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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

May 2012

## Take Action!

The Milton Hershey School, a tuition-free boarding school founded by Hershey's founder in 1909 and funded in large part by the sale of Hershey's bars and Reese's cups, has denied admission to a 13-year-old boy because he's HIV-positive. Petition: <http://sumofus.org/campaigns/hersheys/akid=366.111332.5u1ciJ&rd=1&sub=fwd&t=3>

**Success Story:** Starbucks sales have remained steady, and 27 Chinese groups have declared support for the LGBT rights campaign after the National Organization for Marriage (NOM) boycotted the coffee company because it supported marriage equality in Washington state. The embattled National Organization for Marriage was left reeling a few weeks ago after the Human Rights Campaign secured internal documents that showed NOM's race-baiting, international strategy.

Secret documents obtained from NOM describes their strategy of driving wedges between gay people and minorities, specifically blacks and Latinos, as well as Rick Santorum's participation in NOM. More about NOM's strategy is at <http://www.care2.com/causes/anti-gay-groups-race-baiting-international-strategy-exposed.html#ixzz1spFuJ4c1>

**Help Wanted!** Researchers at ETSU are conducting a study, *The Study of Self among Sexual Minorities*, researching aspects of self among people who self-identify as sexual minority (gay, lesbian, bisexual). Participants must be at least 18 years of age to complete the online anonymous study which will take approximately 30-40 minutes. This study has been approved by the IRB at East Tennessee State University. If you have any questions, feel free to call (423) 439-4615. Your help would be appreciated in letting others know about this study.

To participate in the study, please go to <http://blackhartlab.etsu.edu/limesurvey/index.php>

**Basic Rights Endorsements for May 8 Primary**

<http://www.basicrights.org/equalitypac/>

# LGBT Community Faces Media Discrimination

Religious contributors to the media are largely anti-gay, despite growing and often majority numbers among religious people favoring LGBT rights, according to a three-year study of mainstream news media content from The Center on Religion & the Professions at University of Missouri in partnership with the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD).

Despite growing acceptance of LGBT people in a number of faiths, three out of four religious messages come from people whose religions have formal policies opposing LGBT equality. Distortions in this perspective come from the fact that people who identify as both LGBT and religious are ignored. Evangelicals are consulted at a higher rate than their percentage of the population. Catholics in the media give negative messages about LGBT issues although 71% of American Catholics support marriage equality and 73% support anti-discrimination laws that would protect LGBT people in the workplace and public accommodations. Mainline Protestant, Jewish, and other religious sources with positive messages are almost absent; despite 16% of Americans identifying as Humanist, atheist, or agnostic, only 1% of people quoted in the media are identified as such.

The study concluded with the following: “By overlooking LGBT-affirming sources, journalists can contribute to—and even perpetuate—the idea that those who are religious are, by definition, opposed to LGBT equality. In looking specifically at the organizations represented among religious commentators, we find a common profile: culturally conservative entities seeking to influence the political debate, with overt reference to ‘Christian’ or ‘biblical’ values, and often with the explicit endorsement of currently serving political figures. Disproportionately favoring the voices of Evangelical Christians and Roman Catholics—who are more likely to present negative messages about LGBT people — is neither fair, nor accurate, nor balanced coverage.

According to the Public Religion Research Institute in January 2012, “Five religious groups favor allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally, compared to three groups who are opposed.”

“Given how many churches and religions are affirming LGBT people today, the lack of supportive religious voices in the media needs to be addressed,” said Debra Mason, professor at the University of Missouri School of Journalism. “The study shows media routinely set up a false conflict fueled by negative messages said by people with a religious affiliation.”

The Vatican has recently cited the Leadership Conference of Women Religious for “serious doctrinal problems” because the nuns are focusing its work too much on poverty and economic injustice, while keeping “silent” on abortion and same-sex marriage. Sister Jeannine Gramick of New Ways Ministry and Jeff Stone of Dignity USA spoke to Lawrence O’Donnell on his show about the anti-LGBT actions taken by the Roman Catholic hierarchy despite the fact that a growing majority of Catholics support LGBT people. Another issue they addressed was the request from Washington bishops to sign petitions repealing marriage equality in the state. (<http://www.glaad.org/blog/msnbc-profiles-catholic-lgbt-advocates>) At least one priest has refused. Father Michael Ryan of Seattle’s St. James Cathedral said his church will not collect signatures because it would be “hurtful and seriously divisive.”

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## Useful/uplifting websites:

<http://www.lambdaliterary.org/book-clubs/my-story-book-club/> (book club for youth)

<http://www.danoah.com/2012/04/a-teens-brave-response-to-im-christian-unless-youre-gay.html>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ekoVGGn5sTO&feature=youtu.be>

<http://www.equityfoundation.org/scholarships>

<http://nelsnewday.wordpress.com/2012/04/06/one-heart-at-a-time-lgbt-rights-progress/>

# Politics on Our Side

Responding to incidents of violence against transgender arrestees, **the Los Angeles Police Department plans to open a segregated lockup for biologically male and female suspects who identify themselves as members of the opposite sex.** The department will train officers to refer to transgender individuals by the name and gender they prefer and are instructed to treat transgender individuals with respect and courtesy when encountering them on the street. They are also barred from searching transgender people with the sole purpose of determining their anatomical gender.

**Mitt Romney has hired openly-gay Richard Grenell**, former George W. Bush administration official, to serve as the presumptive Republican presidential nominee's "national security and foreign policy spokesman." Romney, who opposes marriage equality, will be the commencement speaker at the Jerry Falwell-founded anti-LGBT Liberty University. Earlier this year, Grenell wrote an op ed criticizing the LGBT community for not pushing President

Obama harder on his lack of support for marriage equality.

**London's mayoral candidates campaigned for the gay vote** a day after the incumbent, Boris Johnson, blocked the capital's buses from carrying ads from a Christian group that claimed therapy can "cure" homosexuality. Johnson and his three primary challengers—Jenny Jones (Green), Ken Livingstone (Labour), and Brian Paddick (Liberal Democrat)—attended the Stonewall-hosted event wearing T-shirts with the gay rights group's campaign slogan, "Some people are gay. Get over it."

For the first time in 22 years, **the annual International AIDS Conference** will be in the United States, specifically Washington D.C. The event, "Turning The Tide Together," will show the 54 tons of the AIDS quilt. [http://www.aidsquilt.org/make-a-panel?utm\\_source=Convio&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=link-1&utm\\_campaign=turning-the-tide-on-hiv-aids](http://www.aidsquilt.org/make-a-panel?utm_source=Convio&utm_medium=email&utm_term=link-1&utm_campaign=turning-the-tide-on-hiv-aids)

## Two Books, Research Studies Affect Future for LGBT People

Two recently published books are must buys for PFLAG members, educators, and anyone else who wants to make life better for LGBT youth. Peter Dewitt's *Dignity for All: Safeguarding LGBT Students* (Corwin/Sage) is the more personal and accessible of the two. He ends each chapter with practical action steps and discussion questions. Especially useful in the book is its focus on changing the culture of the entire school and starting GSAs. Dewitt has shown that changes don't need to be top down, that they can start with just one person.

*LGBT Youth in America's Schools* by Jason Cianciotto and Sean Cahill (University of Michigan Press) provides the factual backgrounds to the first book—legal cases, school-based practices, research, etc. It's a wonderful follow-up book for *Dignity*.

**Robert Spitzer**, the psychiatrist who gave pray-away-the-gay its impetus when he claimed that a study showed LGBT people have a choice in their sexual orientations/gender identities, has withdrawn this conclusion. He now wishes to remove his article from *Archives of Sexual Behavior*.

University of Rochester psychology professor Richard Ryan has co-authored a publication stating that **intense hostility toward gay people may be linked to a repressed same-sex attraction, combined with an authoritarian upbringing.** Blocking unconscious desires by adopting an opposite view is a well-known psychoanalytic concept. The research study tested 600 college students in the United States and Germany.

*"You don't have to do everything. You just have to do something."*—LGBT student

## **Nike LGBT Youth Forum**

A majority of Lincoln County's five GSA groups attended the annual April LGBT Youth Forum which hosted over 400 LGBT teens from across Oregon. A collaboration between Nike and GLSEN Oregon, this event helps GSA leadership learn to create positive change in their schools.

The forum featured local LGBT leaders who talked about their roles as change agents. PFLAG OCC assisted local GSA groups with travel expenses.

## **Day of Silence**

The annual Day of Silence was observed in several LCSD schools on April 13. Hundreds of students remained silent all day to focus attention on the lives of silence endured by LGBT people who must hide their sexual orientation or gender identity to maintain their safety. Newport and Toledo GSA members shared a Night of Noise party at the conclusion of their National Day of Silence events.

## **PTA Has First LGBT Focus**

Long Island (NY) is home to the first LGBT PTA that serves 127 schools. The group formed to confront gay bullying and ease isolation by including gay historic figures in classroom lessons.

The new PTA will also stress the importance of faculty awareness and competency when dealing with the needs of GLBT students and their families.

## ***Florence PFLAG Hosts Forum***

The forum "Please Help Me — I Think My Loved One Is Gay" drew a crowd of over 60 people to the Siuslaw Public Library (Florence, OR) thanks to the local chapter of PFLAG. Four panelists discussed issues facing the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) community from the viewpoints of father, doctor, minister, and community representative.

Panelist Rev. Ruth Marsh of Florence United Methodist Church, a "reconciling" congregation, said that LGBT people may feel rejected by faith-based organizations that rely on literal interpretations of Judeo-Christian text. She differs from the literal approach, saying, "I think that religion was envisioned to be guidelines to help us fit into community. Religion has gone very awry."

Another panelist, Dr. Michael Hodulik, cited research indicating that LGBT people are less likely to see health care practitioners and suffer higher rates of substance abuse and other health issues. The family practice physician talked about the increase of psychological stress that many LGBT people face from discrimination and isolation.

According to Hodulik, legally married people suffer fewer of these stressors and report a greater sense of well being. Another positive effect of marriage may be lower rates of Alzheimer's disease and other chronic conditions such as diabetes. Married couples are also more likely to do regular exercise and health screenings. Although seven states recognize marriage equality for LGBT people, the federal government does not, denying same-sex couples retirement benefits, health care, and other federal and state provisions for heterosexual couples.

Last year the American Academy of Family Physicians supported a resolution called Healthy Benefits of Same Gender Marriage—Not Just a Social Issue, which stated that marriage equality improves family stability and benefits the children of same-sex couples. The Academy stopped short of advocating legal marriage equality.

Butch Goodwin spoke positively about his daughter, and Jennifer French talked about her path to finding her identity. She also talked about the positive effects of the new well-attended PFLAG and the GSA at Siuslaw High School, especially in light of the growing crisis of bullying across the nation.

"I often say, please don't hate me because of who I love, who I want to commit my life to, and who I would like to marry someday."

# People Who Make a Difference



**Gwen Ifill**, author and PBS *News Hour* correspondent, served as emcee at the annual fundraiser Whitman-Walker Health, a nonprofit community health clinic in Washington. Calling the clinic an “LGBT health and advocacy group, Tim Graham of the Media Research Center, which runs the website Newsbusters, accused Ifill of showing bias by emceeing the event. Founded in 1978, Whitman-Walker Health specializes in “HIV/AIDS care and lesbian, gay bisexual and transgender care,” according to its website.

**Rachel Maddow**, host of MSNBC’s top-rated show, tackled “pray away the gay” discussing Robert Spitzer who has refuted his 2001 research that homosexuality is a choice. She also interviewed Gabriel Arana, who works at The American Prospect and wrote the widely-circulated essay “My So Called Ex-Gay Life,” in which he details his own experience with this therapy and notes that the “Christian Right” had “planted this stake in the culture war.” ([http://www.alternet.org/newsandviews/article/906177/rachel\\_maddow\\_on\\_the\\_right's\\_dangerous\\_%22pray\\_away\\_the\\_gay%22\\_programs/#paragraph3](http://www.alternet.org/newsandviews/article/906177/rachel_maddow_on_the_right's_dangerous_%22pray_away_the_gay%22_programs/#paragraph3)) [Photo by Ann Hubbard taken on Maddow’s book tour for promoting *Drift*]



Staff Sergeant **Anthony Loverde**, discharged in 2008 under the DADT rule, will be reinstated to active duty in the U.S. Air Force, according to the decision in *Almy v. U.S.*, filed in 2010, which challenges the constitutionality of the three plaintiffs’ discharges under DADT and seeks their reinstatement to active duty. Petty Officer 2nd Class Jase Daniels was reinstated in the U.S. Navy as a linguist in December 2011. Air Force Major Mike Almy’s case is expected to be resolved soon.



In Pine Lake (GA) not only is the mayor, **Kathie leBobriga**, a lesbian but so are two of the city council members including Mayor Pro Tem Melanie Hammet. LeBobriga’s biography on the Pine Lake website lists her partner, Alice Teeter, as the city’s “First Woman.” Can you imagine life if this were the norm rather than the anomaly?! It’s how those with “special rights” live.

Donald Trump's Miss Universe Beauty Pageant has given permission to transgender contestant **Jenna Talackova** to participate. The Miss Universe pageant is changing its rules to allow transwomen to take part in all of its competitions starting in 2013.



## ***New Voter ID Laws Discriminate against Transpeople***

The new restrictive voter ID laws are disproportionately discriminating against transpeople, according to the Williams Institute at UCLA's law school after a photo ID survey.

According to the National Transgender Discrimination Survey, government agencies or officials had denied equal treatment to 22% of respondents and harassed

another 22% of the respondents.

Another 41% said that they were harassed, even attacked or assaulted, when presenting their non-gender-matching ID at such places as a bar or an airport.

Only 59% of survey respondents were able to update their gender on their driver's license or state ID; 49% their Social Security

Record; 26% their passport; and just 24% their birth certificate.

It is possible that in the states requiring photo ID for voting, one-third of the eligible 88,000 transpeople voters may lose their voting rights.

<http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Herman-Voter-ID-Apr-2012.pdf>

## **'Woman in a Feathered Hat' Becomes Chevalier d'Eon**

A simple cleaning of a portrait has revealed that the subject of an eighteenth-century painting, believed to be a woman, is actually a man dressed as a woman, possibly the first identified transvestite painting. Currently hanging in the Philip Mould Ltd. Gallery (London), the painting's closer inspection showed a masculine-angled face shape and facial hair stubble. The seller even got the name of the painter wrong: instead of Gilbert Stuart, the artist's signature is T. Stewart.

D'Eon' began cross-dressing in the 1760s after King Louis XV appointed a replacement to d'Eon as Plenipotentiary Minister in London and d'Eon refused to leave the position. Publicizing secret documents, d'Eon was sent to prison, escaped, and concealed his identity by dressing as a woman.

Simon Burrows, professor of modern history at the University of Leeds, said, "[D'Eon] also demanded the French government pay off his debts and they agreed, terrified he would betray state secrets, including plans to invade England." Because d'Eon consistently dressing as a woman, the truth was only uncovered during a medical examination following d'Eon's death on May 21, 1810.

Thus the French diplomat, spy, soldier and Freemason spent his first 49 years as a man, and the last 33 years as a woman. The name lives on in the term "eonism," used in psychiatry to describe men's use of female dress and manners. Coined by Havelock Ellis, the term is rarely used in the twenty-first century.

*The Cavalier*, a self-published book by Len d'Eon, tells more about the earlier d'Eon's story. According to this novel, he had an affair with 17-year-old Charlotte but loses her while he is guiding Russia from supporting the English to the French camp. Instead Charlotte is kidnapped and taken from Germany to England to marry King George III and become the queen of England. Supposedly from the same ancestral family, Len d'Eon states that the novel is based on fact—research in Tonnerre, France, London's British Museum Library, La Bibliotheque Nationale de Paris, and elsewhere. *The Cavalier* was originally published by Putnam in 1987.



## ***May PFLAG—Straight Allies***

A panel of “Straight Allies” will talk about their experiences being family members and friends of LGBT folks. Straight Allies are an important part of PFLAG’s membership and support network. Panelists will share their experiences with LGBT friends and family members during different seasons of their lives—and how they became advocates and outspoken supporters of the LGBT community.

## **April PFLAG—LCSD’s Bully Prevention Program**

At the April PFLAG meeting Majalisse Tolan, principal of Newport Intermediate and Isaac Newton Middle Schools, shared the excellent progress these schools have made in reducing bullying and improving the school cultures. Teachers, staff, parents and kids are all excited by the results of this first year with the Olweus Bully Prevention Program. Other schools are planning to start the program with the Fall 2012 school year.

## ***GSA Spring Mini-Conference***

All five GSA clubs in Lincoln County sent representatives to the April 28 Conference at Newport High. Presenters included Jeanne St. John, Chair of PFLAG OCC, who presented the “Genderbread Person,” a tool for GSA members to share information with their schools about Gender Identity, Gender Expression, Biological Sex, and Sexual Orientation. Other invited presenters included Daniel Beck and Jonathan Reitan of Coastal AIDS Network; University of Oregon’s LGBT Support Services, Oregon Safe Schools Project, and GSA Club members.

## **OCC PFLAG Calendar**

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

May 3, 1:00 pm: LGBT Task Force Meeting—LCHHS, Newport

May 9, 7:00 pm: PFLAG Meeting (Straight Allies) — St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

May 11, 6:00 pm Potluck/7:00 pm Movie: UU Church (477 E. 40th Ave., Eugene; Nisco Junkins (541)-915-0097 or niscohappy@comcast.net

May 12: Newport Saturday Market  
Church HS (Eugene) GSA Pink Prom

June 5, 1:00 pm: OCCC Triangle Club films  
(Information from Tara Roberts (541)270-7085)

June 7, 1:00 pm: LGBT Task Force Meeting—LCHHS, Newport

June 13, 7:00 pm: PFLAG Meeting (Marriage Equality Wedding Shower, Basic Rights Oregon) —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 [coastalaidnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:coastalaidnetwork@gmail.com) for information)

We also try to have pizza in Tillamook or Pacific City. Email Dan, [coastalaidnetwork@gmail.com](mailto: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 except for “Men’s Pot Luck.” Occasionally we bend that rule for special events.

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**CLASS Women’s Potlucks:** Jeannette at 867-6993.

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**Social LGBT Oregon Coast Group:**  
[www.outoregoncoast.com](http://www.outoregoncoast.com).

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## **Saturday Markets**

**May 12** is the first date for a PFLAG table at the Saturday Market in Newport. Other dates are the second Saturday of each month: June 9, July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 8, and Oct. 13. First shift is (8:30-10:45; second shift is (10:30-1:15). Please call Jeanne at (541)265-7194 or email [pflagocc@gmail.com](mailto:pflagocc@gmail.com) to help staff the table.

## 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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