

PFLAG SPIRIT

December 2021



Volume XXVII, Number 11

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.

December PFLAG Dates to Remember

12/02	PFLAG Fort Worth Monthly Meeting	VIRTUAL
TBD	Food & Fun Confab	Page 5
12/09	PFLAG Dallas Monthly Meeting	*
12/27	Supper Club for Samaritan House	Page 4
12/26	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)
 Celebration Community Church
 908 Pennsylvania Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76104
 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/>

PFLAG Fort Worth

First 2022 Chapter Meeting

Thursday, January 6 7:00 PM

Stay Tuned for News on
 Whether we will be going back to in person/hybrid meetings or staying virtual. Check our website, Facebook, Twitter, and your email.





Resource to Help LGBTQ Youth and Families

The Family Acceptance Project (FAP) and the Institute for Innovation and Implementation have started a new online resource. The purpose is to provide access to accurate information and affirmative services, to increase family and community support for LGBTQ children and youth, to help decrease mental health risks, and to promote well-being. [Read more here](#)

12 LGBTQ Milestones in 2021

From a record number of LGBTQ athletes competing in the Tokyo Olympics, to JoJo Siwa competing on "Dancing with the Stars," to the "Old Gays" rise to fame, there's much to be thankful for this year. [Read more here](#)

Another Story

Aubin Petersen, speaker at PFLAG Fort Worth's December meeting, says, "I will not stay quiet so that you can stay comfortable." Aubin and her husband, Mark, began *Another Story* "to create a space for dialogue on sexual orientation and gender identity to provide an opportunity for traditional Biblical perspectives on these issues to be questioned and discussed. Much of society and many faith communities hold positions and policies which stem from scriptural interpretations which beg to be revisited in light of current cultural understanding and scientific research" [Read more here](#)

Parents and Family Impact on LGBTQ Child

FAP's family support team found that parents and caregivers can learn to support their LGBTQ children when information and guidance are presented in ways that are culturally relevant for them. We hope this website will help parents learn about supporting their LGBTQ children and provide access to urgently needed services and support for youth and families. [Read more here](#)

The Word "Homosexual" in the Bible of 1946+

Ed Oxford, wrote this opinion piece in August 2020. His and Kathy Baldock's research led to the discovery that "the English word 'homosexual' was not in any Bible until 1946, when it appeared in the Revised Standard Version." Ed "was shocked." He "wanted to know who put it in there and how they came to that conclusion." [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



HRC LGBTQ Equality Index

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation, the educational arm of the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ+) civil rights organization, in partnership with The Equality Federation, released its 10th annual Metropolitan Equality Index (MEI), the nation's only nationwide assessment of LGBTQ+ equality regarding municipal policies, laws and services. This year, a record-breaking 110 cities earned the highest score of 100, which is up from 11 in 2012, the MEI's inaugural year, illustrating the striking advancements municipalities have made over the past 10 years. [Read more here](#)

Legislation Affecting LGBTQ Rights in US

The ACLU says, LGBTQ "people in America continue to face discrimination in their daily lives. While more states every year work to pass laws to protect LGBTQ ... we continue to see state legislatures advancing bills that target transgender people, limit local protections, and allow use of religion to discriminate." [Read more here](#)

Well-Being of LGBTQI+ Populations

Findings on physical and mental health of the LGBTQI+ population in the U.S. were recently reported at the AMA LGBTQ & Allies November 2021 Caucus. They discussed how physicians and medical institutions can contribute to advancing equity. [Read more here](#)

College Scholarships for LGBTQ

Colleges, universities and organizations offer many academic, extracurricular and financial aid opportunities to LGBT-identified students and LGBT allies. While there are LGBTQ scholarships exclusively reserved for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex students, there are LGBTQ scholarships available to questioning LGBTQI students and allies. There are scholarships for LGBTQ allies who are dedicated to the promotion of equal rights and opportunities. [Read more here](#)

LGBTQ Parenting

LGBTQ people become parents in a variety of ways, including adoption, foster parenting, donor insemination, surrogacy, and from previous heterosexual relationships. We've made great progress in protecting the relationships of LGBTQ parents and their children. Unfortunately, there's still a lot of work to be done. [Read more here](#)

LGBTQ Crisis Line & Online Chat [See more here](#)

Trevor Lifeline for LGBTQ youth 1-866-488-7386

Crisis intervention and suicide prevention phone line, available 24/7, 365 days

TrevorChat Text the word "START" to 678-678

Confidential, online instant messaging, available 24/7

Transgender Visibility



2021 Deadliest Year for Trans? YES!

On Nov. 9, 2021, with news of the killing of Marquiisha Lawrence in Greenville, SC, the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, the educational arm of the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer civil rights organization, has now officially recorded more violent deaths of transgender and gender non-conforming people than any year prior. [Read more here](#)

Dismantling a Culture of Violence

It's not enough to grieve the loss of victims of anti-transgender violence. We must honor their memories with action. In this resource, HRC hopes to demonstrate how anti-transgender stigma, denial of opportunity and increased risk factors compound to create a culture of violence. But most importantly, we provide clear ways that each of us, no matter who we are, can directly make an impact to make our society a safer place for transgender people. [Read more here](#)

PSA Campaign to Lift Up Trans Voices & Stories

In order to combat stigma against transgender and non-binary people, HRC has collaborated with WarnerMedia on a PSA campaign to lift up trans voices and stories. Learn more and [watch the PSAs here](#).

"Count Me In" Campaign

HRC has also launched the "Count Me In" campaign to encourage everyone, LGBTQ+ people and allies, to show support and spread awareness on behalf of transgender and non-binary people. The more people who are invested, including allies and transgender and non-binary people who speak up for the most marginalized in our community, the more hearts and minds we will change. [Learn more and take action here](#).

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

"We the people" means ALL of us!



HRC Annual Report on Violence Against Trans

On November 20, the Human Rights Campaign Foundation released ["An Epidemic of Violence: Fatal Violence Against Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming People in the United States in 2021"](#) a report honoring the at least 46 transgender and gender non-conforming people killed in 2021 as of today and shining a light on data that HRC has continued to collect on the epidemic of violence.

With 46 known deaths since January 1, HRC has officially recorded more violent deaths of transgender and gender non-conforming people than any year since we began tracking this violence in 2013. Previously, the highest known number of fatal deaths of transgender and gender non-conforming people was in 2020, when we reported 44 people were violently killed throughout the calendar year. This year's report's release comes several days ahead of Transgender Day of Remembrance, a moment to remember the transgender and gender non-conforming people who have been lost to fatal violence over the course of the year. [Read more here](#)

Marking Trans Awareness Week 2021 With Members of Congress

Did you know that several members of Congress are parents or grandparents of trans or non-binary children? It's true and their visibility is powerful!

HRC staff invited members of our Parents for Transgender Equality Council to ask questions of these members: Rep. Marie Newman, Rep. Pramila Jayapal, Rep. Katherine Clark and Rep. Jan Schakowsky. Watch as they answer questions and connect around the shared experience of supporting trans and non-binary kids and fighting for their rights as lawmakers. [Read and watch more here](#)

Legal Assistance for Trans

These incredible civil rights legal defense organizations have helped shape and defend the rights of LGBTQIA people for more than three decades. Check out the work they have been doing, and know your rights as a parent of a transgender, non-binary, and gender-expansive youth. [Learn more here](#)

Myths and Facts: Battling Disinformation About Transgender Rights

Lawmakers across the country have recently proposed a number of bills that target the transgender community. The majority of these bills attempt to restrict transgender kids' participation in school sports or ban transgender youth from accessing gender-affirming health care. These bills have given rise to a debate over transgender rights, a debate filled with misconceptions and lies. With this FAQ, HRC hopes to clear up myths about the transgender community and explain the nuances of what's being discussed. [Read more here](#)

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.

Make the Yuletide Gay with Movies

Last year saw LGBTQ—inclusive movies from Lifetime, Hallmark and other networks and streaming services. The tradition continues in 2021, with films starring RuPaul, Michael Urie, Jonathan Bennet and more — plus appearances by Jennifer Coolidge. [Read more here](#)

Catholics for Choice

Catholics for Choice believes that God's creation is far more complex. We do not accept that an individual's purpose is bound by biology or anatomy, and the notion that sex is a binary of male and female is scientifically inaccurate. We work towards a world that treats all people equally regardless of sex, gender identity, or gender expression. [Read more here](#)

LGBTQ Discrimination in the Work Place

LGBTQ+ people are subjected to harassment and discrimination at work every day but most are too afraid to report their employers. They may need their jobs and worry about how they would make ends meet if they got fired. Or they may be worried about retaliation if their employer is held accountable for the discrimination and harassment. But you should know if you are LGBTQ+, you have a legal right to work in a place where you feel safe and are not discriminated against. [Read more here](#)

Important Dates in December

- Dec. 1 - World AIDS Day
- Dec. 3 - International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- Dec. 8 - Pansexual/Panromantic Pride Day
- Dec. 10 - Human Rights Day



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 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 Celebration Community 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. Staffing 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 membership on our website!!