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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

March 2016



Lincoln County
Peace & Justice Link
Student Award
2016

McKenzie Figuracion

has demonstrated leadership in
peaceful solutions and justice-oriented
work in the school and community

Jeanne St. John
Witness

Feb. 12, 2016
Date



Congratulations to McKenzie Figuracion, who was awarded the Peace and Justice Award on February 12 for her awesome work as president of the Newport High School Gay Straight Alliance for the past three years. Nominated by PFLAG for the award, she has led school assemblies on bullying and events such as Transgender Day of Remembrance, Day of Silence, and Upstander's Week as well as participating in PFLAG's LGBT+ 101 and Trans 101 trainings and generally contributing to the LGBT community.

PFLAG Love Is Love Celebration, a Grand Success

The Love Is Love Valentine's Day party was a huge success, as usual. Past Forward played their old time music, Akia Woods (left of center with long hair) sang, Mia Estabrook was the MC, and we honored the couples that had been married the longest. We had a valentine card making table and the two cutest little boys in the world made little Valentine boxes with candy in them and passed them out to everyone.



Honored couples included (from left) Karin Bigler (married over 50 years), Jeannette and Dora, Monica and Robin, Kae and Jeanne (right of presenter), Cynthia and Gary (next to Jeanne), and Sara and John (far right).



An important part of Love Is Love are the tempting desserts provided by the best bakers from local churches and PFLAG members.

Politics on Our Side

Oregon: The state Commission on Judicial Fitness and Disability has recommended the removal of Marion County judge Vance Day on a number of violations including his refusal to perform same-gender marriages based on his religious beliefs. Although Day had a pattern of violating the rules of the Code of Judicial Conduct, great attention was drawn to his telling his staff to lie about his availability after a same-gender couple asked for Day to perform their marriage. Day is now the sixth judge since 2007 to have been referred for sanctions to the Supreme Court, which will have the final say.

Also in Oregon, Shawna Dicintio is suing five employees at Hillsboro School District, including teacher Brett Trosclair, for “harassment and discrimination” against her son, a gay special education student. When Dicintio’s son “told his friend that he thought another student was cute” in an assembly, Trosclair threatened to kill them and throw them down the stairs. Dicintio said that staffers had bullied her son prior to this event.

California: Taylor Victor, 16, has won the right to wear a T-shirt with these words, “Nobody knows I’m a lesbian,” at Sierra High School in the Manteca Unified School District in central California. The student dress code will also be amended to include that “a student will not be prohibited from wearing clothing, jewelry or personal items that express self-identification with, or support for, individuals or groups on the basis of...disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation.” Administrators will be required to attend training courses on students’ right to free speech, and the school district will pick up the \$63,000 legal fee for the ACLU. Victor said that she wore the shirt as a joke because everyone at school knows she is a lesbian.

Indiana: As the state legislature supports discrimination against LGBT people in employment, Evansville became the fifth city in the state to outlaw that practice. Last year, Indiana lost as much as \$60 million in hotel profits, tax revenue, and other economic benefits after a dozen groups refused to host conventions in Indianapolis because of the state’s religious objections law. Gov. Mike Pence signed the discriminatory law a year ago, but the legislature made changes days later after business interests such as the NCC and the gamer convention GenCon considered moving out of the state. This year’s bill would reverse the “fix” to entice conventions to Indiana.

Michigan: Republicans have passed an anti-sodomy law making oral and anal sex felonies for both straight and LGBT people punishable by up to 15 years in prison. Thanks to the Supreme Court ruling in *Lawrence v. Texas*, legalizing sodomy throughout the U.S., the new law is immediately unconstitutional.

Nebraska: A federal judge has issued a permanent injunction striking down Nebraska’s now-unconstitutional ban on same-gender marriage and civil unions and ordering state officials to treat same-sex couples the same as different-sex couples in everything from processing marriage certificates to issuing birth certificates.

Texas: Attorney General Ken Paxton is being investigated for ethics violations after telling county clerks that they could deny marriage licenses to same gender-couples. Already facing felony charges, Paxton could be disbarred, removing him from his AG position, if the Board of Disciplinary Appeals finds he has an ethics violation. The conviction of his existing felony charges, related to securities fraud, would result in up to 99 years imprisonment.

HRC Endorses Clinton

The Human Rights Campaign has endorsed Hillary Clinton for president because she has presented the "most robust and ambitious LGBT plan any candidate for president has ever laid out," including her goal to drop the ban on transgender military service and fight for equal rights through legislation such as the Equality Act. While secretary of state, Clinton advocated for LGBT rights. In one of her speeches before the United Nations, she proclaimed that "gay rights are human rights."

AMPA Celebrates Windsor, Obergefell

Edie Windsor and Jim Obergefell, plaintiffs in successful Supreme Court marriage equality cases, will be honored at the 3rd Annual AMPA National Gale, the nation's largest LGBT military event of the year on May 7, 2016. Also honored at the event are Thom Kostura and Ijpe DeKoe, Obergefell co-plaintiffs, who presented their story about the negative impact of marriage inequality on LGBT military families.

Huh???????????

Kansas State GOP Rep. Dick Jones (R-Topeka) claimed that the Supreme Court established a "third sex" when it ruled in favor of marriage equality last year. He said, "So there's male and female and gay." People need to accept this position, he added, to save Christian ethic from being "doomed." (Yes, I'm confused too.)

From the PFLAG Chair—

Ineka Estabrook writes:

"My wonderful daughter, Mia, is leaving for Japan on March 20! She is going for a year as a foreign exchange student with AFS to Osaka, living with a family with three kids, a mom, dad, and a grandma. She is out and her family has accepted her knowing that she is gay. AFS has a non-discrimination policy and accepts LGBT+ kids to send on exchange and families to host foreign exchange students. That said, Japan is a very conservative country, that only has one tiny section of Tokyo that recognizes same sex marriage (the only place in Asia, I think), and this is a big step for them."

Congratulations to both Mia (below) and her mother for their accomplishments!



BasicRightsOregon needs volunteers for the Statewide Summit Host Committee planning a day-long leadership meeting in Eugene in late May. The goal of the meeting is to network LGBTQ activists in the state, centralize the experience and knowledge of this community, and gain skills to continue the fight for legal and lived equality. The time commitment would be five to ten hours per month. Interested people should call Dominic at 503-222-6151 x113 or email dominic@basicrights.org.

Good News from around the World



The UN Postal Administration (UNPA) will issue a set of six commemorative stamps to promote the UN Free & Equal campaign for LGBT equality. Free & Equal is a global public education campaign dedicated to raising awareness of homophobic and transphobic violence and discrimination globally. Since its launch, the campaign has generated a stream of popular content and engaged millions of people in an effort to promote the fair treatment of LGBT people and generate support for measures to protect their rights.

Virginia: Transgender Gavin Grimm, barred from using the boys' restroom because he was designated a girl at birth, has carried his lawsuit against the Gloucester County School Board to the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals which heard the case on January 27, 2016. Gavin is determined male by the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, and hormone treatment is deepening his voice and initiating facial hair, making the use of girls' bathrooms inappropriate. Gavin's case is the first one to be in a federal circuit courts, and the decision is important because several states are proposing bills to keep transgender students from using public school facilities consistent with their gender identities. South Dakota has passed a bill that school restrooms and locker rooms are restricted to students of the same biological sex. It also orders that no "undue hardship" be placed on a school district and exempts private schools from the "reasonable accommodation" clause. The governor, who said that he had never met a transgender person, has until March 1 to veto or sign the bill until it goes into effect without his signature.

No federal law explicitly bars discrimination on the basis of gender identity, but several court decisions have found discrimination against transgender people to be a form of sex discrimination, prohibited under Title IX, Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the 1974 Equal Credit Opportunity Act, the 1994 Violence Against Women Act, and the Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause.

United States: Human Rights Campaign, the Southern Poverty Law Center, and the National Center for Lesbian Rights have filed a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission calling on federal regulators to bar gay conversion retreats from advertising their ability to make LGBT people straight. The group People Can Change falsely claims its two-day retreat "Journey Into Manhood" can curb unwanted homosexual desires through counseling, journaling, and a "safe healing touch." Their publicity does not warn consumers that no evidence exists to any effectiveness of gay conversion therapy. A ruling against advertising gay conversion would block this practice throughout the entire nation, a move far greater than the few states that prohibit licensed professionals from offering gay conversion to minors. The First Amendment protects speech and religion, but federal regulators draw the line at deceptive speech used to sell products. The complaint asserts that conversion therapy advertisements are fraudulent because they are "based on the false premise that being LGBT is a mental illness or disorder caused by a developmental deficiency, trauma, and/or unmet emotional needs." The American Psychiatric Association delisted homosexuality as a mental illness in 1973. The Southern Poverty Law Center blocked Jews Offering New Alternatives for Healing that violated the New Jersey's consumer fraud regulations.

People Who Make a Difference



Thanks to teenagers **Gavin Grimm** (above left) and **Taylor Victor** (above right) for advancing LGBT rights in the United States! Gavin's story is on p. 5 under "Virginia," and Taylor's achievement is on p. 2 under "California."



Maite Oronoz Rodríguez, 39, has been confirmed as the Puerto Rico Supreme Court's new chief justice, making her the "first openly LGBT chief justice in the United States." Gov. Alejandro García Padilla, who nominated Rodríguez for the position, said that the "judicial branch is in the hands of a first rate jurist, who is part of our country's new generation of leaders." She served as the commonwealth's deputy solicitor general and chief legal counselor for the city of San Juan before this appointment. " Lambda Legal called the confirmation "a momentous step towards achieving a judiciary that reflects full and rich diversity."

Tonya and Rachel Smith have filed a federal lawsuit, a first in federal law, against Deepika Avanti, a self-identified psychic who refused to rent to them. She said that she sensed their "uniqueness" and renting to them might jeopardize her standing in the community. A ruling could extend gender discrimination under federal law for housing. The suit alleges bias in violation of the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and transgender status, and the Fair Housing Act.



PFLAG Shows Film for Meeting

The focus on the monthly PFLAG meeting on March 9, 6:00-7:30 pm, is the documentary ‘Lead with Love.’ This film helps answer the question “What do I do if my child is gay?” It follows several families who share honest reactions to learning that their child is LGBT and offers guidance to help other parents in similar situations. The showing will be followed by a short discussion.

PFLAG, NHS GSA Present at OCCC

The Newport GSA is again teaming with PFLAG to present LGBT+ 101 at OCCC on March 2 in the OCCC Community Room. The workshop is open to all, and pizza will be served!

Estabrook Receives Training In Trans Health Issues

A bonus for the presentation of Medical Trans 101 to the hospital on February was an added six-hour training for Ineka Estabrook before the meeting. She will be able to use this knowledge in future presentations.

Damsels Return to Hult Center

The 17th anniversary of Damsels Divas and Dames!, a benefit for HIV Alliance, is scheduled for April 9. For sale at www.hultcenter.org, tickets are \$30/25 adult and students with \$5 off for ID.

OCC PFLAG Calendar

March 2, 12:00-1:00 pm: LGBT+ 101 Presentation by NHS GSA and PFLAG—OCCC Community Room, South Beach

March 8, 4:00-6:00 pm: LGBTQ Happy Hour, All Welcome!—Georgie’s Beachside Grill, Newport

March 9, 6:00-7:30 pm: PFLAG Meeting, Film ‘Lead with Love’—St. Stephen’s, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

March 27, 11:00 am: OUT OR Coast Women’s Coffee - Café Mundo, Newport

April 9, 7:00-10:00 pm: Damsels Divas and Dames! – A Benefit for HIV Alliance - Hult Center for the Performing Arts, Eugene

The Harlem-based Atlah Worldwide Church, where Rev. James David Manning made unbelievable anti-LGBT rants, may be sold to the Ali Forney Center, an organization providing assistance to homeless and at-risk LGBTQ youth. Manning refuses to believe that his church is being auctioned off because of its \$1 million debt for taxes and water bills; he thinks that churches should be exempt from water bills. In the first 12 days of fund-raising, Ali Forney Center raised \$200,000. Because of its historic designation, the church is subject to zoning laws that keep it from becoming luxury housing or office buildings. This *Daily Show* segment by Jessica Williams about Manning’s bigotry is outstanding! <http://talkingpointsmemo.com/livewire/daily-show-harlem>



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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