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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

August 2013

## Take Action!

Sign on to support ENDA, Employment Non-Discrimination Act: [http://www.change.org/petitions/american-public-sign-on-as-a-community-co-sponsor-of-enda?utm\\_source=supporter\\_message&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=petition\\_message\\_notice](http://www.change.org/petitions/american-public-sign-on-as-a-community-co-sponsor-of-enda?utm_source=supporter_message&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=petition_message_notice)

Sign on to support the Respect for Marriage Act that would completely repeal DOMA: [http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/pass-the-respect-for?source=c.url&r\\_by=95318](http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/pass-the-respect-for?source=c.url&r_by=95318)

In June, the New Jersey legislature passed a bill that would ban therapists from giving “ex-gay” therapy to minors. Gov. Chris Christie has yet to sign the bill. You still have time to ask the governor to sign the bill: <http://www.change.org/petitions/gov-chris-christie-protect-new-jersey-kids-from-dangerous-anti-gay-conversion-therapy>

You can also find information about ex-gay therapy bills at <http://www.youthallies.com/ex-gay-conversion-therapy-news-roundup-july-17-2013/#&panel1-1&panel2-1>

## Marriage Equality in Oregon

One month after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned DOMA, Oregon kicked off its marriage equality campaign to gather 116,284 signatures by July 3, 2014. That’s one signature every 4 ¼ minutes. The first part of the campaign is to collect 10,000 signatures in the first ten days.

You can help! Find information about this at

<http://www.oregonsaysido.org/petition-rsvp>

More information on page 2.

# La De Da Parade, a Success for PFLAG



PFLAG was a visible rainbow presence in the fanciful Yachats community LaDeDa Parade! This second “outing” was a great success with dozens of PFLAG family and friends walking together and being greeted with applause, cheers, and huge support. Big thanks to Kae Bates for all the rainbow flags and finery—and the poster-making supplies. Thanks to Ineka Estabrook for face and body painting and bringing many of the Newport High GSA students. Plans are already underway for next year’s parade—watch for news from Lisa Gray & Terri Woodd.

## Marriage Equality--The Time Is NOW! Petitions Available!!

OU4M (Oregon United for Marriage) is the statewide coalition of organizations devoting the next 15 months to winning the right of ALL Oregonians to marry the person they love. They were fired up and ready to go the moment the legal hurdles were cleared, allowing them to collect petitions. Petition Captain training was held in groups and by phone; petitions and materials were delivered quickly, and now we are holding trainings for individuals and small groups.

Nancy Mead (North Lincoln County), Ineka Estabrook, and Jeanne St.John (Mid and South County) were trained as Petition Captains to prepare those who want to gather VALID signatures. It’s very important that those collecting signatures do it well—one mistake can invalidate a whole page of signatures! The immediate goal is to collect 10,000 signatures in 10 days—and PFLAG Oregon Central Coast will make a significant contribution to that effort.

The opposition to marriage equality is well-organized and well-funded by out-of-state political and religious groups—and they have tried to stop this movement at every turn. But OU4M is better-organized and will have thousands of dedicated volunteers on the streets and in homes, churches, and public events over the next year.

Call 541-265-7194 or email [pflagocc@gmail.com](mailto:pflagocc@gmail.com) to arrange a time to be trained—only takes 15 min.—and pick up your petitions and a clipboard!—Jeanne St.John

# Politics on Our Side

**California:** The Marin County Republican Party has become the second local or state GOP party to endorse marriage equality. The Washington, D.C. GOP organization was first when it endorsed same-sex marriage last year.

**California:** The School Success and Opportunity Act is now waiting for the governor's signature. The bill ensures that public schools understand their responsibility for the success and well-being of all students, including transgender students, and will allow transgender students to fully participate in all school activities, programs, and facilities.

**Delaware:** Gov. Jack Martell has signed a bill that includes gender identity and expression in the state's hate crime and nondiscrimination laws. The Gender Identity Non-Discrimination Act outlaws discrimination based on gender identity in employment, housing, insurance, and public assistance.

**Florida:** In a *Miami-Herald* op-ed, GOP Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen called on people in her state to back gay marriage.

**Pennsylvania:** Attorney General Kathleen Kane will not defend the state's ban against marriage equality because she thinks it is unconstitutional. Kane said, "We are the land of the free and the home of the brave, and I want to start acting like that."

**United States Senate:** Fifty-three Senators support ENDA (Employment Non-Discrimination Act) that has moved out of committee with a 15-7 vote. Three Republicans—Mark Kirk (IL), Orrin Hatch (UT), and Lisa Murkowski (AK)—voted for ENDA.

**United States House:** A bill introduced by Rep. Tim Huelskamp (R-KS) that would ban marriage equality in the U.S. Constitution has managed to collect only 40 House supporters in the past month—39 GOP members and one Democrat, West Virginia Rep. Nick Rahall. No one in the House leadership is co-sponsoring the bill. Instead, they have announced their end to a legal defense of DOMA.

The Restore Honor to Service Members Act, A bill directing Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel to review and amend the records of veterans discharged due to their sexual orientation, has 102 co-sponsors. It was introduced in the House by openly gay Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI) and Rep. Charlie Rangel (D-NY).

**United States:** Officials of the Education and Justice departments have notified California that "[T]ransgender students ... are protected from sex-based discrimination under Title IX."



**Britain:** Queen Elizabeth II gave her royal assent to the bill legalizing marriage equality in England and Wales.

**Colombia:** A civil judge in Bogotá has ruled that a gay couple may be legally married. The country's Constitutional Court ruled in 2011 that gays and lesbians could legally register their relationships within two years if the country's lawmakers failed to allow them the same benefits heterosexuals receive through marriage. In April, the Colombian Senate had overwhelmingly rejected a bill that allows marriage equality.

**Ireland:** The government has published proposed legislation to formally recognize transgender people, aged over 18 and single, for all purpose including new birth certificates.

**United Nations:** The U.N.'s human rights office has launched its first global outreach campaign to promote tolerance and equality for LGBT people. The mission of Free & Equal will be to educate people through the world through a variety of media.

In the week after SCOTUS overturned DOMA, allowing federal marriage equality, Macklemore & Ryan Lewis's song about same-sex marriage, "Same Love," soared on the charts to #28 from #65 a week earlier.

In early July Steve Grand went from being an unknown country singer to having almost 2 million hits on his self-funded song, "All American Boy" about unrequited gay love. Considering the positive influence he may have on gay teens, we'll forgive him for being positive about his ex-gay conversion therapy.

Transgender Student Rights (TSR), founded in 2009, has joined GLSEN to support transgender and gender-nonconforming youth.

Major League Baseball has added policies to the already existing anti-discrimination policy. The new one will be posted in all league locker rooms. In addition, MLB will conduct anti-bias training sessions and provide a centralized complaint system at the beginning of the 2014 season.

Ed Murray, the openly gay state senator who wrote Washington's marriage equality law and is largely credited with its passage, has taken the lead in his candidacy for mayor of Seattle. At the end of his 30-second TV spot, he appears with his partner, Michael Shiosaki. They plan to marry this month.

<http://thenewcivilrightsmovement.com/watch-gay-seattle-candidate-for-mayor-appears-with-partner-in-new-tv-ad/politics/2013/07/18/71272>

## The Best Picture This Month!



Despite the homophobia and hate crimes in Turkey, at least 20,000 people were able to hold a LGBT pride parade in Istanbul with almost overwhelmingly positive public response.

### Coming Out as People of Faith (COPF); Coming to a Church near You

Coming Out as a Person of Faith is a multi-media project revealing the experiences, stories, and perspectives of clergy, parents of gays and lesbians, and LGBT couples of faith who support the Freedom to Marry. Our intention is to share with church communities how persons from a wide spectrum of faith traditions support the Freedom to Marry and how their faith informs their support of this issue.

Trained facilitators will lead discussions among church members and friends from the community. Those with LGBT family members will share their family's experiences and growth in understanding about marriage for gays. Bishop Dave and Gretchen Brauer-Rieke will facilitate the discussion at Atonement Lutheran in Newport and reconnect with old friends in the area.

These gatherings are scheduled so that all areas of the county can be included in these exhibits and discussions. PFLAG is partnering with Basic Rights Oregon and Welcoming Churches to host these events.

Plan now to attend—and bring a friend!—Jeanne St. John

#### 2-4 pm Reception, Exhibit and Discussion

Sun., August 4: Congregational Church, Lincoln City  
Sun., August 11: St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Waldport  
Sun., August 25: Atonement Lutheran Church, Newport

# British Government to Pardon Turing

Sixty years after England forced Alan Turing to be chemically castrated for being gay, Alan Turing will receive a posthumous pardon. Turing broke German ciphers during World War II, allowing codebreakers to crack the German Enigma code. His colleague Tommy Flowers built the Colossus computer, making Turing “one of the fathers, if not the father, of computer science,” according to Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, a government whip.

Lady Trumpington, who worked in the same area to break German naval codes, said, “I am certain that but for his work we would have lost the war through starvation.” Lord Sharkey campaigned for Turing’s pardon after taking mathematics at Manchester from Robin Gandy, Turing’s only doctoral student.

Turing, who killed himself at the age of 41 after his conviction, believed that the country would eventually legalize homosexual activity. The pardon may show a change in British legal attitude since last year when the government declined to grant pardons to 49,000 gay men, now deceased, who were convicted under the 1885 Criminal Law Amendment Act. The list included playwright Oscar Wilde, who suffered an injury during imprisonment at hard labor that led to his death.

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## Federal Benefits for Wedded Same-Sex Couples—What Are They?

### **Napoli Advocates for Federal Marriage Equality Benefits:**

Although same-sex couples in states that recognize marriage equality will definitely have federal benefits, those in some other states may not be as lucky. Toward that end, New York comptroller Thomas DiNapoli has written President Obama asking him to direct all federal agencies to adopt a “place of celebration” standard that would recognize the place of marriage instead of residence to determine federal benefits.

DiNapoli said that he will also invest pension funds only in companies which do not discriminate against LGBT people. Companies which don’t discriminate tend to do better than companies that do, he wrote in the letter to the president.

We can hope that the other 49 states follow DiNapoli’s lead.

### **IRS Struggles with Tax Preparation Policies:**

Since the Supreme Court gave some LGBT couples the advantage of more than 1,000 federal benefits enjoyed by straight couples, the IRS is struggling with how the ruling will affect same-sex couples. Some conclusions:

- \* Those living anywhere that permits marriage equality can file a joint federal tax return for 2013.
- \* There is still a question regarding which state the IRS will recognize for federal returns—the state of marriage ceremony or the state of residency. Until now, the IRS has followed states’ definitions of marriage, but all states recognize all opposite-sex marriages from another state.
- \* The IRS has the power to define the word “spouse” although President Obama has said that same-sex couples should receive the same federal benefits as married couples wherever they live.
- \* Some same-sex couples may pay additional taxes by filing joint returns because unmarried people can claim multiple capital-loss deductions or not pay a marriage penalty that straight married spouses with roughly equal incomes do. Same-sex couples may also have to pay back taxes for the time that they were married although the federal government didn’t recognize them as married until this year.
- \* Same-sex couples with unequal incomes could seek a refund for the extra taxes they paid in the past three years.
- \* Unlike opposite-sex married couples, same-sex couples have been required to pay taxes on employer-provided health insurance for spouses. If the IRS allows refunds, businesses have to figure out how to distribute these to employees and ex-employees. If businesses paid LGBT employees extra to cover these taxes, they have to decide whether they should be reimbursed for income tax refunds that workers might get.
- \* The IRS also has to figure out whether or how to tax alimony payments from same-sex marriages that end in divorce and money inherited from the retirement account of a same-sex spouse.

# People Who Make a Difference



**John Arthur** and **James Obergefell**, together for 20 years, wed in Maryland. Because Arthur suffers from ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease), the couple wants Obergefell to be listed on Arthur’s death certificate in Ohio, where they live so that Arthur can be buried in the family plot. U.S. District Judge **Timothy S.**

**Black** (below) granted a temporary restraining order to block the state from imposing its constitutional marriage ban against

their same-sex union, writing: “The issue is whether the State of Ohio can discriminate against same sex marriages lawfully solemnized out of state, when Ohio law has historically and unambiguously provided that the validity of a marriage is determined by whether it complies with the law of the jurisdiction where it was celebrated.” Ohio is appealing the order.



**Benjamin Medrano** became the first openly-gay mayor in Mexico when he was elected by the citizens of Fresnillo, a Mexican township of 230,000 in Zacatecas state known for macho cowboys and drug gang shoot-outs. A singer and owner of a gay bar for 18 years, Medrano campaigned on a strong public-safety platform, advocating co-operation with state and federal police, and vetting and background checks on the notoriously corrupt local police force. Mexico also has no openly-gay elected legislators although some have been appointed.



Because of **Mia Macy**, anti-transgender discrimination is now covered under the ban on sex discrimination found in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Justice Department’s Complaint Adjudication Office issued a final decision in Macy’s case on July 8, affirming the ATF had discriminated against Macy.



**April Deboer** (back left) and **Jayne Rowse** will have their case heard in federal court on October 1, regarding the legality of Michigan’s ban on marriage equality and adoption by same-sex couples. Although the two Detroit-area nurses are partners, Michigan law prevents them from jointly adopting the children. Originally they filed only about adoption, but U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman suggested that they include the constitutional amendment banning marriage equality in their lawsuit.

## Save the Dates!!

### On August 7 PFLAG Comes to Lincoln City

Plans are underway to expand PFLAG meetings and events to the north end of Lincoln County. Church leaders at St. James Episcopal Church contacted PFLAG about hosting PFLAG meetings and events. An initial meeting is scheduled for Wednesday August 7 from 6-7:30 pm at St. James. LGBT leaders in north Lincoln County will be invited to help establish this new group and to provide input about possible meeting topics, events, and activities.

Please send an email—and be there on August 7—if you are interested in helping bring PFLAG to Lincoln City!

### PFLAG Family Picnic On Sunday, August 18

Bring food to share for our annual PFLAG Family Picnic at the park near the Yaquina Bay Bridge Lighthouse Park—between the bridge and the lighthouse on the west side of Hwy 101. We'll be there from 2-4 PM to share food and fun with PFLAG and Welcoming Church members.

Don't forget a jacket—our picnics guarantee cool and windy weather—but offer lots of warmth and fun!

### Showing of *Gen Silent*, In Eugene on August 18

In this documentary film, LGBT seniors face difficult choices about whether to be "out" when dealing with medical, assisted living, and other circumstances. Soromundi: Lesbian Chorus of Eugene will also perform. Video trailer of the film at [www.gensilent.com](http://www.gensilent.com). More info: [www.queereugene.com/seniors](http://www.queereugene.com/seniors)

## OCC PFLAG Calendar

**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 Yaquina Bay Bridge Lighthouse Park between the bridge and the lighthouse on the west side of Hwy 101, Newport

**August 18, 2:00 pm:** Viewing of *Gen Silent*, Campbell Community Center, 155 High Street, Eugene

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

**September 4, 6:00-7:30 pm:** PFLAG in Lincoln City, St. James Episcopal Church, 2490 NE Highway 101, Lincoln City

**September 11, 7:00 pm:** PFLAG Meeting—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

**September 14:** Table at Newport Saturday Market

**September 20, 2:00 pm:** LGBT Seniors: Legal and Financial Info, Campbell Community Center, 155 High Street, Eugene

**September 22: 11:00 am-Noonish:** Just the Girls Coffee Hour—Café Mundo, NW 3rd and Coast Streets, 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 [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.

**Social LGBT Oregon Coast Group:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Out-Oregon-Coast/194768480642314>

**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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