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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

November 2010

Take Action!

New Hampshire's largest newspaper is defending its decision to refuse to publish marriage notices for gay couples. New Hampshire is one of five states that have legalized gay marriage. Two men getting married in Portsmouth who wanted to publish a marriage notice in the *Union Leader* of Manchester were refused. The newspaper says it has a constitutional right to choose what to print and opposes the new law. Publisher Joe McQuaid says **the paper isn't anti-gay but believes marriage is between a man and a woman.** Contact information: letters@unionleader.com; phone (603) 668-4321; fax: (603) 668-0382.

Due to the recent anti-LGBT activity of Best Buy, Equity Foundation has decided to liquidate all Best Buy stocks currently held by the Foundation. "We are particularly troubled that Best Buy has chosen to donate money to Minnesota gubernatorial candidate Tom Emmer, who supports a rock Christian ministry that praises Muslim countries that execute LGBT citizens," said Peter Cunningham, Equity Foundation Executive Director. "I encourage all organizations and individuals to join Equity Foundation in demanding that Best Buy publicly apologize for its actions and request that its donations to anti-LGBT candidates be returned. In addition, I encourage all of our Equity Foundation donors and friends to boycott shopping at Best Buy until this situation is rectified."

Tell Wal-Mart that you oppose their selling books on "curing" gay people. [More on page 6: http://gayrights.change.org/blog/view/wal-mart_to_sell_book_about_curing_gay_people?me=nl]

Out in the Silence

A community screening of *Out in the Silence*, described as "a stunning documentary" by the *Philadelphia Inquirer*, is scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 7 at 3:00 pm at Atonement Lutheran Church (Newport). The film will be followed by a Q & A session with filmmakers Joe Wilson and Dean Hamer and local PFLAG leaders designed to engage the audience in a conversation about fairness, equality, and inclusion for LGBTQ people in Oregon small towns and rural communities.

When the announcement of filmmaker Joe Wilson's wedding to another man ignites a firestorm of controversy in his small Pennsylvania hometown between Pittsburgh and Erie, a remarkable chain of events unfolded.

Kathy Springer, an Oil City (PA) resident whose teenage son, C.J., was brutally tormented at school because he is gay, sought help from Joe Wilson after reading the wedding announcement in her local newspaper.

Wilson's journey in answer to this plea dramatically illustrates the universal challenges of being an outsider in a conservative environment and the

transformation that is possible when those who have long been constrained by a traditional code of silence summon the courage to break it.

Through helping communities understand the effects of isolation and bullying on LGBTQ young people and improve the level of visible support and encouragement in families, schools, churches, and community organizations, the event's goal is to support young people and adults in taking action that assists people on all sides of LGBTQ issues in finding common ground.

Exploring topics ranging from religion, safe schools and economic development, to discrimination, tolerance and understanding, *Out in the Silence* offers a compelling model for civic engagement and dialog.

The film is an ideal tool for bringing people of all ages together to begin the process of building bridges rather than walls on issues that have divided communities for far too long.

Organized by Oregon Central Coast PFLAG, the screening is co-sponsored by seven local churches and several community organizations.

outinthesilence.com.



Sunday, November 7 at 3 PM

Atonement Lutheran Church – Newport

Film and discussion with the directors

Sponsors

**OCC PFLAG LGBT Task Force CAN
GSA Newport HS/Taft HS OCCC Triangle Club
Atonement Lutheran Toledo Methodist
Episcopal: St. James St. Luke's St. Stephen's
Presbyterian: Newport and Yachats
Interfaith Community Peace & Justice
Centro de Ayuda**

Politics on Our Side

Less than halfway through his first term, **President Barack Obama has appointed more openly gay officials than any other president in history.** Gay activists say the estimate of more than 150 appointments so far—from agency heads and commission members to policy officials and senior staffers—surpasses the previous high of about 140 reached during two full terms under President Bill Clinton.

The U.S. Department of Education is warning schools: Tolerating or failing to adequately address ethnic, sexual or gender-based harassment could put them in violation of federal anti-discrimination laws. The department sent letters to schools, colleges and universities across the country in October reminding them of their federal obligations. The law does not directly protect against harassment based on sexual orientation or gender identity, but Title IX protects LGBT students from gender-based or sexual harassment.

The Human Rights Coalition has continued to call on the administration to support two important pieces of legislation: the Student Non-Discrimination Act (HR4530) and the Safe Schools Improvement Act (HR2263). The Student Non-Discrimination Act would explicitly prohibit discrimination by schools against public school students on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. The Safe Schools Improvement Act would require schools and districts receiving federal funds to adopt codes of conduct specifically prohibiting bullying and harassment, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

U.S. District Judge Glen H. Davidson ordered a Mississippi school district to pay about \$81,000 in legal fees and expenses in a lawsuit filed by a Constance McMillen whose prom was canceled because she wanted to bring her girlfriend. She and the

American Civil Liberties Union had sued the Itawamba County School District in a challenge of the ban on same-sex prom dates. ABC plans a film about McMillen's activism.

The 33-year ban on adoption by gay couples is over in Florida. The state's Attorney General Bill McCollum made it official on Oct. 22, 2010, when he announced that he has decided not to appeal the ruling that threw out the state law. An appeals court unanimously ruled last month that Florida's ban was unconstitutional.

Clint McCance, a Midland school board member in Pleasant Plains (AK), about 70 miles northeast of Little Rock, announced his resignation Thursday night on CNN's *Anderson Cooper 360* after **posting on Facebook that he thinks gay youths should kill themselves.** McCance said that he may run for the school board again.

Strong Argument against DOMA

The most common argument against same-sex marriage is that two men together or two women together cannot "create life" without the other gender. (We'll ignore all those marriages of infertile people who don't seem to need tests to make sure that they can "create life.")

Using that argument is getting trickier. For reproduction, both an egg and a sperm have always been required. But it may be possible to manipulate these cells so as to turn a primitive egg cell into something that behaves like a sperm cell, and vice-versa. An experiment with mice has already succeeded in creating at least one adult mouse who was conceived with two eggs.

Granted, it only works in mice now. But today, mice—tomorrow humans! [More info at <http://www.365gay.com/opinion/culhane-what-happens-when-two-men-can-make-a-baby/>]

Of 103,000 active-duty and reserve service members (more than 25 percent of military troops) who responded to the survey by the Defense Department, a **majority would not object to serving and living alongside openly gay troops**, according to multiple people familiar with the findings. The Pentagon will release the information on Dec. 1.

Laura Bush said in an interview at the Women's Conference 2010 in California that all bullying—"certainly gay teens, but any children" is terrible.

Although she might be commended for her opposition to such a heinous action, LGBTQ teens would have benefited from support much earlier, for example at the same time that her husband, George W. Bush, was opposing gay rights during the time that he served as president of the United States.

A number of conservative politicians have openly opposed anti-gay positions. Colin Powell supported the repeal of DADT after his administration fell, and John McCain's wife came out for gay rights after the election run was over.

On the other hand Meghan McCain, John McCain's daughter supports LGBTQ rights during the political fights—not waiting until it is safe to do so because she will never seek political office.

'DADT' Policy Crumbling But Confusing

September 29: Adm. Mike Mullen, the top U.S. military official, says that the Pentagon's ban against openly gay men and women from serving should be revoked because the policy reflects poorly on the military's integrity.

October 12: U.S. District Judge Virginia Philips hands down a worldwide injunction that requires the U.S. government to immediately suspend enforcement of the law banning gays and lesbians from openly serving in the military.

October 14: The Obama administration urges a federal judge to let the military continue its "don't ask, don't tell" ban on gays serving openly in the military, requesting a decision from her by October 18.

October 15: The Defense Department warns gay troops that if they disclose their sexual orientation, they could still get into trouble, citing a "legally uncertain environment" facing service members.

October 19: The Pentagon announces that, for the first time in the nation's history, it will permit openly gay men and women to enlist in the armed forces. Judge Philips rejects the government's request to stop her order telling the military to drop the ban. Gay rights groups continue to tell service members to avoid revealing that they are gay.

October 20: A federal appeals court temporarily grants the government's request for a freeze of U.S. District Judge Virginia Phillip's order.

October 25: The Log Cabin Republicans organization asks the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to let stand an order by a lower court that barred the policy. A three-judge panel of the appeals court that imposed a temporary stay is now considering whether to extend the ban during the appeal by the federal government. The Log Cabin group was given until November 1 to present arguments.

November 1: Court of Appeals decides to continue the "don't ask, don't tell" policy indefinitely.

Church Founder Admits He Hid Gender Identity

At 52, Jim Swilley, pastor of a megachurch in Conyers, Ga., told his congregation that he is gay, saying that while he knows his announcement might ruin his career, the recent rash of suicides pushed him to speak out. Swilley says he has known that he is gay since he was a boy, and his wife, Debye, knew 21 years ago before they were married. Before their divorce, Jim and Debye had four children.

Earlier this year, Swilley says, Debye told him she thought it was time that he stop living a lie. Swilley says he decided she was right after reading stories about kids being harassed by antigay bullies and committing suicide.

People Who Make a Difference

Seth Stambaugh, 23, who was banned from the Beaverton School District in September after he responded candidly to a question from a student at the Sexton Mountain Elementary School, was reinstated at the end of October. "The student asked me if I was married. I indicated that I was not," Stambaugh said at a news conference. "He asked me if it was because I wasn't old enough. I told him no, that it would be because I would choose to marry another man," he said. "And he asked if I liked to hang out with other guys, and I said, 'Yep.'" The school district and Lewis and Clark Graduate School of Education, where he is a student, put out a joint press release that said, "We are moving forward with our common values and principles of equity, respect, and inclusion." Beaverton Schools Superintendent Jerry Colonna sent an e-mail to all staff apologizing and saying that Stambaugh's dismissal "shows system flaws."



Openly gay **Jon Langbert** plans to fight the Boy Scouts of America after it ejected this father of a 9-year-old Cub Scout from a Dallas (TX) leadership position. Langbert had been a volunteer in the Pack 70 Scout popcorn fundraiser team for two years until someone complained about his homosexuality at a Scout meeting and he was asked to stop wearing his Scout uniform and give up his leadership position. "What message does that send to my son? It says I'm a second-class citizen," he said. "My tax dollars are paying for their discrimination. And the next gay dad who wants to come along can't. I'm not going to let them."

Megan McCain has emerged from the shadow of her father, the 2008 GOP presidential candidate, as a forceful voice for a fundamental change in the party, especially concerning gay rights. A columnist for the *Daily Beast*, McCain, 25, describes herself as "a woman who despises labels and boxes and stereotypes." Of all issues, she has made gay rights, in her words, "one of the ones closest to my heart." Her invitation to be the keynote speaker at George Washington University's student group Allied in Pride "Marriage Equality Week" program resulted in such comments as the following one from the blog site "Free Republic": "A Republican who celebrates perverts and freaks. She's no conservative."



Mormon Church Backtracks

U.S. Justice Department Appeals DOMA Ruling

After Boyd K. Packer, a senior Mormon church leader, stated that homosexuality is unnatural and can be overcome, the outcry from national gay rights activists caused him to modify his conference speech for the church's online publication.

The new wording makes his Oct. 3 speech more

closely reflect the faith's view that the cause of same-sex attraction is unknown and that the only sin is acting on those desires. LDS spokesman Scott Trotter said he changed his wording as part of a routine practice after every conference when speakers are given a chance to make any necessary edits.

The U.S. Department of Justice has appealed two Massachusetts rulings that call the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional for denying federal benefits to gay married couples.

The appeals will eventually be heard by the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Boston.

In the October PFLAG newsletter, we discussed **sources for young people who are considering suicide because of persecution for their gender identities**. Since that time there has been a groundswell of support for Dan Savage's YouTube project, *It Gets Better*, a destination for LGBTQ young people to receive comfort from a variety of perspectives on their Internet home turf. In the first month after its inception less than six weeks ago, the channel had collected more than 2,000 videos. Savage spent years in Catholic boys schools as the son of a church deacon and lay minister; his partner Terry was stuffed into bathroom stalls, and school officials dismissed his parents' complaints about the bullying as a natural consequence of being gay. Today they have been together 16 years and adopted their 12-year-old son, D.J., at birth. One of the more recent "It Gets Better" videos comes from President Barack Obama. <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/10/21/president-obama-it-gets-better>.

More resources come from the website of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Round Table of the American Library Association: <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rts/glbtrt/popularresources/bullying.cfm>

Friendfactor, a new social network, will promote gay rights, but instead of campaigning for causes like gay marriage or Don't Ask, Don't Tell, it will make people the focus of its online campaign. Gay people create profiles on the site and then solicit support from their straight friends for their fight for equality. These profiles are like "advocate" pages where creators can post stories on their coming-out process or their struggles in obtaining a marriage license. They can also answer "burning questions" that their straight friends have. When straight allies affirm their support to a profile on the site, they trigger an automatic digital alert to the profile page's owner, in a social feedback system not unlike that of "liking" a Facebook status update.

The site will be up in the next few weeks. The founder Brian Elliot believes that the site not only provides affirmation to gay people and lets them know they are not alone but also humanizes what some straight people might see as a fight for abstract gay rights.

If you're looking for a book on how to make a gay person straight, head right out to your local Wal-Mart. Staff members from QSaltLake announced that **over 100 Wal-mart stores are set to carry a book by Mormon author Janice Barrett Graham, where Graham champions ex-gay therapy and curing people of their homosexuality**. The book, *Chased By An Elephant: The Gospel Truth About Today's Stampeding Sexuality*, is intended to "shed the clear light of truth on today's dark and tangled ideas about male and female, proper gender roles, the law of chastity, and the God-given sexual appetite."

“Universal Access and Human Rights” is this year’s theme for the 23rd World AIDS Day, first conceived in August 1987 by James W. Bunn and Thomas Netter, two public information officers for the Global Programme on AIDS at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. For more information, look up World AIDS Day.

Jennifer Vanasco, editor of 365gay.com, is starting a **community forum** at <http://www.365gay.com/forum>. She invites people to “come talk about the news of the day, respond to an Ask the Expert—or ask your own question of other 365ers—or just talk about life wherever you are. Right now, there are a small number of categories – I’ll add more as you call for them (Suggest them in the Admin group, or start a topic of your own).” Even if you don’t join the forum, this is a great source for news.—Editor

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Presiding Bishop wants gay and lesbian teens to know that they’re “the people God created them to be.” He has included this message in a video that he recorded for “It Gets Better.”

A website with breaking news about the LGBT community not easily found in the mainstream press is www.sciencedaily.com, recommended by Jeanne St.John. At this site you can find such articles as Prevalence of Cyberbullying and Its Psychological Impact on Nonheterosexual Youth; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Individuals Risk of Psychiatric Disorders from Discriminatory Policies; and Deliberate Exclusion of Gay and Lesbian Patients from Some Clinical Trials.

Just do a search for the terms gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and intersex.

OCC PFLAG Calendar:

November 7, 7:00 pm: Showing of *Out in the Silence* with directors on tour of Oregon, Newport Atonement Lutheran Church (See p. 2.)

November 10, 7:00 pm: PFLAG Meeting—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

November 17, 12:00-1:00 pm: LGBT Task Force Meeting—LCHHS Building, 36 Nye St., Newport

December 1: World AIDS Day

December 8, 7:00 pm: PFLAG—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

December 15, 12:00-1:00 pm: LGBT Task Force Meeting—LCHHS Building, 36 Nye St., 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.

“People who feel and believe that they are part of a caring community can make better decisions.”—Dan Beck

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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PO Box 2172
Newport, OR 97365

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