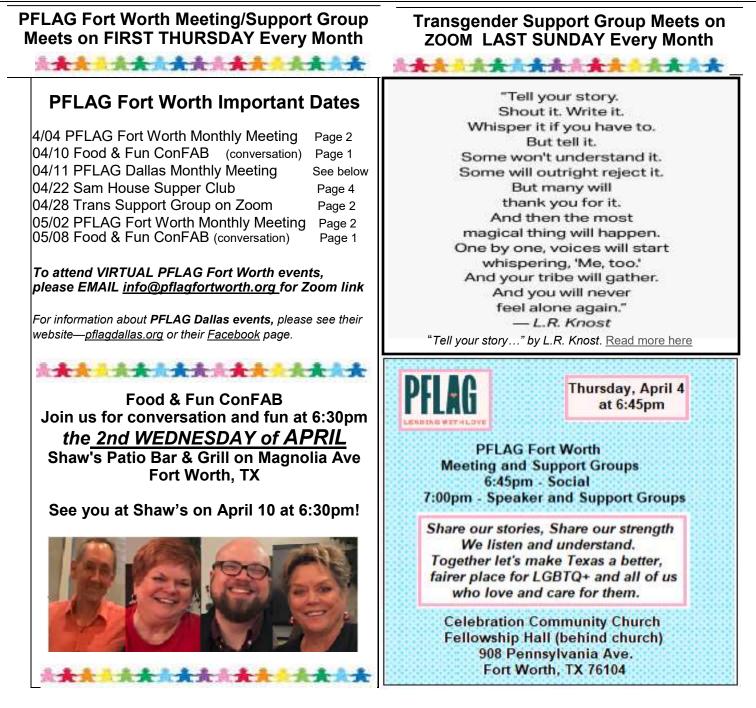


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Newsletter of PFLAG Fort Worth Chapter, P.O. Box 8279, Fort Worth, TX 76124. Published monthly, June & July issues combined.

PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of LGBTQ people and their families and friends through <u>support</u>, to cope with an adverse society; <u>education</u>, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and <u>advocacy</u>, 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.





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

You do NOT need to be a member to attend, and there is no cost to attend.

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#### About L.R. Knost

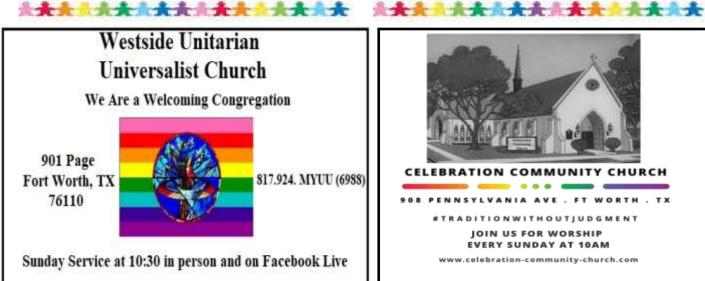
L.R. Knost's writing, "Tell your story" as seen on page 1 of this newsletter, is important for all of us. She is an award-winning author, feminist, and social justice activist who is the founder and director of the children's rights advocacy and family consulting group, Little Hearts/ Gentle Parenting Resources, and Editor-in-Chief of Holistic Parenting Magazine. Read more here.

# Proving "Love Is Limitless"

Here are lovely stories of five Black Queer couples (including Brittney Griner and her wife) who are "reimagining in real-time what partnership, parenthood, and family can look like." Read more here

# Students - Banned Book & Anti-Censor Groups

Da'Taeveyon Daniels, a student in Euless, TX, is a student leader in National Coalition Against Censorship. He believes students need access to materials, opinions, and perspectives of others so as to understand others, accept them, and empathize with them. Read more here



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

Our April meeting is Thursday, April 4. Come meet Dr. James Newkirk and hear him talk about his experiences of being black and gay in the military. Then, we'll share stories and support. Talk as much or as little as you want.

Family support /acceptance are critical to health and wellbeing of LGBTQ. Come to PFLAG Fort Worth meetings to give and receive support. You do NOT need to be a member to attend, and there is no cost to attend.



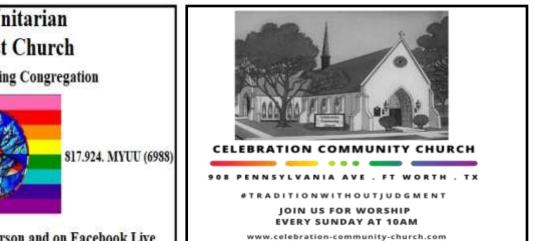
"Loving your LGBTQ+ child is always the right thing to do." Brian Bond, CEO of PFLAG National

> Please mark your calendar NOW! 1st Thursday - PFLAG Fort Worth - 6:45 2nd Wednesday - PFLAG at Shaw's - 6:30 ast Sunday - Trans Support on Zoom - 3:00

#### Justice Network of Tarrant County

The Tarrant County Justice Network "seeks justice for all to create a community made whole." How to help? Read more here

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 information Vic.Maldonado@lgbtgsaves.org Read more here

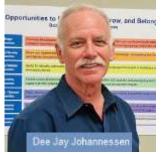




# LGBTQ+ HELP Is Close and Convenient

Meet Dee Jay Johannessen who is CEO of the Health Education Learning Project and has worked in the HIV field for over 30 years. Under Dee Jay's guidance, the HELP Center for LGBT Health & Wellness is just what its

name says that it is: a place dedicated to the wellness of LGBTQ+ people. The HELP Center has a couple of clinic locations in Fort Worth and Arlington offering HELP for the LGBTQ+ community in North Texas. Read more here



The HELP Center started thirty years ago as a place where LGBTQ+ individuals could get linked to the care

they needed without worrying about discriminatory mounds of red tape and suffocating costs. Today, it offers HIV testing and prevention, complete PrEP services, counseling, and gender-affirming care, all with NO out-ofpocket cost to its clients.

Not only that, but the HELP Center knows what it's like to be LGBTQ+ in today's times. HELP offers insurance premium assistance and pharmacy services, in addition to direct care. They also advocate for your rights, hold special programs to educate the broader community about LGBTQ+ issues, and encourage tolerance and inclusiveness.



The HELP Center organized the first Arlington PRIDE event in 2022 at the Arlington HELP Center. They expected a couple hundred people and ended up hosting a thousand LGBTQ+ people and supporters. In 2023, they shifted the location to the Levitt Pavilion, and the crowd swelled to over five thousand. The 2024 Arlington PRIDE event promises to be an even bigger celebration of love and inclusion. Read about Arlington Pride here.

The main HELP Center location is in the Fort Worth hospital district; the Arlington Center is downtown. Both centers are on bus routes. (Dee Jay Johannessen spoke at the PFLAG Fort Worth February

meeting. We sincerely appreciate Dee Jay and his staff at the HELP Center.)

# **Oprah Winfrey and Niecy Nash Honored by GLAAD** Read more here

#### Trevor Project Lifeline - 866-488-7386 Or Text "START" to 678-678

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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

#### ╢<del>╋╋╡╗╋╗╗╋╗╗╋</del>╗<mark>╋╋</mark> 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. PFLAG Fort Worth partners with St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Hurst, TX, to provide this Trans Support Group.

# What does "Trans-Affirming Care" Mean?

Gender-affirming care can help a person be the person they were meant to be. Why is this so important? Watch here And watch more like video here

# Protect LGBTQ+ Students' Rights

The ACLU of Texas provides this toolkit to help students and parents make schools more affirming. You are not alone. Access the toolkit here

# #REFORMTheLockerRoom

The Trevor Project and PUMA are partners in a mission to "foster safer and more inclusive environments that support LGBTQ+ young people and reduce their risk of suicide." Read more here

Learn how to become better allies and make locker rooms and sports facilities welcoming and accessible to LGBTQ identifying young people. Involve your coaches and athletic directors in the Trevor Project's mission to reduce LGBTQ suicide. Read more here

# SEAT - Students Involved in Advancing Texas

These students want to be involved in decisions about what is taught and not taught in their schools ... and much more. They say, "No one should be dictating the narrative about us without us at the table. We seek to make decisions, not face their impacts." Read more here

# ACLU of Texas Asks You to Share Your Story

Have a story about when you were in school in Texas and had issues with the dress code? "Sharing our stories is a powerful way that we can bring awareness to the scope of this issue - and advocate for our schools to update their outdated policies." Find out more here

# Broadway Baptist - LGBTQ+ Library

We thank Broadway Baptist Church for their LGBTQ+ friendly library. One book that is available came from a school library many miles away. Read more here

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

Trans Lifeline Hotline at 877-565-8860 Trans people located all over the US and Canada, for trans and questioning callers.



# Important Dates in April

- April 06 International Asexuality Day
- April 10 National Youth HIV/AIDS Awareness Day
- April 12 Day of Silence
- April 18 Holocaust Day of Remembrance
- April 22 Earth Day
- April 21 Nonbinary Parents Day
- April 23 29 National Library Week
- April 22 28 Lesbian Visibility Week
- April 26 Lesbian Visibility Day



# Lesbian Visibility Week

Because Lesbians need more than one day to celebrate! This is a week for lesbians to be seen, heard and celebrated. Linda Riley is founder of Lesbian Visibility Week and is the publisher of DIVA, Europe's leading brand for LGBTQI and nonbinary people. Linda said, "We needed, and deserved, more time to shine a light on some of the amazing women in our community, and to celebrate who we are without fear of prejudice, harassment or vilification. Read more here

# What is International Asexuality Day?

Please remember that "asexuality is an umbrella term, and exists on a spectrum." Asexual people may be known as "Ace" or "Aces." Read more here and Read more here

#### **Nonbinary Parents Day**

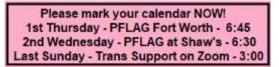
Third Sunday in April is Nonbinary Parents Day. Watch this interesting interview with Johnny Blazes who created Nonbinary Parents Day. Watch video here

#### Nonbinary Parents Day Gives Me a Chance to Belong

Read this important story of a Nonbinary parent and their "Chance to Belong." Read more here

# Be a Better Ally to Trans & Nonbinary Parents

Everybody starts somewhere, and this article is a good place to begin to better understand Trans and Nonbinary parents. Read more here



Finn's Place – Trans and Gender Diverse Space in Fort Worth, TX, is on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

**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

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!



Come join us for the fun and reward of serving dinner at Sam House every 4th Monday from 5:30-6:30. Or send a dish to contribute





Our contact phone number is: 817.382.7353 Our email : info@pflagfortworth.org

LGBTO



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

Come for fun & conversation On Wednesday, April 10 at 6:30

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						PFLAG
$\nabla$	Individual	\$	25	Date		
$\nabla$	Family	\$	45	Name		
$\nabla$	Sustaining Member	\$	100	Address		
$\nabla$	Benefactor/Life	\$	500	Address		
				City		
Make checks payable to:		PFLAG/Fort Worth		State	Zip	
Mail to:		P.O. Box 8279 Fort Worth TX 76124		Phone		
				Flidile		
	RENEWAL	NEW		Email		
				-		

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