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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 en-
lighten an ill-informed
public

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

Oregon Central Coast Chapter

November 2013

Take Action!

Once popular at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville (TN), Chely Wright has not been invited by the Country Music Industry to perform at any events since she came out as a lesbian. David Dilsizian wants to change this: <http://www.change.org/GrandOleOpry>

Forty-five minutes after Tippi McCullough legally married her partner of 14 years, Barb Mariani, in New Mexico, the secretary at the Arkansas Catholic school where McCullough taught called to tell her that she would be fired if she married. The school principal promised McCullough a “glowing recommendation” if she resigned. HRC has a petition protesting the firing: <https://secure3.convio.net/hrc/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=1733>

The chair of Jelly Belly, Herman Rowland Sr., is using money that he receives from children for his Jelly Belly candies to overturn California’s new School Success and Opportunity Act, which ensures that all students—including transgender students—can succeed. You can sign this petition and tell him that he is wrong to treat transgender students differently and deny them the right to equally participate in school. <http://www.nclrights.org/jelly-belly-chair-stop-hurting-kids/>

You’re Invited!

November 3, 2:00-4:00 pm: Enjoy desserts and conversation at a Oregon United for Marriage fundraiser overlooking the Yaquina Bay, hosted by Sue Hardesty and Nel Ward. RSVP to SueHardesty@charter.net; 541-265-4516.

TransActive Founder To Speak in Newport

The founder and Executive Director of the nation's leading transgender youth service organization will present two workshops on affirming and supporting transgender children and youth in Newport on Wednesday, November 13th.

Jenn Burleton, founder and Executive Director of TransActive Education & Advocacy (<http://www.transactiveonline.org>), believes the evidence is clear that societal intolerance of diverse gender expression is a primary factor in all forms of bullying.

As the national conversation on bullying grows in the wake of numerous tragedies like the suicide of a student in Florida and the death of La Grande, Oregon teen Jadin Bell earlier this year, it becomes ever more urgent for communities to find better ways to support the kids that need help.

TransActive, a non-profit based in Portland, Oregon, is the leading national organization providing a holistic range of services to transgender and gender nonconforming children, youth and their families. They provide counseling, professional education and advocacy services to more than 200 families in the Portland-metro area alone, and many more throughout Oregon and nationally.



Wednesday, November 13, 2013
Newport, OR

Workshop for healthcare and education professionals:
3:30 - 5:00 PM | 255 SW Coast Hwy.

Workshop for family and community members:
Oregon Central Coast PFLAG group meeting
6:00 - 7:30 PM | St. Stephen's Church

Workshops are free of charge. For more information, or to RSVP, please contact: Jeanne St. John at 541-265-7194 or pflagocc@gmail.com.

A respected educator and advocate, Jenn Burleton has spoken internationally on gender identity and gender expression at the request of the U.S. State Department. Her plain-spoken and often humorous approach to discussing the complexities and alleged controversies associated with gender identity and gender expression have informed, enlightened and entertained thousands over the years.

She will be presenting two workshops on Wednesday, November 13th in Newport—the first of which will have information of particular interest to healthcare and academic/education professionals (as well as interested community members) at 3:30-5:00 pm at 255 SW Coast Hwy in the 2nd Floor Conference Room. The second early evening presentation will be slightly more generalized and will be at the monthly Oregon Central Coast PFLAG group meeting: 6:00-7:30 pm at St. Stephen's Church, SW 9th & Hurbert (Newport)

There is no charge for either presentation. For more information, contact: Jeanne St. John, 541-265-7194, pflagocc@gmail.com

PFLAG Program at Newport Chamber of Commerce



On Oct. 11, National Coming Out Day, PFLAG OCC Co-Chairs Brent Burford and Jeanne St. John with Lisa Gray (right) and Ineka Estabrook (second from left) made a presentation to the Newport Chamber of Commerce on the progress of PFLAG OCC in its first five years.

The Chamber got a quick lesson on human sexuality with the Genderbread Person and heard about support, education and advocacy projects conducted by PFLAG OCC. Although it was a change of pace for the Chamber of Commerce, the response was supportive, and many members expressed their appreciation.

Politics on Our Side

Topeka (KS): The home of the rabidly anti-LGBT Westboro Baptist Church has voted to expand the work of the city's Human Relations Commission to include education about discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Hawaii: Hopefully with the votes to pass marriage equality, a special legislative session has moved the bill out of the Senate panel.

New Jersey: After Gov. Chris Christie withdrew his appeal of the Supreme Court decision declaring marriage equality in the state, New Jersey became the 14th state in the union to legalize same-sex weddings.

New Mexico: The state Supreme Court has begun hearing arguments to determine the status of marriage equality in the state.

North Carolina: Buncombe County register of deeds Drew Reisinger has announced that he will accept marriage license applications from same-sex couples in spite of a 2012 state constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriage.

Oklahoma: Darren Black Bear and Jason Pickel are the first same-sex couple to marry in the state despite its ban against same-sex marriage. The Cheyenne Arapaho recognizes the couple as wed although the state does not.

Tennessee: Four same-sex couples have filed suit to force the state to recognize their legal out-of-state marriages. They claim that the denial of their rights violates the federal constitution by denying them equal protection and due process. The suit also argues that the ban violates the constitutionally protected right to travel between, and move to, other states per the Privileges and Immunities Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

Virginia: Attorneys Ted Olson and David Boies, who headed the legal team that helped overturn California's Proposition 8, have joined a lawsuit to reverse the state's marriage equality ban. [Olson also donated to the campaign of Ken Cuccinelli for Virginia governor; Cuccinelli has been a strong advocate for reinstating Virginia's anti-sodomy law despite its unconstitutionality.]

West Virginia: Lambda Legal has filed a federal lawsuit seeking the freedom to marry in the state.

Argentina: The government has granted a six-year-old transgender girl, born biologically male but self-identifying as female, an ID that corresponds with her gender identity. She is the first minor to receive the ID since the government passed the Gender Identity Law.

France: The country's top court has ruled that mayors cannot refuse to conduct same-sex marriages on the ground it goes against their religious or moral beliefs.

Moldova: Lawmakers have repealed the country's anti-LGBT "propaganda" ban, similar to that passed in Russia this summer. Moldova's law, supported by the country's Orthodox Church and Communist Party support, was repealed to bolster Moldova's chances of being admitted to the European Union.

Russia: A bill that would involuntarily remove children of LGBT parents from their families has been withdrawn, possibly to deflect attention from the country's anti-LGBT laws prior to Russia's hosting the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi.

United Kingdom: Parliament may consider a ban on "conversion therapy" for all the country's citizens.

Oregon's Department of Justice has declared that a same-sex couple's marriage outside of Oregon has the same legal standing as any other marriage in Oregon. The state's decision went into effect in mid-October at the same time as the announcement.

The Portland Trailblazers became **the first NBA team**—in fact, the first team of the “Big Four” basketball, baseball, football, and hockey—to **endorse marriage rights** for same-sex couples when it joined the Oregon United for Marriage initiative.

Mulan came out as bisexual on the hit Disney-ABC series *Once Upon A Time* when she revealed her love for “Sleeping Beauty” princess Aurora. Last season, Mulan had feelings for Prince Phillip.

The United States Olympic Committee has added a **ban on sexual orientation discrimination** to its code of conduct.

The United States Postal Service will issue a **stamp in honor of Harvey Milk** in 2014.

At the annual SAGE (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders) Awards dinner in October, **Jewish Home Lifecare**, one of the largest not-for-profit providers of elder-care in New York state, received the SAGE Aging Services Leadership Award. Lifecare not only has an initiative to make all its nursing facilities LGBT-welcoming but also to create a modern nursing home in New York City exclusively for LGBT older adults.

The Federation of Gay Games has selected **Paris to host the 2018 Gay Games**. The 2014 Gay Games are scheduled for Cleveland + Akron.

PFLAG OCC Impacts Oregon PFLAG

Leaders from the fifteen Oregon PFLAG chapters met in Newport on Saturday, Oct. 5, at their Fall 2013 quarterly meeting. President Becky Groves of Prineville chaired the meeting that was hosted by PFLAG OCC. Jeanne St. John and Debbie Spicer presented LGBT 101 to the visiting chapter leaders so they will be prepared to lead similar workshops in their own communities.

Central Oregon PFLAG reported that they were asked by Deschutes County Health Department to participate in developing LGBT inclusive curriculum for the middle and high schools health classes. “We got some really good information from PFLAG OCC which Jeanne St. John shared with us. The curriculum is almost done and educators will be trained soon.”

Florence PFLAG reported, “Our Gay 101 presentation for the Rotary was very well received. In fact, the newly elected school district superintendent was there. I was able to meet with her a few weeks ago and am very encouraged by her support of LGBT students. She truly believes that every student needs to feel safe at school. She even offered to walk with PFLAG in the next Rhododendron Parade in the Spring. We are very encouraged that the climate of the schools will now improve.”

Other PFLAG chapters have requested materials and assistance to offer LGBT/Gay 101 workshops in their communities. A workshop for staff at Dallas High School on Nov. 3 will be led by Becca Fromherz, co-chair of the newly formed Dallas/Polk County PFLAG Chapter, and Jeanne St. John.—Jeanne St. John

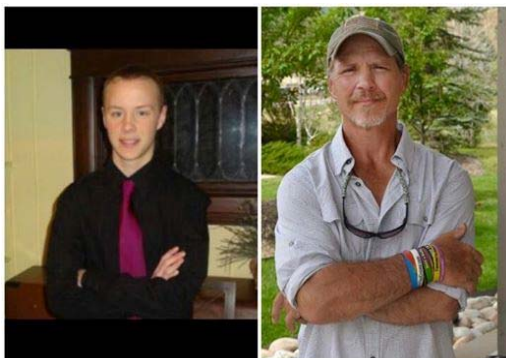
Man Killed While Commemorating Son’s Suicide

Joe Bell started a cross-country journey from La Grande (OR) last spring after bullying caused his gay son, Jadin, to commit suicide. His planned two-year walk to New York became an inspiration as he raised awareness about LGBT youth.

Bell’s journey abruptly ended after he was struck and killed by a semi-truck in the Colorado plains. “I didn’t want

Jadin’s death to be in vain,” Bell had said. “We need to look at people for who they are and not who we think they should be.”

As the last post on Bell’s Facebook page stated, “Making headway, one step at a time.”



Two Oregon Couples File Suit for Rights



Oregon became the 20th state in mid-October to see a marriage equality lawsuit filed in an effort to challenge the constitutional ban on same-sex marriage. The federal lawsuit to overturn the state's constitutional amendment argues that one couple—Deanna Geiger (left) and Janine Nelson—should be able to legally marry. The other plaintiffs, Robert Deuhmig and William Griesar, were legally married in Vancouver, B.C. and wish to have their rights recognized in Oregon.

The suit is separate from the anticipated \$12 million campaign to overturn Measure 36 being orchestrated by Oregon United for Marriage. Volunteers have collected 105,000 signatures of the necessary 116,264 for a ballot initiative.

Measure 36 has already been challenged in state courts; the Oregon Supreme Court denied an appeal to hear the case in 2009. The couples' lawyer, Lake Perriguet, said that Measure 36 is a federal question because it violates the U.S. Constitution.

Medical School to Provide Specialized Training for LGBT Mental Health Issues

Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine has initiated the first student training program to educate clinical psychology interns about the significant and particular mental health issues faced by America's LGBT population. The program addresses mental health challenges in working with gay and bisexual men who have HIV/AIDS and low-income LGBT people as well as contributing to LGBT public health research and services.

Depression, anxiety and suicide inclination are about 2-3 times higher among LGB people than in the general population, significantly higher than even that among trans people. General levels of substance abuse as a result of depression and other factors are also significantly higher than that of the general population, and often without appropriate treatment models.

Bisexuality also causes mental health issues. Bisexual youth are among the most likely to develop body dysmorphia and eating disorders, and bisexual women are far more likely to engage in heavy substance abuse. They are also at a significantly higher risk of experiencing rape than lesbians or heterosexual women. Trans women are also much more likely to suffer depression and other mental health issues such as certain personality disorders and other behavioral disorders.

In July, a federal judge ordered Ohio state officials to recognize the Maryland marriage between John Arthur and James Obergefell so that the two men could be buried together in Arthur's family plot after they die. Arthur died on October 22 of Lou Gehrig's disease.

NOM President Accused of Collaboration in Russia's Anti-LGBT Laws

National Organization for Marriage President Brian Brown met with members of the Russian Duma in June to collaborate on legislation banning LGBT foreigners from adopting children from the former Soviet Union. Fred Karger, President of Rights Equal Rights, now claims that Brown's actions violate The Logan Act, a federal statute making it a crime for a U.S. citizen to confer with foreign governments against the interest of the United States or without authorization of the American government.

Five days after Brown's presentations, the Duma passed a ban on adoption of Russian children by same-sex couples and by single people living in countries with legalized marriage equality. At the same time, Russian President Vladimir Putin's severe crackdown on LGBT rights will most likely affect all LGBT visitors to Russia, including those from the United States.

On Russia 1's Vesti news program, Brown said, "Right now you're having the fight about adoption, but the adoption issue is indivisible from the marriage issue. If you don't defend your values now, I'm afraid we're going to see very negative developments all over the world."

People Who Make a Difference



Todd Hughes made history in late September when he became the first gay judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. The Senate confirmed him with a 98-0 vote, over 225 days after his nomination. Unlike other federal appeals courts that hear cases determined by region, the federal circuit considers cases based on subject such as appeals of patent cases, appeals from the Federal Court of Claims, and other specifically delineated areas of appeal. The U.S. has at least seven other federal lifetime-tenured LGBT judges.

The Supreme Court ruling upholding the striking down of Prop 8's ban on marriage equality was the impetus for **John Banvard**, 95, and **Gerard Nadeau**, 67, to marry at a Chula Vista, San Diego military seniors home. The couple has lived together for 20 years. They chose the veterans facility because that's where the majority of their friends are.



Reddit posted this photo of a gay marine receiving a rainbow flag on his last day of service with the statement: "Today's my unofficial last day as a Marine. This is what my unit gave me to say goodbye." The recipient, **Bryan Eberly**, said, "It took everything in my power not to burst into tears." The presentation came two years after repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" took effect.

Masha Bast is the chairwoman for the Association of Russian Lawyers for Human Rights. She also came out in September as a bisexual transgender woman who is married to another Russian woman. Her declaration is to protest the nationwide ban on "propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations," passed this summer. Since the law, modeled after similar local legislation, passed the nation's parliament unanimously, LGBT Russians and visitors have been beaten, kidnapped, arrested, and silenced in a ban on LGBT identities in any public or private space that might be accessible to minors.



Huffington Post has published a list of its **top 50 gay business owners**: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/10/23/top-lgbt-business-leaders_n_4149301.html

Help Decide the Future of PFLAG Lincoln City—November 6

Oregon Central Coast PFLAG (Parents, Family & Friends of Lesbians and Gays) will hold its monthly Lincoln City meeting at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, Nov. 6, at St. James Church in Lincoln City. The meeting will focus on plans for future regular meetings or periodic events in Lincoln City. Anyone interested in developing plans for additional meetings or events should attend this meeting—and bring a friend!

TransActive Founder To Speak At PFLAG in Newport—November 13

At its Newport meeting at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, Nov 13, at St. Stephen's Church at SW 9th & Hurbert in Newport, Jenn Burleton, TransActive founder and director will be the featured speaker. See related story about her visit to Newport and workshop for health and education professionals as well as the PFLAG meeting program on page 2.

Just watch this! The day after Alissa Haslam told her partner, Jeanne Sickel Sterbentz, that she wasn't romantic, Haslam got an amazing proposal. This video is likely to bring tears. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/10/16/washington-bus-proposal_n_4103359.html?ir=Gay%20Voices

Both Columbia Sportswear and Adidas are supporting the Oregon marriage equality campaign.

One-third of the U.S. population lives in states that have legalized marriage equality.

OCC PFLAG Calendar

November 3, 2:00-4:00 pm: Marriage equality fundraiser—see page 1.

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

November 13, 3:30-5 pm: Gender Identity Workshop, Western Title Building, Newport

November 13, 6:00-7:30 pm: PFLAG Meeting—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

November 20: Transgender Day of Remembrance

November 24: 11:00 am-Noonish: Just the Girls Coffee Hour—Café Mundo, NW 3rd and Coast Streets, Newport

December 1: World AIDS Day

December 3, 6:00-7:30 pm: PFLAG—St. James Episcopal Church, 2490 NE Highway 101, Lincoln City

December 10, 6:00-7:30 pm: PFLAG Meeting—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, 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 for information)

We also try to have pizza in Tillamook or Pacific City. Email Dan, 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.

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

A new LGBT website for those over 50 has just been launched. Check it out!
<http://rainbowgray.com/>

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:

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