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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

November 2015

Check out local PFLAG News/Events—pp. 2, 4, & 7!

Take Action

Two-thirds of America's National Parks are dedicated to culturally and historically significant sites, but no national monuments celebrate LGBT history. The Stonewall Inn in New York City is commonly recognized as the place where the modern LGBT movement started. Ask President Obama to designate The Stonewall Inn as a national monument and honor the legacy of the people and events that took place there. <http://www.signforgood.com/stonewallinn/>



code=Maloney
Another site with the same purpose: [https://
www.change.org/p/president-obama-create-a-national-
park-for-stonewall](https://www.change.org/p/president-obama-create-a-national-park-for-stonewall)

November—Transgender Awareness Month

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR)

November 20, a day to memorialize those who have been murdered as a result of transphobia and bring attention to the continued violence endured by the transgender community

Taft 7-12 School Receives 2015 Safe Schools Award



Taft 7-12 has won the 2015 Safe Schools Award, awarded by the Oregon Safe Schools and Communities Coalition. Principal Majalise Tolan, who initiated the Olweus Bully Prevention program at Isaac Newton Middle School (Newport), took the same program to Taft two years ago when she became principal at the school. Tolan is training the principals of Sam Case Elementary (Newport) and Taft Elementary Schools (Lincoln City). This program specifically protects LGBT+ students and has dramatically decreased bullying in the schools where it has been implemented.

Last year the Taft Gay Straight Alliance club, led by teacher Abi Kurfman (left), collaborated with the Caravan of Glam drag performing troupe to bring a talent show to the school with proceeds to be given to LCSD GSA's. After a firestorm of negative media coverage, the talent show continued as planned and was followed by a school-wide assembly celebrating diversity and educating students about LGBT+ issues. With the leadership of Tolan and Kurfman, Taft 7-12, certainly earned this award for their awesome efforts to promote and protect LGBT+ youth. The second school in Lincoln County School District to win the Safe Schools Award, Taft 7-12 was

preceded three years ago by Newport High School in receiving this award.

The award comes from the Oregon Safe Schools and Community Coalition (OSSCC), which annually honors organizations, schools, adults, and students who work to reduce bullying, harassment, and violence. The OSSCC supports community efforts to decrease youth suicide and other risk behaviors in the LGBT+ youth population through education, data collection, and support services. Lincoln County School District is rated with a Silver Star (below the Gold Star level) for 2014 because its governance documents regarding harassment, intimidation, bullying, dating violence, and cyberbullying are substantially compliant with current Oregon statutes. "Substantially" means that the district complies with at least 80% of statutorily required elements.

Facebook Shows Increased Numbers of People Coming Out on Social Media

What a difference visibility makes! Facebook has celebrated Spirit Day (Oct. 15) and National Coming Out Day (Oct. 11) by publishing a new report that shows the increase in the number of people coming out and supporting LGBT-specific Facebook groups. Researchers say that these trends are influenced by the Supreme Court's June 26 ruling on same-sex marriage. About 800,000 Americans updated their Facebook profiles to express a same-gender attraction or custom gender in the past year, while fans of LGBT-specific groups have increased 25 percent. On a day-to-day level, the number of people on Facebook coming out each day is three times what it was one year ago.

Research shows that increased visibility results in increased acceptance of LGBT people.

Politics on Our Side

Alaska: Anchorage is the first place in the state to protect citizens on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity. A new ordinance adds protections to housing, employment, and public accommodations while exempting religious groups and those with ministerial duties. Opponents say that they will begin working on a referendum to repeal the 9-2 vote.

California: Last month Gov. Jerry Brown signed four bills to protect same-gender people: these require state health and social services to collect sexual orientation and gender identity data to make the LGBT community part of demographics; protect parental rights for same-gender couples undergoing assisted reproduction; ensure that teachers have adequate resources to help LGBT youth who face bullying or other safety issues in school; and prohibit businesses contracting with the state from denying benefits to workers based on their gender identity, protecting transgender Californians from discrimination. California is also the first state in the nation to pay for a transgender inmate's sex reassignment operation. (See p. 6)

Nebraska: The ACLU is suing the state to mandate listing both same-gender spouses on their children's birth certificates. The attorney general's office objects although

the Supreme Court ruling lists this requirement as a specified rights for married same-gender couples. Similar cases are pending in other states including Florida. Utah, Texas, and Ohio courts have ordered state departments of health to follow the law.

New York: Using his executive authority, Gov. Andrew Cuomo expanded the state's anti-discrimination law to include transgender people. Employers, housing providers, businesses, creditors, and others may no longer discriminate on the basis of gender identity. New York is the first state in the U.S. to provide this protection in both private and public entities. Last year, Maryland's former Governor Martin O'Malley signed legislation prohibiting discrimination on matters relating to housing, employment, credit and use of public restrooms. The latter point drew fire from Republican opponents who labeled the measure a "bathroom bill."

Texas: The state legislature may not be protecting LGBT students, but over 900 schools districts—over three-fourths of the state's 1200 districts—have added sexual orientation and gender identity under examples of prohibited gender-based harassment. The recommendation from the Texas Association of School Boards came from U.S. Department of Justice guidance.

The High Cost of Defending Bigotry in the United States

Arizona must pay lawyers \$200,000 in attorney fees and other costs for overturning Arizona's same-gender marriage ban. Arizona was not unique in paying the lawyers fees: Michigan paid the \$1.9 million legal fees for lesbian couple, April and Jayne DeBoer-Rowse, who challenged the state's 2004 ban on marriage equality in a 2012 federal lawsuit. South Carolina has been ordered to pay \$130,000, Florida \$700,000, and Arkansas \$66,000. Pennsylvania settled for \$1.5 million, Wisconsin for \$1.05 million, Virginia for \$580,000, Oregon for \$132,000, Colorado for \$90,000, Utah for \$95,000 and North Dakota for \$58,000. The varying prices reflect the length of the battles or their intensity. Tulsa (OK) owes \$298,000—reduced from the original \$368,000 bill—and county officials are complaining that the rest of the state doesn't have to pay the costs. Kentucky is challenging the cost in that state. South Dakota finally settled for paying \$242,000.

Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family by Amy Ellis Nutt is a must read for everyone—especially the people who voted down LGBT rights in Houston (TX). This chronology of an identical twin who recognized her gender identity at an early age and then faced family and community issues internalizes the prejudice of people throughout the country.

On October 6, the Human Rights Campaign launched the **Campaign for Youth**, which focuses on spreading awareness on the issues that LGBTQ Youth face every day. The Campaign for Youth asks supporters to submit advice and encouragement to support LGBTQ youth. <http://www.hrc.org/blog/entry/hrc-supporters-share-advice-for-lgbtq-youth>

On October 14th, the beginning of the Islamic New Year, the Human Rights Foundation released a new “Coming Home” guide for LGBT Muslims who are seeking to maintain and connect with their faith while embracing their sexual orientation and gender identity. The guide, “**Coming Home to Islam and to Self,**” features the personal journeys from American LGBT Muslims and provides resources on how to deal with rejection from other Muslims and how to build a more inclusive religious environment.

This guide follows ones for LGBT Catholics and for the intersection faith and LGBTQ identity in general. A guide for Jewish LGBTQ people is planned for the next one.

Estabrook, Figuracion Attend National PFLAG Conference

The PFLAG national conference occurs every other year, and this year it was in Nashville (TN). For the first time, Oregon Central Coast PFLAG sent representatives, Ineka Estabrook, co-chair of OCC PFLAG and McKenzie Figuracion, 17-year-old Newport High School GSA president (below right).

They "joined PFLAG supporters from across the country for two days and nights of honing skills, building relationships, and celebrating." Estabrook focused on trans issues in health care, schools, and the prison system, and Figuracion concentrated on sessions about supporting LGBT+ youth. They both came back invigorated and bursting with ideas on how to improve services to our LGBT+ population here on the Oregon Coast.

Expect great things!



OCC PFLAG is announcing a grant fund that provides emergency or urgent relief to LGBT people in Lincoln County. Individuals of any age who identify as LGBT and have an unplanned financial need for medical aid, housing, transportation, or food can apply. Caregivers can apply for you if you can't. The maximum grant is \$250. See p. 1 for contact information to request an application.

Portland Schools Noted for Work with Transgender Population

Although Oregon and Washington bar employers from firing workers because of their gender identity, many schools are unprepared for transgender teachers, staff and students.

Portland Public Schools (OR) is one of the most progressive districts in the nation in LGBTQ issues with annual training for teachers on how to better serve LGBTQ students. Principals tell teachers at the beginning of the school year to ask students which pronouns they prefer for themselves and distribute a FAQ that reminds teachers they have the right to be out, keep photographs of their partners in their classrooms, and use pronouns and bathrooms that suit them.

Rudy Rudolph, a project manager for Portland Public's equity department, explained that the district prioritizes this work because it benefits the students and staff. He said, "When a person has a training in a school and the principal is leading this work, can you imagine what that means to this individual who is closeted? That says my administrator understands that I'm just a person like anyone else. It sets a totally different tone." He added that he was available for guidance with other districts. "I'd be glad to share. We have a huge PowerPoint with facts and questions for discussions."

One reason for the training that everyone should understand is that waiting will cost more money because the districts will have to be reactionary. A Band-Aid can be far more expensive than giving people the tools that they need, according to Rudolph. He said that a connection with resource groups in the area, in his case TransActive and SMYRC, is beneficial because people can find additional resources. Administrators also need to understand the importance of this training because they are the leaders.

PPS has a checklist regarding transgender students that guides staff through names changes, gender assumptions, names and phrases, and help in finding restrooms. It is vital that all students feel comfortable and safe. Rudy Rudolph and PPS help this happen to public students in Portland.

Lambda Legal also has a checklist of questions to consider in developing school policies for supporting transgender students: <http://www.lambdalegal.org/know-your-rights/youth/tgnc-friendly-schools>

Oregon Judges Refuse to Marry Same-Gender Couples, One Retires



Vance Day (left), Marion County Circuit Judge, will appear before the Commission on Judicial Fitness and Disability at a hearing on November 9 to determine whether he has committed judicial misconduct in refusing to marry same-gender couples. He is accused of violating several state codes and behaving in a way that adversely reflects on his character, competence, temperament, or fitness to serve as a judge. Concerns include his questionable behavior at his son's soccer games, and lying about permitting a felon to handle a gun. Retired Lane County Circuit Court Judge James Hartgreaves has provided specific information about judicial misconduct that is available here. <http://registerguard.com/rg/opinion/33530305-78/two-oregon-judges-should-be-ousted.html.csp>

Another circuit judge, Thomas Kohl in Washington County, had also announced that he would no longer perform marriages after a federal judge overturned the state's gay marriage ban last year. Kohl will retire at the end of 2015, a year before the end of his current term. Oregon Gov. Kate Brown is accepting applications until November 9 in order to fill his position.

People Who Make a Difference



In a first of its kind settlement in the United States, California has agreed to pay for gender confirmation surgery for **Shiloh Quine**, in prison for life since 1980. Until now, Quine has been incarcerated at a male facility despite her identification as a woman. A court settlement stipulated that she would be transferred to a woman's prison after the surgery as well as providing her with access to clothes, toiletries and other items currently limited to inmates of female prisons. The state was also ordered to provide the same

surgery for another prisoner, **Michelle Norsworthy** (above left), but she was released on parole before the legal case was settled. According to guidelines, the state will grant surgeries only to inmates who have more than two years remaining before their anticipated parole or release date.

Openly gay **Mo Rocca**, former *Daily Show* correspondent, performed the role of Lector, giving the first Bible reading, at Pope Francis' Madison Square Garden mass.



While in the United States, **Pope Francis** met with a gay couple, a former student and his partner, **Iwan Bagus**, in a private meeting

at Vatican Embassy in Washington, D.C. (Below left) **Yayo Grassi**, 67, said, "Three weeks before the trip, he called me on the phone and said he would love to give me a hug."



He thinks that the pope was "mised" into meeting with Kim Davis, the Kentucky county clerk who refused to issue marriage licenses for same-gender couples. The Vatican said that the only real "audience" that the pope gave was the couple and a small group of friends, and that there was a "sense of regret" over the meeting with Davis.

© TVCanal9Litoral/YouTube

Trans 101 at PFLAG

November is Transgender Awareness Month, and PFLAG is presenting Trans 101, a panel presentation that has just been developed for education purposes at the PFLAG meeting on November 11, 6:00 pm at St. Stephen's Church. Trans 101 has already been presented to the administrators and principals of Lincoln County School District and is scheduled next at Newport Middle School's leadership class.

We will follow this presentation with a candlelit vigil for Transgender Day of Remembrance, honoring transgender people who have been killed in the United States in the last year. Come and learn more about the T in LGBT!

PFLAG Awarding Grants

OCC PFLAG is announcing a grant fund that provides emergency or urgent relief to LGBT people in Lincoln County. Individuals of any age who identify as LGBT and have an unplanned financial need for medical aid, housing, transportation, or food can apply. Caregivers can apply for you if you can't. The maximum grant is \$250. See p. 1 for contact information to request an application.

OCC PFLAG Calendar

November—Transgender Awareness Month

November 4, 4:00-6:00 pm: GSA Leadership Conference—OCCC Campus

November 4, 7:00 pm: Trans Parents Coffee—Chalet, Newport

November 10, 4:00-6:00 pm: LGBTQ Happy Hour, All Welcome!—Embarcadero, Newport

November 11, 6:00-7:30 pm: PFLAG Meeting: Trans 101 panel—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

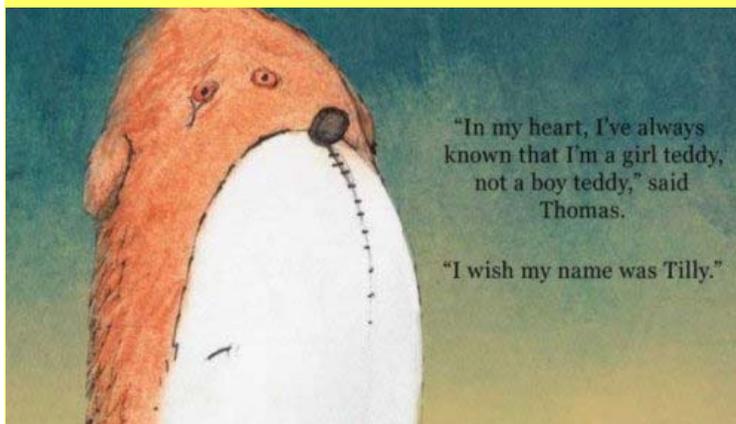
November 22, 11:00 am: OUT OR Coast Women's Coffee - Café Mundo, Newport

Look for 'Introducing Teddy' Next June from Bloomsbury

Jessica Walton, whose father, Tina, came out as trans about a few years ago, decided that children's literature needed more books with trans parents and characters. She and illustrator Dougal MacPherson for funding from Kickstarter to remedy that situation with *Introducing Teddy*.

The first-time Australian author, a lesbian who recently had a son with her partner, wrote the book for her child, Errol, and makes him one of the characters. Errol asks his teddy bear, Thomas, the reason for being sad. Thomas says that she's a girl teddy and wants to be called Tilly. Relieved because he thought something was wrong, Errol tells Tilly, "I'll always be your friend!"

The publishing house Bloomsbury found the book from all the publicity and will publish it in June 2016.



Join PFLAG!

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

_____ Household (\$35)
_____ Individual (\$25)
_____ Student/Limited Income (\$15)
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*Includes membership in National PFLAG with affiliates in over 365 worldwide communities.

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