

PFLAG SPIRIT

November 2021



Volume XXVII, Number 10

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

11/04	PFLAG Fort Worth Monthly Meeting	VIRTUAL
TBD	Food & Fun Confab	Page 5
11/11	PFLAG Dallas Monthly Meeting	*
11/22	Supper Club for Samaritan House	Page 4
11/28	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](#).

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/>



Guest Speaker: Liz Dyer, Founder of Mama Bears

Please email Nancy at info@pflagfortworth.org for Zoom Link



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 here](#)

We Are #VaccinatedAndProud

In an effort to help get as many people vaccinated against COVID-19 as possible, the Human Rights Campaign Foundation hosted seven pop-up vaccination clinics all over the country this summer. The effort was in partnership with the HRC Foundation's Religion & Faith program, the White House Office of Public Engagement and the Washington National Cathedral. Recent studies have estimated that 92% of America's LGBTQ+ population has been vaccinated. We're proud to have been part of that effort. [Read more here](#)

Unite the World in Purple for Spirit Day

In true nature for Spirit Day, which was started by a high school student in Canada, organizations around the world went purple for Spirit Day this year. Countless people, community groups, institutions, and companies turned out to support LGBTQ+ youth and take a stand against bullying. Take a look at some of the fantastic people and organizations that have stepped up and gone purple: Several United Nations departments sent messages of support for Spirit Day. [Read more here](#)

Trans Activist in Pakistan Fights for Change

Jannat Ali—who describes herself as an “artist”—is the executive director of Track T, a trans rights organization that is based in Lahore, Pakistan's second largest city. Track T in December 2018 organized Pakistan's first-ever trans Pride march that drew nearly 500 people. A law that permits trans people to legally change the gender on their national ID cards and other official documents, allows them to vote and bans discrimination based on gender identity in employment, health care, education and on public transportation took effect earlier that year. [Read more here](#)

LGBTQ+ Inclusive Teaching Standards

The D.C. State Board of Education voted unanimously on Oct. 20 to approve a resolution calling for LGBTQ+ Inclusive Education Standards for the city's public schools that “reflect on the political, economic, social, cultural, and scientific contributions and experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.” The two-page resolution, introduced by gay State Board of Education member Allister Chang, who represents Ward 2, cites national research showing that students who have access to LGBTQ+ curricula in their schools “are more likely to report lower frequency of bullying, lower levels of depression, more accepting peers, and greater feelings of safety in school.” The resolution states that research also shows that multicultural education, including the teaching of LGBTQ topics, “helps prevent the formation of bias and prejudice and creates more democratic communities.” [Read more here](#)

Time for an LGBTQ Reality Check

LGBTQ students, especially transgender students, are facing a rising tide of bullying and violence in U.S. schools. Even on the coasts, queer kids are struggling. San Luis Obispo and Spokane are not as politically liberal as Los Angeles or San Francisco, but they're still “left coast” communities with reputations for tolerance and acceptance. They're not the kinds of places where we expect 13-year-old trans kids to be beaten or school superintendents to endorse anti-LGBTQ hatred. They're not the kind of places where we expect queer students to write that they feel physically unsafe in school every day. But you know what? This is real. This is happening. Right now. Nothing is going to get better unless we work together collectively against the insidious notion that LGBTQ identity is or should be controversial. The Paso Robles High School community is doing a great job educating students and parents as they send their superintendent a strong message that he must do better. [Read more here](#)

U.K. Cited for Anti-Trans Human Rights Abuses

Would you be surprised to learn Europe's preeminent human rights watchdog Council of Europe just named the U.K. —with Russia, Hungary, Poland, and Turkey — as a primary driver of anti-transgender hate speech and hate crime? If you're an LGBTQ person who follows trans news at all, you're probably muttering, “No kidding!” But if you're an American who doesn't closely follow LGBTQ news, even if you're a politically engaged progressive Democrat, I bet you don't know how bad things are on the U.K. left. You likely have not noticed how a cancer of leftist transphobia is spreading globally, threatening to invade our shores. You need to know, because signs point to things getting worse before (or if) they get better. [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



2021 Deadliest Year for Trans?

Of the 41 trans lives taken (so far) this year, the vast majority were trans women of color, like Starz and Martinez. That deadly toll is close to setting a new record of anti-trans violence. Last year, 44 trans Americans were killed, and 2021 is pacing well ahead of that count. At the same point in 2020, 35 transgender people had lost their lives to violence. If the current rate continues, 51 trans victims will be killed. [Read more here](#)

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

Trans Children & Youth, Understand the Basics

Gender identity and expression are central to the way we see ourselves and engage in the world around us. This is certainly true of gender-expansive and transgender children and teens, for whom family support is absolutely critical. It is important to know--and quite alarming, that research finds that transgender youth are at greatest risk of suicide (compared to non-transgender peers) as a result of rejection, bullying, and other victimization. In other words, for some transgender youth, family support can be the difference between life and death. Parents and caregivers can find resources, peer support, and professional guidance to help along the journey, and to insure that your child can not just survive, but thrive. [Read more here](#).

America Has Only One Trans State Senator. Lisa Middleton Wants to Change That

Palm Springs Mayor Pro Tem and city council veteran Lisa Middleton announced she is running for the California State Senate. If elected, Middleton will be the first openly trans state legislator in the state's history and the country's second trans state senator. [Read more here](#)



"We the people" means ALL of us!



Coming Out: Info for Parents of LGBTQ Teens

"Coming out" is a lifelong journey of understanding, acknowledging and sharing one's gender identity and/or sexual orientation with others. It may be quick and easy for some, or longer and more difficult for others. It is important for parents of LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer) children to remember each child is unique and will have their own experiences and feelings along the way. [Read more here](#)

'You Are Perfect Just As You Are'

Coming out is a choice we make over and over again in our lifetimes. The truth is -- there is not just one coming out moment. I have come out to so many people over the years -- to friends, colleagues, bosses, siblings, and parents. The two experiences that matter most, the ones I remember most vividly, were also the most difficult to do. [Read more here](#)

Equality Act NOW!

Despite significant steps forward, LGBTQ+ Americans lack basic legal protections in states across the country. With legal protections being extended to LGBTQ+ people in fewer than half of the states, the end result is a confusing, dizzying patchwork whereby LGBTQ+ people are subjected to constant uncertainty. If driving from one end of the country to the other, LGBTQ+ people's rights would change literally dozens of times, ensuring no protections to shield against potential discrimination and its devastating impact on not only their safety, but the safety and security of their families. [Read more here](#)

The Rising Profile of Trans Kids

Why are trans youth more visible these days? Is it due to more widespread acceptance, or more media coverage? Just how many trans kids are there? There seem to be few clear-cut answers. But after talking with a number of scholars who study transgender youth -- and editing articles written by them -- I learned that the history of trans kids and some ongoing research can shed some light on how the U.S. got to this moment. [Read more here](#)

First Black Lesbian Deputy Press Secretary

Deputy White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre, is listed in Ebony magazine's category of 'Ceiling Breakers.' President Joe Biden's selection of Jean-Pierre was a first in the history of presidential administrations. Her position is seen as historic from the perspective of being the first Black Lesbian to hold forth behind the podium of the James S. Brady Press room in the West Wing speaking for the nation's chief executive. [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.westsideuuu.org

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

LGBTQ+ Math Day - November 18

Welcome to LGBTQ+Math Day, 2021. The event is aimed at LGBTQ+ mathematicians, students, and post-docs in the mathematical sciences, and their allies. Building on the success of the inaugural LGBTQ+ Math Day which reached the maximum 500 registrations, the day will be hosted on-line by the Fields Institute on November 18, which is LGBTQ+ Stem Day. The event is free and you can register for the event. The day will showcase state-of-the-art mathematics conducted by LGBTQ+ mathematicians, presented in an accessible way to non-specialists. Speakers will also describe their journey navigating their academic careers as a member of the LGBTQ+ community. Participants will come away inspired and learn strategies for building meaningful allyships with members of the LGBTQ+ community in mathematics. [Read more here](#)

Nov.15-19 Anti-Bullying Week & Odd Socks Day

Join us for our Anti-Bullying Week celebration event *One Kind Word*. Last year Anti-Bullying Week and Odd Socks Day reached over 7 million children and young people, trended at number 1 on Twitter and reached 44 million on TikTok. More details about the event will be coming up but we intend to have amazing speakers, including young people, and we hope it'll provide a chance to highlight the need for Anti-Bullying Week and celebrate all we've achieved. [Read more here](#)

More Gay Pride—Nov, etc.

Gay pride in Palm Springs, Phoenix, Fort Lauderdale, etc. in November. 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](#) and [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 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! One year only memberships also available.

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.

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 2020-2021 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. (moved to Zoom during pandemic)
- 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. (Postponed due to pandemic.)

- 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 2021-2022:

- 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 2021-September 2022 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 or one year membership on our website!!