



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
pflagocc@gmail.com
www.occflag.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

June 2012

Take Action!

Rep. Jared Polis (D-CO) and Sen. Al Franken (D-MN) want a vote on the Student Non-Discrimination Act that would give LGBTQ youth the same civil rights protections guaranteed by other anti-discrimination laws. Republicans in Congress won't bring it to a vote, and Mitt Romney refuses to say whether he supports it. A petition calling on a vote and a response from Romney is at http://www.dccc.org/pages/bullying?source=2012.05.14_rm

JCPenney is under attack from anti-LGBT One Million Moms—again!—this time for the use of a photo depicting two women as a couple and who are wearing wedding rings. You can show your support for Penneys here. [See P. 4 for article on fathers.] http://www.change.org/petitions/jc-penney-we-support-your-use-of-all-families-please-keep-the-may-catalog-as-it-is?utm_campaign=iyKPTFgYiT&utm_medium=email&utm_source=action_alert

The Today's Couples and Families Research Program at the University of Cincinnati Psychology Department is recruiting participants for a new study that focuses on how same-sex relationships develop, how same-sex partners symbolize their commitment to one another, and how different relationship formation processes are related to relationship stability and emotional well-being. <http://homepages.uc.edu/~whittosh/TCF/SSRDS.html>

Same-sex couples should be able to get married.

President Barack Obama

Marriage Equality Is a Civil Right

Benjamin Jealous, NAACP President

PFLAG Hosts 'Marriage-Matters' in Newport

Basic Rights Oregon has partnered with PFLAG Oregon Central Coast and the Rural Organizing Project, hosting an information and planning session to build support for marriage equality. The May 23 event included a presentation, question/answer session, and distribution of marriage equality materials.

Because of Measure 36, passed in 2004, Oregon is one of 32 states with constitutions banning marriage for same sex couples. The Oregon State Supreme Court has refused to hear a challenge to the amendment, and Oregon Legislature cannot amend the constitution. Therefore the only way to gain marriage equality in the state is by another vote of the people.

Voters are divided on the issue, but a great shift has occurred during the last three years as Basic Rights Oregon's education campaign led to a double-digit increase in support for marriage equality in Oregon. After over two decades of anti-LGBT attacks, marriage equality supporters hope to build the foundation for a successful ballot measure as early as the 2014 election.

Above right: Mike Grigsby of Basic Rights Oregon facilitated as PFLAG OCC members contributed ideas and names to the list of possible Lincoln County leaders to contact for support of marriage equality.



Country Moves toward State, Federal Marriage Equality

Nine years after marriage equality was legalized in Massachusetts, a unanimous decision by three judges of the U.S. 1st Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that DOMA, defining marriage as a union of a man and a woman, is unconstitutional in limiting federal benefits such as Social Security survivor benefits and the ability to file joint taxes to heterosexual couples. Conservatives have asserted that these are "activist" judges, but two of the appeals court judges are Republican appointees. The decision was written by Judge Mike Boudin, a George H.W. Bush appointee and deputy assistant Attorney General in the Reagan administration.

Although the Obama administration has decided not to defend DOMA in the courts, the House of Representatives will most likely appeal the 1st Circuit case to the U.S. Supreme Court. Those who wish to protest the use of tax-payer money for this purpose should go to https://secure3.convio.net/hrc/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=1459&autologin=true&utm_source=Convio&utm_medium=email&utm_term=callout-link&utm_campaign=breaking-doma-ruled-unconstitutional&JServSessionIdro04=y06qv063g1.app341a

Ohio's Supreme Court has dismissed a challenge brought by anti-gay groups hoping to block a referendum on retiring the state's constitutional ban on gay marriage and replacing it with gender-neutral language that would allow same-sex couples the right to marry.

From Brent Buford comes this blog post by the delightful PCUSA (Presbyterian) minister Jim Rigby in Austin (TX): Ten Things I wish the Church Knew About Homosexuality <http://www.jimrigby.org/ten-things-i-wish-the-church-knew-about-homosexuality/>

Politics on Our Side

Twenty years after **Springfield (OR)** passed an amendment prohibiting the city from “promoting” or “facilitating” homosexuality, the city council has **unanimously approved an ordinance protecting gays and lesbians from discrimination.**

In California a bill to **ban LGBT conversion therapy of minors, regardless of the wishes of his or her parents, has passed the Senate.** The bill also forces psychotherapists to tell patients about the mental and physical harms of undertaking any so-called ‘gay therapies.’

Despite Nebraska’s claim that cities have no right to pass **anti-discrimination ordinances,** both **Lincoln and Omaha have passed these ordinances anyway.**

Illinois governor Pat Quinn has announced his support for LGBT equality and pledged to work with state lawmakers to legalize same-sex marriage.

Maverick Couch, Waynesville (OH) High School student, can wear his pro-gay T-shirt to school any time he wants, according to U.S. District Judge Michael R. Barrett of Cincinnati. The controversial garb stated, “Jesus is not a homophobe.”

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) is supporting **22-year-old Max Hirsh (Portland, OR) in his complaint against a psychiatrist who used intrusive “conversion” therapy** against Hirsh’s wishes. SPLC is also starting a website listing therapists who give this therapy to try to turn LGBT people into heterosexuals.

Rhode Island will now recognize same-sex marriages from outside its borders, according to Governor Lincoln Chafee.

Vice-President Joe Biden, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, and Housing Secretary Shaun Donovan all preceded President Obama in supporting marriage equality.

U.S. District Court Judge Claudia Wilken (CA) has ruled that the **Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is unconstitutional** because it violates the Constitution’s equal protections clause. Two other judges and a bankruptcy court have similarly ruled DOMA unconstitutional.

The Obama administration has implemented the **Prison Rape Elimination Act that includes provisions relating to “lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and gender non-conforming inmates.”**

Senator Majority Leader Harry Reid said that **the Democratic Party’s platform will probably include a plank calling for the legalization of marriage equality** after a vote this summer at the party’s convention in Charlotte (NC).

Hearings on the Employment Non Discrimination Act (ENDA) that would end anti-LGBT discrimination in the workplace, housing, and public accommodations sectors will begin in the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee on June 12.

Argentina’s senate voted unanimously on May 9 to make gender transition health care a legal right.

Young People Can Change Our World!

Allies 4 Equality, the GSA at James Hubert Blake High School (Maryland), has designed a downloadable paper doll that can be printed out and displayed in photographs to show support for LGBT rights. Called Allie the Ally, the project promotes safe-spaces for LGBT youth and shows people dealing with homophobia that they’re not alone. Allie has gained international fame since the inception of the project. <http://www.care2.com/causes/high-school-students-message-of-love-goes-global.html#ixzz1v02Ls4TR>



LGBT Teen Lunch Group Receives LCSD Award

PFLAG and other community volunteers were honored at the annual LCSD Retirement and Recognition event on May 24 for their collaborative support of the LGBT Teen Lunch Support Group.

The group meets in the School Based Health Center operated on the school grounds by Lincoln County Health & Human Services with volunteers Karen McCrae of the SBHC; Linda Orange, mental health therapist; Jeanne St.John (PFLAG Chair); and Deb Lyman, PFLAG Secretary and mental health therapist.

PFLAG received a grant from Equity Foundation to purchase lunches for the 10-12 students who regularly attend; the Savory Café both received a grant and contributed one pizza weekly.

Honorees received individualized certificates of appreciation for their contribution for at-risk LGBT students at Newport High.

Gay Couple in Penney's Ad

JC Penney responded to the failed boycott campaign of anti-gay group One Million Moms with Father's Day advertising featuring a gay couple playing with their children. The two men in the ad are real-life dads Todd Koch and Cooper Smith and the jubilant children are their kids, Claire and Mason. Check out the photo at <http://gawker.com/5914527/jcpenney-responds-to-homophobic-boycott-calls-with-gay-fathers-day-ad>

Bully Film Enhances Awareness

When the documentary *Bully* came to the Bijou Theatre in Lincoln City, Lincoln County School District's Bully Prevention Project and PFLAG OCC helped families see this important film about the effects of bullying on children, families, and communities. PFLAG distributed coupons for \$1 off the ticket cost and over 300 people saw the film during the week-long showing in May. The film helped raise awareness and commitment by students, staff, families, and community leaders.

According to PFLAG Chair Jeanne St.John, the local chapter obtained an Equity Foundation grant to help provide schools with a bullying prevention program. LCSD teachers and staff have been going through the training, led by Majalise Tolan, principal of Isaac Newton Magnet and Newport Intermediate Schools. Tolan was certified as a trainer by the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, internationally recognized as effective in changing the school culture to prevent bullying.

All staff at NIS and INMS have been trained and began using the program when school started this year.

Important features of the program are the engagement of bystanders and improving the level of support for students most at risk for bullying. This first year's results are very encouraging with a remarkable drop in bullying reports and dramatic improvements in attitudes about student safety and satisfaction. Students are becoming "upstanders," not "bystanders." Other schools in Lincoln County are currently exploring adoption of this program.

St.John is a Community Representative on the district's Bully Prevention Leadership Team. For more information on community support for Bully Prevention, contact St.John at 541-265-7194 or by email at pflagocc@gmail.com. For information on LCSD's Olweus Bully Prevention Program, contact Tolan at 541-265-6601.

[Photo: Jeanne St. John, (left) Chair of PFLAG Oregon Central Coast and Majalise Tolan, (right) LCSD principal and Bully Prevention Project trainer, highlight the first rule that all students have memorized: We will not bully others.]



People Who Make a Difference



City Council Speaker **Christine Quinn** wed her longtime partner, lawyer Kim Catullo, in Manhattan's Meatpacking District in front of about 275 guests, including dozens of city and state officials. Judith Kaye, the retired state Chief Judge, officiated. Mayor Bloomberg, Gov. Cuomo and NYPD Commissioner Raymond Kelly attended, along with U.S. Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand and Chuck Schumer and Rep. Charlie Rangel. "I just wish both women an enormous life of happiness together," Gillibrand said. "They're incredibly loving. They're sweet to each other."

Two out heads of state participated in the mid-May NATO Summit in Chicago. Iceland Prime Minister **Johanna Sigurdardottir** married her long-time partner, writer Jonina Leosdottir, two years ago after the country legalized marriage equality. Less than six months ago, **Elio di Rupo** became Belgium's prime minister.



That country has had marriage equality since 2003, and gays and lesbians are included in anti-discrimination laws. Parliament has four openly gay members, and gay pride marches have received municipal subsidies since their inception 16 years ago. The most recent pride march in Brussels drew 50,000 people, in a country with just ten million people.



Joanna Johnson is the first daytime actor to come out as gay. She was 25 when the soap opera *The Bold and the Beautiful* debuted 25 years ago. First playing Caroline Spencer, she then became the identical twin Karen. Johnson has also created the sitcom *Hope & Faith* as well as writing and co-producing *Make It or Break It* and *Fairly Legal*. Her latest role is back on the original soap opera in a story about Karen having lived her life as a secret lesbian. Johnson is married to L.A. club promoter Michelle Agnew; they live with their children, Julian, five, and Harlow, two. Her life parallels that of character Karen, also married with a daughter. More about her story at <http://www.tvguide.com/news/bold-beautiful-joanna-johnson-1047477.aspx?rss=breakingnews>



Avarice Guerrero (left) **Cory Huston** (right) may be the first same-sex couple to have gotten publicly engaged on a military base. Guerrero, a Marine, had just returned from duty in Afghanistan to San Diego's Camp Pendleton when he was greeted by Huston, a Navy veteran who was discharged under the former Don't Ask Don't Tell Act.



PAHO Opposes “Conversion” Therapy for Homosexuals

Trying to “cure” LGBTQ people of their orientation and/or gender identify not only lacks medical justification but also threatens the health and well-being of these people.

So said the Pan American Health Organization, a regional office of the World Health Organization, on May 17, the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia.

Twenty-two years ago, on May 17, the World Health Assembly removed homo-

sexuality from the list of mental disorders when it approved a new version of the World Health Organization's International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10).

The PAHO statement notes that there is a professional consensus that homosexuality is a natural variation of human sexuality.

Recommendations include these: “Conversion” or “reparative” therapies and the clinics offering them should be denounced and subject to adequate sanc-

tions”; and “in the media, homophobia in any of its manifestations and expressed by any person should be exposed as a public health problem and a threat to human dignity and human rights.”

In the UK, the British Association of Counseling and Psychotherapy (BACP) revoked Lesley Pilkington's professional credentials after BACP discovered that she was advising patients that she could cure their homosexuality.

NAACP Supports Marriage Equality, According to Board President Jealous

Two weeks after President Barack Obama said that he was personally in favor of marriage equality, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) passed a resolution supporting same-sex marriage. This action is significant because the black community has opposed its legalization.

In past polls only 39 percent of blacks supported marriage equality, compared to 47 percent of whites. The churches have had great influence in denying LGBT people their marriage rights. President Obama's acceptance of marriage equality has changed the polling: before the president said he accepted this equality, 34 percent of blacks opposed gay marriage; afterward, 23 percent did.

In an emotional speech, NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Jealous talked about how his white father and black mother had to marry in Washington, D.C. in 1966 because Maryland did not permit interracial marriage until the Supreme Court ruling changed the law in 1967.

‘Moms’ Protest Introduction of Gay Super Heroes

One Million Moms, the right-wing group whose last campaign against a comic book was so successful that the issue sold out, is now upset about DC and Marvel Comics' gay superheroes. DC plans to bring back a major character, Green Lantern, as gay and Marvel plans to wed Northstar of the X-Men to his boyfriend. One Million Moms is a project of the antigay American Family Association, classified by the Southern Poverty Law Center as a hate group for spreading damaging misinformation about LGBT people.

The One Million Moms website, which introduced the protest, does not seem to be functioning at this time.

Not to Miss: A good friend sent me this article about Max, a transgender boy, and his supportive parents. Max was grand marshal of this year's Phoenix Pride Parade. <http://www.azcentral.com/news/azliving/articles/2012/05/05/20120505gender-identity->

PFLAG Leads Portland Pride Parade

Congratulations to PFLAG Portland! They were selected to be the Grand Marshall by Pride Northwest. We are invited to come to Portland on June 17th and walk with the PFLAG contingency right behind PFLAG Portland in the parade. Kick-off is at 11:30 AM. Stay tuned for details on where to meet us. It's going to be a great time and we'll get to watch the rest of the parade! Hope to see you there!

OUT on the Oregon Coast

Go OUT and about with Lisa Gray and Pamela Madison. June plans include Women's Coffee Hours on the second Tuesday, June 5, at 9:00 am at the Coffee House on the Newport Bayfront and on the fourth Tuesday, June 19 at 9:00 am at the Green Salmon in Yachats. June's LGBT Happy Hour is scheduled on June 28 from 4:00-6:00 pm at the Wine Place in Yachats.

Join us for these social get-togethers designed to bring together LGBT folks from across Lincoln County! <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Out-Oregon-Coast/194768480642314>

ExxonMobil has again voted against adding sexual orientation and gender identity to the company's anti-discrimination policy.

The American Family Association (AFA) is targeting Target for supporting gay marriage and urging its members to write to Target complaining about this support. http://action.afa.net/uploadedImages/Activism/AFA_Action_Alerts/Action_Alert_Related_Items/targetpride.jpg Those supporting Target can write Guest.Relations@target.com

OCC PFLAG Calendar

June: LGBTQ Pride Month!

June 5, 9:00 am: OUT on the Oregon Coast for Lesbians—Coffee House, Newport Bayfront

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

June 9: PFLAG at Saturday Market—Newport

June 13, 7:00 pm: PFLAG Meeting (Transgender and Immigration Issues in Lincoln County)—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

June 17, 11:30 am: Portland Pride Parade

June 19, 9:00 am: OUT on the Oregon Coast for Lesbians—Green Salmon, Yachats

June 28, 4-6 pm: OUT on the Oregon Coast Happy Hour for LGBT Folk—Wine Place, 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

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

August 11: PFLAG at Saturday Market—Newport

August 12, 1:00-3:00 pm: PFLAG Family Picnic at Fishermen's Park near Newport Bridge

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 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.

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: _____

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