

# PFLAG SPIRIT

April 2021



Volume XXVII, Number 3

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](mailto: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

|       |                                  |                |
|-------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| 04/01 | PFLAG Fort Worth Monthly Meeting | <b>VIRTUAL</b> |
| TBD   | Food & Fun Confab                | Page 5         |
| 04/08 | PFLAG Dallas Monthly Meeting     | *              |
| 04/26 | Supper Club for Samaritan House  | Page 4         |
| 04/25 | Trans Support Group              | <b>VIRTUAL</b> |

For Virtual events, please EMAIL for invitation/instructions [farmsrock54@gmail.com](mailto:farmsrock54@gmail.com)

\*For PFLAG Dallas events, please register on website - [pflagdallas.org](http://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](mailto: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/country/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/>



**PFLAG Fort Worth Virtual Meeting**  
**Thursday, April 1 7:00pm**

**Guest Speakers:**

**Finnigan Jones, Trans-Cendence Intl**  
**Susan Blanchard-Jones, LPC-A**

Please email Nancy at [farmsrock54@gmail.com](mailto:farmsrock54@gmail.com) for Zoom link

## Jim Obergefell Still Fights for LGBTQ Rights

While Obergefell's renown allows him to continue to have great influence, he emphasized that you don't have to become a Supreme Court plaintiff to make a difference. One of the most important ways individuals can fight for equality, he said, is to vote in every single election, state, local, and national. "Vote for the people who share your values, who believe that the LGBTQ community deserves to take their rightful place as an equal part of *We the People*."

Another radical act, he said, is to speak up and tell your story. "During the marriage equality case, John's and my story of love and loss was something everybody could relate to because everybody loves someone and everybody has lost someone they love. Telling stories changes hearts and minds. I never really got that until experiencing it myself." [Read more here](#)

## Houston—Inclusion of LGBT Businesses

Until today (03/04/2021), LGBTQ entrepreneurs couldn't always bring their full selves to the table for fear of outing themselves and losing business, clients or their livelihoods," said Tammi Wallace, Greater Houston LGBT Chamber of Commerce CEO. "This change means the city is saying, 'We value you.'"

Houston became the first city in Texas to commit to forming a database of LGBTQ Enterprise-certified businesses for city contractors to use to ensure diversity among subcontractor and vendor participation in projects such as infrastructure improvements. [Read more here](#)

## Nevada's First Encircle Resource Center

Dan Reynold's latest gesture on behalf of LGBTQ youth may be his most personal yet. The Imagine Dragons' front man announced he was donating his childhood home in Las Vegas to Encircle, a Utah-based advocacy group. The nonprofit recently launched its "\$8 Million, 8 Houses Campaign," which is dedicated to establishing safe spaces for LGBTQ youth in Arizona, Idaho, Nevada and Utah. [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](http://www.firstjefferson.org)



## Day of Silence—April 23, 2021

Created in 1996 and held every April — April 23 this year — Day of Silence is a campaign that seeks to shed light on what many LGBTQ youth experience daily. Initially intended to focus on this problem within the school system, it has since expanded into workplaces, university campuses, and sporting events. Yearly, millions participate by staying silent for the duration of their day, representing the silencing of LGBTQ students. [Read more here](#)

## American Psychological Association Opposes Transgender Conversion Therapy

The biggest professional psychologist organization in the U.S. has come out against transgender conversion therapy in a new statement, saying that the practice puts "individuals at significant risk of harm." The APA states, "Transgender or nonbinary gender identities are normal variations in human expression of gender. Forcing people to conform with rigid gender identities can be harmful to their mental health and well-being."

"The consensus from the APA further reinforces that we must rely on transgender people and their healthcare providers to determine treatment for gender affirming care in accordance with current medical best practices — this is not the place for politicians." [Read more here](#)

## APA Requires Use of 'They' by Researchers

The 7th edition of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (APA) has announced its endorsement of the use of "they" as a singular third-person pronoun for non-binary and gender neutral people. While this may sound like a minor academic grammatical point, it actually means the American psychological community is recognizing and validating the existence of non-binary people, and asking scholars to study and write about them in ways to improve support and understanding by professionals. [Read more here](#)

## Georgia Lawmaker—Fight Voter Suppression

Police arrested openly queer lawmaker Park Cannon at the state capitol in Atlanta on Thursday after she was arrested for protesting a new law critics say will disenfranchise Black and minority voters.

Before her arrest, Cannon, a Democrat in the Georgia House of Representatives, posted on Twitter that the bill, known as Senate Bill 202, is merely "Jim Crow in a suit and tie." Among its many provisions, the legislation limits mail-in voting and mandates prohibitive voter ID requirements that disproportionately impact communities of color according to the American Civil Liberties Union.

"Make no mistake, there's nothing new or novel about what #SB202 aims to do," Cannon wrote, adding that the legislation "selectively removes all of the levers Trump was unable to pull to overturn the will of the people of Georgia." [Read more here](#)



## Transgender Visibility

### Fatal Violence Against the Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Community in 2021

*"These victims, like all of us, were loving partners, parents, family members, friends and community members. They worked, went to school and attended houses of worship. They were real people — people who did not deserve to have their lives taken from them."*

Sadly, 2021 has already seen at least twelve transgender or gender non-conforming people fatally shot or killed by other violent means. We say at least because too often these stories go unreported — or misreported. In previous years, the majority of these people were Black and Latinx transgender women.

In 2020, HRC tracked a record number of violent fatal incidents against transgender & gender non-conforming people. A total of 44 fatalities were tracked by HRC, making 2020 the most violent year on record since HRC began tracking these crimes in 2013. [Read more here](#)

### Trans Kids Are Kids

Liam and Evan Oliver, middle and elementary school students in Florida, ask state legislators to reject bills targeting their transgender friends. [See more here](#)



### The Trans Threat (Again)

OK, I agree there are some things that are urgently needed to protect female athletes; I mean, surely they are talking about U.S.A. women's gymnastics coach John Geddert, who took his own life after being charged with felony sexual assault and human trafficking of young female athletes — right? No, not a peep...about the power coaches have over these girls.

Perhaps they are concerned with protecting women from injuries? There has long been a concern about concussions, ACL injuries and exercise safety during pregnancy. But nope. No concern there.

How about continued sex discrimination and social injustice. No, not that either.

What about pay equity? Ask the U.S.A. Women's Soccer team — you know, the U.S.A. soccer team that wins World Cup titles? The one where women are often paid half or less of what their male counterparts earn, even when the men don't win championships? No?

Well what, then, is this big threat to women's athletics? Trans women. [Read more here.](#) (Article by Leslie McMurray who spoke at PFLAG a few years ago.)

[Translifeline](#)  
[877.565.8860](#)

"We the people" means ALL of us!



### Keller Athlete Comes Out —Starts GSA

When entering high school, I had no intention of coming out. I still felt that my identity as a gay man and athlete needed to remain separate for the comfort of those around me. Besides, it was my freshman year of high school; why would I want to make it any harder?... My teammates and I had just finished practice. We all sat in the locker room cracking jokes ...They began to yell at one another, "Hey, don't act like such a fag!" and "Come on, you homo!" ...They must have noticed me not laugh hard enough or my face wince because they shouted to me from halfway across the locker room, "What Majure, are you gay?" The locker room fell quiet. I froze. I had never had someone ask me the question before. I was scared. [Read more here.](#)

### Youth Activists Fight Against Anti-trans Bills

Young transgender activists say they're being ignored by state representatives who have introduced more than 70 bills targeting trans people. [Read more here](#)

### Dwayne Wade - Pose Changed Daughter's Life

The 13-year-old daughter of Dwane Wade and Gabrielle Union, who came out as trans last year had never seen a queer kid shunned by their family like the scene on *Pose*. Wade and Union have been fierce and vocal supporters of Zaya, defending her from critics and noting how much she's helped them grow as people and see the world differently. "I promised myself when I decided I was going to be a parent, that I was going to love unconditionally. Whoever you are, whoever you're going to be, it's my job as your father to facilitate those things and to put you in a position to succeed." Rather than apply his own expectations or worldview to their lives, Wade says it's on him as a parent to meet his kids on their level. "It's not my job to change who you are," he said. "It's my job to sit down and understand who you are and where you're coming from." [Read more here](#)

### OUT FOR GOOD: Hometown Pride

New York and Los Angeles may have become melting pots for LGBTQ people all across the country, but that doesn't mean they're the only cities with a rich queer culture. In this installment of the OUT for GOOD series, we'll talk to NFL player, Ryan K. Russell; LGBTQ activist and advocate, Kate Austin and others about the many places they've been out and proud. Highlighting lesser-known queer hotspots all around the USA, we'll find out what makes these LGBTQ gems a must-visit for queer people everywhere. [See more here](#)

### Japan Rules Marriage Ban Unconstitutional

A Japanese court has ruled that the country's ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional. While the ruling is being celebrated, it doesn't mean that marriages can start being performed immediately. The court ruled that sexual orientation, like race, is not a matter of individual preference, so denying same-sex couples the same benefits as straight couples is unconstitutional. [Read more here.](#)



**I got my Covid vaccination!**

### How AIDS Crisis Prepared Us for Covid

One year into the COVID-19 pandemic, it's become clear that we owe many of our successes in fighting the virus to the HIV/AIDS crisis — and that our failures could have been avoided if we'd acted on the parallels.

"We suspected how it was going to play out when the former president kept calling this the 'Chinese virus,'" says Cecilia Chung. "That kind of attack is really intentional, and when it's sanctioned by the government, I think that really emboldens the public to add fuel to the fire." [Read more here](#)

### FDA Blood Donation Policy Impacts LGBTQ+

"I want to help everyone as much as I can but someone is telling me I can't because I am living the life I was born to live," Meteorologist Adam Joseph said. Joseph is speaking out about an FDA policy that restricts gay or bisexual men from donating blood unless they are abstinent for three months. That includes men like Adam, who has been in a monogamous relationship for 12 years. He and partner Karl have built a family together.

"We look at our life with our two kids, yes we're two dads but we're living a life like any other straight couple," Adam said. "You know we don't go outside our marriage; we live happily together."

He says as a gay male, he and many others are lumped into a stereotype that is discriminatory that all gay men have HIV. The restriction on blood donations stems from a lifetime ban enacted in 1983 during the AIDS epidemic. [Read more here](#)

### Celebrate Girls and Women in LGBTQ Sports

Every day in March, *Outsports* celebrated Women's History Month by highlighting the contributions of out female-identified LGBTQ athletes. As a sports site that focuses on the LGBTQ community, the focus of course is on athletes, coaches and athletic personnel who make a difference in their sport, and display the spirit embodied by our motto: "Courage Is Contagious" [Read more here](#)

### Biden Admin Champions Global LGBTQ Rights

Secretary of State Antony Blinken reaffirmed the Biden administration's foreign policy will promote LGBTQ rights around the world. "We will stand firm behind our commitments to human rights, democracy, the rule of law," said Blinken in a speech he delivered at the State Department. "And we'll stand up against injustice toward women and girls, LGBTQI people, religious minorities, and people of all races and ethnicities." [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](https://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](http://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](https://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

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

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



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @pflagftworth



**Westside  
Unitarian Universalist  
Church**

***We are a Welcoming Congregation!***

**Reverend Frieda Gillespie**

901 Page Avenue  
Fort Worth, TX  
76110



817-924-MYUU(6988)  
www.westsideuu.org

Want more PFLAG time?  
Join us at our  
**Food & Fun Confab Social Meeting**  
Monthly on the second Tuesday 6:30 pm  
Shaw's Patio Bar & Grill,  
1051 W Magnolia Ave, Fort Worth, TX 76104

**Next event TBD  
Due to COVID-19  
Stay Tuned!!!**



(Continued from page 4)



### To our PFLAG Fort Worth Members and Friends



**The PFLAG mission of support, education, and advocacy is as vital as ever.** We are asking you to continue your support by renewing your membership, joining us, and/or donating to PFLAG Fort Worth so we can fulfill our mission. Despite a growing acceptance of diversity in our society we are all too aware of hostility and worse toward LGBTQ persons.

**Please help PFLAG to keep working toward the society we want;** where people are informed, rights are protected, and families find care and understanding.

**Among the ways we served our mission in the 2019-2020 year:**

- Speaking to Fort Worth Public Schools teachers/counselors and administrators to advance equality
- Offering a speaker meeting and having a support group on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month at First Jefferson UU Church in Fort Worth.
- Providing dinner for up to 50 residents at our monthly Supper Club at the Samaritan House in Fort Worth.
- Making Christmas stockings for the children living in Samaritan House family apartments, donating money toward Halloween costumes, and tutoring residents.
- Proudly marching in the Fort Worth and Dallas Pride parades. Staffed a Booth at the Fort Worth Festival and Picnic.

- Briefing employees at several businesses, universities, and federal agencies on our mission of advocacy, support and education.
- Partnering with the TCU Education Department and TCC to share PFLAG's mission.
- Offering a Trans Support Group in partnership with St. Stephens's Episcopal Church in Hurst TX.

**GOALS for 2020-2021:**

- Offer a scholarship to graduating seniors of LGBTQ SAVES
- Develop ways to become more visible to those who need us and don't know we're here.
- Send an officer to the PFLAG National Conference .
- Continue advocating for the LGBTQ community with businesses, educators, and families.

Everything we undertake has a financial outlay for materials, space, publicity, fees, insurance, printing, etc., and, proudly, the goal for scholarship awards. **We are making a difference and need you with us.** Help PFLAG Fort Worth move equality forward during our October 2020-September 2021 year.

Please support PFLAG Fort Worth with your generosity and commitment to our mission of support, education, and advocacy. **Join us! Renew! Donate!**

***If you have already renewed, THANK YOU!!***



## Membership Application



|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Individual<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> Family<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member<br/> <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor/Life </div> <div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">\$</div> <div style="text-align: right;"> 25<br/>45<br/>100<br/>500 </div> </div> </div> | Date<br><br>Name<br><br>Address<br><br>City<br><br>State<br><br>Phone<br><br>Email | <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> Make checks payable to: PFLAG/Fort Worth<br/> Mail to: P.O. Box 8279<br/> Fort Worth TX 76124<br/> <br/> RENEWAL _____ NEW _____ </div> <div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">Zip</div> <div style="text-align: right;"> <br/><br/><br/><br/><br/><br/><br/> </div> </div> </div> |
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You can also set up a recurring membership on our website!!