

PFLAG SPIRIT

March 2022



Volume XXVIII, Number 2

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: PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of LGBTQ people and 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,



PFLAG Fort Worth Meetings

WE'RE BACK!!!

On Thursday, April 7, at 7:00pm, we will meet **in person** at our **NEW LOCATION**:

**Celebration Community Church
908 Pennsylvania Avenue Fort Worth, TX**

BUT, WAIT, THERE'S MORE!!

In person is often best for building relationship, but we will also offer Chapter meetings in a **hybrid format**, allowing you to join by Zoom if it's more convenient for you.

To join our Chapter meetings virtually, please email info@pflagfortworth.org for a link.

We can't wait to see you in person or on the screen!

NOTE: The March Transgender Support Meeting will still be virtual. Stay tuned for the in person date for these meetings.



March PFLAG Dates to Remember

TBD	Food & Fun Confab	Page 5
03/10	PFLAG Dallas Monthly Meeting	*
03/27	Trans Support Group	VIRTUAL
03/28	Supper Club for Samaritan House	Page 4

To attend PFLAG Fort Worth events **virtually**, please EMAIL info@pflagfortworth.org for Zoom invitation/instructions

* For PFLAG Dallas events, please register on their website—pflagdallas.org or on **Facebook**.

Transgender Support Group

NEW LOCATION * NEW LOCATION
Beginning April 7, 2022**

**CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH
908 Pennsylvania Avenue
Fort Worth, TX 76104
[Celebration's Website](#)**



<https://goo.gl/maps/TQz4x72x2iGsXATZ8>



Family support and acceptance are critical to the health and wellbeing of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer. PFLAG has been doing this work for over 40 years. We can provide that support to your family.

What Do You Know? Kids Talk About LGBTQ+

This film can help all audiences understand that students want educators to stop LGBTQ+ and gender putdowns at school and to welcome all students and their families. The film also reveals that children are already having conversations regarding LGBTQ+ topics and students want educators to help guide them. HRC Welcoming Schools believes that everyone will benefit from watching this 14 minute film. [See film here](#)

How to Support Your LGBTQ Child

Parents may have mixed feelings about finding that they have an LGBTQ child. This could be because they're worried about how the child will fare in their community — will they be bullied in school or discriminated against in the workplace? — or because they have religious reservations. But whatever your feelings are, Dr. Mitrani urges, you still want to have the same approach: "You want to err on the side of being empathetic and being supportive." [Read more here](#)



LGBTQ Saves

"LGBTQ Saves' mission is to provide safe and brave spaces for social and personal development of LGBTQ youth." Join LGBTQ Saves on Zoom every Thursday from 7-8:30 pm. [Read more here](#)

"Don't Say Gay" Walkout Planned by Students

Student Jack Petocz said, "Students across Florida are being targeted by the state legislature. We are ready to fight for LGBTQ+ rights within our public schools." He asks student leaders in schools across the state to organize their own walkouts to show support. The protest is planned for March 3 at noon. Participants are being asked to tweet photos of the walkout with the hashtag #DSGWalkout. [Read more here.](#)

Protecting LGBTQ+ in K-12 Schools

GLSEN, the leading national organization on LGBTQ+ issues in K-12 education, submitted an open letter signed by 40+ education and civil rights organizations supporting the new and revised measures in the U.S. Department of Education's 2021-2022 Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC). GLSEN and these organizations applaud these measures and outline additional changes to further strengthen our understanding of, and accountability for, school conditions for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, nonbinary, two-spirit, intersex (LGBTQ+) youth, including those who are Black, Indigenous, people of color and students with disabilities. [Read more here](#)



Inclusivity in the Best Interests of Children

With 440,000 children in foster care across the country, CPAs must continuously seek and find loving and affirming homes for all children. Considering all potential foster and adoptive parents is the only way to accomplish this goal. Focusing on the "best interests of children," should include placing children in homes with racial minority and LGBTQ+ parents. [Read more here](#)

Experiences of LGBTQ Students: Sobering Data

A new study sheds light on experiences of LGBTQ students in secondary schools. The study found that if LGBTQ students experienced the same levels of support and safety at school, disparities would disappear or greatly diminish. [Read more here](#)

Creating Safe and Welcoming Schools for ALL

HRC Foundation's *Welcoming Schools* is the most comprehensive bias-based bullying prevention program in the US to provide LGBTQ+ and gender inclusive booklists, resources, and training. Parents, teachers, and others who work with youth and children can benefit from this. These important tools support family diversity, create LGBTQ+ and gender inclusive schools, prevent bias-based bullying, and embrace transgender and non-binary students. [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

Trans Deaths in 2022

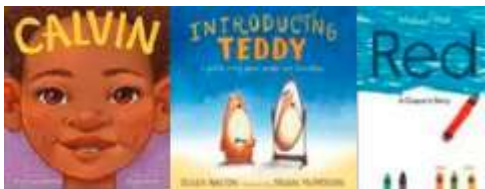
Sadly, 2022 has already seen at least four transgender people fatally shot or killed by other violent means. We say “at least” because too often these stories go unreported — or misreported. [Read more here](#)

Trans in the Spotlight - What It's Like

During a time when discriminatory anti-LGBTQ+ laws are on the rise, trans activist Zaya Wade and *Jeopardy!* champion Amy Schneider refused to stay quiet. In an interview with *Teen Vogue*, they — alongside *It Gets Better* youth ambassador Zach Koung — discussed what it's like to be trans in the public eye. [Read more here](#)

Arizona State Senator Blocks Anti-Trans Bill

A Republican state senator in Arizona, Tyler Pace, has gone against his party to kill a bill that would have banned gender-affirming health care for minors. He joined three Democrats to make the vote a 4-4 tie. This means the bill will not go any farther. [Read more here.](#)



Excellent Diverse Children's Books

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) presents children's books with trans, non-binary, and gender expansive children. There are recommendations for both picture books and middle grade books. [Read more here](#)

One Trans Woman's Fight in Ghana, Africa

Transitioning is not illegal in Ghana, but it will become so if a new law is passed, intended to tighten already strict anti-LGBT+ regulations which render same-sex relations illegal. Fiatsi, a trans woman, fears that even that limited space could now be closing with the new bill, which if it passes would see her risk prosecution every time she puts on a dress. [Read more here](#)

True Voice Vocal Development Program

Sonja Brenna will never forget the day she went to the grocery store to pick up items. She was “feeling beautiful” with her long blond hair flowing and her make-up applied with great care. After ringing up her purchases, the male cashier casually said to Brenna, “Thank you, sir.” “I wasn't paying attention to my voice,” the transgender woman recalls. “It was kind of a shock and it was the first time I thought to myself, ‘I've got to do work on it.’” While misgendering at the grocery store was painful, it set off events that led to launching a series of TrueVoice vocal development workshops. [Read more here](#)

[Translifeline](#)

[877.565.8860](#)

"We the people" means ALL of us!



LGBTQ Voter Polls

GLAAD releases 2022 LGBTQ voter pulse poll to measure enthusiasm and priorities of LGBTQ Americans heading into the midterm elections. [Read more here](#)

Reality Flag Campaign

“The Reality Flag campaign is designed to point out the inequalities LGBTQ+ individuals face every day. From housing and educational discrimination to denial of government and health services, LGBTQ+ people are confronted by hurdles to simply exist every day. Something is seriously wrong.” [Read more here](#)

Study Finds Number of LGBT Doubled

A new Gallup poll has found that the number of Americans who identify as something other than heterosexual has doubled in the last decade. Currently, 7.1% of Americans consider themselves to have an LGBT identity, according to the study, which was based on aggregated 2021 data and included interviews with more than 12,000 U.S. adults. That figure is more than double from 3.5% in 2012. [Read more here](#)

Kentucky Elects First Queer House Member

Keturah Herron, a social justice activist who is Black, queer, and genderqueer, won a special election Tuesday for the Kentucky House of Representatives. She has the experience and political stamina to advocate for all Kentuckians. [Read more here](#)

Equality Texas' List of Resources for the LGBTQ+ community continues to evolve. Please check this out if you are in need of any kind of assistance. [Please click here for Resources for Covid, Health Care, Crisis Hotlines, Food, Housing, Family, Youth, etc.](#)



Share Your Story with Equality Texas

Nothing helps us build a state of equality in Texas like stories. Your stories. The experiences you've had — good and bad — living, working, attending school, and building a family here in Texas. We need your stories as we continue our work to end discrimination, build strong families, protect our youth, prevent violence, and build a state of equality for all Texans. Your stories help us make the case for change with community leaders, policy makers, and elected officials. [Read more here](#)

French Law Bans Gay Conversion

MPs in the French parliament unanimously approved a new law banning so-called gay conversion therapy. The new law will introduce prison sentences and fines for any citizen who attempts to change the sexual orientation or gender identity of LGBTQ+ people. The draft bill was supported by MPs on Tuesday, with 142 voting in favor and 0 against. [Read more here](#)

**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.

**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 info@pflagfortworth.org.

To set up a recurring or one year 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! Choosing recurring membership means you won't have to remember to renew every year, but it's your choice!! Questions? Email 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 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**

LGBT Children's Books Honor Love and Identity

LGBTQ children's books are critically important for children, for many reasons. Books are powerful, life changing tools. When a struggling child reads a story and finds himself within the pages, the effects are profound. Worlds open, walls come down, and a floundering child may suddenly feels a ray of light shining just for him. We cannot underestimate the value of LGBT children's books that so proudly celebrate all people. There are children that need to see their realities reflected in stories so that they don't just feel less alone, but valued and important too. [Read more here](#)

#BOOKSNOTBANS (Books Not Bans)

GLAAD, the world's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) media advocacy organization, is responding to a powerful statement of support against efforts to ban LGBTQ-inclusive books and books about race and racism. The statement, from the National Coalition Against Censorship, is the first national collective response to the wave of attempted book bans in at least a dozen states, and the coordinated targeting of library and school board personnel, via personal threat and attempts to co-opt law enforcement in the bans. [Read more here](#)

Book Challenges Increase This Year

The American Library Association tracks reports of challenged books. From Sept. 1 to Dec. 1, 2021 alone, the ALA tracked 330 book challenges. In normal times, a book challenge takes the form of a formal request to have the book reviewed, Pelizzari said, "to review if it should be removed or included in a school curriculum or school library." The challenge is filed with a school or school district depending on the policy, she added, "this initiates a process by which a school or district reviews the book to determine whether to take action or not." But these are not normal times, Pelizzari said. This year, increasingly, people, often parents, are circumventing the review process." [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 us at info@pflagfortworth.org

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/>



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 October 2021 – September 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!!