates to Remember

03/04	PFLAG Fort Worth Monthly Meeting	VIRTUAL
TBD	Food & Fun Confab	Page 5
03/11	PFLAG Dallas Monthly Meeting	*
03/22	Supper Club for Samaritan House	Page 4
03/28	Trans Support Group	VIRTUAL

For Virtual events, please EMAIL for invitation/ instructions farmsrock54@gmail.com

*For PFLAG Dallas events, please register on website - pflagdallas.org or on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/pflagdallas).

PFLAG FORT WORTH INFORMATION

Meetings: First Thursday of each month at 6:45 p.m.

Virtual Meetings until further notice (see above)

First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church

1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth, TX 76112-5412

PFLAG/FW is not directly affiliated with any religious group.

Website: <http://pflagfortworth.org>

National Website: <http://www.pflag.org>

Newsletter: Carrie Hinze, Editor For change of address, advertising, or news to share, contact txtomx@yahoo.com with PFLAG in the subject line, please.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATES

Equality Texas' list of resources for the LGBTQ community continues to evolve. Please check this out if you are in need of assistance.

Read more: [COVID-19 Resources](#)

For specific restrictions, regulations, and assistance relating to COVID-19 in North Texas try these links -

State of Texas: <https://texas.gov/#covid19>

Dallas County: <https://www.dallascounty.org/covid-19/>

Tarrant County: <https://www.tarrantcounty.com/en/county/tarrant-county-covid-19-information.html>

City of Dallas: <https://dallascityhall.com/Pages/Corona-Virus.aspx>

City of Arlington: <https://www.arlingtontx.gov/coronavirus>

City of Fort Worth: <https://fortworthtexas.gov/COVID-19/>



Virtual Chapter Meeting
Thursday, March 4, 7:00pm
Guest Speaker: *Deejay Johansson*
H.E. L.P. Center, Fort Worth

Please EMAIL Nancy for instructions and Invitation at farmsrock54@gmail.com

LGBTQ News from Washington

US House Passes Equality Act

The House passed the Equality Act, a landmark LGBTQ rights bill that prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in numerous arenas, including employment, housing, education, public accommodations, credit and jury service. "The LGBTQ community has waited long enough," Rep. David Cicilline, D-R.I., who introduced the bill, said on the House floor. "The time has come to extend the blessings of liberty and equality to all Americans, regardless of who they are or who they love." [Read more here](#)

Republicans "Equality Act Threatens Freedoms"

LGBTQ protections will be enshrined in US law if bill survives a steep climb to 60 votes in the Senate. [Read more here.](#)

In D.C. Rep Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA)

is going full postal on the Equality Act, and continuing a nice feud going on this current session. She posted this video of her trolling Rep Marjorie Newman (D-IL) with a sign across from Newman's office. [See video here.](#)

Charlotte Clymer, a well-known trans woman, vet, former HRC staff member, current comms director of Catholics For Choice, activist, AND Texan replied with this post from Scientific American. [Read more here](#)

Newman had previously hung a trans pride flag outside her office to protest Greene's opposition to LGBTQ rights. Newman has a trans daughter. (Thanks, Nancy!)

HUD Protects LGBTQ's Seeking Housing

The U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development announced Thursday, Feb. 11 they will use the Fair Housing Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Across the country, it is now illegal to turn away people from housing, including rentals, because they are queer. [Read more here](#)

From Mayor Pete to Secretary of Transportation

Pete Buttigieg, formerly known as Mayor Pete, is now the country's first openly LGBTQ+ person to be nominated for a cabinet position and confirmed by Senate. Buttigieg was confirmed as the Secretary of Transportation by a bipartisan vote of 86 to 13. [Read more here](#)



First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church

Affirming the inherent worth and dignity of all human beings.
Sunday Services at 11:00 a.m.

1959 Sandy Lane,
Fort Worth, Texas 76112
817 - 451 - 1505
www.firstjefferson.org



LGBTQ Rights are Human Rights!

Important Links!

Resource Center Advocacy <https://resourcecenter.salsalabs.org/joinadvocacy>
How to find your Senators/Reps
<https://wrm.capitol.texas.gov/home>

LGBTQ Identification Rises to 5.6%

Gallup's latest update on lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender identification finds 5.6% of U.S. adults identifying as LGBT. The current estimate is up from 4.5% in Gallup's previous update based on 2017 data. [Read more here](#)

Expanded Efforts to Protect LGBTQ Rights

President Biden calls for expanded efforts to protect LGBTQ rights globally. "All human beings should be treated with respect and dignity and should be able to live without fear no matter who they are or whom they love," said the memorandum, building on a 2011 directive when Biden was vice president. [Read more here.](#)

Legislation Affecting LGBT Rights Nationwide

ACLU writes, "While more states every year work to pass laws to protect LGBTQ people, we continue to see state legislatures advancing bills that target transgender people, limit local protections, and allow the use of religion to discriminate." [Read more here](#)

Kierra Johnson's Statement on Equality Act

"The Equality Act, introduced today in the U.S. House ..., is a historic and vital nondiscrimination and civil rights bill that would update existing federal laws to protect people from discrimination based on their sexual orientation and gender identity. As the Task Force nears its 50 year anniversary, it has been as long that our community has advocated for legislation at the Federal level." [Read more here.](#)

Rachel Levine Supports Trans Care

U.S. Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) attacked Rachel Levine, President Biden's nominee to be assistant secretary of health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, over her support for transition-related care During Levine's confirmation hearings on Thursday, Paul attacked the current Pennsylvania Secretary of Health over her previously stated support of gender-affirming transition-related care for transgender youth experiencing gender dysphoria. [Read more here](#)

HRC Corporate Equality Index 2021

Human Rights Campaign Foundation's Corporate Equality Index is the national benchmarking tool on corporate policies, practices and benefits pertinent to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer employees. **The Human Rights Campaign Foundation** is proud to recognize the **767** businesses that met all the criteria to earn a 100 percent rating and the designation of being a 2021 "Best Place to Work for LGBTQ Equality." [Read more here](#)

Transgender Visibility

International LGBTQ News

Trans Deaths in 2021

2020 was historically deadly for the transgender community. A record 45 trans people were killed last year eclipsing the previous high of 31 in 2017. As usual, transgender women of color were disproportionately impacted by the violence. The true number of victims will never be known, as many go unreported or are misgendered in death. Sadly, 2021 is proving deadly as well...[Read more here](#)

New Trans-Affirming Children's Book

It's important to teach future generations how to be themselves and how to show up for others. [Sam Is My Sister](#) is a new trans-affirming children's book by author Ashley Rhodes-Courter that approaches the topic of transgender delicately so that children can understand [Read more here](#)

March 31 International Trans Day of Visibility

Trans Day of Visibility is an annual awareness day celebrated around the world. The day is dedicated to celebrating the accomplishments of transgender and gender nonconforming people while raising awareness of the work that still needs to be done to achieve trans justice. [Read more here](#)

Black Queer Travel Guide Project

Travelling as a queer person means having to think about homophobia, and about the more than 70 countries in the world where homosexuality is illegal. Travelling as a Black person means having to think about the anti-Black racism that remains entrenched around the world. And travelling as a Black queer person – in a world where more than half of LGBTQ+ people of color have faced racist discrimination from within the queer community, never mind outside of it – means thinking about both. [Read more here](#)

Announcing 2021 Trans Wellness Conference

Mazzoni Center's Philadelphia Trans Wellness Conference (PTWC) is the largest transgender health conference in the world. PTWC was founded by Charlene Arcila who was aided by countless community members, to bring the conference to life, year after year. The mission of the PTWC is to educate and empower trans individuals on issues of health and wellness, recognizing the need for expertise surrounding trans health & wellness to rise from within the community. Workshops proposals now open. [Read more here](#)

Resource for Trans, Non-Binary, and Gender Queer Students [TxTransKids.org](https://www.txtranskids.org)

[Translifeline](#)
[877.565.8860](tel:877.565.8860)

Great Britain's Spy Master Apologizes

The chief of Britain's MI6 foreign intelligence service publicly apologized on Friday for historic discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT+) people in the spy agencies before 1991. [Read more here](#)

Turkish Minister's LGBT Post

Intensifying weeks of tension at a top Istanbul university, Turkey's interior minister on Tuesday called student protesters "LGBT deviants" on Twitter, prompting the social media platform to put a rare warning on his comment. [Read more here](#)

Honduran Congress - Conservative Priorities

Members of the Honduran Congress recently voted to amend the constitution making it much harder to reverse existing hard line bans on abortion and same-sex marriage, as lawmakers double down on socially conservative priorities. [Read more here](#)

Hungary's Government Hostile to LGBT

Hungary's government, which has made hostility to LGBT people a central part of its right-wing agenda, ordered a publisher on Tuesday to print disclaimers identifying books containing "behavior inconsistent with traditional gender roles". [Read more here](#)

UK Gay Men Defied Covid Lockdown Rules

A new study out of the U.K. finds 76 percent of gay men defied early lockdown orders, risking contraction of COVID-19 in order to find sexual partners. The study highlighted that the majority of the motivations behind defying the lockdowns were both isolation and loneliness. [Read more here.](#)

February Is LGBT+ History Month in UK

Every February is LGBT+ History Month in the United Kingdom. Given our current pandemic situation we can't take anything for granted, so we are exploring how to be flexible and thinking of new ways of communicating. Keep visiting the website and our social media for great resources. [Read more here](#)

Lesbian Peer's Speech in UK House of Lords

The UK's Maternity Bill is the focus of an ongoing debate this week as peers pick apart proposed gender-neutral language. The debate has remained largely one-sided as lords parrot a number of incorrect assertions about trans issues – until Thursday (25 February), when Baroness Barker swiftly debunked them all in under five minutes. [Read more here](#)

Global LGBTQ+ Rights

The global campaign to secure protections for LGBTQ+ people has made progress in recent decades, Yet in many countries, LGBTQ+ individuals still face repression, imprisonment, and the threat of death. Laws and safeguards protecting this community from legal discrimination and political, social, and economic marginalization are a priority for activists and a growing number of governments. [Read more here](#)

First Openly Gay Black Hopeful for US Senate

Malcolm Kenyatta, state representative for Pennsylvania's 181st district, is running for the U.S. Senate in 2022. If elected, Kenyatta would be the first openly gay man in the U.S. Senate. He would also be the first out, gay, Black man in the senate and the first Black Pennsylvania senator. [Read more here.](#)

Destination: Pink Hell by Sarah White

Today's journey brings us more than 5,000 miles away from Denver to Sachsenhausen Concentration, Oranienburg, Germany. Together we will explore Nazism's darkest level in concentration camps for the LGBTQ captives and how the modern LGBTQ community has reversed the dated symbols of embarrassment and hate, into a symbol of bravery, ownership, and Pride. [Read more here.](#)

Mr. Potato Head Has New Gender-Neutral Name

Hasbro said that 70 years after they were born, Potato Head was due an update. The new name will appear on boxes later this year. Right on cue, the usual suspects began frothing at the mouth with fury. Piers Morgan decided Potato Head had been made gender-neutral to avoid "upsetting wokies", despite literally no one ever asking Hasbro to rebrand the toy. [Read more here](#)

13 LGBTQ+ Shows and Films Stream in February

From romances (*Monsoon, The Big Day, The Shape of Water*) to scammer stories (*I Care a Lot, Ginny & Georgia*) to groundbreaking TV series (*Chewing Gum, It's a Sin*), there's plenty to choose from during this Month of Love. [Read more here.](#)

How One Supreme Court Decision Increased Discrimination Against LGBTQ Couples

Over the past few years, the Supreme Court has been sketching the outline of a broad compromise on LGBTQ rights. Civil-rights protections will shield people from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. At the same time, religious objectors will have their own set of robust rights. For example, the Court recently clarified that Title VII, the federal antidiscrimination employment law, covers LGBTQ employees. The Court also, in another case, found in favor of a baker who would not provide a wedding cake to a same-sex couple. [Read more here.](#)



Sign up for email distribution of the newsletter!

Get more than just the newsletter — a select number of action alerts and important bulletins from PFLAG and other equal rights advocacy organizations.

We are All Digital now! Go Green!

Contact Nancy at farmsrock54@gmail.com

PFLAG FORT WORTH ON PAYPAL

There are now two ways to interact with PFLAG Fort Worth through PayPal!

To make a one time donation:

paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/2047249

If you have Questions or trouble with the link, please contact Nancy at farmsrock54@gmail.com.

To set up a recurring membership, go to our website, pflagfortworth.org. Click on the Membership tab on the top, then choose the level of membership you want. Complete the process through PayPal (if you don't have a PayPal account, it's free and easy to set up), and voila you're all set! The advantage to doing it online is you won't have to remember to renew every year! Questions? Email Nancy at farmsrock54@gmail.com.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Share the LOVE Share the SMILES

Did you know that you can shop online and support PFLAG Fort Worth at the same time? Simply log in to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/75-2472648>, confirm that you want to make PFLAG Fort Worth your preferred charity, and SHOP!

There's no cost to you, and it's anonymous - we do not see any purchase information. Bookmark your smile.amazon.com link on every device and you are good to go. Not sure how to get this set up? Email Nancy at farmsrock54@gmail.com for specific steps.

Thank You!

Looking for a Way to Help?

- ♥ **WHO:** PFLAG Fort Worth's Samaritan House Supper Club
- ♥ **WHAT:** Serve Dinner to Samaritan House residents
- ♥ You can also make a dish to contribute if you can't make it
- ♥ **WHEN:** Fourth Mondays, 5:30 - 6:30 pm
- ♥ **WHERE:** Samaritan House, 929 Hemphill St, Fort Worth, 76104
- ♥ **WHY:** Because it makes a Difference
- ♥ **Interested? Please contact Lisa at 817-300-5476**

PFLAG FORT WORTH ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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<https://www.facebook.com/pflagfortworth/>



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