

PFLAG SPIRIT

July 2021



Volume XXVII, Number 6

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 info@pflagfortworth.org 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.

July Dates to Remember

07/01	PFLAG Fort Worth Monthly Meeting	VIRTUAL
TBD	Food & Fun Confab	Page 5
07/08	PFLAG Dallas Monthly Meeting	*
07/26	Supper Club for Samaritan House	Page 4
07/25	Trans Support Group	VIRTUAL

For VIRTUAL events, please EMAIL for invitation/instructions info@pflagfortworth.org

***For PFLAG Dallas events, please register on website - pflagdallas.org or on [Facebook](#).**

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/>



Please EMAIL Nancy for Instructions and Invitation at info@pflagfortworth.org



Anti-LGBTQ Texas Bills in Legislature

Over 30 anti-LGBTQ Texas bills—including 13 that directly targeted transgender youth—were introduced and defeated during this year's session. Pro-equality activists, politicians, and organizations like Equality Texas, the Transgender Education Network of Texas (TENT), and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) rallied against these bills throughout the session, which began January 12 and ended May 31. [Read more here](#)

LGBTQ+ Champions!

All anti-LGBTQ+ bills filed this session were officially dead, including 13 direct attacks on transgender youth. It's been a long, hard road to get here and we absolutely could not have done it without you, our partner organizations or our LGBTQ+ champions in the Texas House. [Read more here](#)

SCOTUS Ruling

Equality Texas, the largest statewide organization solely dedicated to securing full equality for LGBTQ+ Texans, is relieved by the ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court regarding *Fulton v Philadelphia*. This ruling is a victory for efforts to prevent discrimination in taxpayer-funded services, including child welfare. [Read more here](#)

Special Envoy for LGBTQ Rights

President Biden named Jessica Stern as the US State Department's special envoy to advance human rights of LGBTQ people. The announcement coincides with the White House celebration of Pride Month. [Read more here](#)

Winners of Lambda 2021 Literary Awards

Lambda Literary Awards began in 1989 to recognize the crucial role LGBTQ writers play in shaping the world and to celebrate LGBTQ books. [To read more, read more here](#)

Children's Books About Pride

This is a list of "20 picture books to help you raise a kind, tolerant kid." No matter what your family looks like, books about Pride, diverse families, and gender identities can teach a positive message about embracing difference and overcoming adversity. [Read more here](#)

Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentors LGBTQ Kids

The goal of Big Brothers big Sisters is for all LGBTQ youth to have a safe and supportive mentor relationship with a caring adult. [Read more here](#) [And read more here](#)

Bridge Gap—Christian Parents & LGBTQ Kids

Join us for an interview with BT Harman, a creative strategy consultant and author of *Blue Babies Pink*, a story of being a gay Christian in the American South. BT and Kendra Wright, one of the founders of Strong Family Alliance, discuss Ways to Bridge the Gap Between Christian Parents and Their LGBTQ Kids. [More here](#)

Support Your LGBTQ+ Child's Mental Health

Only one in three queer youth say their home is a supportive and safe space for them to be their true selves. Let's do better for kids. How? [Read more here](#)

What Makes Pride?

What Makes Pride is dedicated to uplifting the work and lives--and sharing the stories--of LGBTQ+ BIPOC people, communities, and grassroots organizations. Each conversation in the *What Makes Pride* series will cover an issue of importance, including Pride, housing, art, incarceration, community and family. [Read more here](#)

Loving Every Dragon

LED Southlake, a visible ally network, works to support LGBTQ+ students. [Read more here](#)

LGBTQ Saves

LGBTQ SAVES provides a safe space for social and personal development for LGBTQ youth and allies. Students have a safe space that is welcoming to all gender and sexual identities. Allies learn more about LGBTQ+ culture and inclusive practices. Volunteers help spread our mission and mentor our youth. Educators access inclusion training and resources for gay-straight alliances. Support for families, friends and everyone in between. [Read more here](#)



Talking to Kids About Gender Pronouns

Katherine Locke's new children's book, *What Are Your Words?* is a conversation starter, an opportunity for parents and children to talk about gender identities and pronouns...It might not be that particular child reader who is trans or nonbinary, but someone they know is probably going to be trans or nonbinary at some point in their life. Making sure that those kids have that language, and that their parents and guardians and librarians and teachers all have the language to have those conversations is really important. [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



Transgender Visibility



Violence Continues Against Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Community in 2021

This year of 2021 is on track to be the deadliest for transgender and gender non-conforming people in the US. "As HRC continues to work toward justice and equality for transgender and gender non-conforming people, we mourn those lost in 2021." [Read more here](#)

Texas TransVisible Project

The TransVisible Project is a public education campaign to reduce prejudice against transgender Texans by effectively communicating their powerful stories. The media play a significant role in shaping the attitudes and ideas of the public. By reporting without bias and challenging inaccurate representations of transgender people, journalists can help ensure that Texans have accurate information and can make informed decisions on public policies that affect lives, health, and well-being of trans Texans. [Read more here](#)

Trans Kids Deserve...To NOT Be Targeted

I was terrified to tell my conservative, Christian parents that their grandchild is transgender, but I underestimated them. This year, they've spent their time making phone calls to their state legislators to oppose anti-transgender bills — bills promoted by the party they have belonged to all of their lives. [Read more here](#)

LGBTQ Youth and Conversion Therapy

"Reparative" or "conversion" therapy is a dangerous practice that targets LGBTQ youth and seeks to change their sexual or gender identities. Such practices have been rejected by every mainstream medical and mental health organization for decades, but due to continuing discrimination and societal bias against LGBTQ people, some practitioners continue to conduct conversion therapy. Minors are especially vulnerable, and conversion therapy can lead to depression, anxiety, drug use, homelessness, and suicide. [Read more here](#)

"We the people" means ALL of us!



Telling Trans Stories

Daniel in Arizona says, "To all parents out there, my main advice is to listen to your kids. When we share something with you, it's because we want to be seen and heard. It's important for trans people, and especially trans kids, to have our stories heard so others can get to know us for who we are." [Read more here](#)

Family Support and Affirmation of Trans Youth

At age 11, our child slipped a note under our door: "*Dear Mother and Father, can we move to a different country because I think I don't want to be a boy lots of times ... We'll discuss later.*" Knowing there was no way for her to transition privately in a town where she had gone to school with the same kids since first grade, we worked with the school and the superintendent to get this right. Then, we sat down as a family to compose one of the most important letters of our lives, introducing Gia and her new pronouns; stressing that she has the full support of extended family, doctors and the school; and inviting everyone to join us in supporting Gia on her journey. "Making this step requires Gia to be brave and courageous, and she can't do it alone. We ask that you be respectful and supportive of Gia and remember that while Gia's outward appearance may change, she is otherwise the same person with the same personality, humor and interests." [Read more here](#)

GLAAD Releases 20 Under 20 List

GLAAD revealed its second annual 20 Under 20 List, spotlighting twenty young LGBTQ people, ages 20 and under, who are accelerating acceptance of LGBTQ people while shaping the future of media and activism. "More than ever before, young LGBTQ people are changing the way the world sees and understands LGBTQ people, while leading to create a safer, more inclusive and equal society for all," said GLAAD President/CEO Sarah Kate Ellis. [Read more here](#)

Pulse Nightclub National Monument

President Biden signed into law the bill designating the site of the 2016 Pulse Nightclub shooting in Orlando, Florida as a national monument. Also, Biden said, "I'm proud to lead the most pro-LGBTQ equality administration in U.S. history," Biden said. He mentioned that 130 U.S. embassies around the world are currently flying Pride flags as "a symbol of our commitments of safety, dignity and opportunity for all." [Read more here](#)

Lambda Legal Impact: Double Justice

Lambda Legal scores two court wins for same-sex partners denied access to Social Security survivor benefits. [Read more here](#)

[Translifeline](#)

[877.565.8860](#)



LGBTQ Information about Pandemic

This spring, as part of the organization’s ongoing efforts to support the LGBTQ community during the pandemic, the HRC Foundation launched “For Ourselves, For Each Other: Getting to the Other Side of the Pandemic,” a public education campaign designed to connect the LGBTQ community to the most accurate and up-to-date information regarding the coronavirus vaccines and their public distribution. [Read more here](#)

Gay Pride Calendar—July, August, Sept, etc.

At this stage, the Gay Pride Calendar 2021 depends on global trends and governmental restrictions with regards to Covid-19. So stay tuned to our Gay Pride Calendar for updates on pride dates 2021, which prides will be shifting online, which prides will be canceled. [Read more here](#)

**Rainbow Stadiums – in Pictures
German Football Lights Up for Solidarity**

Following Uefa’s decision to block a planned LGBTQ+ rainbow stadium protest at Munich’s Allianz Arena, football stadiums elsewhere in Germany pledged to light up in rainbow colors instead during the Euro 2020 match against Hungary. [Read more here](#)

Pride in Produce Section

“I had gone to pick up groceries at my little local grocery store a few months into the pandemic. The Pride festival had just been cancelled. Everything seemed so grim. It felt like despair and hate was everywhere we turned. And then I stepped into the produce section to find workers there had made the display into a rainbow, with a handmade Pride sign. I was totally in tears to see this show of support to the LGBTQ community, put together with such loving care. I knew then that in the end we were going to be ok. [Read more here](#)



**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 info@pflagfortworth.org.

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! One time memberships available, too. Questions? Email Nancy at info@pflagfortworth.org

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 info@pflagfortworth.org 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 817-382.7353

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 info@pflagfortworth.org

PFLAG FORT WORTH ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @pflagftworth

