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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

September 2012

## Take Action!

Eagle Scout Zach Wahls, son of two lesbians and the founder of Scouts for Equality, has launched a new site for former and current Scouts and Scout leaders interested in joining the movement to end the Boy Scouts of America's anti-gay policy. Read about Scouts for Equality supporters, see which Eagles have renounced their medals, and start local petitions to get your troop or council to reject the anti-gay policy at <http://www.scoutsforequality.org/>

Target is getting more criticism from conservatives because of its same-sex wedding registry ad featuring a gay couple holding hands. The ad proclaims "Be Yourself, Together." The company has been under fire for its sponsorship of Pride festivities in its hometown of Minneapolis. <http://sites.target.com/site/en/company/page.jsp?contentId=WCMP04-034099>

REI, a major national camping and sporting supplies retailer headquartered in Washington state, has endorsed marriage equality. The company has 11,000 employees in 110 stores scattered throughout 30 states. Their website, <http://www.rei.com/>, has a place for feedback at the bottom of the page.

Despite President Obama's order that prevents hospitals from denying visitation privileges to the partners of gays and lesbians, a Nevada lesbian couple with legal rights through their state domestic partnership were told that they needed a power of attorney so that Terri-Ann Simonelli could be with Brittany Leon, hospitalized because of pregnancy complications. Leon miscarried, and Simonelli got updates only through the doctor. The hospital did accept Leon's insurance which came from Simonelli's job. The tragic lesson: same-sex couples need powers of attorney to cover themselves.

The Democratic Party will include a plank supporting marriage equality in its official platform at the upcoming convention.

# Fourth Annual PFLAG Family Picnic



It was a typical summer day in Newport—sunny a few blocks away from the picnic site near the Yaquina Bay Bridge. Despite the cold and fog, an enthusiastic group of PFLAG members and friends, as well as new friends from local Welcoming Churches, gathered and shared lots of delicious picnic treats. Seems that PFLAGers are dog lovers and our canine companions enjoyed playing together while their humans enjoyed visiting with old and new friends. Any suggestions for a sunny spot for next year's picnic??—  
Jeanne St.John [Above left: Editor Nel Ward makes a point to webmaster Brent Buford on middle right.]



# Politics on Our Side

A jury has ordered **Andrew Shrivell**, a former assistant attorney general who was fired for his hate campaign against a gay Michigan university student, **to pay \$4.5 million** to the victim. Shrivell plans to appeal, all the way to the Supreme Court. Two years ago Shrivell created the “Chris Armstrong Watch” blog, making false and defamatory claims against the then-student body president. He claimed that openly gay Armstrong was leading a homosexual agenda against Christian rights at the university and defamed him in other ways to pressure him to resign.

**The Washington, D.C. Office of Human Rights** will launch a **trans anti-discrimination campaign**, a first for any government-funded initiative. Last year Mayor Vincent Grey announced a program to help DC’s trans population find employment and support the trans community in other ways.

U.S. District Judge Consuelo Marshall of Los Angeles rejected a request made by lawyers acting on behalf of House Republicans that the court delay a DOMA challenge where a disabled war veteran is contesting the law’s block on equal spousal disability benefits.

Alaska Gov. Mead Treadwell filed a regulation allowing trans citizens to correct the gender marker on their drivers’ licences without first having to go through gender change surgery. The new regulation took effect on August 11 following an ACLU legal challenge stating that the requirement for gender surgery was an unnecessary infringement on individual rights to privacy.

The **Massachusetts Supreme Court** has good news and bad news for marriage equality. **Civil unions are equal to marriage.** That’s both the good and bad news, bad news for a man who had a civil union in Vermont with one man in Vermont in 2003 and did not dissolve this relationship before he married another man in Massachusetts in 2005. When trying to get a divorce from the second man, he discovered that he had never actually been married to him.

U.S. District Judge Vanessa L. Bryant in Hartford has ruled that the provision in the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act (**DOMA**) denying tax, health, and other benefits to married gay couples **is unconstitutional** because it violates the Fifth Amendment right to equal protection.

Homeland Security officials said that a **foreigner’s longstanding same-sex relationship with a U.S. citizen** could help stave off the threat of deportation so that the department can track down criminals.

The **Federal Aviation Administration** has eliminated several rounds of unnecessary psychological testing that were once required for transgendered pilots in the past.

Vietnam began official consideration of **legalizing marriage equality** with a final decision next May. If the bill passes, the country will be the first on its continent to legalize same-sex marriages and the eleventh country worldwide.

 HarperCollins



*The Berenstain Bears*

After the company that created the muppets pulled their toys from **Chick-fil-A**, the Berenstain Bears dived in. The Jim Henson Company parted ways with the fast-food company after Dan Cathy, CEO and co-owner, made homophobic comments against marriage equality.

Chick-fil-A plans to distribute books about Papa, Mama, Brother, Sister, and Honey Bear to promote children’s meals. Protesters say that Cathy shows the same intolerance that the Berenstain Bears teach to avoid. Something to think about when buying books for kids.

## Man Has Fiery Response

David Leisner accidentally set General Mills lawn on fire in his protest against their support of marriage equality. Check it out: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/08/06/general-mills-anti-gay-protest-cheerios-fire-\\_n\\_1747736.html?utm\\_hp\\_ref=daily-brief?utm\\_source=DailyBrief&utm\\_campaign=080712&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=NewsEntry&utm\\_term=Daily%20Brief](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/08/06/general-mills-anti-gay-protest-cheerios-fire-_n_1747736.html?utm_hp_ref=daily-brief?utm_source=DailyBrief&utm_campaign=080712&utm_medium=email&utm_content=NewsEntry&utm_term=Daily%20Brief) [Note: A month after Leisner made this video of the incident, he died of a heart attack.]

Below: A great view of the Amsterdam Pride Parade on August 3-5, one of the largest in the world.

## PFLAG Goes to Oregon Coast Pride

PFLAG will be a vendor at this year's INDOOR Oregon Coast Pride at Chinook Winds in Lincoln City. We will staff tables on Saturday, Sept. 8, and Sunday, Sept. 9. We got really good response to requests for help at the table and this should be lots of fun. This year it's guaranteed to be dry and warm—after three years of wet, cold and windy at previous Iris Pride festivals! See the website at <http://www.oregoncoastpride.com/> where you can even pre-order your T-shirt for pickup at the door. Stop by the PFLAG table and buy your Marriage Equality button—get an extra for a friend!—Jeanne St. John

Oregon Coast Pride, continuing the tradition of the Iris Pride Festival, is the first such Pacific Northwest gathering in a casino. All activities will be at Chinook Winds except for Drag-U-Licious (9/6, 7:00 pm) and Dykes on Bikes & Allies (9/9, 9:00 am) at BK Mulligans (266 SE. Hwy 101, Lincoln City).

Admission is \$5 for adults who will be given \$5 in free slot play in the casino. Under the age of 21, admission is \$3 unless the person is accompanied by an adult. Jennifer Lanier will emcee the variety show at the casino (9/7, 7:00 pm) with a \$10 admission fee. Also featured are comedienne Belinda Carroll, Portland "Idle Singers", and Acoustic Minds.



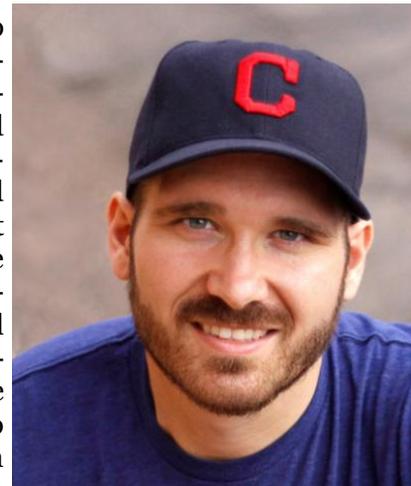
# People Who Make a Difference

President Barack Obama has nominated **Eric Fanning** as Under Secretary of the Air Force. Fanning, openly gay, is the Deputy Under Secretary and Deputy Chief Management Officer of the Department of the Navy with a strong history of positions on Capital Hill and the Pentagon. The Obama-Biden Administration has appointed more than 250 openly LGBT professionals to positions in the executive branch, more than all the known LGBT appointments of other presidential administrations combined.



President Obama also nominated **Pamela Ki Mai Chen**, an openly gay judge, to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York. She has been Assistant United States Attorney in New York for 14 years. If approved, Chen will become only the second female Chinese-American and one of a handful of out gay people to be appointed to the federal district and appellate courts. Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NW), who initially nominated Chen, called her “a trailblazer in every sense of the word.”

**Martin Cizmar** is one of the hundreds of Eagle Scouts who are returning their badges to the Boy Scouts of America because the organization refuses to change its anti-LGBT policy. And Cizmar is straight. On his Facebook page, he posted a letter to BSA leaders that included the following statements: “Though I didn't know at the time, I was acquainted with a number of gay scouts and scouters. They were all great men, loyal to the scout oath and motto and helpful to the movement. There is no fair reason they should not be allowed to participate in scouting.” He continued, “A national policy on sexuality forces good, principled people from scouting. I can only hope that someone inside the BSA has the courage to fix this policy before the organization withers into irrelevance. I don't want to be an Eagle Scout if a young man who is gay can't be one, too.”



In May, *Against Me!* singer **Tom Gabel** (left) came out as transgender, explaining that he has gender dysphoria. Gabel plans to live as a woman and take the name **Laura Jane Grace**.



More recently, *Matrix* co-creator, **Larry Wachowski** (right), officially declared herself **Lana Wachowski**.

The first major Hollywood director to publicly come out as transgender, she is promoting her new film *Cloud Atlas*.



## Amtrak Advertises with Same-Sex Families

First J.C. Penney did it; now Amtrak is following the trend to use LGBT people for advertising. In this case, Amtrak is portraying gay and lesbian families to market its standard discounted family travel program.

An online ad sent by *In-stinct* magazine to its email

subscribers showed two versions of the advertising, one with a male couple and the other with a female couple—both with their children.

Both versions included the headline: “Priceless Family Moments Are Now Affordable.” The ad promotes Amtrak’s 50%-off

campaign for children age 2 to 15 who are traveling with an adult, and directs readers to its gay travel website.

<http://www.metroweekly.com/elsewhere/2012/07/amtrak-promotes-gay-family-travel-with-groundbreaking-ads.html>

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### *Journal Rescinds the Negative Study about Same-Sex Couples’ Parenting*

*Social Science Research*, the journal that published a widely publicized study questioning parenting abilities of same sex couples, will publish another article in November explaining that the study has serious problems that should have disqualified the study from publication. An audit of the article also describes reviewers’ conflicts of interest that should have required the authors “to recuse themselves from the review process.” The study, “How Different Are the Adult Children of Parents Who Have Same-Sex Relationships?,” has been used by opponents of marriage equality to justify their homophobia.

After an examination of all the materials connected to the study as well as the identity of the reviewers, Darren E. Sherkat, a professor of sociology at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, said, “It’s bullshit.” Sherkat wrote that the peer-review system failed because of “both ideology and inattention” on the part of the reviewers. Three of the six reviewers have openly opposed marriage equality. Sherkat also stated that the reviewers had ties to the study’s author, Mark Regnerus, that influenced their reviews.

## GSA Groups at September PFLAG Meeting

Members and advisors of the five GSA groups in Lincoln County are invited to the September 12 meeting of PFLAG to talk about their plans for the new school year. Schools are planning for Bully Prevention programs and GSA groups will help with the kickoff events. Coming Out Week is in October and several GSA groups will have activities during that week. GSA students will also be preparing to do presentations at the November 3 Lincoln County Youth Leadership Conference.—Jeanne St.John



(Photo: GSA teens and advisors at April GSA conference]

## NW Regional PFLAG Conference

Jeanne St. John and Kae Bates will represent PFLAG at the NW Regional PFLAG Conference in Hamilton (MT) on Sept. 21-22. Speakers from Northwest chapters and from PFLAG National will have lots of information and updates on latest trends and suggestions to improve visibility and effectiveness. Our PFLAG chapter has been asked to bring copies of our excellent newsletter to share! Thanks, Nel!!—Jeanne St. John

## OCC PFLAG Hosts State Council

Once again, the fall meeting of the state PFLAG Council will be hosted by our chapter—on October 27. This is always a great opportunity to exchange news, information, and hugs with other PFLAG chapter leaders.—Jeanne St. John

## News Pieces

After Radford University (VA) student Jordan Addison's car was vandalized because he is gay, the manager of a local auto shop worked with ten other businesses to add a new scratch-resistant paint job, new tires, tinted windows, a new stereo and a new security system to Addison's car. Enterprise provided him with a loaner—free—while the car was being repaired. The wonderful story is available at <http://gay.americablog.com/2012/08/auto-repair-shop-fixes-vandalized-car.html>

According to new laws at Oxford University about academic dress, students will no longer be required to wear ceremonial clothing specific to their presumed gender.

Jeff Bezos, founder of amazon.com, and his wife, MacKenzie, have pledged \$2.5 million to protect Washington state's marriage equality in this fall's election.

## OCC PFLAG Calendar

**Sept. 4, 9:00 am:** OUT Lesbian Coffee—Coffee House, Newport Bayfront

**September 8-9:** PFLAG at Oregon Coast Pride, Chinook Winds, Lincoln City

**September 12, 7:00 pm:** PFLAG Meeting—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

**September 18, 9:00 am:** OUT on the Oregon Coast for Lesbians--Green Salmon, Yachats

**September 21-23:** 2012 PFLAG "Big Sky/Big Dreams" Pacific Northwest Regional Conference—Hamilton (MT)

**September 21-23:** Safe Spaces retreat—Suttle Lake Camp near Sisters (OR) [Information: [www.gocamping.org](http://www.gocamping.org); (503)802-9213; [bwills6420@charter.net](mailto:bwills6420@charter.net)]

**September 27, 5-7 pm:** OUT on the Oregon Coast Happy Hour for LGBT Folk—Cafe Mundo, Newport

**September 30-October 6:** Banned Books Week

**October:** LGBT History Month

**October 2, 9:00 am:** OUT on the Oregon Coast for Lesbians—Coffee House, Newport Bayfront

**October 3:** Banned Websites Awareness Day

**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 16, 9:00 am:** OUT on the Oregon Coast for Lesbians—Green Salmon, Yachats

**October 25, 5:00-7:00 pm:** OUT on the Oregon Coast Happy Hour for LGBT Folk—Cafe Mundo, Newport

**October 26:** Intersex Awareness Day

**October 27:** State PFLAG Council Meeting—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)

<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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