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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 2011

Watching the Internet

My son likes to wear dresses. Big deal! Mother Cheryl Kildavis, author of "My Princess Boy," defends her 5-year-old son's preference to play dress-up in pink, sparkly costumes over building blocks and trucks, saying society needs to be more aware of acceptance. www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21134540/vp/40887103#40887103

From 365gay, AfterEllen, AfterElton, and NewNowNext came a video contest for people to create their own Public Service Announcements against bullying. The voting is over, but you can still see the finalists. The winner will be shown on Logo cable network. <http://www.365gay.com/news/logo-antibullying-video-finalists/>

The many faces of transpeople is the subject of Jana Marcus' touring photo exhibit, "Transfigurations." It is a groundbreaking, touching, and beautiful series of portraits of transgender people accompanied by text in the subject's own words. <http://www.janamarcus.com/docus/TransPresentation/sld001.htm>

One of my favorite "It Gets Better" videos about surviving youthful LGBTQ life: http://www.politico.com/click/stories/1012/white_house_staffers_it_gets_better.html

Looking for a Good Book?

The American Library Association has released two recommended lists of LGBTQ books, one for young readers and the other for adults. They can be found at <http://rainbowlist.wordpress.com/> and <http://www.glbtrt.ala.org/overtherainbow/>

Local PFLAG Chapter at Work

To ensure the success of No Name-Calling Week in Lincoln County PFLAG members spoke to the LCSD School Board about its activities and the effects of bullying on LGBT kids on January 18.

This was followed the next day by a presentation to the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners requesting that they declare Jan. 24-28 as No Name-Calling Week. [Proclamation on page 9.]

Many PFLAG members also gathered on January 23 at the Atonement Lutheran Church (Newport) to participate in the church's celebration of becoming Reconciling in Christ—the designation for Lutheran churches that officially welcomes LGBT people and hear Bishop Dave Brauer-Rieke speak.

[See pp. 8-9 for more about these stories.]

2011 No Name-Calling Week in LCSD Schools

Newport HS GSA

1. Joining with other groups to highlight sources of bullying:
 - Monday- General, religious discrimination
 - Tuesday- Sexual orientation discrimination
 - Wednesday- Gender
 - Thursday- Race/Ethnicity
 - Friday- school cliques (jock, nerd, etc.)
2. Poster to sign pledging not to use name calling that week.
3. Academic focus including extra credit opportunities and writing prompts for the English classes; biographies of the gay teens that committed suicide due to bullying; statistics on bullying; and update our book display in the library to include literature on discrimination and harassment.
4. Team up with other clubs such as Leadership, Jr. Optimist, MECHA, and the Indian Club.

Toledo HS GSA

1. School display of No Name-Calling posters.
2. Name-calling write-on poster with nametags so students can wear a nametag with what they want to be called.
3. Making friendship bracelets.
4. Poster and creative writing contest.
5. Give out NNC stickers when they see an exceptional act of kindness.
6. Give out NNC cards to remind anyone being disrespectful to rethink their actions.



Back L-R: Charlotte Mills, Ron Janzen, Jordan Ostrum, Dan Beck, Susan Church. Front: Kae Bates, Jeanne St.John, and Reatha Ryan.

Politics on Our Side

Berkeley (CA) is working on a plan to set aside \$20,000 a year for city employees who want sex-change operations after discovering that Kaiser or Health Net insurance plans would charge too much to include this type of surgery.

Despite some of the bad news for LGBT rights in the U.S. in the last election, states' rights are helping. **In Maryland, New York and Rhode Island in particular, the legalization of same-sex marriages is moving ahead**, organizers and supporters say. According to Maryland state Sen. Richard Madaleno Jr., one of the state's seven openly gay legislators, the November 2010 election brought a "significant shift," especially in the Senate. Majority leaders of both houses plan to co-sponsor gay marriage measures. Gov. Martin O'Malley, whose opponent was against gay marriage, has pledged to sign such a bill.

In New York, where newly-inaugurated Gov. Andrew Cuomo strongly supports gay marriage, lawmakers remain divided, but advocates say the prospects are improved with the popular governor's backing. "Its chances only get better," said Democratic Sen. Thomas Duane, the state's only openly gay senator. Although not a supporter, Dean Skelos, leader of the majority Republicans in the Senate, has said he would not block such a bill coming to the Senate floor for a vote so that legislators can make their positions known, according to rights group Empire State Pride Agenda.

Marriage bills were introduced this month in the House and Senate in Rhode Island, a heavily Roman Catholic but relatively liberal state where polls show a majority of residents favor what advocates call "marriage freedom." Newly elected Gov. Lincoln Chafee, whose predecessor vowed

to veto gay marriage, voiced support at his inauguration, stressing the potential economic benefits.

A finalized adoption on January 19 in Miami-Dade courtroom was a milestone for equality, following a landmark victory in Florida's courts, where **a circuit court judge and a panel of appellate court judges overturned a 1977 state law banning gays and lesbians from adopting children**. During a ceremony at the courthouse Martin Gill, who challenged the law with representation from the ACLU, adopted the boys he and his partner have been raising for six years.

Three married gay and lesbian couples have won **an important step in their fight for the equal right to buy long-term care insurance from the state's pension system**. U.S. District Judge Claudia Wilken of Oakland said the couples can proceed with a lawsuit they filed in April against the U.S. Treasury Department and the California Public Employees' Retirement System, known as CalPERS.

Wilken said that two federal laws used to deny the same-sex spouses the right to buy long-term care insurance "do not bear a rational relationship to a legitimate government interest." The two laws are the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) barring federal recognition of same-sex marriage and a section of the Internal Revenue Code prohibiting same-sex spouses from receiving favorable tax treatment for insurance plans.

The three couples in the CalPERS lawsuit—Michael Dragovich and Michael Gaitley, Elizabeth Litteral and Patricia Fitzsimmons, and Carolyn Light and Cheryl Light—married during a five-month window in 2008 when same-sex marriage was legal in California.

Love Your Valentine

Donations at the Valentine party will help support PFLAG's Teen Programs. For more information about the Valentine Party or PFLAG call 541-265-7194. PFLAG is a national organization providing support, education and advocacy for the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender) community, their families, and friends. The Oregon Central Coast Chapter focuses on creating safe and nurturing communities for young people in Lincoln County, and opening hearts and minds of all ages.

Black Humor?

Cindy Jacobs of Generals International has a new video prompted by her claim that people have been asking her, as a prophet, about the meaning behind the recent rash of bird deaths. She replied that it might be due to the fact (?) that America is violating God's prohibition on homosexuality with support for gay marriage and the repeal of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. Don't believe this? Check it out at <http://www.rightwingwatch.org/content/jacobs-birds-are-dying-because-dadt-repeal>

Couples who have entered into legal marriages or civil partnerships abroad will be recognized under Ireland's new civil partnerships law.



The First Annual LOVE IS LOVE Valentine Party will be hosted by PFLAG (Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays) from 2:00-4:00 pm, Saturday, February 12 in the beautiful lobby of the Oregon Coast Community College in South Beach. Toledo United Methodist Church volunteers will transform the College Commons into a romantic Hearts and Flowers Valentine Party setting.

Words and music by local artists will celebrate the power of love in all its wonderful and surprising forms— young and old, rich and poor, gay and straight. Musical entertainment includes performances by Stephan, Akia Woods, Barbara Turrill, Linda Yapp, Donny King, Janet Sutherlin, and the Women of Note.

Ruth Harrison, Sandy Elston, Brian Hanna, Brenda Wills, Jordan Ostrum, Reatha Ryan, Deb Lyman and David Long, and other local poets and writers will read poetry and prose selections about romantic love.

The best chefs from several local churches and PFLAG members will donate delightful Valentine desserts to make this celebration a really sweet treat and chocolate heaven. Leftovers will be available for purchase at the end of the party.

To surprise their sweethearts, guests can use the provided materials on a table covered with hearts, flowers, glitter, and glue to create Valentine cards as unique and special as the love that designs them.

Photographer Nancy Jane Reid will be there to take Sweetheart Photos for only \$10, a great way to create a lasting memory of this special day.

This Valentine Party for old and young, gay and straight will bring people together to celebrate the power of love in our lives. After all, Love is Love!

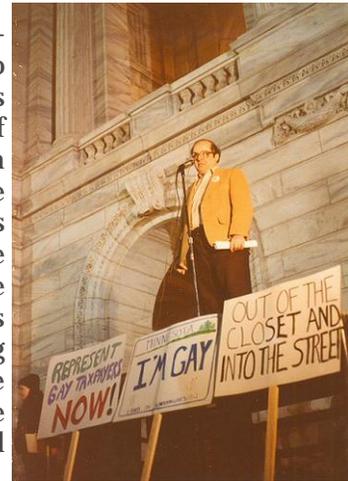
People Who Make a Difference

Just five days into his internship, openly gay **Daniel Hernandez, Jr.** rushed to the aid of Representative Gabrielle Giffords (AZ-D) when Jared Loughner allegedly opened fire, killing six people and wounding 14 others on January 8, 2011. He helped stop the hemorrhage from her head wound, prevented her from choking on her own blood, and held her as medics carried her by ambulance to the emergency room. He and his father were guests of Michelle Obama at the State of the Union speech on January 25, his 21st birthday.



Maurice Mannion-Vanover died at the age of 20 on Jan. 14. But his life was much longer than expected because of his adoptive parents, **Tim Vanover** and **Tim Mannion**. Born with AIDS to a crack-addicted mother in a hospital in Washington, given six months to live, and deserted by his parents, Maurice began to thrive in the Vanover-Mannion home. When they adopted him in 1996, the gay couple was the first in Washington to adopt a child. In 1997, the two Tims adopted **Kindoo Vanover-Mannion**, eight years older than Maurice. Rockefeller, Rocky for short, was Maurice's Christmas gift in 2002 because of his love for horses. After stout, outgoing Tim Vanover and thin, more reserved Tim Mannion broke up as a couple, they chose to live together and continue to raise their children.

"**Allan Spear** is one of the great unsung heroes of the LGBT movement in the United States," writes Barney Frank in the Foreword to Spear's autobiography, *Crossing the Barriers*, published two years after his death. Spear was a history professor at the University of Minnesota in the 1960's before the anti-war movement plunged him into electoral politics. It was his later personal coming out in the early 1970's where he truly made his mark. The book shows Spear's struggles with his coming out for fear of being marginalized as the "gay politician" and his realization that the times demand it. Like Barney Frank did on ENDA, Spear had resisted efforts in the 1970's to include "gender identity" in his landmark civil rights bill—telling the base to be patient. But by the early 1990's, when passage of the legislation was finally on the horizon, Spear had come around on the issue—and the final bill that passed in 1993 included both sexual orientation and gender identity.



Irish independent senator **David Norris** is ahead in the race for the Irish presidency by almost double over his nearest opponent, an opinion poll recently predicted.

Singer **Sir Elton John**, 63, and his partner David Furnish became dads to 7-pound, 15-ounce baby Zachary Jackson Levon Furnish-John on Christmas Day.



Utah GSAs Multiply Geometrically

Sometimes kids have more sense than adults. Despite a Utah 2007 state law intended to prevent Gay-Straight Alliances, three St. George schools finally convened the first ones in this conservative, largely Mormon city.

One year ago only nine schools in Utah had GSAs. Thanks to activist students

and the help of the American Civil Liberties Union, there are now 32.

Gayle Ruzicka, president of the Utah Eagle Forum, claims that these groups are “a gay recruiting tool.”

GSA members say that this is a misunderstanding, that the groups provide a meeting place for students who often feel like misfits.

Searching for Gay-Friendly Colleges Now Made Easier

Students searching for an online resource that rates gay-friendly universities can use the LGBT-Friendly Campus Climate Index which “grades” university policies, programs, and practices that cater to their gay community. The 258 colleges explain provisions for gay students, protection polices, etc.

New Hospital Visitation Rules in Effect

New federal regulations that prohibit hospitals from discriminating against visitors based on sexual orientation and gender identity took effect January 18.

According to the Human Rights Campaign, “These new regulations require all hospitals participating in Medicaid and Medicare programs—virtually every hospital in the country – to permit patients to designate visitors of their choosing and prohibit discrimination in visitation based on a number of factors, including sexual orientation and gender identity.”

Last year, President Barack Obama announced the regulations in response to the tragic story of Janice Langbehn and Lisa Pond of Florida. The couple was kept apart while Lisa died at a Miami hospital.

Lambda Legal submitted comments to the Department of Health and Human Services saying that the new regulations still do not include a ruling on who can visit an incapacitated patient who has not designated a decision maker and an appeals procedure for visitation rejection. They also suggest all LGBT families have a predetermined healthcare plan with specific directions.

The new guide is at <http://www.hrc.org/issues/15206.htm>

Notable Videos List Include Two about Gender Bias, Gay Rights Movement

The LGBT experience is the focus of two of the 15 videos honored by the American Library Association (ALA) Video Round Table Notable Videos for Adults Committee for its 2011 list of Notable Videos for Adults, outstanding programs released on video within the past two years. *Two Spirits* is a new video; *Word Is Out* is a DVD release of 1977 groundbreaking documentary.

Two Spirits 52 minutes. <http://twospirits.org> DVD \$17.99 (home use), Cinema Guild. DVD, 2010: \$350.00. <http://cinemaguild.com/> Explores the contrast between the Navajo culture’s traditional acceptance of multi-gendered people and current gender bias through the story of hate crime victim Fred Martinez.

Word is Out: Stories of Some of Our Lives 132 minutes. Oscilloscope Laboratories. DVD, 2010: \$29.99. Available from most distributors. Remastered from the original 35mm film in high definition, this documentary presents the candid thoughts and experiences of gay and lesbian people in the United States and the emerging gay rights movement of the 1970s. DVD extras include an update on the subjects of the film.

The U.S. Supreme Court has rejected an appeal from opponents of same-sex marriage who want to overturn the District of Columbia's gay marriage law.

A government analysis says that discharging gay service members cost the Pentagon nearly \$200 million from 2004 to 2009. The money went mainly to recruit and train replacements. Congressional investigators say that of the 3,664 service members dismissed for being gay, more than 1,400 held critical jobs or spoke an important foreign language.

The federal department of Housing and Urban Development has announced a new policy initiative to prohibit discrimination in housing programs on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Reince Priebus, the newly elected chairman of the Republican National Committee, fully supports the current GOP platform language opposing same-sex marriage, citing the effect on children.

White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs said that the Obama administration would "work to make progress" on advancing the Employment Non-Discrimination Act in the current Congress despite Republican control of the U.S. House.

Tim Pawlenty, the former governor of Minnesota, said that if he is elected president he will reinstate Don't Ask, Don't Tell.

Does hateful speech lead to violence?
Read Steven Petrow's response to this question at <http://www.365gay.com/news/ask-the-expert-does-hateful-language-lead-to-violence/>

OCC PFLAG Calendar:

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

Feb. 12, 2:00-4:00 pm: LOVE IS LOVE Valentine's Party—Oregon Coast Community College lobby (See Page 2)

February 16, 12:00-1:00 pm: LGBT Task Force Meeting—Centro de Ayuda, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

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

March 16, 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, coastalaids-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

No-Name Calling Week, January 24-28, a Busy Time

PFLAG members, both students and adults, have used No Name-Calling Week to increase awareness among community members about the serious effects of directing negative slurs toward young people. The aims of this national event are ending name-calling of all kinds and providing schools with the tools and inspiration to launch an on-going dialogue about ways to eliminate bullying in their communities.

In addition to the events described on page 2 and the proclamation accepted and declared by the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners reprinted on page 9, students from all LCSD schools were encouraged to participate in the No Name-Calling Week Creative Expression Contest. They were asked to submit essays, poetry, music, original artwork, or other pieces that convey their experiences and feelings about name-calling and their ideas for putting a stop to verbal bullying in their schools and communities.

This year a new high school category for short-film submissions focuses on anti-LGBT name-calling and bullying in school. The contest was open to all individual students in grades K-12. Those who missed the event can put this annual event on their calendar for 2012. <http://www.nonamecallingweek.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/news/record/57.html>

Response from Jeanne St. John to Atonement's Reconciling in Christ Status

January 28, 2011

Atonement Lutheran Church
2315 North Coast Highway
Newport, OR 97365

Dear Atonement Friends,

Sunday's celebration of Atonement's Reconciling in Christ status was extraordinary in so many respects. Your hard work over this last year is an inspiration for the entire community—obvious by the number gathered to share the day. When a church makes its welcome for LGBT Christians public and invites the world to witness that God's love is available to all, a shift happens. Your love is on record—in the newspaper and in the hearts of all who attended the celebration.

We look forward to ongoing work with Atonement to make our community safer and more welcoming for LGBT people. Your hospitality in November for the showing of OUT IN THE SILENCE, which examined the effects of anti-gay bullying in small towns, was a very important witness. We're excited about PFLAG's Love is Love Valentine Party on Feb. 12, and greatly appreciate Atonement's contribution of desserts for this first gay/straight Valentine party.

The Board of Commissioners proclaimed Jan. 24-28 as No Name-Calling Week in Lincoln County and the three Gay/Straight Alliance clubs in LCSD high schools planned events and activities all week. In the next few months PFLAG will be working with the school district, GSA clubs, LGBT Task Force, Welcoming Churches, and other groups to host community meetings on anti-bullying efforts in each of the high school areas. We hope that Atonement members will be part of the planning process and the community meeting for the Newport area.

It's great to have another officially Welcoming Church in Lincoln County and we loved being part of the celebration along with members from St. Luke's, St. Stephen's, Toledo Methodist, Newport Presbyterian, and Lincoln City's UCC congregations.

Sincerely,

Jeanne St. John
Jeanne St. John, Ph.D.
Chair, OCC PFLAG

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FOR LINCOLN COUNTY, OREGON**

In the Matter of)
) **RESOLUTION # 11-19-01A**
PROCLAIMING JANUARY 24-28, 2011)
AS “NO NAME-CALLING WEEK”)
IN LINCOLN COUNTY)

Whereas students who are bullied are more prone to feelings of loneliness, depression and low self-esteem, as well as physical ills like headaches, abdominal pain, nausea, and recurrent upper respiratory infections and sore throats; and

Whereas students who are bullied are at much greater risk for developing depressions, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder and often become frozen and exhibit feelings of helplessness and shame, rendering them nearly unable to defend themselves when attacked or put under pressure; and

Whereas LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender) students are more apt to skip school due to the fear, threats, and property vandalism directed at them: 28% of gay students will drop out of school, more than three times the national average for heterosexual students; and

Whereas students who have been harassed or attacked at school because of their gender or race are more than twice as likely as non-harassed peers to report having attempted suicide, and students harassed or attacked because they were perceived as being gay are more than three times as likely to report having attempted suicide; and

Whereas students from schools with an inclusive anti-bullying policy report that others are less often harassed in their school because of their sexual orientation or their gender expression, and students from schools with an inclusive anti-bullying policy are also more likely to feel very safe at school; and

Whereas Oregon Central Coast PFLAG (Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays) and the LGBT Task Force are working with the Lincoln County School District Board of Education, Gay/Straight Alliance Clubs, and the Peace & Justice Teams from local churches to raise awareness about anti-bullying efforts;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners proclaims January 24-28, 2011 as

NO NAME-CALLING WEEK

in Lincoln County, Oregon and encourages citizens to increase their awareness and support for anti-bullying efforts in the schools and communities of Lincoln County.

DATED this 19th day of January, 2011

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

[Signed by Commissioners Terry N. Thompson, Chair; Don Lindley, and Bill Hall]

Lincoln County Board of Commissioners
225 West Olive Street, Room 110
Newport, OR 97365
(541)265-4100

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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