

PFLAG SPIRIT

May 2022



Volume XXVIII, Number 4

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, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity.

Transgender Support Group Meets on the LAST SUNDAY of Every Month

LET'S TALK
Transgender Support Group
 In Partnership with
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church - Hurst
VIRTUAL on Zoom
LAST SUNDAY of Every Month 3-5pm

Share Our Stories - Share Our Strength



PFLAG Fort Worth
Call or Email for Link
817 382-7353 info@pflagfortworth.org

PFLAG Fort Worth Meets on the FIRST THURSDAY of Every Month



PFLAG Fort Worth is here for you!
 Please join us on the
FIRST THURSDAY of every month
 Live and in person at 6:45pm at
Celebration Community Church
AND
 Virtually on Zoom at 6:45pm
 Please EMAIL for Zoom instructions
info@pflagfortworth.org

PFLAG Dates to Remember

04/24 Trans Support Group	VIRTUAL
05/05 PFLAG Fort Worth Monthly Meeting	Page 1
05/11 Food & Fun Confab	Page 5
05/12 PFLAG Dallas Monthly Meeting	See below
05/23 Supper Club for Samaritan House	Page 4
05/29 Trans Support Group	VIRTUAL
06/02 PFLAG Fort Worth Monthly Meeting	Page 1

To attend VIRTUAL PFLAG Fort Worth events,
 please EMAIL info@pflagfortworth.org for Zoom link
 For information about PFLAG Dallas events, please see their
 website—pflagdallas.org or their [Facebook](#).

Website <http://pflagfortworth.org>
National website <http://www.pflag.org>
To contact us, email info@pflag.org

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



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

International Family Equality Day - May 1, 2022

This year's IFED motto is, "Family Equality Is Everybody's Business." On Sunday, the 1st of May 2022, rainbow families around the world as well as their friends and allies will get together to celebrate the 11th edition of the International Family Equality Day (IFED) – an annual LGBTIQ+ awareness day that promotes family equality and human rights for everyone. What began in 2012 has by now grown into an international movement: Last year's IFED was commemorated in an 67 countries and 214 cities across the globe. [Read more here](#)

Celebrate IFED at a Free Picnic in the Park!

Sign up for this free event at Heights Park in Richardson, TX, on Sunday, May 1 from 3:30-5:30 pm. Register for free tickets [here](#). Just bring your picnic chairs and blanket. The sponsors will provide eats and drinks. There will be bounce houses and face painting. This picnic is sponsored by Family Equality, Equality Texas - Dallas, Rainbow Roundup, Trans Kids and Families of Texas, Gay and Lesbian Alliance of North Texas, Prism Health, and LIFE Community Enrichment. [See more here](#)

GOP Warned Against Restrictive Laws

Education Secretary Miguel Cardona traveled to Orlando to speak with LGBT students and families. He warned conservative states he's prepared to investigate them for restrictive laws. Almost 200 state laws have been introduced over the last year that would restrict teaching about racism, gender identity, sex, equity and other so-called "divisive" topics, or roll back the rights of LGBTQ students and their families by not allowing them to use the bathroom or play on the sports teams that match their gender identity. [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](#)

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 is here for you!
Please join us

Family support and acceptance are critical to the health and wellbeing of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer. Parents, grandparents, family members, etc. need support too. PFLAG has been providing support and acceptance for over 40 years. We can help you and your family. Join us at 6:45 on the first Thursday of every month live or at 7on Zoom. All are welcome at PFLAG!

Our speaker will be Marissa McKensie from ACH Child and Family Services. She will speak about Safe Place and ACH. ACH programs are designed to prevent child abuse, neglect, and family separation and help heal and treat children already affected by tragedy. [Read more here about ACH](#) and [Read more here about Safe Place](#)

Dallas Pride Is Back! June 4 - 5

Dallas Pride weekend will include the highly anticipated Dallas Pride Music Festival, the Family Pride Zone, Teen Zone, and Pride Parade. All events take place at Fair Park. [Read more here](#)

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY

If you meet **ALL FOUR** of the following criteria:

- identify as LGBTQ+;
- have come out to at least one of your parents,
- have a sibling who identifies as LGBTQ+;
- **AND** has also come out to the same parent(s),



we would love to hear your stories for our study:
"A Community within the Home: Narratives of Siblings Identifying and Coming Out as LGBTQ+."

If you wish to participate, please contact Dr. Beverly Stiles (Beverly.Stiles@msutexas.edu) or Dr. Jennifer Pace (Jennifer.Pace@msutexas.edu) to receive an informed consent form and schedule an interview.

Transgender Visibility

Online Trans Support Group

PFLAG Fort Worth partners with St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Hurst, TX, to have a **Trans Support** group that meets on Zoom the **LAST SUNDAY of EVERY MONTH from 3:00-5:00pm.**

To join the Zoom meeting, please email info@pflagfortworth.org.

If you need immediate support in a time of crisis, please contact **Trans Lifeline** - 877-565-8860 or the **Trevor Project Lifeline** - 866-488-7386

Watch Miana Hilton in her video for Trans Day of Visibility on the LGBTQ Saves website. At the site just scroll down to TDOV 2021– Miana Hilton [Click here](#)

Trans Deaths in 2022

At least 11 Trans women have been killed so far in 2022. [Read about their lives here.](#)

HRC Foundation's Dismantling a Culture of Violence report demonstrates how anti-transgender stigma, denial of opportunity and increased risk factors compound to create a culture of violence -- and provides clear ways that each of us can directly make an impact to make our society a safer place for transgender and gender non-conforming people. [Dismantling a Culture of Violence report is here](#)

Transphobia Is Not New

Transphobia is not new, and neither is the rhetoric that fuels it. Anti-trans legislation has often been framed as necessary for the safety and protection of "women and girls" – and in particular, white women and girls. This weaponization of white womanhood and femininity has deep roots in this country's history and is prompting unprecedented consequences for the trans community. [Hear more here](#)

Traveling Easier for Trans

The Department of Homeland Security has announced changes to make traveling while trans a little bit easier. These announcements are part of a larger push from the Biden administration to "advance equality and visibility for transgender Americans." [Read more here](#)

IDAHOBIT - May 17, 2022

Every year on May 17th the global LGBTQIA2+ community recognizes the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexphobia and Transphobia. Originally coined as IDAHO in 2004, the date of May 17th was specifically chosen to commemorate the World Health Organization's decision in 1990 to declassify homosexuality as a mental disorder. The mission of IDAHOBIT is to draw attention to the violence and discrimination experienced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex people and all other people with diverse sexual orientations, gender identities or expressions, and sex characteristics. [Read more here](#)



"We the people" means ALL of us!



Pledge Now to Take the 2022 U.S. Trans Survey

The National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE) and partners are excited to launch the 2022 U.S. Trans Survey Pledge (USTS) at ustranssurvey.org. Through the USTS Pledge, members of the trans community can now sign up to receive information about the survey, learn how to participate and pledge to take the survey when it is released in 2022. [Read more here](#)

Poll Results - Classroom Discussions

More than 6 in 10 Americans oppose legislation that would prohibit classroom lessons about sexual orientation or gender identity in elementary school, a new ABC News/Ipsos poll finds. [Read more here](#)

President Biden Meets with Equality Caucus

In a first for a U.S. president, President Biden met with lawmakers with the congressional LGBTQ Equality Caucus, which includes each of the openly gay and lesbian members in the U.S. House and serves as the face of the LGBTQ in Congress. [Read more here](#)

A "Step Backward" in LGBTQ Acceptance

Fox Pride's recent statement suggests Fox News' on-air treatment of the LGBTQ+ community is at odds with the values of its own parent company. "While the internal support and resources Fox Corp. offers to LGBTQ+ employees are amazing and supportive, the public facing messaging and rhetoric is the opposite," Fox Pride wrote. "We find it disheartening and a step backward in the acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community." [Read more here](#)

Maryland Inclusive Schools Bill Passes

The Maryland General Assembly voted Monday to ban state-funded schools and county boards of education from discriminating against students on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity race, nationality, disability, and other identity markers. [Read more here](#)

Translifeline

877.565.8860

How to Support Trans, Nonbinary, and LGBTQ People in Texas and Everywhere Else

The first step to becoming an ally to trans, nonbinary, and all LGBTQ people is to learn more. It can be tough for LGBTQ people to bear the burden of educating others about their lived experience. That's why the Trevor Project has this guide, to help everyone understand the basics of gender identity and expression. The more we understand, the more able we will be to support the trans, nonbinary, and LGBTQ folks in our lives, and create a safer, kinder, more accepting world. [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.

Important Dates in May

- 17 International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexphobia, and Transphobia
- 19 Agender Pride Day
- 22 Harvey Milk Day
- 24 Pansexual & Panromantic Visibility Day

2021 Human Rights Report Released April 12

The U.S. State Department's annual human rights report notes anti-LGBTQ persecution and violence remains commonplace in many countries around the world. Secretary of State Blinken said, "People of every nationality, race, gender, disability and age are entitled to these rights, no matter what they believe, who they love, or any other characteristics," [Read more here](#)

Support Students' Right to Learn

Students have the right to receive an inclusive education free from censorship or discrimination, and book bans infringe on that right. As we continue to fight these unconstitutional laws and policies in court, you can also join the fight by pledging to support students' right to learn and read the books being banned. [Read more here](#)

Respect and Dignity Are Important

If we are to move our country back on the track many want to see it on, it is important **not** to ascribe a negative implication to all politics and politicians we disagree with. We will never agree with all that is done in the name of politics or by every politician. However, we must accept that decent people can disagree and the other side is not always being sleazy. We need to learn to respect each other and treat each other with dignity. [Read more here](#)

Library Shelters Queer Ukraine Refugees

The library is now a crucial link in the sophisticated network that has sprung up to aid LGBTQIA+ refugees, forgotten by governments. With other Polish and Ukrainian organizations such as Warszawa-based Lambda and Warszawa Pride, Biblioteka Azyl is helping co-ordinate transport, accommodation, medical and therapeutic aid. [Read more here](#)

Trevor Project Helps LGBTQ in Mexico

The Trevor Project is expanding its services to help young LGBTQ individuals in Mexico. [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.

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 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 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? 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**



(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



▽ 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!!