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Parents, Families and
Friends of Lesbians and
Gays promotes the
health and well- being
of gay, lesbian, bisex-
ual, and trans- gen-
dered persons, their
families, and their
friends through

SUPPORT to cope with
an adverse
society

EDUCATION to
enlighten an ill-
informed public

ADVOCACY to end dis-
crimination and secure
equal civil rights.

Oregon Central Coast Chapter

October 2012

Take Action!

Last month the fast-food restaurant Chick-fil-A found itself in hot water after its part-owner Dan Cathy publicly opposed marriage equality. As a result, several cities stated that they would not permit franchises because of this discrimination. To calm the uproar, Chick-fil-A promised not to fund any more anti-LGBT groups, but they lied. To cover, they asked that donors make checks payable to Marriage and Family Foundation instead of Chick-fil-A. It should be noted that the company has also allegedly fired women because managers believed that women with children should stay home instead of going to work.

You can tell friends who live in Chick-fil-A territory that the company is still supporting LGBT hate-groups.

When Judge Bill Graves denied James Dean Ingram's name change to Angela Renee Ingram in Oklahoma, he used the Bible as his authority: "It is notable that Genesis 1:27-28 states: 'So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth ...' The DNA code shows God meant for them to stay male and female."

You can tell the judge that he should keep to law or resign his position: <http://www.change.org/petitions/oklahoma-county-district-judge-either-grant-transgender-name-changes-or-resign-as-judge>

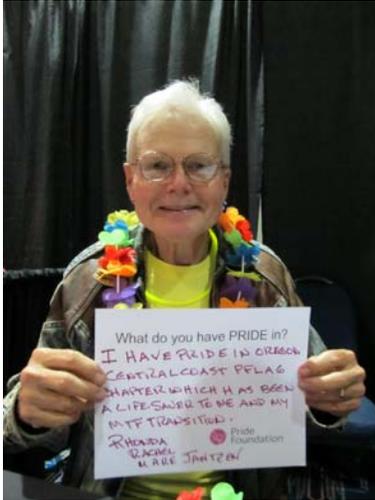
Check this out!

*The Thoughtful Voter's Guide
To Same-Sex Marriage*

http://www.ilsr.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Marriage_print_final-final.pdf

Local PFLAG Active *from Jeanne St. John*

PFLAG/Welcoming Churches at Oregon Coast Pride



PFLAG was a vendor at this year's INDOOR Oregon Coast Pride at Chinook Winds in Lincoln City. We had tables on Saturday, Sept. 8 and Sunday, Sept. 9 where PFLAG and Welcoming Church volunteers met with Pride visitors. It was great to be dry and warm and indoors this year! We were delighted to see tables staffed by Western Oregon University at Monmouth and Taft High's GSA Club. Thanks to Kae Bates, Dan



Beck, Rhonda Jantzen (above), Ardis Letey, Jeanne St. John, Debbie Spicer, and Brenda Wills (right) for representing PFLAG Oregon Central Coast at this year's Oregon Coast Pride weekend.



GSA Groups at September PFLAG Meeting



Members and advisors of Lincoln County GSA groups came to the September 12 PFLAG meeting to talk about their new school year plans. These include kick-off assistance for the for schools' Bully Prevention programs and activities for Coming Out Week in October. GSA students will also do presentations at the November 3 Lincoln County Youth Leadership Conference. Thanks to Teresa Atwill and

Jordon Ostrum from Newport GSA and the reps from Taft GSA for sharing their plans with each other and with PFLAG. We wish you a great year and will help make your plans a reality. (Above: Taft GSA group)

NW Regional PFLAG Conference

Jeanne St. John and Kae Bates (right) represented our PFLAG chapter at the NW Regional PFLAG Conference in Hamilton (MT) on Sept. 21-22. Speakers from Northwest chapters and PFLAG National had lots of information and updates on latest trends and suggestions to improve visibility and effectiveness. Our PFLAG chapter was asked to bring copies of our excellent newsletter to share! Thanks to Nel we had great issues to share!



Politics on Our Side

U.S. District Court Judge Mark Wolf is the **first in the nation to order prison officials to provide tax-payer sex-reassignment surgery for a murder convict**, saying that it was the only way to treat her gender-identity disorder. Since her conviction following the 1990 murder of her wife, Michelle Kosilek has been living as a woman and receiving hormone treatments while serving life in prison in Massachusetts. The Commonwealth plans to appeal the federal judge's decision.

The New York case of Edie Windsor, protesting the discrimination against same-sex couples because of DOMA, has now gone to the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals which heard arguments in late September. President Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder refused to appeal the case after Windsor won in a lower court last spring because they concluded that DOMA is unconstitutional. Instead, the House of Representatives is using taxpayer money to hire Paul

Clement to support the Congressional Defense of Marriage Act which contains a definition of "marriage" and "spouse" as the union of one man and one woman. The last time that federal case law contained "traditional understanding" of marriage was in a 1885 Utah case opposing polygamy.

In his arguments, Clements admitted that defense of DOMA would be difficult if courts skeptically viewed discrimination against gays and lesbians. He noted that "there's no way to preserve the definition of marriage [as one man and one woman] other than by preserving the definition. It becomes somewhat circular."

The 42-year relationship between Edie Windsor and Thea Spyr is chronicled in *Edie and Thea: A Very Long Engagement*.

Poland's ruling center right party, Platforma Obywatelska (PO), is planning to introduce a law of registered civil partnerships that will include same-sex couples.



Openly-Gay Senate Candidate Takes Bashing, Rises in Polling For Wisconsin Seat

Wisconsin has been one of the hottest political potatoes for the past 18 months, even before Mitt Romney selected Rep. Paul Ryan for his running mate. It remains so, with openly lesbian Rep. Tammy Baldwin running against old-guard, past governor Tommy Thompson for the state's Senate seat. Down in the polls until a few weeks ago, Baldwin

is now up by 12 points in a recent poll.

In a desperate attempt to denigrate Baldwin, Brian Nemoir, the political director Thompson's campaign, sent an email and posted a Twitter message about Baldwin dancing at the gay pride festival in advance of Baldwin giving a prime time speech at the Democratic National Convention—about the same time that Baldwin's numbers started to rise. When questioned about the communication he sent, Nemoir said that the race should focus on the nation's rising debt and unemployed people, not the issue about Baldwin's gender identity.

In addition to Thompson's other far-right positions, he said that private businesses should be able to fire employees because of their sexual orientation. After a video of his statements was released, he said that was not his position. (There's a whole lot of this going around this year!)

I'm grateful that the country has people like Tammy Baldwin to fight for LGBT rights!

Boy Scouts Gradually Losing Support for LGBT Discrimination

Grindr, a geosocial networking app for gay, bisexual, and bi-curious men, **is going political**, with its goal to "mobilize gay men as a political bloc in the 2012 elections" through a new initiative it is calling "Grindr for Equality."

The app's 1.5 million U.S. users will receive geo-targeted political messages when they log on to the app this election season. The messages will address equality issues and candidates, as well as deliver voting resources.

A past proud Boy Scout **George Takei** is well known for his *Star Trek* role of Sulu. Earlier this year, when the BSA purged the Scouts of LGBT members and leaders, in spite of their exemplary behavior, Takei voiced his protest on his blog (<http://www.allegiancemusical.com/blog-so-takei>).

After that he wore his uniform in the New York City Pride Parade and marched beside Jennifer Tyrrell, a den mother who was ousted from her leadership position in Bridgeport (OH) only because she is a lesbian.

Tyrrell's seven-year-old son, Cruz, was also deactivated from the troop.



Since the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) announced that they will continue its discrimination against anyone who is not a Christian heterosexual, a backlash shows that not everyone approves of their prejudiced position.

1) **Tech giant Intel**, who has given \$700,000 to local scouting troops, **has confirmed that no more of the corporation's donations will reach the BSA** because of its corporate giving policy which places an emphasis on nondiscrimination.

2) An increasing number of former **Boy Scouts are returning their badges**. One letter to the BSA reads in part: "The BSA's position has troubled me for many years, and I have often thought of giving back my hard-earned medals. As I've come to know the pain GLBTQ persons face in our society--and the way the BSA perpetuates that fear and discrimination particularly among the youth--I am deeply saddened by the institutional bigotry that is inconsistent with the values I learned as a Scout."

3) **Some scout troops** who want to retain the positive ideas associated with being a scout, **have defied the ban** and initiated a nondiscrimination policy. For example, in Framingham (MA), 38 parents of the children in Club Scout Pack 12 have signed a letter and sent it to the Knox Trail Council in which they say they are disappointed by the anti-gay policy and note that they will disregard it in favor of tolerance. Their letter reads in part: "Pack 12 has taught us that being a scout means being inclusive, supportive, and standing up for what you believe in. We do not and never will discriminate on the basis of race, religion or sexual orientation."

4) After Tim Griffin was fired from a Boy Scout camp near Sacramento (CA), **10 staff members quit the camp** because, while officials claimed the 22-year-old was fired because he refused to follow clothing regulations, the staffers said the firing of the young Scout was clearly because he was openly gay.

5) BSA lost support after **a review of some 1,600 internal files dated from 1971 and 1991 showed that the organization may, in as many as 400 cases, have ignored allegations of child abuse and failed to report the offenders**, one of whom was identified as having a "life-long" pattern of offending. Investigations from *The Los Angeles Times* also indicate that BSA may have broken state law when it actively shielded suspected offenders. People object because BSA's moral philosophy protects sex offenders but refuses to accept law-abiding LGBT people.

People Who Make a Difference



Frank Bruni (right), a gay columnist for *The New York Times*, has an excellent interview with **Kevin McClatchy**, former owner/manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates, who recently announced that he is gay. Bruni also discusses the perils of being LGBT in pro sports.



http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/23/opinion/sunday/bruni-a-new-inning-late-in-the-game.html?_r=1



President Obama has nominated Judge **Michael J. McShane**, a Multnomah County Circuit Judge, for a seat on Oregon's Federal District Court. McShane would be moving into the seat vacated by Michael R. Hogan, one of two U.S. district judge posts in Eugene, (OR) who has moved to senior status. If confirmed, McShane will be the first openly gay federal judge in Oregon. The job would be a lifetime appointment allowing the judge to take on larger constitutional questions than he does now, including free speech, government search and seizure powers, and the Endangered Species Act.



After ordained minister **Sean Savoy** conducted an interview on his Utah radio show in August with Dallas-based social commentator and LGBT advocate Will Kolb about LGBT issues, KKFT-FM (99.1) station manager Jerry Evans cancelled his program on the Fox affiliate. Savoy said he was "shocked" that he "could be silenced in this manner, especially when there has been no prior complaint of the show's content." Until August, Savoy had not been open about being gay himself, but the cancellation has made him decide to be more open about his sexual orientation. Savoy added that while he lived as a straight man he found himself desiring a much more fulfilling life that wasn't based on deception and was true to his sexual orientation.

Amelia Craig Cramer, an accomplished attorney and civil rights advocate, was named president of Arizona's 16,900-member state bar last June. Living in Pima County with her wife and daughter, she was previously a managing attorney for the LGBT advocacy group Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund in Los Angeles; she was also the executive director of the Gay & Lesbian Allies & Defenders in Massachusetts. Cramer currently serves as chief deputy attorney of her county. She has pushed for protections for the state's LGBT citizens and a repeal on the state's sodomy law in 2001. Cramer is the first openly-LGBT president of the State Bar of Arizona. Former Arizona State Rep. Steve May, an openly gay activist, called Cramer "a leader in the LGBT community in Pima County" since the 1990s.



Things Are Getting Better—Little by Little

Have things gotten better for LGBTQ people in the last half century? Some people point to the high number of suicides and reports of bullying to claim that nothing has improved, that LGBTQ people live in just as much danger as they did during the mid-1950s. But looking at what's happened just this past year indicates a different picture.

In addition to the fact that six states, with two on hold (depending on the day and the will of the people), legally allow marriage equality, the President of the United States supports same-sex marriage. Six of his Cabinet secretaries also support marriage equality, and a group of federal lawmakers is trying to reverse DOMA. There have been at least five court decisions now ruling DOMA unconstitutional.

David Blankenhorn, the star witness for supporters of Proposition 8 (the California ban on marriage equality), is now in favor of marriage equality, writing in a *New York Times* op-ed piece, "The time has come for me to accept gay marriage and emphasize the good that it can do." He also wrote, "And to my deep regret, much of the opposition to gay marriage seems to stem, at least in part, from an underlying anti-gay animus."

Forty years ago, Jeanne Manford marched beside her gay son, Morty, in a pride parade with a sign stating "Parents of Gays: Unite in Support for our Children." They did: from that action came PFLAG, an organization with over 350 affiliates in 12 different countries. One person can make a difference! You can write Jeanne, now 93, at thankyoujm@pflag.org.



In Minnesota, General Mills opposes the initiative on the fall ballot that would prevent marriage equality. John Taft, CEO of RBC Wealth Management and a Republican, is helping GM's Ken Charles recruit other businesses to fight the punitive initiative. Target is raising money to fight the proposed initiative by selling t-shirts with LGBT-positive messages. A group called Catholics for Marriage Equality is also opposing the proposed ban on same-sex marriage. Over 59 percent of Catholics nationwide support marriage equality.

Jim Turley, a Boy Scouts board member and CEO of Ernst & Young, wanted to include openly gay members in the Scouts. Although he failed, thousands of people are protesting the Boy Scouts open discrimination against LGBT people.

Paul Singer, a Republican and billionaire hedge fund manager, has started a super PAC to elect Republican candidates who support marriage equality.

The Pentagon held its first event to recognize gay and lesbian troops in the first Gay Pride Month after Congress repealed Don't Ask Don't Tell, the policy that had banned gay troops from serving openly and forced more than 13,500 service members out of the armed forces. According to a spokesperson, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta wants to honor the contributions of gay service members.

Comic books are rapidly developing gay characters. Most hospitals have implemented LGBT-friendly policies with visitation rights for LGBT spouses and partners. More and more legislators are coming out of the closet, more are being elected, and more celebrities are being honest about their sexual identity and gender expression.

And all this is in addition to the news in the OCC PFLAG newsletter each month. We're making progress!

Annual Coming Out Party: October 12 PFLAG Meeting

Each year we celebrate National Coming Out Week at our October meeting when we share stories of our own “coming out” as LGBT, parents, or straight allies. One truth we share is that coming out is an ongoing process that changes with the ages and stages of our lives. GSA clubs receive copies of the excellent article, “18 Things to Think About Before Coming Out,” to encourage students who may not have developed enough support to be comfortable and safe if they do come out.

OCC PFLAG to Host Oregon PFLAG Council

In what seems to be a tradition, OCC PFLAG will host the fall meeting of the state PFLAG Council, this year on October 27. This event always provides a great opportunity to exchange news, information, and hugs with other PFLAG chapter leaders. We could use your help to provide tasty snacks for our guests. Call Jeanne at 541-265-7194 if you can help!

In the Life Calls It Quits

After 20 years, *In the Life*, a monthly public television news-magazine focusing on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues, is showing its last episode in December. Archives of the programs segments will eventually be available online.

Time Warner Inc. will join other companies in paying taxes for same-sex couples with health insurance. Because of the federal Defense of Marriage Act, these employees must pay taxes on the benefits they receive for their partner, creating an additional financial burden.

OCC PFLAG Calendar

September 30-October 6: Banned Books Week
October: LGBT History Month
October 3: Banned Websites Awareness Day
October 9, 9:00 am: OUT on the Oregon Coast for Lesbians—Coffee House, Newport Bayfront
October 10, 7:00 pm: PFLAG Meeting—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport
October 13: PFLAG at Saturday Market—Newport
October 11: National Coming Out Day
October 20-21: Trans Justice Summit 2012 —Smith Memorial Student Union, Portland State University [For info, contact Tash Shatz at bro@basicrights.org]
October 23, 9:00 am: OUT on the Oregon Coast for Lesbians—Green Salmon, Yachats
October 26: Intersex Awareness Day
October 27: State PFLAG Council Meeting—Newport
Nov. 1, 9:00 am: OUT Lesbian Coffee—Coffee House, Newport Bayfront
Nov. 9, 7:00 pm: PFLAG Meeting—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport
Nov. 13, 9:00 am: OUT on the Oregon Coast for Lesbians--Green Salmon, Yachats
Nov. 24, 5-7 pm: OUT on the Oregon Coast Happy Hour for LGBT Folk—Cafe Mundo, 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 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
<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:

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Address: _____

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