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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

August 2015

In his 30 months at Cassopolis United Methodist Church in rural Michigan, Rev. Benjamin Hutchison quadrupled the congregation and closed its budget deficit. Church members didn't care that the pastor is gay, but a denomination official told him to resign or be fired. You can ask United Methodist bishop of Michigan, Deborah Lieder Kiesey, to overrule the district superintendent and return Hutchison to the pulpit. [http://act.faithfulamerica.org/sign/methodist\\_pastor/?t=1&akid=633.190700.ViW9c7](http://act.faithfulamerica.org/sign/methodist_pastor/?t=1&akid=633.190700.ViW9c7)

In Ohio, Judge Allen McConnell has not only refused to marry two women but also gone to the state Supreme Court to exonerate his egregious—and illegal—behavior on the basis of his religious beliefs. McConnell has violated his oath of office because he swore to uphold the Constitution and not his religious beliefs. If Ohio agrees with him, thousands of same-gender marriages could be refused across the United States. Here is a petition objecting to his actions: [https://go.allout.org/en/a/ohio-judge/?rd=1&t=3&utm\\_campaign=ohio-judge&utm\\_content=english&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=actionsuite&referring\\_akid=6001.1479652.fz5qZ-](https://go.allout.org/en/a/ohio-judge/?rd=1&t=3&utm_campaign=ohio-judge&utm_content=english&utm_medium=email&utm_source=actionsuite&referring_akid=6001.1479652.fz5qZ-)

For the past five years during my term as newsletter editor for OCCC PFLAG, Kae Bates has faithfully—and accurately—proofread each issue. Nicknamed “Eagle Eye” by her partner, Jeanne St. John, Kae is now a survivor of recent brain surgery after the discovery of a tumor on her cerebellum. That is probably the only thing that would keep her from her proofreading responsibilities this month. Therefore, I claim all mistakes as my own and hope that she will be making corrections for the September issue. Thanks to Ineka Estabrook for filling in while Jeanne is with Kae.

On July 25, Jeanne reported that the two of them celebrated their 33rd anniversary in the OHSU Neuro ICU. Kae and Jeanne came home on July 27. You can find updates and send them your best wishes on Jeanne's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/jeanne.st.john.9>

—Nel Ward

# Fun at the July 4th LaDeDa Parade in Yachats

Photos thanks to Kae Bates and the *News Times* (bottom right).



# Politics on Our Side

**Indiana:** South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg, 33, has come out as gay hoping that his action will encourage other LGBT people to declare their gender orientation and identity. The Navy veteran is in his second term of office and was named national Mayor of the Year in 2013.



**Utah:** U.S. District Judge Dee Benson has ruled that the state must list the names of a lesbian couple, Angie (below right) and Kami Roe, on their baby's birth certificate. It is the first time that this ruling has been made since the Supreme Court legalized marriage equality although several cases have been filed. Utah doesn't plan to appeal the ruling.



**United States:** The Supreme Court has issued its formal order making marriage equality the law of the land: <http://sblog.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Obergefell-judgment-7-28-15.pdf>

**United States:** Brig. Gen. Randy S. Taylor (right) introduced his spouse, Lucas, at the Pentagon's 4th Gay Pride celebration. Taylor has been with Lucas for 18 of his 27 years in service. The celebration also featured a gay Marine officer, a gay Army sergeant who is a criminal investigator, a lesbian chaplain, and a transgender woman.



**United States:** The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) has issued a decision that employment discrimination based on sexual orientation is a form of sex discrimination outlawed by existing federal law. Three years ago, EEOC issued a similar ruling on gender identity or expression to protect transgender employees.

**United States:** Transgender detainees can be housed for the first time in immigration detention facilities that match their gender identity.

**United States:** U.S. Secretary of Defense Ash Carter announced a working group to study the "policy and readiness implications" of allowing transgender service members to serve openly. The group is expected to take up to six months to complete its review. Approximately 15,500 actively serving transgender members serve in the U.S. military, making the Department of Defense (DOD) the largest employer of transgender people in America. DOD medical regulations prohibiting their service force these people to serve in silence. Accepting transgender people in the military requires only DOD action because the ban is by regulation and not law. [See p. 6 for profile of openly-transgender service member.]

A must watch: Humorist John Oliver gave one of the finest tutorials on transgender rights that I've ever seen. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hmoAX9f6MOc>

HIV trial successful: A major international clinical trial, the Strategic Timing of AntiRetroviral (START), has been cut short a year early because of the compelling results about the right way to deliver HIV treatment.

Fascinating LGBT history facts in this quiz: <http://www.watermarkonline.com/2015/07/16/think-you-know-your-gay-history-think-again/>

Acceptance pays: The Girl Scouts of Western Washington rejected a \$100,000 donation that could not be used for transgender girls although it would have been almost one-fourth of the annual fundraising goal and send 500 girls to camp. In just one day after the news went public, the organization brought in over \$165,000 from over 3,000 people to the organization.

More fundraising from acceptance: After an Indiana pizzeria made \$840,000 off anti-LGBT discrimination Kansas-based Equality House set up its own fundraiser to make hotel rooms available for homeless LGBT youth displaced from their homes because of parents rejection, raising almost \$80,000 thus far. <https://www.crowdrise.com/lgbtpizza>

## President Defends LGBT Rights

President Obama spoke strongly in favor of LGBT rights during recent a press conference in Kenya with its president Uhuru Kenyatta when he said that the idea that a "law-abiding citizen" could be treated differently under the law is wrong. Although some African leaders had cautioned the president to not raise the issue of LGBT rights while on his trip, including Kenya where being LGBT is illegal, the president said:

"I believe in the principle of treating people equally under the law, and that they are deserving of equal protection under the law and that the state should not discriminate against people based on their sexual orientation. I'm unequivocal on this.... The idea that they are gonna be treated differently or abused because of who they love is wrong, full stop."



President Obama told of the consequences of a government denying equal rights to one group:

"When a government gets in the habit of treating people differently, those habits can spread. And as an African-American in the United States, I am painfully aware of what happens when people are treated differently under the law. All sorts of rationalizations that were provided by the power structure for decades in the United States for segregation and Jim Crow and slavery and they were wrong."

GOP congressional members who want discrimination against LGBT people have introduced the misnamed First Amendment Defense Act, which uses the concept of "religious freedom" to defend the right to discriminate against LGBT Americans. **You can denounce this license to discriminate against LGBT people** at <http://action.groundswell-mvmt.org/petitions/tell-congress-what-religious-liberty-truly-means>.

## Fallout from SCOTUS Marriage Equality Decision

Traumatized by the recent legalization of marriage equality throughout the United States, conservatives have reacted in different ways. One Texas judge, James R. DePiazza, performs same-gender weddings, but he requires all the couples, straight or not, to sign a document acknowledging his views. The document also demands that anyone wishing to be married cannot mention same-sex weddings to him "before, during or after the ceremony." If they break this rule, he stops the service and gives the participants a refund. No photographs or videos are permitted in his bare-bones services strictly limited to "a brief formal declaration of civil marriage ceremony."

DePiazza's previous form began with "Congratulations on your upcoming wedding!" and concluded with "Thank you for your consideration, and again CONGRATULATIONS!!" Katherine Franke, the director of the Public Rights/Private Conscience Project at Columbia University's law school, thinks that his new form is illegal.

While some same-gender couples are struggling with finding someone to perform their ceremonies, progressive legislators are addressing other myriad ways in which LGBT face discrimination. Many states permit LGBT people to be denied credit, evicted from their apartments, thrown out of their jobs, and refused hotel rooms based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. The GOP wants to withhold federal law enforcement to so-called "sanctuary cities" which refuse to comply with tracking and reporting undocumented immigrants. Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI) has added an amendment to this bill that would restrict funding to states and municipalities refusing to comply with the legalization of marriage equality. He also plans to add the measure to other bills.

On July 23, five legislators, including Oregon's Sen. Jeff Merkley, introduced bills in both the House and Senate to combat LGBTQ discrimination in credit, education, employment, housing, federal financial assistance, jury service, public accommodation, and other areas. The Equality Act would update the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and other civil rights laws to add sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes. The bill would also add women to the protected categories of race, color, religion, and national origin. At this time, federal law allows car dealerships to charge women more than men just because of their gender. Thus far 158 representatives and 40 senators have signed on to these bills.

A poll from Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research indicates that 69% of Americans support such a bill—including 51% of Republicans. At the same time, Republican legislators are attempting to push through a completely opposite bill, the First Amendment Defense Act, which uses the concept of "religious freedom" to defend the right to discriminate against LGBT Americans. You can denounce this license to discriminate against LGBT people at <http://action.groundswell-mvmt.org/petitions/tell-congress-what-religious-liberty-truly-means>.

Of all the ridiculous media events in the past month, however, the best one may be Rachel Maddow's interview with Rick "man-on-dog" Santorum. His solution is for Congress to change the Supreme Court ruling and ban marriage equality. When she explained how the constitution works, he said, "The Congress has a right to say what's constitutional." After she further explained the role of the judiciary, he said that the court might change its mind or the judges could be changed. None of us, however, wants to think about a nation in which justices become even more conservative. Their exchange: <http://www.msnbc.com/rachel-maddow/watch/maddow--santorum-go-head-to-head-on-scotus-489847363973>

More information about marriage equality reactions including many Native Americans who cannot be considered legally married on their reservations can be found at <https://nslsnewday.wordpress.com/2015/07/25/marriage-equality-not-for-all/>

# People Who Make a Difference



**Shane Ortega**, a Chinook helicopter crew chief in Hawaii, joined first the Marines and then the Army because he couldn't afford to attend college. In 10 years, he served two combat tours in Iraq and one in Afghanistan as well as meeting all the Army's physical fitness standards and getting positive reviews. Shane is also one of the military's few openly trans service members because the Army's Standards of Medical Fitness still states that his gender identity will "render an individual administratively unfit." Assigned female at birth, he is constantly at risk of getting kicked out of the Army although he meets all their requirements, including wearing a skirt and fitted blouse when required.

After the U.S. won the Women's World Cup, almost 26 million people watched captain **Abby Wambach** run to the stands to kiss her wife, **Sarah Huffman**.



After the World Cup, **Erin McLeod** (left), goalkeeper for Canada, married **Ella Masar**, her Houston Dash teammate.



**Thomas Roberts**, 42, has become the first openly gay evening news anchor on network television. Host of *MSNBC Live with Roberts* during the week, he is one of four openly lesbian and gay news anchors on cable TV—with MSNBC's Rachel Maddow, CNN's Anderson Cooper and Don Lemon—but this is a first for one of the three big networks.

The state senate in Pennsylvania voted unanimously to confirm a transgender woman as the Physician General. **Dr. Rachel Levine** was selected for "her excellence in the fields of pediatrics and psychology." Gov. Tom Wolf had nominated Levine in January shortly before his swearing in. Previously she had helped start a division at Penn State Hershey Medical Center for the care of teens with complex medical and psychosocial problems.



Hulu has premiered an eight-minute film, "The Bravest Knight Who



Ever Lived," about a pumpkin farmer named Cedric, who is given his choice between the princess and prince when he rescues both. The film is based on the queer book of the same name by author **Daniel Errico**.

*HuffPo* also has a great article on children's books with queer characters: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/05/28/lgbtq-childrens-books\\_n\\_7462250.html?utm\\_hp\\_ref=arts](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/05/28/lgbtq-childrens-books_n_7462250.html?utm_hp_ref=arts)

## PFLAG Picnic—August 8

This year's PFLAG annual pot-luck/picnic for all LGBTQ families, friends, and allies is in a cozy spot at the home of Ineka Estabrook. The address is 634 NE 7th Street next to the high school and fairgrounds.

Join the fun on August 8 at 1:00 pm.

Please note that there will be no regular PFLAG meeting in August.

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Bill Nye has recently repeated long-known scientific information: **homosexuality is natural and not "genetically lethal,"** as many conservatives warn. Homosexuality exists everywhere in nature, and species continue to produce offspring.

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After the state of Oregon penalized two bakers for refusing to bake a wedding cake for a lesbian couple, the media blew up with the injustice of the situation. It's just a cake, many of them said. Others moaned about the "gag order" that the state put on the bakers, persecuting them for their religion. **Here are the facts:**

**There is no gag order.** The bakers were simply told to stop announcing that they would continue to discriminate against same-gender couples because that's illegal.

**The penalty wasn't for the cake** but for the persecution of the two women because the bakers published their personal information—home address, telephone number, email, etc.—across the country. Their actions put the two women in danger of losing their two foster children who they were in the process of adopting.

**The bakers made a great profit** on the whole deal. Donations to them came in at more than \$200,000 over the \$135,000 that they were ordered to pay. **Tell everyone about this so that they can get the facts instead of the conservative version.**

## OCC PFLAG Calendar

**August 5, 7:00 pm:** Trans Parents Coffee—Chalet, Newport

**August 8, 1:00-4:00 pm:** PFLAG Family Picnic—634 NE 7th Street, Newport

**August 11, 4:00-6:00 pm:** LGBTQ Happy Hour, All Welcome!—Embarcadero, Newport

**August 15, 11:30 am:** OUT OR Coast Picnic, All Welcome - Yaquina Bay State Recreation Site near Yaquina Bridge, Newport

**August 23, 11:00 am:** OUT OR Coast Women's Coffee - Café Mundo, Newport

**August 25 7:00 pm:** CAN Pizza, All Welcome!—Abby's, Newport

**The Coastal AIDS Network\*** monthly activities:

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

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**Social LGBT Oregon Coast Group:**  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Out-Oregon-Coast/194768480642314>

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## Boy Scouts to Accept Gay Leaders!!!

The Boy Scouts of America have voted to end its historic ban on gay scout leaders, in an action following BSA's lifting the ban on openly gay youth in the program. The organization will let excluded gay leaders return—if local groups want to do this. Regional governing bodies cannot discriminate because of sexual orientation, but local troops can have their own eligibility systems which might exclude (discriminate against) gay applicants.

## 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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