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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 enlighten an ill-informed public

ADVOCACY to end discrimination and secure equal civil rights.

Oregon Central Coast Chapter

June 2015

Oregon Bans Youth Conversion ‘Therapy’

Oregon became the third state to pass a law banning conversion therapy for youth designed to change sexual orientation and gender identity of LGBT youth. Lawsuits against ‘therapy’ bans in California and New Jersey failed, and the Supreme Court refused to hear appeals.

Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA), who wrote legislation banning the practice while he was a California state legislator, has introduced the Therapeutic Fraud Prevention Act in the U.S. House that would classify conversion therapy as a fraudulent practice illegal under the Federal Trade Commission Act for everyone, both youth and adults. It would also ban all advertising that claims the therapy can successfully change a person’s sexual orientation or gender identity.

President Obama has also called for an end to these psychiatric therapies. His statement came in response to a White House petition with over 120,000 signatures after 17-year-old transgender Leelah Alcorn killed herself following the conversion therapy that her parents forced on her.

A New Jersey judge compared the belief that homosexuality is a mental disorder to the belief that “the earth is flat and the sun revolves around it.”

Conversion ‘therapy’ status in other states:

- Bills Being Considered: Illinois, Iowa, Nevada, New York, Rhode Island, and Texas
- Bills Not Making Progress: Arizona, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Ohio, Florida, Pennsylvania, and Vermont
- Bills Failed: Colorado, Hawaii, Maryland, and Virginia

First Country to Vote for Marriage Equality!

Irish voters moved world marriage equality forward when a landslide decision approved same-sex marriage in Ireland last month. On May 22, 62.1 percent of the voters were in favor of changing the nation’s constitution to legalize LGBT marriage.

GSA Students Teach Others on the Coast

Lincoln County GSA Students Present at Health Conference



A panel of local GSA students traveled to Astoria on May 9 to present the LGBT 101 workshop at a regional conference focused on Adolescent Health. An audience of educators and health professionals were very receptive to the presentation done in concert with Danni/y Rosen, Oregon GLSEN Director and co-chair of Oregon PFLAG Council.

Upstander Week at Newport High

GSA president McKenzie Figuracion led a team of GSA members in presenting an assembly to the student body at Newport High where they entertained and educated hundreds of their fellow students. Students were invited to sign up for participation in the Day of Silence at the end of the week. They could also nominate other students for an Upstander's Bracelet in recognition for demonstrating their willingness to stand up for others and to create a positive school climate. Way to go, Newport High GSA!



Lambda Literary plans to use the American Library Association (ALA) Rainbow Book List, an annual bibliography of current LGBT books for youth, in its LGBTQ Writers in Schools Program. In 2008, Nel Ward, PFLAG newsletter editor, was a co-founder of the committee preparing the book list as well as helping to initiate the Over the Rainbow Committee, which prepares a similar list of books for adults. Ward is currently a member of the Stonewall Committee which selects annual LGBTQ book awards. The ALA GLBT Round Table, which sponsors these bibliographies and awards, is also responsible for GLBT Book Month, a nationwide celebration in June of authors and writings that reflect the lives and experiences of the LGBTQ community. More information is available here: <http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2015/05/american-library-association-and-lambda-literary-collaborate-lgbtq-writers>

Politics on Our Side

Eureka Springs (AR): The city voted to uphold an ordinance banning discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity despite a state law passed earlier this year to make the measure unenforceable.

Louisiana: After the state legislature failed to pass a bill discriminating against LGBT people, Gov. Bobby Jindal signed an executive order prohibiting the state from taking any punitive action against an individual, business, organization, or nonprofit that "acts in accordance with a religious belief that marriage is between one man and one woman." The potential presidential candidate claims that the executive order will not enable businesses or individuals to deny service to LGBT people.

Nebraska: Federal Judge John Gerrard dismissed a lawsuit filed against all homosexuals from Sylvia Driskell, 66, who wanted to be a legal spokeswoman for God and his son, Jesus Christ. Gerrard said that it is not up to the court to determine whether homosexuality is sinful and that "a federal court is not a forum for debate or discourse on theological matters."

Nevada: Gov. Brian Sandoval has signed legislation that would create an anti-bullying office in the state's Department of Education and provide resources to report incidents. Eighteen states now have laws protecting students based on gender identity and sexual orientation.

Texas: Republicans failed to advance legislation banning same-sex marriage licenses before the session closed, but there will certainly be more action in the future.

Laramie (WY): In a 7-2 vote, the city council adopted an anti-discrimination ordinance to prohibit bias based on sexual ori-

entation and gender identity. This ordinance is the first one passed in the state.

United States: The first federally approved monument honoring LGBT veterans was dedicated on Memorial Day at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery (Elwood, IL).



United States: Sens. Patty Murray (D-WA) and Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) have introduced legislation to require university policies banning students from taunting peers through online communication. Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI) has done the same in the House. The Tyler Clementi Higher Education Anti-Harassment Act of 2015 would force colleges taking federal money to establish policies that prohibit harassment based on actual or perceived race, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or religion.



Vienna (Austria): The city has installed pedestrian crossing lights depicting straight, gay, and lesbian couples as the city prepares to host a series of events linked to themes of tolerance.

(More news on p. 4)

Buzz Feed has published a column called “The Ornithology of the American Lesbian: The Definitive Guide to Spotting Lesbians in the Wild.” Lesbians may check for representation. Check here for humor: <http://www.buzzfeed.com/skarlan/do-you-know-any-lumberjills#.idYmEDywj>

The Board of Directors of the National LGBT Museum will base the museum in New York City with Kevin Jennings, longtime LGBT activist and founder of the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) as its co-chair. The board hopes to open the museum by the 50th anniversary of Stonewall in 2019.

Kelli Carpenter and Greg Kaminsky, who founded the LGBT-focused R Family Vacations, are joining the lesbian-focused Olivia to begin a joint vacation experience. The first one is July 9-16 at the Hard Rock Vallarta Resort for all members of the LGBTQ community and their families. LGBT family vacations: <http://www.rfamilyvacations.com/>

A recent WSJ/NBC poll shows that more people in the United States (61 percent) feel comfortable with a gay or lesbian presidential candidate than one who identifies as evangelical Christian (42 percent). Comfort with a gay or lesbian candidate has increased 18 percent from 43 percent in 2006 whereas the increase for an evangelical Christian for president has gone up only one percent.

More News from around the World

Australia: The Queensland government is removing a law permitting “gay panic” as a defense for murder.

Canada: Wade MacLauchlan became the second openly gay provincial leader when he was elected premier of Prince Edward Island, one of the last Canadian provinces to approve same-sex marriage.

Chile: Same-sex couples can now have legalized civil unions since President Michelle Bachelet signed the bill into law.

Cuba: Mariela, Castro, daughter of Cuban President Raul Castro, sponsored a blessing ceremony for LGBT couples on an island where gay marriage remains illegal. She heads Cuba's Center for Sex Education which pushes for LGBT rights. Cuba has a history of persecuting homosexuals.

Toyko (Japan): The district assembly in the Shibuya ward, one of 23 in Tokyo, became the first in Japan to recognize same-sex relationships, a step forward in a country where being openly LGBT is taboo.

United Kingdom: The country is now recognizing “Mx,” a new gender neutral title to join the honorifics “Mr, Mrs, Miss and Ms” on driving licenses and other official documents. The Oxford English Dictionary is considering the inclusion of “Mx” in its next edition.

My favorite photo of the month! Learn how to make these rainbow waffles here: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/05/12/rainbow-waffles-yolo-etc_n_7258726.html?ir=Gay%20Voices?ncid=newsltushpmsg00000003



Whither Marriage Equality in the United States?

Less than a month away from the Supreme Court decision about marriage equality in the U.S., a majority of people, 51-35 percent, think that the Supreme Court should legalize marriage equality, according to a *USA Today*/Suffolk University poll. A Gallup poll shows support for marriage equality at 60 percent, over double from two decades ago. All 50 states have increased their approval; even Alabama doubled its support since 2004. Vermont shows the highest with 75 percent, and Washington, D.C. has 86 percent support.

Most legal analysts think that SCOTUS will overturn ruling that blocks same-sex marriage in four states. My prediction is that a 6-3 vote, on the basis of sex discrimination, will legalize marriage equality. I say 6-3, because Chief Justice John Roberts doesn't want to lose control of his court, he doesn't want to look ignorant, and he can control the ruling to make it as narrow as possible. [If I'm wrong, I'll apologize in the next PFLAG newsletter!]

Using sex discrimination instead of LGBT rights can keep the following discriminations facing the LGBT community: employers' rights to fire LGBTQ people; "religious rights" permitting refusal of service to LGBTQ people; lack of public gender-neutral restrooms; gay "conversion therapy," still legal in 47 states; refusal of housing to LGBT people; gay men's inability to donate blood; transgender people kept out of military service; and LGBT problems with foster care, adoption, custody, surrogacy, and other parenting issues. These LGBT discriminations will continue violence and suicide; health and education risks for young people; youth homelessness; dangers in jails, prisons, and immigrant detention centers; and lack of LGBT acceptance in sports, politics, entertainment, business, etc.

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has banned exclusion of LGBT jury members, but a Supreme Court challenge could overturn this ruling because of the lower court's clash with an 8th Circuit Court decision. No federal law bans discrimination against LGBT people in jury selection, and only four states, including Oregon, have laws protecting LGBT people in this area. The following report shows how truly fortunate are people who live in Oregon, rated in the top seven states in the nation for protective LGBT laws. [[http://hrc-assets.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/files/documents/HRC-SEI-2014-ReportRev5-1-Opt.pdf#__utma=149406063.278618654.1432331738.1432331738.1432331738.1&__utmb=149406063.4.10.1432331738&__utmc=149406063&__utmz=149406063.1432331738.1.1.utmcsr=google|utmccn=\(organic\)|utmcmd=organic|utmctr=\(not%20provided\)&__utmv=-&__utmk=263697932\]](http://hrc-assets.s3-website-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/files/documents/HRC-SEI-2014-ReportRev5-1-Opt.pdf#__utma=149406063.278618654.1432331738.1432331738.1432331738.1&__utmb=149406063.4.10.1432331738&__utmc=149406063&__utmz=149406063.1432331738.1.1.utmcsr=google|utmccn=(organic)|utmcmd=organic|utmctr=(not%20provided)&__utmv=-&__utmk=263697932)]

Federal law has no explicit protections for sexual orientation and gender identity, leaving these up to the whim of individual states. The Senate passed Sen. Jeff Merkley's (D-OR) Employment Non-Discrimination Act in November 2013, but the House did not take up the legislation. At that time, LGBT groups expressed concern that the religious exemptions were too broad. Merkley has announced plans to bring up another bill, similar to the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

In a new poll from the Human Rights Campaign, 74 percent of LGBT people in the U.S. indicated that a federal nondiscrimination bill should be the "top priority" for the community. In a general pool of likely 2016 voters, 69 percent support such a bill, and 27 percent oppose it. Among GOP likely voters, 51 percent would back these protections.

"We should all be outraged when people suffer discrimination, assault or even murder simply because they are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. We should all speak out when someone is arrested and imprisoned because of who they love or how they look. This is one of the great neglected human rights challenges of our time. We must right these wrongs."-- Ban Ki-moon, U.N. secretary-general, voicing his support as an ally of the U.N.'s Free and Equal Campaign.

People Who Make a Difference



Straight, married certified minister **John P. Keefe** has filed a court petition after the state denied him a vanity license plate, LGBTALY, in support of the LGBT community. The Oklahoma Tax Commission refused it on the basis of sexual connotation. Keefe disagreed, saying that LGBT is “about who people are as human beings.” The state has issued such vanity plates as STR8SXI, STR8FAN, and SEXYQT.

“We are gathered here today to anoint these 26 men and 24 women as the most influential married couples of all time,” according to a *Time* article about the 25 most influential marriages, including Adam and Eve as well as **Jack Baker and James Mike McConnell**, pioneers in marriage equality, who have been together for almost a half century and married in 1971. http://www.marriageequality.org/jack_mike_our_pioneers An update is at http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/17/us/the-same-sex-couple-who-got-a-marriage-license-in-1971.html?src=me&_r=1 Baker and McConnell “plan to seek redress in court” after discovering that their 1971 marriage contract, signed by the pastor and witnesses, was never officially recorded.



Oregonian activist and writer **Konrad Juengling** bought the domain names for Indiana state Reps. Martin Carbaugh, Dale Devon, Douglas Gutwein, Kathy Kreg Richardson, Don Lehe, and Donna Schaibley—all legislators who voted for discrimination through the recent “religious freedom” bill. Juengling told the six representatives that he would give them the websites free if they supported a statewide nondiscrimination policy protecting LGBT people. He hasn’t heard from any of them. Each site currently leads to pro-LGBT websites. Juengling’s latest activism was to create a wish list on amazon.com for Ted Cruz’s December 22 birthday that includes a rainbow unicorn mask. Juengling plans to marry Robert Peterson on July 25, 2016.

Robert Gates, national president of the Boy Scouts of America, said that the organization’s longstanding ban on participation by openly gay adults “cannot be sustained” and called for change in order to avert potentially destructive legal battles. He cited the success of overturning “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” while he was Secretary of Defense as an example of the changing world and the need for BSA to change with it. Two years ago, the BSA governing body voted to permit gay youth to join the organization but retained a pledge to ban gay adults. Last year, the BSA shut down two troops after a church refused to fire the gay Scoutmaster.



June PFLAG Meeting: GSA Students Offer LGBT 101

Ineka Estabrook, PFLAG Co-Chair and GSA/Teen Outreach leader, has been working with the students to present the four dimensions of human sexuality integrated with their own experiences of coming out to different types of families and cultures within our rural communities.

Teams of Newport High and Taft High GSA students have presented this workshop on several occasions in recent weeks. Their first presentation was for nursing students at OCCC, followed by an invitation to present to the OCCC staff on May 8. The GSA students did an excellent job explaining the terms and concepts for gender identity, gender expression, biological sex, and sexual orientation.

Some students had already helped lead this workshop for middle and high school students, and secondary staff at Eddyville School. As a result of their well-received presentation, Eddyville school plans a bully prevention program and a GSA/Upstanders Club for their students.

If your business, civic organization, church, or club would like to schedule the LGBT 101 workshop, please contact Ineka at inekae@gmail.com.

Saturday Market Needs Help

Debbie Spicer and Rhonda Jantzen will lead the PFLAG OCC Saturday Market table teams for May 30 and July 18. We need help to staff the tables. Please email Debbie Spicer (cadbears@hotmail.com) to let her know which date and shifts, either early (8:45-11:00 am) or late (11:00 am-1:15 pm). It's fun to greet market-goers and share PFLAG information and resources. Join us for a Saturday treat!

OCC PFLAG Calendar

June 3, 7:00 pm: Trans Parents Coffee—Chalet, Newport

June 8, 6:00 pm: "Gen Silent" documentary film—Wildish Theater, 630 Main St., Springfield [Light refreshments start at 5:30 pm; <http://on.fb.me/1HrihsK>]

June 9, 4:00-6:00 pm: LGBTQ Happy Hour, All Welcome!—Georgie's, Newport

June 10, 6:00-7:30 pm: PFLAG Meeting: LGBT 101 led by GSA Students—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

June 17, 10:00 am: Out to Pig'N Pancake (Out Oregon Coast)—Newport

June 23, 7:00 pm: CAN Pizza—Abby's, Newport

June 28, 11:00 am: Women's Coffee Hour—Café Mundo, Newport

July 18, 9:00 am-1:00 pm: Newport Saturday Market PFLAG Table

August 15, 11:30 am-2:30 pm: Out Oregon Coast Second Annual Yaquina Park Pick-nic—Yaquina Bay State Park, 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>

Join PFLAG!

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

_____ Household (\$35)
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*Includes membership in National PFLAG with affiliates in over 365 worldwide communities.

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