



Jeanne St.John/
Ineka Estabrook , Co-
Chairs
Deb Lyman, Secretary
Debbie Spicer, Treasurer
Nel Ward, Newsletter
Editor
nelcward@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

July 2014

A Sad Passing

Iconic author of books for youth, Nancy Garden, has died of a massive heart attack. Next month she would have received the 2014 Lee Lynch Classic Award from the Golden Crown Literary Society at its conference in Portland for her 1982 novel of teenage lesbian love, *Annie on My Mind*. GCLS cited the book as “one of the most important classics in lesbian literature.” As one remembrance stated, “Her heart was so big, so full of love for women and for kids who needed books about their own lives, it’s not surprising that her heart finally gave out.” She is survived by her partner of 45 years, Sandy Scott. Read more about Nancy Garden at <http://www.lambdaliterary.org/features/rem/06/24/in-remembrance-nancy-garden/#sthash.wQ5oQ5iL.dpuf>

You Are Invited to a PFLAG Special Event on July 11

Instead of our regular Wednesday meeting in July, our chapter will host visitors from the national and regional PFLAG organizations. Cesar Hernandez, Field and Policy Manager for PFLAG National, and Dawn Holt, PFLAG NW Regional Director and president of PFLAG Portland, are visiting three Oregon PFLAG chapters, including ours!

We’re planning a “Show & Tell” Reception at the Embarcadero from 4-6 pm on Friday, July 11. We’ll enjoy appetizers and no-host beverages while we share some of the highlights of the first six years of PFLAG OCC. Please come and share some of your favorite events, activities, and memories from our work with schools, churches, community organizations, the marriage equality campaign, and Love Is Love Valentine’s Parties. Please RSVP to pflagocc@gmail.com or 541-265-7194 so we can plan refreshments.

GSA Goes to Portland Gay Pride!

PFLAG Co-Chair Ineka Estabrook and Straight Ally Gary Lehman led a field trip for GSA kids to their first Gay Pride Parade. Everyone was amazed at the length of the parade and the involvement of so many different businesses, churches, as well as GSA and PFLAG chapters. They plan to make it an annual event!



Pride Photos from Ann Hubard



Politics on Our Side

Alabama: A unanimous ruling from the Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals has struck down the state's sodomy ban. Before the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Lawrence v. Texas* (2003), Alabama was one of 12 states classifying consensual gay sex as a felony. Despite the highest court's ruling that these laws are unconstitutional, Alabama has refused to change its law. Prosecutors have tried to get a first-degree sodomy conviction after a man was convicted of sexual misconduct, a misdemeanor, in 2010.

California: A bill that would identify deceased people with the gender that they prefer during life has passed the Assembly and moved to the Senate. It also speeds up name changes for transpeople in California and makes these changes private instead of forcing them to resort to court decisions for name changes. Since 2012, transpeople in the state have not been required to prove that they have had surgery in order to identify as the preferred gender.

Massachusetts: The state is the 17th one in the U.S. to strengthen an anti-bullying law in schools to include LGBT youth.

South Carolina: A lawsuit against the Department of Social Services and two hospitals must proceed, according to the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. The case involves a decision to surgically change an intersex 16-month-old child into a girl by removing the penis and testicle. Now eight, M.C. has been reared as a female but identifies as a male. Because of decisions made without his consent while he was in state custody, he will not be able to function as male or procreate. Scar tissue and loss of sensation prevents a satisfactory sexual life. This may be the first case of its kind.

United States: A Medicare policy banning coverage of gender reassignment surgery has been struck down.

United States: President Obama has announced an executive order to forbid LGBT job discrimination by federal contractors and subcontractors. The order is similar to conditions in the proposed Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) that would do the same for all LGBT employees in the United States. Although 90 percent of the nation's voters think that federal law protects LGBT workers from discrimination, 29 states still offer no employment protections for sexual orientation. Thirty-two states have no protection for gender identity. The president's executive ENDA would protect up to 16 million workers, one-fifth of the country's labor force.

United States: Title IX protects non-gender conforming students from discrimination and harassment in schools, according to the Department of Education guidelines. <http://transgenderlawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/qa-201404-title-ix.pdf>

Israel: The world's largest gay pride flag lit up Tel Aviv's municipality building to celebrate Gay Pride Month in Israel.



Great News for LGBT Rights!

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that laws claimed to discriminate against LGBT people, including marriage equality, must satisfy a tougher constitutional test than other laws.

In the case of *SmithKline Beecham v. Abbott Laboratories*, focusing on the exclusion of a gay juror, a three-judge circuit panel determined that LGBT rights cases required a “heightened scrutiny” test.

This is the first federal appeals court decision to determine the scope of the Supreme Court’s decision a year ago in *United States v. Windsor*.

The 2nd Circuit Court had used the same tougher standard but did so before *Windsor*. Ten other federal appeals courts have used only the least-demanding standard of “rational basis” review in overturning bans on marriage equality.

Without a ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court, the 9th Circuit Court decision is binding on all the states in its region: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington.

Nintendo Allows LGBTs

After receiving protests, Nintendo has decided to allow gay characters in its new Tomodachi game.

According to the company, the current game cannot be changed, but new releases of the game will have LGBT options and allow same-sex avatars to marry.

A Nintendo-loving nine-year-old told his father, “But gay people can be awesome, just like the rest of us.”

Something Old, Something New: Exploring the State of Marriage

There’s been significant change, especially in the last decade. What do the debates about marriage—in this state and beyond—reveal about the institution as a whole? Why is a private relationship so publicly significant and contested? And why, when so many people are avoiding or dissolving marriages, do so many others wish to marry?



This conversation with Dr. Leslie Dunlap, professor at Willamette University, was hosted by PFLAG OCC and sponsored by Oregon Humanities at the June PFLAG meeting. Approximately 20 people actively participated in the lively discussion about changes in marriage traditions and expectations—and the roles of women in recent decades.—Jeanne St. John

Marriage Equality in U.S., World Grows

Pride Month saw bans on marriage equality overturned in Indiana, Utah (this time by the 10th Circuit Court), and Wisconsin. That makes 16 rulings against state marriage bans in the past year since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *United States v. Windsor* that the federal Defense of Marriage Act was unconstitutional. Currently same-sex couples can marry in 20 states: Wisconsin’s and Utah’s rulings are stayed, waiting for appeals. This is an overview of progress during the past year: <http://nelsnewday.wordpress.com/2014/06/04/marriage-equality-throughout-the-united-states/>

The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati will hear arguments about marriage equality in four states on August 6. The same three-judge panel will hear all four cases. Only one state, Michigan, asks the court to overturn the state’s ban on marriage equality. Cases in the other three states—Kentucky, Ohio, and Tennessee—deal with the states’ recognition of out-of-state marriages.

Around the world, Luxembourg joins a growing list of nations that has legalized marriage equality, including Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and Uruguay. England and Wales also allow for same-sex marriage and, in the next few months, Scotland will do the same. Some jurisdictions within Mexico also recognize same-sex marriages. Ireland has a marriage referendum scheduled in 2015.

Successes in the Fight against Bigotry

A large coalition of religious groups, including Baptists, rabbis, and Episcopalians, have joined the United Church of Christ in their lawsuit against North Carolina. The state's 2012 ban on same-sex marriage also prevents religious leaders from performing religious services that would recognize a couple as married. Criminal charges for the churches' actions provide for both fines and a prison sentence. The suit claims that the state is limiting the freedom to practice religions by restricting same-sex marriage, an institution which these religious groups recognize.



Methodist pastor Frank Schaefer has been “refrocked,” six months after the United Methodist Church removed his ordination credentials for presiding over the marriage of his gay son. The organization is “evolving” in its position about marriage equality.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), or PC(USA), voted to allow its pastors to officiate same-sex weddings in states where it is legal. The group will also change official church documents to include a more inclusive definition of marriage. Several leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) have questioned the denomination's hardline stance against LGBT people in recent months—including one church pastor who openly espouses a gay-affirming theology.

Evangelical Christian Matthew Vines has released his book, *God and the Gay Christian*, that makes the biblically-based case for accepting homosexuality.

The American Medical Association has announced that transgender surgery should not be a necessary requirement for changes in birth certificates. Most states mandate both a court order and proof of surgery for changes in birth certificates although New York recently removed the surgery requirement. AMA's new policy language states: “Requiring sex-reassignment surgery places a burden on an already marginalized population.”

The World Health Organization (WHO) has joined UN Women, UN AIDS, UNICEF, the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Development Program, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to condemn the forced sterilization of transgender and intersex people.

Information to Help Transgender Families in Child Custody Cases

Jenn Burleton, director of the TransActive Gender Center, wrote that the organization is experiencing phenomenal growth in families served throughout the United States. Many of them are suffering from challenges to child custody rights by estranged or divorced partners and spouses. These challenges include misinformation, outright lies, baseless accusations, blatant homophobia, and so-called ‘expert’ opinion by ideologically driven practitioners of “reparative” or “conversion” therapy. Even worse is the insufficient information for family courts, custody evaluators, referees, and court-appointed special advocates about the importance of affirmation to the health, well-being, and best interests of a gender-nonconforming or transgender child or youth. Nancy Campbell Mead has prepared information for these people who may be in a position to positively (or negatively) impact the lives of these children and youth through their custody and visitation decisions. Two documents, a cover letter and overview information, have been sent to every judge in the State of Oregon and Clark County, Washington. You can obtain copies of these documents by contacting Burleton at info@transactiveonline.org or 503-252-3000.

People Who Make a Difference

Darrin Gayles has been confirmed by a Senate vote of 98-0 as the first black and openly gay judge to serve on the federal bench. He will serve on the U.S. District Court in Florida.



Staci Yandle (left), by a vote of 52-44, has been confirmed to the U.S. District Court in Illinois. She is the second black and openly-lesbian

judge to serve on the federal bench. Deborah Batts, the first black and openly lesbian federal judge, was nominated by President Bill Clinton and was later unanimously confirmed to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York in 1994.

Lauren Scott (right), a transwoman, has been elected as the GOP candidate for Nevada's 30th District in the state assembly. She was an active-duty member of the U.S. Air Force, having worked as a military firefighter at the Tonopah Test Range in support of F-117A Stealth Fighter Operations. Long-time Democrat, Scott switched her party affiliation to Republican when she ran in the 2012 primary, which she lost.



Harvey Milk was assassinated soon after he became one of the first openly gay elected officials in the U.S. This stamp was dedicated on May 22, 2014 on the day when he would have turned 84. The stamp is well worth purchasing: it's a "forever stamp," which means that it can always be used no matter how much stamp prices increase.



The people of PFLAG (left) make a difference in our community. The photo was taken before the LaDeDa Parade last year in Yachats. March with them this year at 11:00 am on July 4; meet in the picnic area behind the Yachats Commons.

PFLAG at Yachats LaDeDa Parade

Join us to walk in this delightful parade on the Fourth of July! We'll meet at the covered picnic area behind Yachats Commons at 11:00 am to prepare signs and share our rainbow gear! Wear your Rainbow Best—and bring some to share!

July Picnic at Yaquina Park

Women who love women and their families are invited to Newport's Yaquina Bay State Park for a picnic on Saturday, July 12, 11:00 am-3:00 pm. Parking is available on Government Street. You are invited to bring games, badminton sets, volleyballs, Frisbees, beach balls, etc. for activities after the picnic.

Those new to the area might want to take advantage of kayaking and rafting at Ona Beach or visits to the Rogue Brewery, Aquarium, Hatfield Science Center, Yaquina Light House, and the Bay Front.

If you have a special diet, please bring individualized lunches. You are welcome to bring something to share; donations will be accepted for grilled hot dogs, hamburgers, or veggie-burgers. Please R.S.V.P. by July 8 to 65annette@gmail.com with your choices.

'She Loves Me Not' at Newport PAC

Milo Graamans is presenting a readers' theater performance of his original musical, *She Loves Me Not*, about a young woman who introduces her college boyfriend to her family the day before she comes out as a lesbian. The Porthole Players production is directed by Carl Foster Miller.

Performances are at the Newport Performing Arts Center on July 11-12 at 7:30 and July 13 at 2:00 pm. <http://portholeplayers.org/shelovesmenot.html>

OCC PFLAG Calendar

July 4, 11:00 am: LaDeDa Parade, Yachats Commons

July 11, 4:00-6:00 pm: Show & Tell Reception, Embarcadero, Newport (RSVP to pflagocc@gmail.com or 541-265-7194)

July 11, 7:30 pm: *She Loves Me Not*, Newport PAC

July 12, 9:00 am-1:00 pm: PFLAG table, Newport Farmers Market

July 12, 11:00am-3:00 pm: Out Oregon Coast Women's Picnic (including families), Yaquina Bay State Park picnic area, Newport

July 12, 7:30 pm: *She Loves Me Not*, Newport PAC

July 13, 2:00 pm: *She Loves Me Not*, Newport PAC

July 20, 1:00 pm: PFLAG Parents Coffee, Chalet Café, Newport

July 27, 11:00 am: Out Oregon Coast Women's Coffee, Café Mundo, Newport

August 9, 9:00 am-1:00 pm: PFLAG table, Newport Farmers Market

August 13, 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>

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