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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

July 2012

Take Action!

Water polo coach Mitch Stein has been fired from a charter school after he disciplined three students who failed to bring proof of their physical examinations by making them wash cars. After one of the students called his father, a police officer, to complain, Stein's principal received two old photos of Stein—non graphic—that were anonymously sent to the school. She then fired him. More information and a petition to reinstate Stein is at <http://www.care2.com/causes/gay-coach-fired-over-two-goofy-photos.html?page=1>

Lambda Legal filed a brief yesterday in Polk County District Court in *Buntemeyer v. Iowa Department of Public Health*, a case filed in February on behalf of Jenny and Jessica Buntemeyer, a married Iowa couple who gave birth to a stillborn son, Brayden Bruce Buntemeyer. The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) erased Jenny's name from his death certificate and refused to return their repeated phone calls for an explanation. You can sign a petition asking Iowa to stop erasing legal parents from birth certificates: <http://www.lambdalegal.org/blog/update-lesbian-mother-erased-from-stillborn-babys-death-certificate>

"Like President Obama, I believe that all people should have the right to marry whoever they want. Marriage is about love, support, and commitment. So who are we to judge? If we judge people like this, this is a form of prejudice. We must learn to accept all differences."

"...In conclusion, I hope that everyone understands how important it is to respect everyone for who they are. Same-gender marriage is becoming more popular. I believe that same-gender marriage should be accepted worldwide and that parents and teachers should start to discuss these issues without shame to their children."

Fifth-grader Kameron Slade (see p. 5)

PFLAG Leads Response to Anti-Gay Newspaper

A scathing anti-gay *Viewpoint* by Pastor Hale of the Waldport Baptist Church appeared in the June 8 edition of Newport's *News-Times*. In this opinion piece Pastor Hale cobbled together his interpretations of several Biblical passages. The emphasis on death was clear: "Homosexuality is detestable, punishable by death"; "sinful, unnatural, depraved, deserving death"; "punishment of eternal fire." His shocking attack on the LGBT community also declared God's exclusive approval of one-man, one-woman marriages, despite the many other models found in the Bible.

Local clergy immediately responded with a letter to the editor signed by 15 area pastors from Welcoming Churches and 225 church members and friends. They assured the LGBT community that Pastor Hale does not speak for the whole Christian community and that God's message of radical love includes "our gay and lesbian, bisexual and transgendered brothers and sisters and everyone else without exception." This letter was published in the next edition of the *News-Times*.

Many other supportive letters and *Viewpoints* from PFLAG members and friends including Lisa Gray, Barbara Turrill, Rev. Susan Church, and Chris Graamans have been published; several additional letters have been submitted as well.

PFLAG gathered a delegation of LGBT, parents, clergy, and community members to meet with the **News-Times** publisher, Jamie Rand, on the first business day after the *Viewpoint* appeared. An intense, heart-felt dialogue gave the newly appointed publisher a clear understanding of the serious effects of anti-gay hate speech on this rural community. He heard about vulnerable teens already contemplating suicide and the ongoing efforts to build awareness and support for LGBT people in a rural area.

Rand agree to publish letters and *Viewpoints* by LGBT-friendly writers and review the Opinion Page policy. Thanks to clergy members Susan Church, Jim Lynn, and Don Taylor; to PFLAG parents Dave Heater, Tom Kerns, and Deb Lyman; to community members Jorge Hernandez and Barbara Turrill; to GSA members Jordan Ostrum and Julia Studley; and to PFLAG members Kae Bates, Lisa Gray, and Jeanne St.John for their prompt and articulate response in this meeting.

Two days later the June PFLAG meeting became a community forum to brainstorm ways to build awareness and support for the LGBT community. Many of those suggestions will be implemented in coming months. Information on this is below and on p. 4.

While the publication of this anti-LGBT *Viewpoint* was regrettable, it generated a groundswell of support from the many caring people in Lincoln County who were shocked and outraged by this kind of hate-speech in a local paper. At least we know that it won't happen again. Rand was good to his word, and the new Opinion Page policy appeared in the June 22 edition. It read in part: "*The News-Times* will not print statements in letters that contain a personal attack on an individual or attacks on a specific group and will not run letters that promote violence, bigotry and prejudice. Those letters may be edited to remove objectionable content or may not be run at all."

Good work all around!

Suggestions to Build LGBT Community Support: The June PFLAG meeting was a rousing success with a great turnout of both regulars and newcomers to generate suggestions for building awareness and support for the LGBT community in Lincoln County. The PFLAG Board will prioritize ideas and plan several activities in the next few months.

Many ideas focused on responses in the same newspaper such as a full-page ad with the names of hundreds of local LGBT supporters, letters to the editor, and coverage of this incident and our response in state and national media. Although there was great support for a full-page ad, the cost was prohibitive.

"Gay 101" Community Meetings throughout the county, another popular suggestion, could include a panel with the pastor of a Welcoming Church, a PFLAG parent, GSA member, medical professional, and community member. PFLAG would facilitate the panel and the questions following the presentations. Contact PFLAG at pflagocc@gmail.com if you can help plan or host a "Gay 101" Panel in your Lincoln County community. (Cont. on p. 4)

Politics on Our Side

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has refused to change its ruling that California's Proposition 8, banning marriage equality, is unconstitutional. The attorney for Prop 8's supporters, Charles Cooper, said, "We do plan to seek Supreme Court review." He has 90 days beginning on June 5 to file the petition. Four U.S. Supreme Court justices have to agree to hear the case. If this does not happen, then the Ninth Circuit Court's ruling stands, creating marriage equality in the state.

Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan and Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez refuse to defend the state's 16-year-old ban on marriage equality because it violates the state constitution's equal protection clause. This position is an excellent follow-up to the report that the civil union law, which turned one on June 1, doesn't result in equality with marriage.

Openly lesbian minister Patricia Spearman defeated the Democratic incumbent in the Nevada primary. Her win means that she is the first openly LGBT woman and one of the few LGBT African Americans elected to state legislatures in the U.S. because she faces no Republican opponent in the fall. Although supported by the Democratic party, her opponent, John Lee, had voted against LGBT domestic partnerships in the state. Spearman raised \$13,000 for the election as compared to Lee's \$200,000.

Three years after her partner of 41 years died, Edith Windsor, who wed her partner in Canada in 2007, has had her day in court and won. Because of the federal law, Windsor didn't qualify for the unlimited marital deduction on her late spouse's estate and was required to pay \$363,053 in federal estate tax. Windsor sued the government in November 2010.

Judge Barbara Jones (2nd Circuit Court of Appeals) ordered the government to reimburse Windsor the money she had paid in estate tax. It may not be over for the 83-year-old Windsor, but she's not a person who quits. Those who would like to know about Windsor and her partner, Thea Spyer, can watch the 2009 documentary *Edie & Thea: A Very Long Engagement*.

Washington state legalized marriage equality, but opponents are trying to overturn the law with Referendum 74. **Voters who support marriage equality vote "yes" to approve the marriage equality.** In Pierce County, activists in Pierce County organized a Flash Mob at the Tacoma Farmers Market to support Referendum 74. <http://www.pridefoundation.org/tacoma-flash-mob-marriage-equality/2012/06/>

U.S. District Judge Barbara Jones (Manhattan) ruled that the federal Defense of Marriage Act's efforts to define marriage "intrude upon the states' business of regulating domestic relations." She added, "That incursion skirts important principles of federalism and therefore cannot be legitimate, in this court's view."

Kylar Broadus, founder of the Trans People of Color Coalition (TPOCC), became the first trans person ever to testify before the U.S. Senate when he testified before the Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee in support of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA).

Adoption of children by same-sex couples is child abuse. That's what Bryan Fischer of the American Family Association has proclaimed. You can sign a petition protesting his statement: <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/961/285/502/tell-bryan-fischer-gay-adoptions-are-not-sexual-abuse/>



Lucinda Hughes, president of the Florence (OR) chapter of PFLAG, gave me a heads up on this film.

The documentary *Out Late* shows five people who decided to come out as lesbian, gay, or transgender, after the age of 55.

Filmmaker Beatrice Alda, Alan Alda's daughter, explores what ultimately led these dynamic individuals to make the liberating choice to live openly and honestly amongst their family, friends and community.

The graphic below shows LGBT rights by state in a visual depiction of United States' regions. If you go to the following website, you can click on each area to get more information. (The top is the Midwest, and the bottom the Southeast.) <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/interactive/2012/may/08/gay-rights-united-states>

Building Community Support

(Continued from p. 2)

Shorter introductory versions of "Gay 101" could be offered to school staff, business groups, police, senior centers, hospital and nursing homes, and parent groups. Rainbow "Welcome LGBT" stickers could be printed and distributed for display in public areas like the Rec Center, libraries, City Hall buildings, businesses, as well as churches, homes, etc.

Wider distribution of PFLAG brochures and new LGBT Civil Rights info sheets would increase awareness and visibility of the LGBT community.

Using the arts for LGBT support was a popular suggestion. One example was a local police version of an "It Gets Better" video to be created by local high school classes. Music, poetry, and drama expressions will also be explored and perhaps funded by grants from PFLAG, PRIDE Foundation, and/or Equity Foundation.

Congratulations to Ellen DeGeneres for being the 15th recipient of the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor, recognizing people who make a difference through satire and social commentary. When One Million Moms tried to boycott JC Penney's because they used DeGeneres for a spokesperson, she said, "I stand for honesty, equality, kindness, compassion, treating people the way you'd want to be treated, and helping those in need. To me, those are traditional values. That's what I stand for."



People Who Make a Difference

Last year, **Noah Hornik** then 13, planned a concert to benefit The Trevor Project and It Gets Better. That was after he founded the Rainbow Connection, a gay-straight alliance, at his middle school. His concert raised \$20,000 so he had one on June 23 this year, again at San Francisco's Great American Music Hall with two bands, Princeton from Los Angeles and Local Hero from Berkeley. This year "It Gets Indie" is an official event in the San Francisco Pride 2012 lineup. Noah's father said, "This [support of the LGBT community] ... is something that is our obligation as decent human beings."



Fifteen months ago, **Richard Noble** left San Francisco to walk 2700 miles across the nation while carrying a rainbow flag. He arrived in Jacksonville (FL) on June 9, 2012. During his "Civil Rights Walk Across America" across seven states, he promoted the American Equality Bill, a one-bill strategy for equal LGBT civil rights. A victim of harassment and discrimination, Noble decided to take a stand. In the nearly 150 cities he visited, he has received proclamations, keys to the city, and government letters in support of his cause. Noble's goal is to present the American Equality Bill to Congress in Washington, D.C.

Fifth grader **Kameron Slade** was disappointed after Principal Beryl Bailey in Queens (NY) told him he could not give a speech on marriage equality because it was "inappropriate" for the Democracy Speeches contests at PS 195. He said, "I thought it was a real good winning speech." He added, "If children read or watch the news, they can learn about things like same-gender marriage, so what's the point in trying to hide it?" After an outcry about the school's decision through change.org, Kameron was allowed to give his speech, not in competition, but in a special assembly.



Married couple **Stephen Hill** (left) and **Joshua Snyder** want to change their last names to Snyder-Hill, but an Ohio magistrate told them that they should lie about the reason because the state doesn't recognize gay marriage. Hill said he was through with lying, and they told the truth in court. The judge, in an unusual move, said that he would not issue an immediate response, an unusual move in a name-change procedure, and would mail them a reply. While serving in Iraq, Hill was booed at a Republican candidate debate when he asked the candidates, if elected president, would reinstate the ban on gays and lesbians openly serving in the military. Hill is already a member of

an ongoing lawsuit brought by the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network. The suit aims to overturn the Defense of Marriage Act on grounds that it harms servicemembers in same-sex marriages.

In North Carolina ‘Impartially’ Means Prejudiced

“Impartially” is not a term that Republicans apparently understand. The new GOP platform in North Carolina reads as follows:

“Government should treat all citizens impartially,[*] without regard to wealth, race, ethnicity, disability, religion, sex, political affiliation or national origin. We oppose all forms of invidious

discrimination. Sexual orientation is not an appropriate category.”

A translation of their position seems to be that “all citizens except LGBT people are to be treated impartially.”

As commenter Scott Woledge put it, America: “Where the Constitutional guarantee of Equal Protec-

tion* and freedom from discrimination* comes with a special *asterisk. (*Offer may not be valid to certain groups we dislike, which may include, but is by no means limited to gays, lesbians and transgender citizens. Your results in pursuit of happiness may vary.)”

[*Impartial: not biased; unprejudiced.]

June Fun Stuff to Delight the Soul

Right: A classic photo from last year’s Portland (OR) Pride Parade. Photo credit—Ann Hubard



Below: The second lesbian bride photo that *The New Yorker* has published. Maybe next time they’ll put one of them in a suit!



Below: Marvel comics’ Northstar weds his boyfriend Kyle in *Astonishing X-Men*.



PFLAG—LaDeDa Yachats Parade

This suggestion from the June PFLAG meeting is already happening! PFLAG and the Rainbow Dogs will appear in the July 4 LaDeDa Parade at noon on July 4 in Yachats. Join us there to march in rainbow gear, with or without your canine companion.

Rainbow dog scarves, PFLAG T-Shirts, and other rainbow gear will be available for PFLAG members and friends. Don't miss our first-ever parade event!

OUT on the Oregon Coast

From Lisa Gray and Pamela Madison: We've been OUT and about in June with more Lesbian Coffee Hour gatherings at Newport's Bayfront Coffee House and at Green Salmon in Yachats. Our first Happy Hour for all LGBT folks was held at Café Mundo in Newport and the second at the Wine Place in Yachats on June 28.

Join us for these social get-togethers designed to bring together LGBT folks from across Lincoln County! Follow us on Facebook and get email updates for our next OUTings. See the July events in the PFLAG Calendar on page 7.

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Out-Oregon-Coast/194768480642314>

Safe Spaces: "Changed for the Better"

September 21-23, 2012

An adult retreat for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender persons, families, and allies with time for personal sharing, quiet reflection, and playful creation.

Registration: www.gocamping.org

Phone: (503-802-9213)

Registrar Geneva Cook, Camp & Retreat Ministry

Cost: \$130 per person includes meals from Friday dinner through Sunday lunch and two nights lodging at Suttle Lake Camp near Sisters (OR)

Co-sponsored by Oregon/Idaho Camping and Retreat Ministries and Reconciling United Methodists (www.oirums.org; www.rmnetwork.org)

More information: Rev. Brenda S. Wills, Dean bwills6420@charter.net

OCC PFLAG Calendar

July 3, 9:00 am: OUT on the Oregon Coast for Lesbians—Coffee House, Newport Bayfront

July 4, 12:00 noon: PFLAG and the Rainbow Dogs in LaDeDa Parade—Yachats

July 11, 7:00 pm: PFLAG Meeting (Families with LGBT Kids—Then and Now)—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

July 14: PFLAG at Saturday Market—Newport

July 17, 9:00 am: OUT on the Oregon Coast for Lesbians--Green Salmon, Yachats

July 26, 5-7 pm: OUT on the Oregon Coast Happy Hour for LGBT Folk—Café Mundo, Newport

August 7, 9:00 am: OUT on the Oregon Coast for Lesbians—Coffee House, Newport Bayfront

August 8: No PFLAG meeting in August; join us at the picnic!

August 11: PFLAG at Saturday Market—Newport

August 12, 2:00-4:00 pm: PFLAG Family Picnic at Fishermen's Park near Newport Bridge

August 21, 9:00 am: OUT on the Oregon Coast for Lesbians—Green Salmon, Yachats

August 30, 4-6 pm: OUT on the Oregon Coast Happy Hour for LGBT Folk—Café Mundo, Newport

September 6-9: PFLAG at Oregon Coast Pride, Chinook Winds, Lincoln City

September 21-23: Safe Spaces retreat—Suttle Lake Camp near Sisters (OR)

October 13: PFLAG at Saturday Market—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 except for "Men's Pot Luck." Occasionally we bend that rule for special events.

CLASS Women's Potlucks: Jeannette at 867-6993.

Social LGBT Oregon Coast Group:

www.outoregoncoast.com

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Out-Oregon-Coast/194768480642314>

Join PFLAG!

YES! I support the mission of PFLAG. Enclosed is my annual 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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