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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

March 2014

Take Action!

Southerners for the Freedom to Marry are asking for support by signing this petition: http://www.freedomtomarry.org/southerners?utm_medium=email&utm_source=FTM&utm_content=4++http://freedomtomarry.org/southern&utm_campaign=20140224southernright&source=20140224southernright

New Way Ministries is getting Catholics to tweet Pope Francis to condemn LGBT violence with their Twitter campaign #PopeSpeakOut as part of the No More Triangle Nations project. The website explains, "Triangle Nations are geographic territories that have the power and the will to legislate and enforce death dealing policies and/or the suspension of civil rights based on sexual orientation or gender identity," and specifically calls out Nigeria, Russia, Uganda, India, and Jamaica for their oppressive laws. http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/01/30/pope-francis-gay-rights_n_4696036.html?ir=Gay%20Voices

Following is a link showing the world's legal status of homosexuality: <http://cdn.static-economist.com/sites/default/files/imagecache/original-size/images/2013/12/blo>

Table of Contents

- Page 2: Photographs from 'Love Is Love'
- Page 3: Politics on Our Side
- Page 4: Boa Award; Golden Crown Convention
- Page 5: ENDA; A First in the Military
- Page 6: People Who Make a Difference
- Page 7: Local Events; Day of Silence
- Page 8: Join OCCC PFLAG!

Third Annual 'Love Is Love' Best Ever!

It was the best Valentine Party on the Oregon Coast!! Almost 150 attended this almost annual Love Is Love party for young and old, gay and straight! There was great food, great entertainment, great people! The party was held at OCCC in South Beach on Sunday, February 9.

Darcy Hogan, star of stage, screen and local musicals, was a great MC. She sang a duet from "Frozen" with Akia Woods, program chair for the event.

Local newlywed couples, gay and straight, were introduced and honored with beautiful red roses. Couples who were honored included:

Lisa Gray & Kelly Everfree
Jeanne St. John & Kae Bates
Joan Wesley & Herk Martens
Bari McLean & Gale Hamby
Aimee & Trista Selfridge
Joan Wikler & Beth Cook
Linda Tudico & Susan Srnec
DJ Jackson & Carole VanOrden

Tables were loaded with Valentine treats straight from the kitchens of local church ladies and PFLAG members. A photographer captured the moment for many couples, families, and friends. There was a Valentine craft table where adults and children created hand-made cards straight from the heart. And there was a table for gathering signatures so everyone can get married after the Nov. 2014 election—and also an opportunity to sign the Oregon ERA petition.

Special guests included Bruce Koike, Interim OCCC President, and Oregon State Representative David Gombert, who welcomed the party guests.—Jeanne St. John



[Photos: Upper left—McKenzie & Mia; upper right—Sierra & Barton; middle right—Beth & Joan; mid-page—Deb & Dave; lower right—Darcy. Beth and Joan were too shy to be photographed at Love Is Love, so I took the liberty of posting one of their wedding photos. They were honored as the couple who had been together the longest—Nel Ward, editor]

Politics on Our Side

California: An attempt from a coalition of conservative groups failed to get the 504,760 votes necessary to put a measure to repeal the new transgender students' rights law on the fall ballot.

Idaho: The state Supreme Court ruled that married same-sex couples are entitled to adopt children.

Indiana: Voters have to wait another two years before a constitutional amendment banning marriage equality can be put on the ballot.

Kansas: A bill that would have allowed state businesses and government employees to refuse service to same-sex couples on religious grounds failed to reach a vote in the state Senate.

Kentucky: Same-sex couples who marry in states with legalized marriage equality will also be recognized as married in the state.

New York: Newly elected New York City mayor, Bill De Blasio, plans to skip this

year's St. Patrick's Day Parade because it excludes LGBT groups. He will be the first New York mayor in 20 years to not march down Fifth Avenue in the Irish-American celebration.

Texas: Nikki Araguz, a trans widow, will receive survival benefits after her husband's death as a volunteer firefighter in 2010, according to a decision from the 13th District Court of Appeals in Corpus Christi.



Jeff J. Mitchell via Getty Images

Scotland: The country's Parliament has voted to legalize marriage equality, joining England and Wales in the U.K. Same-sex couples can begin marrying by fall.

Israel: President Simon Peres announced that he backs marriage equality. The country is also considering a bill giving tax credits to male same-sex couples with children. This benefit typically goes to heterosexual couples and mothers of children.

Oregon One of Six States Not Defending Anti-LGBT Marriage

According to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, state attorneys general are not obligated to defend state laws banning same-sex marriage if the law's discrimination violates the U.S. Constitution. Thus far, AGs in six states have declined to defend anti-marriage equality laws: Virginia, Pennsylvania, California, Illinois, Oregon, and Nevada.

After Oregon AG Ellen Rosenblum announced that she would not defend the state's ban in court, Oregon United for Marriage is waiting for a court ruling regarding same-sex marriage in the state. A hearing is scheduled for April 23.

The organization will not submit the 160,000+ signatures for a ballot measure repealing the state constitutional amendment banning marriage equality if the judge rules in favor of same-sex marriage.

Oregon United's recent polling found 55-41 in support of repeal, up from 51-43.

LGBT Rights Sweep Courts in U.S.

Seven rulings since SCOTUS struck down part of DOMA in *Windsor v. United States* have been on the side of marriage equality. Joining Utah and Oklahoma are Illinois, Kentucky, Nevada, Ohio, Virginia, and, most recently, Texas.

These states are in addition to those mentioned on p. 3 where state attorneys general will no longer defend bans on marriage equality.

A Kentucky judge has also ordered recognition of same-sex couples in the state who are married elsewhere.

DofD to Recognize Same-Sex Couples

The U.S. Department of Defense now recognizes the words “spouse” and “marriage” for same-sex couples. The change means that federal benefits are extended to legal same-sex spouses of DoD members and civilian employees.

This action follows the order in late October to state National Guards that they offer ID cards to same-sex couples. Initially, nine states refused to do this at state facilities, stating that same-sex couples must report to federal facilities to obtain ID cards.

All nine states are now issuing these cards at state facilities. DoD issues approximately five million ID cards annually to military members, civilian employees, contractors, foreign nationals, and family members.

Nel Ward Receives BOA Award

Nel Ward, editor of the OCCC PFLAG newsletter, has received an award from the American Library Association/Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Round Table for her ongoing work with the organization, most recently her participation in the transition of the newsletter to a website, GLBT News. That change led to a website specifically for reviews of LGBT materials. Ward will take over that project in July.



Ward has also co-founded two standing round table committees, The Rainbow Project and Over the Rainbow List Committee. The first was created in 2007 to recommend the many youth books that reflect GLBTQ people and their experiences. Over the Rainbow Committee followed three years later to provide a recommended bibliography of GLBT books for adults.

The Boa Award is literally the fashion piece, known as a boa. Although typically made of feathers, the one that Ward received is “animal friendly” and made of hair. GLBTRT started awarding the Boa Award 15 years ago to recognize individuals providing outstanding service to the LGBT group.

Websites: <http://www.glbtrt.ala.org/news/>

<http://www.glbtrt.ala.org/reviews/>

[Thanks to photographer extraordinaire, Ann Hubard, for the above picture.]

Golden Crown Meets in Portland

One of the prestigious organizations for lesbian literature, the Golden Crown Literary Society (GCLS), will hold its annual conference in Portland (OR) on July 9-13, 2014 at the Red Lion Hotel on the River at Jantzen Beach. Both educational and social for readers and writers, the meeting also offers aspiring authors the chance to pitch their book ideas to lesbian publishing companies. Authors Lori L. Lake and Ann Bannon will offer special presentations.

The conference culminates in the Goldies awards for excellence in 12 categories and four special awards. More information is available at www.goldencrown.org.

U.S. Needs More than ENDA to Fight Discrimination

A bill to stop employment discrimination against LGBT people has been wandering through Congress for decades but never succeeded in both chambers. The Senate passed the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) last November, but House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) refuses to allow a vote on the bill. Currently, employers in 33 states can legally fire or harass LGBT people or individuals who are perceived as being LGBT.

In his State of the Union speech, President Obama promised to take action through executive orders if Congress blocks his agenda. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) has approved the possibility of an ENDA executive order that could protect up to 16 million workers although it would affect only government contractors. Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE) compared an executive order on LGBT discrimination to President Harry Truman's integration of the military:

"Executive orders have long been a vehicle for progressive leadership on values. This is the sort of strong leadership that the President can exercise on progressive values within his constitutional authority. Presidents Truman and Johnson both used executive orders to lead the way on racial justice. Truman issued Executive Order 9981 to integrate the armed forces, and Johnson issued Executive Order 11246 to ban racial discrimination in hiring by federal contractors."

Workplace discrimination has left LGBT adults unemployed at a rate 40 percent higher than the national average. Transgender workers suffer even more from this discrimination with their unemployment four times the national average as shown in this report: <http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/LGB-Poverty-Update-Jun-2013.pdf>

On *The Bilerico Project* Rebecca Jure claims that ENDA is now obsolete because it addresses only the workplace. She used the recent bills in at least 14 states that would allow additional discrimination against LGBT people because people claim individual religious beliefs. Some of these are described at <http://nelsnewday.wordpress.com/2014/02/27/lgbt-rights-v-religion/>



Air Force Veteran Permitted to Bury 'Spouse' A First in a National Military Cemetery

Thanks to the advocacy of Oregon Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian and Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Linda Campbell, who served in the Air Force for 25 years, was able to bury her partner, Nancy Lynchchild, in Willamette National Cemetery. Lynchchild (left) died of cancer in December 2012.

Although the couple was married ten years ago in Multnomah

County and four years ago in Canada, the burial and the use of the word "spouse" on the headstone required a waiver from Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki.

The burial was the first in a national military cemetery for any same-sex couple. In another first, Campbell was able to use the symbol of a dancing sandhill crane on Lynchchild's stone instead of one of the VA's 55 approved symbols.



People Who Make a Difference

Nicole Maines, a transgender teenager, has won the legal right to use the girls' bathroom at her Maine high school. Students cheered when she announced the victory in a school assembly. Maine's Supreme Court decision is the first from any state court to protect transgender students' access to the bathroom designated for their gender identification. Maines has been fighting the case since she was in fifth grade. [Nicole with her father, Wayne Maines, and brother, Jonas]



The Mounties, an affectionate name for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), have appointed the first openly lesbian woman to lead the police force for the province of Alberta. **Marianne Ryan** has been with the Mounties for over 31 years, with the first 19 in Manitoba. She was put in charge of the Criminal Operations Branch for the RCMP in Alberta three years ago.

Conner Mertens, a kicker for Willamette University, became the first active college football player to come out publicly when he announced that he is bisexual.



When **Alec Fischer** was bullied as a gay teenager in high school, he attempted suicide. As a sophomore at the University of Minnesota, he started a petition on change.org to prevent professionals from "reparative therapy" that would try to change sexual orientation and gender identity in teenagers. His action has led to pending bills in both the Minnesota House and Senate that would take licenses from therapists who attempt this therapy.

Former English teacher **Julia Frost** is suing after she was allegedly fired for helping members of the Sultana High School Gay Straight Alliance file complaints about the behavior of teachers and administrators. California allows non-tenured teachers to be fired without cause, but Frost's attorneys maintain that she was fired because she is a lesbian and accused of "teaching homosexuality."



Bully Prevention, Topic - March 12 PFLAG Meeting

Bully Basics will be the topic of the education aspect of the monthly PFLAG meeting at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, March 12 at St. Stephen's Church in Newport. Staff from Newport and Lincoln City schools who are implementing the Olweus Bully Prevention program will discuss how the program is being implemented in their schools.

The program will also include an update on the state's Freedom to Marry campaign in light of the judicial challenge which may invalidate the current constitutional amendment prohibiting same-sex marriage in Oregon.—Jeanne St. John

Day of Silence Changes Into Day of Action

For years students across the United States have honored a "day of silence" to show how LGBT people must stay hidden and silent.

One school decided that their students would benefit instead from a "day of action." This is how:
http://www.alternet.org/education/how-my-students-modified-day-silence?akid=10677.266883.zdm-ux&rd=1&src=newsletter867157&t=14&paging=off¤t_page=1#bookmark

Episcopals Remove Priest Who Identifies As Transgender

TransEpiscopal and Integrity USA are honoring Rev. Gwen Fry for her courage in announcing she is transgender. Fry is the first Episcopal priest in Arkansas to publicly live as a transgender person. Sadly, she has been removed from her position as priest at Grace Episcopal Church in Pine Bluff (AK).

OCC PFLAG Calendar

March 12: Ten-year anniversary of first weddings in Multnomah County, later ruled invalid

March 12, 6:00-7:30 pm: PFLAG Meeting—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

March 18, 7:00 pm: Coastal Aids Network Pizza Night—Newport Abbey Pizza

March 23, 11:00 am: OUT Lesbian Group—Café Mundo, Nye Beach, Newport

April 9, 6:00 pm: PFLAG Meeting—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

April 11: Day of Silence*

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>

"If you feel like you have come out of nothing then you might feel you are nothing."--David Mixner, writing in his blog about the importance of teaching and learning about LGBT history

*Founded in 1996, the Day of Silence is a day when students vow to take a form of silence to create safer schools for all, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

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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PO Box 2172
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Name: _____

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