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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

November 2014

Action Works

Facebook has reversed its position after it threatened to deactivate all profiles of people who do not use their legal names. The policy disproportionately targeted drag queens and transgender individuals. The company's chief product officer, Chris Cox, said that "spirit of our policy" was to use names "they use in real life." The new policy prevents people from "pretending to be anything or anyone" but allows nicknames, maiden names, professional names, and any other names connected with these people.

The University of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College will extend benefits to legally married same-sex spouses of employees after the Supreme Court refused to take any appeals about marriage equality, including one from Indiana. Other religious schools do not yet provide benefits to same-sex couples, among them Holy Cross College, Ancilla College, Bethel College, and Goshen College.

Apple CEO Tim Cook criticized his home state of Alabama for not advancing LGBT rights in his speech before he was inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor. In his comments, he compared the lack of equality for the LGBT community to Alabama's abysmal record on racial equality. "We can't change the past, but we can learn from it," Cook said. "And we can create a different future." Last Thursday, Cook came out as gay in *Bloomberg Business Week*.

Don't Forget to Vote!
Deadline—November 4

Local PFLAG Chapter Stays Busy

LGBT 101 Workshop Presented at Senior Services

PFLAG leaders Debbie Spicer and Jeanne St. John conducted an LGBT 101 workshop for staff at the Senior Services offices in Toledo on October 15. Over 30 case managers, social workers, home care workers, and supervisors watched the documentary film, *Gen Silent*, which depicts the issues faced by aging LGBT community members. The film focused on a gay male couple faced with the need for one of them to be placed in an assisted living facility; a lesbian couple reflecting on all the changes in LGBT rights and visibility in their lifetimes; and a transgender woman facing her death without support from family. Discussion focused on ways that staff can be sensitive to the needs and issues of LGBT elders who may not be out to their families or caregivers.

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 Receives Safe Schools Award

Oregon Safe Schools Project has selected schools and community organizations for its third annual statewide Safe Schools Awards. For our work with bully prevention efforts in Lincoln County Schools PFLAG OCC was selected to receive an awards at a ceremony in Portland on October 4. Debbie Spicer attended the awards ceremony and reported that PFLAG OCC is held in high regard by this important state-wide organization which tracks the efforts of school districts to comply with state law regarding bully prevention and safety for LGBT students. Thanks, OSSP—we like working with you to make schools safer for all our kids.

PFLAG OCC Receives Pride Foundation Grant

We just received word that we have been selected to receive a highly competitive grant from the NW Pride Foundation. This grant will fund parts of our Upstander Not Bystander Community Bully Prevention Project and will address several of PRIDE's grant priorities. With this grant PFLAG OCC will (1) contribute to the cost of training and materials for two or three additional LCSD schools to adopt Bully Prevention programs; (2) collaborate with PAADA (Partnership Against Alcohol & Drug Abuse) and Lincoln Dispute Resolution to present two Youth Leadership Academies in 2015; and (3) host a Fall 2015 Rural GSA Conference in Lincoln County. The grant also includes funding for conference attendance, field trips, and travel expenses to attend or present at conferences.

From Jeanne St. John

Politics on Our Side

Virginia: After the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear appeals supporting the bans on marriage equality and the 4th Circuit Court ruled that the bans should be overturned, Virginia's governor issued a bulletin that LGBT couples can legally adopt children in the state.

United States: The White House has posthumously honored Andrew Cray, LGBT health advocate and policy analyst at the Center for American Progress, for his efforts in connecting LGBT people with affordable, quality health insurance. He helped launch Out2Enroll to connect LGBT Americans with their new coverage options under the Affordable Care Act, worked with the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure that the transgender community was protected in the ACA's non-discrimination provisions, and assisted various state governments in removing discriminatory exclusions from health insurance plans. Mr. Cray died on August 28, 2014 of cancer. [photo]

Estonia: The first former Soviet republic has legalized LGBT partnerships through civil un-

ions with almost the same rights as legally married couples in the areas of financial, social, and health benefits. It provides legal protection for children, including one partner adopting the biological child of the other, although the new law does not give full adoption rights to couples in civil unions. The law goes into effect in 14 months on January 1, 2016.

Kenya: Transgender activist Audrey Mbugua has won legal recognition as a woman on her academic certificates in the first case of its kind against the Kenya National Examination Council. The High Court ruled that the KNEC has 45 days to issue the name change and must print the certificate without a gender mark.

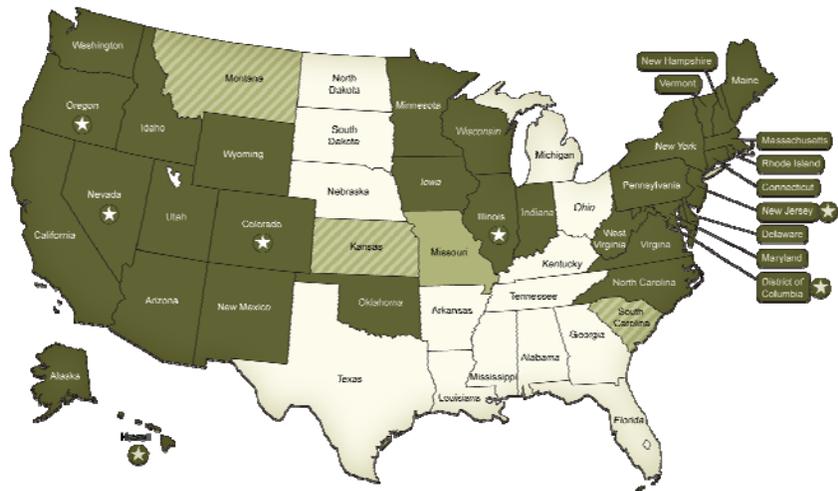
Scotland: The first Scottish same-sex marriages can take place on Hogmanay, 31 December 2014, after the standard 15-day waiting period. The law also eliminates the "spousal veto," meaning that already-married transgender people may remain in their marriage without starting divorce proceedings. On December 16, 2014, all parts of the UK other than Northern Ireland permit legalized same-sex marriage.

What a Difference One Month Makes

Last month, the federal government recognized marriage equality in 19 states and D.C. Since the rulings from circuit courts and the Supreme Court's refusal to hear any cases, the number of states has increased to 32 (dark green). Another six states have civil union or domestic partnership laws marked by stars.

The light green state (Missouri) recognizes out-of-state marriages but does not marry same-sex couples. Appellate courts have ruled in favor of marriage equality in the three green and white states, but action is pending. The remaining 14 states in white have no legal recognition for same-sex couples.

LGBT population in the U.S.: 64% in states with marriage equality for same-sex couples; 3% in states with pending same-sex marriage decisions; 2% in states where out-of-state marriages are recognized, but same-sex couples may not marry in-state; and 31% in states with no legal recognition for same-sex couples. More at <http://www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps/>



The first ever international conference on trans* military participation convened in Washington, D. C. during the last week of October. Advocates for trans military inclusion and trans military members from around the world were invited to speak.

Veteran Tamara Lusardi has won her discrimination court case against the United States Army. While the transgender woman was posted to the Aviation and Missile Research, Development and Engineering Center (AMRDEC) in Alabama, officers insisted on referring to her as “sir” and “he” and refused to allow her to use the appropriately gendered restroom.

The Office of Special Counsel has concluded that the abuse she suffered was pervasive and discriminatory enough to constitute discriminatory harassment.

The Oscars will be hosted by another out actor this year. Neil Patrick Harris follows this past year’s host, Ellen DeGeneres, for his first time at this gig at the 87th Oscar shot on February 22, 2014. DeGeneres’ star-studded selfie became the most retweeted photo of all time with 32.8 million views.

Not a novice to hosting award shows, Harris has hosted the Emmy Awards twice and the Tony Awards four times.

Local PFLAG Sponsors County-Wide GSA Workshop

Students from GSA clubs throughout Lincoln County attended a workshop at Taft high on Wednesday, October 1. Led by PFLAG OCC Co-Chairs Ineka Estabrook and Jeanne St. John, the workshop helped students prepare to conduct effective meetings, plan events, and contribute to a safe school climate. [Workshop photo below]

Estabrook explained her plans to lead several field trips for GSA members to LGBT-related events in Portland and Willamette Valley locations during the upcoming year. All the students attending had a great time and enjoyed the fast-paced workshop and the opportunity to get acquainted with GSA students from the other schools. They want more workshops and social events!



Eugene Group Raising Money for Same-Sex Parents

Help for LGBTQ parents is coming from a series of programs provided by Parenting Now!, a Eugene non-profit agency built on the mission that “all children are raised by nurturing, skilled parents.” Previously Birth to Three, the organization is raising money for a curriculum geared toward same-sex parents and a LGBTQ parenting group. Fundraisers include last month’s screening of *Mom’s Apple Pie: The Lesbian Mothers’ Custody Movement* at the Bijou Art Cinema in Eugene and a crowd-sourcing Web page. Access to that is at <http://www.razoo.com/story/Lgbt-Parenting-Education-And-Support>. More information about the initiative is at bit.ly/1FFPkeP.

Photographer, PFLAG Leader, Discrimination in Texas



For the past five years, Philadelphia photographer **Barbara Proud** (aka B. Proud) has collected pictures and love stories to celebrate the lives and relationships of LGBTQ couples in the United States.

The result is *First Comes Love* (Soleil Press), a book taken from the project of the same name—a traveling exhibition of photographs, love stories, and video interviews documenting LGBTQ couples who have been together from ten to over 50 years.

[Barbara Proud (left) and Jan Felshin, who has been with her partner, Edrie Ferdum, for 55 years—Photo by Hughe Dillon]

PFLAG is changing its name from PFLAG—to **PFLAG**. Some people may not notice the difference, but two years of work has resulted in the name no longer being an acronym for Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbian and Gays to show the “trans-inclusive work that PFLAG is doing,” according to spokeswoman Liz Owen. PFLAG was one of the first organizations to refuse the version of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) that failed to include the trans* community, and last summer PFLAG co-sponsored the National Center for Transgender Equality’s Capitol Hill lobby day.

GLADD, formerly the Gay and Lesbian Alliance against Defamation, dropped the words “gay and lesbian” last year, and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force took its new name, the National LGBTQ Task Force, a few weeks ago.

PFLAG also has a new president, Jean Hodges (above right), who co-founded the chapter in Boulder (CO).



Houston (TX) has a lesbian mayor, **Annise Parker**, and an ordinance prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. Yet **Parker’s daughter, Maquitta, could not get a driver’s license** because her birth certificate lists **two mothers, Parker and Kathy Hubbard**, who were legally married in California last January. After the publicity, the Texas Department of Public Safety changed its mind and claimed that Maquittal didn’t provide the necessary documentation.

Earlier this year, Texas refused to give a driver’s license to **Connie Wilson**, who uses her spouse’s name after their legal wedding in California.

Another Texas resident, **Kathleen A. Murphy has been denied** Social Security survivor benefits after her spouse died in 2012 because Texas doesn’t recognize same-sex marriages. Murphy was legally married in Massachusetts, but the Social Security Administration insists that the state of residence controls whether lesbians and gays will receive benefits if their spouses die. **Kathy Murphy, 62, and Sara Barker** (left) were partners for almost 32 years and legally married for two years. Lambda Legal is suing on behalf of Murphy.



A federal appeals court recently agreed to expedite a case on whether Texas can continue to ban same-sex marriage.

People Who Make a Difference

Former band geek taking AP classes, **Mel Gonzalez** (far right), has become the first elected transgender homecoming king in Texas, specifically at Stephen F. Austin High School. After his change from daughter to son in the summer between middle and high school, he started a Gay Straight Alliance chapter. To fulfill the requirements of a new club, he aimed for 200 signatures and got over 500. GSA members nominated Mel to the homecoming ballot, and he decided that it was a chance for more activism in the school and the nationwide transgender community.



In another state, **Scarlett Lenh**, a young transwoman, became Homecoming Queen of Sand Creek High School, according to the Colorado Springs' Gazette. Gonzalez' community is culturally diverse, but Lenh's is very conservative: Colorado Springs is home to the conservative Focus on the Family along with many other evangelical groups. Last year, a transgender first-grade student won the right to use the girls' restroom at another Colorado Springs-area school district.



Falling bans of same-sex marriage also affects lesbians and gays whose spouses have died. **Madelynn Taylor**, a 74-year-old Navy veteran, can now be buried next to her wife in a military cemetery. She said that this is her wish because “Idaho is where some of our best memories are, and it’s where I want to spend eternity with Jean [Mixner].” Shannon Minte, director of the national Center for Lesbian Rights, said, “Because Idaho must now respect all legally married couples, Lee and other same-sex spouses have the security of knowing that the state will treat

their relationships equally throughout their lives and beyond.”

The **Empire State Building** went purple—for the first time!—on GLAAD’s Spirit Day (October 16) to raise awareness about bullying of LGBTQ youth. Transgender actress **Laverne Cox** did the honors in the symbolic action of turning the building to a brilliant purple color. Cox was assisted by transgender youth in the MTV documentary *Laverne Cox Presents: The T Word* which aired the next day. The New York Stock Exchange, NASDAQ and screens in Times Square also went purple in honor of Spirit Day.



November PFLAG Meeting: Transgender Panel

A panel of four transgender people ranging in age from teens to elders will describe their experiences of coming to understand their trans identity and the ways in which they have begun or completed the transition process.

Transgender awareness is surfacing as one of the most urgent issues in the LGBTQ community. PFLAG OCC wants to help our membership and the larger community to understand the reality of life for transgender people in our rural community while learning about the medical, emotional, and social implications of changing one's gender identity at different ages and stages of life.

Transgender Day of Remembrance

November 20 is an annual memorial to those who have been killed as a result of transphobia, or the hatred or fear of transgender and gender non-conforming people, and acts to bring attention to the continued violence endured by the transgender community.

The Transgender Day of Remembrance was founded in 1998 by Gwendolyn Ann Smith, a trans woman who is a graphic designer, columnist, and activist, to memorialize the murder of Rita Hester in Allston (MA). Since its inception, TDoR has slowly evolved from the web-based project that Smith started into an international day of action.

In 2010, TDoR was observed in over 185 cities throughout more than 20 countries. (Wikipedia)

—Jeanne St. John

OCC PFLAG Calendar

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

November 20: Transgender Day of Remembrance

November 23, 11:00 am: Out Oregon Coast Women's Coffee, Café Mundo, Newport

November 25, 7:00 pm: CAN Pizza—Abby's, Newport

December 10, 6:00-7:30 pm: PFLAG Meeting, Holiday Dessert Potluck—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>

New Species of Snail Honors Marriage Equality

Taiwan researchers in Taiwan have named a newly identified species of hermaphrodite snails in recognition of same-sex marriage rights.

Dubbed *Aegista diversifamilia*, the species reflects the "diversity of sexual orientation in the animal kingdom," according to Dr Yen-Chang Lee.



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.

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