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PFLAG promotes the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender 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

January 2017

Take Action

Stronger Together March

All ages, genders, sexual orientations, ethnicities, abilities, religions, and immigrants are welcome to march in solidarity with the national Women's March on Washington and other cities across the country in January on the day after the inauguration. The goal is to protect civil rights, vulnerable communities, and the earth. In the troubling times ahead, these issues need vigilant attention. We truly are stronger together.

Schedule on January 21, 2017

11:30 am: Meet at Newport City Hall on south Highway 101
12:00 pm: Begin March
12:30 pm: Rally at Hallmark Resort (two hours)
(Please attend the rally even if you don't attend the March!)

The rally will provide details on how to resist racism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, and hate crimes at the local, state and federal levels.

Prepare for the March

Tell your friends and neighbors.
Ask them to carpool with you.
Make sure you have comfortable shoes, and maybe a raincoat.
Donate money.
Volunteer your time.
Be nasty.

PLEASE RSVP ON EVENTBRITE

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/stronger-together-march-tickets-30364729724>

AIDS Quilt Comes to Lincoln County



In June of 1987, a small group of strangers gathered in a San Francisco storefront to document the lives they feared history would neglect. Their goal was to create a memorial for those who had died of AIDS, and to thereby help people understand the devastating impact of the disease. This meeting of devoted friends and lovers served as the foundation of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. Since

then the Quilt has been a powerful visual reminder of the AIDS pandemic. Almost 50,000 3 x 6-foot panels have been sewn together by friends, lovers and family members. Washington, D.C. hosted the entire display on October 11, 2016 (above left).

Oregon Central Coast PFLAG sponsored the showing of two panels of the quilt at OCCC to commemorate World AIDS Day on December 1. A candle ceremony with remembrances was in the courtyard on that day. The AIDS epidemic has not gone away. Locally, Lincoln County, has identified 2 new infections. Do you know your status?

Progressive Groups Form Coalition as Protection

In response to the recent election, Diversity Coalition of Lincoln County has formed to protect vulnerable communities which include LGBTQ people. Actions thus far include distributing signs to businesses for posting (see p. 7), and partnering with the Lincoln County Democratic Central Committee for the **Stronger Together March** on January 21, 2017—the day after the presidential inauguration (see p. 1). Coalition members thus far are NOW, ROP, Centro de Ayuda, KYAQ community radio, Legal Aid, and PFLAG. Kelly Everfree, Lisa Gray's wife, is the coalition chair. Contact information: (541)961-9167; kelly@ourlivingschool.org.

For people who use emojis—small symbols in text to express emotions or communicate another wordless message—Apple has added a rainbow. Here are some earlier ones: <http://www.advocate.com/business/technology/2015/04/09/apples-new-emoji-are-gayest-ones-yet>



Politics on Our Side

Pittsburgh (PA): The city has become the first in Pennsylvania to ban “conversion therapy” for all people under the age of 18. Conversion therapy for LGBTQ youth is illegal in five states and Washington, D.C.

Arkansas: Owners of a McDonald’s franchise had to pay \$103,000 to an employee fired for being HIV-positive after the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) failed to reach a voluntary settlement and then filed a lawsuit on behalf of the worker. McDonald’s conduct violates the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Florida: Students at Carver Middle School in Leesburg can have a gay-straight alliance, according to the 11th Circuit Court.

North Carolina: Gov. Pat McCrory waited 27 days after the election and a forced recount in one county to finally concede to Roy Cooper before the “potty police” state leader admitted defeat—the first sitting governor to lose in the state since 1789.

Illinois: For the second time, Todd and Mark Wathen were victorious in court in their lawsuit against the Timber Creek B&B that refused to host their wedding ceremony in 2011. Owner Jim Walder will appeal.

New York: State legislator Patrick Burke’s bill to ban conversion therapy is called Prevention of Emotional Neglect and Childhood Endangerment (PENCE).

New York: Ben Stanford has succeeded in legally changing his name to match his gender without “medical evidence” of a transition from female to male, thanks to judges in the Fourth Judicial Department, a branch of the appellate division of the New York State Supreme Court.

Ohio: The U.S. 6th Circuit Court has denied an appeal from Highland Local School District north of Columbus to stop an 11-year-old transgender girl from using the restroom of her choice. She may now continue

using the girls’ restroom. The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear arguments on the issue.

Cherokee Nation: The sovereign nation will recognize same-gender marriages, overturning a 2004 Cherokee law banning them. The nation is not bound by the U.S. Supreme Court’s marriage ruling, but Cherokee Attorney General Todd Hembree said that the tribe’s constitution “protects the fundamental right to marry” and that the tribe has a history of honoring same-sex unions.

United States: Wal-Mart settled a lawsuit for \$7.5 million after Jacqueline Cote sued for health insurance for her wife, Diana Smithson and accused Wal-Mart of denying health insurance benefits to same-gender spouses. The money goes into a fund to compensate employees denied spousal benefits during three years before January 1, 2014, when Wal-Mart changed its policy. Smithson died of cancer nine months ago.

United States: The defense budget of \$619 billion passed without the amendment to eliminate President Obama’s executive order barring federal contractors from discriminating against LGBT people.

Malta: The first European nation to outlaw “conversion therapy” for LGBTQ people will fine those found guilty of \$5,000 and imprison them for up to five years. In the U.S., California, New Jersey, Oregon, Illinois, Vermont and Washington, D.C. ban conversion therapy for minors.

Northern Ireland: A ruling against Ashers Baking Company, that refused to bake a cake decorated with “Support Gay Marriage,” holds because the country’s attorney general missed the deadline to appeal. Found guilty of discrimination, the bakery is required to pay 500 pounds to the person who tried to order the cake for the 2014 International Day against Homophobia.

Bits of News

National Institutes of Health has started a five-year trial of an **injectable drug for HIV prevention**. The study has 4,500 men and transgender women who have sex with men and come from 45 different locations in eight countries. The dosage is once every eight weeks instead of the existing Truvada pill every day.

Virulently anti-LGBT **Archbishop John Myers is leaving** Newark (NY), and newly-anointed cardinal, Archbishop Joseph Tobin, is arriving from Indianapolis, thanks to Pope Francis.

Last year, Myers fired a gay priest who supported an anti-bullying campaign to protect LGBT people and then barred him from public ministry.

The pope may be moving his U.S. bishops away from the conservative policies evidenced by the rigidity of those like Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York City.

Paranormal researchers have decided that **the cause of homosexuality is ghosts** in 85 percent of gays and lesbians. The Spiritual Science Research Foundation claims that gay men are “possessed by female ghosts” and vice-versa for lesbians.

They claim that ghosts force people to behave “in a shameless and even aggressive manner.” The organization has no report on bisexuality.

Internet Videos for the Soul

Three mothers of transgender children urge video viewers to “**Meet My Child**.” Released last May, the two minute film responds to “bathroom bills” by talking about learning to understand their children’s transitions and urging politicians to not be afraid of their children. One mother said, “They’re your neighbor, they’re your friend, they’re your coworker In my case, she’s my daughter.” Watch it here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k_lGK7d5HbA

Nicole Maines, a transgender student banned from using the girls’ bathroom in the fifth grade, has a **TEDx talk** about how it feels to be told that “you weren’t okay, that you were wrong” from “Monday to Friday from 8 to 3.” Forced to use a staff bathroom, she and her family moved, and she hid her transition past. “I didn’t have any sleepovers and I didn’t visit any friends,” she said. “I was like a ghost.”

Maines made history when Maine’s Supreme Court ruled in favor of her in 2014, but by then she was a teenager and had lost her childhood at school. Maines and her family are also the subjects of Amy Nutt’s powerful book, *Becoming Nicole*. She said that everyone is part of the trans story. “You have the power to make a difference in someone’s life. Because you never know when a transgender person is going to come into your life, you need to be prepared and you need to be ready to help them.” The 13-minute video is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXnTAnsVfN8>

Kodak has released a fictional 35mm movie on video about a high school boy outed after his younger sister sees him kissing his baseball teammate. Directed by Terry Raymond and cinematography by Kate Arizmendi, “**Understanding**,” under three minutes in length, is available here. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sZBrowcWnMU>

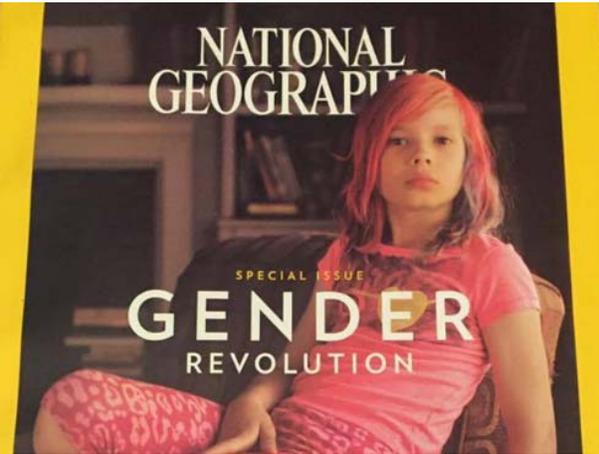
Eugene Author Talks about Transgender Marriage

Kirsten Collier, author of *Houseswife: Home (Re) Making in a Transgender Marriage*, will speak on January 15, 3:00 pm at the Driftwood Library in Lincoln City. The book is about a redefinition of homemaking after her husband transitioned. The two women continue to live and parent their two sons as partners in the same household.

History-Making Events: LGBTQ Firsts

The venerable *National Geographic*, now owned by Rupert Murdoch of Fox network fame, has put a photo of a trans person—in this case nine-year-old Avery Jackson—for the first time in its 138 continuous years of publication.

The January 2017 issue of *National Geographic* is a special issue focusing on the “gender revolution.” The issue came out on newsstands on December. 27. NG’s two-hour documentary *Gender Revolution*, co-produced and hosted by Katie Couric, premieres on February 6.



Two married men, 60-year-old Thor Stockman and 47-year-old Patrick Kellogg, are part of artist Vik Muniz’s “Perfect Strangers,” life-size mosaic portraits of New Yorkers on the new subway station at 72nd Street. It is the first non-political permanent LGBTQ public artwork in New York City.

A drawing of Hogwarts characters has been approved by J.K. Rowling for *Love Is Love*, an anthology comic to benefit victims and families who lost loved ones in the shooting at Pulse in Orlando (FL). The sketch by Jim Lee features Harry with friends Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger, and their beloved gay former headmaster, Albus Dumbledore, as they cast a spell appearing as a rainbow banner. The 144-page book, retailing for \$10, was donated by the writers, artists, and editors. The Dumbledore quote from *Harry Potter and The Goblet of Fire* reads:



“Differences of habit and language are nothing at all if our aims are identical and our hearts are open.”

Take Action

After North Carolina passed HB2 last spring that kept transgender people from using the facilities of their gender identities, the state lost \$400 million state funding for legal fees, a combined loss that may exceed \$1 billion a year. GOP legislators offered to reconsider HB2 if the city of Charlotte would repeal its non-discrimination ordinance. Charlotte followed its part of the bargain, and the state’s General Assembly reneged on the agreement.

Rev. William Barber, who has held a number of protests against the state’s discrimination against minorities, is asking for a national NAACP boycott of the state. The boycott is also for the actions of the lame-duck legislature in stripping the new governor, Roy Cooper, of a large number of powers before he takes office. Protest petition: <http://bullhorn.nationofchange.org/>

People Who Make a Difference



North Carolina has crowned its first high school transgender homecoming queen. Native American **Selena Milian** won the popular vote in Overhills High School (Spring Lake, NC). The town of under 15,000 in northwestern North Carolina is the location of Pope Field and Fort Bragg. Milian said that living in a military town “hasn’t stopped me from being myself.” In spite of her challenges, she said that her transition gave her greater confidence to be involved in such activities as acting and modeling. Missouri, California, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Texas have already have had transgender students in their homecoming courts.

“I love my lesbian daughters. Keep them safe.” At the age of 92, literary agent and progressive activist **Frances Goldin** has been carrying this sign—the same sign—in the New York Pride Parade every year for 30 or more years—except for the year that she had a heart attack. She started when her daughters Reeni, 70, and Sally Goldin, 68, came out to her. They now live in New Paltz (NY) and San Francisco, but we hope that Goldin will be at her usual parade post, the northeast corner of 18th and 5th Avenue, in 2017. Goldin said, “I think I changed a few people’s minds and I’m glad about that. Everyone should support their gay and lesbian children, they’re missing a lot in life if they don’t.” Check out this article for more of Goldin’s activist adventures and photos of her and the sign back through the decades: https://www.buzzfeed.com/skarlan/who-is-she?utm_term=.ttEb9zGe8#.dr1N4DboJ



Samuel Park became a member of the Georgia General Assembly after the gay son of Korean immigrants defeated a GOP incumbent. His grandparents were refugees from the Korean War, and his single mother supported him and his two siblings. He decided to run after his mother was diagnosed with cancer in 2014 and he was constantly reminded of the importance of health care. “Access to healthcare is a matter of life and death,” he wrote on his website. His candidacy inspired his mother to vote for the first time in 30 years. Park won by 445 votes in a precinct race with 21,000 voters .

OCC PFLAG Activities

Zoyer Zyndel, a trans activist from California, will speak at the January 11, 6:00 pm PFLAG meeting. Come and bring your friends!

A new ob-gyn in Lincoln City, James Pate, is seeing trans patients: <http://health.usnews.com/doctors/james-pate-702329>

A staff training regarding methods of support for trans students at Ed-dyville Charter School was rescheduled until after the winter recess because of weather issues. PFLAG Chair Ineka Estabrook said that the school's principal, Jennifer Johnson, is very receptive and interested in working with PFLAG to help her trans students.

The sign below is being distributed to businesses in an action by the Diversity Coalition of Lincoln County Central Committee. See p. 2 for more information about the coalition.

OCC PFLAG Calendar

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

January 11, 6:00-7:00 pm: PFLAG Meeting, trans activist Zoyer Zyndel—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

January 14: LGBTQ Social for Teens and Young Adults! 634 NE 7th Street, Newport (More information: (541)272-7817 or (541)829-9049)

January 15, 3:00 pm: Kirsten Collier, speaker—Driftwood Library, Lincoln City (See p. 4)

January 21: March in solidarity with the Women's March in Washington, D.C. (See p. 1)

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

The PFLAG OCC Basic Needs Grants provide emergency or urgent relief to LGBT+ people in Lincoln County. Individuals of any age who identify as LGBT+ (or their caregivers) and who demonstrate a financial need for medical aid, housing, transportation, or food can apply. The maximum grant is \$250. Much of the Grant's resources come from other LGBT+ people and straight allies. Contact PFLAG OCC at pflagocc@gmail.com for an application.

We Welcome

ALL races

ALL religions

ALL countries
of origin

ALL sexual
orientations

ALL genders

**We stand with you.
You are safe here.**

Damos la bienvenida a Gente

DE TODAS las razas

DE TODAS las religiones

DE TODOS los países
de origen

DE TODAS las orientaciones
sexuales

DE TODOS los géneros

**Estamos en solidaridad con ustedes.
Aquí encontrarán un lugar seguro.**

Feel free to contact the Diversity Coalition of Lincoln County
at www.you-belong-here.us

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.

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