PFLAG	SPIRIT
May 2021	Volume XXVII, Number 4

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**

05/06PFLAG Fort Worth Monthly MeetingVIRTUALTBDFood & Fun ConfabPage 505/13PFLAG Dallas Monthly Meeting\*05/24Supper Club for Samaritan HousePage 405/30Trans Support GroupVIRTUAL

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

\*For PFLAG Dallas events, please register on website - <u>pflagdallas.org</u> or on <u>Facebook</u>.

# PFLAG FORT WORTH INFOMATION

**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: <u>http://pflagfortworth.org</u>

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: <u>https://texas.gov/#covid19</u> Dallas County: <u>https://www.dallascounty.org/covid-19/</u>

Tarrant County: <u>https://www.tarrantcounty.com/en/</u> <u>county/tarrant-county-covid-19-information.html</u> City of Dallas: <u>https://dallascityhall.com/Pages/</u> <u>Corona-Virus.aspx</u> City of Arlington: <u>https://www.arlingtontx.gov/</u>

coronavirus City of Fort Worth: https://fortworthtoyas.gov/

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



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



# **U.S. Embassies to Fly Pride Flag**

Secretary of State Antony Blinken has issued a blanket authorization for U.S. diplomatic outposts around the world to fly the Pride flag on the same flagpole as the U.S. flag at their embassy or consulate showcasing support for LGBTQ rights. The directive marks a departure from how the Trump administration handled the matter while the State Department was run by former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. <u>Read more here</u>

### June Is Gun Violence Awareness Month

June has been designated "Gun Violence Awareness Month," with the first Friday in June as "Gun Violence Awareness Day." The first day and throughout the month are intended to raise awareness of the estimated 96 people killed every day and the many more injured across the United States. <u>Read more here</u>

National Gun Violence Day, a nationwide movement that shows collective power, honors the lives lost on account of gun violence and those wounded by it. After it got its start, orange became the color associated with the wider movement fighting for gun violence prevention. This was fitting, as Erica Ford's organization Life Camp, Inc. had previously been behind making orange a color of peace. Although the day was originally observed on the birthday of Hadiya Pendleton, it is now held on the first Friday of June. The weekend is known as Wear Orange Weekend. Everytown for Gun Safety sponsors the day, as do other community organizations. <u>Read more here</u>

# Gay Men's Choirs—Group Videos

The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus recently honored health care workers and first responders with a mash-up of "True Colors" and "Brave" by Cyndi Lauper and Sara Bareilles. "You are our heroes" appears in typeface right before a diverse cross-section of San Francisco's queer community starts blending in perfect harmony, which is basically your cue to start the waterworks at home. The <u>video</u> features a 150-person ensemble singing together virtually and is edited to look like an extended gay family reunion of the *Brady Bunch*. <u>See video here</u>

If you're digging the dulcet tones, check out the Boston Gay Men's Chorus. The choir, which canceled a concert for the first time in 38 years last month, released a song dedicated to those impacted by the pandemic. The video is a compilation of self-tapes made by choir members isolated throughout New England. <u>See video here</u>

# 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

#### **Biden Nominees for Pentagon Posts**

President Joe Biden is set to nominate two members of the LGBTQ community with a background in LGBTQ rights for high-ranking civilian positions at the Defense Department, the White House announced on Friday.

Brenda Sue Fulton, a lesbian activist who fought for "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" repeal and transgender military service, is set to obtain the nomination as assistant secretary of defense for manpower and reserve affairs, which would make her an adviser for U.S. military personnel affairs.

Shawn Skelly, a transgender national security expert who served on Biden's transition team after the inauguration is on the other hand set to obtain the nomination of assistant secretary of defense for readiness, which overseas U.S. military force and health affairs. <u>Read more here</u>

# LGBTQ Books in School Libraries

Parent Kelli Vaughn-Hebert praised Richardson ISD for going above and beyond in its inclusiveness. With kids spending a majority of their day around diverse classmates, they should be taught how to respect and appreciate students with different backgrounds, Vaughn-Hebert said. Richardson resident Brandi Dawson noted that children's books allow students to approach discussions on sensitive topics. <u>Read more here</u>

# Dad of Trans—The Imperative of Listening

Here's a plot line for a bad horror movie. Your child needs medical help, so you work with doctors and counselors to find a treatment plan based on scientific evidence and professional standards. As a result, your child is happy and healthy. Then, the state decides it knows better than parents and doctors. It takes away your child and throws you in prison. To add a plot twist, this breach of family life is sanctioned by the party of "small government." <u>Read more here</u>

# 400+ Businesses Support LGBTQ Rights Act

More than 400 companies \_\_\_\_\_ including Tesla, Pfizer, <u>Delta Air Lines</u> and <u>Amazon</u> \_\_\_\_\_ have signed on to support civil rights legislation for LGBTQ people that is moving through Congress, advocates said Tuesday. The Human Rights Campaign, a Washington-based LGBTQ advocacy group, said its Business Coalition for the Equality Act has grown to 416 members, including dozens of Fortune 500 companies such as Apple, PepsiCo, <u>General Motors</u>, CVS, <u>Facebook</u>, Marriott, Capital One, Starbucks and Home Depot pepper the list. <u>Read more here</u>

# Supporting LGBTQ Youth of Color

LGBTQ youth of color face racism, homophobia, and transphobia in schools. School supports can make a difference. Schools nationwide are often hostile



## **Transgender Visibility**

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

There have been at least 5 more deaths recorded in April. "As HRC continues to work toward justice and equality for transgender and gender non-conforming people, we mourn those lost in 2021." <u>Read more here</u>

#### Be an Ally to Trans and Non Binary Youth

"Our Guide to Being an Ally to Transgender and Nonbinary Youth" is an introductory educational resource that covers a wide range of topics and best practices on how to support transgender and nonbinary people. It can be tough for transgender and nonbinary people to bear the burden of educating others about their lived experience. That's why we're publishing this guide: to help begin your education on the basics of gender identity and expression. You'll be able to better support the trans and nonbinary folks in your lives, and help to create a safer, kinder and more accepting world." <u>Read</u> <u>more here</u>

#### **Trans Youth Under Siege**

Fear, anger, outrage, and exasperation are now the experiences daily for Trans Americans of every age as they confront what has been a virtual tsunami of legislative actions in twenty-five states specifically targeting their existence, as Republican lawmakers work to limit medical care, participation in sports, or limit their being able to self determine their own gender identity. <u>Read more here</u>

#### NCAA and 10-Year-Old Push Back Texas Lege

NCAA said, "Inclusion and fairness can coexist for all student-athletes, including transgender athletes, at all levels of sport...Our clear expectation as the NCAA's top governing body is that all student athletes will be treated with dignity and respect. "

Kai Shappley, 10-year-old trans said, "God made me. God loves me for who I am, and God does not make mistakes... do not like spending my free time asking adults to make good choices." <u>Read more here.</u>

#### Gender Affirming Health Care Not a Crime

Laws being considered by many states to deny trans youth gender-affirming health care "are out of sync" with the recommendations of the <u>American Medical</u> <u>Association</u>, the <u>Endocrine Society</u>, the <u>Pediatric</u> <u>Endocrine Society</u>, the <u>American Academy of Pediatrics</u>, the <u>American Psychiatric Association</u> and the <u>American</u> <u>Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry</u>, who all agree that gender-affirmative treatments are an <u>important</u> <u>option for transgender youth</u>.

"I'm a researcher who has been studying and working with transgender youth and their families for most of the past decade. As such, I often end up seated next to curious people with questions about trans youth at dinner parties or on planes. This is how I've discovered just how much misunderstanding and misinformation there is on this topic," stated Kristina Olson. <u>Read more here</u>

# International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia & Biphobia

"We the people" means ALL of us!

May 17 is marked as International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia & Biphobia. The date was chosen to commemorate the World Health Organization's decision in 1990 to declassify homosexuality as a mental disorder. This Day aims to celebrate sexual and gender diversity, and campaign against the violence and discrimination experienced by LGBTI people internationally. There are over 70 countries in the world where same-sex relationships are illegal, and in around 10 of these countries the punishment could be death. Read more here



#### Black Gay Man Shot by Deputy Sheriff in VA

An unarmed 32-year-old black man who was shot as many as 10 times by a sheriff's deputy in Spotsylvania County, Va., on April 21 is gay. An attorney representing the family of shooting victim Isaiah Brown stated at an April 26 news conference that the deputy should have known that Brown was holding a phone and not a gun before the deputy fired multiple shots that struck Brown.

"After viewing the Spotsylvania County Sheriff's deputy's bodycam video and listening to the 911 call, it is evident that the tragic shooting of Isaiah Brown was completely avoidable," said attorney David Haynes of the Cochran law firm. "The deputy in question made multiple, basic policing errors and violated established protocols," Haynes said. <u>Read more here</u>

#### Catholic German Leaders Defy Vatican's Ban

A group of Catholic leaders in Germany have scheduled a mass blessing of same-sex unions for May 10th and have titled the event "Love wins, blessing service for lovers." The event will see blessings take place across the country. <u>Read more here</u>

> <u>Translifeline</u> 877.565.8860

\*Creator: nadia\_bormotova | Credit: Getty Images/iStockphoto



# The Froot Loop Alliance of Library Alicorns

I hereby welcome you to the Froot Loop Alliance of Library Alicorns...You shall be at your happiest when your gender identity shines bright like a beacon, lighting your universe from the inside out and drawing forth all who need you most. Sometimes, terrible people will also find you. But we'll always find each other. And we'll keep each other bright. <u>Read more here</u>

# **Galileo Church Has New Billboard**

The landlord for Galileo Church provides a new billboard. See this billboard at the 820/I-20 drive into Arlington. Galileo Church FaceBook page. <u>More here</u>

"When we say that all are welcome here, we really mean ALL, no matter where you've come from or what you've done or what's been done to you or what you haven't figured out yet. We come because Jesus is doing the inviting, and we haven't met anyone yet that Jesus wouldn't eat with." <u>Read more here</u>



# "Subway Baby" Adopted by Gay Couple

"We found a baby on the subway - now he's our son. Just as it was inconceivable 20 years ago to think about becoming parents, it is even more inconceivable," says Pete, now 52, "to think about not being parents. I did not know that this level of deep love existed in the world until my son came into my life." Read more here

# **Texas School Changes Dress Code Policy**

A Texas school district adopted a new gender-neutral dress code after making national headlines in December for suspending an openly gay male student who wore nail polish to school. The Clyde Consolidated ISD's policy for the 2021-2022 school year doesn't distinguish between "girls" and "boys," according to KRBC-TV in nearby Abilene. Instead, the dress code provides guidelines for all students, and it no longer prohibits boys from wearing nail polish or makeup. 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 <u>https://smile.amazon.com/ch/75-2472648</u>, 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 <u>smile.amazon.com</u> 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!



(Continued from page 4)

year:

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Picnic.

as vital as ever. We are asking you to continue your support

Please help PFLAG to keep working toward the society we want; where people are informed, rights are protected, and

Among the ways we served our mission in the 2019-2020

Speaking to Fort Worth Public Schools teachers/counselors

Offering a speaker meeting and having a support group on

the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month at First Jefferson UU

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.

parades. Staffed a Booth at the Fort Worth Festival and

Proudly marching in the Fort Worth and Dallas Pride

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.

and administrators to advance equality

families find care and understanding.

Church in Fort Worth.



# To our PFLAG Fort Worth Members and Friends



- The PFLAG mission of support, education, and advocacy is 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!!

PFLAG	Memb	pership Application	
$\nabla$ Individual $\nabla$ Family $\nabla$ Sustaining Member $\nabla$ Benefactor/Life	\$25 \$45 \$100 \$500	Date Name Address	
Make checks payable to: Mail to: <b>RENEWAL</b>	PFLAG/Fort Worth P.O. Box 8279 Fort Worth TX 76124 <b>NEW</b>	City State Phone Email	Zip
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You can also set up a recurring membership on our website!!