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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

January 2014

Take Action!

Uganda has unanimously passed a bill that calls for life imprisonment for homosexual acts, including repeated acts between consenting adults. President Yoweri Museveni has until January 19 to sign the bill into law. You can asked him not to do this: http://act.credoaction.com/sign/uganda_gay_imprisonment/?akid=9671.1033482.V_3uQG&rd=1&t=1

IKEA chose to eliminate its story about a lesbian couple in only one of 25 countries where the company advertises—Russia. Ask IKEA to stand with LGBT community in Russia where they are facing brutal human rights violations. <http://www.change.org/IKEARussia>

The student body at Eastside Catholic School (Seattle) is disseminating a petition to have their vice-principal, Mark Zmuda, reinstated after he was terminated because of his marriage to another man. You can join them: http://www.change.org/petitions/united-states-conference-of-catholic-bishops-change-the-roman-catholic-church-stance-on-gay-marriage?share_id=obJWtxMaOF&utm_campaign=twitter_link&utm_medium=twitter&utm_source=share_petition

Thanks to defense and aerospace giant Lockheed Martin for stopping its donations to the Boy Scouts of America over the organization's ban on gays serving as adult leaders.

In early December, petition-collectors gathered 116,284 signatures to put marriage equality on the November 2014 ballot, exactly the number of signatures necessary. Now people are collecting enough extra signatures to guarantee a sufficient number of signatures after any invalidations.

2013-14 Youth Leadership Academy Includes GSA Reps

Members of GSA groups were among the teen leaders invited who attended the November kick-off event for the Lincoln County Youth Leadership Academy. The LCYL Academy will offer two more day-long workshops this school year for teen leaders with a focus on communication, team leadership, bully prevention, and drug and alcohol abuse prevention.

PFLAG is a co-sponsor of these Academy events with PAADA



(Partnership Against Alcohol & Drug Abuse) and Lincoln Conflict Resolution. Over 50 students from all areas of the county and Angell Job Corps attended the first session which was held at Hatfield Marine Science Center.

PFLAG members Terri Woodd and Jeanne St. John (above right) led the workshop, "You Have the Power: Will You Be An Upstander or a Bystander?" focused on the power dynamics of bullying. Response

was excellent, and students will return with plans and results from interventions in their own schools. [Above left: panel of community leaders]



PFLAG Holiday Party a Great Success!

PFLAG's Annual Holiday Party brought out a great crowd of PFLAG friends and family members! We shared a huge array of beautiful and tasty holiday treats and shared stories of memorable holiday season moments with a PFLAG theme! Newlywed couples Carlos & Greg and Jeanne & Kae shared stories about their recent California weddings. Happy Holidays and a Great New Year to ALL!

Welcoming Churches Update

PFLAG Co-Chair Brent Burford has taken on the job of increasing the number of Welcoming Congregations on the Oregon Coast. He's expanding our chapter's web page to include much more information about currently welcoming churches and to cover the entire Oregon Coast. The good news is that there are more LGBT-friendly churches than had been listed before. Brent also plans to contact 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 at 541-764-6876 or Brent.Burford@gmail.com

Politics on Our Side

New Mexico & Utah: Two more states have legalized marriage equality through judicial action, bringing the total to 18. That's twice as many as last year! The 10th Circuit Court denied an appeal from Utah to deny same-sex marriage. State officials are now appealing to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Pennsylvania: A U.S. court will address marriage equality in the state on June 9, 2014.

United States: The ban on organ transplants between HIV-positive people is now legal after President Obama has signed the bill into law. The HIV Organ Policy Equity Act (HOPE) ends a decades-long federal ban on allowing donated HIV-positive organs from being translated into HIV-positive patients.

United States: After opposition from conservative Southern states, same-sex spouses of National Guardsmen can now officially obtain benefits in any state.

United States: The 26 members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus have come out in support of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). Last month, the Senate passed the bill by 64-32 votes, but House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) refused to bring the bill to the lower chamber. Other Latino organizations that support ENDA include the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund, the League of United Latin American Citizens, and the Trans-Latina Coalition.

Northern Ireland: The lifting of the country's ban on adoptions by LGBT couples bodes well for the marriage equality movement.

Germany: President Joachim Gauck will not attend the Winter Olympics in Sochi in protest of human rights violations and the oppression of members of the opposition in Russia.

Tel Aviv: Israel has inaugurated its first memorial for the thousands of gays and lesbians persecuted by the Nazis during World War II. The memorial uses pink triangles like those identifying gays and lesbians in German-occupied territory during the war. At least 15,000 were sent to concentration camps during the Holocaust because of their sexual identification, and more than half of them died. Nazi officials also used medical experiments

to make these people straight. Similar monuments are in Berlin, Amsterdam, Sydney, and San Francisco. Israeli President Shimon Peres has publicly backed marriage rights for same-sex couples.

Rome installed rainbow-themed lights at Christmas on a mile of Via del Corso, the city's main shopping street, to honor the memory of a gay teen who committed suicide and to fight homophobia.



Public High School Employs First Transgender Coach

After Stephen Alexander transitioned, he became the first openly transgender public high school coach in the country. Alexander coaches boys' soccer at Ponaganset High School in Gloucester (RI).

Edie Windsor, *Time* Magazine Second Runner Up 'Person'

The plaintiff in the Supreme Court case that overturned parts of DOMA, Edie Windsor, came in as "person of the year" behind Pope Francis and Edward Snowden. Information about Windsor:

Website (ediewindsor.com), designed by New York-based web designer Carla Grande

Time profile (<http://poy.time.com/2013/12/11/runner-up-edith-windsor-the-unlikely-activist/>)

Photo album (<http://lightbox.time.com/2013/12/11/inside-the-photo-albums-of-edith-windsor-and-thea-spyer/>)

Award-winning, full-length documentary, Edie and Thea: A Long Engagement, created by Susan Muska and Gréta Olafsdóttir

Pham—Editor's 'Person'

Another special person of the year: Dr. Mary Pham. Check out information about her at <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2013/12/26/1265433/-A-Woman-s-PERFECT-Response-to-Her-Anti-Gay-Neighbors#?detail=email>

Jeanne, Kae Cut the Cake on November 26; Waited 31 Years to Legally Marry



Old friend Dr. Paul Lee officiated at the ceremony in Carmel, CA.

Schools Sued for Rejecting GSA, Not Protecting Students

The ACLU has sued a Lake County school district in Central Florida twice last year for refusing the formation of a Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) club at the middle school. The first time was on behalf of Bayli Silberstein (right), then a 14-year-old eighth-grader, who had been blocked from forming a GSA for almost a year. Although the club met three times before the close of the school year, thanks to the lawsuit, students found the meetings difficult because of administrative monitoring attitudes.



New school rules passed in August required all existing clubs to reapply. Students led by 12-year-old Hannah Faughnan reapplied for a GSA in October. In December, the ACLU was told that the club had been denied because it was not an extension of the school curriculum. The ACLU reported that several other non-curricular clubs have been approved in the district.



The Southern Poverty Law Center is suing Moss Point School District (Jackson County, MS) for permitting anti-LGBT bullying. The suit was filed on behalf of lesbian Destin Holmes, who was even prevented from using the women's restrooms. Other LGBT students were also abused. An openly gay student attempted suicide after being physically attacked and called faggot, and a transgender student was frequently called "it" by both students and teachers. SPLC stated that the school district failed to take action although the organization demanded that they do so.

Courts Overturn LGBT Rights in India, Australia

Protesters gathered outside the Indian embassy in Washington to protest India's Supreme Court decision to reinstate a British Colonial era law criminalizing sodomy between consenting adults. The decision overturned a lower court ruling in 2009 declaring that the anti-sodomy law violated India's constitution. India's Parliament is to determine whether to repeal or retain the statute.

Protesters gathered about a statue of Mahatma Gandhi, who led the non-violent movement to achieve India's freedom from Great Britain.

It is estimated that 15 million LGBT people live in India.

LGBT couples lost the right to marry in Australia after its High Court overturned marriage equality laws. Wedding ceremonies already performed were invalidated.

New Zealand was the first—and only—Asia-Pacific country to legalize marriage equality.



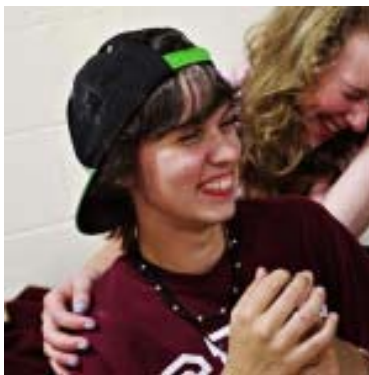
Washington Blade | Michael Key

People Who Make a Difference



At the end of last August, **Todd Gloria**, an openly gay man, became interim mayor of San Diego after the former mayor resigned in disgrace. From two military families, Gloria is Native Alaskan, Filipino, Dutch and Puerto Rican. His term is over on February 11, 2014 after the election of a permanent mayor.

In a hate crime, a 16-year-old bus rider lit the skirt of “agender” 18-year-old **Sasha Fleischman** while he slept. Classmates, including **Ian Gonzer** (right), rose in support by wearing skirts to school. Mrs Dalloway’s Bookstore announced that its staff would be wearing skirts on December 14 and that the store would donate 10 percent of purchases to Pacific Center, the oldest LGBTQ center in the Bay Area, if the buyer mentioned Sasha Fleischman. Oakland High School, where the attacker attended, honored Fleischman when varsity basketball team players wore



bright blue “NoH8” T-shirts with the name Sasha on the back during a December 17 home game. Team’s friends and family members wore NoH8 pins as an activity of the anti-bully organization Not In Our School.

Transgender **Ray Ramsey** (left) was elected Homecoming King at Concord High School (NH) by a “landslide” victory. He took the title to the sound of thunderous applause and cheers from his friends and peers.

President Sends Two Lesbians and a Gay Man to Russia

In protest of the repressive anti-LGBT rights laws in Russia, President Obama will not attend the Olympics this coming year. His delegation includes openly lesbians, tennis great Billie Jean King and two-time Olympic medalist Caitlin Cahow, as well as Olympic figure-skating champion Brian Boitano who came out as gay two days after his appointment.



January 8 PFLAG Meeting Starts Year with Freedom to Marry

To start the New Year with fresh, new energy, we've invited Susan Suffion, a state organizer for Oregon United for Marriage, to give us an update on Oregon's progress in gathering signatures for next November's ballot measure.

We will also hear from Rhonda Jantzen, Ineka Estabrook, and others who have been the hardest working signature gatherers! Oregon will have marriage for all in 2014!!

The first meeting of 2014 will also include the chapter's Annual Meeting where officers are elected and the proposed schedule of meetings and events is reviewed and approved. Start the year off with PFLAG!

Plan now for 'Love Is Love' on February 9

It's back—the best Valentine Party on the Oregon Coast!! Plan now to attend this almost annual Love Is Love party for young and old, gay and straight! Great food, great entertainment, great people—guaranteed! The party will be held at OCCC in South Beach from 2-4 pm on Sunday, February 9.

Darcy Hogan, star of stage, screen and local musicals, has agreed to be our Master of Ceremonies (or is it Mistress??) And she will be singing a duet as well! Local newlywed couples, gay and straight, who were married after the DOMA decision, will be honored.

There will be tables loaded with Valentine treats straight from the kitchens of local church ladies and PFLAG members. A photographer will capture the moment for couples, families, and friends. There will be a Valentine craft table so you can create a hand-made card straight from the heart.

And in case you haven't signed yet, there will be a table for gathering signatures so everyone can get married after the November 2014 election!

OCC PFLAG Calendar

January 8, 6:00-7:30 pm: PFLAG Meeting—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

January 21, 7:00 pm: Coastal Aids Network Pizza Night—Newport Abbey Pizza

January 26, 11:00 am: OUT Lesbian Group—Café Mundo, Nye Beach, Newport

February: Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans History Month

February 5: National Gay-Straight Alliances Day

February 9, 2:00-4:00 pm: 'Love Is Love'—OCCC, South Beach

February 12: Freedom to Marry Day

February 12, 6:00 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>

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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