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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

February 2012

Take Action!

DynCorp International takes \$2 billion dollars per year from U.S. taxpayers and refuses to include sexual orientation and gender identity in its protected anti-discrimination categories. After John Friso sued them for a hostile work environment, DynCorp agreed to pay a six-figure settlement but hasn't changed its policy. Freedom to Work is asking President Obama to sign an ENDA Executive Order that would apply to federal contractors like DynCorp. Other big military contractors—like Raytheon and Lockheed Martin—already have policies guaranteeing LGBT fairness because they realize that discrimination is bad for business. To protest DynCorp, go to <http://www.change.org/petitions/dyncorp-international-stop-discrimination-against-lgbt-employees>

You can support Rep. Jared Polis and H.R. 998, the "Student Non-Discrimination Act," to end discrimination and fight conservative opposition to this act by signing this petition: <http://www.dccc.org/pages/bullying>

"Girl Scouts is an inclusive organization and we accept all girls in Kindergarten through 12th grade as members. If a child identifies as a girl and the child's family presents her as a girl, Girl Scouts of Colorado welcomes her as a Girl Scout." This response came from objections to a trans girl joining one of the troops. Yet there is an opposition that would boycott the Girl Scouts. You can object to this bigotry at <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/thanks-girl-scouts-this-year-im-eating-thin-mints-for-equal-rights/>

***Washington state legislators think that they have
enough votes to legalize same-sex marriage!***

OCCC PFLAG Creates LGBT Visibility in County

LCSD School Board Meeting

At the January 10, 2012 Lincoln County School Board meeting, PFLAG Chair Jeanne St. John (right) reported on plans for No Name-Calling Week (Jan. 23-27) and presented the Board with a check from PFLAG's Equity Foundation grant to support Bully Prevention training in the schools. On the left are Board Member Jean Turner & Ron Beck, Board Chair.



Gay/Straight Alliance Clubs in Lincoln County schools planned events and activities to

engage other students at their schools. Newport Intermediate and Isaac Newton Middle School had a week-long program with different themes and colors for each day. Taft HS, Job Corps, and Oregon Coast Community College GSA groups also participated in NNCW.

Newport HS will observe NNCW from Feb. 6-10 to avoid conflicts with Finals Week.

PFLAG Involves County in Preparations for January's No Name-Calling Week

The Lincoln County Board of Commissioners and the Newport Mayor proclaimed Jan. 23-27 as No Name Calling Week in response to PFLAG's request to join this national bullying prevention effort. Several PFLAG members and friends were present for the proclamations and presentations. Lisa Gray and Jeanne St. John briefly presented the Newport Chamber of Commerce with information about the No Name-Calling Week proclamations and PFLAG's priorities and programs.

GSA Council Reviews Past Year, Shares Information

Lincoln County's new GSA Council met to review their November conference, to share information about plans for No Name Calling Week, and to make plans for a spring conference on April 28. Information was distributed regarding Nike's LGBT Youth Summit and their Sports Leaders' training, both at Nike's Beaverton Campus. GSA members also learned about PFLAG's plans for 2012 and volunteered to assist at the Valentine party.

PFLAG Plans for 2012: Annual events will include Love is Love Valentine Party, Family Picnic, Coming Out Party, Holiday Dessert Potluck, and Saturday Market Community Education Tables.

Topics discussed for programs in 2012: Marriage Equality "Wedding Reception," LGBT Families in Lincoln County, CAN (Coastal AIDS Network) Update, Don't Ask, Don't Tell—Then & Now, Homeless LGBT Teens, Native Americans and LGBT, LGBT Safety in Lincoln County, and Gay Grays.

Politics on Our Side

Eighty big-city mayors, pledged to support same-sex marriage, have joined Freedom to Marry to eradicate LGBT legal discrimination surrounding federal marriage. The advocacy group, which held a news conference on January 21 with the mayors, seeks legislation giving legal recognition to same sex marriage including the financial and tax benefits associated with marriage.

Indiana and South Carolina have joined Maryland to have state-issued **LGBT-oriented license plates**. Part of the Indiana's



proceeds will help fund the Indiana Youth Group, which organizes Gay-Straight Alliance groups in high schools.

Coloradans for Freedom is a Republican group advocating the passage of LGBT civil unions. Spokesman Jefferson County attorney Mario Nicolais said that being gay and forming a civil union is a matter of personal freedom consistent with the Republican philosophy of individual liberty. Last year's bill died in committee after every Republican voted "no" and every Democrat voted "yes."

New Year's Day saw **couples in Hawaii and Delaware obtaining civil unions**. These two states are added to the other states that provide gays and lesbians with same-sex relationships equal to heterosexual marriages and six other states plus Washington, D.C. that allow same-sex marriage. Couples

in California marrying before Prop 8 are still legally married.

New Jersey Democratic state lawmakers and LGBT advocates have announced that this year's top legislative goal is to **legalize marriage for same-sex couples**. A similar bill failed two years ago.

Mackenzie Gartner, daughter of Melissa and Heather, will have **both her parents listed on her birth certificate**, thanks to a ruling from Polk County District Judge Eliza Ovrom. In a lawsuit ruling, the judge ordered the Department of Public Health to issue a new birth certificate listing both members of a same-sex marriage as legal parents of the two-year-old.

UK is honoring the work of **codebreaker Alan Turing**, who died in 1954, by a commemorative stamp this year, one of ten "Britons of Distinction." Turing died in 1954, committing suicide two years after his prosecution for his sexual orientation and enforced chemical castration.

The governor of Washington state has decided to push for same-sex marriage. Legislators think that they have enough votes to pass the bill for legalizing this.

When Spanish prime minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero left his position after nearly eight years, he stated that he is **most proud of the passage of full marriage rights for LGBT people** during this time. When Spain's same-sex marriage law took effect on July 3, 2005, it was the third country in the world to do so. Many in Spain have indicated concern that incoming conservative prime minister Mariano Rajoy might now try to reverse the law, but Rajoy himself has been silent on the matter since taking office on December 21.

After the American Family Association claimed that **Home Depot** had caved because the AFA's boycott of the business, Home Depot issued the following:

"We have never changed our commitment to diversity and inclusion of all people, and we have no intention of doing so. Nor have we changed our apron policy [wearing its orange aprons at LGBT events] or the guidelines for our Foundation's charitable giving."

Christopher Plummer won the Golden Globe for Best Supporting Actor in a Motion Picture for his role as Hal Fields in *Beginners*. The film's writer and director, Mike Mills, based the movie on the story of his father who came out at the age of 75 after his wife's death.

A recent embarrassment for U.S. television was ABC's cross-dressing comedy, *Work It*, about two men out of work who dress in drag to get jobs typically filled by women.

Cancelling this sit-com is one of the finest things that the network could do. In answer to GLAAD's protest of the show's insult to transgender people, *TV Guide's* Matt Roush said, "Work It is insulting to anyone of any gender with half a brain and a lick of taste."

Chicago's **Cardinal Francis George** apologized for comparing an annual gay rights parade to a Ku Klux Klan rally. He thought the parade would have interfered with services at a church.

My Favorite Photograph!



The U.S. Navy provided this photograph of Fire Controlman 2nd Class Marissa Gaeta (left), assigned to the amphibious dock landing ship USS Oak Hill (LSD 51), kissing her fiancée Fire Controlman 2nd Class Citlalic Snell, after the ship returned to home port in Virginia Beach. Both of the female sailors handle weapons systems on the ship as "fire controlmen."

The first kiss and hug for the return of a U.S. naval ship is "a tradition that dates back many years," said Bill Urban, spokesman for the US Naval Surface Force Atlantic. This is the first time that a same-sex couple had the chance to participate in the tradition.

The couple was chosen for the ceremony in a raffle held before the ship's return, with one dollar tickets sold to raise money for children of military families.

The USS Oak Hill, an amphibious dock landing ship, had been on an 80-day deployment to Central America with a contingent of U.S. Marines on board.

Gaeta said she bought \$50 worth of raffle tickets.

On the flip side Rick Perry answered a question in Iowa from 14-year-old Rebecka Green, an openly bisexual high school student, by saying, "And I don't agree that openly gays should be serving in the military. 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' was working." Rebecka has a very supportive father, Todd Green, a professor of religion at Luther College. He commented on Perry's position of "love the sinner, hate the sin" by saying, "I have always hated that phrase. I think it's impossible and you show it by action."



People Who Make a Difference

Comedian **Todd Glass**, who appeared on the second and third seasons of NBC's *Last Comic Standing* and has appeared regularly on *Louie*, *Tosh.O*, *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*, *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, *Tough Crowd with Colin Quinn*, and *Politically Incorrect*, came out as a gay man today on an episode of *WTF with Marc Maron*. Glass has been with his partner for 15 years. He came out to his parents 15 years ago, his best friend Jimmy Dore has known for years, and he told friend Louis C.K. a few months ago. [http://www.advocate.com/Arts_and_Entertainment/Comedy/Comic_Todd_Glass_Comes_Out_as_Gay/]



Washington State Sen. **Steve Litzow** has announced he will be the first Republican in the Senate to support gay marriage after Gov. Chris Gregoire decided to introduce and push a bill legalizing same-sex marriage. A freshman lawmaker willing to act on conviction, Litzow (Mercer Island) said, "It's the right thing to do." Approval of the legislation would make Washington the seventh state in the country to remove this part of anti-LGBT discrimination. Litzow is a suburban businessman, married with four children, who believes in treating all citizens fairly. He believes that if two adults of the same gender wish to commit to each other, the state should not discriminate, period.

Olympic skate diva **Johnny Weir** married Russian lawyer, Victor Voronov (right), on New Year's Eve. Weir said, "He's kind of everything that I've ever looked for and aspired to be in a relationship with. We've known each other for a long time and we reconnected over the summer, and it's just been a whirlwind." A formal wedding is planned for summer.



According to rumors, Puerto Rican singer **Ricky Martin** will marry Carlos González Abella. The couple is raising 3-year-old twin sons, Matteo and Valentino. Martin was granted Spanish citizenship in November and requested a special "letter of naturalization" of the Spanish government, enabling him to bypass the usual steps to citizenship and take advantage of the country's same-sex marriage laws

When Bernice King, niece of Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke at the annual rally, she included gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people among the groups who need to come together to fulfill her father's legacy and create unity.

Because King is known for her anti-LGBT stance, listeners were amazed—and pleased.

Rev. Maressa Pendermon, a minister with LGBT-inclusive Unity Fellowship

Church, said, “There's always room for growth. People grow and people change. Sometimes we don't let them. I wasn't expecting that. And I was already ready to shut down but I challenged myself to listen and I'm glad I listened.”

King has said that her father “did not take a bullet for same-sex marriage.”

Craig Washington, a founder of the Bayard Rustin/Audre Lorde breakfast, said, “[People] do evolve.”

For the first time ever, all 100 firms on Fortune's Best Companies To Work For list this year have non-discrimination policies that include sexual orientation. That's up from 95 in 2008 and 99 in 2011.

Of all Fortune 500 companies 86 percent now have non-discrimination policies that include sexual orientation up from 61% in 2002. And 60% of these firms now offer health benefits for same-sex domestic partners, up from 34% a decade ago.

What's Going to Happen with LGBT Rights in 2012?

Proposition 8 (denying same-sex marriage in California) will move through the courts, either appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court or a full 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals and then onto the Supreme Court. [*Perry v. Brown*]

DOMA (the federal Defense of Marriage Act that prevents same-sex marriages) will be heard by a three-judge panel of the 1st Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals in a challenge to its denial of federal benefits to same-sex married couples. The case could also go to the full circuit court or directly to the Supreme Court. [*Gill v. OPM*]

Rep. Tammy Baldwin (R-WI) is the first openly-gay candidate for U.S. Senate who has a chance of winning. Her election will also impact the balance in the Senate.

The Senate, now with 47 Republicans of 100 members, will be a battleground for majority. In addition to Baldwin's race, Virginia's pro-gay former governor, Tim Kaine, will probably oppose anti-gay former senator, George Allen. Sen. Scott Brown will try to keep his Massachusetts seat from Elizabeth Warren. Seven other offices are also guaranteed to be competitive.

Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA) is retiring at the end of the year, leaving the Congressional gay caucus to Reps. Jared Polis (D-CO) and David Cicilline (D-RI) and Sen. Baldwin—if she wins. Openly gay Wisconsin Democratic Assemblymember Mark Pacon is running for Baldwin's House position, and Marko Liias from Seattle and Mark Takano from Riverside (CA) are trying for the House.

Pro-LGBT bills, such as the Respect for Marriage and Employment Non-Discrimination Acts (ENDA), won't move ahead much because Republicans control the House and 2012 is an election year when candidates don't push the envelope.

North Carolina and Minnesota will vote on whether to ban same-sex marriage while Maine will decide whether to strike down the ban on same-sex marriage. **Washington** state hopes to get same-sex marriage, and **California** has until May 15 to gather over 800,000 signatures to repeal Prop 8. **New Jersey** may also address same-sex marriage, whereas **New Hampshire** may try to exchange it for civil unions. Etc.

The far-right **Alliance Defense Fund** has joined others to persuade courts that people can discriminate against LGBT people if they are following their religious beliefs. **Tennessee** has introduced a bill that permits school children to bully LGBT people if this is in accord with their religion. It creates specific protections for students who share any “religious, philosophical, or political views” that are “unpopular,” regardless of their consequences to the learning environment.

The presidential election will make the biggest difference in the future for LGBT people.

February 8 PFLAG Meeting

The first of two meetings focused on LGBT in Native American communities, February 8 will feature the film, *Two Spirits*, a documentary about a young trans man on the Navajo Reservation in the Southwest desert. It “interweaves the tragic story of a mother’s loss of her son with a revealing look at a time when the world wasn’t simply divided into male and female and many Native American cultures held places of honor for people of integrated genders.”



The Navajo believe that a balanced interrelationship between the feminine and the masculine within the individual, in families, in the culture, and in the natural world maintains harmony. *Two Spirits* shows these beliefs in a natural range of gender diversity as it examines the Navajo concept of nádleehí, “one who constantly transforms.”

Love Is Love Valentine Party

February 11, 2-4 pm

Our Second Annual Gay and Straight, Young and Old Valentine Party is building on last year’s great success! Churches are donating desserts, decorating the room, and hosting a Valentine-making table. The county’s best musicians, poets, and readers will entertain, and sweetheart photos will be available for a nominal fee. Don’t miss this once-a-year celebration of love!

OCC PFLAG Calendar

February 2, 1:00 pm: LGBT Task Force Meeting—LCHHS, Newport

February 6-10: Newport High School Celebration of No Name-Calling Week

February 7, 1:00 pm: OCCC Triangle Club films (Information from Tara Roberts (541)270-7085)

February 8, 7:00 pm: PFLAG—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

February 11: Love is Love Valentine Party

February 18, 7:30 pm: Soromundi: Lesbian Chorus of Eugene Concert (Lane Community College Ragazzino Hall)

March 2, 1:00 pm: LGBT Task Force Meeting—LCHHS, Newport

March 6, 1:00 pm: OCCC Triangle Club films (Information from Tara Roberts (541)270-7085)

March 14, 7:00 pm: PFLAG—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, 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 for information)

We also try to have pizza in Tillamook or Pacific City. Email Dan, 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.

*All proceeds from the Soromundi concert (see 2/18 above) go to the LCC “Women In Transition” program, which helps women resume or start their college careers, often from challenging circumstances. Ticket’s are \$12, \$10 student/senior. Check www.soromundi.org

Gay/Bi men in Coos, Curry and Douglas counties (OR) can network and publicize LGBT friendly events:

coosdouglasmsmsuscribe@yahoo.com
at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/coosdouglasmsm/join/>

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.

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