

PFLAG NEW ORLEANS BANNER JANUARY 2018 EDITION

Vol 18 Issue 1

In This Issue

Meeting Dates

Scholarships Applications
Available

WHIV 102.3 FM

Women's March - Saturday,
January 20

Gender Spectrum Workshops
in Texas

Young LGBT and
Homelessness

Movie - Saturday Church

Amazon Smile

A Creative Corner of New
Orleans

PFLAG Needs You - Join or
Renew Your Membership

PFLAG Mission

Quick Links

[PFLAG New Orleans Website](#)

[PFLAG National](#)

[PFLAG National Blog](#)

[Straight For Equality](#)

[PFLAG's Safe Schools
Information](#)

[PFLAG's Issues and
Advocacy Information](#)

[LGBT Community Center of
New Orleans](#)

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

[Raising My Rainbow](#)

Greetings!



Message from Julie:

You will soon notice a change in the Banner. You will receive a survey asking what you want to see in our newsletter. Then the changes will be made with a new editor.

Please answer the survey when it comes and then watch for the changes.

Mardi Gras is already upon us with parades, balls and king cakes. I hope that you enjoy as much as you can. You might like to be out in the middle of everything or you might prefer to stay home. Whatever you do, stay safe.

Have a wonderful month and I hope to see you soon.

Julie

Message from Joe:

I hope that everyone has had an enjoyable holiday season and that 2018 will be a great year for all of us.

My main topic this month is related to the scholarship program. I want to remind potential

applicants that the hard deadline is February 1, 2018. Applications are available at our website: www.pflagno.org The whole process is electronic so it is much easier now. You can preview the application prior to filling it out. You need to request your transcript and letters of recommendation right away so they can beat the deadline.

We are in dire need of additional funds in order to meet the needs of our deserving applicants. Please consider sending a special donation to PFLAG, P.O. Box 15515, New Orleans, LA 70175 and mark it "Scholarship". All funds (100%) indicated for the scholarship are earmarked for scholarships. If you want to donate to our operating fund you can indicate that on your check as well. The percentage of individuals who receive our newsletter compared to the number of paid members is very small. So please consider joining us and use the form at the end of the newsletter to do so. The organization will certainly be grateful for your help in allowing us to complete our mission and goals.

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, January 11, 2018

Date: Thursday, February 8, 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, January 18, 2017

Date Thursday, February 15, 2018

Time : 7:00 PM

Place: North Shore Unitarian Universalist Society

Address: 28662 Krentel Rd. Lacombe, LA 70445

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

PFLAG New Orleans Scholarship Application Deadline This Month



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. 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:

Jan 11 - Laura Levy will discuss activities at Touro Synagogue

Jan 18 - Wes Ware and Sebastian Rey - LGBT Center

Jan 25 - Dr MarkAlain Dery will be discussing getting to zero HIV transmissions

Feb 1 - Betty Sun - Human Rights Campaign

Feb 8 - Morgan Guyton - Prism at Tulane

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.

Women's March - Saturday, January 20 - 12 to 4 PM - Duncan Plaza



WOMEN'S MARCH

- NEW ORLEANS -

Saturday, January 20
Noon to 4 PM
Duncan Plaza
No tickets required.

Event Registration

<https://www.facebook.com/events/153794445347860/>

The following information is provided by the **Baton Rouge Chapter of the National Organization of Women.**

In the spirit of democracy and honoring the champions of human rights, dignity, and justice who have come before us, we join in diversity to show our presence in numbers too great to ignore. The National Organization of the Women's March is preparing for a march in Las Vegas, and our sister march in New Orleans, will send a bold message to our government, and to the world that women's rights are human rights. We stand together, recognizing that defending the most marginalized among us is defending all of us.

We support the advocacy and resistance movements that reflect our multiple and intersecting identities. We call on all defenders of human rights to join us. This march is another step towards unifying our communities, grounded in new relationships, to create change from the grassroots level up. We will not rest until women have parity and equity at all levels of leadership in society. We work peacefully while recognizing there is no

true peace without justice and equity for all.

Event Details

We will meet at Duncan Plaza (349 Loyola Ave) in New Orleans at 12 p.m. At 1 p.m. we will begin our march down Rampart St, make a right at St. Philips St.. and turn right on Decatur Street. We will cross Canal and continue on Magazine St., then turning right up Poydras Street. We will make a right on Loyola Ave. and continue left onto Perdido Street to congregate in front of City Hall.

This is a march to promote women's rights, human rights, and equality for all. We want to ensure everyone's safety. Appropriate conduct is expected.

We are working on scheduling various speakers to kick start our march. See link below for a go fund me page to gather the \$12,000 for the necessary permit fees for Duncan Plaza, as well as police support, the rentals of porta-potties, and a professional cleaning crew. All anticipated fees are based on the total cost of operation of the Women's March 2017. We are a non-profit organization associated with the National Organization of Women (NOW) Baton Rouge chapter. A \$5 - \$20 per person donation is appreciated!

Contribute to Permit Fees

Please help contribute to the march for permit fees, police escorts, porta-potties, clean-up, and more at:

<https://www.gofundme.com/2018-new-orleans-womens-march>

Gender Spectrum Workshops Planned in Houston and Dallas



Raising kids is challenging; when your child is transgender, non-binary or otherwise gender-expansive, the task becomes that much greater. But you are not alone.

Over the past ten years, Gender Spectrum has helped thousands of parents and families through this journey. We work nationwide to create safe, welcoming environments for all children, regardless of gender. Our work is profoundly changing the lives of transgender and gender-expansive children and teens.

Now we are bringing this groundbreaking work to Texas! Our upcoming workshops in Houston and Dallas will help you get a better understanding of what may be happening with your child or teen, how to best respond, and what steps to take next. Providing effective tools and strategies for you to take home, this interactive day-long workshop will combine presentations, discussions, and personal and small group exercises.

Texas Workshops for Parents With Gender-Expansive Children and Teens

Houston

Saturday, February 3

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Houston, TX

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER NOW!](#)

Dallas

Saturday, April 21

9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Dalla

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER NOW!](#)

Pre-registration is required. The workshop cost is on a sliding scale from \$15 to \$110 per person. If the minimum is not affordable, please contact us-we want you to attend!

If you have any questions, please contact Pam Wool at pwool@genderspectrum.org . We look forward to seeing you in Texas!

Pam Wool

Gender Spectrum

<https://www.genderspectrum.org/>

Young, gay and living on the street: LGBT youth face increased odds of homelessness

LGBT young people ages 13 to 25 are 120 percent more likely to become homeless than their straight peers, according to a national survey of 26,000 young people released in November by Chapin Hall, a University of Chicago research and policy center. And of the nation's 1.6 million youth 18 and younger who were homeless at some point last year, 40 percent were LGBT, even though they represent only 7 percent of that youth population overall, according to True Colors Fund, a New York nonprofit that advocates on behalf of homeless LGBT youth.

In California, the number of homeless children in K-12 schools overall has jumped 20 percent from 2014-15 to 2016-17, according to data collected by the California Department of Education. Based on questionnaires filed by their families, more than 200,000 young people were living on the streets, in motels, in cars, in shelters or crowded into apartments with other families due to financial hardship.

While state data does not identify whether any of these students are LGBT, youth homeless experts said gay students are disproportionately represented.

What drives LGBT youth to homelessness "is complicated, nuanced and difficult to classify," said Barbara Duffield, executive director of SchoolHouse Connection, a youth homelessness policy nonprofit in Washington, D.C.

Sometimes LGBT youth are abandoned by their families, or they run away from home because they feel unwelcome or abused after telling their parents they're gay. And sometimes their sexual identity makes them feel disconnected, which can lead to other contributing factors for homelessness, such as drug abuse, depression, family conflict or chronic absence from school.

[Read article here](#)

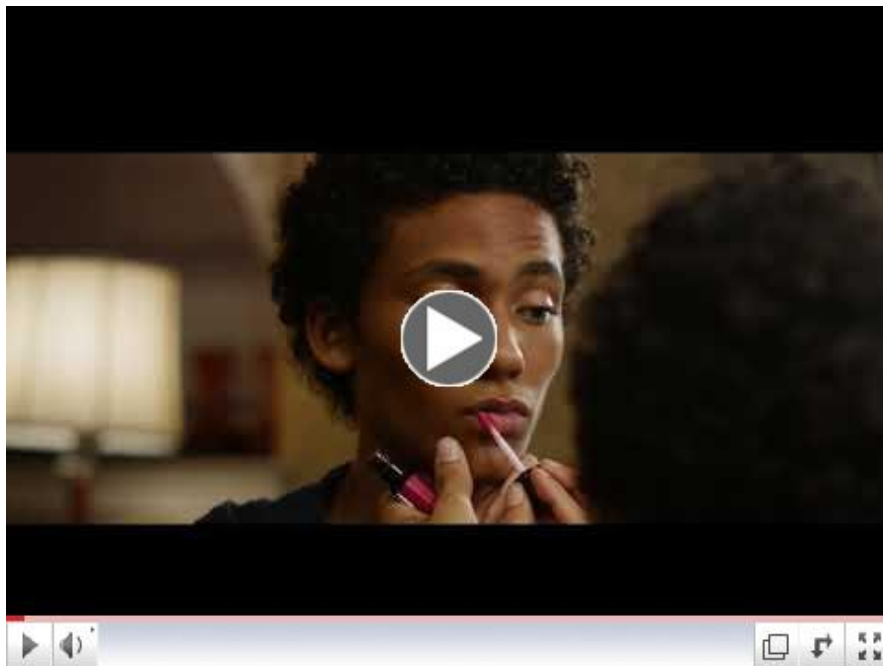
Saturday Church - Movie explores homeless LGBT youth

A new movie explores the search for identity among the grittiness and beauty of New York's homeless LGBT youth.

In an era when many films tend to cater to a box office formula, one story sticks out. *Saturday Church*, written and directed by Damon Cardasis. Critics are calling it "Moonlight meets *La La Land*" due to its poetic and emotional storytelling mixed with minor musical moments that run deep into the heartstrings.

The film's lead character, Ulysses (Luca Kain), is a shy and effeminate boy who, after the death of his father, finds himself struggling with his gender identity under the eyes of his striving mother, Amara (Margot Bingham), and abominable Aunt Rose (Regina Taylor) - the latter ends up kicking him out on the street after discovering he's been wearing his mom's clothes in secret.

With a mixture of emotional depth and fluid choreography layered throughout the film in its most poignant moments, Cardasis leads Ulysses to New York City's West Village, where he meets other transgender youth who've found a family at "Saturday Church" - based on the Art and Acceptance program held Saturday nights at the Church of St. Luke in the Fields in Greenwich Village, which offers LGBT homeless youth temporary shelter, food, and companionship.



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.

amazon smile

You shop. Amazon gives.

A Creative Corner of New Orleans



Well, It's Another Year

by Sally Michelle Jackson

New Year's Eve arrives and everyone sits up until midnight, patiently waiting to set off fireworks, sing a song that they only know the first two lines off and desperately try to stay awake through New Year's Rocking Eve without actually seeing it. Then we all make a list of resolutions that are surprisingly similar to the list from last year and a number of years before. Let's all try something different this year.

I did not sit up until midnight, I went to bed early on purpose, not just because I'm old, although that might have been a contributing factor. For the last sixty-six years I have been sitting up until midnight for the fireworks - my folks got us up to watch fireworks - and I ate black-eyed peas for luck each New Year's Day. My luck remained the same, so why not change the routine?

I went to bed early and I haven't had any black-eyed peas for at least six months. That's not enough to make any real changes so what more do we need to do? We all have the same problems that we had last year and in the past we have repeatedly treated our problems the same way year after year. At the end of last year I began to tackle a few of my financial problems, including moving into a retirement home with HUD rent assistance.

This year I have decided that it was finally time to tackle my depression, fifty plus years of pretending that I could make it go away hasn't worked all that well. I finally decided to take my doctor's advice, he was far from the first to tell me that it could help, and I have started on antidepressants. A new year isn't a new beginning unless we do something new to make it happen. We are our own biggest obstacles, I didn't take antidepressants because I considered that to be a sign of failure because I couldn't just will it away. We have to remove the stigmas that we hold in our own minds before we can actually make substantive changes.

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

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>

