

PFLAG SPIRIT

October 2021



Volume XXVII, Number 9

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.

October PFLAG Dates to Remember

10/07 PFLAG Fort Worth Monthly Meeting	VIRTUAL
TBD Food & Fun Confab	Page 5
10/14 PFLAG Dallas Monthly Meeting	*
10/25 Supper Club for Samaritan House	Page 4
10/24 Trans Support Group	VIRTUAL

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

*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 pm
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, please contact info@pflagfortworth.org.

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/>



Please email info@pflagfortworth.org or call 817.382.7353 for Zoom link.

Guest Speaker: Lt. Christopher Gorrie, Fort Worth Police Department



Bigots 'feel emboldened by the silence of onlookers.' It's time to change that...

Navigating the world can be a hailstorm of awkward and life-affirming moments for queer people. Sometimes, things happen that make us feel unsafe. Since moving to London six years ago I've been surprised by how many times I've felt unsafe on the streets and on public transport. I understand why people might not want to get involved. But if you feel able to, I would say that showing a stranger solidarity in that moment – something as small as sitting next to them or staying with them until their destination – is a powerful thing, even if you have to wait until after it's over. Perpetrators feel emboldened by the silence of onlookers, which sends the message that most people either agree with, or don't care enough to challenge, their behavior. [Read more here](#)

GLAAD Spirit Day - Wear Purple = No Bullying

LGBTQ youth disproportionately face bullying and harassment because of their identities. Each year, millions go purple for Spirit Day to support LGBTQ youth in a united stand against bullying. Pledging to "go purple" on Spirit Day is a way for everyone — global and local brands and companies, world leaders, celebrities, neighbors, parents, classmates, and friends — to visibly show solidarity with youth and to take part in the largest, most visible LGBTQ anti-bullying campaign in the world.

October 20 is Spirit Day in 2021. [Read more here](#)

GLSEN - October Events

Start planning now! Take action to create safe and inclusive schools for ALL! October is LGBTQ History Month, Islamic Heritage Month and National Bullying Prevention Month. October 11 is National Coming Out Day, October 12 is Indigenous People's Day, October 21 is International Pronouns Day, October 23-30 is Asexual Awareness Week, and October 26 is Intersex Awareness Day. [Read more here](#)

Ally Week Is Now Solidarity Week, Nov. 1-5, 2021

The decision to change Ally Week to Solidarity Week was heavily influenced by student feedback...Solidarity Week is a student-powered campaign dedicated to building collective support for LGBTQ+ students and educators. This program helps people learn about and practice solidarity with different identities. [Read more](#)

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 Important Dates in October

LGBT History Month was created in 1994 by Rodney Wilson, a high school history teacher in Missouri. In 1995, a resolution passed by the General Assembly of the National Education Association included LGBT History Month within a list of commemorative months. October was selected to coincide with National Coming Out Day (Oct. 11), which was already established, and the anniversary of the first march on Washington for gay and lesbian rights in 1979. October also includes Spirit Day on Oct. 20, on which people around the country wear purple in support of LGBT youth; Solidarity Week (formerly Ally Week) Oct. 5-9; and the anniversary of 21-year-old Matthew Shepard's murder on Oct. 12, 1998, which led to the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act in 2009. [Read more here](#) and [Read more here](#)

Scotland's LGBT School Curriculum

Scotland has become the first country in the world to embed lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender inclusive education across the school curriculum. All school staff will be given a basic awareness e-learning course on LGBT inclusive education and a toolkit of LGBT inclusive education teaching resources. A dedicated website will also be launched with resources for information to support young people. Subjects across age groups will now include LGBT identities, issues and history, focused on promoting equality, reducing bullying, and improving the educational experiences of LGBT children and young people. [Read more here](#)

National PTA - Every Child, One Voice

October is LGBTQ History Month. Negative attitudes toward lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students puts them at an increased risk for violence and bullying. Negative attitudes also impact a student's ability to learn at school. Get the facts on the challenges facing LGBT students here. We have created information and resources on the unique challenges LGBTQ children face and ways PTAs can better support LGBTQ families in achieving student success. How your PTA can better support LGBTQ children. [Read more here](#)

Stop Bullying LGBTQIA+ Youth!

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, nonbinary or otherwise gender non-conforming (LGBTQIA+) youth and those perceived as LGBTQIA+ are at an increased risk of being bullied. Results from the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) show that, nationwide, more U.S. high school students who self-identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual (LGB) report having been bullied on school property (32%) and cyberbullied (26.6%) in the past year than their straight peers (17.1% and 14.1%, respectively) [Read more here](#)



Transgender Visibility



2021 Deadliest Year for Trans Individuals?

Sadly, 2021 is on track to significantly exceed last year's all-time record of murders of trans individuals. [Read more here](#) and [Read more here](#) and [Read more here](#).

Trans Persons in Puerto Rico Are Invisible

Trans people in Puerto Rico say they are invisible in the eyes of the island — and it's contributing to a culture of violence. Activist groups and victims say trans are targets of violence from both Puerto Rican citizens and from local police for expressing their gender identity, and that police are often dismissive of crime victims who are transgender. Of the 44 trans or gender non-conforming people who were fatally shot or killed by violent means in 2020 in the U.S., six were killed on the island, accounting for 14% of the deaths — more than any state or territory. [Read more here](#)

Anti-Trans Crimes Rising

Although hate crime incidents motivated by anti-trans bias appear to be increasing, advocates have said government data often don't tell the full story. Trans individuals have reported facing bias-motivated violence much more often. Advocates have said the discrepancy between FBI data and trans people's lived experiences is a common theme when it comes to data collection on LGBTQ people. Of the 27,715 trans adults surveyed by the National Center for Transgender Equality in the summer of 2015, nearly half (46 percent) reported that they were verbally harassed in the previous year, and nearly 1 in 10 (9 percent) said they were physically attacked in the previous year for being transgender. [Read more here](#)

Convicted in Murder of Transgender Teen

A Vancouver, Washington, man convicted of killing transgender teen Nikki Kuhnhausen was sentenced recently to 20 years in prison. A jury found David Bogdanov, 27, guilty in late August of second-degree murder and malicious harassment, which is a hate crime under Washington law, The Columbian reported. [Read more here](#)

"We the people" means ALL of us!



Nat'l Week of Action Against School Pushout

Each October, members of the Dignity in Schools Campaign (DSC), a national coalition of over 100 organizations, host a series of events, teach-ins, rallies, protests and workshops across the country designed to bring attention to the ongoing and devastating impacts of school policing and zero-tolerance discipline policies. Beginning on Saturday, October 3rd and running through October 11th, DSC's 11th National Week of Action Against School Pushout will bring students, parents, education advocates, lawyers and many others committed to social and educational justice together to amplify the nationwide call for schools to move away from punitive, cold, criminalizing policies and towards emotionally-safe, restorative and culturally responsive school communities. [Read more here](#)

Queer Teenager Wants Forever Family

Dax, a 16-year-old student from Oklahoma said they had been adopted and lived with a family for 7 years before they were abandoned for being queer. "It was nice, but then they started not loving me anymore for who I was, being LGBTQ" Dax said. Dax loved going to school because it is "basically my getaway from home". The teen said they hoped to find a new family to adopt them and "give me a chance." Ideally, Dax said they would like to be adopted by a same-sex couple or "someone who is very understanding of my situation." [Read more here](#)

Gay Parents - Joy of Surrogacy

For LGBTQ+ people, welcoming children into their family can be one of the most incredible — but challenging — journeys of life. For Richard Scarlett and his husband Dario, raising a family had been part of their dialogue for as long as they can remember. They were adamant that they would one day have two children. Watching their friends having babies, their desire for a family grew stronger. "We knew it wouldn't be easy," Richard admits, "so we prepared as much as we could." [Read more here](#)

STOMP Out Bullying

In 2005, STOMP Out Bullying was born with the passion and commitment to help all youths in need. Our founder, Ross Ellis, never wants to see another child in pain, and she never again wants to hear the words, "I want to die." Shani was on the verge of taking her life the night she contacted us. She had a plan in place. One of our trained volunteer counselors helped her to see that although she was hurt by these rumors, that ending her life was not the solution. Through our counselor's help and resources, Shani is thriving today as a peer mentor. [Read more here](#)

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

**Westside
Unitarian Universalist
Church**

We are a Welcoming Congregation!

901 Page Avenue
Fort Worth, TX
76110



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

Sundays: Coffee at 9:30 a.m., Services at 10:00 a.m.

More Gay Pride—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 October, etc. [Read more here](#) and [Read more here](#)

LGBTQ Vets Need Benefits

Out Rep. Chris Pappas (D-NH) has reintroduced legislation to protect LGBTQ veterans. It's the SERVE Act (Securing the Rights our Veterans Earned). It would guarantee and protect Veteran Affairs (VA) benefits for LGBTQ veterans discharged from the military due to sexual orientation or gender identity. [Read more here](#)

Green Power Ranger Comes Out

Power Rangers Dino Fury has made franchise history by introducing the first Ranger who is unabashedly out as a member of the LGBTQ community. Green Ranger Izzy Garcia is shown holding her girlfriend's hand in an upcoming episode that has already been shown in France. Fans quickly reacted to the news online as they celebrated the inclusion of a queer character into the franchise. [Read more here](#)

Brits Condemn Phobias in Cycling

British Cycling has condemned homophobia and transphobia in the sport following criticism about a lack of support for LGBT+ cyclists. Brian Facer, the chief executive of Britain's governing body for the sport, said that it was "deeply worrying" to read in "recent weeks" about anti-LGBT+ hate encountered by "some of our fellow cyclists" [Read more here](#)

LGBT Youth in South Korean Schools

Young LGBT people in South Korea often experience intense isolation, fearing rejection from friends and family and lacking trusted, knowledgeable adults to whom they can turn for information and support...This mistreatment and lack of support can seriously affect the well-being of LGBT children, jeopardizing their health and rights. [Read](#)

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 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



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

<https://bbbstx.org/>



Big Brothers
Big Sisters

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



<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$ 25	Date	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$ 45	Name	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member	\$ 100	Address	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> 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!!