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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

October 2014

Take Action

After Tyler Brandt's supervisor made the 16-year-old wear a name tag that read "GAYTARD" while he worked at a Taco John's restaurant in Yankton (SD), the teen was so humiliated that he felt he had to quit his job. You can sign a petition demanding an apology and tell Taco John's to take a public stance against discrimination and bullying in the workplace. <https://www.aclu.org/secure/tyler>

North Carolina House Republican Robert Pittenger said that being LGBT is like smoking—businesses should be able to fire people for either "offense." You can tell him he is wrong: https://secure3.convio.net/hrc/site/Advocacy;jsessionid=B854382E20708928027FoF58B53Fo80A.app338a?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=1949&autologin=true&utm_term=body-link1

OUT@NBCUniversal will be the first LGBT group to march in New York's St. Patrick's Day Parade next year. That's both good and bad news. Allowing an LGBT group to march is good, but it's only one group—and perhaps a decision made because NBC broadcasts the parade and threatened to boycott it. Better news will be when the parade accepts other LGBT groups. LGBT people have been able to march before, but they had to be with other groups and couldn't carry banners. Next year's parade has about 320 units.

On September 29, the U.S. Supreme Court will most likely discuss whether to again address the issue of marriage equality. Recently, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg suggested that SCOTUS would not take up any cases because there is no circuit split. Fifteen states that allow gay marriage and 17 that ban same-sex marriage have asked the U.S. Supreme Court for a ruling for all states.

PFLAG Hero Linda Orange Honored at September Meeting



Linda Orange has volunteered to meet with LGBT Teens weekly for the last seven years. A program that started in 2007 while Linda was working as a mental health therapist for LCHHS and with psychiatrist Dr. Tom DeBlois has continued because of Linda's dedication to the well-being of LGBT teens.

She stayed with "her kids" through thick and thin, through changes of staffing in LCHHS and LCSD, through her own retirement from LCHHS and the establishment of Newport High's School Based

Health Center. Newport High's LGBT Teen Lunch Bunch met weekly in the new SBHC meeting room where they share dreams, challenges, sorrows and support along with large quantities of pizza. Linda's compassion, caring, and competence have guided dozens of young LGBT students through the tough passages of their high school years.

At the September PFLAG meeting Linda's long-time volunteer work was celebrated amidst tears and laughter as current and graduated teens shared stories of how the group and Linda's faith in them has impacted their lives. From a letter from Dr. Tom DeBlois, her former partner in the group:

"Please let Linda know I think of her whenever I see my LGBT kids and I talk about the group all the time. Our resident psychiatrists are my primary focus when they rotate through our clinic for training, and the Teen LGBT Group is one of our focuses at the clinic. I miss running the group with such a fine and empathic therapist like Linda.

"I am sure the kids in her groups have grown and become healthy young adults, something we may never realize because they have grown up in an environment that mostly advocates and supports them. What a wild dream come true! Thank you Linda."

Former Newport High GSA president Jordan Ostrum wrote:

"Linda Orange has been a great mentor to me, no, to all of us. From offering us sage advice, to simply listening to us when we needed to vent, we wouldn't be where we are today if it weren't for Linda Orange.

"In our sessions together throughout the years, we cried a bit, we shed some tears. But what made it worthwhile in the end was when we could share a smile, and call you our friend. You will always remain in our hearts, for because of your love our lives were truly touched."

PFLAG will continue to support the weekly group by providing the lunches through Equity Foundation's grant, and by being an active part of the adult staffing. Nurse Practitioner Reatha Ryan, an active member of the PFLAG Chapter, has volunteered to serve as the facilitator along with School Based Health Center staff members. The LGBT Teen Lunch Bunch will resume in early October. (Right: Linda with her wife, Ardie.)



Politics on Our Side

California: The state has passed a bill to ban attorneys from using the gay or trans panic defense to lessen the sentence of violent criminals who murder LGBT people.

Florida: Commissioners in Hillsborough County voted unanimously to create a domestic-partnership registry allowing unmarried people to make legal decisions for domestic partners. Narrowly defeated in January 2013, the legislation now received support from all four Republican commissioners who had previously voted against it. The commissioners also scheduled an Oct. 1 vote on a LGBT nondiscrimination bill.

New York: Judge Migdalia Pares has ruled that Robert and Cynthia Gifford are to be fined \$13,000 for their refusal to allow a lesbian couple to be married at Liberty

Ridge Farm, a public place where weddings are typically held.

United States: The federal government has filed lawsuits against two employers of bias against transgender workers. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has accused a Michigan funeral home and a Florida eye clinic of firing employees because they are transgender. This is the first time that the agency has taken such an action.

United States: Rep. Jared Polis (D-CO) is trying to move forward the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) with a discharge petition that would force a vote on the bill in the House. The petition, which needs to gain 218 signatures in order to succeed, has over 100 signatures.

Changes in Marriage Equality throughout the United States during the Month of September

This past month saw the first U.S. district judge uphold the ban on marriage equality since the Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage on a federal level over one year ago. Ronald Reagan appointee Martin C. Feldman, 80, said that the Windsor decision caused him "unease," and he called it "unclear" and "by its own terms, limited." He found no history or tradition in the country of same-sex marriage although the first of these weddings went to the Supreme Court over 40 years ago. Soon after Feldman's ruling, Louisiana state Judge Edward Rubin recognized the marriage of two women married in California so that one could adopt the other's biological child. He also ordered that the state Department of Revenue allow the couple to file a joint tax return as a married couple

In other states, the 7th Circuit Court brought marriage equality to Indiana and Wisconsin, the third favorable federal appeals court ruling after the 10th struck down bans in Oklahoma and Utah, and the 4th ruled against bans in Virginia. Because of appeals, only two lesbian couples are permitted to be married in Indiana, both because one woman in each couples suffers from terminal cancer.

One judge ruling in favor of marriage equality on the 7th Circuit, Reagan appointee Richard Posner, delivered a memorable statement: "Heterosexuals get drunk and pregnant, producing unwanted children; their reward is to be allowed to marry. Homosexual couples do not produce unwanted children; their reward is to be denied the right to marry. Go figure."

After hearing arguments in August against bans in Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and Tennessee, the 6th Circuit Court has not yet issued its ruling. In early September, three judges on the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals heard arguments on gay marriage bans in Idaho, Nevada and Hawaii.

Some legally married lesbians and gays cannot receive veterans benefits because the Department of Veterans Affairs determines these based on the legality of marriage in the veterans' state of residency. Twelve of 13 Republicans on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs voted to deny access to legally married lesbian and gay veterans who live in a state that bans marriage equality.

Same-sex marriage is currently legal in 19 states as well as the District of Columbia, and advocates have won more than 20 court victories around the country since the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a portion of the Defense of Marriage Act that prohibited the federal government from recognizing same-sex marriage in 2013.

LGBT 101 Offered At Senior Services

PFLAG leaders Debbie Spicer & Jeanne St. John will conduct an LGBT 101 workshop for staff at the Senior Services offices in Toledo on October 15. Teams of workshop presenters are available to do presentations for churches, schools, service clubs, and other community groups with an interest in learning more about the history and challenges of the LGBT community. Contact PFLAG for more information and to schedule a free workshop.

PFLAG OCC to Receive Safe Schools Award

Oregon Safe Schools Project has selected schools and community organizations for its third annual statewide Safe Schools Awards. PFLAG OCC has been selected to receive one of the awards at a ceremony to be held in Portland on October 4.

GSA Workshop Scheduled

Students from GSA clubs throughout Lincoln County will attend a workshop at Taft high on Wed., Oct. 1. Led by PFLAG OCC Co-Chairs Ineka Estabrook & Jeanne St. John, the workshop will help students conduct effective meetings, plan events, and contribute to a safe school climate.

Ineka plans to lead several field trips for GSA members to LGBT-related events in Portland and Willamette Valley locations during the upcoming year.

PFLAG Hosts AIDS Quilt Ceremony

Panels from the national AIDS Quilt were displayed at the annual Oregon Coast Pride Celebration in Lincoln City on September 5-7. One of the panels honored Lincoln County residents and had special meaning for many in our community.

PFLAG Oregon Central Coast has received a grant from Levi Strauss to promote HIV/AIDS prevention, especially among young people in Lincoln County. The initial activity of this Levi Grant was held Saturday, September 6 in conjunction with the display of a small part of the AIDS Quilt.

Area government, education, and health officials as well as Levi staff members participated in a short ceremony commemorating those who have lost their lives to HIV/AIDS. All pledged our communities to the hard work of education and prevention. County Commissioner Bill Hall, Director of Lincoln County Health & Human Services Cheryl Connell, Coastal AIDS Network Director Dan Beck, and OCCC Nursing Instructor and PFLAG Treasurer Debbie Spicer shared personal stories of their experiences in working with HIV/AIDS over the years.

Michele Smith represented Levi Strauss with the story of that company's long involvement and dedication to the HIV/AIDS prevention cause. She made the point that PFLAG OCC is one of five grantees internationally.



From left, Debbie Spicer and Jeanne St. John from COC PFLAG and Michele Smith from Levi Strauss. Photo by Staff Reporter, Dani Palmer, Newport News Times.

Progress in the LGBT World of Government, Sports

For the first time, **census data** is categorizing same-sex married couples as families. Previously even legally married same-sex couples were considered “unmarried partners.” Now 251,695 of 57 million married-couple households in the nation are same-sex couples.

Bans on ex-gay “therapy” has increased its movement across the state, but a recent ruling is a step forward to **saving teenagers from the abuse of therapists** who think that they can “cure” LGBT youth. A unanimous panel from the 3rd Circuit Court upheld New Jersey’s ban because of the First Amendment. In the past, court rulings have declared that the bans are “conduct,” not speech. The opinion for Judge D. Brooks Smith, a George W. Bush appointee, stated that the state has an interest in protecting patients from harmful medical care, whether surgery or speech. This protection rates the protection from harmful quackery higher than the therapists’ free speech rights. The panel declared that restriction on professional speech is valid as long as it “directly advances the state’s substantial interest” in protecting citizens from harm and is “no more extensive than necessary.” Because the therapy techniques can trigger depression and suicide, New Jersey can legally revoke the license of professionals who practice it.

The problems of holding the 2014 Winter Olympics in Russia, a country with anti-LGBT laws, has caused the International Olympic Committee to **add a non-discrimination clause to its contract** with future host cities. The three 2022 candidate cities are Oslo, Beijing and Almaty, Kazakhstan. Already scheduled Olympics will be at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2016); Pyeongchang, South Korea (2018); and Tokyo, Japan (2020).

The National Association of Basketball Coaches has formally included "sexual orientation" as a protected group in their anti-discrimination and anti-bullying policies. The NABC is the nation's largest network of men's high school and college basketball coaches.

The United Kingdom’s LGB equal rights charity, Stonewall, has received **requests for over 100,000 rainbow laces**, far more than their stock of 50,000. The campaign, launched last year, coincides with the start of the country’s soccer season to highlight homophobia in the sport. Pairs of laces have been sent out to all the professional soccer clubs across England, and Stonewall is asking players to wear them in their boots.

The Australian Football League (AFL) is **reconsidering its sponsorship with Royal Brunei Airlines** after it learned that Sultan Hassanal Bolkhiah of Brunei announced a law in April that stones LGBT people to death. In the same month, AFL had pledged to “eliminate” homophobia in the sport. Protest against the Sultan-owned Beverly Hills Hotel in California caused a loss of revenue for the venue, and others are protesting the Sultan’s possible purchase of New York’s Plaza Hotel. The Student Union at Oxford University (England) also passed an emergency motion in June to strip the Sultan of his honorary doctorate in law, but Oxford refused to do so. The Sultan received an honorary knighthood from the Queen in 1992 and has been awarded a string of honors by British universities. The Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) has also refused to revoke the honor of “Companion of the College” awarded the Sultan. RCGP declared that he is “committed to raising healthcare standards” in his country despite the law stoning LGBT people to death.



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Rachel Maddow, host of a show by her name on MSNBC, and **Harvey Levin**, creator and managing editor of TMZ, have tied for first in *Advocate’s* list of the 50 most influential LGBT people in the media. The rest of them are here. <http://www.advocate.com/politics/media/2014/09/16/50-most-influential-lgbt-people-media>

People Who Make a Difference



Congratulations to **Vivian Boyack**, 91, and **Alice "Nonie" Dubes**, 90, on their September 6 wedding in Davenport (IA). The two women met in 1947 in their hometown of Yale (IA). Moving to Davenport, Boyack taught school, and Dubes did payroll work. They were together for 72 years before being recognized as legally married by the federal government. The two women say it is never too late for a new chapter in life.

Megan Smith, former Google Vice President and out lesbian, has been named to the highest ranking tech job in the White House, the Chief Technology Officer and Assistant to the President. At Google, she led the team responsible for such technology as Google Earth, Google Maps, and the Google Crisis Response Project. She is also former CEO of the LGBT website PlanetOUT.



Lesbians **Alison Bechdel** and **Mary Bonauto** received two of the 21 prestigious MacArthur genius awards granted in 2014 for demonstrating an extraordinary level of creativity. Each award provides \$625,000 over a five-year period with no strings attached for expenditures. Brilliant cartoonist and graphic memoirist Bechdel began her career in her twenties with *Dykes to Watch Out For* in which she introduced the idea of non-sexist movies. A movie passes the Bechdel Test if (1) there are at least two women in it (2) who talk to each other (3) about something other than a man. Before Bechdel, the only graphic novelist to win the prestigious fellowship was Ben Katchor in 2000. Civil rights activist Bonauto led the court fight for same-sex marriage rights in Massachusetts in 2003 and played key roles in expanding gay rights across New England.



Lead with Love, October 8 Coming Out Meeting

An excellent short film which includes a variety of families who they learn that a child or young adult is LGBT will be shown and discussed at the October 8 PFLAG meeting. The film provides comfort, information, and guidance for parents who have recently learned that their son or daughter is lesbian, gay, or bisexual.

Four families share their honest reactions to hearing that their child is gay with the intense emotions, fears, and questions that it raised. Interviews with psychologists, teachers, and clergy provide factual answers to parents' most commonly asked questions, as well as concrete guidance to help parents keep their children healthy and safe during this challenging time.

PFLAG Oregon Central Coast focuses on the Coming Out process each October to raise awareness about the effects of living secretly or "in the closet" and the risks and benefits of "coming out" more publicly as sexual or gender minority. Copies of the article "Eighteen Things to Think About Before Coming Out" will be available at the meeting. Participants will be encouraged to share from their own experiences of living in and/or coming out of a LGBT closet—as a parent, family member, friend, or LGBT person.

National Coming Out Day (NCOD) is an internationally observed civil awareness day celebrating individuals who publicly identify as a gender or sexual minority. The day is observed annually by members of the LGBT community and allies on October 11. The date of October 11 was chosen because it was the anniversary of the 1987 National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights. National Coming Out Day is observed annually to celebrate coming out and to raise awareness of the LGBT community and civil rights movement. The holiday is observed in dozens of countries in a wide variety of ways: from rallies and parades to information tables in public spaces. Participants often wear pride symbols such as pink triangles and rainbow flags. (Wikipedia)

OCC PFLAG Calendar

October is LGBT History Month!

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

October 10, 5:30 pm: Basic Rights fundraiser, IGNTÉ – Portland Art Museum, 1210 SW Park Avenue—<https://bro.ejoinme.org/?tabid=538633>

October 11: Coming Out Day

October 18, 8:30 am-1:15 pm: PFLAG table—Newport Farmers Market

October 26, 11:00 am: Out Oregon Coast Women's Coffee, Café Mundo, Newport

October 28, 7:00 pm: CAN Pizza—Abby's, Newport

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

The Coastal AIDS Network* monthly activities:

Second Tuesday: "Men's Pot Luck" (Locations vary! Call (541)994-5597 or email coastalaidnetwork@gmail.com for information)

Fourth Tuesday, 7:00 pm: "Pizza Night" (Newport Abbey's Pizza)

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>

"This enforcement priority aims to give full force to Title VII's prohibition against sex discrimination to ensure it helps eliminate unlawful discriminatory barriers to LGBT applicants and employees."—David Lopez, attorney for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, discussing lawsuits filed against two companies for suspected transgender discrimination (page 3)

Join PFLAG!

YES! I support the mission of PFLAG. Enclosed is my annual membership fee.*

_____ Household (\$35)
_____ Individual (\$25)
_____ Student/Limited Income (\$15)
_____ 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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