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Parents, Families and  
Friends of Lesbians and  
Gays promotes the  
health and well- being  
of gay, lesbian, bisexu-  
al, and trans-gendered  
persons, their families,  
and their friends  
through

SUPPORT to cope with  
an adverse society

EDUCATION to en-  
lighten an ill-informed  
public

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

# Oregon Central Coast Chapter

July 2013

## Take Action!

The New Jersey Assembly has passed a ban on ex-gay therapy for youth by a vote of 56-14, and it is expected that the Senate will also vote it down. Jacob Rudolph is asking your support in **persuading Gov. Chris Christie to sign the bill.** <https://www.change.org/petitions/gov-chris-christie-protect-new-jersey-kids-from-dangerous-anti-gay-conversion-therapy>

When All Out asked Apple and Google to remove an app called "Setting Captives Free" that purports to release people from the "bondage of homosexuality," Apple complied. Google thus far refuses. You can join the people **petitioning Google to stop selling this app:** <https://www.allout.org/en/actions/gaycureapp>

Grace University in Omaha (NE) expelled Danielle Powell for being a lesbian just before she graduated and told her that she had to pay them over \$6,000 before they would forward her transcripts to other schools. Her partner, Michelle Rogers, asks for your help in **changing the school's actions.** <https://www.change.org/petitions/grace-university-don-t-force-my-wife-to-pay-back-college-scholarships-because-she-s-gay>

## U.S. Supreme Court Overturns DOMA; Declares Federal Statute to be "Invalid," Rules Prop 8 Opponents Lack Standing

### Information

<http://nelsnewday.wordpress.com/2013/06/26/scot-us-awards-lgbt-rights-davis-fights-for-womens-rights/>

<http://nelsnewday.wordpress.com/2013/06/30/christians-respond-to-scotus-doma-ruling/>

# PFLAG Chairs Respond to SCOTUS Rulings

We are writing about the two decisions announced Wednesday by the U.S. Supreme Court on the issue of marriage. (See page 1 for further information about these.)

These cases are a victory for loving, married couples and their families -- and for equal justice under the law. The Supreme Court affirmed that all loving and committed couples who marry deserve equal legal respect and treatment. Today the justices ruled on the right side of history.

Our country is on a journey of understanding. As more people talk to gay and lesbian friends and family about why marriage matters, they're coming to realize that this is not a political issue. This is about encouraging long term loving and committed relationships.

There is a groundswell of momentum. Our neighboring state Washington and other states recently have extended the freedom to marry to every loving and committed couple. A number of foreign countries have done likewise. Polls show a growing majority believe all loving and committed couples should have the freedom to marry. And this ruling hopefully brings us one step closer to winning the freedom to marry in Oregon.

Marriage matters because it strengthens families. Marriage says "we are family" in a way that no other word does and is a fundamental freedom. It is as basic as the Golden Rule: treating others as one would want to be treated includes allowing marriage for gay and lesbian couples who are truly committed to each other. We are hopeful that Oregon will be the first state to rescind a constitutional amendment limiting the freedom to marry.

Even though these decisions are significant, they also underscore the work still to be done here in Oregon. We must continue our campaign to make marriage legal for all couples in Oregon, regardless of gender. One of the cases announced, *United States v. Windsor*, (the DOMA case), holds that if a couple is legally married under state law, they are also married for federal purposes. The implications are significant: a couple legally married under state law (regardless of gender) would be able to file joint tax returns, receive social security spousal benefits, receive the spousal deduction under the estate tax laws, etc. But such equality under federal law cannot be available for same-sex couples in Oregon until we change the state constitutional provision limiting the freedom to marry.

We are the co-chairs of the Oregon Central Coast PFLAG (Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians and Gays)

Jeanne St. John  
Brent Burford

[Below: Jubilant people attend the DOMA Decision Celebration in Portland. Photo by Ann Hubbard]



PFLAG describes some of the work required to take more LGBT people from partial legal protection to full equality and acceptance:

- ◆ There are still 37 states where our LGBT loved ones aren't able to legally marry the person they love...
- ◆ In 33 states people can still be fired from jobs for being LGBT...
- ◆ The majority of states lack protections for--or openly discriminate against--LGBT parents, whether foster, adoptive, step, or biological...
- ◆ There is still no comprehensive, enumerated federal safe schools legislation...

# Politics on Our Side

**Tucson (AZ):** Following Bisbee, this city has become the second city in the state legalizing same-sex domestic partnerships and civil unions.

**Oregon:** Transgender people in the state are no longer required to show proof of surgery in order to change their birth certificates to accurately reflect their gender, according to a new law signed by Gov. John Kitzhaber in mid-June. In addition, **Multnomah County** has become one of the first in the country to require single-occupancy, gender-neutral bathrooms in all new construction projects for the county. **Philadelphia (PA)** passed legislation requiring that new or renovated city-owned buildings include gender-neutral bathrooms in addition to traditional men's and women's restrooms.

**Arizona:** Erin Simpson, a retired Tucson attorney and chair of the state Log Cabin Republicans, and Warren Meyer, a Phoenix business man and Libertarian blogger, have filed paperwork to put a measure to legalize marriage equality on the 2014 ballot. If it passes, it would overturn the state amendment that voters passed in 2008. Supporters need 259,213 valid signatures by July 3, 2014, to qualify. (Even in Arizona!)



**Colorado:** First-grader Coy Mathis is now allowed to use the girls' restroom at her Colorado school, thanks to the Colorado Rights Division. Born male, Coy self-identifies female.

**Delaware:** Gov. Jack Markell signed legislation outlawing discrimination based on a gender identity, protecting transgender Delawareans in housing, insurance, employment, and public accommodations.

**United States:** The Social Security Administration (SSA) has joined all other government agencies except the military in changing its policy for transgender people. They will no longer be forced to have surgery for documents to record the new gender.

**United States:** The Employment Discrimination Act (ENDA) has over 50 percent sponsorship in the Senate with 49 Democrats and two GOP senators, Mark Kirk (IL) and Susan Collins (ME). They hope to have a markup in committee after the July 4th recess. Democrats who have not yet signed on as co-sponsors are Tim Johnson (SD), Joe Manchin (WV), Bill Nelson (FL), Mark Pryor (AR) and Jay Rockefeller (WV).

**United States:** President Obama has nominated two gays as U.S. ambassadors: former HBO executive James Costos to Spain and former Obama fundraiser Rufus Gifford to Denmark. Denmark and Spain are among the 13 countries to legalize marriage equality. If they are approved, the two will bring the total number of gay ambassadors to six. The *Washington Post* reported that the president will name two more openly gay ambassadors in the coming weeks, hedge fund manager James "Wally" Brewster and former Office of Personnel Management director John Berry.

**United States:** The Senate has unanimously passed the HIV Organ Policy Equity Act (HOPE Act) that would allow a review process to determine if transplants between HIV-positive donors and positive recipients are safe and effective. The bill now goes to the House for consideration.

**United States:** The U.S. Peace Corps will begin accepting applications from same-sex domestic partners who want to serve together as volunteers overseas.

## Safe Spaces Retreat

Registration is open for enrolling at the three day event designed to finding solidarity and empathy with people of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. More information about the camp on September 20-22 at <http://gocamping.org/camps-retreats/detail/safe-spaces-retreat>

## Transgender Meeting, Eugene

Transponder in Eugene has a monthly gathering for trans-identified and questioning people. If you are interested in attending, you can as for info: (541)914-1559 or [transponder.together@gmail.com](mailto:transponder.together@gmail.com).

## Media News

HBO debuted *The Out List*, a series of LGBT portraits shared by “out” trailblazers. The first showing was June 27, but HBO is sure to rerun this several times.

For the first time, the Disney Channel will present, in 2014, a show with lesbian parents. In *Good Luck Charlie*, the main character will have a playdate with a family with two mothers.

The French drama *Blue is the Warmest Color*, about the love of a 15-year-old girl for a woman, has won the prestigious Palme d'Or at Cannes.

## The Best Picture This Month!

One of photographer Ann Hubbard's friends celebrates the Portland Pride Parade is a special “gay way”:



## International LGBT News

More good news from Europe:

**European Union:** The EU Council has directed its diplomats about the world to defend the rights of LGBTI people through the elimination of discriminatory laws and policies; the promotion of non-discrimination at work, in schools, and in healthcare; combatting state and individual violence against LGBTI persons; and the support and protection of human rights defenders.

**Germany:** Same-sex couples may now file their taxes jointly. Unions in this country are generally considered equivalent to marriage.

**Italy:** For the first time, an Italian minister attended gay pride festivities, joining the tens of thousands of celebrants. Josefa Idem said she came to “to bring a concrete signal of the government’s attention to the requests from society which cannot be silenced.” She supports an amendment to an existing hate crimes law to include opposition to homophobic discrimination.

Thank to Sen. Jeff Merkley for joining hundreds of volunteers to help kickstart Oregon United for Marriage “Summer of Love” in support of marriage equality and to Rep. Kurt Schrader for coming out in support of marriage equality.

## PFLAG Goes to La De Da Parade on July 4th



PFLAG will again be a visible rainbow presence in the fanciful Yachats community la de da Parade! Our first “outing” last year was a great success with dozens of PFLAG family and friends walking together and greeted with applause, cheers, and huge support. Join us at 11:00 am behind Yachats Commons to make signs, share rainbow gear, and prepare for the parade beginning at noon. See you there!!

Thirty-seven years ago, a Christian-based organization called **Exodus** started its mission to “cure” homosexuals of their sexual orientation. After a unanimous board decision this week, it **closed its doors** and its president, Alan Chambers, apologized to gays and lesbians for the group’s abuse. Last year California became the first state to ban “ex-gay” therapy. Chambers admits that he is still attracted to men and now “accept[s] these feelings as parts of my life that will likely always be there.”

A major argument of naysayers to marriage equality is that it will **damage marriage** of opposite-sex couples. (They’ve never been specific about exactly how.) Now research shows that this **theory is wrong**. Researchers at Portland State University’s School of Community Health have found that same-sex marriage laws in the U.S. have no effect on the marriage rate of heterosexual couples. To determine this, they examined marriage rates in the states which have legalized marriage equality. Eleven states currently allow same-sex marriage; Minnesota will become the 12th on Aug. 1. The District of Columbia and three Native American tribes also allow same-sex marriage.

**The Trevor Project has awarded Cindy McCain** with its Trevor Hero Award for her LGBT youth advocacy work. During an interview, she said she thinks her husband, Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), is “coming around” on the issue of marriage equality.

Since 1983, the FDA has banned **gay men from donating blood**. Last month, the American Medical Association voted to **stop this ban**, instead evaluating each gay man individually.

Growing concerns that Russia's new antigay law could target LGBT Olympians during the upcoming 2014 Olympics in Sochi has prompted the Human Rights Watch organization to ask for further clarification and to **demand that the IOC take steps to stop any discrimination for U.S. athletes and visitors in Russia for the event**. The draft anti-LGBT law calls for criminalizing anyone who publicly addresses homosexuality while in Russia. Convictions can result in fines, arrests for up to 15 days, and deportation.

Family Equity Council has a **guide to help LGBT couples and parents** understand how the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) benefits LGBT people and their families. [http://www.familyequality.org/get\\_informed/advocacy/know\\_your\\_rights/affordable\\_care\\_act\\_guide/](http://www.familyequality.org/get_informed/advocacy/know_your_rights/affordable_care_act_guide/)

The California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS), the biggest pension fund in the country, has voted to provide **equal access to healthcare for transgender people**. Until their vote in late June, transgender CalPERS members could be refused any care from basic medical tests to hormone therapy related to their gender identity. CalPers has 1.3 million enrollees.

# People Who Make a Difference



After **Kathleen Wynne** became the sitting Premier of Toronto (Canada) in February, she became the first openly LGBT sitting provincial premier to march in the Toronto Pride Parade. She came out at age 37 and now lives with long-term partner Jane Rounthwaite. The two of them have been marching in the parade for many years. Wynne's predecessor, retired Ontario premier Dalton McGuinty participated in Ontario Pride Week events but never marched in the parade. [Photo by the Canadian Film Center]

After **Nicole Maines** was denied the use of the girls' bathroom at her school, she took her case to court. Both her parents and her twin brother support the transgender girl, 15, whose case has reached Maine's highest court. She said that she hoped justices would understand how important it is for children to attend school and not be bullied by peers and administrators. The bullying started when she was in the fifth grade.



Following a voice vote in the U.S. Senate, Puerto Rican **Nitza Quiñones Alejandro** has become the first openly gay Hispanic woman elected to the federal judiciary by the United States Senate. She will serve on the U.S. District Court for Eastern District of Pennsylvania, and, according to Sen. Pat Toomey (R-PA), is also the first Latina to be elected to this specific court.

**Baroness Liz Barker** (right) came out as a lesbian during a debate about marriage equality in England's House of Lords. She was one of the 390 votes who passed the bill in early June with only 148 dissenting. The House of Commons had already approved the legislation in May. The bill goes to committee, is sent through the report state, and then returns to the House of Lords for a third reading. If it passes all these hurdles, the bill will then be sent to the Queen for Royal Assent.



**Kristen Beck**, formerly Chris and a Navy Seal, has written a book about her life in the elite, all-male unit. *Warrior Princess* is the story of her 20 years concealing her gender identify before she retired in 2011. Beck is a military consultant in Tampa. Her book is dedicated to her family, to the "underdogs, the activists, the downtrodden," and to SEAL teammates, to whom Beck offers a personal message: "I am still the same person with the same experience and the same spirit."

## PFLAG July 10 Meeting Welcoming Churches

Members of the NINE faith communities in Lincoln County that openly welcome LGBT people will come together at our July meeting to share how they came to the decision to include all of God's children. Representatives of each congregation will talk about any changes brought about by their decisions and plan for the August Coming Out as Persons of Faith exhibits in Lincoln County.

Welcoming Churches in Lincoln County: North County - St. James Episcopal and Congregational Church (UCC) in Lincoln City and Unity by the Sea in Gleneden Beach; Central County - Atonement Lutheran, Central Coast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Newport Presbyterian, St. Stephen's Episcopal, and Toledo United Methodist; Waldport - St. Luke's Episcopal. When PFLAG OCC started five years ago we only had ONE Welcoming Church in Lincoln County—now we're at NINE and growing!

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## PFLAG Comes to Polk County

PFLAG OCC members are helping community members in Polk County start their own PFLAG. St. Thomas Episcopal Church has invited this fledgling chapter to meet in their Parish Hall and the group is moving quickly to become an officially chartered chapter. We're looking forward to having them attend the Fall 2013 OR State PFLAG Council Meeting in Newport!

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## Save the Dates

PFLAGs in Lincoln County expand on **August 7**, and the PFLAG Family Picnic is on **August 18**. Bring food and a jacket in case the weather is cool and windy. The group will provide warmth and fun. Check the calendar for more information.

## OCC PFLAG Calendar

**July 4, 11:00 am:** Join PFLAG members at the shelter behind the Yachats Commons to get ready to march in the la de da Parade at noon!

**July 10, 7:00 pm:** PFLAG Meeting—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport (Welcoming Churches sharing)

**July 13:** Table at Newport Saturday Market

**July 28, 11:00 am-Noonish:** Just the Girls Coffee Hour—Café Mundo, NW 3rd and Coast Streets, Newport

**August 7, 6:00-7:30 pm:** PFLAG in Lincoln City, St. James Episcopal Church, 2490 NE Highway 101, Lincoln City

**August 10:** Table at Newport Saturday Market

**August 18, 2:00 pm:** PFLAG Family Picnic—the park near the Yaquina Bay Bridge Lighthouse Park—between the bridge & the lighthouse on the west side of Hwy 101.

**August 25, 11:00 am-Noonish:** Just the Girls Coffee Hour—Café Mundo, NW 3rd and Coast Streets, Newport

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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 [coastalaidsnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:coastalaidsnetwork@gmail.com) for information)

We also try to have pizza in Tillamook or Pacific City. Email Dan, [coastalaidsnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:coastalaidsnetwork@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:**

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Out-Oregon-Coast/194768480642314>

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**Help Wanted** for the PFLAG/Welcoming Churches' Farmers' Market table on August 10. Interested parties should call Debbie Spicer at (541)265-2922.

## 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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