



Volume 2|Issue 11
November 2022

PFLAG Riverview Newsletter

Our Mission

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 all do our best to practice gratitude all year long. This time of year, especially though, we think about what we are most thankful for, whether we celebrate Thanksgiving or not. LGBTQ+ people sometimes struggle through this time of year. It can be hard to sit at a table that doesn't feel welcoming, forgiving, or affirming. It can be hard to sit at a table of "tolerance" rather than unconditional love. Amidst our grief, loneliness, and fear, we are then asked what we are thankful for. The issue is not that we are ungrateful, but rather we are also experiencing intense emotions on the opposite end of the spectrum.

It is important to make space for all feelings, even if they seem to be polar opposites. It is my belief that we can be both thankful and hurting. Making space for both ensures we don't practice the toxic positivity that sometimes encourages us to abandon our grief and hurt. So, as we meditate on what we are thankful for this holiday season, be sure to make space for all the other emotions.

With that said, this year, I am incredibly grateful for my PFLAG Riverview family. I have learned so much from this compassionate group of allies and advocates. You all are inspiring, supportive, loving people, and it's an honor to share the table with you at this year's Friendsgiving.

Love & Care,
Kimmi
Events Coordinator



ZOOM Special Guest

We would love to have as many folks attend the November 8th Zoom at 7pm to meet our special guest and speaker Ben Greene (He, Him, His) a transman, educator & activist. He is a remarkable twenty something who travels around speaking to audiences all over the U.S. Check out his Ted talk that launched his speaking career! It is entitled “Where are you sitting”. You can find it [here!](#)

This is Election Day! Make your voting plans now!!



Pinot's Palette Fundraiser



Thank you to all that came to the September fundraiser we were able to raise \$700 for our chapter!

Holiday Events



PFLAG Riverview Family Friendsgiving November 22nd -6:30pm-8:30pm at The Regent on The Venetian Terrace. This event is for those chapter members and our friends who would like to share a meal together with friends and possibly make some new ones! PLEASE RSVP to Faith by 11/14 by texting 813-833-7972 and mention what side you will plan to bring. We are looking for volunteers for this event, please contact if you would like to help set up. Please text Faith if you can help out.



This holiday season we will be celebrating the PFLAG Family with our first ever Gingerbread Persons Dessert Party! The “Genderbread” Person is a teaching tool to help break down the often-confused differences of gender identity, gender expression, and sexuality. Undergoing several edits as we learn more about LGBTQ+ people, the Genderbread Person has been used across organizations around the world to help clarify concepts. We’d love for you to join us for fun, desserts, cookie decorating, and holiday spirit!

Please bring a labeled dessert to share! It can be a homemade holiday tradition or a grocery store bakery favorite!

If you wish, you may also bring gently used clothing to be donated to Out of the Closet Thrift Store in St Petersburg. This thrift store was founded in 1990 and helps raise funds and awareness for AIDS Healthcare Foundation. 96 cents of every dollar this store makes goes towards HIV prevention and treatment services. It also provides a safe space for all to get HIV tested and thrift shop regardless of expression, identity, or orientation.

RSVP to Kimmi at (714) 315-0217 with number of guests and the dessert you will be bringing!

Volunteers will be needed throughout the event and for decor. If interested, please text Kimmi at (714) 315-0217.

Hurricane Relief

We hope everybody stayed safe in this storm and had minimal damage. Unfortunately, our southern neighbors did not. We will be collecting donations for flats of water, trash bags, and gloves to help our neighbors in Southwest Florida. Donations will be accepted through December 31st. If you would like to donate, please text Kimmi Waechter at (714) 315-0217 to organize a pickup time.



Upcoming Events

November 8th-7pm-8:15pm: PFLAG ZOOM Support on Election Day with Special Guest Ben Greene he/him.

November 22nd -6:30pm-8:30pm: PFLAG Riverview Family Friendsgiving at The Regent on The Venetian Terrace. PLEASE RSVP to Faith by 11/14 by texting 813-833-7972 and mention what side you will plan to bring. We are looking for volunteers for this event!

December 13th 7pm-9pm: Gingerbread Persons Party at The Regent All are welcome to celebrate the Holiday Season with PFLAG RIVERVIEW! Come enjoy Hot Chocolate and fun festivities. Bring a Dessert to share. RSVP to Kimmi by texting 714-315-0217 & mention the dessert you will be bringing. We are looking for volunteers for this event!

December 27th 7pm-8pm: PFLAG ZOOM Peer Support (Topic TBD)

Future Events

January 10th: PFLAG ZOOM Support

January 24th: PFAG In Person Support at the Regent

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

Membership Drive

We are offering one free book per household for new or renewed memberships this summer. We have four titles to choose from while supplies last!! Choose from Gender Transition by Cindi Grace Miller, God & The Gay Christian by Matthew Vines, The Savvy Ally by Jeannie Gainsburg, or Legendary Children: The First Decade of RuPaul's Drag Rae and the Last Century of Queer Life by Tom Fitzgerald and Lorenzo Marquez. Thank you to all that have supported our chapter through new and renewed membership.

If you would like to support our chapter with paid membership, click [here!](#)

2022 PFLAG Riverview Board & Leadership Team

Executive Board

Faith Moeller: Pres/Co-Founder
 Jodi Chadwell: VP/Co-Founder
 Marisol Prokopowicz: Secretary
 Jose Guevera: Treasurer

Leadership Team

Mari Macabenta: Membership Coordinator
 Kimmi Waechter: Event Coordinator
 Nichelle Neal: Social Media Manager
 Nico Van West: Chief Community Relations Officer
 Cindi Grace Miller: Advisor
 Maxi Hall: Founding Member
 Russ Jones: Founding Member

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You can find additional resources on our webpage

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

