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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

February 2010

## Beaverton Students March for Ugandan Gays

A Ugandan bill, introduced in September, would make homosexuality a crime punishable by life imprisonment. Sexually active gays who have HIV could be sentenced to death. The law includes Ugandans living abroad, who could be extradited and punished. Final action on the legislation is pending.

Although people around the world are becoming increasingly knowledgeable and horrified about the proposed legislation, there has been little change in the Ugandan direction regarding gays and lesbians.

Students at Southridge High School (Beaverton, OR) decided to take action. They have a sister school, St. Andrew's Matala Senior Secondary School, in Kalisizo, Uganda. Students and faculty from both have an ongoing and active relationship, even exchanging students.

On January 23, several hundred students and other community members marched in protest throughout Beaverton against the proposed Ugandan legislation before participating in a rally. Its theme was "Respect Humanity," a concept that learning specialist Rich Matkins, GSA sponsor, emphasized when he coordinated a schoolwide survey in 2007 polling students on safety and tolerance of everything from race to gender. One of his findings: 83 percent of students never stood up for their peers who were bullied.

Southridge experienced the sting of anti-gay bigotry when, in 2005, principal Amy Gordon (now on leave) canceled *The Laramie Project*, a play exploring the hate crime murder of gay college student Matthew Shepard.

**"This year, I will work with Congress and our military to finally repeal the law that denies gay Americans the right to serve the country they love because of who they are."—President Barack Obama in his State of the Union address**

# Kathryn & David Heater

Avery Heater, a 17-year-old Newport High School student, came out to the readers of the school publication, *Harbor Light Magazine*, late last year. In the December issue of the OCC PFLAG chapter newsletter, she talked about her experience and how this has affected her life.

She expressed great admiration for the support of her parents in this process, talking about their positive influence on her life that helped give her the ability to be open with them and others.

Kathryn and David Heater talked with me about the other side of the coin, how they felt as parents of a teenage girl who openly declares that she is a lesbian.

Both were very positive when she declared her sexual orientation to them. Kathryn talked about her openness about homosexuality, while David said that he learned from a high school friend who shared his gay orientation with David after they graduated.

Their only fear about Avery's orientation is for her safety from hatred, discrimination, and "evil people." Although Avery lives in a small secure community now, according to Kathryn, "she'll leave and go into the big world." David said,

from the experience of his gay friend, that Avery's declaration will "change her social structure."

David said that her decision to be open did not change his life—that his friends are still open and accepting of Avery. Some people in his church (David is a pastor at the First Presbyterian Church in Newport) expressed concern when Avery came out. "Faith-based opinions are hard to change," he said.

"I have found the mama bear instinct, and I'm very protective of her," said Kathryn. This may be particularly strong with a family member who is highly disapproving. "Don't tread on my daughter," she added.

Neither parent was surprised about Avery's declaration. Kathryn chose to ask her about the issue, perhaps opening the door to a discussion. David chose to let Avery take her time.

"This world is so hard. Don't spend your time worrying who your children end up with. Just hope they find someone to love," said Kathryn in advice for parents who learn about their children's LGBTQ. David's advice? "If you don't know what to say, don't say anything. They'll never forget what you say. Just ask for some time before you talk about it." This came from his experience with his friend.

"If a parent has a problem with this, they need to figure out where it comes from and then get counseling," he added.

Both parents view Avery as a gift with a bright future, whatever path she might take.

Nel Ward



# *Politics on Our Side*

The **Hawaii Senate** has approved **same-sex civil unions** on an 18-7 vote, moving the measure to the House. The strength of this vote sends a signal to Republican Gov. Linda Lingle that there will probably be enough votes to override a potential veto. The measure would grant gay and straight couples the same rights and benefits the state provides to married couples. Unfortunately, the House has postponed their vote on this proposed legislation.

**A gay-straight alliance at a Florida high school has kept its rights.** It must be allowed to keep its name, hold campus meetings, and continue with its mission to "advocate for tolerance, respect and equality" of LGBT people, according to an order from U.S. District Judge Henry Lee Adams.

The decision makes final a temporary ruling issued last March in a lawsuit filed on behalf of two Yulee High School students by the American Civil Liberties Union against the Nassau County School Board for allegedly refusing to let the club call itself a gay-straight alliance.

Despite the passing of Prop 8 in **California** which bans gender-neutral marriage in the state, the state **Marriage Recognition and Family Protection Act** recognizes as valid all same-sex marriages from anywhere in the world that took place before 11/5/08. The law, which went into effect on 1/1/10, requires that these same-sex couples have all the rights of married spouses when in California except to use the word "marriage" for their marriage.

Indianapolis resident Trevor Yager, a gay small business owner, was the **First Lady Michelle Obama's** guest for the State of the Union Address given last January 27. Yager is the founder of TrendyMinds, a 15-year-old advertising and public rela-

tions firm.

"I'm very honored to be a part of this. It's a groundbreaking time in our country and I'm proud to be part of that," Yager told the Bilerico Project, a gay news blog. "This is all possible because we have some awesome clients who allow us to be successful. It is very honoring and emotional to be chosen."

The National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, which certified his business as gay-owned, nominated Yager (pictured below) to be a guest.



In his State of the Union address President Barack Obama called on Congress to **rescind the "don't ask, don't tell" policy** that allows LGBT individuals in the military as long as "nobody knows." Currently an estimated 66,000 gays, lesbians, and bisexuals are serving in the military, roughly two percent of all military personnel. About 13,000 are active duty members. This is a slight increase in the numbers of LGB serving in earlier years.

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates plans to brief a Senate panel on the Pentagon's recommendation for how to repeal the military gay ban.

## ***So What Happens At Family Dinners?***

Frank Schubert, mastermind behind passing Prop 8 in California and the failure of gay marriage in Maine, has a gay sister.

Anne Marie Schubert, running for Sacramento County Superior Court judge said that the California Code of Judicial Ethics prevents her from publicly discussing Prop 8 or gay marriage.

Schubert and her partner, Julie Greenberg, are raising two children.

## ***Decreased Divorce Rates In States without Bans***

Since 2003 the decline in divorce rates has been largely confined to states that have not passed a state constitutional ban on gay marriage. These states saw their divorce rates decrease by an average of 8 percent between 2003 and 2008.

States that passed a same-sex marriage ban as of January 1, 2008, however, saw their divorce rates rise by about 1 percent over the same period.

## ***Prop 8 Trial Moves On***

Testimony has concluded for the California Prop 8 trial. Closing statements will be after February 26, the due date for lawyer briefs. There is no date set for the judge's decision

## **Gender-Neutral Marriage on Trial in California**

"Freedom means freedom for all," said Vice President Cheney before a National Press Club audience on June 1, 2009, in defending the rights of lesbians and gays to marry, according to conservative commentator Margaret Hoover.

Hoover's support of gay marriage came in reaction to *Perry v. Schwarzenegger*, a California trial in which Kristin Perry, Sandra Stier, Paul Katami, and Jeffrey Zarrillo are suing the state for the overturn of Proposition 8 and thus the right to marry their partners. Their contention is that the voter-approved law opposing gender-neutral marriage is rooted in bias and unproven beliefs about homosexuality and is therefore unconstitutional.

Whatever the outcome, the case is likely to go to appeal and come before the Supreme Court. But first the trial will do two things: it will establish, for the first time, a body of evidence, through expert testimony, that appellate courts can use to evaluate the claims by supporters and opponents of gay marriage. And it will blur the existing partisan divide on the issue between conservatives and liberals.

The two lawyers are David Boies, a liberal who litigated for Al Gore in his 2000 court fight against George Bush over the presidency, and Theodore Olson, Boies's courtroom adversary in 2000. Conservative lawyer Theodore B. Olson provided his rationale for opposing Prop 8 when he said, "Legalizing same-sex marriage would ... be a recognition of basic American principles,

Testimony from defense witnesses seems to support the plaintiffs. David Blankenhorn, president of the New York-based Institute for American Values, testified, "I do believe it is almost certainly true that gay and lesbian couples and their children would benefit from having gay marriage." He also stated he believes that polygamy satisfies the principles of marriage because a man marries a woman one at a time.

Claremont McKenna College Professor Kenneth Miller agrees that a generally accepted principle in political science is that a religious majority should not be able to use law to impose their views on others.

Following are links to articles with more detailed information about the trial.

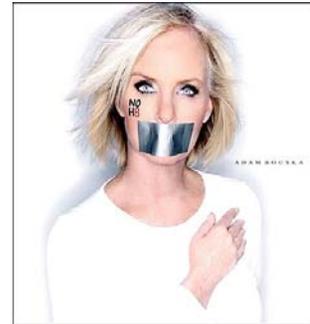
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/01/12/us/12prop8.html?hp>

<http://www.newsweek.com/id/229957>

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/lanow/2010/01/witness-argues-against-same-sex-marriage-as-prop-8-trial-testimony-concludes.html>

# People Who Make a Difference

**Cindy McCain**, wife of 2008 Republican presidential nominee John McCain, and their daughter **Meghan** have posed for photos endorsing pro-gay marriage forces in California. Mrs. McCain appears with silver duct tape across her mouth and “NOH8” written on one cheek in a photo posted to the Web site of NOH8, a gay rights group opposed to Proposition 8. The ballot measure passed by California voters in 2008 bans same-sex marriage. On her Twitter site, Meghan McCain’s photo has a similar format with the duct tape and NOH8 on her cheek. Cindy McCain contacted NOH8 and offered to pose for the photo endorsement (right).



Coming out are **David Ogden Stiers (actor)**, **Kelly McGillis (actor)**, **Meredith Baxter**, and **Chaz Bono (writer/musician/actor)**. Child of mega-diva Cher, Bono (left), born “Chastity,” has been actively transitioning since 2008. Baxter, who played Elyse Keaton in the sitcom *Family Ties*, married and divorced three times before being spotted on a lesbian cruise and coming out. McGillis, well-known for playing opposite Tom Cruise in *Top Gun*, said, “Life is a freaking journey, and it’s about growing and changing, and coming to terms with who and what you are, and loving who and what you are.” Stiers was famous for his role of Major Charles Emerson Winchester III in the sitcom *M\*A\*S\*H*.

The conservative mayor of San Diego has testified that his views on same-sex marriage evolved after he learned one of his daughters was a lesbian. **Mayor Jerry Sanders** took the witness stand on behalf of two same-sex couples suing to overturn Proposition 8, California’s voter-approved gay marriage ban. “I had been prejudiced,” he said. “I was saying one group of people did not deserve the same respect, did not deserve the same symbolism of marriage, and I was saying their marriages were less important than those of heterosexuals.” (Right, Sanders with his daughter Lisa, center, and her wife, Meaghan Yaple.)



**Alex Freyre and Maria De Bello**, a gay couple, legally married in Argentina. The governor of Tierra del Fuego, a southern province, called the marriage “a breakthrough in human rights and social inclusion.” This is the first marriage of same-sex persons in Latin American and the Caribbean.



**Amanda Simpson** (right) and **Dylan Orr** (left) are the first presidentially appointed transgender persons to the executive branch of any U.S. administration. Simpson serves as Senior Technical Advisor in the Bureau of Industry and Science; Orr is Special Assistant to Assistant Secretary of Labor Kathleen Martinez.



## Student Protests Policy Preventing Blood Donation

In a “Guest Viewpoint” in Eugene, *Register-Guard* (1/6/10), Brianna Huber, a student at the University of Oregon, protests the policy that bans men from donating blood if they have had sexual relations with another man after 1977.

According to Huber, the U.S. Food & Drug Administration and American Red Cross both acknowledge that

no medical or scientific reasoning supports this ban.

There is a period of time when blood screening cannot detect when a person is infected with HIV. But this is true for everyone, not just males who have sex with other males.

In her column, Huber calls for letters to Congressional members, petitions, and peaceful protests.

## *Luthern Church Stays Despite Gay Ordination*

A Columbus Lutheran church has voted to remain in its denomination, on the heels of a decision by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America that allows gays who have partners to be ordained.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church members voted 99 to 54 to stay in the ELCA – the largest Lutheran group in the country.

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## *Human Rights Campaign Declares National Gains*

Despite some disappointments last year, 2009 racked up more legislative gains across the nation in the gay rights arena than 2007 and 2008 combined, according to the Human Rights Campaign. HRC’s report, “Equality from State to State in 2009,” also looks ahead to this year. For 2010, marriage equality and recognition of same-sex couples is a focus in a handful of states including Hawaii, Illinois, New Mexico, and Rhode Island.

Achievements in 2009 are extensive. The Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act passed in October, expanding current federal hate crimes laws to include crimes motivated by a victim’s gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability. The HRC report notes, “As the LGBT community knows well, major victories can be won by fighting off discriminatory legislation.”

Several states pushed back on legislation meant to be restrictive to gay parents. Also, a handful of states implemented or strengthened anti-bullying laws to protect students from harassment. The complete report is at [http://www.hrc.org/about\\_us/14026.htm](http://www.hrc.org/about_us/14026.htm)

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## **eHarmony Dating Settles Discrimination Suit out of Court**

The online dating service eHarmony has agreed to settle a California lawsuit that claimed it discriminated against homosexuals. Under a proposed settlement filed Tuesday in Los Angeles Superior Court, eHarmony will link its straight and gay Web sites and allow people to use both without paying double fees. Plaintiff’s attorney Todd Schneider says the company also agreed to pay about \$500,000 to an estimated 150 Californians to settle the class-action suit, plus around \$1.5 million in court and attorney’s fees. The company did not admit any wrongdoing.

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## *Sundance Film Documents Mormons as Leader in Passing California’s Prop 8*

Filmmaker Reed Cowan’s *8: The Mormon Proposition* contends that The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints built on decades of anti-gay teachings to justify its political activism and tried to hide its role as the driving force behind the coalition of conservatives that helped pass Prop 8, reversing an earlier court ruling legalizing same-sex marriage. The 81-minute documentary debuted in Park City (UT) on January 24, 2010.

## Events

**February OCC PFLAG Meeting:** A video from the San Diego PFLAG chapter will show how parents of gay teens and young adults go through the process of the young people's coming out. There will also be a follow-up to the January Marriage Equality presentation with planning for a community event in support of Marriage Equality.

**April Adolescent Sexuality Conference:** This meeting is for education, health, and mental health professionals as well as LGBT teens. GSA groups are encouraged to send leaders and scholarship help is available through PFLAG and the LC Health Dept. See website for registration details: [www.oregon-asc.org](http://www.oregon-asc.org).

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### Affect of Same-Sex Marriage On America's Children?

In 2008 about 116,000 same-sex couples across the country were raising a total of about 250,000 children under age 18, according to an analysis of census data by Gary J. Gates, a demographer of the gay and lesbian population at the Williams Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles, law school.

While opponents of same-sex marriage worry that schools will teach that gay and straight relationships are equal, many supporters focus on a different, but still child-centered, issue: What about the children now being raised in families headed by gay men and lesbians? How does the lack of marriage benefits for their parents affect them?

The judge's decision in the Prop 8 trial is vital because of its affect on these young people.

## OCC PFLAG Calendar:

February 10, 7:00 pm: PFLAG Meeting—St. Stephen's, 9<sup>th</sup> & Hurbert, Newport

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

March 10, 7:00 pm: PFLAG Meeting—St. Stephen's, 9<sup>th</sup> & Hurbert, Newport

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

April 13-14: Adolescent Sexuality Conference, Seaside ([www.oregon-asc.org](http://www.oregon-asc.org))

**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. 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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