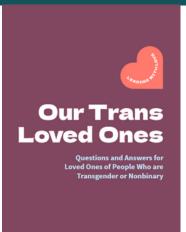


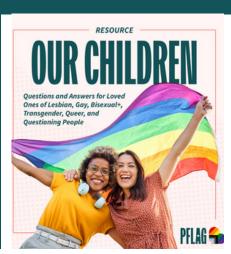
SPIRIT

October 2025 Volume XXXI Number 10









To read or download these (and more) free booklets, please click here.

PFLAG Fort Worth

Important Dates

10/02 PFLAG Meet/Support (Page 2) 10/08 Food and Fun Confab (Page 3) 10/09 Dallas PFLAG Meeting (Page 1) 10/27 Sam House Supper Club (Page 3) 10/26 Trans Support Group (Page 2) 11/06 PFLAG Meet/Support (Page 2) 11/12 Food and Fun Confab (Page 3) To attend PFLAG Fort Worth events

For Zoom, contact us at 817.382.7353 or at info@pflagfortworth.org for Dallas PFLAG-ww.pflagdallas.org



Choose people who choose you! At PFLAG Fort Worth, we have support and resources You are not alone! We are parents, family, friends, **LGBTQ** who choose to support all LGBTQ people! Join us!



The PFLAG community can be our greatest resource!

Ready to learn more about our LGBTQ+ family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc.? Want to find out how to be an Ally or be more comfortable when talking with others about our LGBTQ+ loved-ones? We did! That's why we've read many of these booklets AND why we go to PFLAG meetings where we can talk comfortably about our loved-ones and friends. To read or download copies of these booklets, please click here.

PFLAG Fort Worth

1st Thursday **PFLAG Fort Worth** Meeting & Support

2nd Wednesday **PFLAG Fort Worth** CONFAB

4th Monday PFLAG Fort Worth

Last Sunday PFLAG Fort Worth Sam House Supper Club Trans Support Group

PFLAG Fort Worth

You are not alone! Sharing our stories. **Sharing our strength** No need to be a member. No cost to attend.

Meeting and Support Group 1st Thursday Every Month 6:45pm Social 7:00 Meeting/Support Group In person and on Zoom **Celebration Community Church Fellowship Hall** 908 Pennsylvania, Ft Worth

Trans Virtual Support Group Last Sunday Every Month 3:00-5:00 on Zoom



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
Interesting speakers/Group Support

Share Our Stories - Share Our Strength

PFLAG Fort Worth
Call or Email for Link
817-382-7353
info@pflagfortworth.org



CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH

908 PENNSYLVANIA AVE . FT WORTH . TX

#TRADITION WITH OUT JUDG MENT

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP
EVERY SUNDAY AT 10AM

www.celebration-community-church.com

October Speaker for PFLAG Fort Worth

Our speaker for October is Keith Uselton. As a teen, Keith started the first Gay/ Straight Alliance Club in Fort Worth at South Hills High School. PFLAG helped Keith start the GSA club.

Our speaker for our PFLAG meeting on the 1st Thursday of November will be Shelly Skeen with Lambda Legal.

4th MONDAY Sam House Supper Club

Join us by bringing a dish and/or just come and help serve supper to residents of Samaritan House every 4th Monday of the month from 5:30 – 6:30.



1st THURSDAY **PFLAG Fort Worth Meets** Please join us at our. meeting and support group on the FIRST THURSDAY of every month. Perhaps you need us. We KNOW we NEED you! We meet in the building behind **Celebration Community Church.** On Thursday, October 2, come at 6:45 for refreshments. At 7:00 we have a speaker. After that, we divide into small support groups where we can talk and listen. You're welcome to talk as much or as little as you want or not talk at all. You can listen and discover how much PFLAG loves, supports, and cares for you. You are not alone! You don't need to be a member. There is no cost to attend.



2nd WEDNESDAY PFLAG Fort Worth CONFAB

Join us for fun and conversation every 2nd Wednesday at 6-6:30ish Ruby with the glorious red hair usually arrives first to save us a table at Shaws Patio Bar and Grill, at 1051 W. Magnolia, in Fort Worth, south of downtown. Parking is free and easy. See you soon!

LAST SUNDAY

Trans Support Group Meeting

On Sunday, Sept 28, (the last Sunday of the month, we had our September Trans Support meeting at 3 pm on Zoom. Our speaker was Andrea Segovia from TENT (the Transgender Education Network of Texas). TENT works to stop discrimination against Trans people through social, legislative, and corporate education. Attend our next Trans Support Group that meets the LAST SUNDAY of the month, October 26 at 3:00 virtually on Zoom.

The time is always right to do what is right.
- Martin Luther King Jr.



Maybe the journey isn't about becoming anything.

Maybe it's about unbecoming everything that isn't really you, so that you can be who you were meant to be in the first place.

-Paulo Coelho



REMINDER:

There are far more people working for justice, equality, and diversity than opposing them.

Don't let hopelessness trend in your head.

- John Pavlovitz



We must reach out our hand in friendship and dignity, both to those who would befriend us and those who would be our enemy."
- Arthur Ashe

LGBTQ+ History Month

Every October our LGBTQ+ community celebrates history and achievements. Also, we highlight some of the people from the LGBTQ+ community who are making important contributions. Read more here.

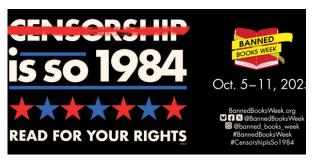
Learn more about the achievements and contributions of the LGBT people highlighted this year. Read more here.

Want to learn more? You can search all 620 people included in past years. <u>Search here.</u>

National Bullying Prevention Month

The National Bullying Prevention Center says, "Every day, thousands of young people experience bullying from their peers at school, after school in their neighborhoods, and even when they are at home, through social media and texts. There are many ways to support bullying prevention as an individual or with friends, family, your school, or your entire community." Read more here

Watch video here Get newsletter here



Learn more about Banned Books Week here.

The 2025 theme for Banned Books Week is "Censorship Is So 1984 — Read for Your Rights." Resources for this annual event are produced by PEN America and the ALA, American Library Association. Read more here

Important Dates in October

LGBTQ History Month

National Bullying Prevention Month Hate Crimes Awareness Month

10/5 - 10/11 - Banned Books Week

10/19 - 10/25 - Ace Week (Asexual Awareness)

10/06 - Wear Blue to Prevent Bullying

10/08 - International Lesbian Day

10/11 - National Coming Out Day

10/11 - Let Freedom Read Day

10/12 - Anniversary of Matthew Shepard Death

10/18 - International Pronouns Day

10/22 - Unity Day Wear Orange to Stop Bullying



Oct. 6 Is Wear Blue Day, Read more here

LGBTQ SAVES - LGBTQ Youth

Youth Pride Festival on October 11 is all about empowering LGBTQ+ youth with community resources, opportunities to shine, and ways to connect with community. This free event will be hosted on <u>October 11, 2025</u> but RSVPs are required to attend. Please <u>register and learn more here</u>

"LGBTQ SAVES provides a safe and brave space in Fort Worth by hosting in-person and virtual weekly meetings, Pride events, and community dinners for LGBTQ youth and their families. Join us in building a community where all youth are safe." Read more

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>

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

PFLAG Fort Worth Poster

Later in this newsletter, please find a poster of our <u>4 PFLAG Fort Worth regular monthly events</u>. Please share this poster with people who may be interested in PFLAG Fort Worth or who may need to know they're not alone. Thank you for caring, sharing and displaying our PFLAG Fort Worth poster!



On Thursday, October 9 from 6 – 7pm CDT, join a virtual event presented by HRC, Human Rights Campaign, to celebrate National Coming out Day and "inspire a weekend of action." Read more here and RSVP.

His Shirt Said "Free Dad Hugs"

Guess what happened at a Pride parade when a man offered Free Dad Hugs. In an article in People Magazine, Joelle Goldstein wrote about Scott Dittman and his experience. Dittman wrote on his Facebook page the following, "Imagine that, parents. Imagine that your child feels SO LOST FROM YOU that they sink into the arms of a complete stranger and sob endlessly just because that stranger is wearing a shirt

offering hugs from a dad."
He wrote, "Think of the depths of their pain. Try to imagine how deep those cuts must be. Please don't be the parent of a child that has to shoulder that burden." Read more here

LGBTQ+ Inclusion & Business Performance

The HRC, Human Rights Campaign, and Whistle Stop Capital analyzed almost 20 years of corporate data to find that "inclusive workplaces are not just good for people, they're good for business. Read more here.



Read more here

Hate Crimes Awareness Month

The SPLC, Southern Poverty Law Center, has declared October as Hate Crimes Awareness Month. They plan to direct a yearly drive to increase awareness of the steady increase of hate crimes. Read more here.

Want to learn more about how to respond effectively to hate crimes? Read more here.

The SPLC report for 2024 gives "a clear analysis of groups upholding white supremacy in the United States, new and renewed antidemocracy trends, a summary of the tactics and strategies they are utilizing, and formulas for prevention." Read the report here.

Top Gay Halloween Events in U.S.

Halloween month is here! Are you ready to dress in costume and celebrate Halloween? Here are some of the best Gay Halloween celebrations in the U.S. according to Fodors and Fagabond. Read here and Read here



Halloween Parade in Chicago
See more here

Let Freedom Read Day, October 11

The American Library Association says, "The freedom to read is under attack – let's do something about it! On October 11, take at least one action to help defend books from censorship and to stand up for library staff, educators, writers, publishers, booksellers, and readers!" Read more here.

Click here for an action sheet of things to do on Oct. 11, Let Freedom Read Day, and on other days!

On Oct. 22, Unity Day, stand up for kindness acceptance, & inclusion to prevent bullying!
Wear Orange!
Read more here.
Watch video here.









FORT WORTH

1st Thursday PFLAG Fort Worth Meeting & Support

6:45pm Social+Snacks 7:00pm Meeting/ Support Groups

Celebration Community Church - Fellowship Hall 908 Pennsylvania Fort Worth

For Zoom info, call or email 817.382.7353 info@pflagfortworth.org

4th Monday PFLAG Fort Worth Sam House Supper Club

Join us to serve dinner to residents of Samaritan House, bring a dish, or just help serve from 5:30-6:30pm

> Samaritan House 929 Hemphill St. Fort Worth

For more information contact Ruby at 817.382.7353

2nd Wednesday PFLAG Fort Worth CONFAB

Join us at 6-6:30ish for an evening of fun and conversation at

Shaw's Patio Bar & Grill (at PFLAG table) 1051 W. Magnolia Fort Worth

For more info, call or email 817.382.7353 info@pflagfortworth.org

<u>Last Sunday</u> PFLAG Fort Worth Trans Support Group

Virtual on Zoom 3:00pm



For Zoom info, call or email 817.382.7353 info@pflagfortworth.org

You are not alone! At PFLAG Fort Worth, we have the support and resources you need.

We are parents, family, and friends of LGBTQ+ people and LGBTQ+ people.

Join us to help create a caring and affirming world for LGBTQ+ people and all who love them.

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 paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/2047249

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, renew your membership, attend events/ meetings, and/or donate 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.

Some ways we served our mission in 2024-2025:

- -Providing a monthly speaker and support group, in person and virtually on Zoom
- · Providing a monthly dinner for Fort Worth Samaritan House residents
- · Making Christmas stocking for Samaritan House children, providing money for Halloween costumes, and tutoring residents
- · Proudly marching in the Dallas Pride parade and attending Pride events
- · Staffing a booth at the Fort Worth Pride Festival and Picnic events as well as other area events
- -Sponsored Badge of Pride exhibit
- -Donated scholarships to LGBTQ SAVES, Camp Haven, TRANSportation Network.

- · Sharing our mission of advocacy, support, and education with businesses, universities, federal agencies, etc.
- · Hosting a monthly virtual trans Support Group on Zoom with partner St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Hurst, TX
- -Sent an officer to the PFLAG National Conference

Goals for October 2025 - September 2026:

- · Continue to offer scholarships to graduating seniors of LGBTQ SAVES, etc.
- · 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, talent, presence at events, etc. Commit to our mission of support, education, and advocacy. Attend our events 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.