

PFLAG SPIRIT

September 2021



Volume XXVII, Number 8

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.

August Dates to Remember

09/02	PFLAG Fort Worth Monthly Meeting	VIRTUAL
TBD	Food & Fun Confab	Page 5
09/09	PFLAG Dallas Monthly Meeting	*
09/27	Supper Club for Samaritan House	Page 4
09/26	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 Jeffers on 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

Although we hoped to resume in-person meetings, the arrival of the Delta variant of the COVID virus along with the alarming increase in cases in the DFW area has put those plans on hold. The PFLAG Fort Worth Board of Directors decided to remain virtual for now.

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 COVID-19 info 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/>



Guest Speaker: Ken Shetter, President
One Safe Place

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



Host a Trans Student for CIEE

CIEE (Council on International Education Exchange) is a highly respected organization, operating since 1947 to offer international student exchange opportunities around the world.

One of CIEE's local Placement Coordinators has reached out to PFLAG Fort Worth to find a **transgender affirming host family for a 17-year-old trans male student** from Azerbaijan. There is a very organized and thorough matching and application process, with a host coordinator assigned to help you every step of the way.

All students featured are GRANT students and chosen by their countries as Youth Ambassadors to represent their countries. This is a special honor for students and the host family. Other students are also looking for host families in America. Interested? Please contact Danny Croxson at dannycroxson@gmail.com or 940.228.8692. Danny has been hosting students for 9 years, and lives in Wichita Falls. To learn more about CIEE [read more here](#).

Buttigieg and Husband Are Parents

Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg announced Tuesday that he and his husband, Chasten, are now parents. "For some time, Chasten and I have wanted to grow our family. We're overjoyed to share that we've become parents!" he wrote. "The process isn't done yet and we're thankful for the love, support, and respect for our privacy that has been offered to us. We can't wait to share more soon." [Read more here](#)

From "Don't Ask" to Space Force

General Leah Lauderback, an openly gay woman, serves as head of intelligence for the U.S. Space Force. Such a position would have been out of reach for an openly gay person in years past, "It's really very significant that the fact that I can be out means that nobody can hold this over my head and I can serve openly and be the best intelligence officer that I can possibly be," she said. [Read more here](#)

AMA - "No Sex Designation on Birth Certificate"

The American Medical Association (AMA) has recommended that the "sex" designation be removed from the public facing portion of babies' birth certificates, reserving that information for medical professionals. [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



PFLAG Fort Worth Meetings Virtual for Now

The arrival of the Delta variant of the COVID virus along with the alarming increase in cases in the DFW Metroplex has put a kink in plans to resume in-person meetings. The PFLAG Fort Worth Board of Directors has decided to remain virtual for the next few months. We will assess the situation closely, and make the decision to return to in-person meetings as conditions change.

Not to worry, though. Thanks to a grant from Verizon, once we go back to in-person meetings, we will have the capability of providing a *hybrid* meeting, where folks can still join on Zoom if needed. This will allow us to continue to provide speakers from all over and accommodate those who can't make any particular meeting. We're big on hugs and in-person fellowship, but we also want everyone to be able to participate.

The Trevor Project's Data Insights

The Trevor Project reflects on LGBTQ youth who reached out to talk about the 2020-21 academic year. To better understand the challenges they faced this past year and to improve our services, we analyzed our data from the 2020-21 school year alongside our data from the 2019-2020 school year. Our insights include important findings about academic performance and mental health, which have implications for The Trevor Project as well as for other organizations that are focused on youth wellbeing. [Read more here](#)

LGBTQ Nation Heroes

Who is your LGBTQ Hometown Hero? Who inspired you to do better this past year? Voting for the *LGBTQ Nation* Heroes awards is starting soon, but first, they want to hear about heroes in your community. Who is doing the work even if no one is watching? Nominations are now open. [Read more here](#)

Oregon Farmers Erect Giant Pride Flag

Farmers have erected a giant progress Pride flag near an Oregon high school after the local school board voted to ban LGBT+, Black Lives Matter (BLM) and other signs, flags, clothing and items deemed to be political. Jaybill McCarthy and his wife, Erin, told news media that the couple wanted "maximum visibility" for the progress Pride flag so they decided to erect it in their pasture among their livestock and facing the local high school. [Read more here](#)

LGBTQ Olympians Use Games for Acceptance

Delayed due to COVID, the 2020 Tokyo Olympics finally took place...in 2021. This summer Olympics was especially meaningful for LGBTQ advocates. Never before had so many out LGBTQ athletes competed; a record 182, up from just 56 at the 2016 Rio Games. Numerous athletes dedicated their medals to the LGBTQ community, using their wins to call for acceptance, to offer support and aspirational role modeling for LGBTQ youth, and even to challenge homophobia in their home nations. [Read more here](#)

Transgender Visibility



Transgender School

Guest speakers at the PFLAG Fort Worth/St Stephen's Episcopal Transgender Support Group Virtual Meeting on Sunday, August 29, were Jackie Thornhill and Bridget Sampson, a mother-daughter team who founded Transgender School after Bridget's coming out as trans. They began Transgender School to offer courses to educate people about diverse transgender identities and how to be allies and advocates. Bridget writes "When my daughter Jackie came out as trans at nineteen, I was overcome with shock, anxiety, and confusion. I was not the mother she needed and deserved." [Read more here](#)

2021 Deadliest Year for Trans?

"At least 34 transgender and gender non-conforming people — nearly all Black and Latina women — have been killed this year, according to the Human Rights Campaign which has tracked such deaths since 2013. Miss Co-Co a 44-year-old trans woman of color, was killed in Dallas, Texas on August 7, and Shai Vanderpump, a 23-year-old Black trans woman, was killed in Trenton, New Jersey, on July 30. According to Garden State Equality, Shai was "a fierce LGBTQ advocate." [Read more here](#) and [Read more here](#)

Miss South Africa's 1st Trans Contestant

The first transgender contestant in South Africa's national beauty pageant, 24-year-old Lehlogonolo Machaba hopes she will inspire greater acceptance of the LGBTQI community. [Read more here](#)

New Zealand "Self-identification" Law

New Zealand progressed with its plans to make it easier to change a person's sex on their birth certificate recently as legislation moved through parliament with support from all political parties. The self-identification bill was introduced to ensure New Zealand has the best process for transgender, non-binary and intersex people to formally acknowledge their gender, the government said in a statement, after the bill had its second reading in parliament on Wednesday. [Read more here](#)

"We the people" means ALL of us!



A Parent's Thoughts

"I asked myself, What if there were no fear or hate in the world? How would I parent differently then? Why am I letting the fear and hate in the world create so much noise in my head that I'm not listening to my child?" – Dr. Paria Hassouri author of *Found in Transition: A Mother's Evolution During Her Child's Gender Change* [Read more here](#) and [See more here](#)

"Transgender History Month"

In San Francisco, August will now be recognized as Trans History Month. The announcement coincides with the 55th anniversary of the Compton Cafeteria Riots, a pivotal moment in LGBTQ+ history. On August 24, 2021, San Francisco Mayor London Breed joined local trans activists, politicians, and LGBTQ+ trailblazers to sign a proclamation officially recognizing August as a month to honor the tenacity of trans advocacy and the vibrancy of trans culture. The month, will recognize work to be done toward achieving full equality. [Read more here](#)

Trans Clinics Staffed by Trans Docs and Nurses

Two trans-led healthcare clinics have opened in India to support trans people with their health, wellbeing and HIV status. The clinics, both in the southern city of Hyderabad, will welcome all members of trans and non-binary communities and are staffed by trans doctors, nurses, managers and counsellors, according to the Hindustan Times. The clinics are the first of their kind in India, and are part of the government's commitment to having trans clinics across the country as part of the controversial Transgender Persons Act 2019. [Read more here](#)

Black Student Defends Trans Woman

Fulton High School in Knoxville, TN is mired in controversy following the suspension of a trans woman who was being deadnamed by her classmates, and the classmate who defended her. Willum Watson says he was suspended by the school for standing up against bullies who deadnamed his peer. [Read more here](#)

Marsha P. Johnson, Trans Icon Statue

A bust of transgender activist Marsha P. Johnson has been erected in Christopher Park in New York City. It is the first monument of a transgender person in the city park system. The park is near the Stonewall Inn and features a separate statue, Gay Liberation, commissioned in 1980 and installed in 1992. The piece features statues of two men and two women that are painted white. [Read more here](#)

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



More Gay Pride—Sept, Oct, etc.

Stay tuned to our Gay Pride Calendar for updates on pride dates 2021, which prides will be shifting online, which prides will be canceled in September, October, etc. [Read more here](#) and [Read more here](#)

Bisexual Awareness Week, 2021

Bisexual Awareness week, also known as Bi Week, takes place at the end of September. There is also Bisexual Awareness month, which takes place in March. In 2021 Bisexual Awareness Week takes place in late September, 19th to the 25th September (US) and on 20th – 26th in the UK. Celebrate Bisexuality Day is on September 23. Bisexual Awareness Week was first celebrated in 2016 and aims to bring awareness to bisexual or “bi plus” people in the LGBT+ community. It was co-founded to support and celebrate bisexuality by LGBT+ charity GLAAD in 2016. [Read more here](#)

SCOTUS Term Ends, Where Are LGBTQ Rights?

The Supreme Court took action on three cases directly affecting LGBTQ+ rights, and now the term is over. One of the rulings may well turn out to be a watershed moment in trans rights, while the other two suggest that the court has reached a stalemate on the scope of religious exemptions to LGBTQ+ non-discrimination laws. While this stalemate lasts, we need to keep fighting both in court and in legislatures to protect non-discrimination laws from being pock-marked with exceptions that could render them meaningless. [Read more here](#)

LGBTQ Rights – Know Your Rights

The legal landscape for LGBTQ people is constantly evolving. If you think you have been discriminated against and would like assistance from the ACLU, please visit our Report LGBTQ and HIV Discrimination Page and we can help you figure out whether you are protected under federal or state laws. [Read more here.](#)

Jim Hormel’s Generosity

James Hormel was a pioneering champion and philanthropist of LGBTQ rights. He was the first openly gay U.S. ambassador and died on Friday, August 13. Former director of the ACLU’s LGBTQ & HIV Project Matt Coles reflects on the long friendship between Hormel and the ACLU in this article. [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!

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

PFLAG FORT WORTH ON SOCIAL MEDIA
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
<https://www.facebook.com/pflagfortworth/>
FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @pflagftworth

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

**Interested in helping an LGBTQ kid?
Check out Big Brothers Big Sisters**

<https://bbbstx.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 1st 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



▽ Individual	\$ 25	Date	_____
▽ Family	\$ 45	Name	_____
▽ Sustaining Member	\$ 100	Address	_____
▽ Benefactor/Life	\$ 500	City	_____
Make checks payable to:	PFLAG/Fort Worth	State	_____ Zip _____
Mail to:	P.O. Box 8279	Phone	_____
	Fort Worth TX 76124	Email	_____
RENEWAL _____	NEW _____		

You can also set up a recurring membership on our website!!