

## June, 2020 - Dedicated to Diversity and Equality



# The PFLAG Banner



## Message from the President

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June 2020

I hope that this message finds all of our followers doing well and staying safe. There is so much currently happening that has been upsetting but this pain, sadness, and anger will usher in needed change. The death of George Floyd has awakened the world to the injustices that are experienced by Black and Brown people in this country and everywhere. This is an ugly look at the racism that has been here for over 400 years. It will take a strong leader to help guide us through this and we do not have that from our current administration. Similar to the national response to the Covid -19 pandemic, we cannot expect much support or help in healing this country. We have to step up and demand accountability from all our

elected officials, local, state and national. As an organization that has always been for inclusion and acceptance of the diversity in the world, we must stand together with the African American and Hispanic communities in solidarity. We will get through this **together**.

As we still deal with the Covid -19 pandemic, we must be cautiously steadfast and adhere to the guidelines set by the CDC. You cannot let your guard down as we reopen the economy because you could still expose yourself to this virus. Please err on the side of caution, as there are new details we are now learning about this disease.

Please join me in congratulating all 27 scholars who received scholarships from PFLAG New Orleans this year. We are increasingly impressed with quality of individuals that apply every year and are both proud of recipients and grateful to help them realize their dreams. Finally, I'd like to thank all those individuals, businesses and foundations that have donated to make this happen. It is by your support over these many years that shows these students their lives make a difference by adding value to our community.

Please look here, on our website, or on our Facebook page for any updates on the reboot of our monthly support meetings. We are in consultation with different groups who are experiencing the same challenges and will come up with a plan very soon.

In closing I would hope we continue to stay safe, find our voices to eliminate the pervasive hatred, and remember to register to vote!

**[L. Wayne Christenberry](#)**

President

PFLAG New Orleans Chapter

Active members: Be on the lookout for an announcement with the names of the PFLAG Board Candidates, venue, voting methods, and more. These details are being worked on and will be announced as soon as possible.



Remember, only paid members in active standing can cast a vote.

[Click here to Join or Renew.](#)



## Community Calendar

What's going on, Louisiana? Click here to see the Activity Calendar. Do you have something important to add? Send a message to [info@pflagno.org](mailto:info@pflagno.org).

[Click to go to the Calendar](#)

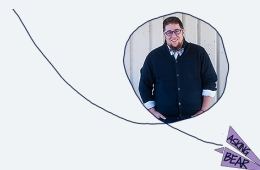


LGBT



**Make an early gift!**

June is Pride month and PFLAG New Orleans is participating in Give OUT Day, the only national day of giving



**How to Celebrate Pride Quietly**

**When You Aren't Totally Out**

If you're in isolation with relatives who don't support you—or just not ready to tell each and every person in your life that you're LGBT2Q—here are some ways

for the LGBTQ community. For this campaign, our goal is to raise \$10,000 for 10 student scholarships.

[Please donate or help fundraise to expand the scholarship program.](#)

If you have any questions, we are happy to [help](#). Thank you for your support during this challenging time.

to honor the occasion and keep yourself safe.

By **S. Bear Bergman**

Join PFLAG National live this Thursday, June 18th at 4:30 PM ET / 1:30 PM PT when we'll be talking about this article. You can watch live on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), or [Twitter](#). Check out this week's [article and check out our discussion questions](#).

### In Memoriam



Stewart Butler, 1930 - 2020

**Misti Gathier**  
And CoHost  
**Jeffrey Palmquist**  
present

**LEZ  
Talk  
about it**

Join us weekly for a candid, frank and often funny chat with New Orleans LGBTQ Community!

Join us on Wednesdays from 8:00 AM to 9:00 AM

## MISTI'S NEW SHOW

Former PFLAG Board Member Misti Gaither (Johnny Passion) hosts a fun, exciting, and educational show on Wednesday mornings. [Check it out!](#)



## LGBT in the News

Here are some news articles you may have missed this month.

[Betsy DeVos Vs. Transgender Athletes](#)

Important [CORONAVIRUS Update](#) for the LGBTQ+ Community

Gender-Neutral Passports? [Legislation is Introduced.](#)

Will LGBTQ+ folks finally be counted in the Census? [Kinda.](#)

## Trump Team Argues in Favor of [Adoption Agencies Rejecting Gay Couples](#)

*Do you have a comment about an article? Send your thoughts to the [Banner Editor.](#)*



## A Landmark Decision for LGBTQ+ Rights

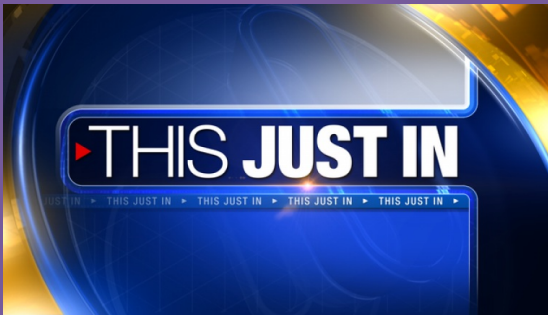
In a stunning landmark decision, the Supreme Court has ruled that LGBTQ+ employees, their families, and friends are protected against workplace discrimination in each of the United States.

Here are some news reports from around the country:

[An Analysis of the Ruling and the Opinion by Gorsuch](#)

[Ruling May Delay Health Care Rules](#)

[Conservative Justices Help Expand LGBTQ Rights](#)



## Ask Ms. Julie



Dear Ms. Julie,

*Our reception's name is so long. Who was Sandra Paillet and why is our scholarship reception named after her?*  
-Puzzled in Covington

Dear Puzzled,

Sandra Paillet was a PFLAG mom who was president of PFLAG NO for many years. She was the mother of 2 sons and used to say, "One is gay and one is not."

Sandra was president of PFLAG when the National Convention was held in New Orleans in

1993. That convention was so successful that people are still asking me if we will do it again!

Sandra was our leader when we fought our National office and convinced them to become the first National LGBTQ+ organization to include the transgender community in their mission statement.

I feel that Sandra's most important contribution was to the Scholarship program. She was approached by a prominent businessman who said he would give \$1000 for the first scholarship if she would start the program. So she gathered a committee and the rest is history. We have awarded several hundred scholarships; about \$800,000 worth, to LGBTQ+ students. Our scholarship program is one of the 3 largest in the United States and is the one that PFLAG National modeled their program after.

Sandra was very popular in the community and was the face of PFLAG for many years. When she passed away in 2007, it was a great loss to the New Orleans LGBTQ+ community.

You can see why the naming of our Scholarship Program in Sandra's name is so important to preserve her legacy in our community.

Love, *Julie*

## Reception Update

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### **PFLAG New Orleans' 30th Annual Sandra Pailet Memorial Scholarship Reception**



PFLAG New Orleans remains steadfast in its commitment to hold a celebratory event for those scholars who were awarded scholarships. The Board continues to monitor state and national advice and weigh all options carefully. As soon as a decision is made about the event's details, a message will be emailed to every follower and posted on social media--as well as on the [PFLAG New Orleans site](#).



## Remembering the Pulse Nightclub Victims

On June 12, 2016, Omar Mateen, a 29-year-old security guard, killed 49 people and wounded 53 others in a mass shooting inside Pulse, a gay nightclub in Orlando. Please keep the victims, their families, and their loved ones in your thoughts this month.

Stanley Almodovar III \* Amanda Alvear \* Oscar A. Aracena-Montero \* Rodolfo Ayala-Ayala  
Alejandro Barrios Martinez \* Martin Benitez Torres \* Antonio D. Brown \* Darryl R. Burt II  
Jonathan A. Camuy Vega \* Angel L. Candelario-Padro \* Simon A. Carrillo Fernandez  
Juan Chevez-Martinez \* Luis D. Conde \* Cory J. Connell \* Tevin E. Crosby  
Franky J. Dejesus Velazquez \* Deonka D. Drayton \* Mercedes M. Flores  
Peter O. Gonzalez-Cruz \* Juan R. Guerrero \* Paul T. Henry \* Frank Hernandez  
Miguel A. Honorato \* Javier Jorge-Reyes \* Jason B. Josaphat \* Eddie J. Justice  
Anthony L. Laureano Disla \* Christopher A. Leinonen \* Brenda L. Marquez McCool  
Jean C. Mendez Perez \* Akyra Monet Murray \* Kimberly Morris \* Jean C. Nieves Rodriguez  
Luis O. Ocasio-Capo \* Geraldo A. Ortiz-Jimenez \* Eric Ivan Ortiz-Rivera  
Joel Rayon Paniagua \* Enrique L. Rios Jr. \* Juan P. Rivera Velazquez  
Yilmay Rodriguez Solivan \* Christopher J. Sanfeliz  
Xavier Emmanuel Serrano Rosado \* Gilberto Ramon Silva Menendez  
Edward Sotomayor Jr. \* Shane E. Tomlinson \* Leroy Valentin Fernandez  
Luis S. Vielma \* Luis Daniel Wilson-Leon \* Jerald A. Wright



[Podcasts are available for download \(here\).](#)

PFLAG New Orleans is looking for your feedback, articles, and story ideas. Please send your comments to [info@pflagno.org](mailto:info@pflagno.org)



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