



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](mailto:pflagocc@gmail.com)  
[www.occplag.org](http://www.occplag.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

August 2012

## Take Action!

The Boy Scouts of America organization has reaffirmed a discriminatory policy that keeps "open or avowed homosexuals" from being members or leaders after promising to reconsider its policy. **Protest petition:** [https://secure3.convio.net/hrc/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=1479&autologin=true&utm\\_term=callout-button&JServSessionIdro04=81yz8or5u1.app304a](https://secure3.convio.net/hrc/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=1479&autologin=true&utm_term=callout-button&JServSessionIdro04=81yz8or5u1.app304a)

Zach Wahl, proud Eagle Scout and proud son of two lesbian moms, is protesting the secret committee that confirmed the Boy Scouts' policy of barring openly LGBT people from involvement in its organization, either as youth participants or adult leaders. **Protest petition:** [http://www.change.org/petitions/boy-scouts-stop-the-secrecy-allow-your-board-to-vote-to-end-the-ban-on-gay-scouts-and-leaders?utm\\_source=action\\_alert&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=7822&alert\\_id=ftSdkFZHOa\\_hVJaVbEFoQ](http://www.change.org/petitions/boy-scouts-stop-the-secrecy-allow-your-board-to-vote-to-end-the-ban-on-gay-scouts-and-leaders?utm_source=action_alert&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=7822&alert_id=ftSdkFZHOa_hVJaVbEFoQ)

If you think that gay men should be able to donate blood, you can sign this **petition:** <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/696/539/676/let-gay-men-give-blood/>

Students need the Student Non-Discrimination Act that gives LGBT youth the same civil rights protections guaranteed by other anti-discrimination laws. Congressional Republicans won't bring it to a vote, and Mitt Romney refuses to say whether he supports it. You can tell them that they should: **Petition site:** <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/takeaction/551/428/489/?z00m=20345091>

August 12—Fourth Annual PFLAG Picnic

Detail on Page 7

# PFLAG at LaDeDa Parade, Saturday Market



It was a suggestion from the June PFLAG Community Support meeting and it happened! PFLAG made its first appearance in the July 4 LaDeDa Parade in Yachats! We marched in rainbow gear with banners and signs, including delightful home-



made ones proclaiming, “My teacher is great—and gay”; “Open Minds, Hearts, Arms, and Community”; and “Equal rights for my family!” Over 30 people helped celebrate our PFLAG’s first parade appearance, and we were greeted with applause, cheering, thumbs up, and tears. Our contingent even included the LaDeDa Pedicab loaned by parade organizers to allow participation by physically limited PFLAG leaders! See you at next year’s LaDeDa Parade—a very welcoming event!

Thanks to many volunteers, PFLAG has been a visible rainbow presence at Newport’s Saturday Market on the second Saturday of each month beginning last May. We share the non-profit space at the east end of the Naterlin building where we provide information, materials, balloons for children, and conversation about LGBT concerns, events, and opportunities in Lincoln County. This summer we’ve added an official Believe Out Loud Welcoming Churches banner and materials provided by the six officially welcoming churches in the county. Each month we meet dozens of people unfamiliar with PFLAG and re-connect with dozens of old friends and PFLAG supporters. We’re especially grateful for the new table staffers from Central Coast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship who have become regular volunteers—and who have joined Toledo United Methodist and St. Luke/St. Stephen Episcopal volunteers. It’s not too late to volunteer for August and October Saturday Market shifts—it’s fun!

*[Photographs: Top: Getting ready for parade; top right: marching with banner in parade; bottom left: volunteer Debbie Spicer staffing Welcoming Churches table at 7/14 Newport Saturday Market; bottom right: Ginger Gouveia and Tara & Aurora Roberts staffing PFLAG table at 7/14 Newport Saturday Market]*



After this image, with the caption “Proudly Support Love!,” was posted on the official Oreo Facebook page, thousands of positive comments started rolling in. Oreos celebrated their 100th anniversary in March. **Site to thank Nabisco:** <http://www.change.org/petitions/make-the-gay-oreo-a-real-oreo>

[Ed. note: I particularly like this image because my partner and I celebrated our 43rd anniversary on this day, and my partner loves Oreo cookies!]

# Politics on Our Side

The Union-Scioto school board (OH) has settled a legal case in which a student was beaten by another student in class. A video of the occurrence has gone across the Internet during the past nine months. The settlement was \$20,000 in damages, \$10,000 for medical and counseling expenses, and \$5,000 to reimburse the student, Zach, and his mother for legal fees. The school will also develop a policy to address anti-LGBT behavior and provide staff training for anti-LGBT harassment cases. The school does not accept charges of wrongdoing.

Boston's mayor, Thomas Menino, has vowed to **keep the anti-gay Chick-fil-A from opening a restaurant in Boston.** The company's president, S. Truett Cathy, has stated that legalizing same sex marriage is "inviting God's judgment on our nation." [Ed. note: The mayor may not be able to do this legally, but we appreciate his stand on the issue.]

"We, the Republicans of the District of Columbia support the belief that all individuals, without regard to sexual orientation, are entitled to full and equal protection under the laws and the Constitution and that everyone has the right to be treated with dignity and respect." With this language the Washington D.C. Republican Committee has become the **first GOP state party to have LGBT-inclusive language in its platform.**

**Young County Judge John Bullock (Texas) refused an application from two lesbians to have a commitment ceremony on public property. County commissioners, however, overturned his decision with a 4-1 vote** as well as two motions from the judge to give him power to restrict use of county-owned property and to require that Fort Belknap, where the couple wanted to hold their service, be reserved only for "ceremonies involving weddings, marriages, or any other nuptial activity."

California State Senator Mark Leno has proposed a **bill to allow more than two people to be considered legal parents of a child.** He is sponsoring this bill to give judges more flexibility in parent-child relationships and its custody, visitation, and child support. The measure doesn't expand the current definition of what qualifies as a "parent."

**In Maine, 57 percent of the voting population support marriage equality with just 35 percent in opposition.** The state votes on marriage equality in November.

**The Pentagon gave military members permission to wear their uniforms in the San Diego Pride Parade last month.** This ruling was a one-time deal without permission for any other pride parade.

Denmark's Parliament now permits same-sex couples to have full wedding ceremonies in church. The country approved marriage equality 15 years ago, but the couples could only have short blessing ceremonies at the end of Lutheran church services. **Denmark is one of 11 countries with legalized marriage equality;** Scotland and France are also considering legalizing this.

**France has unanimously voted to ban discrimination against transgender people.**

**The Ukrainian parliament cancelled a scheduled vote on legislation that would prevent any Ukrainian citizen from talking favorably about gays or lesbians.**

Thomson Reuters News Agency, with almost 8,000 employees in Minnesota, has come out against Minnesota's proposed constitutional ban on same-sex marriage. Minnesota Vikings punter Chris Kluwe also declared the proposed constitutional amendment to ban marriage equality is "anti-American" and "anti-freedom."



Carletha Cole, administrative assistant to Florida's lieutenant governor, has claimed that she saw a sexual encounter between Lt. Governor Jennifer Carroll (left) and Carroll's travel aide, Beatriz Ramos.

In denying the accusation, Carroll has a unique defense: she claims that she doesn't look like a lesbian. "Black women that look like me don't engage in relationships like that." Carroll's policies oppose LGBT rights.

### ***Asteroid Named for Kameny***

Canadian amateur astronomer Gary Billings has named minor planet 40463, an asteroid that orbits between Mars and Jupiter, for gay rights pioneer Frank Kameny.

Billings did so as a tribute to the activist and the LGBTQ community.

Kameny, who died last year at the age of 86, was an astronomer with the U.S. Army map service in the 1950s before he was fired because he was gay.

### ***Episcopalians Approve Same-Sex Ceremonies***

The Episcopal Church will allow its priests to bless same-sex couples, starting on December 2, the first Sunday of Advent. This makes the church the biggest in the United States to endorse this liturgy.

The church has also decided to ordain transgender ministers.

Their decision came in the same month that the Presbyterian Church voted 338-308 against performing same-sex ceremonies. One ruling elder said that she loved the homosexual, but she "loved Jesus more."

### ***Google Campaigns for Global Same-Sex Rights***

Google has started a new gay rights campaign in countries with anti-homosexual laws in its "Legalize Love" program. The company will focus on developing alliances with local companies and supporting grassroots organizing efforts.

Openly lesbian and mother of twins, Wanda Sykes, has been hired by Procter & Gamble to be the spokesperson for "Gain Scent Matchmaker" and Gain detergents.

## **Sally Ride 'Comes Out'**

The first American woman in space was a lesbian. Sally Ride, who died last month from pancreatic cancer, wrote in her obituary that she was survived by her partner of 27 years, Tam O'Shaugnessy. In discussing Ride's to openly define her relationships with O'Shaugnessy, Ride's sister Bear Ride said, "I hope it makes it easier for kids growing up gay that they know that another one of their heroes was like them." Ride's partner will receive no federal benefits because the Defense of Marriage Act prevented them from being married.

Same-sex newlyweds can now use one of the **two icons** on the right if they change their relationship status to "**Married**" on Facebook. The change may have been prompted by the marriage of Facebook co-founder Chris Hughes, who recently wed Sean Eldridge.



***The Perks of Being a Wallflower*** is an upcoming American adaptation of the novel by the same name about a boy whose close friend is struggling with a gay relationship with a closeted football player. Directed by the novel's author, Stephen Chbosky, the film is scheduled to be released on September 14, 2012.

**China has just released the sixth edition of the Contemporary Chinese Dictionary without the word tongzhi, the commonly used word for gay.** Ding Xueliang, a social sciences professor from Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, said that the term also means "comrade" and that it was initiated for gay people in Hong Kong and Taiwan to ridicule the mainland's communist language. One of the dictionary's compilers, Jiang Lansheng, said that it was omitted because "we don't want to promote these things." The dictionary does include tongxinglian which literally means "same-sex love."



# People Who Make a Difference



Representative **Ileana Ros-Lehtinen** of Florida is the first sitting Republican member of Congress to unequivocally support marriage equality. She has co-sponsored the Respect for Marriage Act to repeal DOMA, which bans federal marriage equality and keeps same-sex couples from federally governed rights and benefits associated with marriage. Ros-Lehtinen is also the only House Republican to sign a letter petitioning the IRS to re-examine tax rules that cost same-sex couples more because they are prevented from filing jointly.



Soccer midfielder **Megan Rapinoe** celebrated her 27th birthday and her first day out of the closet in early July. One of the most famous women's soccer players in the world, Rapinoe is getting ready for the Olympics. She has been dating her partner, Australian player Sarah Walsh, for three years. In an interview with *Out* magazine, she said, "I feel like sports in general are still homophobic, in the sense that not a lot of people are out. I feel everyone is really craving [for] people to come out. People want—they need—to see that there are people like me playing soccer for the good ol' U.S. of A." Rapinoe was a University of Portland star midfielder and now plays for the Seattle Sounders Women.

At the age of 13, **Jonathan Krohn** was the wonder child of the far right when he gave a rallying cry for conservatism at 2009's Conservative Political Action Conference. He went on to write a book, *Defining Conservatism*, that has been quoted by Newt Gingrich. At 17, he realized how wrong he was and stopped being a social conservative. Supporting marriage equality and universal health care, Krohn attributes his transition to education.



Two celebrities who declared that they are gay during the past month are **Anderson Cooper** (left) and **Frank Ocean**. Son of heiress Gloria Vanderbilt, Cooper is the anchor of the CNN news show that bears his name. Ocean, 24, has explained that the "she" in some of the love songs on the album *Channel Orange*, released on July 17, was actually a "he." Although many people have believed Cooper is gay, Ocean's revelation came as a surprise to almost everyone.



## Hate-Group Hijacks Engagement Photograph



The Southern Poverty Law Center has sent a cease and desist letter to a Falls Church (VA) hate group because the organization doctored an engagement photo of two men to oppose the reelection of Colorado State Senator Jean White. The senator had supported the state's civil union bill.

Brian Edwards and Tom Privitere did not know how their photograph had been used until a friend told them.

*Left: Original engagement photograph*

## *Boy Scouts Have a Lot to Learn from the Girl Scouts*

Both the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts organizations go back over a century, but they have taken different paths during that time. Despite pleas from hundreds of thousands of people, a secret 11-member committee has recommended that the Boy Scouts of America continue their discrimination against LGBT youth and adult participation in the organization.

Jennifer Tyrell, an Ohio lesbian and mom barred in April from leading her son's Cub Scout pack, plans to continue her fight to be reinstated.

The BSA has always used its emphasis on Christianity to keep many young people and adults from participating in the organization. A few months ago, spokesperson Deron Smith said, "No one can reach their full potential without belief in a higher power." The Boy Scouts is guided by the Southern Baptist Convention, the Roman Catholic Church, and the Mormon Church, particularly the last religion. Although only 1.4 percent of the people in the United States belong to the Mormon faith, Mormons have the largest number of members and provide a huge financial support.

The policy of the Girl Scouts of America is not to discriminate "on any basis" and not advocate for any gender orientation or identity. Girls in GSA are permitted to serve any higher being or none at all, substituting any word for God in the official oath. A year ago, the Girl Scouts decided to allow a seven-year-old transgender girl to join, an action that resulted in a right-wing "cookie boycott."

The 59 million women who have participated in GSA are to be commended for their openness that has evolved since the early twentieth-century. The Boy Scouts would do well to follow Scouts for Equality, a group of Eagle Scouts working to erase the bigotry and discrimination of the Boy Scouts.

## Women Establish Fundraiser to Support Pro-Lesbian Candidates

LPAC, a new progressive superpac to fund pro-lesbian candidates, has an impressive collection of female founders including Billie Jean King, Jane Lynch, Chicago Cubs co-owner Laura Ricketts, and LGBT leader Urvashi Vaid. Ricketts is the only Democrat in the family headed by billionaire Joe Ricketts who at one time planned a series of anti-Obama ads featuring the president's connection with the controversial pastor Jeremiah Wright.

Although LPAC has not determined a final list of beneficiaries, candidates like Rep. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) who is running for her state's senate position and campaigns to defeat ballot measures to ban marriage equality will surely be included.

## **PFLAG Family Picnic on August 12!**

Don't miss the FOURTH Annual PFLAG Family Picnic at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, August 12 at Fisherman's Park near the Old Lighthouse near Yaquina Bay Bridge. We'll be there with pink and purple tablecloths and games for the kids. Bring food and drink to share—we'll have plenty of paper plates, utensils, napkins, water, and iced tea. Invite friends and family, members of welcoming churches, and those who are new to PFLAG—it's a great way to be introduced to our Pfun PFLAG PFamily!!

## **PFLAG NEEDS YOU At Oregon Coast Pride!!**

PFLAG will be a vendor at this year's INDOOR Oregon Coast Pride at Chinook Winds in Lincoln City. We will be staffing tables on Saturday, Sept. 8, and Sunday, Sept. 9, and need lots of help!

Please call Jeanne at 541-265-7194 to sign up for a shift. This should be lots of fun and is guaranteed to be dry and warm—after three years of wet, cold & 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 in September.

## **Fast-Food Chains, Anti-LGBT; Chick-fil-A Loses Henson Toys**

CEOs of the following five food chains support right-wing politics and oppose LGBT rights: Chick-fil-A; Carl's Jr.; Domino's Pizza; White Castle; and Waffle House. Jim Henson's Creature Shop, which has made muppets in the past, will no longer provide giveaway toys for Chick-Fil-A. The Creature Shop has donated the payment from Chick-fil-A to GLAAD (the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation).

## **OCC PFLAG Calendar**

**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 Potluck Picnic at Yaquina Bay State/Fishermen's Park near Newport Bridge

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

**August 30, 5:00-7:00 pm:** OUT on the Oregon Coast Happy Hour for LGBT Folk—Café Mundo, Newport

**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:** 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

**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 [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.

---

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

**Social LGBT Oregon Coast Group:**

[www.outoregoncoast.com](http://www.outoregoncoast.com)

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

## 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**