

PFLAG SPIRIT

August 2022



Volume XXVIII, Number 7

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

**Support All LGBTQ+ Families, Friends,
 Parents, Neighbors, Coworkers**

PFLAG Fort Worth
 meets 1st Thursday of every month 7:00pm at

Celebration Community Church
 908 Pennsylvania Ave., FtWorth, TX

Want to attend the meeting on Zoom?
 email info@pflagfortworth.org for invitation

PFLAG Dates to Remember

07/31 Trans Support Group	VIRTUAL
08/04 PFLAG Fort Worth Monthly Meeting	Page 1
08/10 Food & Fun Confab	Page 5
08/11 PFLAG Dallas Monthly Meeting	See below
08/22 Supper Club for Samaritan House	Page 4
08/28 Trans Support Group	VIRTUAL
09/01 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

Westside Unitarian Universalist Church
 located at 901 Page Ave., Fort Worth, TX
 made a donation to PFLAG Fort Worth.
 We sincerely thank all members of
Westside UU Church.
www.westsideuu.org
An LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation

SPENGA Fitness Studio in Saginaw, TX,
 held a Pride raffle during June and donated
 the proceeds to PFLAG Fort Worth!
 We send a big THANK YOU to SPENGA!
<https://fortworthsaginaw.spenga.com/home>

Resource Toolkit for LGBTQ+ Christian Teens

"Reconciling Ministries Network began as a faith-based response to institutionalized homophobia braided into the fabric of the United Methodist Church. Now, over 30 years later, the Reconciling movement spans four continents, 1,000+ churches, and 40,000+ individuals. And we're still growing. Love is still growing." [RMN here](#)

A **Resource Toolkit for LGBTQ+ Christian Teens** was written by LGBTQ+ youth ministers and church leaders, and youth advisors. This resource is for any LGBTQ+ teen, especially for those who are new on their journey. [Find Resource Toolkit here](#)

Straight Kids, Gay Parents

Without the necessary resources, straight kids of queer parents face a unique isolation as harmful rhetoric about their families increases. LGBTQ parents also need access to a community, resources and safety to be able to talk about their families without censoring themselves. But the stakes are even higher now, as repressive laws take effect. Children need to be able to speak about their families with love, joy, irritation and concern — no matter what their families look like. [Read more here](#)

Queerspawn Resource Project

By providing education about **queerspawn** (people with one or more LGBTQ+ parents/guardians) identities, histories, and needs, broadening support for queerspawn, and increasing access to resources that validate queerspawn experiences – particularly those that are often misunderstood, dismissed, or silenced – the Queerspawn Resource Project works to construct more spaces where queerspawn and their perspectives are welcomed and valued. [Read more here](#)

Be an Ally to Queerspawn

Allyship is an active, ongoing process of educating oneself, unlearning harmful beliefs/assumptions, acknowledging privilege, and "showing up" even when there are no witnesses. Here are a few suggestions of ways to start being a queerspawn ally. For example, Resist critiquing or expressing your dislike of the term "queerspawn" or other identity language, and Do not infantilize queerspawn – there are queerspawn of all ages. [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.

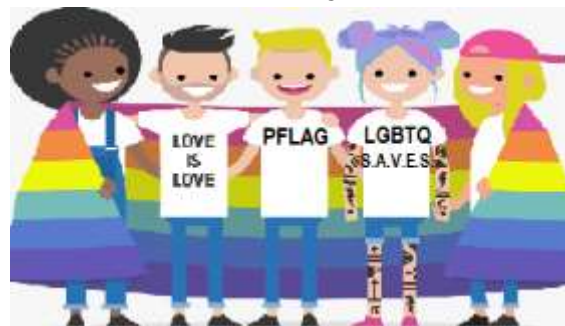
1959 Sandy Lane,
Fort Worth, Texas 76112
817 - 451 - 1505
www.firstjefferson.org



Sharon Herrera Will Speak at PFLAG Meeting

Sharon is the founder of LGBTQ S.A.V.E.S. Hear her story and how she supports LGBTQ youth at PFLAG meeting, **August 4 at 7:00**

"LGBTQ S.A.V.E.S. mission is to provide safe and brave spaces for social and personal development of LGBTQ youth." [Read more here](#)



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. We meet at 6:45 on the first Thursday of every month live or at 7:00 on Zoom. All are welcome at PFLAG!

Please HELP Protect LGBTQ Students Now!

The U.S. Department of Education wants to add sexual orientation and gender identity under Title IX, the federal civil rights law that protects students from discrimination in federally-funded educational activities and programs. Under Trump, Title IX was weakened. Biden has already taken action to undo this. If you will help...[Read more here](#) To learn about Title IX and how it was weakened, [Read more here](#) To find out more about Title IX protections for LGBTQ students, [Read more here](#)

Gender Spectrum

Gender Spectrum is a national organization committed to the health and well-being of gender-diverse children and teens through education and support for families, and training and guidance for educators, medical and mental health providers, and other professionals. [Read more here](#)

Supporting Marriage Equality

According to Gallup 71% of Americans support marriage for same-sex couples. 55% of Republicans support same-sex marriage, along with 83% of Democrats and 73% of Independents. The latest survey from PRRI this year found that support for marriage equality has increased by 14 percentage points since 2014 (54%). Today, majorities of most religious groups favor marriage equality. [Read more here](#)

Transgender Visibility

TRANS SUPPORT GROUP meets on ZOOM LAST SUNDAY of EVERY MONTH 3:00-5:00

To join the Zoom meeting, please email info@pflagfortworth.org. PFLAG Fort Worth partners with St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Hurst, TX, to provide this Trans Support Group.

Trans Deaths in 2022

Tragically, at least 22 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](#)

Video "A Letter to Transgender Christians"

"Too often, transgender people are talked ABOUT. Today, I want to talk TO us, from us. I'm a transgender priest, I've been Christian all of my life, and if you are transgender, I want you to know that I see you, I believe in you, I'm fighting for you." [Watch video here](#)

Bill Protects Marriage Equality

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill protecting gay marriage rights, after the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade imperiled similar precedents that protected rights to same-sex relations and contraception. The bill, which passed the Democratic-controlled chamber by a vote of 267-157 with support from 47 Republicans, establishes federal protections for gay marriage and prohibits anyone from denying the validity of a marriage based on the race or sex of the couple. [Read more here](#)

Queer Communities in Africa

Parades, flags and celebrations are all important to queer communities in Africa as they seek greater visibility and acceptance, despite the threats faced by many on the continent. Many people have now decided to stop hiding, even though how far lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people can live openly and safely differs significantly from one country to the next. [Read more here](#)

Trans Instructor in Air Force

A military training instructor at Joint Base San Antonio Lackland not only serves our country by training the best in the United States Air Force, but also by serving as a beacon of hope and inspiration to many. Brandon Rodriguez is a military training instructor for the 321st Training Squadron and has been serving for over a decade. Serving as a military training instructor has been a life-long goal. "This is something that I've been fighting for, and I finally got here so this means a lot to me," Rodriguez said. [Read more here](#)

"We the people" means ALL of us!



Shappley Family Leaving Texas

Eleven-year-old trans activist Kai Shappley's mother is moving her children out of Texas. She said, "The damage is already being done. They (CPS) don't even have to take my kids to cause them trauma. And by me staying here, I feel like I'm allowing them to continue to cause trauma to my family." In an interview, Kai's brother said, "We pray for people not to take mom away. We pray about everyone, everything. Because CPS wants to take Kai away because she's trans, and we're going to get adopted and Kai will have to be forced not to be trans," he said, referring to the state Child Protective Services. [Read more here](#)

Feminist Founded. Advocates for All

With a commitment to racial and economic justice and our community's most vulnerable, NCLR is a leader at the forefront of advancing civil and human rights for LGBTQ individuals and their families through impact litigation, public policy, and public education. [Read more here](#)



Russian Plan = "Nothing Good About LGBTQ"

Russian legislators want to ban any non-critical public mention of same-sex attraction — what they call "gay propaganda". They want to keep adults from hearing anything good about LGBTQ. Similar laws are in effect in Lithuania and Hungary, where it is being challenged by the European Union. Such a law has also been proposed in Romania. The Russian law is used to harass LGBT rights marchers and activists. [Read more here](#)

Trans Lifeline Hotline is a peer support service run by trans people located all over the US and Canada, for trans and questioning callers.

Call Trans Lifeline Hotline at 877-565-8860



Trevor Project Lifeline - 866-488-7386

TrevorSpace Online Community

TrevorSpace is an affirming, online community for LGBTQ young people between the ages of 13-24 years old. With over 400,000 members across the globe, you can explore your identity, get advice, find support, and make friends in a moderated community intentionally designed for you. [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 August

- 3-7– Rendezvous in Wyoming
- 6-7 - Northalsted Market Days (Chicago)
- 9 - International Day of World's Indigenous People
- 26 - Women's Equality Day

Texas Lawyer Targets PrEP

Jonathan Mitchell, the former solicitor general who helped write Senate Bill 8, the restrictive abortion law, opened a private law firm in Texas in 2018 to challenge decades of the High Court's rulings, according to Dallas Morning News. Mitchell has been vocal about his desire to undo decisions he believes depart from the Constitution's language or recognize constitutional rights that do not have a textual foundation. Due to the Supreme Court's continued shift in his direction, his cases will likely serve as a bellwether of the country's legal system. As the architect of Senate Bill 8, which makes everyday Texas citizens abortion bounty hunters, Mitchell, who once clerked under Justice Antonin Scalia, has spent years advocating for the Supreme Court to reverse *Roe vs. Wade*. His legal theories and court cases laid the groundwork for the ruling to fall. [Read more here](#)

South Africa—Legalizes Same-Sex Marriage

Many LGBTQ Africans are subject to stigma and abuse, facing unemployment, homelessness, estrangement from their families, and even death in a few countries. South Africa is the only African country that has legalized same-sex marriage, and its constitution protects against anti-LGBTQ discrimination. [Read more here](#)



Equality Texas' Resources for LGBTQ+ community continue 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

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!!



**Want more PFLAG time?
Join Us at Our Food & Fun Confab Social
Monthly on the SECOND WEDNESDAY at 6:30**

**Shaw's Patio Bar & Grill
1051 W Magnolia Ave
Fort Worth, TX 76104**

**6:30 pm Every Month
2nd Wednesday**

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!!