

# PFLAG SPIRIT

July 2018



Volume XXIV, Number 6

Newsletter of Parents, Families, & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Fort Worth Chapter, P.O. Box 8279, Fort Worth, TX 76124. Published monthly except January.

**MISSION:** *Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, 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.*



## July meeting



It's time for our annual indoor Independence Day Picnic! We'll provide the meats, you bring the sides, salads, desserts, chips and dips. This is a time for family and friends to enjoy visiting and exchanging stories. If you don't have time to prepare food, come anyway—we've never run out!

### Samaritan House Supper Club

Supper Club is a great opportunity to volunteer for a project that really makes a difference. Our dedicated group of volunteers cooks and brings food on the fourth Monday of the month, serving dinner from 5:30-6:30. The residents look forward to our meals, and we enjoy both preparing and sharing the meals with them. Please contact Christy Matthews at 805-717-2454 if you'd like to join us or contribute food.

### Dates to Remember

7/5	PFLAG Fort Worth Monthly Meeting	6:45 pm
7/8	PFLAG Denton Monthly Meeting	3:00 pm
7/12	PFLAG Dallas Monthly Meeting	7:00 pm
7/17	Food & Fun Confab	6:30 pm
7/23	Supper Club for Samaritan House	5:15 pm

### PFLAG FORT WORTH INFORMATION

**Meetings:** First Thursday of each month at 6:45 p.m.  
First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church  
1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth, TX 76112-5412

**Website:** <http://pflagfortworth.org>

**National Website:** <http://www.pflag.org>

**Newsletter:** Sharon Salih, Editor  
Change of address & news to share: 817-496-1587

PFLAG/FW is not directly affiliated with any religious group.

## PFLAG Southern Region Conference



(OK, TX, LA, AR)

**Saturday, September 29, 2018**

**8 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

**Fort Worth, Texas**

**Hosts: PFLAG Dallas, PFLAG Fort Worth, and**

**Kay Holladay, Regional Director**

**Location: 908 Pennsylvania Avenue**

**(Celebration Community Church)**

### **Featuring:**

*Ryan Smith - Opening Plenary Speaker*

*Karen McCrocklin - Closing Plenary Speaker*

### **Breakout Sessions:**

LGBTQ Legal Landscape:

How to Be a Better Advocate

LGBTQ Aging Issues

Creating Safe Learning Spaces for LGBTQ Students

PFLAG Chapter Board "Tips and Tools"

Gender Spectrum Education

Facilitation Skills and PFLAG Chapter Meeting Tips

PFLAG Chapter Development and Outreach

**[Details on Page 2]**

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## PFLAG SOUTHERN REGION CONFERENCE

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**Saturday, September 29, 2018**

**Celebration Church**

**908 Pennsylvania Avenue - Fort Worth, Texas**

8:00 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00 a.m. Welcome Message - Kay Holladay, Regional Director  
Betsy Price, Mayor of Fort Worth (invited)  
Michael Rawlings, Mayor of Dallas (invited)

9:25 a.m. Keynote Address - Ryan Smith  
Introduction: Tori Farmer

10:15 a.m. Break

10:30 - 11:45 a.m. Workshops (Concurrent Sessions):

A. *LGBTQ Aging Issues*

Cannon Flowers and Jane Rogers, Coalition for Aging, will address the unique challenges facing LGBTQ elders and offer resources.

B. *How to Work in Schools to Create Safer Learning Environments for Our LGBTQ+ Students*

Sharon Herrera of LGBTQSAVES (and others/confirm names) will discuss how to effectively work with school districts.

C. *PFLAG Chapter Board Tips and Tools*

Jamie Curtis, Director of Chapter Services/PFLAG National, will provide ideas and resources to help your PFLAG Board function more effectively.

11:45 a.m. Break

12:00 p.m. Lunch (box lunches)

12:45 p.m. *Legal and Legislative Landscape for*

*First Jefferson*

*Unitarian Universalist Church*

Affirming the inherent worth and dignity of all human beings.  
Sunday Services at 11:00 a.m.

1959 Sandy Lane  
Fort Worth, Texas 76112  
817 - 451 - 1505  
www.firstjefferson.org



*LGBTQ Community and How to Be an Effective Advocate*

Moderator: Tori Farmer

Kali Cohn, ACLU of Texas

Troy Stevenson, Freedom Oklahoma

1:15 p.m. Break

1:30 p.m. Workshops (Concurrent Sessions):

A. *Gender Spectrum Education*

Melissa Ballard, TransKids/Dallas (and others/names) will help us better understand the "basics" and more in order to become better educators and allies of the LGBTQ+ community.

B. *Improving Your Facilitation Skills and PFLAG Chapter Meetings*

Jamie Curtis, Director of Chapter Services/PFLAG National, and Sondra Howe, PFLAG Dallas, will share best practices to help your PFLAG support group meetings be the most welcoming.

C. *How to Let the Community Know about Your PFLAG Chapter and How to Grow Your PFLAG Chapter*

Kay Holladay, PFLAG Regional Director and Jac Hays, PFLAG Beaumont, will discuss how to increase chapter membership and how to promote your chapter and its education, support, and advocacy activities.

2:45 p.m. Break

3:00 p.m. Closing Session - Karen McCrocklin  
*Karen McCrocklin is 2017 LGBT Texan of the Year*

"If a baker can reject LGBTQ people because of who we are, then what about the mechanic, the florist, the doctor, the teacher? This is not about cake. This is not about art. This is about survival."

*- American Civil Liberties Union lawyer Chase Strangio, on the Masterpiece Cakeshop case*

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## Texas Attorney General demands Fort Worth ISD turn over human sexuality curriculum

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By Stella M. Chavez, June 29, 2018

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is demanding the Fort Worth school district turn over a copy of its sixth grade human sexuality curriculum, which includes lessons on sexual orientation and gender identity. He says parents were repeatedly denied access to class materials.

That was the case for parents at McClean Sixth Grade Center, who said their kids were coming home with questions about sexuality.

One mom asked her son to bring home his health book, but he said he couldn't. The mom was told she would have to review the material with a school official.

"The question here is why a child can take his or her math book home but not his or her health book home? This comes down to Texas law and a matter of a parent's right to have a full inspection of the children's curriculum," said Zeb Pent, a spokesman for Stand for Fort Worth, a group that advocates for parental rights.

Clint Bond, a spokesman for the Fort Worth school district, said students can't take home their workbooks because the material is sensitive.

"If it does fall into immature hands we don't want that to happen," he said. "Parents are welcome when they are open, and there's a campus administrator or central administration. And we'll put them with the right people so they can review that material."

Bond said parents were given a letter at the beginning of the school year, notifying them that their children would be taking a health course that would cover human sexuality — and that they could withdraw their child from that portion of the class.

He said the district was surprised by the attorney general's letter, but that it intends to send the requested information to the attorney general's office. Superintendent Kent Scribner said district officials will meet on Monday to discuss the request.

"We strongly believe that everything we are teaching in this particular course is within the guidelines of the Texas education code, and we think there's nothing wrong with it, so I think what we'll find is that all the I's are dotted and the T's are crossed," said Bond.

In May, Fort Worth ISD received another request from Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick's office for materials used to teach its sixth grade health class. Bond said the district has already sent that information.

<http://keranews.org/post/texas-attorney-general-demands-fort-worth-isd-turn-over-human-sexuality-curriculum>

For another story on this same subject:

### Attorney General Paxton demands copy of Fort Worth ISD's human sexuality curriculum

By Jackie Wang, Austin Bureau, June 29, 2018

<https://www.dallasnews.com/news/education/2018/06/29/attorney-general-paxton-demands-copy-fort-worth-isds-human-sexuality-curriculum>

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## Kansas governor signs anti-LGBT adoption bill into law

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By Taylor Link, May 19, 2018 (UTC)

Kansas Governor Jeff Colyer signed a bill into law on Friday that will allow adoption agencies to refuse same-sex couples.

The bill, known as the Adoption Protection Act, was designed to insulate religious organizations that want to discriminate against the LGBT community. Approved in the Kansas Legislature earlier this month, the bill permits agencies to refuse homes "for foster care or adoption when the proposed placement of such child would violate such agency's sincerely held religious beliefs."

Similar adoption bills are being considered in Oklahoma and Colorado, and at least seven other states have already passed such laws. Some of these laws only apply to organizations that do not receive government funding. The Kansas law extends to agencies operating under taxpayer-funded contracts.

On Friday, Gov. Colyer signed the bill surrounded by legislators, faith leaders and foster care workers.

"What I want Kansans to know is this is about fairness and that we are protecting everyone," Colyer said Friday. "It's not about discrimination, it's about fairness. We're looking after those kids that need a forever home."

Kris Kobach, the Kansas secretary of state who helped lead the investigation into voter fraud for President Donald Trump, and a current candidate for governor in the state, also supported the legislation.

"Faith-based adoption agencies can continue the great work they do knowing they will always be able to operate in accordance with their faith in Kansas," he said in a statement.

Not every Republican in Kansas thought the bill was sound policy.

Jim Barnett, a former state senator and another Republican candidate for governor, said the law will open the state to lawsuits and deter young people and businesses from moving to the state, the Wichita Eagle [reported](#).

"This is a moment of truth for Jeff Colyer today," Barnett said. "He signed discrimination into Kansas law and showed Kansans that the people that controlled [former Gov. Sam] Brownback control him."

State Rep. Susan Humphries helped push the bill through the Legislature and ensure it would get to Colyer's desk.

Humphries said Friday that the goal was to make sure faith-based groups were not discriminated against when it came to adoptions. She insisted there are both faith-based and non-faith-based adoption agencies in Kansas.

Allies of the LGBT community argue the law legalizes discrimination.

"We need to attract more qualified families to care for Kansas kids," Lori Ross, the CEO of Foster Adopt Connect, said. "And this legislation is going to eliminate perfectly wonderful, acceptable families from fostering or adopting those children."

<https://www.salon.com/2018/05/19/kansas-governor-signs-anti-lgbt-adoption-bill-into-law/>

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## Brownsburg teacher says transgender name policy goes against his religious beliefs

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By Arika Herron, [arika.herron@indystar.com](mailto:arika.herron@indystar.com), June 5, 2018

A Brownsburg [Indiana] teacher is fighting for his job after he says the district forced him to resign over its transgender student policy.

John Kluge, the former orchestra teacher at Brownsburg High School, said the school district's requirement that teachers call transgender students by their preferred names, rather than those given at birth, goes against his religious beliefs. The requirement, Kluge said, violates his First Amendment rights.

"I'm being compelled to encourage students in what I believe is something that's a dangerous lifestyle," he said. "I'm fine to teach students with other beliefs, but the fact that teachers are being compelled to speak a certain way is the scary thing."

Advocates for the LGBTQ community say that using a person's preferred name is an issue of respect, not religion or politics.

"This is not a request for advocacy," said Sam Brinton, head of advocacy and government affairs for [The Trevor Project](#), a national nonprofit focused on suicide prevention in LGBTQ youth. "This is a request for respect."

Officials with Brownsburg Community Schools declined to comment on the district's transgender student policies. A district representative said that Kluge submitted his resignation before the end of the school year and the administration accepted it.

Kluge, 28, said he only submitted a tentative letter of resignation because the district threatened to fire him with three weeks remaining in the school year. Instead, Kluge handed in a letter of resignation with instructions to not submit the letter until May 29, after the school year ended. On May 25, the last student day at Brownsburg Schools, Kluge said he asked to withdraw the letter.

Instead, Kluge said, he was locked out of the district's email system later that day. Other teachers then told him the district sent out a job posting for a high school orchestra teacher. He had been with the district for four years.

"They're acting as if I have (resigned), even though I'm pleading, 'no,'" he said. "I'm not dead yet. I still want to work here."

The Indiana Family Institute, a conservative nonprofit that promotes religious liberty and opposes same-sex marriage and abortion, has started a [letter-writing campaign](#) to support Kluge. The group is urging people to email every member of the Brownsburg school board and ask them to save Kluge's job.

"It appears that the real intolerance at Brownsburg High School lies in the hands of the administration against teachers who hold a sincere faith and a sacrificial love for their students," the form letter reads in part.

The disagreement between Kluge and the district is over a requirement that teachers call transgender students by their preferred name reflecting the gender with which they identify, rather than the name given to them at birth. Students cannot request this change until they have written consent from a parent and doctor, according to an [internal document posted online](#) by the Indiana Family Institute.

A representative for Brownsburg Schools confirmed the question-and-answer guidance had been distributed to employees. It is dated Jan. 3.

Once a student receives the required approvals, their name is changed in the district's online record-keeping system. At that point, the document says teachers are to refer to students by that name.

Kluge said he was uncomfortable with this, feeling that using the preferred name implied agreement with the student's decision to identify as transgender. Kluge said that even though he doesn't agree with some of his students' decisions, he respects them.

"I really do care for all of my students," he said, "which is why I don't want to be compelled to speak in such a way that I believe I'll be encouraging them in something that's dangerous."

Instead, Kluge said he reached an agreement with school administration that allowed him to call all students — those who identify as transgender and those who do not — by their last name. Kluge said it seemed like a fine compromise. He did not explain to students why he only used last names this past year.

"I wanted to present an environment where I wasn't going to push one way or the other," he said.

A few months ago, Kluge said he was informed that he would not be allowed to use last names only starting next school year. He said the administration did not say why it was making this change.

Jim Bohrer, pastor at Hope Community Church, said Kluge is a well-liked teacher who always has shown respect to all his students. Bohrer's daughter is in Kluge's orchestra class.

"He treats them all the same," Bohrer said. "He cares deeply. This is not an issue of John excluding anyone. This is purely the administration trying to get rid of John for his convictions."

Bohrer said the name policy is not the only issue community members have with Brownsburg Schools treatment of transgender students. There are also concerns, he said, about transgender students using the bathroom other than the one corresponding to their sex at birth.

"Parents in church have shared concerns about safety issues," Bohrer said.

Under President Barack Obama, the U.S. Department of Education issued guidance to schools that allowed transgender students to use the bathroom of their choice. That guidance was later rescinded under President Donald Trump.

Connie Duvall withdrew her daughter from Brownsburg High School after the ninth-grader saw a student who was born female but identifies as male use the men's restroom. Duvall said she spoke to administrators about her concerns that male students could take advantage of the policy to use the women's restroom but felt she was not taken seriously.

"We totally did not feel our daughter was safe," Duvall said.

Her daughter now attends a private school.

Kluge said he is not ready to leave Brownsburg Schools. He plans to appeal to the school board to keep his job during its next meeting on June 11.

<https://www.indystar.com/story/news/education/2018/06/05/transgender-student-policy-prompts-dispute-between-brownsburg-teacher-school/670265002/>

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## Westside Unitarian Universalist Church

***We are a Welcoming Congregation!***

Reverend Shari Woodbury

901 Page Avenue  
Fort Worth, TX  
76110



817-924-MYUU(6988)  
www.westsideuu.org

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★ Want more PFLAG time? ★

★ Join us for a ★

★ **Food & Fun Confab** ★

★ **social meeting** ★

★ at 6:30 pm on the third Tuesday of the ★

★ month at Shaw's Patio Bar & Grill, 1051 W ★

★ Magnolia Ave, Fort Worth, TX 76104. ★

★ The next event will be on July 17. ★

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### Council accepts funds for rainbow crosswalks; date set for installation

*By Jeffrey Sullivan, June 7, 2018*

City Council voted unanimously Thursday to accept private funds for rainbow-colored crosswalks at an intersection in the city's LGBTQIA district and set a completion date in late June for the project.

The four crosswalks at North Main Avenue and East Evergreen Street just north of downtown would be painted beginning June 23, days before this year's Pride Parade on June 30 that travels south down Main Street, City of San Antonio Transportation & Capital Improvements (TCI) staff said.

"The installation of this symbol in the heart of the LGBTQ community shows we are a city with a warm embrace of all its residents," said Councilman Roberto Treviño (D1).

Treviño requested in June 2017 that the City consider installing the crosswalks, and the City Council's governance committee [approved a pilot program](#) for the intersection in August 2017. TCI reported in May that the intersection's current crosswalks had exceeded their "functional service life" and needed to be replaced.

[Pride San Antonio](#), which organizes [the annual Pride Parade](#), presented to the City \$19,832 in private funds [raised by individuals and local businesses](#) that will be used for the crosswalks.

The crosswalks will cost about \$32,500 to paint. The City of San Antonio will contribute \$12,668 towards the project, contributing only the cost of standard white-lined crosswalks. The private funds presented by Pride San Antonio will pay for the difference.


City funds will not be used to maintain the rainbow colors, which will have a life expectancy of around three to five years, according to Arthur Reinhardt, TCI's assistant director.

The installation of the crosswalks also will begin a six-month TCI pilot program during which staff will collect data on pedestrian and vehicular reaction to the crosswalks. The data collected will be used to assess the safety of the crosswalks and develop a process for considering future creative crosswalk applications that will be considered by the City Council's Transportation Committee, Reinhardt said.


Reinhardt added that the painting would be completed over two nights to limit the impact on traffic.

Before voting to accept Pride San Antonio's donations, Council members denied a motion made by Councilman Greg Brockhouse (D6) that would have allowed for other groups to apply for their own creative crosswalks during the pilot period. He expressed concern that residents may not have equal access to pursue their own creative sidewalks.

*For the rest of the story: <https://therivardreport.com/council-accepts-funds-for-rainbow-crosswalks-date-set-for-installation/>*



## Membership Application



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<p>▽ Individual                   \$ 25</p> <p>▽ Family                        \$ 45</p> <p>▽ Sustaining Member        \$ 100</p> <p>▽ Benefactor/Life            \$ 500</p>	<p>Date</p> <p>Name</p> <p>Address</p> <p>City</p> <p>State</p> <p>Phone</p> <p>Email</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
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Make checks payable to: PFLAG/Fort Worth

Mail to: P.O. Box 8279

Fort Worth TX 76124

**RENEWAL** \_\_\_\_\_ **NEW** \_\_\_\_\_

You membership automatically includes a subscription to the national *PFLAGpole* newsletter which shows PFLAG on the return address. Please check one:    \_\_\_ I do    \_\_\_ I do not    want to receive the *PFLAGpole*.

PO Box 8279  
Fort Worth, TX 76124

**FIRST CLASS**