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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

August 2010

## Take Action!

Let Target and Best Buy know that you don't want to spend money at businesses that support a virulent anti-LGBT Minnesota state representative in his campaign for governor. Rep. Tom Emmer has promised, if elected governor, to veto marriage equality legislation. He also has ties to a controversial "punk-rock Christian ministry" whose leader has advocated executing gays and lesbians. Because the Supreme Court overturned a 63-year-old law that prohibited campaign donations from company funds, Target and Best Buy, both based in Minneapolis, were able to donate \$250,000 to a political committee supporting Emmer's campaign. Contact: [www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org)

Contact President Obama, asking him not to appeal the ruling that much of the "Defense of Marriage Act" is unconstitutional. It's a major victory for equality, and we need to make sure that President Obama preserves that victory. <http://www.progressiveoregon.com/DontAppeal>

From Jeanne: The Marriage Matters campaign is taking off with state-wide TV ads, and we want to make this a topic of conversation in the next few months. Please sign and talk it up. Get Marriage Equality buttons from many local PFLAG groups--or from <http://www.facebook.com/1/af287cBv3FNNPSukCimk3Ah4zvQ;viadelia.com>.

### **Federal Judge Walker has struck down Prop 8, California's law that prevented same-sex marriage.**

August 29 is the second annual PFLAG Family Picnic at Big Creek park from 12-4 PM. Everyone is invited--bring friends or family and a dish to share. Directions: From Hwy 101 north of Newport, turn LEFT onto NE 32nd St.; slight RIGHT onto NE Harney Rd which becomes NE Harney Dr.; LEFT onto NE Big Creek Rd; and the park is on the RIGHT.

## ***Marriage Matters—to Us: Jeanne and Kae***

This month we have been married for 28 years . . . or would have been if it were legal. In fact we were legally married for a few months in 2004, a Multnomah marriage later cancelled by a court order that trumped the county's action to legalize civil marriage.

This week we received a Marriage Matters mailer from Basic Rights Oregon and then saw their TV ads supporting equal marriage rights. In our work with the Oregon Central Coast PFLAG (Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians and Gays) we've seen how injustice preserves the current limits on civil marriage. Some people forget that the institution of marriage has evolved over the centuries.

Old Testament marriages often included many wives or close relatives. In 1863 Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation gave former slaves the right to marry, and in 1967 the US Supreme Court overturned state laws prohibiting interracial marriage. In the last decade several states and many countries have adopted civil marriage.

As the two of us celebrate another anniversary without the possibility of a legal civil marriage, we're feeling "unemancipated" and very aware of our limited citizenship. When we travel, we've learned to consider the laws of each state we enter—will we be safe if something happens? Would we be kept apart in a hospital? Is it safe to stay in this small town? Might our car be vandalized? Even though we're registered as Oregon Domestic Partners, this document doesn't apply outside the state. Some states have their own laws for civil unions, domestic partnerships, or civil marriage—and many have no provision for gay unions of any kind.

Often people ask, "Does it have to be marriage? Can't you be satisfied with domestic partnerships?" Our culture offers encouragement to married couples—but

withholds that support from gay couples. No one grows up dreaming of the day they can register as Domestic Partners! In our family a niece is suffering because she and her long-time partner are not recognized by the family or the community as a committed couple. Civil marriage would make a huge difference in the level of understanding and acceptance by family, friends, hospitals—and even mortuaries.

Our PFLAG activities have helped us see that real progress has been made in recent years in many parts of our culture. We're especially grateful for the loving support of our own families and the community at St. Luke's Church in Waldport which lives its motto of welcome to all—singles, couples, and families—gay or straight.

In recent years we've come forward along with legally married couples for an anniversary blessing, an important way that we feel welcomed and loved. This month we're enjoying quiet anniversary celebrations with two straight couples who share our anniversary date. We all celebrate our great good fortune in finding and living with the love of our lives.

The issue of marriage equality is both very personal and very political—not partisan but affecting the core of the American political process. Either we hold all citizens to be equal, or we waffle on that and withhold rights from some. Marriage matters, and we thank Basic Rights Oregon, PFLAG, and the Rural Organizing Project for their hard work to promote equal marriage rights for gays and lesbians.

*Kae Bates, RN, MS, a retired school nurse, serves on the Lincoln County Public Health Advisory Board, and is an avid gardener and photographer. Jeanne St. John, Ph.D., a retired school administrator and chair of Oregon Central Coast PFLAG, is active in church and community Peace and Justice efforts.*

# *Politics on Our Side*

In April, Missoula (MT) passed the **state's first ordinance prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation**. A conservative local coalition, Notmybathroom.com, has repeatedly tried to have the ordinance repealed. Meanwhile, the ordinance is inspiring other cities in Montana to pass anti-discrimination measures. Bozeman, the fifth-largest city in the state, approved a measure in January that grants same-sex couples employed by the city the same benefits as opposite-sex couples and prevents discrimination. (*Ms.*, Summer 2010)

U.S. District Judge John Sedwick has issued a preliminary injunction that **requires Arizona to still make family health insurance available to gay and lesbian state employees** who have established domestic partnerships that meet standards set under state administration rules.

In an effort to gain more support for immigration reform, House Democrats are pushing for a **provision that would let gay and lesbian Americans bring their foreign partners to the country**.

Constance McMillen, who sued her school district over its ban of same-sex prom dates in Itawamba County (MS), has been awarded \$35,000. **The school district also agreed not to discriminate based on sexual orientation and gender identity in any educational or extracurricular activities**.

A **federal judge has upheld the right of a counseling program at Eastern Michigan University to drop a master's student who declined to counsel gay clients in an affirming way as required by the university program and counseling associations**. In his ruling, U.S. District Court Judge George Sheeh found that the university was enforcing a legitimate curricular re-

quirement, namely that counseling students learn to work with all kinds of clients in ways that did not judge their values or orientations. He rejected a lawsuit that charged that the university's actions amounted to an unconstitutional infringement on the religious freedom and free speech rights of Julea Ward. Jennifer Keaton, 24, has filed suit against Augusta State University on the same issue.

A man in Bloomington (IN) **won \$1.25 million in a lawsuit against Internal Medicine Associates** after his doctor disclosed his HIV-positive status to billing collection lawyers.

President Cristina Fernández de Kirchner signed Argentina's gay marriage bill into law on July 21, 2010. It is the first Latin American nation to legalize gay marriage and joins Canada as the only nations in the Americas with marriage equality.

**Irish President Mary McAleese has signed a law that grants marriage-like benefits to same-sex couples in civil partnerships**. The Civil Partnership Bill has been enacted but must wait for changes in social welfare, tax and pensions legislation, likely to be made in the Finance Bill and Social Welfare Bill drafted following December's budget. The first civil partnership registrations will likely take place in January 2011. Gay and lesbian couples will benefit from the same rights as married couples in the areas of property, social welfare, succession, maintenance, pensions, and tax.

**In Mexico City 271 gay and lesbian couples were married in the first four months** after the capital enacted the first law in Latin America explicitly allowing same-sex marriages.

### ***Stay Away from Texas***

“We support legislation that would make it a felony to issue a marriage license to a same-sex couple . . . . We believe that the practice of homosexuality tears at the fabric of society, contributes to the breakdown of the family unit and leads to the spread of dangerous, communicable diseases.”—2010 Texas GOP Platform

### ***Not American Family?***

American Family News Network is warning its readers to not attend *The Kids Are All Right*, an R-rated film that stars Julianne Moore, Mark Ruffalo, and Mia Wasikowska. The plot, showing same-sex marriage in a positive light, is about a lesbian couple (Moore and actress Annette Bening), each woman having a child through in vitro fertilization, whose children later seek and find their donor father.

### ***Don't Ask, Don't Tell***

Lt. Dan Choi has been formally discharged from the New York Army National Guard on Thursday after announcing his homosexuality more than a year ago on a cable TV show hosted by Rachel Maddow, referred to by the American Family Association as “a radical lesbian activist.”

### ***Lots of Buying Power***

A new market analysis puts the annual buying power of U.S. LGBT adults at \$743 billion.

## **BRO Starts Marriage Matters Campaign**

Basic Rights Oregon (BRO), Oregon’s largest gay-rights group, kicked off its Marriage Matters campaign at the end of July with a three-week advertising blitz along the Coast and up the I-5 corridor that includes 30-second television commercials and brochures.

They hope to reach over 300,000 people with the TV ads. The 50,000 brochures to be mailed to households in the same area will explain why lesbian and gay couples want to marry.

The ad campaign is a continuation of the group’s sustained effort during the past year to persuade more Oregonians to legalize gay marriage in the state, as it is in five other states and the District of Columbia.

Six years ago when Oregon banned gay marriage, between 59 and 76 percent of Americans polled were opposed to gay marriage. That percentage has dropped eight to 22 points to barely above the majority of people.

One of the videos shows a married couple from Happy Valley who use the Golden Rule to support gay marriage: “I would absolutely not want anyone to tell me that I could not get married,” says the wife. More videos are online at [MarriageMattersOregon.org](http://MarriageMattersOregon.org).

## **National Same-Sex Marriage Grows Closer**

Gay couples are now allowed to enter the *Today* show’s annual wedding contest. The decision came on the same day that U.S. District Judge Joseph Tauro ruled that a law barring the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriage is unconstitutional in Massachusetts. According to Tauro, gay and lesbian couples deserve the same federal benefits as heterosexual couples.

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Badgett, M.V. Lee. *When Gay People Get Married: What Happens When Societies Legalize Same-Sex Marriage*. 2009. 285p. NYU Press, \$35.00. This highly-readable, interesting social and political view of same-sex marriage has collected statistics from around the world. Although the research primarily covers the Netherlands, it provides many research-based reasons for changing the U.S. policy of “Don’t let LGBT people marry!” For example, increased monogamy among men caused by gay marriage results in a decrease of venereal disease.

Another argument in favor of same-sex marriage is the need for children to have stable families accepted by the community. This situation is far more prevalent than some people realize: in the U.S., 20% of gay couples and 1/3 of lesbian couples have children living with them. This eye-opening look at marriage is a must read.

# People Who Make a Difference

Cole Goforth, a freshman at Greenbrier High School (TN), was sent home from school April 5 for wearing an “I (heart) Lady Gay Gay” T-shirt he purchased at a local mall. He and his mother contacted the ACLU and Lambda Legal after being told his attire – and any pro-gay messages – were “disruptive.” In addition, Goforth said he was the victim of daily harassment at school including threats of violence. He was told by one school employee that he had “brought [harassment] on himself by coming out.” The school has since promised that a student wearing T-shirts printed with pro-gay slogans won’t be censored and they will train staff on the anti-bullying policy to avoid harassment of any student.



**"They should choose another profession."**

--Rep. Tammy Baldwin (right), responding to the concerns of moderate colleagues who complain about voting on gay-rights legislation in an election year, in Roll Call

**I always say, if you don't have a seat at the table, you're probably on the menu."**

--Jolie Justus (left), Missouri state senator and out lesbian, about the importance of having openly gay representation in politics.



In April, David Mixner put together his collection of the twenty most powerful lesbians in American politics (web address below). “Often very powerful and influential political Lesbians are left off the usual national LGBT publications lists,” says Mixner. “To create this list,” I eliminated anyone from the entertainment and sports community and focused totally on national politics and grassroots. So that leaves off such influential but not exclusively political heavy weights like Kate Clinton, Cynthia Nixon, Melissa Etheridge and Ellen DeGeneres. Some such as Nancy Sutley, who has a major position in the Obama team is lower in the list because she is not that active in LGBT issues or politics despite her powerful position.”



Number 2 of his list is above right; comments add many more.

Number 1 is Rachel Maddow (left), that dreaded “radical lesbian activist.” Although Urvashi Vaid (right) is Number 9, Mixner says this about her: “When you list the persons who are the 'conscience of the movement' you would have to put Urvashi at the top. As a foundation head, writer, activist and speaker, Vaid is one of the most respected citizens in America. She was one of the few older leaders who understood the importance of the National Equality March for the nation's youth. They have joined her fan club!”



http://www.davidmixner.com/2010/04/twenty-most-powerful-lesbians-in-american-politics.html

## Presbyterians Approve Gay Clergy, Refuse Gender-Neutral Marriage

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church continues its struggle with the issues of gender-neutral marriage. At their 219th meeting, they approved a policy to allow openly gay clergy members.

At the same time, they refused to redefine marriage in the church constitution as a union between two adults rather than a union between a man and a woman.

In addition, they passed a measure that would remove

the threat of punishment for clergy who perform same-sex marriages. The policy changes must be approved by a majority of the 173 presbyteries to go into effect.

Therefore lesbian/gay Presbyterian clergy are allowed to get married, but they can't get married in their church, and their church doesn't recognize their marriage.

Delegates said that they could address the issue of marriage in two more years.

## NLGJA Addresses Media LGBT Issues

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of working to ensure fair and accurate coverage of LGBT issues, the National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association will focus its convention on topics involving mainstream media, LGBT press, and the blogosphere.

Both students and pros will attend this national convention and 7th Annual LGBT Media Summit in San Francisco on September 2-5. [www.nlgja.org](http://www.nlgja.org)

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## *Use of Prenatal Hormones Could "Cure" Lesbianism*

Pediatric endocrinologist Maria New of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine and Florida International University is trying not only to prevent lesbianism by treating pregnant women with an experimental hormone but also to prevent the births of girls who display an "abnormal" disinterest in babies, don't want to play with girls' toys or become mothers, and whose "career preferences" are deemed too "masculine." She and her long-time collaborator, psychologist Heino F. L. Meyer-Bahlburg, of Columbia University believe that prenatal androgens have an impact on the development of sexual orientation. Meyer-Bahlburg suggests that treatments with prenatal dexamethasone might cause these girls' behavior to be closer to the expectation of heterosexual norms.

In a paper published this year in *The Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences*, New and her colleague, pediatric endocrinologist Saroj Nimkarn of Weill Cornell Medical College, go further, describing low interest in babies and men—and even interest in what they consider to be men's occupations and games—as “abnormal” and potentially preventable with prenatal dex.

## *U.S. Health Assistance Could Reduce Incidence of AIDS*

Research published in the British medical journal *The Lancet* shows that treating persons with HIV can lead to an overall reduction in the transmission of the virus. In a Canadian study, researchers found that for every 100 people treated for HIV in British Columbia, the infection rate dropped by 3%. Leaders in the field of HIV research hailed the study as evidence that governments have an incentive to provide free HIV treatment to its citizens, as Canada does. Access to AIDS care in the United States, however, has become more dire in the past year, with steep cuts nationwide to HIV medication programs like The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP).

## *Notes from Jeanne:*

*Papers*, a documentary about foreign-born students who have been in the US most of their lives but have no papers or documents that allow them to attend college or pursue other post-graduation plans, will be a joint presentation of PFLAG and Centro de Ayuda at St. Stephen's (Newport) on August 9. (Info at <http://www.papersthemovie.com/>)

The speaker for the August PFLAG meeting (August 11) will be Marc Adams, the author of nine books including *The Preacher's Son*, his award-winning autobiography, six collections of poetry, and *The Do's & Don'ts of Dealing with the Religious Right*. Reared in a cultish, fundamentalist Baptist home, aware that he was gay by the age of seven, and weaving his way through religious schools (including Jerry Falwell's Liberty University) and reparative therapy techniques, Adams started his journey to self-acceptance at age 23.

Marc Adams is also the founder and executive director of Heart-Strong, Inc., an educational non-profit with the sole mission to provide outreach and support to GLBT students terrorized at religious educational institutions. His newest book, *It's Not About You: Understanding Coming Out & Self Acceptance*, deals compassionately with the issue of disclosure reaction.

**August 14 is our monthly table at the Newport Farmer's Market**--come to help with the table or just visit with us. Call Jeanne at 265-7194 if you can help at the table.

**A conference call for the August state PFLAG meeting** is scheduled on August 14.

PFLAG is helping sponsor the Sept. 17-19 **Iris Pride Festival** and will have a display table there.

## OCC PFLAG Calendar:

August 7: Capitol Pride, Salem

August 9, 7:00 pm: Showing of *Papers*—St. Stephen's, 9<sup>th</sup> & Hurbert, Newport

August 11, 7:00 pm: PFLAG—St. Stephen's, 9<sup>th</sup> & Hurbert, Newport

August 14: Newport Saturday Market

August 18, 12:00-1:00 pm: LGBT Task Force Meeting—LCHHS Building, 36 Nye St., Newport

August 26-29: Women in the Woods—Breitenbush Hot Springs ([www.womeninthewoods.com](http://www.womeninthewoods.com)) Sliding scale and scholarships available.

August 29: **PFLAG's Second Family Picnic!**

September 8, 7:00 pm: PFLAG Meeting—St. Stephen's, 9<sup>th</sup> & Hurbert, Newport

September 11: Newport Saturday Market; Eugene Pride

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

September 17-19: Iris Pride, Lincoln City

September 24-26: Safe Space, a Reconciling Retreat—Suttle Lake (<http://gocamping.org/camps-retreats/detail/safe-spaces-retreat> )

**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](mailto: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, except potluck night, usually limited to men.

**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:

Oregon Central Coast PFLAG  
PO Box 2172  
Newport, OR 97365

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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