



THE VALLEY CONNECTSHEN

Mission Statement:

The mission of Shenandoah Valley Equality is to build inclusive community for LGBTQ people in the Shenandoah Valley.

Community Events (inside)

- DC Gay Men's Chorus
- Chili's Benefit for Shenandoah Valley Pride Alliance
- INDIGO Women's Dance

EMPOWER YOUR COMMUNITY!

Join SVE

(Membership Form pg. 15)

"Valley Connectshen" is published quarterly (March, June, September, and December).

Contact the editor, Christine Robinson, to advertise and/or submit event information: ShenandoahValleyEquality@gmail.com

Trump Admin. Rescinds Transgender Student Guidance: Gavin Grimm of Virginia to Supreme Court in March

The Trump Administration withdrew the Obama Administration's legal guidance protecting transgender students under Title IX. The guidance provided clarity on obligations to students —schools:

- may not prohibit transgender students from using bathrooms that correspond with their gender identity;
- may not exclude transgender students from school activities;
- may not punish students for not conforming to stereotypical notions of masculinity or femininity;
- must give current and former students an opportunity to update their records with accurate name and gender information; and
- may not violate a current or former students's privacy by disclosing their transgender identity to others.

The Administration's letter stated "...withdrawal of these guidance documents does not leave students without protections... All schools must ensure that all students, including LGBT students, are able to learn and thrive in a safe environment."

Gavin Grimm, the transgender teen from Virginia whose school bathroom access case will be heard by the Supreme Court, said, "Thinking about transgender students everywhere, hearing that your presidential administration has gone out of its way just to further discriminate against you... is very upsetting..."

- The letter did not and could not repeal Title IX.
- The letter did not and could not require schools to discriminate or stop complying with the guidance. Local school districts and states can still follow it, and do more to support trans students.

The letter invited those who have questions or comments on this letter to contact the Department of Education at ocr@ed.gov or 800-421-3481 (TDD: 800-877-8339); or the Department of Justice at education@usdoj.gov or 877-292-3804 (TTY: 800-514-0383)." **We urge our members to take the opportunity to share your views.**



INDIGO

A PARTY FOR WOMEN

SATURDAY APRIL 1, 2017

UPSTAIRS AT THE MILL STREET GRILL

STAUNTON, VA

8 PM

\$15 COVER

CASH BAR

DJ JAMMIN' JACKIE

PRIVATE PARTY

CONTACT US FOR AN EVENT INVITATION YOU CAN
SHARE WITH OTHERS ON FACEBOOK

INDIGOPARTY@HOTMAIL.COM



**Private party for women only. Must be 21 to enter.
All women 21 and older welcome.**



PFLAG Blue Ridge

Serving Charlottesville, Harrisonburg, and
Surrounding Central Virginia Areas

We are parents, families, friends, and allies uniting with
lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender loved ones to
promote support, education, and advocacy.

www.pflagblueridge.org

PFLAGBR@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/pflagblueridge>

<https://twitter.com/PFLAGBR>

PFLAG Blue Ridge offers free monthly support groups for parents, family, friends, and allies of the LGBT community. If you are a parent, family member, friend, or ally of a gay, lesbian, bisexual, and/or transgender individual looking to increase your support, or if your loved one has recently come out to you and you are struggling to process your own feelings as well as looking for resources to help understand — we are here for you. Join us as we share our experiences, joys, concerns, and resources in a confidential and non-judgmental environment.

Meeting Information

Harrisonburg_PFLAG support group for parents, families, friends, and allies of the LGBT Community

Meeting Information : The location of Harrisonburg PFLAG meetings will be changing in the future; **please visit www.pflagblueridge.org for current information**

Contact: Facilitator Mark at mitchmarke@aol.com or 540-405-1227

Charlottesville Trans* Families Group Meetings

When: 3rd Saturday of each month, 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Where: ASG, 315 Tenth St. NE, Charlottesville, VA 22902 (corner of 10th & Jefferson)

Contact: Facilitator Karen at karenmeandering@gmail.com or 434-882-3453



47 Court Square
Harrisonburg, VA

YOUR ADVERTISEMENT HERE!

\$15/issue or \$50/year (4 issues): Business Card

\$25 per issue or \$80/year: Quarter Page

\$50/issue or \$175/year: Half Page

\$100 for a Full Page ad per issue

ShenandoahValleyEquality@gmail.com

DEADLINE for June newsletter is **May 15**

Help us be good neighbors in our community.

SVE has adopted a section of highway near Harrisonburg through VDOT.

It's fun. It's good exercise. It's great for our planet.



Join us—our next outing is Saturday, April 22.

Meet us for breakfast at the Little Grill at 8am, then we'll tidy up the highway afterward. We'll provide vests, bags, and gloves.

Local and Vocal in Staunton, Virginia

A new group that meets twice a month to write letters to elected officials and other leaders. A starting point for political action, as well as a place for people to connect. At least once a month, we visit with YOUR group in YOUR location (house of worship, community center, school).

localandvocalstaunton@gmail.com

<https://www.facebook.com/localandvocalstaunton>





EV is Virginia's state-wide, non-partisan education, outreach, & advocacy organization seeking equality for LGBT Virginians.

EV's 14th annual Commonwealth Dinner

is the state's largest black tie gathering for our community. Enjoy live entertainment, a silent auction, a dance, and meet/network with others. Every year at the dinner, EV also recognizes OUTstanding Virginians who have represented our community with distinction and have contributed to the equality movement. We hope you can join us for this special event.

For more information or to make reservations, go to
<http://www.equalityvirginia.org/14th-annual-commonwealth-dinner/commonwealth-dinner-2017/>

Equality Virginia: Changing Laws, Changing Lives

APRIL 1, 2017 | GREATER RICHMOND CONVENTION CENTER



— 14TH ANNUAL —
COMMONWEALTH
DINNER

Community Organizations

American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia	acluva.org/tag/equal-rights/
Bi Gay Lesbian & Allies Against Discrimination (Blue Ridge Community College)	catalog.blueridgectc.edu/
BC Allies (Bridgewater College)	www.bridgewater.edu/student-life/activities-and-organizations/clubs-organizations-and-honor-societies
Coalition for Transgender Rights in Virginia	https://www.facebook.com/michellemarie51/
Equality Virginia	www.equalityvirginia.org
EMU Safe Space	www.emu.edu/studentlife/clubs/safe-space/
JMU LGBTQ Employee Group	www.jmu.edu/lgbtfacultystaff
JMU LGBTQ & Ally Education Program	www.jmu.edu/lgbta/
JMU Madison Caucus for Gender Equality	www.jmu.edu/caucusgenderequality/
LGBT Democrats of Virginia	lgbtvadem.org/
Log Cabin Republican Club of Virginia	logcabin.org/chapter/virginia-northern-virginia/
Madison Equality JMU	www.facebook.com/madisonequality
PFLAG Blue Ridge	pflagblueridge.org and pflagbr@gmail.com
Safe Zone JMU	www.jmu.edu/safezone/
Shenandoah Valley Equality	ShenandoahValleyEquality@gmail.com & www.svgla.org
Shenandoah Valley Pride Alliance	www.shenandoahvalleypride.org
Students Out Understanding & Loving Sisters (SOULS) at Mary Baldwin College	www.mbc.edu/student_activities/clubsandorgs/#cultural
Southerners on New Ground—Harrisonburg	southernersonnewground.org/harrisonburg/
Virginia Anti-Violence Project	1.866.356.6998 (helpline) & virginiaavp.org/
Virginia Organizing	www.virginia-organizing.org/issues
Virginia Partisans Gay & Lesbian Democratic Club	www.vapartisans.org/
People of Faith for Equality in Virginia	www.faith4equality.org/

Could Virginia become the next North Carolina for LGBT People?

Governor Terry McAuliffe warns that his successor could sign legislation similar to North Carolina's HB2. Read the article here: thinkprogress.org/virginia-next-north-carolina-mcauliffe-hb2-73ceb2727384#.19u15eqil

HOW TO BE INFORMED AND ENGAGED IN ADVOCATING FOR LGBTQ EQUALITY IN VIRGINIA

Every year, Equality Virginia monitors all legislation introduced to the Virginia General Assembly and advocates on behalf of Virginia's LGBTQ community, helping to introduce and support pro-equality legislation and to oppose bills that move us backwards.

Stay informed about legislation affecting our community, and voice your support or opposition to specific bills by joining Equality Virginia's email list for their monthly newsletter, action alerts, and events. Provide your email address to EV here: www.equalityvirginia.org/resources/

RESOURCES FOR THE 2017 VIRGINIA ELECTIONS FOR GOVERNOR, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, ATTORNEY GENERAL, AND THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Equality Virginia equalityvirginia.org

LGBT Democrats of Virginia lgbtvadem.org/

Log Cabin Republican Club of Virginia
logcabin.org/chapter/virginia-northern-virginia/

People of Faith for Equality in Virginia <http://pofev.org>

Virginia Organizing virginia-organizing.org/

Virginia Partisans Gay & Lesbian Democratic Club
www.vapartisans.org/

“Trails 4 Tails”

Dog Walk/Run

APRIL 22, 2017 at 8am, JMU Festival Patio

Fundraiser for the

Valley AIDS Network

For more information, contact VAN

www.valleyaidsnetwork.org

Contact us

Main Phone: (540) 568-8838

Testing: (540) 568-8832

Español: (540) 568-8834

Visit in person:

601 University Blvd., 3rd Floor, Suites
322/323/324, Harrisonburg, VA

Mailing Address:

VAN, JMU/IIHHS MCS 9108, Harri-
sonburg, VA 22807

Website:

www.valleyaidsnetwork.org



VALLEY AIDS NETWORK



“Standing on the Side of Love”

**HARRISONBURG
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS**

One Journey, Many Paths

We are a lay-led, religious community offering a unique spiritual and moral witness in the Shenandoah Valley.

We invite all who search for truth and meaning with open hearts and open minds to join us in worship, in mutual support, and in shared ministry to each other and to the world.

For more information, contact us at: <http://huuweb.org> and (540) 867-0073

HUU is a UUA-Certified Welcoming Congregation. We declare our intention to be inclusive and expressive of the concerns of bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender persons at every level of congregational life and to support the rights of bisexual, gay, lesbian, and transgender people.

YOUR ADVERTISEMENT HERE!

\$15/issue or \$50/year (4 issues): Business Card

\$25 per issue or \$80/year: Quarter Page

\$50/issue or \$175/year: Half Page

\$100 for a Full Page ad per issue

Contact ShenandoahValleyEquality@gmail.com

DEADLINE for June newsletter is **May 15**

SVE's First Friday Community Potluck

First Friday is a monthly community potluck hosted by SVE in Harrisonburg/Rockingham County/Staunton/Augusta County (occasionally Mount Jackson) for the LGBTQA+ community. Every month the event rotates to a different location. **Bring a dish to share.**

Because the event is usually held in private homes or on private property, we send location information ONLY to our email list of SVE members and do not post it through social media or public email lists. To receive emails about FF and other local SVE events, you can join as a Level 2 member (for FREE) or as a Level 1 member (for \$15). **See page 15 for details on how to join.**

If you want to join for free, send an email with your first and last name **and state that you are at least 18 years of age** (SVE's membership requirement) to ShenandoahValleyEquality@gmail.com – we will add you to our email list.

See upcoming potlucks on pages 12-13.

Volunteer to host.

Email us at ShenandoahValleyEquality@gmail.com



God Save the Queens: A Salute to Rock Royalty

GAY MEN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON, D.C.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 8:00pm, Forbes Center

Two vocal ensembles will sing music by American & British rock legends
Elvis,
Queen,
Prince,
Madonna,
Adele & more!



TICKETS

Regular & Subscribers
\$25

Seniors & JMU Fac./ Staff \$24

JMU Students \$18 (Purchase in person only. One per ID. Cash only, 90 minutes before show)

Online: www.jmu.edu/forbescenter/tickets/tickets.shtml

Box Office: In person at 147 Warsaw Ave, Harrisonburg

Phone: 540.568.7000



A benefit performance
for the Valley AIDS
Network



COMMUNITY EVENTS SCHEDULE

- ❑ **Thurs., March 2:** **Harrisonburg PFLAG Support Group Meeting.** Support Group for parents, family, friends, and allies of the LGBT community. 6:30-8:00 PM at Blue Ridge Hall, Room 325, on the James Madison University campus, 601 University Blvd in Harrisonburg. For more information contact facilitator Mark at [540-405-1227](tel:540-405-1227) or mitchmarke@aol.com or go to www.pflagblueridge.org

- ❑ **Friday, March 3:** **First Friday Potluck**, 6:30-9:00 PM, Augusta & Rockingham Counties, Harrisonburg, Staunton, and Waynesboro. Potluck for the LGBTQA community sponsored each month by **Shenandoah Valley Equality**. For info, join SVE as a Level I or II member (See page 15 for details).

- ❑ **Thursday, March 16:** **Conversation & Cuisine, 6:30-8:30pm.** Once a month **Shenandoah Valley Equality** members and friends meet for dinner at a local restaurant. Join SVE at **Chili's on 1752 E. Market Street in Harrisonburg**. 10% of all of the proceeds from Chili's sales on March 16 will go to the **Shenandoah Valley Pride Alliance** (see details on page 14).

- ❑ **March 26-29** **Virginia Women's Music Festival.** Held at Camp Out, a secluded natural getaway for women, located just off Interstate 64, in Kents Store, VA. Music, dancing, a 5k run, bon fires and more. Camping, cabin and RV spaces sell out early. Go to campoutva.com for details and ticket information. Note: The business office is not located at the campground.

- ❑ **Saturday, April 1** **INDIGO Women's Dance Party** (Private party for **women only**). Upstairs at the Mill Street Grill in Staunton, 8PM, \$15 Cover, Cash Bar, MUST BE 21 TO ENTER. For questions, contact indigoparty@hotmail.com

- ❑ **Saturday, April 1** **14th Annual Equality Virginia Commonwealth Dinner** is EV's signature event and the state's largest black-tie gala gathering for the LGBT community and our supporters. Held at the Greater Richmond Convention Center. Reservation information will be available in January at www.equalityvirginia.org/dinner/

- ❑ **Saturday, April 1** **Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, DC.** "God Save the Queens!": music by American and British rock legends Elvis, Queen, Prince, Madonna, Adele, & more. 8:00 PM at the Forbes Center for the Performing Arts at JMU in Harrisonburg. Benefit Concert for the Valley AIDS Network. Ticket information at www.jmu.edu/forbescenter/tickets.

- ❑ **Thurs., April 6:** **Harrisonburg PFLAG Support Group Meeting.** Support Group for parents, family, friends, and allies of the LGBT community. 6:30-8:00 PM at Blue Ridge Hall, Room 325, on the James Madison University campus, 601 University Blvd in Harrisonburg. For more information contact facilitator Mark at [540-405-1227](tel:540-405-1227) or mitchmarke@aol.com or go to www.pflagblueridge.org

- ❑ **Friday, April 7:** **First Friday Potluck**, 6:30-9:00 PM, Augusta & Rockingham Counties, Harrisonburg, Staunton, and Waynesboro. Potluck for the LGBTQA community sponsored each month by **Shenandoah Valley Equality**. For date and location of the potluck, join SVE as a Level I or II member (See page 15 for how to join).

COMMUNITY EVENTS SCHEDULE

- ❑ **Thursday, April 20:** **Conversation & Cuisine, 6:30-8:30pm.** Once a month **Shenandoah Valley Equality** members and friends meet for dinner at a local restaurant. Join SVE for updated information about C&C events (See pg.15 for how to join).
- ❑ **Saturday, April 22 :** **SVE Adopt-A-Highway Service Project, 8:00 AM** We gather at the Little Grill for breakfast and then head out for 45 minutes of clean-up work afterward. Join us! We provide safety vests, gloves, and bags. *In case of inclement weather, the clean-up will be rescheduled.*
- ❑ **Saturday, April 22 :** **“Trails 4 Tails” Dog Walk/Run Fundraiser for the Valley AIDS Network.** See page 8 for details.
- ❑ **Thurs., May 4:** **Harrisonburg PFLAG Support Group Meeting.** Support Group for parents, family, friends, and allies of the **LGBT** community. **6:30-8:00 PM** at Blue Ridge Hall, Room 325, on the James Madison University campus, 601 University Blvd in Harrisonburg. For more information contact facilitator Mark at [540-405-1227](tel:540-405-1227) or mitchmarke@aol.com or go to www.pflagblueridge.org
- ❑ **Friday, May 5:** **First Friday Potluck,** 6:30-9:00 PM, Augusta & Rockingham Counties, Harrisonburg, Staunton, and Waynesboro. Potluck for the LGBTQA community sponsored each month by **Shenandoah Valley Equality**. For date and location of the potluck, join SVE as a Level I or II member (See page 15 for how to join).
- ❑ **Monday, May 15:** **DEADLINE, SVE newsletter submissions** to ShenandoahValleyEquality@gmail.com. Submit events for the June issue of the newsletter (events for June, July, & August)
- ❑ **Thursday, May 18:** **Conversation & Cuisine, 6:30-8:30pm.** Once a month **Shenandoah Valley Equality** members and friends meet for dinner at a local restaurant. Join SVE for updated information about C&C events (See pg.15 for how to join).
- ❑ **Saturday, July 22:** **Shenandoah Valley Pride.** 2:00-8:00PM, Court Square in Harrisonburg. Volunteers and Sponsors Needed. Contact ShenandoahValleyPride@gmail.com and visit www.shenandoahvalleypride.org. Sponsored by the Shenandoah Valley Pride Alliance.

The Valley ConnectShen invites you to submit information about community resources for the newsletter and events that would be of interest to our community for the calendar. This is a vital service; it helps to make our community stronger and improves the quality of life for individual members. Send information to us at ShenandoahValleyEquality@gmail.com

Submit items for the monthly SVE e-mail events schedule by the 25th of each month to lanedj@jmu.edu

Submit ads and events for the June issue (covering March, April, and May) of *The Valley ConnectShen* by **May 15** to ShenandoahValleyEquality@gmail.com

"Out in the Boondocks"

LGBTQ Valley Meet-up Group

If you're a member of the LGBTQ community living in the boondocks in or around the Shenandoah Valley, come meet up with us.

This is a informal group where members get together or in smaller groups for meals, hiking movies, live performances, kayaking, and other events.

If you would like to be on the e-mail list for events, send your name and e-mail address to Claire Hollady at clhollady@gmail.com

Support our Advertisers,
Empower your Community.

SVE wishes to thank
local businesses and
organizations that
advertise in our
newsletter.

"EVERY TIME YOU
SPEND MONEY, YOU'RE
CASTING A VOTE FOR
THE KIND OF WORLD
YOU WANT."

ANNA LAPPE

SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY
SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL ECONOMY

CHILI'S IS PROUD
TO SUPPORT

Shenandoah Valley
Pride Alliance



more GIVING BACK happens here

Let Chili's do the cooking while we support SVPA at the same time. With each flyer presented on THURSDAY, 3/16/17, Chili's will donate 10% of the event day sales back to this great organization.

SVPA Give Back Event is:
March 16, 2017
From 11am to 10pm
At the Harrisonburg Chili's location

Give Back Event flyer required with each check to receive credit for the sale. Sale cannot be included in donation amount with flyer. Offer only valid on the date and location stated above. Donations will not be given on sales made prior to or past this date.



EMPOWER YOUR COMMUNITY!

We need your support to continue as a viable and evolving community presence working on your behalf. The goals of SVE are:

- to gather and communicate important community information
- to collaborate with allies and LGBTQ-friendly organizations
- to organize events within the greater Valley area for social and educational networking with LGBTQ people, and
- to advocate for full LGBTQ equality, dignity, and inclusion in the Valley, state, and national communities.

Level 1 Support—\$15 per person

Level 1 support helps SVE with mailing and administrative costs throughout the year. A level 1 commitment of support gets you the following:

- An e-mailed version of the newsletter
- A vote for members of the SVLGA Board of Directors (**MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS DUE BY DECEMBER 1 TO VOTE FOR AND/OR SERVE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**).
- Advance information about SVE events
- Level I membership is from July—July

Level 2 Support — FREE

Level 2 support keeps you in the loop. A level 2 commitment of support gets you an e-mailed version of the newsletter and advanced information about all SVE events.

CHECK ONE of the following levels of support and complete the form below:

Level 1 Support (please include a check for \$15 for each person and please send this form to: Shenandoah Valley Equality, P.O. Box 1023, Harrisonburg, VA 22803

Name #1 _____ Name #2 _____

Address #1: _____

Address #2: _____

E-mail #1: _____ E-mail #2: _____

I/we verify that I am/we are at least 18 years of age.

Level 2 Support - email your first and last name and state that you are at least 18 years of age to ShenandoahValleyEquality@gmail.com

You must be at least 18 years of age to join SVE.

What is SVE's "Conversation & Cuisine"?

Once a month, Shenandoah Valley Equality members (and friends) are invited to meet at a local restaurant in the Valley to share a meal together. Join SVE (see page 13 for details) to receive information about C&C events by e-mail.

Nothing- not a conversation, not a handshake or even a hug- establishes friendship so forcefully as eating together.

Jonathan Safran Foer

meetville.com



The Virginia Anti-Violence Project works to address and end violence, with a specific focus on LGBTQ communities across Virginia.

Call our LGBTQ Partner Abuse and Sexual Assault Helpline:

1.866.356.6998

Monday-Friday 8am-8pm

Quotable:

“Let each person do [their] part. If one citizen is unwilling to participate, all of us are going to suffer. For the American idea, though it is shared by all of us, is realized in each one of us.”

—June Jordan—

Need Support?

Trevor Crisis Intervention Line

(LGBT+): www.thetrevorproject.org
1-866-488-7386 (available 24/7)

Trans Lifeline: www.translifeline.org
1-877-565-8860 (staffed by trans* people for trans* people in crisis)

I'm alive support chat:

www.imalive.org

Crisis Text Line: Text START to 741-741

National Suicide Hotline:

1-800-273-8255

In the News...



Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney (JMU alum, class of 2004) supported LGBTQ issues on the campaign trail, and now he hopes to see Richmond designated as a top tourist destination in the Nat West British LGBT awards. The annual British LGBT awards ceremony supports causes in the UK and around the world, honoring people, organizations and places in almost 90 categories with about 100,000 votes submitted every year.

“In 2014 we did something no other city ever did, we came out of the closet,” said Stoney. “OutRVA represents more than just a marketing campaign, it’s a welcoming way of life.” Stoney was invited to be a part of the video in connection with the city’s LGBTQ tourism campaign, OutRVA. Created by VCU students in 2014, the Richmond Region Tourism has used the campaign to help show RVA is a great place to be no matter who you love. “Richmond, VA, is truly for all lovers... now is the time to let the world know how welcoming Richmond is.” Cast your vote here:

http://britishlgbtawards.com/vote_now/



SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, July 22, 2017

Shenandoah Valley Pride, 2-8pm

Courthouse Square

Harrisonburg, VA

SHENANDOAH VALLEY

PRIDE



Volunteers & Sponsors Needed

ShenandoahValleyPride@gmail.com

www.ShenandoahValleyPride.org

Sponsored by the Shenandoah Valley Pride Alliance