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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

April 2011

Take Action!!!

A new group supporting LGBTQ youth is the “We Got Your Back Project,” supplementing “It Gets Better” by collecting stories that show it’s possible to survive middle school and high school and go on to live a wonderful, happy life. They ask LGBTQIA people and allies to submit a video or statement explaining how life has gotten better since high school. The purpose is to give LGBTQIA young people some hope with the knowledge that whoever they are, “we’ve got their back.” Encouraging transgender, bisexual, and especially people of color to contribute to this project ensures that everyone’s voice is heard.
<http://wegotyourbackproject.wordpress.com/about/>

Basic Rights Oregon wants 100,000 more Oregonians to support the freedom to marry. Join the campaign by signing up to be part of the online team. http://equalityfederation.salsalabs.com/o/35028/p/salsa/web/common/public/signup?signup_page_KEY=137

Send Speaker John Boehner a message to stop spending your tax dollars in a political defense of DOMA, the discriminatory act preventing gays and lesbians from marrying the ones they love.
https://secure.aclu.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=2957&s_subsrc=110311_DOMA&JServSessionIdro04=y5b45qf6n1.app217a

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change (OLOC):
three-day regional conference for lesbians age 60+
in Tacoma (WA) on July 28-31, 2011.

Info: psoloc.org (click on Regional Gathering)

Keynote speaker: Lillian Faderman;
Entertainer/singer: Lucie Blue Tremblay

PFLAG Member Requests Equality of Treatment

The following is an excerpt from a letter of complaint, written to the Oregon Education Benefit Board and copied to the Lincoln County School District Board, requesting equality of treatment for domestic partners applying for health care:

I am attaching the Affidavit of Domestic Partnership that I am required to provide to add my partner of nearly 15 years to my Health Insurance plan. (She is being laid off as of the end of March from her position and will be losing her own coverage then.) Incidentally, we are registered with the State of Oregon as domestic partners and have been for as long as that “official” designation has been offered to us by the state. If we could be married legally, we would be.

This is not the first time I have filled out this affidavit as she has been on my coverage with OEBB before; in fact, the first time our District personnel did not deduct the additional taxes that gay people are required to pay for benefits (married people do not have to pay taxes on the value of their coverage for their spouses). That time I was required to take out a loan from the School District to pay for the amount that was mistakenly not deducted, making it a double salary reduction for me and family to live with.

Because I was laid off in 2009 and then brought back to work, missing one month of work that year, I am now being required to fill this affidavit out again. I have been told that the former affidavit is not adequate proof because of this one month of missed work.

I personally know of heterosexual people who have listed their non-married partner as their husband or wife, thereby securing coverage for them, with NO requirement to prove the marriage. No one ques-

tions the heterosexual about the legality of their marriage. In fact, in looking on your website, I see no forms whatsoever that are for heterosexual people to fill out certifying and documenting their relationship.

I am writing this letter to you because I find this requirement, both the first time and now the second time, to be a violation of my rights as a human being. Once again, my partner and I are being treated like second-class citizens in a state where we are hardworking and productive individuals just trying to live our lives like anyone else.

My partner is a Volunteer Firefighter, serving her third term as President of the Newport Volunteer Fire Fighters. Last year she was honored as Volunteer Firefighter of the Year. She, like all of her associate volunteers, is willing to risk her life in service to the rest of us. We are both generous in volunteering in our community, and while I have not risked my life as she has, I have served as the Chaplain of the Newport Fire Dept for several years now. We give to our community.

It is deeply troubling to me to be asked to “certify” that I am in a domestic partnership when married people are not required to provide any proof. If you are going to require this sort of form, I believe that it is only fair and right that it be required of ALL who seek to put others on their coverage packages.

With this letter, I am asking you to do the right thing, and stop discriminating against me, my family, and gay people. I am asking you to do away with requiring certification for some and not others. If you will not do that, then it seems to me that you must require certification from all who seek insurance coverage for their families.

Sincerely,
Karen Dammann

Politics on Our Side

President Barack Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton added their voices to the **international call to curb discrimination against LGBT people worldwide**. Obama announced the establishment of a special rapporteur on LGBT issues at the Organization of American States. Clinton announced that the U.S. took a lead role in crafting a U.N. statement signed by 85 countries, calling for an end to criminalization of homosexuality and violence against LGBT people.

The deportation of lesbian Monica Alcota to Argentina is delayed until gay marriage laws become clearer, thanks to an immigration judge. Alcota is legally married to American citizen Cristina Ojeda in Connecticut but has overstayed her tourist visa. Judge Terry Bain decided to put her deportation on hold because the Obama administration said last month that the White House will not defend the Defense of Marriage Act, the law that prohibits recognition of gay marriages. A straight Argentinean woman married to an American man would not be deported.

A New York appeals court has ruled that **the survivor of a gay marriage may receive the inheritance from his male spouse** even though New York does not yet allow legal gay marriages to be performed in the state. J. Craig Leiby and H. Kenneth Rantfle were legally married in Canada in 2008. Soon after the marriage, Rantfle died of lung cancer and left the majority of his estate to Leiby. Rantfle's brother contested the will, saying that Leiby's inheritance would violate New York law, according to CBS New York. Gay marriages are illegal in New York, but the state recognizes legal out-of-state and out-of-country marriages; therefore the court ruled that Leiby is legally entitled to the inheritance as a surviving

spouse. Lambda Legal said the decision was the first of its kind at an appellate level in New York, according to the *Huffington Post*.

Colorado Senate Republicans has delivered Pat Steadman's same-sex civil unions bill to the Republican-controlled House. Though the twelve Republican men in the Senate voted against it, the three Republican women in the Senate voted in favor of the bill, making the case to leaders of the Republican-controlled House to take up the bill with good faith and allow it to move beyond committees and onto the floor of the House for a vote. "I believe the moral debate about whether this is right or wrong belongs in our faith communities, not in this building and not in this chamber," Republican Ellen Roberts said.

The Respect for Marriage Act—a bill that would repeal the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)—has been introduced in both houses of Congress. This is in opposition to the nearly 100 Congressional members' resolution condemning President Obama for his decision to no longer defend DOMA in court.

Jeff Angelo, a former Iowa state senator who sponsored a state constitutional amendment against marriage equality five years ago, has changed his opinion on the issue. He plans to lead an effort to build conservative support across the state for allowing same-sex couples to marry.

New Irish foreign minister Eamon Gilmore has criticized New York St. Patrick's Day parade organizers for excluding the gay community stating that this exclusion does not encapsulate "Irishness" because Ireland is a very accepting place—the Irish pride themselves on equality.

International Woman's Day Bridge March for Peace

A lesbian couple in England has opened the first sperm bank designed to cater specifically to the needs of gay couples. Although they will market to gays, they will serve opposite-sex couples.

A federal appellate court has refused to lift a stay on the resumption of marriages for same-sex couples in California while it considers the appeal of a ruling that found Proposition 8 unconstitutional.

Crystal Cathedral (Orange County, CA) church founder Robert Schuller is opposing a policy requiring choir members to sign a document opposing homosexuality.

Newt Gingrich helped secure \$200,000 in seed money for the successful ousting of three Iowa Supreme Court justices because they voted to expand marriage rights to same-sex couples. Gingrich is exploring an exploration to run for the GOP presidential candidacy. Despite being twice-divorced and a recent convert to Roman Catholicism, he is quite admired by evangelicals.

We mourn the loss of 13-year-old Nicholas Kelo Jr. (Rittman, OH), who used a gun to commit suicide on February 23 after years of bullying.

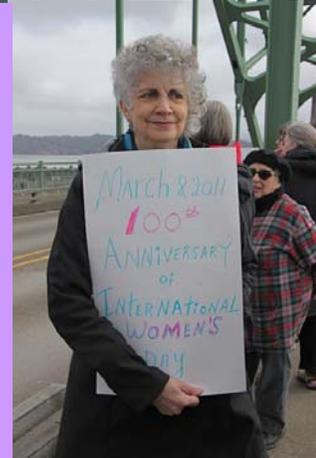


Above:
Alice
McCain

Left: Ethel
Myers

Right:
Chris
Christie

Below:
Rhonda
Harman



People Who Make a Difference

When **Dawn Henderson** wore a shirt to her DeSoto Parish middle school with the message “Some Kids are Gay. That’s OK,” Principal Keith Simmons ordered her to change her shirt or go home. The Louisiana ACLU has sent a letter to Simmons stating that students have a First Amendment right to express their opinions, including on T-shirts, if the school allows clothing with slogans. School officials said the slogan was “distracting,” although there was no incident of disruption. Dawn’s mother plans to withdraw her because of Simmons’ response.



When **Nikki Peet** asked for a safe space for students to meet and discuss issues like anti-gay bullying at Flour Bluff High School in Corpus Christi (TX), Dr. Julia Carbajal, Flour Bluff’s superintendent, canceled all extra-curricular clubs in order to prevent Nikki’s Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) student group from forming—a way of getting around the federal “Equal Access Act” law mandating similar access on school grounds to student groups, regardless of their politics or philosophy. Her decision has been reversed.

The White House has selected **Jeremy Bernard** (right) to be the Obama administration’s social secretary, making him the first gay man to hold the post. Bernard currently serves as chief of staff to the U.S. ambassador to France. With his former partner Rufus Gifford (left), Bernard was a major fundraising bundler for the president’s campaign. A native of San Antonio (TX), he will work with the First Lady to decide whether to put out “the good china” when John Boehner comes over.



“It’s one of the most important positions in the White House,” said Philip Dufour, social secretary to Vice President Al Gore and the first man to hold that job (and who would presumably have been the first to get the White House gig if Gore had been elected president in the 2000 election). Dufour said the social secretary is one of the few staffers to report to both the president and first lady, which makes it “one of the best jobs in Washington—interesting and complex at the same time.”

Gov. Walker (WI) Fires Attorney

Scott Walker, the controversial Wisconsin governor, has fired the attorney who was representing the state in a lawsuit challenging Wisconsin's domestic partner registry. The conservative group Wisconsin Family Action alleges the registry violates the state's ban on gay marriage because it grants same-sex couples a number

of legal rights.

Former Gov. Jim Doyle, a Democrat, appointed attorney Lester Pines to defend the registry. Pines sent a letter to Dane County Circuit Judge Daniel Moeser saying Walker had terminated him.

Pines declined to comment on why, saying those discussions took place while the state was still his client.

Majority of U.S. Citizens Accept Same-Sex Marriage

Gay marriage support increased 17 percent in the recent *Washington Post*/ABC News poll results. Now, 53 percent of participants think gay marriage should be legal.

This is the first time a majority of Americans favored gay marriage in the *Post*/ABC poll, according to the *Washington Post*.

President Obama Orders Stop on Defending DOMA, Speaker Boehner Fights Back

According to President Barack Obama, the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) that bars federal recognition of same-sex marriage, is unconstitutional. He has directed the Justice Department to stop defending the law in court. The White House is using the standard that defending the law would require the government to show that the discrimination is "substantially related to an important government objective."

House Speaker John Boehner has declared that the House will go to court to defend the federal law against gay marriage by initiating a legal defense of the 15-year-old DOMA. Five states and the District of Columbia allow same-sex marriage. The administration's action does not affect the other states that do not. The Department of Justice will continue to enforce the law, including the denial of benefits, until the courts rule whether it is constitutional.

Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi is calling on House speaker John Boehner to make public the estimated cost of hiring private attorneys as part of the Republican leadership's defense of the Defense of Marriage Act.

The first same-sex marriages took place in the Netherlands on April 1, 2001. The countries that followed are Belgium, Spain, Canada, South Africa, Norway, Sweden, Portugal, Iceland, and Argentina.

A recent poll revealed that the majority of American Catholics support equal rights for gays and lesbians. A rep from the firm that conducted the poll said, "Gay-marriage has clearly become another issue, along with artificial contraception and divorce and remarriage, which Catholics believe is not core to what it means to be Catholic."

The University of Oregon's new website UOUT available at <http://lgbt.uoregon.edu> will serve as a resource for current and prospective students around issues of sexual orientation, gender identity, campus involvement, ally building, and social justice.

Jodi Picoult's newest novel, *Sing You Home*, is the first book club selection for the new online club for LGBTQ youth and their straight allies on TheTrevorSpace.org. Ellen DeGeneres has signed to produce a movie adaptation of this bestselling novel about gay rights when a divorced woman wants a child with her new love, a female guidance counselor.

A list of book recommendations from Canada PFLAG is available at <http://www.pflagcanada.ca/en/linksframe-e.asp?linksframe=books-e.asp>

PFLAG News from Jeanne

April looks like another busy month! Our regular PFLAG meeting on Wednesday, April 13, will feature a **showing of *Jim in Bold***, a film about anti-gay bullying and the hopeful cross-country tour that resulted.

We will also discuss plans for the **“Day of Silence”** on Friday, April 15, when high schools across the country will acknowledge the lives of silence endured by LGBT folks every day. Some of the schools are planning to end the day with a **“Night of Noise”** party to celebrate the changes and improvements happening in recent years.

During late March and April, Basic Rights Oregon will run a series of TV ads in support of Marriage Equality. Many parts of the state can view the ads on cable channels, but Lincoln County will not be included in the “ad buy.” PFLAG will schedule **house parties to show the ads** to a variety of groups and to gain more support for Marriage Equality.

Our full-page ad in the News-Times will appear in June, traditional wedding month, with names of over 250 local residents in support of Marriage Equality. Send an email to jstjohn1@charter.net if you want your name to be included in this ad.

May starts the new Farmer’s Market season and PFLAG will have a **table at the Newport Market** one Saturday each month. If you’d like to help out by staffing the table for a three-hour shift sometime between May and October, send an email to jstjohn1@charter.net, and we’ll get you on the schedule.

OCC PFLAG Calendar:

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

May 11, 7:00 pm: PFLAG—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

May 18, 7:00 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

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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