



NEWSLETTER

January, 2022

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2022

Greetings, Friends of PFLAG Leonardtown!

Happy New Year!

Another year in the books, and it sure was something! The last year has brought us a bit closer together as we were able to start connecting with others again, maybe spend some time with friends and family you weren't able to connect with in 2020.

What else happened in 2021? Let's take a look back at the best of a challenging year:

- **January** - Vaccines begin to become available for senior citizens and healthcare workers and President Biden ended the ban on transgender people serving in the military
- **February** - NASA rover Perseverance lands safely on the surface of Mars. The House of Representatives passes the Equality Act providing nationwide protections for LGBTQ+ people in areas like health care, housing, public accommodation, and education.

- **March** - Dr. Rachel Levine made history by becoming the first transgender woman in history to be confirmed to a cabinet-level position by the US senate. She is also the highest-ranking trans official in U.S. History. Beyonce set a new Grammys record for most wins by a female artist!
- **April** - A Girl Scout Troop from a homeless shelter sold over 26,000 boxes of cookies thanks to social media and online ordering, and Guy Fieri raised \$25 million for restaurant workers impacted by the pandemic.
- **May** - Karine Jean-Pierre became the first LBTQ+ person to take questions on behalf of a presidential administration in the briefing room. She is also the first Black woman to do so in 30 years.
- **June** - Carl Nassib - LA Raiders defensive lineman became the first active NFL player to come out as gay and donated \$100,000 to the Trevor Project. Nevada pageant winner becomes 1st trans Miss USA contestant.
- **July** - Black transgender activists rally in Baltimore for better healthcare and housing and India opens groundbreaking school to provide free education to transgender people. A Canadian women's soccer player becomes the first openly trans athlete to ever compete in the Olympics
- **August** - Moderna announces trials for HIV Vaccine based on COVID research. Tom Daley won gold in the 2021 Olympics.
- **September** - JoJo Siwa, a YouTube star, became the first competitor to have a same-sex dancing partner on Dancing With the Stars. Pete & Chasten Buttigieg welcome two newborns into their family.
- **October**- Pride SOMD welcomed over 500 people to our event at the Calvert Marine Museum! Transgender activist Kristin Beck spoke and pledged to help out next year, too!
- **November** - Britney Spears's abusive conservatorship ends after 13 years!
- **December** - Canada bans conversion therapy and a new study confirms that access to gender-affirming hormone therapy has overwhelmingly positive mental health benefits.

As we go boldly into 2022 and face whatever this year has in store, know that PFLAG will be here for this community. Please don't hesitate to reach out and let us know what we could be doing to further help and if you have ideas of ways we can further connect and celebrate this year- we are here for you!

With that, take this excerpt from Amanda Gorman's "The Hill We Climb" and let it help you to let go of the last two years if you are able, and work on making a better, brighter future for yourself and your family and friends.

We will rebuild, reconcile and recover.

*And every known nook of our nation and
every corner called our country,
our people diverse and beautiful will emerge,
battered and beautiful.*

*When day comes we step out of the shade,
aflame and unafraid,
the new dawn blooms as we free it.*

*For there is always light,
if only we're brave enough to see it.
If only we're brave enough to be it.*

Holigays was amazing! December 13 was our annual Holigays party- thank you so much to all who attended! We received many donations of sanitary items to help out the Solomons Mission Center and overall had a blast! Here are some pictures from the event! Special thanks to Angelica Lize, Black Polish, and Vertical Dance company for being our amazing entertainment as well as to our board members and volunteers for the food, games, and decorations!



We are still looking for more board members and committed volunteers! If you or anyone you know is interested in helping us plan our events and keep this organization running please have them email us with a resume or short bio at pflag.leonardtown@gmail.com. We are very interested in family members, friends and allies of the LGBTQIA+ community as board members, so don't be shy if you're not directly part of the community.

Yearly membership Dues for PFLAG Leonardtown run from October through September which means that it's time to renew your membership with us so you can stay up to date on what's going on and vote in our annual elections. We appreciate all of our members who continue to support our efforts to Educate, Support and Advocate for the LGBTQIA+ community in Southern Maryland. Thank you all!! Dues can be easily paid online through our website at: www.pflagleonardtown.org.

Our Peer to Peer meetings will be held at the Leonardtown Library Meeting Room this month. Both meetings will be on the same date!

**Youth & Adult Peer to Peer: Wednesday, Wednesday, January 19th,
6:15-7:45 pm**

Location: Leonardtown Library- Meeting Room 1 - Youth, Room 2- Adults

Upcoming Events:

New events *COMING SOON!* We are soliciting ideas for movie & game nights- let us know if you have any ideas!

Wishing you a warm, happy, and healthy new year!

PFLAG Leonardtown

Family of The Heart



Are the holidays difficult for you? Check out these resources that can help!

<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/>

National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255

<https://itgetsbetter.org/get-help/>

Trans Lifeline : 1-877-565-8860