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Parents, Families and
Friends of Lesbians
and Gays promotes
the health and well-
being of gay, lesbian,
bisexual, and trans-
gendered persons,
their families, and
their friends through

SUPPORT to cope
with an adverse
society

EDUCATION to
enlighten an ill-
informed public

ADVOCACY to end
discrimination and
secure equal civil
rights.

Oregon Central Coast Chapter

January 2011

Take Action!

When Lisa Howe, beloved soccer coach at Belmont University in Nashville, announced that she was having a child with her same-sex partner, she was asked to resign. Students have helped to start a petition on Change.org to fight back, demanding that the school stop discriminating based on sexual orientation.

http://change.org/petitions/view/belmont_university_employees_shouldnt_be_forced_to_resign_for_being_gay?alert_id=fqnmDyIDqX_sPujwqFPTE&me=aa

If you live in Oregon, call your senators and thank them for voting to repeal Don't Ask Don't Tell. (Sen. Ron Wyden 503-326-7525; Sen. Jeff Merkley 503-362-8102) If you live in another state, find out how your senators voted, and then call to let them know how you feel about their vote.

Support the LGBTQ community with your purchases. <http://www.hrc.org/buyersguide2011/>

Wednesday, December 22, 2010: President Barack Obama signed the bill repealing the Don't Ask Don't Tell ban, allowing lesbians and gays to serve openly in the military. After the Senate vote, he said: "By ending Don't Ask, Don't Tell, no longer will our nation be denied the service of thousands of patriotic Americans forced to leave the military, despite years of exemplary performance, because they happen to be gay. And no longer will many thousands more be asked to live a lie in order to serve the country they love."

No one with a microphone has done more to repeal DADT than @maddow. Congratulations Rachel!— Lawrence O'Donnell

Local Events Advance LGBT Inclusion

No Name-Calling Week Declared

OCC PFLAG is working with Lincoln County's Board of Commissioners, School District, the LGBT Task Force, Gay/Straight Alliance clubs at Newport, Taft, and Toledo High Schools and Angell Job Corps, and OCC's Triangle Club to kick off a county-wide Anti-Bullying campaign.

Proclamations from the Board of Commissioners and the LCSD Board will draw attention to the issue, GSA clubs will plan activities at local high schools, and community meetings will be scheduled to highlight the problems and the promising practices in each area of the county.

Churches that are welcoming to LGBT individuals and families will be invited to participate in each area's community meeting and to support efforts to make our schools and communities safer for all kids and adults.

PFLAG Holds First Valentine's Party

PFLAG's First Annual LOVE IS LOVE Valentine's Party will be hosted by PFLAG (Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays) from 2:00 to 4:00 pm on Saturday,

February 12 in the beautiful lobby of the Oregon Coast Community College. Words and music by local artists will celebrate the power of love in all its surprising forms— young and old, rich and poor, gay and straight.

Delightful Valentine's desserts will be served along with performances by Stephan, Akia Woods, Barbara Turrill, and Linda Yapp and readings by Ruth Harrison, Sandy Elston, Brian Hanna, Brenda Wills, and other local musicians and writers. Sweet-heart photos will be taken before the performance and may be purchased after the event. Donations will help support PFLAG's Teen Programs.

Toledo High Has New GSA

Toledo High has a new Gay/Straight Alliance club, and they're off to a great start. Staff advisor Judith Upton-Clark had already led a GSA group in her Utah school so she enthusiastically agreed to help interested Toledo HS students form a chapter. The new club has already had a joint meeting with the Newport GSA and a presentation by Deb Lyman, secretary of OCC PFLAG.

Local Church Adopts Statement of Welcome Including LGBT People

Atonement Lutheran Church has voted to adopt a Statement of Welcome that specifically creates welcome for people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender as well as anyone else who may feel excluded from the church. After a process of discussion, Bible study, and prayer, the congregation approved this statement:

"We at Atonement Lutheran Church reach out with the good news of God's love through Jesus Christ.

As Christ's ministry includes everyone, we too welcome persons of any ethnicity, gender identity, race, sexual orientation, marital status, age, economic situation, and physical or mental ability.

We celebrate the gifts each one brings to the life and ministry of this community of faith."

The February PFLAG newsletter will have the story complete with photographs from the formal RIC presentation, including a visit from Bishop Dave Brauer-Rieke, on January 23.

Politics on Our Side

A state lawmaker plans to introduce a bill next year that would make Colorado the fourth state to recognize civil unions. Sen. Pat Steadman, D-Denver, said he believes the majority of Coloradans support civil unions and oppose gays being treated unfairly. Steadman, who is gay, said he expects his proposal to pass the Democrat-controlled Senate, and Republicans hold only a 33-32 majority in the House. Steadman believes his bill has a good chance of passing if it goes before the full body. The question, he said, is what committee will be assigned to hear the bill.



Parties in power traditionally have what are known as "kill committees" where certain bills from the minority party go to die, never reaching the floor. Speaker-elect Rep. McNulty said the civil-unions bill would get a fair hearing no matter where it was assigned. www.denverpost.com/legislature/ci_16870595#ixzz18touODxA

Jimmy Carter thinks the nation may be ready for a gay president. "I don't know about the next election, but I think in the near future," Carter told the website Big Think, broadcast on CNN.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday has appealed for complete and universal decriminalization of homosexuality. Over 70 countries still consider homosexuality a crime. In an event on sexual orientation at UN Headquarters in New York, held in conjunction with Human Rights Day, Ban deplored discrimination against homo-

sexuals and the violence of which they are often victims, for which the perpetrators escape punishment. Ban stressed that human rights must always trump cultural attitudes and societal strictures. "Let there be no confusion: where there is tension between cultural attitudes and universal human rights, universal human rights must carry the day," he said. "Personal disapproval, even society's disapproval, is no excuse to arrest, detain, imprison, harass or torture anyone—ever."



Bowling Green (OH) has passed ordinances that extend housing and employment anti-discrimination protection to gays, in a move that some people think is the tipping point of LGBT rights. The leader of the campaign for anti-discrimination, Jane Rosser, said, "If change is going to happen, it has to happen community by community, face to face."

Republican Tom Emmer conceded the Minnesota governor's race to Mark Dayton in early December, surrendering after a statewide recount failed to substantially change the Democrat's nearly 9,000-vote election night lead. Emmer supported a Christian rock band that called for the execution of gay people.

‘Not Hate Crime’ Say Harvard Officials

Security staff at Lamont Library (Harvard) stated in a report filed with campus police that it appeared someone poured urine on 36 books about lesbian and gay issues on Nov. 24. An empty bottle was found nearby.

Police at Harvard University originally investigated the vandalism as a hate crime but later determined that the incident was an accident and will no longer be treated as a hate crime, according to a statement sent from College Dean Evelyn M. Hammonds to the Harvard community.

Library spokeswoman Beth Brainard said it took over two weeks to report the incident because staff wanted to assess the value of the books. She said they were worth several thousand dollars and will be discarded.

Since then the University has said that library personnel accidentally spilled the urine.

Harvard College Library plans to replace the books.

[Ed. Note: How does one do so much damage “accidentally”? And will there be a requirement that the “library personnel” replace the books?]

Research Studies Behavior toward LGBTQ Youth

A study published in the journal *Pediatrics* reports that lesbian, gay and bisexual adolescents are 40 times more likely than their straight peers to be punished by schools, law enforcement agencies, and courts. Its findings also indicate that lesbian and bisexual girls are two to three times more likely to face unequal punishment than heterosexual girls.

“Non-heterosexual youth suffer disproportionate educational and criminal-justice punishments that are not explained by greater engagement in illegal or transgressive behaviors,” the Yale University report concluded.

The punishments come as suspensions, expulsions, arrests and convictions, and police stops. The study also found that the disparity in punishment is not a result of higher rates of misbehavior among nonheterosexual youth. Violent behavior was actually less prevalent among nonheterosexual students than heterosexual students.

LGB youth were 50 percent more likely than straight youth to report being stopped and questioned by a police officer, according to the study based on a survey of 15,000 middle and high school students.

The study's lead author Kathryn Himmelstein suggests that those sworn and hired to protect LGB youth in fact contribute to or cause victimization. “Our numbers suggest that school officials, police and judges, who should be protecting LGB youth, are instead singling them out for punishment based on their sexual orientation. LGB teens can't thrive if adults single them out for punishment because of their sexual orientation,” she said.

In another study researchers have established, for the first time, a clear link between accepting familial attitudes and behaviors toward lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender children and a significantly decreased risk of poor health in adolescence and better overall health in adulthood. The California Endowment funded study, “Family Acceptance in Adolescence and the Health of LGBT Young Adults,” is published in the *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing*.

According to the study, specific parental and caregiver behaviors—such as standing up for their children when they are mistreated because of their LGBT identity or supporting their gender expression—help prevent depression, substance abuse, suicidal thoughts, and suicide attempts in early adulthood.

LGBT youth with highly accepting families have shown significantly higher levels of self-esteem and social support in young adulthood. <http://www.365gay.com/news/study-finds-that-family-acceptance-could-save-lgbt-youths/>

People Who Make a Difference

Soon after **Amber Yust** changed her name from David to Amber on her driver's license, she received a letter condemning her to hell from Thomas Demartini, a California Department of Motor Vehicles employee at the San Francisco DMV office. When Amber complained, Demartini was allowed to resign without benefits or unemployment. The employee had refused to help another transgender person in 2009 but kept his job.



Australian Finance Minister Penny Wong, an out lesbian, is working to get the ruling Labor Party to support a motion for marriage equality at a national conference next year. The motion reads: "This convention calls upon the ALP national conference to amend the platform to support the legal right of all adult couples in Australia to be married if they so choose, and for that marriage to be recognized and registered by law in Australia, regardless of the sexual orientation, or gender, of the parties to the marriage."

(Senator Penny Wong, with partner Sophie Allouache, left)

At a Howell (MI) school board meeting, openly gay 14-year-old **Graeme Taylor** came to the defense of Jay McDowell, 42, a high school economics teacher, who, in the words of Taylor, "finally stood up and said something." McDowell had been suspended without pay after telling a student making anti-gay remarks and another wearing a Confederate flag to get out of his class. Taylor said, "I've been in classrooms where children have said the worst kinds of things. The kinds of things that drove me to a suicide attempt when I was only nine years old." http://www.good.is/post/in-appreciation-watch-14-year-old-graeme-taylor/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+good%2Ffbvp+%28GOOD+Main+RSS+Feed%29



Higher Educators Come Out

LGBTQ Presidents in Higher Education, created at an August meeting in Chicago, will make its official debut at a March meeting of the American Council on Education. The group publicly introduced itself in mid-December with a Web video, which features several of its members and their partners. [http://](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4QKwyJAIAKQ)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=4QKwyJAIAKQ

The group now includes about 25 member presidents. Its founders say they hope to provide professional support for members, as well as a possible platform for future advocacy. Leadership is needed on rights, scholarship, and advocacy, according to the group.

Possible Cure for HIV Found, Say Researchers

Truvada, medication already used to treat HIV infection, cuts the risk of infection by 44 percent, according to research published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

The cost per pill in the U.S. is \$5,000 to \$14,000. In other countries the generic form may cost as little as \$.39.

LGBT Direction in the Coming Year

Following are some predictions for next year from John Culhane, Professor of Law and Director of the Health Law Institute at Widener University School of Law in Wilmington (DE). [He also predicted Don't Ask Don't Tell would fail!]

Whither the Prop 8 litigation? Unless the case is tossed out for lack of standing (which I doubt), *Perry v. Schwarzenegger* likely won't get resolved by the end of 2011. But there will be at least one, and maybe two, appellate decisions by the Ninth Circuit panel that heard the case last week and perhaps by the court sitting en banc and endless analysis and commentary from every point along the legal and political spectrum. Prediction: The appellate court will side with Judge Walker's decision, finding Prop 8 unconstitutional. The case will inch closer to the Supreme Court.

Apart from the Prop 8 case, marriage equality will plod along. Maryland will pass an equality bill, and New Hampshire in the end will not repeal its equality legislation. Hawaii will join Illinois in passing a civil union bill. As the percentage of citizens in states with civil union or marriage equality laws crosses the 30% threshold, public opinion will continue to swell in our favor—not just for civil unions, but for full equality. (However, Obama, content to sit comfortably behind the curve, will not move toward support for marriage equality.)

Bullying of LGBT youth will continue to command political and legal space. Several states will strengthen their anti-bullying laws, thereby calling to account not only the kids who bully but also the authorities allowing this shameful treatment to continue. Yet law will continue to have limited effect in this area; advocates and the kids themselves will play the larger part in reducing the violence.

The battle over the accommodations between LGBT rights and religious liberties will intensify. Radical right Christians (or "Christianists," a term that I prefer to describe this subset of Christians) will continue to press—mostly unsuccessfully—for broad exemptions from any anti-discrimination or pro-equality laws that are enacted. Their failure to enact their prejudices into law will feed their narrative of victimization.

The Ugandan Parliament will not be able to pass any version of their unspeakable "kill the gays" bill, but the connection between American fundamentalists and their Ugandan counterparts will continue to be exposed.

Unless there's a change in the make-up of the Supreme Court, the health care mandate will likely be struck down, 5-4, with the complex constitutional reason that the Justices... don't like it.

BULLYING is the theme for the **January PFLAG meeting**. We'll watch one of the excellent anti-bullying films and talk about plans for No Name Calling Week at area schools and the Anti-Bullying Community Meetings in each area of the county. We'll also work on plans for the Feb. 12 Love is Love Valentine's Celebration (See Page 2).

Inspired by a young adult novel, *The Misfits* by James Howe, **No Name-Calling Week** focuses on the problem of name-calling in schools, to provide students and educators with tools and inspiration to launch a dialog about ways to eliminate name-calling in their communities.

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation celebrates its 25th anniversary.

The good news: Smithsonian's National Portraiture Gallery in Washington has a gay exhibit. **The bad news:** the four-minute video, "A Fire in My Belly," evoking the suffering of AIDS, was removed from the exhibit. **The stupid news:** Rep. Eric Cantor (R-VA), the incoming House majority leader, called for the entire show to be shut down, saying that it was "an outrageous use of taxpayer money." **The true news:** the show was entirely supported by private donors.

Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD) is donating many of its legal records from the past 30 years to Manuscripts and Archives in Sterling Memorial Library. Most of the resources, which range from photographs to financial records, will be open to researchers in early 2011. GLAD is a pioneering litigation group that has won important advances for LGBT people.

OCC PFLAG Calendar:

January 12, 7:00 pm: PFLAG Meeting—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport—Topic is Bullying.

January 19, 12:00-1:00 pm: LGBT Task Force Meeting—Centro de Ayuda, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

January 24-28: No Name-Calling Week

February 9, 7:00 pm: PFLAG—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

Feb. 12, 2:00-4:00 pm: LOVE IS LOVE Valentine's Party—Oregon Coast Community College lobby (See Page 2)

February 16, 12:00-1:00 pm: LGBT Task Force Meeting—Centro de Ayuda, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

The Coastal AIDS Network* has the following monthly activities:

Second Tuesday, 7:00 pm: "Movie Night," St. James Episcopal Church, 2490 NE Hwy 101, Lincoln City

Third Tuesday, 7:00 pm: "Pizza Night," either Newport, Waldport, or Lincoln City

Fourth Tuesday, 7:00 pm: "Men's Pot Luck and Game Night," St. James Episcopal Church, 2490 NE Hwy 101, Lincoln City

We also try to have pizza in Tillamook or Pacific City. For more information email Dan, coastalaid-network@gmail.com or leave a message for him at (541)994-5597.

*CAN activities are open to everyone, regardless of HIV status or sexual orientation. The only event limited to men is the potluck night, but occasionally we bend that rule for special events.

CLASS Women's Potlucks: Call Jeannette at 867-6993.

Join PFLAG!

YES! I support the mission of PFLAG. Enclosed is my membership fee.*

_____ Individual or Household (\$30)
_____ Student/Limited Income (\$20)
_____ Contribution \$ _____

*Includes membership in National PFLAG with affiliates in over 365 worldwide communities.

Make check payable and mail to:

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