

# PFLAG SPIRIT

May 2023



Volume XXIX, Number 5

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

*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 Meeting and Support for Parents, Families, Friends, LGBTQ+ FIRST THURSDAY of Every Month

*Join us in person or on ZOOM*

### PFLAG Fort Worth Important Dates

04/30 Trans Support Group on Zoom	VIRTUAL
05/04 PFLAG Fort Worth Monthly Meeting	Page 1
05/10 Food & Fun ConFAB (conversation)	Page 1
05/11 PFLAG Dallas Monthly Meeting	See below
05/22 Supper Club for Samaritan House	Page 4
05/28 Trans Support Group on Zoom	VIRTUAL
06/01 PFLAG Fort Worth Monthly Meeting	Page 1

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



### Food & Fun ConFAB

Join us for conversation

At 6:30pm on Wednesday May 10  
 (the 2nd WEDNESDAY of every month)



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

## 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  
 at 6:45pm in person at

**Celebration Community Church**  
 908 Pennsylvania Ave. FtWorth

Want to attend the meeting on Zoom?  
 email [info@pflagfortworth.org](mailto:info@pflagfortworth.org) for link

**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](mailto:info@pflagfortworth.org)



### Dallas Pride Parade - Sunday, June 4

Mark your calendar now for the Alan Ross Texas Freedom Parade at Fair Park, Sunday June 4 at 2:00. PFLAG Fort Worth will march with PFLAG Dallas in the parade. Come join us!

### PFLAG Guide for Support and Acceptance

The term "coming out" has become so mainstream that many people assume that the word—and the actions it entails—are simple. However PFLAGers know that it can still be difficult for individuals and families. This webinar has some great tips, tools, and ideas for PFLAG members looking to support LGBTQ+ individuals who are planning to come out and new (and potential) allies who want to show their acceptance of LGBTQ folks in their lives.

[See more here](#)

### Advocacy in Austin for LGBTQ Community

Sheri Allen, a member of PFLAG, and her husband Richard credit gender affirming surgery for saving their son Preston's life. She stresses the importance of Trans youth receiving the healthcare they need. [Read more here](#)

### World Makes Progress

The world continues to make progress toward full recognition of the human rights of LGBTQ people, with the latest step coming Friday, April 14, when the Cook Islands' parliament repealed its anti-homosexuality law.

[Read more here](#)

### Anti-LGBTQ Bills in Texas Legislature

Anti-LGBTQ bills have been introduced in the Texas Legislature. One letter and/or phone call from you can make a difference! [Read more and track bills here](#)

### Who Represents You in the Texas Lege?

To find out who represents you in the Texas legislature, [follow instructions here](#).



## Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

Rev. Don Strickland

We are a Welcoming Congregation

901 Page Avenue  
Fort Worth, TX  
78110



817.924.MYUU (6988)

[www.westsideuu.org](http://www.westsideuu.org)

Sunday Service at 10:30 in person and on Facebook Live



**PFLAG Fort Worth meeting/support group is Thursday, May 4, at 6:45pm. We meet in the building behind Celebration Community Church, 908 Pennsylvania Ave.**

**Parking is free and easy to find. However, If you cannot attend in person, join us on Zoom!**

**EMAIL for Zoom link [info@pflagfortworth.org](mailto:info@pflagfortworth.org)**

**Our speaker is G.J. Hodgson who is Program Coordinator for the Alzheimer's Association, North Central Texas Chapter. He will talk about resources for LGBTQ people and their families in this area.**



**At PFLAG, we support and accept you and your family. Family support and acceptance are critical to the health and wellbeing of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people. Parents, grand-parents, family members, etc. need support too. All are welcome at PFLAG!**



**CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH**

908 PENNSYLVANIA AVE . FT WORTH . TX

#TRADITIONWITHOUTJUDGMENT

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP  
EVERY SUNDAY AT 10AM

[www.celebration-community-church.com](http://www.celebration-community-church.com)



## Transgender Visibility

### TRANS SUPPORT GROUP meets on ZOOM on the last Sunday of the month at 3:00.

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



### The Briggles Family

More than 29,000 trans children are estimated to live in Texas, where lawmakers this year have filed at least 140 bills that target LGBTQ rights. The Briggles' trans son is a star athlete, an honors student and a gifted musician.

[Read more here](#)

### Equality Texas

Equality Texas works to secure full equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer Texans through political action, education, collaboration, and community organizing. [Read more here.](#)

### Finn's Place – Trans and Gender-Diverse Space

Finn's place is a space in Fort Worth, TX, for the trans and gender-diverse community to gather, grow, and flourish. Some gatherings at Finn's Place are private, and some are public. To read about what's going on at Finn's Place, look on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#). [Read more here](#)

### The TransVisible Project

The TransVisible Project is a broad public education campaign to reduce prejudice against trans Texans by effectively communicating their powerful stories. Project participants introduce themselves through portrait photography, shareable public awareness videos, etc [See videos here](#)

### Montana Bills - Trans and LGBTQ Rights

Republican Montana Gov. Greg Gianforte's son said they asked their father to veto bills concerning trans and LGBTQ rights in a meeting at the governor's office last month. David Gianforte identifies as nonbinary using the pronouns "he" and "they." [Read more here](#)

### Check Out "Tarrant County Pride" on Facebook

[Read more here](#)

### 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.

### BlackLine - Call 1.800.604-5841 for support

BlackLine is a Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) LGBTQ+ support line, run by BIPOC folks.



## "We the people" means ALL of us!



### 2023 Anti-LGBTQ+ State Legislative Activity

The weaponization of public policy has been driven by extremist groups that have a long history in working to oppress the existence and rights of LGBTQ+ people. Several of these organizations have been deemed hate groups by the Southern Poverty Law Center, such as the [Alliance Defending Freedom](#) and the [Family Research Council](#). [Read more here](#)

### Minnesota Lege Bans Conversion Therapy

We give thanks to the Minnesota State Legislature and the work of OutFront Minnesota for passing H.F. 16, which would ban conversion therapy practices in the state. This bill is an example of how pro-equality state legislatures are able to advance LGBTQ+ rights, even as other states are continuing to roll back critical rights and protections. [Read more here.](#)

### "Clobber Passages" in Context

Aspects of context are important for our understanding of biblical passages, especially the ones often referred to as the "clobber passages." These are passages often interpreted to condemn same-sex relationships and LGBTQ+ people. Translating ancient languages is not a mechanical exercise as though there is a correct English equivalent for every ancient word. [Read more here](#)

The social world in which a biblical passage was written makes a difference for understanding its meaning. Interpreters can bring their own assumptions to biblical passages in ways that can distort the meaning. Such interpretations can make a passage seem to be about issues of homosexuality when it is really addressing something else. [Read more here](#)

Biblical passages usually cited against same-sex relationships are not uniformly clear. Translation and social-historical context are key factors in trying to make sense of them. [Read more here](#)

### Celebrating Queer Women in History

Throughout history, lesbians and other queer women have often challenged norms and defied the expectations of their times. From 1700s England to contemporary New York these women forged new paths and made a space for others to do the same. [Read more here](#)

### The ACLU Tracks Anti-LGBTQ Bills

The ACLU is tracking these attacks and working with our national network of affiliates to support LGBTQ people everywhere. [Read more here](#)

### Trevor Project Lifeline - 866-488-7386

Or Text "START" to 678-678

You'll talk to a Trevor counselor who understands LGBTQ issues and won't judge you. Your talk will be anonymous. You can share more or less as you like. Counselors are available 24/7 to talk/text/listen

Resources for Trans Youth in Texas [Click here](#)





### Important Dates in May

Mental Health Awareness Month  
 Foster Youth Awareness Month  
 01-05 National Teacher Appreciation Week  
 04 - Anti-Bullying Day  
 07 - International Family Equality Day  
 17 - International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia  
 19 - Agender Pride Day  
 22 - Harvey Milk Day  
 24 - Pansexual Visibility Day

### Mental Health Awareness Month

Mental Health Awareness Month has been observed in the U.S. since 1949. Every year during the month of May, NAMI joins the national movement to raise awareness about mental health. Together, we fight stigma, provide support, educate the public and advocate for policies that support millions of people in the U.S. affected by mental illness. To learn more about how you can get involved, [read more here](#).

### Harvey Milk Day

Harvey Milk Day is a California state holiday observed annually on May 22 (Milk's birthday). The day serves as a reminder of Harvey Milk and his legacy advocating for civil rights and the LGBTQ+ community. [Read more here](#)

### Int'l Day Against Homo-, Trans-, & Bi-phobia

The statement "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights," appears in Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and though the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the document as a "common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations" in 1948, it wasn't until 1990 that homosexuality was declassified as a mental disorder by the World Health Organization. (It did so on 17 May, hence the date of the observance.) [Read more here](#)

### National LGBTQ Task Force

Recently, the National LGBTQ Task Force, the country's oldest LGBTQ advocacy organization, began a new podcast series in honor of their 50th anniversary. *Movement Moments: The National LGBTQ Task Force at 50* will span 6 episodes and focus discussion on topical issues facing the LGBTQ community today, including attacks on the trans community and the role of faith in movement while also reflecting on key moments in Task Force history. [Read more here](#)



**Equality Texas' Resources** for LGBTQ+ community are evolving. Please check here if you need help. [Please click here for Resources for Covid, Health](#)



## 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](https://paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/2047249)

If you have Questions or trouble with the link, please contact [info@pflagfortworth.org](mailto:info@pflagfortworth.org).

**To set up a recurring membership**, go to our website, [pflagfortworth.org](http://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!



### Samaritan House - "Sam House"

Tarrant County Samaritan Housing, Inc., established in 1991, provided housing to persons living with HIV/AIDS. As medical interventions improved and life expectancies grew, we expanded our mission to provide affordable and supportive housing to additional vulnerable populations in Tarrant County. [Read more here](#)



### 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 Ruby 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**





**Join PFLAG at  
Shaws Patio  
Bar & Grill  
1051 W Magnolia  
Fort Worth**

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

(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 2021-2022 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 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of every month at Celebration Community Church in Fort Worth. (now in person and on Zoom)
- 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 on Zoom in partnership with St. Stephens's Episcopal Church in Hurst TX.

**GOALS for October 2022 – September 2023:**

- Offer a scholarship to graduating seniors of LGBTQ S.A.V.E.S.
- 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. Please help PFLAG Fort Worth move equality forward during our coming year. Please support PFLAG Fort Worth with your generosity and commitment to our mission of support, education, and advocacy.**

***Please Join us! Renew! Donate!  
If you have already renewed, THANK YOU!!***

## Membership Application



<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Individual  <input type="checkbox"/> Family  <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Member  <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor/Life </div> <div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">\$ 25</div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">\$ 45</div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">\$ 100</div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">\$ 500</div> </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">Date</div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">Name</div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">Address</div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">City</div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">State</div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">Phone</div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">Email</div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>Make checks payable to: PFLAG/Fort Worth</div> <div>State</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>Mail to: P.O. Box 8279</div> <div>Zip</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>Fort Worth TX 76124</div> <div></div> </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> <div> <b>RENEWAL</b> _____ </div> <div> <b>NEW</b> _____ </div> </div> </div>
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You can also set up a recurring membership on our website!!