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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

March 2011

Activists Work for Equality And Sometimes Succeed!

Seth Stambaugh, the gay student teacher removed from his position in the Beaverton School District because he talked to a fourth-grader about same-sex marriage, has received a \$75,000 settlement from the district. He is donating at least \$10,000 to Outside In and p:ear, two Portland non-profits that serve homeless and disadvantaged youth.

Students all over the country are petitioning their school to drop Chick-fil-A as a vendor after numerous stories noted the restaurant's deep connections to anti-gay organizations such as Focus on the Family, the National Organization for Marriage, Exodus International, and the Pennsylvania Family Institute.

The Home Depot, through its Foundation, is now matching employee contributions to Gay & Lesbian Alliance against Defamation (GLAAD). The American Family Association has declared a boycott against the Home Depot because of this decision. We can support Home Depot.

You can find congratulation and Valentine cards for same-sex civil unions or marriages at <http://alittletotheleft.com/catalog/3>

Founded in 1996, the **Day of Silence** has become the largest single student-led action towards creating safer schools for all, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. Hundreds of thousands of students participate to encourage schools and classmates to address the problem of anti-LGBT behavior. This year the **Day of Silence is April 1**. Info at <http://www.dayofsilence.org/content/getinformation.html>

Love Is Love Celebration—Story on Page 4



Right: Deb Lyman, PFLAG Parent
 Left: Milo Graamans and his
 mother, Stacy Smith
 Below: Susan & Quitze Rose Pill-
 ing, and Beckett Savage



Left: Janet Sutherland, Dancer
 Below: Decadent Desserts from
 four Welcoming Churches



Above right: Brian
 Hanna
 Right: Guests Linda &
 Ardey, Nancy McFer-
 ran, and Brenda Wills,
 PFLAG Planning
 Team member
 Left: Akia & Stephan



Valentine making table



Bill Luce and Avery Heater

Politics on Our Side

Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick has issued an executive order banning discrimination against transgender workers in state government, a move that advocates view as a first step toward passing statewide legislation. The order adds “gender expression and identity” to the state’s official rules banning discrimination on the basis of race, gender, religion, and other characteristics.

Hawaii state senators have confirmed openly-gay Circuit Judge Sabrina McKenna's appointment to a 10-year term on the state Supreme Court and made Hawaii the seventh state to allowing gay and straight couples to enter into civil unions with the same legal status as marriage.

A Maryland Senate committee has approved legislation to legalize gay marriage with a 7-4 vote. The bill now advances to the Senate for debate. In a *Washington Post* poll, 24 Maryland senators said they would pass the bill. Only 24 votes are needed to send the bill to the more liberal House of Delegates. Maryland would be the sixth state, plus Washington D.C., to allow gay marriage.

Washington state legislators have introduced a bill to ask the public to vote on legalizing gay marriage in Washington State.

New Hampshire residents are in favor of keeping gay marriage legal, according to a WMUR Granite State poll released last week which indicated 62 percent of the people are against repealing the 2009 law that legalized same-sex marriages in the state.

Some 83 percent of Kentuckians say gay people should be protected from discrimination in the workplace, in housing and in public places such as restaurants, according to a survey released by the statewide Fair-

ness Coalition. That is an increase of 18 percentage points since 2004, when a similar survey was conducted.

Something to aspire to: The Canadian House of Commons has passed a bill that will amend the Canadian Human Rights Act and Criminal Code to protect transgender and transsexual Canadians from discrimination.

North Carolina State Rep. Marcus Brandon is one of the state's newest legislators and the first openly gay African-American to hold a state-level office there.

California’s highest court has announced it would decide, probably in September, if the original sponsors of Proposition 8 have the legal standing to defend the measure. Prop 8, which banned same-sex marriage in California in 2008, was overturned in federal court. In January, the Ninth Circuit Court asked California’s highest state court to answer a sticky legal question: Can Project Marriage speak for the state? Lawyers for the two couples that had first challenged Prop. 8’s constitutionality argued that neither the Imperial County (CA) clerk of the court nor Protect Marriage has any right to speak for the state of California. **If the California Supreme Court decides that the group does not have standing, Judge Walker’s ruling will remain in place, lifting the stay that was put in place during the appeal and allowing gay weddings to proceed.**

Rep. Jared Polis (D-CO) is calling on the U.S. Air Force Academy to be a welcoming institution, particularly allowing cadets to bring same-sex dates to school functions.

Illinois became the sixth state to have a state’s civil unions law.

Derek Rawcliffe, the first Church of England bishop to be open about his homosexuality, died on Feb. 1 at 89. Rawcliffe disclosed his homosexuality on television in 1995, when he was serving as an honorary bishop in Ripon and Leeds diocese. He was dismissed the following year for conducting blessings of same-sex couples.

Jane Lynch, who plays a cheerleading coach on the TV series *Glee*, and her wife, Lara Embry, hope to give the new rowing program at Palmetto High School in Manatee County (FL) a competitive edge with a \$15,000 donation for the school's first rowing team. The FOX Network star and her wife have also offered to match an additional \$5,000 if the team can raise this amount.

District Judge Randall Rehmeier in Nebraska refused to divorce a lesbian couple who married in Vermont. The judge said since Nebraska law defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman, he couldn't grant the divorce. Lambda Legal attorney Ken Upton said, "The first thing we tell same-sex couples who live in a non-recognition state—think long and hard before you get married and return home. You face the lack of access to divorce courts."

Love and Joy Shared, Thanks to PFLAG

On a dark and stormy Saturday in mid-February more than 125 people braved the elements to attend what may have been a first-ever event. The Love Is Love Valentine Party was hosted by PFLAG (Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians and Gays) for young and old, gay and straight to share hearts and flowers, decadent desserts, and an afternoon of romantic music and poetry at Oregon Coast Community College. While it may have been the first event of its kind, it definitely won't be the last.

Arriving partygoers could choose a table covered with craft materials to make their own Valentines, sure to please their partners—or their moms. The best bakers from PFLAG and four gay-friendly churches shared the love with their prize-winning desserts—brownies of every variety, fudge, chocolate-covered strawberries, cookies, truffles, Key-lime bars, along with Fair Trade French-roast coffee or lemonade.

Artist and singer Stephan, Master of Ceremonies, provided witty introductions to performers including Women of Note who sang favorites like "My Funny Valentine" and "When I Fall in Love." Milo Graamans accompanied his mother, Stacy Smith, in a lively rendition of "Hattie and Mattie," a tale of an old couple "sitting and knitting and loving their whole life through." Teens Quitze Pilling and Jordan Ostrum, president of Newport High's Gay/Straight Alliance, read original poems about love, while teen singer and actor Avery Heater delighted the guests with her version of "Vanilla Ice Cream." And much more! Read the article in the *News-Times*.

Gay, Lesbian Soldiers Still Lack Equal Rights

Don't Ask, Don't Tell, the U.S. ban on gays serving in the military, may soon be a thing of the past, but gays and lesbian soldiers still face discrimination.

The Pentagon is placing limitations on group health and housing benefits for same-sex couples by refusing partners or spouses of military gay members these rights. That's right—no health benefits and no base housing like those that married heterosexual couples have.

In addition, the Pentagon said that they would not be adding sexual orientation to its equal opportunity policy which currently forbids discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, and national origin.

Yup. Let's call it "separate but equal."

Barbara Bush, the younger daughter of former President George W. Bush, has recorded a video in which she expresses support for marriage equality in New York state.

People Who Make a Difference

After stripping a transgender student of his homecoming king title, a Michigan high school reconsidered, instituting a gender-neutral prom court. Mona Shores High School senior **Oak Reed** was voted king by his classmates, but stripped of his title because he was enrolled as a girl. When students protested the decision, the school changed its policy: this spring's prom court, and prom and homecoming courts in the future, will be gender-neutral.



When 7-year-old **Malcolm**'s mother challenged him to "improve the world" by donating money she gave him to charities of his choice, Malcolm selected the Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center and the Human Rights Campaign. In a letter to the Center, Malcolm wrote, "I am sending you this money because I don't think it's fair that Gay people are not treated equally." With Malcolm's mother's permission, the Gay and Lesbian Center is launching an initiative to raise \$27,000 in Malcolm's name.

When **Chantal Plourde** received an assignment in her Grade 12 world issues class to take on a community project at the Leo Hayes High School (Fredericton, New Brunswick), she decided to raise money to buy books for the school library that deal with lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender themes. "Our library doesn't have a lot of resources for that community right now," she said, calling it the LGBT (Literature Gives Belonging To) Youth Project. "A lot of kids might be too shy to talk to teachers or parents or even their friends. Through books and the Internet and things like that, you get to know other people's stories and it can help you figure out yourself better." Plourde organized a jellybean-count contest and received permission to use leftover money the Youth Pride Committee didn't use last year. Anyone interested in supporting the project can purchase wishlist books at www.amazon.com/wishlist/3HYRT5CYY87UY.



Desiree Shelton, an out lesbian and a senior at Champlin Park High School in Minnesota's Anoka-Hennepin School District (MN), and her girlfriend, Sarah Lindstrom, were elected to the school's Snow Days royalty court for the winter formal dance. When the school did not allow them to walk together, Shelton sued their school district. The district settled the case, and the two young women walked in the procession hand in hand as their classmates cheered.

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Rumsfeld Supports DADT Repeal

Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel & Readiness Clifford Stanley plans to bring "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" to an end in four parts: pre-repeal, certification, implementation, and sustainment. March 1 is the deadline for the branches to produce their progress reports.

And a surprise supporter for ending DADT comes

from former Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld who thinks the military is ready for DADT repeal. "First of all, we know that gays and lesbians have been serving in the military for decades with honorable service," Rumsfeld said. "We know that [repeal of a ban on gays serving openly] is an idea whose time has come."

Gay Couples to be Allowed Church Weddings in Britain

The British government on Thursday has announced plans to allow gay couples to hold civil partnership ceremonies in houses of worship, a move gay rights activists say is a step in the right direction towards marriage, but falls short of affording full equal rights. The government stressed that houses of worship can opt out.

Not All States in the U.S. Believe in Same-Sex Couples Rights

Utah Rep. LaVar Christensen (R-Draper) has filed a bill, HB270, which states in part, "Marriage and family predate all governments and are supported by and consistent with the Laws of Nature and Nature's God, the Creator and Supreme Judge of the World, affirmed in the nation's founding Declaration of Independence." In tandem with that bill, he has also filed HB182, a one-sentence bill that says, "An arrangement, agreement or transaction that is unlawful or violates public policy is void and unenforceable."

Brandie Balken, executive director of Equality Utah, worries the two bills together could be interpreted as stating that same-sex relationships are against public policy, making contracts, such as medical directives and wills, between gay and lesbian couples void and unenforceable. Such a policy could impact anyone who depends on relationships besides those with a spouse or child, Balken said.

Meanwhile two Sioux Falls women who were legally married in Iowa are petitioning to change their names in Minnehaha County (SD) court after the Department of Public Safety refused to issue them driver's licenses in their married names. A woman from North Sioux City who took her wife's name in an Iowa marriage in October has filed a similar petition in Union County (SD). She was told that she cannot change her name on a state-issued driver's license because South Dakota does not recognize same-sex unions.

"This is an emerging issue for states that have passed these constitutional amendments prohibiting same-sex marriage. They're being used to deny people really basic rights," said Robert Doody, executive director of the South Dakota American Civil Liberties Union.

Lesbian Widow Fights the Government to Have Same-Sex Couples be Treated Fairly

Together for 44 years, Edie Windsor and her spouse Thea Spyer have been treated like strangers because of the federal "Defense of Marriage" Act. The couple married in Canada almost four years ago in May 2007, less than two years before Thea's death at the age of 77 on Feb. 5, 2009. While Edie was grieving, the federal government imposed \$350,000 in estate taxes, a tax that heterosexual widows would not be required to pay. Two years after Thea's death, New York recognized their marriage, but the federal government refuses to return the estate taxes. Last November Edie, 81, filed suit to declare DOMA unconstitutional and regain the taxes because the law "effectively imposes a tax on being gay."

The couple's story about their 1963 meeting in Greenwich Village and their ensuing engagement in 1967 is told in the film *Edie & Thea: A Very Long Engagement*.

PFLAG News from Jeanne

March 9 PFLAG Meeting

The topic for the March 9 meeting is Bullying and includes the film, "Jim Bold." We'll discuss Anti-Bullying community meetings in Lincoln County Schools and plans for Day of Silence at area high schools on April 15.

Web Page Coming!

Watch for the soon-to-be launched OCCPFLAG.org website! Thanks to Lisa Gray, of Gray Web Design, we will soon have a web presence and the ability to share lots of information and events.

Adolescent Sexuality Conference in Seaside on April 4 & 5 has sessions for teens, parents, as well as physical and mental health service providers. For a substantial discount, registration by March 1 is mandatory. PFLAG can help with expenses—if you're interested, contact Jeanne at 541-265-7194.

LGBT Activist to Speak in Eugene

Kate Kendell, Esq., Executive Director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR) will be in Eugene (see calendar) to accept the Third Annual Dom Vetri "Champion of Public Service" Award from the Public Interest Public Service Program of the University of Oregon Law School. She will also make remarks about the state of LGBT civil rights in this country. Kate is not only a dynamic and totally engrossing speaker but also a nationally renowned leader in the fight for justice and equality for our community. NCLR was lead counsel in the marriage case in California as well as many other high profile cases across the country.

OCC PFLAG Calendar:

March 1: Deadline to register for Adolescent Sexuality Conference (Seaside) to receive discount—call Jeanne at 541-265-7194 for information

March 1, 5:00 pm: Kate Kendall address (information in left column)—Knight Law Center, Room 175, University of Oregon, Eugene

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

April 4-5: Adolescent Sexuality Conference—Seaside (<http://www.oregon-asc.org/>)

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

April 15: Day of Silence at area high schools

April 20, 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 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.

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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PO Box 2172
Newport, OR 97365

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