



Jeanne St.John/
Ineka Estabrook , Co-
Chairs
Deb Lyman, Secretary
Debbie Spicer, Treasurer
Nel Ward, Newsletter
Editor
nelward@charter.net
nelsnewday.wordpress.com
Contact: PO Box 2172,
Newport, OR 97365
(541)265-7194
pflagocc@gmail.com

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

SUPPORT to cope with
an adverse society

EDUCATION to
enlighten an ill-
informed public

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

Oregon Central Coast Chapter

May 2014

Take Action!

The new mayor of Latta (SC) fired Police Chief Crystal Moore, who served in the town's police department for over 20 years, because she is a lesbian. He followed no protocols for the dismissal, but South Carolina is one of 29 states where a person can legally be fired for being—or even being suspected of being—LGBT. Political pressure might reverse that firing. http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/reinstatement-for-police-chief-crystal-moore/?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=Feed

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) have revoked the charter of Seattle's Rainier Beach United Methodist Church after the parish stood by an openly gay Scoutmaster earlier this month. You can protest this at <https://www.change.org/petitions/chief-seattle-council-reject-the-boy-scouts-of-america-s-anti-gay-policy>

Marriage Equality Moves Forward

A National Institutes of Health study indicates that married same-sex couples are happier than their non-same-sex counterparts. In Oregon, U.S. District Judge Michael McShane heard arguments on April 23 regarding the state's constitutional ban on same-sex marriage. There was no opposition, but McShane is waiting to rule until he hears a request on May 14 from the anti-LGBT National Organization for Marriage to defend an appeal. If McShane grants NOM standing, he will hold a hearing for oral arguments in defense of the ban. News from other states on p. 2.

Help McKenzie Go to Japan! - P. 5

Upstander Week, Day of Silence—Newport High School

The GSA at Newport High started a full week of bully prevention and diversity-promoting activities, culminating in the traditional Day of Silence on April 11. PFLAG OCC Co-Chairs Ineka Estabrook and Jeanne St. John worked closely with the students and principal Jon Zagel to coordinate activities including an all-school assembly on Monday, April 7. The student Drama Troupe led by Deborah Zirin performed an improvisational skit demonstrating bullying, Upstander behavior, and bully behavior in teen dating. PFLAG OCC presented Newport High with the OSSP (Oregon Safe Schools Project) award for being an exemplary safe school for LGBT students. [Below right: PFLAG OCC Co-Chair Ineka Estabrook gives Newport High Principal Jon Zagel the OSSP Safe Schools Award.] GSA President McKenzie Figuracion acknowledged staff members for their support:

- * Mr. Zagel and Mr. Shindelman for taking bullying seriously and responding immediately when students have problems.
- * Ms. Atwill for sponsoring the Gay Straight Alliance Club.
- * Mr. Campbell for including new curriculum in his health class specifically for LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning) students.
- * Ms. Fox for book and library displays and hosting GSA events.

Students were encouraged to become Upstanders, not Bystanders, based on the Olweus Bully Prevention model. Forms were available for students to nominate other students as Upstanders for particular behaviors—and those students each received an Upstander not Bystander wrist band.

During the week students registered to participate in the Day of Silence where they agreed to spend the day without speaking to honor those who have lived a life of silence because they could not live openly as LGBT, or as homeless, immigrants, or with secrets of abuse. Newport High's GSA expanded the traditional meaning of the Day of Silence to include others besides LGBT who have lived in secret for fear of their safety—thus demonstrating the GSA's leadership as Upstanders.—Jeanne St. John



Newport Marriage Equality Vigil Joins Others across Oregon



Over 40 people met at Nana's in Nye Beach for the Newport Vigil, one of several vigils across the state on the night before Judge Michael McShane heard oral arguments in the case challenging Oregon's discriminatory ban on same-sex marriage.

The gathering was in support of the plaintiff couples and their legal teams, standing up for thousands of families in Oregon. PFLAG OCC organized the Newport event.

Politics on Our Side

Illinois: Republican officials who attempted to oust former state party Chairman Pat Brady for his pro-marriage equality stance lost their positions in the central committee last week. Six of the seven central committee party members who signed a petition to remove Brady as chairman lost their reelection bids.

Minnesota: The state now has a bullying-prevention law that mandates staff and teacher training in preventing bullying and requires tracking and investigating bullying cases. Schools are not required to keep and report data or train volunteers. If individual districts create their own policies, they will not have to follow the state's model policy.

United States: Following a case about a 92-year-old transgender widow, the Social Security Administration has declared that it is

changing its policy regarding transgender spouses. The new SSA policy presumes that most marriages are valid regardless of whether a spouse is transgender.

United States: The U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear an appeal from a New Mexico photographer who claimed that her religious beliefs prevented her from photographing a same-sex couple's commitment ceremony. The lower ruling against the photographer will stand.

Ethiopia: The government will not pass further anti-LGBT legislation which would have prevented people convicted of homosexuality from early leave from prison.

Malta: The parliament now recognizes same-sex partnerships on a legal par with marriage and allows LGBT couples to adopt.

Progress toward Marriage Equality News across the United States

Georgia/South Dakota: Lawsuits against marriage equality bans in these two states leave only three states without active lawsuits challenging laws against same-sex marriage: Alaska, Montana, and North Dakota.

Oklahoma, Utah: Three-judge panels from the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral arguments regarding district court decisions overturning both states' marriage equality bans. Their decisions will become law in those two plus five other states—Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, Utah and Wyoming—unless SCOTUS takes any appeal. The sixth state in the court's jurisdiction, New Mexico, also in the 10th Circuit Court's jurisdiction, has already legalized marriage equality.

Indiana: One lesbian couple in the state is now recognized as legally married, tragically because one of the couple is dying.

Michigan: A couple has filed a lawsuit to overturn Michigan's decision to not recognize same-sex marriages until the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals determines whether to uphold the ruling of the U.S. District Court that allows same-sex marriage. Also state officials asked the 6th U.S. Court of Appeals to put the question of marriage equality before full court without waiting for different three-judge panels to rule. All four states (Michigan, Kentucky, Ohio, and Tennessee) within the Sixth Circuit's geographic area now have appeals on that issue pending at the appeals court. A full-court review might lead to an earlier appeal to the Supreme Court.

Wyoming: Former Sen. Alan Simpson, a conservative, is appearing in television ads advocating marriage equality.

[More news on p. 5.]

Substitute teacher Laura Jane Klug, a 52-year-old transgender woman, has been reinstated at the small Texas school district in Lumberton after parent complaints led to her suspension from her job. The board said that they could not suspend Klug because the item was not on the agenda, but they did allow 13 speakers on the subject.

Texas law does not protect employees based on sexual orientation or gender identity, but EEOC has ruled that discrimination based on gender identity is sex discrimination. Some discrimination still exists because her reinstatement is in a “non-teaching” area.

Nineteen members of Congress have asked the International Olympic Committee to amend its charter later this year to bar anti-LGBT discrimination.

Fashion model Geena Rocero came out to the world in TED’s first talk on the transgender experience. Ted Talks on Technology, Entertainment, and Design are 18-minute presentations by luminaries such as Bill Clinton.

Charles Cooper, the lawyer who argued in U.S. District Court to keep California’s Proposition 8 ban on marriage equality, now says that his opposition to same-sex marriage is “evolving.” After he discovered that his stepdaughter is a lesbian and is marrying this fall, he doesn’t believe that same-sex unions weaken man/woman marriages.

‘Kumu Hinu’ Featured in Portland

The new film, *Kumu Hinu* will be featured at Portland’s Queer Documentary Film Festival on Sunday, May 18 at 12:30 pm with directors Dean Hamer and Joe Wilson in attendance. A few years ago, Hamer and Wilson brought their earlier film, *Out in the Silence*, to rural towns throughout Oregon, including Newport, and led discussions following the viewings. *Kumu Hinu* highlights a heroic transgender woman in the filmmakers’ home state of Hawaii.

During a time when transgender and gender nonconforming people throughout the world face hostility, violence, discrimination, and even murder simply for being themselves, the film offers a fresh perspective and a bold campaign to promote a more just and inclusive world.

Hina Wong-Kalu (Teacher Hina), a native Hawaiian teacher and cultural icon, brings to life Hawaii’s traditional embrace of mahu—those who embody both male and female spirit.

The film is also the basis for a global campaign for gender diversity—#APlaceintheMiddle—to help audiences across the U.S. and around the world see themselves and their families, schools, and communities to ensure that no one, particularly youth, faces harassment, discrimination, or violence simply because they don’t conform to society’s traditional gender norms.

The Portland Queer Documentary Film Festival will show many other excellent LGBT-themed films from May 15-18 at Kennedy School Theatre. QDoc is the only festival in the U.S. devoted to showing exclusively LGBT documentaries. It offers a unique vehicle to creatively engage core issues of queer identity—politics, history, culture, diversity, sexuality, family, aging, and coming-out issues. Cost is \$10, \$8 for seniors/students.

<http://www.queerdocfest.org/>

Newport High School Students participate in the Day of Silence (story on p. 2). Photo by Dani Palmer, *News-Times* reporter.



Help McKenzie Go to Japan!



Every summer, a delegation of Newport people go to the town's sister city in Japan, Mom-betsu, to effect communication between the two cultures. This summer, McKenzie Figuracion, president of Newport High School's GSA, wants to join the group. Only a sophomore, she runs the meetings and works toward creating a safer, bully-free environment both at the school and in the community, not just for LGBTQ students but also for everyone else.

After high school, she plans to major in criminal justice and minor in forensic science at college where she also plans to take part in a GSA. She said that if one doesn't exist that she'll form one! After working on a police force, she wants to join the FBI. At this time, she's not sure about joining the military after she graduates, but she does know that she will "continue educating the public about the importance of bully prevention, marriage equality, and gay rights."

McKenzie's LGBT activism comes from speaking to people about the importance of

"making the world a fair place for everyone, whether it be through every day acceptance or the laws put into place." She hopes to include as many people as possible in her endeavors.

Major influences on McKenzie's life come from her family—her mom, dad, and sister Carli. She said, "My mom has always been accepting of my sexuality and activism regarding LGBT issues and supports me throughout everything I do; my dad is the same way. My sister Carli is part of the LGBT community as well and has supported me in my coming out process." Another influence on her life is her cousin Tyler. "They made coming out of the closet a whole lot easier through reassurances and support."

McKenzie needs \$1,000 for her trip to Japan on July 20-31. She looks forward to meeting new people in a different country and "receive an enlightening cultural experience." To all the people who can help her, she says, "Thank you so much! Words cannot describe my appreciation." Donations can be made out to PFLAG and sent to PO Box 2172, Newport, OR 97365. For more information, call Jeanne St. John at (541)265-7194.

Progress toward Marriage Equality News across the United States

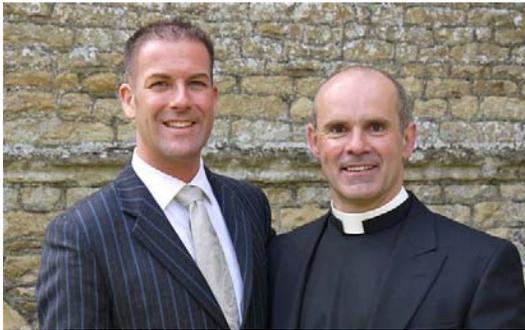
[Continued from p. 3.]

Ohio: A federal judge ordered the state to legalize same-sex marriages from other states but put his ruling on hold pending appeal for all but a handful of couples who challenged the ban. Ohio is already required to recognize out-of-state LGBT marriages on death certificates with an appeal pending in the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Supporters of marriage equality also got the green light to start collecting the necessary 385,247 signatures to put the question before Ohio voters in November. They have until 125 days before Election Day.

Nevada: The GOP has officially removed its objection to marriage equality.

People Who Make a Difference

Jan Tipper (right) and **Barb Burden**, together for 19 years, are the first same-sex couple to be legally married in a U.K. church. Major denominations such as the Church of England and Roman Catholic Church do not perform LGBT weddings. Gay Anglican priests are officially banned from marrying, but the Rev. Canon **Jeremy Pemberton**, a hospital chaplain, defied the ban by wedding his long-term partner **Laurence Cunningham** (below).



Transgender activist and actress **Laverne Cox** received one of the GLAAD media awards at its 25th celebration on April 12. The Stephen F. Kolzak award is presented to a media professional in the LGBT community who has made significant strides in the effort to promote equality.



Wikileaks soldier **Chelsea Manning**, serving a 35-year sentence in Fort Leavenworth military prison, will be Honorary Grand Marshal of the San Francisco Pride Parade. Last year, the main Pride board refused to accept the recommendations of a committee of former Pride marshals to selecting Manning. Thousand of Manning supporters in 2013 composed the largest non-corporate walking contingent, according to board's new president, Gary Virginia.

Transgender **Nathaniel Baez** decided to plan a personal prom after Maspeth Lutheran school refused to allow him to attend the school prom as **Anais Celini's** date. He may not need to do this because the transitional housing facility where he lives, after his parents made him leave home, has scheduled a prom for the couple. More than 3,600 people signed an online petition asking the school to welcome the couple at the prom, but the school is standing firm in its original decision, based on "the scriptures."



Out Magazine's top 50 most influential LGBT voices in American culture: <http://www.out.com/out-exclusives/power-50/2014/04/15/8th-annual-power-50>

Straight Ally Panel, May 14 Meeting

A panel of Straight Allies has been invited to share their perspectives as Friends of the LGBT Community. Knowing more about those who support the cause and who are vocal Upstanders is very important to understanding "our base." These Straight Allies will share their reasons for being visible Straight Allies and their experiences with those who are not yet allies. If you are a Straight Ally (without LGBT family members), please join this informal panel and share your insights and experiences.

Public Health Advisory Committee Asks PFLAG OCC To Present

OCC PFLAG Board Members Jeanne St. John, Ph.D., and Debbie Spicer, RN, will present information related to LGBT health concerns to Lincoln County's Public Health Advisory Committee at their May 6 meeting. The February 2014 issue of the *National Public Health Journal* was devoted to LGBT issues, and PFLAG was invited to meet with PHAC to provide them with information about the LGBT community and about Bully Prevention efforts in the County. PFLAG will use materials from their LGBT 101 and Bully Basics workshops, as well as from the *Public Health Journal* at this info session.

Bully Basics at Florence PFLAG

Jeanne St. John and Debbie Spicer presented a workshop on Bully Basics to the Florence PFLAG chapter in early April. Their membership was very enthusiastic, and they hope to promote more involvement with bully prevention based on the Olweus model with the Siuslaw School District.

OCC PFLAG Calendar

May 14, 6:00-7:30 pm: PFLAG Meeting—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

May 14: Federal Court Hearing on NOM's standing in a lawsuit regarding marriage equality

May 15-18: Portland Queer Documentary Festival—McMenamins Kennedy School Theatre, 5736 NE 33rd Avenue, Portland [See p. 4.]

May 25, 11:00 am: OUT Lesbian Group—Café Mundo, Nye Beach, Newport

June 11, 6:00 pm: PFLAG Meeting—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

June 22, 11:00 am: OUT Lesbian Group—Café Mundo, Nye Beach, 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.

"They make it sound as though there are a limited number of marriage licenses and if they start handing out marriage licenses willy-nilly to same-sex couples who can't have a child, then what is that going to do to procreation?"-- Sharon Baldwin, half of one of the couples challenging Oklahoma's ban on same-sex marriage

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: _____

PFLAG is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and has no political or religious affiliations.



Oregon Central Coast PFLAG
P.O. Box 2172
Newport, Oregon 97365