

## Spring, 2021 - Time For a Change



## The PFLAG Banner



*the*  
**P**resident's  
*M*essage

March, 2021

**Dear PFLAG New Orleans Family, Friends, and Followers,**

So much has happened since the last issue of the Banner; the country reeled from the barbaric breach of the Capitol, Mardi Gras passed with only houses being on parade, and vaccinations have begun. This year has been far from normal and shows that we are a resilient community. That's right. The nation is ready for a change.

PFLAG New Orleans is ready to help lead the way.

Shelley Farrell and Derek Breland have joined our Board of Directors and are energized to focus on advocacy:

- Collaborating with Straight/Gay Alliances,
- Connecting with the State's politicians to introduce PFLAG as a source of LGBTQ+ information, and
- Working with police departments and the Department of Justice to assist with diversity training initiatives.

Our 5 interns are working hard and results are coming in every day.

The Sandra Paillet Memorial Scholarship reception will make a return, also with some changes. Spoiler alert: you will LOVE them!

Kudos to the American Red Cross for helping launch an "[Advance Study](#)" on the practice of discriminating against gay men who wish to donate blood. *Read more about the study in this newsletter.*

Lastly, Board Member Brent Mundt is creating a series of profiles that spotlight our past scholars. If you have not yet read the stories released so far, go to the [UNMASK! page](#) on the website.

Keep love in your heart wherever you go; if you see someone that can use PFLAG's help, invite them to our monthly support group meeting. Open arms and hearts await.

### [Alberto Oliver](#)

President  
PFLAG New Orleans

[CLICK HERE TO SEND QUESTIONS, IDEAS, OR FEEDBACK](#)



[Click here to R.S.V.P.  
Today!](#)

## Join Our Support Group Meeting 7-9 PM Thursday, April 8

Our work continues. PFLAG is here to support you, so you can support your LGBTQ+ loved ones. PFLAG Connects is a new virtual meeting space for the PFLAG Chapter Network. You can join by video, audio or chat - whatever you're comfortable with.

All of our groups are led and facilitated by PFLAG New Orleans volunteers. Safety is of our utmost priority for all of our virtual support group meetings. We will discuss privacy, confidentiality, and group agreements at the start of the meeting.

Please send us an email (by clicking on the RSVP button) to let us know who



**Meeting doors open at  
6:45 PM on Thursday,  
April 8.**

will attend the meeting. Once you submit this Email, we will send you a reply with instructions on how to join the group meeting.



Being engaged in the political process is incredibly important – especially at the local and state level. Here are some ways to stay engaged with local politics and be a powerful ally.

- **Learn:** Take some time to learn about and track LGBTQ-related legislation in your state, county, and city or town and the work being done by your statewide equality group. These resources will help you can stay up to date on the issues that are being debated by local leaders and/or may be on your ballot in the future.
- **Watch:** Check out this 2020 video from HRC about how one trans teen used his voice to oppose anti-trans legislation and won.
- **Share:** Use social media, text messaging, phone calls, and even video chats to work with your neighbors to organize around local issues that would impact you and your LGBTQ+ loved ones.

**Bonus: Join the ADVOCACY COMMITTEE.** Support/oppose ballot initiatives, engage in town hall events and/or town meetings, and help pass LGBTQ+ legislation. [Click here to email the Advocacy Chair.](#)

You can also look up your municipal, county, state, and federal representatives using this great tool from PFLAG National!

## Community Calendar

April 8 - [Support Group Meeting](#), 7PM

May 4, 2021 - Give Nola Day

May 8, 2021 - 30th Annual Sandra Paillet Memorial/ PFLAG New Orleans **Scholarship**

Reception (ZOOM)

June 30 - Give OUT Day



**PARTNERSHIP**



**Challah Creations by Nancy**

@ChallahCreationsbyNancy · Food & Beverage

<https://challahcreations.com/>

Challah Creations, where you can order gourmet made-to-order challah breads, with rotating menus updated each Monday with new as well as tried-and-true flavors. A portion of sales from each challah sold is donated to the chosen charity of the month.

*Women's  
History  
Month*

**Remembering Our Fallen Founders**  
Reflections and Memories by Julie Thompson



**Betty Moynan**  
1934 - 2021



**Dr. Niki Kearby**  
1928 (?) - 2021

When I was asked to write a few words about Niki Kearby and Betty Moynan, my mind flooded with memories of happy

*(with her departed wife, Betty Caldwell, to her left)*

times. Both of these women were among the original founders of PFLAG New Orleans.

**Betty Moynan** was among the founding members of PFLAG New Orleans. She was the mother of 3 children: 2 gay sons and a lesbian daughter.

When AIDS came along, she became very active because her son had AIDS and eventually died from it. Betty worked tirelessly with Project Lazarus and the NO/AIDS Taskforce (now Crescent Care).

Betty attended all of our support group meetings and started a group just for PFLAG moms. We all went out to lunch once a month on a Sunday and talked about our children. That's where I really got to know and love her. She was loving and kind and always happy to welcome new members to the group. She will truly be missed.

**Dr. Niki Kearby** and her partner Betty Caldwell worked together to help start PFLAG. In the beginning, they looked for places to hold meetings like churches and hospitals. Once we got settled in one place (until Katrina), they came to all of our support group meetings and served on our Board of Directors for many years. The Scholarship Program was near and dear to Niki's heart and she served as chairman for it during the nineties. She handpicked every member of the committee and made sure we were kept busy. I was selected for the committee because I was the mother of a gay son and I worked in higher education.

During this time, she also served on the PFLAG National Board and helped them establish their scholarship program based on ours. Niki and Betty were kind and generous and well loved by everyone.

After Niki retired from her medical practice, they moved to Santa Fe and established a Scholarship program in New Mexico. Of course, they worked with PFLAG Santa Fe.

Niki and Betty opened their home in the French Quarter to the National Board when they met here and served dinner to 50 people. I know because Betty and I were the cooks.

This couple will be greatly missed by the entire LGBTQ+ Community. They worked hard for everyone.

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*You, too, can make a difference. Remember PFLAG New Orleans in your will, donate stocks, or show your generosity on our [website](#). Your gift will help PFLAG New Orleans continue its outreach and scholarship program. Betty, Niki, Sandra Paillet, and countless others were heroes for a generation of scholars. Follow in their footsteps and be a hero, too.*

## AN UNEXPECTED BLESSING: INTERNS



This month, PFLAG New Orleans started a new initiative: 5 Loyola Interns will be helping us with projects that will have an immediate impact in our LGBT community!

With their help, we are reaching student scholars from past years, polling mental health professionals from Houma to Baton Rouge, updating our Newsletter Archives, and creating graphics for future PFLAG events.

Although the Intern team will only be committing 15 hours initially, they are each doing amazing work and we are all truly appreciative for everything they are doing. Please join us in welcoming Eliza, Myranda, Sydney, Elisabeth, and Leila! Welcome to the Team!

# The Inspirational Journey

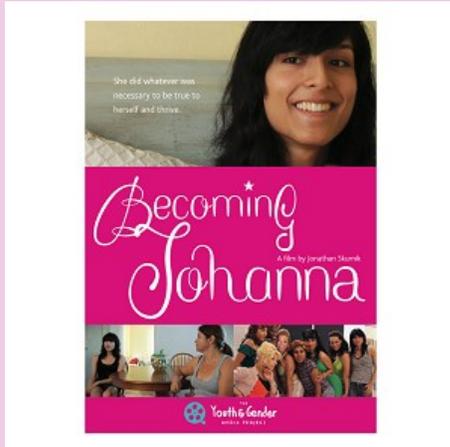
I was licensed to practice law in Louisiana this year. Some people would say that this is my biggest accomplishment, and in some ways it is. It is the pinnacle of my academic career, but what makes this such a proud moment for me is knowing that I was able to make it this far in my life as a trans person.



Growing up, I thought that gender roles always had and always would exist, and I didn't question the role I was born into as a female. Even though I knew on some level I was different, I couldn't place exactly how. I still wore dresses occasionally, contrasting these unplaced feelings with hyper-femininity.

Throughout my life, the concept of being transgender was always an oddity to me. The only time I ever heard about trans people was on the news or on talk shows; and being raised in a conservative Catholic household, the topic was more than taboo. I had no room to explore my sexuality much less my gender. My tomboy-ish tendencies and my deep emotional attachment to female friends were written off as me being a southern country girl who wasn't afraid to get dirty.

Until I was seventeen, I repressed my identity, and ([Click here](#) for the whole article)



## BECOMING JOHANNA: JOIN US FOR A LIVE Q&A FOR TDOV

On the day before National Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV), join us for a live Q & A with the creative team and star of *Becoming Johanna*. We'll be live on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) on Tuesday, March 30th at 8:30pm ET/5:30pm PT. We'll be joined by the film's star, Johanna Clearwater, director Jonathan Skurnik, and Joel Baum, Senior Director, Professional Development at [Gender Spectrum](#). So many chapters are hosting events--we are excited to add one to hopefully enhance your TDOV activities!

Learn more: [pflag.org/blog/pflag-national-partners-film-becoming-johanna-tdov-2021](https://pflag.org/blog/pflag-national-partners-film-becoming-johanna-tdov-2021)



### "Trans Rights Priorities for the Biden Administration"

Monday, March 29, 4-5:30 ET/1-2:30 PT

Free, but registration required. Registration link: <https://tinyurl.com/transmvmmt>

Panelists:

- Kylar Broadus, Founder and Director, Trans People of Color Coalition
- Sasha Buchert, Senior Attorney, Lambda Legal
- Kris Hayashi, Executive Director, Transgender Law Center
- Mara Keisling, Executive Director, National Center for Transgender Equality
- Shannon Minter, Legal Director, National Center for Lesbian Rights
- Moderated by Genny Beemyn, Director, UMass Stonewall Center

A new presidential administration that is supportive of trans rights provides opportunities to make further progress on addressing discrimination and violence against trans people. Join us for a panel discussion of how trans leaders are hoping to make gains during the Biden administration.

This panel is being held to mark the publication of *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Trans Studies*, edited by Abbie Goldberg and Genny Beemyn. All of the panelists are contributors to the work, and attendees will be given free access to their entries.

Sponsored by the UMass Stonewall Center and Clark University's Women's and Gender Studies Program. This is not a PFLAG-sponsored event.



## LGBT in the News

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

[Non-Binary Legislator vs. GOP State Rep. that made "Colored Babies" remark](#)

[Most Americans support the Equality Act--but do Senate Republicans?](#)

[Catholic Church Can't Bless Gay Marriages](#)

[MS Gov. Signs Bill Banning School Trans Athletes](#)

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



American Red Cross Is [Looking for Study Participants](#)  
(study launches in early May)

# ADVANCE Study



Three of the nation's largest blood centers, Vitalant, OneBlood, and the American Red Cross are launching a pilot study through a contract funded by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) that could potentially lead to a significant change to blood donor eligibility for men who have sex with men.<sup>2</sup>

The study will include gay and bisexual men who are interested in donating blood, and who have had sex with at least one other man in the three months before joining in the study.

Potential participants will complete a short survey to assess if they meet the study inclusion criteria. If the potential participants are qualified, staff conducting the study will enroll the participants into the study and obtain informed consent.

Eligible participants will also need to be **between the ages of 18 and 30 years**, and also will need to live in one of the eight communities (including Baton Rouge/New Orleans) where the pilot study is being done.

[Click here, if you qualify. Email us.](#)



[Tell your Senators: Vote YES in support of The Equality Act.](#)

The Equality Act passed in the House, had a hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee [including PFLAG National Board member Dr. Edith Guffey, MSW,](#) and now we need your help. [Please contact your Senators now and tell them](#)

[to vote in favor of this critical piece of legislation.](#)

Even if your Senators have committed to vote yes, call them, email them, and tweet them your thanks; they need to know that the majority of people in this country support protections from discrimination.

**We Are Thankful for  
Your Donations**

Our PFLAG New Orleans chapter is funded entirely by members' dues and donations from concerned individuals and foundations. We do not receive funds from the national organization and can only accomplish our mission with your help.



## Special thanks to these recent generous donors:

**Joey Walker, Realtor**, \$1500 Scholarship

**Proud members:** Erin R., M. Perronne

**In Memory of Wayne Christenberry:** A. Craver, "He will never be forgotten by all whose lives he touched."

**In remembrance of Sandra Pailet:** D. Pailet

**Two words - Endless Gratitude:** R. Mancoske

**In honor of PFLAG** - Courtney Sharp : Honoring the parents, family members and allies who support the LGBTQ community. 48 years ago, on March 11th, 1973, one mom gathered 20 parents and family members together in a New York City church basement to share ways to support each other and their gay kids. Today, PFLAG National is a force of more than 250,000 members and supporters -- and 400+ chapters strong -- fighting for justice and equality for their LGBTQ+ loved ones.

***Special thanks to all of those who support PFLAG Scholarships, Support, and Outreach through donations, Amazon purchases, and memberships. Our mission continues because of your generosity.***

Press Here to  
Donate



## *SUPPORT GROUP MEETING*

*For Southern Louisiana! (on ZOOM)*

# *SAVE THE DATE!*

# *Thursday, April 8*

# *7:00 to 9:00 PM*

*Email [SupportGroup@pflagno.org](mailto:SupportGroup@pflagno.org)*

*to reserve your spot.*

## **Looking To A Brighter Future**

**By Sally Michelle Jackson**

*Co-Host of **Expanding the Rainbow***

After our disastrous year of 2020, it might be hard to see anything positive. The light at the end of the tunnel is becoming a little clearer and looking less and less like an oncoming locomotive and more like actual daylight, possibly partly cloudy but much better than a train-wreck. 2020 was a horrible year for so many reasons but now is a chance for 2021 to rise from the ashes of last year and soar as the beautiful Phoenix. But how can it when we started the year with attacks on democracy and our Capitol--as well as the possibility that Covid-19 may never completely go away?

Here's that slightly-overcast daylight: after a year-long trip through a tunnel, we have an administration that is listening to the people, making changes to the treatment of the

most-ignored groups' health concerns. The thought that the Coronavirus may never go away should not be frightening. The way a virus survives is by making its host ill without killing them; the fact that so many variants are showing up is an indication that this virus is capable of evolving into possibly more contagious but less deadly strains. Why would anyone draw that conclusion? Coronaviruses have been around for a long time; it is simply a class of viruses that moved from one species to another (animal to human) and, over thousands of years, has mutated for its own survival. The common cold is caused by one (or a combination of four) Coronaviruses. We can get past the worst of this and things will get better. How quickly depends a great deal on peoples' willingness to take the necessary precautions.

On the brightest side, we are getting representation in all levels of government: Local, State, Federal, and even the Cabinet Level. Diversity is the plan--not just a motto--for this administration, with members of almost every minority being appointed to various positions. The best part is that it isn't just tokenism; each appointee is eminently qualified for that position and, in many cases, for multiple positions. This could be the start of a new golden age for democracy--but we will need to do our part. I'm looking forward to the results of all of our struggles; we have the chance to build a better future with the USA serving--once again--as a beacon for others to follow.



[Check out our HALL OF FAME!](#)



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

## Social Media Minute



[Avoid these Covid-19 Scams](#)

[Details: The American Rescue Plan](#)

[Tylenol Gay](#)

[Biden's "gay-friendly" Video about recovery](#)

Consider shopping at Amazon Smile and designating PFLAG New

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You shop. Amazon gives.

Orleans as your  
charitable organization.



## FOLLOWERS OF PFLAG NEW ORLEANS:

**Newsflash:** There is a Pandemic going on! You're using Amazon to buy your items, right? Please use **AMAZON SMILE** and a portion of your purchase amount will be donated to PFLAG New Orleans! Click the button above.

*AmazonSmile has donated over \$200 million to charities worldwide! You can help increase AmazonSmile donations to **Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays New Orleans** by shopping at [smile.amazon.com/ch/58-1706391](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/58-1706391) or with AmazonSmile ON in the Amazon Shopping app.*

## Staff of PFLAG N.O. Banner



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[To contribute ideas or join the staff, click here.](#)

