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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 2015

Take Action

<https://petitions.whitehouse.gov/petition/enact-leelahs-law-ban-all-lgbtq-conversion-therapy/QPbYj38G>
Leelah Alcorn, a 17-year-old transgender youth, posted a suicide note and then walked in front of a semi-truck three days after Christmas Day. Her parents had forced her to attend conversion therapy and drop out of school with the misguided belief that isolating her could change her gender identity. This White House petition is to stop conversion therapy for minors because the unethical practice of changing children's gender identities or sexual orientation result in tragedies such as this death. Although Leelah's parents deleted her suicide note, it is available here: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2895534/Heartbreaking-suicide-note-17-year-old-transgender-girl-DELETED-Tumblr-page-candlelit-vigils-held-honor.html> In the note, she said, "My death needs to mean something."

This petition asks that her chosen name be placed on her tombstone instead of the name that her parents chose for her: <https://www.change.org/p/carla-l-alcorn-have-the-correct-name-of-leelah-alcorn-placed-on-her-headstone-in-true-remembrance>

Welcome!

Oregon's new governor, Kate Brown, is the first bisexual governor and the second LGBT governor in the nation after New Jersey Gov. Jim McGreevey came out as gay in 2004 and resigned after admitting an affair with a man he had appointed to his administration. No openly LGBT person has ever been elected as a governor.

Success!

After the Ambridge Event Center refused to allow PFLAG Portland Black Chapter, the owners, the Holy Rosary Catholic Church, apologized and offered to host the group for free.

Love Is Love Valentine Party

This was our best-ever Valentine Party for young and old, gay and straight! We again featured the romantic music of Past Forward, great for listening and especially for dancing! This great band and vocalist provided wonderful entertainment once again!

Host Akia Woods did a great job of managing the program and all the activities. There was a table for making your own Valentine cards, a photographer for Sweetheart and/or Family photos. Bakers from the area's Welcoming Churches prepared the desserts with love and support for the LGBT community, and members of Toledo United Methodist Church made the tables look festive.



Recent marriages were celebrated by stories of the couples' lives together, and they each received vases with two beautiful red roses, a small gift of love from PFLAG.

Newlywed couples included DJ Novgrod & Sharon Bliss, Jeff Ingram & Steve Travis, Jean McCrae & Jess Bond, and Rhonda Harman & Cathy Devereaux.

GSA leaders McKenzie Figuracion (Newport High),

Clover McCabe-Delap (Waldport High), and Brie Johnson (Eddyville School) read romantic poetry—and McKenzie's was an original and moving poem she had composed the night before to honor her girlfriend, Mia Estabrook.



Thanks to all who helped plan and organize this unique event—and to all who came and shared the love! Special thanks to Oregon Coast Community College and its new president, Birgitte Ryslinge (left), who made us very welcome.

Politics on Our Side

Houston (TX): Out Houston Mayor Annise Parker has placed seventh in the 2014 World Mayor Prize, organized by the City Mayors Foundation, an international think tank that focuses on promoting good local government. She was the only mayor from the U.S. to make the top 10.

Alabama: Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley said Friday that he will not resist a federal ruling that struck down the state's marriage equality ban. Earlier last month, state Supreme Court Chief Justice Roy Moore told probate judges not to issue marriage licenses in spite of the ruling. "We are a nation under laws," Bentley said. "We may not always agree with them, but we obey them."

Michigan: The state may not recognize same-sex marriages after the 6th Circuit Court upheld the state's ban, but 300 couples who were married during a 24-hour period between the equality ruling and the stay are still married. Gov. Rick Snyder will not oppose U.S. District Judge Mark A. Goldsmith's ruling ordering the state to recognize these marriages. U.S. Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. said that the federal government would also recognize those marriages.

North Dakota: By a vote of 25-22, the Republican-led Senate narrowly approved a bill to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. The bill now goes to the state House of Representatives.

New Jersey: Judge Peter F. Bariso, Jr. ruled that the marketing claims of "healing" from "therapy" used by the ex-gay group Jews Offering New Alternatives for Healing (JONAH) violates the state's Consumer Fraud Act (CFA) because JONAH touts the idea that homosexuality is a mental disorder that can be cured. In New Jersey, any supposed "health" services that promote the idea that homosexuality is mental illness,

disease, disorder, or equivalent thereof" are illegal. According to the ruling, any suggestion that homosexuality is a mental disorder of any kind is a misrepresentation of all scientific evidence. New Jersey is one of just two states banning so-called "ex-gay therapy" for minors.

Washington: Benton County Superior Judge Alex Ekstrom has ruled that the Richland florist who refused to provide floral services for a gay wedding has violated the state's consumer protection act that bars discrimination against a protected class. The judge rejected the florist's claim that her actions were protected by free speech and religious freedom guarantees, stating in part: "For over 135 years, the Supreme Court has held that laws may prohibit religiously motivated action, as opposed to belief."

United States: Both President Obama and Ashton Carter, the new Secretary of Defense, have stated that they support an end to the ban that keeps openly transgender people from serving in the military. Carter has chosen openly-gay Eric Fanning as his new chief of staff.

United States: President Barack Obama's budget for fiscal 2016 seeks a change to the Social Security Act that would allow same-sex couples to receive spousal benefits even if they live in a state that doesn't recognize marriage equality. Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA) plans to reintroduce legislation amending the federal code to help same-sex spouses access Social Security benefits.

United States: Secretary of State John Kerry has named Randy Berry, the US Consul General in Amsterdam, as Special Envoy for the Rights of LGBT Persons. The openly-gay Special Envoy is charged with focusing on LGBT issues throughout the world. This appointment does not have to be approved by the Senate.

A short video from seniors reminiscing about their lives and giving advice to young people comes from video blogger Davey Wavey, in conjunction with the LGBT Community Center of the Desert. <http://www.addictinginfo.org/2015/02/09/gay-or-straight-these-gay-seniors-will-make-you-see-life-differently-video/>

The Log Cabin Republicans, conservatives who advocate for LGBT rights, has once again been excluded from the Conservative Political Action Conference, according to sponsor American Conservative Union. Matt Schlapp, the ACU's new chairman, denies that the Log Cabin Republicans had applied to be a part of the conference despite evidence to the contrary.

Chelsea Manning, 26, will finally receive hormone treatment for gender reassignment after imprisonment for five years because of sending classified documents to the WikiLeaks website. She is serving a 35-year sentence. Transgender people are not allowed to serve in the U.S. military, but Manning can't be discharged from the service while serving her prison sentence.

The Guardian's U.S. news wing plans to hire Chelsea Manning as a contributing opinion writer on "war, gender, freedom of information."

"My brother has a vote, but I have a voice." That's why Donald Collins, brother of Arkansas state Rep. Charlie Collins who voted to discriminate against LGBT people, wrote to the Arkansas LGBT community, families, and allies. His letter is available here: <http://www.vetosb202.com/my-brother-has-a-vote-but-i-have-a-voice/>

Upstander Week Proclamation, Feb. 4

PFLAG Co-Chair Ineka Estabrook and NIS/INMS Counselor Erin Carey led a presentation to the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners regarding the national Bully Prevention effort. The Commissioners heard about the great success of the Olweus Bully Prevention program at Newport Intermediate School and plans for their Upstander Week during Feb. 9-13. Students from the Intermediate School, INMS, and Newport High described their experiences with bullying and with preventing bullying at their schools.

Raising the awareness of this issue and knowing that major changes are possible in a short time helps the district improve student safety, school climate, and student learning. The student presentations to the Board of Commissioners were the subject of many questions and strong engagement by the Commissioners who obviously appreciated the work being done by these students and their dedicated staff and volunteers.



After fighting the presence of LGBT marchers in Boston's St. Patrick's Day parade, the sponsors will allow Out-Vets, representing LGBT veterans, to march in the 2015 parade scheduled for March 15. Marchers may carry a blue banner with five white stars representing the branches of the military and six vertical rainbow stripes. During 1992 and 1993, state courts forced parade sponsors to allow the Irish-American GLB Group of Boston to march, but sponsors canceled the parade for 1994 to keep the group from participating. In 1995, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that forcing the inclusion of LGBT people violated the parade sponsors' First Amendment rights.

More 'Politics on Our Side' from the World

United States: House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) has announced that his caucus will not oppose the marriage equality case that the Supreme Court will hear in April. Cases before the court will decide on marriage equality in Kentucky, Michigan, Tennessee and Ohio after the 6th Circuit Court allowed the bans against same-sex marriage to stand.

Canada: The province of Manitoba has passed the same law as in Israel (below): trans Manitobans no longer need to prove gender confirmation surgery to change their birth certificates with the Vital Statistics Agency. They will need to officially declare that they are transitioning and provide a corroborating letter from a healthcare provider. Only 27 countries now require proof of surgery, with Taiwan most recently changing its policies in December. The Vital Statistics Agency will also work to expand the policy changes outside Manitoba.

Chile: The government will not defend its ban on same-sex marriage following a lawsuit brought against the state by marriage equality advocates and presented to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. The agreement with the Movement for Homosexual Integration and Liberation includes the introduction of a marriage equality bill in the Chilean Congress. Last month it legalized same-sex unions.

Israel: Trans citizens will no longer be required to show proof of gender confirmation surgery to change gender markers on national identification cards. Nora Greenberg and Ronit Liran won their case after they argued that the restrictive policy "rests on an unfounded and outdated misconception" that genitalia equates to gender identity. Many other countries do not have the surgery requirement. Trans advocates still protest the unchanged requirement that any trans citizen's gender be approved by a Committee for Gender Ministry of Health, noting that having officials "decide" one's gender is degrading.

Finland: Finnish President Sauli Niinisto has signed a bill allowing same-sex couples in

Hundreds of people took to the streets under rainbow flags for a pride parade in Mumbai (India), despite a law that criminalizes homosexual sex. A colonial-era law dating back to 1866 criminalized "carnal intercourse against the order of nature," leading to life in prison. The ban on LGBT sexual relationships was struck down in 2009 but then reinstated by the country's Supreme Court in 2013.



Finland to marry. The legislation, to take effect in 2017, makes Finland the last Scandinavian country to legalize marriage equality. More than 167,000 Finnish citizens signed a petition to demand that lawmakers take up the issue, over three times the minimum requirement for parliamentary review.

Latvia: A bill has been introduced to make this country the next Eastern European state to legalize marriage equality. At this time, gays and lesbians are protected from discrimination in the workplace, and homosexuality was legalized after the country regained independence from the Soviet Union in 1992.

People Who Make a Difference



Brett Jones, the first openly gay Navy SEAL, who served during the era of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” will speak at the second annual gala for the American Military Partner Association on May 9. It is estimated that 500 military couples will attend. Receiving an honorable discharge in 2003, Jones lives in northern Alabama with his spouse, former police sergeant Jason White, and their son.

Minneapolis Mayor **Betsy Hodges**, right, helped unveil a plaque at Minneapolis City Hall commemorating the first anniversary of marriage equality in Minnesota. When the state became the twelfth state to legalize same-sex marriage, 67 couples came to the city hall on August 1, 2013, the first day to legalize their relationships. The plaque is located at the location of the first legal same-sex marriage between **Margaret Miles** and **Cathy ten Broeke** (below).



Stephen Fry has reported that **Queen Elizabeth II**, 88, thinks marriage equality is “wonderful.” When she signed the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act in July 2013, she was reported to have said, “Well, who’d have thought 62 years ago when I came to the throne, I’d be signing something like this? Isn’t it wonderful?”



It is hoped that the Queen will pardon the 49,000 men who were convicted under the country’s former “gross indecency” law that banned gay relationships. Elizabeth II pardoned Alan Turing, featured in the film *The Imitation Game*. Over 523,000 signatures requesting the pardons were delivered to British Prime Minister David Cameron’s office last month.

Stephen Fry (left) married his partner, stand-up comedian **Elliott Spencer**, in January. The ceremony was ‘witnessed’ by a small figure representing playwright Oscar Wilde, the Irish writer and poet who was sentenced to hard labor in prison for being gay.

GSA Students at March Meeting

The program for the regular March PFLAG meeting will include reports from GSA students about their activities in their schools as well as presentations they have been making in the community and at other schools.

Newport High GSA students made a presentation to the Board of Commissioners regarding the proclamation of Upstander Week and have helped lead LGBT 101 workshops at other schools.

Newport High GSA president McKenzie Figuracion will also report on her trip to Japan last summer, in part sponsored by PFLAG donations.

Each PFLAG meeting also includes time for support of individuals who want to share some of their life experience and receive support and encouragement. Meetings are open and confidentiality is respected.

Damsels Divas & Dames
2015: Sweet 16!

A Benefit for HIV Alliance!

Your Hosts
Marc Mullins & Dixie Simons

Saturday, April 4, 2015
7:30 pm

\$30 Orchestra/\$25 All Others

Hull Center for the Performing Arts
Eugene, Oregon
Call 541-682-5000
Or go to www.hullcenter.org

A Drag Extravaganza!

HIV ALLIANCE
www.HIVAlliance.org

ISCEE
www.ISCEE.org

More info about this fundraiser at <https://www.facebook.com/events/715684361843703>

OCC PFLAG Calendar

March 4, 7:00 pm: Trans-Parents—Chalet, Newport

March 10, 4:00-6:00 pm: LGBTQ/Out Oregon CoastHappy Hour, All Welcome!—Georgie's, Newport

March 11, 6:00-7:30 pm: PFLAG Meeting: GSA Update—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

March 17, 7:00 pm: CAN Pizza—Abby's, Newport

March 22, 11:00 am: Women's Coffee Hour—Café Mundo, Newport

March 24, 6:00-7:30 pm: NOW Meeting: Book discussion of Lee Lynch's *An American Queer: The Amazon Trail*—PUD Building, 2129 N. Hwy 101, Newport

The Coastal AIDS Network* monthly activities:

Second Tuesday: "Men's Pot Luck" (Locations vary! Call (541)994-5597 or email coastalaidsnetwork@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, coastalaidsnetwork@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>

Come 'OUT at the Coast' at Happy Hour

Happy Hour with a mixed group of LGBT friends—old and new—is new to the Oregon Coast. We gather at Georgie's for adult beverages and tasty Happy Hour menu treats and to get acquainted with newcomers to the community. Don't miss the next gathering on Tuesday, March 10 from 4:00-6:00 pm at Georgie's Lounge. Invite a friend and have a good time socializing together! All LGBT friends and allies are welcome!

Oregon House Bill 2307, the Youth Mental Health Protection Act, would make Oregon the third state in the nation to ban conversion therapy for minors by licensed practitioners. The House Healthcare Committee is currently hearing this bill.

Legislators need to hear from you: <http://www.blueoregon.com/2015/02/i-am-survivor-conversion-therapy-its-time-ban-it-oregon/>

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: _____

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



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