



Volume 2|Issue 2  
February 2022

# PFLAG Riverview Newsletter

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## *Our Mission*

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**Our mission is to build on a foundation of loving families united with LGBTQ+ people and allies who support one another, and to educate ourselves and our communities to speak up as advocates until all hearts and minds respect, value and affirm LGBTQ people.**

## Director's Corner

We are in Valentine's Day season! The time of year during which we're bombarded with hearts, cupids, candy, flowers and so many other symbols of love. You know...one of the places where I feel the most unconditional love? Our PFLAG gatherings! What brings us to PFLAG? Most likely it's because there's someone special in our lives in LGBTQ+ community. Whether it is a friend, a child, a sibling, a grandchild, a significant other or even if it is the community at large, it is *love* that brings us together; it's *love* that drives us to educate ourselves; and it's *love* that helps us become better allies for those closest to us. Additionally, our meetings and gatherings are refuges of love and respect for all our members, regardless of their places in their respective journeys. As it is our mission to build a foundation of LOVING families united with LGBTQ+ people and allies, our camaraderie comes from the same place...love! We are a community that was founded simply out of mother's love for her gay son, and now it welcomes all types of love. We remain dedicated to action and advocacy so our loved ones can love who they want and love their true selves without judgement and persecution. While all our journeys are filled with peaks and valleys, we must always stay true to our calling during our low points and use our high points to serve others in need with love.

With Love and Respect,  
Marisol Prokopowicz  
PFLAG Riverview Secretary



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*PFLAG Love Story*  
*Kimmi and Jackie*

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Jackie and I met while working at Walt Disney World as interns. We had moved from out hometowns and were randomly placed at the stroller garage in Animal Kingdom. We became fast friends working lengthy shifts together until everybody around us told us we were clearly more than “just friends”. Months later and just one day before our internship ended, we finally realized everybody was right. Jackie officially came out and told me she was falling in love with me. We knew it was meant we would have to try long distance as I stayed in Orlando and Jackie moved to North Carolina for school. We always joked though, that if we could fall in love wear blue shorts and hideous button downs while stacking strollers in awful heat, our love would be a lasting one. Sure, enough I eventually followed her to North Carolina where we got engaged. We have now been married for three years and have since moved to Florida. I never imagined leaving my home 2,000 miles away and falling in love. Our journey hasn’t always been easy but loving each other certainly is. We always joke that we had a one in a million chance of meeting each other. Six years later and I still feel so lucky to have defied those odds.



## Upcoming Events

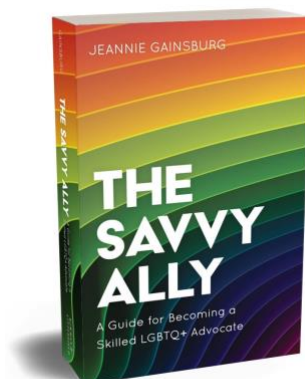
**February 8<sup>th</sup> 7pm:** PFLAG Connects Zoom Support



Jeannie Gainsburg is an award-winning educational trainer and consultant in the field of LGBTQ+ inclusion and effective allyship. Formerly the Education Director at the Out Alliance in Rochester, N.Y., she is now the founder of Savvy Ally Action and author of the book, *The Savvy Ally: A Guide for Becoming a Skilled LGBTQ+ Advocate*. Jeannie has a BA in psychology from Brown University and an MA in social work and social research from Bryn Mawr College. She was under the impression that a citation was the result of driving too fast until January of 2019, when she received one from the New York State Assembly for Distinguished Educational & Human Rights Services for her work in promoting LGBTQ+ rights and inclusion. Her encouraging, passionate, and warm-hearted approach will surely jumpstart even the most tentative ally. Visit her website and download free ally goodies at: [www.savvyallyaction.com](http://www.savvyallyaction.com)

**February 10<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm:** Drag Queen Bingo at Center Place (Call Center Place 813-685-8888 to reserve your seat. Tickets are \$40)

**February 19<sup>th</sup> 10am:** Book Discussion at The Regent



Join us for a Book Discussion Saturday February 19<sup>th</sup> 10am-12pm. Grab a copy of The Savvy Ally a Guide for becoming a Skilled Ally & Advocate by Jeannie Gainsburg. Do your best to read & highlight what you can before we meet! You are welcome to join whether you finish the book or just the first chapter! We will share our takeaway & enjoy some coffee & bagels on the gorgeous Venetian Terrace (weather permitting) at The Regent together! You may invite a friend!

**February 22<sup>nd</sup> 7pm:** PFLAG Connects In Person Support at The Regent

## Future Events

**March 8<sup>th</sup> 7pm:** PFLAG Connects Zoom Support

**March 26<sup>th</sup> 3:30-6:30pm:** Tampa Pride

March with PFLAG Riverview at Tampa Pride's 7th Annual Diversity Parade!! Please rsvp on FB event page with the number of loved ones accompanying you! We will provide updates and important info here like a link for you to order your own parade t-shirt! The love & excitement experienced is truly life giving and life changing!

Order your Blue PFLAG Shirt to March in Tampa Pride. Tanks & ladies fit styles also available.

<https://www.redbubble.com/i/t-shirt/PFLAG-Logo-Shirt-by-IvanHintonTeoh/28759974.7H7A9>



**March 29<sup>th</sup> 7pm:** PFLAG Connects In person Support

**June 17<sup>th</sup> 7-11pm:** PFLAG Riverview is hosting a Youth Pride Prom at The Regent for area youth classes 2022-2025. The theme is Wonderland!! If you would like to be involved, please contact Faith Moller.

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\*\*\*From time to time, we have special guests share on both zoon and in-person support meetings. Please feel free to email Faith at [Pflagriverviewfamily@gmail.com](mailto:Pflagriverviewfamily@gmail.com) to offer your suggestions for future topics of discussion. \*\*\*

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You can find additional resources on our webpage

<http://www.pflagriverview.org/>

