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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 enlight-
en an ill-informed public
ADVOCACY to end dis-
crimination and secure
equal civil rights.

Oregon Central Coast Chapter

January 2016

Take Action

Elliot Yoder, a freshman at Dallas (OR) High School came out as **transgender** to his teachers and family at the start of the 2015-16 school year. (More on p. 2) Some members of the community, including other students, are creating a hostile educational environment for him. Both state and federal law require that school districts provide a safe learning environment for all students. You can help this happen by signing this petition: http://equalityfederation.salsalabs.com/o/35028/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=1695

Good News Club Use of LCSD School Facilities

When community members discovered that a religious organization was holding student meetings, called **Good News Club**, in two LCSD schools, they developed a loosely-knit group to investigate the lack of constitutional separation between church and state. Although the "Club" no longer meets during school times, the problems may be ongoing. (More on p. 5 and at nelsnewday.wordpress.com/tag/separation-of-church-and-state/) If you are interested in the group investigating the use of school facilities, please contact Cheryl Brown. (cabkaldy@gmail.com.)

The Food and Drug Administration lifted its lifetime ban on gay and bisexual men donating blood, but many gay men will still be barred. According to the new policy, men can give blood only if they have not had sex with other men in the past year. That includes gay men who are married or are in a monogamous relationship. Before this policy went into effect, men who had sex with other men, even once, were banned from giving blood since 1985. Donor restrictions were written before faster HIV testing which can now be done in as little as nine days.

More People See Ghosts Than Know Transgender People



According to Faye Seidler, a transgender activist living and working in Fargo (ND), more people claim to have seen a ghost than have met a transgender person. In a 2009 Pew Research Center survey, 18 percent of people in the U.S. have seen ghosts; a 2015 GLAAD study found that only 16 percent of people in the U.S. know someone who identifies as trans.

The percentage of people knowing someone who is transgender is higher among younger people, 27 percent com-

pared to only nine percent among people over 45 years old. Almost 90 percent of people personally know a LGBT person.

The percentage of high schoolers knowing a transgender person is much higher in Dallas (OR) High School. In early November, the U.S. Department of Education ruled that, according to Title IX regulations, transgender students must be allowed to use facilities matching their gender identities. Elliot Yoder, 14, is trying to exercise his legal rights. After district officials sent a letter to the 67 students in his gym class stating that an unnamed transgender student could use the boys locker room, Dallas residents attended the December school board meeting, some in protest.

Despite being informed of the law, residents testified about the typical myths of facility use by transgender students. Yoder was there to hear his great-grandfather ask the board to keep students segregated by biological sex.

After hearing the negative comments about the district policy, Yoder told the board: "Yes, I was born as a female. I disregard that part of myself completely when I'm in the boys locker room. I never fully undress. I don't shower with them. I don't even look at any of them. I don't look at the person whose locker is directly below mine. I'm not in there to spy on your kids. I'm not in there for any other reason but to change in a place that is not completely separate from everybody else."

The trip to the unisex bathroom had been his "walk of shame," he explained. Other students watched as he took his clothes upstairs, he said. He heard them talking about him. "I could see that they were labeling me as other," he said. "I'm not an it."

Earlier Yoder said that his life began to make sense four years ago when a friend's father transitioned.

After he told the crowd about his feelings, speakers were not as confident in their disagreement with Yoder using the boys' locker room. Afterwards a few people shook his hand. They weren't necessarily persuaded, but the transgender student now has a face. People questioning Yoder's journey can benefit from reading Amy Ellis Nutt's *Becoming Nicole*, about a transgender girl in Maine who faced the same problems that Yoder does. It would be a nice gift to libraries to contribute to diversity understanding.

We all appreciate Elliot Yoder and his courage in openly explaining his transitioning experiences and needs.

[Photos by Casey May, *The Oregonian*]



Politics on Our Side

Anchorage (Alaska): Opponents of the city's new LGBT non-discrimination law have refused language in their referendum effort to repeal the municipality's Ordinance 96 on the grounds that it did not accurately describe what the law does. Petitioners have to sign off on the proposed alternative language before they can start collecting the 5,754 necessary signatures by January 11, 2016 in order for the measure to be considered for the April election.

Arkansas: The state Department of Health briefly allowed same-gender parents in Arkansas to be named on their children's birth certificates as long as they can prove they were married before the birth of the child, but the state Supreme Court overturned the decision. It let stand birth certificates for the three couples who the judge specifically addressed. The court forced others to wait until the circuit court issued a ruling.

Kansas: Reporters have obtained a 2013 sealed court ruling showing that officials with the state Department for Children and Families may have lied about its not denying foster care and adoption placement with same-gender parents children. Judge Kathleen Sloan removed a 16-month-old child from DCF custody because it took the child from a lesbian couple and recommended that he be placed with a couple later arrested on child abuse charges. Despite evidence to the contrary, DCF Secretary Phyllis Gilmore repeatedly said that the agency does not show preference to heterosexual couples over gays and lesbians in committed relationships.

Massachusetts: Superior Court Justice Douglas Wilkins has ruled that Fontbonne Academy, a Roman Catholic girls' high school in Milton, violated a gay man's rights when it revoked an offer for him to work as director of food services after he revealed

on a form that he was married to another man. Wilkins noted that Matthew Barrett's job would not involve teaching ethics. He simply prepares food. Fontbonne employs people who are not Catholic or are married outside the Catholic church.

Oklahoma: The state Supreme Court ruled that it is in a child's best interest to grant the non-biological parent a hearing to explore custody and visitation rights. After a lesbian couple separated after ten years, biological mother Kimberly Sutton denied Charlene Ramey, who claimed that she was the primary caregiver for the child's first four years, visitation rights. The Oklahoma Supreme Court unanimously reinstated the case after Special Judge Howard Haralson had dismissed it last March. The court wrote, "This case is intended to recognize those same-sex couples who ... entered into committed relationships, engaged in family planning with the intent to parent jointly and then shared in those responsibilities after the child was born."

North Carolina: A federal lawsuit challenges a law allowing magistrates to refuse to perform same-gender marriages based on their religious beliefs. The law passed last June over the veto of GOP Gov. Pat McCrory. Only North Carolina and Utah provide religious-objection options for court officials although Virginia and Maryland are considering a similar law.

West Virginia: The Kanawha County school board has approved policy changes to protect prospective and current LGBT employees from discrimination. The change adds a definition of sexual orientation: "actual or perceived heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality, or gender identity or expression of an individual, with or without regard to the individual's assigned sex at birth."

The GLBT National Help Center, which operates, among other programs, the GLBT National Youth Talkline, has launched a new transgender youth program to begin on January 6, 2016.

The Trans Teens Online Talk Group receives calls from young trans people from all over the country without access to local resources and who are feeling severely isolated and alone.

The live, moderated group chat for trans youth ages 12 through 19 operates Wednesday from 4:00-6:00 pm (PT) www.GLBThotline.org/transteens.

It is designed as a safe place allowing trans youth to talk freely about concerns and issues, with others their own age, provide support for one another, and help each other know they are not alone.

The largest mental health center in Toronto (Canada), the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), is **closing the Child, Youth, and Family Gender Identity Clinic (GIC)** after a damning independent review detailing its attempts to block the development of gender non-forming characteristics in children.

Dr. Kenneth Zucker, head of GIC for over 30 years and advocate for anti-trans reparative therapy, has already left.

Logo has announced its **top 25 LGBT-inclusive companies**. <http://www.newnownext.com/logo-names-the-top-25-trailblazing-companies/12/2015/>

More U.S./World News

United States: The Supreme Court has blocked an Alabama court order preventing a lesbian mother from seeing her three adopted children. Alabama had declared that the adoption in Georgia was invalid.

United States: U.S. District Judge Dean Pegerson ruled in California that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation falls under Title IX law, on the basis of gender or sex. Two former players on the Pepperdine University women's basketball team may proceed with a lawsuit alleging that the university harassed and discriminated against them because they were dating.

Malawi: After a neighborhood watch team forced their way into the home of a gay couple and turned them over to the police, the government has determined that it will not arrest or prosecute LGBT citizens while lawmakers review existing anti-gay laws and dropped the charges against the couple.

New Zealand: The Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster, created in 2005 as a protest to teaching creationism in Kansas public schools, now has approval to officiate same-gender marriages in New Zealand. Marriage equality has been legal in that country since 2013. Members of the church wear pasta strainers on their heads and have popped up with this gear on official documents in the U.S. such as driver's licenses.

Vietnam: Parliament has passed legalizing sexual reassignment surgery and the new gender of those who have undergone the procedure. Although this bill is a start toward accepting transgender people, it requires surgery to recognize the rights of transgender people.

[Below: participants at the World AIDS Day Observance at Lincoln Community Center]



Good News Club—Bad News for Kids

In late November, parents drew attention to the Lincoln County School District's allowing meetings sponsored by the Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF) in two district schools, one of them Yaquina View. The complaint from parents resulted in a suspension of meetings of all non-school affiliated groups during school times until an investigation was complete. Although Superintendent Steve Boynton had promised that the district would review its policy at the December 8, 2015 board meeting, he only announced new guidelines for the new policy and said that the board would work on the revision in work sessions. None of his suggestions addressed the problems with the Good News Club curriculum.

Several community members spoke to the board about the concerns; a few others talked about how their evangelical experience had been personally beneficial. The Newport leader of CEF clarified a few administrative issues but did not disagree with the PFLAG position paper below. The statement was read into the record at the board meeting.

[More "Good News" information is available here: <file:///C:/Documents%20and%20Settings/Sue/My%20Documents/Downloads/Protecting%20school%20children%20from%20emotional%20&%20psychological%20harm.pdf>]

Position on Good News Club

The Board of PFLAG Oregon Central Coast wants to express our concern about the Good News Club organization and its use of public schools to promote a very fundamental version of the Christian faith. We believe that the Good News Club curriculum promotes negative self-esteem, shame, and guilt that should not be part of any student's educational experience.

PFLAG's specific concern is for students who may be in the early stages of identifying as LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender). Students in elementary school are becoming aware of their emerging sexual orientation. Many who are beginning to experience same-gender attraction or who have gender identity differences do not have support at home. For these students to become the focus of negative attention by schoolmates or Good News Club leaders could trigger serious emotional and mental health problems.

This is not an idle concern as the last suicide of a LCSD high school student was partially because of the emotional abuse he suffered as a result of his mother's fundamentalist beliefs and the rejection he experienced from her church and its leaders.

The Good News curriculum reinforces a belief in a god who demands complete obedience. Preschoolers are told that they have "dark" and "sinful" hearts, were born that way, and "deserve to die" and "go to Hell." This curriculum has over 5,000 references to sin, over 1,000 references to Hell and punishment, and only one reference to the Golden Rule. Good News Club leaders do not have permission to deviate from this curriculum from their parent organization, Child Evangelism Fellowship.

One lesson calls for the leaders to hang a sign with the word "sin" around the child's neck and tell them that "all have sinned and deserve God's punishment for sin, which is death, separation from God forever." Each lesson uses a black heart to symbolize a child's inner self, showing children their inner blackness. This curriculum encourages feelings of shame, doubt, and inadequacy that carry on into adulthood. The end result is a negative self-image, preoccupation with sin, and aversion to critical thinking.

PFLAG Oregon Central Coast believes that the Good News Club curriculum is incompatible with positive mental health and social emotional learning; that it represents a form of emotional abuse, religious bullying, and intimidation; and that it should not be part of the LCSD program, even for after school activities.

People Who Make a Difference

Daniel Kaufman, 42, was murdered in San Bernardo while saving the lives of at least four people during a mass shooting on December 2, 2015. He is survived by Ryan Reyes, his partner of three years; Mark Sandefur, his uncle who raised him; and Sandefur's wife, Julie. In an op-ed for *Pride LA*, Reyes asked that Muslims not be held accountable for the deaths. He wrote, "The twisted actions and beliefs of a few should not be used to view the majority."



The deadliest attack in Afghanistan since 2013 killed six U.S. troops on December 21, 2016, including Major **Adrianna M. Vorderbuggen**), one of the first lesbians to be married after the government eliminated the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy preventing out lesbians and gays from serving in the military. She is

pictured above with her wife, Heather Lamb (left), and their four-old-son, Jacob. Vorderbuggen, the first openly lesbian service member to be killed in action, died on the day before the fifth anniversary repealing DADT.

The two men featured in Nordstrom's holiday ad are engaged to be married. While many of us appreciate the LGBT inclusion in the company's advertising, the conservative site *American Thinker* expressed outrage that it would be broadcast during *The Rifleman* where children would see this demonstration of love in the midst of the program's carnage. You can watch the full ad here: <http://www.advocate.com/business/2015/12/08/watch-new-nordstrom-ad-features-kissing-same-sex-couple>



Last month, *American Girl* magazine featured 11-year-old **Amaya** who was adopted with her brothers from a foster care program. One Million Moms boycotted the American Girl



Doll and parent company Mattel because the adopting parents are a gay couple. National media led to a tripling of donations to Comfort Cases, a non-profit charity founded by Amaya's dad that provides foster children with basic necessities such as clothing, backpacks, toothbrushes and stuffed animals to ease their transitions into new families. During Holiday Packing Party, the group put together 500 more care packages than last year, a 70-percent increase and distributed more than 10,000 care packages to children in need.

PFLAG OCC Annual Meeting— January 13

Election of Officers
Review of 2015
Plans and ideas for 2016
Support group time

Slate of Officers

Ineka Estabrook, Chair
Laurel Woods, Secretary
Debbie Spicer, Treasurer
Harper Woods, Tech Leader
Jeanne St. John, Historian

A LGBT+ 101 for medical professionals is on February 1, 2016, 6:00-8:00 pm, at the new Samaritan Health Education Building. Neola Young will do the presentation and train people for future presentations.

Facebook is now allowing user privacy by permitting people to use a name on the site that differs from that on the legal documentation. The response to this need was to support LGBT people. Those whose names have been reported as false may now give more information to explain why they use a different name as a “special circumstance.”

The Boy Scouts of America has recently revised BSA rules to emphasize a duty to God and ban political advocacy. The new guidelines may allow them to reject an application for an LGBT troop from Restore Our Humanity, a group that advocated legalizing marriage equality in Utah. The troop applied last September but has not received a response.

New troop applications must now be approved by the national organization instead of local leadership. Revised rules require prospective troop organizers to pledge that religious faith will be a guiding principle for their troops.

OCC PFLAG Calendar

January 6, 7:00 pm: Trans Parents Coffee—Chalet, Newport

January 12, 4:00-6:00 pm: LGBTQ Happy Hour, All Welcome!—Georgie’s Beachside Grill, Newport

January 13, 6:00-7:30 pm: PFLAG Meeting, Annual Review and Election of Officers—St. Stephen’s, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

January 24, 11:00 am: OUT OR Coast Women’s Coffee - Café Mundo, Newport

February 13, 2:00-4:00 pm: Love Is Love Party—OCCC Commons

Hudson Garner, 15, tells about his experience in a Mississippi court when his two mothers, Kathryn Garner and Susan Hrostowski (below right) attempted to adopt him. It’s a must read!

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/hudson-garner/my-day-in-court_b_8854120.html?ir=Gay%20Voices?ncid=news_tushpmg00000003



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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