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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

October 2011

## Take Action!

Tommy Theolyn's seven-year-old son, born biologically female, looks like a boy and believes that he is a boy. Psychologists tell Theolyn that it's the right thing for the son to live as a boy. But the boy is being forced to use the girls' restroom in his Georgia elementary school. This action would reveal to the other children that he is transgender and put him at risk. So Theolyn took his son out of school.

Theolyn writes, "My child very much wants to go to school and interact with other children at a normal school setting. He deserves the same opportunities that any child in this county should have. Please support us in asking Dr. Hunter and the Board of Education for McIntosh County Schools to recognize his right to equal access to education.

The ACLU is now supporting Theolyn in this case. "Gender identity is not a matter of choice, but rather a person's natural sense of being male or female, which is usually firmly established by the age of four," the ACLU wrote. "Restroom access based on gender identity is essential for transgender students.

Petition address: [http://www.change.org/petitions/mcintosh-county-georgia-schools-allow-my-transgender-son-to-use-a-safe-restroom-at-school?utm\\_source=action\\_alert&utm\\_medium=email&alert\\_id=WqGBxEeNRk\\_FRZCjXceja](http://www.change.org/petitions/mcintosh-county-georgia-schools-allow-my-transgender-son-to-use-a-safe-restroom-at-school?utm_source=action_alert&utm_medium=email&alert_id=WqGBxEeNRk_FRZCjXceja)

### ***Safe Space: Ending Anti-Gay Bullying in our Culture,***

a presentation by Lee Wind

Writer/Blogger/Speaker/TrevorSpace Book Club Advisor

Tuesday, October 11th: 7:00-8:00pm, Main Meeting  
Room, Corvallis-Benton County Public Library (645  
NW Monroe Avenue, Corvallis)

For more information, call 541-766-6794

# Third Iris Festival Fun



# *Politics on Our Side*

The Oregon GOP has stripped anti-gay rights language from the 2012 party platform with a bare majority of the 230 delegates. It still retains the language of marriage being between one man and one woman.

The repeal of the federal law that mandated the "don't ask, don't tell" policy went into effect on September 20, 2011, ending the military's longstanding ban on openly gay and lesbian troops. Navy Lt. Gary Ross married his partner, Dan Swezy, in front of family and friends in Vermont at midnight just as the military's ban on openly gay troops was ending.

District Judge James Ware in San Francisco said in a court order that the **video recordings of the trial striking down California's Proposition 8, which prevented same-sex marriage, could be shown.** Theodore Boutros, who argued the issue for supporters of gay marriage, said, "This is a powerful vindication of the public's right of access to judicial records in proceedings." Andy Pugno, a lawyer for supporters of the ban, called the ruling "bizarre" and said the group will appeal immediately. The judge's order went into effect on September 30. Judge Vaughn Walker's ruling striking down the marriage ban is on appeal to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Sixty-nine representatives, including House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), have called on the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to take specific steps to **ensure that the family ties of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people are given special consideration in deportation cases.**

**Military chaplains may perform gay marriages where they are legal.**

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has provided new guidance on the enforcement of **regulations to protect the visitation rights of same-sex domestic partners in a hospital setting.** This is the final step in the process of implementing Obama's regulation issued last November and which went into effect in January. The guidance reinforces the position that all patients have the right to choose their own visitors during a hospital stay, including a visitor who is a same-sex domestic partner, as one of the Conditions of Participation (CoPs) for hospitals participating in the federal Medicare and Medicaid programs. Information about the visitation regulation: [www.hrc.org/hei](http://www.hrc.org/hei).

The Social Security Administration (SSA) has **ended their practice of allowing gender to be matched in its Social Security Number Verification System (SSNVS).** This will result in the immediate cessation of SSA sending notifications that alert employers when the gender marker on an employee's W-2 does not match Social Security records.

In the six months since Sen. Diane Feinstein (D-CA) introduced the **Respect for Marriage Act, 30 Senators and President Barack Obama have endorsed this bill.** The Courage Campaign has also generated stories about LGBT hardships due to DOMA in major newspapers from the *Los Angeles Times* to the *Christian Science Monitor*.

**British health officials will lift the ban on gay men donating blood** in November as long as their last sexual contact with another man was more than one year ago. Other countries including Australia, Japan, South Africa, Sweden, and New Zealand also allow gay men to donate blood with similar conditions. Canada and the United States do not.

## *Gold Beach PFLAG*

Jeanne & Kae were guest speakers for the Sept. 19 PFLAG meeting in Gold Beach where they shared information about our meeting format, programs, and special activities and events. Their new chapter had a great turnout and lots of questions about how to be effective in rural areas. They are off to a great start!

Congratulations to Grammy- and Oscar-winning singer-songwriter **Melissa Etheridge, for becoming the 2,450th Hollywood Walk of Fame star.** Her ceremony in front of the Hard Rock Cafe Hollywood also marked the launch of Hard Rock's month-long Pinktober campaign, a series of concerts and celebrity events held to raise money and breast cancer awareness. Diagnosed with breast cancer in 2004, Etheridge has been an artist ambassador for Pinktober for six years.

Last spring **Louis Marinelli asked the LGBT community, via the web, for money** for a bus tour promoting same-sex marriage. He had seen the light and renounced his five years of work with the anti-gay National Organization for Marriage (NOM). His conversion didn't last: he is now backing anti-gay Texas Gov. Rick Perry for president.

# *Iris Pride Festival*

The Superhero theme of this third annual event on September 16-18 in Lincoln City brought out lots of good humor and great costumes. The drag show was high energy and received an enthusiastic response from the crowd. Although we didn't get our request for good weather, at least we didn't get "blown away" this year. Hardy street market goers enjoyed the great array of information and vendor tables and totally cleaned out our supply of rainbow dog scarves. Thanks to Nel and Sue for their donations of books to the cause.

Welcoming Churches had a table adjacent to PFLAG and provided information about the six churches in Lincoln County with official statements welcoming LGBT folks to their churches. Taft High School's GSA's table again offered the opportunity to make your own rainbow tie-dyed shirts. New co-sponsor Michelle Anderson will be working with PFLAG and the GSA council.

The Tiaras & Tractors Transgender workshop provided excellent information about the experiences of children and families dealing with transgender. TransActive in Portland is an excellent resource for families and has clients all across the country. OHSU is becoming a national leader in medical consultation and treatment for trans children and adults.

**Credits for Page 2:, clockwise from top left:** Dan Beck, CAN Director, with Superman; Rhonda Jantzen, Barton Howe, and Jeanne St. John (sitting) at PFLAG table; dog sporting new PFLAG rainbow scarf; over seven feet tall; the "girls"; local super heroes staffing Green Broche Society table. **Center:** Ardis Letey staffing Welcoming Churches' table.

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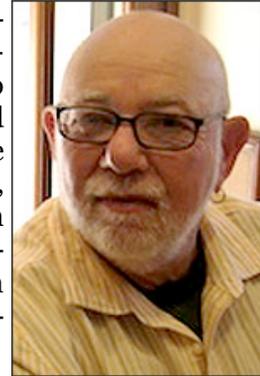
## **Program Helps Stop Bullying in Elementary Schools**

Elementary schools that used a bullying prevention program saw significantly less physical harassment as well as fewer teachers reporting that fighting was a serious problem, says a new study by the Social Development Research Group at the University of Washington.

"Outcomes from a School-Randomized Controlled Trial of Steps to Respect: A School Bullying Prevention Program" compared schools that used the Committee for Children's Steps to Respect program with schools that didn't. More information at [http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/slj/newsletters/newsletterbucketextrahelping2/892134-477/less\\_physical\\_harassment\\_seen\\_in.html.csp](http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/slj/newsletters/newsletterbucketextrahelping2/892134-477/less_physical_harassment_seen_in.html.csp)

# People Who Make a Difference

When **Stuart Wilber** saw that Microsoft and hundreds of other companies were affiliated with a Christian organization called Charity Giveback Group, or CGBG, which allows customers to channel donations to groups including the far-right, anti-gay Family Research Council and Focus on the Family, he started a protest on change.org. At that time over 600 companies, including Microsoft, Target, Macy's, Delta, Netflix, Apple, Dell, and even Sesame Street belonged to CGBG. This action caused many of the companies to withdraw from their agreement providing funds to CGBG. You can see more information and the petition at <http://www.change.org/petitions/microsoft-stop-raising-money-for-anti-gay-hate-groups>



**Gautam Raghavan**, currently the deputy White House liaison at the Department of Defense, will become the LGBT liaison in the White House Office of Public Engagement (OPE), replacing Brian Bond. Raghavan was one of the Pentagon officials who managed the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" repeal process. He has worked for the Democratic National Committee as the Midwest finance director and director of the Indo-American Leadership Council where he coordinated the DNC's major donor fundraising across the Midwest as well as within the Indian-American and South Asian-American communities nationally. October is the planned date for this transfer.

**Stephen Hill**, a gay soldier currently serving in Iraq, asked on video during the Republican presidential candidate debate in Orlando if the GOP would reinstate Don't Ask, Don't Tell. And the audience booted. The audience booted an active duty soldier currently serving in Iraq. No one, including Rick Santorum who answered the question, stopped the booing. No one thanked him for his service. When candidate Rick Santorum answered that he would reinstate DADT, the audience gave a thunderous ovation. Actually Santorum said, "Any type of sexual activity has absolutely no place in the military."



**Christina Santiago**, gay and Latina activist, was among five people killed in the stage collapse on August 13 at the Indiana State Fair. She and her partner, Alisha Marie Brennon, had entered into a civil union in Illinois in June. Attorney Kenneth Allen has announced a wrongful death and injury lawsuit although Indiana law does not legally recognize same-sex couples. Allen said the case "will be a first step toward equal rights for same-sex couples in Indiana, and another milestone in the fight for equality in America." Beth Urschel, also injured in the collapse, is suing on behalf of the estate of her partner of a decade, Tammy VanDam. The two had registered as reciprocal beneficiaries in Hawaii nearly a decade before the accident.

## Fox Anchor Calls Out Psychiatry “Expert” On His Anti-Transgender Opinion Piece

Megyn Kelly, a Fox News anchor, accused Dr. Keith Ablow of spreading hatred in his opinion piece that children who watch Chaz Bono on *Dancing with the Stars* may decide to become transgender themselves. He suggested that “millions” of children will question their gender after watching Bono.

Kelly pointed out that there is no evidence that a child who watches a transgender person on television is more likely to become transgender themselves.

<http://www.forbes.com/sites/erikkain/2011/09/14/megyn-kelly-stands-up-for-transgender-people-on-fox-news/>

## Gay Activist Takes Bigot’s Website

Dean Lovelace, an anti-gay Dayton City Commissioner has lost his website to David Lauri, a gay activist, who plans to use the website to fight Lovelace’s bigotry.

Lovelace voted against prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity.

Check it out at [deanlovelace.com!](http://deanlovelace.com/)

## Check Out This Fantastic LGBT Website

Keeping LGBT people visible is an important goal if our community is going to gain equal rights. An important source of information for this visibility is the Charles R. Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Law and Policy at the University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law. Their research includes snapshots of census results, health issues, and employment discrimination.

Census figures counter the stereotype of the LGBT population as wealthy, white, and living in urban gay neighborhoods. Upcoming reports from the Williams Institute will offer greater insight into some of the most pressing and headline-grabbing LGBT issues, including a demographic portrait of binational gay couples, who lack immigration sponsorship rights because of the Defense of Marriage Act.

Chuck Williams, a Los Angeles business consultant and philanthropist, has given \$13 million to his namesake organization, which has 20 staff members, a 19-member founders council composed of major donors (Williams also sits on the council), and a think tank that has attracted donors including the Gill Foundation, Arcus Foundation, and Ford Foundation.

Judge Vaughn Walker cited Williams research more than 30 times in his 136-page opinion on repealing Proposition 8 in California while refuting the unsubstantiated anti-gay “research.”

The web address for this prestigious Institute is <http://services.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/home.html>. [http://www.advocate.com/News/Daily\\_News/2011/08/15/The\\_Williams\\_Institute\\_Is\\_the\\_Most\\_Important\\_LGBT\\_Group\\_You%E2%80%99ve\\_Never\\_Heard\\_Of/](http://www.advocate.com/News/Daily_News/2011/08/15/The_Williams_Institute_Is_the_Most_Important_LGBT_Group_You%E2%80%99ve_Never_Heard_Of/)

## National Organization for Marriage Losing in Court

NOM, the anti-gay organization trying to block same sex marriage, has repeatedly refused to reveal its donors and filed multiple lawsuits in an attempt to block and reverse disclosure laws during the past several years as it tries to prevent LGBT rights. The 1st Circuit Court of Appeals has now declared NOM guilty of trying to influence legislative races in Maine last year. Another pending lawsuit is NOM’s challenge to Maine’s laws requiring disclosures of expenditures and contributions. [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/08/24/national-organization-marriage-disclosure-violations\\_n\\_935031.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/08/24/national-organization-marriage-disclosure-violations_n_935031.html)

### ***Last PFLAG Table at Newport Farmer's Market for the Season***

We will again be the featured non-profit at the Saturday Market in Newport. Don't miss this last chance to meet friends, drink good coffee, buy all your fresh produce and bakery goods, and support OCC PFLAG. Stop by and say hello—and take some Marriage Equality materials to share with friends.

### ***Coming Out, Theme of October 12 PFLAG Meeting***

National Coming Out Day is October 11, and we will celebrate with Coming Out stories. LGBT members, families, and friends will share their experiences with coming out initially and over the years. Some stories are funny, some are tearful, all are real. Come out and share your story!

### ***Oregon PFLAG Council***

Our PFLAG chapter will host the Oct. 8 meeting of leaders of the 15+ Oregon PFLAG chapters. This active group of chapter leaders gathers 2-3 times each year to share information, resources, and the joy of being together. Three years ago we were the only PFLAG chapter on the coast—now there are FOUR!

### ***GSA Mini-Conference on Nov. 5***

OCC PFLAG is helping Lincoln County's FIVE GSA groups plan a half-day conference for GSA members and advisors from Taft High, Newport High, Toledo High, Job Corps, and Oregon Coast Community College. PFLAG applied for a grant from Pride Foundation to help fund this conference. Let us know if you can help with refreshments, materials, or hosting on the day of the conference.

## **OCC PFLAG Calendar**

### **October: National Bullying Prevention Month**

September 30-October 8 (Cinema 21, 616 NW. 21st Avenue): 15th Annual Portland Gay and Lesbian Film Festival (<http://www.plgff.org/>)

October 8: State PFLAG Leaders Meeting

October 8: PFLAG Table, Newport Farmer's Market

October 8, 4:00 pm: Green Broche Society Meeting, Ace's—Chinook Winds Golf Club Restaurant and Game Hall, Lincoln City

October 10, Noon: LGBT Task Force Meeting—LCHHS, Lee Street, Newport

October 11: National Coming Out Day

October 11, 6:30 pm: Florence PFLAG

October 11: Presentation (See Page 1)

October 12, 7:00 pm: PFLAG—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

November 5: GSA Mini-Conference

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

November 14, Noon: LGBT Task Force Meeting—LCHHS, Lee Street, Newport

### **The Coastal AIDS Network\* monthly activities:**

**Second Tuesday**, 7:00 pm: "Activity Night" (call for information (541)994-5597)

**Third Tuesday**, 7:00 pm: "Pizza Night" (Newport Abbey's Pizza)

**Fourth Tuesday**, 7:00 pm: "Men's Pot Luck" (Locations vary! Call (541)994-5597 or email [coastalaidsnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:coastalaidsnetwork@gmail.com) for information)

We also try to have pizza in Tillamook or Pacific City. Email Dan, [coastalaidsnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:coastalaidsnetwork@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:** Jeannette at 867-6993.

### ***Florence PFLAG***

Florence PFLAG is getting underway and has invited us to speak at their meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 11 at 6:30 pm. If you can go as part of the OCC PFLAG team, contact Jeanne at 541-265-7194.

## 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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