



# Oregon Central Coast Chapter

December 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!

Rep. Patrick Murphy (D-PA) wants to finish a job he started, lifting the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, before he is forced to leave Congress in December. As the first Iraq war veteran to be elected to Congress, he says: "After September 11, I volunteered to fight for my country. I became a Captain in the U.S. Army and was awarded a Bronze Star while serving in Iraq. While in Baghdad, I counseled many active-duty service members who came to me with tortured souls, concerned that their sexual orientation might end their military careers, as a result of the military's discriminatory "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy. One particular soldier's internal conflict was profound. I can still remember his pained and heartbreaking questions. Should he lie? Should he tell the truth and then be kicked out of the Army? What would he do if he was wounded and couldn't tell the person he loved?"

You can help him accomplish his goal by signing this petition: <http://www.couragecampaign.org/page/s/DADTR repeal>

Use the following link to contact your senator:  
[https://secure3.convio.net/hrc/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=968&autologin=true&utm\\_source=Convio&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=Act-link-DADT&utm\\_campaign=HRCnews-November-2010&JServSessionIdr004=5tjw7ykt33.app306a](https://secure3.convio.net/hrc/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=968&autologin=true&utm_source=Convio&utm_medium=email&utm_term=Act-link-DADT&utm_campaign=HRCnews-November-2010&JServSessionIdr004=5tjw7ykt33.app306a)

**Fourteen-year-old freshman Brandon Bitner jumped in front of a tractor truck around 3 a.m. on November 5. Students said that Bitner was a victim of gay bullying. His suicide came just days after his high school in Middleberg (PA) held an anti-bullying school assembly.**

**Joshua Wilkerson, 18, was beaten to death and then burned on November 16. Admitting to the murder, Hermilio Moralez, claimed that Wilkerson made sexual advances.**

## Out in the Silence Wins Hearts and Minds

On November 7 almost 150 community members crowded into the meeting room at Atonement Lutheran Church in Newport to see the award-winning documentary *Out in the Silence*. Directors Dean Hamer and Joe Wilson brought the film to Newport as part of their whirlwind tour of 14 rural communities in Oregon in ten days.

Following CJ Bills, a gay teen who requested suspension from high school to avoid further bullying, the film is both touching and inspiring. CJ's mother asked for help from Joe Wilson, former Oil City resident whose marriage announcement to Dean Hamer triggered strong anti-gay sentiment in the small town. Joe and Dean returned to Oil City and befriended CJ and his family, helping people accept and support CJ and other gay residents.

During the discussion following the film, Dr. Hamer stated that the science of the genetic/biological source of homosexuality has long been settled. He is a distinguished genetic researcher at the National Institute of Health and the author of *The Gay Gene* as well as the co-director of this film.

Jordan Ostrum, president of Newport High School's Gay/Straight Alliance, spoke about the improvement in the school's climate and his appreciation for full support from the school's principal, Jon Zagel, for the work of the GSA. Church members spoke of the need for visible and effective leadership from local welcoming churches in light of the history of anti-gay policies and preaching in some denominations.

The showing of *Out in the Silence* was a celebration for PFLAG and the seven welcoming churches and other community organizations co-sponsoring the event. The mix of people—gay and straight, young and old, church members and not—reflected a recognition of the importance of making our communities safe and welcoming to our LGBT family and friends. PFLAG will follow up on this great interest and enthusiasm with other community events to engage all parts of the county as we work together to make Lincoln County safe and welcoming for all our LGBT family members and friends. With this newsletter OCC PFLAG is sending a Speak UP & Stand Up suggestions giving specific ideas on what you can do. Together we can do this!

Thanks to Joe and Dean for making this film and bringing it to rural Oregon! Thanks to Atonement for a great job of hosting such a big crowd! And thanks to all our co-sponsors and volunteers who made this a red-letter day!

Church co-sponsors included Atonement Lutheran, First Presbyterian, and St. Stephen's Episcopal in Newport; St. James Episcopal in Lincoln City; Toledo United Methodist; Waldport's St. Luke's Episcopal; and Yachats Presbyterian. Community co-sponsors included CAN (Coastal AIDS Network; LGBT Task Force; Centro de Ayuda; Interfaith Community Peace & Justice; and the Gay/Straight Alliance clubs at Taft and Newport High Schools and OCC Community College.

***Out in the Silence* is available at Newport Public Library as well as online from iTunes, Amazon.com, Blockbuster, and hulu.com.**



From left: Dean Hamer, Jeanne St. John, Kae Bates, and Joe Wilson

# *Politics on Our Side*

The head of UNAIDS, Michel Sidibé, says **a statement by Pope Benedict XVI that the use of condoms is justified** when intended to reduce "the risk of HIV infection" will make it easier for international organizations to cooperate with faith-based organizations in the fight against HIV and AIDS. Sidibé is the executive director of UNAIDS, the United Nations programme on HIV and AIDS. "The male latex condom is the single, most efficient, available technology to reduce the sexual transmission of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections," Sidibé said.

Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) has introduced legislation to **require colleges to adopt a code of conduct that prohibits bullying and harassment**. The Tyler Clementi Higher Education Anti-Harassment Act is named for the 18-year-old Rutgers Univer-

sity freshman who committed suicide in September after his gay sexual encounter in his dorm room was broadcast online. The measure would require colleges that receive federal money to adopt policies that prohibit harassment based on a student's sexual orientation, race, gender and other factors. It also would provide funding for schools to establish or expand programs to prevent harassment of students. Rep. Rush Holt (D-NJ) has introduced identical legislation in the House of Representatives.

Two new lawsuits have been filed on behalf of gay and lesbian couples in four states to **challenge a 1996 law that denies federal benefits to married gay couples**. The lawsuits were filed November 3 in federal courts in Connecticut and New York on behalf of couples in Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire, and New York.

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## *Bend Hosts NW States PFLAG Conference*

The weekend of Nov. 12-14 found Bend awash in rainbows, PFLAG T-shirts, and lots of hugs when over 100 PFLAG chapter leaders from Washington, Oregon, Alaska, and Montana gathered. Old and new friends heard National PFLAG Executive Director Jody Huckaby describe the current climate in the other Washington, the plans for advocacy and education, and ways in which PFLAG works with other national LGBT agencies.

PFLAG has joined the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) to launch their Claim Your Rights campaign, a historic effort to empower students and their allies to report incidences of bullying, harassment, or discrimination to the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Education Department. The new effort includes a basic toolkit and instructions on how to submit a report online. These can be found on both the PFLAG National ([www.pflag.org/claimyourrights](http://www.pflag.org/claimyourrights)) and GLSEN's websites.

Huckaby highlighted Straight for Equality in Healthcare, another high priority project at national PFLAG. Materials, including suggested gay-friendly intake forms, have been developed and distributed to chapters for community education of health care providers.

Conference workshops included those on grant writing, fundraising, chapter leadership, working with schools, marriage equality, health care concerns, and increasing sensitivity to transgender issues. Oregon's State PFLAG Council met to conduct business and to share news among its 14 chapters—including reports from several chapters of great attendance and response to their showings of *Out in the Silence*. Reps from the other states said they wished they had state councils and will work toward that in the next year.

## Harvard Looks Toward Banning DADT Policy

Harvard University President Drew Gilpin Faust says the school will resume a long-banned Reserve Officer Training Corps program when federal law allows gays to serve openly in the military. She says Harvard is prepared to “fully” recognize the ROTC when all students have “the privilege and honor of military service” without having to lie. Harvard banned the ROTC in 1969 amid Vietnam War dissent. Its ROTC students train at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

## Majority Accepts Gays

What makes a family? In a study by the Pew Research Center three of five people said a same-sex couple with children is a family.

## Catholic School Censors Student Discussions

Editorials and student comments supporting same-sex marriage have been deleted on a St. Louis Park (MN) student newspaper website by the administration. The statements by students at Catholic prep school Benilde-St. Margaret also criticized a DVD by the state’s Catholic bishops that denounced same-sex marriage.

## *‘DADT’ Policy in Effect During Appeal*

The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that the decision from the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals keeping the ban restricting openly gay, lesbian, and bisexual people from serving in the military will continue during the appeal from the Log Cabin Republicans to overturn DADT.

President Barack Obama disagrees with the 17-year-old law and urges Congress to repeal it. At the same time, however, the Justice Department is required to defend the policy in court as part of its traditional role in treating laws passed by Congress as presumptively constitutional.

The House of Representatives has passed a repeal measure this year; the Senate has not acted on the measure. Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) is a leader in maintaining the ban despite his statement earlier that he would support the repeal if this was the wish of the military leaders and the people. He also stated that he wants a second survey of military members. The one that should be released by December 1 indicates that the majority of the military members do not oppose lifting the ban. For a detailed view of McCain’s flip-flops, go to <http://www.365gay.com/opinion/wong-dadt-and-the-disingenuity-of-john-mccain/>

Gen. James Amos, the new Marine commandant, also opposes lifting the ban.

At this time, military members who are honorably discharged but cast out of the armed services involuntarily because of their gender identity have their severance pay reduced, possibly to one-half of regular separation pay. The ACLU is suing on behalf of former Air Force Staff Sgt. Richard Collins who was outed by two civilians who saw Collins with his boyfriend ten miles away from the base. Collins was not wearing his uniform at the time.

Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV), Senate Majority Leader, has said that he will call for a vote on legislation that allows gays to serve openly in the military. In one poll seventy-eight percent of Americans favor allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly.

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**Germany’s gay community is outraged after a homosexual couple were forcibly parted to be made to mate with females.** Guido and Detlef have become the poster boys for intolerance of their alternative lifestyle—despite the fact they are both male vultures. But Guido was removed last week and replaced by a female bird from the Czech Republic who, it is hoped, will tickle Detlef’s fancy, among other things, and help him create little vultures. More at <http://news.scotsman.com/news/Feathers-fly-as-German-zoo.6635529.jp>

# People Who Make a Difference

**Victoria Kolakowski**, elected to Alameda’s Superior Court bench, is the first transgender trial judge in the United States. She ran on a platform of bringing diversity to the bench, at that time primarily made up of prosecutors and white males, through her transgender experience and her background as an attorney focusing on civil matters through her job as an administrative law judge at the California Public Utilities Commission. Kolakowski won with 50.98 percent of the vote against Deputy District Attorney John Creighton, who received 49.98 percent of the vote.



**Bishop V. Gene Robinson**, the first gay Episcopal bishop, will retire in 2013, in part because of the “constant strain” on him and his family from the worldwide backlash against his election seven years ago. He said that he was announcing his retirement early to smooth the transition for the Diocese of New Hampshire. Robinson has received death threats from the time when he was surrounded by bodyguards and wore a bullet-proof vest under his vestments while he was consecrated in 2003. The Episcopal Church is the U.S. body of the 77 million-member Anglican Communion.

**Kristina Schake**, appointed as Special Assistant to the President and Communications Director to First Lady Michelle Obama because of her background in kid’s health and obesity issues, is also a big supporter of gay rights and co-founder of the American Foundation for Equal Rights, which is funding the anti-Prop 8 legal fight. “Kristina was instrumental in the conception of the American Foundation for Equal Rights and she’s played a key role in every strategic success we’ve had as an organization,” said Chad H. Griffin, Board President of the American Foundation for Equal Rights.



**Greg Lattera** joined the Boy Scouts when he was ten years old and came out four years later to family and close friends, including a handful of other boy scouts. But he never confronted any scout leaders and assumed they did not know about his sexuality until it became public when he was 18 and gave a televised press conference while he was wearing his Scout uniform. He said he had not intended to become a flag bearer for gay rights, but the publicity cost him his scout’s membership, he testified in court. Lattera said he was not aware of rules regarding a scout’s uniform but added that gay scouts should not be required to keep silent. Scouting had meant the world to him as an inner-city child, he said. “It broke my heart. I loved the Scouts. I still do.” He appealed the Scouts’ decision, but six years later, at the age of 25, he is still waiting to hear from them.



## ***Boy Scouts, Philadelphia End Dispute***

A Boy Scouts chapter that won the right to ban gays from its city-owned headquarters at a federal trial in Philadelphia said it has negotiated a deal to end the decade-long dispute with city officials.

The city had threatened to evict the scouts for violating its anti-discrimination laws, and urged the group to reject national Boy Scouts of

America policies that ban gays. A jury this year found the eviction would infringe on the private group's right to free association.

Rather than appeal, the city will offer to sell the building to the Cradle of Liberty Council for \$500,000, less than half its \$1.1 million value, council lawyer Jason Gosselin said.

In exchange, the scouts

will forgive the nearly \$1 million in legal fees the city was ordered to pay the scouts after losing the case.

The Boy Scout oath calls for members to be "morally straight," which the national group interprets to mean that gays cannot participate. In 2000, the Supreme Court ruled in a 5-4 split that the Boy Scouts, as a private group, can exclude gays.

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### ***One News Now Reports Research, Award Winners Opposing Homosexuality***

The conservative Family Research Council (FRC) reports that lesbianism is behavioral, not genetic, according to *One News Now*. In an examination of the family lives and worship rates of 7,643 women between the ages of 14 and 44, Pat Fagan, senior fellow and director of the Marriage and Religion Research Institute at FRC, concludes, "Once the girl grows up in a home in which her father is not present, it's about three times" more likely she has had or will have homosexual partners, he says—but when she is raised by parents who are married and "always intact, it's about a four-percent rate." He also explains that rate is "slightly higher in the always-intact-but-cohabitating parents—that's parents who never married."

Statistics are also higher with step-families, the cohabiting step-family, and the single divorced parent, adds the FRC spokesman and that women who claim to worship weekly or monthly have a lower rate of lesbianism.

Columnist Marcia Segelstein for *One News Now* also objects to the first Stonewall Youth Award from the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered Round Table of the American Library Association. She adds, "In fact, the ALA has a long and questionable history, not just about homosexuality and kids, but about sexualizing kids in general. In 2002, the ALA filed suit opposing the Children's Internet Protection Act requiring libraries that receive federal discounts for Internet access to install technology to stop kids from accessing 'visual depictions that are obscene, child porn, or harmful to minors.' The law was struck down as unconstitutional, but overturned on appeal in 2003."

The column does not include the information that the software prevents students from such research as breast cancer because it does not accept the word "breast."

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### ***Religious Right Advertising Loses Louisiana Republican Incumbent Re-election***

Rep. Anh "Joseph" Cao (R-LA) has lost his seat after a successful lobby of the Christian right to defeat him, a loss that denied Republicans a chance to hold a traditionally Democratic seat and ensure a second term for the first Vietnamese-American in Congress. Despite his Catholic and pro-life bona fides, Cao's approach to homosexuality led Tony Perkins and the Family Research Council to oppose him. Cao co-sponsored both the Hate Crimes Protection Act of 2009 and legislation to repeal the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy on gays and lesbians serving openly in the military. Polling for Cao, the sitting representative, was fairly high in the New Orleans area until Perkins' last minute ads attacking him.

## World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, 2010

The Coastal AIDS Network invites the community to a Soup Supper and our 20th Candlelight Vigil at St. James Episcopal Church, 2490 NE Hwy 101 in Lincoln City, Oregon. Supper at 6:00 pm will be clam chowder, vegetarian soup, bread, and salad.

The Vigil, which begins at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary of the church, includes music, readings, prayers, public health updates, and honors for the "Volunteer of the Year" and the "Ken Hull Community Cornerstone" award which honors an individual for outstanding community service.

A social hour with baked goods and warm beverages follows, as well as an opportunity to scribble messages on cards tied to pine cones which are then tossed into a fire in a brazier. The ashes are spread at the base of an Atlas Cedar tree planted 15 years ago on World AIDS Day in memory of those lost to AIDS in our community and beyond. "Universal Access and Human Rights" is this year's theme for the 23rd World AIDS Day.

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## New Yorkers Promote HRC Rights

Husband and wife Kevin Bacon and Kyra Sedgwick are the first couple to appear in the New Yorkers for Marriage Equality video series from the Human Rights Campaign.

"This is a private issue that should never be determined by the government," says Sedgwick, the Golden Globe award-winning star of *The Closer*. "Everyone has the right to choose who they love and how they express that love."

Bacon adds, "We all deserve the right to marry the person that we love, so join us in supporting marriage equality."

## OCC PFLAG Calendar:

December 1, 6:00 pm: World AIDS Day Soup Supper and Candlelight Vigil—St. James Episcopal Church, 2490 NE Hwy. 101, Lincoln City

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

December 15, 12:00-1:00 pm: LGBT Task Force Meeting—Centro de Ayuda, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

January 12, 7:00 pm: PFLAG—St. Stephen's, 9<sup>th</sup> & Hurbert, Newport

January 19, 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, [coastalaidnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:coastalaidnetwork@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:

Oregon Central Coast PFLAG  
PO Box 2172  
Newport, OR 97365

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

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

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

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