# FORT WORTH



November 2024 Volume XXX Number 11



Flags are from "In OUR America Love Wins.org"

#### **End Violence Against Women**

The International Day for Elimination of **Violence Against Women on November** 25 launches the UNITE campaign that runs from November 25 to December 10. These 16 days highlight the fact that "violence against women and girls remains one of the most prevalent and pervasive human rights violations in the world." Read more here US Women's rights... Read more here Protecting women... Read more here

#### **PFLAG Fort Worth**

#### **Important Dates**

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To attend virtual PFLAG Fort Worth events, see our website for a link pflagfortworth.org For Dallas PFLAG - www.pflagdallas.org



What if you could make a difference and get out the vote by talking to your own neighbors? An organization is asking people who are interested in "getting out the vote" to help. They provide a list of names of people in the neighborhood who are infrequent voters, and you can have a neighborly talk with them about voting. If you prefer to help in another way, they have that too. Read more here



Happy Turkey Gay

### **PFLAG Fort Worth**

#### **Meeting and Support Group**

**First Thursday Every Month** 6:45pm Social 7:00 Meeting/Support Groups (7:00 on Zoom too) **Celebration Community Church Fellowship Hall** 908 Pennsylvania, Ft Worth

#### **Transgender Support Group**

**Last Sunday Every Month** 3:00-5:00 on Zoom

> Share our stories, Share our strength.

Talk a little or a lot as you want

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

Leading with love to make Texas a better, safer place for LGBTQ+

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



908 PENNSYLVANIA AVE . FT WORTH . TX #TRADITIONWITHOUTJUDGMENT JOIN US FOR WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY AT 10AM www.celebration.community.church.com

#### Surviving Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Other Holigays

"Thanksgiving with relatives can be a challenge for many of us whether we identify as LGBTQ+ or not. Here are some interesting, helpful resources. <u>Queer Thanksgiving Survival Guide</u> <u>Queerly Surviving Thanksgiving</u> <u>Surviving the Holigays</u> <u>Eight Queer Tips to Get Through the</u> <u>Holidays.</u>

Surviving the Holigays Survival Plan Plan asks us to list important stuff like "personal practices we want to continue during the holidays, people we want to check in with during the holidays, who may treat me differently and who will be my ally, boundaries we want to put in place, positive affirmations, etc. Don't miss this important, helpful plan to make your holigays as happy and successful as possible.



**PFLAG Fort Worth's** meeting/support group meets on October 3 because that's the First Thursday of the month. At 6:45pm we meet for a social time with refreshments. At 7:00, we have a speaker. A 8:00, we gather in small groups to share our stories. You can talk as much or as little as you want, or not at all if you don't want to. Many of our speakers are from our LGBTQ+ community. We always learn more about supporting our loved ones! Our open, accepting PFLAG Fort Worth group meets in the Fellowship Hall

building behind Celebration Community Church at 908 Pennsylvania Ave., Fort Worth, TX. Parking is free and easy to find. LGBTQ family, friends, neighbors, teachers, and co-workers need our support and acceptance. We parents, family, friends, etc. need each other. Please come to PFLAG Fort Worth because we need you. You do NOT need to be a member to come. There is no cost to attend.

# LEADING WITH LOVE.

#### Don't Worry, Do Something!

Tim Dickinson of Rolling Stone Magazine says, "Politics is a spectator sport for most Americans." Want to make politics a "votercontact sport;" want to do something? Tim says, "Here's something to do: Turn out your neighbors to vole." <u>Read more here</u>



**PFLAG Confab - 2nd Wednesday** 

Mark your calendar now so you won't miss meeting us for fun and conversation at Shaw's Patio Bar and Grill every 2nd Wednesday of the month about 6:30ish. Shaws is convenient and easy to find at 1051 W. Magnolia, just south of downtown Fort Worth. Ruby with the gorgeous red hair usually arrives first to save us a table. Parking is free and convenient. Hope to see you! History doesn't just travel forward; it can go backwards if we don't work hard. So we cannot be complacent. Securing the gains this country has made requires perseverance and vigilance. And it requires voting. Because we've got more work to do. – Barack Obama



"When all Americans are treated as equal, no matter who they are or whom they love, we are all more free." — Barack Obama

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"Every single American – gay, straight, lesbian, bisexual, transgender – every single American deserves to be treated equally in the eyes of the law and in the eyes of our society. It's a pretty simple proposition." – Barack Obama @JACOBYBALLARD

AWARENESSME

# **FOR TRANS FOLKS:**

May I be loved unconditionally by the people around me

May I find and invest in spaces that adore and respect me

> May I be kind to this body, as complicated as it can be

May I trust that trans people are magical, here & now, and across time & cultures

> lam sacred, important, & inherently lovable.

In November 2023, Jacoby Ballard, "a queer, transgender person," published meditations you see above on Instagram. Jacoby said, "For whatever your relationship is to trans people, whatever your role, I hope these meditations warm your heart. Please feel free to share!" <u>Read more here</u>

#### **Happy Holigays**

Celebrate during Fall and Winter with all sorts of holidays including Christmas and Hanukkah. Whether joining family or friends or both, we have many opportunities for celebrating. "From the Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20 and World AIDS Day on December 1 through Rainbow Bridge on New Years Day," we can celebrate in our own ways. <u>Read more here</u> Many celebrations and festivals take place during fall and winter. <u>Read more here</u>

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Dial 988 to connect to the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. You can Call, Text, or Chat. Learn more here.

#### **Meet Jacoby Ballard**

 Jacoby Ballard says, "I learned yoga and Buddhism in order to survive bullying in high school initially,
 and later because I wanted tools for my activist communities. I became who I am now through friendship, mentorship, healing, and the study of yoga, Buddhism, and social movements across time and space.<u>" Read more about Jacoby here</u>

#### **Texas' School Classrooms**

Texas ACLU reports "when education reflects and affirms all students, it prepares them to thrive. Our state is diverse and our schools should reflect this diversity." Do they? ACLU of Texas resources are "designed to help K-12 students, parents, educators, and advocates create inclusive schools where students are safe, supported, and treated with dignity." <u>Click here to access resources.</u>

#### LGBTQ in Deep South

In the deep South, there is still discrimination due to sexual orientation and gender identity. There is some progress, but there continues to be discrimination in hiring and housing along with bullying in school and violent crime in neighborhoods. The Southern Poverty Law Center is focusing on the Southeastern states where there are not many LGBTQ-advocating organizations. And they are making progress. <u>Read more here</u>

The SPLC tracks hate and anti-government groups across the U.S. On their map, you can select a state, filter by ideology, download data, etc. <u>Go to map here</u>



LGBTQ SAVES' mission is "to provide safe, brave spaces

for social and personal development of LGBTQ youth." For info write bertinand.gardiner@lgbtqsaves.org <u>Read more here</u>

#### **Dallas ISD Spreads Awareness**

Dallas ISD has a Homeless Education Program that "trains staff, connects families to resources and engages students to build a bridge toward their academic and future success." Every year, almost 4,000 students in the Dallas ISD school system experience some type of homelessness, and Dallas ISD is helping. <u>Read more here</u>

#### **LGBTQ Child and Youth Trauma**

Trauma is experienced much more often by LGBTQ children and youth than by their straight peers. In the past professionals have not effectively helped these LGBTQ children and youth. The National Child Trauma Stress Network (NCTSN) says "Common traumas experienced by these youth include bullying, harassment, traumatic loss, intimate partner violence, physical and sexual abuse, and traumatic forms of societal stigma, bias, and rejection." Now there is help available. Read more here and <u>Click here for resources</u> <u>developed by NCTSN</u> for providing help to LGBTQ Children and Youth

#### Stopbullying.gov

At the website, Stopbullying.gov, learn what to do when being bullied by someone on the Internet. If feeling threatened or upset, please tell someone you trust and report it to the platform. <u>Read more here</u> <u>How to report things on Facebook</u> <u>How to report a post on Instagram</u> <u>How to report abusive behavior on Twitter</u> <u>How to report offensive content on Tumblr</u> <u>How to report abuse on Snapchat</u>

# Looking for a Way to Help?

WHO: PFLAG Fort Worth's Sam House Supper Club
WHAT: Serve Dinner to Sam House residents, bring a dish to donate, or just come to 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? <u>Contact Ruby at 817-382-7353</u>

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#### **Important Dates in November**

 National Homeless Youth Awareness Month 11/03 - Trans Parents Day
 11/11 - 11/15 Anti-Bullying Week 11/12 - Odd Socks Day
 11/13 - 11/19 Trans Awareness Week 11/14 National Block It Out Day
 11/20 Trans Remembrance Day
 11/25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

#### **National Block It Out Day**

November 14 is National Block It Out Day, or
#BlockItOutDay. It is a day about positivity,
paying attemtion to good, positive posts on the
Internet rather than the hateful ones.
Stomp Out Bullying, the organization that
started BlockItOut Day, says "the goal of this
day is to block negativity from our digital lives
and, by doing so, end cruelty, homophobia,
LGBTQ+ discrimination, racism, hatred,
shaming and online violence." Let's help each
other block out trolls, cyberbullies, and hate
speech on the Internet. If someone on the
Internet makes us feel bullied or is hurtful,
please tell someone and get them blocked from
spreading their poison. <u>Read more here</u>



Odd Socks Day Is for All of Us! Odd socks day is celebrated as part of Anti-Bullying week to say "we should all be allowed to be ourselves free from bullying and helps us celebrate Anti-Bullying Week in a fun and positive way." Wear your odd sox!

#### 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

## **To Our PFLAG Fort Worth Members and Friends**

#### **Membership and/or Donations**

#### To join PFLAG Fort Worth and/or make a donation, please go to www.pflagfortworth.org

Also, there are two ways to interact with PFLAG Fort Worth through PayPal! To make a donation go to <u>paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/2047249</u> 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 PayPal, it's free and easy to set up). The advantage to using PayPal online is you don't have to remember to renew every year!

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 2023-2024: • Speaking to Fort Worth ISD teachers, counselors, and administrators about equality

• Offering a monthly speaker and support group, in person and on Zoom

Providing a monthly dinner for up to 50 Fort
 Worth Samaritan House residents

 Making Christmas stockings for Samaritan House children, providing money for Halloween costumes, and tutoring residents

 $\cdot$  Proudly marching in the Fort Worth and Dallas Pride parades

• Staffing a booth at the Fort Worth Pride Festival and Picnic events

Sharing our mission of advocacy, support, and education to business, universities, and federal agencies, including the TCU Education Department
Offering a monthly trans Support Group on Zoom with partner St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Hurst, TX

Goals for October 2024 - September 2025:

- Offer scholarship funding to graduating seniors of LGBTQ SAVES
- $\cdot$  Develop ways to become more visible to those who need us and don't know we are 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, scholarship awards. We are making a difference and need you with us. Please help PFLAG Fort Worth move equality forward during the coming year with your financial generosity, time, and talent. Commit to our mission of support, education, and advocacy. Attend our meetings to connect with us!







# PFLAG FORT WORTH, TEXAS

PFLAG Fort Worth 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.