

PFLAG SPIRIT

September 2022



Volume XXVIII, Number 8

Newsletter of PFLAG Fort Worth Chapter, P.O. Box 8279, Fort Worth, TX 76124. Published monthly except January.

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.

PFLAG Fort Worth - Support Group for Parents, Families, Friends, LGBTQ+ FIRST THURSDAY of Every Month *Join us in person or on Zoom*

PFLAG Important Dates

| | |
|--|-----------|
| 08/31 Trans Support Group | VIRTUAL |
| 09/01 PFLAG Fort Worth Monthly Meeting | Page 1 |
| 09/14 Food & Fun ConFAB (conversation) | Page 1 |
| 09/08 PFLAG Dallas Monthly Meeting | See below |
| 09/26 Supper Club for Samaritan House | Page 4 |
| 09/25 Trans Support Group | VIRTUAL |
| 10/06 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](#).

Transgender Support Group Meets on the LAST SUNDAY 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

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

Want more PFLAG time? Food & Fun ConFAB (conversation) At 6:30 on every 2nd WEDNESDAY

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



Dear PFLAG Friends,

A memorial for Michael Loomis, who passed away recently, will be held on December 10 at a Chisholm Trail Stonewall Democrats meeting at the Ol' South Pancake House in Burleson. The celebration of Michael's life is tentatively scheduled for 4:00 p.m. Michael was the Chair of the CTSD when it was organized. Perhaps you remember Michael playing Santa from his wheelchair at Christmas celebrations. The CTSD has asked PFLAG Fort Worth members and friends who knew Michael to participate and to share pictures of him. They would like to use such pictures at his memorial service. If you would like to participate and/or share pictures, please contact John Barnes at jbarnes107@gmail.com.

Cantor Sheri Allen, a member of Inclusive Faith Coalition and PFLAG shares this Op/Ed

"We, the LGBTQ+ affirming clergy and congregations of the Inclusive Faith Coalition, write to express our deep sorrow and frustration over the Grapevine-Colleyville ISD decision to further erode the dignity and rights of its LGBTQ+ students. Newly passed district policy states..."

[Read more here](#) and [Read more here](#)

Kids Who Have LGBTQ Parents

"The experiences of people with LGBTQ+ parent(s) deserve to be listened to, recognized and celebrated. Instead, our identities are turned into statistics and debates. In this series - The Queerspawn Speaks - I talk about the different aspects of this experience in a way that is true to our lived-experience." [Read more here](#)

The Families Like Mine Website

FamiliesLikeMine.com is a website created by Abigail Garner, author of the Lambda Literary finalist, *Families Like Mine: Children of Gay Parents Tell It Like It Is*. This site launched in 1999 with the mission to decrease isolation for people who have parents who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT), and bring voice to their experiences. [Read more here](#)

Tony Coronado Will Speak at PFLAG Meeting

Tony Coronado will update us on this year's **Tarrant County PRIDE PARADE and PICNIC** at our support group meeting **September 1 at 7:00**

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. 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. All are welcome at PFLAG!**



Drawing the Family Portrait in School

"My daughter is 10 years old, and I have been with my lesbian partner for four years. My daughter's father and I separated six years ago and remain friends. My daughter is having problems at school. When she drew a picture of her family, she drew two stepmothers, a mom and a dad. Now the kids in school make fun of her for having a lesbian mom and say she is gay too. This hurts my daughter. What can I do? [Read more here](#)

Moms for Liberty Activist wants LGBTQ Students Separated into Special Classes

An anti-LGBTQ *Moms for Liberty* activist told MSNBC that she believes LGBTQ students should have separate classes from straight and cisgender students in schools. [Read more here](#)

LGBTQ+ Books Banned in Schools in 2022

Lawmakers and parents across the country are demanding that schools remove books from their libraries they've deemed as inappropriate — books that deal with race, gender, and sexuality. Many authors, book store owners, and publishers condemn what they call an "organized political attack" that "threatens the education of America's children" taking place via bans in many states. [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 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.

Call Trans Lifeline Hotline at 877-565-8860

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

Trans Deaths in 2022

At least 25 Trans women have been killed so far in 2022. We say "at least" because too often these stories go unreported, or misreported. [Read about their lives](#)

How can we help? This report tells of ways that each of us can directly make our society a safer place for trans and gender non-conforming people. [Read report here](#)

New CEO of True Colors United

Dylan Waguespack, who identifies as transgender and nonbinary, brings his lived experience of homelessness as a young person to the role of CEO of True Colors United. He is the only transgender leader of a national housing justice and homelessness organization. This organization implements innovative solutions to youth homelessness that focus on the unique experiences of LGBTQ young people. [Read more here](#)

True Colors United Learning Community

This Community offers short, engaging, and interactive online content about LGBTQ youth homelessness that users can access at their convenience. Through videos, articles, podcasts, and quizzes, the Learning Community establishes a common understanding about LGBTQ youth homelessness and what we can all do to make a difference. [Read more here](#)

"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](#)

A Resource Toolkit for LGBTQ+ Teens

has been written by LGBTQ+ youth ministers, 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](#)



"We the people" means ALL of us!



Pride in Oak Lawn Gayborhood September 2022

"Pride in Dallas will be hosting a week-long celebration of love with various events beginning on Monday, September 12, throughout Cedar Springs and Oaklawn. This year's celebration will be a scaled-back version of what we hope to create in 2023." [Read more here](#)

Protect LGBTQ+ from Conversion Therapy

The Human Rights Campaign and the National Center for Lesbian Rights released Just as They Are, a resource for parents, family, and friends on the harmful practice known as "conversion therapy." [Read more here](#)

Change Can Be Good

"My coming-out story is like many other LGBTQ individuals. My loved ones said horrible, hurtful things when I made the tough, personal decision to come out. I think about these experiences as I reflect on the recent decisions made by the U.S. Supreme Court, including their overturning *Roe v. Wade*. Without action, we could be headed back to a time with fewer rights. However, as I think back on a conversation I had with my dad, I am reminded that change can be good." [Read more here](#)

How an Anti-gay Church Accidentally Raised Money for LGBTQ Rights

An anti-LGBTQ church in McAllen, Texas will be making a donation to a local LGBTQ organization even though the church's pastor considers homosexuality to be a sin. The church, The Door, will indirectly contribute funds to the South Texas Equality Project, a local LGBTQ support organization. But the church is likely unhappy about it. The funds will come in the form of damages that the church is forced to pay to the Broadway hip-hop musical *Hamilton*. Earlier this month, the church put on an unauthorized performance of the musical. Also, they changed and added words to make it more Christian and homophobic. [Read more here](#)

Self Esteem Resources for Non-Binary Teens

Nonbinary youth who experience stigmatization based on gender identity are at greater risk for depression, anxiety and feelings of suicide. Giving them access to information and ideas about gender diversity can help them build a positive self-image and lead to positive mental health throughout adulthood. [Read more here](#)

Join 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](#)

Trevor Project Lifeline - 866-488-7386

**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 September

- 17 - North Texas Pride, Plano
- 17 - Texas Latino Pride Music Festival
- 18 - Pride Dallas (on the block)
- 27 - National Gay Men's HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

Number of LGBTQ Officials Doubles

The number of LGBTQ elected officials grew by nearly 6% last year, according to the LGBTQ Victory Institute, which trains and advocates for queer political candidates and officeholders. Since 2017, when the organization began releasing data, the number has nearly doubled, growing from 448 LGBTQ elected officials that year to 1,043 in 2022, the group's annual Out in America report found. [Read more here](#)

Rugby Gold Medalist Comes Out as Trans Man

Ellia Green realized as a young child -- long before becoming an Olympic champion -- that a person's identity and a gender assigned at birth can be very different things. Now, about 20 years later, one of the stars of Australia's gold medal-winning women's rugby sevens team at the 2016 Olympics has transitioned to male. [Read more here](#)

Stand With Trans Books

The Stand With Trans Books list has descriptions of Trans books for children, youth, and adults. Also, movies, television shows, etc. [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.

Contact us 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 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!

Share the LOVE Share the SMILES

Questions? Email info@pflagfortworth.org

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

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.

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



| | | | |
|--|---------------------|---------|-----------------|
| <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!!