



Oregon Central Coast Chapter

September 2010

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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.

Take Action!

Jennifer Draper is doing an online questionnaire to find out how the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) community feels about their public library. The results will be presented at the Ontario (Canada) Library Association Conference in 2011. She wants to know how the public library can better serve the LGBTQ community and market its services. According to Draper, small/medium town libraries may not know they have any from the LGBTQ community. Most of the people she knows come from small towns, so she would like to set the record . . . straight. If you would like to complete the questionnaire, go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/x/SJSXB9C>. [Ed note: This might be a good action for libraries in our towns.]

You Took Action! After the news of Minnesota-based Target donating money to ultra-conservative candidates, the company's stock lost \$1.3 billion in one day. Target's chief executive, Gregg Steinhafel, wrote a letter of apology to employees on August 5, explaining that the company's political donation had been a misguided effort to foster economic growth, but that's all they have done at this time.

And speaking of Minnesota, Gov. Tim Pawlenty said in a visit to Iowa that voters should work to remove judges who overturn bans on same-sex marriage. [Could this be called conservative judicial activism?]

Documentary *Ballot Measure 9*—
PFLAG Meeting (9/8)

Iris Pride Festival—Lincoln City
(9/17-19)

OCC PFLAG Second Annual Picnic 2010

No, the picnic wasn't at the Space Needle, but I love this picture!



Politics on Our Side

A Wyoming couple is asking U.S. District Judge Alan B. Johnson to **stop the state from enforcing any laws that block gays and lesbians from access to civil marriage.** David Shupe-Roderick and his (all-but-legal) spouse Ryan W. Dupree have brought suit on their own, without any outside assistance. [One state at a time?]

Mexico's Supreme Court ruled August 10 that **all 31 states must recognize same-sex marriage** performed in the capital although its decision does not force these states to marry gay couples in their territory. One week after that ruling, on the same day that a U.S. federal appeals court put same-sex weddings on hold in California, Mexico's Supreme Court also upheld a law that allows gay couples in the capital to adopt children. The move came after Argentina legalized gay marriage and adoption nationwide in July. Mexico's Supreme Court decision "will have resonance for courts throughout the continent for protecting the basic human rights of LGBT people," said Juliana Cano Nieto of Human Rights Watch. [Maybe even the U.S.?

Ken Mehlman, President George W. Bush's campaign manager in 2004 and chairman of the Republican National Committee for the following two years, **has announced that he is gay.** Although he is supporting fundraising efforts to oppose Prop 8 in California, he still urges people to vote for Republican party candidates because it is against the Islamic jihad that he called "the greatest anti-gay force in the world right now." The Republican Party's gay-baiting in the 2004 election led to initiatives in eleven states preventing same-sex marriage and resulted in driving LGBTQ youth further into their restrictive closet. Mehlman indicated that if he had come to terms with his sexual identity earlier, he

would have worked against the Federal Marriage Amendment (DOMA) that prevents same-sex marriage. [Is it possible that he cannot support women's rights because he is male?]

Federal Judge Randal Hall has ruled that **the remediation plan for an anti-gay counseling student is "academically legitimate."** A student at Georgia's Augusta State University, Jennifer Keeton, 24, said that as a Christian, she does not approve of homosexuality. She also said it would not affect her ability to counsel gay and lesbian students. The affidavit in the case said that she would let students know "their behavior is morally wrong and then help the client change that behavior." Hall wrote, "It was not [Keeton's] personal beliefs that were their concern, but rather only her inability to separate her personal beliefs in the judgment-free zone of a professional counseling situation. Keeton is appealing.

Members of the Pentagon's Comprehensive Review Working Group on Don't Ask, Don't Tell plan to meet with lesbian and gay military partners on September 16, **the first time Pentagon staff meet with gay military partners** about the policy. (www.MilitaryPartners.org) The Pentagon is also surveying 150,000 military spouses as part of a study looking at the consequence of repealing Don't Ask, Don't Tell. None of those participants will be gay or lesbian partners of service members. (http://voices.washingtonpost.com/federal-eye/2010/08/military-surveys-spouses_on_do.html) Truman integrated the military at a time when 63% of people in the U.S. opposed this action. If the survey shows serious opposition to repealing Don't Ask, Don't Tell, and the country follows history, this policy will be overturned.

Judge Walker's ruling against Proposition 8 is based on **due process guaranteed by the 14th Amendment** of the Constitution, adopted in 1868, that gave full rights to freed slaves. It was also the basis for the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* that banned discrimination in the public schools. Walker used the same clause guaranteeing equal protection under the law to rule there was no reason for treating same-sex relationships as inferior.

American Family Association (AFA) is offended about Glenn Beck's statement to Bill O'Reilly that he does not care about the homosexual "marriage" issue as long as it does not affect him." I believe that Thomas Jefferson said, 'If it neither breaks my leg, nor picks my pocket, what difference is it to me,'" Beck quoted.

AFA is also disturbed that Ann Coulter is speaking at the Republican gay GoProud convention and that Rush Limbaugh is paying Elton John, a "hardcore homosexual activist" according to AFA, one million dollars to sing at Rush's wedding.

Learning about Ann Coulter's keynote speech at the Go-Proud Conference, **Conservative website Word Net Daily dropped Ann Coulter** as speaker at its Miami conference.

Whither Same-Sex Marriage

Since Judge Vaughn Walker announced in favor of same-sex proponents against supporters of California's Proposition 8, people have been trying to second-guess the resolution. The decision is now with the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that has scheduled oral arguments for the week of Dec. 6.

Their ruling may cause the suit to move onto the U.S. Supreme Court because whoever loses will appeal. The question is how those nine justices, split half and half between conservative and liberal with Justice Kennedy, who typically leans toward the conservative edge, making the swing vote.

People appealing must prove that they would be affected by or responsible for implementing the ruling. The judge also said the ban's sponsors can only appeal his decision with the backing of either Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger or Attorney General Jerry Brown, neither of whom likely to support an appeal because they refused to support Prop 8 during the trial. Schwarzenegger also urged the judge to permit resumption of same-sex marriage in California without further delay.

Justice Kennedy voted in favor of *Lawrence v. Texas*, the groundbreaking Supreme Court decision in 2003 that made private, consensual same-partner sex legal in the U.S. for the first time since the Puritans passed laws against sodomy and then did not define it.

Judge Walker's eloquent argument in the case offers new language for defenders of basic human rights of all couples. "Moral disapproval alone is an improper basis on which to deny rights to gay men and lesbians." Those complaining about the decision decry the overturn of 7 million votes in California, but the judge stated that civil liberties cannot be put to a vote. As many court decisions prove, however, the Constitution does not allow people to overturn a group's rights through a vote.

Judge Walker was appointed by President Ronald Reagan and re-appointed by George H.W. Bush (I).

A CNN poll has shown that a narrow majority of Americans supported same-sex marriage — the first poll to find majority support. Other poll results did not go that far but found that support for gay marriage had risen to 45 percent or more (with others opposed or undecided).

In 1996, when Congress passed the Defense of Marriage Act, only 25 percent of Americans said that gay and lesbian couples should have the right to marry. Even in the most conservative polls, seventeen states now have a majority believing in same-sex marriage.

People Who Make a Difference



Katherine Miller, a West Point lesbian cadet ranked ninth in her class resigned this month, calling her life at West Point “a whirlpool of lies.” She said, “I am unwilling to suppress an entire portion of my identity any longer.” Miller, who wrote in her blog about enduring gay slurs and faking a heterosexual dating history, is transferring to Yale University this fall. Even though women make up 14% of all Army soldiers, they accounted for 48% of Army discharges last year under Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell according to the Palm Center. You can find more information about Katherine Miller at http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/25/nyregion/25cadet.html_r=1&th=&emc=th&pagewanted=all

The openly gay actor **Neil Patrick Harris**, currently starring in *How I Met Your Mother*, is expecting twins. He and his partner David Burtka are reportedly having twins via a surrogate mother, due to be born in October. Burtka, also an actor, helped his previous boyfriend raise twins, though he was not himself one of their primary parents. Harris is nominated for three Emmy awards this month, and he just wrapped up his first steps into directing with a Hollywood Bowl performance of *Rent*. The couple has been together since 2004.



Author **Anne Rice** quit Christianity because she is an “outsider” in the Christian community. On her Facebook page she wrote, “I quit being a Christian. I’m out. In the name of Christ, I refuse to be anti-gay. I refuse to be anti-feminist. I refuse to be anti-artificial birth control. I refuse to be anti-Democrat. I refuse to be anti-secular humanism. I refuse to be anti-science. I refuse to be anti-life. In the name of . . . Christ, I quit Christianity and being Christian. Amen.” Though she has decided to leave the Christian institution, Rice"remain[s] committed to Christ as always.”

Last week we featured a quotation from **Tammy Baldwin**. Check her out at a gay pride celebration: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i7YDaXqyL-Y>

Heartstrong Helps Students in Religious Schools

Imagine being an LGBT student at a school that teaches people like you are an abomination.

Marc Adams, volunteer Executive Director of HeartStrong, doesn't have to imagine it. While a student at Liberty University, he lived in constant fear of being discovered and not knowing where to turn.

Marc visited the Oregon Central Coast PFLAG chapter in August as part of a HeartStrong outreach and education tour. Those who heard him were touched and inspired by his personal story, his sense of humor, and his dedication to supporting students who are being bullied or worse at some religious schools.

It is especially hard to

hear that many LGBT students do not feel safe or accepted by their faith communities.

Since 1996, HeartStrong has provided hope and help to LGBT students from religious educational institutions. More than 1000 current and former students aged 13-68 have come to HeartStrong after being on the receiving end of faith-based, anti-LGBT bullying and persecution. HeartStrong is the only organization in the world with this specific mission.

Their message is simple and loving: You are not alone. If you are struggling with gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered feelings, you need to know that there are millions of us who have

shared your journey. You do not have to believe what you are being told about yourself in your classes, in counseling sessions, or in restorative therapy.

Marc says, "HeartStrong, Inc., is not about trying to make you gay or trying to take your faith from you. We know what it is like to feel that someone doesn't understand this journey. We are here to talk to you, be your friend and let you ask us questions about how we have walked through this and found our hope, love and peace."

This fall HeartStrong wants to raise funds for their current outreach and education tour. People who wish to contribute can go to www.heartstrong.org.

Fairy Tales Flourish at Iris Pride 2010!

Iris Pride 2010 kicks off on Friday, September 17th, with an All You Can Eat Clambake at Surftides Resort with live music provided by Rose City Swing. Afterwards all the princes and princesses can head to The Filthy for a game of 'Family' Family Feud benefiting the Coastal AIDS Network, or kick back at The Historic Anchor Inn for Happily Ever After Hour!

September 18th head to the 11:00am showing of The Birdcage for only \$2 at The Bijou and then fly to the Beachside Street Fair and partake in some free fun for all, even the goblins! The Street Fair is open from 1:00-8:00pm on SW 51st Street in the Historic Taft District. Return performances from Queens include Emmy Nominee Lily Armani, seven-foot-tall GLAMAZONIA, The Superstar Divas, former Miss Gay Oregon Adrienne Alexander, and world renown Marcy Craft. Throughout the day you can enjoy free whimsical caricatures by Deena Printz, a free ride into the sunset on a horse drawn carriage, and roaming performances by the Wanderlust Circus! At 7:00pm The Wanderlust Circus takes over the stage and combines Acrobatics, Aerials, Juggling, Fire Dance, and other Variety Arts with original songs for an Alice and Wonderland-themed performance. Saturday night get your pride on for a game of 31 offering BIG CASH and BIG TROPHIES happening at The Historic Anchor Inn or drag yourself to the Surftides for a Drag Show and full service bar!

Finish off the weekend hunting for one of the rainbow glass floats hidden on all 7.5 miles of public beaches by our very own float fairies and then join in a fun game of Flamingo Bingo at Surftides Resort complete with special menu and drink service. Come and have a magical time!

Upcoming OCC PFLAG Events

The documentary *Ballot Measure 9*, “a chilling portrayal of the epidemic of racial and anti-gay hatred” about the fight against the 1995 initiative. (9/8 PFLAG meeting) www.ballotmeasure9.com

Information about PFLAG and sales of new OCC PFLAG t-shirts (available in rainbow colors for \$15 or two for \$25) at the Newport Farmer’s Market in a shared space with the Imagine Peace observance—a week-long celebration of peace-making coordinated by the Interfaith Community for Peace & Justice teams from Lincoln County churches. (9/11)

Proud sponsor of **Iris Pride Festival** with a table at the Saturday 9/18 Taft District Street Fair (Lincoln City) from 1-8 pm.

Letter from Ron Jantzen in the Lincoln County (OR) *News-Times*:

I am a Christian and believe in the Bible. I also believe in marriage equality to include civil marriage for committed gay and lesbian couples. Fairness and respect for each other are basic Oregon values. We don't make one set of rules for some and another set for others. We honor those values when we ensure that all our neighbors have the opportunity to create a family with the love, commitment, and protection that only civil marriage can provide.

In a hospital room or an emergency, for children who need love, support and acceptance to support strong families which are the building blocks for strong communities, marriage matters. Gay and lesbian couples deserve the dignity, respect, and legal certainty that come with marriage—and especially the ability to protect the people they love.

This is what I believe. Marriage matters.

OCC PFLAG Calendar:

September 8, 7:00 pm: PFLAG—St. Stephen's, 9th & 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>)

October 8-9: Southern Oregon Pride, Ashland

October 9: Newport Saturday Market

October 13, 7:00 pm: PFLAG Meeting—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

October 20, 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.

The second annual PFLAG picnic drew almost 30 people. Thanks to everyone who contributed!

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: _____

PFLAG is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and has no political or religious affiliations.



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