



Jeanne St.John/  
Brent Buford, Co-Chairs  
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.occflag.org](http://www.occflag.org)

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

February 2013

## Take Action!

Mark Krolikowski, a teacher of social studies, music, and human sexuality at St. Francis Prep in Queens (NY), has been fired because she is transgender. When she told her principal that she wanted to come to work as a woman, the principal told her that she was “worse than gay” and fired her. Here’s how you can tell the principal that he is wrong. [http://www.change.org/petitions/st-francis-preparatory-high-school-formally-apologize-to-mark-krolikowski-for-sexual-discrimination?utm\\_source=share\\_petition&utm\\_medium=url\\_share&utm\\_campaign=url\\_share\\_before\\_sign](http://www.change.org/petitions/st-francis-preparatory-high-school-formally-apologize-to-mark-krolikowski-for-sexual-discrimination?utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=url_share&utm_campaign=url_share_before_sign)

A White House petition begins: “We call on President Obama to use his executive authority now to show that the federal gov’t treats lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people with dignity & respect by issuing executive orders, or amending existing ones, that set a gov’t-wide precedent for equality.” You can sign this petition by going to the website below. The deadline is February 7 to gain 25,000 signatures. [https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/petition/enact-equality-now-use-executive-and-moral-authority-set-government-wide-precedent-lgbt-equality/J9XVqK16?utm\\_source=wh.gov&utm\\_medium=shorturl&utm\\_campaign=shorturl](https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/petition/enact-equality-now-use-executive-and-moral-authority-set-government-wide-precedent-lgbt-equality/J9XVqK16?utm_source=wh.gov&utm_medium=shorturl&utm_campaign=shorturl)

**Boy Scouts of America consider changing its anti-LGBT policy, but this might not be a real change. More at**

<http://hulshofschmidt.wordpress.com/2013/01/30/hooray-for-the-boy-scouts-not-so-fast/>

# GAY 101 Starts the PFLAG Year

The new Gay 101 Workshop was presented at the year's first PFLAG meeting so attendees would be among the first in the community to be LGBT-Aware! The meeting also included the chapter's Annual Meeting where the current officers were re-elected: Co-Chairs Brent Burford and Jeanne St. John; Secretary Deb Lyman; and Treasurer Jill Baker. The officers presented a calendar of meeting topics and special events for the year and encouraged everyone to invite friends with interest in those topics.

## Gay 101 Workshops Are Coming to a Meeting Near You!

A team of PFLAG members participated in a two-hour training on January 18 preparing them to lead the 30-minute workshops for church, community, health provider, and school groups. We have a great team of presenters ready to speak out!



*Left: PFLAG parents Claire Smith, Doug Yunker & Susan Huntington; right: Brent Burford (PFLAG Co-Chair & PFLAG Parent), Ginger Gouveia (Straight Ally & Activist), and Jordan Ostrum, Newport High GSA President*



*Left: Terri Woodd, Straight Ally and Presentation Skills Trainer; Center: Jeanne St. John, PFLAG Co-Chair, and Debbie Spicer, PFLAG Family Member and Straight Ally; right: Peggy & Cindy Hughes, Florence PFLAG President & Vice President, and Deb Lyman, PFLAG Parent & Chapter Secretary*

*"We, the people, declare today that the most evident of truths – that all of us are created equal – is the star that guides us still; just as it guided our forebears through Seneca Falls, and Selma, and Stonewall... Our journey is not complete until our gay brothers and sisters are treated like anyone else under the law – for if we are truly created equal, then surely the love we commit to one another must be equal as well. —President Barack Obama, in his second inauguration speech*

# Politics on Our Side

In a story of “one small town at a time,” the village of Vicco, Kentucky—population 334—approved the state's first lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) anti-discrimination Fairness ordinance in a decade. The mayor, fifth-generation Johnny Cummings, is **also openly gay** in this socially, religiously and politically conservative region of Appalachia.

Regulators in Oregon and California have directed health insurance companies to **stop denying coverage** for transgender patients because of their gender identity. Although not requiring coverage of specific medical treatments, the state mandated that insurance companies must pay for a transgender person's hormone therapy, breast reduction, cancer screening or any other procedure deemed medically necessary if they cover it for patients who aren't transgender.

According to Vicki Jackson, a Harvard Law School professor appointed by the Supreme Court, the U.S. **House does not have the authority** to argue the Defense of Marriage Act before SCOTUS. Also the court lacks the jurisdiction to hear the case. More information at <http://www.buzzfeed.com/chrisgeidner/supreme-court-appointed-lawyer-argues-doma-case-ca>

**Only 37 percent** of people polled in the United States think that homosexuality is a sin, compared to 44 percent a year earlier.

The Washington National Cathedral, traditionally used for presidents' prayer services and national tragedies' memorial services, will now **hold weddings for same-sex couples**.

Nearly 300 **mayors** from across the country have joined the campaign for marriage equality.

After a court settlement, more than 180 gay and lesbian former military service members discharged because of their homosexuality will **receive the rest of their severance pay**.

Legislation to guarantee that people cannot be excluded from federal jury service because of their sexual orientation or gender identity has been proposed by Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA) H.R. 312 is supported by 15 other House members.

The **first transgender wedding** in Israel was celebrated last month.

Until this year all transgender persons who wanted to change their gender were required to be sterilized. On December 19, the Stockholm Administrative Court of Appeal **overturned this law**, declaring it unconstitutional.

The European Court of Human Rights on Tuesday ruled **religious beliefs cannot justify discrimination** against same-sex couples.

## Gays, Lesbians Included in 2013 Inauguration

In addition to President Obama's inclusion of Stonewall and equality for “our gay brothers and sisters” in his inauguration speech, the selected poet, Richard Blanco, is openly gay. His poem repeated references to inclusiveness and oneness, saying that Americans are “arrayed like rainbows.” Minutes later, Rev. Dr. Luis Leon, pastor of D.C.'s St. John's Episcopal Church at Lafayette Square, mentioned gays in his closing prayer. Also 32 LGBT bands marched in the parade.



## Welcoming Churches Update

PFLAG Co-Chair Brent Burford has already been successful in raising the number of Welcoming Congregations on the Oregon Coast. Our chapter's web page now includes much more information about welcoming churches and covers the entire Oregon Coast which now boasts 17 Welcoming Churches. We're delighted to be able to add Newport's First Presbyterian Church to this list!

Brent is contacting clergy and members of other churches to determine if they are ready to consider this step in their development as a congregation. If your church or faith community is not currently identified as a Welcoming Congregation and you would like more information about the process involved, please contact Brent (541-764-6876 or

Brent.Burford@gmail.com

## GOP May Not Oppose Marriage Equality

In a poll of 99 GOP "insiders," only 11 percent want to oppose same-sex marriage. As one of them said, "There is a conservative case in favor of gay marriage that can easily be made around the issues of smaller government and lower taxes."

Another 48 percent just want to avoid it: "Government doesn't need to be in every facet of our lives. Politically, we should probably avoid the issue so as not to alienate the base, but Ted Olson is right.... This is a basic right, and if forced to a discussion, we should support it."

## Gay 101 Workshops Expanding

The purpose of "Gay 101: (What You Always Wanted to Know But Didn't Know Who to Ask) is to provide current information to schools, churches, service clubs, healthcare providers, and other community organizations. We hope that these workshops will increase knowledge and support for LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender) people in Lincoln County. The workshop includes the following:

- Basic knowledge about LGBT history and issues
- Four dimensions of human sexuality;
- Current preferred LGBT terminology and definitions;
- Research on bullying and prevention efforts;
- LGBT in the context of other minority groups;
- Materials specific to your group's special interests, i.e. schools, churches, community organizations, healthcare, etc.

Lack of awareness of LGBT issues and concerns is widespread and has received little or no attention other than for hot-button issues. We're hoping to make a difference by bringing this 30-minute awareness workshop to hundreds of Lincoln County residents. If your club or organization would like to schedule a presentation, please contact Jeanne at 541-265-7194 or email [pflagocc@gmail.com](mailto:pflagocc@gmail.com)—Jeanne St.John

## Public Tax Money in Georgia Supports Anti-Gay School Policies

In Georgia, state tax money is being used to discriminate against LGBT students because of the state tax credit program. Taxes go to private school scholarships at institutions that prohibit gay, lesbian, and bisexual students to attend.

For example, the 400 students at a private school in Woodstock must adhere to a policy that states, "homosexual behavior, whether an 'immoral act' or 'identifying statement,' is incompatible with enrollment at Cherokee Christian Schools and is a basis for dismissal."

Also at the 800-student Providence Christian Academy 20 miles north of Atlanta, a student who is gay, lesbian, or bisexual or supports people who are could be kicked out.

At least 115 religious-based Georgia schools have severe anti-gay policies.

# People Who Make a Difference

**Tracy Dice** (right), who may be the first widow in a same-sex military couple, shows another side of pain resulting from the failure of the federal government to legalize marriage equality. Her wife, fellow National Guard member Donna Rae Johnson, died in Afghanistan, but Dice found out only after her in-laws called to tell her that they had been notified. She was allowed to escort Johnson's body from Dover Air Force Base in Delaware only because of her mother-in-law's intervention.

**Sandra Johnson** said, "I don't know what is taboo and what is not. I just know what is right." Dice also said, "It's a tragedy that a soldier could fall and a spouse not be supported." Dice and Johnson were legally married in Washington, D.C. shortly after the "don't ask, don't tell" ban was lifted in September 2011. Over 1,000 people attended Johnson's funeral on October 13 in Raeford, NC, a town of under 5,000 population. Supporters formed a human wall to obscure the mourners' view of protesters from the hate group, Westboro Baptist Church. **Donna Rae Johnson** (right) was 29 when she and two other soldiers were killed on October 1, 2012, by a Taliban suicide bomber who struck as the soldiers were on patrol in an outdoor market in Khost, Afghanistan. A total of 14 people, including an Afghan translator and 4 Afghan police officers, were killed in the attack.



"My son is a homosexual, and I love him." This is the statement that led **Jeanne Manford** to found PFLAG. She died on January 8 at the age of 92. No other eulogy can match the one given by Rachel Maddow commemorating Manford's amazing accomplishments. [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/01/12/rachel-maddow-pflag-jeanne-manford\\_n\\_2463165.html?ir=Gay+Voices](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/01/12/rachel-maddow-pflag-jeanne-manford_n_2463165.html?ir=Gay+Voices) NPR also published an extensive piece about her history, including President Obama's commentary about her at his groundbreaking HRC speech in 2009. <http://m.npr.org/news/front/169223070>



**Laura Calvo** is the first transgender person to be elected to the Democratic National Committee. The governing body consists of more than 200 members; it oversees the national Democratic party operations and plans for the presidential nominating conventions. Calvo has been active in the state Democratic Party since 2006 and is its treasurer. **Frank Dixon** may become the first openly gay chair of the Oregon Democratic Party.



## **No Name-Calling Week Proclamation for January 21-25**

Lincoln County's Board of Commissioners proclaimed Jan. 21-25 as No Name-Calling Week. Sponsored by PFLAG (Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians & Gays), this annual event is aimed at ending name-calling of all kinds and providing schools with the tools and inspiration to launch an on-going dialogue about ways to eliminate bullying in their communities. Newport High has scheduled its No Name Calling activities for the week of Feb.18-22.

Commissioners were informed about the increased risk faced by LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender) students. In the Proclamations of No Name-Calling Week, it was noted that students who are bullied for any reason often experience both physical and mental health problems, lower grades, attendance problems, and increased risk of suicide. The benefits of bully prevention efforts include higher school attendance and grade point averages, and success in pursuing higher education. Commissioners also received materials from the Gay 101 workshop that's being offered countywide.

The Oregon Central Coast chapter of PFLAG is partnering with the county's five GSA (Gay/Straight Alliance) clubs to promote positive interactions and to reduce bullying and harassment.

Coordinated by GLSEN (Gay/Lesbian/Straight Education Network) in collaboration with over 40 national education organizational partners, No Name-Calling Week is an annual week of educational activities celebrated during the last week of January. It is aimed at ending name-calling of all kinds and providing schools with the tools and inspiration to launch an on-going dialogue about ways to eliminate bullying in their communities.—  
Jeanne St.John

### **GSA Reps Attend Youth Leadership Academy**

Members of GSA groups were among the teen leaders who attended the January 26 event sponsored by the new Lincoln County Youth Leadership Academy. Growing out of the very successful November 3 conference, the LCYL Academy will offer one more day-long workshop this school year for teen leaders with a focus on communication, team leadership, bully prevention, and drug and alcohol abuse prevention. PFLAG is a partner with PAADA (Partnership Against Alcohol, & Drug Abuse) and Lincoln Community Dispute Resolution in planning and presenting these conferences.—Jeanne St.John

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**The Rainbow Project 2013 LGBT Books for Youth:** <http://glbtrt.ala.org/rainbowbooks/>

### **Washington State Judge Doesn't Want to Marry Same-Sex Couples**

Thurston County Superior Court Judge Gary Tabor has told fellow judges and his staff that he doesn't wish to perform same-sex marriages because of his religious feelings. The graduate of Oklahoma Christian College evidently believes that he can put his personal feelings about the requirement that a judge be impartial. In addition to Washington state laws against discrimination, judges are subject to the code of judicial conduct requiring them to discharge their duties without bias or prejudice. Those same canons bar judges from joining organizations with invidious and discriminatory practices, such as the Ku Klux Klan, or engaging in outside activities that cast doubt on their ability to be impartial.

Washington state law does not mandate that judges perform weddings. It is a discretionary function, not a judicial duty. Gay couples have been turned away in Maine because the official did not want to marry them, and a New York judge asked if it was acceptable to refuse to marry same-sex couples. Tabor, the Thurston County judge, said his position was no indication of how he would rule on LGBT issues.

## February 13 PFLAG Meeting

A special Marriage Equality Forum will be held at Newport Library at from 7:00-8:30 pm. Field staff from Basic Rights Oregon will bring the latest news about plans for bringing marriage equality to Oregon. The public is invited to attend this special meeting.

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## Eugene Provides Diverse Events For LGBTQ Community

Q: A Queer Resource for Social Change is presenting a reading of Dustin Lance Black's **new play 8**, chronicling the trial that challenged California's Proposition 8. February 10 at 7:00 pm in the new Oregon Contemporary Theatre at the Lord/Leebrick Playhouse, 194 W. Broadway, Eugene.

LIPZ DANCES Lipz Dances is presenting the annual Soromundi (Lesbian Chorus of Eugene) **fund-raiser** and Valentine's party Saturday, February 9th, 7-11 pm at Kowloon's "The City Nightclub," 2222 MLK Jr. Blvd., Eugene; \$8.00, students with ID \$5; over 21.

Network Charter School is offering a **benefit presentation** of *Second Glance, Looking Beyond Gender Misconceptions* at Churchill High School Auditorium on February 19 and 20. Written, performed and directed by local teens, this production addresses transgender issues. Before the performance is a silent auction.

Proceeds from this performance will support the work of Youth for the Education and Prevention of Sexual Assault (YEPSA), the NCS service organization.

Contact Denise Velasco (541-344-1229) for more information.

## OCC PFLAG Calendar

**February 5, 9:00 am:** OUT Lesbian Coffee—Coffee House, Newport Bayfront

**February 9, 7:00 pm:** Soromundi Fundraiser—222 MLK Jr. Blvd., Eugene

**February 10, 7:00 pm:** 8—Lord/Leebrick Playhouse, 194 W. Broadway, Eugene

**February 12:** National Freedom to Marry Day

**February 13, 7:00 pm:** PFLAG Marriage Equality Forum—Newport Public Library, Nye & Olive St., Newport

**February 17, 7:00 pm:** Annual Her HRC Dance Party—Lola's Room, 1332 W. Burnside, Portland

**February 19, 9:00 am:** OUT on the Oregon Coast for Lesbians--Green Salmon, Yachats

**February 19 & 20, 7:00 pm:** *Second Glance, Looking Beyond Gender Misconceptions*—Churchill High School Auditorium

**March 5, 9:00 am:** OUT Lesbian Coffee—Coffee House, Newport Bayfront

**March 13, 7:00 pm:** PFLAG Meeting—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

**March 19, 9:00 am:** OUT on the Oregon Coast for Lesbians--Green Salmon, Yachats

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**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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**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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Oregon Central Coast PFLAG**  
**P.O. Box 2172**  
**Newport, Oregon 97365**