



Jeanne St.John, Chair
Deb Lyman, Secretary
Jill Baker, Treasurer
Nel Ward, Newsletter
Editor
(nelcward@charter.net)
(nelsnewday.wordpress.com)

Contact: PO Box 2172,
Newport, OR 97365
(541)265-7194
lstjohn1@charter.net
www.occplflag.org

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered 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

December 2011

Take Action!

Because of her concern about homeless LGBTQ youth, Cyndi Lauper—singer, songwriter, actress, and LGBT activist—wants to make a difference for these abandoned young people. “I started the Give a Damn Campaign last year in part to educate straight people about this issue and to help gay and transgender people use the information to spread the message,” she said.

The following website provides more information.
<http://www.wegiveadamn.org/issues/youth-homelessness/>

Fifteen-year-old lesbian activist Amelia Roskin-Fraze started out by organizing her middle school’s first GSA and then moved on to found The Make It Safe Project which provides packages of LGBTQ focused books to schools and homeless shelters across the country. Thus far she has sent books to schools in seven states: California, Arizona, New Jersey, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Michigan.

More information about Roskin-Fraze and her project is at <http://www.makeitsafeproject.org/>

At 207 "clinics" across Ecuador, lesbians are openly held captive, raped, tortured, starved and beaten in an attempt to make them straight. with the tacit approval of the government of Ecuador.

You can sign the petition at http://act.credoaction.com/campaign/ecuador_torture/?r_by=30353-157965-KWx_qpx&rc=mailto1

No Name-Calling Week

January 23-27, 2012

School District Trains Staff to Stop Bullying

Bullying—a common problem in schools for centuries—is now front and center in educational circles. Adolescent suicides and homicides during the last few years have inspired school districts to develop policies in an attempt to prevent any recurrence of these events. Many of the bullying episodes focus on homophobia directed at youth whether they identify as LGBTQ or not. Because of society’s increasing openness toward LGBTQ people, even middle schoolers are coming out unaware of the potential backlash.

According to a 2009 survey from the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN), 85 percent of LGBTQ teens reported harassment during the previous year and two-thirds of them felt unsafe at school because of reaction to their sexual identities. Federal laws support students’ rights to express sexual identity and mandate schools to provide a safe environment for all students, but many schools across the nation do not follow these laws or fail to provide sufficient training in techniques to stop bullying.

In Lincoln County, the local PFLAG chapter obtained an Equity Foundation grant to help train several teachers in a bullying prevention program. Majalise Tolan, principal of Isaac Newton Magnet School/Newport Intermediate School and a certified trainer for the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, recently provided a workshop. Her staff had already been trained and started using the program at the beginning of this school year.

Joe Novello, director of school operations, reported seeing cases in his office only a “couple of times a year.” Most cases are dealt with in the individual schools with other reports going to another district administrator. Last spring several students in the district took the Olweus survey about bullying. Information from this survey will be in the January PFLAG newsletter.

An important annual activity designed to stop school bullying and name-calling is No Name-Calling Week, this school year on January 23-27, 2012. This event began nine years ago because of James Howe’s middle-school novel *The Misfits*. He wrote about four best friends who were chronically taunted and teased by their classmates. To combat the abuse the four middle-school students they started a new student council political party with a platform that stood against all kinds of name calling. Even after they lost the election, the school supported their idea and started a “No Name-Calling Day.”

Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing and GLSEN (The Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network) organized the first No Name-Calling Week on March 1-5, 2004. It now has over 40 national partner organizations. Originally the activity was aimed at middle school students, but since its inception it’s expanded to high schools as well.

Books about bullying can be found at the following website:
<http://www.education.wisc.edu/ccbc/books/detailListBooks.asp?idBookLists=309>

Archaeologists have discovered the remains of a male caveman buried in a traditionally female way, and have concluded that diversity in gender patterns goes back to prerecorded history.
http://www.alternet.org/newsandviews/article/552567/%22gay%22_caveman_remains_found/#paragraph4

Politics on Our Side

Sexual orientation has been added to the Oklahoma City's employment nondiscrimination policy after the city council voted 7-2 to approve the policy. As a result, gay, lesbian, and bisexual employees of the city are explicitly protected against discrimination in city offices.

The **California** Supreme Court ruled that **sponsors of Prop 8**, the anti-same-sex marriage initiative, **are allowed to defend** the measure. This decision allows the federal courts to move ahead in determining the constitutionality of Prop 8. Advocates for the two same-sex couples that brought the original suit against Prop 8 said that they expected a ruling from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals by February 2012. The ruling affects all the Western states within the 9th Circuit, including Oregon.

With the victory of Liz Mathis for **Iowa's** District 18 on November 8, Democrats kept their 26-24 majority which means that **Republicans cannot get their vote to repeal same-sex marriage**. A variety of anti-LGBTQ rights organizations fought her election, including a group calling itself "Citizens for Honesty and Sound Marriage" that made the following robo calls before the election. ROBO CALL: "Liz Mathis also endorses homosexual marriage. But Iowa just threw out three supreme court judges who also did. Homosexual marriage obviously involves homosexual sex. So, before you support Liz Mathis, call her at 319-899-0628 and ask her which homosexual sex acts she endorses."

Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick on Wednesday signed a bill into law **barring discrimination in the workplace against transgender people**. His only concern was that last-minute negotiations removed the public accommodations section of the bill

so ensure its passing. The new law also amends state hate crime laws to include gender identity and expression. Fifteen other states and the District of Columbia have enacted similar measures.

"Matt's Safe School Law," a bill named for 14-year-old Matt Epling who committed suicide in 2008 after being bullied by his classmates, created a sensation across the county a month ago because conservatives inserted a last-minute provision, specifically that the law doesn't prohibit "a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction." **Michigan** Senator Rick Jones **dropped this exception which could have allowed LGBT, Muslim, or other minorities students to face harassment**. The bill doesn't necessarily help students because it requires only that school districts have an anti-bullying policy, not follow it. Forty-five other states have laws with more teeth. At least they no longer can create policies that say it's okay to bully if people want to do it.

New Hampshire State Rep. David Bates has **withdrawn his support for a bill that would constitutionally ban gay marriage** in the state. A poll from the University of New Hampshire Survey Center found that only 27 percent of 500 randomly selected adults support repealing the law, while 50 percent are strongly opposed to repealing it.

A new poll in **Washington** state follows the trend in New Hampshire. **Fifty-five percent of registered voters support a law legalizing same-sex marriage** whereas 38 percent said they would vote to reverse such a law if the state legislature passed it.

British Prime Minister David Cameron said that the country **may withdraw aid payments from countries that ban homosexuality**.

GSA Mini-Conference Report

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called on the U.S. and its allies to increase funding for HIV/ AIDS prevention and treatment to “change the course of this pandemic and usher in an AIDS-free generation.” She also said that “creating an HIV-free population has never been a government priority until today.”

Ellen Degeneres has been appointed a Special Envoy for Global AIDS Awareness.

A number of studies of homeless youth in big cities show that between 30 and 40 percent of homeless youths identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

LGBT young people are more often kicked out of their homes than straight youths. Even if their parents don't make them leave, they may feel so uncomfortable that they leave.

In New York City, nearly 4,000 young people are homeless every night—many of them LGBTQ. There are only 250 beds for 3,800 homeless kids in New York City; waiting lists are huge.

On November 5 OCC PFLAG helped Lincoln County's five GSA groups offer a half-day conference attended by over 30 GSA members and advisors from Taft High, Newport High, Toledo High, Job Corps, and Oregon Coast Community College. Each group shared information about their activities, meeting topics, and special events. Local community leaders talked about their LGBT-related work in the community.

Steve Rose, Dean of Instruction at OCCC welcomed the group and talked about the importance of LGBT friendly policies and organizations on college campuses at all levels. OCCC was represented by the Triangle Club, a member of the county's GSA Council. Rev. Ardis Letey described her work with the six Welcoming Churches in Lincoln County which openly invite participation by gays. Other churches are preparing to join this growing number.

Majalisse Tolan, principal of Newport Intermediate/ Isaac Newton Middle Schools told about the district's adoption of the Olweus Bully Prevention model and demonstrated the Bully Circle. Dan Beck, Director of Coastal AIDS Network, led the students in a powerful exercise and described the programs and services of CAN in helping create healthy and supportive communities.

Visiting speakers included Glenn Goodfellow, a representative from the Oregon Safe Schools & Communities Coalition in Portland described services of OSSCC, and how GSA groups in the Portland function. He also described the services and gathering places for LGBT young people there. Three student staffers from OSU's Pride Center and told students about the home base for LGBT students at OSU and the services and activities they host and coordinate. They invited Lincoln County students to come visit.

OCC PFLAG provided lunch, materials, and coordination for the mini-conference.



People Who Make a Difference



Lesbian couple **Rebecca Arellano and Haileigh Adams (on right)** are a first in the nation with their election as San Diego's Patrick Henry High School king and queen. Adams and Arellano's schoolmates cheered for them at the homecoming dance, and San Diego Unified School District Superintendent Bill Kowba came out in strong support after the school started receiving hate mail about this action. Although his press conference was about the budget, he said that this issue was just as important. He also called the protesting adults "bullies."



Because of **Esther Garatie's** bravery, an abusive nurse at a Dallas VA Medical Center nurse is on leave, and the VA has started an investigation and apologized to Garatie. When she sought help for her depression and PTSD following a serious injury, the nurse asked her if she were a lesbian. Garatie said yes. The nurse lectured her for three hours on the religious evils of homosexuality. After her injury from a deliberate hit-and-run at Twentynine Palms (CA), military instructors refused to permit her to leave classes for PT. "I could give a fuck if you ever walk again," one instructor told her. "You're a female. If you were a guy I would drive you [to physical therapy] myself."

Transgender senior, **Benji Delgadillo**, (San Juan Hills High School, San Juan Capistrano, CA) testified last year in the Senate Judiciary Committee Hearing in support of the Fair, Accurate, Inclusive, and Respectful (FAIR) Education Act and went back to his school ready to take action. After he asked his history teacher to include LGBTQ people in lessons about the movement for equality in the civil rights unit, the teacher "amended the Power Point that day." (An impressive blog describes the discussion that Delgadillo had with his teacher: <http://www.makeitbetterproject.org/make-your-classes-fair>. Adults could take lessons from him!) He also stopped a "Battle of the Sexes" event by explaining its sexist nature to the principal. Delgadillo, president and founder of the GSA club at his high school, led the group to make the school a safer and more inclusive place for transgender and gender non-conforming students through GSA Network's Beyond the Binary campaign. For more information about Benji Delgadillo, just Google him!



Catholics Apologize

The Pilot, the oldest Roman Catholic newspaper in the U.S., has apologized for an opinion column suggesting that the devil may be responsible for gay attraction. An advisor at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops wrote, "scientific evidence of how same-sex attraction most likely may be created provides a credible basis for a spiritual explanation that indicts the devil." The 182-year-old Boston newspaper withdrew the online column.

Penguins Allowed to Resume Relationship

Both zoologists and the LGBT community protested the separation of a same-sex penguin couple at the Toronto Zoo. Buddy, 10, and Pedro, 20, are not only inseparable but also show signs of traditional mating.

The zoo decided to separate them to pair them with females because African penguins are an endangered species. The zoo has decided to let them be together after they mate this spring.

Same-sex companionship

among penguins is not unusual. Two years ago, Z and Vielpunkt, male Humboldt penguins at Germany's Bremerhaven Zoo, became the proud parents of a healthy penguin chick hatched from an egg fertilized by another penguin couple. At China's Polarland Zoo, another same-sex penguin pair was given a wedding celebration.

Homosexuality has been documented in more than 450 species of vertebrates.

The 16 Days of Activism of International Human Rights Honors Those in the Past and Works toward Equality

December 10, International Human Rights Day, completes the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence that begins with the UN Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. These dates act as a reminder that violence against women is a violation of human rights. This year is the 62nd anniversary of the inception of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on December 10, 1948.

Gender-based violence (GBV) is related to the LGBT community because perpetrators of GBV often target individuals or groups specifically for what they see as nonconformity to established gender expectations. Last December, South Africa supported an amendment to restore a reference to sexual orientation in a UN resolution calling on states to investigate discrimination-related killings, but the violence continues. As of May 2011, 75 countries still criminalize consensual sexual acts between adults of the same sex with seven countries making these acts punishable by death.

World AIDS Day, December 1, is in the midst of the 16 Days of Activism. "Acquired immune deficiency syndrome" or "acquired immunodeficiency syndrome" results from damage done to the human immune system by HIV (human immunodeficiency virus). World AIDS Day honors the victims of the AIDS pandemic and focuses attention on the prevention and treatment of HIV and AIDS related conditions.

The condition was first identified in June 1981, and the name "AIDS" was first introduced a year later on July 27, 1982. Since then, 1.7 million people in the U.S. have been infected with HIV, including over 600,000 who have already died and more than 1.1 million estimated to be living with the disease today. Twenty percent, one in five, are unaware of their infection. Worldwide over 33 million people are living with HIV with approximately 50,000 new HIV infections annually in recent years.

More information is available at <http://aids.gov/awareness-days/>

Preceding the 16 Days of Activism was Transgender Day of Remembrance on November 20, a day to memorialize those who have been killed as a result of transphobia and bring attention to the continued violence endured by the transgender community.

December 14 PFLAG Meeting: We'll celebrate the holidays with our PFLAG family and friends with a dessert potluck and stories of memorable "Gay Holidays." Bring a dessert—or just come to enjoy the season with your PFLAG family—and bring a friend or two to share the fun.

Marriage Equality—NOT on 2012 Ballot: After a long period of educational promotions, community meetings, TV ad campaigns, professional polling, and consultation with a broad-based advisory group, Basic Rights Oregon determined that 2012 is not the right time to put marriage equality on the ballot. Although it's disappointing to think about waiting any longer for this basic human right in Oregon, it would be far worse to suffer another loss at the polls. Instead, Oregon PFLAG chapters, ROP (Rural Organizing Project) and other LGBT advocates will join BRO in expanding and deepening our efforts to open hearts, minds, and votes.

Out has published its 17th annual "Out100" complete with photos and bios. The introduction to this list reads in part: "In 2011, we were reminded of the extraordinary power of the individual to inspire and motivate by example. A gay intern helped save the life of U.S. Representative Gabrielle Giffords; a young transgender student was crowned high school prom queen; a New York City lawyer became the first openly gay man appointed to the federal bench; and an air force officer, who helped found an undercover group of 4,000 LGBT active-duty service members, was free to come out—along with tens of thousands of his colleagues. <http://www.out.com/out-exclusives/out100/2011/11/17/17th-annual-out100#slide-1>.

OCC PFLAG Calendar

December 1: World AIDS Day

December 10: International Human Rights Day

December 14, 7:00 pm: PFLAG: Celebrate with Desserts!—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

January 5, 1:00 pm: LGBT Task Force Meeting—LCHHS, Newport

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

January 23-27: No Name-Calling Week (See p. 2)

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 coastalaidnetwork@gmail.com for information)

We also try to have pizza in Tillamook or Pacific City. 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: Jeannette at 867-6993.

Looking for that special gift? Great gay mugs show illustrations of 14 gays and lesbians coming out of closet doors when a hot liquid is poured into the cup.

<http://www.upgnation.com/Great-Gays-Mug.html>

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.



Oregon Central Coast PFLAG
P.O. Box 2172
Newport, Oregon 97365