

# PFLAG NEW ORLEANS BANNER DECEMBER 2017 EDITION

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## Greetings!



## Message from Julie:

Happy Holidays! Please come celebrate with us at our meeting Thursday night at Congregation Gates of Prayer or at the Northshore . On the south shore, we will have snacks and drinks for everyone to share. So, please join us. We will be celebrating Hannukah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Winter Solstice or whatever you want to celebrate. The next night, join us and the Gay Men's Chorus at the UNO Performing Arts Center for their Holiday concert.

We wish you the happiest of holidays,  
Julie

## Message from Joe:

I also want to wish each of you a very Happy Holiday Season and a Happy New Year. I hope that you will experience the love of the season whether it is with biological family, chosen family, or close friends. Let us remember those loved ones we have lost and keep those precious memories near to our hearts.

I want to remind students that our scholarship program for the 2018-19 academic year is accepting applications, with a deadline of Feb. 1,

[New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus](#)

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2018. The Christmas break would be a great time to prepare your application and request your transcript which will include the fall semester. You can access the application from our web page: [www.pflagno.org](http://www.pflagno.org). I would also encourage our readers to nominate a student who does not identify as LGBTQ, but is a straight ally, for our Straight For Equality scholarship. The nomination and application process is also available on our web page. Please pay attention to our strict deadlines.

Since this is the season for giving, please consider giving to PFLAG New Orleans. Donations are fully tax deductible. Checks can be made to PFLAG New Orleans and sent to our post office box 15515, New Orleans, LA 70175. You can also give by simply renewing your membership, the dues process is available later in the newsletter. Thanks for your support.

Cheers and Hugs,  
Joe

## Meeting Dates



**Our chapter has monthly support meetings in the New Orleans area and on the Northshore. The schedule is provided below.**

### New Orleans (Second Thursday of Month)

**Date:** Thursday, December 14, 2017

**Date:** Thursday, January 11, 2018

**Time:** 7:30 PM

**Place:** Congregation Gates of Prayer Synagogue

**Address:** 4000 W. Esplanade Ave. S.

**(West Esplanade & Richland Street)**

**Metairie, LA 70002**

(Park in lot on Richland Street)

[To view a map showing the meeting location, click here](#)

### Northshore (Third Thursday of Month)

**Date:** Thursday, December 21, 2017

**Date:** Thursday, January 18, 2018

**Time:** 7:00 PM

[To view a map of the Northshore meeting location, click here](#)

## PFLAG New Orleans Scholarship Applications Are Available



### PFLAG New Orleans Scholarships

The PFLAG New Orleans Scholarship information is available on our website.

Check our [website](#) for information.

#### **PFLAG New Orleans Scholarship**

**Deadline: February 1, 2018**

##### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

**You must**

1. Self identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer...or anywhere within the LGBTQ "family."
2. Be a resident of the state of Louisiana at the time of application.
3. Be seventeen years old, or older, by April 15th of the award year.
4. Be applying to attend (or currently attending) a post-secondary educational institution.

#### **PFLAG New Orleans Straight For Equality Scholarship**

**Deadline for Nominations: January 15, 2018**

**Nominations are made by those who know students who are extraordinary allies to the LGBTQ community.**

##### ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

The nominee must meet the following criteria.

1. Identify as a straight ally of the LGBTQ+ community.
2. A resident of the state of Louisiana at the time of application.
3. Seventeen years old, or older, by April 15th of the award year.
4. Applying to attend (or currently attending) a post-secondary educational institution.



## Live Streaming Is Back!

The good news is that WHIV LP 102.3 FM is live streaming again at [www.whivfm.org](http://www.whivfm.org). What that means to you is that you can listen to the unique programming of this independent voice.

And of course, PFLAG New Orleans -

Expanding The Rainbow is on every Thursday morning from 8:00 - 9:00 AM

Upcoming radio broadcasts:

Dec 14 - MarkAlain Dery will discuss the creation of WHIV LP

Dec 21 - Dr. Jamie Buth to discuss the VA and the LGBT Community

Dec 28 - Tony Leggio will be discussing New Year's and Mardi Gras

Jan - TBA

The archives are coming - that is the latest word, it will be discussed a bit more and the exact how for you to access them will be published as soon as all of that information becomes available.

### New Book Explores Relationship of Gay Men With Their Father

Gay men's relationship with their fathers is a topic near and dear to all of us in PFLAG, and that's why I wanted to let you know about the just-published ***Not the Son He Expected: Gay Men Talk Candidly About Their Relationship With Their Father***, now on Amazon in Paperback and Kindle.

It is a helpful and significant new work, with enthusiastic kudos from Gregory Maguire, author of *Wicked*, Brett Jones, the first openly gay Navy Seal, Grammy nominated jazz pianist Fred Hersch, and others:

[https://www.amazon.com/Not-Son-He-Expected-Relationship/dp/1539697908/ref=tmm\\_pap\\_swatch\\_0?\\_encoding=UTF8&qid=1511693333&sr=8-2](https://www.amazon.com/Not-Son-He-Expected-Relationship/dp/1539697908/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1511693333&sr=8-2)

***Not the Son He Expected*** explores the powerful and emotionally complex bonds between gay sons and their fathers. Drawn from over eighty interviews with gay men, including a

Commander in the US Navy, a well-known gay porn film director, a former Catholic priest, an Army Captain booed at the 2011 Republican primary debate while asking a question about same-sex marriage, a South Dakota rodeo cowboy, a social worker working with Pulse nightclub survivors, a man whose father through gender reassignment surgery has now become his second mother, a New Yorker who underwent years of reparative therapy and is today the foremost advocate for banning the practice, an Oklahoma man whose father offered to purchase a hooker's services to turn him straight, and more, the insightful sharing by these men sheds fresh light upon the profoundly life-shaping bonds between fathers and their gay sons. Twenty-six interviewees speak eloquently about their relationship with their father and offer hard-won advice on topics such as how and when to best come out to one's father, how to deal with non-accepting fathers and families, how to practice healthy self-care, and--since many of these men are now fathers themselves--how to be a loving and supportive dad. *Not the Son He Expected* will prove to be a helpful and encouraging resource for gay sons, for their fathers, and for all those who love and care about them.

"The ties that bind fathers to sons can be iron shackles or can be loops of roses. Tim Clausen's new book examines gay sons and their fathers in essays both arresting and at times heart-breaking. This is an important work." ---Gregory Maguire, author of *Wicked*

### Gov Edwards Appeals to Louisiana Supreme Court to Revive Executive Order

Louisiana's governor, John Bell Edwards, is going to the state's Supreme Court in hopes of reviving his executive order aimed at protecting the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in state government.

Gov. John Bel Edwards, a Democrat, issued an order in April 2016 banning discrimination in state government and state contracts based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Republican Attorney General Jeff Landry challenged the order.

A state district judge and a state appeal court have agreed that the order was an unconstitutional attempt to expand state law.

Edwards' lawyers argue that the executive order, referred to in court documents as JBE 16-11, is not a law, but an executive branch policy that Edwards has the authority to set.

"JBE 16-11 is simply a policy directive concerning state employment in the executive branch and the contractual provisions of state services," the governor's Supreme Court filing states. "It does not have the effect or force of law. It establishes a principle significant to Governor Edwards - that discrimination is not a Louisiana value - through a valid mechanism for issuing executive branch directives."

Efforts to pass LGBT protections have failed in the Legislature.

It is not known when the state Supreme Court will hear arguments.

NOAGE Hosts Free Movie - Wednesday, December 13

**FREE 'Tom of Finland' Screening**

Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.  
At Chalmette Movies  
8700 West Judge Perez Drive, Chalmette, LA  
[RSVP Here](#) (Required)

Their first showing at **Chalmette Movies!**

**Admission is FREE, but RSVP is required. [Click HERE](#) to RSVP**

"Touko Laaksonen, a decorated officer, returns home after a harrowing and heroic experience serving his country in World War II, but life in Finland during peacetime proves equally distressing. He finds peace-time Helsinki rampant with persecution of the homosexual men around him, even being pressured to marry women and have children. Touko finds refuge in his liberating art, specializing in homoerotic drawings of muscular men, free of inhibitions. His work - made famous by his signature 'Tom of Finland' - became the emblem of a generation of men and fanned the flames of a gay revolution."

### Traditional Christians Parents Rethink Their Opinions

With the holidays just around the corner, it can be a sad and lonely time for many LGBTI people.

According to the [Family Acceptance Project](#), LGBTI youth become happier the more accepting their family is. However, many who have been rejected or ostracized by their families due to their LGBTI identity are more likely to attempt suicide, report depression, and/or use illegal drugs.

A common reason many families cite for rejecting their LGBTI child is religion. In the following video, various traditional Christian parents begin to rethink their opinions on LGBTI inclusion.



The American public is fundamentally divided over whether it's possible for someone to be a gender different from the sex they were assigned at birth, according to a new [Pew Research Center survey](#). The survey comes amid debates over which public bathrooms transgender individuals should use, how they should be recognized on official documents and whether they should serve in the U.S. military.

Overall, roughly half of Americans (54%) say that whether someone is a man or a woman is determined by the sex they were assigned at birth, while 44% say someone can be a man or a woman even if that is different from the sex they were assigned at birth.

Perhaps not surprisingly, considering the [widening partisan divide](#) across a variety of issues, Democrats and Republicans have sharply different views on this question. While eight-in-ten Republicans and Republican-leaning independents say that whether someone is a man or a woman is determined by the sex they were assigned at birth, most Democrats and Democratic leaners (64%) take the opposite view and say a person's gender can be different from the sex they were assigned at birth.

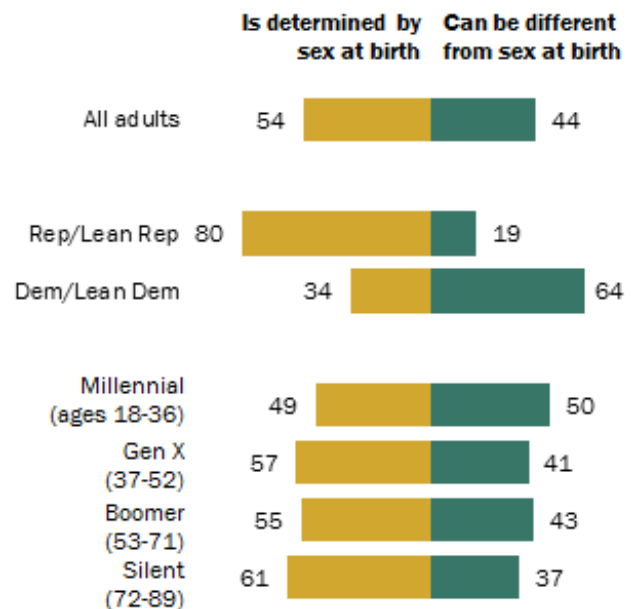
The survey also finds that Democrats with a bachelor's degree or more education are more likely than other Democrats to say a person's gender can be different from the sex they were assigned at birth. About three-quarters (77%) of Democrats with a bachelor's degree or more say this, compared with 60% of Democrats with some college and 57% of those with a high school diploma or less. No such divide exists among Republicans.

Read the Pew Research Reports Below.

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### Political party is closely tied to views on transgender issues

*% saying that whether a person is a man or a woman ...*



Note: Share of respondents who didn't offer an answer not shown.  
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 8-21 and Sept. 14-28, 2017.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

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## [Republicans, Democrats have starkly different views on transgender issues](#)

## [Views of transgender issues divide along religious lines](#)

Designate PFLAG New Orleans as your Amazon Smiles Charitable Organization

*Consider designating us as your charitable organization.*

*When you #StartWithaSmile on #PrimeDay, Amazon donates to Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays New Orleans. Shop for great deals at [smile.amazon.com/ch/58-1706391](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/58-1706391).*



### A Creative Corner of New Orleans



#### **A Pair Of New Poems**

**by Sally Michelle Jackson**

I wrote these poems for the Transgender Day Of Remembrance ceremonies, one in Baton Rouge and one in New Orleans.

In Baton Rouge I spoke about stars before presenting this poem, the set up was about Carl Sagan famously stating that we are all made up of Star Stuff. It shouldn't be difficult to think of all of the stars in the Universe and see each of them as being someone who has gone before us, all the way back to the dawn of time. Tonight or any night, step outside and pick a star, talk to it and thank it for all that it has done for you personally. Every human being that has been before us has contributed directly to our lives, none of us would be who we are without all of them.

Starlight

Why are there so many poems and songs about stars and their light?

Is it merely a fascination with what ever might be hidden in the night?

Is it an ancient call to our true home, somewhere in the middle of all of those stars



The birthplace of the universe itself, a big bang that left behind fragments and scars?  
Or merely the comfort of those pinpoint points of light when all around is dark?  
Maybe they are the spirits of those who went before us each leaving its mark  
The North Star has guided mariners from the earliest records of their voyages  
Mysterious stars have appeared to guide particular groups in all lands and ages  
It gives me comfort on a dark and lonely night  
To look up at the stars and think that they might  
Be letting me know with each light they have shown  
That we are never lost and will never truly be alone

In New Orleans I selected to compare our lives to stories and writing new chapters.  
It isn't enough to just hope for a good accounting in the later chapters, you need to do something to make that happen, you need to try to make your story a positive one. That can only be done by focusing on the future rather than lamenting the past. We can control our own stories, the parts that others see, be positive and work with others to help the cause of human rights for everyone.

#### The Stone

A stone is tossed into a still pond  
A series of ripples moving beyond  
Moving outward from the center to all of the boundaries  
Beyond its shores into the stream and all of its tributaries  
That one little stone caused a movement that has spread throughout the pond  
You can be like that little stone, you can cause a ripple in your pond and beyond  
Getting away from the thoughts of I can't and eliminating doubt  
Gives you confidence allowing your whisper to become a shout  
Don't say that you cannot change the world all alone  
Remember what was accomplished by a single stone

**Renew Your Membership For October 2017 through September 2018 or Become a Member**

**We encourage you to renew your membership or join us by paying your membership dues.**

**We thank those who have renewed their memberships.**

**WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!  
BECOME A MEMBER.**

**Student \$20  
Individual \$35  
Family \$50**

Some ways you can continue to support PFLAG follow:

- Renew your membership

- Participate in the support meetings
- Volunteer to work at PFLAG-sponsored events
- Support our educational and advocacy efforts to provide safe schools for all students
- Support our advocacy efforts with the State Legislature
- Support our Scholarship Program and annual Scholarship Reception
- Make a donation

[Download our Membership Form Here](#) And Return it By Mail

OR

[Click Here To Pay Your Dues Online](#)

via our secure site using a credit card.

Our chapter is proud to be a part of the PFLAG National organization. With local affiliates in more than 500 communities across the United States and abroad and over 200,000 members, PFLAG is the largest grassroots-based family organization of its kind. It is a nonprofit organization and is not affiliated with any religious or political institutions.

We have continued our scholarship program. This will be our 28th year of giving scholarships to LGBT students. We have given close to half a million dollars so far! We have reached \$500,000 in total scholarships awarded. But we could not do it without you!

Some of our other accomplishments are listed below.

- Host a weekly radio program on local radio station WHIV 102.3 FM
- Made presentations to area high schools, colleges and universities informing them of the resources PFLAG has available to them and addressing issues of Bullying in schools
- Monthly online chapter newsletter - the BANNER
- Volunteered and staffed the registration tent at the NO/AIDS Walk each year
- Support Gay-Straight Alliances at individual schools when asked
- Collaborated with other area organizations in the Community Coalition
- Hosted the PFLAG Southern Regional Conference in the fall of 2016.

Our chapter is funded entirely by members' dues and donations from concerned individuals and foundations. We do not receive funds from the national organization.

I am asking you to renew your membership or to officially become a member of PFLAG New Orleans by paying your dues via our secure site using a credit card. You may also [download the membership form](#) and mail it to:

**PFLAG New Orleans**  
**P.O. Box 15515**  
**New Orleans, LA 70175**

Fifteen dollars of every membership is dedicated to support the efforts of the PFLAG National Organization.

Benefits include a twice-yearly copy of the PFLAGpole newsletter, access to significant discounts on publications, discounted registration to PFLAG national conventions, and the opportunity to be included in PFLAG's voice on Capitol Hill. In addition, you will receive our chapter's monthly electronic newsletter, the Banner.

Because of the courage and generosity of our members, we will be able to continue our

important work.

Note that you can also pay your dues by clicking on the link below.

[Click Here To Pay Your Dues Online](#)

Annual Membership Campaign



**BE A PART OF US...**

**Join or renew your  
membership in  
PFLAG New Orleans  
for 2017-18**



*PFLAG New Orleans*, part of the national PFLAG organization, is one of the oldest organizations serving the LGBTQ community in the New Orleans area. We promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons, their families and friends.

And we need your help! Join us, today at

**[www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org)**

CELEBRATING FAMILY  NEW ORLEANS STYLE

Membership runs October 2017 through September 2018.



### PFLAG's Mission Statement

Our Mission. By meeting people where they are and collaborating with others, PFLAG realizes its vision through:

**Support** for families, allies and people who are LGBTQ

**Education** for ourselves and others about the unique issues and challenges facing people who are LGBTQ

**Advocacy** in our communities to change attitudes and create policies and laws that achieve full equality for people who are LGBTQ -

See more at: <http://community.pflag.org/page.aspx?pid=237#sthash.FTJoAk0u.dpuf>

