

# PFLAG SPIRIT

January 2024

Volume XXX, Number 1

Newsletter of PFLAG Fort Worth Chapter, P.O. Box 8279, Fort Worth, TX 76124. Published monthly, June & July issues combined.

*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 Meets on the FIRST THURSDAY of Every Month

### PFLAG Fort Worth Important Dates

01/04 PFLAG Fort Worth Monthly Meeting	Page 1
01/10 Food & Fun ConFAB (conversation)	Page 1
01/11 PFLAG Dallas Monthly Meeting	See below
01/22 Samaritan House Supper Club	Page 4
01/28 Trans Support Group on Zoom	VIRTUAL
02/01 PFLAG Fort Worth Monthly Meeting	Page 1
02/14 Food & Fun ConFAB (conversation)	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.

## Transgender Support Group Meets on the LAST SUNDAY of Every Month

Show YOUR Support for LGBTQ+ Families, Friends, Parents, Children, Neighbors, Coworkers by attending

**PFLAG Fort Worth**  
1st Thursday of every month  
at 6:45 in person

**Fellowship Hall  
Celebration Community Church  
908 Pennsylvania Ave.  
Fort Worth, TX 76104**

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

**Food & Fun ConFAB**  
Join us for conversation and fun at 6:30pm  
the 2nd WEDNESDAY of every month



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

**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  
*Talk as much or as little as you want*  
*Share Our Stories - Share Our Strength*



**PFLAG Fort Worth**  
Call or Email for Link  
817 382-7353 [info@pflagfortworth.org](mailto:info@pflagfortworth.org)



**Mark your 2024 Calendar now!**  
 1st Thursday - PFLAG Fort Worth Meeting  
 2nd Wednesday - PFLAG ConFab at Shaws  
 4th Monday - Sam House Supper Club

Our January meeting is Thursday, Jan. 4. at 6:45pm. Our speaker will be from Action Network of Tarrant County for LGBTQ Rights. Cantor Sheri Allen and Sarah Bernal-Harrap are leaders of the Action Network.

### **"Dear Abby's" Support of LGBTQ & PFLAG**

On December 24, 2023, "Dear Abby" replied to the mom of a young teen girl who had recently come out as lesbian and was being bullied at school. [Read more here](#)

"Dear Abby" has a long history of supporting the LGBTQ community and recommending PFLAG. Listen to a short, entertaining interview of "Abby" on the podcast, ***Making Gay History*** with Eric Marcus. [Read and listen here](#)

PFLAG Fort Worth meeting/support group meets every 1st Thursday, at 6:45pm in the building behind Celebration Community Church, 908 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth 76104 Parking is free and easy to find.

**Come and join our community of friendly, accepting folks! We'll see you there!**



### **Pew Info - Opinions on Same-Sex Marriage**

Pew Research Center finds that people around the world have varying opinions about Same-Sex Marriage. Surveys taken recently show attitudes vary widely in the U.S. [Read more here](#)

### **Transcending Self Photo Project**

In her Transcending Self Project, Annie Tritt attempts to help create a world where all of our differences are honored and accepted. She photos trans and gender expansive youth and asks them to tell more about themselves. [Read more here](#)

### **"Matt's Safe Schools Law" - Michigan**

Recently the Michigan senate passed a bill to make schools safer. The writer of this piece states, "bullying is not allowed, unless you have a "religious" reason for doing so." *Wait! What?* [Read more here](#)

### **Important Guides from The Trevor Project**

These Trevor Project's guides can help us learn about having affirming discussions with our LGBTQ youth and children. We must not forget that acceptance and support from family and friends are vital for their mental and physical health and well-being. Research by the Trevor Project shows "even one accepting adult can decrease an LGBTQ young person's risk of suicide by up to 40%." [Read more here](#)

**Finn's Place** – Trans and Gender Diverse Space in Fort Worth, TX, is on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).



**LGBTQ SAVES' mission is to provide safe, brave spaces for social and personal development of LGBTQ youth."**

Youth meetings are a place for youth (12-24) to connect with mentors and peers For more information email

[Vic.Maldonado@lgbtqsaves.org](mailto:Vic.Maldonado@lgbtqsaves.org) [Read more here](#)

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800-273-8255**



## **Westside Unitarian Universalist Church**

**We Are a Welcoming Congregation**

901 Page  
Fort Worth, TX  
76110



817.924. MYUU (6988)

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



**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.



### Murders of Trans and Gender Non-Conforming

At least **30** transgender and gender non-conforming people's lives have been taken through violent means in 2023. [Read more here](#)

### Transgender Justice Initiative

The Human Rights Campaign's Transgender Justice Initiative is composed of four main parts. 1. The increase in violence against trans people is explored in the booklet ***Dismantling a Culture of Violence***. 2. Organizations focused on Trans and led by Trans need support and development as discussed in ***Activate and Elevate***. 3. Education of the public is needed to be effective and immediate as examined in ***See Each Other/Save Trans Lives***. 4. Trans and non-binary people need help in gaining and maintaining employment as explained in ***Who's Hiring!*** [Read more here](#)

### "My Dad Was Gay" - Diana Butler Bass

Diana Butler Bass, who is a speaker/preacher/writer, writes a beautiful essay about finding out her dad was gay when she was a teenager. [Read more here](#)

### Same-Sex Marriage - Jennifer G. Bird, PhD

In her video, Jennifer G. Bird, PhD, author and biblical scholar, explains her answer to the question, "Does the Bible really condemn same-sex marriage?" [Read more here](#)

### What Can Allies Do?

Allies are vitally important in supporting marginalized people. Marginalized people can include anyone who is targeted with oppression, such as LGBTQ, black or brown people, people with disabilities, women, elderly, immigrants, etc. Interested in what allies can do? Share this to help others be allies too. [Read more here](#)

### What Is Soft Censorship? Anti-1st Amendment?

In some school systems, books aren't banned, but their use is restricted in many ways. This can be abuse of our 1st Amendment rights. [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.



### Grandparents for Truth - Pushback Against M4L

Grandparents For Truth, organized by People For the American Way, "are fighting for the next generation's freedom to learn... resisting authoritarian attacks on the freedom to teach the full truth about our history and culture." [Read more here](#) [Read more here](#)

### Moms for Liberty (M4L) - Whose Liberty?

The group, Moms for Liberty, receives support from strong, rich anti-LGBTQ groups. They aim to ban books and teaching about LGBTQ, race, slavery, etc. in library and classrooms all over the U.S. [Read more here](#) [Read more here](#)

### Mark your 2024 Calendar now!

1st Thursday - PFLAG Fort Worth Meeting  
2nd Wednesday - PFLAG ConFab at Shaws  
4th Monday - Sam House Supper Club

### Star Trek's Mr. Sulu

George Takei, Mr. Sulu in the original Star Trek series, comments on the new Star Trek gay character who was created to honor Takei. [Read more here](#) [Read more here](#)

**"We should indeed keep calm in the face of difference, and live our lives in a state of inclusion and wonder at the diversity of humanity."**

— George Takei

### Gay Trump Supporter Surprised

Recently, a gay supporter of Donald Trump was quite surprised when he finally realized the actual opinions of many of his fellow Trump supporters. [Read more here](#)

### Some Think Texas' Abortion Law Is Cruel

What? How can a law against abortion be "cruel?" Read this writer's opinion. They write, "Instead of working to make pregnancy safer, Texas has ceded critical medical decisions..." [Read more here](#)

### U.S. Representative Supports Uganda's Bill

Michigan's Tim Walberg spoke recently at a prayer breakfast in Uganda in support of Uganda's "kill the gays" bill. [Read more here](#)

**BlackLine - Call 1.800.604-5841 for support**  
**BlackLine is a Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) LGBTQ+ support line, by BIPOC folks,**

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

**Or Text "START" to 678-678**

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





### Important Dates in January

January 15 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service  
 January 15 - 19 - No Name-Calling Week  
 January 16 - 19 - Miss Gay America  
 January 17 - 21 - Creating Change Conference



### Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

MLK Day of Service on January 15, 2024, is a day to serve our community and make communities more equal. [Read more here](#) Would MLK have championed LGBTQ rights? An aide wrote, "I'm sure he would have not have had the prejudicial view," [Read more here](#)

### No Name-Calling Week

No Name-Calling Week began in 2004 as an effort to stop bullying and name-calling in Kindergarten through 12th-grade schools while promoting kindness. A novel called "The Misfits" by James Howe, was a source of inspiration for the week. [Read more here](#)

### Miss Gay America

The Miss Gay America pageant began in 1972 and now has almost 30 preliminary pageantst. [Read more here](#)

### Creating Change Conference

The conference is held every year for LGBTQ activists, organizers, supporters, etc. to share resources, teach skills, and provide support. [Read more here](#)

### National LGBTQ Task Force

The Task Force is "building a future where everyone can be free to be their entire selves in every aspect of their lives." [Read more here](#) [Watch video here](#)

#### Mark your 2024 Calendar now!

1st Thursday - PFLAG Fort Worth Meeting  
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 4th Monday - Sam House Supper Club

### What Is Sam House? Sam House Supper Club?

Sam (Samaritan) House began in Fort Worth in 1991 to house people with HIV/AIDS. They have grown to house additional vulnerable people. [Read more here](#)

### Suicide Prevention Resource Center

LGBTQ suicide prevention. [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 Care, Crisis Hotlines, Food, Housing, Family, Youth](#)



## 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!



Join us for the fun of serving dinner at Sam House!

### Looking for a Way to Help?

**WHO:** PFLAG Fort Worth's Samaritan House Supper Club

**WHAT:** Serve Dinner to Sam House residents  
 You can also make a dish to contribute even if you can't come to help serve.

**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**



**PFLAG Food and Fun ConFAB  
Shaws Patio Bar & Grill  
1051 W Magnolia, Fort Worth**

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

**Come for fun &  
conversation**



**To our PFLAG Fort Worth  
Members and Friends**



**The PFLAG mission of support, education, and advocacy is as vital as ever.** Please continue your support by renewing your membership, attending meetings, 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 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 2022-2023 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.

- 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 2023 - September 2024:**

- 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. Please help PFLAG Fort Worth move equality forward during our coming year. Please support PFLAG Fort Worth with generosity, commitment to mission of support, education, advocacy, and attendance at meetings!**

***Join! Renew! Attend Meetings! 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	_____
<b>RENEWAL</b> _____	<b>NEW</b> _____		

**You can also set up a recurring membership on our website!!**