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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

May 2011

Take Action!

DocuBank is a service that stores electronic copies of legal documents necessary for a medical emergency—Healthcare Powers of Attorney, living wills, HIPAA releases, visitation documents—along with vital information such as allergies and emergency contacts. Using a card you can carry, hospital staff can immediately obtain your documents by fax or a secure webpage, even if you're alone or incapacitated. DocuBank is useful for all, gay or straight, single or in a relationship.

Human Rights Coalition has an arrangement with DocuBank to provide a free year of its service by becoming an HRC member by May 16, 2011. More information is available at https://secure3.convio.net/hrc/site/Donation2?df_id=8458&8458.donation=form1&autologin=true&utm_source=Convio&utm_medium=email&utm_term=body-link-1&utm_campaign=Preventing-a-nightmare&JServSessionIdro04=acptof9fv2.app341a

Schools are invited to order a free copy of the 40-minute film "Bullied: A Student, a School and a Case That Made History," a documentary that chronicles one student's ordeal at the hands of anti-gay bullies and offers an inspiring message of hope to those fighting harassment today. It can become a cornerstone of anti-bullying efforts in middle and high schools. Order it from <http://www.tolerance.org/bullied>

**Tell Congress to End LGBT Employment
Discrimination Today!** (Story on Page 6)

[http://www.capwiz.com/pflag/issues/alert/?
alertid=41477546&type=CO](http://www.capwiz.com/pflag/issues/alert/?alertid=41477546&type=CO)

Studies Show Health Problems in LGBT People

With the repeal (sort of) of Don't Ask, Don't Tell last year and polls showing increasing support for same-sex marriage, it would appear LGBT Americans are close to gaining equality. But there is one area in which this community is far behind others in the country—health.

Homophobia and transphobia still have a serious deleterious affect on LGBT lives. A new series of studies has revealed the seriousness of this issue. The lack of understanding about LGBT health needs was a surprise last year to the National Institutes of Health after a requested report from the Institute of Medicine.

The report shows elevated risks of attempted suicide, depression, substance abuse, and social isolation in all age groups as well as a great lack of healthcare providers who have knowledge and awareness about LGBT health needs. Fortunately the Department of Health and Human Services has incorporated this report into its recommendations to improve LGBT people's health and well-being.

The report is available at <http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2011/The-Health-of-Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-and-Transgender-People/Report-Brief.aspx?page=2>

The UCLA Center for Health Policy Research has released another study that reveals how the impact of anti-LGB stigma compounds over time resulting in higher rates of blood pressure, diabetes, physical disabilities, and psychological stress. This study also notes the need for “increasing cultural competency and sensitivity among health care providers.”

An earlier study from the Movement Advancement Project shows higher rates of poverty, homelessness, and depression due to the inequities of marriage inequality, sexism, and a lifetime of stigma among LGB people.

Transgressors face high rates of poverty, unemployment, housing discrimination, homelessness, discrimination in healthcare, and harassment by law enforcement, attempting suicide at 25 times the rate of the general population.

Bullying has also been frequently in the news recently. President Barack Obama has declared that bullying is not “just a harmless rite of passage,” but that it can have “destructive consequences for our young people.”

In their catering to conservatives, prospective GOP candidates are using their reinforcing anti-LGBT “non-facts” and reinforcing the stigma that impedes LGBT health.

Thus far, Tim Pawlenty and Mike Huckabee have both stated their intent to return to Don't Ask, Don't Tell. (Haley Barbour agrees with them, but he has dropped out of the race for 2012 president.)

In his opposition to same-sex marriage, Pawlenty said, “My general view on all of this is that marriage is to be defined as being a union of a man and a woman. Marriage should be elevated in our society at a special level.” Mitt Romney agrees with Pawlenty.

Newt Gingrich defends his donations to the American Family Association, claiming the group's anti-gay positions were “allegations” he couldn't “check.” Recently he agreed with the AFA positions on Bryan Fischer's radio show. On the Republican National Committee's RNC's fundraising page are attacks against President Obama because of his support of LGBT rights.

A danger in the conservative control of the government is that they may not allow these LGBT health studies and initiatives to continue under their administration.

Politics on Our Side

House Speaker John Boehner and the Republican representatives used taxpayer money to hire Paul Clement to protect the Defense of Marriage Act in mid-April. A week later Clement's firm, **King & Spalding**, filed a motion to withdraw from its contract. Clement will continue his position. More at http://www.alternet.org/newsandviews/article/569772/john_boehner%E2%80%99s_245_million_attorney_drops_doma_defense/#paragraph4

Democratic lawmakers **hammered anti-gay activist Maggie Gallagher** during a congressional hearing with questions on why same-sex couples should be excluded from marriage and the extent to which the National Organization for Marriage participated in campaigns to rescind state marriage laws. The hearing, which was titled "Defending Marriage," took place on the heels of President Obama's announcement on Feb. 23 that the Defense of Marriage Act is unconstitutional and that his administration would no longer defend the anti-gay law against litigation in court. <http://www.washingtonblade.com/2011/04/18/tough-questioning-for-gallagher-at-marriage-hearing/>

In California public schools, students are required to learn about black history and women's history. And if a bill approved by the State Senate becomes law, the state will become the first in the country to mandate that **schools also teach gay history**. According to the bill, contributions of gays and lesbians in the state and country must be included in social science instruction. http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/16/us/16schools.html?_r=1

Delaware has granted legal status to same-sex civil unions, giving those couples

the same rights, protections and obligations now granted only to married couples.

Nashville (TN), known for its country and Christian music, is home to the Southern Baptist Convention's national headquarters and host of the annual gathering of the National Religious Broadcasters. Now the Bible Belt city has joined other communities across the United States in **passing an anti-discrimination ordinance protecting gays and lesbians who work for companies that contract with the city**.

Gay couples married in other states or outside the US who came to Washington State now automatically get the rights of domestic partners, including hospital visitation rights and a slew of other benefits granted to same-sex couples by the legislature in the last five years, according to a new law.

The Arkansas supreme court has ruled that a 2008 ballot initiative barring gay and lesbian couples from adopting children is unconstitutional. The court ruled that such a policy, while never enforced, would violate an adult's right to privacy in their bedroom, according to the Associated Press.

Wal-Mart did not violate the 1964 Civil Rights Act when it fired an employee for making anti-gay statements during her work break, ruled the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit.

The Uruguay parliament is considering legislation that would legalize gay marriage. If they do so, the country will join 11 others around the world to do so.

All gay UK men will soon be able to donate blood if they have not had any same-gender sex for a decade.

Jeanne's May PFLAG Update

Demi Espinoza, an organizer with Basic Rights Oregon, can use help from PFLAG members with the Marriage Matters program. During the week leading up to Mother's Day, the theme is "My wish for Mother's Day." BRO is looking for mothers to help launch this and is asking for mothers to help:

1. Send photos and quote, possibly a picture of a mother with a child or children with a quote to be used as a caption, i.e., "My Mother's Day wish is for my child to have the freedom to marry the person they love", or "My Mother's Day wish is for my daughter to be able to marry the love of her life," or "My Mother's Day wish is for my grandkids moms/dads to be able to marry each other."

2. Go on Facebook on Wednesday, May 4, and change their status to "My Mother's Day wish is for everyone (/my daughter/my son) to have the freedom to marry the person they love. If you agree, please repost."

3. BRO will have week-long "events" on Facebook for this Mother's Day theme. If you have a Facebook page, you can participate by following our page and then reposting to your page.

PFLAG supported **Day of Silence** events in both Newport and Toledo on April 15. Hundreds of students in those middle and high schools participated in practicing silence for a single day to acknowledge the painful lives of silence experienced by LGBT people. Lincoln County PFLAG members donated kits to local high schools and middle schools while local churches and PFLAG members donated lots of cookies to Newport High's Night of Noise party following the Day of Silence. Great job, GSA groups!

Day of Silence is a national observance sponsored and supported by GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network) which develop kits for use by GSA (Gay/Straight Alliance Clubs) in schools across the country.

Oregon Coast Community College has a newly reorganized **Triangle Club** that meets regularly—and two new members of PFLAG are helping make it happen. Tara Roberts and Claire Smith, both attending classes at OCCC, shared their plans at the April PFLAG meeting. They will speak to classes, inviting participation in the Triangle Club and PFLAG, and be a visible LGBT-friendly presence on the campus. Watch for Safe Space stickers to pop up at OCCC!

An informal **dessert potluck** celebrated the end of the **FIRST** year of advocacy for **Marriage Equality** in Lincoln County. One year ago this week almost 30 people attended PFLAG's Marriage Matters Kickoff at PUD—and we've been distributing information, gathering signatures, and wearing (and selling) Marriage Equality buttons ever since. PFLAG's statewide partnership with BRO (Basic Rights Oregon) and ROP (Rural Organizing Project) has been exciting and fruitful. The recent Marriage Equality TV Ad Campaign was groundbreaking—our ads promoting equal marriage rights were proactive.

After enjoying great desserts, those attending the "house party" watched the now very familiar TV ads and talked about their effectiveness. New flyers/posters from BRO were distributed along with signature-gathering forms to be returned by June 1. A full-page ad in the News-Times running in June during "wedding month" to highlight the current state of marriage inequality will feature the names of more than 300 Lincoln County residents who support Marriage Equality.

Our PFLAG chapter has been invited to share our success story at the annual ROP Caucus in Bend. ROP is working with several rural counties to improve conditions for their LGBT communities and want to learn from us. That's a rainbow-colored feather in our cap! Thanks for all your hard work and active participation!

People Who Make a Difference



ILLUSTRATION: GLUEKIT

Out Magazine has released its top 50 names of the most influential gays and lesbians in America. These people range from popular media to politicians, but factors include the power to influence cultural and social attitudes, political clout, individual wealth, and a person's media profile. More information at <http://www.out.com/power50/>



Linda Villarosa, senior editor at *Essence* magazine, is one of the 26 lesbians featured in *The L Life: Extraordinary Lesbians Making a Difference*, a collection of coming-out stories of prominent lesbians from all over the nation. Author Erin McHugh says, "It's a print version of National Coming Out Day," but the book is less about lesbians coming out in their communities and more about brave women taking risks and making the world a better place. The idea, says McHugh, is to broaden the understanding of lesbian lives—and to show what's positive in their experience.

Following is a statement from **Louis J. Marinelli**: "Last summer, I organized the "Summer for Marriage" Tour for NOM. For 30 days, I traveled across the nation pushing an un-American agenda that harms gays, lesbians, and their families. I now regret it. In an interview with the Good As You blog, I renounced my past and affirmed my support for marriage equality. During the very summer tour that I organized, I was forced to see gays and lesbians for who they really were: real people with real lives who were hurt by the work I was doing." [It should be noted that this message came with a request for donations for his activities.]



Employment Non-Discrimination Act Returns

On Wednesday, April 6, Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) introduced an inclusive version of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), HR 1397, and on Thursday, April 14, Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Mark Kirk (R-IL) introduced

the Senate version of this bill S. 811.

The bill would make it illegal to fire, refuse to hire or refuse to promote an employee based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. Currently, it is legal to fire someone because of their sexual orientation in

29 states, and it is legal to fire someone because of their gender identity in 38 states.

Clearly, the uniform employment protections ENDA would provide nationwide are vital and long overdue. Contact your Congressman! (See P. 1)

Conservative Environment Increases Teen Suicide, Study Finds

Suicide attempts by both gay and straight teens are more common in politically conservative areas where schools don't have programs supporting gay rights, according to a study involving nearly 32,000 Oregon high school students. Those factors raised the odds and were a substantial influence on suicide attempts even when known risk contributors like depression and being bullied were considered, said study author Mark Hatzenbuehler, a Columbia University psychologist and researcher. The new study has been published online in the journal *Pediatrics*.

His study found a higher rate of suicide attempts even among kids who weren't bullied or depressed when they lived in counties less supportive of gays and with relatively few Democrats. A high proportion of Democrats was a measure used as a proxy for a more liberal environment. The research focused only on the state of Oregon and created a social index to assess which outside factors might contribute to suicidal tendencies. Other teen health experts called it a powerful, novel way to evaluate a tragic social problem.

The study is based on 2006-08 surveys of 11th-graders that state health officials conducted in Oregon classrooms; Oregon voter registration statistics; Census data on same-sex couples; and public school policies on gays and bullying. It relied on teens' self-reporting suicide attempts within the previous year. Roughly 20 percent of gay, lesbian and bisexual teens said they had made an attempt, versus 4 percent of straight kids.

Counties were rated on five measures: prevalence of same-sex couples; registered Democratic voters; liberal views; schools with gay-straight alliances; schools with policies against bullying gay students; and schools with antidiscrimination policies that included sexual orientation.

Gay, lesbian and bisexual teens living in counties with the lowest social index scores were 20 percent more likely to have attempted suicide than gays in counties with the highest index scores. Overall, about 25 percent of gay teens in low-scoring counties had attempted suicide, versus 20 percent of gay teens in high-scoring counties. Among straight teens, suicide attempts were 9 percent more common in low-scoring counties. There were 1,584 total suicide attempts—304 of those among gays, lesbians and bisexuals.

Hatzenbuehler said the results show that "environments that are good for gay youth are also healthy for heterosexual youth." Funding for the study came from the National Institutes for Health and a center for gay research at the Fenway Institute, an independent Harvard-affiliated health care and research center.

Michael Resnick, a professor of adolescent mental health at the University of Minnesota's medical school, said children and youth in general "are both subtly and profoundly affected by what goes around them," including the social climate and perceived support.

PFLAG Saturday Market Starts May 14

Second Saturdays will be our chance to meet old and new friends at Saturday Market in Newport. We'll have a table to display materials and sell Marriage Equality buttons, Safe Space stickers, and hand-made rainbow doggie scarves. If you want to sign up for a shift, call Jeanne at 541-265-7194 and reserve your spot. It's a fun way to spend part of a Saturday morning and a great way to connect with lots of community members—and be a visible LGBT-friendly presence!

Our New Website: www.occflag.org

Thanks to Lisa Gray for volunteering her hard work and great web design skills—we now have an excellent website! Check it out—and let us know what else you'd like to see included. There's already lots of info posted about our history, previous years' activities, projects, and calendar information. It will be updated periodically and we will soon be able to process memberships and donations through Paypal. Thanks so much to Gray's Web Design--www.grayswebdesign.com

Equity Grant Submitted

OCC PFLAG has requested funds from Equity Foundation thanks to volunteer grant writer Lisa Bonacci. We hope to receive funding to help our local GSA groups meet and plan together and to provide "lunch money" for noontime LGBT support groups at high schools and the Triangle Club at OCC.

A feel-good YouTube is this recording of "Born This Way" by Manchester Gay Village and Lady GaGa. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1kcr9T5Ni70>

OCC PFLAG Calendar:

May 11, 5:00 pm: LGBT Task Force Meeting—Centro de Ayuda, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

May 11, 7:00 pm: PFLAG—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport [LGBT History: Stonewall Uprising]

June 8, 7:00 pm: PFLAG—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport [Marc Adams of HeartStrong]

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," Newport (only)

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.

Nel Ward has a new blog with progressive content and book reviews for youth and adults. Not all the entries deal with LGBTQ issues, but many of them do—for example, the April 21 entry about the Defense of Marriage Act and the April 22 book reviews. The blog provides greater in-depth articles about subjects in the OCC PFLAG newsletter. <http://nelsnewday.com>.

"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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