



Jeanne St. John, Chair
Dawna McLain, Secretary
Debbie Spicer, Treasurer
Ineka Estabrook,
Consultant
Nel Ward, Newsletter
Editor
nelcward@charter.net
nelsnewday.wordpress.com

Contact: PO Box 2172,
Newport, OR 97365
(541)265-7194
pflagocc@gmail.com
www.occpflag.org
[www.facebook.com/
OCCPRIDE/](http://www.facebook.com/OCCPRIDE/)

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

June 2018

Take Action

Donald Trump is endangering the lives of transgender prisoners by forcing them to be in prisons according to their “biological sex.” You can protest this action by signing a petition: <https://www.thepetitionsite.com/406/130/203/trump-protect-transgender-prisoners-dont-put-them-in-danger/>

Stacy Bailey was suspended last September as an art teacher at Charlotte Anderson Elementary (Mansfield Independent School District, TX) after she told her students that she has a wife. Bailey won the school’s Teacher of the Year award, most recently in 2017. In signing this petition, you call on Charlotte Anderson Elementary to end the suspension and put Bailey back in the classroom. <https://www.thepetitionsite.com/952/055/735/give-lesbian-art-teacher-her-job-back/>

Oregon June PRIDE!

Yachats Pride: June 1-3
<http://yachatspride.org/>

Astoria Pride: June 8-10
<https://www.facebook.com/astoriapride/>

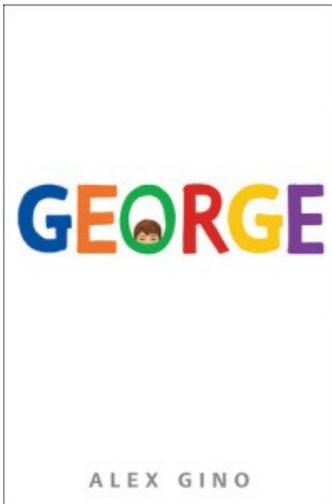
Portland Pride: June 16-17
<https://www.pdxpipeline.com/events/portland-pride/>

Central Oregon Pride (Bend): June 23
<https://centraloregonpride.org/>

Columbia Gorge Pride (Hood River): June 30
[https://www.facebook.com/
events/1766914070298267/](https://www.facebook.com/events/1766914070298267/)

Salem, Eugene, Coos Bay, and Ashland:
August and October

Keep ‘George’ in Oregon Schools!



The controversy over the selection of the novel *George* by Alex Gino for the public school’s Oregon Battle of the Books (OBOB) continues throughout the state as it attracts national attention. Two districts, Hermiston and Cascade, will not participate in the game show, question-and-answer contest about books that students read.

George is the first OBOB selection to feature a transgender protagonist. The fourth-grade protagonist believes herself to be Melissa, but she expresses her female identity only when she is alone. Publicly she is known as George.

Part of the OBOB selection process, this year for 16 books in three age categories, comes from an open comment period. This year, only three people spoke about **George**: two supported the book, and one suggested a transgender protagonist might be controversial.

Opponents of this choice have expressed concern about pornography regarding a passage that George hides fashion magazines. She also wants to clear her browsing history about transitioning. Criticism also came regarding the age-appropriateness of transgender identity, but Oregon’s new health education standards state that kindergarteners should be able to “recognize that there are many ways to express gender” and “recognize the importance of treating others with respect including gender expression.”

The OBOB committee followed their selection criteria, which includes choosing a variety of “high quality, well-reviewed, age-appropriate titles” and not excluding anything “in an effort to avoid controversy with parents.”

The *Register-Guard* (Eugene, OR) printed a letter from Julia Eisengart with her opinion about the choice of *George* for OBOB:

“In reference to the Oregon Battle of the Books’ decision to include *George* by Alex Gino on its list of books for this year:

“Gino’s book tells the story of a fourth-grade transgender girl Melissa (known to the world as George) who wants to play Charlotte in her school’s performance of *Charlotte’s Web*. She is denied the opportunity and decides to work on the stage crew. When she tells her friend about how she identifies as a girl, they hatch a plan to get her into the play as Charlotte. This story is one of incredible bravery and friendship. Not only is it a great story, but it gives children the opportunity to see someone like them as the protagonist. Transgender youth have little representation, and they’re the ones who need it most. That’s why we need books like this in our curricula.

“Inclusive curricula benefit all kinds of people, not only the ones these stories are about. If we give children the vocabulary to discuss topics that they are not familiar with, like gender identity, we give them words to express how they may feel, or words to talk to their friends and peers who may identify that way.”

Basic Rights Oregon has a petition to keep *George* in schools: http://equalityfederation.salsalabs.com/o/35028/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action_KEY=1931

More information about *George* here: <https://nlsnewday.wordpress.com/2018/05/09/take-a-journey-with-george/>

Politics on Our Side

Connecticut: The state Department of Children and Families (DCF) is recruiting same-gender families for fostering and adopting children. This action directly contrasts with Oklahoma and Kansas laws permitting discrimination against LGBTQ people for adoption.

Illinois: State senators have passed a bill requiring the teaching of LGBTQ history in public schools. This mandate to “accurately portray the diversity of our society” through instruction in “the significant role of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals in society” is in keeping with the way that public schools teach about other marginalized groups and ethnicities. State Sen. Heather Steans said that including people in the curriculum causes a 36-percent drop “in people feeling bullied and getting derogatory remarks made about them.” The bill now goes to the state House.

Michigan: The state Civil Rights Commission voted to investigate discrimination claims on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in housing, employment, and public accommodations although state civil rights law does not include these minorities. The vote was 5-0, with an abstention from anti-LGBTQ activist Ira Combs, appointed by Gov. Rick Snyder.

New Hampshire: A bipartisan vote of 14-10 in the state Senate adding “gender identity” to nondiscrimination protections made New Hampshire the 19th state to protect transgender people in employment, housing, and public accommodations. The state House and Senate are in conference regarding bills banning conversion therapy for LGBTQ minors .

Vermont: The governor has signed a bill requiring all single-user public restrooms to be labeled gender neutral in government and business places.

Virginia: Gavin Grimm (below) fought for four years to use the bathroom in high school. A federal judge has ruled the school officials of Gloucester County (VA) violated his constitutional rights for stopping him from using the bathroom matching his gender identity after the 4th Circuit Court sent the case back to the lower court. Grimm is working as an activist and preparing to enter college .



United States: The FDA has approved the drug Truvada for usage as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PreP) for teenagers in order to protect youth from HIV infection.

United States: Newly released documents show that the federal panel to evaluate transgender members in the military was rigged with anti-LGBTQ members who deliberately provided faulty information. VP Mike Pence also created his own separate “working group,” which overrode the final panel decision not to eliminate transgender service members. Four different lawsuits are currently challenging the ban.

News Bits

Grants Pass PFLAG now has a Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/gppflag/about/>

The question about whether transgender students can use the facilities matching their gender identity in the Dallas School District is still in court.

Parents for Privacy are in opposition based on “psychological well-being” and the “reasonable fear of students” if transgender students are allowed to use the restroom.

U.S. District Judge Marco Hernandez will need to consider the 14th Amendment and Title IX’s prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex in federal funded programs. He was appointed by Barack Obama.

The American Military Partner Association’s new program, MilPride, focuses on education, advocacy, and support for military mothers of transgender youth.
www.MilitaryPartners.org/MilPride

A new study from a Belgian neurologist indicates that the brains of transgender people resemble those of their gender in cisgender people instead of the gender assigned at birth.

After Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA) said that people shouldn’t be required to sell homes to LGBTQ people, the National Association of Gay and Lesbian Real Estate Professionals (NAGLREP), with a membership of 1.2 million, dropped its endorsement for his candidacy.

More Rights in Pakistan Than in U.S.



Pakistan’s acting president Muhammad Sadiq Sanjrani has signed a bill guaranteeing basic rights that is awaiting a signature from the president. It bans discrimination by employers and business owners, outlaws harassment in public places or homes, and allows transgender people to self-identify as male, female, or third sex on official documents. The law would also establish sensitivity training for government workers.

With psychological counseling and prohibition of discrimination in medical and education facilities for transgender people and government safe houses for their protection, Pakistan has better rights for transgender people than the United States.

Religion:

Pope Francis said to a parishioner: “Juan Carlos, that you are gay does not matter. God made you like this and loves you like this and I don’t care. The pope loves you like this. You have to be happy with who you are.”

By a 345 to 170 vote, the Church of Scotland’s general assembly has approved a motion to draft new laws allowing ministers to marry gay and lesbian couples “if they wish.” The church’s legal questions committee will report back in two years. Last year, the Scottish Episcopal Church became the first UK church to allow marriage equality.

The number of evangelicals in the U.S. has dropped from 21 percent of the population in 2003 to 13 percent last year. People who identify with no religion outnumber Christian evangelicals.

Brave Students Challenge School Abuses



Students Liz Funk (left) and Hailey Smith brought some justice to the North Bend School District (OR) after their complaints led to an investigation by the state Department of Education (ODE). North Bend High School principal Bill Lucero and school resource officer Jason Griggs, a police officer on campus who works for North Bend Police Department, are to be removed from their jobs at the high school although both may be reassigned within the district. Professor Warren Binford of Willamette College, who initially took the students' case, said evidence showed "one of the worst cases of discrimination [against LGBTQ students] at a school that she had ever seen in Oregon."

LGBTQ students were subjected to both verbal and physical abuse while school adults either ignored the problem or supported the abusers. Griggs told Funk that "being gay was a choice, and it was against his religion." He also told Grigg she was going to hell after she reported that other students beat her up for being gay. The problem came out in the media after the principal made a bisexual student read the Bible in punishment for the person's sexual orientation. The ODE needs to look into the reassignments of Lucero and Grigg. Meanwhile, Funk and Smith are to be praised for their courage. Their actions will reverberate through the future by making positive changes and helping other brave people fight discrimination, cruelty, and abuse.

More information about Funk and Smith based on an interview with them: <https://www.them.us/story/liv-funk-hailey-smith-north-bend-high-school-discrimination>

People Who Make a Difference



Last year, **Bruno "Ralphy" Lozano** marched in heels in Del Rio's Veterans Day parade. This year, the gay Air Force veteran was elected mayor in the southwestern Texas town of 41,000 and home to Laughlin Air Force base. He focused his campaign on modernizing infrastructure and returning tourism which lagged after the Mexican border gained a reputation of being "unsafe." Lozano, who had served as a security forces patrolman in the U.S. military, received 62 percent of the vote.

Nikko Nelson, a transgender student at Homestead High School (Mequon, WI) has been crowned prom queen. The junior has an interest in fashion and wants to pursue it as a career. Her best friend both before and after Nelson's transition, India Wilkerson, said she was elected because people love her.



Brad (left) and Nick Schlaikowski, a Milwaukee married couple with foster children, will open an eight-bed group home exclusively for LGBTQ youth in the city's foster care system. Courage House is next to a drop-in center which includes counseling services, life skills preparation, and health care as well as working with Human Capital Group for employment training and job placement. The couple started the nonprofit Courage MKE to empower LGBTQ youth. An incentive for the project is an ABA report that 70 percent of LGBTQ youth living in group foster homes experience violence because of their orientation and identity.

Below is a link to an excellent story on lesbian icons **Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin**, together for 76 years. Martin lived long enough to legally marry Lyon, just six months before Martin died on August 27, 2008.

<https://www.lgbtqnation.com/2017/10/marriage-equality-wouldnt-possible-wasnt-lesbian-icons/>

PFLAG News

Come to the PFLAG meeting on June 13 to help plan for the 10th anniversary!

PFLAG and Welcoming Churches are sharing an information table in the picnic shelter behind Yachats Commons at the Yachats Pride Festival. <http://yachatspride.org/> It will be staffed from 10:30 am-5:30 pm on Saturday and from 11:30 am -2:30 pm on Sunday.

You can anticipate engaging in friendly conversation with people about the connection between LGBTQ(IA+) and welcoming churches.

PFLAG families held a very successful Teen Social night on May 5—more to come! Families host the social evenings; PFLAG buys the treats and helps the host family.

Danni/y Rosen, OR Safe Schools and GLSEN Chair, will be the guest speaker at the GSA Fall Conference.

Media Matters:

GLAAD and Bonnier Publishing USA are jointly increasing positive diverse gender and sexual identities in books for youth through four books each year. The first ones are *Prince & Knight* (Daniel Haack/Steveie Lewis) and *Jack (Not Jackie)* (Erica Silverman/Holly Hatam).



World of Wonder is screening an animated series about drag queens which features the voices of queens from *RuPaul's Drag Race*. The queens are helped by their school mascot Coryn the Unicorn, who uses glitter powers to fight evil.

Jennifer Aniston (right) will star in Netflix's new political comedy *First Ladies* with Tig Notaro as her wife. Its tagline: "Behind every great woman... is another great woman."



OCC PFLAG Calendar

June 1-3: Yachats Pride—<http://yachatspride.org/>

June 4: 30th Annual Lambda Literary Awards
<https://www.lambdaliterary.org/awards/>

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

June 13, 6:00-8:00 pm: PFLAG Meeting, Planning for PFLAG OCC 10th Anniversary Celebration—St. Stephen's, 9th & Hurbert, Newport

June 22, 1:00-2:30 pm: OUT OR Coast, Lunch at Thai Bay— 2937 US-101, Lincoln City,

Oct. 5: GSA Fall Conference

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.



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

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Email: _____

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Oregon Central Coast PFLAG
P.O. Box 2172
Newport, Oregon 97365